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INTERNAL ELECTIONS | Spencer Almen, SEAS '12, addresses the council last night during ESC's elections for executive board.

University has high hopes for open housing

BY KARLA JIMENEZ
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The housing lottery might put many into high gear, but there is one thing that's shifting to neutral this year.

As students select into housing this month, the University hopes interested upperclassmen will make use of the new open housing pilot program, an initiative that allows students to live together in doubles, regardless of their gender.

"I don't have expectations as much as I have hopes. I hope a lot of students do take advantage of it," Scott Wright, vice president of student and administrative services, said, adding that he hopes that students use it regardless of their reasons for doing so. In November Columbia announced it would allow students of the opposite sex to live in gender-blind doubles together after a student-led campaign that began in 2009. Barnard will also participate in the program through the Barnard/Columbia Housing Exchange, which allows a certain number of students to live in housing at the opposite school each year.

Although peer institutions have reported that few students participate in similar gender-neutral housing programs, Wright said he thinks Columbia's pilot will attract more students.

"We don't pilot things that we don't think will succeed," Wright said.

According to Wright, Columbia's current housing structure leads itself to reasonable student participation because students are used to living amongst peers of both genders. He added that Student Services knows there has been some demand for gender-blind living options because they have received reports of unauthorized room swaps in the past.

"When you have a protocol

SEE HOUSING, page 2

CU Relations with Hispanic community uncertain

BY JACKIE CARRERO
Spectator Staff Writer

As Columbia continues to recruit West Harlem residents for University jobs in Manhattanville some locals said they fear work in the largely Hispanic neighborhood might not be within grasp for non-English speakers.

Last month, the Columbia University Employment Information Center on 125th Street and Broadway hosted an open house for the local community to learn about job opportunities at the University, but some attendees said they felt the University didn't do enough to bridge the language barrier. One woman left the event because none of the presenters from CEIC spoke Spanish.

Community Board 9 member Marisol Alcantara said that Columbia needed a translator at the event and that the University often overlooks the needs of the Hispanic community of West Harlem.

However, University spokesperson Victoria Benitez said that Columbia provides many resources for the Latino community in Harlem and beyond.

"Columbia University, with more than 14,000 employees is the seventh largest nongovernmental employer in New York City. Of its 14,000 employees, more than 16 percent of its regular faculty and staff self-identify as Latino/Hispanic," Benitez wrote in an email.

In 2008 the University said the Manhattanville expansion will likely create 6,000 new University jobs and 1,200 construction-related jobs. Benitez recently told Spectator that 68 percent of contracts awarded for Manhattanville projects have been awarded to "minority, women, or locally-owned firms" and that between August 2008 and September 2010, 66 percent of the construction work hours were done by minority, female, or local workers.

According to Alcantara, the only reason the flyer advertising the CEIC open house was in Spanish was because she translated it herself.

"I asked if I could translate it because the majority of people who live in the expansion area are Hispanic," Alcantara said. "A lot of employees at Columbia now are Latinos, if you're going to have

an employment center in West Harlem, why would you have a job fair without a Spanish flyer and without having someone there who speaks Spanish?"

Last year the University began sending out their weekly construction updates in both English and Spanish.

Alcantara said that while resources at the CEIC exist, they are not always implemented or advertised properly.

"They tell you, you can use the computer and search for jobs, but a lot of people don't even know how to use the computer. The everyday person might not have those skills," Alcantara said.

However, Benitez said that the CEIC does provide lots of Spanish language resources to bring in potential employees.

"The Columbia Employment and Information Center located at 125th Street and Broadway has Spanish-speaking staff available to assist local residents with their job search, and the Center also offers online job readiness training programs in Spanish," Benitez wrote in an email.

SEE HISPANIC, page 2



FILE PHOTO

OPEN HOUSE | Local residents speak with employers from CEIC at an event last month.

ESC elects two to executive board

Levick chosen as president, more contests to follow

BY SONALEE RAU
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Three and a half hours, four candidates, and many questions later, the Engineering Student Council elected two of five executive board members on Monday night.

Nate Levick, SEAS '12 was elected to replace Chris Elizondo, SEAS '11, as president and Logan Donovan, SEAS '13, will replace Heidi Ahmed, SEAS '11, as vice president of policy.

Each year the ESC holds internal elections for its executive board positions. Candidates give brief speeches to the council and other students in attendance and then answer questions and give endorsements before the council deliberates privately.

Levick said in his speech that he hopes to increase opportunities for engineers at the Center for Career Education if elected, and described his leadership style as being driven by "a sense of pride, coming from passion."

"I'd like to think I know some of the right people—I've walked the walk, talked the talk," Levick said. He added that he is a leader in his fraternity, Sigma Phi Epsilon, and said he felt he was adept at "delegating, micromanaging, and everything in between."

His competitor, Spencer Almen, SEAS '12 and a representative for the class of 2012, said he was interested in supporting club sports. Almen said his love for Columbia motivated him to enter the race.

"I'm really proud of this school, proud to be here, proud of the people I'm around," he said.

Following his defeat Almen left the room to contemplate dropping into the policy vice president race. He did so, but lost to Donovan, who served as the representative for alumni and professional development.

The contest for VP of policy ended in a tie, with the 26 voting

council members present evenly split. Two revotes later, Donovan was elected.

Sheila Misheni, SEAS '14, ran unopposed for the position of student life vice president but failed to garner the necessary two-thirds majority by a mere decimal, according to Elizondo. In her speech, Misheni said she was interested in visiting residence halls to advertise ESC before its annual Engineering Week.

She cited her work in organizing study breaks and collaborating with student groups such as Engineers Without Borders as qualifications for the post.

A revote will take place next week.

"I'd like to think I know some of the right people."

—Nate Levick, ESC president-elect

As the three and a half hour-long election proceedings closed for the night, so did Lerner Hall.

At their meeting next week ESC will vote for intergroup vice president, internal vice president, and VP for student life. The most hotly contested race is for intergroup, which has three candidates in the running.

At the beginning of the meeting Frank Yin, SEAS '12 and a candidate for VP of intergroup, had removed himself from the race but after the results of the presidential race were announced, Yin expressed a desire to reenter. A two-thirds majority of the council agreed to let Yin resume running for the position. Yin said in a brief speech that he was inspired to reenter the race after hearing from the presidential candidates.

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University senators review drafts of ROTC resolution

BY SAMMY ROTH
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Members of the University Senate's Executive Committee have drafted a resolution expressing support for the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, which the senate will likely vote on next month.

A University senator provided Spectator a copy of the resolution draft, which has been circulated to senate committees for internal discussion.

While the resolution draft expresses support for a return of ROTC to Columbia, it is expected to be hotly debated in the full senate before the vote, which is likely to occur in April.

Senate committees are currently discussing the draft, which will probably change before being finalized.

The Student Affairs Committee, which comprises all 22 student senators, will hold a special meeting to discuss the draft on Friday. The meeting will not be open to the public.

"There are a lot of boring meetings at the senate," University Senator Andrew Springer, a Journalism School student, said. "I don't think this will be one of them."

According to a person familiar with the resolution, the draft was sent last week to the senate's Student Affairs Committee, Faculty Affairs Committee, Education Committee, and External Relations and Research Policy Committee. The same person added that the draft sent to Spectator was "an early draft" and that the resolution has "changed quite a bit" since it was first distributed last week.

A University senator, who asked to remain anonymous because the draft was not supposed to be made public, said that he does not know of any revised drafts.

The draft reads, in part, "Be it further resolved ... that Columbia University welcomes the opportunity to explore further mutually beneficial relationships with the Armed Forces of the United States, including participation in the programs of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps."

Springer, an ROTC supporter, said the resolution draft does not go far enough in expressing support for ROTC. He said the draft includes a lot of "legalese" but no direct statement in support of ROTC.

SEE ROTC, page 2

A&E, PAGE 3

"The Sufi's Garland" follows a nomadic route

Roman Books will debut SIPA grad Manav Sachdeva's first collection of poetry on Friday, March 25.



OPINION, PAGE 4

The function of fraternities

Columbia acted correctly in revoking housing for the three fraternities.

Part of a larger Famiglia

Nick Bloom argues that MoHi is turning into every other college town.

SPORTS, PAGE 7

Freshmen catchers impress coaches

Freshmen Mike Fisher and Enmanuel Cabreja have impressed coaches this season as the two vie to become the starting catcher.

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Ties to Hispanic community in M'Ville uncertain

HISPANIC from front page

Patricia Rojas, CC '11 and president of the Dominican student organization Grupo Quisqueyano, was surprised that the CEIC didn't bring a translator to the open house event last month.

"Columbia has an incredibly diverse faculty and an incident like this does surprise me. Not having a translator present at this meeting may have been a detail that was mistakenly overlooked by the coordinators of this event," Rojas said.

Harlem resident Carmen

Alicea said that perhaps programs and services at CEIC aren't being fully utilized because they aren't being well-advertised.

"It's possible to have great programs but not have them be advertised, so people don't know about them," Alicea said.



FILE PHOTO

JOB HUNT | Local politicians and residents turned out for the open house hosted by CB9 and CEIC.

Open housing to mix up room selection this year

HOUSING from front page

that forces students to cheat on where you live, that's a bad thing," Wright said, adding that with the new open housing option students won't have to do such things.

Avi Edelman, CC '11, the president of Everyone Allied Against Homophobia and a member of the task force on open housing, said he imagines students participating in the

program will encounter the same problems as their peers, but not much else.

"I expect the pilot program will work just like housing works," Edelman said. "Some people will be happy and some will have issues with their roommates."

Wright and Edelman said they do not know how many students stated their intention to live with a roommate of the opposite sex when students registered for

housing last month.

Steven Pfau, CC'13 and co-president of GendeRevolution, said that his group has sponsored information sessions for students with EAAH and the University.

"I have seen students respond enthusiastically to the program on all of these occasions [at information sessions], but also seen some who are more hesitant," Pfau wrote in an email.

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FILE PHOTO

FORUM | The USenate hosted three town halls in February to gauge student opinion on ROTC.

Resolution draft doesn't cite nondiscrimination

ROTC from front page

"I think you can see the senate being a little wishy-washy on this ... I would prefer a resolution that says we would allow the military to return to actively be engaged on Columbia's campus," Springer said.

The draft makes no mention of Columbia's nondiscrimination policy. Some students oppose an ROTC return because the military does not accept transgender individuals, which they argue would violate Columbia's policy.

Avi Edelman, CC '11 and president of Everyone Allied Against Homophobia, who opposes ROTC on nondiscrimination grounds, called it "mind-boggling" that the University's nondiscrimination policy has not seen greater discussion among senators and administrators. The policy bars

organizations from discriminating on the basis of gender identity.

"We're preparing to initiate actions that would undermine a policy that's been written and voted on and enforced for years, and no one's talking about that," Edelman said.

The anonymous University senator said he has not heard many senators express opposition to ROTC on nondiscrimination grounds. Most opposition among senators, he said, has been based on concerns about Columbia becoming militarized or losing its academic autonomy.

The draft states that "questions of academic credit, appointments, and governance shall remain the sole and exclusive domain of the Provost, of the faculties of the affected schools, and of their several deans."

The draft also notes that

Columbia has shown “widespread support for expanding Columbia’s ties with the Armed Forces of the United States, specifically on the question of the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps.”

The University Senate conducted a survey last month of students in Columbia College, the School of Engineering and Applied Science, Barnard College, the School of General Studies, and the School of International and Public Affairs which showed that 60 percent of respondents supported a return of ROTC to Columbia.

The full University Senate will hold its final two meetings of the semester April 1 and April 29. The senate will almost certainly vote on a finalized ROTC resolution at one of these meetings.

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SIPA grad embarks on poetical journey in ‘The Sufi’s Garland’

BY ANNE BRINK
Columbia Daily Spectator

Very few poets get published, let alone in the International Herald Tribune when they are 12 years old. It is somewhat amusing then, and perhaps a mark of the humbleness of poet Manav Sachdeva, SIPA '03, that he does not remember the incident.

What he does remember is that his father had heard from teachers at school that Sachdeva's handwriting was "horrific" and made him practice lines. Sachdeva smiled and said, "I found it oppressively boring, so somehow I started playing with words." A career in poetry began and now "The Sufi's Garland," Sachdeva's first collection of poems, will officially release this Friday, March 25, from Roman Books.

"The Sufi's Garland," which chronicles the journey of a nomadic fakir, has emotional and spiritual undertones reminiscent of the work of 18th-century American greats like Emily Dickinson.

Yet poetry is not Sachdeva's primary profession: he is a consultant to the United Nations. His two job roles, that of poet and that of humanitarian, "are not interrelated in a perfect sense," Sachdeva said, but "they inform one another."

At the School of International and Public Affairs, Sachdeva concentrated in both poetry and politics. "I have always felt that poets have an impact on policy," Sachdeva said, adding that

poets can "write lines to inspire nations, whether it be revolution or oppression, or to inspire minorities of the population."

"This was a reckoning to accept different kinds of philosophies, and different hearts. "

—Manav Sachdeva, SIPA '03 and poet

"The Sufi's Garland" has been 15 years in the making. Sachdeva began writing the now-published manuscript long before he came to Columbia for graduate school. Yet it was here in New York that he began to consider his poetry more deeply, after talking to renowned poets at the School of the Arts like Alice Quinn, an adjunct professor in the writing division.

Sachdeva's poems, in fragments and pieces of various languages ranging from English to Hindi to Pubjabi, were strong in content, but needed to be edited and combined to form a whole.

The poems that survived the revision process are all in English, but not without explanation from their author. Sachdeva sent his original, multi-lingual manuscript out to American publishers but faced a series of rejections. "I was making a mistake of sending to American publishers in different languages, who couldn't understand why," Sachdeva said.

Sachdeva has found success writing in English but still has plans to print a future collection in his native languages. For now, he is content to bask in the satisfaction of being a newly published author.

"The Sufi's Garland," while literally following the journey of a nomad, is also a journey within Sachdeva's own mind. "In a way, this was a reckoning to accept different kinds of philosophies, and different hearts, and different ways to receive the world," Sachdeva said. "I was getting afraid of how many places my mind was going, and I reached a point where I accepted that the mind is an uncontainable act ... It is alright not to judge the mind." "The Sufi's Garland" is an acceptance of that belief.

When asked what he would like the reader to take away from his poetry, Sachdeva recalled a song about pilgrimage. "It's sort of what I would like them [the readers] to walk away with, to try to keep this as a journey to the beloved," he said. "It's sort of as if you were walking, that part of your own spirit or life, but that love has no



COURTESY OF NIGORA SACHDEVA

POLITICAL POET | Manav Sachdeva, SIPA '03, serves as a consultant to the United Nations but still finds time to write poetry—in multiple languages.

destination. It is the destination itself. You have to walk with love itself." This is what Sachdeva seems to mimic in his own life, whether it be at the U.N. or through his poetry—there is no destination, but only a path to walk.

New Louis Grant exhibition ‘Negro League Baseball in the ’40s’ falls just shy of a home run



MARIA CASTEX / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NEW BALL GAME | "Negro League Baseball in the '40s" opened March 21 at the Russ Berrie Medical Science Pavilion.

BY MIRIAM ROSEN
Spectator Staff Writer

"Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head" seems to be a suitable soundtrack for the return from spring break. Those looking for a reprieve from music—and the rain—can head to the Russ Berrie Medical Science Pavilion (168th Street and Nicholas Avenue) for a little slice of sunshine and warmth in the form of the small but invigorating exhibit, "Negro League Baseball in the '40s." The installation features the works of artist Louis Grant and opened Monday, March 21.

The small number of pieces at the site definitely leaves something to the imagination, but the few paintings that do line the walls seem to shout "quality over quantity." Grant set out to memorialize the baseball players of the Negro League, as well as to "reflect the spirit of another time," according to the exhibit description. Essentially, Grant aimed to recapture the fascination and excitement of baseball and its heroes from the '30s and '40s, a time when the artist himself had just started to attend baseball games as a young boy.

Each piece, aside from two woodcuts, is vibrantly painted with a heavy reliance on primary colors. The brightness

and thickness of the paint application allow for a boldly dreamlike atmosphere in each painting. "Promising Rookie" features a sky painted entirely in canary yellow. No shading or blending is involved—just unvarnished, solid hue. This unique color choice captures not only the afternoon's heat but also the warmth of the game's communal environment.

In many of the scenes, fans are packed into the stands, oohing and aahing over the players' super-human abilities. The works seem to make a motif of raising the players to idol status. Subtly included strokes of raised texture, which seem to be reverberations of unbridled energy or even halo formations, and partial obstruction of the players' faces, be it half of an eye or the mouth, lend a certain iconicity and mystique to the subjects.

Although these works are set in the '30s and '40s, Grant imbues his paintings with a sense of vivacity and currency for the modern sensibility. Often, paintings of the good old days distance the viewer, but here, perspectives are shrunk to include an immediacy of presence and narrative. The texture of the oil paint also evokes a dancing, living momentum.

Grant's work allows a blast to the very distant, yet somehow very close, past.

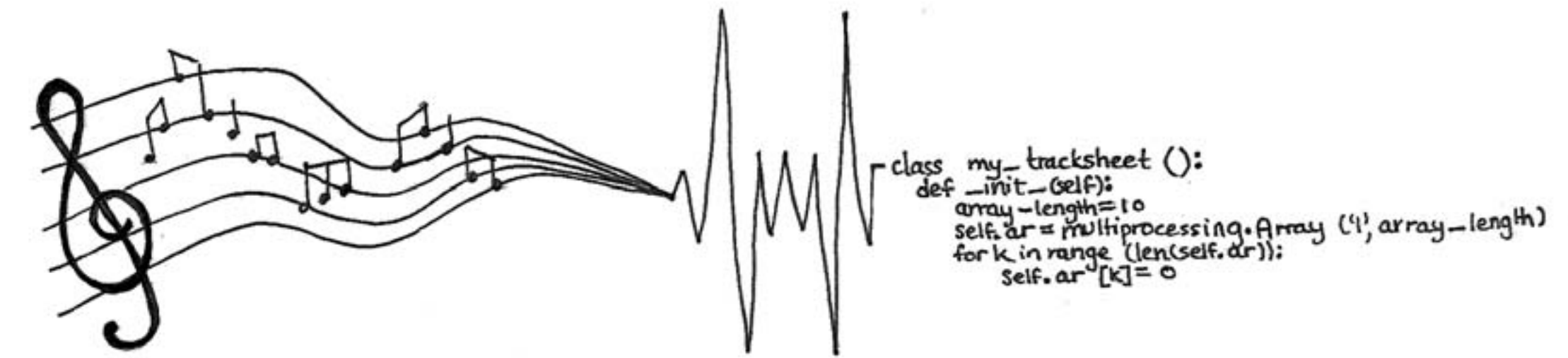


ILLUSTRATION BY REBECCA SCHWARZ

Million Song Dataset allows academic researchers to keep up with commercial beat

BY ALLISON MALECHA
Senior Spectator Staff Writer

The Million Song Dataset is exactly what it sounds like—a compilation of data for a million songs. What the name doesn't reveal is the magnitude of such an accomplishment, or its real-world implications for student-favorite applications like Genius on iTunes.

The dataset, which is a collaboration between Columbia's Laboratory for Recognition and Organization of Speech and Audio, or LabROSA, and music intelligence platform The Echo Nest, went live on March 4 through the site Infochimps. It is funded by the National Science Foundation's Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry program.

"The Million Song Dataset is the first and only freely-available, industrial-scale dataset for research on popular music and audio analysis," LabROSA founder and associate professor of electrical engineering Daniel Ellis said in an email. In general, the lab is "concerned with getting information out of sound

and works across a range of domains including speech recognition, music audio analysis, and environmental and ambient sound understanding."

Brian Whitman, co-founder of The Echo Nest and a 2001 graduate of Columbia's masters program in Natural Language Processing, was the other lead for the Million Song Dataset. He and Ellis have known each other since Ellis advised Whitman's Ph.D. work at MIT.

"We received a National Science Foundation grant to work with academia on a research problem, and Dan proposed the idea of a common dataset for researchers based on our work," Whitman said in an email. They started creating the dataset in fall 2009.

The NSF GOALI grant is specifically for partnerships between academia and commercial companies. And the Million Song Dataset fits right in with The Echo Nest's mission statement. Whitman said he founded the company because "no one was really doing a good job at music data and discovery." The Echo Nest translates audio research into the

commercial marketplace—it powers MTV's Music Meter and is now working with Island Def Jam.

Before the Million Song Dataset, the academic community was confined to fragmented music collections that didn't allow much development of commercially applicable methods. "Either they're too slow, they don't scale, they were trained on a weird collection of music, so when you get into pop music that everyone listens to they don't work," Thierry Bertin-Mahieux, a second-year Ph.D. candidate in electrical engineering who worked on the dataset for the past year, said. "We couldn't claim ... that our algorithms were ready to move onto Google or iTunes. With this million songs, you can argue that it's pretty much ready to go mainstream."

Continuing this train of thought, Whitman said the dataset "also lowers the bar for non-music-specific researchers to get involved in the field and perhaps contribute significant outsider insight."

Whether most people would know what to do with it or not, the Million

Song Dataset is available to everyone for free.

"Music ... is a very human thing," Bertin-Mahieux said, citing the example of audio from a beach: Anyone could recognize such a clip just from the sound of waves and of kids laughing. Yet, this is not an intuition that technology can easily duplicate. Bertin-Mahieux said, "Everyone understands music, likes music, listens to music, but computers are really bad at getting what it's about."

All three contributors stressed that the collection is the first to offer comprehensive information on music that people actually care about.

"The biggest dataset we had so far in the field was 40,000 songs. There was audio but that was weird audio ... not commercial, regular music," Bertin-Mahieux said.

He specified further accomplishments of the dataset: "For instance, we're preparing a lyrics dataset. It's going to be 150,000 lyrics. The biggest out there were 20,000 to 30,000. So, it just brings the field to a whole new level in

terms of size." The dataset has also allowed for identification of a collection of 18,000 cover songs—former collections only reached 600 or 700 songs.

Despite Bertin-Mahieux's enthusiasm, Ellis admits there are still some rough patches to be worked out with the dataset: "It's still somewhat clumsy to download and manipulate 280 GB of data, but we would like to see all kinds of people do it."

The Million Song Dataset is far from a one-and-done deal, though. "Longer term, this dataset is essential to driving academic research that can be applied on the kinds of data that exist in commercial music applications," Ellis said. "We'd love to see the database help move us toward high-capacity, high-accuracy unbiased personal music selection filters."

Whitman's part in the project is complete, but he, too, hopes to see its goals extended: "As far as the dataset, that's up to Dan and Thierry but I hope that they continue to work with scientists and other sources of data to make it even more comprehensive."



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Justification for the administration

BY SEAN LEAHY

The several opinion pieces critical of the administration's decision to revoke housing for the fraternities involved in the so-called "Operation Ivy League" have focused on two primary arguments: First, that punishing the entire fraternity for the actions of a few is unjust, and second, that the removal of the fraternities from their residences on 114th Street has dealt a severe blow to campus social life and community.

Here's why those arguments are wrong. Fraternities do not enjoy the ability of being able to distinguish between individual brothers and the fraternity at large. By becoming a brother, an individual subscribes to the notion that he is now a representative of his fraternity on a national scale, and, much more importantly, on a local level. Any actions of one are and should be presumed to be endorsed by all. It's disturbing that the fraternity members not implicated in the arrests claimed ignorance. Did these fraternities allow people to join without sufficiently getting to know them? Are fraternities, supposed bastions of fraternal development and kinship, so atomized that some members do not know what is going on within their own houses? If this is true—which it is not—then the symptom is

Be our own guys

I love Five Guys Burgers and Fries. Truly, I do. There is nothing quite like Five Guys' greasy, flavorful, jaw-stretching burgers and its brown paper bags overflowing with hand-cut, peanut oil-soaked fries. When the new Five Guys on Broadway between 110th and 111th streets opens its doors in the next few weeks, you can be sure that I will be joining the throngs of people pouring in to get my daily share of artery-clogging goodness. But, notwithstanding the boyish thrill that the arrival of Five Guys will inevitably incite in my soul, I cannot help but see the opening of Five Guys in Morningside Heights as representative of a mildly disconcerting trend for the business community around Columbia's campus. Namely, despite its placement in the middle of one of the most vibrant, culturally rich, and wealthy cities in the entire world, Columbia's neighborhood is starting to look like every other college town in the United States.

Now, your first reaction to this statement might be "Nick, shut up about the 'broader implications' of a red-and-white-checkered burger joint and let me enjoy my delicious cheeseburger in peace." To you I say, please, enjoy your cheeseburger, and throw me a few of your fries. And while we are eating, take a look out the window and notice the long line for Chipotle next door, or the guy carrying a Famiglia's pizza box back to his dorm room, or the people scraping the last vestiges of their Pinkberry, Häagen-Dazs, or Ben & Jerry's frozen treats from their paper dishes. In my time as a prospective student visiting colleges and now traveling to see people at other universities, I have found, particularly at major universities, some version of these exact businesses. At College Park Maryland, the home of the University of Maryland, a Chipotle and a Five Guys sit in adjacent strip malls, packed with students almost every night. State College, Pa., the home of Penn State University, also has a Chipotle and a Five Guys. Famiglia's Pizza has locations in Amherst, Mass., and the University City area of Philadelphia, which plays host to Drexel and the University of Pennsylvania. Even Maoz Vegetarian has restaurants in Berkeley, Calif., and New Brunswick, N.J., homes to the University of California and Rutgers University, respectively. While these are the universities with which I am familiar, some of these chains have upward of a hundred locations across the country, many of them on college campuses. These restaurants have become national college town phenomena.

Certainly, Morningside Heights offers more independent food choices than most college campuses across the country. In fact, despite the growing number of chains coming into Columbia's neighborhood, independent restaurants probably still outnumber chains. Although I lack definitive statistics, when most people I know want a quick meal, M2M, Milano, or the Halal carts are still higher on the list than Chipotle or Maoz. For late-night pizza runs, the massive slices of Koronet pizza still seem to bring in more customers than Famiglia's across the street. Nussbaum and Wu and Absolute Bagels have a relative monopoly on bagels in the area, and as for any kind of Asian cuisine, the restaurants are all either independent or New York City chains.

So why mention the "chain takeover" of Morningside Heights at all? A personal anecdote may help to answer this question. When a group of my friends from high school came to visit Columbia last semester, I was listing the restaurants that we could go to for dinner on their first night here. "Did you say Chipotle?" one of them asked. I responded in the affirmative, and the room lit up with a chorus of praise for the Chipotles on my friends' respective college campuses. We went to Chipotle. So, although my friends had come from four different college towns in different parts of the United States, they all traveled to New York City and ended up eating exactly the same food that they might on a Friday night on their own campuses.

One of the greatest attributes of Columbia is its unique location. Indeed, one of the biggest selling points for me in coming to Columbia was that I would be living in bustling, diverse, and independent New York City, not a generic college town. If we want to keep the Columbia experience distinctive and unique, our neighborhood must also remain distinctive and unique. Certainly, it is no crime to eat at the chain restaurants springing up in Morningside Heights, and I will surely patronize these chains from time to time. However, if we want to keep our college neighborhood special, with businesses that have a character unique to the Harlem-Upper West Side convergence zone that is Morningside Heights, we should continue to support the locally owned places as well.

Nick Bloom is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in English with a history concentration. He is a programmer at WKCR. Bursting Bubbles from the Inside runs alternate Tuesdays.



NICK BLOOM

Bursting Bubbles from the Inside

clear: The fraternities involved in "Operation Ivy League" were not really fraternities at all but loose collections of semi-anonymous men living in shared quarters. Finally, the argument that fraternity members should not be made to "snitch" on one another is also foolish. It amounts to saving the well-being of one at the risk of the group, despite the fact that the offending individual is part of a group ostensibly organized for the collective good of all members. Not snitching or not addressing the problem (read: by only kicking out the offending individual) is counter to the very idea of a fraternity.

Furthermore, in response to Jesse Michels' op-ed on Columbia's social scene suffering cataclysmic damage, I have a question—why did you join a fraternity? If the reason begins and ends with "get drunk, get laid," you are precisely the kind of person who should never be admitted to a fraternity. Trying not to repeat what has already been said: Fraternities, though "social" organizations, are primarily a means of fostering long-lasting kinship that transcends normal friendships—hence the term "brotherhood." His argument is not necessarily wrong—I do believe that social life will be impacted by the ousting of the three fraternities—but it misses the point of pledging to a fraternity. Why did he not write

Teacher, don't leave us kids alone

Dear American academia, I know we've had our differences in the past. I've railed against professors putting their own research before undergraduate education. I've wondered whether or not I'm ever going to be employed after I leave you. I've felt like I know less now than when I came to you. But I know that you fall under harsh criticism frequently. Are you just an excuse for 20-somethings to party for four years? Do your students learn anything? Are we falling behind every other country in the world? Should we be more pre-professional?

Yet, despite our occasionally fraught relationship, I should simply say: You are wonderful.

I do not mean to suggest that you are the best educational system in the world, that you should never be criticized, or that you don't have a lot to learn from other systems of higher education. You could, for example, put more emphasis on learning—really, truly learning—foreign languages. You might want to consider having mostly oral, as opposed to written, tests. This is how exams are administered here in Russia, and it sounds simultaneously terrifying and thrilling (like jumping into cold water after sweating it out in the banya).

After this experience abroad, however, I will hold you up to anyone, anywhere, as an aspect of my country and culture of which I am immensely proud.

I'm proud of taking part in a system in which student life plays a starring role. I've called student council an assembly of glorified event planners (disclaimer: I was, for one semester, an events coordinator for my class council), but the Russian students at my school are currently struggling to establish a class council for themselves for the first time ever.

I'm grateful that I did not have to know what I was studying or what I wanted to be when I applied to college—I applied to schools and not specific departments. Without that freedom, I would most likely be studying political science in France this semester. This alone is not such a terrible fate, except when one stops to consider that it took me exactly one semester to realize that I hate political science.

More than anything, though, I am appreciative that, for you, class participation—in the form of questions, queries, quarrels, and everything in between—is the rule, not the exception. The program through which I am studying here was specifically established to bring



EMILY TAMKIN

Foreign Correspondence

about how his ability to develop sincere relationships with a close group of people will be affected? Why not raise the issue that having permanent housing is essential to the operation and relevance of fraternities? Why not discuss the need for physical proximity if an organization is to effectively plan and execute its ideas (say, philanthropic ones)? No, instead, kegs and beer pong are the main focus of the discussion.

Not kicking out the offending individual is counter to the very idea of fraternity.

As a member of the Columbia Greek community, I am saddened by the loss of the three fraternities' housing. However, I cannot say I feel as though the administration acted inappropriately.

The author is a Columbia College junior majoring in political science and history. He is a member of Sigma Nu.

a liberal-arts college experience to Russia. Before even leaving New York, we were told how important it was for us to raise our hands and our voices and foster dialogue with other students, yes, but also with professors, because that isn't taken for granted in the way that it is back home.

And at Russian universities that are Russian-style (which is to say not specifically designed for American-Russian cross-cultural liberal-arts exchange), it isn't only rare—it's non-existent.

I will hold my education up as an aspect of my country and culture of which I am immensely proud.

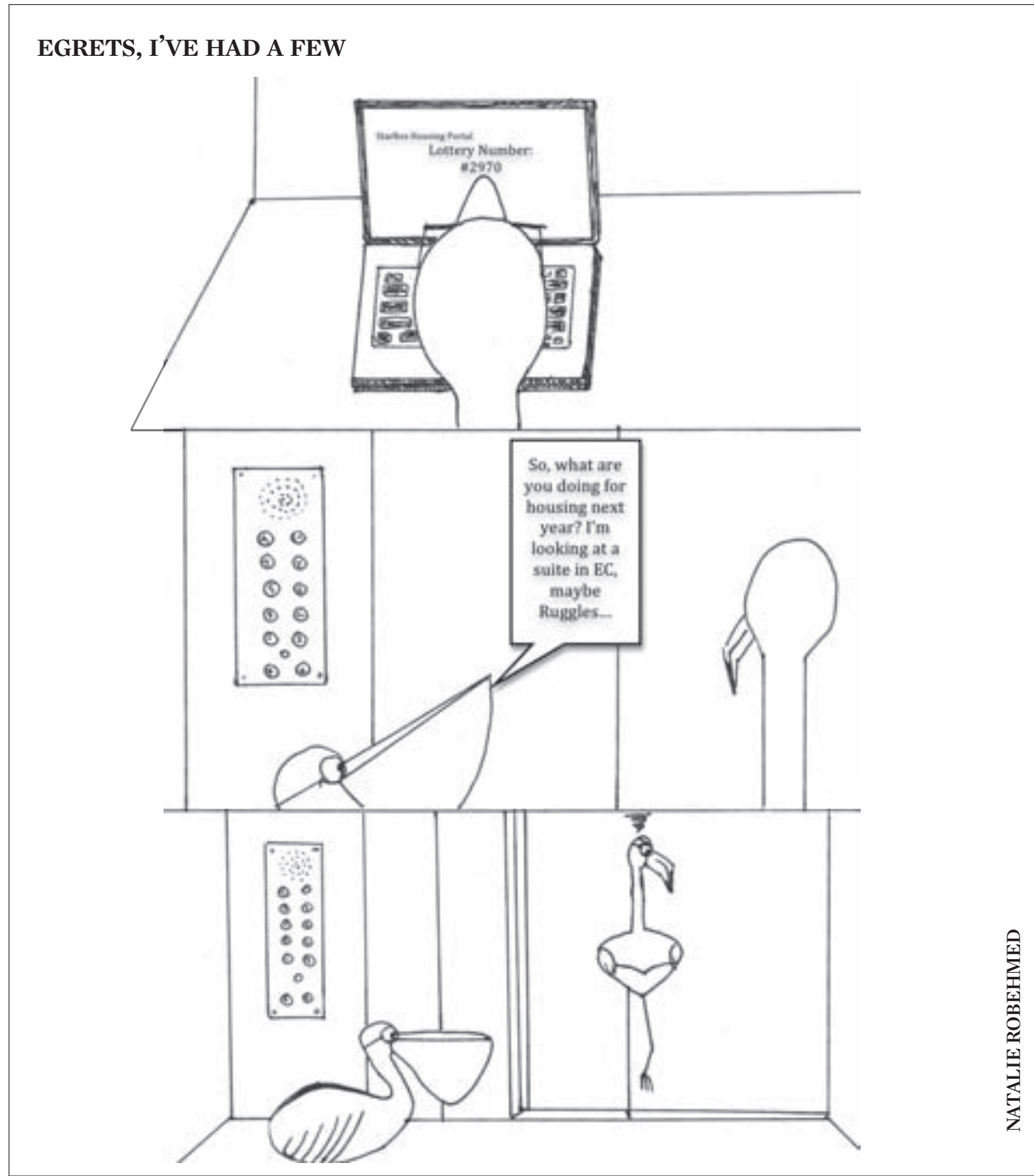
I cannot say that you, American academia, are thus superior to your Russian (or French, or Chinese, or any other) counterpart. I can, however, say that we were told that at Russian-style universities it is not uncommon for students to simply not show up for the first few weeks of class, and I think that's a shame. I can say that having professors integrating student feedback and participation is part of what makes a class dynamic. I can say that some of the most memorable and important lessons I've gotten out of any class have come not from my teachers, but from my peers. And I can most certainly say that I think that a system designed to push students to think critically, speak competently, discover a new point of view and fight for it is a system worth keeping.

And if your students fall behind in the world? If we fail to realize just how strong your strengths can be, and that, come graduation, those are our strengths, too?

It will be our fault, not yours. American students—like students anywhere in the world—have to want to learn. But you? You have tried to teach us well.

From Russia with love,
Emily

Emily Tamkin is a Columbia College junior majoring in Russian literature and cultures. She is studying abroad in St. Petersburg this semester. She is a former Spectator editorial page editor. Foreign Correspondence runs alternate Tuesdays.



NATALIE ROBEHMED

Why I rooted for Princeton to win

The Ivy League is not known for tense rivalries. Of course there is the age-old Harvard-Yale football feud and the hostile Penn-Princeton basketball contention, but Columbia has largely abstained from such internal vendettas. However, for some reason, Columbia and Princeton don't get along. Maybe it's because the Tigers are from Jersey. Or maybe it's because their acceptance rate is always a dash lower than ours. But either way, this past weekend I was faced with a difficult decision—to support or not support Princeton in the NCAA March Madness tournament.

As a Division I athletic conference, the Ancient Eight is entitled to at least one spot in the tournament. If you can recall, this year Princeton defeated Harvard in a tiebreaker playoff game on a buzzer-beater to earn the coveted tournament spot. When Selection Sunday came around, Princeton was assigned the No. 13 seed in the East opposite the fourth-seeded Kentucky Wildcats.

I filled out my brackets like everyone else. When I came across the Princeton-Kentucky matchup I had sudden flashbacks to Columbia's two matchups with the Tigers during the regular season. The Tigers trounced the Lions on our home turf in the first game by a 30-point margin, 76-46. The rematch in Jersey proved more successful for the Light Blue, but Princeton still emerged with a 66-61 win. So in my first bracket the decision was easy—winner: Kentucky.



MICHAEL SHAPIRO

Turn Up the Mike

Like most of us, I did not just fill out one bracket but several. In the first few I chuckled while penciling in Kentucky to advance. I envisioned the dismantling that Princeton would soon encounter. The decision came easy at first. As a die-hard White Sox fan, I like nothing more than to see the Minnesota Twins lose, especially in the playoffs. While one could argue I hate the Cubs more, as division rivals, the Twins are naturally the more viable and immediate threat. I viewed Princeton as a comparable scenario. By beating the Lions twice and clinching a spot in March Madness, the Tigers were the Twins of Ivy basketball this season. Not only did I think Princeton would lose, but I wanted them to lose.

However, as the opening round drew near I began to reconsider. The enemy-of-my-enemy-is-my-friend mindset was fading, and I started sympathizing with the underdogs. The more I anticipated the game the less I was unable to shake off one itching morsel of guilt. I couldn't pinpoint it exactly, but for some reason I felt a growing desire for Princeton to (gasp) win.

For those couple of hours, I was a Princeton fan.

Put aside the anti-Jersey slurs and petty Ivy rivalries and I am still an Ivy sports fan at heart. While my confidence in our humble athletics conference has wavered at times, I could not bring myself to root against Princeton. I pouted as Kentucky opened the game with an 11-2 run. I gloated as Princeton rallied back to knot the game at 20-20 and I shouted when they took their first lead 22-20. My heart sank when the Wildcats drove the winning layup with two seconds remaining, giving Kentucky a ticket to the next round of the tournament and sending Princeton back to the Ivy bubble. Maybe it was because I'm a sucker for underdogs, or maybe it was because of that damned irresistible Tiger mascot, but for those couple hours I was a Princeton fan.

There is something surreal about watching a team like Princeton on the national stage. So rarely are Ivy teams bestowed with the honor of playing on national television, and despite the outcome, the



FILE PHOTO

GOTTA CATCH 'EM ALL | The Lions look to youth to find their new man behind the plate after the loss of 2010 all-Ivy first-team catcher Dean Forthun.

Psychology is the real challenge for rookie catchers

BY MOLLY TOW
Spectator Staff Writer

For a baseball team to be successful, the pitcher-catcher combo has to be a smoothly-running machine. Major League Baseball fans have witnessed New York Yankees pitcher A.J. Burnett's refusal to pitch to veteran Jorge Posada, despite the catcher's reliability and double-decade dedication to the team. History has proven time and time again that if the connection isn't there, disaster ensues.

The catcher is perhaps the most underrated position in baseball. Not only does he occupy one of the spaces in the batting order, but he also has an entirely separate job of building these strong relationships and trust with each one of his pitchers. Columbia baseball head coach Brett Boretti can attest to this. "Good catchers are a very important piece of a good team," Boretti said.

"Catching is a defensive position first and foremost. If you go around the big leagues, there are not too many good catchers hitting above .275 with good offensive production numbers. That's because big league catchers are there for their defense. If you receive well and



throw you will play for a long time. I look at the position the same way."

Of the four catchers on Columbia's roster, only one—junior Mark Heil—has been on the team prior to the 2011 season. Freshmen Mike Fischer and Emmanuel Cabreja are two young talents vying for the position in the starting lineup. As the Lions return from their southern spring training road trip, Boretti is impressed with what he has seen thus far. "I am really excited about both of them and the future they have behind the dish," Boretti said. "Manny [Cabreja] has a very strong arm and Mike has a very quick release. They both have been consistent with their throws so far this season."

The pair of freshmen may be a wealth of raw talent, but like all younger players, these abilities have to be molded into more refined skill.

"Anytime a freshman is coming into a starting role, there is a learning curve," Boretti said. "Both of them need to get better defensively."

Luckily for the Lions, the 10-game road trip was a perfect opportunity for the freshmen to ease themselves into the new team dynamic, as well as for Boretti to pick out specific skills that need to be improved upon.

"I think they both need to improve their receiving skills," Boretti

said. "Learning how to steal pitches for your pitcher comes with time and experience."

The catcher is somewhat analogous to the position of a quarterback or a goalkeeper. Firstly, he can see the entire field. Secondly, he initiates the start of play, in that his constant communication with his man on the mound is what determines the pitches that are thrown. These are heavy demands for

a new player, but the best way to take these responsibilities in stride is with practice, repetition, and experience.

"We practice situations a lot and try to simulate game speed as much as we can, but really it's the experience during the game, when the catcher makes the call on a bunt or on a relay throw, that gives him the experience,"

SEE IN FOCUS, page 6

MIKE FISCHER

YEAR: CC '14
POSITION: Catcher
HOMETOWN: Scotia, New York
IN 2011:
Held the University of Central Florida to 57 percent on stolen bases and threw out four runners in four attempts in series against South Alabama



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

ENMANUEL CABREJA

YEAR: CC '14
POSITION: Catcher
HOMETOWN: Miami, Florida
IN 2011:
Has impressed coaches in his performance so far this season with wo starts behind the plate this season and one hit



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

Several Ivies struggle to win against tough non-league competition

BY ROBERT WREN GORDON
Spectator Staff Writer

Although Ivy League baseball teams have yet to play conference games, some teams have already gotten off to hot starts, while other teams have struggled against non-conference opponents.

BROWN

The Bears began their season with an early spring break to the South, where they visited Vanderbilt and Texas. Of seven games played, the Bears only won one game against Texas on March 12. Brown now stands at 2-6: it returned to the North and defeated Northeastern on March 15, by a score of 6-4.



CORNELL

Standing at 1-9 on the season, the Big Red's lone victory came against St. Joseph's back on March 12. Cornell began play on March 4 in Charlottesville, Va., where it played Rider University and UVA and lost all four games. The Big Red then traveled to Philadelphia, where it fell to Temple, before going to New Jersey to beat St. Joseph's. After returning to Pennsylvania to lose to Villanova, Cornell traveled again to Virginia to play in Radford against Radford University, where it lost its last three games. The Big

SEE AROUND THE LEAGUE,
page 6



FILE PHOTO

HARD COMPETITION | Columbia and Dartmouth are the only Ivies with records of .500 or better heading into this week.

SEE SHAPIRO, page 6

Desire for Princeton to win transcended trivial conference rivalries

SHAPIRO from page 6

Tigers made me proud. The reality is that my friends at Big 10 or Pac-10 schools expected very little from the brainiacs at Princeton against the winningest college basketball team of all time. The Tigers went out there expecting to win, and they more than kept pace with the Wildcats for most of the game. There's no point in downplaying the loss, but 59-57 made for one hell of a nail-bitter.

I've penned hundreds, probably even thousands, of words for this publication trying to analyze how Columbia athletics can achieve greater respect on a national level. This year I watched an extremely

competitive Lions basketball team fall after a dominant start to the season. I was upset most of all because not winning the Ivy title meant another year I'd have to wait to see Columbia in March Madness. However, last Thursday I didn't sulk over the fact that the Lions weren't in the tournament. Last Thursday, there were no hard feelings or sour grapes against Princeton. Last Thursday, I was not just a Lions fan or a Princeton fan but an Ivy fan. And that's why I supported Princeton. We'll get 'em next year, boys.

Michael Shapiro is a List College junior majoring in American history and modern Jewish studies. sports@columbiaspectator.com

Despite learning curve, freshmen pitchers look to improve

IN FOCUS from page 6

Boretti said.

As is the case in all sports, mistakes are a large part of baseball. What is unique to baseball, however, is the specific statistic of the "error." Errors are often most detrimental when made by a catcher, because overthrows and passed balls can result in opponent runners advancing and in the conceding of runs. A catcher must be mentally strong to deal with these occasional mishaps, and can use them to aid in his development and for fuel to perform better in the future.

“Good catchers are a very important piece of a good team.”

—Brett Boretti,
head coach

“If he [any catcher] makes a bad call, you correct him and you learn and move on,” Boretti said. “That’s part of getting better. Are we going to throw a ball or two

away and make some errors? Yes. That’s part of learning when to be aggressive and when not to take the chance.”

Just as building skill takes experience, so does building a pitcher-catcher relationship. Strength can be gained at a predictable, steady rate by lifting weights, working out, and the like, but acquiring a foundation of trust takes patience and synchronization of thoughts. In order for this faith to become instilled, Fischer and Cabreja will have to work on developing relationships with each Columbia pitcher.

“We try to make sure our pitchers and catchers are talking a lot,” Boretti said. “Each pitcher is a little different. Each likes a catcher to set up a certain way, likes to work in certain sequences, and so forth. A lot of that is simply communicating with one another so they are on the same page. As a catcher, you learn how to treat your staff a little differently.”

As the Lions prepare to make their spring debut at Satow Stadium this coming weekend, fans will be anxious to see what these new additions have to offer. But Light Blue watchers must not be quick to form judgments. Although the name “catcher” may imply that the job is simply to receive a red-stitched sphere of leather, his responsibilities go far beyond what the average spectator might think.

Stiff competition challenges Ivies during first weeks of 2011 season

AROUND THE LEAGUE from page 6

Red stays in Virginia this week to face off against James Madison in Harrisonburg before travelling to Boone, N.C. to take on Appalachian State in a four-game series.

DARTMOUTH

The Big Green has spent the month of March playing in Florida. Apparently the Sunshine State's beaches and palm trees aren't distractions for Dartmouth, who has accumulated a 5-4 record. The Big Green began the season with a three-game set against the University of Central Florida in Orlando before moving south to play Akron, Army, Indiana, Long Island University, Northwestern, and UMBC in Polk County, Fla. The Big Green has won five of its last seven games and will play four more games in Polk County before its home opener in Hanover.

HARVARD

Harvard began its season back on March 4 with a four-game set against Jacksonville State. The Crimson went on to lose its first nine games before finally earning its first win against Kennesaw State with a 10-6 win. Since that victory, the Crimson has lost its last four games and currently stands at 1-13 on the season.

PENN

The Quakers (6-8) began their 2011 season with nine consecutive games in Winter Park, Fla. against Maine, Georgetown, and Rollins. Penn went 3-6

in Florida, winning once against Maine and twice against Georgetown before returning to Pennsylvania to play Temple, where they lost 14-3. The Quakers followed that loss with a hard-fought 3-2 win in 14 innings on the road against Norfolk State. Penn continues the season with its home opener tomorrow against Villanova before a four-game series against Lafayette.


PRINCETON

The Tigers (3-10) began their season against No. 7 Louisiana State in Baton Rouge, La., where they went 1-3 against the LSU Tigers. Princeton later traveled to Virginia to play four games against Holy Cross and Virginia Commonwealth, going 1-3. The Tigers later ventured to North Carolina to play No. 15 UNC, UNC Greensboro, and North Carolina A&T, where they went 1-3. The Tigers are now in the process of playing a seven-game streak in Maryland, where they have yet to win a game.

YALE


The Bulldogs so far have a 5-8 record on the season. Yale began play in Winter Haven, Fla. as part of the RussMatt Invitational, where they faced Lehigh, Xavier, Miami University (from Ohio), Mt. St. Mary's, Toledo, Bowling Green, Michigan State, and Ohio State, going 3-5 overall. The Bulldogs then returned north to play Central Connecticut State and Navy, going 2-3. The Bulldogs continue today against Central Connecticut State before taking on Connecticut tomorrow.

RANK	TEAM
1 7-6	COLUMBIA LIONS  It's hard to argue with the Lions' early success in non-conference play when compared to other Ivies. Columbia is the only Ivy with a winning record.
2 5-4	DARTMOUTH BIG GREEN  Besides Columbia, Dartmouth is the only other Ivy with a record of .500 or better. It has won five of its last seven games.
3 6-8	PENNSYLVANIA QUAKERS  The Quakers are a respectable 6-8 on the season thus far, and though they don't have a winning record, they've had more success than other Ivy teams.
4 5-8	YALE BULLDOGS  Although Yale hasn't won as many as Columbia or Dartmouth, they have impressed against tough opposition.
5 2-6	BROWN BEARS  The Bears have only won a quarter of their games so far this season, but they may be able to use the win over Northeastern to get on track.
6 3-10	PRINCETON TIGERS  The Tigers are in the midst of a three-game losing streak, which places them ahead of the next two Ivies, and they hope to turn things around in Maryland.
7 1-9	CORNELL BIG RED  Both of this week's bottom feeders have only one win and are on a four-game losing streak; however, Cornell has lost four fewer games than Harvard.
8 1-13	HARVARD CRIMSON  Not only is the Crimson on a four-game losing streak with only one win on the season, but it has also lost more games than any other Ivy team.

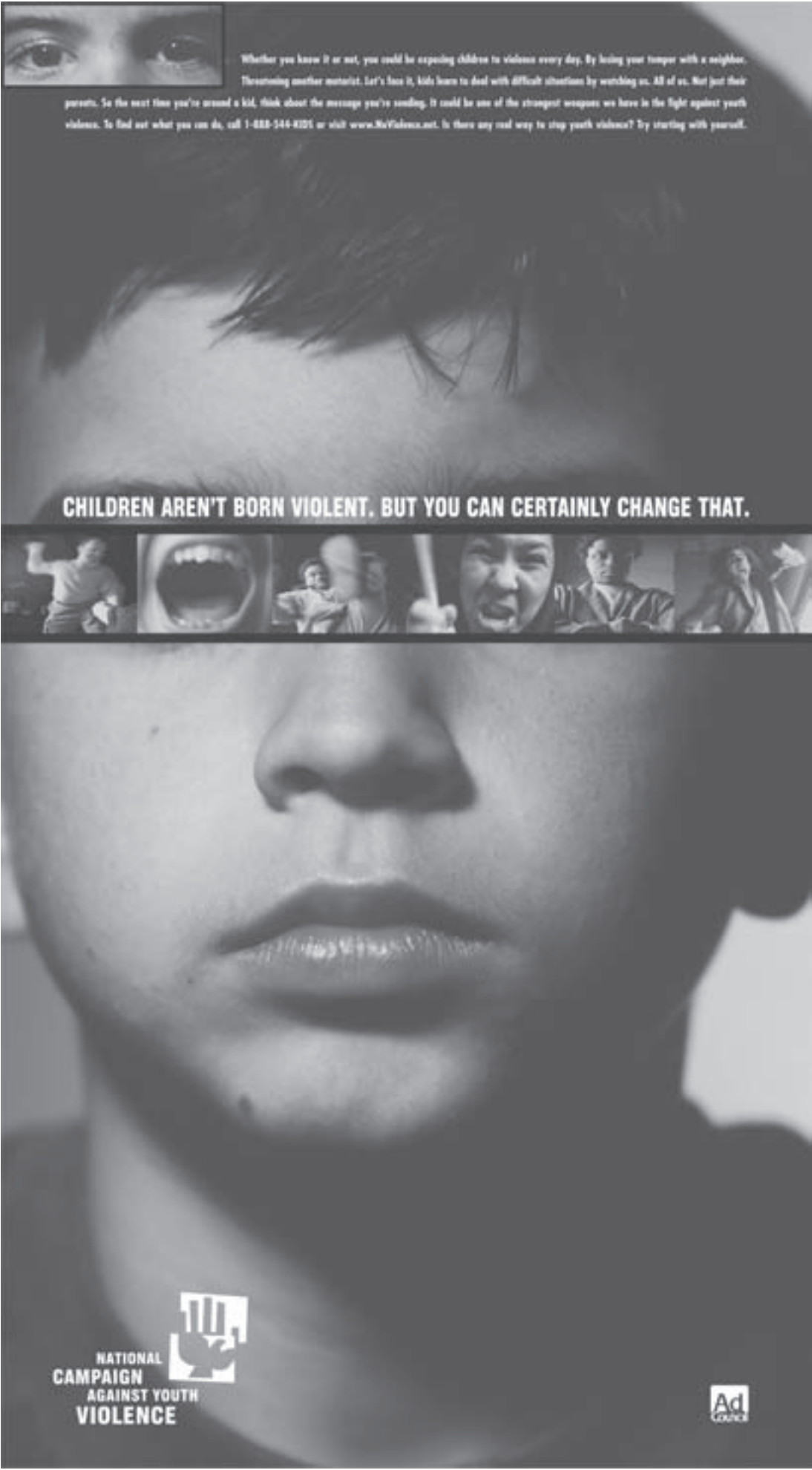


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Whether you know it or not, you could be exposing children to violence every day. By losing your temper with a neighbor. Throwing another tantrum. Let's face it, kids learn to deal with difficult situations by watching us. All of us. Not just their parents. So the next time you're around a kid, think about the message you're sending. It could be one of the strongest messages we have in the fight against youth violence. To find out what you can do, call 1-888-344-KIDS or visit www.NoViolence.net. Is there any real way to stop youth violence? Try starting with yourself.

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NATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST YOUTH VIOLENCE



PRE-CALENDARING for LERNER HALL

Columbia & Barnard Undergraduate & Graduate Student Clubs & Organizations...

Pre-Calendaring for Fall 2011 begins Monday, March 21st at 9:00 am

Recognized student groups who would like to reserve space in Lerner Hall for the period Tuesday, September 6th through Monday, December 12th must submit completed space use applications, signed by their student activities advisor, in person to UEM on the 7th floor of Lerner hall or on-line, at www.columbia.edu/cu/lernerhall by 12:00 PM, April 4th.

Applications for recurring meetings and rehearsals cannot exceed one per week and will be handled on a "first come first served" basis beginning on March 21st.

Confirmations for space will be available on-line at www.columbia.edu/cu/lernerhall on May 9th.

EVENT MANAGEMENT | 

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Questions?

Please contact your organizational advisor or Lerner Hall at 212.854.5800

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR
Career Education



Media Networking Night

Wednesday, March 23rd

Low Memorial Library

6:30 – 8:30pm

Dress Code: Business Casual

Media Networking Night (MNN) is an exclusive opportunity for you to get the inside scoop on the industry from employers and alumni. Meet with over 200 professionals working in film, publishing, graphic design and more! Prepare for MNN by attending **Networking 101** on March 22nd from 5:00 – 6:00pm in the CCE Conference Room.

REGISTERED ATTENDEES INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM:

Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation, Inc.

AOL

ARTNews

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CBS News

Condé Nast

Digitas

Disney ABC Television

DNAinfo

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Food & Wine Magazine

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Green Focus Films

Hope Sings

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SportsReporters.com

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The History Channel Magazine

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