



TOP ROW: OLACHI OLERU / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER. BOTTOM ROW: KIMBERLY FLORES / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

UP FOR DEBATE | Clockwise from top left: Bob Sun, CC '14, Noah Swartz, CC '16, Daphne Chen, CC '14, and Peter Bailinson, CC '16, of the It's Always Sunny at Columbia party for CCSC; SGA candidate Rachel Chung, BC '16; Tanya Shah, SEAS '14, Rushal Rege, SEAS '14 , Siddhant Bhatt, SEAS '14, Brian Wu, SEAS '15, and Jillian Ross, SEAS '16, of the PSet 150 party for ESC, and Matthew Sheridan, SEAS '16, independent candidate.

University Senate fails to vote on smoking ban

BY CECILIA REYES
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

After months of buildup, the University Senate failed to vote Friday on a resolution that would ban smoking on much of the Morningside Heights campus, because too few senators attended the plenary to meet quorum.

The senate's bylaws require the presence of at least half of its members for a quorum. Only 42 senators were present at Friday's plenary, fewer than the 47 necessary to hold a vote.

"Something like this is quite

rare, which is interesting because we had many people that were here at the beginning, from unions and such," senator Justin Carter, GS, said. "It's surprising that it happened on a day that was so heavily publicized."

For the past two years, the debate over smoking has been one of the most publicized issues that the Senate has discussed.

The resolution, which would limit smoking to four designated areas on campus and 12 others directly surrounding campus, will likely be

brought to a vote again at the senate's May 3 plenary.

During the debate over the resolution, senator Mark Cohen, a Business School professor who has spent several years lobbying for a full smoking ban, proposed an amendment to eliminate the designated smoking areas described by the resolution. He called the plan "impractical, unworkable, and ineffective."

Eighteen senators voted for and 23 senators voted against Cohen's resolution, with only one senator abstaining. It was following this vote that

senator Richard Sun, CC '13, asked if there was quorum.

Despite attempts by senate executive committee chair Sharyn O'Halloran to keep the process moving toward a final vote, another senator called for quorum and was seconded. It quickly became clear that fewer than half of the senate's 93 members were present. Fifteen of the 108 seats are currently vacant. Robert's Rules of Order, the parliamentary guidebook, states that once a call for a quorum fails,

SEE PLENARY, page 2

Mobile laboratory visits campus for local youth

BY JOSEPHINE MCGOWAN
Spectator Staff Writer

College Walk transformed into a laboratory on Saturday afternoon thanks to a visit from the BioBus.

Columbia University Scientists and Engineers for a Better Society invited students from local schools and community groups to participate in science experiments through BioBus—a converted transit bus on which microscopes, computers, and a cell culture lab have been installed. The BioBus events are designed to help make science more accessible to young students.

Some of the experiments students conducted on Saturday included creating homemade lava lamps and observing the chemical reaction created by the combination of Mentos and Coca-Cola.

"I know that learning about 'cool' science is what initially got me into science," Darren Chu, SEAS '14 and the president of SEBS said. "I want to perpetuate that and bring it to the younger generation because I feel like I owe it to them."

"At least when I was growing up, there seemed to be this veil over science in that people perceived it as really hard to learn and reserved for the geeks and the nerds," Chu said. "But we really try to make it so that everyone can understand science, and everyone can get behind the teaching of it, and that is in line with this event in particular."

Ben Dubin-Thaler, CC '00 and GSAS '07, said that he has plans to open up a BioBase, which would feature a lab, a planetarium dome, and a green room, on the Lower East Side in September to further promote science education for local children.

"We really try to make it so that everyone can understand science."

—Darren Chu, SEAS '14, president of Scientists and Engineers for a Better Society

Dubin-Thaler co-founded SEBS while getting his Ph.D. at Columbia. In 2007, he also founded Cell Motion Laboratories, the nonprofit that runs BioBus with the goal of teaching younger students what it is like to research in a laboratory setting.

"Ultimately, we want the students to think, 'Wow, science is fun and cool,' and for the parents to see how much fun their children are having doing science," Dubin-Thaler said. "Maybe they'll support those career choices in the future."

SEE BIOBUS, page 2

Council candidate opens new political club in W. Harlem

BY CHRIS MEYER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

In a move that signals his intent to declare his candidacy for City Council, Corey Ortega joined with local political figures and nonprofit partners on Saturday to celebrate the grand opening of his newly formed West Harlem Progressive Democratic Club.

Ortega, who announced late last year that he was planning to run for term-limited Robert Jackson's 7th District seat on City Council, started the club with Democratic District Leader Rev. Jamaal Nelson, and hailed its opening as essential for serving the community before his campaign gets underway.

"If you serve the community, you'll get the people, and if you

get the people then they will put their faith in you," Ortega said. "I wanted the club to be established first so people know we're not going anywhere, and this is not just a dog and pony show."

In addition to being a gathering spot for local Democrats, Ortega's club will also serve as a community resource center for West Harlem, supporting local businesses as well as larger charities like Single Stop USA, which provides residents with drop-in services ranging from financial counseling to legal services.

Other planned uses for the club include an office for a youth baseball team run by the nonprofit Centro Juvenil R. Tony Fernandez, which works to keep children off the streets and away from danger. With Ortega acting

as interpreter, Fernandez, the executive director of the group, said in Spanish that the storefront, located at Amsterdam Avenue between 131st and 133rd streets, would function as the team's office for storage, meeting, and game planning.

Robert Goldberg, dean of Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine, said the storefront would also help house a high school medical tutoring program called MedAchieve. Goldberg said he was inspired to support Ortega after their initial discussions about the program.

"He asked probing questions, and through that I saw someone who was willing to make the right decision, not just the decision people wanted him to make," Goldberg said. "So from a

potentially adversarial position, there was mutual respect"

Nelson, who also described the club as a "clearinghouse" for services related to important local issues like affordable housing and a path to legal citizenship, said the event also spoke to Ortega's political character.

"There are few more dynamic leaders who are committed to grassroots organization and empowerment than Corey Ortega," Nelson said.

Inez Dickens, who sits on City Council for the 9th District, also made an appearance at the event, calling Ortega a "hardworking" member of the West Harlem community, and referencing his work as an aide for New York State

SEE ORTEGA, page 3



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CLUB ORTEGA | Corey Ortega (l.) smiles at the opening of his West Harlem Progressive Democratic Club on Sunday.

OPINION, PAGE 4

A strong network

Jared Odessky's campaign platform highlights his experience in CCSC.

Opening up the senate

David Froomkin plans to revive democratic participation at Columbia.



SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Light Blue baseball sweeps Yale, Brown

The Lions hit it out of the park with a combined four wins over the Bulldogs and the Bears.

EVENTS

The Rise of the South

Examination of shifting global dynamics led by fast-rising powers in the South.

International Affairs Building, Room 1501, 9:30 a.m.

MULTIMEDIA

Tamasha Gone Wild

Check out the highlights of the annual show put on by the South Asian cultural group Club Zamana.



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TOP: DOUGLAS KESSEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER. BOTTOM: QIUYUN TAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MAGIC SCHOOL BUS | Students participated in science experiments Saturday when the BioBus visited.

BioBus aims to pique kids’ interest in science

BIOBUS from front page

Stephanie Sarbanes, CC ’13 and a member of SEBS, said that the false dichotomy between science and the humanities could be mended by fusing science, art, and creativity, something that she said the BioBus provided for students.

“We are all here in our little bubble, learning for ourselves, but we sometimes forget to share it with others,” Sarbanes said. “Science especially involves a youthful sense of looking at the world through a childlike perspective and constantly being amazed by the smallest discoveries of everyday life.”

Inside the BioBus, sisters Eme Eskaros, 12, and Asia Eskaros, 10, looked through microscopes at three different

magnifications of daphnia, a small planktonic crustacean. Dubin-Thaler said that these “charismatic and super-cute model organisms” were caught from Central Park.

“This tiny little organism, when you zoom in, seems to have all of the features that a human has, like a beating heart,” Dubin-Thaler said. “It’s a way for students to really start to understand animal biology and evolution and how organs function.”

“The daphnia was the coolest thing here because you can see all of the organs and how they move around and work together,” Eme said. “Also, using the microscopes to see our hands and hair up close was great. We didn’t realize how they looked until then.”

“We watched our eyes dilate

using the moveable microscope,” Asia added. “And the fact that the daphnia live right near here is really cool to think about, too.”

Their mother, Carol Eskaros, CC ’97, had brought her daughters into the city from New Jersey for a day trip, and the family ran into the event during their visit to Columbia. After learning about crustaceans from the BioBus, Eskaros said that she would take her daughters to check out other daphnia in Central Park.

“I hope that both the fact that the event is science-oriented and that it’s on this campus will challenge them to reach here and to expand upon these studies when they’re older,” Eskaros said.

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QIUYUN TAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

QUORUM-TIME | Only 42 senators attended Friday’s plenary, five short of the 47 needed to vote.

Smoking ban vote fails due to lack of quorum

PLENARY from front page

“no motion is in order, even by unanimous consent, except motions relating to the call.”

The vote on Cohen’s amendment was nullified, and the senate could only adjourn its meeting. Sun said he was told after the plenary that the senate is, in fact, allowed to conduct business as long as no one calls a quorum. If he hadn’t brought up the lack of a quorum, the

resolution probably would have proceeded to a vote.

“I don’t think anybody expected anything like today,” Carter said. “I think we’ll all be happy to get it over with, whichever way it goes.”

Also at the plenary, University President Lee Bollinger invited questions from the audience, and he acknowledged the presence of approximately 30 Student-Worker Solidarity members, all clad in

matching yellow t-shirts.

Bollinger said he was under “stern and sharp restrictions” as to what he could say about ongoing negotiations with Faculty House workers. He limited himself to saying that the University has had “a wonderful success rate in reaching agreements that we think reflect our care for employees and our respect for unions.”

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS APRIL & MAY

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				
MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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	31	

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL EVENTS ARE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE.

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04/08
THE FUTURE OF ONLINE FEMINISM
7 PM
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

04/12–04/13
BARNARD DANCES AT MILLER
2 PM (Saturday) & 7 PM
Miller Theater, 2960 Broadway

04/16
RIGHTS, RELIGION & SECULARITY
6:30 PM
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

04/17
THE GALLEY SLAVE'S DILEMMA
6.30 PM
Ella Weed Room, 2nd Floor Milbank Hall

04/18
TEACHING & WRITING
TRANSNATIONAL HISPANIOLA
Haiti and the Dominican Republic
12 PM
BCRW, Barnard Hall 101

04/25
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
SENIOR THESIS POSTER SESSION
4:30 PM
Event Oval, The Diana Center

04/25–04/27
SENIOR THESIS FESTIVAL I
7 PM
Minor Latham Playhouse, 118 Milbank Hall

04/26
VERDI'S MESSA DA REQUIEM
8 PM
Union Theological Seminary, Broadway at West 120th Street

04/30
BARNARD STUDENTS
READ FROM THEIR WORK
7 PM
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

05/03–05/04
SENIOR THESIS FESTIVAL II
8 PM (Friday)
3, 4 & 6 PM (Saturday)
Minor Latham Playhouse, 118 Milbank Hall

BARNARD



FILE PHOTO

DON'T BE A STRANGER | The gate at 106th Street is one of six formal entrances to the park.

CB7 votes for a more visible Strangers Gate

BY AVANTIKA KUMAR
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

A proposal to improve the visibility of the Strangers Gate entrance to Central Park at 106th Street and Central Park West passed overwhelmingly in Community Board 7's full board meeting on Tuesday.

Of the six formal entrances to the park, the Strangers Gate is the only one that has parking spaces in front of it. CB7 member Peter Frishauf's plan aims to relocate these parking spaces to showcase what he called "one of the most beautiful" entrances to the park.

"It was clearly designed to be seen," Frishauf said, adding that the entrance—a tree-lined staircase carved within craggy rocks—was "designed to draw people into the space."

Though Frishauf's original plan, presented to CB7's Parks & Environment Committee in December, simply eliminated the parking spots, Frishauf revised the proposal before presenting it to the Transportation Committee in March, swapping the parking spots with an existing M10 bus stop half a block north.

When Frishauf's plan is implemented, the M10 bus stop will be moved in front of Strangers Gate, and cars will park in the area that the bus stop formerly occupied.

Transportation committee co-chair Andrew Albert called the proposal a "really elegant solution," in that it does not hurt cars, buses, or bikes. Though an initial objection was that a nearby Greenmarket needed the space, both Albert and Frishauf said they thought the Greenmarket

had moved.

"We're very pleased the way this worked out," Albert said.

CB7 Chair Mark Diller said that the overall aim of the proposal and the fact that it costs no parking space made it "incredibly easy to say yes to."

"It's a win-win," Diller said, adding that he thought it was "very exciting that this vista of the park will be opened up."

Entering and exiting the park through Strangers Gate will also be safer, he added.

Albert said that before the proposal is implemented, the Department of Transportation will move signs and Muni-Meters and will have to alert drivers. Albert said he hoped the change would take place by June, if not earlier.

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DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DYNAMIC DUO | Democratic District Leader Rev. Jamaal Nelson (l.) lauded Ortega's efforts.

Local elected officials attend club opening

ORTEGA from front page

Assembly member Keith Wright.

"Once you work for a member, you're on duty 24/7," Dickens said. "You're a representative, and in Corey's case, he was already a representative."

But not every attendee at the event supported an Ortega candidacy. Walter South, a member of Community Board 9, called Ortega "honest" and commended his intention to incorporate the

Democratic club into the community, but said that he would be supporting district leader Mark Levine in the upcoming election.

"All of these clubs are normally more or less divorced from the community," South said. "I think Corey is very well-intentioned, but just not as qualified as Mark Levine."

Ortega faces an uphill race against Levine, the frontrunner in fundraising and endorsements, and a host of other council hopefuls,

including Zead Ramadan, the head of a Muslim civil rights organization, and Joyce Johnson, a former Congressional candidate.

Ortega has not yet specified when he will file papers with the New York City Campaign Finance Board, a necessary step to formally becoming a candidate. He will not be legally allowed to raise funds until those papers have been processed.

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Candidates focus on transparency, collaboration

COUNCILS from front page

Froomkin called the senate a broken system that lacks transparency. He said that the apathy among students, as shown by the low forum attendance and voter turnout for council elections, indicates a need for change.

The fundamental problem, he said, is the sense of disempowerment students get from institutional obstacles.

"It's not a moral deficit—it's a democratic deficit," Froomkin said.

Froomkin criticized the senate for creating what he said was "a technocratic and autocratic culture" that lacks democratic processes.

Odessky focused on the need for coalition-building between the different committees in the senate and for keeping the "lines of communication open" between administrative and student representatives.

He said, "The senate has much more potential to be more responsive to undergraduate needs ... I want to bridge the divide between the senate and CCSC."

Odessky, who pioneered the website WTF Columbia, used the site as an example of how the council and the Senate can respond to student concerns.

"It's a platform for students to connect to representatives," he said.

Froomkin countered that WTF Columbia falls short of allowing students to drive policy.

"WTF Columbia is not a platform that moves toward participatory democracy," Froomkin said. "Students identify issues and representatives act on them as they wish. There needs to be more collaboration and make it a two-way street."

Froomkin's critique of the Senate frustrated many in the audience. Current University Senator Cleo Abram, CC '15, pressed Froomkin to outline specific policy changes that he'd like to implement, but he preferred to stand by his points without providing additional detail.

Ben Reardon, CC '15 and one of only a handful of students at the debate, echoed Abram's frustrations.

"It was all very vague. I didn't hear any specific policies from either of them," he said.

Candidates for the council's at-large positions—academic affairs, pre-professional, and student services representatives—also held debates on Sunday.

The candidates for alumni affairs representative focused on how best to connect students to the alumni for networking and mentoring opportunities. Daniel Cohen, CC '15, said that he wants to create an alumni database allowing students to reach out to alumni who are doing work in the fields that they are interested in.

Similarly, Daniel Liss, CC '16 and a Spectator opinion deputy for online, said that his top priority is to create a mentorship network that connects every student in the college with an alumni mentor.

Pilar Guerra, CC '16, echoed Liss, but said that before the mentorship network can work, a committee of alumni representatives, student representatives, and representatives from the Office of Alumni Affairs and Development must be created as well. In addition, like the other candidates, she said that she wants to have an open and updated alumni inventory that students can access.

The candidates for academic affairs representative—Nora Habboosh, CC '14; Benjamin Spener, CC '14; Rachel Bercovitz, CC '15; and Qiuyun Tan, CC '16 and a Spectator staff writer and photo associate editor—all focused on improving the academic environment in the college with reducing initiatives.

Mary Joseph, CC '15, and Hamza Khan, CC '14, the two candidates for pre-professional representative, talked about the need to increase communication between the council and the student body.

Khan said that he would like to implement a mentorship process for students to connect to professionals in the fields that they're interested in. Joseph said that she would like to provide information sessions for students interested in different fields, because students "don't really

know what it means ... having that actual position in life."

The class of 2015 and class of 2014 councils are running unopposed.

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCE

Only three positions on the Engineering Student Council are contested after one of the two 2016 class council parties, Fu'tastic Four, dropped out Sunday.

This leaves the vice president for communications, Class of 2014 vice president, and professional development and alumni affairs representative as the only contested positions on the 29-person council.

Candidates presented their platforms while saying they remained committed to accountability despite running unopposed.

"If you don't know who's representing you, that individual can choose to be unaccountable," Siddhant Bhatt, SEAS '14 and executive board presidential candidate from the PSet 150 party, said.

Matthew Sheridan, SEAS '16, who is running independently for vice president for communications, proposed including non-council students in fortnightly meetings between ESC and administrators.

To improve access to information, Sheridan and members of PSet 150 proposed using WikiCU as a central reference for information, expanding the ESC website, and sending more updates to the student body.

Issues of pass/D/fail grading for SEAS students and the apparent lack of communication between the administration, ESC, and the student body were at the forefront in speeches. "If we have the ability to take classes pass/fail, we would be able to actually become something other than just another engineer," Robert Ying, SEAS '16, the sole candidate for academic affairs representative, said. "We aren't here to be another MIT. We aren't here to be another Berkeley."

Tanya Shah, SEAS '14 and PSet 150's candidate for the vice president of policy, and Maria Balsinde, SEAS '15 and candidate for 2015 class representative, both said they supported efforts to expand pass/D/fail grading to SEAS.

"We don't really have a chance to explore liberal arts initiatives," Shah said. She also proposed expanding study abroad and elective options and making it easier to switch majors to "give us a chance to explore."

In the other contested debate, for the professional development and alumni affairs representative, both candidates—Aditya Naganath, SEAS '15, and Janiel Li, SEAS '15—spoke about Columbia's weak alumni connections relative to peer institutions.

"When I was looking for an internship, I was turning to

upperclassmen a lot," Naganath said. He proposed the creation of a peer network consisting of alumni whom current students know, along with streamlined mock interview processes and increased involvement with the Center for Career Education.

Li said that "our student-alumni connections are comparatively not as strong" as those of other Ivy League institutions, and "we have very limited school-sponsored opportunities to connect with alumni." He proposed creating more opportunities for such connections, such as student-alumni socials and a student-run career fair.

This is only the second year in which all SEAS students are able to vote for the executive board.

BARNARD COLLEGE

Communication and transparency were the themes of Sunday night's Student Government Association candidate forum, which stressed the importance of strengthening ties among the student body, the administration, and the greater Columbia community.

As with CCSC and ESC, many of the positions for SGA are uncontested. However, the key contested positions include SGA president, vice president of finance, and the class of 2014 president.

Around 75 students attended the debates in the Diana Event Oval.

The two candidates for SGA president provided contrasting approaches to leadership. Aliza Hassine, BC '14 and current junior class president, highlighted her experiences in SGA over the past three years.

"The Barnard community has always been larger than the sum of its parts, and ever since joining it, I've been actively engaged in improving the quality of the Barnard experience on and off campus," Hassine said.

Madelyn Popkin, BC '14, has not served on SGA before. In her speech, she emphasized the importance of "collaboration, patience, and mutual respect," which she said is informed by her past experiences as a Well-Woman peer educator and a women, gender, and sexuality studies major. "I want to use what Barnard has taught me to improve our school," Popkin said.

Although the two candidates did not dwell on specific proposals, Hassine said she would like to draw from the WTF Columbia model by creating a website where students can voice their issues.

While Hassine stressed the importance of collaborative work, Popkin placed her emphasis on trust and community-building. "I don't want to be elected because of my previous contributions," Popkin said. "I want to be elected because the student body believes in me to represent them."

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KIMBERLY FLORES / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PREZ-BHATT | Siddhant Bhatt, SEAS '14, is running for president of ESC executive board with the PSet 150 party.

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The next CC senator

Columbia’s democratic deficit

BY DAVID FROOMKIN

Columbia College student government faces a legitimization crisis. Students have no confidence in their representatives. Last year’s Columbia College Student Council elections saw an exceptionally high turn-out of 39 percent for executive board and 37 percent for senate races—but this election benefited from a highly publicized executive board race. Even with this uplift, voting in downballot races was as low as 28 percent. This does not reflect a culture of participation.

The system is broken. CCSC is an insular club, with students on the outside. It’s no wonder that students feel disempowered and disengaged. Case in point: This year, there is no competition for the executive board or for any of the class council races.

Students’ ability to participate in setting University policy, via representation in the University Senate, was a result of the student protests of 1968, when the administration created the senate as a concession. Yet today, students’ interest in participating in University governance is at a stunning low. Students are largely uninformed about the issues, and they don’t believe that they can make a difference. Our culture of complacency reflects a democratic deficit in our institutions, not a moral defect in our students.

CCSC hasn’t had a competitive election in years. The insiders, selected by luck in the first month of freshman year, win again and again. This creates a democratic deficit not only in CCSC, but also in the senate. Senate candidates tend to be recruited from CCSC, and CCSC sometimes plays an even more direct role in the selection of senators. This year, due to the retirement of a Columbia College Senator who had one semester left in his term, CCSC was allowed to appoint a replacement to serve not only the remainder of his term, but also an additional year. This circumvention of the democratic process is worrisome.

CCSC insiders make a technocratic argument that they possess special expertise that makes them the most qualified candidates for Senate. This argument is antidemocratic. It suggests that the public should allow insiders to make decisions for them because of insiders’ assumed qualifications. This disempowers the student body and thwarts democracy.

Some argue that the senate needs a communications overhaul. I’m not a spin doctor. The solution is not simply to change how our representatives communicate with the student body. Nor is it simply to improve students’ ability to lobby their representatives. The issue goes far deeper than one



ILLUSTRATION BY RYAN VELING

of communication. Students must be able to participate in policy-making. Columbia College deserves direct democracy. And in the 21st century, this ideal is eminently achievable.

The senate is the most powerful policy-making body in the University, and there is important policy work to be done. The next CC senator should focus on fiscal transparency, core sustainability, student wellness, and protection for the marginalized. At the same time, however, we should not get distracted by minutiae when some of the issues confronting us are of such great magnitudes. The democratic deficit is the most significant issue confronting CC senators, and our next senator should make democratic accountability a chief priority.

Most importantly, the senate must conduct debate in the open. The largest barrier to accountability is the lack of transparency in senate deliberations. Senators are prohibited from discussing ongoing Senate proceedings, which occur behind closed doors. Until the senate is committed to openness, participatory democracy will be unachievable.

Additional reforms are necessary to repair the system, eliminate the democratic deficit, and end the legitimization crisis. CCSC should not handpick senators for arbitrary term lengths. The electoral process should be more open and well-publicized. And most importantly, the policy-making process should accommodate real student participation. These reforms deserve attention.

I’m running for senate to reform the system. I’ll be fighting for accountability and transparency. But I can’t do it alone. Change can’t happen from the inside; it requires a grassroots movement. Democracy only begins with voting. The health of our democracy depends on our commitment to it.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in history. He is a Spectator arts and entertainment writer.

David Froomkin and Jared Odessky, both CC ’15, are running to represent Columbia College in the University Senate. Below, they outline their campaign platforms and reasons for running. Voting is open Monday through Wednesday.

Connecting senate and students

BY JARED ODESSKY

On Friday, the University Senate met for its monthly plenary, prepared to cast a final vote on campus smoking policy after well over a year of debate. Failing to meet quorum, the senate was unable to vote on the resolution and was forced to kick the can farther down the road.

Friday’s meeting is indicative of two problems that have been plaguing the senate for some time: The legislative process is slow and encumbered, and the issues that dominate the Senate’s sphere do not address the main concerns of undergraduates on campus. The first problem is a more complicated fix and is largely due to the senate’s composition of faculty, administrators, and researchers, in addition to a minority of students. The second problem stems from priorities in need of change. As Senator, I would be uniquely qualified to navigate the Senate’s structure, using my knowledge of university operations and strong connection to undergraduate issues to best advocate for Columbia College students.

For the past two years, I have served on the Columbia College Student Council, first as the class of 2015 president and now as the vice president for communications. In these roles, I have had the opportunity to develop relationships with administrators from offices across campus and to work with other students to effect change. A strong network of communication is essential for senate policy work. Since plenary sessions are held only once a month, effective policy-making happens behind the scenes and relies on personal interactions. In addition to one-on-one meetings, the committee system is where the senate conducts most of its operations in a small-group format used to work out policies in specific areas of interest. Bomb-throwing does not work in a system that relies on coalition-building and cooperation, especially when students are in the minority. The unique structure and access of the Senate provides an unparalleled opportunity to work toward solutions, but it also means challenging administrative bodies without isolating them.

Using the committee system and the direct access of the senate to offices such as Columbia University Information Technology, the libraries, and monthly meetings with Dean Valentini, I will work to make the senate responsive to undergraduate students. Year after year, the Senate’s agenda is dominated by the same priorities, and little attention is devoted to the real issues undergraduates care about. For instance, this year, when CCSC took up the

cause to Save the Arts Initiative, the Senate remained largely silent. As senator, I would use my partnership with CCSC to bridge the divide between undergraduate bodies and the University. Transparency is also key, and I hope to work with the Senate to bring its website up to speed, increase its use of social media platforms, and engage in more on-the-ground outreach with constituents.

My policy priorities for next year include institutionalizing a space discussion, working with CUIT to develop useful technology for students, looking into the pricing policies of Public Safety, and opening up study areas on campus. I will also push for a review of Columbia’s fellowship preparation programs and work to ensure that the Columbia Global Centers are accessible to undergraduates. While I have put forth an expansive platform, my priority list will also be open to a changing undergraduate body. As vice president for communications, I launched What To Fix Columbia, a crowdsourcing website that aggregates and ranks student concerns. WTF Columbia has already been instrumental in working toward small-scale reforms in areas such as mail services and dining and has helped generate administrative interest in finding a solution for the unrepaired bricks of Pupin Plaza. However, many of the campus-wide issues on WTF Columbia fall under the purview of senate policy. In solving such issues, the senate can be a strategic partner of the councils instead of operating independently.

If elected, I would dedicate the next two years to making the Senate actually responsive to Columbia’s undergraduate voice. I can only do it with your support.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in history. He is the vice president for communications of Columbia College Student Council.



ILLUSTRATION BY RYAN VELING

Columbia’s cuisine crisis

“His mother invited you into her kitchen? Oh my goodness. You guys are practically married in her eyes.” My Moroccan friend was exaggerating the last bit, but not by as much as you’d think.

When I stood side-by-side with my French boyfriend’s Corsican mum, learning how to make paper-thin crêpes and trying not to burn the coq au vin, I immediately understood that allowing me to handle the food with her—this act of making it and then consuming it together—was her way of announcing her approval of my presence in her son’s life. My handmade scones, macarons, and the traditional Taiwanese mu-er dessert sitting on the dinner table testified to my appreciation of her approval, something our language barrier doesn’t allow me to communicate as eloquently.

Fortunately for me, she fit the mold of the French foodie, placing an emphasis on the enjoyment and creation of eatables—she comes from a culture that, after all, is the



YVONNE HSIAO
Happily Homeless

purveyor of haute cuisine. The Taiwanese and Chinese cultures in which I grew up look at food in the same way.

Coming to America, one of the biggest turn-offs that I encountered was the food culture. There’s the hypocritical health critic who analyzes food to the point of paranoia when his calorie counter app breaks down, the vegan who binges on pizza while claiming that she’s eating healthily, the girls trying to lose weight on Kashi GoLean bars, and the self-proclaimed food lover who just has money to blow. This is on top of long-standing problems such as oversized portions and fast food. However, worst of all, I see people assembling bits of processed supermarket fare saying that they know how to cook. Food doesn’t seem to be for the nourishment of the body or of the soul.

What I find most disturbing is that fast food is acceptable. I’ve seen fast food—in the form of KIND or Kashi energy bars or Ferris’ thawed chipotle wraps—be consumed without second thought, justified by the fact that people are “too busy” to eat properly and cook for themselves. Their fast-paced lives are rendering them incapable of taking care of their bodies because taking half an hour to wash fruit and roast vegetables is a waste of their time. I cooked Sunday night dinner today, and every dish was a flavor bomb—but none of them had meat as the dish’s protagonist, or canned soup or packaged dressings. Hence, I have to say that some American eating habits

confuse me, and I hope that it’s not a reflection of the culture. A habit of cooking and eating whatever I want, but from scratch and from local sources, was more healthful than I had realized, a fortunate byproduct of my Taiwanese and Chinese culture of which I became aware only once I came here.

Every Saturday for almost a decade, the six o’clock alarm would ring to wake me and my grandmother up for the village market. For all these years, I watched her gossip with vendors while measuring the transparency of one squid tentacle against another or squeezing bean curds to check for elasticity; market visits meant socialization, friendly competition for the freshest bok choy, and anticipation of meals that bring together family and friends. I have yet to see such familiar banter and interaction over ingredients, even in farmer’s markets, at Columbia. “Have you eaten?” is an appropriate greeting in my culture, because food is a medium of communication and an expression of love. This is why I find it incredible when some American students say that an acceptable dinner consists of a bottle of Barilla marinara sauce, a pot of boiling water, a packet of fettuccine, and (if they’re being really fancy) microwaved chicken breast.

Because of my upbringing, I see cooking, baking, and consuming food as integral parts of my life. Bearing the responsibility of feeding my family forced me to learn new cooking techniques to create nutrient-dense

yet tasty meals in 2009, when my father was diagnosed with colon cancer. Continuing to cook in college, I now see food as an outlet for creativity and a means to bond with flatmates and meet new friends. It’s not surprising, then, that for somebody who wrote her college essay on her daily morning ritual of baking bread, there’s a bit of disappointment at the appropriateness of frozen meals and pre-cut “baby” carrots.

Of course, not all of my compatriots base their identities off of food as much as I do. We do, though, have a good time bonding over our shared lack of good Asian food, much in the same way that we ironically watch “Mulan” or “Kung Fu Panda” just to point out what’s not Chinese about the animation. Authentic cuisine is something that breaks our hearts and mends them all at once, an experience I often share with any other international student. It’s generally agreed upon that the taste of home, or any imitation of it in various degrees of paleness, is something that cannot be manufactured precisely unless you really are home, whether you’re a Texan craving barbecue sauce made with dark molasses, an Indian longing for air-bubble-permeated naan, or a Taiwanese girl who just had a delicious beetroot sandwich, but still somehow has the lingering ghost of oyster omelets on her lips.

Yvonne Hsiao is a Columbia College first-year. Happily Homeless runs alternate Mondays.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Odessky for senate

With polls opening Monday morning, the Editorial Board endorses Jared Odessky to represent Columbia College in the University Senate. Odessky brings the right mix of experience, innovation, and dedication to the position. After interviewing him and his competitor, David Froomkin, we believe that he is more likely both to make the senate responsive to undergraduate concerns and to improve the relationship between the general student body and the senate.

Having served as vice president for communications for Columbia College Student Council this year, Odessky has a wealth of experience representing undergraduate

students and addressing undergraduate concerns in meaningful ways. Most notably, he spearheaded the establishment of What to Fix Columbia, a crowdsourcing website that provides a forum in which Columbia undergraduates can express their opinions regarding any sort of campus-related issue, thereby increasing dialogue between student leaders, the administration, and the student body.

Froomkin contends that student government insularity has led to a culture of disengagement among students, and he bills himself as an “anti-establishment” candidate who will rock the status quo and push the senate to address the issues most important to undergraduates. Indeed, when CCSC was looking to appoint a student to a vacated senate seat earlier this semester, we called on the council to choose an outsider to fill the position. But in this particular race, it is evident from the two candidates and their platforms that Odessky will make the better senator.

We want a senator who can hit the ground running, and Odessky’s familiarity with University policies and administrative maneuvering will serve him well in the senate.

Moreover, Odessky has demonstrated not only that he fully understands the role for which he is running, but also that he knows which goals are feasible and—perhaps more importantly—which are not. Specifically, we applaud Odessky for including in his platform the compilation and effective use of the data garnered from the Morningside Student Space Initiative, his advocacy for the fifth and sixth floors of Butler to be open 24 hours a day all semester, and a push for continued student involvement in planning for the endowment of the Core Curriculum. All of these are excellent projects in which the voice of an active senator, advocating for Columbia College students, could have a lasting and meaningful impact. And we know from Odessky’s time on CCSC that he has a

record of following through on the ambitious projects he initiates.

Froomkin’s platform, meanwhile, contains many sweeping goals that, while commendable, are unrealistic. We agree that eliminating “wasteful spending” on the part of the administration and releasing information about Columbia’s investments are good ideas, but we doubt that any senator has the capacity to accomplish them.

Above all, we want a senator who will increase communication and transparency, and Odessky has already proven himself willing and able to do so. In addition to these skills, Odessky also seems to have a sincere desire to serve the student body. All too often, elected positions go to those who simply desire to put one more line on a résumé, but Odessky is truly enthusiastic and creative. Should he be elected, we look forward to seeing what he will bring to the senate over the next two years.



JENNY PAYNE / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NO DICE | Senior Kacie Johnson led the Light Blue with five goals against Penn, but her strong effort wasn't enough for Columbia to record its first conference win of 2013.

CU loses to Penn, still winless in Ivy play

BY ROBERT MITCHELL
Spectator Staff Writer

Columbia lacrosse (2-9, 0-5 Ivy) suffered yet another setback against a strong Penn squad (6-4, 4-0 Ivy), falling 13-8 at home on Saturday.



The Lions demonstrated some strengths on the defensive side of the ball, particularly in the stellar play of freshman Colleen Packer. The goalkeeper made 10 of her 12 saves in the first half to keep the score low as Penn attempted 19 shots on goal to the Lions' 12. Despite her best efforts, the Light Blue entered halftime down 6-3,

thanks in no small part to Penn goalkeeper Lucy Ferguson's 10 stops on the day.

A bright spot for the Lions was senior Kacie Johnson, who looked as though she could single-handedly lead the Lions to victory. She finished up the day with five of Columbia's goals and assisted on two others to spur the offense on against a Penn team that entered the game tied for the lead in the Ivy League. Early in the second half, Johnson closed the score to 8-6 behind two goals and an assist.

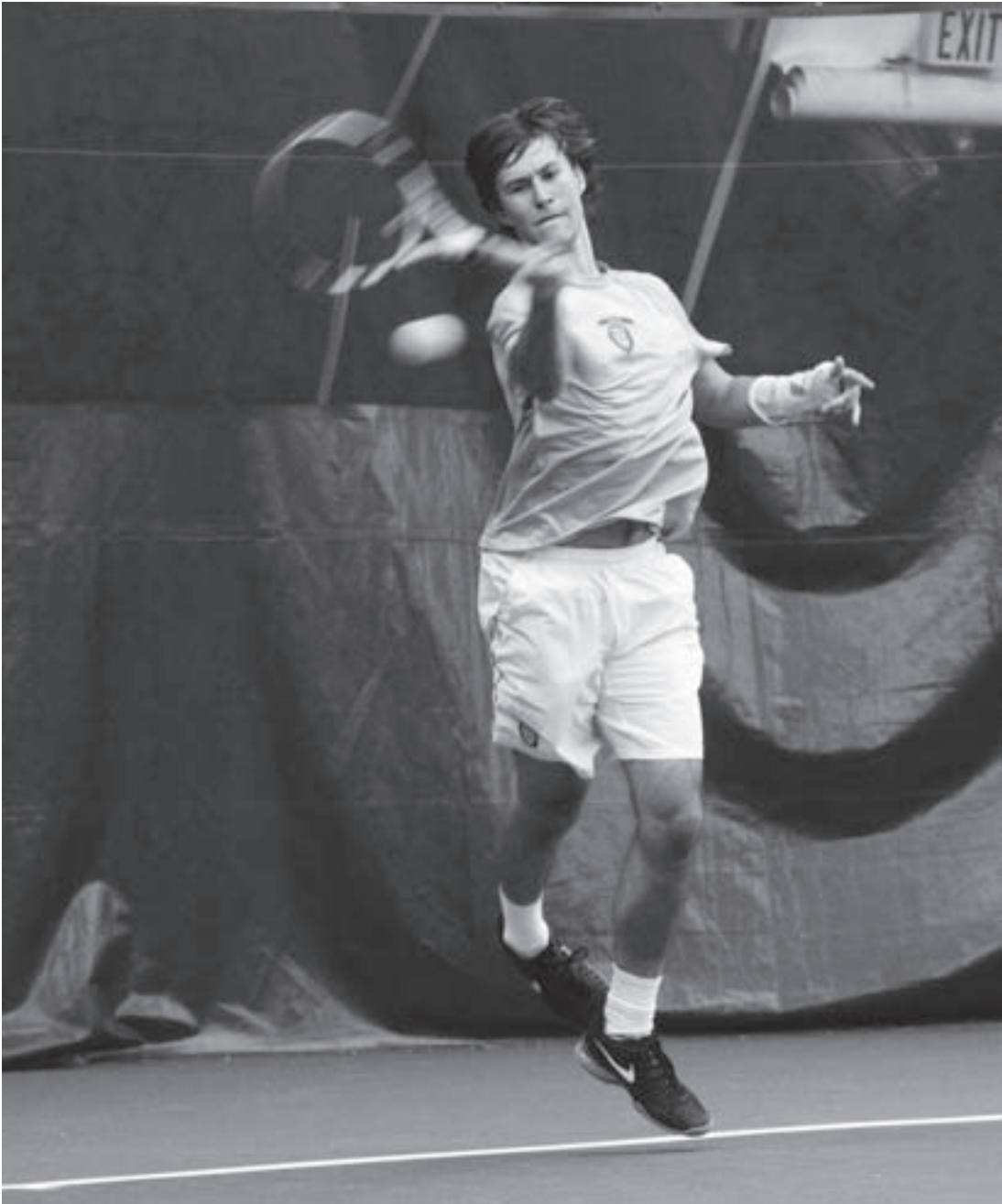
The Quakers rebounded quickly from the 3-1 Light Blue run, with Courtney Tomchik scoring the next two goals to pull away once more. Overall, Penn was able

to rely on its more diversified offense. Six players found themselves on the scoreboard, with Tomchik and two others notching hat tricks.

With only four games left in the season, the Light Blue must try to find ways to compete with elite teams. Defensively, Columbia kept pace throughout the match and performed much better in limiting runs. Nonetheless, unless multiple playmakers emerge consistently, it will be difficult putting up points and staying competitive.

The Lions next take the field against Yale on Saturday, playing the game at Oceanside High School on Long Island in support of victims of Hurricane Sandy.

sports@columbiaspectator.com



ALICE BREIDENBACH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BRUISIN' BERT | Sophomore Bert Vancura's strong performance in singles against Harvard was not enough to propel the Light Blue to victory in Cambridge.

Columbia falls to Harvard, Dartmouth

BY ALEXANDER BERNSTEIN
Spectator Staff Writer

Heading into the weekend, men's tennis was sitting on a strong 11-5 record, having beaten archrival Cornell, 4-3, to start off conference play the previous Saturday. Yet the No. 40 Lions could not continue the streak in Cambridge or Hanover, with No. 18 Harvard pulling off a 4-3 victory, and Dartmouth taking down the Lions 4-2.



Columbia (11-7, 1-2 Ivy) started off the weekend with its match at Harvard (14-4, 2-0). With doubles split—the Light Blue's sophomore Winston Lin and freshman Eric Rubin took the No. 3 match in a convincing 8-4 fashion, and Harvard's Andy Nguyen and Nicky Hu won their No. 2 match with the same exact score—the focus shifted to the No. 1 matchup. There, the Lions'

No. 36 sophomore duo of Ashok Narayana and Max Schnur fell 8-5 to No. 65 Casey MacMaster and Denis Nguyen, and the first point went to the Crimson.

Catalyzed by the early point, Harvard brought up its lead 2-0 Denis Nguyen dispatched Lin 6-1, 6-3 in the No. 1 singles match. Even so, as has often been the case this season, the Lions battled back, taking the No. 5 and No. 6 singles matches with strong performances by senior Nathaniel Gery and sophomore Bert Vancura. Gery's performance in the No. 5 match was especially memorable, as he battled back from a 4-6 loss in the first set to take the match in three.

With the score tied 2-2, Harvard was the next to draw blood as the Crimson's Alex Steinroeder bested Narayana 6-2, 6-4. But once again, Columbia answered back as freshman Dragos Ignat took the No. 2 match, winning both sets 7-5. Just as in doubles, everything came down to the final

match, with Schnur facing off against Andy Nguyen in the No. 4 position. Nguyen overcame a first-set deficit to take the match in three, winning 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Unfortunately for the Lions, the going got no easier on Sunday, as they fell to Dartmouth (9-9, 1-1). They got off to a rough start, losing the doubles point with Narayana and Schnur dropping their match and Lin and Rubin doing the same. Columbia could only manage victories from Lin and Narayana in the No. 1 and No. 3 singles matches. In the No. 2 spot, freshman Dragos Ignat dropped his first set 5-7, but won the second 6-3 to force a decisive third, which he ultimately lost 3-6. Rubin did not even get to finish his match with the Big Green's Brendan Tannenbaum, though the Light Blue freshman had won the first set 6-2.

The Lions will try to get back on track next week against Brown and Yale at home.

sports@columbiaspectator.com



KIERA WOOD / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WAY TOO COLD | Senior Nick Ferraresi helped lead the charge against Brown in Game 2 on Sunday with four hits, two runs, and an RBI in the Lions' 13-4 drubbing of the Bears.

CU now first in Lou Gehrig division

BASEBALL from back page

was stellar in relief, pitching 2.2 scoreless innings and striking out six Bulldogs in the 5-2 victory.

Senior righty Tim Giel picked up where Weisman left off, pitching a complete-game shut-out as Columbia topped Brown in Sunday's opener, 2-0.

Sophomore center fielder Jordan Serena notched both of the Lions' runs, scoring on a Falcone single in the top of the first and adding a solo home run in the top of the third in support of Giel.

Freshman righty Adam Cline, who struggled against Dartmouth last week, got the nod in the final game of the weekend. Cline lasted five innings and gave up three runs, striking out six and earning the victory in Game 2 at Brown on Sunday afternoon.

"He threw the ball well. I don't think last week really fazed him much at all," Boretti said. "He's got more starts to come, and one start doesn't dictate your whole season."

"He's very mature for being a freshman, that's for sure, and I think that helps him on the hill,"

Boretti added.

But the Lions' offense stole the show, scoring 13 runs off 19 hits, eight of which went for extra bases. Sophomore third baseman David Vandercook led the way with four RBIs off a homer and a triple, and six Lions had at least two hits apiece in the game.

The 13-4 victory brought the second week of conference play to a close.

"It was a successful weekend," Boretti said. "Now it's time to enjoy it and get ready for Tuesday."

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MICHAEL DISCENZA / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WHAT A DARLING | Sophomore Brooke Darling struggled in her first start of the weekend against Brown, but came back to strike out nine in a complete game win over Yale on Saturday.

Softball wins 3 of 4 in second Ivy weekend

BY NOAH STEBBINS
Columbia Daily Spectator

Coming off a split mid-week doubleheader with Farleigh Dickinson, Columbia softball (15-15, 4-4 Ivy) had a strong weekend against Yale and Brown, winning three of four on the road.



The Light Blue started the weekend with an impressive 12-1 victory at Brown. Freshman Nicole Borchard was the star at the plate, going four-for-four with a double and four RBIs. Freshmen Alyssa Swearingen and Macy Shrum each added a round-tripper, and they finished the game with five RBIs and four runs between them.

But the Lions couldn't

carry their success into Game 2. Brown took command from the start to come away with the 5-1 win. Sophomore Brooke Darling pitched all six innings, giving up five earned runs on six hits, but didn't match the Bears' Sarah Ropiak, who allowed only one run in seven innings. Swearingen scored the only run for the Light Blue in the loss.

This proved to be the only blot on the weekend's record, as the Lions won both contests against the Bulldogs on Saturday. In Game 1, junior Emily Caruthers and junior Morgan Cook sped across the plate for a narrow 2-1 victory. Caruthers successfully bunted her way on with a single to lead off the game, then stole second and scored on sophomore Alix Cook's single to right. Freshman Emily Kenyon pitched a stellar

complete game, giving up just one run on four hits.

In Game 2, the Lions scored in four innings en route to a 7-2 win. Darling, pitching her second game in two days, was much more successful this time around, striking out nine in the complete game effort.

Borchard, consistent with her season so far, has been a key player in these last few games. She leads the team with a .367 batting average and an impressive .510 slug percentage. Together, Borchard, Caruthers, junior Emily Snodgrass, and Alix Cook lead the pack with batting averages over .300.

The successful weekend has pulled the Lions up to .500. The Lions will be in action for a nonconference doubleheader against St. Peter's on Thursday. sports@columbiaspectator.com

MONDAY MORNING week 2 CLOSER

GAME BALL

BY THE NUMBERS

Series 1: Yale

The first game ball goes to sophomore Joey Falcone. With the Lions down 1-0 in the top of the seventh and final inning of Game 1, Falcone pinch-hit for left fielder Gus Craig and smacked a clutch home run over the right field fence to tie the game.

19 Number of Light Blue hits in Game 2 against Brown. Nick Ferraresi led Columbia with four in the 13-4 victory.

Series 2: Brown

The second game ball goes to senior righty Tim Giel. The starter pitched a stellar Game 1 against Brown on Sunday, tossing a complete game in the seven-inning contest, fanning six while allowing just five hits and no walks.

3 Strikeouts for three batters in order for Alex Black's save on Saturday at Yale.

1 Run surrendered by the bullpen in 7.2 innings of work over the weekend.

IVY STANDINGS

Lou Gehrig Division

	W	L	PCT
Columbia	6	2	.750
Cornell	5	3	.625
Penn	5	3	.625
Princeton	5	3	.625

Red Rolfe Division

	W	L	PCT
Dartmouth	4	4	.500
Yale	3	5	.375
Harvard	3	5	.375
Brown	1	7	.125

COLUMBIA IVY SCHEDULE

						
VS. HARVARD 3/30 W 5-0 W 3-2	VS. DARTMOUTH 3/31 L 3-2 L 7-4	AT YALE 4/6 W 2-1 W 5-2	AT BROWN 4/7 W 2-0 W 13-4	VS. CORNELL 4/13, 4/14 12 P.M. 3 P.M.	AT PRINCETON 4/20, 4/21 1 P.M. 4 P.M.	VS. PENN 4/26 AT PENN 4/27 1 P.M. 4 P.M.

CU picks up 15 top-5 finishes at Princeton

BY MELISSA CHEUNG
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The track and field squad dominated the Sam Howell Invitational this weekend at Princeton, notching 15 top-five finishes.

The women's team had 12 of its competitors finish in the top five of various races, showing great versatility and dominance across a wide range of events—specifically the sprints and the distance races.

Sophomore Madeline Rathbun and junior Danika Simonson finished in second and third place in the second division of the 1,500-meter run. Senior Mallory Anderson and junior Alexis Schustrom took fourth place in the 3,000-meter steeplechase and 3,000-meter

run, respectively.

In addition to these successes in distance races, the women also displayed prowess in the sprints, both on an individual and on a team level. The Lions took second place in the 4x100-meter relay. In the 200-meter dash, freshman Jaycee Parker and junior Marvellous Iheukwumere took third and fourth place. Parker also placed fourth in the 400-meter dash, with senior Sharay Hale right behind her in fifth place.

Senior Susan Rodriguez claimed third place in the 400-meter hurdles, and freshman Iris Chijioke had her own third-place finish in the 100-meter hurdles.

“My goal for this meet was—as for all my meets—was to feel my best and race my best,” Chijioke said.

On the men's side, there were three top-five finishes. The Light Blue 4x400-meter relay A

team—comprised of sophomores Kevin Boyd and Connor Claffin, freshman Yelnats Calvin, and junior Harrison McFann—took fifth place, while juniors John Gregorek and Joseph Kotran finished in first and fifth places, respectively, in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

With their first April weekend meet in the books, the Lions appear set to kick their outdoor seasons into high gear. But, according to Chijioke, it is still hard to say for sure where exactly the Columbia squads stand in comparison to the other elite teams so early on in the season.

“I'm not sure how indicative these few early meets will be as a predecessor to the rest of the season. There are always a multitude of factors that come into play,” Chijioke said. “It's still early to tell, but I hope that we continue to improve and perform better with each coming week.” sports@columbiaspectator.com



ALYSON GOULDEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NO PARKING, BABY | Freshman Jaycee Parker finished in third place in the 200-meter dash and fourth place in the 400-meter dash. Overall, the Lions had 15 top-five finishes at the meet.

SPORTS BRIEFLY

LIGHTWEIGHT ROWING

Columbia's lightweight rowers had strong showings in two separate performances on Saturday against Navy and Delaware. First, the Lions braved a windy morning on the Severn River against Navy with close victories for both the first and second varsity eight squads. Following the outing in Maryland, the team headed 200 miles and a few hours north to Overpeck Park for the day's second competition against Delaware. The Lions rose to the challenge, outperforming this more formidable opponent in the first and second varsity eights as well as the varsity fours. The Light Blue will hit the water again next weekend on Pennsylvania's Schuylkill River, where they will face off against Penn and Princeton in the Dodge Cup.

—Kyle Perrotti

HEAVYWEIGHT ROWING

Columbia heavyweight rowing headed to Lake Quinsigamond in Worcester, Mass., on Saturday and brought home the Alumni Cup for the fourth year in a row against MIT, Holy Cross, and Dartmouth. The opponents were stronger than any the Lions had seen this spring, leading them to row a series of close races. Despite less-than-desirable conditions, including a nasty tailwind, the Lions came out of the gates strong, winning the first, second, and third varsity eights to capture the win. Next weekend, the Lions return home to take on Penn and Princeton in the Childs Cup.

—Kyle Perrotti

MEN'S GOLF

The younger players paced the men's golf team to a seventh-place finish out of 13 teams at the Yale Spring Opener this weekend. Sophomore Brandon Jowers led the team with a fourth-place finish, scoring a 73 and a 71 for his two rounds on the par-70 course. Behind him, freshman Harrison Shih finished in seventh, scoring a 74 and a 72. But junior Andrew Kim, senior Ford Fischer, and senior Stephen LaRouere finished well out of the top 10. The Lions were 20 strokes behind winner Villanova, but only six strokes behind the third-place University of Hartford. The Light Blue next competes in the Princeton Invitational at the Springdale Golf Club from April 13 to 14.

—Eric Wong

WOMEN'S ROWING

Women's rowing had mixed results in a weekend of tough contests. On Saturday, in a touted matchup between No. 16 Columbia and No. 3 Princeton, the Lions fought valiantly but were unable to come out ahead in any of their races. The Light Blue struggled in the varsity eight, placing third behind both of Princeton's boats in the second race. In the varsity four, the all-freshman A boat kept Princeton on its toes, losing by just two seconds in the last stretch of the race. Despite the disappointing results against Princeton, the Lions fared much better on Sunday, winning two of their four races while hosting Dartmouth and Northeastern at the Woodbury Cup regatta. They came out on top in the varsity eight and the varsity four but finished second, slightly behind Dartmouth, in the second varsity eight and varsity four B. The Light Blue will be back in action on April 20 to face Bucknell.

—Rachel Turner

I support all Ivy League athletes

I was scrolling through Twitter one afternoon recently when I came across an interesting NHL note. One of the Tampa Bay Lightning’s beat writers had tweeted the team’s opening lineup. As usual, the Bolts were starting Steven Stamkos, easily the best pure goal-scorer in the game today, and 37-year-old Martin St. Louis, still one of the best playmakers around and a lock for the Hall of Fame when he retires. The other player on that line is normally Teddy Purcell, but the starting left wing that night was rookie Alex Killorn.

Normally, there’s nothing especially interesting when a rookie starts on a line with two of the game’s top players. Good forward lines are frequently built around star duos—Jonathan Toews and Marian Hossa, Alex Ovechkin and Nicklas Bäckström, Ryan Getzlaf and Corey Perry, Evgeni Malkin and James Neal—while the third member is rarely a mainstay.

What made Killorn stand out to me is that he graduated from Harvard—and just last year, too. (If we had a hockey team, we could have seen him play!) Even though I normally have a healthy dislike for any Harvard athletic success (though not as much as some of my classmates), I’m still happy when Ivies do well in a larger context.

As far as I’ve seen in professional sports fandom, this is largely a minority opinion. I’m pretty sure neither Yankees nor Red Sox fans are pleased by any success from their American League East Division rivals—rebuilt Toronto, upstart Baltimore, and “moneyballin’” Tampa Bay. Fans of rivals Pittsburgh and Philadelphia (I hope neither team ever wins another game, by the way) sure don’t like seeing the recent improvement of their Atlantic Division rivals—the two New York teams and last year’s Eastern Conference champ, New Jersey. Not being able to one-up a rival’s success indicates weakness... so expletive them.

The opposite perspective exists only in special circumstances—crappy divisions or crappy finances. In the former case, you’ll find fans of NHL teams in the soon-to-be-defunct Southeast Division able to root for fellow “Southleast” teams in the playoffs. And, in the latter case, it doesn’t really seem like it’s kosher to root against low-budget teams in any major sport—even if they’re good, like the St. Louis Blues or the aforementioned Rays.

For me, the Ivy League falls under the former case. I gather the same sentiment exists in other mid-major conferences—see Florida Gulf Coast University’s March Madness run. People who get into Princeton or Penn for undergrad could probably just as easily have come here. They’re all decently (to extremely) smart people who are dedicated enough to both school and sports to come play in this conference, where a) they won’t get a full ride to play, and b) it’s harder to get good grades (well... I guess that’s debatable, Harvard).

In marquee sports, Ivy teams can’t even approach professional-caliber play. So when I’m watching lower-level sports, I try to focus more on individuals than on, say, systems. Because Ivy sports exist in a “mediocre athletic conference” niche—for many sports, at least—I’m just as excited to see Cornell’s Daniel Haber add to his country-leading goal pace in men’s soccer as I am seeing our own Nick Scott score a pretty goal. Again, I’m sure he could have come here, too, but instead he chose Cornell.

Somewhere in the multiverse, these major-sport Ivy stars are Lions instead of Bears or Bulldogs. Outside of games involving Columbia, it’s hard for me not to root for their success. Many pixels have been used to illustrate how a student’s choice of college doesn’t define them, and it’s not going to define how I see them either.

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MUNEEB ALAM

Picked Apart

Columbia notches weekend sweep over Yale, Brown



KIERA WOOD / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MR. CLUTCH | Joey Falcone crossed home a couple of times over the weekend, hitting a key homer in Game 1 against Yale.

Two key victories take CU tennis to the top

BY IKE CLEMENTE KITMAN
Spectator Staff Writer

Over the weekend, the women’s tennis squad (10-4, 3-0 Ivy), ranked No. 56 in the country, swept its Ancient Eight competition with home victories over Harvard and Dartmouth. Having won eight of their last 10 matches, the Lions are now tied with Yale for first place in the conference.

On Friday afternoon, the Light Blue held off the Crimson’s late rally to sink

Harvard 4-3. Columbia took an early 3-0 lead by winning the doubles point and the first and third singles matches. The Crimson tied the score at 3-3 with three consecutive victories in fourth, fifth, and sixth singles. But junior Bianca Sanon ensured the win for the Light Blue with her 6-2, 4-6, 7-6(4) tiebreaker victory over Harvard’s Amy He in second singles.

The next day, the Lions blanked Dartmouth 7-0, refusing to give the Big Green any chance to come back. The Light Blue opened Saturday’s contest by earning the doubles point with victories in second and third doubles.

Notably, the Columbia duo of senior Nicole Bartnik and sophomore Crystal Leung pounded the Big Green’s Sarah Bessen and Melissa Matsouka 8-0 in second doubles. Then in singles, Bartnik, Sanon, freshman Kanika Vaidya, senior Katarina Kovacevic, and junior Ioana Alecsiu all earned quick, decisive victories in only two sets, with Vaidya blanking Matsouka, 6-0, 6-0.

Next weekend, the Light Blue will head to Providence for a face-off against Brown, followed by a first-place showdown in New Haven with Yale.

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JENNY PAYNE / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DYNAMIC DUO | Senior Nicole Bartnik and sophomore Crystal Leung graciously shake hands after soundly defeating their Dartmouth opponents. The Lions are now tied with Yale for first place in the conference.

BY ELI SCHULTZ
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

This weekend, the baseball team posted a four-game sweep in conference play for the first time since the 2008 season.

COLUMBIA	2	5
YALE	1	2

COLUMBIA	2	13
BROWN	0	4

Columbia (13-15, 6-2 Ivy) started things off by winning both games of its Saturday doubleheader with Yale (6-18, 3-5 Ivy) before earning a pair of victories over Brown (3-19, 1-7 Ivy) on Sunday in Providence. The Lions benefited from good pitching all weekend long and had a strong enough offense to vault them to the top of the Lou Gehrig Division only two weekends into the season.

Junior lefty David Speer set the tone in Game 1 against the Bulldogs, pitching six innings of one-run ball while striking out five.

“He battled out of some trouble on Saturday,” Lions head coach Brett Boretti said. “Probably—for him—didn’t have his best stuff, but still found a way to get out of jams and make it possible for us to sneak a couple runs late to win the game.”

Despite Speer’s performance on the mound, the Lions trailed 1-0 most of the way. But in the top of the seventh and final inning, as sophomore outfielder Joey Falcone hit a clutch pinch-hit home run to put Columbia on the board and even the score at 1-1. Two batters later, senior left fielder Eric Williams hit a double to plate junior catcher Mike Fischer and give the Light Blue a 2-1 edge.

Senior righty Alex Black came on to relieve Speer in the bottom of the frame and struck out the side in order to earn the save and seal the Columbia victory.

“Coming back in that first one really set the tone for the rest of the weekend,” Boretti said. “I think guys picked up a lot of confidence there, and it rolled right into Game 2.”

The Lions led all the way during the nightcap in New Haven, scoring a run in each of the first three innings. Junior righty Joey Donino had a solid outing, giving up two runs in six 1-3 innings, and sophomore lefty Mike Weisman

SEE BASEBALL, page 6

SCOREBOARD



BASEBALL	
Columbia	2
Yale	1
Columbia	5
Yale	1



BASEBALL	
Columbia	2
Brown	0
Columbia	13
Brown	4



SOFTBALL	
Columbia	12
Brown	1
Columbia	1
Brown	5



SOFTBALL	
Columbia	2
Yale	1
Columbia	7
Yale	2



MEN’S TENNIS	
Columbia	3
Harvard	4



MEN’S TENNIS	
Columbia	2
Dartmouth	4



WOMEN’S TENNIS	
Harvard	3
Columbia	4



WOMEN’S TENNIS	
Dartmouth	0
Columbia	7



LACROSSE	
Penn	13
Columbia	8