

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

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Letters to the Editor

Roving Reporter Should Include Respondents with Informed Opinions

TO THE EDITOR:

Are you guys kidding me? On asking students about the World Economic Forum ("Economics USA," Feb. 4, 2002), a very important issue, especially in New York City, you asked three people who obviously didn't know much (anything) about it. You have one guy saying he's "not into thinking about stuff like" world peace, and Roving Reporter questions degenerating into meaningless talk about what a great store the Gap is. How is it possible to lose one's focus in a four question interview?

I'm writing because this is a very important, relevant-to-all-our-lives issue. I am grateful for the other coverage of the WEF conference in Monday's issue, but I'd urge your Roving Reporter staff or editor, or whoever oversees its print, to look a little harder for students (and we exist) who have something to say. If they interview three people, and get the responses put in yesterday's paper, they should include one, maybe two. But you also have to include something with a student who is aware, and does have views, rather than just saying I was caught up in my own life, I wasn't aware that a huge, literally globally-influencing meeting of world business leaders was going on less than three miles away. For four days. With large-scale protests. I think the Roving Reporter can really be something of interest, asking people what they think of what's going on. Please put more thought behind what you publish, and if you're going to ask about such an important issue (and please continue to do so), make sure you include some important answers too, even if it means asking more people. Search it out and you'll have a more balanced, interesting paper. And I think you'll find that there are quite a few who have well-defined views on the weekend's event.

RUSSELL STICKLOR, CC '03

Feb. 5, 2002

Health Services Continues to Respond to Student Needs With Survey Results

TO THE EDITOR:

As part of an ongoing effort to gauge students' impressions of campus services, the Columbia College Student Council (CCSC) conducted an e-mail survey dur-

ing the Fall 2001 semester about Health and Related Services (HRS). Spectator recently reported ("Health Services Responds to CCSC Poll," Jan. 30, 2002) some of the results of the survey. I wanted to take a few moments to add to that story, and highlight ways that HRS and students continue to work together.

Many of the issues raised in the survey are ones that we have been working on over the past year. Last Spring, HRS sought out the help of a consulting firm with expertise in student health to poll students and to obtain specific recommendations from them as to how the patient experience in Primary Care and Women's Health could be improved. As a result, a group at HRS is currently working on redesigning certain aspects of how the delivery of care is organized which will, no doubt, lead to enhancements in the patient experience. We are working with our information systems and with our staff to encourage more continuity of care between our clinicians and their patients.

As part of the above initiatives, I am looking to form a student group that would help us in our efforts to redesign Primary Care/Women's Health and provide continuous feedback to HRS about the patient experience.

While the CCSC survey focused mainly on health care delivery, HRS is not limited to medical services on campus. In a forum sponsored by CCSC last semester, we welcomed the opportunity to let students know about Alice! health education programs and the Go Ask Alice! website, one of the most trusted health Q&A websites in the world, as well as the Gay Health Advocacy Project, which offers free and confidential HIV testing and counseling to the entire Columbia community. The Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence Support Center is part of HRS, as is the Office of Disability Services and a multi-disciplinary Eating Disorders Team, just to name some of the programs and services that work together to provide the best possible health and wellness resources available.

We are in touch with the students who helped make that forum happen, and we look forward to even more work with students to continue this important process of inquiry, dialogue, change and ongoing improvement of the services that are delivered.

MARGO AMGOTT

Feb. 6, 2002

The author is the Executive Director of
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