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BY THE FIRESIDE | University President Lee Bollinger talks to undergraduates at a fireside chat at his house. Meanwhile, about 20 students, including Chelsea Schieder, GSAS (below, left), gather outside Bollinger’s house for an event sponsored by Occupy Columbia.

Man tricked at least 8 classes in ticket scam

BY LILLIAN CHEN
Spectator Staff Writer

A man posing as a Columbia employee and selling questionable nightclub tickets ran a much larger scam than was initially thought, making appearances in at least eight classes over two weeks and likely raking in hundreds of dollars before he was caught on Thursday.

The man entered classes, and after telling professors that he worked for the Division of Student Affairs, sold students what he claimed were \$5 tickets that would get them access to 12 popular nightclubs. It’s unclear just how many classes he tricked, and how many students bought the tickets.

“Public Safety was alerted about the situation at 4:39 p.m. on Feb. 2 and responded immediately,” Columbia spokesperson Daniel Held said in an email. “The man was apprehended and ... declared ‘Persona non grata’ on campus.”

As part of his scam, the man claimed that Student Affairs usually sold the tickets for \$10, and that he was offering them at an even bigger discount. Some students questioned why no professors realized the man did not work for Columbia.

“The teachers didn’t even know that this was not an actual program,” said Charlie Stigler, SEAS ’15, who purchased a ticket. “Somebody should have realized.”

Zhaoqi Li, CC ’15, who also bought a ticket, agreed.

“I was just surprised we didn’t

SEE SCAM, page 5

Engineers map city energy consumption

BY JEREMY BUDD
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Engineering school researchers have created a map detailing energy consumption around New York City, which may help urban planners create greener technology and save energy.

A team at the School of Engineering and Applied Science’s Department of Mechanical Engineering, led by Ph.D. student Bianca Howard and professor Vijay Modi, measured the amount of energy that buildings consume on every block in New York City, which may provide crucial data for other scientists.

“In terms of energy efficiency, I would say that per capita we are a very efficient city,” Howard said. “We were looking to get a better understanding at alternative ways of supplying energy.”

Previously, it was difficult

for building owners to quantify their energy consumption and determine which factors accounted for high energy levels. Howard and Modi calculated the amount of energy consumed by space cooling, water heating, base electric, and space heating within each block of the city.

“The idea was around for a while, since 2008, so work was started trying to figure out how to quantify energy consumption,” Howard said. “It’s been a long time coming.”

Howard hopes that the map will help planners and designers recognize elevated energy levels and understand the dynamics within specific blocks and neighborhoods.

“We wanted to have the information available to people to analyze their energy,” she said. “We’re trying to look at the possible reduction and incorporation of different technology, and

we’re trying to search the city for places where this may be viable.”

Modi said that although the map is a huge step for researchers, his team is still in the preliminary stages of applying its data.

“This is just the first step—literally I would say we are on page one and we have to go to page 10,” he said. “This could become a vehicle and we are talking to other people.”

Modi also said that although other researchers had previously discussed the idea of mapping energy consumption, Columbia’s ability to fund big projects enabled the research to come to fruition.

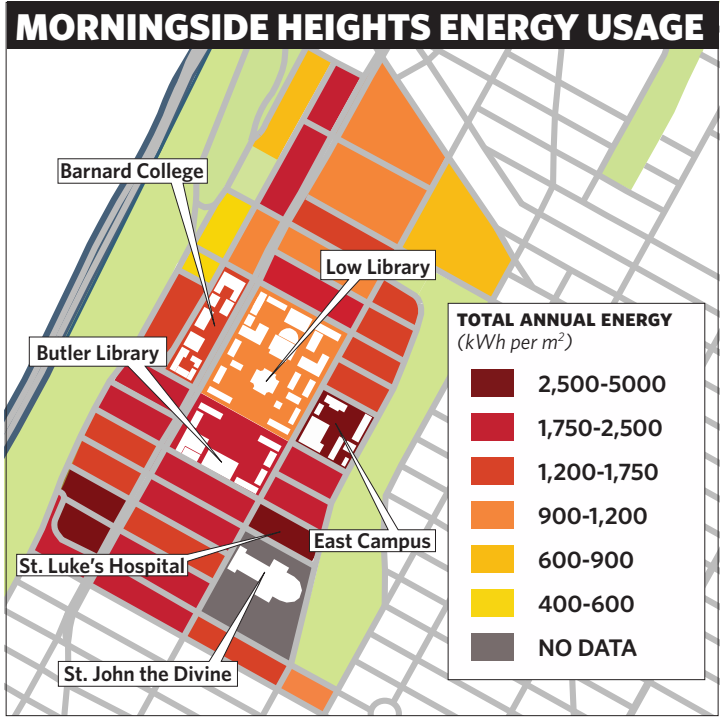
“We are a large institution and we can commission a half-a-million-dollar study,” he said. “Another group may not have the money to back a study.”

While outside groups may have struggled to land the funding to map energy levels, they might now be able to use the Columbia data as a springboard for other projects. Architecture professor David Smiley said that the data might lead to policies that create more efficient energy usage.

“From the point of view of planning, it could be inserted into all sorts of incentive programs,” he said. “It’s the incentivized model of getting people to change their behaviors.”

Smiley explained that urban planners could use the research to set thresholds on energy consumption, and that architects and designers could be influenced by it.

“It could help a design firm know that if a building they’re working on has a high energy usage, the architect would need to pursue new methods of getting



GRAPHIC BY YUMA SHINOHARA

SEE ENERGY, page 5

Bollinger, Occupy CU hold fireside chats

President talks transparency, gentrification

BY ABBY ABRAMS
Spectator Staff Writer

University President Lee Bollinger sat down with about 50 undergraduates on Tuesday night to answer questions about embattled SEAS Dean Feniosky Peña-Mora, gentrification in Harlem, and McKinsey and Company’s recent report on Columbia’s Arts and Sciences, among other topics.

Undergraduates were chosen by lottery for the fireside chat, which Bollinger held at his house at 116th Street and Morningside Drive. Meanwhile, about 20 students attended an alternative event outside Bollinger’s house, hosted by Occupy Columbia.

Early in the evening, a student from the School of Engineering and Applied Science asked Bollinger about his “thoughts on the future” of the engineering school, in the wake of widespread faculty discontent with Peña-Mora that became public last semester.

“Feni is a new dean. He has a lot to learn,” Bollinger said. “Columbia is a complicated place.”

Still, Bollinger expressed confidence in Peña-Mora and in the future of the engineering school.

“I think there’s enormous potential in Feni ... I’m optimistic that the school will continue on the same path it’s on now,” he said.

Asked about Columbia’s ongoing expansion project in Manhattanville, Bollinger also addressed the issue of gentrification

SEE FIRESIDE CHAT, page 5

Occupiers gather outside PrezBo’s house

BY MEGAN KALLSTROM
Spectator Staff Writer

Occupy Columbia University hosted its own fireside chat opposite University President Lee Bollinger’s on Tuesday night, with students gathering outside of Bollinger’s house to reflect on the Occupy movement’s place at Columbia and on the University as a whole.

About 20 students attended the event, which was billed as an alternative to Bollinger’s more exclusive fireside chat. They huddled around hot chocolate at 116th Street and Morningside Drive—watched by as many as five Columbia security guards at a time—and discussed issues ranging from students’ financial problems, to Columbia’s relationship with the community, to the University’s Manhattanville expansion.

“At a time when ... there’s increasing emphasis on administration rather than education, we wanted to discuss this stuff,” Theo Di Castri, CC ’12, said.

About 50 students chosen by lottery attended Bollinger’s fireside chat. Yoni Golijov, CC ’12, called the Occupy event “a statement about transparency and democracy and government.”

“The point of today is to have an open-ended discussion ... [At Bollinger’s fireside chat], the questions are screened, there’s not a lot of democratic discussion or transparent discussion.”

SEE OCCUPY, page 5

Residents, CB7 protest Jewish Home’s proposed high-rise

BY CASEY TOLAN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Upper West Side residents turned out in droves at a Community Board 7 meeting Tuesday night to express opposition to Jewish Home Lifecare’s plans to build a 20-story development.

JHL, a nursing home organization, wants to move from its current Manhattan location, on 106th Street between Amsterdam and Columbus avenues, to a new site on 97th Street between Amsterdam and Columbus avenues—right in the middle of the Park West Village housing complex.

In a room packed with more than 200 people, many local residents argued against the JHL development, leading CB7 to approve a resolution that could force a more stringent city review process of the plan.

Arnold Young, who has lived in Park West Village for about 40 years, said that when he moved in, “Park West Village was a place that had green space and open space.”

“This building will cast a shadow over our buildings,” Young said. “Forget your gardens, your beautiful flowers. They will all be gone if this is allowed.”

Bruce Nathanson, a senior vice president at JHL, defended the plan as beneficial for the community, although locals at the meeting did not take well to his assurances.

“We’re moving from one location to another within the district, reducing the size of our operation, reducing our real estate footprint, and leaving behind more community space,” Nathanson said over loud booing and yells of “that’s a lie!”

CB7 members voted overwhelmingly to resolve that there

is a “scarcity of land for general community purposes” in the district, an important legal term. If the City Planning Commission decides it agrees with CB7’s advisory vote, JHL would be forced to go through a multifaceted city review process known as Uniform Land Use Review Procedure, potentially bringing its plans to a halt.

JHL spokesperson Ethan Geto, CC ’65, told Spectator that if the development is forced to do ULURP, “it’s unclear whether we’ll go through with it.” Otherwise, JHL hopes to break ground on the three-year project in early 2014, he said.

CB7 member and City Council candidate Helen Rosenthal said that “it’s imperative for the Community Board to acknowledge the weight of community feeling on this,” and that she “very proudly” supported the board’s resolution.

“This resolution gives City Planning the opportunity to look at all the different issues ... in relation to schools, park space, small businesses that’s clearly there,” Rosenthal said. “By using this tool and opening up a larger review, we’ll be able to have a larger understanding.”

“I’m voting for this resolution because it’s the way the community will have a voice on this project,” board member and City Council candidate Mel Wymore said. “We need to have a public process when a large building like this comes into the neighborhood.”

State Assembly member Daniel O’Donnell, who made an appearance at the meeting, said he wrote a letter to the City Planning Commission chair urging CPC to approve the ULURP review

SEE CB7, page 5

OPINION, PAGE 2

Sexual healing

Mark Hay discusses how to expand sexual health resources.

Is knowledge identity?

The Canon explores Francis Bacon’s claim that we are what we know.



SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Table tennis team tries for national bid

While the CU Table Tennis Club offers friendly competition for all, it is also home to a nationally ranked team brimming with talent.

EVENTS

Monsieur Deficit

Historian Jacob Soll discusses how the French invented financial politics.
305 Journalism, 6 p.m.

The Future of Education Policy

Experts discuss the odds of education reform being passed after the 2012 elections.
Milbank Chapel, Teachers College, 6 p.m.

WEATHER

Today


39°/30°

Tomorrow


46°/30°



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I am writing to commend you on the thoughtful editorial that appeared on Monday (“Keep your eyes peeled,” Feb. 6). I appreciate that you have recognized the challenges that Public Safety faces daily in maintaining the safety of an open campus without becoming unduly overbearing. We work very hard to achieve that balance in order to help maintain the safe yet vibrant atmosphere that makes the Columbia campus so special. Thank you for understanding and appreciating the difficulty of our task. I also appreciate your observation that the safety of our campus is a responsibility which we all share. In fact, you have echoed a key element of our mission statement that is published on the Public Safety homepage. In particular, it states, “The success of this mission depends upon an effective working relationship between Public Safety personnel, and the diverse elements of the Columbia community, including students, staff, faculty, and visitors.”

We will continue our efforts to build this relationship, and will continue to encourage our campus partners to collaborate with us in order to make our campus the safest that it can be. Thank you for supporting us in this endeavor.

James F. McShane
Vice President for Public Safety
Columbia University

To the Editor:

The Spectator news article (“City might mandate sick pay for some workers,” Feb. 1) illustrates one of the problems with a government mandate such as the City Council consideration of paid sick leave legislation. This will have a debilitating effect on small businesses throughout the city. Council leaders even recognize this by their inclusion of a grace period for new small businesses before they must comply.

Unfortunately, this concession does little to address the inherent fact that not all businesses are created equally. Whether it opened last month or 10 years ago, most service industry businesses like restaurants, grocery stores, and corner markets will never profit more than \$2,500 per employee. Meanwhile, a small real estate firm or start-up high tech company can easily profit over \$50,000 per employee.

So when the City Council debates the costs of mandates like the paid sick leave bill, that \$2,500 is virtually wiped off the books. Businesses that can’t turn a profit tend not to last very long, and that’s certainly not good for their workers’ health and welfare. Maybe the folks in city hall and even Congress should start thinking differently about the effect mandates like this have on businesses, not just whether they sound good on paper. Profit Per Employee, which is simply net profit divided by the number of workers, is probably a good place to start.

Troy Flanagan
Profit Per Employee Coalition

STAFF EDITORIAL

SGA needs a mission

Last Monday night, Barnard’s Student Government Association conducted a 45-minute council meeting, most of which was spent voting on SGA apparel. The time not spent discussing fashion was used to discuss Winter Wonderland and the Career Dinner—an events discussion that could have very easily taken place over email, rather than using up council time. At the following University-wide council meeting, when the Barnard SGA representative delivered the weekly account to other councils, the most she could say was that the council had no updates, because it had spent the meeting discussing T-shirts.

It seems that the SGA meeting was a waste of its members’ time—which leads us to question the organization’s role as a representative of the student body. If the most pressing issue SGA has to discuss is designing hoodies and T-shirts for its own members, it should seriously reflect on its effectiveness as a council and what it stands for. Nothing says this better than the mission statement on SGA’s website—which is at least a year out of date. One sentence of the statement says, “SGA exists in order to enhance YOUR Barnard experience,” among other vagaries. Rather than spewing empty words and trivialities, SGA needs to focus first on actually creating a mission statement, and then creating goals to match it.

Admittedly, Barnard might have fewer issues to worry about than Columbia College or SEAS. While CCSC, ESC, and GSSC have to fight to communicate with the upper echelons of the Columbia administration, Barnard’s bureaucracy is much more accessible. But it would be foolish for us to assume that all’s well in the Barnard sphere, and that every Barnard student is completely satisfied with her quality of life.

It is precisely from these connections and accessibility to the Barnard administration that SGA has the strength to act on the student body’s needs. President Debora Spar, for example, has office hours that students can sign up for, and SGA can get in touch with its Board of Trustees more easily—something which a Columbian could only dream of. In effect, SGA is in a better position to act on issues, which is why it is all the more imperative for the student government to define its mission. If SGA is not using its potential to effect significant change in the Barnard community, and is instead deciding on T-shirts, its members should either examine how the council is being run and seriously think about what it’s doing or dissolve. If there is nothing for them to do, they may as well not exist.

If SGA actually wants to represent the student body, it needs to discuss real issues. Moreover, it needs to do so in a respectable manner and accurately reflect the student body. SGA can’t send a representative to an all-councils meeting with the only update being that it voted on SGA apparel. If SGA defined a clear purpose for itself, it would finally represent Barnard’s “strong and beautiful” students.

The Columbia Daily Spectator accepts op-eds on any topic relevant to the Columbia University and Morningside Heights community. Op-eds should be roughly 650 words in length. We require that op-eds be sent exclusively to Spectator and will not consider articles that have already been published elsewhere.

Letters to the Editor should be no longer than 350 words and must refer to an article from Spectator or The Eye, or a Spectrum post. Submissions should be sent to opinion@columbiaspectator.com. Please paste all submissions into the body of the email. Should we decide to publish your submission we will contact you via email.

Keeping sex healthy

Pop culture pins the modern college as a hybrid between a fleshpot and a cesspool—all writhing, anonymous, diseased young bodies. That concern is real in some situations. But Columbia is, physically speaking, an exceptionally and shockingly sexually healthy university. What’s more important in thinking about sex here, especially at this alternately warm and isolating time of year, is how it stacks up against emotional and relationship wellness at Columbia—and how we might use the momentum of our strong sexual health programs to heal the gaps and cement that vital bond in our holistic, communal sexual-emotional wellness.

Many may feel, though, that Columbia’s laurels in sexual health are overhyped. Many people I know scoffed when Trojan Condoms ranked Columbia first out of American campuses in sexual health, thinking it was just a representation of the number of condoms on campus. And that’s understandable. Sexual health is an invisible benefit. A successful program prevents so much and works so subtly as to appear invisible and make every failure more glaring. But the Trojan award represents far more than condoms. Our HIV and other STD testing programs, sexual awareness and outreach initiatives, anonymous advice and peer groups, sexual assault response programs, and lastly the accessibility of all these resources, while flawed, are strong, interconnected, and effective. We have at least 15 student groups that I am aware of with some programming on sexual health. Go Ask Alice!, Columbia’s health website, is a nationally recognized and lauded resource. In sum, it’s an amazing array of resources.

Beyond the sexual safety that concerned the Trojan rankings, Columbia creates an environment where, if students utilize resources around them, the sex itself is quite good and diverse. That stands in some contrast to Maria Yagoda’s article in the Yale Daily News (“Just say no [to awful sex],” Jan. 20), in which she indicted the male population of her school for non-communicative, self-focused, and unsatisfying sexual forays. While Yagoda believes it’s a game of numbers, with few eligible men able with whom to get away with murder, an author responding on Jezebel points out that the shortcomings probably lie in communication and comfort (“Are Yale Guys Bad at Sex?” Jan. 25). Columbia encourages both of those. We have what I, as a consumer, believe to be one of the only sex-positive student magazines in the nation that doesn’t sound like it’s biting its pinky finger and winking at you in its popularly accessible and actually well-edited articles (full disclosure: I have written for the Morningside After in the past). We’re one of the only campuses with communities encouraging engagement with, and consideration of, almost every (including the



MARK HAY
The Whole Wellness

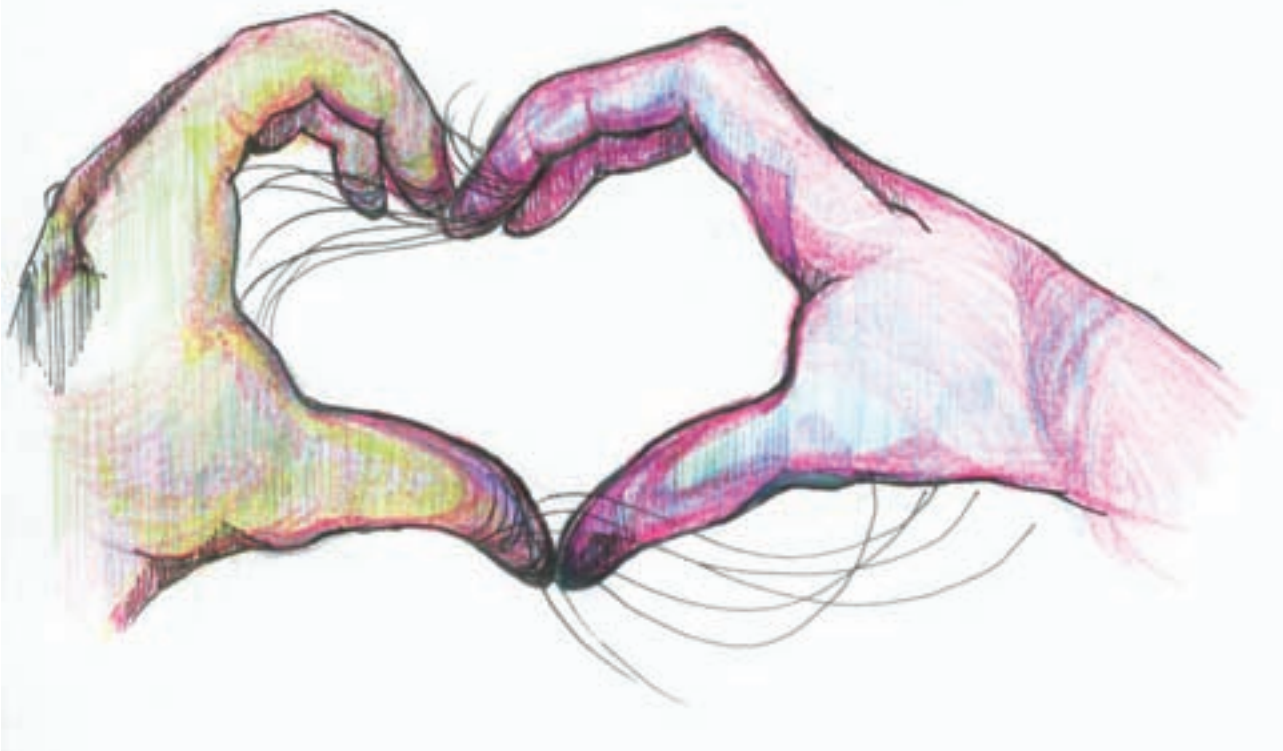
oft-maligned kinky) type of sex. Even residential advisers, with condom bags on their doors, make a concerted effort to get students talking about sex, sexual preferences, and personal sexual satisfaction. One of my early assignments while working for Bwog involved covering an RA-sponsored expo of sex toys from the erotic boutique Babeland, which publicly and constructively proselytized the message of “relaxation, lubrication, and communication.”

Yet for all of this, the usage of many resources remains lower than it could be. Sex-positive events have minimal attendance and often attract the same people. While the sex at Columbia may be healthy and (potentially) good, that speaks only to the experience of those who have sex and utilize the resources that can help to improve their sex lives. Two anecdotes: Last year I cruelly forced a student group to meet on Valentine’s Day during dinner-and-date time. Attendance was normal. One club member mused that this was a telling reflection on all of our personal lives. More recently, a friend lamented the ease with which he can talk about and have sex, but the difficulty he has in having emotionally satisfying sex and finding long-lasting connections. Columbia’s abstract culture still holds up the image of a lonely and frustrated college student searching for physical and emotional satisfaction—the two of which should not often be decoupled.

We can applaud our phenomenal success in achieving sexual health for the sexually active population—for encouraging masturbation, self-knowledge, and self-satisfaction—and for the presence of an open and sex-positive environment. But our goal must extend to reaching populations who would not ordinarily engage with a sex-positive environment in ways that speak to their experiences and sensibilities. And we must not lose sight of the need to encourage emotional and relationship health in tandem with sexual health—again, as is the theme of this column, tying a vibrant singularity of wellness into a holistic wellness environment.

Columbia already has the infrastructure and the momentum to improve the emotional-sexual life of our student body. With some minimal effort, all of the groups on campus concerned with sexual health could flex their outreach programs to provide relationship advice, couples counseling, and even mixers to help those looking to find their special someones. But possibly more importantly, the existing resources at Columbia can and should each, within the next week, contact every other campus group and talk about co-hosting events relating to emotional-sexual relationship wellbeing. They should find points of overlap, produce novel events, and help to bring wellness and self-reflection on sexual, personal, and relationship wellbeing into every corner of the campus. And in the process, help people connect and grow this Valentine’s Day.

Mark Hay is a Columbia College senior majoring in religion and political science. He is a coordinator of the Student Wellness Project and the acting chair for the InterPublications Alliance. The Whole Wellness runs alternate Wednesdays.



ASHLEY SANG EUN LEE

Move us forward

BY MARA KRAVITZ

Robert Kasdin, Senior Executive Vice President and head of Environmental Stewardship at Columbia, announced in the Summer 2011 Update on the University’s Environmental Stewardship that the Morningside campus is in the process of switching from outdated and dirty heating oil to natural gas. The University markets this switch as positively green. But where will this natural gas come from? Because of a sharp decline in conventional natural gas extraction in the U.S. since the 1970s, an increasing proportion of domestically produced gas comes from an alarming new technology known as “hydrofracking.”

High-volume horizontal hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” produces fossil fuel energy for commercial and residential use by blasting water and a “proprietary” slew of carcinogenic and otherwise toxic chemicals thousands of feet down into the ground to break up rock formations and release trapped pockets of natural gas. Columbia, Cornell, and other research institutions have conducted studies showing that fracking pollutes water, causes earthquakes, and emits more greenhouse gas than oil over a 20-year horizon. It destroys farmland, contributes to air pollution, and contaminates water supplies. Still, energy providers and the institutions that employ them advertise natural gas extracted through fracking as a sustainable alternative to foreign oil.

Having installed hundreds of thousands of wells in Western states like Texas and Colorado, natural gas companies are turning now to the Marcellus Shale, an underground rock formation that stretches through New York and Pennsylvania to Virginia, and beneath the Delaware River Basin, which provides some of the cleanest unfiltered tap water to 15 million people in New York City and the surrounding area. The gas industry estimates that it would use and pollute over 10 billion gallons of water from this source over 10 years.

Even as Columbia scientists expose its ecological and health hazards, hydrofracking is entirely left out of the University’s conversation about the transition to a natural gas-fueled campus. This exemption is ignorant at best and evasive at worst, considering Columbia’s scientific and financial power to seriously contemplate more progressive alternatives.

Meanwhile, a student group called Infracktion has formed, seeking to pressure the administration to consider

the implications of hydrofracking in the University’s switch to natural gas, and to implement a more genuinely sustainable energy policy. Considering that we are mostly undergraduates studying a variety of subjects, we are not equipped to provide all the answers to Columbia’s energy issues. That isn’t our job. Rather, we ask that Columbia turn to its own valuable resources: its professors and scientists. Columbia should allocate funding to create a group of energy and finance professionals dedicated to finding energy alternatives for the University. We could, for example, tap into the expertise of professors at the Earth Institute such as Klaus Lackner and Peter Eisenberger, who are developing innovative renewable energy and carbon capture technologies.

To fund such endeavors, Columbia could consider creating a green revolving fund, as many other universities have successfully done. Through this model, an initial investment in clean energy saves the University a certain amount of money, which is then reinvested in further clean energy development. Stanford, for example, has invested \$24.45 million in its green revolving fund.

Columbia’s switch to natural gas is more than unfortunate—it’s regressive. Converting to natural gas is an expensive infrastructural commitment, which implies long-term dependency on a cheap supply of gas. No doubt this investment will “create jobs,” a phrase exploited as much by the oil and gas industry as by mainstream politicians, but the question is what kind of infrastructure we want these jobs to build. Updated research has shown that the projected gas reserves in the Marcellus Shale were exaggerated by at least 60 percent, and industry analysts like Deborah Rogers have suggested that the hydrofracking boom is poised to bust long before delivering on its promises. To stake this many jobs on such an unstable base is as dangerous for the economy as fracking is for our health.

Columbia is a locus of power and influence, supported by brilliant scientific minds working towards real energy alternatives. This is not a matter of what’s possible, but of priorities. As the powers-that-be put \$6.3 billion into a 17-acre expansion into Harlem that will likely run on natural gas, we ask: Why not go further? Rather than slowing the implementation of cleaner solutions, why not move forward, starting right here on our campus?

The author is a List College senior majoring in anthropology. She is a member of Infracktion, a project of Students for Economic and Environmental Justice and a Green Umbrella group. This op-ed is written on behalf of Infracktion.

The Canon

The adage “a man is but what he knoweth” is engraved in gold lettering above Butler’s Reference Room. Do we agree with this assessment?

FROM THE EDITOR:

We’ve all been in Butler’s reference room, but few of us look up and see Francis Bacon’s famous words emblazoned high on the ceiling. Derek Turner is one of those few. While the rest of us slave away at our work, eyes down, heads in our books (or computer screens), losing perspective of the bigger existential picture, Derek—true scholar that he is—looks up and questions.

Columbia’s campus is full of icons that supposedly represent its mission in some vague, tortured way. There is a reason that McKim, Mead & White incorporated symmetry and neoclassical design in the campus. Likewise there is a reason that Daniel Chester French chose to depict Athena—goddess of wisdom—in Alma Mater. Yet we seldom question the validity of these icons as representative of Columbia’s educational mission.

We can think about one of them today.

Lanbo Zhang
Editorial Page Editor

We are fact, or are we

I present a short sentence, analogous to Bacon’s adage: “A factory is but what it produces.” Now, there is an argument to be made that this is self-evidently true. After all, a factory that produces cars is a car factory. A factory that produces pins is a pin factory. A factory that produces iPhones is a gussied-up gulag, but that is an aside. To return to the adage, a man is a lot like a knowledge factory. He is provided inputs of information, which are then sorted, assembled, and interpreted into forms of finished, actionable cognition that we call knowledge. Through the many forms of dialogue, this knowledge then becomes the informational input for a different human knowledge factory, representing the endless production chain of learning. There have been many famous knowledge factories, such as the Newtonian Physics Plant, or the Hobbesian Political Science Manufacturing Centre. Newton and Hobbes were renowned in their times and are remembered in history for the unique knowledge they imparted to the world. And yet, defining a man solely by the final knowledge he holds is as misleading as defining a factory by its final goods.



ESFANDYAR BATMANGHELIDJ

Production of knowledge, like production of cars, pins, and iPhones, is procedural. In the production of goods, manufacturing processes can be efficient or wasteful, complex or simple, arduous and costly, or easy and cheap. Likewise, there are many ways to produce knowledge, and different men and women pursue different routes. Some learn collaboratively in social institutions such as universities, darting to classrooms and libraries in concert with their similarly minded peers. Others learn in solitude at Walden Pond, monkish in their pursuits. Some learn through a rigorous curriculum, intently imbibing the knowledge prioritized by the institution. Others choose the path of least resistance, letting a wandering mind choose what knowledge to privilege. The many ways to gather information and produce knowledge are as diverse as the people who conceive of them.

To return to the analogy, consider two factories that produce women’s shoes—let’s say, black pumps. One factory is in Indonesia—it is massive, the buzzing of machines deafening, the laborers working at an incredible pace. The other is in Italy—small and peaceful, a handful of craftsmen using simple tools to gingerly assemble the shoes. The shoes from Indonesia will end up at Payless or Kmart. The shoes from Italy will end up at Barneys or Bergdorf Goodman. To an untrained eye, the two pairs of shoes are indistinguishable—they accomplish the same task, in the same way, allowing tasteful women to not-so-gracefully teeter along cobblestones. However, if we were made aware of how the shoes were made, we wouldn’t say they are the same. A pair of black pumps is more than just a pair of women’s footwear—it is the culmination of the pedigree that produced it.

By extension, two men may both have the same knowledge of a language, a craft, a mathematical concept, or a literary work. But the processes by which they procured that knowledge are what speak to their characters as men. It is the process that determines how they interact with the knowledge they encounter, how they wield the new knowledge they produce, and how they impart what they know to others. These two men may be able to explain why Shakespeare’s tragedies are so enduring with equal competence, but the manner in which they choose to do so speaks to the pedigree of their knowledge. The man who reads Shakespeare under an oak tree is going to have a very different approach than he who reads Shakespeare at Oakland Community College. These two men may both be able to eloquently explain why war is morally reprehensible. But the one who reads “Slaughterhouse-Five” will do so in a very different way than the one who witnesses a civilian slaughter in a house.

Bacon is correct in saying that man is defined by what he knows. Yet without being pedantic, we must realize that he leaves the verb in its active form. It is how we actively engage knowledge that defines us to the world and constitutes our identities, our characters, our mettle. How we deal with knowledge is what makes us optimists or pessimists, Democrats or Republicans, believers or atheists. By being afforded the privilege to attend Columbia, we have been given the chance to produce knowledge through a particularly esteemed process. We emerge as Columbians, our knowledge no greater than that of most college graduates, but our process integral to who we become.

Esfandiyar Batmanghelidj is a Columbia College sophomore. He contributes regularly to The Canon.

A man is but who he knoweth

For years, I have often looked up from my feverish essay writing in the Reference Room, desperate for distraction or inspiration. What I have always seen is the disheartening claim that my worth is based on my knowledge. Sealed in stone and presiding over the hunched masses are Francis Bacon’s words: “A MAN IS BUT WHAT HE KNOWETH.” Keenly aware of just how much I do not know, I am dismayed by the words.

As I understand it, Bacon’s reference asserts the supremacy of knowledge as a means to personal worth. Thus, the more one knows the more value one has. Moreover, because values inform identity and character, Bacon’s claim is essentially that knowledge is most critical to identity. Thus, as one acquires education, knowledge, character and identity grow accordingly. With all due respect, I beg to differ with Sir Francis on this identity claim. Instead, I submit that a man is but who he knoweth.

It is my firm conviction that relationships and the interactions they facilitate have much more of an effect on our character than our accumulated



DEREK TURNER

knowledge do. It is not simply that our relationships teach us more—it’s that they directly impact our character.

Looking to my own life as an example, my knowledge has frequently had very little to do with who I am. For the past four years as an undergraduate at Columbia, I see no correlation between moments of great knowledge acquisition and episodes of significant personal growth. Take, for example, any given finals period. If Bacon is to be believed, I should see my identity being shaped at the ends of semesters, when I acquire great amounts of knowledge.

My Columbia experience has shaped me primarily because of the people in my life.

That is not what I experience. In fact, I think many of my peers would agree that finals and other periods of great academic performance are times when one puts personal development on hold simply to get work done. If anything, these periods inform our character and identity because surviving the challenges they present is so difficult that it builds up our personal endurance of hardship, not because we know more as a result of the experience.

Far from solely dictating the state of my



ILANA SCHULDER

More than knowledge

BY DOUGLAS CHALMERS

Francis Bacon, when he wrote “A man is but what he knoweth,” was successfully advocating a whole new way of gaining knowledge (roughly speaking, scientific induction), so he may have been a little overenthusiastic about “knowing.” And admonitions in a library are likely to emphasize knowledge over other kinds of interactions between students in the room. But the issue is whether only knowledge makes a man, and whether the University is offering only knowledge to the minds of its students. We’ll ignore the fact that the use of the male noun seems to eliminate half the population. And let’s overlook the obvious fact that the body is needy, too. Instead, let’s talk about knowledge. It is certainly true that what we know defines a lot about us. And, not surprisingly, Columbia tries to pour knowledge into its students.

First of all there is the knowledge that makes you a professional in something. We are what we do in the world: People will keep asking, “What do you DO?” Majors, grad school, and interdepartmental programs all offer specialized training, and all of it is aimed at giving you the knowledge to be such a professional.

Who you are also depends on knowing how to use those skills. While you are at Columbia you do labs, work for professors, get summer jobs, and find internships that help you to know how to use your specialized knowledge. You have to think about what political aims and moral standards you should use in choosing and using technical and practical knowledge. You come with those from family, church, community, the media, and the Internet, but at Columbia you get a chance to work them out in courses and discussion with others. For example, the Core Curriculum gives you extended opportunities to discuss what you accept as a worthwhile goal for your work.

However, the quote reads, “A man is but what he knoweth.” The “but” is problematic.

Your identity also depends on your ability to work with others. You are who you know, and who you can count on. At Columbia you learn how to build those links in collaborative projects, student associations, performance groups, athletic teams, and protest movements.

It is certainly true that what we know defines a lot about us.

Furthermore, you are what you feel. You get to know how nice it is to make a good contribution to a class discussion. You learn to rise above your mistakes. You learn how good it feels to get, and to yearn for, recognition for a job well done (including getting your degree). You get to know the pain of watching friends slide, or the joy of seeing them get through a rough spot. You learn how important it is, both for yourself and socially, to feel right.

You are, too, what others think of you. Although many of you come to Columbia very conscious of what others think about you, you learn to evaluate those judgments and balance them against what you really care about. You learn the strategy of getting the right people to think the best of you, including what you want to include in that category of “best.”

You are also a bundle of inborn and/or nurtured capacities and weaknesses. You are good at, feel comfortable with, are skillful about some things and not others. Picking majors and participating in group activities or art and music performances help you to discover who you are in a way that is different from what you know.

The statement over the Butler Reference Room is correct in that what you know is crucial to who you are. But it's only a beginning of what's important in making you a person—and what you get at Columbia.

The author is a professor emeritus of political science and director of the Society of Senior Scholars.

knowledge, my Columbia experience has shaped me primarily because of the people in my life. My character has been influenced more by dinner-time conversations at Amir’s than by many of the courses I have taken. This is because no matter how fascinating the course material or compelling an article may be, our identities are impacted the most when other people inspire us with their actions, challenge us with their words, and then build on that process. In living life with someone it is impossible not to notice the many differences in character and identity, and consider if any of it is worth adopting. This comes from both direct intellectual debate and mutual life experiences.

Because of this conviction that our relationships and not knowledge define us, when I look up from my work in the Reference Room, Bacon’s boldly emblazoned wall claim does not discourage me. In fact, I am encouraged. To me, those gold letters stand not for what should drive our lives and identities, but rather serve as a warning to all who, like me, often find themselves toiling away in Butler in the dead of night. They assure me that an obsession with knowledge or the GPA on my résumé can become a destructive modus vivendi. They afford me the golden opportunity to remember that I am not the paper in front of me.

Derek Turner is a Columbia College senior majoring in anthropology and political science. He contributes regularly to The Canon.

Beyond Bacon

BY JAMES CHAPPEL

Perhaps nothing is more common at Columbia than the equation of one’s person with one’s knowledge. This is the consummation of a long process of education: Since preschool, we have been trained to find our greatest worth in our capacity to know. Many of us assume that, at the bottom of our souls’ depths, our SAT scores are writ in lightning. We would not be here if we did not excel at the complex, bureaucratic process that transforms our knowledge into marks on the page of a transcript. The engraving in our noble Reference Room presents us with no new, or inspirational, knowledge. Instead, it soothes the nagging conscience by repeating to us something that we have been hearing, and living, for many years.

We are reluctant to admit that knowledge, true knowledge, might be present in the bowels of the Predator drone.

To be blunt: Bacon is probably correct. This should not lead us, though, to embark on a panegyric to the wonders of knowledge (you will be inflicted with an infinite number of these during your education, and I am loath to provide one more). Instead, we should recognize that Bacon is correct about us, and not about “man” in some universal sense. We should be provoked, therefore, to inquire into what Bacon’s adage says, specifically, about the Columbians of 2012.

To begin: How did Bacon define knowledge? He provides the answer in another aphorism, not physically inscribed on the walls of 301 but omnipresent nonetheless. “Knowledge,” Bacon believed, “is power.” Specifically, Bacon wanted us to avoid the abstract and arid discussion of philosophers and theologians, turning instead to the natural world. With the help of the scientific method, we could learn to harness nature’s power in the interest of human welfare. As he put it in “In Praise of Knowledge,” the essay from which the Butler engraving is taken, we must learn to “command her in action.”

This sounds reasonable and laudable: What else, after all, is a doctor or a computer scientist attempting to do? We might wonder, though, what Bacon leaves out by defining knowledge, and therefore the self, in such a way. For instance, he does not evince much interest in the purpose of this knowledge, other than a characteristic desire to serve God and country. He lists three examples of knowledge in the essay: the printing press, the needle, and artillery. The third of these gives us pause: Despite the obvious scientific marvels that career across the world’s danger zones, we are reluctant to admit that knowledge, true knowledge, might be present in the bowels of the Predator drone. But, taking Bacon as our guide, why should this surprise us? For what is artillery but the “command” of nature “in action”? And what better to serve the interests of power?

We live in Bacon’s world. This is a world in which nature has been “put to the rack,” as Leibniz wrote of Bacon—a world in which there is no shortage of knowledge, no shortage of power, and no shortage of artillery. The university, however, might offer the space to imagine a new way of being. To answer the initial question perversely: Bacon is correct, but we can dream of a world in which he would be wrong. Might we attempt to imagine ourselves beyond the axis of knowledge and power? Perhaps, and there is space here only for a provocation, we might return to the very concept that Bacon constantly rejected in the pursuit of knowledge: belief. Belief seemed too social to him, too enmeshed in webs of authority and community and language. Living now in Bacon’s world, we might seek to rehabilitate those very things, defining ourselves by our visions and our hopes instead of our knowledge and our power. Speaking of his rejected philosophical predecessors, Bacon wrote that many “had greater wits, far above mine own, and so are many in the universities of Europe at this day. But alas, they learn nothing there but to believe.” Perhaps they were on to something, after all.

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Knowledge gained through misery

ANDREWS from back page

night out was a remarkable experience, bringing the Delaware Valley together and helping to pass the slow days of summer.

The story didn't end well. Winning 102 games in the regular season turned out to mean very little in a five-game series against wa team that got hot at the right time. But I would never trade those six months of exhilarating baseball for a quick victory in the World Series. What meaning does that championship have without 81 home games, three million people packing Citizens Bank Park throughout the dog days of summer, standing behind home plate and cheering for victory?

I'm also a proud member of the marching band. And as such, I've become a part of a saga unlike any other in college sports—being a fan of the Columbia Lions. We have been waiting patiently (sometimes impatiently) for nearly 50 years to taste ultimate victory. We suffered through a losing streak in the 1980s literally unlike any other in Division I football history. We have watched March Madness together every year, wondering when we would see the Light Blue light up CBS and shock some of the best teams in the nation.

It is that history, among other things, that binds the band together and connects us to every boisterous backer of our boys in blue. The history of our football team ties every player to those that came before, to fans from Inwood and Morningside Heights, to every student who went to Homecoming for the last 50 years. Everyone who packs Levien every weekend, drawn either by free admission, T-shirts, or a deep-seated desire to heckle our Ivy foes, is a part of our tradition. Being a Columbia fan is a unique experience because of our inexplicable journey together.

I have struggled, ever since coming to Columbia, with finding an answer to the question, "Why do you care about sports?" This week, my answer has crystallized. Sports isn't about the destination, really. Without the journey it takes to get there, the moments of triumph and terror, the sharing of miseries with your fellow fans, victory is but half as sweet. More than anything else, sports brings families, friends, cities, and even nations together. I don't begrudge Giants fans, even the fair-weather ones, or the success of their team. (That's not true at all—I absolutely do—but not excessively so.) But one day, perhaps not too far off, the Phillies or Eagles or Flyers or Sixers, or—I hope more than anything else—the Columbia Lions will hoist a championship trophy. It will be the culmination of a journey worth taking, and we will—whether you've watched one game or 40—all celebrate together.

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Community board urges tougher review process for development

CB7 from front page

process for the development. He told community members to make sure they weren't just "fighting the battle but winning the war" of changing zoning rules on a larger scale.

Shelly Fine, one of the few board members to abstain from the vote rather than support the resolution, urged his colleagues to "be impartial and listen to the facts." Fine said that there is "no way to justify" the idea that there's not enough land for community purposes, and that if anything, more land would be available after JHL's move.

"There has been no community agency that has requested or tried to buy this land ... no need that is not being addressed," he said.

"We really haven't been presented with hard evidence that there's a scarcity of land for community facilities," said board member Jay Adolf, who voted against the resolution. "As a technical finding, we don't have anything to base a real determination of scarcity."

In addition to space scarcity issues, several community members were concerned that JHL's new location would be directly adjacent to P.S. 163.

Avery Brandon, whose four-year-old child will start at P.S. 163 next fall, said she was troubled by the construction of a "20-story high-rise next door to a three-story school."

"Bone-rattling construction noises ... will make it impossible for these children to hear their teachers," Brandon said. "Studies prove that chronic

noise exposure impairs reading comprehension and long-term memory."

"Everything about this construction project is wrong and needs to be brought to light," she added.

Geto said that JHL was "committed to taking steps to minimize disruptions and to assure the health and safety of its neighbors during construction of the new facility."

"We've been working in very close consultation with the parents association and principal," he said. "We'll take a number of steps to minimize or eliminate activity when kids are coming in or out of the school."

Meeting attendees, though, said that JHL should focus its attention on its current location on 106th Street. Emily Margolis, a former assistant director of nursing at JHL's current location, said that this location is better than the proposed one.

"There's room for expansion on 106th Street—the plan should be there," she said. "97th Street is a one-way designated truck route with heavy traffic ... and P.S. 163 has many students who arrive on school buses."

Geto, though, said that staying at the 106th Street location isn't feasible.

"We can't keep it running much longer because the physical plant is obsolescent," Geto said, noting that several parts of the facility date to 1882, and that there have been heating problems and leaks. The need for upkeep is "draining the entire Jewish Home Lifecare system," he said.

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CB7 approves amendment to allow for 'greener' buildings

BY AVANTIKA KUMAR
Spectator Staff Writer

Community Board 7 members approved the Zone Green Text Amendment on Tuesday night, helping clear a local path for a city-wide proposal to make it easier to create environmentally friendly buildings.

The vote was advisory, as the amendment must be approved by the Department of City Planning and the City Council before it becomes official. The amendment relaxes zoning restrictions to make it easier for property owners to update old buildings and build new buildings with environmentally friendly features.

At the meeting, Land Use Committee co-chair Page Cowley said that board members would compile a letter detailing their

comments on the amendment, as well as issues such as how landmarks would fit into the amendment, the lax restrictions on bulkhead height, the effect of external insulation of buildings on the neighborhood's overall character, and the possibility that the skyline would be changed.

In their resolution, CB7 members approved most, but not all, of the Zone Green Amendment.

The initial resolution presented to CB7 on Tuesday night stated that 40-foot bulkheads could only be built if there were elevator access directly to the roof. But the final resolution, which passed unanimously, said that CB7 would not offer comment on the issue of wind turbines and bulkheads.

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Energy map could help building owners improve efficiency

ENERGY from front page

and conserving energy," he said.

With the new energy consumption information, building owners might also gain a better understanding of how to be more efficient, Modi said.

"Our hope is that one may find that there are a lot more buildings where energy efficiency is viable," he said. "And maybe people will start looking at it and say, 'What can I do about it?'"

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NYPD investigation of ticket scammer ongoing

SCAM from front page

discover this sooner," Li said.

Sociology professor Gil Eyal allowed the man to sell tickets in his sociology class last week. Eyal said in an email that he was "completely fooled" by the scammer.

"I just assumed he was who he was claiming to be ... Just 2 days earlier, I had another person who asked to address the class about something else (internships, I think), and this seemed to be the same thing," Eyal said.

Though the ticket scam only came to light late last week, the man appears to have been selling the tickets for at least two weeks.

Aditya Majumdar, SEAS '15, said that the man went to Valentino Tosatti's Calculus IV class the week of Jan. 23 to advertise the tickets. He didn't offer any tickets during

that class but said he would come back later to sell them.

The man also entered Robert Phillips' Demand and Supply class at the Business School on Jan. 26.

Some students wondered whether they would get their money back.

"Obviously I want my money back, even though it's five dollars," Li said. "They identified the guy and just banned him from campus. I feel like they should have him give us back all the money."

Travis Simon, CC '15, a student in Eyal's sociology class, agreed.

"They should take the money and give it to the students, the money that he stole," he said. "What's the problem with getting the money back?"

Brian Lee, a SEAS graduate student who is enrolled in Phillips' class, said the University should

take legal action against the man.

"This man sold hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars in tickets on campus under false pretenses," he said in an email. "This is robbery."

A spokesperson for the New York Police Department's 26th Precinct said only that there was an "ongoing investigation" concerning the man and that students should contact NYPD if they want to file complaints.

Several students said that although the incidents raise safety concerns, Columbia's accessibility to visitors is important to it atmosphere. Li noted that many tourists and prospective students explore campus throughout the year.

"I still feel like we should have open doors," Li said. "I don't think we should cut off campus."

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Bollinger: McKinsey report will not be released

FIRESIDE CHAT from front page

in Harlem.

"We've spent a lot of time thinking about how to build very good relations with Harlem and about how to contribute to the betterment of Harlem," he said. Gentrification, he added, is "something that Columbia can't really control ... The process is something much, much bigger than Columbia."

When Yusuf Ahmad, CC '12, asked a general question about the University's transparency, Bollinger responded with what he admitted was a "general answer." Ahmad followed up by asking why Columbia hasn't released McKinsey's report on the Arts and Sciences' administrative structure, which some believe sparked philosophy professor Michele Moody-Adams' resignation as Columbia College dean last year.

"The institution—we—decided

not to release the McKinsey report," Bollinger said. "And the reasons have to do with the promises made, the engagement of McKinsey—which were to be private, secret, not a public document"

Ahmad said after the event that he was "shocked" by this answer.

"The reason they didn't publish it is because that was in the original agreement ... That raises questions about the process and why that was in there," Ahmad said.

Mara Kravitz, GS/JTS '12, agreed, calling Bollinger's answers about the University's transparency "a little fishy."

Others, though, were less skeptical of Bollinger—Maria Laposata, CC '15, said that Bollinger "could have convinced me of anything."

The fireside chat "cemented my belief that Columbia's bureaucracy is not as bad as people say it is," she said.

Bollinger also got a chance to discuss one of his favorite

topics—Columbia's Global Centers. Both Bollinger and Vice President for Global Centers Kenneth Prewitt answered questions surrounding globalization at Columbia.

Prewitt described the fifth-year study abroad program unveiled in December, and the two administrators also gave students a glimpse into what Prewitt called the "big dream" for Columbia's future.

"In two decades from now, every single person who comes to Columbia ought to spend an entire year around the globe," Prewitt said.

Near the end of the event, Bollinger opened the floor for students to offer suggestions on what they would like to see improved about their education. Answers included more professional opportunities for liberal arts majors and the chance to learn the real-world applications of classroom knowledge.

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Occupy Columbia sends Bollinger its questions

OCCUPY from front page

Security guards occasionally interrupted the meeting to ask why Occupy Columbia was there. The most interesting interruption, though, came when Shawn Lonsfjord, an event assistant to Bollinger, asked the students if they had any questions for Bollinger.

Lonsfjord, who dubbed the Occupy event a "satellite fireside chat," offered to give those questions to Bollinger's assistant, who would in turn pass them on to Bollinger himself.

Not everyone liked the idea at first. Several students were unsure the group was prepared to present formal questions, and others questioned what sending Bollinger questions would accomplish.

"The process is the point. It's not just about ... individual

questions to Bollinger," Chelsea Schieder, GSAS, said. "It's about access to the hierarchies embedded in Columbia."

For some attendees, though, it was important to make progress with the administration directly. Elliott Grieco, CC '12, said the Occupy movement has faced opposition from administrators, citing a November incident in which Barnard put severe restrictions on access to campus when Occupy CU tried to hold an event there.

"We ended up in the basement of the Diana," Grieco said. "I don't know why they did that. We just wanted to meet."

Ultimately, attendees wrote questions, letters, and notes to Bollinger, giving them to Lonsfjord.

Several students said that the security guards and Lonsfjord treated than much better than

others had at past events.

"The symbol of us being treated respectfully is more important than a question-and-answer," Josh Faber, GS, said.

Some students at the event said they were inspired by a resurgence of activism at Columbia last semester, and hoped that that trend would continue. Others said they were curious about the Occupy movement and were interested in participating.

"I'm here because I want to explore this as an avenue for activism on campus. That can be an awkward battle," Di Castrì said. "I don't know if this is the format that's effective, but the most important thing is to start a platform."

Daphne Chen contributed reporting.

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Ivy conference play continues

ATL from back page

interesting for 40 minutes, consistently answering Harvard's shots. But the Lions could not stop Crimson senior forward Keith Wright, who scored 15 points and grabbed six boards. Wright contributed a bucket when Columbia was driving with under three minutes left in the game, helping the Crimson extend its lead to 50-46, before it finally pulled away from the relentless Light Blue. The Crimson will next play Penn and Princeton.

PENN

Penn (12-10, 4-1 Ivy) bounced back from a tough 60-53 loss against Yale with a 65-48 drubbing of Brown. The Quakers built a double-digit lead halfway through the first half and never looked back. Senior guard Rob Belcore led the way for Penn, tying a career high with 17 points and grabbing 10 boards for his second career double-double. The Quakers relied heavily on their perimeter shots and stingy late-game defense to prevent Brown from mounting a comeback. Penn, hoping to remain in contention for the Ivy League title, faces Harvard and Dartmouth this week.

PRINCETON

Princeton (11-10, 2-3 Ivy) went 1-1 this weekend, defeating Brown 77-63 before losing

to the Bulldogs 58-54 in a nail-biter. The Tigers had difficulty maintaining a consistent offensive attack that could match Yale's—the Bulldogs scored 16 straight points in the first half and remained in the lead for the rest of the game. Princeton junior forward Ian Hummer scored 18 points for the Tigers, surpassing 1,000 career points. The accomplishment was bittersweet, as the loss proved to be a major setback for the Tigers in their chase for the Ivy title. Princeton will return home to face Dartmouth and Harvard this weekend.

YALE

Yale (15-5, 5-1 Ivy), like Harvard, went undefeated against its opponents and stayed on the heels of the league-leading Crimson in the race for the Ivy title. The Bulldogs dominated the end of the game against Penn, allowing them to capture the win over the Quakers, 60-53. Yale went on a 10-0 run at the end of the game, highlighted by a huge three-pointer and two offensive rebounds from senior center Greg Mangano. The game was tied at 53 with 2:31 left in the contest before the Bulldogs pulled away for good. Yale played another tight game the following day, overcoming Princeton 58-54. The Bulldogs are scheduled to play Cornell and Columbia this week.

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Post Super Bowl, a fan's revelation

There is nothing worse for a long-time fan of Philadelphia sports than to be in New York as one of its teams wins a championship.



PETER ANDREWS

Guest Column

Last Sunday was a unique kind of personal hell for me—with my Eagles eliminated long ago, I watched the New York Football Giants claim the Super Bowl and their place in football history.

Perhaps the only thing worse than watching this gruesome event come to pass was being surrounded by Giants fans. I use the term “fans” here somewhat loosely—it certainly seemed to me that many supporters of Big Blue this weekend couldn't name more than three players on the victorious team.

I sat down to write this column because of this frustration. My initial feeling was simple—this is unfair, and I wanted to whine about it. Why is it that my reward for passionate fandom is, almost invariably, banal disappointment sprinkled with spectacular failure, when a better strategy seems to be to not care and let championships fall on your lap?

However, two specific experiences from the last year come immediately to mind, and they give me some perspective. My beloved Philadelphia Phillies put together the greatest regular season in franchise history. Watching them play baseball in a dominating fashion, night in and

SEE ANDREWS, page 5



FILE PHOTO



DAVID BRANN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SWOOPING AND HOOPING | Cornell is one of a few teams in the Ancient Eight trying to catch Ivy League powerhouse Harvard. The Crimson has won eight straight.

Ivy race heats up as Yale, Penn try to catch Harvard

BY MELISSA CHEUNG
Spectator Staff Writer

With less than 10 games left to play in the regular season, the race for the Ivy title between Harvard and Yale continued this weekend, as Penn, Princeton, and Cornell stayed in the hunt. Despite the fact that the Bulldogs only have one conference loss, the first-place Crimson seems unstoppable.



BROWN

Brown (7-16, 1-5 Ivy) lost to Princeton and Penn, failing to come close in both games. Princeton shot 10-of-22 from three-point range, destroying the Bears offensively in Brown's 77-63 loss. Brown also fell flat against Penn, 65-48, despite the double-double from the junior forward Andrew McCarthy. The Bears will next play Harvard and Cornell.

CORNELL

Cornell (8-12, 3-3 Ivy) won its first road game against

Dartmouth, 68-59, after a tough 71-60 loss to first-place Harvard. The Big Red's defense held the Big Green to 35 percent shooting and forced 15 turnovers. Dartmouth was also kept off the scoreboard until the second quarter, a testament to Cornell's defensive breakout. The Big Red will next face Yale and Brown at home.

DARTMOUTH

Dartmouth (4-18, 0-6 Ivy) prolonged its losing streak to five with losses to both Columbia

and Princeton. In search of its first Ivy win, the Big Green let a 62-62 tie turn into a 64-62 win for the Lions with three seconds left in regulation. Dartmouth was unsuccessful against the Big Red as well—Cornell relied on an early 10-0 lead to hold off the Big Green in the 68-59 loss for Dartmouth. The Big Green will continue to look for its first Ivy win against Princeton and Penn.

HARVARD

Harvard (20-2, 6-0 Ivy) remains atop the Ivy League

standings after going 2-0 this weekend, continuing to fend off the surging Bulldogs by winning game after game. The Crimson's current win streak stands at eight—it toppled Cornell and Columbia this past Friday and Saturday. Harvard easily bested Cornell 71-60 with a superb offensive attack. The visiting Columbia team posed a greater challenge to the Crimson, which narrowly defeated the Lions 57-52. Columbia made the game

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Table Tennis goes for a national bid

BY HAHN CHANG
Spectator Staff Writer

Those who go to Dodge Fitness Center on Thursday nights or Sunday afternoons witness one of the biggest clubs on campus in action: the Columbia Table Tennis Club. Active since the early 1990s, the club is open to everyone, offering players of any level a chance to play ping-pong.

“We have a large community of grad students, undergrads, and from all across the Columbia community,” John Xie, SEAS '13 and president of the Table Tennis Club, said.

“It is not about how good you are—it is about meeting new people. That is the goal of the club,” team member Gary Wong, a student in the medical school, said.

However, within the club is a highly touted traveling team comprised of the top five players. For several years, the Columbia team has consistently ranked in the top 10 nationwide, and has recruited some of the top table tennis talent from around the world.

“We went to the national tournament last year, coming in second within our regional division. At nationals, we came in 13th, a few seeds higher than our ranking going in,” Wong said.

The Lions are anchored by a father-daughter combo of coach Santos Shih, a junior champion in Taiwan in the 1970s, and his daughter, Stephanie Shih, BC '12, who recently represented the United States in the World University Games. Shih coaches on a volunteer basis and has done so for four years—he came to coach because of his daughter.

“I like helping the young generation do what I used to do—study and play,” he said.

With both Shih's, the Lions have been one of the top teams in the nation, finishing as high as third place in the 2008-2009 season. This season, Columbia came out strong in its fall divisional tournament, going undefeated to obtain first place among all



COURTESY OF JOHN XIE

THE TABLE TENNIS TALES | The CU Table Tennis Club has a place for everyone, even an extremely competitive team.

schools in the New York City area.

In its most recent tournament last Sunday, Columbia again competed against teams from across New York at the Fashion Institute of Technology, in the second round of a round-robin tournament. The Lions had high hopes of repeating their victory from the fall in order to ensure a bid to regionals. However, NYU—the team's divisional rival—barely edged them out to win the tournament.

“Obviously we were all a little disappointed we didn't come in first place, but overall I was very pleased with our performance at the tournament. Everyone came to work and did their best,” Stephanie Shih said. “In addition, we had an enthusiastic and extremely supportive cheering squad consisting of club members and friends ... which we appreciated very much.”

Even though the Lions came in second place at the tournament, their record is currently tied with NYU's—each team had one loss at each tournament. The good news is that the head-to-head favors Columbia, which gives the team hope for a chance to continue its season at regionals, even without having received a formal invitation thus far.

“Our goal is to be in the top eight this year. Hopefully we can upset a lot of good teams like Texas, Wesleyan, Princeton, and Berkeley—the schools that have scholarships,” coach Shih said.

In addition to the team-wide aspirations, four of Columbia's players—Eric Leung, SEAS '15, Yuanhang Jiang, a student at the School of Continuing Education, Ruixiang Ma, GSAS, and Shih—advanced as individuals to the

regional tournament in the single events.

Regardless of how the rest of the season pans out, the team will have to look to a future without Stephanie Shih, who is graduating in May. This season, she has remained undefeated and is considered by both her teammates and players worldwide to be a superstar.

To fill her shoes, the team will look to two freshmen, Leung and Daniel Li, SEAS '15. While the two come from opposite ends of the Earth (Li from northern Virginia, Leung from Hong Kong), their youth offers a chance for Columbia to remain competitive long after Shih's departure.

“Definitely we are going to help set up practices, since we are familiar with the competition and different styles of play. We will definitely have to step up a lot for sophomore year,” Li said. “Another thing is that we will have to train other people, which is difficult. But we will need to in order to keep up with what Steph has set up over the last four years.”

But before the Lions look to the future, their focus will be squarely on finishing the 2011-2012 season strong.

“People should come out and show us some love as we try to make nationals. All the teams there also came in first place in their divisions, so they will all be strong, and we will need all the support we can get,” Shih said.

Behind this competitive and successful team, though, is still a close-knit club—one that emphasizes friendship and love for the game regardless of skill level.

“Just come here and have fun and relax,” Leung said.

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