



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

EVALUATING EVALUATIONS | Senators Alex Frouman, CC '12, Sara Snedeker, BC '12, and Ryan Turner, a graduate SEAS student, spoke in favor of a senate proposal that would make public student course evaluations at a town hall on Wednesday.

Students, faculty clash on open course evaluations

BY MARGARET MATTES
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Students and faculty sparred over a University Senate proposal that would recommend the publication of student course evaluations at a town hall meeting on Wednesday.

Students from within the senate and outside spoke in favor of the proposal, but several students and most faculty members opposed it, believing that the publication of course

evaluations could threaten the school's academic environment.

Under a system of open evaluations, students would have access to some qualitative and quantitative feedback from their peers. The senators' hope is that the information will be integrated into the course directory. Currently, the evaluations are read only by relevant faculty members, including the professor and the department chair.

"Open course evaluations could create an atmosphere of

pandering, surveillance, that could undermine responsible teaching," School of the Arts professor Bette Gordon said. "Professors' reputations and careers are on the line."

Gordon and anthropology professor Marilyn Ivy offered introductory critiques of the proposal after it was presented by three of the student senators who wrote the original report on the topic. The proposed policy was first introduced to the full senate at the March 30 plenary.

Open course evaluations would only enhance the system, since students would know that their opinions were being heard, said Ryan Turner, a graduate student in SEAS and co-chair of the Student Affairs Committee subcommittee on course evaluations.

"It's really an issue of maximizing the value of our education," he said. "We think that the information obtained from

SEE SENATE, page 3

City hears opinions on storefront rezoning

BY GINA LEE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Upper West Side is sharply divided over a rezoning proposal designed to protect small businesses' storefronts as the debate advances through the city bureaucracy, reaching a public city planning hearing on Wednesday.

At a four-hour hearing of the New York City Planning Commission, locals weighed in on the proposal, which was passed nearly unanimously last month by Community Board 7.

If passed, the rezoning will limit storefronts along sections of Columbus and Amsterdam avenues to 40 feet and bank storefronts along Columbus, Amsterdam, and Broadway to 25 feet in order to preserve the small-business feel that has historically characterized the Upper West Side.

The proposal has garnered the support of a half-dozen local politicians, but many landlords and real estate agents took issue with what they have characterized as unnecessary and potentially harmful regulation.

"This proposed zoning is both simple and flexible," City Council member Gale Brewer, who, as the Upper West Side representative, has been a leading proponent of the proposal, said at the hearing, held before city planning votes in June.

SEE REZONING, page 3

First-years to take required academic honesty workshop

BY JEREMY BUDD
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Administrators will place a greater emphasis on academic integrity next fall, requiring first-year students to take a workshop that will lay out plagiarism guidelines and offer advice to succeeding academically.

Groups of about 30 students will meet with Hazel May, associate dean of academic affairs, and Jeri Henry, senior assistant dean of judicial affairs and community standards, to discuss academic integrity, the transition from high school to college, and the services that advisers and librarians are able to offer students.

May said that the setup of the Core Curriculum in part sparked the move to ensure students maintain academic integrity. With as many as 60 sections of Literature Humanities and Contemporary Civilization, many students take the same course yet feel that academic integrity policies are not communicated in the same way across sections.

Beyond questions about plagiarism and citation, the workshops will also focus on how college is different from high school, May said. "We're conceiving it at this point as a broader workshop to enable students to understand the opportunities and responsibilities as a college student at large."

She recently generated a guide for students about academic honesty that is now available on the Columbia College website.

"That's really what we want to be the focus—academic

integrity," Henry said. "It's going to be a collaborative effort and we're seeing ways that we can help students fill in the gaps and create this educational opportunity."

The administrators said the creation of the workshops was not in response to any particular incident, but part of a longer-term effort by the Office of Academic Affairs to help students produce their best work.

"That's been a constant thread for us," she said. "We want to set up our students for success."

Six Columbia College Student Council members, led by Vice President for Policy Ryan Cho, CC '13, and Academic Affairs Representative Bruno Mendes, CC '14 and a Spectator finance deputy, are studying academic integrity policies at peer schools to determine how to mitigate cheating at Columbia. They are working independent of the Office of Academic Affairs.

Columbia College does not release the number of reported incidents of academic dishonesty, though in March 2011 Literature Humanities Chair Christia Mercer emailed first-years that several students had been caught cheating on a Lit Hum midterm. At the time, Mercer said she was working with then-Columbia College Dean Michele Moody-Adams to formulate a clearer policy for defining academic dishonesty to students.

Kathryn Yatrakis, dean of academic affairs, said that it is possible for students to be

SEE HONESTY, page 2

Vargas talks immigration, border control

BY ALESSANDRA POBLADOR
Columbia Daily Spectator

Urging his audience to rethink what defines the modern American, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas discussed solutions to immigration problems at the Columbia Law School Tuesday.

Vargas was at the height of his career last June when he wrote in an essay in the New York Times Magazine announcing that he was an undocumented immigrant.

The "21st-century underground railroad" of supporters for today's undocumented immigrants brings the issue of immigration closer to home than many realize, he said.

"When you think and talk about illegal immigration, you only think about people like me," Vargas, a Filipino, said. "But if every undocumented person in this country has about four or five people supporting them, you're now talking about 66, 67 million people."

He is also the founder of Define American, an organization that aims to "bring new voices into the immigration conversation," according to its website.

In his talk, hosted by Barnard's Forum on Migration and Columbia's Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, Vargas showed a video from the organization, which told the story of Julia Dupperrault, a student from Pitzer College. "When I found out that my best friend was an undocumented immigrant, I realized that this was an issue that affects people in all of our lives," Dupperrault said in the video.

"If you're under the age of 30,

Students oppose B'way Room changes

130 sign petition against plan to turn Lerner space into lounge

BY LILLIAN CHEN
Spectator Staff Writer

Student leaders raised serious concerns about a plan to turn Lerner Hall's Broadway Room into a student lounge and discussed alternative space options on Wednesday.

Earlier in the semester, the Student Space Initiative—a group of students dedicated to setting aside more communal areas for students—developed a proposal to put glass doors in the Lerner Piano Lounge, make the Broadway Room a non-reversible space, add a kitchen, and refurnish both areas.

But at a town hall meeting, representatives of various campus organizations objected to the reconfiguration of the room, which is frequently booked by dance, theater, and musical groups.

The Activities Board at Columbia has been circulating a petition against the conversion of the room. As of Wednesday evening, it had garnered nearly 130 signatures, representing groups under the Student Government Association, the InterGreek Council, ABC, Club Sports, and the Student Governing Board.

The clash is notable because both sides say they are trying to improve student life on campus by supporting student interaction through clubs or more hangout space.

Victoria Pollack, BC '12 and co-president of the Columbia University Performing Arts League, said that dance groups

can't afford to lose practice space like the Broadway Room, saying they already try to take advantage of space in Dodge Fitness Center and within the Barnard dance department.

"As far as usable dance spaces, they're stretched fairly thin," she said. "All of the dance studios pretty much between the hours of 9 a.m. and midnight are used. They just really don't have the means to be any more flexible than they already are."

Alex Donnelly, CC '14 and president of the Columbia University Wind Ensemble, agreed, saying that changing the Broadway Room without a suitable replacement "would just be the last straw for an already strained, if not broken, system." The wind ensemble, he said, has few options for practice space aside from the Broadway Room.

However, organizers of the Student Space Initiative said that nothing would move forward until all groups are appeased.

"There are a lot of people that are worried that the Broadway space will be taken away before everyone has had their needs taken care of," Logan Donovan, SEAS '13 and an organizer of the initiative, said. "Everyone has to be taken care of and be happy with their situation before we do any reconstruction."

Barry Weinberg, CC '12 and another organizer, agreed.

SEE SPACE, page 3



ANA BAUTISTA FOR SPECTATOR

I HAVE A DREAM ACT | Writer Jose Antonio Vargas discussed illegal immigration at the Columbia Law School on Tuesday night.

A&E, PAGE 6

Countdown to Bacchanal

The Bacchanal committee and faculty organizers explain the process that goes into making April 14 a day to look 'back' on.



OPINION, PAGE 4

Ego sum

Leo Schwartz encourages us to channel our egos.

Race and income

Andrew Godinich argues that Columbia's pursuit of diversity is flawed.

SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Club lacrosse rebuilds, finds success

The men's club lacrosse team had to start from the ground up in 2005, and now stands as one of the top teams in its conference.

EVENTS

Activism in Columbia College

The kickoff event of Columbia College Days will reflect on the school's history and include a free dinner and student presentations.
Faculty Room, Low Library, 7 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



63°/43°

Tomorrow



68°/48°

ABC elects representatives, recognizes 7 new groups

BY LILLIAN CHEN
Spectator Staff Writer

The Activities Board at Columbia elected representatives for next year's board and recognized seven student groups on Tuesday and Wednesday.

ABC approved two student publications—the fashion magazine Hoot and the sex magazine The Morningside After—as funded groups. It also recognized Columbia New Poetry, the InterPublications Alliance, Korean pop dance group CU Generation, Columbia University Financial Engineering, and Global China Connection as unfunded groups.

The activities board—which oversees cultural, performance, and special-interest groups and publications—received nearly three times the usual number of applications for group recognition this semester. Of the 14 groups that applied, ABC voted against recognizing five and is still reviewing two applications.

“We received a record number of applications,” Ben Xue, CC ’14 and current chair of the new group recognition committee, said. “It really floored us ... almost every application was received in the last four hours of the deadline.”

Xue said that when groups gain recognition, funding is not usually a major issue, thanks to several other funding avenues, including the Arts Initiative's Gatsby Fund and Columbia College Student Council joint co-sponsorships.

ABC's New Group Recognition board chose not to recognize several groups that were still quite new, he said at the town hall.

“The NGR board felt that they could benefit from another semester, especially because a lot of them hatched the idea in the beginning of the year,” Xue said.

Groups that have been approved by ABC also need to be approved by the Office of Student Development and Activities before they can start programming. ABC has worked this semester



DOUGLAS KESSEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

IN THE CLUB | Saketh Kalathur, CC ’13 and president-elect of the Activities Board at Columbia, announced the recognition of seven new clubs under the governing board at its meeting on Tuesday.

to simplify that additional process, which has taken up to three months in the past.

“SDA is now initiating their process earlier,” outgoing president Daniel Brown, CC ’12, said after the town hall. “As groups are approved, they are immediately sent over to SDA so that hopefully their process will move faster and they can start programming.”

Voting also took place at the town hall for next year's ABC representatives. Fifteen students ran for 13 positions.

Current representatives Elizabeth Angeles, CC ’13, Ryan Cho, CC ’13, Nikhil Krishnan, CC ’14, Tony Lee, CC ’15, ChiChi Udochi, CC ’13, Justin Yang, CC ’13, and Xue were re-elected for next year. The board's current secretary, Christine Byun, CC

’14, will return next year as a representative.

They will be joined by Nikita Bhasin, CC ’15, Hamza Khan, CC ’14, Andrew Ren, CC ’15, Mirabel Rouze, CC ’14, and Jason Tejada, CC ’13.

At last week's board meeting, Saketh Kalathur, CC ’13, and Julian Richardson, CC ’14, were elected ABC president and vice president, respectively.

On Tuesday, Richardson, the current representative for dance groups, discussed a petition that ABC has been working on against changes being pushed for by the Student Space Initiative. Those changes would involve the conversion of Lerner Hall's Broadway Room, where many dance groups practice, into more of a student lounge area. [See story, page 1.]

“I've gotten a lot of feedback

from groups and we've found that many of them don't want the change to happen,” he said.

As of Wednesday night, the petition had about 130 signatures from student leaders, representing more than 60 ABC, Student Governing Board, and Greek life groups.

Kalathur said that the petition is a good example of “how we can all come together and get things done at this school using our collective ability.”

Many representatives stressed the importance of communication in their speeches at the town hall. Khan said he wants to digitize clubs' financial records, and Yang said he wants to utilize ABC's Facebook page more effectively.

lillian.chen
@columbiaspectator.com

Vargas: ‘You know somebody undocumented’

VARGAS from front page

Vargas said that the influence of “Dreamers”—proponents of the 2011 DREAM Act, which would grant permanent residency to some illegal immigrants who arrived in the United States as minors—has been helped by the power of new technologies.

“The narratives we told each other in America have long been narratives into which not everyone could fit in,” he said. “But now, thanks to these tools, we are hearing stories that were never heard before.”

Vargas said that these developments have helped reflect the changing demography of America today.

He spoke with particular disappointment about President Obama's deportation of 3 million undocumented immigrants as “a mark that he's not going to

be able to explain and justify.” “It's not just about politics, it's about the lives of people,” he said.

Migration will be one of the key issues of the globalized world in the 21st century, Vargas said, and the conversations must evolve.

“If we can't talk about immigration without saying ‘crossing the border,’ we are barely scratching the surface,” he said. “When they say I crossed the border, well, my border was the Pacific Ocean.”

Immigration will never be shut out by tougher border restrictions, Vargas said.

“Have human beings ever built a border that could beat and defeat human will?” he asked. “The big question that the Western world needs to ask is, why are people moving?”

news@columbiaspectator.com

Academic advice workshop to be required of first-years

HONESTY from front page

confused about policies that may differ between professors, citing the possibility of collaboration between students as a nebulous example.

“I think it helps both on the student and faculty side so we're all on the same page,” Henry said. “We can initiate those conversations across the board.”

High school senior Courtland Thomas, who was accepted to Columbia College in March, said that, while he was hesitant about making the workshops mandatory, he thought they were an excellent idea.

Because different teachers' academic policies vary, he said, “I try to stay strictly with the teacher because I want to know what they expect.”

While the workshops will be offered to only Columbia College students in the fall, Yatrakis said she hopes to see similar seminars in the Schools of Engineering and Applied Science and General Studies.

“There will be close collaboration with other colleagues, especially within the Center for Student Advising,” Yatrakis said. “It would be wonderful if we could arm our advisers with the information that we will be giving students.”

“If the ultimate goal is to equip our students with the resources and understanding of how to find resources to do their best work, then we want to be sure that this is our best work,” May said. “It is absolutely crucial that this is our best work.”

jeremy.budd
@columbiaspectator.com

Semester by the Sea at Stony Brook Southampton

Two unique undergraduate residential programs for Fall 2012



THE OCEAN

Immerse yourself in marine studies as you explore Long Island's bays, estuaries, salt marshes, beaches and open ocean in this full-semester program at one of the nation's premier oceanographic institutes.

Offered by Stony Brook's School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, it ranks sixth among U.S. graduate programs in marine and atmospheric sciences by the National Research Council.

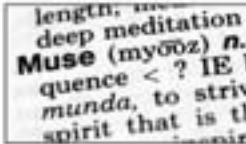
HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

You will work side by side with Stony Brook University's world-renowned faculty on our research vessels and in our waterfront lab facilities, and you can earn up to 15 credits.

WALK TO THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

Take advantage of the unique campus location on the shores of Shinnecock Bay for direct access to the Atlantic Ocean and nearby marine and coastal habitats.

Program runs August 27 to December 14



THE ARTS

Free your muse this fall in our “study abroad” college arts program right in the heart of the Hamptons. Got a great idea for a play? Itching to make a movie?

In 10 weeks you will write, stage and perform a play or write, shoot and edit a film — all while earning 15 college credits. You will work closely with top-notch creative writing, theater and film faculty of Southampton Arts.

GREAT GEAR, GREAT CAMPUS

Filmmakers, you will be trained with state-of-the-art equipment. Playwrights, you will stage your work in the 400-seat Avram Theater. Throughout your 10 weeks you will work in small groups, with plenty of personal attention.

GREAT LOCATION

The cultural legacy of the Hamptons is rich with noted playwrights and filmmakers, from Tennessee Williams to Steven Spielberg.

Program runs September 11 to November 18

Registration begins April 9, 2012

To register or for more information visit www.stonybrook.edu/sea



STONY BROOK
SOUTHAMPTON
State University of New York



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SPACE WARS | Logan Donovan, SEAS '13, writes down ideas about renovating space in Lerner.

Student lounge change meets opposition

SPACE from front page

“Nothing will be done in the Broadway Room until additional or greater space is opened up to the satisfaction of the users of the Broadway Room.”

Donnelly said that he would want to set up a trial run of new spaces to ensure that they were adequate substitutes for the Broadway Room.

“It’s the same issue with the Black Box—yes, another one opened up, but they’re still backed up,” he said, referring to the fact that despite the opening of a black box in the Diana Center, most groups still try to book the one in Lerner.

Pollack said that some musical groups under CUPAL have thousands of dollars of equipment that cannot leave Lerner. Thus, this new space that would functionally replace the Broadway Room would need to be located in Lerner or draw groups that don’t need to be in Lerner away from booking space there.

“Every year, there are about 400 reservations of the

Broadway Room. A vast majority of them are not by performance groups,” Saketh Kalathur, CC ’13 and president-elect of ABC, said. “We want to make sure nothing is finalized until a solid, definite plan for that is presented.”

At ABC’s board meeting Wednesday night, Kalathur and current ABC president Daniel Brown, CC ’12, expressed concerns that a suitable replacement space would be hard to find.

“Giving up space is giving up space. The only way they could be truly equitable is if they open up an entirely new space,” Brown said. He added that “space in Lerner is inherently more valuable than any other space because anyone can go there,” while Barnard and General Studies students cannot swipe into residence halls.

Few attendees objected to the Piano Lounge renovation, and Donovan said that it could be possible to do construction in two phases, beginning with the Piano Lounge, while discussions over the Broadway

Room continued.

Yanyi Luo, CC ’13, vice president-elect for student life for Columbia College Student Council and an organizer of the initiative, stressed that the creation of more student lounge space on campus would bring students closer together.

“I don’t feel like we have a place like the steps in the winter time,” she said. “That’s kind of the reason why creating the student space would be good for the community.”

Weinberg said that the idea behind the initiative was broad, and that student space in Lerner was just a starting point.

“There’s almost no institutionalized way for student feedback on space to reach administrators who control space. It sort of drives home the fact that there needs to be a more comprehensive look at space at Columbia,” he said. “Students should have more control over the space they interact with on a day-to-day basis.”

lillian.chen
@columbiaspectator.com

Senate takes input on open evaluations

SENATE from front page

course evaluations really goes a long way towards helping students pick the right classes and making the most of their very precious and limited time here at Columbia. It’s not an issue of students versus faculty.”

Despite this mentality, faculty members who voiced opinions during the discussion were nearly unanimous in opposition to the policy as it currently stands.

Anthropology professor Rosalind Morris claimed that unintentional gender and racial bias have been scientifically proven to affect personal evaluations and would unfairly influence the reviews of female and minority faculty members.

Morris also said that it is unfair to protect the anonymity of the student responders, while holding faculty members accountable for their performance. “If you want to participate in this world as adults ... you must be willing to stand by what you say. There really is not

transparency without accountability,” she said.

Jacob Andreas, SEAS ’12, called the discussion of attaching a student’s name to their review “dangerous.”

“This suggestion ... presupposes a symmetry between the situation that the faculty member is in and the situation that the student is in—and that is just not the case,” he said. “The consequences of identifying a student are much, much more serious.”

If names were attached to the reviews, he said, students would not contribute because the reviews could “poison” their experiences at Columbia.

Opponents also pointed to confusion around removing an evaluation. According to Gordon, the current description does not grant the faculty member in question enough autonomy in the removal of a specific comment.

In addition, allowing graduate student instructors to opt in to the open feedback system could stigmatize those who choose not

to participate, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dean Carlos Alonso said.

According to Sara Snedeker, BC ’12 and co-chair of the Student Affairs Committee subcommittee on course evaluations, those who attended the town hall were not necessarily representative of the entire student and faculty bodies. She said that she and other student senators have reached out to many senators, including members of the Faculty Affairs Committee, the Education Committee, the Libraries Committee, and the Executive Committee, and have received at least some support from all of them.

An edited proposal will be reintroduced at the last plenary of the year on April 27, and Snedeker hopes it will be voted on then. “There have been lots of opportunities to discuss this,” she said. “It’s time for a vote.”

Yasmin Gagne contributed reporting.

margaret.mattes
@columbiaspectator.com



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

GETTING FEEDBACK | Anthropology professor Marilyn Ivy (top) spoke against a senate proposal publicizing course evaluations, whereas student senators (below) are for it.

West Side split over storefront proposal

REZONING from front page

“This proposal will ensure the look and feel of the Upper West Side for the future.”

Brewer presented the commissioners with a letter of testimony signed by 76 small businesses, emphasizing that the proposed zoning would support a balance between large and small businesses, not rid the neighborhood of the larger retail stores all together.

When one of the commissioners pointed out that 93 percent of the storefronts are already in accordance with the proposed rezoning, Brewer responded that the rezoning would prevent that percentage from dropping in the future, which could put the Upper West Side small business culture at risk.

“We’re not asking anyone to move, all we’re saying is we need some balance,” Brewer said.

Opponents of the proposal said that the economy dictates the types of businesses in demand and that the rezoning would add an extra layer of unwanted bureaucracy.

“There’s really no need for this proposal,” Michael Slattery, senior vice president of the Real Estate Board of New York, said, adding that the streetscapes “transform in response to the market.”

Representatives from the Columbus Avenue Business Improvement District, which covers the stretch of Columbus

from 67th to 82nd streets, also submitted a letter of testimony against the rezoning to the commissioners.

“Quite simply, these new restrictions will harm our businesses because they will seriously impair our abilities to negotiate with our landlords and inhibit our attempts to expand and grow,” the letter stated. “By putting this rezoning in place, you will hurt the small businesses that this regulation is intended to protect, and in the case of Columbus Avenue, it is already protected by the fact that it is entirely within the Historic District and subject to those rules.”

Council member Melissa Mark-Viverito, whose district includes Manhattan Valley, said she recognized the concerns but did not see “any real standing in them.”

“This, I believe, is a forward-looking restriction that ensures that we have that vibrancy of streetscape,” Mark Diller, chair of CB7, which represents the Upper West Side, said. “People will want to walk down our blocks.”

Representatives for Helen Rosenthal, a former CB7 chair running for Brewer’s City Council seat; Council member Inez Dickens; Manhattan Borough president Scott Stringer; and Assembly member Danny O’Donnell all testified in favor of the proposal on behalf of the officials.

Mel Wymore, a former chair of CB7 and another candidate for Brewer’s seat, called the large retail stores an “invasive species” that has the disrupted the balance of large and small businesses on the Upper West Side.

“We’re right at the point where the pendulum has swung a little bit too far,” Wymore said. “We’ve become victims of our own success.”

One Upper West Side resident, Alexander Medwedew, who said he is “not paid by anybody,” independently organized a petition that gained 300 signatures from other locals. He said that the balance has been self-maintained in the neighborhood.

“We don’t need the zoning,” he said. “A lot of people like the big businesses.”

While he respected that the proposal’s proponents have been “well-organized” and have received support from elected officials, he said he believed most of the public does not recognize storefront zoning as an issue.

“Many don’t care. There’s no reason to hate them [big businesses]. They’re just businesses,” Medwedew said. “Small businesses have problems, and this doesn’t help them.”

If passed by the Commission by June 5, the proposal will go through to the City Council, who will then make the final vote.

gina.lee@columbiaspectator.com



Sober Housing
in the heart of Tribeca

NOW OPEN

Hazelden's Tribeca Twelve Collegiate Recovery Residence

A great new peer community for students committed to recovery and academic success

Live in a beautifully renovated historic building with built-in recovery support



Call Today
877-429-5088
hazelden.org/tribeca



A partnership of Hazelden and Columbia Psychiatry





The 136th year of publication
Independent since 1962

CORPORATE BOARD

SARAH DARVILLE
Editor in Chief

MAGGIE ALDEN
Managing Editor

ALEX SMYK
Publisher

MANAGING BOARD

SAMMY ROTH
Campus News Editor

FINN VIGELAND
City News Editor

ANDREA GARCÍA-VARGAS
Editorial Page Editor

LANBO ZHANG
Editorial Page Editor

ABBY MITCHELL
Arts & Entertainment Editor

REBEKA COHAN
Sports Editor

JEREMIAH SHARF
Sports Editor

JUSTINE HOPE
Multimedia Editor

STEPHEN SNOWDER
Spectrum Editor

ASHTON COOPER
The Eye, Editor in Chief

CATHI CHOI
The Eye, Art Director

ANNELIESE COOPER
The Eye, Managing Editor, Features

MEREDITH FOSTER
The Eye, Managing Editor, Optics

ABIGAIL FISCH
Head Copy Editor

ZARA CASTANYA
Photo Editor

MAYA FEGAN
Design Editor

ISAAC WHITE
Design Editor

JAKE DAVIDSON
Online Editor

TALA AKHAVAN
Staff Director

REX MACAYLO
Sales Director

DANIELA QUINTANILLA
Finance Director

ROB FRECH
Alumni Director

DEPUTY BOARD

News Editors
Jeremy Budd, Yasmin Gagne, Ben

Glitterson, Jillian Kamagagi, Gina

Lee, Margaret Mattes, Casey Tolan

Opinion Editor
Grace Bickers

Arts & Entertainment Editors
Joseph Pomp, Katy Tong

Sports Editors
Trevor Cohen, Myles Simmons

Multimedia Editor
Naomi Cohen

Copy Editor
Emily Sorensen

Photo Editors
Hannah Choi, Ayelet Pearl, Kate

Scarborough, Henry Willson

Photo Training Deputy
David Brann

Graphic Design Editor
Yuma Shinohara

Sales
Wes Rodriguez, Ethan Yee

Finance
Marilyn He, Noah Kolatch,

Jiaqi Liu, Bruno Mendes, Kinno

Norojono

Alumni
Audrey Greene, Amanda Kane,

Kristine Musademba

ASSOCIATE BOARD

News Editors
Melissa von Mayrhauser, Emily

Neil, Jessica Stallone, Henry Willson

Editorial Page Editors
Rae Binstock, Luke Foster, Jessica

Geiger, Joolynn Lee, Sonalee Xau,

Allen Seltzer

Arts & Entertainment Editors
Jade Bonacolta, Allie Carieri, Stefan

Countryman, Alison Herman,

Charlotte Murtishaw, Lesley Thulin

Sports Editors
Muneeb Alam, Hahn Chang,

Melissa Cheung, Steven Lau, Alison

Macke, Mia Park, Eli Schultz, Josh

Shenkar, Eric Wong

Copy Editors
Abby Abrams, Laura Allen, Peter

Andrews, Natan Belchikov, Augusta

Harris, Megan Kallstrom, Hannah

Leymon, Rukmini Mahurkar,

Natalia Remis, Alexandra Salerno,

Andrea Shang, Ben Sheng

Photo Editors
Maria Balsinde, Chabbi Bravo,

Douglas Kessel, Kevin Roark, Lucy

Suarez

Page Design Editors
Chancellor Agard-Wilson, Lillian

Chen, Andrew Demas, Diana Ding,

Sarah Greenberg, Regie Mauricio

Graphic Design Editors
Celine Gordon, Kay Lodge, Sinijhn

Smith

Illustrations Editor
Rumao Yang

Staff Development
Youjiang Jun, Algerim Soudabeyeva

Sales
Shaun Ang, Erin Chuah, Nora Long,

Rebecca Pottash, Jessica Skoczylas

Finance
Emily Aronson, Andrea Bonilla, Dat

Dang, Jesse Garrett, Alex Ge, James

Horne, Frankie Lam, Kevin Zhang

Alumni
Marquerite Horikawa, Maren

Killackey, Rukmini Mahurkar,

Danielle Ng, Moriah Schervone,

Malina Welman, Diarra White,

Wenxin Yan

EDITORIAL BOARD

Hannah D'Apice, Richard Falk-

Wallace, Simon Jerome, Marcela

Johnson, Leo Schwartz, Robin

Simpson-McKay, Virgilio Urbina

Lazardi

WEDNESDAY NIGHT STAFF

Copy

Stephanie Balakrishnan, Sebastian

Hendra, Marcela Johnson, Nidale

Zouhir

Design

Karen Nan, Ryan Veling

CONTACT US

2875 Broadway, 3rd Floor

New York, NY 10025

info@columbiaspectator.com

Twitter: @CU-Spectator

PHONE & FAX

Daily Spectator (212) 854-9549

Business (212) 854-9550

Business Fax (212) 854-9553

EDITORIAL POLICY

For more information about

the Columbia Daily Specta-

tor and editorial policies,

visit www.columbiaspectator.com/about.

CORRECTIONS

The Columbia Daily

Spectator is committed to

fair and accurate reporting.

If you know of an error,

please inform us at copy@columbiaspectator.com.

COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

For general comments or

questions about the

newspaper, please write to

the editor in chief and

managing editor at editor@columbiaspectator.com.

Cartography lessons

BY GAVIN MCGOWN

I got my start in gender-identity activism when someone asked me if I wanted to help her scout around Columbia and Barnard for bathrooms. “Excuse me?” I nearly asked. I learned that she and some other friends were trying to map all the restrooms on campus, looking in particular for gender-neutral facilities, elusive as they are. My confusion faded into concern when I learned that Lerner, Butler, and Hamilton—the trifecta of Columbia buildings where, as a first-year, I practically lived—all lacked even a single gender-neutral restroom, despite multiple floors, labyrinthine structures, and supposedly competent architects. And then my concern became personal: If I wore a dress and heels to class one day, what would I do? Using a men’s or women’s restroom—which would be less of a risk? Neither seemed safe.

So we mapped. We mapped for students, faculty, and staff. We mapped for ourselves and anyone else who needs to use a gender-neutral restroom on a regular basis. We mapped the campus, nearly in its entirety. Our efforts are now publicly accessible.

Some might applaud us for the effort but object to our use of it, thinking that there are surely fancier and more interesting ways to spend our time and your student life fees than focusing on basic bodily functions. A quick mental jaunt in someone else’s stilettos might help. Trans* people (the star is a fill-in-the-blank) in New York and around the country routinely face harassment, threats, and demands to produce IDs in order to prove that they “really” are the gender that they present—just for using a restroom. The Sylvia Rivera Law Project, a community organization providing legal services to low-income trans* and queer people of color, reports that trans* people can suffer a host of medical conditions, including cystitis, bladder and kidney infections, and kidney stones, in addition to the stress, anxiety, and emotional harm from the harassment, actual or potential, associated with what should be such a simple and stress-free act.

We shouldn’t think that Columbia is immune to this kind of behavior and the problems associated with it. The fact that buildings built as recently as Lerner, the Diana Center, and the Northwest Corner Building have not one gender-neutral restroom among them shows both the pervasiveness of the assumption that all people at Columbia will be comfortable with using a sex-segregated facility—and blatant ignorance of the concerns of students who aren’t.

The public release of the map coincided with the end of Women’s History Month at Columbia, which brings me to my second point. Several efforts, most recently in Maryland, to enshrine trans* rights in law have stumbled across one and the same obstacle: conservative groups like Focus on the Family have attacked these bills for insufficiently protecting the safety of women by allowing “men” to use women’s restrooms. Never mind that this argument brutally erases the identity of trans* people and particularly transsexual women—the argument is based on a concern for women’s safety in the very facilities that are the site of so many violations of safety for trans* people, including trans* women. As feminists, as gender-identity activists, and—hopefully—as both, the extent to which groups like Focus on the Family can drive a wedge between two historically marginalized communities by emphasizing the safety of one at the expense of the safety of another should startle us.

As we reflect on varieties of feminism and the movements associated with it, we should also take the time to notice where those movements can become more inclusive and ally themselves with other movements of similar concerns. A restrictive and normative feminism will define the category and concerns of women so as to exclude trans* people from consideration within it. An inclusive feminism, by contrast, will celebrate the safety of trans* people as intimately connected with the safety of women. Within a Columbia context, the Gender-Neutral Restroom map should be seen as a step forward for all people, women and trans* persons included, whose safety has ever been threatened in what should be a private and personal space.

The author is a Columbia College junior majoring in classics and ϕilosophy, and is the co-chair of GendeRevolution.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I recently read Sravan Bhamidipati’s letter to the editor (April 3) concerning the use of the term “feminist.” He defended a reluctance to define or apply “feminist” as a label. I find it rather distressing that such a term is up for debate. A cursory glance at a dictionary reveals a quite satisfactory definition of feminism: “The advocacy of women’s rights on the grounds of political, social, and economic equality to men,” a definition which is almost verbatim repeated across a variety of sources. Why then would Sravan imply that such a definition is “futile”? This one-line definition seems to instantly inform Sravan’s hypothetical “uninformed man” precisely what feminism means. “Feminism” doesn’t have competing definitions like “liberal,” nor is it fuzzily-defined like “stupidity.” On linguistic characteristics alone, there seems to be no reason to be reluctant to use the term “feminist.”

Sravan compares the term “feminist” to “leftist,” pointing out how “leftist” is ambiguous and fuzzy. A more apt comparison would be to the term “socialist,” in how the stigmatization of words can force the muddling of language. The only reason one would be shy of confirming or denying a well-defined label is if there were some stigma attached to it (barring some objection to the principle of labels themselves). Sravan suggests the use of the term “general equality” in place of “feminism,” but if a perfectly clear term like “feminism” can be deemed unfit for use due to political forces, what makes us think that whatever term is adopted to replace it (e.g. “general equality”) will not undergo the same transformation? Why should anyone abandon a term that has worked well for over one hundred years and step on the euphemism treadmill?

I find it disturbing that politically motivated characterizations of what feminism consists of are in competition with the definition of feminism. I hope that anyone who is reluctant to use the term “feminist” as it is defined realizes that such a sentiment is not neutral, but is in fact the manifestation of a political force. If you want to abandon the term “feminist,” first admit that it’s because you’re conceding to a stigmatization, not because the term is inherently difficult to use.

Jeremy Salwen, CC ’14

Skin-deep diversity

“Diversity” must be the buzzword of the month. Some recent examples: A case pending before the Supreme Court on affirmative action, an announcement of new a faculty hiring initiative, and Spec op-eds galore (cue meta-moment of self-awareness). If I had a shot for every time I heard the words “burden,” “privilege,” “accumulation of advantages” tossed around this week, I’d have a great drinking game. Nothing gets people riled up (or generates site traffic) like a good old-fashioned online comment war on affirmative action.

Don’t get me wrong: I think diversity is a fantastic thing, and something that Columbia should foster. But is the diversity that we are promoting “true” diversity? We have expanded undergraduate minority representation to a level that would be shocking 30 years ago. We represent one of the most diverse colleges in the United States. However, the socioeconomic diversity of Columbia did not increase accordingly—in fact, the number of Columbians who belong to the highest levels of American wage-earners has increased even more dramatically.

Diversity, particularly in college admissions, has become a proxy for “race” narrowly defined: black, Asian, Hispanic, white. Race is a necessary but not all-encompassing component of diversity. As the average net worth of the families of admitted students has skyrocketed over the years, can we really claim to be creating true diversity? If our goal is to create an environment marked by varied backgrounds and experiences, then concentrating Columbia degrees in the hands of the most well-off seems like a poor way of achieving this goal. It’s difficult to believe that the almost 50 percent of Columbians who don’t qualify for financial aid can truly claim to be representative of a “cross-section” of the American experience. Is the experience of the elite really so different across racial lines? If diversity is truly valued, a greater emphasis should be placed on true differences of experience, reaching out further to students of more modest means.

It is wrong to believe that by simply mirroring national racial statistics, diversity can be achieved. As long as the student body continues to be overwhelmingly represented by such a narrow slice of the American population, campus diversity will remain skin-deep. The racial diversity that we have achieved—and continue to pursue—is



ANDREW GODINICH

Too Be Frank

a limited substitute for the more democratic vision that could be achieved by encouraging socioeconomic diversity, a term whose meaning transcends color and race. However, they are by no means unrelated.

Compounding the problem is an admissions system that celebrates the “holistic student.” On the surface, this sounds fantastic. More “interesting” students, students who have qualities and experiences beyond the classroom, are understandably more desirable to colleges. Instead of encouraging diversity, however, this system has institutionalized the built-in advantages of wealthy students. Students of “means” can (and attend schools that can) afford to purchase “experiences,” paying their way to becoming more interesting people. The college application about “the time I worked 30 hours a week at Wendy’s” doesn’t have quite the same ring as “the time I discovered poverty in Uganda on vacay and made a documentary film about it.” This inherently discriminatory practice serves to stymie campus diversity. Students who cannot afford these “enriching” experiences are unable to get in, and the diversity of their perspectives never make it past the admissions committee.

It is a fool’s errand to pretend that Columbia is anything other than a place of privilege. Top students pay top dollar to attend a top school. But by admitting a class that is 13 percent black (the same proportion as the general population), are we solving a problem? Or simply masking the fact that Columbia is increasingly the exclusive domain of the wealthy?

I can recall a 16-year-old me struggling to explain the Common Application to a high school counselor who couldn’t have found New York on a map. For us, the Ivy League was a far-off place filled with Vanderbilts and private planes. I was lucky—I had teachers who were able to give me the support I needed to navigate a needlessly confusing and infinitely terrifying application process. But for many of my fellow students at my minority, low-earning high school, the college process would never be demystified. This is partly a function of a poorly performing bureaucracy at a poorly performing school. But I wonder why Columbia and other elite colleges couldn’t be bothered to recruit at schools like mine, where students of color, particularly poorer students of color, are concentrated. It is the next evolution of thinking about diversity—beyond the “racial rainbow,” to a legitimate variety of perspectives.

Andrew Godinich is a Columbia College junior majoring in sociology and Portuguese studies. He is the Latin America and Caribbean affairs correspondent for the Columbia Political Review. Too Be Frank runs alternate Thursdays.

Self-realization

Ego is a powerful force. Ego is what drives us, what fuels us, and what motivates us. Ego is what assures us that we are special enough to apply for an absurdly competitive fellowship, to submit a piece of writing or artwork for an oversaturated competition, or to run for a leadership position against dozens of equally qualified candidates. We are living in an increasingly competitive world in which opportunities are growing increasingly scarce. To achieve anything these days, we have to work harder, face more rejection, and have more determination than ever before. Having the confidence to face near-impossible odds can be the difference in fighting for our future, and sometimes we need external motivation to find that confidence.

“If you ask me, the first thing to change is the endless declaration of just how special we are,” wrote columnist and former editor in chief Samuel E. Roth (“Incoming and outgoing,” April 4). At what point does positive reinforcement overly inflate our egos, creating arrogance, self-importance, and a lack of concern for others? I would argue it’s when positive reinforcement happens in the wrong context. When we are given constant encouragement and assurance of our limitless potential but at the same time force-fed someone else’s idea of success, our culture becomes toxic.

To go on only the briefest of Marxist rants, alienation is one of the most debilitating forces in society. When we do not have control over our actions or the character of our actions, we lose determination of our lives. At the very core, we lose the freedom to reach our own means of self-realization. We came to Columbia as idealists, still viewing the University with complete awe, and confident of our own limitless potential. We are then fed through the Columbia culture meat grinder—we are taught to not pursue goals close to our hearts, but goals close to our wallets and close to power. We are ingrained with pragmatism. We fight for internships that do not interest us but serve as stepping stones for careers that interest us even less, and we take classes for the credit and for the grades and not for the knowledge. We allow ourselves to be programmed with artificial parameters of success, a telos that solely equates to making unnecessary amounts of money.

I may be coming off as a naive idealist, but to some degree I believe in our limitless potential. We will not all become Nobel Prize-winning scientists, world leaders, and universally renowned artists and writers, but the



LEO SCHWARTZ

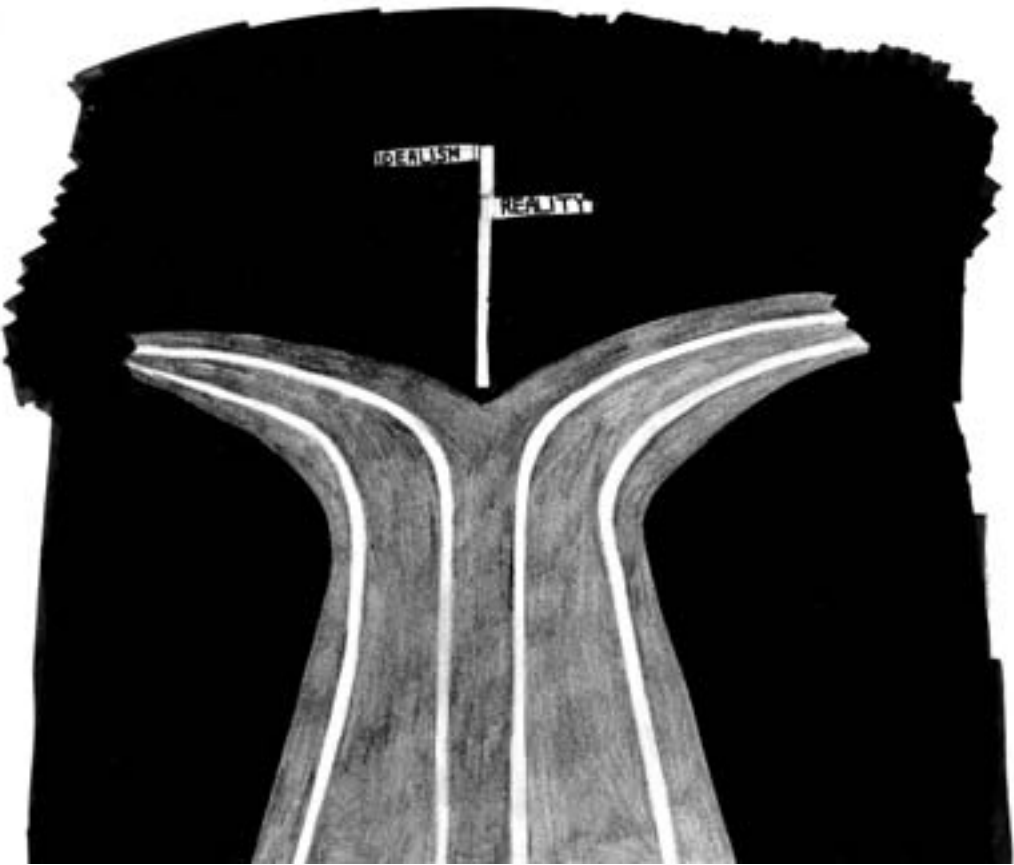
Rationalizing the Irrational

point is that our goals don’t have to be so grandiose. Our sole goal, as cliché as it may be, should be to achieve happiness in whatever capacity brings us closer to each of our personal, individual ideas of self-realization. I don’t necessarily mean going to live in a Buddhist monastery for 10 years (although if that floats your boat, all the power to you), but I mean making more decisions based on personal fulfillment rather than on what looks good on a résumé. I completely agree that sometimes we need to make concessions and sometimes we need to sacrifice our idealism for reality, but that doesn’t always need to come at the price of an internship at Goldman Sachs (although again, if you really love finance and not just the idea of making money, then I am certainly behind you). I see my friends and colleagues endlessly stress and compete for internships and positions that they think they have to have and not ones they actually want to have. I am guilty of doing the same. If we retain just a sliver of idealism and individualism, we can reach our own personal potential.

I disagree with Sam that our culture goes toxic when our egos are overinflated. It goes toxic when our egos are misdirected. Our egos turn into monsters used to pursue ends that we don’t actually want to pursue, and we grow stressed, depressed, misguided, and unsure. We slowly corrode at board positions that we hate, countless hours spent studying subjects we are not passionate about, and the pursuit of post-college lives that we know won’t be entirely fulfilling. We grow arrogant and self-absorbed to suppress our insecurities and uncertainties. We become alienated.

When we use our undeniable exceptionalism to set the determinism of our own lives rather than to rely on the path set by others, we will become happier, better people. Still, as blogger Sam Klug wrote in a recent Spectrum post (“The limit does exist,” April 8), “the world is not shaped to our every whim and will.” We live not in our own reality, but in the reality set for us. That does not mean we have to completely settle for others’ ideals of success. We will undoubtedly face crushing disappointment and missed opportunities. That does not mean we have to face each of them with self-doubt and pessimism. When we are told we are special, we are not necessarily filled with false positivity, but instead with motivation and confidence. The next step is to take our exceptionality with humility, to treat others with respect, and to never sacrifice our own ideals. When we use our (healthy) egos to escape our own alienation, we will come that much closer to reconnecting with, as Sam puts it, our essential humanity.

Leo Schwartz is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in political science and Latin American studies. He sits on Spectator’s editorial board. Rationalizing the Irrational runs alternate Thursdays.



ILANA SCHULDER

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

Acclaimed scholar frames honor for a University audience in new Philo event

BY LESLEY THULIN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The lofty themes of Lit Hum were reiterated in a recent lecture on honor delivered by distinguished scholar Anthony Kwame Appiah Wednesday night.

Appiah framed the lecture with a theory of honor as a force that gives someone a right to respect. According to Appiah, one's honor is always dependent on a social identity, and codes of honor determine how one should behave as a function of this identity.

"To be honorable is to be committed to doing what is worthy of respect according to the honor code," Appiah said. He then developed an interdisciplinary discussion of honor that included ideas from thinkers such as Horace, Kang Yu Wei, and J. M. Coetzee.

As the Laurance S. Rockefeller University Professor of Philosophy at Princeton, addressed the notion of honor as a force for ethical changes in social practices, such as Chinese foot-binding and dueling in England, in "The Honor Code: How Moral Revolutions Happen." The recipient of a National Humanities Medal, Appiah has published on race, ethics, and African intellectual history.

"I was hoping that we might have clever things to say about interesting subjects—not just something to say, but something to talk about," the program's organizer Gavin McGown, CC '13, said.

McGown proposed his idea for the event to the Philolexian Society—the "oldest collegiate literary society in America"—last spring, when he served as the group's moderator.

"When my term started as moderator I went at it [organizing the lecture] with gusto," McGown said. "I started moving a lot of our programming towards more hard-core literary society and less absurdist debate human-chess-style stuff, which we also did."

The Office of the University Chaplain and the Philolexian Society hosted the lecture in the Held Auditorium.

The Philolexian Society holds weekly debates. Its previous resolutions have included

"Mo' money, mo' problems," "We would all be better off naked," "Abortion is gay," "Carmen San Diego would be a good role model for young girls." The society also hosts annual events such as the Alfred Joyce Kilmer Bad Poetry Contest, Beat Night, an evening of extemporaneous poetry readings that culminates in a recitation of "Howl" on Low Steps.

"I think it's really about making intellectualism accessible," current moderator Jason Kruta, CC '12, said.

McGown agreed. "We're not stiff-necked. We have been described by some of our companions at other universities as the merriest literary society of all."

"To be honorable is to be committed to doing what is worthy of respect."

—Anthony Kwame Appiah,
Princeton professor

But the Philolexian Society is not all farce, according to McGown. It publishes "Surgam" (which translates to "I shall rise" in Latin), a "mostly serious" literary magazine that features prose, poetry, and art by undergraduates at the University, three times a year. The Society also hosts colloquia with faculty members and several professor teas per semester. Past teas have featured Barnard First Year Class Dean Lisa Hollibaugh and James R. Barker Associate Professor of Contemporary Civilization Matthew Jones.

"With this [Appiah's lecture], I thought it would be really interesting for us to approach some of the issues that we argue about on Thursday nights from the substantive perspective," McGown said. "So it's kind of finding other ways to make richer our special brand of wit and merriment."

arts@columbiaspectator.com



CAROL KIM / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BACCH IN BUSINESS | This year's Bacchanal returns to the steps—but is planning for a streamlined day by coordinating with different departments at Columbia.

Bacchanal comes bacch around

BY MIKE THOMAS
Columbia Daily Spectator

It's T-minus two days from one of the biggest events in the Columbia calendar. The next few days are sure to be hectic: Stage building commences at 2 p.m. Thursday and is scheduled to be completed by 6 p.m., yet there remains a plethora of other tasks, from placing speakers to holding sound checks, to be taken care of before Baccha90s begins on Saturday, according to organizer Geneva Miller, CC '13.

In terms of on-campus help, Bacchanal members credited many people with helping pull the minutiae together.

As always, coordinating a concert of this scale is a team effort. Rodney Mirabal, assistant manager at University Events Management, explained that UEM reserves the space, while Public Safety ensures the security of the artists and attendees. At the same time, Columbia Facilities is in charge of "staff and additional furnishings that might be needed."

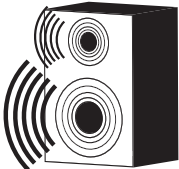
By and large, the Bacchanal committee is trying to get back to its old operation this year. The concert will be held on Low Steps again, which—luckily for students—means that they will not have to face multiple gates barring the lawn or need to have their hand stamped to get into the concert.

"Public Safety will be on site, but the concert will look and function the way it did two years ago," Bacchanal president Dan Weinstein, CC '13, said. "Last year's venue change presented unanticipated constraints, but by returning to Low Plaza we've been able to avoid any of the issues faced last year."

Aside from crowd control, Weinstein and his peers see aesthetic reasons to bring Bacchanal back on the steps.

"It's a theater that already exists on campus," Weinstein said. "The acoustics are great, there's ample space for a crowd, and Alma Mater provides a perfect spot for the sound board."

Surf-punk trio Waves, New Orleans rapper Curren\$, and jazz-electronica headliner Big Gigantic will arrive on campus this Saturday morning as the setup is taking place. However, fans hoping for a glimpse of the acts may be disappointed. Miller said, "We can't release artist arrival times for



BACCHANAL 2012

obvious reasons—our job is to get them into their hospitality rooms with as little fuss as possible."

But this year, headliners aren't the only attraction. The committee teamed up with Live at Lerner and Postscript under the umbrella moniker "Symposium." The week long festival launched at lunchtime Monday, and will conclude with Postscript's FolkFest on Sunday, showcasing seven folk acts starting at 3 p.m. in Van Am Quad.

"The aim of this year's Bacchanal was to create a weeklong festival across the whole campus and not just a one-stage event," said co-chair and visuals editor for the Eye Joe Gorton, CC '14.

Responding to the "Baccha90s" naysayers who question how this year's bill resembles the theme, Gorton pointed out added that they will be screening the Looney Tunes flick "Space Jam" on Ancel Plaza on April 20.

"It's a theater that already exists on campus. The acoustics are great ... and Alma Mater provides a perfect spot for the sound board."

—Dan Weinstein, *Bacchanal president*

Several members of the committee maintained that Bacchanal themes never bear over talent booking—there was not a Han Solo set ahead of ChewBacchanal '10, and hopes of Oasis re-forming for "Don't Look Back in Anger" were perhaps unrealistic.

The committee remains confident in its decisions, if a bit jittery about the upcoming preparations.

"I think it's fair to say that we're all naturally a little nervous for Saturday. We've been planning Bacchanal for most of the school year, and we can't wait to see our creation," Miller said. "So far, operations are running smoothly, and we anticipate nothing but an amazing, lively Bacchanal."

arts@columbiaspectator.com



HANNAH MONTROYA / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TAKING A SIDE | A lecture with scholar Anthony Kwame Appiah was a new direction for the Philolexian Society, which holds weekly debates.

Author Leigh Stein takes on the post-grad dilemma in 'The Fallback Plan'

BY OLIVIA LU
Spectator Staff Writer

Many Columbia seniors will be able to relate to the problem described in the first novel by Brooklyn author Leigh Stein, who will be holding a reading next week in Butler Library.

"The Fallback Plan" delves into the classic post-graduation nightmare. Esther Kohler moves back home to the Chicago suburbs after graduating from Northwestern to indulge in a freewheeling lifestyle that entails relaxing on the couch and rereading children's books with no long-term plans at her parents' behest. Struggling with depression, Esther considers her role as a slacker a welcome alternative to "suffering the rancid fate of a nomadic couchsurfer."

As a directionless character who never fails to confront the daily hijinks and unpleasant truths of her babysitting job with a snarky wit, Esther has struck a chord in many readers. "I think a lot of people are relating to Esther because Esther is in this kind of limbo between her adult life and her childhood," Stein said in an interview. Inspired by the melancholy afflicting many jobless recent college graduates, "The Fallback Plan" is in part Stein's reassuring response.

"I think a lot of people work really hard and they're really ambitious and go to good schools and get good grades and then when they finish, there's this kind of lethargy and unhappiness that you can't find work right away, and I think that's totally normal and it shouldn't be something that you should be ashamed of," Stein said.

Beginning her writing career as a poet—amongst a series of other jobs such as being a New Yorker staffer, drama teacher, and actress—Stein considers the completion of "The Fallback Plan" as her induction into being a "real writer."

"I just wanted to write a longer work and it's actually really enjoyable, I find, to spend so much time with characters that you like," Stein said.

Writing the book at the age of 22, the same age as Esther, Stein gave Esther a personal touch,



COUCH SURFING | Leigh Stein's main character Ester is a relatable character for some Columbia students, as a recent college grad with nowhere to go.

incorporating her nostalgia for childhood freedoms as well as her past struggle with depression. Drawing from her experience of the difficulty of expressing the pain of depression, Stein highlights Esther's mental escapism.

"Esther is having a hard time with [depression]

and fantasizes about being disabled," Stein said. "She wants people to know how bad she feels on the inside, but she's unable to express that."

Because of the broad relevance of Esther's character, Stein insisted on preserving a diverse audience by avoiding any stereotypical chick-lit covers.

"Chick-lit is like this ghetto that excludes male readers—it's just for women ... I wanted to resist being classified so early in my career," Stein said.

The reading and Q&A with Stein will take place in Butler 203 on Tuesday, April 17 at 5:30 p.m.

arts@columbiaspectator.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF HATTIE STEIN

Tennis alumnus represents Hong Kong in Davis Cup, wins match against Sri Lanka

BY STEVEN LAU
Spectator Staff Writer

Kevin Kung, CC '11, arrives at his of- fice in Hong Kong, where he works as a full-time trader at an investment bank, by 7 a.m. every weekday. He usually does not leave until 8 p.m. A former member of the Lions' tennis team, Kung barely has time to devote to anything else.

But over the last month, Kung worked out and practiced tennis al- most daily to prove that he was good enough to represent his home coun- try, Hong Kong, on the international stage—earning one of four spots on Hong Kong's roster for the Davis Cup, the premier international men's team tennis competition.

“There were a lot of reservations to putting me on the team because I work a full time job and its got crazy hours, and they weren't sure if I could be fully committed,” Kung said.

Once he had demonstrated his tal- ent and dedication, Kung was not just added to the roster. He was given the opportunity to play the last match in Hong Kong's round against Sri Lanka on Sunday, a match he won 7-5, 6-3.

In the Davis Cup, when two coun- tries go head-to-head, there are five matches—one doubles match and four singles matches—and the winner is the first to win three.

When Kung took the court in Hong Kong's Victoria Park on Sunday af- ternoon, Sri Lanka had already won three of the four previous matches, so his match would have no effect on the round's outcome. But Kung still felt the high pressure caused by the inter- national stage.

“The last time I played a real match in front of a crowd was who knows how long ago—it must have been in college,” he said. “I was so nervous.”

In the first set, those nerves got the better of Kung, as he quickly fell behind one break to his opponent, Sri Lanka's Dineshkanthan Thangarajah.

But in the middle of the set, Kung



FILE PHOTO

KING KUNG | Kevin Kung, CC '11, earned a Davis Cup spot for Hong Kong and defeated his Sri Lankan opponent in his first match, despite having a full time job as a banker.

took a moment to realize the unique opportunity that was slipping through his fingers.

“Davis Cup is supposed to be for full- time professionals who don't do any- thing else except play tennis, and I'm not going to commit to that,” Kung said. “I just thought to myself, ‘I might never ever get a chance to be on this team again.’ So I told myself to go for shots, to enjoy the crowd, enjoy the match, enjoy

representing my country.”

Down 5-4 while his opponent had a set point, Kung turned up his level of play and went on to win the next three games and take the set. After that, Kung was untouchable. For the first time in his life, he was confident in his serving, a feeling that carried him through the second set, which he won 6-3 to take the match for Hong Kong.

Soon after his victory, Kung called

Light Blue head coach Bid Goswami, who was a member of India's Davis Cup squad from 1974-1975.

“I was very happy for Kevin because he was very excited to represent his country,” Goswami said. “To be a mem- ber of a Davis Cup team is a great honor.”

Kung has been a part of Hong Kong's Davis Cup training squad for the last six years, but this was the first time he had ever been given a spot on

the official roster.

Current Lions junior Nate Gery and senior Rajeev Deb-Sen—who both played doubles with Kung—were also excited about their former teammate's success. “It's impressive that he can keep up his training while working,” Deb-Sen wrote in an email. “I guess it's something we all hope we can do after we graduate, so it's nice to see that someone's doing it at such a high level.”

Table tennis club looks to win Nationals, will play No. 1 team

BY HAHN CHANG
Spectator Staff Writer

The Columbia table tennis club will be one of 25 elite schools to compete at the national table tennis championship next week.

With Columbia seeded 13th in the country, the team will try to break into the top 10—a place it hasn't held since the Lions finished third in the nation in the 2009 championship. Sophomore Stephanie Shih is currently the 10th- seeded female tennis table player in the national championship, and will anchor the team as they look to make a deep run at Nationals.

“Getting into the top 10 will be chal- lenging, because the trend has been that the middle 10 or so teams are all very evenly matched,” Shih said.

The Columbia team will start in round-robin play in a group of four teams, where the top two teams will enter into the championship knockout round. The Columbia team will play in a group with No. 1 Texas Wesleyan, No. 12 Penn State, and No. 2 UC San Diego. With the coun- try's top team in their group, the Lions will need to defy expectations in order to advance into the knockout round.

“We like our chances—last year we went into the tournament seeded 17th and came out 13th. We are used to playing as the underdogs and good things happen

when you have less pressure going into the tournament,” Gary Wong, a team member from the Medical School, said.

Despite the toughness of its upcoming opponents, Columbia players feel ready to take on the competition.

“I think since most of the teams we'll be playing are around our level, our big- gest challenge will be to stay focused, en- ergized,” Shih said. “That's one thing we definitely need to do our best to avoid, and doing so will keep matches short and efficient.”

The College Table Tennis Championship will be held in Plano, Texas from Friday, April 13 to Sunday, April 15. It will be the last time that Shih will compete, as she will graduate at the end of this year. But the club is growing, with a young pool of talent that includes two exceptional freshmen, Eric Leung and Daniel Li.

“I don't have any experience compet- ing with the top-seeded schools at the Nationals but I've played my heart for every match, and I will continue to do so at Nationals,” Leung said.

Behind Li and Leung, the Light Blue is poised to make a splash nationally in the next few years.

“My four years here have been won- derful,” Shih said. “And I hope that the current and up-and-coming underclass- men can continue to carry on the team's tradition of success.”

Club lacrosse reaches out

LACROSSE from back page

in the School of International and Public Affairs, said.

Five years later, the club lacrosse team is again eligible to apply for varsity status.

Kareem Elsirafy, GS '12, who suc- ceeded Barbey as club president, hopes that this time the team can find the right moment to apply and gain varsity recognition.

“It's a very grueling process,” Elsirafy said. “There's a lot of detail that's in- volved in it, so we want to make sure our ship is very, very tight when we approach the administration.”

According to Athletic Director M. Dianne Murphy, the likelihood of Columbia adding a 32nd varsity sport is small.

“Because of our lack of space—be- cause we're always competing for space with club sports, intramurals, and free play, and athletics, it's a huge challenge for us to add any more varsity sports,” she said in a recent interview with Spectator.

The club is also aware of those constraints.

“It's all about timing. Even though you're eligible to do it, you want to make sure the timing is right,” Columbia head coach Matt Hamme said.

Even if the club doesn't succeed, Elsirafy has taken on other projects in ad- dition to leading the club and applying for varsity status. A former Marine, Elsirafy has collaborated with Columbia MilVets and the Suicide Prevention Initiative. This Thursday's game, against crosstown rival NYU—scheduled for 8:30 p.m. at Robert K. Kraft Field—will double as a fundraiser for Walk for Life, which works to raise money for injured war veterans.

Columbia is poised to win the NY Metro Division and advance to the NCLL national championships at the end of April. Thursday's game against NYU will bring the Light Blue one step closer, since Columbia has won its conference for the past seven years.

“Even though it's regular season, it's almost like a playoff game for us,” NYU head coach Brian Daniels said. “My guys always look forward to playing Columbia.”

The atmosphere of the NYU game is not only a sign of the success the club has attained, but also an example of the var- sity image it is trying to create for itself.

“Each guy has been working really hard ... to create not just a club lacrosse game, but a college lacrosse game atmo- sphere versus NYU,” Hamme said.

Community service is important to the team, and combining its match with NYU with a fundraiser was a natural step for a team with several war veterans.

“What the officers talked about was bringing something back to the commu- nity and showing that we're not just about lacrosse,” Hamme said. “We want to bring something positive to the people ... and help to give back through a sport that's given so much to all of us.”

LACROSSE

Four Lions get hat tricks in win over Lafayette

The Lions (2-9, 0-5 Ivy) snapped their losing streak with a 19-11 win over Lafayette (9-6). Columbia got off to a strong start, leading 6-1 just under 13 minutes into the game. From that point forward, Columbia never let the Leopards get closer than three goals. Senior midfielder Taylor Gattinella, junior attacker Kacie Johnson, soph- omore midfielder Paige Cuscovitch,

and freshman attacker Sarah Greenberg all had hat tricks. Johnson also picked up her 100th career goal and 27th assist of the season, a Light Blue record, with her four-goal, nine- point night. Columbia will try to keep up its newfound momentum Saturday at Yale. (Greenberg is a design associ- ate for Spectator.)

—Muneeb Alam

Athletics just one way Columbia can come together with ‘Pride’

SAAC from back page

students often talk about the need to build community, a sporting event can be a very effective way of bring- ing students together as Columbians. The fact these events pit Columbia against other schools makes every- one all the more conscious of being part of a distinct community.

That competition, and the clear-cut nature of the wins and losses that re- sult, help make athletics what Bollinger has called a “co-curricular” rather than an extracurricular. The hyphen in student-athlete connects the two ways in which members of Columbia's teams represent Columbia, and that duality is taken very seriously in the Ivy League—one reason the conference uses the Academic Index, which requires admit- ted student-athletes be representative of the admitted population rather than simply employing the bare-minimum standards seen elsewhere. The stron- ger the applicant pool at Columbia, the stronger the body of recruited student- athletes must be.

Yet the difference between ath- letics and other groups on cam- pus is not the point of this column. Athletics is just one way that the school can come together, and just as the Columbia community takes many forms, we recognize that there are many other events that can serve this purpose as well.

That brings us to the initiative mentioned earlier. In a program tentatively called “The Pride,” SAAC wants to partner with other student groups—student councils, Greek life, cultural groups, or any other group in- terested in participating—to promote five events which bring Columbians together and create unifying expe- riences for students. Obviously, as student-athletes, we would nominate events like Homecoming, Basketball Mania, or a men's and women's bas- ketball doubleheader in Levien, but the idea goes much further than that. What about the Varsity Show? Relay for Life? CCO? The list surely could go on—the important thing is that each of these events bring students togeth- er as Columbians toward the same goal. These events are inherently

Columbian experiences.

When people talk about “school spirit,” images of pom-poms and marching bands and football games often come to mind. While we cer- tainly support all of those things, school spirit can mean much more. It can mean going to the Varsity Show. It can mean participating in Relay for Life or traveling to another borough to clean a park as part of CCO. It can mean protesting in the long tradition of student activism here at Columbia. Recognizing the diversity of people and of experience at Columbia, and taking pride in that, is central to school spirit. The goal of “The Pride” is to promote these events, sporting and otherwise, as a way of bringing together students and helping them to identify as part of a larger school community, one that derives its strength from its ability to encom- pass so many different interests.

At Bollinger's former employer, the University of Michigan, upwards of 100,000 people regularly attend home football games. It's simply matter of probability that many, if not thou- sands, of those in attendance are not rabid fans. A good number may not even like football. More likely, they are there to be part of the Michigan com- munity, to cheer on their school, and to enjoy an experience that is unique to that place and its students.

What's important here is that we do not see athletics as separate from the rest of the student population, but as a substantial part of that body which can, in conjunction with its other groups, make a strong, positive impact on the way students think of themselves as part of our university community.

So take pride in your school, and its community—because no matter who you are, you're a part of it.

This column is co-signed by the members of the 2011-2012 SAAC Executive Board and the 2012-2013 Executive Board-elect: Zach Glubiak, Phillip Fletcher, Melissa Shafer, Carson Christus, Nikki Bartnik, Nicole Goldhaber, Richard Fineman, Henning Sauerbier, Kat Kovacevic, Christie O'Hara, and Alison Lam.

IRA

SAVINGS

401K CD

SOCIAL

SECURITY

It's never too soon to start building a more secure future.

The retirement, disability and survivor's benefits Social Security provides were never intended to be anyone's sole source of income. Social Security does, however, provide a solid foundation on which to plan and build your financial future.

For more information on the Social Security program and how you can use it to build a secure future, call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213. Or visit our web site at www.ssa.gov.

SOCIAL SECURITY

The Future's In Your Hands.

School spirit lies in athletics, club connections

Last week, former sports editor Jim Pagels ran a column (“Recruiting for Columbia sports creates unfair stereotypes,” April 5) addressing the way student-athletes are treated by the University, particularly with regards to recruiting and admissions. Jim raised many questions, but at the core of the argument seemed to be a concern for the role athletics plays in our community.

We, as individual members of the executive board of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, want to take the opportunity to talk about what we see as athletics’ role on campus, and to describe an initiative we have been working on that speaks directly to Jim’s concern.

First, though, it’s necessary to point out that we don’t experience the sort of campus-wide stigma Jim mentions in his column. By and large, our interactions with other students about our respective sports have been very positive. It starts from the top—President Bollinger has repeatedly declared athletics as an integral part of the University’s mission, and many commenters on Jim’s column pointed out a number of the members of our Board of Trustees, including chairman Bill Campbell and vice chair Philip Milstein, were student-athletes during their time in the Morningside Heights. There are always specific instances when students may single out student-athletes, but that is not unique to Columbia nor is it unique to the student-athlete population here.

Instead of an isolated and antagonized group as Jim seems to believe, we see athletics as a unifying force on campus. At a school where

STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Guest Column



KATE SCARBROUGH / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ZERO TO HERO | Julien Barbey, CC ’09, revived the men’s lacrosse club, which now competes for national championships.

Club lacrosse seeks title, varsity status

BY MUNEEB ALAM
Spectator Staff Writer

Julien Barbey, CC ’09, walked on to campus in 2005 and found the 42-year-old men’s club lacrosse team gone. The club had disbanded following the departure of head coach Steve Pizzy, and no replacement coach had been found. But Barbey was determined to play lacrosse. Along with graduate student Jimmy Watson, Barbey decided to do something about it.

“Jimmy and I got together and we decided that we were going to devote our energy and time to revive the club,” Barbey said. “We had uniforms, we had an existing relationship with the NCLL—the National Club Lacrosse League—we had a relationship with Columbia. There was just the matter of rekindling ties and re-starting the team, so we did that.”

Despite having just one small table on club day, Barbey and Watson discovered that they were not the only ones that wanted to resurrect the lacrosse team.

“I got lucky,” Barbey said. “I just remember standing at the table and kid after kid after kid came up and was very interested.”

The team saw immediate success, finishing around .500. The next year it took bigger strides forward.

“2007 was kind of a serendipitous year,” Barbey said. “We had four students who transferred to Columbia as part of the 3-2 engineering program from very legitimate, good schools, and they were on their school teams.”

On the backs of these new players, as well as ex-football players and talented undergraduates, the club went 23-1 and won the national championship. It seemed like a good time to apply for varsity status, but its application was rejected because of limitations on field space and funding, according to Barbey.

“One of the goals of the club was to lay the seed for, potentially, attaining varsity status,” Barbey, now a graduate student

SEE SAAC, page 7

SEE LACROSSE, page 7

www.columbiarentalsny.com

Location Location Location

22 rental buildings to choose from on West 109th street

No brokers fee!!!!

Contact Kenny @ 917-744-1232

Security cameras – live-in super & handyman – multi-Lock keys – security lights – high ceilings – renovated hallways, entrance doors and apartments – granite – marble – washer/dryers – dishwashers – custom doors and lighting – planted tree pits – and much, much more!!!!

ONE BEDROOMS FROM \$2300 A MONTH
TWO BEDROOMS FROM \$2500 TO \$2700 A MONTH
THREE BEDROOMS FROM \$3200 TO \$3750 A MONTH
FOUR BEDROOMS FROM \$4000 TO \$4500 A MONTH

“YOU SIMPLY HAVE TO SEE THESE RENOVATED APARTMENTS.....”