



HENRY MURPHY FOR SPECTATOR

HARLEM EXPERT | Georgiette Morgan-Thomas, chair of Community Board 9, is working to find local residents jobs, some with CU.

Morgan-Thomas seeks local, CU cooperation at CB9

BY ABBY MITCHELL
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Sitting behind her desk at Goddard Riverside Community Center, her trademark hat on her head and a phone to her ear, Rev. Georgiette Morgan-Thomas is frank about her goals as the new chair of Community Board 9.

“I’m not looking to run for any political office. I’m not looking to promote any personal project,” she said.

Morgan-Thomas officially took the helm of Community Board 9, which represents Morningside Heights and West Harlem, in July. A fixture at CB9 for over a decade, her status as a trusted voice on the board has garnered her a wide spectrum of support, and members say her appointment may bring the board a new stability.

“Georgiette has been on the board for awhile, and I think she can really get us back on track,” said CB9 member Savona Bailey-McClain.

Morgan-Thomas attended her first board meeting 14 years ago, and has chaired several committees since then. That means she also saw CB9 through its period of extremely contentious dealings with the University, as Columbia was unveiling the plans for its Manhattanville campus and determining the set of community benefits it would provide to the area.

She replaced Larry English, who was relatively new to CB9 when he won the seat. English held the position for one year and was known for his pro-Columbia stance, and his tenure was marked by tension with the rest of the board. Though this

summer’s election was relatively close, with 18 votes for English and 26 votes for Morgan-Thomas, many members said they see her experience working with locals as essential to moving forward on issues involving Columbia and otherwise.

Morgan-Thomas, a Protestant minister, is also the director of Harlem Services at the Goddard Riverside Community Center, working to help house mentally ill and elderly residents and helping others cope with medication and addiction problems.

“As a minister, I do a lot of service for the community already ... but now being chair of the community board will allow me to drive the direction of city dollars,” Morgan-Thomas said. “What better place to be?”

Morgan-Thomas says her position toward the University

is one of continued collaboration and dialogue, which reflects the more moderate stance that the board in general has taken now that construction in Manhattanville is well under way.

“I don’t think that animosity is ever constructive. We can look at the mistakes that we’ve made and look at the mistakes that Columbia may have made, but that’s the past,” Morgan-Thomas said. “At this point we need to look at how we can work together, how we can collaborate on the expansion, and how our community can benefit from the inconveniences of the expansion.”

But she recognizes that the economy has created pressing issues beyond the neighborhood’s relationship with the University,

SEE CB9, page 2

CCSC restructures committee for better follow-through on policy

BY MELANIE BRODER AND VARUN CHAR
Columbia Daily Spectator

A bit more bureaucracy may actually increase transparency in Columbia College Student Council’s activities, policy committee members say.

The CCSC policy committee, led by Ryan Cho, CC ’13, is hoping to make more students aware of its work by restructuring the committee and assigning a point person for each recommended policy change. That staff of “student specialists” will help make sure issues don’t fall through the cracks, and ensure that interested students know exactly who can help them throughout the process, Cho said.

“I’m trying to keep more accountability and communication within the committee.”

—Ryan Cho, CC ’13, CCSC VP of policy

The staff will consist of Cho himself, along with the two Student Services

representatives, Christina Fan, CC ’13, and Karishma Habbu, CC ’13, and the Student Affairs representative, Bruno Mendes, CC ’14. Since those representatives regularly sit in on meetings with administrators who oversee health services, dining, housing, facilities, and academic issues, they can serve as middlemen for students and help them talk to the appropriate administrators.

“Last year if two people wanted to work on a policy, they could work on it themselves,” Cho said. “I’m trying to keep more accountability and communication within the committee by making sure we have one of the staff people to be directly connected to each and every policy.”

The policy committee is looking to follow up on getting swipe access for students from Barnard, General Studies, and General Studies-Jewish Theological Seminary into dorms occupied by Columbia College and School of Engineering and Applied Science students, as well as exploring policies to improve students’ experiences with the financial aid office and with Counseling and Psychological Services.

Cho says that the newly restructured committee will help CCSC better communicate

SEE CCSC, page 2

Arts and Sciences to adopt new conflict of interest policy soon

BY ARVIN AHMADI
Spectator Staff Writer

A new conflict of interest disclosure policy for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences was passed last week, and it will become official as soon as it is approved by Executive Vice President for A&S Nicholas Dirks.

The new policy would require that faculty members engaged in professional activities outside Columbia publicly disclose those activities online. Additionally, it would mandate that professors disclose sources of funding and compensation in their written work.

The policy was approved last Tuesday by the Policy and Planning Committee, the FAS governance committee which advises Dirks. The policy change follows similar moves by the Columbia Law School and the Columbia Business School to toughen their disclosure rules earlier this year.

“The impulse to do this came,” humanities professor and PPC member Cathy Popkin said. “The Law School had done it, the Business School had done it—so we needed to do it too.”

The PPC, led by committee member and Economics Department Chair Michael Riordan, worked to compose a policy that would mold the University’s broader conflict of interest guidelines to the needs of FAS.

SEE FAS, page 2

Bank prez says look to Islamic finances

Sachs praises Al-Madani for development leadership

BY RISHAB GUHA
Columbia Daily Spectator

Western bankers and policymakers should learn from Islamic banking principles, argued the president of the Islamic Development Bank in a speech in Low Library on Monday.

Dr. Ahmad Mohamed Ali Al-Madani was introduced by Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Earth Institute and the Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development at the School of International and Public Affairs. Sachs drew attention to ties between the Earth Institute and the Islamic Development Bank, saying that he has seen the Bank do excellent development work throughout the Islamic world.

In his World Leaders Forum speech, Al-Madani drew on this development comparison, highlighting the strengths of Islamic banking when compared to the entirety of today’s global financial system.

“This crisis has showed how fragile our financial system has become with unprecedented growth of debt,” he said. “This makes it incumbent upon all of us to look for a new architecture that will minimize the severity and frequency of such crises in the future.”

He blamed the current financial crisis on inadequate discipline and risk sharing, calling the Islamic system better at managing those risks.

“The principles of Islamic finance can minimize the severity and frequency of financial crises by introducing greater discipline into the financial system and requiring the creditors to bear and share in the risk,” Al-Madani said.

Sachs also praised President Al-Madani for “guiding the development of one of the most important multilateral development banks in the world.”

“I say with mild envy, but mostly admiration, that the Bank is a triple-A rated organization, something we can no longer say about the United States Treasury,” Sachs said.

However, President Al-Madani made it clear that he doesn’t see the principles of

Islamic finance as specific to the Muslim faith, noting that its underlying principles are ethical and universal. During the question and answer period, President Al-Madani clarified further.

“I am not advocating that Islamic banking be adopted as a whole. I am just proposing that elements of Islamic banking be considered when creating the new international financial order,” he said.

That approach resonated with Aly Sanoh, a Ph.D. student in SIPA specializing in sustainable development, who said that he liked how “President Al-Madani’s position is not that this is how you should do things, but instead that it would be good to consider some principles of Islamic banking.”

“The Bank is a triple-A rated organization, something we can no longer say about the United States Treasury.”

—Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Earth Institute

Sanoh found some of those principles more appealing than others, adding that he disagreed with the zero-interest loan policy of the Islamic Development Bank.

“No-interest banking would be the end of the capitalist system. But the principle of sharing risk can be applied everywhere,” he said.

Shoden Itani, a masters student in the School of Engineering and Applied Science, had a different perspective. “There are many principles in European and American banking that have nothing to do with Islamic banking, and it would be difficult to make a transition,” Itani said.

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YUN SEO CHO / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MONEY TALKS | President of the Islamic Development Bank Dr. Ahmad Mohamed Ali Al-Madani spoke in Low Library.

A&E, PAGE 3

Professor helps film-makers go viral

For the latest Hollywood thriller, “Contagion,” professor W. Ian Lipkin of Columbia’s Mailman School of Public Health served as scientific adviser for a fictional viral outbreak.



OPINION, PAGE 4

Recalibrating Columbia

How to streamline our school for the future.

The nitty gritty

New York in the ’80’s was the best and worst of times.

SPORTS, PAGE 6

Tackling woes plague the Light Blue

Despite a strong start against Albany on Saturday, several key missed tackles and defensive miscues caused Columbia to ultimately be decimated by the Great Danes.

EVENTS

Study Abroad Info Session

Student Affairs will answer questions about study-abroad eligibility, programs, and language requirements for undergrads.
Hamilton 602, 8:15 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



77° / 66°

Tomorrow



75° / 66°

Riverside Church discussion calls for jail reform

BY JILLIAN KUMAGAI
Columbia Daily Spectator

Advocates from across the country came to Morningside Heights on Saturday to call for a national movement to fundamentally rethink the country’s prison system.

A symposium at Riverside Church drew Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, Newark Mayor Cory Booker, and Teachers College professor Marc Lamont Hill, among others, to discuss everything from ways to address racism to changes to programs for ex-offenders.

Panelists focused on the reintegration process—being able to find a job, provide for one’s family, and acquire an education—as opposed to focusing only on avoiding recidivism, which is a relapse into criminal behavior after incarceration.

“You have these people trying to remake their lives, and people say, ‘Well, thank God you haven’t gone back to prison,’” said Rossana Rosado, publisher of the Spanish-language newspaper El Diario La Prensa. “What kind of measure of success is that?”

“We measure success by how someone can be connected with their family, when someone gets their first paycheck and they don’t want to cash it because it’s such a source of pride, when they pay taxes for the first time,” Rosado said. Many panelists acknowledged that the economic downturn has made it even more difficult for ex-offenders to become reintegrated that way.

The event was sponsored by the Think Outside the Cell Foundation, and sought to open new doors for ex-offenders after they leave prison, something many speakers said revolved around educational opportunity.

Jeff Henderson, an ex-offender now known as a Food Network personality and bestselling author, said that the problems faced by ex-offenders are multi-generational and will only be solved when institutions “educate around the children who are left behind when their parents go to prison.”

“They’re the ones who become what they see, what they hear, what they experience as they grow up. That’s the next generation,” Henderson said.

Panelists agreed that education of ex-offenders at the university level is an important goal, though it is seldom realized because universities reject many



NIRAALI PANDIRI FOR SPECTATOR

NEW SOLUTIONS | Riverside Church hosted a symposium on issues affecting prisoners and formerly-incarcerated people and their families on Saturday.

applicants with criminal records.

“Two-thirds of the schools in America do background checks, which are built on the assumption that they will make campuses safer,” said Alan Rosenthal, co-director of Justice Strategies, an initiative of the advocacy organization Center for Community Alternatives. “There is not a shred of empirical evidence to prove that. In fact, my hypothesis is that if an offender has gotten into a university and invests in education, invests in themselves, invests in a vision for themselves, they’re the safest person on campus.”

“If I were to go to Columbia University tonight, I’m sure I could arrest a lot of people for public urination. But no one considers that a crime,” Lamont Hill said. “Yet, that convicted drug user who is trying to get into,

say, Columbia University, they cannot, partly because of concerns about having criminals on campus.”

Pazia Miller, BC ’14, said that it was “eye-opening” to hear what life can be like after incarceration. “You have little access to public housing, no right to vote, and unemployment is high,” she said.

Anup Desai, volunteer coordinator for Think Outside the Cell, said that those difficulties made being an activist for ex-offenders rights appealing to him.

“The community is only as strong as its weakest link. If our weakest links are in prison, let’s fix that first,” he said. “If a student like that goes to Columbia, then that can change a whole community.”

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Morgan-Thomas, minister and Harlem services director, in charge at CB9

CB9 from front page

and at the top of her list of priorities for the community board is finding jobs for residents.

“We have to figure out how to make sure that those jobs go to minorities and women in district 9, not just minorities and women. There are so many people who are not working in CB9,” she said. “We want to do whatever we can to be proactive,” Morgan-Thomas said.

She emphasized the importance of the Columbia University Employment Information Center as a potential resource for the community—and the importance of regulating it.

“A center should try to do the things necessary to help people develop themselves into prospective employees ... the bottom line is, there aren’t a lot of people going in there,” Morgan-Thomas said. “We really do have to monitor that better because Columbia does need to be accountable and show us some kind of numbers and statistics in terms of people who are hired.”

This commitment comes at an opportune time, as West Harlem residents protested the center this weekend, claiming that the center is “phony” and has hired few community members.

In a recent statement, Columbia officials said, “The Columbia University Employment Information Center has been actively engaged in reaching out to Community Board 9 to identify local residents who might be eligible for employment with the University,” and offers services like in-person training workshops, online training, and one-on-one job search counseling.

The University confirmed that staff members in the Office of Government and Community Affairs have already met with Morgan-Thomas, and that University representatives will continue to attend community board meetings.

“We always try to be responsive to the board’s priorities and look forward to continuing a productive relationship with Ms. Morgan-Thomas,” Columbia spokesperson Victoria Benitez said in a statement.

Morgan-Thomas said she is pleased with Columbia’s efforts, but said that it is important to look outside Columbia for solutions to the jobs issue. In the last few weeks, she has been researching opportunities with the fire department

and helped set up a meeting with Assemblyman Keith Wright’s office for unemployed men in the area.

“In fairness, I certainly feel that we want to work with Columbia to access those services that are available, but we can’t blame Columbia for everything and we certainly can’t expect Columbia to pick up everything that are outside of their scope,” she said. “We want to be responsible as a board to recognize that we are operating in as much of a partnership with Columbia as we can.”

Now that construction has begun and the court battle over eminent domain has ended, that partnership mainly involves the community benefits agreement, a contract that commits the University to \$150 million for affordable housing, the building of a public school, and support for a variety of other local initiatives.

Though CB9 does not directly handle the funds of the community benefits agreement, it does have two members on the West Harlem Local Development Corporation, the group that wrote the agreement and will ultimately monitor the distribution of that money. That organization has undergone months of restructuring, and at a recent Community Board meeting, LDC representative and former CB9 chair Pat Jones said that they are currently looking for office space.

Morgan-Thomas said she will continue to keep an eye on the development corporation’s progress.

“It’s like anything else, until you identify your place, and get your personnel in position, only then you can begin to do your services,” she said. “We certainly need to make sure that we have ongoing reports from the LDC ... It may not necessarily be monthly, but it must not be less than quarterly.”

On the whole, Morgan-Thomas said she was optimistic for the future of CB9’s ongoing relationship with the University, as long as officials remain honest and open with her.

“I’m the kind of person, that I go to the top if I’m not satisfied. I would even reach out to President Bollinger,” she said. “I’m an assertive person, but I’m a diplomatic person ... I’m going to stand on my integrity, I’m going to be honest and straightforward, but I will always represent the community board.”

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New FAS conflict disclosure policy to be official after Dirks’ approval

FAS from front page

PPC members discussed whether faculty members should be required to post their résumés online as part of the new policy, but the idea was ultimately nixed. Popkin said she would have been uncomfortable with such a mandate.

“This may be incomprehensible to the Facebook generation, but I don’t particularly want to put myself out there so that everyone in the world could find me,” she said.

While many professors already display their résumés online, Popkin noted that cultures vary widely between departments. Within her field of Russian literature, major conflicts of interest are not very common.

“It seemed a little intrusive to me,” Popkin said. “I can’t think of any outside activity I might do that would influence my interpretation of a Chekhov story.”

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CCSC to have go-to representatives to keep track of key policy initiatives

CCSC from front page

with those who bring up the issues—those for whom these issues lie closest to their hearts.

“There are other people who want to be a part of council, that aren’t elected, that have a vested interest in policy. Those are the people we want to be a part of the process as it goes along, so that they buy in, so that they feel like they’re a part of that policy.”

Karishma Habbu, now a Student Services rep on the CCSC policy committee, served as the VP of Communications on last year’s executive board, giving her some additional perspective on how policy changes go from suggestion to implementation. She and Cho both said that better follow-through is perhaps the most necessary change in the way councils enact policy.

Looking back on the policies of last year’s council, Habbu remarked, “After we had passed the first few resolutions, we were like, ‘Oh we have to make sure this actually happens now.’ So for us it was a learning process.”

“The problem was, a lot of people got chopped off,” Cho said, referring to people who brought issues to the council in the first place. “So there would either be the VP policy or someone on the exec board following up on that, but what about the people that worked on that? Now my effort is going to be to do my best to make sure that those people are also in the follow-up stage.”

Connected to follow-through is getting the results of those new policies

publicized to students. Policy committee meetings are open to the public, and members encourage students to come and find a way to get involved. But few students who are not in elected positions attend the meetings, and many don’t have much knowledge on what the councils are working on.

When asked what she wanted from the policymakers on CCSC this year, Priom Ahmed, CC ’14, said she wasn’t sure.

“I feel like they have been a really vague force in my life and I’m not really sure what they do besides like give us free ice cream,” Ahmed said.

Engineering Student Council faces similar hurdles, and like CCSC is putting together a new website with a policy section. In addition, ESC hopes to reach out to students through their weekly lunch hours.

However, when the ESC president forgot to post the time of the event, “Nobody came last week,” said Logan Donovan, SEAS ’13 and ESC’s VP of Policy.

Gina Ciancone, CC ’14, thinks that transparency could be achieved through better self-promotion efforts by the councils.

“I think that CCSC does an incredible amount for this campus in terms of benefiting the student body and listening to their concerns,” she said. “However, they should take credit for what they do and publicize that. That way students know that their efforts to enact policy are effective, and not pass things and have them succeed without taking recognition. Otherwise they won’t get props.”

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Happy fans don’t have to have winning teams

SHABAN from page 6

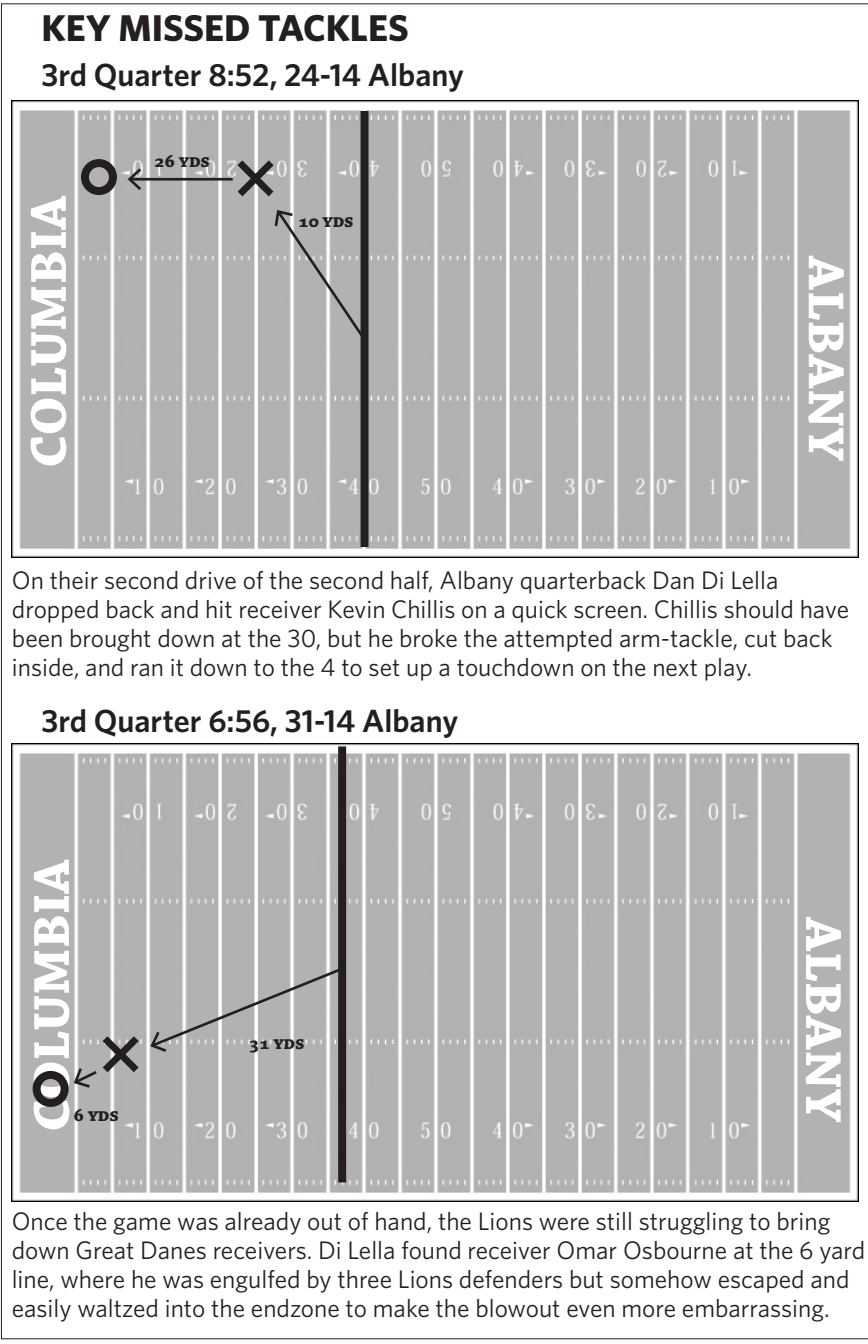
come and usually hold delusional ideas of what my favorite teams can accomplish. This has never been more evident than with my beloved Arsenal, who has come crashing down recently. After years of success, trophies, and even domination, the Gunners have been on a trophy drought for the past six years. Each of those years, I actually expected them to win the league, and they were usually in the running for a few trophies until an annual end-of-the-season-collapse. And then this past

summer happened. Arsenal’s best two players practically begged to leave and got their wish. The manager made some uncharacteristic signings, and early results have been frightening. So now my expectations have changed. I still hope they can win the league, but I realize it’s near impossible. I expect at least a fourth-place finish and to qualify for Europe, but even that seems unlikely. I am currently happy, though, because the Gunners’ win this past weekend has lifted them away from the dreaded relegation zone.

This expectations thing is why

Buffalo Bills fans are the happiest people on earth now. When your team achieves more than they are capable of, the feeling is phenomenal. So chin up Ms. Angry Cheerleader. Give a smile and some encouragement, and hopefully the Lions will return the favor and give you something to cheer about.

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Lions defense must improve tackling skills

FOOTBALL from page 6

and we just didn’t tackle him. We were missing gaps,” Columbia linebacker Zach Olinger said about Smith.

Smith wasn’t the only player on the field that the Light Blue had trouble stopping.

Back in the second quarter, Di Lella tossed the ball to junior wide receiver Ryan Kirchner, who quickly had three Light Blue defensemen swarming around him. Rather than work together to tackle the Great Dane before he reached paydirt, Kirchner managed to evade all three, picking up a total of 25 yards on the play for the touchdown.

When asked about the poor tackling game, players and coach alike had little explanation.

“They didn’t tackle very well at all,” said head coach Norries Wilson. “They didn’t adjust.”

“I would say poor angles, number one,” Olinger said of what caused all the missed tackles. “They ran a lot of bubble screens I know, to my side. And just, more angles. You can’t allow guys to cut back.”

Missed tackles could be seen up and down the field this past Saturday, and the effect is clear when looking at the 23-point disparity in the final score. With an away game at Princeton this coming weekend, it will be critical that the Lions learn to land their tackles if they hope to start recording wins this season.



COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

GOING VIRAL | Professor Lipkin advised the cast and crew of “Contagion,” above, to realistically portray the viral pandemic.

Barnard center to explore translation in Némirovsky panel

BY ALISON MACKE
Columbia Daily Spectator

Irène Némirovsky died nearly 70 years ago, but her legacy is nearly as complicated as the time in which she lived. Némirovsky was a Russian-born writer with Jewish ancestry who lived in France during World War II. She was captured under German order in July 1942 and sent to Auschwitz, where she was killed a month later. Her last creative works were locked away in a suitcase and given to her daughters for safekeeping, where they remained hidden until the late 1990s.

“There is a huge amount of translation going on everyday that we don’t think about much and we don’t talk about much.”

—Peter Connor, director of the Center for Translation Studies

This Tuesday, Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. in the Diana Center, Barnard’s Center for Translation Studies will host “Irène Némirovsky: Foreigners, Foreignness and Translation Among Cultures.” The roundtable discussion will feature Némirovsky’s translator Sandra Smith as well as literary critics Liesl Schillinger and Susan Suleiman. Némirovsky’s novel “Suite Française” will be the primary piece in the discussion.

Némirovsky’s work is unique because, unlike many wartime novels, it was written while the war was happening. Moreover, her work is in French, despite her Russian heritage.

“That’s always very interesting, looking at the way someone who has adopted French as a language writes

as opposed to someone who is born to the language,” said Peter Connor, director of the Center for Translation Studies at Barnard.

Translated literature makes up roughly 3 percent of all published materials in North America.

“Publishers underestimate the American reading public,” said Sandra Smith, the translator of “Suite Française.” In most bookstores, there is no section for translated works and, often times, the translator’s name goes unnoticed. Only the author’s name appears on the cover despite the fact that after translation, the story is as much the translator’s as it is the author’s.

Némirovsky’s writing includes many cultural references, but not all of them make sense to English speakers.

“Certain things have to get lost in translation,” Smith said. Cultural references or practices lose their effect when readers do not understand the meaning behind them. But for Smith, it would be odd to write an explanation for every reference. “I can’t put footnotes in,” Smith said. While small details are inevitably changed, they are not essential parts of the larger, translated story.

This is the first event that Barnard’s Center for Translation Studies is hosting this year, and the center hopes students will consider the complexities that come with speaking multiple languages.

“There is a huge amount of translation going on everyday that we don’t think about much and we don’t talk about much,” Connor said.

Connor stipulated that the goal of the center is “to see an event that sensitizes the audience to the particular challenges involved in translating a literary work.” He also hopes to start a discussion between students on the benefits of speaking multiple languages and the role of translation in everyday practice.

Communication is never simple, especially when it involves more than one language. But understanding the rewards and challenges associated with translation is a discussion the center hopes to explore in an ever-growing, interconnected world.

Sanford Biggers’ exhibitions play with culture clash

BY GRACE CHO
Columbia Daily Spectator

Astronauts, Harriet Tubman, Funkadelic, Buddhism, minstrel shows—these are the ingredients in Sanford Biggers’ work. Biggers’ interdisciplinary approach to art lures the viewer into a private world of dialogue and honest communication. The aesthetics of his works vary, but it is in those variances that he whispers a powerful message.

Two exhibitions currently feature Biggers’ work—“Cosmic Voodoo Circus” at the SculptureCenter (4419 Purves St., between Jackson and Thomson avenues) and “Sweet Funk—An Introspective” at the Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Parkway, at Washington Avenue).

Biggers attended Morehouse College and received a MFA from the Art Institute of Chicago. Recently a visiting scholar at Harvard University, he is now an assistant professor in Columbia’s visual arts program. Roaming through Los Angeles, New York, Atlanta, Chicago, Italy, and more, he is a true nomad—a theme prevalent in his work.

“Cosmic Voodoo Circus” is true to its name by transporting viewers to a world of spectacle. Trapezes swing synchronously overhead, an oversize 16-foot attraction in red vinyl stands on its lit pedestal, and spotlights quickly dart in nonlinear motion to feature the next act.



KRISTA LEWIS FOR SPECTATOR

STRANGE FRUIT | Sanford Biggers’ “Blossom” displays his signature haunting surrealism and cross-cultural references.

Mailman professor injects fact into film fiction

BY LAUREN CHADWICK
Columbia Daily Spectator

“Contagion” is no ordinary Hollywood film about an infectious disease. According to the technical adviser of the film, Columbia’s Mailman School of Public Health professor W. Ian Lipkin, “Contagion” is exceptional because “the science is solid” and “everything is plausible.”

The film is the story of a pandemic that creates a worldwide scare akin to the H1N1 avian flu threat or the SARS outbreak. The film follows the path of a highly infectious virus as it spreads from a casual contact at a Hong Kong bar to different parts of the world, destroying and devastating humans along its way.

The film’s screenwriter Scott Burns and Oscar-winning director Steven Soderbergh asked for Lipkin’s epidemiological insight two years ago. Though Lipkin hesitated to add his expertise to other pandemic films due to their “apocalyptic” nature, he agreed to contribute to “Contagion” due to Burns’ and Soderbergh’s insistence that the movie’s science be as realistic as possible.

As technical adviser, Lipkin was responsible for advising on the script, creating the virus, and assisting actors with the biomedical technology. The model for the virus was based on the Nipah virus, created by downloading sequences and considering all factors in how the virus would work.

Craig Street at Lipkin’s Center for Infection and Immunity was responsible for considering how the virus would look, creating genetic modifications, and deciding on how it would evolve.

“It took him a couple of days to make a graphic with which I was happy,” Lipkin said.

In addition to creating the virus, Lipkin also worked closely with the actors. Actresses Kate Winslet and Jennifer Ehle, who play the main epidemiologists of the film, were trained at Columbia to use the biomedical equipment.

The actors also consulted with Lipkin on more psychological questions that spanned from his experiences in the field during the SARS outbreak to personal advice on “whether or not they should take vitamins or do yoga,” Lipkin said with a laugh.

Nonetheless, Lipkin’s chief concern

for the film, as is with most public health officials, is how the field is portrayed to the masses. Public health is notoriously overlooked in the government’s budget. Whether or not the movie will change that, Lipkin was adamant to state that the chief goal for public health officials in support of the movie is to increase public awareness of the public health field—and thus augment government-appointed budgets.

Lipkin elaborated on the impact he hopes the film will have. He said, “We’re keen that it will do so. The budget is so difficult to predict. There is so much uncertainty. We’re talking about massive budget cuts for basically everything.”

“Every physician is a detective. ... An epidemiologist is one on the level of the population.”

—W. Ian Lipkin, professor at the Mailman School of Public Health

Unlike other pandemic thrillers like “Outbreak” and “12 Monkeys,” “Contagion” puts public health officials in the spotlight. The movie treats epidemiologists as necessary investigators just as important as their criminal detective counterparts. Lipkin sees this thriller-like portrayal of epidemiologists as true to form and important for attracting younger teens toward the field as a potential career.

Lipkin said, “Every physician is a detective. They try to find out why you’re sick. An epidemiologist is one on the level of the population.”

“Contagion” seems to be especially appealing to students who want genuine details about the psychological and scientific impact of a pandemic. But Lipkin leaves a crucial reminder.

He said, “It’s not a documentary. ... It is a feature film that does need to get people out of their seats.”



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The bad old days

BY JOSE GIRALT

It was a little past midnight last Friday, and I was standing in the middle of Terrace Drive in the heart of Central Park. I did not feel any sense of dread or impending personal doom as a potential crime victim. I was merely working as a “traffic lieutenant” during the first stop of professor Kenneth Jackson’s All-Night Bike Ride and making sure that no one ran off with (stole) one of the bikes that were parked while the professor gave a short lecture at the Bethesda Fountain. This was not the same Central Park where I was stabbed in the chest while pulling my friend away from a fight during a free Elton John concert. That was New York City in 1980 and this is the new and improved Gotham—“Disneyfied” according to some. As a three-time victim of crime from 1980 to 1989, I find it difficult to convey to younger Columbia students just how out of control New York City was back then. So, why do I miss those bad old days?

Famed essayist E. B. White wrote that there are three New Yorks: one for the person born here, one for the person who commutes here, and finally, one for “the person who was born somewhere else and came to New York in quest of something.” I belong to the last category. I was born in Cuba and grew up in Dallas, TX. But when I turned 19, I jetted out of the oppression of the Lone Star State and headed to the only place that I thought truly lived out the creed “home of the free.” I was now free to explore what would make me happy—in the Big Apple. However, I was not unaware of what to expect, since back in 1978 the Rolling Stones had ranted: “You got rats on the west side/ Bed bugs uptown/What a mess this town’s in tatters I’ve been shattered/My brains been battered, splattered all over Manhattan ... Go ahead, bite the big apple, don’t mind the maggots, huh.” When my friends back in Texas would ask me how I could live in such dirty city, I would use the facetious Woody Allen comeback for the same question from “Annie Hall”: “I’m into garbage.”

When my friends would ask me how I could live in such dirty city I would use the facetious Woody Allen comeback, “I’m into garbage.”

In 1984, I was walking on Bleecker Street in the Village when I stopped with some friends to watch a street fight on Leroy Street. Suddenly we heard people screaming and running. We ran too, and as I turned back onto Bleecker, I felt a burning sensation just below my left knee—I had been shot. One friend saw the flood that was flowing down to my feet and called a cab. He took me to his apartment in the Chelsea housing projects where his mother-in-law declared it to be a flesh wound and proceeded to clean and wrap it. About eight years later—when I finally had medical insurance—I had it x-rayed, and a real doctor confirmed that it must have been a ricochet, since they hadn’t found any fragments in my leg. Only someone that remembers how crappy city services were in the ’80s would understand why it made more sense to hop in a cab than call an ambulance. It was amazing how many New Yorkers I met knew about flesh wounds and how to dress them.

My last encounter with crime occurred in December of 1989, as I was riding the D train to work the graveyard shift at a commercial photo lab in Manhattan. As the train pulled into the 167th Street station in the Bronx, a baby-faced young man pulled out a sawed-off shotgun from under his long coat and asked very softly for my wallet. Thankfully, the weapon did not discharge, but the image of his finger on the trigger is burned into my memory. You would think that after these experiences with crime, I would appreciate all that has been done over the last two decades to make New York one of the safest big cities in America. I do, sort of. I just wish that it wouldn’t come at the expense of ripping out some of its soul too. I tired of constantly hearing the word “gentrification” used to describe neighborhoods that once had personality andchutzpah. I hate hearing the words “Red Hook” and “Ikea” used in the same sentence. I never wish to experience being the victim of a crime again, but whenever I see another Starbucks opening, I do long for the bad old days.

The author is a fourth-year General Studies student majoring in art history and comparative ethnic studies. He is a sports photographer for Spectator.

Dinner with a dictator

The year is 1933. You’re a Columbia student. Nicholas Murray Butler, our prized president, decides to invite Nazi Ambassador Hans Luther to speak on campus in the spirit of free discourse. Do you stand idly by?

In fact, Butler did host a reception for the Nazi diplomat, with little resistance from the student body. Those that did speak up paid the price. Robert Burke, a student who organized a small mock book burning and peaceful protest outside Butler’s residence, was expelled—a shameful offense against the free discourse Butler claimed to promote.

Today, the return of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmedinejad to New York and the Columbia sphere has set the campus astir and evoked comparisons of University President Lee Bollinger to Butler. Last week, the Iranian mission invited and disinvited CIRCA students to dine with Ahmadinejad—instead, he dined with SIPA students.

But the events of 1933 were as traumatic as they are now misapplied. Understandably, people less discredited than neo-cons have made the connection between Columbia providing Nazis with a platform in 1933 and one to Ahmadinejad in 2006. The president of Iran has questioned the scale of the Holocaust, explicated numerous times that he wants Israel wiped off the map, and committed human rights atrocities.

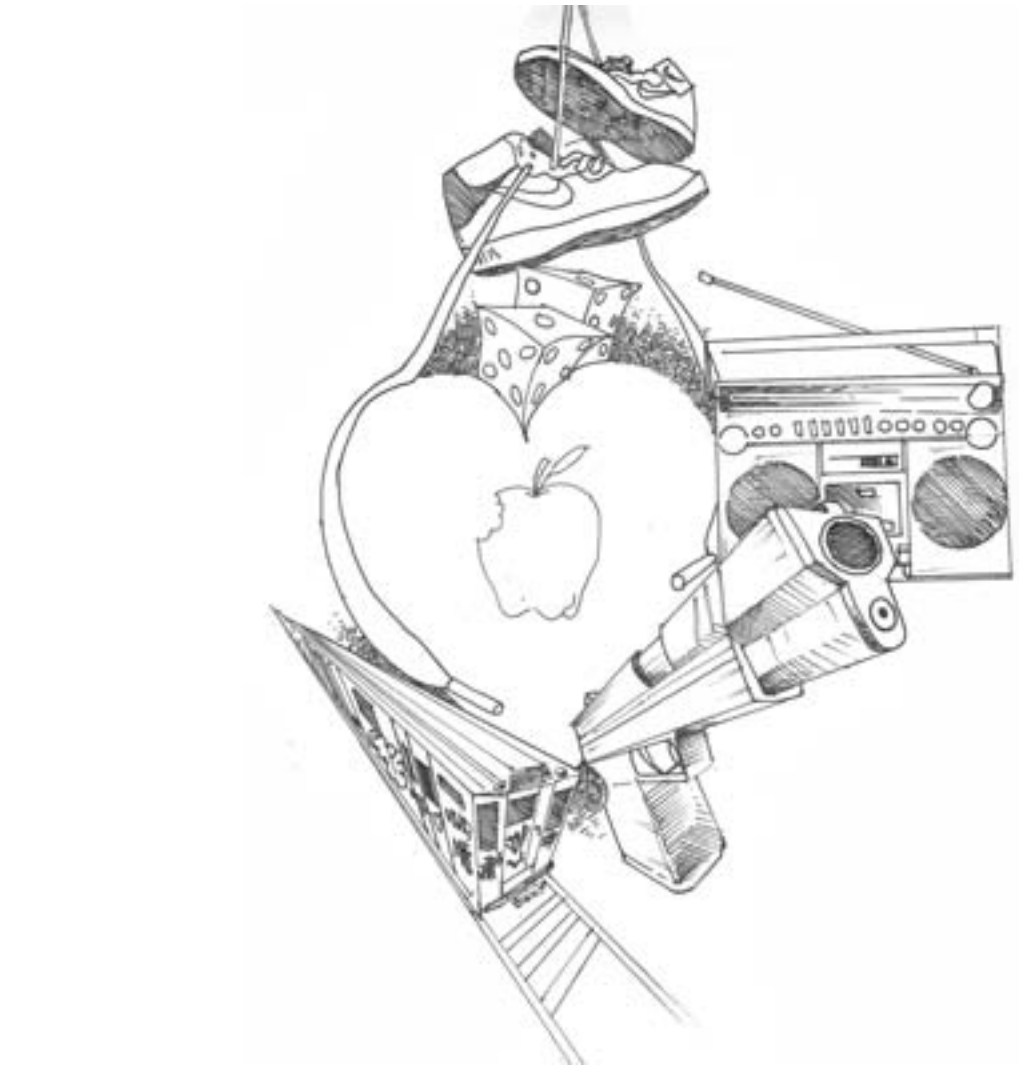
But banning public figures from campus has implications about what a university ought to be. An American university is not representative of the American government. In fact, it is not even an opinionated entity. It is a microcosm of and preparation for the real world to which Ahmadinejad is a viable threat.

Banning Ahmadinejad may be reasonable as an isolated act, but it might trigger a long fall down a



JESSE MICHELS

Politics as Pertinent



JUSTIN WALKER

The education misalignment, part I

The formula seems simple on the surface. A) professors teach, B) students learn, C) parents or scholarship organizations fund it, and D) administration facilitates the entire process. But in the past few decades, our paradigm of the University has changed from an institution that provides an education to one that guarantees a unique experience. For institutions like Columbia, that not only means a college experience, but also a branded Columbia experience that is managed more like a luxury cruise line than a place for learning. The process of going from A to B suddenly involves much more than C and D—it involves X, Y, and Z as well.

We have always been told what “education” is and how it would be delivered to us. This has been the experience of education as a product—a special type of product with important social influence attached to it, but a product nonetheless. The values of American education now are probably much different than say the early 1900s, when knowledge of Greek and Latin was much more emphasized than knowing L’Hôpital’s rule. In short, the recognized content of education has expanded itself. At some point, we realized that school provides both a technical education required for specialized labor and a liberal arts education required for cultural literacy and long-term learning. More recently, the consciousness of university services has discovered yet another segment of education—socialization.

I mean “socialization” as something beyond etiquette or avoiding awkward conversations in front of Butler. I am talking about the expectation that after stepping on campus, you will clandestinely imbibe alcohol in large quantities and spend some years acting irresponsibly. I’m talking about the “student life fee,” the various offices with their directors and associate directors, and carrying Columbia prestige into life after school. Yes, the yacht club and club sports have been around for ages, and social networks existed before Facebook, but the concept of social life as a monetized, regulated part of a university and its sheer (expected) scale at college institutions is not.

Consumer expectations drive this new emphasis on student life, where the college experience is now more associated with “Animal House” than with Socrates. This comes from an observed pattern of changing cultural perceptions of adulthood. The New York Times ran an article last year about how “20-somethings” these days are approaching adulthood “milestones” later than ever (if those milestones exist at all), and I might agree to some extent. But my point is to demonstrate that college has become another transition place for socialization, and that the

purpose of the educational institution has become so far-reaching that my talking about its various subcategories seems completely unrelated to the topic.

All of this additional administration seems necessary for the livelihood of the University, yet some part of me asks where that livelihood is. Columbia employs countless numbers of adjunct faculty, many of whom teach courses for little more than minimum wage (without benefits) at the time commitment of a full-time job, in addition to grad students for Core Curriculum teaching positions that provide only grants. As Benjamin Ginsburg explained in the Washington Monthly, the misalignment between funding for education and administration in today’s university institutions is strikingly obvious. However, although it’s easy to label administrators as antagonists, I have yet to meet anyone in the (sprawling) Columbia administration who has been unkind or intentionally aloof from student affairs. Oftentimes they too recognize the problems of the system they’re in, but they have no individual power to change it.

I don’t come from a place of nostalgia where professors took on administrative positions as part-time jobs and some schools experimentally limited the university experience to academics and its minimal and peripheral administrative needs. I know that the University, in order to sustain its primary function, needs a reputation that will attract hordes of matriculating, tuition-paying students, and that more importantly, some form of student life must exist. But if we are being sold an “education,” we should be the ones defining what that is and how much is going into it. We should be asking for A and receiving A, on our terms, instead of what we are perceived to want.

We need to change the way we think about education—the way A gets to B—down to the paradigm of the lecture hall and seminar, and not only demonstrate but also communicate that we want it. One might object that you aren’t getting your money’s worth if classes aren’t structured in the traditional way—but how much interaction is there when you are in a 300-person lecture where you can barely hear your professor? In my next column, I will discuss how we can use new educational models and resources—the Khan Academies and OpenCultures of our generation—in tandem with the older model of lecturer and student to transmit knowledge more efficiently and meaningfully, and how this method can overhaul convoluted educational administrations. These new models will reflect the way people think in the age of Google, when we more often remember how to get to information rather than the information itself.

Yanyi Luo is a Columbia College junior majoring in information science. Chipped runs on alternate Tuesdays.

a reified core value system to not be impressed by him might be productive. It would increase student awareness of Ahmadinejad’s intentions to harm our staunch ally, Israel, and to ostensibly use his nuclear program to leverage power. His hateful rhetoric might galvanize them to support the Green Revolution in Iran to overthrow his revolutionary guard.

It was in Neville Chamberlain’s power and purview to stop Adolf Hitler. He did not, and his historical legacy is justly that of a naïve appeaser. But a university does not have such power or responsibility.

As a Jew, I am particularly ashamed of the warm welcome given Hans Luther in 1933. And although I am especially sensitive to Ahmedinejad’s anti-semitic rhetoric, this case is different. Unlike Butler, Bollinger publicly disclaimed the content of Ahmadinejad’s speech before giving him the pulpit in 2006. In stark contrast, Butler said that Hans Luther was a representative of “the government of a friendly people” and “entitled to be received with the greatest courtesy and respect.”

Ahmadinejad’s dinner might prove to be a formative experience for some of the students involved. These students could very well be the craftsmen of future U.S. foreign policy. In deciding whether to engage in deterrence or a surgical strike in the face of an impending nuclear Iran, getting a sense of Ahmadinejad’s elusive character at dinner may prove essential to our country’s safety. For the Iranian President, the dinner is a footnote that holds no bearing on his ascension to international prestige and power. As long as we have no illusions about the erratic hate-monger and repressive ruler he is, I say, let them break bread.

Jesse Michels is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in American history. He is a member of the debate team, CUSP, intramural basketball, and dodgeball. Politics as Pertinent runs alternate Tuesdays.

ISRAEL, PALESTINE, AND THE IN-BETWEEN

Compassion and cooperation

BY JONATHAN HUBERMAN

Despite the seeming intransigence of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, two ingredients, compassion and cooperation, have the potential to bring peace. At the United Nations this past week though, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas showed little interest in compassion or cooperation. In the Middle East and here at Columbia, these two values have been greatly lacking.

Peace requires compassion for your counterpart and a willingness to cooperate. In this regard, Palestinians and Israelis need to recognize the legitimacy of each other's national narratives. After accepting that each group deserves its own country, Palestinians and Israelis need to work together to create a framework for the two societies to live together side by side.

Abbas's gambit at the U.N. has delayed the prospects of peace by side-stepping this necessary cooperation, adding an unsurprising yet disappointing chapter to his history of circumventing negotiations. In 2010, Israel halted all construction in the West Bank for 10 months, yet still Abbas refused to come to the table. Since 2000, two Israeli prime ministers have offered to relinquish over 90 percent of the West Bank in exchange for peace. These actions show Israel's enthusiasm for co-existence, and it is time for Palestinian leaders to show a similar eagerness. Instead of making excuses and demanding preconditions for negotiations, Abbas should show the perseverance and persistence that are necessary for talks to succeed.

Perhaps Abbas's disdain for direct negotiations stems from his repeated refusal to acknowledge Israel's right to exist as a Jewish nation. Abbas recently said that Palestinians have been "under occupation for 63 years," suggesting

that the entire state of Israel is an illegal settlement on Palestinian land. Does Abbas want a two-state solution or the elimination of the Jewish people's homeland? Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has shown compassion for the Palestinian cause by recognizing their claim to a country, so why does President Abbas deny Jews the same right?

A similar lack of compassion and cooperation is apparent here on campus. An academic community, which is based upon peer learning, is an ideal place for Palestinians and Israelis to learn from one another. Yet Palestinian groups have notoriously refused to work with the pro-Israel community. How can Palestinians and Israelis on campus come to empathize for one another when Palestinian groups refuse to cooperate with the pro-Israel community? If we do not share our stories with each other, then how can we develop shared sympathy? With a deficit of compassion, it is impossible for Palestinians and Israelis to put aside decades of fighting in exchange for enduring peace.

Columbia deserves better, and Palestinians deserve better. Student groups on campus cannot learn and grow if they refuse to dialogue, and Palestinians and Israelis cannot forge a lasting peace without direct negotiations. It is time for Palestinian leadership abroad and here at Columbia to recognize that coexistence is not a cliché or a distant fantasy but an imminent possibility that we must accomplish together.

The author is a junior in the joint General Studies and Jewish Theological Seminary program majoring in history and Jewish thought and concentrating in philosophy. He is the director of public relations for LionPAC.

Declaring very little

BY ABBY SHUSTER

The Palestinian declaration of statehood at the United Nations will not help to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and neither will some pro-Israel leaders' responses to it.

Since President Obama has remained transparent on his intent to veto it, the facts on the ground will remain unchanged after the U.N. vote. The heated debate surrounding this declaration will likely cause more harm than good, as the prospect of an imminently independent Palestine gives false hope to Palestinians, while simultaneously galvanizing extremists on both sides. Naturally, this application for recognition makes the prospect of any negotiations between Netanyahu and Abbas seem all the more grim. For those driven by both a pragmatic outlook on the present circumstances and a deep desire for peace, this much is clear.

Equally clear is the pro-Israel world's overwhelming support for a two-state solution, yet these supporters are put in a tight spot when considering the U.N. declaration. How do you vehemently affirm your commitment to a Palestinian state alongside Israel while opposing this specific avenue for achieving one? In this regard, outlets of the American Jewish establishment have fallen short. The line between opposing a U.N. recognition of Palestinian statehood and opposing the actualization of Palestinian statehood has become blurry. The pro-Israel organizations StandWithUs, Americans for a Safe Israel, and Amcha blocked traffic outside the U.N. in protest of the vote. The fervency with which these Jewish leaders cried "NO!" in response to the vote is troubling, considering the issue's complexity.

Despite these organizations' commitment to two states, their nuance-deficient way of responding to the U.N. declaration fails to show it.

Further, the pro-Israel community's manipulation of the declaration to advance its blame game is disheartening. To some Israel supporters, the Palestinian Authority's action in the U.N. is evidence that the PA is no partner for peace. Instead of acknowledging the promising collaboration efforts between the Israel Defense Forces and the PA in the West Bank in law enforcement and public works, many have pointed to Mahmoud Abbas's nonviolent (albeit nonconstructive) diplomatic effort as another instance of failed Palestinian leadership. Most deplorably, pro-Israel lobbyists are pressuring Congress to cut aid to the PA in retaliation. The declaration is unlikely to prove fruitful, but its use as a tool for justifying a perpetuation of the status quo is embarrassing to anyone fighting for two states.

The Palestinian declaration for statehood brings to mind another people who, in yearning for a sovereign homeland, garnered international support and ultimately appealed to the U.N. Though differences in circumstance abound, Israel's supporters must stop presenting the Palestinians' diplomatic effort as something foreign to us—or worse, illegal, and reprehensible. As Zionists and humanitarians, it is our responsibility to make our stance more clear: The narrative of blame must end, and two narratives of two peoples must take its place.

The author is a second-year in the joint General Studies and Jewish Theological Seminary Program and serves on the executive board of Just Peace.

A divided Palestinian stance

BY DARO BEHROOZI, TANYA KEILANI, AND DINA ZBEIDY

Over the past couple of weeks, many students have asked us if Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine is planning any events in conjunction with the Palestinian Authority's bid for statehood at the U.N. For the most part, they seem surprised when we tell them that SJP does not take a position for or against Palestinian statehood. Palestinians remain divided on the issue of statehood, and as an organization in solidarity with the people of Palestine, SJP does not take positions on issues when there is not a broad consensus among Palestinians.

Why are Palestinians divided on this issue? Have they not been fighting for independence from Israel for the past 63 years? Is it not time for a sovereign state of Palestine? In order to understand why Friday's bid for statehood does

not actually address the aspirations of many Palestinians, we must place current events in the context of the Nakba, or "the catastrophe."

In the years 1947 and 1948, 750,000 indigenous Palestinians were displaced from their homes by Israeli militias and made refugees, forced to live in camps across the Middle East and in what is now referred to as the West Bank and Gaza. Today, these refugees number almost 5 million, and Israel continues to deny them the right to return to the lands on which they, their grandparents, or their great-grandparents were born—a right guaranteed under international law. As for the Palestinians living inside the West Bank and Gaza, they have been living under Israeli military rule since 1967, which effectively denies sovereignty to the Palestinian people.

With no army, no real borders, no authority to cultivate an economy or build infrastructure, it seems sensible

Unearthing the gray

BY MATTHEW JACOBS AND JULIANNA STORCH

Hear the term "Israeli-Palestinian Conflict" and what do you think? The first image that likely pops into many Columbians' heads is a standoff between two camps stationed on Low Plaza. It is a contentious issue, and the campus battle reflects a harsh reality, you may assume. But this familiar scene, in fact, distorts reality. When limited to means of public display and fliers while confined to either side of College Walk, issues become polarized and falsely simplified. As a result, we all fail to convey the nuances of the gray area that fills the space between us.

The pro-Israel "side," for example, is extremely complex. Beyond a baseline interest in the country's existence and well-being, pro-Israel stances are abundant and diverse. Hillel itself encompasses four different Israel-related groups, and nearly as much disagreement occurs between the pro-Israel communities as outside

of them. Why then aren't LionPAC and Just Peace positioned on opposite sides of College Walk? Because their members openly discuss their differences.

Conversation humanizes and depolarizes. Open-minded exchange of perspectives—with the understanding of each one's legitimacy—dissolves tension and generates creative solutions. If we hope to end both the bickering on campus and the diplomatic war outside our gates, dialogue is the first step.

In the spirit of candid and respectful communication, the Columbia/Barnard Hillel hosted the Talk Israel Tent Initiative last Wednesday in conjunction with 20 campus Hillels around the country. The tent was conceived as a space for the exchange of all views surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the event was a step in the right direction. But much work remains to be done.

Tomorrow evening marks the start of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year. In the Jewish tradition, the

holiday is a time to reflect on the past year and look forward toward ways in which we can improve in the year to come. Our goal for the coming year is to help foster a campus culture of understanding with regard to the Middle East and as strong an interest in being educated as in educating. Every issue has as many sides as people involved. We hope Talk Israel is only the beginning of closer interaction among the individuals behind Columbia's Israeli and Palestinian interest groups and a breaking down of the hostile dichotomy on College Walk.

Matthew Jacobs is a junior in Columbia College majoring in the history and theory of architecture and in neuroscience and behavior. He serves on the Hillel executive board as Israel Coordinator. Julianna Storch is a senior in Barnard College majoring in religion. She serves on the Hillel executive board as vice president of campus relations.



ESIA MAHARSHT

A bridge to the future

BY MARYAM AZIZ

I think the United Nations' lack of potency in global affairs is its karma. Karma for what? It's karma for helping start a war that has ruined the lives of four or five generations of humans. Why is no one ever blunt enough to blame the United Nations for its Resolution 181 (II): Future Government of Palestine? Now, I'm no expert on the sentiments of the people living in the region around 1948. But was a two-state existence on the table before the U.N. served it? Perhaps it was already sitting there and the U.N. simply added the lettuce and stuffing—but to be sure, after those dressings, that platter turned putrid. The "Jews" assented to the two-state plan and the "Arabs" dissented. (I use quotes because I'm not comfortable with juxtaposing a religious or "ethnoreligious" group with a panethnicity.) Then, the "Jews" declared independence for a previously nonexistent Israel and boom—here we are. Israel now "owns" much of that area because it moved forward with a two-"state" plan without the other "state"'s agreement. Now, call Palestine what you want, a non-nation, a territory, a consistent portion of many empires, but its physicality, not Israel's, was already in existence, making the ensuing civil war peculiar. Israel did not necessarily admit its secession from an already existing body. Thus, the Palestine that was left to

be Palestine was left to fight a war with a part of itself that was seemingly unable to admit it was ever a part of the whole.

But I digress into history lessons that you all already know or acknowledge that you don't know and don't need to know. I'm sure what you truly want to know is whether I'm pro-Palestine or pro-Israel. I'm sure it's more fun and satisfactory to be pro-Israel. You have more allies. You have more military aid than you should feasibly be able to use. You get to breeze through checkpoints. You get to chill in Jerusalem all year.

Alas, I'm pro-Palestine. Nevertheless, I could care less if Palestine is admitted to that international "governing" body that, in my opinion, facilitated the Israel-Palestine conflict. In fact, I'm still perplexed as to why there can't just be one country for all people. (I suppose that is me being uncharacteristically optimistic.) I'm dually appalled by this notion that the two nation states had (or have) to be separate because of the inability of Muslims and Jews to coexist peacefully. That is what this conflict is colored as, correct? As war between religions? Not between ethnicities? Need I bore you with peaceful epochs that Muslims and Jews have shared? Evenings during periods of enlightenment when Jews swigged alcohol while their Muslim brothers gulped less fun equivalents? The ramifications of making this conflict into a religious divide stretches

far beyond the Fertile (futile?) Crescent.

People seem to have this preconceived notion that Muslims and Jews spit at one another in the streets. I hate to tell them, but I love me some Jews. Some I am fortunate to call my good friends, others I've fallen for. Seriously, do you see Hillel and the Muslim Students Association fighting each other? If anything, on this campus we see Students for Justice in Palestine and certain groups under Hillel "debating" the issue, like during last year's widely controversial Mock Checkpoint. Now that was a fight across borderlines.

Be you pro-Israel or pro-Palestine at Columbia, where many do have a firm opinion, I ask you to drop your banner and be pro-future with me. Correcting political incorrectness and fatal abuses does nothing to aid the unborn fetuses who have to worry about receiving an adequate education, crossing checkpoints, and simply surviving. Not to be disrespectful, but what will they care about the United Nations or Great Britain or displaced survivors or unabated pride? Or partitions? What will these children, a sixth generation born among strife, care about our man-made partitions?

The author is a junior in Columbia College majoring in African-American studies and religion. She is the secretary for the Student Governing Board. This piece does not reflect SGB's views, only her own.

are silenced and demonized. It is in this context that the struggle for Palestinian rights and self-determination is reduced to the question of statehood.

As student activists in the U.S. (whose tuition and tax dollars fund the occupation through Columbia's investment portfolio), we should not ask whether Palestinians deserve a state (which belittles our cause), but rather, what statehood will do to change the deep, systematic inequalities which have characterized the question of Palestine/Israel in public discourse and on the ground, and what we will do on campus about Columbia's continued complicity in Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine.

Daro Behroozi is a senior in Columbia College majoring in anthropology. Tanya Keilani and Dina Zbeidy are graduate students studying anthropology. All three are members of Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine.

Managing your expectations for the Light Blue

The term “die-hard fan” caught on for a reason. A loyal fan’s mood coincides with the success, or failure, of his or her favorite team. Unfortunately, in this cruel world, there are teams who are better than others. Does that mean the fans of those lesser teams will have to be perpetually sad? I say no.



RONNIE SHABAN

Squeaky Bum Time

The key here is expectations. Fans should be allowed to be happy regardless of the level of their teams’ prominence. A good fan will know his or her team well enough to know what they should be capable of. They should expect a minimum and hope for a maximum. I’m not saying that you should assume your team will lose every game so when they do win you can be overly joyous. That’s cheating. I’m challenging you to get a better grip of what’s probably going to happen and adjust your mood accordingly. Manage your expectations. Remember, I’m not saying, “Lower your expectations.” We’re positive people here at Spec.

If you haven’t caught on yet, I’m referring to Saturday’s football game. Attending in person was a rare occasion for me. Usually these games conflict with our soccer schedule, and I’m only able to just read about what happens afterwards. But I was able to go from start to finish this time, and admittedly, I was pretty excited. All of the game recap articles will tell you about what happened if you didn’t witness it yourself. I’m going to tell you about something I noticed that wasn’t in the box score—an angry cheerleader.

Yes, there was a cheerleader on our squad who wasn’t the typical perky bundle of joy. She had a bit of bite in her cheers. While my buddies and I were more than amused by this, there is a deeper meaning behind it. I don’t know this girl personally, but my guess is she’s a first-year. Not because I have never seen her before, but because she was clearly frustrated with what was happening on the field. Any supporter of the Lions probably felt like that was the longest third quarter in the history of third quarters. There’s no denying that it was frustrating. But a positive attitude by the fans was still possible.

I’m challenging you to get a better grip of what’s probably going to happen.

Going into the game, you could’ve realized the Lions were facing an uphill task. The week before, they were just edged by Fordham and had a chance to get a W up until the final whistle. However, Albany has a better reputation than our local rivals and boasts some big-time athletes as well. Add in a few injuries to our key players, and the odds are even longer. At home, the Lions should certainly hold their own, and fans should always be hopeful for a win. But given the circumstances, fans should be less frustrated and more encouraging.

Columbia traded blows with Great Danes for the first quarter and a half. That Hail Mary-turned-interception-turned-fumble recovery-for-touchdown was exciting as hell. These are all things you can look back on favorably. Especially when you were physically at the game, a positive outlook can really help your enjoyment and take some pressure off the team.

I still expect some success from the football team. This weekend at Princeton the Light Blue should be able to beat them just as they have these past couple years. I still hope Columbia can win the Ivy League—as long as it’s still possible, there’s no harm in hoping. If that’s not the case, the Lions can still make me happy by finishing in the top half of the league and improving their overall record from last year. Until that’s no longer a possibility, I’m going to show encouraging support rather than frustrating gloom. That will benefit the team and therefore my happiness as well.

Managing expectations is no easy task. I’m as stubborn as they

SEE SHABAN, page 2



ALYSON GOULDEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NO MAN DOWN | Albany managed to avoid Light Blue tackles throughout the course of the game, resulting in Columbia’s 44-21 loss to the Great Danes.

Columbia tackling failed to take down Great Danes

BY VICTORIA JONES
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The game of football, in its essence, is quite simple: One team tries to get the ball into the end zone. The other team tries to stop that from happening.

One of the main ways to stop the other team’s players from advancing the football to the end zone is by tackling. However, the Lions had great difficulty with this on Saturday against Albany.

There were more than a few instances in which the Lions came very close to ending a play but let the ballcarrier get away. A defensive end would break through and get back to the quarterback. A running back would be surrounded

by three defensemen. A wide receiver would be covered by a linebacker as soon as he caught the ball. Yet somehow, throughout the game, the Lions were often incapable of bringing down the Great Danes.

Having looked at game tape of Columbia, the Albany head coach Bob Ford knew ahead of time that the Light Blue tended to be a little weak along the sidelines and stronger in the middle. What they saw on the tape was correct, and the Great Danes took advantage of this throughout the game.

Albany’s signature play on Saturday was a screen pass for senior quarterback Dan Di Lella to drop back a few steps and toss the ball outside to a running back or wide receiver who would then take it up the sideline for as many yards as possible.

This past Saturday, there were a lot of yards to be gained for Albany.

At the end of regulation, the Great Danes had put up 216 net rushing yards on 38 carries. By comparison, the Lions had a comparable 40 carries throughout the game, but for only 117 yards.

“We knew he was going to run hard and we just didn’t tackle him.”

—Zach Olinger, linebacker

To make matters worse for the Light Blue, there was also significant extra yardage after catch picked up in the passing game.

One such instance resulted in an easy

scoring opportunity for the Great Danes. Less than halfway into the third quarter, Albany ran a quick screen to sophomore wide receiver Kevin Chillis. After catching the ball, Chillis quite literally took it and ran. The play started at Columbia’s 40-yard line, and by the time the Light Blue defense could take down Chillis, he was just four yards from the end zone.

With a quick handoff to junior running back Andrew Smith, the Great Danes were up another touchdown to widen their lead to 31-14.

When it came to taking down Smith, the Lions struggled throughout the game. The running back posted 155 rushing yards on his own and didn’t have any negative rushing yards the entire game.

“We knew he was going to run hard and we just didn’t tackle him. We were

SEE FOOTBALL, page 2

CU takes on Seton Hall, hopes to end five-game losing streak

BY MRINAL MOHANKA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Columbia men’s soccer team (3-4-1) travels to New Jersey today to take on Seton Hall (3-3-2). Both teams enter the game on the back of a winless streak—the Light Blue has failed to win any of its past five games, and the Pirates are winless in three.

The Pirates, who have triumphed against Army, Boston University, and Saint Peter’s this season, enter the clash on the back of a 2-1 defeat to DePaul. Seton Hall only managed two shots in the first period and, as a result, was out-shot, 21-11, for the entire game. Before the loss, the Pirates put on a gutsy display to fight to a goalless draw with No. 1 Maryland. However, their defense was less solid in the matchup that preceded the clash against the top-ranked team, and they were crushed 3-0 by Monmouth. The Seton Hall offense is led by sophomore forward Max Garcia, who has scored four goals this season, and junior midfielder Adriano Gabriele, who has scored twice.

The Lions’ last fixture saw them fall 1-0 to Monmouth at Columbia Soccer Stadium. The Light Blue conceded a goal in the first half of the match, but put in a much-improved second-half display which saw it lead the shot count 9-2. Nevertheless, the Lions could not find a way to get on the scoreboard. Columbia was without defenders senior Nick Faber and junior Brendan O’Hearn due to injury, but the game marked the return of sophomore left-back David Westlake and junior winger Nick Scott, who both came off the bench. Rookie Kofi Agyapong led the Lions attack with three shots, including a bending free-kick that Monmouth goalkeeper had to dive full-stretch to save.

Several members of the Columbia squad are yet to reach the heights they set individually last season, and memories of



ALYSON GOULDEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

KOFI KICKS | Freshman forward Kofi Agyapong managed to pull off three shots on goal in the Light Blue’s last time out against Monmouth. The Lions hope to be more successful in finding the net in their game against Seton Hall today.

the game against the Pirates may act as a catalyst for finding their form before Ivy play begins this weekend. Sophomores David Najem and Henning Sauerbier had impressive displays against Seton Hall

last year, as both found the back of the net in the 3-2 win for the Lions. Senior captain Mike Mazzullo was the other scorer for Columbia, which came from 2-1 down to take the win. Stephen Rose

and Andrew Welker were on target for the Pirates last time around, but both have graduated since then.

Kickoff is slated for 7 p.m. this evening in South Orange, N.J.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Dinner wear for the highchair set
5 Tailsman
11 Spoil
14 Working without ____
15 Next to
16 Sam Adams product
17 Invasive airline inconvenience
19 Groovy relative?
20 One with an office couch, maybe
21 Untrustworthy
23 ____ garden
24 A/C measure
26 Durante's " ____ Dinka Doo"
27 Wood-dressing tool
29 Uncomfortable airline inconvenience
33 President when Texas was annexed
35 With 1-Down, discoverer of cave treasure
36 Island ring
37 Salon polish target
39 Flipable card file
43 Mag. edition
44 Father's Day mo. in Australia
45 Congenial
46 Wearying airline inconvenience
51 Lawn strip
52 Moonfish
53 Lumberjack's tool
54 Subj. with X's
56 Faraway
59 Paid no attention to
63 Roam (about)
64 Excruciating airline inconvenience (the last straw!)
66 Due-in hr.
67 One way to share
68 Clickable image
69 Not optional: Abbr.
70 French film festival site
71 " ____ la vie"

DOWN

1 See 35-Across
2 Part of, as a plot
3 Awe
4 Panache
5 Basics
6 Spaghetti go-with
7 Mil. branch
8 Connection
9 Barbara who played a genie
10 Giga- x 1,000
11 Oceanic
12 State with the Big Dipper on its flag
13 Papa Smurf's headgear
18 Pop music's " ____"
22 Sight
25 "More than I need to know!"
27 Sulted
28 Scooby- ____
30 Mrs. Gorbachev
31 Skip church, in a way?
32 Sco-Fi's Lester ____ Ray
34 Jumping chess piece
38 Comm. for the hearing-impaired

39 Military day starter
40 Shame
41 Green prefix
42 Struck (out) of the test
44 Red or White team
46 Inn resident
47 Morphine, e.g.
48 Where YHOO stock is traded
49 China's Sun

50 Pealed
55 Spock's lorie
57 Baldwin of "30 Rock"
58 Bright star
60 Dolls' dates
61 They may not be quiet on the set
62 Small body-shop job
65 Former Opry network

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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| MANSE | OCES | OMAHA |
| ALOHA | FOO | LACED |
| TUBES | FULLDRESS | |
| CLEATS | LOOP | |
| HALFWINDSOR | EBB | |
| EEE | MOSQUE | |
| ESC | STAIR | AURA |
| QUARTERFINALIST | | |
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| ARTERY | ZOT | |
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By Steven J. St. John
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