



MATTHEW SHERMAN/SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FORUM | At the final town hall, opponents of ROTC said they were upset about the way the task force has conducted itself.

CB9 chair says he will stand by residents of 3333 Broadway

BY KATIE BENTIVOGLIO
Spectator Staff Writer

Community Board 9 chairman Larry English pledged his support for 3333 Broadway at a town hall meeting on Wednesday night, promising to help residents understand the full impact of nearby Mahattanville construction.

“I promise we will stand with you every step of the way,” English said at the Community Board 9 Housing committee meeting. “You have my commitment as the chair,” he added.

3333 Broadway, a 35-story mixed-income building on 135th and Broadway, is located next to Columbia’s planned Manhattanville campus. In anticipation of construction impacts, Columbia has offered free air-conditioning units to residents facing 133rd Street so that they can keep their windows closed during the summer.

But potential effects of construction have 3333 residents worried.

“Our concern is the electricity cost that we will pretty much be forced to endure for six to ten years,” said Grisel Thompson, secretary of the 3333 Broadway tenants association. “We pay our own Con Edison bills, so it will be a great increase,” Thompson added, asking CB9 to talk to Columbia about subsidizing residents’ electricity costs.

Annette Robinson, a building resident for 31 years, also questioned the logic behind giving air conditioners only to residents facing 133rd Street. “If there is a need for air conditioners, there’s a need for air conditioners for everyone,” Robinson said. “Not just the ones facing south, because the wind travels.”

English however, said that Columbia is subject to strict construction and environmental guidelines.

“I have no doubt that they will do what they have to do to lessen the impact of the construction,” he said.

But that does not mean that the Manhattanville campus will not ultimately threaten resident’s ability to stay in their homes.

“We need to work together to ask the University and ask the students to not take part in a system when people are pushed out of their buildings,” English said. Robinson also said that she, like many 3333 residents, fears Columbia hopes to buy the building in the future due to its proximity to the planned expansion.

“As a resident that has lived in this neighborhood for 41 years, it is important to me that we maintain the fabric of this neighborhood,” she said. She said this means allowing neighbors from the Latino, African-American, and small business communities

SEE 3333, page 2



CHABLI BRAVO FOR SPECTATOR

MEETING | English, second from left, told the residents of 3333 that they will have to organize themselves in the coming years.

Small chocolatier stands test of time

BY CHELSEA LO
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Mondel Chocolates has stood on the corner of 114th Street since 1943, and despite hard economic times, it’s not leaving anytime soon.



Sandwiched between an Aerosoles store and an outpost of Book Culture, Mondel’s is one of the few mom-and-pop stores left in the neighborhood, as locally owned establishments continue to be pushed out of business by bankruptcy or big retail developers. But manager Paula Blatt said the chocolatier is holding its own, thanks to loyal customers.

“We’re still more or less okay,” she said. “There are people that come in if not every day, every second day for, say, half a pound of fruit slices. There’s someone who comes in for a few pieces of extra bitter chocolate.”

One of those customers was Katharine Hepburn. Blatt said Hepburn’s love of Mondel’s Chocolate was well known, pointing to a stack of fliers on the counter that feature a paragraph from “Kate Remembered,” A. Scott Berg’s biography of the star, in which Hepburn calls Mondel’s dark chocolate “the best in the world.”

“Because of that, people come in,” Blatt said. “They like that she stepped in here and they ask for the Katharine Hepburn mix.”

Blatt added that celebrities who visited Hepburn would regularly buy Mondel’s, naming Lauren Bacall and Barbara Walters as among those who bought Hepburn’s favorite almond bark and turtles for her. Other celebrities have stepped into Mondel’s as well, including Macaulay Culkin of “Home Alone” fame and James Levine,

SEE MONDEL, page2

CU employee found dead in his office

BY SONALEE RAU
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Cyril Young, assistant director of Columbia’s power plant, was found dead in his office on the third floor of the Schapiro Center on Tuesday morning, according to colleagues.

Samuel Delgado, a watch engineer at the power plant, said that when he and his coworkers came in on Tuesday, they were told that Young’s wife had been looking for him at 1 a.m. His family had been unable to find him, though they located his car parked in the garage.

In the morning, a secretary found Young dead in his office

and notified the fire department and police.

“It’s a sad tragedy. He dealt with the whole community. He was in charge of the powerhouse—[like] when you have complaints about cold water,” Delgado said.

Young’s daughter confirmed his death on Wednesday.

Young lived with his family in East Orange, N.J. His Facebook profile says that he studied facility management at New York City College of Technology and construction administration at Columbia.

A University spokesperson did not release additional information.



FROM FACEBOOK

PASSED AWAY | A co-worker said Young was very committed to his work at Columbia.

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Councils pass joint co-sponsorship committee

BY MELANIE BRODER
Spectator Staff Writer

After weeks of debate, Columbia College Student Council passed a resolution proposing the formation of a joint co-sponsorship committee across all four undergraduate councils.

22 members voted for it, five against, and one abstained. The Engineering Student Council, the General Studies Student Council, and Barnard’s Student Government Association have already unanimously approved the proposal. The trial period for the new committee will begin as soon as possible, according to members of CCSC.

The proposal, drafted by Brandon Christophe, CC ’12, Narayan Subramanian, SEAS ’13, Dan Lagana, GS, and Priyata Patel, BC ’11, states that the co-sponsorship application and approval process “detracts from the time student groups should spend enhancing their events and/or initiatives.”

It also states that one of the goals of the new committee will be to alleviate the “unnecessary burden on the councils to go through a three-step process to approve a co-sponsorship.”

Student groups seek co-sponsorship funding from various councils for events and activities held throughout the year. Christophe said the new resolution will help streamline

the process.

“It allows student groups to say, ‘I’m going to fill out one application, make one presentation, and I can hear back about all of my funding issues from one source,’ as opposed to doing four applications and working through four different colleges, receiving their funding at four different times, and having to deal with their advisor in four different ways,” he said.

Though the proposal was mostly positively received, there were some members of CCSC who raised concerns in the weeks leading up to the vote, including Aki Terasaki, CC ’12 and class president.

“I think that it’s great the councils are making it easier for clubs to apply for these funds, but that is a front-end problem. Front-end meaning what the client sees. The back-of-the-house stuff is what I have issues with—how the actual decision’s being made and the logistics behind it,” he said.

Some CCSC members said they worried the new process would be less transparent and less focused on the councils’ individual constituencies. As it stands now, there are between five and eight members on the CCSC co-sponsorship committee, while the council will only delegate two members to the new group. Terasaki, a member of the current co-sponsorship committee, thought the small size of the proposed group would be problematic.

“I view one of CCSC’s roles as a steward for the student life fee, and if the discussion is being reduced to such a small level, we’re not doing our job to adequately distribute those funds,” he said.

Subramanian, the intergroup vice president for ESC, said he thinks that the new group is a step towards a “joint Columbia community” and may actually solve some transparency issues with student groups trying to cheat the complicated system.

“If there’s only one place for them to appeal for funds, there’s no room for hanky-panky business of any sort,” he said.

The other authors of the proposal, who would sit on the new committee, agreed that this resolution would benefit the entire community. Diana Rastegayeva, BC ’11 and vice president for communications for SGA, said that members of her council were very excited. Alexandra Voss, BC ’11 and Club Sports president, stood up at the Feb. 13 CCSC meeting and said that members of her board applauded when they heard about it.

At that same meeting, senior class president Sean Udell said that the proposed system “makes for a lazier process.”

Christophe said he disagrees with Udell’s assessment.

“Lazy? It’s not lazy. It’s basically efficient.”

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A&E, PAGE 3

WKCR celebrates its 70th anniversary

Alumni who worked at Columbia’s influential radio station during their time as students convene tonight to celebrate WKCR’s illustrious history and continuing legacy.



OPINION, PAGE 5

Piece of me

Behind the glitz and the glamour, pop stars are just like us.

Right to college

Stop discrimination against undocumented students.

SPORTS, PAGE 8

Wrestler extends win streak to 15

Kyle Lester returns to success after outreach abroad.

EVENTS

Conversation with book critic Laura Miller

Join Laura Miller of Salon for a discussion about the process of reviewing fiction.

413 Dodge, 7-9 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



45°/39°

Tomorrow



45°/27°

Small chocolate shop an anomaly on B’way



AVERY VAUGHAN FOR SPECTATOR

CHOCOLATE LOVERS | The owner says her shop survives because of loyal customers.

English said residents must form grassroots campaign

3333 from front page

to remain in the neighborhood even after the Manhattanville campus has been built. English said that though 3333 has his support, residents must organize themselves to put pressure on the University and to hire their own legal support. “The only people that are going to save 3333 Broadway are the people who live here,” English said. “You’ve got to organize.” Robinson agreed with the need for a grassroots approach, saying that organizing for

effective change requires getting out, talking to residents, and going door to door. But this may not be as easy as it sounds, she says. “People are worried about retaliation if they come out in numbers,” Thompson said, adding that there have been 600 evictions, tenant displacements, and people pushed out of their apartments since the building came under new ownership in 2007. “People are scared,” she said. “That is our challenge.” *katie.bentivoglio@columbiaspectator.com*

MONDEL from front page
the conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra. “We do well because people know about us,” Blatt said. “I hear from a student and they say, ‘My professor sent me here.’ A lot of times, people come in and they say they just want to thank us. This is always nice to hear.” Blatt said the secret to the store’s longevity is a combination of personal attention and stocking favorite items like butter crunch, pecan turtles, and dark chocolate bark. “There’s a big turnover, so our chocolates are always fresh,” she said, noting that she sometimes makes chocolates in the back of the store. She added that Mondel’s also makes sure to have chocolates that people with diabetes can eat. The store has been more quiet than usual in the past couple of days because it’s waiting for Easter basket supplies after the Valentine’s Day rush a week ago, Blatt said. “We had a line and we were able to have the door open all day long,” she said of Valentine’s Day. “It can be very, very hectic here during the holidays. Just peek in and see.” Business gets a little harder during the summer, when there are fewer holidays and people aren’t in the mood for chocolate due to the hot temperatures, Blatt said. “There are times during the year when it is very quiet here,” she said, noting that Mondel’s big days are holidays like Thanksgiving, Valentine’s Day, Easter, Mother’s Day, and the University’s graduation day. “You have to be careful, I guess.” While Blatt said the store will probably be affected by the economy in the long run, she said loyal customers will help keep the historical chocolate shop on its feet. “We do have a lot of loyal customers who come in year after year. They come in for all the big holidays,” she said. “That’s the beauty of it—we are treated almost like a landmark.” *chelsea.l@columbiaspectator.com*



ARVIN AHMADI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

OPPOSED | Nick Lumuscio, GS, came to the town hall with an anti-ROTC T-shirt and sign.

Last town hall draws big crowd to IAB

ROTC from front page

“didn’t necessarily have a strong opinion on these issues.” “I simply went on ability to work and interest in serving on the task force,” Mazor said. Ivy added that Mazor “repeatedly refused to tell” her who all the members of the task force were. A list of the task’s force nine members is available on the University Senate website. Some graduate students criticized the task force for not opening its survey on ROTC to all of the graduate schools. “I’m ... disturbed about the lack of transparency with the entire process, and I want to know where my vote is,” Alaa Milbes, a GSAS student and ROTC opponent, said after the event. Mazor said that technology issues prevented them from sending the poll to the entire student body, and that the Columbia University Information Technology department “dropped everything else they were doing” to ensure that the poll could be sent to 10,000 students at five schools. Mazor has said that the task force chose these five schools because

they are the only ones that had produced off-campus ROTC cadets in the last five years. He added that the task force is still seeking the opinions of students not included in the survey, both through the town halls and by soliciting emails. A few said that the University Senate displayed a bias from the start by establishing a task force in response to Congress’ repeal of the military’s “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy in December. “There is a belief that with the repeal of ‘don’t ask, don’t tell,’ there is no longer discrimination against the LGBTQ community,” Karen Woodin, CC ’11, said. The military continues to prohibit transgendered individuals from serving. University Provost Claude Steele made the opening remarks at the event, saying that while he might have an opinion on ROTC, he was there primarily to learn about the different points being made by each side. Even though the current debate has been going on since December, it continues to draw in new participants. Asher Levine, GSAS ’11, said he decided to support ROTC after

reading some literature that an anti-ROTC group was handing out on College Walk. “They seemed like really specious arguments that confused thoughts about the military—and American foreign policy in general—with what the ROTC really is and would do on campus,” Levine said. Several speakers also discussed the heckling of injured veteran Anthony Maschek by a few attendees at last week’s town hall, a moment which has drawn national media attention. Referring to the incident as “HeckleGate,” Stephen Snowden, GS and a veteran, called it a “faux controversy.” Anger over Maschek’s heckling led to scattered threats against Columbia students on some news websites earlier this week. A few security officers stood by the entrance of the International Affairs Building’s Altschul Auditorium, where this town hall took place. Levine, who had not attended either of the first two town halls, said he was “surprised at how civil” this one was. “I figured well, you know, there’s cops, there’s going to be something going down,” he said. *news@columbiaspectator.com*

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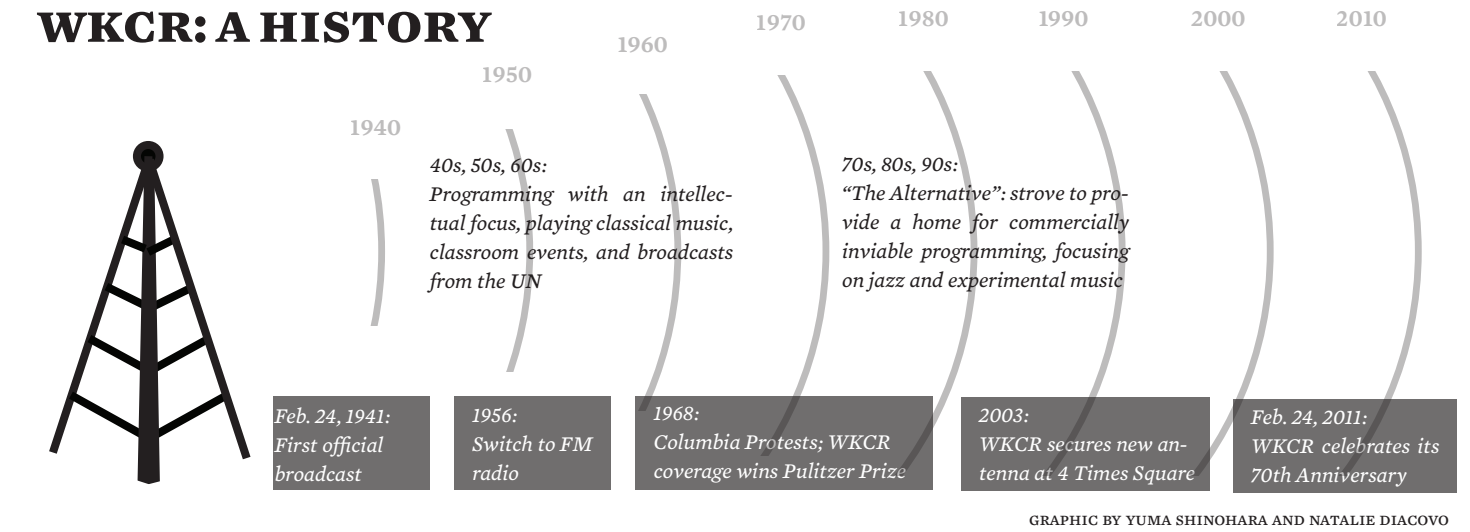
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SUMMER



COURTESY OF ANDREW FISHER

RADIO ROCKS ON | Columbia’s FM radio channel WKCR got its start in 1941 with a makeshift radio studio in John Jay 1107.



WKCR alumni tune in for station’s 70th

BY EMILY OSTERTAG
Spectator Staff Writer

It may not be a surprise to Columbia students that it was a Columbia professor, Edwin H. Armstrong, who developed the FM radio signal. It was Armstrong who helped two students, Richard Brown and Richard Booth, set up a makeshift radio studio in John Jay 1107, beginning what is now WKCR.

Today, Feb. 24, marks the 70th anniversary of the first official broadcast of Columbia University Radio Club, which will be celebrated in an alumni reunion dinner at 6:30 p.m. in Boone Arledge Auditorium. In those seven decades, WKCR has achieved remarkable accomplishments, including winning a Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of the 1968 riots. Today, over 1,500 people make up the extensive list of WKCR alumni.

One of these alumni, Ken Howitt, CC ’76, is the primary organizer of Thursday evening’s event. He previously organized a similar reunion for the 36th anniversary in 1977. “I believe very strongly that you should always give back,” Howitt said. “Columbia and WKCR did a lot for me, and I feel that giving my time is very important.”

Indeed, alumni seem to have benefited greatly from their time at WKCR. Some of the most esteemed Columbia alumni were involved with WKCR: Robert Siegel, host of NPR’s evening news broadcast, David Friend,

senior vice president for news at CBS, and Erica Jong, author of the bestselling “Fear of Flying,” to name a few.

“All of them have excelled in their fields because of the skills that WKCR taught them, and all of them give credit to WKCR,” said Howitt, who has been communicating with alumni across the globe in organizing the reunion. “It really is kind of a remarkable thing.” Colleen Dunning, BC ’09, is currently working on the WKCR History Project, in an effort to gather stories for a soon-to-be-released book about the station’s history. Dunning has been working with current students at WKCR, interviewing alumni at class reunions, giving them tours of the station, and recording the oral histories that she is using to compile the book.

“It’s been really great to be reaching out to all of these different alumni who have been doing all sorts of really interesting things—lots of really entrepreneurial people doing really cool things in their fields” Dunning said. “The ’68 riots were definitely the biggest event in WKCR’s history, [but] many of them were there to cover other really important events.”

Since its inception, WKCR has covered everything from music to sports to news. The station is far more than a college radio playlist. From playing Bach to interviewing the likes of Dr. Martin Luther King,

SEE WKCR, page 6

Jill Magid reads ‘Faust’ by way of Fausto Cardenas

BY GEETIKA RUDRA
Columbia Daily Spectator

On Friday, Jan. 21, 2010, Fausto Cardenas opened fire outside the Texas Capitol building. Nobody was injured, and Cardenas was immediately arrested.

But something about the inexplicable act struck a chord with one of the witnesses, artist Jill Magid. A little more than a year later, on Thursday, Feb. 24 at Location One (26 Greene St., between Canal and Grand streets), Magid will stage a work-in-progress intimate reading of German author Goethe’s “Faust.”

Produced in collaboration with the Marina Abramovic Studio at Location One and the School of the Arts, the event is a part of the XtraCurricular* series, which gives artists the opportunity to present ideas that are still in development. Audiences are invited to explore the tragic and poetic themes of Fausto Cardenas and Faust.

Thursday’s event is only a short stop on Magid’s journey since witnessing the Texas shooting.

Fresh off the culmination of her previous work, “Article 12/

The Spy Project,” Magid was immersed in researching the intelligence community, redacted government documents, and censorship. She was in the Texas Capitol, researching sniping, when Cardenas opened fire.

The parallel between Fausto and Faust is compelling but still in its infancy. Showing a work-in-progress is disconcerting for Magid.

“There is something provocative about Fausto’s act of shooting into the sky. It’s a different kind of tragedy—it’s abstract,” Magid said. She worked with local reporters to learn more about the case.

Her research led her to compare Fausto Cardenas to Goethe’s

Faust, the fictional scholar who makes a deal with the devil. “I found relationships between Fausto and Goethe’s Faust. The more deeply I explored the two, the more interesting the connections became,” she said.

The parallel Magid draws between Fausto and Faust is compelling but is still in its infancy.

“I see how they are coming together, but I am still inside the process. The night at Location One is a chance to perform and discuss these fragments aloud and to the use the opportunity to ‘workshop’ the piece,” Magid said.

Showing a work-in-progress is disconcerting for Magid. “I’ve never really shown the public something so unfinished,” Magid said. “It’s uncomfortable and scary, as well as an interesting challenge. I’m presenting fragments of where I am. Hopefully there is a sharing of interest.”

Magid’s exhibition for the XtraCurricular* series attempts to be a thought-provoking exchange between audience and artist. The pieces of Magid’s puzzle are falling into place, but it will be up to the audience to discern what picture the pieces make.



COURTESY OF JILL MAGID

FAUST-Y | Magid artistically channels her reaction to Fausto Cardenas’ shot into the sky last January.

Joe divulges ‘The Art of Coffee’ to the public

BY CARMEN REN
Columbia Daily Spectator

There are a thousand types of shots in the world, but the hardest one to pull would have to be an espresso. The trained baristas of Joe the Art of Coffee, however, make it seem easy.

Hoping to enlighten New Yorkers further on fine brew, Joe now offers coffee classes a few times a month for \$25 per course. The two-hour classes, ranging from espresso-making to milk steaming, take place in the basements beneath Joe Coffee at 9 E. 13th St. (between Fifth Avenue and University Place) and 405 W. 23rd St. (at Ninth Avenue).

Granted, most New Yorkers—particularly college students—do not own an espresso machine (a professional machine costs about \$2,000). Even so, these classes offer coffee enthusiasts a chance to better understand the art of making good coffee.

Hyunjung Choi, one of the eight students attending the espresso workshop, said that she took the class simply out of curiosity, since Joe Coffee is famous in her native South Korea. K.C. Cohen and Sophia Brittan, two other students, cited the imminent opening of their own coffee shop as a reason for attending.

“Charrow,” a barista at the 9 E. 13th St. branch and instructor of the espresso making class, begins the two-hour lesson with an explanation of the processes and factors involved in pulling a shot of espresso. With



COURTESY OF JOE COFFEE

NOT THE SAME OLD CUP O’ JOE | Joe Coffee offers in-depth, two-hour classes on various coffee-related themes for \$25 each.

equipment, water, beans, blend, grind coarseness, temperature, and tamping pressure all playing significant roles in the overall taste, baristas must be methodical and precise.

This process may seem daunting to newcomers, but Charrow is extremely knowledgeable and engaging. Using anecdotes about her father’s experience with coffee as “the extreme of what I tell people not to do” and naming steps “the funky chicken” (when smoothing out coffee grounds) or “the fencing pose” (when finding the correct position to hold the tamper), Charrow simplifies the complicated process.

Each student is treated to a personalized walk-through of the entire espresso pulling procedure twice by either Charrow or another barista. By the end of class, coffee grounds litter the floor, but everyone can boast of pulling at least one near-perfect shot.

For students with an interest in coffee and some extra time on their hands, Joe’s coffee classes provide an affordable and enjoyable way to spend an evening.

Charrow also recommends Joe’s coffee-cupping classes, a free class once a month where students learn to taste and evaluate different types of coffee. Think of it as free caffeine and yet another opportunity to learn about the art of coffee.

French films explores immigration

BY ANNELIESE COOPER
Columbia Daily Spectator

Twelve days ago, President Nicolas Sarkozy explained to French channel TF1 why he believes that multiculturalism in France has been a failure. “We have been too concerned about the identity of the person who was arriving and not enough about the identity of the country that was receiving him,” he said. His point begs the question: What exactly is the modern French identity and in what ways might it have been shaped by those “arriving”?

The current month-long film festival at the Maison Française tackles this question head-on,

presenting four previously unreleased documentaries, each of which focuses on issues of immigration and multiculturalism in France. In fact, these films represent a microcosm of the twenty to be showcased in Paris this September for Le Festival Images de la Diversité et de l’Égalité (FIDEL), a five-day series of films and round tables intended to inspire discourse about French plurality, diversity, and equality.

Nadia Meflah, a head programmer for FIDEL, visited the Maison Française last fall. “We told her that we’re really looking for ways to increase the quality of our film programming,” Shanny Peer, director

of the Maison Française, said. Peer said she wanted to “bring films to the Maison Française that wouldn’t otherwise be shown in New York, or even in the United States.” Meflah will be joining the films’ directors at post-screening Q-&-As for the festival’s last two installments.

When it came time to select the four films, “our first concern was mostly to have diverse perspectives on immigration,” said Clémence Touboul, intern at the Maison Française and Meflah’s primary liaison during the planning of the event. For example, the film “Nous n’étions pas des bécassines” (“We weren’t silly

SEE FILM, page 6

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Aditya Mukherjee, President

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Lee followers
5 Works in the Uffizi Gallery
9 Gets ready
14 "___ Rhythm"
15 Role for Carrie
16 Singer Gorme
17 Money for the Warsaw government?
19 Letter alternative
20 They may be precious
21 Divulge
23 Hydrocarbon suffix
24 Fluorescent bulb filler
25 Foot-tapping songs?
27 "1984" protagonist — Smith
29 Cut it out
30 Place to be pampered
31 French mystic
34 Maundy
35 Songwriting, to Porter?
38 G-note
40 Increase in intensity, with "up"
41 Previously
44 Weather map features
46 Andor
49 Actor's messages from an agent?
52 ___ asada (Mexican meat dish)
53 TV's Aft and others
54 Skin-soothing stuff
55 Bouquets
56 Rob of "90210"
58 Grain for bagels?
60 Sport with clay pigeons
61 Author of many quotes?
62 Old Boston Bruin nickname
63 Newbies
64 Following
65 Remarriage prefix

DOWN

1 With-the-grain cutters
2 Vacation for the vain?
3 Smoked deli meat
4 Dictators' aides
5 Wistful word
6 "Wonder Dog" of comics
7 Relate with
8 Drawing support
9 Willy-nilly
10 3-Down might be on it
11 Enters carefully
12 Rachmaninoff, e.g.
13 Prime
18 Certain caterpillar's creation
22 Was in front
25 Look from
26 Broken in
28 Rice University mascot
32 "___ picture paints ___": song lyric
33 Walks with a cane, perhaps

35 Road marker
36 Shunned ones
37 Clean air org.
38 October Revolution leader
39 It can facilitate drawing
41 With the most open windows
42 Flipped
43 Convenient, shoppingwise

44 Least constrained
45 Erie Canal mule
47 Flat-bottomed boat
48 Ornamental bands
50 Lindsay of "Labor Pains"
51 Sierra ___
55 Cooped (up)
57 Fair-hiring abbr.
59 Bagel topping

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

POOL	MOATS	PICK
ORCA	CIVIL	ADEN
PATSY	CLINE	WILE
SLO	AREA	DANGLE
NED	ADIT	
ALASKA	PRODIGAL	
MENUS	PANG	CURE
ERIC	DUPES	KEEP
NOOK	URAL	GESTE
DIINETTES	COTTER	
RICE	TOO	
LOOF	FAH	GOLF
ELOI	MARK	OFCAIN
NIPS	ALIEN	ACNE
TOSH	NINNY	TOOL

xwordeditor@aol.com 02/24/11



By Harvey Estes
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The person inside the pop star

We might not readily admit it, but between classes, it's the words of pop stars, not philosophers, that we mutter absentmindedly under our breath. If we are unaware of this, the stars are not—between Twitter, live appearances, and perfume lines, their guidance is ubiquitous these days. Journalists label their outfits as agents of social change, and each single they release is a by-product of their constructed personas. As performers, they speak almost philosophically about their work, which ultimately and predominantly focuses on self-expression. In a gesture paradoxically both solipsistic and democratizing, they are now using the effort they put into crafting their self-images to help us develop our own. It is, in part, a public project inspiring to the self-satisfied and self-loathing alike. And because so many artists are doing this at once, we get a panoramic view of the routes to self-acceptance.

Four female pop stars have recently enjoyed commercial and critical success in songs that encourage unconditional self-acceptance: Katy Perry's "Firework," Kesha's "We R Who We R," Pink's "Perfect," and Lady Gaga's "Born This Way." Each comes immediately on the heels of a successful single about partying and living irresponsibly. They share overwrought vocals and under-developed metaphors, and, unlike Christina Aguilera's "Beautiful," each song was at least co-written by the artist. Kesha said that she was inspired by teenage bullying and her own negative reviews to write something about "celebrating herself." Pink speaks to her unborn daughter in "Perfect," and Lady Gaga hopes to



ZEBA AHMAD

Any Road Will Take You There

A right to education

At Columbia, we are a diverse student body. We come from all over the world, from numerous backgrounds and life experiences—yet we are united in the value we place on education. Would you deny that education to someone just because his or her parents immigrated to the U.S. illegally?

We all spent the better part of our final year of high school planning how we were going to get into our favorite colleges. For most of us, the stress stopped with an acceptance letter. But, for some, the next step was much less clear. In the United States, out of the more than three million students who graduate from high school each year, 65,000 are illegal immigrants.

Last March, 21-year-old Jessica Colotl, a student at Kennesaw State University, became the face of a heated immigration debate after she was arrested for driving without a license and was later revealed to be an illegal immigrant. When she was 10 years old, Colotl's parents brought her from Mexico to the United States. She graduated with honors from a Georgia high school and, in 2006, went on to enroll at Kennesaw State University to study political science. At the time of her arrest, she was two semesters away from graduating.

Colotl was taken into federal custody and detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for 35 days before being released. She was eventually granted a yearlong deferral on her deportation to finish college. In 2007, the Board of Regents, which oversees Georgia state universities, prohibited illegal immigrants from attending universities as Georgia residents, and public outrage ensued when Colotl was found to be paying in-state tuition. Colotl planned to become a lawyer, but she will likely be deported after she graduates.

Why do so many Americans support the denial of rights for individuals who flee to the United States? These individuals, oftentimes risking their lives, come here in search of opportunities not available to them in their home countries. With 65,000 illegal immigrants graduating high school each year, there is a chance that some are students at Columbia. You have no way of knowing the immigration status of the girl who lives on your floor or the boy sitting next to you in your economics class. Promoting anti-immigrant legislation and provisions under the guise of patriotism is foolish—we are a nation of immigrants. If we reject those who seek freedom and economic opportunity, we are turning our backs on the foundation of our nation that makes it so great.

In October, in the wake of the controversy surrounding Jessica Colotl and the stringent Arizona immigration legislation, the Georgia Board of Regents voted to ban illegal immigrants from the state's five most selective public colleges. South Carolina is the only other state to impose such a ban. In November, Georgia state Rep. Tom Rice introduced HB-59, a bill barring illegal immigrants from attending all of Georgia's public colleges and universities.

Currently, the American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia and the ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project are working in partnership with Georgia immigrants' rights advocates to fight against the passage of HB-59. "The overwhelming majority of states today afford students access to a college education regardless of immigration status," said Michael Tan, a Skadden Fellow and attorney at the ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project. "Keeping the classroom open to all students furthers principles of fundamental fairness," he added. "The students who stand to be hurt by HB-59 are, by and large, talented high achievers who came to Georgia as children because of the choices of their parents. It's unfair to lock them outside the university gate."

Legislation to help these students does exist. The DREAM Act is a bipartisan bill developed by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) that would grant undocumented students citizenship through a six-year process. Eligible students must have entered the United States before the age of 16 and have lived in the United States for five consecutive years. Citizenship would be contingent upon completion of a college degree or two years of military service. As demonstrated by recent legislation, the current political climate is not exactly friendly toward illegal immigrants. Thus, the DREAM Act has yet to pass.

This truly is a common sense-bill. It would provide committed students whose immigration status was determined by the actions of their parents the ability to pursue the American dream. Our community understands the invaluable importance of education—we have a responsibility to support the DREAM Act and oppose xenophobic measures, like the Board of Regents' ban and HB-59 in Georgia. We should stand with our peers who depend on the passage of this legislation to complete their education and pursue their dreams.

Alexandra Katz is a Barnard College senior majoring in political science. Umm, Excuse Me runs alternate Thursdays.



ALEXANDRA KATZ

Umm, Excuse Me

spread her "The Secret"-inspired agenda of self-manifestation to her fans. Each writes candidly about herself for the sake of someone else because, as David Bowie and Madonna established, the most self-referential songs are ultimately the easiest for listeners to identify with. For all the access we have to their private lives through the paparazzi, the stars have the last word—and determinedly and effectively use it for good.

These women take calculated risks in style and in speech, and while an aspect of their lyrics and images is shameless commercialism, they're now competing to subvert the trends, not set them. Competition between them, while petty (when one woman wears a blue wig, the other wears blue lipstick), forces them to resort even further to their personal and remembered eccentricities. They appear to egg each other on to come out with something more challenging or childlike than the last, all the while revealing more about themselves. While students tend to hide any uncertainty behind new terminology and noncommittal opinions, these singers admit that they don't know themselves any better than we do. Lady Gaga's innate and overpowering self-consciousness overtakes the most contrived of her outfits, and she uses it almost combatively to justify her wide appeal. If she can love herself, she seems to ask, why can't we love her? With "Born This Way," the question reverses: If we can love her, can't we love ourselves?

Regardless of their prodigal self-aggrandizement, the songs are rampantly imperfect. However noble her inspiration, Kesha has yet to convince us that behind her glitter and hot pants, she takes herself and these themes seriously. Pink is still relying on shock value, including the expletive in one version of her song title, to take away from the tiredness of her themes. Katy Perry's "Firework" idea ultimately



WENDAN LI

Addressing the threats to student group funding

BY NARAYAN SUBRAMANIAN

The recent move by the student councils to pilot a cosponsorship committee has once again brought the issue of student group funding into the spotlight. The desire for additional funding runs rampant among student groups. Additional funding may help groups fulfill their missions, or, for some groups, can even help them meet their basic goals of survival. While the demands for funding are endless, the total funds available are severely limited. I intend to neither defend nor denounce the current structure for student group funding, but rather to expose the realities of what exists and offer my own insight on how we can move forward.

Student group funding starts with each student government receiving a cut of \$102 every semester from the \$634 student life fee charged to each student annually. The four undergraduate student governments then convene at a meeting known as Funding at Columbia University, nicknamed F@CU, to decide how much money should be allocated to each of the governing boards. The governing boards then autonomously determine how to allocate their funds to student groups. Other than the incremental increases in student life fees every few years to account for inflation, the aggregate funding for student life essentially stays constant. The fluctuations governing boards and groups see in their allocations are merely a redistribution of funds within the overall structure—an increase in funding for one governing board or student group means a decrease in funding for another and vice versa.

So how do we reconcile the perpetual desire among student groups for more funding with the limitations on student governments' own funds? There are three options I propose for consideration. First, the student councils can tighten their own belts in order to give more to governing boards, thus reducing the amount of funds that go to student council programming. However, this reduction could adversely affect the councils' student life initiatives, which have already been subject to student scrutiny. Nevertheless, this would only provide short-term relief because even this money comes with a limit. Second, an external source of funding can be introduced in the form of alumni. The impediment here is that any attempt to create an institutionalized system of alumni funding for student groups is likely to be met with resistance by the University administra-

found self-love on the approval of others. Lady Gaga's argument that "I'm beautiful in my way / 'Cause God makes no mistakes" holds up only if we give up the conception of free will and consequent responsibility. Luckily, perfection and coherence are not prerequisites for self-love, despite what student life might suggest.

Psychologist Joyce Brothers said that "a positive self-image is the best preparation for success," and these women are most successful in self-promotion. Words about feeling inadequate or estranged would not seem quite as credible from a Britney Spears or Jessica Simpson because after taking the spotlight, Perry, Pink, Gaga and Kesha believed that they still had something left to say.

Even when their circumstances aren't immediately analogous to ours, we can admire that their self-acceptance didn't come easily. Their progress is public and poignant—a year ago, Lady Gaga's costumes seemed to have been constructed solely to hide her face, which now appears, minimally augmented, on the cover of Vogue.

It's unsurprising that these songs would come out in the wake of bullying, suicide, unemployment, and economic failure in the news. It's unsurprising that these women would take a shortcut from self-knowledge to unconditional self-acceptance. From pop stars to students, it may be a uniquely female capacity to offer both the harshest criticism and the strongest support. But by example, these women encourage a kind of intimacy and identification with their work that is ultimately imitable by any woman who still considers herself a learner.

Zeba Ahmad is a Barnard College junior majoring in psychology and philosophy. Any Road Will Take You There runs alternate Thursdays.

tion because it is seen as a drain on alumni funding that could go toward the University's endowment. Several past and current students leaders have toyed with the idea of establishing an endowment fund just for student groups, but for various reasons, the concept has failed to gain traction. This does not mean, however, that the idea of alumni contributions should be written off completely.

So how do we reconcile the perpetual desire among student groups for more funding when student governments' own funds are limited?

The University administration bars students from directly soliciting donations from alumni for student activities and justifiably so—students should not harass alumni from various sides for their support. What student groups should strive to do instead is establish their own alumni networks and foster close relationships with their alumni starting with the most recent graduates. Naturally, these relationships will pay off in the long run. Various groups on campus, most notably the sailing and equestrian teams, are already doing this.

The final option I propose is a unified effort by student groups on campus to combine funds to organize grand joint events. Success and growth of a student group must not be assumed to mean organizing more independent events. As groups grow, many of their missions are starting to overlap, so this would only be practical. Creativity from the side of the student groups and strong encouragement from the councils and governing boards would be more than enough to pursue this option. It's in the best interest of the Columbia community for our groups to grow symbiotically as the burden of limited resources begins to weigh on us.

The author is a School of Engineering and Applied Science sophomore majoring in earth and environmental engineering. He is the vice president of the finance intergroup of the Engineering Student Council.

WKCR alumni tune in for station’s 70th anniversary

WKCR from page 3

Jr. and William F. Buckley, Jr., its coverage of such diverse topics and genres has made it one of the most important stations in the metropolitan area. Chris Pitsiokos, the current program director for WKCR, is enthusiastic about the alumni event. “The regular involvement of these alumni programmers sets the tone for the way current WKCR programmers are well aware that they are part of something much larger than themselves,” Pitsiokos said, noting that a handful of the station’s regular programmers have already graduated. “This event will be a wonderful opportunity for current student programmers just getting started to mingle and learn from some people who were programming as early as the 1950s.”

“My hope is that people understand the impact that WKCR has had on the world,” Howitt said. “The way that a university should be measured should not only be the education that it gives to its students but also the impact that its graduates have on society. WKCR is a treasure for the University.”

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PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY

Sean Mahoney and company in
THREE DUBIOUS MEMORIES

BACK IN ACTION | Michael Novak, GS ’09, is currently dancing in “Three Dubious Memories” with the Paul Taylor Dance Company.

COURTESY OF TOM CARAVAGLIA

GS alum Novak leaps back onstage at City Center

BY GARNET HENDERSON
Spectator Staff Writer

In Paul Taylor Dance Company’s current run at City Center (130 West 56th Street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues), Columbia students may recognize something that they last saw in Literature of Humanities. Choreographer Paul Taylor’s new work “Three Dubious Memories” features a dancing Greek chorus. The piece is one of two new works that will make their New York premieres during the company’s season at City Center, which runs now through March 6.

“Three Dubious Memories” will also feature a familiar face on the Columbia campus—Michael Novak, GS ’09. Novak

joined the company in May 2010, but he was introduced to the Taylor dance technique by members of Barnard’s dance department.

“I immediately fell in love with the contractions, spirals, low runs, the theatricality and archetypes—no dance style ever felt this ‘at home’ on my body,” Novak said.

Early in his career, Novak struggled to find a balance between his interest in academia and his love for dance.

“When I graduated high school ... I decided to sacrifice my love for academia to train for a career as a professional dancer,” he said. But after suffering serious physical and emotional stress, Novak stopped dancing. “For two years, I never took a single dance

class and never thought I would want to dance again,” he said. But after a positive experience with GS and the Barnard dance department, Novak returned to dancing and is now very enthusiastic about his career.

Novak had the opportunity to work directly with Taylor in the creation of “Three Dubious Memories.” The piece “allows the audience to witness the same memory seen from three different perspectives,” Novak said. He explained that the dancers in the Greek chorus, who often move in three-dimensional poses, “are ... part of the drama but independent from it.” With original lighting, costumes, and score, Novak calls the piece “a riveting addition to the Taylor repertory.”

This season, the company will also premiere Taylor’s new work “Phantasmagoria” and revive the 1966 work “Orbs.” Set to one of Beethoven’s late string quartets, “Orbs” was reconstructed with grant funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

“Not only will audiences get to see dance of great sophistication and eloquence, they will also see some of the world’s best dancers,” Novak said of the dance company’s current season. “It is a season not to be missed.” After rekindling his passion for dance at Columbia and Barnard, Novak hopes to ignite the same excitement for dance in audiences with the company’s upcoming performances.

Maison Française explores immigration through film

FILM from page 3

gooses”), which screens tonight, Feb. 24, examines internal immigration as impoverished young women move from northwest France to Paris. Moreover, these films may give viewers a new perspective on the medium itself. “When American students, especially in universities, think of French cinema, they think of the New Wave and the sixties,” Touboul said. “This is different, but it’s still very real.”

The series began this past Thursday with “Nous, princesses de Clèves,” a play on “The Princess of Clèves,” a seventeenth-century French novel. Director Régis Sauder spent

six months interviewing high school students in Marseille as they read the seminal text—watching these modern teenagers, most from immigrant backgrounds, find themselves within the classic French story. The film artfully meshes past with present and questions what it means to identify oneself as French.

“I think that immigration is probably easily seen and presented as a problem—a problem that France isn’t dealing with very well,” Peer said. But, as Sauder also emphasized, this kind of documentary “really presents these young people as subjects in their own stories. It gives a voice to them, and to

their families, who don’t often feel heard.”

Just as Sauder’s youth were able to transcend literature with their own varied lives, FIDEL hopes that through its festivals, France might begin to integrate its cinematic

classics with this new, plural voice of the documentary, and move toward a more successful multicultural identity. For now, though, students can accept these invitations to a new understanding of French cinema and culture.



COURTESY OF CARLY DEFILIPPO

CULTURE SHOCK | The Maison Française’s documentary film festival focuses on immigration and multiculturalism in France.

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Team performance comes first at Ivy Heptagonals

BY JEREMIAH SHARF
Spectator Staff Writer

With many individual records under their belts, it's time for the Lions to focus on team goals. Columbia's indoor track and field teams will compete in the Ivy League Heptagonal Championships at the Armory this weekend.

Although a number of athletes have been competitive on the national level this season, head coach Willy Wood made it clear that this weekend will be about the team, not individuals.

"This weekend is solely about winning events and placing as high as possible to score team points," Wood said. "For this one weekend, the NCAA National Championships take a backseat to the collective pursuit of team success."

For Wood and the team, this is where the season begins. Whatever precedes this weekend is preparation. "Everything that we do from an indoor track perspective is to ensure that we are fully prepared for the best performances of the season over the next three weeks," Wood said. After Heps, Lions with hopes of qualifying for the NCAA's will take part in the NCAA Last Chance Meet, also at the Armory, with the NCAA's the week thereafter.

Based on their records so far this season, Wood has proposed separate goals for the men's and women's teams. The men hope to dominate in the specific events where they are strongest. For the women—who have had several strong performances already—the goal is simply to win overall.

Columbia's rise to prominence among the Ivies this year has given the team more confidence, but Wood wants to make sure that this historic season does not put any more pressure on the squad. "Pressure exists when you are trying to accomplish something outside of the realm of your reality," he said. "We are ready and will

IVY LEAGUE HEPTAGONALS

The Armory, Saturday, 10 a.m.

perform well—of that I am sure."

With this confidence, the Lions hope to put on some exciting, competitive performances this weekend.

This weekend's biggest competition will be the Princeton Tigers—winners in both men's and women's competition at last year's indoors.

While the focus is on the team, this weekend's event still has national implications for several Light Blue athletes. With only two events remaining until the national championships, some team members are still looking to improve their times this weekend.

Juniors Sharay Hale and Kyra Caldwell both hold all-time records within the Ancient Eight, and each appears capable of competing for a national qualifying time. Hale, who is currently ranked fifth in the 400m dash, appears poised to qualify, but many talented runners from around the country will be gunning for one of the coveted spots in the top 16. Caldwell currently sits on the cusp, tied for 16th in the nation in the 60m hurdles, and will likely need to improve her time if she hopes to compete in the NCAA's.

On the men's side, Jeff Moriarty—who set a school record in the 1,000m earlier this season—is still looking to qualify in either the mile or the 800m run. Moriarty still hopes to break the four-minute mark in the mile.

As the weekend approaches, Wood's job is to make sure everybody is prepared and in top shape. "This week is just about getting a much-needed break from the intensity of our training and to sharpen up in preparation for Saturday and Sunday," he said.

With things all set and ready to go, the Lions plan to compete hard and possibly return to campus with some hardware.



HENRY WILLSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SEA LION | Columbia hopes to improve on its sixth-place finish in last year's Ancient Eight swimming and diving championship.

Light Blue looks to make waves at Ivy Championships

BY JULIA GARRISON
Spectator Staff Writer

The women's swimming and diving team will compete in the annual Ivy League Championships today through Saturday, Feb. 26, at Princeton. During the three days of competition, there will be preliminary events starting at 11 a.m., with those who qualify moving on to the championship final sessions each day.

During the regular season, the Lions were 3-4 in the Ancient Eight, finishing behind Yale, Harvard, Penn, and Princeton. No matter what the standings in the league are before the tournament, though, if Columbia performs well at Ivies, it can come out on top

of the league—and head coach Diana Caskey thinks her team is ready to compete.

"We are very excited to race at Ivies. It is the only time of the season that we rest, shave, and taper, and find where all the hard training during our season takes us," Caskey said. "We are poised to swim very fast and have a lot of enthusiasm and confidence heading into this meet."

At last year's competition, undefeated Princeton held on to finish as the Ivy League champions with 1465 points, outscoring runner-up Harvard by only 27. Yale came in third with a total score of 1350 points, 115 less than the Tigers. In contrast, the Lions—after a regular season record of 4-3—came in sixth place

with 692.5 points. Princeton will once again enter the championships as the team to beat, having achieved another 7-0 record this season. The results are anything but predetermined, though, and the upcoming days should feature another exciting and close competition between the eight teams.

Returning to compete this year for the Light Blue is senior Mariele Dunn, who last year placed 10th overall in the 200 IM and second in the 200 breaststroke with a time of 2:14.13. In the same event, sophomore Katie Meili placed fourth for the Lions with 2:15.33. Meili also finished second in the 100 breaststroke in last year's competition and fifth overall in the 50

IVY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Princeton, N.J., Saturday, 11 a.m.

freestyle, and is expected to be a strong competitor again this year. Other notable swimmers include juniors Isabelle Vandenbroucke—who took 11th in the 400 individual medley—and Paige Endsley, who placed 11th in the 200 freestyle and 14th in the 500 freestyle.

This will be the last meet of the season for the team as a whole, but individuals whose times qualify will move on to represent their school in the NCAA Championships or NCAA Diving Zone. The Ivy League Championships begin today at 11 a.m. at DeNunzio Pool in Princeton, N.J.

Columbia fans still have plenty to watch for in preseason baseball

SHAPIRO from back page

little bearing on how a team will play during the regular season, then consider the fact that players are competing for a spot on the 40-man roster with every pitch, swing, and ball fielded. Games may be low-pressure in terms of the outcome, but for players trying to prove their worth, spring training is a two-month job interview.

College baseball is slightly less competitive in this sense, as there tend to be fewer players competing for starting positions. However, the Lions' trial period is in many ways equal to or even more important than MLB spring training. Considering that college players tend to field more than one primary position, preconference games

are particularly important in determining where each man can be best utilized. Columbia has several multipurpose players who Coach Boretti can call on to fill a position as necessary. For example, Alex Aurichio is eligible to play his usual position—first base—or the outfield, and sophomore Alex Black plays third and also pitches. This flexibility, while incredibly useful, requires Coach Boretti to know his players' strengths and weaknesses at every position.

Furthermore, college coaches have to adjust to losing a handful of seniors every season while simultaneously scouting freshmen. Graduating seniors usually leave gaping holes in the lineup and field. Columbia welcomes seven freshmen to

its 32-man roster this year, including catchers Mike Fischer and Enmanuel Cabreja and several pitchers. Coaches and returning players will have 18 games before the start of Ivy play to familiarize themselves with the new recruits. The Lions' four new captains—Jason Banos, Dan Bracey, Nick Cox, and Alex Ferrera—will also need to use these games to grow into their leadership roles.

Columbia has several nonconference games against nationally ranked opponents, facing Stetson, Central Michigan, Illinois, South Alabama, Florida Gulf Coast, Rollins, Central Florida, Holy Cross, and Monmouth prior to opening Ivy play against Dartmouth at home. While it may be a grueling and, at times, discouraging road

trip, the Lions will maintain focus on the Ivy title. College Baseball Insider has already picked Columbia and Dartmouth as the two teams to beat in the Ivy League this season and Coach Boretti as the conference's best game coach.

As the reigning Gehrig Division champions, the Lions will have another opportunity this season to make a run for the elusive Ivy title. But before Ancient Eight rivalries are rekindled, the Light Blue will enjoy summer climates and a challenging schedule that will define how far they will go this spring. I, for one, am ready. Are you?

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Taking two years off for missionary work, heavyweight's success extends far beyond the mat

LESTER from back page

overtime, another overtime, and then a final overtime—which is 11 minutes of wrestling instead of seven," Standish said. "In the first overtime ... the kid [Lester's opponent] got a takedown, but it was a really great effort on Kevin's part—he definitely stayed tough, and it showed."

So where did it all begin for Lester?

Sometimes people have to choose between a coach and a parent to determine the most important influence in their athletic careers. For Lester, that was not the case.

"My father is a wrestling coach at my high school, and he coached me," Lester said. "I started wrestling when I was eight. There was no pressure—I could do what I wanted. My brother played football at college. It was understood that there would be some athletics in my life. I had success early on, and that bred a drive to continue."

Lester was recruited to play football at Boise State, but he chose to wrestle at Columbia instead.

"I thought I was going to play football at Boise State, and the last minute, coaches from Columbia contacted me and invited me to visit," he said. "I didn't even know Columbia existed, and this was a perfect opportunity to come to New York. I didn't know if I'd ever get another chance. I fell in love with the campus and the city, and that's

when coming here became a possibility. I was wary of coming to the city and not knowing anyone, but once I came it became evident I could come here and thrive. I could do well at wrestling and in life and receive a great education."

In the two years in the Dominican Republic, Lester didn't have a chance to wrestle or go to school. He served as a missionary, teaching people about Christianity while providing service to the community. He knew it would be hard, but he believed he could return to the sport after the mission.

"Taking two years off is a very drastic move, and it was a big setback," he said. "I came back in August 2009, I was home for two days in Idaho, and then came right back to school. I had lost 45 pounds during the mission, and I was considered a light heavyweight, and the cards were stacked against me. I spent that whole preseason trying to get back into shape."

It didn't take long.

"At times, I doubted if I could get back and questioned the early-morning workouts and runs," he continued. "By December, I felt confident since I was back in shape, and I ended up having a pretty good season. I missed the national tournament by one spot, but the season ended on a high note. I proved to myself and everyone else that I could come back."

His father and high school coach, Wally Lester, believes

that it is Kevin's passion for academics and the sport that is responsible for success.

"That's one of the big things with Kevin—he was a great student," the senior Lester said. "Being able to think analytically adds onto your ability to think on the mat. He was always very motivated, and Kevin had a passion ever since he was little to get in

and get his work done. He loved learning. Every athlete needs a passion. Same thing carried onto his wrestling—ever since he was little, he loved the sport."

Lester is the fourth seed for the EIWA Wrestling Championships in March. Three of the nation's best six wrestlers will be obstacles on his path to glory in a very competitive heavyweight



JOSÉ GIRALT / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TAKE DOWN | Lester has had little trouble re-establishing his presence in the league.

Baseball season counts before Ivy League play

It's that time of year again. The recent snowfall isn't a good indication, but I can't flip on SportsCenter without being reminded that baseball season is almost here. And while the pros have only recently started spring training, Columbia baseball will kick off its 2011 campaign next Friday at the Bright House Stetson Invitation in DeLand, Fla. The Lions will not grace Robertson Field with their presence until March 26, but those who intend to follow the team should be ready for nonconference play.

Most Columbia baseball fans that I know often discredit the importance of the Lions' early nonconference road games. As these contests have no bearing on the team's Ivy record, fans tend to pay little or no attention to the Light Blue for the first month of the season. This is a mistake on several levels.

Columbia's pre-Ivy season road trip is the defining opportunity for the Lions to prepare for conference play. Think of these games as the collegiate equivalent of Major League Baseball's spring training. While only loyal fans tend to follow spring training, it provides critical insight into and preparation for the upcoming season. In both college and the pros, spring training games are a prime opportunity to experiment with lineups, fielding positions, baserunning strategy, and more. Managers may not focus on actually winning the game, but they absolutely take advantage of them as test runs.

Spring training for professional teams is also a de facto tryout for new and returning players alike. If you believe that preseason has



MICHAEL SHAPIRO

Turn up the Mike

SEE SHAPIRO, page 7



JOSÉ GIRALT / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HANNIBAL LESTER | Kevin Lester keeps his heavyweight opponents on edge with an insatiable hunger for victory. He has won 15 consecutive matches.

CU wrestler on mission to perform well, do good

BY MRINAL MOHANKA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

This past weekend, the Light Blue wrestling team cruised to wins over Harvard and Brown. Kevin Lester, the Columbia heavyweight, participated in one of the most thrilling duels of the weekend and triumphed, extending his winning streak to 15 consecutive matches.

Lester, a junior, has been having a standout season with the Lions, including a seventh-place finish at the Las Vegas Invitational, one of the most competitive tournaments in the nation.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

He arrived in Morningside Heights in 2006 but took two years off after his first year in order to participate in a Mormon mission in the Dominican Republic. As a result, the current crop of seniors on the team had heard much about Lester before they actually met him.

Nick Standish, a senior co-captain, admits that the entire team looked forward to Lester's return while he was gone.

"We had heard a lot about him," Standish said. "The guys above me talked about him being gone all the time: 'Wait till Lester comes back, wait till Lester comes back.'"

Standish added that before he actually met Lester, he had seen pictures of him dressed as the Hulk for Halloween.

The size was about right, and Lester had painted himself green. His fun character made his return even more eagerly anticipated.

"We didn't really know what to expect from him," Standish continued. "But he knew he needed to get stronger again, and get back into cardio shape—and he was able to take care of those without anyone bugging him. He trained all summer and the results are showing."

Besides his determination, there is another characteristic that sets Lester apart: his considerate nature. Maintaining weight for your weight class is an important part of wrestling, and Lester has the advantage of being a heavyweight, meaning he doesn't have

to watch the scales too stringently.

"The first couple tournaments he went on as a freshman, he didn't want to abuse his privileges and be the fat guy, so he didn't bring any food along," Standish said. "The night before weigh-ins, when he should have been eating, he just hung out—he went awhile without eating. Now he just eats what he wants, but he's considerate enough to not eat around someone who's cutting weight. Sometimes even too considerate."

Lester's streak was in jeopardy this weekend against Harvard in a match that went to three periods of overtime. "It went into overtime, the ride-out

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