



FILE PHOTO / ANGELA RADULESCU

OUT OF THE BLUE | President Barack Obama, CC '83, waves to the crowds at his Jan. 20, 2009, inauguration ceremony.

USenate examining course evals, relationship policy

Public evals resolution to be presented March 30

BY MARGARET MATTES
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

A resolution making course evaluations public and a new policy on sexual relationships between students and instructors are likely to come before the University Senate with significant support later this month.

Both resolutions, which will probably be presented to the senate at its March 30 plenary, were discussed at this Friday's

plenary.

The senate's Student Affairs Committee has been working on public course evaluations for almost a year. On Friday, University Senator Sara Snedeker, BC '12 and co-chair of SAC's course evaluations subcommittee, said that student senators are currently revising their resolution based on suggestions made by members of the Faculty Affairs Committee.

SAC also decided last month

not to propose that evaluations for graduate student instructors be made public, in order to placate the concerns of graduate student senators.

Also at Friday's plenary, Associate Provost for Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Susan Rieger discussed a proposal that would prohibit sexual relationships between academic officers and students with whom they have any sort of academic relationship. Rieger said that the proposal, which is being supported by FAC and is likely to receive the support of additional senate committees before the next plenary, is undergoing final revisions before being presented to the senate's Executive Committee.

University Senator Ron Mazor, CC '09 and Law '12, also updated the senate on the Structure and Operations Committee's work to give senators email privileges. If passed by the senate, such a policy would allow senators to send mass emails to their constituents.

"The idea is that a USenator, by virtue of their office, should not have to go through alternative layers of bureaucracy to reach out to those who voted for them," Mazor said.

Melissa Tihinen, senior manager of the Office for Student

SEE USENATE, page 2

Policy to forbid student/faculty romances

BY KELLY LANE
Spectator Staff Writer

Faculty members may soon have to think twice before getting romantically involved with students.

Several University Senate committees and the provost's office are making final edits on a new policy that would forbid any romantic or sexual relationship between a student and an officer of instruction between whom there is any sort of academic relationship. Faculty members, librarians, and researchers are all officers of instruction.

The University's current policy discourages such relationships, stating that a "faculty or staff member involved in a consensual relationship with a student is expected to remove him/herself from academic or professional decisions concerning the student." Philosophy professor Patricia Kitcher, who served as co-chair of the senate's Commission on the Status of Women during much of the time the commission was working on the new policy, said that the current policy is not as strict as those of peer institutions.

SEE POLICY, page 3

Obama to speak at BC commencement

Obama, CC '83, will address graduates at May 14 ceremony

BY FINN VIGELAND
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

President Barack Obama, CC '83, will speak at Barnard College commencement on May 14, the college announced on Saturday.

"This is an extraordinary honor for Barnard and we are thrilled to welcome President Obama for this important moment in the lives of our graduates and their families," Barnard President Debora Spar said in a statement. "His commitment to empowering women is so meaningful to our students, who aspire to lead and make their mark on the world."

Having the president as commencement speaker is a coup for any school, though not one that Barnard actively pursued. Spar told Spectator that she received an unexpected call from the White House on Wednesday with the offer of Obama as commencement speaker.

Barnard had previously announced that New York Times Executive Editor Jill Abramson would be commencement speaker. According to the college's statement, Abramson, the Times' first female executive editor, is "happy to speak at Barnard at a later date."

"Jill Abramson was our choice this year. We went with her, we were delighted to get her," Spar said. "So this was really a surprise."

Spar said in her statement that while students will no longer be able to receive unlimited tickets to commencement, every student

will get at least six tickets. The ceremony will probably be held on South Lawn.

BARNARD/COLUMBIA DIVIDE

Barnard students were elated to hear that Obama would be their commencement speaker, but the announcement left many Columbia College students in disbelief. Obama is a graduate of Columbia College, and Columbia students have tried for the last three years to convince him to speak at his alma mater.

"I'm a little jealous, but I don't understand people who are bitter."

—Laura Fisher, CC '14

"It's going to be really exciting to see him live," Eva Vaillancourt, BC '12, said. "He's kind of a rock star. I still consider myself a supporter, and I'll be supporting him in the election."

"I think it's going to be a great way to end college," Alexa Jaccarino, BC '12, said, adding that she expects Obama to talk about "something hopeful, something inspiring ... I guess something with a minor feminist bent, because he does have a lot of platforms that have to do with women's rights."

SEE OBAMA, page 3

Rosy outlook for thriving Harlem flower shops

BY ALESSANDRA POBLADOR AND ELIZABETH SUN
Columbia Daily Spectator

It's not yet spring, but the Harlem flower trade is already in full bloom.

Several fixtures in the Harlem flower scene have closed down during the economic recession, but others have weathered the storm, adapting to the downturn with community support and working to cater to modern flower preferences.

"There seems to be a renaissance right now, in terms of a lot of businesses opening up," said Franz Adams, a co-owner

of Franz James Floral Boutique. "People want us to succeed. People want us to have the doors stay open."

From Katrina Parris Flowers, which has been open for a decade, to newer shops like Harlem Flo and Franz James, florists have found creative ways to offer a product that they believe will always be in demand.

LOCAL SUPPORT

Floral shops have a rich history in Harlem, a community that has long appreciated and embraced flowers, but the flower industry took a hit during the

SEE SHOPS, page 2

Local businessman Ken Biberaj enters City Council race

BY DAPHNE CHEN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Ken Biberaj, the latest candidate in the hotly contested race for an Upper West Side City Council race, lacks the local political experience of the other candidates but is stressing his business experience and personal commitment to the area.

Biberaj registered for the race last month and officially launched his campaign on Wednesday. He is the vice president and spokesperson at RTR Funding Group, Inc., which owns the iconic Russian Tea Room restaurant in Midtown Manhattan.

"I saw that 2013 was going to be a real opportunity for new people and new leadership with

a fresh perspective," Biberaj told Spectator. "It seems like it's going to be a competitive field, and I provide an alternative to everybody else."

Biberaj is one of four candidates looking to replace City Council member Gale Brewer, who is running for Manhattan borough president. He will face former Community Board 7 chairs Mel Wymore and Helen Rosenthal as well as Democratic Party District Leader Marc Landis in the November 2013 election.

Unlike Wymore and Rosenthal, Biberaj has not been active in the community board or local government. And at 32, Biberaj is 17 years younger than the next youngest candidate—Wymore and Landis are both 49, and Rosenthal is 51.

"I think people appreciate and understand that it's OK to

work in business and now kind of step forward and use all those experiences to effectuate change," Biberaj said. "The community, when they get to know me better, will see that I'm a hardworking, dedicated young person who is married and lives here, came here because the West Side is so amazing, and wants to make sure the community is strong for my kids."

Biberaj said his most pressing concerns are quality-of-life issues—including reducing crime and traffic—improving the education system, and creating jobs for small businesses with "smart solutions."

For example, Biberaj noted that in order to get help from the city Department of Business, small-business owners need to hire an expediter who knows how to navigate the

government bureaucracy, which he said doesn't make sense.

"For someone who's running a small business, who needs to get something done, it just creates additional cost that they have to hire someone else to do it," Biberaj said. "I hope to be able to make it a little easier for small businesses to operate and get started."

Biberaj also emphasized that he would continue some of Brewer's policy initiatives.

"Technology was also a large issue for Brewer, and it'd be one of those issues that I'd like to pick up for her—and that goes to everything, from access to broadband to creating a workforce that can fill tech-related jobs," Biberaj said. "We are becoming the Silicon [Valley] of the East."

SEE BIBERAJ, page 3



HANNAH MONTVOYA / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BEST BUDS | James Gaeta, a co-owner of Franz James Floral Boutique, said that the flower industry is continuing to prosper.

OPINION, PAGE 4

Like an ex-boyfriend

Initially, it's difficult for CC'ers not to be emotional over Obama's decision.

A ladies' man

Obama's speaking at Barnard is a show of support for women's rights.



SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Lions close season on high note

After Friday's overtime loss to Harvard in front of a sold-out crowd, the Light Blue bounced back versus Dartmouth to send the seniors out with a win.

EVENTS

Your global thoughts?

Discuss momentous world events from 2011 during the Committee on Global Thought's undergraduate forum.

Broadway Room, Lerner Hall, 6:15 p.m.

Women in science and engineering

Join Women in Science to talk about female scientists throughout history.

711 Havemeyer Hall, 7 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



43° / 27°

Tomorrow



45° / 36°

Flourishing flower shops rely on local support

SHOPS from front page

economic recession. Several longtime flower shops have shut down, including the decades-old Carolina Flower Shop Too, which closed last summer.

But Harlem Flo, Franz James, and Katrina Parris have weathered the storm—in part, they say, by connecting with their customers.

Florists at Harlem Flo said they have maintained a stable client base, which has helped them make it through the tough economic times. Owner Louis Gagliano said that his favorite part of his job is “working with the clients and being able to deliver quality products.”

“Having that connection with the client, they’re going trust you,” he said.

The owners of Franz James, too, said that their relationships with customers have helped them keep the shop open and that they pride themselves on connecting with their customers at a personal level.

“It’s a very emotional transaction that you have with people,” Katrina Parris Flowers’ owner, Katrina Parris, said. “To convey emotions is not something that you can take lightly. We play a little part in a milestone for people.”

Gagliano said he has a positive outlook for the floral industry, even if “the scale of what was done in the past is [not] going to happen again.”

“Life is going to continue—births, celebrations, weddings,” he said. “It’s part of a lifestyle, an appreciation, and for the simple sense of the beauty.”

BLOOMING BUSINESS

Katrina Parris Flowers gets its flowers from places as far away as South America and Thailand, as well as locally. The shop’s owner was featured in a 2005 edition of O, The Oprah Magazine, for reinventing herself and starting a new career

as a florist.

Located on Seventh Avenue between 119th and 120th streets, Katrina Parris Flowers has been in business for 10 years. It has created floral arrangements for actress Kerry Washington, rapper Sean “P. Diddy” Combs, and designer Salvatore Ferragamo.

Parris said that the Oprah Magazine profile helped bring the shop publicity.

“The notoriety helped with people knowing we were out there and that we existed,” Parris said.

Gagliano and Stefan Handl opened Harlem Flo, which is located at 123rd Street and Frederick Douglass Boulevard, in 2008. Its florists use seasonal flowers for individuals and events—both corporate and private—and to decorate interior and exterior spaces, such as buildings’ gardens and lobbies.

Gagliano said his favorite flowers are peonies, which bloom in late spring and early summer.

“Using seasonal flowers keeps the interest new throughout the year,” he said. “We typically do not have the same flowers all year around.”

Franz James Floral Boutique, located at 114th Street and Frederick Douglass Boulevard, is named for co-owners Franz Adams and James Gaeta. The boutique, which is operated entirely by Adams and Gaeta, celebrated its first anniversary on Valentine’s Day.

Gaeta said there is an increasing demand for flowers from around the world.

“People like to see flowers that they’ve never really seen before, instead of just carnations, mums, that kind of stuff,” he said.

According to Gagliano, Harlem Flo does not feel pressured by businesses like 1-800-FLOWERS and supermarkets that sell flowers more cheaply.

“I think it’s a totally different dynamic,” he said. “There’s nothing wrong with them, but the care that we put into

maintaining our flowers is continual.”

ADAPTING

Adams and Gaeta said that their mission is embodied by their motto, “Flowers as Art.” Gaeta, a third-generation florist, said that his unique style of floral designs, inspired by his work as a sculptor, is what sets Franz James Floral Boutique apart.

“These arrangements aren’t what you’re going to get at the regular flower shop,” Gaeta said. “It’s not just flower after flower, each one competing with the other. These are distinct designs.”

Gaeta said that the boutique caters to new sensibilities for creativity and design in arrangements. Once, he said, a woman walked into the boutique and asked for a dress made of flowers to wear to a Bjork concert.

“Our customers are more into modern stuff for their condominiums, accent pieces for their homes,” Gaeta said.

Gagliano said that Harlem Flo once catered an “Under the Sea” event at Chelsea Piers. His co-owner, Handl, has created a flower design that looked like a coral reef and finished a flower arrangement in the shape of a musical note last week.

“We translate the information into florals,” Gagliano said.

For Parris, selling commercial goods has helped her adjust to the economic downturn. Her shop sells T-shirts, bags, chocolates, vases, and other small home gifts in addition to flowers.

“You have to realize that flowers are a luxury item,” she said. “You had to do more with less, basically.”

Parris added that her shop receives orders from around the world, usually through its website. She said she once received a phone call from a man in London who asked her to set up flowers in Central Park so that he could propose to his girlfriend when he got to New York.

“You have to diversify,” she said. “You have to market yourself.”

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WANGYNE GUO FOR SPECTATOR

SENATE FLOOR | On Friday, the University Senate discussed the University’s new sexual misconduct policy, relationships between students and faculty members, and public course evaluations.

Senators discuss new sexual misconduct policy

USENATE from front page

Services for Gender-Based and Sexual Misconduct, gave a report on the new sexual misconduct policy adopted by the University last semester.

“We decided to make sure that students ... are aware of this shift in policy.”

—Melissa Tihinen,
senior manager,
sexual misconduct office

The policy was crafted in response to a letter sent by the Obama administration last spring, in the wake of several high-profile sexual misconduct

cases, reminding universities of federal Title IX requirements for preventing and responding to sexual harassment.

Tihinen mostly discussed the responsibility of faculty members and administrators to report instances of sexual misconduct that students tell them about.

“We decided to make sure that students and faculty and staff are aware of this shift in policy. We think it’s very important because we encourage all Columbia University students to come forward if they feel as if they experienced one of these forms of gender-based misconduct,” Tihinen said.

Tihinen also discussed her office’s efforts to spread the word about the University’s resources through fliers and training sessions with administrators.

Additionally, two representatives from the College of

Physicians and Surgeons discussed a proposal for new academic titles and tracks for Columbia University Medical Center faculty. Dean of the Faculties of Health Sciences and Medicine Lee Goldman and Vice Dean for Academic Affairs Anne Taylor said that the new titles will simplify the current system and make it more clear which faculty members are part-time and which are full-time.

At the end of the meeting, the senate voted to approve the establishment of the David and Helen Gurley Brown Institute for Media Innovation, a joint enterprise between Columbia’s Journalism School and Stanford University’s School of Engineering. Columbia and Stanford received a \$30 million gift to establish the center last month.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

MARCH

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | 01 | 02 | 03 |
| 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 |
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| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

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ALL EVENTS ARE WHEELCHAIR
ACCESSIBLE.

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03/06

**PUBLIC SPACE & PUBLIC
CONSCIOUSNESS**
6 PM

Event Oval, The Diana Center

03/21

PRIVATE BODIES, PUBLIC TEXTS
6:30 PM

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

03/21

**SALSA TRADITIONS IN THE
CARIBBEAN**
7 PM

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

03/22

STUDENT LIFE DURING WARTIME
World War II at Barnard College
12 PM

BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

03/22

**DOMINICAN YORK PROYECTO
GRÁFICA**
6 PM

Event Oval, Diana Center

03/23–03/24

**SENIOR CREATIVE THESIS DANCE
CONCERT**
7 PM

Minor Latham Playhouse, 118 Milbank Hall

03/28

**A NEW LOOK AT GLOBAL
ECOLOGY**
6:30 PM

Event Oval, The Diana Center

03/29

SPORTS & ETHNICITY
**Jewish and Palestinian Soccer
Teams in Argentina and Chile**
6 PM

Event Oval, The Diana Center

03/29

**THE GIRL WHO BURNED
THE BANKNOTES**
**Rural Women, Memory,
and China's Collective Past**
6:30 PM

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

BARNARD

THE LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE
FOR WOMEN
IN NEW YORK CITY

Biberaj looks to transition from business to local government

BIBERAJ from front page

Biberaj was born in the Bronx to parents who fled communist Albania in the 1960s. He credited his passion for public service to his father, Elez Biberaj, who delivered pizzas and drove taxis before becoming director of the Eurasia division of Voice of America, an international broadcasting organization funded by the United States government.

“I’m at the point in my life where this makes perfect sense for me to give it a shot.”

—Ken Biberaj,
City Council candidate

Elez received a doctorate in political science from Columbia. Inspired by his father, Biberaj went to American University for his undergraduate education and received a master’s in public policy from

Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government.

He later served as the political research director for Sen. John Kerry’s (D-Mass.) 2004 presidential campaign in Florida.

“At the last meeting [of the Kerry campaign], somebody made the offhanded remark it felt like yesterday was the [1988] Dukakis campaign,” Biberaj said. “And I realized suddenly that I love the campaign energy and feel, but I always had a greater passion for public service and governing and getting stuff done rather than the battle of the campaign.”

Biberaj returned to New York after the campaign ended to take on the job of reviving the Russian Tea Room.

“I decided it’d be important to get some business experience and dive a little deeper to become a potential better public servant later,” Biberaj said.

Biberaj has set up a website and hopes to take advantage of the rare open seat on the council, which Brewer is vacating due to term limits.

“I’m at the point in my life where this makes perfect sense for me to give it a shot,” he said.

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HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LOCAL LEADER | Ken Biberaj is running for a local City Council seat on a platform that includes supporting small businesses.

With ‘ambiguities’ in current policy, senators seek to ban relationships between students and their profs

POLICY from front page

“As I understand it, there really wasn’t an old policy, or at least not one that had any detail,” Kitcher said. “Columbia’s making it clear that this is just not tolerated.”

Associate Provost for Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Susan Rieger and Law School professor Carol Sanger drafted the new policy together, with help from CSW. Rieger made a presentation about the new policy at Friday’s University Senate meeting, saying that it has been “a long time

germinating.”

“It grew out of a conversation I had with Provost Alan Brinkley in 2006 on sexual harassment cases that came to the EO office and the blurry line between consensual relationships between students and faculty and sexually harassing ones,” Rieger said.

Proponents of the new policy believe that when a faculty member has any sort of power over a student, it is difficult to discern whether a sexual relationship is entirely consensual, as the student might fear negative repercussions if he or she

refuses the faculty member’s advances.

“It’s meant to alert faculty, to say, ‘Look, this is a really bad idea.’”

—Patricia Kitcher,
Philosophy professor

“Where there is a power differential between the parties,

these relationships are highly susceptible to being characterized as non-consensual or coercive,” Rieger said.

The new policy will be presented to the senate at the end of the month.

“We’re trying to make sure that Columbia is a safe place for women to study and to work,” Kitcher said.

The policy would apply to students and faculty members of both genders. Kitcher said that a relationship between a student and a faculty member could potentially ruin both of their careers—in addition to

creating an unfair situation for other students.

“It’s something third-graders understand—somebody who’s the teacher’s favorite,” she said. “It’s meant to alert faculty, to say, ‘Look, this is a really bad idea.’”

Rieger presented the policy to the senate’s Student Affairs Committee during its meeting last month. University Senator Jenna Miller, GSAPP and a CSW member, said that SAC is suggesting some edits to the policy.

“I think a lot of the issues beforehand were sort of these ambiguities,” Miller said. “We’ve

been trying to pick through everything and make sure it makes sense.”

CSW’s co-chairs will present the policy to the full senate at its March 30 plenary. The policy already has the support of the Faculty Affairs Committee, and it will likely gain the backing of additional senate committees before the plenary.

“New York is filled with other possible romantic partners,” Kitcher said. “It’s not a good idea to get involved with a professor.”

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Some students say Obama ignoring his alma mater

OBAMA from front page

Lauren Perrine, BC ’12, said she called her mother ecstatically when she heard that Obama would be speaking.

“Barnard has had a history of having great commencement speakers, and I think everyone in the class is really excited to have the president come and speak,” she said.

Barnard’s last four commencement speakers have been Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg, actress Meryl Streep, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

“All of us can be proud that President Obama, the first Columbia graduate to serve in the nation’s highest office, has chosen to honor the importance of women’s leadership by returning to campus at our historic sister liberal arts college for women in New York,” University President Lee Bollinger said in the Barnard statement.

But Obama’s decision to speak at Barnard has caused some heated reactions among Columbia students. Emilio Fajardo, CC ’15, said that the decision “seems like a slap in the face” to Columbia.

Over the last few years, there have been unsuccessful efforts to petition Obama to speak at Columbia. Sean Udell, CC ’11 and president of the class of 2011, spearheaded the POTUS Project, a campaign to convince Obama to speak at Columbia’s commencement ceremony last year.

“I’m shocked and happy that Barnard will get to have Obama speak at their commencement,” Udell said. “I’m quite disappointed, of course, that President Obama spoke to our sister school, instead of his alma mater.”

Donia Abdelaziz, CC ’12, said that women’s issues are as pertinent to Columbia students as they are to Barnard students.

“As a Columbia woman myself, I find it disappointing that he wouldn’t have thought to bring these issues to his alma mater,” Abdelaziz said.

Udell speculated that Obama has not spoken at Columbia either because he had a “poor

experience” here or because “speaking at an Ivy League university is not a particularly politically advantageous thing to do.” But considering that Obama is speaking at the country’s most selective women’s college, Udell said, it’s more likely that “he just really didn’t like Columbia.”

“It’s hard for students not to read this as an explicit rejection of the school that he went to,” Rui Yu, CC ’14, said.

Some Columbia College students, while disappointed, said they did not begrudge Barnard students the chance to hear Obama.

“I’m really excited for Barnard ... I’m a little jealous, but I don’t understand people who are bitter,” Laura Fisher, CC ’14, said.

TOPICAL ISSUES

Rachel Ferrari, BC ’13 and vice president of Barnard’s Student Government Association, said she was thrilled to learn that Obama would be speaking, especially because “women’s issues are becoming more of a topic of conversation.”

“It’s very in the moment for him to do this,” Ferrari said. “I think it’s a very appropriate time.”

The inclusion of contraceptives in health insurance plans has recently become a national political issue. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, passed by Congress in 2010, requires employers to cover preventative care—including contraceptives—in their health insurance plans, but following criticism from religious leaders and conservative politicians, the Obama administration announced last month that churches and other religious organizations would be exempt from this mandate.

Virginia’s state legislature also made headlines last week when it passed a bill requiring women to undergo ultrasounds before having abortions, except in cases where the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest. Spar said Obama probably wanted to speak at Barnard this year because women’s issues have been in the news.

“I think clearly and somewhat surprisingly, women’s issues have

just blown into the political debate this year in ways that are pretty unexpected,” Spar said. “It’s hard to imagine we’re still debating contraception in 2012 ... but here we are.”

Spar added that these debates are especially shocking for her because she has spent time talking to women who were on campus in the late 1960s, which she described as “the searing moment in history” for women’s rights.

“They were really deeply marked by the struggle for reproductive rights, for access to abortion,” she said. “It’s pretty stunning that these debates would be coming back more than 40 years later.”

A White House official told the New York Times that “as the father of two daughters, President Obama wanted to speak to some of America’s next generation of women leaders.”

Over the last three years, Barnard has frequently collaborated with Obama administration officials in its efforts to highlight women’s leadership. In addition to speaking at Barnard commencement in 2009, Clinton spoke at the Women in Public Service conference, which was hosted by the State Department, Barnard, and four other women’s colleges in December. Twelve Barnard students attended the Washington, D.C. conference.

Valerie Jarrett, a senior adviser to Obama, headlined a day-long forum on women in business held at Barnard’s Diana Center last month.

At the commencement ceremony, Obama will receive a Barnard Medal of Distinction from Spar, as will CARE USA President and CEO Helene D. Gayle, BC ’76; Freedom to Marry founder Evan Wolfson; and Barnard chemistry professor Sally Chapman. Spar said she is not sure whether Obama’s family—including his half-sister, Maya Soetoro-Ng, BC ’93—will attend commencement.

Lillian Chen, Audrey Greene, Adam Koling, Avantika Kumar, Margaret Mattes, Amanda Stibel, and Mikey Zhong contributed reporting.

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The promised debate

I signed up to go on Birthright mostly for the offer of a free, 10-day trip to a foreign country, although I understand that this admission makes me come off as both extremely Jewish and just a little bit anti-Semitic. As an NPR-listening socialist who refuses to self-identify as a Democrat but secretly still loves Obama, I was completely cognizant of the inevitable catch to my all-expenses paid trip to the Promised Land: indoctrination by the Israeli government. Still, I overlooked this small caveat, knowing that the reward for surviving endless sessions of attempted brainwashing would be access to the best falafel in the world.

On the second day of the trip, I had only had one falafel laffa when I found myself sitting in a Jerusalem auditorium, surrounded by thousands of other Birthrights jingoistically waving miniature Israeli flags while anxiously awaiting a live appearance from Benjamin “Bibi” Netanyahu himself. I thought to myself, “Leo, that one falafel was better than all your street cart falafels ever combined, but what the hell have you gotten yourself into?” I feared Stockholm Syndrome, and rightfully so. When I touched down at Logan 10 days later, my father was so perturbed by my transformation that he rushed me home, where he had a copy of “The Battle of Algiers” waiting for this very occasion. His attempts at exorcising my Zionist indoctrination were futile, though—it was too late.

That was an absurdly exaggerated description, but it was on par with the average discourse regarding Israel on campus. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict may very well be the only truly divisive issue here at Columbia, and for that reason, few people are willing to discuss it. The people who eagerly discuss Israel tend to do so in an uncivil fashion. I’m sick and tired of this sad truth. People should be able to talk about Israel here in a manner and environment that doesn’t have more tension than the Cold War had and more empty rhetoric than a Romney stump speech has. Against my own best instinct, I’m going to try and inject rationality back into the debate.

Growing up in a town so Jewish it was once referred to in a “Family Guy” episode, I was exposed from a very young age to how close-minded any discussion on Israel could easily become. I vowed never to fall into this trap, instead choosing the path of objectivity. I found myself always playing devil’s advocate in discussions on Israel. When I was talking with pro-Isrealis, I would take the Palestinian side, and vice versa. I didn’t hold a passionate position on the issue—just a contrarian view.

Last year, when I was a Spectator associate editorial page



LEO SCHWARTZ

Rationalizing the Irrational

editor, we received an endless stream of articles on the issue. I would patiently sift through the vitriol in search of rational discussion. The two main culprits, LionPAC and Students for Justice in Palestine, are both made up of intelligent, passionate people, albeit stubborn and inflammatory. I grew increasingly frustrated. Each side relies on a self-debilitating crux.

The pro-Palestinian groups, instead of arguing the merits of self-determinism, constantly use the tri-pronged tactic of making the term Zionism a pejorative, classifying Israel as a racist apartheid state, and performing elaborate, attention-seeking stunts like the wall and the mock checkpoints. The pro-Israeli groups, instead of unilaterally admitting to any Israeli wrongdoings, always use a “necessary evil” justification. Whenever they offer olive branches to the pro-Palestinian groups, such as the offer to co-sponsor events, they do so knowing that their branch will be rejected—a brilliant way to take the moral high ground, but an empty gesture nonetheless.

What depresses me is that I know the moderate voice exists, but it gets drowned out by the two sides entrenched on either side of College Walk, refusing to cede any ground. Spending 10 days in Israel only further proved the existence of the moderate voice. After my initial scare from Netanyahu’s speech (fully equipped with—no joke—dancers and pyrotechnics), the rest of the trip proved surprisingly bereft of propaganda, not counting the constant underlying pressure to find a Jewish wife and make many Jewish children. I was able to engage in productive, rational debate with everyone from my trip leader—a colonel in the Israeli Defense Forces—to our six peer soldiers who accompanied us. They never justified the right to a Jewish state and Israel in religious terms, but in historical and cultural ones. They saw the need for Palestinian self-determinism and an end to the occupation. Even in the very source of all this contention, I did not find colonialist, racist Zionists. If moderate discussion is possible in Israel, surely it is possible at Columbia.

I offer no solutions to how this can be possible—LionPAC will never admit that Israel is an apartheid state, and subsequently C-SJP will continue to snub them. I encourage the rational among us, though, to choose to rise above their form of debate, which is little more than yelling an opinion while ignoring the response. My only desire is to see a productive, respectful dialogue of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on campus, although I understand that an equivalent would be asking for a panel of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Jim Gilchrist, and ex-Dean Michele Moody-Adams. If I accomplished anything with this column, though, hopefully I redirected all of C-SJP and LionPAC’s ire away from each other toward myself. Only the inevitably vibrant comment thread will tell.

Leo Schwartz is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in political science and Latin American studies. He sits on the editorial board. Rationalizing the Irrational runs alternate Mondays.

A broken heart

BY SEAN UDELL

Saturday was a frustrating night. Two months after being dumped by my first “serious” boyfriend, I had finally mustered the courage to see him again. I had many high hopes for what might be said that evening—would he spontaneously profess his love for me? Would he say he was sorry? Would he acknowledge that being single isn’t really that cool? Instead of living up to my wildest fantasies, however, my ex-boyfriend opted to ignore me for most of the night, and I left our re-encounter wishing that he had done something much more basic: acknowledge that I existed and that I still cared about him.

Saturday was a frustrating day. One year after President Barack Obama, CC ’83, had officially snubbed CCSC 2011 and President Bollinger’s joint invitation to speak at University Commencement, Columbia College students and alumni heard that the American president would be coming to a Morningside Heights commencement this spring. Would he profess his love for Columbia? Would he say he was sorry for the thrice-declined invitation to speak at Commencement? Would he acknowledge that being Alma Mater-less isn’t really that cool? Instead of living up to our wildest fantasies, however, President Obama opted to ignore us in the most public way possible—he personally asked to speak at our sister school’s commencement, even when Barnard had never seriously considered him as a potential graduation speaker.

If I were to continue the ex-boyfriend comparison here, President Obama’s over-the-top way of ignoring us is analogous to a scenario wherein my ex would find my best friend and make out with him, unsolicited, as I would watch, dumbfounded.

Lucky for me, my ex-boyfriend has better manners. He would know that it would be more polite to find some random gentleman on another night when I was not around.

That said, would we want the president to take a page from my ex-boyfriend’s book? As a former student and alumnus who loves our University, I could not advocate for an alternative in which President Obama speaks at neither Columbia’s nor Barnard’s commencements. Surely there are many Columbia College students and alumni like myself who feel hurt by

President Obama’s decision, and I’ve used this boyfriend analogy because I do believe there is an element of heartbreak to the story. It’s official—President Obama is just not that into us. Like someone who has been dumped, we’re full of sadness with an extra side of rage.

At this point in writing this op-ed, I got up from my desk, made a fresh cup of coffee, ripped open the curtains in my bedroom, and challenged myself to think more rationally and critically about the President’s commencement address decision. Why do we feel so betrayed and entitled? Sure, we tried to win him over last year with the POTUS Project, but we were trying to win him over, not win him back. Hell, many of us were not even born when the president graduated from Columbia, and most of us have little concept of what the University was like when the president attended as a student. Between 1981 and 1983, when President Obama was a Columbia College student, females were not allowed to attend CC, the college was not considered a “residential college” and did not have a housing guarantee, and—if you can believe it—the University took undergraduate education even less seriously than it does today. For these reasons and more, it seems that the Columbia experience that recent alumni and current students know is far different from that of President Obama, and the sense of obligation that we have invented for him may just be an irrational fantasy that has managed to envelope us and create a false sense of entitlement.

Considering that, I’m going to do my best to congratulate Barnard, its students, and its alumnae for their opportunity to have President Obama speak at their commencement. Barnard is an extraordinarily important institution, and we are especially reminded of this at a time when women’s rights have come under a tremendous political assault. Though the pain of heartbreak persists, let us do our best to let rationality prevail and celebrate the president’s decision to use this country’s most selective women’s college as a platform to champion women’s rights.

The author graduated from Columbia College in 2011. He was the senior class president of Columbia College class of 2011 and the leader of the POTUS Project, a campaign to convince President Obama to speak at the 253rd University Commencement. He is a 2011 Teach For America corps member and currently teaching middle school special education in Denver, Colo.

Taking a stand for women’s rights

BY JANINE BALEKDJIAN
AND SAMANTHA GILBERT

President Barack Obama is burnishing his reputation as a ladies’ man.

No, we’re not talking about his smile, or his salt-and-pepper hair, or even his surprising singing ability. We’re talking about the best kind of ladies’ man—one who respects women and advocates for women’s rights and health. President Obama’s decision to speak at Barnard’s commencement address is the latest in a series of high-profile presidential maneuvers and statements designed to show his dedication to women’s rights at a time when they’ve been so repugnantly assaulted. And he certainly has us convinced.

There’s no doubt that that the Republican members of the 112th Congress, as well as conservative leaders nationwide (yes, we’re looking at you, Rush Limbaugh), have been waging a war on women—because complaining about abortion is a lot easier than, say, actually helping the economic recovery. 2011 was the worst year for women’s health since Roe v. Wade—92 pieces of legislation were passed at the state or federal level impeding reproductive health, and unfortunately, what we’ve seen of 2012 looks like it’s headed in the same wrong direction. Unbelievably, the biggest debate this year in Congress has been over access to contraception, prompting some truly disgusting commentary—like a Santorum donor’s remark that instead of worrying about birth control and pregnancy, young women should just “put an aspirin between their knees” and call it a day. It’s absurd that at a time when the national unemployment rate is 8.3 percent and an uprising in Syria is occurring, the American government is debating issues that were supposedly settled over 40 years ago.

Supporters of women’s rights nationwide can take heart that the president is firmly among their number. President Obama made the decision to mandate coverage of birth control by all healthcare plans under the Affordable Care Act this summer, and since then, he has repeatedly, publicly, and unequivocally affirmed his support for universal birth control coverage, regardless of where a woman may work or study. President Obama’s decision to come to Barnard speaks not only to the high quality of the students in the class of 2012, but also to the President’s continued dedication to accomplishing at the national level what Barnard has always hoped to achieve with each graduating class: the advancement and empowerment of women.

President Obama’s commitment to women’s rights is clearly genuine and heartfelt, but it is also politically advantageous. With the GOP taking increasingly extremist stands on topics like abortion, birth control, and fetal personhood, women—even conservative ones—are less than impressed. Mitt Romney’s popularity among women has dropped precipitously, and Romney is arguably the most socially moderate of the Republican candidates. In 2008, the women’s vote broke 56-43 for President Obama, and he no doubt hopes to capitalize on Republican extremism to win even more women voters this year. Although, sadly, neither of us are Barnard seniors, we expect that his commencement speech will address women’s rights and reproductive health directly and draw parallels between Barnard’s emphasis on female empowerment and the Democratic Party’s support of women’s rights.

Many members of the undergraduate community are saddened to hear that the president has chosen to speak at Barnard’s commencement as opposed that of his alma mater, Columbia College. But Columbia students from whichever college should recognize that this decision isn’t a presidential snub—it’s sending a message to the rest of the nation. By speaking at one of the most premier women’s colleges in the nation, he is recognizing the importance of women’s rights during a moment of public condemnation.

The 2012 presidential election is eight months away. Women make up 50 percent of this country. We are the largest voting bloc in the electorate, yet too often our voices and freedoms are silenced. It is thrilling to know that President Obama chose to speak at a women’s college at a time when women’s rights have come under siege.

Janine Balekdjian is a Columbia College junior majoring in Slavic studies with a concentration in sociology. She is the president of the Columbia Democrats. Samantha Gilbert is a Barnard College first-year. She is the events coordinator for the Columbia Democrats.



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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Long-necked waders

7 Sgt. Friday's employer

11 Blow away

14 ___ pork: Chinese dish with pancakes

15 Fairy tale villain

16 Betty Crocker product

17 Click-and-drag tool

19 Impersonal pronoun

20 Barnyard brayer

21 Half an Orkan goodbye

22 Enjoyed, as a lollipop

24 Filming locations

26 More out of practice

28 Reunion attendee, briefly

30 Libyan or Liberian, e.g.

34 Tequila plant

37 Kimono sash

38 Hefty volume

39 Learner's permit prerequisite, often

43 Guitarist Hendrix

44 Reveal, in verse

45 Thick, like fog

46 Step on the gas

48 Jack of late-night TV

50 Legislative period

52 Mex. ladies

56 Samples a bit of

59 Univ. military org.

61 Dad's co-founder

62 Actress Gardner

63 Memorable surprise attack

66 Deafening noise

67 Sprinter's path

68 "Seinfeld" woman

69 Fruit drink ending

70 Egg foo ...

71 Name associated with the start of 17-, 39- or 63-Across

DOWN

1 Admires Watson and Thompson

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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Women's basketball drops 2 on the road

BY MUNEEB ALAM
Spectator Staff Writer

Over the past few weeks, the Lions (3-24, 1-12 Ivy) had been improving, taking a step forward with each game. This weekend, they took several steps backward in two losses, 88-64 at Harvard (16-11, 9-4 Ivy) and 87-52 at Dartmouth (6-21, 4-9 Ivy).

The Light Blue was unable to counter the Crimson's guarded attack. Sophomore guard Christine Clark led the way with 18 points for the Crimson. Junior forward Victoria Lippert had 13 points and 10 rebounds, and junior guard Elle Hagedorn had 11 points and 13 rebounds for the hosts, who raced out to a 24-6 lead less than 10 minutes into the game. The Lions made only three shots on 18 attempts over this stretch, going 0-of-9 in the initial five minutes.

Although Columbia outscored Harvard in the paint 28-26, the Crimson outrebounded the Light Blue by 23.

"Harvard's guards, they're taller than our guards, but we just didn't put the effort in," said senior guard and captain Jazmin Fuller. "We needed to box out."

Midway through the second half on Friday night, Lions senior guard Melissa Shafer set the program record for career three-pointers. With three treys in the game, she now has 163 in her career, two more than the previous record.

The following night, the Light Blue struggled in the paint once again and was unable to counter the Big Green's inside attack. Freshman center Tia Dawson had 11 points and 11 rebounds for Dartmouth, and freshman guard Milica Toskovic had 17 points and 13 rebounds.

"They have big, long-armed athletes," head coach Paul Nixon said. "We didn't do a good job of creating passing angles with our dribble, using ball fakes, the things that we need to do to break down a big zone."

The Big Green scored 30 fast-break points as the Lions committed 24 turnovers.

"Our transition defense against Dartmouth was terrible," Nixon said. "We were just very, very slow getting back, and they got a lot of breakaway layups, one-on-zero-, or two-on-one-type opportunities."

Columbia had not surrendered as many as 87 points in a game since it gave up 94

to Princeton on Jan. 15. Both Dartmouth and Harvard shot over 45 percent from the field and made at least 20 free throws.

Junior guard/forward Tyler Simpson continued her strong play by posting 11 points in Cambridge and 18 points with seven rebounds in Hanover. Shafer scored 12 points against Harvard, but went scoreless at Dartmouth. Sophomore guard Taylor Ward scored in double figures in both games, with 12 in each.

"I thought they did an excellent job both nights of really, first of all, coming out and taking our primary strengths in our offense," Nixon said.

On Tuesday night, Columbia will close its season with a road contest against Cornell (11-16, 5-8 Ivy), which will be looking to snap a three-game skid. The Big Red won at Leaven in the Lions' second Ivy game, 54-44.

Regardless of Tuesday's outcome, the Light Blue will finish last in the Ivy League, with its worst conference record since its two-win 2005-2006 campaign.

"Me and Melissa definitely want to go out on a more positive note," said Fuller. "We'll do whatever we can to get the win."



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HOT SHOTS | Senior guard Melissa Shafer and junior guard/forward Tyler Simpson had notable games.

3 wrestlers qualify for NCAA tournament

BY ELI SCHULTZ
Spectator Staff Writer

In a bittersweet weekend for the wrestling team, three Lions earned NCAA tournament bids at the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association Championships, while three others finished one spot short of qualification.

Senior Kevin Lester was the Light Blue's top finisher, taking third place in the heavyweight bracket. Juniors Steve Santos and Jake O'Hara also earned bids at 149 and 157 pounds, respectively. Columbia finished sixth in the 14-team field with a team score of 78.5.

Seeded fourth, Santos was the Lions' second-highest seed going into the tournament. He fell to fifth-seeded Penn freshman

Stephen Robertson in the second round, but performed well in the consolation bracket to earn fourth place and a tournament bid.

O'Hara, the sixth seed at 157, was knocked into the consolation bracket after losing to second-seeded Harvard junior Walter Peppelman. He bounced back and wrestled his way to a fifth-place finish to earn a bid.

Lester, like Santos and O'Hara, got his first loss early in the tournament and earned his spot thanks to a strong performance in the consolation bracket. In one of his more memorable wins, Lester defeated Penn sophomore and third seed Steven Graziano to earn a place in the third-place match, in which Lester defeated No. 6 Navy junior Daniel Miller.

Junior Stephen West, seeded third at 174 pounds, was the Lions' top seed entering the tournament. However, with the top four finishers at 174 slated to earn tournament bids, West finished fifth. But West still has a chance of earning an at-large bid based on his strong regular season performance.

At 133 pounds, in which the top five earned tournament bids, senior Kyle Gilchrist finished sixth. Sophomore Matt Bystol also finished one spot shy of qualifying, taking seventh at 141.

The only other Columbia wrestler to finish in the top 10 was senior Eren Civan, who took eighth at 165 pounds.

Regardless of who gets the at-large bids, the Lions will have at least three wrestlers heading to St. Louis later this month.

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CU ends season with win over Dartmouth

MEN'S BBALL
from back page

the pair of big men combined for 35 points and 12 rebounds.

"They played really well, and that, I guess, ultimately led to them winning," Cisco said after the game.

While the next night went much better for Columbia, it was not an easy win. Like nearly all of the Light Blue's conference games, the score was tight throughout the whole game. Both teams struggled offensively in the first half, with the Lions hitting just 34.6 percent of their shots and the Big Green just 36.4 percent. At the half, Columbia led 23-22.

"I think there was just a little bit of a hangover as much as anything, and I was a bit worried about that," Smith said, explaining the slow start.

Sophomore guard Meiko Lyles took over in the second half, scoring 20 of his 23 points after the break. He was 4-of-4 from beyond the arc in the second half.

"He's done that for us in a

lot of games where he's taken over and just banged a bunch of shots—no different tonight," Smith said.

His biggest bucket of the night came with 1:34 left on the clock. After Dartmouth countered a Barbour trey with a three-point play by freshman forward Jvonte Brooks, Lyles found himself open and fired up a three, shaking off Dartmouth once again and putting Columbia up 57-53.

"I felt like I was open for a split second. And coach, he puts a lot of confidence in us to rise to the occasion, and I felt like it was a good shot there," Lyles said.

Lyles' three-pointer was followed by a hook shot by Cisco that put the Lions up 59-53 with 41 seconds to play, essentially putting the game out of reach for the Big Green. Cisco had a quiet game, but finished the night with 15 points and nine rebounds.

"He's kind of a warthog—he needs both halves to get it going," Smith said of Cisco after the game. "His size, he's flopping around out there, fundamentally unsound, somehow it ends up that's what

his line looks like: 15 and nine."

Thanks to some strong performances by the younger players, seniors Chris Crockett, Matt Johnson, Blaise Staab, and Egee all got a win in their final collegiate game. Smith started all four players on their final night in Levien and praised them as a group after the game for raising the bar for the program.

"College basketball is great for what it teaches you," Smith said. "You're going to be tested mentally and physically and how you handle adversity and how you handle success. These guys, although their roles have varied over their careers and even this year, they kept a good attitude and worked hard."

Smith had particularly kind words for his senior captain Egee, who was sitting next to his coach in the postgame press conference.

"The guys look up to him, and even though he didn't play as much as he would have liked or whatever, he was always there and always is awesome," Smith said. "So, he'll do well in life."

YAN CONG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

OUT WITH A BANG | Junior guard Brian Barbour helped the team's seniors end their college basketball careers with a win over Dartmouth to put the Light Blue at an even 15-15 on the season.

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Lions capture third at Ivy Championships

BY ERIC WONG
Spectator Staff Writer

The freshmen swimmers excelled once again, leading the Lions to a third-place finish at the 2012 Ivy League Championships for men's swimming and diving. This marks the third consecutive year in which the Light Blue has finished third at Ivies. Along the way, freshmen Omar Arafa and Jeremie DeZwirek took home Ivy League titles with wins in the 100-yard backstroke and the 200 backstroke, respectively. Arafa finished second in the preliminaries behind Princeton freshman Michael Strand and then came back to outtouch Strand by 14 milliseconds in the final, with a time of 47.35 seconds. A similar situation played out in the 200 backstroke, with DeZwerik finishing behind Princeton senior Colin Cordes in the preliminaries, but winning the finals in a time of 1:44.66.

Other notable performances included senior Robert Eyckmans finishing second in

the 200 IM with a time of 3:51.11 and fifth in the 200 breaststroke in 1:59.26. In the finals of the 100 freestyle, Arafa finished second, with freshman Dominik Koll following him in sixth and freshman Daniel Gosek touching the wall eighth.

All of the swimmers contributed points during the meet. Freshman Stanley Wong placed in the B finals of both the 50 freestyle and the 100 breaststroke. Freshman Alex Ngan swam in the C finals for the 50 freestyle and the 100 butterfly. Other swimmers that swam in the finals of an event included senior Bruno Esquen, sophomore Eric Traub, sophomore Andrew Wood, freshman Stephen Raynes, freshman David Jakl, and sophomore Harry Stephenson.

The divers all scored points—junior Jason Collazo placed second in the B finals of the one-meter dive, and freshman Micah Rembrandt finished right behind him in third. Sophomore Michaelangelo Borghi also picked up nine points with a 17th-place

finish. Collazo won the B finals of the three-meter dive.

Unfortunately for the Lions, the 400-yard medley relay team of Arafa, sophomore Matt Swallow, Esquen, and junior John Wright was disqualified, causing the Light Blue to miss about 50 points. The other relay teams all performed well, with the 400 freestyle relay team of Arafa, Gosek, Koll, and Wright tying for second place with Princeton. The 200 freestyle relay team of Wong, Gosek, Ngan, and Wright finished third with a time of 1:20.49. The 800 freestyle relay team of Jakl, Arafa, Wright, and Koll also finished third with a time of 6:29.72.

The Lions finished the meet with 1,107.5 points, behind first-place Princeton and second-place Harvard.

By virtue of their first-place finishes, Arafa and DeZwirek were named to the All-Ivy first team. Second-place finishers Eyckmans and the 400 freestyle relay squad of Arafa, Gosek, Koll and Wright were named to the All-Ivy second team.



KATE SCARBROUGH / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

KING KYLE | Senior middle distance runner Kyle Merber posted a sub-four minute mile this weekend.

Indoor season ends with Last Chance Meet

BY MELISSA CHEUNG
Spectator Staff Writer

One week after the Ivy League Heptagonal Championships, the men's and women's track and field teams hosted the Columbia Last Chance Meet, one of the final opportunities to qualify for the NCAA Indoor Championships. Although no Lion on either the men's or women's side earned a qualifying mark to compete next week, the results were promising signs for the upcoming outdoor season.

"I feel real good about the way these kids competed. We had a number of PRs across the board," assistant coach Will Boylan-Pett said.

On the men's side, seniors Kyle Merber and Jason Marks had standout performances on Saturday night. Merber ran the

second sub-four-minute mile of his career, and Marks set a new Columbia record in the pole vault after clearing 4.95 meters on his third attempt.

"I got a big confidence boost from yesterday. It's a great way to enter the outdoor season," Marks said about his performance.

For Merber, the accomplishment was bittersweet. His mile time of 3 minutes, 59.44 seconds left him just short of qualifying for the national championships.

"I'm really looking forward to the outdoor season more than before. I'm more motivated," Merber said.

On the women's side, junior Emily Lanois ran a personal best in the 3,000-meter race, and freshman Madeline Rathbun posted a career best in the 800.

Heading into the outdoor season, Light Blue coaches and

athletes alike believe the success of the indoor season will carry with them as they move outside.

"Considering they won Ivies, that's the expectation," Coach Boylan-Pett said about the women's side. "The pieces are definitely there. They've really become a tight-knit group, and they'll keep building on that."

For one Lion, the indoor season is still not over. Freshman Waverly Neer will compete in the NCAA Indoor Championships next week, after qualifying in the 3,000 at the 2012 Boston University Valentine Invitational with a school record of 9:08.72.

As for the men's team, Merber thinks that the Lions' consistency in the indoor season will serve as a stepping stone.

"I hope we continue what we've been doing, because we're all very happy about it," he said.



ALYSON GOULDEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

STROKE OF GENIUS | Freshman Jeremie DeZwirek's 1:44.66 time in the 200-yard backstroke was the best at Ivies this weekend. Because of his first-place finish, he was named to the all-Ivy first team.

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SPORTS BRIEFLY

SOFTBALL

The Lions (1-3) endured a difficult opening weekend, losing their last three games after beating Louisiana Tech (9-9) 5-4 on Friday. They recovered from a three-run deficit to the Bulldogs and won thanks to a two-RBI double from freshman catcher Liz Caggiano in the seventh inning. The next game, the Light Blue allowed eight runs in the third inning of its 11-1 loss to Mississippi State (11-5). The Lions played Mississippi State again on Saturday and had a 4-1 lead before allowing seven fourth-inning runs, finishing the game with a 12-4 loss. Columbia concluded its weekend with a game against Samford (4-9), surrendering 16 hits in a 13-1 loss.

—Josh Shenkar

LACROSSE

The Light Blue (1-2, 0-1 Ivy) dropped its conference opener 14-10 to Brown (2-1, 1-0 Ivy) this weekend. Despite scoring first in both halves, the Lions were unable to build on their momentum, as Brown responded with two quick goals early in the first quarter and four straight—all unassisted—over the course of four minutes during the second. Columbia outshot the Bears 23-21, but Brown senior goalkeeper Isabel Harvey had a good performance and stopped nearly half the shots on goal she faced. Columbia junior attacker Kacie Johnson led all players with six points on four goals and two assists, and senior midfielder Taylor Gattinella added three goals and an assist for the Lions. Senior attacker Kaela McGilloway had three goals and two assists for the Bears. Columbia returns to action Saturday at Cornell.

—Muneeb Alam

WOMEN’S TENNIS

The No. 65 Lions fell to Memphis 5-2 on Saturday at Columbia’s Dick Savitt Tennis Center. Singles player sophomore Bianca Sanon soundly defeated Mariya Slupska, 7-5, 6-1. Although Sanon and fellow sophomore Tiana Takenaga lost their doubles matchup 8-6, they put up a considerable fight against the No. 28 duo in the top doubles position. With this loss, the Light Blue drops to 5-3 on the season. In their next matchup, the Lions will head to Florida to face Southern Mississippi on March 15 and Florida International on March 18.



—Caroline Bowman



MEN’S SQUASH




This weekend, freshman Ramit Tandon competed in the 2012 CSA Individual National Championships for men’s squash and finished as the runner-up. Tandon made a run all the way to the finals, where he faced off against Harvard sophomore Ali Farag, the top-seeded player in the tournament. To get to the finals, Tandon toppled Yale senior Ryan Dowd and Yale junior Kenneth Chan on Friday before beating Rochester junior Andres Duany on Saturday. In the semifinals, Tandon squared off against last year’s national champion, Princeton junior Todd Harrity. Earlier this season, during Ivy play, Tandon upset Harrity, 11-7, 11-5, 11-6. This time, Tandon won in four games, 11-6, 11-5, 7-11, 11-5, in order to meet Farag for the individual title. Farag beat Tandon in three games, 11-10, 11-8, 11-4, to win the championship. Tandon ended his season at No. 2 in the nation, the best finish for a Columbia squash player in the varsity program’s short history.




—Rebeka Cohan


SCOREBOARD


| | |
|---|---|
| MEN’S BASKETBALL | |
|  | Columbia70 Harvard 77 (OT) |
|  | Columbia 61 Dartmouth 55 |


| | |
|---|--|
| WOMEN’S BASKETBALL | |
|  | Columbia64 Harvard88 |
|  | Columbia52 Dartmouth 87 |


| | |
|---|---|
| BASEBALL | |
|  | Columbia0 The Citadel2 |
|  | Columbia11 The Citadel 7 |
|  | Columbia 4 The Citadel 5 |

| | |
|---|---|
| SOFTBALL | |
|  | Columbia 1 Mississippi St.11 |
|  | Columbia 4 Mississippi St. 12 |
|  | Columbia 5 Louisiana Tech4 |

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| LACROSSE | |
|  | Columbia10 Brown 14 |

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| WOMEN’S TENNIS | |
|  | Columbia2 Memphis 5 |

| | |
|---|---|
| WRESTLING | |
|  | Finished sixth at the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association Championships |

| | |
|---|--|
| TRACK AND FIELD | |
|  | No one qualified for the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships |

| | |
|---|--|
| MEN’S SWIMMING AND DIVING | |
|  | Finished third at Ivy League Championships |

Awe at Lin’s presence reveals media trend

CARUSO from back page

There’s also something to be said for the role that proximity plays in whom we consider celebrities. This is especially clear in the case of James Franco. My freshman year, a girl on my floor snapped a picture of him at the library, but it was later revealed that she had never even seen one of his movies. Because he was nearby, Franco’s presence inspired some heavy bandwagoning—people cared about him because he was a celebrity, not because he had actually done anything that they saw as noteworthy. Kim Kardashian and Paris Hilton aside, most celebrities are celebrities because they’re particularly good or memorable at their craft. But once they have achieved that status, an incredibly superficial fanbase often develops. In the case of Jeremy Lin, it’s no different—even on Facebook, I saw at least 20 people posting about Lin being at the game, but only one even mentioned that the Lions lost, let alone that the game went into overtime.

In a month or two, Jeremy Lin may not be around every corner, in every window I pass, and on every TV in New York. He will eventually fade out of the limelight, and someone new will step in. Let’s just hope the new guy has a name that allows for some solid wordplay.

Tom Caruso is a Columbia College junior majoring in economics-mathematics. sports@columbiaspectator.com

MONDAY MORNING POINT GUARD

GAME BALL

Against Harvard on Friday, junior guard Brian Barbour scored 23 points, including the game-tying layup with 33 seconds left in regulation.

week # 9

GAME-WORN

Spike Lee asked for Barbour’s No. 10 jersey after Friday’s game.

INJURY REPORT

Junior forward John Daniels played limited minutes in both weekend games, wearing a strap on his injured shoulder.

STAR SPECTATORS

Director Spike Lee and New York Knicks point guard and Harvard alumnus Jeremy Lin walked into Friday’s game during the second half and received a roaring ovation.

BOX SCORE

| PLAYER | MIN | REB | AST | PTS | MIN | REB | AST | PTS |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| BARBOUR | 45 | 2 | 5 | 23 | 36 | 1 | 5 | 9 |
| LYLES | 41 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 34 | 1 | 0 | 23 |
| STAAB | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| CISCO | 24 | 5 | 2 | 12 | 30 | 9 | 0 | 15 |
| ROSENBERG | 34 | 5 | 1 | 10 | 12 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| CROCKETT | 19 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 24 | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| OSETKOWSKI | 26 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 13 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| JOHNSON | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| EGEE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 4 | 1 | 4 |
| DANIELS | 13 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 19 | 6 | 1 | 6 |
| SPRINGWATER | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |


IVY STANDINGS

| | W | L | PCT |
|-----------|----|----|------|
| Harvard | 12 | 2 | .857 |
| Penn | 11 | 2 | .846 |
| Princeton | 9 | 4 | .692 |
| Yale | 9 | 5 | .643 |
| Cornell | 7 | 7 | .500 |
| Columbia | 4 | 10 | .286 |
| Brown | 2 | 12 | .143 |
| Dartmouth | 1 | 13 | .071 |

IVY SCOREBOARD

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Harvard..... | 67 |
| Cornell..... | 63 |
| Princeton..... | 81 |
| Brown..... | 47 |
| Penn..... | 68 |
| Yale..... | 47 |
| Cornell..... | 70 |
| Dartmouth..... | 57 |
| Penn..... | 54 |
| Brown..... | 43 |
| Princeton..... | 64 |
| Yale..... | 57 |

IVY SCHEDULE

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
|  GAME ONE VS. PENN L 66-64 |  GAME TWO VS. PRINCETON L 62-58 |  GAME THREE VS. CORNELL W 61-56 |  GAME FOUR AT CORNELL L 65-60 |  GAME FIVE AT DARTMOUTH W 64-62 |  GAME SIX AT HARVARD L 57-52 |  GAME SEVEN VS. BROWN W 86-60 |
|  GAME EIGHT VS. YALE L 59-58 |  GAME NINE AT PRINCETON L 77-66 |  GAME TEN AT PENN L 61-59 (OT) |  GAME ELEVEN AT YALE L 75-67 |  GAME TWELVE AT BROWN L 94-78 |  GAME THIRTEEN VS. HARVARD L 77-70 |  GAME FOURTEEN VS. DARTMOUTH W 61-55 |

BY THE NUMBERS

20 Second-half points by sophomore guard Meiko Lyles against Dartmouth.

53 Number of games the senior class—Chris Crockett, Steve Egee, Matt Johnson, and Blaise Staab—has won in its time at Columbia. Fifteen of those wins came this season.

81 Number of minutes junior point guard Brian Barbour played this weekend. In Friday’s game against Harvard, Barbour missed just 24 seconds of play.

2,702 Number of people who attended Friday night’s game against Harvard. Tickets sold out almost two weeks before the game.

Columbia takes 1 out of 4 in first action at The Citadel

BY ELI SCHULTZ
Spectator Staff Writer

Despite earning its first win of the season, Columbia lost two close games this weekend and will return home from The Citadel (6-5) with a 1-3 record. The Light Blue lost 2-0 on Saturday and split a double-header on Sunday. After a 4-1 loss in the season opener, the Lions were once again unable to get the bats going in a 2-0 rain-shortened loss on Saturday. Junior Stefan Olson started for the Lions and pitched 5 1/3 innings of two-run ball, but the righty was saddled with the loss when the offense failed to plate a single run. With two hits in the game, junior right fielder Nick Ferraresi was the only Columbia player to pick up more than one hit in the contest. But the offense sprang to life on Sunday. In the first game of the twin bill, the Lions captured an 11-7 victory in a 12-inning marathon behind the bats of senior third baseman Jon Eisen and junior left fielder Dario Pizzano. The duo drove in five runs and picked up six walks while going a combined 5-10 at the plate in a coming-out party for the Columbia offense. “I think we did a good job working counts. Today it just kind of came together,” Boretta said. The Lions overcame a rocky start from lefty sophomore

David Speer, who gave up two homers and four runs in the bottom of the first. Speer then settled down and held the Bulldogs at bay for the next five innings. Senior righty Zach Epstein came on in the seventh and gave up only one earned run in four innings of relief. Despite yielding two unearned runs in two innings of work, sophomore right-hander Zack Tax earned the victory, as the Lions touched up Citadel pitching for four runs in the top of the 12th. Columbia drew first blood in the nightcap, but the Bulldogs quickly struck back with two runs in the bottom of the first to jump out to a 2-1 lead. The Lions then retook a 4-3 lead in the top of the sixth but were unable to hold on when Citadel senior catcher Grant Richards drove in two runs with a double in the bottom of the inning to put the Bulldogs on top for good. The Lions failed to capitalize on a number of opportunities in the 5-4 loss, most notably failing to score a run after putting two men on with no outs in the second. “We gotta do a better job in those situations,” Boretta said. Situational hitting will be a focus in practice this week, as the Lions seek to limit missed offensive opportunities. The Light Blue hopes to bounce back as they head to San Jose State this Friday to kick off a 10-game West Coast road trip during spring break.

Students star-struck at Lin sighting

Everywhere I go, Jeremy Lin seems to be there. Sometimes he's playing, sometimes he's watching the game that I'm watching, and most of the time, he's making me hope that this fad ends soon. The appearances of Jeremy Lin (and Spike Lee) at the Columbia-Harvard basketball game on Friday night—and all of the related Facebook statuses, tweets, and Bwog comments—shows that interest in celebrity culture is strong at Columbia.

It isn't at all surprising that college students care about celebrities, but this is the first time in my three years here that it seems like everyone I know is both aware of and cares about a celebrity in the sports world. As I was leaving Butler the other day, I ran into a friend who told me that she didn't even like basketball but was really excited to go to the game on the off chance that she would see Jeremy Lin.

The media usually takes the unexpected hero story way too far.

And she's not alone. On Twitter, Lin has gained over 500,000 followers in the last month. He rushed onto the scene quickly, and if he keeps playing the way he has been, he'll likely stay in the limelight, though probably in a more limited capacity.

In a month or two, we'll all be thankful for that—the media usually takes the unexpected hero story way too far, and they're on the brink with this one. There's the initial lack of coverage, then the media pickup after a good game or two, and then it's every other segment on SportsCenter. Most recently, we've seen this cycle take a turn with Denver Broncos quarterback Tim Tebow, and by the time the Broncos lost in the playoffs, I was rooting against them for no other reason than that I wanted to stop hearing about the guy's fourth-quarter heroics.

I'm hoping that the Linsanity doesn't get too extreme. I like the guy, and I like everything he has come to symbolize, whether it be the rare Ivy League sports success, the unlikely star, or one of the first Asian-American NBA players, but it's more than a little premature to be writing books about him already. The media just needs to know when to stop. When SportsCenter says "Lin" (or any punny variation thereof) 160 times, as they did with "Tebow" in the 48-minute show on Jan. 13, it will be even clearer than it already is that the story has run its course for the time being.

At Columbia, it's clear that Linsanity probably hit its peak on Friday, but this fervor has come to epitomize the celebrity culture that exists at this school.

For some reason, this culture pervades all aspects of Columbia life. Back in my freshman year, even something as mundane as a trip to Butler or a walk down the street came with the potential of spotting James Franco or the filming of an episode of Gossip Girl. These things ran their course, though—James Franco got his Master of Fine Arts, and the Gossip Girl folks probably realized that Columbia isn't actually Yale.

SEE CARUSO, page 9



TOM CARUSO

For the Record

Lions fall to Harvard, defeat Dartmouth in finale



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LINVASION | The Lions stayed close with Harvard during regulation but lost in overtime in front of a sell-out crowd that included New York Knicks guard Jeremy Lin.

4 seniors suited up for Columbia in final games

BY MICHELE CLEARY
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Spike Lee and Jeremy Lin may not have been in the crowd, but Saturday was still a special night for the men's basketball team's four seniors, who ended their career in light blue with a 61-55 win over Dartmouth.

"It's great to go out on a win like that," senior co-captain Steve Egee said. "We've had some tough losses, especially in-league, and to get a win to end the season, and especially the four seniors' careers, it's really something special."

The Lions (15-15, 4-10 Ivy) had a chance to sweep their final weekend. The night before the Dartmouth game, the Light Blue took Ivy Champion Harvard (26-4, 12-2 Ivy) to overtime in front of a sold-out crowd of 2,702 people—including Lee and Lin.

The Crimson jumped out to an early 18-8 lead in the first half thanks to an impressive shooting performance. Harvard knocked down 75 percent of its shots before halftime, but Columbia's offense kept up, hitting 52.4 percent of its shots. After the first 20 minutes, the score was 34-30.

"We worked on defense all week," junior point guard and co-captain Brian Barbour said. "I thought our defense was right there. They were just making some tough shots and playing really well."

The two teams continued to trade baskets throughout the second half. A layup by junior center Mark Cisco and a jumper in the paint by Barbour put the Lions up by three—their largest lead of the game—with just under 14 minutes to play.

The game remained close for a while, but it seemed like Harvard

was pulling away in the final minutes of regulation. A tip-in by senior forward Keith Wright, who had been bothering the Light Blue the entire game, put the Crimson up by six with just over four minutes to play. But thanks to a couple of clutch shots by Barbour, the Lions tied the game at 62 with 33 seconds to play.

"Brian was being Brian," head coach Kyle Smith said of Barbour's play against Harvard. "He has to play that way to give us a chance." Barbour finished the game with 23 points and five assists.

The Crimson still had a chance to win, though, and Harvard head coach Tommy Amaker called a timeout with 23 seconds to play. The Lions went with a zone defense on the play and looked to trap the first pass and force a turnover.

"I just knew if we sat back out there, the only two outcomes were overtime or we lose, and I didn't like those," Smith said.

While they didn't get the turnover, the Lions got their defensive stop when Harvard senior guard Oliver McNally missed a three-pointer, sending the game to overtime.

The Light Blue seemed to run out of steam after regulation ended, as the Crimson led by as many as 11 points and won the game 77-70.

"We're a young team that's just right there," Barbour said after the game. "No need for excuses, but we got to find a way to get over the hump and finish on a good note against Dartmouth tomorrow."

The Lions struggled to contain Wright and junior forward Kyle Casey the whole night, as

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