

13 student projects awarded CCSC grants

BY AILEE KATZ
Columbia Daily Spectator

Thirteen new projects, ranging from an experimental water bottle art piece to a showcase of senior music and dance performances, are the recipients of up to \$1,500 in funding from the Columbia College Student Council's new Student Project Grants initiative.

The new program, advertised as Project Columbia, provides funding and administrative assistance to students attempting to bring a specific project or event to life.

"The kinds of projects that we were trying to target were individual ideas of students who were not affiliated with groups," CCSC Vice President of Funding Kevin Zhai, CC '12, said. "We didn't want to just fund a club's events that had already been pre-established."

Members of the Funding Committee met with the 13 recipients individually on Saturday to start working with them to implement their projects, giving them an overview of steps that they will need to take to receive permission and support from administrators.

"The Columbia bureaucracy is hard to navigate," Zhai said. "And oftentimes if you have never done event planning you won't really know to go about certain things, like booking space on the lawn."

Zhai said the "gimmicky publicity campaign," which included a video starring him clad in a Speedo and cape, attracted a variety of proposals. But despite ample financial resources, the CCSC's Funding Committee opted to support only a third of the 40 total submissions, which they said was in order to give sufficient attention to each project.

Although the council appreciated ideas that went out on a limb, Zhai said that some of the more ambitious projects, such as one which proposed the installation of a wind turbine on a campus building, simply could not be completed this year. "It ultimately came down to feasibility and manpower," he said.

"We were trying to target ... individual ideas of students who were not affiliated with groups."

—Kevin Zhai, CC '12 and CCSC VP of funding

The sheer volume of applications presented difficulties for the committee, which took nearly three weeks to select the recipients of the money. "It was the stack of proposals that came in on the Feb. 25 deadline that made it really difficult for such a small force to assess all 40 proposals," Zhai said.

Sam Rhee and Sam Gelb, both CC '13, received grant money to found a new magazine called Columbia Class Notes, whose first issue on courses was published about two weeks ago.

They agreed that support from administrators would be

SEE GRANTS, page 2



MATTHEW SHERMAN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MODEL OF THE U.N. | Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told students on Monday that youth have the power to effect change.

U.N. Secretary-General: 'Youth is a type of idealism'

BY JEREMY BUDD
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Students and faculty filled Low Rotunda on Monday to listen to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon discuss the importance of young people in effecting positive change around the world.

"Young people are forceful in transformation," he said. "Today's younger people have advantages—you have the Internet, you have Twitter—young people are using Facebook and Twitter to organize protests

and speak out about human rights and oppression."

Ban focused on "three E's"—education, employment, and empowerment—throughout his speech, which resonated with students and faculty members.

"I think that for us in today's world there is a need to be a global citizen, and for that you must have a global perspective," said School of Engineering and Applied Science Dean Feniosky Peña-Mora. "We are becoming more and more dependent on each other. The world is getting smaller and smaller. If you want

to be successful in the global economy, you have to have the right mindset, experiences, and cross-cultural fluencies."

Peña-Mora said that he remains dedicated to providing students with international opportunities, with SEAS expanding its study abroad opportunities this year for undergraduates.

"Education is a wise, smart investment," Ban said. "Young people everywhere deserve the power to get information and ask questions about justice, equality, and opportunity."

Formally titled "From

80 percent of local thefts are iPhones, police say

BY LUKE BARNES
Spectator Staff Writer

Police are attributing rising crime levels in Upper Manhattan—especially rising robberies and larcenies—to criminals targeting iPhone users.

The rise of reported thefts all share "one thing, and that's the iPhone 4S," said Captain Kevin Williams of Central Harlem's 28th Precinct, brandishing his own phone. According to Williams, 80 percent of robberies in the precinct involve an iPhone—including the theft of his own son's phone.

The 26th Precinct, covering Manhattanville and Morningside Heights, and the 24th Precinct, covering the Upper West Side, have also

reported a rise in thefts. Community Affairs Officer Jason Harper, of the 26th Precinct, has spoken at recent

"Individuals are walking around, not paying attention to their surroundings."

—Jason Harper, Community Affairs Officer, 26th Precinct

community meetings, urging iPhone owners to be more alert, keep their phones out of sight, and not use them while

walking. "Individuals are walking around, not paying attention to their surroundings," Harper said. He also advised iPhone users to buy different headgear, as the white Apple head-phones stand out to possible thieves.

Harper said that the large number of immigrants and residents from out-of-state present easy targets for thieves, as they are less street smart and more inclined to use their phones in public.

While police are urging the public to be more vigilant and focusing on more counter-theft strategies, neighborhood residents are split on whether it has been an effective use of police officers' time.

SEE IPHONES, page 2



PETER BOHNHOFF FOR SPECTATOR

ON THE BEAT | With 80 percent of thefts targeting iPhones, police officers are taking measures to bring down that number, from the Upper West Side to Central Harlem.

CU to invest in faculty diversity

\$30 million to fund hiring of minority profs

BY MARGARET MATTES AND SAMMY ROTH
Spectator Senior Staff Writers

The University has committed \$30 million to developing a more diverse faculty, administrators announced on Monday. The funds will be dedicated to "the recruitment and support of outstanding female and underrepresented minority scholars," University President Lee Bollinger and Provost John Coatsworth said in a statement.

The money is meant to help graduate schools across the University implement three-year diversity plans that they recently submitted to the provost's office.

The provost's office will work with the deans of individual schools to implement each school's unique diversity plan, and to "design and implement mentoring and professional development programs for junior faculty; create training materials for search committees; and exchange information on best practices," according to the statement.

Bollinger and Coatsworth praised the cultural and

Youth Explosion to Global Transformation: Unleashing the Power of Young People," the speech addressed global issues like job creation, LGBT equality, women's rights, education, and climate change, and how the solutions to those problems may stem from the work of younger generations.

"We need to build resilience and equality with wider vision, and the way to do it is to help the youth," Ban said. "Youth' is a state of mind, because it implies

SEE BAN KI-MOON, page 2

SEE DIVERSITY, page 3

SEAS class council, USenate candidates present initiatives

BY JORDAN FREISLEBEN
Spectator Staff Writer

The need for a strong advocate for engineering students was a recurring theme on Sunday afternoon at the School of Engineering and Applied Science class council and University senate debates.

Senate candidates vowed to represent SEAS students well in the majority-faculty body, while council candidates outlined initiatives to bring their classes closer together.

Out of the 11 categories, only the races for the undergraduate seat on the University senate and for the class of 2015 council are contested.

Joshua Boggs, SEAS '15, leads the incumbent Kung Fu Pandas as the party's presidential candidate, with Shensi Ding, SEAS '15, running for vice president, and Manali Yavatkar, SEAS '15, and Edward Zahrebelski, SEAS '15, running for representatives. The group faces CE Change, led by Tanay Doctor, SEAS '15, as the presidential candidate, Andre Paiva, SEAS '15, running for vice president, and Aditya Naganath, SEAS '15, running for representative.

"This year we've learned a lot about what works and what doesn't work, and we've learned how to operate within the administration, especially for events," Boggs said.

He stressed his party's plans to endorse endeavors led by engineering students, promote student wellness through health initiatives and entertaining events, and continue to work with the Center for Career Education and Center for Student Advising.

He particularly emphasized their focus on "collaboration events," citing an example of an event that his council planned with CCE this year in order to show SEAS students how to best find internships that were geared toward first-years.

CE Charge's biggest points center around smaller but more specific changes: establishing a "fair registration system" through which students who get later registration times have an equal opportunity to get the classes they want, creating an Internet forum for SEAS students in which they could ask upperclassmen for advice and post information and reviews regarding certain classes, and holding a textbook sale to make the book-buying process cheaper and easier.

"This year we've learned a lot about what works and doesn't work."

—Joshua Boggs, SEAS '15 and ESC class of 2015 president

"The primary role of the engineering council is to build community, and to represent the interests of the SEAS community to the administration, plus organizing events that are fun, educational, and career-building," Doctor said.

Current ESC Vice President for Policy Logan Donovan,

SEE ESC, page 2

A&E, PAGE 6

Bacchanal lineup draws mixed reaction

Not everyone was pleased with Bacchanal's big news Friday that Big Gigantic, Curren\$y, and Wavves would be performing at this year's show.



OPINION, PAGE 4

The same indifference

Alex Collazo examines the pitfalls of campus elections.

Search your past

Arvin Ahmadi shows how Google search is a portal into your personal identity.

SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Peddie prodigies test skills on college level

Four current Lions on the men's basketball team sharpened their skills at the Peddie school before joining the Light Blue, a testament to the abilities of the school's program.

EVENTS

Readings by Barnard creative writing faculty

Catherine Bennett, James Fenton, and Mary Gordon, BC '71, read from their poetry and fiction.

Sulzberger Parlor, Barnard Hall, 7 p.m.

WEATHER

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State Sen. Espaillat enters race for District 13 seat

BY JILLIAN KUMAGAI
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

State Senator Adriano Espaillat announced his candidacy for the House of Representatives on Monday, intensifying the race for incumbent Rep. Charles Rangel’s seat in Upper Manhattan’s 13th Congressional District.



Espaillat currently represents significant portions of Upper Manhattan and the Bronx, as well as small slivers of the Upper West Side. Espaillat, who became the first Dominican American elected to a state legislature in 1996, could make history again: He would become the first Dominican American elected to Congress.

“After an overwhelming amount of encouragement from community leaders, voters, family and colleagues, I am proud to announce my candidacy for the 13th Congressional district,” Espaillat said in a statement released Monday.

Before officially declaring, Espaillat had attended local Democratic club endorsement meetings and had garnered many of the signatures needed to enter the race. On Sunday, he told supporters at a private event at the Barack Obama Democratic Club of Upper Manhattan that he would be entering the race

the following day, said spokesperson Ibrahim Khan.

Several prominent local political figures, including Assembly member Keith Wright and City Council members Robert Jackson and Ydanis Rodriguez, were in attendance.

Besides Rangel, Espaillat’s competitors include Joyce Johnson, the former president and CEO of the nonprofit Black Equity Alliance, who also ran against Rangel in 2010; Vince Morgan, a community banker and School of International and Public Affairs graduate; Craig Schley, a Harlem activist who actively fought against the 2008 proposal to rezone 125th Street; and Clyde Williams, a former senior adviser to Bill Clinton.

Rangel has held his seat since 1971, when, as a State Assembly member, he defeated longtime Congressman and Harlem icon Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. (Powell, the only other person who has held the seat, served for 26 years.) A statement released Monday by Rangel’s campaign in response to Espaillat’s announcement emphasized his commitment to winning a 22nd term.

The statement reads, “The Congressman is running to serve another full term in Congress because he firmly believes, as he did 21 times before, that he is the best candidate to make a difference in the community.”

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COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

RUNNING | State Senator Adriano Espaillat, pictured here in 2010, formally announced on Monday his candidacy for Congress.

ESC, SEAS USenate candidates debate policies

ESC from front page

SEAS ’13, Adam Hadar, SEAS ’15, and Class of 2014 President Akshay Shah, SEAS ’14, are running for SEAS representative to the University senate.

“On the senate there’s, percentage-wise, very few students versus faculty administrators,” Donovan said. “I think it takes someone with a lot of experience and who invests a lot of effort into Columbia already.”

Donovan’s platform includes making plans to ensure that undergraduates benefit from the new space in Manhattanville, as well as getting a pass/fail option and an expanded selection of non-tech electives for SEAS.

Hadar cited his eight years as an Eagle Scout as experience that qualifies him for the position.

“I’m a committed and spirited person,” he said. “I’d try again and again to make the SEAS

position known to the senate.”

Hadar said that he would advocate for the renovation of Carleton Lounge as a central location for engineers to increase school spirit.

Shah’s three-pronged platform includes encouraging the collaboration of SEAS students to work with different schools and student groups at Columbia, making course evaluations public, and advocating for space allocations on the new Manhattanville campus to reflect SEAS students’ needs.

“The majority body in the senate is the faculty and on many occasions, they may or may not care for the views of the students,” Shah said. “One of the biggest challenges is that I’d have to fight against other bodies in the University for the benefit of the students, but I have the passion and I’m a go-getter.”

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CCSC grants funding to 13 student-run projects

GRANTS from front page

helpful for their project, although CCSC’s funds came too late to assist with the initial stages of development for the magazine.

“It’s not unusual that people don’t get back to you in the process of assessing the funds,” Gelb said.

Rhee said they had been planning on moving on to different funding options because they assumed that CCSC had not awarded them the aid, but were pleased that the council would be backing the new publication.

In the future, Zhai said he hopes that a rolling application process and a separate fund and account, complete with an independent managing committee, will make the selection process

more efficient.

A more streamlined system would allow for the maximum financial support—nearly \$60,000 in grant money—to be allotted to the winning student submissions. The funds come from discretionary money in the Student Council’s budget, which is a compilation of some of the \$651 in student life fees that each student pays annually.

Rhee emphasized the need to increase the amount of money made available to student projects. “I’m sure there are many other student groups who are not at that [established] level yet,” he said. “To have a really vibrant student life, there needs to be as many grants for everyone as possible.”

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PETER BOHNHOFF FOR SPECTATOR

BIG APPLE | The police are responding to concerns that thieves are targeting iPhone users.

Police look to cut down iPhone thefts

IPHONES from front page

“If they want to say that that’s what the cops are focused on, I was personally insulted,” Randi Klein, who has lived in Harlem for more than 10 years, said after a 28th Precinct community meeting. “I don’t know who you think you’re fooling if you’re saying that that’s what’s responsible for the uptick in crime.”

She criticized iPhones as a petty issue compared to drug use, gang violence, and the New York Police Department’s stop-and-frisk policy.

Cator Sparks, president of the 122nd Street Block Association of West Harlem, said he thought that locals could use the lesson.

“It’s just common sense.

This is one way that we can help alleviate some crime,” he said. “I don’t think they’re getting beaten up for it. They’re holding it in their hand where they’re kind of asking for it to be stolen.”

Police have had some previous success in locating stolen phones by using the Find My iPhone application on their own iPhones, which uses Apple’s GPS system to locate the phone.

The success of that technique is waning, however, as thieves learn how to disable the application, Williams said. Many people are also simply downloading the app and not following through with the registration process required for the app to function

correctly.

Columbia’s campus, which falls under the 26th Precinct, has not been immune to the rise in thefts. In the fall, students were targeted in a string of thefts on 114th Street. In November, a male suspect followed two students into a brownstone, drew a gun, and demanded their iPhones. After learning that they did not own iPhones, he returned their phones and fled.

Public Safety has emphasized the importance of paying attention to one’s surroundings, as well as the Safe Haven program that it runs with businesses in Morningside Heights.

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Ban inspires students, emphasizes youth leadership

BAN KI-MOON from front page

we can always be young.”

Many students were present for the event, and Esperanza Garcia, a masters student studying sustainability management, took advantage of the question-and-answer session after the speech to ask Ban about global warming and implementing policy changes.

“What I ask of you is to do not only what you are already doing but I’m also asking for world leaders to look into how we can implement these policies in real terms,” Garcia said.

“It’s important to put in text how we can develop these important measures and how we will really accomplish them.”

Garcia said that she felt it was important to highlight the issue of global warming, but noted funding issues have prevented significant policy reform.

“As young people, we take responsibilities of implementing these changes, but we need the funds,” she said. “If you want to do something large-scale, you need the financing methods—where can we get the funds?”

Vivian Tsai, BC ’15, said that she appreciated the emphasis on education during the speech, but

still wonders how the U.N. will work with countries to foster healthy emotional environments for students.

“I moved from Taiwan to the States five years ago, and there was a lack of empathy in education,” she said. “How does ... the U.N. seek to combine the two?”

Tsai said that the empowerment component of Ban’s address was important because “he’s reminding people that even though you’re 18 you should have the capacity to change things.”

Ban began his time at the U.N. in 1975 working in the South Korean Foreign Ministry’s U.N. Division, and 31 years later he

Profs Lurie, Mercer honored by students

BY JEREMY BUDD
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Two professors were recognized with two of the University’s highest student-awarded teaching prizes on Monday.

Christia Mercer, a philosophy professor and the chair of Literature Humanities, received the 51st annual Mark Van Doren Award, which awards a professor for his or her “commitment to undergraduate instruction, as well as for humanity, devotion to truth and inspiring leadership.”

Mercer has been a favorite of Columbia College students since becoming Lit Hum chair in 2010, professing her love for Orlando Bloom’s abs in the film “Troy,” and appearing as herself in a series of Bwog videos.

She spearheaded an effort to overhaul the Core Curriculum website, providing students with interdisciplinary resources to supplement classroom lessons.

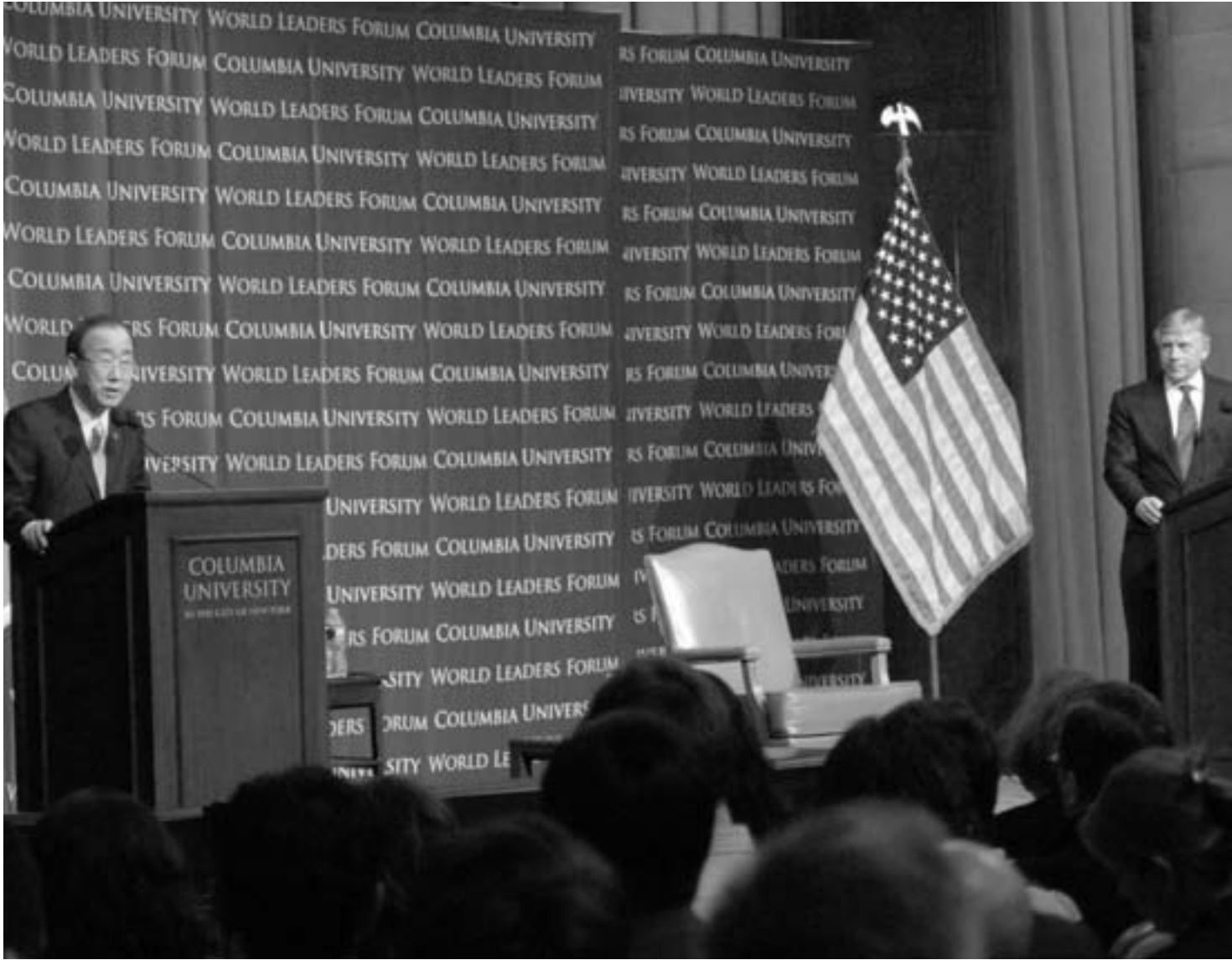
The award is named for Mark Van Doren, Ph.D. ’20, who won a Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1940 and taught English at Columbia.

David Lurie, Ph.D. ’01 and an associate professor of Japanese history and literature, was awarded the 37th annual Lionel Trilling Award for his book, “Realms of Literacy: Early Japan and the History of Writing.” The book studies a millennium of Japanese oral and textual tradition.

The award is named for Lionel Trilling, CC ’25, M.A. ’26, who was an eminent literary critic and also taught at Columbia, and recognizes a faculty member whose book was published in the past year.

The Columbia College Academic Awards Committee, which selects the recipients, is made up of 10 Columbia College students. They audit the classes of the nominees for the Van Doren award during the judging process and read the books of the nominees for the Trilling Award.

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MATTHEW SHERMAN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WORDS OF WISDOM | U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addressed questions about human rights, climate change, and other issues.

CU commits millions to diversity plans

DIVERSITY from front page

socioeconomic diversity of the student body, but noted that “building a diverse university community is not the work of a moment or only of admissions offices.”

“This is about helping each of the schools reach its diversity goals,” Vice Provost Andrew Davidson said in an interview. “The one thing that became increasingly clear to the deans and to us in this process is that the situation in each school is different.” Davidson is the senior administrator most involved in the plans.

Jenny Davidson, co-chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, reviewed a University-wide 10-year study with Andrew Davidson last week and noted that these trends in the natural sciences are “surprising, and a little horrifying.”

“Looking at those studies was a bit of a wake-up call that gender diversity needs a lot of fighting for in some parts of the University,” said Davidson, of no relation to the vice provost. The report found that gender inequality is more evident in the sciences than in the humanities, Davidson, an English professor, said.

School of Nursing Dean Bobbie Berkowitz said, “Needless to say, we’re extremely pleased. It is very good support for the diversity initiative that the school has internally.”

“The announcements of

President Bollinger and the provost fit in very well and will help us a great deal in recruiting more diverse faculty,” she added. “We’re very excited to get going.”

“Looking at those studies was a bit of a wake-up call that gender diversity needs a lot of fighting for in some parts of the University.”

—Jenny Davidson,
co-chair of the Commission
on the Status of Women

The central administration and the individual schools will each cover part of the cost. Of the \$30 million, \$15 million will come from the University’s central budget, and the other \$15 million will come from matching contributions from the individual schools.

The provost’s office will organize a competition between the schools to allocate the funds. A committee of senior faculty members will distribute the money based upon the quality of

candidates put forward, the degree to which the school is supporting current faculty, and the consistency of the enforcement of the diversity plans over time.

While all schools are looking to attract underrepresented minorities, Andrew Davidson said that schools involved in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields are particularly interested in recruiting and retaining female faculty members, who are significantly underrepresented in these fields.

Jenny Davidson noted that the University made significant progress in hiring female and underrepresented minority faculty members under the leadership of vice provosts Jean Howard and Geraldine Downey over the past eight years. Since that time, Columbia has hired over 30 new faculty members who are underrepresented minorities.

“I do hope that the excitement that comes from a big allocation of funding for outside hiring doesn’t obscure the issue of retention and support of those already here,” she said, noting that this may be the source of the inequity that currently exists. “We can be hopeful, but we will just have to wait and see how things unfold.”

“My hope for this new allocation of resources,” she said, “is that it’s the University saying it will continue to go forward because it hasn’t gone far enough.”

Lillian Chen contributed reporting.
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Google yourself

I think mankind's image can be summed up by the Internet: present, past, and future. Like a gallery exhibit in Chelsea, everything on the Internet is carefully curated. Facebook and Twitter are, at their roots, curations of our present selves. On them we post widgets of information that describe what we're doing, who we're with, what we're thinking, how we're feeling, and any other in-the-moment updates. In contrast, Pinterest, today's fastest growing website, is a curation of our future. Your Pinterest is supposed to hold expensive things you would like to have, scenes you would like to recreate, people you would like to meet—it is your ideal future.

So what is a curation of our past? Technically it's everything that we do online, but that can be summed up by one thing: our Google history. No, not the searches you performed last weekend on the Bacchanal lineup and Michael Kors' belly button. I'm talking about the results that come up when you search your name online.

It feels appropriately narcissistic to Google your own name, especially for the average Columbia student. By nature of being academically and extracurricularly involved, your name is certainly floating around somewhere on the Internet. Chances are you'll stumble upon old high school accomplishments, club bios, and a sketchy MyLife profile that you never made (I didn't realize anyone could "try the people finder at MyLife™ to find Arvin Ahmadi and other old friends from Centreville"). But you may also find some edgier tidbits of online content: that Bwog comment you were brave enough to attach your name to, the controversial letter to the editor you wrote in high school, or a drunk Tweet from last weekend.

Face your ego and take the time to Google yourself to decide whether your online "brand" reflects you, or



ARVIN AHMADI

Tech Etiquette

reflects the image you would like to reflect you. Just as it is your responsibility to maintain your Facebook and Twitter to reflect your present image, it is your responsibility to consider your Google image. If you are satisfied with how you're being portrayed, then continue down that path. If not, then fix it. History is now, so the things you post to curate your present will simultaneously enter your personal Google search vortex.

It's only logical that you should be concerned about your Google image, because presumably somebody will search your name and judge you accordingly. Yes, this is true. But who are these creeps, exactly? The number-one-creeps would be human resources departments across the country. If an employer is seriously considering you for a job or internship, the first thing they want to check is that you don't have a criminal record, or vulgar photos, or an embarrassingly tween-y MySpace page. In fact, just delete your MySpace already.

That "creep" could also be the new guy you're dating, your lab partner, your professor—it could be anybody. When you look at it that way, these people we know are not as creepy as they are concerned, and sometimes rightfully so. In 2004 a woman in New York searched her date's name on Google and found an FBI warrant for his arrest. It turned out he was on the run after having allegedly stolen \$100,000. When it came time for their date that weekend, she let the Feds take her place.

Google's search engine is a more impactful social network than Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Twitter, and certainly a more impactful social network than the company's own Google Plus. Judgments can be made just as decisively from a few pages of links as they can from your statuses and photos. And while for the most part, your current Google image is established, your online actions continue to carry weight. You can't change the past, but when it comes to the Web, you can change the past of the future.

Arvin Ahmadi is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in computer science and political science. He is a Spectator online staff developer. Tech Etiquette runs alternate Tuesdays.



JASMINE MARIANO

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Your recent series on the Columbia Global Centers (March 30) has done much to highlight the unique combination of global and local thinking that this innovative model is making possible.

By way of clarification, for the Columbia Global Centers, Turkey in Istanbul, funding has come from a group of distinguished Turkish alumni and friends, one of whom, Emre Kurttepel, SEAS '90, speaks eloquently in your article on his reasons for supporting the center's mission. We are grateful to Emre and to all those who provide leadership and support to the Istanbul center.

Thanks once again for helping the Columbia community gain a better understanding of the Columbia Global Centers network.

Professor Safwan M. Masri
Chair, Columbia Global Centers Director Group
Director, Columbia University Middle East Research Center

To the Editor:

While campaigning, we have tried to change the way students view council and have unfortunately encountered a hostile environment; the institutional bias favoring Columbia College Student Council insiders demonstrates the flaws within our council. Before Block Party was given a chance to speak, we were deemed illegitimate.

The Block Party has council experience—presidential candidate Alex Jasiulek served as both first-year and sophomore class president and is currently an elected representative, while vice presidential candidate for finance Peyton Bell serves as an appointed representative. But CCSC experience is only important to an extent; we need fresh perspective. Right now, student council effectively acts as its own exclusive group. This must change if our community is to come together and move forward.

Most questions asked at the debate addressed council experience. We weren't asked how we could improve our individual positions or how our experiences brought value to campus.

It is faulty to conclude that just because our remaining members have no CCSC experience, they are inexperienced. As active leaders of various campus communities, they are equipped with the skills and networks that make them fit to learn CCSC nuances and lead the entire student body.

We challenge council members and the media to answer the following: Why doesn't council consist of such representatives who serve diverse interests? Why aren't these students equipped to handle the issues that most affect the student body?

In Spectator's staff editorial ("We support 212," April 2), they claimed the Block Party lacked specific proposals. Yet in our endorsement meetings and the debate, we talked about a State of the Core address, a collaboration grant program for groups, a specific system of institutional memory imported from Delta Gamma and a smooth Dean transition. Spectator's editorial

board lauded 212's experience while disagreeing with most of their proposals. What value does experience have if it lacks insight and inspiration? We interpret Spectator's endorsement as a weak approval of the status quo.

Don't accuse us of being outsiders when we are inside many campus circles. We are connected to students and are effective in our leadership. We have a vision that will build community. We are Block Party, and everyone's invited.

Block Party
Alex Jasiulek, Jean Pierre Salendres, Janice Yoon,
Peyton Bell, Lauren Barriere

To the Editor:

In my limited exposure to the American culture, I have perceived one widely popular notion: Succinctly put by Morpheus, "if you are not one of us, you are one of them." Possibly useful in "The Matrix," but it appears to me to be highly unsuitable for social debates, especially considering how subtly divisive such a philosophy is. It isn't good enough to tolerate opposing views, though they may be politically correct. It is necessary to be open to the possibility that the opposing view has its merits. A debate is futile if both parties are firmly bent on holding on to their perspectives, irrespective of how it progresses. But that lecture is better given by TED speakers.

I am here in an attempt to defend the man (and woman) in between who is either uninformed, unsure, utterly lost, hesitant, reluctant, label-shy, or simply indifferent. Janine Balekdjian raised an interesting point about feminism ("Feminist Hum," March 27). Who is and isn't feminist? Let me use a simpler label: leftist. Simpler because there seem to be far more leftists than feminists. How would one define a leftist? The blog "Information is Beautiful" has a fairly exhaustive definition. How many leftists agree on each of the characteristics that the visualization touches upon? About how many of them disagree with the rightists?

Neither are the characteristics that make up many definitions mutually exclusive, nor are their lists clear. These labels have a broader spectrum than we usually think. We ourselves often have opinions about them that change with place, time, experiences, etc. That makes these definitions and people's associations with them complicated, sometimes futile.

The question that would be easier and perhaps more useful to discuss isn't what people know about a label, or whether they are willing to associate with it. Ignore the label once, and give us a chance to selectively agree or disagree about the underlying issues. As frustrating as it is to a feminist activist, there is more clarity about what general equality means and doesn't mean than what feminism means and doesn't.

Sravan Bhamidipati
Graduate student in computer science
School of Engineering and Applied Science

Our little elections

Student government elections began yesterday, a humorous ritual that holds an unflattering mirror up to American politics and "democracy." Those of you who didn't immediately delete the announcement probably had a few questions: Will the results of this election impact my life? What's different between the candidates? Should I care? After three years here, the answer to all three seems to be: not much.

Columbia student government is afflicted by the same deep structural problems as most local governments in America. Candidates are selected by a small pool of eligible voters (fewer than 5,000), a small fraction of whom actually vote (turnout for CCSC elections is generally about 35 percent; turnout for U.S. municipal elections is generally around 30 percent; turnout for class council elections can dip beneath 20 percent). In small, nonpartisan local government elections, very low turnout is shown to cause candidates to shift focus from winning over informed voters to haranguing voters who have never heard of the opposition. The discourse is pushed from policy discussions between interested parties to demagoguery and name recognition. In the real world, low turnout also decreases interest, oversight, number of candidates, and turnout at the next election. There is no reason to believe that these effects are not at play in similarly sized student government elections.

Low turnout, knowledge, and interest makes the politics of Columbia College student government uniquely boring, which in turn decreases interest, knowledge, and turnout. Attending a debate is like watching someone talk to a mirror. One side really likes student groups. Shockingly, so does the other. One wants to change "the culture of (blank)." Guess what? The opposition isn't opposed! This party will advocate on behalf of undergraduates against the nasty administrators, so will that one ... and that one ... and that one. It's incredible to see how quickly Columbia's young political class soaks up the habits of our nation's politicians. The empty, meaningless campaign promise is in full force—which might be entertaining if everyone wasn't making the same ones. Consider these common CCSC election talking points: e-forms, East Campus turnstiles, a unified space booking system, more space for clubs, more school spirit, preserving/returning JJ's Place to its former glory. These are all things that have been promised by almost every candidate since my first year. Only two are possibly in the offing (e-forms and turnstiles), and one is patently immeasurable (increased school spirit?). The failure of these proposals is not for want of trying. It's just that CCSC (and student representatives generally) have little power over how housing, dining, University Events Management, Student Affairs Central Business Office, and the administration generally conduct their business. This doesn't stop candidates from promising what they should know they can't deliver. The vast majority of debate seems to be consumed by promises to lobby with the administration for things outside student government's direct control, rather than discussion of how the candidates would do the jobs that are theirs and theirs alone.

In the real world, low turnout also decreases interest, oversight, number of candidates, and turnout at the next election.

The sad truth is that CCSC and the class councils do have an important power: Funding @ Columbia University. A significant portion of our student life fees and the allocation of every student group passes through the hands of this panel of elected students, sometimes (as seen last year) with disastrous and disruptive results. Yet F@CU is barely mentioned in campaign discussions. The process was mentioned only once at the CCSC executive board debates, in response to a question from the audience. In Columbian politics, as in American municipal politics, the significant issues are swept away by in a tsunami of perfumed word vomit about things that are entirely out of the purview of the office in question. Take a speech from any recent CCSC election. Substitute "freedom" for "school spirit," "jobs" for "space," "good schools" for "turnstiles," and "shit bricks" for "F@CU." Read it. The result will be a passable imitation of most mayoral stump speeches—and you will not have cursed.

This is not to say that the Columbia student government elections are vacuous because the candidates intend them to be. All of the candidates I know are kind, honest, competent people. They are just unconsciously emulating America's disturbed local political culture, acting out their role on a tiny version of the swampy stage most eventually hope to occupy. But I don't think it's unreasonable to ask for more. With an electorate as intelligent as Columbia College, what's stopping the candidates from taking bold stands on policies that they can actually implement? There probably are important differences between the candidates (one biased toward SGB, one towards ABC, perhaps?) but they aren't being talked about, and we'll never be able to fish them out of the depths of the blather-bog.

But hey, at least most CC elections are competitive. There are fascist dictatorships in which the voters have more choice than SEAS kids do.

Alex Collazo is a Columbia College junior majoring in creative writing and economics-philosophy. He is the treasurer of CIRCA and a former Spectator head copy editor. I'm Just Saying runs alternate Tuesdays.



ALEX COLLAZO

I'm Just Saying

The Columbia Daily Spectator accepts op-eds on any topic relevant to the Columbia University and Morningside Heights community. Op-eds should be roughly 650 words in length. We require that op-eds be sent exclusively to Spectator and will not consider articles that have already been published elsewhere. Letters to the Editor should be no longer than 350 words and must refer to an article from Spectator or The Eye, or a Spectrum post. Submissions should be sent to opinion@columbiaspectator.com. Please paste all submissions into the body of the email. Should we decide to publish your submission we will contact you via email.

Students say, ‘huh?’ to Bacchanal acts

BY MIKE THOMAS
Columbia Daily Spectator

At the French Cultural Society ‘Euro-Trash’ social Friday night, the real headliner wasn’t even at the bar. Jazz-electronica duo Big Gigantic will come to Columbia in two weeks, the Bacchanal committee announced, along with Wavves, a California surf-punk trio, and New Orleans rapper Curren\$y. Columbia’s own Spicy Special will open the show.

After the announcement, Nick Charles, GS ’15, noted the disconnect between the theme and the lineup. “It seems to be more Baccha-nonentities than Baccha-90s, but I’m sure it’ll be a good time. I know they’ll do a good job,” Charles said.

Though this year’s acts aren’t stratospheric, there was a buzz outside the event regarding headliner Big Gigantic. Soya Seo, CC ’13, was elated after the announcement. “I love Big Gigantic,” she said. “I’ve been meaning to catch them live for so long. This is perfect.”

The majority of on-campus Bacchanal feedback, however, has consisted of puzzled expressions followed by the question, “Who?” Still, many appreciate the greater variety of this year’s show, as last year’s performance was so rap-heavy.

Already, commenters on Spectrum and Bwog posted an outpouring of mixed opinions. Some applauded the audacious choice of lesser-known artists, while others said that they are opting to attend other Ivy university concerts, such as the University of Pennsylvania’s Spring Fling, out of frustration with the selections.

The issue of Bacchanal’s funding has loomed over the event since 2011’s 11th-hour venue change landed the organization in \$18,000 of debt through added security costs. To compensate, earlier in the year, the organization successfully pitched to the school councils for donations before booking this year’s acts.

The selection of artists for the spring concert is a contentious point for Columbia student body—with the event’s \$100,000 budget footed by student-life fees, the committee has a tough crowd of stakeholders to please. However, with a track record of booking heavy hitters such as Kanye West, Vampire Weekend and Snoop Dogg, matching the caliber of previous years can be a tall order, particularly when working around extenuating circumstances.

The University does not allow any club to book the steps after April 20. In order to return to the lawn, Bacchanal reserved April 14—which also placed them directly in conflict with the two-week-end California concert festival Coachella. According to Bacchanal co-chairs, this limited their team as they look for artists they could contact for inquiries.

Despite a degree of animosity from students, Bacchanal president Dan Weinstein, CC ’12, assured Spectator that the selection process followed student opinion, explaining that committee’s decisions were based on a Bwog poll of students’ favorite music genres. “We’ve kept very close to the genres that came out on top,” Weinstein said.

FCS party organizer Marina Chiesa, CC ’13, placed emphasis on the experience, not the performers.

“Bacchanal is Bacchanal, whoever plays. It’s about being out in the sun with your friends and having a good time.”

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**BACCHANAL
2012**

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KAROL KIM / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

STILL LOOKING | Director Isaac Julien, left, heads a panel on his film “Looking for Langston” alongside prominent university professors.

Director re-examines gay culture in Harlem renaissance

BY CARROLL GELDERMAN
Columbia Daily Spectator

A film doesn’t need to be three hours long in order to be poignant—British filmmaker Isaac Julien shows that it can be done in just 40 minutes.

On March 23, Julien joined a panel of film scholars at Columbia’s Faculty House for a seminar titled, “Looking Back at Looking for Langston.” Put on by Columbia School of the Arts and Seminar Sites of Cinema, the discussion reflected upon Julien’s critically acclaimed 1989 film on race and gender identity during the Harlem Renaissance.

“Looking for Langston” is, as it states in its opening credits, “a meditation on Langston Hughes and the Harlem Renaissance.” Archival footage and photographs taken by Robert Mapplethorpe are interwoven with Julien’s own scenes, shot in black and white, in a 1920s gay speakeasy. Recitations of poems by Essex Hemphill and Bruce Nugent frame the storyline.

Julien began by explaining why he chose the Harlem Renaissance as his subject. “I felt that I could say something about the period that had not been properly stated before,” he said. “What I wanted to say still has not been properly stated today, as the Hughes estate refuses to relax its position on censoring all academic inquiry into Hughes’ sexual identity.”

Julien’s efforts were met with resistance from the Hughes estate.

“They wanted every visual and textual reference to Hughes to be taken out and, of course, I objected to that and I did not change the title,” Julien said.

This refusal to acknowledge Hughes’ sexual identity is indicative of an oppressive attitude often aimed at members of gay black community, Julien said. The film shows how homosexuality has been considered a sin against the race within the black community, and worse, how racism was once prevalent within the gay community as a whole.

Because of this racism and homophobia,

silencing one’s homosexuality has been a common practice among gay black men. As panelist Kobena Mercer of Yale University said, “The closet is one of the most crowded rooms in the house of black culture.”

The film hopes to give a voice to this oppressed minority. “‘Looking for Langston’ was about creating reference points and a narrative for black queer identities in the late 80s,” mediator Mark Nash, a professor at the Royal College of Art, said. Still, the film has relevance almost 25 years after its release: Proposition 8 in California and the Trayvon Martin shooting in Florida are evidence of the issue’s relevance.

“I teach it every year, which means I’ve seen it way more than 20 times, and it’s always revelatory,” said panelist Ruby B. Rich of the University of California, Santa Cruz. “It’s always necessary and as our eras change somehow the need for this film does not diminish.”

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PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK TARGET, JR.

LEADERSHIP | The Art for Change team strives to bring a new perspective to conversations on social issues like immigration, LGBT, gender, and education through art.

Harlem exhibit fights social prejudice

BY NICOLLETTE BARSAMIAN
Spectator Staff Writer

Art for Change, a nonprofit providing a forum for creating art that inspires social justice, recently opened an exhibit in Spanish Harlem called “Know Gays Aloud.” According to operations chair William Collazo, it “gravitates around four issues of social justice: immigration, LGBT, women’s issues, and poverty/education—we see them as going hand in hand.”

Collazo sees violence against LGBT people of color as “a perfectly timely issue,” despite significant progress in obtaining equal rights in the United States. Increased hostility in the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Africa has led to a rise in murders and teen suicides worldwide.

The dozen featured artists try to address those problems in a socially conscious and relevant way. “You have people who have fought for equality for their people, yet the LGBT community is exempted from this,” he said. “They are not people. Their community looks at them as an aberration.”

But the pieces in the exhibit speak for themselves. “My favorite piece is ‘God is a Queer [by D. Shayne Aldrich],” Collazo said. He also mentioned “There are No Gays in Iran,” by Michael J. DiRaimondo, which features a man with a gay flag painted on his chest

and a bullet shot straight through his forehead with red blood splattering down.

Allyza Lustig, BC ’11 and a volunteer at the exhibit, appreciated the organization’s concrete nature. “AFC is special because it takes art off the pedestal and connects it with real-world social issues that are relevant to the surrounding community.”

For Lustig, the message of the artists’ work and the emotion behind it exceeded her expectations. “Listening to everyone express themselves as individuals and as part of the larger LGBTQ community was very powerful. Whether their work was biographical, recounting a historical event, or based more on ideas and theory, each and every work was profoundly personal,” she said.

Columbia students could get involved with the group by contributing art, visiting the gallery, coming to the opening and closing events, or volunteering, Lustig said. “As a Barnard/Columbia student, I felt I did not have much of a connection with the surrounding community. Working with AFC is a wonderful way to get involved and learn outside of the university bubble.”

The exhibit runs in its exhibition space (1699 Lexington Avenue) every Saturday through June 16 from 1-5 p.m.

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Classical performers bring syllabus to life

BY EMILY OSTERTAG
Spectator Staff Writer

One of Columbia’s greatest sources of pride is its Core Curriculum. Yet, ask any student what purpose a class like Music Humanities serves, and you are quite likely to get an eye roll and an answer along the lines of, “It prepares us for cocktail parties later in life.” One Columbia student group, however, is out to prove why those who see classical music as only interesting to stuffy octogenarians could not be more wrong.

Last Tuesday, Columbia Classical Performers provided what was most likely the most enjoyable Music Hum study session any audience member had ever been to at its second annual “Music Humanities in a Day” concert.

The concert featured some of the most canonical works of classical music, performed by Columbia undergraduates. Though most Music Hum classes differ slightly from one another in that each class varies which works are studied, the performance covered many of the most commonly-studied pieces from the Renaissance to the 20th century, including Monteverdi’s “L’Orfeo,” Bach’s “Art of the Fugue,” and Schoenberg’s “Pierrot Lunaire.”

“The idea originally came from wanting to bring not only music, but also Columbia musicians to the general campus,” Victoria Lewis, CC ’13, a violinist and the event’s primary organizer, said. Although the

concert would have been a helpful overview for anyone taking a Music Hum exam anytime soon, Lewis said that having a “review session” was only half of the concert’s purpose, especially since most Music Hum classes have already had their midterms.

For CCP, the purpose of Music Humanities is being able to analyze works within the larger context of music history.

“We also wanted to show that Music Hum can be enjoyable and that classical music doesn’t only come out of a CD player,” added Lewis. “We were also able to show such a huge array of instrumental and vocal arrangements that wouldn’t even fit in a classroom, so it was a much larger array and variety for people to see.”

CCP also provided concert programs with extensive program notes written by the performers, which showed not only the group’s ability to put together such an ambitious program, but also its members’ extensive collective knowledge about the works and composers themselves.

Lewis said that CCP wants to collaborate more with the Music Department to make it even more in line with the class’s curriculum.

“I do think it’s a rite of passage to complain about the Core,” Lewis said. “But I do think that people came out of this concert realizing that classical music is alive, and how much the young student body cares about it.”

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LINDA CROWLEY FOR SPECTATOR

MAKING MUSIC | The Columbia Classical Performers bring humanity back to Music Humanities.



COURTESY OF JIM INVERSO

RAISING ROSENBERG | Freshman forward Alex Rosenberg is one of four current Lions who developed his basketball savvy and improved his skills at the Peddie School before joining the Light Blue.

New Jersey boarding school prepares students for college level ball in proven system

PEDDIE from back page

Another component of Peddie’s success is its college recruiting system. According to Rulewich, Agho, his first player to play for the Lions, has “been a big help with the recruiting process.” It’s easy to see why Agho would do well in attracting Peddie players like Rosenberg

and Scriviano to Columbia—he’s had a stellar college career, and is described by his former coach as having a “work ethic, talent, and drive.”

“I think from an educational and athletic perspective, the Peddie school was a great choice for all the guys that decided to go there,” former Lions coach Joe Jones said. “The coach there is

a great guy and does a great job with player development. He has a very successful program. The overall experience there is just a terrific one.” Light Blue players that come through Peddie also have the benefit of sharing a special connection with some of their teammates.

“We kind of share a little bit of a common bond, a little bit

of a brotherhood because we all know where each other’s been, we all know the steps,” Scriviano said. “Taking a post-grad year, we kind of know the ropes and we can understand where we’re coming from.”

“It was nice to go in [to Columbia] knowing someone,” Rosenberg said.

Rosenberg has since grown

into a key contributor for the Lions in his very first season, which is a testament to the school’s impact. Peddie’s preparation equips its athletes to succeed both in the classroom and, most importantly, on the court.

“In high school, before prep school, I wasn’t physically ready as far as strength

and skill set, and Peddie gave me the opportunity to lengthen my high school year, get experience, and really focus on getting stronger,” Scriviano said. If players like Scriviano and Rosenberg are a testament to the Peddie philosophy, then the Lions have much to look forward to in fielding future talent from this Jersey prep school.

Friendly competition helps campus spirit

KLUG from back page

de-emphasize the win-or-go-home nature of the playoffs.

Finally, the intramurals office should make each intramural “season” end on the same day, with all the championships happening back-to-back-to-back, and turn the day into an event. We could get some announcers up in there, and let student groups and other organizations

sponsor the games as promotional opportunities for their upcoming events. Wouldn’t you show up for a double-header of the “Philolexian Society Co-Rec Indoor Soccer Championship,” followed by the “Columbia Political Union Dodgeball Championship”? Maybe not, but it would sure look hilarious on a poster.

So far, my intramural dreams have fallen just short. I’ve lost in three soccer finals,

two indoor and one outdoor. My basketball teams succumbed early on in the all-inclusive playoffs. I’ve realized that I may never get one of those sought-after “Columbia Intramural Champion” T-shirts. But maybe, after reading this column, you will.

Sam Klug is a Columbia College senior majoring in history. He is a Spectrum opinion blogger. sports@columbiaspectator.com

Light Blue finds success with bunting

BASEBALL from back page

sought to lay down bunts in situations that would mathematically hurt its odds of scoring or rallying for a big inning. For instance, in the nightcap against Stony Brook, Boretti left in sophomore shortstop Aaron Silbar to sacrifice bunt, down by a run with two outs in the bottom of the ninth. After giving up one of its two remaining outs, the Light Blue would lose after the next

batter, freshman pinch hitter Robb Paller, struck out.

There were other examples on Sunday, such as when the Lions showed bunt with runners on the corners and nobody out—a questionable call. In fact, just about every single player has showed bunt at one point over the course of the six home games this season, with the exception of junior left fielder Dario Pizzano. Of course, sometimes the bunts

may be bluffs.

Despite bunting perhaps a bit too frequently, Columbia will not stop any time soon, especially after its successful bunting on Sunday.

“We practice bunting every day,” Eisen said. “It’s a big part of what we do.”

The Lions will next step into the batter’s box for their final home game for 17 days, when they host Rutgers on Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

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NO WONDER PEOPLE THINK

CARAVAGGIO

IS A GUY ON THE SOPRANOS.

It's hard to believe. Here's a 16th-century Baroque master whose bold naturalistic painting style first created a sensation, then a movement. A guy whose life was filled with the turbulence and excess of more than a dozen Mario Puzo novels.

This guy who, while troubled, ultimately found redemption and immortality in his art. But does the average kid on the street even know who Caravaggio is?

Fuhgedaboutit.

Too bad. Especially when you consider how much our children can learn from the conflicted life of a great artist like Michelangelo Caravaggio.

He grew up in less than ideal circumstances. Most of his family died in the plague. Much of his youth was müsspent on the mean streets of Rome. And as a

If you're looking for Caravaggio, you're very, very old.

A self-portrait of Caravaggio as Bacchus. Himself, he wouldn't last 10 minutes on The Sopranos.

young artist he struggled for years to make a living. He was angry. Yet the angry contrast between light and darkness in his work is the very reason why it now hangs in countless museums around the world.

If nothing else, it's a case study of the importance of having art as an outlet. Unfortunately, one we're fast removing from our kids' lives.

If the arts are indeed a vital part of your child's education (and studies show you believe they are), then you should demand his or her fair share. To find out how to help, or for more information about the benefits of arts education, please visit us at AmericansForTheArts.org. Because, as Caravaggio would tell you, life without art is torture.

Make sure to give art a piece of your mind.

ART. ASK FOR MORE.

For more information about the importance of arts education, please contact www.AmericansForTheArts.org.

Integrating intramurals into our lives at CU

Writers in this space have consumed a lot of ink discussing Columbia's fan apathy problem, and the need for better attendance at football games, basketball games, and other varsity sport contests. I sympathize with these arguments, so let me be the first to make a radical proposal to increase Columbia students' love for athletics: mandatory intramural participation. We could easily work this into the Core—the swim test and two physical education classes really aren't cutting it, leaving too many Columbia students unfit to face the fierce physical challenges that await in the outside world in the 21st century.

OK, that might be going overboard. But I will say that intramural sports are one of the few pure pleasures that exist at Columbia, and I wish to share that joy with the reading public. I've participated in five seasons of soccer and two seasons of basketball in my time here, and honestly, they've been the only extracurricular activities for which I have never been reluctant to show up.

So, assuming that last paragraph just convinced everyone to give in to their latent desires to play some low-key sports, I would like to share some tips, on the individual and the systematic level, for how to make intramural sports live up to their considerable potential.

Intramural sports are one of the few pure pleasures that exist at Columbia.

What makes a good intramural team? Not to be too obvious, but at least a little talent is helpful. Winning is certainly not everything (or the only thing, or the most important thing) in the intramural world, but it's a lot more fun to play competitive games than to get stomped on twice a week by people who take themselves too seriously. Gathering together people who would like each other, but who might not know each other all that well, has served as a winning strategy. Finally—and this is really a solid rule in life as well as in intramurals—don't have any unrepentant, horrible people on your team. I remember playing a team in soccer freshman year who all gathered around their goal flexing their biceps before kickoff. Don't be like them. (We beat them—I know you were concerned.)

Going along with that theme, don't be mean to the refs. I don't mean you shouldn't argue calls, which is the natural reaction of any athlete in the heat of the moment. Excessive anger or berating, however, simply diminishes the experience for everyone involved. Yes, the student tasked with working as an official at 11 p.m. on a Sunday night may not be Pierluigi Collina. Big surprise. Get over it.

Beyond these achievable, personal strategies, we should seek to reform some elements of the current intramurals setup. Most intramural sports have exceedingly short regular seasons, of only four to five games, followed by a postseason that lasts almost as long, with nearly every team making the playoffs. Obviously, space constraints are real, and extending the amount of time devoted to intramurals at Baker or in Leven does not seem like a viable option. But creating a longer regular season and a shorter postseason would both make it easier for more games to happen and retain the leagues' emphasis on participation over competition.

The rationale behind the every-one-makes-it playoff system appears to be a desire to emphasize the participatory nature of intramural athletics, but the actual way it works has the opposite effect. A longer regular season and shorter postseason would give more teams the chance to play more games, it would make it impossible for a team never to show up before the playoffs, and it would

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SAM KLUG

First Touch



COURTESY OF JIM INVERSO

PREPPED BY PEDDIE | Senior guard Noruwa Agho sharpened his skills at the Peddie School before coming to Columbia, where his on-court success continued.

Peddie prodigies bring high school skills to college

BY ELISE DREXLER AND HANNAH MILLER
Columbia Daily Spectator

One in 1.3 billion. All things being equal, those are the chances that a high school would send four players to play for the same Division I basketball team over the course of three years. The Peddie School in Hightstown, N.J. did exactly that, with Noruwa Agho, Steve Frankoski, Skylar Scriviano, and Alex Rosenberg all donning Light Blue after completing postgraduate years at the institution.

"I wouldn't have been in the same place at all," freshman forward Scriviano said. "I wouldn't be here—I don't know what level college ball I'd

be playing at because I wouldn't have had the chance to prepare myself. It would have been entirely different."

Peddie is a four-year boarding high school that also caters to a number of postgraduate students each year. Students who take postgraduate years at Peddie often have aspirations of playing Division I basketball, but generally lack the tools required to succeed at that next level.

Scriviano, who found himself at Peddie due to a severe injury after his senior year, notes how the experience was nothing short of career-altering. "I never touched a weight until prep school," he said, laughing.

Freshman forward Rosenberg, who roomed with Scriviano at

Peddie, had a similar experience at the school.

"I learned to work out on my own with weight lifting and time-management," Rosenberg said.

Rosenberg decided to do a postgrad year in order to prepare himself for the next level of basketball. "My father always told me I could play D-I," he said.

Peddie basketball coach Joe Rulewich speaks warmly of the link forged between his school and Columbia, which he describes as "pretty unique." Rulewich mentions it was a Peddie math professor who determined the one in 1.3 billion statistic. So what makes Peddie different?

One of the keys to Peddie's success is its appeal as a hot spot for athletes looking to do a postgraduate year.

"We give them the chance to grow as students and athletes," Rulewich said. "We challenge them day in and day out. We work tremendously hard with our kids to prepare them for college." He cites a blend of rigorous academics and demanding athletics that gives students the chance to "balance all of these things and do them well." Rosenberg's experience speaks to the effectiveness of this philosophy, since he cites "time management" as one of the most important skills he picked up at Peddie.

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Bunting becomes key part of Columbia's winning strategy

BY RYAN YOUNG
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Whether it is Saturday or Sunday, sunny or rainy, runners on or bases empty, one thing seems the same for the Lions: They are not afraid to lay down a bunt. While the situations in which the Lions have been called upon to bunt have been questionable at times, the execution and results have worked well for Columbia.

As a team more reliant on its pitching and defense than its power, the Lions try to manufacture runs through getting on base and taking extra bases in any manner possible. Bunting, then, has become a large aspect of the Light Blue's game. Head coach Brett Boretti is fond of how bunting is not only a tool for advancing runners but also for forcing the defense to make plays.

"We're moving runners over, but making them make plays," he said. "And that's a recipe for getting a little bit of a big inning there, if they're going to misplay a couple balls and give you an opportunity to have some more base runners on."

On two separate occasions on Sunday, Brown made errors on its throws to first base on Columbia sacrifice bunts. Both of the plays occurred in the third inning of the nightcap, as pitcher Kevin Carlow threw away a bunt by freshman catcher Mike Fischer, and junior first baseman Eric Williams reached two batters later when catcher Van Boom made a wild throw on his sacrifice bunt attempt.

The Lions seem to be especially inclined to bunt when they realize there are holes in the bunt defense of the opposing team, as there were for Brown and Carlow, whom the Light Blue bunted off of four times in his four-and-a-third innings.

"We kind of noticed that they weren't able to field those bunts," senior infielder Jon Eisen said. "It was a weakness for



KATE SCARBROUGH / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DROPPING ONE DOWN | CU has tested its opponents' defenses utilizing bunts in their "small-ball"-style offense.

them and we just capitalized on it and kept doing it and they never figured it out so we were able to take advantage of that."

Boretti admitted his team does look at scouting reports and will take into consideration the effectiveness of the corner infielders at coming in on balls. But the placement of the bunts is the most important component for success, he said.

"If you put a ball in what we call the hot spot, down the third baseline, that's a tough play, with the third baseman and pitcher converging on it," he said. "It's about placement more than anything else."

Most of Columbia's bunts this

weekend were placed in the "hot spot," taking advantage of a couple occasions when third baseman Nick Fornaca was playing too far back. The most rewarding of those bunts was senior center fielder Billy Rumpke's squeeze bunt, which resulted in the go-ahead run scoring and Rumpke reaching first base.

"Billy did a nice job with the safety squeeze," Boretti said. "The first and third safety squeeze is a good play, get the runner in, get that guy over to second base, two outs and you got a guy in and a runner in scoring position."

The Lions have also been frequently bunting for hits, often with nobody on base. Freshman shortstop Jordan Serena took advantage of his speed by

twice successfully bunting for a hit in game one against Brown, while Eisen's bunt-hit in the bottom of the seventh inning nearly sparked a game-tying rally.

Boretti notes that often these bunt-hits are the player's call and not one from the bench.

"Jordan [Serena] did his on his own," he said. "They've got the freedom to do it. Jon [Eisen] is very good at it, he's smart about it. Silbar does it too, they'll all do it on their own too, without getting a sign for it, if they feel that they're going to get a pitch in a zone that they can work with."

Sometimes, though, Columbia has

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