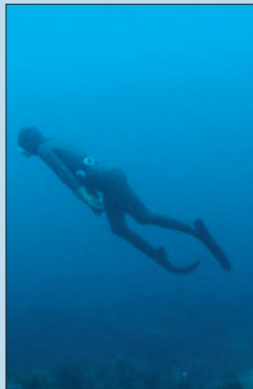


INSIDE



A&E, page 5

From New York to Sundance—and back

At Symphony Space on Tuesday, the first of a three-part film series will feature Columbia-created documentary films, including “The Last Mermaids” and “Unattached.”

A&E, page 5

Fall into this season's theater productions

From “Bye Bye Birdie” to the “Secret Garden” to “Hamlet,” New York's theater offerings this fall are bound to impress Columbia University theatergoers.

Opinion, page 4

Edit your credit

Monica Varman discusses the fiscal phenomenon that could help students fix finances.



Sports, page 8

Lions look for second consecutive win

The Columbia women's soccer team will take on Iona at home tonight at 7 p.m. in search of its second win of the season. The Light Blue's first win came on Friday against Manhattan.

Sports, page 8

Ivy league field hockey begins this weekend

The Columbia field hockey team and its seven Ivy foes will kick off conference play this weekend. Princeton will be trying for its fifth consecutive Ivy title this season.

ONLINE

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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.



Alyssa Rapp / Staff Photographer

VOICES OF DISSENT | Paul Bunten and Maggie Peyton from Park West Village organized a community forum Monday evening to oppose the development of a 22-story nursing home on 100th street that would rise above the rest of the skyline.

Manhattan Valley residents oppose land swap

BY SAM LEVIN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The residents of Manhattan Valley are rising up against a potentially higher skyline. For the past several weeks, residents of 106th Street have raised their voices against the construction of a condo giant after the local nursing home Jewish Home Lifecare and developer Joseph Chetrit announced a controversial land swap in August. Monday night, the battle gained

momentum six blocks south, where Park West Village tenants and owners joined forces to oppose construction of the 22-story senior home facility on 100th Street—and all of the traffic, noise, and disruption they anticipate it will bring. In an interview, Jewish Home Lifecare spokesperson Ethan Geto said that JHL had reached out to attend the meeting and that the offer was declined. But one of the organizers of the discussion, Paul Bunten from Westsiders for Public

Participation, said he was not aware of such an invitation.

The basic land swap is a direct property switch that allows the nonprofit nursing home—which has claimed that a new, technologically advanced facility is a necessity—to build its new structure on a Chetrit-owned parking lot on 100th Street. In exchange, Chetrit would be permitted to develop a

SEE MANHATTAN, page 2

Section 8 tenants fight for affordable housing

BY KATHERINE MEDUSKI
Spectator Staff Writer

Tenants and local politicians are banding together to fight for affordable housing in a neighborhood where it might be lost.

The battle to protect the Section 8 Project-Based Voucher program, which subsidizes housing for low-income families, was at the forefront of a rally on 143rd Street at the end of the summer attended by multiple tenants associations as well as state and local representatives.

The Gloria Harding Apartments, a 113-unit building at 617 W. 143rd St. in West Harlem, is of particular interest to affordable housing advocates because its Section 8 contract is tied to the entire building rather than just its individual residents.

Tenants fear that, should the Gloria Harding Apartments opt out of the program, many would be forced to leave, and the building would undergo rapid gentrification. Residents whose Section 8 assistance is tied to the building can't use the program once they no longer live there.

The length of time a building remains a full project-based Section 8 complex depends entirely on a Housing Assistance Payments contract with the Department of

Housing and Urban Development, a public agency. This agency can allocate up to 20 percent of the Section 8 budget to the project-based housing units for a maximum of 10 years followed by five-year renewal periods. The Gloria Harding Apartments may leave the program this year when their contract with HUD runs out and when both landlord Baruch Singer and the Denver-based Apartment Investment Management Company (AIMC) have the option of selling units at market rate should they become vacant.

“Singer is planning on letting the contract expire,” Maggie Russell-Ciardi, executive director of the housing advocacy group Tenants & Neighbors said. “That would be a horrible situation for [future] tenants.”

Tenants & Neighbors helped organize a group to help convince Singer to renew the contract. “He’s a pretty notorious landlord, but we’re hoping he’ll do the right thing,” she added.

Either that, or Singer should sell the building to someone who will, according to some activists.

Gloria Harding tenants also contacted the community development organization West Harlem Group Assistance to address the situation. “We’ve been organizing them

and trying to address the landlord issues,” Donald Fulp, WHGA senior project manager explained. As the number of buildings participating in the Section 8 program decreases, the number of tenants unable to afford their homes increases. Plus, the availability of transferable vouchers per person in need decreases.

Singer did not return multiple calls for comment, and representatives from AIMC also declined to speak on Section 8 since they said they did not have direct jurisdiction over the future of the voucher program in this Harlem building.

Elbert Garcia, spokesperson for Congressman Charles Rangel (D-Harlem), said that he feared the loss of Section 8 units, but he added that Rangel would do everything in his power to preserve them. “We will do all that we can to ensure that Section 8 remains an option for all Americans, including fighting for more federal money to fund vouchers and project-based developments,” Garcia said. WHGA member Samelis Lopez said that this case was not unique and that she feared the loss of Section 8 is becoming a trend. She said, “It’s happening throughout the city.”

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CU hosts Leaders Forum

Mayor Bloomberg, London Mayor kickoff series today

BY MADINA TOURE
Spectator Staff Writer

Today kicks off another year for heads of state on campus.

The annual World Leaders Forum is timed with global leaders' United Nations visits and kicks off this year with a conference on the futures of London and New York featuring Mayors Michael Bloomberg of New York City and Boris Johnson of London.

Martti Ahtisaari, the former president of Finland, and Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, president of Argentina, will speak the following Monday, followed by speeches from Serbian President Boris Tadic and Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva on Tuesday. Columbia Global Fellow and former Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan will speak on Wednesday. The forum will conclude with a lecture from Madhav Kumar Nepal, prime minister of Nepal.

“I was here when they had the Iranian president,” Gemma DiMatteo, BC '11 said, referring to Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's controversial visit in 2007. “It's a good idea ... it's good to be accepted in a place where people with different view [can debate].”

Occurring every year since 2003, the World Leaders Forum is a year-long University-wide initiative to engage in public discourse on current economic, political, social, and cultural issues.

“I went to see the Dominican president last year, and it was really cool,” Laura Klady, BC '12 said. “I am definitely interested to see the president of Argentina both because she was controversial and because she is a female leader in a Latin country. I am a Spanish major and I studied in the Dominican Republic, and I am thinking about studying in Argentina.”

The forum will touch on a variety of topics—global economic crisis, peacemaking, and climate change will be among the topics in the keynote addresses.

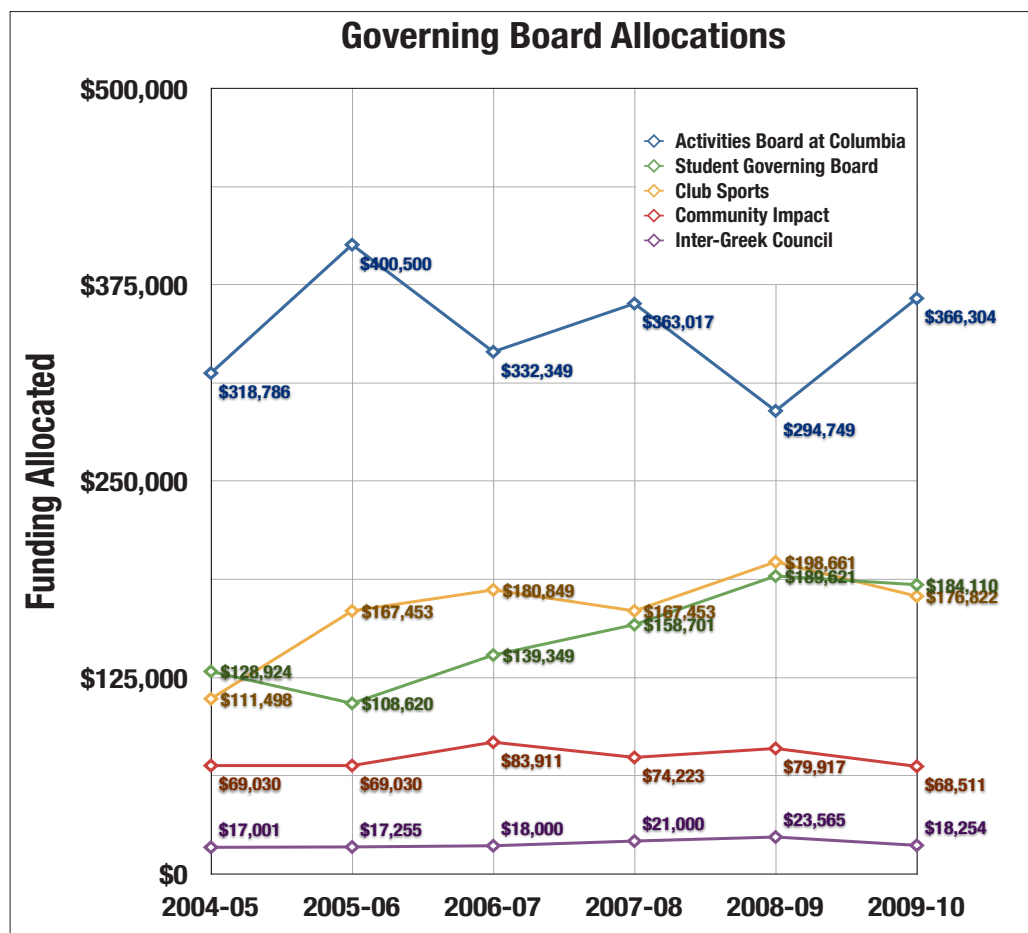
Bloomberg and Johnson will discuss issues that their cities must confront, such as the future of their financial sectors and the diversification of their economies. President de Kirchner will touch on

SEE FORUM, page 2



File photo

PREZ PALS | Students get face time with international figures at the World Leaders Forum, like Slovenian President Danilo Türk.



CU groups and clubs take hard financial hit

BY ALIX PIANIN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Like the University's endowment, Columbia clubs and groups are feeling the heat—and it could be time to start prioritizing heavily.

According to a statement released by the Funding at Columbia University Committee, or F@CU, in July titled “The State of F@CU,” funding requests have been consistently increasing at a rate that is unsustainable for F@CU.

This is because there was no surplus for the year—there was no extra money to shuffle around the student governing boards. Funding at Columbia may have to reassess how Student Activities Fees are allocated.

F@CU is composed of the incoming and outgoing student council presidents and treasurers for each undergraduate student council, with 16 members total. F@CU meets during the reading week period in the spring semester and allocates the money from

the Student Activities Fees—the approximately \$500 in each student's tuition package devoted to student life—to the governing boards.

There are several Columbia governing boards: The Activities Board at Columbia, which funds and oversees publications and academic, cultural, and performing arts groups, among others; the Club Sports Governing Board; Community Impact; the InterGreek Council; the Student Governing Board, whose oversight includes religious, political, and activist groups; and the InterSchool Governing Board, a recently formed council that oversees clubs composed of students from various schools. (Barnard's Student Government Association is also a governing board, though it runs on Barnard Student Activities Fees and is therefore not part of F@CU.)

According to the committee's Web site, F@CU also “provides a framework for continued financial collaboration between the individual

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EVENTS — SEPT. 15

Mayors of NYC and London

Columbia’s World Leaders Forum presents New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and London Mayor Boris Johnson, who will discuss their cities’ financial futures.

Low Library Rotunda, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Bills, Bills, Bills

Join the Committee on Global Thought for a conversation among prominent economists discussing the prevention of a second Great Depression and the dynamics of economic collapse. Business School Professor Joseph Stiglitz is among the speakers.

International Affairs Building, Kellogg Center. 12:30 pm

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“There will be no bailout packages.”

—CCSC VP of Finance
Nuriel Moghavem, CC ’11

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Have a question? Criticism? News tip? You can contact us directly by emailing info@columbiaspectator.com.

CORRECTIONS

The article “Attorney Kathryn Kolbert will lead Athena Center” misstated Amy Chen’s position on the Student Government Association. She is SGA’s vice president for student activities, not vice president for student affairs. Spectator regrets the error.

World Leaders Forum

FORUM from front page

economic issues as well, with her lecture providing a Latin-American perspective on the global crisis.

Ahtisaar will lead a discussion about peacemaking in the post-Cold War era by, and Tadic will speak about the future of the Western Balkans. Prime Minister Nepal will also discuss post-conflict challenges and development.

The forum will take a different direction with Kofi Annan’s speech on climate change and the challenges that result from it, concentrating specifically on leadership challenges.

For Biola Akinyemi, GS ’10, the forum is simply a chance to encounter those who have the power to influence politics—an opportunity embraced particularly by those who have an interest in this field.

“I think it’s a great part of my Columbia experience. It’s just a great way to meet people who have been in a position to influence policy, and I am interested in making policy.”

The forum will take place in the Low Library Rotunda and also in the Teatro of the Italian Academy. Online registration is required to participate in the events.

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File photo

MAYOR MIKE | New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg will be joining London’s Mayor Boris Johnson to kick off Columbia’s World Leaders Forum global speaker series. The annual event invites foreign figure heads to campus while they are in town at the United Nations.

Political groups promote student involvement

BY LIZA WEINGARTEN
Spectator Staff Writer

On a campus with a history of turbulent protests, it might come as a surprise that divergent viewpoints could be a point of harmony for the student body.

Yet activist student groups from the right, the left, and in between claim a common interest in promoting dialogue. As the school year begins, many organizations that often hold opposing views have cited engaging more students in discussion as one of their chief objectives.

For some, this means rousing the masses first.

Derek Turner, CC ’12 and director of communications for the Columbia University College Republicans, emphasized the College Republicans’

focus on bringing speakers to the University.

“Hopefully as they arrive on campus the Columbia student body can participate in the engaging dialogue that the speakers will doubtlessly ignite,” Turner said.

In the past, speakers have generated widespread interest and sparked debates that continue on campus long after they leave.

Last year, the conservative social and political commentator Ann Coulter fielded a question-and-answer session longer than her actual speech—an event that brought Republican perspective to a student body often characterized as predominantly liberal.

The Columbia Political Union hopes to foster broader exposure to a variety of political viewpoints on campus this year.

“Our main goal is to keep everyone as politically active [and] engaged as possible,” said Sajaa Ahmed, CC ’10 and general manager for CPU. “Whether through engaging speakers, controversial debates between opposing political groups, informational publications, or an active presence in the blogosphere.”

Ahmed also raised the issue of health care, which has been frequently discussed both nationally and on campus. CPU is currently organizing a debate over health care between the College Republicans and the Columbia University College Democrats.

“The debate will likely be one of our most exciting events of the semester,” Ahmed said.

Turner agreed and added that health care “serves as a crucible

for more fundamental political opinions and philosophies.”

CPU sponsored a similar debate last year in which members of the College Republicans and College Democrats debated other hot button issues such as the death penalty and abortion.

The debate “was productive both for of our groups and for developing more of a dialogue among students on campus,” Sam Klug, CC ’12 and a member of the College Democrats said. “I hope to continue that this year.”

Turner noted the impact of student engagement in politics, stating, “Peoples’ most fundamental opinions about government, its responsibilities, and its limits come to the forefront and actually have consequences.”

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Local residents oppose land swap

MANHATTAN from front page

residential building on 106th Street, which is the current site of the JHL facility.

Preservationists fear that Chetrit will build a tower on 106th Street while and Chetrit and Jewish Home Lifecare are struggling to convince the community that an out-of-context monster is not their intention. Meanwhile, 100th Street has become the site of another land use war.

Tenants and condo owners said they feared extensive traffic on 100th Street between Amsterdam and Columbus avenues, where the local precinct and fire departments are located. Sue Brisk, who lives in 792 Columbus—whose backyard would be the site for the new 22-story building—said that multiple serious accidents have occurred very recently with the influx of foot and vehicle traffic from the new Columbus Square development.

“I look down every day and night,” Brisk said of her fears, adding that she could not even begin to imagine the traffic flow with an entire new facility in place.

Eighty-year-old Bill Gellerman asked the crowd if he thought JHL would someday be a good home for him. Neighborhood resident Catherine Unsino, an advocate in nursing home reform, responded by telling the increasingly angry crowd that Jewish Home Lifecare was a

below-average institution, and for that reason, they could not welcome them into their home.

Ultimately, after a speech from Maggi Peyton of the Park West Village Tenants’ Association, the crowd agreed that they would form one umbrella group devoted to opposing the swap entirely. Cheryl Strong, a disgruntled resident, said that she was already part of another anti-swap group, which has urged the New York attorney general to join the cause. Jean Jaworek from the Duke Ellington Boulevard Neighborhood Association on 106th Street urged the crowd to be realistic and think of favorable negotiations—a suggestion which was immediately met with firm opposition.

In response to growing opposition, Geto said that they plan to address the traffic concerns with a full investigation, and further, they intend to reach out to the community through an advisory board as well as a lengthy design planning process that would directly include Park West Village.

“Many people want to stop this,” Buntzen said to the crowd last night. “The question is how.”

In response to the community members’ unwillingness to negotiate, Geto said, “We are a nonprofit with a mission. It is imperative that we build that building.”

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Student groups take financial hit

FUNDING from front page

student councils through agreements,” such as the Facilities and Security Fund and the Inter-Council Agreement. The Facilities and Security Fund moves the financial responsibility of reserving and renting facility space and security for events to the councils. Individual groups and students, then, are faced with less of a financial burden in holding Columbia campus programming, though the costs are taken out of the student group allocations.

According to the site, ’09-’10 allotments were as follows: \$366,303.61 for ABC; \$184,109.54 for SGB; \$176,821.57 for Club Sports; \$68,571.09 for Community Impact; and \$18,254.20 for the InterGreek Council. The governing board budgets are made up of these allocations plus any leftover money from the previous year and funding outside of the student councils.

“Depending on the governing board, either three or four of the Student Councils make contributions toward each allocation according to a ratio determined by relative student enrollment among the schools,” the F@CU rules explain.

But as the F@CU committee pointed out in the statement, governing board allocations have fluctuated significantly in the past 10 or so years, which makes it difficult to define funding trends. For example, the funding allocation to ABC reached an all-time high for the ’05-’06 year at \$400,500. In ’08-’09, the ABC was allotted \$294,748.61, the lowest in almost 10 years. SGB and CSGB allocations have also fluctuated wildly, with some boards receiving a hundred thousand dollars more than in previous years. This unpredictability makes it difficult for F@CU to plan for future allocations while reaching their goal of “sustainable long-term growth.”

Overall, the F@CU committee said, the funding requests have generally increased annually “at a rate that is unsustainable given F@CU’s funds.”

“We have to make difficult cuts yearly and can never fully satisfy a governing board’s requested allocation as a result of these increases,” the committee noted in the statement.

Columbia College Student Council President Sue Yang, CC ’10, said that there would be guidelines placed on clubs’ food spending. In a Sunday night council meeting, CCSC Vice President of Finance Nuriel Moghavem, CC ’11, said that the F@CU committee suggested that governing boards hamper spending on technology and advertising as well as keep food costs to 10 dollars per head for any given event.

“There will be no bailout packages,” Moghavem joked with the council committees, though it reflected the

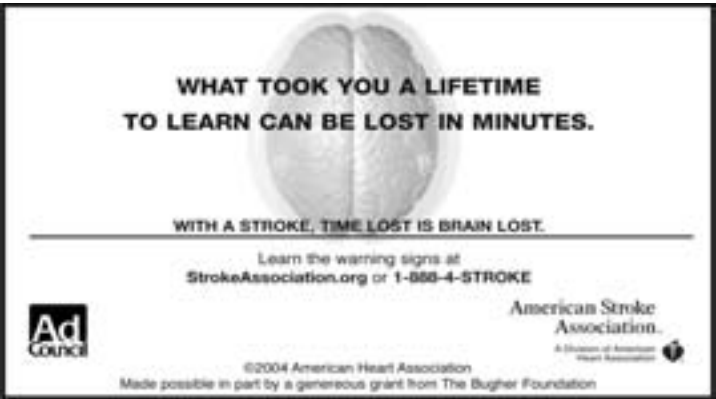
difference in funding availability from last year.

While these problems have existed for some time, they had not fully emerged until recently. Various surpluses found in governing boards offset those issues, as extra money could be spread to the other boards. But the boards no longer have these surpluses, and “we cannot plan to have them consistently in the future,” F@CU said in its statement.

Student groups may also face problems when attempting to expand their organizations. Expansion will mean less spending per student. It is possible that the only effective way to offset these costs will be through events that bring in outside funds for the group.

“We encourage the governing boards to consider the financial consequences when making decisions on expansion,” committee members said.

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Editors Notes



SPECTACLE

WORLD LEADERS FORUM

Examining Global Challenges, Exploring Cultural Perspectives



Seventh Annual World Leaders Forum September 21-25, 2009

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 4:30 P.M. Her Excellency Cristina Fernández de Kirchner
President of the Argentine Republic
Co-sponsored by the Institute of Latin American Studies

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 6:00 P.M. His Excellency Martti Ahtisaari
Former President of the Republic of Finland
Co-sponsored by the Center for International Conflict Resolution
Alvaro de Soto Conversation Series

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 3:30 P.M. His Excellency Abhisit Vejjajiva
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand
Co-sponsored by the Weatherhead East Asian Institute

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 6:00 P.M. His Excellency Boris Tadić
President of the Republic of Serbia
Co-sponsored by the Harriman Institute

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 12:00 P.M. His Excellency Kofi Annan
Columbia Global Fellow and
Former Secretary-General of the United Nations
Co-sponsored by the School of International and Public Affairs
Gabriel Silver Memorial Lecture Series

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 2:00 P.M. His Excellency Madhav Kumar Nepal
Prime Minister of the Republic of Nepal

Please note that the schedule is subject to change and more events may be added. Further details and updates may be found on the World Leaders Forum Web site www.worldleaders.columbia.edu.

Online registration is required and will open on Tuesday, September 15, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. on the World Leaders Forum Web site:

www.worldleaders.columbia.edu

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IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR

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Staff Editorial

Taking on the world, one forum at a time

Today, the first World Leaders Forum event will take place at Low Library, featuring Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York and Mayor Boris Johnson of London. They will kick off an ongoing conversation that aims to address some of the major issues facing both cities. The World Leaders Forum provides Columbia students with unique opportunities to engage with some of the top policymakers and politicians of the world, one they should take part in as much as possible. Since University President Lee Bollinger established the World Leaders Forum in 2003, the conference has brought prominent figures such as Bill Clinton, the Dalai Lama, and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to campus. This year's guest list features Argentine President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner (Sept. 21) and former Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan (Sept. 23), among others. Seven events are already set for September, and as Bollinger invites more speakers throughout the year, more will be scheduled in the months ahead. Even though contro-

versial speakers tend to garner the most attention, each brings valuable insight and experience. If possible, professors should integrate the forum events into their classes. Students in classes related to the topics of discussion should be given permission to attend the events instead of class should the times coincide. Students who do attend should share their experiences with those who could not attend. We look forward to the launch of this year's World Leaders Forum today. The dialogue between the two mayors promises to be an insightful discussion on the future of these two urban centers. It is fitting that the first World Leaders Forum event of the year features Bloomberg, one of our local leaders. Since New York is a global city, intertwined in world politics and the world economy, the forum should continue to tap into the ambassadors, diplomats, and other leaders that make this city their home. As Columbia continues to reaffirm its commitment to dialogue and international exchange, we should take advantage of the opportunities that living in New York and attending Columbia University have given us.

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.

COLUMBIA & ITS DISCONTENTS



Fast-a-thon for thought

BY SAMIHA RAHMAN

I have access to one of the best educational systems in the country. My classes are taught by some of the most intelligent, innovative, and accomplished scholars of today. I am continuously encouraged, supported, and told that I have the potential, resources, and capacity to achieve anything I want. And the Community Service Society of New York reports that, only a few blocks away, 163,000 young people in New York City between the ages of 16 and 24 are neither in school nor in the labor force. While I am constantly overwhelmed by the support and encouragement I receive at Columbia to pursue my education, it is difficult for me to fathom that there are individuals only a short walk from campus who contribute to these dire statistics and live such grim realities. How can it be that such disparity exists in such close proximity? And more importantly, can anything be done to ameliorate it? Columbia's Muslim Students Association (MSA) is doing everything in its power to address the crucial issues of poverty and education in the neighborhoods surrounding the University. MSA members hope to raise funds through their annual Fast-a-thon, an event in which participants abstain from eating and drinking for one day in order to draw attention to an important humanitarian cause. This year's Fast-a-thon will take place on Wednesday, Sept.

16 to support the Harlem Children's Zone, an organization that helps thousands of children achieve their academic goals. President Barack Obama credits HCZ for "literally saving a generation of children in a neighborhood where they were never supposed to have a chance." Firmly believing that all children have potential, HCZ offers comprehensive programming that empowers, motivates, and inspires Harlem residents at every stage of their lives. The organization provides a wide range of educational, social, and community-building programs to help create a network of support, a mindset of success, and a lifestyle of opportunity. HCZ takes tangible steps towards improving education and achievement statistics among youth in Harlem, and it has the results to prove it. For example, 100 percent of third-grade students at HCZ Promise Academy 2, one of the organization's charter schools, scored at or above grade level in statewide math tests in 2008. At HCZ Promise Academy 1, only 40 percent of sixth graders entered the school at grade level achievement, but 87 percent of the school's students scored at or above grade level in statewide math tests two years later. These impressive results are due in large part to HCZ's strong spirit of commitment, responsibility, and dedication to its kids—a spirit that Columbia also exhibits towards its own students. It is this shared mentality that compels the MSA to partner with HCZ. Moreover, tough economic conditions leave no institution or organization unaffected and thus not only create a strong sense of empathy but also bring the community together. Though the number of pressing global humanitarian crises is staggering, it is at times like these that one feels most eager to reach out to one's neighbors.

We can only move forward with collective action and a united front. Muslims from across the world have been fasting together since the end of August when Ramadan began. Throughout Ramadan, the holiest month in the Islamic calendar, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. In virtually every country, every city, and, most likely, every dorm on this campus, people wake up in the middle of the night to eat a hearty meal that sustains them for the rest of the day. In the evening, these same people gather with friends, family members, and other Muslims to break their fast with a common meal called Iftar. A glimpse into the diverse population of students who attend the MSA's on-campus Iftars shows how a simple shared routine creates a sense of togetherness that transcends cultural boundaries and social circles. The Iftars connect people of different backgrounds and varying levels of familiarity with one another on a basic human level. Though the most prominent aspect of fasting is the abstention from eating or drinking, it actually means more than that—fasting also encourages the practice of self-discipline and purification of the soul. The detachment from one's own worldly desires—namely food and drink—raises consciousness about the world we live in and draws attention to the struggles of others. In this way, fasting not only brings people together on a community level, but it also affects individuals on a personal level and raises awareness about the world we live in.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore. She is the community affairs committee chair for the Muslim Students Association and lead organizer for Fast-a-thon.

The persistence of the Massad question

BY DAVID MYERS

Joseph Massad, associate professor of modern Arab politics and intellectual history, has been granted tenure. A reversal of Columbia's original rejection of his tenure bid is not only regrettable, but frightening and embarrassing. Many news articles about Massad and his quest for tenure have attempted to describe him with the broad and overused adjective, "controversial." This is unfair and too simplistic. The professor is not "controversial"—he is anti-Israel and an embarrassment not only to scholarly pursuit and academia as a whole, but to our university and its reputation. The opinion pages have so far been astonishingly empty of strong support or opposition, and many students on campus fail to even recognize the professor's name. Therefore, it is likely that most people do not have the slightest idea why the man's work has produced such outrage internationally. While the University's tenure process is secretive, and the considerations on either side of any tenure debate are not made public, it is important that we do our best to understand what is at stake in granting tenure to Massad. Columbia's tenure guidelines state that "the purpose of this system is to ensure that the same standards of judgment are applied to all appointments to tenure ... and thereby to secure a faculty of exceptional quality and distinction throughout the university." By the very architecture of the system, it is set up to be a mark of academic achievement, and one with

tangible benefits. So, it only makes sense that any argument over the topic of tenure should boil down to the academic credentials of the faculty member. In The Persistence of the Palestinian Question: Essays on Zionism and the Palestinians, Massad writes of the Jews' "alleged ancestors" and "the very active invention of ancient Israel, an Israel that had never existed as such before Zionism's fantastic fabrications." It does not follow that any criticism of Israel is, by its very virtue, anti-Semitic. However, this is an unsubstantiated attack made in broad racial terms against the Jewish people. By questioning the genetic connection to the Jews of ancient Israel, one brings into question the Jewish covenant and the legitimacy of the religious belief system. Later, in the same book, Massad makes reference to "the Israeli government's overall anti-Palestinian policy." Unlike much of the book, which lacks citations, here Massad attempts to demonstrate his academic excellence by making use of an endnote. The endnote for this statement is, in fact, to an opinion piece written by Alexander Cockburn for the Wall Street Journal nearly two decades ago. Not only does the citation for this ludicrously broad claim depend upon an opinion piece, which is by its very nature biased, but it is the opinion of a notoriously controversial figure in the Israeli-Palestinian debate. This is hardly the kind of work to be expected from a Columbia academic. These are major incidents of academic irresponsibility that can be easily spotted in much of Massad's work. In between these, though, the pages are dotted with smaller, but still cringe-inducing, sins of academia. For example, in an analogy between Israel's European Jewish population's "racist" policies towards Russian Jews in Israel and the state's policies towards the Palestinian population, he describes how "the Ashkenazi establishment continues to rule by denying them all political rights." There is, of course, no citation

provided. While there have been tensions in Israel between Russian Jewry and the larger Ashkenazi community, the former enjoy full political rights as citizens (the current foreign minister of Israel is Avigdor Lieberman, a Russian Jew). The case is equally hard to make on the Palestinian end since, among many rights, Palestinian citizens of Israel enjoy freedom of religion, the ability to elect their own representatives, and the ability to hold seats in the Knesset. So why does any of this matter? Besides being the ultimate blessing that a university can bestow on one of its faculty, tenure is essentially for life. Massad, whose work hovers among frightening, prejudiced, and blatantly offensive, will continue to shape the minds of Columbia undergraduates indefinitely. If he has been allowed to make such egregious claims as an associate professor, what will he be able to falsely state as fact having gained Columbia's enduring stamp of approval? The mark Massad leaves will go far beyond the ugly falsehoods in his books or classroom, the stain remaining visible on the future of the Middle East and Asian languages and cultures department and the minds it helps mold. One must wonder how a university that prides itself on academic brilliance and integrity can stand behind a scholar who demonstrates less of a grip on endnotes than many first-years in University Writing. The need for diverse opinions is a real one, and we, as students, benefit from having our core beliefs challenged. That being said, anti-Semitism is not a challenge worthy of scholarship, nor is the author of anti-Semitic materials worthy of tenure. Now Massad has received tenure, we should all be frightened for the state of academia and disappointed because, as students, we bear the brunt of Columbia's decisions.

The author is a sophomore at Columbia and JTS.

Giving credit the old college try



MONICA ANJALI VARMAN
GREEN PIECE

microcredit revolution is taking the world of student loans by storm. Companies such as GreenNote, Zopa, Virgin Money, and Fynanz (yes, really) combine the twin phenomena of microfinance and social networking to produce novel, financially attractive, and hitherto popular lending schemes that promise the less credit-worthy a chance to give their American Dream the old college try. The emergence of microcredit in the world of college financing is but another avatar of microfinance, the approach to credit schemes that has revolutionized development and poverty eradication efforts across the globe. In 2006, microfinance became a buzzword when Muhammad Yunus won the Nobel Peace Prize. In truth, the microcredit model has existed for centuries in various localized incarnations, assuming its current form as early as the 1970s. Today, "microfinance" is an umbrella term, spanning a vast array of financial services made available to the less credit-worthy. These services include loans for investment in micro-businesses, savings and insurance schemes, and fund transfers. With its multiple iterations in both developing and developed countries, the microfinance model has evolved from a simple, localized lender-borrower relationship into a platform for social, economic, and political empowerment and mobilization. This is not to say that microfinance is the holy grail of approaches to development. These same economic upheavals have been criticized for disturbing traditional social and cultural structures and for merely shifting the

economic gap a notch lower on the poverty scale. Nevertheless, microfinance remains a powerful tool, if not a panacea. Closer to home, microfinance's latest avatar in the realm of student loans promises to bridge the gap between federal student loans and astronomical tuition costs. Based online, these Web sites shrug off traditional credit scoring mechanisms and encourage borrowers to tap into their social networks. The Web sites follow different setups, with some requiring cosigners and others shaving off their high interest rates as more and more of the loan is repaid. Founded by Akash Agarwal, GreenNote charges low and fixed interest rates, which can be further reduced if lenders choose to gift money. On their Web site, lenders can browse the profiles of registered borrowers and search specifically for students who "share common characteristics" with them. The system formalizes what used to be informal or "soft" loans and turns millions of students into entrepreneurs investing in their own futures. The introduction of a middleman—the microfinance company—transforms transactions from social and emotional obligations into business investments free of the guilt and discomfort of borrowing from family and friends. At the time of its takeover by TuitionU.com, Greennote reportedly raised \$4.2 million in 2007 from Menlo Ventures and Glenbrook Partners and registers about 3,000 users per month. Peer-to-peer lending is gaining traction all around the world, with Qifang in China and Rang De in India changing the dependence of their populations on banks. Though it is structured on similar lines as its American counterparts, Qifang's Web site "features" certain students and lenders. Also, while Fynanz and GreenNote encourage students to create a Facebook-like profile and warn that sob stories don't work, Qifang's "success stories" definitely tug at the readers' heartstrings. It remains to be seen just how success-

ful microfinance will be as a means to meet the escalating costs of higher education. Microfinance loans certainly appear attractive in the current economic situation, as they are inevitable products of a credit crunch and greater social connectivity, but the high interest rates may deter students from using them once credit is more freely available. While the scale of microfinance loans is appropriate for relatively small expenses such as textbooks and food, it is certainly not sufficient in and of itself to cover the exorbitant tuition costs at most private universities. Even if they are successful, microfinance loans will remain supplements to "close the student funding gap" rather than complete solutions. Also, in those systems that rely on a student's social networks rather than the kindness of strangers, students who are already well-connected will undoubtedly face an advantage, aggravating social disparities rather than eliminating them. The operations and outcomes of peer-to-peer models such as GreenNote are therefore likely to be vastly different from those in developing countries. It is important not to view the microfinance revolution as any real breakthrough in addressing the disparities inherent in higher education, but to see it for what it is—an additional option in the realm of college financing. Regardless of the long-term outcome, microcredit platforms are creative and resourceful spaces for student initiatives and society's philanthropy. For anyone struggling to pay for textbooks, these Web sites hold the promise of soft loans of \$2,000 from kind strangers. Hey, you never know.

Monica Anjali Varman is a Columbia College junior majoring in economics-mathematics and concentrating in sustainable development. She is a senior editor of Conscience and works on the Millennium Villages Project. Green Piece runs alternate Tuesdays. opinion@columbiaspectator.com

FILM

Heritage inspires Columbia alum film series

BY PETER LABUZA
Spectator Staff Writer

Columbia students might find it harder and harder to escape school with a trip to the movies these days. With films like “Adventureland,” “The Hurt Locker,” and “Goodbye Solo,” graduates from Columbia’s School of the Arts film division are invading theaters worldwide. It’s appropriate, then, that the Columbia Alumni Association has collaborated with the School of the Arts as well as the Columbia Alumni Arts League for the first of three film series dedicated to Columbia alumni in the film world this Tuesday at Symphony Space.

Daisy Nam, the events manager for the School of the Arts, explained the reasoning behind holding the event in New York: “Every year at Sundance there’s a lot of students, and a lot of faculty and alumni who show their work... They kind of had this idea that why don’t we bring this to New York?”

The series will include three short documentaries, which were chosen for their similar subject matter—shifting heritage and cultures. “The Last Mermaids,” directed by Liz Chae, SoA ’09, examines the last generation of female sea divers in Korea. Nelson Walker, SoA ’09, looks at the harsh changes in traditional life of nomadic people due to modernism in “A Nomad’s Life.”

The final film, “Unattached,” is an amusing examination of the shrinking dating scene in Orthodox Jewish communities. It is directed by JJ Adler, SoA ’10, and produced by Corinne Kelly, SoA ’09. Although the subject isn’t as serious, Nam defended the work in an interview. “It’s kind of a funny take on it, since it’s kind of a different angle. But it still touches on the same ideas.”

Additionally, Bent-Jorgen Perlmutt, SoA ’07, who has worked on documentaries in the past, will moderate the event.

Nam described her excitement for the films, explaining, “They basically captured these special moments that maybe in 100 years no one will know about.”

Each of the three films come with some prestige behind it—Chae’s film won the gold medal in documentaries at the Student Academy Awards in June, while Adler’s won the silver medal the year before.

The film series events, which began at Sundance five years ago, are an expression of Columbia filmmakers’ growing presence in the world of cinema. Films like “Amreeka” and “Frozen River”—both featuring Columbia alumni—have won narrative awards at the festival, though Tuesday’s program is unique because the three featured films are documentaries. “It’s interesting because it’s a documentary and documentaries don’t get that much press. Now people are more interested in documentaries,” Nam said.

Whatever the reasons, the opening program is a sure sign that Columbia is becoming a household name in the film industry along with other prestigious film schools such as New York University and the University of Southern California. The documentaries, as well as the New York locale, show that the film industry is opening up to new ideas of the definition of what it means to be a filmmaker.

While the second event will take place in its annual venue—Sundance—the location of the third in January is still up for discussion. “The film industry is also changing so whatever kind of happens, we’ll go for that,” Nam expressed. “It’s interesting because it keeps our ideas fresh.”

WHERE IT’S AT

Time: September 15 at 6-9 p.m.
Place: Symphony Space (2537 Broadway at 95th Street).
Cost: \$8



Courtesy of the Columbia Alumni Association
INTO FOCUS | The CAA Film Series will give a chance for CU alumni to showcase their documentary films, which all deal with shifting heritage and cultures.

FOOD & DRINK

The best way to enjoy Paris



SHANE FERRO
LA VIE CULTURELLE

On the first Thursday night that I was in Paris, three days in and with less of an urge to crawl under the covers at 8 p.m., I found myself wandering by a window containing a big bucket full of wine. “Vins sur Vingt,” said a

sign above my head.

Wines under 20—perfect.

But as I approached the door I realized that the shopkeeper was staring straight at me, and upon entering I would be his only customer. Uh-oh.

This is France, after all, and unless you are in a large supermarché, shopkeepers are friendly and talkative—a problem if you have difficulty being talkative back. I would have to talk to him. And I would have to talk to him about wine, a subject intimidating even in my native tongue.

At that point, there was no turning back. I greeted him with a friendly “bonsoir” and began to browse, nervously, waiting for him to make the inevitable march towards me. When he finally did come over to ask me if he could help, I turned and gave him the blank, quizzical look that defined all of my interactions during my first week.

“Uh...” I started.

“Are you English?” he asked immediately. I quickly muttered a shameful “oui.” It was only after that I noticed his accent—distinctly from somewhere north of la Manche (the English Channel, or sleeve, in French).

He had asked me if I was English, not if I spoke English. Now even more embarrassed, I backtracked to explain that no, I was not actually English, I was American. I launched into my story about studying here for the semester, and living just down the street—but I had only been here four days and could not yet hold most conversations in French without difficulty.

“It’s okay,” he told me. “I’ll give you three weeks. Then we will start speaking in French.”

At that moment, he became one of my favorite people in France. Not only is he fluent in my native tongue, he’s also willing to speak to me in French—the native Parisians would rather practice their English—and fluent in wine, another one of my favorite subjects.

The second time that I visited the shop, a week after the first, I got so far as to greet him in French and explain that I was looking for a not-too-expensive Côtes du Rhone. Progress. But as he started in on the different kinds of Côtes du Rhône that he had—he grabbed five of them from around the room and lined them up from cheapest (about seven euros) to most expensive (a whopping 22 euros)—my eyes glazed over again.

“Vous me comprenez?” he asked. Sheepishly, I shook my head. It’s a slow process.

But all the same, I walked out with a nine-euro bottle made by a woman near the Rhône valley. It was fruity (fruité), a little spicy (un peu épicé), and delicious (délicieux), and I shared it with a few friends sitting under the moon on the banks of the Seine.

Shane Ferro is a Columbia College junior studying abroad at Reid Hall in Paris. La Vie Culturelle runs alternating Tuesdays.

THEATER

What we’re falling for this autumn in theaters

Theater lovers offer their recommendations for this season’s array of theater productions, on Broadway and off.

STRONG CHARACTERS MEET IN THE GARDEN

“The Secret Garden” does not contain the typical ingredients of a recipe for musical theater success. While “Cats” is known for its hit song “Memory,” and “Mamma Mia!” for “Dancing Queen,” few people hum to melodies from “The Secret Garden,” based on Frances Hodgson Burnett’s novel of the same title. Moreover, the show has an unsuspected protagonist—an ordinary little girl.

However, a Columbia audience will get a chance to witness the charm of “The Secret Garden” on Dec. 2 and 3 when the Columbia Musical Theater Society puts on the production. While the show may not be an obvious choice, it evokes the nostalgia of childhood and of carefree days spent reading Frances Hodgson Burnett’s novel of the same title.

As the 10-year-old protagonist, Mary, finds the key and passage to the sequestered garden beneath an entangled mess of ivy, an audience may discover hidden talent in their class for the actress who can convey such youth.

Another particularly challenging role is that of Colin, Mary’s crippled cousin, who is afraid but eventually willing to break out of his shell. The character has more depth than is typical of the Roone Arledge fare.

One can only hope the set design for the student production matches the literary delight of witnessing the secret garden transform from a quiescent web of faded flowers to a burgeoning flurry of red roses.

With any luck, we will see the words of Burnett’s novel come to life inside Columbia’s gates.

—Claire Fu

JUDE LAW PLAYS THE TORMENTED HAMLET

The buzz that circulates around modern-day revivals of Shakespeare’s plays often seems to be tied to the high-profile celebrities that star in them, as was the case with Anne Hathaway’s Viola in this past summer’s “Twelfth Night”. This season’s “Hamlet” is no different.

Jude Law stars as the melancholic prince and is no doubt the reason for most of the hype surrounding the production. Admittedly, the allure of the leading man first enticed me to see Broadway’s most recent take on “Hamlet.” But he is more than a looker, as Law has been well received. Some critics went so far as calling his performance “riveting” and “thrillingly vital.”

Law’s previous roles seem to indicate an ability to handle cerebral—dare I say moping—characters, and his rarely-forsaken easy charm and effortless appeal should no doubt add an interesting dimension to the character of Hamlet.

The production also boasts much talent outside the title role. Frost/Nixon director Michael Grandage will apply his distinctive vision to Shakespeare’s classic. If all goes well, New York critics will receive Hamlet in the same fashion as those in the West End.

—Ashton Cooper

CLASSIC MUSICAL BYE BYE BIRDIE FINALLY COMES TO BROADWAY AFTER A 50 YEAR HIATUS

The theater lover’s classic, “Bye Bye Birdie” is high on the list of feel-good, classic, showtune-packed performances on the Broadway agenda this fall. Who doesn’t love a show about a pop icon and his crazy and obsessive fans?

The (much better) musical that inspired the popular 1963 movie of the same name has become a favorite high school production but hasn’t been revived on the Broadway stage since the 1960s. Previews for the show have already begun, but the production from Roundabout Theatre Company officially opens its run on Oct. 15.

Now as a (slightly) more mature college student, I am eager to see how well the 1960s satire translates to a contemporary stage. The original production was meant to parody Elvis’s draft into the army and the subsequent hysteria that followed. More of a historical relic now—perhaps even a bit dated—“Bye Bye Birdie” will be an interesting commentary on what has and hasn’t changed since the Vietnam war and the rock-and-roll era.

Whether or not the social critique still holds value today, the score and book of “Bye Bye Birdie” provide pure and simple entertainment. Columbia history buffs should appreciate this window into a fascinating decade of American history. And even those who didn’t grow up with “Bye Bye Birdie” might find that the show evokes some childhood nostalgia—“Full House” star and television icon John Stamos is playing the lead, Albert Peterson.

—Leora Kanner

ART

Art gallery meets bakery: CU alum showcases her work at The Local Store

BY HANNAH YUDKIN
Spectator Staff Writer

These days, due to the plethora of food establishments in Manhattan, a bakery only stands out if there is something extraordinary about it—be it delicious oatmeal raisin cookies or the smooth frosting of a red velvet cupcake. But at The Local Store on East 49th Street, it’s not the food, but rather the art, that makes the coffee shop stick out among the hundreds of cafes in Manhattan.

Lining the upper part of The Local Store’s walls are abstract paintings by Israeli-born artist Yael Degany, GS ’03 and GS ’09 (her multiple graduation years are the result of two different degrees—one in



Courtesy of the Arts Initiative

BAKED ART | Degany’s works are made of varied materials, such as food coloring.

math and one in visual arts). Comprising an exhibit titled “Leaving New York,” Degany’s works on paper are made of

materials ranging from oil pastels to food coloring. Inspired by music, they come in three different sizes, the largest resembling a sheet of 12”x8” computer paper, and are all covered in colorful drips, lines, and patterns.

One canvas in particular—second from the left and above the long mirror running down the length of the café—is strikingly beautiful, with purple and pink drips and splashes oddly reminiscent of Pollock. Another work is covered in a multitude of dark shapes with a few yellow spots making an appearance through the layers.

A group of four smaller canvases, placed on the wall space adjacent to the “milk” area, have a textural quality not visible in

the other works. The canvases seem almost sculptural because of the dark and thick application of paint.

But although Degany’s works are formally attractive and technically interesting, they lack the surprise and panache of much contemporary art. These works don’t feel like museum or gallery pieces. Even the title of the exhibit, “Leaving New York,” is odd, since the canvases don’t seem to have any thematic connection to the city whatsoever. Wall text that might have illuminated the connection of the title to the work is disappointingly missing.

These problems may be due to the fact that the venue, which just opened earlier this summer, is incapable of properly displaying the work. The paintings are placed

rather randomly around the café. One small canvas hangs on the wall space next to the entrance and can be easily overlooked. There are missing spots and open spaces between the other paintings, making the exhibit seem unprofessional.

It is unfortunate that such curatorial problems overshadow Degany’s works. But as the first exhibit at The Local Store, there’s only room for improvement.

WHERE IT’S AT

Time: Through September 26.
Place: The Local Bakery (316 E. 49th Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues)
Cost: Free

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5	6	3	8	1	9	2	4	7

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Actress Missing of "Will & Grace"

6 Nothing, in Latin

11 6-Across suffix

14 Typical

15 Endangered layer

16 Boston ___ Party

17 Toon rodent who's a British secret agent

19 Long in the tooth

20 Scenic routes, often

21 "Look Homeward, Angel" author

23 Attempt

24 Online birthday greeting

26 Sutor's proposal

32 Baseball's "Big Unit" ___ Johnson

33 Cattle drive buddy

34 Dinghy propeller

35 TiVo

predecessors

36 Bouquet

38 Litter weaking

39 Barely manage, with "out"

40 German name for Cologne

41 Cup for caffè

42 Shipwrecked literary hero

46 "... directed": medication warning

47 Ship, to a sailor

48 Name

50 Mike Nichols's comedy partner

56 Aardvark's snack

57 TV sci-fi series, first aired 9/15/1965, on which a robot spoke the catchphrase formed by the first words of 17-, 26- and 42-Across

59 Nipper's co.

60 Writer Bagnold et al.

61 Pinball no-nos

62 Buddy

63 Thour

64 Two foursores

DOWN

1 Bombs that don't go off

2 Actor Morales

3 1930s-'40s German-American political group

4 Fury

5 In a wary way

6 "Hold the Hellmann's"

7 Shirt that once had a reptilian logo

8 Male servant

9 Aetna's business: Abbr.

10 Moving toward the calmer side, at sea

11 "Shoulda listened to me!"

12 Ego

13 Created

18 Actor Calhoun

22 Hockey legend Bobby

25 Goller's wheels

26 Loony one

27 How a debater's response is made

28 Mormons' go.

29 Philly Ivy League sch.

30 Minister's home

31 Art Deco designer

32 Trailer park resident, for short

36 Slugger Sammy

37 Forms an increasingly smaller circle around, with "on"

38 Coll. dorm VIP's

40 Prepared to say 26-Across

41 Seeks help from

43 Cuba or Anba: Abbr.

44 Common poolside chair

45 Bride part

48 Ball field protector

49 Peruvian of old

51 Former Ford cars

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xwordeditor@aol.com 09/15/09

Volleyball will try for fifth win of season against NJIT following successful weekend

BY SARA SALZBANK
Spectator Staff Writer

Coming off of its three-win, one-loss weekend at the Columbia Invitational, the women's volleyball team (4-3) faces New Jersey Institute of Technology (8-2) on Tuesday.

The Highlanders started off the season strong, defeating eight opponents in a row. Recently, however, NJIT has struggled, falling to both Virginia Tech and American University at the American Volleyball Classic in Washington, D.C.

Virginia Tech swept NJIT on Friday in three straight sets, 25-20, 25-17, and 25-16. NJIT senior Kristy Haeckel posted a team-high eight kills in the loss while Anna Mercado tallied 11 assists. Defensively, senior captain Sabrina Baby had a match-high 14 digs.

On Saturday, NJIT struggled once again, falling 3-1 against American. Haeckel and Baaba Hughes had seven kills each, but Renata Pandolfo led the Highlanders this time around with 13 kills. Senior Erica Schultz tallied a double-double in the loss with 24 assists and 10 digs. Baby also contributed to the Highlanders' defensive effort with 15 digs.

The last two times the Lions and the Highlanders have met, Columbia defeated NJIT in close 3-2 matches. In 2008, down two sets to one, the Light Blue rallied to snatch the victory. With eight kills and seven blocks, junior Sarah Thompson hit an impressive .538 in the win and made the winning kill in the fifth set. Senior Ellie Thomas and sophomore Cindy Chen posted double digits with 19 and 11 digs, respectively.

The Lions take on the Highlanders in Newark, N.J. on Tuesday Sept. 15 at 7 p.m.



File photo

OVER THE NET | Junior Sarah Thompson will look to add to her 41 kills in the match against NJIT. Thompson is one of four players with 40-plus kills so far this season.

Field hockey league play begins for Ancient Eight

FROM FIELD HOCKEY from back page

Siena 4-0 and then beat Lock Haven 2-1 in a nail-biting, overtime effort.

Senior Kelley Kantarianis leading Cornell in points with nine and goals with four. Senior Melanie Jue and sophomore Alex Botte have split the time in the goal and have only allowed three goals so far.

Penn, which finished tied for third with Dartmouth last year, has a 2-3 record so far this season. The Quakers' two triumphs came back-to-back against Saint Joseph's, who they beat 2-1, and Vermont, who they defeated 1-0. However, Penn has fallen to Monmouth, Virginia Commonwealth University, and New Hampshire.

Cornell will visit Philadelphia to take on Penn this Saturday at 1 p.m.

Columbia (1-2), who finished tied for fifth in the league last year, will be facing Brown (2-2) this weekend. The Lions picked up their first win of the season on Sunday against Quinnipiac, defeating the Bobcats 3-2. The Light Blue's first two games were not as successful, as they got shut out 4-0 by Richmond in the season opener before dropping a heartbreaker 4-3 to Bucknell.

Three Lions—Julia Garrison, Katie DeSandis, and Lauren Byrne—lead the team with three points, one goal, and one assist each.

The Bears finished dead last in the league in 2008 with a 1-6 record. However, Brown is currently riding a two-game winning streak after defeating Monmouth 4-2 and Bryant 3-2. The Bears fell in their first two games against New Hampshire and Delaware.

The Lions will host Brown at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

The final Ivy matchup of the weekend is Harvard versus Yale. Both the Crimson and the Bulldogs finished tied for fifth last season with a 2-5 league record.

Harvard (3-0) is undefeated so far this season, having beaten Holy Cross; the University of California, Davis; and Bryant by scores of 4-1, 4-1, and 4-2, respectively.

Junior Chloe Keating is leading the Crimson with 14 points, five goals, and four assists.

Harvard will face New Hampshire on Wednesday before butting heads with the Bulldogs on Saturday.

Yale (2-2) is not riding the same momentum as Harvard, having lost two of its last three games. The Bulldogs opened the season with a 7-1 victory over Sacred Heart before losing 3-2 to Northwestern in overtime. Yale went on to lose its next game against Maine 3-2 before bouncing back with a 1-0 victory over Colgate.

The Bulldogs will host the Crimson at 2 p.m. on Saturday.



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A few members of the baseball team spent their summer honing their craft in various summer leagues.

TOMORROW



SPORTS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2009 • PAGE 8



The volleyball team will try to build on its strong performance this past weekend when it takes on NJIT.

PAGE 7

Can't we all just get along?



BART LOPEZ

THE TAILGATING TALES

“I oughta fucking shove this ball down your fucking throat!” Can anyone guess the speaker? If your first guess was Samuel L. Jackson, you would be wrong. Those beautiful words came from Serena Williams,

and in a tennis match no less.

Before I go on, I need to address the question that all my fans are probably thinking—yes, I did start my very first sports column with a curse-filled tirade.

Anyway, where was I? That’s right, Serena Williams yelling at a line judge until the linesperson tattled to the chair umpire. During the second set, and match point for Kim Clijsters, Williams was called for a line violation on a serve. Her fiery response earned her a second penalty, which cost her the point and the match. Williams received her first penalty after she totaled her racket with one mighty swing. Her display of rage, and I’m referring to the second, not the first, is a rare example of hostile player-umpire interaction in tennis.

Tennis stands apart from other sports that rely on officiating in that the umpires and players are physically separated. Line judges stay far off to the side, and the head umpire sits in his royal high chair. In contrast, basketball referees run the court with the players and remain within feet of the action at all times. Football referees are so much a part of the action that they run the risk of landing on YouTube after being leveled by a charging linebacker. Baseball umpires, the home plate umpire in particular, are so close to the players that the two of them can be seen chatting between innings.

This closeness does more than just keep umpires and players entertained during warm-ups. The officials’ close proximity to the players builds a connection that resembles a personal relationship more than a professional one. This is most evident in the NBA, where players and officials are closer than sports highlights make it seem. For example, take a look at Spike Lee’s documentary on Kobe Bryant, titled “Kobe Doin’ Work.” It’s an understatement to say Kobe likes to chit-chat with the men in stripes. Chit-chat, however, plays an important role. This close player-official relationship is necessary because it acts as a check for both parties. Players are less likely to threaten an official with a ball-related death if the two share some history.

I can speak personally about player-official relationships, as I played both baseball and basketball in high school for all four years. By the time I was a senior, I knew who the umpires and referees were, and they knew me. While we were far from friends, the officials and I formed a mutual respect for one another. As a result, I tried my best to swear less, and the officials let me get away with the cusses that slipped out.

In high school, the relationship helps prevent foul language. But on the professional level, where people’s careers can be affected by certain calls, this relationship prevents extreme outbursts of anger and violence. I can’t remember the last time an official was threatened so ferociously in any major sport in the United States. Would Williams have reacted the same way if she had formed a relationship with the linesperson? I would have to say no.

Tennis lacks this system of checks and balances, which can lead to the type of anger that Williams displayed in the semifinals match. To be honest, I am a little surprised that something like this didn’t happen sooner. Who wouldn’t snap back at a person who calls out your mistakes from the safety of a tiny chair 20 feet away? In a competitive sport, emotions run wild, and all it takes is a wrong call to send someone over the edge. In this case, Williams sprinted over the edge. Anyway, I’m sure tennis officials are thinking about how to punish Williams to set an example for future players, but that’s not what needs to happen. Players and line judges need to find some common ground, perhaps through some quality bonding time. How about players and officials share a beer or two after each match? That could work.

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

CU faces Iona in hopes of evening record

Light blue looks to build on strong performance against Manhattan

BY SARAH SOMMER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Columbia women’s soccer team looks to even its record when it hosts Iona on Tuesday night. On Friday, the Lions (1-2-0) won their first game of the season, a four-goal shutout against Manhattan College.

In order to be successful against the Gaels (1-5-1), Columbia will need its offense to be consistent. The Lions scored only one goal overall in their first two matchups of the year, both of which resulted in losses. Columbia displayed a potent offense against Manhattan, but head coach Kevin McCarthy found the Lions to be lacking intensity after their first goal of the game.

“I’ll never turn down an early goal, but sometimes you can become a bit complacent after that,” he said on Friday.

Senior forward Sophie Reiser leads Columbia with three goals this season, all of which were netted against Manhattan. Along with Yale junior forward Becky Brown, she was named the Ivy League Women’s Soccer Co-

Player of the Week on Monday. In addition, Reiser was named the Big Apple Soccer.com Women’s College Player of the Week. Reiser has scored 22 career goals for Columbia and is always a threat on the offensive end.

Senior defender Christina Eckhardt and junior defender Kelly Hostetler have also found the back of the net for the Lions this year, marking their first collegiate goals, while four players have been credited with assists for Columbia.

The Lions should focus their defense on senior forward Mariel Pepe, who leads the Gaels with two goals this season. Three other players have scored one goal apiece for Iona. Columbia will look for another great defensive performance from goalkeeper Lillian Klein, who blanked Manhattan on Friday.

“She managed the game well,” McCarthy said. “Lillian expects to get shutouts, and she did.”

Columbia tries for its second victory of the year in its nonconference matchup against Iona. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. at Columbia Soccer Stadium.



File photo

FOCUSING ON THE GOAL | Senior forward Sophie Reiser will try to repeat her impressive three-goal performance against Manhattan when the Light Blue takes on Iona.



File photo

DODGING THE DEFENSE | Junior midfielder Julia Garrison will lead the Lions in their attempt to even their record at two and notch their first conference win of the season against Brown this Saturday at the Columbia Field Hockey Venue. The rest of the Ancient Eight will also be in action on Saturday, the first day of league play.

Tigers begin campaign for fifth consecutive league title

BY MICHELE CLEARY
Spectator Staff Writer

This Saturday begins the Ivy League field hockey season with all eight teams competing in a total of four games. Reign-

ing champion Princeton will be taking on Dartmouth—which finished third in the league last season—in its quest for its fifth consecutive league title.

The Tigers (4-0) are ranked sixth in the nation in the most recent Kookaburra/National Field Hockey Coaches Association poll, making

them the only Ivy in the top 20. So far this season, Princeton has done everything to earn that ranking, defeating all four teams it has faced thus far, including No. 18 Ohio State and No. 3 Syracuse. Both of those games went into overtime, with the Tigers triumphing over the Buckeyes 5-4 and the Orange 3-2.

Leading the Princeton offense is last year’s Ivy League Rookie of the Year, sophomore Kathleen Sharkey. Sharkey has 12 points so far this season with four goals and four assists. Katie Reinprecht, another sophomore and last year’s Ivy League Player of the Year, is also a major contributor to the Tiger offense with 10

points (four goals and two assists).

The Big Green (1-2) hasn’t had the same auspicious beginning as Princeton, dropping its first two games of the season before defeating Holy Cross 5-0 last Sunday. Dartmouth fell to Maine in its season opener, 9-4, and was then shut out by Providence 4-0.

Junior Rebecca Sobel is currently leading the Big Green offense with 12 points, five goals, and two assists. Sophomore goalkeeper Meagan Vakiener has played for all 210 minutes so far this season and has made 36 saves while giving up 13 goals in the process.

Dartmouth will travel to New Jersey to face off against Princeton at

noon on Saturday at the Class of ’52 Stadium.

Cornell (4-0) will be looking to avenge its second-place finish last season when it kicks off its conference schedule against Penn this weekend. The Big Red finished with a 6-1 league record last season with its only loss against Princeton.

Cornell opened its season with back-to-back road victories against Davidson and Georgetown. The Big Red defeated the Wildcats 3-1 and the Hoyas 5-1. The Cornell team then returned home to score another pair of wins. The Big Red shutout

SEE FIELD HOCKEY, page 7

Men’s basketball shakes up staff by hiring new assistant coach

Marlon Sears has joined the staff of the Columbia men’s basketball team as an assistant coach, replacing recently departed assistant Andrew Theokas, the Athletic Department has announced. Sears most recently served as an assistant coach at High Point University in North Carolina, where he worked for a year and a half as the recruiting coordinator.

He joins a program that, under head coach Joe Jones, has had its most successful run in nearly three decades. Over the past three

seasons, the Lions have compiled an overall record of 42-43 and finished at 7-7 in the Ivy League each year.

Still, despite its improved performance, the Light Blue has had chances to finish with a winning record entering the final weekend each of the past two seasons and failed to do so. Last year, the team moved within a game of first place after a win at Brown on Feb. 20 but then dropped four of its final five contests.

Jones pointed to Sears’s track record with

winning teams and attracting strong recruits as a reason for hiring him.

Though High Point, a Division I school in the Big South Conference, went just 9-21 last season, Sears was an assistant at Wagner College in 2007-2008, when the Seahawks went 23-8.

Sears will be entering his ninth year as an assistant at the Division I level, having started at Binghamton before moving to Wagner, High Point, and now Columbia.

—Lucas Shaw