



FATEMA VARSİ FOR SPECTATOR

CHILD CARE | Harbor Morningside Children’s Center is a city-funded child care site slated to close at the end of the year to save money. The high cost of rent and utilities, coupled with under-enrollment, means the center has been put on the chopping block. See page 2 for more.

Shelter plans scrapped amid ownership concerns

BY DEVIN BRISKI
Columbia Daily Spectator

After a contentious Community Board 7 meeting on Tuesday night, housing organization Help USA confirmed



Wednesday that they were pulling out of plans for a long-term contract with the Department of Homeless Services. The contract would have established a women’s shelter to operate out of 237 W.107th St., a “single room occupancy” building that was known until recently as the West Side Inn. Help USA President and

CEO Larry Belinsky, Business ’91, said in an interview that the organization pulled out of the deal at the last minute after learning about the ownership structure of the building. “The person who purported to us to be the owner was not the owner. ... The building is owned by a corporate entity.” “We discovered some things

that were not as presented to us by DHS. Those things caused us concern,” Belinsky said. Help USA, a national organization that builds and operates transitional and low-income housing, was supposed to make an informational presentation at CB7 about plans for a

SEE HOMELESSNESS, page 6

Barnard admins launch meal plan task force

BY MADINA TOURE AND CARLY SILVER
Columbia Daily Spectator

A task force made up of students and administrators will meet Thursday to hash out the future of the Barnard meal plan. After a contentious forum earlier in February where student response to a proposed required meal plan was overwhelmingly negative, administrators are planning to work with a smaller group over the next month.

In an email sent out to the college, Dean Dorothy Denburg announced that Barnard will assemble a working group of 12 students who will meet with Gregory Brown, Barnard’s chief operating officer, and her three times before spring break. The group was created in part because of suggestions made during the forum.

The task force will be made up of six students from Barnard’s Student Government Association and six from the general student body, including two first-year students, two sophomores, and two juniors. Seniors, with the exception of SGA President Katie Palillo, will not sit in. The task force

will have one student self-identified as having allergies and one commuter student.

As of Wednesday evening, SGA had only finalized three council members that would participate in the working group—junior representative to the Board of Trustees Verna Patti, BC ’11, junior class president Lara Avsar, BC ’11, and sophomore class representative Mitzi Steiner, BC ’12.

“The goal is to have a series of conversations that incorporate the voices of interested stu-

“It all comes down to how much they [the administration] are going to listen to the students.”

—Diana Rastegayeva, BC ’11

some feeling that we needed to hear other student voices.”

Denburg received 23 responses to her initial college-wide announcement. She responded with two possible time slots, which some students were unable to attend, and the final meeting slots were chosen based on the times that the majority of candidates were able to make. These candidates were then sorted by class. After the committee picked a student with food allergies and

SEE MEAL PLAN, page 6

Fiscal year 2011 budget bodes badly for CB7

BY AARON KIERSH
Spectator Staff Writer

If Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s preliminary budget for fiscal year 2011 is a predictor of the finalized budget, Community Board 7 may not fare too well.

That’s what some CB7 members said at the Steering Committee’s meeting on Thursday evening, where the committee discussed Bloomberg’s budget plan, released last month.

The Department of Parks rejected several construction and renovation projects that Community Board 7 members had proposed.

A handful of proposals—such as infrastructure upgrades for a branch of the New York Public Library on 100th Street—were approved. But the Department of Parks denied many more requests for refurbishing parks and playgrounds, according to an itemized inventory of projects released by the mayor’s office.

The explanation cited for most of the rejections was “insufficient funds,” resulting from budget cuts due in large part to the city’s fiscal losses in 2008. Steering Committee Chair Mel Wymore said before the meeting that these rejections reflected the difficulties brought on by the city’s \$4 billion deficit.

“Fiscal difficulties made us extra clear in terms of the ordering of our priorities,” Wymore said. “For example, schools are an immediate priority for us right now.”

Despite what Wymore said were reduced expectations for the city’s capacity to fund projects, she was disappointed with the Parks Department’s refusal of the board’s requests, especially after the board participated in consultative sessions with city agencies in the fall.

“It’s a long series of rejections that don’t provide explanations and context,” Wymore said. “Our role is to justify the proposals we’ve already set forth, and make the case for each priority. It’s great for the democratic process but a bit onerous because we have to restate our priorities over and over again.”

The board will send local elected officials—including Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, Councilwoman Gale Brewer, and State Assemblyman Daniel O’Donnell—responses to the mayor’s budget. The board will join City Council hearings in March, although they will not be able to “negotiate actively,” according to Wymore.

Three months after the hearing, the City Council will vote on the mayor’s budget. Wymore said that the council contacts Brewer “nearly every day,” and that she is familiar with the board’s concerns.

And while some say that local priorities tend to go unrecognized by city authorities, Columbia is directly represented on CB7. Louis Cholden-Brown, GS/JTS ’12, was named CB7 budget director in January,

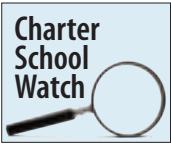
SEE BUDGET, page 2

Parents, teachers debate school space

Panel for Educational Policy explores Harlem charter changes

BY CLAIRE LUCHETTE
Columbia Daily Spectator

New York City Department of Education Chancellor Joel Klein said on Wednesday that it is time to forget politics and come together in the ongoing fight for school space.



But for some parents, the competition to find and share classroom space is a contentious battle, with no simple solution in sight.

In a public hearing on Wednesday evening, the Panel for Educational Policy—consisting of 13 appointed members and the chancellor—gave parents, students, and teachers the opportunity to voice concerns on the citywide debate on charter schools. The debate has particular relevance in Harlem, where these new schools are highly concentrated. The panel also announced a few decisions about space changes for charter schools in the area.

Proponents of charters, which are public schools accountable to the DOE but run by an outside not-for-profit board, argue that these new schools provide unique opportunities to develop public schools with specific missions, giving parents more choices. But opponents often criticize them for taking much-needed space and other resources away from traditional public schools.

For Klein and some parents who attended the hearing, this

argument is counterproductive. “I wish we had much more space, so that each school could have the space we need,” Klein said. But he said, “The only fight we should be fighting is for the quality of the educational service we provide.”

After the public comments, the panel made several decisions regarding the current situation of Harlem’s charter schools. Opportunity Charter School on 113th Street, which shares space with another charter school and a traditional public school, will not be moving out of its current location this year. Relocation will be considered for 2011.

The PEP is also looking to move a new school into 215 W. 114th St., which currently houses Wadleigh High School and Frederick Douglass Academy II, but this will not happen until 2011.

Helen Rosenthal, former chair of Community Board 7, said after the meeting, these were welcome outcomes. “They deferred until 2011, and by that point in time, they’ll have a better understanding.”

The discussion also included testimonies from students and parents on the current state of charter schools.

Cheryl Powers, mother of a student at the charter Harlem Success Academy, told the panel, “Please don’t take away the space we need to help our children grow. ... These kids love waking

SEE DOE, page 2

DON'T WORRY, THE WATER'S FINE



LENNY PRIDATKO / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BACK FLIP | Today’s Ivy League Championships give the women’s swimming team one last chance to prove itself in the league.

INSIDE

A&E, page 3

Z is for zines at new, unofficial Barnard club

On Thursday, the Barnard Zine Library Club held its first meeting to celebrate the college’s extensive collection of the alternative publication and brainstormed ways to strengthen its footing on campus.



Sports, back page

Alicia Aemisegger tops the charts in Princeton

Swimmer Aemisegger, a three-year first team all-Ivy honoree, heads into today’s championship meet with five all-time records in the Ancient Eight. The senior looks to make a splash as her collegiate swimming career draws to a close.

Opinion, page 4

Going for cold

How are the Winter Olympics better than their Summer counterpart? Let Hillary Busis count the ways.

Eat it, meal plan!

You can put a Barnard student on the meal plan, but you can’t make her like it.

Today’s Events

Career Speed Dating

Barnard alumnae and recruiters offer networking tips.
Diana Center, 6 p.m.



Comedy Night

Teachers College Student Senate presents stand up comedy.
Milbank Chapel, 9 p.m.

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WEATHER

Today  Tomorrow 
38/32 38/32

City rejects many of CB7’s proposals

BUDGET from front page

after joining the board in 2009. While Cholden-Brown is new to the budget process, the board is trusting him to compile the budget responses that will be distributed to elected officials. Though Cholden-Brown

was somewhat disappointed with the budget released by Mayor Bloomberg, he said that he was optimistic that substantive revisions would be made. “This is in no way the final budget. The budget that comes out of the City Council should be drastically different,”

Cholden-Brown said. “We hope that the Council will take it upon themselves to restore funding. We will not accept the way it is now—we want it to better reflect the concerns of the community.”

aaron.kiersh@columbiaspectator.com

Parents, students share charter stories

DOE from front page

up and going to school.”

Some students said that their experiences at charter schools have been rewarding. Darius Bryant, a student at Democracy Prep Charter School on 133rd Street, said, “I have teachers who come out and watch me play football and encourage me to do my best. ... I can tell they really care.”

The commitment of the teachers at charter schools is what convinces parents like Hansel Toussaint that these schools deserve access to public school space. “Charter schools do what it takes to get

the job done,” he said.

Public Advocate Bill DiBasio told the panel that the process of closing schools needs to be more defined. “Parents and the entire school community have the rights to answers when they are asking about the fates of their schools. ... Closures should not move forward until city adopts a clear process,” he said.

Some parents said that equality is at the root of the demand for access to public space, and the choice of charter schools should not mean a lack of funding or resources. Elijah Francis, a student at Achievement, told the panel, “Every child deserves

to be at the top of the list. Every child deserves an education.”

Angela Tucker, the mother of an eight-year-old student at Achievement First charter school in Brooklyn, said in an interview before the hearing that some have lost sight of the importance of education in these debates on space access.

“I can speak for all the parents here. We just want to use the space in public schools. We want our kids to have access to education. Charter schools are public schools, so we should all focus on the children and not the politics,” she said.

news@columbiaspectator.com



FATEMA VARSİ FOR SPECTATOR

DAY CARE | Harbor Morningside Children’s Center may be closing at the end of the year, though the decisions is still tentative. It will be presented to the city council’s general welfare committee on March 8.

Day care may close amid money woes

BY SARAH DARVILLE
Spectator Staff Writer

With more details available almost one month after the announcement was made, the possible closure of Morningside Heights day care center has teachers fearing they may soon be jobless.

The city’s Children’s Services Administration recently told the Harbor Morningside Children’s Center, located at 120th Street and Manhattan Avenue, that it was one of the city-funded childcare sites slated for closure at the end of the year to save money.

The center provides a preschool and an after-school program for elementary school students almost completely free of charge to low-income residents. The high cost of rent and utilities, which the city pays for, coupled with the center being under-enrolled, led to the site being one of 15 chosen to close, according to ACS and Harbor Morningside officials.

Harbor Morningside’s director Rory Scott said two weeks ago that he had not directly heard about the closure, and instead learned about it secondhand at an ACS meeting on Jan. 29.

Michael Marrone, executive director of Boys and Girls Harbor, the organization that operates the day care center, explained that he had deliberately waited to notify the center.

“I didn’t say anything to anyone, because I didn’t want to start a panic,” Marrone said. “ACS said I said other things, but until something is definite, you don’t make an announcement. You don’t want to give false hope or make people demoralized.”

He added, “I had a plan about how I was going to communicate with them after I knew what was

going on. It’s just that people tend not to hear the word ‘tentative.’”

At least one teacher, Keisha Kennedy, has said that Marrone’s plan didn’t work out.

“Morale is down, very low,” she said. “Teachers are worried they’ll be out of a job and won’t have anywhere else to go.”

The site’s closure is still tentative. It will be presented before the city council’s general welfare committee on March 8, and if passed, the final decision would be forwarded to the City Council, according to ACS spokesperson Sharman Stein.

“We’re going to work with the programs and do all due diligence going forward if everything approved,” said Stein, who declined to comment further as discussions are ongoing.

Marrone said that due to the city’s financial crunch, he thinks there is an 80 percent chance that the center, which houses a preschool and an after-school program for elementary school students, will be closed.

“From what I understand, it costs the city \$400,000 to operate that facility from a real estate perspective,” he added. “It’s not I disagree or I agree with the city, but I understand it. There are very limited dollars.”

Boys and Girls Harbor has been dealing with economic problems of its own, and just this week voted to consolidate all of its services, from preschools to a charter high school, under one roof at its headquarters on East 104th Street.

If the Morningside center does close, ACS has said it will help parents find seats in other ACS centers or provide them with vouchers to use elsewhere.

Parents have expressed concerns that there aren’t any nearby sites that would take the vouchers,

but Stein disagreed.

“There are other ACS-contracted sites nearby—that’s how we made a decision, lease cost and the availability of other ACS care,” Stein said. “I assume there are places that may not take them, but there are private, home-based, and contracted centers that take them. There are many choices.”

The city has been trying to fill seats in their childcare programs for years, and started a program called Project Full Enrollment in 2008 to encourage centers to better market their services to the community.

The system currently works so that the city pays day care providers for capacity—if they have space for 40 students and enroll 20, the city still pays for 40.

Stein said the program was not related to the closings, but Scott acknowledged that his center had vacancies.

“We’ve had issues with enrollment ... but we don’t think any centers should be closed,” Scott said.

Some residents were unaware that the Morningside center had run into financial difficulty.

“I haven’t heard anything about them shutting down. That’s pretty surprising if they were to do that, because they gave me a job here just a month ago,” said Ron Williams, a janitor at Harbor.

Denis Smith, who works across the street from the day care center, said he hadn’t seen any evidence of problems at the day care. “I see parents and children coming in and out of there all the time, but it doesn’t seem like anything is going to change,” he said. “It still seems the same every day, and I haven’t heard at all about it closing.”

Kim Kirschenbaum contributed reporting to this article.

sarah.darville@columbiaspectator.com

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EVELYN WARNER FOR SPECTATOR

VALLEY BOYS | Steven Carbo’s new exhibit “Overlooked: Faces of Manhattan Valley” at SIP’s gallery and lounge focuses primarily on the everyday lives of the men of Manhattan Valley, the southern neighbor of Morningside Heights.

SIP reveals forgotten local faces

BY ANGELICA VALENTINE
Columbia Daily Spectator

SIP may be a compact lounge and gallery, but a lot of the surrounding area’s culture and history of area is contained within its walls.

ART Steven Carbo’s new exhibit “Overlooked: Faces of Manhattan Valley,” which opened Feb. 2 in SIP’s gallery, features vivid images of people from the neighborhood surrounding Columbia in their daily lives. Some are dapper, while others tout work clothes, getting ready to relax after a long day’s work. Carbo’s work focuses mainly on men—only one woman appears in all of his photographs, and her face is not shown.

Carbo’s mother and grandmother immigrated to New York over 60 years ago from Puerto Rico. In his life, Carbo has worked tirelessly to improve civil issues on the national, state, and local levels. He is

currently the senior program director at Demos, a public policy research and advocacy organization, which works to increase implementation of the National Voter Registration Act so qualifying voters can register when renewing their driver’s license or applying for other social services.

Carbo’s exhibit showcases men of the many different cultures that make up Manhattan Valley. While the backgrounds of his subjects are not discussed, his pictures are linked by the cohesiveness of the Manhattan Valley landscape.

Carbo’s photographs capture their subjects enjoying simple pleasures. In “Dominos,” a man is pictured gambling with a friend. In “Paloma,” a man is dancing with a loved one.

All of the men in Carbo’s photographs are older. Many of them appear to be approaching or past typical retirement age. One of the oldest men is stubbly and wears his age humbly. Another man has unruly gray hair and a matching beard.

In some photographs Carbo includes brightly colored objects like a red door or a turquoise shirt, which make his photographs pop and steal attention from the protagonists. Others communicate with viewers more subtly, showing only faces. These shots have a simple but arresting quality, showing men who exude confidence and wisdom in clean black and white. The eyes of the men pictured seem to communicate to the viewer experiences and hardships in their lives.

In these small ways, Carbo’s exhibit sheds light on the men of the Manhattan Valley, and gives a limited, but accurate glimpse into what it means to live there.

WHERE IT’S AT

Time: Running through March 1.
Place: SIP (998 Amsterdam Avenue between 109th and 110th streets)

With new zine club, Barnard literary scene turns a new page

BY NICOLLETTE BARSAMIAN
Spectator Staff Writer

When it comes to zines, students take one of three stances: Love them, hate them, or have just never heard of them.

BOOKS Barnard’s new Zine Library Club had its first meeting on Thursday. According to Jenna Freedman, the zine librarian at Lehman Hall who formed the club, zines are “small, low budget, self-published, and self-distributed publications, written by authors outside of the mainstream who are motivated by desire to share thoughts or skills with a community rather than to make money or to get famous.”

Barnard’s library has a collection of thousands of zines and is focused on zines written by women. The collection is actually the world’s only circulating collection of zines in an academic library.

“We also collect zines on feminism and femme identity by people of all genders,” Freedman said. “The zines are personal and political publications on activism, anarchism, body image, third-wave feminism, gender, parenting, queer community, riot grrrl, sexual assault, and other topics.”

“Zines can create a sense of community and they bring people together,” Rhonda Kauffman, a zine library intern, said.

“Students have often offered to volunteer to help or expressed a desire to be involved with the zine collection,” Freedman said. “Creating a club, or whatever it will be called, seemed like a good way to give people a chance to do just that.”

Freedman continued, “The main thing I want to get out of it is a greater institutional investment in the Barnard Library Zine collection. I think a lot of

people see it as cool, or whatever, but I’m not sure that many people other than the student zine assistants and I see it as our own.”

The Zine Library Club is not officially recognized yet, but the members are working on getting approval from the University.

The meeting, held in the library’s basement, was laid-back and very welcoming. The students in attendance represented a wide range of ages, from first-years to seniors, although the group was entirely from Barnard.

It was decided that the club would make a group zine and/or a “Dis-Orientation Guide” for incoming students. The guide would introduce students to cool things happening on campus and in the city—basically an orientation that’s not all dreary.

“Columbia’s missing a culture that’s not mainstream frat house,” Thorey Munro, BC ’13, agreed. “The guide would make it easier to find that culture.”

The group also discussed creating a blog, or even a Ning—a do-it-yourself social networking site that provides an alternative to Facebook.

A blog or Ning would provide a tech-savvy alternative to fliers, and spread word about the little-known club. “I’ve tried to get people involved in the zine collection, but most people don’t know about it and aren’t involved,” Jennie Rose Halperin, a zine library assistant, former Spectator music editor, and BC ’10. “I hope that the club can get more students involved.”

Freedman was happy with how the first meeting turned out. “Zine culture can be cliquey,” she said. “This wasn’t. People didn’t seem afraid. I’m hoping it takes on a life of its own. I don’t want to drive it. I want it to be what students want it to be.”



ROSE DONLON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HAVE YOU ZINE IT? | Barnard’s extensive zine collection birthed a new hub for fans of the publication on Thursday with the first meeting of the Zine Library Club.

Columbians test out glamorous waters with entertainment industry internships

BY LIZ LUCERO
Spectator Staff Writer

At Columbia, students may be thousands of miles away from the bright lights of Hollywood, but an internship in the entertainment business can bring them a lot closer.

TV In a broad field like entertainment, an internship can be a great way to narrow down options and get some much-needed experience. Daniela Cassorla, CC ’10, who interns at NBC’s Campus U, has found the experience helpful in defining

her future. “I think that generally it would be a career path if you’re into film marketing, which I thought I was going to do for a while, but that’s not so much my interest anymore,” Cassorla said. “I still want to work in entertainment, but marketing is just not the field I want to go into.”

Lily Cedarbaum, BC ’12, a TV writer for Spectator, and a research intern at “Late Night With Jimmy Fallon,” also sees the benefit in interning. “Before I got the internship at NBCU, I didn’t ever think of working in television, because it never

really occurred to me that that was a possibility,” she said.

If there’s one thing that TV and movies have taught us, it’s that connections are everything in the entertainment business. However, these connections are often hard to come by.

Fortunately, the Columbia Center for Career Education can help. Entertainment internships posted on LionSHARE run from big-name companies like Disney and Sony to small, independent companies.

“We do the technology behind entertainment, the business side of

entertainment, the marketing side of entertainment, the PR of entertainment, the production side of entertainment. All those areas—the functional areas—are covered,” CCE director Niamh O’Brien said.

CCE encourages students to talk to a counselor about resources for finding internships. “We’re here, we’re mining everything to try and find resources for students, so we love when students come in and connect,” O’Brien said. “Often, we will even have information that students who’ve been here a year or two haven’t identified yet.”

CCE also provides opportunities through programs such as the Columbia Arts Experience, and next month it will hold a “Media Networking Night” where students can talk to representatives from several areas of the entertainment industry.

The resources CCE provides can turn a hobby into a career. “Watching television and film was a serious hobby of mine, but I never realized it could be more than that,” Cedarbaum said. “I am having such a great time learning about the industry. I definitely see a job in entertainment in my future.”

Exploring the permanence, appeal of director Wes Anderson’s college classics



COURTESY OF FOX SEARCHLIGHT

FANTASTICAL MR. ANDERSON | Wes Anderson, director of the Academy Award nominee “Fantastic Mr. Fox,” is known for his quirky and divisive filmmaking style.

BY JULIA ALEKSEYEVA
Spectator Staff Writer



Big Lebowski,” “Fight Club,” “The Graduate”, and perhaps most notably, Wes Anderson’s “Rushmore.”

What makes a film like “Rushmore” appeal to the college crowd? “Rushmore” describes a semester in the life of Max Fischer, an eccentric teenager, and his obsession with Rushmore, an elite private academy. Although “Rushmore” tends to be collegiate in nature, it is also representative of Anderson’s oeuvre as a whole, and shares many elements in common with other Anderson favorites, like “The Royal Tenenbaums,” “The Darjeeling Limited,” and “Fantastic Mr. Fox,” currently nominated for 2010’s Academy Award for Best Animated Feature. Anderson is a modern-day auteur, a filmmaker who strives

to control every aspect of production, resulting in a series of films with a very distinct personal aesthetic.

Something about this aesthetic resonates deeply with young adults. All of Anderson’s films could be considered standard Friday-night college fare, and the passion that young adults often feel for Anderson is unparalleled by any other director, except perhaps the Coen brothers. According to Andrew Balmer, CC ’10, an Anderson devotee who recently hosted a “Rushmore”-focused movie night in his East Campus suite, “Anderson markets to younger adults, although I suspect his audience includes a wide age range. His soundtracks, which include some popular songs, the actors he routinely casts—Gwyneth Paltrow, Luke and Owen Wilson, Bill Murray—and the sense of humor he employs all seem attractive to a younger generation.”

Anderson is also known for his distinctive color palettes, which make his films look painstakingly composed. He employs highly saturated primary colors, which make his films appear slightly outside the normal bounds of realism. Even before “Fantastic Mr. Fox” was produced, Anderson’s work was compared to these particular qualities of Roald Dahl’s novels.

Another aspect of the “Anderson look” involves the use of long takes and “dollhouse

shots.” “He pans from one part of a set to another, revealing different simultaneous activities. It was great to see his use of this technique in his stop-motion ‘Fantastic Mr. Fox,’ since he was unrestricted by some of the inherent limitations of live-action,” Balmer said. “For example, Anderson could pan between three rooms in three neighbors’ houses, plus a system of underground tunnels linking them, all in a single take.”

The combination of these aesthetic choices with signature classic rock soundtracks—often including names like The Kinks and The Rolling Stones—makes Anderson endlessly appealing to the indie generation. As Anderson is such a beloved director, it is perhaps odd that none of his films have ever received an Oscar—although “The Royal Tenenbaums” was nominated for Best Screenplay. Is Oscar gold truly the definitive standard for a good film? Are Anderson’s films actually subpar, and are students just going along for the aesthetically pleasing ride? Is it possible that Anderson’s often homogenous fan base of young, hip intellectuals restricts his mass-market potential at the Oscars? Has Anderson become “too cool for school,” or at least, too cool for the Academy? Perhaps. But, as in the case of Godard, mixed critical reception has often been the mark of a true auteur.



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ADDRESS & EMAIL

Columbia Spectator
2875 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10025
info@columbiaspectator.com

PHONE & FAX

Daily Spectator (212) 854-9555
Editorial Fax (212) 854-9611
Business (212) 854-9550
Business Fax (212) 854-9553

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Meal plan manifesto

BY FRANCESCA PROCACCINI

Barnard College is a small community, with brilliant professors and attentive staff. Its mission is to take in the young women of today and transform them into the experienced leaders of tomorrow. The custodians of this college strive to foster a campus community that supports this endeavor by encouraging, or rather, requiring, students to develop and defend their opinions. I have never felt that this was not the case at Barnard—until the recent events of this past fall semester.

Only a few weeks before finals, students received an e-mail stating that, starting next fall, meal plans would be mandatory for all students. After a student uproar, the administration called a forum to ask for student input, and now students are being selected to form a committee to advise the administration during this meal plan decision process. But rather than ask for active participation in the planning process, the administration only listened to student input after their policy caused outspoken opposition. So I ask, how can we be trained as the leaders of tomorrow when we're treated like children today?

And that is what this meal plan would effectively do—revert our lives back to adolescence, at the expense of both our stomachs and our wallets. Students' dietary preferences will be severely restricted at a cafeteria, as compared to

the plethora of grocery-shopping options in the neighborhood. Whether you have a commitment to eating organic and local, or a dietary restriction to eating vegan or gluten-free, your food choices will be severely limited if not all together eliminated in an Aramark establishment. This plan will especially have acute implications for our students that have life-threatening allergies that do not permit them to eat in a cafeteria that mass prepares food. What's more problematic, however, is that this proposed policy would have an effect that is counterproductive to the mission of the college: It actually would be detrimental to students' health and growth. At 22 years old, you may never have



had to cook for yourself, grocery shop, or learn financial responsibility when it comes to your diet. Students will still be eating (all-you-can-eat) pizza, fries, and hamburgers most days of the week, rather than beginning to understand that tenuous balance between splurging and healthy

eating and responsible spending. In a country that boasts one of the world's highest obesity rates and one of the lower life-expectancy ratings in the developed world—not to mention the current state of our health care system—Barnard should be encouraging its students more than ever to be leaders in the health and environmental revolution, and specifically, to be women that lead by example.

A couple of students—in true leadership fashion—took up the task of rallying students around the aim of “protecting our right to be off the meal plan.” Their method was simple—a Facebook group of which there are 640 members—and



their message was simple: The way to campus community is through our hearts, not our stomachs. These students, including myself, compiled a manifesto that objected to the proposed meal plan policy for five reasons: 1. The consumers should have a right to choose the product. 2. The

new plan will pose a further financial burden to students. 3. The plan is “a thinly disguised financial decision that has little to do with community.” 4. It poses unnecessary inconveniences for commuters. 5. It is incapable of accommodating the dietary diversity of the student body.

The Manifesto called on the administration to reverse proposals for a new meal plan and reinstate the current policy with a couple tweaks: Quad residents (due to limited kitchen space) should be required to have a meal plan but should be provided with more meal plan options, and students living in the Quad with food-related allergies should be excused from having to buy into a meal plan. The economics of the plan worked this year. They can work next year, too. And fear not, Dean Denburg. BC students love the Diana and don't need to be bribed with thin-crust pizza to use the building.

This Manifesto was all but disregarded. Hopefully the voices of the group of 12 students selected to be on the advisory committee will not be.

For Barnard College is indeed a small community, where students, professors, and administrators have to meet to find a happy balance between financial prudence and social satisfaction in order to foster an atmosphere that accomplishes Barnard's mission: Take young women of today, and turn them into the leaders of tomorrow. To the student—take up and defend that mantra. To the administration—train us to be leaders by allowing us to lead our own lives, both on campus and in the dorms. Give us the respect to protect our rights and the freedom to be off the meal plan.

The author is a Barnard senior majoring in Political Science.

Deciphering De-Baathification



RHONDA SHAFEI

The Politics of Hummus

Less than two weeks, millions of Iraqis will take to the polls to elect the 325 members of the Iraqi parliament. From afar, all the election indicators appear encouraging: 3,000 polling stations have been primed and primed, international monitoring teams have arrived, 18.9 million Iraqis are registered, and over 6,000 candidates will partake in the vote on March 7. But a closer look at today's Iraq will reveal a much gloomier picture: a tense political environment characterized by Sunni-Shiite antagonism, a defunct electoral commission, flagrant corruption, and a notably brutal spike in beheadings and suicide bombings.

While all of this has occurred, the United States has effectively taken the back seat, deciding that it's better to watch the election naturally unfold than to interfere and risk being labeled as intrusive. But just as the prognosis of a democratic and viable election becomes slimmer by the day, so too does the chance that a coalition government will form. America cannot afford the fallout that is bound to result from the injustices being committed by the Iraqi government.

The most notable injustice is the disqualification of 511 candidates by the Iraqi Accountability and Justice Commission, a subset of the Iraqi Elections Committee. The board is run by two dubious politicians, Ahmad Chalabi and Ali al-Lami, both prominent Shiites who have been accused by top U.S. commander Raymond Odierno of having intimate ties with Iran. But their suspect backgrounds don't end there: Al-Lami was arrested in 2008 for alleged ties to a Baghdad bombing that killed four Americans and six Iraqis, and Chalabi is the man accused of providing the Bush administration with faulty information on Iraq's weapons program.

It's no surprise, then, that the commission would bar the 500-odd candidates, the vast majority of whom are Sunni politicians with former ties to the Baath party of Saddam Hussein. Both Chalabi and al-Lami acted as key figures on the 2003-2004 Supreme National De-Baathification Commission created by Paul Bremer. It wouldn't be a stretch to say that the current justice commission is a continuation of the McCarthyite de-Baathification procedure—McCarthyite for its arbitrary firing of 30,000 ex-Baath politicians, thousands of intelligence officials, and all military officers above the rank of colonel. There exists no constitutional basis for the disqualification of candidates by the election board. If the elections are to move forward with a substantial number of Sunnis missing from the ballots, how could results possibly be representative of Iraqi society?

The Obama administration needs to reassess its silence on Iraq's election and begin three key processes: limiting Iranian influence in Iraq, condemning candidate disqualification, and undoing de-Baathification. Iran has used bribes and threats to support its preferred candidates. U.S. intelligence has implicated key Iraqi government officials like Chalabi and al-Lami in having direct ties to Tehran and using Iranian clerical influence and support. Remarkably, Chalabi is both cochair on the Iraqi election committee and leader of one of the political coalitions partaking in the March elections—the Iraqi National Alliance. Another INA leader, Ammar al-Hakim, has modeled his political party, the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, on the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iran. The last thing the United States needs in the Middle East is an Iranian puppet state.

When Vice President Biden visited Iraq earlier this month, he requested that elections be transparent and inclusive, but failed to offer any suggestions or proposals as to how to resolve the disqualification situation. An election that produces a Shiite-majority government will brew resentment targeted not only at bureaucrats in Baghdad but also at the Obama administration, which implicitly supports the sectarian inequity in Iraq. While Biden's visit did cause the Board to drop 28 individuals off of the no-run list, 483 remain on the list with no removal in sight.

The Obama administration needs to loudly and clearly condemn the de-Baathification process that has become synonymous with de-Sunnification. A catastrophic problem with U.S. perception of Iraqi politics is that it automatically associates Sunni politicians with the inhumane policies of Saddam, when, in fact, there exists a salient distinction between the religious community and the former leader. Yes, the majority of Saddam's party consisted of Sunnis, but Shiites were also members of the political party. A little known fact is that Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki himself was a member of the Baath party under Saddam. Sunnis, Shiites, Kurds, secularists, and all Iraqis need to be included in the political process regardless of creed, ethnicity, or former political association.

This administration must break its silence and provide concrete solutions for democracy-building. We are witnessing the formative years of Iraq's post-invasion life. If we fail to support the foundation of a truly multi-sectarian Iraqi government now, we will bear the brunt of more sectarian violence in the future. While the winners of March elections are unclear, it is palpably clear that instability will ensue in Iraq if we fail to act immediately.

Rhonda Shafei is a Columbia College sophomore. She is the publisher of the Columbia Political Union and the director-general of CMUNCE. The Politics of Hummus runs alternate Thursdays.

opinion@columbiaspectator.com

Winter's pure gold



HILLARY BUSIS

And Another Thing

There are many things I will never understand: why Kristen Stewart always looks so sullen (being filthy rich and incredibly famous must be so hard, you guys!), why anybody voluntarily drinks Diet Coke, why “Two and a Half Men” is consistently the highest-rated comedy on TV. Chief among these head-scratchers, though, is how anybody can say with a straight face that the Summer Olympics are better than the Winter Olympics.

Sure, the summer games have a longer history than their snow-covered counterpart. (The 2012 games in London will be the 30th Summer Olympiad, while the current competition in Vancouver is only the 21st Winter Olympics ever). And yes, summer athletes certainly display their chiseled abs in skimpier outfits than those bobsledders and ski jumpers. But the winter games have more drama, more pizzazz, and—yeah, I'll say it—more exciting events.

In my mind, it's not even a contest. Everything summer does, winter does better. Competitors with awesome names? I see your Usain Bolt and raise you a Picabo Street. Shocking scandals? Those underage Chinese gymnasts have nothing on the epic Nancy Kerrigan-Tonya Harding brouhaha of 1994. Ridiculous, how-can-this-seriously-be-considered-a-sport events? Beach volleyball is kind of amusing, but curling is so gloriously absurd that even though jokes about its inanity are kind of tired at this point, it's still hilarious when someone like Stephen Colbert decides to go out for the U.S. curling team.

Come to think of it, their sheer absurdity may be precisely why I have such a soft spot for the winter games. The Summer Olympics are “Chariots of Fire”—the Winter Olympics are “Cool Runnings.” Last week, an NBC commentator actually said, “Imagine what the ski jump would have been like a thousand years ago, in the age of Vikings and dragons,” as he was pontificating during the event in question. Can you imagine an announcer making a similarly senseless comment during the summer games, which always seem to be drenched with a sort of forced pathos?

Would the Summer Olympics ever begin with an ill-conceived opening ceremony like the one that kicked off the Vancouver games, in which a solemn group of flag-bearing Mounties—always funny—gave way to a cringe-inducing parade of cheery indigenous Canadian tribes? The whole debacle was capped off with a botched torch lighting, featuring a fire pillar that just wouldn't

cooperate. The dignity and ferocity of Beijing's opening ceremony was certainly impressive, but Vancouver's kickoff was more charming because of its preposterousness and its imperfections. Plus, Mounties.

Can you think of a summer event that invites as much gleeful silliness as, say, ice dancing, a sport in which mixed-sex teams that are sometimes married and sometimes—ick—brother and sister perform a mixture of figure skating and ballroom dancing, all while dressed variously like cowboys, chorus members from a regional production of “Fiddler on the Roof,” or aboriginal tribesmen, as some of this year's pairs were? I mean, come on—in ice dancing, there's a move that's called “the

twizzle.” It just doesn't get more ludicrous than that.

A flamboyant character like Johnny Weir is a million times more fun to watch than a monkey-faced automaton like Michael Phelps,

regardless of which one might actually be the stronger athlete. Phelps's stint hosting “SNL” was a total flop, but Weir deservedly stars in his own reality show on the Sundance Channel. If there's ever a “Where Are They Now”-style special on VH1 in 2030 about former Olympic contenders, where Phelps is then definitely will not be as fabulous as wherever Weir ends up.

My Winter Olympics fever is nothing new. For as long as I can remember, I've been captivated by the games—and especially, as you can probably tell, by ice-skating. When I was 10, I even bought an Asian American Girl doll and named her Michelle, after the inimitable Michelle Kwan. Although the real Michelle failed to snag a gold medal in Nagano, my doll swept every figure-skating award at the 1998 Pittsburgh Olympics (held in the historic Hillary's Room Arena).

And even though now I'm at a point where I'm older than many of the athletes competing for medals, my enthusiasm for the winter games has never wavered. It pains me to know that some misguided souls don't appreciate Scott Hamilton's goofy enthusiasm, or the oddity of events like the biathlon, the only sport to connect cross-country skiing with rifle shooting.

But then again, if the Winter Olympics were as popular as the Summer Olympics, maybe they'd lose some of their quirky allure. If that's so, I'll gladly accept winter's status as the redheaded stepchild of the Olympiad. It adds a certain charm to the proceedings—and it doesn't make the games' triumphs any less thrilling.

Hillary Busis is a Columbia College senior majoring in English and history. She is the former managing arts editor of The Eye. And Another Thing runs alternate Thursdays.

opinion@columbiaspectator.com

CLUB EC



JACOB SCHNEIDER & ELIZABETH SIMINS

Housing organization pulls out of long-term contract for shelter

HOMELESSNESS from front page

new local shelter, but informed the community board that they would not be attending at the last minute.

Committee member Miki Fiegel said that SRO buildings like 237 West 107th St. are generally made up of rent-stabilized units, meaning that residents may pay relatively little per month, while the city provides almost \$3,000 per month for a room as a DHS shelter.

For that reason, landlords have a financial incentive to pressure tenants to leave.

Kathy Lanois, president of the 107th Street Block Association

and long-time neighborhood resident said, “I’ve never met the owner, but I was told he doesn’t care a damn. He’s just a greedy person that wants money. That was a very nice ... inn ... where the tourists would come, and they paid him good money. But the city is paying him three times more.”

Politicians have also begun fighting the plan. Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito said in a statement that she would not be supporting the shelter.

“Based on the information I have learned, particularly about the history of this building and landlord, I cannot support the current plan to open a

transitional homeless shelter on West 107th Street,” she wrote. “I have contacted the Department of Homeless Services to express my concerns with the plan and will work to schedule a meeting with the Department so that the issues raised by the surrounding community can be heard and addressed.”

The building’s website continues to advertise the site as a hostel with temporary guests. But the building is currently registered as containing SRO units, according to certificates of occupancy on the New York Department of Housing website, a status that categorizes the building as residential housing.

Belinsky said in an interview

that Help USA was contacted by the Department of Homeless Services around two weeks ago and asked to open an annex for homeless women in the building in question. “They had a building that a landlord had offered to them, and they were in a bit of a jam,” he said.

“We typically have a very high standard for what we look for and what type of sites we operate,” he said. “Probably this would not have happened if we were part of the site selection committee.”

Though Help USA does not plan to continue in a long term agreement with DHS, they will continue to temporarily occupy the annex. “We will provide

supportive services, case management, services for the women there, as part of our agreement. The maintenance of the building and security are the responsibility of the landlord as part of their agreement with DHS,” Belinsky said.

“I don’t anticipate that there will be issues with the landlord, because I think that ultimately, the landlord’s interest is to get a long term contract from DHS,” he added.

The DHS did not respond to requests for comment, and a receptionist at West Side Inn said the manager was not available.

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Group to address meal plan

MEAL PLAN from front page

a commuter student, the rest of the students were chosen randomly.

It has not yet been determined whether Denburg and Brown will be the only administrators on the task force.

Giselle León, SGA vice president of communications and BC ’10, said that SGA would work with students to improve communication between them and administrators.

“Our role on the task force is not to act in any way other than in favor of our students through collaboration with our administration,” León said. “The administration included SGA specifically to acknowledge our role as elected student representatives.”

“My personal goals from this task force are twofold—I’m looking forward to collaborating with students, and to reaching a plan that is agreeable to the student body,” Palillo added.

Some said they were concerned with the lack of student input in deciding the task force members.

“I would say that it could end up being a great group of people who really do take the time to figure out people’s opinions,” Sarah Sherer-Kohlburn, BC ’10, said. “But when the students themselves aren’t selecting who is going to be on the committee, you run the risk that only a certain viewpoint is going to go through.”

“I think that it makes sense that seniors are excluded since it doesn’t necessarily affect them, but that it at the same time could throw off the ratio of the number of students who are for versus against the meal plan,” Emily Montrose, BC ’11, said. “I think that freshmen would be more likely to think having a mandatory meal plan is OK, since they haven’t yet experienced how amazing it is to live in a suite with a kitchen and cook for yourself.”

Still, the voluntary nature of the committee could lead to a task force comprised of students that only represent a particular view.

“I think that if the administration really listens to the task force then there could be meaningful reform to the meal plan, but as to whether the students on the task force will be representative, I think they run a risk of self-selection,” Diana Rastegayeva, BC ’11, said. “Everyone has an opinion, but only the people that are really, really against it are signing up for it.”

But some said the task force is evidence of the administration’s responsiveness to student opinions.

“At the very, very least, I value that the administration is responsive to student concerns,” Natalia Quintero, BC ’13, said. “They could have ignored emails. ... At least they’ve taken them into account.”

SGA members said they anticipate discussing options for commuters and students with allergies and dietary restrictions.

But Montrose said she was concerned that all disabilities wouldn’t be taken into account.

“I personally have PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder] that can be triggered by being in a crowded space,” Montrose said. “I wouldn’t want to have to try to rush into the Diana cafeteria to push through other people during my lunch or dinner hour just to try to use up the points that I was forced to buy. That’s completely unacceptable.”

The task force will make a formal recommendation to Denburg and Brown. The administration plans to announce a decision on the meal plan by room selection.

Ultimately, Rastegayeva said, how receptive administrators are to student concerns will make or break the task force’s efforts.

“It all comes down to how much they are going to listen to the students,” she said.

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Undefeated Tigers, second-place Crimson top Ancient Eight conference standings

AROUND THE LEAGUE from back page

on the momentum, and fell to Harvard the next day. Forward Judie Lomax scored 17 points, grabbed eight rebounds, and had five steals in the losing effort. For Lomax's efforts in the Dartmouth and Harvard games, she won her fifth Player of the Week award of the season.

Yale (11-13, 6-4 Ivy), the other third-place team, had two very contrasting games. The Bulldogs scored a season-low 44 points in a 65-44 loss to the first-place Tigers. In that game, no Bulldogs player scored in double digits and the team committed 24 turnovers.

The next day, the team spectacularly rebounded with a 70-38 trouncing over Penn. Yale freshman Megan Vasquez led the way with 12 points and five assists.






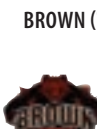


The reigning champion Dartmouth (9-13, 4-4 Ivy) lost an overtime thriller to Columbia, but defeated Cornell the next day 67-64. Four Big Green players scored in double figures in the win.

Brown (7-17, 4-6 Ivy) split its games. Brown defeated Penn 54-42 before losing to Princeton 64-38 the next day. Against Penn, Brown's Natalie Bonds posted a double-double with 12 points and 12 rebounds.

Cornell (6-17, 1-9 Ivy) lost to Harvard and Dartmouth. Versus Dartmouth, Lauren Benson, Cornell's all-time assists leader, recorded 11 more assists to bring her up to 134 this year. Virginia McMunigal scored a game-high 19 points, but it wasn't enough to help the Big Red beat the league leaders.

Penn's nightmare season continued with two more losses. The Quakers (1-22, 0-9 Ivy) lost 54-42 to Brown and 70-38 to Yale.

Next week marks the second-to-last doubleheader weekend of the season. Friday will see the likes of Harvard challenging Brown, Columbia facing off against Penn, Princeton hosting Cornell and Dartmouth visiting Yale. Saturday, the Ancient Eight shuffles around again as the Lions visit the Tigers, Dartmouth travels to Providence, Penn hosts Cornell, and Yale welcomes the top-ranked Crimson to New Haven.

Rank	Ivy Power Rankings	Last Week
1	<div>PRINCETON (21-2, 9-0 IVY)</div> <div>The Tigers continued their dominance of the Ivy League with two more double-digit wins.</div>	1
2	<div>HARVARD (16-7, 7-2 IVY)</div> <div>The Crimson maintained the second spot in the conference with a close win over the Lions.</div>	2
3	<div>COLUMBIA (15-9, 6-4 IVY)</div> <div>Columbia fell further from second place after losing to Harvard by two.</div>	3
4	<div>YALE (11-13, 6-4 IVY)</div> <div>The Bulldogs went 1-1 this past weekend, including a 32-point victory over Penn.</div>	4
5	<div>DARTMOUTH (10-13, 5-4 IVY)</div> <div>Dartmouth remains in the middle of the pack after splitting its games against Columbia and Cornell.</div>	5
6	<div>BROWN (7-17, 4-6 IVY)</div> <div>Brown rounds out the bottom of the pack as the worst of the decent.</div>	6
7	<div>CORNELL (6-17, 1-9 IVY)</div> <div>The Big Red dropped another two games as they search for the elusive second win.</div>	7
8	<div>PENN (1-22, 0-9 IVY)</div> <div>The Quakers remain winless in conference play after dropping another two weekend contests.</div>	8



JOSE GIRALT FOR SPECTATOR

DOUBLE COVERAGE | This past weekend, Harvard handed Columbia a loss, solidifying its second place spot behind seemingly unbeatable Princeton, which won another two contests by double digits.

Best of the Ivy, Aemisegger graces Princeton pool

AEMISEGGER from back page

for the Mid-Major All-America team.

As a sophomore in the 2008 season, Alicia was selected to the U.S. Olympic Team Trials and proceeded to the finals in the 400IM. By the 2008 season, she had claimed seven All-American honors in her first two years as a Tiger, and entering her final season as a senior, she boasts a total of 10.

Out of all her accolades, there is one that stands out among the rest. "I would have to say that her cumulative success that allowed her to be named Princeton's Athlete of the Decade would be her greatest accomplishment," Teeter said. "It's something that I don't think any athlete ever goes to college thinking they will accomplish, so the honor is just humbling."

The 2010 season marks Teeter's 26th season as head coach for the lady Tigers. During her career, she has led the women's swimming and diving team

to 13 Ivy League Championships, taking three championship wins in the past five years and eight in the past 10. Aemisegger is arguably the greatest swimmer Teeter has coached in all her seasons at Princeton, and is likely one of the most accomplished female athletes to have ever competed for the university in any sport.

At the end of regular season this year, Princeton's team finished at the top of the Ivy League, boasting a perfect record of 7-0. Going into the Ivy League Championships this weekend, Aemisegger and the Tigers will look to reclaim the Ivy League title from last year's winner, Harvard, who scored 1583.5 points in the meet, while Princeton fell short, placing second with 1334.

It will be a bittersweet meet for Alicia, who will strive to top her own individual records as she swims in her final Ivy League competition before she moves on to dominate in the NCAA tournament and beyond.



JOSE GIRALT FOR SPECTATOR

TO THE WALL | The women of the Ivy League convene today in Cambridge, Mass. for another shot at proving themselves in conference competition. This weekend, Aemisegger will have her hands full with the Lions and company.

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SPORTS BRIEF

Three Ivy League players selected for Portsmouth Invitational

This year, three Ivy League players have been selected to play in the prestigious Portsmouth Invitational. Cornell's Ryan Wittman and Jeff Foote will be joining Harvard's Jeremy Lin in Virginia from April 7-10 for the NBA pre-draft camp. The trio of Ivy Leaguers will compete in 12 games that span the four days.

Every year, 64 seniors are chosen to take part in the Invitational in which they can showcase their talent in front of around 200 NBA representatives from all 30 teams. Six of last year's participants were selected in the 2009 NBA draft.

Wittman, a Big Red forward, is currently leading the league in scoring with 17.6 points per game. This past weekend, Wittman dropped 27 points and eight rebounds in his team's win over Harvard before scoring 23 the next night against Dartmouth, earning him Ivy League Player

of the Week honors. Wittman is the all-time leading scorer for Cornell with 1,908 career points, and he holds the Ivy League record for 3-pointers with 355.

Wittman's teammate, Cornell center Jeff Foote, is currently leading the Ancient Eight in rebounding with 8.4 boards per contest. Foote, who is the reigning Ivy League Defensive Player of the Year, is also ninth in the league in scoring with 12.4 points. Foote has posted eight double-doubles this year and has been named Ivy League Player of the Week three times so far this season.

Lin, the only non-Big Red invitee, has an impressive stat sheet as well. Lin is fourth in the league in points per game with 16.8, second in the conference in assists with 4.5, and first in steals with 2.5. Lin has also been named Ivy League Player of the Week three times this season.

—Michele Cleary

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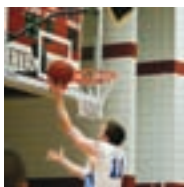
Editors Notes



SPECTACLE

Check out tomorrow's paper to read up on the competition ahead for the men's basketball team as it prepares to host Penn and Princeton this weekend.

TOMORROW



SPORTS

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Women's hoops hits the road to face the Quakers and Tigers this weekend. The Lions look to increase their victory margin in their first-ever winning season.

TOMORROW

Mr. Johnson's Intramural Hoops Odyssey



JELANI JOHNSON

Can't Knock the Hustle

In October 2007, I wrote a column discussing the importance of intramural sports and the cathartic release they provide for many students on this campus. Today, over two years later, I feel compelled to revisit the topic. Last weekend, my intramural basketball team traveled to Boston University to participate in the National Campus Championship Series Eastern Regional basketball tournament. The tournament brought together the intramural basketball champions from all of the schools on the East Coast. The participating schools ran the gamut from Ivy League institutions like Yale, Columbia and Dartmouth to big universities like Villanova and UConn. Despite losing to Penn State and the eventual champion—St. John's—the tournament was definitely a fun experience that made me realize just how much some people care about their intramural sports.

Our team departed from New York City with only five players. Job interviews, injuries, and the general attitude of indifference that is all-too-common on our campus kept over half of our team in New York City. Our Astrovan hit the road at 10:00 a.m. on Friday morning, and humorous conversation made the trip pass rather quickly. When we arrived, I was immediately impressed by the size of the event and the presentation of some of the other teams. At least eight schools sent their club basketball teams. A lot of teams had coaching staffs and trainers. The Villanova club team looked like they would give our men's varsity team a run for their money. Many of the teams were sponsored by shoe companies like Nike and Reebok. There were scouts all over the place. OK, maybe not scouts—but there were definitely a lot of middle-aged men watching the games and vigorously taking notes on their clipboards. I felt like I was at a Sonny Vaccaro basketball camp. I wouldn't have been surprised if Worldwide Wes had appeared over my shoulder.

Having barely enough players to even participate, there was no way we expected to be competitive. We represented Columbia as best we could, but as we expected, we ran out of energy in the second half of each game as our opponents kept us in transition and drove us to fatigue. The five players on our team performed admirably, and I'll never forget the hustle my teammates exhibited during that weekend. Any Columbia team that competes in the future should have a rotation of at least 10 solid players. Not bums, not scrubs, actual solid ballplayers. If you show up at Regionals with a weak squad, then please believe that you will get dunked on—quickly. Thanks. (Yes, that was a Tiger Woods reference.)

I hope that Columbia will continue to send future intramural champions to the regional tournament. Part of me wishes that I could spend another year in college, just to redeem the poor result my team suffered this year. All I know is that whoever attends the Intramural Regionals in the future is in for a treat. It feels good to get off campus and represent your school. The last time I represented my school in an athletic event was in high school. I forgot how it feels to put your school's name on your chest and to represent it on the court.

Jelani Johnson is a Columbia College senior majoring in history.
sportseditors@columbiaspectator.com

Princeton swimmer leads the Tiger charge

Senior Aemisegger brings her records and experience to Ivy Championships

BY JULIA GARRISON
Spectator Staff Writer

If there is one swimmer to watch at the Ivy League Championships this weekend, it is Princeton's all-star captain, Alicia Aemisegger. Arguably the best women's swimmer to ever grace the pools of the Ivy League, Aemisegger currently holds the fastest time of all Division I athletes in the 1000 free by over six seconds while also ranking 5th in the 400IM, 6th in the 500 free, and placing in the top 20 in the 1650 free and 200 IM events.

At the Ivy League Championship last year, Aemisegger was named "Swimmer of the Meet" for the third year in a row and earned First Team All-Ivy honors by achieving the fastest time in six events, taking the top spot in three individual competitions and helping three Princeton

relay teams to finish first as well.

Aemisegger currently holds the all time Ivy League record in three individual events, and is tied for 5th in the record for most Ivy League Championship titles awarded in a career. At this, her last Ivy League Championship, Aemisegger will have one more chance to leave her legacy in the Ancient Eight.

"Alicia has a unique ability to be able to physically handle enormous amounts of yardage at a very intense pace," remarked Princeton's head coach Susan Teeter. "She is extremely efficient in the water and the two combined with her competitive spirit make her an extraordinary athlete."

Aemisegger was setting records and raking in accolades before she ever became a Division I athlete. In high school, she was marked as one

of the top recruits in the nation, having qualified for U.S. nationals as a freshman and having come within .03 seconds of making the national team in the 400 IM that same year.

At the start of her college career, Aemisegger made an immediate impact on Princeton's team, performing better than any swimmer in the history of Princeton swimming at the NCAA tournament her freshman year. At the meet, she placed second in the 400 IM, third in the 500 free, and reached the consolation finals in the 200 breast. As a freshman, Aemisegger set six individual records for the Tigers and combined with her 800-free relay team to set a seventh. During her first year, Aemisegger was also named one of Collegeswimming.com's Mid-Major Swimmers of the Year and was selected

SEE AEMISEGGER, page 7



COURTESY OF THE DAILY PRINCETONIAN

TOPPING THE CHARTS | Senior Alicia Aemisegger has earned First Team All-Ivy honors and holds a plethora of all-time records in the Ancient Eight. Aemisegger and the Tigers head to Cambridge this weekend to take on the league and defend their undefeated conference record.

Ancient Eights travels to Cambridge for Ivy Championships

BY JULIA GARRISON
Spectator Staff Writer

All eight women's swimming and diving teams will collide in Cambridge, Massachusetts today to compete in the 2010 Ivy League Championships. This year's championship meet marks the 38th in Ivy League women's swimming history, and will determine the best team in the league through three days of intense competition.

In last year's tournament, Harvard came away with the championship title, scoring 1583.5 points, while Princeton placed second with 1334, and Yale finished third with 1038. Columbia placed fifth in the meet with a score of 916.

While Harvard might have had the highest overall point total, it was Princeton who came away with the three individual awards of the competition, with Tigers Katie Giarra, Alicia

Aemisegger, and Justina DiFazio being awarded "Diver of the Meet," "Swimmer of the Meet," and "Inaugural Career Points Champion," respectively.

Many Ivy League records fell in the 2009 championship, with Princeton's Aemisegger setting new standards in the 500 free, 1650 free, and 400 IM championship events, while Aemisegger's record in the 1000 free in 2008 still stands. Princeton's team also scored record times in three relay events, including the 200 and 400 medleys as well as the 400 free.

Two of Harvard's swimmers were able to set records at the meet as well, with the Crimson's Katie Mills achieving all-time bests in the 200 free and 200 fly events, while teammate Meghan Leddy crushed the Ivy Record in the 200 backstroke with a time of 1:57.51.

Yale's Susan Kim was the final record-setter of the meet, achieving championship bests in

the 100 and 200 breaststroke events with times of 1:02.05 and 2:12.86, respectively.

Although Columbia did not top any records at the 2009 meet, Columbian Cristina Teuscher's time of 1:57.63 in the 200 IM, set in 1999, has not yet been knocked off the charts.

Heading into championship competition this year, Princeton leads the league with an undefeated 7-0 record in Ancient Eight competition, while Harvard is a close second with a record of 6-1. In the past ten years, Princeton has won eight Ivy League Championships, while Harvard has championed two.

The Championship meet will begin at 11 a.m. at Harvard's Bloggett Pool in Cambridge and will last through Saturday, Feb. 27. Swimmers who qualify at Ivies for the NCAA tournament will move on to compete against the top Division I swimmers in the nation from March 18-20 in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Ivy League gears up for a weekend of conference competition in women's hoops

BY MICHAEL ZHONG
Spectator Staff Writer

Last weekend's action in the Ivy League gave a clear idea of the landscape in the women's basketball conference.

Princeton (21-2, 9-0 Ivy) continued its amazing season, tallying up two more wins at Yale and Brown. Against the Bulldogs, Tigers Niveen Rasheed and Lauren Edwards combined for 35 points in a 65-44 win over Yale.

The next day, Princeton thumped Brown 64-38. With that win, its 21st of the season, the team tied a school record. The Tigers have played above the Ancient Eight all season, and the win over Brown marks the team's 16th consecutive victory, all of which have been by double digits.

The only team with a realistic chance of catching up to Princeton is Harvard (16-7, 7-2 Ivy), which won both its games the past weekend. Crimson freshman Victoria Lippert played spectacularly against Cornell, lighting up the offense for 20 points and 10 rebounds. Her efforts gave Harvard a convincing 74-53 win over the struggling Big Red.



Lippert continued her hot streak the next day, dropping a career-high 28 points against Columbia, shooting 11-for-13 from the court. The Light Blue-Crimson game was a battle for clear second in the league and the 69-67 win put Harvard on top. Center Emma Markley posted a near triple-double in the Columbia matchup, scoring 12 points, grabbing 10 rebounds, and recording seven blocks.

Those two performances were enough to give Harvard the win and sole possession of second place in the Ancient Eight.

Columbia (15-9, 6-4 Ivy) split its weekend doubleheader for the fourth consecutive week, surviving an overtime thriller against Dartmouth, before falling in a close match to Harvard.

Columbia's 66-59 win over Dartmouth, which came on Pink Zone Night, was a game of many milestones. Guard Melissa Shafer scored a career-high 15 points—12 of which came in the first half—to lead the Lions' offensive attack. Center Lauren Dwyer was active defensively with a career-high seven blocks. The game also marked the first time since 1991 that Columbia has swept its season series against Dartmouth. Most importantly though, with the win, Columbia is assured of its first-ever winning season.

SEE AROUND THE LEAGUE, page 7



JOSE GIRALT FOR SPECTATOR

JUMP BALL | The Ivy League is set to continue a string of conference matchups this weekend, as Harvard looks to maintain its second-place spot in the women's basketball Ivy rankings.