

Two students released on bail after arrests

BY SAMMY ROTH AND SARAH DARVILLE
Columbia Daily Spectator

Two of the five students arrested Tuesday for selling drugs from their fraternity houses and dorm rooms went free on bail on Wednesday.

Adam Klein, CC '12, and Michael Wymbs, SEAS '11, were released after being arrested during an on-campus drug bust, which the New York City Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office labeled "Operation Ivy League." Harrison David, SEAS '12, Chris Coles, CC '12, and Jose Stephan Perez, CC '12—known on campus as Stephan Vincenzo—were still in custody as of Wednesday evening.

The five students were charged with selling cocaine, marijuana, MDMA, Adderall, and LSD, according to the Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office. All five have retained lawyers and pleaded not guilty Tuesday afternoon, when they were arraigned in the Manhattan Supreme Court. A judge set bail amounts ranging from \$20,000 cash for Perez to \$50,000 cash for David.

Wymbs was released at 2 p.m. Wednesday after his parents paid his bail, which was set at \$25,000 cash. Klein posted the same bail.

Klein's lawyer, Hershel Katz, said that he thought the bail, set at \$20,000 cash, was "very high for someone who has no criminal record, attending college, who lives with his parents when not at school, who poses no flight risk, and by now has one of the most recognizable faces in the country."

SEE BAIL, page 2



COURTESY OF THE NYC SPECIAL NARCOTICS PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

EVIDENCE | Photographs released from a police raid early Tuesday morning revealed narcotics and cash in the rooms of Adam Klein, CC '12, Michael Wymbs, SEAS '11, and Harrison David, SEAS '12.



Frats suspended following drug bust

AEPi, Pike, and PsiU instructed to halt events, recruitments

BY MICHAEL ZHONG AND SONALEE RAU
Columbia Daily Spectator

The Alpha Epsilon Pi, Pi Kappa Alpha, and Psi Upsilon fraternities were placed on interim suspension Wednesday night after the arrests on Tuesday of several members who allegedly sold illegal drugs from their 114th Street brownstones.

Dean of Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger announced in a statement that the three fraternities had been instructed to cease all activities—including recruitment, initiation, and social events—pending further review.

"According to Columbia's Fraternity and Sorority Life Community Standards and Greek Judicial Board Handbook, a fraternity or sorority can be suspended if determined 'necessary to promote the best interest' of the chapter and the University," Shollenberger said. "Given the severity of the alleged behavior, we believe these interim suspensions are in the best interest of our community at this time."

He added that the national chapters of each fraternity had been notified.

The interim suspension comes after five students were arrested in an on-campus police raid Tuesday morning. Harrison David, SEAS '12, Chris Coles, CC '12, Adam Klein, CC '12, Jose Stephan Perez (known as Stephan Vincenzo), CC '12,

and Michael Wymbs, SEAS '11, were charged with selling cocaine, marijuana, MDMA, Adderall, and LSD, according to the New York City Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office.

David lived in Alpha Epsilon Pi, Perez in Pi Kappa Alpha, and Klein in Psi Upsilon. Wymbs had been involved in Psi Upsilon pledging this semester. All five men pleaded not guilty.

"Given the severity of the alleged behavior, we believe these interim suspensions are in the best interest of our community."

—Kevin Shollenberger,
Dean of Student Affairs

Dean of Community Development and Multicultural Affairs Terry Martinez will conduct an internal review of the three fraternities and of the Intercultural House, where Coles allegedly sold marijuana.

"We plan to work closely with student leaders, the fraternity and sorority

SEE SUSPENSION, page 2

Global centers work to include undergrads

BY SAVANNAH FLETCHER AND AMBER TUNNELL
Columbia Daily Spectator

As Columbia expands its global presence abroad through the creation of four new global centers, the place of undergraduates in the system is still uncertain, though some programs are in the works.

Peter Awn, the Dean of the School of General Studies, said that serious discussions regarding how undergraduate students will participate in the centers haven't happened yet, and probably won't until the funding for the centers is more definite.

The University has opened four research-based global centers in Jordan, China, India, and Paris, while four new potential future centers are in the works in Turkey, Kazakhstan, Kenya, and Brazil.

Currently, "both students and faculty are trying to figure out what they [the centers] are about," Awn said, adding that interest amongst students and faculty will probably increase as the centers get more fully grounded.

Columbia College Dean of Academic Affairs Kathryn Yatrakis, however, said that some programming is already in the works.

"The undergraduate academic programs at the centers are not pre-packaged or previously planned but are meant to be created by faculty thinking about how best to design appropriate undergraduate programs so that students will be able to take full advantage of the centers and the unique educational site that they offer," Yatrakis said in an email.

"This is starting to happen, and we are working closely with faculty in various fields who are thinking about academic programs located at the Centers which would be particularly suited for our undergraduates," she added.

Yatrakis said that Columbia is in the process of designing a sustainable development program in the Amman, Jordan center, among other initiatives. Also, both the Amman and Beijing, China, centers are offering language programs.

"At this point, we want to see what we can get off the ground."

—Peter Awn,
General Studies Dean

"At this point, we [the University] want to see what we can get off the ground," Awn said, adding that the centers have an experimental component to them. Columbia is the first university to use this model, which utilizes the areas as research centers as opposed to campuses abroad.

Awn, as the director of the Middle East Institute, also said that he is hoping to sponsor an undergraduate student conference in Amman, which would involve both Arabic students and Columbia students.

But Yannis Tsvidis, the newly-dubbed School of Engineering and Applied

Science undergraduate curriculum advisor to the dean, said in an email that the global centers have not been considered at all in the school's curricular deliberations.

Ken Prewitt, vice president of the global centers, said that the University could consider curricular innovations to best utilize the centers.

For example, he said, a student could be allowed to go to one of the centers to work on a major project in his or her field for six months. The main problem may be the current strict degree requirements for undergraduates at Columbia, which span from major requirements to the Core to electives. "How can we coordinate with that so that we are additional to it and not trying to compete with it?"

Prewitt said the University could make changes on campus by creating courses that would allow for the students to spend time abroad at one of the centers.

In the future, Awn said also that he could imagine possibly offering courses where a student spent half of the course at a center and half at Columbia.

However, Prewitt said that one of the major constraints is the fact that "a lot of students came here to be in New York."

Despite the uncertainty, students seemed optimistic, though skeptical, about the centers.

"I think it is important for Columbia to increase its global presence because it is important for the students to get a global perspective and understand

SEE GLOBAL CENTERS,
page 2

Businesses say rezoning could spur growth

BY CHELSEA LO
Columbia Daily Spectator

Street vendor Laheen Allah's booth stands on 125th Street near St. Nicholas Avenue, in front of a series of boarded-up beauty supply outlets. Across the street are a T-Mobile, Old Navy, and Chase Bank.

"Locally owned?" Allah said. "We don't own anything too much up here."

Designed to promote retail, office, hotel, and residential development in Harlem, the 125th Street Rezoning Plan was approved in 2008 to encourage

activity on the neighborhood's main thoroughfare from 2nd Avenue to Broadway. The plan will promote development of over 80,000 square feet of new non-profit visual arts and entertainment space, according to the Department of City Planning, which is working with the NYC Economic Development Corporation to strengthen the corridor's cultural and commercial presence.

But despite the goals of rezoning, some local businesses say they're worried about their future as larger developers continue to buy up property and more chains move into the neighborhood.

Six months ago Manna's Soul Food & Salad Bar, a neighborhood joint for decades at

125th Street and 8th Avenue, relocated to a cheaper space a few blocks away, since a company called Kimco Realty Corporation hopes to redevelop Manna's original site.

Philip Bulgar, who has worked at Manna's for 15 years, said that he considers himself lucky, since other businesses had to move out of the area entirely.

"When you uproot family businesses who have been the community two, three decades to replace with some chain restaurants or chain stores, it doesn't work," Bulgar said. "And these companies tend not to hire from the community. Even if they do, it's minimum wage jobs or part-time jobs."

SEE REZONING, page 2



JACK ZIETMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

IN TRANSITION | The intersection of 125th and Frederick Douglass Boulevard is an example of retail vacancies that have emerged during the recession. Some residents fear that rezoning will not help business.

A&E, PAGE 3

The procrastinator's holiday shopping guide

With finals piling up, students may postpone buying gifts until it seems like it's too late. But every student can shop their way to a happy holiday with these easy options.



OPINION, PAGE 4

Telling selling

What's the true impetus for drug dealing?

Parental control

Jessica Hills addresses the role parents play in childhood education.

SPORTS, PAGE 8

Offensive rebounding key to victory

The men's basketball team has out-rebounded its opponents by an average of 14.8 boards in its five victories, while only edging its opponents by 2.8 boards in its losses.

EVENTS

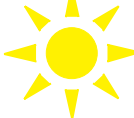
Student Reading

Barnard grads Marisha Pessl, Eliza Minot, and Galaxy Craze read from their work.

Sulzberger Parlor, 7 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



33°/15°

Tomorrow



37°/32°

Jackson talks about revising encyclopedia, keeping the pulse of NYC

BY ANDREA FOLDS
Columbia Daily Spectator

When you think about it, it's really not surprising that the Columbia campus is not the most tight-knit community, given how the city swirls around campus. One man who's devoted a good portion of his life to understanding the urban macrocosm of New York is Columbia history professor Kenneth T. Jackson.

Fifteen years after his best-selling "Encyclopedia of New York City" hit the shelves, with over 4,300 entries proving that even New Yorkers don't know the real New York, he has published a second edition, which came out last week, to make New Yorkers further aware of how much is woven into the fibers of this metropolis and how little they know of it.

"Sure, maybe there's a lot going on on Columbia's campus, but you hop on the 1 train, and you get off at the crossroads of the world," Jackson said.

"It's so easy to become anonymous and change your world. For example, if you're doing something I don't like in a small town, I can do all sorts of things about it," he said. "But here, I'm never gonna see you again, so I don't care. It's an advantage—it allows you to be whoever you want to be. I don't have time to worry about you—I've got my own life to live! It allows you to do whatever you want to do, not murder maybe, but there are lots of things you can do."

Although Professor Jackson has thrown himself (far deeper than he expected, he admitted) into chronicling every facet of our great city, he certainly does not trivialize its eccentricities by romanticizing them.

"New York is not everybody's cup of tea—that's no question. But if people didn't want to be here, prices would be cheap," Jackson said. "So in a capitalist system, that's telling you this is where

people want to be. If we were in Detroit, it'd be a different story."

Jackson had similarly feisty justifications for why an updated version of his work was merited after 15 years and why New York deserves an encyclopedia in the first place.

"First of all, it would be hard to have this exact kind of encyclopedia for any other city because most other cities just don't have as much going on as New York or haven't had much going on for as long," Jackson said. "It took 200 years for any other city to become even half as large. The cities that might be as large as New York, London, or Paris, they don't have the stories."

The hidden gems that Jackson says he's interspersed throughout the book would shame the proudest city native and make even a Brooklyn sage shed some pretension.

For one thing, the real Little Italy is nowhere close to Mulberry Street. He said, "Arthur Avenue is the most genuine—the real Little Italy of New York. Its meat markets, the people, everything. Even with the Albanians and a bunch of other ethnic groups thrown in the mix, the place has strong Italian flavor—much more so than Mulberry Street."

Another secret: virtual time travel via architecture just down the road. "Pomander Walk is something Columbia students don't even know about," Jackson said, "and it's right there between 94th and 95th—a row of English Tudor houses, a whole little street you never knew was there, with no cars or anything."

Jackson also wants readers to laud the city for its noble history. "New York is the oldest of all American cities. People don't know how old it is—the important role it played in the American Revolution, losing the biggest battle, Battle of Brooklyn—the city's role as a place of aspiration, whether for immigrants at Ellis Island or

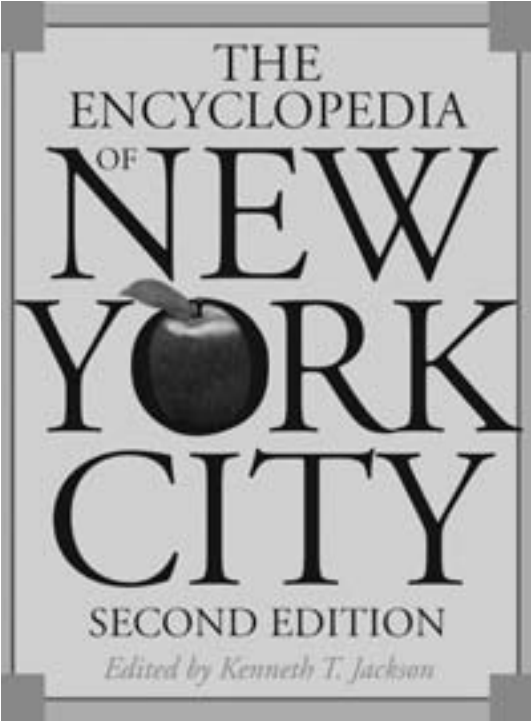
Andrew Carnegie coming with millions of dollars—the story of the infrastructure, especially its water system," Jackson said. "It has the best water system of any city in the world. Unlike other cities, you can drink out of your commode. I'm not saying I actually do that, but it's drinkable water."

To give an idea of just how much the city has changed since its encyclopedic debut, Jackson threw out a few key phrases that are now commonplace jargon—"The World Trade Center, a

spectacular decline in crime, E-ZPass, the High Line, gentrification of so many different neighborhoods," just to name a few.

Apparently Columbia students have changed as well, although the student body Jackson waxes nostalgic about graduated well over fifteen years ago.

"I think students here are more conservative now, and more grade-conscious," Jackson said. "In the 1970s, people thought they were gonna change the world and didn't care what grade you gave them. Now people care."



COURTESY OF LISA KELLER

NEW YORK, NEW YORK | Columbia professor Kenneth T. Jackson released the second edition of his "Encyclopedia of New York City" on Dec. 1 to cover more New York historical turf.



EMBRY OWEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

THE ELECTRICAL SLIDE | Some students may not know that participants in BC dance classes are SEAS students with a passion for performance.

The stressed out student's guide to last-minute holiday shopping in campus stores

BY CARMEN REN
Columbia Daily Spectator

By the time Columbia's poorly scheduled finals are over, it's Dec. 23 and everyone is excited to be home for the holidays and maybe even open a few presents. Then comes the realization: buying presents was never checked off many students' December to-do lists.

Fear not—Columbia and Barnard's bookstores have more than enough gift-worthy merchandise to quickly fill up any student's shopping quota.

Students' proud parents have probably already bought Columbia or Barnard mugs of their own, but they might be less likely to own Columbia wineglasses (starting at \$9.98) or Columbia or Barnard shot glasses (\$6). With all the money they are paying for the Columbia education, they have a right to drink to it.

For those willing to spend a little more, Columbia's bookstore offers Martha Stewart Vineyard Vines Ties in a variety of pastel colors and covered with the ubiquitous Columbia crown (\$65). The bookstore also offers other Columbia-decorated ties in more muted tones of navy and grey for \$29.98—a classic gift for a dad or older brother.

For the girly girl, both Columbia and Barnard offer silk scarves. Columbia's come decorated with crowns and Barnard's depict its iconic gate (\$44.98 and \$55, respectively). Barnard also offers a variety of Fair Trade woolen winter wear, such as gloves (\$20), hats (\$23), and scarves (\$25). For the closest

of friends, Barnard also sells Barnard-emblazoned lace boyshorts by Hanky Panky—the luxe lace undergarment line started by a Barnard alumnus—in a variety of colors for \$25.

Deck out younger siblings, nephews, or nieces with Columbia University gear of their own. It's never too early to start planning with Columbia Engineering, Columbia Law School, Columbia

College, Columbia football, and "Barnard Babe" toddler T-shirts (Columbia \$14.98, Barnard \$12). Or take the ever-loved sock gift to the next level with a pair that reads "Someone who loves me very much went to Columbia and bought me these socks" (\$6.98).

Stuffed animals are a staple holiday present, and both Columbia and Barnard offer a variety of huggable choices. Columbia's mascot lion Roar-ee can be purchased for \$12.98, and spirited Columbia bears decked out in Columbia sweatshirts, varsity jackets, and cheerleading outfits can also be found starting at \$19.98. Barnard bears, available in three sizes (small \$6, medium \$12, large \$18), are decorated with complimentary holiday hats and scarves for the season.

And students shouldn't forget man's best friend on their shopping lists, because Columbia sure didn't. The bookstore sells packets of blue and white frosted dog treats for \$6.98, Columbia blue leashes for \$14.98, and CU dog jerseys for \$19.98.

If nothing else, it's always nice to send a card, and what kind of university would Columbia be if it didn't publish its own Columbia-themed holiday cards? Students can choose between Columbia snowmen cards or ones featuring a wintry Butler (\$10.98 per pack of 10).

And students can box any wrapping worries away since Barnard offers gift-wrapping for \$3 a box, and Columbia's bookstore gives out free boxes and tissue paper with clothing purchases upon request. That's right, there are truly no excuses to unpack some holiday cheer along with all that dirty laundry going home for winter break.



MARIA CASTEX FOR SPECTATOR

SANTA AT CU | Even when it looks like it's too late to salvage their holiday shopping to-do lists, students on tight budgets can find convenient gifts for family and friends of all ages.



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Arrests don't help. Treatment does

BY MICHAEL SPITZER-RUBENSTEIN
AND KATHARINE CELENTANO

Tuesday morning, Columbia woke up to find five of our own arrested and charged for selling illegal drugs. While we certainly do not condone the activity they allegedly engaged in, these arrests, symptomatic of a broader problematic paradigm, are not constructive for the five or the Columbia community.

The consequences to society are dire. Those incarcerated for drug crimes are more likely to emerge from lockup with more criminal connections, addicted to harder drugs, and more likely to commit violent crime than when they went in. Part of the tragedy of the Drug War is that tax dollars fund a strategy that pushes the drug trade underground, making our streets less safe, encouraging organized crime, and increasing health costs and social consequences.

Additionally, time and money spent enforcing drug laws result in fewer convictions



JESSICA
HILLS
**Class
Notes**

For Souleymane's parent-teacher conference, both his mother and his brother came to see Monsieur Marin. As an immigrant to Paris from Mali, the mother did not speak French, and so the brother came along to translate. Monsieur Marin described Souleymane's academic progress but also his severe behavior problems. Souleymane's mother, like the other parents, wanted to be proud of her son's education, though she could not directly articulate this to his teacher.

This scene appears in the film "Entre les murs," or "The Class" in English, which won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in 2008. The movie—which is partially based on the real teaching experiences of screenwriter and lead actor François Bégadeau—is set in a school in a rough neighborhood of Paris with a diverse and largely immigrant student body.

Watching this movie this week brought to mind many of the issues I've raised this semester in my column about New York City schools, as well as the current controversy over Mayor Bloomberg's appointment of Cathleen Black as the new chancellor of education. Some of the most powerful scenes in "Entre les murs," such as the one with

for violent crimes like rape and murder. Plus, incarceration of drug offenders heavily contributes to prison overcrowding.

As for the students, their arrests and the ensuing media firestorm will result in disproportionate, untold damage. Potential employers will see the students' names tarred by the news stories of the last few days, no matter what happens in court and without regard to everything else they have done in their lives. Any time in jail will likely induce trauma and further distance these five students from their potential. The consequences of their non-violent, victimless actions will overshadow and diminish the good they have done in school and outside of classes, as well as the good they may do in the future.

And for what? Will Tuesday's events reduce any of the very real harms that are often associated with drug use?

Unlikely—five drug dealers removed means five new employment opportunities which will quickly be filled. Even after "Operation Ivy League," the drug trade carries on, in line with decades of data on the Drug War approach. Arrests do nothing to address demand. Without drug users, there would be no drug dealers. Every dollar of drugs sold is a dollar of drugs bought by someone, and both

Souleymane's mother, touched on the role parents play in their children's education.

Aside from reading about education policy in newspapers and local blogs, one of my other interests is film, so this semester I justified trips to the movies by seeing films that address current issues in education. "Entre les murs," "Waiting for Superman," and "Lod Detour" show how parents in tough neighborhoods in Paris, New York City, and Tel Aviv face many of the same challenges when navigating their children's school systems.

The students at the school in "Entre les murs" go home to families in which parents may not speak French or have experience in the French educational system. The implication is, that contrasted with families from the opposite end of the spectrum—where parents are highly educated, economically secure, and able to help children with homework or hire tutors—the disenfranchised students become inadvertently caught in a cycle that is difficult to escape.

Parents' inability to advocate for their children could stem from language barriers, schools' failure to make information accessible, or logistics when parents work several jobs, for instance. Studies on the achievement gap in New York City elementary, middle, and high schools suggest that parents could play an enormous role in students' ability to be successful in school.

To boost student success, schools must integrate parents into the process of their

sides participate in currently illegal acts. It is simple market economics—like it or not, buyers mean sellers looking to make a profit.

Troublingly, Drug War strategies also do nothing to address addiction. For better or worse, as has been and will always be the case, in any community, including at Columbia, many desire to use drugs. Some of this use, unfortunately, will be problematic. Addiction is a heart-wrenching thing to experience or watch a loved one struggle with, and it is all too often deadly.

Experience with such tragedy is what inspires the involvement of many in Students for Sensible Drug Policy. We earnestly seek to reduce the trauma sometimes associated with drug use.

Sadly, this raid is emblematic of ineffective policy that harms and punishes users—regardless of whether or not their use is dangerous, rather than assist the people who need help with addictions and overdoses.

We must look forward, because these risks need to be addressed. While we are concerned about the punitive focus of some of Columbia's drug policies, we applaud Dean Shollenberger for stating that "students' health and well-being is [Columbia's] utmost concern," in his

children's education. Watching the frustrations of the teachers, students, and parents in "Entre les murs" helped me reflect further on how this issue fits into the current controversy over Mayor Bloomberg's appointment of Cathleen Black to be the next chancellor of New York City schools.

Disenfranchised students become caught in a cycle.

Black is currently chairwoman of Hearst Magazines. Parents, educators, and city figures are arguing over whether being a seasoned manager necessarily makes her qualified to run a school system. The anti-mayoral-control-of-schools faction is also saying that this move by Bloomberg is another way he's flexing his muscles without involving any checks and balances in his decision-making.

In an effort to appease opponents before Black was confirmed, Bloomberg appointed Shael Polakow-Suransky, the former principal of a Bronx high school and a top official in the New York City Department of Education, to the new position of chief academic officer. Exactly how much control Polakow-Suransky will have remains unclear, since he ultimately reports to Black.

I understand the need for a strong executive to oversee a school system of 1.1 million

Tuesday e-mail to the community and for encouraging those who do need help with substance abuse to access the resources Columbia has available. Over the last few weeks, both the Columbia College and Engineering Student Councils unanimously endorsed a lifesaving Good Samaritan Policy—an evidence-based public health approach that prevents fatal overdoses without increasing drug use—and we look forward to working with the administration to establish it.

A criminal justice approach increases the hazards associated with drug use and creates new tragedies. We must focus on addressing drug problems, such as addiction, and ending poor drug policy-induced problems, such as black-market violence. The sensible course of action for both government and campuses is to shift away from a punitive paradigm and toward one centered on public health. Lives depend on it.

Michael Spitzer-Rubenstein is a junior at Columbia College majoring in urban studies and treasurer for Columbia's Students for Sensible Drug Policy. Katharine Celentano is a sophomore at the School of General Studies and director of media relations for CU SSDP.

Watch and learn (what movies have taught me about learning)

children and 135,000 employees. From that perspective, the Department of Education is not unlike any other corporation.

Except for a few vital differences. Namely, the goal of this operation is to provide the best education possible for these 1.1 million children, who represent diverse needs, backgrounds, and experiences. Parents' ability to advocate for their children in this often complicated school system is invaluable, and further cutting them out of the system through these changes in leadership will do no service to students' academic progress in the city's schools.

One of the prevalent themes in all three of the movies I mentioned was that when parents were actually able to speak for their children, they could often help propel them on a better educational path. In "Waiting for Superman," we saw how parents made it their mission to get their children into more academically rigorous schools. In the other two films, we saw how the faculty's explicit efforts to bring parents into the schools could make a difference in children's performance in the classroom.

As the New York City schools undergo dramatic changes, parents must have a voice in the process.

Jessica Hills is a Barnard College junior majoring in political science and French language. She is a former associate news editor. Class Notes runs alternate Thursdays.

Black, white, but not read all over

I think I have very good friends. They're around when I need them, and they know when I need my space. Occasionally, they confuse the two, like the time they interrupted a more intimate moment with an a cappella rendition of "A Whole New World" just outside my locked door.

They celebrated with me when I got the news in late summer that I would be writing a column in Spectator. Some knew that it was something I'd wanted to do for a while and was, in fact, an item on the bucket list that I've been writing about this semester.

But those same friends, for the most part, don't read my column. People, for the most part, don't read my column. That might be because it's boring, but I think it's mostly because people in general don't read Spectator, or at least not past its front page.

Spectator and its blog, Spectrum, are incredible works of journalistic and artistic skill compiled daily by overworked and overstressed students—but a serious problem in relevancy (and in the case of the blog, marketing) means they're also underappreciated.

Exhibit A: The coverage for this week's drug bust has been absolutely top notch from Spectator. They beat Bwog to the initial breaking of the story and continued to get excellent scoops for their website even before some major news outlets. But the 109 comments on the initial Spectrum article compared to the 474 on the first Bwog post indicate something about which source more students were getting their information from (though it's entirely possible that every Bwog comment was written by the same constipated toddler).

Despite what I believe to be superior reporting on this and countless other issues, Spectator flirts with irrelevancy to the average student. Today, the campus is overwhelmingly informed of major events through Bwog (which, to be clear, is not in any way a low-quality news source). The creation of Spectrum was a step in the right direction, making the blog a prominent part of the Spectator website and mission. But Spectator has done a poor job of advertising the blog beyond its own pages.

To increase relevancy, Spec must report on issues more germane to the daily lives of students at Columbia and must do a better job promoting Spectrum. That could perhaps require some structural changes, some



NURIEL
MOGHAVEM
**My
Columbia
Bucket
List**

new thinking, and a new attitude. There are dozens of strategies Spectator can employ to that end. Here are a few I thought of.

First, an easy way to increase relevancy would be to fill a clear niche at Columbia by making sense of the dozens of events that occur daily and organizing them for interested readers. Filling a half page in the paper with an easy-to-read graphic illustrating the day's events, study breaks, lectures, and concerts would probably take much work and valuable page space. But, it would make Spectator worth picking up every morning.

Another approach that would make Spectator more exciting to open up and read is a more tenacious approach to on-campus reporting. For example, I served on the Columbia College Student Council executive board last year and was rarely asked a tough question by Spectator (or Bwog, for that matter). CCSC does some really stupid stuff and wastes most of its time in circular discussion, but it is rarely called out for it by any campus publication. A more aggressive, critical approach to student council reporting (or coverage of administrative actions) would make Spectator unique and more interesting and relevant to read.

The Spectator is underappreciated.

Last, I think Spectator should more effectively market Spectrum to the campus, especially to first-years. For Columbia at large, a creative publicity scheme should be rolled out: hosting nights at local bars and restaurants, handing out more Spectrum-labeled giveaways, and making an increasingly active effort though social media to increase visits to the blog should all be considered. Moreover, a more solid presence at orientation and a concerted flying mission in first-year dorms would do much to increase first-year readership.

These are ultimately not hugely substantial changes and, let me be clear, Spectator does its job incredibly well. The 134th Managing Board can give itself a huge pat on the back for a job well done—this year's paper has been, in my opinion, phenomenal. But the 135th Board should definitely look to the issue of relevancy seriously, as it seems to be one of the more substantial challenges the paper faces today.

Nuriel Moghavem is a Columbia College senior majoring in neuroscience and behavior. He is a writer for the Varsity Show. My Columbia Bucket List runs alternate Thursdays.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Actions speak louder than words

To the Editor:

The recent op-ed "Actions speak louder than words" by the Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine ("Actions speak louder than words," Dec. 7) is just another example of religious intolerance of Israel as a Jewish state. It is a repulsive rejection of calls from the Columbia pro-Israel community to rationally discuss the complexities of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

This op-ed insinuates that "pro-Zionist" groups like Hillel are wrong to "endorse the idea of Israel as a national homeland for Jews." Characteristic of the growing movement to delegitimize Israel's right to exist, SJP completely and conveniently ignores the fact that Israel has been and will continue to be the ancestral homeland of the Jewish people for thousands of

years. SJP refuses to recognize the fundamental right of Israel to exist as a Jewish state but instead asks us only to recognize the Palestinians as the "indigenous people of the land," an intellectually dishonest and seemingly exclusive status that SJP has bestowed upon the Palestinians in order to support its thesis.

Rather than working together to discuss viable solutions to the conflicting claims to the Holy Land, this piece promulgates an incendiary, one-sided narrative that trivializes a multifaceted conflict. Inflammatory displays on Low Plaza will not remedy Palestinians suffering in the West Bank and Gaza but only serve to perpetuate an agenda of hatred and disregard for the reality of the Middle East.

*Michael Shapiro, GS/JTS '12
President of LionPAC
Eric Schorr GS/JTS '12
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Dec. 12, 2010*

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vs. Bryant

Saturday, December 11 @ 4 pm

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UNLEASH THE ROAR!

Large rebounding margins give men’s basketball edge

REBOUNDING from page 8

good rebounding team, and we just smashed them. It was great.”

The Lions’ performance on the offensive boards has been particularly important all season, as they pulled down 7.8 more offensive boards than their opponents in their victories.

The game against Stony Brook was a perfect example of how crucial offensive rebounding is to the Lions—they held a 15-6 advantage over the Seawolves—as it allows them to get plenty of second chances.

“We were struggling to make shots to start off with, and as the game continued, it was really

important that we stay after the offensive boards to keep the possessions alive,” Daniels said after the game.

Though Daniels was limited early on by a preseason injury, he recently came off the bench to help the Light Blue out on the boards. In Columbia’s past two games, both of which were wins, Daniels contributed 14 rebounds, seven of which came off the offensive glass.

Senior forwards Asenso Ampim and Brian Grimes have also been important to the Light Blue this season, as they lead the squad with 6.6 and 6.3 rebounds a game, respectively. Ampim also has a team-high

24 offensive rebounds on the season.

At American, where the Lions pulled out another close victory, defeating the Eagles 64-62, Ampim led the squad with five boards (two offensive). Other players contributed as well, with freshman guard Van Green pulling down three rebounds (all offensive) and sophomore forward Mark Cisco grabbing another three.

“Offensive boards won us the game yesterday [against American],” Smith said on Nov. 29. “John Daniels missed both free throws, we came up with an offensive board, and we got two threes out of both plays.”

As good as the Lions are when they crash the boards, they struggle when their opponents are able to beat them to the ball. In the Light Blue’s four losses this season, they had an average rebound margin of just +2.8 and an average offensive rebound margin of +1.5.

Against Bucknell on Dec. 1, Columbia only had 36 rebounds to the Bison’s 35, and it was the Bison that held an advantage on the offensive glass, 12-11. The Lions lost that game by a narrow margin, falling 73-68.

Still, if Smith continues to emphasize the importance of rebounding, the team could be in good shape come Ivy season.



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HUSTLE | Sophomore John Daniels has been a force under the basket, pulling down key rebounds late in games for the Lions.



JASPER L. CLYATT/ SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

STILL LOOKING | Sophomore Tyler Simpson and her teammates are still winless after a tough three-point loss in their last outing. They will try for their first victory tonight against Fairfield.

Barry’s strong start not enough

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL from page 8

yet to have a second explosive performance, as she has averaged just three points in the past two matches against Wagner and Monmouth. Shafer will look to get back on track against Fairfield.

Fairfield is led by the tandem of Katelyn Linney, a sophomore guard, and Taryn Johnson, a junior forward. The two combine for nearly half of the team’s scoring output. Linney, a perimeter shooting guard, has connected on 21 of 43 of her three-point attempts this season and averages a team-high 13.9 points per game.

Linney is a spot-up shooter—she has attempted just eight free throws the entire season—who can heat up instantly. The guard scored 30 points against George Mason mid-November and followed up that contest with a 23-point performance against Cornell. The Lions will have to contain Linney if they hope to pull out the win.

Johnson, a 5’11” forward, serves as Fairfield’s main post presence. She leads the team with nine rebounds a game and also is second on the team with an 11.4 scoring average. She has recorded a team-high 11 blocks and 16 steals over seven games. Coach Nixon may elect to increase Bradford’s minutes this game to match up better with Johnson.

Fairfield is reeling from a two-game losing streak in which it lost 30-29 to Villanova and 89-73 at Hofstra. In those two games the opposing defenses limited the tandem of Linney and Johnson to an average of 18.5 points per game, which is seven below what the duo usually posts.

It will not be easy, but if the Lions can find a way to replicate what Villanova and Hofstra did, they just might end their last Leven showing this year with a win.

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Love of sport brings athlete back to the mat

One of the things people are always surprised to hear is that I quit the crew team a year and a half ago. Well, to be honest, they're more surprised that I was on the team at all than they are that I quit, but that's beside the point.



VICTORIA JONES
Batting a Thousand

The general summary of my freshman year is that I was on the crew team and basically did nothing else. After a year of sleeping through Thursday night parties and Monday morning classes, I called it quits. I struggled with the decision all summer, but once I had made it? Best. Decision. Ever. After all, I switched from playing sports to writing about them, and there's a lot more tequila involved on this side.

But enough about me. The truth is, if you ask around, you'll hear a lot of stories like mine. I certainly wasn't the first person to quit a Columbia sports team, and I certainly wasn't the last. But here's some food for thought—how many people do you know who have rejoined a sports team?

I myself know just one. That one person is a good friend of mine, though. As it happened, he quit the wrestling team before I met him, but I always knew he had been on the team for a couple years. It wasn't until a few months ago that he started really talking about wrestling again, though. He had picked things back up at the gym, started lifting again and whatnot, but it turns out what he really missed was the mat.

Real athletes get antsy when they miss a day in the gym. The drive to compete can be pretty hard to extinguish.

Anyone who has made sports the center of his or her life for more than a decade knows that it's hard to stop playing. Real athletes get antsy when they miss a day in the gym. The drive to compete can be pretty hard to extinguish. For my friend, it turns out he just couldn't let go.

I may have thought he was crazy, but I can see the allure of picking up sports again. I'd be lying if I said that I didn't get the urge to jump on an erg every once in a while. Then again, all I have to do is imagine myself being forced to row a 10K and I instantly feel better about my decision to cover the football team instead.

For me, college athletics weren't a successful venture. For others, though—for people like my friend—Columbia sports teams might be a bigger benefit than you'd think. Even though my friend had been working out on his own, in the few weeks after he rejoined the team, he visibly dropped some extra weight and immediately started bulking up. He's a lot busier now, but he seems to be having fun, and he loves talking about wrestling again.

In spite of my own experiences, watching my friend work his butt off to be fit for competition has shown me something about sports teams at this school. It's reminded me how much passion athletes carry in their hearts and how dedicated they are to their sports. Even though they'd have so much extra time if they removed practice from their daily schedules, we still have 743 athletes on varsity teams. That's 743 students who work their butts off, training for hours every day with an unwavering dedication to the game. That's 743 students who miss parties each weekend and episodes of TV and hours of sleep to excel both on and off the field.

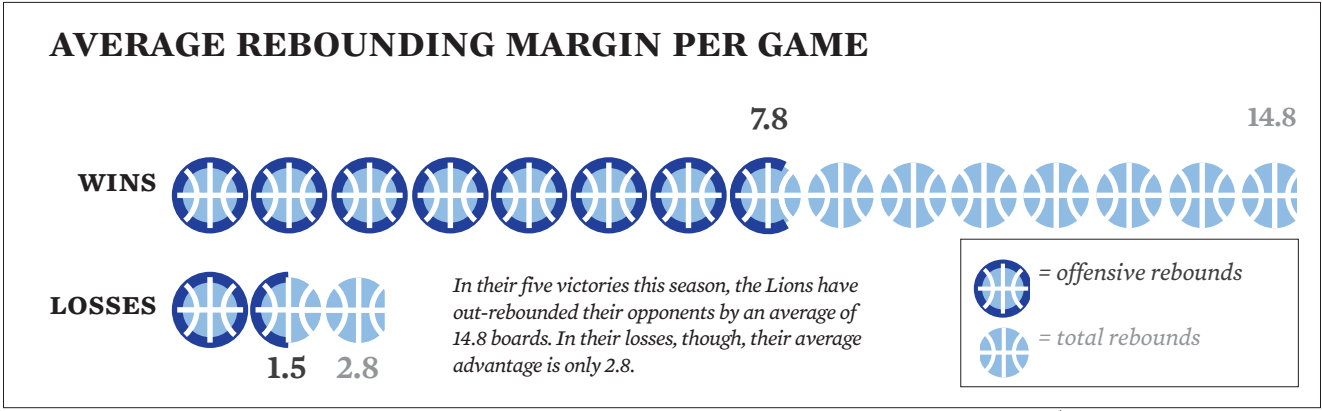
I'm not saying that I plan to rally all the retired athletes and get them to join me back in Dodge, but maybe it's not the worst idea for everyone. If my friend is able to find happiness back on his team, surely he can't be the only one.

Victoria Jones is a Barnard College junior majoring in French. sports@columbiaspectator.com



ALYSON GOULDEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ABOVE IT ALL | Athletic senior forward Asenso Ampim has been a threat on the offensive glass so far this season.



Columbia hosts Fairfield, looks for first win of season

BY MICHAEL ZHONG
Spectator Staff Writer

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

Columbia (0-7) will compete in its final home contest this year when it faces off against Fairfield (4-3) today.

In Columbia's game against Monmouth on Sunday, the Lions went on a 7-0 run to start the game. However, by halftime Monmouth led 40-37. Eventually the Hawks prevailed 67-64 after a three-point attempt by Columbia freshman guard Taylor Ward—which had the potential to tie the game—rimmed out at the buzzer.

The game was Columbia's closest thus far. Still, it's just another loss.

"There comes a point in time in which you've got to win a game," head coach Paul Nixon said. "Just playing people close is only going to work for so long."

Senior co-captain Kathleen Barry, who recorded a season-high 18 points in the loss to Monmouth, has been one of the few bright spots in Columbia's season thus far. Barry, who leads the team with 13.3 points and 6.6 rebounds per game, has been consistent for the entire season. However, for the Lions to get that first win against Fairfield, somebody else will have to step up.

Freshman forward Courtney Bradford has been a regular in the Lions' rotation, averaging a shade over 16 minutes a game.

Bradford had a breakout game of sorts against Monmouth, scoring a career-high 13 points and grabbing three rebounds in 20 minutes of play.

"There comes a point in time in which you've got to win a game. Just playing close is only going to work for so long."

—Paul Nixon, women's basketball coach

Junior guard Melissa Shafer, after going scoreless in her first two games, lit up the San Diego Toreros' defense over Thanksgiving break with a 19-point showing. However, since that game Shafer has

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, page 7

Dominance on boards key to recent success

BY MICHELE CLEARY
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Last Saturday, with the game tied at 72, sophomore guard Brian Barbour had his layup blocked by Stony Brook's freshman center, Anthony Mayo, with just four seconds left on the clock. Had the Seawolves regained possession, they would have had the opportunity to clinch the game at the buzzer, or at the very least send it into overtime. But sophomore forward John Daniels grabbed the offensive rebound and hit one of two free throws after being fouled by Seawolf Danny Carter, giving the Lions a 73-72 victory.

Rebounding, specifically offensive rebounding, has been central to the success of the 2010 edition of the Light Blue (5-4).

"That's something we can do every game, and it puts us in a better position to win every game," junior guard Noruwa Agho said after the Lions defeated Colgate 76-63 on Nov. 23.

"I think they're [Stony Brook] always a good rebounding team, and we just smashed them. It was great."

—Kyle Smith, men's basketball coach

Columbia is currently leading the Ivy League with a +8.2 rebounding margin, significantly better than second-best Harvard, which has a +2.5 margin. The Lions are also leading the league in total rebounds (38.6), rebounding defense (30.3), and offensive rebounds (14.2).

Because the Light Blue had just a +0.3 margin last year, first-year head coach Kyle Smith has been working on rebounding with his team since before the season began.

"It's an emphasis, like I said at the beginning of the year," Smith said in an interview on Nov. 29. "I thought it was an area where, with our size and what we have, I thought it would be the one thing we could do well or do better."

It is clear that this work is paying off. In their five victories this season, the Lions have out-rebounded their opponents by an average margin of 14.8. In that nerve-racking, one-point victory over Stony Brook, Columbia had 40 boards to the Seawolves' 28.

"We did a great job on the boards, and that was kind of a big part of the game," Smith said after the win. "They're a team that was plus four on the boards—I think they're always a

SEE REBOUNDING, page 7



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LEADING THE CHARGE | Senior forward Lauren Dwyer, the Lions' second leading scorer, needs to have a big night against Fairfield for Columbia to prevail.