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Lie to me

Liar, liar, pants on fire ... And Yurina Ko wants to know if this mendacity is for hire.



A&E, 7

Pavlova brings poetry from Russia with love

Renowned Russian poet Vera Pavlova will read in the International Affairs Building on Tuesday in a bilingual event sponsored by the Slavic department.



Sports, 10

Lions power past Bucknell, fall on road

The men's basketball team came from behind to down the Bison on Tuesday before falling to No. 10 Syracuse on the road over Thanksgiving weekend.

EVENTS

Does Barnard need science?

Dropped any test tubes during those two required semesters of labs? Join environmental science professor Stephanie Pfirman at the Student Government Association-hosted event to discuss this Way of Knowing.

James Room, 6-8 p.m.

When AIDS hit New York

Dr. Roy Cohen, medical director of substance abuse at the Einstein College of Medicine, will discuss his work with HIV and substance abuse patients in this event hosted by GlobeMed. Discussion will be followed by a Q&A session.

Lerner Hall, Satow Room, 7 p.m.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I don't have anything against rich people."

—Charmaine DaCosta, a manager at New Song Community

ONLINE

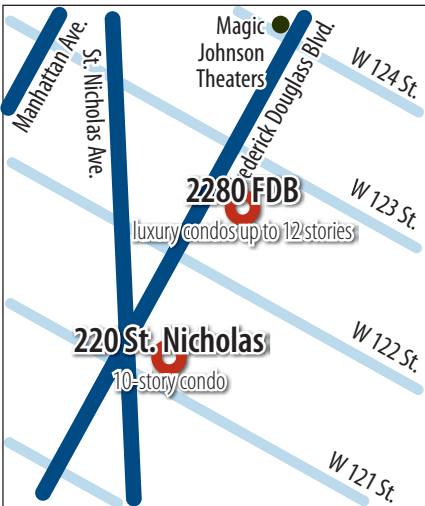
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News around the clock

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



MARVIN SAUNDERS, LONG-TIME HARLEM RESIDENT AND ASPIRING RETAILER



Sam Levin for Spectator / Graphic by Yipeng Huang

BUILDING UP, BUILDING OUT | Frederick Douglass Boulevard is under construction with residential buildings springing up on nearly every block between 114th and 129th streets. Several condos will be opening their doors in the spring of 2010.

HARLEM UNDER CONSTRUCTION

BY SAM LEVIN
Spectator Staff Writer

For Toya Jackson and Tamisha Lopez, the stretch of 114th Street between Frederick Douglass and Adam Clayton Powell is a block where everyone knows everyone.

Sitting on a brownstone stoop on a recent Tuesday afternoon, Jackson said that her corner sticks together as the neighborhood changes. "Harlem is losing its essence," Lopez added, pointing to the construction site of a new residential building on the block.

Local developers, cultural organizations, politicians, and longtime residents

New Harlem condos reshape the neighborhood

have different views on the evolving face of Upper Manhattan, yet all agree that Frederick Douglass Boulevard in the center of West Harlem is undergoing a significant reconstruction.

While some residents and community leaders decry gentrification, developers

argue that they are bringing a welcome boost to the micro-economy centered around 125th Street by developing vacant lots or rehabbing structures that are eyesores.

Several large residential buildings are slated to open in the spring of 2010, amid reconstructed mixed-income brownstones or brand-new, 20-story luxury condominiums. And as changes in the real estate market suggest a possible end to the recession, more developers across the avenue are digging up the ground in Harlem and planting seeds for an entirely new landscape.

SEE HARLEM, page 3

Rosensweig, Guitar Hero in residence at Business School

BY PAUL HSIAO
Columbia Daily Spectator

Dan Rosensweig, who has served as head of CNET, COO of Yahoo, vice president of PC Magazine, and president of Ziff Davis Media, can now add executive in residence at the Columbia Business School to his resume.

And Rosensweig, currently Guitar Hero's CEO, thinks "it's pretty exciting."

The executives-in-residence program was launched at the business school three decades ago to introduce business leaders to students. The program aims to provide

students the opportunity to receive advice, hear anecdotes, and perhaps most importantly, gain a mentor in the increasingly competitive business world.

"Accessible to students year-round, these retired or semiretired leaders lecture and teach classes in the MBA and Executive MBA Programs, advise student-run clubs, participate in annual club conferences and organize informal lunches for groups of students with common interests, among many other activities," according to the business school's Web site. "While

SEE ROSENSWEIG, page 3

GSAPP faculty member faces new charge in Iran

BY JOY RESMOVITS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Columbia-educated urban planner Kian Tajbakhsh, currently in an Iranian prison, faces a new charge of spying by the Iranian government.

Tajbakhsh, already sentenced to 15 years in prison for alleged spying, recently told his wife during her prison visit that a judge at the Revolutionary Court read new charges of "spying for the George Soros foundation" last Monday, according to the New York Times. The new charge referenced his work for the Open Society Institute, run by Soros, a financier. It remains unclear how this new charge will augment his sentence.

Tajbakhsh earned his Ph.D. from Columbia in 1993 and had been scheduled to teach at Columbia's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation this semester. He was arrested this summer in the aftermath of Iran's post-election upheaval.



Tajbakhsh now remains in solitary confinement for initial charges that also connected the OSI with the CIA and condemned Tajbakhsh's membership of the Gulf/2000 Project—an e-mail listserv managed by SIPA's Gary Sick that connects Iran experts. A letter from kianletter@gmail.com supporting Tajbakhsh is circulating among Columbia faculty, and administrators are calling for his release.

He had been imprisoned two years earlier for "fomenting revolution" in Iran, and University President Lee Bollinger and the School of International and Public Affairs lobbied for Tajbakhsh over the summer of

SEE TAJBAKSH, page 2



Jawad A. Bhatti / Staff photographer

TAPAS NO MORE | This January, Ramon Diaz will close the tapas bar portion of the restaurant he owns, Floridita Tapas Bar, which is located on 125th St and Broadway.

Tapas bar portion of Floridita to close in face of preconstruction

BY MAGGIE ASTOR
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Locals looking for their fill of Spanish appetizers will have one less option soon.

In January, owner Ramon Diaz plans to close the tapas bar portion of neighborhood staple Floridita Tapas Bar & Restaurant, which occupies three storefronts in University-owned buildings on Broadway between 125th and 129th streets.

Diaz's announcement is the latest development in an ongoing conflict between him and Columbia over the impact construction work for the

Financial aid still troubles GS

Need-based aid up but trails well behind CC, SEAS

BY SCOTT LEVI
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Despite changes to the financial aid system, graduating from the School of General Studies still means learning to navigate what can be a black hole of loan payments and debt.

In the spring of 2008, the School of General Studies unveiled a financial aid framework that refashioned what had for decades been an exclusively merit-based system. The new model considered both need and merit when disbursing institutional aid funds to students. But even after aggressive fundraising and significant increases in the annual budget reserved for financial aid, the average debt of a GS graduate continues to grow.

General Studies Student Council President Katherine Edwards said that her council has worked to educate the student body about financial aid and to advocate for more need-based financial aid.

As Edwards explained, there is a dearth of need-based allocations in a school that, even with its merit-based system, suffers due to a small endowment, a unique history, and population of nontraditional students experiencing diverse financial circumstances.

"This [meager financial aid] is a major, major concern for GS students trying to finance their education," Edwards said.

Different schools, different budgets

While GS students are supposed to be fully integrated into undergraduate life—they attend lectures and seminars alongside Columbia College students and take on majors with identical requirements to those at CC—they do not enjoy the same access to financial aid. This is worsened—and, to an extent, caused—by their status as nontraditional students.

Unlike their CC or School of Engineering and Applied Science student counterparts who may be at least partially dependent on their parents, many GS students support their own families or have spent years in the working world before coming to Columbia.

Over the past few years, GS has strengthened its aid services. With 1,354 students

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Norway alleges Iran seized Nobel prize

BY AMBER TUNNELL
Spectator Staff Writer

On Friday, Iran denied Norway's accusation that it had confiscated the Nobel Peace Prize awarded in 2003 to Shirin Ebadi—a human rights lawyer who spoke at Barnard in April 2008—and froze her bank accounts.

Ebadi was the first Iranian Nobel Peace Prize winner.

According to the New York Times, Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced Thursday that Ebadi's Nobel medal and her award diploma had been removed from her bank box, along with other personal items, and that her accounts had been frozen. It also stated that Ebadi's husband had been arrested and severely beaten in Tehran.

A committee in Norway chooses the Nobel peace laureates, while the winners for the other prizes are chosen in Sweden.

Justin Sohail Hedvat, GS/JTS '12, the public relations and events coordinator for the Columbia Iranian Students Association, said he believes that the confiscation of Ebadi's prize is another violation of human rights in Iran.

"The confiscation of [Ebadi's] Nobel Peace Prize looks as if they are trying to cover up their own human rights violation," he said. "Ebadi represents the people of Iran ... they want a more modern, democratic country," he added.

In a statement on Friday, Iran denied the seizure of Ebadi's medal and the freezing of her accounts, while remaining silent on the accusation about

arresting Ebadi's husband. It also says that Ebadi owes taxes to the government.

"We are surprised that Norwegian officials can make such hasty and biased comments and disregard the laws and regulations of other countries," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast said in comments carried by the Mehr news agency. Mehmanparast also denies the confiscation of Ebadi's Nobel but confirms the freezing of her accounts.

"We do not understand how Norwegian officials are trying to justify people's negligence to pay tax," he said.

Iran states that Ebadi owes around \$400,000 in taxes for her Nobel prize money, which amounted to \$1.3 million. Ebadi states that under Iranian law no such taxes exist for prizes.

"The illusion of freedom has gradually eroded ... now it is clear that there is no clear viable freedom for the Iranian people," Hedvat said, adding, "the people are finally rioting against the government wanting change."

Ebadi left Iran just prior to the controversial re-election of Ahmadinejad and hasn't returned since.

Ebadi originally won the Peace Prize for her work in women's and child's rights. When Ebadi spoke at Barnard in 2008, she focused heavily on Iran's feminist movement. She said that oppression exists in every culture and that civilization is not advanced enough to give equal rights to men and women.



File photo

SHIRIN EBADI

She also discussed the presence of women in Iranian politics, stating that one of Ahmadinejad's vice presidents is female and that over 65 percent of university students are female.

"Women have even infiltrated the radical forces of Iran, and radicals can no longer ignore the capabilities of Iranian women," she said. Despite this, she said that discrimination still exists in Iran. She believed that this discrimination is rooted in the "patriarchal culture" that existed in the Muslim world.

"For someone like me, who is the son of Iranian patriots, this is a pretty exciting and groundbreaking time," Hedvat said. "Our hearts are in Iran. We want these human rights violations to stop. We hope for peace and security for the people of Iran and for a real democratic government to be institutionalized soon."

Joy Resmovits contributed reporting to this article.
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Columbia calls for Tajbakhsh's release

TAJBAKHSH from front page

2007. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's invitation to speak on campus that fall came with a stipulation that Bollinger would question him on Tajbakhsh and other prisoners.

Tajbakhsh was released from Tehran's Evin prison in September 2007, at the same time Ahmadinejad's speech on campus was announced. His family had to pay a steep bail fee.

On Sunday, Columbia's Executive Vice President for Communications David Stone released a statement defending Tajbakhsh, emphasizing his status as a Columbia faculty member as of September.

"We join in the White House's renewed call for Kian Tajbakhsh's prompt release from his unjust imprisonment in Iran and share the concern of family and friends about the latest unfounded charges brought against him," Stone wrote.

"President Bollinger, Dean Wigley, Global Centers Vice President Ken Prewitt and others

both at Columbia and the New School have repeatedly asked that Prof. Tajbakhsh, an American citizen and respected scholar not involved in politics, be allowed to leave Iran with his family and continue his academic career in urban planning here at Columbia. Members of our university community should be aware that Prof. Tajbakhsh is not only a Columbia alumnus, but as of September 1, also a member of our faculty at the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation; so his arrest, trial and imprisonment in Iran should therefore concern all of us," he added.

An anonymous family member told the Times that Tajbakhsh is now suffering "huge psychological and physical pressure." According to his wife, the Times reported, the judge of the new case said he would rule based on Tajbakhsh's previous defense.

The Times also noted that the recent case of Kurdish activist Ehsan Fatahian—who had been sentenced to ten years in prison

and was executed on Nov. 12 after his case went back to court—raises the severity of Tajbakhsh's current situation.

On Thursday, the White House condemned Iran for its treatment of Tajbakhsh, with press secretary Robert Gibbs calling the charges "baseless" in a statement.

Gibbs added, "The United States is deeply concerned about reports of additional charges facing Kian Tajbakhsh, an Iranian-American scholar who has been detained in Iran without access to an independent lawyer since July 9, 2009. The charges against Mr. Tajbakhsh are baseless, and his original sentence on October 20 was an outrage. The Iranian government cannot earn the respect of the international community when it violates universal rights, and continues to imprison innocent people. We call on the Islamic Republic of Iran to release Mr. Tajbakhsh, and to respect the human rights of those within its borders."

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Tapas will close due to falling business

FLORIDITA from front page

progress for weeks, and has involved the closing of parking and traffic lanes. The work outside Floridita, located on Broadway, has taken place at night, which Columbia officials cite as an effort to minimize business disruptions.

"They'll close up the street during the night—they start at 9 and they won't reopen until 6," Diaz said. "They do away with parking for two weeks—customers will just stop coming because they can't find parking." Even when parking reopens, he added, "It's too late—the damage is done."

University spokesperson Victoria Benitez declined to comment on the closing of the tapas bar because, she said, Diaz has not officially notified Columbia of his intention to do so. Earlier this year, in response to Diaz's complaints that construction was hurting his business, Benitez said, "We have worked hard to ensure that Mr. Diaz is both fully informed of these developments and that they do not affect Floridita's business, which we hope continues to thrive."

Floridita—which, in addition to the tapas bar, includes a main Cuban restaurant and bakery—is a popular destination for neighborhood residents and Columbia students alike. On campus, the Student Coalition on Expansion and Gentrification—a group that opposes components of the Manhattanville expansion plan—has organized several events in the past year in support of Diaz.

"Ramon has worked very hard to keep his restaurants in business, despite the many hurdles that he has faced as a result of Columbia's expansion," Katie Miles, BC '10 and a member of SCEG, wrote in an e-mail. "SCEG has been consistently disappointed with the way that Columbia has handled itself as a landlord to Mr. Diaz. We think that the closing of the Tapas Bar is indicative of how hard it is for businesses, tenants, and community organizations ... to survive in West Harlem, in light of Columbia's plans." She cited the Eritrean Social Club's eviction over the summer from its longtime

center on 125th Street as another example.

"Taken on its own, the University's abrupt decision to renovate a gas pipe that serves Floridita only, cutting valuable lifelines such as parking, pedestrian traffic, and general business-friendly atmospherics, is perplexing," SCEG member Ben Totushek, GS, wrote in an e-mail. "When looked at in the context of the expansion's history, however, particularly Columbia's failure to sustain any broad-based community support (minus a select few groups and politicians) for the plan, the move is simply par for the course."

Vicky Gholson, a member of Community Board 9 and the West Harlem Local Development Corporation, called the closing of the tapas bar "regrettable."

"That's the only sports bar and restaurant in the area that's affordable," Gholson said. "It would behoove the University to try to work out some sort of arrangement to maintain that service to the community at that location."

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOV. & DEC.

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL EVENTS ARE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE.

MORE INFORMATION ONLINE
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NEW YORK, NY 10027
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11/10

TUESDAY

SUZANNE GARDINIER, MATTHEA HARVEY & KATY LEDERER
7 PM

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

11/12

THURSDAY

NEGOTIATING "ILLEGALITY" IN NEW IMMIGRANT DESTINATIONS
12 PM

BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

RIGHTS OF WAY

A New Politics of Movement in New York City?
6:30pm

The James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

11/18

WEDNESDAY

MIGRATION, FAMILY & GENDER Basques in California
7 PM

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

11/19

THURSDAY

BARNARD WRITING FACULTY Mary Gordon '71, Saskia Hamilton and Timea Szell '75
7 PM

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

11/19–11/21

THURSDAY–SATURDAY

DISSIDENT ACTS: 3 PLAYS
8 PM

Minor Latham Playhouse, 118 Milbank Hall

12/03–12/05

THURSDAY–SATURDAY

THE BARNARD PROJECT AT DANCE THEATER WORKSHOP
7:30 PM

219 West 19th Street

12/11

FRIDAY

A CELEBRATION OF GRACE PALEY Speaking Truth To Power
6:30 PM

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

12/12

SATURDAY

THE ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT CONCERT
8 PM

Union Theological Seminary
Broadway at 120th Street

BARNARD

THE LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE
FOR WOMEN
IN NEW YORK CITY

As developers adjust to new markets, residents debate rising Harlem condos

HARLEM from front page

Just in time

Hans Futterman, president of the RGS Holdings development firm, lives around the corner from a new luxury condo site that spans the entire east side of Frederick Douglass between 122nd and 123rd streets.

Futterman said “2280 FDB”—slated to open in April—got started before the recession temporarily halted many neighborhood projects. “We did have our financing in place prior to the downturn having its full impact,” he said, adding that many point to September 2008 as the beginning of the end. Futterman secured loans in June 2008, and 2280 FDB broke ground that spring.

But the timing is certainly not perfect, he said.

Futterman typically expects between 55 and 60 percent sales by this point, but has only sold 35 percent of the units—though this “is still substantially better than most new developments in our area.”

Kyle Rawlins, a principal for Piper-Cadmiun Real Property Management and the developer of 220 St. Nicholas Ave. on the corner of 121st Street, said he was grateful he secured financing before the 2007 credit crisis. Rawlins broke ground on his 10-story condo development in the middle of 2008, and said the property is on track to open in the spring.

Rawlins added that he is not concerned about the gloomy market. “We’ve gone back to more sound fundamentals. Buyers are making a big decision,” he said, predicting that speculative investing in condos will become much less common. Now, when people purchase property in a Harlem condo, it is for their home, he said.

“It was a good game while it lasted,” he said of speculation, adding that he has not yet launched any extensive marketing, since he is confident that the units will sell.

Meredith Marshall, Business ’92 and a developer from BRP Development Corp., which is overseeing “Harlem’s Savannah”—a new mixed-income development on 114th and Frederick Douglass—said BRP had its first open house for the development last week. Like 220 St. Nicholas and 2280 FDB, residents will probably move in around springtime.

The key to success for the Savannah, Marshall said, is BRP management’s role as both the developer and financier, avoiding any sort of outside contractor. “We are on both sides of the equation,” he said, adding, “We are not paying a third party. Otherwise, there could be a contractor working for four other projects, or shaky developers who don’t have financing and equity in place.”

For Marshall, concerns lie in the approaching task of actually filling up the newly constructed site. Along with his confident neighboring developers, he agreed, “We are only affected by the slowdown in purchasing.”

Stuck in the mud

Other projects did not survive the storm of the recession.

On the corner of 127th Street and Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard, large billboards fill an empty lot, advertising “The Dafina,” a 48-unit luxury condo building. Its Web site says, “This new Harlem construction features amenities that will exceed your expectations.”

But according to spokespeople from the Griffin Real Estate Group, which represents the Dafina, it is now off of the market. David Gross, an architect from GF55—the company that designed the Dafina—confirmed that the entire project was on hold.

“It is waiting for the next round of economic stimulus funds,” Gross said. “It’s stuck in the mud—but it’s a great project.”

Half a mile north, on Frederick Douglass between 131st and 132nd streets, a five-story brick building, almost 109 years old, has sat vacant since the 1970s, except for a small T-shirt shop that ran out of the ground floor and is now closed.

But the entire structure went on the market last Tuesday, according to Kory Marrero, the broker from Halstead Property who represents the project.

Marrero said the property could go to a small developer, who could then sell the residential units and find a retail tenant for the first and second floors. She said it is an attractive property because there are few zoning restrictions and developers can build additional floors.

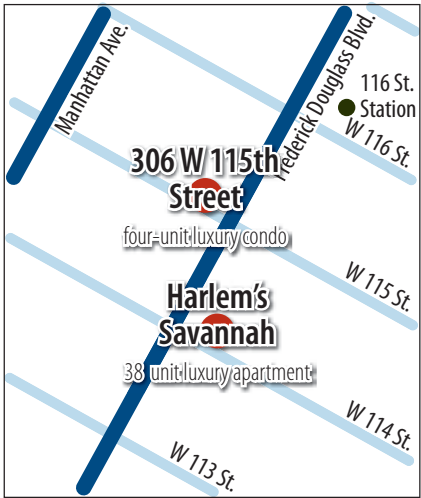
Marvin Saunders, who has lived in Harlem for 60 years and now goes to church near the vacant site, said he would like to buy the retail space and open a clothing outlet called “Sneaky Marvin.” He said any sort of development above the retail floors should support the community, whether as a place for foster children or a nonprofit youth program. With vacancies like these, “Harlem doesn’t have the spirit it used to,” he said.

But Marrero predicted that this will take time. “I don’t think it is going to be something they want to turn around immediately,” she said of potential developers, adding, “Any investor will probably purchase it and hold on to it before developing.”

Marrero added, “This is the history of New York downturns.” Rawlins agreed, saying that after many new developments open their doors this spring, he expects a lull in construction due to the recession: “You won’t be seeing any new stuff for a while.”

A mixed bag

With many projects on the rise, no two residential buildings are alike. Some developers say that this mix of housing is key to the success of their new buildings, which will only add to the neighborhood’s diverse market.



On 114th Street, the Savannah will be 80 percent market-rate and 20 percent affordable housing, according to Marshall, the developer from BRP. The affordable housing component was negotiated when BRP bought the two vacant lots from the city—which Marshall said housed an illegal tenant and disposable car parts. Each lot went for one dollar, in a deal to ensure that 20 percent of the units would be sold at affordable rates based on the area’s median income.

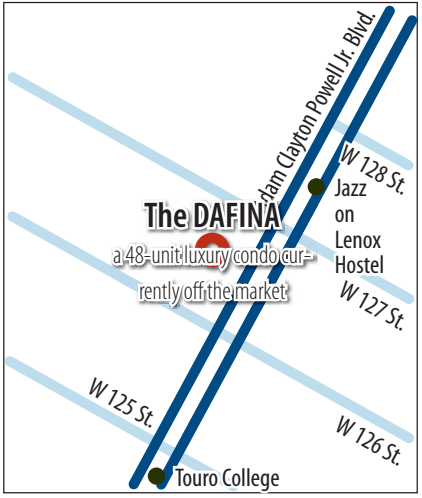
This affordable housing is available by lottery through the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development. According to Marshall, the Savannah had 2,000 applicants, 400 of whom proved eligible for only eight units. “We’ll see how it goes,” he said, adding, “We are selling value, not luxury.”

Luxury is available around the corner, where the Community Preservation Corporation—a lender and low-to-moderate income developer—is currently rehabilitating a small brownstone in disrepair at 306 West 115th Street.

Bruce Dale, senior vice president for CPC, said his organization funds renovations of Harlem brownstones, historically for low-income housing units. But the new building will feature four luxury condos to be completed in the spring. Dale predicted that there would be a market for these homes, and the developer would likely be “willing to convert to rental if that provides a quick and easier way out.”

Ten blocks north at 122nd Street, Futterman said that 2280 FDB would be selling entirely market-rate condos. Rawlins, the 121st Street developer, said that his 10 market-rate units would garner interest without drastically impacting local housing prices. “I’ve heard comments that perhaps there is too much development or too much inventory,” he said. “I’m not sure if it is going to move your needle, so to speak, on the entire market.”

According to Dale, “The Harlem community argued that you can’t rebuild a neighborhood with just poor people. You have to have an economic mix. You need disposable income for stores to survive.”



But some nearby residents see this “mix” as false advertising for displacement. Hassan Dickerson, who lives on 114th Street, said of the new developments, “I don’t like it. Look at it—that pushes people out.”

“What we really need to do is strike that balance,” said Charmaine DaCosta, a manager at New Song Community Corporation, a nonprofit on 118th Street that focuses on youth services and affordable housing developments.

DaCosta acknowledged that market-rate developments are sometimes necessary. “This is a community for all of us, not just some of us,” she said, adding, “I don’t have anything against rich people.”

Progress and transition

William Franc Perry, chair of Central Harlem’s Community Board 10, said new developments are generally a welcome sign of progress, but stalled projects become neighborhood scars.

“It is sad to see a lot of these developments empty,” he said, pointing out a delayed site outside his community board office window.

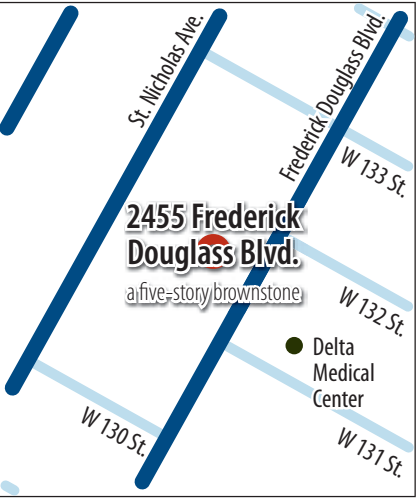
New condos are an important part of residential growth, according to Perry, who added of market-rate housing, “There are people in our community that can afford these. They deserve a place to live.”

For some local organizations, change is welcome—but there is a limit.

“It’s very good news. We like to see this change,” said Kaaw Sow, general manager for the Senegalese Association in America located on 116th Street and St. Nicholas. He added of the Senegalese community, “We were the first people to believe that Harlem is something, and it became Little Senegal. With these people coming in to develop, we see that we were right.”

But anxiety taints this appreciation, Sow said, considering the small businesses that have closed because of incoming developments that price them out. “People cannot afford it. This is the new way to kick people out of Harlem,” he said.

But many developers argue that since they enter vacant lots, this is not the case. “We



Graphics by Yipeng Huang

haven’t displaced one resident,” Marshall said of the Savannah. “It is just additive.”

Rawlins said his 121st Street development “will add to the streetscape” on what had been a garbage lot.

Dame Babou, president of the Harlem-based African Communications Network, has seen the neighborhood evolve and said this change is for the better. For Babou, “I think the first thing it means is security.”

When he moved to Harlem two decades ago, “We never came home alone,” he said, because of the unsafe neighborhood. “Even now, at 8 p.m, I send my son to the store.”

But he refuses to accept the vacant lot argument. Development in Harlem can hurt current residents regardless of past conditions, Babou said. “Even if they are not touching your building, the value of your building changes,” he explained, and even local rent-controlled apartments are threatened.

A new Harlem?

By June of 2010, if these projects are completed on time, Frederick Douglass Boulevard will be home to at least five new developments within a 20-block radius.

The streetscape is bound to change. “Context drives us a great deal,” said David Gross, the GF55 architect. Gross said he aims to design structures that fit into the surrounding landscape while also contributing a new aesthetic.

On the streets of West Harlem, with the sounds of drills echoing throughout the day, local residents and workers anticipate a serious transition. Leika Diaz, an employee at Quality Cleaners, wedged in between two construction sites on 121st, said, “It means more money and more business—and no parking.”

Tia Gueye, who lives on 123rd and Manhattan Avenue, doesn’t mind the change. “Harlem will always be black,” she said. “Nothing stays the same, and there is obviously something in Harlem that attracts developers. I’m trying to look at this in a positive way. Harlem does have something more to give.”

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Guitar Hero CEO Rosensweig joins Business School

ROSENSWEIG from front page

the School hosts hundreds of business practitioners as visiting lecturers and conference participants each year, executives in residence maintain long-term relationships with the School.”

Rosensweig has been taking part in the residence program for approximately a month now. He holds office hours to meet with students one-on-one and also joins several classes in group discussions.

Unlike previous executives in residence who mainly dealt with finance, Rosensweig said he sees his role in the program as a “chance to work with the school and the students in the tumultuous time in media.”

Despite his current role as CEO of Guitar Hero, Rosensweig sees himself as being more involved in media and publishing. Notably, he oversaw the merger of ZDNet and CNET, both extremely popular technology sites. He sees his role at Activision, Guitar Hero’s publisher, as a way to use the social gaming space and develop what he calls “new media.”

The students who have come to see Rosensweig say they have certainly benefited from his perspective.

“Dan came to my Strategic Management of Media class with professor [Jonathan] Knee,” Christian DiCarlo, Business ’12, said. “We were discussing a case on Google and professor Knee invited Dan to share his perspective as the COO of Yahoo at the time. As someone living and working in the Bay Area, he was clearly surprised how disconnected our class is from the tech scene.”

Besides learning from Rosensweig in lectures, DiCarlo has followed up with Rosensweig and received tips on working in various fields in Silicon Valley.

“He’s funny and ... commands respect. He’s also extremely grounded. He starts his sessions by asking, ‘What do you want to get out of this session today?’ In this way, he focuses each session to ensure that the individual gets his questions answered,” Yelena Gerskovich, Business ’11, said.

The executives in residence are appointed by the dean of the business school, R. Glenn Hubbard, for renewable one-year terms. When asked about his interest in participating next year, Rosensweig responded “definitely.”

“My expectation is that we’d love to continue to do it as long as it’s a valuable experience,” Rosensweig said.

The students who have interacted with Rosensweig agree. “Dan is one of the few execs in residence that have experience that appeals to me. If Columbia hopes to shed the I-banking, consulting stereotype and attract and bring in people who are interested in technology, we need to have more execs in residence like Dan,” DiCarlo said.

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General Studies struggles to meet financial aid needs of students

GENERAL STUDIES from front page

enrolled, the school currently provides institutional aid to 60 percent of its students. Additionally, 74 percent of students receive some form of aid, including scholarship funds from external entities. Thirty-six percent of the student body receives Pell Grants, which are need-based grants for low-income students. The amount of GS money set aside for financial aid has climbed in recent years, with a budget that has risen from \$4,545,467 in 2004-2005 to \$9,453,000 this year. Eleven to 12 percent of that money goes to students whose main criteria for aid is need. Most of the money, in turn, is shelled out according to a student’s academic performance at GS.

At CC, 46 percent students acquire University grants, 50 percent receive grants from any source, and 15.7 percent receive Pell Grants.

GS financial aid: a complex history

But statistics deceive, administrators say. GS Dean Peter Awn stresses that the school’s low endowment prevents substantial return of tuition funds to students in the form of aid—a figure represented by what is known as the discount rate. Whereas CC’s discount rate is 42 percent this year, GS’s is 23 percent. This results in rather meager financial aid packages for GS students, and a much larger loan burden for students already weighed down by the housing, travel, and possible family finances of nontraditional students.

“It’s an unfortunately hard-nosed cost-benefit analysis that a prospective student has to make,” Awn said. The administration and GSSC continue to make strides in broadening and improving the availability of aid, yet last year’s GS graduates left with an average debt of \$48,028, in contrast with the \$17, 446 average burden of graduates 10 years ago. Some graduated \$68,359 in the hole, about twice the average loan debt shouldered by graduates 10 years ago.

The current administrative and student council tactic involves attempting to enhance the discount rate, demystifying the aid process, soliciting funds from

alumni, friends, and organizations, and examining new financial models, according to GS administrators and Edwards. If the Columbia Campaign for Undergraduate Education accomplishes its goals, GS’s endowment will go up by \$15 million.

Still, GS’s situation at Columbia presents obstacles.

After years of a merit-based system, GS financial aid experienced need enhancements in 2008. Having served adult students through the first half of the 20th century, GS did not offer financial aid until the 1940s, when more nontraditional students—veterans, family men and women, and working people—enrolled in the liberal arts college.

“Colleges for adults tended to provide aid solely for merit reasons,” GS Dean of enrollment management and communications Curtis Rodgers said. “It was presumed that they [nontraditional students] would make money.” Until full integration into the undergraduate student body, which happened later, GS maintained a lower tuition than the College. GS tuition is currently comparable to CC tuition.

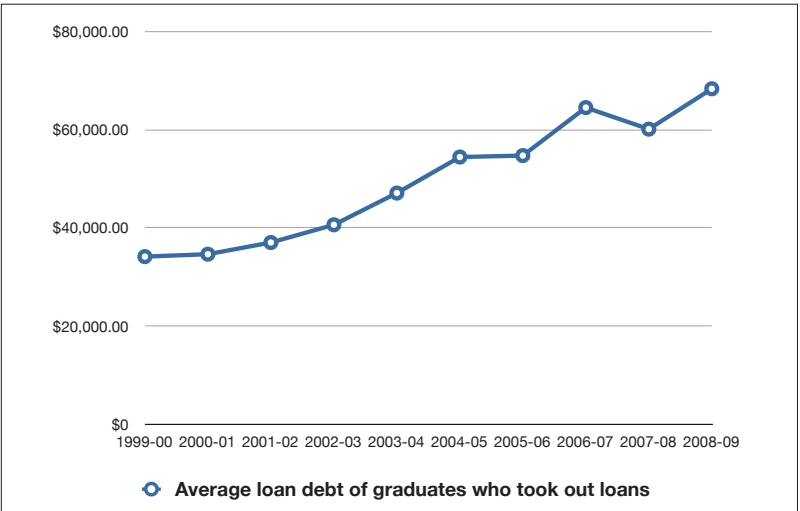
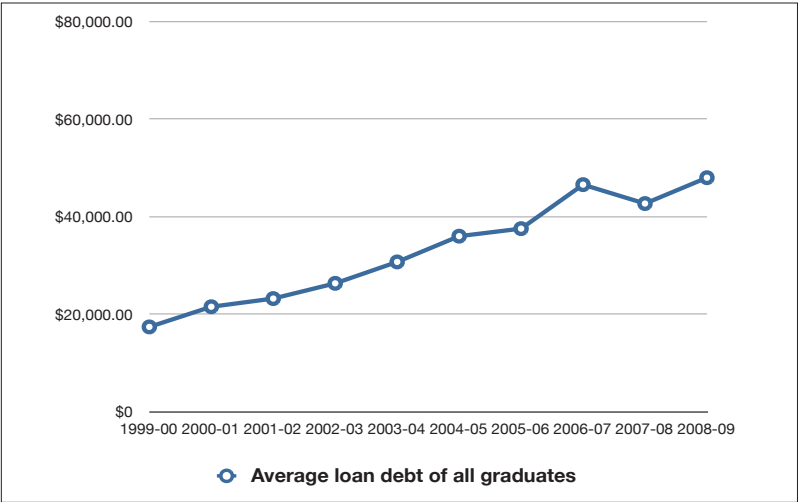
Reforming the model

As GS pursues more financial aid initiatives among an increasingly varied and diverse student body, administrators ponder how to best refine the questionnaires that help determine the aid needs of an individual student.

Traditional colleges calculate what is known as the estimated family contribution, which takes into account, among other factors, family income, and household size when considering the amount of financial aid to dole out to each student. While GS uses such a system, its students’ circumstances are more complicated.

According to Awn, the school sometimes encounters cases where students are funded by rich partners, have saved up significantly yet lack an income for the years they attend GS, or have been disowned by wealthy parents.

“We need to press students to be forthcoming,” Awn said. He added that



Graphics by Yipeng Huang

future questionnaires will ask students the amount of debt they would be willing to accrue, and may request them to predict their earning power after GS.

From the student side, Edwards said, the daunting nature of such a task has helped to establish a guiding question for GSSC: “How do you look at the big picture without overwhelming the nontraditional student?”

Edwards noted that in drafting the new survey, the administration looks to models of American medical schools, where many nontraditional students obtain financial aid. But as Awn pointed out, while he is “loath to not take away the merit-based model,” GS must greatly augment its aid budget before implementing these models.

For now, the GSSC and administrators hope to “get more student input in decision-making process,” Edwards said. The school’s Web site now contains updated, detailed data on the financial aid process, and the GSSC is spearheading events where students can meet with administrators to voice their concerns and learn more about financial aid.

“Students have a romanticized vision of financial aid at CC,” Awn said of GS students who idealize CC aid. He argued that greater clarity on both the student and administrative side would facilitate dialogue. “Our priority is the discount rate. ... People do not understand this.”

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Orchestral dissent

BY AARON LISKOV

Imagine that you can't get into a class because it has a limited enrollment. Now imagine that the professor has reserved seats in the class for students from another school because he thinks those students are more qualified. What if native Italians fill Italian classes? This is what happens in Music V1592: University Orchestra. Students from the Juilliard School and Manhattan School of Music fill the Columbia Orchestra's brass and percussion sections, even though Columbia students audition for the same positions. The orchestra is a two-credit class in the music department taught by maestro Jeffrey Milarsky. Spots that could go to Columbia students are offered instead to students from the world's most prestigious music schools. This practice should end for many reasons. It is fraudulent, dishonest, and at odds with the spirit of an educational place. To be forthright, I played in this orchestra my first and second years. This is not a personal vendetta. But on behalf of those students who never had the privilege, such a vendetta would be perfectly reasonable. The practice defrauds the Columbia student body by transferring the right of enrolled students to take a class to students who have no affiliation with the school. Quite simply, Columbia students are not getting what they pay for.

It is dishonest because the name "Columbia University Orchestra" misrepresents the

players in the orchestra. This misrepresentation brings into question the achievements of the orchestra. Can we join Dr. Milarsky in praising the orchestra's "technical skill" if so many of his players are on a track to performing with the world's greatest ensembles? Would we give such praise to the Columbia baseball team if it hired out the Yankees? In turn, the policy hurts Columbia students who play in the orchestra—to say nothing of those who miss out entirely—because listeners cannot genuinely appreciate their contribution. A greater sense of integrity is at stake for Columbia. Any university must refuse credit for what it does not accomplish just as quickly as it honors its own achievements. If someone brings praise to a school by exploiting the merits of those with no connection to the school, this disingenuousness will cast doubt on every activity conducted under university auspices. The same principle grounds every school's interest in academic integrity, which is why we might consider the name "Columbia University Orchestra" an act of institutional plagiarism. Just as a plagiarizing author pretends the work of another is his own, the "Columbia University" Orchestra disguises the skill of Juilliard students as that of Columbia students.

But then, maybe Columbia players aren't good enough. Maybe we need Juilliard players to meet the orchestra's goal of playing the hardest music. Most undergraduate orchestras draw from only their student body while managing repertoire that is just as challenging. Brown performed Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring," which many consider more challenging than the same composer's "Firebird Suite," which Columbia will play in a few weeks. But the point would hold

even if a truly Colombian student orchestra could not play virtuosic pieces. The orchestra is a credited class and the standard of competing with semi-professionals does not apply in any other class. What kind of school offers a class that its own students cannot take?

It makes sense for Juilliard players to pursue the highest level of practical musicianship—this is how they will make their living—but what good is holding liberal arts students to that standard if it means denying many of them a chance to play altogether? How does it serve the orchestra's "principal mission" of "giving students the opportunity to perform?" Dr. Milarsky himself claimed to like the "stress-free" and "less competitive" feel that comes from working with Columbia students, who, as he put it to Spectator, "do not have a career dependent upon their musical endeavors." Nevertheless, he gives preference to players whose careers are precisely "dependent upon their musical endeavors."

The solution here is the common sense of education. Let Columbia students who enroll take the course as space permits. If we cannot play like professionals, help us play our best. The issue turns on a core premise of teaching: Educational and professional matters divide precisely between an impulse to help or ignore those who are imperfect. In a global metropolis where world-class versions of almost every human endeavor can be found just a few blocks away, we need to be especially vigilant about this division. Does Columbia know what side it is on?

The author is a Columbia College junior majoring in history.

Staff Editorial

Dining flat fee falls flat

With final exams approaching, students are busier than ever. They need quick and easy access to campus eateries to find sustenance in between writing papers, doing problem sets, and studying for exams. While these weeks may be a bit chaotic, a new proposal that could drastically change the way we get our food on campus is worthy of students' attention. The proposal, currently being formulated by the Dining Advisory Committee in conjunction with students from Columbia College and the School of Engineering and Applied Science, calls for integrating the campus dining halls and a la carte dining locations. Under the proposed plan, students would be able to use meal plan meals at JJ's Place, Ferris Booth Commons, and Caf  212. They would simply swipe at the door, as they currently do in John Jay, and then would be able to eat all the food they care to eat. Students without meal plans will still have access to these eateries, but they will have to pay a flat fee—approximately \$12—at the door. Those who just want to grab a quick bite will be able to do so only at Caf  212, and only with cash. In addition to changing payment options, the proposal also calls for expanding seating areas, tripling the size of the Ferris Booth salad bar, and improving overall service.

The reason for these changes is simple: It's about the money. As a result of an increase in the number of off-campus eateries that accept Flex Dollars, business is down at campus eateries. Because Housing and Dining does not want to lose money operating Ferris Booth, 212, and JJ's, the current system was not considered sustainable.

To maintain profitability, the University would have had to either limit hours of operation, raise prices, or both. The committee decided that a better alternative would be integrating all of the campus dining locations, as the decrease in business at a la carte locations has corresponded with an increase in meal plan sales. By increasing the number of meals on a meal plan and by keeping dining locations open longer, the committee felt it could most effectively meet the needs of hungry students.

Yet while its intention may have been good, the proposed plan is not the right solution. Currently, a la carte locations serve high-quality (or higher quality) food because students must choose whether to patronize them over other options in the neighborhood. If Columbia shifts to an all-you-can eat system, there will be little reason for these locations to make their products excellent, as they will no longer be in direct competition with local businesses that take Flex. Additionally, with 212 as the only a la carte eatery, the number of customers may dramatically increase, which would be difficult for the small cafe to accommodate.

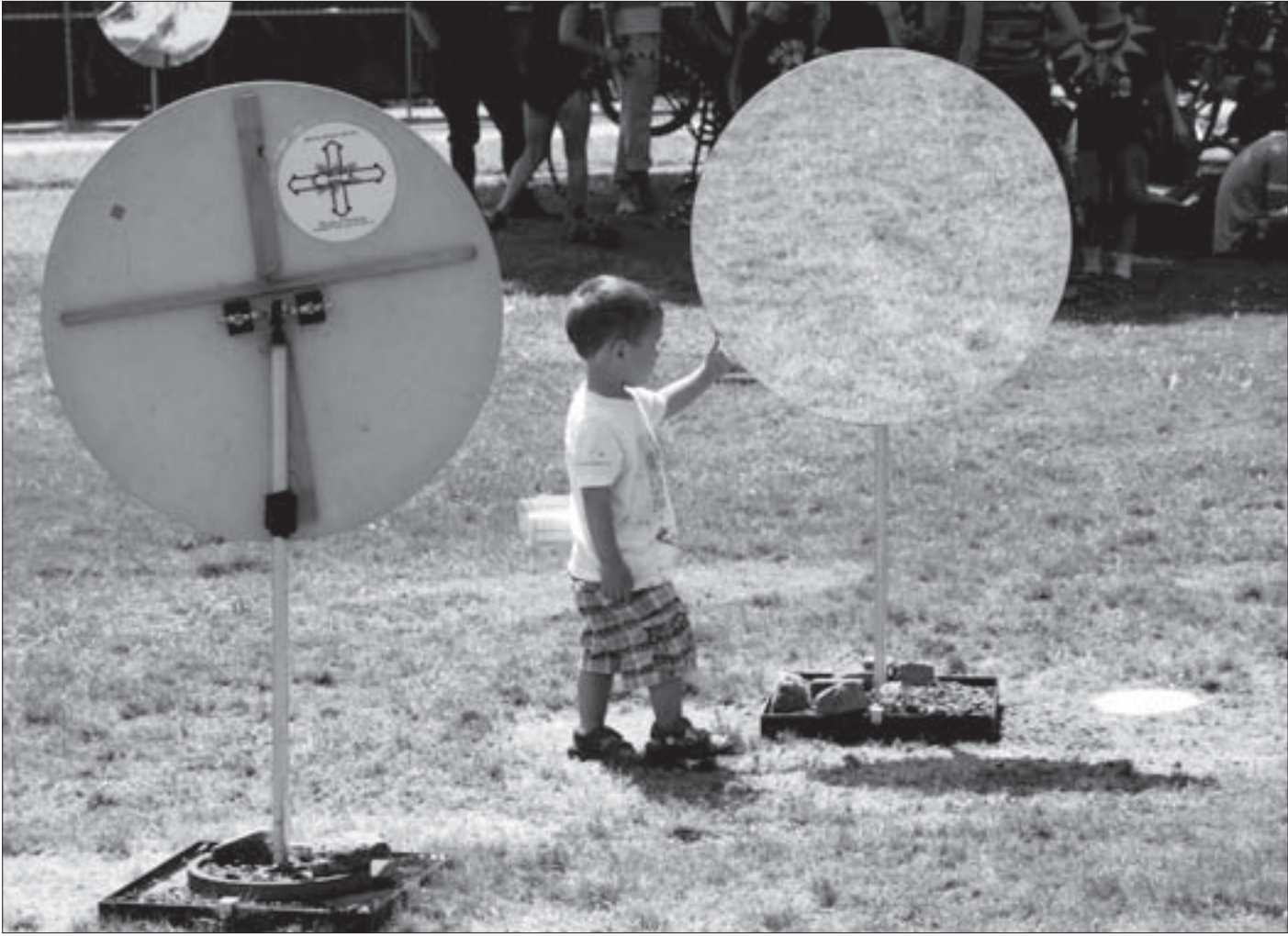
Barring students without meal plans from Ferris Booth and JJ's may disrupt campus social life and limit students' choices for eating. Students often go to JJ's and Ferris Booth for a snack, not for a whole meal. This plan would prevent students from doing that. The University needs to keep campus eateries on budget, but it must do so by attracting student business through high-quality, convenient options rather than by imposing potentially burdensome restrictions.

POLITICS ON STILTS



SHAINA RUBIN

As I See It



VISION DEVELOPMENT

IAN KWOK

The photographer is a Columbia College junior majoring in neuroscience. He is a Spectator senior staff photographer.

Can't read my poker face



YURINA KO

2 + 2 = 5

TV or surfing the Internet. Pretending to have read thoroughly, I once succeeded in making a comment that stimulated an interesting discussion. Apparently, Rousseau is also guilty in this respect. "Having to sustain discussion," he wrote, "the slowness of my ideas and the dryness of my conversation forced me to have recourse to fictions in order to say something." Seeing as Rousseau still exists on our bookshelves, I guess I shouldn't feel terrible for what I did.

I also know of seniors who, as a result of procrastination, have resorted to making up facts for their theses. An acquaintance of mine who is now a lucrative investment banker even admitted to me once that he lied about his stellar GPA and extracurricular activities on his resume to survive this depressing job market.

Let's face it. Despite the fact that most of us aspire to be moral people, it's difficult putting moral behavior into practice, especially in college. When our aim is to get good grades in an Ivy League school and find jobs at a time when nearly 10 percent of this country is unemployed, Machiavelli ends up looking like your best friend. He would tell you over a bottle of beer, "Don't

worry. Those who have done great things have little regard for good faith."

"I'm just playing in a game," the deceitful banker said, justifying the lies on the resume. "Everyone does it."

Last week, in the CU Players' production of Sartre's play "Dirty Hands," a political leader named Hoederer claimed, "I'll lie when I must ... I wasn't the one who invented lying. It grew out of a society divided into classes, and each one of us has inherited it from birth." Surely, children lie to cover up mischievous acts, and countless games like poker were invented to practice and perfect this very art. Lying, from an individual's point of view, is sometimes a necessary tool for survival, from being yelled at by parents to being killed on the streets. But lying, from a collective viewpoint, is so ubiquitous that there's no point attempting to enforce a completely honest society.

That makes me wonder why so many students in college get away with lying so often. I remember a professor telling my first-year seminar, "Trust me, I was a college student once and I have been teaching for a very long time, so I can immediately smell bullshit." Now, when I look back to this seminar and the 15-page paper I had to write on why governments have the right to lie, I'm not sure I can say with confidence that I knew what I was talking about. (To this day I find the claim extremely difficult to argue.) The professor gave me a B+ for the content, and A for my writing.

Like a true Sophist, I succeeded in presenting my argument with convincing rhetoric, but since I do want my government to be honest with me, I have disappointed Socrates in neglecting my love for truth and wisdom.

"When my love swears that she is made of truth," Shakespeare wrote, "I do believe her, though I know she lies." Similarly, did my professor detect the insincerity of my paper? Are companies overlooking the fact that people lie on their resumes, and valuing their presentation during interviews more? Are we all simply being tested on how well we can put on our poker face?

What are people studying in college for, anyway? Some want to be researchers, which means they have to be able to lie when giving placebos or conducting certain experiments with ignorant participants. Doctors, too, have to lie in difficult circumstances. And don't get me started on the lawyers or journalists. Whether it be a small white lie or a hoax that sells, all the respectable occupations for which we prepare ourselves require skillful mendacity.

Sissela Bok, philosopher and author of "Lying: Moral Choice in Public and Private Life," says that colleges "need to consider how moral choice can best be studied and what standards can be expected, as well as upheld." Now that we've established the fact that most college students lie in order to pass a course or get a job after graduation, perhaps Columbia needs to create an environment that not only acknowledges this phenomenon but also allows students to discuss this ethical dilemma without having to take it for granted, or justify it with profitable ends.

But for all you know, this entire column might be another big fat lie.

Yurina Ko is a Barnard College junior majoring in philosophy. She is a senior editor of the Columbia Political Review. 2+2=5 runs alternate Mondays. opinion@columbiaspectator.com

'Til death

The death penalty inspires strong opinions in many Americans, and Columbia students are no exception. Cooper Vaughan suggests a wildly different method to the madness, Gabriella Porrino articulates why her anti-death penalty argument demands rationality, Tyler Trumbach puts the penalty in perspective, and Karman Lucero explains why he believes the death penalty is a symptom of a diseased justice system.

The misconceptions of capital punishment

BY TYLER TRUMBACH

There are few issues more contentious than the death penalty. While other democratic nations have abolished and condemned the death penalty, the United States is one of the last to still carry out capital punishment. In spite of this fact, I believe the use of the death penalty in the U.S. can be justified in cases of murder. Capital punishment does not violate human rights and is an essential part of any judicial system.

I imagine that I am taking a very unpopular position among the student body at Columbia University. Therefore, to prevent any misunderstanding or animosity, I feel it necessary that I state that my beliefs have nothing to do with the political party I happen to affiliate with. I came to support capital punishment after studying the issue and looking at the facts. I also feel that I must state that while I support the principle of the death penalty, I still hold some reservations on its implementation in the United States. In order to better understand my beliefs on the issue of capital punishment, I think it necessary to clarify some misconceptions about the death penalty.

First of all, it must be understood that the death penalty does not violate human rights. It seems funny to me that those against the death penalty will ardently fight for the human rights of

a murderer while ignoring the rights of a victim. Doesn't a victim have a right to life that was infringed upon by a murderer? The U.S. Constitution guarantees many rights. It is understood that the rights to prosecute are given to the state when the law is broken. After all, there is no outcry when citizens are incarcerated for robbery. Is this not a violation of their right to liberty? No, it is understood that the state had the right to take away their right to liberty after they committed a crime. Even the Fourteenth Amendment states that the right to life, liberty, or property can be withheld after due process of the law. This country only issues the death penalty by means of due process. Therefore no human rights are violated.

Secondly, the death penalty is not a form of revenge—it is a form of justice. If the death penalty is simply a form of legalized murder used to exact vengeance on a murderer, then life imprisonment is a form of legalized kidnapping. We are not “stooping to the murderer's level” by carrying out the death penalty because the murderer is receiving due process for his crimes (something, I would like to add, they denied their victim). The execution of a murderer follows a trial and appellate review. It is not a form of revenge, but rather a form of justice.

Finally, it must be understood that the death penalty does not deter murder. (I can imagine the joyful cries of those opposed to the death penalty who think they have caught me in a trap. That's right, I agree with you guys. Confused yet?). The purpose of any punishment is not to deter, but to enact justice and remove dangerous people from society. No punishment, not even capital punishment, can deter all crime. When people are desperate, they will not think of long-term consequences.

This does not mean that all punishments should be eliminated because they cannot deter. Punishment has another purpose. Likewise, the death penalty cannot be eliminated because it cannot deter. This was never its purpose.

However, I still hold many reservations about the implementation of the death penalty in this country. To clarify, when I refer to implementation I am not referring to particular methods of execution. (After all, I believe that the electric chair and other “inhumane” methods of execution are only fitting for a convicted murderer). By implementation, I mean who gets executed. There is great disparity in the American judicial system regarding who gets executed. I would like to see a system where all murderers, regardless of their income level, have to pay for their crimes. I also fear that the innocent may be executed far too often in this country. To fix these problems, I propose that the government more aggressively encourage competent, experienced attorneys to give back to the community by becoming prosecutors. I also propose that standards in the investigatory process be tightened and better enforced to prevent innocent citizens from being accused of murder. With such new policies, many of the problems with the current judicial system could be fixed.

Philosophically, there is no good argument against capital punishment. It is morally justifiable. The only reservations are based on implementation and practicality. If both sides in the debate understood these facts, then solutions that could bring about the successful implementation of a death penalty could be found.

The author is a Columbia College first-year.

Preserving the law

BY KARMAN LUCERO

The execution of criminals used to be—and in many ways still is—a public spectacle. People would gather in the town square with their families to watch the guilty suffer and be put to death. This demonstration was a means of exerting and establishing public authority.

The right to life has been one of the fundamental factors of legitimate political authority since time immemorial. Even after public torture and execution were deemed cruel and unusual punishment by a good portion of the Western world, state-sponsored murder continued, on the one hand in closed courtrooms and private jail cells and, on the other hand on battlefields with massive casualties. The means have changed over time, but the end goal of emblemizing political authority remains unchanged.

Historically, “justice” is a relatively arbitrary term that is thrown around nonchalantly by governments, and one that has been used to justify all manners of atrocities, including the death penalty. The state's right to kill its own subjects and citizens is historically more notorious than praiseworthy. The Inquisition comes to mind, as do the horrors of colonialism. The Nazis used the rhetoric of the death penalty—that is, the state's right to kill—to assassinate over 11 million people for committing the crime of existing. Even Jesus was executed on commands from those in authority.

For these killings, these crimes as we now call them, the rhetoric was all there—the legal arguments were in place. What has changed in retrospect? Why are these once-legal crimes some of the most painful and embarrassing instances in human history? What has truly changed? Will history look back on what we do today and call us criminal as well?

This brings us to today and to the future that will become our own. What are the specific differences between the death penalty that still holds authority

over more than half of the world's population today and the crimes of the past that we condemn? What is it that so protects us from past evils and prevents us from repeating history? What is the worth of the death penalty in today's society? Has it solved problems? Has it prevented crimes? Even if the death penalty deters crimes, do we, a civilized society, have the right to take the life of others under the guise of the law?

These questions can be asked on both a macro and micro level. In terms of preventing crime on a massive scale, how successful is the death penalty? There is more incentive to not get caught than to not commit a crime. For instance, Saddam Hussein was killed under the authority of a provisional government. Did Saddam refrain from violating human rights and committing “crimes against humanity” for fear of the death penalty? Are other dictators following suit? Or, did Saddam commit such crimes with tolerance from the international community until the United States decided to invade Iraq and capture him? On a smaller scale, does the death penalty prevent people from committing murder? In other words, does it scare people into obeying the law?

History can demonstrate that fear is not always the most lasting form of political authority. Self-interest has always been more motivating. Even in situations where political bias is not an issue, the death penalty is more vengeance than justice. It is responding to violence with violence. Is this the law we believe in? Is this a legacy we want?

Who has the right to kill another

human being? Is there such a thing as a uniform policy on the matter? Or is it more arbitrary? Is it subject to personal and political biases and prejudice? If so, how much more time must pass and how many more people must be killed legally before we come up with an appropriate answer? The death penalty is a legal experiment. It is always changing and circumstantial. Human lives are our guinea pigs.

Overall, I believe that the death penalty is one symptom of a diseased legal system. While I have a deep respect for the ideals and ethics of the American legal code, its manifestations are not without problems. In a country where rights are sacred and where the ultimate political authority is theoretically vested in the people, it is a responsibility of everyone to question and attempt to comprehend the meaning and power of the law.

Society and technology are moving faster than the law. Globalization is increasing exponentially while international law is more a dream than a reality. I think it is essential that people keep the law in mind and keep it changing with the times. Otherwise, we will pass it up completely and the law as we know and cherish it will become a relic of the past.

The author is a Columbia College junior majoring in history. He is the president of the CU chapter of Responsible Endowments Coalition and the treasurer of CU Amnesty International.

ILLUSTRATION BY CAROLYN LUCEY

Death to the death penalty

BY GABRIELLA PORRINO

Before launching into a diatribe on inconsistent criteria for sentencing, widespread racial disparity, or the immorality of capital punishment, a framework for discussing the death penalty (and other similarly contentious issues) must exist. I often avoid discussing the topic of capital punishment because I begrudge the rather predictable outcome—sensible debate cheapened to a series of emotional, unfounded arguments.

With that being said, I support abolishing the death penalty for many reasons—the most unsupportable being the moral objection. By steering clear of the hazy pitfalls of moral assertions and instead focusing on effectiveness, a better claim for abolishing the death penalty can be made. Then, perhaps, one can indulge in a bit of Beccaria-, Camus-, or Kant-influenced philosophy, which I know most fellow Columbians are itching to do.

But before discussing the fun stuff, hard, cold evidence must be dragged to the forefront of debate.

A simple yet important starting point resides with geography. Geographical arbitrariness is one of the most evident demonstrations of unequal application of the law. Just by the nature of our judicial system, state courts have the right

to impose the death penalty as outlined in their respective statutes. Therefore, a large degree of variability exists among states, leading to gross inequalities in nationwide executions. Since the 1976 U.S. Supreme Court reinstatement of the death penalty, 80 percent of all executions have occurred in the South, in comparison to less than 2 percent in the Northeast. Therefore, the exact same crime in Maine or Texas could result in vastly different outcomes—which in itself is an inherently questionable precedent. Choosing to invoke the death penalty therefore is also a localized, provincial statement of what a particular group of people (not necessarily representative of Americans as a whole) deem a particularly heinous crime.

Overall, the most incorrectly argued facet of the death penalty debate lies in cost analysis. Time and time again the uninformed debater claims that the death penalty saves Americans' hard-earned tax dollars. But life without parole is inarguably less expensive to the state than the death penalty—a California commission estimated life without parole costs \$11.5 million per year versus the current capital punishment system that costs \$137 million per year (though mostly in legal dues). So please, don't try to tell me that the death penalty saves money—it just plainly does not.

However important cost may be, I find studies detailing the impact of race on death penalty rulings one of the most compelling reasons for abolition. One Philadelphia study found that blacks were 3.9 times more likely to receive a death sentence than similarly situated, non-black

defendants. The race of the victim is also a determining factor. In Georgia, it is estimated that black defendants whose victims were white were 4.3 times more likely to receive the death penalty than defendants whose victims were black. The research illuminating the huge amount of racial disparity is vast and thorough.

What perturbs me the most about the racial disparity of the death penalty, though, is what the presence of racism in our judicial system says about the state of race relations today. It seems that the courts are one of the remaining bastions of legitimized, state-sponsored discrimination in an age when street-level racism is deemed unacceptable. If we want racism to be wiped off our streets, then maybe we should start with our courts.

The presence of racism in the application of capital punishment doesn't just demonstrate a poor state of race relations—it also reveals a judicial system that is influenced by irrelevant, biased factors. If racism is virulent enough to influence judicial rulings, can't capital punishment be vulnerable to other external, equally undemocratic forces?

With a foundation of facts, discussing the death penalty can be a fruitful endeavor—one leading to an interesting set of connections, potentially disturbing discoveries of our tainted judicial system, and extrapolations to larger theories of justice and law.

But without evidence, using Kant to argue why you support the death penalty will not only be obnoxious, but also erroneous.

The author is a Columbia College first-year.

Deconstructing decapitation

BY COOPER VAUGHAN

Factory farming is certainly a more topical subject of conversation on campus than the death penalty. As modern, conscientious students, we lament the fact that the animals we eat spend their lives confined in tiny cages, deprived of all animal luxuries. The fact that we subject our prisoners to the same inhumanities seems to be of little concern. Faced with keeping stray animals caged for the rest of their lives, we choose euthanasia as the more humane solution. Rather than subject criminals to a lifetime of captivity, we ought to afford them the same opportunity.

Of course, this analogy between animals and humans is not perfect—human factors such as free will may complicate the situation. Still, while the best sentence may vary from case to case, we at least must leave the option of the death penalty open to principled jurors and judges, as well as to allow convicts faced with life imprisonment the right to a quick death.

The main barrier to the widespread implementation of the death penalty is the huge financial cost involved. It can cost many times more to carry out the death penalty than a life sentence in prison. Now, our nation simply cannot afford to spend these millions of dollars. Faced with these enormous costs, we must either abolish the death penalty or somehow reduce the costs associated with it.

The latter option should by no means be neglected. There is a huge potential for reining in the costs of the death penalty. The appeals process often takes much longer for capital cases, but this is a comparatively inexpensive process (so long as states maintain enough appellate judges to prevent long wait times before an appeal is heard). The extra costs are incurred largely pre-conviction, rather than at the appeals stage. A capital trial is a very different proceeding than one in which a life sentence is sought. Prosecutors spend more money on investigations. More lawyers are assigned to the case. The trial lasts much longer, from jury selection to sentencing, due in large part to the procedural hurdles prosecutors must go through when seeking capital punishment.

This is ostensibly to prevent a wrongful conviction. I find this lack of confidence in our regular criminal trials troubling. True, people are occasionally wrongfully convicted. This is an unfortunate but unavoidable consequence of the trial by jury—or any trial system, for that matter. If we lack confidence in the verdict of a non-capital trial, then we should increase the prosecutorial burden in all trials to the level of a capital trial. If we have confidence in the non-capital trial, we should trust that same process when sentencing someone to death.

The possibility of new evidence coming to light certainly exists. However, there is plenty of time for this evidence to surface in the decades of pre-execution appeals. The advent of DNA analysis has provided evidence that has freed many prisoners on death row as well as those serving life sentences, but this is problem of the past. DNA evidence is now analyzed and presented at trial. The chance of exonerating evidence surfacing post-execution is now acceptably miniscule.

It seems then that we should do away with the excess trial requirements of capital cases. This will greatly reduce the costs of the death penalty, with few if any sacrifices in terms of justice being served. The death penalty will remain more expensive, however, due in part to the increased cost of housing death-row inmates.

If we are to maintain the death penalty, we should ensure we are getting the most for our money. One of the arguments often cited in favor of capital punishment is its deterrent effect on crime. This is clearly nonsense. People are not considering the possible punishments when committing brutal murders. Nor is the distant prospect of a painless lethal injection at all terrifying.

There is, however, still potential to exploit the deterrent effect of capital punishment. First, we should replace lethal injections with beheadings. This is a much more humane method of execution—botched lethal injections in many cases cause excruciating and extended agony prior to death, while beheadings cause instant and painless death. Saudi Arabia executes convicted criminals by beheading, with virtually no mishaps.

Beheadings have the advantage of being, while much more humane than lethal injections, also much more terrifying. If we are to scare people away from committing crimes, they must be intimately aware of the prospect of their punishment. Thus, these beheadings should be made public.

Still, it is not likely that many violent crimes will be deterred by these public beheadings. White-collar crime, on the other hand, could be deterred. A corporate executive willing to risk life in a minimum-security prison may not be willing to risk having his head chopped off. Corporate fraud, in its most egregious cases, can be as destructive as violent crime, and its perpetrators should face similar punishment—namely beheading.

I realize advocating expanding the scope of executions, implementing public beheadings, and reducing the rigorous standards of capital trials may be seem barbaric at first glance. However, both in terms providing humane treatment to convicted criminals and advancing the interests of society as a whole, these are ideal options.

The author is a Columbia College junior majoring in political science-economics. He is a member of the Columbia University College Republicans.

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© Puzzles by Pappocom

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Vikings
6 Quarterback Brett
6 Recipe amt.
10 1960s-'70s NBA center
14 Former Apple laptop
15 Eurasian
16 Boundary river
16 Excel
17 Marsh grass
18 Italia's capital
19 "I'll be there in"
20 Shed some pounds
23 City square memorial
24 Suffix with Gator
25 Some NFL blockers
26 Begins
31 Woody route
33 Bear: Sp.
36 Logger's tool
37 Either of two Modesto-based vintner brothers
38 Divide earnings equally
43 Fella
44 Charlotte of "The Facts of Life"
45 Fireplace residue
46 Ancient Indo-European
47 "Blue" evergreen
50 Fish-to-be
51 Topeka is its cap.
53 Mariner
57 Talk to the answering machine
61 Post-shower powder
63 Move, to a Realtor
64 Scatter, as seed
65 Impressionist
66 Former Lacoste partner
67 Draws closer
68 Ashram advisor
69 Caustic fluids
70 ___craftsy

DOWN

1 Dukes in boxing gloves
2 Pounds... cover one's route, coop-style

3 Screwdriver
4 Classic thesaurus
5 Barely make, as a living
6 Gang land
7 Often furrowed facial feature
8 Identical to, with "the"
9 Checkered pillow
10 Biblical headdress
11 Koala's home
12 Puffrock creator's monogram
13 Abbr. covering unlisted items
21 Famine's opposite
22 Beginning, informally
26 Leans to one side
27 Wade through the shallows
29 Pep rally yell
30 Insignificant one
32 WWII Brit. film
33 Schindler of "Schindler's List"
34 Former veep
35 Classic boy-and-dog Disney film
39 Actress Lupino

40 Big name in little trucks
41 Gaffer's goal
42 Put into service again
47 Dwarf who needs tissues
48 Big name in small planes
49 Day to put all your eggs in one basket
52 Pop singer Lavigne

54 French Revolution: journalist
55 Golden ___ senior citizens
56 Full of the latest happenings
58 Stocking hue
59 Shaving gel
60 Stylish '60s Brits
61 "You're it" game
62 "The Simpsons" Squishie seller

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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xwordeditor@aol.com 11/30/09

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By Pamela Harrison
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11/30/09

EVENT PICKS

THE EDITORS’ BEST BETS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

THEATER

“**The Secret Garden.**” *Roone Arledge Auditorium, Lerner Hall, Wednesday and Thursday, 8 p.m., \$5 with CUID.*

Columbia Musical Theatre Society brings the classic novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett to life. Featuring such musical favorites as “Lily’s Eyes” and “The Girl I Mean to Be,” CMTS hopes to put forth a compelling version of the musical accompanied by a dancing chorus from Orchesis.

FILM

The NYFCC Comes to Columbia. *511 Dodge Hall, Friday, 2 p.m., free.*

Continuing its discussion of the films of 1962 as well as its 75th anniversary, the New York Film Critics Circle will be watching Jacques Demy’s debut film “Lola” and discussing the past and present of film criticism.

FOOD & DRINK

Chips and Dips. *John Jay Cafeteria, Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m., \$14 or one swipe.*

The weather may be getting colder, but John Jay will be on fire on Tuesday with an extra spicy appetizer option. The cafeteria will be serving up a selection of chips along with several options of assorted salsa and cheese dips.

ART

Empathy, Compassion, and Pain: Colonial Imagery of Corporal Punishment ca. 1900. *930 Schermerhorn, Thursday, 6:15 p.m., free.*

John Pepper, a professor at Ramapo College of New Jersey, will explore the problems of violence and photography in Africa in this University Seminar in the Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas. The talk will further explore issues of colonialism and human rights in contemporary representations of Africa.

MUSIC

Columbia Classical Performers in concert. *Philosophy Hall, Monday, 6 p.m., free.*

Columbia Classical Performers was founded in 2001 to give Columbia’s classical musicians a relaxed and intimate performance environment, while giving the rest of Columbians free concerts on campus. Their performance on Monday will include pieces by Prokofiev, Bach, Sibelius, and Beethoven. There is also the promise of a “light reception” to follow, in case you like your sonatas with a snack.

BOOKS

The Unipolar Moment and the Culture of Imperialism. *Altschul Auditorium (417 International Affairs Building), Thursday, 6:15 pm, free.*

The Heyman Center for the Humanities has invited Avram Noam Chomsky to give the fifth annual Edward Said Memorial Lecture. Yes, Noam Chomsky—the father of linguistics. Noam Chomsky—one of the most controversial political figures alive. He probably won’t be waxing poetic on anarchy or generative grammar, as the lecture is about imperialism and the “unipolar moment,” but who cares? It’s Noam Chomsky.

STYLE

KSA Fashion Show Model Auditions. *Lerner 477, Monday, 6 p.m., free.*

Got what it takes to be Columbia’s next top model? Audition to walk down the runway at KSA’s annual Culture Show. Past designers featured in the fashion show include Tommy Hilfiger and Lorick. Ladies must bring heels.

MUSIC

Ramin Arjomand, Solo Piano. *Philosophy Hall, Graduate Student Lounge, Monday, 8 p.m. – 10 p.m., free.*

Composer and pianist Ramin Arjomand, who received his DMA from Columbia, will be playing an improvised and experimental night of music. Now an adjunct assistant professor at Columbia, Arjomand is bringing his experimental approach to Columbia’s halls with this free concert for students.

DON’T RAIN ON THE MACY’S DAY PARADE



Kenny Jackson / Spectator staff photographer

MARCHING ON | The fearless space ranger from Disney Pixar’s “Toy Story” returned to the Macy’s Day Parade for another trip to Herald Square and beyond. With larger-than-life measurements, Buzz was one of many festive floats portraying Disney characters—something to be thankful for.

BOOKS

Poetry will take on a multilingual twist at event

BY NICOLLETTE BARSAMIAN
Spectator Staff Writer

“If there is something to recall/there was nothing to regret,” Russian poet Vera Pavlova wrote. It remains to be seen whether or not those who attend her reading today will have something to recall—and nothing to regret.

The Harriman Institute and Columbia’s Slavic department are sponsoring the bilingual poetry reading. Pavlova is one of Russia’s bestselling poets and is also renowned in the United States—her work has been published in the New Yorker. She’s even been featured on the MTA’s “Poetry In Motion” program.

Alla Rachkov and Maksim Hanukai, graduate students in the Slavic department, are co-coordinating the event. “The graduate students in our department organize events several times a semester, such as student panels, film screenings or invited speakers,

which cover topics related to Slavic literatures,” Rachkov said. “This event series was initially meant to invite conversation among members of our department and anyone interested in Slavic cultures.”

With regard to Pavlova’s reading in particular, Rachkov added, “The role of the poet and poetry in Russia can be, and has been, viewed from a variety of perspectives, including historical, political, or economic, and perhaps Vera’s work can help answer questions related to such issues. Most of all, we hope the audience enjoys Vera’s art and her unique voice.”

Coincidentally, it turns out that the audience Pavlova is expecting Monday is one major reason why she chose to read at Columbia. “I received from Columbia University an offer that I could not refuse,” she said. “Seriously, though, for me students are always the best audience. In Russia, I often decline invitations to read at literary

clubs, but I always accept offers to read at schools and universities. Incidentally, the forthcoming reading at Columbia will be my third there.”

The event will begin with light refreshments and informal conversation for 15 minutes. The reading itself will be by Pavlova herself and her husband and translator, Steven Seymour. Pavlova will read in Russian, and Seymour will read in English. After the reading, there will be time for questions and comments from the audience.

Pavlova’s first American anthology, “If There Is Something to Desire,” will come out in January. She has just one phrase of advice for young poets at Columbia: “Do refrain from writing, if you can. Recently I attended a reading by Franz Wright, who told about sending his poems for the first time to his father, James Wright, and the response was: ‘You are a poet. Welcome to hell.’”



Courtesy of Aleksandr Dolgn

SLAVIC VERSES | Poet Pavlova will speak on Monday.

FILM



Courtesy of The Weinstein Company

ON THE ROAD | Director Hillcoat attempts to capture Cormac McCarthy’s post-apocalyptic classic on screen.

‘The Road’ to remaking McCarthy classic

BY MOLLY SPEACHT
Columbia Daily Spectator

According to director John Hillcoat, the message of “The Road” goes beyond its post-apocalyptic setting: “The story is a parable about human goodness and what makes a good man slide.”

The director, who sat down for an interview earlier this month, was attached to the adaptation of Cormac McCarthy’s masterpiece before the book was even published.

Citing other works by McCarthy, Hillcoat said, “I spoke to producers in Los Angeles about what kind of stories and

genres I was looking to work with. I mentioned how much ‘Blood Meridian’ had influenced my film ‘The Proposition.’ ‘No Country for Old Men’ was, of course, already taken, so the next option was ‘The Road.’”

The film tells the story of a father and son struggling to survive after an unknown disaster has left the world ravaged and humankind ruthless. Throughout the book, the father struggles with the fact that he must eventually kill his own son before the cannibals that roam the land take him.

After obtaining the story, one of Hillcoat’s first duties was to find the actors that would play

Man and Boy, the two characters essential to the emotional punch of the film. Luckily, Viggo Mortensen had the “credibility” and “intensity” to play a man struggling with a dire decision. “For the role, we were looking for an everyman with the authenticity and credibility for the physical struggles that the character goes through,” Hillcoat said. “Viggo has that range of emotion and the ability to throw himself wholeheartedly into his work.”

The filmmaker’s “greatest fear” was finding a child actor to play the part of Boy, a part that

SEE THE ROAD, page 8

Fashion designer Apfel’s wardrobe gets curated



JENNIE ROSE
HALPERIN
ANOTHER
DAY OLDER
AND DEEPER
IN DEBT

The concept of legging boots was new to me. Shiny spandex stretching over a skinny leg from the waist to the bottom of a soled foot, all connected, seemed totally wild, but also logical. After leaving the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Mass., all I could think to ask was, “Where can I get a pair?”

In the exhibit “Rare Bird of Fashion: The Irreverent Iris Apfel,” the museum displays two pairs of these boots, as well as Apfel’s other designs and couture. Now 88, and always model-size, the former textile designer culled much of her clothing from sample sales and runway looks, as well as world flea markets and bazaars. As Apfel said, “I never bought to collect. I bought to wear.”

Even the crazier pieces, like a Scherrer coat made all of feathers that looks like something out of the Big Bird collection, or a Tibetan chest piece made into a pendant, look worn and loved, and some pieces are even slightly stained or wrinkled.

The Apfel exhibit is not the first of its kind—a similar exhibit, then called “Rara Avis,” ran at the Met’s Costume Institute in 2005, but the Peabody Essex Museum’s exhibit is curated partially by the great lady herself, once described as a “geriatric glamazon.”

Indeed, the four rooms reflect a gaudiness that seems peculiar to Apfel herself, mixing high and low fashion, \$5 bangles with a Nina Ricci coat, an antique Afghan tunic with

SEE HALPERIN, page 8

‘The Road’ to remaking McCarthy classic

THE ROAD from page 7

requires great maturity. “Kodi Smit-McPhee came late. His father had already read the entire book to him, and they gave us a videotape of them acting out all of these extra scenes. Kodi was mature beyond his years and very unaffected,” he said.

To emulate the realism of the book, Hillcoat steered clear of cinematic end-of-the-world clichés and instead drew inspiration from the lives of the

homeless and from the destruction left by actual man-made and natural disasters. To create the bleak look of the road, Hillcoat’s production designer Chris Kennedy spent three weeks on Google Earth finding locations. These spots included an abandoned turnpike and an old theme park in Pennsylvania.

Hillcoat created a movie that accurately visualizes Cormac McCarthy’s work. However, the quiet inaction that works so

well in a novel does not translate cinematically. Nothing much happens in the film, making it sometimes difficult for the audience to emotionally connect to the poor souls on screen. Nevertheless, “The Road” is a realistic portrayal of the end of the world.

“The point was to reference reality,” Hillcoat said. “Not to focus on the actual disaster that happened, but rather the day to day that the characters endure.”

Apfel’s quirky wardrobe gets curated

HALPERIN from page 7

Christian Louboutin’s. The display is often distracting—piped-in music overlays a strange, tacky set with random pieces of furniture and a confusing layout that makes the exhibit difficult to navigate.

While in 2005 the exhibit may have been reflective of New York City’s mood, it seems difficult now to justify such expensive tastes and the cultural conglomeration of “souk style” with European design. In many ways, the exhibit felt like watching a 1930s comedy of manners—looking into a life of decadence that is far removed from the observers and ultimately a sham.

Apfel wanted to create a

cult of personality around her eccentric style of dress and collecting in the exhibit, but it ultimately felt shallow and inelegant, far removed from Apfel’s characteristic, chic style. This was mostly due to the exhibit’s layout, but also to what it represents: Apfel’s material unreality.

Though I took exception to the set and styling, I found the exhibit joyously absurd, an exercise in striving for the unattainable and also unmentionable—to gaze on the wealthy with longing and appreciation.

Collecting couture seems like a more useful endeavor than collecting art, but with fashion exhibits, both kinds of collecting come to the same end—a museum. Apfel’s style

is one-of-a-kind, and reflecting that, the exhibit turns her life and her collections into a spectacle of fantasy.

Apfel is a paradigm of the fashion world, a woman who dressed herself like a piece of art, and in doing that, attracted the art world to her. The world looks beautiful from her signature insect-like glasses, and though her life is undoubtedly more complicated than the perfection and glamour the exhibit seeks to craft, all that persists are her clothes.

Jennie Rose Halperin is a Barnard College senior majoring in American studies. Another Day Older and Deeper in Debt runs alternate Mondays. arts@columbiaspectator.com

? a) Depression is a bunch of symptoms exhibited by weak people.

b) Depression is an unbearable suppression of brain activity that can strike anyone.

Straightening out all the misconceptions, the correct answer is 'b'. It's a concept we should all understand and remember, and here's why. Depression strikes millions of young adults, but only 1 out of 5 ever seeks treatment for it. Too many just drag themselves along or eventually seek relief through suicide. Why not treatment? Partly lack of awareness. Partly the unwarranted negative stigma. This is what needs fixing. This is where we need you to change your attitudes. It's an illness, not a weakness. And it's readily treatable. Spreading the word and making this common knowledge is everybody's assignment.

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Wrestling sees mixed results at Northeast Duals

BY JACOB LEVENFELD
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Columbia wrestling team got its first taste of mano-a-mano competition on Saturday at the Northeast Duals, and its three duals ended with three different results. After suffering a 20-13 defeat at the hands of Bloomsburg, the Lions (1-1-1) rebounded to tie North Carolina and blow out Sacred Heart.

The Light Blue raced ahead with victories at 125 pounds and 133 pounds against Bloomsburg. Sophomore Kyle Gilchrist led off with a 6-1 win over Jason Guffey and sophomore Andrew Grabfelder followed up with a 17-4 major decision over Dan Gaylord, but the Huskies buckled down and took six of the final eight bouts en route to a 2-1 finish on the day.

“We lost a close match to a very good team and the dual was well within our grasp,” head coach Brendan Buckley said in an e-mail. “We lost three one-point matches at 142, 149, and 174. A slight change in any of those bouts could have given us the W.”

Victory continued to elude the Lions as they battled the Tar Heels to a draw in the day’s second dual. The match was a true nail-biter, as neither team won more than two bouts in a row, ensuring the score remained close throughout. With the Lions trailing by three with one bout to go, sophomore heavyweight Kevin Lester came up big for Columbia with a 5-2 decision over Andrew Cekuta, pulling the Lions even for the final margin.

“They are a good team and it was a good match,” Buckley said. “We will take a tie but really wish we could have got bonus points in one more of those bouts which would have given us enough to win.”

In their final dual of the day, the Lions took advantage of an undermanned Sacred Heart squad that managed to capture just a single bout



File photo

SUSPENSEFUL MATCH | The Lions ended up tying the Tar Heels in their second dual of the day in a tightly contested match.

in the match. Four Columbia wrestlers won by forfeit, but many of the bouts were controlled by the Lions as they pulled away for a 41-3 win.

Gilchrist had a strong day for the Light Blue, posting

three wins including one via the forfeit. Junior Eren Civan also went 3-0 at 165 pounds, as did Lester.

“All in all, a good day for us,” Buckley said. “We wrestled very hard and are continuing to improve.”

This weekend, the Lions travel out west for the Cliff Keen Las Vegas Collegiate Wrestling Invitational, which will be held on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 4 and 5.

Thanksgiving tiebreaker ends Pixbox season in dramatic fashion

VELAZQUEZ from back page

more out of you than a .500 record in Pixbox. I guess it’s true what they say, you people at WKCR just aren’t as knowledgeable as us here at Spec when it comes to sports.

- **Jacob Levenfeld:** I want to make fun of you, I really, really do, but you’ve never given me any ammo. Best of luck in your world travels next semester and you had better pick up the football beat next year.
- **Lisa Lewis:** Admit it, your victory last year was a fluke. You somehow ended up with what might have been the best Pixbox record in history by doing things like picking the winners based on mascots. Mascots! This year, though, your mascot challenge week failed, and your season with it, as you sunk into seventh place where you belong. I’m not saying that you don’t know anything about football, but you just tend to have more fun with Pixbox than the rest of us with your witty nicknames for picks and what-not. Despite having won Pixbox once, I don’t think you understand that Pixbox is a business and it’s only fun if you win. Bitch, please.
- **Kunal Gupta:** What’s the deal with your column name? “Moving the Chains”??? Don’t you cover tennis? What chains are there on a tennis court? Where are you moving them? Your

column name obviously can’t allude to anything about football considering you proved to everyone that you know nothing about the game with your abysmal finish in Pixbox. Maybe you should change your column name to “I <3 Rafa,” “Andy Roddick is my Hero,” “Double Fault,” or “What the Deuce.” (Actually, that last one is pretty clever if I should say so myself.) Also, Phuck the Fillies.

- **Holly MacDonald:** Almost every Wednesday at our meeting with Coach Wilson we would talk about your faults and how you have come to accept them. Since you’ve accepted them, I guess I’ll share them. Holly is selfish, vain, impatient, judgmental, and manipulative. She also doesn’t like chocolate, and what kind of person doesn’t like chocolate? The worst kind, I’ll tell you that much. I don’t know if this is a fault, but she also has been known to root for a college football team from Norman, Okla.
- **Jacob Shapiro:** How can your column name be “Put it on the Board”? Don’t all White Sox fans hate Hawk Harrelson? I’ve tried to listen to that hillbilly before and I just can’t do it. If you can put up with him, you’re either deaf or certifiably insane.

That may have been the most fun I’ve ever had writing a column. I can’t wait to win this thing again in the spring.

Matt Velazquez is a Columbia College senior majoring in history. sports@columbiaspectator.com

Men’s basketball to play Sacred Heart tonight after losing to No. 10 Syracuse

BASKETBALL from back page

off an assist from Scott, sparking a 10-4 run for the Light Blue. Though the Lions were able to keep the game close for most of the first half, they were never able to take the lead from the Orange, who entered halftime with a 36-27 advantage.

In the second half, Syracuse turned on the jets and outscored the Lions 49-33. The Orange used its tremendous zone defense to force the Light Blue to taking difficult shots and turn the ball over. The giveaways hurt badly, as Syracuse was able to score 29 points off of the Lions’ 20 turnovers.

“They do a great job—it’s definitely something different here, you can’t really simulate it in practice,” Agho said of Syracuse’s zone. “They make you take tough shots . . . and if you don’t execute and you don’t run the plays the same way every time, they can force you to turn the ball over or take tough ones. They did a great job and they converted on our turnovers and blew the game open.”

The Orange definitely did force the Light Blue to take tough shots, as Columbia took 21 shots from 3-point range. However, the Lions were able to convert 42.9 percent of these attempts. It was primarily turnovers and a weaker second-half defense that doomed Columbia.

“I thought overall we gave great effort, I just felt like the zone really did us in,” Jones said. “I thought we just turned it over, and we didn’t execute as well as we wanted to for a good portion of that second half.”

One player in particular that the Lions had a hard time containing was junior forward Wes Johnson. Johnson led the Orange with 26 points on 8-13 shooting. Both he and freshman forward Mookie Jones shot 80 percent from behind the arc.

Agho led Columbia in scoring with 22 points. Ampim and freshman forward John Daniels each had a team-high six rebounds. Daniels had an impressive game all around, as he also contributed seven points and two steals.

“John Daniels just played his tail off,” Jones said. “I thought he just gave great effort, he did all the little things we talked about.”

The Lions will look to get back on track when they travel to Fairfield, Conn., to take on the Pioneers tonight.

Sacred Heart (2-3) is currently riding a three-game losing streak that began with a 76-66 loss to Fordham on Nov. 18. Since then, the Pioneers have fallen to Atlantic 10 rival Xavier 105-65 and Big Ten foe Penn State 87-75. All three of these defeats came on the road.

Earlier in the season, Sacred Heart took on another Ivy squad, defeating Yale 92-86 in the Connecticut 6 Classic.

The player that will pose the most difficult challenge for the Light Blue is senior forward Corey Hassan. Hassan is currently leading his team with 26.0 points and 7.4 rebounds per game. He notched a season high 33 points in the Pioneers’ loss to Fordham, accounting for exactly half of their points.

Tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m.

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Don't call it a comeback: Pixbox champ crowned



MATT VELAZQUEZ
THE X-FACTOR

Finally the day has come—I am the Pixbox champion. It took a tiebreaker over Thanksgiving break for me to overtake Jelani Johnson for the first time in weeks to earn the title, but in the words of the great LL Cool J, “Don’t call it a comeback, I’ve been here for years.”

As a beat writer for the football team for the past three years, it wasn’t a matter of if I would win the fall edition of Pixbox—it was a matter of when. I fell short in my first attempt as a sophomore, defeated not for lack of ability to pick games, but rather my inability to win a tiebreaker against the two columnists I was tied with. Last year, Lisa Lewis ran away with the title by recording what may be the best Pixbox record of all time, which left me with really no chance to win.

But this year has been a great year for yours truly. I secured tickets to the World Cup in South Africa next summer, I appeared on “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire” (check your local listings for the time of the show on Jan. 6 to 7), and after sticking close to Jelani throughout the Pixbox season, I captured my first crown. Now in the White House lives the first non-white president in American history and on this page you’re reading the victory column of the first non-white Pixbox winner—or at least to my knowledge, the first Latino—in Spectator history. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

As is customary, I now get to gloat about my championship and bash the lesser sports columnists who lost to me. Before I get into that, I wanted to let my guest picker and fellow Sports Editor emeritus, J’Tay, say a few words. I told him he would be able to say whatever he wanted to in my victory column should I win, and I even reminded him of this after I won on Thursday, but he “forgot” and then was “too lazy” to write a paragraph for me. In honor of J’Tay’s well-documented and apparently ongoing drinking problem, I’ll write what I think he would have written.

“The Yankees are a bunch of cocksuckers. Fuck both the Mannings—the funny one and the retarded-looking one. The dude abides. Kobe’s a rapist. There is nothing greater than Roaree on a bicycle. Auggie Doggie. Tim Tebow is Lord. Go Sox.”

Now that that’s settled, it’s time to mock each and every one of the sports columnists. I’m going give each their due in the order they finished behind me, starting with second place because, as the saying goes, second place is the first loser.

• **Jelani Johnson:** Unfortunately for you, the string of luck you got from using the unoriginal, debatably douchey phrase, “I’m Goin’ In...” as your shout-out every week wore off (see Jelani’s Oct. 14 column for background). You made Pixbox interesting for me this year, which in turn made it more fun. You generally made good, understandable picks, which is why it was so odd that you picked the Giants on the final week and on Thanksgiving. Didn’t it ever occur to you that that team sucks harder than an industrial-sized Shop-vac? Consider the hustle knocked.

• **Bart Lopez:** Who the hell died and gave YOU a column? Oh wait, you did. I guess that’s one of the perks of being sports editor, but for heaven’s sake, step your game up! Right now your columns read like amalgamations of other people’s columns. They’re part Jelani in that you write about the NBA and no one actually cares what you think about it, part Mike Shannon in that you think you have a fan club, and part Max Puro because they’re inarticulate gibberish. I trained you better than this—stop making me look bad.

• **Lucas Shaw:** We had high hopes for you when you started writing for the section, but you went astray. You took inefficient smoking breaks with the sports editor that shall remain nameless when you were an associate, you’ve slowed down the publishing of almost every supplement you’ve come into contact with, and you’re going abroad next semester so you can’t cover your beat. What a letdown, just like the Dodgers.

• **Tom Di Benedetto:** I didn’t know you until this semester, but I honestly expected

SEE VELAZQUEZ, page 9

Light Blue downs Bucknell, falls to Syracuse

Second-half rally seals comeback victory for Lions against Bison



Jasper Clyatt / Staff photographer

SLAM DUNK | Junior Asenso Ampim dunks the ball, helping the Lions to a 72-59 win over Bucknell. The forward also recorded seven rebounds, a steal, and a block in the contest.

BY MICHELE CLEARY
Spectator Staff Writer

It was an exciting weekend for men’s basketball as Columbia (2-2) came back from an eight-point deficit to defeat Bucknell on Tuesday night before traveling to Syracuse to take on the No. 10 team at the Carrier Dome. Despite a strong effort by the Lions, the Orange was able to take the game 85-60. The Light Blue will try to bounce back when it faces off against Sacred Heart on Monday.

After leading the Bucknell Bison (4-3) by three at the half, the Lions found themselves down 51-43 with just over 10 minutes remaining. But a 30-8 run by Columbia to close out the game gave the Light Blue its second victory of the season.

Guards Noruwa Agho and Niko Scott led Columbia’s comeback, combining for 24 of the Light Blue’s 44 second-half points. Agho, who led the Lions with 23 points for the second consecutive game, continued his impressive shooting from behind the arc, going 7-for-8. Though Agho is shooting 72 percent from 3-point land, he insists that this stat is really a reflection of his teammates giving him the ball in the right spots.

“I can’t thank them enough,” Agho said. “We’re playing really well as a team and I think that’s just helping me and my morale in general.”



After going 2-for-13 from the floor in the first two games of the season, Scott was finally able to find his groove against Bucknell, shooting 60 percent from the field and 50 percent from long range. Scott also emphasized the impact the team’s play has had on his individual performance.

“I feel like, as long as we’re playing together and doing what the coach is telling us to do, that my shots will come and I’ll get the other guys shots,” Scott said. “That’s just my role on this team.”

While the offensive explosion in the second half was key to the victory, even more crucial was the way Columbia’s forwards buckled down on defense.

“It couldn’t have happened without getting key stops during that run,” Scott said of the

	BUCKNELL	59	
	COLUMBIA	73	

	COLUMBIA	60	
	SYRACUSE	85	

comeback. “We have to thank our forwards for really bodying up on their guys, ‘cause their guys were attacking every time down the court.”

The Columbia frontcourt did a particularly good job containing Bucknell’s senior forward Patrick Behan in the second half. Behan had only five points in the second half after tallying 10 in the first.

Junior forward Asenso Ampim had a strong game defensively, notching seven rebounds, a block, and a steal.

“He single-handedly disrupted their offense and he’s just a force out there,” head coach Joe Jones. “When he’s out there playing, we’re just a much better team, and without him, I don’t think we win this game, to be honest with you. I thought he was tremendous.”

Though the Lions were outrebounded 16-14 in the first half, they finished the game with 38 rebounds to Bucknell’s 27.

“The fact that we were able to outrebound them by 11 really was the difference in the game,” Jones said.

The Light Blue’s 24 second-half rebounds gave them 11 second-chance points to the Bison’s four.

“I think a big thing was kind of those second-chance points,” senior guard Patrick Foley said. “We had a lot of second rebounds that kind of extended our run a little bit and I think that was huge.”

Foley led the Light Blue with seven assists, while only turning over the ball twice. He also had 13 points on 4-for-10 shooting in the contest.

The Lions traveled to Syracuse (6-0) on Friday with momentum from back-to-back wins, but the 10th-ranked team in the nation was too much for Columbia, as it fell 85-60.

Syracuse (6-0) opened the game with a 7-0 run that was ended when Agho made a layup

SEE BASKETBALL, page 9

Women’s basketball stumbles out West after win against Manhattan

BY SARAH SOMMER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Columbia women’s basketball team achieved a narrow victory over Manhattan on Nov. 24, but the Lions (3-3) were less successful in the University of Nevada Nugget Classic. Columbia left Nevada with two losses in as many games.

Manhattan (2-3) opened with a 4-0 run, but Columbia took a 7-6 lead after just over three minutes of play. A 3-pointer by junior guard Kathleen Barry gave the Lions a 19-14 advantage with 9:22 left in the first half. The Jaspers came back to tie the game at 19 with 5:20 to play. Columbia went on a 12-2 run to take a 10-point lead—its first double-digit advantage of the night—with 1:29 remaining, but Manhattan cut its deficit to six points by halftime.

The Lions took their largest lead of the night four minutes into the second half, when they held a 42-30 advantage over the Jaspers. But Manhattan did not fold. The Jaspers went on a 13-1 run to tie the game at 43 with 11:22 to play, and they led by two points with 10 minutes remaining. Lions junior forward Judie Lomax prevented Manhattan from extending its advantage by scoring five consecutive points for Columbia, giving the Lions a 50-47 lead with 9:04 to play.

“She [Lomax] has a warrior’s mentality, and she didn’t want to let us lose,” head coach Paul Nixon said. “Whatever she’s got to do to help us win, she’s willing to do that, and I thought she really stepped up big when we needed it.”

Lomax gave Columbia an important boost, but her offensive contributions did not secure the Lions’ victory. Rather, it was senior point guard Sara Yee who provided the late-game heroics. Yee, who entered the game having shot 4-for-16 from 3-point range and missed her first four treys of the night, sank a 3-pointer with 3:47 remaining to give Columbia a 62-61 lead. Then she hit another

	MANHATTAN	66	
	COLUMBIA	69	

	COLUMBIA	46	
	NEVADA	64	

	COLUMBIA	69	
	IOWA	72	

treys to put the Lions ahead by three points with 35 seconds to play.

“The new assistant coaches have definitely put an emphasis on shooting, and getting extra shots in before and after practice,” Yee said. “I think it’s paying off.”

After she was fouled with 11 seconds remaining, Yee finished Columbia’s scoring with two free throws. Manhattan could not convert on its final possession, and the Lions escaped with a 69-66 victory.

Columbia was less fortunate when it faced Nevada (5-2) on Friday. While the Lions built a 10-2 advantage after only three minutes of play, they then endured a three-minute scoring drought. Nevada scored seven points during that span to cut its deficit to one point. Barry extended the Lions’ lead with a 3-pointer, but the Wolf Pack responded with offense of its own. Nevada tied the game at 16-16 with 11:45 left in the first half and held a 32-26 lead at the break.

Columbia pulled within five points on two occasions early in the second half, but the Lions did not get any closer in what became a blowout victory for the Wolf Pack. After taking an 11-point lead with 11:53 to play, Nevada led by double digits for the rest of regulation. The Lions ultimately suffered a 64-47 loss. Junior forward Shavon Moore finished with a game-high 18 points for the Wolf Pack, while Lomax and senior guard Danielle Browne led Columbia with nine points apiece.



Jasper Clyatt / Staff photographer

YEE IS KEY | Sara Yee led the Lions to a narrow victory over Manhattan last Tuesday. The Lions edged the Jaspers by a final score of 69-66.

Iowa (5-2) needed its final basket to beat Columbia by a 72-69 score on Saturday. In a game with 30 lead changes and 15 ties, the Hawkeyes scored a 3-pointer with 16 seconds left in the second half to seal the victory. While the Lions had a chance to tie the score in the final second, junior center Lauren Dwyer’s three did not fall.

Columbia had led 34-33 at halftime but was unable to distance itself from

Iowa in the second half. A Barry 3-pointer put Columbia up with 1:14 left in regulation, but the Lions missed their final two attempts from beyond the arc. Iowa, meanwhile, sank two 3-pointers in the final minute. Dwyer finished with a game-high 20 points, but four players scored in double figures for the Hawkeyes.

The Lions continue nonconference play on Dec. 2, when they host Delaware. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.