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After staff departures, Double Discovery Center faces major transition

With half the staff gone, longtime tutoring program in flux

BY BETSY MORAIS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

After losing half its staff, a 45-year-old tutoring program at Columbia is undergoing major changes that could jeopardize the quality of its services.

“The problem is so vast, so it’s hard for me to pinpoint something,” said former Double Discovery Center counselor Stephanie Louis, who resigned during the summer session. “DDC is a very special place and it’s ruined now.”

The Double Discovery Center—a longstanding Columbia program with a budget of over \$1 million and a fleet of more than 100 student volunteers—serves nearly 1,000 students in grades 7-12. Nearly all are first-generation college-bound students from low-income families. The center provides tutoring and advising services during the academic year and a trademark residential summer program on campus.

At the start of the spring 2010 semester, DDC had 12 full-time staff members, 10 of whom were trained in teaching and college advising. But since then, half of that staff has parted with the program, marking the loss of decades’ worth of institutional memory. Among the grievances of departed staff were lower



EMBRY OWEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

IN TRANSITION | Kevin Matthews has served as the executive director of Columbia’s Double Discovery Center for the past year. Under his tenure, the program has experienced a loss of staff and financial resources. He hopes to make the best of the transition.

academic standards, insufficient fundraising efforts, and the executive director’s unsuccessful leadership.

STAFF TURNOVER
One assistant director left in

March and the other left in May. The outreach coordinator was gone by early June. Three tutoring counselors left over the summer, as did one interim assistant director, who lasted only a week. Some had no job prospects waiting for

them or left for lower-paying work. This week, the president of the Double Discovery Student Organization resigned from her post, to which she had been elected in May.

“When our full-time staff

members leave, the analogy that I make is when children hear that mom and dad are splitting up and someone’s moving out of the household. They

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Delayed visas leave students stuck at home

BY LEAH GREENBAUM
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

At least eight international students cannot shop for classes with their peers this week due to visa delays that have left them stranded in their home countries as the semester carries on without them.

This year, at least 15 international students had difficulty re-entering the country and had to start the semester late. This number is up from eight students last year, according to Ellen Cohen, associate director of the International Students and Scholars Office.

She added that there may be more students delayed, since her office is only aware of those

“There’s just no effective way to expedite the issuance of a visa once there is a security check pending outside the local consulate.”

—Ellen Cohen, associate director of the International Students and Scholars Office

Housing places waitlisted sophomores throughout different dorms

BY ELAINE WANG
Columbia Daily Spectator

For some students, the housing dilemma didn’t end when summer vacation started.

This year, 67 sophomores were stuck in limbo on Housing & Dining’s waitlist after they were unable to select rooms during the General Selection process in the spring.

The waitlist consisted primarily of those with the worst lottery numbers, said Scott Wright, vice president of student auxiliary and business

services.

“I think this number was a little bit larger than in years past,” Wright said, adding though, “It doesn’t necessarily reflect that there is more demand than supply,” Wright said.

For the most part, Wright added, waitlisted sophomores are placed into blind doubles.

After enduring the wait, Simone Nguyen, CC ’13, learned that she had been placed in a blind double in Furnald. “I wasn’t happy it was a double,” she said, “but I knew I was going to get one because I’m

a sophomore. And at least I wasn’t shafted.”

The 67 unlucky sophomores were asked to indicate eight dormitory preferences as part of their application on the housing website. They received dorm assignments over the summer, with priority given to better lottery numbers.

Wright said that during room selection, some renovated spaces in Furnald and Wien were reserved for incoming first-years and transfer students with disabilities.

Once these students with

special needs were placed, the remaining dorms as well as spaces that had opened up due to cancellations were assigned to waitlisted sophomores.

Cancellations can occur for many reasons, including students finding accommodations off campus, finalized study abroad plans, or last-minute leaves-of-absence.

And it wasn’t bad news for all students uncertain about their fall homes.

Christine Liu, SEAS ’13, was surprised to learn that a single on the 14th floor of Schapiro

awaited her—a room that not even many students with junior status could obtain during selection.

“I thought it was really funny that being waitlisted, you would get better housing,” Liu said.

Liu found out she had been waitlisted only after signing in to the housing website during her appointment time. “The system just signed me off,” she said. “It was like a kick in the face.”

This year, Furnald and Wien

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students who reported their difficulties.

“I barely made it in time for classes,” said Ammar Khalid, a graduate student from Pakistan at the School of the Arts.

His visa was delayed for nearly two weeks last month for reasons that were never explained to him.

He said he was disappointed to have missed orientation and was still feeling jet lagged last week.

“It’s a very common story for Pakistani students,” he said, adding that he still considers himself one of the lucky ones.

In the past, students’ visas have been delayed for up to two or three semesters, forcing them to delay their programs or admission to the University, Cohen said.

One such student is Salman Baset, a Ph.D. candidate at the School of Engineering and Applied Science, who had to miss a semester when he was working on his master’s because of a prolonged security check.

Baset said people are chosen for extended security clearances because their names might be similar to names on a terrorism watch list or because their course of study, for example nuclear engineering, is considered threatening to the United States. But even if the delay is over an extended period of time, the government does not explain causes or reveal suspicions.

“It could be that there may be some legitimate processing happening, but it could also be that the system that is set up is not very efficient,” he said of the Department of Homeland Security’s system for clearing Muslims.

SEE VISAS, page 3

NEWS BRIEF

USenate not ready to consider ROTC with ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ still uncertain

Even though the military’s “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy may soon be repealed, the University Senate does not plan to reopen the possibility of bringing the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps to campus until the repeal is official.

DADT has been at the heart of the ROTC discussion for the past several years, said University Senator and astronomy professor James Applegate.

In 2005, the University Senate voted 53-10 against having ROTC on campus, with five abstentions. Then, in 2008, the student body voted against ROTC, with 51 percent opposed and 49 percent in favor.

One main reason for the smaller margin in 2008, Applegate said, was the substantially higher military

presence on campus in 2008, due to the increased recruiting of veterans by the School of General Studies.

“They were basically split even, and it was dominated by ‘don’t ask, don’t tell,’” Applegate said of the 2008 vote. “My personal guess is that if you got rid of ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ and said ‘Do you want ROTC back?’, the vote would be overwhelmingly ‘yes.’”

If DADT is repealed, Applegate said the issue will go back to the University Senate and that body would most likely pick up the issue where it left it in May 2005. The USenate would in that case reconsider the resolution, which called for the establishment of an ROTC program on campus “as soon as is practicable.”

—Amber Tunnell

Core Foods still offering organics, despite JJ’s shift

BY LEAH GREENBAUM
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Despite the hoards of freshmen and athletes who come to JJ’s Place seeking the now-unlimited buffalo wings, a small bastion of dedicated granola lovers continue to successfully promote organic food in the unlikely venue.

Although Core Foods, a student group that operates an all-organic cooperative, ran a deficit last semester—and the grocery section of JJ’s Place has been halved to make room for chairs and foosball tables—sales have been steady and the group’s ambitions remain high.

“We basically lucked out in being able to keep the place and for that we’re very grateful,” Stephanie Jurburg, CC ’12 and the group’s president, said.

Director of Dining Victoria Dunn said that the group and the separate, non-organic mini-mart in JJ’s Place provide a valuable service to students, and the

University never considered closing Core Foods.

“We’re here to provide a convenience to students—not make them run down to Westside at one in the morning when they run out of laundry detergent,”

“Freshmen craving fried things don’t usually care about organic food.”

—Stephanie Jurburg, CC ’12

she said, adding that Core Foods and the grocery section in JJ’s have a long future ahead of them.

Under a new dining plan that makes JJ’s Place a location that only accepts meal swipes—whereas last year’s items were priced a la carte and paid for

with Dining Dollars—Dunn said JJ’s Place has doubled its number of customers.

Overall grocery sales, between the mini-mart and Core Foods, are the same as they were last year, Dunn said, even though the mini-mart’s stock has been reduced from 100 items to 50, and Core Foods from about 50 to 30.

Robert Bell, the personable, goateed manager of JJ’s Place, said he analyzed which items were most popular last year and dropped the rest, including things like pickles and marshmallows that he said stayed on his shelves all semester.

Core Foods, he said, adds to the diverse and distinct character of JJ’s Place.

At 8 p.m. on Wednesday—as packs of bright-eyed first-years eagerly piled in, picking up French fries, pool sticks, or “The Iliad”—Core Foods members shelved their latest

SEE JJ’S, page 3

OPINION, PAGE 4

The ultimate test

Professor Robert Pollack recommends you take morality before molecular biology.



SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Football opens season with subway series

The Lions will play their first game of the season when they face off against Fordham on Saturday. Last year, the Light Blue captured the Liberty Cup with a 40-28 victory.

EVENTS

Walk to Wellness

Get in shape at your own pace and meet your personal health goals at Columbia. Meet in front of Alma Mater, Morningside, 12 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



77° / 60°

Tomorrow



75° / 61°

After large staff departure, Double Discovery in transition

DDC from front page

[students] actually react to it in very much the same way, even if the staff members aren't great," DDC Executive Director Kevin Matthews, CC '80, said. "As it turned out, all the people that left—they were all pretty great."

DDC student Nicholas Velez, a senior at Frederick Douglass Academy, a public high school in Harlem, said he felt let down. "Not all my resources are gone, but the main ones that I need [are]," he said.

"Nicholas comes across as that cool kid that everybody wants to be with," Louis said. So it struck her that when she left, he was crying.

Upperclassmen such as Velez, who have gotten to know counselors like Louis over time, have lost fond relationships that allow for a push to study harder and work on a personal statement for college applications. With new hires on their way—Matthews is in the process of bringing in five people—new relationships can be forged, but students and staff present and past agreed that the significance of this staff turnover is greater than the sum of its parts.

A SHIFT IN TEACHER STANDARDS

"It was my life while I was in college," said Amber Moorer, CC '08, who quit her job at DDC this summer and is now unemployed.

Moorer volunteered for the program throughout her undergraduate years at Columbia and eventually became DDSO president. It felt natural for her to work there after she graduated. At the time, most of the staff had advanced degrees in education or counseling, so she went to Harvard for a master's in adolescent risk and prevention. Only then did she apply for a full-time position. But upon her return, and over the course of her year on the job as a counselor, she found that fewer staff members had advanced degrees. By the time she left, no one did.

According to Matthews, the University requires DDC staff to have a high school diploma, and a bachelor's degree is preferred. Matthews himself has a B.A. in political science and previous experience in youth services management—he was DDC executive director from 1990-1998 before leaving to work as a nonprofit consultant in London—but he has no advanced degree.

"For me, counselors' positions are perfect entry-level positions for people who are right out of college," he said. "I've hired assistant directors without master's degrees—that's fine. They have to have some equivalent experience that they bring to the table."

For Moorer and others associated with the program, this represents a break from tradition and a turn away from the educational example the staff set for students.

In previous years, counselors felt an unspoken obligation to have a master's degree, Louis said, but now the standards are lower. "The truth is DDC is a hellhole right now," she said. "There is no one there who knows their ass from their elbow."

"This is going to sound elitist," she added, but "there's a difference between the people who go to Harvard and people who go to CUNY." Since DDC espouses academic discipline, she said, "That should be represented in your staff."

Elitism, at once part of Columbia's intellectual draw and its institutional aloofness, can

seem a double-edged sword at DDC. The program caters to a population of students underserved by the education to which they have access, and it projects an image that juxtaposes Columbia's elite status with, perhaps, an antidote: accessibility for those who might not envision themselves on an Ivy League campus. This has benefits ranging from student recruitment to boosting the University's public image as it begins construction on its Manhattanville expansion.

But with the loss of staff members with advanced degrees, Cameron McClure, CC '12 and recently resigned DDSO president, said the quality of the educational services the center can provide will "definitely not" live up to past standards, even with new counselors.

Albert Bencosme, a senior at the Manhattan Center for Science and Mathematics who has been going to DDC since 2007, agreed that the program won't be the same. "I don't feel like I'm going to be going to the office that much," he said.

DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS

Shaun Abreu, CC '14 and a DDC graduate, sensed that Matthews' priority has been that counselors reflect the backgrounds of students rather than prestigious academic credentials. "Based on the people he hired, I would expect that there were more qualified people he could have hired," Abreu said, adding that, from his standpoint, the center's policy was that "the people they hire should be a reflection of the students, racially."

Moorer said she was made to

"The truth is DDC is a hellhole right now."

—Stephanie Louis, former counselor

feel that "if you're white, there's very little you can do for our students."

"Every white person that was there left," Abreu said. "Marvin Cabrera [former outreach coordinator] and Stephanie [Louis] left. They weren't white, but they experienced the racial tensions."

"DDC has always been a place where real conversations about race and diversity take place," McClure said. "I felt like this summer, it was much harder."

Ganiatu Afolabi, CC '12 and a DDC volunteer, said she appreciated the value of hiring staff who represent familiar backgrounds to those of the students.

"I understand the logic. A lot of the students don't really have a lot of successful minority people in their life," Afolabi said. "To surround them with successful minorities" can be inspiring.

Matthews, who grew up in a low-income, minority home in Washington Heights, serves as such a role model for academic success, having attended Columbia.

Nonetheless, students like Bencosme said a counselor's racial background doesn't necessarily correspond with his or her ability to connect with students. What he looks for is expertise. "You need to have that mental background," he said.

Louis said that Matthews "has a very race-based mentality."

Matthews called this claim



EMBRY OWEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

EYES ON THE CHANGE | Shaun Abreu, a former Double Discovery Center student and a first-year in CC, is frustrated by what he sees as a decline in the quality of the program. "It eats me inside to know that there's something going on with the center," Abreu said.

"absolutely incorrect"

"No one has ever raised an issue with me about there being racial discrimination," Matthews said. "Our teaching staff is probably not as diverse as it could be. That might be more about the folks that we're drawing and what little we're able to pay."

"We promote diversity," said Anthony Jones, a current staff member who used to be a counselor for high school students and is now working with seventh and eighth graders. "We blend together and we make it work."

Matthews later asked, "That there's a race-based mentality—what the hell does that mean?"

Former staff and volunteers said they felt racial tensions more in subtle gestures than explicit denigration. Louis alleged that Matthews sought out black and Hispanic students for official photographs. She said a student told her, "I think he doesn't want me in the picture because I look white."

Matthews called these criticisms "idle rumor-mongering" and asked, "Why on earth even raise those things if you've decided to leave? What's the point?"

PAPER TRAIL

"This semester, I saw a lot that made me really uncomfortable," Moorer said, citing Matthews' "attitude toward education and toward our students, and the direction the center should be going in."

Matthews is more concerned with how DDC appears than how it functions, she explained, demonstrated in part by his alleged submission of plagiarized student papers for a scholarship essay contest.

Each year, DDC holds a writing competition judged by its Board of Friends. When Moorer was looking through submissions, she realized that some had been plagiarized.

"Once you've read enough essays, you can tell what's kid writing and what isn't," she said. "So I start freaking out." She said she contacted students and asked them to fix their papers. On an essay written by a student with whom another counselor had worked, she marked a P with a circle around it to indicate that it had been plagiarized.

But as the deadline approached, there were not enough suitable essays to submit the 10 that the Board of Friends was expecting. Moorer said Matthews was more concerned with submitting the requisite number of papers than

about plagiarism.

"He knowingly submitted plagiarized papers," Louis said.

The paper marked P won.

Matthews has a different account of what happened. When asked whether he knew of any plagiarized papers having been submitted, he responded, "No. Not to my knowledge. Oh, and why would we say that in a newspaper? Why would we say that we had kids who plagiarized an essay? OK. Double Discovery Center, just like every institution dealing with students, has issues of plagiarism that we have to deal with. And there may have been—in fact, I am sure there were a couple of students that plagiarized some information, and a number of those students were told to rewrite their essays, resubmit them, or don't submit them at all."

He added, "If indeed one of the winners had plagiarized parts of the paper, I didn't know that, our board members didn't know that. And quite frankly, if a staff member knew that, they should have said something."

Moorer and Louis said they had brought the problem to Matthews' attention well in advance, as evidenced by last-minute revisions. The winning essay was the same allegedly plagiarized version that Moorer had submitted to Matthews. In the email Matthews sent to the board, which Moorer shared with Spectator, there are clear syntactical disparities between the writing in the winning essay and on its accompanying application form.

"He wanted to make it look like the people who submitted these papers were brilliant scholars," Louis said. "It isn't the fault of the kids, really, at the end of the day. It's the fault of the people who allow that to occur."

DECLINE IN FUNDRAISING

Several people affiliated with DDC, including students, said there are deficiencies in the program's resources.

Financially, DDC has had to work with less since the global economic downturn stung the center in 2008. When Matthews came into his position a year ago, the program had a full-time development officer whose job it was to fundraise. (DDC receives a little over \$1 million in federal grants and Columbia College contributes between \$42,000 and \$44,000 annually, but the center also seeks outside resources.) The development officer and another position—that of volunteer coordinator—were the only two jobs at DDC that were not covered by grant money, Matthews said. So when the development officer left to pursue a teaching career, he decided not to replace her.

"I knew it's a position that we're going to have to bring back at some point. This is not a one-person job," Matthews said. "But as a way of saving money, you know, it was attrition. That was something we could do at least for a year to put more money in student services. And not surprisingly, I would say that our outside giving is probably down \$10,000 from what it was the year before I started, so that's a direct loss in my mind. It was a gamble."

Since then, Matthews said he has absorbed responsibility for fundraising.

"But that definitely didn't happen. He brought in virtually no

money," Moorer countered. Now, she said, "It's, like, fighting for SAT books. We don't even have money for the essentials."

At a staff meeting this spring, she was informed that there were "zero grants in progress."

Marvin Cabrera, the former volunteer coordinator, left when Matthews could not find the grant money to cover his salary. Although Matthews said the programs require volunteer coordination, he is not looking to hire someone explicitly for that role. "We should all be able to recruit, train, and help supervise volunteers. Those things should be organic to DDC across the board," he said.

Still, DDC volunteer Afolabi said she had been told that "the explanation is 'change is good,' when really there just isn't enough money to do the same things anymore."

"They're constantly saying that they don't have any money," former DDC president McClure added.

DDC counselor Jones also noted that money is tight. "At the end of the day, I think you just have to get creative," he said.

Still, Jones doesn't think financial concerns are affecting his job or the students themselves: "Kids don't worry about resources."

But students have noticed changes. "After the recession, everything went downhill," said student Bencosme. There have been none of the usual college campus visits, and summer field trips were canceled.

"This summer, we paid more and we got less. There were so

"We are anything but shaky as an organization."

—Kevin Matthews, DDC executive director

many things we didn't do," added DDC student Kayla Young, a senior at George Washington High School. Two summers ago, students paid a \$25 fee for the six-week residential program. This summer, the cost rose to \$100 and students stayed on campus for about four-and-a-half weeks.

Former staff added that, in addition to the program having less money, funding is being used inefficiently. As an example, McClure said DDC overpaid for supplies at Ivy League Stationers (including \$6 binders) rather than shop at a discount store.

Matthews argued that, though outside grants are small, DDC is by no means strapped for cash. "I need more time to do more fund development," he said, adding that hiring new teaching staff has taken hours away from fundraising.

Matthews said he has been weighing his options for new fundraising strategies. He may seek independent nonprofit status for the program, which the University's umbrella service organization, Community Impact, has. (DDC currently files grant applications under the guise of Columbia.) Another possibility might be to create a specific fund for DDC.

Now, he wants help. "I know

I need that," he said. He recently put out an ad for a development intern and hopes to recruit someone from Columbia's M.S. program in fundraising management.

TRANSITION IN THE OFFICE

But following the money only goes so far, and at times, there are more intangible considerations. With financial worries as the backdrop, DDC's office environment has changed over the past several months. Staff members, volunteers, and students felt rising tensions come to the surface.

"The only way you can actually know why someone is leaving is by asking them," Matthews said. "You can surmise all you want why, but nobody leaves a job for one reason."

There were several reasons why six staff members left DDC. Moorer summed up her criticisms with an outburst of exasperation: "Ugh, God. It was just so frustrating."

Louis said she had been "dealing with humiliation for at least six months." She added, "I feel like there were people forced to leave. I was one of them."

Upon the resignation of Rachel Ford, CC '98 and one of the assistant directors, "I heard some hostility," DDC graduate Abreu said. Ford had worked at DDC during all four years of college and for about a decade after. Now, months after her departure, her former colleagues said she is still seeking employment. Ford did not respond to requests for comment.

"They are brilliant at what they do," said DDC senior Young, "and for them to leave the way they did, you just knew there was something wrong." She said she plans to find tutoring resources outside DDC.

"It's a giant question mark," said volunteer Afolabi. "I don't want to forecast failure. I don't think the office is going to fall into itself, but there will be changes."

"It eats me inside to know that there's something going on with the center that Columbia doesn't necessarily know about," Abreu said.

"We tried to bring this to everyone's attention, but no one cares," Louis explained. For her, it's clear that the problems are rooted in Matthews' leadership. "He's honestly probably the worst thing to happen to DDC," she said. "He should be fired. I don't have any ill will toward the man, but he should be fired."

Matthews sees this as a moment of transition, not collapse.

"It looks as though the center has some instability," he conceded, but "we are anything but shaky as an organization. There's been some change. Change is hard for people to deal with. It makes people wonder lots and lots of things, and because people wonder things and people talk out of turn behind folks' backs doesn't make it so."

But even after resigning as DDSO president, McClure is concerned about the center's fate. "I hope that either the board looks at what's going on and makes some serious changes or, by the grace of God, they hire a really strong staff that have had 10 years of experience with an identical program," she said. "I'm not sure they yet realize just how much they've lost."

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EMBRY OWEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

QUESTIONING | Ganiatu Afolabi, CC '12, has been working at DDC since summer 2009. She points to limited funding as a primary source of the program's problems. She says the future is uncertain.



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I am, therefore I think

BY ROBERT POLLACK

I grew up in Sea Gate, a small enclave at the tip of Coney Island. I had never been north of 23rd Street in Manhattan until the fall of 1956, when I stepped out of the subway kiosk that used to sit on the median at 116th Street and found my way to Hamilton Hall for my interview with the admissions office. I had an overwhelming sense that I had come to Oz. The streets were of red, not yellow, brick but however you followed them, they led from one building to another—not a car in sight—all dedicated, sanctified, to the notion of teaching, learning, and converting what was unknown to all into what could be understood by the likes of me.

My English teacher at Abraham Lincoln High School had convinced my parents that I could and should go to Columbia because I had the goods—boxcar college boards, loved to read, loved to write, and was good in science. Dropouts from high school obliged to help support their families in the Great Depression, my parents had no idea what my teacher was saying, but respected her

enough to let her help me to apply. The interview was at once nerve-wracking and perfunctory—and I got the fat letter.

The cost of Columbia College tuition looked to be a tremendous hardship for my parents, but I arrived at Columbia at a propitious time—the fall of 1957. When Sputnik 1 was launched in that October, the New York State Board of Regents responded by doubling their Regents scholarship in exchange for a promise to study engineering or physics. I chose physics, and so my parents had that much less of a loan to take out to cover the semester cost of sending me to Columbia which was—I still have the receipt—\$312.

After four years of physics and math, the Core Curriculum, and not much else, I met my future wife, an artist who also read books. By graduation we knew we'd be getting married and I knew that physics was not for me; the science with the most literary quality, biology, was going to be my field. Brandeis University had admitted me to their graduate Biology program with a fellowship we could almost live on, with only one proviso, that I get at least a B in organic chemistry—and orgo lab—the summer after graduating. That was 50 years ago.

I had never taken a chem course. The summer of 1961 was especially hot if you had to live in a single room with a shared

class heartstrings like he's the Boss, telling the New York Times in January 2008 that his lawsuit is, "about the powerful growing more powerful at the expense of those who have less." Mr. Sprayregen, of \$81749 per square foot, \$2.925 million Upper East Side digs, apparently among the have-nots. The response to Mr. Sprayregen throughout Columbia has been no less breathless, with anti-gentrification advocates, many of them student journalists, lining up behind and spilling ink on behalf of his cause, no matter what that "cause" really is.

Franklin Roosevelt, talking about working with the Soviets during World War II, used to say, "It is permitted in time of grave danger to walk with the devil until you have crossed the bridge." Perhaps these mechanics of convenient partnership are at work in Manhattanville, but I am not so sure: The crowd of truly threatened and legitimately concerned residents at the La Floridita rally last December exuded Montgomery, not Yalta. Indeed, people seem to have genuinely fallen for Sprayregen's supposed

What makes Mr. Sprayregen so remarkable is how he's gotten so many people utterly and completely fooled.

newfound sense of community. "Thank you for standing up and fighting to keep the American dream alive," one local wrote to Mr. Sprayregen in December 2009. "It's like David versus Goliath, and you're David," said another. Astounding words considering they come from the same innocent people who, just three years ago, Mr. Sprayregen was apparently prepared to abandon and evict if Columbia had approved his property swap.

Shrewd as always, Mr. Sprayregen has kept to his guns. "Shame on the administration," he told one reporter with the Blue and White just this week, "it is nothing but greed."

But greed has been good to Mr. Sprayregen. It has been very, very good.

Adam Sieff is a senior majoring in political philosophy and international politics. He is editor-in-chief of the undergraduate political journal Publius.

bathroom in a local SRO (look it up). The orgo class was not so bad, but the lab was grim. WWII-era equipment, stuffy room, and exercises mired in tradition to the

Only then did I see what the Core was really about: First you are a person with moral boundaries or you are not; only when you are, does knowing facts matter.

point that their very pointlessness was their merit. The capstone of these was synthesizing a solid—acetylsalicylic acid—from liquid starting materials.

I turned in a brown sludge, in a thin glass tube so its melting temperature could be taken as a measure of its purity. I got a B and here I am.

All around me pre-meds in a hurry were handing in glass tubes with sparkling white powder. We all knew we were synthesizing aspirin; they had figured to buy some, grind it up, and hand it in. After all, aspirin is

aspirin, and they needed their A's as much as I needed my B; maybe even more. But why would they so demean their own work as to fake it, just because they could?

None of us knew that our TAs had handed us a carbon-14 radioactive starting material. Nor did we imagine that when a TA would place our glass tube in front of a ticking Geiger counter, an unexpected silence would be a CSI-level proof of cheating. If you handed in a non-radioactive (and therefore fake) result, you failed and had to take the course again.

So orgo was not only the beginning of my career as a molecular biologist, but also a critical confirmation of the importance of having boundaries and standards as well as knowledge, of not taking every advantage before me, of meaning what I say, of not cutting corners. Only then did I see what the Core was really about: First you are a person with moral boundaries or you are not; only when you are, does knowing facts matter. As my teacher today, Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, put it in a recent interview, "I am, therefore I think."

Robert Pollack, CC '61, is a professor of biological sciences and the director of the Center for the Study of Science and Religion. He was dean of Columbia College from 1982-1989. Email pollack@columbia.edu.

Seeing the invisible people of Pakistan

BY MUSTAFA HAMEED

A little over a month ago, the government of Pakistan announced that there would be no Independence Day celebrations on Aug. 14 due to the floods that displaced over 20 million in the country's heartland. And so the mirthless passage of a national holiday appropriately marked a mirthless year at the end of a mirthless decade for the people of Pakistan.

In a summer replete with genuine suffering for an unprecedented portion of the country's population, even the most cynical citizens were given over to authentic anguish, beyond the typical sarcastic gloom that fills the opinion pages of the country and the conversation at dinner parties and tea stands.

The ongoing conflict against the Taliban, the confused and tumultuous relationship with the United States in dealing with the security situation along the Afghan border, and the truly unprecedented emergence of suicide bombings and terrorist attacks within the nation of Pakistan is well publicized in the Western world. On a social level, the salt-in-the-wound antics of the Pakistani cricket team, which the youth of the nation treats as heroes and three members of which are currently embroiled in a betting scandal, was another source of grief that made its way through the airwaves in much of the world. And of course, the sorry state of the government, which neither commands respect from the people nor deserves any, lumbered on with a gruesome mishandling of the disaster as the president of the country continued a diplomatic tour of Europe even when the enormity of the floods became apparent.

In the face of such ineffectiveness, there have been truly commendable efforts and welcome relief from civilians and charities, some of which, notably, have emerged from the Columbia community. Columbia College students Umar Agha, CC '11, and Anum Akram, CC '11, worked on flood relief efforts within Pakistan this summer. The Organization of Pakistani Students has coordinated efforts since August to raise funds for the victims, and their drives, headed by OPS President Henna Mahmood, CC '11, are planned to continue throughout the semester. On Sept. 16, the Columbia Muslim Students Association hosted its annual Fast-a-Thon, and its proceeds this year were directed entirely to flood relief.

Still, the prevailing mood of the campus and perhaps the country with regard to the floods is surely one of detachment. The urgency and passion that motivated the aid effort after the tragic Haiti earthquake or the earlier tsunami in Southeast Asia has been absent. Could it be because of a lack of awareness or media coverage? Is it due to a failure to understand the overwhelming long-term effects that a catastrophe of this sort could have in such a volatile region? Or is it, as has been suggested in some hushed tones, due to the tacit lingering of toxic feelings akin to what surfaced explosively in the notorious "Ground Zero mosque" controversy—namely, prejudices against the predominantly Muslim population of Pakistan as violent extremists and espousers of global agendas against the United States and Western civilization?

Regardless of the reasons behind this, let there be no mistake: As the monsoon rains pass, how the world, including Columbia,

The urgency and passion that motivated the aid effort after the tragic Haiti earthquake or the earlier tsunami in Southeast Asia has been absent.

responds to the devastation left in its wake will be of crucial importance to the development and well-being of millions in the country and the security of the entire region. The loss of millions of dollars worth of crops, the destruction of villages, and partitions of families separated by the flooding has left the people in the rural center of Pakistan homeless and with no idea of what to expect in the near future. These are not short-term problems—there will be chronic after-effects, perhaps reaching into future decades, perhaps into future generations. In the efforts to reach the millions of weary, tired, and poor victims—people poor enough to be invisible before the floods turned the globe's pitying eyes upon them—continuing aid and support will be a crucial duty.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in philosophy. He is the president of the Columbia International Relations Council and Association and the senior editor of Journal of Politics & Society.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Casual Fridays: JJ's address

Half a score and four years ago, Dining Services brought forth upon this campus a new eatery, conceived in deliciousness and dedicated to the proposition that all students should enjoy delectable greasy treats in the wee hours of the night.

Now we are engaged in a great dining war that will test whether that eatery—or any eatery so conceived and so dedicated—can endure the shift from à la carte to all-you-can eat.

We have met in the basement of John Jay. We have come to dedicate what once was a place for students to hang out with their friends, enjoy a superb selection of beverages, and get scrumptious burgers and fries—a place that gave its life so our appetites might be sated. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this once-glorious eatery. The brave students who ordered waffle fries, who stopped in just to play Hungry Hungry Hippos, who grabbed a late-night burger to eat while

doing problem sets, have consecrated it far beyond our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we've written here, but these students can never forget the artery-clogging delights they ate here.

Rather, it is for us who knew the old JJ's to dedicate ourselves to condemning the soggy Buffalo wings now served us, which those who once ate here would surely have sent back in disgust. It is for us to dedicate ourselves to the great task remaining before us—that from those souls who once happily supped here, we take increased devotion to that cause for which they walked all the way across campus at 3 a.m. (or at least took an elevator); that we here highly resolve that the ancient glory of JJ's shall not be forgotten; that this eatery, underground, shall not be remembered for its dearth of eating options and lousy food—and that the possibility of affordable, deep-fried victuals that is the dream of the people, cooked for the people, devoured happily by the people, shall not perish from the earth.

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Solutions to Previous Issue's Puzzle

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Bulldogs' home

5 Controversial

2009 Nobel

10 Teyve's toast

14 Airline with a King

David Lounge

15 Drink disparaged by W.C. Fields

16 Bridal gown shade

17 Ballet?

19 Iberian Peninsula invader

20 Cartographic detail

21 Au pair in a ring?

22 Salsa instrument

23 Can't commit

25 "Don't gimme that!"

27 Photo session with a klutz?

32 Reactions' database: Abbr.

35 Abbr. part, often

36 "The nerve!"

37 Court cry

39 Airborne annoyances

41 Dynamic opening?

42 Gibbon, e.g.

44 Naidi of silents

46 Use a seed drill

47 Part of a barbershop review?

50 She played Elizabeth I in "Elizabeth"

51 Wrote a Dear John

55 Shot to the face?

58 ESP, e.g.

60 Predawn

61 Pundit's piece

62 Christmas morning ritual?

64 Area between gutters

65 Come about

66 Further

67 Line discontinued in 2004

68 Military camp

69 Blonde, at times

DOWN

1 Elusive Himalayans

2 "Drop me"

3 Dropping the ball, so to speak

4 First arrival

6 English, maybe

7 Arguing

8 Good guy

9 Its mon. unit is the peso

10 Throat-soothing brew

11 Macintosh's apple, e.g.

12 ___ legs

13 Prefix with bond or dollar

18 Game company first called Syzygy

22 Goodword

24 Hand-fightened fastener

26 What misters do

28 Ford muscle car, to devotees

29 Lithographer James

30 Fabled fiddler

31 Generate interest

32 Damp area growth

33 The Eagles' "___ Eyes"

34 Big Mack

38 60606 and 70707, e.g.

40 Proctor's announcement

43 "Iliad" hero

45 Much of Chile

48 Portray

49 Ribbed

52 How deadpan humor is delivered

53 Tense concession

54 Jazz pianist McCoy

55 New Mexico's official neckwear

56 Fire ___

57 Be inclined (to)

59 Shelter org.

62 Some eggs

63 Long lead-in

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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xwordeditor@aol.com 09/17/10



JOSE GIRALT / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ROCK SOLID | Junior Lillian Klein, the reigning Ivy League Player of the Week, will look to record her fifth straight shutout this Friday against Hofstra.

Formidable foes up next for Light Blue as shutout streak nears 400 minutes

BY SARAH SOMMER
Senior Spectator Staff Writer

The Columbia women's soccer team is on a roll, but the teams that it faces this weekend also know that feeling. The Lions host Hofstra on Friday and travel to St. John's on Sunday.

"This is going to be a really big weekend for us," senior captain Kelly Hostetler said.

To say that the Lions are doing well this year would be an understatement. Columbia (4-1-0) takes a four-game winning streak into the weekend and has not allowed a goal since its first game of the season, a 2-1 loss to Central Connecticut State.

But the Lions' opponents have not been so hot. All of the teams that Columbia has defeated have losing records. Still, Columbia's success can be attributed more to its own abilities than to sub-par competition. The Lions' depth means that they do not depend on one superstar to carry them to victories. Seven players have scored for Columbia this year, and a total of 15 have taken shots.

COLUMBIA VS. HOFSTRA

Columbia Soccer Stadium, Friday, 7 p.m.



"I'm eager to see who's going to step up this weekend," head coach Kevin McCarthy said. "I expect certain players will continue to do so, and I'm looking forward to seeing other people take their opportunities as well."

This past weekend, two freshmen tallied their first career goals. Forward Beverly Leon scored against Fordham, while midfielder Chelsea Ryan found the back of the net against Stony Brook.

"It's great because as soon as they get those first goals in, then more just start to come," Hostetler said. "They deserved those goals, and they've been working really hard—as our entire team has—so [the] more people scoring, the better."

Ryan, who also had an assist against Fordham, received Ivy League Co-Rookie of the Week honors on Monday. But she is not the only Columbia player being recognized for her performances. Junior goalkeeper Lillian Klein was named the Ivy Player of the Week and the ECAC

Division I Defensive Player of the Week.

Columbia shows no signs of slowing down, but Hofstra (4-1-0) will be its greatest test of the young season. The Pride is receiving votes in the NSCAA national rankings. Its only loss came against Boston College, which was then ranked seventh in the nation and is now fourth. Like Columbia, Hofstra regrouped from a season-opening defeat to win its next four games.

Hofstra has also displayed a powerful offense that could rival that of the Lions. The Pride scored a combined 13 goals in its wins, peaking with a 4-1 victory over Fordham. Hofstra is currently second in the NSCAA Mid-Atlantic Region Rankings, while Columbia is tied with Army for seventh after being unranked prior to this week.

St. John's (3-2-1), meanwhile, has achieved three victories and one draw since beginning the year with two shutout losses. Only Michigan State, which is receiving votes in the national rankings, and Texas A&M, which was ranked eighth when it faced St. John's and is now sixth, have defeated the Red

Storm. Like Columbia, St. John's blanked its last four opponents. The Red Storm faces Syracuse on Friday before hosting Columbia.

While St. John's enters the weekend with a two-game winning streak, the Red Storm's offense has been largely absent this season. Only two players have scored, with sophomore forward Runa Stefansdottir netting a team-high two goals.

Last year, Columbia fought to a 1-1 tie with Hofstra and dropped a 2-1 decision to St. John's. Junior forward Ashlin Yahr, who has scored two goals for the Lions this year, netted each of Columbia's goals in those matchups.

With two more victories this weekend, Columbia would have a six-game winning streak. But streaks and previous successes are not Columbia's concerns.

"We need to play better each game," Hostetler said. "Yeah, we won the last two games, no goals in, but the minute that we start to coast and just get set thinking about the past games we've won is when our opponents are going to capitalize."

GOLF

Light Blue back in action this weekend

Both the men's and women's golf teams will be in action this weekend, as they look to continue a solid start to their fall season. The men will play Friday in the seventh annual Jack Rohan Alumni Golf Tournament, which will be held at the Tuxedo Club in New York. The men are coming off a third-place finish in the Rutgers Invitational last weekend. The weekend produced strong showings by senior Clark Granum, who shot a team-low score of 67 in the final round, and freshman Jordan Lee, who shot a 219 over the weekend, which tied him for 15th individually with Granum. Right behind them in 20th place was sophomore Michael Yiu, who shot a 222. Friday's tournament is the annual alumni tournament, and is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m.

The women's golf team will travel to the Princeton Invitational and compete against 10 other teams in the two-day, 54-hole

ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT

Tuxedo Club, Friday, 10 a.m.



PRINCETON INVITATIONAL

Princeton, N.J., Sept. 18-19, 8 a.m.



tournament, which will be held at Springdale Golf Club. Along with Columbia, there will be four other Ivy League schools there, as Princeton, Harvard, Penn, and Yale will all be competing at the event. Last year, Rollins won both the team and individual title. The venue is a par-72 6,131-yard course. This is the 14th annual running of the tournament, and during that span, host Princeton has taken home eight of the team titles, the most recent coming in 2007. Columbia did not participate last year, but in 2008, the team finished in fourth place out of 16 teams.

—Kunal Gupta

VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball continues preparations for Ivies

Coming off its victories in the Columbia Classic last weekend, the Lions volleyball team plays host at the Columbia Invitational this weekend. The Light Blue is scheduled to face Fordham on Friday night, Bucknell late morning Saturday, and Fairleigh Dickinson later that evening. The Lions (4-2) are undefeated at home in Levien Gym, with victories over St. Francis, Lafayette, Central Connecticut State, and Iona.

When asked about challenges facing his team this weekend, head coach Jon Wilson pointed to the Rams' formidable outside hitters. "Fordham has some big hitters. We will have to serve, block, and play floor defense very well in order to be successful." He believes that all three opponents will put up a good fight. However, when pressed for which one would be the toughest, he responded, "We are focused on our first match against Fordham. They are very tough. I doubt it will

COLUMBIA INVITATIONAL

Levien Gym, Sept. 17-18, all day



get easier as we go through the weekend. Bucknell and FDU are also very good."

With Ancient Eight competition looming, this weekend's results will provide a crucial sense of where Columbia stands. So far, the Lions have made the most of their nonconference slate. "We like to see improvement from week to week," Wilson said. "So far we have accomplished that. We want to play at a higher level this weekend than we did last weekend. How we play will tell us something about our readiness for Ivy League play, which begins next weekend."

For Wilson's players, the invitational promises to be an exciting lead-in to next weekend when conference action kicks off with a matchup against Cornell at home.

—Danielle Fong

Columbia to try new lineup in season opener

BY KUNAL GUPTA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

PRINCETON INVITATIONAL

Princeton, N.J., Sept. 17-19, all day



The men's tennis team will play its first tournament of the fall this weekend when it travels to Princeton to take part in the annual Farnsworth/Princeton Invitational. Columbia will be one of 10 schools competing at the event (five are members of the Ivy League). Along with Columbia, Buffalo, Cornell, Fairleigh Dickinson, Penn, Penn State, Princeton, St. John's, and Yale will all be at the tournament. The Lions are coming off back-to-back Ivy League titles, but lost their top two players to graduation, and will likely feature a drastically altered lineup compared to the spring. The tournament will also be the first chance for the team's three freshmen to compete in collegiate action.

"Jon [Wong] and Mihai [Nichifor] left, so the top half of the lineup becomes a little bit weaker from last year," head coach Bid Goswami said. "Haig [Schneiderman] played well, and at the end of the season, I thought he could be very comfortable at No. 1. He started the summer very well, playing some tournaments, but then he hurt his back. He's had to go a little slow, and so we'll see since he didn't really play for three weeks."

Schneiderman is entered in the "A" singles draw, along with sophomore Cyril Bucher, who played No. 4 singles last year. Schneiderman will play Jason Lee from Penn State in the first round, and Bucher will face Matija Pecotic from Princeton. Pecotic played No. 1 for Princeton last season and beat Wong when the two teams squared off in the final match of the season. The top seed in the draw is sophomore Marc Powers from Yale. Powers was last year's Ivy League Rookie of the Year and Player of the Year, the first player to ever win both awards in the same season.

In the "B" singles draw, Nathaniel Gery, Rajeev Deb-Sen, Tizian Bucher, and Kevin Kung are all entered, with Jason Magnes from Penn as the top overall seed.

"Nate lost 16 pounds over the summer," Goswami said, "and while his tennis might be a bit rusty, his base is definitely there, which is always a good sign."

Deb-Sen and Kung split time at No. 5 singles last season, and Gery played mostly at No. 6. Gery will take on Yale's Joel Samaha, and Deb-Sen will face George Tibil from Buffalo. In a rematch of his first-round match a year ago, Kung will play Erik Blumenkranz from Yale, who beat him in three sets.

Sophomore John Yetimoglu will be the only Columbia player in the "C" singles draw, as he takes on No. 2 seed Marcelo Mazzeto from Buffalo.

"John is playing well," Goswami said. "He's come a long way from last year. At the end of the season, he was really knocking on the door [of the singles lineup], and I think he really trained hard over the summer. He played a lot with Jon and Mihai as well, and I think he is really the beneficiary of their games."

Senior Sho Matsumoto is the top seed in the "D" singles draw and is joined by freshman Ian Laster. Matsumoto will play Princeton's Michael Lin in the first round, and Laster will take on fellow freshman Zhongming Chen from Cornell.

"Ian is a big, strong kid," Goswami said. "We'll see how he does in matches, but he has looked good in practice."

Senior Alex Lee will be the only Lion playing in the "E" singles draw.

Columbia has two doubles teams in the "A" doubles draw, as Kung and Gery will take on a duo from Penn, and Schneiderman and Laster will face a team from Buffalo. In the "B" doubles draw, Deb-Sen and Matsumoto will play a Yale doubles team, and the two Bucher brothers will also team up against a pair from Fairleigh Dickinson. In the final doubles draw, Columbia only has one doubles team of John Yetimoglu and Alex Lee.

"Nate and Kevin played against Wake Forest [in the NCAA Tournament] and they played well," Goswami said, "and the two Bucher brothers played some summer tournaments and played well together, so we figured we will leave them together and see what happens."

The tournament will start at 9 a.m. on Friday and continue through Sunday.

Men's soccer aims to bounce back in home opener

BY MRINAL MOHANKA
Spectator Staff Writer

The Columbia men's soccer team (1-3-1) will be hoping to return to its winning ways when St. Peter's pays a visit tomorrow for the Lions' home opener. The Light Blue lost 2-1 at Fordham midweek and will be hoping to recapture the form that won it the Mayor's Cup last weekend.

Freshmen David Najem and Henning Sauerbier have impressed early this season and are beginning to feel more comfortable in the college environment. "I understand the importance of growing as a team, which our coach stresses, and bringing something to the table," Najem said. "College soccer is much faster than high school, and we're learning to think faster as well as look a few steps ahead during the game." Najem also discussed the importance of playing on

COLUMBIA VS. ST. PETER'S

Columbia Soccer Stadium, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.



friendly grounds. "The environment at our home stadium is spectacular, and it will give us an extra boost of energy and help us show something special," he said. "It's always difficult playing away from home, and now it's our turn to make life difficult for someone."

Sauerbier, who moved here from Germany, credits his teammates for helping him feel at home in Morningside. "They've made life really easy for me by helping me to settle down," he said. "I've been impressed by the facilities here as well. It's all very professional." The Ivy League Co-Rookie of the Week is looking forward to this weekend's showdown. "It's a chance to start a winning run, and a new step in the season," he said.

"For me, personal success is linked to the success of my team, and playing at home will definitely push us—and it's something I'm extremely looking forward to."

In last year's showdown, Columbia seemed to dominate play more or less from start to finish, with now-sophomore Nick Scott shining in his home debut. The Lions couldn't find the back of the net, though, and in the end, two second-half goals within minutes of each other gave St. Peter's a 2-0 win.

The Peacocks (1-3-0) will be looking to avenge a bad run of their own. They suffered a 2-0 defeat at the hands of Rutgers on Sunday in nonconference action despite outshooting the Scarlet Knights 20-12. Goals in the 32nd minute and the 89th minute gave Rutgers the win.

Tomorrow's game kicks off at Columbia Soccer Stadium at 7:30 p.m.



FILE PHOTO

LEADING THE ATTACK | Senior forward Bayo Adafin is the Lions' top scorer this year with two goals.

The few.
The proud.
The sales team.

sales@columbiaspectator.com



PIXBOX

week
#1

- 1: Fordham at Columbia (-6.5)
- 2: Georgetown at Yale (-11.5)
- 3: Stony Brook at Brown (-7.5)
- 4: Princeton at Lehigh (-5.5)
- 5: Cornell at Wagner (+4.5)
- 6: Dartmouth at Bucknell (+4.5)
- 7: Lafayette at Penn (-11.5)
- 8: Holy Cross at Harvard (-3.5)



Michele Cleary (0-0)

Lions
Georgetown
Brown
Constant Lehigh
Cornell
Bucknell
Penn
Crimson

“Read the football supplement! Seriously, do it.”

“Guys, guys. Jacob Levenfeld has a Google alert about himself.” —Michele Cleary

Columbia
Yale
Brown
Engineers
Cornell
Bucknell
Lafayette
Holy Cross



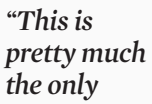
Kunal Gupta (0-0)



Zach Glubiak (0-0)

Mufasa
Yale
Brown
Princeton
Cornell
Bucknell
Lafayette
Harvard

“Norv, seriously, run Ryan Matthews up the middle one more time. It’ll work, I promise.”



“This is pretty much the only reason I have a column.”

Baby blue
A What?
Pass/Fail
Lions, tigers and Gorges
pretty people
Marquis
Holy Cross

Victoria Jones (0-0)



Jacob Levenfeld (0-0)

Yom Kippur
Georgetoen
Brown
Lehigh
Cornell
Darmouth
Lafayette
Holy Cross

“It’s 4:14 in the morning, we haven’t printed, and I’m slurping at the dregs of my vanilla milkshake from Tom’s.”



“I love the smell of fresh pixbox in the morning.”

Columbia
Yale
Stony Brook
Princeton
Wagner
Bucknell
Penn
Harvard

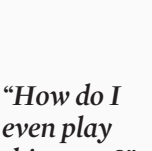
Bart Lopez (0-0)



Jim Pagels (0-0)

Columbia
Georgetown
Brown
Princeton
Cornell
Bucknell
Lafayette
Harvard

“THE SEATTLE STORM ARE WNBA CHAMPI-ONS!!!!”



“How do I even play this game?”

Lions
Bulldogs
Da Bears
Princeton
...Wagner?
Dartmouth
Penn
Harvard

Lauren Seaman (0-0)



Michael Shapiro (0-0)

You’re my boy, Blue
Bulldogs
UPS
Princeton
Big Red
Dartmouth
Penn
Vard

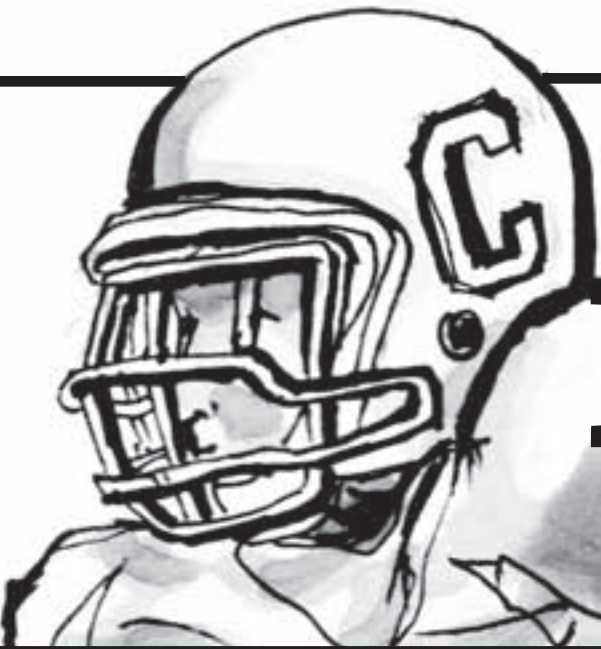
“And the Oscar goes to ... Derek Jeter.”

“[This space will remain empty until the Mc-Courts are forced to sell the Dodgers.]”

Lions
Hoyas
Bears
Tigers
Big Red
Bucknell
Leopards
Holy Cross



Lucas Shaw (0-0)



FRIDAY
FOURTH
DOWN

KEYS TO
THE GAME

1

Brackett in charge

Sophomore Sean Brackett will be at the helm of the Columbia offense on Sunday, and any success moving the ball is going to start with him. Although Brackett got experience playing last season, this will be his first full season as a starter, and his progress will be a key to the Lions’ success.

2

Is Alex Gross back?

Senior Alex Gross was the Lions’ most important player on defense, and one of the best players on the team before he tore his ACL against Lafayette last season. If the Lions hope to contend for any Ivy title, or even a top four finish, Gross will need to be in vintage form on Saturday.

3

Who will step up?

Austin Knowlin, who graduated in the spring, leaves a gaping hole in the offense. The Lions will be looking to senior Mike Stephens and senior Andrew Kennedy to step up and fill Knowlin’s shoes in the receiving game, and give Brackett some reliable targets down the field.

BY THE NUMBERS (2009)

POINTS FOR

COLUMBIA	22.5
FORDHAM	28.5

YARDS GAINED

COLUMBIA	329
FORDHAM	468

POINTS AGAINST

COLUMBIA	22.0
FORDHAM	34.5

YARDS ALLOWED

COLUMBIA	375
FORDHAM	379.5

KEY MATCHUPS

Alex Gross

Xavier Martin

If Alex Gross is less than 100 percent, Xavier Martin will be running all over Columbia’s defense. In their first two games this season, Martin has averaged 80.5 yards per game and 5.4 yards per carry. Martin has played well against Columbia in the past, and in his first action in nearly a year, Gross will need to be in top form.



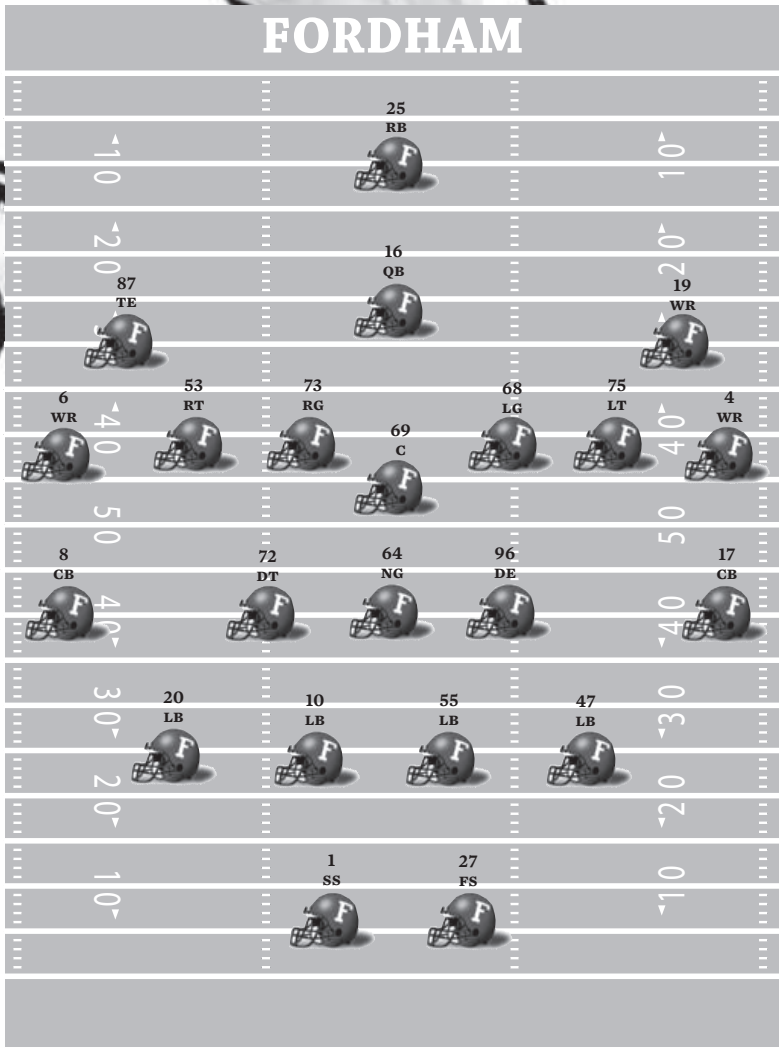
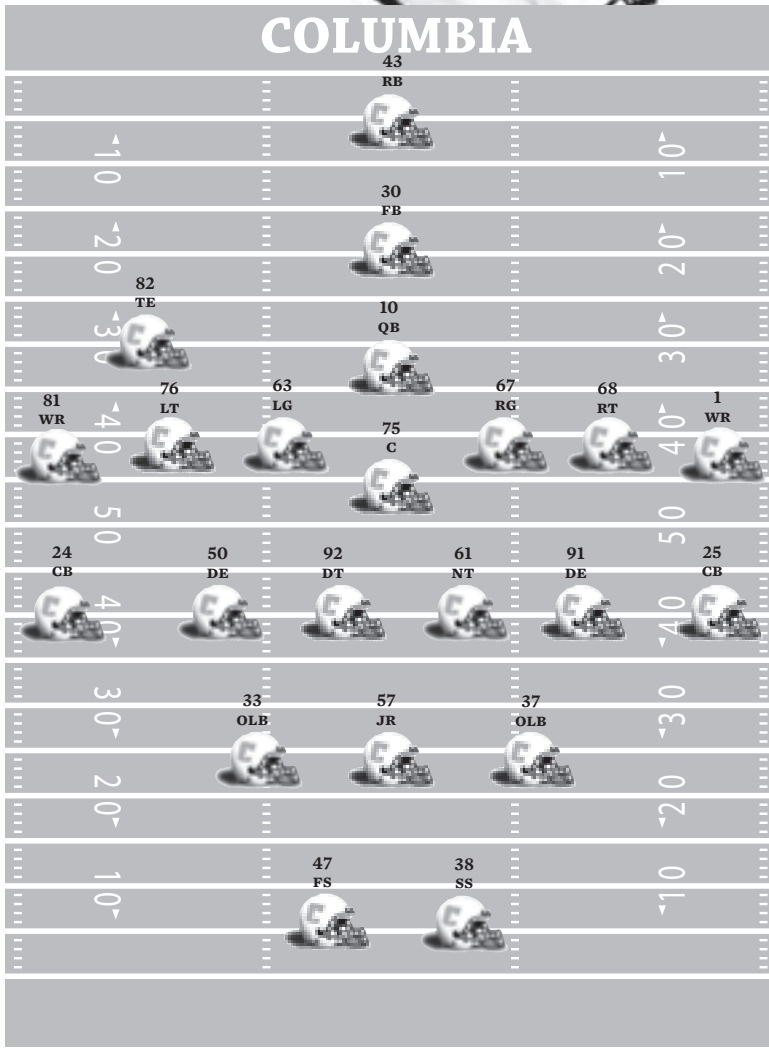
Mike Stephens

Jamal Haruna

Mike Stephens is the player most directly tasked with replacing Austin Knowlin, and he has his work cut out for him in his first week-end. Stephens will be going up against Haruna, who is second on the team with 12 tackles and is tied for third on the team in passes broken up. Both players are listed at 5-foot-11 and will be looking to make their mark early-on.



STARTING LINEUPS



GAMEDAY

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 • PAGE 8

COLUMBIA (0-0) vs. FORDHAM (1-1)

SATURDAY, 12:30 P.M., ROBERT K. KRAFT FIELD

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Football to face Fordham at home to open season

BY VICTORIA JONES
Spectator Staff Writer

Tomorrow's season opener against Fordham (1-1) will be fans' first look at the new Columbia Lions football team. Following the graduation of the class of 2010, several Light Blue players have had to step up and fill in gaps in the lineup in anticipation of Saturday's game.

The Rams themselves have had several empty spots to fill on their roster. Four-year starting quarterback John Skelton, who led Fordham's offense throughout his collegiate career, vacated his spot in the huddle and left the position open for sophomore Blake Wayne.

A transfer from Diablo Valley Community College, Wayne is a rookie on the Bronx gridiron and hasn't had much time to settle in with his new team. Despite his novice status on the Fordham squad, Wayne has managed to help lead them to a 1-1 start on the season.

The Rams had a tough start to their fall schedule with a 44-30 loss to Bryant on the road. But they were able to recover quickly, beating Rhode Island 27-25 last weekend. After following Fordham's early-season trials, Columbia head coach Norries Wilson figures the Rams will be a tough competitor this weekend.

"They were down big against Bryant, 20-0, came back, and got it to 36-30, I believe, and they were down and came back to win against Rhode Island," Wilson recalled at a weekly teleconference. "We're sure going to be in a dogfight."

One thing the Lions will have to focus

on in the game is stymieing Fordham's offense.

"Well, we've got to be able to stop the run," Wilson said. "They've got a good tailback over there. I think Fordham last year had a pro playing quarterback, so they threw the ball a bunch and they forgot they had a really good tailback behind him."

Columbia, however, has an experienced defense that has been training hard in the offseason for just such a challenge. With the return of some previously injured players, the Lions have the depth to showcase a rock-solid defense this season.

"It's great to have those guys [Owen Fraser and Alex Gross] back. They're good players and there's no substitute for good players," Wilson said.

Also returning to the field will be sophomore quarterback Sean Brackett. Though the Light Blue's game plan at the start of last season did not involve a freshman under center, Brackett was pushed into service against Yale and saw action in four games at the end of last season.

"Coming in last year and playing a couple games, it was really helpful for this year," Brackett said. "I think just a little bit of experience is going to help a lot for this season."

If recent history has any bearing on the upcoming game, the Lions have a good shot at winning the Liberty Cup this weekend. When Columbia went to the Bronx for last year's subway series, circumstances appeared quite similar. The Light Blue was gearing up for its first game of the season



FILE PHOTO

SEE FOOTBALL, page 3

POISED FOR VICTORY | Sophomore quarterback Sean Brackett will try to help the Lions defend the Liberty Cup.



COURTESY OF FORDHAM ATHLETICS

ICE VEINS | Facing a fourth-quarter deficit, Blake Wayne drove his team down the field for the winning touchdown against Rhode Island.

Sophomore transfer anchors Fordham offense

BY ROBERT WREN GORDON
Columbia Daily Spectator

For the past four years, when the Columbia defenders have lined up in the Liberty Cup, former Fordham quarterback John Skelton has been staring back at them across the line of scrimmage. However, Skelton has moved on to the NFL, where he was drafted in the fifth round of the 2010 NFL Draft this past April, and now plays for the Arizona Cardinals.

With Skelton's departure for the pros, a gaping hole must be filled for Fordham at quarterback. Blake Wayne, a sophomore who recently transferred from Diablo Valley Community College in Pleasant Hill, Calif., hopes to fill these shoes. Wayne is a dual-threat quarterback coming off a great freshman year, during which he passed for over 1,500 yards and threw for 15 touchdowns. Wayne also rushed for an additional 617 yards, scoring 14 times and averaging over 4.8 yards per carry. "[Wayne] has been a breath of fresh air here," Fordham head

coach Tom Masella said in a Thursday interview. "He's brought a whole new element to our team—he's an upbeat, energetic guy. He makes plays with both his feet and his arm."

So far, Wayne has gotten off to a great start in his first two games this season, his first of Division I play. Wayne has been a true dual-threat for Fordham at the quarterback position, completing over 60 percent of his passes and passing for nearly 450 yards and two scores. Wayne has also rushed for 162 yards on 33 attempts this season, averaging an impressive 4.9 yards per carry while scoring an additional three touchdowns on the ground.

His early prowess has led Fordham to a 1-1 record ahead of Saturday's contest against the Lions, with the Rams coming off an impressive nail-biting win over Rhode Island last Saturday. Wayne has already demonstrated a knack for rising to the occasion late in the game. During last Saturday's game, Wayne led the Rams on an impressive drive in the waning minutes

of the fourth quarter. The Rams took over at their own 29-yard line, down 23-21. Thanks to Wayne's leadership, along with a fortuitous pass interference call, Fordham survived a third-and-12 from its own 27 and marched down the field. The drive culminated in Wayne's game-winning touchdown on an eight-yard run with only 2:02 remaining.

As with any exceptional passer, winning is the norm and not the exception for Wayne. "Blake won a lot in high school and I think he's going to win a lot in college," Coach Masella said. "We're certainly fortunate enough to have him with us here at Fordham." Wayne played high school football at De La Salle High School in Concord, Calif., where he learned from some of the nation's best coaches at the school which currently holds the national high school football record for consecutive wins, with 151 straight between 1992 and 2003.

As a dual-threat passer, Wayne will test Columbia's pass and rush defense. Expect a compelling matchup.

Bringing out the best in us

Every year, in the weeks leading up to Columbia's first football game, Spec Sports columnists weigh in with their thoughts on the upcoming season. Most (but not all) of these columns—especially the ones that run the day before the first game—are filled with hope. They often aim to convince readers that this is the Lions' year—this is the year we're going to earn a winning record. This year will be different, they say, and that's



MICHELE
CLEARY

**I Can
See
Cleary
Now**

SEE CLEARY, page 3

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Shteyngart

On his own ‘Super True Story’

“In the first two books I destroyed what was left of the Soviet Union, and in this book, I destroy America.”

—Gary Shteyngart, author and Columbia professor, on his latest novel



ILLUSTRATION BY CINDY PAN

His take on writing, teaching, and what we can really learn from books



ILLUSTRATION BY DARYL SEITCHIK

BY EMILY TAMKIN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Gary Shteyngart is an acclaimed novelist, a brilliant satirist, a Soviet-Jewish immigrant, an associate professor at Columbia’s School of the Arts, and, apparently, an expert on cabbage. There is, he said, “a shared loved of cabbage” between Koreans and Russians: “The Koreans do it a little better, but both countries have faced starvation in the past and love cabbage in the present.”

This is not an explanation of plans for a future pan-Eurasian farm, but rather a backdrop for the love between Lenny Abramov and Eunice Park, the main characters of Shteyngart’s third and latest novel, “Super Sad True Love Story.”

The novel, released in late July, is a look at a dystopian near future in which all money is tied to the yuan, America is a fallen giant, New York is (even more) exclusively owned by upper-class white people, and nobody goes anywhere without a tiny technological device that is everything from a text messenger to a shopping service to a broadcaster of one’s “fuckability.” It is also a world in which nobody “knows how to read long-form texts.” How did Shteyngart and his readers get to such a world?

THE PAST

Born in Leningrad—now St. Petersburg—Shteyngart immigrated to the U.S. as a child (though one would not know this from his perfect

English). His ownership of two languages—he writes in English but said his mind is divided between the two, and that Russian often infiltrates his dreams, “especially when I’m having a nightmare”—serves him well in writing about Soviet immigrants, as he has done in all three of his books.

The Soviet Union was a much more prevalent character in his previous two novels, “The Russian Debutante’s Handbook” and “Absurdistan.”

“The first book I wrote when I was a senior in college, and at that age you’re still wondering, ‘Who am I?’” he said. “The second book was very political, even more than this book.”

SEE SHTEYNGART, page B2

New York City Ballet begins new season, welcomes students

BY MELISSA VON MAYRHAUSER
Spectator Staff Writer

In a fitting gesture, New York City Ballet dancers opened their arms to the crowd in the opening number of their first performance of the season on Wednesday night.

The mid-September opening marked an unusually early beginning to NYCB’s fall season. The transition to an extended season will allow viewers—including Columbia students—to profit from the increased opportunities to see such high-quality ballet.

NYCB is working with Columbia to attract more students to their performances with a variety of special September ticket offers. The organization is offering complimentary membership in their Fourth Ring Society for Columbia students, faculty, and staff on certain dates this fall. NYCB will also continue its tradition of holding Columbia Thursdays, which allow students to pay a mere \$15 to see a performance on any Thursday in September.

Even for students who have never seen a professional ballet or do not count themselves as ballet aficionados, the low ticket price and high-profile repertoire are ample motivation to test the New York City Ballet waters. The opening week performances set a jubilant tone for the rest of September, which will highlight the work of George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, and other major choreographers.

SEE BALLET, page B2

‘Bring Your Own Food’ bar trend aids student appetites, budgets

BY KAVITHA SURANA
Columbia Daily Spectator

Students have probably heard of BYOB (bring your own booze), but what about BYOF? The concept of “bring your own food” to bars has great potential in a city of foodies, creative cooks, and starving college students, but the trend still hasn’t hit its stride.

BYOF seems to have arisen for a number of practical reasons. Sometimes patrons at a bar get hungry. Sometimes bars don’t maintain kitchens. So the bar keeps a selection of menus and encourages clients to order delivery from nearby restaurants or bring food from home.

Mé Bar on 32nd Street between Fifth Avenue and Broadway is one such place. Located on a bustling Midtown street dotted with Korean restaurants, Mé Bar is a rooftop oasis above La Quinta Hotel. Though the space is quite small, it has a view looking up at the Empire State Building, and the vibe is laid-back and unpretentious. Dig into a spread prepared beforehand, such as cheese and hummus with veggies, or grab a few dishes from a nearby Korean restaurant to share with friends. Students might feel a bit awkward at first, since the practice of bringing outside food doesn’t seem to be very common there, but once they start tipping back the \$6 beers and \$7 well drinks, it will seem like a pretty sweet deal.

Sports fans can take advantage of the BYOF option at a variety of bars on the Lower East Side. Grab a few beers and order in while watching Sunday’s game at **Finnerty’s**, **Kelly’s**, or **Standings**—three sports bars that practice the BYOF policy. They often cater to large groups, and since they don’t offer food at the bar, they are perfectly happy to let customers satisfy their munchies during a game with local deliveries



ANTHONY CLAY FOR SPECTATOR

FAST FOOD | Although they have been largely underpublicized and slow to catch on, BYOF policies at some NY bars have the potential to make nights out more student-friendly.

such as hot wings and burgers as long as they buy their drinks at the bar. Standings even orders free pizza from Ray’s on Fridays after 8 p.m. and gives away free bagels on Sundays.

Further afield, some bars in Brooklyn allow patrons to grill in their backyards, a rare treat for college students who would never dream of putting a grill in their dorm kitchen. **East River Bar**, located at Sixth Street and Bedford Avenue just off the L line in Williamsburg, is a prime place to show off grilling skills to a group of friends. It is necessary to call in advance, but the bar supplies the charcoal and students can bring their own selections of meats and barbecue sauces. Even deeper into Brooklyn, **Franklin Park**, located at St. Johns Place and Franklin Avenue, offers a similar service, though it’s doubtful that

many students would venture that far during a busy semester.

Despite these BYOF options, the trend has yet to truly catch on across the city. This sluggishness is disappointing, because a true BYOF movement could be a wonderful improvement to city nightlife for students trying to go out on the cheap. New York can be very expensive, and this sometimes deters students from leaving campus. BYOF allows students the best of both worlds: the opportunity to experience a night out with friends in a different part of town, but also the option to bring inexpensive home-prepared eats instead of spending extra cash on costly bar food. Sipping a glass of wine or trying out a new cocktail on a Saturday night feels so much better without a guilt-inducingly light wallet.

Great NY parks outside the Columbia bubble



PARK PLACE | Though trips to stroll through Riverside and lounge in Central Park are a great way to escape the energy of urban life (even if only for an afternoon), New York offers some of the most diverse parks in the world for Columbians to check out, from the natural green of Wave Hill (top left, bottom left) to the modern, urban Highline (top center, bottom center, right).

EMBRY OWEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

THE HIGH LINE

A city park is usually a place to temporarily escape from the urban experience, where the only reminder of the city that surrounds is the tip of a high-rise poking above the trees. The High Line, one of New York’s newest parks, has no such illusions. Built on a formerly derelict section of the old West Side Elevated rail line, it stretches from the Meatpacking District north into Chelsea and gives visitors a different sense of what is “natural” in an urban environment. Even the High Line’s plants were chosen because they “naturally” spring up on land that nature has reclaimed, creating a park that is carefully tended to look just the opposite. The park is also unique because it embraces and adopts the urban life cycle of construction, decay, and renewal. The elevated platform gives visitors a candid but strangely removed view of the lower Manhattan waterfront as they walk between new condos and rusting, graffiti-bombed, industrial warehouses. This uncanny feeling is best experienced at the viewing platform directly above the intersection of 10th Avenue and 17th Street, which is effectively an amphitheater 20 feet above a stage of 10th Avenue car and foot traffic. Urban life is on display at the High Line, at a distance just far enough to offer a fresh perspective.

—Simon Rimmele

COMMUNITY GARDENS

A little off the beaten track, the small plots of land squeezed between apartment buildings that make up the Alphabet City Community Gardens are charming and enticing—and maintained by neighborhood residents. On Sixth Street between avenues A and B, there are two particularly private-seeming gardens that do the trick. Grab a picnic table at the large Sixth Street and Avenue B Community Garden and relax for a lunch al fresco. Bonus: The residents who maintain the garden often stage events such as musical performances or art workshops there. Down the street, the Creative Little Garden is smaller, but the perfect place to escape to sit under a tree and read a book. Students can appreciate unique touches such as eccentric statuettes and bright red lilies and begonias decorating the garden path. These are only two of the many gardens in the area. Leisurely wandering through these spots can be a romantic way to explore a lesser-known area of New York. For Columbians dead-set on going to a particular garden, be sure to check the Gardens’ website for opening hours before going. Otherwise, students should go on the weekend, when the gardens are most likely to be open, and spontaneously see which “secret garden” they stumble into.

—Kavitha Surana

WAVE HILL

Spend a day gazing at the vistas that inspired the likes of Theodore Roosevelt and Mark Twain or strolling through exotic greenhouses at Wave Hill. Boasting 28 acres that overlook a picture-perfect stretch of the Hudson River, Wave Hill is upper Manhattan’s best-kept secret oasis. It’s easily accessible, nestled right above campus in the Bronx—ride the uptown 1 to the end of the line, stand in front of the Burger King outside the subway entrance on West 242nd Street, and catch the free Wave Hill shuttle at 10 past the hour. The park is affordable, with a student rate of \$4, and it has something for everyone—giant grassy hillsides for Frisbee throwers, beautiful galleries for artists, historic houses for architects, wooded paths and seasonal gardens for nature lovers, a delicious and very affordable café for caffeine addicts, and a rich past as a private estate for history buffs. Wave Hill housed powerful industry tycoons, prolific artists, European queens, famous scientists, and U.S. presidents before it became open to the public. Now a refuge for overworked Columbians, Wave Hill provides some healthy perspective: a day away from the tangle of concrete and textbooks.

—Lulu Mickelson

Shteyngart on writing, teaching, and what we learn from books

SHTEYNGART from page B1

Essentially, “In the first two books I destroyed what was left of the Soviet Union, and in this book [“Super Sad True Love Story”], I destroy America,” he said, noting dryly, “It’s a step up.”

THE PRESENT

“The way the kind of fiction I write works is you start from two angles,” Shteyngart said, explaining how he came up with the idea for his latest work. “The first is characters. Lenny is from a very different world: the world of reading, thinking, and introspection.”

Lenny—a Soviet-Jewish immigrant and the only character in the book who not only reads but also owns books—meets Eunice, a Korean American, while they are both in Rome. Shteyngart said that Eunice “is someone from the post-digital world. The idea is then, how do you make them fall in love, and what happens?”

And the second angle? “It’s about a future society, and what will befall us if civilization takes a turn,” he said.

This future—without books or reading—seems, at least at points, eerily similar to the present.

Shteyngart noted that people bombarded with information from the Internet all day don’t want to “go home and face 350 pages.” And with the popularity of Kindles and iPads, he said, “Sales are migrating to electronic formats more and more each day. I’m happy that people read in any way, shape, or form, but there is a kind of sacredness to the book as an object. A book says, ‘For the next six, seven hours, you’re mine. You’ll be slowly lowered into the consciousness of another human being.’”

In the case of Shteyngart’s latest novel, that consciousness is at once fiercely funny and, as promised, super sad. “You have to often modulate your ability to be humorous,” he said, adding that his graduate school mentor told him, “You can keep writing comedy of manners, or you can strike at the guts. ... For funny writers, that’s always going to be a challenge.”

THE FUTURE

Shteyngart’s own future will (hopefully) not include witnessing the downfall of civilization. Instead, he will continue to teach at SoA, which he likened to “entering a brain trust. It’s a very rare experience where everyone loves books and wants to read them.” Because he finds satirical writing

somewhat exhausting, Shteyngart thinks his next project will be “to go on and write a memoir or a series of essays on my childhood.”

And what does the non-fictional future hold for the rest of us? Will we, too, end up tied to the yuan if we give up on reading?

Shteyngart said that there are other, more immediate causes for concern, the most important being “that the world is getting much, much warmer.” He did, however, explain that for him, reading is a very powerful way of understanding other people.

“One thing our society is lacking is this kind of empathy. Reading gives you another perspective on the world,” he said. And while acknowledging that movies and television also provide this sort of empathetic access, Shteyngart emphasized that books provide the most direct entry to another’s consciousness: “It [reading] is so important, and if we lose this ability, we’re doing ourselves a great disservice.”

But then, readers of “Super Sad True Love Story” already know that not having access to Shteyngart’s funny, profound, and cabbage-loving consciousness would be quite the disservice, indeed.

New York City Ballet begins new season

BALLET from page B1

During one of the rotating segments of the September shows, dancers performed “Who Cares?”, an upbeat piece consisting of several of George Gershwin’s most iconic songs, such as “Embraceable You.” During a pas de deux, a couple points to a set design piece featuring New York City, reminding the audience of the allure of the city that they share.

“Who Cares?” and other jazzier pieces are offered alongside more classical ballets. Students who have taken Music Hum might recognize pieces choreographed to the familiar sounds of Stravinsky and Tchaikovsky, and perhaps enjoy having a visual aid to accompany the music they had only previously heard from inside a classroom.

With the New York City Ballet offering such a warm welcome to Columbians, ballet newcomers and lifelong fans alike may find the company’s fall season to be right on pointe.

events

WILDCARD

Beekeeping class

—The Arsenal at Central Park (on the east side at Fifth Avenue and 64th Street), Sunday, Sept. 19, free

To celebrate this week in bizarre NYC events, check out the free lecture and lab in beekeeping at Central Park Arsenal. It turns out that beekeeping only became legal in New York this March, so celebrate with a prime chance at getting hands-on with some real life urban farming.

FILM

John Hughes marathon

—Film Society of Lincoln Center, 70 Lincoln Center Plaza (between Broadway and Amsterdam), Sunday, Sept. 19, \$9 student tickets

The pop culture canon wouldn’t be what it is without the films of director John Hughes. On the anniversary of his untimely passing, you can catch one or a couple of his classic films like “Home Alone,” “Sixteen Candles,” and “The Breakfast Club.” For an added bonus, after the screening of “Sixteen Candles,” there will be a Q&A with 80s teen icon and star of the movie Molly Ringwald.

WILDCARD

Kayaking on the Hudson

—The Downtown Boathouse at 72nd Street and the Hudson River, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday Sept. 18-19, free

Until Oct. 10 (or until you decide it’s too cold to wear a bathing suit and go for a dip), you can wake the echoes of the Hudson River by taking advantage of free kayaking with friends every Saturday and Sunday. Worst case scenario, you’ll just learn how important it is that you take Beginner Swimming before you give Columbia’s swim test a try.

MUSIC

The Walkmen

—Terminal 5, 610 W. 56 St. (between 11th and 12th avenues), Thursday, Dec. 2 (tickets on sale Friday, Sept. 17), \$25

After being evicted from their Harlem recording studio by CU in 2006, five-piece indie band The Walkmen are returning to New York as a part of their tour for their new album, “Lisbon,” which dropped on Tuesday. Tickets go on sale on Friday for their Dec. 2 concert, so act fast if you want to see the band live—it’s not like you’ll have any studying to do in December.



COURTESY OF FOX SEARCHLIGHT

TURN A PAGE | The Fox Searchlight adaptation of Kazuo Ishiguro’s “Never Let Me Go” opens Friday starring Carey Mulligan opens Friday.

‘Never Let Me Go’

On big screen, beloved book shines

BY KATIE RIETBERG
Columbia Daily Spectator

The film adaptation of Kazuo Ishiguro’s novel “Never Let Me Go” gives audiences a look into a world of futuristic medical advancements, while also questioning and discovering what it means to be human through the eyes of three children born with the same mysterious destiny.

For the first few minutes of the film, the plainly painted screen shifts between hushed blues and greens while white print recounts the remarkable progress made in this alternate reality, a 1990s post-war Britain where diseases are curable through the use of cloned organ “donors.” The main characters of the film are two of these future donors, a boy and a girl, Kathy and Tommy, played by Oscar nominee Carey Mulligan and soon-to-be Spiderman Andrew Garfield. The opening scene takes place in a hospital, where the only warmth to be found is in the connection between Kathy and Tommy as they stare at each other through a plane of glass that divides them.

As the film continues, Kathy narrates the story and the viewer is taken into her vivid memories. She recollects her childhood at Hailsham—the boarding school she and her two best friends, Tommy and Ruth (played by Keira Knightley), called home—as well as their lives after they left the school as teenagers and the tension that tore them apart. The film is faithful to the novel by keeping the same bal-

There is no climactic kiss or death contrived to make the audience gasp or sob. The story is beautiful in its simplicity, showing the intertwining lives of Kathy, Tommy, and Ruth and their underlying feelings of sorrow.

ance of fragile moments that compose the book, as the viewer is swept up in the rushing current of the science fiction backdrop.

In the final scene before the film concludes, Tommy and Kathy clutch each other as if they are drifting apart with each ticking second. There is no climactic kiss or death contrived to make the audience gasp or sob. The story is beautiful in its simplicity, showing the intertwining lives of Kathy, Tommy, and Ruth and their underlying feelings of sorrow.

Director Mark Romanek lingers on the earnest faces of the story’s protagonists, which mirror the muted longing of the violin in Rachel Portman’s score, especially the track “Kathy and Tommy.” There is a haunting sense of continuity in the expressions and mannerisms of each character as they grow up—young Kathy’s subtle flinch when she hears of the future that awaits all Hailsham students, and her silent heartbreak as she spies Ruth taking Tommy’s hand. These moments reveal a vulnerability that betrays Kathy’s reserve, just like the quiet beauty of Mulligan’s trembling lip as she watches Ruth and Tommy’s blossoming relationship from the outside. With a tender heart, Ishiguro’s story beautifully examines the meaning of a complete life through a heroine who was created to sacrifice her own.



‘Easy A’

Stone flick makes the grade

BY VALERIYA SAFRONOVA
Spectator Staff Writer

As the years pass, some things that we refused to believe during our childhoods become very clear: vegetables are actually healthy, Hogwarts doesn’t exist, and high school kind of sucks.

“Easy A,” Will Gluck’s latest film, throws some of high school’s worst aspects directly in the viewers’ faces, including gossip, backstabbing, group think, and bucketfuls of judgment. Following in the footsteps of all teenage drama-romance-comedy melting pots, “Easy A” concludes with everyone learning their lessons.

Main character Olive’s whole dilemma begins when she lies to her overeager best friend—who considers herself a whore after being “motorboated” in a parking lot—and tells her that she lost her virginity. In an exaggerated version of a high school grapevine, the story spreads, grows, and bites Olive in the heel hours later. Fanning the fire with flawed attempts at saving Olive from hell is a group of kids—led by Amanda Bynes—who are a cross between Jehovah’s Witnesses and “Mean Girls.” With rumors of Olive’s sexual exploits at a peak, “Easy A” feebly attempts to teach a lesson about popularity, with Olive deciding to use her notoriety to change her life and make some money.

Inspired by the godfather of all teen melodramas, John Hughes, “Easy A” doesn’t fail to include a quirky family, a smart protagonist, and an unattainable love interest. It follows a formula, but avoids becoming a clichéd movie in the face of a stack of “Twilights” and “High School Musicals.” As Olive, Emma Stone balances wit, self-deprecation, and a hesitant sexiness perfectly—much more believably than her co-star



COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES

ROLLING STONE | Emma Stone’s latest movie “Easy A,” opening Friday, narrowly avoids becoming a high school cliché.

Penn Badgley does. In her borderline-dominatrix outfits, Olive is the hero all students may have wished for in their own versions of the terrible teens. Working in tandem with Stone’s performance is the clever dialogue, which manages to avoid a crossover into “Gilmore Girls” territory.

The adults in the movie are all slightly insane, but well-meaning and hilarious to watch. “Easy A” venerates the young as many movies like this tend to do, with the advice proffered by the “grown-ups” ranging from stupid to hugely selfish.

Though the producers perhaps expect the take-away message from this light-hearted film to be simple—girls should have power over the level of sexuality in their lives—the plot touches on heavier themes, such as the power of rumor and labels. The word “whore” is thrown around often, with associations ranging from low self-worth to lost virginity. In a memorable scene, Olive and her friend discuss “identifiers,” the words that characterize a person in the eyes of her peers. But perhaps to search for deeper meanings is fruitless. After all, as Olive’s principal tells her, “this is public school.”



COURTESY OF PATRICK HEAGNEY

FROM MONTREAL WITH LOVE | Indie pop/rock band Of Montreal has a new album “False Priest,” which went on sale on Wednesday. The band will be playing downtown this week along with Janelle Monáe to promote the album.

‘False Priest,’ Of Montreal

New CD builds on old themes

BY ZOE CAMP
Columbia Daily Spectator

Of Montreal’s Kevin Barnes is an odd fellow. Last year, when the psychedelic-pop-funk mastermind brought the outfit’s whimsy to a very-much-anticipated Bacchanal, he requested, among other things, face paint and large, cloth diapers to be worn by the dancers on stage.

It may seem like just another wacky rider, but Barnes’ list of essentials serves as a perfect example of what Of Montreal stands for: not merely easy, listenable music but rather carnal, no-questions-asked fun. Simply put, Of Montreal is weird, and their latest release, “False Priest,” which went on sale on Wednesday, does little to change that distinction. That said, it’s a delightful, accessible record that swaps the superfluous concept album schtick of recent discs for a tauter, more aggressive sound that showcases—and indeed celebrates—Barnes’ innate talents as a musician, a songwriter, and, yes, a weirdo.

The record’s standout track “Like a Tourist” is a blissful cacophony of searing guitars, vocoder-tinged vocals, lyrics about “unicorns eating baby meat,” and Euro synths. Barnes also shows a new side to the band’s sound with the album’s collaborative efforts: Beyonce’s little sister Solange makes a

sultry cameo in the swooning “Sex Karma” and Janelle Monáe shines on “Enemy Gene,” which sounds like a B-side from her excellent 2010 release, “The ArchAndroid.”

The rest of “False Priest,” however, is standard Of Montreal fare. “Girl Named Hello,” a disco romp showcasing bubbly bass and stacked falsettos, could have easily been on any of the past three albums. As for the lyrics, Barnes sticks to his favorite subjects: sex and the psychopathic women he has it with. “I’m still way erect for you, I’m not gonna lie,” he yelps less than a minute into “I Feel Ya’ Strutter,” the punchy and upbeat album opener.

Although familiar listeners will get the feeling that they’ve heard the same relationship story a million times, they’ll find it hard not to be amused by songs such as “Our Riotous Defects,” in which Barnes begins one of his many spoken-word interludes with a casual “When I first met you at that Al-Anon meeting.”

The bitter-but-awkward-nymphomaniac motif that has become synonymous with Of Montreal’s music is definitely starting to show its age after three albums almost wholly centered around it. Is that a bad thing? Not necessarily. The music is as punchy as ever, much more succinct, and Barnes’ raw sexual energy might be what alternative music needs in an otherwise brooding musical landscape. While “False Priest” may not be the band’s definitive release—that honor belongs to 2007’s “Hissing Fauna, Are You the Destroyer?”—it’s a very solid record that will sound terrific performed live. Those hoping to witness such a spectacle are in luck.

Of Montreal and Janelle Monáe will play two shows at Terminal 5 on Friday and Saturday.

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clean slate.

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AT FORDHAM
9/19/09
W 40-28



VS. CENTRAL CONN. ST.
9/26/09
L 22-13



AT PRINCETON
10/3/09
W 38-0



AT LAFAYETTE
10/10/09
L 24-21



VS. PENN
10/17/09
L 27-13



AT DARTMOUTH
10/24/09
L 28-6



VS. YALE
10/31/09
L 23-22



VS. HARVARD
11/7/09
L 34-14



AT CORNELL
11/14/09
W 30-20



VS. BROWN
11/21/09
W 28-14



FILE PHOTO

Going into the year, no one knew what to expect. The Lions brought the Liberty Cup back to Morningside Heights in a thriller against Fordham, dominated Princeton in the most decisive win in the rivalry's history, and capped the season off with a convincing win over Brown. In between, Columbia suffered heartbreaks at the hands of Lafayette and Yale and were embarrassed by a mediocre Dartmouth squad. 2009 was truly a season of ups and downs for the Light Blue—a roller coaster that left the players wondering what might have been.

HIGHS & LOWS



FILE PHOTO



COLUMBIA AT FORDHAM

After two straight years of dropping their first game to the Rams, the Lions brought the Liberty Cup to Morningside with a 40-28 victory. It was a back-and-forth game for most of the first half, with Fordham drawing first blood. The Light Blue recovered quickly, though, taking a 27-21 lead by the end of the half. Columbia's Jared Morine put a cap on the game when he intercepted Fordham quarterback John Skelton's pass in the fourth quarter and ran 36 yards for a touchdown, increasing the Lions' lead by six. Andy Shalbrack sealed the victory for the Lions with another interception in the Columbia end zone that stopped the Rams at the Columbia eight-yard line.



COLUMBIA AT LAFAYETTE

Columbia dominated the first half against Lafayette before ultimately falling to the Leopards in heartbreaking fashion. Senior quarterback Millicent Olawale put the Lions on the scoreboard with a 27-yard touchdown run, and freshman kicker Gregory Guttas converted the extra point to give Columbia a 7-0 lead in the first quarter. At halftime, the Lions held a 21-10 advantage, but Columbia did not score at all in the second half. The Leopards got within four points of Columbia with a third-quarter touchdown and the final blow came with just 13 seconds left in the fourth, when senior tailback Maurice White's two-yard run gave Lafayette the 24-21 victory.



COLUMBIA AT PRINCETON

Columbia made history in its first Ivy League game of the year by crushing Princeton in a 38-0 shellacking. The Light Blue offense, defense, and special teams gave a complete effort in the rout, breaking the game open with Jared Morine's third-quarter interception return for a touchdown. Columbia scored via the run, the pass, the scramble, the turnover, and the field goal. The victory was the Lions' biggest ever against Princeton and their first conference road shutout since 1961. The best part? It had to be the Daily Princetonian's headline for their game recap: "Perennial Pushover Tops Tigers." Sore losers.



COLUMBIA VS. YALE

Despite holding a 22-17 lead with less than six minutes remaining, Columbia dropped a 23-22 heartbreaker at Lawrence A. Wien Stadium. The Lions were done in by two late turnovers and a late 10-yard touchdown pass from the Bulldogs that gave the visitors the lead for good. The late-game theatrics spoiled the debut of then-freshman quarterback Sean Brackett. Brackett, filling in for an injured Millicent Olawale, completed 10-for-19 for 189 yards and gained 68 yards on 15 carries, while Light Blue tailback Leon Ivery recorded 127 yards on 16 carries.



COLUMBIA VS. BROWN

A season filled with ups and downs ended on the highest note possible for the Lions, as they beat Brown 28-14 in their final game of the season. The 26 seniors on the team finished their college careers with a win, which was highlighted by an improbable pick-six that started with an interception by safety Adam Mehrer and ended with Andy Shalbrack running into the end zone after catching a lateral along the left sideline. Freshman Sean Brackett started in place of Millicent Olawale, who sat out with a foot injury, and he had a fantastic game, running for 171 yards and passing for 151.



COLUMBIA AT DARTMOUTH

The Big Green wasn't supposed to win. It just wasn't. At the time, Dartmouth was on a 17-game losing streak and coming off a 20-point loss to Holy Cross. But in Dartmouth's Homecoming game against Columbia, the Big Green showed something different in its first win since 2007 with a 28-6 thrashing of the Lions. Big Green running back Nick Schwieger rushed for a school-record 242 yards, and the defense capitalized on numerous Columbia miscues—including a two-yard punt, missed field goal, blocked field goal, fumble, and two interceptions—to pull off the upset.

#1

**MIKE STEPHENS,
WIDE RECEIVER**

Mike Stephens, a senior wide receiver from Flower Mound, Texas, has shown flashes of brilliance throughout his career as a receiver, punt returner, and kick returner. This season, Stephens faces the difficult task of filling the void left by Austin Knowlin, arguably one of Columbia's best receivers ever—but Stephens believes he picked up a lot from Knowlin. "He's taught me a ton of different things," Stephens said. "He carries himself with so much confidence. ... When you're playing receiver, you gotta think you're the best player. You're gonna beat the guy in front of you every single time." He has learned that as a captain, "Every single time you go out there, you have to be doing the right thing, going full speed every single time. The hard catches, I have to make." If Stephens can improve on his production as a receiver from the past two seasons—he had 20 receptions for 310 yards in 2009 and 28 receptions for 377 yards in 2008—he could be a game-changer.



#33

**MATT MORETTO,
LINEBACKER**

Matt Moretto's career with the Lions has been riddled with injuries. The senior linebacker from Cornwall, N.Y., played in 10 games as a freshman, missed all of 2008 with an ACL injury, and appeared in only seven games last season. Despite this, Moretto's teammates elected him as a captain. "It was very humbling to think that these guys—my friends, my brothers—consider me in that leadership role," he said. Moretto is extremely focused on this Saturday's game: "Our mind has always been on Fordham since the last game of last season. It's always that next progression—you're only as good as your last performance. We want to smack Fordham in the mouth." Moretto believes the team's senior-laden defense knows exactly what it needs to do: "We need to show up and get the ball back every third down—just get off the field every third down, that's our job."



O CAPTAIN!
MY CAPTAIN!

PHOTOS BY JASPER L. CLYATT

#37

**ALEX GROSS,
LINEBACKER**

Senior linebacker Alex Gross figures to be a key component of the Lions' defensive scheme this season. As a captain last year, Gross missed all but three games due to a knee injury. In 2007, the Kettering, Ohio, native was named Ivy League Rookie of the Year and received Ivy League Rookie of the Week honors four times—a tie for the second most all-time. If the defensive leader returns to the field in his 2008 form, when he led the league with 101 tackles, Columbia's defense could impress. "As far as camp has gone, I'm very confident in what we're doing," Gross said. "We've got a defensive mentality, which is almost as important, if not more important, than the Xs and Os." He added that instilling "a winning and competitive attitude in each and every guy" will be critical to the team's success this season. Head coach Norries Wilson believes Gross' enthusiasm has been contagious: "He's been getting the guys going—not just the defensive guys, the offensive guys—at a high level of energy to practice."



#82

**ANDREW KENNEDY,
TIGHT END**

This year, senior Andrew Kennedy may be one of the best tight ends in the Ivy League. Kennedy, who hails from Westport, Conn., is coming off a year in which he caught 21 passes for 316 yards—an impressive 15-yard average—and was named second team all-Ivy. "Some of the games we fell short in last year, it was just a play here, a play there, so it's really just important to make big plays in all phases of the game," he said. He has taken note of some good signs from his teammates this preseason, such as "some of the same faces just taking on a little more of a role than they have in the past." Coach Norries Wilson thinks Kennedy has been instrumental in this change by "trying to lead by example, staying on top of his guys, and making [the] good decisions a captain should make." With standout Austin Knowlin graduated, Kennedy will need to be more of an option as the Lions start sophomore Sean Brackett.



Lions seek to forge new identity after graduation of star players

BY JACOB LEVENFELD
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The seniors on Columbia's football team have known little glory on the field since arriving in Morningside three years ago. Sure, there have been moments—last season's league-opening 38-0 thrashing of Princeton immediately comes to mind—but on the whole, late-game meltdowns have outnumbered late-game surges since 2007; indeed, losses have heavily outnumbered wins. The seniors have a combined record of 7-23 in their college careers.

Last year's mark of 4-6 (3-4 Ivy) was their best so far, but the 2009 roster was senior-heavy. A very talented group of Lions has left the picture and will never again don Columbia Blue, leaving gaping holes in the lineup. Household names such as Olawale, Knowlin, Rangel, Miller, and Shalbrack are gone. The 2010 Lions will have to contend with these departures in their quest to bring Columbia its first Ivy League football championship in 49 years.

WHO ARE THESE GUYS?

A year ago, there was a sense of pressure on the seniors to make some noise in their final year, along with the pervasive belief that a rebuilding phase loomed for 2010 anyway. Linebacker Alex Gross, now a senior, sustained a knee injury on the opening kickoff in the fourth game, and the defense never completely recovered. A couple of fourth-quarter collapses and a humiliating blowout defeat to Dartmouth ended Columbia's hopes for a winning season.

The atmosphere is different now. Columbia placed fifth in the annual preseason league media poll and is widely expected to finish somewhere in the middle of the Ivy pack. Last year's squad carried an identity forged by its seniors, but the 2010 Lions are not as easy to characterize. Are their strengths offensive or defensive? Have the key players been tested enough in their careers? Is the supporting cast ready to face heated league competition?

Last year's big names roamed Robert K. Kraft Field with big shoes, and the 2010 Lions lack some of their star power. At many key positions, the lineup will look a lot different



GRAPHIC BY JASPER L. CLYATT

than it did in 2009. But make no mistake: These Lions aren't green. Most of head coach Norries Wilson's squad consists of tried and experienced veterans who have often taken a back seat to last year's graduates throughout their careers. Now they have a chance to make history.

CLEAN SLATE

For the second straight season, every single Lion is a Wilson recruit. Don't expect the coach or any of his players to hide behind the "rebuilding" sticker this season. Think of this team as a fresh layer of varnish on an old coat of paint. Preseason camp wasn't full of far-reaching new game plans or esoteric strategy. Where the paint was chipped, Wilson's staff and team leaders sought only to restore a smooth surface. They want to show that the 2010 Lions, particularly if they remain healthy, can cause some damage in the Ivy League. And they've got the veterans to make it happen.

This year's core never really had the opportunity to play as a full unit last year. Gross, a second-year captain, played less than a third of the 2009 season. Quarterback Sean Brackett, then a freshman, made a surprise debut against Yale and appeared in just four games, though he raised eyebrows with his multi-threat style of play. Andrew Kennedy

is poised to build on his big numbers at tight end from a year ago, and Mike Stephens looks ready to step into Knowlin's role as Columbia's go-to wide receiver.

Whether or not Stephens can match Knowlin's explosiveness on the field, he's been watching the former No. 83 closely for three years and has tried to soak in a lot from Knowlin's attitude and style of play. After all, Knowlin graduated last year as Columbia's all-time leader in both receptions (210) and receiving yards (2,484).

"He's taught me a ton of different things," Stephens said. "He really was a technician out there. He does things that I've adopted from him."

Other key returning veterans include defensive tackle Owen Fraser, offensive tackle Jeff Adams, linebackers Evan Miller and Matt Moretto, safety Adam Mehrer, cornerback Ross Morand, and running backs Leon Ivery, Zack Kourouma, and David Chao.

Brackett, running the offense, and Gross, leading the defensive effort, have never even appeared in the same game. Fraser and Moretto have battled full-season injuries during their careers. Due mostly to a number of 2009 injuries and offseason personnel changes, this year's squad is sufficiently different from last year's to grant it a clean slate heading into Saturday's opener.

NO EXCUSES

The 2010 Lions are a sort of hybrid composition. They're reliant on veterans but not overly dependent on seniors, so no one is betting the farm on one season. At the same time, though, they're not really starting from scratch or rebuilding, because freshmen aren't likely to see much playing time and most key positions are filled by upperclassmen.

Wilson has put together a gritty bunch. They've battled injuries, they've picked up some big wins, and they've suffered through their fair share of heartbreaking losses. Their record has also improved each year since 2007, when this year's seniors were just starting out. Assuming the Light Blue stays relatively healthy this season, no one will be offering any excuses if the team can't sustain its upward trajectory.

PLAY LIKE YOU PRACTICE

This year's schedule favors the Lions. Six of their 10 games, including the first four, are on home turf. Even the road contests are relatively nearby—the farthest one, against Harvard, is a reasonable four hours by bus. And if Columbia is involved in as many close games as last season, a friendly crowd just may be enough to tip the balance in its favor.

In 2009, Columbia lost three games in which it held leads at home. In their defeats to Lafayette and Yale, the Lions



FILE PHOTO

HAIL MARY | Sophomore quarterback Sean Brackett leads an offensive unit into battle without 2009 stalwarts such as Austin Knowlin and Ray Rangel.

“We’ve really got to finish everything. Even every play—we’ve got to finish every play.”

—Senior wide receiver captain Mike Stephens

didn't surrender their advantage until the final minutes. This year's team is going to have to summon the killer instinct that often eluded the 2009 squad. The bitter aftertaste from those devastating defeats still lingers, and Wilson's solution is to drive his players to prepare harder.

"That's something we've talked about in practice," Stephens said. "We can't have two hours of good practice when you still have 30 minutes to go. We've really got to finish everything. Even every play—we've got to finish every play."

In a 10-game football season with no playoff competition, there is little room for error or even a quick breather. For 10 consecutive Saturdays, the Lions will take the field, often as underdogs, and they won't have a chance at glory if they don't play a full 60 minutes every week.

"We've harped a bunch this camp about finishing plays, finishing drives, finishing off tackles," Wilson said. "Hopefully—and it's our hope that it doesn't come down to the final play, the final seconds of a game—but if it does, we've got to bear down from past experiences and find a way to either get them stopped or find a way to score."

NO DAY BUT TODAY

Fresh off a long offseason and an intensive camp, expect the Lions to come out hard on Saturday. For better or for worse, Fordham (1-1) already has two games under its belt and won't be susceptible to season-opening jitters. On the other hand, the Rams won't have the benefits of a friendly crowd or first-game adrenaline.

Although tomorrow's game isn't against a league foe,

Wilson recognizes the importance of opening the season with a win and setting a positive tone for 2010.

"Oh, it would be fantastic," he said. "You want to win every game you play, but you always want to win your opener, especially when it's at home."

Kennedy, a captain, weighed in with the perspective of a fourth-year veteran. "We're excited to play Fordham," he said. "It's always a fun game, a little bit of a rivalry for us, and we really just want to get things started off the right way."

No one in Columbia Blue will come out and say it directly, but Brackett's arm, feet, and composure are going to be major determining factors on the field tomorrow and all season long. Opening day promises excitement, chaos, and a whole case of nerves, but no one will take their eyes off No. 10 for very long.

"I think Coach is going to put together a good game plan and we're just going to go with that," Brackett said last Saturday. "Fordham's obviously a pretty good team, and we're just going to come out and play."

GOING FORWARD

It's easy to point fingers and make predictions before a season starts. Anyone can say the Lions will be strong at quarterback, tight end, linebacker, and in the secondary. The defensive line could be a problem and the position of running back is currently staffed by committee. Special teams disasters could undo any success the offensive and defensive units are able to grind out. For consistent success, the Lions will have to be running on all cylinders from day one.

There's something poetic about this year's team: It's not about any single person. Don't expect one player to dominate box scores and headlines all season long. If the Lions start to win, we'll be seeing new heroes every week. If they lose, they'll go down as a team.

Few significant dates mark Columbia football history. The Lions defeated Stanford 7-0 in the 1934 Rose Bowl. In 1961, they split the conference title with Harvard for Columbia's most recent taste of championship glory. 1988 marked the end of the team's infamous 44-game losing streak. Wilson took the helm before the 2006 season, and a year ago, his team won four games.

What will 2010 bring?

	VS. FORDHAM 9/18/10		VS. TOWSON 9/25/10		VS. PRINCETON 10/2/10		VS. LAFAYETTE 10/9/10		AT PENN 10/16/10		VS. DARTMOUTH 10/23/10		AT YALE 10/30/10		AT HARVARD 11/6/10		VS. CORNELL 11/13/10		AT BROWN 11/20/10
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Columbia offense must find way to score without Knowlin

BY KUNAL GUPTA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

For four years, Austin Knowlin was the staple of Columbia's offense. No matter who lined up under center or in the backfield, Columbia's offense was always run through the 5-foot-11, 193-pound pass-catching machine. This fall, the Lions will have to find a way to replace Knowlin, the program's leader in receptions (208) and receiving yards (2,442). The task certainly won't be easy, but the Lions do appear to have several emerging players who are ready to step up and into the limelight.

"Mike Stephens and Nico Gutierrez and Mark Muston have had really good camps. They're out catching the ball. They've done a good job trying to lead their group," head coach Norries Wilson said. "Andrew Kennedy's increased his production during preseason camp and he's doing some good things for us. He's getting better as a blocker and he's really improving as a pass receiver. So the four of those guys, along with the rest of the receiving and tight end corps, are just gonna have to be able to spread that gap of receptions that Austin provided, and hopefully we'll fill that void."

For any offense, though, it starts with the man under center. On Saturday, sophomore Sean Brackett will start for Columbia. Last season, Brackett played in four games but was second on the depth chart behind Millicent Olawale for almost the entire season. Brackett played well when given the chance, proving himself a dual threat through the air and on the ground. He averaged 5.4 yards per carry last season, completed 54 percent of his passes, and averaged 114.5 passing yards per game. Brackett was at his best in Columbia's season-ending win against Brown, rushing for 171 yards and passing for 151 in a 28-14 win.

"Sean Brackett gets a chance to be a full-time starter," Wilson said.

For Brackett, who certainly appears to have all of the physical tools he needs, one of the biggest challenges will be the mental side of the game. Opposing defenses are sure to give the young starter a number of different looks and schemes designed to confuse him at the line of scrimmage.

"We know Sean's abilities," Wilson said. "Sean's such a competitor that sometimes you've got to calm him down a little bit and make sure he understands it's great to throw that 60-yard pass, but how about we just take this 12 yards that's right open right here."

For his part, Brackett is ready to get this season started on the right foot.

"I think first of all, we're just excited about getting some wins," Brackett said. "That's the biggest thing about this program, winning. Last year was just about getting wins and playing, getting some experience and getting some wins. ... Last year's experience is going to help a lot."

Brackett will be supported in the backfield by two seniors, Zack Kourouma and Leon Ivery. While both have been on the squad for three seasons, they saw their first extended action last season backing up Ray Rangel. They each had 48 carries last year, but Ivery averaged 4.8 yards per carry, while Kourouma had three touchdowns.

"It'll probably be a running back by committee," Wilson said.

One dark horse to emerge from the backfield is junior David Chao, despite the fact that he barely played last season.

"I'd say right now our most complete back is probably David Chao," Wilson said. He "had a real good spring—he's come in and he's had a real good camp."

The player most directly charged with replacing Knowlin's production will be senior Mike Stephens, who finished with 310 receiving yards last season. Stephens was elected a team captain and came into camp 15 pounds heavier, having bulked up in the off-season.

Stephens isn't shying away from the spotlight this season.

"I think that the more pressure that's on me, the better I'm gonna play, to be honest with you," he said.

Another important piece of the puzzle could be senior tight end Andrew Kennedy. At 6-foot-2 and 242 pounds, Kennedy has the size and athleticism to be a real force in the Ivy League, and although he was named second team all-Ivy last season, it seems there is still more he can do.

"I've been a little more involved in the passing game than I have in past years and whatnot, at least as far as the preseason," Kennedy said.

The final piece of the puzzle is the offensive line. One standout last season was junior Jeff Adams, who was named first team all-Ivy at left tackle. Since Brackett is a righty, Adams will be protecting his blind side, making him one of the most important players on the field.

A lot of this season's success will depend on the decision making of the Light Blue quarterback. If the Lions hope to finish the season in the top half of the league, they will need to rely on the arm of Sean Brackett.

New coordinator directs veteran defensive unit

BY ZACH GLUBIAK
Spectator Staff Writer

The Columbia defense will welcome back playmakers at every level this season, and their steady influence on the team may help an offense that must replace starters at nearly every skill position, including first team all-Ivy League wide receiver Austin Knowlin.

The defensive unit also lost three standouts with the graduation of defensive end Lou Miller, linebacker Corey Cameron, and defensive back Andy Shalbrack. Miller was a unanimous first team all-Ivy honoree in 2009, while Cameron and Shalbrack were both honorable mention selections. Replacing Miller's constant presence in the backfield will be one of the major issues for the Lions to address in the upcoming season.

Nonetheless, there will be no shortage of familiar faces on the field, even though Denauld Brown will be donning the headset as defensive coordinator for the first time this fall.

Senior co-captains Alex Gross—who was a captain as a junior as well—and Matt Moretto return to lead the defense. Senior Marc Holloway joins Gross and Moretto in a deep linebacking corps that also features senior Augie Williams and juniors Nick Mistretta and Evan Miller.

Gross, a 2008 first team all-Ivy selection, was limited to only three games last season after an injury ended his 2009 campaign on the kickoff against Lafayette. In 2008, the middle linebacker led the Ivy League with 101 tackles, earning him the Lions' defensive MVP award. His ability to replicate that success in his final season will go a long way toward determining how dominant this year's unit will be on defense.

Fortunately for the Light Blue, Gross is confident that he has made the most of his recovery period and will be back and better than ever for the season opener against Fordham.

"In the off-season, I put in a tremendous amount of work like I never have before," Gross said. "I'm confident and I'm just excited to start playing again. I had an opportunity to sit and watch the game and more of a coach's or student's perspective. I feel like I was able to pick up on a lot of things that will tip me off in terms of being able to play a little bit



FILE PHOTO

TAKEDOWN | Senior captain Matt Moretto leads an experienced Lions defense at linebacker.

faster instead of having to react as much."

Behind the linebackers, senior Adam Mehrer returns to anchor the secondary after leading the Lions with 89 tackles and the entire Ivy League with five interceptions last year. Mehrer, a second team all-Ivy selection, will be joined by returning starter Ross Morand, whose four picks last year were the third most among Ancient Eight defenders. Junior Kalasi Huggins, senior Calvin Otis, and junior Neil Schuster all enter the season with extensive experience in the defensive backfield.

Josh Smith, who recorded 3.5 sacks last year to go with 3.5 tackles for loss, will be charged with leading a defensive line that, in addition to Miller, lost Matt Bashaw, Shea Selsor, and Bruce Fleming. Selsor and Fleming, who were significant contributors to the 2009 campaign, are no longer with the team, according to the Columbia Athletic Department, and Bashaw graduated. Seyi Adebayo and Will Patterson also figure to start alongside Smith in what is by far the most unproven unit of the defense.

As the defense as a whole prepares for the opener, the Lions' adjustment to a new coordinator will be slight.

Denauld Brown "was our line coach last year," Moretto said, "and I prefer to have someone who was already in the system instead of bringing someone else who's going to totally change the game."

The Lions' defense will not have to wait much longer to see how these changes will pan out. If Brown can get his players on the same page come Saturday's opener against Fordham, the team has the experience and the talent to wreak havoc on the Rams' offense.



BROWN

Although the Bears will have senior quarterback Kyle Newhall-Caballero, the Brown offense, which averaged 24.1 points per game last season, is expected to take a dip. This is due in part to the departure of the dynamic wide receiver tandem of Buddy Farnham—who was last year’s co-Ivy League Player of the Year and is now with the NFL’s New England Patriots—and first team all-Ivy selection Bobby Sewall. For Brown to maintain its offensive show, Newhall-Caballero will have to familiarize himself with new wide receivers and second team all-Ivy running back Zachary Tronti—who led the league in rushing yards per game before suffering an injury—must pick up an increased load and remain healthy.

AROUND THE LEAGUE



MEDIA POLL:

1. Harvard	128 (10)	5. Columbia	61
2. Penn	124 (6)	6. Princeton	55
3. Brown	95	7. Dartmouth	39
4. Yale	83 (1)	8. Cornell	27

The 2010 Ivy League football media poll surveyed 17 media members. First-place votes in parentheses.



CORNELL

Following a season that saw Cornell go 1-6, it comes as little surprise that the preseason pundits have picked it to finish in last place this year. Last season, the Big Red ranked sixth in the league offensively with 17.1 points per game and seventh defensively with 26.8 points per game. Cornell’s lone all-Ivy first team selection, linebacker Chris Costello, has graduated, and the rest of the defense is young and inexperienced. Look for junior cornerback Rashad Campbell—last year an all-Ivy honorable mention—to take on more responsibilities this year, as the Big Red look to bounce back from a disappointing 2009 campaign in which it succeeded in beating only Yale in the Ancient Eight.



DARTMOUTH

Dartmouth improved from an 0-7 league campaign in 2008 to a 2-5 Ivy record last season. Despite its struggles in recent years, the team has the potential to surprise many, returning almost its entire offensive and defensive starting lineups, including junior all-Ivy first team running back Nick Schwieger, who led the league last season with 78.2 rushing yards per game. Still, the Big Green defense allowed 421.9 yards per game last year and was near the bottom of the league in almost every major defensive statistic. The team could have a solid year, but there is a lot of work to be done. Schweiger will be called on to carry the load as the first Big Green running back in 18 years to win first-team All-Ivy honors.



HARVARD

For the fourth time in five years, the Crimson has been selected in the preseason polls as the best team in the Ivy League—not surprising considering Harvard returns most of its key starters for this season. The Crimson has the best running back tandem in the league with all-Ivy first team senior Gino Gordon and last year’s Ivy Rookie of the Year Treavor Scales. Harvard also has one of the top two quarterbacks in the league with senior Collier Winters directing the offense. Although Harvard lost all-Ivy first team defensive back Derrick Barker to graduation, the Crimson still maintains the services of its other all-Ivy first team cornerback, Collin Zych. With this cast, Harvard is ready to explode and anything less than a league title would result in disappointment.



PENN

Although Penn is the reigning Ivy League champion and maintains much of last year’s team, the spotlight is on the players who aren’t there anymore. The Quakers will play without last season’s co-Player of the Year Jake Lewko, who graduated and signed a contract with the NFL’s Tennessee Titans. Lewko manned Penn’s top-ranked defense, which allowed just 9.5 points per game, an entire touchdown less than the 16.6 points per game the second-ranked Yale defense allowed. Aside from Lewko, the Quakers’ vaunted defense lost all-Ivy first team defensive lineman Joe Goniprow and all-Ivy first team defensive backs Jonathan Moore and Chris Wynn. Still, Penn almost always performs well, and it would be surprising to see the Quakers reverse that trend this year.



PRINCETON

Following a season in which the Princeton offense sputtered to a league-worst 12.9 points per game, the Tigers are expected to have an improved attack this year. For one, junior quarterback Tommy Wornham now has a year of experience to rely on, whereas last year he was the first sophomore since 2001 to start for Princeton. Perhaps more important is the return of senior running back Jordan Culbreath, who missed almost all of last season with aplastic anemia. The season before that, Culbreath was one of just two players to be selected unanimously for first team all-Ivy honors. The Tigers will need him to return to form in order to jump-start an otherwise lackluster offense that was held to seven points or less four times in ten games last season.



YALE

Despite a 2-5 Ivy record last season—including a come-from-behind 23-22 win over Columbia—Yale is still projected to finish fourth this season and even received one first-place vote. The Bulldogs return most of last year’s starting lineup. This continuity will benefit junior quarterback Patrick Witt, who split time at quarterback with senior Brook Hart last season. Although both quarterbacks are stellar, Witt, who transferred from Nebraska, was regarded as a player that could change the entire dynamic of the league. Even though he had a solid season, he wasn’t able to acclimate himself fully to Ivy League play and truly dominate games. Defensively, the Bulldogs will be led by all-Ivy first team defensive back Adam Money, who forced three fumbles and had three interceptions last season. The senior will anchor Yale’s second-ranked defense.

NEW MAN UNDER CENTER

Sophomore quarterback Sean Brackett seizes Columbia's offensive reins

BY VICTORIA JONES
Spectator Staff Writer

When starting quarterback Millicent Olawale went down with a shoulder injury last year, then-freshman Sean Brackett was thrust into the spotlight. Brackett first took the field in the season's seventh game, a tough matchup against Ancient Eight foe Yale. Though the Lions fell to the Bulldogs in the final minutes of the game, Brackett's composure on the gridiron allowed him to throw 180 yards for three touchdowns and rush for 68 yards.

By the end of the season, Brackett had passed for 458 yards, rushed for 287, and won one Ivy League Rookie of the Week honor. With just four games' experience under his belt, he will take the field this Saturday as the leading man in the pocket for the Lions.

"There's some pressure with it, but that's why you play football. That's why you play quarterback position. You have to have confidence. You just have to play. I like being the leader. I like being the quarterback," Brackett said of being the big man on the field.

Though he is relatively new to the college frontier, Brackett is no stranger to a starting position on the gridiron. For four years at Griswold Senior High School in Jewett City, Conn., he

was the go-to quarterback. He was a four-year starter at Griswold, and the Wolverines went 26-16 during his tenure.

In his final high school season, Brackett led the Wolverines to a

7-4 record, running for 669 yards and passing for 1,854 with 19 touchdowns. Over the course of his high school career, he totaled 7,473 passing yards and 2,081 rushing. He collected 90 touchdowns, 33 of which he ran in himself.

Since Brackett's arrival on the field at Columbia, fans have gotten to see his versatile playing firsthand. He picked up where he left off in high school, proving himself valuable at both the passing and rushing game.

The transition from high school to college ball involved some changes, but Brackett took the switch in stride.

"Overall, it's just a faster game from high school," he said. "Everyone's a good player at this level, so you've got to let your team help you. You have to have respect for other defenses on other teams."

Despite the change, the Light Blue went 2-2 last season when Brackett took point in the huddle. He threw 36-for-63, completing more than half of his passes, for 458 yards and four touchdowns. In addition, he averaged more than 70 rushing yards each game for a total of 287 by season's end.

Looking ahead to this season, Brackett's teammates are confident in his leadership and playing abilities.

"Sean's actually really composed in the huddle, which is surprising for a true freshman last year," senior Zack Kourouma said.

"He demands attention in the huddle," senior captain Mike Stephens said. "We don't look at him as a sophomore. He's just my quarterback. That's the way it is."

Head football coach Norries Wilson said Brackett's experience last year makes a big difference heading into this season.

"Sean's been out there when it's for real," Wilson said.

While Brackett surprised many as a reliable freshman quarterback, there are several aspects of his game where he can improve.

"I worked a lot on accuracy, changing my throwing



FILE PHOTO

motion a little bit, reads, obviously—I watched a lot of film," Brackett said. "We've been working a lot more on passing, being more consistent. Because last year, me personally, I left a lot of throws out there, so I think I could be a lot more accurate, so I've been working on that in practice."

When it comes to making these adjustments, Brackett has a secret weapon: graduated quarterback Olawale, who was on the sidelines for much of the second half of the 2009 season and thus had a unique opportunity to pass on some real-time wisdom.

"Last year, he [Olawale] helped a lot with me, especially at the quarterback position," Brackett said. "He was always right in my ear, gave me tips, helped me with my reads, stuff like that. ... He's always there for any help. If I have a question, same thing, he's always there to answer it."

The connection between Brackett and Olawale runs deeper than just their shared position on the field—the two have a similar playing style that, according to their teammates, has helped with the transition.

"It [the offensive line] is pretty similar, obviously. They're kind of similar athletes," running back Kourouma said. "All in all, there's not any major changes to the scheme offensively."

The most important thing to note when it comes to Sean Brackett, though, is that even though he's already found success on the field and a place on the team, he is still a sophomore with three seasons of development ahead of him. He still has plenty to learn and an opportunity to become a dominating force in the Ivy League in the coming seasons.



STATS

- 287 rushing yards
- 458 passing yards
- 4 passing touchdowns
- 34 completions
- 63 attempts
- 3 interceptions
- 54.0 passing percentage
- 1 rushing touchdown
- 4 games played