

INSIDE



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Lunch specials from across the sea

Flights to Asia are expensive—but these lunch specials aren't. Paula Gergen investigates the best lunch specials at East Asian restaurants near campus.

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To each according to his contribution

Rajat Roy takes on the culture of student-life spending.

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Columbia fencer shows Obama her skills

Senior sabre fencer Daria Schneider traveled to the White House on Sept. 17 to participate in an exhibition supporting Chicago's bid for the 2016 Olympic Games.

EVENTS

Step forward, give back

If you like helping people and eating free food, don't miss this community service forum hosted by the BSO. Learn how to get involved with the Double Discovery Center, CU UNICEF, and other groups.

Lerner Party Space, 8-10 p.m.

Smart Women Lead

Marie Wilson, president and founder of the White House Project, will talk to students about her career advocating for women's leadership in government and public service. The event, hosted by Smart Women Lead, will also feature Barnard President Debora Spar. James Room, Barnard Hall, 6 p.m.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Anything that's not hostile, I like."

—University President Lee Bollinger

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News around the clock

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



Phoebe Lytle for Spectator

**COSTLY** | As rents rise and business dwindles in Morningside Heights, neighborhood retailers are struggling to stay afloat even as local government efforts offer some support.

## Gov't tries to help local businesses

BY ELIZABETH FOYDEL  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Despite local legislative efforts to lend independent retailers a helping hand, small businesses in Morningside Heights say they are still feeling the punch of economic downturn.

Martha Faibisoff, owner of the clothing store, Liberty House at 112th Street and Broadway, said that rent is the biggest obstacle that small business owners face, particularly since Morningside Heights rent continues to rise in inverse proportion to declining revenue.

"I have been lucky with my own landlord. It's hard to make enough money to pay high rents and then to pay salaries and make a living. That's why there are so many vacancies on this stretch of Broadway," Faibisoff said, adding that a more reasonable process of lease and rent negotiation would help struggling businesses like hers.

The Small Business Survival Act—a legislative measure proposed by New York City councilmember Robert Jackson, who represents Morningside Heights—aims to ease the pains of slipping revenue by granting additional rights to

commercial tenants during the lease-renewal process. Should the act pass, an arbitrator would play a third-party role in the lease-renewal process to resolve potential disputes over a lease or rent. Rather than focusing on rent control, the act recognizes increases in rent during the lease-renewal period as a central factor in the failure of small businesses and seeks to support a process more sensitive to merchants' needs.

But according to the office of New York City Council speaker Christine Quinn, questions arose about the legality of the Small Business Survival Act after the first of two hearings took place at the end of June. The necessary follow-up hearing has yet to be scheduled.

Joanna Garcia, a spokesperson for Jackson, said that they are confident the bill will eventually be brought to a vote. She noted that New York attorney Sherri Donovan wrote the law, so its legality should not be in question.

"We are going to meet with Quinn's office and have her [Donovan] as a legal expert to address concerns that the speaker's office might have," Garcia said, adding that Quinn's objections were the only obstacle

to a second hearing for the act and that addressing the bill's legality with Quinn's office was a priority for Jackson.

While awaiting progress on this proposed bill, the city has also received stimulus money for programs aimed at easing the plight of local entrepreneurs in a time of increasing rent and decreasing business.

These efforts seek to help businesses provide training for their workers and use potential unemployment funds to help employers pay their workforce at a reduced rate instead of defaulting to layoffs. A large chunk of the billions of stimulus dollars announced this past spring by U.S. Congressman Charles Rangel of Harlem has already been pumped into the Manhattan economy, including the Morningside Heights and Harlem neighborhoods. According to Elbert Garcia, the New York communications director and policy director in Rangel's office, more than one-third of stimulus funds went towards tax relief for individuals and businesses to help defray some of their operational costs. For merchants, a large portion was devoted to hiring youth,

SEE BUSINESS, page 2

## Astronomers see stars no more

### Northwest Corner Building blocks telescopes in Pupin

BY AMBER TUNNELL  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

On astronomy's birthday—the 400th year since Galileo first pointed a telescope at the night sky—Columbia astronomers can't see the stars anymore.

Due to construction of the Northwest Corner Building next to Pupin, the telescopes in the Rutherford Observatory on Pupin's roof have been partially blocked.

According to Cameron Hummels, a Ph.D. student in the astronomy department and director of their outreach program, one-ninth of the night sky is blocked by the new structure, which is six floors higher than the roof of Pupin. "It blocks everything setting since it is on the west. We will not be able to see Mercury or Venus during the evening ever again," he said.

In addition, Hummels said that the lights left on during construction of the Northwest Corner Building are also "increasingly a problem" because they "shine

right on to the roof of Pupin," making observing the night sky much more difficult. According to Hummels, astronomers complained to the construction company, which "hasn't been responsive at all. They say that only the necessary lights are left on."

Hummels said he understood that space was an issue when deciding on the placement of the new building, but "it didn't seem like they took into account how it would impact other disciplines. Limiting astronomers to not being able to use the night sky is like trying to prevent chemists from having access to chemicals."

Hummels insists that they do not object to the new building; the problem is that "the administration has failed to do anything in order to reduce its negative impact on the department."

Negotiations have taken place between the university and the astronomy department about possibly moving the telescopes to another

SEE STARS page 2

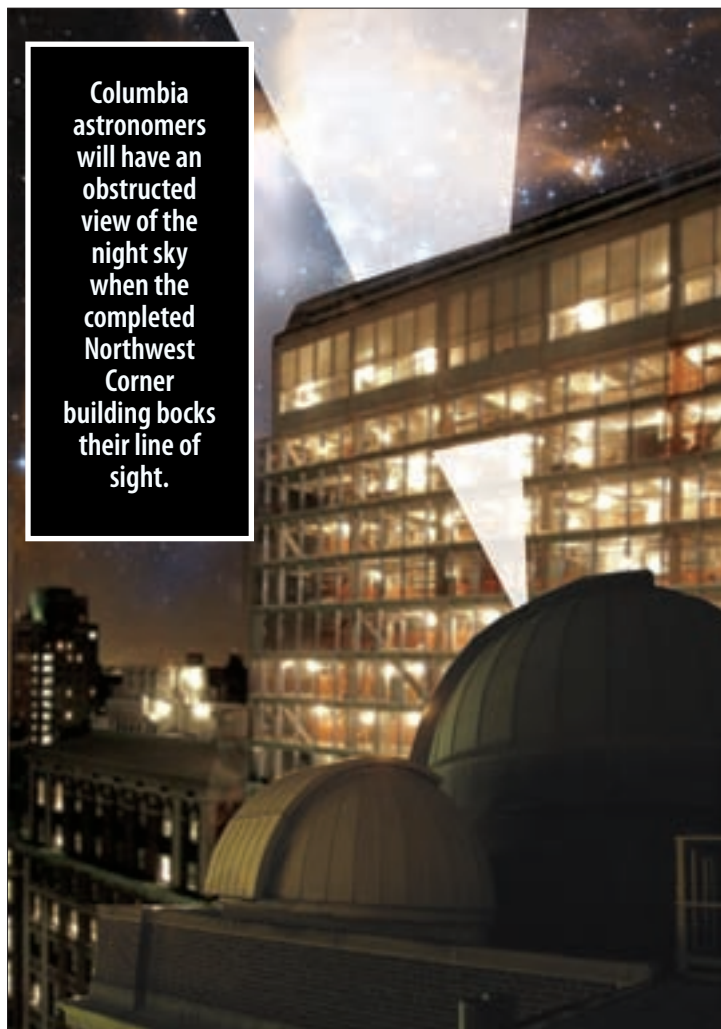


Photo illustration by Jin Chen

## Bollinger hosts year's first fireside chat, talks future

BY ALEXA DAVIS  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

It was a light night for a fireside chat. While University President Lee Bollinger has previously fielded questions on topics like the economic crisis and Columbia's endowment, Wednesday night's chat began with an inquiry into how Bollinger feels about his oft-used moniker "PrezBo."

"I've always assumed it's not hostile," Bollinger joked, "and therefore I like it. Anything that's not hostile,

I like. ... Feel free to use it."

The room of around 50 student guests often erupted in laughter at Bollinger's jokes or a student's remarks, after enjoying the customary lavish spread of catered gourmet food at his residence at 60 Morningside Drive for the first fireside chat of the semester.

Still, some serious topics were also discussed—such as the issue of space, the frustrations of Bollinger's job, financial aid, and the Core.

SEE BOLLINGER, page 6



Adrienne Hezghia for Spectator

**PREZBO** | When asked at Wednesday evening's fireside chat, President Lee Bollinger said he likes it when you call him "Prezbo."

## A recession-proof industry? Bars get cheaper, craftier

BY LEAH GREENBAUM  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

In this recession, Columbia students need to go for a drink.

Despite widespread economic downturn that has businesses around the neighborhood struggling to stay afloat, off-campus nightlife continues to sustain local bars.

"We don't have that kind of recession," said Gus Hookanson, owner of Lion's Head Tavern on Amsterdam and 109th Street, where \$2 beer and lively game nights attract a constant stream of students and locals.

Caroline Camargo, who lives above Lion's Head and across the street from Village Pourhouse, said she has seen more students this year than ever before flooding Amsterdam in search of cheap drinks. "People are flocking to the dive bars," Camargo said.

A Columbia sophomore who requested anonymity because he is not of legal drinking age explained: "Why would I go to the Underground, where I get a small beer for \$5, when I could just go to 1020 and get a big beer for \$3?"

Recession or no recession, he said, college is about having a good time, so when money is tight, "You just have to be a little bit more careful about where you go." He added that Columbia's fraternities, with their promises of free alcohol, have become more popular as well.

But as more people trade in their double-digit "Old Fashioned" and "Brass Monkey"

drinks for beers they can buy with pocket change, mid-range venues are hurting. Two years ago, Cuban chain Havana Central opened a third location on Broadway and 113th Street following the closing of famed hangout, The West End. Owner Jeremy Merrin admitted that establishing the new location has been harder than he and his associates expected.

To compete with 1020, Lion's Head, and other inexpensive bars, higher-end venues like Havana Central, the Underground, and Campo have begun to offer "recession specials." At Havana Central, for instance, a hungry student can walk away with an appetizer, entrée, and dessert for just \$12.95, and Merrin offers \$5 sugarcane mojitos during Happy Hour.

"Nowadays students go where the cheapest beer is, and I can't play that game," Merrin said. To pay rent and other costs, "I need to bring in a lot more revenue than they [dive bars] do."

But not all students have been driven to dive bars—some continue to seek their fun downtown. Waiting in line at Webster Hall—a nightclub and concert venue in the East Village—a Columbia senior, who identified herself only as Molly because she did not want potential employers to see her quote when Googling her, said she and her friends had gotten \$30 tickets for free from a promoter on the street.

"Sure, it's a bad time for the economy and for a lot of people," Molly said. "But

SEE RECESSION, page 2



# Barnard Financial Aid opens door to walk-ins

BY MADINA TOURE  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

In an effort to accommodate students, families, and faculty members, Barnard College Financial Aid is now letting students meet with counselors whether or not they have scheduled appointments.

In an e-mail sent out to students last week, Dean of the College Dorothy Denburg announced that students are now able to meet with counselors at any time during walk-in hours.

Director of Financial Aid Nanette DiLauro said in an e-mail that, “We offered walk-in hours when I was in the Columbia financial aid office, and it was viewed very positively,” so Barnard decided to give it a try.

She noted that the changes were not the result of any complaints, and “our

office has always been viewed very positively.”

Carla Michel, BC ’10, concurred. “The financial aid office is pretty accessible,” she said. “I think the walk-in hours are just another bonus.”

Viktoriya Rutkovskaya, BC ’12, added, “At this point in the economic situation, this is really important for pretty much everyone, especially students whose financial aid has drastically changed.”

Still, some students are pleased with the change only “as long as it doesn’t displace anyone who already has an appointment,” Syrie Bianco, BC ’13, said.

Many students were also confused as to whether they could meet with counselors beyond walk-in hour times, since the regularly designated times seem to be the focus of the announcement. DiLauro maintained that the office would continue to be flexible to students’ schedules.

“We tried to make the announcement as clear as possible that we still have appointments and counselors available beyond the walk-in hours,” she explained.

The financial aid office made an effort to eliminate any misunderstandings of the changes by updating its Web site to say that counselors are available all day for appointments.

Ultimately, DiLauro said that the purpose of the change was to provide flexibility so students don’t need to make appointments.

Nyimasita Kanuteh, BC ’12, said that regardless of time conflicts, the changes would bring more students to the office: “The informality of a walk-in will sort of encourage people to talk to financial aid offices more often.”

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# Students pay for drinks, music even in tight times

RECESSION from front page

am I going to stay inside and sob about it, or am I going to go out and have fun and maybe even help the economy along the way?”

Martin O’Keefe, a producer for the East Village Comedy Club, said a lot of Columbia students come downtown, where they “are taking advantage of discounts.”

“During times of recession, entertainment is always on top,”

O’Keefe said, adding that students—a reliable target audience—keep it that way.

Pete Vek, manager of St. Mark’s Alehouse, said he wasn’t surprised students have kept partying through tough times.

“How affected are students by the recession? They’re not working, they’re in school,” Vek said—and south of 14th Street, he added, nightlife is “hopping.”

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# Local businesses face rent, recession

BUSINESSES from front page

veterans, and others in specific areas of the city.

“We have been meeting with business groups and local chambers of commerce to help businesses utilize existing federal assistance options, as well as find out about city and state resources,” Garcia said.

Locally, Rangel has sought to increase available resources for businesses—and their knowledge of them—by participating in conferences with the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce over the summer. During the conference, he brought together store owners as well as local, state, and federal officials and bank representatives to dive into topics such as credit

issues and the usage of stimulus dollars.

But these efforts have yet to deeply impact struggling store owners, locals say.

Paula Blat, manager of the 66-year-old chocolate shop, Mondels, on 114th Street, said that although the shop will likely survive, they could still use support. “With rents so high, we welcome anything that could help,” she said.

Faibisoff of Liberty House feared a greater loss once the storm of recession has finally cleared away. “This isn’t a New Jersey mall—people come here for small, familiar stores but the interesting neighborhoods like this one are fast disappearing.”

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STARS from front page

building on campus. Columbia administration officials declined to comment.

Hummels said that moving the telescopes to the new Northwest Corner Building was never an option. Fume hoods that will be placed in the new building will require connecting pipes to the roof, he added, so it will be impossible to have an observatory there as well.

Hummels also said that he heard a theory that the “designer just didn’t want such feminine structures as the astronomy domes on his masculine building.”

David Helfand, chair of the astronomy department and co-director of the Columbia Astrophysics Laboratory, said that astronomers “were disappointed that zero consideration was given to moving the observatory to this new structure, as it would have been an ideal location. We were then told another rooftop location on campus would be found, and some work was done to effect this until

all capital projects were halted owing to the financial situation.”

Hummels said that Carman and Mudd were both considered possible relocation areas for the telescopes, but they were both bad options. Carman, being a freshman dorm, is very inaccessible to the astronomers and the public, and Mudd has a rooftop that is “not easily accessible.” Plus, their distance from the astronomy department is also inconvenient.

According to Hummels, the situation will “continue to get worse and worse” until a “major uprising occurs” due to the “lack of concern” the University has paid to the issue.

He noted that “one of the main draws to astronomy is being able to use telescopes and look at the night sky. As an educator, what really makes an imprint on a student is having them experience this for themselves. Students want to spend more time on the roof and actually seeing the things we talk about.”

Helfand agreed that the blocking of telescopes “is a major problem both for our educational program and for our very active public outreach programs, which are attended by literally thousands of people each semester.”

Arlin Crotts, an astronomy professor, said that public outreach programs are also required to get grants from NASA for their research, and that the department’s funding will decrease if they stop doing these public outreach programs.

He is doing research about the moon which he said requires “monitoring the near side of the moon in a way no one has done before.” For this project, which is centered in Pupin but also involves telescopes from around the world, the department has received a NASA grant of \$130,000.

According to Crotts, the programs are harder to do “since we are now parked next to a giant glowing wall.”

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## COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

For general comments or questions about the newspaper, please write to the editor-in-chief and managing editor at [editor@columbiaspectator.com](mailto:editor@columbiaspectator.com).

## CORRECTION

The article “Columbia grad designs corporate job search engine” incorrectly stated that there were little to no job services. The word “job” was extraneous and it should have simply stated that there were little to no services. The article stated that the company gives employment to 75 percent of its members and that there is an application vetted by Ivy Exec, though that is not true. The article said that Ivy Exec had a partnership with Tufts University when it does not. Spectator regrets the error.

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FILM

A 'Bright Star' for women in film



MORGAN DAVIES  
A FILM OF HER OWN

While the number of female screenwriters and directors of motion pictures is abysmally small, there are rare, extraordinary women artists who have

broken into the boys club of movie-making. Jane Campion is one such auteur.

As a female filmmaker who makes movies primarily about women, her career is an excellent starting point for a dialogue about women in cinema. Not all of her films have been well-received, but those of note have been met with abounding critical praise. Her two most successful features—"Bright Star," released just last month, and her 1993 masterpiece "The Piano"—will be, respectively, the subjects of this column and the next.

As a highly regarded female filmmaker with a critical success currently in theaters, she is more than worthy of closer analysis.

Most of the enduringly popular female characters in period films like "The Other Boleyn Girl" do not fit in well with their contemporaries. They are the sorts of characters typically played by Keira Knightley—the Elizabeth Swanns of the cinematic world. Strong, determined women who will not settle remain popular because they possess qualities that would have been unbecoming in the era in which the movie is set.

Fanny Brawne, the heroine of "Bright Star," does not fall into that category. A young woman from a privileged family living in 1820s England, she is nonetheless exceptional in her own way—she designs and sews all of her own dresses, for instance, and those dresses are far from demure.

Most notably, she falls in love with the penniless, unsuccessful poet living next door instead of one of the dashing young officers who populate her circle. Although we know John Keats as one of the greatest Romantic poets, he was, to most, a mere social curiosity at the time.

Those basic plot details, however, do not tell the whole story. Fanny does not chafe under the restrictions that society has placed upon her. In fact, she delights in them. She is not initially interested in poetry or other study, but rather loves to dance and flirt. She is firmly entrenched in the feminine sphere of domesticity and happy there without ever coming across as weak or repressed.

When she meets Keats, she is immediately intrigued but not infatuated, and the feeling is clearly mutual. They grow tentatively closer until their passion for each other simmers, agonizingly, just out of sight. Fanny claims to have developed a fascination with poetry, but reads only Keats' works. She experiences no life-changing intellectual moment, as her interest is purely emotional.

The scene when they finally do admit to their shared affection is quiet and in many ways unremarkable, but to them and to the audience, it feels like an explosion. We believe wholly in Fanny's love for Keats, and his for her, and as the film draws towards its conclusion, the other characters come to the same realization.

Despite the fact that their union would have been socially frowned upon, even Fanny's reluctant mother eventually gives them her blessing. Without breaking nearly any of the rules that dictate how she should lead her life, she succeeds in getting what she wants, and that is extraordinary.

Keats died at the age of 25, before he and Fanny could be married. In the aftermath of his death we see and hear the expressions of Fanny's grief. They are almost unbearable to listen to and watch.

It is clear that she has been utterly destroyed by her love for a man, and there are some who would find fault with Campion for creating a heroine whose utter dependence on her male counterpart so crushes her. But Fanny is not dependent on Keats because she cannot navigate the world without him. She is dependent on him because she has chosen love over security, deliberately pursuing the poet despite knowing that her life would be infinitely easier, but not better, if she traveled a more traditional path. There is no quality more honest or admirable.

Morgan Davies is a sophomore at Barnard College majoring in English. A Film of Her Own runs alternate Thursdays. arts@columbiaspectator.com

FOOD & DRINK



Angela Radulescu / Senior staff photographer

MARKET VALUE | Local Morningside restaurants such as Thai Market, Saga Grill, and West Place offer affordable, tasty, and varied lunch specials, perfect for hungry students looking for a culinary—and cultural—change of scenery between classes.

Dine abroad with East Asian lunch specials

BY PAULA GERGEN  
Columbia Daily Spectator

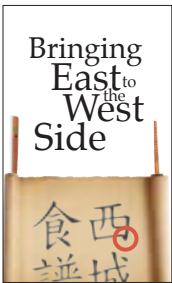
Between classes, there isn't much time to satisfy those instinctive urges. You need to be able to devour things quickly and still maximize your satisfaction. No, not the kind of desires below your belt—the ones above it.

Every day at lunch, Columbia students face a culinary conundrum of quality and cost—where and what to eat? John Jay only serves brunch, and lunch pickings are often slim. Money is a constant concern, and with limited time between classes, convenience is also a priority.

With this in mind, here are three Asian

restaurants around campus offering lunch specials ranging from mediocre to spectacular. I shop around for the best of the East so you don't have to.

Thai Market on Amsterdam Avenue between 107th and 108th Streets offers an \$8 lunch special from 12 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. that includes an appetizer and a main course. While the lunch menu is more limited than their dinner menu, the portions are about the same size. Serving standard Thai cuisine, Thai Market rates as one of the better Asian restaurants in Columbia's vicinity.



Saga Grill, a Japanese-Vietnamese restaurant on Amsterdam Avenue between 122nd and 123rd Streets has a lunch special from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. that costs less than \$9 for non-sushi dishes. The portions are a good size, but because the dish is comprised of heaps of limited ingredients, your food tends to lose its appeal before the plate is empty. It's is decent, but not amazing, and the service leaves something to be desired. The typical Columbia student may not have much cash to spend on food, but he certainly doesn't have 10 minutes to spend waiting for the check to arrive.

West Place is a Chinese restaurant on Amsterdam Avenue between 123rd and LaSalle Streets. This hole-in-the-wall

offers a lunch special between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. You can choose between their selection of prepared dishes (three items with rice and either soup or soda) or a dish off the lunch menu, which comes with a drink and won't exceed \$6.

Seating is limited, so take-out is generally the best option. While the food is nothing extraordinary, it is your typical Chinese take-out for cheap, cheap, cheap.

If at lunchtime, Columbians find themselves wanting to travel a little bit in distance and a whole lot in terms of flavor, put down the John Jay container. Step beyond the gates and take a trip off campus for a culinary flight to the East.

THEATER

Resurrected 'Godspell' would foster community on campus

BY ITTAI ORR  
Columbia Daily Spectator

If there's one thing Columbia's campus lacks, it's a sense of community. And the best fix for that is a healthy dose of theater—maybe that love-thy-neighbor Jesus musical by Stephen Schwartz would do the trick.

"Godspell" can be a sickly sweet church romp, an interesting take on the Book of Matthew, a beautiful portrait of the hopes and beliefs of millions and, at the very least, a collection of soulful folk songs set to a age-old story. Making its Broadway debut in 1971, "Godspell" appealed to all kinds of people, religious or non-religious.

Due to its progressive, liberal-agenda approach to a religious subject (The show is loosely drawn from the Book of Matthew), it was banned from many conservative churches across America and found a perpetual home on the high-school theater circuit. Talks of a Broadway revival were recently halted



Ittai Orr for Spectator

DRY SPELL | Hilarious and heart-warming, the cult classic play "Godspell" may be just what Columbia needs to bring us together.

indefinitely due to the recession.

The story goes like this. In a squalid urban space someplace behind a building in Manhattan, Jesus calls out to God wondering when he'll save the people. His

followers arrive and learn from him the joy of love, realizing their ability to build a "beautiful city." The second act brings Jesus' death and curtain-call resurrection in the show's finale, taking us from excitement

to foreboding to mourning to joy. After co-directing a version of "Godspell" (me, a gay Jew) for a large rural church, I became fully aware of how exasperating this musical can be. Schwartz and John-Michael Tebelak created a show so full of childish clowning and puns that it sometimes verges on schizophrenia. One begins to wonder if the characters are not escapees from a mental ward, or Kool-Aid drinkers from a brainwashing cult.

But if liberties are taken with some of the beautiful songs, and the core philosophy of the writers is taken seriously—that is, if we remember that this show is about childlike hope and community, about people shedding the restraints of cold, rational New York to love each other—it can be a transformative experience.

"Godspell" can be very powerful, but as Schwartz says in his introduction to the play, it is also deceptively hard to direct. It can easily turn into an unconscious high school theater nightmare. But given the right group of people, in the right space—cough, cough Columbia—"Godspell" will hopefully take us back to a time when ambition and individualism were unheard of—at least until the curtain falls.

TV

Students can't go wrong with daytime classic 'The Price Is Right'

BY CHRISTINE JORDAN  
Spectator Staff Writer

Although its loyal fan base generally consists of retired grandparents and sick kids spending the day home from school, I find myself hopelessly drawn to the bright colors, bright lights, and bright T-shirts that color CBS's classic game show "The Price Is Right."

Best watched in pajamas and without qualms about yelling the estimated retail values of over-the-counter drugs and mahogany furniture at the television set, "The Price is Right" is shameless about its flashy charms—making it the guiltiest of pleasures, and one of the most widely held, at that.

The game show has defended its daily time slot despite its status as a program that's lost in time. Few shows, especially game shows, have so successfully clung to their antiquities—just think of the set upgrades, the reboots, and the cancellations of programs that are simply too steeped in the culture of the moment to survive beyond their 15 fanatical minutes (RIP "American Juniors" and "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy").

Though it was once a poster child for wholesome, sunny family fun, today's game show today is dark, cold, and detached, epitomized by NBC's overtly businesslike "Deal or No



Courtesy of CBS

PAY THE PRICE | Despite changing hosts and dated retail items, The Price is Right represents gameshow television at its flashiest, making it the perfect guilty pleasure.

Deal." "The Price is Right," however, skillfully banks on the implicit romance of game shows and their callbacks to an idyllic yesterday.

New host Drew Carey radiates the same old-timey warmth as the legendary Bob Barker, and honors the show's traditional character by toting around Barker's trademark oversized microphone. Funnyman Carey is perhaps even more lovable as he goofily chuckles his way through encounters with contestants who

grow crazier by the minute.

But "The Price is Right" is grounded in such giddiness. What other emotion could a Plinko chip teetering on the peg separating zero and \$1000 evoke aside from nail-biting, seat-gripping, (and thankfully fleeting) madness? And when the prize curtains draw to reveal a poofy-haired model gesturing towards that brand new car, glee is but an emotional knee jerk.

At its best, "The Price is Right" is an

accessible program that uses the figurative and literal bells and whistles of the American game show in a most addictive manner. At its worst, it gives viewers little else beyond a reminder to control the pet population and get their dogs spayed or neutered. In game-show terms, that still sounds like a win-win.

"The Price is Right" airs at 11 a.m. weekdays on CBS.



# Editorial & Opinion

## COLUMBIA SPECTATOR

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Independent since 1962

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## Life after NSOP

BY ZARA E. CASTANY

“Hi, my name is Zara, I’m from Miami, Fla., my school is Columbia College, and oh wait, what was that last question?” I must have spoken these lines 50 times during the New Student Orientation Program that comprised the first week of my life here in New York City. Those seven glorious days of cheesy bonding activities, campus explorations, free food, and nights out in the city set up a love affair doomed to be short-lived. When Sept. 8, the first day of classes, the first day of my true college experience, finally arrived, I was left paralyzed not only at the thought of waking up before 10 a.m., but also of being left alone to fend for myself for the very first time.

NSOP was a fantasy-land of friendly people—even the kids I accidentally bumped in line at John Jay wanted to know my entire schedule and what floor I was on in Carman. Once classes started, however, everyone melded into a big blur of introductions. I promptly forgot their names and remembered them just as that guy with the sweaty palms and that girl who told me she liked my earrings. Meeting people I actually connected with really was a process of trial and error, and almost all of these potential friends ended up as duds. As I pass them in the halls, the awkwardness is palpable as neither of us can decide whether to attempt a half smile in greeting, or pull out our cell phones and act like we are texting.

To complicate matters further, I have a roommate who goes home on the weekends. Seems great,

right? I have the room all to myself—I could even walk around naked if I wanted to. But during these solitary weekends, that’s when the post-NSOP loneliness sets in. I sit alone on my bed wondering where my Saturday night is going, wondering why I can’t find one single number in my phone to call except my mother. On the last day of NSOP, as I walked back to my empty dorm room, I heard a conversation going on in the stairwell, “Man, I feel like we can’t just go up to random people and say hi anymore, everyone has their cliques already.” I don’t know about everyone else, but I definitely did not have a clique already!

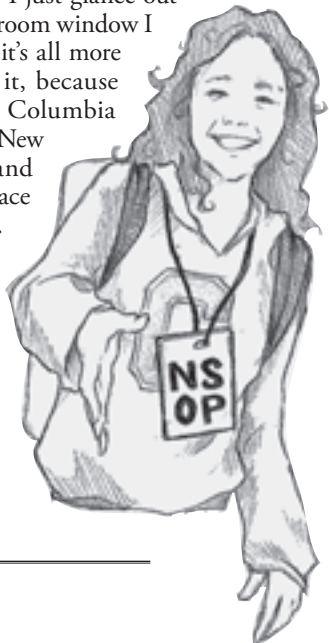
It may seem strange, but by the end of NSOP I was itching for classes to start, and actually sort of excited about the idea of having to do homework for the first time in months. Starting classes meant that my dream of coming here had finally come full circle, that I would finally get to say to people, “Why yes, I do go to Columbia University,” when the situation called for it. While this was an altogether magnificent feeling, I discovered soon after that though my high school may have tried desperately to prepare me for the kind of work I’d have here, sadly I think they failed. These first few weeks have left me with more stress and frustration than all of senior year combined, leading me to the conclusions that NSOP should have had a mandatory time-managing seminar. We all would have been complaining about it then, but we would definitely be thankful now when it’s 4:30 a.m. and we are desperately SparkNoting the last eight books of “The Iliad” while somehow absorbing 40 pages on Japanese post-World War II culture for anthropology. Three weeks into college and I still haven’t discovered how to extend the amount of hours in a day, much less make due with the 24 I have.

And speaking of not having enough time for things, I probably saw more of Manhattan during one week of NSOP than I have in all of the weeks following. I went to the Central Park Zoo, Times Square, Greenwich Village—there was infinite time for everything. And no doubt, the Columbia campus is great, beautiful, majestic, and everything in between, but it can seem stifling when there is an entire metropolis sitting just beyond the gates! A huge part of coming to Columbia was living in New York City, and with all the post-NSOP craziness, it doesn’t feel quite like that just yet. The few sojourns I have attempted since NSOP left me lost on the subway in Brooklyn, and soaked with a broken umbrella, but those were still the most satisfying days because I finally felt a little bit like a New Yorker.

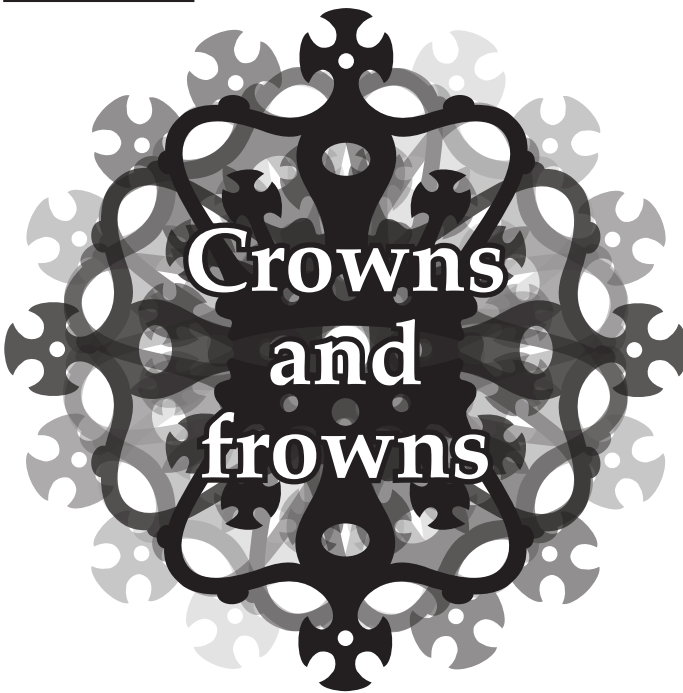
Sometimes I can’t fathom how I’ll survive it all, with the struggle, frustration, and general confusion of my first year overwhelming me at times. But if I just glance out of my dorm room window I can see that it’s all more than worth it, because I’m here, at Columbia University in New York City, and there is no place I’d rather be.

The author is a Columbia College first-year.

ILLUSTRATION BY CHANNA BAO



### Staff Editorial



**Crown:** The weather seems to have settled in one place, at least for the time being.

**Frown:** The heat is not working despite our drafty dorm rooms.

**Crown:** The pulchritude of Low at dusk rivals that of Alma Mater around this time of year.

**Frown:** When it’s raining and you walk by the fountain on Low, the wind blows the fountain water onto you, adding insult to injury.

**Crown:** The return of pumpkin spice lattes at Starbucks.

**Frown:** They cost almost \$5.

**Crown:** New, colored maps of Lerner make it possible to know where you need to go.

**Frown:** Flex machines have failed, three weeks of laundry encroach upon personal space, and Hartley Hospitality is a half a mile from your dorm.

**Crown:** Midterm week is a ways off for CC students.

**Frown:** Midterm season just started for SEAS students.

**Frown:** Curfew in Avery. 11:30 p.m.? Really?

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

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

### POLITICS ON STILTS



SHAINA RUBIN

### New Native American professor attracts across cultures

To the editor:

I am delighted by the article “Native American Professor brings welcome perspective” (Sept. 29, 2009) regarding anthropology professor Audra Simpson. Fortunately, I am enrolled in her course, Critical Native and Indigenous Studies, and am amazed to see the diversity among the students in the course. Although some of us identify as Native and/or Indigenous, various types of people are represented from several departments and schools of Columbia. The popularity of these new courses makes it apparent that it is not only Natives that are interested in Native-American studies and its broader implications, as professor Simpson possesses an ability to truly draw upon our differences to increase our collective understandings. There is clearly a desire and need for more scholars focused on Native and Indigenous peoples at Columbia.

It is my and other Native students at Columbia’s concern that she does not become the “token Native” voice for the anthropology department or in any other capacity at Columbia. As Simpson herself states, “one is never enough,” and hopefully more Native professors will eventually join Columbia’s faculty. Professor Simpson is well-dressed (as the article states), but I hope drawing attention to that fact does not hinder anyone from taking her scholarly endeavors and amazing attitude seriously.

Destiny Sullens, CC ’11  
Chair, Native American Council  
Sept. 29, 2009

### New dean’s appointment seems like bad timing

To the editor:

I am troubled by the Columbia administration’s timing in creating a new position as reported in “Martinez fills new post in multicultural affairs” (Sept. 30, 2009) to oversee various aspects of student life and advising. My main concern lies where, I’m sure, many of ours do—the University’s financial

status. Student groups across the board are receiving less money this year, Dining Services has cut food budgets, and Lerner Hall hours are much shorter, to name just a few sacrifices students have made as the University refocuses its expenditures. Can we truly afford this indulgence?

The timing on a smaller scale is confusing, as well—what could be so urgent that we need Dean Martinez to rush and join us mid-semester, instead of simply waiting for a clean start at the beginning of next semester? Dean Martinez has enhanced the lives of a number of students at other schools, but perhaps the University should have first looked to rearranging its own staff, who is already familiar with and devoted to Columbia students’ needs. Additionally, I am surprised that Dean Shollenberger’s positions as dean of student affairs and associate vice president for undergraduate student life do not already encompass the responsibilities to be shouldered in the next two months by Dean Martinez.

No doubt, Dean Martinez has an impressive record at other schools around the country, and Columbia students would be lucky to have her on our team—in several years, once the University has regained its financial footing.

Abigail Lowin, CC ’11  
Sept. 30, 2009

### Clarifying a quote in conversation with the provost

To the editor:

I felt my question to Provost Claude Steele about Muslim women and stereotypes was not paraphrased the right way in yesterday’s newspaper in “Provost and psychologist” (Sept. 30, 2009). So this is my attempt to clarify the question in order to promote discussion on the topic.

Provost Steele talked about stereotypes of minorities, for instance, performing at a lower level in standardized exams. He said that during experiments, minorities are so keenly aware of these stereotypes that they become psychologically and physiologically frustrated, worrying about confirming the negative assumptions against them. As a

result they underperform. However, when these students are told before taking the exam that minorities perform just as well as any other student on the given exam, they do very well. This shows that the minorities are affected by stereotypes and need simple positive reinforcements to help them actualize their potential.

Given that I am doing my research on perceptions of Muslims, I was curious whether studies were done on stereotypes against Muslim women, of which they are well aware. Muslim women are perceived to be subservient, often under-educated women who cannot speak for themselves. Many of us believe that they are forced to wear veils by their patriarchal religious societies. But my question to the provost was—What are we doing as a society if instead of giving these women a voice, we volunteer to speak on their behalf and decide for them what they can and cannot wear? I refer to the French government getting involved in the lives of its female citizens to rectify their hijab and burqa issue on their behalf. Is this an attempt to free docile women who cannot think for themselves? Are they not reinforcing the stereotype about Muslim women being submissive and without a voice by not letting them decide what they can and cannot wear? As a result, are they not being oppressed from both ends—their respective religious societies and the larger society as a whole? I think these types of actions will make Muslim women fulfill the stereotypes against them more. It reinforces the negative assumptions that Muslim women cannot judge for themselves. I am a Muslim woman and I do not wear a veil out of personal choice, but as a woman I would object to my choice of attire being dictated.

My disclaimer to the question at the lecture was that while it was politically inclined and perhaps misdirected, I thought the issue applied. Provost Steele said he could only answer from reading about it in the papers and he expected that it would “generally...have negative effects.” I thought this was a very fair answer to the question given that this issue is recent and barely researched.

Maisha Rashid, CC ’10  
Sept. 30, 2009

## Spreading the culture around



RAJAT ROY

### CUTTING THE BLUE TAPE

truly nefarious implications, and at Columbia, we have seen how big an issue it can be.

This word is—“Culture.”

I am not joking. “Culture” is causing more harm than good at Columbia. Let me clarify—culture in and of itself is inherently good. Every person needs to be cultured and be exposed to other cultures. However, Columbia does “Culture” in a way that only hurts the overall community. It wouldn’t cost that much in terms of man-hours or money to rectify this situation. In fact, changing this could increase the amount of money available to all students.

This point is most easily made when one analyzes where your student life money goes. You pay \$541 per term (\$1082 per year) in student life fees. Of that \$79.30 per year goes to your student life in the form of group allocations (Yes, I’m serious. My math is in the online version of this article). You can get exact breakdowns of the numbers at [facu.columbia.edu](http://facu.columbia.edu).

The evidence is most clear with the InterGreek Council. Funding at Columbia initially gave IGC \$23,885. Of this, the Interfraternity Council

(population nearly 500), which is composed of all the “normal” fraternities, got \$2,400. The Pan-Hellenic Council (population about 300) got \$2,720. \$8,240 was given to the general IGC. The last group in the IGC to get money is the Multicultural Greek Council (population less than 150), the umbrella group for all race-affiliated fraternities and sororities. There are not even a fifth as many members in MGC as there are in “normal Greek life.”

Do the math. The multi-“Culturals” got \$10,525. That’s nearly FIVE TIMES as much as the “normal” frats, which have SIX TIMES as many members, more publicly accessible events all-together, do more community service, and whose members serve as leaders on more groups across campus life.

How does this make any sense?

A full quarter of the Activities Board at Columbia’s budget goes to cultural groups. Nearly 60 percent of Student Governing Board’s budget goes to the same constituencies. If we aggregate the numbers, of over a half-million dollars, nearly 40 percent of it goes to cultural organizations on campus. If we take Bacchanal, the Columbia Political Union, and Mock Trial out of the mix, that number hits nearly 50 percent.

Can someone explain to me why over half of my student life fees dedicated to clubs are going to groups that invite neither me nor people not of their background to events where I can learn about their cultures?

Why don’t we actually expose our cultures to others? It is because Columbia’s definition of “Culture” is really a definition of insularism where people of the same group can meet and hook up (that makes sense though—wouldn’t you donate more to a school where you met your spouse?). But the truth of the matter is that Hillel might benefit from a mixer with the Muslim Students

Association, just as Club Zamana (the Indian students club) can learn something from the Organization of Pakistani Students.

As I said, I have a solution. Here it is—determine the extent to which a “Culture” group benefits or reaches out to the rest of the community. Fund those groups fully but cut funding to the others. Liga Filipina did a great event on Tuesday where they offered food, fun, and dancing for only \$5. They advertised it in every single dorm. Club Zamana does a great job of flying, as do the Chinese Students Club, Korean Students Association, and Asian American Alliance. They also do very visible events on Low Plaza. That unquestionably constitutes reaching out and exposing others to your culture.

If a group does not contribute to the Columbia community, why should they excessively take from it? Simply basing funding on merit or real need would, by my projections, save the governing boards and student councils nearly \$80,000. This is the equivalent of 800 (yes, 800) average-sized co-sponsorships by the Engineering Student Council.

The idea of “Culture” should really be about exposing one’s culture to everyone else. Every major club on campus has a mandate, mission statement, or purpose to “spread the ideas of the “blank” culture to the Columbia community.” I’m all for spreading culture. If “Cultural” groups want my \$74.30 out of my \$1,082 student life fee, however, they need to actually accomplish that mission.

Rajat Roy is a School of Engineering and Applied Science senior majoring in industrial engineering and operations research and minoring in environmental engineering. He is a university senator from SEAS. Cutting the Blue Tape runs alternate Thursdays. [opinion@columbiaspectator.com](mailto:opinion@columbiaspectator.com)



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9	8	1	7	2	4	6	5	3
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5	6	7	4	8	2	1	3	9
6	2	3	5	1	9	8	4	7
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1	7	5	2	4	8	3	9	6

su | do | ku

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9. That means that no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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### Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

**ACROSS**

1 Gillette's \_\_\_ II razor

5 Young reporters

9 Half-and-half half

14 \_\_\_ sapiens

15 European capital

16 Speed

17 Doe

20 Get loose for the game

21 French monarch

22 Long, long time

23 Matured

25 Maker of ergonomic kitchenware

27 Do

35 Suffix with ranch

36 Coastal bird

37 Curb, as spending

38 Dentist's directive

41 Puppy's bite

43 Nearly boil

44 Relating to the body's main blood line

46 Laddie's negative

48 Indians, on scoreboards

49 Dough

53 Sushi fish

54 Final Four initials

55 \_\_\_ acetate: banana oil

59 Hitler's stat

61 Duke Ellington's "Take the \_\_\_"

65 O'rah

68 Big name in kitchen foil

69 Sculptor's subject

70 Altar exchanges

71 Animal

72 She-bears, in Seville

73 Promgoer's concern, maybe

10 Steakhouse request

11 Canadian gas sign

12 Oodles

13 Clothing store section

18 Bygone Serbian auto

19 "Finding Nemo" studio

24 Laura of "Jurassic Park"

26 Plural ending for noun

27 Meal on a skewer

28 1 + 1 = 3, for example

29 "\_\_\_ a Good Man, Charlie Brown"

30 How contracts are usually signed

31 Pres., vis-à-vis the armed forces

32 Has \_\_\_ up one's sleeve

33 City in which de Gaulle was born

34 Rear \_\_\_: hit from behind

39 Grand Central, e.g.: Abloz

40 Sweep under the rug

42 Tyloniol target

45 "Good buddies"

47 Sheathes

50 White 66-Down, e.g.

51 Cat, in Cancún

52 Land chronicled by C.S. Lewis

55 One giving Starbucks orders?

56 Double agent

57 Pantomimed disco song title

58 Many August babies

60 Don of talk radio

62 Outlet letters

63 Goller's choice

64 AMEX rival

66 Pied Piper follower

67 BlackBerry or Sidekick, briefly

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

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# Students ask about jobs, financial aid at presidential fireside chat

BOLLINGER from front page

Bollinger cited the University’s Manhattanville expansion as a solution to Columbia’s lack of long-term available space, since, Bollinger said, “For the past 40 years, Columbia has been out of space.”

On a related note, a student asked about the University’s role as a “neighbor” to the surrounding areas, such as Harlem, and how the University views this role.

“We have taken a lot of steps to enhance the number of opportunities for people who live around here,” Bollinger said, citing the construction of the job center on 125th Street and Broadway, as well as outreach to local schools and both health and legal clinics for the neighboring communities. “These are very, very tangible ways that we’ve made Columbia’s resources available to the local community in ways

that really matter. ... But you can never really feel like you’ve done enough.”

One student asked Bollinger what the hardest part about his job is, and what frustrates him the most.

“I know what could happen, that it would be good for the world, if Columbia had more money. ... There are huge issues out there that really need the kind of research, I mean universities are special places, but what they do best is they try to understand the problems that the world has and we try to come up with solutions. There’s just so much more we could do if we had more resources.”

Bollinger also cited the challenge of convincing people that the issues he cares about are in the best interest of the University. “So much depends upon persuasion. I don’t have the kind of power that the head of a business has ... a lot of what I have to do

is persuasion. That can be frustrating. I think there ought to be, for example, a lot more international students in the College ... but I haven’t persuaded enough people yet.”

Another student asked about financial aid for students in the School of General Studies, and inquired why the financial aid offered to GS students is so different than that offered to students in the College.

Bollinger affirmed that the financial aid offered to GS students isn’t comparable to that which is offered to CC students, and explained that the difference is due to the University’s decentralized structure and the way that donations are distributed.

“Tuition only pays for 50 percent of what we give you,” Bollinger said. The rest of the money comes from other funds, such as donations, and when people give money to the University, they

generally donate to specific schools. Because donations to the College have a longer precedent and because College alumni tend on average to be wealthier than alumni from GS, the money available for financial aid for the two different groups varies.

When Bollinger turned the tables on his audience and asked for their commentary about what they like and dislike about the University, most responded that they were pleased with the way the school was running. While some voiced concerns about their job prospects in the future and the effectiveness of the Center for Career Education (which, one student stated, is too geared towards finance), the discussion ended on a light note.

“Stock up on food,” Bollinger added, referring to what was left of the gourmet spread, as students were filing out of the room. “It’s free!”

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For athletes,  
success is not  
what you make it

LOPEZ from back page

the information be made public. What is important is that a change be made. To coaches and athletes, ask yourselves if an Ivy championship is what you honestly expect of yourselves and your team. If the answer is not "I expect to win it all," then you have a problem that needs to be fixed. Otherwise, well done, you've won the mental battle. To Columbia fans, what do you expect of the Columbia varsity teams? If you respond with, "I don't expect the Lions to win it all," then you are also at fault. A fan's duty is to demand the absolute best of his or her team, and that means a championship every year.

To my final point, why run this column now, instead of at the end of the year when all the teams have finished their seasons? Simply put, this is not an issue that should be left after the fact. The fall season is young, and there is still time to get into the right frame of mind. When you truly define success as winning a championship, the rest falls into place. If you win, you've had a successful season. If you don't, you'll be disappointed, but you're one step closer to winning it next year.

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

# Volleyball rivals meet in first conference matchups

**VOLLEYBALL** from back page

three blocks. Harvard and Dartmouth will meet again on Friday, Oct. 2, in Hanover.


Brown (4-7) split its weekend contests at the Bryant Invitational with a defeat over Howard University and a loss to Bryant University. Brown junior Brianna Williamson led the Bears with double-doubles in both matches with a total 27 kills and 22 digs, in addition to 6 service aces, earning her a spot alongside Cornell's Mushovic on the Ivy League Weekly Report's honor roll for the week of Oct. 29. Brown will compete in its Ivy League opener on Oct. 2 at Yale University at 7 p.m.

Yale (10-1), the 2008 Ivy League champions, swept Binghamton and defeated Quinnipiac on Saturday to take the Yale Classic. Senior outfielder-hitter Alexis Crusey was named Ivy League Player of the Week with 11 kills and 11 digs, three assists, and

an ace against Quinnipiac, and a match-high 13 kills against Binghamton.

Meanwhile, Princeton (2-9), the 2007 Ivy League champions, snapped a six-game losing streak at home with a victory against Division III Juniata College. The win was key for the Tigers, who needed to break their negative momentum as they aim to snatch the Ivy title back from the Bulldogs and pick up their 15th Ivy League title this year. Princeton senior Sheena Donohue earned a spot in the Ivy League Weekly Report's honor roll after notching a double-double with 14 kills and 18 digs. Princeton takes on Penn in both teams' Ivy openers on Saturday.

Penn (9-3) lost 0-3 to Santa Clara this past Friday evening. Freshman Lauren Martin had a team-high 12 kills, while junior Julia Swanson had seven kills, along with eight digs and a service ace. Martin was also selected for the Ivy League Weekly Report's honor roll. The Quakers will face the Tigers on Saturday, Oct. 3.

IVY LEAGUE VOLLEYBALL STANDINGS		
	OVERALL STANDINGS	IVY STANDINGS
COLUMBIA	7-4	1-0
DARTMOUTH	5-6	1-0
YALE	10-1	0-0
PENN	9-4	0-0
BROWN	4-7	0-0
PRINCETON	2-9	0-0
HARVARD	4-8	0-1
CORNELL	3-9	0-1

## Bears stumble while looking to repeat 2008 success

**BROWN FOOTBALL** from back page

team all-Ivy League selection senior Chris Perkins. Last year Perkins tallied 55 tackles and dominated opposing offenses, including a career day against Harvard. In that game Perkins was in on nine tackles, forced two key fumbles (one leading to a touchdown), broke up two passes, and had a tackle for a loss. The Bears' safety earned Ivy League Defensive Player of the Week for his per-

formance. Lining up next to him will be returner senior David Clement—already with a spectacular one-handed pick in the end zone against Stony Brook this year—and juniors Robert Gillett and Russell Leedy.

Last year, Brown kicker Robert Ranney turned in an all-Ivy League year both punting and kicking for the Bears. The special teams unit has missed him this year, with Plichta's last second miss from 40 yards and his failed point after try earlier in the contest, contributing mightily to tipping the scale Stony Brook's way.

Brown, as much as any team, knows that every little bit matters, having lost out to Harvard on the very last play as well. Newhall had two attempts to give Brown the win from the Crimson's 10 yard line, but both passes were broken up as time expired on the Bears' second straight heart-breaker. But with coach Estes, a 2008 finalist for the Eddie Robinson Award for the nation's best coach, at the helm Brown will be ready to take on Rhode Island this weekend with an eye towards the rest of the Ivy League late.

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The volleyball team takes to the road to face Cornell in a rematch following last weekend's Columbia victory.

TOMORROW



# SPORTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2009 • PAGE 8



The Columbia football team travels to Princeton on Saturday, looking to rebound from last weekend's loss.

TOMORROW

## CU fencer Daria Schneider heads to the White House

### Obama referees Schneider-Morehouse duel before taking on Michelle in playful bout

BY MICHAEL SHAPIRO  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Senior saber fencer Daria Schneider hasn't been spotted around the environs of Morningside Heights lately. While most students have been drooling over piles of books in Butler, Schneider has been, well, meeting with the president of the United States. Schneider, a contender for the London 2012 Olympic Games, traveled to Washington, D.C. to partake in an exhibition supporting Chicago's bid for the 2016 Olympics on Sept. 17.

President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama hosted the demonstration that featured 15 athletes who have either competed in the Olympic and Paralympic Games or are in contention for the 2012 Olympics. Chicago Mayor Richard Daley and Olympic gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey also attended. Included in the day's events were gymnastic demonstrations by middle school students and a judo sparring match.

The United States Olympic Committee

(USOC) planned the event in order to demonstrate a few sports including fencing. The USOC first contacted 2008 Olympic fencing silver medalist Tim Morehouse who then asked Schneider to participate opposite himself in the demo. Schneider, co-captain of the Lions' fencing team and two-time All-American fencer, earned a gold medal at the NCAA Regionals in 2007 and a bronze medal at the 2009 NCAA Championships. She also boasts an impressive 124-20 collegiate record in addition to being twice named National Fencer of the Week by CollegeFencing360.com.

"The first thing my mother, who was ecstatic, said after I told her 'don't tell anyone' was, 'can I tell your father?'" said Schneider in an e-mail.

With just 48 hours until the event, Schneider received a confirmation e-mail formally inviting her to the White House. As a result, she had little time to tell anyone and the people she did tell "had some little issue they wanted me to discuss with him [Obama], Afghanistan, retirement policy, etc."

Following brief speeches from the president and first lady, Schneider and Morehouse displayed their fencing prowess in a brief duel refereed by Obama himself.

"We had done a demo together before so we had a good game plan," explained Schneider. "Since we received little to no instruction we had a lot of freedom which was nice because we were able to plan a very creative demo, sign autographs for kids that were there, and do interviews with all the press during down time."

Despite the spotlight, Schneider kept her cool and never let the overwhelming situation get to her head.

"I was not nervous—probably due to my competition experience it takes a lot more to make me nervous—but I was definitely excited," she said.

After refereeing Schneider and Morehouse's match, the Obamas took friendly jabs at each other with their plastic sabers in a playful duel, cementing the afternoon as an unofficial press field day.

Luckily for Schneider, she actually had an opportunity to trade some words with the president and first lady.

"We mostly talked about how fencing works, the rules etc.," said Schneider. "We also talked to Michelle and I told her how much the Chicago bid meant to me personally because my mother is from the south side of Chicago just like she is."

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will meet in Copenhagen, Denmark on Friday to discuss whether Chicago, Madrid, Rio de Janeiro, or Tokyo will host the 2016 Olympic Games. The Obamas and Daley will make pitches in front of the IOC in an attempt to bring the Olympics back to the States for the first time since the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Ga.

"It was so inspiring to meet the Obamas," Schneider continued. "I will remember this experience for the rest of my life."

Schneider is currently competing in the 2009 World Fencing Championships in Antalya, Turkey.

## In sports, success is not what you make it



BART LOPEZ

### THE TAILGATING TALES

How does one define success? Obviously, success depends on the person and the realm in which they are working. A business man might define success as making a certain amount of money in a given year, while a student might define success as getting an "A" in a certain class.

For athletes and sports teams in general, success is almost always defined as winning a championship. Or is it?

I bring up this question because it addresses a problem that I believe is prevalent in every sport. This problem is the redefining of success.

Everyone has heard, at one time or another, a coach or player from a successful franchise say "anything less than winning the championship will be a failure." The first example that comes to mind is the North Carolina men's basketball team. Every year the Tar Heels are national contenders and every year they don't win is a disappointing one. However, take another college men's basketball team, like Davidson for example, and you'll find that not winning the championship is not necessarily a disappointment. In 2008, Davidson, led by current Golden State Warrior Stephen Curry, made it all the way to the Midwest Regional Finals where it lost to No. 1 Kansas. Kansas would go on to beat Memphis in the finals and become national champions. Did anyone consider Davidson's season a disappointment because they were unable to win it all? No. In fact, most basketball commentators focused on how great a season it was and how well Curry played. Now, I'm sure many of the Davidson players were angry that they lost, but I'll bet a lot of money that they weren't as angry as the Tar Heel players who also lost to Kansas before getting to the finals. If both teams wanted to win a championship, how come there were two different reactions?

They, and we the fans, reacted differently because of expectations. North Carolina was expected to win a championship, while Davidson seemed happy to be there. These varying expectations are what cause the definition of success to change from team to team, when in reality it should remain constant.

Here's another line that everyone's heard at least once in his life: Sports is 80 percent mental (or whatever percentage as long as it's high—say at least 65 percent). The mental aspect is so important because it is what differentiates good players from great players. Michael Jordan was not the most athletic man who ever lived, but he expected to win every game and every matchup (which he basically did). The same is true of okay teams and great teams.

Okay teams, and bad teams as well, say their goal is to win a championship, but one can tell at the end of the season that each team really just expected to improve on last year's record. Just look at the Detroit Lions, who may say they want to win a championship, but in reality are satisfied with winning one game.

On the other hand, great teams, such as the New England Patriots, say the goal is to win a ring and no other outcome will suffice. When a team lowers its expectations, it accepts its eventual defeat, which makes losing all the more likely. When you lower your expectations, you are defeating yourself.

At Columbia, I see the same problem arising. Without touching on which programs are okay and which are great, I'll say that for some teams, expectations are lowered. You may be wondering: Who lowers the expectations at Columbia? That is hard to say, and it's not important that

SEE LOPEZ, page 7



Haley Vecchiarelli / Senior staff photographer

**ROOKIE OF THE WEEK** | With 37 kills in last weekend's Tri-Match, including 20 against Cornell alone, Megan Gaughn earned the Ivy League Rookie of the Week title for the second time this season.

## Ivy rivals face off in first conference matchups

BY PHILICIA DAVIS  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

The Ivy League women's volleyball teams continued their 2009 campaigns this weekend. Four teams—Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, and Harvard—began conference competition, while the remainder prepared further for their approaching Ivy openers.

In a surprising twist, Columbia (9-4, 1-0 Ivy) defeated Cornell (3-9, 0-1 Ivy) for the first time since 2001 in the program's first league win since 2006.

On Saturday, the Lions hosted the Columbia Tri-Match against Cornell and Hartford. The Light Blue emerged victorious with a close 3-1 win over Hartford and an impressive 3-0 sweep of Cornell. In the match against the Big Red, freshman Megan Gaughn led both sides of the court, posting a double-double with 20 kills and 12 digs, earning her the title of Ivy League Rookie of the Week. Fellow freshman Erin Longinotti had nine kills in the win, while senior Ellie Thomas posted 16 digs and junior Sarah Thompson tallied seven kills. Senior Megan Mushovic, who was selected for the Ivy League Weekly Report's honor roll, and freshman Deveney Pula led the Big Red in the loss with a team-high 13 digs and 11 digs, respectively. Cornell and Columbia will face off in a rematch on Oct. 3.

Like Columbia, Dartmouth (3-1, 1-0 Ivy) achieved a sweep of an Ivy rival this weekend with a 3-0 win over Harvard (4-8, 0-1 Ivy). Dartmouth's Madeline Baird led both teams with 16 kills, while senior Megan MacGregor led the Big Green with a double-double (11 digs and 12 kills). For the Crimson, sophomore Anne Carroll Ingersoll was selected for the Ivy League Weekly Report's honor roll after tallying 11 kills and



SEE VOLLEYBALL, page 7

## SEASON PREVIEW: BROWN FOOTBALL

### Brown stumbles early while looking to repeat 2008 Ivy League success

BY ZACH GLUBIAK  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

At the end of the 2008 football season, Brown walked off the field with a 7-3 record (6-1 Ivy) and an Ivy League trophy to its name. But the Bears' hopes of repeating as league champs this year received a crippling blow last Saturday as Harvard held off Brown 24-21. The Crimson, who shared the Ancient Eight hardware with the Bears last year, is considered to be among Brown's toughest competition again this year. The weekend loss was the second of the year for Brown, which was defeated in a heart-wrenching 21-20 loss to Stony Brook in the home opener. In that contest kicker Drew Plichta missed a 40 yard field goal wide right as time expired to end the Bears' hopes of responding to Stony Brook's go ahead touchdown with 47 seconds to go.

Yet head coach Phil Estes' squad is poised to bounce back this weekend in the Governor's Cup matchup with in-state rival Rhode Island, a contest that will double as Brown's homecoming.

Brown will not enter that game unarmed—it returned 10 starters from last year's squad, including six all-Ivy League selections and four first team all-Ivy Leaguers. All but one of Brown's first team selections play on the offensive side of the ball, with senior receivers Buddy Farnham and Bobby Sewall and senior offensive tackle Paul Jasinski returning to lead the offense. Jasinski will provide experience to an offensive line that will be crucial to this year's success, as the Bears are breaking in a new quarterback. Prior to his first snap against Stony Brook, junior quarterback Kyle Newhall-Caballero had not attempted a varsity pass for the Bears. Newhall-Caballero has responded thus

far, completing his first 12 passes from scrimmage against Stony Brook and finishing that contest 29 of 45 with 267 yards. In his encore performance against Harvard, Newhall threw for 225 yards and a touchdown. Taking handoffs from Brown's new quarterback is junior Zachary Tronti, another newcomer to the fold who had a solid debut, amassing 84 yards on 24 carries. The 6-foot-5, 285 pound Jasinski is accompanied on the line by two other returning players, center Mark Callahan and guard Tim Danser—both seniors, as well as juniors Brian Ellixson and Patrick Conroy.

On the defensive side of the ball, Brown came into the season with all-Ivy League selections returning on the defensive line and at safety, but with questions at linebacker, where the Bears lost three of four starters. The line, buoyed by first team all-Ivy honoree David Howard and second teamer James Develin, is expected to be one of the stingiest in the league again this year. Brown surrendered a league-best 77.1 rushing yards a game last year, and hopes to once again force opponents to take to the air. The group has already made its presence felt, with Develin turning in a team-high eight tackles against Harvard and fellow returnee senior Peter Hughes recording two tackles for a loss and a sack against Stony Brook. Behind Howard, Hughes, and Develin, three new starters line up next to junior inside linebacker Kelley Cox, the lone 'backer with starting experience entering the 2009 campaign. Linebacker Andrew Serrano and Brendan Gallagher are not green, however, having recorded 22 and 14 tackles last year, respectively. Lurking in the secondary will be returning second

SEE BROWN FOOTBALL, page 7

IVY LEAGUE FOOTBALL PREVIEW 7 of 7

Bobby Sewall # 8

David Howard # 90

Phil Estes

Phil Estes will look to All-Ivy League selection and first team All-Ivy Leaguer Bobby Sewall and All-Ivy honoree David Howard to help the Bears rebound from their two close losses against Stony Brook and conference rival Harvard.

DEFENSE

2009 STATS  
Record 0-2 (0-0)  
Scoring 20.5 PPG  
Scoring Defense 22.5 PPG  
Total Offense 376.5 YPG  
Total Defense 331.5 YPG  
Passing Offense 246.0 YPG  
Run Offense 130.5 YPG  
Passing Defense 209.5 YPG  
Run Defense 122.0 YPG

SCHEDULE  
Sept. 19 at Stony Brook, L 21-10  
Sept. 25 at Harvard, L 24-21  
Oct. 3 vs. Rhode Island  
Oct. 10 vs. Holy Cross  
Oct. 17 vs. Princeton  
Oct. 24 at Cornell  
Oct. 31 vs. Penn  
Nov. 7 at Yale  
Nov. 14 vs. Dartmouth  
Nov. 21 at Columbia

Photos courtesy of Brown Athletics