

CCSC developing class waitlists, final grade deadlines

BY AVANTIKA KUMAR
Columbia Daily Spectator

Columbia College Student Council is working with administrators to make it easier to register for classes, schedule exams, and get end-of-semester grades on time.

CCSC's point person for the several ongoing initiatives is Academic Affairs Representative Bruno Rigonatti Mendes, CC '14 and Spectator finance associate, who is partnering with Columbia University Information Technology and several administrators to create an online wait-list program for class registration. His other projects include making textbook information and syllabi available online, enforcing professors' final grade deadlines, and making quantitative course evaluations publicly available.

Mendes said he is focused on issues that have been addressed in the past but have required follow-up.

"I feel like we're assigned the responsibility of dealing with the issues that seem to worry the students the most," Mendes said. "So I've tried to do that."

ONLINE WAIT-LIST

According to Columbia College Dean of Academic Affairs Kathryn Yatrakis, students and professors have wanted to see online wait-lists for years, but logistical and technological obstacles have gotten in the way.

"For years, we have been told that it would not be possible to configure the system so as to accommodate a wait-list," Yatrakis said in an email. "Our new University Registrar, Barry Kane, now has told us [he] thinks that there may indeed be a way for us to think about a wait-list and we will be continuing discussions with him about this."

According to Kane, who was hired earlier this year, the Student Information System—the computing system that manages most students' and offices' data—cannot support a wait-list. Under the current system, Mendes noted, even the most determined students sometimes don't get into the classes they want, making an online wait-list all the more necessary.

"If you're persistent about it, you're able to get it most of the time but not all of the time, so that's the problem we're trying to fix," he said. "But a lot of people like this incentive-based system that we have currently, even though it means clicking the refresh page button on SSOL for one hour if you need to."

Mendes added that several details would have to be worked out before a full wait-list system could be implemented, including whether to factor class seniority into the wait-list, how many wait-lists a student could sign up for, and which classes would get wait-lists.

Eddie Martinez, CC '14, said wait-lists would give students a clearer picture of what classes they would actually get into.

"You probably could have a lot more realistic expectations that way," Martinez said.

Tom Kapusta, CC '12, said he has not had problems with the current system. If you show up to a class on the first day, he said, professors are "more than willing" to make accommodations.

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KATE SCARBROUGH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PROMISES, PROMISES | Barnard has not developed the community space or garden at Cathedral Gardens, which houses Barnard students and faculty as well as middle-income permanent residents.

Study shows nicotine, cocaine use linked

BY HENRY WILLSON
Spectator Staff Writer

Add it to the list of smoking's ills: Researchers at the Medical School have found new evidence that smoking cigarettes may encourage cocaine use.

The researchers, led by Nobel laureate Eric Kandel and research scientist Amir Levine, found that nicotine increases signs of cocaine addiction in mice. In a study published in *Science Translational Medicine* earlier this month, they suggested that decreasing smoking might lead to a reduction in cocaine use.

Doctors have long had evidence that drug use proceeds in a recognizable sequence, with most people using hard drugs like cocaine only after using

alcohol, tobacco, and then marijuana. The so-called gateway hypothesis holds that soft drug use increases the odds of hard drug use, but critics have pointed to a lack of evidence that one causes the other.

This study might provide that evidence. Herbert Kleber, the director of the medical school's Division on Substance Abuse, said the new findings are the first biological explanation for the gateway hypothesis, at least in the case of nicotine and cocaine.

"The key point of the Levine and Kandel findings is that we are seeing the possible smoking gun," said Kleber, who was not involved with the study. "We don't have to simply rely on epidemiologic data, we can come up with a plausible biologic mechanism."

The researchers treated mice with nicotine and then cocaine. According to Kandel, a neuroscience professor, behavioral markers of cocaine addiction nearly doubled in mice pretreated with nicotine, compared to mice who received only cocaine. The pretreated mice also showed more evidence of addiction-related changes in their brains' synaptic connections.

"The pretreatment with nicotine tremendously increases the response to cocaine," Kandel told Spectator.

Most significantly, the researchers found that this response was caused by increased expression of an addiction-related gene known as FosB. Nicotine, they discovered,

SEE SMOKING, page 2

CC senior Frouman awarded Marshall Scholarship to study economics

BY BEN GITTELSON
Columbia Daily Spectator

Alex Frouman, CC '12, is the recipient of a Marshall Scholarship. According to the program's website, each year the Marshall Scholarships provide full funding for up to 40 American college graduates to study in the United Kingdom for two to three years.

Frouman, a University Senator and a co-chair of the senate's Student Affairs Committee, plans to study economics at Oxford University, although the scholarship commission hasn't confirmed where he will study next year.

Frouman said in an email he would have access to "amazing" scholars at Oxford and would focus on economic policy and financial regulation. He added that he felt "humbled, lucky, and grateful" to receive the scholarship.

"I never thought it would

happen," Frouman said. "Even this September, I had doubts it was worth applying to Marshall considering the competitiveness."

Columbia College Interim Dean James Valentini, who knows Frouman well, called him a "great kid." "He is richly deserving of a Marshall, and I'm very proud of him," Valentini said.

Frouman found out he won the scholarship around 9:30 on Sunday morning, when he got a call from the scholarship's New York commission chair.

"Hearing that I won was one of the happiest moments of my life," Frouman said. "First I cried a little and then I called my parents, told my girlfriend, and emailed my professors to let them know and thank them. I could never have won without the inspiration and guidance from my professors and my advisors."

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DAVID BRANN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HONORS LIST | University Senator Alex Frouman, CC '12, has received the Marshall Scholarship.

Cathedral Gardens communal space, garden stalled

Non-college residents say BC communication minimal

BY FINN VIGELAND
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Barnard students who live in Cathedral Gardens often praise the building's amenities, but the building's permanent residents aren't as pleased with Barnard's management of its facilities.

In 2005, Barnard partnered with the private developer Artimus Construction to build a condominium called Cathedral Gardens at 110th Street and Manhattan Avenue. The building was supposed to comprise student and faculty dormitories, middle-income housing, a 9,500-square-foot community space, and a communal garden, but six years later, there's still no community space or garden—and according to the permanent residents, it's because of a faulty governance structure.

Cathedral Gardens is unique among residential halls because of its joint public-private ownership. Students and faculty occupy 45 units in the bottom half of the building, and private residents unaffiliated with the college occupy 25 units on floors seven through 15.

Barnard acquired the plot of land from the city in 2005 by agreeing to develop the community space and the garden. The agreement makes it Barnard's responsibility to fill the space and create the garden, but non-college residents say they have a right to know why this isn't happening.

COMMUNITY SPACE, COMMUNAL GARDEN

The façade of the community space, which overlooks 110th Street, has had brown construction paper boarding up its windows for five years. Half of the space was supposed to be converted into a day care center, but after the space was deemed a fire hazard, Barnard selected Goddard Riverside Community Center—a not-for-profit that provides tutoring and shelter to Upper West Siders—to fill it.

But Goddard still has not filled the space. Spectator reported in January that it was expected to be operational in the community space by this fall, but slow fundraising and building renovations have delayed the move until spring 2012, according to Barnard Vice President for Community Development Vivian Taylor.

The building's permanent residents said there's not much they can do about the holdup because of the building's governing structures. Cathedral Gardens has three boards—one for Barnard affiliates, another for permanent residents, and a third, joint board that addresses building-wide issues—and the permanent residents said there's a fundamental lack of communication between the boards.

Belinda Anderson, the chair of the non-Barnard board, wrote in a recent letter to Community Board 7—which represents the Upper West Side—that Barnard has not adequately communicated its plans to the building's permanent residents.

"Given the significance of the community space to the residential unit owners, it would be reasonable for CB7 to assume that Barnard's administration presented its plans for the public space to the Joint Board first, before going to CB7. It did not," Anderson wrote.

Litter and trash have begun to accumulate in the space intended for the garden behind the building, and Anderson said the non-college board is frustrated it cannot do anything because "we're not the ones with the keys to the gate."

Taylor, who is also a member of the condo's joint board, said the garden will be evolving soon.

"At our next board meeting, we'll be discussing the plans for the garden, which will soon become a community space used by the young people who are served by Goddard," Taylor said.

But in the meantime, residents aren't satisfied—including Alma Gomez, Social Work '79, who has lived in the building since it opened.

"We were supposed to be involved with the community space—we wanted to be—and now Barnard is saying we're not allowed to use it," Gomez said. "We wanted to plant things in the garden and they didn't even want us to do that."

'ONGOING DISPUTES'

Barnard's inaction on the community space and garden belie a larger concern among the building's permanent

SEE CATHEDRAL GARDENS, page 2

A&E, PAGE 3

Dancers undergo 'metamORCHESIS'

Student-run dance company, Orchesis, highlights the transformation of dance through the ages and genres in its latest production on Nov. 18 and 20.



OPINION, PAGE 4

More audacity, less hope

Obama needs to act on his unfulfilled promises.

Slacktivism

Activists should take to the streets, not their screens.

SPORTS, PAGE 8

Emotions run high as Wilson departs

Columbia players share their thoughts and reflections on the end of six-year head coach Norries Wilson's tenure at the helm of the football team.

EVENTS

Enhancing Your Relationship: A Couples' Workshop

Counseling and Psychological Services will help couples in committed relationships better understand their partners.

Lerner Hall, 8th floor, 5:45-7:15 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



52° / 48°

Tomorrow



61° / 39°

NAACP president rallies for living wage

BY NAOMI COHEN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Over 2,000 labor and civil rights activists rallied at Riverside Church Monday night in support of a living wages act to be voted on today in the New York City Council.

“The battle for a living wage in this nation is fundamentally to ensure that our children’s generation is better off when ours is dead,” National Association for the Advancement of Colored People President and CEO

Benjamin Jealous, CC ’94, said. The act, which already has enough sponsors to override a veto from Mayor Michael Bloomberg, would ensure that mall outlet employees earn at least the living wage of \$10 per hour. The living wage rate passed by Bloomberg in 2002 excludes low-wage earners in the private sector.

The night featured a mix of religious spirit and Occupy Wall Street-inspired solidarity. Several speakers emulated “the people’s mic,” an OWS

amplification strategy in which the crowd repeats the speech line by line to ignite excitement about the legislation.

After an homage to Martin Luther King and a wage-inspired gospel song, young leaders of the Retail Action Project shared stories of struggling on minimum wage. Activist Kimberly Ortiz said she was compelled to speak on behalf of “college graduates who can’t find a job and students who can’t afford to continue their education.”

Holding the rally in Morningside Heights was particularly significant—according to the 2010 census, the Morningside Heights and Hamilton Heights neighborhoods have the largest income disparity in New York City, with top-fifth income earners making a median of \$207,053, and lowest-fifth earners making \$6,073.

Though local representation was strong—the master of ceremonies was Columbia assistant political science professor Dorian Warren—speakers and activists came from all five boroughs of New York City, emphasizing that bill could have a ripple effect across the rest of the state and the country.

City Council member G. Oliver Koppell, a representative of the western Bronx and the main sponsor of the legislation, said, “The living wage is a small step, but an important step, in reducing wealth disparities between the richest and the poorest.”

Living Wage NYC, an organization that campaigns for paying workers more, organized the Riverside Church event and is leading a rally in front of the hearing this afternoon. If the act passes, the group plans to continue supporting living wage legislation until it covers all New Yorkers.

“So goes economic justice in New York, so goes economic justice in the U.S.,” Jealous said.

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ZARA CASTANY / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

IT’S ALL THE WAGE | Riverside Church hosted a rally to support a measure to raise the living wage, which the City Council will vote on today. Above, Christopher Johnson, musical director at the church, leads the choir in gospel songs.

Study shows nicotine leads to cocaine use

SMOKING from front page

inhibits the enzymes that counteract the expression of FosB—in other words, it promotes FosB’s expression.

This newly identified molecular mechanism raises the possibility of new treatments for addiction. The researchers treated the mice with a drug known to discourage acetylation—the process that leads to FosB’s expression—and found that it almost entirely reversed the normal effects of cocaine.

“[It] actually creates the opposite of nicotine basically ...

you don’t see that increase in FosB,” Levine said. “It’s virtually blocked.”

The researchers also found that nicotine only increased signs of cocaine addiction if the two were administered to mice simultaneously—a two-week gap between nicotine and cocaine caused the effect to disappear, suggesting that nicotine’s influence is at least partly reversible.

In addition, the study included a new analysis of data from human populations, showing that most cocaine users were smoking at the time they started

using cocaine, and that people who began using cocaine while smoking were subsequently more likely to become dependent on cocaine.

Kandel said that the gateway hypothesis and the new findings do not mean “that every smoker is going to go on cocaine.”

“The smoking population is gigantic and the amount of people that go on to cocaine is small,” Kandel said. “But insofar as people go on to cocaine they are very likely to come from the smoking population.”

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Cathedral Gardens promises delayed

CATHEDRAL GARDENS from front page

residents that Barnard is not fulfilling its end of the legal deal it made in 2006.

“It’s emblematic of the broader issue, which is Barnard College being completely ignorant of their responsibilities about joint management of the building,” Anderson said.

For one thing, Anderson said, the joint board comprises three Barnard board members and two non-Barnard board members, leaving the building’s permanent residents unable to fight less than favorable decisions.

“We’re having these ongoing disputes about the shared expenses. Now they’ve just started billing us for things we’re not obligated to pay for,” Anderson said.

Even making sure that the joint board had non-college members was a struggle, Anderson added.

“I’ve had to drag Barnard kicking and screaming to appoint these members, to get them to meet with us, to basically do everything they’re supposed to do,” Anderson said.

The unusual three-board structure also makes it difficult to solve problems in the building, especially since, permanent residents said, Barnard has managed the boards inefficiently. Bill Sica, who has lived in Cathedral Gardens since it opened, has had a leaky roof “since day one,” he said.

“The weekend of Hurricane Irene it was so bad I didn’t sleep for three days,” said Sica, the vice-president of the non-college board. “All I was doing was emptying buckets. I felt my blood pressure going up—I almost went to the emergency room at St. Luke’s. I wasn’t sleeping, I wasn’t eating. There was just constant water coming in.”

While permanent residents blame Artimus, the developer, for these issues—they are currently battling the company in court—they said Barnard has still made it difficult to work towards solutions with the three boards. Despite Sica’s appeals to the joint board, only two roofers have looked at the leak in five months.

Taylor said that the college board aims to make the living experience in Cathedral Gardens beneficial for all residents.

“For many years now, we’ve been working closely with the non-college residents so that all of the building’s residents are well-served,” she said. “To that end, we are always striving to strengthen that relationship as that will only benefit our residents and entire community.”

As vice president for community development, Taylor said that she cares about having strong ties to Harlem and Morningside Heights residents.

“As a Harlem resident myself, I am even more personally invested in contributing to my community,” she said.

But according to Anderson, the relationship between Barnard and the building’s permanent residents has always been strained.

“I’m hoping it doesn’t get to the point of us seceding from the union,” she said. “We’ve got a building that’s literally Siamese twins, it’s not like we can just draw a line down the middle and say, ‘This is yours and this is ours.’ ... But Barnard is just not paying attention and caring enough to be diligent.”

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CCSC develops online syllabi, finals rescheduling

CCSC from front page

“I’ve never been turned away from a class,” Kapusta said. “Twice this has happened and I’ve been added to the class. Once was a seminar.”

SYLLABUS INFORMATION

Mendes would also like professors to put textbook and syllabus information online before registration begins, an idea that the new CourseWorks website might make possible.

Students have long argued that this information would make them more equipped to select courses. Yatrakis called it a compelling argument, saying in an email that the new site will be able to show “those parts of the syllabus which identify course requirements available to students.”

The transition to the new CourseWorks is scheduled to be completed by spring 2013, according to Maneesha Aggarwal, the manager of CUIT Teaching and Learning Technologies. However, the process is moving ahead of schedule—although 800 courses had been scheduled to move from old to new CourseWorks for this semester, 1,200 courses made the transition.

“It’s a huge project and it’s really cool,” Mendes said. “It’s a completely new system.”

Aggarwal said that instructors have the ability to upload syllabus and textbook information directly to either old or new CourseWorks. Still, Yatrakis said that even with the new CourseWorks, each faculty

member can still choose how much information to upload.

“In some cases faculty might make the entire syllabus available,” Yatrakis said in an email. “For some faculty, this would not be a problem. Other faculty, however, consider their syllabus to be their intellectual property so they will just make their introduction and course requirements, available to students. “

FINAL GRADE DEADLINE

Another initiative is a push to make it easier for professors to submit final grades on time, by enabling them to use the Administrative Referral grade—a temporary grade that was approved for use in 2005 and will now be implemented next semester. Professors can issue the AR grade in cases where a student fails to complete all required course materials and the professor cannot reach him or her to find out why.

The AR grade functions as a placeholder, giving the professor time to notify the student’s adviser to figure out the student’s situation. Since professors must submit all final grades for a course at the same time, a professor can give a student an AR grade temporarily to avoid delaying the rest of the students’ grades.

“We’re solving two problems with the AR grade: We’re solving the problem of other students not getting their grades, and we’re also giving the student who’s not been going to class or handing in material the opportunity to be judged in a fair way,”

Mendes said.

According to Mendes, academic deans will make sure professors follow the final grade deadline. Professors don’t receive sanctions for not turning in grades on time, but late graders will now be notified by the appropriate dean, Mendes said.

“Once the deadline passes, they will find out who has not submitted their grades yet, and they will get in touch with those people,” Mendes added. “That is the best incentive we can give to professors to submit the grades: to be notified by the dean.”

FINAL RESCHEDULING, COURSE EVALUATIONS

For the first time this year, all students with exams on Dec. 23 will have the option of rescheduling them. Currently, no finals are scheduled on Dec. 23, but it is possible that some could be moved to Dec. 23.

Kapusta said that although final exams are sometimes scheduled late in the month, professors are usually accommodating.

“I’ve had a final scheduled on the 23rd and the professor has just moved it anyway,” Kapusta said. “People are reasonable.”

Mendes is also working with Rose Razaghian, the director of Academic Planning and Analysis at Columbia College, to create a mechanism for public course evaluations. Yatrakis said that the new CourseWorks will make public course evaluations possible, should some departments or schools choose to release them.

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ACADEMIC AFFAIRS INITIATIVES
CCSC Academic Affairs Representative Bruno Rigonatti Mendes, CC ’14, has been working to address complaints about students’ academic experiences. Below is the status of these initiatives:
ONLINE WAIT-LIST
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Goal: Create a wait-list for SSOL registration so students who are shut out of full classes can try to register for them.Currently: Still in the process of determining if the system could support wait-list functionality.
ENFORCING THE FINAL GRADE DEADLINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Goal: Encourage the implementation of the AR grade—a temporary grade faculty can issue if there isn’t enough information about a student to determine his or her final grade.Currently: Because professors must submit all grades at once, the AR grade will eliminate the delay caused by not having one student’s grade.
RELEASING TEXTBOOK AND SYLLABUS INFORMATION ONLINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Goal: Make this information available before students register so that they understand what a class requires before they sign up.Currently: Some textbook and syllabus information is available on CourseWorks and on the Columbia Directory of Classes, but it is the instructor’s choice whether to make this information available.
RESCHEDULING FINALS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Goal: Publicize a USenate resolution, reached a year and a half ago, that states that a student with one or more finals on Dec. 23 can submit a form to reschedule the final if it presents “undue hardship” to the student.Currently: Mendes is working to make the online link to the form available and to ensure that the Center for Student Advising informs students of this option.
TRANSITION TO NEW COURSEWORKS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Goal: Move all class-related activity online to the new version of CourseWorks.Currently: The transition will finish by spring 2013 but is ahead of schedule: Although 800 courses’ databases were scheduled to move to new CourseWorks this semester, 1,200 have already made the jump.

‘MetamORCHESIS’ of dance celebrates the evolution of genres

BY ALLIE CARIERI
Spectator Staff Writer

Mika’s “Grace Kelly” resonated through Roone Arledge Auditorium as the curtain rose, revealing nine young women in matching white dresses. As they began to dance, they lit up the stage with playful energy and graceful talent.

These powerhouse dancers commanded the stage in Victoria Pollack’s, BC ’12, opening number “Gotta Be Everything More” of “metamORCHESIS.”

The fall Orchesis dance showcase, “metamORCHESIS,” ran on Friday, Nov. 18, at 9 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 20, at 2 p.m., in Roone Arledge Auditorium. The confident flair of the opening piece set the tone for the rest of the show—talented dancers performed to graceful and complex choreography with light-hearted energy.

Orchesis, a fully student-run dance group, prides itself on accepting anyone who auditions—regardless of their previous dance experience. As a result, “metamORCHESIS” featured a variety of dance styles, from contemporary to ballet to tap to can-can. While some numbers were stronger than others, the choreography of each work allows the performers to show off their best abilities.

One of the standout pieces was “Flying Away,” choreographed by Jaclyn Hoffman, CC ’14, set to “18th Floor Balcony” by Blue October. This lyrical contemporary piece featured fluid choreography, which showed that Hoffman really understood her music. The performers moved with a similar sense of musicality and expressiveness that was refreshing and engaging.

Erin Stahmer’s, CC ’12, beautiful interpretation of Adele’s “Turning Tables” also evoked emotions from the choreography. The dancers glided with direction and motive, focused on their transitions and were mindful of each step. Stahmer’s creative choreography made use of chairs to establish a graceful balance between solos and groups. It was a powerful closer to the first act of the show.

Act two began with just as much force. “The Glorious Edge” by Daniel Pahl, CC ’14, opened with the dancers silhouetted by colored light, gently rocking to the opening of Lady Gaga’s “The Edge of Glory.” The beat picked up, turning the dance into an athletic and energetic number featuring powerful lifts and jumps. Despite small synchronicity issues, the



MARIA CASTEX / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DANCE, DANCE | Performances in this year’s Orchesis fall showcase feature a variety of dance genres from contemporary to can-can and from hip-hop to ballet.

choreography built and flowed well, acting as an ambitious showcase for talented dancers.

The second act also featured strong contemporary pieces, such as “Hey Ya” by Kyley Knoerzer, BC ’13, “Something Different” by Katie Sun, BC ’12, and a fun and flirty jazz number, “Playtime,” by Gigi Clark, BC ’12. However, the highlight was Marie Janieck’s, BC ’12, incredible and intense “Move,” choreographed to “The Butcher” by Radiohead. This raw, technical piece was packed with tension and emotion. The talented dancers clad in colorful unitard bodysuits were simultaneously

controlled and animalistic in their movements. This explosive piece featured Janieck slowly moving across the stage as eight performers surrounded her in their stylized, athletic choreography.

Some of the weaker performances lacked the emotional connection and punch of the aforementioned pieces. Numbers such as the tap performance “Touch the Sky” and the contemporary pieces “When You’re Dreaming” and “All My Love” needed more energy from the dancers to be truly engaging. “So You Think You Can Dance,” a traditional yet playful can-can, and “Fourth Wall,”

a lyrical contemporary quintet, lacked synchronicity. Some of the moves seemed sloppy and unfinished, as if the dancers were simply going through the motions.

The interludes between pieces, staged by Allie Schwartz, BC ’12, reflected the concert’s theme of metamorphosis. The first interlude featured three ballerinas dancing en pointe to The Nutcracker, only to be interrupted by a hip-hop dancer in a hoodie. As one of the performers breaks off from the trio to shake her stuff, the metamorphosis from classical ballet to hip-hop begins. In the second interlude, a dance

battle between hip-hop dancers and ballerinas ensued, and, in the third interlude, a ballet duo and hip-hop duo blended the two genres seamlessly. The final interlude, called “The Ultimate Swagg-Transition,” was a fierce hip-hop number that kept the energy going through the second act.

The final number, “Now That I Can Dance,” choreographed by Pollack and Katie Mukai, BC ’13, featured a smorgasbord of performers and genres including everything from ballet to a crowd-pleasing “Dirty Dancing” tribute—ending a diverse, largely successful night on a high note.



COURTESY OF JHEREK BISCHOFF

READY SET GO | The dance and indie rock band People Get Ready fuses musical genres and artistic styles with its commitment to both music and dance.

People Get Ready for conquering indie rock with cross-genre appeal

BY STEFAN COUNTRYMAN
Spectator Staff Writer

Concerts are a common weekend activity—dance performances are not. Steven Reker and Luke Fasano of the new hybrid quartet People Get Ready—performing Saturday, Nov. 26, at GlassLands (289 Kent Ave., between 1st and Grand streets)—want to remedy this.

Reker, former touring guitarist and dancer for David Byrne, met Fasano, ex-drummer for Brooklyn’s Yeasayer, while touring with their former acts. Jen Goma of A Sunny Day in Glasgow and James Rickman of Slow Gherkin joined the band this summer.

People Get Ready, which was recently featured in New York Live Arts’ Dancer Crush, was brought together by its members’ similar interests. “A lot of it was through the dance world, I guess,” Reker said. “We kind of just

saw each other around a lot. We were at Austin City Limits Festival, and we were talking about stuff together, and we sort of said, ‘Hey, when we get home, let’s talk about doing stuff together.’”

The two quickly discovered a shared vision. “We were kind of interested in the way that people come to see music shows much more readily than many go to see dance performances. What if we just balled this up into one, made it accessible, made it a thing that people felt comfortable [with], or felt that they were experiencing it in a way that wasn’t tainted by ‘I’m going to go see a dance performance,’” Fasano said.

The group sees itself as a true hybrid of dance troupe and indie band. “We work in both of those worlds,” Reker said. The Saturday show at GlassLands, however, will be a more traditional band performance. They have performances scheduled throughout the winter in support of their self-titled debut EP

with Quite Scientific Records.

The recent release, appropriately self-titled, is filled with rhythmically driven synth-pop. Calm, chanted vocals give the songs a trancelike feel. The band members’ past experiences are on display, but the flavor is fresh, if not striking. Fans of Yeasayer, Talking Heads, and MGMT will find a similar aesthetic here.

Conventional rock is not the end of the road, though. “There’s obviously a lot more opportunities to play as a band than there are to have an entire theater or gallery,” Fasano said. He doesn’t expect to be able to put on dance performances more than “once or twice a year.”

Still, they plan on trying. “We’re looking at possibly booking another theater right now, and those things are a pretty huge undertaking as far as budget is concerned,” Reker said. Nevertheless, the group expects to maintain both

facets of its personality.

People Get Ready debuted at The Kitchen, a NYC venue for unconventional performances, as part of last spring’s “Dance and Process” series. The performance ran for three nights and received positive reviews.

The Kitchen show combined catchy indie rock with visually interesting set pieces. The result feels unpretentious and emotionally honest, though the piece is still symbolic enough to be open to interpretation. While opponents of contemporary dance are unlikely to be won over, they are more accessible than other acts.

The band is banking on its successful genre-blending alchemy. “I think it’s a natural relationship between these two things [music and dance],” Fasano said. People Get Ready might be able to convince a cloistered public that they are right, if only fans will heed the advice gleaming bright in the band’s name.

Open Studios exposes artists’ art and soul

BY HANNAH SOTNICK
Columbia Daily Spectator

People tend to associate artwork with the stark white walls and hushed atmospheres of a museum or gallery, and rarely contemplate the space in which it was originally created. School of the Arts’ MFA Open Studios provided a new way to look at art, built upon direct interactions with the artists and environments that bring a work of art to life.

On Sunday, Nov. 20, second-year visual arts MFA candidates at SoA unveiled their studios to the public. The studios, located in Watson and Prentiss Halls, opened for three-hour periods. The artists were available to discuss their artwork informally and engage with visitors. Open Studios occurs each year toward the end of the fall semester. This year, there were 26 participants—each with his or her own studio.

The experience was a hodgepodge of different artists, styles, and techniques. Each studio seemed to exist as an independent, skillfully designed exhibit. Yet despite their professionalism and careful arrangement, the studios were not static final products. They were filled with the evidence of an ongoing artistic process.

The overpowering smell of oil paint saturated some studios, while others had clippings on the walls above their desks, such as notes scrawled on post-its and a Calvin and Hobbes comic. Bookshelves revealed artists’ diverse sources of inspiration, and coffee makers evidenced late nights spent working.

The artists’ presence in their studios also facilitated visitors in understanding the work. Many visitors questioned the artists about the techniques, processes, and intentions behind each piece. Studios containing self-portraiture introduced a dynamic tension between the presence of the artists and their representations.

Some artists actively inserted themselves into their work. Artist Raphael Lyon, SoA ’12, informed visitors that the price of admission was either \$1, or the permission to photograph

SEE OPEN STUDIOS, page 6



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A new educational paradigm

In his Sunday New York Times op-ed, sustainability superstar and Columbia professor Jeffrey Sachs wrote that Occupy Wall Street is just the beginning of a larger progressive grassroots movement. This populist movement will promote a social-ly just, Keynesian government and slowly fight to repeal Reagan-era deregulation. If anything, Sachs succeeded in placing Occupy Wall Street, with its unclear goals, in this larger, more coherent framework—hoping to influence the movement. The same needs to be done for Occupy move-ments at college campuses nationwide, and it is my hope that the Occupy Columbia protests are a harbinger of more vocal dissent against America’s systemically flawed colleges, including our own.

With education, everyone admits that there are prob-lems—but it’s just that no one agrees on what those prob-lems are. Many believe that secondary education should be more practical and professionally oriented. Others believe in learning for the sake of one’s thought process, frame of reference, and worldview. This debate is coming to a head at Columbia. Lovers of the Core scoff at the new business concentration, which touts such hardly intellectual classes as Marketing Management and Strategy Formulation. All the while, engineering students and premedical students, required to take numerous specialized courses, are unable to take electives due to the added constraints of what they see as an antiquated Core.

Both sides have a point. In the vein of practicality, schools need to adopt a basic financial literacy class, for example, so that students can understand what happens in a future catastrophic economic crisis that affects their pension funds and tax dollars. However, a student should not be able to graduate a university without a basic under-standing of Western culture. That is not to say that the Core can’t be made more relevant. What it most lacks is a current events requirement. The fact that students can graduate with no knowledge of the sky-high debt, current wars, and



JESSE MICHELS

Politics as
Pertinent

Occupy the real world

Here’s a question that’s been asked far too often: Does technology bring us together, or does it keep us apart? On one hand, you can broadcast anything to potentially anyone on social platforms, forums, or blogs. On the other hand, you can spend hours holed up inside, separate from the people immediately surrounding you.

My answer to this question is that it does both, and I bring this up be-cause I’ve been thinking of another question: Why now, and why “occu-py”? Nathan Jurgenson of Cyborgology writes that he wouldn’t be surprised if this turned out to be the age of mass uprisings. I don’t know the historical statistics, but I do see some pattern of protest with the Occupy Wall Street and Arab Spring movements as of late. Jurgenson says that due to increased communication capabilities, the protest now involves a wider scope of participants. No longer are the marching, the fighting, and the chants limited to the physical space they oc-cupy, but protesters can actively broadcast everything to innumerable anonymous spectators on YouTube or other multimedia sites.

I only somewhat agree with Jurgenson on his evalu-ation of a “mass uprising age”—mass communications have likewise led to a lesser form of online activism, slacktivism, which conveniently packages a protest into simply signing an online petition or joining a Facebook group. None of the things that are effective about tradi-tional protest is relevant online, aside from the number of people who click “I’m attending” on a “Protest X on this day!” event.

The digital space is unlimited, as far as we know. Unless you have cultivated a unique voice, the things that you write or post are fairly insignificant. It’s important to pay attention to what you’re consuming, not to what you’re producing, unless your production is a function of consumption, such as in the many curatorial sites like Tumblr that have been popping up. Slacktivism doesn’t work because it is easy to ignore, and when it does it’s only because of a potential physical consequence. The word “occupy” that captures this recent movement is significant for this reason. It is not only a promise, but a mandate of physicality.

In my column last month, I talked about how data organization is storytelling. The way we share physical space is unlike the way we share anything online, and I would argue that one of these stories we’ve created to-gether is the physical world. For better or for worse, the physical world is a reflection of a community’s influence because of its (ideally) collective design. As time goes on and as we populate digital space with our throwaway projects, an actual book will have more lasting value as a repository for knowledge on the basis that it is phys-ical. We are starting to recognize that true authenticity comes from the physical world, where there is no way to copy and paste the tone of one’s voice or the structure of one’s face.

At Columbia, we thrive in the physical—finite time and space. This campus is the reality that influences whom we talk to, where we go, and how we interact with each other. And it seems to me that we, as stu-dents, feel as though we have very little to do with the University’s design. Perhaps this is a sentiment that comes from shoddy administration. But I would bet it comes just as much from our culture of pervasive indi-vidualization that so limits us to our time commitments and seasonal arcs of Netflix videos that we have forgot-ten to care or see the people and places around us.

It’s less a question of who is to blame and more one that begs: How can we change this? And how can we do it gradually and intelligently? At an institution that teaches everything from the liberal arts to applied math and sciences, in a place that’s designed to create the future’s “experts,” we must put our minds to this question.

A protest is just a gathering of physical bodies. It creates a presence without true influence. Perhaps it has influence gained by the sheer brute force of oc-cupation, but no influence intellectually. And I believe that we are the generation to remove apathy, disinter-est, and disconnection from our collective physical space, our home.

Yanyi Luo is a Columbia College junior majoring in information science. Chipped runs alternate Tuesdays.



YANYI LUO

Chipped

political gridlock facing our country is inexcusable.

But these are semantic tweaks to an educational system that needs systemic reform and a complete paradigm shift. Because the modern, Western education system arose at the advent of the industrial era, our schools are not designed to foster individuality or creativity but rather to manufac-ture students into economically viable units. “Impractical” majors like music, theater, and creative writing are often belittled, constantly provoking the question, “Well, what are you gonna do with that?” Instead of searching for inner satisfaction and fulfillment, students choose majors based on starting salary or prestige. The process of self-discovery is short-circuited, and students graduate as zombies who despise their work, are constantly looking forward to the weekend, and haven’t found their true passions. That’s if you even make it that far.

Our schools stifle creativity, teaching students—with constant testing—that it is simply unacceptable to make mistakes.

The students who do fail are labeled defective, are often medicated, become demoralized, and are placed on an ir-redeemable track. But they never even consider that their talents—whether artistic, social, or otherwise unconven-tional—might simply not be valued by a banal education system with myopic criteria for success.

Our schools stifle creativity, teaching students—with constant testing—that it is simply unacceptable to make mistakes. Make them, and you will be branded with a bad grade. But mistakes are inevitable obstacles to success and by-products of effort and experimentation. They actually mean you’re on the right track. As Thomas Edison said, “If I find 10,000 ways something won’t work, I haven’t

failed. I am not discouraged, because every wrong attempt discarded is another step forward.” Even the invention of Penicillin, perhaps the greatest of the 20th century, was a result of a mistake.

A linear path to success like that in academics is rare. Entrepreneurs like Bill Gates and Steve Jobs felt so con-strained by the linearity of academia that they dropped out of school. Although these decisions have been romanticized after the fact, dropping out is a painful leap of faith that creative entrepreneurs wouldn’t have to take if our educa-tion system fostered their intellectual rebelliousness. At Reed College, for example, Steve Jobs audited a calligraphy class that inspired the template for all Apple word pro-cessing. But our universities de-incentivize taking such an elective course. However valuable, if a class is not related to one’s main academic focus, a college will rarely grant it credit toward a major. Jobs took his calligraphy course on a whim. But as he put it so eloquently in his famous 2005 Stanford commencement speech, “You can’t connect the dots looking forward—you can only connect them looking backwards.”

Historically, the secretary of education (now Arne Duncan) has rarely had the vision and never the power to institute wholesale reform. Education really hasn’t been reinvented since Horace Mann.

Do I think these objections have anything to do with what Occupy Columbia is about? Not at the moment. But my hope is that students on campuses across America look beyond the petty corruption of their specific administra-tions and into the heart of the problem. Higher education is still one of America’s last comparative advantages, but rising nations are starting to catch up. Let’s reverse this trend, if not for our country, then for our livelihood and personal fulfillment. Let’s rethink, reinvent, and revolution-ize education.

Jesse Michels is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in history. He is a member of the debate team, CUSP, intramural basketball, and dodgeball. Politics as Pertinent runs alternate Tuesdays.

The audacity of disappointment

BY ITTAI ORR

With the Occupy movement making headlines and a dys-functional Congress dragging our nation through the mud, Obama must hold to his principles if he wants to reunite with a disillusioned public. Three years ago on the night of the 2008 election, I was covered with champagne, having just filled up Broadway with a pile of other Columbia students to rally all the way into Harlem. The air was electrified. I looked out at the New York City skyline from my Carman room, turned to my roommate, and said, “Here comes the big Obama hangover.” But wide-eyed first-years that we were, we expected that he would soon have his moment to shine. The democratic demand for unconditional, universal health care was finally conceivable. Republicans were not having it, but progressives held the House and the Senate. We were blue through and through and this was our time. Public education would be salvaged, the Bush-era tax cuts for the rich would be allowed to end, Wall Street and the failing corporate megaliths would be forced to pursue their profits with much more restraint. Obama wanted these things—he said as much in his election speeches.

But then the fight for health care took a nasty turn. Extreme right-wing “populists” headed the ultra-wealthy Koch brothers’ call to libertarianism. On the surface, they looked like they might have had a legitimate stance. America has, after all, always had at its core a conflict between the romantic dreams of freedom and the declaration’s promise of equal opportunity. But this health care debate was a false dialectic. The fact is, ordinary Americans are doing worse than they believe. They have become convinced that if they rely on their own resources, they too can buy a yacht and a second home and several cars—the same delusion that Goldman Sachs was well aware of when it bet against the subprime loans Americans naively pounced on. Naysayers claimed that America was too far in debt to be able to afford to support the bill, but its architects had taken measures

that would ensure a lower impact on our budget. The pub-lic option could have been completely covered with taxes on the ultra-wealthy or with money originally allocated to handouts for that demographic. It’s no wonder that top earners had no desire for this to happen—it is, however, a wonder that the Republicas share in that sentiment. They are convinced that the system that allowed speculative capitalists to harvest the profits of America’s delusions will ensure their own prosperity, and it is this failure of judg-ment I hoped to hear called out by this administration. In a united effort, many Americans elected Obama to regain our faith in government. So when he chose Bernanke to chair the Fed and backed down on his previously stated convictions in the name of “compromise,” our disappoint-ment was understandable. Three years after champagne in the street, Columbians are still feeling the hangover—some say that Obama has been cornered and that we must con-cede on our ideals. I firmly disagree with that perspective.

Obama wrote in “The Audacity of Hope” that he ad-mires Abraham Lincoln for his virtues as a great com-promiser and for his “team of rivals” style of governance, but he missed the point that from the very start of his political career, Lincoln abhorred injustice (particularly in the overt and despicable example of slavery). He was a man of principle, and while he did what he could to adhere to the Missouri Compromise that had for so long preserved the union, his outspoken hatred of slavery in part provoked a violent secession and subsequent war that finally put an end to the question. I am not attempt-ing to suggest by this that Obama must start another civil war, but I am finally demanding that he stand up auda-ciously against the abuse of power evident in a private sector that is very quickly consuming what’s left of our federal government.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in English and film studies.



ILANA SCHULDER

Wilson breakup leaves questions

SHABAN from page 8

and select the guys who will help the team in this transition. He'll need to replace guys who have either underperformed or have a different coaching style to his own. The key here is open-mindedness. This new coach shouldn't just blindly clean house if there are some valuable pieces already in place. He should also have enough connections so that he'll be able to bring in guys who he can trust to contribute.

I'm being serious when I say this, Mr. Right should love to dance. By that I mean he should be light and able to think quickly on his feet. Among the shortcomings of the team this year, I think the biggest was the drop off in our performance after halftime. Sure, the comeback against Brown was awesome, but it was completely different from the rest of the season. We need a coach who is able to adjust his game plan after other teams have made adjustments to beat ours.

No dating profile would be complete without the love of long walks on the beach, and neither is ours. I'm going to stretch a bit and compare this to recruiting players. The new head coach needs a wide recruiting range and a serious presence in footballing hotbeds, such as California and Florida (beaches!). I'm not saying this is something we've lacked recent years, but it is key to any successful program. You may have noticed that I haven't mentioned much about tactics, playing systems, or philosophies. It's not because I don't know anything about football tactics (which may or may not be true), but it's because regardless of how great a coach is at tactics or game planning, he needs these substantial qualities in place to set up a foundation.

In the next two months, I'm sure the athletic department will go on more than a few first dates, or interviews as some people call them. I hope they take their time and hold out for Mr. Right.

Ronnie Shaban is a senior in the School of Engineering and Applied Science majoring in mechanical engineering.
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FILE PHOTO

NEER THE TOP | The Lions' men's cross country team finished 27th in the nation while Columbia's Waverly Neer led all freshman runners in the women's 6k.

Neer earns All-American distinction at national race in home state

BY HAHN CHANG
Spectator Staff Writer

Freshman Waverly Neer returned to her home state of Indiana to compete in the 2011 NCAA Cross Country National Championship this weekend and on Monday night. She returned to Columbia as an All-American.

"For [Waverly] to earn all-American status in her first Nationals appearance was wonderful," Cross Country Head Coach Willy Wood said in an interview with GoColumbiaLions.com.

At the Cross Country National Championship, hosted by Indiana State University, Neer finished 40th overall out of 254 runners to earn All-American honors. She set a personal record with her time of 20:30.4 in the 6k race, coming in just a tenth

of a second behind Vanderbilt's Alexa Rogers. Neer finished third among Ivy League runners behind Dartmouth's Abbey D'Agostino and Princeton's Alex Banfich, and as the top freshman at the meet.

While Neer only ran four meets in the 2011 season because of injuries, she still came back with strong showings to earn All-Ivy, All-Regionals, and All-American honors.

"We were thrilled for Waverly. For her and in her first Nationals to come out and perform so well, we were so excited for her. She executed the race plan perfectly," Wood said.

The Lions, who have not competed as a team in the National Championship since 2005, showed their strength with the men's team finishing 27th in the nation. The Light

Blue narrowly missed finishing in the top 25 with their 591 points, just two points behind Eastern Kentucky and 11 points behind Tulsa. Columbia's Ivy League rival, Princeton, finished 19th in the nation. Senior Kyle Merber led the Lions with a 98th-place finish

"She executed the race plan perfectly."

-Willy Wood, head coach

overall among the 252 runners gathered at Indiana State. Merber shaved more than a minute off his time from the Northeast Regionals to finish the

National Championship 10k race with a time of 30:47.7. Behind Merber was junior Mike Murphy, who finished 125th overall with a time of 30:59.2.

The Lions' Nico Composto, Jake Sienko, and Leighton Spencer all finished within a second of each other to finish 174th, 175th, and 176th, respectively. The other two Light Blue runners, senior Justin Heck (198th, 31:46.8) and junior Ben Veilleux (247th, 32:45.5), rounded off Columbia's strong showing at the National Championship.

"We were hoping to finish a little bit higher as a team, and we were very close to doing so, but they ran perfectly, it was a great performance for us," Wood said. "They executed the race plan well. But I'm happy, the guys ran well."



COURTESY OF OLIVER KLIWE / THE CORNELL DAILY SUN

AIR RAID | Cornell quarterback Jeff Mathews broke the Ivy League passing record against Penn with 548 passing yards and five touchdowns this weekend.

Harvard neuters Bulldogs, Cornell upsets Penn, Dartmouth dispatches Princeton

BY MELISSA CHEUNG
Spectator Staff Writer

Offense was the deciding factor in the final games of the Ancient Eight football season. Harvard dominated Yale, Cornell upset Penn, and Dartmouth won a close match against Princeton in their last week of play.

AROUND
THE
LEAGUE

HARVARD 45, YALE 7

In the 128th edition of The Game, the Ivy League champion Crimson trampled the Bulldogs 45-7 after falling behind a touchdown early. Having already clinched

its 14th Ivy League title the week before, Harvard (9-1, 7-0 Ivy) was looking to close out a perfect league season against Yale (5-5, 4-3 Ivy), whom the Crimson has handled easily in recent seasons. The Crimson met expectations, winning its sixth straight Yale Bowl, and its 10th in the last 11 meetings. Unshaken by an early 7-0 deficit, Harvard stormed back with 45 unanswered points as its powerful offensive unit flexed its muscle. The game was markedly similar to Harvard's matchup against Penn the previous week, when the team was down 7-0 early before answering with 37 straight points. The Crimson had 506 yards of total offense on Saturday, while Yale managed only 302. Harvard

had a strong showing overall to close out the season, as its defense made life difficult for Bulldogs senior quarterback Patrick Witt with four sacks and three interceptions. Harvard's ability to capitalize on Yale's mistakes, which included a fumble and a blocked punt, was also a key to success.

CORNELL 48, PENN 38

Cornell (5-5, 3-4 Ivy) finished the season with a gratifying win over the defending Ivy League champion Quakers (5-5, 4-3 Ivy) 48-38 to take the Trustee's Cup for the first time since 2006. It was a shoot-out to the finish, as neither team led by more than seven until the Big Red

scored the winning touchdown with just under 90 seconds remaining in regulation. Although there was little defense on either side of the ball, Cornell overpowered Penn offensively, collecting 541 total yards. Big Red sophomore quarterback Jeff Mathews had a huge game, setting several Cornell and Ivy League records. He completed 35-of-45 passes for 548 yards and five touchdowns. The Big Red run game was less impressive, totaling seven negative yards for the game.

DARTMOUTH 24, PRINCETON 17

Dartmouth (5-5, 4-3 Ivy) concluded its 2011 season with a 24-17 victory over Princeton (1-9, 1-6 Ivy) on Senior Day in

front of a crowd of 4,003 at Memorial Field. The victory put the Big Green in a four-way tie for second place in the Ivy League—its best finish since 2003, the last time Dartmouth finished with a winning record in conference play. Dartmouth senior running back Nick Schwieger had a big game, running for 157 yards and a touchdown, as did quarterback Conner Kempe, who completed 16-of-22 passes for 141 yards and two touchdowns. The Big Green and the Tigers matched up offensively with 361 and 334 total yards, respectively, but Princeton's mishaps, specifically 11 penalties for 99 yards, were ultimately the major cause for its loss.

RK OVR,IVY	TEAM
1 9-1, 7-0	HARVARD CRIMSON The Crimson goes undefeated in the Ivy League and closes their 2011 season by thrashing the Bulldogs 24-7.
2 5-5, 4-3	DARTMOUTH BIG GREEN The Big Green ends 2011 play on a three game win streak with an easy victory over Princeton.
3 5-5, 3-4	CORNELL BIG RED The Big Red crush Penn in the season finale in a huge upset victory.
4 7-3, 4-3	BROWN BEARS The Bears finish 7-3 overall and stand alone in second place even after falling to the lowly Lions.
5 5-5, 4-3	PENN QUAKERS Penn is upset by Dartmouth in a 48-38 loss and ends their season with a pair of losses.
6 5-5, 4-3	YALE BULLDOGS With an awful showing in their final game of the season, the Bulldogs drop to sixth.
7 1-9, 1-6	COLUMBIA LIONS The Lions notched their first victory of the season, upsetting Brown in double OT.
8 1-9, 1-6	PRINCETON TIGERS The Tigers end the season on a seven game losing streak.

The search for football’s Mr. Right begins

Ending a relationship with someone is tough. After six years in that relationship, it has to be even tougher (I’m just assuming, none of mine have lasted that long). The important thing now is not to dwell on who broke up with whom, but how we can both move on. All the best goes out to Coach Wilson and his family. During a week where giving thanks is prevalent, it is important that we acknowledge his great commitment to the Columbia football program. After a season of mostly negative notes, I am happy he gets to leave on a positive one—and even after a break-up, I hope he finds success at a new job.

More crucially, I am here to focus on how the Columbia football program can move on. As much fun as it is to be single, I’ve never heard of any team being successful without a head coach. So we need to find someone new—and not just any rebound guy (this isn’t basketball). Most importantly, we should take our time. As far as I know, other than simple off-season workouts, which can be handled by the strength and conditioning coaches, football doesn’t really have any commitments until everyone returns for the spring semester. That gives the athletic department a full two months to find Mr. Right, and they should use every minute they have.

So who is Mr. Right? We have to decide on the qualities we want in a coach. If there were a Match.com for athletic departments and football coaches, what would we want to see on Mr. Right’s personality profile? I’ve come up with a few correlations between dating and football coaching that should make a very happy future for Columbia football. First off, this coach should not be afraid of commitment—a big ask of any man, I know. We need someone here for the long haul. As long as Coach Wilson’s tenure seemed, six years at the helm of a football program is a relatively short time. I’m not asking for till-death-do-us-part or even for a JoePa-length tenure—but ideally around 20 years, or at least 10. Along with that stability, we want a coach with loyalty. The new head coach should be proud to lead the Light Blue, and carry the program all the way through a successful period. We should try to avoid a Steve Donahue situation, where as soon as he garnered national attention by leading the Cornell men’s basketball team to the Sweet 16, he jumped ship to a bigger program. As far off as this situation may sound for Columbia football, it would still be comforting to know that if a coach were to become successful here, he would want to continue to be successful here.

A lot of people may think that we need an experienced man for the job after hiring a coach without any head coaching experience the last time. I disagree. Of course we will always be more confident in someone with experience, but we have to be realistic with our options. Any coach who has been with a Division I football program may see the Columbia job as a step down. You can agree or disagree with that, but the point here is that a young, ambitious coach is more likely to bring excitement to that position, and ultimately the program. The next quality Mr. Right needs is the ability to be great with parents, and in our situation “parents” equals alumni. The benefits here are obvious—the support of the alumni is perhaps the most important off-field reason for the success of any program.

Along with our parents, we need our friends to like the new guy. By “friends” I mean pretty much everyone around the football team. Be it administrators in the athletic department, reporters and pundits from newspapers, or even the band, a coach who builds a healthy relationship with those around him will create a positive atmosphere that breeds success. It would be disastrous if we were to hire a pretentious coach who acts as if the head football coach is the be-all and end-all of this school.

In addition to our friends liking him, we need to like his friends—i.e. assistant coaches. He’ll need to examine our current coaching staff



RONNIE SHABAN

Squeaky Bum Time



ALYSON GOULDEN/SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

STRETCHING FOR A WIN | Junior center Mark Cisco hopes to lead the Light Blue to victory with his play under the hoop.

Men’s basketball continues search for first win

BY MUNEEB ALAM
Spectator Staff Writer

Looking for their first win, the Lions (0-3) will travel to northern Long Island tonight to take on Stony Brook (1-2).

The defending America East runner-up spent the latter half of August on a European tour, going 4-1 in games played in Dublin, London, and Paris. They lost their season opener at Indiana by 30 points, but bounced back to beat Mount Ida 93-39 two days later. Despite senior forward Dallis Joyner’s 11-point effort one week ago, Stony Brook lost a close game at Sacred Heart 74-63. The Seawolves, who trailed for most of the game after poor shooting in the first half, pulled within two with 13:46 to go, but they would get no closer.

Although no player for Stony Brook averages more than 10 points per game, 11 players average at least four. Joyner leads the team with 9.7 points per game and senior guard Bryan Dougher trails with 9.3. Junior guard/forward Tommy Brenton is an all-around threat, averaging 7.7 points, a team-high 8.3 rebounds, and 4.8 assists per game.

The Lions are coming off a difficult

66-58 loss to American. Junior guard Brian Barbour had 18 points and junior center Mark Cisco had 15 points and 12 rebounds. The game was the first for the team without senior guard Noruwa Agho.

“I was proud of the team, the way we fought,” Barbour said.

The game featured 11 lead changes, the last of which came with 4:02 left as the Eagles pulled ahead for good on a couple of free throws.

“We did a good job getting the ball in to Cisco, and late in the game they took that away from us,” Columbia head coach Kyle Smith said. “We played all right, we just didn’t handle the pressure, and they bothered us a little bit turnover-wise.”

Junior forward John Daniels and senior guard Steve Egee made their season debuts playing 19 and seven minutes, respectively. Sophomore guard Meiko Lyles started in place of Agho and made a couple of jaw-dropping offensive plays during his 24 minutes, after having played only 12 in the first two games.

“Every single game is important in terms of getting better, being a better

team, and practicing,” Cisco said.

Last season, Stony Brook visited Columbia, and the Lions won by the slimmest of margins, 73-72. The Seawolves raced out to a 33-15 lead 8:19 into the first half before Columbia went on a 22-6 scoring run to end the half down 39-37. After a back-and-forth second half, the Lions went on an 11-0 run to go up by seven, before surrendering seven straight points. Daniels made the game-winning free throw with under three seconds left in the game. Sophomore guard Steve Frankoski scored 21 points off 7-for-11 shooting from beyond the arc, while forward Asenso Ampim, who graduated last year, added 16 points as Columbia dominated the paint, out-rebounding the Seawolves 40-28.

The game is scheduled to tip off at 7 p.m. in Stony Brook, N.Y.

Over the weekend, the Lions continue non-conference play in Riverdale on Saturday at 2 p.m. against Manhattan (2-0). The Jaspers defeated Brown 54-52 a week ago, but face a tough schedule this week traveling to Colorado to face Fresno State and Colorado State for games Monday and Tuesday night.

Winless CU women’s team begins tough stretch

BY HAHN CHANG
Spectator Staff Writer

The Columbia women’s basketball team is looking to rebound from a 0-3 start as the Lions kick off a difficult stretch during which they will play three games in six days.

The Light Blue will play the first of these games on the road against St. Francis (0-3) Wednesday night. The Terriers, also struggling to find their first win, have been outscored by their opponents by an average of 15 points every game. While St. Francis has kept up with its opponents in field goal shooting, it has turned the ball over six more times per game than its opponents.

Although the Terriers do not have a single player averaging over 10 points a game, they currently have four players averaging at least 8.7 points. Freshman forward Jessica Kauffman leads St. Francis in scoring with 9.7 points per game.

Both the Lions and Terriers have had a different leading scorer in each of their first three games, and the Light Blue will need to limit each of the Terriers’ players in order to come out victorious.

Columbia returns Friday evening at home against Long Beach State (1-2).

The 49ers started with a strong 75-43 victory against Utah Valley, but fell to Syracuse 81-42 and narrowly lost to Sacramento State 67-74. Long Beach State—led by sophomore forward Ella Clark and senior forward Tipesa Moorer, who have combined for 20.7 points and 15.7 rebounds per game—were only 1-13 on the road last season.

The Lions will finish off their Thanksgiving homestand taking on Army (3-1) Sunday. The Black Knights went 13-16 overall last season, posting a 10-4 record at home, but struggled on the road, finishing 3-12. This year, Army has already defeated St. Francis and Wagner, who beat Columbia earlier this season 66-54. The Black Knights have outscored their opponents by and average of 12.7

points per game this season, thanks to their 38.8 field goal percentage. In contrast, the Lions only have a 31.2 field goal percentage. A more stark difference can be seen from their three-point shooting percentage—the Lions have shot only 18.8 percent from beyond the arc, while the Black Knights have shot at 34.6 percent. The Lions’ senior co-captain Melissa Shafer—who is now tied for fourth on Columbia’s all-time list of the most three-point shots made—will be a key factor if the Lions look to defeat the Black Knights.

Tomorrow night’s game at St. Francis is set to start at 7 p.m. Tip off against Long Beach State will be at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 25 and 1 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 27 against Army.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL LEADERS

MELISSA SHAFER

POINTS PER GAME: 10.0

ASSISTS PER GAME: 2.7

REBOUNDS PER GAME: 2.0

TAYLOR WARD

POINTS PER GAME: 10.0

ASSISTS PER GAME: 1.0

REBOUNDS PER GAME: 2.3

Team reacts to Wilson’s departure

BY SPENCER GYORY
Spectator Staff Writer

The morning after the Columbia Lions football team registered its first and only victory of the 2011 season, the athletic department announced the firing of six-year head coach Norries Wilson. While they support the University’s decision, many players were understandably sad that Wilson will not be returning in 2012.

“In order to achieve the goals that we have set for the Columbia football program, we believe it is necessary and appropriate to make a change in leadership at this time,” Athletic Director M. Dianne Murphy said in an official press release.

While many of the players were not shocked by the news after their disappointing 2011 campaign, they were still emotional when Wilson told them about the decision in Sunday’s team meeting.

“You never like to see it happen, but when the decision is made you have to move forward with the program,” senior center and captain Bob Hauschildt said. “That’s the decision Dr. Murphy made, and we stand by her.”

“It’s the nature of the beast,” senior wide receiver Paul Havas said. “There’s a lot of turnover. At the end of the day if you’re not getting as many wins as you should be, something is going to come to change.”

Ultimately, the decision to dismiss Wilson was based on the team’s inability to compete in the Ivy League. In six years under Wilson, the Lions have achieved an overall record of 17-43 and only 10-32 in the Ancient Eight. The team’s best season came in Wilson’s first year when they finished 5-5 with a 3-5 conference record. The Light Blue was never able to get above .500 during Wilson’s tenure.

However, his players believe his full impact cannot be measured solely by the number next to Columbia in the win column.

“He did more for the program than you can see from the outside,” Hauschildt said. “So many guys came out of here with good jobs. I matured incredibly over four years here. It’s a shame that we couldn’t get the wins and losses to better support him. He did so much for this program that will never show up on a stats sheet.”

It is clear that Wilson was a man his players came to respect, admire, and love.

“He’s the one that gave us the opportunity to come here and play Division I football at an Ivy League school,” sophomore wide receiver Louis DiNovo said. “He gave us an opportunity football-wise and career-wise. It’s a tough pill to swallow.”

“I would go to the end of the earth to do something for him personally,” senior left tackle Jeff Adams said.

Wilson is seen by his players as a natural motivator and leader.

“I will say this till the day I die: He was one of the best men I have ever met in my life,” Hauschildt said. “He was a great leader. He was a great commander of a room. There are very few people that I will ever meet that led the way he did.”

“Getting people to rally around him was never a problem. He commands respect,” Havas said. “People want to play for him in the end. He had no problem motivating us week in week out even though things weren’t going great.”

Other players reflected on specific aspects of Wilson’s character.

“He was probably the most loyal person to his players that I’ve ever seen,” senior cornerback and captain Ross Morand said. “No matter what the issue was, coming to him, he would have your back.”

With junior Sean Brackett, first-team All-Ivy quarterback in 2010, and a strong group of seniors, the Lions were confident that they had the potential to surprise some people in the Ivy League in 2011. They did, but for all the wrong reasons. Inconsistency within and between games allowed the Light Blue to fall to 0-9 (0-7 Ivy) going into the final game of the season.

“The microcosm of our season was the Fordham game,” Hauschildt said. “We were about to go up big and we get the tough pick-six and we weren’t able to overcome that. We hit a little bump in the road and couldn’t shake it off. We didn’t handle adversity as well as we could have.”

The players, however, seemed hesitant to put all of the blame on Wilson.

SEE WILSON, page 6

SEE SHABAN, page 7