



MATTHEW SHERMAN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ICHAT | Provost John Coatsworth and University President Lee Bollinger discussed the effects of the NYPD's surveillance of the MSA.

College Republicans board denies planning Ahmadinejad invite

BY YASMIN GAGNE AND
SAMMY ROTH
Spectator Senior Staff Writers

The Columbia University College Republicans issued a statement on Monday stating that the group is not planning to invite Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to campus, but board members gave *Spectator* conflicting accounts of whether several board members made plans, without telling the others, to invite Ahmadinejad to speak. *Spectator* reported on Sunday

night that several members of the CUCR have planned to invite Ahmadinejad, based on multiple documents reviewed by *Spectator*. CUCR's statement, which was signed by all 10 executive board members, said that "at no meeting has Ahmadinejad been floated as a potential speaker."

"At no meeting has Ahmadinejad been discussed on our board's agenda; and at no meeting has any vote been taken on the possibility, realistic or otherwise, of inviting Ahmadinejad to speak at Columbia University," the board's

statement said. CUCR Executive Director Tyler Trumbach, CC '13, told *Spectator* that "even the suggestion that our board" discussed inviting Ahmadinejad is "completely ridiculous."

But despite having signed the statement that CUCR has never planned to invite Ahmadinejad, one executive board member would not deny that several members of the board have planned to invite Ahmadinejad without the knowledge of the rest of the organization. That board member told *Spectator* it's possible that a group

of CUCR members have discussed plans to invite Ahmadinejad without the knowledge of most of the group.

That board member, who requested anonymity, said that CUCR members frequently form small task forces to discuss particular issues—like event-planning or fundraising—and that it's not always clear to the rest of the organization who the members of these task forces are.

On Monday, *Spectator* also

SEE CUCR, page 2

Barnard SGA collects feedback at open house

BY EMMA GOSS
Spectator Staff Writer

In response to concerns that Barnard's Student Government Association lacks a strong campus presence, SGA held an all-day open house on Monday to collect student feedback and raise the council's profile.

SGA representatives manned tables on the first and second floors of the Diana Center, providing students with informational pamphlets about SGA committees and promotional items featuring the SGA logo. Students were encouraged to write suggestions for SGA about what they'd like to see changed at Barnard.

At the SGA council meeting that evening, representatives read the student comments that were submitted at the open house to Dean Avis Hinkson.

Rachel Ferrari, BC '13 and vice president of SGA, asked Hinkson about a student suggestion to consider establishing a partnership between the Constellations program, a student networking and community-building initiative in its first year, and Resident Assistant programming to increase awareness of Constellations events.

Jessica Blank, BC '12 and SGA president, also brought up a student's suggestion to create additional Constellations study breaks.

Hinkson was receptive to the comments, and said that the Constellations program is in its infancy and is building

SEE SGA, page 2

Four alternate spring break trips receive grants

BY AMANDA STIBEL
Spectator Staff Writer

As college students across the country prepare to put their feet up this spring break, four student groups from Columbia will have a different experience, devoting their vacation week to community service through trips sponsored by the Office of Civic Action and Engagement's Alternative Break Program.

This spring, the office is providing matching grants to the student-led community service trips to help fund their initiatives, at a total cost of \$10,500. The destinations span from South Dakota to Egypt and the projects range from solar panel installation to elementary school education.

The ABP program is particularly committed to funding trips focused on long-term investments, such as this year's initiatives, which are centered on sustainable energy, education, construction, and democracy development.

"The key word is sustainability," Alicia Ciocca, CC '13 and co-chair of the ABP Student Advisory Board, said. "We want to know that they are making a lasting impact on the community, and, in addition, bring that back to Columbia."

But the bottom line, Ciocca said, is that there must be a service component to the trip's goals.

The Caribbean Students Association will go to the island of Dominica to assist with the "There is Hope" campaign, which teaches science, math, and history to elementary-age children. Habitat for Humanity is traveling to Portland, Ore. to assist in a massive home-building project, and two unaffiliated groups of students are traveling

to South Dakota to install solar panels for the Sioux community, and to Cairo, Egypt to work with a non-governmental organization on community and democracy development projects.

Elizabeth Logan, CC '14 and an ABP participant, said that ABP groups have the responsibility to educate the University community about their experiences.

"It is really important to increase awareness on campus about what is going on off campus, because sometimes there is a weird disconnect between the Columbia world and the real world," she said.

Melissa Peterson, CC '13 and co-chair of the ABP Student Advisory Board, stressed that in addition to the reward of participating in a meaningful community service project, "the purpose of our program is to promote student leadership and peer management and to develop these skills that will be valuable in the future."

While the grant money from the ABP is going a long way to support these programs, Barnard and General Studies students are not eligible for the matching grant money.

Peter Cerneka, associate director of the OCAE, said that this distinction between the undergraduate schools is a University-wide policy.

The money comes from the Columbia College and School of Engineering and Applied Science Student Affairs fund, "so we have to be careful in terms of being fair, because the students in Columbia College and in SEAS pay into the fund that funds Student Affairs," Cerneka said. "The money has to go to support them."

SEE ABP, page 2

UWS small businesses face tough times

BY AVANTIKA KUMAR
Spectator Staff Writer

Lining the walls of West Side Movers' small shop on 107th Street and Columbus Avenue are customer service awards and plaques from the founder's son's old Little League baseball team. The moving crew has included artists, playwrights, and musicians, as well as friends of the family. Since its opening, the business has grown mainly through word of mouth.

It's the epitome of the small businesses that define the Upper West Side.

First established by Steven Fiore in his home on 96th Street in 1972, West Side Movers has kept its roots as a full-service moving store on the Upper West Side. After Fiore was diagnosed with cancer in 2003 and died six months later, his wife and son, Joanne and Matt, have worked to maintain the small-business values Steven espoused.

"His vision was that the moving industry, at that time, was very sketchy, and people would say, you know, they would be fearful that ... you move, you're in chaos already, the movers weren't going to show up, they were going to break your stuff," Joanne Fiore, a psychotherapist for 25 years, said. "He wanted to create a quality service in that kind of industry."

The store's community feel and investment in its customers' personal needs set it apart from the competition, she said. She hand-picks each moving crew to suit the customers' needs and personally calls each customer the night before.

"When the guys came in, I would say, 'OK. This woman ... she's lived here for 30 years. She's divorced, she can't afford it,'" Fiore said. Her

Fireside chat focuses on MSA surveillance

Student leaders discuss security concerns, rights with Bollinger

BY JEREMY BUDD
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Fifty students joined University President Lee Bollinger to discuss the NYPD's surveillance of Muslim student organizations on Monday night, with many Muslims saying they feel uneasy knowing they have been watched and could be watched in the future.

Student leaders from across the University attended the fireside chat to listen to Bollinger discuss Columbia's response and question him about how he would follow up with the police.

The Associated Press reported last week that the NYPD monitored the Muslim Students Association's website as recently as 2007.

"This is something that is deeply disturbing," Bollinger said. "We live in a world where we think the role of the state is not to watch us, to follow us, to monitor us, unless there is some predicate for investigating criminal activity."

Bollinger echoed his earlier University-wide statement, which said that "such an intrusion into the normal, daily activities of our students raises deeply troubling questions that should concern us all."

Likewise, Provost John Coatsworth called the monitoring of Muslim students an "outrage."

"I think Columbia's position on police surveillance is exactly the right one," he said. "I am very grateful to the Muslim Students Association for making such a fuss about this."

Irem Bilgic, SEAS '12 and president of the MSA, said he was thankful that Bollinger hosted the chat to engage with students directly, but emphasized that the issue was not exclusive to members of the MSA, but one involving the entire student body.

"We were shocked and disappointed by the surveillance," she said. "Since coming to Columbia, I have found comfort in MSA and the greater Columbia community."

Bilgic said that it was alarming that students were being monitored without any evidence that they were engaged in criminal activities. "I think all Columbia students, whether American or not, religious or non-religious, activists or non-activists, deserve the University's protection. We really want to feel safe on campus," she said.

Ramin Montazeri, a second-year law student and president of Middle Eastern Law Students Association, said that the actions of the NYPD "violated our constitutional rights," and should not be tolerated.

"There is nothing more valuable in society than peace and security," he said. "The law enforcement agents of all cities, and New York City especially, do a great service to their citizens by keeping them safe. However, in a free country like America, the constitution puts limits and secures the privacy of individual citizens. Isn't that what makes America different?"

And while much of the

SEE FIRESIDE, page 2



attentiveness to each customer is meant to combat what she calls the "stressful" experience of moving so that her movers can "come in with empathy."

But small stores like West Side Movers are now a dying breed, Fiore said. According to business owners, community leaders, and residents across the Upper West Side, small mom-and-pop businesses—especially in the face of economic decline and competition from larger retailers—are struggling to stay afloat.

Despite these concerns, many hope to maintain the distinctive character of the neighborhood along Amsterdam and Columbus avenues and

Broadway. If passed, a new zoning proposal from Community Board 7 will restrict store and bank frontage size along sections of these avenues—and it has gained support from property owners, tenants, and residents looking to preserve the small-scale retail experience that has historically marked the Upper West Side.

CHANGING LANDSCAPE

Retail changes in the past quarter-century have been "very dramatic," according to urban studies professor David Smiley.

"There are many, many national chains that ... 25 years ago were just nowhere to be seen," Smiley said. There were no phone stores and few banks, and many more hardware stores, restaurants, small food stores, and bodegas—all of which were "owned by the person behind the counter."

Smiley attributes the increase in chain stores, such as Rite Aid and Duane Reade, to

SEE SMALL BUSINESS, page 2



PETER BOHNHOF FOR SPECTATOR

NO PLACE LIKE HOME | Behind the counter at La Toulousaine, on Amsterdam Avenue between 106th and 107th streets.

A&E, PAGE 3

'Baccha90s' unveiled

The theme for Bacchanal, "Baccha90s," has been officially announced, and the committee and co-chairs continue to plan and organize the event and the performers.



OPINION, PAGE 4

Race against time

The dot-com and corporate bubble still have room to inflate.

Size matters

Affirmative action represents our nation in microcosms.

SPORTS, BACK PAGE

From Marlborough to Columbia

Three women's basketball players have made the transition from high school teammates to Columbia Lions together.

EVENTS

The Population Bomb: Defused or Still Ticking?

Listen to a panel discussion on world population and sustainable development.

Faculty Room, Low Library, 4 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



52° / 37°

Tomorrow



48° / 43°

Bollinger discusses effects of NYPD monitoring

FIRESIDE from front page

discussion has been at the undergraduate level, Adel Elsohly, GSAS '12 and an active member of the MSA for the last four years, said that surveillance issues have forced him to pursue his study of chemistry with caution.

"I've felt the need, at times, to ask co-workers to do literature searches for me because I figured that me doing that search could turn up suspicious—looking up something explosive, for example," he said.

Elsohly also spoke about the internal strife that the surveillance news created among Muslims on campus.

"It's very troubling for me to

see a community that was relatively well-knit, to suddenly see them looking over their shoulder saying, 'Can I trust this person? Can I trust that person?'" he said. "And I think that's the biggest thing I've seen that says, 'How can we call ourselves a University when we can't even express ourselves to each other?'"

Black Students Organization President Ganiatu Afolabi, CC '12, said he was pleased Bollinger hosted the chat and involved students from many different schools, but was still concerned about how some students feel on campus.

"There's a large majority of students on this campus who feel

very unsafe, and I think that conversation needs to be opened up as well," she said. "We don't always feel like we can speak openly on campus."

Bollinger said that he strives to ensure that all students feel safe on campus, reminding students that he is only an email away.

Coatsworth closed the chat, saying that the reality of freedom of speech is that it has not always been a right afforded to all.

"The history of free speech is not written in the Constitution, and it took two centuries of struggle to get to where we are now," he said. "The people who protect us most are people like you."

jeremy.budd
@columbiaspectator.com

SGA delivers student input to Dean Hinkson

SGA from front page

momentum. But she added that to merge Constellations with RA programing "defeats the purpose" of Constellations, making the program too similar to the McIntosh Activities Council. She said she was working to incorporate Constellations into other Barnard events, such as the Greek Games and Midnight Breakfast.

Blank had hoped that students would attend Monday evening's SGA council meeting, and although there were no students present at the meeting other than the council members, she said she was not discouraged by the lack of turnout.

"I don't think we're necessarily at the point where people want

to be familiar with every single policy thing we're discussing," Blank said. "We understand that Barnard women are busy and not necessarily as interested in each of the small little details."

The open house also extended to Hewitt Dining Hall, as the SGA partnered with Aramark food services to hold an elaborate luau-themed dinner that featured decorations, a Hawaiian-themed menu, and a frozen yogurt bar.

Ferrari said that she has wanted an open house to happen since her first year at Barnard.

"Back when I was a freshman I thought that we should have an event where SGA was present and students could just tell us what they wanted to tell

us," Ferrari said. "That should have happened a while ago, and Jessica [Blank] made it happen."

Blank said she believed that the open house was successful and that the feedback would help representatives serve their constituents better.

"I think we were really anticipating everything, so I don't think anything came as a surprise. This was really no-bias. We talked a little about what SGA does, but not enough to push people into thinking one thing or another," Blank said. "We got a lot of really fantastic suggestions from students, and I think that a lot of students are a little more aware that SGA exists on campus."

emma.goss
@columbiaspectator.com

CB7 rezoning may help family-owned stores

SMALL BUSINESS from front page

both a pattern of redevelopment and gentrification on the Upper West Side and customers' increased desire for convenience.

"Now, essentially, you can buy most of your stuff in a Rite Aid," Smiley said.

Rhea Vogel, who rents land along Amsterdam Avenue to two neighborhood businesses, La Toulousaine Bakery and Amsterdam Tavern, agreed that big-box stores undermine the neighborhood's character.

When big stores close at night, "people aren't passing by, people aren't walking by. It's kind of desolate."

Vogel, whose father owned a laundromat, is motivated to preserve the neighborhood feel that she grew up with. According to Vogel, neighborhoods like the Upper West Side that are defined by businesses like restaurants, hair salons, all-night delis, and laundromats are like "small towns in the middle of a large city."

Protective zoning such as the new CB7 proposal is necessary, Vogel said, because not every landlord has the "roots to a neighborhood" that she has. Some landlords may be more interested in maximizing short-term profits by leasing land to larger chain stores which can "gobble up half the block."

PUSHING BACK

Many CB7 members have rallied behind the new zoning proposal, which passed at a Feb. 15 committee meeting and will be presented to the full board, which oversees the Upper West Side, next week. Supporters hope the restrictions—which include a 40-foot storefront limit on sections of Amsterdam and Columbus avenues and a 25-foot bank frontage limit on sections of Amsterdam and Columbus avenues and Broadway—will preserve the neighborhood's historically active street life.

"This measure not only responds to the community ... but also responds to the small businesses in the community," former CB7 chair Mel Wymore said. "This is a resolution that works for everybody."

Unlike previous efforts to restrict storefront size, this one was uniquely suited to its mission of protecting small businesses in the neighborhood, current CB7 chair Mark Diller said. While a zoning proposal previously enacted on 86th Street tried and failed to preserve a specific type of commerce, this rezoning had the more general goal of maintaining street life.

"We're trying to preserve a more generalized vibrancy,"

Diller said. "I think it's a terrific benefit for our community," he later added.

Although Diller told Spectator that there was "robust support" for the legislation among CB7 members, he said the plan is not without its detractors.

Board member Andrew Albert believes the legislation could impose undue and artificial restrictions upon businesses and make them wary of opening in the neighborhood.

The rezoning could end up "sort of freezing the West Side in time," Albert said.

Large stores are "not a necessarily bad thing, as everyone is trying to paint it," he said. "You want a mix in a neighborhood."

"It's a good vibe to be able to see clients that we moved just walking around on the street."

—Matt Fiore,
West Side Movers co-owner

Peter Arndtsen, president of the Columbus Amsterdam Business Improvement District, said that overall, landlords should be happy with the proposal.

"Our area has continued to attract small businesses and restaurants that bring people into our neighborhood," Arndtsen said. "And I look forward to that continuing."

Smiley said that, under the new proposal, the smaller local store-owners with less capital might have a better chance to start a business.

It could "put the brakes on the inevitable process of economic turnover by making the playing field a little different," Smiley said.

LOOKING AHEAD

Despite what many perceive as threats to small business, new mom-and-pops continue to spring up on the Upper West Side. In January, Jean-Francois Gatorze, a Toulouse, France native, and his wife, Nora, opened La Toulousaine Bakery on Amsterdam Avenue between 106th and 107th streets.

The small bakery—whose walls are adorned with photos of Toulouse and potted plants—has only three tables and a few window seats. Vogel, who leased the building to the Gatorzes, turned down offers from many potential tenants, keeping the lot vacant for over a year until she found a business

that would add to the neighborhood's character.

"I had a vision for what I wanted in that space," Vogel said. "And I was going to wait until the right person came along."

Realtor David Chkheidze worked with Vogel to find the right client, donating furniture to La Toulousaine.

"It has to be fit. It's like a marriage," Chkheidze said. "It's like a marriage to community, and the retail, and you know, 'I have a vision.'"

Vogel is optimistic about La Toulousaine's future in the neighborhood, given that it is the only bakery within a few blocks, and is excited about the Gatorzes' up-and-coming presence.

"They're such sweet people and working so hard," Vogel said. "Everything they do there is so delicious."

Some small businesses are even expanding. The Amsterdam Tavern, on 106th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, has successfully operated as a neighborhood pub for three years. Managing partner Mark Harford will be opening a new small "up-scale American gastropub" on Broadway and 106th Street called Five Lamps this spring.

Harford, who has lived on the Upper West Side for 12 years, plans to make Five Lamps distinctly different in ambiance from the Amsterdam Tavern, but equally neighborhood-oriented.

"We're very much small-business," Harford said. "We want to stay that way."

According to Harford, chain stores and banks detract from street life and drive up rent prices, so he's thankful for the zoning proposal.

"It's more about protecting the character of the neighborhood and protecting people who have been in business for so long," Harford said.

The state of the economy has taken a toll on business.

"Since the downturn of the economy, a lot of people want to do this as cheaply as possible," Joanne Fiore said. Larger movers can cost \$500 to \$1,000 less, she said, and "although we've lowered our prices, there's a certain amount [past which] we can't lower."

But the Fiores ultimately feel that, despite economic pressures, customers will continue to value the personal experience and character of a mom-and-pop.

"It's a good vibe to be able to see clients that we moved just walking around on the street, and I think that's, you know, part of what makes us special," Matt Fiore said.

avantika.kumar
@columbiaspectator.com

Club members offer conflicting reports

CUCR from front page

received copies of emails sent by CUCR Director of Finance David Paszko, CC '12, to two unknown members of CUCR. One of the emails discusses fundraising for an event, and the other describes the creation of two CUCR task forces that will "handle internal CUCR operations without full oversight from the board," one focusing on "the recruitment of high-profile speakers" and the other focusing on response to campus issues.

They were dated Monday, Feb. 27. Reached by phone Tuesday morning, Paszko said he had no comment on the emails.

CUCR President Will Prasifka, CC '12, told Spectator on Monday that CUCR "never once considered" Ahmadinejad as a speaker, despite not denying that CUCR members had discussed the possibility when asked about it on Sunday.

Another source close to CUCR said that at a board meeting on Monday, Prasifka explained to other board members that his non-denial was an attempt at humor. The source, who also requested anonymity, said there is no way Prasifka or other board members would be interested in bringing Ahmadinejad to campus.

On Sunday night, Spectator reported that several members of CUCR were planning to invite Ahmadinejad to campus, based on multiple documents reviewed by Spectator.

One of those documents was a draft of a letter inviting Ahmadinejad to campus. Former CUCR President Lauren Salz, BC '11, confirmed that the draft matched CUCR's template for writing invitation letters, as did the source close to CUCR. In its statement on Monday, CUCR's board said that the ideas expressed in that letter were contrary to its beliefs.

Finn Vigeland contributed reporting.
news@columbiaspectator.com

Finding a standard test that works for the NFL

SPENER from back page

impressed that Eli Manning scored a 39 on the test, but I think that his determination, levelheadedness, coordination, and experience playing football help him win games far more than his ability to do a simple algebra problem. I doubt that coach Mangurian will tell his

players to go hone their basic reasoning skills after a loss this fall—he'll make them go practice football.

Benjamin Spener is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in economics-mathematics and Latin American and Iberian cultures.
sports@columbiaspectator.com



Barnard, GS participants ineligible for ABP grant money

ABP from front page

"The best way to make it work better is for Barnard and GS students to talk to the administration at their schools," Peterson said. "It would be easier for the request to come from students than the Columbia administration."

Barnard and General Studies students can still participate in ABP trips, and can even receive funding from the student groups if it is from sources other than OCAE grant.

Floyd St. Bernard-Springer, CC '14 and secretary of the Caribbean Students Association, said that the club has organized parties, dinners, networking receptions, and bake sales to raise funds for the Dominica trip.

This spring will be the second break period during which ABP is sending out service trips, and decisions are pending for the summer break programs ABP will choose to sponsor.

amanda.stibel
@columbiaspectator.com



6 credits in 6 weeks? Really.

Attend classes in New York City, Westchester, and online.

Special 2-course packages available

Choose from more than 600 courses, including:

Biology	Criminal Justice
Business	Math
Chemistry	Political Science
Communications	Psychology, and more!
Computer Science	

Your Summer. Your Pace.
Summer Sessions start May 30 and July 13
Register today for our Special Summer Rate
www.pace.edu/summer12

1-800-874-7223
PACE UNIVERSITY
Work toward greatness.

Lunar Gala hopes to break cultural barriers with show

BY OLIVIA LU
Columbia Daily Spectator

Columbia's Chinese Students Club's 33rd annual Lunar Gala hopes to cast off cultural clichés in "The Uproar," a three-part culture, fashion, and art show promoting Chinese culture.

Counting Raw Elementz, CU Generation, and CU Lion Dance among the student groups performing, the Lunar Gala will also feature String Theory, a freshman cello quartet specializing in pop songs, as well as special guest Jennifer Chung, a Californian YouTube singing sensation.

Jackie Ho, CC '14 and a Lunar Gala director, is particularly excited about Chung, who she sees as being able to "push what can be done in terms of an Asian-American artist." String Theory will debut a new cover at Lunar Gala, which they plan to record after the event.

CSC's Lunar Gala distinguishes itself from Asian American Alliance's cultureSHOCK, which also showcases student performers, by offering banquet-style seating. "We try to create more of an experience rather than just a show," CSC president Sarah Kwok, CC '13, added. "We really try to make it into a whole night."

Instead of dividing its culture and fashion show, Lunar Gala will intertwine the two elements this year. "We didn't want to play it safe," Ma said. The fashion show, directed by Hannah Choi, BC '14 and Spectator photo deputy, and Joel Camacho, CC '14, showcases boutique designers such as Milly and Shanghai Tang, whose unique, tailored clothing was especially chosen for each scene to match the cultural theme.

"We really try to make it into a whole night."

—Sarah Kwok,
CSC president and CC '13

The fashion show's overall theme—"Colour Revolution"—is meant to invoke a break from tradition, according to the organizers. "The theme of ... avant-garde that is grungy and controversial—that was something we agreed on from the very beginning," Ho said.

Pushing the boundaries in such a large-scale event does not come without challenges. "We were kind of concerned about allocation this year since grant money has been kind of low across the campus," Ho said.

But with its board members distributed across various subcommittees responsible for different areas such as logistics and promotion, the event has come together with financial assistance from corporate sponsors and the Columbia University Chinese Students and Scholars Association.

"Seeing everyone give so much effort into this one big final climactic release ... and seeing everything coming together is just really exciting," Ho said.

The gala will take place on Saturday, March 3 in Roone Arledge Auditorium from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

arts@columbiaspectator.com



PARTY'N | Snoop Dogg could be a tough act to follow, but this year's Bacchanal committee is confident that its undisclosed performer will be well-received.



FILE PHOTO

'Baccha90s' heads back onto the steps this April

BY JENNY PAYNE AND ABBY MITCHELL
Columbia Daily Spectator

Bacchanal's co-chairs advise students to expect Capri Sun and pull out the scrunchies, as Columbia students will be getting nostalgic with this year's "Baccha90s."

The theme reflects the overall sentiment of this year's concert: getting back to what worked well in the past.

This year, Bacchanal will return to the Low steps where it has historically taken place, according to co-chair Geneva Miller, CC '13. Due to a last-minute conflict with commencement and concerns from Public Safety about larger-than-usual crowds, Bacchanal 2011 had to change its plans and move from Low Plaza to the lawns three weeks before the concert on April 19. As a result, the planning committee spent \$25,000 more than intended, putting this year's committee in a difficult place financially with around an \$18,000 debt.

Bacchanal's team was careful not to run into the same problem again, "making every effort to book spaces as early as we were allowed," said Joe Girton, Bacchanal co-chair and visuals editor for the Eye. According to Girton and Miller, no club is allowed to book any event on the steps after April 20 because of commencement. On the first day of classes this semester, Bacchanal reserved their April 14 date to rule out any conflict.

"Last year's location was unavoidable," Miller said. "But this year we were sure to establish boundaries for ourselves early on and talked constantly to the administration."



The chairs and other members of Bacchanal's committee said that they are excited to move back onto the steps.

"We're used to having the concert on the steps. Public Safety is used to the concert being on the steps," Girton said. "We're comfortable with that side of the process."

With all of these changes, Bacchanal also got a new adviser this year, Josh Lucas, assistant director of Student Development and Activities, who the co-chairs say have helped the process along.

They also got support from the student councils in December to erase their \$18,000 deficit. University Senator Kenny Durell undertook a Bacchanal Investigation Report, that stipulated that Columbia College Student Council would contribute funds with the condition that they could develop a new event review process for the future.

"We appreciate everything that CCSC, the councils, and ultimately the administration did for us so we could get us back to our yearly capacity to allow us to put on a show this year," said Bacchanal president Dan Weinstein, CC '12. "It was probably the biggest obstacle in the planning process over the last 10 years, and we're glad that everything worked out."

With the financial discussions out of the way, Bacchanal's committee has been able to commit to choosing the theme and the artist. In the end, the theme selection came down to winner "Baccha90s," with the runner-up as "Bacch to the Future." The team eventually decided against the latter because of possible copyright infringement issues.

In choosing the artist, the planning committee surveyed students via a Bwog poll about what genre they would prefer, in contrast to previous years when students were asked to email Bacchanal's organizers

with their ideas and opinions. These preferences were used in as first step of narrowing down a list of potential artists.

"We've stayed close to the genres that came out on top," said Weinstein of the lineup-designing process. "We create a very short list of our priorities and when we start putting in inquiries, the lineup becomes more real in our minds."

Yet costs haven't been the only obstacle for the team: The timing of now two-weekend California concert festival Coachella, as well as other events, limited Bacchanal's team as they look for artists they could contact for inquiries.

Weinstein remains optimistic in face of these difficulties. "Negotiation's a tricky thing," he said. His four years of experience planning Bacchanal—overseeing shows by 2009's Vampire Weekend and Talib Kweli, 2010's Wiz Khalifa, of Montreal, and Ghostface Killah, and last year's Das Racist and Snoop Dogg—have accustomed him to some chaos.

"Every year it feels like everything is collapsing on some level," Weinstein said. "But for all of the stress that goes into the preparation and coordination of minute details and the hospitality list, the artists tend to be really cool people: fun to talk to, easy to work with."

Even with a few more obstacles than usual, the details of the event are starting to come together. Weinstein remained silent when asked which potential performers were being considered, but said that he hopes that students will come out and enjoy themselves in April.

"It's one of the days every year that the campus really relaxes, and we really want to make sure that happens," Weinstein said.

arts@columbiaspectator.com

Columbia's Society of Hip-Hop prepares for battle, reflects on goals

BY BRENDAN DONLEY
Columbia Daily Spectator

Whittling down the mission of the Columbia University Society of Hip-Hop could be hard to do, but Alan De Leon Taverna, CC '15 and cypher coordinator, makes it pretty simple: "We really want to do very, very dope things in very, very positive ways."

CUSH members say that they hope their events—including poetry, rap, and discussions—help students analyze and engage with hip-hop.

"What we're hoping is to focus and channel the ideas and energy from the discussions into a vehicle for social justice and activism on campus," discussion coordinator Bryant Brown, CC '15, said.

CUSH feels that they have cultivated a community with a variety of interests and backgrounds by uniting poets, rappers and intellectuals to provide "space for people not only to showcase their talent but also to explore new talents they didn't even know they had," executive coordinator Lubeen Hamilton, CC '13, said.

Attracting students from Columbia, City College, and elsewhere in New York, CUSH hopes March Madness Battle Cypher, this Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Intercultural Resource Center, will bolster the group's connection with both students and the city.

"With the three different sides of CUSH, we bring a really diverse crowd," said poetry coordinator Taylor Harvey, CC '14.

For members, these kinds of events speak to CUSH's connection to New York and its goals to

expand their impact into the outer boroughs and the greater Harlem community. "New York makes it very possible for something like this to exist," De Leon Taverna said.

"CUSH is rooted here, but by no means do we limit ourselves to Columbia outreach," Hamilton added.

Events such as the Feb. 16 "Words.Words.Words" open mic night and poetry slam have fostered more connections outside the group's membership.

"We hope in the future to work with Barnard poetry slam and cultivate a cross-school poetry relationship," Harvey said.

"Radio Freq: The Revolution and Threat of Hip-Hop," the Feb. 23 discussion CUSH held the following week at the IRC, focused on "examining the existential aspects of hip-hop, what it means to be and represent hip-hop," Brown said. "We're hoping the conclusions we reach in the discussions will eventually trickle out into the rest of the city."

Hoping to build on last year's inaugural event, CUSH's March Madness battle will feature eight emcees competing in a bracket-style tournament. "We're going to do a real traditional battle, draw names out of a hat, and see what happens," De Leon Taverna said, while nearly jumping out of his seat in anticipation.

Even with a diverse crowd, the criteria for a good CUSH rap is the same: a successful performance in a battle is "about the wit, the craftiness, the ability to think on your feet," Hamilton said.

arts@columbiaspectator.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF CUSH

CIRCLE UP | The Columbia University Society of Hip-Hop hopes to build ties on and off campus and attract new crowds with events like its March Madness battle.

Union Theological Seminary's

LANDMARK GUEST ROOMS

3041 Broadway
at 121st Street
New York, NY 10027

UNION Comfortable guest rooms within the Seminary's walls blend the best of old and new. Our peaceful garden is an ideal spot for strolling, reading, and meditation.

Union is just a short bus or cab ride away from all the excitement that New York City has to offer.

Tel: (212) 280-1313 • Fax:(212) 280-1488
Visit us at: www.utsnyc.edu





The 136th year of publication
Independent since 1962

CORPORATE BOARD

SARAH DARVILLE
Editor in Chief
MAGGIE ALDEN
Managing Editor

ALEX SMYK
Publisher

MANAGING BOARD

SAMMY ROTH
Campus News Editor
FINN VIGELAND
City News Editor
ANDREA GARCÍA-VARGAS
Editorial Page Editor
LANBO ZHANG
Editorial Page Editor
ABBY MITCHELL
Arts & Entertainment Editor
REBEKA COHAN
Sports Editor
JEREMIAH SHARF
Sports Editor
JUSTINE HOPE
Multimedia Editor
STEPHEN SNOWDER
Spectrum Editor
ASHTON COOPER
The Eye, Editor in Chief
CATHI CHOI
The Eye, Art Director
ANNELIESE COOPER
The Eye, Managing Editor; Features
MEREDITH FOSTER
The Eye, Managing Editor; Optics
ABIGAIL FISCH
Head Copy Editor
ZARA CASTANY
Photo Editor
MAYA PEGAN
Design Editor
ISAAC WHITE
Design Editor
JAKE DAVIDSON
Online Editor
TALA AKHAVAN
Staff Director
REX MACAYLO
Sales Director
DANIELA QUINTANILLA
Finance Director
ROB FRECH
Alumni Director

DEPUTY BOARD

News Editors
Jeremy Budd, Yasmin Gagne, Ben Citrakon, Jillian Kamagai, Gina Lee, Margaret Mattes, Casey Tolan
Opinion Editor
Grace Rickers
Arts & Entertainment Editors
Joseph Pomp, Katy Tong
Sports Editors
Trevor Cohen, Myles Simmons
Multimedia Editor
Naomi Cohen
Copy Editor
Emily Sorensen
Photo Editors
Hannah Choi, Ayelet Pearl, Kate Scarborough, Henry Willson
Photo Training Editor
David Bram
Graphic Design Editor
Yuma Shinohara
Sales
Wes Rodriguez, Ethan Yee
Finance
Marilyn He, Noah Kolatch, Jiaqi Liu, Bruno Mendes, Kinno Norojono
Alumni
Audrey Greene, Amanda Kane, Kristine Musademba

ASSOCIATE BOARD

News Editors
Daphne Chen, Melissa von Mayrhauser, Emily Weil, Jessica Stillone, Henry Willson
Editorial Page Editors
Rae Binstock, Luke Foster, Jessica Geiger, Joolyun Lee, Sonalee Rau, Alan Seltzer
Arts & Entertainment Editors
Jade Bonacolta, Allie Carieri, Stefan Countryman, Alison Herman, Charlotte Murtishaw, Lesley Thulin
Sports Editors
Muneeb Alam, Hahn Chang, Melissa Cheung, Steven Lau, Alison Macke, Mia Park, Eli Schultz, Josh Shenkar, Eric Wong
Copy Editors
Abby Abrams, Peter Andrews, Natan Belchik, Augusta Harris, Megan Kallstrom, Hannah Laymon, Rukmini Mahurkar, Natalia Remis, Alexandra Salerno, Andrea Shang, Ben Sheng
Photo Editors
Maria Balsinde, Chabli Bravo, Douglas Kessel, Kevin Roark, Lucy Suarez
Page Design Editors
Chancellor Agard-Wilson, Lillian Chen, Andrew Demas, Diana Ding, Sarah Greenberg, Regie Mauricio
Graphic Design Editors
Celine Gordon, Kay Lodge, Sinijhn Smith
Illustrations Editor
Runtao Yang
Staff Director
Youjung Jun, Aigerim Saudabayeva
Sales
Shaun Ang, Erin Chuah, Nora Long, Rebecca Pottash, Jessica Skoczylas
Finance
Emily Aronson, Andrea Bonilla, Erin Chuah, Dat Dang, Patrick Fu, Jesse Garrett, Alex Ge, Marilyn He, James Horner, Frankie Lam, Louis Lin, Ayan Nasir, Andre Pavva, Rubab Rehman, Wes Rodriguez, David She, Ethan Yee, Grant Yuan, Kevin Zhang
Alumni
Marquerite Horikawa, Maren Killackey, Rukmini Mahurkar, Danielle Ng, Moriah Schervone, Malina Welman, Diarra White, Wenxin Yan

EDITORIAL BOARD

Hannah D'Apice, Richard Falk-Wallace, Simon Gregory Jerome, Marcela Johnson, Robin Simpson-McKay, Virgilio Urbina Lazardi

MONDAY NIGHT STAFF

Copy
Katherine Duh, Devon DeSimone, Claire Garvin, Michaela Hirsch, Neha Sundaram
Design
Cecilia Reyes, Moriah Schervone

CONTACT US
2875 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10025
info@columbiaspectator.com
Twitter: @CU-Spectator

PHONE & FAX
Daily Spectator (212) 854-9549
Business (212) 854-9550
Business Fax (212) 854-9553

EDITORIAL POLICY
For more information about the Columbia Daily Spectator and editorial policies, visit www.columbiaspectator.com/about.

CORRECTIONS
The Columbia Daily Spectator is committed to fair and accurate reporting. If you know of an error, please inform us at copy@columbiaspectator.com.

COMMENTS & QUESTIONS
For general comments or questions about the newspaper, please write to the editor in chief and managing editor at editor@columbiaspectator.com.

Expand affirmative action

With the Supreme Court set to reconsider the landmark Bollinger affirmative action cases, the man himself spoke regarding the possibility of a ban on affirmative action. “It would be a tragedy for all of higher education ... and I think for society generally,” he stated. Bollinger is right, but he doesn’t go nearly far enough. A conservative overturn of Grutter v. Bollinger and Gratz v. Bollinger would be a national tragedy, but we must not let concern over that potential catastrophe blind us to the weakness of the polices and precedents currently in place. Preserving the status quo is not enough. Affirmative action needs to be dramatically expanded, beyond even its original civil-rights era promise. Unfortunately, existing precedents already prevent Columbia from doing so.

To me, the philosophical argument for affirmative action is simple and obvious. Imagine a world with perfect equality of opportunity: a world where individuals truly are judged by the content of their character, where society does not stereotype certain interests for certain types of people, where economic status is not correlated with any social category. If one believes that gender and race have no genetic effect on academic ability or ambition (something long ago proven to be true), then one must accept that in this hypothetical world, each demographic would apply to university in numbers exactly proportional to their population and with exactly equal average achievements. But this world, though closer to our own than ever before, is still a distant fantasy. Somewhere between conception and application, some groups are pulled back and some are pushed forward. Affirmative action is a simple way to correct inequalities of opportunity and to prevent their effects from becoming cemented in the job market.



ALEX
COLLAZO

I’m Just
Saying

Faith: the new taboo

BY SARAH NGU

After the Ruby Bridges Veritas Forum ended last Wednesday night, I walked out of the Barnard gates with a friend who is very involved in activism and racial equality efforts.

She said to me, “The best part of the forum was also the hardest and the most challenging. I had to question my motivations for justice and ask myself, ‘Why do I feel like I need an apology before I forgive? Why do I want to hold on to my sense of outrage?’”

The truth of the matter is that self-righteousness feels pretty great. Much activist rhetoric these days, from our classes to the Occupy Movement, sets the relationship between the oppressor and the oppressed in terms of antagonism. One must fight the man, for everything is a power struggle. Even the discourse of human rights, which although laudable in ensuring that the marginalized be treated fairly, can further a sense of a fragmented community in which everyone is simply out to get what he or she deserves (legitimately, of course).

It is not that conflicts are not real, but framing the activism in terms of “righting wrongs” or “demanding justice” only gets you halfway. It gets us towards fair treatment but not necessarily truly living together in community.

What is necessary is a framework that is built less

Bigger is better

Everything is bigger in Texas. The state is bigger, the meals are bigger, the houses are bigger—even the babies are bigger. (A Texan mom gave birth last year to a 16-pound baby boy.) So when I went to the Lone Star State for a conference last weekend, I had big, fat, high expectations, especially for the business plan competition I was participating in. Well, as per usual, I came in second. While I thought my idea was pretty snazzy, the girl who beat me did so quite impressively. How? She did it big. She created a big poster with big graphs, demonstrated a big demo for her web business and calculated big numbers to get even bigger numbers to showcase all the big profits she would accrue. She gave a Texas-sized presentation, so of course she won a Texas competition.



ARVIN
AHMADI

Tech
Etiquette

They say “don’t jump ahead of yourself,” but as an entrepreneur, you have to jump leaps and bounds ahead of any perceived limitations to get an investor’s attention.

But the reality is that she would have won anywhere. Numbers have always mattered. Our admissions office boasts the 30-some thousand applications that it receives, campus organizations advertise the hundreds of members that they have, and even your resume humbly touts the five-figure amount of money you raised for charity. But especially in the modern realm of technology innovation and entrepreneurship, magnitude is everything. In the case of The Social Network That Shall Not Be Named, the reason it continued to gain momentum in its early days was because of its growing numbers. The website had one million users by the end of its first year, over five million by the end of its second, and 100 million by August of its fifth year. Today, its numbers game continues, with a recent initial public offering valuing the website at \$100 billion.

It is difficult to fathom that a page on the Internet can be worth more than the \$12.99 a year you would pay through GoDaddy.com. Big numbers have found quite a comfortable home in the technology sector—especially online. Somehow

Note that my argument does not mention redressing past wrongs or correcting specific imbalances. This was certainly the primary argument for early affirmative action, but it has become a liability to the cause today. If affirmative action exists only to fix a unique, present-day disproportion in educational attainment, then an endpoint for the program is implied. A line in Justice Sandra Day O'Connor’s 2003 Grutter v. Bollinger majority opinion typifies this logic: “We expect that 25 years from now, the use of racial preferences will no longer be necessary to further the interest approved today.” But affirmative action is about much more than redressing past and current wrongs—it’s about preventing future injustice. By ensuring equal educational attainment (for all groups, not just those historically disadvantaged), affirmative action can help prevent any one demographic from becoming an institutionalized underclass.

Affirmative action is a simple way to correct inequalities of opportunity and to prevent their effects from becoming cemented in the job market.

Current affirmative action precedents do not allow universities to achieve this goal. Universities were barred from setting racial quotas in Regents of the University of California v. Bakke (1978), though race could still be considered a “plus” in admissions decisions. The Bollinger cases, while affirming that diversity in the classroom was a “compelling interest,” rejected a formulaic, point-based system of racial preference in favor of race as a factor in a larger, vaguer “individual consideration.” Acceptable affirmative action admissions had to be “holistic” and have “no policy, either de jure or de facto, of automatic acceptance or rejection based on any single ‘soft’ variable.” The Bollinger

on eliminating what is negative and more on building something positive, like reconciliation and even that clichéd word, “love”—which are values that Ms. Bridges expounded upon. But while our Columbia education has provided us with tools to deconstruct and critique, we are left with little foundation upon which to build and ground our values (although all critique is inherently based on a standard or value of some sort).

For most people, when asked how they ground their values, they mention their own “personal feelings,” fearful of imposing their values on others. While such a fear is in some ways admirably humble (it must be pointed out, though, that it means one has no qualms about imposing its value of non-imposition), I wonder if we are fragmenting our community by leaving each other alone. This may seem mostly harmless on an individual basis, but scale it up to the level of nations: The outrage over Rwanda was mainly over the fact that the U.N. pulled out of Rwanda to ostensibly let its people “do their own thing.”

There have been many attempts to remedy this lack of a foundation for justice—such as all of the social contracts we read about in CC. All of them have been attempts to form a secular foundation, because no one wants to revert back to the Dark Ages when “God” was the foundation for everything. “God”—the word itself sounds so absolute and exclusive.

I readily confess that the idea of “God” has been used for oppressive projects historically. (So has the idea of the “nation,” and plenty of other concepts, by the way.) But if “God” is not a dogmatic doctrine, but rather a

between catered advertising, paid services, sponsorships, and countless other creative monetization tactics, websites have been able to leverage the power of their core competency to make big bucks.

Back in the day, I used to measure life in terms of McFlurries; based on a McFlurry’s current \$2.79 market value in my hometown of Centreville, Va., plus a five percent sales tax, Facebook’s estimated value is worth over 34 billion McFlurries. That is enough to buy one for every person in the world every day from now until the end of the week. When you can buy that many McFlurries with a virtual web of people, you know you’re in the middle of something very special.

Indeed, some experts speculate that we are in the midst of a second dot-com bubble. The scary part is, nobody knows exactly when this one is going to pop, if at all. With questionable returns on tech IPOs in 2011, some say that it’s already losing air. I personally believe that it’s here to stay for at least another couple of years. With technology jobs in exorbitantly high demand and with NASDAQ at its highest peak this month since the dot-com crash of 2000, I think the massive numbers we’re seeing in the tech sector—from consumer Internet to augmented reality—are here to stay.

Venture capitalists dream of these numbers. In everything that they invest in, VCs hope for a \$350 million acquisition or a \$5 billion IPO. They say “don’t jump ahead of yourself,” but as an entrepreneur, you have to jump leaps and bounds ahead of any perceived limitations to get an investor’s attention. At a Social Media Week event this month, one particularly edgy startup CEO discussed his approach to building an idea and building capital: One relies on the bare essentials, while the other relies on “the dream.” In creating an initial product or website, you should focus on getting something workable but simple out as fast as possible. In pitching your venture to VCs, however, it’s all about the dream. These guys want to hear about massive numbers, oodles of money, and double exponential quadra-growth. I’m not saying you should force the numbers to work (read: Enron is not a role model), but highlight the ones that you have and the ones you can realistically conceive in the best possible light.

With this industry growing at supercomputer speed, it’s easy to feel intimidated by all the big numbers and technologies being thrown around. Don’t. Embrace magnitude and leverage it to your advantage. If you can dream up the broad idea, then by all means you can dream up the numbers and growth that could potentially go along with it. After all, infinity is a long way away.

Arvin Ahmadi is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in computer science and political science. He is a Spectator online staff developer. Tech Etiquette runs alternate Tuesdays.

cases thus muddled the water significantly and made affirmative action policies almost impossible to implement at schools with mechanistic admissions systems. Overturning Bakke and Gratz, permitting a simple quota-based system, would be a step in the right direction. Sadly, this does not seem to be in the offing.

But even a return to civil-rights era practice is not sufficient. To begin with, all groups must be protected. A national university like Columbia should seek to mirror the makeup of the country in its student body. A demographic profile of the entering Columbia College class should read like a demographic profile of 18-year-old Americans (with a percentage set aside for international students and reflecting international demographics). To accept anything less is to tacitly endorse a structural advantage or disadvantage in society. We come closer to proportionality than one might think, but there’s still significant room for improvement. Student Affairs’ class of 2015 profile indicates that non-white Hispanics and non-Hispanic whites are underrepresented while Asians (even discounting international students) are overrepresented. There are other disproportions, but these are the most extreme. However, it may be difficult for Columbia to fix this without risking a lawsuit under the Grutter v. Bollinger precedent. Can a proportional student body be created without using race as the deciding factor? How would one prove what was or wasn’t the deciding factor in a holistic admissions process? It may be that the quota system, forbidden 34 years ago, is the only way to resolve these issues.

Someday, I’d love to see Columbia’s incoming class profile match exactly with the society from which it was drawn. I’d love to see an incoming class made perfectly proportional to college-age America in race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation. Unfortunately, even if the Bollinger cases are left untouched, this is a result I am unlikely to see for quite some time.

Alex Collazo is a Columbia College junior majoring in creative writing and economics-philosophy. He is the treasurer of CIRCA and a former Spectator head copy editor. I’m Just Saying runs alternate Tuesdays.

personal being, everything changes. Getting to know Him is like getting to know a person: it’s a two-way relationship that requires vulnerability and trust.

I began thinking of all of this after the Forum. Most people were surprised at Ms. Bridges’ faith, and I suspect most chose to dismiss it or reduce it to simply a “resource” that she utilizes. The supernatural doesn’t fit for most of us into our frameworks. It’s easier to interpret her prayers as a motivational technique rather than consider the possibility that they are cries sent out to someone who’s listening and responding. The Spectator news article on the Forum (“Desegregation icon Bridges talks with Moody-Adams,” Feb. 23) focused on racism and activism, leaving only two lines to address her faith, when really it was the center of her story. To begin to consider the question of whether God may exist means we have to re-shift everything, because if He’s really real then we are no longer the center of everything.

I don’t think the journey to search out and wrestle with God is as harrowing as it seems. You’re getting to know a person, after all, and, speaking from experience, one’s relationship with one’s Maker is the most worthwhile relationship one can ever have. I’m well-aware that all this God-talk is a little discomfiting, but pause for a moment and let it sit. It is in that discomfort, in that funk, that we grow.

The author is a Columbia College senior double concentrating in political science and American studies. She is the president of the Veritas Forum.



JASMINE MARIANO

The Columbia Daily Spectator accepts op-eds on any topic relevant to the Columbia University and Morningside Heights community. Op-eds should be roughly 650 words in length. We require that op-eds be sent exclusively to Spectator and will not consider articles that have already been published elsewhere. Letters to the Editor should be no longer than 350 words and must refer to an article from Spectator or The Eye, or a Spectrum post. Submissions should be sent to opinion@columbiaspectator.com. Please paste all submissions into the body of the email. Should we decide to publish your submission we will contact you via email.

Wonderlic Test needs changing

Although the pro football season has finally ended, the NFL continued its constant fabrication of fanfare this past weekend with its annual combine, an event where prospective professional football players get to meet with team officials and show off their strength, speed, agility, and—interestingly—their smarts.

Aside from lots of running and jumping during the combine, the players sit down for the 12-minute Wonderlic Test, which is not unlike the SAT. While intelligence certainly factors into being a good football player, having prospects take a fairly academic test at the combine just seems ridiculous. Declaring for the NFL draft effectively marks the end of most players’ academic careers, and unlike in college, academics will not be a major part of their lives as pro athletes. College coaches care about their athletes’ SAT scores during the recruiting process because the scores matter for their admission to college and perhaps help predict their success. I’ve heard about complicated NFL playbooks, but memorizing a playbook does not necessarily involve the same reasoning skills assessed by the standardized tests.

During NFL draft discussions, commentators stress that the Wonderlic scores of quarterbacks are especially important—according to them, a high score shows that a player is “cerebral,” whereas a low score means the player will have trouble understanding pro-level strategies. I have great respect for people who are both very smart and very athletic, but I do not think that being both is a formula for success as a pro. Let’s put it this way: I think that a quarterback can choose an open receiver and make a good throw without being able to understand the physics of the throw or even being capable of keeping track of his own game stats.

Every aspect of an NFL game is broken into micro-events—lining up for the play, throwing to the sideline, or sticking to a man on defense. Players do not have to holistically understand the game so much as follow very specific instructions and use their athleticism. Even when quarterbacks call an audible to change a play on the fly, they still pick from a fairly limited set of choices and surely do not sit down and use academic reasoning.

There are some great quarterbacks that did very well on the Wonderlic. While a score of 20 (out of a possible total of 50) is supposedly average, quarterback scores above 26 are considered good. Tony Romo and Eli Manning both tallied in the high 30s, and Ryan Fitzpatrick of Harvard famously scored a 48, taking only nine of the 12 allotted minutes to complete the test. All of these players have had good careers, but there are also plenty of great players who did not do exceptionally well on the test. Peyton Manning and Drew Brees both scored a good (but not exceptional) 28 points on the test, and Ben Roethlisberger got a 25. A Sports Illustrated article that argues those who get above a 26 on the Wonderlic, start at least 27 games in college, and complete at least 60 percent of their college passes are successful NFL quarterbacks. Now, even though the Sports Illustrated article does show that there is a correlation between smarts and football success—especially at the quarterback position—I think that the league could develop a test that would be more football-specific and could more aptly assess draftees’ readiness for pro-style playbooks. Athletes’ reading comprehension level and basic math skills may affect their understanding of a playbook, but why not just make a test that asks questions about football strategy?

The NFL’s use of the Wonderlic Test suggests that the league’s definition of a “smart” player is still somewhat rooted in traditional conceptions of intelligence. The league should try to develop another metric that more aptly assesses the kind of cognition used during football games. Using SAT scores to evaluate a college recruit makes sense, because it reflects the duality of an athlete’s role on campus. College coaches must be concerned about both the academic and athletic abilities of their team, since college athletes are supposed to succeed in both arenas. This is just not the case for NFL players.

Because the results are curved, not everyone can score well on a standardized test. I just don’t see why we expect NFL players, especially quarterbacks, to be on the top of that curve. Yes, I’m



BEN SPENER

The Top Spin

From California to New York, Lions stay together



YAN CONG/ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PART OF THE PACK | Miwa Tachibana was mostly looking at schools in California, but knew that she would find familiar faces if she chose to play at CU.

FROM GOLDEN STATE TO EMPIRE STATE



TAYLOR BALL

Number Year Position
#23 CC’13 Guard



SABAAH JORDAN

Number Year Position
#14 CC’13 Center



MIWA TACHIBANA

Number Year Position
#00 BC’15 Guard

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS/GRAPHIC BY YUMA SHINOHARA

BY LAURA ALLEN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Numbers are important in basketball. Numbers ultimately decide winners. But sometimes numbers add up in strange ways.

Take Miwa Tachibana. The guard is playing her first season as a Lion. Guard Taylor Ball and center Sabaah Jordan are finishing up their third. Currently, eight other Lions have played with those juniors in the last three years, yet Tachibana has still played more basketball with the pair than any other girl on the team. How? High school.

The trio played together at Marlborough School, a small, single-sex private high school for grades seven to 12 in Los Angeles, where the eventual Columbia teammates perennially won California Interscholastic Federation and league titles in addition to a 2007 state championship, which, according to their former head coach Trenton Jackson, made for winning seasons.

“They were close. They liked each other genuinely,” he wrote in an email.

According to Jackson, Ball held the team together during her four years on varsity. During Ball’s third season, one of her best friends, Jordan, moved up from junior varsity, and Tachibana matriculated from the middle school.

“I used to—not stalk, but I followed the varsity team around and I followed Taylor around a lot,” Tachibana said of her days as an eighth grader.

According to Ball, Tachibana was the baby in high school. But she was a baby with a lot of power, even currying the older guard’s envy and admiration upon her arrival at Columbia.

“Miwa was the gunner. I needed her to shoot threes. But now she can do everything. Her dribbling is amazing,” Ball said. Speaking to Tachibana, Ball admitted, “I was jealous when you came here and you started dribbling.”

Jordan and Ball graduated two years before Tachibana, but the three had no trouble rekindling their on-court connection. According to Tachibana, the matured guards’ communication actually improved when they reunited as Lions.

“We both play really differently, but it’s easier to communicate with Taylor on the court, which can kind of make up for a lot of mistakes if you’re able to talk to your teammates,” Tachibana also said.

But the trio’s mutual understanding goes beyond the gym. The girls say they grasp each other’s humor and tolerate each other’s shenanigans better than others. Ball is always dancing, Jordan consistently does dramatic impersonations, and Tachibana always lets Ball braid her hair.

Their friendship also provides a unique support group within the team. This was true even in high school.

“She’s always been there for me and has always been a great friend,”

Jordan said of Ball. “Nothing changed coming to college, and that was big for me because everything changes as a freshman.”

The close relationship especially helped Ball, who, though loud and energetic around her friends, was introverted during her high school years.

“I remember thinking she was really cool and I wanted to be her friend, but I was lame. I was shy,” Ball said, recollecting her first meeting with Jordan.

Tachibana also characterized herself as shy in high school, which she says made it difficult for her and Ball to bond initially.

“I was even more quiet so it was just an awkward relationship,” the freshman said.

Yet their friendship developed when Ball surprised Tachibana with an invitation to her birthday party—Tachibana hesitantly attended the celebration, giving Ball a present and playing basketball at her house, according to Tachibana.

“Since we were friends, it was really important to get their input on if they thought this would be a good fit for me.”

—Miwa Tachibana, freshman guard

Their bond became vital four years later, when it was time for Tachibana to make her college decision.

“Since we were friends, it was really important to get their input on if they thought this would be a good fit for me,” Tachibana said.

With her options largely centered on the University of California system, Tachibana mused that it was odd that she wound up at Columbia. It was the only school on the East Coast she had considered.

“It was just comforting to know that I had two people I already knew on the team and I think, with the whole transition, it was nice to know there was something stable and something familiar,” she said.

But the three stress that their established friendship hasn’t hampered their relationships with other teammates. Jordan finds that they’re well integrated within the tight-knit Light Blue squad.

“The grade divide prevents Miwa from being in any sort of Marlborough clique because she’s a freshman and that takes precedence,” Jordan said.

Jordan and Ball, who are in the same year, can seem inseparable. But Jordan said that they don’t always need to be together.

“We’re just like sisters,” Jordan said.

Princeton wins 3rd straight Ivy League title

BY HAHN CHANG
Spectator Staff Writer

While Ancient Eight women’s basketball had several upsets this weekend, including the Light Blue taking out second-place Yale on Friday, the rankings remain relatively unchanged. With Princeton cruising to another Ivy League title, the battle is on for second place in the Ivy League.



BROWN

Brown opened its weekend in a back-and-forth contest against Cornell. The Bears struck first with a layup from forward Aileen Daniels, but found themselves tied at halftime 25-25. Brown fell 38-31 early in the second half, but it fought back with its sharpshooting from beyond the arc to regain the lead with 17 seconds remaining. Despite that, Brown could not hold onto the lead, with a last-second Cornell jumper ending the game at 51-50. The following night, the Bears toppled Columbia, 75-63.

CORNELL

In an evenly matched game against Brown on Friday night—where Cornell shot 43 percent from the floor—the Big Red could not put away the Bears until the last play of the game. Late in the game, the Big Red faced a 50-49 deficit and with five seconds left Clare Fitzpatrick missed a jumper. Cornell snagged an offensive rebound, though, and Fitzpatrick finished off the play with a layup, putting the Big Red up

51-50 with four seconds remaining. Cornell then hosted Yale, and could not overcome Yale’s hot start in the beginning of the game. While Maka Anyanwu scored 17 points for the Big Red, Cornell went only 1-7 from beyond the arc.

DARTMOUTH

Dartmouth struggled this weekend, dropping both of its games. Against Penn, Dartmouth found itself on the losing end of a 63-49 game despite a 17-point performance from guard Milica Toskovic. The Big Green struggled, shooting only 26.3 percent from the floor. Against Princeton, Dartmouth could not find its rhythm and was unable to find the lead. Dartmouth lost by 37 to the Ivy League champion, Princeton, 94-57.

HARVARD

Harvard opened this weekend with a loss to the Tigers, 74-44. Even though the Crimson limited Princeton to just 30.8 percent shooting from beyond the arc, Harvard could not pick up its offensive production, failing to both create enough shot opportunities and make baskets. The following night, the Crimson took on the Quakers. With just under two minutes left in the game, Harvard found itself even with Penn at 50 points. Crimson guard Victoria Lippert, who led the Crimson with 17 points, hit a three-point shot to put Harvard up 53-50 en route to a 57-53 victory.

PENN

Penn hosted Dartmouth to begin the weekend, and a 20-point performance

from guard Alyssa Baron helped the Quakers easily cruise to a 63-49 victory. In its final home game, Penn hosted Harvard and found itself down by as much as seven in the second half. The Quakers closed the gap thanks to Baron, who again had a 20-point performance. With 1:51 remaining in the second half, the score stood at 50 apiece, but Penn was able to overcome the Crimson, 57-53.

PRINCETON

Princeton started off its weekend by out-scoring Harvard 74-44. The Tigers limited the Crimson to just 15 points in the first half and did not allow a single Harvard player to get more than eight points for the game. Princeton dominated defensively as forward Niveen Rasheed got six of Princeton’s 16 steals. Against Dartmouth, Princeton shot lights out, going 10-20 from beyond the arc, with guard Lauren Edwards hitting seven three-point shots for a game-high 29 points. Princeton cruised to victory, 94-57, to clinch its third consecutive Ivy League title and an invitation to the NCAA Tournament.

YALE

The Bulldogs came into Levien Gymnasium hoping to win their weekend series to keep their Ivy title hopes alive. Yale ended up giving Columbia its first conference win of the season, 56-52. Yale was able to recover the following night against Cornell, starting the game with an 11-0 run. The Bulldogs never relinquished the lead, shooting 49.0 percent from the floor en route to a 69-58 victory over the Big Red.

Ivy (LW)	Team
1 11-0 (1)	PRINCETON TIGERS The Tigers claimed their third straight Ivy League title.
2 8-4 (2)	YALE BULLDOGS Yale’s Ivy League title aspirations were thwarted when it split its games this weekend.
3 7-4 (3)	HARVARD CRIMSON Harvard split games this weekend after being crushed by Princeton, losing by 30 points.
4 7-5 (4)	BROWN BEARS The Bears opened the weekend with a last-second 51-50 loss to Cornell.
5 5-6 (5)	CORNELL BIG RED The Big Red had two close match-ups this weekend, but ended up splitting the games.
6 4-7 (6)	PENN QUAKERS Sophomore guard Alyssa Baron carried the Quakers with 20 points for a win over Dartmouth.
7 1-10 (8)	COLUMBIA LIONS The Light Blue won its first Ivy game of the season, upsetting No. 2 Yale.
8 2-9 (7)	DARTMOUTH BIG GREEN Dartmouth was unable to improve its record this weekend after dropping two straight.