

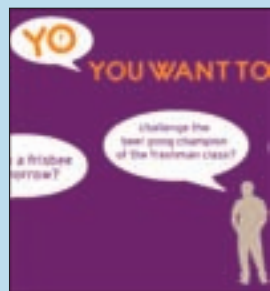
INSIDE



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Home alone, with no phone

Barnard bids adieu to their dorm room landlines, but Columbia figures it's easier to stay plugged in. One Spectator reporter is on call.



A&E, page 3

Students are asking "Yo, you want to?"

A new Web site allows students to propose activities to classmates with the goal of fostering community and building new friendships.

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I know what you did last weekend

Because Chris Morris-Lent knows that whatever you did is probably paradigmatic of the perpetual paradox of Columbia's social scene.

EVENTS

Jazz, Dessert, Impact

Community Impact hosts its fifth annual Earl Jam, featuring Corey King's band Rocklike. Desserts will be served.

Lerner Party Space, 9:30-11 p.m.

Drink for your rights

Take Back the Night hosts a night of drinking to support a domestic violence shelter. Plus, there's free stuff: condoms, lube, and even stickers.

1020, 9 p.m.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The day I moved into my room, I unplugged the phone and put it in my closet. That's where it has been sitting collecting dust ever since."

—Jon Sisti, CC '12, about his dorm room phone

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.

CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONS



Jose Giralto for Spectator

CONFERENCE CHAMPS | The men's cross country team edged out Princeton by just one point at the Ivy League Heptagonal Cross Country Championships on Friday. See page 7 for the full story.

Arts Initiative moves to School of the Arts

BY CHRISTINE JORDAN AND JOY RESMOVITS  
Columbia Daily Spectator

On Sunday, the integration of the Columbia University Arts Initiative into the School of the Arts—one of Columbia's graduate schools—went into effect.

On a structural level, this means that the AI, headed by Director Gregory Mosher, will report to SoA Dean Carol Becker. This replaces Mosher's direct line to University President Lee Bollinger, in whose office the Initiative was housed. Tangibly, the specific ramifications of the integration remain unclear. Officials say they will be resolved in continuing conversations and that the transition will have minimal visible effects.

"This has been in the air for a while," Mosher said in an interview. "I owe the president a life. If he asks me to make a change, I will certainly do everything I can to make it work."

Proponents of the shift couch it as administrative thrift unimportant to the student-oriented aspects of the AI. "It won't mean anything

for the initiatives that the Arts Initiative does, the services which directly affect the undergraduates," Becker said. "It's just an administrative restructuring of who it reports to, and where it's housed, conceptually. ... It's a shift of administrative reporting lines."

University President Lee Bollinger affirmed his rationale in an interview. "There's no change in the Arts Initiative," he said of the office that was officially directly under his purview. "Since I never had a lot of time to spend on it, Provost Alan Brinkley did a lot of oversight."

The change in reporting lines comes now, he said, because "we've had a transition in the provost position" as Claude Steele began his tenure in that post. "Both Claude and I can't give it the time it needs, and Carol [Becker] is great and special."

But between the news that the integration would indeed occur and Bollinger's clarification, concerns built up around the issue. A breakdown in communication, it seems, between administrators and the students they serve led to

*This is the first story in a two-part series. See tomorrow's Spectator for another take on this story.*

assumptions among all parties, some which officials derided for lacking a factual basis.

Upon request from Spectator, a University spokesperson released a statement announcing the AI's "integration" with "a dynamic School of the Arts." The statement called it merely an administrative move "that further strengthen[s] the centrality of the arts." Students fretted that the issue would not have become public otherwise.

These students and alumni worried that sequestering a University-wide program known for its success among undergraduates might prevent the AI from moving forward. They formed the Advocates of the Arts Initiative, a group that is protesting what they call the "clandestine and un-inclusive" nature of the integration, which occurred quietly over fall break.

Aries Dela Cruz, GS '09, gathered Columbians invested in the arts to form the group, "to engage

Native American month begins

Columbia celebration will focus on history, heritage in New York

BY HELEN BAO  
Columbia Daily Spectator

For attendees of the Native American Heritage Month kick-off Wednesday night, the evening was replete with cultural reflection—as well as fry bread and Indian tacos.

With a Native American-style banquet and speakers on hand in Barnard Hall, students and faculty celebrated the beginning of the month dedicated to appreciation of American Indian culture.

The presence of Native American studies has expanded on campus recently, especially with the addition of Audra Simpson to the Columbia anthropology department. While she is somewhat new to the Columbia scene, her pilot classes have been well attended, indicating a growing interest in the area. "I was stunned by my enrollments," she said in an interview earlier this semester.

Simpson was the keynote speaker Wednesday, where she touched on her

research as an anthropologist—one that emphasizes "the way we think about citizenship, nationality, indigeneity," she has previously said—and stressed the importance of having a particular month set aside to reflect on her Native American heritage in addition to an ongoing celebration of American Indian culture.

Native American Heritage Month co-coordinators John Hudson Haney, CC '11, and Halley Hair, CC '11, have planned events for the coming month that will explore heritage through music, food, dance, and other events.

"In past years, we focused on stereotypes or arts, but this year we wanted to keep it a little more local," Hair said. She and Haney had been reading a book called "Indians in Unexpected Places," an essay collection about Native Americans in the early 20th century, and drew inspiration from it for this year's

SEE HERITAGE, page 2



Lila Neiswanger / Senior staff photographer

ART POWER | When the University moved the Columbia Arts Initiative under the auspices of the School of the Arts, students crafted opposition.

the administration so students can be included in decisions that affect arts programming," he said.

He added, "What we are simply asking is for him [Bollinger] to bring these [University-wide] interests into alignment with the actual practices on the ground, and for us this means a meaningful effort on the part of the administration to include representatives of communities that might be affected by major decisions."

In response to concerns about the quiet decision, Becker said that this did not seem important enough to blast students with what she saw as simply administrative change. "I don't think anybody thought it was changing what was going to happen for students in any substantial way," she said. "Administrative restructurings happen all the time in institutions. Students are probably not

SEE CUARTS, page 2

Health care reform hits home

BY AARON KIERSH  
Spectator Staff Writer

The low- to middle-income communities in West Harlem and Morningside Heights have a particular stake in the health care reform plans pending in Congress.

The five congressional committees that oversee health care issues have each proposed a distinct bill, which leaders must merge into a single, cohesive piece of legislation that can be sent to the Oval Office for the approval of President Barack Obama. The bills are similar in some areas, proposing more money for Medicaid, the federal health care program for low-income Americans. But paradoxically, such a measure could actually hurt locals here, as New York state is one of the most generous Medicaid providers in the country and might lose money under the formulae drawn up by legislators.

Yet local advocates suggest low- and middle-income New Yorkers may benefit from the subsidies and insurance industry regulations included in the proposed bills. All five bills provide some level of subsidies to middle-class families and create a system of health insurance exchanges, which would theoretically encourage increased competition and lower prices. All but the Senate Finance Committee version

contain a government-funded "public option"—which would maintain the private health insurance industry but offer a nationalized option—intended to drive down drug and insurance costs.

Some of New York's federal representatives have taken leading roles in crafting the public option and defending the controversial proposal from attacks. Senator Charles Schumer and Representative Charles Rangel of Harlem, both Democrats, have emerged as key spokesmen for the public option, which is favored by most of their fellow Congressional Democrats but opposed by some moderates and the majority of Republicans. Schumer sits on the Senate Finance Committee, which drafted a leading bill associated with Finance Committee chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.), and Rangel chairs the influential House Committee on Ways and Means.

"The public health insurance option would be one of many options in the new Health Insurance Exchange created by the House bill, designed to encourage competition and control costs for families and individuals," said Rangel, whose district spans all of northern Manhattan, including the Columbia campus, in an e-mail to Spectator. "When insurance plans compete, patients win with better choices and better prices."

Despite taking a number of moderate and conservative positions in the past, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand—who holds the seat formerly occupied by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton—also

supports the public option.

"I am continuing to push for a robust public plan that can compete with private insurance and drive down costs for everyone," she wrote in an email. "The status quo of unaffordable health care and lack of access is unacceptable, and now is the time for real action. I remain committed to working with the administration and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to fix our broken health care system."

Even after five months of heated debate in Washington, the final shape of health care reform has yet to emerge. Glaring contrasts in subsidy amounts, stringency of regulations, and the public option remain among the five committee bills. And while the White House has called health care reform its number-one legislative priority for 2009, Obama has yet to express support for one proposal over the others, leading some to question his decisiveness and commitment to those left behind by the current health care system. Yet the nature of the legislative process means the nature of the final product may not be wholly in his hands.

Medicaid matters

One reform measure that has garnered near-universal support is expanding Medicaid, a 45-year-old federal program that provides health coverage for Americans at or below the poverty line. While lawmakers have traditionally targeted Medicaid when seeking to pare

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# Barnard drops dorm phones, Columbia hung up on safety

BY AMANDA EVANS  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

When it comes to dorm landlines, Barnard says goodbye, Columbia still says hello. Phones continue to run in dorm rooms at both Columbia and Barnard, but as these landlines become increasingly obsolete, each school is reassessing their value. Matt Kingston, associate director for Housing Operations at Barnard, noted that dorm phone use has decreased significantly in the past several years, primarily because most students have cell phones. And while visitors to Barnard dorms had previously been able to call up to a student's room to be signed in over the phone, the school scrapped that policy this year. Phones were removed this summer from Cathedral Gardens, and by next year, Residential Life hopes to have the rest taken out

of the remaining dorms. Instead, there will be one phone installed per hallway for emergencies and safety reasons only. Kathryn Altomonte, BC'09, said that while at Barnard, she used her phone often to let guests up to her room, and "I can't imagine what it would be used for now that you can't do it." Columbia's director of residence halls, Joyce Jackson said that, though she knows students now primarily use cell phones, the dorm phones are still necessary. Not every student provides his or her cell phone number to residential housing, and not everyone owns a cell phone, Jackson explained, meaning that there are still some who would only be reachable by their landlines. "If we were to get rid of the phones, we would have to ensure that every single student has provided their cell phone number," she said.

There are also safety purposes for keeping landlines in—if a student calls from a dorm phone, public safety can automatically pinpoint the location, while they are unable to do so with cell phone calls. Also, Columbia residence hall desk attendants still call up to notify a student about a package or guest, though Barnard does not have this system. But students on both sides of Broadway said they no longer saw much use for phone lines in their rooms. "I can't name one person I know who has used it or plans on using it," Lalit Gurnani, CC '11 said. "Do those things even work?" asked Jon Sisti, CC '12. "The day I moved into my room, I unplugged the phone and put it in my closet. That's where it has been sitting collecting dust ever since." Four years ago, Barnard had ROLM phones—the University

phone system installed over 20 years ago—with one per room. While Columbia still keeps the ROLM phones in their dorms, Barnard switched to a different phone system two years ago that has been significantly less expensive. A computer in the basement of Altschul now connects all the lines, and every room is equipped with a phone, as opposed to the previous one per suite. (At Columbia, Jackson said removing the phones would actually cost more than leaving them, in case there are replacement expenses.) Despite the financial breaks in the new system, Kingston said it is still a shame that "such an amount of money is being spent on something students are not using." "I lived in a four-person quad last year," Kaylin Marcotte, BC '12, said. "Not one of us used the phone even once."

# Frontiers of Science will likely be renewed as Core class

FRONTIERS from front page

is a major detriment to the Core." He added, "Its structure makes the class into a rotation between dull lectures about potentially fascinating 'big picture' concepts and lengthy discussion sections that revolve around nit-picky homework assignments that don't really relate to the large concepts put forth in lecture." Hood said he wished that he had taken a course like this when he was in college and that it probably would have changed his major from neuroscience to the physical sciences. Being able to teach the course and learn about the other aspects of science has "substantially increased my enjoyment of the news and the newspapers I read," he said, while adding that

he finds something in the paper every day relating to something he learned from Frontiers. But according to Turner, "Frontiers stands out to me as my least enjoyed class I've had at Columbia. I am sure there is a place for science in the Core, but Frontiers is not fitting the bill. The more general science requirement does the job fine." David Kagan, CC '02 and a postdoctoral science fellow for Frontiers since the fall of 2007, said that when he was an undergraduate, he "felt it was odd that the Core had such a strong program in the humanities and a relatively weak science component." He thought at the time that "a strong science-based component to the Core could help reinforce the other elements of the Core."

Now, "from an instructor's perspective" he believes "the course is phenomenally stimulating." "I went from having a pretty narrow specialization in a very popular, but esoteric area of physics [string theory], to learning a tremendous amount about many other fascinating subjects, and I continue to do so from semester to semester," he said, adding that "The course is not perfect, of course. It is ambitious and novel, teaching not only 'what science is,' but how science fits into our world, and how we can use scientific frames of thinking to deal with problems." Although Kagan has heard "more compliments than complaints" about Frontiers, he believes that "most frequent criticism" he hears from students is that they do not understand how the different parts of the course

relate to one another. He believes that this is "the major issue that the faculty contends with." Another criticism Kagan said that he has heard from the "more science-oriented students" is that the course is "too broad" because it doesn't "go deeply into any one area." But, he said that "the flip-side is that some students feel there is too much detail and that we should approach things even more broadly." Shane Strumwasser, CC '12, who took Frontiers in fall 2008, felt that the discussion sections seemed too long, saying he "didn't find the two hours to be necessary." He also thought that the "applications of the skills we learned seemed random." Still, in all, Strumwasser feels that Frontiers was a "cool experience."

# Arts Initiative, meet the Graduate School of the Arts

CUARTS from front page

even aware that things that used to report to the provost are no longer reporting to the provost." Likewise, Bollinger said, "no-body should be concerned. They should not be concerned about a change in content or substance."

## Arts Initiative history

The AI, established by Bollinger in 2004, encompasses student and alumni programs that provide access to arts in the city. The Initiative also works to increase the visibility of arts on campus, by doing things like hosting high-profile figures such as Vaclav Havel. "I set this up because I wanted a University-wide focus on the arts at Columbia," Bollinger said. "In some ways, we're only beginning." When the damage of the recession materialized last year, the AI was told to anticipate a 10- to 15-percent cut from its entire budget, a casualty of its status as a unit within the president's office. As a result, the Initiative planned to scale back a few staple programs and tweak existing ones to save money. Still, the Ticket and Information Center sold its one hundred-thousandth ticket last semester, and the alumni program saw a significant increase in participation. And this fall, the staff launched ArtsLink, a program that connects classrooms with arts resources throughout the city.

## Defining integration

At this point, the term integration simply signifies an administrative move. Aside from general assurances that the change will do as little harm as possible to the Initiative's programming, the actual implications of the move are anybody's best guess. Becker sees the shift as a stabilizer for the AI, and believes that bringing a University-wide program under the roof of a consolidated school is a guarantor of its continuity. "The arts have never been a central player at Columbia," she said. "Everyone wants to see that be stronger. For the Arts Initiative, this will secure its future, and make it part of a much larger entity that, when things get rough, the things on the periphery are eliminated." Bollinger stressed that the finances of both the AI and SoA are completely divorced from the merger. "It has no significance on altering the initiative," he said. "There were no financial reasons." "I told the president that I will try to make this work," Mosher said. "When I talk to the dean I think we'll all have a better sense of what it is." About further cuts, Becker anticipates "a conversation with Gregory [Mosher] and his staff," she said. Located uptown in Prentiss Hall, the AI operates with an independent staff. "We don't see any changes in staff now," Becker said. "It could be down the road. We don't see people

losing their jobs at all. I have no agenda about that." "The Arts Initiative costs a lot of money to do," she added. "It's a very generous thing that the University does, and it does not necessarily pay for itself," she said. "I don't want to get into the details of that but let's just say that the University was very generous in setting it up, which costs a considerable amount."

## The fallout

Darcy Zacharias, CC '10, who is also president of the Columbia Musical Theatre Society and was a producer of the 115th Annual Varsity Show, is working for AI's Arts Squad for her third semester. Though Bollinger and Becker stressed that there would be few changes on the programming level, Zacharias and others in the Advocates group were left with few answers, and worried that the AI's movement to SoA could limit the AI's scope. Specifically, Zacharias noted the Gatsby Charitable Foundation Student Arts Support Fund, which helps undergraduate artists produce non-academic projects with grants ranging on average from \$250 to \$1500. "It's not just the money—it's resources as well," she said, noting the marketing and networking help AI staffers give grant recipients. She senses that the Gatsby money's use won't change, but is unclear about the future of its other aspects. She added, "I work at CUArts, and there's been zero

information from the School of the Arts about what they intend to do with any of the programs." Though the specifics have not yet been hammered out, Becker reassured students that undergraduate-focused programs would continue. "We surely intend... that the School of the Arts will become even more involved in the undergraduate curriculum, and that the relationship will also strengthen the Arts Initiative," Becker said. Still, Advocates wonder how the AI, which caters to all students, can function within a graduate school. "What's been the breadth and scope of their undergraduate student programming?" Dela Cruz, of Advocates of the Arts Initiative, asked. "We feel as though the School of the Arts may not necessarily be the proper home for the Columbia University Arts Initiative. ... Now it's sort of incarcerated, cast down in the graduate student school that in previous years seems like it hasn't done any sort of undergraduate outreach." This fall, 896 undergraduates registered for SoA classes, but not all are open to them. In response, Becker conceded that SoA "is predominantly the graduate school," but added, "It has had a very strong undergraduate writing program. It hasn't built itself as a strong undergraduate program in the arts. The balance of what we do will grow. I want to see us build a stronger undergraduate program."

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# Heritage Month kicks off at Columbia

HERITAGE from front page

theme: "Native New York: Indigenous in the City." They then worked to organize a set of events that would emphasize different types of natives and the ways they form communities in the city. Berkley Brady, a film student in the School of the Arts, said she enjoyed the warmth—and especially the food—of the opening ceremony banquet, and thought it reflected the spirit of the month. "It was very generous. The atmosphere was very comfortable in

comparison to other more politicized events," she said. Upcoming events include a panel discussion on the legacy of Thanksgiving, as well as the Native Arts Festival later in November. Programming for Native American Heritage Month will run through the end of the month and conclude with a Dec. 1 closing ceremony in Lerner Hall. Co-coordinator Haney noted, "Native American Heritage Month allows us to reflect on the past and look toward the future."

# New Yorkers anticipate health care reform's impact

HEALTH CARE from front page

federal and state budgets, lowering the eligibility requirements could reduce the estimated 47 million uninsured Americans. All five proposed bills would extend Medicaid to families whose total incomes are at or below 133 percent of the poverty line. This could have a big impact on Harlem, where in 2008 The New York Times reported the average income for a family of four was \$30,000—136 percent of the \$22,050 poverty line. Medicaid is heavily used in West Harlem and Morningside Heights. According to Jeff Jacomowitz, spokesman for St. Luke's, nearly a quarter of the patients at St. Luke's Hospital in the past 12 months paid for their treatments with Medicaid, and an additional 15 percent were covered by a Medicaid health maintenance organization (HMO). Fewer than 20 percent of patients were covered by private insurance plans. Across Amsterdam Avenue at Town Drug Pharmacy, located on the corner of West 113th Street, manager Julia Abramson estimated that 95 percent of daily customers are Medicaid recipients. But the reform proposals in Washington will not "change Medicaid or Medicare as they currently exist," according to Bob Cohen, policy director for Citizen Action of New York, an advocacy group affiliated with the national organization Health Care for America Now. Medicare is the equivalent federal health care program for senior citizens. Cohen added that because the bills would provide additional funds to states commensurate to the number of newly eligible Medicaid recipients, New York would not benefit significantly from reform. While some states' Medicaid programs only insure families with incomes up to 67 percent of the poverty line, New York's standard—ranging from 100 to 133 percent—is already more generous.

## Follow the subsidies

One area in which reform could have a real impact for New Yorkers is in middle-income subsidies. Kathleen Stoll, director of health policy for

pro-reform advocacy group Families USA, lauded the subsidies proposed in the House and Senate bills. "We've got improved subsidies on the Senate side," Stoll said. "Families will really be protected from spending so much on health care." Under the Senate Finance Committee bill, families with incomes up to 400 percent of the poverty line would have to spend no more than 12 percent of their annual income on health insurance. "There will also be additional protections for low-income people, especially in terms of caps on out-of-pocket costs," Stoll said. She added that the House bills contain slightly more generous subsidies than the Senate proposals, but Cohen countered, "The House bills—the most expansive, best bills from our perspective—do not provide enough subsidies." Some groups unequivocally back one vision of reform over another. Francesca Mueller, a spokesperson for Community Service Society New York, said her organization supports the House proposals, all of which include the public option. "We are looking at the affordability scales that they propose, and the issues of what subsidies people would get," Mueller said. "The House committees' bills are much more generous." CSSNY's ideal vision of health care reform would involve a "single-payer" system, in which the government would become the sole insurance provider, ending the private health insurance industry. Mueller conceded, though, that a single-payer proposal is not politically realistic this year, and said the current proposals are "a start to work towards that." She added that New York politicians have been receptive to the group's concerns. "We want policymakers to look long and hard at affordability, and bring down premium and out-of-pocket costs," she said. "Schumer's been pretty interested in what we've shown with respect to affordability scales. Some of the officials—like Anthony Weiner (D-Queens) and Rangel—have been listening and receptive to our concerns about how this will affect New York specifically. Is there a true champion? That would be harder to say."

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David Edelstein, *New York*

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Courtesy of Yo You Want To

**MEET MARKET** | “Yo You Want To” launched in October to help students meet up for various activities. The Web site has a branch at Columbia, as well as at Penn, The New School, St. John’s, and Palm Beach Community College. CU students who have already signed up hope to meet fellow students with similar interests to explore the city with.

# Columbia students say ‘yo’ to a new meet-up site

BY CHRISTINE JORDAN  
Senior Staff Writer

Finding someone to look at your belly button is not always easy. With the help of a new meet-up Web site, Yo You Want To, however, it may be easier than students think.

The Web site, which officially opened to the public in October, facilitates spontaneous offline meet-ups for students. Users need to register at [columbia.yoyouwantto.com](http://columbia.yoyouwantto.com) with a Columbia e-mail address to begin posting and responding to Columbia “yo’s,” or online calls for buddies to join them in anything from concert-going, to Starbucks-drinking, to the perennial favorite, belly button-looking.

Founder Nikhil Nirmel, a 2008 graduate of University of Pennsylvania who transferred from New York University, admitted that the belly button post was “one of the first ones that we put up as a test that we just kind of left up there,” but that the simple and somewhat gimmicky design of YYWT

has serious advantages for students looking to explore a city of endless entertainment.

“It gives you an opportunity to reach out to a whole bunch of people that share your interests,” Nirmel said. “There were a lot of things I wanted to do at school like, you know, going to concert or trying a new restaurant, and other people would have wanted to do that with me.”

Isaac Nyarko, CC ’13, signed up with similar motives in mind—to branch out and meet other new students with whom he could explore the area. For one, he said that he “wanted to find the popular places to eat around Columbia.” But, as some Columbians attest, social circles quickly become isolated, and finding the group to do such things with is not always an easy task.

“While we do have a campus, our real campus is Manhattan and the other boroughs,” YYWT user Alex Mendez, CC ’13, said. “This [Web site] might serve to better unite students with similar tastes who might go the entire four years without

even meeting.”

And when posting, students can branch out as little or as much as they’d like—users have the option to control how many spots are available for their ‘yo’s, as well as limit them to residents of certain dorms and students in specific class years. Still, many discussion board-based meet-up Web sites like YYWT and its larger-scale predecessor Craigslist have historically been met with popular apprehension given the ease of deceiving people over the Internet.

“Craigslist is a little higher on the creepy scale, because it [the poster] could be anyone in New York City,” Nirmel said. “You have no idea who it is—it’s anonymous, which adds to the creepy factor.”

With YYWT, Nirmel said that students should feel comfortable attending meet-ups because “you know it’s a Columbia student, you have their e-mail and their picture—there is no anonymity cloaking you.”

Still, some precaution is necessary. “Like any service you would use to meet up with

someone you don’t know, you have to use some common sense,” Nirmel said. “You might not want to meet someone in a deserted area at three in the morning.”

But the site, which also currently has operating branches at Penn, NYU, St. John’s College, The New School, and Palm Beach Community College, may still get abused in less serious ways, with people not showing up to events they post or putting up posts that are not serious.

As for fake or outlandish posts, Nirmel said that they are inevitable, and that ways to regulate them are limited, though they are working on developing a “flakiness” rating so users can be wary of users who never show up. Still, he said, anything more invasive than that defeats the purpose of the site. “I don’t want to dictate how people use it,” he said.

After all, sometimes the stranger events turn out to be the most memorable. Nirmel himself recalled spotting a “yo” for a Michelle Branch concert. “I actually went with them,” he said, “And, yeah, it was fun.”

## FOOD

# Fast, filling snacks to fight the studying blues

BY JASON BELL  
Columbia Daily Spectator

When time and food clash, the former typically wins, resulting in hurried lunches and pathetic dinners. Yet, with a little creativity, midterms don’t have to mean mediocre meals.

One reality of long hours in the library is frequent snacking. After all, the alternative—passing out in a food coma after a large meal—seriously impairs reading retention. For quick study breaks, try bagels. Perfectly baked, eggy, and dense bagels never need toasting or messy globs of cream cheese like the supermarket variety. Eaten unadulterated, the best quality bagels deliver a sustaining surge of carbohydrates without the need for extensive preparation.

The most skillfully crafted bagels in New York, H&H, are available for purchase on the Upper West Side. Stick to the plain variety, as the company’s intensely chewy, yeasty dough never requires additional toppings.

Another option in the pantheon

of study snacks, yogurt offers a get-full-quick fix for starving students. In recent years, an influx of Greek-style yogurts has saturated the market. These products, super thick and indulgently creamy, set like concrete in the stomach, allowing hours of uninterrupted

communion with Herodotus.

Chobani and Fage, two “authentic” brands, pale in comparison to Siggi’s. Actually an Icelandic, not Greek treat, Siggi’s “skyr” tastes bracingly sour, almost curdling the tongue. Such a punishing (and nutritionally rich) snack should be criminal.

Not all midterms meals need to be taken

in Butler. Hidden deep within the Village’s twisting streets, Rockmeisha, an izakaya, or Japanese tapas bar, looks like a gangster lair and serves small plates to those looking to escape looming exams.

Riding the subway down to Christopher Street seems worthwhile, though, if only to sample the restaurant’s tonsoku. Translating as “pork toe,” tonsoku arrives charred and sitting in a pool of vinegar-laced soy. Molten fat drips off the bones, and every transcendent slurp of gelatinous cartilage transports the eater far away from university life. Other highlights include grilled mackerel featuring flakes of smoky, oily flesh cut with freshly squeezed lime juice, and okra served under a pillowy cluster of dried bonito flakes.

Overwhelmed with tests and papers, students need fast and reassuring food to alleviate growing stress. Whether munching on bagels, spooning down cultured dairy products of all kinds, or simply sucking on a pig toe, students can find comfort in the most surprising of places.



Photo illustration by Yipeng Huang

## THEATER

# Shakespeare Troupe betrays the Bard, for now, to seek “The American Dream”

BY ISHANI MITRA  
Columbia Daily Spectator

What’s in a name? The King’s Crown Shakespeare Troupe’s name does not reveal the fact that the group performs more just Shakespeare’s plays.

Their upcoming production of two Edward Albee one-act plays “The Zoo Story” and “The American Dream” might just show another side of the

troupe. Producer Allie Lalonde, CC ’10, explained that KCST originally formed to perform the notorious Shakespearean spring production, but for many years they have performed non-Shakespearean theater to broaden horizons. “It’s wonderful because it gives our actors the chance to really explore their talent and challenge themselves with different styles of acting,” she said.

Shows are chosen each semester according to proposals by directors and producers. The troupe’s executive and advisory boards vote on these proposals for the upcoming season. Lalonde said “the initial drive for choosing these two shows came from “The Zoo Story” director, Leor Hackel, GS. He had loved that play for a long time and was looking for an avenue to direct it. Emily Wilson, CC ’10, and director of “The American Dream” was also looking for a project to get excited about, so we had the idea to combine this one-act play with another to expand it into a double bill.”

Lalonde called the plays “an ideal match” due to their complementary themes. “Each scrutinizes society, particularly social bonds, and the way in which our expectations—that a relationship connotes intimacy and human connection—are undermined,” she said.

“The Zoo Story” follows two very different men, a middle-class father and a disturbed boarding house resident, who meet on a bench in Central Park. Lalonde explained that the men “find themselves with the opportunity to develop a new kind of social interaction and a new kind of relationship—one founded on human connection.”

“The American Dream” presents a satire about American family life. Lalonde described it as “all dream, no reality.”

“It follows the petty, yet deeply damaging bickering of a family seeking to appear perfect,” said Lalonde, “We quickly understand, though the characters do not, that the appearance of a relationship where no human connection is present, is not a relationship at all.”

KCST hopes that these shows will present another side of their abilities to Columbia. The troupe aims to offer something different to both actors and audiences, while maintaining their usual theme of examining the complexity of human relationships common in Shakespeare’s work.

“It is our hope that this production will challenge both our actors and our audience,” Lalonde said. “The intensity and minimalism of the show will settle the responsibility of communication on the shoulders of our cast, and the post-modernist themes of “The American Dream” and “The Zoo Story” will permit our audience to experience a very different sort of theatrical experience from that which we usually provide.”

### WHERE IT’S AT

Time: Nov. 6th at 8 p.m. and Nov. 7th at 8:30 p.m.  
Place: Roone Arledge Auditorium  
Cost: Free



First Last / Position

**ONE-ACT WONDERS** | The King’s Crown Shakespeare Troupe is proving their versatility by performing two plays by Edward Albee, “Zoo Story” and “The American Dream.”

## FILM

# “No girls allowed” in buddy films



MORGAN DAVIES  
A FILM OF HER OWN

Though independent cinema often features women in complex leading roles, the majority of parts available for female actors in mainstream

Hollywood movies are supporting roles, often accessories to strong male counterparts. In such films, female characters are designed based on the assumption that, in order to profit at the box office, films must engage male viewers sexually.

Films that feature unnecessary female characters are often those depicting a strong relationship between two men—frequently characterized by homoerotic subtext. In that case, a female love interest is included only to mask the movie’s subversive approach to gender norms. Perhaps the best-known example of this type of movie is “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.” The relationship between Paul Newman and Robert Redford far eclipses the relationship of either man with Katharine Ross.

“Gattaca” depicts a futuristic world so dominated by genetic engineering that Ethan Hawke, playing a man conceived naturally, is utterly marginalized. In order to become an astronaut, he assumes the identity and the genetic makeup of a biologically “superior” man (Jude Law) who happens to be crippled.

The relationship between the two men is deeply warped and also utterly engrossing. Law’s character is self-absorbed and pathetic, and despite being wheelchair-bound and wan, his performance ignites the movie. He hungers for Hawke’s experiences, while Hawke covets Law’s genes. Their dynamic is narcissistically homoerotic, unsettling, and startlingly fresh.

It is then disappointing that the story shies away from Law’s character and shifts focus to the gratuitously beautiful Uma Thurman, with whom Hawke is supposedly in love, although she possesses little in the way of personality. In fact, her only distinguishing characteristic is her mild heart condition, which leads her to believe that she is physically weak. While “Butch Cassidy” can get away with Ross’ presence for much of the film, she does little to advance the plot but is at least a fully-formed individual. Thurman’s character in “Gattaca” is sleep-inducing.

On the other hand, the popular “Pineapple Express” represents by far the best approach to gender I have seen in the genre. Seth Rogen dates a stereotypical hot, blonde girl throughout the film, and we get the sense that she is not a total airhead. Her gravest sin, in fact, is being foolish enough to date such a consummate loser. But since the filmmakers are smart enough to know we don’t really care about her, they don’t even try to make her interesting or important. They move on to bigger and better things, specifically Rogen’s pot dealer friend, played with an almost graceful mania by James Franco.

Their relationship is what makes the movie work—instead of suppressing its homosexual subtext, “Pineapple Express” embraces it. Though gay jokes pervade, it does not cast gay people in a derogatory light. Instead, the movie twists the gags to positively illustrate Rogen and Franco’s dynamic.

This phenomenon is not limited to the buddy movie. Sometimes, movies are driven by nothing but testosterone. This does not make them bad, sexist, or inaccessible to female viewers, but it does make them about men—“The Departed,” for one.

The film’s only female character, played by Vera Farmiga, is so poorly forced into the plot that she serves as the love interest for both Matt Damon’s dirty cop and Leonardo DiCaprio’s undercover spy. She is bad at both her job and her personal life. Worst of all, like Thurman in “Gattaca,” she is boring. Her physical and psychological presence onscreen is nondescript. Watching her interactions with the vividly rendered male characters is simply depressing.

But without her, only the women in the audience would be sexually satisfied. She is a discouraging reminder of why mainstream movies are made, and for whom they are meant.

Morgan Davies is a Barnard College sophomore majoring in English. A Film of Her Own runs alternate Thursdays. [arts@columbiaspectator.com](http://arts@columbiaspectator.com)



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Staff Editorial

An F for the A-plus

For some students at Columbia, an A-plus grade is the holy grail of academics, a sign that you have achieved greatness. For others, the A-plus is more of an illusion, something that only the likes of valedictorians achieve. And for students in some classes, an A-plus is downright impossible. To make its GPA system fairer, Columbia College must take steps to resolve inconsistencies in the A-plus policies of its departments and classes.

The A-plus grade is not all that uncommon, but its distribution is not consistent across departments and disciplines within CC. Overall, during the 2007-2008 school year, 4 percent of grades given at Columbia College were A-plusses. In science courses specifically, though, the figure is 6.1 percent, whereas it is 2.8 percent in humanities courses and 1.3 percent in interdisciplinary departments. Some individual professors, departments, and programs choose to not offer A-plus grades at all. For example, the Chinese program in the East Asian languages and cultures department does not offer the A-plus grade for any of its courses.

A-plusses have also become more common in recent years. Over the past 13 years, there has been a 31 percent increase in the overall percentage of A-plus grades given in Columbia College. The biggest jump in the use of the A-plus has been in Core classes, where 4.1 percent of students received A-plus grades in the 2007-2008 academic year. In comparison, the average percentage of A-plusses

for the prior 10 years in Core classes was 1.9 percent.

With the awarding of A-plusses on the rise, and discrepancies in their use in different departments persisting, it is important that Columbia College move to create a fairer, more consistent A-plus policy. Since grades are determined at the discretion of professors and departments, the administration cannot regulate the percentage of A-plus grades in courses or force departments and professors to consider offering A-plus if they do not want to. This means that the distribution of A-plusses will remain inconsistent without a policy change.

Fortunately, there are viable alternatives to the current A-plus situation. The administration could consider eliminating the A-plus grade across all departments. This is not an ideal choice, as some professors may wish to distinguish excellent students from those who are truly outstanding. Therefore, Columbia College could continue granting A-plus grades but should reduce the weighted value of those grades on student transcripts from a 4.33 to a 4.0 when calculating students' grade point averages. This option allows professors to acknowledge truly outstanding achievement—and gives possible employers and graduate schools insight into those who exceed even the A grade—but it also eliminates the discrepancies in GPAs that inequitable grading across the school causes. To give all students fair footing, Columbia College should consider moving away from awarding 4.33s for A-plus grades.

The thievery of health care

BY DEATON JONES

I just had \$710 stolen from me by St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital. Could you afford that much money if the services performed were absolutely needed? Such a scenario should not be necessary in today's world of health care.

Two days before I was set to move into my John Jay dorm on Aug. 26, I was staying with a cousin up on 145th Street when I came down with a serious case of strep throat. I'm talking swollen throat, headache, back pain...the works. Better yet, I was moving into my dorm in two days for an intense, four-day biking trip with the Columbia Outdoor Orientation Program. Needless to say, I needed some help.

In the middle of the night, I went to Columbia Health Services in hopes of receiving medical attention with the use of my not-yet-active insurance provided by the university, as my dad did not have health insurance for me before I came to Columbia. However, I was not living on campus yet and had not been given a student ID. Therefore, I was refused at the door.

Since my cousin was still working at his restaurant, and the urgent care clinic I had called was private, I had no choice but to jump in a cab and ask the driver to take me to St. Luke's. Looking back, I probably could have finagled my way into St. Luke's Hospital and claimed to be a student who had lost his ID, but the ever-increasing throbbing in between my eyes skewed my already lacking street savvy.

Nevertheless, I arrived at the hospital sometime past midnight and, after a few hours of waiting (during which my mind was diverted from my pain by an elderly lady cursing at a nurse and running out of her room with blood spewing from her arms), a nice middle-aged, male doctor confirmed my suspicions and diagnosed me with strep throat.

I thought that all my troubles were taken care of after another nice man swiped away \$334 from my debit card, but all these nice people were only veils for the copious amounts of stress, bills, and thievery of which I was about to become a victim.

I say thievery because at no point was I informed that I would receive two more bills from Roosevelt Hospital totaling \$710. Furthermore, there is no record of the \$334 I already paid, which leads to a whole other



ILLUSTRATION BY LETI FREANEY

Letters to the Editor

Calling Wilders' words 'hate speech' is censorship

To the editor:

In the op-ed piece "Wild, wild Wilders," (Oct. 22, 2009) Adel Elsohly claimed that the Geert Wilders event last Wednesday was "less about freedom of speech and more about inciting fear within a community." However, I believe that Wilders' speech encouraged dialogue and debate, key principles of free speech. John Stuart Mill, an influential classical liberal philosopher, wrote in his book "On Liberty," "There ought to exist the fullest liberty of professing and discussing, as a matter of ethical conviction, any doctrine, however immoral it may be considered." Freedom of speech is also codified in the Constitution. One has every right to say things that may be deemed hateful or offensive. The Columbia University College Republicans and Columbia University supported the principle of freedom of speech by inviting Wilders to speak.

However, last week's op-ed piece attempted turn the argument into one about hate speech. Elsohly claimed, "The line between freedom of speech and hate speech... was crossed" during the Wilders event. While many of Wilders' statements are offensive, he had every right to say them at last Wednesday's event. The event was about freedom of speech, and as such Wilders expressed, as he well should have, the ideas that he has been persecuted for holding in Europe. To call any form of speech that is offensive "hate speech" is simply a form of censorship. People use the term to silence those with whom they disagree. The op-ed by Elsohly calls what Wilders said "hate speech," but then fails to clearly define it. Furthermore, I think that it is impossible to define a term as vague as "hate speech." Anything that someone finds offensive could be placed into the "hate speech" category. For this reason, in the United States, people are allowed to say whatever they want, however unpopular, unless it incites, according to the Supreme Court, "imminent lawless action."

Therefore, I applaud all those who were respectful to Wilders and refrained from calling his words a form of "hate speech," even though his views were at times extreme. Civil discourse of ideas is a chief tenet of freedom of speech and democracy.

Tyler Trumbach, CC '13  
Deputy of Finance, Columbia University College Republicans  
Oct. 28, 2009

EcoReps want Barnard's sustainability grade reconsidered

To the editor:

It is true that this year, Barnard's sustainability "grade" was rather dismal, and while many of the points in the editorial, "Barnard gets a passing grade, but barely," (Oct. 29, 2009) are correct, many are not. As the editorial correctly states, Barnard is participating in the PlaNYC 2030 Challenge, and, yes, our recycling program is broader and more transparent than Columbia's (or New York City's). But, unlike the article suggests, recycling at Barnard is very straightforward. Plastics #1-7 are all recyclable at Barnard, and a few bottles tossed into the wrong containers will not lead to problems since the waste collector we use sorts recyclables. There is ample opportunity at Barnard to compost, as well. Currently, the EcoReps are educating a group of suites to pilot a composting program. Dining hall visitors also contribute to the Bio-X machine by sorting their waste so that food scraps can be decomposed into greywater.

Encouraging the campus to recycle and compost is just a small part of Barnard EcoReps. Primarily EcoReps work on environmental education initiatives. We are a small, relatively new group, comprised of 10 students who are employed by the Barnard First-Year Focus program. Through bi-monthly themed potlucks and other campus-wide events like Give and Go Green, we promote sustainability.

We hope that in the future, as Barnard's administration continues to work towards becoming more sustainable, collaboration between the EcoReps and the administration will become more fruitful. Even as a group employed by the school, EcoReps faces many challenges initiating simple programs, such as the production and distribution of updated recycling signs for students. Budget constraints and Barnard's lack of a sustainability coordinator, or an administrator who can allocate sufficient time for sustainability issues, adds to our struggle to initiate programs (FYI, Dickinson College has a sustainability coordinator).

The focus of the editorial on recycling misses a huge point about where we, as a campus, are right now. Barnard students know how and why to recycle. The next step is to demonstrate how the community can live sustainably overall, taking into account individual practices, like eating habits, and administrative practices, like purchasing.

Holly Menten-Weil, BC '10, and Ariella Krones, BC '10  
Barnard EcoReps  
Nov. 4, 2009

While dialogue is key, columnist misses points in CCSC discussion

To the editor:

We are glad to see conversation stirred around how Columbia College Student Council and Engineering Student Council can better connect with its constituents with Rajat Roy's column "Constituency, shmostituency," (Oct. 29, 2009). For any group on campus, the question of how to keep a close ear to the ground, of how to reach out, and how to bring in the needs and opinions of each constituent proves to be a difficult challenge. This is a perennial issue to which we are all seeking the perfect solution. Until then, we can only test various options.

We just wanted to note two points of the article that called for further clarification. As per the claim of the CCSC executive board's idea to grant Barnard swipe access—such an initiative was pursued by last year's executive board, and not by this year's executive board. This year's executive board, counter to the claim that information is not passed on from year to year, has learned from last year's executive board that such an initiative would run into many institutional roadblocks and hazards, and that other projects besides BC-CC/SEAS swipe access are worth following. Secondly, the argument that "75 percent of council members are there for their own egos or, worse, their resumes" is unfounded and insensitive. The personal investment each council member has made, at least this year, is not accurately reflected by the author's statement. We invite Roy, and all students interested, to reassess his claims about council member involvement during meetings by attending the next CCSC meeting on Sunday Nov. 8 at 8 p.m. in Satow.

The question of high turnover with CCSC is an issue we grapple with. We all know that institutional change on this campus occurs at a velocity that we wish we could ratchet. It is a slow-moving process, and yes, in order for such a change to constantly be evolving, we must think about ways to efficiently transfer information and knowledge between years. And indeed, included in such a transfer of information is a continued emphasis on the importance of remaining true and connected to our constituents.

Sue Yang, CC '10, CCSC President  
Sarah Weiss, CC '10, CCSC VP of Policy  
Sana Khalid, CC '11, VP of Communications  
Deysy Ordóñez-Arreola, CC '10, VP of Campus Life  
Nuriel Moghavem, CC '11, VP of Finance  
Nov. 4, 2009

The Columbia conundrum



CHRIS MORRIS-LENT  
POLITICS, SEX, AND RELIGION

at which point we crawled inland at a pace of 20. It was February 2006. It was 70 degrees. The campus was clean and verdant.

"Hello," said my guide. "Welcome to Claremont." We feasted at the dining hall and ran into several of his friends. "It's not the weekend," he said, "so it might be a little tame and ... boring." We had several drinks. A friend of mine from high school showed up. "Let's go to the outdoors club meeting," he said. We did. We went to a school dance. Before it was over, we must have met six or seven different social groups. Then we stumbled back to the dorms—the palatial dorms with spacious singles and wide balconies and wisteria in the windows. He gestured to a beaded tapestry. "This is where the pot and Super Smash Bros. takes place." And sure enough, there were three enormous bongos and a flat-screen TV. It was love at first sight.

And then I visited Columbia. An impromptu dinner, again with some high school acquaintances, was arranged. We ate

at Amir's. "So, is there a lively campus life at Columbia?" I asked, realizing with every chew how gross East Coast food was. "Yes," said a student, "I spent yesterday at an ESC retreat, last night chaperoning a formal, and today doing a problem set..." Even as the falafel turned to dust and gravel in my mouth, I tuned him out, answered "yes," and decided to come to Columbia.

My point is that life at Columbia is, a) not like life at other colleges; b) a matter of convincing yourself that things are better than they are. This is less true during the first year, when dorm life passably mimics that at residential institutions. This kind of folk society precludes the possibility of the "long, lonely nights" a friend at Stanford described. It is close-knit and all-encompassing.

And then, when the year is over, it disappears like a puff of smoke. Old friends are scattered to the winds. You realize it may have been predicated on proximity over affinity. Groups persist, but rarely interact outside one another—why would they? What an unhealthy and extreme contrast there is between first and sophomore years! Claustrophobia gives way to solitude—there is little in the middle. College is supposed to be a time of unrivaled variety, but it is so hard to dabble at Columbia. Life more resembles a series of obsessions or addictions. Just as Morningside Heights has the convenience and culture of a suburb with the expense of a big city, Columbia has the inescapability of a residential college and the warmth of a commuter school.

Getting off campus is possible, but then what else is there to do? There isn't

the community of colleges that there is in Boston, nor is there the easy congeniality found elsewhere in the States. New York is a lonely, overworked city. Scraping together an outing is often more trouble than it's worth—first gathering the crew, then getting to the subway, then watching the streets pass by in increments of six at 12 miles per hour. Where to go but downtown? But you had less fun and spent more money than you thought and it will take an hour and a half to make it back from Avenue C. Maybe the outer boroughs? Columbia is about as far from Queens and Brooklyn as is possible. A movie? Half the price in Hoboken—is it worth the trouble?

Many answer 'no,' which is why they seek community and meaning by going to work. How depressing is that? New York proves that making friends and having a job are at odds with one another. College ought to be a refuge from the real world, not an introduction to injuring yourself to it.

And yet this is what Columbia students learn to do, day in and day out: how to put up with requirements they hate, make friends that aren't friends, ape passions that aren't passions. There is something sick in how I've come to be grateful for perennial misery. But it's taught me the same thing that people learn at other colleges, where life can be perfect—a true education lies in forgetting how to put up with toleration and learning how to complain.

Chris Morris-Lent is a Columbia College senior majoring in English. Politics, Sex, and Religion runs alternate Thursdays.  
opinion@columbiaspectator.com

POLITICS ON STILTS



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Request for a copy of the revocable consent may be addressed to Dept. of Consumer Affairs, 42 Broadway, New York, NY 10004, Attn: Foil Officer

Solutions to Previous Issue's Puzzle

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## Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

### ACROSS

1 Thumper's buddy  
6 La Scala production  
11 Cap seen on a brae  
14 Render weaponless  
15 Ad target  
16 "If you ask me," in chat room shorthand  
17 Non-speaking line?  
20 "... at 'em!"  
21 Spill the beans  
22 Non-speaking line?  
26 Word after pig or pony  
27 State of rest  
28 Little women  
31 Aurora's Greek counterpart  
32 Romantic hopeful  
34 Non-speaking line?  
40 Vital anatomical passage  
41 George Gershwin's brother  
43 Blankety-blank type  
46 Jaime Sommers, TV's "Woman"  
49 The Phantom of the Opera  
50 Non-speaking line?  
53 Magnetic inductivity units  
56 Soda size  
57 Apt adage for this puzzle  
62 Summer drink  
63 Too trusting  
64 Prefix with surgery  
65 Smadgen  
66 "LIT" guy  
67 Bygone anesthetic

### DOWN

1 Moch, as a ride  
2 "... questions?"  
3 Start to practice?  
4 Under-the-skin brand  
5 Gets moving

39 Celtic land  
42 Behave  
43 Goes after  
44 Tater Tots maker  
45 Like theaters  
46 Five-time Wimbledon champ  
47 "Later, bro"  
48 Brunch staple  
51 Source of edible oil

52 Crime planner  
54 "Happy tune" whistler of Broadway  
55 Pickster's bane  
58 "Ich bin ... Berlin!"  
59 "How could I miss that?"  
60 Before, before  
61 Negative conjunction

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

I	T	O	F	A	R	C	E	A	S	C	A	P
D	I	E	I	N	B	O	X	P	E	A	R	L
E	N	L	I	S	T	I	N	G	H	E	A	R
A	P	A	C	H	E	D	R	I	Y	R	O	T
L	A	N	K	Y	R	O	A	D	T	O	O	K
S	N	O	T	I	N	S	E	L	T	O	W	N
E	R	A	S	E	E	E	N	I	E			
H	A	M	M	O	C	K	F	A	I	R	S	E
E	R	U	P	T	G	U	L	F	S			
L	I	S	T	E	N	H	E	R	E	I	M	P
N	A	C	Y	E	O	N	S	R	E	N	E	
U	N	E	A	S	E	D	A	L	L	A	S	
S	I	L	E	N	T	T	R	E	A	T	M	E
C	O	A	S	T	E	A	G	L	E	T	I	L
H	U	R	T	S	L	L	O	Y	D	S	E	E

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## Gear-grinders beware, fans' love is conditional



BART LOPEZ

### THE TAILGATING TALES

Who doesn't love watching their favorite players succeed? The answer is no one. When your team wins a championship or your favorite player wins MVP, it's like you won along with them. Even when they falter, we, the fans, remain positive in hopes of improvement. This may lead you to believe that a fan's love is unconditional, but that is simply not true. Sometimes players, coaches, and teams say or do something that pushes all the wrong buttons. Not everyone has a column to express their frustration, but, luckily, I do. So here are three players who really grind my gears.

Gear-grinder number one is Stephen Jackson, aka "Captain Jack," starting forward for the Golden State Warriors. For those of you who have yet to join my fan club, I am a die-hard Warriors fan. I was there when we were terrible, when we were good, and now, when we are less terrible. Before the start of the season, Jackson mentioned to the media that he wanted a trade out of Oakland. I wasn't shocked, considering we have not been able to recapture the magic of 2007, but I was pissed off. After Jackson went apeshit in the stands at Detroit, which team gave him a second chance? That would be the Warriors. Where's the loyalty? Anyway, I'm not angry that he's upset with the current situation, but he needs to keep that in-house. Talking to the media doesn't help anyone, and to be frank, it only makes him seem like a troublesome player. On a similar note, I want to give an honorable gear-grinder mention to Monta Ellis, who said that he can't play in the same backcourt with Stephen Curry. Note to Monta: one who sits out most of a season because of a moped accident isn't allowed to make demands (I think Confucius said that).

Gear-grinder number two is the NFL's Judas, Brett Favre. I'm going to ignore the fact that he continues to come out of retirement because it seems as if he can still play. Before I go on, I have to mention that if his body fails towards the end of the season like it did last year, I will shout "I told you so" from the mountain tops. Instead, I'm going to focus on his lack of loyalty. A professional athlete joining his lifelong rival because of some childish grudge is pathetic. Joining the Vikings may have gotten back at the Packers' upper management, which appears to be his intent, but it also spat on the Green Bay faithful. This was all the more evident during last weekend's Packers-Vikings game at Lambeau Field. The Vikings dominated the Packers as Favre led his new team to victory, all with a stupid smirk on his face. I understand you love the game, but how about the legions of fans who showed you unconditional love for so many years?

Here comes a curveball: gear-grinder number three is not a player but instead a network. I am referring to ESPN. Like most sports enthusiasts, I flip to ESPN nine times out of ten when I turn on the TV (the one other channel being Comedy Central to watch South Park). What's better than watching the exciting recaps of the night before or the top 10 plays of the day? Nothing's better. However, there is a dark side to ESPN, which is also true of 24-hour news networks. ESPN, in its constant search for sports news, will make news out of anything. The Cleveland Cavaliers lose their first two matchups; why not bring on experts to talk about how the Cavs will never make it to the championship series? Or, Terrell Owens complains again; why not interview all his teammates and coaches to delve deeper into what is troubling T.O.? Not everything is worthy of being discussed on SportsCenter, PTI, Around the Horn, and 1st and 10. More importantly, it gives athletes, like T.O. or Stephen Jackson, a medium through which they can complain to the public. I will continue to watch ESPN because I like sports too much to quit, but that doesn't mean I care about what Tony Romo does before a playoff game.

Before I wrap up this rant, here are a few honorable gear-grinders: A.I., JaMarcus Russell, Kobe, the Oklahoma City Thunder, Bud Selig, and Tom Brady, just to name a few. Want to share with me who grinds your gears? You can find me at the Tailgating Tales secret clubhouse, which can be found only by those who already know where it is.

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

## Men's cross country captures Ivy title at Heps

### Women's squad surprises with third-place finish

BY GREGORY KREMLER  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Columbia runners continued their tradition of success on Friday at the Ivy League Heptagonal Cross Country Championships at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx. The men took home the team title—and accompanying first annual Jeffrey H. Orleans Trophy—besting the rest of the Ancient Eight and defeating Princeton by the slimmest of margins, 60-61. The women exceeded pre-race expectations with an impressive run of their own, earning a spot on the podium at third.

The men's victory was the realization of a recently elusive goal. "They have suffered a few narrow, single-digit defeats, finishing second, over the past few years," head coach Willy Wood said. "It was great to be on this side of a close one finally." Though a perennial force within the League, the title is only the third for the men amid many runner-up and top-three finishes. Princeton took second while Dartmouth and Cornell tied for third with 90 points each at this year's meet.

A pair of Long Island natives, junior Brendan Martin and sophomore Kyle Merber, led the way for the men, finishing fifth and eighth and earning first and second team all-Ivy honors, respectively. It was Martin's second all-Ivy commendation and an improvement for Merber upon his showing at last year's meet. The two will certainly be names to look out for as individual title contenders in 2010.

Perhaps the most surprising finish on the men's side came from junior Terence Prial. Prial has risen through the ranks this October, sparked by a victory in the open race at the NCAA Pre-National meet on Oct. 17. As somewhat of a dark horse, his 12th-place finish was an unexpected but necessary coup. "Historically, our program has achieved a great deal of success based on the reliance of a miracle race of one or more of our runners," Wood said. "This year was no different. Terence Prial was our miracle on 34th Street this year."

However, in such a tight race, each position was absolutely critical. Indeed, after the first three had crossed the finish, Columbia trailed Princeton by five points. Sophomore Justin Heck followed right behind Prial at 15th to narrow the gap to two points and junior Anthony Merra rounded out the top five at 20th, finally turning the tide in favor of the Light Blue. "This was a complete team effort and victory," Wood said. "If one guy would have been passed by one person, we would have only tied. Our runners finished so hard. We were blowing by opposing runners over the last 400m."

Junior Matthew Ciambriello and sophomore Andy Buchanan finished 25th and 28th



Gregory Kremler for Spectator

out of the field of 92, while senior Bobby Hartnett had an off day at 33rd, compared to last year's 13th-place finish. Sophomore Gary Brownell was 37th. Freshmen Mike Murphy, Ben Veillieux, and Leighton Spencer were 39th, 40th, and 44th and gained valuable race experience for future Heps.

The women were predicted to finish fifth at this year's meet. Nonetheless, they came in with high personal expectations, seeking to continue their string of top-two performances over the last nine years. Spectacular runs were turned in by the top seven. A no. 4-ranked Princeton group won its fourth consecutive title with an unprecedented perfect score of 15 points, while Harvard slipped ahead of the Lions for the second position. "A third-place finish for us on Friday was an outstanding accomplishment," Wood said. "Harvard had soundly defeated us two weeks prior by over 200 points at the Pre-National meet. We closed the gap to six at Heps."

Juniors Jackie Drouin and Julie Quinn were a solid one-two punch for Columbia, finishing eighth and 10th and earning second team all-Ivy. Drouin continued her role as team leader while Quinn solidified her position as one of the top competitors to emerge within the league. The two should also be on the short list for individual title competitors next year.

Senior Christina Henderson demonstrated true longevity, capping off an excellent Ivy career at 14th, good for second team all-Ivy. "The progress she has made over four years is awe-striking," Wood said. "She is everything that we could ask for in a senior, truly an inspiration."

The class of 2013 proved deserving of all the hype as freshmen Emily Lanois, Camille Murphy, and Caroline McDonough were Columbia's four-six at 18th, 25th, and 30th. "To have three of them in our top six was an incredible accomplishment on their part," Wood said. "Emily



Gregory Kremler for Spectator

**LEAGUE CHAMPS** | Matt Ciambriello and the Lions beat Princeton by a single point for the title.

Lanois and Camille Murphy saved us on Friday. This class is going to be very good."

Junior Hannah Kligman was the seventh Lion, finishing in 37th place, while upperclassmen Irena Ossola, Jill Goodwin, and Erin Hays struggled at 57th, 68th, and 69th. Freshman Erica Pearson rounded out the Lion squad at 71st.

Columbia cross country has regularly been a top program within the university and has made a name for itself as a team to beat within the league. The performances at this year's Heptagonal meet and the composition of both squads signify one thing: there is plenty more to come.



Jose Giralto for Spectator

## Crimson, Quakers remain perfect in Ivy League play

BY ZACH GLUBIAK  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Going into this weekend, Harvard and Penn had not dropped an Ivy League decision. Coming out of it, both remain undefeated, although the Crimson and Quakers overcame their competitors in very different fashions.

Harvard (5-2, 4-0 Ivy) maintained its unblemished conference record by thrashing Dartmouth 42-21 at Harvard Stadium. Harvard's powerful line, featuring All-American tackle James Williams, paved the way for running backs Gino Gordon and Trevor Scales to amass a staggering 315 yards on the ground. The two running backs were the first pair in 10 years to each eclipse the 100 yards in the same game. Gordon reached his total on only eight carries, averaging almost 15 yards per touch.

Lest Harvard's next opponent, Columbia, think the Crimson one-dimensional, quarterback Collier Winters completed 12 of 15 passes for 204 yards and a score. Dartmouth managed to keep the game close, however, with a late score in the second quarter and a fake field goal in the third that kept a touchdown drive alive. As a result, despite falling



behind 21-0 in the first half, the Big Green found themselves within striking distance at 28-14 in the middle of the third quarter. Yet, although Harvard fumbled twice in the final period and Dartmouth special teams turned a blocked punt into a touchdown, Harvard's punishing ground game proved too much for the opposing defense. Overall, the Crimson outgained the Big Green 521-262 on the day. With the loss, Dartmouth dropped to 1-6 on the year and 1-3 in conference play.

The Ivy's other heavyweight, Penn, overcame a six-game losing-streak overtime games to dig out a crucial 14-7 win over Brown in Providence. The game marked the 1300th contest in Penn's program history.

Playing on the road, Penn grinded out its sixth straight conference win behind quarterback Kyle Olson's 15-yard touchdown strike to Kyle Derham in overtime. Olson threw for over 300 yards for the game, the first Quaker quarterback to do so since Oct. 27, 2007. His touchdown pass in overtime held up as the winning score thanks to a stout Penn defense that did not concede a point on the day—Brown's lone touchdown came on a 42-yard interception return on Penn's opening possession of the second half, which evened the score at 7-7. Penn's defense has now gone 10 quarters and 161 minutes, 31 seconds of play without conceding a point.

The Quaker special teams also pitched in to keep Brown off the board—after a Penn turnover gave the Bears the ball at the Quaker 12-yard line, the defense forced a three-and-out and linebacker Jake Lewko blocked the ensuing field goal on fourth down. And so, despite four Olson interceptions, Penn heads into its date with Princeton next weekend with its title hopes intact. Brown is now 4-3 on the year (2-2 Ivy).

In other Ivy League action, Princeton faced off against Cornell in Princeton, N.J. The Tigers rallied for a come-from-behind 17-13 victory with quarterback Tommy Wornham's second touchdown pass of the day to Trey Peacock late in the fourth quarter. Cornell had opened the door for Princeton with Brad Greenway's missed field goal from 27 yards out that gave Wornham and the Tigers new life with 7:48 to play. From there the Orange and Black never looked back, thanks in part to a drive-saving fumble recovery from senior center Andrew Hauser after Wornham lost control of the ball while running the option. With the emotional victory, Princeton (2-5, 1-3) pulls even with Cornell (2-5, 1-3), as well as Columbia and Dartmouth (both also 1-3 in conference), in a four-way logjam at the bottom of the Ivy standings.





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