

# University’s endowment hits approximately \$6.5 billion

## Columbia sees returns of 17.3 percent

BY ALIX PIANIN AND AMBER TUNNELL  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

It looks like the Columbia Blue finally knocked out the Harvard Crimson—albeit off the football field. Columbia surpassed Harvard, the world’s wealthiest school, in

gains this year, with an estimated endowment of approximately \$6.5 billion as of June 30. The University’s investment portfolio had an annualized return of 17.3 percent, according to a Columbia press release. Columbia has bounced back from a negative return of 16.1 percent from the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Still, the University called last year’s drop a “relatively modest loss” considering the global financial crisis. Meanwhile, Harvard saw a 4.7 percent gain this year, according to Bloomberg, a business

“Some things that were jettisoned over the past few years may come back in a different form.”

—Lee Bollinger,  
University President

news publication. “Over the past five years Columbia’s investment return had been among the top quartile in its peer group,” the University wrote in a statement. University President Lee Bollinger credited the University’s financial success to a dedicated committee, particularly Vice President for Investments Nirmal Narvekar and Senior Executive Vice President Robert Kasdin. “The committee is made up of extraordinary investors,” Bollinger said, adding that they

had made “very austere decisions.” Columbia’s losses last year, he pointed out, were significantly less than those of peer institutions—the aforementioned Harvard comes to mind—and Columbia has learned to maximize resources. After having to make cuts due to tight finances, Bollinger entertained the idea of restoring missing resources. “Some things that were jettisoned over the past few years may come back in a different form,” he said. Given the good financial

news, Bollinger said he was committed to continued salary increases for faculty and staff, as well as more funding for financial aid. But the money won’t be going to Manhattanville—the expansion will continue to be funded by philanthropy. While Columbia’s audited financial data for the 2010 year will not be completed and approved until next month, it’s hard to say no to announcing good news early—especially when Harvard’s on the line. *news@columbiaspectator.com*

## DON’T WORRY, BE HAPPY



PHOEBE LYTLE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**HAPPINESS** | Jigmi Y. Thimley, prime minister of Bhutan, opened the World Leaders Forum Wednesday with a lecture on his plans to bring “gross national happiness,” an alternative measure of economic growth that incorporates well-being.

## Ethiopian leader’s bio on WLF site raises eyebrows

BY ALIX PIANIN  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

The World Leaders Forum is no stranger to controversy—its famous invitation of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in 2007 set off a firestorm of media and protest—but it was the series’ website that proved inflammatory on Wednesday. Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, who is scheduled to speak at Low Library on Sept. 22, has allegedly intimidated voters at polls, detained political opponents, and been labeled by the New York Times as an example of “autocratic repression.” So why did Columbia’s World Leaders Forum website refer to such a divisive figure as having demonstrated “seasoned leadership”? His short biography has since been removed from the website and replaced with a note that he will be speaking on “the current global economy and its impact.” Launched in 2003 by University President Lee Bollinger, the WLF brings in

heads of states and global leaders in an attempt to “advance lively, uninhibited dialogue.” In the original online biography, Zenawi was quoted as saying that “Ethiopia has made and continues to make progresses in many areas, including in education, transportation, health, and energy” while working with the Tigrayan People’s Liberation Front and the Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front. But some parties called foul. “It’s unbelievable that such a description about one of the world’s most vicious, corrupt, incompetent tyrants is posted on a prestigious American university’s website,” wrote the Ethiopian Review, a news and opinion site. The University has since removed the biography as part of a “long-standing editorial policy” to limit the biography pages to “basic factual information” about the speakers, according to a press release. On Wednesday, Columbia released a full statement that

SEE ETHIOPIAN, page 2

## French-American Charter School opens its doors

BY WILLIAM JACOBS  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

For a long time, the New York French-American Charter School was a school in name only. Though the school had sufficient financial backing, official approval, and eager support from the Harlem Senegalese-American community, until late this summer they lacked one key ingredient: a location. But last week the school finally opened its doors at 120th Street and Manhattan Avenue, in a recently closed day-care center—almost one year after gaining recognition from the Department of Education. “We looked for a long, long time for space,” said Erika Dilday, a member of the school’s board of trustees, who participated in the location search. “There were a lot of issues to work out, and we went down to the wire in getting them done,” Dilday, Journalism ’93, said. “We heard about the space toward the end of June, and the conversion process took a while.” Preparing the school for classes wasn’t easy and included getting a new license to operate as a school, since the space was previously only licensed for community use for the day-care center. “It was just things like making sure that we had exit signs in the appropriate places and appropriate fire alarms,”

Dilday said of the various changes that the school had to implement. Though the school plans to eventually expand to include a middle school and high school, it currently offers enrollment in grades K-2 only, with plans to add a grade each year. By opening in a privately-owned building, the school avoided the controversy that often comes along with new charter schools which open inside of traditional public school buildings. Board member and teacher Sochenda Samreth said that the school has been trying to clarify its role in the neighborhood with local residents. Even though NYFACS is a public school, “We specified to all of the people that we would not be occupying a public space. A lot of them were puzzled by that, but it was not a threat. The school is free and open to everyone,” Samreth said. Though Dilday praised the location, which is on a “charming, quiet little side street,” she admitted that, “I live around the corner from the place, and I’m not sure people even knew it existed.” When the school was holding interest meetings for potential parents last year, parents made it clear that the charter school’s eventual location would play a large part in their decision to apply for

SEE CHARTER, page 2

## NEWS BRIEF

### Mitt Romney will not appear at campus conference this fall

Though he was originally slated to be the keynote speaker, former Massachusetts governor and presidential hopeful Mitt Romney will not be attending the Millennium Campus Conference at Columbia this fall. According to Chuck Roberts, CC ’12 and executive director of the conference, Romney told the group via a video message last week that he would be unable to attend. The Millennium Campus Conference, which was originally a consortium of Boston-area schools, draws students and advocates for discussions and workshops on sustainable development. It was previously held at MIT, but it is Columbia’s turn to host this year. Roberts said there was

heavy collaboration between University students and students from Boston schools. In inviting Romney to speak, Roberts had said organizers were looking for an alternative voice as a contrast to more liberal-leaning speakers. The conference has confirmed the Columbia Earth Institute’s Jeffrey Sachs and others, including the co-founder of Invisible Children and the founder of Engineers Without Borders, for keynote addresses. Roberts said there are a couple of “huge names” that may turn up to speak at the conference, but organizers won’t know for sure until closer to the event. The conference will run Sept. 17-19.

—Alix Pianin

## TAKING THE LEAD



FILE PHOTO

**NATIONALS** | Sharay Hale ran in both the NCAA outdoor nationals and the U.S. Outdoor Nationals this summer. Back page.

## A&E, PAGE 3

### GS student, model asks world to ‘Picture Me’

“Picture Me,” the new documentary by GS student and model Sara Ziff about the fashion industry, opens Friday at the Angelika Film Center in Greenwich Village.



## OPINION, PAGE 4

### First drop in the bucket list

Nuriel Moghavem leaves former King’s College to discover Queens.

## SPORTS, PAGE 7

### Men’s soccer drops close game to Fordham

The Light Blue was able to hold the Rams scoreless for most of the first half, but the Lions eventually fell to Fordham 2-1 despite making a late-game comeback.

## EVENTS

### Passport to Columbia

Cultural groups perform dances from all over the world, and there’s a free dinner in it for you. *Roone Arledge Auditorium, 8 p.m.*

## WEATHER

### Today



77° / 64°

### Tomorrow



75° / 57°





COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

**WORLD LEADERS** | Prime Minister of Ethiopia Meles Zenawi is scheduled to speak at Columbia on Sept. 22. Some were surprised at the description of the alleged dictator on the WLF site.

## University removes controversial bio

**ETHIOPIAN from front page**

said the background information posted by its own staff was obtained from the Ethiopian government’s Mission and not identified as such.

“It is not the policy of the World Leaders Forum to take editorial positions of the type inadvertently suggested by this unattributed text,” the statement read. “Prime Minister Zenawi’s invitation to speak at

Columbia does not constitute endorsement of his views or his nation’s policies.” University officials would not comment further.

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## French school draws students from all boroughs

**CHARTER from front page**

spots at the school. Some parents were dismayed that the school was considering opening as far south as 96th Street, though the school’s founders say they had always made a commitment to Harlem.

But at least among the parents who thronged outside the school last week, the location seems to have worked out well, and the school has already become fairly well-known in the local Senegalese-American community.

“We were looking for a school in this district. This one had a vision and knew what they wanted to do, so we were impressed,” said a local parent who identified herself only as Nancy. “When I was a teenager living in France, I was embarrassed by how

little I knew compared to my French friends. Their schooling was much more intensive than the schooling I’d had. I just want my kid to have a good experience.”

“I’ve known about the project for about a year,” said Michelle Gabriel Sidibe, another parent. “I was waiting for them to find a spot so I could send my daughter here. I came all the way from the East Side. People are coming from Brooklyn and Queens—from all over. That’s how much the school means to all of us.”

“It was almost like winning the lotto, since it’s the first French-American charter school open in NYC,” said Mili Simon, a parent of one of the school’s attendees. “Hopefully, if more people know about the school, they can open more grades.”

For Sidibe and Simon, the school’s policy of teaching most classes in French is its most appealing feature.

Other parents are drawn to the school’s pledge to combine the best of the French and American educational systems. This method is meant to prepare students for both the Regents, which are standardized state exams, and the International Baccalaureate exams, while lending a distinctly Gallic rigor to the traditional American educational experience.

And though it’s still early, parents say the early returns are promising.

“When my five-year-old came up to me the other day, she smiled and counted to five in French,” Sidibe said.

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## BC pushes forward in reaccreditation

**BY MADINA TOURE**  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

After starting its self-study process last spring, Barnard now has a working draft that it will distribute to the school this fall.

Reaccreditation—also known as the self-study—is a process Barnard is required to go through every ten years, as required by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Barnard has been working on its self-study since early spring 2009, and intends to finish by 2011. The process is overseen by the steering committee, which is co-chaired by Assistant Provost and Dean for International Programs Hilary Link and biology professor Paul Hertz. The steering committee coordinates five working groups, each working on some of the 14 Standards of Excellence ascertained by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

The working groups submitted their individual reports to the steering committee in May and the committee compiled them into one working draft. According to Link, the document will be presented to Barnard students and faculty throughout the fall semester.

“We will be sharing parts of this document and the whole document with the entire community so people can give us input,” Link said.

After compiling the working groups’ reports, the steering committee developed four themes to focus on for the coming year—technology, the Columbia-Barnard relationship, diversity and internationalization, and community and identity. This fall, four events will be held to represent each of the themes.

“We’ve decided to take these themes and bring them back to

the Barnard community to get feedback from the broader community about what they think of these themes that seem to be important here at the college,” Link said. “The feedback from those events will be incorporated into the working draft.”

She added that there will be other opportunities for students and faculty to access the document—all major faculty and administrative committees at the college will discuss the draft, as well the Student Government Association.

Though the working draft has been completed, a list of final

the college is doing a good job of sending students abroad and bringing students from abroad to study at Barnard, the college could do a better job of integrating students’ experiences abroad with their academics back at school.

Anna Ehrlich, BC ’11, is a member of working group one, which oversaw mission and goals, administration, leadership, and integrity. She said that the process brought together diverse elements of the college.

“What this process did was it allowed people throughout the college to communicate, that wouldn’t otherwise,” Ehrlich said.

The steering committee will present the document comprised of all the working groups’ reports to the community and put together a complete document by December 2010. Elaine Tuttle Hansen, president of Bates College and chair of the visiting team—a team of eight colleagues from various institutions—will visit Barnard on Dec. 16 to appraise the campus. After her visit, Barnard will finalize the working draft and send it to the rest of the visiting team in January. The visiting team will come to Barnard in February and submit a report that summarizes its visit and gives a recommendation to Middle States on whether or not Barnard should be accredited.

Ultimately, those involved in the reaccreditation process said that it was an opportunity for Barnard to re-examine itself and to engage students in this self-examination.

“The process of reaccreditation offers a community the opportunity to reflect on the institution and to explore ways of becoming stronger,” Rosenberg said.

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**“It allowed people throughout the college to communicate that wouldn’t otherwise.”**

—Anna Ehrlich, BC ’11

recommendations has not yet been finalized.

Rosalind Rosenberg, a professor of history at Barnard, is a member of the steering committee and chair of working group three, which oversaw admissions, student support services, and education-related activities. She said that Barnard has made progress in regards to admissions.

“I think admissions is in good shape,” Rosenberg said. “I think that we are doing better in admissions than ever before, particularly in the challenge of making the case on behalf of a college for women.”

She also stressed that though

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# GS student, model turns camera on industry

BY JOSEPH POMP  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

“Picture Me: A Model’s Diary,” an autobiographical documentary by Sara Ziff, GS and former Spectator arts writer, and her (now ex-) boyfriend Ole Schell, is probably the most thorough movie about an haute couture runway model ever made. Depending on your taste in fashion, of course, “Picture Me” will be either a personal must-see or a mere exercise in vanity. As early as the opening credits, the film declares itself a home-grown affair—the hand-drawn titles omit the filmmakers’ last names, suggesting that this was made by and for friends. Initially a video diary composed to document Ziff’s daily life as a major model, who walks the runway for brands like Louis Vuitton and Chanel and starring in Calvin Klein and Stella McCartney ad campaigns, the film grew into a wider look at the modeling profession. Though the film includes interviews with fellow models (in addition to photographers and designers, most notably Nicole Miller), they are brief

and overshadowed by Ziff’s personal narrative. The interviews echo Ziff’s own experience of being manipulated at a young age by photographers generations her senior. “Picture Me” aims to be an exposé of the increasingly sexualized side of fashion photography and a warning to girls in their early teens considering careers as models. Nonetheless, the film chooses to acknowledge modeling as a simple way to make a lot of money in a small amount of time. Interestingly, the film calls attention to the dichotomy between Ziff’s privileged upbringing on the Upper East Side and the kind of childhood many of her fellow models experienced in smaller and less privileged communities in middle America or eastern Europe. But as self-reflective as “Picture Me” declares itself to be, it never answers the million-dollar question: why does Sara, who became so aware of the dark side of modeling and studied feminism while collecting massive paychecks for objectifying herself (even out-earning her father, a professor of neurobiology), continue her career? Is the film, like the countless ad campaigns she has starred in, just another form of

negative attention? Or is it an act of self-promotion for Ziff’s modeling career while simultaneously critiquing the modeling profession itself? Although the video diary format makes “Picture Me” better suited for the web than the big screen, its theatrical distribution will attract downtown fashionistas. At its best, the film comments upon a larger societal problem: how mass consumerism and materialism has led women to fetishize their own bodies. After a show, one of Ziff’s model friends in the movie asked Ziff if her film would just serve to perpetuate the stereotype of models as bimbos. Ziff replied, “I’m just acknowledging the reality of our lives ... We don’t even have to think.” If, indeed, a life unexamined is not worth living, then one hopes that, in making this self-examining film, Ziff has found a more meaningful path.

WHERE IT’S AT

**Time:** Opens Friday, Sept. 17. Showtimes vary.  
**Place:** Angelika Film Center, 18 W. Houston St. at Mercer St.  
**Cost:** \$13



COURTESY OF STRAND RELEASING

**MODEL BEHAVIOR** | Sara Ziff, GS, analyzes the modeling world in her new documentary.

# Endless summer

**FOOD & DRINK** The impending change of seasons doesn’t mean students have to let go of their favorite summery foods just yet. Ride the heat wave through the fall with some of MoHi’s most refreshing eats.

Smoothies

Now that JJ’s Place no longer offers its smoothies à la carte, Columbians looking for icy, fruity goodness on the go will have to look elsewhere. At Nussbaum & Wu (Broadway and 113th Street), a limited but adorably-named smoothie menu is available year-round. Flavors like “The Barnard Scholar”—a classic strawberry banana mix—and “The Columbia IQ Special”—a strawberry, banana, and blueberry combination—are made to order with students’ choice of fresh squeezed OJ, cranberry juice, or milk. At \$4.50 for a small, it can be hard to justify spending so much on a drink, but these smoothies can be just the thing to cool students down as school heats up.

—Christine Jordan



YUNSEO CHO FOR SPECTATOR

Margaritas

Find a more fun-filled summer favorite at Blockheads: the margarita. At this Mexican outpost on Amsterdam and 106th Street, the limey cocktail is best served up blended and infused with a flavor shot (\$1 extra). Choose from mango, raspberry, strawberry, and pretty much any other summer fruity flavor. At \$3-\$4 a pop, the margaritas go down way too fast, but at least there are free chips and fresh salsa to munch on between slurps. It’s enough to make anyone forget that there is class in the morning.

—Allison Malecha



ILLUSTRATION BY CINDY PAN

Corn

Served in a little terra cotta crock on a sunny yellow plate and with a sunny disposition of its own, the corn soup (\$5.95) at Max Soha is a simple take on a Midwest summer favorite. Neither chowdery nor overly brothy, this corn soup is made straight from ground corn, which makes for an interesting texture (in a good way) and authentic flavor. Although it lacks a little zest, with some fresh ground pepper this soup is perfect for a lazy lunch at this Italian favorite on Amsterdam and 123rd Street.. The meal is both reminiscent of summer and warming on a chilly fall day.

—Allison Malecha



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YUNSEO CHO FOR SPECTATOR

Frozen desserts

Artopolis is perhaps best known for its coffee, tea, and pastries, but its often-overlooked gelato counter is worth a second glance, especially for those looking to replace low-calorie frozen yogurt with something more decadent. The café, with its bright yellow awnings on Amsterdam between 113th and 114th streets, not only offers the typical flavors of chocolate and vanilla, but also specialty flavors like hazelnut, which is particularly rich without ever tasting too sweet. At \$3.75 for a small cup, it’s a comparable splurge to Pinkberry with twice the taste.

—Christine Jordan

# Three unconventional theater picks for Columbia students looking to hit the TIC

BY REX MACAYLO  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

This weekend, Columbians who visit the CUArts ticket booth in Lerner Hall will have their pick of tickets—reserved exclusively for them—to more than 250 discounted shows, dances, operas, and exhibits. But with so many options available in person and on-line, how is a student supposed to know what shows are worth their time? Tastes vary, of course, but three shows students may wish to take their debit cards out for—particularly if they are prone to head-banging or playing the air guitar—are “Rock of Ages,” “Fuerza Bruta: Look Up,” and “Power Balladz.” With their dense scores of rock, alternative, and hip-hop music, these shows are sure to grab students’ interest right from the overture. Although “**Rock of Ages**” only came to Broadway in 2009, the music from this dynamic musical was born in the era of shoulder pads: the 1980s. Featuring songs from big time (and big hair) bands like Bon Jovi, Journey, Twisted Sister, and Poison, “Rock of Ages” provides humor and light-hearted entertainment for those who wish they had lived in an era when “Don’t Stop Believin’” was more than just the final song in “The Sopranos.” For any student interested in riding the 1 train to Times Square, this five-time Tony-nominated play provides a degree of wit unparalleled by most of Broadway’s current musicals. For a more unconventional experience, try seats at “**Fuerza Bruta: Look Up**,” a gravity-defying show

which relies purely on alternative music, dance, acrobatics, and set designs that could pass as art exhibits on their own. This 360 degree-plus experience forces viewers (who stand for the duration of the show) to move around, look in every direction, and even interact with the performers. Although audience members will not necessarily fall in love with the plot of this mysterious contemporary piece—the almost nonexistent plot consists of a man facing various obstacles during a chase—the sensory experience will keep viewers thinking well beyond the end of the performance. It’s “Cirque du Soleil” with a theatrical twist and includes a giant techno dance party for the audience at the end. If you’re nostalgic for the good ol’ high school days, go buy tickets (or use a special online Columbia promotion and get your tickets for free) for a show that truly provides a soundtrack to the teenage life: “**Power Balladz**.” Like “Rock of Ages,” this show taps into every viewer’s inner 1980s rock child and provides the audience with a song matching every teenage milestone—from the first kiss, to the first slow dance, to the first time. Even after the show is over, the entertainment continues, as the audience is then invited to participate in an auditorium-wide karaoke-fest. While these three spectacles provide the perfect amount of entertainment for any over-worked Columbian, they also characterize a massive change in the theater industry. Some may feel disillusioned by these unconventional shows, but considering that the jukebox musical is showing a lot of staying power, viewers might as well go with the flow, let their hair down, and enjoy the show.

# Miller Theatre lunchtime concerts to offer new year of accessible music to University

BY LULU MICKELSON  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

With a rotating backdrop of classrooms, libraries, dining halls, and dorm rooms, college life is about establishing a tempo amid the chaos of an overbooked schedule. Stripping the classical concert down to its most accessible form, Miller Theatre’s Lunchtime Concerts series aims to enrich the Columbia community by embedding arts into the crazed weekday rhythm of campus life. Abandoning the pomp and circumstance that traditionally surround classical performances, the 12-part series, which kicked off Wednesday, features potent arrangements and top-notch musicianship in a casual, convenient lunch-hour package. Catering to students, the program offers live music in bite-sized pieces—one hour, no reservations, no cost. Now in its fourth year, the series is using this season to explore the “founding fathers of American music,” by focusing on four of the most prominent 20th century American composers. The concerts kicked off this past week with pieces by Samuel Barber and will move on to works by Aaron Copland, Charles Ives, and Virgil Thomson in the coming months. Past years have been used to examine the compositions of Bach and Beethoven. The featured performers include the acclaimed New York City-based Voxare String Quartet and Columbia’s own faculty member, Sarah Wolfson, a celebrated soprano and teacher of vocal performance. Utilizing the bright, cozy Philosophy Hall reading room, the unconventional program prides itself not only on its campus-friendliness, but also on its intimacy. From September to March—the duration

of the series—Miller Theatre organizes these grand classical pieces in a snug student space. The front row is a mere one or two feet away from the performers and the farthest audience member is only eight or nine rows back—a setup that trumps most intro-level lectures and provides listeners with a special opportunity

**The 12-part series features top-notch musicianship in a casual, convenient lunch-hour package.**

that has not gone unnoticed by the greater Columbia and Manhattan artistic circles. The first events of the series were packed tightly with a mix of students and members of the community ranging from press to pre-teens, from college professors to couples in their 80s. These audience members are drawn in because of the program’s rare and powerful mix of quality and accessibility—not only in that the series is designed to fit neatly into a packed college schedule, but also in that the concerts give listeners a chance to get up close and personal with the music. There are none of the usual trappings and distractions—no stage lights or microphones or overdressed audience members. The event is just about the music, and this approach allows listeners to engage with the performances on a much deeper, more personal level.

WHERE IT’S AT

**Time:** Next performance: Oct. 18, 12:30 p.m. For full schedule check [www.millertheatre.com](http://www.millertheatre.com).  
**Place:** Philosophy Hall  
**Cost:** Free





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# Kicking things off

I'm a senior who spent his first three years messing up the "City of New York" part of Columbia University in the City of New York. I was tethered (albeit happily) to Morningside Heights and all too rarely stepped on the Broadway local to pursue adventures that I had dreamed of as a pre-frosh. I was going to see the city—all of it. I was going to get lost on purpose, wander around, eat questionable Chinese food, and chat with even more questionable cabbies.

But, three years on, I still haven't seen much of this city. I've committed my final year to tackling my bucket list, beginning with my goal to explore the outer boroughs. And as I begin this experiment, I ask you to look at your bucket list as well and commit to crossing things off.

Just before orientation began my freshman year, The Onion published an article titled, "Various Deities Still Sorting Through Victims of Tragic Queens Bus Accident." Irreverence aside, the article inspired me. I was certain I would travel to Queens at least once a month.

Three years later, I've only visited the borough twice. This has been a fairly typical problem for me at Columbia. Hundreds of weekends after arriving here, I've managed to strike off relatively few of the items on my bucket list. I've made the most of every minute here—I have



NURIEL  
MOGHAVEM

## My Columbia Bucket List

# An old remedy still in use today

BY CHRIS JORDAN

As part of the Columbia institution, Columbia medical centers should be held to very high academic and intellectual standards. But as I was looking through the different departments at Columbia, searching for some inspiration for my major, I stumbled across the Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine at Columbia University Medical Center, notable for being the place where Dana Ullman, one of the world's leading experts on homeopathy, is employed.

Only a few hundred years ago, the entire field of medicine was completely different than it is today. Effective medical care was scarce in the 16th century. Hand washing was unheard of, clean hospitals were nonexistent, and bloodletting was still cutting-edge. Most of these practices died off as soon as they were proven to be ineffective at best and deadly at worst, and yet, surprisingly, one idea from this era has stubbornly persisted until the present day.

This idea is called homeopathy, and it comes from the simple concept that like cures like. This concept, called the Law of Similars, is the founding principle for homeopathy. From the 16th to the 19th century, remedies would be administered to cause symptoms similar to the ailment. For instance, if you had a sore throat, a 16th-century homeopathic doctor would grind up and feed you a plant that also caused a sore throat, based on the idea that like cures like.

Unfortunately, many of these "remedies" were later proved to be poisonous. Thus, the second most important idea of homeopathy was born: dilution. The poisonous plant would be watered down to the point that ingestion

## Every medical study ever performed on homeopathy has concluded that it is no more effective than a placebo.

would not be fatal. In the end, 16th-century doctors gave watered-down poisons to their patients as cures. While this might have seemed rational in the days when the bubonic plague was still a real threat, homeopathic remedies are just as popular today as they were then.

In a modern context, a homeopathic "doctor" starts with a plant that is supposed to cause symptoms similar to ones caused by a disease. The doctor then takes one drop of that plant mixture and mixes it with 100 drops of pure water. One drop of the new mixture is then mixed with 100 more drops of pure water. This process continues until the end mixture is extremely diluted, and the odds that there is anything other than water in the final solution is statistically insignificant. To put that into perspective, you would need to drink more water than could fit in the volume of the earth if you wanted to get even one molecule of the original substance.

Not surprisingly, every medical study ever performed on homeopathy has concluded that it is no more effective than a placebo. In other words, any perceived effect of homeopathy is more a proof of mind over matter than a proof of homeopathy's efficacy. But homeopaths have an answer for this. While both common sense and modern science say that diluting something makes it less effective, homeopaths claim that diluting something makes it paradoxically more effective. Thus, when they dilute a poisonous plant down to a statistically negligible quantity, they are actually making it more powerful.

But, some would argue, since homeopathy doesn't really have anything in it, how can it harm people? The most they are doing is selling sugar pills to people either too rich or too stupid to care. However, homeopathy is far more damaging than that.

Homeopathy markets its sugar for every possible disease, including malaria and HIV. Every year, more people needlessly die from completely preventable diseases like malaria, because they thought a homeopathic sugar pill would protect them. This is not just selling somebody an ineffective remedy: This is selling people cars with seat belts made out of Fruit Roll-Ups and telling them that they will be safe.

Science proves homeopathy wrong beyond a shadow of a doubt, and statistics prove homeopathy deadly. Yet for the last 30 years, homeopathy has grown in popularity by 20 percent.

So I find it funny that at such an enlightened institution as Columbia, we still have people around who profit from and even believe in homeopathic medicine. Maybe we aren't as smart as we think we are.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in economics and mathematics and concentrating in computer sciences.

made incredible friends and have had some pretty memorable times. But in the meantime, things like exploring the jazz scene, having sex in the stacks, or seeing Broadway shows have fallen entirely by the wayside.

I spent my first three years at Columbia wrapped up in the red tape and headaches of the student life alphabet soup: ABC, CCSC, CIRCA, URC, FML, etc. And while I've been to Tamasha several times, I've only been to the Bronx twice (Yankees and the Zoo) and Staten Island once.

Meanwhile, my Columbia bucket list has grown every week. That's why it was especially relieving to sit on the M60 this weekend with my suitemates as we headed to Queens for an evening at Bohemia, a beer garden in Astoria. (I know Astoria is just barely into Queens, but bear with me. One step at a time.)

For the first time in years, my evening's trajectory was longitudinal. I may have been ahead of the curve: The 1 is set to be shut down entirely for the next two weekends with the MTA's interminable track repairs (though at least we now have screens that can tell us that the next train is two days away). With our connection to the north and south severed, it may be time to turn our eyes eastward or westward. Actually, never westward. Teaneck is definitely not on my bucket list.

So eastward it was: After an entirely pleasant 25-minute bus ride, we arrived at the beer garden. We had a wonderful time and shared several pitchers of delicious eastern European beer (at a very reasonable price). And the trip back took only 15 minutes.

As I arrived back on campus full of beer and satisfaction, I reflected on having completed this most daring of missions. Two thoughts dominated my mind. The first was that Queens is amazing. My only previous trip to the borough

# Parents' right to choose

Zoom out from a Columbia-centric view of West 116th Street and Broadway to encompass the rest of the students in West Harlem, Morningside Heights, and the Upper West Side. Adding or dropping classes may have consumed Columbians' attention on Tuesday more than the midterm election primaries did, but the election results will certainly affect those attending the multitude of public and charter schools in our neighborhood.

Education reform was a hot topic during the campaign season for Tuesday's primaries, with the growing charter school movement as a key part of the platforms of candidates in our district. An increasing number of charter schools—public schools with private funding—are being approved at the state and city levels, with the largest concentration of them right in West Harlem. Their mission, or "charter," is to provide a rigorous, college preparatory education to traditionally underserved communities.

In true entrenched New York politics fashion, the new and largely experimental schools are highly controversial. The debate played out in the race for the 30th New York State Senate District that includes Harlem, the Upper West Side, and Washington Heights.

Senator Bill Perkins, who since 2006 has represented this district, describes himself on his website as "a strong advocate of public education." The subtext of this line perhaps hints at Perkins' outspoken opposition to charter schools.

His opponent in the primaries was Basil Smikle. Lacking the advantage of the incumbent, Smikle quickly developed a following in the campaign season when he caught the eye of a group interested in starting new charter schools. This faction is influential not only because of its progressive ideas, but also because it has the vast amount of funding necessary to execute its goals.

Perkins won the primary election overwhelmingly, but the fact that the charter school movement got air time on candidates' platforms signifies that it's an issue at the top of many New Yorkers' agendas.

The original intent of charter schools was to offer a greater choice of schools for parents without the money for private schools or the time to seek out alternative public schools. Charter schools are said to provide rigorous academics with a focus on sending graduates to college. Moreover, students who attend charter schools would often otherwise attend their failing neighborhood public schools.

How can one argue against the idea of providing better schooling for all? It's not the idea that opponents, such as

(excluding airport visits) had been to a delicious Russian grill, where I ate brain (among other things). From that point forward, I was proud to consider myself in the minority of people who have eaten the subject of their major.

The second thought was a confirmation of my decision to spend this year knocking items off my bucket list. It's tau-tological, but doing fun things is fun. I have had all of these complex and wonderful plans and never followed up on them, having constrained myself with various extracurricu-

## The thought was a confirmation of my decision to spend this year knocking items off my bucket list.

lar commitments. My promise to myself—to spend this year with friends doing memorable things—has been reaffirmed.

We all came here for a good education, but we also came here for adventure. I know I'm not alone in having squandered my first years here, and so I ask you to take this vow with me: "I will not say no when a friend asks me to go somewhere fantastic. I will find time to finish my work later. I will go places that put a smile on my face because that is why I came to Columbia."

Nuriel Moghavem is a Columbia College senior majoring in neuroscience and behavior. He is a representative on the Activities Board at Columbia. My Columbia Bucket List runs on alternate Thursdays.

Perkins, resist. Rather, it's the fact that charter schools tend to take the brightest students out of their grim neighborhood schools, lowering the test score averages that the city's Department of Education uses to evaluate schools. Another claim is that charter schools are encroaching on the physical space and resources of public schools.

On West 123rd Street, three unaffiliated institutions—KIPP Star College Prep, P.S. 125, and the Columbia Secondary School—share one building, creating the potential for confusion and chaos. Within that building are a charter school, a trilingual school, and a gifted and talented school. Three public school options sit on one block.

The operative word here should be "option." The counterpoint to the complex problems facing the DOE is "school choice": providing parents with the right to give their children the best education. Charter schools such as

## The fact that the charter school movement got air time on candidates' platforms signifies that it's an issue at the top of many New Yorkers' agendas.

KIPP seem to be achieving this goal, operating four schools between West 123rd and West 133rd streets alone.

This summer, the KIPP Foundation won a \$50 million grant in the "Investing in Innovation" competition financed by last year's federal stimulus package. The same week, at a speech at the University of Texas at Austin, President Obama called for the United States to lead the world in the number of college graduates, namely eight million by 2020.

New York City has increased its high school graduation rate since 2005 from 47 percent to 59 percent, and the number of students enrolling in two- or four-year colleges is growing. That said, there's still a ways to go to reach 100 percent.

Columbia's positioning at the crossroads of the Upper West Side and West Harlem provides us with a unique juxtaposition and exposure to diverse crowds passing through the gates to get from Broadway to Amsterdam. In the time leading up to the midterm elections, it's our role to make sure it's this snapshot that is represented by local politicians.

Jessica Hills is a Barnard College junior majoring in political science and French language. She is a former associate news editor. Class Notes runs alternate Thursdays.

## BARNARD COMIC OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



DARYL SEITCHIK







# Columbia athletes dream of future Olympics

MERBER & HALE from back page

In addition to running at the collegiate championships this season, Hale took part in the U.S. Outdoor Nationals, a meet populated by stars like Sanya Richards-Ross, a two-time Olympian and the reigning world champion in the women's 400-meter. In Hale's words, "It was amazing, because I'm just standing there like, 'I watch these women run, I always wanted to be like them,' and for [Richards-Ross] to look at me—she was talking to me, too."

Despite the distraction of racing against some of the world's fastest and most popular runners, Hale performed well, making it through to the semifinals and finishing only two-tenths of a second off her personal 400-meter best. "I can see myself in their shoes," she said. "Because, I mean, even though I didn't beat [Richards-Ross], she wasn't that far off. And I still beat some of them. I didn't finish last."

Now that the 2009-2010 season is over, Merber and Hale are turning their eyes to this year's meets. "The main priority

every year is to always help the team as much as possible," said Merber. "But, personally, I missed All-American by one spot—I'd love to get All-American in both seasons of track, as well as cross country."

Hale echoed him with a few goals of her own—to run in both the indoor and outdoor collegiate finals of the women's 400-meter and achieve All-American honors at the end of both seasons.

Though both athletes still have two years left of college, they have also begun to consider their professional careers. The 2012 and 2016 Olympics, Merber says, are always in the back of his mind, even as he focuses intently on the upcoming season. And despite beginning a pre-med major in psychology at Columbia, Hale has shifted her focus to running—she expects to run professionally after college and postpone graduate school. Considering that she is related to Wilma Rudolph, a triple gold medalist at the 1960 Olympics in Rome, it seems like a smart decision.

If Merber and Hale continue to run well—and the amount of training they put

in each week makes it difficult to imagine the contrary—the image of Columbia athletes as being largely unsuccessful could change. Though Columbia has always performed well in fencing, rowing, archery, and other sports associated with colleges in the northeast, having star athletes in marquee events like women's sprints and the men's 1500m could bring new exposure to the athletic community. In 2008, when Erison Hurtault—who ran in the NCAA outdoor championships in 2007—attempted to qualify for the Beijing Olympics in the men's 400m, he achieved national prominence in a profile by the New York Times.

That change, of course, could take time to arrive. Though their achievements this summer portend successful futures, Merber and Hale have a ways to go before achieving national fame. While warming up for the women's 400-meter semifinals, Sanya Richards-Ross asked Hale, "What school do you go to?" When Hale said Columbia, Richards-Ross responded, "Oh, wow, I never heard of that."

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# Tips for your maiden voyage up to Baker

Welcome aboard, ladies and gentlemen, today's your lucky day. Today, we're plunging into the mysterious land that is Baker Athletics Complex. Not to worry if you've never been, though. Not to worry if you've never even heard of it. That's what I'm here for—to show you the ropes. That way, when you actually do make the journey that every noble Columbian must make (trekking up to a sporting event at Baker), you won't be some sort of sad embarrassment to our fine university; you'll actually know a thing or two about Columbia sports. And finally, good friend, you'll be a true blue Lion.

You're in perfectly good hands for this imminent adventure. It just so happens I am a three-month employed Barnard tour guide. I like to think I've got things under control.

So let's get crackin'. Baker History 101 is now in session.

Did you know that our very own Baker Field is the historic sight of the first televised sporting event?

Neither did I.

True story, though. On May 17, 1939, those fine folks at the National Broadcasting Company let their cameras roll on a Columbia-Princeton baseball game, broadcasting it to the 400 TV sets with adequate reception capabilities at the time. NBC cameramen stationed above the packed stadium—that's right, packed—tested their new-fangled technology. And hot damn, it worked!

It was a glorious day. Well, except for the part where Princeton beat us 2-1, but we won't talk about that. Instead, we'll discuss how



LAUREN SEAMAN

**Shiver me Timbers**

thrilled NBC was with the success of its Baker broadcast. Following the televised battle between the Lions and Tigers, NBC tried its luck at a major league game at Brooklyn's Ebbets Field. And the rest, my friends, was history. Home run for Columbia, I'd say.

Nowadays, Baker Athletics Complex is just as cool—I swear! It's where the football team (yes, we actually have a football team) practices (yes, we actually practice). I won't try to justify attending Columbia football games or other events housed at Baker, but trust me—you totes want to!

So let's fast forward a bit. It's game day and you've decided that you're finally ready to drag yourself out of bed and haul your cute little buns 100 blocks uptown to Baker for the very first time. Good for you! If you're lucky enough to catch a fan bus to one of the football games, whip out your camera and soak in some Lion pride. I'll tell you now that autumn is the perfect season to get a glimpse of the rare and beautiful species of—that's right, gang—real Columbia sports fans. Listen to the roars of the Lions on this spirited safari as you hear our school's fight song. Maybe you'll even learn it beforehand to blend in with the natural surroundings of the coach bus! That would be super-duper.

Now, if you miss the fan bus, have no fear—you can just board a dank uptown one train. No bigs, you'll still have fun. When you hop off that subway at 215th, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, you'll be welcomed by the breathtaking scenery of the community. In your immediate surroundings, you can embrace the delightful vulgarity on the thickly graffitied subway walls. And don't you dare miss the elegant eye candy of gas stations and tattoo parlors littered along Broadway.

Okay, so there's really not much to see there. But

once you cross onto 218th Street, be on the lookout for Seaman Avenue (pretty classy place, right?). After crossing this landmark, you know you've entered the Lion's den. Prepare yourselves: Baker is straight ahead.

The stadium itself is actually quite lovely—no sarcasm intended. After all, Baker wasn't listed as one of Sports Illustrated's "Most Beautiful Places to Watch a Football Game" for nothing (fun fact!). Our home bleachers position you in perfect view of the junction of the Harlem and Hudson Rivers, as well as of the New Jersey Palisades. Every seat in the house gives you sights of the natural rock formations lining the Harlem River. Oh, those rocks. Really check out them rocks. Draw your attention to one particular rock—the one with a blue-and-white "C" painted over it. Can you guess where I'm going with this? Oh yes, that "C" is all about us—the mighty Columbia. That "C" symbolizes the bad-ass side of our school spirit, showcasing our vandal potential and striking fear into our Ivy enemies. Damn straight.

And as you're sinking into those comfortable plastic benches, drifting away into light blue bliss, think about why you hadn't been to a Columbia sporting event before at Baker. Let me know if you come up with a good reason. Maybe I'll write about it in my next column.

So get ready, kiddies, football season is coming up! That means that soon enough, you can get to Baker and strut your stuff! There's room for you and all your Lion friends at the stadium. Hell, there's room for Grandma too! So tell Nana to strap on some Pampers™ and head to Baker. It's truly a hip-happenin' place.

*Lauren Seaman is a Barnard College sophomore.*  
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FILE PHOTO

**ON NET** | Though the Light Blue wasn't able to beat Fordham in Wednesday night's game, the Lions took five shots on goal. The lone Lion goal came from Bayo Adafin.

## Lions fall to Rams 2-1 in subway series

**BY MRINAL MOHANKA**  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

COLUMBIA	1
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The Columbia men's soccer team travelled to the Bronx to take on Fordham yesterday and, though the game started off brightly, Columbia ended up on the receiving end of a 2-1 defeat.

The Light Blue was quick to move into gear and there were several chances in the first twenty minutes, including a free kick from about 20 yards by Columbia co-captain Mike Mazzullo, that Fordham keeper Ryan Meara was able to catch. The game was played in familiar territory for Mazzullo, who went to high school at Fordham Prep, just down the road from Fordham's Jack Coffey Field in the Bronx. A few minutes later, great interplay between the Lions resulted in a shooting opportunity for junior midfielder Francois Anderson, but his connection with the strike let him down.

The Columbia defense made a solid start to the game, restricting Fordham to no noteworthy shots on goal. Around the 30-minute mark, Mazzullo received a pass unmarked and took a shot but Fordham's goalkeeper was equal

to the effort. Freshman David Najem was next to register a strike at Meara, but it was a comfortable save for the keeper.

Lions goaltender, junior Alex Aurricchio, a spectator for much of the half, was called into action by Rams' defender Ryan Curran to make a save towards the end of the first half. Unfortunately for the Light Blue, Aurricchio was later caught out with 53 seconds remaining in the first half for the opening goal of the game. Rams midfielder Nathaniel Bekoe sent a deep cross towards the far post that looped over Aurricchio and was met by Doug Hanly to send the Rams in 1-0 ahead at the break. Despite the score, Columbia dominated much of the first half and led the shot count 6-3.

The Lions came out for the second half visibly shaken by the late goal. Soon enough, however, they found their rhythm and were back on the offensive. Seventeen minutes into the second half, freshman Henning Sauerbier—the Ivy League

Co-Rookie of the Week—blasted an excellent opportunity over the bar from eight yards out.

With 18 minutes left on the clock, the Rams doubled their advantage and made it 2-0 through junior Tim Richardson, who caught Aurricchio out of position. In the closing stages, Columbia continued to pressure the Rams' defense, and with under two minutes to go, senior Bayo Adafin turned at the near post to score and halve the deficit with an assist by Najem. Columbia was looking to steal a tie and Anderson had the last throw of the dice, but his effort was inches over the bar.


In response to the loss, head coach Kevin Anderson noted his disappointment in the team's play.

"We didn't follow or execute our game plan, and that put us at a huge disadvantage," Anderson said. "Even though we dominated the first half, I'm not satisfied with the performance. The quality of our team and ability of our players was not displayed today."

Columbia hopes to return to winning ways when they take on St. Peters' on Saturday, Sept. 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Lions' first home game of the season.

# BAKER BLAST

# COLUMBIA





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Merber, Hale make their marks on national stage

BY IAN SCHEFFLER  
Columbia Daily Spectator

What did you do for exercise this summer? Maybe you ran in the neighborhood or rode a bike around town. You could even count moving in as the equivalent of a weight session in the gym. Chances are, though, that you didn't line up to race Olympic-caliber athletes on national television.

If you're Kyle Merber or Sharay Hale, on the other hand, that's exactly what you did.

Columbia's track standouts—both juniors in the College—traveled to the University of Oregon's Hayward Field in June, after qualifying at a regional meet in North Carolina, to compete in the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships, the first time since 2007 that multiple Lion runners have been so honored.

At a school where many students profess apathy for sports, that level of achievement can come as a surprise. Though lacking in the track pedigree of schools like Oregon or USC, Columbia has a history of sending runners to national competitions. Liam Boylan-Pett, CC '08, who paced Merber on his way to breaking the four-minute mile in March, and Erison Hurtault, CC '07, both qualified for the NCAA championships in 2007. Delilah DiCrescenzo, CC '05, placed third in the 3000-meter steeplechase at the U.S. Outdoor Nationals in 2006.

To anyone who tuned into this summer's NCAAAs, though, Merber and Hale's prowess was apparent. In the preliminary heat of the 1500m, Merber lined up between Andrew Wheating, a 2008 Olympian who

owns the fourth fastest time in U.S. history, and Lee Emanuel, the winner of this year's NCAA indoor 1500m title. At the line, Merber said, "I was just like, 'Oooh! I guess I made it.' This is a new level that I've always wanted to be at. With that definitely came some nerve, but also a new level of excitement." It hardly showed. From the moment the gun went off, Merber jumped to the front of a slow race and stayed in contention, passing Wheating at one point, on the way to a fifth-place finish and a spot in the final.

Hale's time in Oregon was similarly successful. One of only two underclassmen in her 400-meter heat, she earned All-American honors by being one of the top eight finishers who hold U.S. citizenship. Though she missed qualifying for the final by four-hundredths of a second—the same fraction that kept her out of this year's indoor final—she remains upbeat about the outcome. "Maybe it was fate and it just wasn't my time to make it to finals," she said. "I mean, of course it's frustrating, but I tried."

SEE MERBER & HALE, page 6



FILE PHOTOS

FAST FEET | Juniors Kyle Merber and Sharay Hale raced the country's elite runners this summer in Oregon.





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