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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

INSIDE

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Researchers find new causes of depression

A team led by Columbia researchers has traced new roots of depression, finding that there isn't necessarily a link between genetics and mental health.

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The KSA brings some Seoul to Columbia

A photo essay presents Project 4, the 28th annual KSA Culture Show, which showcased both contemporary and traditional Korean dance, music, and fashion.



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Downtown fair

This weekend at the LGBT Center, the Painted Boy Gay Erotic Art Fair displayed a provocative panorama of sexually explicit artwork in a variety of media.

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Houses of faith

Columnist Eric Hirsch proposes a solution to the problems that new housing policies have presented Columbia's religious communities.



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Men's tennis takes revenge on Crimson

After suffering a disappointing loss to Harvard at the ECAC earlier this spring, the men's tennis team defeated the Crimson this weekend to take first in the Ancient Eight.

Sports, page 10

Baseball captures two against Yale

Before falling to Brown on Sunday, the Lions were victorious in their double-header against the Bulldogs, notching 13 runs in the first game on Saturday.

SUITE SELECTION DAY 6

What remains from day five of suite selection

Broadway: 19 rooms
East Campus: 6 rooms
Harmony: 6 rooms
McBain regular doubles: 111 rooms
600 W. 113th regular doubles: 19 rooms
Schapiro regular doubles: 55 rooms
Schapiro walk-through doubles: 29 rooms

PILLOW FIGHT ON WALL STREET



Andrew Scheineson / Staff Photographer

PILLOW FIGHT | Newmindspace, which creates what it calls "interactive public art," held this annual event on Wall Street Saturday. "It was the most polite insanity I have ever witnessed," Sam Ashworth, GS '09, said.

USenate overwhelmingly passes resolutions for new degree, certificates

BY ALEXA DAVIS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The discussion that took place during Friday's University Senate meeting at Jerome Greene Hall was punctuated by a thunderstorm and flashes of lightning, but the tone of the discourse was temperate—three different resolutions were approved nearly unanimously.

The senate meeting included University faculty members, administrators, and students, although it appeared that, following established trends, many members of were absent. There were few contentious issues discussed and even fewer disagreements.

University President Lee Bollinger began the meeting by reiterating his comments from previous meetings about the im-

pact of the economic crisis on Columbia's endowment, budget, and fundraising. He said that while the current situation "is extremely difficult" and that it is "not a pleasant time," Columbia is faring better than many of its peer institutions.

Additionally, Bollinger said that fundraising is continuing, though less effectively than in prosperous times. He also said that the current numbers on financial aid in light of the financial crisis are not available, and that he would be reluctant to release such numbers about Columbia's financial performance out of concern that the school would be evaluated based on these short-term reports.

After Bollinger's announcements, University Provost Alan Brinkley presented the recent

work of the Task Force on Undergraduate Education. This report mainly consisted of a list of recommendations that the Task Force has written and rewritten over the course of the past academic year, such as increasing the size of Columbia College's student body—which would provide financial benefits as well as have other helpful effects—attempting to equalize the experiences of Columbia College and General Studies students, increasing the availability of financial aid to international students, and expanding opportunities for interdisciplinary studies, along with other recommendations.

While Bollinger acknowledged the significance of these

SEE UNIVERSITY SENATE, page 7

CC, SIPA graduate released from kidnapping in Pakistani province

John Solecki, CC '82 and SIPA '87, was released south of Quetta, Pakistan, on Saturday after being held captive near the Afghan border for more than two months, United Nations official Jennifer Pagonis told the *New York Times*.

On Feb. 2, Solecki, the top U.N. official in the province of Baluchistan, was kidnapped by gunmen of the Baluchistan Liberation Front who shot his driver as the two were en route to the U.N.'s offices in nearby Quetta.

The kidnappers issued a threat to Solecki's life on Feb. 13 and released a 20-second video in which a blindfolded Solecki said he was "sick and in trouble." While the group did not carry out the threat, they released another on March 1, setting the deadline for March 19, in a letter delivered to local news agency Online International News Network. According to news organizations, the separatist group's spokesman, Mir Shahiq Baloch, wrote that the date was the "final deadline for killing John Solecki."

A senior government official declined to go into details regarding the conditions under which Solecki was released. The government would not confirm or deny reports that the Pakistani government had agreed to release some imprisoned militants in exchange for Solecki's release. But a senior Western diplomat said, "This release could not have been made possible without some trade-off. I am certain Solecki is a free man but in the process the Pakistanis must have released some people sought by nationalists from Baluchistan," according to CBS News.

During Solecki's abduction, Columbia administrators closely



Courtesy of Humanitarian Relief

FREED | John Solecki, CC '82 and SIPA '87, was released Saturday from the Pakistani group holding him hostage.

monitored the situation through news reports, according to Robert Garris, senior associate dean at SIPA. Garris said that SIPA administrators were not in contact with anyone in the U.N. regarding Solecki's captivity.

"SIPA worked closely with the University's public affairs office to monitor news on John Solecki, but we were not directly involved in the negotiations for his release," Garris said.

Little information has been released concerning Solecki's current condition. But, said Garris, "We are thrilled at the news of his release."

—Kim Kirschenbaum

Samuel Silverstein climbs mountains, University Senate

BY ALEXA DAVIS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Samuel Silverstein might be the only individual at Columbia University who has contributed to cellular biology, scaled mountains in Antarctica, and argued for income transparency in University Senate, a body known for low attendance and stifling bureaucracy.

Silverstein, who has been at Columbia since 1984, plays a vast number of roles at the University, from his position as the John C. Dalton Professor of Physiology and Cellular Biophysics at Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons, to active University Senator, to founder of the Columbia University Summer Research Program for Science Teachers.

Since attending high school in Colorado Springs, Colorado because he suffered from asthma in New York City, Silverstein has been a fan of the outdoors. In 1967, he received the John Oliver LaGorce medal from the National Geographic Society for his exploration of previously unexplored mountains in Antarctica.



Courtesy of Espeakers

SILVERSTEIN | Samuel Silverstein has taken on a range of roles since coming to Columbia in 1984.

After graduating from Dartmouth College in 1958, where he pursued a major in

SEE SAM SILVERSTEIN, page 7

CC 2012 student council candidates debate platforms

BY ALIX PIANIN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

A small audience turned out Saturday night for the Columbia College Student Council class of 2012 debates, where a more free-flowing question-and-answer format fostered discussion among candidates whose talking points largely centered on council and student communication.

For the first-year candidates, the question of how to mobilize CC students to get them more involved on campus was an issue they expected to grapple with if elected, as the students conjured up ways to draw larger numbers to events.

Debate participants included the members of the B.A.M. ticket, notably presidential can-

didate Michelle Kwak and vice presidential candidate Brandi Ripp; the Fianna Fail ticket, whose presidential candidate, William Prasifka, was absent but represented by candidate for vice president David Lynch; and the Access Columbia ticket, led by presidential candidate Aki Terasaki, vice-presidential candidate Sarah Chai who did not attend, and Brandon Christophe, Jasmine Senior, and Kenny Durell, running for representative roles.

Kwak and Ripp advocated for more study breaks and for developing innovative ways for the class councils to get through to their constituents. "I read all the [CCSC] emails, but I know a lot of people who don't," Kwak said.

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EVENTS — APRIL 6

Employer Connection Night

As part of the Center for Career Education's series of Employer Connection Nights features not-for-profits; members of the field to participate in mock interviews and résumé reviews.

Center for Career Education, 7 p.m.

Midday Music

Miller Theatre and the School of Arts and Sciences will feature Mendelssohn Quartets at this afternoon's segment of their Lunchtime Concerts series. Take a break in the middle of the day to attend this event, which is free of charge.

Philosophy Hall Gard Student Lounge, 12:30 p.m.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I've spent my whole life doing what I would've done if I had been independently wealthy, because it's so fun."

—Sam Silverstein

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Columbia Spectator
2875 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York City, NY 10025
info@columbiaspectator.com
Daily Spectator (212) 854-9555
Editorial Fax (212) 854-9611
Business (212) 854-9550
Business Fax (212) 854-9553

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CORRECTIONS

The article "African studies strewn across University," which appeared in the April 3 issue of the *Spectator*, incorrectly stated that the Institute of African Studies preserves a library collection. In fact, the collection—among the 10th largest in the country—is maintained by Columbia University Libraries.

CU researchers trace causes of depression

BY RAY KATZ
Columbia Daily Spectator

New research led by Columbia scientists suggests that depression, often thought to be a purely psychological disorder, can be linked to certain physical characteristics that make individuals more at-risk for the illness.

To conduct their study, scientists—led by Myrna Weissman, professor of epidemiology in psychiatry at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and director of the division of epidemiology at the New York State Psychiatric Institute—imaged the brains of 131 individuals, including 12 children, roughly half of whom had a strong family history of depression. The research showed that not only was the frequency of depressive symptoms significantly greater in the high-risk group than in the low-risk group, but the magnetic resonance imaging scans revealed broad expanses of thinning in the cortex, specifically in the brain's right hemisphere. The cortex is the outermost portion of the brain and has been linked to the development of depression by previous research. The right hemisphere, in particular, is thought to facilitate the perception of social and emotional stimuli from the surrounding environment.

The paper, "Cortical thinning in persons at increased familial risk for major depression," published on the Proceedings of the National Academy

of Sciences' Web site on March 27, proposes that the thinning of the cortical tissue in the right hemisphere likely detracts from an individual's ability to process these stimuli, predisposing that individual toward depression. A similar reduction in thickness in the corresponding portions of the left hemisphere of the brain is required to produce depressive symptoms, the study states.

The paper identifies cortical thinning as a biomarker—a biological indicator of disease—for only the familial form of depression, which constitutes the majority of depression cases seen clinically.

While the reduction in cortical thickness is not the first biological indicator of depression ever found, it is "certainly one of the strongest," said Bradley Peterson, director of child and adolescent psychiatry at the Columbia University Medical Center and the paper's first author. The thinning is remarkable for the amount of space it covers, but most significantly, it is present in the offspring of depressed individuals, even if those descendants haven't experienced symptoms themselves, Peterson said.

"It's not a consequence of having been depressed, it's not a consequence of treatment—it is there early in life, and it seems to be something that contributes to cognitive problems and subsequently becoming symptomatic," he emphasized.

While cortical thinning may be a familial trait, it is not necessarily genetically inherited, Peterson said. "We don't know what the ultimate source

is—whether it's a genetic cause, or growing up in a depressed environment, or something else. But whatever that cause is, it's having a hardwiring effect in the brain from early childhood."

The question of whether this thinning can be considered a marker for depression in general remains largely unanswered, but the study suggests that this may be the case.

Within the low-risk group, there were individuals who had developed depression over the course of their lifetimes despite the fact that they had no strong family history of the illness. When the brains of these individuals were compared to the brains of others in the low-risk group who had never been depressed, right hemisphere thinning was still found.

Still, the implications of this finding on the future of clinical depression treatment remains unknown. "A key direction for research would be to try and develop therapies that will either minimize or reverse the anatomical abnormalities that we're seeing," Peterson said. The brain is a highly plastic organ, and it is possible that cognitive training exercises could strengthen the right hemisphere and provide compensation for the defects that the thinning seems to cause, Peterson said.

In addition, the study opens the door to further research on biomarkers for different subtypes of depression, which could allow for more individualized treatments in the future, he concluded.

news@columbiaspectator.com

Proposal to replace traditional schools with charters fuels debate

LOCAL SCHOOLS from front page

New York State Assemblyman Keith Wright, who represents Harlem, recently introduced a bill which would "require a one year notification prior to any closure, consolidation or phase-out of existing public schools," he said in a press release.

Wright's communications director, Ben Rosen, explained, "This legislation is a way to facilitate parents, committee members, and elected officials getting their say on this and having a public debate and public discourse." Rosen continued, "These are public school buildings, and they should be administered by the DOE."

In contrast, Rosen said that the DOE has less oversight over charter schools, which are "also important, but maintaining and improving the quality of public schools is very important."

The DOE still plans to phase out the three traditional public schools as they share space with charters that will eventually fill an increasing number of classrooms. But the traditional public schools will continue to accept new students next fall, though P.S. 241 and P.S. 150 will not take new classes of sixth graders.

Morgridge described the traditional public schools in controversy as "under-enrolled and failing," leading parents to ask for the schools to be improved, but not closed.

"Why is the DOE's job to house charter schools with small classes?" Morgridge asked of the proposal to shut down regular public

schools entirely to replace them with charters. "Charters are using public resources that belong to the DOE and not to the state that's chartering the schools. Don't kids in public schools have first priority over kids who have chosen to go to charter schools?"

Yet a group associated with the Harlem Success Academy—a network of local charter schools—has now raised its voice against the DOE's decision to keep the public schools open. These parents attest that the DOE for should have closed down the schools earlier, and they emphasize the importance of school choice that charters provide.

"I don't think my son has choices," wrote Melissa Anderson, a Harlem Success Academy parent whose son's school zone is P.S. 241. She added in her testimony directed toward Mayor Michael Bloomberg, "At Harlem Success, at least I know my son will come home and mention colleges."

Melissa Haley, who attended P.S. 194, wrote, "I live across the street from 194 and although it's a zoned school and very convenient for me and my child I wouldn't even try to put my child in there because the children are well behind." In the past four years, P.S. 194 has had three different principals, according to Rosen.

"I think that all children deserve a good education and a right to go to school," wrote Martinique Owen, a mother of a student zoned for P.S. 241.

Still, Rosen said, "How can you expect quality progress to come when there's so much confusion, so much lack of direction?"

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WEST SIDE GOES FAR EAST



KOREA COMES TO LERNER | From traditional dance to pop music to a high-energy fashion show, Sunday night’s 28th annual KSA Culture Show aimed to showcase both traditional and contemporary elements of Korean culture. This year’s production, Project 4, examined the centrality of the number four in Korean culture. The four seasons, the four elements, and the four colors of the national flag were all prominently figured in the showcase.

ART

Art fair offers another kind of stimulation

BY ANDREW WAILES
Columbia Daily Spectator

Walking past the free condoms, visitors to New York’s LGBT Community Center this weekend were bombarded from all sides by over 5,000 images of male genitalia.

Every angle and sexual act imaginable was on display, in media ranging from photography and watercolor to print-making and pop art. This was the Painted Boy Gay Erotic Art Fair.

The mission of the fair, which opened April 3 and closed Sunday, was to stir the imagination through the display of unconventional art from over 50 artists. Unlike many exhibitions that are unified by a specific movement or style, the fair was tied together by an overarching theme of sexually explicit acts made public.

One wall displayed disguised erotic photographs, one of which depicted a collection of very ripe and highly pixilated apples. Among the apples, and easily overlooked at first glance, was a pair of testicles.

On the opposite side of the room, a collection of postcard-sized sketches of a wide range of sexual acts, ranging from masturbation to fellatio to intercourse, creatively explored the realm of sexual frustration. Though the sketches were clearly the product of a great deal of passion, they seemed to convey the artists’ personal emotions instead of actively engaging viewers.

Among the more thought-provoking artists at the fair was Erich Erving, GS. After majoring in creative writing at Columbia, he became involved with the Leslie Lohman Gallery. This eventually led him to display and sell his art at Painted Boy. Some of the pieces on display were created at Columbia in a class taught by Kiki Smith.

“Hopefully there’s a difference between erotic art and cock art,” Erving said of his work. “Cock art is an image of what it is. I want to create art that provides people with a way to interact with something that isn’t strictly erotic.”



AESTHETIC EROTICA | From April 3 to April 6, the Painted Boy Gay Erotic Art Fair displayed over 5,000 images of sexually explicit acts from more than 50 artists at New York’s LGBT Community Center.

To create art that engages viewers, Erving uses a great deal of symbolism and biblical references. His venture into the world of visual art, which was driven by his obsession with romantic poet William Blake, clearly displays his background and fascination with the written word. “I am specifically interested in codes, ciphers, and language, and how they can convey meaning through art,” Erving said.

In his work, which consists mostly of cloth prints, Erving employs biblical phrases translated into Polari, a cipher language historically used by gay men. As a

Lutheran, Erving uses Polari in his biblical references to explore his idea of multiple identities.

“There is an importance in questioning misconception, in seeing what these texts mean when translated into a language that’s specifically sexual and when paired with images of sexuality,” he said.

Erving’s juxtaposition of the homosexual and the biblical formed an effective, thought-provoking relationship that went beyond the seemingly gratuitous eroticism that dominated a large portion of the fair.

DANCE

Relevé elevates visiting students to the dance stage

BY DOMINIQUE NIEVES
Columbia Daily Spectator

The *Relevé* showcase, hosted and sponsored by Columbia dance group Sabor, took place on Saturday night in C555 Lerner. The showcase was part of a three-day enrichment program created by Sabor in order to introduce the fine arts to young people throughout New York who are working to overcome by economic obstacles and language barriers.

The title of the event, *Relevé*, comes from a French term for a dance step and also means “to rise.” The step is a foot movement that elevates the body—and the goal of the showcase itself was to elevate the spirits of both the audience and the performers. Participants felt that *Relevé* was not only a talent showcase, but a learning experience for the performers as well.

As part of the program, Sabor members hosted visiting high school students, many of whom were recent immigrants, at Columbia for three days over the weekend. Sabor President Deysy Ordonez, CC ’10 explained that many of the students hail from the Dominican Republic, and are not yet proficient in English. In addition to the dance and talent showcase, the visitors attended college admissions and financial aid workshops as well.

The visiting students rehearsed for only a day and a half before putting on Saturday’s performance. In that short time, Sabor members taught them Cuban dance and helped them hone their other artistic abilities. The young women partnered up with the male members of Sabor as they took the audience on a “trip to Cuba,” in the words of emcee Michael Barrientos.

The performance showcased a mix of high school students and Sabor members, but multiple perfor-

mances, including a hip-hop and a step-dancing number, were choreographed by the visiting students themselves. A rendition of Beyonce’s “Single Ladies” music video dance was a crowd favorite. A guest appearance by Dhoom, Columbia’s South Asian dance group, kept the energy especially high.

Relevé also gave performers a chance to showcase their other talents—musical, literary, and theatrical. The walls were lined with student paintings.

With the exception of some technical difficulties that hampered transitions, *Relevé* was very well put together. The audience cheered throughout, and the slight informality of the performance setting made it a much more personal experience for the students.

Sabor should be commended for putting on a show that was not only entertaining, but also an inspiration to all those seeking to make a difference in their community.

FOOD & DRINK

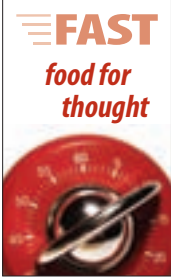
A fishy treat that’s fresh out of the frying pan

BY KELICIA HOLLIS
Spectator Staff Writer

Hamburgers, pizza, and vanilla ice cream are staples of American cuisine. But every culture has a dish (or three) that is a standard fixture for restaurants and lunch boxes.

My personal trademark dish, however, is not a cultural mainstay. Salmon croquettes are sometimes called “salmon patties,” but by either name they make a great snack: delicious, quick, light, and easy to make. They can be eaten by themselves, or as a sandwich with tartar sauce. I like to put my croquettes in a fresh-tossed salad with a lemon wedge on the side.

Although everyone in my family has different dietary needs—ranging from a vegetarian to no pork to a general preference for meat and potatoes—this dish is always satisfactory. Croquettes are also perfect for the average college student because they are inexpensive to make. But be sure to use a plastic bag, put the can of salmon with the other trash, and take it directly to the garbage chute after cooking—the smell is very pungent.



HOW IT’S DONE

Recipe: Salmon Croquettes

- 1 can of salmon
- 7-10 saltine crackers, crumbled
- 1 egg
- Lemon pepper to taste
- Cornmeal
- Vegetable Oil
- 1/3 chopped onion

Instructions:

First, pour vegetable oil into a nonstick frying pan about 1/3 of the way and set it to medium heat. Drain all liquid from the fish, then de-bone it and take the skin off. Place the fish in a bowl, and with a fork break apart segments and flake them up to create a consistency similar to that of tuna fish. Add Saltine crackers, egg, onion, and lemon pepper, and mix them together. Mold this mixture into small hamburger-like patties, about 1/4 inch thick. Coat with cornmeal on the outside. Test the oil to make sure it is hot enough—throw a pinch of cornmeal in the oil, and if it quickly sizzles and dissipates, it is the right temperature. Add the salmon croquettes to the pan, and cook until brown on bottom. Flip, and cook on the other side for about 3-5 minutes. Serve immediately, refrigerate leftovers, and enjoy.

With two wars in the Middle East and rising challenges to America’s status as the world’s lone superpower, Columbia students cannot afford to ignore issues of international importance. This Monday, *Spectator* Opinion takes a look at questions of foreign policy facing the new administration. Reid Bagwell argues for improved US relations with Iran, Alex Frouman discusses foreign policy with China, and Sonali Pillay looks at a possible solution to Afghanistan’s problem of opium production.

The case for Iran

BY REID BAGWELL

The common sentiment in the United States over the last eight years has been to see Iran as some sort of terrorism mastermind. In that narrative, Iranian agents have sown discord in Iraq by funding the Badr Brigade and Mahdi Army and have strengthened terrorist groups in Lebanon and Gaza. Iran, the Bush administration argued, was at the heart of every major Middle East problem. The country’s recent decision to brush off American diplomatic overtures as meaningless without accompanying changes in policy only adds credence to this belief.

Obama, however, is right to press on diplomatically. Any country entering into diplomacy with a long term enemy will be suspicious until the negotiations have produced actual results. Iran continues to maintain that it is willing to talk to the U.S. and hopes that the U.S. is being genuine in its desire to reach out. In addition, when

we look at Iran’s actions and interests, we see a country that could be a useful and willing partner for the United States in the Middle East. Iran’s interests overlap America’s on many fronts.

In the past, Iran has opposed US actions. That opposition, however, must be seen in context. When the U.S. invaded Iraq, it placed the army of a nation that had called Iran part of an “axis of evil” on Iran’s border. Iran thought it might well be next if the war in Iraq succeeded. To be fair, many Americans wanted Iran to be next if the war succeeded, so Iran’s fear was hardly unwarranted. In this context, it is not surprising that Iran opposed the US venture in Iraq.

As American sentiment turned away from wars and nation building, Iran’s actions in Iraq became far more helpful. Iran has always been a large supporter of the Islamic Dawa Party, to which Nouri al-Maliki, the Iraqi Prime Minister, belongs. Once the Maliki government proved itself capable of protecting Shiites and ending the ethnic cleansing, radical Shiite groups like the Badr Brigade ceased to work openly against it. The Mahdi Army, always too populist and anti-authority for Iran’s tastes, has

fallen extensively out of favor. If anything, Iran now backs Iraq’s government. A stable Shiite led Iraq serves Iran’s interests far better than chaos that could spill over.

In Afghanistan, Iran has always been highly supportive of the U.S. mission. To Iran, the Sunni radical Taliban government, which saw Shiites as apostates worthy of death, was a terrible threat. The new government has strong economic ties with Iran (Iranian currency is preferred in Herat province) and shares Iran’s interests in eliminating the drug trade plaguing both countries. Iran has strong vested interest in a stable Afghanistan under a non-Taliban government, much the same as Iran needs a stable Iraq under a Shiite/Kurdish government, the result that U.S.-style democracy will continue to yield.

The most obvious sticking point between Iran and the United States is Israel. Iran continues to fund anti-Israeli groups and it would take a healthy offer by the U.S. to make Iran desist. Still, Jordan, Egypt, and Syria all once promised never to recognize Israel. Now the first two do and Syria is

seen as a possible negotiating partner. There is no reason to presume that Iran is singularly implacable and cannot be made to accept Israel, when countries actually in the shadow of the Israel Defense Forces and with histories of war against Israel have done so.

Iran’s interests are not a perfect match with the United States’, but there is more than enough overlap to make Iran a valuable negotiating partner. Iran has a lot to offer America, most importantly due to its ability to project stability into Iraq’s Southern provinces by reining in militias that rely on it for funds. Iran and the United States are tied together by a mutual fear of Sunni extremists like al-Qaeda and the Taliban. While the many points of contention guarantee that Iran isn’t going to be a U.S. ally any time soon, both sides would benefit from talks, and Iran holds enough of the keys in the region that peace and success without Iranian cooperation is hard to imagine. Continuing to try to overcome Iranian distrust and make Iran a part of the solution in the Middle East will be well worth the effort.

The author is a Columbia College first-year.



ILLUSTRATION BY DARYL SEITCHIK

Red gold: the solution to Afghanistan’s opium addiction

BY SONALI PILLAY

Afghanistan produces 93 percent of the world’s opiates and 90 percent of the world’s opium. Not only does this trade exacerbate a global drug crisis, but it also provides Taliban and insurgent groups between \$100 million and \$400 million per year. It is estimated that 80 percent of personnel at the Ministry of Interior benefit from the drug trade, and Afghan officials even believe that 100,000 members of the Afghan government gain from the trade—whether it be from transportation fees, bribes or profits. Even highway police are believed to be involved in facilitating and taxing smuggling. At times, they themselves transport the drugs in government law enforcement vehicles. An increasingly lawless Afghanistan, riddled with corruption at all levels of government and police, has led the way to an explosion of poppy cultivation.

Tackling the ongoing and growing opium trade in Afghanistan must be a priority for American policymakers. The current U.S. strategy is to train and aid Afghan forces to conduct a mass eradication campaign by force, which has proved to be ineffective.

The Afghan Eradication Force was created in 2005 with the help of United States Drug Enforcement Agency and the US State Department. The troops consist of police drawn from Afghanistan’s Ministry of Interior. On occasion these eradicators have been ambushed by Taliban forces and even targeted by suicide bombers. Eradication is not working. In fact, last month, Richard Holbrooke, U.S. envoy to Pakistan and Afghanistan, stated that the \$800 million the US spends per year on counter-narcotics is “wasteful and ineffective.”

In June of 2005, the Counter Narcotics Trust Fund was established through the United Nations Development Programme to provide additional resources to implement the policies of the National Drug Control Strategy of the Afghan government. The CNTF has, among other things, been promoting a system of subsidies to encourage “poppy-free provinces.” The U.S. has been responsible for 75 percent of the funds pledged for so called “performance incentives.” According to a United Nations

Office on Drugs and Crime report, 98 percent of farmers said they would be ready to stop poppy cultivation “should access to alternative livelihoods be provided,” and many farmers were eager to receive a portion of those subsidies. In 2007, this system seemed promising: 13 out of a total of 34 provinces became poppy free. Unfortunately, in many instances, provinces that claimed poppy-free status substituted poppies with cannabis, another illicit crop that propagates drug trade, while truly poppy-free provinces did not receive subsidies at all.

Eradication is difficult because it threatens the livelihoods of many Afghan farmers who simply cultivate out of necessity. In fact, many farmers cultivate poppies in order to pay off a loan-in-kind from the previous year. It is common for moneylenders to charge usurious rates or conduct other forms of intimidation such as simply kidnapping family members of defaulters (usually daughters). At any given point in time, farmers are reliant upon loans at staggeringly high interest rates and have loans taken out in advance for the next season’s harvest. If they choose to abandon poppy cultivation, they will still have to pay for that loan they already took out, without any of next season’s profits.

The welfare of these farmers must be the primary concern of the international community if it intends to end the drug trade in Afghanistan, which benefits insurgency and Taliban forces. Their attraction to poppy is simply a matter of convenience—it is a high value crop, with profits estimated at around \$5,200 per hectare, and trade routes are already established. A substitute crop, which provides an equal or better livelihood for farmers, must be introduced.

The ideal substitutable crop is saffron. As a result of being one of the most expensive spices in the world, saffron has been nicknamed “red gold.” It is high-profit, low-risk, and suitable to climatic conditions. Western Afghanistan has a long history of growing the best saffron in the world. In fact, trials of saffron growing in the Herat province, bordering Iran, have beaten the international record for most productive yield—on average \$5,000 per hectare annually and even up to \$8,000. The statistics make saffron a higher value crop than cannabis, with the potential to exceed profits accrued through poppy cultivation.

In order to make this substitution of saffron feasible, donor nations, led by the United States, must provide funding in order to provide corms (saffron seeds) to farmers. In addition, organizations such as International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas must be brought in to train Afghans on proper farming techniques for saffron, so that they can grow a successful and profitable crop. The U.S. must adopt this policy of crop substitution in order to increase national security, reduce drug trade, and increase stability in Afghanistan.

The author is a Barnard College junior majoring in economics. She is the director of foreign policy at the Roosevelt Institution.



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEXIS YUEN

On money, morals, and might

BY ALEX FROUMAN

The U.S.-China relationship is the most important bilateral diplomatic relationship for the U.S. today. The issues that link these two world powers include the economy, nuclear proliferation, climate change, and human rights. Meaningful progress cannot be made in any of these issues without effective U.S.-Chinese collaboration.

The global economy is the top issue for the two nations. The U.S. has the world’s largest economy by far (counting the European Union as individual nations), and Japan came in second place until this year as China passed Japan for that spot. Even now China’s economy is still growing despite the opposite worldwide trend.

Though China’s economy is still much smaller than that of the U.S., China will not only emerge from the recession debt-free, but it will also own about \$1 trillion in U.S. government debt. China has enough money saved to fund not only its own \$600 billion stimulus (which is larger than the U.S. stimulus package when adjusted for the size of the economies), but also in part that of the U.S.

China’s massive trade surplus in the recent decades, opposed to the U.S. trade deficit, has left it with this saved money. Beyond the \$1 trillion in U.S. government debt, the Chinese reserves contain nearly another \$1 trillion. The Chinese have these U.S. dollars not because they bought them, but because they flow into the country via trade.

However, this trade does not come without contention. In a senate hearing, U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner accused the Chinese government of manipulating its currency, the Renminbi (RMB or Yuan), to keep it weak to the dollar, which promotes Chinese exports but not imports. The result is that roughly one third of the Chinese foreign reserves are in dollars.

The power this gives China is simple: If China were to withdraw dollar holdings, the value of the dollar would plummet. However, if China were to start seriously withdrawing U.S. dollars, as it did that, the value of the dollars still invested would go down. That is, the first dollar withdrawn would be worth much more than the last; \$2 trillion would become much less. Thus, any negative fluctuation in the dollar is bad for China too. There is a mutually assured destruction that prevents abuse of China’s U.S. dollar holdings.

Indeed, by some measures, the more China has, the better. By integrating the Chinese and U.S. economies, both parties become invested in a common security that takes the punch out of recent Chinese threats about abandoning the dollar because it is insecure. Some even go further and consider the Chinese “fear” about the dollar to be a distraction from its manipulations of the RMB.

It is not all good, though; A trade surplus hurts the US economy, and the Obama administration needs to focus on reeling in the U.S. trade deficit. One way to do this is by ending China’s manipulation of the RMB, which would allow it to rise in value. Yet we may not want the RMB to change right now, as it would devalue the dollar and potentially cause stateside inflation. However, the RMB needs to be allowed to fluctuate appropriately and fairly with the market within the next few years as the world emerges from the crisis.

President Obama has already taken steps towards progress in U.S.-China economic policy. During G20 this past week, he met with Chinese President Hu Jintao, announcing cooperation of the two powers and a plan to meet once a year on both strategic and economic fronts for an initiative headed by Clinton and Geithner. This framework opens preliminary doors to success.

Beyond the economy, an area of success in U.S.-China diplomacy has been their mutual opposition to nuclear proliferation. The united voice speaking against North Korea’s nuclear development and missile launch this week displays the two nations effectively collaborating for common interests.

Regarding climate change, the nations also have common interests, but both have been resistant to change. Neither nation has joined the Kyoto Protocol; China claims that it is entitled to use fossil fuels to develop as the West did, and that the majority of the greenhouse gas in the atmosphere has come from the West, while the U.S. is simply failing to make concrete promises. If the U.S. wants diplomatic clout when it comes to climate change, it needs to make clear international commitments and subsequently pressure China, the number-one emitter of greenhouse gasses (passing the U.S. only about two years ago), to do the same.

Finally, the Obama administration has adopted a harmful policy regarding China and human rights. In Clinton’s recent trip to China, she emphasized looking beyond issues such as Taiwan and Tibet in order to unite over the economy. In a press release regarding President Obama’s meeting with President Hu, the White House said the two agreed to “resume the human rights dialogue as soon as possible.”

This deferral of important issues is unacceptable if the U.S. desires global moral influence. The U.S. cannot afford double standards regarding human rights. While the U.S. should weaken its demands for now to prioritize the economy, putting off talks completely is a mistake.

China is still just entering the stage as an international power. As China learns the rules of the game, the U.S. must apply pressure rather than appease its developing partner. Appeasement now will only make it more difficult to apply pressure in the future. The U.S. needs to set standards from day one, which means the Obama administration cannot completely remove human rights from the table.

The author is a Columbia College first-year.

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6	1	4	5	9	3	7	2	8
3	8	9	2	7	6	1	4	5
4	6	3	7	2	9	8	5	1
9	7	8	1	6	5	4	3	2
1	5	2	3	4	8	6	7	9
8	4	7	9	3	2	5	1	6
2	9	1	6	5	7	3	8	4
5	3	6	4	8	1	2	9	7

su | do | ku

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9. That means that no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

6	8					4	5
3		9				2	7
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7		1	8		4	3	6
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9		3	1		6	5	2
				5			
1		5				7	8
2	3					5	4

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Narrow-necked pear

5 James who robbed trains

10 Wine glass part

14 Pasty-faced

15 Laud, as virtues

16 Drive-___ window

17 "Pow" relative

18 Immune system agent

19 Liber's littest

20 "Shari" Lewis puppet

22 '90s first lady

23 50-and-over org.

24 Open-bodied truck

26 Moon mission name

29 Photo enlargement

30 No-goodnik

31 Really punch

32 Hoop, scanners

35 Extinguish, with "out"

36 "Shh!" (and a hint to the feature shared by the answers to starred clues)

39 Legal Lance

40 ___ away: hide on a ship

42 Hit, in billiards

43 Paquin and Nicole Smith

45 Jeff Gordon was its 1993 Rookie of the Year

47 Cavern

48 Sold for a big profit, as tickets

50 Gucci of fashion

51 Brit's boob tube

52 "Act all innocent

56 Miscellany

57 Soft-tipped pen brand

59 Civil War color

60 Dole's 1996 running mate

61 Give up

62 This, in Tegucigalpa

63 Draws away from shore

64 Force units

65 Swedish auto

DOWN

1 Cry loudly

2 On-the-job protection org.

3 Pillow covering

4 Drummer's crashers

5 Rockers ___

6 Many a security guard

7 One of AA's twelve

8 Sun, in Spain

9 Building addition

10 Layer

11 "Duster's find at a crime scene

12 Tennessee-born country singer

13 Like a subdued trumpet

21 Biblical spy

22 Paw's mate?

24 Transmission stuff

25 Opera box

26 Mont Blanc's range

27 Protruded-lip expression

28 "Precariously situated

29 More azure

31 Cheerleading unit

33 "Let's leave ___ that"

34 Medicare

37 Platte's "Behold!"

38 Late

41 Troncoes

44 Annoying people

46 James Bond, e.g.

47 Piercing looks

48 Stir the fire

49 Paparazzi target

50 ___ and kicking

52 It can be chronic or shooting

53 Bear among the stars

54 ___ Hari

55 "We're not serving liquor," briefly

57 Bk. introduction

58 Make, as a wager

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

MARYJANE	LADYOT
CHAMONIX	IMBEAT
INTHEACT	MESSRS
ALGERNON	WEE
BOBS	LEO
SCENA	ALA
RHYMES	OROS
SERGIO	ENTIRETY
BOOKEMDANNO	
PLEASURE	ERUPTS
TERP	MEASLE
EOS	SABES
CS	ANTE
OPP	PETULANT
ATOMIC	RELATETO
TALENT	ENTRYFEE
STEREO	STAYSFOR

xwordeditor@aol.com 04/06/09

By Elizabeth A. Long
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Transparency goal of USenate resolution

UNIVERSITY SENATE from front page

suggestions, he also mentioned that such goals may be hard to achieve in the near future because of both financial and administrative hurdles.

“Even if these things aren’t done soon, they can remain a blueprint for the future,” Bollinger said.

The discussion then turned to the passing of three proposed resolutions: “Resolution to Establish a New Program Leading to the Degree of Master of Science in Communications Practice in the School of Continuing Education,” “Resolution to Establish a Certificate in International Criminal Law Between Columbia Law School, and the University of Amsterdam Law School,” and “Resolution to Establish a Certificate in Global Business Law and Governance Between

Columbia Law School and the University of Paris I/Sciences Po.” All three resolutions passed with nearly unanimous approval.

The last topic for discussion was the proposed University policy on financial conflicts of interest in research, specifically regarding the draft created on March 10. Additionally, the senate discussed the “Resolution to Complete a Comprehensive University-Wide Policy on the Reporting of Individual Income from Non-University Sources,” proposed by University Senators Robert Pollack (Ten., A&S/NS) and Samuel Silverstein (Ten., P&S), which stipulated that “the University establish an initial floor that would require reporting in advance all income from all sources by all members of the University, in excess of \$10,000 or 1/5 of annual

University income, whichever is larger.”

The purpose of this proposed resolution is transparency, which is an “obligation to each other” that University faculty must uphold, Silverstein said. While the resolution states that “the Conflict of Interest Policy to be voted on today [during the University Senate meeting] is a satisfactory policy,” Silverstein pointed out that it included some loopholes that “are not in the spirit of transparency.”

While the proposed conflict-of-interest policy was passed unanimously save for one abstention, the resolution on the reporting of individual income was tabled for an “appropriate” committee to discuss further, Bollinger said.

Alexa Davis can be reached at alexa.davis@columbiaspectator.com.

Prof forms ‘zipper mechanism,’ resolution

SAM SILVERSTEIN from front page

government and a minor in geology, Silverstein attended the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, where he received an M.D. in 1963. Next, he became a faculty member at Rockefeller University in the Laboratory of Cellular Physiology and Immunology.

At Rockefeller, Silverstein was instrumental in the formulation of the “zipper mechanism” concept, which describes immune phagocytosis, the process in which immune cells eat viruses. Silverstein is also well known for his work on Legionnaires’ Disease, an ailment largely caused by an aquatic organism.

Silverstein sees one of his main accomplishments, though, to be outside of the lab, namely the creation of the CU Summer Research Program for Science Teachers.

This program—based on the concept that teachers who understand the material they’re teach-

ing are more likely to help their students understand it—provides hands-on experience in labs to high school science teachers from the New York City area who might not otherwise have access to these resources. Evaluations based on the state Regents Exams have shown that students from participating schools scored 10 percent better than the students of teachers who hadn’t attended.

“Hands-on experience is very important,” Silverstein said.

Silverstein said he believes that programs such as these are extremely important because the state of science education in the United States compared to that in other countries is bound to impact the nation’s standing in other sectors, a situation he describes as being “the race between education and technology.”

“If we don’t do something,” Silverstein said, “we won’t remain a first class economy in the 21st century.”

Speaking about his other work, Silverstein said he particularly enjoys his position as a faculty member of the University Senate, where he has recently been involved in putting forward a “Resolution to Complete a Comprehensive University-Wide Policy on the Reporting of Individual Income from Non-University Sources,” along with Robert Pollack, a measure that Silverstein said he believes would increase transparency.

He said he particularly enjoys serving on the University Senate because it “puts [me] back in contact with a lot of people from other disciplines,” and it is “a nice way to be involved in the policy issues that affect organizations, especially universities.”

He called the senate “a way to sort out places where we have differences and to decide what is acceptable.”

Alexa Davis can be reached at alexa.davis@columbiaspectator.com.

Candidates say cheap promo is priority

CCSC 2012 from front page

She emphasized that next year’s CCSC would have to find new ways to attract attention and advertise council efforts and events.

Members of Access Columbia said they would work to increase turnout at school events and sports games by placing more plastic table toppers listing the week’s events in John Jay to advertise cheaply. Terasaki also emphasized the importance of following through with initiatives started this year, such as the expansive online events calendar.

Lynch, who, along with his running mate, is a newcomer to the campus politics, said

that their campaign’s lack of inside experience is an asset to their ticket. “We’re fresh eyes on the board, and we believe that is a definite plus,” Lynch said, adding that a major goal of their ticket Fianna Fail was to change the perception of CCSC as a “glorified planning committee,” and to successfully show students how the council functions. To develop events inexpensively, he suggested installing raffles at some events to cover charges.

James Bogner, chair of the CCSC Elections Board and CC ’10, asked the candidates how they would contribute to coun-

cil policy-making, especially at a council where the number of resolutions has drastically dipped in recent years. While none of the tickets seemed to have a solid answer for how they would be efficient policy-makers, they each expressed a commitment to making improvements and effectively getting resolutions implemented.

The 2010 class council debate will be held on April 7, with the Academic Affairs Debate following on April 13 and the Uncontested Candidates’ Town Hall on April 16.

Alix Pianin can be reached at alix.pianin@columbiaspectator.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

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04/07

TUESDAY

KATHA POLLITT, EVIE SHOCKLEY & RACHEL WETZSTEON

7:00 PM

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

04/13

MONDAY

BOYS & GIRLS IN POST-CONFLICT SOCIETIES

6:30 PM

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

04/14

TUESDAY

AARON HAMBURGER, ELIZA MINOT & DARCEY STEINKE

7:00 PM

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

04/15

WEDNESDAY

MUYBRIDGE'S GUATEMALAN LAUNDRESSES

Gender, Labor and Aesthetics on a Coffee Plantation

Noon

BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

04/16

THURSDAY

LISTENING TO AFRICAN VOICES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN SLAVE TRADE

7:00 PM

802 International Affairs Building
420 West 118th Street

04/21

TUESDAY

17TH ANNUAL STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

4:00 PM

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

04/22

WEDNESDAY

EMIGRATION, EXPATRIATION & IMMIGRATION

7:00 PM

405 Milbank Hall

04/23

THURSDAY

SENIOR SEMINAR POSTER SESSION IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

4:30 PM

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

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Second-half stumbles plague lacrosse

BY JONATHAN TAYLER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

For the first time in Ivy League play this season, Columbia lacrosse took a lead into halftime. But for the fourth time in four conference tries, the Lions were unable to turn any of that positive momentum into a win.

Despite an 8-4 lead after the end of the first half, Columbia (5-5, 0-4 Ivy) could not hang on against Brown (5-4, 2-1), falling 15-10 to the Bears on the road. The loss is Columbia's fifth in a row after a 5-0 start, dropping the team to 0-4 in the Ivy League. The Lions have not won a conference matchup since April 22, 2005.

Things started out, per usual, on the wrong foot for Columbia, with Brown's Alexa Caldwell scoring off of a free position shot just 23 seconds in to give the Bears a 1-0 lead. A goal by Columbia's Holly Glynn drew things even at one, but Caldwell struck again on an unassisted goal to give Brown a 2-1 advantage. The tide turned on against Brown's favor right after that, however, with Brittany Shannon notching a goal 20 seconds after Caldwell's to tie things up at two. Goals by Rachael Ryan and Glynn followed, putting the Lions up 4-2. From there, Columbia answered every Brown goal with two of its own, with Gabrielle Geronimos and Ryan splitting the four goals between them.

But as well as things had gone in the first half, they fell apart in a hurry in the second. Just a minute and a half in, Brown's Katelyn Caro scored to pull the Bears within three. Kelly Robinson scored just under



GOAL | In Columbia's loss to Brown over the weekend, Rachel Ryan led the Lions with four scores in the first half and one in the second.

three minutes later to close the gap to two. And then Jesse Nunn notched two goals in two minutes to knot things up at eight. After this run, Columbia had no answer to Brown's sudden burst of offense, and head coach Kerri Whitaker could only watch as her team allowed another five goals to fall behind 13-8.

After Molly McCarthy's first goal of the year gave Brown that 13-8 advantage, Columbia finally responded with a goal by Shannon. But a pair of goals three minutes apart by Caro and Lauren Vitkus gave Brown 15, with scoring finally capped by Ryan's fifth goal of the day with just three seconds left.

All told, Columbia was outscored

11-2 in the second half, with both Lions' tallies coming in the last eight minutes after the majority of the damage had already been done. The Light Blue was outshot 21-4 in that period, as goalkeeper Emma Mintz was peppered with shots left and right, making only four saves after the break. Caro and Vitkus did the heavy lifting for Brown, combining for five goals. For Columbia, Ryan led the way with five scores, all but one coming in the first half.

The Lions will take a short break from action before resuming their quest for an Ivy win against Yale on Wed., April 8. The contest will take place at Baker Field starting at 4 p.m.

Lions take top spots in 1,500-meter run at Quaker Invite

BY SABINE SCHULZ
Spectator Staff Writer

After last weekend's excellent performance by the women's team at Army's Dick Shea Invitational, the Columbia track-and-field team continued its outdoor season this weekend at Princeton's Sam Howell Invitational and Penn's Quaker Invitational.

At the Sam Howell Invitational, the Lions faced 16 teams, including Dartmouth, Princeton, and Yale, in distance events. Senior Jeff Randall cleared the 3,000-meter steeplechase in 9:00.64, making the NCAA qualifying time. Randall narrowly edged out Princeton's Trevor Van Ackeren to place second, behind independent runner Thomas Slosky. The best finish on the women's side was junior Irena Ossola's 11th-place finish in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, while Riadha's Irene Kimaiyo and Shauneen Garrahan took first and second place, respectively.

The Lions had success at Penn on Saturday as well, competing in a large variety of events at the Quaker Invitational. In the men's 1,500-meter run, two Lions were vying for the top spot—sophomore Jeff Moriarty and junior Chris Hays. Moriarty took the title in 3:58.66, outpacing Hays by six-tenths of a second. Sophomore Dylan Isaacson and freshman Andrew Buchanan finished sixth and eighth in the same event.

Standout freshmen Kyra Caldwell and Sharay Hale continued the success they had at the Dick Shea Invitational. Caldwell leapt over the 100-meter hurdles in 14.20 seconds for first place, finishing ahead of Harvard's Dara Wilson. Hale ran the 400-meter dash in 55.40 seconds, which was good for a first-place finish. Caldwell also competed in the 400-meter hurdles, but was unable to replicate



OVER HURDLES | At Penn, Kyra Caldwell finished first in the 100-meter hurdles.

last weekend's performance, finishing in fifth place with a time of 1:04.76, three seconds behind Cornell's Jessica Weyman, who led the pack.

Columbia won the women's 4x400-meter relay in 3:49.58, while the men's side took first as well, ahead of La Salle's A squad in 3:18.00. Freshman Uzunma Udeh took second in the triple jump with a final distance of 11.97 meters, only one-tenth of a meter behind Penn's Kathryn Gevitz. In field events, freshman Monique Roberts had an impressive jump of 1.73 meters to win the high jump for the Light Blue.

Next weekend, Columbia will travel to Phoenix, Ariz. for the Sun Angel Track Classic, which will take place from April 10 to April 11.

Tennis leads Ancient Eight with 3-0 record after strong weekend campaign

MEN'S TENNIS from back page

could tell good things would follow, I thought it would go down to the wire and it did."

At No. 1 singles, Borta went up against Clayton, ranked No. 77 nationally, who had beaten him earlier in the year in the regional final, which went three sets. In that match, Borta had chances in each set, including a 5-1 lead in the first set, and a 5-2 lead in the second. Against Harvard on Friday, Borta lost his first set to Clayton, 6-4. Borta, however, saved three match points and knotted it up at 5-5. Borta went on to win the second set, and to take a 3-0 lead in the third.

Meanwhile on the court next to him, Nichifor won his first set, 6-2 against Ermakov, but lost the second. Nichifor, the Lions' most consistent player all season at No. 3 singles, stormed ahead in the third set, winning 6-1, and evening the match at 1-1.

At No. 4, Schneiderman won his first set against Alistair Felton, 6-3, but lost the second set by the same score. Schneiderman regrouped and raced out to a 4-1 lead in the third set, but was broken by Felton. Schneiderman broke right back, and at 5-3, served out his match to give Columbia a 2-1 lead.

Of all of the Lions, freshman Ekin Sezgen was perhaps the most pleased with the outcome. Sezgen had five championship points in the Lions' first encounter with Harvard, and lost all of them in a gut-wrenching defeat. On Friday, Sezgen lost the first set to Hayes, 6-3, but stormed back to win the second. In the third set, Sezgen got a break, and was up 5-4, 30-0, and was two points away from the win, when Hayes rallied back to break Sezgen and force the match to go on. The two battled to a third-set tiebreak. Sezgen had two match points, each of which were fought off by Hayes, but finally, at 8-7, Sezgen ripped a backhand passing shot which

Hayes could not return to give him sweet revenge and Columbia the 3-1 advantage.

At No. 6 singles, fellow freshman Deb-Sen was up against Omodele-Lucien, who has never lost a dual match against Columbia and has been a constant frustration for the Light Blue. Deb-Sen won the first set and got into a second-set tiebreak against Omodele-Lucien. Deb-Sen avoided the drama and scorched his opponent by blanking him 7-0 in the tiebreak to seal the win for Columbia.

At No. 2 singles Wong won his first set, lost the second, and was on serve late in the third, but lost the match in a third set tiebreak, 7-1. Borta, meanwhile, was battling cramps in the third set, and saw Clayton win the last six games to take the third set 6-3.

The Lions then traveled up to Dartmouth to take on the Big Green in Hanover. The Lions continued their tremendous play, winning every match except No. 1 doubles.

"We went to Dartmouth," said Goswami, "and I hoped for no let down, and there wasn't. It was a routine match and everyone did their job."

The Lions won the doubles point, picking up victories in the No. 2 and 3 doubles matches. Wong and Schneiderman won at No. 2 easily, 8-3, while Urban and Deb-Sen won a tight match at 8-6.

Nichifor was once again a winner at No. 3 singles, winning 6-3, 6-2. Sezgen was the next victorious Lion, winning 6-4, 6-3. Deb-Sen, at No. 6, won his match in three sets, rebounding after dropping the first to win 5-7, 6-2, 6-1. Schneiderman won in a third set super-tiebreak that was played because the outcome of the match was already decided. In what was the most enthralling match of the afternoon, Wong won his match in three sets, 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 against Daniel Freeman of Dartmouth.

The Lions will return to the court on Friday and Saturday when they host Brown and Yale, respectively.

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A decorative logo for Columbia University's Summer Term 2009. It features a central crest with a crown on top, flanked by two lions. Below the crest, the word 'COLUMBIA' is written in a large, serif font, and 'SUMMER TERM 2009' is written in a smaller, sans-serif font below it.

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W. tennis drops to Harvard and Brown, Crimson sweeps doubles point

BY KUNAL GUPTA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The women’s tennis team was unable to capitalize on its chances this weekend, dropping its two Ivy League matches to Harvard and Brown, 6-1 in each match—the same score by which the Lions have been defeated in each of their first three Ivy contests. The losses drop Columbia (4-11, 0-3 Ivy) to a tie for last place in the Ancient Eight with rival Penn.

“I thought we played very well,” said head coach Ilene Weintraub, despite the lopsided scores, “I thought we competed hard in both matches and we played better doubles, which is encouraging for the rest of the season.”

Against Harvard on Friday, the Lions got off to a slow start in the doubles point, as Harvard swept each of the three doubles matches easily. At No. 1 doubles, Nina Suda and Natasha Makarova were taken out quickly, 8-0. At No. 2 doubles, Marlena Hall teamed up with Eliza Matache, but the duo only managed to take two games from their Harvard opponents. Finally, at No. 3 doubles, the pairing of Natalia Christenson and Carling Donovan had the most success, losing 8-3.

“We played hard against Harvard,” said Weintraub, “but they just capitalized on the big points. Even though the score was one-sided, I thought it was close overall. They were just winning the big points. They are tough, one through six, in singles.”

The Lions’ sluggish start continued in the singles play, during which they lost all but one of their first sets. At No. 1 singles, Makarova was beaten 6-0 in the first set by Laura Peterzan. Despite the result, Makarova battled back in the second set, even breaking her opponent’s serve, and fighting until 5-5. At 5-5 however, Peterzan regained her form and took the next two games and the match, 7-5.

No. 2 singles would prove to be a testy encounter as well, as Columbia freshman Nicole Stanzola went up against sophomore Sam Rosekrans from Harvard. After arguing several times in the first set about line calls, Rosekrans took the first set, 6-0. In the first game of the second set, Stanzola was thrown off when Rosekrans called a late let and forced Stanzola to replay the point. After complaining to the roving umpire to no avail, Stanzola struggled, losing the second set, 6-2.

No. 3 singles was the lone bright spot for the Lions, as Matache won her first set against Agnes Sibilski, 6-4. Sibilski rallied in the second, however, taking it 6-1. The two played a third set super-tiebreak, since the outcome of the match had already been decided. Matache took a 5-2 lead, only to drop the next three points. Matache rallied to 9-8 in the tiebreak, and won after her opponent hit a return long.

Hall struggled at No. 4 singles against a hard-hitting opponent, Holly Cao, who won 6-2, 6-0. Donovan also put up a good fight in a losing effort at No. 5 singles, falling 6-4, 6-4. Senior co-captain Suda had chances to take the first set, but dropped it and the match 7-5, 6-2.

On Saturday against Dartmouth, the Lions fared better in doubles, winning with Hall and Matache at the No. 2 position, 8-2. Makarova and Suda lost 8-3 at No. 1 doubles, while Donovan and Christenson, playing at No. 3 again, lost 8-4.

Although Stanzola played No. 1 against Dartmouth, the Lions were once again overmatched. Stanzola lost in straight sets, 6-3, 6-1 to Molly Scott from Dartmouth. Makarova, at No. 2, lost 6-3, 6-1, as well, to Mary Beth Winingham.

Once again, Matache put up a great effort for Columbia. After losing the first set, 6-2, Matache rallied to win the second 6-1. A third set tiebreak was played, but Matache could not pull her magic for two days in a row, falling 10-8.



Philip Effraim / Staff Photographer
ON THE COURT | Eliza Matache’s match against Harvard’s Agnes Sibilski was the one high point for the women’s team on Friday. Matache rallied to take a 9-8 lead in the tiebreak and won after her opponent hit a return long.

“I think in the fall, she struggled to adjust to the hard courts,” said Weintraub of Matache. “She had only played on clay courts her whole life. But I think now her footwork is much better and she is the most improved on the team in one year. I think as she continues to improve, it will be helpful for our program.”

Hall retired after one game in her match at No. 4, while Donovan struggled against Ryan Reichel losing 6-0, 6-2. Suda came back after losing the first set 6-1, to win the next two, 6-3, 6-4, for the Lions’ only point of the afternoon.

The Lions will return to action when they travel to Brown on Friday, April 10.

Heavyweights win third straight regatta, lightweights and women falter

BY MICHELE CLEARY
Spectator Staff Writer

The Columbia heavyweight rowing team continued its winning streak this weekend, defeating both MIT and Holy Cross to take the Alumni Cup for the fifth year in a row. This was the third consecutive first-place finish for the Lions, giving them a 3-0 record to open the spring season. The lightweight team and the women’s team did not fare as well this weekend, as the lightweights finished third in both of their tri-matches and the women finished second behind Princeton at the Murtaugh Cup.

The heavyweight team entered the Alumni Cup ranked eighth in the nation and proved that they deserved that ranking. The Light Blue varsity eight boat defeated 20th-ranked MIT by just under two seconds, crossing the finish line in 3:38.96 just outpacing the Engineers who finished in 3:40.86.

Holy Cross finished almost six seconds later, in a time of 3:46.40.

Columbia was also triumphant in the second varsity race, finishing the race in a time of 7:25.8, almost half a minute ahead of the Crusaders, who crossed the line in 7:52.4. MIT did not compete in the second varsity race.

The Lions did stumble slightly in the freshman eight race, finishing in 3:52.86 behind MIT, which finished first with a time of 3:40.9. Holy Cross came in at 3:59.48.

Next up for the heavyweight squad is the Childs Cup in Princeton, N.J. on Saturday.

The lightweight team competed in two tri-matches on Saturday, the first against Princeton and Navy, and the second against Harvard and Georgetown. In their first race of the day, the Lions fell to both Princeton and Navy in the varsity eight race, the second varsity race, and the freshman eight race.

In the first varsity race, the first-ranked Tigers finished in a time of 5:58.0, just ahead of the third-ranked Midshipmen who came in at 6:01.3. The seventh-ranked Lions finished over twenty seconds later, in a time of 6:22.9.

In the second varsity race, it was Navy who came out on top, finishing just four seconds ahead of Princeton with a time of 6:12.4. The Light Blue came in 14 seconds behind Navy (ten seconds behind the Tigers), with a time of 6:26.4. The freshmen eight boat also came in last, with a time of 6:22.2.

Following the matchup against Navy and Princeton, Columbia faced fifth-ranked Harvard and sixth-ranked Georgetown on Saturday. The Lions’ varsity eight boat finished in third with a time of 6:26.4, behind the Crimson (6:14.5) and the Hoyas (6:18.4).

The Light Blue finished in third in the second varsity and the freshman races.

Next up for the lightweights is the Dodge Cup which will take place on their home course this Saturday.

The women’s rowing team took part in the Murtaugh Cup this weekend, where it competed against Princeton and Rutgers. The seventh-ranked Tigers took first place in the varsity eight, second varsity eight, varsity four A, and varsity four B races. In the varsity eight race, Princeton finished in a time of 6:13.49, with the Lions coming in second with a time of 6:32.38. The Scarlet Knights finished third with a time of 6:39.74. The Light Blue also finished in second place in the second varsity, varsity four A, and varsity four B races.

The Lions’ only victories were in the freshman eight race and the freshman four race. Princeton did not compete in either event.

The women will head to Washington, D.C., next weekend for the George Washington Invitational.

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The women's tennis team dropped two 6-1 decisions this weekend to Harvard and Dartmouth at home.

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SPORTS

MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009 • PAGE 10



The track and field team was on the road this weekend, competing in the Sam Howell and Quaker Invationals.

PAGE 8



File Photo

SINGLES | Rajeev Deb-Sen clinched his match at No. 6 singles, beating his Harvard opponent 7-0 in a tiebreak to seal the win for Columbia.

With minor adjustments, CU can repeat



MAX PURO

PURE OVERTIME

Coming off a weekend split at Yale and Brown, during which Columbia tried to outslug its opposition, the Lions' record stands at 4-4—first place in the Gehrig Division by two games over both Princeton and Cornell.

Having won its first Ivy League title in quite some time last year, expectations were enormous for the Lions this season, despite the team losing key players. But, eight games into Ivy competition, the chance that the Lions will fulfill those expectations looks very dicey.

While the Lions are in first place in their division, the Gehrig clubs (Princeton, Cornell and Penn) have proven to be inferior to the teams in the Rolfe Division. Every team in the Rolfe Division is above .500, including Dartmouth, which has yet to lose a game, and Brown—a team that Columbia lost two heartbreakers to this weekend—who has a conference record of 7-1.

In order to repeat as Ivy League champions (in addition to Gehrig League champs), Columbia must improve in a number of categories. Last season, behind an experienced pitching staff, the Light Blue was able to outpitch a number of Ivy League teams. Columbia lost three starting pitchers (Henry Perkins, John Baumann and Bill Purdy) who combined for 23 starts and seven wins.

This year, the Lions have relied on three starters in Joe Scarlata, Dan Bracey and Geoff Whitaker. Each has showed glimpses of solid stuff, but each has an earned run average above 5.8—rather shocking given that they are the aces of the staff. The team's combined ERA has ballooned from 6.35 last season to 7.26 this year.

The main reason behind this increase is that the Columbia pitchers have allowed for more baserunners, increasing the teams' walks and hits per innings pitched (WHIP). Last season, the team had a very impressive 1.27 WHIP, but this year it has increased to 1.78, while the team's strikeout to walk ratio has decreased. Last season's starters pitched to contact, forcing the fielders to make the plays, but, this season, the pitchers have seemed to try and take the game into their own hands.

With the pitching struggling thus far, the Lions have had to rely on hitting to try to outscore their opponents. But every offensive statistic, except for home runs, has decreased this season. While Columbia has demonstrated more power (with five players having two home runs), it has become less patient at the plate.

Losing Perkins and Noah Cooper to graduation and Jason Banos due to injury has really hurt the Lions at the top of the order. All three players had outstanding eyes at the plate, which rubbed off on the rest of the club. Last season's squad had a .356 on-base percentage, which allowed the team's speed to really shine.

Since the club has struggled to get on base so far this season (a .340 OBP), it has not been able to attempt many steals. Led by reigning Ivy Rookie of the Year Nick Cox's 13 stolen bases, the Lions have stolen 33 of 46 bases. Comparatively, last season's club stole 95 bases in 119 attempts, which allowed the team to manufacture more runs to make up for its lack of power.

In order to win between 10 and 12 games in the League, which would probably be more than enough to win the Gehrig Division, the starters must improve their accuracy and allow the defense to make the plays. If they adjust this, I would not be surprised if Columbia could contend with Dartmouth or Brown for the Ivy championship.

Max Puro is a Columbia College senior majoring in history.
Sports@columbiaspectator.com

Men's tennis advances to first in Ivy League

Light Blue defeats reigning champion Harvard, Dartmouth

BY KUNAL GUPTA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The foundation for the Lions' biggest win of the season was laid back in February, when the Lions were defeated by Harvard in the finals of the ECAC after holding five championship points.

"I had given the boys the day off after the ECAC," said head coach Bid Goswami, "but 12 of the 14 guys went out to practice anyway, without any coaches. They worked on their own, and they went running too. I knew that boded well for us."

It was this determination that led to the Lions' win over defending Ivy champion Harvard. The Lions beat

Harvard, 4-3, avenging the heartbreaking loss earlier this spring, during which Harvard beat Columbia 4-3. After beating Harvard, the Lions continued to persevere, traveling up to Dartmouth, and sweeping the Big Green 7-0. The weekend sweep put Columbia (13-4, 3-0 Ivy) in sole possession of first place in the Ivy League.

The match against Harvard did not start off well for Columbia, however, as they lost the doubles point against the Crimson, who came out firing.

"I think we were so geared up since the loss to Harvard at the ECAC," said Goswami, "that sometimes you want it so bad that you get too anxious. In the doubles, I could sense we were a little anxious, and when that happens we can't play as well."

At No. 1 doubles, junior Mihai Nichifor and senior Bogdan Borta lost to Chris Clayton and Alexei Chijoff-Evans, 8-3. Junior Jon Wong and freshman Haig Schneiderman lost 8-4 at No. 2 doubles to Sasha Ermakov and Aba Omodele-Lucien, and Harvard's team of Michael Hayes and Alistair Felton beat Dan Urban and Rajeev Deb-Sen, 8-2.

The Lions regrouped quickly in the singles competition, not allowing the doubles defeat to linger.

"They played with a lot of grit and determination," said Goswami, "in an away match with lots of people and bells and whistles, and they were getting ready. I

SEE MEN'S TENNIS, page 8



Brian Chan / Staff Photographer

RUNNING BASES | Against Yale, first baseman Ron Williams went 2-for-4 with three RBI on the day, significantly contributing to the Lions' 13-9 victory in the opener against the Bulldogs and the team's eventual sweep of Yale. However, the Lions could not keep up the momentum on Sunday against Brown.

Baseball captures two versus Yale, drops series to Brown

BY JACOB SHAPIRO
Senior Staff Writer

The locations and opponents may have changed, but the baseball team experienced déjà vu yesterday as the Lions split two Ivy League matchups for the second weekend in a row.

Columbia delivered two strong pitching performances—a trend this season—to sweep Yale on the road on Saturday. But Sundays have been cruel to the Lions this year, as they have won only one game on a Sunday, and the back end of the rotation suffered again this week as Columbia dropped both games of a doubleheader to Brown.

In the slugfest that was game one at Yale, Columbia ace Joe Scarlata, threw another complete game and improved his record to 2-4 on the season. While Scarlata was not as sharp as usual—allowing six earned runs on 10 hits and five walks—he blanked the Bulldogs in the first three innings, enabling the Lions to take a decisive 10-0 lead.

Yale's starting pitcher didn't make it out of the second inning during which Columbia put up seven runs, five of which were scored with two outs. Catcher Dean Forthun and third baseman Mike Roberts each knocked in two runs and sophomore outfielder Bobby O'Brien had two hits in the inning. First baseman Ron Williams made a solid contribution going 2-for-4 with three RBI on the day.

Yale scored in each of the last four innings to tighten the game, but Columbia added two runs in the sixth to put the game safely out of reach, 13-9.

Game two featured a win-by-committee for the Lions pitching staff as four arms combined to hold Yale to six runs. Dan Bracey threw 2 1/3

innings to start the game and was relieved by freshman right-hander Harrison Slutsky. Slutsky, who made a sizeable impact in his first campaign, allowed three earned runs over 4 2/3 innings of long relief. He also picked up the favorable decision to even his record at 1-1 for the year.

In a game that featured four lead changes, the Lions drew blood first in the third inning, but Yale reciprocated during its half of the inning to take a 2-1 lead. Columbia jumped ahead again in the fourth when the two corner outfielders, Anthony Potter and Billy Rumpke, hit back-to-back two-out RBI singles.

But the see-saw battle continued, and Yale tied the game again in the bottom of the fifth inning. In retaliation, Lions senior stalwart Ron Williams hit a solo homer in the sixth inning that proved to be the decisive blow. Columbia went on to score four times in the next inning, bringing its total to eight.

A three-run homer in the eighth inning brought the Bulldogs within two runs of the Lions but Clay Bartlett closed the door on Yale's rally. Freshman Pat Lowery earned the save with a scoreless ninth inning that secured the victory.

On Sunday, Columbia's first game against Brown looked promising after the Lions jumped out to a 5-0 lead on a three-RBI double by O'Brien and a two-RBI single by Williams. Brown starter, Josh Feit, lasted just 2 1/3 innings before being lifted in favor of Matt Boylan, who eventually picked up the win. After three innings, Columbia led 7-5, but the Lions failed to score in the final four frames enabling Brown to sneak past them.

Columbia starter Geoff Whitaker threw five innings and surrendered seven runs, but did not factor in the decision. In the sixth inning, Lowery hit a batter and Alex Ferrera committed a costly

error at shortstop that extended the inning. The result was a 9-7 Brown comeback victory in a game that could have been the Lions'.

In game two, it appeared that pitchers on both sides were tossing up beach balls to home plate as 23 runners crossed the plate. After four innings, Brown had a 7-2 lead after lighting up Columbia starter Roger Aquino for seven runs (six earned). Aquino allowed 11 base runners and recorded just 12 outs while failing to keep the Bears from scoring in a single inning.

Brian Valero relieved Aquino and stopped the bleeding, throwing two shutout innings—long enough for the Lions' bats to get going. The offense responded and scored five runs in the middle three frames capped off when O'Brien hit a game-tying grand slam to straightaway center field.

And thus, a brand new baseball game commenced for the final three innings of play. Each team notched three more runs and the game headed into the ninth inning knotted up at 10 a piece.

With one out, Ferrera smacked a homer to center field to put the Lions ahead 11-10 heading into the bottom of the ninth, but the voracious Bears weren't done yet. Columbia reliever Joey Mizzoni recorded the first two outs, but surrendered a double to Steve Daniels. The next batter was Matt Colantonio who was 0-for-5 on the day. But Colantonio became the hero when he hit a dramatic walk-off home run to win the game 12-11.

The beautiful weather was ruined as the Lions dropped two winnable games to conclude the second weekend of Ivy play with a 4-4 record.

Columbia will take on Rutgers on Tuesday afternoon before heading to Princeton for a four-game set over the weekend.

Columbia softball falls to Bulldogs, splits with Bears

BY MICHELE CLEARY
Spectator Staff Writer

After sweeping a doubleheader against Marist on Thursday, the Columbia softball team was looking to keep the ball rolling in Ivy competition this weekend. However, Columbia dropped both games to Yale on Saturday, before splitting with Brown on Sunday.

During the first game against the Bulldogs (14-16, 3-5), the Lions (12-20, 2-6) held a 4-2 lead going into the bottom of the seventh, but Yale was able to score three runs in the final inning of the game to capture the 5-4 victory.

The Elis were the first to score in the game, going up 1-0 in the bottom of the second. After Meg Johnson grounded out, Mariclaire Rebman singled off of Lions' pitcher Maggie Johnson. After two more singles by Virginia Waldrop and Ashley Sloan, Rebman was able to cross the plate and put the first run of the game on the board.

The Lions answered with a three-run inning in the top of the third. However, all three runs were unearned, as was the

Lions' fourth and final run in the top of the sixth.

In the second game of the series, the Light Blue was not able to score any runs, earned or unearned, leading to another victory for Yale, 2-0.

The Bulldogs got on the board in the bottom of the first inning, Sloan singled to center field, stole second, and advanced to third on a wild pitch. From there she was able to score when Katie Yanagisawa was caught stealing at second.

Yale would score again in the bottom of the third inning. However, this time it would be the result of a Columbia fielding error.

Despite giving up only one earned run and six hits, Columbia freshman pitcher Jessica Rakonza earned the loss.

The Light Blue fared slightly better against Brown (9-15, 3-5), winning the first game, 6-5, before falling in the second contest, 12-3.

In the first game of the series, Columbia trailed 5-4 entering the top of the seventh. However, singles by Dani Pineda and Kayla Lechler allowed Anne Marie Skylis and Keli Leong to score, giving the Light Blue a 6-5 lead.

Johnson earned the win for the Lions, while giving up four earned runs and eight hits.

In the second game, Columbia was not as successful. An eight-run sixth for the Bears allowed them to claim the 12-3 victory after just six innings.

Before Brown's offensive explosion in the bottom of the sixth inning, the Lions had been able to keep the game close. They opened the game with two runs in the first inning on an RBI single by Jackie Ecker (one run was unearned).

The Bears went on to score four runs between the second and third innings, bringing the score to 4-2, Brown. The Light Blue answered with a run of its own in the top of the fourth when Leong scored on a triple by Pineda.

The Lions were unable to win despite having numerous opportunities to score. Throughout the course of the second game, Columbia left 10 runners on base, after leaving only six runners on base in the first game.

Next up for the Light Blue is a double-header at Princeton on Saturday.



Brian Chan / Staff Photographer

HOME | Dani Pineda hit a triple to right center during the matchup against Brown.