



DAVID BRANN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**CROSTOWN CYCLING** | Bikers in Central Park will soon be able to use the pedestrian transverses to cross the park east-west.

## Potential bikes on Central Park paths draw cheers, ire

**BY AVANTIKA KUMAR**  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Two crosstown pedestrian paths in Central Park will soon allow both bicyclists and walkers—a change that is being both hailed as progress and criticized as unsafe, in the now-typical pattern of fights over bike accommodations in the city.

The two paths, planned for 97th and 102nd streets and spanning Central Park from east to west, will likely open this month, said Lisa Sladkus, community organizer with the

pro-biking group Transportation Alternatives. Currently, the only ways to cross the park from west to east are by taking a loop around the park or crossing transverses—the spaces under bridges for pedestrians and bikers—which, while legal, are “totally unsafe,” according to Sladkus.

“The only place to safely and legally go west to east is if you go all the way around the park,” she said. “That’s really not a way to encourage people to get out to cycle, and to potentially, you know, go to a meeting, or an

appointment on the East Side. You would have to go very far out of your way in order to do that.”

The paths will be designated with pavement decals reminding cyclists to yield to pedestrians. However, according to Andrew Albert, Community Board 7 Transportation Committee Co-chair, sharing the paths could infringe on pedestrians’ rights.

“Those walkways are now the safe refuge for pedestrians, and pedestrians expect for there not to be bikes on them,” Albert said. “There would have to be really good marking and really good

advance notice about this.”

Biking advocates say they are doing just that. On Saturday, Sladkus and other representatives of Transportation Alternatives handed out leaflets with biking rules, spoke with passersby, and reminded cyclists to yield to pedestrians and obey traffic signals. Sladkus said the group planned to do similar outreach on the paths once they were opened to bikers.

While group members acknowledged that pedestrian safety

**SEE BIKES, page 2**

### NEWS BRIEF

## Columbia makes ‘short list’ in engineering competition

Columbia’s proposal in Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s Applied Sciences NYC competition has made it onto the city’s “short list,” Engineering Student Council President Nate Levick, SEAS ’12, said.

Levick said that he received an email from SEAS Dean Feniosky Peña-Mora on Nov. 21 announcing that Columbia had advanced in the competition.

“Obviously I’d like Columbia’s proposal to be chosen,” Levick said. “But I think whatever proposal is chosen will be interesting and exciting.”

University spokesman Robert Hornsby said that the University could not comment on the evaluation process.

Last Tuesday, Mayor Bloomberg said in a speech at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology that three of the seven original applicants had been cut, but backtracked the next day to say that he was unsure of how many applicants were remaining in the competition.

According to the New York Daily News, only two applicants—Amity University and a group including New York Genome Center and Mount Sinai School of Medicine—were cut, leaving Columbia, Cornell University, Stanford University, Carnegie Mellon University, and New York University as the remaining competitors.

—Jillian Kumagai

The official decision will be announced in January and may include more than one winner, according to the Mayor’s Office.

The proposal or proposals chosen by the mayor will receive \$100 million to invest in the project and the use of city-owned land on Roosevelt Island or Governors Island. If chosen, Columbia is planning to utilize the funds to develop the Institute for Data Sciences and Engineering, which will occupy three buildings of the Manhattanville campus.

University President Lee Bollinger has cited Manhattanville’s construction readiness—other applicants will have to undergo a time-consuming city land use review process—and its proximity to the Morningside campus as advantages of Columbia’s proposal.

Reports that Bloomberg and other city officials had narrowed down the competition came on the heels of an announcement Friday that Facebook plans to open its first New York City office, an engineering center, early next year. In a press conference last month, Bloomberg said that a new applied sciences campus “has the potential to be a real economic game-changer that will create jobs immediately and for generations.”

## Butler to get more 24-hour space starting next week

**BY KARLA JIMENEZ AND BEN GITTELSON**  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

The process of finding a seat in Butler Library during finals season is getting a bit easier.

Starting next Tuesday, Butler Library will add 170 seats to its 24-hour spaces. The fifth and sixth floors, which have graduate reading rooms, will be open all night—adding to the Milstein study rooms on floors two through four. And if enough students fill the seats in those rooms, they will remain open 24 hours a day for the rest of the year.

Ryan Cho, CC ’13 and Columbia College Student Council vice president of policy, said that the student councils talked to University Libraries and Facilities staff to start the pilot program.

“This is the trial period,” Cho said. “If a lot of people use the space, we can talk more about how, if it’ll be open for more than just finals. We really do need a lot of people to come out.”

Cho and University Senator Kenny Durell, CC ’12, are planning to advertise the program widely, since keeping these rooms open 24/7 will be contingent on student participation seen by Libraries staff.

“Due the number of people out there, is that number sufficient enough to be paying

**SEE BUTLER, page 2**

## CU-EMS sees significant increase in calls

**BY KANEISHA PAYTON**  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Columbia University Emergency Medical Service is getting even more popular.

CU-EMS has been dealing with a dramatic swell in call volume—an increase of 59 percent since last year, according to its director Alex Harstrick, CC ’12.

Harstrick attributed this increase to a number of factors, including additional publicity garnered when the organization changed offices last year and when the Good Samaritan policy went into effect earlier this year. The Good Samaritan policy, established in September, made official the practice of not penalizing students who call emergency medical services while in violation of drug or alcohol policies.

“I don’t think anyone really thought that they’d get penalized. It’s just reinforcing the idea,” Daniel Lynn, CC ’14 and CU-EMS crew chief, said.

These extra calls are piling on top of an annual average of approximately 700 calls. And after a recent efficiency-oriented reduction from 65 active members to 42, the first responders of CU-EMS are walking a tightrope between handling the growing call volume and maintaining quality service.

Lynn said that 12-hour shifts have become a common occurrence for him.

“It’s a direct result of not having enough people, that’s the issue,” Lynn said. “But it’s hard to do because you can only promote people who are ready to be promoted. So you’re struggling against logistics and

convenience versus making sure people are ready.”

SIPA graduate student Andrew Richardson feels that the increased call volume may be edging in on the time between calls normally used to coach less experienced first-responders, putting greater pressure on more experienced members during urgent calls.

However, Richardson also lauded the upshot of the call increase, stating that many of the medical school-bound members are getting more opportunities for hands-on experience with patient care.

While calls involving intoxication represent 27 percent of the total call volume, they aren’t the major factor behind the growing call volume, members said.

“The vast majority of our

**SEE CAVA, page 2**



FILE PHOTO

**FIRST RESPONDERS** | CU-EMS members say the increase in calls is not attributable to alcohol.

### A&E, PAGE 3

## Marvel at Butler

Famed comics writer Chris Claremont donates his X-Men archives to Butler for a new comics and graphic novel collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library.



### OPINION, PAGE 4

## A missing dialogue

C-SJP is inhibiting a necessary conversation on Israel and Palestine.

## Proper politicians

Columbia presidential hopefuls need to check themselves early on.

### SPORTS, PAGE 6

## Light Blue to take on Holy Cross

The Lions are hoping to continue the success that they saw at the Loyola Marymount Centennial Classic this weekend, where they won three straight games.

### EVENTS

## Desserts Around the World

Get a ‘taste of diversity’ with desserts from around the world.  
*Diana Center, second floor café, 7:30-9 p.m.*

### WEATHER

#### Today



59°/45°

#### Tomorrow



48°/37°





DAVID BRANN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**BUSY BIKERS** | Bicyclists riding around the entrance on Tuesday at the northwest corner of Central Park, where the pedestrian transverses will soon open for bicycles to cross the park.

## Cyclists will have new way through park

**BIKES** from front page

is an issue, they felt the problem had more to do with people biking recklessly than with the paths themselves. Sladkus said the paths were curved and had less foot traffic in order to make them as safe as possible for pedestrians.

“There should be a lot of cross-park routes for cyclists,” said Ken Coughlin, a member of Transportation Alternatives and CB7 member who was helping out Saturday. “What should be ticketed is reckless behavior.”

George Beane, Columbus Avenue Business Improvement District board member and avid cyclist, also said unsafe bike traffic was the core issue, specifically some cyclists who ride too fast

or ride on very crowded paths.

“Sure, some people are going to not do the right thing and most people will do the right thing, just as most pedestrians will do the right thing too,” Beane said. “Each side should make accommodations.”

Coughlin added that the new designation would only legalize what’s already happening. He said it was common for cyclists, including himself, to break the rules.

“Right now, people are crossing the park—sometimes they get tickets,” Coughlin said. “So sometimes they go on transverses because they don’t want to get a ticket, and they’re risking their lives to cross these transverses.”

According to Albert, while

bike users on CB7’s transportation committee generally supported the plan, it has drawn opposition from others, including senior citizens.

The Central Park paths are only the latest in a city-wide campaign to increase biking, which includes a bike sharing program launching next year and new bike lanes on streets, like the one installed last year on Columbus Avenue between 96th and 77th streets.

“I think that that will be one of many ways in which the city is becoming an increasingly attractive place to live and get around,” Beane said. “I can’t wait for it to happen.”

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## CU-EMS stretches as calls increase

**CAVA** from front page

calls are medical related calls, serious calls,” Lynn said. “It’s a lot more medical calls. I don’t know what that’s attributed to. Maybe people are more aware of CAVA so they use us more. I hope that’s the reason, not more injuries.”

### “You’re struggling against logistics and convenience versus making sure people are ready.”

—Daniel Lynn, CC ’14 and CU-EMS crew chief

Despite the onslaught of calls, plenty of students are still eager to take up the CU-EMS commitment. Harstrick stated that the last recruitment season was the most competitive one the organization has ever had.

“I think it’s a great thing,” Harstrick said. “I think that students should feel empowered to get help. We’re getting the same calls that we’ve always been getting, just with a higher intensity.”

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## Conflict of interest policy changes recommended

**COI** from front page

the proper disclosures. “We only learn if people do not comply if the entire public knows about it,” Robledo said.

The University currently audits faculty members when issues are raised about individuals, said Associate Vice President for Research Compliance Naomi Schrag, who sat on the conflict of interest committee.

The committee report also recommended that Columbia hire extra staffers to deal with new reporting requirements handed down this summer by the National Institutes of Health. Among other guidelines, the NIH determined that the amount of money constituting a significant financial interest—the threshold that measures whether an individual can continue to do research related to the company compensating him or her—should be decreased from \$10,000 to \$5,000.

Chemistry professor Ronald Breslow didn’t critique the content of the policy, but he said that he feared that hiring new staff to enforce the policies “increases the bureaucratic layer.”

“It’s becoming increasingly bureaucratic by federal mandate,” O’Halloran said.

The committee recommended that the University better communicate its disclosure policies to students, staff and faculty through annual information sessions and reminders from the provost. O’Halloran said some faculty had been “referencing the old handbook” and were initially

unaware of the 2009 policy.

The 2009 senate policy mandated that this two-year review take place. Even so, conversations in the senate and elsewhere in the University were influenced by the October 2010 documentary “Inside Job,” which alleged that some top economists—including Columbia Business School Dean R. Glenn Hubbard and Business School professor Frederic Mishkin—had not properly disclosed conflicts of interest.

O’Halloran told Spectator that the new policy is meant to “harmonize our standards across the university campuses.”

The University-wide requirements serve as a minimum disclosure standard, but since the release of “Inside Job,” the Business School, the Law School, and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences have passed policies which exceed the newly recommended University-wide requirements.

Under the Business and FAS policies, faculty members are required to disclose on their websites all outside activities that create the appearance of a conflict of interest. Law School professors are required to disclose potential conflicts in course lectures and media appearances, when possible.

O’Halloran added that it’s not clear that the senate will have to vote on the recommendations. The senate’s external relations and research policy committee will decide whether a resolution needs to be brought before the senate.

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## Butler’s fifth, sixth floors to be open all night

**BUTLER** from front page

for another Facilities person to clean that space, to upkeep that space?” Cho said. “I don’t think cost is an issue if it’s being utilized.”

Although the 170 seats will be open soon, they are only part of the new library study space that students can take advantage of this finals season, including 250 more seats in the Northwest Corner Building’s Science and Engineering Library than were open at this point last year.

Still, Cho acknowledged the importance of opening more space in Butler specifically because of its popularity, especially among first-years.

“I know a lot of people work at Lehman, but it’s further away,” Cho said. “There’s always a cry for more space, whether it’s student group space or individual space for students.”

Students said they were excited for the additional space, and would be more inclined to head to Butler next week.

Sitting in Butler Café, Neha Srivastava, a graduate student in SEAS, explained her frustration at the time it took to find study space.

“Why else do you think I’m sitting next to the garbage?” Srivastava said, adding that students who “camp out” add

to the issue. “As a result, we have to sit sometimes in the corridor because there’s no space in the rooms.”

“You spend a half hour trying to find a place to sit and it’s really stressful in there,” Hannah Shaper, CC ’15, said.

### “If a lot of people use the space, we can talk more about how, if it’ll be open for more than just finals.”

—Ryan Cho, CC ’13 and CCSC vice president of policy

Katie Sun, BC ’12, said she doesn’t spend much time in Butler during finals due to its frenzied feeling, but that she will consider studying in the library at night when the additional floors are open.

“I really like the sixth floor,” Sun said. “There’s less of a stressful atmosphere there.”

*Shayna Orens contributed reporting.*  
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## Low-pressure job open for new head coach

**SIMMONS**, from page 6

programs that either went to an Ivy school or coached at one and would be willing to come fix us here, and I think that would be an ideal solution.

I guess I’d just like to see someone with some confidence and a strong will. Someone who knows it’s not going to be easy, but still has the internal drive to see the X’s and O’s he comes up with on the chalkboard work well on the field. And it should go without saying, but he needs to be a good motivator—someone who can inspire confidence with not just his words but his actions as well.

Now I don’t have the slightest idea who this coach will turn out to be, but with a self-imposed deadline of Dec. 15, I think we’ll be seeing the athletic department’s choice fairly soon.

When it comes down to it, I only hope that the next coach gives us all a reason to believe that we’ll be able to claw our way out of the Ivy basement sometime soon with some good old-fashioned W’s.

*Myles Simmons is a sophomore in Columbia College.*  
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## Don’t ‘Mind the Gap’ between talent and future potential in new Postcrypt exhibit

**BY ANNABELLA HOCHSCHILD**  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

With an icy chill in the air, the basement of St. Paul’s Chapel seemed an inviting and warm place to seek solace.

**ART REVIEW**

The show titled “Mind the Gap: Reflections on the Self,” located in the Postcrypt Gallery, opened Friday, Dec. 2. It aims to explore the gaps between conscious reality and unconscious knowledge. Many media are used to explore this idea.

The first work is a series of simple photographs taken by Val Karusevich. The idea is an interesting one—she took photographs of what she saw over the summer, carrying a camera with her everywhere. Unfortunately, the photos lack a common motif, leaving the viewer slightly confused.

Thaddeus Stephens’ work presents both talent and potential. His wonderfully exposed self-portraits are penetrating and poignant. The work is arranged well with a geometric shape, which allows each photograph to be appreciated as individual works. Stephens was clearly influenced by modernist photographers Man Ray and Bill Brandt, but his own style is forceful in his work.

Kat Balkoski, CC ’13, attempts to explore the idea of consciousness in the social networking era. As her statement in the catalog stated, the photos came from “skype, facebook, photobooth, iPhoto, youtube, capture, my current cellphone, my old cellphone, and a security camera in a midtown office building.” Although this is an idea that certainly has a tangible consequence to students’ Internet social lives, the various photographs do not

possess enough inherent interest. This work comes across as a good idea yet not superbly realized.

Lindsay Filowitz also showed a thought-provoking idea in her work. Titled “No one cares more about the way you look than we do,” the work explored how much time and effort can be devoted to the changing of our bodily aesthetics. Filowitz’s photos are imbued with bright, almost obnoxious colors, which gives fairly everyday scenes a surreal air. Her works are reminiscent of Annie Leibovitz portraits in their slightly splayed version of a mundane reality.

The exhibition presents a fascinating conundrum of modern life, with most artists exploring those complexities to the best of their abilities. The show presented young artists who will develop over time to find their own artistic niche and seemed well on the way to doing so.



KEVIN ROARK FOR SPECTATOR

**MIRROR STAGE** | Attendees contemplate the works on display at Postcrypt Gallery’s “Mind the Gap.”



# Individual works clutter and distract from performance art event

BY CAROLINE CHEN  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Minimalistic sounds of ambient music and bizarre imagery of various performance videos furnished the setting of the Alpha Delta Phi Society's brownstone on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 8:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., during "re: performance." "re: performance" is an art event party exploring the ideas of original authorship and the interactive potentials of performance art.

Presented by Postcrypt Art Gallery, with Columbia New Poetry and ADP, "re: performance" featured a series of concurrently running original and reinterpreted pieces through a diverse compilation of performance art, music, and poetry.

The intent of the event was to "see how many layers of performance and re-performance can be created and make people aware of their own performance," Rachel Valinsky, CC '12 and Postcrypt director, said.

Attendees were given small squares of paper upon entry, which recommended an action as an interactive aspect of the event and which beckoned them to assume the roles of performers themselves.

Kat Balkoski, CC '12, chose to re-perform Yoko Ono's, "Cut Piece," which streamed in the background alongside her performance. Balkoski sat like a rag doll with the same deadpan gaze as Ono and invited viewers to take up a pair of scissors to strip away her long black dress.

Ono has re-performed her piece multiple times, so the presentation of the concept through a different subject brought up an interesting discourse on the ephemeral aspect of performance. The original intentions of Ono, captured through the contextual elements of time and place, are impossible to replicate.

Thus Balkoski's piece examined the validity of a re-performance. "Juxtaposing my body against the original [performance] questions the ideas of originality. Can a performance be re-performed?" Balkoski asked.

The conventional presence of gallery wall text was left out of the layout of the event, leaving viewers the task to identify where and when each performance began and ended.

Coordinators Valinsky and Adrienne Rooney, BC '12, described that removing the structured layout implicated by wall text allowed the event to move away from the confines of a gallery space.

"We don't want people to contextualize what is going on and be told what is going on," Rooney said.

Yet for concrete art pieces, such as Anastasia Vartasaba, BC '13, and Valinsky's re-performance of Vito Acconci's "Following Piece," there was something to be desired about the lack of context. Although the piece itself was an active performance, its documentation rendered itself into an art object made of photographs and observations.

Acconci's original work rests upon the concept of inconspicuously following a stranger while photographically and textually recording the experience. Yet this is hardly a specific and truly novel concept, and a reinterpretation of it could stand by itself as an original piece.

Thematically, both the re-performances and performances were loosely connected by their use of modern media and technology, which, as Valinsky noted, "permeates our general life performance."

The newly conceived group, New Poetry, presented "Poetry Upon Request," in which attendees drew up guidelines for New Poetry members to compose a poem.

"Poetry can often feel like a very isolated activity and writing a poem based on the formal restrictions of other people creates a collaborative experience," Rebecca Liu, CC '14, said.

The event can be considered a unique social experiment, yet the concept of the exercise rests on shaky ground in its categorization as a "performance."

Considering performance as a singular event, the simultaneous existence of multiple performances, made it difficult to absorb each piece as a whole. While the concurrency of the tableaux created another layer of interaction, it also diluted the meaning of each isolated performance. Rather than being a deep exploration of performance art, the event as a whole acted more as a platform to create awareness about the medium of performance art.



LINDA CROWLEY FOR SPECTATOR

X-FACTOR | Karen Green, librarian of the graphic novel collection at Butler Library, above, thumbs through the pages of the new Claremont Collection.

## Mutants occupy Butler in new comics collection

BY ANATOLE ASHRAF  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

For fans of comics and graphic novels, Butler is about to become home to a very special cast of characters, who are dedicated to saving a world that both hates and fears people like them.

Famed comics writer Chris Claremont, best known for his groundbreaking work on Marvel Comics' X-Men series, has agreed to donate his comics archives of the last 40 years to Columbia. The archives will be housed as the Claremont Collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library in Butler.

Karen Green, librarian of the graphic novel collection and the ancient and medieval studies collection at Butler, called the donation "very fortunate."

"I was referred to Chris by a mutual acquaintance last year," Green said. She described her acquaintance with Claremont as "fortuitous," calling both Claremont and wife Beth Fleisher "amazing people."

Claremont, who has had the longest run on the X-Men from 1975 to 1992, is credited with playing a pivotal role in bringing added maturity to American comics, and helping to develop the graphic novel. As writer of the X-Men, Claremont created many classic story lines, such as "The

Dark Phoenix Saga" (very loosely adapted by 2006's "X-Men 3") and "Days of Future Past."

The comics writer and novelist also depicted strong characterizations of women, updating the profile of the African-American superhero Storm and creating the characters of Phoenix and Emma Frost. Claremont also created the X-Factor series, which in 1994 introduced Monet, a prominent female Muslim character. As for male characters, Claremont made Wolverine a fan favorite, especially with his catchphrase: "I'm the best there is at what I do ... and what I do isn't very nice."

Green, who grew up reading New Yorker cartoons, Mad Magazine, and underground comics such as Heavy Metal, admitted that "if I read superhero comics, I would be most drawn to the X-Men because of its metaphor for being outsiders." She also finds it ironic being so closely associated with superhero comics as a result of Claremont's donation.

As for Claremont's legacy, Green described him as possessing "a mastery of a series that few other story lines in mainstream comics can boast. He has an extraordinary sense of how to tell stories, and an inquiring mind about the world around him. I'm not sure if anyone else can do that."

According to a Nov. 14 Publishers Weekly article, in addition to bringing Claremont's archives to Columbia, Green is working on building a new research center for comics at Columbia, although she admits to being misquoted.

"My hope is that Claremont's archives will lead other New York creators to donate their archives to Columbia," Green said, "so that Columbia can become a kind of research center for comics."

Green also writes the column "Comic Adventures in Academia" about her experiences as Butler's graphic novel librarian on the comics site <http://www.comixology.com>. She highlighted that comics and graphic novels are currently enjoying tremendous legitimacy. "There are so many publishers, writers, artists," she said. "Comics study is burgeoning. There's academic interest, a general growing interest. I think it's a true golden age."

With so much growing interest in comics from both academia and popular culture, and with Claremont's legacy of discussing many real-world tumults in the pages of X-Men, Green's golden age sentiment seems to resonate louder than ever.



LINDA CROWLEY FOR SPECTATOR

POP OFF THE PAGE | Heroes and villains clash on the pages of Chris Claremont's comics archives.

## Black Theater Ensemble portrays a harsh, brutal world in a production of 'Fucking A'

BY ELISSE ROCHE  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Fucking A. Step aside, Emma Stone—this is no "Easy A."

Written by Suzan-Lori Parks, "Fucking A" presents a postmodern interpretation of Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter." The Columbia University Black Theater Ensemble, known for its diverse and experimental pieces written by and for people of color, performed the play Friday, Dec. 2 at 8 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. BTE's latest play challenged the morality and cultural relativity of the audience.

As director Nailah Robinson, CC '12, stated in the play's program, "Some of the heavy topics she approached in this show and the language she used definitely push boundaries." That is an understatement. The play painted a morbid picture of a world in which abortionists are branded with a scarlet letter, mayors are elected for 100,000 years, freedom is more life threatening than the gilded cage,

THEATER  
REVIEW

and life is second choice to death. Parks expressed these heavy themes through an eclectic mix of two languages, English and "Talk." The latter sounded like a mix of African languages, and was often substituted into conversation when using vulgar and profane language—the translation was projected onto a screen on the wall.

The piece begins with Hester the abortionist, played by Jasmine Sudarkasa, CC '13, at the witching hour of midnight after she serviced several patients. Her apron is covered in blood, and her best friend is the whore, Canary Mary, played by Uzunma Udeh, CC '12, who is engaged in sexual relations with the mayor of the town, played by Josh A. Johnson, CC '13. And in the very first scene, one of the major thematic threads is presented, as stated by Canary Mary: "Here is a woman who does all she can." Hester is certainly that. She had spent her life saving up her money earned from being an abortionist to free her son from imprisonment after petty theft, only to kill him herself with a butcher's technique in order to save him from the clutches of the Hunters,

played by Rebecca Clark, CC '13, Randolph Carr, CC '13, and Jonathan Smith, CC '13.

Sudarkasa poignantly played the role. She demonstrated her ability to convey a full spectrum of emotions, from self-disdainful to naïve to violently angry. She moved the audience with her portrayal of a woman who gave everything to the one bright light in her life, and lost everything by her own hands, the hands that have killed more than they have given life.

Walter Jean-Jacques, CC '14, both puzzled and amused viewers with his eccentric portrayal of a man called Monster, an escaped convict who is later revealed to be Hester's son. Jean-Jacques' character made himself into something that would be feared instead of loved, which brings to mind the old question of whether it is better to be feared rather than loved. And love, in this play, was in short supply.

Udeh performed brilliantly with her subtle admissions of friendship and loyalty as Canary Mary. She also captured the character's naïve belief that she would one day become the mayor's wife only

to be awoken by the reality of the impossibility of her situation. Her acting was complimented by her rich voice in the designated singing interludes.

In addition, the versatility of actors like Clark, Johnson, and Smith was impressive and refreshing as the audience viewed them take on different roles with relative ease.

Though the acting was, for the most part, engaging and well done, the singing interludes were hit-and-miss. Some performers were more talented in the acting rather than the singing, which took away from the seriousness of the piece. At times, the vaudeville-esque nature of the score was jarring and distracted from the dialogue, particularly when the actors appeared to be uncomfortable when singing.

"Fucking A" could have gone one of two ways: alienating or challenging the audience. It successfully accomplished the latter by presenting the question of responsibility and morality, the subjectivity of human conviction, the price of freedom, and the interdependent nature of life and death.





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## Developing real leadership

On Friday, a Spec headline read:

“Income gap most extreme in Morningside, Hamilton Heights” (Dec. 2, 2011). Headlines exposing broad societal problems like this are everywhere, and most Americans, distracted by day jobs and countless personal issues, feel helpless in the face of such depressing yet sweeping trends.

What they most need is a strong leader to articulate what they can do, inspire them to do it, and make them feel hopeful again. For all you Columbia students who fancy yourselves presidential aspirants, now is your time to start preparing. A sense of service, sacrifice, personal discipline, ethicality, and humility cannot all be acquired in an instant.

Our current politicians, regardless of party, are impulsive, selfish, self-aggrandizing, and totally lacking in empathy. As a self-identified liberal, I find it somewhat hard to admit that many of the most articulate and forceful advocates of progressive policy in the last decade all rival Gene Simmons and Tiger Woods in libido and lack of impulse control. As much as I support the argument that personal sexual behavior has no bearing on public service, to not consider the public’s reception of such scandals is not only stupid, but also selfish. Assuming Anthony Weiner, for example, had realized that his resignation would mean Congress losing its strongest advocate for universal health care, he would have known that, in moving forward with his web sexcapades, he was placing his bizarre fetish above the medical needs of the American people.

Leaders must be more open with us about their flaws at the outset before they manifest in an implosive scandal. If they speak and write about their fights with drug use, destructive relationships, and lack of personal discipline, public figures actually might provide a road map for young political aspirants trying to fight their own bad habits. No leader is perfect. In fact, if one is to have a concept of evil in society, he must struggle with some inner demons of his own. When politicians deny



JESSE MICHELS

### Politics as Pertinent

## On Internet anxiety

I am on campus as the class of 2015 trickles in, bags and boxes in tow, through the field of blue and white balloons that float winsomely on College Walk. Seeing them brings me back to my own emotions when I first stepped onto Columbia’s campus two years ago, filled with joy and wonder in that victory daze of finally having escaped my small Midwestern town after years of hard work in high school and beyond. Initially, I intended to discover and use each and every resource that Columbia had to offer. But come sophomore year, when I actually had to sit myself down and choose among all those opportunities a field of concentration, I was paralyzed to the point that it reminded me of something I used to experience with the Internet.

For a very long time, I did (and still sometimes do) have one unpleasant reaction to being online. The symptoms vary from person to person, but, generally speaking, they involve everything from enabled procrastination (read: re-watching choice scenes from Mulan) to such jitteriness that I cannot and will not focus on any tasks that I hope to accomplish at that time.

I like to call it Internet anxiety.

Sir Ken Robinson suggests in his TEDTalk that those who grew up with the Internet tend to have shorter attention spans because technology floods us with a constant stream of data and potential interaction. I think that there’s some merit to this argument. Why actually read one article in the New York Times when I can continue opening all the other interesting-sounding ones until the titles of the 234,234 tabs in my window are illegible? Why start learning how to break dance when there are so many more tutorials on knitting, carpentry, and how to make electronic music waiting for me to click? Suddenly, in lieu of doing anything, I am stuck obsessing over the potential of doing something else and the overwhelming anxiety of trying, in essence, to conquer the Internet on the back of a charging narwhal. Does it sound awesome? Totally. But narwhals have a special diet restricted to the Arctic and are heavily affected by environmental changes, and the reality of being on the Internet is that you have a limited amount of time and attention to spare.

There’s a clear overachieving culture at Columbia where five to six classes a semester with a job or internship and some extracurriculars is the norm—not to mention balancing a social life and oft-overlooked physical and mental health. Just as when a fellow student mentions casually that he or she is “only taking” six or seven classes, there’s an added pressure to not being “late” for the newest Lady Gaga music video or Internet meme. Everyone wants to be skillful and knowledgeable and really, really ridiculously good-looking, but, unlike the data on the Internet, none of those things come to be instantly (and some of them never happen at all). When was the last time you were able to do all the readings and problem sets for every one of your seven classes yet still have time to sleep and foster good friendships with the people around you? Of course there are exceptional people, and of course there is always that class in which the professor lectures the textbook verbatim, but I’d be hard-pressed to find someone who’d disagree that cutting corners in some of those things to accommodate the others doesn’t diminish the quality of life at Columbia.

I’m not trying to say that you shouldn’t dabble or explore, nor should you pick something too quickly just because it’s safe or familiar—a choice is an exercise of self-awareness, and the self is an ever-changing consciousness that shifts with perceptions and reactions to experiences. However, know that you will eventually have to decide on something, and it’s OK if that first thing is small. But you have to stop wondering if you’re going to make the “wrong” decision. You’re still that same person who got into that school with the ridiculously competitive admissions rate and even though all these things have opened up to you, you’re not the inferior version of some post-Columbia potential self. You are already interesting and already competent and are just here to learn something new. So start with one tab or one experience, and do it well. The rest will follow.

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



YANYI LUO

### Chipped

their imperfections, they only provoke more criticism. Bill Clinton was ceaselessly mocked for claiming that he “didn’t inhale” after being accused of smoking marijuana as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford. In contrast, Barack Obama was lauded for his authenticity when he wrote, before being accused, about his cocaine use in “Dreams from My Father” in an analytical, clearly regretful, but deliberately public way.

Future politicians should begin to hone personal discipline and restraint in college (especially in the age of Facebook, when incriminating pictures, posts, and personal information are forever archived online), so that once they achieve a public platform, they can intentionally open up about these issues in a constructive, even inspirational way.

In addition, Capitol Hill is a bubble that envelops our impressionable politicians, only adding to the leadership deficit. Before his presidency, Obama was a community organizer for Chicago’s Developing Communities Project, even establishing its job-training program. Unfortunately, as president, he has lost himself among a sea of elite, inside-the-Beltway aides and cabinet members whose experiences are disconnected from the plight of the poor and unemployed.

Columbia-student political hopefuls should thus anticipate, if elected, to feel intimidated by Washington elites who possess an impressive insider’s knowledge, especially when it is matched by an utter obliviousness to the problems of the average American.

The final cause of America’s leadership void is the perversion of our presidential race. Nowadays, candidates won’t run serious campaigns, but rather personal publicity tours, establishing name brands and capitalizing on their newfound fame to make money. Among these opportunists are people like Herman Cain and Sarah Palin. Since Palin’s VP bid, she has written a book, become a Fox correspondent, starred in her own reality TV show, toured the country on a “freedom bus,” and in the process bankrolled her egregiously expensive leather jackets and designer sunglasses. It’s as if our politicians are the Paris Hiltons and Kim Kardashians of the political world—turning a cheap profit from the undue fame they have achieved as a

result of simply running.

These Republicans are far off from candidates past, who possessed humility and a sense of service—such as former Columbia and United States president Dwight Eisenhower. Maybe it’s our school system that is perverting the presidential bid into a personal branding venture. With extremely low acceptance rates, colleges force high schoolers to run for student government simply as a résumé boost. In other words, a precedent is set that politics can be cynically used as a launchpad for personal success rather than a means of sacrificially serving a higher cause.

## Future politicians should hone

## personal discipline and restraint

## in college, so that once they

## achieve a public platform, they can

## intentionally open up about these

## issues in a constructive way.

Maybe our citizenry is inherently apathetic and helpless. Maybe the poverty gap in Morningside Heights cannot be closed. But I reject these conclusions. They are as generalizing and scary as they are defeatist and easy. Our problems and politics consist of nothing more than ourselves, the leaders who arise from our ranks, and the ones we choose to elect. Many current Columbia students have the capacity to lead. I hope I have exposed a few pitfalls they can avoid along the way.

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



ILANA SCHULDER

## Ask and ye shall not receive

BY ERIC SCHORR

This week Columbia students will once again be subjected to the uninvited—yet ever-present and monotonous—propaganda of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This week, the Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine will promote its Right to Education Week, the focus of which will not be education, but the distortion and mischaracterization of Israeli security against terrorism as a system of oppression against Palestinians. Those of you familiar with the back-and-forth swinging of the pendulum between the two sides on campus may be surprised to find that, this time, one of the sides will be taking a different approach to the debate.

The discussion on campus has fundamentally shifted in the last two years—in that it simply no longer exists. The two sides cannot be aptly described as pro-Israel vis-à-vis pro-Palestine. Rather, the dichotomy has become pro-Israel versus anti-Israel. When one side promotes dialogue, conversation, and mutual recognition, and the other side preaches occupation, oppression, and apartheid, there is a clear disparity of issues and a break in the direction of the discussion. The two sides are no longer parallel in path. I could bore you with a lengthy diatribe of facts and figures, but I propose a different way of determining this new dichotomy: Ask members of C-SJP a series of questions.

## What can you do when the people

## you are supposed to be in dialogue

## with refuse to recognize your

## legitimacy?

Ask them if they support a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with two states for two peoples, living in peace and security and full mutual recognition. Ask them if they support the establishment of a Palestinian state, a Palestine as an independent, democratic state side-by-side with Israel. Ask them if they accept the legitimacy of systematic historic resolutions and declarations calling for the creation of two states for two

peoples, such as the 1937 British Peel Commission, the 1947 U.N. Partition Plan, and the 1993 Oslo Accords. Ask them if the majority of Palestinians living in Israel, some who identify as Israeli-Arab, would prefer to live in a State of Palestine over the State of Israel. Ask them if Jews would be permitted to live in a State of Palestine. Ask them if they are referring to 1948 or 1967 when they say “occupation.” Ask them if they denounce Hamas and Hezbollah, two internationally recognized terrorist organizations—both have American, Israeli, and even Palestinian blood on their hands, both have stated unequivocally their wish to obliterate Israel, and both have threatened Jews around the world. Ask them if they will recognize the State of Israel as the nation state of the Jewish people, as the land where Jews the world over have a shared history, language, culture, and religion. Ask them why the Palestinian Authority continuously rejects engaging in direct negotiations with Israel to reach peace. Ask them.

As a pro-Israel student leader on campus, I have tried to advance peace, dialogue, and discussion on issues relating to the conflict in the Middle East. I have tried to engage those involved in C-SJP during their “mock checkpoints” or “Apartheid Weeks” even in the face of growing cynicism. But what can you do when the people you are supposed to be in dialogue with refuse to recognize your legitimacy? Instead they promote a culture of hatred, and they speak not about a world with a Palestine, but about a world without an Israel. In contrast, LionPAC and the greater pro-Israel community seek a peaceful resolution to the conflict that recognizes the humanity of both sides, and the legitimacy of the two sides’ narratives. I want to believe that there are level-headed and open-minded individuals who will take an objective look at the issues when presented with contrary opinions. I seek partners who share my vision of a campus free of internal division and strife, and who, like me, long to see both peoples live in peace and dignity. Therefore, this is an open call to anyone who no longer wishes to hear the hostile rhetoric of the Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine. If you want to have a conversation about the tough issues, about truth and facts, about narratives, about anything relating to this conflict, I invite you to come forward. Ask.

The author is a senior in List College. He is the president of LionPAC.



12/06/11

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Football needs to turn away from losing past

Now that the football season is over and we've all had time to digest the news of losing head coach Norries Wilson, it's time to start focusing on the future. It's time to think about how the athletic department can bring in a coach who can change our losing culture, because it's time we all realize that it doesn't have to be that way.



MYLES SIMMONS  
A Second Opinion

Of course, the most important thing for the athletic department to do right now is to just get it right. The next head football coach, whoever it may be, is obviously going to have a huge job on his hands. I've said this before, but it's worth repeating that our football team hasn't had a winning season since 1996, and it hasn't had consecutive winning seasons since the early '60s. I hate to say this, but we simply have a tradition of losing here.

So what is it going to take to change that? Well... a whole lot. But first it's all about getting the right person in place, and even though we have that ugly losing tradition, I can think of a whole lot of reasons why a quality coach would want to come here.

On the most fundamental level, Columbia is fortunate enough to be located in the greatest city in the world. There's something for everyone in the family—shopping at Saks and Barneys, toys galore at FAO Schwarz, and all the shows you could ever want to see in the Theater District. Plus, with all the museums, the kids can be the most cultured young people on the planet. I think those are all pretty good selling points, no?

If we've got to sell more about the team and the school, Columbia has one of the oldest football programs in the country. The 1870 game against Rutgers was the second intercollegiate football contest ever played, and in 1876 Columbia was one of the founding members of the Intercollegiate Football Association along with Princeton and Harvard. With all that history, don't you think it's a real shame that the Lions have such a losing tradition?

Kind of like Theo Epstein taking the Cubs job, who wouldn't want the acclaim of being The Coach who turned this program from a wooden raft into a yacht? The football program has been in such a rut for so many years that the expectations are going to be incredibly low. It's completely unrealistic to expect a new coach to come in and all of a sudden have us be the team to beat in the Ivy League. The reality is that the Lions weren't good this year, but marginal improvement up to "mediocre" probably isn't too much to ask. And really, if the next coach pushed the Light Blue's Ivy record to .500 consistently in the next couple of years, how could that not be considered a success?

So now that we've gone over the

Can you think of a better place to live and coach than Manhattan?

selling points, what do I think we should be looking for in a coach? Well, I'm so glad you asked, because I have a few ideas.

In a name, I'd say Jim Tressel. Yes, I'd love to see the former Ohio State coach put on light blue sweater vests every Saturday afternoon. And if not him, then why not former Pittsburgh Steelers head coach Bill Cowher? The Jaw is currently an analyst for NFL Today on CBS and is already familiar with New York. Why not just come on uptown to pad that résumé before going back to the NFL?

Okay, I know those guys aren't going to come here—they're too expensive and wouldn't have any interest, among countless other reasons. But what I do think we should be looking for is a coach who has a sense of history—and not just the history of Columbia football, but Ivy football as a whole. I'd like to say that we could really use someone who played here, but with that whole "tradition of losing" thing, I'm not sure if it would be the best idea. I bet there are a few good college coaches in medium-name

SEE SIMMONS, page 2

Light Blue returns home to take on Holy Cross



FILE PHOTO

BIG SHOT | Sophomore guard Meiko Lyles shot 79.2 percent from beyond the arc this past weekend for the Light Blue.

BY STEVEN LAU  
Spectator Staff Writer

Undeclared in last weekend's Loyola Marymount Centennial Classic, the Columbia men's basketball team is looking to bring its success in California back to its home court when the Lions (5-4) take on Holy Cross (3-5) tonight in the first of two games before the holiday break.

Over the weekend, the Light Blue defeated Loyola Marymount 69-61, North Texas 72-57, and La Sierra 78-56 to extend the team's winning streak to five games. Outside shooting was a huge factor in the Lions' success, as they averaged more than 50 percent from three-point range during the three games.

Leading Columbia's shooters was sophomore guard Meiko Lyles, who was named Ivy League Player of the Week. Lyles scored double digits in all four of the team's games last week, shooting 79 percent from beyond the arc.

Lyles was at his best on Saturday against North Texas, when he hit all five of his three-point attempts and scored a career-high 18 points to earn Loyola Marymount Centennial Classic Player of the Game.

Despite the importance of the three-pointers this weekend, head coach Kyle Smith knows his team cannot always rely on perimeter shooting.

"You can't always control if those kind of shots go down," Smith said. "We've got to stick to defending well. If our defense and rebounding stay consistent, we'll do well."

"We're sky-high right now, but we have a big game coming up. It's a good vibe right now, but as soon as we get back, it's back to business."

—Brian Barbour, junior guard

Tonight's matchup with Holy Cross will be Columbia's fourth match in a five-day span, and players expect a challenge.

"We're sky-high right now, but we know we have a big game coming up," junior guard Brian Barbour said over the weekend. "It's a good vibe right now, but as soon as we get back, it's back to business."

The Crusaders are coming off a close 62-57 victory over New Hampshire on Saturday, a game which featured 10 lead changes. Though Holy Cross led 27-23 at the half, an 8-0 run by the Wildcats in the second period gave New Hampshire a one-point lead with 10 minutes remaining. However, clutch baskets by senior guard Devin Brown and free throws by freshman guard Justin Burrell gave the Crusaders enough of a lead to hold on for the win.

Brown, who finished with a game-high 15 points, is Holy Cross' leading scorer, and the Lions' head coach knows he will be a threat against Columbia.

"He's just an all-around great player," Smith said. "He'll be hard to contain on the outside."

Earlier in the season, Brown led all shooters with 17 points in the Crusaders' 73-64 loss to No. 25-ranked Harvard, a game in which Holy Cross outrebounded the Crimson 28-24.

Smith predicts the Crusaders' defense will be similar to the defenses of Loyola Marymount and North Texas that forced the Lions to give up a total of 46 turnovers over the weekend.

"Both games there were a lot of late turnovers, and I think it was a function of not having a lot of practice time," Smith said.

In addition to taking care of the ball, Smith emphasized the importance of ball movement and capitalizing on open opportunities. The shooting success of the Lions in recent games is expected to bring more defensive pressure, which will make the post play of junior center Mark Cisco more important.

"Mark is a big presence inside," Barbour said. "Playing through him makes our jobs as guards much easier."

Even with the Lions' shooting form at its best so far this season, the players and their coach agree the team can't let their winning streak go to their heads.

"Obviously the spirits are good, but we've really tried to emphasize keeping an even keel all season," Smith said. Tipoff for tonight's game is schedule for 7 p.m. in Levien Gymnasium.

Crimson continues to win, Dartmouth struggles

BY ELI SCHULTZ  
Spectator Staff Writer

As nonconference play continued for the Ivy League, the Crimson remained undefeated heading into its matchup with the defending National Champions while the Big Green continued to struggle. As the nonconference season is wrapping up, the Ancient Eight are primed to take each other on after winter break.

BROWN

Despite a disappointing 75-54 loss to Iowa (5-3), it was a good week in basketball for the Bears (4-6), as they upset in-state rival Rhode Island (1-6), 65-56 last Wednesday. Led by junior forward Andrew McCarthy, who recorded a double-double with 12 points and 13 rebounds, Brown came back from a 32-30 halftime deficit to beat the Rams for the first time since 2001. Sophomore guard Sean McGonagill and junior guard Stephen Albrecht also posted big numbers for the Bears, scoring 19 and 17 points, respectively. The Bears also suffered a big 80-49 loss to another in-state rival, Providence, last night.

CORNELL

The Big Red (3-4) posted a big win at home this Saturday, outlasting Lehigh (6-3) to earn an 81-79 overtime victory in front of its home crowd. Cornell performed especially well on defense as well as offensively from beyond the arc. The Big Red forced a total of 17 turnovers and made 10 three-pointers, including eight in the first 20 minutes of the game. Senior guard Drew Ferry led Cornell in scoring with 20 points. Junior guards Johnathan Gray and Miles Asafo-Adjei and junior forward Josh Figini also posted double-digit scoring totals for the Big Red. Cornell will return to action on Dec. 17 when it hosts Albany.

DARTMOUTH

After failing to capitalize on numerous opportunities in the game's final minutes, the Big Green (2-5) suffered a painful 53-30 road loss to New

Hampshire (2-3) last Wednesday to fall to 2-5 on the season. Freshman forward Gabas Muldunas led Dartmouth with 13 points, but none of his teammates were able to reach double digits. The Big Green made only 60 percent of its free throws but still fared better than the Wildcats, who only shot 50 percent from the charity stripe. Following a break for finals, Dartmouth will return to the hard court on Dec. 10 to face Notre Dame.

HARVARD

The Crimson (8-0) have not disappointed thus far this season and stayed flawless on the year with wins against Vermont (4-4) and Seattle (2-3) last week. Senior forward Keith Wright led the Crimson in scoring against Vermont, posting 12 points to go along with eight rebounds in a 55-48 victory over the Catamounts. Freshman forward Jonah Travis did the heavy lifting against Seattle, recording a double-double with a career-high 19 points to go along with 10 boards as his team beat the Redhawks, 80-70. The wins allowed them to jump into the AP Top 25 for the first time in school history. The Crimson will put its perfect record on the line against the defending national champion Huskies on Dec. 8.

PENN

Penn (4-5) narrowly missed out on a victory over perennial Big East powerhouse Villanova (6-2), falling to the Wildcats, 73-65. Starting at an 18-point halftime deficit, the Quakers regrouped and managed to outscore Villanova 45-35 in the second half, in large part thanks to a 14-4 run coming out of the break. Senior guard Zack Rosen led the Quakers with 21 points, with fellow guards senior Tyler Bernardini and sophomore Miles Cartwright chipping in with 13 and 12 points, respectively. Penn's next game is at home against Delaware on Dec. 7.

PRINCETON

The Tigers (3-5) earned a much-needed victory over Lafayette last Wednesday, beating the Leopards 69-54 to improve to 3-5 on the season. Three Princeton players had double-digit point

totals. Junior forward Ian Hummer led all scorers with 23 points and also grabbed a game-high nine boards. Senior guard Douglas Davis also had a strong game, scoring 15 points and recording four steals. The victory allows the Tigers, who play 12 of their next 13 games on the road, to build up momentum heading into a tough stretch of the season. Their next game will be at Rutgers on Dec. 7.

YALE

After handily beating Vermont (4-4) last week, 68-52, the Elis (6-2) are off to their best start in almost 10 years. Senior forward Greg Mangano posted an impressive performance for the Bulldogs, pulling down 15 rebounds and notching 22 points. Sophomore center Jeremiah Kreisberg and junior guard Austin Morgan each contributed 14 points to the effort, while only one Catamount tallied double digits. Yale shined on defense, holding Vermont to only 35 percent from the field, and out-rebounded their opponents 39-29. The Bulldogs continued their success with a nail-biting 73-71 win over Sacred Heart last night.

NO. 25 HARVARD (8-0)



This week, Harvard entered the AP Poll and the ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll rankings for the first time in history.

The Crimson is ranked 25th in the AP Poll and recieved 191 votes.

The Crimson is ranked No. 24 in the coaches poll and received 79 votes.

First Ivy to be ranked since Cornell was No. 22 in 2010

Before that, it was the 1997-98 Princeton team that finished No. 8.