



PHOEBE LYTLE / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CATCHING A GLIMPSE | Harlem residents wait behind NYPD barriers to see President Obama enter Red Rooster for a fundraiser.

Lit Hum cheating sparks fresh scrutiny

BY MICA MOORE
Spectator Staff Writer

University officials are looking into a number of academic dishonesty cases involving Lit Hum students, according to an email sent to Columbia College first-years yesterday.

Literature Humanities chair and philosophy professor Christia Mercer wrote that several Lit Hum students were recently caught cheating on mid-term exams.

“One student was writing and letting another student copy,” Mercer told *Spectator*.

Students who have been caught cheating or plagiarizing papers, in accordance with academic policy, have failed the course. Judicial Affairs is currently processing some of these recent cases, according to Mercer.

“I don’t know if students are cheating more, I have no idea, but we are catching more cases of plagiarism,” Mercer said.

This increase has prompted additional scrutiny of the cheating and plagiarism policies in place around the Core course. Mercer and other deans, including Columbia College Dean Michele Moody-Adams, plan to meet and formulate a clearer policy for defining academic dishonesty to students.

“Lit Hum will be different next year,” Mercer said.

Some possible changes include a website to better explain plagiarism and a form being sent to professors outlining how to find plagiarizers, especially those taking advantage of technology like smartphones. Mercer said that younger Lit Hum professors are often more in tune with new technologies—meaning they’re more likely to catch students going to the bathroom and using their phones to Google passages in quote identification portions of exams.

Current anti-plagiarism policies include an Academic Honesty Form that students are required to sign at the beginning of each Lit Hum semester, which Mercer called “obviously insufficient.”

Lit Hum professor Kirsten

SEE PLAGIARISM, page 2

ROTC opponents angered by poll, perceived lack of safe space

BY CONSTANCE BOOZER
Spectator Staff Writer

The Muslim Students Association and the Coalition for a Military Free Campus hosted a town hall Tuesday night to discuss the ROTC’s potential return to Columbia, which the University Senate will begin to debate on Friday.

No one in attendance voiced support for a return of the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps, which has not been present at Columbia for more than 40 years. And although members of the coalition stated that they had heavily advertised the event, attendees were mostly coalition members, along with a handful of other students.

Those at the town hall, which was held at the Intercultural Resource House, blamed the low attendance on apathy following the closure of the ROTC survey that the University senate sent to five schools last month.

“It was very strategic how they had this survey. It gives a sense of closure to the student body, and it is increasingly hard after the survey to get people to care,” Daniela Garcia, CC ’11, said. “We are forced to organize these events to disseminate information to the public.”

Throughout the meeting, members stressed that the senate’s Task Force on Military Engagement, which sent out the poll and hosted a series of town hall events on ROTC, has not been transparent.

“Discussion was not fostered and people summarized opinion,” Jessie Stoolman, BC ’14, said. “We could ask [the] task force questions, but they didn’t have to answer us. You could email questions, but I am not aware of anyone getting a response.”

Attendees also said the task force was never objective in its handling of its discussion on ROTC, noting that astronomy professor and task force member Jim Applegate has been a vocal ROTC proponent, writing pro-ROTC op-eds in campus publications.

The task force compiled a 228-page report summarizing campus opinions of ROTC, but never made an endorsement. The University Senate will discuss a resolution supporting ROTC on Friday, with a vote likely taking place at its April 29 meeting.

Other coalition members discussed Columbia College Dean Michele Moody-Adams’ opening remarks at the second senate-sponsored town hall,

SEE ROTC, page 2

MAMA MEXICO



MARIA CASTEX / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

QUINCEAÑERA | Dee Greenwood and Jay Martin celebrate the 15-year anniversary of Mama Mexico at 102nd Street.

Fundraiser brings Obama to Harlem

Hundreds gather on 125th St. to catch glimpse of President

BY DAPHNE CHEN
Spectator Staff Writer

Harlem gave President Barack Obama a mixed, but mostly warm welcome on Tuesday night.

President Obama made the trip uptown for a fundraising dinner to support his reelection campaign—the first time he has been to Harlem since his election. And while the crowds of local residents were excited for a glimpse at the leader of the free world, some had their misgivings about the nature of his stop.

Barricades and trucks blocked the streets around Red Rooster for a block on all sides, keeping the hundreds gathered around from seeing most of the action at 125th and Lenox Avenue. The six-table dinner fundraiser for the Democratic National Committee cost \$30,800 a head. In an area that has intensely

supported Obama and where the median income is \$25,000, some in the crowd were vocal in their disapproval of Obama’s choice of venue.

“Harlem would be a good location if he was actually doing something for the community,” said recent San Francisco transplant Robert Moore. “But he has salt trucks blocking the community from even seeing him.”

Still, for many others the barricades were simply a source of excitement.

Tom Mariotti saw barricades set up along 125th Street on his way to work at 9 a.m. and wondered what they were for. At 7 p.m., he was waiting for the President to leave the restaurant.

“This event isn’t meant for everybody to go and dine with him,” Mariotti said. “Of course he chose Harlem, he’s the first

SEE OBAMA, page 2

Parents win fight for safer intersection

BY FINN VIGELAND
Spectator Staff Writer

When her two children cross West End Avenue in front of their elementary school every day, Carmen Santiago worries.

“The cars don’t always listen to the crossing guards,” Santiago said of the area between 95th and 96th streets in front of PS 75 Emily Dickinson.

But parents may soon see some relief after community organizations, including the Parent Teacher Association at Emily Dickinson, forced the city to pay attention to their concerns about the kids’ safety.

The Department of Transportation began making changes earlier this month, when they lengthened the leading green and yellow light’s duration from four to seven seconds. Last week, the DOT also installed “Wait to Walk” signs at all four corners and removed two parking spaces at the northwest corner of the intersection—a process known as daylighting—so that southbound drivers turning right toward West Side Highway could see pedestrians in the crosswalk.



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ROADBLOCKS | One block from the 96th Street subway station, above, parents have spoken out about a dangerous intersection.

The changes were necessary because of the school’s location on a corner with unusually fast-moving traffic.

“We’re right by the entrance/exit to the highway, and cars are anxious to get through the lights and turn,” PS 75 safety committee member Ronit Silverman said. “Drivers can’t really see a second-grader over the hood of their cars.”

Heavy foot traffic doesn’t

help things, PS 75 third grader Lariza Mejia said.

“There are a lot of people crossing at once, it’s hard to make your way through,” she said.

A senior living facility at 95th Street and West End also means that there is a high presence of senior citizens using the crosswalks, Silverman said—another population at risk from dangerous drivers.

SEE 96 STREET, page 2

Engineers select next generation of VPs

BY SONALEE RAU
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Engineering Student Council concluded its annual elections Monday night, voting in Frank Yin, SEAS ’12, as VP Intergroup; Audry Padgett, SEAS ’13, as VP Internal; and Sheila Misheni, SEAS ’14, as VP of Student Life.

The VP Intergroup contest was the most hotly contested race of the evening, featuring three candidates.

Yin had dropped out of the race prior to last week’s meeting, but re-entered last week, stating that hearing the presidential candidates speak had inspired him to keep running.

Yin ousted competitors Sidd Bhatt, SEAS ’14, who had experience serving on ESC’s Intergroup Council this past year, and Jim Huang, who brought outside experience serving on the Activities Board Council and co-chairing ESC events such as Glass House Rocks.

During his speech on Monday, Yin stated that his reason for pulling out initially was that he lacked the necessary

number of signatures to run. Yin admitted that his role last year as GSSC liaison was a relatively minor position, but stated that his experiences running a \$15,000 ledger as a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon, along with other community service work he has done, qualified him for a higher leadership post.

The VP Internal race was one of the fastest elections in ESC history, and Padgett was announced as the winner.

His vision for the coming year includes building a sense of community among Columbia students.

“In order to bring students together, we need to begin with student groups,” Yin said.

The VP Internal competition, unlike the VP Intergroup race, was one of the fastest elections in ESC history—Padgett was announced as the winner after just a few seconds.

Padgett ran unopposed and expressed support for Yin’s platform. She proposed free coffee sessions in Mudd, where engineers could mingle and discuss ideas and classes, as one goal for her year in office.

“I was thinking on a monthly basis [about] reaching out to our constituency,” Padgett said.

Misheni, who was elected VP of Student Life, had given a speech last week but discussion about her candidacy was deferred, as too few votes were cast in her favor last week.

After discussion this week Misheni became the first and only freshman elected to the executive board this year.

The newly elected members join Nate Levick, SEAS ’12, next year’s ESC President, and Logan Donovan, SEAS ’13, VP Policy for 2011-2012.

sonalee.rau@columbiaspectator.com

OPINION, PAGE 4

SAT questions

Amanda Gutterman asks how College Board can serve us better.

A break from breaks

There’s a better time for free time.



SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Baseball faces final test before start of Ivy Play

The Lions will go on the road to take on Monmouth this afternoon. Columbia will look to pick up some momentum heading into Saturday’s crucial doubleheader against Dartmouth.

EVENTS

After Don’t Ask Don’t Tell: “Now what?”

A discussion about post-Don’t Ask Don’t Tell military life, hosted by SIPA Veteran’s Association.

411 IAB, 8-9 p.m.

The Encyclopedia of New York City celebration

Prof. Kenneth T. Jackson and Lisa Keller will discuss the second edition of their best-selling book.

Faculty House, Room 1, 6-8 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



51°/38°

Tomorrow



49°/36°

Administration weighs options in war on cheats

PLAGIARISM
from front page

Lodge said in an email that she currently tries to prevent academic dishonesty by discussing paper topics face-to-face.

“I have suspected plagiarism a few times over the past five years or so, but I have never proven it,” she said—adding that the problem has spread wide enough to reach even the Lit Hum instructors themselves.

“It is interesting, that I, an instructor of Lit Hum, have received a couple of emails advertising Lit Hum papers for sale!” Lodge said.

In the email sent to first-years, Mercer said students who engage in academic dishonesty “taint the intellectual environment for all of us.”

But among some students, there was an awareness that cheating is widespread and attitudes are ambivalent. Sara Lavenhar, CC ’14, explained that she thinks other students see a difference between cheating in Lit Hum and in a class for their major.

“There’s a lot of pressure, people are taking a lot of hard classes, and since Lit Hum is a required course, a lot of people probably feel that it’s something they can

blow off a little bit,” she said, adding that this may be an especially common sentiment among non-humanities majors.

Lavenhar agreed that cheating shouldn’t be tolerated at Columbia.

“I don’t know if students are cheating more ... but we are catching more cases of plagiarism.”

—Christia Mercer,
Literature Humanities
chair

“If you have to cheat while you’re here, you probably cheated a little bit to get here, which is unreasonable and you don’t belong at this school,” she said.

Malida Tadesse, CC ’14 said she thought students who resort to cheating are just feeling the pressure.

“There’s a pretty high standard in Lit Hum, just the fact that

the course is really old, and so you feel this pressure to write a paper that’s going to reach that threshold,” Tadesse said.

One problem Mercer wants to tackle is the reluctance of faculty to talk about academic dishonesty.

“Talking about cheating really makes people uncomfortable,” Mercer said. “I think it’s easy for faculty not to be attentive because they want to trust in their students.”

Columbia College has historically been tight-lipped about its plagiarism numbers, declining to release statistics on academic dishonesty. Last semester, Barnard noted that the number of reported cases of academic dishonesty rose to 30 in the 2009-2010 academic year from 12 in 2008-2009. Eleven of the 30 reported cases last year involved first-year students.

Although Mercer’s email caught the attention of many first-year students, Jon Hoffman, CC ’14 said he’s unsure how it will effect the problem.

“People have always cheated and will continue to cheat, so I don’t know how much it’s really going to do,” Hoffman said.

Melanie Broder contributed reporting.

mica.moore
@columbiaspectator.com

DOT works to make 96th St. safer for students

96 STREET from front page

“The onus shouldn’t be on the families who have to walk the streets,” Silverman said.

The city’s changes are a result of the school’s PTA, which worked with Community Board 7, the DOT, the NYPD and transportation advocacy group Upper West Side Streets Renaissance to

create a street safety committee to evaluate the intersection.

UWSSR community organizer Tila Duhaime said she hopes the longer light will deter drivers, frustrated at the quick change from green and yellow to red, from making illegal left turns on a red light.

Drivers “are focused on getting onto the highway and

behaving as though they’re already there,” Duhaime said, so they will often run the red light to turn toward the highway, endangering the pedestrians crossing 96th Street.

DOT deputy press secretary Monty Dean said the DOT plans to continue working to resolve the safety issues.

“We have inspected this location and are making several improvements,” Dean said in an email. “We will continue to monitor conditions here and work with the NYPD and the local community to address concerns.”

Andrew Albert, co-chair of the CB7 transportation committee, said that their committee and the DOT will also study the effectiveness of countdown timers and red-light cameras, which snap photos of cars who run lights.

The cameras were installed along West End a few years ago, Albert said, but are broken now.

These structural changes will augment the work of the school crossing guards, Duhaime said.

“Whenever cars are in competition with pedestrians, the ‘peds’ lose every time,” she said.

finn.vigeland
@columbiaspectator.com



HEAVY TRAFFIC | PS 75 must contend with heavy traffic from the Westside Highway entrance in front of its crosswalks.

Harlem residents voice mixed feelings on Obama

OBAMA from front page

black president, he’s in New York, there’s no reason not to be here. It’s a perfect location, a nice restaurant, and he’s raising money. I support him 100 percent. He has the toughest job in the country, maybe the world.”

Obama arrived at about 6:30 p.m., taking a roundabout Fifth Avenue route in a black SUV, waving to onlookers from behind a tinted window.

Strolling around outside of the restaurant was Dan Chevreux, 12, the son of restaurant consultant Alain Chevreux, who was part of the crowd that dined with Obama.

“They’re in the basement,” he said. “They won’t let me in, but people are really excited.”

Harlem-born resident Ron Grantt waited since 2 p.m. to see Obama and said she understood the purpose of dinner.

“He has his reasons,” Grantt said. “He needs to gather funds. He’s not a rich person like Bloomberg, and he wants a select crowd to support him. There’s a great feeling that the black vote was what got him over during the election, and by him not coming back to say thank you, it doesn’t sit well, but I understand. I have to give him the benefit of the doubt.”

Harlem resident Thomas Carswell agreed.

“I don’t have any problem with it whether it’s done at the Waldorf Astoria or in Harlem. I wish it was \$50,000 or \$100,000,” he said.

The price to enter the event—\$30,800—is also the maximum amount that a donor can



PHOEBE LYTLE / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WAITING GAME | NYPD officers blocked traffic before the President arrived, keeping Michole Brown from getting home.

give to a national political party.

There was another reason for the choice of Red Rooster, which opened in December 2010: its owner Marcus Samuelsson is the celebrity chef who also presided as chef at Obama’s first White House state dinner.

Protestors included James David Manning, the controversial pastor of the All The Land Anointed Holy World Missionary Church, who stood outside the restaurant with about 50 protestors behind him in a straight line, silently holding signs.

But others were quick to denounce those seeking to malign Obama.

“I disapprove of the way they are going about things,” said 61-year-old Thomas Carswell, on the opposite side of Manning and his supporters. “He’s our president! This is a man of God and he should get more respect.”

Afterward, Obama left to give what DNC officials described as a thank-you speech at the Studio Museum in Harlem.

Resident Barbara Stanley captured the cynical but hopeful view that many in Harlem expressed, quipping dryly, “Maybe he’ll come out the subway.”

daphne.chen
@columbiaspectator.com

After poll ends, anti-ROTC coalition meets again

ROTC from front page

which many interpreted as expressing support for ROTC.

“It hindered a safe space of people expressing opinion,” Stoolman said. “I felt extremely awkward and could not grasp the situation, that the administrator who came before me would be endorsing ROTC at the beginning. This task force was meant to be a neutral body and just inform us and give us safe spaces to talk in. Yet, the people forming a safe space obviously had an agenda.”

Moody-Adams has maintained that she did not take a position in her remarks.

Coalition members said that they have had to work hard to inform students about ROTC—by setting up tables on

College Walk, for example—in the absence of other sources of information.

“It’s absurd that students have to disseminate information on ROTC,” Zoe Willmott, BC ’12, said.

They also criticized the task force for not including the entire Columbia population in its survey, which was sent to students in Columbia College, the School for Engineering and Applied Science, Barnard College, the School of General Studies, and the School of International and Public Affairs.

“Conversation is not taking place on other campuses in any shape or form and we can’t even vote,” said Iesha Wadala, a second year graduate student at the Mailman School of Public Health.

Senate task force members

have said that the poll was only sent to five schools because the entire University population is so large that Columbia’s computing department was unable to create a poll that would reach all of it. The task force chose to send the poll to the five schools that have had off-campus ROTC cadets in the past five years.

“The whole process has been really rushed in that way,” Willmott said. “Listen to our concerns and postpone it for another year.”

“I think it is very alienating,” Camilla Daniels, BC ’13, said. “If it [a vote] does get pushed in the next couple of weeks, it would destruct any type of community I feel in Columbia.”

constance.boozer
@columbiaspectator.com



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ALYSON GOULDEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BROMANCE | Columbia tennis standouts Haig Schneiderman and Rajeev Deb-Sen have helped bring two Ivy League championships to Morningside Heights during their first three years at Columbia.

Schneiderman, Deb-Sen partnership dates back to middle school math class

TENNIS from page 6

I was right. They turned out to be good players and team players.”

Their impact was felt right away, as Schneiderman and Deb-Sen played terrificly at No. 5 and 6 single respectively, going a combined 22-8 throughout the spring, and 11-3 in the Ivies, where Schneiderman was named the Ivy League Rookie of the Year, after going 6-1.

“We had a lot of good upperclassman so we were motivated to practice a lot,” said Schneiderman. “So we played a lot of tennis, at the expense of our schoolwork.”

“Our freshman year, we were really close,” said Deb-Sen. “We took classes together, skipped classes together, we practiced extra and went in on weekends, went early to practice together, we were really motivated together freshman year.”

“Look, the two of them at No. 5 and 6 won us an Ivy as freshmen,” said Goswami directly.

Deb-Sen explained that the sudden changes in college brought the pair closer together.

“It’s such a new thing, it’s always nice to have a familiar face and for Haig and me, it wasn’t a familiar face, it was someone I’ve been so close with for so long,” he said.

Schneiderman attributes another factor to their growing friendship.

“We both love to play,” said Schneiderman. “If one of us didn’t like to play..”

The pair’s friendship has grown over the years through their proximity to each other as well.

“He was a floor above me in John Jay,” said Deb-Sen. “Sophomore year we were neighbors in McBain and this year we’re neighbors in Broadway.”

But before that?
“I just moved but we’ve always been like two blocks from each other,” said Deb-Sen. “We’ve seen a lot of each other, played a lot of video games.”

The pair began to blossom into leaders on the team sophomore year.

“We had Jon [Wong] and Mihai [Nichifor],” said Schneiderman. “But we were like the second-in-command.”

“We work really well together in terms of what we think will make the team better,” said Deb-Sen. “As we’ve gotten older and more experienced with this whole scene we were able to, as Haig said, to take more of a leadership role.”

The pair continued its strong play in singles in the spring, going a combined 24-11 and helping lead the Lions to another Ivy title with Schneiderman at No. 3 and Deb-Sen at No. 5.

Schneiderman and Deb-Sen have

expanded their contribution to the team, playing doubles together for the first time in college, having played together sporadically as junior tennis players.

“I remember we did really well when we were 14,” said Schneiderman.

“The one thing I distinctly remember playing doubles with Haig is that we had a really hard time focusing,” said Deb-Sen. “We were good, but we would just start joking around and fooling around. I remember we played this match, and we were up 6-1 and we lost because we completely started messing around, and I think we both made a vow that we’re not playing doubles together.”

Now that they are playing No. 3 doubles for an Ivy title contender, the pair isn’t joking around as much anymore.

“We both return well, we both have good serves, and we’re playing No. 3 doubles so it’s not like every other team you’re playing is going to rip you off the court,” said Schneiderman. “We’re both good enough that we can dictate at No. 3 doubles.”

“We know each other’s game so well, it works really well,” Deb-Sen said. “The last two years I’ve been playing doubles with other people, and I feel much more comfortable. I know how he feels about certain shots, I know what he likes to do, what he doesn’t like to do.”

“I know what shot Rajeev is going to miss,” chimed in a smiling

Schneiderman.

Associate head coach Howard Endelman noted that the duo’s chemistry has contributed to their success.

“They have a mutual trust going back since they were young kids,” Endelman said. “A lot of times they know what the other guy is thinking which is a good thing on the doubles court. In doubles, it’s not only the tennis part, but it’s the chemistry. They genuinely like each other.”

Both have had up-and-down seasons so far, with Schneiderman, now playing No. 1 singles, missing most of the fall with a back injury, and Deb-Sen struggling through a losing streak that stretched from September through early March. Through it all, Goswami notes the attitude of his players.

“Both of these guys are true Columbia tennis guys,” said Goswami. “When the going is bad, they fight and keep their head high and do everything to make our team better. Two local guys, and hopefully they’ll have a lot more wins on their racket.”

But with two competitive players, who would win most of their matches?

“He was usually winning,” Deb-Sen said of Schneiderman. “I think at one point I might have been on a winning streak against him, but most of the time Haig was edging me out.”

So how have two players managed to

stay friends for this long while always competing in an individual sport?

“It was much harder when we were younger,” Deb-Sen said. “We were young and immature and it’s hard to differentiate between friendship and competing because we both want the same thing. We were both working together to get there and sometimes we were in each other’s way, but I think we did a really good job. We never fought.”

“I’m a lot more quiet than he is,” Schneiderman said. “So maybe opposites attract. I think it’s really more out of the common enjoyment of playing.”

But can two rivals in tennis really be that friendly and be at the top of their games? Head coach Goswami certainly thinks so.

“Look at Federer and Nadal,” Goswami said, referring to two of the world’s top-ranked tennis players. “Those guys are pretty nice.”

In addition to focusing on defending the team’s Ivy title this spring, Deb-Sen and Schneiderman are looking forward to next spring as well, where as seniors, they will try to add yet another ring to their collection.

“It’s going to be such an exciting year,” said Deb-Sen. “Being captains in Bid’s 30th year and with a great class coming in and being captains with Haig, it’s just going to be a great way to end our college careers.”



KATE SCARBROUGH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

EYE ON EISEN | Having attempted 10 stolen bases, Jon Eisen has followed Columbia’s aggressive gameplan so far this season.

Lions look to stay aggressive and focus on one game at a time

BASEBALL from page 3

in pitcher’s counts and generally putting the ball in play. Boretti wants the Lions to take a more aggressive hitting approach when it comes to the Monmouth matchup.

“I think we need to do a better job with two-strike hitting and putting the ball in play to put more pressure on other teams to make plays,” Boretti said. Because game simulations are a dominant feature of the Light Blue’s practice routine, these issues are sure to be addressed. “In practice we will work on bunting and two-strike approach,” Boretti said.

The Monmouth Hawks have had a similar season to the Lions up to this point. Both teams haven’t set noticeable trends thus far, winning and losing by margins of all sizes. In their last game, the Hawks fell to Saint Peter’s College, 8-5, on Tuesday afternoon. The Hawks recorded nine hits and walked five times, however, showing that even when defeated they don’t lack in offensive production. To limit its opponent’s base-runners, Columbia will need to be on their toes on defense. Thus far in the season, Monmouth is known to play small ball, hitting mostly singles and running deep counts.

One strategy that the Lions plan to continue to utilize is an emphasis on their running game. Columbia was fortunate to have a scouting report on the Holy Cross catcher this past weekend, indicating his weak arm and near total inability to throw out base stealers. Although this may not be the case on Wednesday, the Lions don’t anticipate altering their approach. “Our plan is to play our game,” Boretti said. “Our game is to be aggressive on the base paths. I and our guys don’t intend on changing that.”

Because it can be difficult and unconstructive to plan ahead in a sport like baseball, the Lions consistently keep their main goal simple: focus on the present. Thoughts of conference matchups will dilute the focus on the here and now. “We take it one game at a time,” Boretti said. “There is no focus on Dartmouth or Harvard right now. Every game is important to our team and we want to win every game just as much as the Ivy games. You compete as best as you can every time—there is no difference.”

Fans may be anxiously looking forward to the weekend, but this “stay in the moment” attitude that Columbia champions aids in its success. First pitch is scheduled for this afternoon at 3:30 p.m.



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ADDRESS & EMAIL

Columbia Spectator
2875 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10025
info@columbiaspectator.com

PHONE & FAX

Daily Spectator (212) 854-9549
Business (212) 854-9550
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A test for College Board

This past Friday, College Board President Gaston Caperton announced his resignation, effective in 2012. As the search begins for his replacement, the organization has a responsibility to its consumers to look for different qualities in the next president. Caperton, who began his career running an insurance brokerage firm, served as Governor of West Virginia, and also founded and headed Columbia's Institute on Education and Government. Since 1999, when Caperton accepted the position at College Board, the organization that offers the most popular standardized tests including the AP and the SAT has rapidly expanded, in what a New York Times article called "a period of enormous growth." Over 7 million students take College Board tests each year, a figure that has nearly tripled under Caperton's watch. This number is truly staggering when we consider that there were 3.2 million high school graduates in 2009, many of whom were not bound for college. These figures suggest that a great majority of—if not almost all—college applicants now find it necessary to take a College Board test.

Along with enormous growth have come enormous profits. The most recent records available from 2007 show a profit of \$55 million, from which Caperton drew a near million-dollar salary. Americans for Educational Testing Reform, an organization that explores issues of fairness in standardized testing, writes that the College Board's 9.5% profit "would be respectable for a for-profit



AMANDA GUTTERMAN

The Far Side of the Familiar

company," but that "when a non-profit company is earning those profits, something is wrong." AETR is hardly alone in its criticism of College Board—with these ex-orbitant profits, it has abused its tax-exempt status as a non-profit organization, and it has formed a monopoly out of the educational establishment such that consumers have no choice but to buy its product.

Since we are those consumers, college students have a responsibility to fully evaluate the product and its effects. The most popular criticism of tests like the SAT is that they serve to entrench social distinctions more deeply in our society, as there is a strong correlation between financial privilege and test performance. Professional tutoring industries have blossomed as the SAT and AP have increased in importance for college admission—services that are expensive and available to few. The famous regatta question captures the tension between social class and SAT performance: Students were asked to find an analogy for "runner" and "marathon." The correct answer was the pair "oarsman" and "regatta." Can a junior at an underfunded inner city high school be expected to identify crew-racing terminology? The analogy section was eventually phased out of the test, but the question of inequality still stands at the center of the SAT debate.

It is important to mention that the SAT, and with it the College Board itself, was formed in 1900 with the explicit intention of helping to level the playing field for applicants of different socioeconomic backgrounds. Almost all Ivy League attendees were wealthy white males, the children and grandchildren of others like themselves. After all, what was there to go on before the SAT? Grades must have varied between high schools as they do now. In this light, standardized testing can be seen as a Progressive-era innovation to shift the college admissions process from its emphasis on legacy and privilege toward an ideal of personal merit. But how, under the oversight of Caperton and his predecessors, has College Board strayed from this founding principle?

Reconsider the calendar

BY YLENA ZAMORA-VARGAS

Let's get real. As college students, we're usually dissatisfied with something about our college experience. We'll tirelessly rant that food in college is terrible, the weather is too cold and depressing, and our classes are too challenging. Now, after both winter and spring breaks have passed and the weather grows warmer, I keep thinking about how our academic calendar should be restructured.

The setup we have now isn't exactly horrible. But as college students, it's hard not to evaluate what is and what should be. Are our semesters asphyxiating because there aren't enough holidays to allow for fresh air? Is there a better way to distribute our days off?

The single week of spring break, for example, doesn't seem to offer enough of a palate cleanser between exams and papers. Adding an extra week might allow our vacation to overlap with our friends' at other colleges, without letting us sink into the summer mindset just yet. Or maybe just having a couple of four-day weekends during the spring semester would be a better use of our free time.

Though winter break is the longest and most longed-for college break, a huge stretch of open time doesn't exactly help make a better academic calendar. While it's true that most college students eagerly look forward to winter break as a welcome respite from their college lives, once students have been able to recover from final exams and holiday activities are over, breaks seems to be filled with days of idleness. This begs the question: is winter break too long?

I would venture to say yes. Cutting a week out of winter break and redistributing the days more usefully throughout the semester—when we're all exhausted and really

need them—would be a more effective use of our time.

As my French Professor, Vincent Aurora, put it, "It's four weeks of forced inactivity where there is nothing to do. It's so much more useful to get back to work earlier and take some days off when work is piling up, like during late February or early March, when midterms are piling up."

Is winter break too long?

There are various possibilities, but the point is that four weeks is a long time, and after the initial holiday cheer, the days drag on while we wait for the spring semester to get rolling. Furthermore, the reason behind the month-long winter break seems to have been an economical one. Back in the 1970s, painfully high oil prices spiked heating costs. Private institutions realized they could reduce spending if they kept their doors closed for a full month during the winter holidays.

So here we are, continuing a trend of the past. While heating costs won't be any more reduced over time, four weeks gives us too much time to recharge between semesters—time off that might be more usefully distributed and ultimately productive if it were taken elsewhere in the calendar year. Although it seems bizarre that sleep-deprived students would grumble about winter break being a bit excessive, it's not entirely uncommon, nor is it ungrateful. We're not saying that we don't appreciate the buffer days in between semesters, but that we'd rather not have them all at once. Instead, we should disperse the days from reconfiguring winter break more sporadically throughout the year.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in mathematics.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Campus culture? ID required

It's a given that college students drink. College neighborhoods, including Morningside Heights, cater their door policies to college-age students—many of whom are underage. Whether illegal or not, drinking is an integral part of a collegiate atmosphere, even at a school like Columbia.

Though illegal for underage students, alcohol consumption in college is generally perceived by students to be a safe practice without legal implications. Few students are reprimanded by the administration for drinking, and even fewer suffer the consequences of the law.

This relative sense of security, however, was dispelled when a Columbia College sophomore was arrested for allegedly ordering 42 fake IDs online. It must be noted that the arrested student's circumstances were different from those of a freshman gaining entrance to Campo with a fake ID. He ordered 42 IDs with the intention to profit, if only marginally.

Nevertheless, his arrest is tangible evidence of the disparity between law and practice in the American collegiate experience.

The drinking age stands in contrast with the cultural reality that most college students—Columbians included—drink. Drinking in college is generally considered acceptable; students and professors alike joke about the fact that most students drink on the weekends even though they are underage. Even student groups hold events and fundraisers at establishments that require IDs for entry. But according to law, this cultural phenomena of underage drinking (with a fake ID) is not only unacceptable, it is an illegal act with serious consequences. Indeed, the consensus

among college students is that not only are fake IDs innocuous, they are also necessary to participate in campus culture.

It is troubling and problematic that we live in a society that requires us to break the law if we wish to take full part in its culture. To think that every student who enters Mel's on a weekend with a fake ID is a criminal marks a serious disparity between our laws and our culture—whether or not we think that this culture is exemplary.

Columbia's administration and our legal system have dealt with this discrepancy differently. While Columbia certainly does not endorse underage drinking, it has recognized that it is an unavoidable part of college life. The administration has responded pragmatically in its attempt to teach students how to drink responsibly with its Alcohol.edu program—an online course that all first-years must successfully pass before the start of the term. Students are not turned in to the authorities for drinking, nor do Resident Advisors frequently reprimand students for having small quantities of alcohol in their rooms. These responses demonstrate that the university, unlike our legal system, sees underage drinking as a problem only insofar as it affects students' health and disrupts other students' lives.

Whether the ethos of drinking that dominates most American universities is detrimental or not, the recent incident involving the student's arrest has reminded us that underage drinking—though culturally acceptable and socially mainstream—is still criminal by law. It may be too much to expect from our lawmakers, but having rules that reflect the reality of the college experience would benefit students, the legal system, and society as a whole.



JEREMY BLEEKE

Debating for a better life

BY ALEX SMYK, KRISTEN ALLISON, AND NIDHI HEBBAR

Columbia University boasts countless successful current and former debaters. Each can testify that in a fiercely competitive round, it's far too easy to get wrapped up in the minutiae—in the obscure statistics, multi-layered arguments, and rapid-fire speaking. Too often, the question that remains unaddressed is the most fundamental to the activity of debate itself: How do the teams—winners and losers—benefit from being there? Few debaters pause to appreciate the life skills they have attained beyond the results of any single tournament.

Debaters have abilities that the public education system cannot possibly instill. They are ingeniously creative, having learned how to think within the flexible realm of discourse rather than within the rigid structure of essay rubrics. They also learn how to manipulate and defend their arguments more fluidly. When a teacher hands back a persuasive essay, he or she lists a commentary on the weaknesses of the written piece, and the assignment is over, no questions asked, and little benefit is gained by the writer. In debate, on the other hand, contentions are broken down by opponents during the round through questions and refutations. Debaters have the chance to respond immediately and learn how to interact with analytical frameworks more fluidly. Debaters also learn how to handle contentious public issues in an eloquent manner; a student who has debated affirmative action likely has a better grasp on the intricate ways of discussing the topic.

These lessons are beyond what even the public schools with the best resources in the country can offer. Now imagine the huge percentage of schools around the nation that have inexperienced teachers, few classroom materials, and sparse student attendance.

This brings us to the second question that debaters don't always consider: how they actually get to the round that they are contending in. Many don't truly appreciate the layers of staffing, bureaucratic work, and costs associated with debate tournaments. They simply take for granted the existence of entire debate leagues and regular national competitions. In fact, Columbia students in general too often take the opportunities they have had throughout their lives as givens: "Of course I grew up with a computer in my home and textbooks in my school. Obviously I have a stable family life and the lights stay on." It is truly hard for us to imagine a world without the fundamentals

The intensified relationship between big business and education, embodied by College Board, is most dangerous where a single organization's interest in profit has a determinative effect on what is taught in schools. Almost all College Board revenue comes from fees that schools, programs, and individuals pay for testing. So if certain subjects are more widely taught, then there will be a greater demand from schools for testing in those subjects. The College Board makes a fortune off of popular tests and loses money selling unpopular tests. Because of this, in 2008 College Board made a logical business decision to eliminate AP tests in several subjects including Italian, Latin Literature, and French Literature. Here, normal business practices translated into a bad decision for education. The effect was to send the message to schools that these subjects are not important to teach. Elvira G. DiFabio, Harvard's director of undergraduate studies in Italian, was quoted in the *Crimson* as saying in response, "They're taking everything away from Italian." As high school Italian programs shut down, students in college were less prepared, and also less likely, to pursue Italian. The same goes for French and Latin, which have remained discontinued. Gradually the effect of these cancellations, these business practices, could be to streamline what young people learn and cut vital subject matter out of school curricula.

As president of College Board, Gaston Caperton made an effort to reach out to lower-income students to reap the benefits of standardized tests in line with the organization's original mission, but he let integral subjects slip through the cracks. As the search begins for his successor, College Board should be mindful of the best interests of its consumers—we, the students. Otherwise, money cannot begin to cover the cost.

Amanda Gutterman is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in English with a French concentration. The Far Side of the Familiar runs alternate Wednesdays.

that we view every day.

Again, a bit of introspection is in order. Although it's difficult to imagine a world without everyday commodities, we must.

Youth for Debate (YFD), one of the most impactful and rapidly-growing community service groups at Columbia, was founded by debaters and students who realized that success begets the responsibility of sharing with others with the ability to succeed. YFD has a pivotal mission: to empower the underprivileged youth of New York City to advocate for themselves—in the classroom, on the job, and in every day interactions—through free instruction in public speaking and debate.

The statistics speak for themselves. Debaters are more likely to achieve better grades, a college education, and secure jobs. YFD lessons and outreach champion a far more profound impact than just producing good debaters—YFD aims to produce life skills and academic ambition. In fact, in many ways, debate forms the foundation for a range of knowledge; mathematical proofs progress in the same logical manner as arguments, effective writing has roots in rhetorical devices, and discourse on interpretations of historical events connect with debate. We firmly believe that students must learn how to debate before they can master other disciplines.

YFD reaches out to middle and high schools across the city to bring public speaking education to their students, through extracurricular programs or supplementing existing classroom instruction. While catering programs to each school's needs, YFD sends volunteers to lead weekly lessons. Each YFD member can agree that by the end of the semester, this weekly obligation becomes a worthwhile endeavor—it is easy to see the growth in critical thinking, articulation, and self-confidence that each student gains from exposure to public speaking.

The most valuable work of YFD, however, is in building bridges between two communities—Columbia University and the greater NYC public school system. Every semester, YFD brings its students to Columbia to experience live debates between YFD volunteers and to tour the campus, providing one vision of a possible future. Through these activities, YFD is pioneering a model in which Columbia University is not merely a looming ivory tower, allocating its resources and operating from afar. Instead, the tower collapses, the gates open, and the high school classroom extends to the lawns of the Upper West Side.

Alex Smyk is a Columbia College first-year. He is a Spectator Sales Deputy. Kristen Allison is a SEAS junior majoring in chemical engineering. Nidhi Hebbar is a Columbia College junior majoring in Economics. They are all members of YFD.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Beginning for the birds?

4 Shaq on the court

9 Beat ___ to one's door

14 Vietnam Veterans Memorial architect

15 Ramadi resident

16 Local cinemas, colloquially

17 Whip-cracking cowboy of old films

19 Weight room sound

20 Venetian arch shape

21 Ethel, to Lucy

23 Canyon-crossing transport

26 Fridge raider

28 Hong Kong harbor craft

29 Field for the fold

31 Remote power sources?

32 Thing to blow off

34 Sign before Scorpio

35 Sky blue

38 Postgrad hurdle

40 "Cosmos" host

41 Lotto relative

42 Assure, with "up"

43 Titan is its largest moon

48 Most foxy

50 Landmass encompassing the Urals

51 Wax-filled illumination

54 Bombast

55 Artist's topper

56 Victor's chuckle

59 Conductor Previn

60 Came up

61 Sargasso or Coral

62 Parks and others

63 Zellweger of "Chicago"

64 Prince Valiant's son

4 Van Gogh work

5 Gun lobby org.

6 Ahead of time

7 Shade in the Caribbean

8 Bank holding

9 Saxon start

10 Chute above the beach

11 Persian Gulf emirate

12 Like some mortgages

13 DOE predecessor

18 Rope fiber

22 Paternity proof, briefly

24 Mud nest builders

25 Naysayer

27 It surrounds Lesotho; Abbr.

29 '80s-'90s legal drama, and this puzzle's title

30 The Daily Beast, e.g.

33 To be, to Brutus

34 Like the Islamic calendar

35 Refs' whistle holders

36 Natural burn balm

37 Pitts of "The Gale Storm Show"

38 Signs off on

39 Chile ___ stuffed Mexican dish

42 N.L. team managed by Tony La Russa since 1996

44 Scarlett's home

45 World Cup chant

46 Horseshoes feat

47 Revolutionary Hale

49 Fully fills

50 Hewlett-Packard rival

52 Banned orchard spray

53 Full-grown filly

55 Setting for many a joke

57 Taoist Lao-___

58 Majors in acting

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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DOWN

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2 Cais's competitor

3 Tailor's measure

By James Spinks
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KATE SCARBROUGH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NICK THE QUICK | Outfielder Nick Cox earned his second Ivy Player of the Week award this season after he batted .625, stole five bases, and scored eight runs this weekend.

Columbia takes on Monmouth in final tune-up before Ivy play

BY MOLLY TOW
Spectator Staff Writer

With the beginning of Ivy League play is looming, but the Lions have one final midweek road game to refine their skills, build their confidence and prepare themselves for the pair of Ivy doubleheaders they will host this weekend.

To finish out nonconference competition before beginning Ancient

Eight play, the Columbia baseball team (9-8) will travel to New Jersey on Wednesday to face Monmouth University (9-10).

The Lions went 2-2 this past weekend in their home opening series against Holy Cross. In both doubleheaders, the Light Blue fell in the first contest but claimed victory to end each day. Even though the Light Blue would have preferred to take the series, head coach Brett Boretti

feels that the team's mindset remains strong and optimistic.

"The team's mentality is great—Holy Cross is a tough team and battle hard," Boretti said. "They came with a lot of energy and we did not match that energy is game one. Games 2-4 we fought harder and showed more life."

Although the Light Blue suffered two losses, they were edged out by just one run on both occasions, and never enabled Holy Cross to go on a

significant scoring tear. On the other hand, Columbia's victories were by much greater margins: 10 runs on Saturday and four runs on Sunday.

"We only gave up 11 runs in four games," Boretti said. "If we do that every weekend, I feel good about our chances to be successful."

One aspect that the Lions struggled with against Holy Cross was hitting

SEE BASEBALL, page 3

SOFTBALL

Lions take nightcap to split doubleheader

In the Columbia softball team's final tune-up before beginning league play on Friday, the Lions split a doubleheader with Manhattan on Tuesday afternoon at Gaelic Park in Riverdale, N.Y. The Lady Jaspers (9-14) narrowly defeated the Lions (8-15) by a score of 3-1 in the first game, while Columbia came back with a 4-1 victory in the nightcap.

The Lions scored in the very first inning of the twin bill when senior second baseman Karen Tulig stroked an RBI double to center-field. Columbia held the lead until the fourth inning, when starting pitcher senior Maggie Johnson made her only mistake of the game, allowing a three-run home run to freshman second baseman Kate Bowen.

Those were the only runs Johnson would allow, but it was enough for Manhattan to hold on for the win. The Lions had opportunities to come back at the plate, but could not deliver in the clutch, leaving eight players on base throughout the course of the seven-inning affair.

Columbia avenged the opening loss with a win in game two, in which the Lions tallied a season-high 15 hits. In the first four innings of the contest, the Lions accumulated eight hits, but failed to push a run across. Columbia stranded 12 players on base.

Game one's starter, Johnson, who played as the designated hitter in the nightcap, blasted a two-run home run that gave the Lions a lead in the fifth inning that they would not relinquish.

Freshman starting pitcher Prophet Gaspard was dominant against the Lady Jaspers, just one run on two hits and striking out five in her complete game victory. She held Manhattan hitless through the first four innings.

Columbia will look to keep the momentum from its game-two win, when it takes on Dartmouth to open up Ivy League play. First pitch of Friday's doubleheader is scheduled for 2 p.m. at Baker Field.

—Ryan Young



FILE PHOTO

GOING YARD | Senior Maggie Johnson hit the game-winning homerun in the nightcap of yesterday's doubleheader.

Local products form bond on and off court

BY KUNAL GUPTA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Bonds at Columbia, particularly those on athletic teams, are made by students over four years through countless practices, workouts, bus rides, wins, and losses. But for tennis standouts Haig Schneiderman and Rajeev Deb-Sen, the bond between them was formed long before they first set foot on campus. The pair of native New Yorkers both attended Horace Mann High School in the Bronx and have been on the same tennis team since middle school. The two, both juniors, have brought success to the men's tennis team since their freshman season and the duo has been part of back-to-back Ivy Championship teams in 2009 and 2010. This spring, in addition to playing singles, Deb-Sen and Schneiderman have played doubles together for the first time in college.

But how did these two star student-athletes first meet?

"We met in like seventh grade, I think it was in math class," Deb-Sen said. "We knew of each other before that but we never really talked."

And their first memory doing something together?

"We played chess," laughed Deb-Sen. "We played chess more than tennis. And we did some math too."

The pair has built its chemistry through countless hitting sessions and practices dating back to their first meeting in middle school. The pair can't even remember their first time playing together.

"We've hit so many, thousands of times," said Deb-Sen. "It must have been at one of our team, our Horace Mann practices."

Chris Lacopo, CC '84 (and a member of the JV tennis and JV basketball team at Columbia), coached Deb-Sen and Schneiderman at Horace Mann since middle school.

"It was clear from the very beginning, that the two of them, plus Robbie Erani, who was around the same level at that time, the three of them pushed each other very hard," he said. "Each of them knew that the others were working hard and they enjoyed being around each other and they loved to beat each other. It was an amazing combination that lasted through high school."

"With Haig and Rajeev, it was a quiet rivalry but a much deeper friendship," Lacopo said. "They both lived close to each other and both are team-oriented guys. That's what made it work so well."

Despite how friendly the pair are today, things weren't always so easy for the two, particularly within the confines of a strictly individual sports such as tennis.

"It's always hard to have a relationship with someone you're very directly competitive with," said Deb-Sen. "Both of us are pretty fiery competitors and it did get in the way sometimes, but I think we've been friends since the start so I know we've pushed each other hard."

The pair practiced together primarily during the spring season in high school, and would train individually for the rest of the year, although as they got older, they found themselves training together more and more often.

"We practiced a lot more as we got older," Deb-Sen said. "I don't know if it was because we got to know each other or what it was."

As senior year approached, both went about the college decision process independently, knowing that each wanted to play top-flight tennis in college.

"It was two completely different processes," said Deb-Sen. "We didn't really talk much about where we were looking or where we were thinking. I was always desperate to come to Columbia so I knew I wanted to come here, and I think one day Howie [Endelman, the associate men's tennis coach] saw Haig playing and a few weeks later Haig was going to Columbia too, so it was like, oh well, four more years together!"

One constant in both athletes' decision was Columbia men's tennis head coach Bid Goswami.

"You know, I go all over the world to recruit sometimes, and sometimes, it's just in your backyard," said Goswami. "Chris Lacopo, he'd told me about these guys for quite some time, so I had seen them play and followed them in juniors; I know them from when they are young. Both are really quality guys, and I always thought one day they would make good team players and captains, and I think

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