

Columbia hiring on the decline

BY MADINATOURE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The economic crisis has steepened a decline in tenure cases evaluated from year to year, as well as outside faculty recruitment, administrators said.

According to Senior Vice Provost Stephen Rittenberg, the number of cases being reviewed have dropped, though there have been greater cuts in the number of outside hires.

“For the five or six years before the economic crisis, our average case load was close to 90, and the average number of reviews we did in a year was 64. This year, those numbers are going to decline even further. ... I would expect that we would be working on a little less than 70 cases, and we will probably complete around 50 reviews,” Rittenberg said.

Barnard Provost Elizabeth Boylan said that though the crisis has affected tenure, Barnard cut costs in other areas to protect current faculty. “All the faculty and staff received no increase in salary last year, so everyone shared in the financial difficulties,” she wrote in an email.

“When we hire people on tenure-track, we are making a commitment to them that, absent a declaration of financial exigency, we will consider them for tenure on their individual merits,” Boylan said.

At Barnard, departments nominate their candidates to the Advisory Committee on Appointments, Tenure and Promotion. If its recommendation to the Barnard president is positive and she concurs, the case goes to an ad hoc committee at Columbia, which then recommends to the Columbia provost, who subsequently recommends to the Columbia president. The candidate will then be voted tenure by both the Barnard and Columbia boards of trustees if all these decisions are in favor of the candidate.

The process is similar at Columbia, except that the ad hoc system is administered by the senior vice provost and candidates only require approval from the Columbia board of trustees.

Professors said that while they expected the recession to cut into hiring, they did not anticipate it having an affect on the tenure process.

“While the current economy is affecting hiring of new faculty, I expect it to have no effect on the tenure process,” Barnard chemistry professor Sally Chapman wrote in an email.

Allan Nevins Professor of History and Provost Emeritus Alan Brinkley expressed a similar sentiment, stating that he was unconcerned that the current economy would impact tenure.

But the job market may have been more affected by the economic crisis than tenure has been.

“I think the main impact has been indirect, that is, on the job market,” department chair and

SEE TENURE, page 2

Prof explores tense relationship of University, unions

BY KIM KIRSCHENBAUM
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The strained relationship between the University and labor unions on campus became a hot-button issue Wednesday evening in a discussion led by Dorian Warren, an assistant professor of political science.

In an appearance organized by the Columbia University College Democrats, Warren, who teaches courses on labor in American politics, discussed the historical



ROSE DONLON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MANHATTAN VALLEY | Altagracia Hiraldo is the founder of Dominican Sunday, an organization that gives Hispanic immigrants job skills and provides social services. Hiraldo said she was shocked when she found neighbors that couldn't file American citizenship papers.

Dominican Sunday helps locals any day of the week

BY ANDREA GARCIA-VARGAS
Columbia Daily Spectator

The job market may be competitive in Manhattan Valley, but one organization is helping Hispanic immigrants get a leg up.

Dominican Sunday, a group that operates out of the Church of the Ascension at 175 107th St., aids locals in gaining access to basic services such as affordable housing and dental care.

The Manhattan Valley area has become home to an

increasing number of immigrants, some of whom struggle to find jobs in a competitive neighborhood. And with unemployment on the rise, the number of people the organization serves has also gone up.

Founder Altagracia Hiraldo said the disparity between the perception of Manhattan Valley as a wealthy area and the reality of struggling residents' experiences prompted her to start the program. “The main thing was my anxiety and

concern at seeing so much necessity among the citizens here, while some politicians believed that this was a rich area. There is still extreme poverty that exists here,” she said in Spanish.

The organization has been working in the neighborhood for 15 years, where Hiraldo saw that services provided were basic, but sorely lacking.

“I saw that the people needed things as simple as making a question, as simple as knowing how to file a paper, as simple as knowing

how to file the papers to become an American citizen,” Hiraldo said.

Dominican Sunday provides several services to low-income neighborhood residents, such as teaching computer skills, helping residents complete Census forms, and offering workshops about how to fill out job applications.

Hiraldo said that unemployment among her clients has increased 20 percent in the last few

SEE DOMINICAN SUNDAY, page 2

FOOT LOOSE



TALIA KORI FOR SPECTATOR

TWINKLE TOES | Barnard dance majors take advantage of opportunities on campus and in the city.

SPORTS BRIEF

Conflicting reports on Jones's possible departure to BC

Though the New York Daily News reported that Columbia men's basketball head coach Joe Jones is leaving to become former Cornell head coach Steve Donahue's assistant at Boston College, a source with intimate knowledge of the situation stated that the item was only speculation. According to the source, Jones has not yet been offered a contract.

After news broke that Donahue was taking the job at

Boston College, several news outlets reported that he had asked another Ivy League head coach to come on as one of his assistants. Yesterday, when asked if he was the Ivy coach in question, Jones said that there was no truth to those rumors.

Athletic Director M. Dianne Murphy declined to comment on the situation.

Check www.columbiaspectator.com for updates throughout the day.



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MOVING ON? | Though nothing is official, Jones may be leaving after seven years at Columbia to become Donahue's assistant at BC.

SEE UNIVERSITY LABOR, page 2

INSIDE

A&E, page 3

CUNUFF can't get enough of Columbia student films

At the Columbia University National Undergraduate Film Festival on Saturday, student filmmakers will attempt to prove that the individual spirit of creativity is enough to make movie magic during screenings, competitions, and panels.



Sports, back page

Kevin Kung overcomes injuries, surgeries

Junior Kevin Kung has had to deal with freak injuries during his time at Columbia. Despite the setbacks, he has worked his way back into playing shape, and has gone undefeated in singles competition this year.

Opinion, page 4

Cool to be kind

Tony Gong meets with the CCSC Executive Board candidates to put the cool back in school.

International neglect

From day one at Columbia, you will be on your own in the big city.

Today's Events

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Take advantage of the weather by descending on Low Steps.
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Local organization helps Manhattan Valley’s poor

DOMINICAN SUNDAY from front page

years, in part because some of them do not speak fluent English or have sought-after skills.

“I have been using Dominican Sunday’s services in order to learn computer skills,” Iris Lara, one of the organization’s clients, said in Spanish. “I used to work in cleaning, but it exhausted me greatly, and I want a job where I would be using the computer.”

Most of Dominican Sunday’s clients are unemployed, said Executive Director Jacqueline De Leon, and the organization helps refer them to government agencies to get Medicaid and other social services. “We’re trying to get a program here installed for a person to get in to help them get assistance,” she said.

Javier Nuñez, a cashier at the meat market Carniceria Hispana on 107th and Amsterdam, agreed that rising unemployment has been an issue in the neighborhood. “There are few jobs. There are many good businesses, but the ones who get the jobs are the people that are coming in from other places,” he said in Spanish.

Ariana Nuñez, chair of the Manhattan Valley Women in

Action branch of Dominican Sunday, said that her main concern was the lack of affordable housing in the area, for both new immigrants and longtime tenants. She added that rising rents and unemployment seem to be forcing more and more people out of the neighborhood.

“I know a lot of people who can move out, but I, for example, wouldn’t want to have to move to the Brooklyn or the Bronx, or the Queens, so far away,” she said.

Ariana Nuñez said that the lack of affordable housing in the neighborhood hit particularly close to home.

“I was born and raised around here. I would love to get an apartment and live near my mom on 104th Street. But not when these people are charging \$1500 for a studio. I mean, where’s the fairness? I honestly believe they’re trying to drive the poor people out and that’s heartbreaking because I’m not trying to say we were here first, but it’s not fair, we can live together well,” she said.

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ANY GIVEN SUNDAY | For locals in Manhattan Valley, Dominican Sunday has provided computer, job application, and Census classes. But unemployment continues to rise in the area, as do rent rates.

Economy spurs decline in tenure reviews, hires

TENURE from front page

associate professor of political science Sheri Berman wrote. “So academics looking for jobs right out of grad school, or those who lose their jobs [because they didn’t get tenure] have been significantly affected.”

“The conventional wisdom around tenure at the Ivy League is that your best bet is to get a competing offer from another top school,” assistant sociology professor Shamus Khan wrote. “That is, you demonstrate your tenurability through your marketability. But the market for jobs doesn’t exist. And it’s hard to show you’re marketable when there’s no market.”

But David Helfand, professor and chair of the astronomy department, said that fully endowed chairs—a position that is paid for with income from an endowment fund set aside for that specific purpose—cannot be filled by others.

“Since the terms of the gift created a very specific purpose in a specific department you can’t use the money for anything else,” Helfand said. “For any other senior position that you want to make an open ad, or someone that you happen to know wants to come here, both of those have been drastically restricted, almost eliminated, I would say.” Helfand has notably refused to take tenure himself.

Candidates for tenure come are either junior faculty or faculty brought in from other universities. According to Rittenberg, over the last two years, there has been a sharp decline in the number of scholars recruited from other schools.

“Once you come in as a junior faculty, as long as you do well and you’re given a lot of support and mentoring, you will be considered for possible nomination for tenure,” Rittenberg said. “You see the decline among the candidates who are recruited from other universities,” stressing that this is determined more by departments and schools.

Both Rittenberg and Boylan said that the endowment has not had a direct effect on tenure.

“There isn’t a direct one-to-one relation between endowment income and recruitment to tenure,” Rittenberg said. “However, the payout rate that the endowment generated decreased last year by 8 percent over the amount it generated the year before, and we’re looking at a further decrease this year.”

“Barnard’s small endowment has constrained our planning in many ways over the years, but the large drop in the markets did not have as large an impact on our operating budget, since we rely on the endowment for relatively little of our annual expenses,” Boylan said.

Rittenberg said that in anticipation of a decline in case loads, Columbia is planning to identify any cases that may not go through.

“We’re asked to prepare for a considerable number of reviews that don’t actually lead to an evaluation, because the candidate chooses not to accept an offer, or because, in the case of junior faculty, the department decides that a candidate didn’t qualify to be nominated for tenure,” he said.

Barnard will focus on mentoring faculty more before they seek tenure.

“What we have been working on recently is to ensure pre-tenure mentoring of faculty who are hired in a department, but also teach in an interdisciplinary program,” Boylan said. “We have developed new guidelines for the involvement of the interdisciplinary program director at the time of hiring, at the third year review, and at the tenure-decision stages.

In the next few years, Rittenberg foresees the number of case loads remaining at the same level.

“We’re still struggling with budgetary problems, which have an impact on those decisions about employment,” Rittenberg said. “For the next few years, the level of activity in tenuring faculty is going to be around what it has been for the last two years.”

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CU Dems, prof explore campus labor relations

UNIVERSITY LABOR from front page

students--not employees. In light of the situation, graduate students began staging strikes in conjunction with Yale and NYU students.

Ultimately, this caused a contentious relationship to develop between professors and their graduate students, Warren said. Professors would threaten graduate students who became involved in the push for unionization, telling them that they would not write letters of recommendation for them when the time came for them to enter the job market of academia.

The dispute became so heated, according to Warren, that “our former provost Alan Brinkley issued a memo instructing department chairs to discipline graduate students if they were going to go on strike.” Warren described the situation as a “nastier” one.

Warren segued into two prominent issues concerning labor unions on campus. One problem, he said, is layoffs and the need for protection and security against them, while the other deals with a tactic that employers use to circumvent unionization. Warren explained that union workers will lay off unionized workers and reclassify the same

exact job into a different job description, such as manager or supervisor, thereby making them ineligible to unionize.

Students in attendance remarked that the discussion was an informative one, and touched on a host of issues that need to be discussed in the context of a dialogue among all Columbia students.

“As a business, we expect Columbia to have some of these bad labor practices,” Maddy Joseph, CC ’12 and membership director of the College Democrats, said, “but what’s upsetting to a lot of us on the College Dems is that people are not aware of the issues.”

Others echoed Warren’s emphasis on the importance of labor unions, and argued that the University must become more tolerant and hospitable towards local unions.

“The basic guiding principle is that you don’t balance your budget on the backs of working people, and working people make our university what it is,” said Avi Edelman, CC ’11 and vice president of the College Democrats. “All these people create the experiences for us as students. That’s the reason we’re able to come to Columbia.”

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Safety protocols on Columbia construction site improve after worker death

CONSTRUCTION from front page

the property. After the accident, he said, “Every single person, every new person, and everyone who was here before had to go through a reorientation.”

Johnnie Green, who works for security at the site, confirmed that workers went through an extensive reintroduction to the site when it opened.

“There are meetings every morning. ... Everything’s been up to point,” he said.

Ray Master, who used to be the safety director for Bovis Lend Lease, said he has now been

specially assigned to this project for the duration of the work.

Master said that certain safety protocols had changed after the incident.

“We’ve done a complete re-evaluation of the deconstruction methods for the building,” he said. “There’s been a lot more training incorporated, and changes made to the training. We’ve evaluated the methods, and looked specifically at fall protection.”

He declined to comment on what led to Wilk’s fall, saying only that there were “a couple issues” involved and that the

investigation is ongoing.

“Bovis Lend Lease and Breeze National performed a full review of all safety plans and presented these plans to the Department of Buildings resulting in the DOB lifting the stop work order on March 3, 2010,” Mary Costello, a spokesperson for Bovis, wrote in a statement. “Consistent with the safety plan, all work has resumed with the requirement that every worker attend a site re-orientation.”

Master seemed determined to remain vigilant about worker safety. “We think we can

prevent all accidents,” he said. “We’re here to do the right thing, and the right thing didn’t happen a month ago.”

A spokesperson for the Department of Buildings said that they had also done their own re-investigation of the site, which allowed work to begin again on March 5.

On Wednesday, workers were attaching plywood to the scaffolding on the property’s main building, known as Building 5, where Wilk fell. Master said that Breeze will likely be moving ahead with that demolition in a week or so, when they receive the

necessary permits.

Violation documents from the DOB indicate that Breeze and the University had hearings scheduled for April 1 with the Environmental Control Board, which issued the building violations.

Those hearings have now been adjourned until July 15. Peter Schulman, with the city’s Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings, which the ECB is a part of, said that this was common procedure.

“The respondents of both cases requested that the hearings be rescheduled so that the inspector

who did the investigations can appear,” he said, adding that the proceedings took only a few minutes.

At the hearings, the ECB court decides whether a violation has been sufficiently fixed, and whether to impose fines.

Though Wilk was a Breeze National employee, Breeze declined repeated requests for comment on the site, changes to safety protocol, or the ECB hearings.

A Columbia spokesperson said that the University would defer to Bovis for comment.

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CUNUFF touts a new face with full-day student film showcase

BY DANIEL VALELLA
Columbia Daily Spectator

The Columbia University National Undergraduate Film Festival (affectionately known as CUNUFF—that is, “C-U-nuff”) keeps getting bigger and bigger. In the six years since the festival began, it already has become nationally recognized, and over 500 short films have been submitted for competition by students across the country.

But this year’s CUNUFF, which will take place on Saturday in Lerner, shows its growth in more ways than one. The event is now a full-day festival rather than just an evening screening, complete with a workshop, a presentation, and a panel discussion. And, for the first time ever, a foreign language film has made it to the final round.

What makes CUNUFF unique is its focus on student filmmaking. Not only do students make all of the films, but they organize the entire festival.

“Throughout the entire year, we’ve been receiving submissions from undergrads from all over the country,” Vicky Du, co-director of CUNUFF and CC ’11, said. “We narrowed it down to 10 finalists, screened for the judges. All the money we receive in submission fees goes back to the filmmakers.”

The judges of the festival select winners in 10 different categories, many of which include cash prizes for the student filmmakers. Columbia students get



COURTESY OF CUNUFF

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION FLICKS | “Fresas,” from a student director at Oberlin College, is one of the films showing at CUNUFF on Saturday.

to participate in the judging, too—the “Concord Award” goes to the film voted by the audience as their choice for best picture. Of course, with the diversity of the finalists, it will be hard to pick a winner. “The variety is amazing,” Yvonne Liu, CUNUFF vice president and CC ’11, said. “It ranges from extremely serious and dark to extremely entertaining.”

The judges of this year’s festival are particularly esteemed. Documentarian Jon Alpert has won three Primetime Emmys, four duPont-Columbia Awards, and a Peabody Award—just to name a few. Alpert’s latest work, “China’s Unnatural Disaster: The Tears of Sichuan Province,” received an Academy Award nomination for best documentary short this year. His

CUNUFF co-judge Michael Hausman was executive producer for Milos Forman’s “Amadeus” and “The People vs. Larry Flynt,” as well as Ang Lee’s “Brokeback Mountain.” The festival’s final judge, Joan Stein, earned an Oscar nod for her live-action short “One Day Crossing” and has worked with cinema bigwigs Eric Mendelsohn and Woody Allen.

This year’s brand-new afternoon events are a major move for CUNUFF, as well. “It’s pretty common for Columbia students to hear producers and actors speak,” Liu said. “But these are directors active in the industry, and it’s pretty important to hear them speak.”

The panel discussions, which include one discourse on the use of music in film, television, and

advertising and another on film acquisition and distribution, features plenty of perks for students: free ice cream, free CDs, and speakers from several high-profile companies.

A major reason for CUNUFF’s national recognition is its consistent focus on the individual filmmaker’s spirit—a focus of which the festival’s organizers are very proud. “When it gets down to it, it’s not about getting a good camera or having a fantastic script,” Brandon Wolfeld, CUNUFF co-director and GS, said. “It’s about the passion behind it, and I feel like that’s what we really look for. We still believe in creativity and personality.” The creativity is unchallenged—the finalists even include a stop-motion short, composed entirely without a film camera of any kind.

The way CUNUFF sees it, big budgets and bureaucracy aren’t necessary to make a masterpiece. All that matters is creative inspiration, and a place for your work to be seen. “I truly believe CUNUFF is an awesome group of people, and we just make an amazing showcase of these films—where, otherwise, they wouldn’t get the chance,” Du said. “We’re exposing hundreds of students to what they all can do.”

WHERE IT’S AT

Time: Saturday at 6 p.m.
Place: Roone Arledge Cinema
Cost: \$3 (or \$5 with the post-event reception at Haakon’s Hall)

Barnard dance majors leap into New York

BY NICOLE SAVERY
Spectator Staff Writer

At Barnard, dance majors two-step between college and city life. The dance department at Barnard hopes to offer its student dancers the best of both worlds. Since Barnard is a small liberal arts college located in a major dance capital, dance majors benefit from access to the New York professional dance scene as well as to a close-knit community of college dancers. According to dance department Chair and Artistic Director Mary Cochran, “The best thing about being a dance major is the opportunities to engage directly with the professional world.”

Through department productions at Miller Theatre and Dance Theater Workshop, students have the chance to work closely with professional choreographers. This semester’s performance at Miller includes a work by Laura Dean staged by Rodger Belman, world premieres by Jodi Melnick and Bill Young, and a new ballet by Lisa de Ribere.

Some students also supplement their education in the classes with internships at arts organizations, forging connections that can lead to jobs after graduation. With dance companies and arts organizations hit especially hard by the economic recession, these connections with the New York dance world try to give majors a leg up in the competitive world of performance.

Not all dance majors plan to pursue a performing career, however, and the department prides itself on producing well-rounded dancers who are not only technically skilled but also conversant in dance as an academic field. Shanice Naidu, CC ’10, is a dance concentrator who titled her senior thesis “All Bodies Are Created Equal: Uncovering Reasons for the Under Representation of Black Ballerinas in America.” Naidu said, “I hope to apply these elements of my undergraduate study to a career in which I can provide a voice for under-represented individuals.”

Cochran attributed a strong sense of community among the dance majors to the two capstone courses, which require students both to write a thesis and to present repertory or original choreography for performance. “Often graduates continue to work with each other after they leave Barnard/Columbia,” she explained. “We have quite a community of artists out there now, helping each other and staying in touch with the department.”



TALIA KORI FOR SPECTATOR

REACH OUT | Dance majors at Columbia try not to put themselves in a corner despite the specificity and uniqueness of their program.

Lorene Bouboushian, BC ’10, echoed this sentiment, hoping that her connections forged at Barnard will prove helpful in navigating the New York dance community. Bouboushian discussed her post-graduation goals, saying, “Dancing at Barnard has given me a group of peers and mentors with whom to grow, so I’m going to grow.”

The majority of students who major in dance also complete a second major in another field. This choice not only makes them more well-rounded artists, but also prepares them for alternative career paths to the dance world. This year’s senior dance majors double-majored in everything from English and anthropology to political science and art history.

Glenna Clifton, BC ’10, exemplifies this trend of dancers

with diverse academic interests. Clifton plans to enter a Ph.D. program in evolutionary biology, but as she explained, “I have also been auditioning for dance companies, and would consider deferring from my Ph.D. goals if a dance opportunity arose.” Double-majoring in dance and physics at Barnard allowed her to pursue other career goals while continuing her dance studies. Clifton is the only dance major who is double-majoring in science or math.

No matter what graduates decide to do with their dance major, they should be reassured by employers’ positive perception of student dancers. Clifton said, “I have found that every interviewer I have encountered has been very impressed by my dance major. They view it as a sign of self-discipline and motivation.”

CC alumna papers Wallach Gallery

BY MARGARET BOYKIN
AND ASHTON COOPER
Columbia Daily Spectator

In a corner of the MFA show at the Wallach Gallery, the altar-like sculpture by Emily Henretta, CC ’04, looks almost like a miniature city, with its unaggressive yet striking form inviting the viewer to stand or kneel in front of it for a time to admire its intricacies.

The artist acknowledges that much of the inspiration for her work stems from the B.A. in American history that she earned at Columbia. “I’m always interested in things outside of art, in terms of architecture, landscape, utopia, and history,” she said. “Those are things that interest me, so I think that my work definitely is informed by things that are outside of the narrow lens of ‘art’ and ‘art-making.’”

This interest in things that are outside the realm of “art-making” makes sense in terms of Henretta’s choice of medium—paper and glue. “I was sort of interested in making sculptures out of paper, because I’ve always been fascinated by paper,” Henretta said. “Because I come from a printmaking background, paper has always been something I touch with my hand and have an intimate relationship with.”

Her transition from printmaking to altar-esque installations is



NOMI ELLENSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PAPER PLANES | Henretta’s sculptures are remainders of printed paper.

part of defining her own medium: “I’d always done installations in conjunction with printmaking, and that’s partially why I wanted to go to grad school, to translate my two-dimensional sort of world into a more three-dimensional space. And that was the impetus for this. It’s funny working in paper, because it’s familiar to a printmaker, but making it a sculptural entity instead of a flat space, experimenting with different forms of mark-making, is really interesting,” she said.

Though her work is made of paper, she doesn’t mean it to necessarily be an environmental statement. Her interest in history is what really informs her use of paper: “It’s called ‘Remainder Space,’ and it’s just the remainder of all of those things that were printed, the things that aren’t here,

which are a lot bigger than what it [the actual piece] is, which is just sort of the ‘remainder,’” Henretta said. “I thought it [the idea of the remainder] was sort of an interesting idea in terms of history, in terms of the past and making something out of what’s left over, which works with the idea of an altar—it demarcates a time.”

Henretta’s work is just one example of the inventive art being created in Columbia’s MFA program. These artists are bringing to life unique ideas and interests while defining an aesthetic of their very own. Henretta certainly has intricate ideas to accompany her intricate art. Her work can be summed up in her own words: “A candle burns and you see the burnt wax and you know that that happened, but that it was in the past.”

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International neglect



DEREK
TURNER

Opening Remarks

Imagine you are a student from a foreign country of humble means. You have worked your hardest in school despite your circumstances, and the time to apply to a university, if ever, is now. Due to a lack of quality colleges in your country, you look abroad and set your sights on what claims to be one of the most globally focused universities in the world: Columbia. It promises to meet your demonstrated financial need and thus will pay for the exorbitant tuition and boarding costs that you will incur. Thrilled, you continue to look at Columbia, thinking its apparent desire for international students of every background will be manifested in other ways. But as you do more research, your thrill turns to discouragement as you find that though this university seems enthusiastic in welcoming you with financial aid, its care stops there. Once you arrive on campus (at your own expense), the hospitably named International Students and Scholars Office will limit itself to ensuring your papers are in order—nothing further.

As for adjusting to this new culture, you're on your own. Want more community than what your first-year RA can cobble together in the first month? That's up to you. When an extended break comes along, get ready, because if you don't have the expendable income to fly back home at whim, you will be stuck in NYC

From day one at Columbia, you will be on your own in the big city.

with nobody to live with and no Columbia resources to help you find housing. From day one at Columbia, you will be on your own in this big city, with only an encouraging “Good luck!” from the administrators whom you would assume could help you.

Believe it or not, this is the situation that international students of modest means face. Columbia, unlike other schools with international students, does next to nothing to help students from overseas have the foundation for successful and enjoyable community life during their stay here. Whereas at other schools a student coming from another continent may be offered a host family program or financial aid for getting to and from home, Columbia merely concerns itself with basic financial aid and immigration papers.

Two key problems result from this situation. First, international students who are already at this school feel even more abandoned by their university than the domestic students do. They are left to fend for themselves in New York and at Columbia in a way as unassisted as the Ellis Island immigrants of old. While this may work fine for the parts of the year during which school is in session, breaks introduce them to their constant predicament. It costs too much to fly home, so they must either have bonded enough with someone so they can stay with their family for the holidays—or much more likely, they must find employment somehow or else they can literally find themselves without housing of any sort for a summer. Is this how we want to be treating our students?

The second issue that this problem creates is one that should motivate our diversity-obsessed administration into action. If the stated goal of offering any deserving student the opportunity to study at Columbia finds expression only in the confines of financial aid, then the goal is useless. If going to Columbia as an economically disadvantaged international student requires utter alienation and hardship in every area outside academics, then why would anyone come here? What results from such an uneven policy is a student community that has international students, yes, but only international students who have the means to fly home as they please. How does that at all reflect Columbia's mission? How does that offer opportunity to the millions of students around the world who have no hope of paying for plane tickets but who desire and have earned the education that we receive?

This problem is not hard to fix. One of the most effective solutions that would require little to no money from the administration is a sort of host family program. With a system like that, families of Columbia students could offer to host international students during holidays and breaks or just be there for a home cooked meal every once in a while. Columbia doesn't necessarily need to start subsidizing plane tickets for international students. By providing something like a host family program, Columbia would solve the biggest problems international students face when they find themselves far from home for four consecutive years without any contact or community on this side of the sea.

The payoff for Columbia and our student community would be great. Imagine the educational value of having students from the slums of Bangladesh, nomadic communities in Namibia, or an agricultural family in the Andes. With a program as simple as this, the Columbia education we all receive would be made available to any able mind in the world.

Derek Turner is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in anthropology and political science. Opening Remarks runs alternate Thursdays.

Rethinking the Resurrection

BY KATHRYN BRILL

This weekend, I went to church four times. Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Even some of my Christian friends thought this was a little excessive. My non-Christian friends were utterly baffled. “Don't you get bored?” they asked.

I tried to explain. Last week was Holy Week, the seven days up to and including Easter, with services for every one of the days I mentioned. Maundy Thursday, the commemoration of Jesus' celebration of Passover with his 12 disciples. Good Friday, the remembrance of when Jesus was put to death. Holy Saturday, also known as Easter Eve. And, of course, Easter, the celebration of Jesus' resurrection. “Holy Week is my favorite week of the Church year,” I told them. Of course, that still didn't answer their biggest question, and, eventually, my biggest question as well. Why? Were my non-Christian friends right? Did Christianity have little relevance outside of its meaning as a personal tradition?

Whatever my reason for attaching such great importance to attending all four services, it wasn't merely for the sake of tradition. My family has dozens of Easter traditions, from eating hot cross buns to coloring eggs, none of which I tried to follow this year at college. I ate pizza from Hewitt for my Easter dinner and watched the CMTS production of “Fiddler on the Roof”—a nontraditional Easter if ever there was one. After some thought, I came to a better answer—I go to every service because it's important to me that I symbolically “walk through” the Easter story, from Judas' betrayal of Jesus to the women's finding His tomb empty. But that still left another question. Why did I feel such a pressing need to relive this story? Surely I could just spend Holy Week philosophizing, ordering my mind to make my life principles and creeds even clearer. I had plenty of good ideas about God. Was

church really necessary? I tried this method, I really did. And for a while, I actually thought this approach would work.

But by Wednesday, my brain was protesting. All my ideas on love and friendship weren't actually helping me be a better friend, and my ideas on enjoying life didn't keep me from cursing when I woke up at eight for my miserably early French class. I was just another Columbia student, adding my own puny thoughts to the great cacophony of ideas that echoed around the campus on a daily basis.

And then I went to church on Thursday. The pastor read a story from the Bible about Jesus washing his



disciples' feet before they ate their Passover meal. Even though he was their teacher and leader, the pastor said, Jesus wanted to serve them in some way, to show His love for them. The pastor announced that we, the church members, were going to wash each other's feet. We gathered at the front of the sanctuary, where I bent down in front of a man I had never met before and began to wash his feet. Oddly, I wasn't as disgusted as I thought I would be. I looked at the people around me, none of whom seemed repulsed, or even reluctant. What was going on? What could make people put aside their natural

aversions and wash the feet of a total stranger? None of my own ideas would have brought me to this place. It was the Person, Jesus, that we were commemorating, who did strange and loving things like washing His friends' feet and going to death even though He was innocent. And it was this Person, not a philosophy, who inspired others to do strange and loving things, even 2000 years later. The whole process of Holy Week, the innumerable church services, was important to me because it reminded me of this fact. As I walked through the week, I realized that Christianity was not based on a system with maxims, but a Person with a story, a story full of drama and humor and un-called-for love. And this story could be a guide to me and to others, calling us out of our petty existences to love the world, not with our thoughts but with our actions. Four days

of church? Four days wasn't nearly enough to hear this story and to remember on whose shoulders I am standing. Ultimately, those who believe that Christianity is primarily a set of harsh and arbitrary rules are mistaken. Its primary foundation is this Person's story and the desire of His followers to respond to the world in the same way that He did. As Columbians, we're fond of critiquing, rejecting and accepting all types of philosophies, a pursuit that I believe can ultimately help us. But Christianity deserves to be examined in the proper light before it is accepted or rejected.

The author is a Barnard College first-year. She is a member of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and is on the content committee of the Veritas Forum.

Disproving the myth of CCSC lameness



TONY
GONG

Tony Gong Explains the Universe

vindictive in the movie “Election”? Student government kids. Who were depicted as ass-kissing and

turned to their policies. I zoned out for most of this, and occasionally nodded to things I didn't understand, like, “Accountability is going to rest in the fact that we're involving so many people.”

At one point, Melissa mentioned Gummy Vites and my interest was piqued. Finally, a cool topic I cared about. But just as I got ready to explain how I usually confuse cherry with tropical punch, Isaac killed it by telling us that it was easy to OD on them. That was the last straw. After dinner, I left to go find Learned Foote, while the others went to Campo so Isaac could “get [his] swerve on.”

Things with Learned didn't start off well either. Despite previously emailing that I'd

turned to their policies. I zoned out for most of this, and occasionally nodded to things I didn't understand, like, “Accountability is going to rest in the fact that we're involving so many people.”

At one point, Melissa mentioned Gummy Vites and my interest was piqued. Finally, a cool topic I cared about. But just as I got ready to explain how I usually confuse cherry with tropical punch, Isaac killed it by telling us that it was easy to OD on them. That was the last straw. After dinner, I left to go find Learned Foote, while the others went to Campo so Isaac could “get [his] swerve on.”

Things with Learned didn't start off well either. Despite previously emailing that I'd

I decided to resolve the myth of student government lameness by getting to know our three CCSC presidential candidates.

find him in Butler, after I texted him, he texted back, “Sorry whose number is this?” Not only did he forget about me, but his text suggested that he thought more than one person could potentially want to go to Butler with him on Saturday night.

We eventually went to his room, where I got right to the issue—I asked him how he would make Columbia a cooler place as CCSC president. After thinking about it for at least 15 seconds, he responded, “It depends what you mean by cool,” which is, like, the classic uncool thing to say. Anyone actually cool should know what's cool. So I told him my own ideas of what initiatives his party should adopt—getting a Chuck E. Cheese in Lerner, installing a permanent Slip 'n Slide on Low Steps, and inscribing

my name onto Butler. He seemed to have reservations about all my cool ideas.

Sometime between Learned explaining which were his favorite libraries and my noticing that his room has literally over 200 books, nerd alerts started ringing in my mind, and I realized Learned wouldn't be disproving the myth for me. Eugenio Suarez was my only hope left.

Things looked promising when I met him on the Steps in the afternoon. The first thing I noticed was that he had a really badass amount of chest hair, which was particularly impressive to me because my chest is developing reflective properties. I enjoyed hearing about his dual citizenship—Spanish and American—and what it was like to be from Miami. But I was done messing around. So I pulled out the big question. No way he could dally around it. “What's the coolest thing you've ever done?”

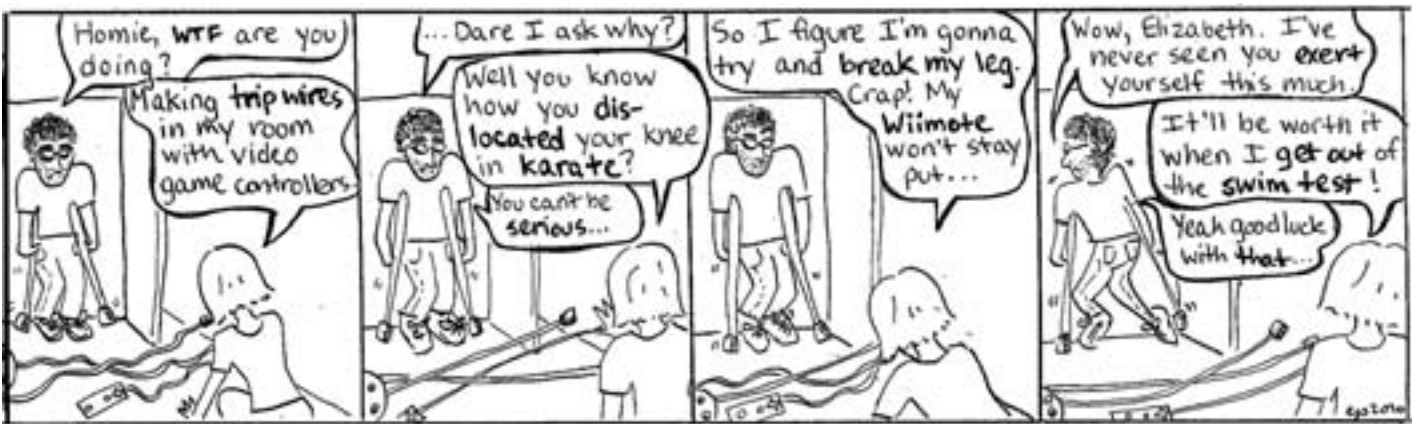
It was the job he got last summer through CCE. Enormously disappointed that he didn't say something actually cool like growing his chest hair or hanging out with hot babes on Miami beaches, I could feel the nerd alerts starting to ring again. But then he justified his choice to me—his job was in Hong Kong, where he learned about an entirely new culture, political system, and lifestyle. He spoke convincingly as he said that it was his coolest thing because it gave him new life perspectives.

Since then, I've realized that perhaps my quest to disprove the myth of CCSC lameness has been flawed from the start. My notions of what's “cool” and “lame” are pretty subjective, and probably even bigoted.

This will be my lifelong battle. But I can acknowledge today that it was pretty cool of all three candidates to waste their time talking with me. It's a start.

Tony Gong is a junior in the School of Engineering and Applied Science majoring in applied math with a minor in philosophy. Bears frighten him. Tony Gong Explains the Universe runs alternate Thursdays.

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The ins and outs of online ticket trading



JACOB SHAPIRO

Put It on the Board

Y ou'd think that in today's world, with the Internet and smart phones, it'd be pretty easy to trade last-minute tickets for sporting events. As an avid buyer and seller, I've learned that this process is expensive and stressful.

The problem itself is simple: We buy tickets to events months in advance, when that calendar looks clear. But as the days roll on, things start to fill up those white spaces, and pretty soon, we realize that some tickets need to be dumped.

Now most people out there are honest, and just want to sell their tickets for face value, turn a small profit, or get a cheap deal on seats at an in-demand game. Unfortunately, there are only several venues where fans can buy and sell tickets, and all of them have defects that make you wonder if it was worth it in the end. These "middle-man" or broker websites rake in inordinate amounts of cash to your inconvenience, and many of them don't provide quality service, either.

Let's start with Craigslist. Simple enough to use, Craigslist lets users search through listings without having to make an account or adhere to any rules. It has no "final-value fees," no time limits on listings, and comes with no spam mail. But as the most bare-bones version of an online marketplace,

Time is money, as they say, and the ebay buyer looking for a deal definitely has to spend some time searching.

Craigslist is littered with listings that, as George Carlin, Blessed be He, would say, "you don't want, and you don't need."

Some sellers flood the site with the same listing, and there is no guarantee that you'll get any sort of response after inquiring about a set of tickets. Even worse, as I experienced when purchasing tickets for last week's Devils-Blackhawks game, you can easily get scammed. While PayPal is returning my money and tracking down the scammer who took the cash and never sent the tickets, after I realized it was a scam, I had to scramble to locate last-minute tickets on eBay.

Let's talk for a minute about our favorite online auction house. The website certainly has its benefits, such as the auction feature, which allows you to gain more money for tickets while your buyers duke it out. It also lets users list tickets on the day of the game. But the website pushes a cumbersome communication system on its users, causing confusion and delay in making the actual exchange after an item is purchased.

Worse, for sellers, eBay charges fees for listing items and takes a final-value fee out of every sale. But the real scam comes when you, as a seller, get paid through PayPal, the online payment system that we've all come to use. PayPal also takes a cut out of the transaction,

which is a problem because they are owned by eBay! Double taxation anyone?

The site is also littered with listings from sketchy and confusing sellers forcing the prospective buyer to read each listing carefully. We've all had our formative eBay experience where we received something different from what we had hoped to purchase.

Time is money, as they say, and the eBay buyer looking for a deal definitely has to spend some time searching. Even so, eBay prices tend to be lower than they are at StubHub, the giant in the sports-ticketing world.

Ah, yes, StubHub—self-described as "Heaven for Sports Fans" looking to trade tickets. StubHub is by far the most professional of the websites. They have the best customer service (which you'll notice I didn't even describe for the other two because, well...) and the site is guaranteed to get you into the stadium (no scams possible).

The website has built partnerships with most teams around the country, who apparently realized that scalping tickets wasn't such a sin after all—as long as they get a cut of the profits while putting more butts in seats to buy concessions and otherwise.

The best part of the website is that all of the games and seat locations are well organized. No need to sift through confusing listings. And if you buy the tickets, they're yours—there's no waiting involved for auction's to end. StubHub can email you your tickets and send them to you through FedEx. It is heaven indeed.

But good service comes with a price tag, and it's a hefty one. For sellers, StubHub takes 15 percent out of your sale. Yeah, enough said. They also hit buyers with the shipping costs and additional fees that are, of course, not included in the ticket price—so you always end up paying more than you thought you would.

StubHub also stops all listings hours before the game starts, which prevents last-minute sales. In my opinion, this is when some of the best work gets done. And let's not forget that the prices tend to start way higher on StubHub than on any of the other sites.

The last place to look for tickets for an upcoming game is on the team's individual "season ticket holder exchange" page, where those with season tickets can list their seats. These pages are run through Ticketmaster, the absolute king of the ticketing world.

For sellers, Ticketmaster will snag 10 percent of your sale, but for buyers, the story is even worse. Upon selecting tickets to purchase, the site gives you a limited number of minutes to make a decision before the tickets are released. You also need to make an account for the team that you are buying tickets for.

When trying this last week, by the time I tried to make a New Jersey Devils account, the seats I wanted were gone. Nobody will ever quite know how the Ticketmaster system works, but I am constantly hearing how time always seems to run out for people trying to buy tickets.

The websites all have their positives and negatives, and my advice is to use different sites depending on the goal and time frame of your purchase or sale. But the fact remains that the process is arduous. Your best bet is to buy your tickets from a friend.

Jacob Shapiro is a List College senior majoring in history and Talmud. sportseditors@columbiaspectator.com

Kung demonstrates work ethic in return from injury

KUNG from back page

planned on going to one of the top scholarship schools in the nation.

"I wanted to be part of a national team," Kung said. "Columbia was good in the Ivies, but it was not in the top 10."

Kung's parents changed his mind about the choice, telling him that if he was going to go to college, then he might as well go to one with a great combination of tennis and academics. There was another deciding factor in his choice.

"I thought Columbia had the best tennis program, and I liked Bid the most," Kung said.

"You know, Kevin, he is one of my favorite guys," head coach Bid Goswami said. "He probably works the hardest of anyone on my team. He gives 100 percent effort every day and it's a coach's delight. I'm

really happy he is with us."

Kung excelled as a freshman, winning three titles in the fall semester, including a doubles title with current senior Jon Wong.

"There were no expectations of me. No one knew how to play me," Kung said. "It happened so quickly. I won two singles titles and one doubles title in one week."

He continued his stellar play in the spring, but struggled once Ivy play started, going 0-3 at No. 6 singles.

"He had a great freshman year, but he lost a bit of confidence at the end," Goswami said. "But maybe at the time I thought it was a bad loss, but now those guys he was losing to are playing No. 1 at Harvard and Brown, and he played good against them."

"I didn't play well during the Ivies," Kung said. "Going into

the Ivies, there was a lot of pressure because of performing well in the fall and spring. I felt like I had the whole team on my shoulders. I was getting texts and emails from teammates and alumni. It was a different kind of pressure. It was new—I had never experienced it before Columbia. I was really motivated to work hard that summer and redeem myself as a sophomore and junior."

Kung practiced or worked out almost every day that summer, but on the last day before he was going to fly back to New York, he tripped and pinched a nerve and lost feeling in his right leg.

"I had trouble walking and I had several cortisone shots, and eventually surgery," Kung said.

Kung was still recovering when the team started playing again in the spring, and never managed to

crack the starting lineup.

That summer, Kung continued to work hard, with the goal of working his way back into the lineup.

"I wanted to put in every inch of work to maximize my game," Kung said. "I played some futures in Thailand and Malaysia. I mostly played in the qualifying rounds, but I beat some ranked players and reached the finals of the qualifying once."

Kung went 5-4 in the ITF tournaments that summer.

This year, Kung has split time at No. 6 singles, and is undefeated in singles including a highlight win over Chris Hooshyar from Southern Methodist University, where Kung rallied from a 0-2, 0-40 deficit in the third set of the deciding match.

"I had been reading 'The Fighter's Mind' and I know it sounds cheesy, but I just kept telling myself that I had nothing to lose, and somehow I won five straight points."

"But winning that match," an emotional Kung said, "I can't even describe it. It's the best feeling I've had all year."

"Kevin played a big match to win at No. 6 at SMU," Goswami said. "He's been working really hard with his serve, and I'm thinking that results will follow. He is an important fact, and if we win the Ivies again, he will be an important part."

Kung, one of four team members to be named as an ITA-Scholar Athlete last season, has excelled in doubles at Columbia, going 8-6 this spring with Deb-Sen as his partner.

His success in doubles is emblematic of team-first attitude on the tennis court.

"Why does it matter where I play as long, as the team wins?" Kung said.



COURTESY OF KEVIN KUNG

INTERNATION PLAY | Kung is used to playing against international competition. At 12 years of age, he represented Hong Kong, and this past summer, he competed in Thailand and Malaysia.

Lions edge out Scarlet Knights

BASEBALL from back page

them a 7-6 lead. The bottom half of the inning started off with a solid single by Godshall. After an Eisen strike out, Banos and Forthun singled up the middle. Banos ended up on third on the Forthun single, but Godshall was thrown out at the plate, thanks to a solid throw by Jimenez. That would prove to be only a bump in the road for the Lions. After a walk by Aurrichio, Ferraresi singled, scoring both Banos and Forthun. With Aurrichio on third, Pizzano doubled and picked up the RBI as Ferraresi advanced to third. A wild pitch later in the inning would score Ferraresi, as the Lions ended the inning with four runs on five hits and a 10-7 lead.

The action quieted down until the sixth and seventh innings, as Rutgers collected two in each to squeak past Columbia for the 11-10 lead. In the bottom of the seventh, the Lions roared back, thanks to a Ferrera home run that also scored Pizzano, who had doubled to right the at bat before. The fragile one-run lead would be enough for the Light Blue as Derek Squires was able to pick up his third save in the top of the ninth. Eric Williams got the win, bringing his record to 2-0 on the season. Rutgers reliever Kevin Lillis got the loss.

Columbia will have two days off before it has to travel to Hanover to face last year's Ivy champ Dartmouth. The double-header will start at noon.



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The Columbia men's tennis team will face Ivy rivals Brown and Yale this weekend as it looks to continue its 10-match winning streak.

TOMORROW



SPORTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2010 • PAGE 8



Pick up tomorrow's paper for an in-depth preview of the baseball team's weekend action against last year's Ivy champ Dartmouth and Harvard.

TOMORROW



COURTESY OF KEVIN KUNG

POWERFUL LEFTY | Junior Kevin Kung has had to overcome some unfortunate injuries during his time at CU. Despite the setbacks, he has worked his way back to excellence, going undefeated in singles this year.

Bats come alive in CU win over Rutgers

BY BART LOPEZ
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

That's how you get back on track. Yesterday, the Columbia baseball team defeated Rutgers (15-12) at home 12-11, bringing the Lion's record to 12-12 on the season. The Lions have won nine of their last 10 games, with the one loss coming to Brown this past Sunday. The bats were alive yet again, as the Light Blue collected a solid 14 hits to go along with the double-digit runs.

The game did not start off well, however, as Columbia quickly found itself down a run. Rutgers leadoff hitter Brandon Boykin went yard off Columbia starter Harrison Slutsky on the sixth pitch of the game, to give the Scarlet Knights an early 1-0 lead. After collecting a quick two outs, Rutgers first baseman Jaren Matthews homered to left center to increase the lead to 2-0. In the bottom of the first, Jon Eisen led things off with a single, followed by a fielding error by the left fielder

that enabled him to move on to second. After Jason Banos grounded out to first, advancing Eisen to third, Dean Forthun scored Eisen on a liner to left, cutting the lead to 2-1, where it would stay for the rest of the inning.

The top of the second saw more action, as Rutgers third baseman D.J. Anderson scored off a Dan Betteridge single. The half inning could have been much worse for the Lions if it weren't for some solid defense. After Jarred Jimenez led off the inning with a single, Anderson doubled, sending Jimenez home. However, Columbia center fielder Billy Rumpke relayed the ball to second baseman Alex Godshall, who fired a laser to home, throwing out Jimenez at the plate and saving a run. In the bottom half of the inning, the Light Blue regained the lead, thanks to a combination of walks, hits, and sacrifice groundouts. Columbia scored three runs on two hits by Alex Ferrera and Rumpke, making it a 4-3 ballgame.

	RUTGERS	11	
	COLUMBIA	12	

The lead would not last long, as Rutgers matched Columbia's three runs with three of its own. The Scarlet Knights took advantage on two defensive miscues by the Lions, scoring three runs on only one hit, and regained the lead at 6-4. Down, but not out, Columbia retaliated with a bang, as Alexander Aurricchio homered to right on the second pitch of the inning. After a Nick Ferraresi fly out, Dario Pizzano mirrored Aurricchio's previous at bat, hitting a home run to right and tying the game at 6-6.

In the fourth, Rutgers quickly got a man on base as Anderson worked a seven-pitch walk to start the inning. After stealing second, Betteridge flied to left, advancing Anderson to third. Scarlet Knights catcher Justin Olsen singled to center, scoring Anderson and giving

SEE BASEBALL, page 7



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

POWER AT THE PLATE | Freshman Dario Pizzano had himself an impressive day at the plate against Rutgers. He went 3-3 with two RBI, three runs scored, and one home run in the 12-11 victory over the Scarlet Knights.

Kung recovers from injuries, excels in singles, doubles

From No. 1 in Hong Kong to Columbia standout

BY KUNAL GUPTA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

For many athletes, the road to success is straightforward, filled with endless hours of training and competition which ultimately lead to wins and success. Others face a much more difficult path, filled with injuries, rehab, and devastating losses.

Kevin Kung, a junior on the men's tennis team, has taken the long road to get where he is today.

Kung, a gifted lefty with a powerful serve and lethal forehand, was one of the highest ranked international players to come to Columbia. Kung had a tremendous freshman year, winning three titles in the fall, and going 7-1 in nonconference play. Kung, known as one of the hardest workers on and off the court, trained as hard as anyone else on the team during that summer, only to suffer a freak injury in a fall one day before his return to New York. Kung, who had worked so hard over the summer to improve his game, struggled to deal with his injury at first.

"It was really frustrating. It was tough," Kung said. "I was very emotional. I had worked so hard to get where I wanted to be. I realized how little time I had left."

After never really regaining his form and toughness during his sophomore year, Kung has returned to lineup once again this season, as fit and tough as ever, splitting time with freshman Nathaniel Gery at the No. 6 singles spot, and teaming up with sophomore Rajeev Deb-Sen at No. 3 doubles. Kung has excelled when he's been on the court—he's currently undefeated in singles and 8-6 in doubles this spring.

"In doubles, I'm playing with

Rajeev, and we're a natural fit and get along great on and off the court," Kung said.

Through all the injuries and setbacks, Kung has maintained a tremendous work ethic, something which evolves from his love of the sport of tennis.

"I first started playing tennis when I was five," Kung said. "I tried a lot of other sports, but tennis was very individual, and it was one of the few sports I did well in."

Kung is probably selling himself a bit short there. Blessed with superb movement and athleticism around the court, Kung began to excel at the junior level in his native country of Hong Kong.

"I started representing Hong Kong when I was 12 years old," Kung said. "It was a great feeling; I can't even really describe it."

In Hong Kong, he was ranked No. 1 in 12s, 14s, 16s, and 18s. With the limited resources and training facilities available in Hong Kong, Kung found himself traveling far and wide just to practice with quality players.

"We used to travel to China and Taiwan to practice with better players," Kung said.

At the young age of 15, Kung began playing the international junior circuits, in ITF tournaments, competing against top juniors from all over the world.

"I played mostly around Asia, because it cut into a lot of my classes," Kung said. "I would often have to take exams without having been to any of the classes. It was a dual focus to do well in both."

"At first, I played mostly qualifying, but then I made it to the finals in singles of a tournament, and won doubles at the same one with my partner Gilbert Wong," Kung said. "Things really started kicking off. I used to get nervous,

but after that my ranking went from 1200 to 600 to 500 and I peaked at 274 [in the world]."

That tournament, the Hong Kong ITF Junior Tournament in January 2006, turned things around for Kung, although Kung doesn't credit any physical change with his improved results.

"I was just going at it with a lot more confidence," Kung said. "I like to hit big shots, go for winners. I'm not really a grinder, so in order to perform, I need confidence, and I can't be tentative."

Kung achieved tremendous results in singles, but his best results came in doubles with his partner Gilbert Wong, a junior at Binghamton University playing No. 5 singles on a 18-1 team. The duo suffered only one loss in doubles over five years, and won two titles at ITF tournaments.

"Kevin is always a good doubles partner to play with," Wong said. "When I was playing with him, he always stayed positive all the time, and cheered me up, even though we lost a point."

Wong, who has known Kung since the two were young, offered some insight into Kung's passion and dedication.

"When we were playing together in the juniors, he had the worst injury on his shoulder where he had a surgery on it," Wong said. "At that time I thought his career was over. However, even though he couldn't practice with us, he didn't quit—he was running around the courts and keeping up his fitness while we were practicing. His passion on tennis is more than anyone else that I've ever known and I gave him a lot of respect on that."

Kung decided to attend college in the United States, and originally

SEE KUNG, page 7

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