

## INSIDE



A&amp;E, page 3

## The exceptionalism of American Literature

On Tuesday, Columbia professors Ezra Tawil, Andrew Delbanco, and Ross Posnock discussed how American literature developed its unique style.

Opinion, page 4

## Character sketch

Jon Hollander debunks what he sees as the ultimate Manhattanville myth.



Sports, page 6

## Lomax sinks 30 points in big Lions victory

The Columbia women's basketball team was led by star forward Judie Lomax. Lomax scored 30 of the Lions' 73 points in a 73-49 defeat of Wagner College.

## EVENTS

## An Evening With Mad Magazine's Al Jaffee

Get glad. See Mad Magazine's Al Jaffee—writer, editor, and artist—in a discussion about Jewish humor and his recent book moderated by Danny Fingeroth.

501 Schermerhorn, 8-10 p.m.

## H1N1 Flu Vaccine Event

Columbia wants to save you from the swine flu. The vaccine will be available on a first-come first-served basis to pregnant women; people under 24; people from 25-64 with medical conditions that increase the risk of flu complications; anyone who lives with or cares for infants; healthcare workers who directly contact patients.

Broadway Room, Lerner Hall, 12-4 p.m.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You could get detention for throwing a ball of paper."

—Katherine Nunet, 13-year-old MS 256 student

## ONLINE

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## News around the clock

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



Joey Shemuel / Senior staff photographer

file photo

**THE PARTY POLICY** | David Salant, CC '10, of Delta Sigma Phi, helped author a new policy that Greeks say made fraternities more fun. The policy requires fraternities to register their parties five days in advance, as opposed to ten, and has slowly allowed InterFraternity Council officers to audit their own parties, instead of administrators. "I would call the 'War on Fun' a myth," Salant said. "At least, in fraternity life we have never had more flexibility, coordination and communication with the university."

## KEEPING THE PARTY ALIVE?

BY LEAH GREENBAUM  
Columbia Daily Spectator

What War on Fun? Fraternity men say it's all Greek to them.

Parties on Columbia's Frat Row may not be Animal House-crazy, but they are enough to make any fun-starved student on the disappointing Saturday night trek back from East Campus a little jealous.

As students continue to bemoan losing the War on Fun, which is a sustained push allegedly initiated by the University in 2007 to limit alcohol consumption, break up parties, and regulate events, Greek Life has flourished, according to Scott Maxfield, CC '11 and president of



## New alcohol policy pleases Columbia's Greeks

the largest and fastest growing fraternity on campus, Delta Sigma Phi.

"We find the new policy to be pretty uninhibiting," Maxfield said, adding that the old policy—the "Lerner Hall Policy" that students called overly prohibitive and frequently violated—was not only a challenge to fun itself, but also to safety and accountability.

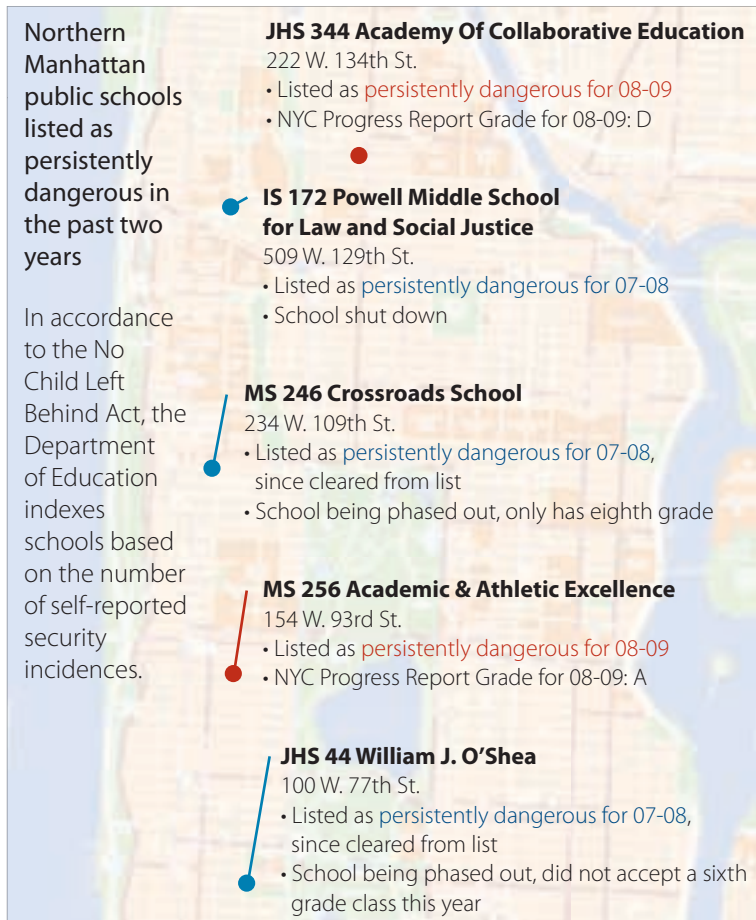
The new policy, authored by former InterFraternity Council Presidents David Salant, CC '10 and Matt Heiman, CC '09 and implemented for this

semester, requires fraternities to register their parties five days in advance, as opposed to ten, and has slowly allowed IFC officers to audit their own parties, instead of administrators, a move toward what Maxfield called "Greeks policing Greeks."

"The old Lerner Hall Policy had requirements that were just not doable for fraternities," he said, citing a policy wherein "proctors," strangers to the Greek community would audit parties, an arrangement he described as unappealing. "As a result, no one followed the policy and the whole system of accountability became a mockery."

Greeks, he said, were able to negotiate the contract since all fraternities—though not sororities—take out a million dollar insurance policy. "The only

SEE FRATS, page 2



Graphic by Yipeng Huang

## UWS middle schools cope with new 'dangerous' label

BY SARAH DARVILLE  
Columbia Daily Spectator

According to parents, MS 256 is normal. According to New York State, it is "persistently dangerous."

The school, located on 93rd St. between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues whose formal title is MS 256 Academic and Athletic Excellence, shares the danger label with nine others in New York City this year. But it also received an A



on its annual progress report conducted by the city, including a high score for school environment.

The school—which, parents say, does not have an extreme number of disciplinary incidents—is one example of how the many definitions of school safety can classify schools very differently, while statistics show that schools are generally safer than they've been in years.

Twelve-year-old Lilin Alba, a student at MS 256, said that she thinks her school is secure. "It's calm. There's a lot of security people," she

SEE DANGER page 2

## NYC FluLine aims to decrease ER visits

BY ELIZABETH FOYDEL  
Spectator Staff Writer

With flu season in full swing and the swine flu frenzy still at a high, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has launched the NYC FluLine as part of an effort to unclog the city's crowded emergency rooms.

On campus today, Columbia will be distributing the recently-arrived H1N1 vaccine to high-risk priority groups on campus.

New Yorkers with flu-like symptoms can now call a 3-1-1 hotline for advice on whether or not to seek treatment. Calls will be directed to registered nurses, who are "contracted out by the Health Department and do not work out of a centralized office," but are "trained

in emergency triage services," said Erin Brady, associate press secretary at the NYC Health Department.

These nurses cannot make diagnoses or prescribe treatment, but will offer information and advice about whether to stay home or see a doctor. If non-emergency medical care is recommended, they will refer callers to local clinics rather than emergency rooms. The NYC FluLine, according to the Health Department press office, is not intended for emergency calls but can reduce and re-direct emergency room traffic from patients who "don't have or can't reach a regular health care provider" about their flu-like symptoms, which include "fever with cough or sore throat." The FluLine is open seven days a week, 7 a.m.

to 11 p.m.

Despite last spring's early rash of H1N1 concentrated in New York as well as a few other hotbeds, the Health Department also noted that the city is experiencing less influenza than the rest of the northeast region. Yet "though the current rate doesn't approach that seen in May and June," according to an influenza press release from the Health Department, "it is well above normal for this time of year. The number of hospitalizations and deaths has also risen since September." The increase in influenza activity is largely of the H1N1 variety, as "the Health Department has yet to see any uptick in seasonal influenza this fall."

SEE FLULINE, page 2

## MAKING MUSIC IN MILLER



Joey Shemuel / Senior staff photographer

**A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC** | The Columbia University Orchestra plays selections from Debussy, Ravel, and Stravinsky on Tuesday evening in Miller Theatre.

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BOOKS

Tawil uncovers the unique voice of American literature

BY KATE WELSH  
Columbia Daily Spectator

What exactly is American exceptionalism?

Esteemed Columbia English and comparative literature professor Ezra Tawil answered this question at a Tuesday Heyman Center event, which had quite a daunting title—“American Exceptionalism and the Question of Style”—and at a somewhat odd time—6:15 on a school night.

American exceptionalism, Tawil explained, is the idea that American literature has a voice separate from that of other Anglophone and European literature. Tawil, with help from his colleagues Andrew Delbanco, the director of Columbia’s American studies department, and Ross Posnock, a fellow English professor, delivered an engaging and intriguing discussion and explanation of the topic at hand. American literature is, as Tawil said, “not merely different, but unique.” It has a different tone, a different set of rules to follow, and a different goal.

In what was essentially a peer-editing session opened for an audience viewing, Delbanco and Posnock praised and analyzed their colleague’s work. While they had both read Tawil’s paper, they had not read each other’s critiques, which caused some overlap. Primarily, this overlap was shown in the frequent reference to the recently published “A New Literary History of America,” which obviously tied in to Tawil’s own work. Posnock emphasized that American exceptionalism is the brainchild of a “made-up nation,” while Delbanco stressed the question

of “what it meant to be original in a borrowed language.”

American literature has its roots in the genres introduced in the ancient European tradition—the novel, the epic poem, the short story—so how did it manage take on a personality of its own? Tawil often referred to what is thought of as the first example of American literature, “Letters from an American Farmer” by J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur. What is especially noteworthy about this text is its style, dubbed “incorrect” by the British, whose proper style was very different. This style would go on to become the trademark of other quintessential American writers such as Emerson and Whitman.

When St. John de Crevecoeur’s work was first published, though, the world was still preoccupied with the idea, as Tawil explained, that “French literature is written in French ... English literature is written in English, and American literature is written in English, too.” People are still trying to find out how a literature borrowed from a tradition in the same language could turn into something new.

Discussion was eventually opened to the room, which was so packed that people spilled over into the balcony space upstairs. While the number of audience members waned as the evening progressed, their academic zeal and interest in the topic was consistent and reflected Tawil’s own enthusiasm for his presentation.

Near the end of the discussion, Delbanco paraphrased Emerson when he declared that “every generation has to write its own books.” Perhaps every culture has to create its own literature, too.



Kate Welsh for Spectator

EXCEPTIONAL AMERICA | On Tuesday night at the Heyman Center, Columbia English and American studies professors explored the style of English language.

BOOKS

What is lost in transposition to typeface?



ELISA  
DE SOUZA  
WEAVING  
WORDS

Are words less romantic once digitized? Are emotions not as genuinely felt when transposed to standardized typeface? There is certainly something personal in someone’s penmanship—one can see the

hand get tired, excited, and forgetful in wobbly, imperfect words.

I have not found that the typeface, per se, drains one’s personality in writing. As long as I can draw the connection between how someone wrote something to how he or she would have said it, I can grasp the personal energy of his or her words. Rather, the problem lies in so-called online lingo.

Interestingly, though typing is considered faster and less tiresome than writing by hand, the use of abbreviations has become increasingly popular with the development of type. This is largely due to all the various forms of online chatting. The result is that abbreviation has become a widespread language of its own. This language, in its cutup and informal character, reflects our desire to compress language and to get a message across as quickly as possible.

In his new book “Yours Ever, People and Their Letters,” Thomas Mallon uses stories of people’s correspondences (such as Flaubert’s and Freud’s) to describe the joy and intimacy of letter writing. Each letter is entrancingly layered, full of memory and personality. To Mallon, letter writing is a contrast to what he believes “e-mail is now doing”—a “chatty, hurry-up violence.”

Perhaps this is so. It could be that now, because e-mail has made it easier to write, we write more often, and for both important and futile reasons. But when one writes a letter, one must dedicate time, patience, and thought.

From moving many places throughout my childhood, I know how much energy writing letters demands. Determined to keep in touch with my friends, I meditated through several letters. It was a process: I had to find the perfect letter paper that had enough illustrations, but that still allowed room for a few drawings and a photograph. I had to reread the letter a few times, to make sure I didn’t forget anything. I felt like a “real person,” sending and receiving my own physical mail.

Now, however, because technology has made the actual writing process much easier, receiving an e-mail is not quite as thrilling. It has even become, at times, a mundane part of daily life. In her New York Times review of Mallon’s new book, Stacy Schiff aptly observed: “It is as if text and e-mail messages are of this world, a letter an attempt, however illusory, to transcend it.”

Perhaps, then, typeface has made our writing habits a little less romantic. Although the digitized word has its downfalls, one cannot deny that we owe much to it. Indeed, we have gradually become reliant on it. It is the main source of communication for many of us, in both formal and informal contexts.

The Global Language Monitor, a program that records the most popular phrases or words in print and on the Internet in digital media and blogs, claimed that “Twitter” is the most frequently used word of 2009. Here are a few other interesting results. (Their corresponding numbers signify where in the list they were placed.):

- 2. Obama
- 3. H1N1
- 5. Vampire
- 11. Outrage
- 13. Unemployed

These words are hardly surprising, which is in itself rather disheartening. They reflect what many of us have been collectively feeling and thinking, and reveal our society to be composed of a preoccupied group of people with an odd penchant for so-called sexy vampires. In a simple list of words, one is able to detect what concerns and what personalities are emerging from American culture.

Whether written or typed, words are, essentially, embodiments of ourselves on paper. Fiona Banner, a contemporary British artist whose work depicts the nature of words, made a piece this year titled “Anatomy of a Book.” It is an open book, face down, with its separate parts labeled: spine, face, and back. Books, the vessels that guard our words, have our anatomy as well. Even when we dissect them, they are delightfully inseparable from our bodies and identities.

Elisa de Souza is a Barnard College sophomore. Weaving Words runs alternate Wednesdays.  
arts@columbiaspectator.com

FOOD & DRINK

World winter holidays served over rice

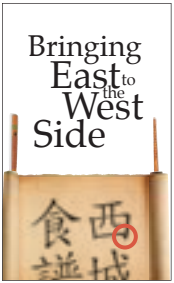
PAULA GERGEN  
Columbia Daily Spectator

Outside, students need to bundle up, but inside, ’tis the season to get hot and steamy—no, not curled up next to the fireplace. Rather, in the kitchen with a hot bowl of tangyuan.

While the biggest East Asian holiday of the winter season is undoubtedly Chinese New Year, the winter solstice festival Dongzhi should not be forgotten. This year Dongzhi falls on Dec. 21. Like many holidays, the Dongzhi festival centers around family and, of course, food.

In south China, the quintessential dish of this holiday is tangyuan. Tangyuan are glutinous rice balls that are boiled and then served in either a sweet or savory broth. These rice balls, which may seem to resemble mochi, can be either plain or stuffed with a variety of fillings, such as red bean paste, sesame paste, or a sweet peanut filling. Nowadays, tangyuan can often be found year-round in Asian supermarkets.

Students looking to procrastinate during finals season should try making their own version of this classic Asian winter dish. With only a few ingredients and a saucepan, Columbians can experiment with a sugary snack that offers the perfect rush to keep them up all night—studying into the wee hours of the morning, of course.



INGREDIENTS:

- ½ cup glutinous rice flour
- ¾ cup warm water
- Brown sugar (to taste)
- Fresh ginger (optional)

Slowly add the water to the glutinous rice flour to make a dough. Meanwhile, boil water in a small saucepan with optional ingredients of choice and brown sugar to taste.

Pinch off small pieces of rice dough and roll them into spheres. The diameter should be no larger than that of a dime. Add the dough balls to the boiling soup mixture and let boil until they float (approximately 5-10 minutes). Once the tangyuan have been cooked thoroughly, serve the soup into bowls and enjoy.

FOOD & DRINK



Lauren Weiss / Senior staff photographer

EASY BAKE | Students looking to satisfy their study-induced sweet teeth can look to Silver Moon and other local stores.

Morningside holiday sweets and treats

BY YISHU HUANG  
Columbia Daily Spectator

The month of December may mean endless hours of paper-writing and final exam preparation, but with the holiday season in full swing, students have something to look forward to: festive treats making their way into Morningside’s shops.

Students who don’t yet have the time to spend hours baking in the kitchen (or have a kitchen, at that) can take comfort in several local bakeries and food markets that provide ready-made desserts.

D’Agastino Fresh Market carries full, medium-sized caramel apple walnut pies with a soft, thick crust. Though the apple-cinnamon filling may satisfy apple pie lovers, those expecting hints of walnut and caramel will be disappointed. This pie, selling for \$6.99, is no bargain given its very standard taste.

Those looking for a nuttier pie can head to Milano Market and order a slice of Bourbon Pecan Pie for \$3.75. This hearty pie is filled with a syrupy pecan mixture and topped with a layer of roasted pecans. The hint of bourbon also has a warming effect,



Yishu Huang for Spectator

making this the perfect choice for chilly winter nights.

For pie-lovers who prefer more subtle flavors, the small pumpkin tart at Silver Moon Bakery is an appropriate choice. The pecan at the pie’s center complements its light creamy pumpkin custard flavor, making this selection well worth its price of \$5.75.

For just 50 cents per piece, students can also get cranberry-walnut

rugelach, a popular Jewish treat, at Silver Moon. These flaky little rolled pastries are packed with the flavorful mixture of cranberry preserves, chopped walnuts, and a thin layer of brown sugar and cinnamon, making it difficult to leave with just one.

While pie tends to dominate Morningside bakeries, students still shouldn’t overlook the colorful assortment of Christmas-themed petit fours at the Garden of Eden Gourmet Market. These bite-sized sponge cakes are covered in chocolate fondant and filled with thin layers of buttercream, which simply melt in your mouth.

The petit fours also come in an assortment of flavors and take the varied shapes of presents, ornaments, snowmen, and even Santa Claus faces. At \$2.89 a piece, and considering their size, they are certainly pricier than some alternatives, but are worth it for those who love creamy sweets.

When it comes to holiday desserts, not all selections in Morningside are created equal. However, students who are willing to search will find something to satisfy a sweet tooth and to keep them up during long nights spent in Butler.



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Scribble away

BY PEDRO SAGESSER RODRIGUES

I never took myself for a stoic. I was shocked when I saw myself write the words “completely agree” on the margins of Epictetus’ Handbook. And the thing is that I really do agree with Epictetus when he says that we should try to accept events as they occur rather than seek to have things happen according to our desire. I’m not saying I no longer believe in free will or that from now on I’m going to sit behind my desk, waiting for something good to come. However, I must acknowledge that a simple scribble on the border of a book has challenged my preconceptions and changed the way I see the world.

Every single literary and philosophical piece I’ve picked up at Columbia so far seems to end up full of scribbles. They influenced me on different levels, of course, and pointed me in different directions—a swift “obviously” on the pages of Machiavelli strengthened my previously held notions of political science, and multiple “spot ons” throughout Pride & Prejudice completely reversed my take on the nature of human relationships—but every one of these pieces made me think about myself, my beliefs, and my ideals. I hate sounding overly dramatic, and I’m not trying to glorify the Core Curriculum by claiming that it has completely changed me and made me a better person. In fact, I believe I have changed very little. These principles already existed somewhere, they were already my beliefs—but it took some



unconsciously jotted down words for me to become familiar with them. The only difference now is that I understand more clearly who I am. I know more accurately where I stand in the wide-ranging spectrum of feelings, ideals, and issues to which we are exposed in our lives.

There were certainly other sources of enlightenment involved in this unconscious process of self-discovery. Earlier this year, for instance, I stumbled upon a primarily nebulous opportunity of expanding on a field of study in which I have always been interested: linguistics. For a long time I have been an enthusiast of languages—I speak Portuguese and German at home, have taken French and English for as long as I can recall, and have always had a tendency for picking up languages with ease. Of course, this doesn’t mean I was certain to succeed in linguistics—one knack has nothing to do with the other. Yet I took the chance and was extremely pleased. My identification with the subject surpasses that with any other and my interest is definitely growing. I must admit, a stellar professor and an avid discussion group provide some bias, but overall I am certain that I wish to continue to pursue studies in the field.

Further sources of enlightenment are the social relationships and ties I have built here in New York City. I’ve been involved with more groups of friends than I can bear in mind. No, I’m not popular. But there’s the freshman dorm group, the international kids I hang out with on the weekends, the soccer team, the Brazilians that stop by New York every other week, and so on. There are all the groups that have been extinguished too but were, for a while, part of my daily routine—kids from the first-year orientation group, people that graduated and left Manhattan, and more. The fluctuation of

friendships I’ve experienced here in the city exceeds anything I had ever imagined. With such variety you are constantly exposed to alternate points of view and regularly vacillate between differing perspectives. I would have loved to scribble “agree” and “disagree” on all of these friends’ limbs, whenever they said something worthy of an annotation, but since I couldn’t get the authorization, I merely pondered over their opinions. Nonetheless, every statement presented, every declaration made, has influenced my perspectives and helped me unveil my personal set of beliefs.

Stoic, authoritarian monarchy supporter, marriage advocate, and linguist. That’s who I am today. After all, this is what college is all about, right? Finding out who you really are, discovering your passions in life. And the combination of Columbia’s Core Curriculum, the university’s multifaceted academic excellence, which extends throughout its departments, and New York’s social diversity (with the help of a ball point pen) have provided me with the most comprehensive source of knowledge imaginable and the most prolific environment in which to scribble away and realize my true self.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore.

West Side Stories is a feature that uses the personal essay to showcase the diverse backgrounds of members of the Columbia and Morningside Heights community. It takes an intimate look at the journeys that have led individuals to this school and city. By drawing upon stories of family, culture, childhood, past travels and adventures, the essays seek to illuminate how people’s experiences both influence their relationships to the community and shape the opinions they hold.

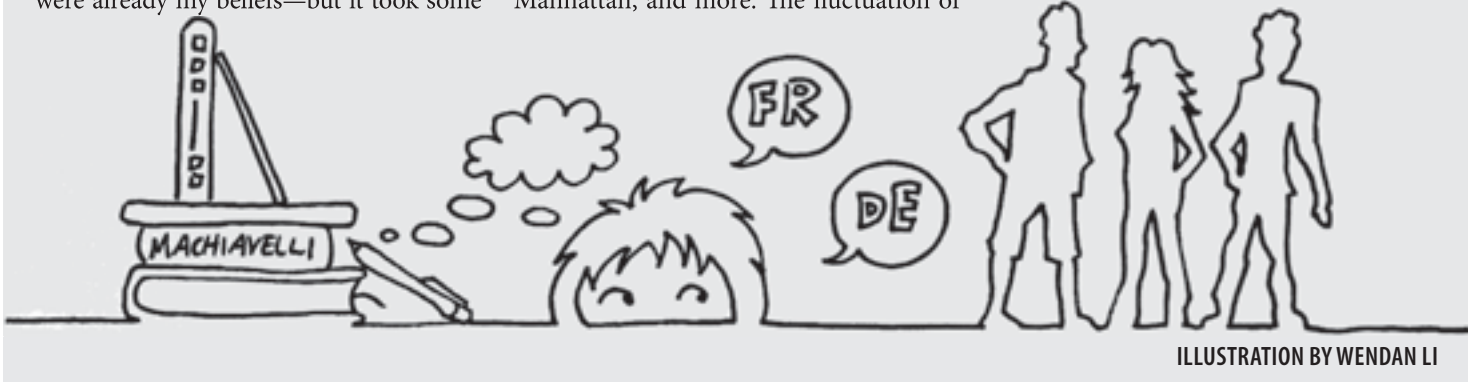


ILLUSTRATION BY WENDAN LI

Transformed to love

BY REBEKAH MAYS

On Saturday, November 21, I met two men—Anthony and James. The first thing you need to know about these men is that they are made in the image in God, which, if you boiled it down to its essence, means that traces of divine glory and beauty can be found in every single person. The other characteristic thing about these men is that neither of them have a home.

I was participating in an event called Feed the 500, a day of ministry to the City’s homeless, coordinated by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship’s New York City Urban Project (NYCUP). This day was key in making me realize two things—first, that every human being truly is beautiful and deserves to be cared for, and second, that ultimately, the one reason I can love is because I was loved first.

We trickled into the NYCUP headquarters in Washington Heights, and the hundred student volunteers from around the City broke into teams making sandwiches, writing notes of encouragement, and stuffing brown paper bags with our freshly-made meals. Meanwhile, I was pleased with how gratifying this all was. We were being so nice, taking time out of our Saturdays and feeding people who didn’t have a dining hall into which they could swipe their meal cards. I surveyed the tables lined with rolled-up paper bags, and

I said a quick prayer that these meals would change someone’s day for the better.

All that was wonderful until Jonathan Walton, the director of NYCUP, asked each student to take two lunch bags and begin our mission for the afternoon. One lunch, he said, was for the person without a meal and the other was for us. Apparently it was so that we would sit with the person receiving the meal and eat with him. Deep down this is not what I wanted to hear. I longed to not have to get my hands dirty, to be able to hand the poor and needy a lunch while remaining warm, safe and cozy in my fifty dollar Columbia sweatshirt. But that was not what I got.

Before we left, Jonathan reminded us all why we were doing this in the first place. As a group of Christians trying to live out our faith, “we love because he (God) first loved us” (1 John 4:19). Because God loved the people of His creation so much, He died for all the selfishness, hatred and pride in our hearts and rose again so that we could be with Him. These words moved me. If there is a God who loves me without limits so much so that He would die for me, surely with his help I can love the people around me without limits as to how comfortable I am, how safe I feel, or how much time they carve out of my afternoon.

With those words in the back of my mind and with bags of sandwiches filling my arms, my group left Washington Heights for our assigned strip of the city. It was not long before we encountered two men on a park bench. One was bent over, asleep, and the other was organizing his few belongings into some trash bags. A little hesitant at first, my friends and

I approached the man who was awake and said, “We’re from the New York City Urban Project... would you like something to eat?” He agreed, and we spent the next hour and forty-five minutes talking to Anthony, hearing of all sorts of things from how he had run three marathons to how he had messed up his marriage and lost his wife, his money and the custody of his child. James, the man who had been sleeping, woke up and began eating several sandwiches, saying a few grateful words here and there and explaining to us why it was hard for him to stand up straight and even hold on to his food. I was filled with so much happiness when both of them laughed from time to time, for I saw a little glimpse of the beauty infused into them, and I imagined God laughing with joy along with us.

It’s easy enough to ladle soup into a bowl and hand it to someone, or even to write a check to a homeless shelter. I’m not trying to diminish the importance of either of those things, but, as Jonathan would say, what would it look like if we actually cared about the people around us and spent time actually loving them? New York would be a very different place if it wasn’t so uncommon to see students, professors, doctors, and lawyers using the resources we have and not just caring for people in the workplace but in all the different places we find ourselves daily. If you feel that’s impossible for you, like I often do, turn to Jesus. I guarantee you He will transform your life and fill you with his power to love.

The author is a Barnard College sophomore. She is a small group leader on InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.

Characterizing “character”



JON HOLLANDER  
REASONABLY RIGHT

longtime residents and changing the character and affordability of the community.” Issues of affordability have already been debated ad nauseam—if you support the Obama stimulus package, you have to believe that the 1,200 unionized construction jobs created each year by the expansion will be a net benefit to the West Harlem community, despite the opinions of three justices on the New York State Supreme Court. Rather, the issue that I would like to consider is this argument that gentrification changes the “character” of a neighborhood. Of all of the reasons to impede economic development, this is certainly the most baseless and irrational, especially if we consider it from a historical standpoint. Fundamentally, the “character” of a neighborhood is a completely subjective construct, which makes

it virtually impossible to placate dissatisfied parties who hold grievances on these terms. Naturally, this is exactly why opponents of gentrification use this argument, since it cannot be disproved because it isn’t based on anything tangible. Consider one of the rare cases in which SCEG does try to argue facts with Columbia. The SCEG alleges that the Manhattanville expansion will “directly remove 132 families from their homes.” Sounds pretty bad, right? Well, Columbia counters with the fact that “Columbia has made a commitment to relocate residents of these units to equal or better housing in the area.” In this facts-to-facts exchange, the SCEG suffers twice. Not only is it difficult for them to find facts that make the expansion look bad (since the reality is that the expansion promises many benefits), but they also run the very high risk of being debunked by Columbia, and thus losing their credibility.

By using these subjective notions of “neighborhood character” or “social diversity,” anti-expansion activists are able to keep the debate on their terms, since only they can really define what those terms actually mean. For instance, they say Manhattanville is a vibrant ethnic neighborhood—I say it is blighted. Nothing is resolved. However, even if we cannot debate these issues with facts, we can still illustrate their irrationality by looking back at history. Ultimately, SCEG is arguing that economic development is bad because

as neighborhoods become more expensive, poor people are pushed out. By that logic the development of the Lower East Side from its 19th century overcrowded, impoverished state to its current incarnation as a hipster hangout was a great tragedy. Moreover, if we take their logic to its natural conclusion, no development of any kind should ever occur, since the character of a neighborhood is sacred and inviolable.

In reality though, these kinds of arguments are only made when the neighborhood in question is predominantly poor and non-white. Ultimately, what the “character” argument comes down to is an issue of race. Opponents of the expansion don’t want it to occur because they are worried about an influx of whites into an area that is currently predominantly black and Hispanic. CEG is therefore opposed to changes in the racial makeup of neighborhoods—fine. However, by taking this position they completely ignore the fact that the original residents of the neighborhood of Manhattanville were Jews and Irish Catholics. Thus, if anything, Columbia’s expansion is actually doing quite a bit to restore the original racial character of the neighborhood.

Obviously, my point is not that we should be returning to 19th century demographic patterns. My argument is that making development decisions based on their impacts on the character (read: race) of a neighborhood is illogical, and can only be

justified if you arbitrarily stop the historical clock at some point that is convenient for your position. As a result, the only logical stance to take is that we shouldn’t care about the character of a neighborhood, and should base development decisions solely on the tangible benefits and costs of the project.

Despite what members of SCEG may believe, New York City is not made up of racial fiefdoms, each of which having some sort of non-specified right to determine what their “character” should be. New York City is governed for the benefit of the city as a whole, and if there is a project like the Manhattanville expansion that offers to utilize precious Manhattan real estate more effectively, to generate huge social benefits through the construction of a new biomedical research laboratory, and (most importantly) to increase New York City tax receipts so that more social services can be provided to low-income residents, then the city should support it. Arguing that we should sacrifice real economic benefits in the name of “neighborhood character” is irrational, and should have little influence on the policy process of one of the world’s greatest cities.

Jon Hollander is a Columbia College senior majoring in economics. He is the director of intergroup affairs for the Columbia University College Republicans. Reasonably Right runs alternate Wednesdays. opinion@columbiaspectator.



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Solutions to Previous Issue's Puzzle

9	8	1	5	2	7	4	6	3
4	7	2	1	6	3	5	8	9
6	5	3	8	4	9	2	1	7
3	2	9	7	5	8	1	4	6
5	4	8	6	3	1	7	9	2
7	1	6	4	9	2	8	3	5
1	6	4	3	7	5	9	2	8
2	3	7	9	8	4	6	5	1
8	9	5	2	1	6	3	7	4

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## Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

**ACROSS**

1 Hurts with a hom

6 Trudge

10 Where E.T. came from?

14 As vertical as possible, as an embedded anchor

15 Anchor attachment

16 Charm

17 Bassist for the Sex Pistols

19 Run off at the mouth

20 Made the trip

21 Uncommonly big

23 Had a bite

24 Distress letters

25 Most irritated

28 Friend you probably never met

30 Spread with cocktails

32 Fish eggs

33 Leopardlike critter

35 Skye of film

36 Mutley's evil master in Hanna-Barbera cartoons

40 Like many a 45-Across

41 Hitchcock classic

42 Swing voter.

43 Singer Feliciano

45 Underground room

49 '50s Kenyan revolutionary

51 PBS funder

52 Mimic

53 Cancun coins

56 Hebrew prophet

57 Fast fliers

59 "The Wonder Years" star

61 War god

62 "Law & Order: SVU" actor

63 Sloping edge of a chisel

64 Author Zane

65 Big name in lawn equipment

66 Fish basket

**DOWN**

1 It's replaced after a fill-up

2 Sedative

3 St. John's athletes, until 1994

39 Periman of "Cheers"

40 Faint

43 Pres. inauguration month

44 Uniform

46 Childhood education pioneer

47 Orbital high point

48 Transfer for a price, as a used car

50 Not well-kept

51 Acknowledge with a head movement

54 Sacramento's \_\_\_\_\_

55 Change direction

56 Say assuredly

57 Binge

58 Make a mistake

60 "Desperate Housewives" network

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

S	L	E	P	T	L	P	G	A	P	R	I	M
H	O	L	E	Y	I	L	L	S	R	E	B	A
S	K	E	T	C	H	O	O	B	O	O	K	O
I	M	S	O	R	R	Y	A	P	O	R	T	
C	O	S	A	P	A	L	E	R				
A	S	W	A	N	A	S	S	O	R	T	E	D
S	W	A	N	A	L	A	I	N	C	L	E	
P	I	K	N	A	M	E	T	A	G	A	L	I
I	R	E	I	M	A	C	S	D	R	I	E	
C	L	U	E	L	E	S	S	E	D	E	R	
P	R	E	S	S	B	A	N	T				
T	A	C	O	S	R	O	B	E	R	T	S	
R	E	A	D	P	H	O	T	O	B	O	O	T
E	R	L	E	R	E	M	O	O	T	T	E	R
S	O	L	D	O	N	L	Y	X	P	H	O	N

[xwordeditor@aol.com](mailto:xwordeditor@aol.com) 12/09/09

By Robert E. Lee Morris  
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12/09/09



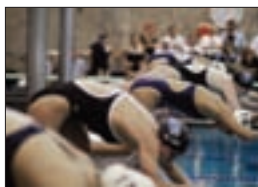
The Columbia basketball team has gone 4-0 this season when it records more rebounds than its opponents. However, the Lions are 0-4 when outrebounded.

TOMORROW



# SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2009 • PAGE 6



Check back tomorrow for full coverage of the women's swimming and diving team's home contest against Penn that is set to take place later this evening.

TOMORROW

## Reading week: Columbia's two-minute warning



JELANI JOHNSON  
CAN'T KNOCK THE HUSTLE

As finals approach I'm starting to hear those usual proclamations: "It's crunch time," "Welcome to the fourth quarter," "We're entering the homestretch," "Let the games begin!" What these worn-out ad-

ages all have in common is the fact that they all either directly or indirectly reference sports. Hearing these phrases made me think about the parallels between sporting events and the passing of an academic semester. After considering the topic, I've decided that an academic semester at Columbia is in many ways the metaphorical equivalent of a basketball game.

Think about this: The very beginning of the semester is practice ("I mean listen, we talkin' bout practice. Not a game, not a game, not a game. We talkin' bout practice," as Allen Iverson says). Those first short answer responses you submit are like light cardio and weightlifting to get you ready for the game that awaits. You get acclimated to your class schedule (playbook), classmates (teammates), and workload (your opponent). Things are pretty casual during this time and expectations are high.

Midterms are when the game tips off. Either you come out strong or you come out playing flat. I'm sure that more than a few people on campus have left a mid-term feeling dazed and confused. That's the feeling you get when you get on the court and realize that the player guarding you is actually really athletic and strong. Nobody enjoys getting dunked on. Those moments make you snap back to reality. Sometimes you make it through midterms unscathed and more confident than ever. There's no better feeling than playing ball and realizing that the person guarding you simply can't shut you down. At this point, either one of two things happens: 1) you increase the intensity and go for the jugular (e.g. Kobe Bryant or that kid in Econ who finishes all of his problem sets weeks in advance) or 2) you relax and bank on your talent allowing you to comfortably coast to victory (e.g. Vince Carter or that kid who waits until the morning of class to finish his problem set, because he thinks "I'll be straight, I got an A on the midterm"). On the other hand, if you struggle through midterms (or realize that your opposition is stronger than you thought), this insight can cause you to take second half seriously.

Given that realization, you come out hard in the second half. You might as well leave everything you've got on the court. By "crunch time" (finals) you're all nerves and adrenaline. You occasionally resort to the full-court press (all-nighters), make sure to expend all of your time-outs (study groups), and you consume Gatorade to prevent fatigue (coffee). While only one team can win (not everyone can get an A), there is still consolation in knowing that you played your hardest (hello Mr. B-Plus).

This column may have been a little abstract, but there is certainly no harm in a little bit of imaginative thinking. As I type this, I'm getting ready to leave my dorm (the locker room) and return to the library (the court). "Sigh..." December in Morningside Heights. There's nothing like the homestretch.

Jelani Johnson is Columbia College senior majoring in history.  
sports@columbiaspectator.com



Jasper Clyatt / Staff photographer

**ALL SYSTEMS AGHO** | Guard Noruwa Agho led the Lions to a 102-91 victory over the Seahawks with a 30-point performance. This was the first time since 2007 that Columbia broke the century mark.

### NORUWA AGHO

YEAR: CC '12  
POSITION: Guard  
POINTS: 30  
ASSISTS: 4  
REBOUNDS: 1



File photo



Jenny Hsu / Senior staff photographer

**LOMAX ATTACK** | Lomax dominated the glass with 11 offensive boards, recorded four assists, and made all eight of her free throws.

### JUDIE LOMAX

YEAR: BC '11  
POSITION: Forward  
POINTS: 30  
ASSISTS: 4  
REBOUNDS: 16



File photo

## Explosive first half lifts Lions to victory

BY MICHELE CLEARY  
Spectator Staff Writer

The Columbia men's basketball team went into last night's game at Wagner looking to bounce back from a frustrating loss at Stony Brook over the weekend. And with an emphatic 102-91 win over the Seahawks, the Lions did just that.

The Light Blue (4-4) broke the century mark for the first time in two years, defeating the Seahawks (0-7) 102-91. However, the Lions struggled late in the game after delivering a near-perfect performance in the first half.

The game started out close, with neither team taking a lead larger than four during the first six minutes of play. However, a jumper by sophomore guard Noruwa Agho with 13:09 remaining in the period gave the Light Blue a 15-13 lead—one that it would never relinquish.

Columbia went on to score 39 more points in the half on 61.8 percent shooting while holding Wagner to 16 points on 31.0 percent.

The Lions' play was strong all around in the first half as they outrebounded the Seahawks 23-13, held a 4-7 advantage in turnovers, and shot 60.0 percent from 3-point land.

The second half was a completely different story. The Light Blue built on its 25-point halftime lead, pulling ahead

by 27 points with 17:40 left to play on a jumper by senior guard Patrick Foley. But before long, Wagner started to close the gap.

The Seahawks were able to pull within nine with 3:30 left to play thanks to a layup by freshman guard Ryan Conrad.

A major reason for Wagner's 62-point second half was sophomore guard Chris Martin. Martin had a respectable first half, scoring 13 points on 4-10 shooting, but erupted after intermission going 8-14 from the field for 21 points. He finished with a game-high 34 points.

Martin's 3-point shooting was also tremendous, as he made 47.1 percent of his shots from long range.

The rest of Wagner's shooting improved as well, as it shot 56.4 percent from the field and 50.0 percent from behind the arc.

"I thought they ran their offense really hard in the second half," Columbia head coach Joe Jones said. "They deserve a lot of credit because they were down by 26 and they didn't quit."

"I didn't think that we played very well in the second half," he continued. "I didn't think that we defended the way we normally defend, and that's why it led to so many easy 3-point shots and so many easy buckets."

The Light Blue's defense faltered in the second half, as it

SEE MEN'S BASKETBALL, page 2

## Lomax erupts for 30 points as CU dismantles Wagner 73-49

BY MICHAEL ZHONG  
Spectator Staff Writer

Early in the first half, the ball hung suspended in midair with Columbia's Judie Lomax and a Wagner player battling for position. The whistle blew and after a few seconds of silence, the referee pointed at the Seahawk, leaving her only able to exclaim with wide eyes, "Me? Me?" It was that kind of game for Lomax and the Lions, as she dominated the post with 30 points and 16 rebounds en route to a 73-49 Columbia victory. Lomax repeatedly positioned herself well in the paint, forcing Wagner to foul or concede the layup.

"I thought she really came out of the game on a mission," Columbia head coach Paul Nixon said. "It was very clear that every rebound she was going to try and get a hand on it. She was not going to be denied on the boards."

The Light Blue started the game strong, storming to a 16-4 lead in the opening minutes behind five Lomax layups and two free throws, and baskets by juniors Kathleen Barry and Lauren Dwyer.

From there, the Seahawks were able to break free from the Lions' full-court press, which led to Wagner sophomore Kelly Clark and senior John'a Poole scoring transition layups to reduce Columbia's lead to 16-11 on a 7-0 Wagner run. That spurt ended when Lion sophomore Melissa Shafer nailed a 3-pointer from the right corner.

From then on, the closest Wagner ever got was after a free throw by Poole which trimmed the lead to 27-26 with one minute remaining in the half. A few plays later, Lomax found Dwyer cutting to the rim for a layup. Lomax then ended the half by making a fadeaway 9-foot

banker at the buzzer to give the Lions a 31-26 lead.

In the second half, Columbia came out strong, scoring eight unanswered points. The Seahawks never threatened the Lions' lead again, scoring just 23 points in the second half.

Wagner's stars, senior Andrea Reed and junior Ashley Olsen, both struggled, scoring five and eight points respectively.

"We've had previous experience guarding them in previous seasons," Nixon said. "We knew coming in that they were the two keys to them offensively. So we really built our game plan around them, taking away their strengths."

Clark was the only Wagner player to score in double digits, finishing the game with 12 points and seven rebounds. Most of those points came in a stretch during the second half during which Clark and Columbia's Dwyer scored 17 consecutive points between themselves.

Dwyer finished the game with 19 points and eight rebounds, both second only to Lomax. Shafer contributed eight points and two steals off the bench in 15 minutes of action.

Columbia played well in the game, but one glaring problem for the Lions was turnovers, particularly off travel violations, which they were whistled for 12 times in the game.

"We can do a better job taking care of the basketball," Nixon said. "Obviously 25 turnovers is way too many. We never want to commit more turnovers than we force. If Judie has 30 [points] and Lauren has 19, the other team is going to bring double teams and we're going to have to do a better job getting ready to exploit those."

With the win, Columbia now stands at 5-4.

## Women's swimming and diving looks to remain on track against Penn



File photo

**OPEN LANE** | After demolishing Wagner College in a meet this past weekend, the women's swimming and diving team will battle Penn with the hope of picking up its first conference win of the season.

BY JULIA GARRISON  
Columbia Daily Spectator

After three consecutive away meets, Columbia's women's swimming and diving team will host its second home contest of the season against Ivy rival Penn (1-1) at Uris Pool this evening. The team is coming off its first win of the season this past weekend against Wagner College, which it defeated 143-58 on Saturday.

The Lions have conquered Penn the past two seasons, including a 159-141 decision last year. Columbia took an early lead in last year's meet with a first-place finish by the 200 medley relay squad consisting of Lauren Fraley, Mariele Dunn, Allison Hobbs, and Hannah Galey. Galey went on to place first in the 200 free as well, with Delghir Urubshurou coming in second for Columbia.

The Lions fought hard to earn a lead against Penn throughout the meet with first-place finishes in the 100 back by Fraley, 100 breast by Dunn, and 50 free by Hobbs. Columbia eventually jumped ahead of Penn toward the end of the competition with a first-place finishes by Urubshurou in the 200 back and 200 IM.

The Light Blue hopes to continue its winning streak and emerge with its first Ivy victory of the season tonight.

The Quakers enter the meet following a recent victory, having placed first out of five teams in the Nike Invitational hosted by Kenyon College this past weekend. Columbia will have to look out for seniors Stephanie Nerby, who won the 500 freestyle at Kenyon by two seconds, and Andrea Balint, who finished first in the 200 IM.

Tonight's meet should prove to be an evenly matched competition, but Columbia is confident about its chances.

"Penn has a very strong squad, and it should be a very exciting meet," head coach Diana Caskey said. "I am glad that we will have had 10 days of solid training ahead of the meet to have us all back on the same page after the short Thanksgiving break."

Caskey noted that both teams are faced with the stress of finals and recognized that Columbia and Penn are "on equal footing there as well."

The meet against Penn will begin at 6 p.m. at Uris Pool.