

Brownstone added to lottery mix

BY MADINA TOURE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer



According to Columbia housing administrators, the newest addition to the lottery could give some standard dorms a run for their money.

In February, the University announced that 548 West 113th St., a brownstone, will be included in the 2010 room selection process that began this month, marking the first time that a brownstone will be included in the housing lottery. Prior to this change, all brownstone campus housing—which largely consists of Greek organizations—required a pre-submitted list of students. Making this option available for undergraduate students is part of an effort to address increasing class sizes and greater demands for on-campus housing.

The brownstone will be included in group suite selection.

The walk-up, four-story brownstone has two studio doubles on each floor, and each double has its own bathroom and kitchen. It will house 16 students—mostly juniors and a few sophomores—and a residential advisor. Students can choose to enter in groups of two or four, taking up either half the floor or the entire floor. Currently undergraduate transfers occupy the dorm.

“Since this is the first time a brownstone will be available, there’s been a lot of curiosity,” Brian Birkeland, assistant director of Housing and Accommodation Services, said, “There’s been questions about what it’s like, who we think is going to get in.”

Scott Wright, vice president



MARKET SHIFTS | Sean Quirk, CC ’11, is a transfer student who was placed in a brownstone on 113th. This year, for the first time, the brownstone will be a part of the annual lottery for students. Brownstones typically go to Greek life, but this one will be a part of group suite selection.

for Student and Administrative Services, said that the brownstone bears resemblance to Watt Hall, a six-story residence hall with studio doubles, studio singles, and one- and two-bedroom apartments located on 549 West 113th St, next door to the brownstone.

“We would expect 548 West 113th to be appealing to the same students,” he said.

Some students said it looked like a viable option. “It’s a nice dorm,” Claire Lew, CC ’12, said. “It’s not like a dorm. It’s basically a house.

You have a kitchen and a bathroom and a large room.... Having that option available to people who aren’t in Greek life is pretty cool.”

While many fraternities and sororities currently occupy brownstones along 113th and 114th streets, there are several who do not have brownstone housing, so when the announcement was first made that this dorm would be available to undergraduate students, there was speculation as to whether the brownstone would become available to a

Greek organization. But housing administrators decided that the brownstone will not be delegated to any Greek group, because the layout of the building and space constraints are not conducive to Greek meetings and events, and renovating the building would be far too costly.

And Wright noted other differences that set this brownstone apart from other residential buildings.

“Even though it’s [Watt is] individual apartments, you are a part of a 120-person community, and

when you’re in a brownstone, there are 17 people,” he added.

Students currently living in the brownstone say their experience has been good.

Sean Quirk, CC ’11, said, “I think it’s the best we could’ve gotten as sophomores and juniors.” He added, “It’s nice to have a small community. We all know each other really well.”

“It’s awesome if you want a double,” Devon Welsh, CC ’12,

SEE BROWNSTONE, page 2

Student loan program revamped

No more private lenders for CU loans

BY SARAH DARVILLE AND
KIM KIRSCHENBAUM
Columbia Daily Spectator

New financial aid legislation, passed in conjunction with health care reform, will change the way loans work with Columbia’s financial aid next year.

On Tuesday—the same day President Barack Obama signed the final health care legislation into law—Columbia announced that it will transition to the Federal Direct Loan Program for the 2010-2011 school year.

The legislation, called the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act, eliminates student loans provided by private lenders like Citibank or Sallie Mae, and will replace them with loans that come directly from the federal government.

Undergraduates who have previously borrowed using federal loans, including Stafford and PLUS loans, were informed of the change by Columbia via email on Tuesday night, but Dean of Financial Aid Daniel Barkowitz said that this is only a small percentage of the undergraduate population.

“Due to the 2008 enhancements to undergraduate financial aid at Columbia and specifically the elimination of loans as a required part of students’ financial aid packages, the number of Columbia College and Columbia Engineering undergraduate students directly impacted by this legislation is relatively small,” Barkowitz said in an email.

Barkowitz added that eligibility for these loans will not change, but the process for obtaining the loans will. Loans already taken out with private banks will continue to be managed by those institutions until a student graduates, at which point the U.S. Department of Education will consolidate the payments, he said.

Judith Scott-Clayton, an assistant professor of economics and education at Teachers College, agreed that the impact on students should be minimal.

“Most students will not notice a difference, which is good. The money will be saved by the government without really changing the way students experience the programs,” she said. “A lot of students may not pay attention—they’re just getting their federal student loan.”

Barkowitz added that more information will be sent to those receiving federal loans in the next few weeks. “Please know that we will provide as many resources as possible to ensure that this transition occurs smoothly,” he said.

Scott-Clayton explained that in the past, students with private loans had to pay back the banks plus interest, and the government would pay if the students defaulted. Still, the government paid the banks subsidies to take on student loans.

“The government has been assuming all the risk and paying for that privilege, and most people other than the banks, including objective sources, have said that the direct loan program is less expensive,” she said.

Supporters of the legislation have argued that this bill will eliminate the intermediary role of financial institutions for federal student



EMBRY OWEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PROTECTION | Bikers may no longer have to compete for street space, if a DOT proposal in May leads to the creation of protected lanes.

DOT to present bike lane proposal in May

BY ELIZABETH VANCE
Columbia Daily Spectator

The Upper West Side may be one step closer to getting protected bike lanes.

Monty Dean, spokesperson for the city’s Department of Transportation, said on Friday that the DOT will be presenting plans for bike lanes to the Upper West Side’s Community Board 7 this May.

In October 2009, CB7 submitted a request to the DOT asking that they start preparing a proposal for protected bike lanes on Columbus and Amsterdam avenues from 59th to 110th streets.

Dean said that the DOT is now examining this request, like all others, on a “case-by-case basis” and looking specifically at the needs of local residents and businesses, specifically regarding curb access. This has been an issue since the lanes would be physically separated from the road. The CB7 proposal involved protected bike paths, where cyclists ride in a lane directly adjacent to the sidewalk and protected from traffic by physical buffer zones.

Though the DOT confirmed this week that it plans to follow through with the original

October request and present its plans to CB7 in May, CB7 members and cycling advocates who helped form the proposal said this was news to them.

A few weeks ago at a March CB7 full board meeting, Tila Duhaime of the Upper West Side Streets Renaissance Campaign—which has helped lead the bike lane effort—expressed concern that the plans seemed “mostly stalled.”

Mel Wymore, chair of CB7 said on Tuesday that the community board had not heard from the DOT about bike lanes.

Biking advocates expressed hope in October that the lanes could be installed as early as this spring.

“Just painting stripes on the road is not enough here,” Duhaime said. “If they start this year, I will think that is pretty responsive,” she added, saying that she would be frustrated with any further delay.

But not everyone is advocating speed in the plans. Monica Blum,

president of the Lincoln Square Business Improvement District, emphasized that above all, the DOT must thoroughly look at all the options available for bike lanes, and that extensive time is needed for local business that will be affected by new bike lanes to be properly consulted.

“I’m a bike rider, all in favor of some bike riding, but you have to look at other issues,” Blum said.

Since both Amsterdam Avenue and Columbus Avenue are highly commercial areas, bike lanes could bring complications to garbage pick-up and how deliveries would be made, she said.

Paul Zachary, a General Studies student who commutes to school every day on his bike, said that the barrier is precisely what makes the lanes worth installing.

“The problem with unprotected bike lanes is that people treat them like extra parking lanes. Protected lanes allow it to do what

“Just painting stripes on the road is not enough here.”

—Tila Duhaime, UWS Streets Renaissance Campaign

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INSIDE

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Neighborhood hair salons a cut above the rest

For Columbians worried about putting their hair in the hands of a less-than-competent barber, a few recommended haircut spots a short distance from campus can help students have good hair days without breaking the bank.



Sports, page 8

Fencer Nicole Ross becomes NCAA Champion

Last Friday, junior Nicole Ross won the NCAA championship in women’s foil, becoming the first Columbian to do so since 1990. Ross hopes to keep excelling in order to make the world championship and Olympic teams.

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Time for change

Bridging the education gap can lead to better opportunities for all.

Adopting vegetarianism

Protecting cute animals from slaughter will not change our carnivorous lifestyle.

Today’s Events

Superstar! A Tribute to Mario Montez

Celebrate Andy Warhol’s first drag superstar in the all-day conference.
Davis Auditorium, Schapiro Hall, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Art of Healing

Over ten student groups come together to enjoy art, music, and spoken word.
Low Library, 8 p.m.

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WEATHER

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No private lenders for student loans

STUDENT LOANS from front page

loans—which will save \$61 billion over the next 10 years.

The legislation will also provide more money for the Federal Pell Grant program, which provides grants for low-income students that do not have to be repaid.

Fifteen percent of the Columbia class of 2013 received Pell Grants, according to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, and in 2008, Columbia reported that it had the highest percentage of Pell Grant recipients in the Ivy League.

These grants will now increase by \$425 by 2017 thanks to inflation, and the Department of Education said that it expects over 800,000 more Pell Grants to be awarded in the next 10 years.

“It’s going to be about \$36 billion [in additional funding]. This is not just more money for students [who already have grants], but for hundreds and hundreds of thousands of students today who don’t have Pell Grants,” U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said in a conference call Tuesday afternoon.

Duncan also said that applying for aid will soon be easier.

“Students will see a markedly simplified financial aid form. The form itself was a real barrier to applying to colleges. This will make it much more thoughtful and logical,” Duncan said. “That form scared people.”

Still, Scott-Clayton said a lot was left out of the legislation. “I think getting rid of guaranteed student loans and moving to direct loans is unambiguously a positive thing,” she said. “But there is disappointment. Everyone wanted a little more.”

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PATRICK YUAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NEW OPTIONS! 548 West 113th St., a brownstone used this year for transfer students will be included for the first time in the housing lottery.

Brownstone added to housing mix

BROWNSTONE from front page

said. “I’m going to go for a single next year because I want my own room, but the building’s great.”

Wright said that so far, students have reported good experiences living there.

“We’ve gotten no complaints about it from transfers,” Wright said. “Students in brownstones seem to really like it. We’ve had that same experience of resident satisfaction in the other brownstones that we’ve managed.”

“The only people who aren’t satisfied are people who wanted singles,” Quirk said. “I am probably going to go for a single, but if I decide to choose a double, I will come back here.”

Ultimately, Wright said, the brownstones stand out among other housing options and will most likely garner high levels of student interest.

“If you were to compare these rooms to double-occupancy rooms in Schapiro, Broadway, Wien, McBain, all corridor-style buildings, my experience is that students would pick the brownstones,” he said.

Adwoa Banful, CC ‘13, said she was definitely interested in the brownstone, though concerned that it would not be a realistic option for her.

“It sounds like a great place to live,” Adwoa Banful, CC ‘13, said. “I definitely would [want to live there] more, so if the housing lottery wasn’t as preferential than it is now, because at this point, it looks like you’re basically screwed, to put it straight, for sophomore housing”

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Interdisciplinary concentration in ethnic studies to be offered at Barnard

BY ANDREA GARCIA-VARGAS
Columbia Daily Spectator

After a three-year effort to promote ethnic studies at Barnard, students in the fall will have the opportunity to participate in a specific ethnic studies program.

This March, the Barnard College Committee of Instruction approved a small-scale ethnic studies program after a group of students and faculty collaborated together to create a proposal. With the recommendation from a consortium of American studies, women’s studies, and Africana studies, the Committee of Instruction approved the proposal, which, according to Angela Haddad, Barnard’s assistant provost and chair of the COI, will be going into effect in the fall.

The approved program is not a stand-alone major, which some students have pushed for, but rather a specific ethnic studies concentration that combines studies from those three existing majors in the consortium, Haddad said.

Students in the fall can have an interdisciplinary concentration, or a minor for students not majoring in one of the three majors in the consortium, Janet Jakobsen, director for the Barnard Center for Research on Women and Barnard’s interim associate dean of faculty diversity, said.

Jakobsen said that one of the reasons that Barnard has not yet developed the major is its status as a liberal arts college.

“Ethnic studies tends to be institutionalized at major research universities like Columbia,” she said. “It is much less likely to be institutionalized at liberal arts colleges.”

The process towards approving an ethnic studies program at Barnard has been ongoing since the fall of 2008, when Barnard formed a year-long independent study group of students on ethnic studies, according to Zeest Haider, BC ’10 and representative on academic affairs for Barnard’s Student Government Association.

This Barnard-specific group, she said, branched off from an earlier independent study based at Columbia and

made up of both Barnard and Columbia students. This group formed after students in 2007 staged a hunger strike on campus, in part to demand the expansion and reform of Columbia’s ethnic studies program, Haider said.

After the Columbia group compiled a report at the end of the year about the need for ethnic studies at both Barnard and Columbia, the Barnard members decided to take matters into their own hands.

“They decided that they should have an independent study Barnard group that focused on what is happening on this side of the street,” Haider said.

Through communication with the faculty and administrators at Barnard, the group of students turned this effort into a one-credit independent study in 2009.

Although approval of the concentration is a step, Haider said it has been a long, drawn-out process.

“This whole debate started when I was a freshman ... and now I’m a senior. Four years is a long time to make that

happen,” Haider said. “I felt it was important that this year we approve it and pass it. ... How many more students are going to see this process happen but not the end result?”

“It seems that the class construction so far is just ‘non-white’ studies. This isn’t what ethnic studies really stands for.”

—Veronica Horvath, BC ’13

Sara Propper, BC ’12, who intends to major in political science, expressed interest in seeing the ethnic studies department remain not just under the three consortium departments, but also

expanding to the political science department.

“It’d be really important, especially in international relations or national relations, to have an ethnic component,” Propper said.

Veronica Horvath, BC ’13, who has been involved with the independent study group since last semester, said that there still needs to be further improvements in the ethnic studies philosophy. “It seems that the class construction so far is just ‘non-white’ studies. This isn’t what ethnic studies really stands for,” she said.

Haddad cited the lack of resources at Barnard as a challenge to actually creating a major, which can make it difficult to institute new courses within the program and acquire appropriate faculty.

Despite the obstacles, though, Jakobsen said she has been proactively engaged in developing the program through close collaboration with the Columbia’s Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race. At Columbia, CSER is in the process of potentially joining together three separate majors into one revamped academic track.

Frances Negrón-Muntaner, director of CSER, said, “It was really evident to me ... that because Barnard was developing a race and ethnicity concentration and we were undergoing a period of transformation as well, that it would be a great idea to collaborate closely so the curricular offerings would be significantly expanded for both programs.”

In line with the element of collaboration, Barnard’s newly approved program will share an introductory level course with CSER called Critical Studies of Ethnicity and Race.

After her work with Jakobsen, Negrón-Muntaner foresees the joint input improving their offerings. “I think that quality of the work that’s going to be done, the integrity of the courses to be offered ... are going to speak for themselves.”

“What we’re doing is providing them intellectual support for the project they’re engaged in, which is educating themselves about ethnic studies,” Jakobsen said, adding, “We don’t see this as an end.”

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COURTESY OF TANGLED VINE

DI-VINE | Tangled Vine's classy furnishings, large wine menu, and flavorful food make it an excellent choice for a first date.

For a first date, wine and dine at Tangled Vine

BY ERIN FLYNN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Finding a first-date restaurant that satisfies a potential partner's range of possible likes and dislikes seems like a chore, but at the recently opened

FOOD & DRINK

Tangled Vine Bar and Kitchen, students with interests as disparate as wine and football can leave satisfied.

Located on the corner of 81st and Amsterdam, Tangled Vine looks perfect for romantic outings, though it might be too expensive for a mere friendly dinner. Dimly lit, with polished wood furniture and a simple yet tasteful color scheme, the environment feels classy without being too swanky for casual dress. The restaurant also features a

bar with crowded stools that give the intimate setting a sense of community and coziness. Also, there is a nice flat-screen television, so if the date gets dull, there's something to watch.

With a wine menu that spans over seven pages, there's a reason why Tangled Vine lists itself first and foremost as a wine bar. However, the food on its own is delicious. The menu might seem a bit over-priced, but the dishes are meant for sharing. Tangled Vine offers up delicious Mediterranean food and stays loyal to Mediterranean ingredients and flavors, but the kitchen adds a new twist to each dish.

As a starter, crostinis taste delicious and unique—the flavor combinations cover a wide range of ingredients,

incorporating meats, vegetables, and fruits. Check out a pair of chickpea, morilla, and apricot crostinis, a very nearly weird mixture that entertains the palate. Roasted eggplant, red pepper, and saba crostini also comes especially recommended. The crust is flavored with a mustard reduction that brings out the smokiness of the veggies, which are piled high.

The entrees all combine three different contrasting components, but every element comes through powerfully. The portions appear reasonable, although some of the entrees come split up into bite-sized pieces like appetizers. A traditional pick, beet salad is fresh and light, and the added goat cheese and roasted pistachios keep it satisfying. Although the greens seem a bit

too tough and bitter, the saltiness of the cheese complements the sweetness of the beets perfectly. Overall, the flavors work well, even if the texture of the market greens is a bit off-putting. A more adventurous dish, scallops a la plancha, pairs seared scallops, roasted cauliflower, and blood oranges. The smokiness of the scallops and cauliflower mixes well with the sweetness of the blood oranges, offsetting the acidity of the citrus.

Tangled Vine's service seems friendly and knowledgeable. The manager himself carries out dishes and talks to the diners, making sure every couple is happy.

No matter what sort of thing students' dates might be into, Tangled Vine is a neutral setting with great food that tastes both mature and mellow.

Hair salons that make the cut

BARBERSHOP WITH LOCAL FLAIR

Melvin & Pat's Barber Shop dispenses with luxury and instead provides haircuts with character. Set along a colorful yet dingy block of cafés and stores on 110th and Amsterdam, this shop appears an unlikely spot for a great trim. Make no mistake, Melvin & Pat's is no salon, but the vibrant atmosphere, friendly service, and low prices make this barber shop a hidden treasure.

Unlike competitors in the Columbia neighborhood, Melvin & Pat's primarily caters not to students but to the other denizens of Morningside Heights. Spanish music plays loudly, nearly drowning out the raucous banter from the barbers and the roar of blow dryers. On a sunny day, the street comes alive with women pushing groceries and lounging teenagers who shout to customers and employees alike. For men, stylists famously ask whether the back of the head should be cut "round or square," and after this brief inquiry, customers simply sit back and let the entertainment commence.

—Jason Bell

M'SIDE'S SERENE HAIRCUT OASIS

Scott J. Lifestyle Salon and Spa couldn't be more conveniently located. Next to Starbucks on 114th and Broadway, its proximity alone makes it the most accessible relaxing getaway in Morningside Heights. The staff does everything in its power to make sure the salon feels as much like a spa as possible, while still being in sight of Lerner. Employees offer water and tea upon customers' arrival. With any haircut, they shampoo, condition, and massage, and they're not skimping about using their own Aveda products in fun scents like rosemary mint. But the service is almost annoyingly good. Turning down chamomile once isn't a problem. Turning it down a couple of times in one visit can get awkward. It's great that they want to wash hair so much, but for students in a rush, being shampooed twice can get tedious. So definitely consider a trip here an event. Since Scott J.'s charges around \$30 for a basic guy's haircut, it sort of has to be.

—Joe Daly

UWS SALON PROVIDES ATTENTIVE SERVICE AT STUDENT-FRIENDLY PRICES

In terms of convenience, the Scott J. Lifestyle Salon and Spa across the street is ideal, but in search of a more upscale experience, students can try the other location at 72nd and Columbus. Not too surprisingly, the service there is significantly better, most likely because this Scott J. caters to a more posh Upper West Side clientele. Getting a same-day appointment is unlikely to be a problem during the week. Even when there is a line of customers waiting at the front desk, a hostess greets new patrons as soon as they walk in. The hostess checks patrons in, takes their coats, and sits them down in a roomy waiting

area with plenty of magazines. Within minutes, they are whisked away by a haircutter's assistant, who washes their hair and follows it with a brief yet relaxing shoulder and neck massage. The haircutters take the time to listen to what cuts customers want, offer suggestions, and work quickly—the whole experience may be over in 20 minutes. The haircut might not necessarily be superb, but for \$45—plus tip for the hairdresser and her assistant—it is a pretty great deal. Just a 10-minute subway ride away, this salon offers better service than its Morningside Heights counterpart.

—Helen Werbe

Music simulation games, while somewhat controversial, let any student be a rock star

BY STEPHEN LUBAN
Columbia Daily Spectator

In the last few years, students dreaming of becoming rock stars in some alternate universe have found a way—through the music simulation series "Guitar Hero" and "Rock Band."

Last night, Kiri Miller, an assistant professor of ethnomusicology at Brown University, discussed the controversy wrapped up in both games at Columbia's ethnomusicology center in Dodge Hall.

As Miller stated, musicians like Jack White of the White

Stripes and Led Zeppelin's Jimmy Page have expressed their view that these games detract from youths' ability to learn to play musical instruments. She went on to say that many other critics accuse the game of inhibiting players' musicality, providing the escapist delusion of a "fantasy of rockstardom," and undermining the popularity of learning actual instruments.

The cry of displeasure that Miller most often hears is that playing "Guitar Hero" and "Rock Band" is just not really playing music. It's fake. It's an oversimplified,

consumerist delusion, designed to give players a hollow karaoke act of actual live music performance.

But Miller thinks we should take a different view of the cultural impact these games have had. Instead of comparing "Guitar Hero" to actual guitar, she suggests we conceive of it as an entirely new and exciting medium of musical expression and form of entertainment. "These games are not making music, but they're not just listening either. They are some third thing," she said.

"Rock Band" and "Guitar Hero" require skill, creativity, and musicality in order to play

them well, even if these are not in the same forms that apply to actual instruments. On "hard" and "expert" modes, the guitar parts can be extraordinarily difficult, and "expert" proficiency on the drum part requires incredible hand-eye coordination. Guitarists have praised the game's difficulty for allowing them to practice finger dexterity, and the technical aspects of the virtual drumming are closely related to the difficulties of real drumming.

Additionally, higher difficulty levels often employ such fast tempos that it is impossible to pass

them by following the note cues in real-time—expert players learn to understand the underlying patterns of each song's composition, to hear the melodies, and to understand their natural progressions. With practice, more and more of the song gets absorbed unconsciously, so players can simply "feel" the part and muscle memory tells their fingers where to go. This physical interconnection between the player, the instrument, and the song composition strongly ties the games to actual performance.

So what is it about these games that provokes so much controversy among musicians? Video games

are by nature simulations of reality, but people hardly complain that "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2" pretends to have real gunfights. Miller's insight is that the music games have a closer proximity to reality. "When you shoot someone in a first-person shooter, it doesn't put a bleeding corpse in your living room," Miller said. However, in music simulation games, the melodies coming out of the speakers are actually dependent on the player.

"Guitar Hero" and "Rock Band" give players a relationship to the music they would never have otherwise," Miller said. "They make recorded performances live again."

Sophomore has mixed-media projects down to an art

BY ELYSSA GOLDBERG
Spectator Staff Writer



in the studio

Does art imitate life or the other way around? Lara Saget, BC '12, who is majoring in art history and visual art, sees no boundary between the two.

At her off-campus apartment, the décor falls somewhere between homey, messy, artsy, and Brooklyn-y, but maybe Brooklyn-y covers the other three. Art rests, hangs, and stands comfortably among furry polar bear pillows and a worn-in gray couch. It's everywhere, and a visitor would have trouble sifting through it all.

That broken mirror above the couch? A Tuesday afternoon pet project. The twisted trunk of an old and discarded potted tree? It was adopted, painted, and added as decoration. What about the lamp? It's a sculpture that houses VHS tapes and other "failed technologies," one of Saget's favorite new topics to explore in her art.

Fresh out of Los Angeles, Calif., she walks the New York streets with a camera in hand, waiting to photograph or videotape whatever inspires her. Times Square in particular is an inspiration. "I like the energy there," Saget said. "Everybody is all over the place, and I'm always bumping into people. There's so much concentrated energy in that one area."

Saget went on to explain, "I'm very easily inspired. I'll take a picture and just want to paint it."

And judging from the array of

art supplies threatening to overflow her apartment, one can believe her. There are close to 20 miniature canvases sitting on the floor near containers of paint and a toolbox next to her bed. Five feet from that, there's a piece of plywood she found in the garbage that she painted and hung up with her go-to power drill.

Right now, she's into painting but likes to play with textures, including chicken wire, plastic, welded metal, and whatever else she can get her hands on.

What's most interesting, though, is Saget's preoccupation with the ephemeral. Childhood nostalgia, failed technology, and her once near-crippling fear of birds are among her favorite things to paint and sculpt. "Why can't we just burn shit in public anymore?" Saget asked, in reference to a videotape set to electronica music of

her ritualistically burning a wooden sculpture.

Then she explained a trip she took to FAO Schwarz to look for childish inspiration. She found a Steve Irwin doll half-off and grew sad. "Half-off. On sale. Can you believe that?" Saget said, before thinking about the possibility of the doll being taken off the shelves soon. So she melted it and put it on a cake. It's now a sculpture, a way to immortalize the Steve Irwin doll in a way that FAO Schwarz never could or would.

She's one step better at putting into visual and tactile form what many students feel: While we search for internships and crank out papers, our youth is slipping out from underneath us.

Elyssa Goldberg's biweekly series In the Studio profiles some of Columbia's student artists.



ELYSSA GOLDBERG FOR SPECTATOR

INTERIOR DESIGN | Lara Saget displays a piece of her offbeat artwork. A multitude of pieces decorate her homey, hip apartment



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YURINA KO

2 + 2 = 5

livestock, and many of my peers have decided to become vegetarians because of this information. Animal activists, too, argue that slaughtering innocent creatures for food is cruel and inhumane.

It looks like I'm in a lose-lose situation when it comes to justifying my dietary habits. As someone who has consumed countless delicious sea creatures and land-grazing animals, including (not lions and tigers, but) bears, I can't help but feel a little immoral and gluttonous, a commonplace product of industrialization and sexy advertisement. In part to remedy this guilt and discomfort of living among so many ethical environmentalist vegetarians, I turn to philosophy.

I understand that meat, on the surface, implies the grotesque reality that we directly "deprive a soul of the sun and light, and of that proportion of life and time it had been born into the world to enjoy," as Plutarch said. And there have been numerous philosophers who have advocated for animal rights and many famous vegetarians,

These days, I'm having a difficult time admitting my love for eating meat. Environmentalists continue to raise awareness regarding the high greenhouse gas emissions from

like da Vinci, Kafka, and Hitler, to name a few. Columbia's Bhakti Club, which hosts vegetarian cooking classes every Tuesday night, lists quotes by some of these vegetarian stars on their website, much to my delight.

"If the whole world adopts vegetarianism," Einstein said, "it can change the destiny of humankind." It sure could, but I wonder if we would actually be able to reap the same degree of pleasure or happiness by doing so. Gandhi condemned the practice of sacrificing "fellow creatures" for "our bodily wants," echoing Plato's philosophy on restraining the appetitive soul with a rational one. Realistically, though, rationalism is a sly philosophical tool that one can use to get away with almost any argument.

Rationalists like Descartes and Kant argued that if animals are not rational, they don't deserve our ethical concern. So in that sense, the real question is not whether it's right to eat other living things, but how far you're willing to go in defending the vulnerable creatures at the bottom of the food chain.

To take a different stance, morality based on compassion and sentiment is one that most of us can relate to more. Just last week, I read a news report that

rather than the problem of its unequal access. Although I am happy that the Texas decision has brought education reform back into the public discourse and has pushed our nation's leaders, including President Obama, to tackle issues of educational reform, I am still saddened that this reaction happened only as a result of the fear of politicizing education. Is it only when politics and maintaining the balance of power between parties is threatened that our nation moves forward?

It has been known for some time that America's education system is in a crisis. According to Teach for America, "About 50 percent of students in low-income communities will not graduate from high school by the time they're 18 years old." Shouldn't this kind of statistic alone evoke passion for reform? Another statistic from Teach for America reveals that "only one in 10 students from low-income communities graduates from college." It's true that curriculum changes like those of the Texas decision are important and warrant public discussion. However, I think that it is time for America to first address the large educational disparities that exist in our nation regarding low-income communities before any fights break out about changing the word "capitalism" to "free enterprise." Furthermore, the political system upon which our nation was founded seeks to represent our nation's citizens and address the injustices that affect them. Our education problem today affects millions of people in our country and unjustly affects those in low-income communities. It's not that citizens in low-income communities are lazy in their pursuit of educational opportunities or even that they don't have the same beliefs about the importance of education. Our educational inequality is a result of a lack of resources and opportunities being provided to all students and of politicians that care more about their careers than about this important issue.

There is no doubt that each of us attending Columbia knows the value of education. It allows us to make well-informed decisions, and it influences our dreams and shapes our identities. Education is necessary in order to seek truth and bring about revelation. During my time here at Columbia, I have been blessed to experience education at its best, but it was only possible because this institution seeks to close the achievement gap through its selection process and because programs such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation aim to provide equal opportunities to low-income students by financing their education. It is time for our nation's leaders to push for this kind of change, not because education threatens their politics, but because the people in our country are suffering as a result of educational inequality.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in environmental science. She is a member of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and is a Bill and Melinda Gates scholar.

STAFF EDITORIAL

On Sunday, Columbia students learned of major changes being made to the on-campus dining scene. Starting in fall 2010, Ferris Booth and JJ's Place will join John Jay as dining halls, accepting meals (or the Dining Dollar equivalent of a meal) upon entrance. Meals will be counted by the week, eliminating the end-of-semester race to the finish. Ferris Booth will be open all day, while JJ's will only be open until midnight. Students will be able to use four meals, not two, on any given day. Additionally, "faculty meals" will be added to certain meal plans.

The original announcement last semester of some change of this sort was met with general discontent. However, the actual plan seems to be too complex to actually pass harsh judgment on before seeing how its specifics translate into practice. Those who use John Jay most,

first-years, may actually benefit from the increased variety—but they will not, in fact, be able to tell, because they'll never have known it any other way. If there is discontent toward this plan, it is due less to any one grievance than to the reality that, in its entirety, the proposed change marks a shift in Columbia tradition.

John Jay Dining Hall is hardly universally lauded. The limited hours are inconvenient, the quality of the food is generally something short of loved, and the number of meals required per semester is, even in the most limited form, daunting. Generations of first-years have been frustrated by the requisite visit to John Jay and only to John Jay. But every year, first-years bonded in that hallowed hall. They did so because they had to be there at certain times, and because there was nowhere else to go where they could get rid of meals. Lit Hum

the Chinese government might ban the eating of cats and dogs in order to show that "China has reached a new level of civilization," in recognition of the increasing number of people who are starting to own them as pets.

While this seems like a big step in becoming a more "civilized" nation for China, I think it is a perfect example of humans defending the weak and vulnerable—in other words, cute—things. Not as many people point out the cruelty of the way cows, pigs, and chickens are slaughtered all over this country, but as soon as we hear about slaughter- ing lovable puppies—lovable mostly due to the way we breed them—we call that unethical. This is nothing but pure instinct and immediate sentiment based on the way that our particular culture treats certain animals.

Now, what if someone told you that "in America, millions of dogs and cats euthanized in animal shelters every year become the food for our food"? Novelist Jonathan Safran Foer brings this to our attention in a Wall Street Journal column, suggesting that "if we let dogs be dogs, and breed without interference, we would create a sustainable, local meat supply with low energy inputs that would

Forming a communal bond

BY NANA AMOH

At my high school, participating in extracurricular activities was a given for the majority of students. Students were not exactly sure of what they wanted from their high school careers, but they did know that they wanted more than academic accolades. We were all searching for people who shared our extracurricular interests and our anxieties about making new friends. For most, it was gratifying to meet other students who lived lifestyles and shared values similar to our own. No longer were we social butterflies simply aiming to find friends just to say we had made a few new ones. Instead, we used these activities as a spring to build rapport with people who would later become our friends.

No activity was exclusive, and all members of the student population were invited to attend. I can safely say that, in addition to pursuing our passions, most of us tried something new in high school. Often, that something became a new avocation for us.

Of course, the search for friendships in college is probably not as intense as the search for friendships in high school. A university has an atmosphere much too large for individual students to stand out, unless, of course, they are the crème de la crème of their respective fields. While high school is mostly about fitting in with peers, college feels more like an opportunity to embrace individuality.

As a first-year, I set a goal to become an active member of a Christian group on campus. As a baptized Presbyterian, I have had a strong faith in God for as long as I can remember. My parents raised me and my sister to believe in God and in the Bible, and as an adult, I have personally come to appreciate the Word and the positive effects it has had on my personal life. For this reason, I was honored to become the president of

put even the most efficient grass-based farming to shame." Who are we to criticize China's culinary practices? How can environmentalists not agree that this would be a realistic solution to the ridiculously high consumption of methane-producing cows?

If this unquestionable cultural compassion for innocent, vulnerable puppies and kittens does the trick, maybe we should start breeding special cows, even pigs and chickens, that are miniature enough to crawl into mug cups, and we can post YouTube videos of them in order to cultivate a culture that gives rights to these cute things.

You might think my suggestion is absurd, but this is the kind of effort it takes for a meat-eater to defend herself in an institution, a city—a whole culture, even—that is aggressively seducing us into environmentalism because other efforts have failed to stop mass consumption of meat. No doubt, this is laudable—I want my grandkids to live on Earth, too. But the practice of eating meat is not as big of an ethical problem when you look at practices like industrialized farming and people in the world who only care to protect cute animals.

So until I see some adorable cows on my Facebook news feed, I think I'll continue to embrace a most passionate carnivorous lifestyle.

Yurina Ko is a Barnard College junior majoring in philosophy. She is a senior editor of the Columbia Political Review. 2+2=5 runs alternate Wednesdays.

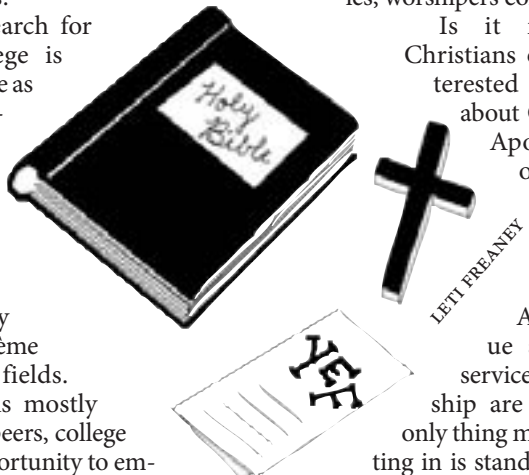
Apostolos. Even when I first began attending Bible studies on campus through Apostolos, I observed the lack of presence at the meetings and the apparent widespread antagonism toward religion from students on campus.

To many people, the Bible seems uninviting because of the obvious association it has with Christianity. But people who reject the idea of monotheistic religion fail to realize that books like the Bible mainly serve to provide instructions on building a relationship with God and on governing human morality for a fruitful life within society. The narratives and parables purposefully mirror real-life situations, both good and bad, to act as paragons for righteous behavior in our own lives. Similarly, the proverbs in the Bible are sagacious adages that are arguably no different from the content that fills the numerous self-help books people buy to change their lives.

Frankly, I sometimes get the sense that being religious at Columbia suggests that one lacks intelligence for believing in something that cannot be scientifically proven. To me, this view is somewhat paradoxical, because faith is literally defined as belief not based on proof. Essentially, the unanswerable questions surrounding faith are exactly what make it so sublime—that, regardless of mysteries, worshippers continue to believe.

Is it mandatory that Christians or individuals interested in learning more about Christianity attend Apostolos meetings or other religious group meetings on campus? Not at all. In fact, while Apostolos does value attending church services, all forms of worship are encouraged! The only thing more trying than fitting in is standing out. Hopefully Christians and individuals interested in religion searching for a place to worship on campus will feel encouraged to attend one of Apostolos' meetings, or those of any other religiously affiliated campus group. Who knows? While there, they might make an unexpected friend.

The author is a Columbia College first-year. She is the president of the Apostolos Campus Fellowship.



The way we were

students could expect to run into their classmates during dinner hours, and more than one conversation about "The Iliad" took place over one of Wilma's omelets. They rushed to eat all they could toward the end of the semester, competing with friends in "meals left" countdowns. And while students can still go to John Jay together, it will never be quite the same. The class of 2014 will be spread out over more than one dining hall and over more hours. They will not bond with one another over John Jay in the same way. Neither will they share the experience with upperclassmen and the decades of Columbians who have also dined in John Jay.

Sunday's announcement also marked the end of the era of late-night JJ's runs. JJ's Place, formerly open until 4 a.m. and currently open until 2, has served, particularly for first-years, as the

place to grab grub as the night winds down (or to prevent it from doing so) and as the hunger sets in. Beginning next semester, it will close at midnight. As with the future John Jay dining diaspora, this will loosen the ties that bind not only freshman to freshman, but nostalgic senior to eager first-year. Again, members of the class of 2014 will still go to JJ's, but it won't ever be quite the same.

Perhaps, more so than a shift from unlimited sushi in Ferris Booth or more than 30 convenience items at JJ's, the projected plan signifies a break from how Columbian after Columbian has viewed his or her dining tradition. The first-years may be happy with the new plan—but then, they won't know what everyone else is comparing it to.

Granted, the bigger unknown is faculty meals. What is that? (No, seriously.)

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Basic Latin lesson word

5 Bedtime story precursor, perhaps

9 '70s dance club

14 Dancer Falana

15 Canyon effect

16 Not whispered

17 Response bias may affect one

18 Weak, as a novel plot

19 Piccolo, e.g.

20 Proverbial advice to a physician

23 "Maz"

24 Slick

25 Reasoned belief in a supreme being

27 Scarey-cat

30 Appoint as a posse member, say

33 Huck's transport

36 Consider

38 Obama's younger daughter

39 "The Name of the Rose" writer

40 Scold vigorously

42 Damaged, as metal

43 BP merger partner

45 Stretch of time

46 Bra size

47 Falling star

49 Lesley of '60 Minutes"

51 Model's array

53 "Get lost!"

57 Defense gp.? no-parking area

62 Brink

64 Hit the ground

65 1814-'15 exile site

66 River romper

67 Titicaca, for one

68 Cause a stench

69 Natural homes

70 Author Bagnold

71 Norms. Abbr.

3 Muslim god

4 Like a basketball team's center, usually

5 National Institutes of Health city

6 In need of a massage

7 "Now hear _!"

8 Sharpened

9 Most goofy

10 Laid up

11 Motown genre

12 Adorable

13 Shelley works to a physician

21 Prefix with sect or cycle

22 Captained

26 Hot tub

28 Monopolizes, with "up"

29 Kermel sounds

31 No _ traffic

32 O.K. Cornell fighter

33 500 sheets

34 Zenith

35 This puzzle's theme, if you listen to the beginnings of 20-, 40- and 50-Across and 11-Down

37 Defensive trench

40 Fans

41 With sustained force

44 Jobs, vis-à-vis Apple Inc.

46 Oregon NBA team, familiarly

48 Old touring car

50 "Yo!"

52 Low, moist area

54 Apartment sign

55 Asleep, probably

56 Tropical hardwoods

57 Stratford's river

58 _ noise

60 Actor Rickman

61 Collaborative Web site

63 Figure out

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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By Jennifer Nunn
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EMBRY OWEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SAFE RIDE | Bikers on Columbus and Amsterdam may have protected lanes to ride through, if the DOT implements a new proposal.

DOT to present bike lanes proposal to CB7 in May

BIKE LANES from front page

it's supposed to do—be a lane for bike traffic," he said.

Blum said that the DOT must also consider the fact that commercial trucks are allowed to drive on Columbus Avenue. "We don't have a lot of avenues that take truck traffic, so Columbus takes a lot of it," she said.

Ultimately, though Blum said that these issues can be addressed by a proper, thorough process. "I think DOT wants to do this right, and I think they will do it right. It just takes time," Blum said.

Several local politicians have supported the implementation of bike lanes, though they have also acknowledged the concerns of neighborhood businesses.

In a February letter addressed to DOT officials, State Senators Thomas Duane and Eric Schneiderman and Borough President Scott Stringer, among others, wrote, "We offer our assistance in facilitating as many meetings as are necessary for all

stakeholders—residents, affected businesses and their respective Business Improvement Districts, senior centers, non-profit organizations, uniformed services and others—[to] be consulted."

The letter also said that "more than 100 businesses along the proposed routes have expressed interest in working with DOT and CB7 to make these bike lanes a reality." UWSSRC collected the signatures.

James Freedland, director of communications for Schneiderman, said that bike lanes were a part of "making the Upper West Side an even better place to live, work, and visit."

At West Side Bicycles on 96th Street, employees said they were really excited about the possibility of new lanes. Salesperson Luca Gentle said, "I think it would improve our business greatly. Having a designated lane is safer and it encourages people to ride their bikes," said. But he added, "Whether they do it now or five years ago is irrelevant."

news
@columbiaspectator.com

Women's tennis to begin Ivy League season today

BY LAUREN SEAMAN
Spectator Staff Writer

And so it begins.

Today, the women's tennis team will begin Ivy season play with a match against Cornell at 2 p.m. The last time the Lions faced the Big Red was at the Eastern College Athletic Conference championships in February. There, Cornell defeated Columbia 3-1 in a shortened format match.

Since the ECACs, the women have seen big improvements. In early March, the Lions made some changes to the lineup, including the notable debut of freshman Katarina Kovacevic. With great results in the matches following the ECAC championships, Columbia's confidence skyrocketed, which continued to facilitate its success throughout the nonconference season. Facing Cornell the last time, the girls had a 2-5 overall record. Now the Lions head into Ivy season with an improved 9-7 winning record.

"The team has certainly gotten more confident," head coach Ilene Weintraub said. "We've seen more close matches against competitive schools since February," Weintraub said. "It's helped us in our success. We're taking each match and make it like it's the most important match we'll every play."

Back in February, the Lions faced the Big Red away in Cambridge. This time around, the Lions will play on their home turf, another valuable advantage for the Lions as they prepare for the match.

"It's definitely an advantage that we're playing at home," Weintraub said. "We have a really strong winning record on our home court."

The Lions clinched impressive home victories even as the tail end of nonconference play left the team with some minor injuries. Despite the setbacks, the Light Blue women continued to play vigorously, claiming four strong wins out of their last five matches.

"I have to give a lot of credit to the girls who have small

injuries," Weintraub said. "They've all worked hard to get strong and do everything they can do to be in their top form and shape to be ready for this match. Our trainer has been extremely dedicated and is helping them get back on the courts. We should be 100 percent healthy for the match."

With similar records, the two teams appear fairly well-matched. Cornell enters the contest with a 10-5

record—one of its losses being a 2-5 defeat to Buffalo, a team Columbia beat by a score of 4-3 earlier this season. Cornell brought in successful results at the latter part of its nonconference season as it is coming off a six-game win streak. The Big Red is led by senior Natalia Sanchez, who with doubles partner Ruxandra Dumitrescu defeated Natalia Christenson and Eliza Matache during the ECAC championships.

Columbia expects a tough contest, considering the success of both teams as they wrapped up nonconference play.

"The girls as players have become much better competitors, and they have become more cohesive as a team. ... Those things are sometimes just as important as winning," Weintraub said. "In my mind we've already won. At this point, we're ready to compete our hardest. May the best team win."



JOSE GIRALT / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TIME FOR REVENGE | Sophomore Eliza Matache and the rest of the Columbia women's tennis team will look to avenge their loss to Cornell earlier this year when they face off against the Big Red this afternoon.



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Baseball team to face Monmouth this afternoon in last game before league play

BY VICTORIA JONES
Spectator Staff Writer

The baseball team is heading out to New Jersey this afternoon to challenge Monmouth (5-5, 3-0 Northeast) in the Light Blue's last game before Ivy League competition begins this weekend.

The Hawks (6-9, 2-2 Northeast) opened their own conference season this past weekend by splitting four games with Bryant.

In the final game of the series, the Bulldogs barely edged out Monmouth 7-6, as a field error on the part of the Hawks allowed Bryant to score what would turn out to be its final run.

The Hawks managed to put together a rally from the batter's box in the bottom of the eighth, but their one run wasn't enough to even tie the game, much less take the lead, in both the game and the series.

So far this season the other teams that have fallen to Monmouth are Temple, East Carolina, Navy, and Iona—none of whom are part of Columbia's 2010 schedule.

The Hawks didn't get a chance to face off against the Lions last season, but they did face Ancient Eight member Princeton in 2009. Monmouth defeated the Tigers solidly 12-3, its seventh straight win over Columbia's Ivy League adversary.

The Lions won't host the Tigers for almost three more weeks, but when the two took to the field last season in New Jersey, the Light Blue started the series in fine fashion, though it ended up dropping three out of the four games.

So far this season the Lions have a 7-11 record in nonconference play, having most recently swept a four-game series against Bucknell.

While the Lions have put forth a solid offensive effort thus far, a big



JASPER CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

EYE ON THE BALL | Senior catcher Dean Forthun had an impressive offensive performance this weekend, earning him the Ivy League Player of the Week title.

question in this afternoon's game will be the performance of the pitching staff.

Columbia's bats have been swinging with relative success so far, posting a .282 batting average. The Lions have crossed the plate 126 times in their 18 games so far, an average of seven runs a game.

In contrast, the pitchers of the starting rotation have a 5.75 combined ERA and allow on average 8.5 runs a game. Some games have seen the Light Blue let up as many as 22 runs, which has happened not once, but twice so far this season.

If the Lions hope to perform well this afternoon, their bats are going to have to remain reliable and the pitching staff is going to have to shape up. Columbia's field work could use a bit of a makeover as well as the Lions are committing more errors their opponents 44-25, a problem

that is responsible for putting players on base and bringing around a few unnecessary runs for the opposing team.

The Lions and the Hawks take the field at 3:30 this afternoon in West Long Branch, N.J. for their one and only matchup.

Don't be a spectator.

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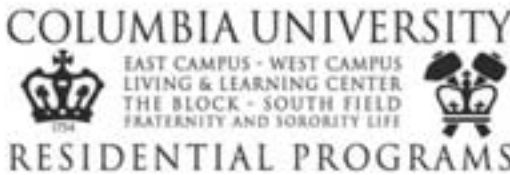
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Pick up a copy of Spectator on Thursday to check how the baseball team does against Monmouth in its last game before conference play begins.

TOMORROW



SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2010 • PAGE 8



Check Spectator tomorrow to see if the women's tennis team is able to avenge its February loss to Cornell as the two face off on the Lions' home courts.

TOMORROW

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Fencer Ross takes top spot at NCAA championships



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

NATIONAL CHAMPION | Junior Nicole Ross won the NCAA championship title in women's foil this past weekend, helping the Light Blue fencing team to a seventh-place finish.

Ross becomes first Columbian to win women's foil title in two decades

BY SPENCER GYORY
Spectator Staff Writer

Nicole Ross has added an individual title that few athletes can ever claim to her already long fencing résumé—NCAA national champion. Last Friday, Ross, a junior from New York, N.Y., became Columbia's first women's foil champion since Tzu Moy won her individual title in 1990.

However, her victory should come as no surprise.

"She probably has one of the hardest work ethics I've ever seen," said teammate Samantha Roberts. "She practices all the time. She works out all the time. She really puts her all into fencing. Her goal is to make world-championship teams and maybe the Olympics, and she is really doing the work to do that."

"What makes her really great is her want to win. She really puts a lot of passion into the sport and every touch of every bout," said Roberts.

Nicole Ross describes herself as a "generally pretty laid-back" person, but that changes when she steps on the mat.

"I get intense when I'm fencing," Ross said. "I have really clean actions and a calm but intense demeanor."

One of the reasons this "laid-back" girl became interested in fencing was the spectacular sword fight between Westley and Inigo Montoya in "The Princess Bride," one of her favorite movies as a child. When she was nine, her mother asked her if she wanted to try fencing. Ross joined the Fencers Club in New York and has not looked back since.

Fencing has taken Nicole Ross across the world to competitions in Korea, Germany, and Canada. The NCAA champion believes those experiences have helped her improve as a fencer.

"Fencing in Europe and Asia



always raises your level because the Europeans are so good and dedicated to fencing," Ross said.

In addition to having international experience, Ross grew up playing in New York City, a gathering place for world-class fencers.

"Being around Olympians and world champions and people who are achieving greatness in the sport definitely helped me achieve," Ross said.

Ross's work ethic, intensity, and experience made her one of the favorites heading into the 2010 NCAA championships, held at Harvard on March 25 and 26. The competition begins with a round-robin tournament during which each individual fences all of the other fencers to five touches. The results of the round-robin tournament determine a fencer's ranking. The top four fencers then compete for the individual championship.

Ross called it "one of the most emotional events in college and fencing in general. It's a totally different format than we're used to—one that is extremely demanding."

Roberts, who also competed at the NAAs and earned an All-American honorable mention, agrees, calling the tournament "really strenuous and mentally taxing."

"You have to keep your focus for two full days and win as much

as you can," Roberts said.

Ross was able to do exactly that.

Ross lost just two of her 23 bouts during the round robin. This record gave Ross the number-one ranking heading into the semifinals, where she defeated Evgeniya Kirpicheva of St. John's 15-8.

In the finals, Ross faced Doris Willette, a Penn State junior whom Ross had never before been able to beat. Ross considers Willette, the NCAA individual champion in both 2007 and 2009, "a long-time friend and an amazing fencer."

As it turned out, it was Nicole Ross's time to win. Ross defeated Willette by a relatively large margin of 15-9 in the final.

"It was really super exciting and relieving at the same time because I felt so prepared for the tournament," Ross said. "To beat her [Willette] and be the champion was definitely rewarding. I was both feeling really on and I won. ... I really relaxed and stayed calm during those two days. This is my third year competing in the tournament, so I really knew what was expected of me and how I needed to approach it. I learned from my mistakes of the past two years."

"This weekend at NAAs, she [Nicole] fenced perfectly," Roberts said.

Although she is still excited about her win, Ross is ambitious.

"There's always another future goal I'm looking towards," she said. "You can always do better. I have way bigger challenges ahead of me."

Looking forward, Ross will continue with the World Cup competition. She says her next challenge is to make the 2010 Senior World Championship team.

"Hopefully, I can find a spot on that team and fence really strong and confident like I have been," she said.

If Ross continues to fence as well as she has, this is definitely a possibility.

Successful weekend brings optimism for Ivy play



TOM
DI BENEDETTO

The Mouth That Roared

It was the first weekend sweep for this program since the stretch run of 2008, which resulted in an Ivy League championship, and it gave me a chance to finally see the 2010 Lions in action. Here are my observations on the feel-good weekend. ...

...The starting pitching staff looks like it may in fact be a strong suit of this team, and this is without doubt the pleasant surprise of the Lions' season thus far. In the past two years, Columbia has been challenged with replacing three stars in the rotation, Bill Purdy, CC '08, John Baumann, CC '08, and Joe Scarlata, CC '09. The Lions entered this season without a senior in the rotation and low expectations for the staff as a whole, and yet the group has come together nicely, especially at the front of the rotation. Dan Bracey, freshman Stefan Olson, and Pat Lowery all had great starts this weekend, but a battle remains for the fourth spot.

Freshman Tim Giel got the start in the fourth game this weekend and was solid, but by no means has he claimed the spot from Geoff Whitaker. Giel has been great the first time through the order this season, reflected by his solid relief outings in the early part of the year. On Sunday, he retired nine of the first 10 batters he faced, with the only baserunner reaching on an infield error, before running into some trouble in the middle innings. It is still not clear if Giel has the ability to be a starter for the Ivy campaign, but he has emerged as Columbia's most reliable pitcher over one to two innings and will certainly have a prominent role in the bullpen, likely as the closer, if he does not win the fourth starter's job.

Whitaker was forced to keep pace with Giel from the bullpen this weekend, but he impressed me with his performances. He

was efficient in game two on Saturday, earning his first win of the season through two solid relief innings. Unfortunately, he had far less luck on Sunday. He entered game three in a save situation with men on first and third and a 5-2 lead before allowing the three runs that sent the game into extra innings—but none of the runs were earned.

The first batter he faced in the inning was Bucknell's powerful cleanup hitter, Andrew Brouse. After falling behind 2-1 in the count, Whitaker masterfully set Brouse up with an outside breaking ball that clipped the outside part of the plate. At 2-2, Whitaker attacked Brouse with an inside fastball, earning a tailor-made double play ball that out-of-position

The starting pitching staff looks like it may in fact be a strong suit of this team, and this is without doubt the pleasant surprise of the Lions' season thus far.

Jon Eisen, at third base, couldn't handle. Instead of a double play and handshakes, the great pitch yielded one run, no outs, and another baserunner. In the next at-bat, Whitaker stayed confidently aggressive, working ahead to an 0-2 count, before wasting another outside breaking ball in the dirt outside. It would prove to be another magnificent set-up pitch, as Whitaker once again came inside with the hard stuff at 1-2 and once again coaxed a weak ground ball toward third base. For the second time, Eisen bobbled the ball and couldn't get an out, making it a one-run game. The only hit that Whitaker gave up that inning tied the game, but I was actually very impressed, not disappointed, with his performance. His approach was perfect, and he threw 15 of 19 pitches for strikes in the inning. At this point, he and Giel seem relatively interchangeable as the fourth starter/bullpen ace.

...Infield defense may be a weakness again for this team. Eisen's two errors at third on Sunday were preceded by a Nick Cruet error at second base that began

the inning. In the following game, short-stop Alex Ferrera committed two errors in the four-run Bucknell sixth that gave the Bison their first lead of the weekend. In the end, the Lions committed eight errors on Sunday and all of them were in the infield, a completely unacceptable reality considering the fact that Columbia plays on an all-turf field. At least Bucknell appreciated the true surface—despite being swept, it committed just one error the entire weekend.

...The freshmen are for real, especially Olson and Nick Ferraresi. Olson had another stellar outing in game two on Saturday, and may have moved up into the number-two spot in the rotation heading into Ivy play next weekend. Ferraresi, on the other hand, ended his weekend with a bang. After a magical start to the season for the freshman right fielder, Ferraresi's offense had begun to slide a bit heading into the Bucknell series. This trend continued for most of this series, as he had just two hits and no RBI on the weekend heading into his third at-bat of game four on Sunday. But after Bucknell took its first lead of the weekend in the sixth inning of that game, Ferraresi regained his focus, smacking a double off the center field wall in the bottom of the inning. Two innings later, the first-year right fielder slammed a clutch two-run homer to center, which cut the deficit to one and set up the Lions for their second walk-off victory of the afternoon in the following inning. I love Bobby O'Brien both as a person and a baseball player, but a freshman with that kind of big play ability deserves his spot in the lineup. Ferraresi and sophomore DH Alex Aurricchio (who had five hits and five RBI this weekend including a scary opposite field home run) could anchor the middle of the Columbia order for years to come.

...Most of the lineup is still in flux. The only sure things on the lineup card for the start of Ancient Eight play next weekend will be Dean Forthun at catcher, Aurricchio at DH, and Jay Banos at first base. After that, there are eight or nine players in the mix for the final six starting spots.

Tom Di Benedetto is a Columbia College junior majoring in history.
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SPORTS BRIEF

Judie Lomax named honorable mention All-American

Judie Lomax has been recognized as an honorable mention All-American, the Associated Press announced on Tuesday. Lomax is the first Columbia women's basketball player to receive any level of All-American distinction.

Lomax's All-American selection comes after a season of unprecedented successes for the women's basketball team. Columbia won a program-record 18 games during its 2009-10 campaign and achieved its best Ivy League record, winning nine of its 14 conference matchups. The Lions finished the year in third place in the league standings.

In a season that celebrated teamwork, Lomax made her mark as an individual. She simply dominated games, averaging 18.6 points, 14.2 rebounds, 2.7 assists, and 2.6

steals per contest. Lomax also became the first NCAA Division I women's basketball player to lead the nation in rebounding for two consecutive seasons.

Despite playing a league-high 37.6 minutes per game this year, Lomax's production remained consistent. She even saved two of her greatest performances for the final weekend of Ivy play, contributing 21 points and 21 rebounds against Yale the night before a 20-point, 27-rebound showing against Brown.

Prior to receiving All-American honors, Lomax was recognized as the 2009-10 Ivy League Player of the Year and was selected to the Eastern College Athletic Conference Division I Women's Basketball All-Star Team.

—Sarah Sommer

Women's golf finishes seventh at Hoya Women's Invitational

BY MICHELE CLEARY
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Columbia women's golf team wrapped up competition at the Hoya Women's Invitational, a two-day event, yesterday, placing seventh out of 17 teams.

After the first day of the invitational, the Light Blue was in ninth place with a score of 322. Sophomore Lynda Kwon led Columbia that day, as she was in 16th place with a score of 78.

During the second day of competition, the Lions were able to

move up in the standings thanks to a score of 326, the fourth-best score that day. Though Kwon dropped to 34th in the standings with an overall score of 164, a strong second-day performance by senior Stevy Loy helped Columbia climb two spots to seventh place overall.

Loy was in 41st after the first round with a score of 82, but a second round score of 78, a team best, bumped her into the top 20, as she finished the tournament tied for 17th.

The Light Blue will compete again next Monday at the New York Cup.