

WATER WINGS



DAVID BRANN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**HOT WATER** | Columbia men's swimming and diving boasts an impressive roster of young talent from its freshman class, affording the team a positive outlook after losing swimming superstars Adam Powell and Hyun Lee to graduation.

Continuing Education student Samantha Kwek dies

BY YASMIN GAGNE  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

A student at the School of Continuing Education died this weekend.

Samantha Kwek died on Sunday evening, SCE Dean Kristine Billmyer wrote in an email to SCE students and faculty on Monday.

Kwek hailed from Northport, N.Y., and was enrolled as a post-baccalaureate student at SCE,

where she was working toward a certificate in quantitative studies for finance.

“Losing a member of our community to an untimely death is deeply troubling, especially for family and friends,” Billmyer wrote in the email. “Please know that we are here to support you during this difficult time.”

Police confirmed that a 21-year-old woman jumped to her death on Sunday at 11:40 p.m. from the 16th floor of an

apartment building at 100 United Nations Plaza in Midtown. Several news outlets have reported that the woman was Kwek, but her brother, Shawn Kwek, said in an email that his sister's death has not been ruled a suicide.

Students can contact Counseling and Psychological Services at 212-854-2878 or 212-854-9797, and Barnard's Rosemary Furman Counseling Center at 212-854-2092. Students can also contact Columbia-Barnard

Nightline, an anonymous peer counseling hotline, from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. nightly at 212-854-7777, the Center for Student Advising at 212-854-6378, and the Office of the University Chaplain at 212-854-1493.

A memorial will be held at the Nolan and Taylor-Howe Funeral Home Friday from 7 to 9 p.m., and Saturday from 2 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.

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City might mandate sick pay for some workers

BY CASEY TOLAN  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Many of the 1.5 million New Yorkers who don't have paid sick leave could see that change thanks to the efforts of a local politician.

City Council member Gale Brewer, who represents the Upper West Side, is the driving force behind a council effort to guarantee paid sick leave for many New York employees.

“The idea that you can't take time off to deal with your sick kid is almost incomprehensible, yet hundreds of parents can't do that,” Brewer said. “This is good for everybody ... It's a public health bill.”

Brewer first introduced paid sick leave legislation in the council in 2010. But the legislation is now closer to success than ever before, which Brewer credited to compromise amendments proposed in recent weeks to appease council members who have worried the bill would hurt businesses. Brewer's current bill includes several concessions to small businesses, including a one-year grace period for new businesses to begin giving employees sick pay and an exclusion for businesses with fewer than five employees.

“We've been working hard to get this as good for New York as we can,” Brewer said.

The bill has 35 cosponsors in the council—enough to make it veto-proof—but is opposed by

SEE BREWER, page 2

Citywide proposal would pave way for ‘green’ infrastructure upgrades

BY AVANTIKA KUMAR  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

The Department of City Planning and the City Council are considering a rezoning proposal that would make it easier for New York City property owners to “go green.”

At a Community Board 7 committee meeting on Monday night, city officials discussed the proposed legislation, which would relax zoning codes in order to give property owners more flexibility to update old buildings with environmentally friendly features. The new zoning codes would also exempt many green features from 1961 zoning restrictions, which were not geared to accommodate environmental concerns.

Although community boards and borough presidents across the city will play an advisory role, the DCP and the City Council will make the final decision on the zoning changes. According to Land Use Committee co-chair Richard Asche, committee members, despite minor reservations, support the proposal.

“Overall, everybody's very happy,” Asche said.

Klari Neuwelt, the co-chair of CB7's Parks and Environment Committee, praised the rezoning plan, calling it a “very well-thought-out set of proposals by professionals.”

According to Monika Jain, a project manager at the Department of City Planning, the proposed legislation would loosen traditional restrictions, including maximum floor area and height requirements, for many buildings. This would allow for thicker external insulation of buildings, rooftop greenhouses, taller solar panels, wider awnings, and small wind turbines on high buildings.

The Monday night presentation highlighted existing examples of green technology, such as a greenhouse on top of P.S. 333 in Manhattan that grows food for the school cafeteria, and a green roof covered in outdoor plants. The proposal has already been tested in neighborhoods including West Chelsea, downtown Brooklyn, and Battery Park City, with restrictions being lifted in those areas.

Although most members of CB7, which represents the Upper West Side, expressed approval of the proposal, some were concerned about its

treatment of bulkheads—structures on top of buildings, such as water towers, stairwells for roof access, and air conditioning units, which are not part of the building proper.

The amendment would permit bulkheads to extend to 40 feet above buildings. A few CB7 members said they were concerned that massive bulkheads could negatively affect a streetscape's appearance, and questioned whether larger bulkheads would actually help property owners go green.

“I don't recall a single applicant asking for a 40-foot-tall

Progress of Starbucks jobs program unclear

After three months, partnership with ADC still getting off ground

BY DAPHNE CHEN  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

It's been just under four months since a Harlem Starbucks and the nonprofit Abyssinian Development Corporation announced they would work together to create positive change in Harlem, but the partnership has been slow to get started.

Starbucks and the Harlem-based ADC said in October that they would collaborate to give Harlem residents business training and to work on community service initiatives, with Starbucks agreeing to donate 5 cents of every purchase to ADC up to at least \$100,000 in the first year.

Touted as a jobs creation and community involvement program, the “Store Partnership Model” between ADC and the Starbucks at Lenox Avenue and 125th Street has been underway for almost four months, but the results so far are unclear. The Starbucks location opened in 1999 as the first Starbucks in historic Harlem.

ADC spokesperson Harris Bostic II said the Starbucks is meant to act as a “hub” for finding out information about ADC's programs. He said ADC has started holding orientation sessions with Starbucks and other partner organizations to tell them about the programs ADC offers.

“Not only can we offer those programs to the partners themselves, but also to the customers,”

Bostic said. “We look at the partners and employees as somewhat extensions of us because they will have to convey information to the customers if they ask if ADC can help them find a job, or ask about the community board.”

“It has been going extremely well,” Bostic added. “They are becoming part of the Abyssinian Development Corp. family. They have been supporting our education work, we have been supporting their create-jobs program.”


The original press release announcing the partnership said Starbucks would “increase local awareness and engage local residents, share our business expertise with them ... [and] provide strategic technical and management assistance, join together on community service imperatives and work with the organizations to plan unique ways Starbucks can support their jobs training and placement work.” It also said the partnership would focus on after-school programs and offer job training and management assistance at the Starbucks.

So far, ADC's only visible mark on the store is a chalkboard, called the “community board,” which features fliers about ADC's many services—including tech-free tax preparation services and GED programs—set against a mural of Harlem. Many customers in the Starbucks were not aware of this partnership, including Harlem

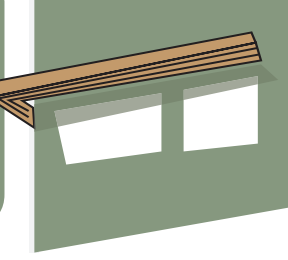
SEE STARBUCKS, page 2

## CB7'S PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

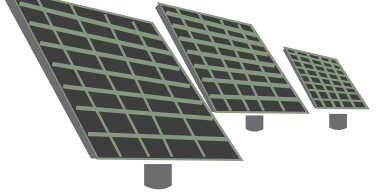
Green building features are sometimes discouraged or even prohibited by existing zoning regulations. This proposal seeks to modernize the Zoning Resolution to remove impediments to the construction and retrofitting of greener buildings.



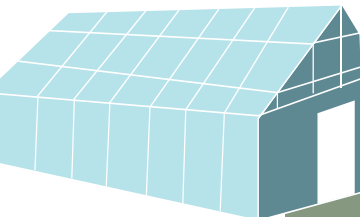
**WIND ENERGY:** On buildings taller than 100 feet, a wind turbine assembly may rise up to 55' above the rooftop (including the pole and rotor), provided it is set back at least 10 feet from any property line.




**SUN CONTROL:** Above the ground floor, allow sun control devices and awnings to project 2'-6" over required open areas



**SOLAR ENERGY** Allow solar panels on flat roofs anywhere below the parapet, regardless of building height.



**ROOFTOP GREENHOUSES:** By certification of the Chair of the City Planning Commission, allow a greenhouse to be exempt from floor area and height limits.



**ENERGY-EFFICIENT BUILDING WALLS:** Allow existing buildings to add external insulation within the property line, while exempting it from floor area calculations and yard regulations. This typically adds about four inches of wall thickness, but up to eight inches would be allowed to encourage highly efficient retrofits.

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING

GRAPHIC BY CELINE GORDON

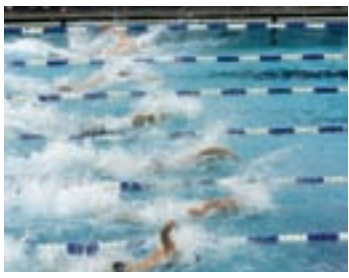
OPINION, PAGE 4

Swimming in the deep

Emily Tamkin muses on the reality of life after Columbia.

The good old days?

Alexandra Salerno discusses a campaign strategy for Obama 2012.



SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Cream of the crop

After the graduation of two all-time greats, the youngest class of swimmers and divers promises to keep CU competitive for some time.

EVENTS

Say it Loud(er)!

Opening ceremony of Columbia University Black Heritage Month.  
Diana Center Event Oval, 6:30 p.m.

Live at Lerner

The band “Superhuman Happiness” will play in this concert series.  
Lerner Hall piano lounge, 12:00 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



61°/38°

Tomorrow



47°/32°



# Council leader opposes sick pay proposal

**BREWER from front page**

City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, who decides which bills come to the council floor for debate. Quinn can decide not to allow the bill to be voted on, effectively killing it.

“In the economic environment we are in, small businesses are hanging on by a thread in many cases,” Quinn said in a statement, later adding, “Although this goal is laudable, it’s not one that I can support because I think it is one that will cost us jobs and cost us small business and their future in these tough economic times.”

Quinn said that she had not seen all of the proposed amendments to the bill. Brewer said that she has been meeting with Quinn and her staff in an effort to sway the speaker, and that she is “optimistic” Quinn will eventually allow the bill to come to the floor.

City Council member Robert Jackson, who represents parts of West Harlem, supports Brewer’s bill.

“Right now, there’s many employers who don’t even give employees sick leave,” he said. “You don’t want employees going to work sick, coughing, sneezing ... They make other people sick. That we don’t want.”

“The pressure has to continue to build until there becomes a consensus,” Jackson said, adding that he “hopes” Quinn will be convinced.

Brewer said she has received widespread support for the bill.

“I know we have all the unions, we have a lot of the

health care community, and they’re really, really helping us—this is a health care bill. Doctors, nurses, health care institutions,” Brewer said.

SIEU 32BJ, a union which represents building workers, doormen, and porters, is one of about 30 unions and other organizations that have formed the New York Paid Sick Leave Coalition to fight for the bill.

“Most of our members already have that but it doesn’t mean we don’t think this is the right thing for our city to do and for working people in general,” SIEU 32BJ spokesperson Matt Nerzig said.

“Labor is 100 percent behind it,” Brewer said.

“It’s not like I’m getting a vacation day when I’m sick.”

—Arturo Mayorga

Some business leaders, though, are less enthusiastic, saying the bill would destroy jobs.

“Unless the proponents have made drastic changes to the bill language, the unintended consequences will result in job loss and will be a yet another barrier in job creation,” said a statement from the 5 Boro Chamber of Commerce Coalition, which represents a number of business leaders across the city.

Brewer, though, noted that many employees on the Upper

West Side already have paid sick leave, and that the bill is intended to bring those benefits to more New Yorkers.

“All the polls indicate there’s a lot of interest in this,” Brewer said. A poll from Baruch College showed that 89 percent of New Yorkers support requiring employers to give all workers at least five paid sick days per year.

Arturo Mayorga, who has been working in the city for a year and a half and does have paid sick leave, said he supported the measure.

“I would hate it if it were the other way around,” Mayorga said. “Sometimes getting sick is related to work ... It’s not like I’m getting a vacation day when I’m sick. I still have to finish my projects and whatnot.”

Officer Kathy Saadi of Columbia Public Safety also has paid sick leave, as do all Columbia employees.

“It’s terrible that 1 million New Yorkers don’t get paid” when they are sick, she said. “That’s really bad.”

Saadi added, however, that she was worried some people would abuse paid sick leave.

“I think that if you get paid for sick days, then you probably won’t go in to work,” she said. At Columbia, she added, “if you are sick for more than three days, you must bring in a doctor’s note. They [businesses] should most definitely draw a line somewhere.”

*Lauren Chadwick contributed reporting.*

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ZARA CASTANY / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**PARTNERS** | A Harlem Starbucks is working with a local nonprofit on job training and other projects. At the coffeeshop, people post their dreams on a chalk board explaining the partnership.

## Local partnership still in early stages

**STARBUCKS from front page**

resident and musician Cush Lundy.

“I didn’t know they had something here with the Abyssinian Church,” Lundy said. “That’s the first time I heard about Starbucks getting involved in the community. They’re not publicizing enough, but I think that’s a cool thing.”

Starbucks spokesperson Kristin Oke noted that the partnership is still in its beginning stages.

“It’s been just under three months,” Oke said. “To be honest, because it is so early in the program, I’m not sure we’re going to have much of a program at this point.”

Starbucks manager Andy Hambrick said he was “curious to see what’s happening” with the partnership in the

next few months. ADC is planning several events, including a career fair in mid-March for students pursuing GEDs, for which Starbucks, as a corporate sponsor, will conduct mock interviews. Starbucks will also host barista training information sessions at several church schools over the next few months, although the dates are still uncertain.

“We’ve asked people, what did you think the partnership would look like,” Bostic said. “People said new building, larger store, schools built, and we take that information. But the partnership’s really to support the work we have been doing and we will continue to do. We will use the resources and exposure and popularity of Starbucks to get that message to wider audiences.”

“For some people, that’s disappointing because they want

to see something capital, something physical, they want to see an increase of something,” Bostic added. “But we’re increasing in ways they don’t realize. They take that coffee cup and walk into the neighborhood. We’re monitoring it, we’re getting feedback.”

Bostic added that he believes the partnership with ADC has already brought more customers to the store.

“We don’t have quantitative data, but anecdotally there has been an uptick in sales and transactions in that store,” he said.

Hambrick agreed with Bostic that there had been a slight increase in business.

“We’ve seen an uptick over the weekends from people coming from the services,” he said. “Abyssinian keeps it fresh in their heads.”

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## City might loosen building restrictions

**GREEN from front page**

“I would certainly prefer to see solar panels ... than some of the ugly things we see now,” CB7 board member Ian Alterman said. Alterman also pointed out that it would be expensive for property owners to exceed the amount of bulkhead space they actually needed.

Other concerns raised at the

meeting included the noise that windmills could generate, and the specific regulations regarding greenhouses. For example, greenhouses built atop educational institutions and food-processing facilities, but not those built atop residential facilities, would be exempt from building height requirements.

Neuwelt, though, said she “wouldn’t try to second-guess”

the proposal based on minor potential problems, a point echoed by several meeting attendees.

CB7 members agreed to send the city a letter requesting more information about the bulkheads. The city proposal will be discussed again at CB7’s full board meeting on Feb. 7.

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## Pols push back against school closing

**BY FINN VIGELAND**  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Local politicians have continued to voice support for a West Harlem middle school slated for closure, taking aim at New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott.

On Thursday, a meeting to discuss the planned elimination of the sixth through eighth grades at the Wadleigh Secondary School for the Performing Arts drew scores of angry parents and teachers. And at a Tuesday night meeting at the 26th police precinct, City Council member Robert Jackson and several other politicians joined the chorus of support for Wadleigh.

“The motto is, don’t close it, fix it,” Jackson said, arguing that with only 100 students, Wadleigh shouldn’t be difficult to improve.

The Panel for Educational Policy is due to vote on the closing or downsizing of 25 city public schools, including Wadleigh, next Tuesday. Bloomberg appoints eight of the panel’s 13 members.

“We have mayoral control there—the mayor is in control. In any other country, you call that what?” Jackson asked the 25 people in attendance, before answering his own question: “A dictatorship.”

“I have called that panel publicly a rubber stamp,” he added. “They do whatever the mayor wants to do.”

Corey Ortega, a special assistant to State Assembly member Keith Wright, was also critical of Bloomberg and

Walcott at the New York Police Department’s 26th Precinct Community Council meeting on Tuesday night. Ortega said that Wright is planning to draft legislation to repeal mayoral control of the panel.

Wright believes that the “A” grade Wadleigh received three years ago in the city Department of Education’s evaluations is an indication that the school has promise, Ortega said. The school, he said, has suffered under the watch of ineffective administrators.

“If we can’t change 100 students, then damn, something’s wrong,” Ortega said.

“To too many people ... closing a school is a panacea. They think it will solve all our problems.”

—Bill de Blasio  
Public Advocate

Jackson also lashed out at Walcott, as well as former Schools Chancellors Cathie Black, Joel Klein, and Harold Levy. All of them, he said, did not come from schools backgrounds, and made the city think that the only way to improve education is to eliminate low-performing schools.

Several other politicians took swings at Bloomberg

and his education policies on Tuesday. At a news conference on the steps of City Hall, four of the Democratic candidates for mayor blasted the Bloomberg administration’s plan to shut down a record 62 schools.

“It’s very easy to close a school. It doesn’t take real leadership,” Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer said at the news conference.

“To too many people over at the Tweed building, closing a school is a panacea,” Public Advocate Bill de Blasio said. “They think it will solve all our problems.”

Stringer and de Blasio were joined by Comptroller John Liu and former Comptroller Bill Thompson, as well as representatives from the education advocate groups Class Size Matters, Advocates for Children of New York, and New York Communities for Change.

26th Precinct Community Council meetings are rarely attended by politicians’ representatives, let alone politicians themselves, so Jackson’s and Ortega’s appearances were unexpected.

Jackson said he decided to come to the council meeting, on 126th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue, since he had just given a guest lecture in a Columbia class.

He spoke, alongside Walcott, in former New York City Mayor David Dinkins’ class, “Practical Problems in Urban Politics,” at the School of International and Public Affairs.

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DAVID BRANN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SWIM LIKE A BUTTERFLY | Columbia’s freshmen are making a splash, more than making up for the loss of two strong seniors.

# CU swimming and diving’s new order

MEN’S SWIMMING from back page

class’s real chance to prove itself. “So far they’ve done a very nice job, but we still have a ways to go in the season,” he said. “Really, the defining aspect of the year will be how they do at their championship meet. But we’re very excited to have them.” That’s not to say Bolster doesn’t weight his words with a bit of pride. “I think that a lot of the swimming recruiting journals rated the recruiting classes and I think they gave Princeton and Harvard A’s and Yale A-, and they gave us a B+. I’ll take that, but I take that as a challenge and I’d like these guys to be an A+ when it’s all said and done.”



FILE PHOTO

JUST SHORT | Despite their undefeated record, the Quakers remain a half-game behind 4-0 Harvard in the Ivy standings. Yale lost its undefeated status in a blowout loss to the Crimson.

# Harvard continues to dominate league, with Penn close behind

BY JOSH SHENKAR  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Outside of Columbia’s heart-breaking loss in Ithaca, this weekend abounded in hard-fought, down-to-the wire Ivy League games. Harvard continued its conference dominance with a pair of wins. With Yale’s loss to the Crimson, Harvard and Penn are now the league’s only two undefeated teams.



**HARVARD**  
The Crimson (18-2, 4-0 Ivy) continued its unbeaten run in Ivy League play with a 65-35 trouncing of Yale—which had been tied for first in the conference—followed by an unexpectedly close win against the underdog Bears (7-14, 1-3 Ivy). Sophomore guard Laurent Rivard and freshman forward Steve Moundou-Missi both scored in double digits to contribute to Harvard’s greatest margin of victory against the Bulldogs in their 183-game history. After outscoring Yale 30-19 in the first half, the Crimson went on a 27-9 run to end the game, aided by 12 second-half Yale turnovers. Harvard was able to stay on top of a resilient Brown on Saturday—the big difference came from Harvard’s bench, which outscored the Bears 13-0. Sophomores Kyle Casey and Brandyn Curry led Harvard with 20 points and 15 points, respectively. Harvard hosts Cornell on Friday with a fifth-straight league win in mind.

**PENN**  
Penn (11-9, 3-0 Ivy) ended the Tigers’ three-game win streak at the Palestra on Monday to remain undefeated in the Ancient Eight. The star of the high-scoring and exciting matchup was Penn’s senior guard Zach Rosen, who led all scorers with 28 points. The Quakers’ long game was working, especially in the first half, when seven-for-10 shooting beyond the arc allowed Penn to build an eight-point lead at the break. Princeton managed to cut Penn’s lead to five at several points in the second half, but could not muster the defensive effort to stifle offensive attacks by Rosen and the other Quakers. Penn takes its talents to New Haven on Friday to fight third-place Yale.

**YALE**  
The Bulldogs (13-5, 3-1 Ivy) managed to pull out a win on the weekend after a sobering loss again Harvard, joining in on the league’s collective domination of a winless Dartmouth team, 62-52. In a back-and-forth game, both teams had more than 13 turnovers and shot under 50 percent from the field. Yale managed to overcome an early Dartmouth lead, scoring 12 straight points and taking a 33-26 lead going into halftime. The Big Green retook the lead in the second half before losing it again, and with eight minutes left, the relentless Bulldogs managed to close the game out—senior Reggie Willhite’s seven points and the Bulldogs’ stifling defense led Yale on a 17-6 run.

**CORNELL**  
The Big Red (7-11, 2-2 Ivy) sought and secured vengeance against Columbia on its own turf on Saturday, with a 65-60 victory As expected, senior guard Chris Wroblewski stepped up his game, ending with 19 points, five assists, seven rebounds, and two steals. Just as Columbia got off to an early lead and staved off a surging Cornell last weekend, the Big Red returned the favor and managed to pull out the close victory. A one-point Cornell lead with under two minutes to play expanded when the Lions fouled and the Big Red capitalized, hitting 5-6 from the line to close out the game and split the season series. The win evened Cornell’s Ivy record and put them a game behind fourth-place Yale.

**PRINCETON**  
After being sidelined for over two weeks for finals period, the Tigers (10-9, 1-2 Ivy) had a tough time shaking off the rust against the surging Quakers. Princeton shot an impressive 69 percent in the first half, but struggled to keep pace with Penn’s strong three-point shooting. The Tigers also failed to contain their opponent on the glass, losing the rebound fight 33-19, and 13-4 on the offensive end. Junior forward Ian Hummer led the away team with 21 points and four rebounds, but couldn’t compete with the stellar play of Penn’s Zach Rosen. The Tigers will hope to get back in form against Brown and Yale this weekend on the road.

**BROWN**  
Brown (7-14, 1-3 Ivy) managed to come back and outlast Dartmouth (4-15, 0-3 Ivy) by the score of 66-59, before falling to Harvard the following night.

The first half of the Dartmouth game was fairly even, as both teams traded buckets and shot opportunities. The Big Green ended the first half with a lead that they extended in the second, but Brown crawled even on the back of junior forward Andrew McCarthy, who led the Bears with 19 points. After Brown gained a 56-54 lead with three minutes to go, the game was decided when junior guard Stephen Albrecht stole the ball and made a three-pointer, which ensured the win for the Bears.

**DARTMOUTH**  
The Big Green (4-16, 0-4 Ivy) looked set to pick up its first Ivy win—it took a 48-40 lead against Brown with 13 minutes left in regulation. Dartmouth’s strong play went for naught as Brown snatched and held on to a last-minute lead. Freshman forward Jvonte Brooks led the Big Green with 16 points while sophomore guard Tyler Melville added 11 points.

Dartmouth had an impressive start against Yale, getting off to a 21-15 lead after 10 minutes of play. It managed to slip away, though, through poor shot accuracy and a number of turnovers. A 10-2 run to give the Big Green a second-half lead also failed to stick, and Dartmouth picked up its fourth Ivy loss in as many contests.

RK (IVY)	TEAM
1 18-2 (4-0)	<b>HARVARD CRIMSON</b>  After easily winning its first four conference games, the Crimson faces a tough test against Cornell.
2 11-9 (3-0)	<b>PENN QUAKERS</b>  The Quakers are undefeated in Ivy League play, and wins at Yale and Brown would set up a crucial meeting against Harvard
3 13-5 (3-1)	<b>YALE BULLDOGS</b>  If the Bulldogs are going to contend for the conference title, they will have to win at least one of their games against the Killer Ps.
4 7-11 (2-2)	<b>CORNELL BIG RED</b>  The Big Red has been streaky this season, but has a chance to prove itself against Harvard and Dartmouth.
5 10-9 (1-2)	<b>PRINCETON TIGERS</b>  The disappointing Tigers need to win their games against Brown and Yale to remain in title contention.
6 12-8 (1-3)	<b>COLUMBIA LIONS</b>  After a heartbreaking loss, the Lions will look to get back on track in games at Dartmouth and Harvard.
7 7-14 (1-3)	<b>BROWN BEARS</b>  In a frustrating season for the Bears, they are underdogs against powerhouses Penn and Princeton.
8 4-16 (0-4)	<b>DARTMOUTH BIG GREEN</b>  The Big Green will look to get its first Ivy League win in home games against Columbia and Cornell.





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# Conflict in the air

BY DYLAN KNOX

A recent Spectator news article states that the culmination of a three-year-long epic discourse might be a total ban of smoking on campus (“Senate under mandate to end smoking debate,” Jan. 26). University President Lee Bollinger’s recent call requires USenate to make a final decision on the fate of smoking on campus by the end of this semester, effectively bringing this interminable discussion to the forefront of campus politics. I am not a smoker, and never plan on being one, but an all-out smoking ban is the worst way to deal with this issue. I firmly believe the University Senate should have a policy for smoking on campus, but not one that completely prohibits it. Columbia, in effect, would be harming its reputation and image by banning smoking on campus.

I am by no means an advocate for smoking, but I do believe that everyone has the right to choose his or her own lifestyle. One of the main issues with people smoking on campus is the fear for personal health. The risks of secondhand smoke, as well as other negative side effects that can occur from smoking, are concerns that nonsmokers have when they walk past students smoking on campus. Of course their concerns are valid. After all, the surgeon general warns against smoking. Yet, the University has implemented a policy that tries to resolve the issue while still recognizing its students’ decisions. A complete ban of smoking on campus would unjustly penalize these student smokers for their liberty of choice.

It would be even worse to punish smokers for a choice that doesn’t harm anyone besides themselves. I know quite a few people who choose to smoke cigarettes here at Columbia. I also know that they all choose to do so for many different reasons. Some of them smoke to calm their nerves, or to relax after a very stressful day, or just because they like to smoke. They have every right to smoke on this campus because they aren’t harming anyone. Walking by a smoker outside a building, while a small annoyance if you are anti-smoking, won’t do anything harmful besides irking you. The secondhand smoke won’t damage your lungs—it will dissipate into the air. Call me idealistic, but I believe that the University Senate can truly come to a better solution than one that would totally prohibit smoking on the campus. The current smoking policy on campus is rather vague, but it is still in its early phases and has time to become something better. I believe that it is time to finally end a debate that most would agree has taken too long. In order to do so, the senate needs to realize that the current plan is a step in the right direction. It creates a zone 20 feet away from buildings for smokers, a step in the right direction. Also, it doesn’t penalize any group—it creates a space (which should be defined in clearer terms than it is now) out of the way of busy doorways for people to smoke.

The smoking issue on campus is an important dialogue to have because it promotes discussion between groups in a democratic manner. Banning smoking from campus does not promote anything but a strict regime by the University and a bunch of angry protests occupying smoke-free spaces on campus, which would obviously be the whole campus at that point. I would be severely disappointed in the University Senate if it allowed an all-out smoking ban to occur. I believe that the ban would not be in favor of the student body’s popular opinion—it would only serve to please a certain demographic of nonsmokers. There are better solutions, including the current policy, which would have a far more positive impact on the Columbia community as a whole as well as resolve the issue for good. I strongly encourage nonsmokers and smokers to make sure the ban of smoking on campus doesn’t come to fruition. It would serve only to create more problems worse than the one it was intended to resolve.

The author is a Columbia College junior majoring in English.

STAFF EDITORIAL

# The border of academic freedom

Since news broke about the Columbia University College Republicans’ intention to invite Minuteman Project founder Jim Gilchrist to campus, much of the controversy has been over issues of freedom of speech rather than the immigration issues Gilchrist is better known for. As quoted in a recent Spectator article (“Gilchrist wants to return to Columbia,” Jan. 27), CUCR President William Prasifka has stated that the purpose of Gilchrist’s visit would be “to discuss academic freedom and the freedom of the University.” As Gilchrist’s last visit resulted in the audience storming his stage, even the prospect of his appearance is worth comment.

Given Columbia’s record of inviting dictators and alleged human rights violators—such as Meles Zenawi and Milorad Dodik—to campus, Gilchrist hardly stands out as especially controversial. Both precedent and Columbia’s dedication to academic freedom should allow Gilchrist’s potential visit to proceed and it is encouraging to see that neither the Columbia University College Democrats nor the Columbia Political Union has expressed objections.

Columbia’s institutional support and longtime dedication to academic freedom should preclude nobody—regardless of his views—from coming to campus and fostering dialogue. Extending an invitation is not an endorsement of the invitee’s opinions and Columbia’s reaction to previous speakers—such as Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad—shows that it is cognizant of this. CUCR is entirely within its rights to invite a public figure for discussion in an open arena and no group or individual should stop it from doing so. As a student group, it should have autonomy over what it chooses to do and how it chooses to do it. While CUCR receives funding from the University, it should be largely free to dispose of that funding however it wishes.

While CUCR was entirely within its rights to invite Gilchrist, we question whether the decision to invite him was a good one. Given that Gilchrist’s main area of concern is immigration, it is odd to see that CUCR seems to be focused on freedom of speech and freedom of the University during his visit. Understandably, this has led to questions about CUCR’s intentions behind inviting the Minuteman Project founder. Taking into account that CUCR is expecting to spend around \$2,500 on Gilchrist’s yet to be finalized appearance, we have to wonder if it is causing controversy for controversy’s sake.

Gilchrist’s potential invitation has already attracted significant attention to the subject of academic freedom. Yet given the University’s penchant for regularly inviting controversial figures to campus, we doubt that the extra attention is necessary or warranted. While we reaffirm that CUCR has the right to invite Gilchrist and that he has a right to speak on campus, we use only our powers of persuasion to suggest that others might be more convincing.

# The big man on campus is small

Toward the end of high school, teachers used to counter any and all arrogance-induced misbehavior with a single promise, always delivered as a threat. We were big fish in a little pond, they’d tell us, but when we get to college, we will be little fish in a big pond. Just wait, they would say. But, while first-years in college may indeed feel like very little fish, college is still a pond, and it’s one students can grow into, and in which they can gain, if not notoriety, then at least a place on a lily pad. Students can form relationships with their professors. They can find themselves on the front page of the school paper. They can climb the leadership ladder in campus clubs. Students can still think they’re people (look at my qualine—I am clearly not exempt from this particular delusion of grandeur). Within this particular space in the limited amount of time that we have here, we can come to be big fish in this bigger pond. This is not to say that my high school teachers were totally wrong in their promise, but they predicted its impact too soon. They shouldn’t have threatened us with college, but with everything that comes after.

Life, or the world at large, or whatever one wants to call the space we occupy after we leave college, is a much larger body of water. And it does not seem to me that one can swim in it the same way. One cannot simply go to one’s professor’s office hours and get to know the other people in one’s department and join a club that has elections every year and take over in two or three and be big. Yes, to be sure, one can become bigger. But I do not think one can do so as quickly, or as easily, as one can here.

And while, in theory, we know that this is going to be the reality, I’m not sure that we—or at least, I—fully understand how different the waters will be. We do not fully appreciate that we are going to be guppies after we graduate. That we are not necessarily going to be the people running the organizations or reinventing the publication



EMILY  
TAMKIN

## Back to the Future

or being the greatest thing to happen to a company, and that we are certainly not going to be those people right away. Because I think that deep down, we expect to be. We expect to spend one or two years as life’s first-years, and then become big fish again. I don’t think it’s accidental or coincidental that some of the people I know who are least happy after graduating are also the people who were the biggest fish as undergraduates.

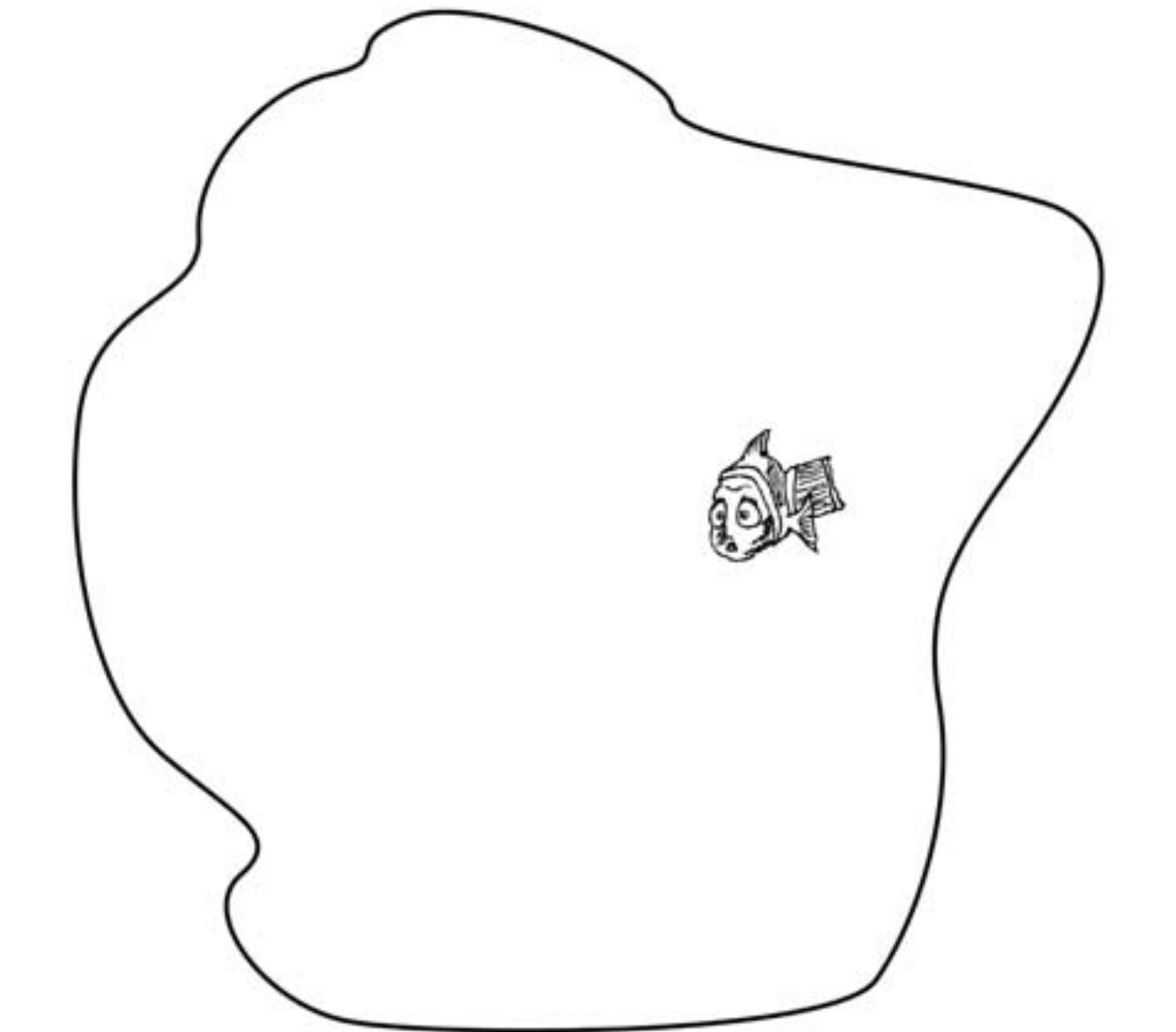
Once, I mused to a friend that I don’t think we realize how long it’s going to take to make something of ourselves. She responded by dramatically declaring that she doesn’t have that kind of time. And why would she? Why would she think that she does, when, from Convocation to Commencement, we’re told of—and living in a structure that reinforces a sense of—our own immediate greatness? Why and how would anyone spending four years like that think that he can or should be anything but great?

## We do not fully appreciate that we are going to be guppies after we graduate.

But she does have that kind of time. She does because we all do. We are still small, but we are also still young, and all that we do not know is all that we still have to learn. And we will learn. Maybe we’ll even come to be big fish again.

But first we have to accept that we’re going to have to be little fish for a while.

Emily Tamkin is a Columbia College senior majoring in Russian literature and culture. She is the general manager of the Columbia Political Union, vice chair of the Senior Fund, literary criticism editor of *The Birch*, and a former Spectator editorial page editor. Back to the Future runs alternate Wednesdays.



EMILY LAZERWITZ

# Back to his roots

BY ALEXANDRA SALERNO

As many of us are aware, Barack Obama, CC ’83, was in the neighborhood about two weeks ago. It’s a short walk from here to the Apollo Theater (and an even shorter limo ride, I presume). What a prime opportunity to pop into Tom’s for a nostalgic late-night milkshake. Am I right? Not as tempting as one may think, apparently. Just as he has demonstrated many times before, the president seems to have outgrown Columbia.

## Convincing every young voter to fall as deeply in love with Obama as he or she was four years ago would be impossible, but we Columbians may be an easier sell than most.

I’m not looking for Air Force One to fly him in for every football game. I’m not expecting him and Michelle to tend the grill and pass out free beers at Homecoming. I’m not even looking for commencement speeches. From a realistic student’s perspective, pouting about President Obama’s lack of involvement in the Columbia community, although tempting, seems unbearably infantile. But from the vantage point of a political strategist, he has written us off too soon for his own good—we could very well be a good population of voters for Obama this year.

Although they’ve been on an upswing over recent months, Obama’s approval ratings are still a matter of concern—23 percent of those polled strongly approve of his presidency while 37 percent strongly disapprove. Voters continue to trust Republicans significantly more than they trust Democrats on the number-one issue of the day: the economy. In short, current data projects that November will be more of a toss-up than Obama would prefer.

The secret to ensuring reelection is hiding in plain sight. Young voters and student volunteers largely carried Obama’s 2008 efforts—an election year that showcased the second-largest young voter turnout in the

history of the United States. His approval ratings in the 18-to-29-year-old age bracket have taken a nosedive since then (from 70 percent in April 2008 to 46 percent in December 2011), mostly due to dissatisfaction with the job market. According to a relatively recent New York Times article (“Students Lose Zeal for Aiding Obama Again,” Nov. 14, 2011), it’s not that this demographic is shifting over to vote Republican—the generalized youth in 2012 is becoming politically apathetic.

Convincing every young voter to fall as deeply in love with Obama as he or she was four years ago would be impossible, but we Columbians may be an easier sell than most. While we are not the world’s greatest proponents of school spirit, it seems a natural human inclination to favor candidates we feel connected to. The 28,000 combined undergraduate and graduate students, along with Columbia’s thousands of alumni, could make a serious impact in results if every registered voter turned out this coming fall.

While many Columbians have watertight political beliefs, I’d hazard a guess that a decent chunk of undecided students could be swayed to support Obama if he showed up on campus the next time he was in the neighborhood and delivered a really bang-up speech. He’s our alumnus—we want him to succeed, if only from a purely selfish, apolitical standpoint. Having a respected two-term president emerge from the same institution we attend is a credit to the caliber of the education we receive and the types of students it produces. This effect should also ostensibly take hold for alumni, who are much more likely to vote Republican than students. If Obama presents himself as dedicated to their school, this sense of camaraderie could very well inspire some undecided graduates who may have otherwise tended conservative to change their tune.

Chances are, few (if any) former Obama supporters are personally offended by his apparent lack of interest in the Columbia community to the point that they will vote Republican in 2012 for this reason alone. However, continuing to leave his alma mater untapped could rob the president of a few thousand undecided votes in 2012. Next time he finds himself down the street, Obama would be advised to pop over and shake some hands—making a few easy friends in a receptive community never hurt anybody.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in statistics and psychology. She is a Spectator associate copy editor.







Human interest  
draws new fans

As I was packing my bags to head back to campus a few weeks ago, my grandmother came in and said she had a couple of ideas for columns I could write this semester. I was a little skeptical, but it's a granddaughter's duty to listen. Plus, with Ivy football season many months away, I'm a little low on relevant material, so I was all ears.

I expected some nice ideas that I likely wouldn't use, but what I didn't expect to hear was my grandmother asking me if I'd heard of Tim Tebow. Apparently, she'd been following his story for weeks.

She was about as surprised as I was that she'd been consistently reading up on a starting quarterback in the NFL—pro football is not my grandmother's usual cup of tea. Usually, reading my articles is the extent of her sports interest, and I'm pretty sure she's more attracted to the byline than the headline. But she was interested in this.

What is it that can make people like my grandmother suddenly develop an interest in sports? Pretty much every single Spec sports columnist ever has tried to convince people to care about our sports teams. Reasons have ranged from moderately successful seasons to free beer. From school spirit to free T-shirts to, well, free beer. But, the truth is, you either have to have a secret desire to watch sports or really love free beer to be persuaded. As a group of alcohol and sports enthusiasts, we in the sports section just can't seem to understand why those tactics fail.

What got my grandmother hooked was something else: human interest.

I know now that if you're not a sports person yet, there's probably nothing about the actual games that is going to get you to go to one, and perks like free beer and T-shirts aren't enough to overcome that aversion either. What got my grandmother hooked was something else: human interest.

Tim Tebow garnered a lot of media attention this season for both his late-game heroics and his widely known religious devotion. (I'll let you guess which one my grandmother was paying more attention to.) Each week there would be a new Broncos game to report on, but there were also new explorations of Tebow himself—from his path to the NFL to his deep-seated beliefs. That's really what attracted so much attention from an unconventional audience—not his come-from-behind wins.

So basically, we columnists have been getting it wrong all these years (sorry, guys). What my grandmother has taught me is this: Sports themselves are not going to get people interested in sports—at least not if they don't already have a penchant for them. When I discussed this phenomenon with our columnist deputy, he compared it to the development of language skills. If you don't fall in love with the game by a certain age, it's not going to be the game that draws you in.

There's a chance, though, that one day, an unlikely friend will say to you, "So you know that cute point guard on our basketball team? I hear he hangs out a lot at The Heights." Or, "So you know that SEAS kid in my class whose hair is long enough to fit into a goofy-looking ponytail? Turns out he's on the basketball team." Or, you know, something that might actually interest you.

As my grandmother has taught us, anyone might develop a surprise interest in what's going on with a starting NFL quarterback. Soon, they'd find themselves following his story in a national paper like the New York Times, or an even cooler one, like the Columbia Spectator. If my grandmother can find something in sports that catches her eye, everyone's bound to end up name-dropping a famous athlete in casual conversation at one point or another.

Victoria Jones is a Barnard College senior majoring in French. [sports@columbiaspectator.com](mailto:sports@columbiaspectator.com)



VICTORIA JONES

Batting a Thousand



DAVID BRANN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A FRESH START | Despite losing key players to graduation last year, the Lions have talented freshmen to make up for it. They comprise nearly 25 percent of the team.

Freshmen make Lions formidable force in Ivies

BY CHARLOTTE MURTISHAW  
Senior Staff Writer

When men's head swim coach Jim Bolster said goodbye to his graduating class last year, he knew the program was losing some serious talent. Among those seniors were Adam Powell and Hyun Lee, each a major point winner and an individual Ivy League champion.

However, he saw no need to despair. "Arguably, we lost two of the greatest swimmers in the history of Columbia swimming and diving in Adam Powell and Hyun Lee," Bolster said. "And I wouldn't say any one individual in the freshman class has stepped up and filled that role and that's not something I was expecting, but sort of by committee, collectively, they have."

It doesn't hurt, for instance, that Stanley Wong—a sprint freestyler and breaststroker from Orangeburg, N.Y.—broke some of Powell's high school state records.

"Coming from the same state and same section, I never actually competed against Adam, but I would always see his times," Wong said. "Actually accomplishing it made me realize that I can swim at his level. So coming here, to the school he graduated from, it gives me motivation to live up to how he swam here."

Coach Gordan Spencer also weighed in on the parallels between the two sprinters. "Stanley is faster coming in than Adam Powell was when he came in as a first-year," he noted. "It's going to be interesting to watch Stanley's progress over four years."

In addition to his performance on the state level, Wong won the 50-yard freestyle at the 2011 NSCA Junior National Championships. He isn't the only rookie making major contributions to the Lions' sprint group, though. A Yardley, Pa. native, Daniel Gosek stands at an intimidating six-and-a-half feet, which gives him a hard-to-beat extension and an immediate advantage in races.

"He works very hard. He's been top three in the 50 in just about every one of our dual meets," Bolster said. Besides just the 50 freestyle, however, Bolster stressed Gosek's versatility, which should be an asset come Feb. 23, the date of the Ivy League Championships.

According to Bolster, Gosek's talents in the 100 freestyle and 100 backstroke set him up to be a possible point winner in those races as well. In the championship

format, each swimmer can swim in three individual races.

"You'd like to have them score in three events, not just swim in three," Bolster said. "Dan has that potential ... I think he's going to create a stir at Ivy Championships, or certainly has that ability."

Yet another freshman with potential to place in his rookie season came to Columbia by way of Canada. Omar Arafa, an Egyptian native who moved to Toronto in the middle of his junior year of high school, currently owns the third-fastest 100 backstroke time in the Ivy League—and he only recently turned 17.

Despite his age, the precocious swimmer has a mature outlook on his career, not to mention big aspirations.

"Jim was a big part of the reason I came to Columbia," Arafa said of his coach. "He made me confident that coming here was the right choice, that I would improve, that I would make all of the goals I had in mind, and I just felt at home."

Among those goals is Arafa's ambition to swim in the Olympics. Because of his origins, Arafa could potentially compete for either Canada or Egypt.

"I think that's something that's in the back of his mind and he certainly has the potential to get there. If he stays healthy and continues to work hard, it's sort of the natural evolution," Bolster said.

Micah Rembrandt, a freshman from Longmeadow, Mass., dives off the springboard, not the blocks. Rembrandt, who prefers the one-meter event, has managed several first-place finishes in dual meets thus far this season.

"Micah has proven himself to be very competitive this year," said head diving coach Gordon Spencer. "Just a tremendous work ethic. And his acrobatic skills, his explosiveness are very high as well. ... He's an incredibly hard worker, he's a great listener, and he's doing everything he can to get better."

Rembrandt, who started diving when his mom signed him up for a class when he was young, tries to keep things in perspective. "I'm not overconfident," he said. "I know what kind of diver I am and I've had a pretty good season so far, and I'm just hoping to maintain and improve upon what I've done."

At this point in the season, the swimmers' focus on Ivies is inevitable. After all, as Bolster points out, it's the freshman

MEN'S SWIMMING, page 3

MEN'S SWIMMING

Event: Free/Back  
Hometown: Mississauga, Ontario  
High School: Silverthorn Institute

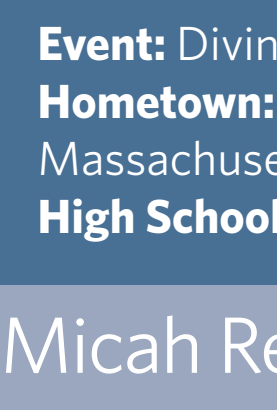


Omar Arafa



Event: Back/Fly/Free  
Hometown: Yardley, Pennsylvania  
High School: Holy Ghost Prep

Daniel Gosek



Event: Diving  
Hometown: Longmeadow, Massachusetts  
High School: Longmeadow

Micah Rembrandt



Event: Breast/Free  
Hometown: Orangeburg, New York  
High School: Tappan Zee

Stanley Wong

GRAPHIC BY CELINE GORDON