

LAW AND DISORDER



ZARA CASTANY / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIR | Columbia professor Syed Akbar Zaidi spoke on a panel about Pakistan's courts and law enforcement.

Locals debate merits of public, charter schools

BY JAKE DAVIDSON
Columbia Daily Spectator

A Wednesday night discussion about how to fix New York City's struggling school system revealed tensions between supporters of charter schools and public school advocates. The event, hosted by the Three Parks Independent Democrats, featured parents, teachers, and activists from both sides of the debate, and highlighted the divisive issues of New York's educational system. Noah Gotbaum, president of the District 3 Community Education Council, accused the New York City Department of Education of favoring charter schools, which do receive some public funding but operate under less regulation than public schools. He complained that outgoing Schools Chancellor Joel Klein encouraged parents to leave the official public school system instead of improving it and move their children to charter schools, which operate mostly outside of the chancellor's control.

"People feel that my zip code is not the right zip code."

—Valerie Babb,
Director of Parent Charter
Advocacy Network

"What we see ... at the district school level is not just a favoring of charter schools, and it's not just neglect. It gets worse," Gotbaum said. "We really do have a system at war with itself." Brian Jones, a teacher at PS 30, was equally critical of what he perceived as the city's preference for charter schools. Jones said that charters near his own school appeared to be funded and cared for better, adding, "Those that are in charge of education seem to be against education."

Leonie Haimson, the executive director of Class Size

SEE FORUM, page 6

Judith Butler to join faculty in 2012

BY AMBER TUNNELL
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Judith Butler, the oft-cited post-structuralist, feminist, and queer theorist, is coming to Columbia. Butler, currently a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, accepted an offer from Columbia to become a visiting professor in the English and comparative literature department during the Spring 2012 and 2013 terms, according to Jean Howard, chair of the department. After that, she may be offered a position as a full-time faculty member, Howard said. "We have every expectation that she will join this faculty full-time, but now she is just visiting," Howard said. "The faculty is utterly overjoyed with this possibility," she added. Butler has authored pioneering works during her career, including "Gender Trouble," which introduced the concept of gender performativity, and

"Giving an Account of Oneself," which discusses the limits of self-knowledge. "She is one of the leading feminist theorists in the world. Many people in literature departments have learned from her books. We use them in this department all the time," Howard said.

"To the English department, she brings her groundbreaking work in literary theory."

—English professor
Marianne Hirsch

Butler also takes philosophical approaches to literature, which Howard would like to see more of in the English department.

"To the English department, she brings her groundbreaking work in literary theory. Books like 'Giving an Account of Oneself,' 'Antigone's Claim,' 'Precarious Life,' and 'Frames of War' all resonate greatly with the interests of faculty and students alike—interests in literature and philosophy, ethics, psychoanalysis, history," English professor Marianne Hirsch said. When Butler becomes a visiting professor, Howard said she could teach courses on philosophical approaches to the novel, philosophical novels, feminist theory, or literary theory. "This will be a great boon to both the English department and also the growing Institute for Research on Women and Gender and its affiliate, the Center for the Critical Analysis of Social Difference," Jenny James, a Columbia Ph.D. candidate in English, wrote in an email. "I know from my experience working in gender studies

SEE BUTLER, page 6

Columbia approves gender-blind housing

Administrators announce pilot program for open housing

BY LEAH GREENBAUM
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Come room selection in March, students will have the option of living in select residence hall doubles with any upperclass student, regardless of gender identity, Dean of Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger told Spectator Wednesday morning. After considering a revised proposal from a task force of students and administrators, Dean of Columbia College Michele Moody-Adams and Dean of the Fu Foundation of Engineering and Applied Science Feniosky Peña-Mora gave the go-ahead to a pilot program that will allow students to room with those of the opposite sex in six residence halls.

"After careful and thorough consideration of the student-led proposal for open housing, we have approved a one-year pilot program that will begin with the Spring housing lottery and take place over the 2011-2012 academic year. ... It is our hope that this pilot program will broaden students' choices and help ensure living arrangements that are welcoming and inclusive for all members of our community," Peña-Mora and Moody-Adams said in a joint written statement. The pilot program will begin in Wien, East Campus, Ruggles, Nussbaum, Claremont, and Woodbridge. Shollenberger said that, after an assessment in Spring 2012, the program may be opened up to all upperclass residence halls.

Sean Udell, Columbia College Student Council 2011 class president and a member of the task force, authored the original proposal. Udell said he worked closely with Joyce Jackson, the executive director of Housing and Accommodation Services, to ensure that the participating residence halls would be accessible to most upperclass students, regardless of lottery number. "We believe that the vast majority of students interested in participating in this program will be able to do so," Udell said. Shollenberger said that in

addition to introducing a pilot program for six residence halls, the revised proposal formalizes educational materials and assessment strategies, which he said was appealing to administrators. "Not very much of the actual educational materials have been put in place yet. ... They'll explain the kind of rationale and reasoning for this and how it will impact other students and the university, and also why this came about for the students who don't know," said Heidi Ahmed, SEAS '11 and vice president of policy for the Engineering Student Council, who was also on the task force. She added that there is still a lot of work ahead for the group. "What is probably different is this is a lot less 'dunk in the tank.' ... It's a much more controlled rollout," Udell said. The administrators said that they planned to meet with resident advisers, as well as special-interest and religious student groups and the student governing boards.

"This is a good start, but there's still a lot left to do."

—Avi Edelman, CC '11
and open housing
task force member

Shollenberger said that he informed Dean of Barnard College Dorothy Denburg of the deans' decision yesterday. It remains to be seen if Barnard students will be allowed to participate in the pilot program. Associate Dean of Campus and Residential Life at Barnard Annie Aversa said her office will make recommendations to Barnard's senior administration, who will release a final decision at a later date.

SEE HOUSING, page 2

Medical Services cuts down on wait for student flu vaccines

BY KARLA JIMENEZ
Columbia Daily Spectator

As flu seasons returns, Medical Services is making on-campus flu shots more accessible. A new, simplified registration system where students can swipe into vaccination stations has significantly cut down last year's wait times for flu shots. "The flu fairs don't look busy," said Marcy Ferdschneider, director of Primary Care Medical Services. "Students with a Columbia ID can swipe in at the nurse's station, get their shot, and leave, whereas in the past there was a much larger registration process. It was much more involved, and it created a little bit of a backup in the line." "That to me is really important because we did get feedback from students last year that, 'Oh my gosh, the lines were so long.' So if that's one of the reasons that students are staying away from the flu fairs, they should know that lines are moving," she added. Last year, due to public concern about the swine flu, vaccination fairs in Lerner kept many students waiting for up to three hours.

Ferdschneider said that Medical Services would be setting up stations in different buildings on campus, and at varied times. "We have a few in the evening, we have them early in the morning," she said. She said that even at their busiest flu fairs, the wait has never been longer than five minutes for anyone. Some students agree that the administration has done a better job of handling flu fairs this year. "The line was a lot shorter," Jane Sellar, SEAS '12, said. Ferdschneider also attributed the shorter lines to a decrease in the number of people getting vaccinated. Last year, more people got vaccinations due to the H1N1 scare. "People shouldn't fall into this false sense of security that this is not on the eleven o'clock news, so they don't have to worry about it," Ferdschneider said. "We can start seeing increased rates of flu at any time during this season, and I think the time to do something to protect yourself is now." Mohammad Ataei, a student at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, said he finds that most people are no longer focused on H1N1.

"There has not been much talk about the seriousness of the illness," Ataei said. Although the H1N1 scare has passed, Columbia now offers a shot that protects against both swine flu and seasonal flu. Last year, two different vaccinations were necessary. Some students don't worry about swine flu and only get vaccinated to prevent a generic flu. "I wasn't too worried about it even when the scare was at its height, but the flu shot is worth getting in general any year because having the flu is a pain," said Josh Edwin, a student in the School of the Arts. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Columbia Health Services both recommend that everyone get a flu shot. Ferdschneider noted that last year's scare proved that vaccines are effective. "That's what's going to help decrease flu in the community," Ferdschneider said. "We saw that last year with everybody getting vaccinated so early and so aggressively because of all the media attention around H1N1. We really did see that that third wave that they were expecting didn't really happen."

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YIAN PAN FOR SPECTATOR

SHOTS | Lines for flu vaccines lasted up to three hours last year, but Medical Services is implementing new registration procedures.

A&E, PAGE 3

More to campus snack machines than M&M's

From hot dogs to Hershey's bars, Columbia's vending machines offer a way for students to satisfy late-night snack cravings without leaving the comfort of their favorite study spots.

OPINION, PAGE 4

Short-term memory

Nuriel Moghavem wants to live in the now.

Left to right

Conor Skelding discusses how we are still lost on the map of politics.



SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Lions struggle on offense late in season

Though the women's soccer team was able to score first in games at the beginning of its season, in its final three matchups its opponents were the ones to get on the board early.

EVENTS

Meditation on Kindness

The Columbia University Buddhist Association leads Dharma Talk and guided meditation.
St. Paul's Chapel, 7:30 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



55° / 33°

Tomorrow



59° / 36°

Panel discusses courts, policing in Pakistan

BY ABBY MITCHELL
Columbia Daily Spectator

Scholars came together Wednesday to discuss a Pakistan beleaguered by insurgency, extremism, and regional conflicts—and although all speeches conformed to the general theme of crisis in Pakistan, the specific topics were diverse.

Through the co-sponsorship of Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs and Paris’ Sciences Po institution, researchers touched on the economic and political challenges currently facing Pakistan.

Panelist Hassan Abbas, Quaid-i-Azam Chair Professor at the South Asia Institute of Columbia University, emphasized the importance of law enforcement in establishing order. According to Abbas, the 15 law enforcement organizations currently in the country provide a sufficient number of police officers in Pakistan.

“There is about one policeman, or one law enforcement official, for 306 people. ... What is the standard United Nations requirement? There should be one law enforcement officer for 400 people,” Abbas said.

Still, he added, “there is a lot of expertise and professionalism available, but there is no coordination.”

Panelist Phillip Oldenberg, a research scholar at the South Asia Institute, questioned whether

the judicial system could stave off total military rule.

Currently, Oldenberg said he sees the Pakistani courts as ineffectual.

“It’s fair to say that the courts have been the handmaidens of the powers that be,” Oldenberg said.

He cited the “sacking” of Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry by President Pervez Musharraf in March 2007 as evidence of the weakness of the judicial system.

As a result of “enormous backlash,” Chaudhry was reinstated.

“There is a lot of expertise and professionalism available, but there is no coordination.”

—Hassan Abbas,
Chair Professor at the
South Asia Institute

“Since then, the court has been pressing the government,” Oldenberg said.

However, Oldenberg was reluctant to define the court as the solution to Pakistan’s political struggles. “The question of whether the judiciary can save Pakistan in part

depends on ... whether they’re prepared to enter a system of separation of powers,” Oldenberg said.

In the question-and-answer session, panelists dealt with topics ranging from tax reform to education. Panelist and co-coordinator Dr. Alfred Stepan, Wallace Sayre Professor of Government at Columbia, compared Pakistan to Argentina because the countries have similar military histories.

Stepan said that it was important to discuss these issues while there is still time to effect change. “It’s not already determined that Pakistan is a failed state, it’s not already determined that it will be a total dictatorship. However, it could be,” Stepan said.

Panelist Aqil Shah, a research fellow at the Society of Fellows at Harvard University, added, “I think it’s been quite a fruitful discussion at a level that I haven’t really seen in an academic context. ... It is needed to add some sanity into the debate.”

Brittany Gleixner-Hayat, a student at the Fletcher School at Tufts University, enjoyed the event. “In general, they really had a brilliant characterization of the problems,” Gleixner-Hayat said. “One of the greatest takeaways from this is noting that framing Pakistan as the most dangerous place is ... not right, and I think they nailed that.”

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Admins approve open housing pilot program

HOUSING from front page

“The College is currently considering its own Open Housing policy, which will operate in cooperation with Columbia and within the CU housing exchange. Under Columbia’s new policy, only upperclass Barnard students who are over 18 would be allowed to participate,” she said in a statement.

Under the new policy, upperclass Barnard students who live in Columbia University housing will be given the opportunity

to live in co-ed rooms in addition to the co-ed suites already available in EC, Ruggles, and Claremont.

“Because of our historic partnership with Columbia, Barnard is unique among women’s colleges in that students are able to participate in co-ed housing on campus. We are not aware of other women’s colleges who participate in this type of housing arrangement,” Aversa said.

The student-initiated campaign to bring gender-neutral housing to Columbia began a year and a half ago when

Barnard’s Student Governing Board proposed changing the university-wide housing policy.

“I think the takeaway message is that we are so fortunate to be at a university that recognizes our voices and is willing to work with students to make things happen. But sometimes to do that takes a lot of pushing and a lot of work,” said Avi Edelman, CC ’11 and one of the original authors of the proposal. “This is a good start, but there’s still a lot left to do.”

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PANELIST | Sanjay Ruparelia, a professor at the New School, speaks at a forum on Pakistan.

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A MEMORABLE THRILL RIDE.”
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AND ULTIMATELY UPLIFTING.”
Los Angeles Times

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PIECE OF WORK.**”
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Admiral Chester Nimitz, 1945

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NICK PLEASANTS FOR SPECTATOR

LOOSE CHANGE | The army of vending machines in the International Affairs Building offers everything from canned coffee to unusual ice cream bars.

Vending machines dispense quick snack fixes

BY SIMON RIMMELE
Columbia Daily Spectator

The irony of technological progress is strangely evident in the world of the vending machine—any poor soul whose Skittles have gotten stuck on the machine’s little twisty-screw-thing can attest to this. No law or greater power will answer the futile banging of clenched fists on Plexiglas. Nevertheless, vending machines have an established place at Columbia, where full meals and balanced diets are few and far between. Luckily, vending machines on campus are abundant and especially helpful for students who don’t want to leave their study space as the weather turns cold. Around campus, vending machines are not always in plain sight, but rest assured, one is probably close at all times. When in doubt, students

can close their eyes and listen for the dull hum of those non-judgmental purveyors of things both yummy and salty. Most offer the standard fare of unhealthy foods, but what sets the best apart from the rest is not quality, which shouldn’t be expected to begin with, but quantity. For this, be brave and leave the familiar main campus for the unbeatable open market at the International Affairs Building. Just outside the auditorium of 417 IAB lies a veritable “miracle mile” of deliciousness. Thirteen—13!—separate machines flank either side of the narrow hallway and, much like a gang of schoolyard bullies, seem to surround the weak-willed and take their lunch money. There is even green tea and Italian Illy coffee. After all, this is a building of international affairs. Best of all, an ice cream machine sits hidden in a corner a little further down the hall, seeking to reward the brave and

adventurous with Toasted Almond Bars. For more adventurous Columbians, a few vending machines around campus supply a more specialized fare. The energy drink machines in Butler 214 sell weird neon potions that make most students jittery and uncomfortable. The hot dog machine on the fourth floor of Lerner offers, well, hot dogs—sodium, nitrates, and nitrates all come packaged in this particular triumph. On one occasion, a sausage and bun were already sitting in the dispenser—how long it had been there was not detectable. It may still be sitting there. Food from a machine will always be a sad alternative to something better. Still, despite student disdain and repeated avowals to eat better from now on, vending machines are there for desperate times, lighting the way with their eerie fluorescent glow.



The price is right for concert tickets offered up in CUArts lotteries

Despite the Ticket and Information Center’s obvious presence in the lobby of Lerner, most students may not know that the TIC isn’t just a place to buy tickets—it’s a place to get them for free. By registering online on the CUArts website, students can enter to win a pair of free tickets to big-name acts at popular venues in the city. In November, there are several great shows that are part of this “enter-to-win” program, ranging from British indie sensation Kate Nash to legendary Jewish reggae singer Matisyahu.

—BY CYDNEY HEDGPETH

UPCOMING TICKET GIVEAWAYS	
11/17	Radio Happy Hour <i>The Bell House, 7:00 p.m.</i>
11/18	Jon Langford <i>The Bell House, 8:00 p.m.</i>
11/19	Kate Nash <i>Terminal 5, 9:00 p.m.</i>
11/20	Bardo Pond <i>The Bell House, 7:00 p.m.</i>
11/23	The Royal Chains <i>Union Hall, 7:30 p.m.</i>
	Delta Spirit <i>Webster Hall, 8:00 p.m.</i>
11/24	Delorean <i>Music Hall of Williamsburg, 9:00 p.m.</i>
11/27	Gordon Voidwell <i>The Bell House, 9:00 p.m.</i>
11/30	Matisyahu <i>Music Hall of Williamsburg, 8:30 p.m.</i>

GRAPHIC BY YUMA SHINOHARA

Delta Spirit

Delta Spirit, a band made up of five southern-California indie rockers, will hit the stage on Tuesday, Nov. 23 at Webster Hall (East 11th Street between Park and Third avenues) equipped with trash can lids and sing-along choruses. It just might be the best rock band students have never heard of. Delta Spirit’s opening act, Darker My Love, will begin at 8 p.m. For Columbians 18+, free tickets to this eclectic show—that normally costs \$20 to attend—are just a click away.

Trace Bundy

Solo guitarist Trace Bundy is known for his “Acoustic Ninja” playing style. His acoustic remixes of Eminem, Led Zeppelin, Guns and Roses, and others have made him a YouTube sensation. Bundy will perform at the Canal Room(at Canal Street and West Broadway) on Friday, Nov. 19 at 9 p.m. The doors open at 7:30 p.m., and the opening act is Sungha Jung—a 14-year-old acoustic guitar prodigy from South Korea. Fortunately, students 21+ don’t even have to enter a lottery to score free tickets to this one—Columbians can reserve tickets in advance through CUArts at no charge.

Kate Nash

Award-winning English singer/songwriter/musician Kate Nash is performing at Terminal 5 (West 56th Street between 11th and 12th avenues) on Friday, Nov. 19. Her thick British accent, catchy hooks, and infectious indie rock music promise a dance-worthy and memorable performance. Doors open at 8 p.m., and Nash’s opening act—Peggy Sue, an indie-folk band from Brighton, England—will start at 9 p.m. Students who don’t win free tickets to this modern British invasion can buy them for \$22.50 in advance and \$25 at the door.

Matisyahu

New York’s favorite reggae-singing Hasidic Jewish musician, Matisyahu, will pass through Brooklyn on his Festival of Light tour on Tuesday, Nov. 30. After recording his newest album in both Jamaica and Brooklyn, he is returning to the city at the Music Hall of Williamsburg (North 6th Street between Wythe and Kent avenues). Tally Hall, a band that blends ’60s pop harmonies and garage-rock musicality, opens the show at 8:30 p.m. Although tickets for the gig are \$35, two lucky Columbians will go for free.

Professor’s photos harmonize with Miller Theatre performances

BY NOOR BRARA
Columbia Daily Spectator

Professor and photographer Thomas Roma, for the most part, does not accept private assignments. So, he surprised many people when he agreed to work with School of the Arts Dean Carol Becker and Dean of Academic Administration Jana Wright to combine the fine arts of SoA with the music of Miller Theatre. The result of this collaboration is Composer Portraits, a series combining an exhibition of Roma’s photography and performances by seven contemporary composers—the series began in October and continues through March 2011. Roma’s exhibit includes two black and white photographs of each of the composers. “Given that I knew I couldn’t be in the context of anyone’s life, I tried to take everyone out of context,” Roma said, when reflecting on his idea behind the photographs. “I took people out of their apartments for instance, to put them in a place where they didn’t have anything familiar to lean on, to, let’s face it, make them feel less comfortable—but, I mean, in the best way. They’re not supposed to be comfortable.” In this way, Roma’s process reveals the vulnerabilities of each artist and exposes them with unusual settings and poses. There is a sense of authenticity, especially since these composers are so used to being photographed for head shots and other professional projects. Staying true to his instincts throughout the entire process, Roma befriended many of the composers. He described his encounter with Mario Davidovsky, the composer with whom he spent the most time: “I would have moved in with him. I spent the longest with him, and the shortest time photographing,” he said. “It was like finding a long lost friend.”

“I tried to suggest what people were about beyond their understanding of what they’re projecting by the clothes they wear and the expressions they have on their face.”

—Thomas Roma,
Columbia professor and photographer

Another experience Roma recalled, laughing, was photographing composer Chaya Czernowin’s feet. “I mean, bare feet!” he said. “I tried to suggest what people were about beyond their understanding of what they’re projecting by the clothes they wear and the expressions they have on their face.” Roma was even able to draw highly acclaimed composer and conductor Pierre Boulez out of his shell by discussing a mutual friend. “I had heard from my graduate student’s sister that there were all these handles—levels—to get to him,” Roma said. “Well, we finally got to him and they said, ‘Okay, he’ll give you 10 minutes.’ We left 45 minutes later.” Roma’s experiences photographing for the Composer Portraits series reveal how much he values cooperation between parties on both sides of the camera lens. “But who knows—all that [collaboration] might just be a bunch of baloney,” he said, smiling. Roma spoke frankly about the one thing he consciously attempts to achieve in his work: “I’m just trying to make a good picture.”



JACK ZIETMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WHEN WITH ROMA | Professor Thomas Roma dug deep when photographing seven composers for the Composer Portraits series.



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What last Tuesday means

BY CONOR SKELDING

Since last Tuesday night, I’ve heard the midterm elec- tion results negatively called a “red wave,” “the result of politics of fear,” and even “a failure of democracy.” This election was none of those things. If democracy did fail, it only failed as it always does. This election was not quali- tatively different from that of 2008 or of 2000—or any other year in which one party took power from the other. A record number of House seats were handed over, but the reason that the American people selected the Republicans this year is no different than the reason they selected the Democrats in 2008.

Why was Obama elected with such an apparent mandate in 2008, and why did the Democrats control both the House of Representatives and the Senate after that? The answer is simple: The American people were fed up with Bush. They were suffering due to the economy, incensed about Iraq, and unsatisfied with high spending. The American people wanted a change, and Obama offered Change, so much so that at times it seemed he wasn’t campaigning against McCain, but against Bush. Voters reacted to that.

Last week, after two years of that Change, voters swung the other way. Why? The economy is still bad, Iraq is only

Vive la French department

Bonjour.

Dans cette rubrique, je voudrais discuter l’importance des départements académiques des langues étrangères.

In this column, I want to talk about the importance of foreign language departments. For full disclosure, I should mention that I am double-ma- joring in political science and French and Francophone studies, so I’m not going to pretend to have an unbiased take on this topic. However, I can say that as I’ve advanced in my studies in a foreign language department here, I’ve found my choice in major to be important, relevant, and useful beyond knowledge of the language.

As a result, when I recently read that State University of New York at Albany President George M. Philip announced he was cutting the French, Italian, classics, Russian, and theater programs at the university, I had an immediate reaction. SUNY Albany is a public institution, so budget cuts at the state level were inevitably going to force Philip to make some difficult decisions, as is currently the case in all sectors.

That said, it seems that completely doing away with these academic disciplines robs approximately 18,001 students of important opportunities for academic ex- ploration and exposure to new ideas. It’s very likely that biology and history majors far outnumber the number of classics or French majors at the school, as would be the case here, too. According to department administrators, there are 171 history majors in Columbia College and 14 French, eight comparative literature, four German, and two Italian majors at Barnard.

My fear is certain disciplines will be seen as luxuries for those who can afford private school tuition.

At first glance, it makes sense that Philip would choose to diminish resources in what seemed to be the least popu- lar departments. However, I think that having departments in these areas makes an important philosophical statement on the part of an institution of higher education. Even if Philip had to combine and merge several of the depart- ments—a move that I’m sure faculty would have resisted—it would have been better than completely losing depart- ments dedicated to these disciplines.

At Columbia, language departments have also recently been remolded. For instance, students can choose majors in the Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African stud- ies and French and Romance philology departments. Academia in these disciplines would likely say that there is a clear difference between “Middle Eastern” and “South Asian,” and that combining them raises political questions. At the same time, if the alternative would be to have nei- ther a Middle Eastern nor an Asian studies department, we would probably prefer to have a combined one.

All of this is to say that, yes, financial difficulties pose enormous constraints and force difficult decisions, but they also present opportunities for creative solutions and new ideas that don’t necessarily involve simply making sweeping cuts.

I recognize that SUNY is a public system and there- fore subject to certain budget constraints that a private institution such as Columbia doesn’t have. For instance, Philip had wanted independent control of school tu- ition, which was refused.

My fear is that certain academic disciplines will begin to be seen as luxuries for those who can afford private school tuition, robbing students at state schools of the same academic opportunities.

In my French major classes, I’ve read the works of philosophers and writers, such as Said and de Tocqueville, in their original languages. These two texts have been deemed central to a Columbia education and have come up in classes in a range of disciplines. Reading these authors in French as a French major of- fers a different perspective from reading them as a histo- ry or anthropology student. We are more open-minded, and we are exposed to a broader definition of humanity, culture, and government when we interact with stu- dents and professors from a variety of departments.

No, I do not want to be a French politician after I graduate. But I do know that whichever careers I pur- sue—and there are bound to be several—I will need to be able to understand issues from many viewpoints, weigh alternatives to make decisions, and interact with people different from me. There is no replacement for the ex- periences we gain from interacting with classmates who have a mélange of academic interests.

Jessica Hills is a Barnard College junior majoring in political science and French language. She is a former associate news editor. Class Notes runs alternate Thursdays.



JESSICA HILLS
Class Notes

sort of over, and Obama spent in one year as much as Bush did in eight. The “Summer of Recovery” was a dubious success at best and approval for his health care program is below 50 percent. Obama’s approval rating hovers at 45.4 percent. Americans voted for the Republicans hoping for a more responsible fiscal policy, just as they did in 2008. With regard to taxes, a CNN poll shows that 41 percent of voters are “not confident at all” in the Democrats and 52 percent are either “somewhat confident” or “very confi- dent” in the Republicans.

This election shows that it’s easy for the opposition party to criticize those in power but hard for that opposition to fix things once roles are reversed.

So what does this election mean? It means that nei- ther party has all the answers, that both parties miss the mark. This election, along with that of 2008, shows that it’s easy for the opposition party to criticize those in power but hard for that opposition to fix things once the roles are reversed. Last Tuesday demonstrates how democracy naturally swings back and forth between opposing sides.

Enriching the rest of my life

I want to be that old-timer with his grandson on his knee, regal- ing the barely conscious toddler with tales of his youthful exploits. I want to be him so badly, but there’s one very real challenge I face: My memory is unusually horrible.

This year, I’ve committed myself to knocking items off my bucket list and forming memories of my time at Columbia that are more inter- esting than those of attending club meeting after club meeting. I think I’ve been doing a good job so far.

But it’s becoming hard to justify such a great expense of time and effort in the pursuit of forming memories that, ultimately, might not be retained. And that gets at a real question that I’ve always been unable to answer: Should I live to enrich my life for the future, or should I be willing to simply indulge in the present?

That question has always sat in the back of my mind, but it’s beginning to nag at me more and more as the defi- cits in my capacity to remember become more apparent.

This problem of memory isn’t new for me. When I was younger, my parents would accuse me of selective memory when I didn’t clean my toys up after being reminded several times. Truth was that I (usually) just didn’t remember them telling me to do so.

As I grew older, I met girls and fell in love and had those arguments that descended—as these things often do—to, “Well, remember that time when you ... ?” These conversations are hard enough in the rare instances when I do remember that time. More often than not, though, I don’t. Needless to say, I’ve become quite good at apologizing for things I’m completely unaware of.

In psychological terms, I have no trouble with topographic memory (mapping out places), semantic memory (independent facts and trivia), or procedural memory (performing routine actions).

It’s my episodic memory, particularly autobiograph- ical memory, that is foggy. My shortcomings go beyond faces and names. I often can’t remember what I’ve had for breakfast (or lunch) or the content of recent con- versations (or whom they were with). I wonder how many times I’ve gone on group adventures that proved memorable to all but me.

Though Franzia may be one culprit, my freshman year



NURIEL MOGHAVEM

My Columbia Bucket List

The Republicans won the House, fought back in the Senate, and picked up many governorships, mainly by criti- cizing heavy spending and Obama’s expensive programs. But will they be able to do anything? Not with a Democratic majority in the Senate and Obama in the White House.

And maybe that is what voters want. I firmly believe that if an immediate disaster threatened this country, the Democrats and the Republicans would work together to solve it. However, with a divided government, neither side can pass legislation or enact costly programs.

Here in New York, especially at Columbia, it’s easy to forget that there is a world outside of our ivory tower. We might like to bemoan election results and even call other parts of the country backward for voting as they did. But rather than dismiss the flyover states as less hip, less urban, or less progressive, we must recognize that non-New Yorkers also vote in presidential elections and, more importantly, matter as Americans. It’s not consis- tent to celebrate a mandate for Change and perceived “progress” on behalf of the American people for voting one way in 2008 and then to condemn that same elector- ate as regressive and insane for voting another way in 2010. Rather, we should recognize that most Americans are not married to one ideology but simply want to live their lives happily, unencumbered by the government. Finally, we should recognize that they are not averse to switching sides every few years should one party fail to deliver.

The author is a first-year in Columbia College.

is already a blur. My clearest memory of sophomore year is watching my roommate jump out of bed in his boxers and frantically run down to the street in a bathrobe to relocate his soon-to-be-ticketed moped. Weekly.

Many of the inside jokes, escapades, and events that have marked my past three years here are becoming increasingly delible. The problem is that my bucket list is mostly populated by escapades, and major goals of mine for the future are adventures that can be similarly forgotten. For instance, this past weekend I accomplished a long-standing goal of visiting all five boroughs in one day (the trick is to not leave Staten Island’s ferry terminal). I hope one day to circumnavi- gate the world and to complete an Ironman race. I’m beginning to struggle, however, with justifying such gallivanting.

Consider abandoning the pressure to remember everything, a pressure borne out of the anxiety of lost youth.

I have, for the most part, chosen to live by the tenet of experiencing to enrich the rest of my life. But there is great appeal in simply living in the moment, espe- cially when the likelihood of capturing the present for the future is in question.

When I suggest living for the present, I don’t advoc- ate the adoption of a hedonistic lifestyle. Not at all. What I mean instead is to consider abandoning the pressure to remember everything, a pressure borne probably out of the anxiety of lost youth—to consider abandoning that anxiety itself. And from the brief mo- ments of lucidity when I’ve been able to achieve such abandon, I can tell you it’s transcendent.

But is that feeling worth the loss of half the experi- ence, the part that will stick with me into the future?

Answering that question will have to go on my bucket list somewhere.

Nuriel Moghavem is a Columbia College senior majoring in neuroscience and behavior. He is a representative on the Activities Board At Columbia. My Columbia Bucket List runs alternate Thursdays.

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5	3	1	2	4	8	9	6	7
4	9	7	5	6	1	3	2	8
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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 U.S. dept. with a Race to the Top reform prog.

5 Iconic rings

10 Lock style

14 JV team member, perhaps

15 Warning

16 Back in the day

17 Battle of the Bulge air assault division

20 Willows for weavers

21 Clause to suffer

22 Word with meal or cake

23 Doppelgänger

27 Name on an airport shuttle

29 Incarnation of Vishnu

30 Alice's workplace

31 Yang's partner

32 Clue

33 Cu-de-

34 It's hard to get romantic with one

40 Important no. to most car buyers

41 Coastal raptor

42 It starts with "http"

43 Sheer

46 Desertlike

47 Teeny

48 Reason to see a mechanic

51 Reservoir borders?

52 Besides

53 Tunes

56 Admonition to one acting out the starts of 17, 23-, 34- and 48-Across

60 Court entry

61 Shopping list entries

62 "Woe ___" f

63 Some shooters, briefly

64 Mythical animal kingdom ennead

65 Peter or Paul, but not Mary

DOWN

1 Gas acronym

2 Holiday and others

3 Revolting situation

4 Nest chorus

5 Target of pre-race stretching

6 "___ Baba Bunny": classic Bugs cartoon

7 Hall of Fame quarterback

8 Dawson

8 Leia's last name

9 "Shrek" author

10 Minor player

11 Checked out, as a book

12 Cooling-off period?

13 Uncle at 0001 Cemetery Lane, in '60s TV

18 First name in shipping

19 Angular measurement device used in surveying

24 Bite

25 "Count me in!"

26 Mineral with basal cleavage

27 Wilder Rand

28 Routing word

32 ___ Hop: bouncing ball brand

33 Time-measuring device

35 Feds

36 "___ go brag!"

37 Kitten's quality

38 Retail posting: Abbr.

39 Callaway of golf equipment fame

43 Overheats

44 Rickenbacker

45 Former Disney chief

46 Rainforest rodent

47 Part of a conspiracy

49 Kind of salad dressing

50 Charged particle

54 Columnist

56 Bombeck

55 Newport's river

57 Courtroom VIPs

58 Test, as an engine

59 Sra.'s neighboring counterpart

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

S	A	F	E	R	M	T	S	T	J	A	B
P	R	E	P	A	Y	I	O	T	A	O	X
A	R	R	I	V	E	S	W	A	P	M	E
M	O	M	S	A	S	T	I	P	A	S	S
S	W	I	T	C	H	I	T	T	E	R	
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A	M	Y	T	T	Y	L					

xwordeditor@aol.com 11/11/10

Wardrobe tips help students look cool but stay warm

BY MELISSA HANEY
Columbia Daily Spectator

Ugg boots are inexcusable. Sure, their warm, fuzzy insides provide unparalleled comfort on cold winter days, but their clunky and all-around hideous exteriors make them unacceptable to wear beyond dorm walls.

Contrary to popular belief, dressing up (nicely) during frigid New York snowfalls can be easy. This season's winter fashions present plenty of options that are far more attractive, yet just as comfortable and cozy as Uggs. So leave those Australian surfer boots in the back of the closet—cold weather is no excuse to abandon looking good on a much-needed night out.

Boots still have a place in every winter wardrobe. Wearing heels in the snow, no matter how cute they are, is not a good decision. Students looking for stylish practicality can invest in a good, classic pair of snow boots—L.L.Bean's signature "Bean Boot," with its neutral leather, lace-up neck, and basic rubber soles, is a great option. While the \$84 price tag is a bit steep, a sturdy pair of boots will survive (at least) four years of trudging through muddy slush and murky puddles. Besides, with this type of shoe, the chances of slipping on ice into a pile of snow are much slimmer—yet another incentive to invest in them.

For those days that are just plain cold, thigh-high boots provide extra warmth and a little more flair. Pair them with thick leggings or skinny cords—any cut that isn't relatively tight will probably bunch up, leaving the thigh-highs stuck mid-calf.

Practically all fall staples can be converted into winter essentials—the trick, of course, is layering. Tights are a must—throw on a thick, textured pair under a simple summer dress and a new outfit is born. Or wear a thin, opaque pair under jeans for extra warmth without extra bulk during those dreadful walks to and from the subway on a Friday night. Light fall cardigans and blazers worn over turtlenecks are also indispensable in colder months.

Most fall colors, like rich ruby reds or deep dark blues, perfectly match the winter palette, which makes the transition that much easier. Change things up by accenting with some seasonal accessories: an animal print scarf, an oversized pair of sparkling earrings, or a broad velvet headband. They add something extra without costing a fortune. Zara and H&M are full of cheap and trendy hidden treasures, like antique bauble rings or tattered wool infinity scarves. Both stores also offer basic black, tan, and navy pea coats, which are affordable enough that accidentally leaving one behind after a



night out would not be a major catastrophe.

Winter's icy doldrums come on fast, but fall fashions already provide a good base for cold-weather dressing. So put down those Uggs—all closets are bound to contain warm, functional, and far more fashionable choices.

Failure to score first goal proves fatal for Light Blue

SOCCER from back page

consecutive shutout victories. In each of those wins, Columbia scored at least one first-half goal.

The Lions also began Ivy League play with a shutout win, scoring in the eighth minute against Cornell and achieving a 1-0 victory.

Columbia's ability to score the first goal proved even more crucial in the victories that were not shutouts. Against St. John's, for example, the Lions scored early in the first period to enter halftime with the comfort of a 1-0 advantage. Columbia scored a second goal just one minute into the second half, which allowed the Lions to weather a late goal by the Red Storm.

Columbia scored first, in the 27th, in its 2-1 triumph over Penn. As a result, the Quakers' goal in the 34th knotted the score at 1-1 instead of causing a 1-0 deficit for Columbia. The Lions reclaimed the lead in the 42nd without having to come from behind.

Much of Columbia's success this season resulted from its ability to score the first goal of a game and to do so in the first half. In the Lions' last three matches, their opponents succeeded by using that same formula. Columbia faced a first-half deficit in each game and never fully recovered.

With the last three defeats, what looked to be an Ivy championship run for the Lions became their second consecutive 3-3-1 season in conference play.



SHOT ON GOAL | Nora Dooley scored twice against Princeton earlier this season, but could not find similar success later on.

Judith Butler to join English and comparative literature depts.

BUTLER from front page

that it is not every day that one has the opportunity to work with a theorist who has not only shaped a discipline but positively affected how people actually live and relate to each other in the world."

"For those of us in the queer community who grew up reading queer theory post-Butler's Gender Trouble, her acceptance is especially exciting," she added.

Bruce Robbins, the Old Dominion Foundation Professor in the Humanities, said that he uses Butler's "Subjects of Desire," which explores the survival of German philosopher Georg Hegel in contemporary French philosophy, in one of the classes he teaches that discusses Hegel's "Phenomenology of Spirit."

"All my students are really excited," Robbins said.

James also said that with this appointment, universities might pay more attention to and better fund gender studies.

"This seems to be one of the

first contentious hirings of a woman scholar who specializes in gender studies—a field that is not usually well funded by institutions across the board," James said. "Columbia has really upped the ante for funding top scholars in the field and shown this to be a priority."

"I think Columbia has behaved very well by pulling this off," Robbins said, adding that Butler received offers from many different schools.

Hirsch, who is also the co-director of the new Center for the Critical Analysis of Social Difference, said she is looking forward to Butler's work with the center.

"Her interests intersect with a number of our research projects and we hope she will participate in one or more of our working groups. She is presently conducting two major research projects on 'Why War?' and 'Translating Feminisms' and we hope that she will share her insights with some of our working groups on related topics," Hirsch said.

Butler confirmed in an



TRANSLATING FEMINISMS | Feminist theorist Judith Butler will become a visiting faculty member at Columbia in Spring 2012.

email that she has agreed to visit Columbia during Spring 2012-2013.

"In the meantime, I remain a faculty member at UC Berkeley and will be on sabbatical

under the auspices of the Mellon Distinguished Achievement Grant in the Spring of 2011," she wrote.

amber.tunnell@columbiaspectator.com

At schools panel, locals discuss Dept. of Education shortfalls

FORUM from front page

Matters, a nonprofit parents organization dedicated to decreasing class sizes, presented statistics showing a decline in New York City educational performance over the past decade. Haimson said that despite promises from the DOE to cut

class sizes to about 20 students per classroom, class sizes have been increasing.

But Valerie Babb, director of the Charter Parent Advocacy Network, argued that charter schools give options to parents who would otherwise have no other choices aside from local underperforming public schools.


Nicholas Tishuk, principal and co-founder of Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation, said he found advantages in operating outside the jurisdiction of the DOE. Tishuk said that he and his colleagues, as well as parents, feel the freedom to implement policies that the city may not have

approved for a public school.

Babb noted that she thought families who lived in areas without well-performing schools sometimes feel disenfranchised.

"People feel that my zip code is not the right zip code," she said.

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COURTESY OF THE CORNELL DAILY SUN

STANDOUT | Former Cornell offensive lineman Kevin Boothe made an impression on NFL scouts with his dominating play against Ivy competition.

Jump from Ivies to NFL daunting for prospects

NFL from back page

play some good football,” DeOssie said. “And after my junior year I played well enough where I started turning some scouts’ heads, and they gave me the opportunity to go to the Combine.”

It generally takes a dominant performance to attract the attention of NFL scouts, as Boothe and DeOssie did. Without athletic scholarships, the Ivy League generally features less talented players than the rest of Division I college football.

“[Playing in the Ivy League] was certainly a disadvantage,” DeOssie said. “You get labeled as a ‘small-school-guy’ and they always question you. ‘This kid is good in the Ivy League, first-team All-Ivy for three years in a row, but what does that really mean when you compare him to the SEC and ACC teams of the country? Can he play up to their level?’ That is a speed bump that a lot of small-school guys have to get over, especially Ivy League kids.”

Playing only 10 games a year and never participating in bowl games also limits the exposure Ivy players can receive, putting them at a further disadvantage, but it is important that Ivy players focus on what they can control to try to attract attention.

“You have to keep playing well and dominating your own league. That’s all you have control over,” DeOssie said. “You just play as well as you can and hope for the best and then work on the changeable things, like the 40-yard dash.

If you can get the right size and get the right speed, you’re going to turn heads and they’re going to give you a shot, which happened to me, and I was invited to the Combine with 300 of the best players in college football in my year.”

According to NFLDraftScout.com, the highest-rated Ivy League prospect of 2011, Dartmouth defensive end Charles Bay, is ranked the 640th this year, with other notables including Harvard right guard Brent Osborne and Princeton wide receiver Trey Peacock, who are ranked within the next 100 players. With only seven rounds and 224 overall picks in the NFL draft, the likelihood of an Ivy player being drafted this year appears rather grim.

For those lucky enough to be drafted, the NFL does present quite the challenge for any rookie.

“The speed of the game is way faster,” DeOssie said. “These guys are monsters.”

Though there are some obstacles, those who had experience as an Ivy student may be able to adjust to the NFL grind easier than others.

“I think there’s an adjustment, but I actually think that playing sports in the Ivy League actually helps you,” Boothe said. “It lets you stay on a schedule in terms of getting your work done in the classroom, so I thought it was beneficial.”

Being an Ivy alum also makes it inevitable that you will have to take grief from your teammates.

“There’s always some good-natured

ribbing going on, whenever Zak or I answer a question or talk about our college days,” Boothe said. “I know that some guys get a kick out of it whenever Cornell and Brown play, and we talk it up like it’s Miami versus Florida State, or LSU versus Florida, so it’s always good fun in the locker room.”

DeOssie also acknowledged that his teammates like to bust his chops.

“If I’m not the first to answer some sort of trivial question at the lunch table, they’ll get all over me for it,” DeOssie said. “But it all goes with the territory.”

Whatever grief they may have had to take, it quickly became worth it for both Boothe and DeOssie with the Giants’ miraculous run in the 2008 playoffs that ended the Patriots’ bid for a perfect season. DeOssie’s Super Bowl win in his rookie year is even more special than it may seem on the surface. He was a ball boy for the Patriots when he was in high school, and his dad played for both the Giants and the Patriots.

If he hadn’t played in the NFL, Boothe said, he would probably be involved in the hospitality industry since his degree at Cornell was in hotel administration, and DeOssie, who majored in business, said he would probably have some finance-related job in New York City.

Just a year after leaving Brown, DeOssie did, in fact, do something special in New York, even if it was done in a manner unlike most Ivy League graduates and unlike anything he could have ever expected.

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ALYSON GOULDEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LOOKING FOR ANSWERS | Freshman midfielder Beverly Leon looks downfield for an open teammate in a match against Princeton.

Early deficits doom once-promising Columbia season

BY SARAH SOMMER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Not once this season did the Columbia women's soccer team rally from a deficit to win a game. For most of the year, comebacks were unnecessary. In 11 games this season, the Lions (9-5-3, 3-3-1 Ivy) scored the first goal and never trailed their opponents. Nine of those games were victories, and two were draws.



But those successes came in the Lions' first 14 games of the season. In its last three matches—against Dartmouth, Yale, and Harvard—Columbia did not score first. All three games ended in losses for the Lions. Dartmouth scored in the 38th minute against Columbia, putting the Lions down 1-0 at halftime. The Big Green tacked on a second goal in the 75th before the Lions answered in the 76th. Columbia did not score again and suffered a 2-1 defeat.

The following weekend, Yale scored in the 18th minute. Columbia knotted the score at 1-1 with a first-half goal of its own in the 25th, but the Lions were held scoreless for the rest of the game. The Bulldogs netted the game-winner in the 87th. Columbia finished its season at Harvard in a contest that became an uphill battle for the Lions almost as soon as the game started. In just the 10th minute, Columbia gave up an own goal that put the Crimson ahead 1-0.

It was the earliest goal that the Lions allowed all season. Harvard scored again in the 80th to make the final score 2-0 in the Crimson's favor. For Columbia, it was a heartbreaking end to a season in which the Lions were more used to earning shutout victories than being on the wrong side of them. Columbia kept clean sheets in seven of its wins this year. After losing their season opener, the Lions responded with

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From Ivies to NFL, grads find success

BY RYAN YOUNG
Spectator Staff Writer

Nine months after graduation, many Ivy Leaguers find themselves suffering through law school or working for big banks throughout Manhattan. Nine months after his graduation from Brown in 2007, linebacker Zak DeOssie was winning a Super Bowl with the New York Giants against his hometown—and then-18-0—New England Patriots. He and his Giants teammate Kevin Boothe both had to face the uphill battle of being drafted into the NFL from the Ivy League, a feat that has become quite rare. Since 2000, only 11 Ivy Leaguers have been drafted into the NFL, and none of them played for Columbia. The last Lions player to be drafted into the NFL was Marcellus Wiley, whom the Buffalo Bills selected back in 1997. (However, on Monday, a former Columbia and Princeton quarterback, Jason Garrett, was named the interim head coach of the Dallas Cowboys, so there are

Columbia alumni in other NFL positions.) There are currently a handful of prominent players in the NFL with Ivy League educations, including Buffalo Bills quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick, Oakland Raiders defensive tackle Desmond Bryant, and Baltimore Ravens center Matt Birk. Boothe, drafted by the Raiders out of Cornell in 2006, and DeOssie, drafted by the Giants in 2007, are two more of the select group of Ivy Leaguers currently playing in the NFL, even though neither seemed to enter college with those expectations. “My second year [at Cornell], with the feedback that I was getting from opposing coaches, I realized that I potentially had the opportunity to play in the NFL one day if I kept working hard,” Boothe said. DeOssie shared many of the same sentiments. “I went to Brown because I wanted to get the best education I could possibly get, as well as

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MOST RECENT IVY LEAGUE NFL DRAFTS BY SCHOOL

BROWN	Zak DeOssie, 2007
COLUMBIA	Marcellus Wiley, 1997
CORNELL	Kevin Boothe, 2006
DARTMOUTH	Casey Cramer, 2004
HARVARD	Ryan Fitzpatrick, 2005
PENN	Jeff Hatch, 2002
PRINCETON	Dennis Norman, 2001
YALE	Nate Lawrie, 2004

DATA COURTESY OF NFL.COM/GRAPHIC BY REBECCA SCHWARZ

Basketball also starting with a clean slate

It's finally here. For months, I have been eagerly anticipating its arrival, crossing days off on my calendar, and losing sleep obsessing over it. I am, of course, talking about the start of the Columbia men's basketball season—the season opener is tomorrow night at La Salle. I'm sure you're just as excited as I am that it has finally arrived. With the first game of the season comes Spectator's basketball supplement, which will hit newsstands Friday (shameless plug: Read it!). Over the past few weeks, I have met with my co-beat writer, the women's basketball beat writers, and members of the design and photo staffs to discuss the supplement, and where we have struggled most is the theme. It's not that we couldn't come up with one, but that we could only come up with one: “Clean Slate.”

Hopefully all four of you reading this also read our football supplement earlier this fall and know that “Clean Slate” was its title. We couldn't very well use the same title for our basketball supplement, but it fit so perfectly. It was through our discussion about the theme that I first realized how similar the two teams are. Like the football team, the basketball team lost a lot of big names this year. Senior guards Patrick Foley, Kevin Bulger, and Niko Scott had all been major parts of the program since they were freshmen, and as such, they were household names for those who knew the team—much like Austin Knowlin, Millicent Olawale, Ray Rangel, and Lou Miller were for football. Though both teams lost these big-name players, they still have experience on their



MICHELE CLEARY
I Can See Cleary Now

rosters. For football, it was Alex Gross, Matt Moretto, Adam Mehrer, and Andrew Kennedy. Basketball, on the other hand, has Noruwa Agho, Brian Grimes, and Asenso Ampim. However, one of the greatest similarities between the two teams is their sophomore play-callers: quarterback Sean Brackett and point guard Brian Barbour. Brackett first burst onto the scene last year against Yale, when he threw for three touchdowns after starting quarterback Olawale was sidelined with an injury. Barbour also got some playing time as a freshman due to multiple injuries to Foley. That said, Brackett and Barbour were never really starters—until this year, that is. Brackett has started every game for the Light Blue, and Barbour is likely to start at point guard

Coming into the season, football didn't have that one star player who could really affect the course of a game. Agho is that player for basketball.

in the season opener. Being a team's offensive leader is a lot to ask of a sophomore, and while Brackett has had a solid season for the most part, he has sometimes been affected by that pressure. Fortunately for Barbour, he won't have quite as much pressure on him as Brackett did coming into the season. That pressure will instead fall on the shoulders of Agho—the No. 1 difference between the two teams.

Coming into the season, football didn't have that one star player who could really affect the course of a game (though an argument could be made for Alex Gross). Agho is that player for basketball. In his sophomore season, Agho led the team with 16.3 points per game, shot 44.6 percent from beyond the arc, pulled down 4.2 rebounds per contest, and was named to the all-Ivy second team. Known for being a hard worker, Agho is only going to improve this year, and, in my opinion, he has a legitimate shot at the Ivy League Player of the Year award. He has the potential to turn an awful season into a decent one, and a decent one into a good one. So what's the other key difference between these two teams? The coach. As fellow columnist Lucas Shaw pointed out (“Can Smith take basketball team to next level?,” Nov. 10), former men's basketball head coach Joe Jones did a great job of pulling the Lions out of the Ivy cellar and into the middle of the pack, but he was never really able to take them to that next level. Lucas also pointed out that football head coach Norries Wilson has done something similar with the football team—taken it from the whipping boy of the conference to a respectable program—but his progress has also stalled. Regardless of what happens after this season, I don't think Wilson will be the one to bring the Ivy title to Morningside for the first time in over 50 years. However, from what I've seen at practice so far and from the few conversations I've had with the new basketball head coach, Kyle Smith, I think he might be the man to turn Columbia into a legitimate title contender. So, while the basketball team may be starting its season in a similar position to the football team, here's hoping it ends a lot differently. Michele Cleary is a Columbia College junior majoring in history. sports@columbiaspectator.com

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