

INSIDE

Opinion, page 4

Career (un)fair

Chris Morris-Lent explains why it is that his best—and yours—just may not be good enough in today's job market.



A&E, page 6

New exhibit rethinks the shape of things

"Pinch Pots and Pyramids," on view at Kate Werble Gallery, invites viewers to reconsider basic geometric shapes as well as the human ability to create them.



Sports, page 8

Women's basketball prevails in close contest

Center Lauren Dwyer scored a game-high 19 points, leading the Lions women basketball team to a 64-62 victory over Long Island. Columbia now stands 2-1.

EVENTS

Racism in France

Indira Goris, program officer of equality and citizenship for the Open Society Justice Initiative, will speak about a report she co-authored on ethnic profiling in France.

Maison Francaise, Buell Hall, East Gallery, 12-2 p.m.

Climate change heats up

The Earth Institute's Columbia Climate Center will host a discussion on the next steps to combat climate change.

Faculty House, Garden Room 2, 4-6 p.m.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Bloomberg is up there smoking his own cigars the whole time."

—Charlia Hout, neighborhood resident

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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.

CAMPUS DISSIDENCE



Elaine Burchman for Spectator

ACTING OUT | "Dissident Acts: 3 Plays" is the newest production by the Barnard College theater department, running from Nov. 19-21 at Minor Latham Playhouse.

City, small businesses debate paid sick leave

BY DAVID XIA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

A proposed bill requiring paid sick leave for city workers drew lively debate at City Hall on Tuesday, but many Upper West Side businesses and employees have remained silent so far.

New York City Council introduced this legislation in August by Councilwoman Gale Brewer of the Upper West Side and 37 other members, as swine flu anxiety was rising and many New Yorkers hoped to check its spread by encouraging workers to remain at home when they or their children are sick. The proposed bill would grant workers at large businesses the ability to take nine paid sick days a year, and employees of small businesses—with fewer than ten staff members—five paid sick days. Workers would acquire one hour of sick leave for every 30 hours worked after 90 days of employment.

At Tuesday's hearing, the City Council Committee on Civil Service and Labor solicited input on the bill, which will then be edited before advancing to a full council vote expected to take place next year.

Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer called the bill a "human issue" that provides a "safety net" for low-income workers, and others argued that the bill would increase labor productivity.

But opponents expressed fear of the serious economic impact it could potentially have on small businesses currently struggling to stay afloat. While struggling in a tight credit market and against sales tax hikes, a small business spending extra money on wages in the absence of an employee could be the straw that breaks the camel's back, noted Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce President Carl Hum. All five boroughs' chambers of

commerce criticized the legislation for potentially harming small businesses during a recession.

Hum also finds the proposed bill too intrusive and broad. "Our members are opposed to the government depriving us of our ability to determine appropriate benefits for our employees," Hum said, arguing that the legislation "fails to recognize the diversity of city businesses" in terms of how workers are paid, the ratio of full-time to part time staff, and how workers arrange to have others cover their shifts.

Robert Bookman, legal counsel for the city's chapter of the New York State Restaurant Association, also urged the City Council to rethink the bill. "You cannot claim to be for small businesses and pass this bill," Bookman said. "The two are incompatible. Period."

SEE SICK LEAVE, page 3

GS won't get swipe access to residence halls

BY PAUL HSIAO
Columbia Daily Spectator

For advocates of broader General Studies dorm access, it's back to square one.

A proposal for more lenient GS student access to residential halls—one that would allow them to sign into dorms—was shot down Tuesday night when administrators nixed the potential policy change.

General Studies Student Council representatives—including council president Katherine Edwards, vice president of policy Jenny

Chong, delegate-at-large of policy Sabrina Buckwalter, and University Senator Jose Robledo—argued before a panel of administrators that GS students are barred from certain campus facilities they pay for, as well as from club spaces and class recitations.

GS students are not given full access to all Columbia Psychological Services, some of which are housed in residential halls. In addition, several class recitations meet in public spaces within dorms, as do some student clubs. The need to sign-in to group meetings,

members argued, continually prevents GS students from fully integrating into the Columbia student body.

Despite support from Associate Dean of Students Dominic Stellini and Assistant Dean of Students Mary Waldorf, both at GS, the proposal was rejected by a panel that included Assistant Dean for Community Development and Residential Programs Scully Kromm and Executive Director of Housing Services Joyce Jackson.

SEE SWIPE ACCESS, page 3

Crunching numbers: math beyond finance

BY HIEN TRUONG
Columbia Daily Spectator

"Conservatives like iceberg lettuce, whereas liberals like arugula." It's a mathematical equation.

Matt Gattis, co-founder of Hunch.com—a Web site that helps users make decisions based on personality test results—was among the math aficionados gathered for Wednesday's Startup-Math Collaboration, hosted by the Columbia University Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics. Crunching the numbers, he said, was the key to discovering which kinds of lettuce politicians prefer.

The event Wednesday evening joined executives from "Silicon Alley"—the name given to a group of Internet-based companies in Manhattan—with Columbia students and faculty interested in applying math to real world problems.

The executives presented quantitative problems their companies face for the audience to address and solve. They also



Phoebe Lytle for Spectator

MATH MINDS | Columbia alumni-turned-Internet start-up moguls, among other executives, visited campus to meet mathematicians.

offered up nontraditional career paths for math experts who may not know how to apply their degrees to the job market.

"A lot of students don't know that math research is still living and ongoing. It is still an active field of exploration," noted Chris Wiggins, associate professor of applied math and physics

and CC '93. Wiggins collaborated with Huffington Post co-founder Jonah Peretti to launch the Startup-Math Collaboration last spring.

Wiggins added that many students who study mathematics at Columbia often head to

SEE MATHEMATICS, page 3

Barnard avoids Levien location

Class of 2010 will graduate in Ancel Plaza on May 17, 2009

BY CARLY SILVER
Spectator Staff Writer

Barnard's graduation is going international.

After much contention, Barnard seniors will graduate in Ancel Plaza outside the International Affairs Building, Barnard President Debora Spar confirmed in an e-mail. Traditionally, the ceremony has taken place on Lehman Lawn, but due to a lack of space during construction of the Diana Center, Barnard Commencement took place on Columbia's South Lawn over the last few years and the location was uncertain for the class of 2010.

The Barnard Student Government Association announced via e-mail on Wednesday that the ceremony

will take place on May 17 in "the afternoon." Spar clarified that it would be held at 2 p.m. The graduation will still be held on the same day as Columbia College's Class Day, but the timing of the ceremonies will likely not overlap.

Students will be allowed three tickets per person and the event will be simulcast presentation for additional guests in several locations which have not yet been determined. One space being considered is 202 Altschul.

"We have to figure out tickets—we're trying to get a precise number of chairs for IAB," Spar said in an interview two weeks ago. She estimated that there will be about 3,000 guests, and there "will probably be three chairs and then a lottery for

SEE GRADUATION, page 2



Lila Neiswanger / Senior staff photographer

BC, MEET IAB | Barnard's commencement ceremony has finally found a location in Ancel Plaza outside International Affairs.

Students survive swine flu, live to quell the hype

BY LINDSEY WARD
Columbia Daily Spectator

As the winter flu season looms, Columbia awaits its first shipment of the H1N1 vaccine as already-infected students begin to recover and assess the hype around the illness.

"We think it will come soon," said Dr. Samuel Seward, the medical director and assistant vice president of Columbia's Health Services. Barnard has already acquired a limited number of vaccine doses and

began administering them on Nov. 16 to extremely high-risk patients—people who have existing medical conditions such as asthma, chronic kidney disease or cancer, or who are caring for a young infant. "The timing is right to get it," Seward said, adding that he encourages students to get vaccinated at New York City Department of Health-sponsored weekend clinics.

Though the vaccine is not widely available yet, students who have actually had swine flu debate whether it was as bad as the hype. "It sucked, but it wasn't any more than a regular flu," Jules Calderera, CC '13, said of his experience. "I thought it would be worse."

Lauren Nevitt, CC '13, speculates that the hype about the

virus could have influenced her perception of her illness. "I probably thought it was a lot worse because of the hysteria. The fever part was really bad," she said. "Strep throat is even comparable. It was bearable, but it was just a little bit worse than most illnesses."

"It felt like I got hit by a car," Nancy Huemer, BC '10, said of her first day of illness. Though she contracted the virus two weeks ago, she still feels sick.

For Dominic Moss, CC '13, the hardest thing to endure about swine flu was the food he received while quarantined. "The meal system was definitely the worst part," he said. "I still have a couple of tins of Campbell's Chicken Noodle Soup. I couldn't leave the room to warm it up."

According to Seward, the gravity of swine flu for the average person's health has been exaggerated.

"The word 'pandemic' is a scary word and that people understandably get nervous when they hear that term," he said. "Overall, the illness has been mild, and given that, there's probably been more anxiety nationally than is currently appropriate that we're seeing."

At Barnard, "Approximately one hundred students have reported influenza-like illness, a number comparable to that of

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City may make public housing a smoke-free zone

BY NICHOLAS BLOOM
Columbia Daily Spectator

Finding a place to light up a cigarette can be difficult these days, but for public housing residents, smoking may soon be close to impossible.

Following the wave of recent anti-smoking laws, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recently sent a memo strongly encouraging public housing authorities nationwide to “implement non-smoking policies in some or all of their public housing units.” Although the New York City Housing Authority has yet to institute any laws locally, the memo has sparked a heated debate about the merits of such policies.

For some, this legislation is a direct infringement on privacy and other basic freedoms. But others see this as an opportunity to encourage healthy environments and mitigate persistent problems of asthma.

“You can’t smoke anywhere, now you can’t smoke

at home?” said Audrey Silk, founder of the smokers’ rights group New York City Citizens Lobbying Against Smoker Harassment.

Though Silk is opposed to any ban on smoking in the home—at a private or public development—she said there will inevitably be more flexibility in a private building. “Whoever owns it can make their own rules,” she explained.

Public housing, though, is a different story, she said. “Your home should be your castle, no matter whether you own it or not,” she said. “The city here is creating a divide in classes. People in housing are there because they can’t afford anything else. Now these people would be punished for their personal situation by having their right to smoke taken away. This is an intolerance campaign.”

Joanne Koldare, director of the New York City Coalition for a Smoke Free City, also said she sees smoking in public housing projects as

an issue of individual rights. But for her, this is the right to be free from the harms of secondhand smoke.

“Those people living in low income housing should be able to live in a complex that doesn’t have smoking,” Koldare said. “Ask the mother with the 3-year-old who is suffering from asthma and has secondhand smoke pouring down his throat. Ask the man whose wife is suffering with cancer and going through chemotherapy and has to be subjected to secondhand smoke coming into their room. This isn’t just a noxious odor—it’s a poisonous gas.”

Koldare noted that, despite her strong feelings, she understands the limited feasibility of instituting a blanket ban on smoking for all public housing developments. “Public housing is housing of last resort, and we don’t want to send folks to homeless shelters. We are talking about ending a behavior that is unhealthy for neighbors, not evicting people.”

Tenants are also divided at the Frederick Douglass Houses on Columbus Avenue from 100th to 104th streets.

Derek Pinedo, a resident of the houses, said that he would favor the ban. “I don’t smoke, and although secondhand smoke doesn’t bother me, I don’t like it,” he said.

“For older people though, who have been smoking for 30 or 40 years, that’s a whole different story,” Pinedo said. “They’re from a different generation, and I don’t think you can tell them not to smoke.”

“If they don’t want smoking, then put up a sign that says ‘Please don’t smoke, consider people with asthma’ or something like that, but you can’t just ban smoking,” said Charlia Hout, a former resident.

Her frustration has built up: “You can’t smoke in bars and restaurants, and now I can’t smoke in my home? And Bloomberg is up there smoking his own cigars the whole time.”

She added, “It’s bullshit.”
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Barnard graduation settles on location at last

GRADUATION from front page

extras.” Barnard administrators announced earlier this semester that Barnard’s Commencement would take place inside Dodge’s Levien Gym. Despite pronouncements that the decision was final, some Barnard seniors vocally protested the move, and Spar eventually brought location negotiations back to the table. SGA sent out a class-wide survey to gauge students’ opinions about possible alternative spots.

“The most important objective was finding a good spot. We pulled out all the stop,” Spar said in an interview.

In the survey, Spar noted, students were overwhelmingly against graduating in a gym. According to SGA president Katie Palillo, BC ’10, Spar and Barnard Dean Dorothy Denburg asked the senior class council and SGA executive board to discuss alternative options with the senior class.

Spar considered a variety of locations in New York City, while also taking into account students’ concerns of ticket availability and location. “Students stressed the importance of having more than two tickets, being outdoors, and proximity to campus ... IAB plaza emerged as an option that encompassed many of these considerations,” Palillo said.

“That struck people as the best option,” Spar added. “IAB is nice—it’s very sheltered, it’s very quiet, it’s dramatic.”

SGA significantly delayed the new location announcement, which students expected two

weeks ago. It was postponed while the Jewish Theological Seminary was renegotiating its own graduation date. Barnard wanted to make sure the six seniors in the dual degree program could graduate with the rest of their class, said Rebecca Tuchman, BC/JTS ’10 and Vice President of Internal Affairs for the List College Student Council.

“It was very important for the double degree students to be able to attend both ceremonies,” Tuchman said. “For us, it was great just to hear that we would be able to go to both and that Barnard had been very accommodating.”

If it rains, there is a strong possibility the Barnard graduation will overlap with the CC ceremony. “We are looking into the possibility of tenting the plaza,” Spar noted. “We may be at the same time as them ... There’ll be a complicated dual procession.”

Student reactions to the new location have been largely positive. “While I never thought of that location before, I think it is great that Barnard found a location outdoors that is on campus and seems like it will work well for a graduation ceremony,” said Marci Leveillee, BC ’10 and SGA representative for Student Services, though she noted that she was speaking for herself and not the council.

“I like the new location better,” added Irene Soto, BC ’10. “It is more of a venue for a college graduation. A graduation in the gym would seem more like a high school graduation.”

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Joy Resmovits contributed reporting to this article.

Students survive swine flu, Columbia still on guard

SWINE FLU from front page

peer institutions,” said Brenda Slade, Barnard Director of Student Health Services.

Seward placed emphasis on the importance of staying aware of the seasonal flu. “The flu is a good thing to be aware of. I encourage everyone to get vaccinated

for the seasonal flu every year, as I do,” he said. “Most people don’t realize that almost 40,000 Americans die every year of seasonal influenza. That’s a lot more people killed than from other commonly seen illnesses.”

Seward warned of a possible increase in the number of people with the flu.

“We may even see more cases as the winter nears, just because the influenza virus tends to prefer cooler temperatures,” Seward said of both the H1N1 and seasonal flu. He added of the H1N1 flu, however, “With the passage of time we’re less and less worried this is going to become more serious.”
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“It felt like I got hit by a car.”

—Nancy Heumer,
BC ’10

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Barnard reviews three Ways of Knowing, students chime in

BY MADINA TOURE
Spectator Staff Writer

As Barnard re-evaluates its mission in the midst of the reaccreditation process, it is also revisiting a key component of its curriculum—the Nine Ways of Knowing—in an effort to address student concerns and ensure consistency with its goals. The Nine Ways of Knowing requires students to take courses in distinct academic fields, three of which—Cultures in Comparison, Reason and Value, and Social Analysis—are currently being reviewed by three working groups comprised of faculty members.

“They’re ad hoc working groups. It’s a onetime thing,” explained Assistant Provost Angela Haddad. “They’ve been asked to study these three requirements. Those working groups are

just faculty talking about what they want students to learn.” The changes have not been confirmed or made public yet.

The Nine Ways are regularly reviewed on a broader scale by the Committee on Instruction, which is chaired by Haddad and meets each week. SGA representative for academic affairs Zeest Haider, BC ’10 serves on the committee to represent students, along with four other students who are appointed by a special committee on SGA. This is “a pretty continual process,” she said, explaining that the curriculum undergoes review in response to individual concerns raised about the requirements.

In addition to the three requirements currently being reviewed, the laboratory science requirement—which

requires students to take two semesters of any science course along with a lab section—has been contested by many students.

“It’s time-consuming and often very challenging for students who are very strong in the Englishes and social sciences, so I think that a lot of it comes from the time invested in it and some people are not comfortable with science and math,” SGA president Katie Palillo, BC ’10, said. “I think just because we’ve been hearing a lot about the science requirement that we wanted to address that.”

Next semester, SGA will be holding a town hall on the science requirement, which Palillo said would be an opportunity for professors and students to discuss the this dissatisfaction.

“We want to try and provide a forum to give people the opportunity

to address their concerns and suggestions,” Palillo explained.

Another requirement in question calls for two years of foreign language, which Nana Ankamah, BC ’12, described as “too long,” adding, “It conflicts with everything else you want to take. Not everyone is good at taking language. ...If they make it into a year and it’s very intensive in that year, it will be good.”

But Sumati Rajput, BC ’11 stressed the necessity of a balanced set of courses in order to obtain a well-rounded education.

“The Nine Ways of Knowing definitely allows students to get a glimpse of various fields of study, which is the purpose of a liberal arts education,” Rajput said. “While I can understand that most people resent taking requirements which they have no interest in, in order to have a well-rounded college

education, having a taste of different fields of study is essential.”

She added that while the curriculum helps cultivate well-rounded students, it does not have as much of an effect on choice of major. “This is primarily because most students decide as freshmen what they want to major in, which makes their major classes a priority in comparison to the college requirements,” she said.

Because the curriculum is separated into nine areas, it is sometimes difficult to see the underlying thread that links each requirement together. Nonetheless, students and faculty alike agree that students can direct the course of their own Nine Ways experience.

“As students select these courses, the hope is that students would pick a theme,” Haddad said.

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Students collaborate with web executives

MATHEMATICS from front page

careers in finance without realizing that their degrees offer other career options. “Wall Street casts a very long shadow over Manhattan,” he said.

“There’s a force that you have to fight. You have to fight that magnetic field to resist easy jobs,” said Cherie Meyer, SEAS ’10 and an applied math major. By “easy,” she meant jobs that were “easily found.”

That is where Startup-Math Collaboration comes in, according to Wiggins. It connects students with potential employees whose work may be of interest to them. The goal, he said, is to seek out internet start-ups and bring them to campus to connect

with students in a setting that allows a free exchange of ideas.

Todd Levy, CC ’06 and vice president of product and engineering at bit.ly said of Columbia students missing out on the start-up community, “there was a fair bit of talent here, and it wasn’t getting connected.”

Gattis’ Hunch.com compiles data and correlations—such as lettuce preference and political ideology—though their researchers have yet to mathematically measure the degree to which people with particular political affinities like varieties of lettuce. The site’s current model only considers trends in extremes. Gattis turned to the crowd for suggestions and improvisations.

Analysts Gene Kogan and Gold Truong, both CC ’08, represented FreshDirect, a New York-based start-up specializing in online grocery orders to provide fresh foods at low prices. Math problems posed to the crowd included how to optimize packaging time and develop an algorithm for better, less random, recommendations for customers.

For students like Meyer, this event addressed options for how to apply math to a future career. And when it comes to finding job opportunities off the beaten path: “You have to do your own research if you’re going to do something other than consulting.”

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City lacks consensus on paid sick leave legislation

SICK LEAVE from front page

But the local response is more reserved, as many await the final language of the legislation.

Community Board 7 Health and Human Services Committee co-chair Madge Rosenberg said that she has not “heard anything negative from businesses,” about the bill and added, “I think it’s a very smart and worthwhile plan.” Rosenberg is a small business owner and voted for a CB7 resolution on November 4th that supported the provision of paid sick leave by of vote of 28 to 1, with four abstentions. Still, Rosenberg expressed concern about how this would be implemented and said she is waiting on the final draft of the legislation.

Peter Arndtsen, executive director of the Columbus-Amsterdam Business Improvement District, said he has reservations. “I absolutely agree with the intent, but I am concerned about the impact on small businesses,” he explained, adding that he was unsure of how small businesses would

be required to track the accrual of paid sick leave. The problem, he explained, is that many businesses lack the staff and resources for the necessary recordkeeping.

“I have sent out information to small businesses in our neighborhood,” Arndtsen said, though he added, “I don’t think any of them have responded.”

Upper West Side BIDs have not joined the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce to oppose the bill as of Nov. 17.

“I think it’s certainly fair, absolutely, from my liberal, democratic point of view,” Susan Zappone, the manager of Card-o-Mat on 112th Street, said—adding that she previously owned a small business for 27 years where granting sick days was important to her.

Chris Doeblin, the owner of Book Culture, an independent bookseller on 112th Street, said the bill would help level the playing field, since he currently offers first year employees six paid sick days and eight for those working longer. He said, it could be “a better way to do business.”

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Administration denies GS swipe or sign-in access

SWIPE ACCESS from front page

Administrators noted that all but three CPS locations are easily accessible by GS students, though they admitted that there should be another system in place for those seeking counseling, such as a medical slip that would allow students to come in for appointments at psychological facilities without being swiped or signed in.

GS administrators also agreed that recitation courses should not be held in residential halls, and GS students should protest these situations to their TA, professor, or academic advisor. As for club spaces, the administration suggested groups find alternative meeting spots—rooms in Lerner, for example—or appointing a representative from the clubs to sign in GS students when meetings occur in dorms.

Members of the GSSC delegation found the decision surprising. “I’m frustrated and disappointed,” Edwards said.

According to Edwards, the administration added that even if the four undergraduate student bodies protested on behalf of GSSC, the University still wouldn’t pass a revision because of security concerns. “They feel like the system that they have right now is ‘too liberal,’ and if they had their way only residents would be in resident halls,” Edwards claimed, referring to the current system that does allow non-residents to be signed in.

Despite the recent setback, the GSSC still plans to move forward on the initiative. Edwards described the meeting as “educational.”

“There isn’t any false hope, and we are going back to our policy committee to brainstorm to get access through other means,” she noted.

Engineering Student Council President Whitney Green, who had been an ally in the fight for increased GS swipe-access, said her council is “waiting to see what GSSC is considering,” and that the ESC is “still in support of the sentiment.”

Swipe access was a hot topic at Tuesday night’s GSSC meeting, and some students said they were dissatisfied with the administrators’ arguments against the proposal. GS students in the Jewish Theological Seminary program said they felt particularly discriminated against because they are mostly college-aged students, unable to fully integrate into Columbia because of swipe-in difficulties.

While it’s back to the drawing board for GSSC, there are no plans to change the current system of resident sign-in at this time.

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Staff Editorial

A commendable commencement

On Wednesday, Barnard's Student Government Association senior-class officers and Barnard President Debora Spar announced that the college's 2010 Commencement will take place on Ancel Plaza in front of the International Affairs Building. This announcement comes after Barnard seniors were told that the event would be held in Levien Gymnasium—something that did not sit well with Barnard's student body. This decision was reached after weeks of negotiation between student leaders and the administration. This type of collaboration is commendable and should serve as a model for resolving future disagreements. Barnard's graduation has taken place on South Lawn ever since construction began on the Diana Center. This year, however, Barnard could not use South Lawn for its ceremony due to a time crunch after the original date for University Commencement was rescheduled because it conflicted with a religious holiday. As a result, the administration announced that

Barnard's Commencement would take place in Levien Gymnasium. The exclusion of student input in making this decision, in addition to general dissatisfaction with the outcome, led to an uproar from members of the graduating class, eventually leading administrators to reopen discussion on where the event should be held. The choice of Ancel Plaza will guarantee each student three tickets for their guests. Although this allows for fewer guests than would be ideal, the ceremony will be broadcast at several overflow locations on campus. Barnard must work with students to ensure that these locations are accessible and sufficient to accommodate the families and friends of all graduating seniors. This process brought together students, administrators, and alumnae in a successful collaborative effort to reach the final decision—a welcome change from earlier this year. Taking such steps would ensure that both administrators and students are on the same page for important issues in the future.

Spectator Opinion accepts submissions from diverse areas of interest. Submissions should be between 700 and 900 words and express an opinion that does not perpetuate stereotypes or unfairly label groups or individuals. All writers meet with an associate editor to edit their submission before publication. Submissions may be sent to opinion@columbiaspectator.com.

For more information, come to our meeting Sundays at 2:30 p.m. in the Spectator office on the corner of 112th Street and Broadway.

POLITICS ON STILTS



SHAINA RUBIN

The 34th annual Great American Smokeout

BY SHARON WU

Thursday, Nov. 19 marks the American Cancer Society's 34th annual Great American Smokeout, a day that encourages smokers nationwide to take the first steps to quitting for a lifetime. According to ACS's Great American Smokeout Web site, the event has its origins in 1974 with "D-Day," or "Don't Smoke Day," spearheaded by Lynn R. Smith, editor of the Monticello Times in Minnesota. It quickly caught on. On Nov. 18, 1976, the ACS persuaded almost a million smokers in California to stop smoking for a day, marking the first Great American Smokeout, which rapidly expanded across the nation the following year. When it comes to recent initiatives to control cigarette smoking, New York has certainly been on the ball. Back in 2002, the debut of Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Smoke-Free Air Act, which enforced smoke-free environments in virtually all business and establishments, marked the beginning of an ongoing anti-tobacco crusade in the city. While the act was a literal breath of fresh air for some, it also incited much public protest from many others. Now, Bloomberg's new goal to ban smoking in parks and on beaches is causing even more controversy. These new measures have made

it significantly harder for smokers to continue their habit, and according to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, we now have almost 350,000 fewer adult smokers in 2009 than in 2002. Yet despite these optimistic statistics, the rise in tobacco awareness (everyone's seen those quirky "truth" ads on MTV), and finally the gradual disappearance of places for smokers to puff away, it is nonetheless difficult to kick the habit for many reasons. First and foremost, in our current economic state, quitting is an expensive proposition for many smokers. Pharmacies devote whole sections to aid potential quitters with nicotine patches, gum, and various other drugs. Other companies offer pricey therapy, hokey 12-step programs, even hypnosis for those having the most difficulty. All these costs add up and easily exceed the cost of cigarettes themselves, and despite the investment being short-term as opposed to the long-term cumulative cost of smoking, it is nonetheless a deterrent. That is why, in support for the Great American Smokeout this week, New York clinics are handing out free nicotine patches and gum on Thursday all around the city. It's a great start for those who have been contemplating making the jump and have been hesitant to take the first step. There are also other ways to curb the costs of quitting. It is always helpful to check with your insurance policy, as a majority of insurers provide full coverage for some form of smoking cessation treatment, and many workplaces offer quit-smoking or wellness programs as well. Quitters should take advantage of free counseling and support services run, amongst others,

by the ASC, the American Lung Association, and the American Heart Association. In addition, the free national quit line at 800-QUIT-NOW automatically connects you to a specialist in your state who will discuss formulating a personal plan with you and direct you to local free or low-cost support groups. More information about quitting will also be offered at ACS/ Relay for Life tables on campus in Barnard Hall and on Lerner ramps on Thursday. For a lot of us, it's hard to imagine a smokeless New York City or to envision Holly Golightly without her iconic cigarette holder, and undoubtedly, others simply can't. Bloomberg might be determined, with good intentions, to eliminate tobacco fumes from our public spaces, but that certainly won't happen without a fight from many opinionated New Yorkers. The facts on the effects of tobacco are already out there—Bloomberg's health commissioner, Thomas Farley, said that cigarettes continue to kill more than 7,000 New Yorkers every year and ACS statistics show that lung cancer is the leading cancer killer in both men and women. Then there are those large warnings on cigarette ads and packages that are impossible to ignore. Yet ultimately, quitting smoking is a personal choice. The Great American Smokeout provides a great opportunity and plenty of resources for smokers to weigh their options, or even just try a day without cigarettes. For those ready to quit, there is no better time to set their plans in motion. New Yorkers might not like being told what to do, but we certainly approve of trying something new for ourselves.

The author is a Columbia College first-year.

Letters to the editor

Not enough is done for GS swipe access

To the editor:

I very much applaud the recent Spectator article that outlines more efficient building access for GS ("Plan outlines more efficient building access for GS," Nov 10, 2009). In the article, the General Studies Student Council advocates for swipe access to public spaces in dormitories for GS students. However, the very fact that the GSSC has to urge the administration to issue swipe access to GS students shows a lack of commitment to said students by the administration. What argument could the administration possibly have for refusing only one of its three undergraduate schools swipe access to the dormitories? That the administration, as represented by Brian Birkeland, says that this is "an important issue for the administration" but has done nothing about it for the past several years speaks to their efficiency and concern for students' plight. GS students contribute an immense amount of diversity, funds, and academic rigor to this community. As such, for them to be treated in what is at best a nonchalant manner, and at worst as second-class citizens, is unexplainable, unacceptable, and unforgivable. The administration will do best to move with the greatest sense of urgency to reverse this wrong against every one of the over 1,000 GS students, and not with piecemeal measures—such as access to public spaces alone—but unlimited access to dormitories. The culture of separating and discriminating against undergraduate students by schools must stop and it can only happen when the administration stops putting up roadblocks and discriminatory policies that foster such attitudes. It might make for good jokes at the Varsity Show, but we cannot come here to change the world only to create artificial differences that prevent the unity and collegiate atmosphere we so much desire on this campus.

Abiola Akinyemi, GS '10
Nov. 17, 2009

Unfair racial classifications apply to faculty as well as students

To the editor:

Recent reports in Spectator ("Ethnicity survey criticized," Nov. 12, 2009) describe problems with ethno-racial self-descriptions students are asked to supply the University, responding to requirements of the U.S. Department of Education. Some students of Arab origin, and others claiming identities that escape mutually exclusive categories, do not accept these classifications. Spectator reports that students have an option not to supply this information. My experience suggests that faculty lack that choice. Seeking to change a racial classification in Columbia's records that I had not assigned myself, I was denied electronic access by a message that read, as best I recall, "You are not authorized to enter this field—see your administrator." Requests in Low Library to have control of this information were refused. I could not control a racial classification assigned to me by a person or persons unknown. I sought not to change this involuntary racial classification, but rather to refuse any. Some will regard that posture as eccentric or unrealistic. However, are the consequences of racial classifications required by government agencies or employers, though imposed or required with noble intent, to be passively accepted, denied, ignored, or minimized? In that case, let us frankly admit the costs to liberty and the ideal of universal citizenship, and affirm our agreement to pay them. If this be abhorrently reactionary, simplistically libertarian, or simply odd, make the most of it.

Allan Silver
Professor emeritus, sociology
Nov. 13, 2009

Abortion-Holocaust comparison is insensitive and inappropriate

To the editor:

Andrea Folds' article ("Columbia Right to Life hosts speaker on abortion," Nov. 17, 2009) left us feeling confused and

disappointed in Columbia Right to Life's recent event, "Echoes of the Holocaust." No matter where one may stand politically on the issue of abortion, the event presented an offensive and insensitive framework through which to examine the issue. As a student group, Hillel welcomes discussion and plurality of opinion on all issues, even those as polarizing as abortion. However, speaker Stephanie Gray's likening of abortion to Holocaust genocide, comparing stem cell research to Nazi medical experimentation on concentration camp prisoners, and likening procedures at abortion clinics to the mass killings that took place at Auschwitz overstepped the line of respectful discussion and unnecessarily hurt many students within the Jewish community and beyond. We realize that no one group or person reserves the right to reference the Holocaust in discourse. As a Jewish student group, we struggle with the notion of Holocaust comparison and if or when drawing comparisons is appropriate. In this instance, however, the boundary is quite clear: Comparing abortion, a politically contested issue with a wide range of opinion, to the recognized, calculated, systematic genocide of specific peoples carried out during the Holocaust is simply inappropriate. Gray did not need to draw on the Holocaust to make her point—she did that simply as an inflammatory, eye-catching tactic, one which then horribly cheapened the sincere pain people feel when reflecting on the Holocaust. One would have hoped that before bringing in this speaker, Columbia Right to Life would have consulted with Hillel or any other groups particularly affected by the atrocities of the Holocaust to gauge whether this event might prove offensive and diminish the respect owed to commemorating the atrocity. Instead, Columbia Right to Life chose to take the more provocative route for the sake of being provocative and with the consequence of causing serious offense. Next time, we hope they plan their events with a bit more sensitivity.

Sarah Brafman, CC '10
President of Columbia/Barnard Hillel
Nov. 18, 2009

The views expressed in this letter represent those of the Hillel executive board.

World's unfair

It was only later that I discovered how woefully hackneyed and representative my story was. You knew where this was going from the beginning, but I didn't. According to a recent New York Times article, the ratio between seekers of work and job openings has approached a record six to one. The true trauma for the "creative class" wasn't in the loss of jobs or income—it was the theft of dignity, and the erosion of the foundation on which these professionals had based their lives, that hurt. To use some college words, the change was 'metaphysical.' Everyone underwent 'metanoia.' This was true for me, too. I had, after all, been homecoming king and nearly valedictorian in high school, gotten into Columbia, attained decent grades, made friends, had sex, won a Spectator column, and improved my writing. The real world would be, if not my oyster, then at least my bitch, and it was something to worry about later. How mistaken I was in every regard. My best, for the first time, wasn't good enough. It mattered that I hadn't started looking two years before. It mattered that I'd majored in English. It mattered that I'd taken a year to get used to collegiate academics, and it mattered that I'd flunked my calculus final. It mattered less that I was smart and more that I hadn't tried—there will always be someone who wants something more than you. And I would be the real world's bitch before, if ever, the relationship could be righted. Regret and neurosis seeped into my life in a way they hadn't before. I rationalized: it didn't matter that I was spending my summer reading and hanging out; that's how summer should be spent, and I still think that. It did

matter to me that I was unable to manipulate them into giving me what I wanted. If I was really as smart as I'd thought, I should have been able to charm them to my will. I couldn't, so I wasn't. Richard Yates, whose "Revolutionary Road" is (after "Bartleby" and maybe "American Psycho") the best fiction about the New York working world (and Columbia's relation to it), had a character say this to a Barnard English student in a later novel—"Good. You'll read a lot of good books ... You'll live in the world of ideas for four whole years before you have to concern yourself with anything as trivial as the demands of workaday reality—that's what's nice about college." How absurd this sounds, and Yates (a very funny, bitter man) must have known it. What is absurd in 1976 is much more so in 2009. We not only have a Center for Career Education for dealing with the trivia of 'workaday reality,' we have a Career Fair too. As I was back home in Seattle to recover from an operation, I missed it. For scores of our classmates—the majority, maybe—this is the culminating event of college. The Fair is the world, and the world is fair to them. It is always the ones who have learned nothing that get the job (or is it the converse?). New York represents an ugly kind of logical conclusion to capitalism, where self-interest is a destructive force and every experience affirms one's preconceptions. What matters here is not who you are but what you do, and what a black inversion of collegiate ideals this is.

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



CHRIS MORRIS-LENT
POLITICS, SEX, AND RELIGION

the opinion column, and the academic paper—the cover letter would be a form that came easily to me. Not only would I tell them how brilliant I was, I would show them, too. I wrote a dozen over winter break, dispatched them to various offices from Battery Park to Central Park, and twiddled my thumbs. From this I learned at least two important lessons. The first is that if you don't argue your own case on your own behalf, nobody else will argue it for you. I consider this to be the most important thing college has taught me. The second is that people will rarely value you for who you are. My covet of cover letters netted a single interview at a bland, corporate publishing house. After polishing my resume with the help of a CCE adjunct (who, in our meeting, grew more animated and enthused as my statements became more platitudinous), I went to the company's Midtown offices. A zafig HR lady, at her late twenties middle-aged, greeted me and asked some questions. I answered with reasonable accuracy and moderate effusion. I didn't hear back.

I first visited the Center for Career Education as a junior when I decided it was finally time to dispense with my inborn West Coast sloth and join the ranks of interns, serfs, and others exchanging labor for opportunity. Surely someone would hire me. I had mastered the admissions essay, the opinion column, and the academic paper—the cover letter would be a form that came easily to me. Not only would I tell them how brilliant I was, I would show them, too. I wrote a dozen over winter break, dispatched them to various offices from Battery Park to Central Park, and twiddled my thumbs. From this I learned at least two important lessons. The first is that if you don't argue your own case on your own behalf, nobody else will argue it for you. I consider this to be the most important thing college has taught me. The second is that people will rarely value you for who you are. My covet of cover letters netted a single interview at a bland, corporate publishing house. After polishing my resume with the help of a CCE adjunct (who, in our meeting, grew more animated and enthused as my statements became more platitudinous), I went to the company's Midtown offices. A zafig HR lady, at her late twenties middle-aged, greeted me and asked some questions. I answered with reasonable accuracy and moderate effusion. I didn't hear back.

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

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Choir member
6 Quite
10 Ending with slug or gub
14 Make amends
15 Faulkner's "As ___ Dying"
16 Pearl Harbor site
17 Blazed furiously
18 Common nickname for a doctor
19 66 and others: Actor
20 Weightlifting event
23 Ben-Gurion, e.g.
26 "It's ___ business"
27 Kind of biological network
28 Sea
30 Golf course pest
32 Corp. money manager
35 Fighting
36 Gallery hanging
37 Hang onto
38 ID with hyphens
39 Spinning toy manipulated with sticks
43 River in Lyons
44 Belfast's province
45 Early Ford
48 Actors, often
49 Honest info
52 Road sign silhouette
53 Debt indicators
54 Ticked off
58 Like some vaccines
59 Dresden's river
60 Landlocked African country
61 A handful of
62 Navy commando
63 Gothic house feature

DOWN

1 La Brea goo
2 Seventh Greek letter
3 Christmas quaff
4 200 milligrams, to a jeweler
5 Original primer used to paint the Golden Gate Bridge

6 Source of the Law
7 ___ Blator, Mongolia
8 Where Jesus turned water to wine
9 Cape Cod site of a JFK museum
10 How some jump?
11 Corroded
12 Sex researcher Hite
13 Mammoth features
21 Contemporary of Dizzy and Billie
22 Finished
23 Early Peruvians
24 Senate posts
25 Confrontation
28 Carried
29 Classroom drilling
31 Come out ahead
32 British actor Robert, the original Colonel Pickering in "My Fair Lady"
33 Candidate's handout
34 Trash emanations

37 Common crowd reaction in monster films
39 Colombian city
40 Some heroes
41 Sport for 300-pounders
42 Like lovers skipping church?
43 Pharmaceutical giant that developed Celebrex
45 Windows predecessor
46 Alamogordo's county
47 Nightmare, e.g.
48 ill-fated Ford
50 Putter's target
51 Very big wind
55 Soviet spy org.
56 Snake-like fish
57 Hip-hop Dr.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

H	O	T	A	C	T	S	W	A	T	E	R	S
O	U	R	C	O	O	N	I	D	O	T	O	
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xwordeditor@aol.com 11/19/09

By Jack McInerff
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DOWN AND ‘DIRTY’



Ajit Pillai / Senior staff photographer

STAGE HANDS | CU Players’ production of “Dirty Hands” will be performed in Wien Lounge at 8 p.m., running Nov. 19-21. Entry is free of charge.

THEATER

‘Dissident Acts’ puts the audience in the spotlight

BY DIANE WANG
Columbia Daily Spectator

What part does the audience play in the theater? While actors are elevated on a brightly-lit stage, audience members remain silently shrouded in darkness. The Barnard theater department’s production, “Dissident Acts: 3 Plays,”—which runs from Nov. 19-21—is a trio of plays designed to turn the tables, exploring the audience’s role in theater.

The performance’s plays include Samuel Beckett’s “Catastrophe” , Slawomir Mrozek’s “The Police” and Václav Havel’s “Unveiling.” The consistent character of the Director, who has been introduced from Beckett’s “Catastrophe,” fluidly connects all three plays into a riveting performance discussing humanity, art, and politics. Theater, here, functions as a mode of representation for contemporary issues and also serves to “interrogate the politics of our present,” as explained on the CUArts website.

Assistant professor of theater Hana Worthen, who worked with the actors on “Dissident Acts: 3 Plays,” explained that there is a “strain of absurdism” throughout the plays, allowing them to satirically critique society and the various spheres of life. Worthen chose these three particular plays because they

“use theater as the metaphor and mechanism of the state,” confronting social and political issues. But although the plays were written within specific historical contexts, the audience is urged to think about the plays’ relevance to current events.

“Dissident Acts: 3 Plays” will also move off-campus as part of the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts’ “Performing Revolution in Central and Eastern Europe” Festival. Marking the 20th anniversary of the fall of Communism in Europe, the five-month festival explores the way in which the performing arts contributed to the revolutions and fall of Communism. The festival director, Gary Cherniakhovsky, understands firsthand the difficulty of dissident works, having directed in the former Soviet Union. Beckett’s “Catastrophe” is even dedicated to Havel, who was, at the time, imprisoned by Czech authorities.

Though audience members will still sit in the dark at Minor Latham Playhouse, the plays hope to shed some light on the viewer’s importance to the spectacle.

WHERE IT’S AT

Time: Nov. 19 to 21 at 8 p.m.
Place: Minor Latham Playhouse
Cost: \$5 with CUID



Elaine Burchman for Spectator

DISSENTING DRAMA | The Barnard theater department’s production “Dissident Acts” is a trio of plays that confront political and social questions on stage.

ART

Exhibit in SoHo provides new angle on familiar shape

BY MELISSA VON MAYRHAUSER
Spectator Staff Writer

A triangle does not have three sides—at least according to Sam Moyer, one of the sculptors featured in the Kate Werble Gallery’s new exhibit “Pinch Pots and Pyramids.” Through Dec. 5, the gallery is presenting six artists’ contemporary designs, which demonstrate the complexity of fundamental elements of art.

The artists’ hand-made compositions are geometric playgrounds for the eyes, allowing a viewer to visually climb through wooden triangles and navigate the cracks of broken cylinders. In an era in which artists are increasingly seeking alternate means of producing art through the use of computers and ready-made objects, these sculptors have written a new contract between art and the artist.

Among the artists represented is Liliane Lijn, whose sculptures play with the concept of motion. She displays three glazed, rainbow-colored cones that resemble the candied surface of a lollipop. By applying a variety of colors to a basic geometric shape, Lijn has created a cone that seems to expand and contract simultaneously.



Courtesy of Kate Werbel Gallery

BACK TO BASICS | Kate Werble Gallery’s exhibit “Pinch Pots and Pyramids” is a collection of imaginative takes on classic geometric shapes, inviting the viewer to appreciate the beauty in simplicity. Artists include Molly Smith, SoA ’04.

Lijn also presents a composition that rotates electronically: a cone on which she arranged a poem about fire and ice that seems to have no connection to the artwork itself.

Sam Moyer examines negative space in his sculpture. Several black wooden triangles hang inches apart from each other on a white wall. The angular black lines forming the sides

of the triangle appear to fit together symmetrically. Yet by looking through the triangles, viewers can observe that the black lines do not meet perfectly and that the only unflawed triangle is an illusion formed by the negative white space between the black lines.

Another noteworthy work by Susana Rodriguez has reduced the everyday coffee cup to a dysfunctional

cylinder by removing the handles from black and white mugs. Partially breaking them, Rodriguez uses pieces from one to remodel the other. The cracks in the ceramic are so disturbing that viewers may wish to find clay to fill the gaps. Rodriguez’s use of the cylinder asks audiences to reconsider the everyday geometrical form.

Molly Smith, School of the Arts ’04, displays four watercolor collages that explore basic shapes in a two-dimensional format. Although these compositions introduce a different medium, the collages seem to disappear in an exhibit otherwise composed of sculptures; Smith’s flat forms alienate the viewer, unlike the engaging, three-dimensional shapes of the sculptures.

Revealing the imperfections in human attempts to produce geometric shapes, this exhibit shows that perhaps the most poignant acts of human expression are the most flawed.

WHERE IT’S AT

Time: Through December 5
Place: Kate Werbel Gallery
83 Vandam Street at Hudson Street
Cost: Free

FILM

Young women learn to teach themselves on screen



MORGAN DAVIES
A FILM OF HER OWN

When we first meet them, the heroines of the popular films “An Education” and “Precious” seem to have very little in common. Jenny, a product of early-1960s middle-class England, is a sparkling, hyper-

articulate schoolgirl on track to study at Oxford. Precious, a child of 1980s New York, is 16, illiterate, expecting her second child by her father, and living with an impossibly monstrous mother. Her life is so aggressively awful that, by comparison, Jenny’s life seems like heaven on earth.

But as the stories progress, an affinity emerges between the two young leads. The films are wildly different, but they are both stories about young women discovering themselves. “Precious” is a story of a successful escape from a toxic living environment. Despite Precious’ initial lack of confidence, once she learns how to read she clings to her education as though it is the only thing keeping her alive. And, in reality, it is: Physically, Precious could survive without her schooling, but she would be a mere shell of the young woman she has glimpsed within herself . In her quest to break away from her mother, she suffers several major setbacks, but it is clear to the audience that she is on the rise. There is nowhere for her to go but up.

Jenny, like Precious, wants nothing more than to escape her parents, though unlike Precious’, they at least mean well. She dreams of Paris—not in the wistful way that most girls do, but with a fervid romantic drive that cannot not be ignored. Unlike “Precious,” however, “An Education” depicts its heroine’s descent into a world much colder than the one she had previously known. It tells the story of Jenny’s unhealthy relationship with David, a much older man whose lifestyle is fueled by illegal business and who turns out to be a phenomenal and destructive liar.

Both films are, more than anything, stories about education and the harm and good that knowledge can do to a person—in particular, to teenage girls. There is perhaps no stock character taken less seriously in the media today than this type: we need only to think of any young woman on any program on the Disney Channel or the CW to confirm this statement. These girls have become static characters despite the fact that the defining characteristic of adolescence is its constant fluctuation.

Jenny and Precious are both girls who illustrate this paradox. As young women they have much less control over their own lives than their male counterparts would. Jenny’s own parents encourage her to drop out of school to get married. Precious’ two children—products of both incest and rape—bring her joy, but they also act as weights, pulling her further and further away from the independence she so desperately needs.

It is all the more moving, then, to see the extraordinary changes wrought in both women as their stories progress. By the end of “Precious,” the heroine is practically unrecognizable from the cowed, nearly mute girl who first appeared on the screen. We love her because, like her, we have all realized that we are capable of brilliant things. As she learns how to read, she discovers herself as well.

Precious’ life is without question more difficult than Jenny’s, but I personally find Jenny’s story more moving. The conclusion of “An Education” is a cop-out that paints her future as untainted by her experiences, but the rest of the film tells a very different story. When Jenny discovers that David has been lying to her throughout their relationship, we are not so surprised, but she is. And with that revelation something within her dies. You can see it happening as clear as day on her broken face. Her journey has not been to self-discovery, but rather to the realization that the world is a harsher place than she had imagined—a lesson that is just as important.

Morgan Davies is a Barnard College sophomore majoring in English. A Film of Her Own runs alternate Thursdays.

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Goalie Wright anchors Light Blue defense in tourney

WATER POLO from back page

While in some situations, familiarity with the opponent might be an advantage, in this case it may have cost the Lions the game.

With just 37 seconds left, the teams were tied at five and both sides called a timeout. On Columbia's final opportunity, it was Reid who would take the shot. Lewandowski, knowing that Columbia was without its other whole set Abiel Garcia, focused his team's attention on Reid. Lewandowski also knew that Reid favored his backhand, and Reid is certain Lewandowski instructed the Yale goalie to look for it.

The goalie saved Reid's shot and Yale went on to cash in on one final opportunity. With two seconds remaining, Thomas Lazzarini shot the ball past Light Blue goalie Xande Wright for a 6-5 victory.

"They really executed that team concept better than anything and kept the ball away from me until the last possession," Reid said.

Despite the loss, the Lions had a chance to win two games at the championships for the first time in their fourth game against Virginia Tech. After playing three games in two days, they had more than 24 hours between the third and fourth game, which Samardzija believes helped them get over what could have been a crushing loss.

"When you lose like that—a heartbreaking loss—it could destroy the whole team," he said. "It helped that we had a day break after the third game and we just went into the game against Virginia Tech like nothing happened."

Against the Hokies, the Lions found themselves favored for the first time all tournament. It was also the first time they were not behind much of the game, trailing just once. Though the Hokies provided a late scare, cutting what had been a three-goal Light Blue advantage to one, they never got any closer.

"We got tired by the end," Samardzija said. "It was a game we should be winning easily in normal circumstances. They are all so feisty. We'd go up one or two and they'd come back."

One of the reasons the team may have found itself tired by the end, was a lack of practice. Due to Samardzija's commitment to St. Francis and the busy schedules of the team's players, the Lions practiced just a few times in the fall season.

A lack of funding has not helped either, since it limits the quality of the opponents they face and the number of tournaments they can participate in—both of which improve fitness, preparation, and cohesion.

In the case of the championships, a lack of funding also affected their travel plans. The Lions needed a cheap flight and arrived in Florida at 2 a.m. on Friday, just 10 hours before they would play the Golden Panthers.

Still, Columbia managed its best performance yet, and for the first time ever, it may be ranked in the top 15.

"We expect to be ranked," Samardzija said. "I think we should be in the top 15—15th place is realistic to expect. If you take a look at results, we should be 11th but you never know."

Reid, a lifelong water polo player in his first two years at Columbia, was named to the all-tournament second team. Players from just four teams made the first team, and Reid was one of just two players from a team outside the top eight to make either of the squads.

Reid said he took "a more active scoring role" in his last year at Yale and this year at Columbia. "It's an honor to have that rewarded," he said.

While only Reid was singled out, the performances of two of his teammates also attracted attention. One is Kai Golden, a freshman at the college, who scored 10 goals—second on the team to Reid's 12.

The second is goalkeeper Wright, who saved 40 shots in four games—19 more than opposing goalies were forced to stop against the Lions. One of the reasons Wright racked up so many saves is because the Lions play a zone defense, which blocks passing lanes to spots closer to the goal but opens up outside shots.

"We let them shoot more because in my opinion we had the best goalie in the tournament," Samardzija said. "We are confident in him. He never failed us."

Replacing Wright, a senior, will be one of the big tasks for next year's championships. Still, the team will be in a better position than ever before. Their 11th place finish means that they will enter next year's championships with that same seed and play the winner of the Texas division, should they win the New York division.

"They are a good team but nothing like California or Michigan," Samardzija said.

Samardzija, though, said he won't predict next season's outcome—even if the odds seem in Columbia's favor.

"Will's nomination is in line with our two wins," Samardzija said. "If you take a look, only a few teams were represented on that list. To be one of those teams, it means we have serious potential."

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Photo by Chuck Stewart




See the images Yale University Press was afraid to Print!

From the Introduction by Gary Hull

Muhammad: The "Banned" Images is a "picture book" — or errata to the bowdlerized version of Klausen's *The Cartoons that Shook the World* as published by Yale University Press. It is of course more than that. It is a statement of defiance against censors, terror-mongers, and their Western appeasers. It is a rallying cry for free speech, freedom of the press, and for open scholarship unfettered by fear.

- Introduction calling for free speech unfettered by fear, by the director of Duke University's Program on Values and Ethics in the Marketplace
- Statement of Principle on free speech and scholarly discourse, focusing on the reaction of Western intellectuals to Muslim violence and threats
- Danish cartoons and 30 other high-quality, full-color images of Muhammad by Muslim and Western artists, with a brief historical survey



Introduction by Gary Hull
VOLTAIRE PRESS

From the Statement of Principle

It is incumbent on those responsible for the education of the next generation of leaders to stand up for certain basic principles: that the free exchange of ideas is essential to liberal democracy; that each person is entitled to hold and express his or her own views without fear of bodily harm; and that the suppression of ideas is a form of repression used by authoritarian regimes around the world to control and dehumanize their citizens and squelch opposition.

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Ad Council



The Columbia football team will finish its season at home against Brown this Saturday. Check back tomorrow for a preview of the matchup.

TOMORROW



SPORTS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2009 • PAGE 8



The Columbia men's basketball team looks to rebound from a close 53-59 loss to DePaul when it takes on Longwood in its home opener this Friday.

TOMORROW

Put your talent where your mouth is



BART LOPEZ

THE TAILGATING TALES

Here's an interesting question that recently crossed my mind: do you prefer team or individual sports? Depending on how you answer, you can learn a lot about who you are as a person. Individual sports, like tennis, require the athlete to be independent and very self-motivated. On the other hand, team sports, like basketball, require the athletes to work well with others while also knowing when to step up and take center stage. Ninety percent of the time I will choose teamwork over playing solo, but that 10 percent seems to creep up on me nevertheless. As a matter of fact, I recently found myself pissed off with the entire concept of team sports.

On Nov. 1, the New Orleans Hornets traveled to Boston to face the Celtics. The Hornets, despite the consistent play of Chris Paul, never stood a chance. (Let's be real, Boston is stacked.) More important than the final score was what occurred between Paul and the starting point guard for Boston, Rajon Rondo. Various people overheard Rondo telling Paul, "I've got a ring, and you're never gonna win one." If that doesn't piss you off immediately, you probably need some background information.

Rondo won a championship with the Celtics in 2008 after they acquired Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen through trades. It's safe to say that the championship Celtics had the best lineup in basketball. Garnett, Allen, and shooting guard Paul Pierce, all all-stars at one point or another, anchored the team, with Rondo providing solid play from the one position. Last year, with Garnett hurt, Rondo performed extremely well in the playoffs, despite the Celtics losing out before the Eastern Conference Championships. Rondo's impressive play earned him a big fat contract from the Celtics. Paul, on the other hand, suffered as his team fell apart around him, mostly due to injuries. Despite his team's lackluster performance, Paul put up outstanding numbers last year, averaging 22.8 ppg, 11.0 apg, and 2.8 spg. Just for comparison, last year Rondo averaged 11.9 ppg, 8.2 apg, and 1.9 spg.

With the background information out of the way, we can get back to the issue at hand, namely Rondo bragging about his championship ring to Paul. On the surface, the trash talk shows that Rondo is just a cocky asshole who doesn't respect his superiors, namely Paul. Under the surface, however, the Rondo quote points to one important, negative aspect of team sports: an individual's success is a matter of circumstance. Just by looking at the statistics, you can see that Paul is a better player than Rondo in nearly every way. But the reality is that Rondo ended up on a team full of all-stars, which provided him with a shiny championship ring. Paul, on the other hand, is on a team that is noticeably less talented and more injury prone. Despite his outstanding play and teamwork, he cannot overcome the hump that is his team. The same can be said of LeBron James who, with his talent, should have several rings by now, but who has failed to get them because of the guys that stand beside him.

This is the reality of team sports. Some guys get lucky and win a bunch of championships, while others put up Hall of Fame numbers and never win the ultimate prize. So, is there a solution? No, there's nothing we can do to help the guys that deserve to win. It's up to the owners and general managers to provide them with capable teammates. However, there is one way that we can shut up the cocky trash talkers, which is almost as good. I think that if a situation occurs, like between Rondo and Paul, where there is such a blatant display of disrespect, the commissioner should step in and call for a player swap game. A player swap game would be between the two teams in question, in this case the Celtics and the Hornets. The key aspect of this game is that the players involved would switch teams for the game. So Paul would play for the Celtics and Rondo for the Hornets. When the game ends, both players return to their respective teams and go on with the season. The game does not affect either team's record and all proceeds are given to a worthwhile charity. Paul would get to teach Rondo a lesson, and perhaps Rondo would appreciate the team he has. Not to mention it would be a lot of fun for the fans (Paul on the Celtics would be one of the best teams ever assembled). At the very least the player swap game would let me choose teamwork 100 percent of the time.

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



Water polo places 11th at championships

Lions defeat Virginia Tech in final round

BY LUCAS SHAW
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Led by strong goaltending and the play of all-tournament team member Will Reid, the Columbia club water polo team earned its best finish ever at the Collegiate Club Championships, held this past weekend in Gainesville, Fla.

Though the club dates back years, this was only its third appearance in the championship. Previously, the Lions finished 15th and 13th, but this time a 2-2 record propelled the Lions to an 11th place finish.

"It was fantastic," coach Igor Samardzija said. "In the past they wouldn't take us seriously. They assumed that because Columbia sucks in all the sports, it might as well in water polo. We established our name to put us out there so in the future they'll take us more seriously."

Though the difference between 11th and 13th may not seem significant, at the championships it is—16 teams make the field, one from each division and the host. They are then seeded based on the finish of the division's team in the championships the year before.

After the first game, teams advance to either the winners' or the consolation bracket. Should a team lose both of its games—which only four of the 16 can do—it then plays just once more and, based on its performance in that game, places between 13th and 16th. The Lions, who belong to the New York division, found themselves in this position during the past two seasons.

This year, thanks to a win in the second round over the University of Illinois at Chicago, the Lions were guaranteed to play a fourth game and finish in the top 12. Despite losing their third game, the Lions, with a win over Virginia Tech in the final game, secured 11th place.

As the gradual improvement in finish indicates, the program has taken steps each year under Samardzija, who spends the bulk of his time coaching the St. Francis varsity team.

A first step towards the team's improved performance this year traces back to last year, when the Lions won their final game to secure 13th place. As a result, the club entered the tournament seeded 13th and drew fourth-

seeded Florida International as opposed to one of the top two teams.

Still, this did not make matters much easier as Florida International entered the tournament ranked third in the country and featured the eventual tournament MVP, Chris Arias.

Led by six goals apiece from Arias and Alexander Lipin, the Golden Panthers built a sizeable lead and held a 14-8 advantage entering the fourth and final period.

"They built this big lead which we in our hearts were afraid they were going to do because they had Arias," Reid said. "For three quarters we couldn't get our heads around the fact that to stop him you don't foul him outside, or if you do, you get in his face and get a hand up so he doesn't shoot. He shot six times and made all of them."

However, as would soon become a trend in the tournament, the Lions closed strong and cut their deficit to one goal with 1:55 remaining. That would be as close as they could get as the Golden Panthers scored an insurance goal with 41 seconds to play and closed out the 15-13 victory.

"We surprised Florida International because people weren't prepared to take Columbia water polo very seriously," Reid said. "We came as close as any team but UCLA to beating them."

"We didn't realize at the moment how close we got but when we saw them playing and killing other teams we were like, 'damn,'" Samardzija added.

As Reid added, Florida International made it all the way to the championship game, losing to UCLA 10-8.

Despite the Lions' strong opening, it looked as though they might go home without a top-12 finish yet again as they were set to play the University of Illinois at Chicago in their second game. The Flames, who entered the tournament ranked 15th in the country, were the fifth-seeded team but were upset in the first round by Utah.

Led by Reid, who scored four goals, the Lions pulled off an upset with a 5-3 victory. Trailing 3-2 late in the third period, Reid tied the score with his third goal of the day. Kai Golden gave his team the lead in the fourth and Reid added another goal for good measure.

With the win, Columbia moved on to face a familiar rival in its third game—Yale. Reid had spent the last nine years of his life involved with Bulldog water polo, the first four as a player and the last five as a coach. Over the years, he became good friends with the team's alumni coach, Andy Lewandowski.

SEE WATER POLO, page 7



Courtesy of Will Reid

SOLID FINISH | Columbia water polo improved from 13th to 11th place in its best performance ever at this national tournament. Will Reid received second team All-Tournament honors.

CU rallies in second half to beat Long Island

BY SARAH SOMMER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

In a game of shifting momentum, the Columbia women's basketball team used a timely offense and shutdown defense to achieve a 64-62 win over Long Island on Wednesday. With the victory, the Lions (2-1) rebounded from a three-point overtime loss to Oakland.

"We did a much better job buckling down defensively," Columbia head coach Paul Nixon said. "I thought in the Oakland game, we allowed too many scores down the stretch."

Long Island (0-2) scored the first four points of the matchup, but Columbia responded with a jumper and a three-pointer. The first half remained a back-and-forth affair as neither team could build a comfortable lead. With just over nine minutes left in the second quarter, the Blackbirds held a six-point advantage—the greatest lead for either team thus far. At halftime, the score was 37-32 in favor of Long Island.

The Blackbirds opened the second half with a 6-0 run that gave them an 11-point

lead after less than two minutes, but Columbia then scored six unanswered points of its own. Long Island continued to lead until sophomore guard Mary Beato, who did not play last year due to an ACL injury, sank a trey with 8:35 to play. The three-pointer gave the Lions a 55-53 advantage and started a 9-2 Columbia run. With just over six minutes remaining, Columbia held a six-point lead.

True to the game's form, the Lions' comfort did not last long. Long Island scored four points during a Columbia scoring drought of over four minutes. Junior forward Judie Lomax extended the Lions' lead with a layup, but a three-pointer by Long Island sophomore forward Ashley Palmer cut the Blackbirds' deficit to one point with just under two minutes to play.

Columbia almost lost its advantage after junior guard Kathleen Barry fouled sophomore guard Kiara Evans. With 17 seconds left, Evans went to the free throw line with the chance to give Long Island the lead. But she did not convert either one of her foul shots, and Barry was fouled after grabbing

	COLUMBIA	64	
	LONG ISLAND	62	

the rebound. Barry gave the Lions their final point on a free throw with 12 seconds remaining.

"The clutch free throws were few and far-between, so her hitting that last one at the end was really big," Nixon said.

Junior center Lauren Dwyer overcame early foul trouble to finish with a game-high 19 points for Columbia, including her second three-pointer of the year.

"In some ways, I think sitting on the bench for a little bit there in the first half might have helped her get into the flow of the game," Nixon said. "She did a really nice job, when she came back in after the second foul, of finding her shot."

Senior guard Danielle Browne, who Nixon considered unlikely to see action due to a wrist injury, not only played but started against Long Island. She finished with five assists in 30 minutes.

Columbia continues nonconference play on Nov. 24, when it hosts Manhattan.



Jenny Hsu / Senior Staff Photographer
CLOSE WIN | Lauren Dwyer scored 19 points in the victory.