



DOUGLAS KESSEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TRANSPARENT | BC President Debora Spar told SGA members that students need to do more to communicate with administrators.

Victoria Theater redevelopment nears financing goal

BY EMMA CHENG
Columbia Daily Spectator

After years of delays, the long-abandoned Victoria Theater site is close to getting financing for construction and redevelopment.

The Victoria Theater, a Harlem icon on 125th Street between Frederick Douglass and Adam Clayton Powell Jr. boulevards, has been vacant since it closed in 1989. It's now slated for redevelopment by Danforth Development Partners, LLC and Exact Capital.

According to Harlem Community Development

Corporation President Curtis Archer, the 26-story, 360,000-square-foot complex will feature a 210-room hotel with a ballroom, mixed-income rental housing, a cultural arts center with a 199-seat theater, retail space, a restaurant and jazz club, and an underground parking lot.

"We've made tremendous progress and are, right now, in the throes of locking up a bank for a construction loan," Exact Capital co-president Michael Callaghan said. "We're looking to close on financing in the first quarter of 2013. We'll have a 24-month build

schedule, so the building should be complete by the first quarter of 2015."

Some of the theater's architectural features, including the front exterior, the lobby, and the staircase, will be preserved, while the original marquee and blade sign will be replicated. Danforth President Steve Williams said his company is collaborating with the State Historic Preservation Office on the project.

"They have inspected the site and they have come to meetings. We talked with them, and we have gotten their tentative approval on the project," Williams said.

The Harlem CDC, which has owned the building since 1977, chose Danforth to redevelop the site in 2007. The newly developed space, which Archer said will cost \$143 million, is also slated to include four arts organizations: the Harlem Arts Alliance, JazzMobile, the Classical Theater of Harlem, and the Apollo Theater Foundation, Inc.

"A number of institutions who had been advocates for Harlem, celebrating the history and culture, were getting displaced by increasing rental rates," Williams said. "I felt that people who had been

advocating for Harlem should be rewarded and be a part of the largest development project in Harlem, maybe even in its history. So we put together a team of a broad spectrum of great groups."

Michael Unthank, a consultant for the Harlem Arts Alliance, said the organization is working to create a "collaborative cultural space" with other arts organizations.

"Right now, the consortium of arts organizations is working with the architects to organize the space," Unthank said. "Because of HAA's nature as a service organization, we will serve as the link to the grassroots Harlem art community."

The redevelopment process started in late 2004, when the Harlem CDC, in conjunction with the Empire State Development Corporation, issued a request for proposals. There were 11 proposals, and Danforth's was chosen after a three-year evaluation period.

"In the late 1990s, there was a study that found that the highest growth opportunity in northern Manhattan was culture and tourism," Archer said. "Danforth's proposal totally capitalized on that. The others didn't incorporate

SEE VICTORIA, page 2



HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION | The Victoria Theater, a Harlem icon on 125th Street, has been vacant since it closed in 1989.

Harlem precinct commander honored

BY LUKE BARNES AND
NAOMI COHEN
Spectator Staff Writers

Harlem police officer Kevin Williams is moving up in the world.

In an event at the Police Athletic League on Thursday night, Williams—the commander of the New York Police Department's 28th Precinct—was honored for his recent promotion from captain to deputy inspector. Archbishop George Michael Apollo also presented Williams with the Golden Deputy Inspector Award—a \$25,000 plaque featuring Williams' likeness—saying that Williams was joining "a fraternity of golden soldiers."

Since arriving in the 28th Precinct—which borders Morningside Avenue to the west and Central Park to the south—in August 2011, Williams has had to deal with a wide range of criminal activities, including gang violence among teen "youth crews" and illegal dirt bike and all-terrain vehicle racing. He has sometimes come under fire from neighborhood associations, which have accused the precinct of ignoring their suggestions and of not sending out enough

patrol officers to interact with the community.

But Thursday night's ceremony marked a change in tone from most precinct community meetings, where police are often criticized for perceived inaction and inflexibility. Williams said that while those concerns exist in the 28th precinct, progress is being made.

"It's not just about having a gun and a badge. It's about communication."

—Kevin Williams,

28th Precinct commander

"West Harlem is one place where interaction between police and community is critical," he said. "We don't always agree, but I think we have a mutual respect for each other."

At the event, Williams was praised by fellow officers, precinct commanders, and community leaders like Jackie Rowe-Adams,

leader of the anti-gun activist group Harlem Mothers SAVE.

"He doesn't mind rolling up his sleeves. He makes us feel safe," Adams said, recalling that Williams once accompanied her to a school to talk to students about their fear of dealing with the police.

"Those young men had an experience more valuable than I could have imagined, and for that I respect him," Adams said.

"He's a gentleman," Apollo said told the Harlem civic leaders and police officers who attended the event. "He's well-respected and a people person, which is so important when dealing with such a diverse community."

A commendation from New York State Senator Bill Perkins was also read.

"Ultimately, Deputy Inspector Williams has sought to and succeeded in making police relations to the community better," the commendation read.

Williams said that he was humbled and honored to be promoted, but acknowledged that more needs to be done to make Harlem safe.

"When I found out that I was

SEE WILLIAMS, page 2

Spar: Students need to communicate with us

At SGA, Spar asks students to do more to bring concerns to admins

BY EMMA GOSS
Spectator Staff Writer

Students have railed against Barnard administrators for not being transparent about policy changes and budget cuts over the last two years. But on Monday night, Barnard President Debora Spar said that communication is a two-way street, and that students could be doing more to communicate their opinions to administrators.

Spar was the administrative guest at Monday night's Student Government Association meeting, where she discussed student frustration over this year's housing crunch and the impending closure of the Barnard pool. Spar said that improvements need to be made in the way that SGA, students, and the administration communicate with one another.

"We do have a lot of channels in place for student input ... We need to rely on you all, the representative system, so students have a place to take their concerns so they are fed to us," Spar said. "I think the channels are there—we just need to make sure they're used."

Spar said that few students have responded to emailed surveys, and that there has been poor attendance at her and Dean Avis Hinkson's office hours. Still, SGA President JungHee Hyun, BC '13, said that sudden decisions over the last two years to eliminate part-time tuition and to require all students to purchase meal plans "got personal" for students.

"Students felt, 'Why is it happening to us?' Can't there be a sounding board for student input?" Hyun asked Spar.

Spar said that she and Chief Operating Officer Greg Brown would like to form a group of students to provide feedback during administrative decision-making. She also noted the administration makes many decisions over the summer, suggesting that this gap is partially responsible for students feeling like they aren't being

consulted.

"How do we make sure you all are in the loop by the time you hit the ground? We need to send email at the end of the school year just telling people what's going on," she said.

Spar also described budget cuts that have frustrated students—including the decision to close the pool, and the elimination of part-time tuition—as necessary for moving forward with major campus renovations and expanding financial aid grants.

"The return to the full-time tuition policy was a big deal ... Over time I think that it was a good and fair thing to do, although it always hits the students who are here at the moment most directly," Spar said. "I can't promise, but I don't think we will face another cut like that one."

Spar told Spectator last week that the series of budget cuts has been part of a concerted effort to slash up to \$8 million from the college's approximately \$160 million annual operating budget. Twenty-five percent of the cuts will come from student programming, 25 percent will come from curriculum, and 50 percent will come from administrative budgets.

"There will be further cuts," Spar told SGA members. "I do not think they will affect the student life in a significant way."

After Spar left the meeting, SGA members discussed ways to encourage student communication with the administration, and to get more involved in administrative policy debates themselves.

"It's on us to go to the students, and for students to come to us," vice president of student activities Sarah Steinmann, BC '13, said. "We need to figure out how to do it better, because we don't do it well."

"We all try really hard to communicate. At the end of the day, a lot of it falls on the student body," junior class president Aliza Hassine said.

Vice president for

SEE SGA, page 2

M'side seniors dine at Le Monde

Children sing to elderly in honor of first Love an Elder Day

BY THEA
RAYMOND-SIDEL
Columbia Daily Spectator

First-graders serenaded a crowd of elderly Morningside Heights residents as volunteers played tambourines at Le Monde restaurant on Monday.

The event was organized by local non-profit Morningside Village, a subset of the national organization Lifeforce in Later Years, in honor of Love an Elder Day. It started off with a luncheon for elderly locals and the volunteers who care for them regularly, and concluded with a performance by first-graders from the School at Columbia University, who sang numbers including "My Dog Rex" and "Shalom Chaverim." The national organization



OLACHI OLERU FOR SPECTATOR

LOVE ME | A Morningside Heights resident eats lunch at Le Monde restaurant on Love an Elder Day.

Lifeforce in Later Years, which was founded in 2009 and focuses on improving quality of life for the elderly, lobbied Mayor Michael Bloomberg to officially designate Oct. 1 as Love an Elder Day. The day coincides with the United Nations' International Day of Older Persons.

"The elderly are sort of invisible—they're not in the

media, not even in family homes anymore," said Irene Zola, founder of Lifeforce in Later Years. Morningside Village is hoping to bring the elderly back into focus by involving the Morningside Heights community in Love an Elder Day.

Among the attendees at the

SEE ELDER, page 2

A&E, PAGE 3

Theater troupe heads to Palestine

The all-female Shakespeare theater company Manhattan Shakespeare Projects is travelling to Palestine in November to work with students at a drama school and refugee camp.



OPINION, PAGE 4

Blame undeserved

Caitlin Brown explains that as a society, we need to stop victim-blaming.

Home, sweet, home?

Salonee Bhaman says community can be found in unexpected places.

SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Putting up points still a struggle for CU

The Lions have not been particularly strong on offense this season, especially on third downs and in the red zone.

EVENTS

A First Glimpse of North Korea

Columbia's sponsorship of professor Elisabeth Lindenmayer's class trip to North Korea last spring was the first of its kind. Join the discussion. 1501 International Affairs Building, 6 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



73°/63°

Tomorrow



72°/68°

Sheila Heti walks the line between fiction, nonfiction

BY RACHEL DUNPHY
Columbia Daily Spectator

For Sheila Heti, art imitates life far more than life imitates art.

The School of the Arts kicked off the sixth annual Creative Writing Lecture series with Sheila Heti on Sept. 27. A young author of fiction and “conversational philosophy,” Heti published her fourth book, “How Should A Person Be? A Novel from Life,” this year.

Heti is the first to admit that her work blurs the line between fiction and nonfiction. The novel is comprised of pseudo-biographical vignettes that derive mostly from conversations Heti recorded between her and her friends over a period of several years.

“I wanted to talk to my friends and so I let myself,” she said.

But Heti asserts that the people who inspire the characters of the same name are not the characters themselves, but full and dynamic living beings. According to Heti, the lines we all draw between our own realities and fantasies are constructs.

“We’re all fictions,” Heti said.

She also said that recent experience taught her that seeing people as characters, like any writer or reader is prone to, is not to see them fully. She didn’t want to see people as characters any more, she said, and she considered it irresponsible to write them as such. “But,” she asked the audience, “how do you write a book without characters?”

“I had this utopian idea that if you put out a representation of yourself, people would react to the representation and not to me.”

—Sheila Heti

Heti cautioned the crowd to be careful of the lines between reality and representation.

“I had this utopian idea that if you put out a representation of yourself, people would react to the representation and not to me,” she said. But her life, she explained, became merged with the character in her book in a way she didn’t expect, and the blending of fiction and life has taken its toll on all of the friends she brought into her book. “In terms of what I thought we were all learning, I don’t know if we learned those things.”

Since publishing the novel, Heti has been reflecting on the kind of writer she wants to become, noting that she hopes to write “about the most beautiful things about being alive.” With this latest work, Heti said that she tried to depart from convention by not putting “any restriction” on her creative process.

Heti said her first big breakthrough in this new process occurred when she decided not to censor herself as she worked on “The Middle Stories,” also published in the United States earlier this year. For Heti, writers always feel the temptation to “fix the originality and authenticity in their work.” But letting herself follow her creative impulses, even when they motivated her to write “badly,” made her work freer, she said.

“The only place where you can do whatever you want in life is in art,” Heti said.

The author of three novels and collection of short stories, Heti has written for the New York Times, Bookforum, McSweeney’s, n+1, and The Guardian among others. She is based in Toronto and currently works as interviews editor at The Believer magazine.

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LILY LIU-KRASON FOR SPECTATOR

THE WRITER’S WRITER | Sheila Heti discusses authenticity, fiction, and her latest work at the School of the Arts’s first creative writing lecture.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROBIN JUNICKE

DRAMA QUEEN | Sarah Eismann performs with the six Helenas in Folkwang University’s production of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” in Essen, Germany.

SoA women take Shakespeare project to Palestine

BY ZOË MILLER
Columbia Daily Spectator

For the all-female Shakespeare company Manhattan Shakespeare Project, all the world really is a stage for cross-cultural communication.

MSP’s newest project, “Shakespeare For A New World: The Palestinian Voice,” is centered on the creation of original theatrical pieces that will incorporate Shakespeare’s sonnets and Palestinian youth songs. Teaching artists Sarah Eismann, SoA ’12, and Jensen Olaya, SoA ’12, will travel to Palestine in late November, accompanied by documentary film director Lena Rudnick, SoA directing candidate, to work with students at the Drama Academy Ramallah and the Jenin refugee camp’s Freedom Theatre.

Eismann said that although “Shakespeare For A New World” and MSP are not political entities, projects “have the potential for having political undertones” by nature of the fact that MSP is an all-female company traveling to a region often associated with more rigid patriarchy. But the purpose of “Shakespeare For A New World,” above all else, is for Eismann and Olaya to work with the students at the Drama Academy Ramallah to create theater and art. Due to their geographical location, the Palestinian theater students are extremely isolated. The project will “help get their voice outside

of the borders of Palestine,” Eismann said.

The concept of “Shakespeare For A New World” emerged after Eismann performed in an international production of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” that took place in 2011 at the Folkwang University of the Arts in Germany. The “Midsummer” cast was comprised of acting students from Folkwang, in addition to students from Columbia, the Drama Academy Ramallah, the Shanghai Theatre Academy, and the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu.

“We found our common world. We found our common language.”

—Sarah Eismann, SoA ’12

Eismann said that she was inspired by the beauty of “a Palestinian Helena working with a Romanian Demetrius.” Shakespeare’s words, she realized, could effectively cut across cultural and linguistic barriers. “We found our common world. We found our common language,” she said.

The Folkwang production, Eismann said, led to an epiphany. “If only the world could work this way, we would have no problems,” she said. “It wouldn’t be me against you—it would be what was on that stage.”

Eismann was thrilled when the Drama Academy Ramallah’s director invited her to teach the “Shakespeare For A New World” workshops and make this vision of “a completely united, holistic, humanistic world” more of a reality—at least in theater.

As time went on, the project gained momentum and “exploded into this very idealistic, very grandiose plan.” The intense, six-hours-a-day workshops will include not only actors from the Academy but also teenagers at the Jenin refugee camp, which is one of the oldest, most devastated refugee camps in Palestine. With the help of a team including Rudnick, these workshops and the performances that result from them will be filmed.

In the next five years, Eismann hopes to take the methodology that the MSP team learns from the Ramallah and Jenin workshops and bring it to high school students in New York.

The end goal, she said, is to get diverse communities across the globe to learn about each other, “to use Shakespeare to talk, to create theater, to create peace.”

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Miller Theatre to open its jazz series with Christian McBride

BY MOLLIE GALCHUS
Columbia Daily Spectator

By introducing a promising vibraphonist to campus, Miller Theatre hopes to attract new audience members and give a young musician the opportunity to perform in a larger venue.

Christian McBride and Inside Straight will open the 2012-2013 season of Miller Theatre’s jazz series on Saturday. The quartet, led by jazz bassist McBride, will feature Steve Wilson on saxophone, Peter Martin on piano, and introduce Warren Wolf on vibraphone. McBride’s music can be described as straight-head jazz that includes bebop, standards, and even funk.

“If this is your first experience coming to a concert, this would be a great one to come to as a first-time audience member.”

—Melissa Smey, executive director of the Arts Initiative and Miller Theatre

McBride, a Grammy Award-winning musician, is returning to Miller for a second time with this performance.

Melissa Smey, executive director of the Arts Initiative and Miller Theatre, said McBride is “warm, personable, funny, and smart,” and said that McBride’s personality shines through his performances, creating a relaxed environment in the theater.

“If this is your first experience coming to a concert, this would be a great one to come to as a first-time audience member,” Smey said.

Smey also said that she is thrilled to introduce Warren Wolf to the Columbia community, having heard him perform four years ago. Smey remembers being taken aback by Wolf’s talent.

“I’ve wanted to work with him at Miller Theatre. He’s a young and upcoming musician and it’s the idea that he’ll play this gig



PHOTO COURTESY OF MILLER THEATRE

ALL THAT JAZZ | Grammy Award-winning jazz bassist Christian McBride will return to Miller Theatre as part of a jazz quartet that includes Steve Wilson, Peter Martin, and Warren Wolf.

with Christian, our audience will get a chance to know him, and then it would be a dream of mine to invite him and have him come back as a bandleader in the future,” she said.

This is a model Smey has previously used in Miller’s jazz series.

“We have a 688-seat venue to fill, and so working to see the development of an artist from being in a small venue to being a guest with a higher, profound musician, then the idea that they come here in this series playing as a sideman, and then we can, in a year or two, take a leap with them and give them an opportunity for a promotion and a boost in their career,” Smey said.

This concert, along with future concerts in the jazz series, is a way for the Columbia community to attend professional performances without having to worry about an age requirement or traveling to a faraway venue.

“A lot of our patrons like the idea that it’s a

concert setting instead of a club setting,” Smey added. “Sometimes we’re able to bring things to the series here in a concert hall that a jazz club couldn’t do.”

Vijay Iyer and Craig Tabor’s duo piano project recently performed at Miller Theatre. Their act involved two Steinway grand pianos—something that would be physically impossible in a small jazz club. The theater venue gave the performers artistic freedom, without the constraint of size or space.

“We’re on the campus, we are a campus venue, and one of the things that is really important for us is audience development and the idea of bringing new audiences to the entire range of programming,” Smey said.

The performance will take place Saturday, Oct. 6 at 8 p.m. With a valid CUID, students can purchase a discounted ticket to see Christian McBride and Inside Straight and receive an additional ticket for free.

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Community trivia

I have some trouble with end-of-September staleness. Something about the process of my once wide-open calendar being populated by recurrent events and punctuated by deadlines immediately evokes the feeling of mid-semester monotony. Too soon, it seems like we'll get to the place in the year when pathways to and from class have become beaten and seat choices Pavlovian. There's nothing inherently wrong with this routine—in fact, it allows us to order our lives with an almost intuitive logic—however, often, it feels like possibilities for change are all the more easily excluded. That mid-semester stride, once hit, seems to be an affirmation that our lives are set to remain largely set, at least tonally, in stone for the remainder of the semester.

Sometime during this week of possibilities a group of friends and I decided, mostly on a whim and under the guise of experiencing an oft-referenced Columbia tradition, to try 1020's Tuesday-night trivia. As proof of a total lack of serious commitment to the game (should I say sport?), we ambled in as Round 1 was ending, perching on the pool table. However, by the end of the next hour, I had somehow become some sort of trivia monster who spoke under her breath in urgent whispers and was impossibly proud of any '90s rock songs I had managed to inexplicably remember.

My interest in researching community at trivia night was rooted in trying to find out why people who had joined the cult of trivia were so enthusiastic about it. I came away with an answer far sooner than I thought I would. Despite my trepidation regarding routine, ritual has a pretty impressive way of bonding. Seeing the same group of people on an appointed day or time allows us to rely on their presence, even passively. Nonetheless, it's worthwhile to deconstruct for a moment what elements of my new weekly exercise make it so appealing.

Most obviously, competition is a great bonder. I've never played a team sport, nor have I competed in anything purely for recreation, so to some degree I've typically understood competition more along the lines of deeply specific and personal interactions. Team-based competition is a whole different game. Everyone brings a strength to the table, whether it be an intimate knowledge of the original Mortal Kombat game or having a backlog of old Oscar winners. What may have been relegated to some subconscious backlog can render one an expert of a given niche. The moment when you are the only one at your table—perhaps even the whole bar—with the answer, seems to justify the pursuit of knowledge solely for the joy of curiosity. The especially sweet victories accomplish this with topics particularly close to your heart.

Despite my trepidation regarding routine, ritual has a pretty impressive way of bonding.

In addition, participating in the tradition of Tuesday-night trivia has given me a feeling of being part of a circuit all of a sudden, a club that no one lists their participation in. The same team names appear week after week—the more we hear them, the bigger our sudden rivalry. Every Tuesday, more or less this same group of people from anywhere around the area gathers—with a fair share of interlopers—and all occupy a collective space. Trivia Paul, the master of ceremonies, even has a mailing list for the die-hard among us, keeping a collective memory of scores over six-week periods.

But, it seems that trivia's true beauty is that it has created a community around something completely unimportant. Rather than the usual parties of the weekend, we've all gathered together under the umbrella of mutual interest. Trivia seems so pure because it is just that: trivial. For those two hours, we're forced to commit a whole chunk of our time to a non-academic, non-résumé-billable, and not-for-social-good moment. Moreover, it's rare that answers ever come because you learned them for a test—it's just something you picked up along the way. Our group changes and grows every week. The assortment of individuals isn't determined by where you lived freshman year or what your interests or major are—they're friends who can make it, people we wish we saw more, people we'd like to get to know better. For two hours, we have the pleasure of drinking beer and celebrating our bizarre collective knowledge.

Salonee Bhaman is a Columbia College junior majoring in history. Points of Connection runs alternate Tuesdays.



SALONEE BHAMAN

Points of Connection

Don't blame the blameless

Emma strolls home from the library, preoccupied, as is normal of a college sophomore, with thoughts about quizzes and friends and a boyfriend. Before she has the time to react, a stranger—the music from her headphones had drowned out his approach—grabs her, takes her to his apartment, and submits her to non-consensual sexual acts. Emma checks into the hospital early the next day, badly injured and still in a state of psychological shock.

Mary just finished a rough week of exams, and she has been drinking with a group of friends for several hours to let off steam. They dress up. They throw on heels and head out. Mary continues drinking, loses control, begins vomiting, and passes out. Mary wakes up early the next morning in an unfamiliar room, and she finds that an acquaintance from one of her student groups has taken advantage of her while she was unconscious.

I recently participated in a workshop on sexual violence presented to a group of all women. We responded anonymously to questions about who, exactly, was to blame in a "Mary"-type situation, arguably more of a gray area than an Emma scenario in terms of the accuser-accused dynamic and the involvement (or lack thereof) of other individuals in the outcome of the assault. I listened to the workshop with much unease and an ever-firming conviction: When one individual forcibly penetrates or otherwise sexually assaults an unwilling other, the violator is responsible, and there are absolutely no circumstantial qualifiers that can justifiably shift the blame to the victim of the attack. While many participants seemed to share my feeling that Mary was, without question, devoid of blame, a competing opinion that Mary could have done certain things differently and that her attacker may not have been entirely responsible for his actions also gained prominence in the discussion.

Victim-blaming occurs constantly in our society, often without our conscious awareness. In a landmark 1984 study, for instance, researchers demonstrated the ease with which humans form judgments about sexual violence based on their knowledge of the outcome of the event (a cognitive bias known as the hindsight effect). In the study, two groups of participants read passages describing a sequence of events, all unique except for the ending: Half of the participants read an account that ended with the rape of the protagonist, and the other half (the control group) read a "neutral" account, or one in which the rape ultimately did not occur.

Although the woman's personality traits and actions were completely identical in the two versions, the participants who read the "rape" version held the woman more responsible for the outcome of the situation than those who read the "neutral" account. "Unfortunately for victims," the authors remarked, "their actions are made with foresight knowledge alone, yet are judged in hindsight." In conceptualizing the Mary scenario described above, we might easily fall into this same cognitive bias. And



CAITLIN BROWN

Pick My Brain

while it may happen more frequently with detached hypotheticals, reality confirms the human tendency to unknowingly blame the victim. Emma is not a hypothetical, although her name has been changed. She is a strikingly pretty and charming student who spoke with me, with humbling candidness, about the reactions of others to her markedly unambiguous rape that occurred during her time in college.

Emma told me that she felt the impact of victim-blaming in a personal conversation she once had with a friend's mother about the incident. She remarked that the mother offhandedly ended the conversation, "Well, now you know better than to walk alone at night."

Being drunk or dressing a certain way does not make a woman any more deserving of rape.

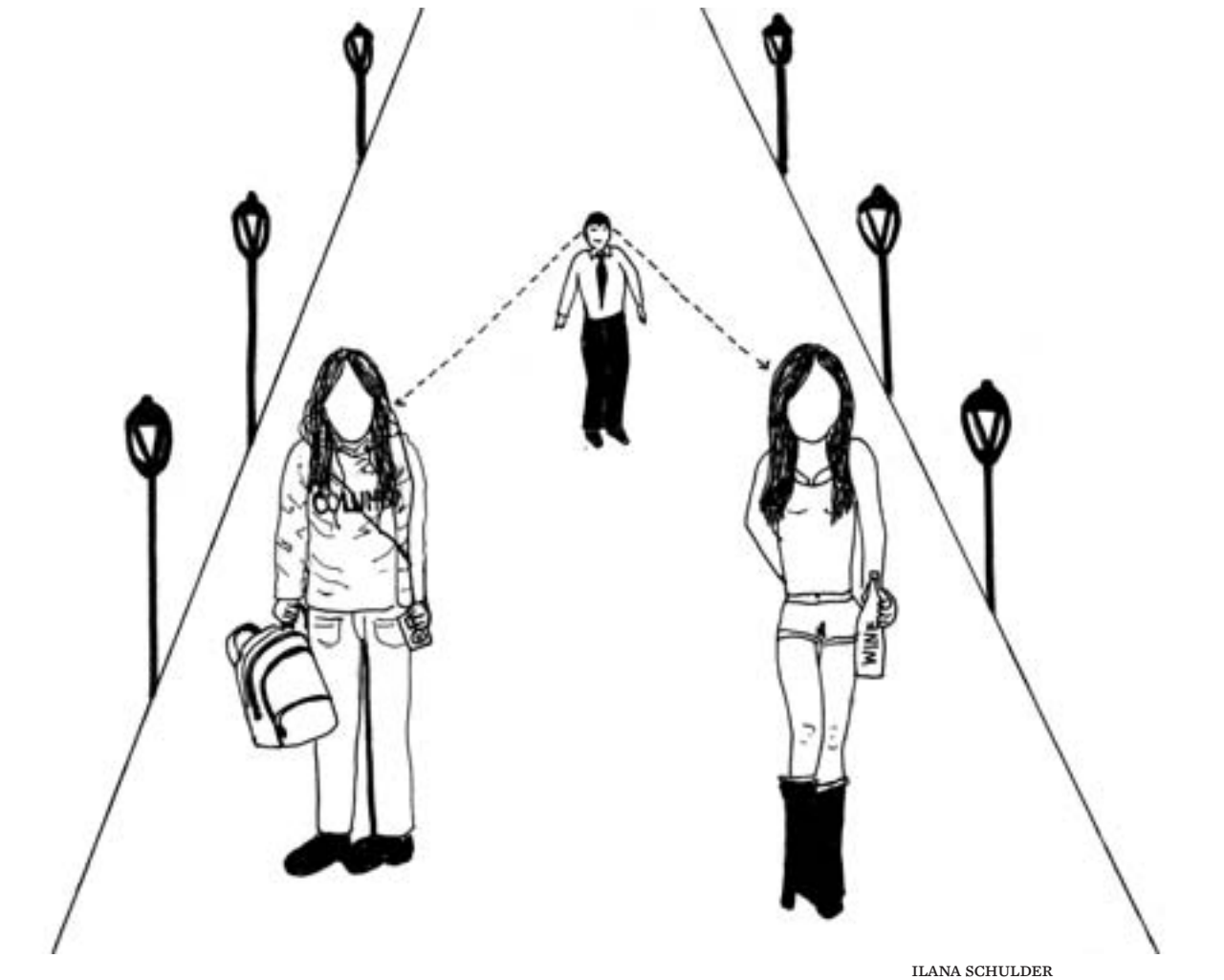
Emma reflected, "Then I felt the need to defend myself, like, 'Well, it wasn't that late! The street is normally so busy!' Etc., etc. It's just crazy because she loves me and didn't mean to hurt me with those words, but victim-blaming is so ingrained that a lot of times we don't even realize we're doing it, even to the people that we love."

Following a sexual assault, Emma pointed out, college administrators often send emails focused on steps students can take to "protect" themselves from rape—not wearing earphones, for example, or not walking alone at night. Implicit in these messages is the fact that doing certain things or dressing a certain way predisposes you to sexual assault—that you're "asking for it." We should take care to reconsider how we frame these messages such that the suggestion for improvement is directed at the violator and not the violated. Returning to the Mary scenario above, one can reflect in hindsight that alcohol and sexual violence are undeniably linked, or that a provocative outfit would make a predator more desirous of his prey. But being drunk or dressing a certain way does not make a woman any more deserving of rape.

Blaming the victim of a sexual assault, and thereby depriving her—or him—of perceived resources from the community, may prevent her from fully recovering from the traumatic event. Emma said, "I feel as I am in constant struggle to properly and articulately voice the tangle of angry emotions I have about this subject, especially when one of my friends makes an off-handed comment about rape."

The hindsight we once touted as 20/20 is in need of repair, and we would do best to correct it lest we make egregiously blind judgments of those who most need our support.

Caitlin Brown is a Columbia College senior majoring in psychology and comparative literature and society. Pick My Brain runs alternate Tuesdays.



Save Barnard's pool

BY JORDAN ALAM

When I tell people that I am heading the Save the Pool Campaign at Barnard, folks often look at me with excitement and a little disbelief. I get questions ranging from, "Why would you put your energy into something that's already been decided?" to "Isn't it already closed?"

To all of these, I reply that until the sign is on the door and the concrete is filled in, I am going to keep trying to save the pool in any way possible. I am not a new swimmer. I know what it's like to run a tough campaign. And, as a student that is very much invested in the Barnard community, I have both my feet on the ground and invite others to stand with me in keeping the pool open past the end of this year.

Many people on Barnard's campus don't even know that we have a pool. Tucked away in the basement of Barnard Hall, it's not the most publicized or familiar location for many of our students. However, for those who are frequent swimmers or who have interest in any water-related classes from beginning swim to aqua exercise, the pool is a spot near and dear to our hearts. It's where many of those who pass the Columbia swim test every year take their first cautious strokes and it is where alumnae come back to exercise in a way that suits their lifestyles. It provides valuable jobs to student lifeguards.

Beyond that, it is where children and parents from the broader community can take affordable swim classes and it accommodates the needs of orthodox religious women (Jewish, Muslim, and Hindu alike) who need the privacy of women-only hours and locker rooms that are very clearly separated from those for men. What affects some of us affects all of us—whether you swim or not, the comfort and safety of fellow community members must be of the utmost importance.

I am not a new swimmer. I know what it's like to run a tough campaign.

There are differences in perception about the purpose of the Barnard pool. Through the eyes of those wishing to alter the face of campus, it looks like a "swing space" available to be filled in with concrete, reconstructed into offices, and rewired for both electricity and other amenities. It is devoid of any symbolic or literal value beyond its offerings of a potential—and not necessarily cost-effective—space to put overspill from other projects. From the perspective of a current student, alumna, or faculty member however, the pool represents a space of Barnard history and community. It is a teaching pool, a learning space, somewhere to "major in unafraid" as Mitzi Steiner put it ("The Barnard pool: where I majored in unafraid," April 24).

So often, Barnard projects are framed in an "either/or" structure: Either we get to keep the pool or we get the "swing space"—either we cut here or we cut there. No one denies that cuts must be made due to the college's financial picture, but because we were unable to access even a partial report of the school's finances until very recently, strategic cuts that may look reasonable to those with power will look confusing to those on the ground who get the news later on. Despite the current explanation of Barnard cuts, we feel that the message is coming too little, too late. Community members deserved a straightforward official announcement last year about the pool's closure as opposed to just rumors. Regardless of the outcome of our campaign, we would like to shed light on what went into the administrative decisions surrounding it. We encourage decision-makers to release the information earlier and with clarity down the road—we ask to be included in the process more openly. Otherwise, we can only draw conclusions from the aftermath: the cutting of the physical education requirement and faculty, the plans to close the pool, the consistent pressure of wellness needs being put on students as individuals rather than the school itself offering services for the community. As I have stated before, it looks like dominoes. And with the uncertainty and lack of transparency surrounding these decisions, we can only guess what's next.

The author is a Barnard senior majoring in psychology and English. She has pledged to swim in the pool every day that it is open and encourages others to join her.

The Columbia Daily Spectator accepts op-eds on any topic relevant to the Columbia University and Morningside Heights community. Op-eds should be roughly 650 words in length. We require that op-eds be sent exclusively to Spectator.opinion@columbiaspectator.com. Please paste all submissions into the body of the email. Should we decide to publish your submission we will contact you via email.

Inconsistency not always a bad trait

Inconsistent. One of the most loaded words in a sports fan's lexicon. A word with the power to transform the loss of a star player into "addition by subtraction." An adjective whose best definition is sometimes merely "you're consistent if you're consistent."

This season so far, the Columbia teams I've followed most closely are football and men's soccer. Both, in different ways, have been inconsistent. For football, in the first two games the defense performed like an Ivy champ while the offense was far from that. But in Saturday's game, the defense wasn't so strong. For soccer, one game set pieces are a strength, the next a weakness. One weekend, mistakes pile up, while the next, they take a leave of absence. Even within the confines of a single game, nerves and effort level have varied.

Inconsistent performances are frustrating—not only for fans, coaches, and players, but also, in my experience with this newspaper, for sports writers. Attribute a subpar performance in one facet of a loss to inconsistency and, well, what more is there for me to ask? How is inconsistency fixed? By being consistent. How do you work towards being consistent? You just have to do it. It's a mental thing. No interesting matchup problem, no tactics to adjust in practice. Put on a pair of Nikes and "just do it."

As a fan, though, inconsistency is one of my guilty pleasures. (And definitely not a way to rationalize my support of the NHL's poster boy for inconsistency, Alexander Semin.)

For one, it's very difficult to play exactly the same way every game. Think about it statistically: It's rare to have a really, really small standard deviation. Flip a coin over and over again, and sometimes you'll have long streaks of heads or tails. (I realize team performance in sports is not the same as a simple coin flip, but sometimes the two are scarily similar.)

Your favorite team needs some inconsistency to play better than the best team.

Even if a player's effort is the same every night, sometimes his or her timing may be a tenth of a second too fast or too slow, or his or her laces may be a bit too loose, cutting speed slightly. And what we perceive as effort won't be the same every night. Sometimes you have to play through sniffles. Sometimes it's cold and you find it harder to move. Sometimes you indulge in some cupcakes. I'm not about to hold players to the unreasonable standard of perfect consistency.

Second, inconsistency can actually be a good thing. Take the Cleveland Browns, one of the NFL's two winless teams after four weeks, for example. Put them against the defending Super Bowl champs, the New York Giants. A consistent Cleveland team would be, well, consistently inferior compared to New York. Its scores would fall into a narrow range, as would points allowed, with little overlap. An inconsistent Cleveland team, though, while sometimes being absolutely dreadful, would also occasionally put up a very good fight and win every now and then.

Inconsistency is what allows upsets like Montreal over Washington in the 2010 Stanley Cup Playoffs (which have inconsistency built in the form of goalies running hot or cold over seven games.) Inconsistency is how "Who is the best quarterback in the NFL?" and "Who is the best playoff quarterback in the NFL?" rarely have the same answer. Inconsistency is why Columbia men's basketball could only squeak by conference cellar-dweller Dartmouth, but gave a serious scare to nationally ranked Harvard.

Chances are, in any given year, your favorite team is not the best in its league. It is not the favorite to win the title. Assuming it has to face the actual top team on its route to a championship, it needs some inconsistency to rise above its inferior "true talent" level and, for a few games,

SEE ALAM, page 2



MUNEEB ALAM

Picked Apart



ALYSON GOULDEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CLOSELY MARKED | Junior running back Marcorus Garrett has been productive, but he and his teammates have not been able to convert in critical situations.

Scoring remains elusive for Light Blue offense

BY MYLES SIMMONS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

When Light Blue football (1-2, 0-1 Ivy) took the field Saturday afternoon, the team knew Princeton (1-2, 1-0 Ivy) would present a physical challenge. With an up-tempo offense and a stout defense, the Lions knew exactly what they would be up against when the clock struck 12:30 p.m. for the opening kickoff.

The problem was, from the time the opening whistle blew, the Lions seemed overmatched in nearly every facet of the game.

"We didn't stand up to them," head coach Pete Mangurian said. "We were honest with them about what kind of team this was, and what they were capable of doing. Physically, what they were, what they were capable of doing. And we didn't stand up to them."

Special teams were undoubtedly a problem for the Lions in the game, but when it comes down to it, the offense

just didn't execute. In the first quarter, the Lions went three-and-out in two of their four possessions. The other two lasted five and six plays, but all four resulted in punts.

The Light Blue's most successful drive came on its first possession in the second quarter. Senior quarterback Sean Brackett completed four of his five passes on the drive, while junior running back Marcorus Garrett had two rushes of seven yards. Garrett also caught screen passes of 10 and 21 yards, the latter of which advanced the ball to the Princeton 16.

Yet even after establishing that rhythm, the Lions failed to put the ball in the end zone. After Garrett's first-down run of seven yards to put the ball on the Princeton nine-yard line, the Lions, with Garrett, tried to pound the ball up the middle on second and third down. Apparently, having its back against the wall was the only way to wake up the Princeton defense, as the Lions didn't advance the ball any further and were forced to settle for a field goal.

This was the fourth time this season the Lions have had to kick a field goal

from the red zone. In general, red-zone offense has been problematic for the Light Blue. The team currently ranks seventh in the league in red-zone scoring, converting five of the eight chances into points.

"We just found out who we are And that's the truth."

-Pete Mangurian, head coach

But four of those five scores have been field goals. The only red-zone touchdown the Lions have scored came in the first game against Marist, where Garrett pounded the ball into the end zone from the one-yard line. The three other red-zone chances have ended with one interception and two fumbles.

The Light Blue's offensive struggles don't stop there. Third down has been a problem in all three games for the Lions, and it was especially apparent

on Saturday. The Lions were just 3-17 on third down conversion attempts, 1-7 in the first half and 2-10 in the second half. The numbers are similar to those in the Lions' loss against Fordham last week, where the team went just 5-18 on third down.

After the game against the Rams, Mangurian said that inconsistency on first and second down lead to the poor third-down numbers, as it's hard to convert third and long. But the Lions will have to improve on their third-down numbers as they currently rank last in the league in that area—they've converted just 13 of 51 attempts.

Mangurian spoke frankly about the Lions' struggles after Saturday's loss about how they need to be corrected.

"We just found out who we are. And that's the truth," he said. "...And we've got to face it, we've got to fix it, and we've got to continue to move in the right direction here and not let all the excuses that have engulfed this program for years make it okay, because it's not. It's 33-6. That's the truth. And we're going to have to face that and fix it."

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Harvard, Cornell still top of Ivy football this year

BY ROBERT WREN GORDON
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Now that all Ivy League football teams have played a conference game, it's a good time to be wearing red. Harvard sits atop the pack, earning a national ranking after demolishing Holy Cross. Sitting close behind the Crimson, Cornell continues to put up impressive numbers week after week thanks to junior quarterback Jeff Mathews.

BROWN

Brown (2-1, 0-1 Ivy) followed up last Saturday's primetime loss at home to Harvard with a decisive 37-10 road victory over Georgetown. The Bears, who never trailed during the game, put up an impressive all-around team performance with senior quarterback Patrick Donnelly throwing two touchdown passes and the running backs averaging 5.5 yards per carry. The defense also had a great outing, picking off Georgetown sophomore quarterback Stephen Skon three times and returning a blocked punt for a touchdown in the fourth quarter. The Bears head to Rhode Island this weekend before resuming their conference schedule at Princeton.

CORNELL

The Big Red (2-1, 1-0 Ivy) built momentum off last weekend's victory against Yale, coming from behind to

beat Bucknell on the road 15-10 on Saturday. The Bison took a 7-0 lead late in the first quarter after an 80-yard drive. The Big Red came back to score a touchdown early in the second quarter, but failed in its two-point conversion attempt, leaving Bucknell ahead 7-6. Right before halftime, Cornell took the lead on a 28-yard field goal by freshman kicker Boomer Olsen. Despite a missed PAT in the fourth, Cornell held on for the victory. The Big Red continues Ivy play this weekend at Harvard.

DARTMOUTH

Dartmouth (2-1, 0-1 Ivy) recorded its first loss of the season to the Quakers, who were winless until taking on the Big Green. The nationally televised Penn game was only the Big Green's second home game of the season and was a disaster for the home team, as the Quakers had a 20-0 lead at halftime. Dartmouth rallied in the second half,

SEE LEAGUE, page 2



COURTESY OF RACHEL BLUESTEIN / THE DAILY PENNSYLVANIAN

PENN'T UP | Quakers senior quarterback Billy Ragone rushed for 60 yards, passed for 165, and even made a pass reception for nine as Penn defeated Dartmouth.

RK (LW)	TEAM
1 3-0 (1)	HARVARD CRIMSON  The Crimson stays at the top of the Ancient Eight after being ranked No. 23, albeit in the second-tier FCS.
2 2-1 (2)	CORNELL BIG RED  Cornell couldn't quite dominate Bucknell like it did Yale, but won nonetheless.
3 2-1 (3)	BROWN BEARS  Brown blew out Georgetown, but still sports an Ivy loss to Harvard.
4 2-1 (5)	DARTMOUTH BIG GREEN  Dartmouth fell to Penn on national television, but its strong second half was encouraging.
5 1-2 (7)	PRINCETON TIGERS  The Tigers had a big win over the team polled to finish just ahead of them.
6 1-2 (8)	PENN QUAKERS  Penn was much stronger against Dartmouth than it was in its first two games.
7 1-2 (4)	YALE BULLDOGS  With four teams tied for fifth, Yale gets bumped down thanks to a blowout loss to Cornell.
8 1-2 (6)	COLUMBIA LIONS  Columbia's performance has gone downhill since its opener.