

INSIDE

News, page 2

From our blogs:  
commencement news

Read dispatches from Friday's edition of the Newsroom blog to learn about the new Commencement date and the location of Barnard's Class Day. Hint: it's not outside.



A&E, page 10

Bookworms celebrate  
at Brooklyn festival

This weekend, Brooklyn played host to a congregation of readers, writers, and graphic novelists who displayed their work at the Brooklyn Book Festival.

A&E, page 10

Kim's old DVDs find  
new home in Butler

Columbians in need of some cheap study break entertainment should check out Butler Library's new collection of DVDs, now available for use by students

Opinion, page 4

I DREAM OF MEME

Daniel D'Addario seeks to go beyond the superficial labels and connotations of both the pop and the personal.



Sports, page 7

Light Blue soccer squad  
comes home happy

Traveling to Brooklyn, men's soccer picked up its first win of the 2009 season at Long Island University. Two freshmen had big goals in the win.

Sports, page 7

Volleyball rolls to 3-1  
record at Invitational

Volleyball swept day one of the Columbia Invitational, before seeing their hopes of a complete sweep dashed. Still, the Lions managed to down three of four opponents overall.

ONLINE

Columbiaspectator.com

News around the clock

Just like you, the news never sleeps. Check out our Web site 24/7 for campus and city news that matters to you.



Courtney Raterman for *Spectator*

**BOOK CULTURE** | Students line up during the first week of classes to pay for textbooks at Book Culture. The store owner hopes to grow his business into the property that formerly housed Morningside Bookshop.

## Book Culture eyes expansion

BY SAM LEVIN  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Despite a deeply struggling industry that has locally left behind a graveyard of fallen independent stores, Chris Doeblin is asking Columbia University to let him bring more books to Morningside Heights.

Doeblin, the owner of Book Culture on 112th street—formerly Labyrinth—is currently in extensive negotiations with Columbia University to expand his independent establishment into the vacant gem of a location on 114th and Broadway, which for five years was home to Morningside Bookshop until it closed in June in a sea of unpaid bills and debt.

Columbia University—the landlord for the site, which also includes a separate downstairs vacancy—declined to comment on the deal, citing its policy of remaining silent on ongoing negotiations, but according to Doeblin, the negotiations are “very advanced” and potentially less than a month away from being finalized.

Back in June, Peter Soter, owner of Morningside Bookshop who said he was “completely broke,” informed *Spectator* of a potential deal with Book Culture at the time, which he added truly broke

his heart to consider. But Doeblin said recently in an interview that these discussions were halted hastily in the spring when Columbia University—which has lost two bookstores on 114th street in the last decade—decided it needed time to step back and evaluate its desires for the retail space.

“I think they are really traumatized by these bookstores going out of business,” Doeblin said. University spokesperson Victoria Benitez said of the efforts to fill the vacancy, that the “University continues to maintain its longstanding policy of favoring local entrepreneurs serving local consumer needs.”

Labyrinth was modeled after an independent bookstore co-operation near the University of Chicago, which has one store saturated with scholarly work and textbooks and another more traditional trade store nearby. Following that business plan, Doeblin said he wants to make the 114th Street the companion trade shop to his current 113th Street textbook haven. One block north, along with a potential downstairs café, he said that they would be stocked with mainstream products, such as science fiction, children's books, and bestsellers. In a way, he said, he would be directly filling the

void left behind by Morningside Bookshop. And just as Soter said that the University, which allowed him to fall months behind on rent, was extremely supportive of his operation, Doeblin said that the University brokers now are doing all that they can to make this expansion a reality.

On the expansion, Doeblin said that though he is confident the model will work, he has his fears of investing so much upfront during such uncertain times for his industry. “This is not just a change, it is a groundswell,” he said of bookselling, a trade in which many large chains like Borders are deeply suffering. “But this could be good for us,” he said in hopes that troubled chains would help resilient independents stay open.

“I think bookstores still have a place in this city. ... I hope it is going to work,” he said.

He does not expect it to be a repeat of Morningside Bookshop's failure, mostly because he would not be opening under conditions of immediate debt. “We are not making as much as we used to, but we are sound,” he said.

Doeblin added, “Ultimately though, the market will rule. If the neighborhood can't support it, then it won't.”

## Attorney Kolbert will lead Athena Center

BY MADINA TOURE  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

She preserved the “American way” by mobilizing people to uphold values like equal rights and freedom of speech. She testified before the Supreme Court in 1992 in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, helping to protect a woman's legal right to reproductive choice.

Now, civil rights attorney Kathryn Kolbert, previously president of People for the American Way, aims to use her experiences to strengthen students' leadership skills as director of Barnard's Athena Center, the newly revamped Barnard Leadership Initiative.

“I've been long interested in women's leadership, both because I was very much a part of the national women's movement and worked for a great number of years to improve the status of women through that work,” Kolbert said. “I've always been interested in how we can change society and what women can contribute.”

In April, Barnard President Debora Spar circulated a proposal to modify BLI, an interdisciplinary program that joins curricular and co-curricular opportunities to give women leadership skills. The program was overseen by the faculty committee for the BLI, with economics professor Alan Dye as director then. Spar's proposal suggested offering courses emphasizing different components of women's leadership, an extra-curricular component with diverse

internships, and a capstone seminar taught by the director.

Kolbert has both classroom and courtroom experience—she has lectured at many universities and oversaw a program on law and American life at the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Public Policy Center. She produced an award-winning program for National Public Radio and co-founded and served as vice president of the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy, where she oversaw domestic court cases and public policy programs. Kolbert has also served as the state coordinating counsel of the ACLU's Reproductive Freedom Project in New York and as a staff attorney with the Women's Law Project and Community Legal Services of Philadelphia.

Known to many as “Kitty,” Kolbert learned of the Barnard position through a *New York Times* advertisement. A search committee comprising faculty and students was recruited to select a candidate

SEE ATHENA, page 2



Courtesy of Civilrights / Graphic by Jin Chen



Will Brown for *Spectator*

**VIGILANCE** | Arnaldo Salinas, Virginia Montague, Robert Jackson, Keith Wright, and Inez Dickens gather to discuss four rapes that occurred in Hamilton Heights, the latest of which was in the building behind them.

## Suspect questioned in Harlem rapes

BY MAGGIE ASTOR  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Police are questioning a suspect in four rapes that have taken place in Hamilton Heights since last month, according to City Council member Robert Jackson. But police could not confirm a suspect was in custody, and Jackson urged residents to remain vigilant until the rapist is conclusively identified.

State Assemblyman Keith Wright—a Democrat whose district encompasses much of West and Central Harlem—held a press conference Sunday at which he and other local officials denounced the attacks and called on the community to keep watch for the rapist.

## Endowment down 16.1 percent

University's losses slowed by period ending June 30

BY ALEXA DAVIS  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Columbia officials released a statement on Friday—shortly after Harvard's and Yale's announcements of endowment losses—indicating that the University's endowment losses for the year ending June 30 was 16.1 percent, leaving a preliminary unaudited endowment value estimate at slightly more than \$5.7 billion.

As reported in May, Columbia's endowment was down 22 percent for the first nine months of the fiscal year ending March 31, but the announcement of the 16.1 percent figure indicates that Columbia's losses have slowed recently, which Senior Executive Vice President Robert Kasdin attributed to “stronger market conditions” in an interview.

“The investment performance of our endowment's managed asset portfolio for the year ending June 30 2009 was negative 16.1%, which reflects the normal quarter lag in private equity and real assets,” the statement read. “Although comparative data with the full set of our peers for FY09 is not yet available, over the previous five years Columbia's investment performance ranked within the top quartile of large university endowments and private foundations.”

According to Kasdin, the 16 percent figure considers investments, not donations and gifts. The decline refers to finances over the period beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009. The 22 percent decline reflected finances until the end of March, and the recent announcement shows that that loss had decreased overall by 6 percentage points by the end of June 2009. Kasdin noted that endowment strategies are long-term, and did not change over the period.

“The investment team produced very successful returns when the market was strong, and relative success when it was weak,” Kasdin said.

A fuller set numbers will be reported in the University's audited financial statements in October, but the preliminary unaudited endowment value estimate is currently at slightly more than \$5.7 billion, after standard endowment spending of about 4 to 5 percent annually, said Kasdin. The fund was valued at \$7.1 billion as of June 30, 2008.

While these recent reports indicate that the University's losses are slowing, previous plans to constrain its spending habits—Bollinger announced in January that each “budget unit” of the University should plan for an 8 percent decrease in the amount of funds that they would receive in the next fiscal year from endowment funds—will continue as planned.

“The country, including the university, is going through a period of scarcer resources that were available earlier in the decade,” said Kasdin. “Each school has responded in accordance with its own budgetary circumstances.”

“It's really a call on departments and schools to think about how they can do their jobs, protect their core missions, with less resources than they've had in the past,” Stephen Rittenberg, senior vice provost, said in a May interview.

“President Bollinger identified the strategy we were doing last year and we're going through with it,” said Kasdin. “Each school and budget center is expected to balance its budget and that's the challenge that remains in front of Columbia and the rest of the country.”

Harvard announced that its endowment lost 27.3 percent of its value, down to \$26 billion by June 30 from \$37 billion one year before that, Bloomberg News reported. Yale's endowment has declined by 30 percent, leaving the endowment at approximately \$16 billion, more than double the value of Columbia's.

*Joy Resmovits contributed reporting to this article.*

### Recent rapes in Harlem

August 1, 8 p.m., Broadway and West 148th Street (alleyway), age 59

Aug. 10, 2 a.m., Convent Ave. and West 144th Street (elevator), age 23

Aug. 19, 4 a.m., Riverside Drive and West 155th Street (elevator), age 69

Sept. 9, 1 a.m., St. Nicholas Ave. and West 147th Street (apartment), age 28

WEATHER

Today  
**80 / 63**



Tomorrow  
**80 / 60**



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EVENTS — SEPTEMBER 14

### Columbia Political Union Info Session

If you like free pizza with your politics, stop by CPU's info session. You'll learn about how to get involved in the group's activities, and contribute to CPU's magazine, the Columbia Political Review.

313 Fayerweather, 8-10 p.m.

### The Day Before Yesterday: An Evolutionary Guide to Preserving Species

Stop by the Café Science event to hear evolutionary geneticist and Columbia Professor Don Melnick discuss conservation. \$10 cover fee (cash only) includes one drink. Picnic Market & Café at 2665 Broadway, 6-7 p.m.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"I think bookstores still have a place in this city."*

—Book Culture owner Chris Doeblin

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## Newsroom

just like you, Spec News never sleeps

Check out the following entry from our news blog, [Newsroom.specblogs.com](http://Newsroom.specblogs.com). From Friday, Sept. 11



## Barnard students to graduate in gym

Lillian Appel, Barnard's manager for dean's projects and programs, faced blank stares and questions this afternoon as she debriefed Barnard seniors on their Class Day arrangements.

After the last few years of conducting Class Day on Columbia's South Lawn, Appel announced at a Class of 2010 meeting that this year's Class Day will be held in Columbia's gym on May 17 at 2:30 p.m. (Many groaned.) She noted that this was done three years ago due to rain, and worked well because all seats had good views and the AV was top-notch.

The tangible drawback? Previously, BC Class Day was a non-ticketed event to which all

relatives could come. This year, seniors will get four tickets for family members because of the gym's capacity.

One senior raised her hand and asked, "Why aren't we graduating beside the Nexus? That's what they've been telling us from the beginning—construction will be done, and you'll graduate by the Nexus."

Appel responded that despite previous announcements, a Nexus (or Diana)-side ceremony would leave Barnard with little space, and would further limit the number of relatives per graduate allowed in.

Also, remember when President Lee Bollinger announced that the University was changing the date of

Commencement due to a religious conflict? He didn't have a date at the time, but Appel said the ceremony has been rescheduled from May 19 to May 18.

And that's why Barnard's Class Day has to move, Appel said. Columbia College's Class Day will be held on South Lawn earlier on Monday, May 17, and the University will have to hurry to convert the campus into Commencement mode—no time for Barnard's Class Day in between.

Not for nothing, Appel warned the weary, "I think you're going to be very happy in the end."

She added, "You don't have many alternatives."

—Joy Resmovits

## Kolbert heads updated Athena Center

### ATHENA from front page

from over 80 applicants to direct the Athena Center.

"We had a team of students, both from SGA and the community, interview a number of candidates, and Professor Kolbert was an extremely good candidate," Katie Palillo, BC '10 and Student Government Association president, said.

According to Spar, the committee had to ensure "it was someone who not only had great commitment and intelligence but someone who had a real track record of getting things done."

Amy Chen, BC '10 and SGA

vice president for student affairs, and Giselle Leon, BC '10 and vice president for communications, who sat on the committee, sought a candidate who was both compatible with students and invested in the mission of the program.

"We were definitely looking for someone who shows experience in leadership, passion for working with students, someone who understands the Barnard community, to develop what resources are already available on campus," Chen said.

"I was looking for someone who was accessible to students—not just students [who are] part of BLI and Athena,

[but] people who are interested in the mission," Leon said.

Kolbert said she saw the position as an opportunity to push Barnard women to aggressively pursue reform.

"I had an opportunity to be a contributing member to that movement, and I feel very strongly that students in our schools across the country need to step up and take a strong role in making change," Kolbert said. "The Athena Center has an opportunity to become the premier center on leadership in the country."

As part of her role, Kolbert will teach a senior seminar in the spring.

## Rape suspect questioned

### HARLEM from front page

my Harlem community, with impunity."

According to Jackson—a Democrat who represents parts of West Harlem, including Hamilton Heights—police arrested and questioned a suspect shortly before 4 a.m. Saturday. The Daily News reported Sunday that police had obtained a DNA sample from a discarded soda can and would compare it with post-rape samples from the victims.

Wright said he didn't know if the suspect had been arrested directly in conjunction with the rapes, and added that three out of the four victims were not able to identify him. A New York Police Department spokesperson said

Sunday afternoon that she was not aware of any arrests related to the rapes.

Also present at Sunday's press conference were City Council member Inez Dickens, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, New York Coalition of One Hundred Black Women President Virginia Montague, and several members of the Guardian Angels, an organization that encourages residents to work to protect their own neighborhoods.

"The rape of one woman is a rape of all women. All women have been raped and abused by this perpetrator," said Dickens, a Democrat whose district includes parts of Central and East Harlem and Morningside Heights.

Montague urged locals to be aware of their surroundings, especially when walking alone.

"I want to remind women that they too must be vigilant in maintaining their own safe environment," she said.

"We have nothing to be ashamed about as a community," Stringer said, urging locals to publicize the rapes as much as possible so that more people will be on the lookout for the attacker. "We need your eyes and we need your ears."

"This is an equal opportunity attacker. He wants to go to the person who's most vulnerable," Stringer added. "Clearly this individual is hell bent on making another mark."

[Maggie.astor@columbiaspectator.com](mailto:Maggie.astor@columbiaspectator.com)



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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09/15

TUESDAY

THE NEW REALITY OF MEXICO-US MIGRATION

7 PM

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

09/16

WEDNESDAY

NEW FEMINIST ACTIVISM

6:30 PM

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

09/21

MONDAY

NORA

7 PM

Julius S. Held Auditorium, 304 Barnard Hall

09/25

FRIDAY

THE BALLETS RUSSES

6:30 PM

City Center, Studio 5, 130 West 56th Street

09/30

WEDNESDAY

CORPORATIONS GONE GOOD

A Manifesto for 21st Century Leadership

6:30 PM

Julius S. Held Auditorium, 304 Barnard Hall

Renationalizing Membership Politics. Or?

7 PM

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

10/02–10/03

FRIDAY

WOMEN, PHILOSOPHY & HISTORY

Conference in Celebration of Eileen O'Neill '75

9:00 AM

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

10/05

MONDAY

HISTORY (MIS-)TRANSLATED

US History According to Foreign Textbooks

6 PM

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

LOS DEMONIOS DEL EDÉN

Gender, Violence and Activism in Mexico

6:30 PM

Julius S. Held Auditorium, 304 Barnard Hall

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Iran, the ambiguous, and myself

BY AMIN GHADIMI

As I sat there on the bullet train, whizzing by yet another nondescript Japanese city in the endless concrete jungle between Osaka and Tokyo, with all those conflicting signs of prosperity and symptoms of malaise outside my window, I couldn't escape the irony, the excruciating awkwardness of what the news ticker at the front of the car told me. What it said was simple: with a lexical poker face, with the driest, most boringly journalistic stoicism, it announced the preliminary results of the presidential election in Iran. And what it told was different: it told the story of me, and the story of my mother and of her mother and of all the pain and joy and tears and hope that being a refugee entails.

But I can't complain. Even if it was tough for my parents and grandparents as they settled permanently in Japan, I have all the benefits of being what they call a "third culture kid." It's a term that I disdain: as if we were protists, they've lumped all of us who don't fit neatly in one "where are you from" category into a mush of miscellany. But it's who I proudly am.

Still, in that moment on the bullet train, in that earliest stage before all the Iranian election fallout, before the ignominy of a proud nation was put on display for the whole world—in that moment, who I so proudly am suddenly felt so wrong. The ticker put my still-inadequate

Japanese to the test as I figured out the Japanese characters and the news they conveyed. And then I wondered why I had to be figuring it out: in my name, in my face, in my heritage, I am Iranian, so why shouldn't I, why couldn't I be reading the news about my compatriots in the language of my forefathers? Why shouldn't I have the right to be in Hamadan, watching events unfold right there where my great-grandparents once did? I knew the answer: I am a Bahá'í, a member of a persecuted religious minority. But I couldn't help the indignation. As an Iranian myself, I have always perceived Iran from across a continent, trying to figure it out through the bits and pieces I've heard and seen and tasted. But never before had I felt that ambiguous role Iran has played in my life more acutely than this summer, as the relationship between Iran, the ambiguous, and myself took another turn.

Iran, the ambiguous, and myself—for me, it so beautifully, so magically, captures my relationship with my nation of origin. And it, of course, is not my brainchild. It is originally that of Yasunari Kawabata, laureate of the 1968 Nobel Prize in Literature. "Japan, the Beautiful, and Myself" was the title of Kawabata's Nobel Lecture. His oration is a seminal investigation of "Japaneseness" as expressed in the literary and religious heritage of his great nation, one that gave the world its first novel. Yet to the intellectually callow like me, able to claim at best a cursory appreciation of the recondite poetry and arcane Zen Theosophy, striving to understand better that poetry and theosophy here at Columbia, Kawabata's lecture loses its erudition and becomes just a celebration of the speaker's heritage, the aesthetic flaunt of a man entrusted with carrying, on an international stage, the proud, beautiful tradition of a millennia-old literary history.

Recognizing how laymen like me struggle with Kawabata's thought, Kenzaburo Oe, Japan's only other literature Nobel laureate, explores the mysterious beauty of "Japan, the Beautiful, and Myself" in his own 1994 Nobel Lecture titled "Japan, the Ambiguous, and Myself." Oe explains Kawabata's oration, and then goes on, bashfully confessing that he feels "more spiritual affinity with the Irish poet William Butler Yeats" than with Kawabata. He laments that "present-day Japan is split between two opposite poles of ambiguity," one the modern and Western, the other the traditional and Eastern. "I too," he explains, "am living as a writer with this polarisation imprinted on me like a scar."

And so am I, in my own humble way, split. Split, like Oe, between two—or perhaps more—opposite poles of ambiguity, I feel more "spiritual affinity" with Kawabata and Oe than I do with Hafez or Ferdowsi. Or, more accurately, I feel just as much. I feel that the beauty of which Kawabata speaks is the same beauty of which Hafez and Ferdowsi write: that is, the beauty of me, the beauty of my people. And that is true beauty: knowing that all people—Iranian, Japanese, from whatever pole of ambiguity—are, in the end, my people.

Yet one still cannot and must not dismiss one's heritage. And so that moment of polarization I felt on the bullet train will live on in me, live on until everyone, regardless of his or her sex, class, ethnicity, religion, or anything else, can return, without fear, to his or her homeland, his or her vatan. And in the meantime, here at Columbia, I soldier on, trying to figure out all this ambiguity, trying to figure out all this beauty.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore. He is the Spectator editorial page editor.

Staff Editorial

Waging war on swine flu

As the semester second week and we deal with the usual concerns of starting classes, we also face the added worry: staying healthy. The global contagion of the H1N1 virus, or swine flu, makes this year's flu season particularly troubling. The H1N1 virus first made headlines last semester as it quickly spread around the world, even causing the closure of several schools near Columbia. Now, as classes resume, the virus is once again causing concern, particularly at universities. In the first 10 days of class at Washington State University, 2,000 students contracted flu-like symptoms. More recently, a student at Cornell University died from swine flu-related complications, and another 520 students are reportedly showing flu-like symptoms.

At Columbia, the Pandemic Preparedness Working Group, a University-wide committee formed to prevent the spread of disease at Columbia, has been working to prevent a campus-wide outbreak. Over the summer, students, faculty, and families received e-mails with information on the virus and procedures to follow if infected. They were also offered contact information for a range of campus health resources. Those infected with the flu have been asked to remain in their rooms, get in touch with sup-

port services, and seek delivery of necessities from Housing and Dining until they recover. For the healthy, Columbia has made hand sanitizer available in common areas like dining halls, computer labs, and customer service desks.

The PPWG should sustain its efforts to maintain a healthy campus for the Columbia community and expand its response. Swiftly replenished soap dispensers in gyms and routine sanitization of common surfaces such as computer keyboard and doorknobs will work both to prevent transmission of H1N1 and to encourage students to take proactive measures to stay healthy. If students exhibit flu-like symptoms, they should stay in their rooms and refrain from attending class, and contact Health Services. Professors should do their part, too—not only should they accommodate absences due to illness, they should actively discourage students from attending class if they fall ill. Professors should be especially diligent about posting assignments and lectures on Courseworks, and scheduling makeup dates for exams and quizzes.

What's most important, though, is that students themselves take steps to stay healthy. Preventing a pandemic requires the cooperation of all members of the community.

Spectator Opinion accepts submissions from diverse areas of interest. Submissions should be between 700 and 900 words and express an opinion that does not perpetuate stereotypes or unfairly label groups or individuals. All writers meet with an associate editor to edit their submission before publication. Submissions may be sent to opinion@columbiaspectator.com.

For more information, come to our meeting Sundays at 2:30 p.m. in the Spectator office on the corner of 112th Street and Broadway.

POLITICS ON STILTS



DANIEL D'ADDARIO  
THE UNBEARABLE LOLNESS OF BEING

friend of mine and I have lately taken to referring to "memes." I could search my Gchats to determine when we first used this term, but it seems irrelevant—we've been describing moments and feelings as "memes" for so long that the first instance feels as insignificant as my first paper topic at Columbia. I do know that neither of us were—or really are—sure what the exact definition of "meme" is, though it generally refers to a joke or idea that gains significance for a large group of people rapidly, like a disease. Loosely, though, we use it to mean something of negligible personal significance but long-term humor potential. Every person and relationship has its own memes, and the memes my friend and I use might have no significance to another person. When one of us is sad, we'll say, "I am the walrus," referencing the Beatles lyric—I think we just decided it's a funny term. The walrus itself is irrelevant as anything but a punch line. An old magazine profile of the songwriter Diane Warren (it's not online—believe me, I've looked) has entered heavy reference rotation, although neither of us recalls much about it other than Warren's banal love life. Friends' and acquaintances' Twitter posts and Gchat statuses (and, once in a while, the novels we read) are chewed up and regurgitated into circular conversations. Our references float freely, describing little besides themselves.

As I See It



SELF-PORTRAIT  
KENNETH JACKSON

The photographer is on the Spectator photo staff.

The emancipation of meme

The word "meme" first came up in my Contemporary Civilization discussion of Darwin and evolution. A flannel-shirted classmate earnestly professed that ideas could mutate and evolve, too, and get passed, like a genetic inheritance, from person to person. I brushed that hypothesis off at the time, but I guess that's what happens with my friend and I—our minds have grown so attuned that we're able to say "Thank you, India" to one another and immediately get it, even though we're saying nothing at all. "Emoting is a meme," we both said at the beginning of summer. Our emotions feel more performative than real, like we're acting out shared ideas of happiness or misery. We feel fulfilled by our lives' concordance with transient, meme-like ideas, if not by those lives. Our manner of conversation is hardly rare. After all, many of the "memes" we're repeating are Twitter posts originally written—if indeed "written" is the word—by others. Something about the site's character limit not only prevents the exchange of ideas but supports its opposite, a certain type of manically coded jargon that is meant to signal its author's wit while denying that anything lies beneath that wit save the desire to broadcast it. The site has been used to organize revolutions overseas, but the revolution it's fomented among American college students seems to be one of meme generation. Our set's codes and patter, all signifier and no signified, can't be blamed on the convenient scapegoat that is Twitter, though: our culture is one of disposable ideas and experiences, memes springing up constantly. On a recent flight, an attendant discussed that week's US Weekly cover story on Jon and Kate Gosselin with an eager passenger. I waited to overhear instances

from the series or quotes from the article. It was not to be. Both Jon and Kate were being communicated about as ideas or archetypes—the harridan ex-wife, the husband in a midlife crisis—based on nothing but the fact that saying it made it so. Such is the nature of tabloid journalism and reality television, but it was disconcerting to see two minds working in concert and arriving at the same conclusion without any empirical evidence. It sounds laughable to apply the terms of the scientific method to celebrity gossip, but such is the level of the national discourse. The penumbra of ideas and cultural assumptions emanating from the collective mind of our culture—too entangling to get into in this, my first column—are passed on from mind to mind, but I am striving to become a terminus: to examine why said ideas are fixed where they are and to what our shared cultural referents actually refer, before I pass the memes on. As I disembarked the plane for my layover, I called my friend, who said she was worried: I was actually emoting. I was sad about something personal (and not Jon and Kate), but that was of little interest to my fellow passengers who watched me, red-eyed and pacing. They seemed bemused. A mother whispered to her daughter before pointedly looking away from me. Who knows what I meant to those people? Without even trying, I'd become an object of fascination in an unstimulating environment; I was the walrus to them, a mere meme.

Daniel D'Addario is a Columbia College senior majoring in American studies. He is the managing editor of the Columbia Political Review. The Unbearable LOLness of Being runs alternate Fridays. opinion@columbiaspectator.com



# Summer in China

There's certainly no paucity of media coverage on China, but not much of that reporting comes from our own peers. This Monday, four Columbia students share their own first-hand stories about their summer experiences in China. Derrick Fu finds himself and his future in China, while Devin Briskises a nation straddling antiquity and modernity. Academic ambitions lead both Deysy Ordóñez-Arreola and Rebecca Victor to China, but where China leads each of them once they're there is far from similar. Even though all four writers went to the same country this summer, one wouldn't think so by reading their accounts. Enjoy your classmates' journeys through the Middle Kingdom.

## The food in Xinjiang

BY DEYSY ORDONEZ-ARREOLA

As a participant in the U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship Program, I had just finished the first half of a nine-week, intensive summer language program in Suzhou, China, and, along with about 20 other participants, was off to Xinjiang, China.

On Saturday, July 4, 2009, our group arrived in Kashgar, a city in Xinjiang. Immediately, I noted the cultural diversity of the Uyghur heritage fused with the modern Han Chinese culture. As we were greeted by traditional Uyghur music and dance, the ambience was peaceful. Little did I know that a few hours into the next day, Xinjiang would experience one of its largest upheavals in 50 years.

The next morning, making our way toward the Pakistani border, our group was deterred from proceeding further. We were informed that a riot had taken place in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang. Officials mentioned that Urumqi was left with over 100 people dead and several injured, but no details were ever elucidated. The city was barricaded and all of Xinjiang was put under martial law. The moment we were informed of the "7-5" incident, as it is known, we took it lightly, until hundreds of soldiers tightly packed in tanks and other vehicles surrounded our bus while traveling on the road. The sight of soldiers, guns, and tanks quickly became a custom of our travel in Xinjiang.

For the next week, our travel plans were altered many times, often hourly. The Chinese government

imposed many restrictions on which areas we could enter and even how fast we could travel to and from them. Our tour guide's plans were closely monitored and our location was always known. Our actions were so closely monitored that oftentimes we were only allowed to enter a city to eat at a preselected restaurant before immediately exiting the city.

In addition, all communication was cut off for common people, including landlines, cell phones, and Internet access. Occasionally we could receive phone calls, and luckily I was able to tell my family I was safe.

On July 7, we arrived in Aksu and ate at a restaurant that was hosting a Uyghur wedding. We had the privilege of being invited to dance with the bride and groom. For a few hours, the warm invitation and the atmosphere of the wedding allowed us to actually enjoy Xinjiang's culture. However, that warm feeling did not last. That night, from the eighth floor of our hotel, my roommate and I heard screams and sounds that seemed like gunshots. In the early morning, I woke up to battalions of soldiers marching with machine guns. After eating breakfast, our tour guide informed us a riot had taken place a few streets away from our hotel. Security in Xinjiang was even tighter, and soldiers from all of China were sent to Xinjiang in large numbers.

On July 11, in preparation for our return to Suzhou, we arrived back in Urumqi. However, as opposed to our previous days in Xinjiang, we were welcomed. The Xinjiang Department of Tourism upgraded us to the best resort in Urumqi. Upon arriving, we were greeted by masses of television reporters anxious to interview us. The entire staff of the resort lined up to greet us, gifts were waiting in our rooms, and the Minister of Tourism was ready to shake our hands. His first words were, "Tourism in Xinjiang has been

restored!" Many pictures were taken, flowers were given to us, and many of us, myself included, were interviewed. Later, we were pampered with a delicious dinner and were even joined by the Minister of Tourism. He presented the best wine in Xinjiang and made a toast. This treatment was nothing like what we had received during the rest of our stay.

Once back in Suzhou, we saw on CCTV, China Central Television, the interviews that took place on July 11. After much editing, the interviews portrayed peace among the people in Xinjiang. The questions that were asked—such as "What do you think of the food in Xinjiang?"—and their answers were altered to illustrate our stay as one not affected by martial law and to show that Xinjiang had been restored to the peace it had before the "7-5" incident. It was obvious that we had been bribed and used as propaganda puppets.

After nine weeks in China, nine days under martial law, and one misused interview, I decided bring this experience to my academic life. I am currently researching my new thesis topic: "The Media Portrayal of the Xinjiang '7-5' Incident Through CCTV." During our stay in Xinjiang, we only knew what the government would tell us via our tour guide and CCTV. I will study the media tactics of CCTV in comparison to what I saw and in comparison to what I experienced.

*The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in East Asian Languages & Cultures. She is the Columbia College Student Council vice president of campus life. She is also president of Sabor, treasurer of the CU Bellydance Troupe, and representative at large of the Organization of Pakistani Students. "The Food in Xinjiang" is an installment of Summer Dispatches, an opinion feature series that seeks to showcase the diverse summer experiences of members of the Columbia community.*

After a week of grueling practice, the day finally arrived.

The first participant was called. A blonde girl in a flame-red Qipao (a traditional Chinese dress that you might see nowadays in Hong Kong period films), with chopsticks in her hair went to the front of the room. Before she spoke, she grasped her hands together as if she were a member of a children's Christmas choir and then began: "Hello everyone," she said, beaming, extending one carefully choreographed arm, and waving it around the room. My jaw dropped. So strange, contrived theatrics were expected of us after all.

I don't exactly remember the content of her speech—I was either too shocked by her choreography to focus, or it was too advanced for me to comprehend. I know that it had to do with family, that she told us a secret about herself and raised her hand up to her mouth, coyly looking around when she did so, and that she discovered she loved her family. When she said that, her eyes were misty.

I was astounded, and was also up next. Like Frank from "Old School," I blacked out. I only remember that I had steady eye contact with one competitor, who for some reason was smiling and nodding at me the entire time, and that I faltered when the judges notified me of the four-minute mark. I didn't win, but neither did red Qipao girl. My teachers were disappointed, but they made suitable excuses about why I hadn't snagged the gold medal. Actually, I am still confused about the competition's criteria for winning. Some really impressive people won (three from the CIB program), and some weirdo creeps won as well.

But as for the experience itself, I'm happy that I got to represent the Lions in the land of the dragon. I'm also happy I had a chance to try to master a foreign language, and to see and experience the strange behavior this overwhelming endeavor produces.

I am also glad that I now know the peach orchard parable.

*The author is a Columbia College sophomore. "Speech on the peach" is an installment of Summer Dispatches, an opinion feature series that seeks to showcase the diverse summer experiences of Columbia students.*

and university testing English skills. But good English teachers are few and far between, because anyone with good English skills can find a higher paying job than teaching poor students at migrant schools.

My summer in China allowed me to perfect my chopstick skills and explore the culinary world of jiaozi (dumplings), but it also taught me the value of a good education, especially one that fosters critical thinking skills. Columbia's Core Curriculum focuses on fostering critical thinking skills in classes such as Lit Hum and CC. I don't think the importance of the style of teaching in these classes can be underestimated. They teach students to think critically about issues and prepare them for leadership roles in their careers. The education as a path to success model holds true for the United States as well, and while both the U.S. and China claim to be meritocratic, basing spaces at university and as a public official on standardized tests. But performing well on these tests depends on the resources a students' family has to fund a quality education to teach the necessary skills. Sound familiar?

China is a society in transition right now, with rapid industrialization and urban migration transforming the country. China will soon be a great world power, as great as the United States. I hope that both of the governments will recognize the value of educating all levels of society, not just for humanitarian reasons, but as a significant investment in both their future as a nations and world leaders.

*The author is a Columbia College sophomore. She is the Spectator food & drink editor. "The power of education" is an installment of Summer Dispatches, an opinion feature series that seeks to showcase the diverse summer experiences of members of the Columbia community.*

## The global connection

BY DERRICK FU

"What are you doing here in China?" It's hard to explain what it is I do, mostly because it's not the easiest thing to simplify in a five-minute conversation.

As the co-founder and senior vice president of Global China Connection, I manage the world's largest international-China student network. That's 40 chapters at 40 universities, with over 1,000 of the world's most capable and ambitious students.

Of course, I'm also realizing that, in China, my status as a grandson, son, and older brother to two younger siblings is amplified.

The same can be said for being ethnically Chinese while holding a U.S. passport in the crowded airport express.

"What are you doing here in China?" I have participated in collaborative group enterprises my entire life, but until this past summer, I had never fully understood the true potential power of "we."

A year after founding GCC with my close friend Gavin Newton-Tanzer, CC '11, I returned to China with him and four other friends—GCC Vice President Keith Miao, CC '12, Director of Network Management David Zhu, CC '11, Director of China Affairs Yu Xiao, SEAS '12, Columbia Chapter President Alice Zhang, CC '12. Over a span of four months, we set out to solidify GCC's presence in China, and oversee the educational, community engagement, and internship programs we offer to college students and young professionals around the world.

Clichés aside, it was the best summer ever. We were hosted as delegates by the student government unions—the future leaders of China—at Peking University, Tsinghua University, Renmin University, Beijing Normal University, and many others.

We were invited to China's first-ever "Global Think Tank Summit" in July, and sat among the likes of former president Jiang Zemin, Premier Wen Jiabao, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, and two of Columbia's finest educators—professor of economics and Nobel laureate Robert Mundell and Jeffrey Sachs, professor of economics and director of the Earth Institute. The event also featured numerous other luminaries of the past quarter century in fields like as politics, industry, and academia.

We held our second conference—Envisioning China's Development—at Peking University on July 18. Over 250 students from 30 different universities attended.

We were sponsored by the China-based Everbright Bank to travel to Henan province for a weekend to give a presentation titled "Dreams and Realities" to 350 Chinese students. We met with top banking officials in Zhengzhou, and ate dinner with the mayor of Xinzheng.

We were featured on China Central Television and Sina.com. We were also featured in publications such as BQ Magazine and Beijing Youth Daily. We had the opportunity to speak on "A Date with Luyu," hosted by Chen Luyu, "China's Oprah," and to speak with Oprah Winfrey herself through a live video-feed.

Big rock, big splash. That's what we were looking to do and did, and by no means did we pick a small pond.

"What are you doing here in China?" With my blue Victorinox backpack bursting at its seams and zippers, I rush up the stairs of Bridge Café at 12:15 p.m., 15 minutes late for my private daily four-hour Mandarin lesson. I scan the room—it's tastefully homey and charmingly familiar. As always, I'm met by the smiles of the Bridge waitresses. My tutor signals for me to come sit down. As I start apologizing, a waitress timidly approaches and asks if I'll have the usual. I nod and begin to discuss my weekend with my tutor.

I could speak Mandarin more fluently. I'm an American-born-Chinese, which means I'm an American of Chinese descent. I am American but do not look American—I look Chinese but am not Chinese. This is a confusing circumstance.

Coming to China this time made me see things clearly.

This summer made me realize how fortunate I am to have a passion and a means to pursue it. It made me realize how much more I want in life than a white collar, I-banking job on Wall Street (like all the other financial engineering majors), and that not only am I capable of achieving that life, I'm entitled to it.

It made me realize how I want to differentiate myself from other American-born-Chinese, and how determined I am to both unite and empower us.

It made me realize that the only way I can make my voice heard is by doing remarkable things. It made me realize that the only way to do remarkable things is by working with remarkable people and having remarkable friends.

Here's to them. Here's to the summer of 2009.

*The author is a sophomore in the School of Engineering and Applied Science. He is senior vice president and co-founder of China Global Connection. He is also treasurer of the Columbia Men's Ice Hockey team, outgoing president of the Class of 2012 ESC, vice president of social affairs of the Pi Delta Psi Fraternity Inc., and education chair for the Taiwanese American Students Association. "The global connection" is an installment of Summer Dispatches, an opinion feature series that seeks to showcase the diverse summer experiences of members of the Columbia community.*

## Speech on the peach

BY REBECCA VICTOR

Have you ever heard of the "Peach Orchard?" Have you ever been to a Chinese speech competition?

This summer I attended the Columbia in Beijing Summer Language Program, during which I studied two semesters' worth of Chinese in ten weeks. Towards the end of our first term, one of my teachers asked me to participate in the annual Chinese Speech Competition. I was immediately flattered and distressed—while her request demonstrated her confidence in my speaking skills, the prospect of adding other tasks to my already heavy workload was pretty unappealing.

I was instructed to plan my essay over the upcoming weeklong vacation. I traveled across Yunnan province with two friends, starting in Yanyang. After returning from an amazing trip, I decided to write about my attempts to appreciate Yunnan's beautiful culture, even though, at times, I felt excluded from it—there were quite a few instances in which I would speak solid Chinese to a local, who would then turn to my Chinese friends and ask, "Is she speaking Chinese? Why is she here?"

I was satisfied with this plan and began to write my travelogue essay, which I thought was a vast improvement over my last Chinese essay, entitled "Why I like to Text Message."

When my teacher helped me edit my essay, she said: "I've been meaning to ask you, why didn't you include the peach orchard parable in your essay?" "I actually don't know that parable, haha..."

From what I understood, the parable involved a man who gets lost and wanders into a peach orchard, and discovers an alternate society there. Its inhabitants, while cut off entirely from the outside world, live in peace and harmony.

"If you had known this story, you surely would have made the connection," my teacher said.

"Yeah, maybe..." It sounded good though, so I put it in.

That week, I did nothing but practice. After memorizing the text itself, which proved to be quite difficult, I then had to work on my "performance," which would contribute to my overall score at the competition.

I listened to a recording of my teacher saying the speech over and over, so I could replicate the "natural intonations" of a Chinese person. My speech began as follows:

"Have you ever heard of 'The Peach Orchard?'" (pause)

"Have you ever been to Yunnan?" (pause, raise in volume)

"Have you ever enjoyed Yunnan?"

I also had to add in hand movements and facial expressions. They asked me raise up my hands when asking these questions, to point to my body when talking about myself, to look incredibly confused when talking about my experience with the locals. I did try, but I don't think I satisfied my teachers—every time I would practice they would say: "More feelings, more emotions." Upon my teacher's suggestions I watched clips of Chinese speech-competitions on YouTube and saw kids rapt during their speeches, jumping around with booming voices, ridiculous hand gestures and impassioned faces. "But no one will be like that at our speech competition," I thought.



ILLUSTRATION BY DARYL SEITCHIK

## The power of education

BY DEVIN BRISKI

I was standing in a small room on a dirt floor in blistering heat listening to a middle-aged man talk about his son's plans for the future. "My wife and I have limited educations. We are putting our hopes on our son," the father described. His son huddled against the door frame peering shyly into the small room with his big dark eyes, while his father spoke about him casually, perched on a small stool, animating his speech with hand gestures. A world away from my home in San Francisco, the father still had the same aspirations as many of the parents I knew.

This family was one of the current flood of migrant families from rural areas, primarily Anhui and Sichuan provinces to the poor suburbs of Beijing. Due to China's rapid rate of urbanization and industrialization, rural farmers from all over the country are picking up and moving to urban centers to work in construction and freelance handiwork. However, the public infrastructure, especially the small public school system, cannot contain the inundation of migrant laborers, and old hukuo laws from Mao's regime forbid non-urban natives from attending public schools. Because of this, private elementary schools have risen in suburban areas to educate the children of migrant workers. However, these schools are frequently underfunded, inadequately staffed, and do not prepare children for middle or high school. The child described above attended a small migrant, meaning that he probably would not have the opportunity to live up to the high aspirations of his parents.

Over the summer, I worked for an organization called the Rural Education Action Project, China (www.reapchina.org)—or REAP—as a summer intern. REAP is a collaboration project between Stanford University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, which launches policy-directed research on issues affecting education for rural and migrant students in China. This innovative organization combines the brain power of the academic world with the compassion of the nonprofit world: instead of treating visible problems using limited resources, REAP conducts studies on the issues affecting education and potential solutions, then critically analyzes the results to determine how to most effectively treat the problem. REAP then collaborates with the Chinese government, giving policy recommendations.

I worked on developing content for their Web site, copy editing, and laying out studies conducted by REAP into briefs to hand out to donors. In addition to office work, I also traveled around with grad students conducting research on English teaching methods in migrant schools, taking pictures, and interviewing parents to get a better idea of the issues plaguing this sector of society. We met children of ambitious parents who were cleverly navigating the education system to ensure their children went to high school, and we met destitute parents who were barely scraping by, with no time to worry about their children's future. Some of the migrant schools were wealthier, with play structures for their children and English teachers for every grade. Others had dirt floors, and English teachers who barely spoke the language. Observing classroom interactions was also eye-opening. In one class, all the children had specific sentences perfectly memorized in English, yet no idea what any of the individual words meant.

English skills are important to progress in Chinese society, with much of the entrance exams for high school







# Erin Andrews, Columbia's newest recruiter



MATT VELAZQUEZ  
THE X-FACTOR

It's not too often that someone goes to Robert K. Kraft Field who is easily recognized by the sporting world at-large. In my time at Columbia, I can only think of four such instances. Two of these celebrity sightings were of former Columbia football players Robert Kraft and Marcellus Wiley. Kraft, owner of the three-time Super Bowl champion New England Patriots, was on hand when Columbia named the field at Lawrence A. Wien Stadium after him, while Wiley, former Pro Bowler and current ESPN NFL analyst, has been spotted on numerous occasions.

You probably weren't even aware of it, but last fall, Olympic gold medalist and freak of nature Usain Bolt was at Kraft Field. Bolt's visit was unannounced and slid under the radar as he wasn't here for anything Columbia-related. Rather, he was going through a workout that was filmed and shown on ESPN as part of Kenny Mayne's "Mayne Event." Until a few weeks ago, missing a chance to meet the fastest man alive was among my top Columbia regrets, but then I found out that EPSN's Erin Andrews had made a visit to the Baker Field Athletics Complex.

To say that you don't know who Erin Andrews is is as laughable as Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's famous quote from his visit to Columbia: "In Iran, we don't have homosexuals like in your country." If you've ever watched a sporting event on ESPN, you have seen Andrews, sideline-reporter extraordinaire for the Worldwide Leader, and if you have read, watched, or listened to any media source since July, you have heard about her lawsuit against a Peeping Tom.

When I heard Andrews was at Kraft Field in the middle of August doing a photo shoot with some Columbia football players for GQ magazine, my first thought was that I shouldn't have been so lazy back in high school. Why was that my first thought, you ask? Well, for a little while, I contemplated continuing to work out, finishing my final year of high school football, and trying to walk on to the Columbia football team. However, I decided that I didn't really want to devote the time to working out and practicing, and since I'm not Brett Favre, my playing career came to an end.

If only I had stayed in the weight room, maybe I could have been one of those guys in the mud-stained jerseys making small talk while boyishly grinning and guffawing in the same room as Erin Andrews. Had I known this opportunity could have been mine, there's no doubt I'd be a walking muscle right now. For the same reason, I think the two minute and four second video of the photo shoot on GQ's Web site needs to be sent to recruits as a way to entice them to come to Columbia.

Along with being a very good sideline reporter for the largest sports network in the world, Andrews is known for her sex appeal—GQ wasn't doing a photo shoot because of her ability to break the news. Andrews' sex appeal, though, isn't among the three reasons why I think the video of her photo shoot would be perfect to send to all Columbia recruits.

The opportunity to be involved in a photo shoot of this caliber isn't possible at all universities. Because Columbia is the biggest college-sports presence in Manhattan—in your face, NYU—it is the ideal place for media groups to stage sports-related photo shoots or filmings. Most major media outlets are either based in New York City or have branches here, so it would be a waste of money to go elsewhere to film or take photos. For a recruit, this video would highlight the opportunities that he or she will have—sports-related and otherwise—solely by coming to a university in New York.

The second reason this video should be sent to recruits is that it shows how many athletes take their sports seriously here at Columbia. The players involved in the photo shoot were the ones who stayed in the city over the summer to train and practice with their teammates. Obviously that isn't feasible for everyone, but a high percentage of the football team remained here this summer and they hope their hard work will show on the field.

While showing that Columbia athletes are dedicated to their sports, the video also shows that they're down-to-earth people who like to have fun too. Without much—if any—modeling experience, these guys caked on some mud and hammed it up as much as they could, just like anyone else would in the same situation. If I were a recruit, I'd be looking for a school where I would enjoy spending time off the field with my teammates, and the group of football players in this video definitely seems like a fun bunch.

The three reasons this video should be sent to recruits totally makes it irrelevant who the celebrity is and what she looks like, but let's be honest—if it was ESPN analyst Chris Berman layered in mud doing a photo shoot with the football team, I wouldn't have written this column.

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Ajit Pillai / Senior staff photographer

**HAT TRICK** | Senior forward Sophie Reiser springs into action at the women's soccer homecoming against Manhattan. The Seattle native recorded the second hat trick of her career in the match. The women's squad managed a 4-0 shutout with an additional goal from junior defender Kelly Hostetler.

## Lions run over Manhattan 4-0 with Reiser's hat trick

BY SARAH SOMMER  
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Behind an explosive offense, the Columbia women's soccer team blanked Manhattan on Friday for the second year in a row. Back in 2008, the Lions beat the Jaspers 2-0. Columbia (1-2-0) found the back of the net four times on this weekend en route to its first victory of 2009.

"That's the kind of game that we expect to play," head coach Kevin McCarthy said. "It's another positive step forward, and we scored some great goals."

Columbia did not score in its season opener against Washington and managed only one goal toward the end of the second period against Portland. In just the fourth minute of play against Manhattan (2-3-0), however, junior defender Kelly Hostetler tallied her first career goal for the Lions.

While denting the scoreboard early is a step in the right direction for Columbia's offense,

McCarthy does not believe that the goal was entirely beneficial for his team.

"To be honest, we sort of flattened out after that," he said. "It was nice, but I think that affected our urgency to a certain degree."

The Lions did not score again until the 44th minute of play, when junior defender Lauren Cooke sent a free kick toward senior forward Sophie Reiser. Reiser directed the ball into the net for her first goal of the season, and Columbia regained its sense of immediacy on the pitch.

Less than three minutes into the second half, Reiser struck again with a high-arching shot that sailed over the Manhattan goalkeeper off an assist from sophomore forward Ashlin Yahr. By the 65th minute of play, Reiser had notched the second hat-trick of her career. Sophomore midfielder Nora Dooley fired a pass up to junior forward Chrissy Butler, which found Butler on the left side of the field in Manhattan territory. Butler then sent a cross



MANHATTAN	0
COLUMBIA	4



File photo

**HEADS UP** | Junior forward Bayo Adafin and the Lions came away from Long Island University with a hard-fought 3-1 victory.

## Men's soccer gets back in the saddle with first win

BY SABINE SCHULZ  
Spectator Staff Writer

After two early losses in the Duke/Nike Classic, the Columbia men's soccer team returned home victorious from a match against Long Island University in Brooklyn this weekend. In the final road tune-up before next Saturday's home opener, the Light Blue took on LIU for what seemed like a revenge match. The last time the two teams clashed, the Blackbirds scored a lucky double-overtime goal off a collision in front of the net for a narrow 1-0 win. The Lions' performance this weekend easily compensated for last year's loss and showcased a new direction for the team.



The Lions connected in the 21st minute, as senior James Prince intercepted goalkeeper Adam Janssen's clearing attempt. The Northumberland, England native's first career goal gave Columbia an lead.

In the 40th minute, the Light Blue struck again. Junior Hayden Johns took a corner and found freshman Will Stamatis, who put the ball in the far-left corner of the goal with a header, doubling Columbia's advantage. The Blackbirds retaliated four minutes into the second half when freshman Steve Jakubowski connected with a cross from classmate Jakeem Johnson and slid it past Columbia's sophomore goalkeeper Alex Aurricchio.

The Lions, however, maintained their urgency. Once more, Prince drove in the ball, setting up a shot on the left for

freshman Nick Scott, who added another tally to the scoreboard in the 56th minute. The Lions held on for the 3-1 win, backed by a strong effort from Aurricchio, who made four saves in the victory.

"It comes down to being able to execute what it is that we have as a game plan, paying attention to details and approaching this thing with the mentality to win," head coach Kevin Anderson said. "They followed the plan we had in place to play this game and they did it very, very well."

The triumph over LIU was a testament to Anderson's coaching philosophy. Anderson, who took over the post earlier this year from Leo Chappel, has emphasized the importance of the entire team over the individual.

"I think the strength of this team is all of the players. We don't have anyone who feels like he's not a working part of this process. On certain days, you call for certain players," Anderson said. "Our goal is to have everybody available for selection come game day. We were able to do that. I don't think that any one guy stood out and did phenomenal, but I think that everyone just gave a little more than we did in the past and that equated to quite a bit."

All over the field on Saturday, Columbia outshone Long Island. The Lions offense notched 11 shots and the defense held the Blackbirds to just eight. In goal, Aurricchio made four saves to Janssen's one.

The Lions open the home portion of their season this coming Friday night at Columbia Soccer Stadium.

LONG ISLAND	1
COLUMBIA	3

## Lions claim 3 games at Columbia Invitational

BY SARA SALZBANK  
Spectator Staff Writer

The women's volleyball team hosted the 2009 Columbia Invitational this weekend. The Lions (4-3) defeated Marist and Quinnipiac on Friday before falling in their first Saturday match against Stony Brook. But the Light Blue battled back in the last face-off of the weekend, picking up a win against Iona.

In game one against Marist—also Columbia's home opener—the Light Blue went up early, leading 15-6, but the Red Foxes rallied to tie the score at 24. After a number of lead changes, a kill from sophomore Monique Roberts, followed by an assist and kill by freshmen Kelsey Musselman and Erin Longinotti, respectively, ended the game with a 31-29 Columbia win. The Light Blue distanced itself from the Red Foxes at the start of game two as well and never looked back. After building a 4-2 advantage, the Lions went on an 11-1 run. Freshman Megan Gaughn put the game away with a kill, wrapping up the 25-11 victory.

Battling back with a vengeance, Marist

took games three and four from the Lions and tied the match score at two apiece. The Lions started to find their comfort zone late in game four, coming within three of the Red Foxes, but could not complete the rally.

With senior Alex Marchyshyn serving, Columbia went up 2-1 in the deciding set and stayed ahead for the remainder of the game. With consecutive kills by Longinotti and sophomore Megan Dillinger, the Lions notched their first win of the weekend, 3-2.

Gaughn led Columbia in the first faceoff of the Invitational with 27 kills and 15 digs.

In its second matchup on Friday, Columbia defeated Quinnipiac, 3-1. Game one was a close set at the start, but a mid-game 13-8 Lions lead was insurmountable for the Bobcats. However, Quinnipiac battled back in game two. Although the Lions did come within two late in the game (24-22), a service error clinched the 25-22 Bobcats victory.

Columbia then dominated in games three and four, 25-17 and 25-19 respectively, to sweep day one of the competition.

Day two started off rocky for the Lions, who dropped their first match 3-1 to Stony Brook.

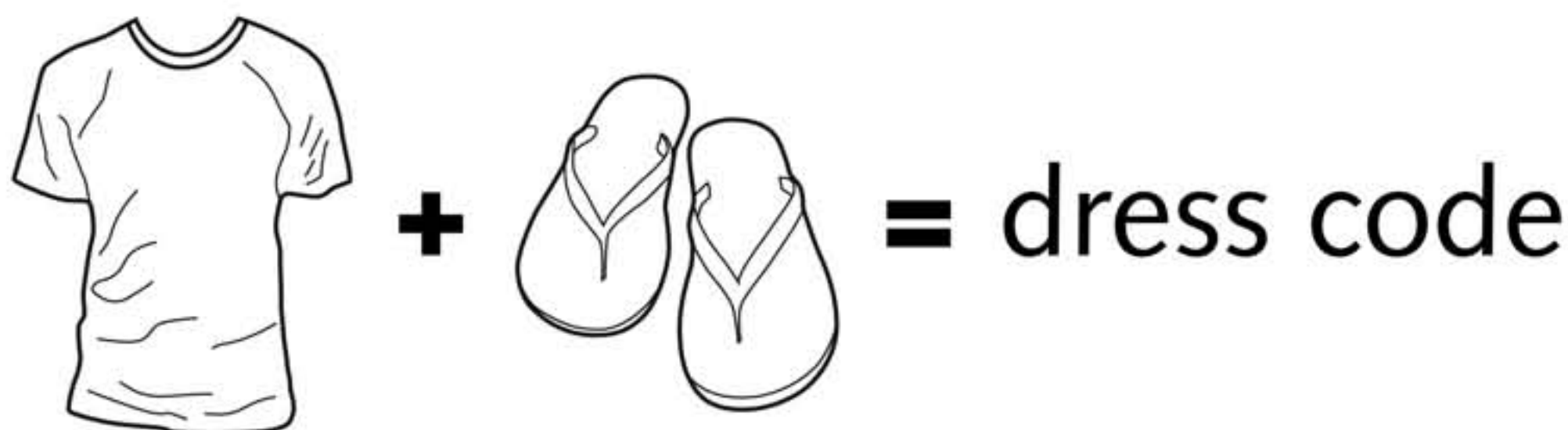
The first set was a nail-biter, as the Seawolves went up early at the start. The Lions rallied, however, and tied the score at seven and then again at eight. Down six, the Light Blue went on a run with kills by Cindy Chen and Monique Roberts. Two more kills by Musselman and Roberts tied the score at 21 apiece. Ellie Thomas put the Lions in the lead with a service ace. Two more Columbia kills and a Stony Brook service error sealed the win for Columbia, 26-24.

The Light Blue attempted to repeat its early success throughout the rest of the match, but the Seawolves regrouped and dominated sets two, three, and four, 25-17, 25-18, and 25-15.

But the Lions didn't stay down for long, battling back later Saturday evening to defeat Iona. It was the first and only loss for the Gaels in this weekend's Invitational.

Although Iona captured set one, it was clear from the start that Columbia would not go down without a fight. The Lions, down most of the first game, came as close as 24-22 before





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The D. E. Shaw group will host an information session on Tuesday, September 15 at 7:00 pm in the Presidential Room at the Faculty House. On-campus interviews will take place September 30. To submit an application, please visit:

**[www.deshaw.com/recruit/jobs/OC/Columbia](http://www.deshaw.com/recruit/jobs/OC/Columbia)**

Please note that you must apply both through LionSHARE and our Web site. All applications must be received by September 16.

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File photo

**VOLLEY READY** | The Lions wrapped up an impressive weekend with a victory over the Iona Gaels despite losing the first game of the matchup. Altogether, Columbia went 3-1 on the weekend with its sole defeat coming at the hands of Stony Brook.

Sour and sweet weekend for field hockey

BY MICHELE CLEARY  
Spectator Staff Writer

The Columbia field hockey team found itself in a sudden-death penalty strokes period against Bucknell on Saturday, despite leading 3-0 at the half. After the tie held through both overtime periods and the first round of penalty shots, the Lions (1-2) needed only one shot to keep the tie or possibly even win the game. But after the Bisons' Tayler Siegrist got one past Columbia goalkeeper Christine O'Hara, Light Blue back Caitlin Mullins' shot went wide, giving Bucknell (4-2) a hard-fought 4-3 victory.

This heartbreaking ending was shocking given Columbia's dominance in the first half. Just over five minutes into the game, the Lions were awarded a penalty corner. Freshman Katie DeSandis capitalized on the opportunity by scoring her first collegiate goal off an assist from junior Julia Garrison, putting the Light Blue up 1-0.

Less than a 90 seconds later, sophomore Carson Christus added to Columbia's lead by forcing a shot past Bucknell goalkeeper Jessie Atieh. After another 10 minutes of play, Garrison tacked on another point for the Lions with an unassisted goal of her own.

Play shifted to the Bucknell side of the field for the latter part of the half, but three saves by O'Hara kept the Bisons at bay until the second period.

At 43:10, Bucknell finally got on the board thanks to a goal by sophomore

Marci Richard, assisted by junior Christine Weiss. Weiss then found the back of the net herself, cutting Columbia's lead to one with less than 12 minutes remaining in regulation.

In the 70th minute, Bucknell was awarded a penalty corner that resulted in the game-tying goal. Once again it was Weiss who struck for the Bisons, this time with help from Corinne Raczek and Morgan Kauffman, knotting the game at three with 29 seconds left and stunning the Light Blue.

The Lions were out-shot, 8-2, in the second half and had just one penalty corner to Bucknell's 12.

Both overtime periods passed with neither team scoring, causing the first stroke-off. After tying in the stroke-off, the game went into a sudden-death period, meaning that the first team to score an unanswered goal would win.

Bucknell's Siegrist made her shot, putting the pressure on Mullins to make hers. But Mullins missed the net, sealing a devastating loss for Columbia.

O'Hara finished with nine saves, five of which came in the two overtime periods, while Christus led the Light Blue in shots with five.

Columbia was able to overcome Saturday's disappointment with a narrow defeat over Quinnipiac on Sunday. The victory marked the Lions' first win of the season and also the first at the helm for

head coach Jana Woolley. This time the Lions found late inspiration, overcoming a 2-0 deficit en route to a 3-2 triumph.

Just over 11 minutes into the first half, Bobcat senior Lauren Hartnett scored on an assist from fellow senior Bonnie Shea. Just two minutes later, MacKenzie Liptak, another senior, got a shot past O'Hara off an assist from junior Megan McCreedy, putting Quinnipiac (0-3) up 2-0.

The Lions stormed back though, cutting the Bobcats' lead in half just over a minute later. Senior Julie Hatchett, assisted by De-Sandis and junior Lauren Byrne, converted off a penalty corner at 14:14, pulling the Lions within one.

With less than five minutes remaining in the first half, senior Jane Gartland tied the score with her first goal of the season with an assist by sophomore Leti Freaney.

The score remained knotted throughout most of the second half until Columbia was granted a penalty corner. It was Byrne who capitalized on the opportunity with the game-winning goal, which was also the first tally of her collegiate career.

Garrison led the Light Blue in shots with five (three on goal). O'Hara won her first collegiate game and made three saves in the process.

The Lions' next game will be their first Ivy League matchup. They will be taking on Brown at home on Saturday at 2 p.m.



BUCKNELL	4
COLUMBIA	3



QUINNIPIAC	2
COLUMBIA	3

CU volleyball finishes 3-1 at invitational

VOLLEYBALL from page 7

the Gaels snatched the win. In set two, the Light Blue battled back, leading by as much as eight at one point en route to the 25-17 victory.

Set three was another close match. Down 17-14, the Lions came within one due to Gael errors. The following point came after a suspenseful wait, as the ball made it back-and-forth and around the court for nearly two minutes before Longinotti ended it with a kill. With the game

tied at 17 apiece, Dillinger put the Lions up by one. The Gaels didn't go down easily, though, and took the lead twice more before Columbia forced two attack errors and snatched the game, 28-26. With momentum on their side, the Lions took game four easily in a 25-15 victory.

Gaughn led the team again on Saturday with 37 kills. Longinotti posted 16, while Dillinger and Roberts tallied 14 and 10, respectively.

The Lions return to the court on Tuesday, Sept. 15 against NJIT.



MARIST	2
COLUMBIA	3



QUINNIPIAC	1
COLUMBIA	3



STONY BROOK	3
COLUMBIA	1



IONA	1
COLUMBIA	3

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## FILM

## Students check out DVDs at Butler Library

BY AMBER TUNNELL  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Those still mourning the loss of Kim's Video and Music and dissatisfied with its replacement Ricky's NYC finally have something to cheer about: DVD rentals from Butler.

As of the beginning of September, the Butler Media Center, located in 208B Butler, is circulating the DVD collection donated by Kim's after it closed last fall.

According to Nancy Friedland, Butler's media services & film studies librarian, Kim's gave Columbia 17,500 DVDs and 10,000 VHS tapes upon the closing of their Broadway and St. Mark's Place stores. Friedland said Yongman Kim, the stores' owner, told her "business had slowed" and there was "too much competition from Netflix and online viewing."

"He donated his uptown store collection of rental titles to Butler Media in honor of the film division, School of the Arts," Friedland said. "The collection is strong in feature films, U.S. and foreign," and there is a "good selection of television programming, anime, and assorted genres like horror and science fiction."

According to Francie Mrkich, associate director of access services and head of delivery services, library staffers have been sorting through the DVDs since March. Currently, 2,000 films are available for rent in the Butler Media Center, and "each month more and more will be added," Mrkich said, adding that she is "very excited to be able to offer circulating DVDs."

There is, however, a strict rental policy on these new films. Students and staff can take out only two titles for up to three days, with a \$7 daily fee for late returns and a maximum fine of \$50. There are no renewals, recalls, or holds allowed. Faculty and officers can take out up to two titles for seven days. If the library deems a video lost, there is a replacement fee that varies by collection and a \$30 processing fee on top of the fines.

Students appear extremely excited about this new offering, especially since the Butler Media Center's hours have been extended this year to match the hours of the Butler Reserve Desk.

"I personally plan to take advantage of this new resource for movies," Jason Suen, SEAS '12, said. "I am so excited that the opportunity to rent DVDs from Butler is now available to me. I also think this will decrease the number of students who illegally download movies."

Some students, on the other hand, feel the strict rental policies are too burdensome. "It was really great that Kim's donated these movies to Columbia," Rebecca Chan, CC '12, said. "However, I feel that Columbia is making these DVDs less appealing to check out because the late fees are unnecessarily high."

*The new hours of the Butler Media Center are Monday–Thursday 9 a.m. – 11 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. – 9 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. – 6 p.m., and Sunday 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.*



Lauren Weiss / Spectator staff photographer

**REWIND** | Butler's new service lets students check out used DVDs from Kim's donated former collection.

## BOOKS

## Book festival reads well in outer borough

### Alum novelist navigates two cultural realms with writing

BY KASSY LEE  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Just as the narrator of the first novel, "Picking Bones From Ash," by Marie Mutsuki Mockett, CC '92, can claim a relation to the princess of the moon, Mockett herself grew up between two worlds.

Born in California to a Japanese mother and an American father, Mockett took frequent trips to Japan in her childhood. The essential inquiry of her short stories, poetry, and nonfiction has sprouted from this trans-Pacific exchange. "In a way, I feel like a new culture is developing from the Asians who immigrated to the states and the Asian-Americans who frequently go back and visit Asia," Mockett said at Sunday's Brooklyn Book Festival. "It's fascinating how the culture is mixing and creating a new third culture."

At the festival, Mockett read from "Picking Bones From Ash" as part of a panel titled "Next Texts: Four Debut Novelists." Shanthi Sekaran, Marc Fitten, and Joanna Smith Rakoff also read from their first novels. The excerpt Mockett read chronicles the life of a mother and daughter in the small Japanese mountain town of Kuma-Ume. As she read, Mockett's melodic voice evoked a vision of Japan through the eyes of a young girl: part magical, with tales of mystical bamboo, and part universal, with tales of hiding from school bullies. Much like the work of Salman Rushdie, Mockett's story blends traditional folk tales with a more contemporary and American realist approach to storytelling.

Mockett graduated from Columbia College in 1992 with a degree in East Asian languages



Cathy Greenman for Spectator

**BOOK IT** | Locals agree that the Brooklyn Book Festival was marketed to readers, writers, and graphic designers alike, from the inspirational words of Marie Mockett to the graphic creations of comic collective ACT-I-VATE.

and cultures. Her time at Columbia and path of study informed her work as a novelist. "Japan is a hard place to understand," she explained. "Many writers focus on a surface level with the beauty of Japan, [on] kimonos and cherry blossoms. ... My academic focus is to constantly dig deeper, [to] not accept the surface." Mockett recalled that after her senior semi-

nar on "Women in Japan," her professor, Barbara Ruch, told her that "women in Japan have always been writers."

"It's not like I felt like I needed to have permission to write," she said, finding solace in the long tradition of female writers in Japan. "The first psychological novel, 'The Tale of Genji,' was written by a woman, Murasaki Shikibu."

During these troubling times for publishing, Mockett expressed gratitude to have the opportunity to release her first novel and speak at such a prestigious event. "Lots of writing is just me, home in sweats with my cats," she said. To be published is "a dream, really. It's like completing the circle."

"Picking Bones From Ash" will appear in bookstores on Oct. 1.

## Graphic novels do literary world justice at their first festival

BY TOMMY HILL  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

While the garden-variety, Derrida-toting, David Foster Wallace-quoting Columbian might instinctively turn up his nose at a medium of such dubious literary worth as the comic book, and might only deign to turn the pages of "Watchmen" for the ironic cache it yields, the New York Comic Con's debut presence at the Brooklyn Book Festival this year is emblematic of the renaissance that the city's alternative comic book underworld is experiencing. Beneath the NYCC tent was gathered a coven of artistic creators to discuss the electrifying new trends within the medium that are shattering

the limits of what paper and ink can express.

"Comics offer a synesthetic experience through words and pictures that no other medium can," said Brendan Burford, a speaker at the NYCC's first panel discussion of the day, in the introduction to "Syncopated: An Anthology of Nonfiction Pictor-Essays." The anthology, the product of a collaborative effort on the part of 17 artists, presents a series of first-person profiles, historical essays, and reportage pieces, including one intensively researched piece on New York's early graffiti artists.

Veterans of the comic book field speaking at the Brooklyn Book Festival agreed that the industry is going through a state of flux, the likes of which it has never before experienced, and not everyone was

optimistic. "I find it fascinating that superheroes are now popular in every imaginable medium—TV, film, video games—except for comic books, the very medium that spawned them," said Tom DeFalco, former editor in chief of Marvel Comics. "In past years, companies like Marvel could produce dozens of titles selling over 100,000 copies." Today, he said, one would be lucky to produce five.

But while the traditional publishing giants of the comic book world have seen better days, the Internet is allowing for an explosion of comic creations online, many of them free. Present at the Festival were members of the web comics collective known as ACT-I-VATE, which publishes original material by a number of

young illustrators, many of whom have gone on to sign major publishing deals. "By letting us post our creations live, for free, the Internet has given each of us the potential to cultivate a huge fan base," said Dean Haspiel, creator of ACT-I-VATE.

While the NYCC's presence could be taken as the graphic novel's coming of age party, its entrance onto the literary stage, some artists continue to suffer the growing pains of a medium that is only slowly shedding the label of "low art."

"It'll be great when nonfiction comic books and graphic novels aren't such a novelty anymore," said artist and writer Sarah Glidden. "It's time all the hype dies down and the format is just accepted as one of serious literary worth."

## STYLE

## Intelligence is this fall's must-have accessory at CC alum fashion show

BY JESSICA SCHWARTZ  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Coco Chanel famously said, "Fashion fades; only style remains the same." Co-hostess and alum Claire Shanley, CC '92, wisely quoted the classic designer in her opening speech to Sunday's event, Intelligent.Style, taking place in a large loft in the Meatpacking District. While celebrities and designers gathered in Bryant Park to experience high fashion, Columbia College alums attended a show put on by the Columbia College Women, an alumni association, embracing all that is style, and, of course, Columbia women.

As Shanley explained in an interview, the point of Intelligent.Style is to bring together alumnae across all years, ethnicities, and professions to celebrate women who embody and treasure good style and even greater careers. Fortunately, all of the planning for this event, which started in May, paid off, as a wide assortment of alumnae came out Sunday afternoon to sip on champagne and nosh on delicious desserts prepared by Gourmet Goddess.

The event began with a fashion show of alumni models sporting various looks created by nine New York based stylists. The short exhibition was then followed by a deconstruction of the multiple looks, as each stylist explained to the audience the premise of the outfit they created.

Fittingly, the stylists strived to create ensembles that suited each of the models' own careers, spanning from a folk singer to a high-powered financier,

and all of the stylists emphasized the importance of maintaining a classic, mature style. Although some looks were more youthful and creative than others, the outfits all stemmed from a common desire to appear effortlessly cool and chic. The ensembles were also aligned to current trends, as colors were quite mute, heels were incredibly high, and accessories were bold and edgy.

Stylist Samia Grand Pierre recommended the use of accessories to spice up certain outfits. For example, a rock-and-roll-esqe necklace or belt "can change your look and make a look your own," she said. She assured all of the professionals sitting in the audience that the use of such pieces would not interfere with the seriousness or sophistication of a great suit.

Similarly, stylist Nicholas Stansberry praised the use of small details to create a more stylish exterior. He paired classic Diane Von Furstenberg separates with a bright beret and colorful flower brooch.

Finally, several of the stylists spoke of the wonders of high-waisted, wide-leg trousers, recommending that every woman acquire such a staple item, as it is flattering to any figure.

The event also launched the CCW season of events—an important year as 2009 marks the the 26th anniversary of women being accepted into the college. To commemorate such a landmark, and honor all of the women graduates, the CCW introduced a new scholarship which will go to a deserving Columbia College student each year. For style is not just about fashion—it's about the life you lead and the person you endeavor to be.



Mira John / Senior staff photographer

**THE NEW BLACK** | Downtown fashion show featured the savvy style of Columbia College women as they showed off this fall's boldest fashion trends that balance practicality and maturity with a unique edgy flare.