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Cells take novels to another level

In places such as Japan, writers and readers have flocked to the cell phone, which has proved to be a convenient and quick way to read books on the go.

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Sustainable development of mind

Monica Varman suggests that climate may not be the only thing changing.



Sports, page 6

Lions aim to bounce back against Seahawks

The Columbia men's basketball team will try to come back from a difficult, three-point loss to Stony Brook when it takes on Wagner tonight.

EVENTS

Dealing with Stress

Break up with your boyfriend and get a C on a paper in the same day? Columbia's Office of Work/Life hosts a workshop that teaches you to understand the stress so that you can take control of your emotions rather than letting your emotions take control of you.

477 Lerner Hall, 5 p.m.

Napalm, an American Biography, 1942-2009

In a top secret military research collaboration, Harvard University created the napalm bomb in 1942. Three years later, more than 89,000 people in Tokyo were incinerated. Bob Neer from the history department tells the story in a lecture.

1302 International Affairs Building, 12:15 p.m.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's very challenging for a lot of women to be mothers and to be on tenure track."

—Carol Hoffman, associate provost and director of the Office of Work/Life.

ONLINE

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News around the clock

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Jawad Bhatti / Staff photographer

BAILOUT | William Dudley, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, spoke at the World Leaders Forum of his hopes for a "robust and resilient" economy after the harsh crisis.

Dudley speaks at World Leaders Forum

BY POOJA REDDY
Spectator Staff Writer

William Dudley said that the Federal Reserve Bank chose the lesser of two evils—the bailout.

At a Columbia University World Leaders Forum event held in Low Library, Dudley,

president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and vice chairman of the Federal Open Market Committee, spoke about the causes of the financial crisis, the need for a bailout, his hopes for a recovery toward a robust economy in 2010, and the Fed's shortcomings in

supervising large regional banks. He addressed a number of issues regarding the Fed's increasingly supervisory role over banks.

In his opening remarks, University President Lee Bollinger, deputy chairman of the Federal

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M'ville campus will depend on court case
Bollinger responds to students

BY MAGGIE ASTOR
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

According to University President Lee Bollinger, the Manhattanville campus expansion may not happen at all without eminent domain.

Last Thursday, the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division ruled that the use of eminent domain—the process by which the state can seize private properties for the "public good" in exchange for market-rate compensation—is illegal for Columbia's project. The decision was a harsh blow to the University's vision for a new campus in Manhattanville, where private holders—Nick Sprayregen of Tuck-It-Away Self-Storage and gas station owners Gurnam Singh and Parminder Kaur,—have not struck land deals with the University. Without reaching an agreement, Columbia would be forced to rely on eminent domain by the state to build on these sites. Eminent domain is also needed for the sprawling underground area, known as the "bathtub," which would extend

up to seven stories below the campus and provide utility support for the buildings above.

The Empire State Development Corporation will appeal the decision to New York's highest court, the Court of Appeals, and Bollinger said in his Freedom of Speech and Press course on Monday that the outcome will "determine whether or not we have a new campus."

After offering limited statements in the days following last Thursday's court ruling, Bollinger responded to questions from students in his class, saying, "Eminent domain is crucial to the campus as conceived of and as approved by the city and the city rezoning process. The consequences of not having eminent domain for Columbia's future in this area are really inextricably tied together, and we will not have the campus that was envisioned."

Robert Kasdin, Columbia senior executive vice president, avoided answering the question on Sunday, saying, "I'm not going to speculate on what would happen after the

SEE MANHATTANVILLE, page 2

Women continue to face gender discrepancies in tenure process

BY CATHI CHOI AND EMILY KWONG
Columbia Daily Spectator

In 1937, Ruth Benedict became the first tenured woman at Columbia University. Promoted to assistant professor of anthropology, her appointment marked the first step of the University toward opening the tenure process to women.

But over 70 years later, less than a quarter of tenured faculty at Columbia are women, according to statistics for fall of 2008, released in the spring of 2009 from the Columbia University Office of Planning and Institutional Research.

At the University, only 22.5 percent of tenured faculty members were women, according to the report. Both tenured and non-tenured populations were heavily

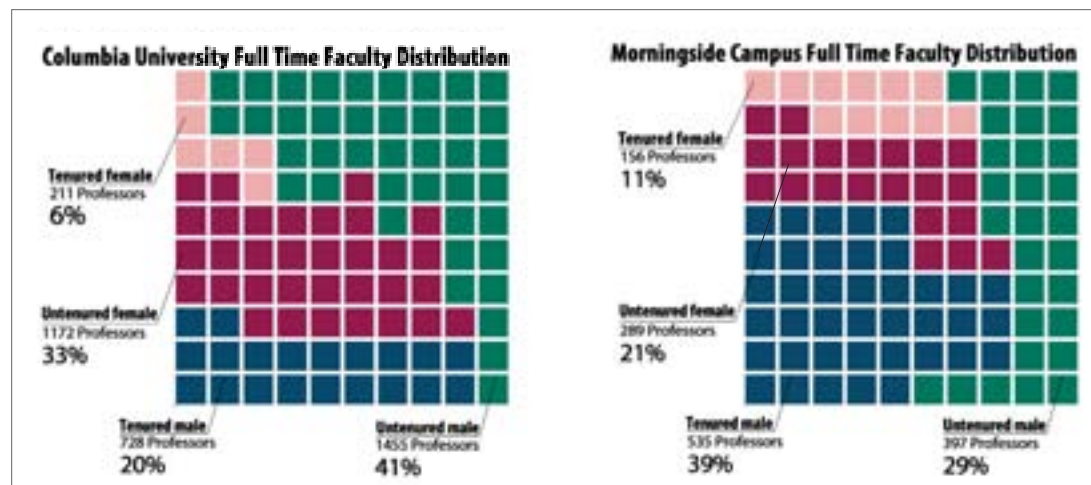
male. University calculations indicated that women held 38.8 percent of all academic posts. The report is released annually in the spring.

Since women compose one of several traditionally underrepresented groups in academia, the push for women to attain equality in tenure status has come up against many barriers—some within the campus and others rooted outside of the University.

A question of discipline

Stephen Rittenberg, the senior vice provost for academic administration, traces the underrepresentation of women in tenured positions to many factors, including the professor's discipline or field and the process of mentoring junior faculty on the tenure track.

Tenure, the contractual right to lifetime employment at the University, must be awarded by the end of the seventh counted year of a junior faculty



Graphic by Jin Chen

member's appointment, or he or she must be notified that his or her appointment is discontinued.

Much of the decision making in the pre-tenure process occurs at the departmental level, beginning with the question of who to hire, according to Rittenberg. "By and large, the departments and schools

do not recruit at the junior level without the expectation of looking for someone who potentially would be qualified for tenure six or seven years out," he said. To prepare for nomination, junior faculty members undergo periodic departmental reviews and mentorship that can influence the candidates' successful

navigation of the tenure track.

Marianne Hirsch, a professor of English and comparative literature and co-director of the Institute for Research on Women and Gender, said that specific department cultures and stereotypes contribute to

SEE TENURE, page 2

Barnard students discuss queer identity with dean

BY CLAIRE LUCHETTE
Columbia Daily Spectator

For some members of Q, Barnard's campus group for LGBTQ students and allies, the image of a typical Barnard student too often misses the mark.

On Monday, more than 30 students from Columbia and Barnard filed into Sulzberger Parlor to chat with top administrators about creating more campus spaces for queer students and about larger issues of reevaluating their image on campus.

Barnard President Debora Spar, Dean Dorothy Denburg, and representatives from the new Office of Diversity Initiatives took notes during the sixth annual student-led Queer Issues Forum.

Prior to the event, Anna Steffens, BC '10 and co-president of Q, said in e-mail that the forum was to be held off the record so that "we can ensure that people's anonymity and ability to speak freely are protected."

At the forum, organizers gave students opportunities to comment on the role of queer students in the Office of Admissions, residence halls, and classrooms.

One of the main concerns raised by students was the need for a specific Q lounge space. Steffens said in interview prior to the talk that one of the major goals of the forum was to "highlight the need for Q lounge



James Rathmell / Staff photographer

IDENTITY | Q, Barnard's group for LGBT students and allies, hosted their annual Queer Issues Forum, where President Spar and Dean Denburg responded to requests for queer space on campus.

spaces and see that addressed by the administration."

Denburg—who agreed to have her comments on the record—responded during the forum that offering a Q lounge has more to do with logistics than anything else. She said, "The creation of such a space is one of several requests for

designated space. On a space-starved campus, we have to see what we can do."

But, she said, this kind of open conversation is an important first step. "We seem to be engaged in a positive conversation that involved concrete suggestions to assist the growth in awareness of how

students can support other students," she said.

One first-year student claimed to have "no ideas about the queer community's role on campus," and many attendees agreed. But Gavin McGown, CC '13 who also agreed to comment

SEE QUEER FORUM, page 2

School rating jumps from F to A

BY JEREMY BLEEKE
Columbia Daily Spectator

Qadir Dixon knows the value of a good pair of shoes.

When Dixon, principal of Renaissance Leadership Academy—a K-8 public school on 129th Street and Amsterdam Avenue—noticed that one of his students wasn't wearing the required school uniform, he had teachers pool money to purchase the child a new set of pants, shirts, and a tie.

"I'm going to personally buy him a pair of shoes and teach him how to shine his shoes," Dixon said, adding, "With little things like that, he appreciates it."

Renaissance Leadership Academy was one of 889 New York City public schools to receive an A on its 2008-09 Progress Report. Unlike most of those schools, though, RLA's 2007 grade was an F.

According to several teachers, administrators, and parents, Dixon—who they say takes the time to notice something as small as one

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BC holds Queer Issues Forum

QUEER FORUM from front page

on the record, said that “one of the best parts” of his Days on Campus experience last April was his involvement with the Queer Cupcakes event. He added, “That was one of the reasons I ended up picking Columbia.”

Some attendees agreed that issues of identity and image are often too blurred for prospective students. One transfer student said that the “typical Barnard student” is often depicted in a way that “serves as a homogenizing force in terms of gender expression.” A junior student continued, stating that way the “typical Barnard student is framed in the application process” can be off-putting to prospective queer high school students during campus tours.

Steffens said that she felt the forum was a success. She noted that one of the forum’s most important aspects was the “expansion of what we think of a typical Barnard woman in terms of admissions.” She added, “I think we could be doing more in terms of painting Barnard students in an open way. Admissions needs to stress that queer students represent part of Barnard’s commitment to diversity.”

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World Leaders Forum discusses financial crisis

DUDLEY from front page

Reserve Bank of New York’s Board of Directors, said that Dudley was a “key figure” and a “leader in teasing out the sources of the financial crisis and making our economy more resilient.”

Dudley said that the Fed was exploring a more proactive approach in preventing future recessions. “The costs of cleaning up after the fact have been immense,” he said of the current recession. He conceded that the Fed could have supervised large regional banks better by taking a tougher stance on the quality of management and governance at these institutions.

Dudley stressed that the Fed would try to put “compensation structures that curb excessive risk-taking” in place so that there would no longer be incentives to take financially uncertain risks. He also said that further regulations may be applied to banks classified as “too big to fail” in order to increase their minimum holdings.

Dudley also noted that addressing the moral issues of the bailout package was important to him.

“It is deeply offensive to Americans, including me, that the same people who have caused

this crisis have also benefited from it,” he stated. “In a perfect world, we would have had a better way to penalize them, but once the crisis progressed, one goal took precedence—of not letting our financial system fall apart.”

Responding to one audience member’s concerns about negative representation in the media, Dudley said that, ultimately, the Fed had to make a difficult choice.

“I understand the reason for the outrage, and if there was some way we could save the banking system and not the bankers, we would have ... It was a choice between two bads, and we picked the choice that we thought was less bad.”

Ricardo Reis, a professor in the economics department and an instructor of a section of Intermediate Macroeconomics, attended the lecture and stated that the talk was “very systematic, especially in the way that it was very clearly linked to the principles of macroeconomics that we teach in class.”

Yu Zheng, CC ’11, agreed, saying, “He does a good job identifying the challenges we face and proposing a number of good solutions to make sure such bankruptcies don’t happen again.”

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M’ville campus needs eminent domain

MANHATTANVILLE from front page

next court decision.”

Justice James Catterson wrote in the 3-2 court decision that the expansion of a private university does not constitute a “public use” and that ESDC lacked evidence for deeming the area “blighted,” a condition of economic disrepair beyond potential for natural relief.

Pre-construction is already underway because the ESDC approved eminent domain last December. But it is in the earliest stages, with utility work on gas, water, and electrical lines taking place on sections of Broadway, 129th Street, and 12th Avenue. Demolition is scheduled in the near future for certain buildings in

the block bounded by Broadway, 12th Avenue, 129th Street, and 130th Street.

The \$250 million Mind, Brain, and Behavior building, one of the first scheduled to go up—though not for several years—can proceed for now without eminent domain, Bollinger said.

Norman Siegel, attorney for Sprayregen, said his client “was never opposed to the Columbia expansion—what he is opposed to is the use of eminent domain.” Columbia owns 91 percent of the land in the expansion zone, and Siegel questioned whether the University needed the rest. University officials maintain that the properties are essential in order to build the campus to

the specifications approved by the state in May.

If the ruling is upheld, Siegel said, “There are two possibilities: one, that Columbia then builds on 91 percent of the land, or two, they finally sit down with the Sprayregens and Singhs in a good-faith effort and try to negotiate with them.”

Despite the harsh ruling, Bollinger said, “I’m optimistic. I’ve been involved in litigation several times in my life, and I’ve lost sometimes, and you just keep going and you don’t have to give up. We’ll wait to see the outcome in the Court of Appeals.”

Daniel Amzallag contributed to this article.

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School progress report score rises

SCHOOL from front page

student’s shoes—has been the driving force behind that change.

After taking over leadership of RLA two years ago, Dixon implemented a school uniform policy, classes were made single-gender, and there was significant turnover among the teaching staff.

“I met with all of the students and told them that we’re headed for success,” Dixon said of his first days on the job. “We don’t have a choice. Anyone who’s in our school, you don’t have a choice but to be successful.”

RLA administrators and faculty members said that the improvement involves more than just raising test scores.

Nicole Shamberger, an administrator at RLA for the past eight years, said that the school’s atmosphere has completely changed as a result of Dixon’s hands-on leadership.

“He’s not just a principal who’s behind closed doors,” Shamberger said. “He’s open to his teachers, his students, just embracing the students and shaking their hand in the morning.”

Dixon said that he has also changed the school’s philosophy

toward discipline so that now “we don’t talk down, we talk up to our students.” Instead of pointless scolding, Dixon said that teachers should hold students accountable for maximizing their potential.

Eighth grade humanities teacher Jeanette De Jesus agreed, saying, “You are their parents, you are their social workers, you are their teachers, you are their guidance counselors, and you are their disciplinarians.”

But the environment was not always this intense and energetic according to De Jesus. “It was an F school, and it was an F school in every sense of being an F school,” she said, adding, “And I think Mr. Dixon came in saying this school will be an A school, and everything that was done was to support that belief or was driven by that belief. And he makes you believe it, too.”

Dixon also revised the budget to allow for student field trips to Harvard University and Philadelphia as well as additional professional development programs.

“When you’re centered around what’s best for the children, it makes it a lot easier to stay here to 12:00 at night

writing grants,” he said.

He also noted that his success required a serious re-evaluation of the faculty. In the past, some teachers had fallen into a routine that did little to benefit the students. “They didn’t really have to do what was best for children, it was the teachers against the students but the teachers would win, because they were the adults and it was really that kind of antagonistic, toxic environment.”

De Jesus said that the new staff now has a shared vision for the school.

“I don’t necessarily think it was cleaning house, I think it really was the realization of what fits where. Not everybody fits everywhere, it doesn’t make you a bad teacher, it just means that maybe this school’s culture, this style isn’t yours,” De Jesus said.

Dixon stated that being available for his students is paramount. And many agreed that this effort has not gone unnoticed.

“He gives us tips on life, and how people go through stuff with girls and all that, and fights,” eighth grader Kelwin Medina said, adding, “He gives us pointers to make our life better.”

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Gender disparities persist in tenure

TENURE from front page

gender discrepancies. “The granting of tenure can depend on the structure of the field. Some fields are still very masculinized and traditional in the kind of work they accept and reward,” she said.

Categorized by discipline, the OPIR report revealed that the greatest degree of gender discrepancy was in the hard sciences. In the humanities, 38.3 percent of tenured faculty members were women, while in the social and natural sciences, these percentages were 25.8 and 14 percent, respectively.

Christia Mercer was the first female professor in the history of the philosophy department to be granted tenure in a process that she described as “from the inside.” Some professors are brought to Columbia and given tenure after having become prominent people in their respective fields. But Mercer gained tenure by starting as an assistant professor at Columbia and working towards recognition as a faculty member in the University.

A professor of philosophy, Mercer said that because mentoring processes can differ so widely from one department to another, it can sometimes become difficult for Columbia to manage the tenure process. “It makes it difficult to make changes across the University,” she said, adding, “It depends on how many women there are sometimes and how committed the department members are to equality.”

Mercer said that many women who start in junior teaching positions as she did face many challenges in the process of gaining tenure. “Women assistant professors are leaked out of the pipeline,” Mercer said. “They leave along the way because they may not feel included.”

She also noted that women often have to overcome psychological hurdles in the workplace because of certain “microinequalities,” which she said are rooted in the discrepancies in student and faculty treatment of junior female faculty.

“For example, at a party one of your senior colleagues introduces everyone else as professor ‘so and so’ and introduces the woman as ‘Rebecca,’ or people tell sexual jokes where women are the sexual objects. What studies have shown is that very, very subtle differences can add up—to add up to make women not feel included and not feel supported,” Mercer said.

In general, according to Mercer, women have to work harder to be taken seriously in the workplace. “I think women have to worry more as coming across as professional—coming across as strong, especially as authority figures,” she said.

Tenure or family?

In order to be awarded tenure, a faculty member must demonstrate an arsenal of scholarly achievements in his or her field. The criteria include extensive evidence of research, publications, peer esteem, teaching experience, and service to the University.

Jean Howard, a professor of English and comparative literature and former vice provost for diversity initiatives, said that many women must juggle a very high-level career with family life. While she was a professor at Syracuse University in the 1970s, Howard taught a full semester three days after the birth of her second child since there were no policies in place for childcare or maternity leave.

Though today’s standards are much more family-friendly, the struggle to meet the demands of the workplace are particularly difficult for women, who continue to bear household responsibilities, according to Howard. “Until universities and society supports women through the childbearing years in a real way, there is going to be certain limits on women’s achievement or we’re just going to generate this race of completely crazed superwomen, which just isn’t fair.”

Making the tenure process more accessible to women means taking the family into consideration. In recent years, there has been a concerted effort at Columbia to provide better support systems for faculty, especially ones that address the needs of faculty members with small children.

In 2007, Provost Alan Brinkley created the Office of Work/Life, led by Associate Provost and Director Carol Hoffman. This office has instituted a variety of services and programs, including affiliated childcare centers, tuition support, and relocation assistance. “It’s very challenging for a lot of women to be mothers and to be on tenure track,” Hoffman said.

Efforts for change

Though Columbia is not in poor standing in comparison to its peer institutions, simply being on the curve is “not enough,” according to Howard. “You will not find that Columbia is failing to meet the standard. The problem is that the standard is not high enough across the board and is particularly not high enough for a great urban institution,” she said.

In the past five years, faculty pressure to address these discrepancies has translated into some systematic changes.

In 2004, Columbia created the Office of the Vice Provost for Diversity Initiatives, of which Howard was elected provost. Now led by Vice Provost Geraldine Downey, the office is dedicated to diversifying Columbia’s faculty by recruiting from a greater variety of educators, administrators, and researchers.

Working closely with the Office of the Provost, one of the early efforts of the Office of the Vice Provost for Diversity Initiatives was to make the tenure process clearer to nontenured faculty. The office began to offer sessions to guide faculty through the process, detailing everything from how to write a grant to how publish a book. “It’s a tremendous process, but its doable if you just demystify it,” Howard said of earning tenure. “It has to been seen that people have done it, there’s wisdom about it, and that they can do it too.”

And statistics show that there have been improvements. Compared to the OPIR’s 2003 report, the number of tenured female faculty at the Morningside Heights campus has risen from 22.6 percent to 26.3 percent in 2008.

Though progress has been made, Howard stressed that change won’t happen overnight, and minority discrepancies—beyond gender—are integrated into the world of academia. Minority underrepresentation cuts through almost every department, she said.

“It takes a long time for faculties to turn over. We’re here for 40 years, students are here for four,” Howard said. “The undergraduate bodies reflect demographic change at a much more rapid change than faculties. But if you let faculties go untended and you don’t push for diversity in hiring, they’ll simply reproduce their whiteness and their maleness. You have to interrupt the reproductive cycle.”

Mercer said that she has seen that the Office of the Vice Provost for Diversity Initiatives has worked hard to find diverse associate and full professors in different fields and bring them to Columbia. And if this diversity continues to increase, the effort will spread. “Women feel more included if you have more female professors,” she said.

But ultimately, stereotypes remain integrated in the system. “I think students have the ideal Ivy League professor in mind, and that’s often—for a surprising number—the guy with the big eyebrows or with the beard,” Mercer said, adding, “So, if you’re a petite man or a woman in the skirt, you’re challenged.”

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A&E

Beaujolais nouveau: tips for wine-drinking



SHANE FERRO

LA VIE CULTURELLE

The third Thursday in November is traditionally when the world celebrates the unveiling of Beaujolais nouveau, France's most popular type of vin du premier (wine aged less than a year). Originally, it was the celebration of the end of the harvest in the region of Beaujolais. Today, it's an excuse to have a party and wine debate at midnight—similar to the new release of a Harry Potter movie, but with alcohol. Being in Paris, I've had my fair share of glasses, been to a few tastings, and learned a couple of things in the process. So I decided to pick up a bottle of Beaujolais nouveau 2009 and savor a glass or two in the name of research. There are a couple of things that you want to figure out about the wine before you bring the glass to your lips. First, what kind of wine do you have? Each different grape has a different taste. And each vineyard's wine is slightly distinct depending on the soil in which it was grown, the climate, and the aging process.

After choosing your wine and vintage (also known as the year), it's time to get it to the correct temperature. A white or rosé should chill, but reds should be served at room temperature. Let it decant (also known as breathe) before being served. Take off the cork and leave it out for a while.

When your wine is the proper temperature and has had some time to breathe, pour yourself a small glass. Take a look at the color up against the light. Mine is a pinkish-purple. Not the darkest wine I've ever had, but not see-through either. The color comes from fermenting the wine with the grape skins. A red fermented without the skins becomes a rosé.

Swirl it around in the glass to give it air. As it settles, check the sides of the glass for viscosity. Does it leave thick "legs"? In French these are called "larmes," or tears. Thicker wine means less water, which usually means an older vintage. The Beaujolais has more legs than I expected for something only six months old.

Next, "nose," or smell, the wine. The nose is made up of the aroma (the type of grape smell) and the bouquet (anything else that you smell in it). Beaujolais is known for being very fruity. Nosing mine, the first thing that comes to mind is raspberry.

Older and more expensive wines tend to have much more complex bouquets. They move away from fruity smells to smells of grass, herbs, coffee, or chocolate. The last two usually come from being aged in oak barrels, making the wine "oakey." There is no oak in my glass. Raspberries. Maybe some blackberries and blueberries. A little bit of peach.

Finally, it's on to tasting the wine. Let the wine roll all over your tongue. Purse your lips like you were going to blow a kiss, then suck in instead. Along with being a fun dinner party trick, this process allows you to get the wine to interact with oxygen all over the different sections of your mouth. I get raspberry, but more of the peach.

Is your mouth puckering? If yes, the wine probably has a lot of tannins from the grape skins. I don't have any puckering. Beaujolais is known for having very low tannins—unusual since tannins generally tend to mellow with age.

Finally, swallow the wine and get a sense of the finish. For me, the berries come back but don't linger. Finer wines tend to have a longer finish, allowing you to savor the taste and discover more complexity. Cheap wines demand that you take another sip.

So go on. Practice makes perfect.

Shane Ferro is a Columbia College junior studying abroad at Reid Hall in Paris. La Vie Culturelle runs alternating Tuesdays. arts@columbiaspectator.com



Graphic by Daniel Lasry

BOOKS

Japan finds novel way to read, Columbia students hope to turn the page

BY GABRIELLE SARPY
Columbia Daily Spectator

If you hop on a subway in New York City, you are sure to see people of various ages and backgrounds reading print material: novels, memoirs, the occasional textbook, and newspapers in practically every language. Very rarely, an adventurous soul can be seen with the Kindle, an electronic book that Amazon has successfully marketed to a public skeptical of switching from traditional print to electronics.

In Japan, however, creative minds have found a way to make reading electronic without the use of any new technology. Instead, cell phones, the ever-evolving and ubiquitous addictions of the modern world, have become popular media not only for reading novels, but also for writing them.

Cell phone novels, as they are known in Japan, have become a creative outlet for young people—mostly women—to tell semi-autobiographical stories in a fictional format. Tomomi Matsuhashi, CC '10, is currently writing her thesis on cell phone novels. "There are a lot of things you can't say in public in Japanese culture," she said. As a result, cell phone novels, usually posted anonymously or under pseudonyms, have become safe havens for expressing opinions and emotions.

According to Jonathan Abel, an assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania who has researched cell phone novels, these novels

are easy to find and read because "the primary mode of access to the Internet in Japan is the cell phone." The first novel, titled "Deep Love," was typed using a cell phone keypad, posted online in installments, and read by others either on cell phones or on computers. Since these novels are typed on cell phones, it is time-consuming to select some complicated Japanese characters. Simpler ones are used instead, so readers don't need a large vocabulary.

The easy characters lead some to assume that cell phone novels are a poor substitute for "real" literature. Abel noted that they are often "sob stories about lost love and abuse of all sorts"—subject matter that, combined with the easy vocabulary, makes them easy targets for critics who deem them worthless. For example, the heroine in "Deep Love" contracts AIDS working as a prostitute, and the story is endearing because she was saving money for her boyfriend's heart surgery. The dramatic pathos expressed in stories like this is not very different from that found in novels marketed for young women in America.

Given that Columbia students are very active, generally like to read, and are already addicted to cell phones, cell phone novels seem like they would be a good fit for students here. "A lot of my friends already know about the cell phone novel," Matsuhashi said, perhaps because of the accessible themes or our own youth's obsession with technology. Unfortunately, the technology required to read them diminishes the possibility that they will catch on in the near future. Although Blackberries and iPhones are popular on campus, many phones don't support the Internet or only do so at an added cost.

Whether or not cell phone novels will ever become popular at Columbia is up for debate. Abel believes that in the United States, cell phone novels as popular literature "won't happen because technologically, we are beyond that point." With the Kindle and widespread computer use, reading a novel on a cell phone just seems unnecessary. On the other hand, the appeal of the cell phone novel is not just about format, but also the autobiographical genre that emerged with it. As Matsuhashi stressed, with globalization, "people are getting more and more alike," and the increasing realization of the similarities between America and Japan makes cell phone novels a good way to explore Japanese culture.

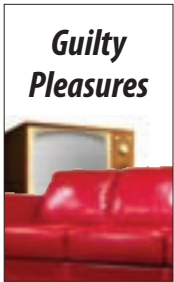
TV

Ina Garten's 'Barefoot Contessa' a calming show before the holidays

BY JOE DALY
Spectator Staff Writer

When the end of the semester seems too far off to bear, a little virtual comfort—courtesy of "Barefoot Contessa"—is the next best thing to actually being home. Ina Garten, the Food Network personality who stars in "Barefoot Contessa," is the perfect antidote to this final two-week slog.

Garten tells a food story in every episode. She begins with a wonderfully insignificant problem (Jeffery, my husband, commutes two hours to work and just can't go without some homemade espresso ice cream) and solves it by enlisting fabulous Hampton friends such as Miguel the florist and Ana the specialty foods purveyor to help her whip



Guilty Pleasures

BOOKS

Panel explores collaboration in the arts

BY ANDREA FOLDS
Columbia Daily Spectator

A novelist, a painter, a filmmaker, and a poet all walk into a bar. Well, actually a bookstore, but you get the idea.

This Thursday, artists of all spots and stripes will flock to Bluestockings Bookstore to discuss cross-genre collaboration in today's eclectic art scene. The discussion, entitled "Hang Together or Hang Apart? Interdisciplinary Collaboration in the Arts in the Era of Mixed-Media," is being hosted by Columbia: A Journal of Literature and Art. In accord with the theme of multi-genre collaboration, all the panelists are themselves artists in more than one medium, either in practice or in study.

Gideon Lester, a professor in Columbia's graduate theater department and the former director of the American Repertory Theatre, will moderate the panel, which was put together by panel discussion manager Joshua Howes. The panel will be comprised of novelist Siri Hustvedt, artist Jon Kessler, poet/painter Marjorie Welish, filmmaker Michael Almereyda, novelist/poet Terese Svoboda, and writer Alix Ohlin.

According to Lester, "Collaboration is not exactly a new subject—artists have been collaborating and experimenting with other forms since art began, but it seems to be a subject of renewed interest in the art world and in schools like Columbia and NYU where they're increasingly teaching classes in collaboration."

The six panelists will begin by addressing the question of how artists can collaborate in today's world of constantly evolving genres to excite a savvy, post-literate generation. From there, the discussion will segue into a free-form conversation with an open floor for questions and answers.

Lester says he foresees a lively and provocative dialogue emerging from such relevant, contemporary art topics and knowledgeable speakers.

"We have to keep refreshing the way we talk and think about art and how we produce it—a lot of the most stunning innovations in all fields of art-making have happened when artists have experimented in other disciplines or collaborated with artists in other forms," Lester said.

"Artists aren't rigid, and they don't live in boxes, and this event is designed to celebrate their freedoms and curiosity and their love of experimentation," he added.

The Journal's editor in chief, Alexis Tonti, explained the Journal's interest in community building and raising the profile of the arts in general through the promotion of thought and debate. She described the previous panel discussions that the Journal hosted as very successful, and Tonti has high hopes for this one as well.

"The Columbia Journal staff rotates every year. In the past, panels have focused exclusively on literary concerns and writing—this is the first year of pushing into interdisciplinary terrain. We're excited to be reaching a broader range of people," Tonti said.

Like Lester, Tonti also anticipates the emergence of an interesting discussion from such a multifaceted panel.

"Joshua Howes is charged with finding the right people to talk with who all bring different points of view. We work hard to have diversity—novelists, photographers, films, poets, critics. Joshua went out of his way to curate a diverse group of people, and it's really such an outstanding panel," Tonti said.

"We're excited to be expanding the topic of conversation, and we hope to see even more people there representing all sides of the creative community," she added.

WHERE IT'S AT

Time: Thursday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m.
Place: 172 Allen St. (at Stanton Street)
Cost: Free

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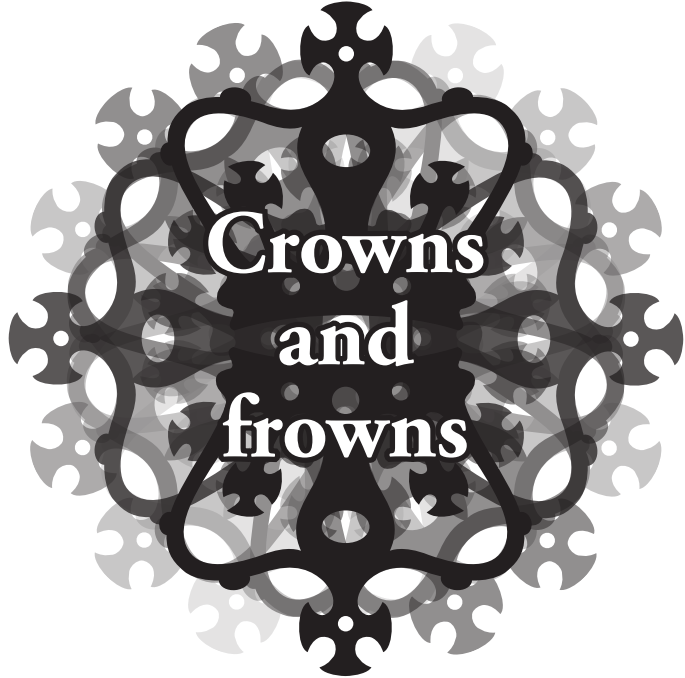
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Staff Editorial



Crown: Winter actually came around! Global warming hasn't won (yet?!)

Crown: The first snowfall. The smell of Christmas trees on the way to West Side. A seasonal excuse to buy hot chocolate for no particular reason.

Frown: It's freezing outside.

Crown: A high school senior uses a New York Times op-ed to slam Harvard's and Dartmouth's (among others') admissions committees for being too juvenile.

Crown: The J-School keeps up with the times, letting Web-exclusive journalism be up for the Pulitzer.

Frown: Media outlets are in a frenzy based on misinformation about gender-neutral housing.

Frown: Horse-drawn carriages may be banned from the area around Central Park—just before Christmas.

Crown: Protect animal rights. Liberate the reindeer!

Frown: The crazy countdown to winter break—exams, papers, and too much coffee.

Crown: Today is the last day of Tuesday classes.

Frown: Ugh, that means finals are coming up!?

Frown: It's impossible to find a seat in Butler.

Crown: Study spaces opening up in John Jay, the Kraft Center, and other buildings around campus.

Frown: The editorial board of fall 2009 writes its final "Crowns and frowns."

Spectator Opinion accepts submissions from diverse areas of interest. Submissions should be between 700 and 900 words and express an opinion that does not perpetuate stereotypes or unfairly label groups or individuals. All writers meet with an associate editor to edit their submission before publication. Submissions may be sent to opinion@columbiaspectator.com.

For more information, come to our meeting Sundays at 2:30 p.m. in the Spectator office on the corner of 112th Street and Broadway.

COLUMBIA & ITS DISCONTENTS



JULIA ALEKSEYEVA

Friends of Israel, indeed

BY DANIEL SAFRAN-HON

The strengthened stature that J Street, the new "pro-Israel, pro-peace" lobby, has gained lately is good news for those who care about Israel. The interest shown in J Street when its executive director, Jeremy Ben-Ami, talked at the Columbia/ Barnard Hillel on Nov. 22 is proof that while J Street is a new organization, its activities and message merit serious discussion.

J Street is now arguably the most Zionist movement in America. Indeed, its active support for a two-state solution is deeply rooted in the Zionist worldview. Classic Zionism stipulates that the Jewish state should be democratic. There is little one can say against the argument that when there is a vast majority of Palestinians between the sea and the Jordan river and only one sovereign state, Israel will cease to be a democracy. Thus, Zionists must strive for a two-state reality that the international community would recognize. This is not a "favor" Israelis should render to the Palestinians nor should Israel wait until the Palestinians become "Norwegians" to implement it. Rather, it is a strategic, indeed fundamental, Israeli interest—a view shared by Prime Ministers Sharon and Olmert.

Although the argument for the creation of two states is compelling, those that support it, namely, most of the liberal Jews in the United States, have been extremely careful to prescribe what Israel should do. This is a noble, but at the same time, a dangerous position. While the majority ponders whether or not it has the right to express its opinion, a minority of hawks promotes counterproductive policies. The last decade has unfortunately offered abundant proof that such policies will not result in the creation of two states. American Zionist Jews have an

obligation to act. First, Israel implicitly presumes to act on behalf of all the Jewish people, and its actions have an impact on all Jews. Second, the extensive involvement of the U.S. in the region gives American Jews the responsibility to help navigate these policies in a constructive way. Last, if American Jews really care about the future of Zionism, they should actively help people realize the only plan that will sustain it in the future—the creation of two states for the two nations.

J Street still faces several challenges in its policy prescriptions. The first is that the creation of a Palestinian state does not necessarily assure the security of Israel. While there is reason to hope that such a state would be peaceful, the opposite is also possible. Although the seriousness of the security challenge is clearly overshadowed by the fundamental question regarding the future of Israeli democracy, this issue must be effectively dealt with. Although J Street does put forth a position about possible security arrangements, there is need for a more robust and detailed explanation of how security will be assured in a two-state scenario and how the U.S. and the international community can vouch for this.

The second challenge J Street should undertake is the elaboration of its position on the possible worst-case scenarios that may occur on the way to the creation of two states: what would J Street, for example, recommend that the U.S. government do if negotiations fail (if they ever begin) because one of the parties is not ready to go the extra mile for an agreement? Or, in an even worse scenario, what should the U.S. do in the case of another outburst of violence? These kinds of questions should not be left unanswered.

J Street's third challenge stems from the fact that although J Street consists of the U.S. public and its political elite, J Street will also have to work together with the Israeli public. This will not be an easy task. Regardless of who the culprits are, years of violence have, for understandable reasons, rendered the Israelis suspicious of making decisions that may put them at any risk in the short term, even if such

decisions are desperately needed in the long term. J Street will have to find a way into the hearts and minds of the Israelis.

J Street has a refreshing and complex understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and of the role the U.S. public can constructively play to bring about positive outcomes. As a poll conducted last June by the Harry Truman Institute at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem shows, most Palestinians and Israelis support the two-state solution. This shows that the right-wing discourse portraying the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as an "us vs. them" zero-sum game is flawed. J Street is correct to assert that being pro-Israel does not mean being anti-Palestine or vice versa and that the futures of the two peoples are intertwined. These ideas are not just slogans—they compose a coherent worldview that still awaits implementation. Therefore, one can hope that J Street will inject new thinking into the debate over Middle East politics, both nationwide and on our own campus, and reinvigorate the Zionist call for the creation of two states. While this scenario may not be the one and only solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, it is an urgent necessity for both sides.

The author is a graduate student in the School of International and Public Affairs.



ILLUSTRATION BY JOSEFINA LETICIA FREANEY

J Street's Jewish progressivism

BY ARMIN ROSEN

At the end of her piece on J Street founder Jeremy Ben-Ami's recent visit to Columbia, Jill Marcellus issued a warning to the "extremists" hostile to the concept of a "pro-Israel, pro-peace" lobby: "Anyone ready to purge me or other progressive Jews from the fold should realize: you will not create a Jewish American monolith, but a nation of 'self-loathing' Jews." She offers no concept of what "the fold" is other than an American Jewry so blinded by pro-Israel fanaticism that "Woody Allen seemed like its paragon of sanity." And she offers no concept of what "progressivism" means, other than a high-minded rejection of Jewish tribalism and a desire to "broaden the Israel conversation." So for Marcellus, "progressivism" means extricating yourself from a monolithic identity that you didn't care or think that much about anyway.

Yet American Jewish life is only "monolithic" for those who are oblivious to the real substance of it—or worse, for those who need a straw man against which to measure their own "progressivism." This characterization is interesting because it's so facile—its shallowness is a symptom of the very problems it attempts to diagnose. To wit: Marcellus's "progressive Judaism" has nothing to do with Rachel Adler, Steven Greenberg, Heeb Magazine, J-Dub records, alternative prayer communities like the Upper West Side's own Kol Zimrah, or the scores of people and institutions who have made contemporary American Judaism so dynamic. By Marcellus's account, her dormant progressive Jewish consciousness was awoken a few Sundays ago with

the realization that the "pro-Israel, pro-peace" camp now has an lobbying group.

Marcellus's op-ed proves that the most significant tension in American Jewish life isn't between J Street and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, but between people for whom American Jewish life is casually reducible and therefore easily dismissible and those who actively care about the direction of their religious and ethnic community. No matter where you stand politically, it's impossible to shrink American Jewish life to the level of mere Israel fetishism as Marcellus does and still be an active participant in it. This mindset is almost the definition of parochialism. And J Street actually jeopardizes the very "Israel conversation" it is trying to "broaden" when it simply allows "progressive" American Jews to wash their hands of their Meshugana co-religionists.

Blogger Philip Weiss demonstrates just how ugly this kind of thinking can get. "I don't get to feel proud as a Jew very often these days," he wrote this September in reference to Israeli journalist Gideon Levy, who is perhaps his society's harshest critic. Weiss's attitude represents an inversion of the claim that American Jewish identity is defined by it being uncritically pro-Israel—indeed, Weiss is only "proud as a Jew" when other Jews dispense with the need for a Jewish state. This is no different from—and no less dangerous than—the opposite assertion that American Jewish identity should be intrinsically linked to mindless support for Israel.

Weiss's concept of Judaism is offensively limited. For instance, this past week, Weiss condemned the New York Times for having an ethnically Israeli correspondent in Jerusalem. "The other Times correspondent, Ethan Bronner, is an American Jew also married to an Israeli," Weiss blogged. "South Africa never had it so good." For Weiss, any Jewish or Israeli journalist covering Israel is an apologist for apartheid-style

racism. Thus, Zionism and indeed ethnicity itself hopelessly infect all but the most "progressive" Jews with near-incurable bigotry.

Weiss established his "progressive" credibility in relation to the primitivism of the rest of his tribe. He also bolstered it by speaking at the J Street convention this past month.

J Street could follow Weiss (and, to a lesser extent, Marcellus) by capitalizing on the spurious notion that J Street and AIPAC form the defining fault line in American Jewish life. Or it could follow Ben-Ami, who epitomized actual Jewish progressivism in an interview with The Atlantic Monthly right before the J Street conference. "I think that the notion is that there should be a homeland that is a Jewish homeland," he said of his group's defining principles. "The question is, how do we preserve it?"

Luckily for American Jews, J Street's founder believes that the organization should not operate from a position of embarrassment or hostility and that it should practice a progressivism that has goals loftier than self-therapy—goals such as the improvement of the Jewish people and the only political entity it controls. An ideal Jewish progressivism realizes that Marcellus's frustration is real but that the parochials will overtake the participants if American Jewish life doesn't offer them an alternative to communal alienation. But the parochials will also win if groups like J Street simply vindicate their frustration rather than work toward its reversal.

This is the real tension that J Street embodies. If it's merely a front for deep anti-communal cynicism, J Street will provide American Jews not with the opportunity to engage with their ethnic and religious heritage, but with an excuse to distance themselves from it even more.

The author is a List College senior majoring in English and Judaic studies.

Climate of change

to submit a month in advance—lacking in substance and subject to complete change.

Meanwhile, "leaked e-mail correspondence" between scientists at the Climate Research Unit at the University of East Anglia elicited responses from "flat earth" skeptics the world over, who railed that the entire issue of anthropogenic interference with the climate has been fabricated. They claimed the existence of a data-fudging scandal, a propaganda machine, an evil conspiracy. In reality, the whole scandal revolved around some informal comments on the quality of peer research and questionable academic practices on the part of the particular group of scientists. All the brouhaha and media coverage (this paragraph included) were merely wasted time, space, and energy. However, the international and domestic political fallout were considerable. Conservative politicians seized the proverbial carrot and threatened to set the world back several years regarding the issue.

And yet there is still reason to be positive about Copenhagen. President Obama announced his revised decision to attend the conference on the final day (he originally intended to make just a quick guest appearance). His presence on that final day does not automatically imply that any real treaty is expected to emerge from the conference, but it is a powerful diplomatic move that will have far-reaching consequences for the prioritization of climate change in the global agenda. Obama's attendance will signal that, although the process of passing climate legislation domestically is taking its time, America is committed to addressing the climate issue and is conscious of its time sensitivity.

There are other reasons for hope, too. The integration of climate initiatives with existing national agendas through Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions has marked a significant shift in the paradigm of policy creation. By demonstrating that actions on

issues of climate change are in accordance with existing concerns like energy security, countries can promote climate legislation within their own borders. This might motivate countries intrinsically to implement and monitor efforts to contain emissions. Just last week, both China and India announced nationwide energy efficiency targets. Although they were not as ambitious as was originally hoped, it is diplomatically—and perhaps, in the long term, environmentally—prudent for them to announce targets that they are confident are attainable rather than setting themselves up to fail to meet loftier goals.

The next two weeks might mark the beginning of the next major phase of international climate legislation architecture. Then again, they probably won't. Either way, however, the changes that have occurred in global diplomacy, rhetoric, and national action around the issue are historic. A deal or the absence thereof does not need to be the absolute determinant of success—these past few months in the run-up to the conference have produced significant advances in momentum behind climate policy on a global scale.

No, there is no better time to be thinking about how best to solve the challenges of anthropogenic climate change that confront us. In fact, as this column wraps up, I hope it has done its job of convincing you that now is the moment to consider sustainability and development. I hope I've given you some environmentally friendly and developmentally progressive food for thought.

Monica Varman is a Columbia College junior majoring in economics-mathematics and concentrating in sustainable development. She is a senior editor of Consilience and works on the Millennium Village Project. Green Piece runs alternate Tuesdays. opinion@columbiaspectator.com

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Caught some z's

6 Solheim Cup co-sponsoring org.

10 With 10-Down and "and," rigidly formal

14 Moth-eaten

15 Problems

16 McEntire of country

17 "Art class supply

19 Birthstone for a 6-Down, often

20 Words of apology

21 Left, at sea

22 ... Nostra

23 Not as ruddy

25 Egyptian city on the Nile

28 Like some chocolates purchases

31 Graceful bird

32 Actor Delon

33 Ohio A.L. team, on scoreboards

34 Commercial suffix with Water

35 "Suitcase attachment

37 Bottom-row PC key

38 Flage

39 Apple models

40 Soft cheese

41 In the dark

43 Judaic feast

44 Fourth estate, as it's known

45 Thai bread?

47 Food that's filled and folded

49 Brockovich portrayer

52 "... my lips!"

53 "Arcade attraction

56 Author ... Stanley Gardner

57 San ... Italy

58 Furry aquatic troickier

59 Bought, to a retailer

60 Jet-black stone

61 Caller's device, and word that can precede the ends of the answers to starred clues

DOWN

1 NYSE units

2 Mythical trickster

3 K-6

4 X-ray alternative

5 Business big shot

6 Fall sign

7 Tricky maneuver

8 Shine, in product names

9 Inquire

10 See 10-Across

11 "Dreaded end-of-semester handout, perhaps

12 Reinforcing beam

13 Soda shop buy

18 Sluggish's stat.

Abbr.

21 As a companion

23 Tests for jrs.

24 Big land mass

25 Frosting feature

27 "Hotel offering

28 Baldwin and Guinness

29 Southfork Miss

30 Discourage

32 Stockpile

35 "Frasier" brother

36 Iowa college town

40 Promise to marry

42 Worn by wind

43 1964 Cyndi Lauper hit

45 Wrinkle remover

46 Blood typing letters

47 Very, in Verdun

48 Prefix with soil

49 Schneider of film

50 Oz baker

51 WWII weapon

53 In favor of

54 Egg producer

55 Any of four Ottos: Abbr.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

PROP	SAUNA	SMUG
HERO	CANAL	CONE
ADES	ARISE	RODE
SALTING	THEMINE	
ENS	NTH	UMBRA
STEAD	SNAG	ELF
	WISPIER	BAIT
PYRAMID	SCHEME	
PLOY	ONESHOT	
IOU	EGGS	KAYAK
ATTAR	TAU	ACE
THREE	CARD	MONT
LIFT	SOLID	AKIN
ONUS	PLUTO	SEVE
UGLY	YEMEN	TEED

xwordeditor@aol.com 12/06/09

By Timothy L. Mooker
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12/06/09

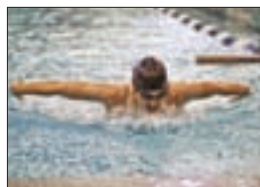
Pick up a copy of the Spectator tomorrow to see how the Columbia men's and women's basketball teams did in their matchups at Wagner.

TOMORROW



SPORTS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2009 • PAGE 6



The Columbia women's swimming and diving team will look to follow up its victory over Wagner with a win against Ivy rival Penn on Wednesday.

TOMORROW

CU squads to face Wagner in interborough doubleheader

After close loss to Stony Brook, men's basketball aims for victory against winless Wagner

BY LUCAS SHAW
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

After a close loss to Stony Brook, the Lions will travel to Staten Island tonight for an interborough contest with the Wagner College Seahawks. For a team whose last three games have been decided by five or fewer points, this is as good an opportunity as any to pick up an easy victory since Wagner is winless this season.

The Seahawks, who lost to the Lions 84-69 last year, are 0-6 overall and are already off to an 0-2 start in one of the nation's weakest conferences—the Northeast Conference. They have also not fared well against a few of Columbia's other opponents, losing by more than 20 points to Bucknell, who the Lions beat by 11, and Stony Brook, who beat the Lions by just three.

That three-point loss to the Seawolves is one that head coach Joe Jones's team is eager to forget. The Lions held a three-point advantage at the half and built their lead to 12 with 14:14 to play. However, they then went eight minutes without a field goal and made just two shots the rest of the way. During that time period, the Seawolves outscored the Lions 25-10 for a 63-60 victory.

Making matters worse, the loss came just after the Light Blue had played its best offensive game of the season, scoring 75 points on 50.9 percent shooting against Lehigh. After that game, Jones noted that his team was playing at its best, scoring more than 70 points in a game, something he feels actually depends on defense.

The Lions' defense should not expect a stiff test from the Seahawks, as Wagner is averaging just 57.3 points per game and shooting 35.2 percent from the field.

The team's leading scorer, sophomore guard Chris Martin, averages 13.2 points a game but shoots just 36.9 percent from the field and is ineffective from 3-point range despite a team-high 43 attempts. Just one player on the Wagner roster—senior forward Michael Orock—is shooting at a higher percentage than Columbia is as a team.

In addition to a sustained defensive effort, taking advantage of their significant size advantage will be key for the Lions. So far this season, they are undefeated (3-0) when they out-rebound foes and winless (0-4) when they do not. Wagner starts just one player taller than 6-feet-5 inches—Orock—and none of its regular bench contributors have much size either.

This is good news for Jones, who starts two 6-foot-7-inch players in Brian Grimes and John Daniels and also has a stable of big men to choose from off of his bench.

Grimes will look to come back from one of his worst offensive games of the season. After putting up a career-high 21 against Lehigh, he made just one out of 12 shots against Stony Brook. Meanwhile, Daniels, a freshman, has already improved as a rebounder, grabbing 17 in the last two games combined.

With consecutive games against winless NEC teams—Wagner and Bryant—Columbia may finally get a chance to build some momentum.



File photos

LOOKING TO REBOUND | Both the men's and women's basketball teams will try to come back from frustrating losses when they travel to Staten Island today. The women's game will begin at 5 p.m., and the men's will follow.

MEN'S STARTING LINEUPS

NORUWA AGHO, G: 16.4 PPG, 3.7 RPG	T.J. CZESKI, G: 6.0 PPG, 4.0 RPG
JOHN DANIELS, F: 3.9 PPG, 4.1 RPG	DOUG ELWELL, G/F: 6.0 PPG, 4.7 RPG
PATRICK FOLEY, PG: 11.7 PPG, 2.1 RPG	CHRIS MARTIN, G: 13.2 PPG, 2.2 RPG
BRIAN GRIMES, F: 10.6 PPG, 7.7 RPG	MICHAEL OROCK, C: 10.8 PPG, 8.0 RPG
NIKO SCOTT, G: 7.6 PPG, 1.4 RPG	TYLER MURRAY, PG: 7.2 PPG, 3.0 RPG

WOMEN'S STARTING LINEUPS

KATHLEEN BARRY, G: 12.4 PPG, 5.8 RPG	STEPHANIE MCBRIDE, G: 9.8 PPG, 1.3 RPG
LAUREN DWYER, C: 11.9 PPG, 4.5 RPG	MARIE ARCHAMBAULT, F: 9.6 PPG, 3.7 RPG
DANIELLE BROWNE, G: 6.4 PPG, 3.0 RPG	ASHLEY OLSEN, F: 11.0 PPG, 8.1 RPG
JUDIE LOMAX, F: 14.1 PPG, 12.1 RPG	SHA'RON HARRISON, F/C: 9.1 PPG, 6.6 RPG
SARA YEE, G: 8.3 PPG, 2.8 RPG	ANDREA REED, G: 8.3 PPG, 4.4 RPG

Graphic by Ben Cotton and Michele Cleary

At Columbia, transfers often fill crucial roles



TOM
DI BENEDETTO
**THE MOUTH
THAT
ROARED**

a part of his game and that the perimeter shot attempts will continue as he regains his touch and confidence over the course of the season. This statement should come as good news for Columbia fans, who saw Grimes play at home at Leven Gymnasium for just the third time of his career that night against Lehigh. But the fact that the junior forward's jump shot is news at all highlights a peculiar dynamic of college sports particularly prevalent lately in Morningside Heights.

Grimes, a transfer from La Salle, sat out the 2007-2008 season and missed all of 2008-2009

due to injury. His potential has been a talking point among Columbia fans for years now, and he has flashed that talent early this season, averaging 10.6 points and 7.7 rebounds per game so far. Grimes recently started the first game of his Columbia career and is already an integral performer and leader on the team. Yet we know so little about his game, and there are many questions left to answer. Will the jumper still be around during Ivy play? How will his body (especially his surgically repaired knee) hold up over the course of the schedule? Will fellow junior transfer Max Craig make an impact when healthy?

Craig, a 7-foot center from Montreal, has not played yet this season due to injury but is expected to be healthy in time for Ivy play. His transfer from Loyola Marymount was not as hyped as Grimes's arrival was, but I think he could very well become a factor down the stretch this year.

I just don't know. Such is life right now for the Lions, who are not alone at Columbia when it comes to using transfer players in crucial roles.

Last season, then-junior and Temple transfer Shane Kelly was given the opportunity to play at quarterback over Millicent Olawale in the football team's training camp. Kelly, a first-time starter, went 0-5 before Olawale replaced him and led the Lions to their first win of the season over Dartmouth. Needless to say, Columbia fans are hoping Grimes has slightly more success.

The baseball team also welcomes a potentially important transfer this season in junior Alex Godshall. Last season, Godshall played at Santa

Fe College in Gainesville, Florida, where his Saints captured the Florida State Junior College Championship. If head coach Brett Boretti decides to move strong-armed Alex Ferrera to third base to replace the graduated Mike Roberts, Godshall could very well become the next Lions shortstop despite the fact that no one on campus has seen him field a ground ball.

I am not suggesting that transfers are unique to Columbia. Off the top of my head, I know that two of the starting quarterbacks in the Southeastern Conference this season were transfers (Mallett, Snead). However, transfers have particular potential at a school like Columbia where disgruntled players from bigger programs could, in theory, dominate the Ancient Eight at a school that often has trouble recruiting size and skill at vital positions. This is why we have recently seen transfer players brought in at meaningful spots like quarterback, power forward, and middle infield.

Unfortunately, placing a new player at a crucial position is not a refined science. Grimes has looked solid to start the season and has seven more games to get his health, rhythm, and confidence fully restored before the start of the Ivy League slate. But he is clearly not quite all the way back yet, as he shot just 1-12 from the field in Saturday's frustrating loss at Stony Brook, which knocked the team down to 3-4. Columbia scored only 60 points in that game, making them 0-4 this season when failing to score at least 65 points in a game. Last year, the Lions went 8-2 when they scored 65 or more and have scored over 70 in all three wins so far during this campaign.

With Grimes averaging just over 10 points per game, the Lions are at a turning point in their season. His scoring output has effectively replaced the presence of graduated big man Jason Miller, and Noruwa Agho's bump in point production has the Lion offense looking lively. Columbia is already scoring about four points per game more than the squad did last season, and this collective scoring average is indicative of where the Lions currently sit.

The team is averaging exactly 64 points per game so far this year, just shy of a mark that, according to history, could lead to increased success for the Lions. Come Ivy season, Columbia may just need to find a few baskets more per game to challenge the cream of the league, and the team does not need to look farther than its two transfer big men.

Grimes has already shown the ability to get quality looks in the post, and he should get more comfortable scoring as the season continues. Then there's Craig, a giant still mostly unknown to the Columbia sports community, but somebody who clearly looks physically capable of finishing two to three layups, or even dunks, per game.

If Columbia gets the most out of its transfer forwards down the stretch, the Lions could finally eclipse the .500 mark in the Ivy League. But with just three career home games between Grimes and Craig to date, a more specific prediction is, at this point, too difficult to make.

*Tom Di Benedetto is a Columbia College junior majoring in history.
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What to Watch

The editors' picks for the week ahead

COLUMBIA:

Columbia vs. Monmouth, Sunday, Dec. 13, 1 p.m., Leven Gym

The Columbia women's basketball team will host Monmouth in its last home game of the year. A win Sunday would send the team into the break on the right foot.

NEW YORK:

Eagles at Giants, Sunday, Dec. 13, 8:20 p.m., East Rutherford, NJ

The New York Giants will face the Philadelphia Eagles in the Meadowlands. The Giants are looking to maintain their momentum after last Sunday's victory over the Cowboys.

NATIONAL:

Trail Blazers at Cavaliers, Friday, Dec. 11, 8 p.m., Cleveland, OH

Brandon Roy and the Trail Blazers will try to beat LeBron James and the Cavaliers in Cleveland. Portland will look to get back on the right track after losing to the Knicks.