

# Ollie’s, Vine face bankruptcy after labor disputes

BY NICHOLAS BLOOM  
AND SARAH DARVILLE  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

A year after Tomo Sushi closed amid labor disputes and financial troubles, two more Asian restaurants on 116th are facing similar economic problems.

Both Ollie’s Noodle Shop and Vine Sushi and Sake filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy on Friday, March 26, and documents show that Ollie’s, a chain with multiple city locations, is more than \$3.7 million in debt.

Ollie’s owner Tsu Yue Wang agreed to pay a \$2.3 million settlement in March 2009 to compensate over 800 workers for unpaid overtime and hourly wages well below legal limits. Now, that settlement may have driven the Chinese food purveyor over the financial edge.

The labor suit did not involve employees at the 116th Street restaurant, but workers at five other Ollie’s locations. The chain now only operates two other Ollie’s, one at Lincoln Center and one in Times Square, but the bankruptcy involves the corporation as a whole.

Next door to the 116th Ollie’s, Vine is also run by Wang, who is listed as an affiliated business partner, though records say Vine is officially owned by a corporation, Bu Yao Pa LLC.

Both restaurants filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy, which typically allows businesses to reorganize to attempt to pay off debts—which both restaurants have in the millions.

Vine’s bankruptcy filing shows less than a quarter of a million dollars in assets and over \$2.3 million in debts.

Ollie’s has over a half million dollars in assets but over \$3.7 million in debts listed. In addition to the settlement money, Ollie’s owes almost \$40,000 in taxes and hundreds of thousands to various vendors, which range from seafood suppliers, to exterminators, and health insurance companies.

Vine’s other debts range from \$19,000 in taxes to bills for cleaning companies, produce deliveries and even a \$900 Coca-Cola tab.

SEE OLLIES, page 7

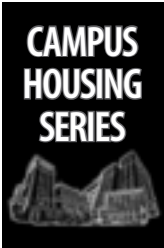


PATRICK YUAN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**BANKRUPTCY** | A chef at Ollie’s on 116th prepares food. Despite labor disputes and bankruptcy filings, employees at 116th say their Ollie’s is fine.

# Campus housing revamped with new space demands

BY KIM KIRSCHENBAUM  
*Senior Spectator Staff Writer*



Herbert Howe, director emeritus of residence halls, confronted a severe housing problem during his tenure.

“The dormitories are affected by depression,” he wrote in a letter to a colleague in 1931.

What Howe was describing was the onset of the economic depression. Trapped in these difficult financial straits, 140 students left Columbia’s dormitories—95 of whom left their academic careers at the college behind altogether. Howe was, at the time, at a loss as to what to do with all of these dormitory vacancies.

Eighty years later, the University faces the entirely opposite problem. The number of residents is on the verge of exceeding housing capacity. Due in large part to an unfavorable housing market, an increase in demand for on-campus housing has caused a dearth of dormitory space. Expanding class sizes

threaten to push this problem even further.

In preparation for the housing lottery process that begins today, relevant administrators have been forced to seek more innovative ways to address dormitory space. Walls will be shifted in several dormitories to create additional dorm rooms, a new brownstone will be available for undergraduate housing, and office space will be converted into dorm rooms.

These changes are not occurring in isolation. Wireless internet will be installed in several dorms, floors in some buildings will experience a face-lift, and a host of changes to Barnard’s housing selection process will become a part of the ever-shifting, increasingly competitive game that is the housing selection process.

## REFLECTING ON RECENT HOUSING HISTORY

Last year, on the eve of the release of housing lottery numbers for Columbia College and engineering students, an unexpected announcement was made. An entirely new building would open up to undergraduate students for the first time.

For last year’s lottery, in order to accommodate the 50-student

increase in Columbia College’s class of 2013, Harmony Hall was made available for Columbia College and SEAS students participating in General Selection. Located on 110th Street between Amsterdam and Broadway, it had previously been occupied by law and statistics students.

“College enrollment will be increased only to the level our residential facilities can reasonably support, and we have done extensive planning to ensure that,” Dean of Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger wrote in an email to students at the time.

The opening of the new dorm to the undergraduate population came on the heels of the University’s reduction of the number of graduate students, which freed up 72 single and six double rooms. And one year later, as dozens of students now reside in Harmony Hall, most have reported a positive experience there, said Lauren Moon, assistant manager of student & guest accommodations, who also said she believes there have not been any transfers out of Harmony.

“It’s a mixed bag—some people love being away from everything, having that type of break,”

Brian Birkeland, assistant director of residence halls, said. “I haven’t had any students complain to me about Harmony.”

Alongside the opening of this dorm for the 2009-2010 school year, new layouts creating 30 doubles—and eliminating 30 singles—in Watt, McBain, and Ruggles were implemented in order to make room for the increasing number of students opting for on-campus housing.

But these changes did not eliminate the problem of a dearth of space altogether. Columbia College announced in early February of this year that it would be permanently increasing its first year class size by 50 students to create a new normal. And as administrators begin to discuss ways to continue to accommodate the needs of a permanently larger student body, they have turned their attention toward addressing dormitory space—or lack thereof.

## 548 MEETS DORM DEMAND WITH SUPPLY

An entirely new dormitory may not be open to students

SEE HOUSING, page 7

# Three parties to compete for CCSC board

BY ALISA LU  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Some student elections this year will be more competitive than 2009.

Three parties will be running in the annual Columbia College Student Council elections next month, when Columbia College students elect the party that will become the CCSC Executive Board for the 2010-2011 school year. Last year, current CCSC President Sue Yang and her Action Party ran uncontested in the election, but this year, there was more interest in general, according to Election Board Chairman James Bogner, CC ’10.

Elections this year will begin at 9 a.m. on April 13 and end at noon on April 15. Executive Board, class council, and student service representative positions are all up for election. One two-year University Senate seat is also up for election this year.

The three parties who have filed their candidacy with the CCSC Election Board are

The Naked Party, led by current Student Governing Board Secretary Eugenio Suarez, CC ’11; Stand Columbia, led by current Class of 2011 President Learned Foote CC ’11; and Renew C.U., led by Isaac Lara CC ’10.

“Obviously, three executive board tickets is more than one last year but the University Senate seat also saw a lot of interest, more than we’ve seen in a couple of years,” he said.

Bogner is also pleased by the range of candidates this year, “We’re fortunate this year to have a really good spread of candidates and I think that it should end up being a really good election for the College because we’ll have so many options for people to choose from,” said Bogner, who runs the elections commission, which oversees and enforces the rules of the process.

All three Executive Board tickets this year contain both students currently serving on CCSC and fresh faces.

“I think the candidates that are the incumbents have found it always beneficial to include as many

people, many varied representatives as they can on their ticket. It’s not just a solid a campaign strategy, but it’s also a necessity for trying to represent our school,” Bogner said.

The executive board runs policy and oversees the entire council, but races will also happen for each class council, which focuses on issues specific to the class.

The race for the Class of 2011 Council includes two parties. The Party Bus Party, led by current vice president of finance Nuriel Moghavem, will compete against The After Party, led by current Class of 2011 vice president Sean Manning Udell.

Access Columbia, led by Class of 2012 President Aki Terasaki is running uncontested for Class of 2012 council, and Grandma’s Tea Party run by Eleanor Stein will be competing against the Incumbent Party, led by Class of 2013 President Alex Jasiulek.

Although all three CCSC class candidates praise Yang and her current team for the work

SEE CCSC ELECTIONS, page 7

# New meal plans revealed for fall

Ferris Booth, JJ’s Place to accept meals

BY MADINA TOURE  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Starting in the fall, there will be an entirely revamped dining system for getting curly fries from JJ’s Place, pasta dishes from Ferris Booth, and Wilma’s omelets from John Jay dining hall.

Vice President of Student and Administrative Services Scott Wright announced at a Columbia College Student Council meeting Sunday night that a new plan will essentially convert Ferris Booth Commons into a dining hall and allow students to buy meals by the week rather than by the semester. Currently, students can use Flex, Dining Dollars, and cash at Ferris Booth, but no meals.

Come fall, John Jay Dining Hall, Ferris Booth, and JJ’s Place will all require meal plans or Dining Dollars instead of Flex. Dining Dollars can be used on campus only, while Flex is available for on and off campus use.

According to the University Dining website, there will be three sets of meal plans available to students. One plan will be available only to first-year students, and first-years will have to pick from one of two options.

In the first option for first-years, students may opt for 19 meals per week with 75 Dining Dollars per term, plus an additional 15 “floating” meals for anytime and six “faculty meals,” or dinner with a professor on the house. These meals are taken out of unused meals and lost food, and the idea came from Dean Michele Moody-Adams, according to CCSC. In the second option, a first-year could have 15 meals per week and 125 Dining Dollars per term, with 10 floating meals and six faculty meals.

Upperclassmen, General Studies students, and graduate students will have four plans to choose from, ranging from 14 to 175 meals per week. They also have the option of guest meals.

Instead of buying meals by the semester, students will buy meals by the week, and there will no longer be specified meal times—instead, students will be able to take four meals at any time during the day.

Students can also opt into the Kosher or Halal Dining Plans, which are made available through the first-year or upper-class dining plans.

According to CCSC President Sue Yang, CC ’10, the change comes after two years of discussions and negotiations among student council representatives and student services and dining administrators. There were three main concerns, she said, that had to be addressed.

Ferris Booth and JJ’s Place were losing significant amounts of money to off-campus Flex use, and Ferris Booth was at risk of shutting its doors. Upperclassmen were complaining about the high cost of meal plans, and many of the meals purchased on plans at the beginning of the year went unused.

SEE MEAL PLAN, page 2

## NEWS BRIEF

### Professor McIntyre’s assault case adjourned until June

There may not be any answers about associate professor Lionel McIntyre’s legal fate until at least June.

McIntyre, who allegedly punched School of the Arts employee Camille Davis in the face last November, appeared in court on March 26 for another pre-trial hearing, and the case has now been adjourned until June 15.

A spokesperson for the Manhattan district attorney’s office said the appearance was the beginning of the discovery phase, which is essentially a time for the attorneys to meet and exchange paperwork related to evidence.

An order of protection for Davis was again extended.

McIntyre is the Nancy

and George Rupp Associate Professor in the Practice of Community Development in the urban planning program of the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation.

He was arrested in November 2009, three days after the reported assault at Toast, a restaurant and bar on Broadway near 125th Street.

McIntyre failed to appear at his first court date on Jan. 11, but did show up two weeks later on Jan. 26, the postponed date, and the case was adjourned until March.

McIntyre could not be reached for comment.

—Sarah Darville

## INSIDE

A&E, page 3

Things get ‘RAWcus’ in Roone at hip-hop show

Campus hip-hop and break-dance troupe Raw Elementz held a showcase and competition, titled “RAWcus,” in Roone Arledge Auditorium on Saturday. The group hoped that the event would confront and dispel stereotypes about hip-hop dance.



Sports, back page

Lions roar past St. John’s to keep clean record

The mens tennis team hosted St. John’s this weekend, making the Red Storm the fifth team to fall to the mighty Lions this season on their home turf. Columbia returns to Ivy competition next weekend after a five-week break from the Ancient Eight.

Opinion, page 4

Springing into life

Resident bards Sarah Leonard and Kate Redburn offer poetic musings on the season of graduation.

Calendars at Christmas

What does University Senate policy say about religious debate?

Today’s Events

Nicolas Sarkozy on campus

The French president comes to the fully-booked World Leaders Forum. Low Library, 10 a.m.

Job search for seniors

Feeling nervous about your approaching graduation? Attend CCE’s interactive workshop. Conference Room, Center for Career Education, 5 p.m.

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WEATHER





# Columbia meal plan revamped for fall

MEAL PLAN from front page

Yang noted that although campus dining locations—places that took Dining Dollars, cash, or Flex—were seeing decreases in patronage, there appeared to be an increase in students buying meal plans.

Dining officials realized, she said, that “while they do not have a competitive advantage in the à la carte business, it was doing well with the meal plan. More and more upperclassmen were purchasing meals, so they decided to shift their focus there, and thus convert Ferris Booth

and JJ’s into meal plan locations, keeping the type of food and service mostly intact.”

For fans of Ferris Booth pasta, the website says not to worry—the pasta will be featured in Café 212.

CCSC VP of Finance Nuriel Moghavem, CC ’11, said that the new system could save students money. “Students don’t pay any more than they would normally for a meal plan and they get more meals per semester, so in that respect, it is more cost-effective,” he said.

“I feel like this is a pretty awesome thing for students,”

he added. “We get more meals with more flexibility over a greater time in the day without paying more.”

Yang said that there was no formal survey conducted of students, though CCSC members did bounce ideas off students casually. “I think that the rise in meal plan purchases speaks for itself,” she said. “It’s like the free market. ... Students voiced their opinions by their purchasing decisions and by purchasing more meals and spending less money on à la carte foods.”

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# Activists criticize affordable housing process

BY HIEN TRUONG  
Spectator Staff Writer

For 10 housing rights organizers, the time has come to reclaim the land.

About 70 housing activists, students, tenants, community organizers, and homeless individuals all filed into the West Building of Hunter College on Saturday to answer “The Call,” at a forum organizers named after their core demand: “No More ‘Affordable’ Housing Scams.” The conference was facilitated by a group of collaborating housing organizations.

Forum organizers hoped to capitalize on what they believe to be a longstanding affordable housing crisis, exacerbated by the financial downturn, that has left vacant lots and foreclosures unused, because businesses lack a financial incentive to create livable spaces. Now is the time to lay claim to these properties and put them to use for the poor and homeless, they insisted.

Unlike other conferences of its kind, the forum was organized by a “motley crew of unusual suspects,” said Avi Rosenthalis, one of the 10 activists, community planners, and students who organized the forum.

Organizers condemned the government for what they perceive to be abuse of the area median income calculator. Affordable housing developments use this number to secure public subsidies and government tax breaks by promising to provide affordable housing units to city residents.

In calculating the AMI for the New York City region, the federal government averages incomes within the five boroughs and wealthier suburban counties such as Nassau and Westchester. Organizers claimed that this practice makes the median income appear higher than it should be to reflect the realities of low-income neighborhoods, and makes “affordable housing” ultimately unaffordable.

One such example is Harlem, according to forum organizer and New York University student Mary Tek, a Harlem resident.

“The big problem we see in Harlem is displacement, people in that community not being able to stay there due to loss of affordable housing and rising property value,” she said.

She attributed gentrification to the real estate boom in Harlem in the early 2000s. Though the economic crisis slowed the process, she fears the potential for more displacement when the market picks up.

According to Rosenthalis, the event also aimed to address a “radical re-imagining” of the tactics that neighborhood residents can use to access, secure, and take back land.

James Tracy of the San Francisco Community Land Trust emphasized solidarity between affordable housing proponents, saying, without a base, “We’re nothing. We’re just advocates.”

Frank Morales, a community organizer from Picture the Homeless and one of the forum

organizers, discussed the tactics of squatting and occupation in which homeless people peacefully occupy abandoned buildings, stop-work condominiums, and foreclosed homes in an effort to acquire the land for permanent housing. Morales has been “squatting” since 1979, and the 11 buildings he and his fellow squatters have occupied were turned over to the nonprofit organization in 2002. Since then, two have been turned into low-income co-ops.

According to Jay Kim, an attorney at the Common Law Group, the time is now ripe for squatting, especially in areas where foreclosures have risen. In Manhattan, the number of developments and stop-work condominiums is notable, Kim said.

DeBo’Rah Dickerson, a Bedford-Stuyvesant resident who has recently left the shelter system, said, “Don’t talk about us [the homeless], talk with us.”

Dickerson chanted in closing remarks, “Housing is a human right! Housing is a human right!” The audience followed her chant.

The chant ushered in musicians from the Rude Mechanical Orchestra shouting, “No More Housing Scams! We must Control the land!” The audience rose to its feet in ovation, chanting along for the duration of the orchestra’s remake of Lady Gaga’s “Bad Romance.” A member of the Orchestra introduced the group and extended an offer to play at the next building takeover.

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# Leadership forum to focus on women

BY EMILY KWONG  
Spectator Staff Writer

As excitement brews over the upcoming visits of Nicolas Sarkozy, Ben Jealous, and Meryl Streep, Columbia is gearing up to host a forum for its home-grown student leaders.

In its third year, the University Senate’s Student Leadership Forum aims to engage them in panel discussion, scheduled for April 27 in the Teatro of the Italian Academy. This year’s theme—women and leadership—strives to address what it means to be a woman in a leadership role and in the 21st-century workforce. The Student Leaders Forum is a springtime counterpart of the World Leaders Forum held in September.

A student senator for the Barnard Student Government Association and chair of the event, Emily Kenison, BC ’11, cited gender discrepancies explored in the classroom.

“Out of the Fortune 500 companies, about 10 to 15 are the only women CEOs. And even with those CEOs, they’re not making as much as their male counterparts,” Kenison said. “My hope for this Student Leaders Forum was to gain a wider audience for the [Women and Leadership] class.”

As a collaborative effort between the Office of the President and the Student Affairs Caucus of the University Senate, the forum will be moderated by a guest figure chosen according to his or her personal insight into the role of women in leadership positions.

In an email to the University Senate in mid-February requesting ideas for moderators, Kenison mentioned such notables as

Hillary Clinton and Katie Couric as potential moderators. Since then, the list has grown to 60. University Programs and Events will be reaching out to others in upcoming weeks.

Kenison hopes that the forum will highlight an issue that tends to be addressed more often at Barnard.

Additional moderators will include Columbia University President Lee Bollinger and four students with leadership positions. The students will be selected among the university’s 20 schools and affiliated institutions, a process Kenison expects to be challenging.

“You don’t even know where to begin in terms of choosing student representatives. Just in the student government alone you have amazing, capable leaders,” Kenison said. “The idea is that we’re creating the next generation of world leaders, so let’s acknowledge them now while they’re students in their beginning phases.”

The event has also received the support from the Athena Center for Leadership Studies, an interdisciplinary program launched in the fall of 2009 to replace the Barnard Leadership Initiative.

“Discrepancies of women in leadership roles clearly remain,” said Athena Center director Kathryn Kolbert.

Citing the estimate that on average, across all professional sectors, only 18 to 20 percent of persons in top-tier leadership positions were women, Kolbert pointed to a leaky “pipeline” where women struggle to progress past mid-level jobs.

Kolbert said that this year’s forum is just one step toward advocacy for women leaders.

“The notion of women’s

leadership needs to be integrated in everything we do at the University,” Kolbert said. “We should be doing more than holding a forum once a year.”

Liz Abzug, an urban studies professor who teaches the Women and Leadership class, maintained that efforts towards gender equality begun by the generation of her mother, Congresswoman Bella Abzug, are incomplete.

“I have been teaching for 14 years and I can’t tell you how many times I’ve had a female student raise her hand and say ‘I’m sorry Professor, I’m not sure if this is right,’ or ‘This might be stupid question.’ I never hear that from male students,” she said.

Abzug traced this self-doubt to gender stereotypes she believes must be broken. “We need to break down these myths and have women understand they can be powerful, aggressive, and competitive.”

Students stressed the importance of discussing women’s issues at Columbia as well.

“I think it’s really relevant because we’re seeing a lot of really influential female leaders in positions of powers lately,” Laura Ly, CC ’12, said. “The fact that they’re making this a conference with both genders is really interesting. ... Without the support of men it becomes divisive.”

“Students are the core business of the University,” Thomas Frantzeskakis, SEAS MS ’10, said. “We could say we should care more about student leaders than Nicolas Sarkozy. And if this could be an equivalent event as exciting as the World Leaders Forum, that would be good.”

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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	

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL EVENTS ARE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE.

MORE INFORMATION ONLINE  
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03/25  
THURSDAY

**WOMEN’S HISTORY AS PERSONAL & POLITICAL**  
**An Event in Honor of Jane S. Gould**  
**7 PM**  
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

03/26  
FRIDAY

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

03/27  
SATURDAY

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

03/30  
TUESDAY

**GENDER IN TRANSLATION**  
**Perspectives on Strong Women**  
**6 PM**  
Ella Weed Room, 2nd Floor Milbank Hall

04/08  
THURSDAY

**THE U.S. IMMIGRATION DEBATE**  
**A Historical and Global Perspective**  
**6 PM**  
James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

04/13  
TUESDAY

**ACTIVISTS WHO YEARN FOR ART THAT TRANSFORMS**  
**12 PM**  
BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

## WRITERS AT BARNARD

**Sandra Beasley & Joy Harjo**  
**7 PM**  
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

04/14  
WEDNESDAY

**MOVING TOWARDS UTOPIA**  
**What Kind of City Lies Ahead?**  
**6:30 PM**  
James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

04/15  
THURSDAY

**18TH ANNUAL STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM**  
**4:15 PM**  
James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

**BARNARD**  
THE LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE  
FOR WOMEN  
IN NEW YORK CITY



# Jack-of-all-trades professor contributes talent to film festival



MAKING MOVIES | Director and Columbia professor Jamal Joseph (above left) participated in the 2010 Artivist Film Festival, founded by Diaky Diaz (above right).

BY ZARA CASTANY  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Professor. Director. Poet. Artist. Activist. These words don't begin to cover Jamal Joseph's many accomplishments. As chairman of the film department at Columbia's Graduate School of the Arts and a professor for over a decade, Joseph experienced his latest triumph last Thursday night when two of his films premiered on the opening night of the 2010 Artivist Film Festival.

**FILM** Artivist is the first of its kind, a film festival that unites art and activism to raise awareness about social issues around the globe. The festival, held in New York this year for the first time in its seven-year history, chose "Percy Sutton: A Man For All Seasons" and "Harlem is Music"—both documentaries directed by Joseph—to premiere on its opening night at the Tribeca Cinemas.

"Artivist is dedicated to raising awareness for humanity, animals, and the environment. It is a film festival that celebrates global consciousness and advocacy," Diaky Diaz, the festival's founder, said.

Joseph has been a community activist since the time of his membership in the Black Panther Party in Harlem during the 1970s, and he began his

long relationship with Columbia by protesting on Low Steps, threatening to burn the school down. Joseph served a five-and-a-half-year prison sentence because of a connection with an armed robbery, but he used his time productively—he earned two college degrees, and he even wrote his first play.

"Harlem is Music" investigates how different genres of music have influenced the Harlem community, and "Percy Sutton: A Man For All Seasons" explores the life and contributions of Percy Sutton, a prominent African-American political, social, and business leader. Joseph's early encounters with Sutton, who passed away last December, include visiting the radio station that Sutton owned through his Inner City Broadcasting Corporation and co-founded in 1971.

"As a teenager I was always so exhausted that I would fall asleep right there on the studio floor. Mr. Sutton always made sure I had something to eat and a place to sleep. I had that encouragement that through the arts I would do great things," Joseph said.

Sutton's story of success is an inspiring one. Born in Austin, Texas, he first came to New York City for three days as a runaway at the age of 12, allegedly sleeping under the stairs behind the famed Apollo Theater, an establishment he would one day be responsible

for revitalizing and bringing out of disrepair. After serving as an intelligence officer in World War II, Sutton moved to Harlem and rose to prominence as Malcolm X's lawyer. Later, Sutton became the highest-ranking African-American elected official in New York City when he assumed the position of Manhattan borough president from 1966-1977.

Sutton's granddaughter, Keisha Sutton James, was on hand at the premiere to take part in a panel discussion along with Joseph. James, who is vice president of the Inner City Broadcasting Corporation, emotionally expressed the depth of her grandfather's ability to touch those around him.

"I am truly blessed to have had him as my grandfather. He just made me feel so special. Everyone on whom he laid eyes felt special," James said.

Through the making of his film, Joseph is preserving Sutton's legacy as a civil rights pioneer and dedicated community leader and is continuing in Sutton's footsteps by combining the arts with activism.

"We hope that the film continues to show around the world, and that people are inspired by the light that is the Percy Sutton," Joseph said. "He turned the light on 125th Street, not only physically at the Apollo, but in all of our lives."

## Astronomy lecture series has students seeing stars

BY VIVIAN LUO  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

No plans for Friday evening? Not to worry—the Columbia Astronomy Public Outreach program holds bi-weekly Friday lectures that cover a variety of astronomy topics. These lectures are accompanied by movie screenings, slide-shows, and most excitingly, stargazing. Graduate students in Columbia's astronomy department run the series, which is open to all Columbia students as well as to the general public.

At last Friday's event, Yuan Li, a second-year graduate student studying astronomy, presented a lecture on black holes that was both comprehensible and accessible to the diverse audience. Although there appeared to be few undergraduate students present, the attendees ranged from families with elementary-school-aged children to graduate students.

Ian Allen, SEAS '12, was one of the few undergraduates at the event. Allen, an applied physics major, first heard about the program through a friend who studies astrophysics at Barnard.

Allen has always been interested in astronomy and physics, and his competitive nature aligned with this interest in high school to strengthen his passion. "In high school, I did the National Science Bowl, a Jeopardy-style competition, so I learned a lot of astronomy for that," Allen said. "Our team went to nationals every year, and I was the astronomy guy on the team."

Allen also noticed the disappointing lack of undergraduates at this particular event. "It would definitely be nice to get the word out," Allen said. "When it's a clear night, we usually

have three telescopes set up. ... There's really a lot to look at up there."

There definitely was a lot to look at atop Pupin Physics Laboratories—and not just through the telescopes. Despite the chill of the spring wind at night, the view from the top of the building was breathtaking. Viewers could look out onto Harlem, the Hudson, and central Manhattan—a perspective that was more than worth the climb up to the 15th floor of the building. For a vantage point of another kind, the telescopes offered amazingly clear views of the moon and Mars.

Erika Hamden, a third-year graduate student in the astronomy department, said that sometimes "people look through the telescope and wave their hands in front of it to check, to make sure that it's not just a picture pasted into the lens."

Hamden said that she has liked astronomy since age five. "I used to watch space shows on the Learning Channel," Hamden said. "I remember my mommy told me that when the universe started it was called the Big Bang, and I looked it up, and it was so exciting."

Graduate students like Hamden share their respective interests in astronomy and astrophysics through these lectures. Although the series isn't funded, the department provides some of the equipment and helps with booking the space. Other freebies, like astro-themed postcards, posters, and CDs, are provided by NASA and other organizations that support the program.

"Cameron Hummels, who got the program started, would just write to the telescope outreach offices and they would send us boxes and boxes of things," Hamden said. "Hubble has

Upcoming Lectures	
Date/Time	Title/Speaker
Fri. April 9 8 pm	"Hearing Cosmic Static: The Accidental and Amateur Birth of Radioastronomy," by Destry Saul
Fri. April 23 8 pm	"The Universal Time Keepers: Reconstructing Pre-History Atom by Atom" by David Helfand
Fri May 7 8 pm	"Smaller Mirror, More Planets?!" by Anand Sivaramakrishnan

GRAPHIC BY BENTHA TRENN

probably the best PR of any telescope company. They send us posters, CDs, kits... The only cost is the time from the graduate students."

But to many graduate students, the time put into preparing for these presentations is gratifying. "It's nice to bring people the wonders of the universe, especially [in] a place where nobody really even looks up," Li said. "Sometimes it's just amazing to see how engaged the audience becomes."

And astronomy isn't just for students into math and science—Li believes it is important for students of all backgrounds to understand the universe. "I teach astronomy labs, and some students come without any background in astronomy or physics, but after they spend a few semesters learning ... they tell me what they've learned really changed how they look at the world," he said.

## Lecture unravels injustices of the garment industry

BY JULIAN MANCIAS  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

As Women's History Month wound down, a small audience gathered Saturday evening in Lerner Hall's Broadway Room for a panel titled "Voices of Working Class Women." The event was hosted by the Columbia organization Women's Ways of Leading and featured speakers from the National Mobilization Against SweatShops.

The event followed up on a service trip that the Columbia organization took to Ecuador over winter break. There, the participants met with organizations that pursue agendas of women's rights and working-class justice and learned of the poor working conditions and unequal pay that working-class Ecuadorian women face.

These issues are just as prevalent in the United States. Fayette Colon, CC '10, said that such problems "are not limited to third-class workers but rather are global issues. It is all intertwined. Our actions affect each other."

The panel highlighted the exploitation within the garment and beauty industries in New York City and abroad. NMASS member Gladys Luna told her story of working for 12 years for a subcontractor of the fashion brand Caché in New York City. She experienced poor working conditions, racism, and 70-90-hour workweeks, sometimes without even being paid minimum wage. "After 12 years, I asked to be paid overtime and I was fired," Luna said.

Luna said that there is too great a divide between the highest-paid and lowest-paid people in the

industry—and the workers making the least profit are the ones actually producing the garments. Major brands hire subcontractors to produce their company's garments and often fail to take responsibility because they are unaware of the severe and dangerous working conditions workers encounter. "We're demanding a change in the system," Luna said. "We're pushing legislation to give companies more responsibility and liability of their subcontractors."

DKNY is another brand that has undergone much scrutiny after two female workers stepped forward with allegations of exploitation at the factory where they worked to produce clothing for the brand. The women were not allowed to use the bathroom or make or receive phone calls for family medical emergencies, and they were not given proper maternity leave. Doreen Wang, a member of NMASS, urged consumers to inform themselves of a company's working conditions before making a new purchase or eating out. "Consumers should do their research," Wang said. "Look at the working conditions. Talk to workers and get your information from them."

Luna and Wang encouraged students to get involved by supporting the working class. "Students can unite with workers and join us when we march or boycott. They can help us distribute fliers," Luna said.

May 1 is International Workers' Day, and although NMASS is still discussing its events for the day, Wang urged students to participate. "We don't want to fight against exploitation. We want to end exploitation," she said.

## Raw Elementz showcase hopes to put the 'hip' in 'hip-hop'

BY MELISSA VON MAYRHAUSER  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Columbia's b-boys and b-girls created quite a ruckus in Lerner Hall on Saturday night.

**DANCE** Raw Elementz presented "RAWcus," a hip-hop showcase and break-dancing competition, in Roone Arledge Auditorium in an attempt to reintroduce Columbia to the dance form. The dance crew is currently working to define what it means to be a part of contemporary hip-hop culture, both on campus and in New York City.

The dance crew organized the event as part of its effort to dispel stereotypes about hip-hop. "A lot of people might associate hip-hop with gangster rap and black people and get the wrong idea," said George Zhang, SEAS '12, a Raw Elementz break dancer. Zhang personally views hip-hop not as a form of aggression, but as "a way to resolve confrontations." The audience could see this emphasis on respect during RAWcus, as competitors greeted each other with handshakes and chest bumps.

Founded in 2001, Raw Elementz is a Columbia hip-hop fusion dance crew that combines styles such as groove and street jazz to produce its "own brand of hip-hop," according to Lucy Xin, CC '11, the organization's president. Xin stressed that hip-hop is not simply a type of dance, "but also a lifestyle" that members try to fulfill.

The crew calls itself "Raw Elementz" because of its raw talent that is not the result of professional training. Therefore, the club welcomes students without formal dance experience, but simultaneously strives to perform dances at an advanced skill level.

The group aspires to join the New York City hip-hop community by leaving campus more often to experience the dance scene and by performing their jams at charity events. "We have a performance on April 17 up in Harlem for an educational fund. We like to reach out to the community at large," Xin said.

As the club members attempt to become a greater part of the city's hip-hop scene, they have at times struggled to remain true to the club's original commitment to "raw" performances. "We definitely had a bit of an identity crisis this semester, actually," Xin said. "We're very much a student group. We don't have professional roots. We do have aspirations to take the crew to the next skill level while still maintaining that same student group atmosphere."

The club members hope that by striking a balance between amateur and professional, and by demonstrating the energy of hip-hop, other Columbia students may develop a new interest in the dance form and the club.

"We want it to become a campus institution like the Varsity Show," Xin said. "One day, we hope people will be like, 'Hey, are you going to RAWcus?'"



COURTESY OF RAW ELEMENTZ



**BREAKING IT DOWN** | Above and left, members of hip-hop and breakdance troupe Raw Elementz bring their moves to various locations across campus. The group hosted "RAWcus," a showcase and dance competition event, over the weekend in Roone Arledge Auditorium. With the event, Raw Elementz aimed to increase awareness of the club and attract more members.





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# Academic calendar protests: childish, immoderate, and self-injuring

BY ADAM SIEFF

On the morning of Dec. 24, 2009, luggage-bearing Columbians forsaken by the lunar calendar slogged through the icy sewage moats surrounding the blocks along Broadway toward taxis to carry them homeward. The examination schedule had condemned them to a Dec. 23 afternoon with a blue book, and now—worn, and wretched—they made their undignified exodus from Morningside Heights.

For some, the journey would be over in time for dinner that evening. For others, like myself, it would not. Flights across the country on Christmas Eve only become affordable when they arrive late enough that no one else wants to take them. Alas, such is the fate of the underemployed college student, and so many a discontented Columbian

toughed it out with neither fanfare nor protest.

But this spring, a coalition of students, many of whom I imagine had the similar misfortune of flying home for winter break alongside Donner, and Rudolph, issued a petition to end classes earlier. “Never again” was the insinuated drumbeat of their melodrama. “Never again will you deprive that fraction of the student body actually affected by this schedule of their full serving of Christmas ham.” Facebook groups swelled, student government felt relevant, and idle student activists found a new cause. The whining horde was assembled.

Recently, the University Senate rejected a Columbia College Student Council and Engineering Student Council joint

proposal that would have started classes before Labor Day and ended exams well before Dec. 23. This is because, according to a spokesman, faculty expressed concern about finding day care for their children since New York City public schools do not begin until after Labor Day. In truth, I imagine that faculty members, who often flee before finals are over anyway, probably don’t want to sacrifice their own deserved family vacations and legitimate research travels, which they can really only take during summers.

But this is a university, and such deference to faculty is its nature. Believe it or not, this isn’t some corporate teaching institution that advertises itself in admissions packets to parents as a fun, user-friendly destination to send their children. No, despite the fact that the quality of our undergraduate education is most likely unparalleled, Columbia doesn’t exist for its undergraduate population. Rather, Columbia exists for its faculty to produce research, and we, the undergraduates, are privileged as invitees to glean what we can in the short time we have here to grow as thinkers, leaders, and “doers”—and whining, I might add, is not the same as “doing.”

So, to the whining horde, I say this: Sit down, for you have no revolution, and accept the existing calendar and the fact that

some small number of you might have to fly home on the 23rd or 24th. Your frantic gesticulations are childish, immoderate, and unproductive. If anything, your inflexibility will damn

all of us by voiding our fall break, or else cut short our study days—the ramifications of which are likely to be more haunting to many grade point averages than a slightly extended trip to the Christmas trough can justify.

And please, no hunger striking this time—the irony could be overwhelming.

*The author is a Columbia College junior majoring in political theory and international politics. He is the editor in chief of the campus political journal Publius.*

# Religious pluralism and the university

BY STEPHANIE RIEDERMAN

As most of us know, a contentious debate is currently taking place within the University Senate. The Senate’s Education Committee, comprised of students, faculty, and administrators, continues to assess a barrage of complaints centered on the fall academic calendar and finals schedule, which is slated to complicate and even prevent the celebration of Christmas for many students. In true Columbia spirit, many have thrown up their hands at the incompetence of the administration. Some have complained loudly. Others have worked to formulate a petition to change the University’s winter break calendar, an initiative accompanied by a Facebook group which boasted 2,340 members at my last count.

It is encouraging that so many students, whether or not they are adversely affected by the University’s finals schedule, view this policy as unacceptable and are working to enable their fellow students to observe the holidays. However, the controversy has raised many larger questions, which get at the very role of religion on our campus and the extent to which University policy is defined by the practice of any one particular group. Where is the line drawn between accommodating the religious needs of students and practically maintaining the University’s schedule and functionality? What obligation does the University have to incorporate the needs of all religious groups when making its decisions? Finally, how pluralistic and tolerant are we as a campus community, anyway?

I’d argue that in many cases, we have much to be proud of. Columbia maintains a vast number of diverse religious groups, many of which not only serve as resources for their own members but also reach out to engage with other groups and the larger campus community. Despite students’ varying backgrounds, most find a reasonably open and available space for the discussion of religion within any relevant classroom environment.

At the same time, I can’t help but look at these successes in contrast to the frequent lack of pluralism and moments of prejudiced judgment towards religious individuals which often occur in practice. Though the content of Bwog comments can’t really be held to any type of standard, it was slightly unnerving that an article announcing a change in a housing policy caused an eruption of often aggressive and misinformed statements denouncing attempts by the Orthodox Jewish community on campus to utilize a universal

policy. Whereas standards of conduct in the classroom might impel some to rein in their disparaging comments, social environments (as well as the convenient anonymity of the Internet) often allow hostility, which moves outside the realm of intellectual debate, to be unleashed. This creates a deep divide between secular and religious students as well as among students of different faiths.

As members of a campus community in which religion plays a central role in the identity of a vast number of students, we must attempt to create an environment of pluralism and not remain satisfied with the current state of affairs, which may at times prevent some students from practicing their respective faiths and often leaves religious and secular students isolated and misinformed. The fall calendar dilemma impels us to question whether Columbia has the right to complicate the religious observance of some students in order to benefit others. It should also move us to question whether it is ethically incumbent on us to better accommodate those fasting during Ramadan or those unable to attend class on Jewish holidays.

In order for these discussions to occur in a respectful and informed manner, many have called for additional avenues for interfaith

## We must attempt to create an environment of pluralism and not remain satisfied with the current state of affairs.

dialogue. In response, a group of students, including myself, worked to found Sanctum, a new undergraduate journal on religion that published its first issue last fall. Sanctum hopes to fill this fundamental need in our community by publishing both academic articles that explore religion and personal essays that reflect the individual religious experience. Though Sanctum hopes to use the University setting to promote interfaith engagement, we believe that pluralism should not mean the acceptance of all positions as equally valid or prevent the rigorous questioning of religious beliefs (which is done amply in the journal).

So how to tackle the academic calendar dilemma and the related questions that the recent controversy has unearthed? Whether or not you agree with the University’s current policy, it has pushed current standards of inclusiveness, tolerance, and interfaith relations into the spotlight.

*The author is a Columbia College junior majoring in political science and Middle East and Asian languages and cultures. She is the editor-in-chief of Sanctum.*



SARAH LEONARD  
KATE REDBURN

## Shock and Awe

That’s the sound of your real life arriving  
The culmination of undergrad striving  
Throw your Red Bull away  
Today is the day!  
That no more all-nighters need your surviving.

No more tests, no more greeting the dawns  
Feeling shunted like somebody’s pawns  
This school can be taxing  
Now there’ll be relaxing,  
In the real world you can sit on the lawns!

Throw a party, no school to say “NO”  
Someone might steal all your stuff though,  
In full naïveté  
You’ll call Public Safety  
Sorry, but they’re not going to show.

No more will you snooze in your lecture  
With a prof rambling ’bout his conjectures  
Knowing full well  
That the midterm as well  
Requires only weak mental gestures.

But won’t you miss getting invited  
To see leaders universally spited?  
While protests insist  
That we’re all communists  
We all feel First Amendment enlightened.

Don’t forget all the fun that you’ve had  
Spending money from Mommy and Dad  
Someone’s theater debut  
Sandwiches from 212  
Maybe a fifth year would not be so bad...

STAFF EDITORIAL

# Outreach to where?

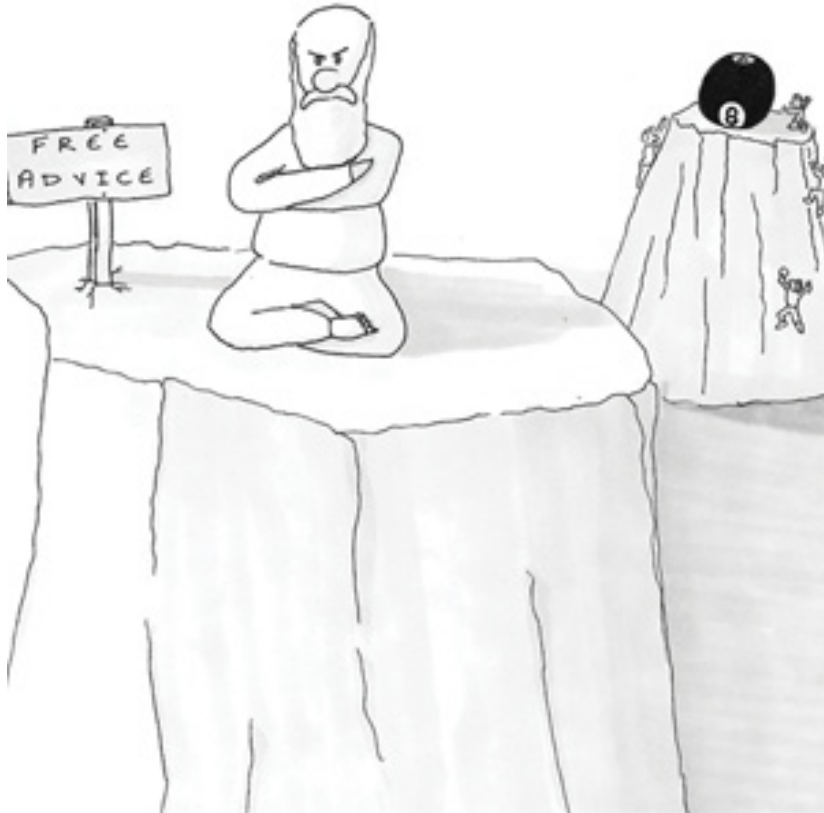
This Saturday, Columbia students committed to a day of service and positive engagement under the auspices of Columbia Community Outreach. Unfortunately, many students spent more time in transit than they did actually taking part in the service, and still more time trying to figure out whether their activities actually constituted meaningful work. To be sure, there is something to be said for sending students to parts of the city—the farthest reaches of Staten Island and Brooklyn, for instance—where they may never have gone otherwise. These locations are part of New York, and we would be remiss not to acknowledge that they are worthy of service. There is something to be said for alternative types of service projects. There is also surely a valuable lesson to be learned from working on service projects, and a project’s size should not determine its worth. And yes, CCO should work to empower Columbia students, and ideally, its participants will feel good about themselves by the day’s end. But the people who worked so hard to organize CCO should take the time to reflect on what participants felt went wrong this year in order to improve upon the experience in the years to come.

Sending people two or three hours away from campus wastes their time and energy—those four to six hours could have been spent on service, which is particularly frustrating because some of the projects seemed to have been

designed simply so that students had something to do. Even some who were closer to campus felt this frustration—one group appeared at a woman’s apartment only to find that its resident did not know what day to expect them. While the experience of shoveling sand that seemed to have been dumped in the park specifically so that it could be shoveled (as one irate Columbia Journalism School alumnus described in an email sent to CCO) was only one experience, that this was even a project at all speaks to the confusion and disorganization that dilutes the positive potential of CCO.

The CCO coordinators have a full year to plan their next annual day of service. Perhaps the speeches delivered by Deans Michele Moody-Adams and Kevin Shollenberger, exalting CCO as leading students out of the “ivory tower,” would ring truer if student groups’ efforts were consolidated into larger, more meaningful projects. This would avoid the confusion associated with sending 100 different groups out in as many different directions as possible at the beginning of the day, and would eliminate some of the frustration as well as the diminished productivity and positivity by its conclusion. The most important part of doing good is showing up. But if it takes three hours and multiple subway rides to do so (and if one questions one’s purpose upon arrival), it’s time to re-evaluate how to make good better.

## JODY’S DRAWINGS!



JODY ZELLMAN



# Don't mess with history, Texas

## Separating intelligence and education

BY ZACH SIMS & ASHER HECHT-BERNSTEIN

We are fortunate enough as students attending an elite, private educational institution to have access to some of the world's most brilliant scholars. We also have the ability to choose what we learn, deciding whose theories to subscribe to and whose to discount. Before joining this community of scholars, many of us grew up with public education. The importance of those K-12 years cannot be underestimated. It's a hapless cliché, but what people learn during those years shapes them for their years to come. Our country needs to craft an American education that instills American values—not religious values, not Republican values, and not liberal values.

The decision of the Texas State School Board of Education last week to remove historical titans like Thomas Jefferson and replace them with activist and partisan figures like the National Rifle Association is not only a threat to the future of the educational system, but to the future of our children. The board's new curriculum demands the inclusion of "the conservative resurgence of the 1980s and 1990s, including Phyllis Schlafly, the Contract with America, the Heritage Foundation, the Moral Majority, and the National Rifle Association." The movement's grassroots conservative base even has its own "Joe the Plumber" in Don the Dentist McLeroy. McLeroy, a member of the board's conservative majority, claimed that "we are a political body and we have to make political decisions." But what is political and what is blatantly partisan? The

politicization of our education will result not only in an uneven experience for students, but will keep them from knowing key historical facts.

McLeroy, the board's chair, claimed that the board was "adding balance" while hearkening to the purported liberal skew of academics. Yet, adding pillars of the conservative movement while removing Thomas Jefferson's contributions to American ideology is not the bartering of parallel truths. It is disregarding historical facts that shaped this country and replacing them with biased dogma. Among other things, the board also decided to entirely remove the word "democratic," terming the American government instead a "constitutional republic."

Our country needs to craft an American education that instills American values—not religious values, not Republican values, and not liberal values.

This trend toward the demonization of intellectualism and academia is alarming and falls in line with the recent surge in the popularity of the Tea Party. The board shares the same disregard for truth and common sense as the Tea Party. McLeroy, recently quoted as noting that "it boggles [his] mind the amount of power [they] have," painted himself as the hero in the David-versus-Goliath battle of the citizen versus the Ivory Tower. "Somebody's got to stand up to experts," he said, as if there were no reason to defer to the learned in designing educational curricula. Instead, the BOE has given the tremendous power to alter the path of Texas education to

a dentist. This change from soap-box politician to real-world difference-maker is not the glory of local government, but the harmful delusion of heavily biased, no-compromise cabals.

Eric Foner, noted historian and Columbia professor, accurately pinpointed the goal of the Texans as to "inculcate children with a history that celebrates the achievements of our past while ignoring its shortcomings, and that largely ignores those who have struggled to make this a fairer, more equal society." The board's wanton treatment of great Americans like Martin Luther King Jr., Harriet Tubman, and Cesar Chavez is not simply revisionist history, but blatant bigotry that only breeds racism. If a child is brought up on an education that criticizes America's social heroes, how can that child be expected to work with and respect anything but white Christian heterodoxy?

"For our kids to not know our history," Don the Dentist wisely claimed, "that could kill a society. That's why to me this is a huge thing." It is a huge thing, and we hope America realizes it. Texas, it seems, has already gone about beginning to rectify this egregious error. An opinion piece in the Dallas Morning News, in calling the board a "whacked-out troop of under-qualified ideologues," is only the latest in Texas publicly recognizing the folly of these corrections. McLeroy will not be serving another term after he was voted out of office earlier this year. A highlight of the recent "reform" was the strict refusal to require the inclusion of the concept that the "Constitution prevents the U.S. government from promoting one religion over all others." We know why. What McLeroy and the board have done is to favor not just one religion, but one ideology, in the destruction of education standards.

*Zach Sims is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in political science. He is the president of the Political Science Students Association. Asher Hecht-Bernstein is a Columbia College first-year. He is the co-leader of the Education Policy Center of the Roosevelt Institute.*

## Why obey when we can choose?

BY SYED HOSSAIN & BENJAMIN MALEC

Once again, politics has been successful in doing one thing really efficiently—creating controversy. In the midst of all this talk about the health care bill, the slowly recovering economy, and the ever-expanding war on terror, the Texas State Board of Education recently approved changes to the state's curriculum. The changes that were approved by the board have included things like the questioning of the theory of evolution, removing Thomas Jefferson as a world thinker from history curricula, and questioning the secularity of the Founding Fathers. It was approved based on party lines, with the conservative Republicans winning with a vote of 10-5. This may affect other states in the nation as well. Texas is one of the largest buyers and distributors of textbooks in the nation, and several states follow the guidelines set by the board, effectively changing the curricula of those states. All that's needed now is a final approval from the board—which is most likely going to happen. The board is failing to achieve its sole purpose of existence: to educate the students of the Lone Star State.

The failure of the state and the government is utterly apparent here. The libertarian point of view gives a completely different take on what should be done. All that's happening is that one one-size-fits-all education system is being replaced by another one-size-fits-all education system. Standards that are set by the state mean that everyone has to be able to reach these goals, assuming that every child will and must learn the same things, when in fact every child learns differently and will believe in different things. What is taking place is that one party is forcefully imposing its point of view on another party about what is to be taught in schools. Instead of offering new perspectives to be taught, one ideology is replacing another due to the passive-aggressive manner in which the conservative Republicans imposed their will. Political involvement in education doesn't allow for free thought and instead mandates that into which children will be indoctrinated.

There are other things that the Board

When the government is involved in the education process, the rights of students are diminished.

is dictating, like teaching the right to keep and bear arms and an individual's rights to protect their property. These are things that libertarians support and believe but wouldn't want to be taught in this way. It should be an individual's prerogative to choose to exercise these rights, and individuals should not be forced into believing them through the coercion of the state. Murray Rothbard once stated that education by the state is not guided by altruism. Instead, it is guided by the desire to coerce the population into a mold desired by the establishment. People should be able to choose what to learn instead of being force-fed an education that they don't want. Teachers should be able to teach without the state dictating what they should teach, and students should be able to decide for themselves what they want to learn according to that in which they can excel.

An alternative to being forced into a state-sponsored education can be found in homeschooling, where parents can actually teach what they want their children to learn. This provides an opportunity for those who don't necessarily agree with the state education system to teach whatever values or lessons they feel are best for their children. The freedom to teach in a coercion-free environment will allow students to thrive and succeed to the best of their abilities instead of having to follow a mandate. Another alternative is for children to go to private schools, where they can also learn in a coercion-free environment and learn to the best of their abilities. Though there is a greater amount of freedom in homeschooling and private schooling, there are still limits in place, as students must take periodic assessment tests in some states.

In the end, when the government is involved in the education process, the rights of students are diminished, even taken away, because they have no ability to learn what they want to make themselves truly successful. Success, as defined by the state, is effectively limiting what students can become. The state may change what is being taught, but individualism will always prevail, because we are not the same and shouldn't be treated as such. Instead of asking why the education system is failing our children, we should be asking why the state is involved in the first place. The road to hell is paved with good intentions.

*Syed Hossain is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in economics. He is a member of the Columbia University Libertarians. Benjamin Malec is a sophomore in the School of Engineering and Applied Science majoring in mechanical engineering.*

## Lone Star State education

BY MADDY JOSEPH

Twice this year, Texas has made it clear, loudly and proudly, that only Texas can decide how it educates the children of Texas. In declining the opportunity to submit the state's application to President Barack Obama's Race to the Top competition and closing out the possibility of millions in funding, Texas Governor Rick Perry said, "We would be foolish and irresponsible to place our children's future in the hands of unelected bureaucrats and special-interest groups thousands of miles away in Washington." The Texas Board of Education echoed Perry's sentiment earlier this month when it voted along party lines to approve conservative changes to the state's social studies curriculum. Though many progressives would agree with those who are saying that the content of the Texas curriculum is a problem, it is also problematic that the mainstream media's coverage of the issue has largely played to people's gut reactions to change, ignoring what lessons Texas might teach us about the failures plaguing our nation's public schools.

Lesson one—schools should not be a partisan issue.

Texas is one of only six states that has partisan elections for school boards. Furthermore, the vast majority of local districts across the country (including Texas) have nonpartisan school boards. On the state level, the school board is the group that approves standards and standardized tests. Its work should not be ideological. The broad and contentious policy issues like the authorization of charter schools, the distribution of state funding, or the use of performance pay for teachers are decided by the state legislature and governor or within individual districts. Texas and the five other states with partisan school board elections should change their procedures.

Lesson two—the role of the school board is changing.

This issue of partisanship in school board elections can be generalized more broadly to a discussion of

the role of elected officials in setting and implementing education policy. Elected officials on the state and federal levels have been expanding their roles in education, not through school boards, but through state or federal legislative mandates. In some notable instances, especially in challenged urban school districts, elected officials have taken control of schools, appointing unelected, nonpartisan chancellors as head administrators at the expense of school boards. This has happened in D.C. and New York City.

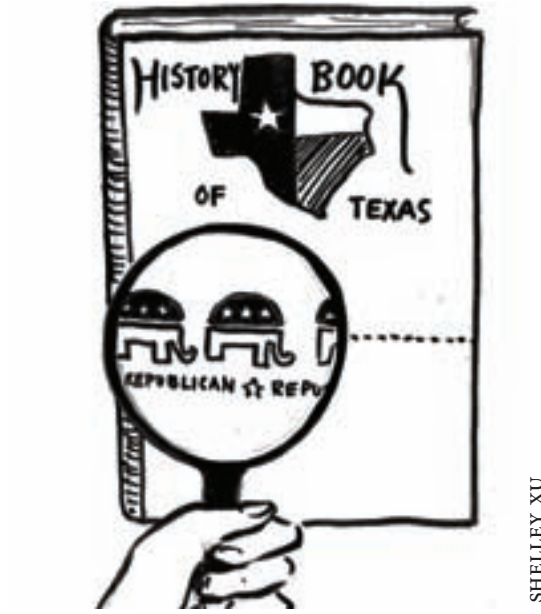
A need remains for school boards, especially on the district level, but in the coming decades, their roles might shift to the more advisory one found in New York City, where a strong executive makes policy based on state and federal mandates and the school board serves as a liaison with the community, holding hearings and approving some policies.

Lesson three—the United States needs national curriculum standards.

Also earlier this month, the National Governors Association and an association of state school superintendents proposed national standards in math and English developed by a group of 48 states and D.C. The standards are more skills-based than content-based, and their adoption in Texas would not have prevented this month's troubling actions there. But considering the increased federal role in education and the national

Texas can teach us many lessons about the failures plaguing our nation's public schools.

textbook companies that are disproportionately influenced by the states that are the largest buyers, the interconnectedness of education across state lines is clear. Consequently, national standards should be a major part of the education agenda. If comprehensive enough, they could prevent what happened in Texas from happening in other states. Furthermore, they can ensure more equality among states, many of which watered down their



standards and assessments as a result of No Child Left Behind. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, if they are rigorous, they will make the United States more competitive in the world economy. On international measures of math and science achievement, the United States is not as competitive as it should be. The countries that rank above the U.S. have national curriculum standards. The math and English standards have already been developed. Yes, developing science and social studies standards would be contentious and potentially divisive, but in the end, it would benefit millions and millions of children in America's public schools.

We should focus our attention not on the outrage these curriculum changes inevitably provoke, but instead on what their adoption might tell us about how to move closer to the goal of making a quality public school education available to every student in America.

*The author is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in American studies. She is the co-leader of the Education Policy Center of the Roosevelt Institute's Columbia chapter.*

## Learning from history

BY AARON WELT

In 1872, John Carroll Power was commissioned by the Old Settlers' Society of Sangamon County to write up a history of the local community. Five years later, the "History of the Early Settlers of Sangamon County, Illinois" was ready for bookshelves. To get a copy, one had to pay ten dollars, a sum that was not only large at the time but, if one was poor, almost impossible to pay. Consequently, "History" tells the narrative of Sangamon County through the eyes of the wealthy, established landowners of the village, the "men of character" who were deemed to have built the community. This is not to say that the destitute squatters who struggled to obtain property and become socially mobile, or the women who labored all day in the confines of the home, were not integral to the construction of Sangamon County. Generally excluded from the political and economic structures of power, they simply lacked the means to transfer their story to future generations.

One gets a sense that similar things are occurring today in Texas. The recent decision by the Texas State Board of Education to implement a radically conservative portrayal of American history reflects the same danger of the politically powerful usurping and manipulating the nation's past. The Republican Party of Texas, along with a powerful coalition rooted in the economically plush evangelical movement/industry and Texas business community, turned engines full steam in pushing through this reform. If there are any doubts about who funded this successful political onslaught, the Texas Freedom Network has issued a report on the financial sources sustaining the movement with religious right and corporate

contributions heavily represented. In 2006, 11 influential pro-reform groups raised over \$7 million to purchase the new history curriculum from the Texas State Board of Education. Once again, history was written by those willing and able to pay.

The new Texas curriculum appears to be, simply put, bad history. It invents a national past centered on a canard of a never-existing homogenous society of Christian white men, and sometimes women, perpetually dedicated to the growth of democracy and capitalism. This romanticized narrative was pre-constructed and is meant to provide infantile comfort rather than vigorous academic education. To make room for this daydream, crucial social developments such as slavery, campaigns for workers' rights, The Declaration of the Seneca Falls Convention, and key moments of the Civil Rights Movement will be pushed aside. These historical realities are conveyed more as inconvenient blemishes in a noble story of the American past, but the heirs to these social movements are far from happy. Mary Helen Berlanga, a Hispanic member of member of the Texas State Board of Education, left deliberations in protest, stating that the Board "can just pretend this is a white America and Hispanics don't exist."

At times, the fantastic account offered by the reformers borders on the absurd. Take, for example, their dual project of promoting traditional, patriotic American values while simultaneously rehabilitating the Confederacy. The Inaugural Address of Jefferson Davis will now be studied next to the speeches of

Abraham Lincoln, while slavery and Reconstruction will be given new treatment (or, more accurately, white-washing). How the Board circles the square of promoting the virtues of "patriots and good citizens" alongside the largest insurrection in American history, initiated to save a system based on the presumed inequality of its millions of slaves, is truly mind-boggling. The whole movement to reform the history curriculum smacks of prior conservative onslaughts of demagoguery, such as McCarthyism, Father Coughlin or The Dearborn Independent, though these historical references will likely not make their way into the new textbooks.

This is not an appeal to make high school history curricula more "liberal" or "progressive." It is merely a plea that Texan education appreciates the diversity of experience of the American past. Fabricating a narrative of homogeneity and unity on purpose does not even promote core national values. Rather, illustrating the struggles of various men and women from many walks of life to obtain freedom and democracy, and questioning whether or not American society was living up to these principles, is a far more compelling and worthy purpose for history curricula. The radical abolitionists, the feminists, the Civil Rights Movement, labor's revolt in the Gilded Age, the Populists, and the Black Panthers are not blemishes on the American story, but the very pillars that offer redemption to the nation's many imperfections. History should not be muscled aside because of the successful fundraising and campaigning of a well-connected cabal. But then again, as with the "History of the Early Settlers of Sangamon County, Illinois," it always seems to be the powerful and wealthy who can present their story of the past. And as cliché as it may sound, the Texas State Board of Education has failed to learn from history.

*The author is Columbia College senior majoring in history and political science. He is a member of the Undergraduate History Council and the Roosevelt Institute.*



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1 Calligrapher's need

4 Hilton alternative

9 Frigant wood

14 Lair

15 Surrounding

16 Fuming

17 Day "Grey's Anatomy" airs

18 Gynoscopic toy

20 Archery projectile

22 Time past

23 Comic Philips

24 Central American fishing mecca

28 At liberty

29 "Flying kangaroo" airline

33 The Beatles' "\_\_\_ the Walrus"

36 Skin layer

39 British nobleman

40 Pretender in a ten-gallon hat and boots

44 Division word

45 \_\_\_ Bruce, 30s-'40s Dr. Watson

46 Scand. nation

47 Be lenient

50 Chinese leader?

52 Proverbial backbreaker for a camel

58 IV squared

61 The same, on the Seine

62 Bush successor

63 Arctic solar phenomenon

67 \_\_\_

68 Kindle download

69 Gizmo

70 Quers. response

71 Homes in trees

72 Letters after thetas

73 The last word of this puzzle's five longest answers is a type of one

DOWN

1 Dog collar attachment

2 India's first prime minister

3 Small knob

4 Argues

5 "Fer sure!"

6 The

7 Tucker of country music

8 Part of a carpenter's joint

9 Movie theater

10 Fraction of a joule

11 Dinner and a movie, say

12 Tiny particle

13 Seized sure, for short

19 Big oil exporter

21 Not quite right

25 There are three in every yard

26 Eva of Argentina

27 From square one

30 Folder features

31 Get one's ducks in \_\_\_

32 Leonard \_\_\_ Roy Rogers's birth name

33 "Got it, man!"

34 Pissin's river

35 "Turn off the sound" button

37 X-ray cousin, briefly

38 Auspices

41 Nanny \_\_\_

42 Penny

43 Numbers on 45s

48 Arab chieftains

49 Safe-cracker

51 Gambling parlor

53 "Chicago Hope" actress Christine

54 Even if, informally

55 Indian prince

56 Kenmore competitor

57 Spot for a belt

58 Mutant superhero-group

59 Hard-to-describe feeling

60 Nuptial vows

64 "Wayne's World" catchword

65 Get off one's \_\_\_

66 Italian puzzle

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

EGOSURF FOLIATE

RANOVER UVINDEX

AGESAGO LABCOAT

SRTA JICALL PRE

EO JFKAJREATIN

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# Housing addresses space crunch with updated floor plans, launches renovations

HOUSING from front page

next year, but a new brownstone will be.

A brownstone at 548 West 113th St. will be included in the 2010 room selection process this year—the first time a brownstone will be included in the housing lottery.

“We ... are in a process of looking at admissions numbers and looking at growth-decision ramifications,” said Scott Wright, vice president of student and administrative services. “Additional first-year students need housing next year, and we have to follow that growth all the way up.”

The walk-up, four-story brownstone has two studio doubles on each floor, and each double has its own bathroom and kitchen. It will house 16 students plus a resident adviser, likely mostly juniors and a few sophomores. Students may choose to enter in groups of two or four, occupying either half the floor or the entire floor.

The brownstone used to house University graduate students, until the students’ leases were up and the brownstone was brought into the undergraduate housing program. It was not included as an option in the room selection process last year because the administration could not get the permits for the buildings approved in time. It currently houses undergraduate transfer students.

“I think you could compare it to the population that lives in Watt, who are mostly juniors who live in the larger studio doubles,” Joyce Jackson, executive director



BEFORE AND AFTER | Comparison of 8th floor and 9th floor bathrooms in Wien. Only some have been renovated, but all will be updated in the summer.



ANTHONY YIM / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

of Housing and Accommodation Services, said. “It’s also comparable to Woodbridge, though 548 is newer and has a little more space [in its rooms].”

“It’s a great way to meet people—I’m close with a lot of the people in the building,” said transfer student Emily Ahn, CC ’12, who currently lives in the brownstone. “This is definitely nicer than anything I could have gotten as a sophomore.”

## KNOCKING DOWN WALLS, BUILDING NEW ROOMS

While students residing in the brownstone have noted the building’s spaciousness, others will find themselves in an even more crowded living situation, as rooms are reconfigured to make space for more students.

Changing layouts to existing buildings, and the freeing up of office space will create a slew of new rooms.

In McBain, located on 113th Street and Broadway, two 300-square-foot rooms will be

converted into three 200-square-foot rooms on each floor—a change that will make way for 20 new McBain rooms altogether.

In addition, one of the lines in the Ruggles dormitory, located on West 114th Street, will be doubled. Suites that initially housed seven students will now house eight—one room in each of the initially-seven person suites will be converted into a double.

In Harmony Hall, there is a room on the first floor that used to be a superintendent’s apartment, but the super no longer lives there. The apartment will be converted into four singles and one double.

And while recent rumors surfaced that bedrooms would be placed in the lobby in Furnald Hall, the reality is that an office on the first floor will be used as a transient room for students who are experiencing maintenance difficulties in their rooms, according to Wright.

Though the upside is that these dorms will be able to

accommodate more students, many said that they are disappointed by the prospect of living in more cramped living quarters.

“I was contemplating picking a single in McBain, but they demolished my hopes, my dreams, and soon my old room—now not only will my room be merged with another room, but there won’t really be any singles left,” Katie Kennedy said, SEAS ’12, who currently lives in one of the rooms that will be converted into one of the three 200-foot rooms.

But while these renovations might cause discomfort for some residents, other renovations set to take place will expand residential space even more.

Among many updates, in East Campus, Hogan, and Broadway, ongoing renovations will continue, including the addition of new furniture, new carpet in common spaces, and the removal of carpet in order to create hard-surface bedroom floors, which

alleviates allergy problems. On floors 3 and 4 in Watt, there will be new showers and vanities. In Wien, the completion of bathroom renovations will take place this summer, which will include features such as new shower stalls, entirely tiled marble flooring, energy-efficient fixtures, and granite counter tops. These kinds of changes have already been made on floors 9 to 12 and will be finished in the rest of the building this summer.

“It looks like you’re in a hotel,” Birkeland said of the updates.

But to students who live on the lower floors and will not get to experience these newer bathrooms, the change is not a welcomed one.

“I feel like a second-class Wien-er,” said Zach Levine, CC ’12, who lives on Wien 6, where bathrooms have not yet been renovated. “There’s stalactites coming out of the ceiling, pee and vomit on the floor, and the floor tiles are a hospital blue. This is what I have to live in.”

## AN UNPREDICTABLE NUMBERS GAME

Despite student predictions and speculations on lottery cut-off numbers and changes in dorm popularity, based on housing precedents, current numerical data can be deceptive, housing administrators say.

So far, the number of students registered for on-campus housing for the 2010-2011 school year is 3,965, according to Wright. And though this is approximately the same number of students who registered last year, little is set in stone.

The number of students who will be studying abroad will not be confirmed until June, but even those students intending to study abroad had to register for the housing lottery.

There are also a number of students who will declare to live off-campus, particularly now that many are saying that the housing market is becoming more attractive than it has been in recent years. These students, too, may have registered in the housing lottery.

And some students may opt not to return to campus altogether, for health or other reasons, but have registered for housing as well. All of these factors taken together make it difficult to formulate any sort of hypothesis that can accurately foretell which students will ultimately end up in which dormitory, according to housing administrators.

“These are unpredictable but uncertain figures,” Wright said. “This is a broad indicator which could swing by the hundreds.”

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# Ollie’s, Vine face financial troubles after labor disputes

OLLIES from front page

At both Ollie’s and Vine, employees and managers said they had not been informed of the bankruptcy proceedings and expected the restaurants to remain open.

Ollie’s manager Frank Chen said that he only hears about business decisions from Wang, who Chen said has only been to the 116th Street location two or three times.

“Mr. Wang is our only communication with other Ollie’s restaurant, and Mr. Wang hasn’t told us anything about it,” Chen said, referring to the bankruptcy. “Nobody has talked to me about it.”

He reaffirmed the Morningside Heights location was removed from the larger labor lawsuit. “The first Ollie’s restaurant was here. We’ve had no problems with employees here, only at other Ollie’s restaurants,” he added.

Ansom Lum, a manager at Vine who said he had only worked at the restaurant for a few months, said he had never heard of a lawsuit, anything about a bankruptcy, or even Wang’s name.

Representatives from the Chinese Staff and Workers’ Association, one of the advocacy groups that represented Ollie’s workers in the labor suit, said that the group was ready to act again.

“At this point in time, we can’t say that much, but workers are not going to give up,” CSWA staff member Tony Tsai said.

He said that the CSWA didn’t believe that Wang could be out of funds. “We know this is not true. He’s a billionaire, and there’s just no way. ... That’s bogus,” he said.

The phone number listed for Wang on the bankruptcy documents led to the 42nd Street restaurant, and an employee said she had no other contact information.

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# CCSC candidates declared, three parties compete for board

CCSC ELECTIONS from front page

they have done this year, they also all cite improvements that could be made.

Foote said that he thinks CCSC could do a better job of reaching out to students who are less involved on campus, “I do think there are ways to improve the communication to students,” he said. “Reaching out to students that aren’t necessarily in groups is an important thing but hasn’t been done enough.”

Suarez also said improving communications is key, “I feel like there’s a lack of information flowing between the administration and the students,” Suarez said. “I feel like a lot of the decisions made are on behalf of the administration, on behalf of faculty.”

Lara said he believes that inclusion is a key aspect CCSC should improve, “Many groups feel that they have been left out of the conversation and much can be done to give them a voice,” he said. “Empowering students to

take a role on campus is really important.”

Foote, the only candidate who has served on CCSC, said his experience will help his candidacy, “People know who I am and people will vote based on my record,” he said.

But Lara cited his experience as Chairman of Latino Heritage Month as giving him a wider perspective, “I get the feeling that student government should be more inclusive and should actually take into account a lot of different perspectives from student organizations.”

Suarez, also new to CCSC, said that his experience as a founder and current treasurer of the University Council of the Cuban American National Foundation and secretary of Student Governing Board offers him a unique perspective, “I think I’m very well aware and very much in the conversation of what’s going on in the world of CCSC and I’m coming from a fresh perspective.”

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# Yetimoglu represents Columbia well with first dual match win against St. John’s

MEN’S TENNIS from back page

days when we got back from Texas. Nate and Haig played well, and Rajeev didn’t play with his partner, because Kevin was sick.”

The singles started off strongly for Columbia. Gery who normally plays No. 6 singles, was replaced by freshman John Yetimoglu.

Wong won his first set easily at No. 1 singles, 6-2, but found himself down 5-2 in the second set. Wong picked up his game,

however, and reeled off the final five games of the set to win 7-5. Nichifor was challenged at No. 2 singles against Milo Hauk, struggling to find his range on his ground strokes. Nichifor lost 6-4, 6-2. Schneiderman continued his strong play at No. 3 singles, defeating his opponent 6-4, 6-1. Deb-Sen battled a foot injury at No. 5 singles but displayed his traditional quickness around the court, winning in straight sets, 6-2, 6-3.

The most exciting matches of the day were at No. 4 and 6 singles. Bucher played at No. 4 against Asaf Honig, who brought with him a big lefty forehand. Bucher won the first set 6-4 but lost the second 7-5. With the outcome of the match already decided, the two played a super tie-break instead of a third set. Honing began hitting his forehand as hard as possible, forcing Bucher to run all over to defend. Bucher played tremendous defense and won the tiebreak 10-3.

Yetimoglu played against Michael Lampa at No. 6 and won his first set 6-3, but he also lost his second set 6-2. Yetimoglu’s big serve and forehand saved him in the tie-break, and with the entire crowd looking on, Yetimoglu won his first ever dual match, punctuating it with a fantastic forehand and volley combination on match point.

“I thought we played good singles at 1, 3, and 5,” Goswami said. “Mihai was not 100 percent

and it showed. I’m glad he played, because he should be sharper for Harvard though.”

“They are a pretty good team,” Goswami said. “Lampa beat the No. 6 of Harvard and the No. 5 of Penn, so that’s a great win for John Yetimoglu in singles. I was happy for him.”

“I thought John played very well,” Goswami said. “I don’t know if they played before in Juniors. He had a good fall [Lampa] and has been beating good players.

Playing in your first match is a bit nerve-wracking, but he was notified the day before that he was playing. I told him I thought in practice he has been working really hard, and he deserved a chance. He works hard and it was a learning experience for him this year, and we’ll hear a lot more from him next year.”

The men’s tennis team will next be in action on Friday when it takes on Harvard at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center.

SPORTS BRIEF

Fencers bring seventh place finish back to Columbia

Columbia’s most successful fencer at the NCAA championships this weekend was junior Nicole Ross, who captured the women’s foil title. Ross lost only two bouts en route to her final match against Penn State’s Doris Willette, where she triumphed 15-9.

Ross’s run at the tournament marked the second time in her career that she earned first-team all-American honors. Ross was also the first Lion to win the women’s foil title in 20 years.

Two other members of

Columbia’s women’s fencing team—sophomore Sammy Roberts and junior Jackie Jacobson—earned honorable-mention all-American honors.

On the men’s side, senior Dwight Smith finished fourth in epee, earning first-team all-American honors for the first time in his career. Senior Jeff Spear finished seventh in men’s sabre to clinch second-team honors for the second straight year.

As a team, Columbia placed seventh.

—Michele Cleary

# Posting more wins is worth the sacrifice of some sports

SHAPIRO from back page

Aside from the lucky championship, this school fails to even come close to contending for the title in any major sport. Except for the tennis team—coach Goswami, your table is ready.

So what if we trimmed some fat and poured most of our money into a select few programs that can win? We could hire better coaches, recruit players that can actually dribble and know which way to run, and raise the profile of our school.

Let’s be honest, it doesn’t take much for an Ivy League school to be featured in Sports Illustrated. Both Harvard’s and Cornell’s basketball teams were big stories this year. As a sports columnist, I know how hard it is to find fresh content

to write about, so a story about Columbia’s now-dominant basketball team would be appealing.

It just doesn’t make sense for Columbia to have some of these teams. The baseball team is up against schools that practice in warm weather all year and have already played 20 more games by the time they face the Lions. Columbia hosted its home opener this weekend in temperatures that are not baseball-worthy. Participating in an Ivy League season that literally lasts one month (where two to three of the weeks are freezing cold) may not be worth it.

If I were the athletic director, I would cut the football program faster than you can say Norries. But wait, you can’t! It’s an institution! But is it really? Nobody goes to the games or follows the

team, and Columbia is never a contender. And in order to win, the team must field many good players instead of a few. But it does cost a lot of money.

Let me be clear. I don’t think the school can afford to focus on low-profile sports like archery and even tennis. But there are high profile sports, like basketball, that require fewer funds for equipment and fewer good players to win. If we had two or three star hoops players (like this team called Cornell does), Columbia could be in the NCAA Tournament. Not gonna get much more high-profile than that.

Think of all the benefits this could have for Columbia. Think of the schools like Murray State and Siena that everyone in the country knows of because they have one stellar team that

is good, year in and year out. Why is it that when I’m home, people know the name “Murray State Racers,” but they confuse Columbia University, an Ivy League school in the heart of Manhattan, with Columbia College, a local arts school?

I’ve tried to be loyal, I’ve tried to believe, but now it’s time to be honest. Let’s say goodbye to sports that don’t make sense, eat up our budget, and fail to come close to winning.

As I prepare to head off into the alumni world, I hope that I can one day be proud of our school’s athletic program. Until then, YIKES!

Jacob Shapiro is a List College senior majoring in history and Talmud.

sportseditors@columbiaspectator.com





ALYSON GOULDEN/ FOR SPECTATOR

**QUICK STICKS** | The Lions improved to a winning record on the season with this weekend's doubling of scores against Bryant.

## Columbia lacrosse downs Bryant in 16-8 victory

BY JULIA GARRISON  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

	COLUMBIA	16
	BRYANT	8

The women's lacrosse team secured a significant nonconference win this past Friday, defeating Bryant on the road 16-8. With the win, Columbia improved its record to 4-3 for the season.

Although Bryant was able to score first at only 1:12 into the match, Columbia came roaring back, scoring seven unanswered goals in a short 10-minute span. Brittany Shannon, Gabrielle Geronimos, and Taylor Gattinella each had two goals, while freshman Kacie Johnson put one in for the Lions.

With a little over 10 minutes left in the game, Bryant was able to break Columbia's scoring streak by scoring a pair of goals at 12:29 and 11:12, but the Lions picked up the shooting again, scoring five goals of the next six, to finish up the half with a strong 12-4 advantage. In the first half, the Lions outshot the Bulldogs 23-7,

and won 12 out of the 16 draw controls.

However, the scoring slowed down a bit in the second half. To open up the half, Shannon and Geronimos scored a goal apiece, and the Bulldogs answered back, scoring four goals in a row, reducing Columbia's lead to 14-8. However, it was Shannon again who widened the gap by scoring two goals with less than 15 minutes left in the game, to reach the final score of 16-8. In total, Shannon scored a game-high seven goals.

On defense, Mollie Andreae was key to the Lions' success, as she had three caused turnovers and two ground balls against Bryant.

The Light Blue will return to competition when it faces Ivy League rival Penn, which is currently ranked seventh in the NCAA. The Lions will play the Quakers in Philadelphia on Sunday, April 5, at 1 p.m.

## Heavyweights secure sixth cup, women fall to Ivy foes

BY NINA LUKINA  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

The Columbia men's crew team saw some mixed results this weekend. The heavyweight men swept the Collins Cup Regatta against Rutgers, but the women's team struggled in the Connell Cup against the formidable Yale and Penn squads.

The men's heavyweight rowing team managed to keep the Collins Cup for the sixth year in a row, coming out in front

of Rutgers with a wide margin in all three of its races. The varsity eight boat gave Rutgers the most resounding defeat of the race, finishing with a time of 5:40.60 to overcome the Scarlet Knights' 5:53.73. The second varsity eight boat also came in far in front with a time of 5:50.66, while the Rutgers crew finished in 6:01.11. The freshmen eight completed the victory by beating Rutgers' time of 5:44.67, with a 5:35.94 finish.

Next, the Lions will travel

to Pelham, N.Y. to face MIT in the Alumni Cup.

The women's rowing team did not fare as well against its league opponents on Saturday, coming in last in all but one of its five races.

Yale came in first in each race without much competition from Penn or Columbia, but the second spot was more contested. The varsity eight Bulldogs took the first spot with a time of 6:10.1, while the Quakers and Lions were a mere four seconds apart, finishing with times of

6:21.6 and 6:24.4, respectively.

The second varsity eight actually came in about two seconds behind Yale, but was disqualified for a steering miscue, allowing Penn to take second place. The third varsity eight came in in second place, finishing in 6:51.2, behind Yale's 6:39.8 finish but beating Penn's time of 6:54.7.

Both of the varsity fours finished in third place.

The women's team will face off against Princeton and Rutgers in Princeton, N.J. next Saturday.



ELAINE BURCHMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**IN SYNC** | The heavyweight squad captured the Collins Cup yet again versus Rutgers, as the women faced off against Yale and Penn without much luck.

## Swimmer Powell finishes 34th at NCAA competition

BY VICTORIA JONES  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

This past weekend was an exciting one for junior Adam Powell.

Powell traveled to Columbus, Ohio to face off against the fastest swimmers on the collegiate circuit at the NCAA National Swimming Championships. He gained entrance to the exclusive meet after

qualifying for the 50 freestyle in 19.72 seconds—a new school record, and the fastest time at the Ivy League Swimming & Diving Championships three weeks ago.

The junior has been tearing up the pool at Columbia for the past three years, serving as the Lions' main point-earner in the sprinting events, earning all-Ivy honors, and setting school

records up and down the lanes.

Unfortunately, Powell wasn't able to top the charts and replicate his personal best time this weekend. At Friday's competition, he finished 34th in the preliminaries with a time of 19.91 seconds, not enough to advance to the finals.

"It wasn't one of my best performances, but it was my first time at NCAAs, and it was a great

experience, and there are definitely a lot of things that I took away from the meet. You know, it was a learning experience," Powell said. "I had never been, so I was just experimenting, trying new things, and wondering what exactly should I do. ... I'm just happy I'm not a senior. I'm just really happy I'm a junior and I have a whole other year."



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**Friday • April 2**  
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**Monday • April 5**  
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12:00 am-8:00 pm • Low Library—Rotunda, 2nd Floor

**Monday • April 26**  
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**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**



# Pitching crew helps baseball trump Bison in four straight weekend games



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**STRIKE OUT** | Pitcher Dan Bracey contributed to the Lions’ complete sweep of Bucknell this weekend by pitching a complete game, allowing only five hits in the 5-1 victory.

**BASEBALL** from back page

Forthun drew a walk to jam the bases, and Frahler walked in the Lions second run on four balls to Crucet. Jon Eisen, who has been an offensive powerhouse so far in 2010 with a 0.361 batting average and 0.443 slugging percentage, knocked in two base-runners on a single to left. Frahler was able to stop the bleeding at four runs, but not for long.

The Bison lit up the scoreboard for the first and only time of the game in their half of the fifth inning, with a round-tripper off junior outfielder Drew Constable’s bat. Bracey surrendered two more hits in the inning, but was able to strand two runners on the bags without letting any additional

runners to cross home.

With a comfortable 4-1 lead entering their half of the fifth, the Lions were able to post another run on the board. After retiring the first two batters, Frahler allowed a single to Ferrera, who proceeded to steal his second base of the season. Forthun worked a full count before splitting the infielders with a roped single to center to plate Ferrera, and give Columbia its fifth and final run of the game. Bracey pitched a complete game for the win, allowing just one earned run on five hits with ten punch-outs, and no base on balls to improve to 1-2 on the season. Frahler dropped to 2-3 on the year in Bucknell’s 5-1 loss.

Pitching came out strong in game two for both sides with

Dylan Seeley on the mound for the Bison and Stefan Olson for the Lions. Bucknell struck first in game one with two runs in the first, but Columbia tied the game in the bottom of the first with a two-run homer from Alex Aurrichio, his fourth of the season. The Bison took a 3-2 lead in the fourth as B.J. LaRosa singled and came home on a sacrifice fly and an RBI single from Constable.

Columbia’s bats were silenced until their half of the sixth on a fielders choice that plated Ferraresi. With the game tied at three runs apiece, Bucknell called reliever Andrew Clarke from the bullpen to replace Seeley. Seeley left the game with a no decision through seven strong innings in which he struck out four and

allowed just one earned run. However, Clarke could only retire one batter before surrendering a long solo home run to center field to Pizzano. Clarke faced two more batters, both whom singled, before being pulled for Matt Lamore. Lamore whipped a wild pitch to Crucet that allowed the Light Blue’s fifth run of the contest to cross home. Lion pitcher Geoff Whitaker earned the win for his two innings of shutout relief work as Clarke dropped to 1-1 on the season.

The Lions’ momentum from the first two wins propelled them to come out of the gate ready to play in the repeat doubleheader on Sunday. Aurrichio’s dominant offensive sophomore year continued in the bottom of the

first as he took Bison starter Steve Carlin yard for a three-run blast. Bucknell retaliated in the next frame on an RBI double from Constable, but the Lions extended their lead to 4-1 when Pizzano tripled, and was brought home to lead off their half of the fourth inning.

Bucknell’s offense chipped together another run in the sixth and exploded for three runs in the seventh against pitchers Pat Lowery and Whitaker and a faulty Columbia defense. The Bison only recorded two hits in the inning, but four Columbia errors allowed Bucknell to knot the score at five runs apiece. With the game tied entering the game’s eighth and final inning, Aurrichio reached base on a

fielding error and was replaced at first by pinch-runner Alex Godshall. After Bison reliever intentionally walked Pizzano, Ferrera hit a clutch single to bring home Godshall for a walk-off 6-5 Columbia victory.

With the fans ready to break out their brooms for a sweep, the Light Blue gave the ball to freshman starter Tim Giel. Columbia struck first in the contest on a two-run homer from Dean Forthun off Jack Boehm, his first of the season. Bucknell got on the board in the fourth on a wild pitch that allowed Constable home plate. The Lions fell behind in the sixth as the Bison posted four runs on three hits with the help of two Columbia fielding errors. With its back against the wall entering eighth, the Light Blue found some more clutch offense in the form of another two-run homer, this time off Ferraresi’s bat.

Down to just three outs and behind 5-4 in the ninth, the Lions’ offense found yet another spark of resilient energy against Matt Lamore. Lamore packed the bases with blue uniforms before the Bisons called in Russell Seidell to quell the comeback. However, Seidell couldn’t locate the strike zone and walked Jason Banos to bring in Billy Rumpke and tie the game. Aurrichio cemented the game-four win and series sweep with a sacrifice fly to left to bring home Jon Eisen to give Columbia another narrow 6-5 victory.

This weekend was exactly what the Lions needed to get back on track with Ivy play just around the corner. Pitching was consistent and the lineup stepped up at the right times. Nonetheless, defense still needs to work out a few kinks as it committed four errors in both of Sunday’s contest, after recording a perfect fielding percentage in the series first two games. Undoubtedly the home-field advantage worked in the Lions’ favor throughout the series, but the squad will have to try to retain this momentum on the road if it wishes to be successful in 2010.

Columbia will head to New Jersey to battle Monmouth in a one-game affair on Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.



## Tennis downs last nonconference foe 7-0

## CU bats swing against Iona, Manhattan

BY LAUREN SEAMAN  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

The women’s tennis team dominated local rival Fordham 7-0 this weekend, ending this season’s non-conference play on an impressive note. Coming off of a particularly successful spring break trip, the Light Blue women had tremendous confidence heading into the match. With fast-paced energy, the Lions crushed the Rams in just under three hours. Columbia swept all three doubles matches and stole the six singles matches, winning all but one of the matches in straight sets.

Starting off on the right foot, the Lions got their first win from Natasha Makarova and Chelsea Davis in the No. 2 spot. The duo wiped their opponents in a dominating 8-0 win. The success continued from there, as freshmen Nicole Bartnik and Katarina Kovacevic

	FORDHAM	0	
	COLUMBIA	7	

won 8-3 in the No. 1 spot, and Natalia Christenson and Eliza Matache scored an 8-2 win at No. 3.

Columbia kept up the forward momentum as the women proceeded to win every singles match-up. The Lions dominated the court despite No. 2 Makarova’s sudden injury after the doubles matches. With Makarova’s inability to play, sophomore Caroline Constable took the No. 6 spot, while the rest of the ladder shifted up. The setback didn’t slow the Lions down one bit. Leading the way, senior co-captain Carling Donovan swiftly blanked her opponent at No. 4, 6-0, 6-0, despite her shoulder injury. From there, Kovacevic upped the team score to 3-0 with a victory at No. 3, beating her opponent 6-3, 6-3.

Securing the match for the Lions, freshman Davis, playing in the No. 1 spot for the first time, clinched a 6-1, 6-3 win over Sarah Tremaine.

The Lions had already won the match, but the singles victories just kept coming. Constable, who was asked to play at the last minute, defeated Brittany Russell 6-2, 6-1 at No. 6. With a close second set, freshman Diana Shapoval then stole a win 6-3, 7-5 in the No. 5 spot. At No. 2, Eliza Matache had a frustrating 6-1 loss in her first set but rallied back to complete the team’s sweep, taking her opponent to pieces in the second and third sets and winning 1-6, 6-0, 6-2.

With an excellent conclusion to their nonconference season, the Lions gear up for the 2010 Ivy season opener. Next week, Columbia hosts a huge match against Ancient Eight rival Cornell on Wednesday, March 31 at 2 p.m.

BY CHRISTOPHER BROWN  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

The Columbia softball team (5-14) had mixed results in its first weekend at home, winning one out of three games before its match against Manhattan was canceled on Sunday afternoon.

The Lions split their first two games against Iona on Saturday. Columbia lost the first game 1-9 in six innings. Alison Lam scored her team’s only run in the first inning by drawing a walk and advancing on Jennifer Bergeron’s groundout and two illegal pitches to take a 1-0 lead. Gaels starter Sarah Jackson cruised through the rest of the game, allowing one run on two hits while recording 10 strikeouts. Lions starting pitcher Maureen O’Kane allowed four earned runs in two-and-one-third innings in her sixth loss of the season.

However, Iona’s pitching wasn’t nearly as dominant in the second game, and the Light Blue took advantage by jumping out to an early 3-0 lead by the end of the first inning. Lam reached first base with a leadoff single, followed by Bergeron, who got on base on a throwing error. Dani Pineda’s walk loaded the bases for Kayla Lecher’s two-run single to left field, and Stephanie Yagi brought Lecher home on a two-out single to left.

Iona managed to tie the score in the third inning, but Columbia answered with two runs in the fifth inning with Lecher’s RBI single to score Maggie Johnson and Yagi’s RBI groundout to plate Lecher. Johnson scattered 10 hits through seven innings, and recorded six strikeouts in the win.

Against Manhattan, Columbia had an early lead after Pineda scored Lam on a fielder’s choice bunt single, and Bergeron beat a throw to the plate to give her team a 2-0 lead. Lecher’s single allowed Pineda to come around to score on a throwing error by the Lady Jaspers.



SHIVINA HARJANI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**AT THE PLATE** | Sophomore Kayla Lechler contributed three RBI to the Lions’ pair of games against Iona with 3-for-3 hitting on the day.

After two scoreless frames, O’Kane ran into trouble in the third inning, retiring the first two batters before allowing a double, hitting a batter, and walking a batter to load the bases for infielder Jaci Rahey’s grand slam home run. Nicole Michel followed with a solo shot to left, giving the Lady Jaspers a 5-3 lead. O’Kane was lifted in the fifth inning after Michel hit a

three-run home run, finishing with a line of eight earned runs in four-and-one-third innings. Columbia scored two runs in the bottom of the frame to cut the deficit to three, but couldn’t score after that and ended up losing 8-5.

The Lions will take the field next on Tuesday, March 30 against Monmouth at 3 p.m. in Columbia’s own Baker Athletics Complex.

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	COLUMBIA	1	

	IONA	4	
	COLUMBIA	5	

	MANHATTAN	8	
	COLUMBIA	5	



## Time to can baseball for hoops' sake?



JACOB SHAPIRO  
**Put It On The Board**

Now that the health care debate is over, we need to focus our attention back where it belongs: on Columbia athletics.

After writing a baseball article this week about a game that Columbia lost 21-22, I started to wonder why the school even competes in certain sports. If Wisconsin doesn't have a baseball team, why does Columbia?

I've heard all of the arguments for why Columbia fails, year after year, to put a consistent product on the field. Lack of funds, low profile for recruiting, inability to offer scholarships, etc.

But what if the athletic department decided to focus on just a few sports? Sure, it would be sad to see the school cancel its baseball program, and I doubt anyone would ever consider dumping football, but if this school were serious about rebuilding its athletic program and earning some prestige, drastic action would be in order.

For four years on this campus, I've been a loyal Columbia fan. I talk seriously about Ivy League sports to my friends in the Big Ten, who laugh at me. I go to our sporting events and write about them. And I always pick Columbia in PiXBox (which, by the way, is a total BS rule).

But I have to say, it's just embarrassing at this point.

SEE SHAPIRO, page 7

## Tennis keeps up undefeated home record

### Rackets stay strong in weekend competition against St. John's



BY KUNAL GUPTA  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

The men's tennis team scored its eighth straight win, remaining undefeated at home this spring, and scoring a 6-1 win over local rival St. John's on Friday in their final nonconference match of the season. The win boosts the No. 51 Lions' record to 11-3 (1-0 Ivy) as they prepare for their biggest match of the season when they take on No. 61 and chief rival Harvard, in what is expected to be a battle for Ivy supremacy.

The Lions got off to a fast start in the doubles point, sweeping all three matches to put them up 1-0, although each of the matches was hotly contested. At No. 1 doubles, senior co-captains Mihai Nichifor and Jon Wong teamed up for a 9-8 win, but were the last two off the court. The first win for Columbia came from No. 2 doubles, where Haig Schneiderman and Nate Gery won 8-5. Rajeev Deb-Sen played without his normal doubles partner Kevin Kung, who was out with an illness, but teamed up with Cyril Bucher to win a tight match, 9-7. A deft lob by Deb-Sen on match point gave the duo the win and Columbia the doubles point. Wong and Nichifor were down late in the set, and the St. John's duo served for the match, but strong returns gave the Columbia team the break. A volley winner by Nichifor on match point gave Columbia a sweep.

"I don't think we played very good doubles," head coach Bid Goswami said. "But maybe it was because Mihai was a bit under the weather; he didn't practice for two

SEE MEN'S TENNIS, page 7

	ST. JOHNS	1	
	COLUMBIA	6	



MAKING A RACKET | Freshman Yetimoglu arrived on court ready to play, contributing his first dual match win.

JOSE GIRALT / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Baseball redeemed with 4 wins



BY MICHAEL SHAPIRO  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Coming off a devastating 22-21 ninth inning loss to St. John's this past Wednesday, the Columbia Lions baseball team rebounded with a four game sweep in back-to-back doubleheaders against Bucknell this weekend. The home-opening series improved the Light Blue's record to a much more respectable 7-11 on the season, as the team posted more baseball and less football-like numbers.



The Lions kicked off the first of their two weekend doubleheaders against Bucknell University on Saturday. In game one of the two-game series, junior starting pitcher Dan Bracey took to the bump for Columbia, while Trey Frahler started for Bucknell. The contest was quiet through the first three and a half innings, as neither team recorded a hit until a single by Lion Nick Crucet in the bottom of the third. However, the Light Blue stranded two runners on base to close the frame.

In its next round of bats, Columbia took Frahler for three hits to bring home four runs. The inning started off with a roped single off Nick Ferraresi's bat, and a walk to Dario Pizzano. Alex Ferrera smacked a double down the left field line on a 3-1 count to bring home Ferraresi and advance Pizzano to third. Dean


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	COLUMBIA	5	

	BUCKNELL	5	
	COLUMBIA	6	

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