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Bacchanal players set for spring concert

Rapper Talib Kweli and indie-rock band Vampire Weekend are set for this year's Bacchanal spring concert, which moves back to the Low steps.



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Filmmakers make a break through CUPF

Columbia University Film Production has changed its agenda this year to help student filmmakers through the entire process of taking films from script to screen.

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Hatemongers

Columnist Jonathan Hollander criticizes the Columbia Palestine Forum for aggravating the tension surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



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Jared Drucker looks to improve world ranking

After graduating from Columbia in 2008, Drucker decided to play tennis professionally. He has spent the last two years traveling the globe and honing his tennis skills.

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Lions seek to rebound from weekend sweep

After dropping four games to Princeton, Columbia softball will face Manhattan in a doubleheader that should prepare the team for weekend opponent and Ivy rival Cornell.

ONLINE

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“OCCUPATION 101”



James Rathmell for Spectator

**MUSLIM STUDENTS ASSOCIATION** | Barnard English professor Bashir Abu-Manneh addressed a group of students during a question-and-answer session following the screening of the documentary *Occupation 101*. The film features interviews with leading Middle East scholars and testimonials from those directly affected, as well as information on the historical roots of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The event was co-sponsored by MSA and the Arab Students Association at the School of International and Public Affairs.

ESC elects class councils, amends voting

BY ELIZABETH SCOTT  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

The Engineering Student Council class elections closed Wednesday with uncontested candidate Heather Lee clinching the senior class presidency. Joffre Andrade will assume the role of senior class vice president, and Stanley Chen and Varun Gulati were

both elected class representatives.

The open class elections come after recent ESC constitutional reviews. Members decided to change the Executive Board voting process in a way that will allow SEAS students more access to the elections without changing its fundamental internality.

Before this unprecedented change,

the constitution stipulated internal elections of the E-board. The public could listen to candidates' speeches, but the doors were closed for the council's discussions. The E-board releases only the ultimate decisions to the student body.

According to current ESC President

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ESC ELECTION RESULTS

President



Heather Lee

President



Kamal Yechoor

President



Judy Kim

**2010 Senior Class**  
V.P. - Joffre Andrade  
Rep. - Stanley Chen  
Rep. - Varun Gulati

**2011 Junior Class**  
V.P. - Dana Ibarra  
Rep. - Albert Miller  
Rep. - Epsita Hoque

**2012 Sophomore**  
V.P. - Santosh Balachandar  
Rep. - Spencer Almen  
Rep. - Mailing Wu

Earth Institute to create new major for fall 2010

BY MARGAUX GROUX  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

As issues of climate control continue to make front-page news, the Earth Institute plans to unveil a new undergraduate major in sustainable development for fall 2010.

Building upon the existing special concentration in sustainable development, a group of faculty members, administrators, and students is currently mapping out the new major. The concept of an undergraduate program at the Earth Institute has been something that Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Earth Institute and a special advisor to United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, has wanted to create since he took his post at the University. Kevin Griffin, Interim Program Director of the Special Concentration in Sustainable Development, said.

Griffin said he hopes that this new “trans-disciplinary” course of study, which will incorporate courses from a range of departments, will help students come up with creative ways to use resources responsibly. “The problems that we’re facing worldwide are so big and challenging that they simply can’t be solved in a strict disciplinary way,” Griffin said.

Although the list of required courses for the major is still being developed, it will include a wide range of topics spanning from economics to anthropology. In addition, Griffin emphasized that a practical component will be essential to the new major in the form of field work. “We’d like to get students out there where these

sorts of concerns are staring you in the face all day,” he said. The committee at the Earth Institute that is currently working on the logistics of the major plans to hold an in-depth meeting in May.

Students are already showing interest in this new major. Jess Epstein, BC ’11, said, “I would definitely do it because it’s more concentrated on policy and the humanities, which I think is a valuable facet to learning about the environment from a more global perspective.”

Faculty are also confident that students will be drawn to the new major. Ruth DeFries, Denning professor of sustainable development, said she expects it to be as popular as the existing concentration among undergraduates.

For the students, the number of opportunities in sustainable development after graduation is continually expanding. “I can’t imagine any job they couldn’t get,” Griffin said.

Even with the full major, the special concentration in sustainable development will continue to exist, Griffin said. He explained that the concentration allows students to be grounded in a traditional discipline while still exploring “how humans can make decisions about resources without destroying the planet.”

“The times just really demand it,” DeFries said about the importance of teaching the next generation to use resources responsibly. She said she believes that students need to be versed in how to handle the challenges of the future. [news@columbiaspectator.com](mailto:news@columbiaspectator.com)



Lila Neiswanger / Staff Photographer

**MAN'S BEST FRIEND** | Starting in May, the New York City Housing Authority will implement new rules for pet ownership in its buildings. The decision follows a rise in the number of dog attacks occurring in the neighborhood.

Residents face stricter rules for pet ownership

BY SAM LEVIN  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

From the intimidating pit bulls that bite on command to the droopy eyed Saint Bernards that slobber and snore, dogs—and their owners—who live in New York City Housing Authority buildings will face new rules and regulations starting May 1, and local responses have ranged from relief to outrage.

NYCHA, which traditionally banned pets in its buildings, changed its policy to allow limited ownership of domesticated animals in 2002 in response to the national Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act, which required that the Housing Authority grant tenants the right to own one pet per apartment.

The resulting rise of dogs in public housing led to a surge of reported dog

attacks, some of which led to police intervention and open gunfire, said Howard Marder, public information officer of NYCHA. Pit bulls specifically have been determined by NYCHA to be predators to public housing residents, and in response to pit bull attacks, NYCHA will enact a stricter policy starting in May.

The new policies will require dogs to be under 25 pounds, a change from the current 40 pound maximum, and more specific limits will be placed on the types of breeds allowed—all with the goal of eliminating “vicious” dogs, Marder said.

Ethel Velez, executive director of the New York City Public Housing Residents Alliance, and self-professed dog-lover, called the issue “a double-edged blade.” She expressed doubt with the revisions of policy, saying,

“The fact that we are going to have smaller dogs does not mean that they will be less vicious,” adding that she fears the 25-pound limit will only result in “smaller bites.”

Velez also said that rules on paper are not always practical. “The Housing Authority has no one to monitor who has a dog and who doesn’t, and who is cleaning up after their dog and who isn’t.”

At NYCHA’s Grant Houses on 123rd Street and Amsterdam, residents reported that dangerously aggressive dogs are common and rules are not followed.

“They don’t regulate them. Nobody says anything. Everybody has a pet,” said resident Michelle Seroy, as she walked her dog.

SEE PETS, page 2

Groups reach out to victims of assault

Campus advocates provide range of services

BY MAGGIE ASTOR  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Campus is plastered with black-and-white signs in anticipation of tonight’s Take Back the Night march, and they are as stark as the statistics they display: “86 percent of adolescent sexual assaults go unreported.” “As many as one in three girls and one in seven boys will be sexually abused at some point in their childhood.” “About 324,000 women each year experience intimate partner violence during their pregnancy.”

Sexual violence will be at the forefront of students’ minds as they wind through Morningside Heights, fighting back by blowing whistles and screaming chants. But sexual assault happens year-round, and there are a number of resources available on campus to address the mental health issues that so often arise as a result.

“There’s still a stigma around being sexually assaulted,” said Karen Singleton, director of the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Program at Columbia. “There’s a lot of shame associated with it, embarrassment, fear of judgment, fear of losing one’s community, one’s friends.”

Six percent of female and 2.4 percent of male students at Barnard and Columbia who responded to the 2004 National College Health Assessment reported having been sexually assaulted in their lifetime, but Singleton called that a “minimizing number,” meaning that the assaults are underreported. The NCHA was distributed to students again last year, but that data is not yet available.

In an effort to overcome many survivors’ hesitance

SEE SERVICES, page 2

Campus resources for sexual assault victims

24/7 advocacy hotline: (212) 854-WALK

Peer counselor hotline (Rape Crisis Center): (212) 854-HELP, 7-11 p.m. daily

Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Program office, Lerner Hall 3rd floor: (212) 854-4366

Students interested in becoming a peer advocate or counselor, in organizing a workshop, or in volunteering for SVPRP in any capacity should call (212) 854-4366.

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MUSIC

# Bacchanal concert set to bring the noise this weekend

BY ANGELA RUGGIERO-CORLISS  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

“War on Fun” be damned. This Saturday, from 3-5 p.m., Columbia students will set down their textbooks, don their sunglasses, and congregate on Low steps to see Talib Kweli and Vampire Weekend perform in the Bacchanal spring concert.

For the average Columbian, the concert means a free show and a chance to celebrate spring. But for coordinators in Bacchanal Special Events, the concert is the culmination of a long and tiring planning process.

So what does it take to put on a big concert at Columbia? The Bacchanal spring concert is produced by Bacchanal Special Events and additionally funded by Columbia College Student Council, the Arts Initiative, Barnard’s Student Government Association, and the President and Provost Fund. Planning for the event has been underway since the fall.

Bacchanal works with an agent to book the performers. “It ends up being a relay process,” said Bacchanal’s president Jeremy Reich, CC ’09. The concert’s line-up depends largely on the availability and cost of the artists. The club’s budget, which is granted by the Activities Board at Columbia, is a

limiting factor—especially this year because it was lower than usual, according to Reich.

Sometimes, pulling off the concert means pulling strings. “We had contacts with Vampire Weekend because they went to school here,” said Bacchanal’s concertmaster Benny Shaffer, CC ’09, adding that this year’s show boasts some of the most high-profile acts in Bacchanal history. In the past, the spring concert has showcased artists still on their way up to superstardom. When rapper Kanye West headlined in 2004, “He was just starting to get big, but we managed to get him for a very small price,” Reich said.

This year, Bacchanal hopes that the juxtaposition of Talib Kweli’s politically charged rap and Vampire Weekend’s preppy indie-pop will please the student body. “We want to do the best we can to satisfy a wide variety of tastes and get artists who we think will appeal to everyone,” said Reich.

The concert will take place on Low steps, marking a return to tradition. Last year’s spring concert, which featured indie acts The National and Grizzly Bear, was held in Roone Arledge auditorium due to budget constraints and a booking conflict for the Steps. Because of fire code regulations, Bacchanal could only distribute a certain number of tickets—but many ticket holders never showed, leaving empty seats inside the venue and hopeful concert-goers locked outside.

Boris Mindzak, SEAS ’09, attended last year’s show. “The bands themselves aren’t really bands that would get crowds pumped,” he explained, but added that “there were definitely a lot of people who enjoyed the show.” Bacchanal hopes that this year’s show will be more universally appealing.

“It’s pretty obvious that it wasn’t a success last year and we’re conscious of that,” said Reich.

Staging the concert outdoors is an expensive undertaking—setting up a stage, sound, and lighting equipment outdoors increases the cost by \$15,000 to \$20,000. “That is a really significant percentage [of the club’s budget],” said Reich. Bacchanal coordinators think it’s worth it, though, especially after the shortcomings of last year’s indoor affair. “It’s not the concert if it’s not outdoors,” Reich added.

The spring concert is a tradition at many other universities. Brown University’s “Spring Weekend” seems more like Coachella than college—the six-band line-up includes Nas, Of Montreal, and Santigold. Shaffer attributed this to a larger budget and a charge for tickets—Bacchanal is free. “It’s for the whole community to enjoy,” Shaffer said.

According to Reich, the Columbia administration’s notorious “War on Fun” has imposed limitations on the Bacchanal concert by decreasing budgets and increasing regulations. “Freshman year was much,

much more fun than senior year, in terms of the on-campus scene,” he said. “The War on Fun boils down to a real concern for the University’s liability, but not for its students.”

Yet providing security for the concert is a real issue—especially in New York City. Contracts specify that the names of the artists cannot be released more than two weeks before the show, to prevent an overwhelming audience. “I don’t think there’s really going to be a riot to an indie band, or just a concert in general, but these rigid policies say that could very well happen and if it does, they [the Columbia administration] don’t want to be liable,” said Reich.

James McShane, associate vice president of the Department of Public Safety, confirmed Public Safety’s role. “We are a full partner in the planning of the Bacchanal events,” he said. McShane added that, although security will be increased, the campus would remain open to the public. Shaffer spoke positively about collaborating with the Columbia administration and Department of Public Safety. “Things have gone really smoothly,” he said.

“We’re trying to do the best with what we’ve got,” said Reich. But with diverse and high-profile acts, Low steps as a venue, and Saturday’s forecast reading 67 degrees and sunny, “what we’ve got” looks like an improvement.

THEATER

# LateNite Theatre to bring a plethora of plays

BY MATT HERZFELD  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

LateNite Theatre is more than just a mid-night snack—it’s a five-course meal that acts like a full workout.

The 90-minute theater program is made up of five one-act plays, all directed, written, and performed by Columbia students. Aside from that, the plays produced this year have little in common, which is precisely the point.

Erin Byrne, BC ’09, a co-producer of LateNite—long with Alice Mottola, BC ’10,—is quick to emphasize the diversity to be found among the five plays. “We try to strike a balance between the serious and the comedic,” she explained. As the producer, Byrne sees her job as a creative role, making an arc for the entire evening. The key to creating this arc is varying the content—if one play is not to a particular audience member’s taste, the next one should be.

Byrne’s goal is to make theater accessible to the entire Columbia community. She believes LateNite grows a little each year. “It has gotten flack in the past for not taking itself seriously, but everyone is very invested and dedicated. Things are fun and relaxed, but good work gets done.”

Rob Trump, CC ’09, one of the writer-directors, describes working on the show as “wholly enjoyable.” Trump, who has written for the Varsity Show, is a newcomer to LateNite. He believes that the reduced pressure of LateNite provides a forum for students to take risks and experiment. Trump describes his approach to writing as “finding what happens when normal people have to react to really abnormal situations.”

While Trump’s play is a comedic spoof of murder mystery parties, he thinks conflict is the key to a compelling play. “When the conflict is something ridiculous, you’re more likely to laugh, and when it is more serious you’re likely to experience an emotional impact,” he said.

LateNite’s diverse plays are a direct reflection of the assortment of people involved. Byrne says that the individuals involved with LateNite come not only from every corner of campus theater, but also those who are completely new to theater altogether. Jon Kaplan, CC ’11, is a LateNite veteran in his fourth show, but his stage experience was limited to improvisational comedy before being involved in LateNite. Kaplan is in two of the plays this semester, and continues to come back because of the camaraderie he feels with the rest of the cast and crew.

But LateNite is not all fun and games. Each LateNite production has given Kaplan new challenges to face as an actor. In the past, he has had to hone his dancing skills, pretend to be an NYU student, and share the stage with a fellow actor who was completely nude. This year, he has to portray an old man.

“This role is more removed from who I really am,” Kaplan said. “But that is what is so great about LateNite. It is a playground, but less daunting than a full length play.”

**WHERE IT’S AT**

**Time:** Friday-Sunday at 11 p.m.  
**Place:** Lerner Black Box  
**Cost:** Free!



Ajit Pillai / Senior Staff Photographer

**DIVERSE DRAMA** | LateNite Theatre offers a set of unconnected plays to entertain audiences.

## SPRING SOUNDS



Courtesy of Monotone Inc.

**BLASTIN’ BACCHANAL** | Returning to Low Steps with headliners Talib Kweli and Vampire Weekend, Columbia’s Bacchanal promises to be a much better event than last year’s questionable performance. Despite the supposed “War on Fun,” Bacchanal should give Columbia students the concert they deserve.

### CALENDAR OF BACCHANAL EVENTS

Saturday, 4/18	Monday, 4/20	Wednesday, 4/22	Thursday, 4/23	Friday, 4/24	Saturday, 4/25	Sunday, 4/26
Vampire Weekend and Talib Kweli rock out on the Low Steps from 3-5 p.m.	Listen to Neal Goldberg on the Low Steps from 12-2 p.m., and then grab some grub at the Taste of Morningside Heights 3:30-5 p.m. Finally catch <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> from 8-10 p.m. on the steps.	Oak and Gorski bring acoustic music to the Sundial from 12-2 p.m., and Comedy Central’s Robert Kelly brings his comedy show to Lerner Party Space from 7:30-9 p.m.	Hit the Low Steps for music or just to chill, complete with free giveaways from 12-2 p.m.	North campus transforms to one giant capture-the-flag game from 8-10 p.m.	Enjoy a “Hippie BBQ” on Low Plaza, complete with drum circles from 1-4 p.m., and then head over to Ancel Plaza from 4-7 p.m. for a Hawaiian Luau.	Come to Low Plaza for bagels and hackesack from 12-2 p.m., and then mellow out at the Postcrypt Folk Festival on Ancel Plaza from 12-6 p.m.

FILM

BY VICTORIA FOX  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

In the name of filmmaking, student director Max Rifkind-Barron, CC ’11, was kicked out of Butler Library.

Rifkind-Barron’s project *Anhedonia*—about a college student’s addiction to studying and his roommate’s comical obsession with stopping him—is part of a handful of projects making up the inaugural production season of Columbia University Film Production. While Butler may seem like a logical location for a film about study-crazed students, some unknown school rules threatened to get in the way.

“We had a problem,” Rifkind-Barron explained, “Apparently you’re not allowed to shoot in Butler at all.”

Due to its complexity, filmmaking is an art notorious for setbacks, making teamwork and planning paramount in its execution. While a few obstacles (like Butler security guards) are inevitable for even the most experienced filmmakers, CUFP hopes production season will create a network to overcome these hitches with finesse and creativity—a strategy that is working, as Rifkind-Barron’s project has made it to post-production.

Though primarily known as simply a free on-campus source for undergraduates to rent camera and sound equipment, CUFP launched its first annual production season this semester to expand the club’s scope. “We had been trying to reshape the club’s direction from just being a rental company to actually developing our own projects,” production season coordinator Clea Litewka, CC ’10,

explained. To become more like a real production company, CUFP is using its production season to guide a handful of short film projects from the early writing stages to final cuts.

Writers and directors were selected to participate in production season by online application—writers submitted a five-page screenplay sample and directors submitted a résumé. After selecting the writers and directors, CUFP led a series of workshops to equip participants with the support to make their artistic visions into concrete projects.

The writers’ workshops, organized by Litewka, used a collaborative atmosphere to create individual scripts that were both well-structured and feasible for campus shooting. “My idea for the writers’ workshop was that it would be peer driven,” Litewka explained. “I tried to choose people who seemed to be pretty strong writers so they could give feedback and comment on one another’s work.” Writers spent several sessions building their individual scripts, concluding with a table reading that brought writers and directors together. Final drafts were then submitted and the projects turned over to the directors.

Similar to the writing workshops, directing workshops were designed to give directors the information and assistance to bring their ideas to screen. Directors were given tutorials in directing actors, working with the camera, editing, and planning the particulars for their individual films.

Beyond simply being information sessions, the workshop process provided writers and directors with the chance to network with other undergraduate filmmakers, forming contacts that are essential to coordinate the complex process of filmmaking



Ian Kwok / Senior Staff Photographer

**CAMPUS CINEMA** | CUFP has given undergraduate filmmakers the training to make their movies.

at an undergraduate level. “It’s hard to find your voice as an undergraduate here because so much emphasis is placed on the graduate film program,” Rifkind-Barron said, “and we don’t get any of their resources, we don’t get any of their counseling. It’s just off-limits to us.”

While several films are still wrapping up their shooting and post-production phases, CUFP is plans on having a screening of all the production season projects by the end of the semester, marking a solid step in advancing Columbia’s undergraduate film.











SPORTS

# Lions look to get back on track against Manhattan

BY MICHELE CLEARY  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

The Columbia softball team will look to rebound from a four-game sweep at the hands of Princeton when it takes on Manhattan this afternoon. The Lions will also use this doubleheader to tune up for Cornell, their next Southern Division opponent.

The Light Blue (12-24, 2-10 Ivy) is currently mired in a five-game losing streak. The four losses to Princeton were tightly contested—all were decided by two runs or fewer—indicating Columbia's troubles winning close games. Over the course of the series, the Lions left 28 runners on base.



Columbia lost the first pair of games by scores of 4-2 and 6-5. On day two, the Tigers took the first game 6-5 and the second 5-4. Manhattan (8-22), which has lost six games row, will also be looking to reverse a losing trend. On Tuesday, the Jaspers were swept by Albany in a doubleheader, dropping the first game 2-1 and the second 3-0.

Despite strong pitching performances from Ashley Rampino and Melissa Donnelly, Manhattan was unable to take the first contest of the series. Only Kara Cokeley and Amanda Genovese had hits for the Jaspers. Manhattan only managed five total baserunners.

The second game carried a similar storyline—strong pitching and weak hitting. This time it was Erika Sullivan who posted a strong start for the Jaspers, giving up three runs in four innings. Rampino came on in relief, allowing only one hit and no runs in

two innings of work. But Manhattan was once again held to two hits, both off the bat of Monica Evangelista.

Columbia played Manhattan twice last season, winning both decisions. In the first meeting, the Lions came out with a 5-1 victory. Maggie Johnson earned the win after pitching seven innings of three-hit ball. She also contributed offensively with two hits, three RBI, and a run.

In the second meeting, the Light Blue took the victory by a score of 6-3. Erica Clauss got the start and Aimee Kemp earned the win. Clauss pitched four innings of three-hit ball and gave up just one run before Kemp came on and yielded two runs on four hits in three innings of relief.

Dani Pineda led the Columbia offense, going 4-for-4 with a hit and an RBI.

The first game of today's doubleheader is scheduled for 4 p.m. at Baker Athletics Complex.



File Photo

**LINE DRIVE** | The Columbia softball team will look to end its five game losing streak in a doubleheader against Manhattan this afternoon.

## Mascots provide more than just entertainment



JACOB SHAPIRO

### PUT IT ON THE BOARD

Being from Chicago, I immediately connected Baxter to Southpaw, the White Sox mascot, whom the team introduced several years ago. While cute in his own right, Southpaw, the big green something (Wikipedia doesn't even know what he's supposed to represent), has nothing to do with the team name or its history.

Just in the world of baseball, Southpaw and Baxter are joined by several other meaningless mascots including TC (the Twins bear), Lou Seal (from the Giants), Stomper (the A's elephant), and Junction Jack (the hickish rabbit railway conductor for the Astros). And there's more: have a look at [mlb.com/kids/mascots.jsp](http://mlb.com/kids/mascots.jsp).

To be fair, the Wikipedia page on MLB mascots does list the supposed significance of each mascot to their team, but some of these are just an outright stretch.

"TC is loosely modeled after the Hamm's Beer Bear, a mascot used in advertisements for Hamm's Brewery, an early sponsor for the Twins." Seriously?

In Arizona, the original stadium went by the name "Bank One Ballpark" and was commonly known by local fans as "The Bob". Therefore, the team mascot became a bobcat, but come on! Doesn't it just make a whole lot more sense to have it be a freakin' snake?!!

I know, team mascots are primarily there to entertain the kids and big, furry animals are the most enticing characters around (thanks, Walt Disney). But to crazy sports fans, mascots are a part of the game that all aficionados like to latch onto and they become part of the fun and magic surrounding the team.

To prove this point, I need only direct you to the best mascots in sports—some of whom are so cherished that they are indeed the face of the team. Mr. Met appears on the Mets uniforms in Queens, the Phillie Phanatic is just hilarious and Benny the Bull is as well known as Michael Jordan. And those are just three examples out of many.

In college sports, mascots are arguably more respected and in some cases, a cult-like atmosphere surrounds the mascot's honor. Bucky Badger is all over Wisconsin's campus and dons most official university signage. It's widely known that Georgia's Uga has a student ID card and following the bulldog's death (Uga VI to be exact) last year flags on campus were flown at half-mast.

Most people are familiar with the controversy surrounding Chief Illiniwek at Illinois where the NCAA strong-armed the university into abandoning its most recognizable symbol in 2007. But for students, alumni, and fans, the Chief lives on—proving that mascots can be especially powerful even after they have ceased to exist.

Many Columbians do not know that the university's adoption of the lion as its mascot happened nearly 100 years ago. The modern adaptation of the Columbia mascot is, of course, Roar-ee the Lion. And to its credit, the university has done a decent job of promoting him. Roar-ee makes it to all major sporting events (and even shows up in the jersey of the sport), is available in bobble-head form, and the lion's logo can be found on everything at the bookstore.

But while the Columbia lion's history is long, the mascot is not widely known outside of Morningside Heights. Even worse, the Columbia community hasn't adopted Roar-ee even though it was the student body that selected the character's name in a 2005 vote.

Before Roar-ee can make members of the Columbia community (past and present) proud, the mascot needs to be invigorated by the wider community on a campus that remains highly fragmented. The university can help by giving out free stickers and posters or asking the bookstore to stock more apparel that features the mascot. But somehow, Roar-ee must become a facet of student life before students can walk around like they do at Illinois or Wisconsin with shirts that just read "Chief" or "Bucky".

It's always easier to point out problems than to create solutions to solve them, but that's exactly what I'm going to do. At least we can be happy that Roar-ee is indeed a lion and not a giant pink caterpillar named Baxter.

*Jacob Shapiro is a List College junior majoring in history and Talmud. [sports@columbiaspectator.com](mailto:sports@columbiaspectator.com)*

# Columbia alum takes his game global

## Drucker ups ranking after recent success

BY KUNAL GUPTA  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Jared Drucker has made \$643 this year, and just over \$1000 in his career. He has spent the past year playing in remote places such as Chandigarh, India, Naucalpan, Mexico, and Santa Tecla, El Salvador. Drucker, currently the world's No. 1363-ranked tennis player, is living the life of a professional, but no matter how glamorous life may be for the top pros, it is difficult for those at the bottom.

The road to becoming a professional tennis player is arguably the hardest in sports, even more so after a college career, but that was not enough to deter Drucker, CC '08, from giving it a try. Few obstacles ever have.

"My goal is just to keep improving my game," said the always humble Drucker. "Pro tennis can be depressing if you focus on points or money, since both are hard to come by. I am just happy if I keep getting better and playing the way I know I am capable of playing."

Drucker has been playing the international tennis circuit since his graduation in May. While the top ten in the world stay in posh hotels, travel with an entourage of coaches, trainers, and girlfriends, and play in tournaments with seven-figure checks, none of these amenities are afforded to low-ranked players such as Drucker. While the top players gathered in Miami this past week for a tournament with a winner's check of over half a million dollars, Drucker was in India playing at a \$15,000 F2 Futures event. He managed to reach the quarterfinals, his

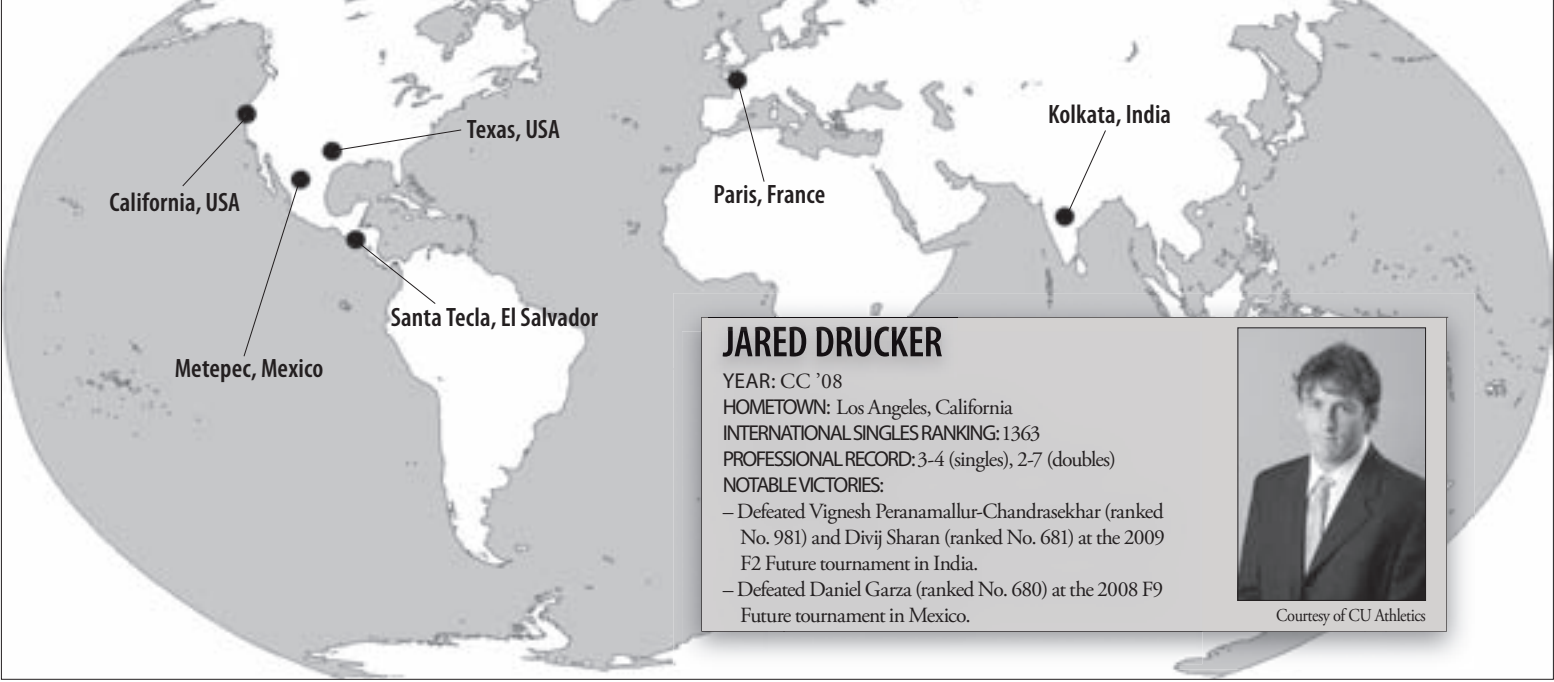


File Photo

**POWER SERVE** | Since graduating in May, Jared Drucker has been traveling worldwide on the international tennis circuit. Drucker has been successful recently, picking up big wins in India and Mexico.

SEE DRUCKER, page 7

## Where in the world is Jared Drucker?



## Aided by Fordham miscues, CU notches comeback win

BY JACOB LEVENFELD  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

With a combination of heads-up baserunning, strong pitching, and a series of Fordham miscues, Columbia was able to emerge victorious in a wild afternoon game that featured five total errors and 10 different pitchers.

The baseball team staged a late rally Wednesday afternoon to steal a confidence-building win away from host Fordham. With the victory, the Lions (9-24) snapped a three-game slide and now have two days off before a pair of weekend doubleheaders against Cornell, a Gehrig Division foe. In addition, no Columbia hurler went for more than two innings on Wednesday, ensuring that the Lions will have a fresh set of arms going into the pivotal Cornell games.

Fordham took an early second-inning lead off Columbia starter Zach Epstein. With two men in scoring position and one out, Stephen McSherry brought the lead runner home with a single up the middle. Center fielder Nick Cox's throw to



FORDHAM	3
COLUMBIA	5

the plate was too late, but catcher Dean Forthun nailed McSherry as he tried to advance to second on the throw. An Alex Kenny RBI single then knocked in Fordham's second run before Epstein got the third out.

Although the Matador offense was held at bay by a trio of Columbia pitchers over the next four innings, the Lions were unable to break the ice off Fordham starter Brando Casalicchio. The junior cruised through five scoreless innings, allowing only four hits and one walk on five strikeouts.

As soon as Casalicchio was lifted, however, the Lions went on the attack, picking up a run in the sixth off reliever James Stone. Cox doubled home Alex Aurricchio, who had singled and advanced to second on an error.

The Light Blue entered the seventh with a 2-1 deficit and managed to finish the inning with a 3-2 lead after a sloppy defensive inning for the Matadors. Mike Roberts led things off and moved all the way to second on a Stone error. Forthun then walked, and Ron Williams moved Roberts over to

third with a sacrifice fly. A passed ball scored the tying run and allowed Forthun to move into scoring position. After Aurricchio moved him to third on a groundout, Bobby O'Brien knocked him in with a single to center.

Although the Matadors got one back to tie it at three in the bottom half of the frame, the Lions were determined to come out of the Bronx with a win. In the eighth, they scored two more runs with the assistance of yet another Fordham miscue. After the Light Blue put runners on second and third following a single and an error by new pitcher Jake Rabinowitz, Jon Eisen knocked in the go-ahead run with a groundout to second. Roberts then brought home an insurance run with another roller to the right side.

Armed with a 5-3 advantage, relievers Alex Ferrera—who moved over from his usual position at shortstop—and Pat Lowery were able to keep Fordham's bats quiet over the final two innings. Columbia's Derek Squires picked up his first win of the season with an inning of scoreless relief.

Saturday's first matchup against Cornell is set for 12 p.m. at Robertson Field.



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After Columbia, Drucker devotes to tennis

DRUCKER from page 6

best result to date.

Drucker, a political science major who intends to go to law school when his playing days are over, was ranked as high as No. 38 nationally as a junior, and was a four-year member on the tennis team at Columbia. Drucker's career as a Lion was highlighted by an Ivy championship in spring 2007 and a berth in the National Indoor Championships in the fall of 2007.

"I didn't actually intend to play pro tennis when I came to Columbia," Drucker said via e-mail, "I actually taught at a country club in Long Island after my freshman year in 2005. When I wasn't able to play as much as I wanted that summer, I realized how much I missed the freedom of practicing and working hard to get better. After that summer, I decided to devote myself to tennis."

Drucker, a lefty armed with a wicked topspin forehand and a slicing serve, began working with a new coach and a physical trainer in his hometown of Los Angeles. With the training, he was able to revamp his game and get into the best possible shape.

"If I had not started to work with this coach from Los Angeles, I would probably be working or applying to law school right now," said Drucker.

Drucker played as high as No. 1 on the Lions championship team, and reflected positively on his experiences at the collegiate level.

"College tennis is great," he said. "There is no way I would have been ready to play professionally without finishing my four years at Columbia. I played over 30 matches a year and was forced to learn how to win, both for myself and the team."

One major factor in Drucker's ability to play professional tennis was the guidance offered by men's tennis coach Bid Goswami.

"Bid has always been very supportive of me," noted Drucker, "as well as everyone on the team."

Drucker recalls a story from his senior year when he was battling a painful stress fracture in his wrist, which hindered his play in the fall. He was forced to choose between surgery, which may have ended his senior campaign before it ever started, and playing through the painful injury while missing some practices in order to heal.

"Bid, knowing that I wanted to play pro, told me to get the surgery, even though he knew that I might not be able to play my senior year. I always appreciated that. Luckily,

I healed quickly enough to play the second half of the spring semester."

Goswami also has nothing but positive things to say about Drucker.

"You know, Jared from day one might not have been the greatest athlete," said the head coach, "but he had this tremendous passion—he really loved tennis."

In addition to the actual matches and rankings, Goswami believes that Drucker's adventures will provide invaluable experience.

"Part of an education is to see a country in a different way," continued Goswami. "Instead of back-packing through Europe, you take a tennis racket and go to Mexico and India. I am almost ashamed to say, but he may have seen more places in India than I have. He traveled and told me that Varanasi is the oldest city in the world, and he learned that in one of his classes at Columbia, and he wanted to go see it. How great of an education is that, making use of a Columbia education in real life."

Along with Drucker, some of the top players in the Ivy League from other schools have tested out the professional waters.

"I played Adil Shamasdin recently in Texas and lost in three sets—he played No. 1 at Brown my freshman year. Recently, Ashwin Kumar of Harvard [who played No. 1 spring 2008] has decided to play pro tennis."

Shamasdin is currently ranked No. 816 in singles, and Kumar is ranked No. 1675 in doubles.

One of the hardships of the professional life is the constant travel. Drucker has been all over the globe, and the lifestyle itself can grind a player down.

"I basically live out of a suitcase," he said.

One thing which has helped, according to Drucker, is the companionship of other American players.

"I travel with a couple other American college players, which makes things interesting and fun," continued Drucker. "It's fun to share stories about college tennis and be with guys from my own country when abroad in places like India and El Salvador."

Drucker achieved his best results as a professional in India, where he made the quarterfinals of a \$15,000 event after winning two rounds in the qualifying tournament. In the main draw, Drucker defeated a player ranked 981 and another ranked 681. He was rewarded with

three ATP ranking points, the most sought-after prize by a tennis player. In Mexico, Drucker earned another point, beating the world's No. 680-ranked player.

Drucker has a theory behind his recent successes. He believes the busy life of college may have infringed upon his ability to play at his highest level possible. "I had to split my focus between my classes and tennis so that I could do well in both areas," Drucker said. "It is a lot easier now to be able to focus on tennis alone, without having to worry about my grades. That singular focus on tennis has allowed me to play my best tennis to date."

Despite his optimism, Drucker is realistic about his chances and future as a professional tennis player.

"I'd like to keep playing for at least a few more months," said an honest Drucker, "since I am running out of money. After that, I am thinking of going to law school and will probably study for the LSATs."

When it comes to the particulars, Drucker has one rather familiar choice already in mind.

"I would really like to go to Columbia Law."

Drucker has proved his resilience throughout his career, and believes that the intangibles will allow him to continue to compete at the sport's highest level.

"There is a lot of losing and if you allow your confidence to wane, then it is difficult to win," he said. "I always believed that I could do well, even after having a poor senior season. Without that self-belief I don't think I would have had the determination to come back from my surgery or to work through the problems I had with my game towards the end of my senior year and the months leading up to my travels."

Regardless of what ranking he attains, which players he beats, or when the dream ends, Drucker can take satisfaction in knowing that he laid it all out on the line.

"I am very happy to be able to pursue something that I am very passionate about," he said. "I've never been in a rush to work because I know that I have my whole life to work. No matter what happens in the coming years, I will always know that I played tennis at a high level and always gave 100 percent whether it was on the practice court or during the matches. I have no regrets and I think that is the way anything in life should be."

Drucker is the 1363rd-best person in the world at something he loves. How many people can say that?



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