

Take Back the Night march goes gender-neutral

BY ABBY ABRAMS
Spectator Staff Writer

For the first time in its history, this year's Barnard/Columbia Take Back the Night March will be gender-neutral.

The march, which aims to reclaim the streets as a space safe from sexual violence, was originally an all-female event, but changed in 2008 when organizers created a female-only section at the front of the procession, allowing all sexes to march in the rest of the crowd.

This year, recognizing that “any person can be a survivor of sexual assault,” as the club said in a statement on Wednesday, organizers will not segregate any part of the march. Photographs will also be allowed for the first time, in order to avoid the impression that march participants need to be shielded from cameras.

The organization explained that the women's space was originally introduced “to ensure that female survivors, co-survivors, and allies could participate without feeling afraid, intimidated, or triggered in a co-gendered environment.”

While members of TBTN still feel this is an important concern, many say they think it's time for the march to evolve.

“There are some survivors who want their safe space to be female only,” Lauren Herold, CC '12 and press liaison for TBTN, said, “but I think we're going to work hard to make sure the march is a safe space for everybody. I think it's really important that this is a safe space for everyone and that we don't discriminate.”

Even with the divisions, men have often participated in TBTN in previous years.

“Men can be survivors as well and it's good to remind everyone of that. Anyone can be a survivor, anyone can lend support, anyone can be there ... it helps put everyone on the same page,” Erik Nook, CC '12, said.

“As long as the Speakout afterward is kept respectful and anonymous, then it will be great,” Nook said, referring to the event that follows the march where

SEE TBTN, page 3

Internal CC dean search announced

BY MARGARET MATTES
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Two students will serve on the search committee for a permanent dean of Columbia College, to be selected from a pool of internal candidates, University President Lee Bollinger announced on Wednesday. The committee is expected to submit its recommendation by the end of the year.

In an email, Bollinger said that the search committee will be accepting nominations between now and April 15, and

will then conduct interviews with a select number of candidates. He said that he hopes that by the end of this academic year he will be able to make the selection with Provost John Coatsworth and Executive Vice President Nicholas Dirks based on the recommendation of the committee.

Chemistry professor James Valentini was appointed interim dean after Michele Moody-Adams resigned in August, and has been a much more visible figure among students than his predecessor, hosting office

hours, attending campus events, and offering a Milano Market sandwich to the winner of a Bwog contest to come up with a nickname for himself. (A plaque of “Deantini,” the winning entry, sits on his desk.)

Valentini is widely perceived to be a frontrunner for the job. In an interview last week, he said that he would accept the position as permanent dean if offered.

“Dean Valentini has done a wonderful job and so he would

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Mental Health Awareness Week educates on resources

BY ABBY ABRAMS
Spectator Staff Writer

Sixteen students stood in a circle on Monday night, clutching paper stars on which they had written the names of important people and goals in their lives. They were asked to role-play, pretending to be LGBTQ youth in the process of coming out to friends and family.

“If you have a red star, tear it up and let the pieces fall to the ground. You are now part of the one-third of lesbian, gay, and bisexual young people who attempt suicide at least once,” Jeffrey Fishberger said.

The different colors represented the varying degrees of support LGBTQ youth receive, and students watched as they tore off the names of loved ones from their paper stars, emulating the experiences of those who are not accepted after coming out.

Fishberger—who is the co-chair of the Program Committee for the Trevor Project, a New

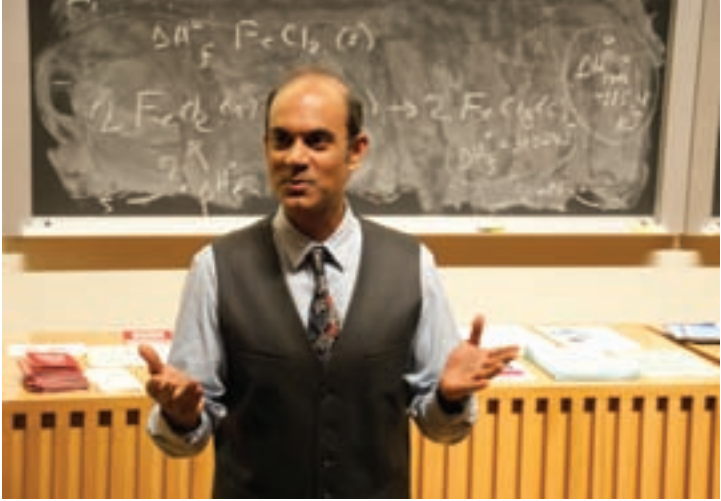
York City-based suicide hotline for LGBTQ youth—led the opening event of the Columbia Neuroscience Society's first Mental Health Awareness Week on Monday night. In the second half of the evening, other representatives from the Trevor Project ran a Lifeguard Workshop, which helped attendees discuss the warning signs of depression.

“Our goal is to get people the help that they need,” Assistant Dean of Community Development and Residential Programs Cristen Kromm said during the program. “There are so many people here successfully struggling with depression. They are not alone.”

The week's other events highlighted different aspects of mental health, including stress, cultural challenges, and the stigma attached to mental illness.

Tuesday night featured a talk on stress and mental health as seen in the movie “Black Swan.” Students watched the film and

SEE HEALTH, page 2



STAY HEALTHY | Dr. Andrew Hamid, a professor at the School of Social Work, speaks at a Mental Health Week event.

Harlem charter school teachers unionize

BY AVANTIKA KUMAR
Spectator Staff Writer

Teachers at a bilingual elementary school in West Harlem are relieved to have won a fight with the school board to unionize—a rare move for a charter school.

Faculty and staff at the New York French-American Charter School, on 120th Street between Manhattan Avenue and Frederick Douglass Boulevard, signed union cards and wrote a letter to the school's board asking for union representation, but the board refused to recognize them. They approached the city's Public Employment Relations Board, who ruled in favor of their right to join the United Federation of Teachers on March 14.

Sorinica Robinson, who teaches special education and English as a second language, said that the unionization decision was fair to both the teachers and administration because it offered teachers greater protection and benefits, such as limits on work hours.

Unlike public schools, which are required to allow teachers the right to unionize, charter schools do not automatically have to provide teachers union benefits.

“I think it's fair,” Robinson said of the decision. “We feel more defended by our representatives.”

The decision was not without controversy. The school's founding administration—the school opened in September 2010—fought unionization, alleging that some teachers were coerced into supporting the decision. PERB found no evidence of coercion.

But a new principal, Stephen

Space crunch forces new class periods

Next fall, academic day will begin at 8:40 a.m., end at 10 p.m.

BY JEREMY BUDD
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Space limitations are forcing the University to schedule classes at the extremes of the day, with some lectures this fall starting as early as 8:40 a.m. and some seminars running until 10 p.m.

With few exceptions, the earliest class currently offered to undergraduates begins at 9 a.m. and the latest ends at 8 p.m. The addition of two new 75-minute lecture periods—at 8:40 a.m. and at 7:40 p.m.—and one new 110-minute seminar period at 8:10 p.m. “will significantly increase the number of classes that can be scheduled in existing classrooms,” University Registrar Barry Kane wrote in an email.

A committee formed to explore solutions to classroom constraints recommended more morning and Friday classes in a January 2011 report. Spectator first reported those recommendations in February 2011.

The University's enrollment has grown by 20,000 students since 1998, when the last major review on classroom space was conducted. That growth, coupled with the fact that only 4 percent of seminar classes are offered on Fridays, has created an extraordinary crunch for space on the Morningside Heights campus—an issue that will not begin to be resolved until some departments and graduate schools make the move to Manhattanville in 2016.

“What we have been doing is

suggesting to departments that they use early Friday as a seminar day,” Kathryn Yatrakis, dean of academic affairs, said. “We've already done that with a number of language departments, because we just have to spread out—we're getting too clumped.”

While this new schedule uses classroom space more efficiently than the current one, some faculty members recognized that the changes will pose new challenges for departments.

Patricia Culligan, vice dean of academic affairs at the School of Engineering and Applied Science, said that she hopes to keep core classes in similar time slots.

“For the classes that are getting very large, it has been necessary,” she said. “Faculty have expressed concern about the earlier slot, so you'll see that the shifts for core classes are no more than 10 to 15 minutes.”

Pascale Hubert-Leibler, director of the French Language Program, said that the French department had reviewed the new schedule, but was curious to see how it would affect classes next year.

“We've looked at it and there are a few things that we were a bit skeptical about,” she said. “If we move some classes from nine to something like a quarter to nine, is it going to make it harder for the students to get to class on time?”

Faculty members have said that limited space for teaching is an issue they notice. “It's great

SEE SCHEDULING, page 3



COMING TOGETHER | Teachers at the New York French-American Charter School in West Harlem unionized this month.

Peters, arrived in February, and a new Board of Trustees chair, Andrew Srulevitch, was appointed on March 2. Srulevitch said they hope to work with the union to negotiate a contract that mutually benefits students, teachers, and administrators.

“There has been a nearly complete turnover in the NYFACS Board of Trustees over the last couple of months,” Srulevitch said in an email. “The new board looks forward to engaging with the UFT in negotiations that will result in an agreement that benefits all our stakeholders ... and

promotes the NYFACS mission of a high quality, bilingual/biliterate public education.”

According to Robinson, the old administration's freedom to change rules, arbitrarily make hiring decisions, and designate the terms of contracts made teachers “very uncomfortable,” although those practices are typical of charter schools.

Most teachers, she said, were in favor of union recognition, and since the school is a “very small community of teachers,” the measure had to receive

SEE UNION, page 2

A&E, PAGE 4

Orchesis full of highs and lows

“Love and wOrchesis” serves up a mixed bag of memorable highlights and middling moments.



OPINION, PAGE 6, 7

8:40 a.m. lecture?

The editorial board protests the Registrar's new schedule.

CC senate race

Senate candidates present their cases for Columbia College votes.

SPORTS, BACK PAGE

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CAST YOUR VOTE | Three Parks Independent Democrats, which represents the Upper West Side, endorsed Rep. Charles Rangel on Wednesday. Members will canvass for votes for him.

West Side Dems group endorses Rangel

BY JILLIAN KUMAGAI AND CASEY TOLAN
Spectator Senior Staff Writers

Rep. Charles Rangel picked up another Upper West Side political club endorsement Wednesday night, as the Three Parks Independent Democrats voted to support his re-election by a wide margin.



The endorsement means club members will petition for Rangel, helping him collect the 958 signatures needed by April 16. It comes a week after the Broadway Democrats, a Morningside Heights club, also voted overwhelmingly to endorse him.

Rangel got 59 percent of the vote, with 41 votes to 10 for challenger Joyce Johnson, 10 for State Senator Adriano Espaillat, and 9 for no endorsement.

Although he has not officially entered the race, Espaillat said last week that he would decide on whether to run in “a week or two.” If elected, Espaillat would become the first Dominican-American in Congress.

Three Parks members voted just two days after documents were released by the Federal Election Commission detailing a \$23,000 fine that Rangel will have to pay for illegally using a rent-stabilized apartment as a campaign office.

But several Three Parks members said the fine—the latest in

a string of ethical violations—didn’t make a big impact on their impression of the congressman, who has held his seat for 41 years.

“If that’s the worst thing they could find in all his years in Congress—well, everybody’s done something wrong, you and me, too,” said Rangel supporter Stephanie Tegnazian.

“Well, I’m a pragmatist and I know he’s not perfect, but he’s served us well,” Jock Davenport said. “His heart’s in the right place in terms of the broad picture. The other candidates are going to have to wait their turn—he’s not immortal.”

Daniele Gerard, president of the club, said that Rangel’s local connections helped him.

“A lot of people in our club have long-standing ties to Charlie,” Gerard said. “He helped get drugs out of the [Frederick] Douglass Houses,” just down the block from the youth hostel where the vote was held, on Amsterdam Avenue between 103rd and 104th streets. “People have long memories.”

Many of those ties on the Upper West Side may not prove helpful come election time after a federal magistrate redrew the state’s congressional district lines last week. The West Side, from 122nd Street south, will now be represented by the seat held by Rep. Jerrold Nadler, CC ’69.

Other club members said they would be happy to see Rangel move on. Janet Harvilchuck,

who voted to not endorse any of the candidates, said that she has “not been very moved” by any of Rangel’s challengers.

“I don’t think there’s a great candidate quite yet,” Harvilchuck said. “I feel that Rangel has shown he’s really not worthy of continuing as our representative.”

“I think it’s time for a fresh start with someone who doesn’t have any ethical improprieties in their background,” Betsy Malcolm said. An Espaillat supporter, she said that the state senator from Upper Manhattan has done a good job so far. “I don’t think any of the other challengers are sufficiently qualified for the job,” she added.

Alan Colgan, who lives in Hamilton Heights, compared the primary to the election in 1970 that transferred the seat from Adam Clayton Powell, who had served 26 years in the House, to Rangel.

“What’s happening now is quite similar, but now it’s Espaillat” in Rangel’s old role, Colgan said.

He added that Rangel’s health problems—the Congressman spent much of February away from the House, his longest absence since 2002, according to the Wall Street Journal—may be an issue for voters to consider in the primary on June 26.

“Rangel has had his day and he’s been in the hospital for a number of weeks,” Colgan said. “That could be more serious than a bad back.”

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Old administration opposed unionization

UNION from front page

majority support to pass.

One teacher who asked not to be identified agreed that union representation would be a positive step. Although the teachers’ demands wouldn’t be extreme, she said that the protection of the union freed teachers from having to self-advocate when issues arise.

“You may rely on the union to advocate for you,” she said, adding that there was “no price for a teacher.”

According to Teachers College professor Jeffrey Henig, the specialized mission of charter schools makes union representation for teachers rare, even though the UFT has tried to work with charter schools and has even set up some of its own unionized charter schools.

“Many teachers’ unions and union leaders in particular believe that charter schools are being pursued and funded in some instances by people in organizations that really would like to replace the existing public school system with one that’s more market-oriented,” Henig said.

Teachers who initially choose to teach in charter schools often identify with the charter school’s mission, and, aware that working long hours are “part of the bargain,” are willing to forego union benefits, Henig said.

“I think it’s fair. We feel more defended by our representatives.”

—Sorinica Robinson, teacher at the New York French-American Charter School

However, as teachers are continually “asked to work longer days and longer weeks and longer school years,” he said they may seek representation.

Parents, indeed, fear that demands for union representation may threaten the strength of the mission and cohesiveness of the school. Although Loren

Emery, a NYFACS parent, supports the idea of a union, he is concerned that it could also make teachers more “brash” and prone to pick fights over administrative issues.

“It wasn’t at the forefront of the parents’ minds,” he said.

Carolina Fontaine, another parent, also expressed ambivalence at the decision to allow teachers union representation, especially given that NYFACS is so new.

“It’s too soon to have a union at this point,” she said.

But both parents said that, although the school has experienced difficulties as a new charter school, they support the school’s unique mission and curriculum—and, above all, are concerned with their students’ education.

“It’s like a mini-United Nations,” Emery said, referring to the bilingual method of instruction and the diverse speakers and opportunities the school offers.

Fontaine also praised the school’s “great curriculum.”

“We want what’s best for our kids,” Fontaine said.

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CULTURE SHOCK | Dr. Andrew Hamid, a professor at the School of Social Work, speaks about trans-cultural issues on Wednesday as part of the first annual Mental Health Week.

Events highlight mental health issues

HEALTH from front page

then discussed Natalie Portman’s character’s symptoms with Cheryl Corcoran, a professor of clinical psychiatry at the Columbia University Medical Center.

At an event on Wednesday, three volunteers from the Fountain House—an organization that helps people with mental illness readjust to community life—shared their personal stories and fielded student questions.

“For people who don’t have mental health experiences, this can help them relate, and for people that are dealing with mental

health issues, it can show them that there is hope, that there are ways to deal with it,” Jessica Greenberg, CC ’12 and co-president of CNS, said.

The group has tabled on College Walk every afternoon this week, handing out flyers and brochures to promote the school’s health resources.

“We’re reaching a lot of new people by tabling,” Greenberg said. “The fact that people are talking about it, hearing about it, and becoming more aware and telling their friends—that’s a great thing.”

Thursday night’s event also

aims to increase awareness through a discussion of the stigma surrounding mental illness, led by members of the campus group Respecting Ourselves and Others Through Education, or ROOTED.

“I’m looking forward to seeing how many people come out to our other events, and to seeing how many students get made aware of campus resources,” Nathan Huang, CC ’15 and a member of CNS, said. “I am excited to see how we can all bond over this issue and find common ground.”

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Men, photography allowed at march

TBTN from front page

participants can anonymously share stories of sexual violence. Nook participated in the march last year and said he was impressed with the number of men in attendance. While he is excited for the change, he recognizes the new policy may cause difficulties for some. “I’m interested to see how survivors feel about it,” he said. “I think it’s important to keep their needs in mind.” The change comes in a year when there has been an increased level of feminist activism on campus, as well as a focus on women’s rights in the nation’s political sphere. “One of the major factors in the change was that a lot of us attended Slutwalk this year and we were impressed by the male and gender-neutral presence there,” Lea Farrell, BC ’13 and co-coordinator of TBTN, said. Many other colleges and universities also have annual TBTN events. While some schools hold vigils or bring in speakers as the

main focus of their event, for those with marches similar to Columbia—Dartmouth, Rutgers, Boston University, and University of Michigan, to name a few—the inclusion of men is standard practice. In addition to the gender-neutral change, TBTN announced that it would allow the use of personal cameras within the march this year. “In the past we wanted TBTN to be an anonymous march. We think it’s really important to protect the identities of people who come and participate,” Herold said. However, the policy was doing more harm than good, according to Farrell. Last year, as head marshal of the march, she said her only interaction with community members was to ask them to stop taking pictures. “Instead of bringing community in, it was pushing them away,” she said. Farrell also raised concerns about the stigma surrounding sexual assault, saying that “people in the march felt that with us shielding them from cameras, it

seemed like we were protecting them because we felt they needed it—and that is not the case.” TBTN plans to solicit feedback about both changes from everyone who participates in the march. Farrell said this would be “like a pilot year,” and that she is “very open to changing it back” if people feel uncomfortable. “We’re really hoping to build a greater sense of community, that this will help unite us as survivors and allies,” she said. Michael Discenza, CC ’13 and a peer educator in the Men’s Peer Education Program, has not previously participated in TBTN, but said that this year he is eager to march with the crowd. “I’m looking forward to being around a lot of other people who care about the project of ending sexual violence,” he said. “People can do a lot of work by themselves and sometimes it can be frustrating, but being in a group of other people who care about this will be a good experience.” abby.abrams @columbiaspectator.com



MARCH IN APRIL | Photographs of the Take Back the Night march, like the one above, were only previously allowed if they obscured participants’ faces, but organizers will allow photos this year.

Committee looks for dean nominations

DEAN from front page

make a terrific candidate,” Coatsworth said in an interview. “We would look for somebody who would be a superb administrator and who understands and embraces the educational goals of the College. We would look for somebody who would work well with students and alumni and the rest of the University.” “This is a complicated and important job and so experience at Columbia would be a real asset.” —John Coatsworth, provost

Eight faculty members, two alumni, and two students—J.T. Ramseur and Mary Kircher, both CC ’13—will serve on the committee. Although the committee has not yet convened, Ramseur said he was excited that the administration was “trying to have student representation.” “I’m going to try keep in mind all of the concerns I hear from my fellow CC students,” he said. The search process differs markedly from the last search for a dean of the college. The committee that selected Moody-Adams, who came from Cornell, spent nine months looking for candidates both from Columbia and



SEARCH HIGH AND LOW | Columbia College Interim Dean James Valentini said he would accept if offered the job permanently.

outside, whereas this committee will spend a month, making its selection only from internal candidates. “The president has in mind that this is a complicated and important job and so experience at Columbia would be a real asset to anyone who was considered,” Coatsworth said. Besides Ramseur and Kircher, the committee members include Ruth DeFries, professor of sustainable development and environmental science; Tom DiPrete, professor of sociology; Stuart Firestein, chair of the biology department; Christia Mercer, chair of Literature Humanities; Bob O’Meally, professor of English and director of the Center for Jazz Studies; Cathy Popkin, professor of Slavic languages; Kyra Barry, CC ’87 and president of the Columbia College Alumni Association; and Yale Fergang, CC ’87 and SEAS ’88. It will also include two other faculty members, from whom Bollinger said he is still awaiting confirmation. margaret.mattes @columbiaspectator.com

Schedule changes mean 8:40 a.m. classes

SCHEDULING from front page

to see the school expanding the schedule,” Kai Yang, a professor in the electrical engineering department, said. “I feel there are a lot of students with too few resources.” Yang, who said he noticed a jump of about 50 students taking his communication theory class in one year, said that the registrar “must make sure that professors have enough space or the teaching quality will decline.” At SEAS, where some classes last 150 minutes, the new master schedule allows for classes to last until 9:30 or 10 p.m. Culligan said that SEAS will adopt some of the changes, but is trying not to make substantial changes to its Friday schedule. The changes also address some difficulties in scheduling language classes. Currently, students who take an elementary language course have the option

to have a class five days each week for 50 minutes, or three classes each week for 75 minutes. “For French, we have a problem with the different formats in which we offer the classes,” Hubert-Leibler said. “We would like to see whether we can get these two formats closer together.” After about 10 weeks, the students enrolled in the three-classes-a-week course have lost almost an entire week of instruction. “We have always been committed to proposing different methods to the students,” she said. “We’re just looking to get our formats closer together.” With the new schedule, students will now have the option to take a course that meets four times each week for 65 minutes—which is 10 minutes more of classroom instruction than a course that meets five times each week for 50 minutes. “The more uniform the

schedule can be, the easier it is for students to have classes,” Culligan said. “We can maximize the use of the classroom space on campus.” Still, some students said that they were unhappy about the possibility of having a lecture class at 8:40 a.m. “I probably wouldn’t sign up for a class that was that early,” said Vivek Bhagwat, SEAS ’13. “I’ve had two classes here that were at nine and I rarely went to them.” Abbee Cox, CC ’14, said that students still have the option to take later classes if their schedule permits. “If you can’t get up that early then don’t sign up for classes that early,” she said. “You can make your schedule—if that’s what they had to do to fit in more classes, I think it’s fine.” Lillian Chen contributed reporting. jeremy.budd @columbiaspectator.com

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A ‘good’ thesis: MFA student gives fresh take on Brecht

BY ALEXIS NELSON
Spectator Staff Writer

Written by the famed German playwright Bertolt Brecht, “The Good Person of Szechwan” confronts what it means to be “good” in a world that encourages corruption and craftiness. Ashley Kelly Tata, MFA ’12, brought high intensity and a creative eye to the three-hour production.

The play opened aggressively with shouted lines, audience interrogation, and multiple loud bangs, and continued to deliver until the final curtain closed.

The story follows Shen Te, a young prostitute in a city characterized by poverty and desperation. Shen Te is introduced to gods whose wish is to find a “good person” untainted by worldly vice and structural iniquity. Though marked as “good,” Shen Te struggles to juggle all that the world seems to demand. The play addresses how one is torn internally by an attempt to live a good life.

The play, while basically unaltered, is full of little bonuses and glimmers of creativity.

Tata presents this play with all of its nuance and thought-provoking intricacies intact. A three-hour play is long, especially in this era of shortened attention spans, but the performance's energy never lags.

The actors give energetic performances that animate the entire stage. April Sweeney, MFA ’00, turns in a commanding performance as Shen Te. “The amount of work she’s put in has really been amazing,” Tata said.

Another standout is Hardy Pinnell in the role of Sun, an aspiring pilot and Shen Te’s lover. Pinnell manages to portray an incredibly flawed, immature character while also presenting moments of poignancy and a pervasive humor.

Even minor characters seem to jump from the stage and work hard to establish their identities. Tata often uses extra bodies like set dressings to help fill the stage.

The play, while basically unaltered, is full of little bonuses and glimmers of creativity. For example, there is a constant stream of live, original compositions played from one corner of the stage. Screens up above give the audience occasional, affecting close-ups of actors’ faces. Simple yet illustrative sets and refreshing choreography help hold audiences’ attention.

Tata initially overlooked “The Good Person of Szechwan” because it is so ubiquitously taught and explored. However, she was encouraged by an adviser to take another look.

“This play practices a lot of Brecht’s theories in interesting ways,” Tata said. She also liked that it includes a strong female lead. “I get really excited about good roles for women,” she said.

This project has been a year-long odyssey for Tata, but her efforts have finally come to fruition with a piece of theater that feels refreshed and is incredibly engaging.

“The Good Person of Szechwan” opened Wednesday night and will run until Saturday at Riverside Theatre. It is part of the Columbia Stages performance series.

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JAZZ HANDS | Student dancers from “Love and wOrchesis” raise the roof in style with routines such as “Under Covers” (top) and “Countdown” (bottom).



HANNAH CHOI / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Orchesis dancers hit high and low notes

BY CHARLOTTE MURTISHAW
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

If all’s fair in love and war, then all’s fair in reviewing love and wOrchesis.

Unsurprisingly for the pastiche of performances that “All’s Fair in Love and wOrchesis” offers, the production contains both high points and decidedly middling moments.

Sadly, the opening dance is probably the most meh-inducing. Set to Sinatra’s “The Best is Yet to Come,” the choreography is, at best, one predictable, passably executed swing flourish after another.

However, that number is followed up by one of the best pieces of the showcase—a modern dance interpretation of “This Woman’s Work.” As a group, the dancers swell and ebb in unison like a pair of lungs, while soloists manage to add their own subtexts without falling out of step. Dynamic without an overstatement of physicality, the dance manages to be slow yet not a yawn and emotional but not cheesy.

Many of the other highlights hail from the opposite end of the spectrum—of all the genres represented, some of the best performances can be summed up with one word: attitude. With the overt sass of Beyoncé’s “Countdown” and the Cataracs’ “Bass Down Low,” the dancers project glamour and ferocity, never losing a sharpness

of movement that’s crucial to their edge. Similar red-hot assertiveness fills the piece by Laura Quintela, CC ’14, set to Christina Aguilera’s “Fighter.” Throughout the trio, explosive yet controlled solos inspire dropped jaws.

The dancers command a slow, deliberate elegance of line and form that makes the lower-energy piece not just palatable but delectable.

More stoically, Victoria Robson’s choreography of Beirut’s Eastern-influenced “Gulag Orkestar” meets the challenge of the song’s grandiose overtones. The dancers command a slow, deliberate elegance of line and form that makes the lower-energy piece not just palatable but delectable.

Still, sprinklings of thoroughly masticated singer-songwriter fare detract from the show and evoke the sort of sappy song that overly demonstrative couples put on each other’s Facebook walls or post as statuses after a breakup. This

bland, unoffensive genre belongs neither on those virtual walls nor on the stage. It is these saccharine ditties that most frequently give birth to routines that seem both boring and contrived. Plié, plié, look out at the audience mournfully—mournfully being a code word for a slightly puckered mouth amid a dance that seems bereft of true feeling.

Interspersed randomly in the repertoire are small, whimsical interludes. Best is probably “Love is a Battlefield,” which any production called “Love and wOrchesis” would probably be incomplete without—just as the song would be incomplete without the bright aerobic wear of the dancers and their decidedly Jazzercise-tastic moves.

Ensemble-wise, renditions of Queen’s “Don’t Stop Me Now” and Devotchka’s “And the Winner Is ...” lean most heavily on the cohesion of the dancers, who carry it off with aplomb. The latter’s small, plucky notes require a precision of movement that takes flight with the dancers almost hovering over the stage.

Moments like those make the show worth watching. While some numbers ring hollow, the mixed-bag nature of the show ensures that there will be something for people of all tastes to enjoy. Conclusion? Some winners, some losers, but such is the nature of war.

arts@columbiaspectator.com

Columbia Ballroom Dance Team sizzles its way into last few competitions



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

IT TAKES TWO | Andrew Phillips (bottom right) leads a Latin ballroom dance class in Lerner. The team offers classes for all levels of dancers and competes with other universities and colleges.

BY JENNY PAYNE
Columbia Daily Spectator

At midnight on a recent Monday, three pairs of dancers move gracefully through Lerner C555, hands clasped and feet guiding them without a wobble in their heels. Their concentration from the moment the music begins—eyes locked on their partners, bodies moving precisely in time—draws the eye toward the Columbia Ballroom Dance Team’s rehearsal.

The Columbia Ballroom Dance Team, founded in 1998 to offer dancers of all levels the opportunity to compete and rehearse together, is the group of students you sometimes see twirling each other around Lerner late at night. Around 150 strong, with up to 40 dancers participating in any given competition, the team trains several nights a week and offers interested dancers classes in standard and Latin ballroom dance, as well as “social dances” such as salsa and West Coast swing. Dancers of all levels can find a place on the team, which offers classes for beginners, intermediate-level dancers, and advanced dancers.

Rehearsals over the last few weeks have been preparing dancers for two upcoming competitions: the Gotham City Dancesport Challenge on April 22 and the Rutgers DanceSport Competition on April 28. After great success earlier this month at the Harvard Invitational, where the team’s couples triumphed in the Latin dances, with two pairs placing first in their respective categories, the team feels optimistic about their last few competitions.

A supportive team environment helps dancers through the stress of these large competitions. “I like the team atmosphere of cheering for and supporting other dancers on the team, especially for the new dancers. It tends to be an overwhelming experience, but the people that compete really do get very close,” CU Ballroom vice president Jennifer Alzate, CC ’13, said.

Alzate said that the encouraging atmosphere is one of the most remarkable qualities of the dance team, which has allowed many dancers to form valuable friendships—especially those between

dance partners. “Partner dynamics are really interesting because it’s about as intense as being in a relationship. You have to go through the same problems—you have to figure out when you’re going to see each other, someone will get mad if you’re practicing too much or not enough, someone will get jealous if the other person is looking for a new partner,” Alzate said.

An example of such a partnership exists between Kwasi Adi-Dako, CC ’13, and Hana Goldstone, CC ’14, who practiced a Latin dance outside. They clasped hands and turned on an upbeat tune, grinning excitedly as their feet tapped up and down and they spun each other around. Adi-Dako collapsed on the floor after about a minute.

“It tends to be an overwhelming experience, but the people that compete really do get very close.”

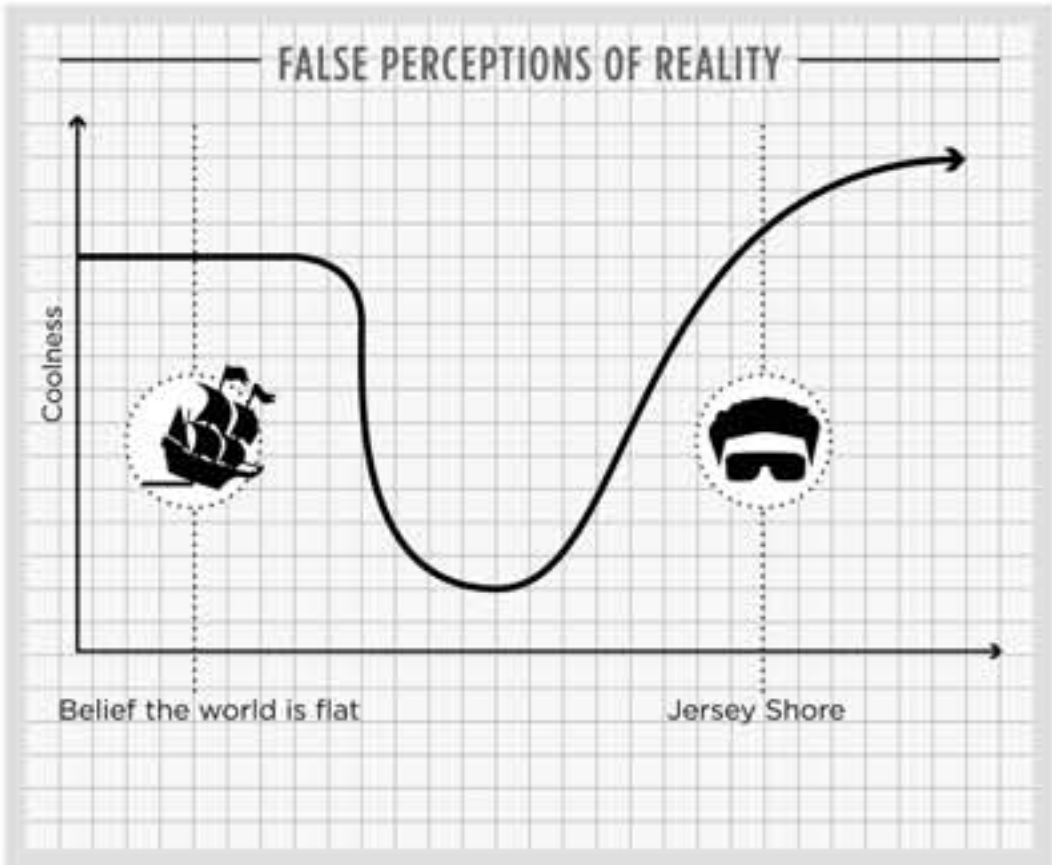
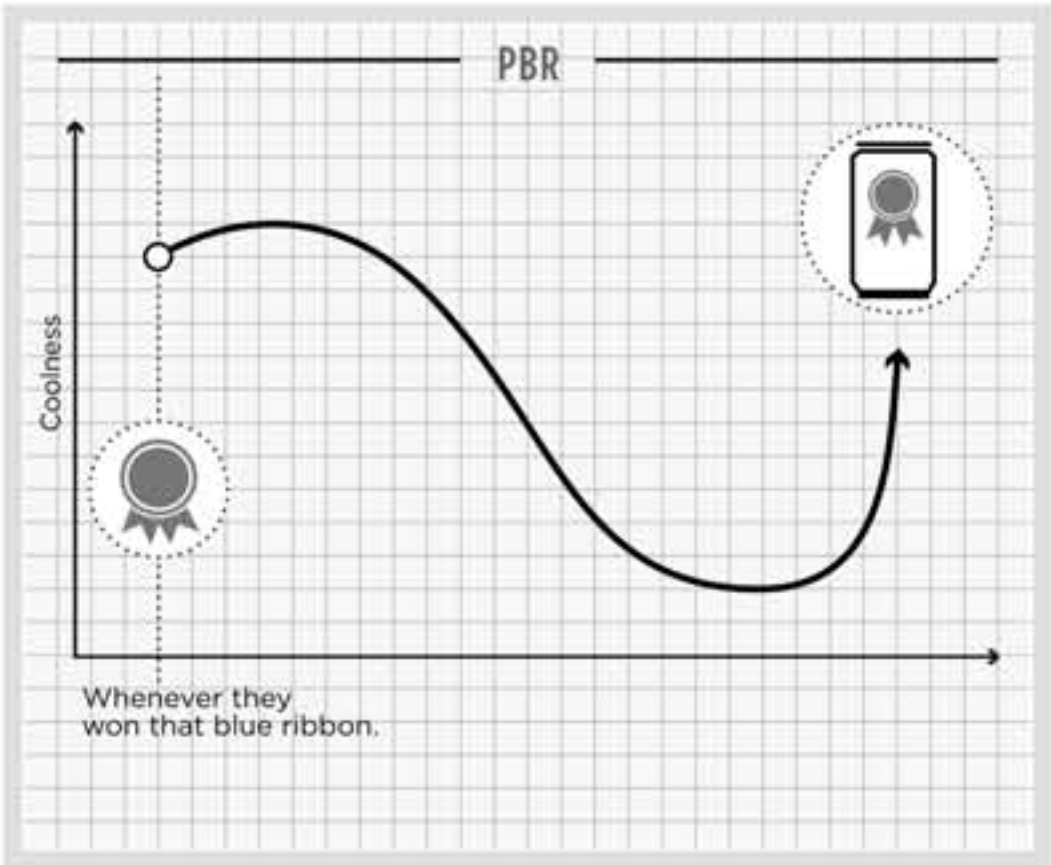
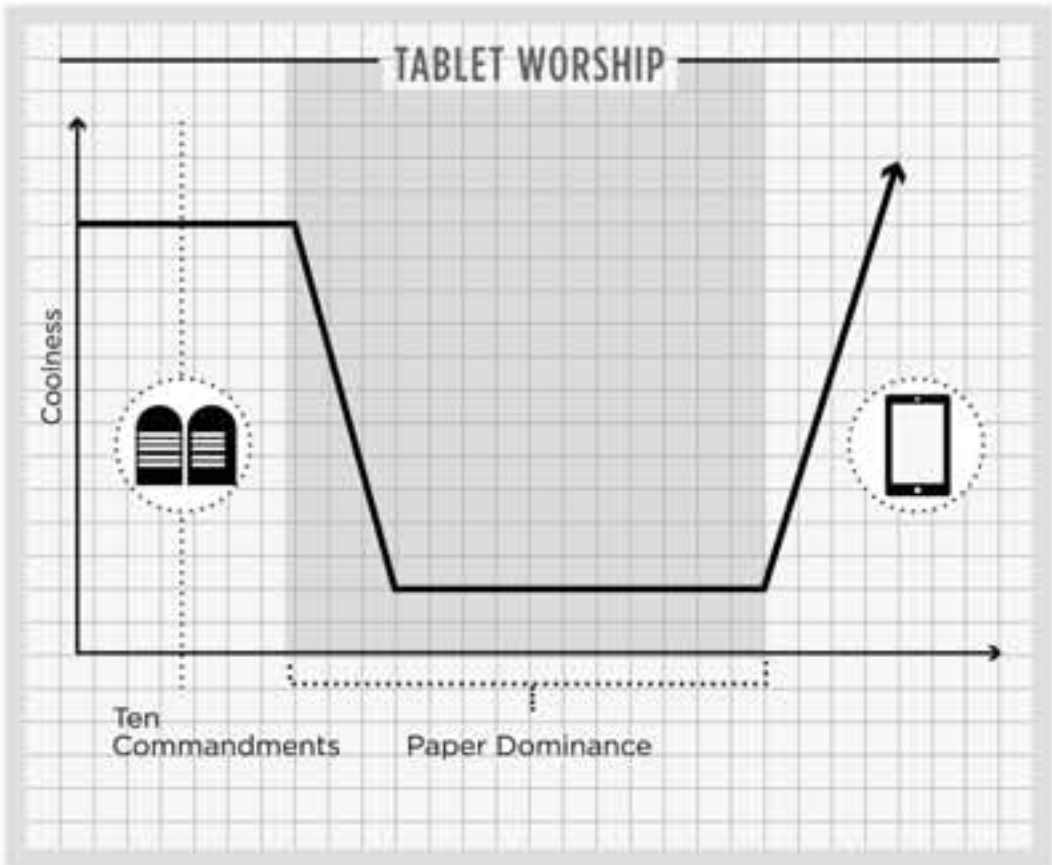
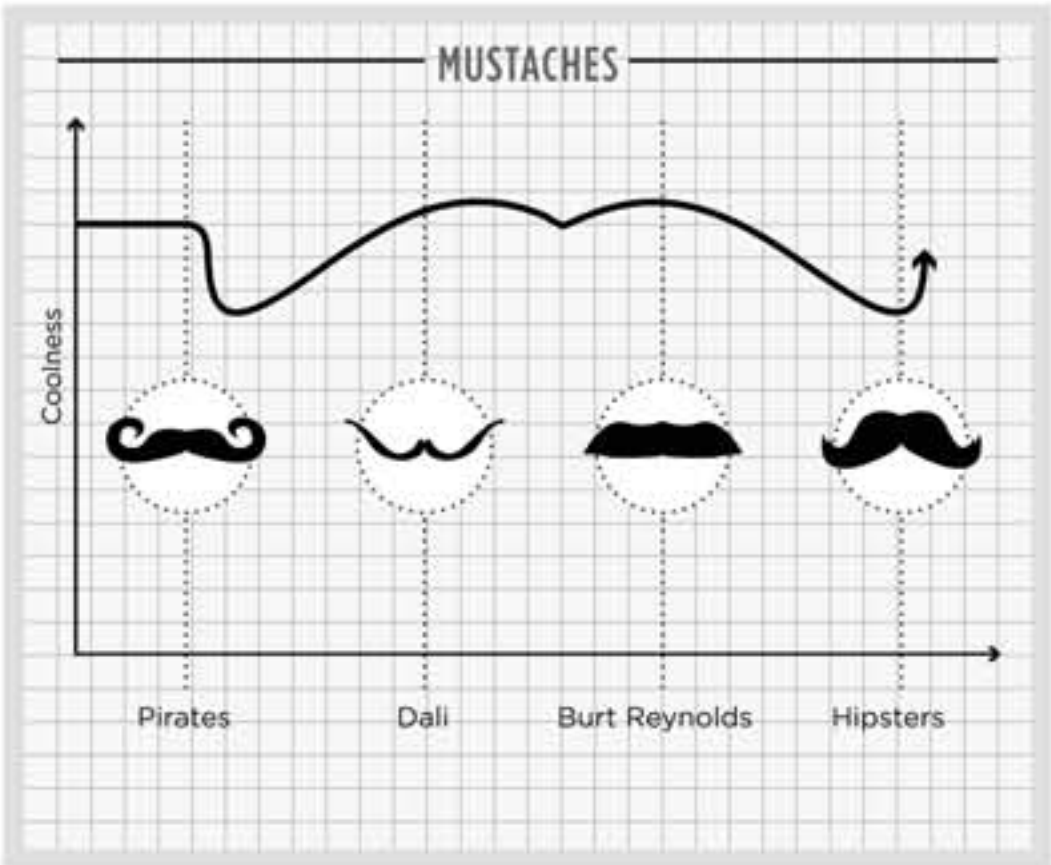
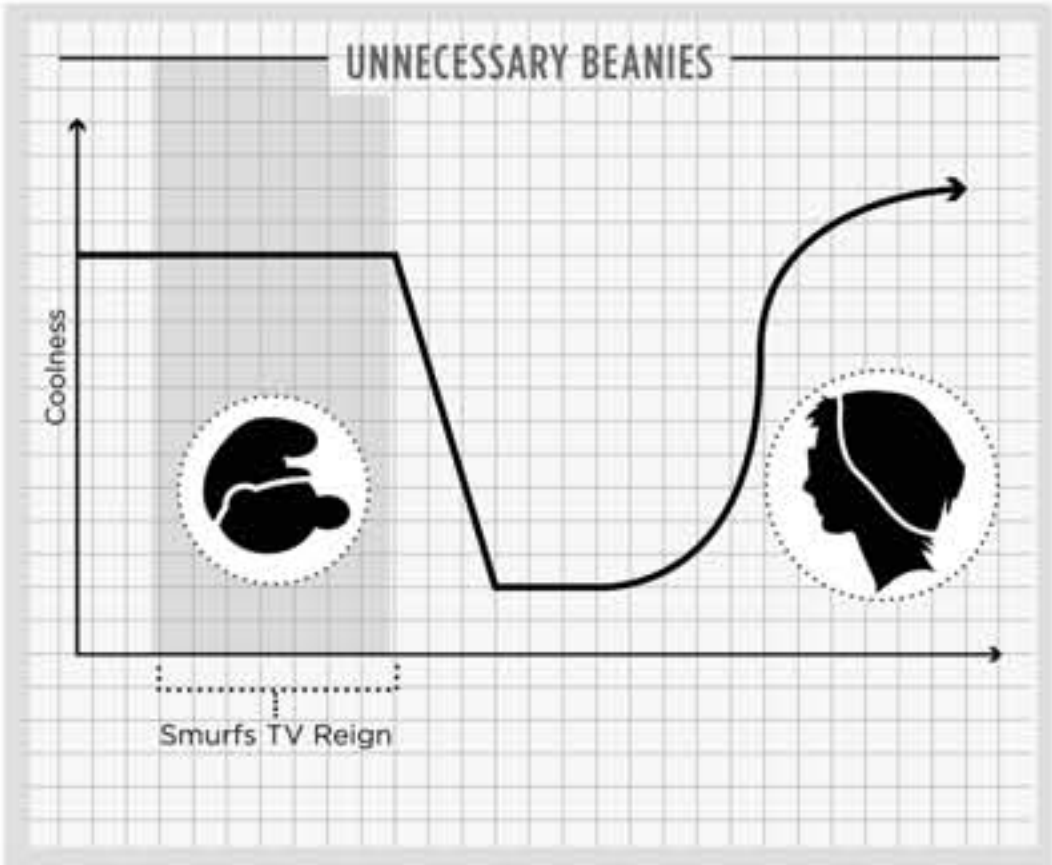
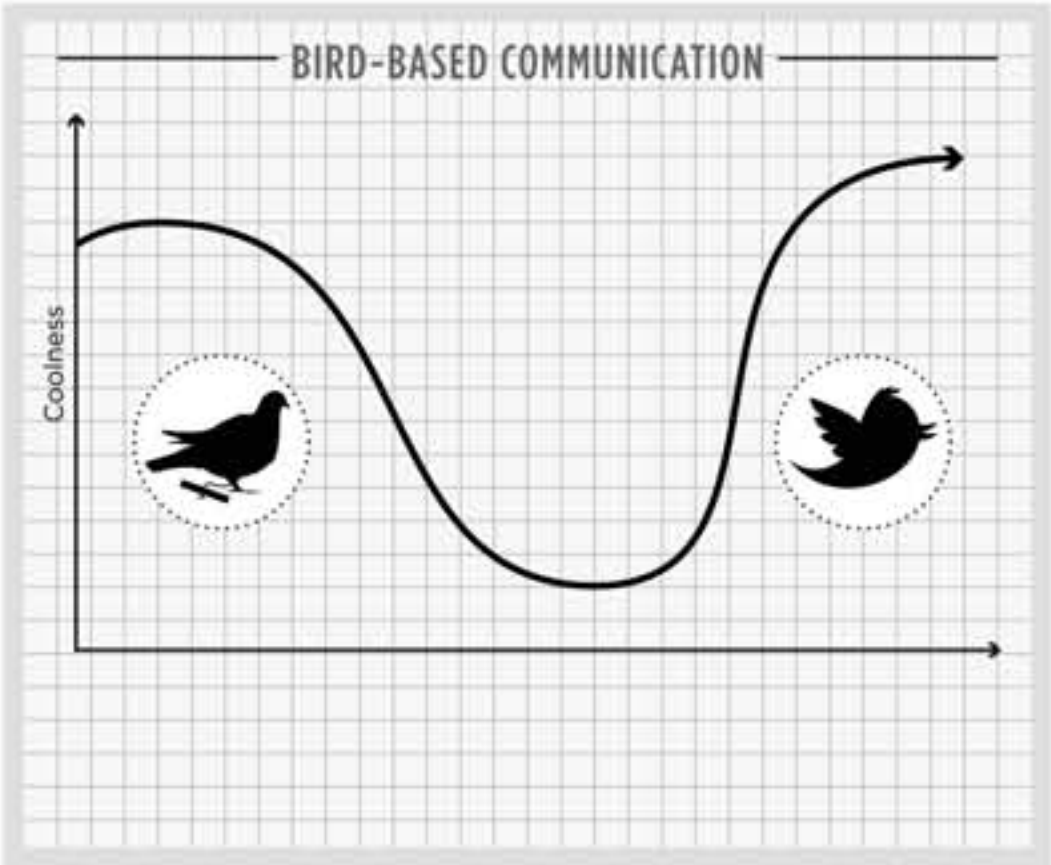
—Jennifer Alzate, CC ’13
and CUBDT vice president

“Sweet freedom!” Adi-Dako said, pulling off his dance shoes. “That’s it for tonight?” Goldstone teased as she wiggled her bare feet at him to show that they had given up after hours of hard work. Goldstone, a dancer for most of her life and now a dance major, said that Adi-Dako is one of her best friends.

The team feels confident about its chances in the last two competitions, as they are much smaller and less competitive than Harvard’s or MIT’s.

“Rutgers and Gotham City are pretty local competitions, so we’ll encourage more dancers to compete and engage in some more team bonding as the year draws to a close,” Alzate said.

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Feel-Good Fannie

There are a couple of characters who
always pop up in my Columbia discus-
sion classes. You know who they are—any-
one who's had two weeks of Contemporary
Civilization could pick them out.

There's Defensive Christian, Angry
Jewish Guy, Awkward Token Engineer
Who Thought Lit Hum Would Be Fun,
and Zoned Out Athlete.

And we prize each and every one. How
could we claim to be the recipients of a
liberal arts education without experi-
encing the cherished annual Columbia
College tradition of watching DC and AJG fight over
whether the Book of John was the work of a half-deranged
member of a radical Jewish sect or of divine prophecy? I
shudder at the thought.

But if there's one person whom I cannot get behind
(metaphorically speaking), it's Feel-Good Fannie.

I love Fannie. She's always there to chastise those of us
who enjoyed Pride and Prejudice a little too much, letting us
know that the book is, in fact, a heteronormative trash
novel that seeks eternal male suzerainty. In a club meeting
this weekend, I am happy to report that I spent 10 min-
utes locked in an existential battle with her over whether
the scientific word “fieldwork” in a potential flier was too
reminiscent of slavery—a valuable use of time, to be sure. In
a seminar discussion on the First Amendment today, Fannie
let us know that debate topics that “could offend others”
should be prohibited entirely.

Scratch that. I freaking hate Feel-Good Fannie.

Usually, she is a minor annoyance: the politically correct
policewoman who ensures none of us step over the line and
confront issues too directly. Why risk stepping on people's
toes when you can refuse to walk completely? But today felt
like a step too far—it is a dangerous line of thinking. While
squashing the expression of differing opinions might be
fulfilling, it does little to advance debate or confront logical
fallacies in either argument. Rather, it brushes diverging
opinions under the rug, creating an environment where it
is uncomfortable to express minority opinions for fear of
condemnation and censure.

College should not be easy. It should be tough—it should
push your judgments to their limits. It should force you to
re-evaluate yourself in light of new perspectives and
information. I have yet to meet the 18-year-old who had the
world figured out. I would hope that exposure to new peo-
ple and ideas would make you re-examine preconceptions
and confront them with a renewed vigor and open mind.
Who wants a university of unanimous, quiet agreement,
where no one speaks up for fear of offending someone else?
I didn't come to Columbia, or New York for that matter, to



ANDREW
GODINICH

Too Be
Frank

hear the same PC Maureen Dowd taglines dropped every
time we approach a “touchy subject.” I came here because I
wanted to be argued with.

Unfortunately, I feel that too often we take the easy way
out. We condemn and disparage foreign or uncomfortable
positions without looking into the arguments and circum-
stances behind them. Take gay marriage, for example. Have
you ever heard someone on campus seriously argue against
its passage? I have not—as a somewhat-casual member of
the College Republicans, I would be well placed to hear
that debate should it occur. Is it then true that 100 percent
of Columbians are in support of equal marriage rights? It's
possible, but doubtful. Polling shows only a slim majority
of Americans are supporters. I find it highly unlikely that
Columbia is so detached from the American consensus that
we are all ardent opponents of Prop 8. Yet not once have
I heard someone voice support on this campus for “tra-
ditional marriage.” I hesitate at resurrecting the ghastly
specter of the safe spaces “debate,” but anyone who had the
unfortunate privilege of attending that forum sober could
tell you that the alleged “dialogue” would be better branded
a tawdry exercise in censorship through bullying.

Who wants a university of
unanimous, quiet agreement,
where no one speaks up for fear of
offending someone else?

This is not to say that all speech is valid—the recent
firestorm over Barnard-related Bwog comments comes to
mind. A line should be drawn somewhere: A burning cross
demonstration on the Sundial would (although protected
under law) be unwelcome. Regardless, could we not encour-
age a little more difference of opinion? Could we react with
a touch less outrage and derision? We get it—you're pro-
choice. You think pro-life people are women-hating zom-
bies who rise up from Iowa and Minnesota every two years
to fill Congress with Tea Partiers. But guess what—they
exist, and they come bearing argument. Is it right to restrict
their opinion under the guise of “political correctness” and
fear of offending someone else? At the very least, we can
agree that silencing them does not change minds. Open and
frank discussion is necessary for us to achieve any hope of
understanding. I can't help feeling that Feel-Good Fannie
only gets in the way.

Andrew Godinich is a Columbia College junior majoring in
sociology and Portuguese studies. He is the Latin America and
Caribbean affairs correspondent for the Columbia Political
Review. Too Be Frank runs alternate Thursdays.



ILANA SCHULDER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Last week, I read the staff editorial “Help CCE help
you,” (March 22) in which they made several points
surrounding the effectiveness of the programming and
outreach strategy of the Center for Career Education.
While I agree that raising awareness among students on
campus about CCE is paramount, I think the editorial
board missed the mark a bit.

The piece claimed that CCE does not reach out
enough to industries that are not finance-related, cit-
ing the overabundance of finance recruiting sessions
as evidence. I believe this is not actually representative
of CCE's outreach to companies in various industries.
Financial companies can afford to spend on campus
recruiting—a luxury many other companies do not have.
However, in my professional experience working with
CCE, I have seen that the staff in that office understand
this problem and have actively worked to give nonfi-
nance companies as much equal footing as possible.

Take, for example, the Startup Career Fair. This fair
gave an opportunity for roughly 50 startups to have
prominent recruiting time with more than 350 students.
This is just one example of the specialized events that
CCE holds to ensure that companies who cannot afford
to recruit heavily on campus still have an opportunity
to engage with students. There are also similar fairs for
nonprofits and media companies, among others.

The other issue raised in the article was CCE's ability
to advertise its events to students. The article suggested

that CCE bears the majority of the burden for engag-
ing students.

I believe an equal amount of responsibility for finding
a job or internship falls on the individual. This is your
career—CCE can (and does) help make the connection
between student and employer, but ultimately the stu-
dent has to actually show up. If CCE were really doing
more advertising—you know, apart from the existing
emails; posting events on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter,
and their website; putting up flyers around campus; and
coordinating with various student and alumni groups—
would students really pay attention, or just tune it out
as more noise?

In my almost two years of working for the School
of Engineering and Applied Science, I have seen the
enormous commitment of the CCE staff to serving the
students at this University. They are constantly open
to new ideas for new ways to engage students and get
them involved in an internship, externship, or career
position. While, yes, there is always room for improve-
ment, I encourage students—before you criticize CCE's
efforts—to actually go to East Campus and visit their of-
fice. See what they have to offer. You might be pleasantly
surprised (and employed).

Cliff Massey, CC '10
Alumni Relations Coordinator
The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and
Applied Science

Pay for dining,
eat no food

I furtively took out a Tupperware
and unzipped my backpack. It
was the Friday before spring break,
and Ferris Booth would be closing
four hours later. I had to work for
the rest of the day. There were only
three granola bars left in my room.
This was a challenge, and the goal?
To take out as much food from the
dining hall as possible and survive
spring break on \$50 and powdered
milk. Soon after I had stashed away
five slices of bread, I felt a tap on
my shoulder. “I hope you know we
don't allow personal containers here. If you want to
take out food, you should get a plastic box.” I had
never seen this woman in my life, but she seemed
determined enough. Whether it was out of knee-jerk
obedience or immutable outrage, I nodded and didn't
say a word.

I was dejectedly filling up a cup of milk when
I overheard one of the Dining Services workers
describe how I had been stopped. A pity, she said,
because the leftover food would be thrown out. I
thought I had misheard, so I asked her myself: Would
all the food be thrown out? She shrugged “yes.”

Not content with this answer, I spoke with Victoria
Dunn, executive director of Dining Services. For din-
ing hall food, the journey begins at the end. Dunn
informed me that Columbia donates most of its left-
overs each week to food pantries and charity orga-
nizations like City Harvest and Community Impact.
Yet “any food that has been out on the self-service
stations” is thrown out at the end of the day. This
includes food in the entrée section, the salad bar, and,
of course, anything perishable.

In an email, Dunn said that “leftovers are at a min-
imum in [John] Jay. In Ferris, since we prepare the
food in front of you, there are usually no leftovers.”

When asked why students are discouraged from
taking out food, Dunn began by saying that “the din-
ing halls are not grocery stores.” She's absolutely
right. She continued, “We price the meal plans to in-
clude the cost of students taking one meal's quantity
of food per visit.” On this point, not so much.

If, as I was told, the majority of
leftover food is donated, Dining
Services has nothing to lose by
permitting students to take out what
little food would be left uneaten.

I pay \$11.70 for each of my meals, and others
pay as much as \$13. Although I may be dismissed
as a spoiled student, unused meals hurt, especially
when leftover swipes stare back sadly from cashier
registers. Of course, the most straightforward solu-
tion is for us to plan ahead and space out meal times
throughout the day. But the other is to allow students
to get the most out of their plans, which they do pay
for, and take out the food they need.

Dunn assured me that the dining halls have never
run out of food and that a batch cooking process min-
imizes overproduction, which makes me think that
students taking out a little more than a meal (like five
slices of bread) can't hurt.

It's important to consider that there are sanitary
concerns associated with using personal containers.
According to Dunn, the New York City Department
of Health “will not allow any other container but the
eco containers and the disposable containers.”

Yet the guidelines for food service establishments
from the Department of Health state that “food re-
moved from the original container or package is to
be protected from contamination by storing in clean,
covered, sanitized containers,” which seems to apply
to food that will be served for multiple other people,
not individual takeout. But there's not much to be
said about safety, since we avoid the risk of contami-
nating food by bringing clean, one-use containers.

As it stands, students taking food out of the dining
halls will not derail a system that appears so carefully
laid out. It borders on arbitrary use of authority to
prohibit students to use what they pay for and want.
If, as I was told, the majority of leftover food is do-
nated, Dining Services has nothing to lose by permit-
ting students to take out what little food would be left
uneaten.

At first, I thought it petty to write about food and
dining halls when Columbians are protesting pov-
erty and injustice. I came close to trashing the idea,
and only after I put pen to paper did I realize why I
wanted to write this piece. Change doesn't parade in
clothes of grandeur. It is just as worthwhile, and even
more so, to look at our immediate surroundings and
make them better. Next year, not getting a meal plan
will probably save me time and trouble. But I'm not
about evasion and judging by the frank accessibility
of the administrators who answered my questions,
neither are they. It's not right to enact rules without
valid justification. It's not OK to waste what others
could otherwise use.

But it's also not OK to remain silent, especially
when there are ears willing to listen.

Cecilia Reyes is a Columbia College first-year. She is on
the board of the Artist Society. Reyesing Expectations
runs alternate Thursdays.



CECILIA
REYES

Reyesing
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tions

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2012 CCUSenateCandidates

FROM THE EDITORS:

In the upcoming University Senate elections, five candidates are running for two vacant seats to represent Columbia College. To provide readers with more information on the race, we invited all five candidates to submit editorials of no more than 500 words to explain why Columbia College students should vote for them. We took all possible measures to ensure fair and equal coverage. We simultaneously emailed all five candidates via their listed Columbia email addresses and gave them identical instructions. We did not make any substantive changes or suggestions. However, every submission was edited to conform with Spectator style for spelling and grammar.

Chris Canales, the fifth candidate, did not respond to our invitation to submit an editorial.

Andrea Garcia-Vargas and Lanbo Zhang
Editorial Page Editors



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RYAN CHO, MATTHEW CHOU, DERRICK FU, RICHARD SUN

An inside view: why senate matters

BY MATTHEW CHOU

Talking to students about the University Senate, I always hear “What does the senate even do?” For others, there is a common statement: “I don’t see how senate’s work affects my life.”

It can be hard to know how to respond. For even the most involved students at Columbia, the senate often seems like an enigma, a sort of black box that either spits out boring policies or huge decisions, with little room for student feedback or review.

Correct or not, the fact of the matter is that the very existence of such a perception means that there is something very wrong. The senate is second only to the board of trustees. How can our relationship be so uncertain?

After serving on the senate as one of two current student staffers, I’ve seen how University-level issues directly affect students. From liberating our course evaluations data to communicating to the administration the student space situation on campus, it is crucial that our student senators fight passionately for what students need and hold the University accountable.

This is why I feel so strongly about being your senator. In my year as a staffer, I’ve tried to shape our school for the better, doing grunt work behind our open course evaluations proposal, brainstorming the Morningside Student Space Initiative, and sifting through survey responses to help create a document on space that will be read at the highest levels of the University. Yet, without an elected position, I’ve lacked full independence and the ability to talk to key administrators.

If I’m elected, I will make sure our interests as students are not just known, but also pushed at every level of University governance. There are many new projects to be tackled, including rolling out a new digital media strategy, creating a quality of life survey for student wellness, and staying in touch with student body presidents from peer institutions to lay the foundation for continued collaboration.

In addition, unlike all but one of my fellow candidates, I will stay a senator’s full two-year term, ensuring that the senate’s work, which requires a long-term, consistent approach, receives the attention it is due. Implementing open course evaluations reform, partnering with new student government leaders to coordinate the fight for space on our campus, ensuring that graduate student families are afforded adequate, gender-neutral support—this will all require a caucus of student senators not left crippled by a graduating wave of one-year senators.

I am dedicated to serving the student body of Columbia University, and I would truly appreciate your support in this competitive election.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in economics and political science. He is a staffer on the Student Affairs Committee of the University Senate.

The USenate needs experience

BY RICHARD SUN

For the past two years, I have served as chief of staff of the senate’s Student Affairs Committee, a body composed of 24 student senators across all schools. SAC has been a fast-paced and dynamic environment—we’ve accomplished a lot as a team: We’ve held forums and passed a resolution on ROTC, initiated smoking ban legislation (and subsequent review), and established the Morningside Student Space Initiative. We intend to carry that momentum forward with even more interesting projects including a “Quality of Life” survey that will have a direct impact on how we think about Student Wellness on this campus.

These projects take time: time to gather the data and evaluate the student voice from surveys, time to analyze that data and articulate a vision to senior administrators, and time to redouble our efforts and strategy when they push back. The irony behind all of this is that the one thing we seem to be in constant shortage of as students is time. The senate has a steep learning curve, even those who have served on CCSC’s policy committee will attest to the elevated rigor of the senate. For senators seeking to serve a one-year term it simply doesn’t make sense to spend eight months learning the ropes and only get started working on real issues in March to graduate in May. On the other hand, having a shortened term in office might give our elected officials a sense of urgency to get work done sooner.

I offer the best of both worlds. Over the past two years, I’ve gained a significant amount of experience directly staffing two generations of SAC leadership and I’ve helped plan and execute the committee’s agenda on all issues related to students. If elected, I plan to hit the ground running and pursue the final student slot on the Senate’s Executive Committee. I am determined to do so because I believe I have the necessary experience to advocate for students across the University and because it will double Columbia College’s political standing within the senate’s most powerful committee.

My greatest asset to Columbia College and to the Student Affairs Committee is my commitment to institutional knowledge. If elected I would serve a 1.5 year term (ending in December 2013), due to a semester’s leave of absence I took to serve as a White House Intern. This will not only allow me to serve Columbia College for a greater period than the other candidates from the class of 2013, but it will give me the opportunity to help train and prepare the next generation of Columbia College senators. Just as I have learned tremendously from Alex Frouman, Kenny Durell, and Eduardo Santana, it is my hope and desire to pay that mentorship forward and help secure the political well-being of Columbia College within the University for many years to come.

The author is a Columbia College junior majoring in economics and sustainable development. He is chief of staff for the University Senate’s Student Affairs Committee.

Making Columbia a little better

BY RYAN CHO

Let’s get to it—why should you elect me to be one of the next senators representing Columbia College?

The stark reality is that Columbia isn’t an easy place to navigate. There seems to be a “Dean” and an administrative office in every possible corner of campus, and when you go to one to find an answer to your question, you are invariably directed to another. This is where I believe my experience can help. I’ve had the privilege of serving in a wide range of positions, from vice president for policy of CCSC and a three-year member of the Activities Board at Columbia to an RA in Hogan and a chair of the InterGreek Council. I don’t know everything, but I certainly know a lot more than I did three years ago.

Over the last three years, and in these positions, I’ve been able to forge relationships with administrators and truly understand the different niches of the undergraduate experience at Columbia. The University Senate makes decisions that affect all aspects of student life, and I think it’s important that Columbia College is represented in these decisions by someone who understands our students and their experiences, has a comprehensive knowledge of student coalitions and groups, and has a holistic view of student life at Columbia.

But, experience means nothing without results. Across my positions on ABC, CCSC, and ResPrograms, there is one goal I’ve tried to keep this year: “to make students’ lives better.”

If you take a look at my time in CCSC, you can see that I’ve worked hard to accomplish it. During my time on council, we instituted Junior Regroup in the housing selection process, revamped the way CCSC works internally, and started talking about issues that CCSC hasn’t traditionally addressed, such as the Core Curriculum. I sincerely believe that student wellness should be the highest priority for student leaders and all year I have worked hard (whether it was by making my residents Nutella-banana sandwiches, or fighting to fix the dangerous staircase situation in Ferris Booth) to ensure that Columbians have a couple of less things to worry about at the end of the day.

This is exactly what we need in the senate: an advocate. With two veteran senators leaving us, we must elect someone with the experience and courage to fight for Columbia College. I really can’t begin to explain the passion I have for our school, and I want to make sure that whether it be in the Student Affairs Committee or a plenary session of the senate, our voices are heard.

On April 2, I ask that you cast your ballot for the candidate that will be the difference in the senate. I ask that you will join me, Ryan Cho, in showing the Senate that we want to send the most capable representative to its legislative body. With your help, we can make Columbia a better place for our students, and make all of our lives just a little bit better.

The author is a Columbia College junior majoring in political science. He is vice president for policy of the Columbia College Student Council.

It’s our senate, not theirs

BY DERRICK FU

What’s the biggest problem with USenate today? Simply put, students have no idea what USenate does. More importantly, students don’t understand what their USenate can do. USenate was founded in response to the 1968 riots to serve as a powerful resource not just for faculty and administrators but for the student body. The student body should have a say in the policy changes it wants and needs.

But that’s not the USenate situation today, and that’s exactly why I’m running to reinvent the senate-student body relationship.

While members of the senate might try to make the generalization that Columbia students are apathetic and lazy, I refuse to accept that notion. Columbia’s history of advocacy is one of its most proud and defining traits. While my opponents might argue for ideas like transparency and openness, their ideas are generic and half-hearted. Twitter feeds and a senate Facebook account won’t fix the outreach problem. It’s just not enough.

Further, my opponents are using their positions in senate/student government as a starting point to connect with student life. What students need instead is an elected senator who comes from a background of extensive student life experience. Students need a senator who can relate to their Columbia experience—a senator who has been a freshman rep, a staff writer, a pledge, an education chair, a brother, a captain, a president, etc.—and understands their issues and concerns firsthand. I’m that senator.

Now here’s how I’m going to give the senate back to the student body.

Virtual town halls: Town halls have been largely ineffective. Despite the flirring and Spectator shout-outs, no one shows up. I want to provide students the opportunity to login to an issue-specific, virtual town hall (e.g., town hall on student wellness, town hall on academic integrity, etc.) directly from their laptops, cutting out the hassle and mundaneness and enabling students to learn about the senate’s stance and progress on an issue and put forth their own ideas. Ideas like a social justice center, which I will advocate for unrelentingly, need mass student momentum to move forward. With virtual town halls I’m bringing the senate floor to you—the students.

Community leaders cabinet: As senators, we’d be significantly better-informed and our outreach would be a lot more effective if our messages weren’t coming from us but from a cabinet of highly connected student leaders representing the spectrum of student activities and student voices. Working in conjunction with the Student Affairs Committee, this rotating cabinet would advise student senators on issues that directly pertain to Columbia’s diverse subcommunities (e.g., LGBT, multicultural, athletics, Greek life, etc.). The discussions will bring forward perspectives and issues that might not be represented on the senate floor, and outreach and student participation in USenate issues will improve dramatically.

More than a platform of rehashed, ongoing internal senate issues, my platform is a commitment and promise to our student body that I will be committed first and foremost to providing them a voice. Let’s take back our senate.

The author is a Columbia College junior majoring in economics. He is president of Pi Delta Psi.

The Columbia Daily Spectator and the CCSC Elections Board invites you to participate in the

CCSC
E-BOARD
DEBATE

SUNDAY, 4/1, 6:30 P.M.
LERNER 5TH FLOOR,
SATOW ROOM

Submit questions online at
spectrum.columbiaspectator.com,
or at spc.me/ccscdebate

Debates for class councils, representatives, and Senate will take place in the Satow Room and Lerner 569 from 4 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

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SOFTBALL

Light Blue splits doubleheader, awaits Ivies

The Columbia softball team (6-15) split its final nonconference series against the Rider Broncs (9-18-1), losing the first game, 3-0, and coming back to defeat the Broncs, 3-0. The first game started off as a pitcher's duel with seven shut-out innings from both Columbia's freshman pitcher Kalli Schultea and Rider's Rachael Matreale, who allowed only three hits. Going into extra innings, Rider benefited from a Columbia error that led to a three-run eighth inning. Columbia had a shot at a comeback in the bottom of the eighth after an error from Rider and a single from junior

shortstop Jennifer Bergeron, but the Lions' effort was not enough to stop the Broncs from winning 3-0. In the second game, the Light Blue struck first in the bottom of the first inning with a leadoff single from junior outfield Alison Lam. The Lions drove in both Lam and Bergeron to lead 2-0. With standout pitching from freshman Brooke Darling, who threw her first collegiate complete-game shutout, the Light Blue won 3-0. The Lions will begin Ivy League play against Yale this Friday in a doubleheader starting at 2 p.m. —Hahn Chang

Lions win thanks to strong start

BASEBALL from back page

Billy Rumpke followed that up with an RBI single to score Black. Despite the early offensive outburst, Boretti said that the Lions will need to be more consistent. "I think we can play better," Boretti said. "We need to sustain more offense and get more chances at getting some runs across, because we gave Army a chance to climb back into the game." Army was able to chip away at the Lions' lead by scoring one run in the second inning, two in the third from senior Kevin McKague's home run, and added one each in the fourth and seventh. Army was also threatening in the eighth with runners on first and third with two outs. At that point, Boretti brought in freshman David Spinosa, who struck out Army's Daniel Cortes with a good fastball to end the threat.

Lions fall short against Oxford

SOCCER from back page

with the effort and was pleased by the current state of the program. Against Oxford, the Lions tried new positions for a few players, including Abraham—usually a center midfielder—who was playing on the right wing. According to Anderson, the team was assessing how certain players like Abraham may fit in different positions next season. Having lost seven seniors at the end of the 2011 fall season, the Light Blue also viewed the Oxford match as an opportunity to see how the team gelled without this year's seniors. "That's what we're working on right now—just trying to get used to the guys we have now without the

seniors," sophomore midfielder David Najem said. "It's nice to get out on the field and play a full-side match and feel what it's like to play 90 minutes again." As expected, fitness will be a focus for the team in the coming weeks, especially after many players cramped on the field in the waning minutes of the game. Wednesday's game also saw junior midfielder Nick Scott act team captain. Anderson said that no formal decision had been made yet about next season's captains, but he emphasized the need for the entire rising senior class to step up. "Leadership is not just one person's job," Anderson said. "Leadership is a group's job and they're doing a good job so far."



KATE SCARBROUGH / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ENGLISH FOOTBALL | Sophomore David Najem looks to dribble the ball up the field against the Oxford Blues visiting from across the Atlantic. The Lions looked to find chemistry without the seniors, but ultimately succumbed 1-0.



FILE PHOTO

TENNIS THEN | Goswami revitalized the men's tennis program in his second year, leading them to a 17-0 season in 1984.

Fun-loving coach brings decades of tennis success

GOSWAMI from back page

they loved us. So that's how we got involved in tennis." Goswami went on to play tennis at St. Xavier's College in Calcutta, India, and then began touring as a professional player. He had a few moments of notable success—earning a spot on the 1974-1975 Indian Davis Cup squad and then winning his home country's national titles in 1978 and 1979—but Goswami never achieved a world ranking better than No. 308. Goswami was having trouble making a living as a player, and then suffered a shoulder injury that inhibited his serving while playing in tournaments in the U.S. That injury ended up revealing a new opportunity to Goswami. While hurt, he stayed with a friend who was an instructor at the Westchester Country Club. Though Goswami could not serve, he could certainly teach. "I started giving a few lessons, I made some money, one thing led to another, and they offered me a job in the country club," Goswami said. During summers, Goswami would work at the country club, and during the year, he would leave to play tournaments. But when the head coaching position for Columbia's team opened up in 1982, he saw a new opportunity. Goswami was friends with former coach Butch Seewagon and Dick Savitt, whose name was bestowed on Columbia's new tennis center. Both men encouraged Goswami to take the job, a position that he admits he was unqualified for at the time. "The story goes—and I didn't know—that it was rigged," Goswami said. "I didn't have any coaching experience, I never played college tennis in this country, so how the heck did I get this job? It's good luck, I guess. It's not my looks, even though I had a lot more hair back then." Despite his lack of experience, Goswami was quick to make his mark on Light Blue athletics. Goswami's first season brought mediocre results, as the Lions finished in sixth place in the league with an 8-7 record. But when Goswami brought in his first recruiting class the next year, Columbia's fortunes took a turn for the better. In the spring of 1984, with three

freshmen in the singles lineup—one of whom was Endelman—the Lions went 17-0 to win the Eastern Intercollegiate Tennis Association and earn a bid to the NCAA tournament. It was the first time the Lions had gone undefeated in 81 years, and Columbia's first league tennis title since 1973. "From last in the Ivies to first in the Ivies the next year—I became an instant genius," Goswami said. "So I guess I've been blessed—lucky and blessed is the right word." The Lions lost in the first round of the national tournament, but that year signaled the beginning of an era of success for Light Blue tennis that has continued for 30 years. "I wish I could say that there was something that I found really tough, but I didn't," Goswami said. "Everything kind of fell into place. You have to be lucky a little bit." "I didn't have any coaching experience, I never played college tennis in this country, so how the heck did I get this job?" —Bid Goswami, head coach



FILE PHOTO

WITH A SMILE | Men's tennis head coach Bid Goswami brings a positive attitude to his 30th year of coaching. Haig Schneiderman said. "I always look forward to going to practice. He's good at taking things seriously without taking them too seriously." Schneiderman, the Lions' No. 1 singles player who is ranked No. 64 in the nation, is one of the many all-Ivy competitors that Goswami has cultivated. Goswami credits much of Columbia's success during his tenure to the talented players like Schneiderman whom he has coached. But Endelman said Goswami's coaching has had a large role in developing those players' abilities. "This job is less than 50 percent about tennis and much more about trying to get many different types of individuals with different goals and different aspirations to reach their potential as people, tennis being a part of that," Endelman said. "And I think he's the master of that." Both Schneiderman and Deb-Sen were part of the Lions' championship teams in 2009 and 2010, and with the Light Blue riding a nine-game win streak headed into conference play, both seniors are confident Goswami may win his ninth league title this spring. Goswami, the 2007 ITA Regional Coach of the Year, described his passion for both the sport and the Light Blue as unwavering, and he hopes this mentality will continue to make him an effective leader for his players. "That's, I think, the most important part—that it's not getting stale," he said.

Upsets and underdogs keep March Madness alive

CARUSO from back page

an exercise in futility—no one can ever be absolutely certain of the outcome of a game, let alone 63 of them. So why do we do it? Even though it can be crippling to the most faithful of fans, that uncertainty is a big part of why we love sports in the first place. As Andy Roddick put it after upsetting Roger Federer on Monday, "There is no script in sports, you know. I think that's what makes it the best entertainment in the world." Though this scriptlessness applies equally well to the adventures of Snooki and friends, it sometimes takes an event like March Madness to remind us that exercises in futility can be good for us, if for no other reason than that they remind us why we enjoy watching and playing sports in the first place. ESPN insists on reminding us early every March that it's "the season for upsets" (and for Dick Vitale yelling

at us about how we're in "Upset City, baby!"). Underdogs and upsets are the main appeal for a good portion of the people who follow the tournament, even at arm's length. Those people were not disappointed this year, as two second-seeded teams, Duke and Missouri, fell victim to two rarely threatening 15th-seeded teams, Lehigh and Norfolk State, respectively. We watch because we want a good underdog story, like we got with Virginia Commonwealth last year or George Mason in 2006, regardless of how detrimental it is to our brackets. And even for those who don't actually know anything about college sports, March Madness brackets serve as a not-so-gentle reminder of college basketball's existence and the excitement that comes along with it. I'm happy with the number of people on my Facebook newsfeed posting things like, "I'm rooting for Colorado because Baylor's uniforms are a gross color."

Maybe March Madness has succeeded in turning some of the country's less sports-inclined into fans, at least for a few weeks. That might even be true at Columbia. Many students have some vested interest in the tournament, often through a hometown team or two's presence in the field. I know that whenever the Minnesota Golden Gophers are in the tournament, I'm much more interested than if it's just another year where Duke, Kansas, UNC, and Kentucky are supposed to be in the Final Four. As fellow columnist Michele Cleary pointed out last week, we might even get to see the Light Blue represented in the ever-increasing field of 68 teams. But again, it's the uncertainty of next season that keeps it appealing. Tom Caruso is a Columbia College junior majoring in economics-mathematics. sports@columbiaspectator.com

Mysteries and mystique of March

As March and its madness come to a close, I can't help but feel reflective and a little confused, like I do every March. Every year, I fill out a bracket for the NCAA Tournament, and every year, I wonder how my mom—who routinely referred to my sports practices as “rehearsals” and my uniforms as “costumes”—seems to have picked a better bracket than me.

But it's not just an issue for me, as a well-informed but relatively passive fan of college basketball. Many diehard college basketball fans get so obsessed with the tournament that they've watched all of the Bracketology specials on ESPN and made extremely careful and well-thought-out picks for their entire bracket. Two weeks later, they're often quite embarrassed to find that they lost their office pool to that guy who asked them why the NCAA would let a Canadian team like UConn play in the tournament.

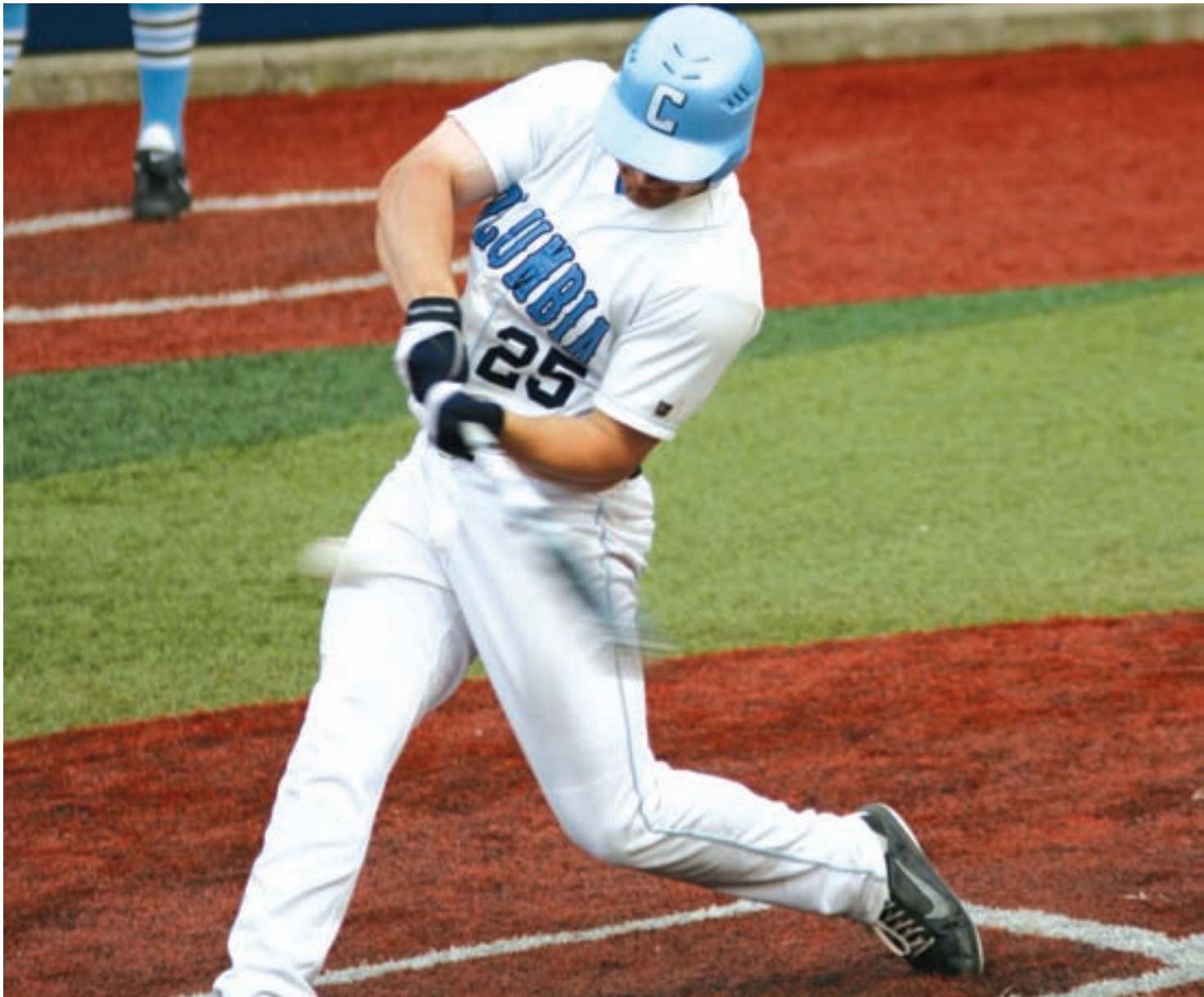
In eighth grade, when I was absolutely convinced that fourth-seeded Syracuse was the team to beat and I wanted some easy money, I remember covertly sneaking my bracket and five dollars to the guy running these 13-year-old shenanigans. Syracuse lost in the first round, and away went my five dollars and my pride.

As with all things sports gambling, choosing a bracket is

SEE CARUSO, page 9



TOM CARUSO
For the Record



HENRY WILSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

OFFENSIVE PROWESS | Sophomore Dario Pizzano hit 1-for-3 to help guide the Light Blue to a 7-5 victory over Army on Wednesday.

Lions extend winning streak as they head into Ivy play

BY MYLES SIMMONS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The wins keep coming for the Lions baseball team, which notched a 7-5 victory over a formidable opponent in Army (15-7) to improve their record to 6-13 on the season. This win was the third in a row for the Light Blue—just in time for Ivy play, which begins on Saturday. The Lions came out firing on all cylinders and scored

COLUMBIA	7
ARMY	5

five runs in the first inning and added two in the second—all the runs the Lions would need on a sunny Wednesday in Manhattan.

“We were fortunate to have an opportunity to put a five spot up in the first,” Lions head coach Brett Boretti said. “Their starting pitcher gave us some

base runners, and we had some guys step up and get some hits and knock in some runs early.”

The Light Blue never allowed Army's starting pitcher, Scott Lucado, to get comfortable, as senior Jon Eisen led off the bottom of that five-run first with a double. A few batters later, junior Nick Ferraresi scored Eisen with an RBI double of his own.

Four hit batters, one walk, one error, and one strikeout later,

Lucado had given up five runs, and was replaced by junior Ken Jackson after just two-thirds of an inning. Jackson, however, was able to induce a flyout from junior Eric Williams to end the bottom of the first for Army.

The second inning was better for the Lions against Jackson, though, as Ferraresi doubled and scored on junior Alex Black's double, and senior

SEE BASEBALL, page 9

Oxford match tests Lions without seniors

BY STEVEN LAU
Spectator Staff Writer

The Oxford Blues outlasted the Columbia men's soccer team in Wednesday night's international friendly, defeating the Lions 1-0 thanks to a second-half goal.

The Light Blue stuck close with Oxford for the first 45 minutes, but a well-placed strike midway through the second half and the Light Blue players' lack of fitness ultimately gave the Blues the win.

“For where we are in our training scheme over the course of a year, I think we're at a pretty good state,” head coach Kevin Anderson said. “We knew fitness would be what it was up to a certain minute in the game, and for us the difference in the game

COLUMBIA	0
OXFORD	1

was a restart.”

The Blues' breakthrough came on a corner kick with 22 minutes left in the match. The Lions were slow to set up defensively for the set piece and Oxford took advantage by playing the ball quickly to center midfielder Alex Biggs.

From just outside the penalty box, Biggs lofted a floater over the head of sophomore goalkeeper Michael Attal into the back of the net to give the Blues the one-goal advantage.

The Lions' best opportunity to tie it came just three minutes later, when two freshmen connected on the offensive end. Midfielder Mike Abraham sent

a cross from the right wing in to forward Greg Gudis, but Oxford's strong defensive backs prevented Gudis from getting a clean header and the ball bounced harmlessly wide.

Columbia had a few opportunities in the first half to take the lead, with freshman forward Kofi Agyapong taking several shots, but only a few times throughout the match did the Light Blue really challenge Oxford goalkeeper Tom Haigh.

“I don't think our issue was our strikers finishing, I think it was us creating opportunities with our strikers to finish,” Anderson said.

Although the end result was disappointing for the players, Anderson said he was happy

SEE SOCCER, page 9



KATE SCARBROUGH / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ACROSS THE POND | The Lions scheduled a friendly against Oxford during their offseason to see how the team would respond with the loss of seven seniors to graduation, but they fell 1-0.

30 years in, tennis coach going strong

BY STEVEN LAU
Spectator Staff Writer

In his 30th year as head coach of the men's tennis team, Bid Goswami boasts eight league titles, multiple coaching awards, and the 1978 Indian National Doubles title and the 1979 Singles title.

Yet despite his personal achievements and the winning culture he has built at Columbia, Goswami is humble and disarming.

On first meeting, his light-hearted jokes, big smile, and modesty seem out of place for someone who has accomplished so much. But those who know Goswami, like associate head coach Howard Endelman, CC '87, recognize that his easygoing personality is in many ways the reason for his success.

Endelman was part of Goswami's first recruiting class in 1983, and he still remembers his four years playing under the head coach as “the right amount of intensity combined with fun.”

For Goswami, fun and tennis have gone hand in hand since he began playing in his native home of Assam, India.

Because his father had connections with a manager of the British tea gardens where he lived, Goswami and his family were able to play tennis in the tea gardens on what Goswami recalls were the most beautifully manicured tennis courts he has ever seen.

“We used to go in a lot, and we got pretty good,” Gowsami said. “The managers and their kids,

SEE GOSWAMI, page 9

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