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The Shaft

Follow the laughter, the tears, and the hilarity that is the Columbia housing game at our [blog](#), *The Shaft*. What will the Columbia housing gods grace you with this time?

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An Opera worth more than a few pennies

Arts and Entertainment editor Julia Halperin reviews Columbia Stages' production of Bertolt Brecht's *Threepenny Opera* on the Spectacle, playing this weekend.

INSIDE

[A&E, page 6](#)

New book gives new meaning to neocon

They Knew They Were Right, a historical tracing of the neoconservative movement, portrays the downfall of an intellectual trend into an egotistical movement.

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Around the world in 80 breakfasts

Looking for some cultural cuisine to spice up your morning meal? International students from China to Peru explain what they eat besides Wilma's excellent omelettes.

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A drug on the market

Columnist Jon Hollander makes the case for the legalization of drugs and points out strategic problems in government efforts to curb drug production and consumption.

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Sophomore Makarova much improved in 2009

After a disappointing first year as a part of Columbia tennis, Natasha Makarova spent all summer working on her game. Her training efforts paid off.



[Sports, page 10](#)

Columbia ready for rematch with Marist

The Columbia softball team will look to avenge its past losses to Marist. The Lions fell short in both games of a doubleheader against the Red Foxes in 2006.

SUITE SELECTION DAY 3

What remains from day one of suite selection

Watt studio doubles: 36 rooms
Ruggles eight-person (with three doubles): 10 rooms
Ruggles five-person (with one double): 3 rooms
Ruggles eight-person (with RA and rider): 2 rooms
Claremont five-person: 1 room
Claremont six-person: 1 room
Claremont seven-person: 10 rooms
Broadway: All Doubles available except for 2 rooms.
McBain: All Doubles available except for 2 rooms.
600 W. 113th: All Doubles available except for 2 rooms.

ENDGAME



DRAMATIC END | Samuel Beckett's *Endgame*, pictured here with Jeremy Blackman as Hamm and Gerges Scully as Clov, will be performed by the CU Players this weekend at the Black Box Theater. Tickets cost \$5 with CUID.

Ajit C. Pillai / Senior Staff Photographer

African studies strewn across University

BY SCOTT LEVI
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

In the late spring of 1968, as Columbia attempted to regain its footing after the explosive student protests tied to the Vietnam War and campus expansion, a movement that would become a controversial issue was emerging at Barnard.

At the request of his department chair Leroy C. Breunig and in response to the recent call for African Studies at the College, Barnard French professor Serge Gavronsky, CC '54, was then drafting the syllabus for the first course on the Columbia campus to treat African topics.

That fall, Gavronsky taught the pilot course of "Negritude," in which he exposed students to the Caribbean and African Francophone writers who turned to a shared black heritage as a means of combating French imperialism.

"I inaugurated what would become Africana Studies," he said in an interview last week, linking the origins of Barnard's current program in diaspora studies to the French department. The study of Africa—which lacked serious institutional support in American universities until the 1960s—grew into a national trend. At Barnard, departments introduced courses on the African novel, cinema, and major texts, as well as a class on the West African oral raconteurs known as grillots and grillotes.

More than 40 years later, despite an increase in scholars of Africa and the presence of established student programs at both Barnard and Columbia, African Studies at the University remains in flux.

On the one hand, Columbia has built up its resources on Africa to a level that thickly veils a Eurocentric past, dispersing outlets for African studies among varied schools and centers. Students can attend lectures at the Institute of African Studies; take advantage of opportunities in the departments of French, English, history, and Middle Eastern and Asian Languages and Cultures; master Swahili and Wolof through the Language Resource Center; or apply skills learned at the Mailman School of Public Health to benefit community health in Africa.

Yet on the other hand, without a department for African Studies and only a loose hub—the Institute—to unite the bureaucratically scattered pieces of Africa's past, the University's Africanists, budding diplomats, and novice enthusiasts confront the pressures of an interdisciplinary model. Although this model allows for a multifaceted approach, it is also a perennial dilemma at universities, where pressures from the administration to define a focus can blur the borders between disparate disciplines.

Trying to fit African studies into MEALAC

There are currently several ways to study the trends of African civilization and migration at the University. Columbia College students can pursue a major in regional studies centering on Africa, Barnard students can major in diaspora-driven

[SEE AFRICAN STUDIES, page 7](#)

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Arts Initiative develops new programs despite downturn

BY LAURA RAULERSON
Columbia Daily Spectator

Five years ago, Caralyn Spector was rummaging through old file cabinets and discovered documents from a handful of museums offering Columbia students free admission. From there, Arts Initiative programming was born.

Today, students receive free admission at 31 New York museums. The Arts Initiative, established by University President Lee Bollinger in 2004, currently encompasses an array of student and alumni programs that work to provide affordable and exclusive access to arts and culture in New York City. But in a country where arts education is often considered expendable in a harsh

economic climate, how will the program fare in the wake of the University's own financial woes?

The Arts Initiative, commonly referred to as CU Arts, has been asked to anticipate a greater budget cut than other University programs. According to director Gregory Mosher, AI operates independently of the endowment and is instead funded directly from the President's Office budget. So while the Initiative is not affected by the 8 percent decrease in endowment revenue for which Bollinger has asked budget units to plan, it has been asked to anticipate a 10-15 percent cut from its entire budget.

As a result, the Initiative plans to scale back

[SEE CU ARTS, page 6](#)

New EC policy poses problems for religious needs

BY KIM KIRSCHENBAUM
Spectator Staff Writer

Rebecca Herskovits, CC '12, is the only first-year member of Columbia's Orthodox Jewish community who will be living in an East Campus suite next year.

Her friends did not fare as well. They will have to seek housing elsewhere, confronting challenges in

other residential dormitories that may not accommodate their religious needs as effectively as EC does.

Herskovits' friends are among many Orthodox Jewish students who will face the effects of one of this year's housing policy changes. The same room/same suite policy, which allowed students to retain suites from one year to the next, was particularly beneficial to Orthodox students, who could pass down suites that accommodated their dietary and Sabbath observance needs. But with this policy gone, many might be faced with the difficulty of finding an



WOMEN-CHILDREN CRISIS



WORLDLY EXPERIENCE | Journalists Meredith May, Michael Kavanagh, and Alaa Majeed shared stories of being journalists in Nepal, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Iraq. Howard French, professor at the Graduate School of Journalism, moderated the panel Wednesday.

Linda Carrión / Senior Staff Photographer

Dispute over 126th st. vacancy

Local groups aim for development in former bakery lot

BY SAM LEVIN
Spectator Staff Writer

Aside from the squabbling chickens peeking their heads out of the live poultry shop on the corner, 126th street is otherwise quiet as it winds its way from Amsterdam to Morningside Avenue.

Last month, Community Board 9's Waterfront and Economic Development Committee discussed the redevelopment of the north side of this street, which, decades ago, was filled by the scent of fresh bread from a large bakery known as the Taystee cake factory.

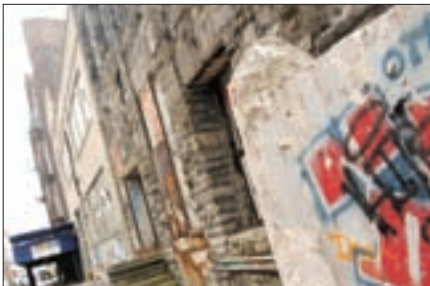
Yet CB9's plans for redevelopment continue to be thwarted by an ongoing lawsuit filed by the New York City Economic Development Corporation against Citarella, the gourmet market which opened its 125th Street location in 1999 and bought the 40,800 square-foot, city-owned site at 126th Street in 2001.

According to Savona Bailey-McClain, co-chair of the CB9 committee, Citarella was supposed to "develop a fish-processing center," but "a roof collapsed, and then there were questions of who would pay and how it would be restored."

McClain said the NYCEDC claims that "Citarella did not fulfill the obligations of the deed" on the grounds that the market purchased another fish processing site in the Bronx, and kept the 126th St. lot vacant.

According to Janel Patterson, NYCEDC spokesperson, the committee is currently in court with a "litigation to recover the property." She added that there is a "motion for some re-judgment."

[SEE TAYSTEE, page 3](#)



Andra Mihali / Staff Photographer

NO MORE CAKE | This storefront on 126th Street marks the former site of the Taystee cake factory.

WEATHER

Today
64 / 49



Tomorrow
55 / 45



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Barnard juniors can now put a ring on it

BY MINJI REEM
Spectator Staff Writer

As echoes of Beyoncé’s hit linger in students’ heads, the Barnard College annual ring sale is for the first time targeting juniors as well as seniors.

The ring sales started yesterday and continue today from 11:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Java City located in the lobby of Altschul on the Barnard campus. Students can also order rings online. Taking into consideration statistics from previous years, the Student Government Association anticipates that about 20 to 25 percent of the junior and senior classes will purchase rings this year. According to Rachel Wilkinson, BC ’10 and Ring Chair, “ring sales in previous years were extremely successful.”

“I was asking my friend which

Barnard ring design she was getting and she told me that she was going to receive her mother’s very own Barnard ring and engrave her own name onto it. It was really awesome to see that these rings have actually become a generation-to-generation tradition,” said Isabel Araujo, BC ’10 and Junior Class Treasurer.

Barnard’s official seal—the image of Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom and military victory—appears at the center of the ring. There are two different ring designs: the gold and silver Barnard Signet and the Barnard Intaglio, which was the original ring design. The Signet ring was designed within the last four years.

“The rings are a way to connect the Barnard juniors and seniors not only among each other on campus, but also with the alumnae who also had purchased their rings

when they were juniors and seniors themselves,” Wilkinson said.

The annual Ring Ceremony for graduating seniors will take place on April 28. During the ceremony, Dorothy Denburg, the dean of Barnard College, will present a speech on the significance of the rings in the Barnard Community.

To recognize Barnard’s affiliation to Columbia, students have the option of including a Columbia University seal on the ring, and students can also engrave up to nine letters onto the inside or outside of the ring.

Council members offered some practical advice on the choices of rings that students should make. “If you want the white gold, then you should get the 10K and if you want just gold, the 14K ring is best,” Araujo said.

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HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH

Masses: Notre Dame
Saturday (Vigil) 5:30 P.M.
Sunday 8:30 A.M., 11:30 A.M., 5:30 P.M.
St. Paul's
Sunday 5:00 P.M.

MONDAY, APRIL 6TH TO WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8TH

Masses: Notre Dame 8:00 A.M., 12:05 P.M.
St. Paul's 12:15 P.M.

CONFESSON: after masses and Wednesday 4:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

***HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 9TH**

7:30 P.M. Mass of the Lord's Supper
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 3:00 P.M. Friday

***GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10TH**

10:00 A.M. Tenebrae Service
3:00 P.M. Solemn Liturgy of the Passion and Death of the Lord
Adoration of the Cross
7:00 P.M. Stations of the Cross
Adoration of the Cross

***HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH**

8:15 P.M. Solemn Easter Vigil Ceremonies and Mass

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH

Masses: Notre Dame 8:30 A.M. and 11:30 A.M.
St. Paul's 12:00 P.M.
No Evening Mass at Notre Dame or St. Paul's on Easter Sunday

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EVENTS — APRIL 2

HIV Benefit Party
The Columbia University American Medical Students Association and Global Health Equity Initiative are hosting an event at La Negrita to benefit people in Malawi with HIV. The event costs \$5 at the door and there will be specials on drinks.

La Negrita, 999 Columbus Ave., 10 p.m.

Community Impact Auction
Provost Alan Brinkley will be CI's seventh annual *Making a Difference Service Award Recipient* for community service. Proceeds from the auction go to benefit CI's volunteer work.

JP Morgan Chase, 270 Park Ave., 6 p.m.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“It’s really important that these forums are held, just so the candidates feel like they’re talking to someone, even if there’s not that many

—Daphne Larose, BC ’10

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HOW TO REACH US

Have a question? Criticism? News tip? You can contact us directly by emailing info@columbiaspectator.com.

CORRECTIONS

The article, “Residents of 3333 Broadway split between two worlds,” which appeared in the April 1 issue of the *Spectator*, misstated that the building was sold once for \$85 billion, and again for \$280 billion. It was sold for \$85 million and \$280 million, respectively. Spectator regrets the error.

Same suite policy ended in East Campus

EAST CAMPUS from front page

tors, first heard about the issue from students before winter break. He said that Housing believed that allowing students to maintain suites from one year to the next was unfair. But for Orthodox Jewish students, the removal of this policy may cause problems regarding religious observance.

EC, in particular, is a popular dorm for this group. Its suite-style living makes preparing kosher food possible. There are also non-automatic lights, a requisite for the observance of the Sabbath. And unlike in some other residential halls, students do not need to swipe their IDs in order for the EC door to open. Swiping is prohibited for Orthodox students on the Sabbath.

“The Housing Advisory Committee—made up of RAs and representatives of Columbia College and Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Sciences student councils—took the proposal back to their respective councils and they voted yes [to removing same room/ same suite policy],” Joyce Jackson, Executive Director of Housing and Accommodation Services, said.

But despite ongoing conversations among Almog, Orthodox Jewish students, and housing administrators, a definitive solution has yet to be made as to how Orthodox Jewish students will be accommodated.

“Originally I thought that everything was going to work out fine, I thought housing would work out and we could do something along the lines of special interest housing,” Emma Lebowhl, SEAS ’11 and the Student Services Representative on the Engineering Student Council who brought the suite-removal issue to the attention of the council, said. “It turns out that after several meetings that either I attended or Jordan Katz and Rabbi Almog attended, we didn’t get anywhere. Housing did not see us eye to eye. It honestly is really hard to convey things to people who are not accustomed to anything remotely close to having concerns such as extremely strict dietary laws, or not using anything remotely related to electricity once a week.”

Jordan Katz, CC ’11 and president of Yavneh, Hillel’s Orthodox group, also remains unsure about what Housing plans to do for Orthodox Jewish students who may end up living in a residential hall unfit for their needs.

CU tightens dorm security with respect to religious needs

Students—and sometimes strangers—have been able to wander into any Columbia residential hall during the Sabbath in light of lax security regulations intended to respect religious needs. But the policy is about to change, as the housing administration takes a firmer grip on dormitory security.

Traditional Jewish students—those who observe Shabbat and keep kosher—approached housing administrators to discuss the issue. Up until recent changes were made, students were allowed to enter dorms during the Sabbath by simply stating, “Sabbath observer,” in light of the fact that Sabbath-observant students cannot swipe their IDs on Saturdays or other days of observance. This policy created the prospect of a security threat, as strangers were allowed to enter dormitories and showed up at meals.

Prompted by Jewish students, the housing administration decided it needed to change the

security policy so that it would protect students, while enabling them to move about without violating the Sabbath. Several changes have been made, which will be enacted this weekend.

Columbia Housing has created a Sabbath observer register book, which has the photo IDs of each person that is registered. These students, when entering the building during the Sabbath, will stand in line and tell the guards that they are Sabbath observers. After the students provide their names, UNIs, and room numbers, the guards will verify the information through the roster of photos of Sabbath observers. When Barnard students or other guests come to Columbia dorms on a Friday night, the host must supply a full list of guests in advance. On Saturdays—which are generally less busy than Friday nights—the hosts can meet their guests downstairs, and the guard will sign them in.

—Kim Kirschenbaum

“Housing was not really responsive, to say the least,” Katz said. “I wasn’t saying, we need to live in East Campus, but we have these restrictions. The question we needed answered was, what are you prepared to do for the students who have these needs?”

But others support the removal of this policy, stating that the concept of allowing students to hold onto suites from one year to the next leaves others at a disadvantage in the housing selection process.

Same room/same suite made for a really corrupt system,” a source said, who wished to remain anonymous due to what he described as the sensitivity of the issue. “Sure, a lot of Jewish students were happy, but that didn’t mean other people were who ended up having less rooms to choose from.”

Housing administrators acknowledged that they have not yet come to a firm resolution, largely because the housing selection process is currently taking place, which makes it difficult to discern the outcome of the change. But they affirmed that they will accommodate students on a case-by-case basis.

“When we know where the students are living and we know what their specific needs are, we’ll work with them to prepare the spaces the way the need them,” Jackson said. “If that means they need new appliances, we’ll order new appliances.”

But to many students, the removal of this policy may affect the

sense of community that was once fostered in residential halls. Under the same room/same suite policy, there was a high concentration of Orthodox Jewish students in EC many of whom lived in suites on the same floor, spending weekends with one another and observing holidays together.

“For a religion that has its base in community, it’s really nice to have that community in the building,” Rami Levi, CC ’12 and an Orthodox Jewish student, said. “And now that it’s gone, it’s not the end of the world, but it does mean that people can’t appreciate what it means to be part of the community anymore.”

Almog agreed, pointing to the effects that this will have on the dynamics of this close-knit community.

“Students choose to come here because of the strong Orthodox Jewish community,” Almog said. “This is a campus that is committed to diversity—that includes religious diversity. Part of being committed to diversity is making people with different needs feel comfortable. I think that is going to be a challenge.”

Still, administrators maintain that the removal of the policy will not result in the diminishing of this sense of community.

“We look forward to working with Hillel and residential programs to make sure that that type of community can continue,” Michael Novielli, CC ’03 and Chief of Administration, said. “Obviously

SGA candidates present platforms in forum

BY HILARY SOLOFF
Spectator Staff Writer

At the Student Government Association Representative Council Candidates Forum last night at Barnard, some of the candidates were not actually present. Instead, campaigning from abroad, these students—including presidential candidate Karen Kwan, BC ’10, who is in Greece—had proxies speak on their behalf.

Ideas about the Nexus, Fireside Chats, and financing were just a few of the topics included in students’ speeches. All candidates for positions on the Executive Board and representatives to the Representative Council presented their platforms at the event, moderated by Daphne Larose, BC ’10 and Junior Representative to the Board of Trustees, and Glenda Smiley, BC ’09.

“It’s really important that these forums are held, just so the candidates feel like they’re talking to someone, even if there’s not that many people in the room,” Larose said. “And it’s a really great way for students on campus to hear the platforms of the candidates because a lot of times students on campus don’t really know who their reps are in SGA.”

All candidates running for the same position had three minutes to present, then they returned to the front of the room for a short question and answer session. Kwan and Katie Palillo, BC ’10, are both running for SGA President.

Many students at the forum participated in this year’s question-and-answer period, compared to the blank stares that Larose said characterized the responses of audience members in previous years.

“It really gave the candidates an opportunity to see what’s on the students’ minds and what the students would like them to focus on just by virtue of them thinking its important enough to ask about,” Smiley said. “It might have raised certain questions that they hadn’t asked themselves while they were preparing their platform.”

“Often times people run for these positions or they hear about them but they have no idea what the job really entails, so this is the first stepping stone in figuring out and learning what this is,” Larose said. “Even if you’re not participating in the forum, its good to come and listen and get a sense of what that job entails if in the future you think you would want to run for something.”

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126th street development disputed

TAYSTEE from front page

Patterson had no comment on future plans if the NYCEDC recovers the property from Citarella.

“We want to bring all parties together and figure out what would make everyone happy,” Bailey-McClain said of CB9’s role in what she called the “huge battle.”

Bailey-McClain expressed frustration over the dispute. “We always saw a mixed-used property here, but we may not get that opportunity. We are at a legal standstill,” she said, adding that Citarella could lose the space, leaving it empty for another five to 10 years.

Raymond Boykin, a neighborhood resident, shared Bailey-McClain’s discontent. “It has to be developed. It’s a huge eyesore,” he said.

Luzella Ratliff, who lives next door to the vacant property, remembered when Taystee was open. “It was great, really great,” she said. “They should

fix it up. It has been vacant for so many years.”

Community leaders agree upon the need to build up the area where Taystee formerly operated. CB9 Chair Pat Jones said that any development would help 126th street and the community at large. “At the end of the day, we need something to enliven the streets, something that could provide some employment for local residents” Jones said.

Jones added that she would be happy if the open building were filled with any combination of an artists’ space, residential housing, light manufacturing, or a play space for children.

Marie Gray, who provides services to families next door to the former Taystee building, was delighted at the idea of a community center.

“Kids have to go so far to find somewhere to play,” Gray said. “We need something family-oriented.”

After finalizing green

SGA candidates

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SGA President:

-Karen Kwan BC’10
-Katie Palillo BC’10

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-Kimberly Wu BC’10

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ARTS&ENTERTAINMENT

FOOD

From porridge to parathas: breakfast with students from around the world

BY HANNAH LAYMON
Columbia Daily Spectator

Though the pancakes and scrambled eggs in John Jay’s breakfast array may seem like standard morning fare to many Columbia students, the term “breakfast” often has other associations for international students. With a student body as diverse as Columbia’s, the cafeteria at brunch-time is frequently filled with chatter about international politics and various cultural customs. But how do international students’ breakfasts here differ from those of their home countries?

In many parts of the world, breakfast is less elaborate than the traditional American spread of bacon, eggs, cereal, toast, and orange juice. Breakfast in most Western European countries consists mainly of bread. In Wallonia, the southern part of Belgium, the influence of nearby France has made the baguette a breakfast staple, while in the northern city of Flanders,

multigrain bread is more popular. The bread is frequently buttered and eaten with hard cheese and cured meats such as ham and salami.

Alternatively, some people top their bread with hagelslag—chocolate and sugar sprinkles named for their resemblance to hailstones.

The combination of bread and cheese is not unique to Western European breakfast tables—it is also the center of a traditional breakfast in Turkey. Turkish bread, found as both loaves and flatbreads, is eaten with

a sheep’s milk cheese that is similar to feta, along with tomatoes and black olives.

“Not green, not red, but black,” explained Duygu Yilmaz, CC ’12. “What I sometimes have on my bread is spicy Turkish sausages.”

In China, most people buy food from street vendors instead of making breakfast at home. “On weekends you might make your own food, but that’s rare,” Amy Xiao, SEAS ’12, said. “The fact that it’s freshly cooked is a good incentive to go out and buy food.”

Traditionally, Chinese breakfast has consisted of a fried pastry called you tiao. Other popular dishes available from these vendors include porridge and steamed buns with red bean paste.

But in recent years, the Western practice of eating bread and milk for breakfast has become increasingly common in China, as well as cereal in India. Nevertheless, people in northern India frequently eat parathas, a flatbread that is fried in butter and often stuffed with vegetables and cheese. Suji, or semolina, is a dish that is normally eaten as a dessert but can also be served at breakfast (either plain or adorned with dried fruit), accompanied by a cup of tea.

A traditional breakfast in Guatemala features coffee, beans, and tortillas, often accompanied by fried plantains, guacamole, beef, or a fried egg. Further south in Peru, eggs and steak are common, as well as tamales and chicharrones, a pork dish served with sweet potatoes in onion. “Oatmeal is common,” Claudia Meza-Cuadra, CC ’12, said. “There’s frequently papaya juice.”

Despite the increasing popularity of Western, and particularly American, breakfast foods, this wide range of approaches to the most important meal of the day continues to endure.

ARTS & ECONOMICS

CU Arts aims for an array of activities despite recession

CU Arts from front page

a few staple programs in the coming year. But financial strain has not prevented—and may have even encouraged—Columbia’s students, staff, and alumni to take advantage of AI programs. The Ticket and Information

CAAL STATISTICS

Total revenue from membership donations July-March of FY’09 is up **74%** in comparison to July-March of FY’08.

90% of donating members give online.

Funds raised during the first half of the fiscal year have increased **76%** compared to last year.

Center recently sold its one hundred-thousandth ticket, the alumni program has seen a 74 percent increase in alumni participation since the beginning of the fiscal year, and AI staff are preparing to launch a new program, ArtsLink, in the fall.

But the Arts Initiative must still find ways to decrease programming expenses. For the past five years, the program has introduced itself to the freshman class by hosting a cultural event in the city during orientation week. For the last two years, this was an exclusive reception at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the Greek and Roman, Egyptian, and African galleries. The AI receives extensive exposure through the event—according to Spector, the current program manager, 1,932 students attended last year. And a student two years ago enjoyed it so much that her family donated \$35,000—a substantial portion of the event cost—to the NSOP Cultural Event program.

But despite previous donations, Spector reported that this event will be a casualty of the budget cut. Yet she assured that the event would be replaced with a (presumably less expensive) alternative, because “it is vital for us to introduce ourselves to the

incoming class as well as introduce them to the city.”

Some students, like Larhonde Sealey, BC ’09, expressed disappointment that the grand introduction will be scaled back next year. She said that the event introduces students to an urban culture and “lets them know that the museum is available to them.” Sergio Barraza, CC ’12, on the other hand, feels like the Arts Initiative wisely cut the event. “It was so loud. I couldn’t really appreciate the art; honestly, I felt like it could have been done in Lerner,” he said.

Another area that will be affected by the budget cut is the Arts Initiative’s Arts Global program. Already underway in China—along with the opening of Columbia’s global center in Beijing—Arts Global seeks to work with schools and individual artists to help connect cultures with one another. “It will still exist in some form—it just may not be as ambitious,” Mosher said about the program’s delay.

While the Arts Initiative hasn’t been immune to the harsh economic climate, the Columbia Alumni Arts League has seen an unprecedented increase in participation this fiscal year, according to Arts Initiative associate director for alumni relations and development Malwina Łys-Dobradin.

CAAL was founded in 2007 to provide alumni with access to the city’s culture. Bollinger and his wife Jean give every member of the graduating class the opportunity to sign up for a free one-year membership to CAAL as a graduation gift. Last year, 3,200 signed up for the membership and 2,400 members of the class of 2009 have already signed up within the first week of this year’s enrollment campaign.

After the complimentary first year, CAAL membership requires a donation of at least \$25 and includes discounts and benefits associated with over 60 cultural organizations as well as invitations to CAAL Nights, where the Arts Initiative rents out venues and provides access to special events.

Kristen Sellée, GSAS ’08, is a member of CAAL and said she enjoys attending the program events. As a freelance art journalist in the city, she appreciates the program’s commitment to providing cheap tickets. “I love the e-mails the program sends, but I would use it a lot more if I could purchase tickets online,” she explained.

Arts Initiative leaders ultimately attribute the program’s success to the service it provides. According to Mosher, theater venues want to fill empty seats to create

revenue when ticket sales are down, even if those seats are not at full price. She explained that the TIC and CAAL have been able to continue to provide cheap access to expensive venues because they depend heavily on unsold tickets.

But while the TIC has sold more than 100,000 tickets after little more than a year in existence, as well as to accept Flex last fall, several students are still unsatisfied with the service. Farhana Begum, CC ’11, faulted the TIC for diminishing attendance of campus events, especially those held in Lerner. “They

make you buy tickets through the TIC and charge a \$.50 processing fee when people are much more likely to come, pay money at the door, and get their hand stamped,” she said.

Budget cuts will not delay the full launch of new program ArtsLink in the fall. ArtsLink will serve as a mediator between the classroom and the city’s cultural events, attempting to make it easier for professors to incorporate performances and arts events into their curricula. Mosher described ArtsLink as an attempt to

further integrate the program into the Columbia community and “move Art’s Initiative more directly in the direction of Columbia’s teaching and learning mission.”

While severe budget cuts usually force a program to narrow its focus, Arts Initiative administrators maintain that they have been able to maintain its direction, continuing to provide the Columbia community with exclusive access to the arts. As Spector asserted, “We’re going to continue down the path that we’re on now.”



Ian Kwok / Staff Photographer

AUDACITY OF ARTS | Despite a decrease in funding, the Arts Initiative has planned a number of new programs to keep students exploring New York, including a program called ArtsLink that will connect professors to programs in the city.

BOOKS

Author explores the problematic world of the far right side of politics

BY CHRISTOPHER MORRIS-LENT
Columbia Daily Spectator

The word “neoconservative” is like the word “porn”—people know what it is and argue for or against it, but few really know how to define it. Most students at this liberal university, though, would agree that sloppy thinking, imprecise language, and willful ignorance are hallmarks of the movement. Not understanding neoconservatism means they have fallen into the same trap themselves.

They Knew They Were Right, a new book by Jacob Heilbrunn, aims to demystify all things neoconservative. “It’s the first full-scale effort in some time,” Heilbrunn said, and it covers everything from the movement’s genesis in 1930s Trotskyism to its possible future. It is thorough without being wordy, learned without being too academic, and comprehensive without being needlessly exhaustive.

The title is taken from Anthony Trollope, though it also resonates with a recent *New*



Courtesy of Random House

NEOCON GAMES | *They Knew They Were Right* examines the neocon movement.

Yorker profile of neocon Christopher Hitchens. Its lame pun points to what has vexed the neocons’ opponents over the last few years: a lack of curiosity, and what Heilbrunn calls an “opportunistic” quality.

But the book is not an attack—it is passionate without losing objective authority. Heilbrunn is no friend of the neocons, but he realizes it is best to let them implicate themselves. What he reveals is a movement that is narrow and sometimes egotistic in its interests. He quotes Norman Podhoretz (“I think that Jews must once again begin to look at proposals and policies from the point of view of Jewish interest”), David Gelernter (“I don’t claim that Saddam [Hussein] resembles Hitler; I do claim that the world’s indifference to Saddam resembles its indifference to Hitler”), and Irving Kristol (“Sector after sector of American life has been ruthlessly corrupted by the liberal ethos”).

The last quotation foregrounds another facet of the neocons’ creed: it is made in opposition to its adversaries and is necessarily opposed to liberalism. In fact, Heilbrunn

argues, the first neocons grew out of liberalism. Under President Lyndon Johnson, affirmative action was supported and federal spending was spiraling: “It began as a movement to try and reform liberalism from within.”

But it grew into something far different. Heilbrunn views the movement as a series of wars: the fiscal-policy war against the “War on Poverty,” shifting into the domestic-policy and culture wars, shifting into the foreign-policy Iraq War. Heilbrunn sees a degeneration. “This is why I was scandalized by the Iraq War: it was counterproductive; we ended up becoming our own worst enemy!”

Neoconservatism often presents itself as an answer to everything, but Heilbrunn has an answer for all things neoconservative. He explains that neoconservatives are “much more ideological than the traditional conservatives like [Robert] Gates or [John] McCain,” and described the movement in numerous ways: “American nationalism and crusading Wilsonianism,” “As a family,

with the squabbles and disagreements,” and “Genghis Khan and Woodrow Wilson walking hand in hand.”

“There’s a vast corpus of writings on neoconservatism that informed me,” Heilbrunn said. But what differentiates *They Knew They Were Right* from other books on the subject? “I hope it’s more up-to-date. I focus very much on ethnic and tribal aspects of neoconservatism,” he said.

Heilbrunn does restrain himself, objecting to the word “cult” as simply “too harsh.” But overall, *They Knew They Were Right* takes a grim view of the neoconservative movement’s effects and direction: “Neoconservatism degenerated from a rather serious intellectual movement into something opportunistic.” The fallout? Liberalism will have an iron grip over Washington for the next two decades, he claims.

It may seem like a bleak future for the neoconservatives, but they’ve always thrived on marginalization, real or perceived—which is why their movement, and Heilbrunn’s book, are extremely relevant.

Professors discuss best home for African studies within decentralized structure

AFRICAN STUDIES from front page

Africana studies, SIPA Master of International Affairs candidates may concentrate on regional studies in Africa, and graduate students in all programs may work toward a certificate in African Studies in addition to a separate graduate degree. Somewhat vaguely, the Institute of African Studies serves as a meeting point for all of these scholars.

While numerous professors expressed contentment with the setup, the division of resources in a specific topic has triggered problems at other Columbia institutes. Since these resources originate in individual departments, joining them creates combinations that, though structurally feasible, are philosophically questionable. For instance, there has been alarm over the placement of the Institute's leader, West African historian Mamadou Diouf, in the Middle East and South Asia-focused MEALAC department.

"There is a push across the country to lump Africa, the Middle East, and Asia," said Kim Hall, English professor and director of Africana Studies at Barnard. This pattern reflects the internationalization of university life, a trend Columbia exemplified with the debut of its Global Centers in Amman and Beijing last month. Whereas one group of professors stresses the importance of understanding the interaction of world regions, others worry that a comparative approach—like the one seen in MEALAC—groups distinct countries and languages into a monolith and leaves little room for detailed consideration.

"One should not ignore the risk that this is to hijack everything African and connect it with the Middle East," said philosophy and French professor Souleymane Bachir Diagne, acknowledging this danger. Bachir Diagne, who was educated in Senegal and teaches French courses on Africa, nevertheless favors the incorporation of African Studies into MEALAC because it "is correcting the colonial situation."

Traditional schools have long neglected to identify the strong connections between Arab North Africa and black West Africa, which is their shared belief in Islam and the use of Arabic to record science, literature, and past events. "In terms of scholarship,



Courtesy of Barnard.edu

Abosede George

one could be an Africanist without knowing anything about Islam," he said, explaining that the division between these two regions "had rendered the intellectual history of West Africa totally opaque."

Abosede George, a professor of African history at Barnard, commends the breadth of options in spite of potential risks. "More programs are better than fewer," she said, adding that Columbia could not plausibly collapse diaspora studies, continental studies, and American studies into one program.

Reversing a colonial past

Globalizing African studies may do more than bring Columbia up to speed with its peer institutions.

"Global studies seems to be an important element in future reincarnation at Columbia," said Diouf, who arrived from the University of Michigan to reopen and stabilize the Institute in July 2007 after it underwent a revolving door of directors, a drop in finances, and a shutdown in 2006. "We are not interested in an insular understanding of African studies."

Diouf's comment points to the imperialistic heritage of African studies, a scar of the past which involved faculty apparently hope to conceal. African Studies was born in part with a view to political ends. For example, Yale first housed its African language instruction in the Divinity School, likely for



Courtesy of Barnard.edu

Kim Hall



Courtesy of Barnard.edu

Serge Gavronsky

missionary work.

After years of lingering in that vein, the field came under the umbrella of area studies. These disciplines emerged during the Cold War, when the American superpower—estranged from the European partners who once supplied the White House with academic knowledge on nations—was pressed to do its own scrutiny of regions susceptible to the spread of communism.

Now, as African studies struggles to make a presence at American universities, its scholars aim to stray from historical tendencies. Indeed, the continued view of African scholarship as an isolated political tool could conjure bad associations for some. "The colonial past says that Africa is only valuable in the



Courtesy of Columbia.edu

Mamadou Diouf



Courtesy of Columbia.edu

Souleymane Bachir Diagne

resources you can mine out of it," Hall said. "The utilitarian idea of Africa does not lend itself to thinking about Africa as an intellectual resource."

Stabilizing at Columbia, maintaining at Barnard

Although founded in the 1950s, a time when the U.S. government actively endorsed area studies, IAS currently serves as the launch pad for expanding the field at Columbia. Hosting conferences, preserving a library collection, and handing out certificates, IAS raises awareness of the Columbia scholars and researchers whose work concerns Africa.

As much as Diouf wants IAS to spark

communication, it may in fact misrepresent the unity of the University's Africanist community. According to George, many people with training similar to hers fail to partake in the collaborative efforts of IAS.

"There are fields that have had people working on African issues with little awareness of the dialogue among the segments," she said. Diouf agreed, citing the "challenge" of successfully merging constituents from Public Health, SIPA, Barnard, and the various parts of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

Yet all aspirations of forming a department of African studies such as the ones at Brown and Howard Universities are what Diouf called "fetishistic."

"For the time being, it's good this way," Bachir Diagne said of the current format. "There are people who make sure that Africa is a big part of their department," rather than bonding together to form a separate department.

Even in Barnard's well-seated curriculum, faculty have resisted the conversion from program to department—which would guarantee Africana studies tenure-granting and hiring abilities. The program instead relies on the labor of professors from other departments, including English, dance, human rights, and anthropology.

"Barnard is much more integrated," Hall said. Africana studies there has a sizable number of majors each year, is in the midst of planning a minor, and has its own designation for courses on Africana subjects.

Diouf does not completely oppose locating African studies in a more established context. He and other Columbia professors, along with the aid of Barnard faculty, have already submitted a proposal for the development of a major at Columbia. This would require students to fulfill core course requirements and then resort to other departments in order to fortify their knowledge of a particular area such as West African politics, oral history, or Swahili literature.

"The next step is a jointly organized venture which will enable us to add something more important," he said of his intentions to keep the arrangement interdisciplinary. "If we all come together, we will have the full picture."

Scott Levi can be reached at scott.levi@columbiaspectator.com

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8:00 pm



Photo of Victoria North and August Pozgay by Dave Minchin

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Despite playing No. 1 singles, Makarova remains unsatisfied with position

MAKAROVA from back page

No. 5 and 6 singles, and winning a match at No. 3 singles against Seton Hall in straight sets in the spring. Makarova, however, was not content with her progression and took it upon herself to improve over the summer.

“I was kind of injured freshman year,” said Makarova, “I was dealing with health issues from transitioning to college. It was hard on me. I couldn’t play at the level I was playing at before in juniors.”

Makarova, however had another reason to train hard over the summer as well.

“My younger sister is a phenomenal junior player,” said Makarova, “so I have to stay in really good shape so I can train

and practice with her. I wasn’t playing at the level of junior tennis and I wasn’t happy about it. I had to keep up with my sister, and keep it up in order to feel good on the court like I did [when playing juniors].”

When Makarova returned to campus this fall, she came back a tremendously improved player. Her opponents noticed, as did head coach Ilene Weintraub, who constantly cites Makarova as being among the fittest players on the team.

“Natasha is an extremely self-motivated player,” said Weintraub. “She is one of the strongest players I have ever coached, with a tremendous commitment to her fitness. She is the fittest player on the team.”

Weintraub praised the effect Makarova’s work ethic has had on the whole team.

“Natasha is an example to the whole team, with her tremendous improvement. She shows the team that if they commit, play hard and with determination, the results will come. She is a great example to the team.”

Despite playing No. 1 singles at an Ivy League school, Makarova is not content with where she is.

“I’ve played a lot of matches, but I don’t have a defining moment,” said Makarova. “I’m still not back at the level where I am comfortable.”

Head coach Weintraub however, is confident that Makarova will continue her tremendous rate of improvement.

“If she continues to improve, there is no telling what she can do,” Weintraub said.

NATASHA MAKAROVA

Columbia College ’11
Major: Biochemistry

COLLEGIATE RECORD:
2009– Singles: 4-8 overall
Doubles: 3-9 overall
2008– Singles: 1-5 overall
Doubles: 2-6 overall

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
-Ranked 2nd in Southern California and 12th nationally in the G16’s category in 2005
-San Diego junior player of the year and most improved in 2006



Princeton fires more shots while limiting CU offense

LACROSSE from back page

less than one minute into the stanza.

Freshman midfielder Kelly Buechel answered with a goal for the Lions, but Princeton recorded the next two tallies of the game. Columbia responded with three goals of its own, including junior attacker Brittany Shannon’s 25th and 26th of the year, but the Lions could never overcome their early deficit.

With a powerful offense, Princeton was able to maintain its lead and come

away with the 15-5 victory. The Tigers outscored the Lions 9-4 in the second period and scored the last six goals of the game. Overall, Princeton outshot Columbia, 32-18.

On the defensive end, sophomore goalkeeper Erin Tochiara finished with five saves for the Tigers. Senior goalkeeper Emma Mintz notched eight saves for the Lions.

Columbia continues conference play this weekend with a matchup at Brown. Game time is set for 12 p.m. in Providence.

Stories, past dreams abound in final farewell

COLUMN from back page

true. None of them, except for one: all the articles you see in this section, and every Sports section of the *Columbia Daily Spectator*, have been written by all of two writers and one chimp. They use different pseudonyms and trade off whose day it is to provide all the quotations, but yes, all of these sports articles have been written by one of three primates, no more. Maybe you are feeling deceived right now, perhaps justifiably so. I was too, at first, but then you have to realize how impressive the sports desk really

is, considering the circumstances.

I had a dream last night. I dreamed that Columbia bull riding was a reality, as was a rodeo arena in Manhattanville. I dreamed that we had built a 95,000-capacity football stadium and in it were 17,000 drunken, rowdy Lions fans on a Saturday afternoon. I dreamed that those same drunken, rowdy Lions fans would show up to a basketball game and invoke more energy and school pride than a dozen Fordham fans could. I dreamed that athletes and their fans were free to smoke the marijuana like a cigarette in the offseason, and

that Snood was a recognized sport at this school. I dreamed that my fan club met closer to where I live than a darkened overpass in East Harlem. I dreamed that I never said or did what I said and what I did to the Brown women’s fencing squad. I dreamed that I cured racism.

We could have done great things together, Columbia University Athletics. No hard feelings, though. It’s time for this pony to ride.

Mike Shannon is a Columbia College senior majoring in sociology. sports@columbiaspectator.com

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After Hours: Erica vonKleist & No Exceptions


APR 9-12 SING INTO SPRING FESTIVAL
JIMMY SCOTT & THE JAZZ EXPRESSIONS
After Hours: Erica vonKleist & No Exceptions

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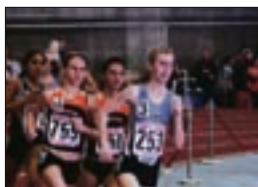
The Columbia baseball team will hit the road for two doubleheaders this weekend against Yale and Brown.

TOMORROW



SPORTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2009 • PAGE 10



The Columbia track and field team will be competing in the Princeton Distance Classic Friday and Saturday.

TOMORROW

Final installment: a look back at an era



MICHAEL SHANNON
BAD NEWZ, MIKE

Daily Spectator, back in 2007. Time flies, doesn't it, especially when you're having fun. Even when you're not. Feels like years have passed since I constructed that perfect lead, a testament to the power of the written word and its ability, given the right writer, to puncture that vacant absence of understanding just when it's needed the most. Funny how those lines actually began a column on bull riding, but so they stand as evidence of my virtuosity as a writer.

And I need that sort of evidence to hang around. You see, this is the very last installment of "Bad Newz, Mike." Sad. I didn't even let the fan club know—they're going to be pissed.

It has been a long and winding road to this point, which, last time I checked, was unofficially my 322nd column. It's true, very few writers have the tenacity and perseverance to pump out that much tripe for that long. My articles were very rarely on time, and they very rarely exceeded the minimum word count requested by my editors.

Most of my sports columns had very little to do with sports, even, but that was a conscious decision. I realized very early on and made it clear to the rest of the section that I vehemently disagreed with the utter lack of diversity in subject matter on the sports page, and I did my darndest to remedy that situation. I tried, Obama, I really did try, but never mind all that—if I am going to leave the *Spectator*, I want to be remembered as that guy who consistently turned in well-intentioned but disoriented ramblings on how to save Columbia athletics. Nothing more, nothing less.

You know why I took the name "Bad Newz, Mike?" Yeah that's right, my three-year-old nephew was the inspiration. So, you've heard this story before, huh? Guess you looked it up on my Wikipedia page. No matter, it's a cute little story that bears repeating.

Part of the application process for this coveted sports columnist position was to offer up 10 sample column ideas. Most of my ideas involved the *Spectator* footing the bill to send me to exotic gambling locations, all for good reasons, but I figured I would be judged a bit better if I added some other ideas to my list.

I looked to my young nephew for advice on how to appeal to the less potty-trained readers of the *Spectator* sports section. I handed over my page of news story ideas to young Petrie, and after several moments of careful consideration, you know what that punk nephew of mine did? His sole act of "constructive criticism" was to write "bad newz" across the middle of my ideas in licorice-scented marker. Then he laughed.

Dumb kid didn't even spell "news" right; he wrote the 'w' backwards. Well, I got him back, anyway. First things first, I told him the truth about the Easter Bunny (Who's laughing now, Petrie? How's that for "bad newz?"). Second, I got the columnist position and began writing "Bad Newz, Mike," which went on to become the sports column with the highest reader-to-column ratio in sports column history. Ever.

But all that has to come to an end. It's been good, damn good, but it's time for me to move on. Before I go, I'd like to do something that has been regrettably absent from my many columns, and that is send some props *Spectator's* way. Now, I don't know how much time you spend reading other schools' student newspapers, but I spend a lot of my free time doing just that, and let me tell you that it is exceeding rare to find student journalism of this caliber. It is all the more amazing that the *Spectator* does it five days a week. Honestly, it really bursts my bee basket when I read all these anonymous critics on Bwog (please QuickSpec me, please) and message boards throwing around all this nonsense, blind criticism, and unsubstantiated rumors.

Right here and now, I'd like to set the record straight and say that none of those rumors are

SEE COLUMN, page 8

Women's lacrosse falls to seventh-ranked Princeton

BY SARAH SOMMER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Columbia lacrosse team added a fourth game to its losing streak with a 15-5 defeat at seventh-ranked Princeton on Wednesday night. The Lions (5-4, 0-3 Ivy) had their lowest offensive output of the season, while the Tigers (8-1, 2-0) cruised to victory behind 15 tallies.

Princeton struck first with a goal by senior attacker Christine Casaceli after less than three minutes of play. Columbia responded just a few minutes later, as senior midfielder Rachael Ryan found the back of the net to knot the score. Senior attacker Holly Glynn was credited with the assist.

The Lions could not keep pace with the Tigers for long, however. Princeton racked up five more goals in the period to take a 6-1 halftime lead. The Tigers did not let up in the second half, scoring their seventh goal



File photo

SEE LACROSSE, page 8

TOUGH LOSS | Lacrosse had its worst offensive showing of the season, scoring a season-low five goals against a tough Tigers defense.

Nationally ranked in high school, Makarova plays with determination

Sophomore Makarova overcomes injury-plagued freshman year

BY KUNAL GUPTA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Natasha Makarova is a player who is always improving.

From her days as a junior tennis player in San Diego to her still-short time as a player for the women's tennis team, Makarova has improved her game every step of the way. Named the most improved player in San Diego in 2006, and jumping from the bottom of the lineup to No. 1 singles this season, Makarova is unquestionably a rising star.

Makarova, a sophomore, developed her love for tennis from her mother, Luda, who was quite an accomplished tennis player herself. Luda was the No. 1 singles player in the Soviet Union and played on the 1982 Soviet Union Federation Cup team. Makarova, however, was not initially drawn to the sport.

"I started in group lessons when I was 10," said Makarova, "and not competitively. After a certain while, it got integrated and I started playing in a little competition and I was kind of successful. I don't know what changed but I hated it when I started, definitely not love at first sight."

Gradually, Makarova began to play more and more tennis, and by the time she was in high school, her ability had placed her on the national stage. Makarova was the CIF San Diego champion in 2006, and had previously been the second ranked girls tennis player in the tennis hotbed of southern California. Her national ranking in 2005 had risen to as high as 12. The sacrifices she made to achieve this success were tremendous.

"It was a huge commitment," said Makarova of the junior tennis circuit, "but I loved playing junior tennis. It was tiring because you had to go away every weekend. We would drive all over, and most of your friends came from junior tennis. I gave up my social life in high school. Everyday after school, I spent more hours at the tennis center than I did at home, unless I was



HARD TRAINING | In order to maintain her speed, Makarova spent much of the summer improving her fitness, which was immediately evident to both her opponents and coaches.

File photo

sleeping. I wouldn't even stop at home, I would go directly to tennis."

The rigorous routine extended beyond the school year.

"Summers were strictly tennis," Makarova continued. "During the summers we would practice five hours a day."

Makarova's commitment to the game offered her a variety of options when it came to her future.

"I didn't really ever consider going professional," said Makarova, "those players that are [planning on going pro] play more of the international circuit. When I was in high school, my goal was probably to get a full ride to a school."

Fortunately for the Lions, Makarova found out about Columbia, and made an official visit to the campus.

"It's hard to say why exactly I came to Columbia," said Makarova, "but when I came on my official visit, something about the campus just felt right. I was also a big fan of Ivy League academics, and my family originally lived in Montreal, so I missed the cold weather. It seems foolish now, but I wanted to go somewhere where it was colder."

As soon as Makarova arrived on campus in the fall of 2007, however, she met with a bit of a surprise. She was recruited by Rob Kresberg, who stepped down from the position during that summer. Makarova said that she struggled at first to adjust to the college game, which varied greatly from the junior ranks with which she was so familiar.

"It was a hard transition," continued Makarova. "In junior tennis you would have a couple of easy matches to get comfortable with the tournament and the setting and it would get progressively harder, but in college all of the players are so tough there's no easy wins. You have to be on every single day, there no room for injury, or not feeling your shots."

Makarova had a solid freshman season, playing primarily at

SEE MAKAROVA, page 8



File photo

BATTER UP | The last time the Columbia softball team faced Marist, it lost both games of a doubleheader. Tomorrow the Lions seek better results.

BY MICHELE CLEARY
Spectator Staff Writer

The Columbia softball team will take a break from Ivy action when it heads to Poughkeepsie, N.Y., on Thursday to play a doubleheader against Marist. The Lions are coming off a disappointing weekend, during which they dropped three of their first four conference games.

The Light Blue opened its Ivy campaign with a split against Harvard on Saturday. Columbia dropped the first game of the series 1-0, but was able to take the second by a score of 2-0. This victory was due in large part to the excellent performance of pitcher Maggie Johnson, who not only shut down the Crimson offense, but also put the Lions on the board in the bottom of the fourth inning with a two-run homer.



Softball Preview

Columbia softball to face Marist in doubleheader

Columbia was not as successful against Dartmouth on Monday, as they dropped both games of the doubleheader. In the first game, the Big Green triumphed 8-1 due to an offensive surge during the first two innings. While the second game was closer, the Lions were still not able to produce the offense necessary for victory, and fell 3-1.

The Red Foxes are also coming off a disappointing series, having dropped both games against Albany on Tuesday in two close contests. During the first game, the Red Foxes led the Great Danes 5-2 going into the fifth inning, but Marist's pitching staff gave up three runs in the fifth, tying the game. An error by Marist in the top of the sixth allowed Albany to score the winning run.

The second game of the series also resulted in a one-run victory for the Great Danes, who beat the Red Foxes 2-1. Albany scored in the first inning due to a field error by Marist and did not relinquish the lead for the rest of the game.

So far this season, Columbia and Marist have only had two common opponents, Fairleigh Dickinson and Army. The Red Foxes only faced Fairleigh Dickinson once, falling 3-1 to the Knights on March 8. The Lions have faced FDU twice, losing the first matchup on March 19 by a score of 5-4, but triumphing on March 26, 4-2.

On March 11, Marist split a doubleheader with Army, dropping the first decision to the Black Knights 3-2, but winning the second game 3-1. The Light Blue defeated Army 4-2 on March 15 during the Rebel Spring Games.

The only other Ivy squad Marist has faced so far this season is Yale. The Red Foxes came away with a split, winning the first game of the doubleheader 3-2, but dropping the second game to the Bulldogs 4-1.

Columbia hasn't played Marist since the 2006 season, when they lost both games of a doubleheader by scores of 5-1 and 13-8. The Lions will hope for better results this time around when they face off against Marist today at 3 p.m.