

SGA candidates speak out

BY LEAH GREENBAUM
Spectator Staff Writer

Attendees snacked on pizza in the Diana Center Dining Room Tuesday night as candidates for the Barnard Student Government Association executive board and representative positions presented their platforms.

Candidates promised more dialogue regarding the new meal plan requirements, funding for SGA groups, recognition for Greek life, and a streamlined housing process. Prospective SGA members also said they were in favor of town halls and focus groups this fall to discuss the issues.

Vice presidential candidate Bridgit Donnelly, BC ’11, said that if she were elected, she would work with professors to post syllabi online, create universal access between Columbia and Barnard dorms, and hold “high teas” with top administrators.

“Last but not least, the reason you should vote for me for VP of student gov is because I’m pretty baller,” she said to laughter.

Her opponent Emily Kenison, BC ’11, echoed similar sentiments, but added that she hopes to cooperate with Columbia councils to take positions on the Manhattanville expansion, the proposed campus smoking ban, and the academic calendar.

For some candidates currently abroad—including presidential hopeful Dueaa Elzin, BC ’11, who is campaigning from England—their proxies did the talking. Madeleine Lloyd-Davies, BC ’11, spoke on behalf of Anna Ziering, BC ’11, who is running unopposed for representative for academic affairs. She began the prepared speech by taping a picture of Ziering onto the podium.

Sairah Anwar, BC ’11 and candidate for VP of finance, said top priorities were organizing the SGA website to help student groups publicize in eco-friendly ways, as well as giving SGA more of a voice at Funding at Columbia University, or F@CU.

“A lot of people, especially across the street, get caught up in the councils there, like ABC and CCSC, and I think it’s so important to let people know how much we do,” Anwar said.

Her opponent, Priyata Patel, also BC ’11, stressed the importance of streamlining, “The most important thing I’d like to do is organize all processes you’d have to do as treasurer of a group, into a powerpoint or module for clubs to use.”

When asked what her top priority would be if elected president, Lara Avsar, BC ’11—whose slogan is “Go Bizarre, Vote Avsar”—said, “Personally, I’m all over this meal plan thing. ... My main priority is making sure everyone is happy with the meal plan.”

Avsar said she hopes to continue speaking to administrators about allowing students to use meal plan points to purchase candy and soda from vending machines around campus.

Sharmin Ahmed, BC ’10 and VP of finance, spoke on behalf of Elzin, and said that Elzin has been closely following the election and SGA issues from London. Ahmed’s role as a proxy is considered separate from her position on SGA.

Both candidates agreed that more dialogue is needed

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ZARA CASTANY FOR SPECTATOR

FIRESIDE | University President Lee Bollinger talks after the fireside chat with Courtney Tate and Jasmine Bridges, two graduate students in the School of Engineering and Applied Science. During the event, Bollinger fielded questions about the World Leaders Forum and loans.

At graduate chat, Bollinger talks M’ville, Leaders Forum

BY MADINA TOURE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Students had adjunct professors, loans, and the World Leaders Forum on their minds when they arrived at University President Lee Bollinger’s fireside chat Tuesday evening.

Graduate students gathered at the President’s House on Morningside Drive for an informal discussion—though some of the issues hit close to home.

The fireside chat began with a question about the University and its role in gentrification. Bollinger defended the Manhattanville expansion, arguing that it is a necessary move for Columbia because space is a “critical issue”—and that it will ultimately prove advantageous for the neighborhood.

“We [Columbia] have employment, we have lots of jobs, lots of opportunities to help people,” he said. “I know that might sound idealistic or you’d expect that from Columbia ... there are 10,000 jobs that Columbia will create [with Manhattanville]. We made deep, deep commitments to this ... I

think it will improve Harlem.”

Another audience member asked Bollinger about his thoughts on the role of adjunct professors at the University. Adjuncts are not on a tenure track.

“On the whole, having adjuncts and visitors in principle is a really good thing for the university and students,” he said.

He added: “I think many, many people of different fields are changing the way they think about their fields because of the outside world,” stressing that these outside scholars bring in a different perspective.

But some were dissatisfied with Bollinger’s answer. Tyler Bickford, a Ph.D student and professor of Contemporary Civilization, said that adjunct professors should have some say in the terms of their

employment.

“Adjuncts are not a problem, we are scholars,” he said. “I think that’s really the core of the question.”

Bollinger insisted that he thinks highly of adjunct professors.

“I didn’t mean to say anything about those in the scholarly community that are not tenure-tracked,” he said. “For those people who are teaching who are not tenure track who are scholars in a sense of being part of the culture ... I think that’s a magnificent experience.”

But he still maintained, “I don’t like to think about graduate students as employees.”

Bollinger also fielded questions about the World Leaders Forum, and said he was surprised at the clarity of French President Nicolas Sarkozy’s speech earlier

“I had an image of Sarkozy, his mind would be all over the place ... it turns out it was very, very compelling.”

—Lee Bollinger

this month.

“I had an image of Sarkozy, his mind would be all over the place ... having one or two themes,” he said. “It turns out it [Sarkozy’s speech] was very, very compelling in large part because of the systematic way he made his argument.”

An attendee also wondered why there weren’t more available loans for international students. Bollinger said that the entire loan would be considered an obligation of the University, emphasizing his concern for “the aggregate yearly debt that we would have to show on that.”

But he said that international students at Columbia and those who have already been admitted are guaranteed loans from the University, and that international students can also receive loans from their schools. He expects the availability of loans to improve in the next few years.

While students were overall satisfied with the discussion, some were critical of his stance on

SEE FIRESIDE CHAT, page 2

Bollinger cancels usual fall class

Plans to teach global course

BY SARAH DARVILLE
Spectator Staff Writer

University President Lee Bollinger will still be called “professor” in the fall, even though the free speech class he traditionally teaches has been cancelled.

According to the University, Bollinger will be teaching a different course focused on global free speech, and information about that will likely be posted within a week.

He had been listed as teaching the undergraduate class “Freedom of Speech and Press” until the beginning of this week, when the course was no longer listed as available for Fall 2010.

Bowen deferred comment to University spokesperson Robert Hornsby, who explained that Bollinger was simply changing plans. “President Bollinger will not be teaching the same class, he will be teaching a class on Global Free Press,” Hornsby said in an emailed statement on Tuesday.

At a fireside chat Bollinger hosted for graduate students on Tuesday night, he confirmed that there is confusion because he has not made an official announcement yet.

“I want to teach a course on this, and I’ve got several speakers,” Bollinger said, adding that he wasn’t sure how it would be structured though availability to undergraduates was possible.

There was no other information available about the global press course by Tuesday night, and there is currently no class in the online Directory of Classes or Columbia College Bulletin with Bollinger listed as the instructor.

There seemed to be some confusion this week about Bollinger’s plans for teaching next semester. According to Professor Jack Snyder, the director of undergraduate studies for

SEE BOLLINGER, page 2

BC students push for mentoring program

BY AMANDA EVANS
Spectator Staff Writer

Next year, incoming Barnard students may find themselves with an orientation leader, a resident adviser—and a sophomore mentor.

If some Student Government Association members have their way, first-years next fall will be paired up with sophomores in a student-based mentoring system that could complement Barnard President Debora Spar’s vision of community-building student societies. Jung Hee Hyun, BC ’13, Student Government Association first-year class president, said she has been working all year with SGA members—particularly sophomore class president Bo Yun Park, BC ’12—to get the program up and running.

“Park wanted to help first years—she wanted to figure out what was going on. Debora Spar came up with the idea of creating societies for first-years, so we thought having a big

sister-like program would be great. Wellesley has it, and a lot of sister schools,” Hyun said.

Park said that she and other supporters of the idea will be submitting the final draft of the proposal detailing the program at the end of next week. Barnard deans will have to approve it, though Park admitted she doesn’t know how long that will take. She does, however, assume that the College is on-board.

“We are in the process of getting final approval, there is still a lot nitty gritty,” she said.

Park and other SGA members have spent the year collaborating with first-year class dean Lisa Hollibaugh, Senior Associate Director for Leadership Development Hayden Greene and the College Activities Office, among other faculty and administrators. The proposed program also garnered student support.

“The SGA sent out a survey to sophomores last semester asking them if they would like to

be mentors to first-years if given the chance, and most said yes,” Hyun said.

Currently, the plan is to match up first-years with a sophomore who had lived on the room floor the year before. Park explained that students would have the opportunity to pick new mentors—she proposes a beginning-of-the-year brunch mixer—and that commuters would have mentors too, most likely other commuters. Some kind of board would also oversee the program.

Still, Hyun admitted that they hadn’t worked out all the kinks just yet.

“There are questions about whether or not it would be open to all classes, and whether or not everyone would want to be mentored or be a mentor,” Hyun said.

Sarah Szwed, BC ’13, said she thought the program would be a positive addition to the Barnard student life.

SEE MENTORS, page 2

ACES WILD



NOMI ELLENSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DEALING DISHES | Chef Ryan Skeen of new Harlem eatery 5 & Diamond brings drama to the plates he serves. See story on page 3.

INSIDE

A&E, page 3

Recent grads’ bands take on New York music scene

When it comes to musically talented Columbia alumni, students might want to look beyond Vampire Weekend—a number of recent graduates who pursued music while on campus have gone on to form bands of their own.



Sports, page 8

Outfielder Dario Pizzano has outstanding week

Freshman Pizzano has proven a great asset to the baseball team, as he helped the Light Blue to victories over Ivy League opponents Penn and Harvard this past weekend, scoring five runs against the Crimson on Sunday.

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Chow down

Nourish body and soul with an open mind.

Turning the pages

Yurina Ko considers the allure of switching from books to apps in an increasingly digitalized world.

Today’s Events

Moving Towards Utopia

Experts discuss the future of public spaces in New York City.
James Room, Barnard Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Speech in a Globalized World

Salman Rushdie, David Ignatius, and Lee Bollinger talk freedom of the press.
Low Rotunda, 6:15 p.m.

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WEATHER

Today  Tomorrow 
68 / 40 **66 / 47**

Lacrosse takes on Quinnipiac today after weekend loss

BY JULIA GARRISON
Spectator Staff Writer

The women’s lacrosse team will be traveling to Hamden, Conn. today to compete against nonconference foe Quinnipiac. Columbia (4-6, 0-5 Ivy) will be looking to avenge its latest loss to Brown this past Saturday and improve its 4-1 non-conference record with a win over the Bobcats.

“In our last game against Brown, we started off a bit slow, allowing them to go on a four-goal scoring run in the first half,” Caroline Seery, CC ’11, said. “Tomorrow, we have to come out hard from the start and take advantage of each of our possessions, finishing with a goal.”

Quinnipiac is having a successful season so far. It holds a 9-4 overall record and is undefeated (8-0) in the Northeast Conference. The game against Columbia will mark the Bobcats’ final home game of the regular season, and they will be hoping to continue their current eight-game winning streak.

“Quinnipiac is a pretty scrappy team who always puts up a fight, so we need to stay focused for the full 60 minutes and capitalize on 50-50 balls,” Seery said. “Their attack is rather deceptive,

COLUMBIA VS. QUINNIPIAC

Hamden, Connecticut, 4 p.m.

so we will have to play with a sense of urgency on defense and mark up tightly on their cutters.”

These two teams have not faced off since 2007, when the Lions defeated the Bobcats 12-5. In that game, Quinnipiac took an early lead that was soon snatched by the Lions with a scoring streak and defensive shut-out that lasted throughout the first half, with the Light Blue scoring seven more goals and the Bobcats putting in zero, bringing the halftime score to 8-2 in favor of Columbia.

Then-senior Kate Lombard started off the offensive sweep by the Lions with a goal at 19:31, and when then-sophomore Rachael Ryan scored at 18:51 to give Columbia the lead in the first half, the Light Blue continued to hold this lead throughout the rest of competition, eventually winning the game 12-5. Goalie and then-sophomore Emma Mintz was also key in the success over Quinnipiac, making seven saves in the game, six of which were in the final 30 minutes of play.

The Columbia-Quinnipiac game will be held at Quinnipiac Field Hockey and Lacrosse Turf and will begin at 4 p.m.



BOBCAT BATTLE | Senior Brittany Shannon and her team hope to improve their nonconference standing as they travel to Quinnipiac today to face the Bobcats.

Softball splits games against Fairleigh Dickinson

BY CHRISTOPHER BROWN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Columbia softball team (9-22) finished its six-game road stretch by splitting two games against nonconference opponent Fairleigh Dickinson.

The Lions scored three runs in the first inning with two outs after Dani Pineda’s single to left. Kayla Lechler followed with a single, and Maggie Johnson walked to load the bases before Christie Taylor knocked a bases-clearing double to right field. The Knights answered with a pair of runs in the bottom of the inning to make the score 3-2.

Neither team scored again until the fourth inning, when Johnson led off the eight-run inning with a double to left field, followed by Taylor’s walk and Aimee Kemp’s single to load the bases with one out. Anne Marie Skylis, Alison Lam, Jennifer Bergeron, and Pineda hit four straight RBI singles to make the score 7-2. Lechler knocked a 1-2 pitch over the wall in left field for her first career home run, a grand slam to put her team up 11-3.

Fairleigh Dickinson answered with four runs in the bottom of the inning. Before Jessica Rakonza was substituted for Columbia starter Maureen O’Kane, O’Kane threw three-and-two-thirds innings, allowing two earned runs off of six hits. Rakonza picked up the final 10 outs in relief, allowing six hits and two earned runs for her first win of the season as Columbia took game one 12-8.

In game two, the Knights jumped out to a 5-0 lead with three runs in the third inning and two more in the fourth. Columbia didn’t score until the sixth inning, when Lechler reached base on a throwing error and Johnson hit a double down the left field line to set up Taylor’s two-RBI hit to left field. The



FAIRLEIGH SPLIT | Sophomore Anne Marie Skylis hit four straight RBI singles to help the Lions to victory in the first of two games against Fairleigh Dickinson.

Lions went down in order in the bottom of the seventh and lost 5-2. Johnson threw six innings and struck out four hitters in the loss. Kirsten Shreve picked up the win for the Knights, allowing five hits, one earned run, and four strikeouts

in seven complete innings for her third win of the season.

Columbia will return to Ivy League action this weekend with a pair of double-headers against Princeton on Saturday, April 17 and Sunday, April 18.

Men’s tennis guns for title

as they go for their second straight Ivy title, third in four years, and first of the new decade. If they sweep this weekend’s matches, they are guaranteed a share of the title. If Yale sweeps, they will take the automatic bid into the NCAA Championships. Columbia is

ranked No. 45, their highest ranking of the season, and although they may drop a few spots in this week’s poll, they will certainly be a candidate for an at-large bid if they don’t win the title outright.

So no matter what you are doing this weekend, I’m sure you can make time to come support a team full of

winners. 2 p.m. Dick Savitt Tennis Center. Columbia versus Princeton. I’ll be there. Will you?

Kunal Gupta is a junior in the School of Engineering and Applied Science majoring in operations research. sportseditors@columbiaspectator.com

Chat hits on grads’ concerns

FIRESIDE CHAT from front page

certain issues.

“Bollinger seems to have a limited notion of what academic employment actually looks like in the world,” Bickford said. “The sort of common experience of most academic workers is not the experience of the tenured faculty of an elite university. But that doesn’t mean that it’s not the responsibility of an elite university to be attentive to and aware of and even active around the national and global market for teachers and scholars.”

Michael McDowell, a first-year student at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, agreed.

“I felt he dodged the probing of some of the adjunct questions,” he said.

Zhihai Yang, a first-year at the School of Engineering and Applied Science Graduate School, wished that Bollinger had spoken more about loan opportunities for engineering students.

“He talked about international students, that there are some banks that can provide loans to international students,” she said. “I want to know why there are no loans provided to students who are majoring in engineering.”

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Bollinger to teach global free speech

BOLLINGER from front page

the political science department, “President Bollinger’s course assistant, Paul Bowen, told our staff that Bollinger is unable to teach the course due to the fact that he has a very busy schedule during the fall semester.”

Bollinger is a first amendment scholar whose latest book, “Uninhibited, Robust, and Wide-Open: A Free Press for a New Century” focuses on American media’s interactions with the world.

In an interview on April 5 after an event at which he talked

about the themes of the book, Bollinger told Spectator that he was “trying to get an undergraduate course together” on the topic.

Students who took “Freedom of Speech and Press” last semester spoke highly of the course, which Bollinger teaches in the law school format of calling on two students each class to defend opposing points.

“Everyone knew he’s going to tear your point to shreds, he’s a genius. But everyone came in trying to prove themselves, dreaming of the day that you would give an answer that was perfect,”

Christina Olenick, CC ’11, said.

Cara Buchanan, CC ’11, said the course fueled her interest in human rights and served as an interesting opportunity to interact with Bollinger outside of fire-side chats.

“He was very open to answering questions about ongoing things on campus,” like the Manhattanville expansion, she said. “He took the class seriously—even when he left to introduce the president of Argentina, he left and came right back.”

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Program to pair first-years, sophomores

MENTORS from front page

“I had actually thought about this [possible program] when I came into this school, and I went to a boarding school where we had this. It would have been awesome to have this coming into Barnard, because when I got here I did come in feeling a bit helpless and scared,” she said.

She added that she had spoken to other students about it, and they “seemed interested. While we do get an orientation leader when we first get here, that relationship fades past the first week. I’m sure mine does not remember me anymore.”

But some were uncertain about how many students would be willing to participate, and

said they had found their resident advisors and orientation leaders to be adequate guides to the school.

“I don’t think a lot of people would be willing to sign up for this. My RA and my OL were great resources upon coming here,” Kaley Hanenkrat, BC ’11, said. “And in talking to other student groups, I think the people you meet there are better mentors than someone you are randomly paired up with because they have similar interests to you. The odds of hundreds of people successfully matching up with a mentor are slim.”

Natasha Cline-Thomas, BC ’12, said she thought the program would ultimately be unhelpful. “I would have not liked

[a mentoring program] as a first year because there are lots of ways to find a mentor or sisterhood in general on campus without that program. I feel like a mentor isn’t effective unless they can relate to you.”

“I think a mentor would definitely be a great addition to the many resources here. But I don’t think we can expect everyone to form a long-lasting friendship,” Helen Kilian, BC ’13, said.

Hyun stressed that the program continues to be a priority for the SGA.

“We think this is important for first years,” Hyun said. “We want the students to have access to this.”

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SGA hopefuls address Greek life, meal plans

SGA from front page

regarding SGA’s relationship to sororities. Barnard does not formally recognize Greek organizations, although many Barnard students participate in them. SGA has voted twice this year not to recognize Greek life.

“My solution for this issue is to hold a town hall in September. This is an issue that needs to be turned over to the larger Barnard community,” Ahmed said, reading a prepared statement from Elzin.

Avsar said she believes sorority recognition will continue to be a “hot issue” next year. “As SGA president, it’s more important to facilitate discussion on what’s going on instead of voicing personal opinions,” she said.

In addition, Megan Shannon, BC ’11, is running for VP of students affairs, and Diana Rastegayeva, BC ’11, is running for VP of communications.

Verna Patti, BC ’11—current

SGA junior representative to the Barnard Board of Trustees and a member of the SGA Elections Commission—said that this year’s election is particularly contentious, with more than one candidate for most positions, but turnout at platform presentation events has been disappointingly low.

Patti said SGA will continue the policy it began last year, prompting students to vote as soon as they sign on to eBear to register for classes this week. Candidates were announced on Friday, flirring began

Monday, and students have until this Friday to vote. Patti said the short time frame is part of SGA tradition.

“Barnard can be a tough time to rally support, so I don’t think more time [to campaign] would make much of a difference,” she said.

Kim Kirschenbaum and Sarah Darville contributed reporting.

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Alums who join bands after graduation face the music

BY ALEXIS NELSON
Columbia Daily Spectator

When asked about musical Columbia alumni, many students manage to conjure up an image of the guys from Vampire Weekend. But what about their not-as-famous classmates, who have remained in the city after graduation, trying to make themselves heard in the Manhattan music scene?

For some Columbia alumni, like Bryan Miltenberg, CC '07, Ishmael Osekre, GS '09, and Rob Ward, CC '06, music is more than just a hobby or strategic extracurricular activity in college—it's a career plan or life-shaping passion. Miltenberg majored in American studies and left college confident that he would play music seriously after graduation. He was part of a band while in school and remembers finding a like-minded community of music fanatics through the student radio station WBAR. "Yeah, the music community could sometimes feel fragmented on campus," he said, "but people managed to find each other in different ways." His affinity for punk music made it initially difficult to find a niche amid the generally indie-rock-loving masses. Miltenberg's current band, Unremarkable People, formed this past fall and has already released one full-length album. The album was launched through the



COURTESY OF ROB WARD

MAKING MUSIC | Alum Rob Ward (center) plays with his band Food Will Win the War, which he formed after graduating from Columbia in 2006. Ward cultivated his interest in experimental music while on campus and continues to perform for crowds of all ages.

record label Ourselves Collective, which Miltenberg and a friend co-founded in the summer of 2008. Another complete album is set to be released through the label this May. The band's self-described "punk-rock core" style and flouting of the conventional industry system through digital album releases is reminiscent of DIY music collective Bomb the Music Industry, which Miltenberg cited as a major source of inspiration.

Osekre moved from Ghana to attend Columbia and graduated with a degree in sociology. He continues to engage with the campus community and said he has received invaluable assistance from CUArts, University networks, and calls to alumni related to booking, venue recommendations, and general advice about pursuing music. "My life is still Columbia," he said.

Osekre's current band, Osekre and The Lucky Bastards, recently performed in Low Library in the annual Art of Healing event. Osekre discovered the arts scene through his poetry and spoken-word performances on campus and was asked about possibly performing to beats—in this way he began the transition to music. "It [the on-campus music scene] can sometimes feel a little insular," Osekre said. "Cross genres don't

really meet and go see other genres." At Columbia, Osekre played in apartments and dorms on campus—for exposure rather than money—and at coffeehouses like Postcrypt. His gigs helped him meet fellow music lovers and musicians. "Music is a great way to engage with campus," Osekre said. "Columbia should make sure people realize everything available to them." Ward majored in music composition and concentrated in

economics. He now sings and plays guitar for his band Food Will Win the War. Although Ward doesn't describe the alumni musician network as overwhelmingly prominent, he has kept in contact with other alumni musicians. "It's nice to vent about frustrations and experiences to people you know can relate," Ward said. Ward remembers traversing almost every part of the city to play music and attend concerts during his time as a student. Most of the alumni he knows who pursued music seriously after graduation have remained in New York City, where the thriving music scene is beneficial but also filled with competing bands. "It's a pretty saturated market," he said. Ward is also very interested in experimental music. "For me, the music community at Columbia really centered around the CMC [Computer Music Center]," he said. The CMC puts on performances all over the city. Ward still tries to stay connected to Columbia by occasionally performing around campus and playing at all-age venues, including a show in Brooklyn on April 24. When asked if it was difficult to balance work and band membership while still maintaining his sanity, Ward replied, "You do it because you have to do it. There is no choice."

CCSC hosts 'Glee'-ful screening for College Days event

BY LOGAN HOFSTEIN
Spectator Staff Writer

Airing at the odd time of 9:28 p.m. last night on Fox, Glee premiered its first spring episode, titled "Hell-O" CCSC screened the episode on Low Steps in conjunction with College Days. "Glee is such a popular show on campus," said Beezly Kiernan, CC '11 and treasurer of the Campus Life Committee on CCSC, "and it coincided with College Days perfectly." Kiernan and other CCSC members manned a table at the event, handing out popcorn, water, and t-shirts. The event opened with a performance by Columbia's own Glee Club, who performed a rendition of the school fight song "Roar, Lion, Roar." The rest of the performance was overall enjoyable and included a notable homage to local landmark Tom's with the Suzanne Vega song "Tom's Diner." They decided to end the evening with the same version of Journey's famous song "Don't Stop Believin'" that the actors of Glee performed in the television show in a previous episode. However, the club's

closing song was off-key and off-beat, a disappointing end to an otherwise entertaining act. Fortunately, the students in attendance didn't seem to mind—the crowd was huge and cheered loudly at the end of the club's performance. "I think this is a great turnout considering how chilly it is," Kiernan said. Although Glee takes place in small-town Ohio, CCSC chose to include the episode in New York-themed College Days. "We needed something to do for Tuesday night, and we thought 'Well, Glee

is showing.' We were just going to show a movie instead," Kiernan said. The show's immense popularity on campus and role as a source of inspiration for Columbia's own Glee Club gave the event some relevance to College Days, however forced. "I think it's great taking a pop culture phenomenon like Glee and including Columbia's own Glee Club at this event because it's another one of the myriad ways that Columbia connects to the outside world," said Frank Redner, CC '13. Once the show's opening shots aired on screen, the

excitement in the air was palpable. Students cheered, jeered, and laughed together at the crazy antics of the students, teachers, and administrators of fictional William McKinley High School. The show opens with the Glee club high off their win at sectionals, but the audience is quickly reminded that they haven't left the Glee they came to love in the fall when the club's members are pelted with slushies by the "popular" students. The episode primarily focuses on the relationships between teacher Will Schuester (Matthew Morrison) and guidance counselor Emma Pillsbury (Jayma Mays) and between New Directions glee club stars Finn Hudson (Corey Monteith) and Rachel Berry (Lea Michele). Broadway alums Idina Menzel and Jonathan Groff guest star as the director and star of Vocal Adrenaline, New Directions' main rival. The event's attendees were visibly enjoying the episode, even students who were viewing the show for the first time. "I've never seen Glee, and this is a great way to be introduced to it," said Maddie Scott, BC '13. "I'm really enjoying this episode."



ROSE DONLON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LET IT GLEE | Students donned their sweatshirts and took over Low Steps to watch the newest episode of Glee as part of College Days.

Despite flaws, Harlem eatery is a 'Diamond' in the rough

BY JASON BELL
Spectator Staff Writer

Standing at 5 & Diamond's narrow pass, chef Ryan Skeen takes a break from expediting orders to survey his tiny fine dining domain—brimming with energy, 5 & Diamond (2072 Frederick Douglass Blvd., between 112th and 113th streets) rides an opening buzz for the moment, surprisingly crowded on a weeknight. Skeen seems to savor this success and turns back to the kitchen, trying to control the chaotic flow of plates and servers surging through the cramped room. Arguably Manhattan's bad boy of cuisine, Skeen left his previous gig at the now-shuttered Allen & Delancey after a melodramatic dispute with the ownership, heading far uptown into Columbia territory. A frequent and controversial Twitter user, Skeen clearly loves the drama of chefdom in the Internet age. Luckily, his food is equally entertaining. On the new five-course tasting menu, an appetizer of Japanese sea urchin crowning hamachi belly, grapefruit, and pork rind presents a spectacle of texture. Roe sacs mirror delicate grapefruit segments, and crispy puffed pig skin provides a powerful crunch. Red wine braised sepia, however, looks more like cuttlefish gravy, an unappetizing fishy maroon mess slopped over grilled bread. Instead,

try rabbit and ratatouille sausage, heaped over tender spaetzle. Barely gamey and succulent, the sausage benefits from a light parmesan broth and scattered pea shoots that firmly root this dish in spring. Although Skeen is a brooding figure presiding over the dining room, he wields a surprisingly delicate touch in a main dish of roasted bass. Shimmering golden skin shatters under the slightest pressure, revealing silken flesh. Alongside the fish, shockingly green pea purée scented with mint graces the plate on one visit, harmoniously mingling with earthy piles of quinoa. Unfortunately, lamb loin in a duo of lamb and confit lamb belly in a cassoulet both taste inexcusably musky and tough. Slices of leg come rosy and dripping with juice in these dishes but fail to apologize for their unwanted neighbors. In the former composition, cold carrot mush coats the mouth in cloying, baby-food sweetness, while in the latter, a paucity of beans leaves diners wondering at the name "cassoulet." Across the menu, Skeen over-salts and overthinks. Shellfish tagliatelle feels smothered in brine, like taking a gulp of sea water and coming up gasping. Even if burrata and panzanella need a dose of abrasive nicoise olives to bring out the housemade cheese's natural creaminess, this combination goes way overboard. For dessert, the kitchen offers a cluster of heavenly donut

holes encrusted with a thick spice glaze. A few seemingly random cheeses, honey comb, and pear chutney shoved onto the plate feel unnecessary next to such sugary perfection. Criticizing Skeen's food as overly bold seems like a cheap shot, especially when 5 & Diamond's

admirable menu speaks so strongly to Skeen's sense of identity and self. But with out-of-place prices for Harlem and a sensibility more appropriate for yet another contemporary American joint in some downtown hotel, 5 & Diamond's lasting appeal seems regrettably questionable, however delicious the food.



NOMI ELLENSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HIDDEN GEM | Chef Ryan Skeen's restaurant 5 & Diamond offers a variety of upscale dishes, some more successfully executed than others.



COURTESY OF SAM LIPSYTE

TWISTED TALE | School of the Arts professor Sam Lipsyte's recent book "The Ask" features a narrator who evaluates his status as a character.

Professor's book meshes satire and self-reflection

BY MARLENA GITTLEMAN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Milo Burke is having a tough time—he just lost his job as a development officer at Mediocre University, his wife is having an affair, and his preschool-age son frequently calls him a pansy. Burke is the donut-loving unlikely protagonist and narrator of "The Ask," released last month by Columbia School of the Arts professor and satirical master Sam Lipsyte. In the course of attempting to right his problems, Burke encounters—to name a few—a hostile young amputee veteran from the Iraq War, a Queens neighborhood "kiddie-diddler," and an elusive and controlling pal from college named James Purdy. It's Purdy who gives direction to Burke's troubled life, when he requests that Burke handle his donation to the university—"a give," in Mediocre jargon—and the development office is forced to give Burke a second chance at work, despite his lousy record at excelling in such situations. The book tracks Burke's plight from its inception, following him on a journey through his past and present actions and decisions, which are usually more lame than heroic. Lipsyte's résumé is certainly more impressive than his protagonist's. He received a B.A. from Brown University and worked in freelance journalism as well as fiction. Lipsyte has published three other works since 2000: "Venus Drive," a collection of short stories, and novels "The Subject Steve" and "Home Land." He became an adjunct professor at Columbia seven years ago and joined the full-time faculty two years later. Lipsyte teaches both graduate and undergraduate seminars in fiction. "Teaching workshops and engaging with the work of others really inspires me, instructs me, and helps me think about my own goals," he said. Lipsyte is currently working on another collection of short stories, which no doubt will include the

intricate play with language he explores in "The Ask." For example, at one point in the novel, Burke comes to the conclusion that "this not working thing wasn't really working," Lipsyte explained, "We use language every day, but as writers of fiction or artists, we need to create a separate place for language to function in a less utilitarian way." Lipsyte's attention to craft and subject matter in "The Ask" has garnered an impressive amount of positive critical reception. A contributing factor to these impressions is perhaps the novel's meta-sense storytelling and reception. Burke often questions his own position in the narrative arc: "Something about this story, its specificity, bothered me, more so now that I seemed to be a part of it." "The Ask" contemplates not only its surrounding society, but its place as a work within it. Lipsyte said, "I think it [the book] jumps off the idea, 'We all consider ourselves the stars of the movie.' I think that we all live in a much more heightened awareness of how stories get made and how narratives get generated and how our position in them operates. So I was having some fun with those notions." As a satire, "The Ask" is bold in its confrontation with its subjects. Burke questions, "Why was I such a diseased fuck? It had to be society's fault." Through Burke's cynical, acute, and often humorous observations, the novel presents a critique of modern society and some of its institutions and attitudes. "I think what I'm really getting at in this book is the idea that people study with a certain kind of expectation of material reward at the end of their course of study—specifically in liberal arts education—but that's not really the point," Lipsyte said. "What's happened in the economy has created these incredible pressures that almost necessitate this kind of thinking. But it's sad the way that it intrudes upon the learning process."



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Food for meditation

BY CHELSEA PULA

Bhakti is fast becoming the best source of free vegetarian food on campus. As Ajay Mangal, CC '10, remarked, "If you're allergic to delicious, this [Bhakti] isn't the place for you." However, Bhakti is about more than food—it is also one of Columbia's strongest spiritual communities.

Two beloved Hare Krishna monks run the club: Dave, who never fails to throw in a joke, and Pandit, a true sage and father figure. Although some students might initially be worried about the strange orange outfits these monks don, their open-minded approach to all backgrounds, all belief systems, and all faiths quickly breaks down these barriers. Bhakti reaches in seconds what it sometimes takes years to achieve in diversity training: a safe environment that is free of judgment, allowing students to be themselves, without stress. It's kind of refreshing after spending time on the campus of, reportedly, the country's second-most-stressful university, in the midst of the world's busiest city.

Students put up walls—through habits, silence, or attitude—when stressed. After Bhakti removes the cause, a flood of pent-up emotions, feelings, and ideas rushes out that most of us don't even realize is there. Bhakti gets students talking about hushed issues like mortality, anger, or fear, without generating the heat of debate or pushing a religion.

Bhakti's voice in the exchange of ideas is meaningful. In addition to offering a safe environment, Dave and Pandit offer a perspective relatively unknown to the typical Westernized student. The level of difference in worldview is epitomized by Krishna, the supreme deity of this sect of Hinduism. He is not portrayed as a martyr suffering for human sins, nor is he spiteful or angry; rather, Krishna is always smiling and often portrayed dancing and playing a flute. This contrast effectively opens the minds of students and offers an alternative way of looking at life, which is invaluable, regardless of one's personal belief system. Students are trying out more than just new food—they're trying out a new mindset.

Minds are not just opened by Bhakti—they're also strengthened through meditation. Every Thursday morning, students are invited to a 7 a.m. meditation session, followed by breakfast. The monks recommend that everyone meditate every day and warn against the dangers of an untrained and unfocused mind. Practicing daily meditation reduces stress and chance of illness, while improving sleeping habits and the ability to concentrate. Meditation instruction is the most useful service offered by Bhakti, because it is almost never taught in the Western tradition.

Yoga is another strong program offered by Bhakti. Although yoga is now one of the more popular forms of exercise in the States, the form most commonly practiced is Westernized and has lost touch with many of the tradition's original values. As Pandit explains, yoga is not just exercise—it literally means "union with the divine." Though yoga classes are common in New

York City and even on campus, few maintain the spiritual approach that is so essential to proper practice of the exercises.

I suppose I might have been intimidated myself if I'd known beforehand about all of Bhakti's spiritual activities. All I knew—like most of us, I suppose—was that there was a vegetarian cooking class on Tuesday nights. Upon discovering just how delicious this food was, I started coming every week.

But even those who only attend meetings for the free food inadvertently reap the benefits of Bhakti. "One way we express love for others is by cooking for one another. At every Bhakti meal, we show love to each other through cooking, but also to Krishna by offering food to the divine," Pandit says. Eating is essential to life, and when practiced with a vegetarian's reverence for life and a respect for a higher power, strengthens the community and the connection with the divine and is thus another form of yoga. Perhaps it is these qualities that make the food prepared during Bhakti especially delicious and warming.

Bhakti is a

celebration of life and peace. It's a chance to slow down, eat, and ponder life's mysteries—something that we tend to cut out of our schedules as we become increasingly ambitious. As the programs continue to flourish, one thing is becoming clear: Students come for nourishment of the body and stay for nourishment of the soul.

The author is a Columbia College first-year. She is the secretary for Core Foods and a board member of the Bhakti Club.



DARYL SEITCHIK

Brave new reader



YURINA KO

2 + 2 = 5

Store. Indeed, it was awkwardly too bulky to be the bigger version of the iPhone but not advanced enough to serve as a casual version of the laptop. It wasn't until I came across the eBook feature that I started to think seriously about the social and philosophical implications of this product and others—Amazon's Kindle, for example. Simulating the gesture of flipping pages of a digitized book on the smooth, shiny screen, I wondered whether paper-made books are gradually becoming the endangered species of industrialization.

Hegel would explain the growth of the eBook, the popularity of the Kindle, and the emergence of the eBook feature on the iPad as embodiments of the Zeitgeist, or the cultural climate of the time. From Gutenberg's invention of the printing press in 1439, all the way to the birth of the personal computer in the late 1970s and the Internet in the 1990s, the book industry has progressed in tune with the available media to the point that about 12 million books have been digitized by Google, and the full content of most of them is currently open to the public. Thus, it makes perfect sense for popular gadgets like the iPad to reflect this technological phenomenon and promote reading digital books.

This is all very democratic and eco-friendly, giving the people cost-efficient access to all sorts of literature without chopping down poor trees. "I look to the diffusion of light and education," said Thomas Jefferson, "as the resource most to be relied on for ameliorating the condition promoting the virtue and advancing the happiness of man." In a way, digitization of texts accomplishes this diffusion most productively. In practice, more and more schools are encouraging students to study from digitized textbooks, and a digital publisher named CourseSmart launched an iPhone application last summer "that allows students to read their library of textbooks on the go."

A utilitarian would love this technological and social development that provides words, words, words to as many people as possible. The increase in the number of people exposed to literature due in large part to digitization means a decrease in illiteracy. More people will become well-read, a quality that seems to come in handy for cocktail parties and other social venues where, according to T.S. Eliot, "the women come and go, talking of Michelangelo."

But depending on the way this digitized book is viewed, whether it be on a laptop

or an iPad, the reading experience may be prone to negative consequences that ultimately lower the ceiling of literacy.

On the iPad, the digital book is merely another "App," which shows that the value of reading books is merely that of a substitutable, miscellaneous activity like checking e-mail or playing Solitaire. "The device does so many different things so well," writes technology commentator Paul Carr, "that there's a constant urge when you're using one to do something else. Two or three pages into a book, you're already wondering whether you've got new mail, or whether anyone has atted you on Twitter."

An anonymous 21-year-old writing an online technology column urged future authors to write books as though they were "Apps" on the iPad. Among his suggestions, he writes, "Why not make it like a game so that in order to get to the next 'chapter' you need to pass a test?" Basically, reading would be motivated not by the pure desire to read, but by the excitement of being able to satisfy the addictive need for constant entertainment in the most efficient way possible, much like the way people browse through short videos on YouTube.

I wondered whether paper-made books are gradually becoming the endangered species of industrialization.

Seduced by the media into buying an iPad, convinced of the financial and moral benefits of digital books, the potential literary genius will start to read the first few pages of a Lit Hum novel when he becomes distracted by the other iPad features that ironically cause a gradual shortening of the user's attention span, giving way to an infinite loop of distractions.

As technology keeps progressing, as liberals and environmentalists continue to succeed in convincing us of the moral benefits of the mass digitization of books, and as our "multitasking" habits on the computer systematically shorten our attention spans, the eventual digital takeover of paper-made books seems inevitable. You, however, still have a choice. Smell the old paper books in the Butler stacks, embrace the elitist pleasure of focusing on the apparently expensive and inconvenient document, and consider the heaviness of that textbook to be a reflection of its rich content. Or, go along with the Zeitgeist and have fun perpetually entertaining yourself with a digital sheet.

Yurina Ko is a Barnard College junior majoring in philosophy. She is a senior editor of the Columbia Political Review. 2+2=5 runs alternate Wednesdays.

Good art is a process

BY BARRY WEINBERG

I'm an unlikely advocate for the Arts Initiative. I have no discernible musical or artistic talent. I have not played a role in a student play. But like many Columbia students, I believe that CUArts is so important to my experience here at Columbia that I must speak out against the gutting of the greatest program to impact student life at Columbia since the dining hall started offering Wilma's omelets.

Since the administration's move of the Arts Initiative from the president's office to the graduate School of the Arts over election break, its next budget has been cut by 30 percent. We might know more, but administrators (Dean Becker of the School of the Arts in particular) have been outrageously uncooperative even by Columbia's standards.

I have a feeling that much of this may be a simple misunderstanding. Like a person who just doesn't see anything more than a bunch of dots in a Seurat, the problem with Dean Becker's vision of the Arts Initiative's value has been one of an uninitiated perspective. While it's easy to justify a 30 percent budget cut to a program you view as a glorified ticket booth for New York theaters, it's much harder to take a step back to view the whole of the Initiative and how it impacts student life both on and off campus. Since 2004, CUArts has provided \$230,000 in support of student projects, as well as supplying tickets to on-campus programming, constituting 60 percent of the ticket booth's sales. Each year, there have been 38,000 visits to museums via Passport to New York. Its work has even reached our syllabi, with professors now assigning MoMA exhibits, operas at the Met, and other cultural events in addition to traditional coursework. The beneficiaries represent every Columbia school and affiliate, making the Initiative a vital element of student life across schools and disciplines. It's certainly not meant solely to benefit the School of the Arts.

What allows the Arts Initiative to be a program of such extraordinary and dynamic content is the process by which it was created. When President Bollinger conceived of the program in 2004, he deliberately solicited a wide range of student input on how the arts at Columbia could play a more meaningful role. Bollinger's prescience ensured that CUArts would grow to become the rarest of all Columbia specimens: an entity loved across every division of the University. It's not enough that a particular administrator created a good program by listening to students. Administrators come and go, but the good programs they create shouldn't come and go with them. With this in mind, CUArts was moved to the School of the Arts to protect it from the drastic changes a new president might make.

Student oversight in the Arts Initiative must be similarly institutionalized, or else CUArts could be reduced in a few years to a ticket stand and cheap entry to museums. A student advisory board, representative of all of the University's constituent schools, is needed to ensure that CUArts remains a program dedicated to the needs of all students, not just the goals of a single graduate school within the University. The first cut has already come, with the elimination of the class of 2014's cultural orientation event, traditionally a reception for new students held at a museum.

Dean Becker is relatively new to Columbia, arriving in 2007 after 20 years at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She is likely unfamiliar with the depth of student governance in all aspects of Columbia. Ever since the 1968 protests, we've traditionally provided input through institutional channels ranging in scope from the

Student oversight in the Arts Initiative must be similarly institutionalized, or else CUArts could be reduced in a few years to a ticket stand and cheap entry to museums.

University Senate to the allocation of student funding through the various student governing boards. As students within a residential Ivy League institution, we are rightly concerned with oversight of the institutions that impact our daily lives.

On April 14, a group of students are meeting with Dean Becker to discuss the direction of CUArts. I hope that we can work with Dean Becker to protect the vibrant environment for the arts that the Arts Initiative has created. As Dean Becker herself said recently in a speech at Boston University in February, "Fundamental to such creative environments is the belief in and commitment to process." Advocates for the Arts Initiative, along with the hundreds of signatories of our "Save the Arts Initiative" petition, are ultimately committed to a transparent and inclusive process that engages those most affected by any change in CUArts: the students and alumni from every school at Columbia. Dean Becker is obligated to institutionalize a process for student oversight of CUArts, ensuring that the Initiative will continue to thrive at Columbia.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in East Asian languages and cultures. He is a member of Advocates for the Arts Initiative.

Take back Take Back the Night

This Thursday, Barnard and Columbia students will come together for a night-long affirmation of sexual assault victims' survival and empowerment. The Take Back the Night march attracts over a thousand students every year, and its structure is not without controversy. But while there should be discussion and room for evolution, Take Back the Night stands unequivocally as a force for good on this campus, and one that we, as students, support.

As the march is currently organized, there is a women-only section in front of a gender-neutral section. The switch to such a structure was relatively recent—for years, only women could take part in Take Back the

Night at all. This raises an important philosophical question. What role should gender play in an event centered on an issue that, statistically, directly affects one gender much more than it does the other? What is the proper balance between participants' comfort and greater inclusiveness? The TBTN coordinators have made it clear that deciding to maintain the current structure was not easy, and we do believe that the issue should be discussed and re-evaluated regularly.

However, it is important to remember that while the organization of the march is not perfect—what policy is?—it is a compromise indicative of extensive reflection and consideration of multiple points of view.

In addition to being an ideological issue, this was a practical concern—the more women feel completely safe, the more likely they are to take part in the event. Furthermore, sensitivity to how this issue really affects women during the march ultimately must outweigh ideological concerns, however valid the latter are. It would be highly unfortunate if the organizers' intentions were misinterpreted as some sort of sexism, as opposed to a practical and philosophical balance of inclusion and comfort.

Take Back the Night shouldn't be about a gender binary, or about taking sides on where one stands in a march. It should be about taking a stand for the march. There should be discussion, and there should be analysis of how

gender, sexual assault, and domestic violence are perceived and dealt with in our community. But that discussion should work with, not against, the empowerment of all community members. On Thursday, we hope the debate will momentarily be superseded by action. We hope that students will take this march back from personal preference and give it to our entire community for the empowerment of all genders.

Ben Cotton recused himself from this editorial due to a personal connection to one of Take Back the Night's organizers.

Tabitha Peyton Wood and Josie Aguila recused themselves from Monday's editorial due to personal connections to various candidates.

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

ACROSS

1 Talk back to
5 Super Bowl XXXIV winners
9 Dance move
13 Super stars?
14 Singer Brickell
15 Land of the Incas
16 Ingredient in some glazed chicken wings
18 Bring in
19 Land a plane
20 Charlie of "Two and a Half Men"
22 Morales of "Jencho"
23 Classified letters
25 Ming things
28 Throat problem
30 Dashboard tuner
33 Hood's "piece"
35 Drum effect
36 That, in Toledo
37 1982 McCartney/Wonder hit
41 Carte lead-in
42 Sanctuary section
43 Elongated swimmer
44 It became Ghana in 1957
47 American revolutionary who recruited Lafayette
51 Conductor Previn
52 Rice or Curry
54 War daily
55 Chicago Eight defendant Bobby
58 Gold diggers?
60 "NFL Live" ailer
62 One of two in a Christmas song
64 Political group
65 Bond's first movie foe
66 Fax predecessor
67 Bad thing to take in Vegas?
68 This puzzle's theme
69 Ladies in Mex.

DOWN

1 Hurting the most
2 2009 film set in
2154
3 City known for its zoo
4 Bell-shaped lily
5 Nine Inch Nails
6 Punch cousin
7 Overlook
8 Father of Enos
9 Large ranch, say
10 More minuscule
11 Significant time
12 Litter yipper
13 They're rubbed in Eskimo kissing
17 Lea lady
21 Slowly developed
24 Heartfelt
26 "Piece of cake!"
27 ____no replay
29 It's cure anything
31 Pentagon tenant, briefly
32 "Would ____?"
34 Secretary's slip
37 Tar Heel State university
38 Comb-over target

39 Big-house link
40 Poisonous ornamental
41 Ottoman VIP
45 Soak
46 Of the highest quality
48 Ring of color
49 Reason for shaking hands?
50 Devereux's eardrum
53 Prefix with content
56 1960s-'80s Ford
57 Continental money
59 Circus safety features
60 Go out
61 Gp. that kidnapped Patty Hearst
63 Genetic initials

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

K	I	W	I	D	I	A	D	E	M	Y	I	S		
O	D	I	N	E	N	T	I	C	E	A	R	T		
P	E	N	N	S	T	A	T	I	O	N	H	O	R	
S	A	G	R	O	T	L	U	P	I	N	O			
M	A	T	A	B	O	X	S	P	R	I	N	G		
S	P	I	R	A	L	A	L	O	O	F				
N	E	A	R	T	O	O	N	E	S	H	E	A	R	T
T	E	A	S	E	T	A	L	C	A	P	P			
N	O	T	S	O	F	A	S	T	T	A	M	S		
U	N	I	T	L	O	O	S	E						
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M	I	R	G	I	M	M	E	A	B	R	E	A	K	
E	D	A	G	L	O	B	A	L	E	A	V	E		
G	A	S	T	O	A	T	S	F	L	A	W			

By Gary Steinmetz
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04/14/10



Friday, April 16, 2010

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PRESENT THE FOLLOWING:

Green Development in China: An Address on Climate Change
by HU ANGANG
Director of the Center for China Studies, Tsinghua University
followed by a question and answer session with the audience
10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Altschul Auditorium, 417 International Affairs Building
Registration is required. Please visit universityprograms.columbia.edu to register and for more information.

How Does Chinese Property Law Influence Chinese Society?
a presentation by SHEN WEIXING
Associate Dean of the Law School, Tsinghua University
2:30 p.m.
Faculty House Boardroom
Seating is limited. Please RSVP to rsvp2@columbia.edu or call 212-851-7418.

China's Problems Telling Tibetan Stories
a presentation given by LI XIGUANG
School of Journalism and Communication, Tsinghua University
2:30 p.m.
Jerome Greene Annex
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Pick up a copy of Spec tomorrow to see how other Ancient Eight baseball squads are faring as we near the midway point of the conference season.

TOMORROW



SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2010 • PAGE 8



Check Spec tomorrow to see if the lacrosse team will bounce back from its loss last weekend in its match against Quinnipiac today.

TOMORROW

Support men's tennis as it guns for title



KUNAL GUPTA

Moving the Chains

This weekend I'm giving you a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Or, at the very least, you can only participate in it like twice a year.

On Sunday, at 2 p.m., you can be a part of the Columbia Lions men's tennis team experience, as it hopefully clinches at least a share of this year's Ivy League championship. The champion will be decided this weekend. Columbia comes into the weekend tied for first place in the conference, with their two final matches this weekend against Penn and Princeton. Columbia is tied with Yale, which upset the No. 45 Columbia team last weekend. If both teams win out, the two will share the title, but Yale will earn the automatic berth into the NCAA tournament due to their head-to-head win over Columbia. Yale, however, has to play, in my opinion, the second best team in the Ivy League on Sunday, which is Harvard. A loss this weekend would all but doom Yale's shot at this season's coveted crown.

Last spring, the Lions traveled to Princeton and won their second Ivy title in three years on the road, with a cheering section of about 20 loyal fans, parents and alumni. This year, they have a chance to beat Princeton for a share of the Ivy title again, but this time they can do it in front of many more people.

For the final time, at least for this spring, I'm going to ask everyone to come out and support the men's team. In supporting the team, you'll not only be a part of what is hopefully a memorable experience, but you will become a part of one of the best programs in Columbia athletics.

This spring, there are a couple of teams with really good shots to bring an Ivy League championship back to Morningside Heights. Aside from the men's tennis team, the first that comes to mind is the baseball team. At 6-2, the baseball team is two games ahead in the Gehrig Division and is riding an impressive 3-1 weekend. The baseball team also won the championship in 2008 and should certainly be considered the favorite to represent the Gehrig Division in the Ivy League Championship series.

In addition, the men's golf team might give both of the aforementioned teams a run for their money. The Lions have won the past two Ivy League championships, including last season's remarkable comeback from a three-stroke deficit on the final day of the championships. Under head coach Rich Mueller, now entering his fifth season at the helm of both the men's and women's golf teams, the duo regularly competes for a spot at the top of the Ancient Eight.

But while both might bring home titles to our campus, the viewer experience for neither of these teams compares to that of watching the men's tennis team at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center. First off, the golf team doesn't play anywhere near campus. Most of the courses where they practice and play are located outside of New York City (for obvious reasons) and are inconvenient for students to get to without a car. The baseball team offers a more traditional viewing experience, but even then, viewers and fans are separated from the action. Stands and bleachers offer a broad view of the field, but at the end of the day, you are still separate from the team. After a big win, the fans and players go to separate places.

Not so with watching the tennis team. You'll literally stand right between two of the best players ever to don a Columbia uniform and watch as they whack forehands and serves at their opponents. When a player comes off the court, win or lose, he is met with teammates, parents, and fans, all of whom have the chance to interact with them right as they finish their match. In baseball, you might get stuck watching a pitchers' duel. While this might appeal to the purist and most traditional baseball fan, most casual fans want to see hits, runs, and, ideally, home runs. In college tennis, you can't ever get "stuck" with a match. Unless all of the other matches are finished, there's always another one going on. Different matches feature different styles—some players have booming serves, others like to thump forehands into the corners. Some like to attack the net, while others like to stay back and force their opponents into errors. In college tennis, there is no such thing as getting stuck with a "pitchers' duel."

Come support the men's tennis team

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Power Hitter

Outfielder Pizzano excels in league games against Penn and Harvard

BY VICTORIA JONES
Spectator Staff Writer

Outfielder Dario Pizzano has had an impressive week in his rookie season on the Columbia baseball team.

This past week alone, Pizzano scored 11 runs, had 11 RBI, and slugged five home runs out of the park, contributing to an on-base percentage of .682 and a 2.232 OPS. One week ago, in the Lions' game against Rutgers, Pizzano went 3-for-3, driving in two runs and scoring three more, including a solo homer to right field. After getting a hit in both games against the Big Green on Saturday, Pizzano excelled in Sunday's matchups in Cambridge, Mass.

In the first game, which the Lions won 24-1, Pizzano was an offensive dynamo, batting an astounding 6-for-6. The freshman scored five runs and tallied six RBI, four of which came off a grand slam in the top of the seventh, in the team's crushing defeat of Harvard.

Sunday's second game saw Pizzano as an offensive leader yet again, putting the Light Blue's first runs on the board in the top of the sixth with a two-run homer down the right field line.

Pizzano's improved hitting is no accident. The freshman has finally relaxed and found his stride when it comes to stepping up to the plate.

"I just stopped thinking about, 'I have to get a hit this time,'" Pizzano said. "Just clear your mind, see the ball, hit it. I'm going to keep that approach for the rest of the season."

The improvement in his presence at the plate has not gone unnoticed—on Monday, Pizzano was named one of Collegiate Baseball's National Players of the Week for his recent performance in the batter's box.

Pizzano, like many players, had an imperfect transition from high school to college ball.

"It's real different. Every pitcher is a lot better," Pizzano said. "They have a lot of different pitches that they can throw for strikes at any count."

Back in high school, things were easier for the outfielder, but on the college diamond, a player needs to make changes to succeed in his starting position.

"I was the best player on my team [in high school], so I didn't have to worry about it," Pizzano said. "But when I got to college, I was a freshman in a starting position, so I was trying to get too much effort and

I was thinking about everything too much. But I just stopped thinking about the other players—just see the ball and hit, and that approach always works."

Pizzano is still acutely aware of the work the team is doing as a whole, though.

"We have a mission. ... Our goal is to take it one game at a time, get it done, and we've been doing that, so I think our goal is, obviously, to win the Ivy League, and we're really determined to get to that goal," Pizzano said. "We work hard every day at practice, and it shows in how we've been playing lately."

What he would like to fix about his own game, and how does he personally hope to help the team achieve its championship goals?



JASPER CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

OUTSTANDING OUTFIELDER | Dario Pizzano was named one of Collegiate Baseball's National Players of the Week for his impressive offensive performance against Ancient Eight opponents.

GUEST COLUMN

Senior reflects on Jones's legacy as both coach, mentor

BY KEVIN BULGER



I am sure the announcement about head basketball coach Joe Jones' decision to leave Columbia for Boston College was overlooked by many students and staff members. After all, the Columbia student body and community seem to have what many would consider a valid apathy toward our athletics program. This, coupled with the fact that in his tenure, the men's basketball team was never able to compete for a championship, may have made his leaving insignificant for some, but not for me.

Unlike most readers, I had the privilege of playing for Coach Jones, and when I found out about his departure, I cried. This will be hard to understand for those of you who have never been fortunate enough to form a bond with someone through athletics or some other organization. However, anyone who has ever had a mentor who has helped them grow and mature may have an idea of how I, many of my teammates, and former players feel about losing Coach Jones.

While the experience of playing for a person with as much passion for basketball as Coach Jones was wonderful, I got even greater joy out of getting to know him as a person. For those who don't know him, Coach Jones is one of the most energetic people you could ever meet. This, along with his welcoming personality, made him a shining star in the athletic department and Columbia community at large. The enthusiasm he brought to the athletic department was unrivaled, and I urge anyone to disagree with me.

Even more impressive than his energy and enthusiasm was the care he

While this article may be a start, I will never be able to repay Coach Jones for all that he has done for me.

showed toward his players. Over the past four years, there have been innumerable occasions when Coach has reached out to my teammates and me in ways he didn't have to. I remember freshman year, when a friend of mine from high

school passed away, Coach took me to his house. He hugged me and let me know it was OK to cry. I remember when a teammate's father passed away, Coach Jones and his entire staff came to the funeral in suits and ties, ready to grieve with that teammate. I remember Coach Jones furiously scolding a teammate because he wasn't getting the job done in the classroom and was, in Coach's words, "jeopardizing his future."

Just this past week, the Monday after Coach Jones had decided to leave for Boston College, I was in his office, and he was calling various contacts of his in an effort to try and find me a job. He also insisted on writing a letter of recommendation for me, as it will be useful in the future. Keep in mind, this is all after he decided to leave Columbia. He had no obligation to help me in any way. The guy was still trying to figure out the details of his own life, mainly where he was going to live in Boston and what school he was going to send his kids to, yet he was still going out of his way to help me. Here he is, a grown man going through a huge life transition, yet still taking the time to help a former player trying to finalize his own future, in spite of the fact that his was still so uncertain.

While this article may be a start, I will never be able to repay Coach Jones for all

that he has done for me. He enriched my college experience in ways that no other person or coach could ever do. For those of you that never got to meet Coach Jones and for those of you who undervalued his importance to Columbia, it is a shame. The new men's basketball coach will have his work cut out for him in more ways than one. I can only hope he cares half as much about his players as Coach Jones cared about his. In an era where college sports and, more specifically, coaching have become a slimy business, it is refreshing and important to know that there are still people out there who coach for the right reasons. The headlines on sports pages across the country are littered with news of other coaches and their various personal and professional transgressions, but I feel there should be at least one (albeit tucked away in Spec) out there that lauds a coach for doing it the right way: leading a program with enthusiasm, integrity, and compassion. Coach would be the first person to admit that he was never perfect, but he always supported his players and did what he thought was right. In the words of Jelani Johnson: I can't knock that.

The author is a senior in Columbia College and a member of the men's basketball team.