

INSIDE



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Visiting professor hip hops to Columbia

Professor Greg Tate, who has been dubbed one of the “god-fathers of hip-hop journalism” joins the Columbia Center for Jazz Studies as the Louis Armstrong Visiting Professor.

Opinion, page 4

Will the real conservative please stand up?

Jon Hollander considers the difference between Glenn Beck’s populism and the (still) popular politics of conservatism.



Sports, page 8

Football struggles to produce after halftime

Columbia football’s inability to maintain momentum into the second half of games has contributed to it dropping two games that the team led entering halftime.

EVENTS

The “Great Recession” in Historical Perspective

Confused about the market? A roundtable of historians and economists including Joseph Stiglitz and Alan Brinkley will hash out the recession’s similarities and differences from past crises. Kellogg Center, International Affairs Building, 6 p.m.

Postbaccalaureate premedical information session

Good news to tell mom and dad: it’s not too late to become a doctor. If you’re thinking medicine is recession proof, stop by this information session led by the General Studies admissions office.

408 Lewisohn 5:30–7 p.m.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“I knew that the members of the union had it in us to force Columbia’s hand.”

—Monique Dols,
administrative aide
at CUMC

ONLINE

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News around the clock

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Medical School workers ratify contract

BY SAM LEVIN
Spectator Staff Writer

Last week, the laborers of Columbia University Medical Center faced a simple choice: yes or no.

And, after a full season of heated negotiations, members of the local union voted overwhelmingly “yes” last Thursday to ratify the new contract for workers at Columbia’s medical school.

This ratification came after six months of contentious negotiations—beginning in March when the previous contract expired—between administrators and union representatives from the Local 1199 Service Employees International Union.

According to Victor Rivera, president of the Supporting Staff Association for 1199, out of the 324 union members that came out to vote, 300 voted in favor of ratifying the contract, and 16 said no. The remaining votes were cast as blank ballots

due to logistical discrepancies in membership, and would have been investigated further if it was too close to call.

Plus, the 324 voters represented over one third of the membership, which is unusually high for a ratification vote, he said.

The Medical Center said in a statement released to Spectator on Tuesday, “The University is pleased with the new four-year collective bargaining agreement between Columbia and 1199/SSA, and that the union membership ratified it last week.”

Though CUMC spokespeople have declined to comment on any specifics of the negotiation, representatives of the laborers said that at the start of the process, they were very concerned about some of the administration’s requests in areas of health care, tuition exemption, childcare subsidies, job security, and retirement and medical benefits. But according to Rivera and Bennet Battista, an organizer for the workers, the negotiators left the table two

weeks ago with a 24-page agreement that was very favorable for the workers in most areas, notably health care—it secured the fully subsidized plan that was in danger of being dropped earlier in the summer.

In an interview on Monday, Rivera expressed great relief that last week’s ratification marked the end of the drawn-out negotiation process, at least until the new agreement expires in March of 2013. “I’ve learned throughout the years that every negotiation is unique and different,” he said of the strain the recession has put on this year’s process. “That caused a bigger challenge for us. Thank god for the strength of the members,” he said, adding that most were pleased with the document when it was released to the members on Oct. 1.

For the last two weeks, union committees and individual members have

SEE MEDICAL SCHOOL, page 2



Andra Mihali / Staff photographer

LA PREGUNTA | At La Pregunta Arts Cafe, customers enjoy hookahs and lively conversation. Their days there may be numbered, though, because the cafe received an eviction notice on Aug. 14 requiring it to pay \$50,000 within 40 days.

Arts spot Pregunta Cafe may face eviction

BY MAGGIE ASTOR
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Devotees of La Pregunta Arts Cafe, a cultural hangout on Amsterdam and 136th Street, are pondering the venue’s future existence.

The cafe received an eviction notice on Aug. 14 requiring it to pay \$50,000 within 40 days, according to owner Yscaira Jimenez, CC ’03. Since then, La Pregunta has paid \$8,500 with proceeds from an emergency fundraiser and is “doing a series of events to try to make another payment,” Jimenez said. She added that the cafe has applied for a number of grants, and hopes to pay 25 percent of the \$50,000 total as soon as possible and negotiate a payment plan for the remainder.

Jimenez said the cafe’s financial problems stem largely from the denial of a

second loan by the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, which had given La Pregunta an initial loan to cover startup costs in 2008.

“They gave us money to build out the place, but they didn’t give us working capital,” she said. “They had preapproved us, and then they had us waiting for a year. Three months ago they told us they weren’t going to give it to us unless we invested money ourselves. We’ve been surviving for a year and a half with no working capital.”

Hope Knight, chief operating officer for UMEZ, said the organization wanted to be sure La Pregunta could repay the initial loan before approving additional funds.

“Unfortunately the business never attracted sales at a high enough level to repay the first loan, and so to go back and

ask for additional capital—we just knew that that was going to be a nonstarter for the loan committee,” Knight said. “We did stretch to make the initial loan, and as a lender you have to make decisions based on ability to repay.”

The cafe’s landlord, West Harlem Group Assistance, did not return a call for comment.

In August, cafe curator Jessica Vosburgh helped organize an emergency fundraiser featuring art, music, and performances. Over \$7,000 was raised through a raffle of items donated by local businesses, as well as from a \$10 entrance fee.

Continuing efforts are being coordinated by the Uptown Collective, a recently-formed organization that aims to “keep those uptown dollars uptown

SEE LA PREGUNTA, page 2

Barnard scours city for new class day spot

BY CARLY SILVER
Spectator Staff Writer

After several months of back-and-forth between Barnard seniors and the administration, the results for the 2010 class day location are in. The winner? Nowhere.

As the administration searches for other possible locations, students are trying to decide what they want most in a graduation spot.

Barnard announced earlier this semester that the class of 2010 would have Barnard’s class day in Columbia’s Levien Gym at Dodge Physical Fitness Center. Students greeted the announcement with backlash, claiming they had been told all along that they would graduate besides the Diana when it rose.

That location appeared to be set in stone until chair of the Board of Trustees, Anna Quindlen, BC ’70, was concerned to hear of student complaints. Barnard President Debora Spar proved receptive, said Chelsea Zimmerman, 2010 class president.

On Oct. 7, the 2010 class council sent an e-mail survey to seniors in an attempt to gauge

student preference for possible commencement alternatives. Because not all 600 surveys were received, the survey will be presented tomorrow and the results tallied by the end of next week, Zimmerman said. The survey asks students which logistical factors may outweigh preferences in location. For example, the number of tickets each student receives will vary by venue, depending on space restrictions.

“There were a number of options that students could choose so that the administration would see what the student body valued for the ceremony,” said Katie Palillo, BC ’10 and president of Barnard’s Student Government Association.

Those options included both indoor and outdoor locations. If class day were held on Barnard’s campus, each student would be allowed three tickets, though in Levien she would have four.

Administrators initially said that the Levien decision was final, but they have since agreed to investigate other possible commencement locations. Spar said

SEE CLASS DAY, page 2

Smoking ban ignites debate

CCSC discusses hot topics at town hall

BY ALIX PIANIN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Columbia College Student Council wants to know: what are you smoking?

Mostly council insiders turned out to the CCSC’s Tuesday night town hall meeting, where the room talked smoking bans and campus space.

With midterms ahead and the semester midpoint approaching, CCSC executive board members presented what have been the defining issues of their first two months to a room of faces familiar to weekly meetings, now given an informal forum to spitball.

Vice president of policy Sarah Weiss, CC ’10, said they are working to pull in wider campus opinion on the smoking ban—and are hoping for relatively quick turnaround. Weiss, as well as CCSC president Sue Yang, CC ’10, are currently members of the tobacco workgroup, which proposed an all-campus ban on smoking last year.

The tobacco workgroup can be traced back to a request last year from the central administration to reassess tobacco usage on campus and make sure Columbia was upholding New York state smoking laws. The group, which included deans, administrators, representatives from Lerner, dining, housing, and health services—as well as last year’s CCSC VP of policy—eventually turned to the question of whether or not it was time to investigate new policies for the campus. Smoking had already been banned at the Columbia University Medical Center and on the Barnard College campus, and more universities across the country had been telling their campus dwellers to put out their cigarettes.

The workgroup administered a survey to students asking their opinions on a potential ban, and they received more positive than negative reaction to the idea. But the survey, Weiss said, was self-selecting and saw extremely low turnout—perhaps it was not a reliable indicator of larger student opinion, and a rather small pool to build the ban on.

Now, CCSC is prioritizing a more comprehensive poll to the student body as the four undergraduate councils and graduate school representatives meet to discuss stage two. According to Weiss, the plan is to poll 1400 students who will be asked their thoughts on the possible ban. Once the survey is up and running, Yang said they expected a three to four week turnaround of results.

But Weiss pointed out that even a more encompassing poll would still be missing key voices—University faculty, staff, workers, and community members also use the campus, and they are among the constituencies that would not be represented in such a survey. Yang also said a ban would save the University costs in cleaning up scattered cigarette butts, though Weiss said she thought the cost involved may not be enough to be considered significant. It is also unclear

SEE SMOKING, page 2

WEST WING



Amy Stringer for Spectator

SPEECH WRITING | At an event hosted by the Columbia Political Union, principal of West Wing Writers Jeff Nussbaum, addresses Columbia students about his career as a speechwriter. He also offered tips on speech writing and breaking into the field. See story, page 2.

WEATHER

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Photo illustration by Jin Chen and Lila Neiswanger

CCSC polls for opinions on smoking

SMOKING from front page

who would be enforcing a ban, and whether that would require more resources. Also, a new set of consequences may have to be developed for smoking discipline.

The decision, University President Lee Bollinger said at a recent University Senate meeting that Yang attended, will ultimately rest with the central administration. In an interview with Spectator, University President Lee Bollinger said he is “waiting for the issue to unfold.” As for the process, “this comes down to University policy,” he said. “My sense is that this [a smoking ban proposal] is something I would take to the Trustees for approval.”

Though he hesitated to share his opinion, Bollinger remarked, “I go into this with a fairly strong feeling that we shouldn’t have smoking on campus.” Still, he said he won’t force his opinion on Columbia and would wait to see the poll results. “This is a process,” he joked. “This is health care reform.”

Yang said that they would have to be realistic about how much say they were going to have in the outcome, and that their best arsenal was an accurate poll. Still, the final decision doesn’t rest on the results of the survey, she reminded the council.

The council also addressed continuing campus space issues, as Activities Board at Columbia and Student Governing Board

chairs Scott St. Marie and Devora Aharon, both CC ’10, spoke of their attempts to solicit student feedback for the use of newly opened spaces in Broadway and Schapiro. They will eventually make a proposal to the administration regarding what students want those spaces to become. ABC and SGB are also working on separate proposals to allow students easier access to booking space at Lerner—students do not technically have access to space in the for-profit center during business days during the week.

In the mean time, information is power on a cramped campus—Aharon and St. Marie suggested better online tracking of campus space and its real-time use.

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Barnard class day location a mystery

CLASS DAY from front page

the results of the location search would likely be announced in December.

“What I need to hear, is ‘What are the seniors’ most important considerations?’” she said in an interview. “We’re going to put together four options. None of them are perfect. They’re all trade-offs.”

Spar has assembled a team of consultants to examine locations, said Zimmerman. Claremont Avenue has been mentioned as a possible spot—it was closed off last spring for Spar’s inaugural celebration—but the street is owned

by New York City, and Barnard would have to obtain permission to use it. And they would only be allowed to close Claremont for 12 hours, Spar said.

Rockefeller Center was briefly considered, though the location was dismissed because it would require buses for students. Some have suggested to hold the ceremony in a park, but that would not allow for a back-up rain plan.

“I’ve fallen in love wit0h the area behind Grant’s Tomb,” admitted Spar. “It’s gorgeous and it’s big. [In] the city, you can’t just get a permit for graduation...We need to figure out how many hours we need, and,

once we have our facts, to go to the city.”

Now, students are being asked to weigh their priorities. Many have said they hope to graduate outside, though that may mean they are allowed fewer guests. “I think graduation is a day that we are all going to remember for a long time. Because of that, I’d love for my family to be able to come ... and I’d love to be able to graduate outside. If something can be done about it, fantastic,” said Kate O’Gorman, BC ’10.

Added Palillo, “Frankly, I want commencement to be held wherever the most people will be satisfied.”

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Workers agree to new contract

MEDICAL SCHOOL from front page

been reviewing the agreement and expressing concerns, Rivera said, adding that most only needed clarifications and were on board once they understood the details of the document. “Before they vote, they have to be educated,” Battista said in interview last week before the ratification.

And many workers agreed that, once they reviewed the document, they were quite pleased. “I think that the University also recognizes that we are in tough economic times,” Erica Yarborough, a clerk at the School of Public Health, said. “We went through a lot of extremes

to come to some sort of agreement.” She added, “In the end, it seems like we forged a new relationship with the University.”

Ydanis Rodriguez, a candidate for City Council in Washington Heights who came out to support the union in protests in August, said that he was happy an agreement was reached and hopes this new contract will protect the workers’ rights. “Columbia is an institution, and the institution has power over the community. But the workers are an important component,” he noted.

Monique Dols, an administrative aide, said she was very pleased, though it was a bittersweet victory because of an

unfavorable agreement on tuition exemption. According to Rivera, because they were successful in so many areas, they did have to make minor concessions in the tuition exemption benefit—a perk of the job—to help the University meet its financial needs. “I think that will really affect the younger workers a lot,” Dols said.

“Overall, I am happy with it,” she said. “We sent Columbia a strong message,” referring to the protests meant to pressure the administration over the summer, adding, “I knew that the members of the union had it in us to force Columbia’s hand.”

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La Pregunta fights to stay open

LA PREGUNTA from front page

and to highlight the uniqueness, vibrancy, and grandeur of the uptown area,” according to a press release from Vosburgh, who did not return a call for additional comment.

Jimenez launched La Pregunta in March 2008 to fill what she saw as a cultural void in the area.

“There was limited cultural space in uptown Manhattan outside of Columbia,” she said. “There’s Orchestis and all the

plays and everything going on on campus, but when I graduated I found myself traveling to Williamsburg, the Village. ... I got tired of getting on the train and driving.”

The cafe sponsors open mic nights, art and photography exhibits, film premieres, readings, and many other events. The City College of New York, located right around the corner, holds weekly readings there. It is also a meeting place for groups like the International Socialist Organization.

“They have really good music,

and it’s just really laid back,” said Mariel Roberts, a student at Manhattan School of Music, who said she comes to the cafe weekly to hang out or study. “It’s a good place to study during the day, and they have really good drinks at night.”

“Basically every genre of art has been represented here somehow,” Jimenez said. “All the organizations and artists who have a hard time finding a venue to showcase their artwork—they’ve found a home here.”

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Nussbaum preaches art of speech

BY MARGAUX GROUX
Spectator Staff Writer

Jeff Nussbaum gives speeches about giving speeches.

At an event Tuesday evening sponsored by the Columbia Political Union, Nussbaum addressed an audience in Alfred Lerner Hall about the essential elements of a good speech.

Having written for politicians ranging from Tom Daschle to Barack Obama, Nussbaum knows the ins and outs of writing a thorough address. He currently works for a private D.C. based firm called West Wing Writers.

CPU invited Nussbaum to speak as an attempt to expose students to an intriguing and often hidden field. “I think that speech writing is a thing that a lot of people are interested in but not many people understand,” said Emily Tamkin, CC ’12, events coordinator for the Columbia Political Union, and Spectator’s deputy editorial page editor.

“The most important piece of a speech,” Nussbaum explained to the audience of aspiring writers, “is the arch, the structure.” Nussbaum emphasized that speeches should

not read like essays nor frame their arguments in the a lifeless five paragraph format. Nussbaum sees speech writing as a harmonious and often artful presentation of information. “A speech,” he said, “is like sheet music, and the best speechwriters feel the music.”

Nussbaum said that the best speeches grab an audience’s attention immediately and then lead gracefully into their central message. In today’s climate of three second TV sound-bites, he believes it is essential to format information in a concise and interesting way.

Though speech writing is often a thankless career, Nussbaum said he enjoys his job as a liaison between policy makers and the American public. “I see myself as a translator,” he said, explaining his task of transforming political jargon into a more digestible message.

He emphasized that speech writing is more than just turning particulars into prose, and that speeches can carry serious consequences. In the public sector, a well composed address can augment election results. In the private sector, speeches can trigger changes in stock prices. On a lighter note, Nussbaum noted that he is reminded of the importance

of good speech writing every time he hears a long—winded wedding toast from a overly “beer-ed” groomsmen.

Nussbaum expressed concern about the growing disconnect between speechwriters and policy makers, but praised president Obama for his exemplary oratory skills. “He is a writer himself ... he’s willing to be introspective,” said Nussbaum, in explanation of why Obama has been such a successful public speaker.

When asked to give pointers to aspiring speechwriters, Nussbaum said that writing, in almost any form, is the best practice. Though most speechwriters enter the field indirectly through careers in law or journalism, experience in writing is the most necessary skill. Nussbaum also noted that it is often helpful to pursue interests in other fields such as history or poetry to make speeches rich.

For her part, Sinéad Redmond, BC ’12, welcomed all pointers. “I recently decided on a political science major but I’m not sure what I want to peruse after that, so I’m just trying to learn all I can about various career options,” she said.

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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.

CORRECTION

In Tuesday’s Food & Drink article “Brad’s Cafe is top story at Columbia Journalism School,” the author of the article was printed as Diana Wong, when it was written by Diane Wang. Spectator regrets the error.

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MUSIC

Visiting professor brings hip-hop to Columbia



Courtesy of The Center for Jazz Studies
ALL THAT JAZZ | Greg Tate joins Columbia's Center for Jazz Studies as the Louis Armstrong Visiting Professor.

BY CAROLINE CASEY
Columbia Daily Spectator

His voice has already been heard in the Village and beyond, and now Greg Tate is striking the right note at Columbia as the Louis Armstrong Visiting Professor at the Center for Jazz Studies.

Recently dubbed one of “the Godfathers of Hip-hop journalism” by The Source magazine, Tate is much more than just a music journalist. His commentary on culture and politics has been published just about everywhere from The Village Voice to Vibe to The Washington Post.

He has also published several books including “Flyboy In The Buttermilk: Essays on American Culture,” “Midnight Lightning: Jimi Hendrix and The Black Experience,” and “Everything But The Burden: What White People are Taking from Black Culture.”

Recent Louis Armstrong Visiting Professors include such luminaries as William Lowe, Laura Johnson, Gwen Ansell, and Germany’s Wolfram Knauer. Professor George E. Lewis, the Director of Columbia University’s Center for Jazz Studies, describes the Armstrong Professorship as “an opportunity to present the University community with diverse and trenchant new scholarly perspectives on African-American musical culture in

general, and jazz-identified music in particular,” adding that faculty as well as students had inquired about the possibility of Tate visiting this semester.

“His [Tate’s] understanding of African-American music is both broad and deep, encompassing multiple genres and genre-crossing in both traditional and experimental musics,” Lewis said. “His interdisciplinary contributions to writing on black popular musical culture have been seminal.”

Humbly, Tate admits to having felt some “trepidation” after accepting the venerated post. Nevertheless, he appears to be both succeeding in and enjoying his first attempt at formal teaching. This semester, Tate’s course, “Black Art and Consciousness,” looks at the relationship between music and politics, and how music has given coherence to the black community in America since the 18th century. Those who missed the registration deadline for the class might still have a chance to learn from it—Tate mentioned that the curriculum may generate another book.

On whether or not music plays a role in politics today, Tate, shaking his head, said, “There is not a lot of music being made now that really tackles tough political questions. That which does is really underground.”

SEE MUSIC, page 6

BOOKS

Breaking down Butler’s hierarchy



LUCY TANG
SENTIMENTAL EDUCATION

A friend of mine recommended Sloane Crosley’s “I Was Told There’d Be Cake” for its hilarious yet accurate description of Butler Library. Crosley spent one semester abroad at Columbia, but in that short time, she was able to gain a full understanding of Butler’s perverse social scene.

Her insights are quite apt. She likens the ground floor of Butler to a “meat market” and points out the inverse relationship between level of socialization and floor number. Indeed, clusters of undergrads congregate in the lobby, giggling and gossiping instead of reading Herodotus. Moreover, on busier nights, 209 is essentially 1020 without the alcohol. Rampant Facebook or YouTube usage, however, is frowned upon in the third floor reading room, affectionately known as “Reference.”

I’ve always avoided the fourth floor due to its silent despair and perpetual smell of stale food. On top of that, it is the only floor where people camp out in cubbies when it’s not even finals week.

The fifth and sixth floors are, from my experience, quite serious but otherwise nondescript. Any sense of camaraderie completely disappears once you reach the eighth floor, which looks frighteningly like a set from “The Shining,” with its graduate students hunched over in their individual carrels. Though the windows are now plastered with newspaper, behind each lies a room the size of one of those claustrophobic Claremont singles that is scantily furnished with a bed and a desk.

Despite (or, perhaps, because of) this vertical segregation, Butler is unique in its diversity and ability to bring together people of all ages and academic backgrounds. It is the only place where I have willingly remained in the same room with frat boys for more than 15 minutes. In fact, some of my best friendships resulted from late night procrastination on the benches outside Butler.

As with any social hub, Butler is also a hotbed of awkward social encounters. Whenever I am introduced to someone new, more often than not, I hear a variation of the inevitable line, “Oh, I always see you at Butler!” Granted, it’s an innocuous statement, but it carries the implicit assumption that I also recognize the other person from the library. Essentially, my blank stare in return is a less offensive variation on not responding, “I love you, too.”

People who go to Butler frequently will understand the phrase “familiar strangers.” These are the people you have seen often enough to know their faces. Once we got past the initial “I see you in Butler” awkwardness, a few of my familiar strangers have become acquaintances and even friends. The majority, however, remain strangers, because it’s probably not mentally healthy to be friends with people who are always in Butler.

The social stickiness of familiar strangers arises in two situations. First, when you and a familiar stranger encounter each other in a social setting. Second, when the two of you are alone in a confined space, most likely the Butler elevators or the Hamilton stairs not during rush hour. In both, you face the dilemma of reciprocal recognition, as seen in Hegel’s “Phenomenology of Spirit.” Word to the wise—people generally go to the library to study and not to make friends, so hold off on spontaneous introductions.

My friends and I categorize some of the regular and more distinctive faces as “Butler characters.” There is, of course, the infamous Butler Marxist and his girlfriend—the royal couple of Butler lounge—reigning over loud debates about philosophy and politics. Recently, however, the lounge has been eerily quiet due to their absence. At first I relished its serenity at 9 a.m. without the Marxist’s soapboxing, but a few days later, I was uncomfortable with his conspicuous absence. I was so accustomed to seeing him that I never once entertained the idea that he had to leave the safety of Butler eventually. Along the lines of memento mori, the Butler Marxist’s disappearance was akin to memento... library? With the end of college looming in the near horizon, I anticipate some separation anxiety. For now, I’ll nestle in the sun-drenched rooms on the fifth floor.

Lucy Tang is a Columbia College senior majoring in English. Sentimental Education runs alternating Wednesdays.



Courtesy of FOX

SPEED WATCHING | Students used to skimming hundreds of pages of reading a night apply those same strategies to their favorite TV shows are finding ways to catch the best moments without wasting time. Columbians bored with segments like the bad auditions on “American Idol” find they can keep up even if they’ve done some fast-forwarding.

TV

Time-strapped students find efficient ways to watch TV

BY NOEMI SCHOR
Columbia Daily Spectator

For those students who always commit several hours a week to the enlightened hobby of watching television, the beginning of the fall semester typically brings with it two to-do lists: one titled “homework” and the other labeled “television shows.” For overscheduled students, though, the line between school obligation and recreational entertainment can get a bit blurry.

There is, however, an increasing trend among TV-savvy Columbians stressed about both doing homework and keeping up with all of their shows, which could be called “efficient TV watching.”

“I very rarely schedule time to watch TV,” Sam Yamshon, GS/JTS ’11, said. “With the advent of streaming sites like Hulu, there’s no point.”

The appeal of cutting an episode created for a half-hour time slot to a mere 22 minutes has translated to huge volumes of traffic on streaming Web sites such as megavideo.com and sidereel.com, both of which allow users to watch their favorite series’ at varying degrees of legality. No matter the liability, though, students cannot resist cutting those valuable eight minutes. As Nava Kantor, BC ’12, said, “those 22 minutes are key.”

Another appeal of watching TV series after they’ve aired, according to Sarah Roth, BC ’13, is that it allows viewers to “watch a bunch at a time.”

For reality shows, especially, the possibilities of catching up online are endless. Rather than suffering through two fluffy hours of an “American Idol” or “Dancing with the Stars” episode, an online watcher can skip over the

more painful performances. (Think vocally-challenged Sanjaya Malakar from season six and ungraceful computer engineer Steve Wozniak from last season’s DWTS).

Another common use of the virtual fast-forward button is that viewers ignore the bulk of the episode and instead surge to the instant gratification of the results. “If I’m watching a reality show like Project Runway or America’s Next Top Model, I always skip through when the judges conference and go over the contestants, because who cares?” Mary Delsener, BC ’12 said.

But members of the remaining subset that doesn’t even have time to squeeze in an abbreviated viewing of such quality series’ as “The Biggest Loser” can take a page from their professors’ syllabi and turn to the age-old means of acquiring information. That is, by reading.

EntertainmentWeekly.com and TelevisionWithoutPity.com, among others, boast instantaneous recaps of major and minor shows. These sites provide minute-by-minute accounts of each episode, exhaustively recounting the show while weaving in elements of critique and review. Ranging anywhere from two to six pages, these articles can serve as legitimate five minute substitutes for lengthier shows for anyone who wants to be able to join a conversation about “Gossip Girl” without setting aside 43 minutes to watch it weekly.

Live blogs are also a must-have for those one-time events like sports games or awards shows. “I absolutely have to do that, because I don’t have a TV,” Delsener said. “When the Emmys were on I was reading live blogs of the show as it was on, and then the next day I watched the highlights.”

VIDEO GAMES

‘Demon’s Soul’ is soft on story, but still hard to beat

BY KEVIN CIOK
Senior Staff Writer

At Columbia, classes have a pretty broad spectrum when it comes to difficulty—some classes curve to a C+, some to a B+, and some not at all. Those extremely hard classes are notorious for designing exams for everyone to fail. If gaming had one of those GPA-busting classes, it’d be From Software’s new action role-playing game “Demon’s Souls.”

Brutally challenging and designed for persistent failure, “Demon’s Souls” is a finely-tuned adventure that focuses more on the player’s growth and development than his or her virtual avatar’s.

Published in America by the always-venerable Atlus USA, “Demon’s Souls” was released in Japan last February, where it quickly became a cult classic. Transporting players to the medieval kingdom of Boletaria, “Demon’s Souls” lets players create a

custom character—a (male or female) knight, mage, soldier, or a variety of other classes—and venture into the “dark fog” plaguing the land. There’s a very minimalist story revolving around a greedy king awakening an old demon and getting everyone in trouble, but the game’s narrative is restrained. Pick up a sword, axe, or pike and head out into five distinct worlds to vanquish the demon threat.

With seven months to build a reputation abroad, “Demon’s Souls” has developed a reputation for being hard as nails. It’s true: the game is really hard. But, rest assured—it’s not unnecessarily so. When the player dies and the player will die a lot—the avatar simply loses his or her corporeal form and becomes a soul. Die as a soul, and lose your collected demon’s souls (the eponymous souls function as the in-game experience and currency metrics). While that



Courtesy of Atlus USA

SOUL SEARCHING | “Demon’s Souls,” a game already popular in Japan, is making its US debut, proving that a game can be tough without wasting time developing its story.

SEE VIDEO GAMES, page 6

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR

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Staff Editorial

Our fees need a freeze

When we pay Columbia's hefty tuition bill, it is easy to get lost in the array of charges that add up to almost \$25,000 each semester. The student life fee is a charge that can easily be overlooked. With an increase of 58 percent over the past three years, this comparatively small—but still significant—charge has been making an increasingly large dent in students' savings accounts. For the 2006-2007 academic year, the student life fee was \$394 per semester, but, for the current semester, it is \$621. This charge, though necessary to support many student activities on campus, should stop growing at its current rate.

The fee funds a variety of initiatives on campus. A portion of the revenues is distributed to student clubs and organizations through Funding at Columbia University. In the 2006-2007 academic year, \$180 of each undergraduate's student life fee was given to student organizations. In the 2009-2010 academic year, \$198 of each undergraduate's fee was distributed to student organizations—an increase of 10 percent over the past three years. This moderate increase in organizations' budgets does not begin to match, and therefore does not explain, the increase in the fees that students pay.

The portion of the student

life fee that does not go to student organizations is distributed to departments across campus to support a variety of student services. Libraries, residential advising, Columbia University Information Technology, the Center for Career Education, and the department of athletics and physical education all benefit from the fee. They in turn provide a variety of services. CUIT uses the funds to support things such as CourseWorks, student computer labs, and printing services. CCE uses the funds to host career fairs and run Columbia-specific internship programs. The athletics department has provided free student admission to Columbia sporting events, expanded Dodge Gym's hours, and offered more opportunities for intramural sports. The services offered by these departments are beneficial to the student body, and the student life fee is rightly used to support such offerings.

The expansion of these services, however, cannot continue to be funded by such dramatic increases in the student life fee, especially in difficult financial times such as these. The extra money that students have been charged is enough to cover travel expenses or even a semester's worth of textbooks. While supporting student life on campus is important, the stability of tuition is as well.

Everything I need to know about life

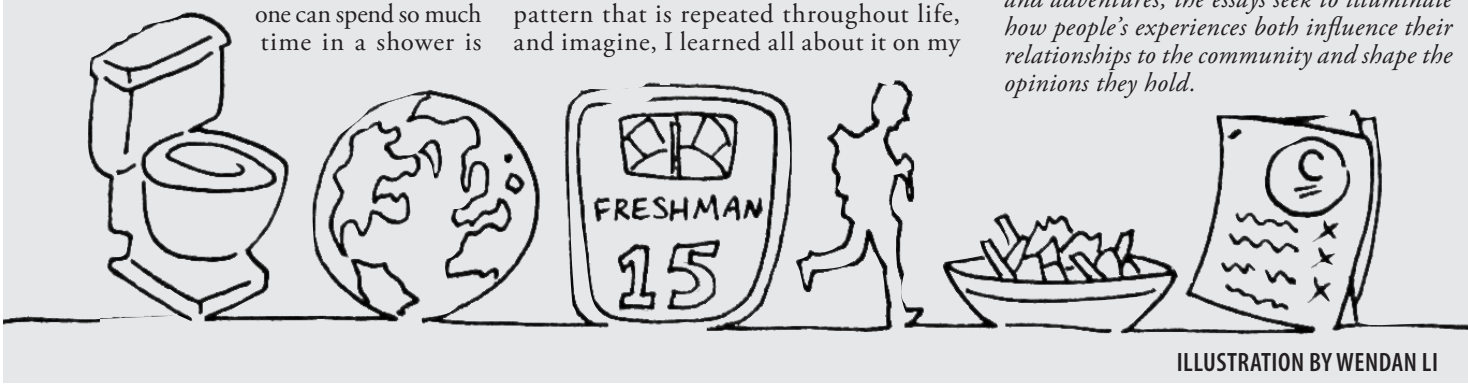
BY VICKIE KASSAPIDIS

College is a rite of passage, a cherished experience that heralds the arrival of adulthood. For many, it's a path leading to enlightenment, both personal and academic. For others, it is a series of mishaps, misadventures, and mistakes that morph us into responsible adults ready to face the challenges of the world. Whatever your path, one thing is clear: everything you need know to live the rest of your life you learn on the first day of college.

Now let's be frank: college is an inspiring, exciting, mesmerizing, and oftentimes "wet-your-pants" scary experience. At the very first moment, the life lessons begin. Whose life would be complete without learning how to fit as much stuff as he or she can into a room the size of a car? Ridiculous as it is, every first-year embraces the cluttered small space, feigning true satisfaction when describing his or her eager surroundings to friends, as if this dorm were any different from any other first-year dorm on the planet. So the first lesson is learned—make the best of your surroundings, and if you pretend hard enough, you'll actually believe that your dorm room is intended for two adults to share.

What you learn doesn't stop there: dorm life lends itself to teaching myriad lessons. Let's start at the bathroom. How any-

one can spend so much time in a shower is



Goodbye, Columbus

BY EMILY TAMKIN

On Monday, the New York Post ran a column by Andrea Peyser in which she bemoaned the fact that Columbia University conducts business as usual on Columbus Day. Ms. Peyser apparently finds "holy irony" in the fact that, though this University derives its name from the explorer, students went to class rather than staying in their dorms to commemorate the guy who allegedly paved the way for modern civilization by tripping across the New World that was not so new to those who were subsequently oppressed by the Europeans. She has deemed that our "wimpy administration" has decided to pretend Columbus Day isn't happening, "rather than nuke" it. (How exactly a private institution could nuke a federal holiday, and what that actually might entail, she does not divulge). Only the College Republicans, she points out, marked this momentous day with a free barbecue.

This column bothers me. Why, then, have I decided to spend time dignifying her sentiments with this article? Perhaps my reasons are similar to Andrea Peyser's motivations for writing about Columbia at all. Yes, I know: holy irony.

It should be said that no, I was not thrilled to be in class on Monday. No, I do not think that the College Republicans are wrong for having a commemorative barbecue. No, I do not think that Columbus—or Columbus Day, for that matter—was inherently evil. (Although perhaps the holiday should be renamed "Serendipity Day," "Misnomer Day,"

beyond me. Back home, when my brother said I took too long in the shower I just quipped some inane insult and ignored his wisecrack remarks. Now, sitting and waiting for the next free shower, I am thinking not only about the task at hand but also about water in general. The common bathroom gives new meaning to the idea of water waste. As I hear the toilets flush and the showers hum, I can't help but wonder how much water we are wasting. Dorm life not only introduces you to college life, but it makes you aware of the bigger picture: the world no longer revolves around you. Environmental awareness and responsibility take on a new meaning, and another life lesson is learned as the toilet is flushed and the shower is finally free.

Food gains new importance in college as well. There is suddenly an overabundance of easily available food at almost every hour. The "freshman fifteen" is uttered at every turn of the buffet table, yet the unassuming freshmen laugh as though they have some immunity against the wrath of the meal plan. Even on the first day, the patterns emerge: trying to relieve the stress and fatigue of move in, we congregate at John Jay or Hewitt admiring the neatly arranged sandwiches. The meal reminds me of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," as we fill our dishes with food that we really have no intention of consuming. We sit down with new friends in a new environment, put the food in our mouths, and are suddenly overwhelmed by a familiar safe feeling that reminds us of home. The stress of the day goes away, and we realize that food becomes synonymous with home, regardless of whether or not the taste leaves much to be desired. And before we know it, the combination of easy free food, stress, and lack of exercise leads to the freshman fifteen. They say this is a pattern that is repeated throughout life, and imagine, I learned all about it on my

or "Look, Ma, No Southeast Asian Spices Day"). I don't really have a strong opinion on Columbus Day. I do, however, have a very strong opinion on this column.

First of all, one might ask why Andrea Peyser cares. She begins by wishing everyone but those who attend Columbia a happy Columbus Day (harsh, Andrea), and notes that everything else closes, from government offices to city schools. She fails to note that all of the places that shut their doors on Columbus Day are public institutions, which are required to close on federal holidays. Columbia University, as a private and rather insulated establishment, is required to do no such thing, in large part because it remaining open doesn't affect those outside the University. Except Andrea Peyser, apparently.

Furthermore, in what she presents as a cunning bit of underappreciated logic, it is apparently wrong for Columbia to take issue with the fact that Columbus enslaved the people who were in the Western Hemisphere before he was, because those people practiced slavery, too. I'm not going to point out that this is a particularly glaring case of two wrongs not making a right. I will, however, say that on Monday, in my Contemporary Civilization class (which I attended because this University does not close on Columbus Day), we discussed Epicurus' notion of justice as a compact. Part of this concept states that if there is an understanding of justice, but circumstances and/or consequences arise in indication of injury to some party, we can no longer consider the past action to be just, even though it might have been seen as such at some point in time. In other words, the fact that slavery was common practice among many civilizations at one point in time does not mean that those of us living in the 21st

first day of college.

Outside of the first day, there are many more life lessons that somehow visit us during our various trials and tribulations. For example, you realize right after the first set of exams that life is not fair. All those trophies that were given to you for good sportsmanship, even though you lost the game, are a crock. Some people are smarter, better, and luckier than you are. Just face it: the sooner you do, the better off you will be. Despite studying all day, night, and weekend you can't make the grade. Yet your roommate, who partied every night, overslept the day of the test, and barely creased her textbook sailed to an A. Yes, my friends, life is not fair, people are lucky, and sometimes, hard work doesn't pay off.

However, college is an experience that changes you for the better, and, truthfully, getting a 'C' on your biology midterm or sleeping through your 9 a.m. class three days in a row won't mess up your entire academic career. Your days at college are numbered. Even though graduation may seem far away, four years go by very quickly, and sooner or later you will be living with someone else, paying the water bill, making dinner, and going to work. College will teach you how to tolerate others, care for the environment, be mindful of your body, manage your time, and maybe—just maybe—prepare you for the ups and downs of life.

The author is a Barnard College first-year.

West Side Stories is a feature that uses the personal essay to showcase the diverse backgrounds of members of the Columbia and Morningside Heights community. It takes an intimate look at the journeys that have led individuals to this school and city. By drawing upon stories of family, culture, childhood, past travels and adventures, the essays seek to illuminate how people's experiences both influence their relationships to the community and shape the opinions they hold.

century need to act as though that behavior is still commendable. We are, in fact, free—some might say obligated—to reform our beliefs of what is and is not acceptable.

Beyond the fact that I don't see how this affects Andrea Peyser or why we should feel that slavery upon slavery makes a holiday better, I am bothered by the column's general message. I get it, Ms. Peyser: if Columbus hadn't discovered the West, there wouldn't be a United States, and thank heavens the College Republicans remember that and stay true to America. It's possible that I'm misreading this column, but there seems to be an insinuation that Columbia is conducting itself in an un-American fashion in its disregard for tradition.

There is nothing more American than disregard for tradition. When I walked to class on Monday, Columbus Day, that's what I was thinking about—not out of disrespect for Columbus, but out of admiration for the righteous revisions that followed.

This country was not, in fact, founded by Columbus, despite his "discovery." Questioning convention brought such American victories as the abolition of slavery and the right to women's suffrage, to say nothing of that fact that it led the patriots to stage a revolution and establish a republic instead of a constitutional monarchy. Moreover, this prioritization of innovation, progress, and increased sensitivity in light of the passage of time brought about such wonders as the Bill of Rights, protecting, for example, freedom of the press. That, not Columbus, allows me to write and print this article, and for Andrea Peyser to publish her column.

What could be more American than that?

The author is a Columbia College sophomore. She is the deputy editorial page editor.

The left's straw man



JONATHAN HOLLANDER
REASONABLY RIGHT

Obama as a modern day messiah, while the far right of the Republican Party sees him as the new Hitler. Over the summer, Tea Party protests and raucous town hall meetings seemed to exemplify the tone of the health care debate. Unfortunately, much of this extremism has originated from the right, leading liberal pundits to show Glenn Beck and Rush Limbaugh as the new "leaders" of the Republican Party, and in doing so discredit conservatism as a whole. However, the real problem America faces is not with conservatism, but rather with populism—that

insidious force which poisons American political discourse from both sides of the spectrum.

Rather than take liberal claims of conservatism's demise at face value, we need to examine the underlying motives of the left. Even in today's age of Obama, 40 percent of Americans self-identify as "conservative," whereas only 21 percent identify as "liberal," according to a recent Gallup poll. During the Bush years (especially the 2004 election), the term "liberal" became a political liability, as Republicans were able to convincingly caricature their opponents as tax-and-spend liberals who were soft on terrorism. As a result, liberals felt the need to re-brand themselves, choosing the term "progressive" in an attempt to win over the sizable portion of Americans who identify as moderates. The reason why this history lesson in semantics applies to the current topic is that liberals haven't forgotten their thrashing, and are determined to do the same to the Republicans.

Thus, we see all conservatives branded as fanatical fear-mongers who try to deny Americans the benefit of

universal health insurance by screaming about death panels. These kinds of characterizations certainly don't apply to all 40 percent of Americans who self-identify as conservative, yet dozens of liberal pundits have basically made that insinuation. I understand that all is fair in the game of politics, and I don't presume to be so naive as to believe that everyone should just "respect each other more." Rather, my goal is to point out that there are ulterior motives at play in this focus on conservative nuts by the liberal media, and that we should be aware of this when forming our opinions on the movement as a whole. It was wrong for conservatives to paint liberals as unpatriotic cowards in 2004, and likewise, it is equally unacceptable for liberals to portray conservatives as racist hicks today. Gross generalizations aside, birthers and tea-baggers do exist, and it is important to understand what ideology these people actually represent. These people are not conservatives but rather populists, who happen to associate with the far right wing of the Republican Party. Intellectual conservatism—which I would argue is grounded

in the traditions laid out by figures such as Edmund Burke, William F. Buckley Jr., and Milton Friedman—is based on a belief that free markets, individual opportunity, and institutional stability are the best means of achieving a free and prosperous society. This is ultimately where the difference lies between intellectual conservatives and populists like Glenn Beck. For someone like William F. Buckley Jr., politics was a necessary means to an end, namely prosperity. For Glenn Beck and Rush Limbaugh, politics is an end in itself, because the more exciting the horse race, the greater the audience for their vitriol.

If the obfuscation of conservatism weren't already enough, the fact remains that many individuals who have been labeled as members of the "far right" aren't even right wing at all. For instance, we all remember that exchange from a town hall meeting over the summer, when a woman called Obama a Nazi and Barney Frank responded by labeling her a nut. For liberals, this was a heroic moment, as a champion of their cause stood up to the fear-mongering of the right. However,

the ignoramus in question was not a conservative, but rather a supporter of the radical leftist populist, Lyndon LaRouche. Combine this with figures like Michael Moore and you start to see a radical wing of the Democratic Party that looks equally as insidious as that of the Republicans.

Conservatism is not dead, but it is leaderless. When a political party is not in office, it is always vulnerable to attacks on its credibility because it does not have a sitting president able to defend it. Until 2012, the Republicans are going to have deal with pundits like Glenn Beck and Rush Limbaugh hijacking their name to boost their own ratings—something that liberals will in turn relish. However, a large portion of Americans continue to identify as conservative—a fact that liberals will quickly recognize in the 2012 elections.

Jonathan Hollander is a Columbia College senior majoring in economics. He is the director of intergroup affairs for the College Republicans. Reasonably Right runs alternate Wednesdays.
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‘Demon’s Soul’ soft on story, but still hard to beat

VIDEO GAMES from page 3

seems like a steep penalty at first, eventually the joy of being a neurotic soul collector fades away and the player no longer feels so bad about losing a soul or two (thousand) here and there.

So why does the game need to be so damn difficult? Well, for one, it makes the game much more fun than players might think. They end up walking at a snail’s pace down incredibly dark corridors with their shields raised, stopping only to wipe the sweat from their actual and virtual brows, when a black phantom pops out of the darkness and kills them for what feels like the thousandth time. So, they die and start over. Next time, they know not to lollygag, they dodge appropriately, and they riposte right into the Black Phantom’s malnourished frame. Finally, they can feel proud. Conquering individual levels in Demon’s Souls is harder than beating most full games.

The best thing about Demon’s Souls’ high difficulty is that it stresses that—rather, demands—players learn from their mistakes and take it slowly. Throughout the game, their avatars get stronger

and faster through leveling up, but, like a really good, classic, roguelikegame, the character development is the player’s responsibility. The gamer is forced to learn how to play the game better. They become more dexterous and nimble, learn to play smarter, and find out how to watch for enemy patterns and tells.

The game also has a suite of innovative online features, namely the unique message and bloodstain system used heavily throughout the game. As players progress, they can choose to inscribe messages with warnings or tips (or, of course, outright lies) on the ground for other players to read. Additionally, as players die, they leave bloodstains at the site of their deaths that a living player can activate to “relive” the dead player’s last few seconds. An astute player will take note of the bloodstains littered about and, coupled with the messages, play smarter.

If gamers are connected to the video game scene at all, they’ve probably heard about how challenging Demon’s Souls is. But they shouldn’t let that deter from trying this interesting game. It’s demanding, but it’s fair, and it sure is fun. Do note that the \$60 price does not include the cost of replacing smashed controllers.

Visiting professor brings hip-hop to CU

MUSIC from page 3

With few exceptions, music today has indeed fallen quiet in the political realm. But why? To Tate, the jazz of the 1970s was a “strident, militant, socially-aware form of music.” Then, over the course of the last several decades, popular music piped down as the “technocrat, bureaucrat, investment banker mentality took hold of the artists themselves.” When it comes to politics, Tate added, “Silence is as loud as a shot.”

Meanwhile, Tate has kept busy outside of the classroom, continuing to work with his band Burnt Sugar, with shows scheduled throughout the coming months. According to Tate, the band’s forthcoming album will emphasize vocals and combine indie rock with R&B. Not least of all, at the Louis Armstrong Lecture on Oct. 21, Tate will discuss his upcoming book on the cultural legacy and life of James Brown. Scheduled to take place in Philosophy Hall, the lecture is both free and open to the public.



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Jasper Clyatt / Staff photographer

STALWART OFFENSE | In order for the Lions to defeat Hofstra and move their record above .500 on the season, they must capitalize on shot-on-goal opportunities, something they have struggled with in 2009.

Field hockey looks to extend win streak to three against Hofstra

BY MICHELE CLEARY
Spectator Staff Writer

The Columbia field hockey team will play its third consecutive non-conference matchup when it takes on Hofstra on Wednesday. The Light Blue (5-5, 1-2 Ivy) will try to extend its current win streak to three.

Columbia's last game was a close 1-0 win over Holy Cross. An early second-half goal by junior midfielder Julia

Garrison and a strong defensive effort lifted the Lions over the Crusaders, giving them their second consecutive win over a Patriot League squad.

Prior to defeating Holy Cross, Columbia triumphed 4-1 over Lafayette. In these back-to-back wins, the Light Blue out-scored its opponents 5-1 and out-shot them 30-6. This was quite the offensive turnaround, as in the two games before their win over the Leopards, the Lions were

out-scored 10-0 and out-shot 52-2. Both shots came off Garrison's stick.

Garrison has consistently led the Light Blue through its offensive highs and lows. During Columbia's current win streak, she has tallied 12 shots, eight shots on goal, two goals, and one assist. She also has a team-high 10 points for the season.

The Pride (8-6, 3-2 CAA) is also riding a win streak, as it will seek its fourth straight win when

it faces off against Columbia.

Hofstra's most recent victory was an exciting 6-5 comeback defeat of conference rival No. 20 Old Dominion. After trailing 4-1 at the half, the Pride offense scored five goals in a 25-minute period to take the game.

Sophomore midfielder/forward Genna Kovar led Hofstra with two unassisted goals in its upset victory over the Monarchs. Nancy Wagenbrenner, Ashleigh Daniels, and Amy-

Lee Levey also contributed one goal each to the win.

Kovar leads the Pride with 26 points on the season. She has made 12 goals off of 59 shots, giving her a .203 shot percentage.

Columbia is 3-1 against Hofstra in the past four seasons, with the only loss coming in 2006.

Last season the Light Blue shutout the Pride en route to a 3-0 victory. In that game, current sophomore forward

COLUMBIA VS. HOFSTRA
Hempstead, N.Y., Wednesday, 3 p.m.

Carson Christus scored her first collegiate goal off an assist from current senior forward Christine Buszczak. Current junior back Caitlin Mullins also found the back of the net off a penalty shot.

Wednesday's game is scheduled to begin at 3 p.m. in Hempstead, N.Y.

Lions prove too much for Red Foxes

WOMEN'S SOCCER from back page

relentless on offense. Senior midfielder Ashley Mistele padded Columbia's lead with her first goal of the year in the 30th minute.

Marist (5-7-2, 2-3-1 MAAC) did not score until the second half, when freshman

forward Jaclynn Sabia tallied her fourth goal of the season. The Red Foxes took eight of their nine shots in the second period but could not capitalize on most of their scoring opportunities.

On the defensive end, junior goalkeeper Lindsay Danielson made her third career start for the Lions. She notched

two saves in the win, her first victory in goal. Junior Jamie Balzarini and freshman Caitlin Landsman both saw time in goal for the Red Foxes, but Columbia scored all of its goals against Landsman.

Columbia returns to action on Saturday with an Ivy League matchup at Princeton set to kick off at 1 p.m.

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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

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CLASSIFIEDS

Check back tomorrow for full coverage of this afternoon's field hockey match against Hofstra.

TOMORROW



Men's tennis co-captain Jonathan Wong earned a singles title at the 2009 USTA Collegiate Challenge.

TOMORROW

No reason to make excuses for Columbia athletics



TOM DI BENEDETTO
THE MOUTH THAT ROARED

Last Friday, an interesting Spectator column titled “In defense of blue and white” caught my eye. It ran as an editorial but was actually a sports column about the football team.

About three paragraphs in, just as I was about to quit reading, I came across this bombshell: “The Columbia University football team has often received criticism for what ignorant observers see reflected in the scoreboard at

the end of the fourth quarter or in the sports column the Monday after a game.”

Ahiza Garcia, the author of this article, goes on to say, “What they don't see, because they are blinded by numbers and end results, are the private struggles that each member of the team undergoes.”

Because I have a sports column, and because I am often a critic of the football program, I found these comments to be particularly strange and off-base. But I was ultimately too focused on preparations for the Saturday football broadcast to stay angry for long.

About thirty hours later, I found myself sitting in the backseat of a rented car, making my way up the New Jersey Turnpike after witnessing a painful second half collapse against Lafayette, and wondering what to write in the Spectator or say on WKCR this week. Then, I remembered the oddly placed column I had read the day before.

In the column, Garcia did a wonderful job pointing out the fact that Columbia football players work hard and sacrifice much for their sport. Unfortunately, she failed to mention the equally important second part of that statement: so do the players on opposing sidelines.

This is what makes Ivy League sports so great; the same pressures apply to every single athlete. Columbia football players are not special or unique in their off-field responsibilities when it comes to Ancient Eight play, so why treat them like they are?

Am I saying that the football players shouldn't be admired for their commitment and dedication? Of course not. It's just not an excuse for losing, and it never has been for any sport in this league.

Yet some, such as Garcia, demand and expect nothing from this football team because its members are just students who work really hard. We have a name for this mentality at WKCR—the “atmosphere of acceptance,”—and it is one of the oldest traditions at Columbia. Only in this atmosphere could a sports section get attacked from within its own paper for accurately calling bad performances bad. It seems that far too many, including most within athletic department itself, have become more invested in the censorship of the student media than the success of the athletic program. Athletic failures have grown to be the norm here, and many folks around Morningside Heights truly believe it to be more productive to pity the football players than expect them to win. This mentality goes against everything I know and love about sports, and quite frankly, after reading Friday's editorial and watching Saturday's game, I'm tired of it.

Criticizing the football team is not “effortless” either, as Garcia claims. Talking Columbia football for an hour every Wednesday is hard to do without saying anything critical, as is pumping out a relevant column every two weeks. But who could try to talk about Saturday night's game without being critical?

Honestly, would I be doing my job if I failed to mention that Millicent Olawale ran the ball six times on first down in the second half against Lafayette, despite averaging just 1.3 yards on those carries? As a result, the Lions faced second and long five times in that second half, and converted just one of the five for first down. Olawale's other first down carry resulted in a lost fumble.

And wouldn't I be remiss in my responsibilities if I did not bring up the fact that Ray Rangel, the Ivy League's leading rusher by over 100 yards, ran the ball just twice in the second half, despite averaging 6.6 yards per carry in the first two quarters? Or the fact that the best player on the defense, junior captain and linebacker Alex Gross, may be out for the season after injuring himself on a special teams play?

None of these things reflect well upon a coaching staff that was thoroughly humiliated on Saturday night. But I do not level this criticism to be mean or to indict the ability of the coaches. Norries Wilson and his staff just had a bad day, and he was the first to admit that at the post game press conference. I bring up these points because this football team cannot afford another coaching debacle this season, and putting pressure on the staff in my column or on the radio, no matter how little it may matter, just could change something come next week.

That's the best part about being a member of the student media: I can be a fan. As a fan, I want nothing more than to see another Ivy League championship in a “major” sport—I jumped up and down on my bed in Carman when the baseball team finished off Dartmouth to capture the 2008 title—and I believe that my criticisms of the athletic program are always in pursuit of this goal. The athletic department has never understood this about student media groups, and they probably never will. The student population, on the other hand, is a different story.

There are still too many students who apathetically buy into the “atmosphere of acceptance” toward sports that permeates this university. But I also believe there are a growing number of students who are ready for a new era in Columbia athletics.

I'm just trying to make sure it gets here.

Tom Di Benedetto is a Columbia College junior majoring in history.
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Lisa Lewis / Senior staff photographer

RUNNING GAME | Even though running back Ray Rangel leads the Ivy League in rushing yards, he has struggled to attain yards after halftime.

Lions unable to produce in second half

CU drops another winnable contest as offense falters late

BY MATT VELAZQUEZ
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

For the fourth straight game, the Columbia football team went into halftime with a lead, but for the second time this season the offense was shut out in the second half as the Lions fell to Lafayette on Saturday, 24-21.

Starting strong on offense has not been an issue for the Light Blue this season—68 of its 112 points have come in the first half—but finishing games strongly has proven to be difficult. Excluding Columbia's win over Princeton, the Lions' offense has scored just one touchdown in the second half in its other three games.

Saturday's loss to Lafayette was reminiscent of the Light Blue's loss to Central Connecticut State University. In each game, the Lions' offense went from nearly unstoppable in the first half to anemic in the second—it ran just 18 plays after halftime against the Blue Devils and 19 against the Leopards.

The argument can be made that when the Lions have the lead they might be trying not to lose rather than trying to win. Columbia head coach Norries Wilson doesn't think that

was the case on Saturday.

“I don't think we played not to lose—we didn't even talk about conserving the lead,” Wilson said. “We talked at halftime about having to play every play because we didn't know what play was going to be the one that won the game.”

From the other side of the field, Lafayette head coach Frank Tavani thought the difference between the halves wasn't what Columbia was doing. Instead, he chalked up the Leopards' success to the adjustments that his team made to the Lions' attack.

“I don't think they played conservative, I think they did the things that had been good to them all year—the option, speed option, quarterback power, quarterback draw, doing all those things,” Tavani said. “I think we clamped things down and took some of those things away.”

One of the common denominators in the Lions' two losses this season is that senior running back Ray Rangel—who leads the Ivy League with 398 rushing yards—started out each game strong, then hardly touched the ball in the second half. Against CCSU, Rangel ran for 103 yards on nine carries before halftime, but then handled the ball just once in the second half—a run that gained 27 yards. Against

Lafayette, Rangel rattled off 52 yards on eight carries before the half, and carried the ball just twice after the intermission, gaining 19 yards.

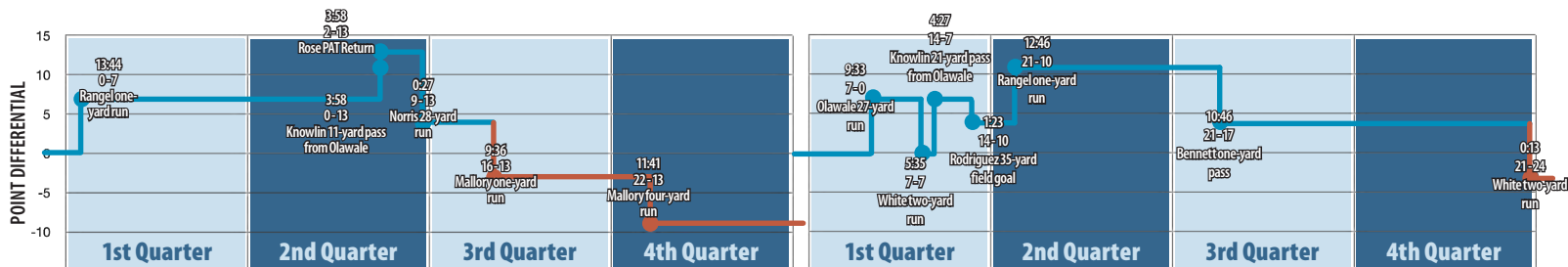
“It was interesting,” Tavani said, referring to the fact that Rangel had just two carries in the second half. Tavani went on to note that Rangel's decreased workload might have been because the Lions run the read play, and Olawale might have decided it was better not to give Rangel the ball and keep it himself. “Again, some of those plays they run are the read/ride and everything, so he would be getting it, but depending on what we were giving them he didn't get it.”

It might not be a direct correlation, but in the Lions' wins, Rangel has carried the ball 44 times compared to just 20 carries in games the Light Blue has lost. CCSU head coach Jeff McNerney and Tavani both cited halftime adjustments for their team's second-half success against Columbia, and either those adjustments were very good or the Lions failed to adjust themselves.

No team can expect to get shut out in a half and have a good chance at winning. Whether the Lions head into halftime with a lead or not against Penn on Saturday afternoon, they're going to need to be prepared to adjust, execute, and put up points in the second half if they want to end the day with an unbeaten record in the Ancient Eight.



LATE-GAME HEARTBREAKERS: In games versus CCSU (left) and Lafayette (right), Columbia's offence failed to produce in the second half, resulting in the season's two losses.



Graphic by Yipeng Huang



Ajit Pillai / Senior staff photographer

TEAMWORK | The Lions three goals against Marist in last night's match came from three separate players. Chrissy Butler, Sophie Riser, and Ashley Mistele contributed to Columbia's victory.

Light Blue down Marist for second consecutive win

BY SARAH SOMMER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Columbia women's soccer team won two consecutive games for the third time this season with a 3-1 victory at Marist on Tuesday night. The Lions outshot the Red Foxes 11-9, and took three corner kicks to Marist's one.

Columbia (6-5-2, 2-1-0 Ivy) struck early, as junior forward Chrissy Butler scored her second goal of the year in the fourth minute. Senior forward Sophie Reiser followed with a tally of her own for the Lions, her sixth this season.

While Columbia held a comfortable 2-0 advantage after only 10 minutes of action, they were

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