

Students, profs
voice doubts
about M’ville
in panel

BY KATIE BENTIVOGLIO
Columbia Daily Spectator

While much of the debate about Columbia’s Manhattanville expansion has happened in community board meetings and local town halls, Students for Environmental and Economic Justice brought the discussion back to campus Wednesday night.

SEEJ’s panel, titled “Perspectives on Manhattanville,” featured a student, a professor, and a community activist who each lent their views on the current expansion process. Panelists mostly criticized the project, saying that Columbia’s decision-making process regarding Manhattanville has largely alienated locals.

According to Anhthu Hoang, director of environmental health for WE ACT for Environmental Justice, neighborhood residents are concerned about the kind of housing that will be available when Columbia expands into the area. WE ACT, a community-based organization in Upper Manhattan, was one of the first organizations that opposed Columbia’s expansion.

“Folks were worried that this little slot of affordable housing would be lost if Columbia came into the neighborhood,” Hoang said.

She added that many locals are concerned about increased gentrification in the area and the air quality around the construction, and wonder if the



ARVIN AHMADI FOR SPECTATOR

VIEWS | A SIPA student, an environmental health activist, and an urban studies professor spoke about M’ville.

Columbia joins peers
in AIDS campaign

CU petitions with other Ivies for
more AIDS funding, awareness

BY MICHAEL ZHONG
Spectator Staff Writer

It started Wednesday morning with a single red ribbon tied flimsily around the rails in Lerner.

Moments later, a passerby dropped a dollar, and then there were two ribbons knotted in unison. As the day passed, the ribbons multiplied until, by the afternoon’s end, GlobeMed’s project, Link On, was complete: a chain of 110 bright red ribbons visible to anyone who walked through the student center.

“The chain is meant to represent solidarity in the fight against AIDS,” Livy Low, BC ’13 and co-president of GlobeMed, said. The group also used the activity as a fundraiser to help lower the rate of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in northern Uganda.

Link On was one of many activities organized by two student groups—GlobeMed and the Student Global AIDS Campaign—to raise awareness of the disease on World AIDS Day on Wednesday.

Members of the Student Global AIDS Campaign, seated next to GlobeMed in Lerner, asked students to sign a petition urging President Barack Obama to increase funding for HIV/AIDS research. In addition to the petition, the students also put in calls to the White House to promote their cause.

Columbia’s demonstrations were held alongside similar rallies from HIV/AIDS groups at Harvard and Yale, SGAC Vice President Amirah Sequeira, CC ’12, said. The groups have focused on holding the president to his campaign promise of increasing HIV/AIDS funding to \$50 billion over five years.

Along with its petition, SGAC encouraged people to sign a card setting a date by which they would get tested for HIV. Sequeira said SGAC plans to display all the signed cards in a visible place on campus.

Sequeira estimated that between 300 and 500 people signed the petition and that over 100 pledged to get tested for HIV.

SEE AIDS DAY, page 2



YUN SEO CHO FOR SPECTATOR

AWARENESS | Amirah Sequeira, CC ’12, Mel Meder, BC ’14, and Erin Broderick, GS, petitioned for more HIV/AIDS funding on Wednesday.

Bedbug complaints on the rise after extermination cuts

BY CONSTANCE BOOZER
Columbia Daily Spectator

Bedbugs continue to plague local schools and homes, and they might be here to stay in light of recent extermination budget cuts.

Within the first two months of the school year, the number of bedbug cases in city schools jumped to 336, according to a Nov. 8 press release from Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer. That’s more than double the 135 cases reported during the same time period last year.

Local bedbug complaints from residents have also increased. Residents from areas of West Harlem represented by Community Board 9 made 390 complaints through the 311 call hotline during the 2010 fiscal

year, up from 369 complaints in the 2009 fiscal year, according to data from the Department of Housing Preservation & Development.

Community Board 7, which represents the Upper West Side, also saw an approximate six percent increase in bedbug complaints, which jumped to 249 from 235 during the 2010 fiscal year.

“These statistics are chilling, they’re unacceptable,” Stringer said in a press release. “What’s even worse is that at the exact moment we’re experiencing this invasion, the city has cut the ranks of its exterminators by more than half—from 77 active members in 2001 to 33 in 2010—and reduced pest control aides from 149 members to just 28.”

Budget cuts have led to a 75 percent decrease in pest

control agents, which poses some concerns for local residents and those with children in a city public school system of 1.1 million.

“Thank God I don’t have bedbugs, because they are all over the place,” said Deborah Smith, a Grant Houses resident. Others haven’t been as lucky.

“I live in St. Nicholas Projects and we also have a problem with bedbugs,” said a woman visiting her friend at the Grant Houses, who wished to remain anonymous because she feared retribution from her landlord.

“Bedbugs are a serious problem all the way from Morningside Drive to Broadway,” said another Grant Houses resident, who was also concerned about punishment from those in charge of the buildings. “They just closed off

the fourth floor of the building to fumigate it. ... Grant Housing is filled with bedbugs. However, local city government is taking their time to combat the problem.”

Some said the Department of Education isn’t doing enough to respond to bedbug problems. “Schools should get swift professional help if bed bugs are discovered in classrooms or other areas,” Stringer said in the press release. “Forcing principals to become CSI inspectors and bag their bed bugs—then send them via snail mail for testing—makes about as much sense as fighting a building fire with a garden hose.”

According to a CBS News report, the Department of Education denied that there

SEE BEDBUGS, page 7

NEWS BRIEF

Investigation into Ph.D student finds scientific misconduct

After a five-year investigation, the U.S. Office of Research Integrity has found 21 instances of scientific misconduct in the doctoral work of Bengu Sezen, a former Ph.D. student in the Columbia chemistry department.

The ORI report, which was released on Monday, found that Sezen committed multiple ethical violations in her doctoral research at Columbia on carbon-hydrogen bond activation.

Along with the report, the ORI banned Sezen from working for any U.S. government agency or holding any advisory position with the

U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps for five years.

In 2005, Sezen’s doctoral adviser, Dalibor Sames—now an associate chemistry professor—made waves in the scientific community when he retracted seven articles authored by Sezen because other members of Sames’ laboratory group were unable to replicate Sezen’s results.

Shortly thereafter, Columbia launched an investigation independent of the ORI’s and determined in 2006 that Sezen had fabricated data and plagiarized parts of her papers.

“The official finding of the federal Office of Research Integrity at the Department of Health and Human Services has affirmed Columbia’s investigation of research misconduct in this matter. The University is in the process of requesting the Trustees to formally revoke Ms. Sezen’s Ph.D.” University spokesperson Robert Hornsby said in a statement.

Sames was unavailable for comment, and Columbia chemistry department chair Colin Nuckolls declined to comment. Sezen also could not be reached.

—Michael Zhong

Crime increases, but local murder rate holds steady

BY CHELSEA LO
Columbia Daily Spectator

This past September, Keisha Floudd, 23, was planning to turn in her health records to become a certified nursing assistant. But that week, she was found shot in the head at 132nd Street in Harlem, between Lenox Avenue and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard.

Her death was one of 464 homicides in New York City this year as of Nov. 11, an increase of 16 percent from the 400 reported at the same time last year, according to a Nov.

12 Wall Street Journal article. The total was only seven short of the total for 2009, a concerning fact for the New York Police Department, which capped a decade of decreasing crime rates across the five boroughs with a year of record-low crime in 2009.

While the reported 16 percent increase affects West Harlem, locals should take citywide statistics with a grain of salt, said James Harper, community affairs officer for the 26th precinct, which covers the Columbia campus and much of West Harlem. CompStat, a program the police department uses to track citywide crime, reports that the murder rate has remained steady in the 26th precinct, with two murders through Nov. 21 and two murders through the same time span last year.

“Patterns are isolated,” Harper

said. He explained that residents living on 110th Street should not be alarmed at a citywide increase in burglaries that may be due to a string of isolated cases between 127th and 133rd streets.

Locally, rape, burglaries, and felony assaults have increased despite an overall decrease in crime since 1990. NYPD data for the 26th precinct show that there have been 12 rapes through Nov. 21, up from 10 last year during the same time span. Burglaries have increased from 52 to 70 and felony assaults are up from 71 to 95, a 34.6 and 33.8 percent increase respectively.

While the precinct may be seeing some spikes in crime, the overall crime rate for the 26th precinct has risen only about 0.7

SEE CRIME, page 2

A&E, PAGE 3

CU to dance ‘the Jane Fonda’ with Avalon

Rapper Mickey Avalon will perform in Lerner Hall’s Roone Arledge Auditorium tonight as a part of the Bacchanal fall concert, which was revived this year.



OPINION, PAGE 4

Keep our water clean

Louis Cholden-Brown informs us of the dangers tap water may pose to our health.

SPORTS, PAGE 6

Lions fall on the road against Bucknell

The men’s basketball team staged two second-half rallies but could not overcome a 10-point halftime deficit in the end. Columbia is now 3-4 on the season.

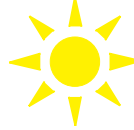
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43°/32°

Tomorrow



44°/31°

Students campaign for AIDS research, funding

AIDS DAY from front page

“It’s really exciting,” she said. “People were legitimately listening to what we had to say. They were picking up our fact sheets; they were picking up our resource sheets. They were engaging dialogue with us.” Unlike SGAC, GlobeMed focuses on other public health issues in addition to HIV/AIDS. Co-president Liza Plafsky, CC ’12, and four other students recently visited northern Uganda with GlobeMed’s partner organization, Gulu Women’s Economic Development and Globalization. “We found through all of our interviews and question-asking that HIV and AIDS was by far the biggest burden, which we already knew from the statistics,” Plafsky said. “But to see it right there and to hear from each and every person—we decided right then and there that our project this year had to focus on HIV and AIDS.”

In addition to Link On, GlobeMed sponsored a trip to a colloquium on HIV/AIDS sponsored by the Mailman School of



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SIGNATURES | Student Global AIDS Campaign members urged Columbians to sign a petition that called for more AIDS funding.

Public Health. This Saturday, GlobeMed will host a party called “GlobeRED” at Mel’s Burger Bar, with all proceeds going to its work in Uganda.

SGAC concluded World AIDS Day with a candlelight vigil on Low Steps for those affected by HIV/AIDS.

“The vigil is a really important part of the week,” Sequeira said. “We use World AIDS Day to educate and bring awareness ... but at the end of the day, World AIDS Day itself is about remembering all the people we’ve lost.” news@columbiaspectator.com

M’ville panelists question benefits agreement

M’VILLE from front page

project really will revitalize the neighborhood. “The jobs that Columbia listed as offering were primarily high-scale—at the Ph.D. or least bachelor’s degree level,” she said. “These jobs are not necessarily accessible to neighborhood residents.” In addition to the physical impact of the project, Benjamin Totushek, a student in the School of International and Public Affairs and a former member of the Student Coalition on Expansion and Gentrification, said he feels Columbia has not adequately accommodated neighbors’ concerns. This, he said, has soured many local residents’ relationships with the University. “It’s productive to look way back and see how the community developed this perception of Columbia, because it’s been pretty bleak in terms of getting the community involved,” Totushek said. Panelists also questioned the effectiveness of the West Harlem Community Benefits Agreement, a document negotiated by the West Harlem Local Development Corporation and

the Columbia board of trustees. Under the CBA, which was signed in May 2009, Columbia promised certain benefits to the neighborhood, such as building a public school, providing scholarships, and hiring local residents. “I think community benefits agreements are extremely dangerous,” Barnard urban studies professor David Smiley said. “They have yet to show that they can give jobs or housing benefits.” Totushek agreed, calling CBAs a Band-Aid solution to cover up larger problems. “The CBA has a lot of good stuff that may or may not happen,” he said. “Ultimately, community benefits agreements are Columbia’s way of sleeping at night.” Though the panel largely focused on the negatives of the Manhattanville project, Smiley said he saw the expansion in part as a learning process. “I’m trying to keep my eye on how the region can be planned to benefit institutions as well as residents,” he said. “Manhattanville offers lessons to invent a process [for expansion] that is far more accountable.”

Ben Kurland, CC ’11 and an urban studies major, said the panel was interesting but did not really change his perspective on the issue. “It seemed to be more of the same,” he said. Kurland added, though, that Smiley did give him new insights. “His opinion was one of the first times I’d heard about what we can learn from this whole process,” he said. Tomas Majcherski, CC ’11, said he generally agreed with the panelists that Columbia has handled the Manhattanville expansion poorly. “The general judgment and layout of the facts shows that Columbia is doing something immoral,” Majcherski said. “Columbia is basically acting as a bully in the community.” But for SEEJ members, the event was about keeping the expansion on students’ minds. “We wanted to keep the issue of Manhattanville alive and in the consciousness of the student body,” said SEEJ member Emily Sorensen, BC ’12. “We thought it was something we can and should do.” news@columbiaspectator.com

Despite projected budget cuts, New York Police Department optimistic of crime trends in city

CRIME from front page

percent since last year. “For felony assaults, there’s been a steady increase since 2008, but the other ones kind of ebb and flow,” Harper said. “We’re doing actually pretty good right now. We’re pretty much where we were last year.” The WSJ report doesn’t concern Pierre Jean-Baptiste, who has lived in Harlem for 28 years. “I don’t know about crime around here, but I don’t see it,” he said. The reported 16 percent increase in homicides citywide should not be a cause for concern unless it happens at least two years in a row, said Jeffrey Fagan, co-director of Columbia University’s Center on Crime, Community, and Law. “This could just be a simple

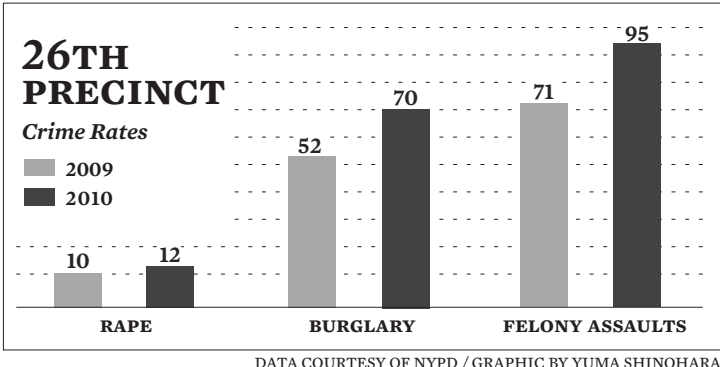
spike,” he said. “You have to unpack the data month by month, or even week by week. It could be that four murders occurred in the same two weeks and the rest of the month is calm. A 16 percent increase in crime citywide – that’s very different from saying 16 percent increase every month. You have to look at it over a very long time.” While she said she saw an unusual amount of fistfights this past summer, Shonell Jones said she still feels safe at Grant Houses, where she has lived for 21 years. “It was really ridiculous this past summer, literally [fistfights] every other day,” she said. “But just from my general observation, I can’t say that I see more crime.” The recent rise in felony assaults and burglaries may simply be an indication of the poor

economy, Harper said. “People need jobs, tensions are high because of no income,” he said. “That’s a social problem on a larger scale than the police can deal with.” Sixty percent of the felony assaults have been related to rape, Harper continued, but the slight increase in rape still reflects mostly date rapes where

the perpetrator is known by the victim. Harper said the police department is working with local organizations to get information out and educate young women at risk. Upcoming budget cuts of \$1.6 billion citywide—which would cost the police department 350 civilian jobs this year—and possible NYPD retirements without

the budget to fill their slots may lead to an increase in crime rates. But Harper said the NYPD is optimistic. Changing officer shift schedules could alleviate difficulties resulting from loss of personnel; many officers up for retirement plans will probably stay on; and crime prevention will continue to result from teamwork between residents and the local police force. “People are our eyes and ears,” he said, noting that those concerned about crime should attend the precinct’s monthly community council meetings. “There’s always someone who knows what happened or has some idea of what happened. They know who comes and goes. They’ve lived here a long time.” Fagan said he’s not convinced that this year’s apparent increase

in crime—even a double-digit increase—spells trouble for locals, who have enjoyed an 81 percent decrease in crime since 1990. “Just by chance alone, crime will go up one year and then down five years, then maybe go up one year and go down three years,” Fagan said. “It’s not unreasonable. A case where crime steadily decreases for 10 to 12 years suggests something that is a bit unusual.” Even a 16 percent increase in murder won’t bring current crime rates to the record highs Jean-Baptiste saw 20 years ago. In 1990, the city had a record 2,245 homicides. “That’s just natural,” he said of fluctuations in crime rates. “A long time ago it was worse. Now it is better for me.” news@columbiaspectator.com



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GS student shares the love with his new nonprofit

BY YIAN PAN
Columbia Daily Spectator

For the skeptics or the broken-hearted who believe that true love does not exist, Jayme Johnson, GS, is the person to go to.

BOOKS As founder of 103 Love Letters, a non-profit organization that began in March, Johnson collects love letters from around the world. This project aims to spread the love to a special group of people: child soldiers in Africa.

Although he is still in the process of collecting more letters, Johnson will select 103 letters from all the submissions he receives (currently, he has around 80). The chosen letters will appear together in a book, with all profits supporting the rehabilitation of African child soldiers.

Johnson was first inspired when one night he had an out-of-body experience in a dreamlike state. He described his experience like this: he felt his physical body sleeping and realized that there was a girl sitting across from him reading a book filled with love stories. Johnson then found himself filled with love to the point where he was about to explode.

With this dream in mind, he started the project, aiming at people who are usually unable to express their love, with the hope that they will read about other people's love and, in turn, read to their loved ones.

The organization has received a variety of love letters—lovers to lovers, parents to children, living to the deceased. One of Johnson's favorite submissions so far is a letter from a mother to her daughter, currently seven years old, to read when she's 24. The letter tells the daughter how much she loves her, the things they have experienced together, and what she is going to go through in the years to come.

Not all submissions have been letters. Jackie Reyes, GS, who recently retired from being a

professional dancer, shared some poems her aunt wrote to her stillborn child 21 years ago. Even though a majority of the 80 submissions so far have come from people in the United States, the 103 Love Letters project also has a Facebook page, and Johnson is optimistic that fans around the world will contribute as well.

As with any organization, nonprofit or otherwise, there are obstacles to overcome. "Our main obstacle has just really been getting letters ... a lot of people don't think that ... they could write well enough, or they think that they don't have anything to write about," Johnson said. The other recurring problem is that the project has been advertised mainly by word of mouth. Johnson hopes to be able to attend large events as well as use other forms of media to promote his project.

Johnson was first inspired when one night he had an out-of-body experience in a dreamlike state.

The organization has also taken potential problems into consideration, including the potential legal ramifications that come with publishing someone else's work. People who fear privacy infringements can have lawyers draw up waivers for their submitted letters to obtain the legal rights to publish them.

In a statement Johnson wrote about the 103 Love Letters project, he mentioned that one of his purposes is to have people increase the amount of love in their lives, even if they have had numerous painful experiences. "Love has nothing to do with what has happened to you in your past—it's about the way you're choosing to look at the world around you right now," Johnson said.

CU says 'Hey Mickey' with fall concert

BY MOLLY SPEACHT
Spectator Staff Writer

Breaking with recent tradition, Columbia's special events club Bacchanal has decided to host a fall concert this year in addition to its annual spring one. The revived installment will feature notorious rapper Mickey Avalon, along with Columbia's own band Night Eyes, and will take place tonight at 9:30 p.m. in Lerner's Roone Arledge Auditorium.

Bacchanal Co-President Jody Zellman, GS, hopes the concert will offer students a way to reduce stress. "Seeing as the time in between Thanksgiving and finals is the most stressful, we are putting on a show that will be a stress-diffusing great time as well as an entertaining spectacle," Zellman said.

Co-President Alex Kirk, CC '11, added that the club thought that one big event in anticipation of the annual spring concert would put Bacchanal's budget to better use than a few, low-attended, smaller events. "We aren't trying to replicate the spring concert," she said, "but rather create a new event in the fall that will concentrate our programming on a larger and more successful event like when we had Bob Saget come last year."

Kirk, for one, expects the rapper to be a real crowd-pleaser. "He's a lot of fun and puts on high energy shows that I think a lot of students will enjoy," she said.

The opening act Night Eyes, formerly known as SSSSEN, consists of Alex Klein, CC '12, and Anthony Natoli from NYU.

The student band has experienced a recent string of successes—their new EP "Exhale" was recently released on iTunes, and another song is featured in a promotional clip for MTV's new series "Skins."

Kirk said that the club chose Night Eyes because Klein is a well-known campus figure and that the club wanted a change from the kind of bands recently chosen for



COURTESY OF INTERSCOPE

KEEP THE BEAT | Rapper Mickey Avalon is performing in Lerner for Bacchanal's fall concert.

their spring concert. "We haven't had an electronic group perform in the last few years so we thought we'd mix things up a bit this year," Kirk said.

Klein said that the Bacchanal organizers originally wanted to hire him alone as a DJ for the event, but he convinced them to hire the band. Klein said that Bacchanal "was looking for a DJ because they didn't want to start with a rock band, but when I convinced them that we are definitely not a rock band and play dance music, they decided to have us open."

By having Night Eyes open for Mickey Avalon, the

Bacchanal club hopes to help the band gain further notoriety around campus. "We know that by incorporating student performers into Bacchanal events has the potential to open bigger doors for them as performers," Zellman said.

Night Eyes wants to give a performance worthy of their famous headliner. "We're really psyched for the show," Klein said. "We just recently started syncing up lights that flash to the beat when we perform so it should be a crazy visual experience as well."

Natoli of Night Eyes also added that he is excited to be

a part of a concert at Columbia. "Playing for Columbia students is great because they're open to new and experimental sounds and because they need to thrash their pain away," he said.

In tune with its spring counterpart, Zellman hopes the fall concert could also become a Columbia tradition in the future. "The fall concert is our latest effort to provide students with a means of enjoyment outside of Netflix," Zellman said. "If we can get the tradition rolling, the fall concert will turn into an annual pre-game to the wonder that is the spring concert."

Finding holiday gifts is easy at downtown sample sales

BY ELIZABETH FOYDEL
Spectator Staff Writer

Hoping to find family members something more creative than "I Heart NY" mugs for the holidays?

STYLE Columbians might not be the most athletically inclined, but a little competitive

gift-hunting at New York City-exclusive sample sales is perfect for knocking out a holiday shopping list.

The sample sale, a uniquely New York tradition, is a short pop-up sale that offers deeply discounted designer wares—sometimes literally the samples that were sent out to fashion magazines or catalogue shoots. Access was once limited to fashion industry insiders in the know, but now New York Magazine's website posts a regularly updated "Sales & Bargains" page of sample sale listings. Fashion blogs Racked NY and Sample Sally also both provide listings and reviews of current sales.

The sales are usually held in nondescript Garment District warehouses, Tribeca storefronts, or Upper East Side walk-ups. Devotees of a brand will show up hours before the doors open, so it's good to arrive early to get a place in line and first dibs on the best stuff. It's the exception

rather than the rule for a sale to have anything resembling dressing rooms, so shoppers should prepare for hurried strip-downs in front of mirrors on the sales floor. Savvy bargain-hunters will be wearing simple, tight-fitting clothing—leggings and a tank top are usually best—and shoes that slip off easily.

Having some familiarity with a brand is ideal for guesstimating sizes and determining whether the price is a steal or a rip-off.

Sometimes designers will even be present at their own sales. Sample sales tend to offer last season's back stock in a variety of sizes and at prices close to wholesale. The real gems, though, are the sample pieces themselves, worn once for a presentation or photo shoot and then dumped into cardboard boxes, priced at \$20 a pop. Seasoned shoppers know to always check for signs of damage on the items.

Some upcoming opportunities for gift hunting? Diane von Furstenberg's semiannual sale runs from Dec. 7 - 10 at 260 Fifth Ave. (between 28th and 29th streets). There will be markdowns of 75 percent on the label's signature wrap dresses—perfect for a mom or sister of any shape.

For trendy friends, downtown, chic label Vena Cava will offer womenswear samples from Dec. 2 - 4 at 457 Broome St., 2F (near



CINDY PAN

Mercer Street). Celebrity favorite Botkier will be selling its "it" bags and shoes from Dec. 3 - 5 at 421 W. Broadway. For someone more conservative on the gift list, Theory has a sample sale at 261 W. 36th St. (between Seventh and Eighth avenues) that runs through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

At the fall/winter Tocca sample sale, which runs from Dec. 1 - 3 at 542 W. 22nd St. (between Tenth and Eleventh avenues), there will be more generic gifts like the brand's coveted candles and perfumes.

As for the boys, preppy-hipster label Rag and Bone will have a sale at Chelsea Market, 75 Ninth Ave. (between 15th and 16th streets), from Dec. 2 - 5. The sale will stock plenty of pea coats and plaid.

And if all else fails, sweaters and winter accessories always make welcome nondenominational holiday gifts. Autumn Cashmere's seasonal sale at 231 W. 39th St. (near Seventh Avenue), which runs through Dec. 10 will have both men's and women's cashmires.

FLYING HIGH



ROSE DONLON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MOVE IT | Dance troupe cuBhangra practices in Wien lounge for "Bhangra in the Heights" on Friday night in Roone Arledge.

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Variety

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NATALIE PORTMAN
VINCENT CASSEL MILA KUNIS
BLACK SWAN
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Recognizing Greek life even with its exclusivity

BY ASTRIKA WILHELM

When the discussion about Student Government Association recognition of sororities first came up last year, I assumed it would just be a fleeting topic. Months later, I can see how wrong I was. Since the beginning of the discussion, I vehemently opposed the idea of recognizing sororities. But, as arguments were tossed from side to side, I began to house an internal dialogue about the issue. Finally, I came to the conclusion that SGA was right to recognize Greek life at its executive board meeting this past week.

Having so many organizations on campus diversifies the opportunities that students are able to experience and use to express themselves. All of these organizations are partly funded by student fees, and Greek life should be, too. If part of my comprehensive fee goes toward student council, toward the Athena pre-law society, and to the many other SGA clubs that I am not involved with, then I expect my payment to also go to clubs and organizations of which I am a member. If a sizeable population of the Barnard community wants to be involved with sorority life, then it should be supported and funded by our governing board. But, either way, this point has been made moot by SGA's annual financial donation to Greek life. If Barnard students want to be part of a sorority, then let them. Let not others take away our desires and hobbies based on faulty reasoning.

For sororities to include only a certain portion of first-years does not reflect a character of snobbery. It reflects a community of friends that share certain ideals.

The biggest argument made against sororities is their exclusivity. But, contrary to popular belief, there's nothing wrong with exclusivity. In fact, we all exclude, whether intentionally or inadvertently, all of the time. We exclude the unwise paths from our lives (or hopefully we do). We exclude people who would lead us into bad situations from our social circles. Columbia excludes those students who could not thrive in the University's rigorous academic setting. This is hardly bad. For sororities to include only a certain portion of those first-years in their sisterhoods does not reflect a character of conceit and snobbery. Rather, it reflects the character of an organization that aims to create and define its own nature and to foster a community of friends, and yes, sisters that share certain goals and ideals.

The simple fact is that there are countless organizations on this campus ranging from the Economics Society to Class Council to Green Umbrella to the football team to Columbia Urban Experience to University Bible Fellowship. They're all so different in their identities, goals, and activities. They all can claim to have members who represent the diversity of the Columbia University student population. And yet, not every student wants to join all or even one of these different groups. Going further, students may see little worth in any of these groups. This does not create any grounds for eradicating these groups from existence.

Just because I'm not a member of the football team and just because someone else points out that the team's goal is not the idealized one of curing cancer does not mean that the team is worthless. On the contrary, the football team serves as an important part of this campus. Similarly, sororities form a crucial component of this campus and provide another avenue of perspective for the students. Not every group is for everyone, and there's nothing wrong with that. I am not meant for the football team. Others aren't meant to understand the thrill of economics. Still others aren't meant to be a part of Greek life. That doesn't take away anything from either the student or the organization. Our society has been manipulated into believing that any exclusivity is wrong and that everything and everyone should be inclusive. We should embrace the beauty of a diverse student body and its diverse activities, or we risk creating a stifling atmosphere where the worth of all clubs and activities will be unduly questioned and disparaged.

The author is a Barnard college junior majoring in environmental science.

What the Left has to conserve

The most recent revolution in American politics—they seem to come around every two years now—was a revolution of the Right. With cries of “take our government back,” the Tea Party movement mobilized millions of Americans in support of Republican candidates, mostly on the basis of promises to vastly diminish government spending on social programs and, at their most extreme, to destroy several departments of the federal government. While much of this rhetoric will never come to fruition and many of these ideas will be jettisoned by the opening gavel of the 112th Congress, the Tea Party's economic views symbolize a shift that has taken place in American political discourse over the past few decades: The Right has taken the radical position on the issues of poverty and inequality, while the Left has adopted the conservative one. This shift has not only destabilized the definitions of liberal and conservative—it has also had a profound effect on the activism on Columbia's campus. Afraid to see ourselves as conservative in any way, our Left-leaning student body has begun to neglect the issues of poverty and inequality.

Edmund Burke expressed the classic conservative viewpoint when he described government as “a partnership not only between those who are living, but between those who are living, those who are dead, and those who are to be born.” This notion of conservatism rests not on abstract ideas of small government and laissez-faire economic policies, but rather on a commitment to received tradition—Burke's test of political institutions was not whether they fit our idea of perfect, rational justice, but whether they have served society well over time. In this conception, conservatism does not represent the attempt to enshrine fixed principles into



SAM
KLUG
Core
Matters

law. Instead, it seeks to preserve the best traditions of “those who are dead” for the benefit of “those who are living” and “those who are to be born.” Whether members of the current Right admit it or not, the government has entered into the tradition of helping reduce economic inequality. Progressive taxation, subsidized health coverage, income supplements for the elderly—these programs have become established features of our political landscape, and although they may not fit well with the Tea Party's abstract ideology of free markets and small government, they have served our society well in the decades and generations since their establishment.

Conservatism does not represent the attempt to enshrine fixed principles into law; instead, it seeks to preserve the best traditions.

Liberal voices in the United States recognize the importance of protecting these now-traditional levers against inequality. From Democratic politicians to intellectuals on the Left, contemporary liberals more often speak in terms of returning and preserving—returning to the rates of taxation on the wealthy of the Eisenhower era, or preserving Social Security and Medicare—than in terms of destroying and overturning. When Republican Senator-elect Mike Lee of Utah speaks of dismantling the Department of Education and repealing the 16th Amendment (ratified almost a hundred years ago), he frightens liberals precisely because of our conservative tendencies. Afraid of what these revolutionary steps might do, we respond by hearkening back to the good old days

when our government took seriously its responsibility to aid the less fortunate. As the Left (broadly defined) has realized that, in fact, it has quite a lot to conserve, the Left-leaning activist community at Columbia has reacted with a distinct sense of unease. Our veneration of our radical history has made Columbia students see only radical causes as worthy of our attention, causing us to neglect the issues of poverty and inequality on which liberals and progressives now occupy what must be called the more conservative position. Students are more likely to organize around the issues of discrimination, international human rights, and the environment—in part because we see these issues as places where more forward-looking change, more upending of traditional systems and assumptions, needs to happen. The attractiveness to our moral consciences of sensational problems—such as refugee crises or global environmental catastrophes—over systemic ones undoubtedly accounts for some of this tendency, but the conservative tone of current progressive arguments about wealth disparities also plays a role in turning Columbia students away from these issues. This inclination to ignore the issues of poverty and inequality reflects a serious problem in our way of thinking. Economic inequality has become the central political fact of our time, and the widening of the gap between rich and poor represents the most important social trend of the past 30 years. Older ways of confronting inequality were by no means perfect, but failing to recognize what we have to conserve—and failing to argue for it as persistently and as loudly as we argue for what we hope to change—means letting fear of a label prevent us from confronting a pervasive injustice.

Sam Klug is a Columbia College junior majoring in history. He serves on the executive board of the Roosevelt Institution. Core Matters runs alternate Thursdays.

Keeping hydrofracking prohibited

New York City boasts of having the best-tasting tap water in the U.S. But it hides the fact that its water could also be among the most contaminated. This contamination would be due to the possible seepage of toxic chemicals used in hydraulic fracking, or hydrofracking, a controversial method of extracting natural gas from the rock under the earth, in which some natural resources are trapped, by forcing millions of gallons of waters mixed with chemicals into the ground. These chemicals then work their way into the regular water supply.

In August, the New York State Senate overwhelmingly approved a temporary moratorium on gas drilling until May 2011 by a margin of 48 to nine, ensuring adequate time for further research on the environmental hazards and appropriate licensing of this practice. Our senators recognized that protecting the health of the 12 million residents of the city and the surrounding area is an issue that cuts across partisan lines.

On Monday, Nov. 29 the New York State Assembly once again failed to take up the hydrofracking moratorium. If they lay it over until the next legislative session, not only will this force the senate to reconsider its bill but it will also shift the fate of the moratorium from outgoing Governor David Paterson to Governor-elect Andrew



LOUIS
CHOLDEN-
BROWN
Urban
Ink

Cuomo. While Patterson won't commit to signing the moratorium bill, he has stated that, “At this point, I would say that the hydrofracking, the opponents of it, have raised enough of an argument to thwart us from going forward at this time.” Cuomo has not. We must learn from the unfortunate events in Dimock and Clearfield, Pennsylvania where the water is too contaminated to drink, children have fallen sick, and property values have plummeted. The continued safety of all New Yorkers—including those residents close to these dangerous sites—and the future of our water supply demand activism to ensure not only the passage of this moratorium but also the proposal to tighten regulations for water withdrawal, a key ingredient in hydrofracking. Natural gas can be an important source of energy for New York and the Marcellus Shale, which lies beneath Pennsylvania, New York, and stretches into Ohio and which likely contains enough natural gas to meet the nation's energy needs for several years, provided that it can be extracted without endangering our water supply and our long-term health. This moratorium does not shut the door on the possibilities of this energy source but rather affords the Department of Environmental Conservation time to complete its safety study to ensure that we can appropriately and safely monopolize this resource. New York cannot allow the short-sighted pursuit of financial gains at the expense of clean water and safe communities. Unless and until the technology is improved to a point where

it can be proven safe, hydrofracking remains a threat to us all and requires our activism to remain prohibited.

No matter your political stripes, the possibility that water from your faucet might ignite should inflame you.

Pete Grannis, the commissioner of the DEC, was recently fired for issuing a memo saying that the 140 jobs the agency is set to lose this year put DEC “in the weakest position that it has been since it was created 40 years ago.” How can we allow a perilous process to continue as we decimate the agency empowered to regulate it? No matter your political stripes, the possibility that water from your faucet might ignite should inflame you. I urge everyone to contact Assembly Speaker Shelly Silver to demand a legislative halt to hydrofracking. Let us say loud and clear: Don't frack with our water.

Louis Cholden-Brown is a junior in the joint General Studies and Jewish Theological Seminary program majoring in urban studies and Jewish philosophy. He is a member of Community Board 7. Urban Ink runs alternate Thursdays.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Thread beater
6 Classic name in shoes
10 Dressed
14 Aquarium concern
15 Fabled craft
16 Old
17 "So I hear your job as exercise class instructor is ____"
19 Word with belly or blast
20 "Forget it, comrade!"
21 Ancient Andean
22 Davenport shopper, probably
23 Artist Magritte
25 Branch honcho: Abbr.
26 Pops (out)
29 "So I hear your job as a burlesque dancer is ____"
35 Choice
37 Big, outmoded piece of equipment
38 Paris pronoun
39 Accountant, at times
41 Airport safety org.
42 Carousing
44 Shiny fabric
46 "So I hear your trash removal business is ____"
48 Revenge seekers in a 1964 film
49 Dollar sign shape
50 Early resident
52 Bait afternoon hr.
55 Disease attacker
57 Helps out
61 Dermagogue's delivery
62 "So I hear your scuba diving business is ____"
64 Wine region south of the Matterhorn
65 "Got it, Daddy-oh"
66 Party person
67 DEA agent
68 Frosty's button
69 Honshu city

DOWN

1 Felled, in a way
2 Queen sacrifice in chess, e.g.
3 Shrek or Fiona
4 Yellow ribbon site of song
5 Island welcome
6 Lodestone
7 Hook nemesis, for short
8 Montemmy water
9 "____ a chance!"
10 Bionic beings
11 MGM co-founder
12 Field of expertise
13 "Coming Home" actor
18 "Delta of Venus" author
22 "Everybody is ____ only on different subjects": Will Rogers
24 Watching "Avatar," say
25 Cristian king of myth
26 SLR setting
27 Tea of "Spanglish"
28 Of a pelvic bone
30 Gascony goodbye

31 Caboodle partner
32 Lash LaRue film, e.g.
33 Joined by melting
34 Artist ____ Hais
36 Parts of directions
40 MBA, for one
43 One looking askance
45 Lockjaw
47 Drop dramatically
51 Breakfast fare
52 Algerian port
53 Apollo 13 gp.
54 "____ acte
55 Bygone bird
56 Teddy Roosevelt biographer
58 "I have an ____"
59 Student's sport
60 Arg. miss
62 Cry while showing one's cards
63 Actor Tognazzi

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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12/02/10

12/02/10

BCS backers hiding true motives

With only rivalry week and championship week remaining on the college football schedule, we sit two weeks away from another round of second-guessing the BCS. Its supporters dodged their first bullet when Boise State fell to Nevada, and now they can only hope that popular opinion adopts their belief that TCU does not measure up to Oregon or Auburn.

Even so, barring a stunning loss by the Ducks or Tigers, the BCS will once again face a scenario with an undefeated team left out of the title game.

Have no fear—always concomitant with BCS-questioning is an outraged defense of the system by the commissioners and school presidents of the big six conferences. Right on cue, Ohio State President E. Gordon Gee stuck his foot in his mouth last week.

It started with Gee repeating the standard BCS defense: TCU and Boise State don't play as tough schedules, loading up on "Little Sisters of the Poor." That must be why Jeff Sagarin's strength of schedule had Boise State ahead of Ohio State and Wisconsin.



LUCAS SHAW

In the Refrigerator

Ostensibly, the BCS was adopted to crown a national champion, but in reality it was to add an extra bowl game and increase the opportunities for sponsors, ads, bowl purses, and every other method of using student-athletes to line university pockets.

Shockingly, he then said something that almost bordered on intelligence: The option that most BCS critics want—a playoff system—was a “slippery slope to professionalism.” This is why he’d advocate a return to the old bowl setup over playoffs.

Well, at least he got it half right.

Sure, a playoff system would make college football professional, but the BCS is already halfway there. It introduces the crowning of a bona fide champion and the monetary aspect of professionalism, but only halfheartedly. Not only is there rarely a definitive champion, but it doesn’t pay its players for this new influx of cash (above the table, that is).

The old bowl system was true amateurism, at least when it was first conceived. Its goal was to pit the best teams from different conferences against one another, enhancing traditional rivalries between the schools. At the end of the season, the polls crowned a champion, and even if the decision was not clear-cut, at least the system wasn’t engineered to try and make it so.

Ostensibly, the BCS was adopted to crown a national champion, but in reality it was to add an extra bowl game and increase the opportunities for sponsors, ads, bowl purses, and every other method of using student athletes to line university pockets.

It hardly needs to be said, but understanding the logic behind the BCS is simple—follow the money.

The BCS does not really improve upon the old bowl system in terms of crowning a champion. Before it was invented, teams played in different bowls, and voters decided at the end of the year which team was best. There wasn’t an elaborate formula, but at least experts had to wait until after the bowls were played to narrow the choices.

Now, voters and computers select two possible champions before the games are played, and crown one of them after. Unfortunately, there are rarely two teams that are clearly superior to the rest, so discord still reigns.

This is why you see TCU, this year’s odd man out, leaving its conference, and leaving it for one that makes the least possible sense—the Big East. Geographically, TCU is further from the northeast than the

SEE SHAW, page 7



ALYSON GOULDEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LOCKDOWN | Senior Max Craig, seen here scoring against UMES, has developed a reputation as a stout post defender.

Comeback falls short against Bucknell

BY ZACH GLUBIAK
Spectator Staff Writer

Columbia bookended the second half with offensive spurts against Bucknell last night, but inconsistent shooting kept the Lions from turning a 10-point halftime deficit into their second road win of the year as they ultimately dropped a 73-68 decision.

Columbia (3-4) looked to be on its way to a repeat of Sunday’s thrilling second-half comeback against American, scoring the first seven points of the second half to cut the Bison’s lead to 40-37. The Lions would not get any closer, though, as a Bison mid-range jumper from the baseline gave the hosts a 42-37 cushion. Freshman guard Dyami Starks nailed a three-pointer off a dish from junior guard Noruwa Agho to cut the lead back to three at 49-46 with just over 10 minutes to play. From there, Bucknell (3-6) went on a 11-3 run to stretch its lead to 60-49 before Starks converted on a pair of three throws. Columbia scraped back into the game late, clawing back to within four with under 30 seconds to play. It was too late for the Lions to pull off the comeback, however, as a Bucknell free-throw and a turnover on the ensuing inbounds ended any last-ditch hopes.

As a team, Columbia shot 8-for-25 from beyond the arc, including a dry stretch during the middle of the second half. Head coach Kyle Smith was unhappy with his squad’s shooting on the night but said the shot selection was fine.

“We got some good looks,” Smith said. “We weren’t consistent all 40 minutes, but when we could get stops and get into transition we got some good looks, and also in the halfcourt we did a good job. I was pleased with the shots we took.”

Freshman sharpshooter Steve Frankoski converted on three three-pointers in the first half but struggled to find his range in the second, finishing 4-for-11 on the night from behind the arc. Frankoski led the team with 12 points in the game, followed by Starks and Agho who both finished with 11. The Light Blue shot only 32 percent from downtown and were unable to consistently make Bucknell pay for collapsing hard on Agho, the Lions’ leading scorer on the season. In addition to his 11 points, Agho finished the game with nine rebounds and five assists despite consistently drawing double-teams from the Bison. He had six turnovers on the night.

“Noruwa struggled a little in the first half, but he bounced back and

SEE MEN’S BASKETBALL, page 7

Lions still searching for first win as Wagner comes to town

BY SARAH SOMMER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

COLUMBIA VS. WAGNER
Levien Gymnasium, 7 p.m.



After starting the season with five straight losses, the Columbia women’s basketball team has another chance for its first win. The Lions host Wagner in a nonconference matchup on Thursday.

While the Lions (0-5) are winless, their record does not reflect the strides that they have made this year. Columbia lost each of its first three games by double-digit margins but lost each of its last two by single digits. The Lions suffered a nine-point loss to Manhattan on Nov. 23 and then a four-point loss to San Diego on Nov. 27.

Columbia had its best offensive performance of the year against San Diego. The Lions scored 87 points, hitting 27 of 56 field goals (48.2 percent) and 24 of 32 free throws. Five players scored in double figures, three of whom—freshman guard Brianna Orlich (14 points), sophomore forward Tyler Simpson (17), and junior guard Melissa Shafer (19)—achieved career-highs.

After leading the Ivy League in three-point shooting percentage last season, Shafer was scoreless in Columbia’s first two games and did not make a three-pointer in any of the Lions’ first three contests. But she hit two of five threes against Manhattan and then made three of five against San Diego. If Shafer continues to be a reliable scoring option against Wagner, Columbia will only benefit.

Orlich is likely to help Columbia’s offense if she continues to draw fouls. She is 20-for-23 from the charity stripe this year, giving her a team-high .870 free-throw percentage. Against San Diego, eight of her points came from

the foul line. But Orlich does not always get fouled. When she fails to draw fouls, her wild shots over multiple defenders are risky.

Consistency will be crucial not only for Shafer and Orlich, but for the entire offense. Columbia has shown that it can make second-half runs, but those runs have not led to wins. The Lions cannot continue to rely on late rallies.

“Even in some of our second-half comebacks, it’s not like we’ve just played great basketball the entire second half,” head coach Paul Nixon said. “The goal is for us to become a more consistent team in both halves.”

The Lions must also improve their defensive efforts. Columbia allowed San Diego to hit 62.1 percent of its field goals and score 91 points. According to Nixon, “the bulk of our practice time” this week has been spent on defense.

Senior guard Kathleen Barry, sophomore guard Diana Lee, freshman guard Taylor Ward, senior center Lauren Dwyer, and Orlich started for Columbia against San Diego. While Nixon has used a four-guard lineup during games this year, he had not started four guards until that matchup.

Nixon said that the starting lineup could remain the same against Wagner or include more size. If Columbia goes with a bigger lineup, freshman forward Courtney Bradford could start in Lee’s place. Bradford started the Lions’ third and fourth games this season. Simpson, who started Columbia’s first two games,

SEE WOMEN’S BASKETBALL, page 7



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

GUARANTEED | Freshman Brianna Orlich has gone a near-perfect 20-for-23 from the free-throw line so far this year for the Lions.

Late surge not enough for Lions

MEN'S BASKETBALL
from page 6

competed really hard,” Smith said. “I was proud of him. I think he really kept it going. They were keying off of him so hard and bringing so much help that he has to be more of a playmaker for us, and he’s done that. He did that and he kept [this] game close for us, and I was excited about that. His attitude was terrific. ... He didn’t play his best offensively but he did a lot of things that made us better.” Sophomore point guard Brian Barbour had a solid night alongside Agho and Frankoski in the backcourt, contributing 10 points and five assists while avoiding a single turnover. “He’s pretty consistent,” Smith said. “He takes care of the ball.”

As the first-year starter gets more comfortable in his role, Smith indicated Barbour would be counted on to be more of an offensive option, particularly as opponents begin to focus more on containing Agho. “Honestly, I wish he was a little more assertive at times, I think he could release some of that pressure on Noruwa,” Smith said. “They’re keying in on Noruwa sometimes. I think it should be a little easier for Brian. That said, he’s been very steady and he’s evolving and he’s growing up and I think he’ll only get better.” Starks continued to provide a spark for the Lions off the bench, finishing three-for-six from the field. All of his field goals were from three-point land. “Dyami does what he does,” Smith said. “He scores. He’s fearless and he’s gonna be a good one. He’s still young and he still needs to keep improving defensively, which is usually what most freshmen have to do.” The battle of the boards was nearly even on the night, with a 36-35 edge for Columbia overall and a 12-11 margin on the offensive glass in favor of Bucknell. The Bison were able to capitalize on those extra opportunities, scoring 19 second-chance points to the Lions’ 14. Smith pointed to



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

OUTTA MY WAY | Sophomore point guard Brian Barbour put up 10 points and five assists in Wednesday’s loss to Bucknell.

that difference as one of the decisive factors in the night’s loss. “We gave them some second opportunities there, and they’re a good team,” he said. “When you go on the road, you really have to dig in and come up with the ball.” Smith was encouraged by the defensive effort his big men put in, though, saving special praise for senior center Max Craig. Craig matched up against Bucknell center Mike Muscala, who going into the game was considered the Bison’s biggest threat. Muscala finished with just six points after getting into foul trouble and playing only 17 minutes overall. “I think we have good defensive 5’s, and I think Max Craig is really one of the better defensive 5’s I’ve ever coached,” Smith said. “I felt good there, that we’d match up okay.” Bucknell hurt the Lions from the outside, though, as guard Darryl Shazier led all scorers with 15 points and went two-for-three from beyond the arc. Overall, the hosts shot 50 percent from downtown, going 6-for-12. “Unfortunately, I was hoping we’d defend the three a little better but, gosh dang it, we didn’t,” Smith said. “We played

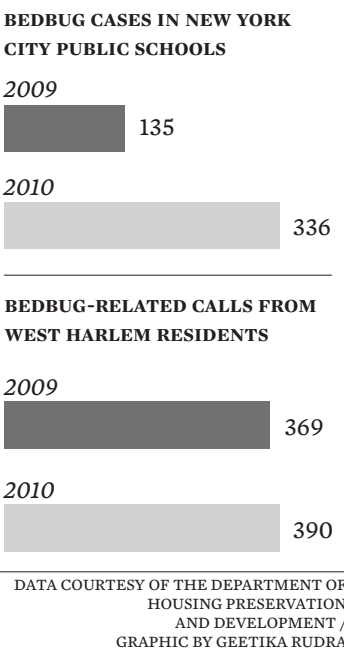
smaller and quicker. I thought we needed to have some shooters out there that maybe aren’t our best defenders. That was the hand I was playing, that we were going to play our shooters a little more, and make some shots and get out of here with a win. It sort of backfired a little bit.” The Bison committed an uncommonly low four turnovers on the night. “Hats off to them,” Smith said. “I don’t care what kind of defense you’re playing. I was told they had zero [turnovers] in the second half, and that’s ridiculous. That’s really impressive. We were competing well, and to not just have one thrown out of bounds or to kick one off your foot, that’s impressive.” Overall, however, Smith was encouraged by his defense. Bucknell finished 22-for-62 from the field, good for a 35.5 percent shooting percentage. “It was better for us defensively. Their defensive field goal percentage was a good number for us. The better we can do there on the perimeter defensively, the better we’ll be.” The Lions will look to protect their perfect home record when they host Stony Brook at Levien Gym this Saturday. Tipoff is scheduled for 4 p.m.

Bedbug calls on the rise in NYC

BEDBUGS from front page

was an epidemic, saying that bedbug specimens must be provided before allocating large amounts of taxpayer money to exterminate them. The Department could not be reached for comment, and the principals of P.S. 175 and P.S. 180 in West Harlem could not comment on whether they have had bedbug problems. City council member Robert Jackson has been issuing educational DVDs over the past few months in order to spread awareness on the issue. “The initiative was very successful—we have very few DVDs left,” said Sarah Morgridge, spokesperson for the office. “However, we’re not trying to

reinvent the wheel. We are just putting the information out there. Not everyone has access to the internet or a computer, but most people tend to have a home entertainment system in which they can play a DVD.” Their office is unable to allocate resources to concerned locals, and instead Jackson’s office only has the power to address the issue through education, Morgridge said. “Socioeconomics impact the ability to address the issue,” she said. “When families have the means to call an exterminator, the problem is fixed correctly. However, not everyone is able to do this. Resources are the biggest thing in addressing this huge problem.” news@columbiaspectator.com



CU searches for first win against Wagner

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
from page 6

is also an option, though she is smaller than Bradford. Barry and Dwyer are the only certainties in Columbia’s starting lineup. Orlich is also likely to remain a starter, considering that she has played well and that Shafer has improved since being moved out of the first string. While the starting point guard spot belonged to sophomore Taylor Ball in the Lions’ first four games, freshman Taylor Ward got the start against San Diego. Nixon said that Ward likely will start again on Thursday. Wagner (2-2) opened the season with two wins but is now riding a two-game losing streak. Last year, Columbia earned a 73-49 victory over the Seahawks. Columbia may not achieve a blowout win against Wagner on Thursday, but the Lions do have a chance at a victory. “The wins are coming,” Barry said. “We’re getting better every game as a team. The San Diego offensive output definitely proved that.”



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HANG TIME | Kathleen Barry and the Lions hope to add to Wagner’s two-game losing skid tonight in Levien Gymnasium.

BCS supporters in it for the money

SHAW from page 6

locus of any other power conference, but it saw an opportunity to contend in the worst of the BCS clusters. The more BCS bowls it qualifies for, the more the school profits. So for all of Gee’s talk about wanting to avoid professionalism and going back to the old system, his defense of the BCS is related to the profits reaped by Ohio State. As a member of a BCS conference, and especially as the president of its best football school,

Gee stands a chance of a huge payday every year. Better yet, he doesn’t have to worry about some small school upstaging his typically overrated football team and stealing the profits from a national title game. As Gee knows, if professionalism and the students are really the main concerns, the BCS does not aid that objective and, consequently, there are only two options for college football. The powers that be can renounce the BCS, the interminable bowl season, and the professionalism (read:

greed) engulfing college football. Or they can call it what we all see it to be—a quasi-professional league—and institute playoffs. Is Gee ready to take that step? Only if more TCUs and Boises take at-large spots, and then it’s for the sake of money... err, amateurism and/or fairness. *Lucas Shaw is a Columbia College senior majoring in political science.* sports@columbiaspectator.com

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