

INSIDE



A&E, page 3

Sugar and frosting
and sprinkles, oh my!

Don't be overwhelmed by choices this Halloween. Use this guide to navigate the candy surplus shelved at local drugstores and to cook up some chilling cocktails.

Opinion, page 4

NObama

Our commander in chief is running into political grief, and Jon Hollander has an explanation.



Sports, page 6

Inconsistent kicking
plagues Lions football

Columbia football has relied on consistent kicking over the past four years, but currently ranks last in the Ivy League in extra points and is just one for five in field goal attempts.

EVENTS

Jon Meacham:
Covering Conflict

Newsweek editor Jon Meacham will discuss the coverage of conflict in a discussion moderated by religion professor Randall Balmer and hosted by the Institute for Religion, Culture, & Public Life.

Lecture Hall, Journalism Building, 6:30–8 p.m.

An Overview of the LGBTI
Movement in Kenya

Columbia's Institute for African Studies hosts Human Rights Advocates Program member Akinyi Ocholla. She will discuss her work with Minority Women in Action, a Nairobi-based support group for the LGBTI community.

309 Havemeyer, 10 p.m.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"People are feeling desperate."

—State Senator Bill Perkins

ONLINE

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News around the clock

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

A Fulbrighter
outlook: grant
applications
on the rise

BY ALISA LU
Columbia Daily Spectator

Most students are busy trying to make it through midterms.

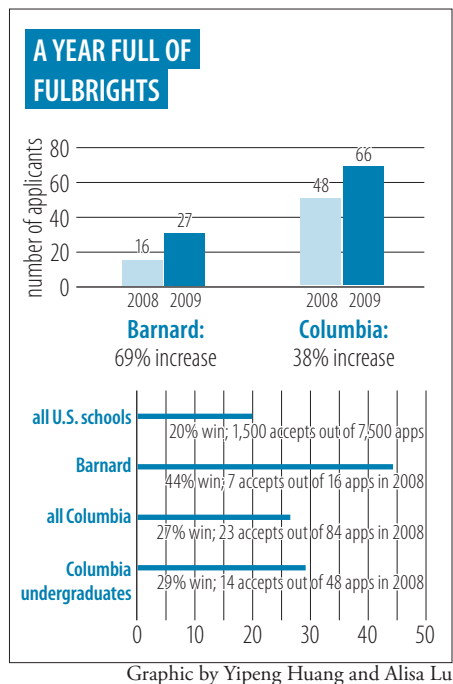
But for Julia Phillips, BC '10, Elena Mayer, BC '10, and 25 other Barnard students, this is Fulbright season.

By this time next year, Phillips hopes to be writing a manuscript on the people of Kamchatka, Russia and Mayer hopes to be studying the sustainability of clinics in Senegal.

Phillips and Mayer are two of a flurry of Barnard students and alumnae applying for grants offered through the Fulbright Program, which is run by the U.S. Department of State. This year, 27 Barnard students are applying, marking almost a 69 percent increase from the 16 applicants last year. Columbia has seen a similar though less dramatic increase with 66 applicants this year, 18 more than the year before.

The opportunity to have expenses covered

SEE FULBRIGHT, page 2

No end to widespread
struggle for employment

BY RAY KATZ
Columbia Daily Spectator

Amid hopeful signs of a recovering national economy, the ranks of the unemployed continue to swell—along with, for many locals, a growing sense that the end is not yet in sight.

According to the New York State Department of Labor, the situation worsened over the summer, escalating into a gloomy fall. From September to August, the statewide unemployment rate rose from 8.7 percent to 8.8 percent, and in New York City, it rose from 10.2 percent to 10.3 percent—which is the highest rate the city has seen in over a decade.

According to some experts, it is very likely that the pool of jobless city dwellers will continue to grow in the coming months. James Brown, an analyst for the Department of Labor, recently said in interview that unemployment typically continues to rise for a year to a year and half after the end of a recession.

Brown also added that historically,

Harlem's unemployment rate has been twice the citywide average. In 2008, the rate of unemployment was 18.7 percent in Community Districts 9 and 10 and 17.1 percent in District 11.

From the perspective of local politicians, these bleak numbers represent serious desperation for many out of work. William Franc Perry III, chair of Community Board 10, said, in general, "Communities of color are much more affected" by downturns in the economy than are other segments of the population. Perry said that it was even common for people to drop into the Community Board office these days looking for any leads or connections to a job with a salary.

State Senator Bill Perkins, who represents parts of Harlem and Morningside Heights, said that he has also observed firsthand the effects of unemployment on his constituents. "It's clear from the traffic that we get in this office and from my own direct contact with people in the

SEE UNEMPLOYMENT, page 2



Source: New York State Department of Labor / Graphic by Yipeng Huang

Searching for space in the Diana
Not all student groups can reserve space in new building

Courtney Raterman / Staff photographer

NEW SPACE FOR SOME | The Diana, pictured here, will open next semester as Barnard College's long-awaited student center. But because of the budgeting and bureaucracy built into student life at Columbia, not all student groups will be able to reserve space.

BY MADINA TOURE
Spectator Staff Writer

New spaces bring new politics.

When the Diana opens its doors this spring, Barnard students will finally have their own version of Lerner—a functional student center with spaces designed for programming. But the criteria for student groups' use of the fresh space may limit its beneficiaries.

The Diana's space is slated to be filled primarily by academic departments and student groups. For example, the Barnard Student Government Association will be among those with an office in the building. With space allotted for groups only recognized by particular governing boards, the student bodies that dole out the student life fee to various groups, some board

This is the first story in a two-part series. See tomorrow's Spectator for the related article about space in Lerner Hall for student groups.

members say these restrictions may lead to an increase in campus clubs seeking recognition from two boards.

SGA functions as both a council and a governing board. Any clubs recognized by SGA and the Student Governing Board—which provides funding for religious, political, humanitarian, and activist groups on campus, among others—will be able to use the space. This is because Barnard pays into SGB, and SGB groups are, in effect, SGA-recognized. In more concrete terms, this means that SGB-recognized groups can program events in Barnard's spaces.

But, on the other hand, Barnard does not pay into the funding for the Activities Board at Columbia, which includes academic, cultural, media, publications, and performance groups. Therefore, in order to be able to reserve space in the Diana, ABC clubs must actively seek recognition by SGA. This limits the potential users of the Diana to a narrower pool of clubs. This is because only 37 of the 157 ABC groups meet the criteria for shared recognition with SGA—which entail a membership quota of Barnard students—according to an ABC representative.

"Dual recognition is more about funding. ... It depends on how the Diana will be doing its own rules. For now, it's Barnard and Barnard-recognized clubs,"

SEE DIANA, page 2

Food shed movement offers
cream of the local crop

BY NICHOLAS BLOOM
Columbia Daily Spectator

Instead of getting apples shipped across the nation, some locals in West Harlem and Morningside Heights are hoping to pick fruit from their own backyards soon.

In Harlem and at Columbia University, several neighborhood and citywide food projects have recently sprouted up alongside the nationwide urban agriculture movement—now gaining momentum as a new way of thinking about fresh, local, sustainable, and affordable food.

At the Urban Design Laboratory of Columbia University's Earth Institute, a group of researchers are now working on an initiative called the New York City Regional Foodshed Initiative designed to analyze the geographic origins of New York City's food consumption to help them come up with local solutions.

According to Richard Gonzalez, a recent graduate of Columbia's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, and the food shed project manager, they are trying to determine how much of New York City's demand for food can be met by local farms and food production companies.

"Basically, we want to know how far food travels to get to a New Yorker's plate," Gonzalez said. "Right now, a majority of New York City's apples are flown in from Washington State. Can we create a regional radius within which a certain percentage of New York City's food must be produced?" he added.

Along with the design of this local radius for food production, the Lab is also working to research the effects of local food on the health and affordability of eating for poorer communities—particularly within the Northern Manhattan area, Gonzalez said.

This, he said, includes potential educational programs for local communities and school children on the benefits of healthy foods and the agricultural process. Gonzalez and his partners are working in conjunction with Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer and the Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture to bring their "food shed" project to life on a citywide scale.

For Gonzalez, the role of the Urban Design Lab is to provide a model for a sustainable local food production system.

"The Urban Design Lab basically brings the research and academics to the food shed project," he said. "We try to show graphically what 'sustainable development' means in terms of food production for New York City."

Stringer, in a February press release urging the city to create a regional "Foodshed," said, "Hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers live in 'food deserts' where there isn't enough fresh food; meanwhile, food prices are going through the roof, and yet thousands of eligible families cannot get food stamps."

At the same as this academic team partners with Stringer to implement the citywide effort, at WE ACT for Environmental Justice, (West Harlem Environmental Inc.), a community-based non-profit aimed at bringing local and affordable foods to Harlem, is working to address issues on the neighborhood level—through initiatives that revive small supermarkets in the neighborhood and reexamine the contents of school lunch.

James Subudhi, the coordinator of the program, said, "Our goal is to improve access to healthy food for people living in Upper Manhattan." Subudhi said that they are interested in bringing affordable supermarkets back to communities with food-scarcity problems.

Subudhi said that he recently testified before the Department of City Planning to advocate for the attachment of standards to the city's new Food Retail Expansion to Support Health (FRESH) program, which is a city-wide initiative trying to bring supermarkets to underserved communities through tax breaks and incentives.

"These incentives need to come along with standards," Subudhi said, adding, "We're trying to make sure that these supermarkets will be hiring local workers, accepting food stamps, and making food affordable for people living in these communities."

In addition to working to bring supermarkets back to West Harlem, WE ACT is trying to integrate healthy and local foods into public school lunch programs.

For Subudhi, the situation is fairly serious. "72% of public school students are on free or reduced lunches which means that a majority of students are living in food insecure families," he said.

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Increase in Fulbright applicants this year

FULBRIGHT from front page

for an academic year while savoring a new country is highly coveted. About 7,500 American college students or recent college graduates apply every year to be one of the 1,500 students who receive a grant to conduct field research or teach English in a foreign country. Aaron Schneider, senior associate dean of studies at Barnard, cited two main reasons for the increase at the school: Nationwide more spots are offered today than in years past, and Barnard has been successful in getting its students grants in recent years. And students can expect more grants to be available in years to come. According to James Lawrence, an officer in the state department's Office of Academic Exchange, the number of applicants this year is expected to increase from last year, as is the number of grants.

According to Schneider, these rises could also be due to the difficulty of finding a job in today's economy. Michael Pippenger, associate dean of fellowships and study abroad at Columbia, agreed. "People are looking for other kinds of alternatives after graduation besides a job," he said. For Mayer, the economy was not a factor, just a bonus. "I think it was an extra perk," she said. "I wouldn't say it was a factor in me deciding to apply but upon reflection, it certainly would be, of all the years, it would be a particularly good thing to get."

Last year, seven out of Barnard's 16 applicants received the grant—a 44 percent acceptance rate. At Columbia's three undergraduate

schools, 29 percent of the applicants, (14 out of 48) won a grant. Last semester, Columbia University as a whole ranked seventh in terms of producing Fulbright winners. In comparison, Pomona College had 15 award-winners out of 58 applicants, highest for a liberal arts college, and Northwestern University had 32 winners out of 109 applicants, No. 1 among American universities.

Dorothy Denburg, dean of Barnard College, explained that Barnard's liberal arts background is one of the reasons for the school's success. "Students from Barnard, like students at other small liberal arts colleges, are extremely well prepared to apply for this kind of grant because they have had a lot of intense undergraduate research experience," she said.

Alina Romanowski, deputy assistant secretary of state for academic programs, praised both school's success in the Fulbright Program. "Columbia University and Barnard College's successful record with the Fulbright Program is a testament to the quality of the applications its students and faculty submit, and to the efforts of its Fulbright Program Advisor to emphasize the legacy and importance of a Fulbright experience," she wrote in a press release.

But for now, Mayer and Phillips must wait and see if their dreams will be granted. They will know if they pass the first stage—review by a committee in the United States—in late January. Then, the decision will rest on the countries to which they applied, each notifying the applicants at different times.

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Space an issue for Barnard's new student center

DIANA from front page

Alfred Davis, GS and an ABC Representative, said. "If a club has at least 50 percent Barnard students or if a Barnard club has 50 percent Columbia students, then the club has to be dually recognized."

SGB groups are eligible for the space in the Diana, while ABC groups must seek to gain recognition from both ABC and SGA.

"This isn't a new thing or a special thing," Devora Aharon, CC '10 and SGB Chair, said. "It's just the way that the system is set up."

Some leaders see the allotment

issue—that a little over 100 groups recognized by ABC would not have access to Diana real estate—as a disadvantage. Scott St. Marie, CC '10 and ABC Chair, said that this could propel more groups to seek dual recognition.

"I think it says something that more student groups are looking to be ... [recognized]," he said. "There are a lot of student groups, particularly groups that need specialized space. They cannot do their programming in Lerner—you can't put on a show in Lerner."

Sharmin Ahmed, SGA Vice President of Finance and BC '10, said that the influx of applications

for dual recognition could strain SGA's purse strings. "If all ABC-only recognized clubs want to use space in the Diana, they'd apply for dual recognition," Ahmed said. "This may become burdensome if all ABC clubs apply for dual recognition with the purpose of using the Diana. The burden would stem from Barnard's inability to fund the proper ratio of funding for these groups, since Barnard's student activities fees are not divided in the same way as Columbia's. Barnard also pays for the use of Lerner and other Columbia facilities, whereas Columbia does not pay into the use of Barnard."

Ultimately, St. Marie stressed that it is not a matter of denying groups the opportunity to reserve space in the Diana, but about the fact that it may not be economically feasible to offer the space to all groups.

"It all comes down to funding," he said, mentioning that the reason Barnard does not pay into ABC is because the school would have to pay two-sevenths of ABC's budget, a "really expensive bill."

"Our groups have to get dually recognized because they [Barnard] just can't afford it," he noted.

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Rampant unemployment problem continues

UNEMPLOYMENT from front page

neighborhood that we have a very serious unemployment problem in the community," he said.

Perkins added that they are actively working to address this serious issue.

One of the many challenges in quantifying the local rates, Perkins said, is the "unheard of third"—those who are unemployed, but do not interact in any way with the mechanisms that record unemployment.

At the other end of the spectrum, there are individuals who have never before faced unemployment, Perkins mentions. These individuals, ones who suddenly find themselves in dire and unfamiliar circumstances, tend to have an even harder time facing confusion and hopelessness in this new trend, he added.

Perkins said that he has observed people moving away from the city, convinced that greener

pastures—with more employment opportunities and significantly lower costs of living—lie elsewhere. "People are feeling desperate," he said. Meanwhile, the burgeoning unemployment rate has been accompanied by a significant decrease in available positions. Charece Newell, the owner of Get a Black Suit Staffing—a Brooklyn-based firm that represents a handful of Harlem clients—specializes in candidate searches for companies looking to hire, as well as training individuals looking to be hired.

Newell's older clients, she mentioned, have recently put freezes on new hiring. "Companies are using bad economic times to get rid of the bad people and replace them with good people," Newell said, citing layoffs as a major factor in the high unemployment rate.

Faced with growing job—seeker traffic on her Web site—one

posted job opening can garner thousands of responses—and a declining number of positions, Newell has cut the time it normally takes her to fill an opening in half.

Other experts have said that there is a glimmer of hope in the distance.

Jill Poklemba, director of communications and development at STRIVE, an East Harlem non-profit employment organization that focuses on job training, said that she hasn't seen any significant change in the demand for employment services—a hopeful sign in an increasingly unstable environment.

"We've always dealt with a population whose unemployment rate has been double or triple the general rate," Poklemba said of her organization, adding that the stability she is observing reflects her interactions with the most unemployable populations that her organization typically

trains—such as the homeless and recently incarcerated.

Perkins, who is the chair of the State Senate Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions, said that there was hope in ongoing economic development as a source for job creation. He cited the Columbia expansion into Manhattanville as an example of a project that was undertaken with a promise of creating new jobs in the community.

"When projects don't translate into these benefits, it aggravates a bad situation," Perkins said, adding, "In these communities, small business tends to be more valuable in terms of these opportunities."

Newell, who observes the shortening supply of jobs on a daily basis, said she was somewhat optimistic. She said, "I do feel that in the next year there will be a change."

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File photo

TOUGH LUCK IN NEW HAVEN | Several members of the women's tennis team competed in the Wilson/ITA Regional Championships this past week at Yale University. Despite a round one win by No. 1. singles player Natasha Makarova over Binghamton's Marina Bykovskaya, Harvard emerged with the first-place trophy.

CU delivers mixed results at regional tourney

BY LAUREN SEAMAN
Columbia Daily Spectator

The Wilson/ITA Regional Championships, which were held at Yale University from Oct. 23 to Oct. 27, featured the top 128 singles players and 64 doubles teams from the Northeast region. In their biggest tournament of the fall season, the Lions struggled with the absence of their No. 1 singles player and top overall seed, freshman Nicole Bartnik.

Harvard's Holly Cao won the tournament by defeating Brown's Casey Herzberg with two identical 6-2 sets to become the Northeast champion. With the victory she advances to the ITA Intercollegiate National Indoor championships, which will also be held at Yale. Additionally, the single's runner up and the doubles champions from Brown will compete at the Indoor championships.

Columbia, despite Bartnik's absence due to illness, played hard throughout the tournament. In round one, last year's No. 1 Columbia singles player, Natasha Makarova, defeated Marina Bykovskaya of Binghamton University. After losing her first set 6-3, Makarova rebounded to win her last two sets of the draw, 7-6 (3), 6-4. She continued her strong play, but lost in her second match to University of Buffalo's Diana Popescu by a score of 6-3, 6-3.

Lion freshman Chelsea Davis battled Pre-rana Appineni in a singles draw, but was defeated, 7-5 and 6-2 after putting up a fight in her first-set tiebreaker.

Senior Carling Donovan fell to her opponent Ali Campitiello in the first round 6-2, 6-2.

Donovan and Davis teamed up later against Brown's Flanzer and Krasowski. The Lions' doubles team struggled in their first match and were defeated in the first round by a score of 8-2.

Makarova and Junior Natalia Christenson had better luck in the doubles draw, defeating the Leikem twins from University of Rhode Island by a score of 8-4. However, they were defeated in round two to the No. 9 seed Bates and Santos 8-2.

The women's team will next be in action in January when they open with their first dual match of the spring season.

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BOOKS

What makes literature lowbrow?



LUCY TANG

SENTIMENTAL EDUCATION

Someone recently accosted a friend of mine with the snide remark, “I bet you read... literary fiction.” My friend, a nice bookish young man, innocently agreed that most of his reading choices were, in fact, literary fiction. His antagonist then retorted, “I hate literary fiction. I’m reading a vampire novel right now—what do you think of that?” And then he proceeded to mock Kazuo Ishiguro’s last name.

I had a similarly awkward encounter myself. This summer I was lugging around a hardcover with me, when an acquaintance took one glance at its gray cover and black binding and exclaimed, “Oh my gosh! Are you reading the fifth Harry Potter?” I tried to leave my response at a simple “No,” but she continued to prod. “Oh, so what are you reading? The cover looks just like the fifth Harry Potter.” My answer, “the second Proust,” was met with a stare that screamed, “You must think you are pretty great for reading Proust.”

With the simultaneous popularization of and obsession with lowbrow culture (see: ONTD, “Gossip Girl,” Miley Cyrus), has it become a social taboo to read literature?

Caveat: I have nothing against mass-market paperback genre fiction. I grew up devouring Agatha Christie’s crime novels and have recently become hooked on the Kate Fansler mysteries. I appreciate Dan Brown for releasing “The Lost Symbol.” Whatever keeps people literate and the publishing industry alive. Although I have not read any of Stephenie Meyer’s *Twilight* books, if it takes Bella Swan to encourage 13-year-old girls to pick up “*Wuthering Heights*,” so be it. What is troubling is the unfair assumption that the person who chooses to read Roberto Bolaño is a pretentious windbag. Even Marilyn Monroe read “*Ulysses*,” at least according to one photo.

Sometimes I also remember that many of the so-called “classics” were the popular fiction of their time. Charles Dickens wrote serially for the purpose of catering to his readers’ reactions. Then I wonder if I am missing out on the contemporary Dickens by overlooking Dan Brown and Stephenie Meyer.

On the other side of the literary spectrum, there is Tom Townsend in “Metropolitan,” who reads only theory. When asked what Jane Austen novels he has read, he earnestly responds, “None. I don’t read novels. I prefer good literary criticism. That way you get both the novelists’ ideas as well as the critics’ thinking. With fiction I can never forget that none of it really happened, that it’s all just made up by the author.”

That statement is absolutely absurd, but Tom Townsends do walk among us. There exists a certain strain of people, especially at Columbia, who actually only read theory. They often do look down on people like myself who enjoy narrative. A good friend of mine is a Tom Townsend type—he uses the terms “reification,” “dialectic,” and “power structures” outside the confines of a philosophy seminar. After enrolling in a Latin American literature class to fulfill the Major Cultures requirement, he said to me, “The class is so easy and fun! All we do is read novels. It’s such a nice break from theory.” Granted, he probably did not mean to sound so condescending. However, he implicitly privileged theory over literature for being more intellectually demanding. To this day, I am still uncomfortable with that value judgment.

Despite numerous attempts to crack Marx’s “Capital” this summer, the same friend conceded that he wanted a more enjoyable read. Vindication is mine. Sir Philip Sidney in “The Defence of Poesy” provides a more thought-out explanation of the advantages literature holds over philosophy (and history, but that’s for another column). Sidney points out philosophy’s bareness—we learn the precept, but too directly to actually retain it. “Capital” does not delight (most of) us the way “Never Let Me Go” does. Literature, on the other hand, works psychologically to accommodate the way most of us process the world. While literature has undergone radical changes since Sidney’s days, the popularity of said vampire novels validates his original argument. Literature, whether it be lowbrow or highbrow, still has its appeal.

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

FOOD & DRINK

Local Halloween deals on sweets and treats

BY MADDY KLOSS
Senior Staff Writer

While old pumpkin, ghost, and superhero kiddie costumes of Halloween’s past gather dust in the closet, one childhood Halloween staple never seems to get old: the sweets.

The excitement of eating all things sugared and sprinkled, orange and black isn’t just for kids. In fact, there’s a wide variety of fun Halloween treats, ranging from the traditional candy to festive cocktails, that are perfect for the college crowd.

For the classics, from Almond Joys to Zours, the best deals are often found at drugstore sales. However, not all candy aisles are created equal. At Duane Reade on the corner of Broadway and 111th St., there’s a stereotypical mix of childhood favorites, ranging from candy corn to the beloved jumbo variety packs. The standout item there is undoubtedly the most unique of the bunch, Jet-Puffed GhostMallows—yes, marshmallows shaped like ghosts. At only \$1.79 a bag, these seasonal treats are an economical yet quirky way to cheer up a cup of hot chocolate, or just to snack on by themselves. There’s also the perennial classic sacks of Brach’s Candy Corn at the unbeatable price of 99 cents each.

Yet, as inviting as the Duane Reade selection is, the aisle at the 110th St. and Broadway Rite Aid is even more comprehensive. The selection here appears over twice as large as Duane Reade’s, and most of the mainstream candy also happens to be cheaper. While the 99-cent candy corn special is the same at Rite Aid, an additional sugar rush comes with the presence of its lesser-known cousin, indian corn—basically candy corn with a brown strip of chocolate flavor at the end instead of the usual yellow.

But in case kiddie treats don’t suit more discerning tastes, Milano Market and Westside Market both offer more grown-up sweets. At Milano, the selection is limited but includes a tasty-looking shelf of chocolate black cats, pumpkins, and ghosts. There is also the not-so-sophisticated stack of Halloween Peeps for those with the strongest of cravings for sweets.

Meanwhile, at Westside, foodies can find a clever twist on the traditional black-and-white cookie, with orange frosting instead of plain white. Most



Courtney Raterman for Spectator

CANDY RICHES, COCKTAIL DREAMS | This Halloween, local drugstores like Duane Reade and RiteAid have a surplus of sweets to satisfy the sweet teeth of kids and adults alike, who can also pick up the ingredients to brew their own creepy concoctions.

of the other Halloween treats are hidden at the ends of aisles, but a little hunting yields a spooky surprise—Entenmann’s cupcakes, frosted in orange and topped with candy corn, also available in mini-size.

There are also creepy cocktails for adult-oriented Halloween parties, such as the Dracula’s Kiss and the Red Zombie. For a themed garnish, it’s quick and easy to make “eyeballs” out of radishes—just cut away the skin making the remaining stripes look like veins, cut a hole in the middle, and insert a green olive to serve as the “iris” and “pupil.”

Whether it be candy or BOO-ze, trick-or-treating or a classy party, Halloween treats are available for every age and age-at-heart.

Pick your poison with these spooky cocktail recipes.

DRACULA’S KISS

1 oz. black cherry vodka

1/2 oz. grenadine

Cola

Maraschino cherries
for garnish

Coat bottom of highball glass with grenadine. Add ice and vodka. Fill with cola. Garnish with cherries.

RED ZOMBIE

2 oz. vodka

4 oz. cranberry juice

1/2 oz. triple sec

Combine all ingredients with ice in a shaker. Strain into a chilled martini glass with sugared rim.

THEATER

Columbia’s activism in theater falls short of NY standards

BY LEORA KANNER
Columbia Daily Spectator

On Oct. 11 the cast of Broadway’s “Hair” canceled the day’s shows in order to perform at a march for gay rights in Washington. According to The New York Times, Gavin Creel—one of the show’s stars—spearheaded this highly irregular and expensive decision because he felt the message of the show calls for activism.

The original production of “Hair” was an important and influential musical because of its direct confrontation of equality, rights, and freedom in the 1970s. Now, the cast has taken the timeless message off of the stage and onto the streets.

“Hair” is only one example of the proliferation of activism in the contemporary theatrical community. Not only do entire casts march for their

causes, but satirical theater has historically been used to comment on social realities and to fuel revolution.

Broadway shows like Will Ferrell’s “You’re Welcome America” and off-Broadway performances such as “Walmartopia” inspired social change and promoted governmental reform directly through performance.

One popular theatrical group, Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, has been incredibly successful in bringing together actors, directors, and other industry workers in order to fight a disease that has personally affected some members of the theatrical community. According to their mission statement, BC/EFA is “the nation’s leading industry-based, not-for-profit AIDS fund-raising and grant-making organization.” This group pulls from the talents of those in its community to raise funds and

provide services to people with HIV/AIDS. Since its founding in 1988, the group has raised over \$160 million.

During their annual Broadway Flea Market and Grand Auction, which took place this year on Sept. 27, 75 celebrities in attendance contributed personal items for sale that raised \$403,229 for Broadway Cares.

The year of Broadway charity doesn’t end there: One of the larger theatrical charity events this year will be a special performance by Broadway star Bernadette Peters on Nov. 9 at the Minskoff Theater. BC/EFA will sponsor the concert together with Broadway Barks, which works towards helping shelter animals.

The wealth of activism in the wider theatrical community begs the question of what activism the Columbia theatrical community practices. The recent production of “Tartuffe” on

Oct. 14 was performed by an all-female cast in order to raise questions of gender roles in society.

On campus, NOMADS (New and Original Material Authored and Directed by Students) started a green initiative last semester to recycle programs post-performance. But, generally, the silence on the part of the Columbia theater community seems jarring given the industry’s tendency toward taking a stance on these hot topics.

The great amount of activism on the part of the New York theatrical community suggests that performance-oriented individuals naturally feel compelled to give back to their communities and support causes that benefit those within. Perhaps due to a lack of coherence on Columbia’s campus, or due to a lack of interest, the wider Columbia theatrical community seems less interested in making their voices heard.

Embracing ‘Road’ rage



Courtesy of MTV

Real World Road Rules

Every time I see the commercials for another season of “Real World/Road Rules Challenge,” I must seriously consider if I’m going to devote the time to watch wannabe reality stars drink, stab each other in the back, and, oh yeah, battle for money. But, if those reality stars are willing to spend the best decade of their lives embarrassing themselves and growing old on MTV, the least I can do is watch.

The intended point of the “Challenge”—to compete in physical activities to win thousands of dollars—has been eclipsed by the contestants bringing their real-life relationships to the show. The latest installment, for example, involves a complicated love web. Wes and his ex-fiancee Johanna

are on the same team, as is Kenny, the guy that Johanna had sex with on the last “Challenge” officially solidifying the end of her and Wes’ relationship. Wes is now dating KellyAnne, a contestant on the opposite team, along with KellyAnne’s ex, Cohutta. Confused yet? Understandable, if you haven’t watched the past 17 seasons.

The old boy’s club that runs the show (Johnny Bananas, Kenny, and Evan) are all friends in real life and everyone knows the token crazy drunk girls that are easily provoked for entertainment are really crazy drunk girls outside of the show (Tonya and Katie).

Does it matter that I could predict that Tonya would be kicked off the show for hitting someone, as she was this past week? No, because I feel an odd sense of attachment to the cast that will keep me watching for another 18 seasons—or at least until I’m out of college.

—Ali Krimmer



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Staff Editorial

Inoculating Columbia

Following President Obama's recent declaration of the H1N1 virus, or swine flu, epidemic as a national emergency, it is important to take another look at how the University has prepared to mitigate a possible outbreak of the virus on the Morningside campus. Primary Care Medical Services at Columbia is actively working to promote preventative behavior in students, faculty, and staff, and it has articulated a plan for an orderly distribution of a vaccine when it arrives. Many in the Columbia community are concerned or even apprehensive about the availability of the H1N1 vaccine, specifically in Morningside Heights: While many are eager to be vaccinated, others fear possible side effects of getting the shot. We encourage Health Services to do more to educate everyone on the status and benefits of the swine flu vaccination and in particular to address the concerns of those worried about its potentially adverse side effects.

Columbia has already placed its request for the vaccine with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Morningside Primary Care Medical Services will serve all Columbia schools in Morningside Heights, as well as Teacher's College, Jewish Theological Seminary, and Union Theological Seminary. Barnard Primary Care Health Service will distribute the vaccine to Barnard students. In New York as a whole, distribution of the H1N1 vaccine is determined by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and recipient organizations such as Columbia can expect to receive requested amounts in increments due to the high demand and strained supply. To ration the vaccine, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention has created a list of high-risk groups who are encouraged to seek vaccination

as soon as possible. This priority group includes people between the ages of 6 months and 24 years old, those 24 to 64 with chronic health problems, pregnant women, EMS workers, and those who care for children under 6 months. The CDC has instructed vaccine providers to service these groups first, as they are the most vulnerable to infection and serious complications. Still, it is important that all at Columbia, high risk or not, are proactive in receiving the shot and are aware of where and when it will be available.

Fears about taking the H1N1 vaccine abound. Many who may refrain from getting vaccinated fear the use of mercury in it, and others believe that the vaccine has been rushed to market and therefore has not been adequately scrutinized. Still others do not believe they are at risk or feel that they could recover just fine if they did contract the virus. While Health Services has an excellent Web site with information regarding their plans as well as answers to general questions, it would be helpful if it also addressed some Columbians fears about the vaccine. Currently, Health Services promises in a rather inconspicuous part of its Web site, "As soon as we have information outlining the national distribution guidelines for the H1N1 vaccine, we will immediately share that information with the Columbia community." While this is encouraging, we hope that Health Services moves promptly to address this crucial issue, which has been gaining greater national attention in recent days.

Taking proper precautions is important during the flu season. The University must do the most it can to supply information and vaccination, and it is up to students, faculty, and staff to be engaged, become informed, and ultimately get vaccinated.

WHERE THE NEWS FEED ENDS

(with apologies to Shel Silverstein)

There is a place where your News Feed ends
Just before real work begins,
And there your status will you write,
And there you click to refresh the site,
And there read comments through the night,
And beg for paper extensions.

Let us leave our work and stay a while
Amid the din of online friends.
May their comments tickle us with mirth.
May their likes and dislikes prove our worth.
May the photos they tag disguise our girth.
In that place where the News Feed ends.

Yes we'll chat via g-chat from across the room,
And we'll let idle talk idle minutes consume.
And mark the lost time in Tweets saying we're screwed
In this place where the News Feed ends.

SAM REISMAN

Dear Mama

BY ISAAC LARA

Beads of sweat roll down her forehead as she washes dishes at the kitchen sink during the twilight hours of the morning. Her hands, soaked in soap suds, are callused and wrinkled. When she finishes she kisses her four children goodbye and hurries off to her job, a two-hour commute away along the Jersey shore, where she will sell kitchen appliances over the telephone. Things have changed since then, but this is how I will always remember my mom.



After my father left the household, my mom was forced to make many sacrifices to provide for our family. She dropped out of college and surrendered her own career aspirations to work several dead-end jobs to support my three sisters and me. As a result, she had little leisure time, and I would rarely see her during the week because she would return from work so late at night. She was often too drowsy to stay up with us and watch television, or too exhausted to attend my soccer games. Gradually, I began to notice my mom's workplace obligations overwhelm her. She no longer laughed as much as she did before, and stress had worn down her once-youthful face, replacing it with a stern expression and a creased brow.

Despite the toll my mother's financial

Attitude problem

BY AARON LISKOV

On the uptown 1 train a stranger with "Columbia" on her sweatshirt enters the car and sits across from me: worlds collide. As New Yorkers, we are chained by legends of the subway, which forbid talking to anyone you don't know—unless you would like to be considered crazy. But as Columbia students, are we supposed to do anything? I think so, and I introduce myself. It turns out this person is also a Columbia student and that we are even the same year. But the weight of transgressing our subway vows is heavy. It follows us to 116th Street.

Where does Columbia begin and end? My exchange on the subway shows how real this question is for people who live and study here. Are we Columbia students out in the city and the world or just inside the gates? This story isn't anything exceptional—many Columbia students ride the 1 train, wear Columbia sweatshirts, and don't know each other. Put the three together and it might be you that I meet on the subway.

Since we see upwards of a thousand unnamed Columbia faces every day on campus, why should one more be such a big deal? Indeed, the one from the subway could be as crazy as any other subway rider. This is a "New York State of Mind," and it travels too

difficulties took on her, I was often surprised to see her maintain such optimism amidst adversity. Of course, since she worked so often, my sisters and I were given household responsibilities at an early age; yet my mother still found time to treat us to weekend drives along the Jersey Shore, or dinners at diners in Newark. She never once complained about the bouts of depression she suffered or the advanced diabetes that ailed her. During the holiday season, my mother made every effort to keep comfortable, as if all were fine and we were a normal family.

My mother's perseverance through hardship has helped me cope with the pressures of being a student at Columbia. When I'm going nuts from problem sets, essays, and midterm exams, I remember challenges my mother faced and the burden on my shoulders is made lighter.

Most importantly, my mother's reliance has set the standards for excellence that I strive to uphold at Columbia. I learned from her that excellence is not simply accepting new challenges to face, but also responding to those challenges with an optimistic attitude. There are countless numbers of parents—especially in New Jersey—who face circumstances similar to my mother's, but who quickly lose faith and succumb to alcoholism, neglect, or worse—hopelessness. However, the unique confidence my mother exuded kept my family buoyed during tough times. At Columbia, balancing classes, a part-time job, and extracurricular activities can be difficult for any student. Notwithstanding these stressful obligations, I try to maintain a confident attitude with my professors, my boss, and all my friends and peers. Enthusiasm, you see, is contagious—it creates a more positive environment for everyone.

A confident demeanor in class, for example, can oblige my typically morose Art Hum professor to teach material more passionately. A creative outlook at my work-study job can stir my boss to think more innovatively. Even an optimistic attitude at home—such as my mother's—can inspire four "out-of-luck" children to look to the future more hopefully. This is the power of enthusiasm that I witnessed my mother harness, and it is this same power I hope you include in your life as well.

So this fall break, take a moment from midterm exams to reflect on the values your family, friends, or significant others have bestowed upon you. If they're responsible for you keeping your chin up, biting your upper lip, standing tall—basically, just keeping hope alive—be sure to thank them with a smile or a hug before it's too late.

As for my mom, her birthday is coming up this Nov. 1. This article is meant for her, so that she understands how much she means to me. Happy birthday, Mom.

The author is a Columbia College junior majoring in Political Science and Latin American Studies.

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.

freely on campus. It is another example of how Columbia replicates its host city, in all of its flaws and glory: How the bustle between class resembles Grand Central Station, how the crowded Hamilton elevator feels like the M60, how the food prices are worse(!) than city averages, how so many different things happen so close together, how so little passes by non-controversially, how we are always short on space, and, at last, how we see classmates as just some other New Yorkers.

Some of those things have their charm, but once in a while, we may want to take exception to the city. The innocent question, "where does Columbia begin and end?" points to one such exception, because of the question that is then implied: How much are the Columbia students that you don't know just some other New Yorkers, to be regarded with the usual circumspect distance and fear? Are they all that subway rider we slide away from when an extra seat opens? Does our residence in the city incur a general proscription on friendship and trust after orientation ends? What does the Columbia affiliation mean on its own terms, before all the classes, clubs, and JJ's meals? This is a loaded question with many answers. But for what it's worth, try this one: Tonight, that stranger from the subway might brush and floss in your sink.

There is a relevant parable at the end of "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." To complete the famed "Triwizard Tournament," Harry must race his schoolmate, Cedric Diggory, through a demonized and bewitched maze. They are only schoolmates—different

years, different "houses," different classes, and more rivals than friends (Cedric dated Harry's first crush). But even a least-common-denominator tie to the same school is enough for Harry to turn and rescue Cedric from the mercy of a deadly plant-monster. The city can seem demonized and maze-like, and the dilemma it presents about our relationships with other students is a lot like this one, even if the settings could not be more different.

Perhaps some circumspect fear is the cost of attending school in one of the world's most crowded and mythologized cities, where "Taxi Driver" and "Gangs of New York" resonate more than "Harry Potter"—where hardly a week goes by without another security alert, crime report, or public safety announcement. There are too many people and too many threats to be so eager to meet everyone. Sometimes these are fair concerns, but they are not good reasons to prejudice classmates as threatening strangers. Amid all of the threatening reports, there is one "alert" we have not received. We should also be warned that some of the nice feelings that come with membership in this school are at odds with some of the harsh feelings that are attached to urban life. We should be just as vigilant against these threats. This is no manifesto for rah-rah spirit and face painting, but simply a point about attitudes. In the end, it's not about whether you meet every classmate, but whether you would even want to.

The author is a Columbia College junior majoring in history.

The end of Obamamania



JONATHAN HOLLANDER
REASONABLY RIGHT

When Barack Obama was elected to the presidency, a sense of euphoria overcame (at least half) of the nation. Standing in the midst of a crowd of celebrating students outside the Columbia gates on the night of Nov. 4, I couldn't help but wonder (and fear) if Obama had actually managed to spark a partisan realignment, banishing the Republicans to the history books alongside the Whigs of the 19th century. Less than a year into his presidency, however, my initial fears seem to have been poorly founded, as Obama shows the indications of political mortality.

Like every incoming president, Barack Obama decided to take advantage of his political capital and embark upon an ambitious legislative agenda early on in his term. This endeavor is usually marked by hubris on the part of the president and hurts his poll numbers. Yet, the fierce debates over the stimulus and health care reform seem to have bludgeoned Obama more than they bludgeoned any of his recent predecessors. A recent Gallup poll puts Obama's approval rating at 53 percent, down from 62 percent in April. In fact, he has suffered "the steepest [decline in popularity] of any president at the same stage of his first term in more than 50 years," a recent article in the Telegraph states. Given that Obama entered office with an approval rating of 78 percent, one has to wonder how such a popular political figure has seemingly fallen from the grace of the American public.

There are several reasons for Obama's polling troubles, the most glaring of which is his detachment from the legislative process. For instance, in the spring, Obama championed the need for a massive stimulus program to help the American economy escape recession. However, he effectively outsourced the actual writing of the legislation to Congress, and was ultimately forced to sign and take ownership of a bill that is, at least from a political perspective, deeply flawed.

Obama's greatest problem with the stimulus was that it included pork-barrel spending, despite his promises that the bill would avoid such outlays. Now, he should have known from the election that Americans have an irrational fixation on and hatred of pork. John McCain basically ran his campaign on a pledge to cut the deficit by reducing earmarks, even though such expenditures total only \$18 billion. So, it should not have been much of a surprise that the Republicans jumped on this error, effectively painting the picture that the entire bill was composed of wasteful spending. As a result, Americans failed to see the stimulus as the new New Deal that it was intended to be, all because Rahm Emanuel couldn't pick up the phone and tell Harry Reid and Nancy Pelosi to get their ducks in a row.

Say what you will about George W. Bush's policies, the fact remains that the man knew how to run Congress and push through an agenda. By contrast, Barack Obama leads the greatest Democratic majority in a generation, yet has experienced incredible difficulty passing health care reform. As a result of his inability to control Congress, the lack of a single, White House-sanctioned plan has left Americans confused and distrustful of the entire reform project. Obama's problems with Congress could be solved by a single word: coattails. Americans didn't elect a

Democratic supermajority because of the charisma and charm of Nancy Pelosi, but because they succumbed to Obamamania. Obama needs to remind Congressional Democrats that it is his party and his agenda, and his stunning inability to do that has cost him dearly in the polls.

The greatest example of Obama's changing political fortune can be seen with the recent controversy over his receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize. When he was originally nominated for the prize back in January, a good part of the world basically thought he was the messiah incarnate (we all remember those silly commemo-rals selling Barack Obama commemorative plates, statues, and bath towels, among other ludicrous items). Yet, when he was actually awarded the prize, the general response of Americans was that he hadn't done anything to deserve it. If anything, the entire affair just highlighted his political vulnerability.

Now, in fairness, I do have to say that any talk of an impending Obama defeat in 2012 is premature. In order for Obama to lose an election there has to be a Republican to beat him, and at the moment there are no clearly viable candidates. Americans disliked Sarah Palin in 2008 and they will continue to dislike her in 2012, so any Palin-Obama matchup is certain to end in victory for the Democrats. However, the Republicans are being presented with an opportunity to exploit the cracks in Obama's armor, and if they take advantage of it by nominating a smart, cogent candidate (cough, Mitt Romney) then Obama may be remembered as the Icarus of American politics.

Jon 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. opinion@columbiaspectator.com

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Run smoothly
5 Uzi filler
9 Bench warmers aren't on it
14 Excellent
15 Known as "the Impaler," prince who inspired "Dracula"
16 American competitor
17 Life insurance clause
20 Printers' widths
21 A deadly sin
22 Posh
23 Neurologist's test, briefly
24 Publicizers
25 Hosedown activity
30 Poor, as an excuse
33 Second most populous Oklahoma city
34 Alan of "The West Wing"
35 Marquis de
36 Youngest of the musical Jacksons
37 Goller's concern
38 Mass of griss
39 Vocalized
40 Defendant's answer
41 Accountant's review
42 Barely squeeze (out)
43 Apple variety
45 Peking places
46 BMOC, for one
47 Washington neighbor
49 Yoked beasts
51 Psychic's asset, for short
54 Inadvertent remark
57 Common news hr.
58 "I'd advise against it"
59 Brand with a paw print in its logo
60 Bears, in Latin
61 Pump or loofer
62 17-, 25-, 43- and 54-Across begin with a kind of one

DOWN

1 Lose brightness
2 Weaver's machine
3 "We're treating
4 Surfing area with no water, with "he"
5 Get even for
6 LXII x XVII
7 Quite a few
8 Unusual
9 Regard highly
10 Portable shelters
11 Part of QE2: Abbr.
12 A&A member
13 Perhaps will
18 Ogil
19 "Fear of Flying" author Jorg
23 Painter's stand
24 Like llamas
25 Missouri city nickname
26 Fundamental particle
27 Radii neighbors
28 City in which the State Fair of Texas is held annually
29 Out of this world
30 Riyadh resident
31 Fess up

32 Pool measurement
35 Batter's dry spell
38 Vegas attraction
40 Evidence
43 End a vacation, say
44 Mimieux of "The Time Machine"
45 Mothers of Invention musician
47 Robert of "The Sopranos"

48 Cacophonies
49 "Whoops!"
50 Stranger: Pret.
51 Alaska's first governor
52 Japanese wrestling
53 Nuisance
54 Early Beetle Sutcliffe
55 NFL, six-pointers
56 Ending with beat

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

S	K	I	F	F	J	O	C	K	T	R	A	P
E	N	L	A	I	I	C	O	N	R	A	C	E
M	O	A	N	S	B	E	M	E	I	N	C	A
B	Y	T	H	E	S	A	M	E	T	O	K	E
A	F	R	N	A	P	E	L	S	U			
S	E	G	R	I	A	A	R	R	E	S	T	
B	Y	E	B	E	B	I	R	D	I	E		
S	E	M	I	L	O	O	I	D	L	E		
B	I	C	E	N	T	E	N	N	I	A	L	
R	A	K	I	S	H	M	O	P	O	F		
O	M	E	T	E	A	M	I	T	E			
B	U	Y	N	O	W	P	A	Y	L	A	T	E
T	L	S	A	O	P	I	E	B	U	N	G	O
N	E	I	N	U	L	N	A	I	D	E	A	L
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xwordeditor@aol.com 10/28/09

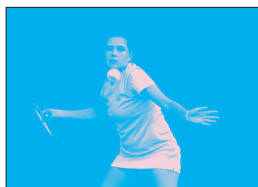
Even with several stalwart goal-scorers, women's soccer has failed to score more than one goal in several games.

TOMORROW



SPORTS

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Several Lion tennis players competed in the Wilson/TTA Regional Championships this past week at Yale University.

PAGE 2

Pardon the interruption: the sports speed blur



JACOB SHAPIRO
PUT IT ON THE BOARD

It almost goes without saying that the last few weekends have been great for sports fans. We've had some massive College Football matchups, the MLB playoffs, and the beginning of the NHL and NFL seasons. In fact, there have been so many exciting games on that I often find myself flipping back and forth between two or three channels to watch several at a time. But this year, I'm beginning to notice that there is a widening discrepancy—due to new rules and new advertising strategies—between the speed of our four core sports in the United States (baseball, basketball, football and hockey). This widening gap can only be described as “the sports speed blur”. The underlying commonality for most sports is that games tend to slow down dramatically as the end approaches.

In football, quarterbacks take their time strolling to the line of scrimmage all game until the end of the game requires them to employ a “hurry-up” offense—why not just “hurry-up” and score points all game? Similarly, baseball games are hampered by endless pitching changes that can prolong the last inning into taking up as much time as the first three.

All sports fans will agree that basketball is simply the worst in this respect. The last 60 seconds of the game can appear to last hours as opposing coaches take timeout after timeout while players foul each other and participate in free-throw shooting contests.

Some of these sports are adding commercial breaks and television timeouts that seem to prolong things even further. Many football fans have recently been lamenting over the fact that a viewer now has to suffer through commercial breaks before and after a kickoff not to mention anytime there's an injury or dispute on the field. Sometimes there can be four commercial breaks on one given set of downs.

While some sports are getting slower, the NHL has implemented rule changes to speed up the game. This season is actually the first in several years where no new NHL rules are taking effect.

Over the past few years, the NHL has made “icing”—which used to stop play frequently—more of a deterrent for teams and has also put an end to TV timeouts after the play is stopped. The league's officials are also limiting fighting, dropping the pucks quicker for faceoffs and the NHL has done away with several other rules that caused the game to stop more frequently.

The result is a game that moves exceptionally fast and relies more heavily on the players' endurance and skills. For fans, it gets even better. I've frequently seen games where eight or ten whole minutes go by without a whistle! Even with brief stoppages, it could be seven or eleven minutes into a period before a commercial break is taken and sometimes, there are only three commercial breaks in a period.

Of course the NHL has two large stoppages in between the three periods, but even those breaks have been cut to 13-15 minutes instead of the 20 minutes I endured as a child—and at least those breaks are continuous so that I can make use of the time.

So, hockey's fast, baseball's slow, and the last minute of a hoops game is even slower, but how does this lead us to “the sports speed blur”?

Normally, I encounter these sports separately and hence I notice their differences less. But in a year when baseball is dipping into the month of November and hockey is utilizing a compacted schedule to accommodate the Olympics, games are being programmed on top of each other, which makes these differences strikingly clear.

When I flip back from hockey to baseball, it's as if I'm exiting the highway going 95 mph onto a ramp with a 20 mph speed limit.

Last night, I watched “Monday Night Football” and an NHL game simultaneously. The hockey game (which started 30 minutes before the football game) ended by 10:00-10:15 while the football game was only beginning the second half. After watching two plays of football, I came back to the hockey game only to notice that a goal had been scored and another penalty called all in that short amount of time.

One only needs to examine the respective replay policies between football and hockey to understand this point clearly. In hockey, the official skates over to the side of the rink, talks briefly to an official upstairs who is on the phone with the “war room” in Toronto (which reviews all goals) and then announces the decision to the crowd within a minute. In football, the referee runs (well, jogs, let's say) to the farthest corner of the field passing through several zip codes on the way and watches endless video replays while the coaches pace up and down the sidelines like Tudor kings. Then—only after minutes of waiting—does the network cut to a commercial before returning minutes later to tell you what the decision was. Fifteen minutes to decide if the runner's knee was down is even a little excessive for John Madden.

I'm not here to proselytize for the sport of hockey, but I do believe that there is a serious issue at hand here when it comes to catering to the fans. The NFL will always have a strong fan base, but its popularity hurts fans in a way when it comes to commercials. The NHL on the other hand, has struggled to regain some limelight and therefore fans have directly benefitted from rule changes designed to improve their viewing experience.

I do not believe that criticizing the speed of certain sports that are meant to be slower is valid—and indeed there's nothing like a lazy day at the ballpark—but there are too many examples of unnecessary downtime that is just plain out frustrating.

I would have more to say, but the football game is just coming back from a commercial.

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Football struggles to locate goal posts

Freshman kickers unable to fill void left by Rocholl's graduation

BY HOLLY MACDONALD
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

It used to be at Columbia that field goals were about the only certain way to score. With four-year starter Jon Rocholl on the team, the Lions possessed a solid and dependable kicker and punter. In his last two years at Columbia, Rocholl completed 65 percent of his field goal attempts and 93 percent of his extra point attempts.

That's a tough act to follow, but someone had to do it. And the Lions face the reality this season that they desperately need someone like Rocholl back. With two freshmen taking over the positions of kicker and punter, Mike Williamson and Greg Guttas, the Lions have had consistency problems, most notably on field goals.

Columbia has only completed one field goal this season. Out of five attempts, the only one that resulted in three points came in the Lions most complete game of the season: a 38-0 trouncing of Princeton. Some of these problems can be attributed to the lack of rhythm between the long snapper, the holder, and freshman Guttas. Nevertheless, now that the Lions are halfway through their season, the problems may be more than just timing.

The Lions have had a field goal blocked in two games this season—against Central Connecticut State University, and this past Saturday against Dartmouth. They as well have had two point after attempts blocked: against Central Connecticut and Penn.

The Lions' punts and kickoffs haven't been too much of a problem, aside from the two blocked punts on the season: one against Central Connecticut and the other against Penn. The Lions are seventh in the league in punts, though they only trail league-leader Cornell by three yards per punt. Columbia also ranks third in the Ivy League in kickoffs.

The return game has provided boosts to the Lions throughout the season—returner Austin Knowlin averages 6.7 yards per punt return—good for fourth in the league—and 24.5 yards on kickoff returns, where he shares the duties with an array of other players. Three returners for the Lions average over 20 yards per kickoff return. But the other phases of the kicking game cannot be overlooked.

The Lions have completed just 12-15 extra points, good for last in the league at 80 percent completion. Against Central Connecticut it was the blocked extra point that shifted the momentum in favor of the Blue Devils, taking what should have been a 14-0 score and turning it into a 13-2 ball game. The Blue Devils went on to score 20 unanswered points, winning 22-13.

Against Dartmouth, a field goal sailed wide and another was tipped, keeping the Lions off the scoreboard until the fourth quarter in their 28-6 loss to the Big Green.

Coach Norries Wilson said in the press conference after Dartmouth that changes needed to be made. Those changes need to include field goal kicking if the Lions want that consistency back.

1. This season the Lions have only kicked one successful field goal out of five attempts; the points came in the Light Blue's shutout of Princeton. Two field goals, attempted in games against CCSU and Dartmouth, were embarrassingly blocked.



Graphic by Daniel Laszy

2. Converting extra points after touchdown has been a major problem in 2009. The Lions have only made 12 of 15 point after touchdowns for an 80% completion rate, ranking them dead last in the Ivy League.



Graphic by Daniel Laszy

3. Columbia is really feeling the loss of graduate kicker Jon Rocholl. Rocholl, who made 93 percent of his extra point attempts and 65 percent of his field goal attempts, has been replaced by freshmen Mike Williamson and Greg Guttas.



File photos

SPECIAL TEAMS MAKEOVER | Top: Jon Rocholl; Middle: Greg Guttas; Bottom: Mike Williamson

Field hockey looks to extend win streak to two games against Penn

BY MICHELE CLEARY
Spectator Staff Writer

The Columbia field hockey team will take on Penn this afternoon, beginning a season-ending, three-game stretch of league matchups. The Light Blue (7-7, 1-3 Ivy) enters this contest tied for sixth in the league with the Quakers, and must win all three of its final games if it wants to finish above .500 in conference play.

This past Sunday, the Lions narrowly defeated Vermont 1-0 thanks to an unassisted, second-half goal by junior midfielder Julia Garrison. Prior to that game, Columbia lost to Ivy opponent Dartmouth 2-1 on Saturday. The only Lion to score was sophomore midfielder/forward Maggie O'Connor, but freshman forward Gabby Kozlowski had four shots (three on goal) and an assist in the loss. This performance helped Kozlowski garner Ivy League Rookie of the Week honors.

Penn (4-10, 1-3 Ivy) will enter this afternoon's contest with a two-game losing streak, with its most recent loss against Ivy rival Yale. In that matchup, the Quakers found themselves up 2-0 less than 15 minutes into the game, but ended up losing 3-2 in overtime.

COLUMBIA VS. PENN

Columbia Field Hockey Venue, 4 p.m.



Both of Penn's goals came off the stick of senior midfielder Kelsey Tahan, who currently leads the Quakers with 13 points (five goals and three assists).

Over the past four seasons, Columbia has only beaten Penn once. The one victory came in the 2007 season when the Light Blue won 1-0 in overtime thanks to an unassisted goal by Ariel Leon, who is no longer on the team.

Last season, the Quakers won 3-1 when they faced off against the Lions. Then-senior midfielder Rachel Eng scored back-to-back goals to open the game, giving Penn an early 2-0 advantage. Columbia managed to cut that lead in half with a goal by current-senior forward Christine Buszczak. However, that was the closest the Light Blue would get, as current Penn senior Katie Rose tallied an insurance goal for her squad with less than five minutes left to play.

Wednesday's contest is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. at the Columbia Field Hockey Venue.



File photo

LOST EFFORT | Despite goalkeeper Alexander Aurricchio's admirable wall-like performance, Lafayette eventually found the back of the net as B.J. Glenn scored the game-winning goal.

Lafayette blanks CU soccer in nonconference match

BY SABINE SCHULZ
Spectator Staff Writer

Despite their 2-0 upset of League foe Dartmouth, the Columbia men's soccer team fell in Monday's nonconference match against Lafayette 1-0. Though the Lions were able to hold the defense together for most of the match, the offense lacked the drive to net any goals. With this loss, the Lions fall to a record of 4-8-1 (2-2 Ivy). As the contest began, both teams fought for possession and scoring opportunities. Despite the Light Blue's slight 4-3 advantage in shots, the Lions were unable to follow through in the final leg. As the first half neared to a close, freshman Will Stamatis drove a shot on goal, but the Leopards goalkeeper Graham Heydt made the

save, keeping the game scoreless. In the second half of the match, the Leopards offense was able to breach the Light Blue defense, forcing goalkeeper Alexander Aurricchio to make save after save. Suddenly, in the 76th minute, a cross from Lafayette's Eli Hajjar found B.J. Glenn in Columbia's box.

Glenn deftly converted the shot into a goal, managing to evade Aurricchio and giving the Leopards a 1-0 lead that Columbia could not challenge. The Lions made multiple attempts in the remaining minutes of regulation but were unable to equalize the score, ultimately surrendering a hard fought 1-0 loss to the Leopards.

Unlike last year's match against Lafayette, in which the Lions fell 4-1, the defense deflected the Leopards' attempts and Aurricchio made a

	COLUMBIA	0	
	LAFAYETTE	1	

solid six saves. In the previous match, B.J. Glenn recorded the first tally for Lafayette in the fourth minute. However this year, the Light Blue presented a solid challenge for the Leopards. Yet, the Lions performed poorly offensively, were outshot 7-12, and forced only one save out of Heydt. This poor performance will have to improve to the standard of Sunday's match against Dartmouth if the Lions hope to better their record this season.

The Lions resume Ivy League play on Sat., Oct. 31, with a match at home against Yale.