

## Local groups campaign for better sex ed

BY ELIZABETH FOYDEL  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Principals don't decide whether students have sex, but in New York City public schools, they do decide whether students learn about it.

Lessons about safe sex are recommended, but not required, by the city's Department of Education, and Planned Parenthood NYC has launched a campaign to get that curriculum into every classroom.

The DOE's sex education curriculum, which is individualized for every grade and integrated with lessons about healthy eating and staying away from drugs, is taught at the discretion of the school principal.

But for Planned Parenthood and some community groups, that's not enough.

The organization has been making appeals to community boards to encourage parents to lobby principals to incorporate sex ed into the school year, and Harlem's Community Board 9 and the Upper West Side's Community Board 7 have both expressed support in the last few weeks.

"Whether it is actually taught is catch-as-catch-can. Citywide, it's spotty and could be better," said Mark Diller, the youth, education, and libraries committee chair of CB7.

CB9 also recently hosted a Planned Parenthood representative but is not scheduled to vote on a resolution of support until later this month.

"When schools are already balancing such limited resources ... sex ed just isn't being taught."

—Erica Sackin

### INFORMATION GAP

Many local schools don't teach the sex ed curriculum, according to community groups who go into schools specifically to provide health information.

The NiteStar program, which for 20 years has offered drama and musical productions about sexuality, teen pregnancy, and AIDS for teenagers, is based out of St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital and works with a number of nearby schools. Dr. Cydelle Berlin, the executive director of St. Luke's NiteStar sex education program, said that her program is often the only source of that information.

"We are the sex education for most of the schools that invite us in. We are it," Berlin said. But she noted that fewer schools can afford to bring the NiteStar program in, especially with federal, state and city funding cuts.

"Many schools with the most dire situations can't afford us ... A great number of schools are not getting sex education for their students," she said.

The campaign provides materials to help parents organize advocacy groups and prepare to ask principals to implement the DOE curriculum.

But a lack of financing is one of the key obstacles to universally taught sex education in the city, according to representatives from Planned Parenthood. "When schools are already balancing such

### M'SIDE GOES GREEK



EMBRY OWEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**MEDITERRANEAN MEDLEY** | Above, a chef prepares food during the opening night of Vareli, a new neighborhood restaurant from the owner of Westside Market. The menu boasts a mixture of Mediterranean fare—mostly Greek—but also features a touch of German.

## Butler Library completes 15 years of renovations

BY JEREMY BLEEKE  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

After 15 years and over \$110 million, Butler Library renovations are finally coming to an end.

The project is nearing the conclusion of its fifth and final stage, which primarily focuses on renovating and expanding graduate study spaces on the seventh, eighth, and ninth floors.

"We're really down to this small basket of things that need to be sorted out and finished up," said project coordinator Aline Locascio.

An alumna of Columbia's now defunct Library School, Locascio has been working on the renovation since it began in 1995.

"I was excited to come coordinate this project because I remembered the building," Locascio said. "And I remembered this beautiful building but I also remembered some aspects that could have used some attention."

Built in the 1930s, Butler was advanced for its time, with

a pneumatic tube network and state-of-the-art climate control system in the stacks. By the late 80s, however, it was clear that the facilities were in need of an upgrade.

"A lot of it [what needed to be done] was mechanical," Locascio said. "Every time you turned

something on here all the circuits blew because it was built in the 30s."

In addition to assuring that the building could support 21st century technology, they are updating the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems, as well as installing a new fire safety

apparatus.

Locascio also tackled the issue of space. Working with architectural firm Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbott, the renovation team overhauled book storage in the stacks and started an off-site storage facility for some of the collection's more infrequently used books.

"We had books on the floor, they were just everywhere," Locascio said. "The people trying to shelve had a very difficult time. The books were getting damaged—it was just not working."

In addition to renovations in the stacks, space has been reclaimed in new reading rooms that had previously been used for administrative or cataloguing work.

"I remember always walking past what's now 202 Butler—the 'fishbowl'—which used to be a book processing area," said librarian Karen Green in an email. "The windows were completely covered over except



NOMI ELLENSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**CONSTRUCTION** | Butler Library is approaching the end of its final stage of renovations, which have expanded graduate study space.

SEE BUTLER, page 2

### NEWS BRIEF

## Sustainable development becomes undergrad major

Starting in the fall of 2010, undergraduates will have the opportunity to major in sustainable development.

The Earth Institute, Columbia College, and the School of General Studies officially announced the major on Monday, though administrators and professors have been discussing the coming major for months.

"While students may continue to undertake a special concentration in sustainable development, they now have the opportunity to complete a major in this cutting-edge interdisciplinary field of study," the Earth Institute's website said.

Undergraduates currently have the option to concentrate in sustainable development, and the high level of interest in the concentration spurred the University to develop a full major, the site reported.

Columbia's Earth Institute is bringing its goal of protecting Earth's ecosystems, oceans, and atmosphere to the undergraduate level. Starting in the fall of 2010, undergraduates will have the opportunity to major in sustainable development.

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Denning Family Professor of Sustainable Development Ruth DeFries and Associate Earth and Environmental Studies Professor Kevin Griffin spearheaded the major's development.

Steven Cohen, executive director of the Earth Institute, said that the College and General Studies Committee on Instruction approved the major a few weeks ago and are now working with Griffin and DeFries to perfect it.

The major will consist of 15 courses and a practicum at the minimum, with 47 points total. Students majoring in sustainable development will be strongly encouraged to study abroad and work in internships.

"It's going to be a tough major," Cohen said. "But I think it's important. The world is getting

more complicated. You need a lot of different disciplines."

In addition to sustainable development foundations courses, students who take on the major will be required to take, among others, a science sequence, social science classes, quantitative courses, and classes in "analysis and solutions to complex problems"—a requirement that includes course titles such as "Climate Solutions" and "Disasters and Development."

"The pace of the transition from the way we do business now to a more sustainable future is really what this is about. Everybody agrees we have to get to this place, and everyone wants to get there as fast as possible, but for example, if you look at the Columbia campus, you've got some very old infrastructure here," Cohen said. "Retrofitting is going to take time and capital. But we'll work at it over time."

—Sam Levin and Alix Pianin

## USenate debates calendar

### Proposal may be out Friday

BY EMILY KWONG  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

The debate over next year's academic calendar may soon be resolved.

In a report to the University Senate last Friday, education committee co-chair James Applegate, professor of astronomy, announced the committee hopes to produce a formal proposal resolving the issue at their meeting on March 12. The education committee's proposal will be presented at the University Senate's plenary on April 2 for discussion and possible vote.

"One way or another, there will be something on the floor," Applegate said in an interview.

Charged with reviewing the academic calendar every 10 years, the University Senate's education committee—consisting of 19 representatives of students, faculty, staff, and administrators—has a tall order on its plate in the face of ongoing debate over the fall semester calendar.

New York State law requires that all accredited institutions must be in session for 15 weeks each semester, with one week devoted to finals. Columbia's current academic calendar begins classes the Tuesday after Labor Day and ends classes the Monday 14 weeks subsequent. Ideally, a three-day study period

"This is ... unlike most Senate issues, where they are very important to only a small number."

—James Applegate

follows, with exams held from that Friday to the Friday next across six weekdays total.

This has been the methodology the University Registrar has used to design the calendar since 1972, when students rallied to move finals period to before winter recess. "That's the nominal schedule and that's what we will use if Labor Day is early. The regularities of celestial mechanics and arithmetic being what they are, we ran into problems last December," Applegate said.

This past fall, a perfect storm arose in the tempo of the academic calendar—as a Sept. 7 Labor Day pushed the end of finals to the 23rd—complicating travel plans and airfares at time close to the holiday season. There were two study days instead of the usual three and finals were compressed to five days instead of six. The Senate's student affairs committee presented a 1,600 student petition to the Senate on Jan. 29 expressing student concern over the issue. According to the registrar's website, finals are slated to also end the 23rd in 2010 and 2011 with two and three study days respectively.

According to Applegate, there are five feasible options to amend the current calendar that the education committee will put up to consideration. Columbia can either hold finals in January, start classes

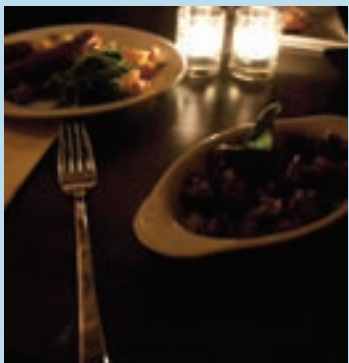
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### INSIDE

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#### Vareli gets off to rocky start despite high hopes

Many Columbians had lofty expectations for Westside Market owner George Zoitas' new restaurant Vareli. However, the pseudo-Mediterranean eatery has a few kinks to work out before the dishes can truly satisfy.



#### Sports, back page

#### Columbia baseball heads south for break

The Columbia baseball team will travel down south over spring break to face tough competition. The Light Blue will play several nonconference opponents in preparation for Ivy season, where it hopes to regain the title.

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#### Changing the requirements

The TOEFL can affect not only international students, but also students educated in the States.

#### The future of women

Gender equality for the female scholar shouldn't be for the future, but for now.

#### Today's Events

#### Common Meal

Discuss how to cope with disaster.  
*Earl Hall, 6 p.m.*

#### Study Break

Celebrate the weather with free ice cream.  
*Kraft Center, 8 p.m.*

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#### WEATHER



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# Bollinger talks M’ville, travel at fireside chat

BY JOY RESMOVITS  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

On Monday evening, a group of undergraduates traveled one block east of campus, hung up their coats, and climbed a twisting marble staircase. They had given up an evening of mid-term studying to spend time with University President Lee Bollinger at his 116th Street and Morningside Ave. home for a Fireside Chat.

This one didn’t pack the mansion, perhaps because the date was postponed due to a death in Bollinger’s family.

Bollinger entered and perched on a wooden stool, taking swigs of sparkling water between answering—and asking—questions. He opened by saying he was thinking about this weekend’s retreat with the Board of Trustees and his upcoming spring break trip to open Columbia Global Centers in Paris and Mumbai. Over the evening, the free speech scholar hit on his perennial favorites: globalization and Columbia’s place in it, and Manhattanville and the University’s need for space.

The first student to ask a question addressed the status of financial aid at the School of General Studies. The GS student said he’d learned lessons from the “school of hard knocks,” yet despite working hard to get here, he discovered that “GS is really underfunded.”

In response, Bollinger outlined

university finances—GS’s endowment is much smaller than the College’s—and the difficulties of diverting funds toward specific schools.

The question kicked off a stream of queries that touched on the Core Curriculum, generational travel habits, and the public component to the Manhattanville expansion.

When a student asked about the “shopping aspect” in Manhattanville plans, Bollinger quickly corrected him, saying he would call it a “public layer,” one that arose after years of negotiations in pursuit of a Community Benefits Agreement.

Bollinger emphasized his devotion to Harlem, and reminded the audience that he was not requesting the use of eminent domain against residents.

He pointed out that while he at one point had an opportunity to open up Columbia buildings in midtown, he passed because “that’s turning back on our home.” The University’s Manhattanville Environmental Impact Statement gives more detail, saying the land they were considering encompassed nine acres located “at the southern end of the Riverside South development area, a large-scale mixed-use project being built between West 59th Street and West 72nd Street west of West End Avenue.” Columbia sought space elsewhere, the EIS notes, because the midtown area had less space than desired and was far from campus.



ZARA CASTANY FOR SPECTATOR

**60 MORNINGSID** DRIVE | Laura Taylor, CC ’10, spoke with University President Lee Bollinger at Monday’s fireside chat. Bollinger answered questions about Manhattanville, while also polling students about their travels abroad and talking up the new global centers.

Bollinger polled students to see who had traveled abroad (many), spent time in China (few) and Africa (fewer). People seem to travel more frequently now than in previous years, he said, stressing the continued importance of the Global Centers. He added that Columbia is discussing a potential World Leaders Forum engagement with French President Nicholas Sarkozy.

Rachel Boehr, GS, asked Bollinger how to “maximize one’s time here,” since the

“plethora of opportunities” can be overwhelming. Bollinger responded that in his own life, he goes through cycles: “I have had these periods where you just want to be out doing lots of things,” he said, “and these periods where you say, I just have to read these 30 books. I cannot think of myself as an educated person unless I know these 30 books. Then there are 30 more after that.”

In some of these intense reading periods, Bollinger said that

he’s consumed the entire works of George Orwell and Virginia Woolf. And he reads “Shakespeare a little bit every single day.”

Bollinger took his last question from Laura Taylor, CC ’10, about his career, shook a few hands, and dashed away for a phone call. Students mingled and hoarded takeout cartons of the Chinese food spread.

Elizabeth Kipp-Giusti, CC ’12, said she was glad she got to see a side of Bollinger that “was pretty candid.”

“I wish we had spent more time on straight talk as opposed to the rhetoric that is always dished out,” Kipp-Giusti added, though she said she recognized that he’s a “public figure” with “an agenda.”

Todd Nelson, CC ’12, enjoyed his glimpse of life at 60 Morningside Drive. “It’s a great forum to talk to someone who we never get to see,” he said, three takeout cartons in hand.

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# In the face of ‘spotty’ sex education, area schools turn to local groups

SEX ED from front page

limited resources, what we hear more often than not is that sex ed just isn’t being taught,” said Erica Sackin, a Planned Parenthood spokesperson.

Berlin acknowledged that many schools do make an effort to include sex education. “When there’s no money for a full curriculum or to bring people in,” she said, “they’ll use a gym teacher, or a film.” But she added that these efforts often occur “when it’s too late, and they [the efforts] aren’t compelling.”

And although many of the schools her programs work with have lost their discretionary funding, “With the rising number of STIs and teen births, you’re somewhat cutting off your nose to spite yourself here.”

After dramatic declines in teen

births and pregnancies from 1991 to 2005, teen birth rates in the United States increased in 2006 and in 2007, according to a National Center for Health Statistics report from March 2009.

Through the Peer Health Exchange program, a number of Columbia students teach a 12-lesson curriculum to ninth graders in high schools across the city, including workshops on sexual decision-making, contraception, STIs/HIV, rape and sexual assault, and healthy relationships.

“In most of the schools I have taught at, Peer Health Exchange is the only formal sex education they’ve received,” said Lina Gebremariam, CC ’12, who teaches the sexual decision-making workshop.

Gebremariam said that the program seeks to arm the students with the knowledge and skills they

need to deal with the real world, “because high school students will be having sex whether we educate them or not.”

MANDATING SEX EDUCATION

CB7 passed a resolution on March 2 to not only to endorse the Planned Parenthood campaign but also to ask the city to mandate that schools teach the sex education curriculum.

Diller said that his colleagues on CB7, in passing the amended resolution, had expressed the view that the DOE “should from the top down mandate that sex education be taught.”

But Berlin, of the NiteStar program, said she was not all that hopeful about mandating sex education in the city.

“Prevention and sex education has always been dicey in the city in

terms of ‘can we do it’ and ‘should we do it,’ but all of that requires money,” she said.

According to one survey conducted on behalf of Family Planning Advocates of New York State, 77 percent of registered state voters mistakenly believe that sex education is a part of New York’s required curriculum and 85 percent of those voters want comprehensive sex education to be taught in school.

Encouraging and empowering parents to put pressure on school principals, however, might have a better chance of making that happen than a mandate, Berlin said.

She said that her program tends to be most successful “when we get parents to cooperate with us and with the school.” Often the Parent Teacher Associations raise the money to bring NiteStar’s programs into the schools, Berlin added.

CURRENT CURRICULUM

The DOE-recommended curriculum includes “age and developmentally appropriate education” about alcohol and drug use, nutrition, physical activity, sexual risk behaviors, tobacco use, and violent behavior.

In schools where the curriculum is taught, parents theoretically still have the ultimate say over what their children hear.

The DOE confirmed that parents “may ask that their child be placed in another school setting for lessons having to do with prevention.”

And although condoms are not distributed in classrooms, parents may also request that their child not receive condoms from health resources room personnel by writing a letter to the school principal.

Furthermore, “any parent still has he right to withhold their child from classes,” said Diller, “so in my mind there is no reason not to implement the Department of Education curriculum.”

The city’s Department of Education declined to comment about the possibility of a mandated, rather than simply recommended, sex education curriculum in the future.

Dr. Berlin noted that there has been a rise of school-based clinics with the money to afford sex education and reproductive health education, particularly in high-risk schools.

But if she’s learned one thing from her time working with sex education in the city, she said, it’s that “sex ed has its ebbs and flows.”

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# USenate to release calendar proposal

CALENDAR from front page

the week before Labor Day, hold class on Election Day Monday (now an academic holiday), shorten the study day period, or hold finals on the weekend.

“All the options are actually workable. It’s a matter of what will make people the happiest and what will maximize the working conditions of most people,” Applegate said.

“This type of change hasn’t happened in decades,” said education committee member Alex Frouman, CC ’12. He stated that the University Senate was not working to necessarily change the calendar for the fall 2010 semester, but rather, to tailor a long-term solution.

Frouman has been working closely with the student council leadership to assess student opinion on the issue. Based on an undergraduate student survey that

generated 741 responses, they produced a joint proposal that was submitted in the education committee meeting on Feb. 12. The student proposal calls for starting the Monday before Labor Day on only those years when Labor Day fell late, either the 5th, 6th, or 7th of September.

While no formal faculty proposal has been submitted, Applegate stated that he has reached out to faculty circles within the Arts and Sciences, Barnard College, and SEAS for their feedback on the issue. “What I found is that there was fairly strong pushback on the school schedule issue,” he said.

Due to the fact that day care centers, nursery schools, and K-12 schools don’t begin until after Labor Day, many faculty members with young children are opposed to beginning before Labor Day. Support has aligned largely with holding classes on the Monday

before Elections Day and holding finals over the weekend.

“This is a quality of life issue, a cost issue, that affects both students and faculty,” Frouman said. “That’s why it’s a Senate issue.”

Applegate agreed. “This is somewhat unlike most Senate issues, where they are very important to only a small number of people. The academic calendar hits everybody. So you have to frontload the discussion with a lot of input from the people it will affect.”

Once the education committee’s proposal reaches the Senate floor, Applegate urged the importance of compromise. “If this goes through the Senate as someone defeating somebody else, it’s a failure. If this is something people look at and say that’s workable and come to an agreement about, then it’s a success.”

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# Butler renovations restore building

BUTLER from front page

for the very top, and I could just see the beautiful plaster ceiling and wonder what the rest of the room looked like.”

Those plaster ceilings, along with other such early 20th century craftsmanship as carved woodwork, metal detailing, and painted murals were all rigorously restored during the renovation. For Locascio, upholding the regal dignity of the original building was as important as modernizing its infrastructure.

“We always tried to maintain the grandeur of what was there, when we could,” Locascio said. “For example, light fixtures. They were 1930s technology—not energy efficient, not exactly the quality light that we can now generate, but beautiful. . . . They got taken down, sent out, cleaned, and repaired, if they needed, with all new guts. So

the mechanism is modern but the fixture is original.”

In other cases, where more unsightly modern influences had crept in, changes were made to restore the building to its roots.

“The old Burgess-Carpenter Library on the 4th floor was . . . simply hideous,” Green said. “Dreadful ‘70s-era orange carpet everywhere, peeling down to black rubber, and dark warrens of rooms. All those walls were ripped out to make the new Periodicals & Microfilms Reading Room, which is almost entirely open from north to south.”

Students seem to be responding positively to the renovations—according to Locascio, attendance has skyrocketed.

“There was a lot of talk at the beginning of this project that ‘Oh, people probably won’t go to libraries anymore, because they can just sit at their computers,”

Locascio said. “But it didn’t happen that way here.”

Robert Petito, CC ’13, is one such frequent patron. He said that although he didn’t know there was a renovation underway, he does enjoy studying in Butler most of the time.

“I like the George and Jesse Siegel Reading Room on the fourth floor,” Petito said. “It feels secretive even though everyone knows about it. It’s just nice—it’s high up, it has a big window.”

And where would Locascio go to study if she were a student?

“It would be the old catalogue room, 310, in those little alcoves upstairs,” she said. “I think those are just lovely because you feel like you’re in a bigger room, but you also feel like you’re in a private space. And it’s beautiful.”

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## CORRECTION

The article “Uncertainty over Rangel’s career,” incorrectly stated that Rangel was endorsed on Sunday by the New York County Democratic Committee. Though Rangel had said he anticipated a Sunday endorsement, the official announcement was not made—it has instead been delayed. Spectator regrets the error.





# Vareli’s menu is big fat Greek jumble

BY JASON BELL  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Amidst the chain restaurants and dingy diners that line Broadway, Westside Market owner George Zoitias and chef Amitzur Mor have fashioned a romantically lit hideaway that falls victim to distraction.

At once German pub and Mediterranean bar, Parents Weekend splurge and pretentious professorial hangout, Vareli (located on Broadway between 111th and 112th streets) simply tries to do too much.

Perhaps extreme fusion cuisine and disjointed menus appeal to chef Mor. A veteran of Food Network’s cooking competition “Chopped,” a show that prompts contestants to create dishes from virtually random collections of ingredients, Mor seems to enjoy leading diners on an agonizing trek over the entire European continent. Ultimately, this confusing restaurant would benefit from a firmer grasp on reality, not the artificial glitz of food television.

The bread appears to be the best part of a meal at Vareli. Perfectly poised between fluffy and chewy, well salted and served with an appealing fruit olive oil, Vareli’s bread establishes high expectations that the actual meal fails to maintain.

Chef Mor employs a shotgun strategy in menu design, shooting out seemingly random ideas and hoping something strikes home. For example, appetizers range from fried cauliflower with tahini to tuna tartare with “Israeli salad” to a homemade sausage plate with warm potato salad. Suddenly shifting from the Middle East to Germany with no particular explanation feels psychologically jolting, a consequence of a menu with no focus or direction.

The fried cauliflower is a sulfurous bomb, a corrosive, acid reflux-inducing disaster. And the tuna tartare with “Israeli salad” tastes hardly better—its vaguely fishy, texturally homogenous composition is drowned in bland “tomato consommé.” Regrettably, chef



GREECE IS THE WORD | Neighborhood newcomer Vareli offers a mix of Greek and other European dishes, including fried cauliflower and sausage with warm potato salad.

Mor seems oblivious to this plate’s tragic lack of seasoning, an especially surprising oversight considering his Israeli heritage.

Luckily, the sausage tastes spectacular, possessing a powerful snap and pillowy pork filling. Pickled carrots play bright counterpoint to the heavy meat, but the potato salad comes lukewarm and flavorless. Admittedly, this dish might do without the greasy chunks of dressed potato, as they add absolutely nothing to the sausage links other than an absurd touch of hominess.

On “Chopped,” chef Mor prepared a main course of knockwurst fried in pretzel coating, and he apparently considers that pretzel crust one

of his signature culinary creations. Vareli features a pretzel-crust mahi mahi with gigante beans, swiss chard, roasted peppers, and bouillabaisse. Here, German explicitly meets Mediterranean in a bizarre, palate-jarring creation. In the extraordinarily dim, cave-like dining room, seeing the contrast between white fish flesh and dark pretzel crumbs proves difficult. Tasting the very nearly burnt, insistently saline pretzel flavor is not hard at all though—the rather small fillet suffers from a disagreeable saltiness. The gigante beans feel tender and delicately starchy, but the bouillabaisse sauce probably needs quotation marks. After all, bouillabaisse



EMBRY OWEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

generally implies the presence of shellfish, which in this preparation are noticeably absent.

For dessert, Vareli’s pastry department offers a layered white and milk chocolate mousse with macerated berries. Astoundingly creamy but cloyingly sweet, this dessert merely reflects Vareli’s current lack of finesse. More disturbingly, chocolate mousse seems completely disconnected from the emerging German-Mediterranean theme chef Mor so discretely cultivates.

Considering that Vareli just opened, dinner service runs relatively smoothly. Still, water glasses remain unfilled for awkward spans of time

that extend across courses, and waiters noisily bump into tables while trying to navigate the exceedingly narrow space. Forgiving these failures is difficult even on opening night when the staff appears wholly unconcerned with diners’ welfare.

Over the proceeding months, Vareli will directly compete with other pricier, more ambitious dining options in the neighborhood like Community Food and Juice and Le Monde. If, however, chef Mor refuses to focus his menu and tighten his execution, Vareli will give way to yet another vegetarian falafel chain. For the sake of Morningside Heights, chef Mor will have to eliminate the extraneous and make Vareli work.



DARK COMEDY | Artist Jeffrey Keough’s artwork, currently on display at the LeRoy Neiman Center for Print Studies, addresses morbid subjects with humor and wit. The exhibit, “Skullscapes,” includes a macabre take on Roman marble busts.

## Locked-in artist breaks free with ‘Skullscapes’

BY NICOLE SAVERY  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Viewers would never guess it from looking at his work, but artist Jeffrey Keough suffered a stroke in 2005 that left him with “locked-in syndrome.” The rare and often fatal condition rendered him unable to walk or talk, but his mental abilities were unaffected.

Keough’s first solo exhibit, “Skullscapes,” appears at the LeRoy Neiman Center for Print Studies at the Columbia University School of the Arts now through March 31. The exhibit was organized by Tomas Vu-Daniel, artistic director of the Neiman Center.

Expressing his renewed dedication to his art, Keough said, “I am fortunate to be here at all, but am practically lucky to have learned something important from each of the artists with whom I have had the privilege to work with.”

Given the tremendous challenges

he has confronted in his personal life, Keough’s work is all the more compelling as a means of communication and self-expression. The artist is careful to point out, though, that his art is much more than just a reflection of his current condition. “I want to reach beyond the therapeutic to a larger relevancy,” he said.

As students walk into the gallery space, it is impossible not to notice the row of six skulls standing guard atop square pillars along a wall. Calling to mind the sculpted marble busts of ancient Roman senators, these skulls demonstrate the artist’s sharp eye for mixed media with colorful silk flowers and thick plastic framed glasses.

Keough’s dark sense of humor is undeniably on display here—the skulls are given individualized personalities with names like “Joe,” “Gwen,” and “Pierre.” Some of the skulls sit atop books, and a quick glance at their spines reveals titles such as “Dante’s Inferno” and “Don DeLillo’s Falling Man” (a reference to the photograph of a man who

jumped from the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001).

Keough’s art exists at the intersection of dark and light, eerie and everyday, creepy and cliché. His particular talent seems to be in finding the humor in this shocking juxtaposition of the mundane with the macabre. To this end, Keough takes ordinary objects and adds subtle—and some not-so-subtle—elements of perversion to surprise viewers into taking notice. Stock photographs taken from store-bought picture frames have been destroyed by an errant hole-puncher—Keough has cleverly named this piece “Wholy Family.”

While “Skullscapes” is undoubtedly a challenging and provocative exhibit, visitors may leave the gallery feeling slightly uncertain of what to make of Keough’s work. Is he pushing people to find levity even in morbid subjects? Is he pointing out the sinister elements lurking behind a cheerful façade? Or, possibly, his goal is simply to shock and entertain.

## Exploring Kerouac’s New York, students won’t miss a Beat

BY NICOLLETTE BARSAMIAN AND MARLENA GITTLEMAN  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Think you could have out-drunk Jack Kerouac if you had attended Columbia with him in the early 1940s?

That might have been a challenging task, given the Beat writers’ penchant for barhopping and cheap wine soirees.

However, many of the group’s favorite haunts around Manhattan are still open for a visit. In honor of what would be Kerouac’s 88th birthday on March 12, stop by some of his urban hangouts that have endured—like the works of the Beats themselves—for over half a century.

Columbia is where two of the most renowned Beat writers—Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg—met and formed a nucleus of intellectual and imaginative collaboration. They soon drew other writers into their progressively creative circle, including William S. Burroughs, Neal Cassady, Gregory Corso, and Lawrence Ferlinghetti.

Like all Columbia College freshmen, Kerouac and Ginsberg lived near College Walk. Ginsberg resided in Hamilton Hall, which was comprised of student rooms at the time, while Kerouac dormed close by in Hartley Hall.

Later, they moved to apartments further off-campus, near Riverside Park on West 118th and 113th streets. Kerouac’s first wife, Edie Parker, lived at 421 West 118th St.

Broadway nightlife staple Havana

Central, then the West End bar, frequently hosted Kerouac’s group. It seems that Thursday night debauchery has changed little since the Beats attended Columbia.

As the writers filtered out of higher education and Morningside Heights, they migrated down to Greenwich Village for both work and play, favoring establishments like Minetta Tavern and the White Horse Tavern. At these locales, Kerouac bummed dinner off of his fellow writers. If only Columbia students could have a Burroughs to buy dinner when they run out of dining dollars.

Washington Square Park was then, as it is now, the domain of NYU students. Kerouac was allegedly fascinated by the fact that the park had once been a cemetery, with 10,000 bodies buried in the soil.

Many of the aforementioned locales also feature prominently in Beat generation works: Ginsberg’s “Howl” vividly describes Manhattan streets, and Sal Paradise and Dean Moriarty of Kerouac’s “On the Road” meet on Columbia’s campus.

For further reading, Beat archivist Bill Morgan’s “The Beat Generation in New York: A Walking Tour of Jack Kerouac’s City” offers further material for Manhattan expeditions. Additionally, “And the Hippos Were Boiled in Their Tanks,” a recently published collaboration between Kerouac and Burroughs, will not disappoint as a firsthand account of the city from a Beat perspective. Travel through the eyes of Kerouac, and discover what characters lie beyond Columbia’s gates.



JUST BEAT IT | Minetta Tavern in Greenwich Village is one of many New York locales once frequented by Beat writer Jack Kerouac, who would turn 88 this week.





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## The politics of fear

BY ALEQ ABDULLAH

Last week marked the sixth annual Israeli Apartheid Week. College campuses and organizations in Canada, the United States, South America, the Middle East, and beyond held demonstrations, talks, and other varied programming throughout the week in solidarity with Palestinians living under apartheid rule. Though the activist in me longed for a banner-toting, slogan-shouting, 24-hour protest in the middle of Manhattan, reason, sensibility, and looming midterms constrained me to holding up posters and handing out flyers on Low Plaza. I arrived by the mock apartheid wall built by Columbia students for justice in Palestine on Tuesday, glad to support a cause I firmly believed in. Though the cold and the wind were brutal, I toted my neon-green poster with pride, the graffiti-like writing spelling out Mahatma Gandhi's famous quote: "What is going on in Palestine today cannot be justified by any moral code of conduct."

Across the Plaza, a modest booth toting the Israeli flag faced me, and I saw counter-protestors flyering in opposition to our wall. My initial unease and fear subsided after a few moments across from the counter-protestors: they rarely approached me, and when they did, they avoided my gaze. In our own small way, we co-existed.

As my shift ended, I passed their booth and took a minute to read one of the posters. A dim picture of John Jay Dining Hall, animated with tiny students, was shown next to a picture of a destroyed room, with

the caption reading something along the lines of, "What would you do if John Jay were attacked?"

I shivered—what *would* I do? Though John Jay's halal chicken was notorious for its rubbery consistency, and the pasta sauce had more than once tasted much too acidic, I loved John Jay and its dim, sultry, even romantic lighting. Hours of laughter with my friends and awkward moments balancing plates in my hands flashed in my mind with pictures of destruction and rubble. I was afraid.

This fear is a well-worn tactic of defenders of harsh Israeli policy against Palestinians. Israeli politicians use it over

## The picture painted is that of an innocent Israeli meeting his or her end by the cruel, inhumane actions of a ruthless Palestinian.

and over to justify measures such as preemptive strikes on civilian-rich areas and adamant scrutiny at checkpoints. If we let the Palestinians in without security checks, the argument goes, we invite terrorism and threaten the security of innocent Israeli civilians. And that cannot be compromised.

The problem with this tactic is that it is effective—so effective that it drastically impedes coming to any sort of understanding about this conflict, which is approaching 62 years of age. The picture painted is that of an innocent Israeli meeting his or

her end by the cruel, inhumane actions of a ruthless Palestinian. Unfortunately, this image must be viewed in its context—a context of 62 years of Palestinian struggle to retain stolen land and a compromised identity, self-worth, and dignity. A context of consistent second-class treatment, of racial profiling, and a physical 25-foot-high separation from the "rightful" owners of this land. A context of overpacked refugee camps, blockades on goods like food, water, and school supplies, daily checkpoints lasting hours, cleaved communities, torn families, and shattered lives. To ignore the dehumanization Palestinians face on a daily basis is to make the folly we made after 9/11: when, instead of admitting to the American people that it was our money that fueled the *mujahideen* of Afghanistan, armed and trained Osama bin Laden, and cemented the foundations of Al Qaeda, our leaders shrugged and said "they hate us for our freedoms." In the same vein, to lump those opposed to Israel's belittling, apartheid-like treatment of Palestinians as anti-Semitic, democracy-loathing terrorists is to ignore the fundamental key to any kind of conflict resolution: seeing both sides of a story.

The Palestinians are just as afraid of losing their children, land, rights, jobs, and lives as any Israeli family. Simply acknowledging this will be a huge stepping stone for peace in the region—and here at home, in our schools, in the workplace, on Low Plaza, and where I walked towards John Jay that Tuesday with a new appreciation for rubbery food and rotten pasta sauce.

The author is a Barnard College first-year majoring in environmental science. She is the events coordinator of the Muslim Students Association.

## Eliminating Women's History Month in 2110



YURINA KO

2 + 2 = 5

March 10, 2110 (New York): Congress has abolished Women's History Month, a tradition that has lasted 123 years, and the culminating point in women's efforts to establish a nationally recognized awareness event that began almost 200 years ago with the first International Women's Day. Susan Qoppa, America's 10th female president, said in a speech last week that women should rejoice at the fact that awareness is "no longer necessary, as institutions across this nation have succeeded in implementing a most democratic and veracious education that celebrates women's role in history not merely as a supplement, but as an integral part of history itself."

Interestingly, a Spectator article from exactly a century ago published a series of columns regarding the importance of Women's History Month. To answer the question, "Why should we continue to celebrate Women's History Month?" a professor wrote, "So that women do not disappear again from history." We can only imagine how marginal women's literature must have been back in those days.

Up until the 2050s Columbia housed many non-digital libraries filled with antiquarian paper-made books, the most popular one being Butler Library (where the headquarters for 4PBV, or Past Professors and Prominent Philosophers Brain Vats, is currently located). Engraved around Butler were names of notable writers and politicians, the bulk of which were male and white, whose works featured the required readings for the Core Curriculum at Columbia College. Inspired by Barnard's version of the undergraduate program titled "Reinventing Literary History" that sought to include women writers and philosophers into the literary canon, Columbia began a revolutionary rewriting of the Core in the mid-21st century, foreshadowing the physical and symbolic demolition of the historic library.

This revision was not a complete substitution; works of undeniably influential figures like Homer, Plato, and Aristotle, remained in place, as you 22nd century Lit Hum folks know. The revision did, however, promise to revive the works of women writers and philosophers that have been buried for centuries. As scholar Jane Duran wrote in 2006, "It is clear now that many women who wrote and thought extensively about philosophical topics were considered to be philosophers during their time—there are certainly more such women than we might first think—and their work was lost or ignored only at a later point."

"Man is defined as a human being and a woman as a female," Simone de Beauvoir wrote. "Whenever she behaves as a human being she is said to imitate the male." As though to predict the reputation of her own philosophical works, de Beauvoir was seen merely as Jean-Paul Sartre's shadow for most of modern history. Things have definitely changed a lot since then, as the White House First Husband's Club recently sponsored a public philosophical discussion on de Beauvoir's works, highlighting her achievements as a renowned individual.

Undergraduates in this busy midterm season are scrambling through their portable 3-D digital documents that outline "at least 16 women philosophers in the classical world, 17 women philosophers from 500-1600, and over 30 from 1600-1900" as dictated by the modified "History of Philosophy" syllabus that was inspired by Mary Ellen Waithe's four-volume history books. This was unheard of at Columbia when my great-grandmother, Yurina Ko, was studying philosophy at Barnard in the 21st century Aughts. In her columns for the Spectator, the most cited philosophers were almost all male, like Hume and Rousseau, the latter of which—as we all know—advocated an inferior education for girls. In the early 2000s students were only able to name a few women philosophers like Anne Conway and Mary Wollstonecraft, as the institution still failed to recognize all of the others. It is truly a shame that Ko cannot witness how far we've come in this world where the term "glass ceiling" is as archaic as "laptop."

The term "feminism," however, persists in philosophy classes not so much as a political ideology, but a historical one. "It is a mistake," said Susan James in 2000, "to think of feminism as a single philosophical doctrine, or as implying an agreed political program." Christia Mercer, a philosophy professor at Columbia who taught a course called "Philosophy and Feminism," wrote in 2008 that "feminism broadly conceived is not just a legal and political movement whose goal is equality. It has expanded its range to the examination of the very nature of self and the categories through which we see the world." And indeed it has.

I wonder if any philosopher of a bygone society could have predicted our tremendous progress in gender equality. John Stuart Mill wrote in 1869 that treating women as equals would "naturally appear unnatural." With this attitude, it's about time that we celebrate, for the status quo proudly justifies, a most natural elimination of Women's History Month.

Yurina Ko is a Barnard College junior majoring in philosophy. She is a senior editor of the Columbia Political Review. 2+2=5 runs alternate Wednesdays.

## Streamlining TOEFL for graduate admissions

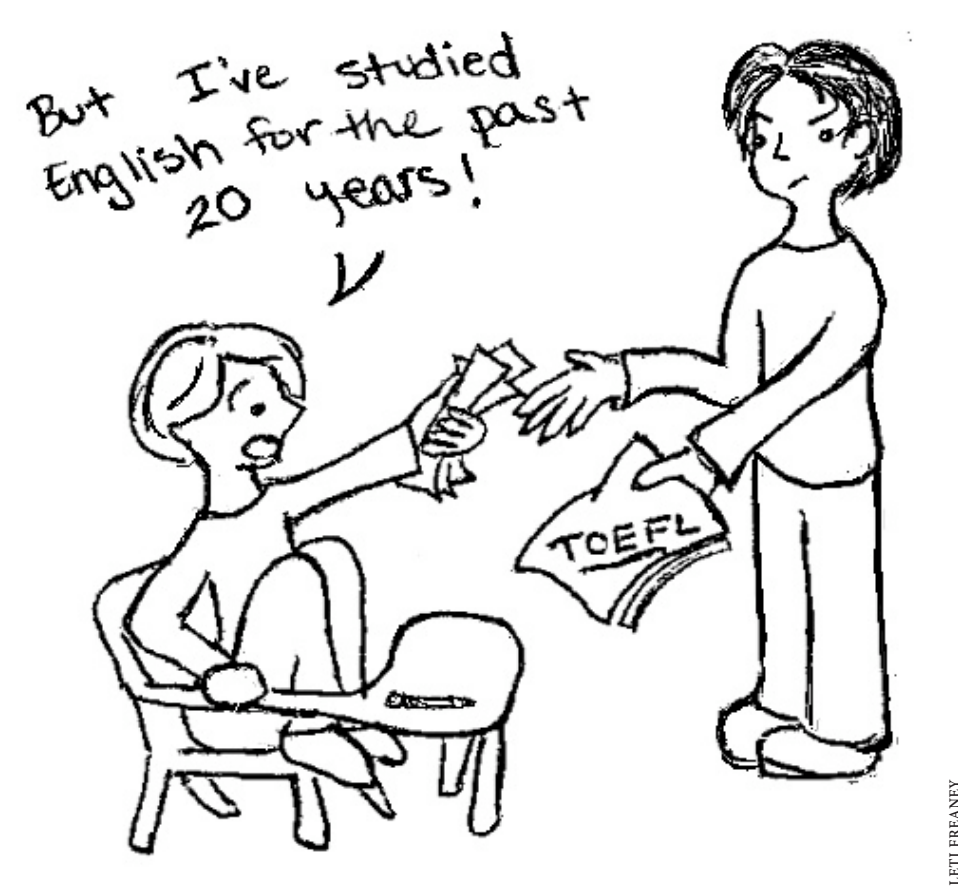
BY DENNIS YANG

As the world's population steadily rises from the current 6.7 billion to 9.2 billion by 2050, according to the Pew Research Center there will be more demand for electricity, food, water, housing, fossil fuels, and, given the newspaper that this article is being published in, higher education. The competition for commodities such as oil, natural gas, and coal may perhaps be offset by escalating investments in green jobs and green industries. But the demand for American higher education is likely to accelerate as the amalgamation of population growth and global prosperity yield more financially and academically capable international students.

TOEFL, or the Test of English as a Foreign Language, is taken by hundreds of thousands of students in over 130 countries per year.

Over 7,000 educational institutions recognize or mandate prospective students to take and pass the TOEFL as a prerequisite of enrollment. Although students from Bangalore to Beijing frequently gripe about the exorbitant prices they are charged per examination (India-\$165, China-\$206), the purpose of this article is not to question the moral principles or business practices of ETS, the operator of standardized examinations such as the TOEFL. The purpose is to breach the long-held institutional dogma that all students who have not completed an undergraduate degree in an English-speaking environment *must* take and pass the TOEFL in order to meet enrollment standards in graduate programs across the nation.

Columbia University, along with countless others, have adopted this defacto, non-peer-reviewed or sufficiently assessed agreement that students who did not receive an education wherein English was the primary language of instruction would be required to prove their fluency in English through this internationally accepted examination. I am not bashing the critical importance that TOEFL plays as a lubricant for international educational exchange. Nor is my intention to convey that the TOEFL examination is in any way substandard or inadequately designed. The intractable problem here lies not with the content, but with the irrational



LETT FREANEY

rationality that underpins graduate admissions requirements for international students in this country.

Let's analyze this further with a hypothetical case that, upon deeper reflection, may be more realistic than hypothetical in nature. Let's imagine that there is a prospective candidate—let's call him Sam—applying to a graduate program at Teachers College. Say Sam was born, raised, and received a college education in Taiwan. In addition, from kindergarten through 12th grade, Sam attended international schools where English was the language of instruction. After college, during which instruction was conducted in Mandarin Chinese, Sam pursued an M.B.A. at the University of Pennsylvania. After graduation, he found himself disinterested in a career in business and decided to pursue a law degree at UCLA. Sam studied hard, completed the necessary requirements, and with luck on his side, managed to complete both an M.B.A. and a J.D. at prestigious universities in the United States before the age of 32.

Fast forward to today. Sam, being the life-long student that he is, decides that he wants to broaden his knowledge of curriculum and teaching. Thus, he applies to a master's program at Teachers College and is immediately told that he needs to take

the TOEFL again, because his scores expire every two years, and also because he did not complete his undergraduate education in an English-speaking environment. In other words, Sam, an individual who was formally educated in English throughout his youth, is still required to re-take the TOEFL. This system seems both bizarre and Byzantine. I am aware that this system is deeply entrenched in the admissions policies of universities around the nation, but that does not make it fair—certainly, there must be a more equitable, progressive, and common sense standard for measuring an applicant's ability to speak, read, and write English.

Perhaps a system in which a specific number of years of formal educational training in English can exempt an applicant from taking and re-taking the TOEFL ought to be considered. I admit that I do not have the most optimal solution at this time. But I do know pecuniary exploitation when I see it. The fact is that business-as-usual may be lucrative for ETS and participating universities, but it comes at a higher ethical cost and undermines the fundamental American principle of fair play.

The author is an Ed.M candidate in the International Educational Development at Teachers College.

STAFF EDITORIAL

## End the intern-minable summer daze

Unpaid internships are, by their very nature, unfair. Students who know about opportunities and can afford to take advantage of them can gain valuable experience, while their classmates who don't know where to look or need to make money over the summer cannot. Through the Center for Career Education and the Office of Government and Community Affairs, Columbia supposedly works to extend these opportunities to a broader population by providing information and financial aid. However, the complexity of and lack of communication surrounding these processes prevent them from actually working for students.

Offerings such as the Congressional Internship Program, the (CU In) California Program, and Columbia Experience Overseas provide access to a variety of internships. However, these programs can be misleading, since they actually exist

more to inform students of opportunities than to act as routes to individual internships. Applying to a Columbia program does not necessarily equate to applying for an internship, but this is not always made clear to applicants at the beginning of the process. Even more problematic, though, is how poorly these programs follow up with students after they have applied to specific internships.

Unpaid internships offer students experience in exchange for work. They do not provide monetary compensation, and they certainly do not provide housing—many, in fact, expect students to set up living arrangements for themselves with no help whatsoever. Some employers require students to have housing secured or, at the very least, tentatively arranged before they will accept them. Yet, while such employers force students to attest to their financial security before offering

a position, Columbia programs will not give students financial aid until they have been officially accepted by the employer. Thus continues the self-selecting bias of unpaid internships.

If Columbia truly wants its students to be able to take advantage of all the summer opportunities that are available, and if it is going to have offices dedicated to doing just that, basic communication and logistical improvements are necessary. Internship-oriented offices should clearly articulate their missions from the beginning, yes, but the follow-up is infinitely more important. Emails advertising exciting opportunities in California or Washington, D.C. are certainly laudable—but they mean very little if campus offices do not help to provide the housing and money necessary for everyone to be able to take advantage of these opportunities.



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**Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle**  
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

**ACROSS**

1 de deux  
4 Therapy center, for short  
9 Parts of fast food orders  
14 Four-legged bugler  
15 Where the ecstatic walk  
16 Salt's "Halt!"  
17 National sport of South Korea  
19 Having a bearpelt physique  
20 "Baseball Tonight" station  
21 Year-end mail temp  
23 Jon Stewart's "moment of \_\_\_\_"  
24 Like drive-thru orders  
27 Bossom buddy  
29 Longtime skating partner of Randy Gardner  
33 The Trojans of the Pac-10  
34 Go hither and yon  
35 Au \_\_\_\_ menu phrase  
38 Places to order tom yum goong  
44 "Xanadu" band, for short  
45 \_\_\_\_ time: pronto  
46 Like some grins  
47 Host of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition"  
52 12 Tribes religion  
55 Caesar's unlucky number?  
56 Schooner filler  
57 One of the Yokums  
60 Pre-dye shade, perhaps  
63 Open, in a way  
65 Overtime causes  
68 Mother-of-pearl  
69 In first place  
70 Prior to, in verse  
71 Tiny amount  
72 Tack room gear  
73 Himsy-Konsky's "Le Coq \_\_\_\_"

**DOWN**

1 "Our Gang" dog  
2 Word of pity  
3 Having one's doubts

**4** Heed the coxswain  
**5** Ambient music composer Brian  
**6** Brinker of kiddie  
**7** Operatic slave girl  
**8** Old Ford SUV  
**9** Sub meal  
**10** In vitro cells  
**11** Tony of "Who's the Boss?"  
**12** Part of FAQ  
**13** "Gypsy" composer Jule  
**18** Door feature  
**22** Bricks unit  
**25** "Mr. Mom" actress  
**26** Instrument to which an orchestra tunes  
**28** Big Indian  
**29** Word of rebuke  
**30** Big Apple tennis stadium  
**31** Drips in an ICU  
**32** Open the door to  
**36** Like 007's martini  
**37** Normandy battle site  
**39** Wee bit  
**40** Gothic novelist  
Rackliffe

**41** Operating system developed at Bell Labs  
**42** Rice-A-\_\_\_\_  
**43** Pocket entry: Abbr.  
**48** "Hooray!"  
**49** Non-commercial TV spot  
**50** Caveat  
**51** Computer acronym about faulty data  
**52** Quick trip

**53** Of an arm bone  
**54** Bing Crosby's primary label  
**58** Bench material  
**59** Hairy mountain sighting  
**61** Musical prefix with smith?  
**62** River of Flanders  
**64** Slo-pitch path  
**66** Zak, to Ringo  
**67** Early computer printer speed meas.

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

T	A	C	I	T	A	B	B	Y	T	I	C	K
B	R	A	V	O	M	A	Y	A	O	T	O	E
S	T	R	A	W	B	E	R	R	Y	J	E	L
P	A	I	N	U	N	D	O	A	T	L	A	S
C	A	L	M	T	A	M	O					
F	L	A		A	P	P	L	E	B	U	T	T
R	A	T		B	Y	T	E		S	P	O	U
A	B	U	T		A	D	Z		E	M	T	S
N	O	R	E	S	T		G	O	A	L		
C	R	E	A	M	C	H	E	E	S	E	L	E
							C	A	M	E		
I	D	E	A	L		R	A	T	E		Y	W
M	I	D	D	L	E	A	G	E	S		P	R
P	E	N	D		S	L	O	T		O	N	E
S	T	A	Y		E	D	G	E		W	A	D

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By Gary Steinmetz  
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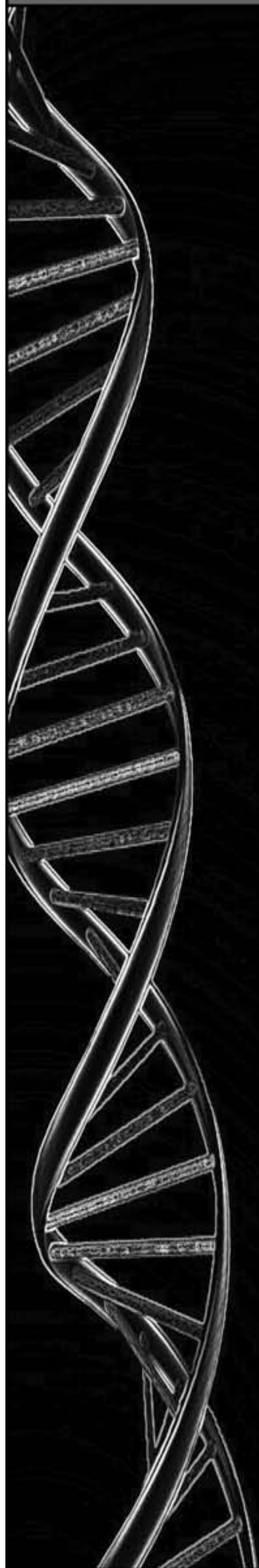
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# Freshman Collazo hopes to qualify for NCAA championships this weekend

BY VICTORIA JONES  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Freshman Jason Collazo has already made a big splash. Collazo is nearing the end of his first year of competition here in Uris Pool but has already made a name for himself as Columbia's frontrunner in the diving events.

This weekend at the NCAA Diving Zones, in which competitors will be vying for entrance to the NCAA National Championships two weeks later, Collazo will be the Light Blue's sole representative on the boards.

Back in November, Collazo qualified for Diving Zones when he won the 1-meter diving competition against Harvard with 301.73 points. Since then he has continued to top the charts and lead the diving squad in dual and tournament competition.

This weekend Collazo will be the lone Lion atop the tower and 1- and 3-meter boards as he tries to make it to his first

NCAA Championship in as many years on the collegiate circuit.

Though he has already taken the top spot amongst Columbia divers, Collazo is wonderfully modest about his success and potential.

"It's really exciting because I didn't think I was going to qualify for this meet at all," Collazo said. "I don't know if I'm going to qualify next year, so I'm going to take advantage of it now."

Diving head coach Gordon Spencer however is more vocal about his student's talent.

"Jason is a really seasoned diver," Spencer said. "As far as the whole savvy and the ability to compete, Jason is accomplished at that and he's going to get even better at it as his confidence grows."

In terms of dives this weekend, Collazo will take off from the 1-meter, 3-meter, and tower platforms. With the exception of one dive, Collazo's line-up at Diving Zones should be familiar to all fans who have

watched him on the 1- and 3-meter boards this season.

"In the finals of the 3-meter event for the past meet [Ivy League Championships] I changed one of my dives and made it a little bit harder and I'm going to do that in this next meet," Collazo explained.

The oddball this weekend will be the platform dive, as the event was not on the docket for competition in the regular season. For this reason, and the fact that Uris Pool does not have a tower platform of its own, Collazo has had limited practice since coming to Columbia.

"It's going to be tough, but hopefully I can do it well," Collazo said of the event.

Collazo and Spencer have traveled to practice platform about once a month, but Collazo had the opportunity to practice more often in the fall in addition to the great deal of experience he brought with him from high school.

Collazo also got to practice in a well-equipped facility over

winter break with the team and has taken plenty of trials off the boards that Uris Pool does have.

"You're kind of practicing platform diving by doing springboard diving," coach Spencer explained. "Your take-off in diving is a big percentage of your dive and so you can practice five of your take-offs—back, reversed, inward, twister and armspan—out of six takeoffs."

Collazo will travel to New Brunswick, N.J. this weekend from March 12-14 to face off against fellow divers in hopes of earning a spot at the NCAA National Championships two weeks later. With years of experience under his belt and his eyes wide-open with excitement, Collazo is mentally and physically prepared for his first go at the competition.

As far as coach Spencer is concerned, Collazo is ready to give it his all.

"He's a pretty mature diver and competitor and I'm just gonna set him loose and see how he does," Spencer said.



HALEY VECCHIARELLI / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
**ALL ALONE** | The chart-topping Jason Collazo will be the only representative for Columbia Diving at the NCAA Diving Zones.

# Women's tennis takes on No. 10 Clemson University with changes in lineup



SHIVINA HARJANI FOR SPECTATOR  
**HEADING SOUTH** | Women's tennis will travel to Florida over break to face nonconference opponents NJIT, Clemson, Florida Atlantic, and Nova Southeastern before returning home to face Fordham.

BY LAUREN SEAMAN  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

The women's tennis team will head for warmer weather next week as it travels to Florida for its annual spring training trip after spending the break last season in California.

The women, who are not yet ranked for this season, are scheduled to face four out-of-state opponents—NJIT, Clemson, Florida Atlantic, and Nova Southeastern. This year's trip is particularly exciting for the Lions as they have the opportunity to face the No. 10 ranked team Clemson University. Though Columbia's other three opponents have fallen out of the top 75 ITA rankings, they remain on the cusp of a national ranking and should still prove to be tough competition for the Lions.

Only weeks before Ivy play, Columbia will really need to

buckle down this break to prepare for the weeks ahead.

"The most important thing the team needs to do this week is stay healthy, keep working hard to improve every day, and go into Ivy season believing they can win," head coach Ilene Weintraub said.

With new changes made to their team, the Lions are excited as they train for Ivy season. The Light Blue had to adjust to the absence of the No. 1 doubles team of Nicole Bartnik and Carling Donovan during last weekend's matches. Bumping up co-captain Natasha Makarova and freshman Chelsea Davis to No. 1, Katarina Kovacevic and Eliza Matache took the court for the first time as a doubles team at No. 2. The Light Blue duo saw great success during the match against George Washington, winning their match 8-2, and the

two are expected to pair off again in the upcoming matches.

"Katarina and Eliza showed great potential over the weekend," Weintraub said. "They make a good team because Katarina has an amazing first serve and is able to set up Eliza at the net with her penetrating forehand. Eliza has a great overhead and defensive volley. Together they really have it all."

But Kovacevic and Matache won't be the only ones looking to continue their success on the court. After taking a few days to rest her shoulder, No. 1 singles player Nicole Bartnik is back and ready as ever.

"I can't wait to see what she accomplishes," Weintraub said. "The No. 1 from Clemson better bring her A-game next week."

After the break, Columbia will return home for a match against local foe Fordham on Friday, March 26 at 4 p.m.

# New pixbox champion crowned

GUPTA from back page

friend Bart Lopez unfairly in your victory column last fall, so here it goes. What's with that rapidly balding head of yours? Is it just me, or did you forget your hair at home back in Connecticut? Speaking of which, you are not the first non-white Pixbox champ. You come from Connecticut, for God's sake! Let the record show that I am the first non-white Pixbox champ. Also, unlike you, I will actually be here once again next semester to defend my title.

Holly MacDonald: I've thought about this one a long time, but really, I've got nothing bad to say about you, Holly. Along with Shapiro, you really stink at Pixbox, but I'm willing to overlook that because you spent a semester in Scotland (EDGE shout-out!). But I am rather curious about your strange and seemingly potentially dangerous obsession with that college team from Norman, Okla. Here's to hoping that Bradford goes No. 1 overall, and hoping that you make it in sports journalism after graduation. Go Sooners.

Lisa Lewis: Oh, how I've waited to write this, Lisa. You think you can just take little snips at Spec in your columns without me noticing? So Spec doesn't cover archery. You want to cover it? Knock yourself out. Last time I checked, you haven't covered a sport since the ball dropped in '09. Oh, and about my Dartmouth column? I didn't have to go to the game to know that when a guy comes into the game with 383 rushing yards on the season and runs for 242 in one game, the rushing defense stunk it up that game, just FYI. Boom roasted.

Jelani Johnson: I've spent this whole column generally rambling, talking about things no one other than me cares about, and gloating about how awesome I am. Now, I know what it's like to be you every day. Really though, this is the top, the pinnacle for that. Too bad you'll never get to taste it. And honestly, no one cares about your NBA picks. At all.

Tommy Di Benedetto: All

through the semester, Tom, I didn't think I had anything to write about you. But you should have learned by now that deadlines are meant to be followed, not ignored. Other than that, keep up the great job at WKCR.

Bart Lopez: You put up a good fight, Bart, you really did. And I would like to thank you for making the task of picking the final weekend a whole lot easier. But what's most important is that you keep getting those topless photos printed in The Eye. Really, though, keep that up. The joke fodder is endless, although most of them are too profane and vulgar to be printed here.

There are also two other columnists who didn't make the cut in Pixbox and who weren't in the final standings for different reasons.

Lucas Shaw: Think you can just rip Spec Sports like you did in your column without repercussion? Karma's a bitch, Lucas. Oh, and also, stay the hell away from the basketball supplement in November. We want to get out

before 7 a.m. this time.

Jacob Levenfeld: You're a tremendously nice guy, Jacob, but you did post this on my Facebook wall on February 8: "How's it going? Just thought I'd tell you you're terrible at Pixbox." Well, guess what, Levenfeld—joke's on you now. I ran into a strange problem when thinking about what to say: I had too many options. Should I make fun of your strange love of hockey, your female-esque alcohol tolerance, or your uncountable effeminate Facebook photos? Hmm, maybe I'm sensing a trend here, but I'll leave you to figure that one out.

So let's all raise our glasses to everyone who's graduating this spring, but, more importantly, to me writing this thing again in the fall.

Cheers.

*Kunal Gupta is a junior in the School of Engineering and Applied Science majoring in operations research.*  
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HALEY VECCHIARELLI / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**BIG RED RIVAL** | The lacrosse team, which has a record of 2-0 after winning its matches against Monmouth and Bucknell, will open conference play today in what is expected to be a close match against Cornell.

# Lacrosse looks to continue winning streak as it begins Ivy League competition

BY JULIA GARRISON  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

The women’s lacrosse team will begin Ivy League competition today as it travels to Ithaca, N.Y. to play Cornell. Columbia (2-0) will be looking to continue their winning streak after beating both Monmouth and Bucknell in their first two matches this season. Cornell currently has an overall record of 1-2, having lost their most recent game to Hofstra on Saturday.

When these two faced off last year, Columbia lost in a tight

match, 11-8. The Lions’ Taylor Gattinella, however, scored the first goal of the game, getting the Light Blue off to a good start. The score was close throughout the first half, with each team putting in goals and arriving at a 2-2 tie with less than 11 minutes left in the half. It was just before the intermission that the Big Red pushed ahead by putting three shots in the net and finishing up the first half with a 5-2 lead.

It was Gattinella again who scored the first goal of the second half, while teammate Lauren Olsen put one in for the team

as well. However, Cornell went on another scoring streak to widen its lead 9-4, and despite Columbia’s late rally, in which they scored four out of the final six goals, the Big Red was able to hold onto its lead and leave Baker Field with the win.

“We lost 11-8 last year,” said head coach Kerri Whitaker. “But every year and every team is different. I think our team learned a lot from last season and we know what we want to accomplish this year. Our team has a strong identity; we know who we are.”

Last year’s loss to Cornell

brought the team to 5-1 overall, while improving Cornell to 5-0. However, this year, the Lions will look to continue their two-game winning streak while the Big Red hopes to even out its wins and losses for the season so far.

“We’re familiar with Cornell’s style of play and know that they will compete hard; they always do,” said Whitaker. “We have had good practices leading up to today and feel good about our preparation for Wednesday. Our team is playing with a lot of confidence and in our last game, really followed our game plan.”

Whitaker is not only looking forward to the Cornell match, but is also excited about the 2010 season and has high expectations for the team.

“Our team has big goals for this season, and it’s a credit to this team from our captains all the way to our freshmen, that they have worked each and every day toward those goals,” she said. “I know our players believe in the team and our vision, because they wouldn’t be working as hard as they are if they didn’t. I see in them many of the components critical for success and our

leadership has been very good.”

During spring break Columbia will also be competing against Ivy League rival Dartmouth on Wednesday, March 17, in Hanover, Mass. and against Stony Brook College in Stony Brook, N.Y. on Saturday, March 20. In competing against Dartmouth last year, Columbia lost 12-9 after holding the Big Green to a 6-6 tie in the first half. The Lions did not compete against Stony Brook in the 2009 season.

The Columbia-Cornell game will begin at 4 p.m. this afternoon in Ithaca, N.Y.



JENNY HSU / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**LOSING STREAK** | The softball team will head to Florida over spring break for the Rebel Games tournament.

# Softball seeks first win of season

BY CHRISTOPHER BROWN  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

The Columbia softball team (0-4) will try to win its first game of the year over break after a rough start in the first four games of the season. The team struggled in the Virginia Cavalier Classic last weekend, losing to Delaware State and Virginia twice, including an 8-0 shutout in the final game against the Cavaliers.

During spring break, the Lions will make their annual trip to central Florida for the Rebel Games tournament from March 12th to 19th. This weekend’s doubleheader includes Lehigh and Butler on Friday, Sacred Heart and Florida A&M on Saturday, then Manhattan and Fairleigh Dickinson on Sunday. Monday, March 15th features matchups against Rider and Marist.

After taking next Tuesday off, the team finishes off their schedule with Colgate and Maryland on Wednesday, St. Peter’s and a rematch with Fairleigh Dickinson on Thursday, and Cleveland State followed by the final game against Wisconsin-Green Bay on Friday, March 19.

Through four games, the offense has relied primarily on linking together base hits to manufacture the 18 runs they have scored so far. Junior outfielder Anne Marie Skylis leads the team with a .500 batting average, hitting 6-for-12 with 3 RBI last weekend. Infielder Stephanie Yagi is 4-for-11 with an RBI and a run scored. Freshman Jennifer Bergeron is 4-for-12 with an RBI. Infielder Dani Pineda and outfielder/catcher Taylor Christie both have averages of .300

after hitting 3-for-10. Maggie Johnson leads the team with 4 RBI and has 2 of the team’s four extra base hits with a .250 (3-for-12) average.

The Lions can use the Rebel Games to improve their pitching, which gave up 54 hits and 37 earned runs in just 22 innings last weekend. Aimee Kemp has surrendered 13 hits in 5.2 innings while Johnson has allowed 21 hits and 17 earned runs in her 3 starts this year. Maureen O’Kane gave up 12 earned runs through 7 innings in her start against last weekend.

The Light Blue will also look to improve its defense by trying to cut down on the number of errors committed each game. They have already given up 10 errors against opponents through four games, good for a .912 fielding percentage.

# CU runners represent Ivies in NCAA championships

BY GREGORY KREMLER  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Three Lions, sophomores Kyle Merber, Sharay Hale, and Monique Roberts, will head to Fayetteville, Arkansas this weekend for the 2010 NCAA Indoor Track & Field Championships. They represent not only Columbia, but the entirety of the Ivy League as the sole qualifiers from the Heptagonal conference to the meet.

Kyle Merber leads the contingent after his Ivy record-setting 3:58.52 mile at last Friday’s Columbia-hosted Last Chance Meet, a time that places him 9th in the NCAA overall. It will be his first national championships—cross country, indoor, or outdoors—but expectations are high, as they should well be, as Merber has progressed considerably in each of his two performances at the distance this season.

“For the first time [at NCAA’s] the goal is to get used to it,” said track and field head coach Willy

Wood. “The goal for anyone would be to be All-American, but Kyle’s confident and mature enough to look beyond that, to finish much higher.”

Merber will face the likes of New Mexico senior Lee Emanuel, whose 3:57.62 leads the nation entering the meet, as well as Mac Fleet, A.J. Acosta, and Andrew Wheatling. All three are from the University of Oregon, a perennial powerhouse and reigning meet champion.

Sharay Hale’s season has been record-filled, with new school and Ivy marks set at 200m and the 4x400m relay, and a school and second all-time Ivy 53.09 open 400m. The latter, Hale’s specialty, is the distance at which she’ll compete at NCAA’s. Although this will be her first experience on the national stage indoors, Hale is not unfamiliar with the big dance—she took 9th at last year’s outdoor championships.

“Sharay is definitely ready for this weekend,” said Wood. “She’s so strong right now, ready to do

something really big.”

After just missing the 400m finals outdoors, Hale is definitely hungry for her second shot. She’s currently situated at 11th overall and will face junior Joanna Atkins of Auburn, national champion at the distance outdoors, and Texas A&M’s Jessica Beard, current nation leader with her 51.15, and runner-up outdoors.

Monique Roberts’ 1.82m high jump from the NYRR Saturday Night at the Armory II back on Jan. 30 has held, and currently ranks 13th in the NCAA. Although she’s failed to better the height in subsequent outings, the national meet is a unique venue, surely one that will lend itself to outstanding performances. She’ll hope to improve upon that mark, and crack the seemingly elusive 6-foot barrier.

Competition gets underway Friday, March 12, at 10 a.m. and will close with the men’s 1600m relay Saturday at 8:40 p.m.



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**RECORD RUNS** | Sophomore Hale will compete nationally after setting school and Ivy records.

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## From last place to first: Gupta wins pixbox



KUNAL GUPTA

### Moving the Chains

Wow. Winning Pixbox is unquestionably the greatest accomplishment of my life. No, seriously. Better than getting into Columbia, better than getting my first paycheck, better than anything I can think of. And you want to know what makes this even better? I gave up on this season of Pixbox after the first week. You see, that first Thursday of the semester was my 21st birthday, and as it turned out, it didn't go so hot for me in Pixbox. I went 1-7 that week, putting me firmly in last place. But, alas, I remind myself of a Horatio Alger story. (There's one for you history majors. See, us SEAS kids do know some non-math stuff.)

I slowly climbed my way back into contention, and the next thing I knew, I was in third place on the final weekend. Still, I was four games out of first. Thanks to the best EIC Spec has seen in a while (and the best guest picker I've ever seen), Ben Cotton and I went 12-4 over the final weekend. A tiebreak was needed to decide the contest between Bart and me, and as Kobe Bryant's 20-footer rimmed out against the Magic on Sunday, I think I may have been happier than big ol' Stan Van Gundy. Actually, I know I was.

Now, it would take too long to thank everyone that helped guide me to this achievement, this triumph of the human spirit. Thanks to Sigourney for being my guest picker last semester and to Michele Cleary for helping us make the picks last weekend. But mostly, thanks to me for being so awesome. Now, as is the tradition in Pixbox, my guest has a chance to say whatever is on his mind.

"It's nice that Kunal has good things to say about my job performance, because for a solid half hour on Sunday afternoon, I was not doing anything at all. I was obsessively tracking the Magic-Lakers game on ESPN.com and hoping nobody noticed. Thomas Rhiel, our lovely managing editor—he noticed. And with a well-placed passive-aggressive remark or three, he pointed out that this wasn't even my fight. Nevertheless, after we pulled out a victory, I looked for someone to help me celebrate. I found only Sam Levin, our crackerjack city news editor. "That's nice," he said. Then he went back to work, and so did I. Perhaps one day I too will have a sports column of my own, but for now, back to the real winner."

So, as the champ, I now get to bash, mock, insult, and generally offend and provoke anger from each and every one of the other sports columnists whom I defeated in my blaze of glory. For those of you that know me, I'm generally a pretty nice guy. But make no mistake about it, I mean to offend every one of the less important sports columnists with this column.

Really, though, this is my dream. I get to write a published column about how awesome I am and get to insult everyone else I demolished along the way.

So, without further ado, let's start from the bottom up, because really, I can do whatever the hell I want today.

Jacob Shapiro: You stink at Pixbox. I mean, you really, really stink at Pixbox. I thought I was bad, but you are on a whole different level. Finishing last twice in a row? You're lucky you're graduating in May and don't have to endure the misery for another semester. Also, just because you send out the schedule for columns doesn't make you exempt from the fact that, in general, columns are supposed to have at least some relevance to Columbia.

Matt Velazquez: Ah, Matt. I've known you the longest that I've known anyone at Spec, making this one of the harder ones to write. But you ripped my good

Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you very much. Ladies, gentleman, please, everyone take a seat. OK, fine, keep clapping for a few more minutes, but really, that's quite enough.



JENNY HSU / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**ROAD TRIP** | The baseball team will travel south over spring break to play against tough opponents after a disappointing showing last week in Nevada.

## Baseball faces challenge in next 11 games

### Lions look to prepare for league play and improve on last performance down south

BY JACOB SHAPIRO

*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

For Columbia students, spring break is a glorious respite from endless amounts of busywork. But to the Columbia baseball team, the vacation presents a rigorous 11-game road trip through the South.

The Lions opened their season last week in Sin City by dropping three out of four games to UNLV. After leading in the first three contests, Columbia coughed up three straight victories to the Rebels before closing out the fourth game with a score of 8-6.

The most devastating loss occurred in the third game where Columbia led 12-4 after seven innings. With two men out, Lions relief pitchers failed to retire the final batter in the eighth and UNLV posted a remarkable eight runs.

Columbia looks to improve its play in

late game situations starting this weekend when the road trip begins. The Lions open play with a three-game weekend set against the Richmond Spiders in Virginia. Already 10 games into their season, Richmond is coming off a sweep of Lafayette last weekend at home.

The Lions continue their trip with a stop in Blacksburg to play Virginia Tech before crossing into North Carolina for a mid-week series against Appalachian State. The teams are scheduled to play two matinees on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Continuing the trek to the south, the Light Blue will participate in the Winthrop University Coca-Cola Classic Tournament next weekend. At the moment, Columbia will face at least four different opponents in South Carolina before retuning to campus.

The Lions will play Winthrop twice and both Kent State and Penn State once

with the possibility of a fifth game on Sunday if favorable results are achieved. The team wraps up its road trip with a classic matchup against local rival St. John's before hosting its home opener at Robertson Field on March 27.

Among the Lions who are off to fast starts are Nick Ferraresi and Alex Ferrera. Ferraresi, a freshman, leads his teammates with seven hits and a .500 batting average after the first four games. The outfielder also hit his first home run, one of five extra base hits, and has already driven in six men.

Ferrera also homered in Las Vegas and possesses a .333 average at this point in the season. Columbia was also happy to see junior Jason Banos return to the lineup after missing last season with an injury.

Banos struggled at the plate last weekend, but still managed to provide five RBI on two hits. The outfielder

was particularly sharp in clutch situations, evoking memories of his standout freshmen season. Banos is an important player to watch over the next 10 days and the team's fortunes lie partly in his offensive production.

Columbia's pitching staff will get more exposure to solid hitters next week as well. The starting pitchers especially struggled last weekend and only freshman Stefan Olson had a solid outing. Olson threw six innings allowing four runs while striking out six batters. The team's overall ERA floats at 9.62 and the Lions will certainly have to sink those numbers to be competitive in the Ivy League.

The next 11 games will give head coach Brett Boretti an extended look at his roster. By facing superior opponents, the team hopes to prepare its players to capture the Ivy League title that eluded them last season.

## Men's tennis to face nonconference rivals in Texas over break

BY KUNAL GUPTA

*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

The men's tennis team will travel to Texas over spring break for their annual training trip. While in Texas, they will play four matches, including one against No. 55 ranked Texas Christian University. Columbia will take on Southern Methodist University, the University of Texas at Arlington and University of Texas at San Antonio in addition to TCU on their trip.

"It's not ideal to go and play good teams outside," said head coach Bid Goswami, "I know we play 10 to 15 percent worse outdoors, but we get to hit a lot of balls and practice outside."

Last season, the Lions went 1-2 on their trip, facing all of the same teams except Texas-San Antonio.

Texas Christian will be the first opponent on the trip. TCU enters the match coming off a huge win over No. 24 Tulsa, defeating them 6-1 at home. The Horned Frogs won an incredibly tight doubles point in that match, winning it 11-9 in a third doubles tie break. With momentum on their side, they ran away with the singles matches, including impressive wins at No. 1 and 2 singles.

"TCU is a good team," Goswami said.

Top singles player Slah Mbarek defeated the No. 115 player in the nation in straight sets, and No. 2 singles player Zach Nichols defeated the No. 31 player in the nation in three sets as well.

The doubles point will be decisive against TCU, as they have won the doubles point in five of their past seven matches this spring. Last season, they defeated the Lions 7-0, despite the fact that the top three singles matches each went to three sets.

SMU will welcome Columbia to its home courts with a record of 7-6 this season, and will come in with a win over Memphis in its most recent outing, despite having dropped the three matches before that.

"SMU is a little weaker this year," said Goswami, "but they are a good team. I don't think their ranking reflects it, but they will be tough on their home courts."

SMU comes into this matchup winless against ranked teams, but 7-1 against everyone else. The Mustangs are led by top singles player Artem Baradach, who has gone 7-4 this season. Baradach is coming off an impressive win against the No. 7 player in the nation, Dimitar Kutrovsky from Texas.

UT-Arlington currently has a record of 2-5 this season, including an early season loss to TCU, 5-2. Arlington is led by junior Brieuc Hamon, its No. 2 singles player, who was just named as the Southland Conference's men's tennis player of the week. Hamon went 1-0 in singles and doubles, posting easy wins over his opponents from UT-Dallas.

UT-San Antonio is a new opponent for Columbia this season. It enters with a record of 5-6 this spring, and is coming off a 4-3 win against St. Louis, at home. The top singles player for UT-Arlington has been Tyler Brown, who has gone 5-6 this season, splitting time between the No. 1 and 2 positions.

One of the main reasons that the Lions go to Texas is the opportunity to prepare for the possibility of outdoor play once Ivy play begins after spring break.

"We might play outside against Brown and Yale," said Goswami, "and that's right after the Harvard match, so we need to get used to being outside. Also in Texas, if it rains all of these places have indoor courts, and the weather is similar to what it will be here two or three weeks later."

Although the Lions will see some stiff competition over their trip, Goswami has a simple goal in mind.

"I go to win all of the matches," he said.

Columbia's first match will be Tuesday, March 16, when they take on No. 55 TCU.



ALYSON GOULDEN FOR SPECTATOR

**THE GREAT OUTDOORS** | The men's tennis team will travel to Texas for their annual training trip to practice outdoor play in preparation for Ivy League competition.