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Columbia alum's  
poetic quest for truth

"Water the Moon," CC alumna Fiona Sze Lorrain's first book of poetry, presents seemingly factual stories inspired by her family and her life traversing the globe.

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Rely on me,  
myself, and I?

Derek Turner knows that we all need somebody to lean on ... but whom?



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Lions drop close  
game to Pioneers

Men's basketball lost its second consecutive game, as it fell to Sacred Heart 60-55. A 20-7 run by the Pioneers to close out the game spoiled a second-half, Light Blue comeback

## EVENTS

Tree Lighting Ceremony

CCSC and the Blue Key Society will host the annual lighting of the trees along College Walk with holiday refreshments, speakers, and performances by campus a cappella groups. Bring a can of food for donation.

College Walk, 5:45-7 p.m.

The Sandwich Generation

Columbia's Office of Work/Life hosts a seminar titled "Squished in the Sandwich Generation" on setting priorities and meeting the challenges of being both a parent and a caretaker to an aging relative.

Lerner Hall, Room 477,  
12-1 p.m.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's interesting to see that when overseas, people are much more spirited about their Columbia background."

—Aileen Yan,  
SEAS '11

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## REAL ESTATE WATCH

BY AARON KIERSH  
Spectator Staff Writer

Despite tumbling real estate prices in Harlem, experts say there may be hope on the horizon.

According to developers, landowners, and neighborhood brokers, real estate prices across northern Manhattan have dropped dramatically in the past year as a result of the economic downturn. Yet Web sites that track these statistics have reported slight market price increases since the last quarter in uptown Manhattan, and some local brokers have also reported anecdotally that the traffic of sales seems to be gaining momentum.

## Down and up

Statistics from the real estate tracking portal StreetEasy present a mixed picture of price changes in the turbulent market. For the third quarter of 2009, StreetEasy reported that among condos that experienced price cuts, those in northern Manhattan suffered larger drops than those in any other region of the borough, declining by 8.9 percent as opposed

Possibility of  
hope for Harlem  
housing market

to the 8.4 percent average across Manhattan.

But on the whole, the area finally saw an increase in average prices. "Since last quarter, upper Manhattan's average and median prices increased by 10.5 percent and 12 percent, respectively," according to the latest StreetEasy report.

Though the overall market has shown this slight increase—a possible sign of recovery—landlords and real estate agents said the large drops in condo prices are difficult to ignore.

"It's rough right now for brokers," Erdene Greene, an independent broker who has worked out of Harlem for more than a decade, said. Prospective buyers are much more inclined to rent, Greene noted, adding, "Things are staying on the market for longer. There is a lot more supply but less demand. Properties used to move much faster, but now there

are tons of rentals."

## Stability and hope

Beyond this grim scene for brokers, experts say there have been some positive changes in the real estate market around Columbia's campus.

For Michael Buckley, the director of special programs at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation and a former director of the institute's real estate program, "The situation is stable in Morningside Heights because of Columbia's presence."

He added, "Apartment prices are stable because there is a fixed market. There is excess supply in other parts of the city, there are new developments but there is price depression. In Morningside, they have not been building a lot of new stuff."

Bruce Dale, senior vice president for the Community Preservation Corporation, a lender and developer that often works in Harlem, said that he generally agreed that there has been some good news for local real estate. "The market is beginning to show signs of survival,"

SEE REAL ESTATE, page 2

File photo

Barnard debates science  
requirement, labsBY CARLY SILVER  
Spectator Staff Writer

Barnard students and administrators put the college's science requirement under a microscope Monday night at a town hall forum.

In the Nine Ways of Knowing curriculum, students must complete two semesters of the same scientific discipline along with corresponding labs. While many students complained about this requirement at the forum, faculty emphasized its contribution to a well-rounded education.

Professor Stephanie Pfirman, chair of the environmental science department, opened the discussion with statistics from a 2006 study that surveyed 510 college graduates from 1997-2001 as well as 305 "business leaders." Of the employers surveyed, 82 percent said the education they most highly valued in staff was scientific and technological in nature. Pfirman argued that the science requirement at Barnard teaches students "skill-building and concept analysis," teamwork skills, and real-world project applications that will be valuable after college.

"Science is still an area where women are quite behind," astronomy

professor Laura Kay said. The only way students can fight that stereotype, she explained, is to learn science.

Most students present agreed that it was important to have a science requirement in some form.

"Yes, I believe it is indispensable," Séverine Losembe, BC '13, said.

"I think we most definitely do need a science requirement," Sara Lederman, BC '12, added. "You need to have hands-on time in order to fully understand and apply the information."

Cassie van Stolk-Cooke, BC '12, agreed, stating, "The purpose of a liberal arts education is to give you an expansive basic understanding of many things. It wouldn't be so without a science requirement."

Students' complaints centered around the proper execution of the requirement in a liberal arts college.

"The real problem is what that requirement includes," Lederman said.

Lesedi Mbatha, BC '12, argued that a laboratory component is more important for some students than others, such as for "the people taking bio or chem who need the

SEE SCIENCE, page 2



Haley Vecchiarelli / Senior staff photographer

**SHE BLINDED ME WITH SCIENCE** | Barnard professor Laura Key speaks to students about the merits of the science requirement.



Photo illustration by Jin Chen

**NATURAL GROWTH** | Atop the Diana Center, a green roof will provide social space and resources for biology students. The building itself has been constructed to be environmentally sustainable.

## Diana goes green, opts for sustainability

BY MARGAUX GROUX  
Spectator Staff Writer

Barnard's new Diana Center may be bright orange at the moment, but planners and architects plan to make sure the building "goes green."

When the Diana opens in 2010, it will follow in the footsteps of a number of recently renovated Columbia structures opting for sustainability, as it has a certified silver rating from Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. The newly renovated Columbia Faculty House was also LEED certified.

"Barnard is really conscientious of our community and also our environment," said Giselle Léon, BC '10 and vice president of communications of the Barnard Student Government Association, said. Léon is also a member of the Diana Opening Committee.

The Diana will include a host of environmentally friendly

features, such as a daylight dimming system and recycled building materials. Perhaps the most visually striking feature of the Diana Center will be the green planted roof, which can help to reduce storm runoff, extend the life of the roofing membrane, and reduce the heat load of the building. The roof will also provide an additional social area for students as well as resources for the biology department.

The Diana's plumbing system will include low-flow faucets and fixtures to reduce water consumption in addition to a high-efficiency condensing boiler that will heat the building. This system will use a heat exchanger to capture heat that would otherwise be lost. Automated shades in some of the spaces will reduce the heat load of the building, and these motorized shades will be connected to photo sensors and will adjust according to daylight conditions.

Although the glass facade of the Diana does not seem to match the rest of Barnard's architectural aesthetic, administrators say it will provide practical benefits. The use of low-emissivity glass will reflect heat back to its source so that in the summer, heat will be prevented from entering the building, and in the winter, heat will be retained. Skylights and abundant windows will provide natural light throughout the building, reducing the amount of energy spent on artificial lighting.

Barnard is currently working on improving the facades of many of the older buildings in an effort to reduce heat losses across campus. More extensive recycling centers were also added in several locations last year to allow students to safely dispose of materials such as light bulb and batteries.

Vice president of administration and capital planning

SEE DIANA, page 2

State gears up  
for education  
reformNational Race to the Top  
encourages local changeBY SHIRA POLIAK  
Columbia Daily Spectator

The long drive to reform New York schools has become an urgent race to the top.

The national Race to the Top competition offers \$4.3 billion to states that initiate compelling education reforms and is funded by the federal stimulus package. On Monday night, New York State Education Commissioner David Steiner and New York State Board of Regents Cancellor Merryl Tisch—BC '77 and a Teachers College alumna—appeared at TC to discuss the state's plans for education reform.

To qualify for funding, states must create a database with educational information for students in pre-kindergarten through college; establish common standards for English, language, and math curricula; close failing schools; and meet teacher accreditation standards. While the competition is fierce, as 43 states are applying, Tisch said New York would be a strong contender.

If New York receives stimulus money, Steiner wants to increase funding for high schools with graduation rates under 50 percent as well as those that pass students unprepared for the next grade. Steiner emphasized that the proposals the state is developing extend beyond the immediate context of stimulus funds.

"We have not tailored our sails to the Race to the Top," he said. "We have not undermined our mission for federal dollars. Where there is overlap, we welcome it."

He noted that teachers must be encouraged "to teach in the most challenging schools, to focus on rich educational experiences and pedagogical skills," and he presented a pilot program—controversial among some attendees—under which teachers could receive a master's in education without attending an institute for higher education. Steiner called on the Board of Education to draft curricula emphasizing metacognition skills such as problem solving and critical thinking in addition to the basic areas of language,





Haley Vecchiarelli / Senior staff photographer  
LAB GAB | Barnard students defend the science requirement, with minor modifications.

## BC debates science requirement

SCIENCE from front page

lab to understand the material.”

Many criticized the length of the labs. “I think it’s a bit inconvenient ... because the lab takes up about three hours on any given day,” Mbatha added.

Van Stolke-Cooke suggested an alternative. “I feel that you can garner exactly what you need from an introductory course with an excellent professor,” she said.

Students also said that they are frustrated by scheduling conflicts and restrictive course tracks. Mary Delsener, BC ’12, said she has been unable to find a lab time that does not conflict with her major requirements. The limited spaces in psychology labs are assigned by a lottery system, leaving many students who want to take a lab during a particular semester unable to do so.

Others said they disliked the main sections of science offered—astronomy, biology, chemistry, environmental science, physics, and psychology—and suggested other lab sciences based on sustainability or archaeology. Some students suggested an interdisciplinary survey course involving more than one science or argued that students should

be able to switch science tracks after the first semester if they dislike their initial choice.

If Barnard decides to rework the requirement, changes will have to be recommended and considered by the Committee on Instruction, a group comprised of students and faculty members. The committee “may then decide whether to put forth a recommendation ... to the faculty as a whole,” Dean of Studies Karen Blank wrote in an e-mail regarding what could be a lengthy process.

Barnard’s Student Government Association held an abbreviated meeting after the town hall in which members briefly went over the evening’s forum. Katie Palillo, BC ’10 and SGA president, said that the board also brainstormed discussion topics—such as the re-accreditation process—in preparation for President Debora Spar’s scheduled appearance at next week’s meeting.

“It’s not realistic to try to guess the time line on this initiative,” Palillo said. She claimed that the administration went into the town hall with “absolutely no agenda,” but emerged with ideas and will “work off of the suggestions made.”

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## Columbia launches new Global Centers

BY SCOTT LEVI  
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Columbia’s aspirations to become a “global university” will count a tangible achievement in 2010 when Global Centers are scheduled to launch in Mumbai, India and Paris, France.

And this time, the globalization project is targeted towards undergraduates.

In addition to launching the Arabic Summer Program at the Columbia University Middle East Research Center in Amman, Jordan, the Center for Career Education will also work with the University’s offices in Beijing, China. This collaboration will provide summer internship opportunities in Beijing overseen by the Columbia Experience Overseas program. For the first time, students will also be able to apply for internships in Shanghai, China and in Singapore.

In the past, CEO participants have found internships by networking with the web of alumni living in their cities of interest. Now, CCE administrators argue that Columbia’s physical presence in Beijing will facilitate connections with local professionals, keep interns closely connected to the University, and—as in all other centers, according to CCE—help to raise the University’s profile in the region.

CCE’s initiative is not a deliberate attempt to support the expansion of Global Centers in what is still the program’s fledgling period, but it came about naturally in response to administrative interest.

“We want to grow the number of opportunities and locations these programs will be provided in,” Kavita Sharma, dean of CCE, said. She hopes that, as students take jobs at multinational and local companies in Asian

cities, they will assist in familiarizing corporations and nonprofits with the University while strengthening the role of local alumni associations.

Heather Perceval, director of experiential education and student enterprises, described the “interconnectivity” of companies with offices in New York, Asia, and other global cities, which has enabled CCE to form bonds with new partners.

“When we’re working with an employer in London, in Beijing, in Shanghai, we’re talking about the larger picture,” Sharma added, noting that an internship with undergraduates can easily lead to calls for employment after graduation for both undergraduate and graduate students.

CCE kicked off its overseas internship program for undergraduates in 2005. The number of offerings has increased since 2007, now including posts in Hong Kong and London. Students apply for positions during the school year, undergo interviews at Columbia, and are then selected by recruiters overseas who obtain recommendations from the University. In the 2008-2009 academic year, CCE received 500 applications for 90 positions. While some of the new internships in Asia will require language proficiency, these are separate from study abroad and language learning programs. Perceval said that CEO is organizing internships for eight to 10 students in each of the Asian cities.

But while the Beijing center hosts networking events for students, Sharma said, CCE’s presence there will add to an already growing set of University services. The Beijing Center currently hosts an intern who is studying abroad and has begun to serve as a gathering place for alumni.

“CGC Beijing organized a social for the Columbia in Beijing program [a Chinese language summer program], visiting CU students and alumni in August,” Beijing center director Xiaobo Lü told Spectator in an interview in October. “Some 60 people came on a hot summer night.”

CCE also assigns each CEO intern an alumni mentor during the intern’s time abroad. Aileen Yan, SEAS ’11, said that while she was in Hong Kong this past summer, alumni reached out to her and her fellow interns—inviting them to dinner, introducing them to the city’s nightlife and corporate sector, and intermingling at the Ivy Ball, where everyone sang the Columbia fight song.

“It’s interesting to see that when overseas, people are much more spirited about their Columbia background,” Yan said. Nayia Moysidis, CC ’11, and Graham Johnson, SEAS ’11, reported similar experiences from their internships in London.

In attempt to further utilize the Global Centers for undergraduate purposes, the Office of Global Centers is teaming up with the Office of Global Programs, which supervises study abroad opportunities. One possible project would be to launch study abroad programs lasting less than a term at the Global Centers, according to professor Kenneth Prewitt, director of the Global Centers.

The office has not yet announced who will head the Mumbai and Paris Global Centers, though Prewitt says the office is in conversation with prospective directors. The office is also considering opening three or four centers around Africa and setting up an additional office on campus to monitor all of the Global Centers’ administrative work on the African continent.

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## Educators meet at TC to discuss reform

EDUCATION from front page

grammar, and math. Two panelists at the discussion, TC Associate Dean of Teacher Education A. Lin Goodwin and TC sociology professor Aaron Pallas, analyzed the initiatives Steiner presented and the overall educational policy in New York.

“Good teachers are never against accountability—what they are against is using small snapshots of information to determine teachers’ evaluations,” Goodwin said, criticizing the practice of evaluating teachers based on their students’ test scores.

Goodwin cited studies showing that elementary and middle school students are devoting more time to test preparation and less time to subjects like social studies and art that foster critical thinking and creativity. He also noted that the initiatives Tisch and Steiner are spearheading could address that problem.

“Is learning just about the test?” she asked the audience comprised

mostly of educators. “It ought not to be, but we are moving in that direction.”

Pallas was more critical of Tisch’s and Steiner’s proposals.

“The state assessment system is broken and can’t be fixed overnight,” Pallas said, asking, “How much is the Board of Education willing to invest in seeing how teachers teach students to act and think?” Echoing Goodwin, he emphasized that the teacher assessment process requires more comprehensive measures than simply analyzing test scores.

Pallas was skeptical of the Board of Education’s proposal to award master’s degrees independent of higher education institutions, calling it “a serious threat to the nature of graduate education.”

He added, “This turns the Board of Education into a giant education school—doesn’t the organization have enough problems?” to which the audience responded with roaring laughter.

Steiner responded by stating that the proposal “is just the beginning of a conversation” and noted that the current teacher education system is not working either. “Students come out of graduate schools and are unprepared to teach in urban settings,” he said.

The audience response was largely positive.

“No doubt we can have better teachers,” said Tonia Lovejoy, program manager for Reach the World, a nonprofit that works with New York City public schools. She added, “But we need to focus on the quality of administration”—an issue the panel did not address.

Like Pallas, Laura Anglin, president of the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities, was most concerned about the master’s degree initiative. But she said she was “happy with the Board’s open lines of communication with the stakeholders, so that we can ensure that the changes will be beneficial for everybody.”

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## Hope for real estate in Harlem

REAL ESTATE from front page

he said, adding that he suspects sales will start to pick up soon.

“Life goes on—people need a place to live,” he added.

David Daniels, a senior associate at The Corcoran Group, sees signals of market recovery already. “The traffic has picked up in the past few months,” he said, citing an increase in demand.

He added that on a recent Wednesday night open house for a condo on 123rd Street, 14 people showed. “That’s not dead,” he said regarding how this turnout reflected the market at large. “That’s just far from the market being cold.”

Still a ways to go

Yet Greene and some locals view these hopeful signs as only minor.

According to Greene, a brownstone in the West 120s that would usually sell for over a million dollars was recently sold for \$800,000. A property in the same area was recently sold for \$595,000, an indication that prices are still tumbling. A nearby \$2.5 million property was taken off the market when no buyer could be found.

Low-income residents in the area are not immune to price fluctuations, some housing experts say. Rent traps

and anxious landlords press local tenants, according to Melvin Christian, the Community Board 10 housing chair. Landlords are presented with the dilemma of keeping tenants who are unable to make payments or failing to find replacements. Renters who once sought to sell their properties and move elsewhere are “sitting still” with “plans falling by the wayside,” Christian explained.

He added, “I have friends that this is happening to, and I also hear from people coming by the board. I hear from landlords whether there are additional programs to assist them, whether they can grab some stimulus money. I hear it, I feel it all the time.”

Christian said that Harlem’s elected officials are doing their part to improve the situation. He praised two Democrats, State Senator Bill Perkins—whose district includes the Columbia campus—and State Assemblyman Keith Wright—who represents central Harlem—for “doing what they can do given the circumstances, telling us about programs and making things stable.”

For Buckley, though, political solutions can only go so far to solve widespread market problems—economic fixes are necessary. “Nothing can be done about this, except an economic upswing,” he said, adding, “It may be awhile before employment comes back.”

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DIANA from front page

Lisa Gamsu said that these measures come at a cost, though new construction technologies have reduced the price of sustainable building.

“It’s more expensive, but it’s not significantly more expensive,” she said. The greatest expense, she explained,

is the process of getting certified by LEED, which requires very detailed documentation and is usually taken care of by a hired consultant.

New York State does its part to offset the financial difficulties of developers who choose to make their projects sustainable. Barnard received an initiative award of \$135,676 from

the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority for the inclusion of green features in the Diana. Although this funding does not nearly cover the Diana’s costs, it is part of an ongoing effort in New York to encourage builders to look towards sustainability.

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### CORRECTION

The Vera Pavlova event preview, “Poetry will take on a multilingual twist at event,” published yesterday stated that Alla Rachkov and Maksim Hanukai, graduate students in the Slavic department, are co-coordinating the reading. Rachkov, however, is not a graduate student; she is an employee of the Harriman Institute in charge of event scheduling and was not interviewed by the writer. Rather, the other graduate student interviewed was Anna Dvigubski. Spectator regrets the error.

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## TV

## Webisodes offer alternative to original

BY LOGAN HOFSTEIN  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

The future of television won't be on TV. It will be on the Internet.

As streaming shows on the Internet becomes more accessible to college students, networks have to figure out how to deal with this growing demand.

Enter the "webisode." A webisode is online content, usually two to five minutes long, that can be an original series or a piece based on a popular TV show. Webisodes frequently center on either minor or new characters and have stories that are somewhat related to the primary show on TV.

With YouTube, Current TV, and Funny or Die creating an outlet for original online content, webisodes are becoming increasingly widespread.

As these online shorts have become more and more popular, webisodes have become a large part of the attraction for shows like "Heroes," "Lost," "The Office," and "Breaking Bad."

"Grey's Anatomy" has continued the tradition, having recently premiered its new webisode series "Seattle Grace: On Call" while it continues to have strong ratings on air.

But although webisodes have been met with popularity, a show's on-air success does not guarantee the success of online content. "I only watch webisodes when there is nothing else to watch," Ari Frydman, JTS/GS '10, said. "I don't watch them regularly. The storylines aren't interesting enough to keep me tuning in."

"The quality also isn't very good," Hannah Mackler, BC '11, said. "Take, for example, 'Nowhere Man,' one of Heroes's former webisode series. The camera is shaky and the writing isn't the greatest. It also follows a character that I'm not that fond of. But the episodes were only three or four minutes long and the series short, so I watched them anyway."

However, not all webisodes are created equal. "I love 'The Office' and the online episodes are so funny," Alexandria Ross, BC '11, said. "They really capture the spirit of the show and give me more of the characters I love."

The differences between "The Office" and "Heroes" webisodes can be traced back to those who work both behind and in front of the camera. "The Office" webisodes use many of the same talents for writing, directing, and acting, whereas "Heroes" uses a different creative team and follows new and minor characters—its many online shows deal more with the expanded universe.

The current "Heroes" series, "Slow Burn" has more relevance to its current TV season than some of its predecessors. Mackler likes that the webisode corresponds to the aired show "because it really adds to the show. Some of the characters that we don't get to know in the show are explored in the online series, which just enhances the experience on the television."

"Seattle Grace: On Call," the new online webisode series of "Grey's Anatomy," follows a similar pattern to "Heroes" webisodes—it follows minor characters and contains dialogue that sounds different from dialogue in the original show. The online content may not be up to par with the corresponding TV shows, but the webisodes fulfill the networks' intended purposes.

"Watching them makes me want to see more," Ross said. And, of course, network supply comes with consumer demand.

## BOOKS

## Fact or fiction, Sze-Lorrain's poetry exceeds truth

BY KATE WELSH  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Fiona Sze-Lorrain, CC '03, is on a quest for a strange sort of truth: one that depicts her reality in precisely the way she wants to know it.

In her first book of poetry, "Water the Moon" (Marick Press, November 2009), Sze-Lorrain presents her entire life—from first memories to seemingly recent dinner parties—with elegance, boldness, and, perhaps most importantly, complete believability. She freely admitted, however, that most of the poems "are not necessarily true ... It's like what Emily Dickinson said: You tell the truth but you tell it slant."

While Sze-Lorrain's poems may not be entirely factual, the sentiments she conveys throughout her work undoubtedly are. "Par Avion" is a poem about a daughter receiving a letter from her father filled with "nothing but instructions, / Confucian wisdom," and the anguish is palpable. The daughter desperately wishes for more of an emotional exchange rather than the passionless reiteration of an ancient philosopher's words, and the reader cannot help but ache for her.

This poem is part of the first of three sections that Sze-Lorrain used to organize "Water

the Moon." Titled "Biography of Hunger," it deals primarily with her attempt to understand more about her family. Due to political unrest, Sze-Lorrain's relatives scattered all over the world. Sze-Lorrain moved from Singapore to England with her parents, and the fragmentation of her family was never addressed.

"I don't know a lot about what happened because nobody wants to talk about it," she explained. "So I ... tried to find that out, and the more I find out, the more I realize I don't know." She discovered that writing down stories about her family—even if they weren't true—helped her to resolve some of her lingering questions.

Despite the impact that her relatives had on her writing, Sze-Lorrain believes that only part of a person can be shaped by familial influence. The other part, "what makes you you," is addressed in the other sections of "Water the Moon." The second section is titled "Dear Paris"—an ode to the City of Light and to the world in general. Living on either side of the Atlantic—she spends time in both New York City and Paris—gives Sze-Lorrain a self-professed "cross-cultural energy," which permeates all aspects of her poetry. In a poem called "China," a mention of fortune cookies made in Ohio mingles with a generous peppering of French words and a nod to the Chinese poet Li Po.

And Li Po is not the only artist who receives acknowledgment. The entirety of the third section of "Water the Moon," titled "The Key Always Opens," is dedicated to the influence of other creative people in Sze-Lorrain's life. A musician in her own right—she plays the zither (a horizontal harp) and has recorded a CD—Sze-Lorrain spends a lot of time "finding the music" in the words she put down on paper. In the third section, references run the gamut from Man Ray and Edith Piaf to Van Gogh and Chopin.

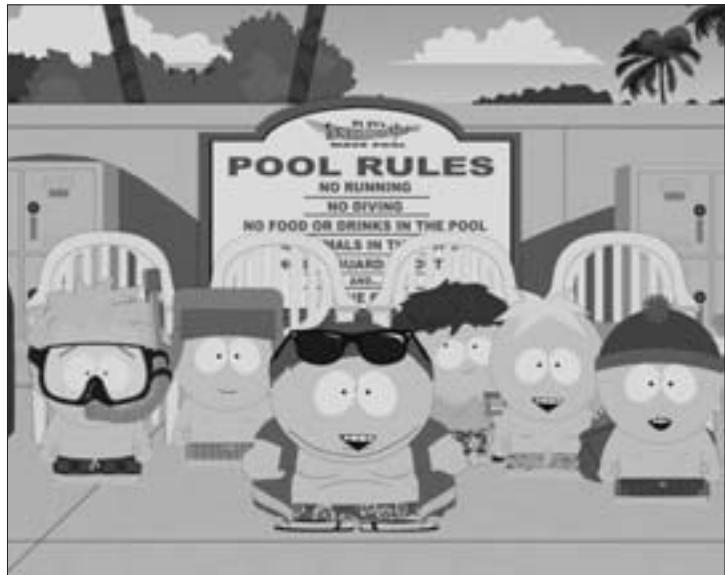
In addition to all of her other accomplishments—she is a musician as well as an oft-published poet—Sze-Lorrain is also an editor of Cerise Press, an international literary and arts journal. As such, it seems that Sze-Lorrain is well on her way to joining the ranks of some of the aforementioned artists. She adores what she does and sees herself as a person living her life instead just of going to work every day. But "loving something is not enough," she emphasized. "You need to feel an obligation ... You need something extra, something that can't be explained, that pushes you to do it. If you feel alive all the time when you're doing that activity... you're on the right track."



Courtesy of Fiona Sze-Lorrain

**POETRY MUSE** | In addition to her family and life experiences, Sze-Lorrain finds inspiration in her music.

## TV



Courtesy of FOX

**SUB PARK** | Although "South Park" has been known to entertain, recent episodes have failed to include originality and humor.

## Season 13 of 'South Park,' offensively disappointing

BY CHRISTOPHER MORRIS-LENT  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

E.M. Forster once called "Ulysses" "an attempt to cover everything in filth," so one wonders what he would have had to say about "South Park."

Since the mid '90s, "South Park" has been the basketball of American television: ubiquitous, infinitely available, popular across broad demographics, and often entertaining.

Some of my happiest memories of freshman year involve eight sweaty men huddling in front of a small, communal TV at 10:30 on Wednesday nights. The episodes were of variable quality. "South Park" has always been of variable quality, though every episode has a very high rating on Web sites—sites on which creators Matt Stone and Trey Parker generously make the show available to the public for free. On a bad week, some of the people would laugh some of the time, and on a good week, all of the people would laugh some of the time. On a great week, everyone would guffaw hysterically at everything.

The episode that satirizes "The Mighty Ducks" aired on a great week. During spring semester, Stone and Parker heralded the new season with their finest effort yet, "With Apologies to Jesse Jackson," a finer racial satire than anything by Sarah Silverman or Dave Chappelle. "Jesse Jackson" transcended topicality. I can watch it tens of times without getting bored. My mother thought it was uproarious. I think it's nearly perfect. South Park was as funny and germane as ever.

And then it got really bad really quickly. What happened? A

friend told me that the new episodes must have germinated from a single joke that Stone and Parker found droll while high, and this seems about right. A good South Park episode—like "Jesse Jackson," "The Death Camp of Tolerance," or "Scott Tenorman Must Die"—has one main theme but tons of jokes. A bad "South Park" episode has one joke that it harps on incessantly. A series of these episodes followed "Jesse Jackson." Stone and Parker ran out of ideas.

For example, "The Snuke," which tropes on the presence of a nuke in Hillary Clinton's snatch, is good enough for a one-liner but is hardly enough to sustain an entire episode. "South Park" often turns to pastiche whenever its own ideas aren't enough, so a "24" parody fills in the rest of the 20 minutes. The season got worse.

"Imaginationland" is an episode filled entirely with other people's ideas. You have to be extremely well-versed in pop-culture to get all of "South Park's" allusions, but what's done with the vast wealth of knowledge in "Imaginationland" is just lame. The filth was entirely someone else's, and the episode was flamboyant in a way that indicated a deficit, not a surfeit, of imagination. Another friend described it very well as "out there." Two sequels would follow. "South Park" had never done a three-part episode before. In retrospect, it seems obvious that Stone and Parker were stalling for time.

The latest episodes have harvested ideas with greater rapacity and less originality. It took a good 10-plus seasons, but "South Park" has jumped the shark.

A large following will be watching the rest of the 13th season. "South Park" will always have millions of cultists that find everything about it hilarious—but I am not one of those people, and I will not be watching.

## ART

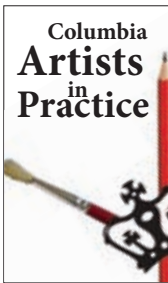
BY ALYSSA RAPP  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Artistic practice and the art of teaching are not mutually exclusive. Kai McBride, SoA '08, certainly proves that. The photographer returned to campus this fall as a professor after his most recent exhibit, "Facing Florida: Self-Projecting Sunbelt Citizens," graced Times Square in the fall of 2008.

The exhibit bud-ded from McBride's Master of Fine Arts thesis project in which he photographed local billboard culture in Tampa, Fla. His interest in these advertisements began when he drove through the city for the first time in 2007 and noted that billboard characters were virtually the only humans present on Tampa's otherwise vacant streets.

McBride asserted that his study of people's own self-representation cannot be classified as portraiture. Instead, he explored how the endearing and vulnerable quality of the people's images draw attention to Florida's economy, which relies on a stable flow of newcomers to maintain commercial prosperity.

The opportunity to place



these images in the context of Times Square's commercialistic bacchanal allowed the photographer to add a new conceptual dimension to the studio project. He compared the contrast between the Florida images and the commercial advertisements in New York to watching Telemundo after being immersed in the high-production television culture of America.

Yet, he called the successful translation of his work from an MFA studio project to city-funded piece a "perfect storm of sorts." In fact, he asserted that messages generated by public art rarely fulfill an artist's aims and are tailored to the patron's desires. Likewise, McBride continues to refine the project to satisfy his own goals. He hopes to create a book containing many of the images from the project.

McBride's fascination with place did not begin in Tampa. Born in Hawaii, McBride had lived in many parts of the country by the time he was a teenager. He acknowledged that this childhood experience taught him to tolerate difference and to hone his powers of observation, both of which are essential attributes of a photographer.

The photographer-professor first developed an affinity for photography his senior year of high school. He then studied photography as well as a variety of other artistic media,

receiving a bachelors' degree from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. After working at a variety of jobs, McBride "went in with open eyes" to the MFA program in his mid-30s. "Nothing beats life experience," McBride said. Still, he found the time to pursue a master's.

McBride returned to school with the intention to teach and enjoyed working as a teaching assistant for four semesters at Columbia. He continues to embrace the teaching style of Columbia darkroom legend professor Thomas Roma as he leads his own classes. "With the camera, you are editing the world with your choice of shots," he said. He encourages his own Photography I students to develop the same critical eye that he has employed in his own projects.

According to McBride, Columbia's photography classes provide a forum for rich intellectual exchange since a student from the School of International and Public Affairs may sit next to a film student during a critique. Students may learn from one another's academic disciplines as they explore photography's visual language.

While McBride imbues his students with the insight that only experience can provide, he also engages in the struggle of creating meaningful art, constantly placing himself in his students' shoes.



Alyssa Rapp / Staff Photographer

**FLASH COURSE** | Kai McBride, SoA '08, uses his past experiences and projects to inform the photography classes he teaches by encouraging students to learn from what others can bring to the table.



# Editorial & Opinion

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### Staff Editorial

## Igniting a log, igniting school spirit

Tonight, Columbia will usher in the final month of the decade with pomp and circumstance. In what has become an annual Columbia winter tradition, students, professors, and administrators alike will gather on Low Plaza as Columbia illuminates the lights adorning the trees on College Walk. They will then proceed to John Jay Lounge to participate in the annual Yule Log Ceremony. On a campus where many bemoan a lack of community, the Tree Lighting and Yule Log Ceremonies create a sense of tradition and collegiate pride, and all members of the Columbia community should congregate on Low Plaza at 5:45 p.m. to enjoy free refreshments as Michele Moody-Adams, the dean of Columbia College, presides over this Columbia tradition for the first time.

Though it is now an integral part of winter at Columbia, the Tree Lighting Ceremony is a relatively new tradition. According to a 1999 article in Columbia News, the first Tree Lighting Ceremony was held in December 1998 and was organized by the Columbia College class of 2000. Since then, the ceremony has acted as a way to bring all students, regardless of religious affiliation, together to watch the lighting of the trees lining College Walk. This year, CCSC invites students to join the ceremony at 5:45 p.m., which will last until 7. As per tradition, students can enjoy free hot chocolate and apple cider with cookies as they watch Dean Moody-Adams turn on the lights along College Walk. The Yule Log Ceremony, which in recent years has

immediately followed the Tree Lighting Ceremony, is a more historic tradition at Columbia. The ceremony features speeches from deans, the lighting of a log in the John Jay Lounge fireplace, and a closing reception with free desserts. According to a 1995 Columbia Record article about the event, the act of setting a log ablaze in the winter comes from Scandinavian pagan rituals, and the ceremony at Columbia traces its roots to before the Revolutionary War. Almost a century ago, former University President Nicholas Butler made the yule log lighting an annual and idiosyncratic Columbian tradition. A highlight of the ceremony is the reading of "A Visit from St. Nicholas," a poem composed by Clement Clarke Moore, CC 1798. The ceremony also showcases campus musical groups and is organized by the Blue Key Society.

This year, with new deans heading Columbia College and the School of Engineering and Applied Science, the Tree Lighting and Yule Log Ceremonies will continue to gain greater significance, as they represent the continuation of time-honored Columbian traditions while new faces join and lead our community. Students should take advantage of this unique opportunity to build school spirit and community and should join the deans at these two events. Opportunities for Columbia students to gather together in a single place for no reason other than school spirit are few and far between, making tonight's ceremonies all the more meaningful. And besides, how many other chances do we have to eat dessert on Columbia's dime?

## How safe are we?

BY ANA BARIC

In most respects, Columbia University has instated effective campus security and student safety measures. Columbians have access to emergency call boxes, safe haven locations, a crisis text messaging program, and a walking escort service. The Department of Public Safety maintains about 120 full-time security officers, who, according to the 2009 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, have "an excellent relationship with the local police precincts" with whom they "share crime prevention strategies and local crime information."

However, Columbia University could stand to reevaluate some of its key approaches to student safety.

First is the problem of relatively private student information being available to the public. If you go to the Columbia University home page, click "people" in the upper right-hand corner, and search the name of Columbia University students, you will find their basic contact information. If you specifically type in a Columbia College or School of Engineering and Applied Science student's name, though, you can unearth some fairly sensitive information.

If you were to type in my name, for example, you would find my Lerner Hall address, e-mail, Rolm phone number, "home address," and when I declare it, my major. Most of this information may be helpful to others, and I don't find some of it particularly invasive to my privacy. However, I am not sure why my "home address," which gives not only my dorm location, but also

the floor and room number I inhabit, is listed in this directory. I would like to think that people do not need to know this information unless I give it to them. It concerns me that anyone with Internet access can attain this private information. John Doe from East Jabib, U.S. does not need to know where I sleep at night.

To be fair, Columbia Public Safety tries to take the necessary precautions when it can. For example, we have institutional grade bars on the windows of some of the dorm rooms on the lower floors, which send a resonating "beware-of-our-intense-security-measures" message. Arguably, the real test for Public Safety is how it confronts real-time situations that pose a threat to student safety. So, how does Public Safety fare in this regard?

Joe Smith, a Columbia College sophomore who wishes to remain anonymous, would likely argue, not so well. In April 2009, an unknown man approached Joe while he was shopping in Morton Williams. The man asked Joe to buy his camera, and when Joe refused, the man ominously countered, "you will reconsider," and then left the store. The next day, Joe was approached by the same man outside of his dorm and was threatened with bodily harm. Joe explains, "I was frightened and thus went immediately to Public Safety, who took down my information and sketch info. They told me they would review the tapes and get back to me. They never did." Joe says that he received an e-mail two days later inquiring about his personal safety but did not receive follow-up concerning the identity of the man or any information on Public Safety's efforts to protect him. Two weeks after filing the report, Joe contacted Public

Safety again who, Joe says, "told me they could not find him on video. The Public Safety office then recommended I seek police help if I was not comfortable and to contact the police and then alert them if I encountered him again."

The Department of Public Safety at Columbia University is, according to the Web site, "committed to the safety and well-being of the University community." On its 2009 Report, Public Safety boasts, "We consistently score high marks in campus safety and recently were named one of the safest urban schools in the U.S. in the March 2008 issue of Reader's Digest magazine."

I am not entirely sure how reassuring that Reader's Digest award is.

Now, I do have to admit that I think that Columbia University has a relatively safe campus (at least in Morningside Heights). I also understand that Public Safety officers cannot patrol every street corner and ward off every potential threat. However, I feel that it can make a more active effort in ensuring my safety and the safety of all the students at Columbia. I would feel more secure if I found out about a robbery near campus hours rather than days after it took place. I would have greater peace of mind if the public didn't have access to my "home address," and I would rather not hear of students being referred to the New York Police Department when they need aid.

When interviewing Joe about his experience and his concerns about his safety, he shrugged and said, "No I did not feel safe, but I am a survivor. What can I say?" Hopefully, this isn't the experience most Columbia students have.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore.

## Positively J Street

BY JILL MARCELLUS

Columbia made me a self-loathing Jew. Living here, I didn't believe any less in my self-worth, the worth of Jewish people in general, or the right of Israel to exist as a nation. But I also didn't believe in spitting on basic human rights—and that, I was told, made me a self-loathing Jew.

On this extremist campus, those were my choices: right-wing hawk or progressive turncoat, hate myself or hate others. I disengaged, ignored both the tenure witch hunts and vitriolic anti-Israel rallies, and opted for a Jewish identity that could be Netflixed. When Woody Allen seemed like its paragon of sanity, I ditched the American Jewish culture.

Last Sunday, thank heaven above and Washington, D.C. below, I found the moderate Jewish voice of reason. Speaking to the Hillel brunch crowd, Jeremy Ben-Ami preached pragmatism in the form of a "pro-Israel, pro-peace" approach. His organization, J Street, offers what I consider to be a progressive alternative to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, a pro-Israel lobby in the U.S. Not dismissing Palestinian suffering or confusing criticism of the Israeli government for anti-Semitism, it promotes the aggressive pursuit of a two-state solution by American officials willing to put pressure on both sides.

Nationally, J Street has begun to draw criticism from the left after its immediate rejection by the conservative Jewish establishment. At the Columbia event, some people

were skeptical that its coalition could hold. Like Obama's appeal during his 2008 presidential campaign, J Street's general appeal, they argued, is too broad for the divisive details of Israeli policy. Yet even the willingness to discuss those details has become a policy stance, and an essential one. I may not agree with every position J Street takes, but if its members can accept that, then so can I.

A conversation with my seat-mate at brunch firmly etched my relief that a J Street chapter is growing on our polarized campus. Thrown off by my enthusiasm for the group's message, my neighbor tore apart the J Street goal of "broadening the Israel conversation." There's a broad political spectrum in Israel, he insisted, so we don't need one here. Let them duke it out, our role is to present a united front for whatever the Israelis decide. As if to finish me off, he asked, would you criticize America overseas?

Yes, I would, and I did when I studied abroad. I love America because it allows me to tell anyone I want, anywhere I want, if I think its government has committed abhorrent acts. By allowing debate and discussion, America offers a middle ground between revolt and blind obedience. Until recently, the American Jewish community has not.

My time abroad also taught me that this notion has worsened Israel's position in the world. There is a current of anti-Semitism in England that, as a lifelong New Yorker, shocked me. Several people who were otherwise reasonable, pleasant, and well-informed—but who did not know many Jews

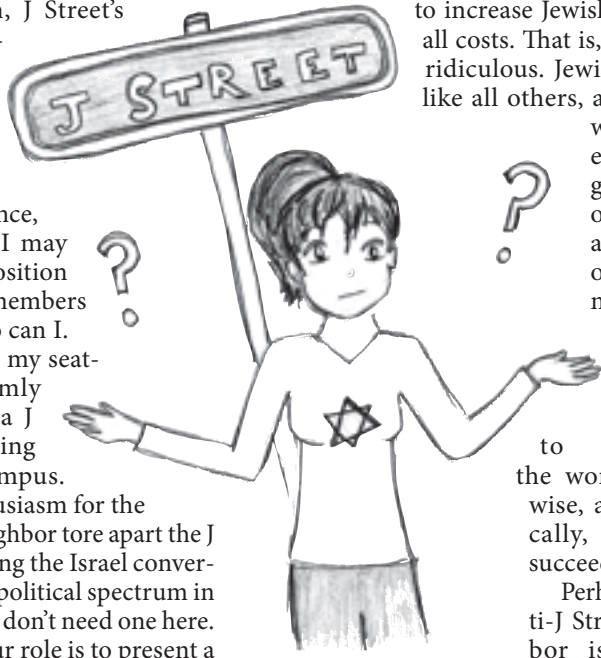


ILLUSTRATION BY JOSEFINA LETICIA FREANEY

personally—viewed Jews as some sort of imperialist monolith, caring only to increase Jewish power at all costs. That is, of course, ridiculous. Jewish people, like all others, are diverse with different backgrounds, opinions, and priorities. But many Jews seem to have been trying to convince the world otherwise, and, tragically, they are succeeding.

Perhaps my anti-J Street neighbor is reading this and thinking I'm not worthy of the cause. If ideological purity is your goal, then you're right, and Ben-Ami is right to worry about the next generation. I would sacrifice my support for Israel before I sacrificed my freedom to criticize its actions. And so too, eventually, would many other liberals and moderates among Jewish and otherwise sympathetic observers. Anyone ready to purge me or other progressive Jews from the fold should realize: you will not create a Jewish American monolith, but a nation of "self-loathing" Jews.

The author is a Barnard College senior majoring in English

## Rely on what?

rely on. In an environment like Columbia, where excellence in our work is constantly under scrutiny, we search for stability in our accomplishments. We begin to rely on our perceived ability to do the work necessary to excel our areas of expertise.

But this mindset proves deceitful. As soon as we begin to rely on ourselves, and, by association, our accomplishments, we set ourselves up for a major let-down. With such a perspective, our identity's stability becomes intertwined with our abilities, opening up the possibility of the identity being shattered upon failure of the abilities. When that happens, we find ourselves floating once again without anchor, having been cast away by what we thought was a stable object of reliance. For some, my criticisms of self-reliance may assume too much or do not apply to everyone. To that I would say that while my hypothesis does not apply to everybody, I do believe that it is a very frequent path taken in people's searches for reliance in such high-powered places as Columbia. That is why the speaker's words were so interesting to me—she was a member of this high-achieving group, depending on herself and her work.

When it seems that we are out of options, perhaps we have to explore exactly why it is that we search for something or someone to rely on in the first place. It seems like an odd requirement that we have an entity to trust in completely. Why can't we simply do our work to the best of our ability and live our lives in as acceptable a way as possible? Must we have this unending desire for some support system to which to run in the event of misfortune or disillusionment?

As nice as it would be to rid ourselves of this desire for stable reliance, I have

come to believe that such a desire is an expected outcome of the constant string of disappointments we encounter daily. We live in a world that voices a choir of ideals but exhibits distorted attempts to enact them. People seems to fail others or themselves at some point, only highlighting the pervasion of this societal want of perfection. Our situation appears to necessitate reliance on something that doesn't fluctuate and break down as much as our surroundings.

The bind remains. We can't rely on others, and we can't completely rely on ourselves, but we have an unquenchable need to know that we can count on something. By admitting this, the search for dependable reliance really begins. Looking beyond ourselves and beyond those around us opens the door to a pursuit of potentially life-changing realizations. As we hunt for something that fulfills the requirements of the truly reliable, we reach conclusions that we were too preoccupied to notice as we looked to each other for security.

For me, this search has had me looking heavenward for an object of reliance—a stability and consistency that I have yet to experience in my current environs. I have found this reliance to be the most liberating and authentic of any I have experienced. As our campus locks itself down for finals season and three weeks of bliss lie waiting for our stress-wracked minds, I urge you to consider this question: What or who is worth your reliance?

Derek Turner is a Columbia College sophomore. Opening Remarks runs alternate Tuesdays. opinion@columbiaspectator.com

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Attacks  
6 Mandolin ridge  
10 Resign  
14 BP merger partner  
15 Not often seen, to Caesar  
16 Spreadsheet reversal command  
17 Defeats soundly  
18 Like many Keats poems  
19 Chilled, as coffee  
20 Dickens hero with "papers," as he is formally known  
22 Clothed  
23 The "A" in A.D.  
24 More certain than not  
26 Chewing gum substances  
30 Office furnishing  
31 Nut in a mixed nuts can  
32 Airport building  
36 Indian spiced rice  
37 Mandel's "The Luncheon on the Grass," e.g.  
38 "Elder" or "Younger" Roman statesman  
39 Mind readers  
42 More sluggish  
44 County on the Strait of Dover  
45 Missed up, as hair  
46 Dover landmarks  
49 Pretzel topping  
50 Megastar  
51 Unflattering Nixon sobriquet  
57 Singer Tennille  
58 Prefix with -drome  
59 Spine-chilling  
60 Milton's "Paradise Lost," for one  
61 Overflow (with)  
62 Hitting serves past  
63 Potato holder  
64 Old Norse poetic work  
65 Pinkish wines

DOWN

1 Hunt  
2 Latin love  
3 Chowder or bisque  
4 In "Macbeth," it opens with thunder and lightning  
5 How many models are built  
6 Displeased looks  
7 Paul Harvey's medium  
8 Guitarist Clapton  
9 One bringing down the ball carrier  
10 Surprise football plays  
11 Title for Remus  
12 Epitome  
13 Hot alcoholic drink  
21 Had the answer  
25 Belief suffix  
26 Initials on an old rutie  
27 Dersive laughs  
28 "My word"  
29 Girls-night-out film  
30 Terra \_\_\_\_ Fuego  
32 \_\_\_\_ the season \_\_\_\_  
33 Carpenter taster  
34 Suit to  
35 Lady's man

37 Columbus Day mo.  
40 Playboy Mansion resident, familiar  
41 Like colleges with the lowest tuition, for residents  
42 1840s president  
43 Annual period beyond the current fiscal one  
45 Washington city  
46 Credits as a reference  
47 Parkinsonism treatment  
48 Greek architectural style  
49 Fathered  
52 Clairnetist's need  
53 1920s-'40s art style  
54 Spring bloomer  
55 French film  
56 Frat party containers

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

FAVRE	TBSP	NATE
IBOOK	URAL	OUST
SEEDGE	ROMA	ASEC
TAKEOFF	WEIGHT	
STATUE	ADE	RTS
STARTS	TRAIL	
OSO	SAW	GALLO
SPLIT	THE	PROFITS
KIDDO	RAE	ASH
ARYAN	SPRUCE	
ROE	KAN	SEAMAN
LEAVE	AMESSAGE	
TALC	RELO	STREW
APER	I ZOD	NEARS
GURU	LYES	ARTSY

xwordeditor@aol.com12/01/09

12/01/09

By Dave Hanson  
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The Columbia women's basketball team will try to end its two-game losing streak when it takes on Delaware on Wednesday night at Levien Gym.

TOMORROW



# SPORTS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2009 • PAGE 6



Pick up a copy of the Spectator tomorrow for a detailed recap and graphical analysis of the fall sports season.

TOMORROW

## Societal police trying to take all the fun out of sports



LUCAS SHAW

### IN THE REFRIGERATOR

and a glass of Barolo in the other—I am not the writer, a journalist, or man that he was.

However, it is now my time to take up the mantle and rage against another crusade of the societal “police”—the attempted sterilization of sports.

When I first became a sports fan, I fell in love not only with the games themselves but also with the traditions, rivalries, and idiosyncrasies—all of the little things that make sports special.

I cherished the heated exchanges between Dodgers and Giants fans and reading about characters like Leo Durocher and Casey Stengel. I begrudgingly went to the University of Southern California basketball camp, setting foot in my hated rival's gym only because the summer program was better.

Now, soccer moms, writers, and even college administrators are trying to end the old ways of sports. These alarmists are trying to spoil our fun, fining Chad Ochocinco for a fake \$1 payoff and criticizing pitchers for throwing inside.

While the latter might be my biggest complaint, I will try to stay current. The most recent uproar caused by these fear mongers came on Saturday well after most people on the East Coast were asleep.

Despite playing poorly, USC led the University of California, Los Angeles 21-7 and had the ball with under a minute to play. As quarterback Matt Barkley was set to kneel, UCLA coach Rick Neuheisel called a timeout, rejecting Pete Carroll's proverbial olive branch. Carroll responded by calling for a deep pass, which Damian Williams hauled in to give the Trojans seven more points.

How did people respond? Neuheisel was called a brat, Carroll was deemed classless. While journalists disagreed as to who was at fault, everyone decided it was an ugly moment and chastised those involved for a lack of sportsmanship.

When did journalists, who used to go out on the town with players, turn into uptight moralists? More importantly, when did rivalries become irrelevant?

The media loves to make a huge deal out of deep-rooted hatreds, turning every Yankees-Red Sox game into a national circus. Yet, when the coaches and players add fuel to the fire, when they show their contempt for their opponent, they are condemned for it.

This was not a punch—such as the one thrown by Oregon's LeGarrette Blount—or an avalanche of middle fingers—like those offered by Bud Adams.

This was a defiant timeout and a minor case of running up the score. It was not an epic rivalry moment, but it demonstrated that both coaches recognized the larger significance of every little thing that happens on the field in such a game.

Was it silly of Rick Neuheisel to call a timeout when his team had no chance of winning? Sure. Was it childish? Maybe a little. Was it reprehensible? Absolutely not.

Since taking the job, Neuheisel has tried again and again to tip the balance of power in Los Angeles. Thus far he has struggled, but at least he has tried more than his predecessors.

He continues to try to get under Carroll's skin, and it looks as though he has finally succeeded. It backfired in the short term, but it further enhanced the intensity of this game in the long run. Every player on the UCLA sideline will want to beat USC even more and will never forget what this game means to the team.

Given that the Bruins have lost 10 of 11 to the Trojans, Neuheisel has to try just about anything.

Meanwhile, Carroll has been crucified for running up the score just two weeks after complaining that Stanford's Jim Harbaugh did the same thing. I will admit that it would appear to be a flip-flop, but after Neuheisel's call, Carroll really did not have a choice.

If the opponent—your rival, no less—tries to preserve a game that is clearly over, it is your right to end it however you want. When Neuheisel called that timeout, Carroll had to respond.

Don't we want to see our coaches be passionate and feisty?

Carroll is praised time and time again for his exuberance. He is also renowned for his arrogance. Like it or not, it is who he is. This was another demonstration of Carroll's distinctive coaching style, and though it may be offensive to some, it's one of the reasons I don't buy that USC will be down again next year.

I am not insensitive to or ignorant of changes in society. I think NFL teams and players need to be far more careful with concussions and all health-related issues. I was a vocal advocate of the NBA age limit. I obviously supported probes into steroids.

What I cannot fathom is the obsession with curbing the little things. So the Philadelphia Phillies' pitchers tend to protect the plate. So Pete Carroll loves to run up the score against rivals like Notre Dame and UCLA.

What's one thing those teams share?

Players and coaches say they “play the right way.”

What's another?

They win.

Lucas Shaw is a Columbia College junior majoring in political science. sports@columbiaspectator.com

## Basketball loses nailbiter at Sacred Heart

### 20-7 run by Pioneers quells Light Blue comeback effort

BY ZACH GLUBIAK  
Spectator Staff Writer

Last night, the Columbia basketball team returned to Morningside Heights weighed down by a tough 60-55 loss to Sacred Heart. Coming into the game, the Lions were 2-2 with their only two losses coming against Big East opponents on the road. Sacred Heart is now 3-3.

The game's second half was marked by runs. The Light Blue started the half down 30-23 thanks to a nine-point run by the Pioneers to close the first stanza. Sacred Heart continued to push its advantage, scoring the half's first five points before Columbia turned in a 23-3 run to take an eight-point advantage, 48-40. Eight straight from Pioneers evened up the score, and this time, the Lions would not be able to respond. “We had about a two-minute span where we didn't execute well, and they ended up getting the lead back,” head coach Joe Jones explained.

Sophomore Noruwa Agho forced a Pioneer turnover and converted two free throws on the other end to bring the Lions to within two points at 57-55 with 2:27 to go. Columbia would not score again. The Light Blue defense turned in two quality possessions in the final moments, forcing two long 3-pointers from the Pioneer offense. However, Columbia could not secure the rebound on either occasion, giving Sacred Heart a fresh shot clock and killing precious time.

Last Tuesday night, Columbia faced a spirited Bucknell squad in a similarly physical game low on scoring and high on emotion. The Bucknell game was also a see-saw affair, but the Lions prevailed thanks in large part to a 30-8 scoring outburst to cap off the night. So what was the difference between that Bucknell game, a 73-59 Columbia win, and last night's Sacred Heart contest, a 60-55 loss?

The ability to come up with key plays down the stretch was a key difference, according to Jones. “We didn't wrap up loose balls late and we didn't make plays late. I thought in the Bucknell game, the reason we won the game was we made all those plays late, we got all those rebounds late. We didn't do it [tonight].”

Jones also blamed some costly mistakes on offense, citing two late turnovers when Columbia still had a chance to get back into the game. In between the two late 3-pointers that Sacred Heart missed, Columbia squandered two chances to knot the game on the offensive end. On two different possessions, forward Brian Grimes missed a hook shot in the lane, and Agho had the ball stolen by Jerrell Thompson. Senior point guard Patrick Foley had another turnover with only seven ticks left on the clock and the Lions down by three.



Jones seemed satisfied with the defense, though he was unhappy with the offensive production. “We held them to 60 points at home. We've got to be able to score more to win. We didn't play well offensively tonight.”

The disappointing result negated another strong effort by scoring sensation Agho. Coming off a 22-point performance against then No.10 Syracuse, Agho was averaging over 20 points a game and led the nation in 3-point percentage. He finished the night against Sacred Heart with a team-high 16 points on 5-14 shooting, 3-6 from long distance.



Jasper Clyatt / Staff photographer

**TOUGH LOSS** | The Columbia men's basketball team lost its second straight game when it fell to Sacred Heart last night. Junior forward Brian Grimes contributed 13 points and eight rebounds in the loss.

	COLUMBIA	55	
	SACRED HEART	60	

“He's such a good player,” Jones said. “He's a kid who's doing a lot of different things to help his team. I'm really proud of him. He's able to do some things to create space and quality shots ... he can score in a lot of different ways.”

Jones attributed some of his early success—Agho has been named Ivy League Player of the Week twice already this year—to his work ethic and the talent of the players around him. “He's also on the floor with some very good players, guys like Pat Foley and Brian Grimes. Niko Scott's a big threat.”

On the Pioneers' end, a dual threat troubled the Lions. Corey Hassan came into the game having scored 20 points or more in the previous five games, a Sacred Heart Division I school record. While the Light Blue managed to end that streak, Hassan still led the way for his team, scoring 19 points and pulling down 11 rebounds, both team bests. Sacred Heart guard Ryan Litke finished with 19 points as well, including two clutch free throws down the stretch and a big three-pointer that opened up a 57-53 Pioneer lead with 3:07 remaining.

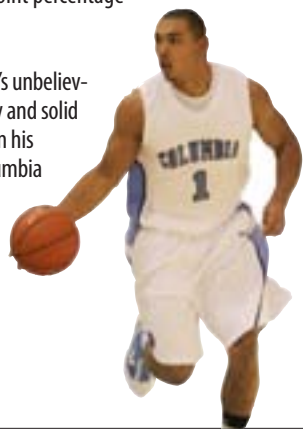
In summarizing the game, Jones explained the reasons behind the disappointing loss, citing team unity on both ends of the floor. “We got to play together to win, I think we've got to depend on each other. We've got to play better together.”

#### THREE-POINT PROFICIENCY

· Sophomore guard Noruwa Agho was named Ivy League Player of the Week for the second consecutive week, due in large part to his three-point shooting.

· Agho entered Monday night's game shooting 72 percent from behind the arc. This was good for the highest three-point percentage in the nation.

· Thanks to Agho's unbelievable 3-point play and solid percentages from his teammates, Columbia lead the nation in three-point percentage with 51.7 entering the game against Sacred Heart.



Despite the loss, he continues to look to the future with optimism.

“We saw how good we can be,” Jones said. “Anytime you put together a 23-3 run in the course of the game, the ability to play consistently is there, and we have to find it. It's early in the year. We've got to get back to work and get ready for Thursday.”

The Lions are back in action at Levien Gym on Thursday night against Lehigh. Tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m.

## Nine Lions recognized for stellar play with all-Ivy distinction

This year, Columbia football had nine all-Ivy players, including three who were selected for the first team. Senior defensive end Lou Miller was unanimously selected for the defensive first team after leading the Light Blue with 13 tackles for a loss and eight sacks. Senior offensive lineman Jeff Adams and senior wide receiver Austin Knowlin were both earned first-team selections as well. Knowlin led the Lions with 578 receiving yards.

Junior tight end Andrew Kennedy and junior free safety Adam Mehrer were named to the second team all-Ivy. Rounding out Columbia's all-Ivy selections were four seniors that were named as honorable mentions—quarterback Millicent Olawale, linebacker Corey Cameron, strong safety Andy Shalbrack, and Knowlin (for special teams).

-Michele Cleary



File photo

## What to Watch

The editors' picks for the week ahead

#### COLUMBIA:

Columbia vs. Lehigh, Thursday, Dec. 3, 7 p.m., Levien Gym

The Columbia men's basketball team will host Lehigh this Thursday. The Lions are looking for their third win of the season to bring them back to .500.

#### NEW YORK:

Dallas at New York, Sunday, Dec. 6, 4:15 p.m., New York, NY

The Dallas Cowboys will be in town to face the New York Giants. The Giants are looking for a big win after losing last week to the Broncos 26-6.

#### NATIONAL:

Dallas at New Jersey, Wednesday, Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m., East Rutherford, NJ

The winless New Jersey Nets will host the Dallas Mavericks. If the Nets lose this game, they will hold the record for the worst start in NBA history at 0-18.