

INSIDE



A&E, page 6

Wishing you a very irreverent Christmas

“XMAS! 4: Shalom Alone,” is far from a typical holiday musical. The musical features a prepubescent Jewish Santa Claus, a racy Virgin Mary, and a reindeer with an attitude.

Opinion, page 4

All he wants for Christmas

On the 12th day of Christmas, Rajat Roy’s provost gave to him... (hint: it isn’t 12 drummers drumming)



Sports, page 8

Women’s swimming triumphs over Penn

With a 1-2-3 sweep in the 100-yard butterfly and a host of first-place finishes, the women’s swimming and diving team defeated Penn last night in Uris Pool.

EVENTS

Science and religion

Discover the biological processes behind religious experiences with John Horgan, director of the Stevens Institute’s Center for Science Writings, who will discuss neurotheology.

Schapiro CEPSR, Davis Auditorium, 6-7:00 p.m.

Paunch Unchugged

Join Fruit Paunch Improv Comedy for their last show of the semester. Otherwise you’ll have to wait until the next decade to see them perform. They’re funny.

Lerner C555, 9-10 p.m.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“The actual policy is meaningless because we don’t follow it.”

—Monica Quaintance, CC ’10 and USenate Structure and Operations Committee chair

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.



Courtney Raterman / Staff photographer

**EAT UP** | Barnard students may not always be fans of meal plans, but starting next fall, they will have no choice but to sign up. There will be new options available to redeem points in the Diana, at Liz’s Cafe and The Cafeteria, which will open next semester.

## USenate confidentiality rules up for revision, may decrease transparency

BY AMBER TUNNELL  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Columbia’s University Senate hopes its members can keep a secret.

Established in the wake of the infamous 1968 protests to address student concerns about a lack of transparency

at the University, the organization’s 40th anniversary marks an ironic twist.

At the October plenary meeting of the senate, the Structure and Operations Committee proposed a draft for new policies on confidentiality and the release of information by the senate’s committees. Monica Quaintance, CC

’10 and Structure and Operations Committee chair, and Daniel Savin, Research Officers Committee chair, are spearheading these new guidelines.

### Current Policy

The current policy for confidentiality, as it is laid out in the

Guidelines on Confidentiality and Release of Information by Senate Committees released by the senate staff, is that the senate exists to find a “consensus of large majorities” in the discussion of University problems.

“To surround the deliberations of the Senate or any of its

committees with secrecy would be to frustrate the intentions of the community in so decisively adopting the Senate form, and would exclude the rest of the community from sharing in the making of the decisions,” the guidelines say.

SEE SENATE, page 3

## Gender studies hindered by non-departmental status

BY CARLY SILVER  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Though it drew attention last year when a lawsuit accused Columbia of showing preference to women’s studies by calling feminism a religion, the Institute for Research on Women and Gender has only a limited reach.

The institute doesn’t have its own faculty, but rather allows students to take an interdisciplinary approach to gender studies with professors in other departments. This status, some say, has kept the institute from satisfying the full scope of student interest. The institute oversees the women’s and gender studies undergraduate major at Columbia.

Despite an extended network of faculty involvement with the institute—the Web site boasts 75

Columbia and Barnard instructors—only a handful of students get degrees in the major each year.

Since only departments are allowed to independently tenure professors, all professors in IRWaG are jointly appointed through the Institute and other Columbia departments—meaning that all appointments are already tenured. IRWaG fall director Katherine Biers, for example, is also an assistant professor of English and comparative literature. Biers said the joint appointment system has been beneficial for the Institute.

“Study of gender is something that should go on in all disciplines,” she noted.

Still, the system means that new appointments for professors within the program are scarcer than the Institute would hope, said Marianne Hirsch, who holds positions in both IRWaG and the English

SEE GENDER, page 2

## Perkins urges Paterson not to challenge M’ville ruling

BY KIM KIRSCHENBAUM  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

New York State Senator Bill Perkins (D-West Harlem), sent a letter to Governor David Paterson, CC ’77, urging him not to appeal the court decision that banned the use of eminent domain to seize private property in Manhattanville.

Perkins’ letter was written in light of last week’s 3-2 decision that declared use of eminent domain in the 17-acre expansion zone to be illegal, a major setback for the University’s campus development plans.

The Empire State Development Corporation, which approved eminent domain for the project last December, intends to appeal the decision to New York’s highest court, the Court of Appeals.

Perkins urged Paterson not to appeal the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate



File photo

**MANHATTANVILLE** | Perkins has been a vocal critic of eminent domain.



Check out the following entry from our news blog, [Newsroom.spectlogs.com](#).

Division’s ruling, writing Tuesday that eminent domain is “part of an insidious form of discrimination and civil rights violations that must not stand.”

Eminent domain, the process

SEE PERKINS, page 3



Courtesy of Columbia Athletics

**OPEN FIELD** | The University is partnering with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to develop a new plan for the Baker Field Athletic Complex in Inwood Park, and make room for wildlife.

## Columbia plans new Baker Field facilities

BY SAM LEVIN  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Columbia is making room for wildlife.

The University is now in the early stages of planning a new sports center at Baker Athletic Complex in Inwood Park. The complex at 218th Street already features several stadiums, fields, and a boathouse.

In addition to the new development, Columbia is partnering with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to launch a major restoration of the neighboring waterfront and salt marsh, which University officials say will preserve a valuable ecosystem and open the door to new wildlife.

According to Daniel Held, director of communications for Columbia Facilities, the University is in “the early discussion and design stage of potentially building a new sports center, which would be less than 48,000 square feet.” This development, Held said, would provide support for Columbia athletics with additional space for training and locker rooms.

He added of the waterfront component of the project, “The community-based restoration will help restore the area’s salt marsh, one of the only remaining salt marshes in Manhattan and a valuable ecosystem that has largely disappeared ... The construction of a fresh water marsh in combination with the river’s salt water is an attractive environment for wildlife.”

Because the property is located on a waterfront lot, Columbia is required by the city’s zoning regulations to provide waterfront access, according to Parks Department spokesperson Cristina DeLuca. She added that the department is still in discussions with the University about improving access to the public parkland.

But Held, who said that the new park would be complete in roughly two years, noted that they are going beyond the access obligations mandated by the city. He said the restored marsh will function as a “floating classroom and living herbarium of the plant species that once flourished all over the valley,” adding that the

University hopes to forge ties with Inwood education programs for K-12 students.

Some local politicians expressed support, though many added that much remains unclear about the development plans. Susan Russell, chief of operations for City Councilmember Robert Jackson—who represents parts of Inwood and Washington Heights—said that she was intrigued by the initial plans.

“It’s historic—a kind of taking space back to what it might have been,” said Russell, who is also a resident in the area. Russell heard University officials present the project at a recent Community Board 12 meeting, and added of the plans, “It looks beautiful.”

In an October interview, Jackson said that he wouldn’t make any judgments about the development until he knew more.

CB12 District Manager Ebenezer Smith said that he received a range of feedback from the neighborhood. While Smith said that some residents

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# Availability of swine flu vaccine confuses Barnard students

BY LEAH GREENBAUM AND ELIZABETH SCOTT  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Alexandra Murata, BC '10, had been waiting in line for one of Health Services' 1,200 H1N1 vaccinations Wednesday when nurses told her and other Barnard students they were not eligible for the shots.

Murata called a sorority sister and allowed health officials to listen in on the call. She asked her friend if she could borrow her CUID, telling workers manning the station that she had forgotten her ID card and was really a CC student. Then, Murata said, the health officials decided to let her and other Barnard students receive the flu shots.

"Then they told all the Barnard girls behind me that it was OK and they could stay in line, so all Barnard girls can get shots now. They didn't make an announcement because most Barnard girls had already left, but they told me that they would not turn away any other Barnard students," she said.

Murata added, "I just hate when there is a double standard. ... If we can check out books in Butler and eat in John Jay and CC/SEAS students can use Lehman Library and eat at Hewitt ... why draw the line when giving out flu shots?"

Officials from Health Services and nurses working at the event declined to comment.

Murata said she was told by nurses that Barnard Health Services had ordered their own supply of vaccinations, but could not tell her when they would be made available.

Samantha Taube, BC '10, said she went to get vaccinated after receiving an e-mail from Columbia Health Services inviting Columbia students, faculty, and staff with valid Columbia ID to receive the free shots.

She said she had no idea Barnard students were not eligible until she was told so by a nurse—after she had waited in line for 40 minutes.

"This wasn't explained anywhere in the e-mail that was sent out, plus it was sent out to the entire university," Taube said.

The e-mail sent on Dec. 3 from Samuel L. Seward, Jr., M.D., assistant vice president of Health Services at Columbia, does not mention Barnard students.

Other students in the line—which at times stretched from the piano on the bottom floor of Lerner to the Broadway Room—said the wait was to be expected.

Becky McCoy, a graduate student at Teachers College, said she couldn't complain about waiting in line for over two hours for her free vaccination.

"They're doing absolutely everything they can to keep what should be a very chaotic thing organized," she said.  
*news@columbiaspectator.com*



Bennett Hong / Staff photographer

**LINING UP** | Some Barnard students were turned away from swine flu vaccination in Lerner on Wednesday, as supplies ran low.

# Safe Haven neighborhood watch moves north of 110th

BY MARIO HARRIS-ROSSER  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

When Bruce Stark saw two teenagers break out into a fight, he knew he had to do something about it.

Stark—the owner of Beacon Paint and Hardware on Amsterdam Avenue between 77th and 78th Streets—had police on the site within minutes. "These people could be my customers, besides the fact that they are my neighbors," he said.

Stark is part of the Westside Crime Prevention Program, a non-profit organization that works to keep the Upper West Side safe, notably through the Tamar Lynn Safe Haven Program, which designates volunteer stores as havens for neighborhood children to turn to if they ever feel threatened on the street.

Though it has primarily operated on the Upper West Side, this month, Safe Haven began efforts to expand its reach north of 110th Street. According to Marjorie Cohen, executive director of WCP, they currently have 300 participating businesses from 59th to 110th. By the end of the school year, Safe Haven hopes to have 200 more businesses participating above 110th, and so far 25 have already signed on, she said.

Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer said in a December press release, "Expanding the Westside Crime Prevention Program beyond the boundaries of the Upper West Side to include West and Central Harlem, Manhattanville, Morningside Heights and Hamilton Heights means more safe havens in more neighborhoods for our kids." He added, "This program proves that when communities work together with local law enforcement officials, we can prevent crime and increase safety for our most vulnerable New Yorkers."

Cohen said that she recognized a changing dynamic in the Harlem

retail scene. With new stores entering the neighborhood, she saw an opportunity she didn't want to miss.

"You have lots of new families moving in—a very vibrant type of feel," Cohen said, adding that there are so many new merchants entering the neighborhood, and because many are mom-and-pop independents, it made sense to make the services available north of 110th.

Police support has also played an important role in bringing the services to upper Manhattan, she said, adding, "The precincts are very interested in doing anything that prevents crime."

James Harper, community affairs officer for the 26th Precinct on 126th Street, said that there already have been reductions in crime in recent years, and a localized effort such as Safe Haven can only contribute to this trend. "Crime has gone down across the board. This fact is beneficial to both kids and adults. It's a collaborative effort, and I think anything helps," he said.

Cohen said that this kind of teamwork is what first got the program on its feet in the 1980s at P.S. 75 on 97th Street. She said, "The parents were worried about muggings. It was kind of a fact of life here. They were worried about their kids going to and from school."

Part of the growing success, she said, is that the process to join is simple—with stores signing on and posting a yellow sticker that lets students know they are available. She said, "It's very simple ... They sign up and say they are willing to help kids who are frightened or have trouble on the streets."

And though it's relatively easy to join, Harper said that this safety net does make a difference to neighborhood children. "Kids should feel like they are able to walk into a store and feel safe," he said.  
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# Barnard biology department hopes to use Mellon Grant to fund lab renovation

BY MADINA TOURE  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Barnard hopes to grow its biological sciences department in a new habitat in Altschul.

Three years after receiving an award from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Barnard is now seeking donors to embark on a complete renovation of Altschul's ninth floor, which houses the biological sciences department. The 2005 pledge promised that for every \$3 Barnard raises independently, the Mellon Foundation will match it with \$1 over a six-year period, ending in 2013. The grant has already been used to renovate labs in 804 and 809 Altschul and offices for two chemistry-department professors.

"This Mellon grant is something aimed at a number of different departments," Brian Morton, chair of the biological sciences department and professor of molecular evolution, said. "We're

now looking to get matching funds for the biology department. We would like to do large-scale renovations."

The new space on the ninth floor will consist of three modern labs to replace the current Introductory Biology Lab, restructured preparation areas for those labs, and a new Introductory Biology Lab office close to the elevators. The new floor will also include a new "smart" classroom to replace room 903.

"The structure, the layout of the benches, reflect how science was taught 40 years ago," Paul Hertz, professor of vertebrate physiological ecology, said. "Science pedagogy today is much more interactive and much more experiment-driven so we need to reconfigure the labs to match the way we're teaching today."

According to Hertz, the anticipated budget for the ninth-floor renovation will be approximately \$2 million to \$2.5 million. Barnard will have to come up with three-fourths of that money, and

the Mellon Foundation will provide the remaining one-fourth—which Morton said will determine when and how long the project takes.

Hertz said the project will take at least eight months, and would require some professors to relocate their courses during construction.

"We would want to do as much as we can over the summer," Morton explained. "We'd have to try to find alternative lab space... using labs that are generally used for upper-level lab courses." He added that these upper-level lab courses would then have to be moved to a different semester to accommodate courses that are relocated.

Hertz said the project is necessary, not because of a lack of space but how space is used.

"Biology has enough space but it's the way it's configured—it's a lot of waste of space," Hertz said. "It's the quality in the configuration of the space that's

the problem ... there's two really long benches for the students; it makes it harder for them to talk. Our plan is to replace those two long lab benches with four work stations."

Students cited similar concerns. Deena Elkafrawi, BC '12, agreed that the labs need to be modernized.

"It's not a professional lab and you don't follow basic lab protocol," she said. "The way the lab is run is inefficient because the professor doesn't have enough resources to make it a professional lab."

Sakina Paracha, BC '12, highlighted concerns about personal space in the department.

"I wish we had our own space to put our stuff in," she said. "We have to rotate and share... you don't get to personalize."

Ultimately, Hertz said that how the grant money is used will depend on what members of the biological sciences department feel needs to be changed.

## Biological growth

For every \$3 raised independently through 2013, the Mellon Foundation will match with \$1 as part of a reward from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The total renovation is expected to cost between \$2 million and \$2.5 million, and will take at least eight months to complete.

Money has already gone toward renovations of two labs—in 804 and 809 Altschul—as well as two chemistry department offices.

"We in the sciences have a vision of what we want to accomplish. It's a matter of taking pieces of that and matching it to donors."

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# CU may work with city on Baker redevelopment

BAKER from front page

expressed excitement, though others were skeptical of the early plans. Some residents, he said, have complained that there are many other concerns Columbia should address before it develops a new project.

Referring to issues of traffic, noise, and bright lights from the stadium, Smith said, "People are upset with these ongoing problems," adding, "Some think they need to negotiate that."

CB12 chair Pamela Palanque North said, "The jury is out until we have all the information that we need to determine whether or not this is a plan that truly does build a better relationship and more resources with the community."

North wants to know how much space in the new facility and park development would be open public for public use. "Access is a critically important thing to determine," she added.

Pat Young, a member of the Washington Heights Neighborhood

Association, said that she didn't know the details, but added, "I think if there is any particular kind of expansion, they should share it with the community ... rather than expanding and making it an extension of their private property."

For Amy Gavaris, executive vice president of the non-profit New York Restoration Project—which has helped restore several parks including the Swindler Cover along the Harlem River—Columbia's project may be a paradigm for restoring important ecosystems in the city, with a private organization partnering with a government agency.

"It is as much symbolic as it is actual," she said of the potential restoration, adding that it not only preserves a small patch of marsh, but also teaches people to respect the environment.

Gavaris said, "As a New Yorker, it is about the opportunity to go to the water's edge and really observe that there are still fragments of nature intact."

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# Gender studies hampered by non-departmental status

GENDER from front page

and comparative literature departments.

"Sometimes we would like to make appointments," she said, adding that the inability to grant tenure leads to "less stability and continuity" among faculty. Since many faculty may have to leave the University if they cannot get tenure from an affiliated department, Hirsch said, it "would be very helpful to grant tenure."

Even as the interdisciplinary structure of the program could be conducive to high turnover rates in professors, Hirsch said she didn't think students in the undergraduate program have been negatively affected.

"I actually haven't really experienced any turnover," said Clea Litewka, CC '10, who was a major in women's and gender studies at IRWaG, but now concentrates in the subject.

Biers said she doubts there will be any new faculty appointments in the near future, though others in the department said there may be more appointments in the pipeline, which would open up the possibility of new classes.

"What's frustrating is that I have had very few opportunities to take gender studies courses," Litewka said, adding that there is "a real lack of LGBTQ courses ... that focus exclusively on lesbian, gay, transgender, transsexual, and queer studies" and this perceived curricular hole could be filled by a faculty who teach queer studies.

According to the course bulletin, there is one LGBTQ course taught through Barnard, called "Discourses of Desire: Introduction To Gay and Lesbian Studies," but it is not offered this year. There are no LGBTQ courses listed for Columbia.

Litewka also noted that the institute does not have a public health professor, which she feels is "a huge interest, usually, of people in women's and gender studies." One course on "Women and Health," was offered by Barnard this fall, according to the bulletin, and none are listed for Columbia under the women's and gender studies program.

Anna Couturier, CC '10 and a women's and gender studies major, has other concerns about the Institute.

"Although the lack of departmental recognition hasn't really influenced my experience in a big way, I understand how much pressure Columbia's lack of commitment to the important work being done in IRWaG has put on the program," Couturier said.

"Unfortunately, the devastatingly inaccurate assumption that a focus on gender is an outdated lens of study creates an atmosphere in which IRWaG's future is entirely dependent on the committed faculty who—from year to year—refuse to let Columbia lose such a vital part of its academic community," she said.

"From my perspective I see the situation of IRWaG as analogous to the uneasiness Columbia

has with many professors in the MEALAC department, whose research also interrogates many of the norms of Western academia," she added.

Still, Litewka said she has enjoyed her time in IRWaG, and noted that students graduating with the major feel supported when preparing for graduate school. "They all really feel like they get great recommendations. They get a lot of help with their theses," she said.

Litewka also noted that, while she appreciates Barnard's involvement in Columbia's program, she wishes that the Institute could branch out. "The problem is that we're highly dependent on the Barnard women's studies program on the undergraduate level," she said.

Hirsch explained that IRWaG and the Barnard women's studies department plan their curricula together each semester so courses do not overlap. "Students in our classes are from both Barnard and Columbia. Thesis students work together in a group," she said.

The relationship between the women's studies majors at both colleges is very close, said Janet Jakobsen, director of the Barnard Center for Research on Women, pointing out that they often hold events together.

Litewka added, "I wish there was a way, on the other hand, to attract more men to the major."

*Amber Tunnell contributed reporting to this article.*

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## CORRECTION

Though the article "Defeat of same-sex marriage bill disappoints many" refers to the same-sex marriage legislation as a bill, it is actually an amendment. Avi Edelman is CC '10 and vice president of the Columbia University College Democrats, not the media director. Lastly, the Democrats will not volunteer for the eight Democrats who voted against this bill unless they pledge to support the measure in the future.

Reason for correction: The article mistakenly refers to the bill as an amendment; the person quoted was given the wrong title, and the explanation of the Democrats' campaign was reversed. Spectator regrets the error.







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Staff Editorial

Neutrality now

Traditionally progressive institution, Columbia has been surprisingly slow to take steps toward instituting gender-neutral housing. Many of our peer institutions already allow students to room with others of the opposite sex, demonstrating support for diversity of lifestyles by creating an open, inclusive environment for students. Gender-neutral housing is a necessary step, and the Columbia College Student Council should be commended for taking the initiative to pass a resolution proposing the policy for next year's housing. We hope that, despite negative reception in some media outlets, Columbia will recognize the importance of this resolution and work to support the initiative.

CCSC's gender-neutral housing resolution demonstrates a recognition of the significant distinction between sex and gender. While a student may anatomically fall into a clear-cut sexual category, gender is a much more nuanced issue that blurs these lines. Today, with more and more people openly identifying as nonheterosexual, the traditional housing assumption that a separation of males and females will provide a comfortable, nonsexual living arrangement for all students misses the mark. Allowing male and female students to live together would facilitate the needs of the many students who feel more comfortable sharing a room or suite with someone of the opposite sex. This new housing policy would make it much easier for friends, whether male and female, female and female, or male and male, to live together in the arrangement they find most comfortable.

The fact that the student council resolution proposes that gender-neutral housing be available to everyone except those living in first-year dorms makes Columbia's proposed policy more progressive than similar policies at our peer institutions. While many schools already let male and female students

live together in specific buildings, Columbia's new housing policy would open up all non-first-year dorms to gender-neutral housing. This nuanced change, while the center of a recent media firestorm, is both necessary and practical, as it is the only way to ensure that students have the option of living wherever they choose with whom-ever they want, regardless of sex.

CCSC should be further commended for their efforts to ensure that, despite media projections of an increase in violence among roommates, students would be just as safe under the new policy. The student council is speaking with sexual violence-related programs on campus as the details of the process are refined, and evidence from the several dozen other schools which have already implemented some form of the policy indicates that a significant increase in domestic issues is unlikely. The resolution's stipulation that parties must actively consent to living with someone of the opposite sex—that students will never be randomly assigned a roommate of a different sex—is an important one, and we applaud the student council for taking this precaution. We would suggest another requirement: When filling out the housing application, all students, regardless of whether they plan to live with someone of the same or opposite sex, should be required to fill out a consent form saying he or she is not romantically involved with his or her desired roommate. This would help to reduce instances of violence and consequent housing changes that can result from that added tension of a romantic relationship, whether that relationship is between a male and female student or two students of the same sex.

Sheri Pan and Amin Ghadimi recused themselves from the writing of this editorial. Editorial board members recuse themselves when a potential conflict of interest prevents them from being impartial about the subject of an editorial.

A fatal triangle—Chomsky, the U.S., and Israel

BY HUNTER REES

Last Thursday, Dec. 3, Noam Chomsky, professor emeritus of linguistics at MIT, gave the Fifth Annual Edward Said Memorial Lecture at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs. Chomsky is universally renowned for his contributions to his academic field of expertise, and both praised and criticized for his self-described libertarian-socialist, anarchist views.

In his lecture last Thursday, Chomsky focused on criticizing America's "unipolar" hegemony, which he argued has been growing monolithically since the end of the Cold War. Despite the purported main focus of the speech being a criticism of American imperialism, Chomsky—in a move unsurprising to those familiar with his history of commentary on the Arab-Israeli conflict—did not hesitate in seizing the opportunity to attack Israel as well.

In fact, he included many crowd-pleasing attacks on Israel from the very beginning. His opening reference to last month's celebration of 20 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall was used as a troubling analogy to describe the barrier between Israel and the West Bank. According to Chomsky's logic, the significance of the Berlin Wall's dismantling is somehow analogous to a need to "dismantle the massive wall ... now snaking through Palestinian territory in violation of international law." This characterization of the wall as illegal and wholly cutting through "Palestinian territory" is false, as is his unsupported claim that the "true" purpose of the wall is acquisition of land—what Chomsky grandiosely refers to as "settler colonialism"—rather than its true purpose as a defense against the constant threat of terrorism.

Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz points out similar spurious claims about the path and purpose of the barrier, made by former president

Jimmy Carter, who said, "United Nations maps and numbers confirm that the barrier adheres to the 'green line'—the armistice line marking the boundaries of the West Bank—along about 140 km (45 percent) of the green line's path." Other areas in which the wall does fall within Palestinian territory are often known sources of terrorist activity—a fact that contradicts Chomsky's downplaying of the real security-based purpose of the wall, which he trivializes in favor of the conspiratorial motive of "expansionism."

Finally, the success of the barrier in preventing attacks, which is corroborated by the dramatic decline in their incidence, further lends support to the reality of the true need for the wall to help ensure security. Chomsky's claim of the wall's illegality with respect to international law is, in fact, a moot point. An internationally accepted border between Israel and the West Bank does not officially exist since this border has yet to be wholly finalized (a fact confirmed by the repeated deferral of a finalization of an eastern Israeli border until further peace efforts are made). In fact, Israel's only internationally recognized borders are with Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan.

Another point Chomsky discussed was the U.S.'s repeated hypocrisy regarding the spreading of democracy. Chomsky charges the U.S. with "genocide denial," referring to the pattern of American ignorance of bloody revolutions in the name of democratization (such as the coup in Chile on Sept. 11, 1973, which he claimed was worse than "our 9/11" by any measurable



ILLUSTRATION BY SHELLY XU

The author is a Columbia College first-year.

The vegetarian's dilemma at John Jay

BY MARINA CHIESA

Dinners at John Jay are an inevitable part of life for first-years like me, especially when the weather gets cold and the trek to Hewitt just isn't an option. When you walk into John Jay, you are faced with plenty of options for dinner: pizza, veggie burgers, and tofu dogs from Wilma's Grill, soup, salad, cereal—the list goes on. But as you make your way past the salad bar to the hot entres, you are faced with some questionable items. Does anyone know what, exactly, is in those "vegan beef" dishes?

My guess is that most of the vegan meat options are predominantly made of soy. Taking a second look around, you may notice that John Jay is full of soy products. At brunch there is tofu cream cheese, and there are tofu dogs, veggie burgers, two flavors of soy milk, and then, of course, those vegan entres. As a vegetarian, I do appreciate that, despite my self-imposed dietary restriction, I have choices. I also realize that the task of feeding a population of students with a variety of different eating restrictions, whether vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free, or just picky, must be quite difficult.

However, most other vegans and vegetarians I know are not only concerned with animal rights, but also with our health and the well-being of the environment. No, we aren't all Birkenstock-wearing, save-the-whales hippie activists—generally speaking, though, the fact that we choose to not eat meat or to also restrict dairy and eggs means that we are trying to be conscientious consumers. This means caring about the environmental impact of our food choices and trying to eat as healthfully as possible. I commend John Jay for offering local milk and local apples and for trying to get vegetables that are in-season. However, taking another look at the soy situation, we can see that there is room for improvement.

I'm not an expert on the immensely complicated issue of industrial agriculture and sustainable living, but I do know that soy is not as innocent as it may seem. Soy farming in South America is causing further harm to the Amazon rainforest. Like industrial corn, which was scrutinized by Michael Pollan's "The Omnivore's Dilemma" and the documentary "King Corn," soy is farmed as a monocrop. This agricultural practice—of growing the same item season after season on the same piece of land instead of using crop rotation—depletes nutrients in the soil and depends heavily on the use of pesticides. Many environmentalists criticize Silk Soymilk for purchasing soybeans from South America. It remains unclear whether these beans meet the standards for the USDA organic label, especially since soy is often genetically modified. The process of turning soy into milk or cheese also requires a lot of energy—so

far, it seems soy may not be as green as we'd like. Health experts are also suspicious. While some say soy decreases the risk of breast cancer, others claim the opposite, especially in a vegan or vegetarian diet high in soy. Soy has also been accused of decreasing a male's sperm count.

Perhaps the money and resources allotted to the many soy products in the dining hall could be redirected to better serve health and environmental interests. It would be great if John Jay offered a more varied selection of vegetables and more choices in the salad bar. The dining hall should consider adding mesclun greens, which are more nutritious because they contain spinach and arugula and are routinely an option at Hewitt. Nuts are another great source of protein, and can be delicious on salads. The efforts to buy in-season local produce should definitely continue, with beets, sweet potatoes, squash, and broccoli in the winter, and peas, strawberries, and asparagus in spring. I would also love to see more whole-grain options such as brown rice and whole-wheat pasta, which are healthier options for all students because they contain complex carbohydrates.

John Jay should continue the green initiatives already in place. By decreasing soy and offering more vegetables and protein sources, however, the dining hall could address students' dietary restrictions in a manner that supports the environmentally conscious attitude of many of these students who choose not to eat meat.

The author is a Columbia College first-year.

Twelve wishes for Christmas



RAJAT ROY

CUTTING THE BLUE TAPE

is lacking. I know you don't control everything, but you are one of the smartest people to come to Columbia and people listen to you. Could you please bring me one of the following presents for each day of Christmas?

1) On the first day of Christmas, please bring me involved alumni.

Columbia needs alumni who will give back, possibly by giving money to student-life endowments. But giving back doesn't have to be monetary. Encourage seniors to join the Alumni Representative Committee, which interviews prospective students. Or ask alumni to join mentorship networks with students.

2) On the second day of Christmas, please bring me equality in funding and support for students.

The Multicultural Greek Council is one-sixth the size of the traditional Inter-Fraternity Council, yet it receives five times as much funding. Per capita, MGC students receive 30 times more money than IFC students. That isn't right.

3) On the third day of Christmas, please bring me infrastructure and support.

If we remove ROLM phones in every room, we can put that funding towards wireless Internet on campus, or maybe open the ID center for a few hours over the weekend. Students generally lose their IDs on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

4) On the fourth day of Christmas, please bring me transparency from the University Senate and administration.

Please ask the Senate to relax the stringent confidentiality rules proposed, and maybe pass a freedom of information act wherein community leaders can request access to old/inactive documents from administrators.

5) On the fifth day of Christmas, please bring me better advising.

There's already a beacon of hope for this. Monique Rinere, dean of advising and associate dean of student affairs, is a fantastic choice to lead advising at Columbia out of the dark ages.

6) On the sixth day of Christmas, please bring me joint programs with the graduate schools.

Ask Columbia's graduate schools to admit more Columbia undergraduates. You may find that students will give back more as alumni if Columbia goes out of its way to help them. Don't lower standards just for Columbia students, but give them preference when looking at nearly identical candidates.

7) On the seventh day of Christmas, please bring me Manhattanville.

Use our lawyers to win the eminent domain case. We need to expand. We provide a social good. Gentrification will come, but that gentrification will create a center of learning that generates intellectual capital.

8) On the eighth day of Christmas, please bring me an expanded Columbia Video Network for undergraduate students enrolled in CVN-recorded classes.

CVN is currently an idea at the University of Pennsylvania. Lectures are video-recorded and available online. Right now, graduate students can see SEAS lectures several times with CVN, while undergraduates only have one opportunity (when the professor actually lectures) to grasp difficult concepts. Not only should CVN be open to SEAS undergrads, but Columbia College should start recording classes and posting them on secure sites.

9) On the ninth day of Christmas, please bring me expanded Greek Life.

Greek Life has been the most influential factor on my years here. Any group that uses alcohol to recruit isn't worthy of being at Columbia, but the brotherhood I've developed will last forever. More people should be so fortunate as to experience what I have at my fraternity.

10) On the tenth day of Christmas, please bring me a better academic calendar.

Please remove the Wednesday before Thanksgiving from the class schedule. Also consider starting classes before Labor Day. I know faculty with kids will be inconvenienced, but if you provide temporary babysitting for their children we could get home a week—not a day—before Christmas.

11) On the eleventh day of Christmas, please bring me better student life.

I know there are liability issues, and yes, students can be stupid, but please bring back 40s on 40 and Homecoming celebrations. Columbia doesn't have many traditions, so please let us keep the ones we have.

12) On the twelfth day of Christmas, please bring me representatives on student council who work for ME, not for their resumes

I know this a function of whom people vote for, but try to make sure that leaders know they are in office to serve their constituents' best interests. They aren't there to pad their rsums. It's something that some student leaders have forgotten.

I know many items on my list will be difficult to deliver, but if we can get even one of these things done every year, we just might create an infinitely happier campus—what's more in keeping with holiday cheer than that?

Thank you, Santa... I mean, Provost Claude! —Rajat Roy

Rajat Roy is a School of Engineering and Applied Science senior majoring in industrial engineering and operations research and minoring in environmental engineering. He is a University senator from SEAS. Cutting the Blue Tape runs alternate Thursdays. opinion@columbiaspectator.com

POLITICS ON STILTS



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

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5		6		8				
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### Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

#### ACROSS

1 "Food, Body and Mind" diet maven  
6 Pierce portrayer  
10 Lummoes  
14 Wolf cry, often?  
16 River past  
17 See 57-Across  
18 "Fall back" interval  
19 What F or M may indicate  
20 Shinto temple gateway  
21 Longtime Chicago Symphony maestro  
22 See 57-Across  
24 Steppes native  
27 Purple  
28 Yemen neighbor  
29 Like many rebates  
33 Part of FYI  
36 See 57-Across  
39 Approves  
40 Salon preparation  
41 Tiger Woods's dad  
42 Airline with a hub in Copenhagen  
43 Uplight  
44 See 57-Across  
51 Iraqi port  
52 Cliff dwelling  
53 "... to Extremes": Billy Joel hit  
56 Gunny fiber  
57 Clue for 17-, 22-, 36- and 44-Across  
59 Slaughterer who famously scored the winning run in the 1946 World Series  
60 Not feeling well  
61 Revolve counterpart  
62 Latin 101 verb  
63 Frère de la mère

#### DOWN

1 Some are CPAs  
2 All-night party  
3 Infield mate of Derek  
4 Haiti's country: Abbr.  
5 Go-  
6 Olds compact

38 They're often next to fives  
42 Chili pill target  
43 At the original speed, in music  
44 \_\_\_ d'art  
45 Regional wildlife  
46 Setting that affects depth of field  
47 Songwriter  
Sammy et al.

48 Pays attention to  
49 Immortal PGA nickname  
50 Roberto's rivers  
53 Dedicated by the auth.  
54 Highlander  
55 Quaint word in some tavern names  
57 Dessert choice  
58 Ages and ages

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

G	O	R	E	S	P	L	O	D	A	F	A	R		
A	P	E	A	K	R	O	P	E	M	O	J	O		
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C	A	M	E	O	U	T	S	I	Z	E	D			
A	T	E	S	O	S		S	O	R	E	S	T		
P	E	N	P	A	L		P	A	T	E		R	O	E
			O	C	E	L	O	T		I	O	N	E	
D	I	C	K	D	A	S	T	A	R	O	L			
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G	R	E	Y		T	O	R	O		C	R	E	E	L

xwordeditor@aol.com 12/10/09

By Dan Nadler  
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12/10/09



FILM

The truth about ‘Twilight’ and teen girls



MORGAN DAVIES  
A FILM OF HER OWN

As I wrote in my first column, conventional Hollywood wisdom says that only teenage boys go to the movies. Despite all evidence to the contrary, this way of thinking has

persisted out of the belief that girls and women are not a strong market for action flicks or movies about men wearing funny costumes. Of course, women are in the market for those movies as well. What could be more appealing to females (heterosexual females, at least), than two hours of watching a movie star like Robert Downey, Jr.?

The answer, apparently, is vampires. The second installment of the Twilight Saga, “New Moon,” has been out for three weeks and has already made more than \$255 million in the United States. Its first weekend box office total was the third-highest figure of all time, behind only “The Dark Knight” and “Spider-Man 3.”

In case you have been living under a rock, “Twilight” is the story of a teenage girl, Bella Swan, who is passionately in love with a vampire, Edward. Edward does not drink human blood (he opts for animal blood instead) and sparkles in the sunlight. When that monstrous opening weekend figure was released, critics and bloggers alike were flabbergasted at how a movie not directly aimed at men could do so well.

If they had only talked to a teenage girl—any teenage girl—they would not have been so surprised. I certainly was not. Young girls are uniformly crazy about the “Twilight” books and movies, and they have parents who are willing to take them to the movies if they want to go. Their parents are willing to buy them movie tickets, merchandise, and DVDs, just like teenage boys’ parents do.

The executives at Summit Entertainment, the studio that snatched up the rights to the novels before they became a phenomenon, are now laughing their way to the bank for recognizing the fact that women—in this case, mostly pre-teen and teen girls—spend money at the multiplex just like their male counterparts.

It would be the height of folly for the rest of Hollywood to ignore Summit’s success: in the wake of “New Moon,” nobody can feasibly make the argument that only boys go to the movies. Unfortunately, the movies that will be made in order to capitalize on “New Moon” will probably mimic its blatant sexism as closely as possible.

I admit that I have not seen “Twilight” or “New Moon,” nor have I read any of the four novels in the Saga. But I am familiar with the story and the way that Bella and Edward, her dreamy vampire beau, are portrayed. Bella is dependent on Edward in every way. After he abandons her (for her own sake, of course) at the beginning of “New Moon,” Bella can think of nothing but getting him back. The easiest way to attract his attention seems to be by endangering herself—she literally jumps off of a cliff in the hopes of conjuring his protective spirit.

The message that these movies send to young women is straightforward: Without a man, life is not worth living. Their popularity clearly indicates that women of all ages are more than willing to buy into this myth. What saddens me the most about “New Moon” is that both the book and the screenplay adaptation were written by women who evidently put minimal value on female strength.

But as sad as that is, in the wake of the Twilight Saga, there will almost certainly be more films geared toward a female audience. For years, people will be searching for the next “Twilight.” But I hope that forward-thinking people realize that they can make movies about women without demeaning them, and that those movies would appeal not only to women, but also to men. “Twilight” has a uniquely female appeal: for some reason, women like to see themselves as helpless, even if they are not.

I’d like to see a female Tony Stark someday: self-destructive, maybe, but also brilliant and brash and beloved. I’d see that movie—and so would all of my friends, female and male. “Iron Woman” would put Bella Swan to shame.

Morgan Davies is a Barnard College sophomore majoring in English. A Film of her Own runs alternate Thursdays.

THEATER



Lila Neiswanger / Senior staff photographer

X-TREME CHEER | “XMAS! 4: Shalom Alone” is the story of a prepubescent Jewish boy who discovers during his bar mitzvah that he is the grandson of Santa Claus. Conceived as a spoof of Radio City’s Christmas Spectacular, the decidedly nontraditional musical comedy has been a Columbia holiday tradition for four years.

Musical ‘XMAS! 4’ is more naughty than nice

BY DOROTHY CHEN  
Spectator Staff Writer

What if the next Santa were a Jew? And not just any Jew—a prepubescent Jewish boy.

Though seemingly absurd, this notion becomes reality in this year’s production of “XMAS!” - Columbia’s very own secular Christmas spectacular.

The first “XMAS!” was conceived as a parody of Radio City’s Christmas Spectacular four years ago. It has since supplied much-needed stress relief on the first night of reading week. Despite its timing, past productions have had no problem drawing thousands of Columbia students out of their study-for-final bubbles for 90 minutes of blasphemous hilarity. To continue the ritual, an equally sacrilegious mash-up of twisted “XMAS!” traditions will make their way to Roone Arledge on Sunday, Dec. 13.

“XMAS! 4: Shalom Alone” centers around a Jewish boy named Ollie, who discovers during his bar mitzvah that he is Santa Claus’ grandson. After some

ridiculous complications, Ollie and his pagan girlfriend find themselves on a crazy journey to North Pole City, which “XMAS! 4” writer John Goodwin, CC ’12, mockingly dubs “a holiday-cheer-filled version of our own hometown.”

In North Pole City, Ollie and his girlfriend meet all kinds of familiar Christmas characters, each with an unfamiliar twist. This includes a bad-ass reindeer mistakenly labelled gay and a Virgin Mary desperate for sex (who, by the way, is also on birth control “just in case”).

“The great thing about “XMAS!” is that it takes a special time of year and really skewers some of its funny elements,” said Becca Lewis, CC ’11, one of the producers of the show. Though irreverent, “XMAS! 4” strangely reflects hidden truths about our preconceived notion of Christmas.

In addition to reimaging traditional stories, “XMAS! 4” aims to imbue the show with its own brand of energy. During one of the rehearsals, director Ameneh Bordi, CC ’10 revived the cast by forcing them to exercise as they said their lines. “Jumping jacks, now!” yelled Bordi.

And as if dozens of those weren’t enough, she continued shouting, “Now jog around the room!”

By putting on a show that emits such boundless energy, the creative team hopes the show’s electrifying movements, songs, and profanities will keep their audiences on the edge of their seats. Or just on edge. The show’s shock-inducing brand of comedy might be a problem for the deeply religious. But for the rest battling pre-finals depression, this show might actually be the perfect replacement for Prozac.

“XMAS! 4” hopes to embody everything a Christmas musical should and should not be. From a giant robot dance number about Kwanzaa to multi-party sex with three French hens and a reindeer, it seems as though anything goes in the world of Ollie the Jewish Santa Claus.

WHERE IT’S AT

Time: Sunday Dec. 13 at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.  
Place: Roone Arledge Auditorium  
Cost: Free

FILM



Courtesy of DreamWorks

BRIGHT FUTURE | At just 15, Saoirse Ronan has worked with Keira Knightley, Mark Wahlberg, and director Peter Jackson.

‘Lovely Bones’ star is just an average teenager, Oscar nomination aside

BY VICTOR CHANG  
Columbia Daily Spectator

Young rising star Saoirse Ronan is just 15 years old, but she already has an impressive résumé.

She was nominated for an Oscar for her role in “Atonement” at 13, and has already worked alongside big names like Keira Knightley and Mark Wahlberg. Ronan now stars in a new film, “The Lovely Bones,” directed by Peter Jackson of “Lord of the Rings.” In a recent conference call with *Spectator*, Ronan answered questions about the much buzzed-about project.

“The Lovely Bones” is adapted from the Alice Sebold bestseller, which tells the story of a young girl, Susie Salmon, who is brutally raped and murdered. As Susie travels into the afterlife, she tries to contact her parents in order to bring justice for her murder.

Though many of her film roles have been adapted from novels, Ronan prefers to stick to the character as written in the screenplay because, as she said, “it’s a different version of telling the story.”

Susie is a typical teenage girl to whom Ronan said she could relate. But preparing for the intense role was a challenge—she often engaged in deep conversation with scriptwriters to ensure her interpretation of the character was correct.

Ronan explained that it can be easier to play a darker role—the opposite of her real self—because, having never experienced trauma of her own, she is able to imagine difficult experiences with a fresh slate every time. “The door is always open” to darkness for her, she said. According to Ronan, the role of Susie has increased her appreciation of what she has and who she is.

Exposed to “Hollywoodism”—being involved in the world of movie-making at a young age—is daunting for young actresses like Ronan. She described it as “nerve-wracking” but an honor, especially to be nominated for an Oscar before her 14th birthday. Ronan said she tries not to think about whether “The Lovely Bones” will also be nominated.

Ronan spoke highly of director Jackson, who she said left her free to make her own decisions regarding her character but was also “very involved with his actors.” She said that she has learned from all the celebrities she has worked with, taking away “the attitude that they have on set and the etiquette.”

Ronan is impressively professional for her young age. Though she has met some of the most famous people in the world, Ronan—unlike the average 15-year-old girl—says she has never been star-struck.

BOOKS

Bookish accessories for the bibliophile who has everything

BY KASSY LEE  
Spectator Staff Writer

Unwrapping holiday presents can be painful for book lovers—the process almost always necessitates false smiles and squeals of delight. “Thanks for that Nicholas Sparks book, Mom and Dad!” “I really do love Dan Brown, Uncle Dave!” As a fellow bibliophile, I feel your pain. It’s time to stand up for your right to receive as great a present as that given to your younger brother who is into “Family Guy” and football. Slip this list into Santa’s mailbox in order to ensure your own holiday happiness.

Beacon bookmarks (\$6-\$10)

Earmarking pages is bad book etiquette, but bookmarks are so easy to lose in the shuffle. These bookmarks are adorable, yes, but more importantly, they are durable. You’ll never lose your page—or your bookmark—again.

Strand tote bag (\$6 and up)

Not only are you supporting everyone’s favorite New York bookseller, but you’ll also have a trendy and appropriately sized bag in which to carry your new books. What’s more, Strand bags foster a unique solidarity. Fast friendships can be made when you spot a fellow toter on the subway.

Kindle 2 (\$259)

This is the hotly debated techno gadget for book lovers. It does seem awesome to be able to have any book you want right at your fingertips, but the bookish pride themselves on, well, their books. Somehow my dream library would not be complete if I had a Kindle 2 on my shelf instead of every volume of the Oxford English Dictionary. But the next decade is fast approaching, and these gadgets are a lot more convenient for lugging back and forth on holiday breaks.

Bookends (\$20-\$200)

For those who pride themselves more on their libraries than on their reading, bookends are a fashionable and useful gift. They come in all shapes, sizes, and styles—from cute and whimsical to austere and professional.

Book lights (\$6)

These little gizmos are crucial for those of us with roommates who go to bed early. They also come in handy when you want to read in bed but hate getting up to turn off the light after you are all warm and cozy under the covers. For maximal reading pleasure, look for those that are lightweight, bright, and adjustable.

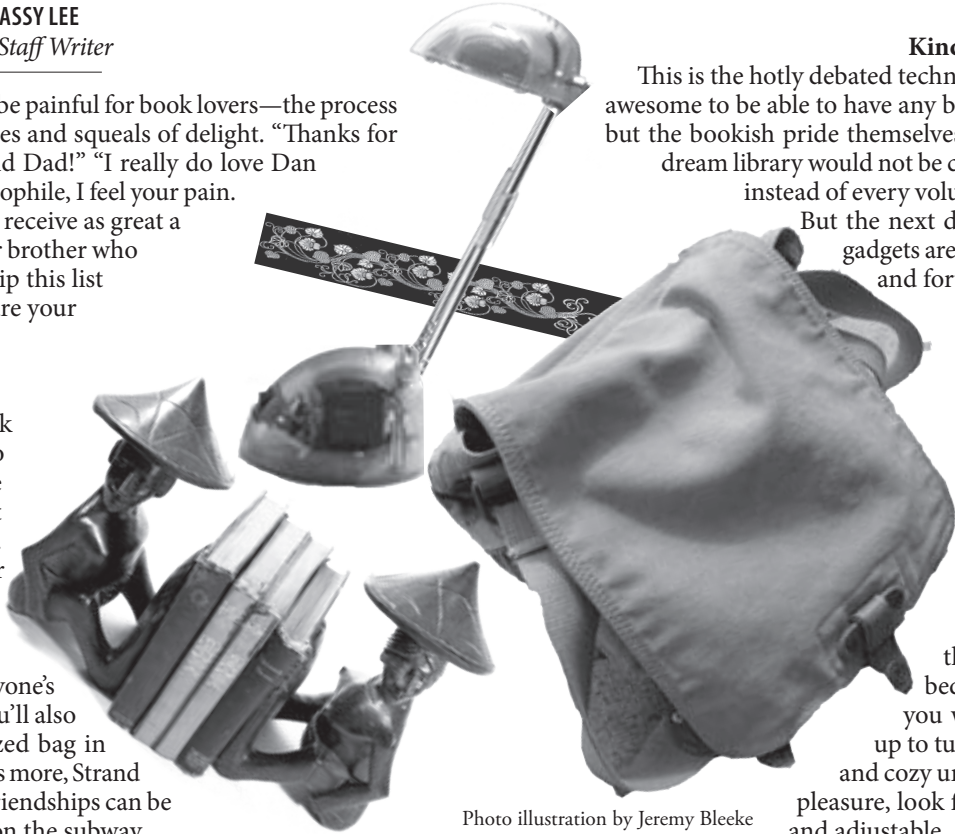


Photo illustration by Jeremy Bleeker



# Lions are 4-0 when they outrebound opponents

BASKETBALL from back page

“John is really developing into a really good player,” Jones said after Daniels’ nine-rebound performance against Stony Brook.

Part of the reason why rebounds are so important for Columbia is because they often act as a catalyst for its offense.

“We get our offense going off misses, so when we get teams to miss and rebound, it’s very good for us,” Jones said. “We like to play in an up-tempo style, so it’s important that we rebound the ball well.” Jones’s point is evident in looking at the four games Columbia has outrebounded the opposition. In each of those victories, the Light Blue scored over 70 points and averaged 80.5.

“When we rebound at a high level and give ourselves more opportunities, we’re good players and I think we can execute ... So I think that’s really key,” sophomore guard Noruwa Agho said.

In Columbia’s first win of the season, a 72-61 victory over Longwood, the Lions outrebounded the Lancers 42-33, giving them their highest rebound total so far this season. They also performed well offensively, shooting 48.1 percent from the field.

However, after leading by 19 at the half, the Lions saw their lead start to slip away as the Lancers were able to cut the lead to eight with just under three minutes remaining.

“I think we just lost a little focus defensively and we weren’t as sharp as we were in the first half,” senior guard Patrick Foley said when asked about the difference between the two halves.

Jones agreed with Foley, citing lack of defensive consistency as the reason for Longwood’s second-half run.

“I thought we played poorly in the second half defensively,” Jones said. “We got to learn how to play with a lead and keep our intensity ... we got to learn how to consistently play defense the proper way.”

In the Lions’ next game, a 73-59 win over Bucknell, they were able to play well down the stretch and even stepped up their defense in the second half.

Columbia was outrebounded in the

CRASH THE BOARDS, LIGHT UP THE SCOREBOARD						
Opponent	First half		Second half		Totals	
	Scoring	Rebounding	Scoring	Rebounding	Scoring	Rebounding
at DePaul	25-31	12-17	28-28	16-16	53-59	28-33
vs. Longwood	43-24	21-14	29-37	21-19	72-61	42-33
vs. Bucknell	29-26	14-16	44-33	24-11	73-59	38-27
at Syracuse	27-36	15-17	33-49	16-19	60-85	31-36
at Sacred Heart	23-30	14-17	32-30	21-19	55-60	35-36
vs. Lehigh	31-33	13-16	44-37	24-13	75-70	37-29
at Stony Brook	34-31	16-21	26-32	19-20	60-63	35-41
at Wagner	54-29	23-13	48-62	14-21	102-91	37-34

first half, but still managed to take a three-point lead into the break. In the second half, however, the Light Blue dominated the boards, finishing with 38 rebounds to the Bisons’ 27.

“I said at halftime if ... they outrebounded us then we weren’t going to win the game,” Jones said. “The fact that we were able to outrebound them by 11 really was the difference in the game.”

After these two strong games, though, the Lions had a couple of setbacks. Following the Bucknell game, Columbia traveled upstate to take on national powerhouse Syracuse. The Light Blue played very well against the Orange in the first half, trailing by only nine at intermission, but was unable to perform at the same level in the second half.

“I didn’t think our transition defense was very good,” Jones said after the game. “I didn’t think our defense overall was very good in the second half.”

The Lions would lose their next game, too, falling to Sacred Heart 60-55. The Pioneers held a slight 36-35 advantage in rebounding in the contest.

“We played well in spurts,” Jones said, “but we just didn’t defend well enough to win.”

The Light Blue was able to get back on track against the Mountain Hawks, taking the game 75-70. Not only did the Lions shoot 50.9 percent from the field in the contest, but they also held a 37-29 advantage

on the boards.

In its next game, against Stony Brook, Columbia again struggled to close out the game and ended up losing 63-60 after holding a three-point lead at the half.

“We just kind of lapsed a little defensively and stopped executing offensively and it just kind of piled up there,” Foley said of the second half.

The Seawolves had six more rebounds than the Lions.

In Columbia’s most recent game, a 102-91 win over Wagner, an extremely strong overall performance in the first half carried the Light Blue through the rest of the game. Though the Lions outrebounded the Seahawks 37-34, they saw a 25-point half time lead shrink to a lead as small as nine at one point.

“You’re going to win and lose games, but you got to go and be committed to what you’re about,” Jones said. “Tonight we weren’t in the second half, we didn’t defend at all.”

Even though they came away with a win, the Lions’ game against Wagner was an excellent example of their tendency to struggle down the stretch.

The Lions play much better when they rebound effectively, something they definitely have the talent to do. But at this early point in the season, whether or not Columbia will play well is more a question of its ability to close out games as a team than the talent of the individual players.

# Columnist searches for model of coping with old age

LOPEZ from back page

especially when it comes to scoring. He’s won the NBA scoring title four times, including winning back-to-back in 2001 and 2002. You add on top of that the MVP Award in 2001, three All-NBA first team nominations, and 10 NBA All-Star appearances and you’ve got quite the career. That’s not to mention his small stature. He’s around six feet tall, which only makes his life’s work all the more impressive. However, over the years he’s gotten older and lost a step or two, which has hampered his effectiveness on the court. This past year, Iverson left the Memphis Grizzlies a few games into the season. Iverson couldn’t find another team that would sign him, because he refused to come off the bench. In his mind, he was still a top-tier player and, therefore, deserved to start. Recently the Sixers signed him to a one-year deal hoping, in large part, to put butts in the seats. Watching these events unfold has shown me exactly how not to handle growing “old.” Iverson, because he refused to come off the bench, showed everyone that winning is not his number one concern. He placed pride over success, and now he will probably never win the ultimate prize. Sorry A.I., but the Iverson model just won’t cut it.

Case study number two is another future hall-of-famer, Gary “The Glove” Payton. Like Iverson, Payton put together a very impressive career at the point guard position. Payton is a nine-time NBA All-Star, two-time All-NBA first team, and nine-time All-Defensive first team. On top of all that, Payton is the only point guard to ever win the NBA Defensive Player of the Year Award, which he won in 1996. Despite his terrific play, Payton never won a championship until he decided that winning meant more to him than pride or statistics. Prior to the 2003-04 season, Payton turned down a huge contract with the Portland Trailblazers to play for the Lakers, which had put together a starting five that included Kobe Bryant, Shaquille O’Neal, and Karl Malone. Despite the four future hall-of-famers on the squad, the Lakers lost to the Detroit Pistons in the NBA finals and Payton went home empty-handed. Payton continued to play, however, in search of the elusive championship. In 2005, he found his way to Miami where he took a back seat to both O’Neal and Dwyane Wade. In 2006, Payton finally won a NBA

championship. Unlike Iverson, Payton swallowed his pride and willingly took a small role in order to win it all. However, my problem with Payton is that he had to move from team to team in order to do so. It’s like taking a bite out of several donuts in the box before picking one that’s just right. The Payton model is good, but not great.

Case study number three is hall-of-famer David “The Admiral” Robinson. Robinson, from 1989 to 2003, put together one hell of a career. He won the NBA Rookie of the Year Award in 1990, the NBA MVP in 1995, and the NBA Defensive Player of the Year Award in 1992. I should probably also mention his four All-NBA first team nominations, and his 10 NBA All-Star appearances. Oh, and before I forget, he won the NBA Sportsmanship Award. Talk about one great player and stand-up guy. However, his individual performances weren’t enough to win him a championship, until a man named Tim Duncan joined the San Antonio Spurs in 1997. Robinson was getting older and it was obvious that he wanted to win. The man who averaged 21.2 points per game, 10.6 rebounds per game, and nearly three boards per game welcomed the younger superstar with open arms. The Spurs would go on to win the championship in 1999 and again in 2003. In those two seasons, Robinson’s points per game average dropped to 15.8 and 8.5 respectively. What does this mean exactly? It means that Robinson stepped back and allowed a younger guy to take the reins because it made the team better. Also, Robinson, unlike Payton, stuck it out with one team before winning it all in his final years as a NBA player. Not to mention he went out on top, retiring after his second championship in 2003. Now that is how you handle getting old.

So it’s safe to say that the Robinson model is the one I should follow. There are probably several Robinson-like ways I could handle the realization that I won’t go pro. Maybe I’ll step back and hope my brother goes pro so I can mooch off him. Hell, why play real professional basketball when I can make a character of myself on NBA Live? Best part about my video game persona is he’ll never grow old and I can be the top dog forever. In your face, time!

Bart Lopez is a Columbia College junior majoring in economics-mathematics. [sports@columbiaspectator.com](mailto:sports@columbiaspectator.com)

# New eateries bring change in meal plan policy

MEAL PLAN from front page

required for first-years. Yet under the new dining policy, students who wish to live in Hewitt need no longer fear a first-year style meal plan—they will now be able to choose their own.

Denburg explained the impetus for the move to change the dining policy, stating “With the addition of these wonderful resources, and with an eye towards strengthening Barnard’s sense of community, your SGA leaders and members of Representative Council have been working with me and other administrators over the past year to improve upon the structure of the current meal plan. We believe that the revised plan will build community and animate the Diana Center, yet still accounts for differences in lifestyle of students by class and residence.”

The options available to students will vary by year. First-year students will still be required to purchase an unlimited meal

plan with 250 points. Sophomores living in the quad must purchase 150 meals and 300 points, sophomore non-Quad residents must purchase 40 meals and 800 points, juniors must purchase 450 points, and seniors will be required to purchase 400 points.

Students will be able to redeem their meal points at locations like Java City in Altschul Hall, as well as Barnard’s new dining options in the Diana—Liz’s Cafe and The Cafeteria—which will open at the beginning of next semester. Dining options will include “Kosher, Halal, nut-free, gluten-free and vegan food” and “will improve upon Java City’s current offerings with a wider selection of grab-n-go items.”

As a boon for students, the new meal plan will include “a five percent bonus amount to all dining points” to make “purchases economical as well as convenient.”

The new policy was met with a less-than-warm reception by students.

Anna Scaife, BC ’11, feels that the administration didn’t give students enough opportunity to discuss their feelings about a change in the dining plan, nor is she looking forward to purchasing something that she doesn’t feel she’ll make ample use of. “I know personally I have been without a meal plan for two years and really enjoy being able to cook for myself and select the foods I want to eat rather than being limited to six options—so I’m not particularly looking forward to buying into a food service system that I won’t necessarily make use of,” she said.

Charlotte Powley, BC ’11, is also unenthusiastic about the new requirements. “I want to know more about what I’m eating and I feel like if I cook it, I know more about what’s going into me and I have more control. Financially, I feel like I spend less money on food than I would on a meal plan, and I feel like I’m eating healthier.”

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With momentum on its side following its defeat of Wagner, the women's basketball team returns home this Sunday to face Monmouth.

TOMORROW



Following its win over Wagner, the Columbia men's basketball team travels to Rhode Island this weekend to take on Bryant on Saturday.

TOMORROW

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2009 • PAGE 8

-5

Nov. 17 @ DePaul  
L, 59-53

+9

Nov. 20 vs. Longwood  
W, 72-61

+11

Nov. 24 vs. Bucknell  
W, 73-59

-5

Nov. 27 @ Syracuse  
L, 85-60

-1

Nov. 30 @ Sacred Heart  
L, 60-55

+8

Dec. 3 vs. Lehigh  
W, 75-70

+6

Dec. 5 @ Stony Brook  
L, 63-60

+3

Dec. 8 @ Wagner  
W, 102-91

# ABOVE THE RIM

*Consistent rebounding, defensive play down the stretch key for Light Blue*

BY MICHELE CLEARY  
Spectator Staff Writer

Since Joe Jones has been at the helm, defense has been crucial for Columbia men's basketball, and the 2009-2010 team is no different. So far this season, when the Lions (4-4) outrebound their opponent, they are 4-0, but when they do not, they are 0-4.

In their four wins this season—against Longwood, Bucknell, Lehigh, and Wagner—the Lions have outrebounded their opponents by an average margin of 7.8. But in their losses—to DePaul, Syracuse, Sacred Heart, and Stony Brook—their opponents have held an average advantage of 4.3 on the boards.

A trio of forwards has been getting it done for Columbia. Juniors Brian Grimes and Asenso Ampim and freshman John Daniels have combined for 138 of the Light Blue's 282 rebounds.

Grimes, who is averaging a team-high 7.5 rebounds per game, and Ampim, who is averaging a second-best 4.9, have both been strong rebounders since the beginning of the season.

Daniels, on the other hand, needed the first five games to adjust to collegiate play, averaging just 2.4 boards in the opening contests. In the last three games, though, Daniels has led the squad with 27 rebounds, for an average of nine per game.

SEE BASKETBALL, page 7



Jasper Clyatt / Staff photographer

**PULLING DOWN REBOUNDS** | So far this season, the Columbia men's basketball team is 4-0 when it outrebounds its opponents. Junior forward Brian Grimes leads the Lions with 7.5 rpg.

## Light Blue defeats Quakers for first Ivy victory of 2009-2010 season

BY JULIA GARRISON  
Columbia Daily Spectator

The women's swimming and diving team captured its first Ivy win Wednesday night, overwhelming Penn 173-127. The meet marks the team's final competition of 2009 and improves the Lions to 2-2 overall (1-2 Ivy).

Penn initially took the lead in the meet 16-3, capturing first, second, and third in the three-meter dive. However, Columbia was able to close the gap quickly with a first-place finish in the 200-yard medley relay by the team of Delghi Urubshurow, Mariele Dunn, Allison Hobbs, and Katie Meili, which finished in a combined time of 1:46.38. Columbia also tied Penn for second in the relay, bringing the score to 19-17.

In the next event, Abigail Reilly secured the lead for the Lions, winning the 1000-yard free in 10:23:78. Sophomore Isabelle Vandenbroucke was right behind her, placing second in 10:26:89. The one-two finish brought the score to 32-23 in favor of the Lions.

Another one-two finish for Columbia by Urubshurow and Caitlin Rogers in the 100-yard backstroke allowed the Light Blue to surge ahead of Penn, 64-48. The Lions claimed first and second in the 100-yard breaststroke as well, with Meili and Dunn touching the wall in 1:05:09 and 1:05:64, respectively.

Entering the one-meter dive, the Lions were up 83-67, and freshman Kristin Hehir was able to

	PENN	127
	COLUMBIA	173

gain even more points for the squad as she finished third in the competition with 220.04 points.

When the racing began again, Meili took the top spot in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 52:21, while junior Ashley MacLean finished third in 53.09.

In the 200 back, it was Urubshurow who took first, but Penn was able to lock in the second-, third-, and fourth-place spots, keeping the score tight at 111-96. This happened again in the 200 breast, with Mariele Dunn coming in first for the Lions, bringing the score to 121-105.

It was the one-two-three finish of Caroline Lukins, Hobbs, and Kristina Parsons in the 100 fly that sealed the Columbia victory over Penn, as the Light Blue led 150-114.

Finishing up the meet with second- and third-place finishes in both the 200 IM and 200 free relay, the Lions achieved the win with an impressive 173 points to Penn's 127.

After last night's meet, the Lions will have a break from competition until 2010. Their next meet will be in Lewisburg, P.A., on Jan. 17 at 1 p.m., when they will compete in a nonconference matchup against Bucknell University.



File photo

**DIVE IN** | After trailing Penn at the start of the meet, the Lions captured first and tied for second in the 200 medley to close the gap.

## In search of a model athletic geezer



BART  
LOPEZ  
THE  
TAILGATING  
TALES

Time makes fools of us all. This saying has a whole new meaning for me as next Wednesday approaches. I'll be turning 21, and I've come to a startling realization. No, I'm not referring to, "How will I ever get anything done now that I can drink legally?" Instead, my mind is focused on the sobering fact that I may never go pro. For a retired athlete

turned sports writer, this reality is tough to swallow. In order to figure out what to do next, I've been examining how aging professional basketball players have acted during the final years of their careers. Some have handled it well and some have not, but surely one of them can provide me with the guidance I need, right?

Case study number one is aging future hall-of-famer Allen "The Answer" Iverson. Iverson has put together quite an impressive career,

SEE LOPEZ, page 7