

## Politicians join students in fair labor campaign

BY FINN VIGELAND  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

“Hey hey, ho ho, sweatshop labor’s got to go!” is a familiar sound at the corner of 90th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, where picketers have been calling for a boycott of Saigon Grill for five months.

On Saturday, the Upper West Side Vietnamese noodle restaurant got its biggest spotlight yet—serving as a backdrop for the launch of the Sweatshop Free Upper West Side campaign.

New York State Senators Adriano Espaillat and Tom Duane, with City Council member Gale Brewer and State Assembly member Linda Rosenthal, joined local activist organizations, students and church groups in an effort to get businesses to pledge their support for enforcing fair labor practices.

At Saigon Grill, employees say that working conditions haven’t improved since new owners, brothers Bei and Qiao Lin, bought the restaurant in Oct. 2010. Vincent Cao said he and several other waiters were fired in October for speaking out against the Lins’ plan to fire several employees for being too old. “They are 50, 60 years old, these workers, and he’s trying to fire them,” Cao explained. “We spoke out and said that’s age discrimination. So then all the younger workers who spoke up were fired.”

The Sweatshop Free Upper West Side campaign is an effort to stop similar alleged abuses. About a dozen restaurants, markets, and shops have already signed the pledge, including



HENRY WILLSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**LABOR LAW** | The kick-off rally for the Sweatshop Free Upper West Side campaign on Saturday at Saigon Grill attracted 100 people.

Uptown Whole Foods, whose owner, Gary Null, spoke at Saturday afternoon’s rally.

“We should not be talking about minimal wage, I believe we should only be talking about living wage,” Null said to loud cheers from the crowd. “If you thought of your employees as a family, you’d treat them as a family.”

Speakers at the rally urged attendees to canvas the Upper West Side on April 9 to get local stores to sign the pledge, something that members of some campus groups have committed to doing.

The campaign will distribute

stickers for businesses that commit to the fair-labor standards to display, and Espaillat said he’ll be helping to further the goals of Cao and other activists, who have been picketing Saigon five days a week since November.

“I will be personally asking the Attorney General’s office to take a look at the practice of this restaurant ... to see if there’s any criminal action happening with the owner,” Espaillat told Spectator on Saturday.

Saigon Grill has been embroiled in legal battles over fair labor practices since 2007, when some staff members were fired because they claimed the

owners, Simon and Michelle Nget, paid delivery workers less than \$2 an hour and cheated employees out of tips.

In 2008, a federal judge ruled in favor of the employees, awarding them \$4.6 million and sentencing Simon Nget to 90 days in jail and five years of probation, though his wife Michelle has not yet been sentenced.

Rose Michaels, BC ’13 and a member of LUCHA, the campus Latino activist group, said it’s important “that everyone is aware of what’s going on. We need to make sure the community is in solidarity.”

“Once other businesses saw

what happened here, they raised their labor standards,” Cindy Gao, CC ’12 and political chair of the Asian American Alliance, said of Saigon Grill.

And despite the focus on the neighborhood as a whole, Saigon Grill is still in the middle of the fray.

Cao said that current employees are afraid to speak out against the Lins because they fear losing their jobs. Espaillat, however, said he would personally approach the workers afraid to speak out.

“They should feel reassured

**SEE SAIGON, page 3**

## CCSC sees start of election season, increase in candidates

MELANIE BRODER  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

The 2011 elections season has begun with a 40 percent increase in participation from last year.

The official list of candidates running for Columbia College Student Council was released on Saturday, March 26, and included 71 students running for positions on class councils and the Executive Board, compared to only about 50 students last year.

Each party on the executive board tickets contains at least one current member of CCSC. Two out of the three presidential candidates—Aki Terasaki, CC ’12, and Andrew Nguyen, CC ’12—currently serve on CCSC, Terasaki as the president of the class of 2012 and Nguyen as the VP of Policy. The third presidential candidate is Barry Weinberg, CC ’12.

Weinberg was recently elected chair of the Student Governing Board (SGB), but would resign from that position if elected to CCSC.

Current VP of Funding Brandon Christophe, CC ’12, will be running for that position again with the UniteCU party, and the current VP of Communications, Karishma Habbu, CC ’13, will be running for student services representative. The current VP of Campus Life, Andrea Folds, CC ’12, will not be running for a position this year.

CCSC elections board chairman Alex Rosen, CC ’11, said that the E-board tickets are “heavily centered on current juniors, with a number of rising

juniors.”

“There’s 23 or 24 candidates and almost none of them are in elected positions on council right now,” Rosen said.

Each party contains members of the classes of 2012 and 2013, and candidates come from all different academic and extracurricular backgrounds, including varsity sports, Greek life, governing boards, cultural groups, and environmental groups.

Current council members think that heightened competition will be good for the council. “There’s a more varied set of perspectives and it really forces people to consider their positions,” University senator Kenny Durell, CC ’12, said.

There are strict rules for campaigning—about 15 pages worth—that candidates must follow, which were explained (with some confusion) to candidates at a meeting on Sunday night. The rules include budget limits and restrictions on what content students may include on their websites.

Current CCSC president Learned Foote said that some of the rules are overly complex.

“Specifically that you can’t invite more than 30 people on Facebook or use Youtube, [these] are examples of the elections board using outdated rules,” Foote said.

Habbu agreed that restrictions on making pins and T-shirts limit some of the fun of campaigns.

“A lot of the avenues of

**SEE CCSC, page 2**

BY SARAH DARVILLE AND  
MIKEY ZHONG  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

A fire broke out in the print center of Dodge Hall on Sunday night, evacuating Dodge Fitness Center and Miller Theatre just after a sold-out concert to benefit disaster relief efforts in Japan.

Students in the lab where the fire started said that it was caused by someone working with plexiglass on a laser-cutting machine, which sparked.

A woman who identified herself as a former student and the one who started the fire said that she wasn’t able to control the flames, despite using two fire extinguishers.

“I was checking on it, and there was fire in the machine. I tried to exhaust it, it didn’t work. I don’t know whether to keep the door open or closed. I called the police, then I tried again,” she said.

Deidre Fuchs, an assistant director of Public Safety, said that no one was hurt in the fire or evacuation. She estimated that the alarms went off first at 10:40 p.m., after Miller Theatre had emptied out at around 10:35. Five FDNY fire trucks were parked along Broadway moments afterward.

Students working on photography and printmaking projects were in the print lab when the fire started.



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**RED ALERT** | A fire in Dodge Hall’s print center on Sunday night forced Miller Theatre to evacuate just after the conclusion of a concert for Japanese disaster relief efforts featuring Yoko Ono.

### SPORTS, BACK PAGE

#### Lions split pair of weekend doubleheaders

The Columbia baseball team fell in its first games against Holy Cross on both Saturday and Sunday, but were unable to come back and win each day’s second contest.

### EVENTS

#### Music Hum in a Day

A concert lecture covering 800 years of Western musical history, by CU musicians.

*Miller Theatre, 8-10 p.m.*

#### Samantha Power speech

Power, senior director in President Obama’s security team, has been involved in the Libya intervention.

*Italian Academy Teatro, 5:30-7:30 p.m.*

## Plans for global ctr. in Turkey progress

### CU holds joint conference in Istanbul

BY ALEXA DAVIS  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Columbia administrators congregated in Istanbul, Turkey, last week to hold discussions and plan for the global center they expect to launch there in the fall.

The Istanbul location will be Columbia’s fifth global center, joining the existing centers in Paris, Beijing, Amman, and Mumbai.

The centers serve as satellite research facilities that will host students, part of an ongoing effort by the University to expand its global reach. But funding, space, and leadership issues still need to be addressed before the Istanbul center can open its doors.

Last week’s conference brought together scholars from Columbia and major Turkish universities, including Sabanci, Koc, and Bogazici. Its Columbia attendees included University President Lee Bollinger, Vice President for Global Centers Kenneth Prewitt, the directors of the existing global centers, members of the Faculty Steering Committee for the Istanbul center, and other professors and deans.

They spent three days in panel discussions and meetings aimed at solidifying the plans for the global center.

“These global centers have to be thought out really carefully. Where we decide to have a global center, how we structure it, and the success of this global center depends very largely on the connections we build with the academic community, and with the alumni community that support it,” said Safwan Masri, a Columbia Business School professor and the director of Columbia’s global centers in the Middle East.

He said that one goal of the conference was to establish a dialogue between Columbia and the academic community in Turkey.

“We don’t want to just show up in Istanbul in the fall and open up the center,” Masri added.

Karen Barkey, a professor of sociology and history as well as the chair of the Faculty Steering Committee on the Turkey center, said that last week’s conference, hosted by Istanbul’s Bogazici University, showed the center’s potential.

“What the Wednesday Bogazici University conference demonstrated to everyone involved was the degree to which the two scholarly communities are already attuned to each other, the very high level of academic discourse, the rich intellectual debates that will await us,” Barkey said.

The two panels were “How Do We Teach History?”—moderated by Barkey—and “The Role of Policy Centers (Think Tanks) in Policy Making”—moderated by Prewitt—and included panelists from both Columbia and Turkish universities.

“In both of these panels, we explored the comparative issues of how such questions are addressed in the U.S. and in Turkey

**SEE ISTANBUL, page 2**

### OPINION, PAGE 4

#### Facebook revolutions

Yasmeen Ar-Rayani says that social networking does not cause revolutions.

#### Bigotry on campus

We must find personal solutions to combat racism.



### SPORTS, BACK PAGE

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### WEATHER

#### Today



44° / 29°

#### Tomorrow



49° / 34°



# Campaigning for CCSC to begin April 4

CCSC from front page

creativity are kind of lost by all the rules. That being said, people have certainly come up with cool things to do,” she said, citing the free concert she held in Wallach lounge her freshman year.

Campaigning will begin next Monday, April 4. There will be debates on April 10, and students will cast their ballots April 11-13.

The CCSC Elections Board will be encouraging voter participation by hosting a kickoff celebration on Low Plaza on April 11 with free giveaways and music.

As for the candidates, “I really hope that they have a fun time with it, that they recognize the role that student council plays on campus, both in how it’s limited and what it’s capable of, and that they really put their all into it and have a great time,” Foote said.

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## BHANGRA BRINGS IT



FINAL ACT | Rajkaran Sachdej, CC ’11, performs with CU Bhangra at the end of Club Zamana’s Tamasha on Saturday night.

JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Scan this QR code on your smartphone to see the rest of the Tamasha photos in the online slideshow.

# Fire breaks out after Japan benefit concert

FIRE from front page

hit the fire panel, and FDNY was here extremely quickly.”

Alarms also went off in Dodge Fitness Center, leaving about 35 people waiting outside for the go-ahead to get their belongings.

Marilyn Robb, CC ’13, said that there were blue lights flashing and a buzzing sound in the gym just after 10:30.

“The alarm went on for like a minute but nobody was leaving,” she said. “Then someone from the staff said this was a real alarm and had us all leave.”

The concert in Miller Theatre featured Yoko Ono and Sonic Youth, but Fuchs said the fire broke out long enough after the concert was over that it mainly inconvenienced backstage staff.

Dodge Hall contains Miller Theatre and is also home to the School of the Arts, including the LeRoy Neiman Center for Print Studies.

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# CU working with profs in Turkey before Istanbul center’s expected fall opening

ISTANBUL from front page

and the variety of possible areas of research and public engagement that they warrant, not just as potential topics that the global center would engage, but more importantly as examples of how we would hope to engage the two communities, the Turkish and American, in many different areas of expertise,” Barkey said.

Barkey noted that these subjects are not necessarily representative of what will be studied at the Istanbul center.

“These global centers have to be thought out really carefully.”

—Safwan Masri, director of Columbia global centers in the Middle East

“The projects, the academic research areas, the practical collaboration that will happen will

be determined by what our and their faculties have as possible research interests,” Barkey said.

Masri emphasized the “network effect” of the global centers, which by working together and in conjunction with Columbia’s main campus in New York would provide what he called a richer experience for students.

Masri added that Turkey’s unique position between the East and West makes it the perfect place for a new center.

“The Middle East center that’s in Amman covers the

entire Arab world plus Israel, Turkey, and Iran,” Masri said.

“But we’ve had discussions for a couple of years now about having a separate smaller center in Istanbul, given a great level of interest by the faculty in Turkey and the fact that Turkey is really a large country, that’s both a bridge between East and West and is sort of part of the Middle East and part of Europe and neither.”

Three more global centers, in Kenya, Kazakhstan, and Brazil, are also on the horizon for the University.

In a recent interview, Bollinger said he was more persuaded than ever that global centers will work better for Columbia than the full-service branch campuses that other universities, like New York University, have adopted.

“The desire within the community from faculty and I think from students is very strong for trying to take advantage of the centers to learn about the world, work on the world,” Bollinger said. “I do believe this is the right strategy for globalization.”

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CHRISTINA PHAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**SHARING A LAUGH** | Gabriella Spitzer (left) and Aleq Abdullah talk during an interfaith dinner and discussion hosted by various campus religious groups on Sunday night in Barnard Hall.

Dinner prompts interfaith dialogue on stereotypes

BY KARLA JIMENEZ  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

A TV show featuring a sweet-tempered woman referred to as the “Jewish Mother Character” may play off of a positive stereotype—but it’s still a stereotype. That was one example shared at an interfaith dinner on Sunday night, where members of religious groups on campus came together to discuss religious stereotypes within their own communities.

The dinner brought together members of the Columbia Muslim Student Association, Columbia/Barnard Hillel, the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, the Church of the Latter Day Saints, Veritas, the Hindu Students Organization, and the Interfaith Collective to share past experiences—some of whom said they left with new insights into religious prejudice.

Tamara Roth, BC ’14, said she felt comfort in learning that people from other faiths express similar fears of discrimination.

“A lot of Jewish history is full of discrimination,” Roth said, adding that her grandparents were Holocaust survivors. “I heard people of other faiths say they have those same feelings.”

Other groups presented the idea of finding a balance within stereotypes. Hannah Rosner, CC ’14, said people within her discussion group talked about the difficulties of dictating how

other people perceive one’s community, citing the 1960s show with the “Jewish Mother.”

“It’s not what all Jews are like,” Rosner said.

The event was co-sponsored by the Kraft Family Fund for Intercultural and Interfaith Awareness, and began with three speakers, followed by dinner and group discussions.

Omolara Williams, CC ’12, said her favorite moment of conversation was when one of the students asked the presenter how a message can be shared with someone who doesn’t want to listen.

“I heard people of other faiths say they have those same feelings.”

—Tamara Roth, BC ’14

“An elder woman in our group answered, ‘You don’t. You can place it on the table and leave it for them to pick up if they want to,’” Williams said. She explained that the student refused to accept that one should give up spreading a message, while the older woman stuck to her argument.

Williams said the disagreement left both parties agitated.

“How do you pimp your message when the other doesn’t want to listen? We realized the answer was you don’t,” she said.

It was a point that came up in many contexts. Rosner said that one person in her group, an Arabic Muslim, told an anecdote about arguing with an evangelical Christian woman about the latter’s prejudices towards Muslims. She left an impression on the lady by defying negative stereotypes.

“The Christian lady went away thinking she [the student] wasn’t a proper Muslim,” Rosner said.

Williams said she thought there was one hole left in the discussion. Within the larger context of an interfaith dialogue, “It was interesting we didn’t have an interracial dialogue,” Williams said. “It’s an interesting dialogue that isn’t had because people don’t like to talk about it.”

Maryam Aziz, CC ’13, said she agreed, giving the example of African-American Muslim men being associated with wearing bow ties.

“Religion and culture are inextricably tied,” Aziz said, adding that it all comes down to communication. “You need to come to the table and just be you,” she said. “I come as who I am and if you want, you can ask me questions.”

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Rally held for workers’ rights, boycott of Saigon

SAIGON from front page

that the city will protect the workers, this is a city that has a history of protecting its workers,” he said.

But Rui Wang, an assistant manager at the restaurant, said that the men who claim to have been fired are lying.

“I will be personally asking the Attorney General’s office to take a look at the practice of this restaurant.”

— Adriano Espaillat,  
New York State Senator

“The protesters outside, they never worked here before—not with the old management or with the new management,” Wang said. When asked about Cao, Wang said, “That is a name I do not recognize.”

Wang has said for months

that the protestors are unfairly projecting the practices of the former management onto the new one.

“This is a restaurant, not a sweatshop,” he said. “With the old management, it was true that they had problems with the delivery guys at that time. But they already solved that situation.”

Three current Saigon employees also staged a counter-protest next to the rally. While refusing to speak with the press, they handed out a flyer criticizing the two unions to which Saigon Grill employees belong, telling them, “Stop pretending that you are fighting for workers’ rights!”

According to the flyer, Wing Lam, executive director of the Chinese Staff and Workers’ Association, “has caused hundreds of workers who did not want to participate in his wallet-fattening scheme to lose their jobs.”

Wendy Cheung, a staff organizer at the Chinese Staff and Workers’ Association and Justice Will Be Served!, said that those accusations had been fed to the current employees by the Lins.

“The employers are putting

out false statements, pitting the workers on the inside against workers on the outside,” she said. “It’s a tactic to keep workers from coming together to organize for better conditions.”

Saturday’s protest attracted about 100 people to the restaurant, including Louise Velez, a Lower East Side resident who came to the opposite corner of the island to support the campaign.

“I can’t believe this is happening here,” she said. “The new owner is doing what the first owner did. They need to launch an investigation on this man.”

Rosenthal also spoke at the rally, which fell one day after the 100th anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire. The 1911 tragedy killed 146 garment workers who were locked in a room with no access to a fire escape.

Rosenthal reminded the crowd that most of the workers who died in that fire were put at risk due to poor labor and safety laws.

“It’s a shame that 100 years later we’re still fighting some of the same battles here on the Upper West Side,” she said.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH & APRIL

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			01	02	03	04 05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					01	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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03/28

**THE NEW WOMAN**  
**Representations in Photography and Film**  
**6:30 PM**  
James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

**THE MYTH OF THE FOREIGN WOMAN**  
**Translating Medea**  
**7 PM**  
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

03/30

**THE F-WORD**  
**A Celebration**  
**7 PM**  
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

03/31

**THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE & ITS EFFECT ON THE IGBO & YORUBA CULTURES**  
**6 PM**  
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

04/01–04/02

**SENIOR CREATIVE THESIS DANCE CONCERT**  
**7 PM**  
Minor Latham Playhouse, 118 Milbank Hall

04/06

**CREATED IN GOD’S IMAGE**  
**Intersections of Judaism, Gender, and Human Rights**  
**6:30 PM**  
Event Oval, The Diana Center

04/07

**TRANSLATION, INTERTEXTUALITY, INTERPRETATION**  
**7 PM**  
Event Oval, The Diana Center

**TANYA BARFIELD, SHIRA NAYMAN & FRANCES RICHARD**  
**7 PM**  
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

04/12


**EUROPEAN MIGRATION SINCE 1500**  
**Implications for World History**  
**6 PM**  
Event Oval, The Diana Center

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# A not so revolutionary revolution

Much has been made of the role of social networking websites in the recent wave of revolutions across the Arab world. Indeed, many of these uprisings have been dubbed “Facebook revolutions,” sometimes by participants, but most often by international observers in Western press and academia. In some of these cases, the technological character of these rebellions has been exploited by Americans who, plagued by a fleeting sense of global supremacy, have sought to appropriate these revolutions—downplaying Arab agency and replacing it with their own. This Facebook preoccupation serves only to alienate the reality of these revolutions, such that the uprisings feed arrogance where they ought to inspire admiration, highlight Zuckerberg where they ought to elevate Bouazizi, and point to Silicon Valley where they ought to feature Benghazi.

For instance, in an op-ed published last month in Spectator, Kevin Siegel wrote, “Since the start of the revolution in Egypt, many a well-informed and weary American, even here on our campus, has been occupied by a single question: Is the fall of Mubarak good for the United States?” He goes on to argue that this narcissism stems from “a deeper question irking our collective consciousness. Is the U.S. still, as many Americans believe, the world’s most powerful country and its main purveyor of inspiration and innovation?” Siegel goes on to applaud Ted Turner, Mark Zuckerberg, and Jack Dorsey for having “outsourced American democracy.” In an attempt to console those struggling to “accustom ourselves to ... our waning political hegemony” (which, I would suggest, is fairly intact), he claims that the Tunisian and Egyptian uprisings were “powered by the innovations of blue-blooded, apple-munching American people.”

Siegel’s argument is commonplace—it is echoed, for instance, by the New York Times’ Roger Cohen, who identified Mark Zuckerberg as the leader of the Tunisian revolution in his article “Facebook and Arab Dignity.” But while the Facebook refrain is virtually universal, Siegel’s thoughts on the source of this preoccupation reflect a unique and telling frankness on his part. The implications of Siegel’s piece are clear: Attributing Arab revolutions to “American innovation” is about stroking a bruised ego, about turning the collapse of an American-funded regime, a failure of American agency, into an American victory. In other words, where you can’t find direct and positive American involvement, argue for its insertion. That way you can stave off your “fallen superpower” complex.

It is undeniable that the organizers of and participants in these uprisings made ample use of social networking websites. But to use this as a justification for appropriation is as ludicrous as claiming that, because anti-apartheid activists in South Africa telephoned one another, Canadian technology and Alexander Graham Bell should be praised as the great liberators of black South Africans.

Furthermore, the role that social networking sites have played in these revolutions is, at the very least, overstated. The crucial moments of the Egyptian and Tunisian uprisings—the largest demonstrations—took place when the Internet had already been cut off. In both cases, Friday prayers represented the one unstoppable force behind amassing large congregations of people on the streets. And yet it is Facebook, not Islamic practice, that is lauded as indispensable to Arab uprisings. Moreover, history is rife with examples of revolutions that took place before the advent of the internet. Unless we assume that the French and Russians were uniquely equipped to subvert pre-technicolor tyranny, unless we believe that Arabs somehow needed this extra crutch, there is no reason to conclude that Facebook played an instrumental role.

But it is not merely explicit attempts at appropriation, like Siegel’s and Cohen’s pieces, that are at issue. Both Siegel and Cohen concede that Egyptian and Tunisian courage have their place in this story. The question then becomes: Why aren’t they at the center of the story? Why are Arabs relegated to the periphery of their own revolutions? Indeed, it is the fetishizing of the tool of communication itself, even on apparently neutral terms, that distracts from the sacrifices made by those wielding the tool. Any weapon is meaningless without the person willing to use it. It is that human element that is blurred and pushed to the background when we focus on a computer program instead of on the many Egyptians and Tunisians who risked their lives to liberate themselves. It’s time to adjust our lenses.

*Yasmeen Ar-Rayani is a Columbia College junior majoring in Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies. Color in Colonial College runs alternate Mondays.*



YASMEEN AR-RAYANI

## Color in Colonial College

# Reacting to racism

BY JESSE EISEMAN

Have you ever seen a 22-year-old guy with tears in his eyes? That’s the sight that greeted me when I returned to my fraternity house on one Thursday morning. A group of brothers had gathered on the staircase and everyone was visibly disturbed. Apparently senior night at Havana Central had gone horribly wrong. Two members of a different fraternity had become agitated when they thought that their place in line for beer pong had been cut (though my friends swear they had been off the line for at least 15 minutes). When they saw that one of the players on the table was wearing an AEPi shirt, they began a belligerent and threatening anti-Semitic tirade that, when recounted to me, made my blood run cold. The usual tropes of control over the media (and all the other reasons these individuals hate Jews) got mixed in with threats “to rip their throats out.” At least one of the recipients of the threat was not ethnically Jewish, though the bigots said that since he had a “Jew fro,” it did not matter.

Of course racism exists. It’s a fact that we’re all supposed to be aware of. But on Columbia’s campus, it is something that we are not used to experiencing. This particular incident presents a unique challenge to most of the standard responses to racism.

Columbia’s administration has two policy tools to deal with racism on campus. The first is to strengthen minority communities by providing more programming, safe spaces, or special administrative attention designed to make the campus more inviting. The reasoning seems to be that by increasing the strength and visibility of these communities, we increase the “spirit of diversity,” which will lead to acceptance. The second is education, Under1Roof-style. The assumption is that if bigots knew the type of hurt they caused, they would not spew hateful speech. This particular incident, however, shows the limits of administrative action.

More education would not have prevented it from happening. As if merely attending Columbia were not enough of an educational experience for the racist students, they made it very explicit that they knew the dangers of anti-Semitism.

The Jewish community is already a strong, integral presence on campus. We are certainly overrepresented.



STAFF EDITORIAL

# How to be an activist

A month ago, as the campus was exploding with discussion of ROTC, ROOTED—a subset of the Office of Multicultural Affairs—played a role in promoting an admirable type of dialogue. Respecting Ourselves and Others Through Education initiated a discussion among students, encouraging them not necessarily to fall on one side or the other, but to examine the frame of the debate and question how different groups were presenting the issue. When discussion, a huge part of our lives at this activism-saturated University, is so often polarized and “dialogue” between groups can turn into shouting matches, thoughtful debate like this is especially valuable and rare.

As passionate and opinionated people, many Columbians are activists in one student group or another. Campus activism in all its many forms has an abundance of goals, from promoting dialogue and raising awareness of issues, to participating in national and cross-cultural debates, to serving the community. One thing is clear, though—at the end of the day, most activist groups on campus firmly promote their voice on an issue as the correct one. The question, then, lies in whether or not it is possible to take a stance on an issue, or strongly support a cause or an idea, while still being open to hearing the other side and challenging one’s opinions.

One pair of battling groups that does this with some success is the Columbia University Democrats and

Republicans. They each pursue their goals in distinct ways: the Democrats mainly by sending groups of students to campaign for candidates across the country and by talking to students, and the Republicans by hosting speaker events and social gatherings to foster a conservative community on campus. Nevertheless, they both see their regular debates with the opposite group as incredibly important to their work and role on campus, which shows the value they place on engaging with the opposite side. And because they’ve focused on mobilizing their immediate community, they’ve even found ways to make national, intangible goals more accessible and realistic.

LionPAC, a group that is similarly political but very different in terms of interests and ties, has also made progress in achieving political goals regarding America’s relationship with Israel. At the same time, they use their position to impact the community, advocating their platforms to students and discussing their interests with figures like Charles Rangel. Demonstrating their willingness to engage with other groups, they have productive relationships with groups whose missions extend beyond their support for Israel.

In contrast, Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine are not open to debate, refusing to speak to other groups because they do not want to legitimize what they feel is an illegitimate side of the struggle. They are more than comfortable expressing their opinion in other ways: writing op-eds and conducting mock checkpoints on Low Steps. Saying that the relationship between LionPAC and C-SJP is strained, then, would be an understatement, and though each group’s message is valid, this lack of respectful interaction needs to be rectified. While C-SJP does a good job of raising student attention and awareness of its issues, they do a disservice to the student body

Hillel and well over a dozen Jewish groups run frequent programs for anyone who wishes to join. Though we are losing one of the only primarily non-religious Jewish safe spaces on campus—the AEPi house—the Jewish community will remain just as vibrant as ever.

If an increase in education, diversity, and visibility does not curb racism, what does? My conclusion may seem like a cop-out. Certainly, we would like for the administration to swoop down and save the day. But if such a strong community can be the victim of such hatred, there does not seem to be anything more that the administration can do to prevent it. The individuals will hopefully be punished; we have alerted the necessary authorities. So what is left for us, the students, to do?

## If an increase in education, diversity, and visibility does not curb racism, what does?

The steps my friends and I took that night seem to be the only answer. We gathered together and comforted each other. We talked it out, and we are getting on with our lives. We should thank the administration for having built a tolerant campus, but we should recognize that we have reached a point where there is nothing more they can do as a third party to address this particular strain of racism. It is up to the students, both from minorities and from traditionally privileged groups, to handle anti-Semitism in the only way possible: gather in our homes, comfort our friends, and make our disgust known. Most importantly, we should live our lives as individuals with the same sense of personal pride we always had and rarely need.

*The author is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in Financial Economics. He is a member of AEPi and Yavneh. This piece is comprised entirely of his own personal opinions and does not reflect those of AEPi or Yavneh.*

SHELLY XU



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7	5	4	1	8	2	3	6	9
1	9	2	6	3	5	8	7	4
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6	8	7	3	1	9	2	4	5
4	1	9	2	5	6	7	3	8
9	2	6	8	4	7	5	1	3
8	4	1	5	6	3	9	2	7
5	7	3	9	2	1	4	8	6

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9. That means that no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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**Aditya Mukerjee, President**

## Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

**ACROSS**

1 Muddy stuff  
5 Fallback option  
10 Pinocchio calls  
14 Bounce, as off a canyon wall  
15 Margaret Mead's island  
16 Tom Joad, for one  
17 Tool that can extract nails  
19 Princess played by Lucy Lawless  
20 Spanish song  
21 Surprise "from the blue"  
22 "Get Smart" evil agency  
23 Silky sweater  
25 Bard of boxing  
27 It's poured into an iron at breakfast  
34 They may be outsourced  
37 King with jokes  
38 Keebler cracker  
39 Oral health org.  
40 Aerialist's apparatus  
42 Pictures on the wall  
43 Black biter?  
45 "Without a doubt!"  
46 Mars' Greek counterpart  
47 United Kingdom currency  
50 Heavy drinker  
51 Tranquilize  
55 Plastic user's concern  
58 Words of woe  
62 Autobahn autos  
63 Length times width  
64 Fur bantered by Native Americans  
66 Highlands dagger  
67 "Bye for now"  
68 "I did it!"  
69 High school skin problem  
70 idyllic spots  
71 Sources of iron

**DOWN**

1 Tourist magnet  
2 Golden St. collegian  
3 P.F. \_\_\_\_'s: Chinese restaurant chain  
4 Shows servility  
5 Free TV spot  
6 Moussaka meat  
7 Bullets and such  
8 Seasonal song  
9 Pub bill  
10 Tailless flying toy  
11 Swedish furniture giant  
12 Flintstone pet  
13 Arai and Arabian  
18 Traditional round dance  
24 Miles away  
26 Act like a couch potato  
28 Lightning burst  
29 Drink à la Lassie  
30 Juan's January  
31 Russian ruler of yore  
32 To be, in Burgundy  
33 Charlie Brown's "Damn it!"  
34 Doonway feature  
35 Sign of spoilage  
36 Java neighbor  
40 Small jazz group  
41 Olympian ruler  
44 In jeopardy  
46 Total numerically  
48 Pony's place  
49 In the vicinity  
52 "Please be \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_": polite request words  
53 Spanish squiggle  
54 These, in Madrid  
55 Baby's pop  
56 "Tears in Heaven" singer  
57 Swiss capital  
59 Lettuce purchase  
60 Brisbane buddy  
61 Fifty-fifty  
65 Medical drama settings, for short

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

M	C	D	O	N	A	L	D	S	J	I	G	G	S		
O	B	A	M	A	C	A	R	E	A	D	O	R	E		
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A	X	I	A	L		V	O	L	D	E	M	O	R	T	
R	E	E	S	E		O	P	E	R	A	A	R	I	A	
E	S	T	E	R		W	E	N	T	U	N	D	E	R	

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By Gail Graham and Bruce Venzke  
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# Losing streak comes just before Ivies

MEN'S TENNIS  
from back page

at No. 6 singles, routed his opponent 6-1, 6-1 behind a barrage of strong serves and volley winners. Senior co-captain Kevin Kung split his first two sets 1-6, 6-1, but got broken early in the third and could never break back, losing the third set 6-4. The Lions needed both sophomores John Yetimoglu and Nate Gery to win their matches. Gery lost his first set, and was down in the second but broke back as his opponent was serving for the match. Gery would win the second set in a tiebreak and his third set 7-5. Yetimoglu, at No. 5 singles, won his first set easily, but lost the second 6-4, and struggled to find his range in the third, falling behind two breaks. Although he got one break back, his opponent served out the match, giving the Redbirds the win.

“I’m hoping we’ll have a good week of practice and we’ll right the ship. We have tough matches coming up but hopefully we’ll compete.”

—Bid Goswami,  
head coach

Columbia started out slow again against St. John’s on Saturday. The Lions again lost the doubles point, but were swept this time, losing 8-5 at No. 1 and 3 doubles, and 8-6 at No. 2 doubles.

“Yesterday I felt doubles we played really poorly. I know the guys are trying really hard, maybe they are too eager or nervous; sometimes losses can do that to you. Maybe they are under a little pressure, I told them to relax and things will turn around. We really needed these two matches,” said Goswami.

Singles started slowly as well, as only Tizian Bucher won his first set. Cyril Bucher fell 6-2, 6-1 at No. 2 singles, and Deb-Sen, playing at No. 6 singles, lost in straight sets as well. Schneiderman struggled all afternoon to find consistency on his groundstrokes and fell at No. 1 singles to Stefan Bojic 6-3, 6-2.

Tizian Bucher won his first set, lost the second 6-4, but rallied for a 6-2 win in the third. Kung lost a tight match at No. 2 to Milo Hauk 6-4 in the third set, and Nate Gery came alive in the second set, rallying from a first set loss to win his match in a third set supertiebreak.

“We didn’t compete and we played poorly. We played poor doubles. Haig had a long match the day before, and I finally was happy with how he played the day before. We played good matches, even in Texas, we had some pretty close matches where we played as well as we could. Yesterday was poor, it happens sometimes. So I’m hoping we’ll have a good week of practice and we’ll right the ship. We have tough matches coming up but hopefully we’ll compete. That’s all I’m asking of the guys and if we do that, then hopefully we’ll be OK.”



HENRY WILLSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**FINDING FORM** | Last season’s Ivy League Rookie of the Year, Dario Pizzano had two hits, two runs, and three RBIs in the second game of Saturday’s doubleheader.

## Light Blue rebounds to win second game of each doubleheader

BASEBALL from back page

guys early and it felt like a lineup I could attack with my stuff and just throw strikes and let our defense work,” Whitaker said.

By attacking hitters, Whitaker’s performance was not only effective, but efficient as well.

“I feel like this year, I’ve been able to come into games and just attack the zone from the beginning and that’s helped me out so far,” Whitaker said.

The offensive catalyst for the Lions was senior outfielder Nick Cox, who recorded four hits and four stolen bases in the game.

“Cox is on fire, he’s always getting hits,” Pizzano said. “He’s really like a catalyst at the top of our order, if he’s going, we all go.”

Cox’s infield hit to lead off the bottom of the first led to junior outfielder Alexander Aurrichio’s RBI double, which put the Lions on the board. Cox would also reach home on an infield single to lead off the sixth inning, which sparked a four-run Columbia rally for the second consecutive inning. Pizzano

contributed to the offensive onslaught as well with two hits, two runs, and three RBIs.

“I got those kinks out of the first game,” Pizzano said. “I stayed back, saw the ball better, and sprayed a couple hits.”

On Sunday, the Lions would once again score in just one inning of the double-header opener, this time leading to a 3-2, seven-inning defeat at the hands of the Crusaders.

Cox and junior third baseman Jon Eisen led off the Columbia third inning with singles, and Pizzano and Aurrichio drove them home, putting the Lions out in front 2-0.

“Just being back on your home field, it’s a little bit of a comfort zone,” said Aurrichio. “I just kind of got into a groove and felt good at the plate and it translated into some results.”

However, the Lions would once again cough up the early lead in a three-run fifth inning for Holy Cross.

A pair of walks and a check-swing infield single led to senior starting pitcher Dan Bracey’s demise in the fifth inning, as all three baserunners would come

in to score with two outs. Bracey otherwise only allowed four hits in his six innings of work.

Senior shortstop Alex Ferrera

“Being back on your home field, it’s a little bit of a comfort zone.”

—Alexander Aurrichio,  
junior

came up with the bases loaded and two outs in the fifth and with two men on and two outs in the seventh, but he was not able to capitalize on either opportunity.

“We just didn’t get a couple of hits in some key situations to score more runs,” Boretti said. “I thought their pitcher did a good job again, but we need to do more to create some offense and we need to do a better job of two-strike hitting too.”

In the weekend’s final game,

Columbia found offensive success in the second half of its 7-3 win.

Cox once again delivered four hits and a stolen base in the game, making him 11 for 12 in stealing bases this season and solidifying his .403 season batting average. Not far behind is Pizzano, who is batting .400 after an impressive weekend at the plate.

Senior second baseman Alex Godshall and freshman catcher Emmanuel Cabreja, neither of whom started in Sunday’s opener, made cases for more playing time with notable performances at the plate. Godshall recorded multiple hits and each scored a run.

“I think we learned from yesterday and the mistakes that we were making at the plate, and I think we got into what we do the best,” Godshall said. “We started seeing better pitches, being a little more aggressive, we were letting some balls go by the first day, and I think it showed in putting some hits together.”

Sophomore starting pitcher Stefan Olson allowed two runs

and three hits in his five innings on the mound for the Lions.

“Stef I thought threw well for five,” said Boretti. “Command-wise, he’s been better at times, but he’s still working on settling in and doing a better job there.”

In their wins, the Lions stole a combined nine bases, even though they were picked off a couple times.

“We definitely put an emphasis on stealing off the catcher when we did steal,” Cox said. “But they actually did a pretty good job shutting our running game down from the pitching standpoint.”

Overall the weekend was a needed step forward for the Light Blue.

“I think it was good to get a couple of doubleheaders under our belt before Ivy League play starts, so we get the feel of coming out here and being out here for 16 innings and I think we’re ready for next weekend,” Aurrichio said.

Columbia will face its final tune-up before Ivy League play begins with a 3:30 p.m. Wednesday matchup at Monmouth.

### MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

## Senior swimmer Powell swims 50 and 100 freestyle events in the NCAA

One last swim meet broke one last record.

Senior Adam Powell participated in the NCAA National Championships this weekend, where he competed in the 50 and 100 freestyle events. According to head coach Jim Bolster, this championship meet is arguably one of the fastest in the world. Although Powell did not make it past the preliminary rounds in the 100 free, the senior qualified for the consolation finals in the 50 free this past Thursday.

To qualify, Powell swam his trademark event, the 50 free, in 19.55, which was both a personal and school record. The time is currently the 14th fastest in the country. In the consolation finals, Powell finished eighth with a time of 19.74, good enough for sixteenth place at the entire championship event.

Bolster had nothing but praise for the graduating athlete. “Adam’s performance at NCAAAs is a fitting way for him

to end his season and his career. He is the greatest sprinter in the history of Columbia Swimming and Diving, and to swim his best time in the biggest meet of his life is pretty sweet!” he wrote in an email.

The Light Blue swimmers will certainly miss Powell’s prowess in the pool next year. “He did not lose a race in the league his last two years; finding an athlete that swims at that level does not happen often,” Bolster said. However, his success in the Ancient Eight seems to have been a draw for future Columbia swimmers—according to Bolster, Powell’s legacy has attracted three sprinters in the incoming recruited class.

While the book has closed on Powell’s career at Columbia, it is certain that he will continue making waves in the swimming world, as he plans to attempt to qualify for the 2012 Olympics in London.

—Rebeka Cohan



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**POWELL-FUL** | Senior Adam Powell swam in his last meet as a Columbia Lion this weekend. His leadership will be missed in future seasons.

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TRACK AND FIELD

Light Blue begins the outdoor season in separate meets

Columbia's men's and women's track and field teams kicked off the outdoor season with two separate meets in Philadelphia, Pa. and Palo Alto, Calif. The team traveled light to Stanford to take on some of the best competition in the nation. The Lions sent only 15 athletes, all long-distance runners. Sophomore Paul Snyder was the fast man for the Light Blue in the 5000m run, finishing fourth in the third section with a time of 14:17.14. In the 10000m run, senior Brendan Martin posted the Lions' fastest time, finishing in 29:44.55, good for 11th place in the second section of the highly competitive race.

On the women's side, sophomore Clare Buck finished with the team high in the 5000m (16:44.90), but just barely landed in the top half of her section.

A number of other Columbia athletes took part in the Big 5 Meet at Penn. Senior Matt Stewart started the season off on the right foot, finishing first in the 1500m run with a time of 3:52.65. Junior Kyra Caldwell finished first as well, competing in the 400m dash in Hale's absence. She finished in 57.24 seconds. The men's and women's 4x400m relay 'A' teams each took second in their respective events. On the field, junior pole-vaulter Sarah Engle took first, clearing a height of 3.65m. The next closest competitor was an astounding 0.6 meters away from Engle's mark.

Several big names, however, did not compete. Those names included junior sprinter Sharay Hale and senior middle-distance runner Jeff Moriarty.

The Lions will split up again next weekend, with some traveling to Gainesville, Fla., and some to Princeton, N.J.

—Jeremiah Sharf

MEDLEY

Sports in brief: Around the Heights

The Columbia women's rowing team began the northern part of its season at the Connell Cup this weekend, rowing against Penn and Yale. The Light Blue was not able to take any victories in the meet for the varsity eights, but it was able to clinch second place finishes in the second varsity eight and the varsity B fours. The Lions are back in action next weekend, rowing against Bucknell on Saturday, April 2, and against Northeastern on Sunday, April 3.

The Columbia men's heavyweight rowing team also kicked off its northern season this weekend. The Light Blue competed in the Collins Cup, rowing in extremely difficult conditions. Despite the bad weather, the Lions won both the varsity and the second varsity races against Rutgers. The team will go on the road to Boston next weekend for the Alumni Cup against MIT.

The Columbia softball team swept a doubleheader at home against Saint Peter's this Saturday, winning the first game soundly 8-0 and coming from behind to win the second game 3-2. Freshmen were the stars in the first game. Rookie pitcher Prophet Gaspard threw her first complete-game shutout to win the first game, and her classmates Emily Caruthers and Emily Snodgrass significantly contributed on offense. The second game was more of a contest. The Lions were held scoreless until the bottom of the sixth, when senior Anne Marie Skyllis hit a two-run homer to even the game at two. The Light Blue sealed the victory in the bottom of the seventh, as freshman Morgan Cook reached first on an error, advanced to second on a sac bunt, then to third on a ground out, and finally scored when sophomore Jennifer Bergeron whacked a liner to left field for the RBI. Columbia will take the field again on Tuesday, March 29, when they face Manhattan.

—Molly Tow

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Columbia sweeps local rival Long Island in weekend's match

Against a Long Island University team that had only four players, the women's tennis team ended a two-match losing streak with a 7-0 win in their final non-conference match of the season. Columbia's record now stands at 9-6 this spring.

Columbia won the doubles point easily, and was aided by the fact that LIU had only four players and thus could only field two doubles teams. It didn't matter, because the Lions swept both matches with ease. Sophomore Nicole Bartnik and senior Natasha Makarova won 8-5 at No. 1 and freshman Bianca Sanon and senior Natalia Christenson won 8-1 at No. 2, giving Columbia the sweep and a 1-0 lead.

The Lions also won all four singles matches easily, each in straight sets. Bartnik, who didn't play singles in two of the matches over spring break and was forced to retire from a third, won 6-2, 7-5 at No. 1. Since LIU didn't have a full lineup, Columbia head coach Ilene Weintraub mixed up Columbia's. Sophomore Katarina Kovacevic, who normally plays No. 5 or 6, won 6-4, 6-1 at No. 2. Freshman Tiana Takenaga, who normally plays No. 5 or 6, won 6-0, 6-2 at No. 3 and Iona Alecsiu won 6-0, 6-3 at No. 4 singles. LIU defaulted No. 5 and 6 singles to give Columbia 7-0 win.

Columbia will welcome Dartmouth and Harvard to the Dick Savitt Tennis Center on Friday and Saturday as they begin Ivy play.

—Kunal Gupta

Five Lions earn All-American recognition

**FENCING from back page**

fun.' It's a liberating thing when you're losing."

The most striking example of this was freshman Alen Hadzic in men's epee. Hadzic started slow on the first day of competition, finishing Thursday with a record of 5-9, putting him in 19th place. He responded extremely well on Friday by winning eight of his nine bouts to finish in ninth place with 13 victories.

"Alen is a very competitive person. He was not at all happy about his performance on the first day," Kolombatovich said. "I think Alen just said 'The hell with this. I'm just going to go out there and just do it and make it happen,' and he certainly did."

Like Hadzic, freshmen foilists Alex Pensler and Bo Charles struggled early on in the competition but finished on a high note. On Friday, Pensler won six of nine bouts to finish with 13 victories and Charles won four of nine, giving him nine victories. Due to their strong second day performances Pensler finished in ninth place while Charles ended up in 15th. In men's sabre, freshman Mel Rodriguez finished in 22nd place.

**"I'm looking forward to the next couple of years."**

— George Kolombatovich, head coach

On the women's side, junior co-captain Sammy Roberts finished in 11th place and sophomore Loweye Diedro finished 12th in sabre. Roberts started slow but finished Saturday with nine victories in 14 bouts. She finished the competition with 12 victories. Diedro struggled out of the gate with five victories on Saturday but finished the competition with 11.

In women's epee, Kopecky finished in a tie for seventh place while freshman Katya English finished 18th. Kopecky was the Lions' top finisher at NCAA's. Kopecky and English finished Saturday with records of 8-6 and 7-7, respectively. Kopecky had a solid record of 5-4 on Sunday while English notched three victories in nine bouts. In women's foil, sophomore D'Meca Homer finished in 19th place.

In addition to Kopecky's All-American recognition, Roberts, Diedro, Pensler, and Hadzic return to New York as honorable mention All-Americans.

This experience at nationals will yield benefits down the road for Columbia fencing.

Kolombatovich said, "I expect a great majority to be here at NCAA's again next year when we go down to San Antonio. What they went through here, the intensity of it, the experience they have... not only will they benefit but they will even help their teammates perform better. We are going to have a far more experienced team. I'm looking forward to the next couple of years."



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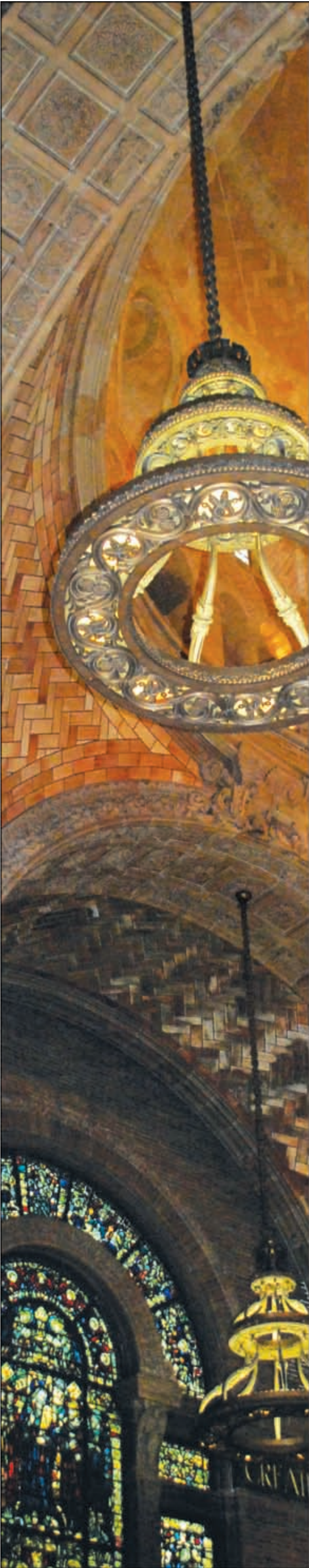
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IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

invites you to join us for the

2011  
BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

Sunday, May 15, 2011  
9:30–11:00 a.m.

St. Paul's Chapel  
Columbia University  
1160 Amsterdam Avenue at 117th Street

This event features a procession that includes undergraduate degree candidates from Columbia College, The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, the School of General Studies, and Barnard College. School deans, the University Chaplain, and faculty and administrators also participate. Highlights of the service include hymns and musical selections performed by student musicians and choirs.

Keynote Speaker

**Peter Awn**  
Dean, School of General Studies

Student Speakers

**Aviva Buechler**  
*Barnard College, '11*  
Jewish

**Michelle Harrison**  
*Columbia College, '11*  
Seventh Day Adventist

**Samuel Kerbel**  
*School of General Studies, '11*  
*Jewish Theological Seminary–List College, '11*  
Jewish

**Samirah Majumdar**  
*Barnard College, '11*  
Muslim

**Warren McGee**  
*Columbia College, '11*  
Catholic

**Miguel Morocho**  
*Columbia College, '11*  
Office of the University Chaplain

**Sushant Sabnis**  
*The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, '11*  
Hindu/Jain

The Baccalaureate Service is an interfaith, intercultural service celebrating the completion of each undergraduate's academic career. Tickets are not required for admission. Students must register to participate.

For questions, please email [rjw2110@columbia.edu](mailto:rjw2110@columbia.edu) or call 212-854-4194. Visit [www commencement.columbia.edu](http://www commencement.columbia.edu) for more details.

The service is coordinated jointly by the Office of the University Chaplain and the Commencement Office/University Programs and Events.

The newly renovated Faculty House, located right on campus, is offering a special brunch for graduates and their guests during Commencement Week 2011. Following the Baccalaureate Service on Sunday, May 15, 2011, undergraduate degree candidates who join us for brunch at noon will receive a complimentary bottle of champagne for the table.

For more information and to make reservations, visit [facultyhouse.columbia.edu/commencement](http://facultyhouse.columbia.edu/commencement).



## CU secondary sports emerge as elites

There are two big college athletics tournaments going on right now. Some of the best student-athletes from all the Division I schools across the country are competing in them, hoping to be recognized as the best teams and individuals of this year. In fact, the best of the best in these tournaments are most likely to go on to compete at the next level, whether that is here in the United States or somewhere overseas.

But here's the real kicker: Columbia has an entrant into both of these competitions.

You know what I'm talking about, right?

If you guessed the men's and women's NCAA Basketball tournaments you would be mistaken. As has been written in this paper, and discussed on campus extensively, Columbia does not have a team in either of those two big-name, big-market tournaments. In fact, Columbia hasn't been in the men's tournament since 1968 and the women have never been to the Division I tournament. But the point here isn't to lament the fact that Columbia fans and alumni don't get to cheer their team on in one of the most exciting sporting events of the year. Too many words have been penned about that, and quite frankly, writing about past failures doesn't make future success any more likely.

This past weekend, Columbia sent athletes to the NCAA Championships in fencing and men's swimming. While basketball players all across the country were competing to cut down the nets and be the ones standing when CBS plays "One Shining Moment," Columbia had its own student athletes that were competing for national championships.

The Columbia fencing team finished in seventh place at the NAAs. That's seventh place out of every fencing team in the nation. Columbia finished ahead of Penn, Brown, Cornell, and Yale, and



KUNAL GUPTA

### The Phanatic



HENRY WILLSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**GEOFF GEM** | Senior pitcher Geoff Whitaker allowed just three hits and struck out six in seven shutout innings of work against the Crusaders.

## Columbia splits its home openers against Holy Cross, goes 2-2

BY RYAN YOUNG  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

It was evident the Lions were no longer in Florida with the cold conditions at Robertson Field at Satow Stadium this weekend, but it was a welcome sight for the Light Blue to begin playing again in front of its bundled-up fans. Columbia (9-8) fought Holy Cross (10-10-1) for a pair of split double-headers on Saturday and Sunday, both of which featured the Lions blowing a lead to lose a one-run game in the opener and take over late in the second game to lead the team to victory.

The Lions struggled offensively in their home opener, as they only

managed four hits in the seven-inning, 4-3 loss to the Crusaders.

"I thought we were flat in the first game, to be honest," head coach Brett Boretti said.

After stringing together three runs, one earned, in the second inning, the Lions were not able to get a hit, much less a run, for the remaining five innings of the game against junior starting pitcher John Pedrotty.

"I think we could've done a better job battling at the plate, but that was disappointing in the first game, especially when you're only able to do something for one inning," Boretti said. "Score three runs in one inning, and that's all you're able to do in one game—and

again, give credit to Pedrotty, he pitched a good game but I feel like we're capable of doing more than that."

Sophomore outfielder Dario Pizzano thought Pedrotty did a good job of mixing up his pitches.

"That guy was their number one guy," he said. "We have a lot of lefties in our lineup, so he was coming in on us and getting us off-balance."

On the mound, junior starting pitcher Pat Lowery allowed four runs (three earned) and 10 hits, and struck out five, throwing 110 pitches in six innings of work.

"They hit him, but I thought actually Pat did a better job with the zone than he has done in the past couple starts,"

coach Brett Boretti said. "I thought today was a good step."

Lowery relinquished the Lions' 3-0 lead, partly due to poor defensive play by most of his infield. Columbia committed four errors in the game.

"Four errors isn't going to get you a win," Boretti said.

In the following game, senior starting pitcher Geoff Whitaker put forth a masterful performance, allowing only three hits and striking out six in his seven shutout innings to lead the Lions to an 11-1 victory.

"All three of my pitches were working pretty well, I got ahead of a lot of

SEE BASEBALL, page 6

### SCOREBOARD

#### BASEBALL



Holy Cross 4  
Columbia 3

Holy Cross 1  
Columbia 11

Holy Cross 3  
Columbia 2

Holy Cross 3  
Columbia 7

#### SOFTBALL



Columbia 8  
Saint Peter's 0

Columbia 3  
Saint Peter's 2

#### MEN'S TENNIS



Illinois State 4  
Columbia 3

St. John's 5  
Columbia 2

#### WOMEN'S TENNIS



Columbia 7  
Long Island 0

#### FENCING



Finished seventh at NCAA Championships

#### MEN'S HEAVYWEIGHT ROWING



Columbia win in both varsity and second varsity races over Rutgers

#### WOMEN'S ROWING



Second place in both varsity eights and varsity B fours in the Cornell Cup

#### LACROSSE



Columbia 15  
Dartmouth 7

## Light Blue finishes seventh at NAAs

BY SPENCER GYORY  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Many believe that the future is very bright for Columbia fencing, but even the present hasn't been bleak. The Light Blue capped off its season by finishing in seventh place overall at the 2011 NCAA Championships at Ohio State University. Sophomore Lydia Kopecky was the standout performer for the Lions, as she earned herself All-American second team status in women's epee.

Notre Dame, which had been ranked No. 1 in both men's and women's fencing since the start of the season, came home with the team title with 174 points, edging out Penn State, which had 168 and St. John's, which had 155.

After the first two days of competition, Columbia was in 10th place with 40 points earned by its men's fencers. Saturday's rounds saw the women add an impressive 36 victories putting Columbia in eighth place. On Sunday, the women earned 18 more victories to finish with 94 points.

Columbia finished behind Ivy League rivals Princeton, which finished fourth with 150 points, and Harvard, which had 137 points in sixth. The Light Blue finished above Penn which was eighth with 91 points.

When asked if he was pleased with his team's performance, head coach George Kolombatovich said, "Absolutely, absolutely. Any time you make top 10 in the country with seventh you've got to be happy."

Columbia started off slow, but improved as it adjusted to the intensity and high level of competition.

Their coach wasn't surprised by this. He said, "There is a certain point in every sport where you're tense. You get to a certain point and say 'I'm not doing that well so I might as well go out and try some things. Let me just relax and go out and try to have some fun.' It's



HENRY WILLSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**HANDY HADZIC** | Freshman Alen Hadzic helped the Lions to an impressive finish this weekend, winning eight of his nine bouts on Friday.

SEE FENCING, page 8

## Lions are swept at home, fall to 6-10

BY KUNAL GUPTA  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

The Columbia men's tennis team picked the worst time possible to stumble into a six-match losing streak, as they will begin Ivy play, the most important part of their season, on Friday against Dartmouth in Hanover. The Lions, who entered the weekend on a four-match losing streak from their spring break trip, lost their final two nonconference matches to Illinois State and St. John's, 4-3 and 5-2 respectively. The Light Blue now sit at 6-10 this spring, and the six consecutive match losses are more than all of its losses last spring (16-5).

"Boy, hopefully yesterday was the bottom of the ocean, the nadir," said head coach Bid Goswami. "I felt we had a good week of practice, and I thought we played pretty decent match the day before. Yesterday, we struggled."

Columbia was facing Illinois State for the first time since 1985-86, and Illinois State seemed to take the Lions by surprise. The Redbirds won the doubles point, the fourth time in five matches the Lions have lost it, with wins at No. 1 and 2 doubles. At No. 3, juniors Rajeev Deb-Sen and Haig Schneiderman won 8-6.

The doubles point would prove to be the difference, as the teams split the six singles matches. Schneiderman, playing at No. 1 singles, jumped out to a quick lead, winning the first set 6-1, but lost the second set 6-3 as his opponent improved his level of play. Schneiderman regained his form in the final set, winning it 6-3. Sophomore Cyril Bucher at No. 2 singles played a tremendous first set, saving five set points, including one with a spectacular pass down the line, but eventually lost the set in a tiebreak and lost the second set 6-1. His brother, freshman Tizian Bucher

SEE MEN'S TENNIS, page 6