



ALYSON GOULDEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**SERVING WINNERS** | The Lions rejoice after sophomore Haig Schneiderman slams home the winning point with a powerful hit from the baseline.

## USenate reaches consensus on calendar

BY EMILY KWONG  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Student and faculty senators on the University Senate Education Committee have overcome a persistent lack of bipartisanship in the ongoing debate over the academic calendar and are finally seeing eye to eye.

At Friday’s meeting, the committee announced a proposal stating that any Columbia student with one or more exams on Dec. 23 can submit a request to his or her instructor and the dean of student affairs to reschedule those exams for an earlier, mutually convenient time, provided that a Dec. 23 exam presents “undue hardship.” The period for which exams can be rescheduled isn’t specified in the current draft of the proposal, which will take effect in September pending approval by the full USenate.

The Education Committee has to review the academic calendar every 10 years. This year,

SEE CALENDAR, page 2

## Avsar, Donnelly to run Barnard council

BY MADINA TOURE  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Lara Avsar, BC ’11, was elected president of the Student Government Association on Friday in an election that saw greater voter turnout than last year.

Avsar, the current junior class president, beat Dueaa Elzin, BC ’11, for the seat. Elzin, who spent the semester abroad, campaigned from London.

Avsar will be joined on the SGA executive board by newly elected vice president Bridgit Donnelly, vice president of student activities Megan Shannon, vice president of communications Diana Rastegayeva, and vice president of finance Priyata Patel, all BC ’11.

This year marked an increase in voter turnout for the SGA elections, with 48.8 percent of eligible voters casting their ballots. Last year, voter turnout was 41.5 percent.

The sophomore class council featured more competition, with Andrea Buhler, current first-year class president JungHee Hyun, and Alicia Serrani, all BC ’13, running for sophomore class president. Hyun beat out her competitors.

Avsar attributed the high level of first-year interest in SGA to the new presence of a student center.



SHELBY LAYNE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**NEW FACES** | Lara Avasar, BC ’11 and Bridgit Donnelly, BC ’11, were elected to SGA on Friday.

“The seniors now had McIntosh, and the first-years have the Diana,” Avsar said. “Having a student center is key to community involvement, and it should continue to increase.”

Donnelly said she thought this year’s meal plan task force, where students brought their concerns about the new meal plan requirement directly to administrators, played a role in candidate recruitment.

“I think a lot of people coming

out of that wanted to run for SGA,” she said.

Julia Kennedy, BC ’13, ran unopposed for sophomore class vice president, while Nora Feinstein, BC ’13, became sophomore class secretary, beating out Adrianna Aguilar.

Upperclassmen councils saw far less competition.

Reni Calister, Doris Domoszalai, and Marisa Franklin, all BC ’11, ran unopposed for senior class president, senior class vice president, and senior class secretary, respectively. Mitzi Steiner, BC ’12 and current sophomore class representative, and Maria Russo, BC ’12, won after uncontested runs for junior class president and vice president, respectively.

While Avsar said she was focused on “smaller changes” at Barnard for the time being, she anticipated facing the ongoing SGA debate about sorority recognition, an issue that made it onto many candidates’ platforms this year. Ten percent of the student body at Barnard participates in Greek life, and Barnard students make up about half of the campus Greek life population in general, though the council does not officially recognize sororities. Avsar said

SEE SGA, page 2

## Tennis secures Ivy title with 6-1 win

### Columbia earns automatic berth to NCAA tournament

BY KUNAL GUPTA  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Sophomore Haig Schneiderman lifted his arms in triumph as his teammates stormed the courts at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center on Sunday, as the Lions won the 2010 Ivy League Championship. The title is the Lions’ second straight, third in four years, and fifth since 2000. The 6-1 victory over Princeton on Sunday, coupled with Yale’s defeat at the hands of Harvard the same day, gave the Lions the outright title, along with an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament. With a sweep of Penn and Princeton this weekend, the Lions finished the season 16-4 (6-1 Ivy) and are currently ranked No. 46 in the nation, the highest-ranked Ivy League team.

“I think Jon, Mihai, and Haig ... really dominated the league.”  
—*Bid Goswami, men’s tennis head coach*

“I think really now that I look back, I love the composition of the team,” head coach Bid Goswami said. “We went 19 for 21 [at the top three spots] in Ivy play, and Mihai could have played No. 1—I didn’t want to change things.”

The weekend started off strong for Columbia with a 5-2 win over Penn outdoors. After struggling to adjust to the outdoors against Yale last weekend, Columbia had no trouble on Friday. The Lions won the doubles point by winning at Nos. 1 and 2 doubles. The No. 1 duo of senior co-captains Jon Wong and Mihai Nichifor won 8-1, and sophomore Schneiderman and freshman Nate Gery won 8-6. The third doubles team of sophomore Rajeev Deb-Sen and Kevin Kung lost 8-6.

SEE MEN’S TENNIS, back page

## Perkins announces bid for Senate reelection

BY NICHOLAS BLOOM  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Prominent city and state politicians wined and dined in Harlem on Sunday for State Senator Bill Perkins’ reelection campaign kickoff for the 30th Senate District seat.

At a fundraising event in the afternoon at Gran Piatto d’Oro, a restaurant on 116th Street and Fifth Avenue, Perkins spoke to supporters and donors about tough times ahead and his goals to bring about change.

The announcement of his reelection campaign comes on the heels of rumors that New York Governor David Paterson and U.S. Congressman Charles Rangel were actively seeking contenders to supplant Perkins, who had supposedly vexed both. The state senator had said Paterson shouldn’t seek reelection in the wake of Paterson’s alleged interference in an aide’s domestic violence case, and there

were rumors swirling that Perkins was considering a run for Rangel’s seat. Amid these rumors, which have not been confirmed, Perkins remained silent about his next political move until last Thursday, when he officially announced his plan to fight to keep his seat as a Harlem representative.

“I’m here for you. All I ever wanted was to be here for you,” Perkins said at the event, which also doubled as his birthday party. “I’m asking you again to allow me to continue to serve you during this challenging time in the Senate. We inherited lemons, and now we’re trying to make lemonade from it.”

Among the public officials who spoke in support of Perkins were State Senate majority conference leader John Sampson, fellow State Senators Eric Adams and Eric Schneiderman, City Council member Inez Dickens of the city’s 9th

SEE PERKINS, page 6



ANGELA RADULESCU / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**BID FOR BILL** | State Senator Bill Perkins announced his campaign at a Sunday fundraiser event in Harlem—and celebrated his birthday.

## In gym, Relay for Life struggles to raise funds, attract crowds

BY AMBER TUNNELL  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

With a new location inside the gym, this year’s Relay for Life did not raise as much money as it has in past years, according to event organizers.

On Saturday, roughly 500 students participated in the 12-hour event, which raises funds for the American Cancer Society, in its seventh year running at Columbia.

According to Giselle Obregon, CC ’10 and Relay’s committee co-chair, they raised just over \$50,000 this year, a decrease from last year’s \$67,000. In 2008, they raised \$64,000, and in 2007, they raised \$92,000. Their goal this year was

\$100,000—twice the final count. Instead of its traditional location outside, in front of Low Memorial Library, Columbia’s Relay was held in the Dodge Physical Fitness Center, in an effort to save costs.

Obregon said that they had 463 registered participants prior to the event, though she said many more registered throughout the event.

Off-site, in efforts prior to the event, participants raised

\$47,679.20, and on-site—through games, goods, and event fundraisers—they raised \$2,700. Relay also raised about \$250 through their Miss Relay competition, a pageant held later that night.

Lisa Lewis, BC ’10, Relay’s public relations committee chair and a sports columnist and photographer for Spectator, said that they usually raise \$10,000 on-site. But she said they raised about the same

amount last year as this year due to the poor weather conditions during the event.

“I know that our on-site fundraising numbers could have been higher if we’d had the same amount of visibility as we did when Relay was outside,” Obregon added.

“In the gym, there was a limited group of people to buy baked goods, play games, or do other activities that the teams usually use to raise additional money,” Madeleine Jensen, CC ’12 and a participant, said in an email. “When we were outside, people walking around campus were much more likely to stop and contribute.”

SEE RELAY FOR LIFE, page 2

### INSIDE

#### A&E, page 3

#### Alumna’s sculptures express drama and decay

Sculptor and School of the Arts alumna Huma Bhabha gave a talk on Friday about her artistic inspirations, which include what she calls “urban ruin.” One of Bhabha’s works is currently on display at the Whitney Biennial.



#### Sports, back page

#### Baseball continues strong start with wins over Tigers

Columbia relied on strong hitting and timely pitching to win three of four games against Princeton this past weekend. The Light Blue currently stands on top of the division, and is three games ahead of second-place Penn.

#### Opinion, page 4

#### Style over substance?

Amin Ghadimi discusses the obstacles in defining one’s style in opinion writing.

#### Classroom exile

A student questions a professor’s professionalism.

#### Today’s Events

#### Enhancing Your Relationship

Take part in an experiential workshop for couples. No interviews necessary.  
8th floor Lerner Hall, 5:30-7 p.m.


#### Lives Worth Saving

Amnesty International comes to Morningside Heights to speak on the world’s maternal health care crisis.  
Riverside Church, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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#### WEATHER

Today  Tomorrow   
**63 / 43** **68 / 51**



# Greater turnout for SGA elections

SGA from front page

she hopes to assemble a focus group to examine the issue. “The Barnard constitution says that it cannot recognize a secret society, and it also says that SGA club recognition does not recognize dues-paying groups,” Avsar said. “I think right now it’s important

to bridge the gap between sororities and student government at Barnard.” “We definitely want to address it and hear all sides of the situation before making a decision,” Donnelly agreed. While perhaps the most visible arena for student feedback at Barnard this year—the meal plan task force—was instituted

by administrators, Donnelly said SGA members wanted to continue to provide a space for students to voice their concerns. “I think we still want to continue to reach out to students ... see what their thoughts are, regardless of whether it’s institutionalized or not,” she said. *madina.toure@columbiaspectator.com*

# Calendar proposal resolved in USenate

CALENDAR from front page

the calendar has been the subject of an ongoing, contentious debate, since the tradition of starting after Labor Day forced some students to take final exams two days before Christmas last semester. “This is a win for students,” student senator Andrew Springer of the Columbia Journalism School said, adding, “The students spoke and we [the Senate] listened.” Current policy allows undergraduate students to make a similar request in cases in which three final exams are scheduled on the same day. “We’re essentially piggybacking on an undergraduate policy and making it University-wide,” Columbia College senator and Education Committee member Alex Frouman, CC ’12, said. “This is a guarantee for those who live far or are paying for travel that their needs are met. We need to ease their burden,” Frouman said, adding, “It’s a feasible solution to reschedule finals for a subset of the population.” Though the exact wording of the proposal requires further revisions, Tao Tan, CC ’07, MBA ’11, and chair of the Student Affairs Committee, expects that a final document will be presented on the floor of the University Senate at its April 30 plenary meeting, “where it will be passed in all likelihood and take place immediately.” According to Tan, the qualifications a student must meet in order to reschedule his or her exams were purposefully left open to interpretation. “We’re leaving it [the term ‘undue hardship’] undefined so it can be left up to the discretion of the individual deans of the colleges,” he said. “Common sense will win.” At the plenary meeting earlier this month, the Senate body was polarized between a student council proposal to start a week before Labor Day every

two out of seven years and a faculty-proposed solution to hold classes on Election Day Monday and finals over the weekend. Frouman remarked that the newest proposal is a significant turnaround. “All of us were able to come together this morning and reach a solution,” he said. News of the proposal generated a negative reaction from student council leadership, though, as some argued that the USenate did not address the problem of the compressed study day and final exam period in years when Labor Day

“I think it’s a fact of life that ... faculty do not want to start before Labor Day.”  
—*University President Lee Bollinger*

falls particularly late. “I’m disappointed,” Sue Yang, CC ’10 and president of the Columbia College Student Council, said. “This [the proposal] just formalizes and legitimizes what already happens in the status quo situation, where students negotiate with their professors to reschedule their exams.” Engineering Student Council President Whitney Green, SEAS ’10, agreed. “This is actually increasing compression,” she said, adding, “It should never be a case where a proposal is being imposed on the students.” Green said she feels the proposal “was not alleviating the problem we were looking to address in the first place.” Frouman acknowledged the difficulties of the compression that will still persist. “This is a proposal that focuses on the 23rd, not on the compression,” Frouman said. Springer added that the current situation of late final exams is more immediately pressing than compression. “We

need something right now. This is so students can get home in time for Christmas this year,” he said. University President Lee Bollinger said in an interview prior to the latest decision that he was pleased students had the opportunity to speak up, but he acknowledged that the option of starting before Labor Day, which is now off the table, would be a hard sell among faculty. “I think it’s a fact of life that on the whole, faculty do not want to start before Labor Day,” he said, adding that this has to do with many factors, including “the patterns of their lives, the rhythm of their lives ... academic conferences around that time ... child care issues.” Bollinger added of student proposals to change that norm, “You really better be prepared to make the argument and to recognize you are starting from a point of resistance.” Regardless, students said they appreciated the latest development, though for some, it was not enough.

Shunsuke Hirose, CC ’13—who is from Japan and had to fly home on Christmas Day—said that she had supported the student council proposal. “It wasn’t a blanket idea, it was a compromise,” she said, adding of the Senate consensus, “It’s a trade. If I made the request to reschedule my exams, I honestly think I should be prepared to deal with it.” Natalie Hernandez, BC ’13, said she appreciated the latest proposal because last December, her academic schedule conflicted with her religious obligations. “I think I went to service right after my exam and got there pretty stressed out,” she said. Jim Applegate and Letty Moss-Salentijn, faculty co-chairs of the Education Committee, could not be reached for comment. *emily.kwong@columbiaspectator.com*

# Relay for Life in gym secures less funds

RELAY FOR LIFE from front page

Last semester, they arranged to move the event inside to Boone Arledge Auditorium in Lerner to save costs on the event itself. Lewis said that it costs three times more to have the event outdoors than indoors at Columbia. She said that they felt that it was “more important for the money to be making a difference” and going to the American Cancer Society and the patients, instead of being spent on the event itself. But due to a conflict with Days on Campus, Relay was ultimately pushed to Dodge, she said, and because the planning committee only learned of this double-booking over winter break, there was incorrect advertising for half the year. Lewis also attributed the decrease in overall fundraising to the recession and the Haiti earthquake diverting focus away from Relay.

Obregon said she hopes the event can be in Boone Arledge next year so that it can be more accessible to the public. There were some positive aspects of being inside, though, including protection from the rain and a better venue for performance. Still, some participants did not like the indoor change this year. Hannah Fraser, SEAS ’12, said in an email, “I think that it was rather sad that we were in Dodge all day, because awareness is an important aspect of Relay.” Lewis said that Columbia usually ranks at the bottom of all the relays in Manhattan, and that New York University generally raises about \$200,000 each year through Relay. She attributes Columbia’s low performance to a perceived lack of community at Columbia. She believes that students at Columbia are independent and like to support their own

causes, taking away from an event such as Relay, which needs everyone’s support to be successful. She said she hopes to change this in future years so that the event has a stronger presence on campus. Obregon said that despite many obstacles, both external and internal, she was happy with the final results. In an email, she said, “Considering all the obstacles we faced this year—having our budget cut by 67 percent, having my co-chair decide to graduate a semester early (and then having to restructure the planning committee), having our plans to hold Relay in Boone Arledge unexpectedly foiled due to bureaucratic miscommunications, and having our ... advisor resign at the beginning of the Spring semester—Relay for Life was yet another success.” *amber.tunnell@columbiaspectator.com*

## CORRECTION

In “Days on Campus changes process of club participation,” we incorrectly stated that the Office of Student Activities and Multicultural Affairs invited student groups to the spring activities fair. The Admissions Office sends those emails. Spectator regrets the error.

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### COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

For general comments or questions about the newspaper, please write to the editor in chief and managing editor at [editor@columbiaspectator.com](mailto:editor@columbiaspectator.com).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

# APRIL

### APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL EVENTS ARE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE.

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# 04/13

TUESDAY

**ACTIVISTS WHO YEARN FOR ART THAT TRANSFORMS**  
**12 PM**

BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

## WRITERS AT BARNARD

**Sandra Beasley & Joy Harjo**  
**7 PM**

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

# 04/14

WEDNESDAY

**MOVING TOWARDS UTOPIA**  
**What Kind of City Lies Ahead?**  
**6:30 PM**

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

# 04/15

THURSDAY

**18TH ANNUAL STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM**  
**4:00 PM**

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

## WRITERS AT BARNARD

**Barnett, Dark, Hermann & Keene**  
**7 PM**

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

# 04/17

SATURDAY

**SPRING CONCERT**  
**Bach’s St. John Passion**  
**8 PM**

Union Theological Seminary, Broadway at 120th

# 04/22

THURSDAY

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SENIOR POSTER SESSION**  
**4:30 PM**

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

**SAINT JOAN OF THE STOCKYARDS**  
**8 PM**

Minor Latham Playhouse, 118 Milbank Hall

# 04/23

FRIDAY

**BARNARD DANCES AT MILLER**  
**7 PM**

Miller Theater, 2960 Broadway

**SAINT JOAN OF THE STOCKYARDS**  
**8 PM**

Minor Latham Playhouse, 118 Milbank Hall

# 04/24

SATURDAY

**SAINT JOAN OF THE STOCKYARDS**  
**8 PM**

Minor Latham Playhouse, 118 Milbank Hall

# BARNARD

THE LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE  
FOR WOMEN  
IN NEW YORK CITY



# Alumna turns decay into design

BY OPEYEMI OMOJOLA  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

“My Skull Is Too Small”—a sculpture by Huma Bhabha, SoA ’89, in this year’s Whitney Biennial—firmly embraces sculptural history while playing with a very modern understanding of movement and cinematic narrative. Despite her use of a visible armature and common materials, which add a sense of transparency to her sculptures, Bhabha’s work maintains a potent aura of mystery.

During a talk at Columbia’s Prentis Hall on Friday, Bhabha attempted to elucidate a bit of that mystery by presenting images of her work interspersed with images of her inspirations and preoccupations. Bhabha spoke clearly and lyrically, relating ideas as disparate as the

Terminator and Auguste Rodin with ease. Bhabha expressed a fondness for the rawness and “natural rough edges” inherent in the landscapes of both New York and her hometown of Karachi, Pakistan.

“Sculpture is about time and history and using timeless materials, but modern sculpture reflects the speeding up of decay and urban ruin,” Bhabha said. The ideas of ruin and decay are common in her work, which, she explained, is developed in a space between abstract form and practicality.

Although the topics and works she introduced seemed initially disjointed, Bhabha wove a surprisingly cohesive historical narrative. She grouped images of demon figures from the movie “Jeepers Creepers,” ancient

Roman busts, and paper masks by Matthew Monahan with her own bust, “They Don’t Speak,” from 2007.

While Bhabha is extremely aware of history, her works never seem encumbered by her various references. Rather, she nests her interests and inspirations and uses them as psychological armature upon which she composes new narratives. She speaks as much to history as she does to the future and her indistinct present.

Bhabha’s relationship with the present is rooted in its constant movement between history and projection. In one series of images, Bhabha showed some photographs she had taken in Karachi of unfinished building foundations. Using ink, she transformed these foundations into the bases of monuments that she imagined could exist.

At one point in the presentation, Bhabha displayed an image from Pakistan of a donkey cart carrying an I-beam. Like that image, her work is a window onto a world in which the traditional and the modern exist together and acknowledge one another very naturally and nonchalantly, although the combination can still be visually unsettling.

During the slideshow, Bhabha very often returned to language and imagery from Karachi, which prompted one audience member to inquire about her work’s reception in Pakistan. “I hardly ever show there, and there is hardly any response or feedback to my work in Pakistan,” Bhabha responded. “But my work doesn’t deal with specific identity issues, and I don’t want it to. Not getting noticed in your own country, or anywhere, is unimportant. As an artist, you don’t have to be from somewhere. You come from nothing. You go with nothing.”

Indeed, Bhabha’s work expresses a nomadic tendency. She is as in touch with traditional African masks as she is with American science fiction and contemporary Pakistani newspapers, and she even jumps between sculpture and photography, imbuing the physicality of the former with the evocative clarity and documentary ability of the latter.

Bhabha finished her talk with a poem by Percy Bysshe Shelley titled “Ozymandias.” One section of the poem seemed to express her method of blending decay and ruin with romanticism and optimism exceptionally well: “...its sculptor well those passions read / Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things, / The hand that mocked them and the heart that fed.”



ANGELA RADULESCU / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**GOURMET GRUB** | The Crystal Gourmet Combination Sandwich gives students a tasty alternative to the offerings of neighborhood staples HamDel and CrackDel.

## Crystal Gourmet lets students look beyond the Spicy Special

BY JASON BELL  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

A deli’s street cred depends entirely on the indecipherability and implausibility of its nickname. From HamDel to CrackDel, Morningside

### FOOD & DRINK

Heights boasts a formidable bunch of corner food shops, each with a unique title and accompanying reputation. However, Crystal Gourmet—just another sandwich store on an already saturated stretch of Broadway at 110th Street—doesn’t even need an unusual nickname.

Unlike its fetishized brethren on Amsterdam, Crystal misses out on much of the deli love from starving students, and it is overlooked on study breaks and drunken food runs. Next time, when hunger pangs hit, try Crystal’s home-style sandwiches instead of another stuffed hero.

Crystal’s sandwiches come on spongy, pliable, supermarket-style sliced bread. Wholly different from the usually-stale heros of its competitors, Crystal’s bread feels like something that might be packed into a brown bag, taken to school, and eaten on picnic benches. In fact, Crystal’s creations all seem a bit homey, like standard fare prepared in the family kitchen and consumed on the patio. A change of pace from the supercharged and tiring Lewinsky and

Spicy Special, these sandwiches have a nostalgic allure.

Nothing more than a slight twist on a Reuben, the Crystal Gourmet Combination Sandwich promises corned beef, pastrami, Swiss, coleslaw, and Russian dressing. Served hot on rye, this masterpiece features a fortuitous mishmash of crunchy cabbage, creamy sauce, and thick, unending layers of meat. Although the cheese disappears in the crowd and the meat tends to be too dry and lean, Crystal’s take on a classic recipe still tastes astoundingly rich.

Less successful, but a worthwhile bite nonetheless, the God Father combination sandwich includes Virginia and Black Forest hams, mozzarella, basil, tomato, and virgin olive oil. Although the two types of ham, succulent and admirably salty, work well with the Italian-inspired accompaniments, the mozzarella tells a sad story. Crumbly, chalky, and flavorless, these strange slices of cheese add nothing to an otherwise delicious concoction.

With an entire pantheon of combination sandwiches, wraps, and prepared dishes to try, Crystal Gourmet offers a world of deli food beyond the typical Columbia favorites. Indeed, the expansive menu serves up hours of entertainment, the least of which is decoding the deli’s inexplicably bizarre name.

## Members of YouTube video production company share their past, present, and future

BY CLAIRE FU  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

YouTube sensations Wesley Chan, Ted Fu, and Philip Wang—collectively known as Wong Fu Productions—spoke to a full house in Roone Arledge Cinema last night in the final leg of their spring tour on the East Coast. Prominently known for their witty and creative YouTube videos, Wong Fu Productions spoke about its history and goals and screened unreleased clips.

The trio drew a round of screams and applause as they entered, greeting the crowd of expectant fans. “We’re horrible public speakers. ... There’s going to be lots of bad jokes,” Wang said.

The event began with a montage of their clips, including one featured on CNN, which formed a visual overview of Wong Fu Productions’ evolution.

Chan, Fu, and Wang continued

with a brief summary of how their rising independent company came to be. Wong Fu Productions launched after the three men met in an undergraduate film class at the University of California, San Diego. “And as most relationships go,” Wang said with a smile, “things got serious.”

Initially, the three worked on Wong Fu Productions in their spare time. Later, however, Chan acknowledged the need to make a stable income—“the moolah ... the cheddar,” as Fu said—and the company became a full-time venture. They produced a movie titled “A Moment with You,” which was released on DVD in 2006.

After relaying their history, Chan, Fu, and Wang premiered the music video of AJ Rafael’s song “When We Say” to the eager audience. The clip depicted a typical boy-loses-girl storyline in a fresh way, with artfully shot scenes of California beaches and streets.

Another clip shown at the event—the unreleased short film “When Five Fell,” a love story about five objects and a girl—exemplified the breadth of the trio’s creativity with beautiful cinematography.

In its last clip of the night, Wong Fu Productions showed the first episode to the web series “Funemployed,” which satirizes the newly unemployed Jason (Chan) and Kyle (fellow YouTube star Kevjumba).

“YouTube is like a popularity contest we never signed up to be in,” Wang said, demonstrating the unspoken drive to keep up the number of views their videos receive on the site.

The take-home message of the evening centered around the role of Asian Americans on the big screen. “There isn’t an accurate representation of Asian Americans in mainstream media, when CSI goes to Chinatown and meets gangsters,” Chan said.



CLAIRE FU FOR SPECTATOR

**VIDEO STARS** | Above, two of the three members of Wong Fu Productions discuss their company’s history and current projects at a presentation last night.

## Strategies for taking cheaper weekend trips while abroad are right on the money

BY JULIA HALPERIN  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Abroad  
on a  
Budget

On a train to Amsterdam early Saturday morning, my friend managed to encapsulate the difference between Europeans and Americans in 16 words.

“For Americans, 100 years is a long time. For Europeans, 100 miles is a long distance.”

It’s an oversimplification, of course, but her statement does capture what makes traveling in Europe such a singular experience.

Indeed, most students study abroad as much for the weekend excursions as for the weeks they spend in their host countries. Because five countries border France, the possibilities for weekend travel are vast. Or at least they are in theory, assuming a volcano doesn’t erupt in Iceland and derail an entire continent’s travel plans.

But even with clear blue skies, the options are not quite as wide-ranging

for the student on a budget. We can no longer count on favorable exchange rates, and no matter how far ahead we book our tickets, travel and lodging rarely run below 150 euros.

However, there are ways to see Europe that don’t entirely empty the wallet. My advice? Pick one aspect of your trip on which you plan to really scrimp.

On our trip to Amsterdam, my friend and I decided we didn’t plan on sticking around our hostel much, so we chose the most inexpensive place we could find and ended up spending half of what it would have cost to stay anywhere else. Although in retrospect, maybe we should have sprung for a place that we couldn’t describe with the tagline, “Similar to hell, but without proper heating.”

In Berlin, we decided to spring for a slightly nicer hostel with a full breakfast included in the rate, and then we stealthily put together sandwiches

from the breakfast spread to eat later for lunch. In hindsight, this also sounds miserly and sort of gross, but it enabled us to save enough money to splurge on a real German feast—complete with sausage, sauerkraut, and a pitcher of German beer—on our last night.

For my upcoming trip to Spain, I’ve chosen to scrimp on transportation. Instead of flying or taking the train, I’ve chosen cities close enough together—Biarritz, San Sebastián, Toledo, and Madrid—to travel exclusively by bus.

There are also other, smaller ways to get some bang for your buck while traveling around Europe. Instead of choosing the most crowded bar on the street, start your evening at a quieter restaurant in a less touristy neighborhood and sit at the bar. Most bartenders—regardless of gender—are excited to talk to travelers. And not only do they know the best deals for eating and drinking in the area, but they’ll also sometimes slip you a free drink or two.

Another tip: If you’re spending the weekend in a larger European city, check out like-a-local.com. The website posts listings of local families and couples who offer full three-course meals and insider tips on the area, often for less than 25 euros. On a recent trip to Amsterdam, I had the option to eat dinner on a houseboat with a 30-something couple or in the Jewish quarter with an older couple who distill their own gin.

There’s no particularly systematic way to travel cheaply, and there are always unexpected and unforeseen costs. (Dear Rijksmuseum: Half of your galleries are closed for renovation. I want my 14 euros back.) But traveling responsibly, I’ve learned, is about saving money where you can in order to splurge on the unexpected surprises.

Julia Halperin’s biweekly series *Abroad on a Budget* chronicles the best ways to travel and study abroad on a student budget.





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# Intimidation 101

BY DANIEL HERTZ

As an engineering student at Columbia, the issue of bias in the classroom has been, for the most part, nonexistent—but unfortunately, this is, in my experience, not the case for a significant number of classes in the department of Middle East, South Asian, and African studies (MESAAS, formerly MEALAC). Despite the constant reminders of professors' one-sided agendas, I have always tried to take as many of these classes as possible. This semester, my curiosity for the subject led me to check out the class titled “Palestinian and Israeli Politics and Society,” taught by the renowned Joseph Massad. Although I entered the class with a hopeful outlook, it only took a handful of lectures for Massad to prove so many of his detractors right—he not only made his biases obvious, but also embarrassed me in the process.

After attending a few lectures, I was still unsure as to whether I wanted to register and remain in the class. While Massad's reputation had preceded him for the most part, his statements were often tainted with a hue of partiality, making me, and several other students, extremely uncomfortable. With a skillfully crafted curriculum and required reading list filled to the brim with anti-Zionist and anti-Semitic sentiment,

## With the full attention of his students, Massad singled me out and asked several questions about my attendance.

Massad had no intention of teaching history—he planned on rewriting it.

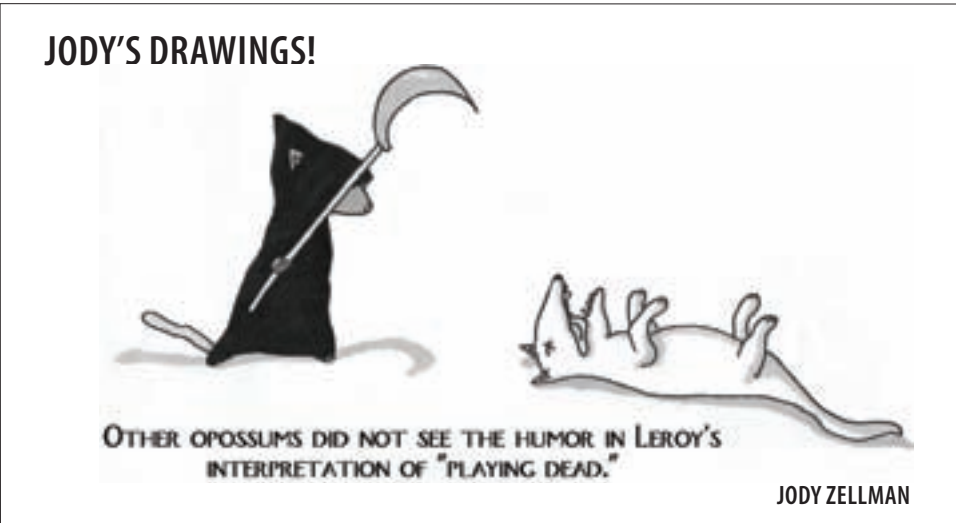
The course began with an extremely “brief” introduction to the history of the land. Starting in the 16th century and briskly moving into the 19th and 20th centuries, Massad had completely avoided the historical context that would nullify his own agenda. During these first few lectures, there was absolutely no mention of the 3,000-year-old Jewish presence in Israel, which is backed by an exhaustive amount of both written and archaeological proof. In his subsequent description of the founding of Tel Aviv, Israel's major economic hub and richest city, Massad once again turned history upside down. Through the use of disturbing anecdotes and baseless accusations, Massad claimed that Tel Aviv was built through a process of Arab labor and expulsions by Jews, disregarding the plethora of proof that discredits these

allegations, including dozens of photographs before the city's founding and endless official British documentation describing the city as built and inhabited only by Jews.

Several weeks into the semester, Spectator interviewed me about Campus Media Watch, a Middle East watchdog group I founded at Columbia. After reading the article, I noticed I was incorrectly described as the sole contributor to one of the group's innocuous blog posts regarding Massad. The following day, I attended class for what I thought would be a regular lesson. After a few minutes of friendly banter with Massad, I sat down as he brought order to the class. With the full attention of his students, Massad singled me out and asked several questions about my attendance. Although I tried to clarify that I was still unsure about registration, my explanation was useless—Massad told me to leave his class immediately, explaining that I was in violation of school policy. Confused and embarrassed for being singled out in front of nearly 60 of my peers, I left the class with an uneasy feeling. Over the next few days, many of my former classmates approached me and described Massad's disturbing reaction to the incident. Although I was not present at the time, I was told that Massad had gone on a “paranoid rant,” denouncing me as a “Jewish spy” for the same organization that “had tried to get him in trouble before.”

After reviewing school policy, it turns out that Massad had the right to ask me to leave the classroom for not being registered. He did not, however, have the right to deliberately humiliate me in front of my peers. Massad's claim that I was spying on his class is just as bizarre as it is baseless. During the times I attended his lectures, I sat in the front row, making my presence even more obvious with the handful of questions I asked each class. By not confronting me about registration during the time we talked before class began, Massad had the clear intention of making an example of me. I had entered the class with an optimistic mindset—I had left it embarrassed and shocked by the unprofessional behavior of an instructor at Columbia University. Massad has since filed a grievance against me, which was thankfully resolved, in yet another attempt to stifle free speech and intimidate those who do not blindly follow his teachings. After four years at Columbia, a university known to encourage free speech and debate, I have never encountered a professor who has fought so diligently to vilify and silence a student who he believed had done nothing more than discuss his class on a blog, which leads me to ask a simple question—what does professor Massad have to hide?

*The author is a senior in the School of Engineering and Applied Science majoring in computer science. He is a campus fellow for the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America.*



STAFF EDITORIAL

# I'll be home, exhausted, for Christmas

Last week, the Education Committee of the University Senate reached a consensus that its members believe will resolve the issue of the fall academic calendar. The proposal, pending approval by the full Senate on April 30, would allow students with one or more exams on Dec. 23 to submit a request to the dean of student affairs to reschedule their exams for a time that is convenient to student and professor alike. We fervently believe in the importance of compromise, and we appreciate the amount of time and energy that our senators have devoted to this issue. But be that as it may, this compromise—which does nothing to resolve the problem of the shortage of study days that brought about this discussion in the first place—does not address the problem in full and should not be accepted as a solution.

The content of the proposal itself isn't bad. This past December, some students found themselves on planes on Christmas Day. The senators say that this proposal eases the burden on those who live far away and have to pay for travel, and insofar as this will allow them to get home to their families earlier and for less money, they're right. The dean of students will deal with requests on a case-by-case basis, and the language of the proposal will be in favor of the students—if a student says that having an exam on the Dec. 23 presents “undue hardship,” that student will be given the benefit of the doubt. And the resolution will actually take effect this fall.

But there is still a tremendous burden on students that has gone unaddressed. The problem of not having enough study days and

having too many tests in too little time remains untouched, and allowing students to move exams to before Dec. 23 actually exacerbates it. A compromise requires both parties to relinquish something. It is unclear how, exactly, the faculty gave up anything in this agreement. The burden of travel has been dealt with, but the issue of the academic burden has not been resolved. We realize there are those who think that the issues involved in the December portion of the calendar, to quote James Applegate, “do not register on the same scale” as the “systematic destruction” of women's rights that some believe would ensue should we begin before Labor Day. Aside from the fact that there are female professors at other schools who begin before Labor Day (Cornell, for example, will start on Aug. 25, presumably without eroding feminism), to dismiss issues like economic inequality, international diversity, and mental health on college campuses is to flaunt the faculty's disproportionate influence in the construction of policy.

Yes, the proposal is a win for students, but that win is incredibly limited in scope. To announce that the students spoke and the Senate listened is to say that the Senate has very selective hearing. This will be a true win for students only when both parties come to the table ready to make concessions and when students' economic and educational burdens are eased. It will be a win for students when their senators continue to fight tirelessly for them come fall. It will be a win for students when the members of the University Senate refuse to accept this proposal as the final victory.

# How to write an opinion column



AMIN GHADIMI

## The Way That Can Be Told

I don't know. I'm still trying to figure out how to write an opinion column. Should a column be a personal endeavor in which the columnist and the columnist are inseparable, mutually reflecting one another? If so, at what point does an endearing expression of oneself spill over into maudlin and gaudy self-indulgence? On the other hand, is column-writing an academic endeavor? With an academic community as an audience, does the columnist have an obligation to forgo trivialities and engage in serious intellectual discourse? If so, at what point does earnest erudition devolve into pedantic grandiloquence? Perhaps right now, in this column.

Each time I read another brilliant column on these pages, I find myself asking and re-asking myself these questions. Each of my fellow columnists has a distinctive

## Is all this column-writing nonsense just exaggerated buffoonery?

and enviable style. This diversity of styles of column-writing, perhaps a natural consequence of the diversity of personalities and interests that the opinion page deliberately selects, means that I have, at different points, arrived at contradictory answers to the above questions. An affably personal style works just as well for one person as a detached scholarly approach works for another. Which leaves me where in answering how I want to write my column?

One approach is just to write. To think about writing is perhaps to over-think it. If the Daoist philosopher Zhuangzi can teach us something about the opinion page, perhaps that is it. Zhuangzi's fish trap or rabbit snare metaphor, often cited as representative of the Daoist perspective on language, speaks to this question: “The rabbit snare exists because of the rabbit; once you've gotten the rabbit, you can forget the snare. Words exist because of meaning; once you've gotten the meaning, you can forget the words.” If words have no importance in and of themselves, if my column itself has no worth, if it's just a means to an end, then does it matter how I write my column so long as you understand what I'm saying?

But then, perhaps Zhuangzi wouldn't even approve of an opinion page in the first place. In a passage from his eponymous work that he attributes—or pseudo-attributes—to Confucius, Zhuangzi quotes an apparently established aphorism from his time: “Transmit the established facts;

do not transmit words of exaggeration.” Although Zhuangzi was a Daoist, not a Confucian, scholars claim that Zhuangzi paradoxically seeks to speak through Confucius' voice in this passage. But that's a separate discussion. More to the point, is all this column-writing nonsense, then, just exaggerated buffoonery?

At least that's what my column title suggests. “The way that can be told,” of course, is only the first half of the first line of the Dao De Jing—the remainder reads, “is not The Way,” or something similar, depending on the translation. A column is, by nature, vainglorious—anyone who alludes to Daoist thought in his Spectator column title, let alone someone who writes about column-writing in his column, has got to be particularly self-indulgent. It's like Dante in the first rung of hell, humbly asserting himself as “the sixth among such intellects” as Homer and Ovid. Except it's not like that at all. In any case, would Zhuangzi consider all of this a waste of time?

Standing in direct opposition to Zhuangzi is the Confucian philosopher Xunzi. Believing that human nature is essentially evil, Xunzi argues that the exacting observance of rites is the prime way to overcome our innate proclivity to do evil. Language is one such rite. In the chapter “Rectifying Names,” which is a central concept that recurs throughout Confucian thought, Xunzi says, “He who can use names in such a way that they are both practical and aesthetically pleasing may be said to have a real understanding of them.” To him, then, words are not merely rabbit snares. They must be chosen deliberately and carefully. If I am correctly reading Xunzi, then, and if I can appropriate him for use in my column, I can't just write. The purpose of a column cannot just be the communication of meaning. There is another purpose, at once more transcendent and more fundamental. That's pretty daunting.

But all this leaves me nowhere. I have meandered from style to style, approach to approach, method to method in my mental column-writing process, and while I wish I could close this entry with some sort of consummation to my quest for a column Way, that still hasn't come.

It's a problem that calls into question what column-writing, or even writing in general, is—or at least what it should be. We take it for granted that works of creative literature should have some sort of artistic merit, but we don't really expect that in a newspaper or on the opinion page. Is that the way it should be? Is that for good reason? I don't know.

*Amin Ghadimi is a Columbia College sophomore. He is the former Spectator editorial page editor. He is also a senior editor of the Columbia East Asia Review and the secretary of the Bahá'í Club of Columbia University. The Way That Can Be Told runs alternate Mondays.*

# Letters to the Editor

To the editor:

In her March 17, 2010 op-ed, “The end of Arab diplomacy,” Rhonda Shafei rightly argues that what will expedite the peace process in the Middle East is not retaliation, but rather the “eradication of the . . . impulse to want to push back at all.” But she misidentifies the source of that impulse. She proposes that Israel is the source of Arab strife and that unity in standing up to Israel will bring peace to the Arab world. But because the Arab Summit was nicknamed the “Jerusalem Summit”—rather than, for instance, the “Somali Refugees in Yemen Summit”—Arab leaders conspicuously and indolently deflected their own issues onto the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, thus down-playing and ignoring their own faults. While the Arab governments should care about their Arab brethren, the primary solution to the issues at hand is not to prevaricate on one's problems toward another nation's, but rather to address one's own issues. Confronting and eradicating human rights abuses would be a great start. The Summit's host country, Libya, has an exorbitant amount of documented human rights violations, including an absence of free speech, religion, and the press. And what about Syria, whose president has still gone unpunished after orchestrating the assassination of Rafiq Hariri in 2004? In Jordan and Lebanon, prisoners are often held uncharged in unsanitary conditions and are forbidden to meet with lawyers. In addition to de facto gender apartheid, in Saudi Arabia, freedom of religion is nonexistent. Sure, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is a contentious issue, but before peace can emerge, the Arab nations must first make an active effort to fix their own problems. Reflection, not deflection, is the solution to Shafei's “sandbox dilemma.”

—Loren Berman  
General Studies/Jewish Theological Seminary

To the editor:

President Bollinger can double down on his commitment to an “uninhibited, robust, and wide-open” media by directing his public relations staff to redesign The Record, the University's official monthly “newspaper,” into a genuine forum for ideas and news about the University community (“Panelists emphasize state control of media,” April 15, 2010). As it stands, The Record permits no critical voices or alternate perspectives in its pages, and it remains largely a collection of

heartwarming press releases. Permitting the publication of propaganda under the banner of “news” confuses Bollinger's clarion call for free speech around the world.

—Daniel Sorid,  
Columbia College '99, Journalism '09,  
Business '10

To the editor:

With respect to the upcoming Bacchanal concert (Spectator, April 5, “Bacchanal spring concert lineup announced”), it was interesting and disconcerting to learn what students consider “concerts” these days when groups are asked to “perform” hip-hop, gangster rap, and a combination of sounds and texts that is aesthetically most disturbing. In my over 54 years as a resident across from the student center, I have complained about the annual aural nightmare it causes those who live in the community. However, these complaints have mostly gone on deaf ears.

Of course deaf ears are, and should be, the greatest concern accompanying these “concerts.” Dozens of professional musicians I know personally, both classical and non-classical, have complained about their steadily increasing loss of hearing from excessive volume occurring in their musical profession that our culture has found to be fun, acceptable, and a must. Well-known retired rock musicians wrote columns in the New York Times over 20 years ago warning of the impending danger to hearing at these excessive volumes. But, to the campus crowds, louder is better. Some years ago, I wrote a letter to the chairman of Columbia's department of public health asking why Columbia allows these horrendous decibels on campus, which have been scientifically shown to lead to cardiac and hearing problems. The reply I got from the chairman after a few weeks was, “I don't know much about the anatomy of hearing. I'm a gynecologist.”

I guess there's not much else one can say after that response, other than that deafness is becoming ever more pervasive throughout the world, but few seem to care. Perhaps the graduating students would do well to go into the hearing aid business. I'm sure that business will just continue to grow as deafness becomes as much of a problem as cancer does from smoking.

—Robert J. von Gutfeld,  
GSAS '57



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**Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle**

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

**ACROSS**

1 Anti-fur org.  
5 Ambassador's forte  
9 Eggs on  
14 Off-palmed cards  
15 Prefix with cultural  
16 H.H. \_\_\_ author known as Saki  
17 Conks  
18 Central Chinese tourist city  
19 Tall tale tellers  
20 San Francisco players not paying attention?  
23 Heberdashery accessory  
24 UPL ending for 52-Across  
25 Minnesota players from old Bangkok?  
32 Hot time in Alabaz  
35 OH's stats  
38 Artist M.C. known for illusionary work  
37 Snacks at the bar  
39 Robert E. Lee's org.  
41 Classify  
42 African with pierced lips  
45 Trematodes  
48 iPhone, e.g.  
49 Anaheim players tripping over their own feet?  
52 Longhorn State sch.  
53 Word in an oxymoronic Michael J. Fox movie title  
57 Pittsburgh players from old Algiers?  
62 Omega's opposite  
63 Eye, on the Eiffel Tower.  
64 Anchovy containers  
65 Trig function  
66 Double Dutch need  
67 Slurpee alternative  
68 Adjust a little  
69 Overwhelms  
70 Crows' cries

**DOWN**

1 Blue Ribbon brewer  
2 Bacteria in rare meat  
3 Plains dwelling  
4 Balance sheet heading  
5 Hack with a meter  
6 Backwoods "art"  
7 Jagged rock  
8 Faint hues  
9 Mötley Crüe duo?  
10 Destroy  
11 Pesky biter  
12 Throws wide of the base, say  
13 Sailor's "Mayday"  
21 Duo  
22 \_\_\_ fax: obsession  
26 Voice amplifier, briefly  
27 German steelworks town  
28 English Johns, briefly  
29 Chain restaurant with a blue roof  
30 Dweeb  
31 Mike, in Barcelona  
32 A sufficient amount, in slang  
33 Oompah brass  
34 List shortener: Abbr.

38 NBC show where Chase, Belushi, Radner et al. got their big breaks  
40 Director Lee  
43 Recoup  
44 Machu Picchu builder  
46 Makes dirty  
47 Derogatory remark  
50 \_\_\_ borealis  
51 Radio interference  
54 City on the Erie Canal  
55 Take again, as vows  
56 Mountain curves  
57 Huff and puff  
58 Church section  
59 Emu cousin of South America  
60 Cry of pain  
61 Sherlock  
Holmes's smoke  
62 Perform

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

MEANT	BCUP	CELS
ATLAW	OHSD	OPEL
PATSYCLINE	LOVE	
STILLALARM	EXED	
ATIP	ANYES	
BLAH	EXEMPLAR	
RUDI	RETIREMENT	
ELAPSED	LOSESIT	
OUNPTRUCKS	LINO	
SEESPAST	SNAP	
FIATS	PHAT	
ESPY	POTATOCHIP	
ALPH	SMOKESTACK	
RELO	SORE	IRREG
STEP	TOSS	RLESS

[wordeditor@aol.com](mailto:wordeditor@aol.com) 04/19/10



## Perkins declares bid for reelection

PERKINS from front page

District, and Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer.

In their speeches, supporters cited Perkins' familiarity with the people and streets of his district, his fortitude in the Senate, and his contribution to the recent Democratic takeover as reasons to keep him on board.

"Brother Perkins is a stallion in the senate," Adams, who represents parts of Brooklyn, said. "For 70 years, they [the Republicans] have been in charge. When the coup happened in the Senate, John Sampson brought Bill Perkins and I together and said, 'We got to get this back.' Now ... we are finally talking the language that people in the inner city understand."

Sampson agreed, saying, "It's good to have the light, the

leadership, the guidance, and the wisdom you [Perkins] bring to the State Senate. It's good not just for your district, but for all the people of New York."

Dickens, a Council member who represents parts of Harlem, said that she continues to support Perkins' stance on the key issues that are important for neighborhood residents. "I'm here to salute my senator for fighting for tenants' rights, public education, and small businesses. He's willing to take the licks," she said, adding, "We are going to stand with him as he fights for reelection against anyone who dares to come against him."

In an interview, Perkins cited several feats of his career so far, specifically mentioning the recent passage of the Public Authorities Reform Bill, which he said will be useful for increasing transparency

on controversial economic development projects across the state, including Columbia's Manhattanville expansion and the potential use of eminent domain there.

Perkins said that his future goals include protecting affordable housing and making sure charter schools remain accountable and transparent, which has remained a thorny issue among some constituents since he publicly voiced his opposition to charter schools.

He added that despite the small majority the Democrats have in the Senate, "Opportunity continues to exist. If we keep doing things to help the people of New York, hopefully we can grow our majority and get a truly enlightened government."

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# Baseball takes three of four league games for third straight weekend

**BASEBALL** from back page

than Princeton in every way. But in order to earn a chance at the title, the team had to prove its ability to beat Gehrig Division opponents in head-to-head matchups.

Saturday's first game immediately tested this notion when the Tigers jumped out to an early two-run lead in the third inning. After two consecutive hits to start the inning—leading to one run—and a fielding error, Princeton earned a second run off of a sacrifice fly.

The Lions made two quick outs to start their half of the third inning, but four straight batters reached base before the end of the inning to plate three runs. The big blow came on a clutch two-RBI double by catcher Dean Forthun that turned out to be the winning hit.

From then on, the Princeton bats were silenced by the stellar pitching performance of Pat Lowery. Columbia added

four more runs in the fourth inning—on back-to-back-to-back home runs by Dario Pizano, Alex Ferrera, and Jason Banos—to take the pressure off the pitcher. Lowery allowed just four hits for one earned run while striking out six to improve his record to 3-2 on the season.

Princeton woke up to start game two by scoring three runs in the first three innings, taking a 3-0 lead into the bottom of the fourth. Columbia starter Tim Giel allowed a two-run homer following a costly error by Nick Crucet, putting Columbia's chances at winning in jeopardy.

But the Columbia bats once again took their time to get going. The Lions opened their scoring in the fourth inning and would plate all six of their runs in the middle three frames.

Coming again after two quick outs, Alexander Aurrichio doubled in hit-batsman Forthun for the first Columbia run. Nick Ferraresi then chopped a ball through the left half of the infield on the

first pitch to plate Aurrichio.

The Lions added three more runs the next inning, when Crucet took advantage of a throwing error to reach base. Jon Eisen knocked in two with a two-strike single before coming around to score on a sacrifice fly by Aurrichio. Columbia added a sixth run in the sixth inning when Billy Rumpke singled on the first-pitch throw by Princeton reliever Kevin Link.

After Giel left for Columbia five innings in, the Lions benefited from Geoff Whitaker's one-hit, four-inning relief performance. Whitaker overpowered the Tigers, striking out six of the 13 batters he faced en route to earning his second save of the season.

After Saturday's sweep, Columbia charged onto Robertson Field again on Sunday for two more games against Princeton.

In the first game, the Lions drew first blood when Eisen stole second and then scored from third off a wild pitch and an errant throw from the Tiger

catcher. But the Tigers roughed up pitcher Dan Bracey for six runs in the next two innings to gain a 6-1 advantage.

The game was not out of reach for Columbia's high-octane offense, and Bracey settled down in his final three innings of work, but the Lions simply could not figure out Princeton starter Zak Hermans, who allowed just three runs on eight hits on his way to throwing a complete, seven-inning game. Hermans threw 88 pitches while facing 30 batters. The Tigers put the game out of reach when they lit up Columbia reliever Harrison Slutsky for three runs in the final inning. The Light Blue dropped the contest by a score of 9-3.

Columbia's powerhouse offense, which was bridled all weekend, finally broke through in game four with a six-run second inning. In that inning, Columbia also proved its ability to play small ball in lieu of power hitting.

The Lions stole four bases and drew three walks while

taking advantage of two Princeton errors. The one big hit of the inning came when Jason Banos ripped the first pitch he saw to the right-center gap to knock in two teammates. Columbia would add another run on a two-out triple by Billy Rumpke the next inning.

From then on, solid pitching coupled with a weak Princeton offense gave Columbia its third victory in four attempts. Stefan Olson earned his first Ivy League win, allowing just two runs in six inning of work, equaling a quality start. Reliever Eric Williams threw two one-hit ball innings to keep the Tigers off the board.

The Lions ended the weekend with a 9-3 record in Ivy League play, good enough for first place in their division and a virtual tie with Brown—which is in action today—for the league-leading record. The Lions also continued their dominance at home, where they have lost just twice this season.

# Early look at 2010 football schedule

**VELAZQUEZ** from back page

span—but that losing streak pales in comparison to the fact that Columbia has not beaten its week five opponent, Penn, since 1997. Penn is coming off an Ivy League championship season in which its defense, as we've come to expect from Penn, dominated the rest of the league. The Quakers won't have co-Ivy Player of the Year Jake Lewko or first-team all-Ivy defenders Joe Goniprow and Jonathan Moore, but I think it's safe to say defense will still be their strong suit in 2010. This is anything but an easy first road game for the Light Blue.


Dartmouth is chock-full of young talent, but the Lions will be out for revenge when the Big Green comes down for Homecoming in week six. The Light Blue put forth an uninspired effort against winless Dartmouth in Hanover last season and took home a well-deserved loss. No one's going to look at the Big Green as an easy win this year.

After taking on Dartmouth, the Lions will embark on their longest road trip of the season—two games—as they take on Yale and Harvard. At this point in the season, the wear and tear of six weeks of games will begin to take its toll, but this road trip—whether the Lions are in contention or not—can serve as a statement to the rest of the league as to the future of the program. Taking down Yale and/or Harvard is usually something not easily done, so the Lions will have their work cut out for them.

The final two weeks of the season bring Cornell and Brown. Cornell, like Princeton, will be interesting to watch because it too has a new head coach—Kent Austin. The Big Red struggled in Jim Knowles' final year at the helm, but with a solid crop of young players and a new coach, it could be on the rise. After having one of the best offenses in the Ivy League over the past four years, Brown will be looking to rebuild after the graduation of co-Ivy Player of the Year Buddy Farnham and the do-it-all WR/RB Bobby Sewall. Kyle Newhall-Caballero will still be under center, but with significantly fewer weapons in his arsenal.

That's a quick look at the 2010 schedule from my perspective. If you want to get an idea of what the Lions will bring to the table, I suggest checking out the Spring Game on Friday night.

*Matt Velazquez is a Columbia College senior majoring in history.*  
[sports@columbiaspectator.com](mailto:sports@columbiaspectator.com)



As a member of NCAA Division I, Columbia must be recertified every 10 years for participation in NCAA.

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# Lacrosse struggles in 12-4 loss to Bulldogs

**BY JULIA GARRISON**  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

In its last away game of the season, the women's lacrosse team fell 12-4 to Yale on Saturday. With the loss, the Lions dropped

to 0-6 in the Ancient Eight and 5-7 overall, while the Bulldogs improved to 6-7 on the season and 3-3 in the Ancient Eight, allowing Yale to stay in contention for the Ivy League Tournament. Although the Bulldogs only

outshot the Lions 28-22, and the two teams broke even on draw controls with nine each, Columbia was unable to capitalize on scoring opportunities to come out with the win.

Yale started off the game strong, scoring four goals in less than 15 minutes of play and setting the tone for the rest of the game. However, with less than nine minutes remaining in the half, Gabrielle Geronimos earned a point for the Lions with an unassisted goal, bringing Columbia within three before the Bulldogs surged ahead again and scored a pair of shots to close out the first half.

Yale opened the second half with three more unanswered goals, widening its lead to 9-1. After a goal by Columbia freshman Olivia Mann at 21:20, Yale responded again with another pair of goals to stay ahead 11-2. Freshman Kacie Johnson did not let up, putting in a pair of goals for the Light Blue, but with another goal by Yale, the Lions were unable to counter and fell behind 12-4 by the end of the match.

On defense, the Lions picked up a total of 21 ground balls to Yale's 16, and Columbia's Amanda Goodhart stood out with five ground balls and two forced turnovers, while goalie Karlee Blank recorded nine saves in goal.

The Lions will return home for their final two games of the season, hosting Wagner this Wednesday at 3 p.m. before ending the season with a game against Harvard this Saturday, April 24. Both games will be held at Robert K. Kraft Field.



ALYSON GOULDEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
**REACHING OUT |** Lacrosse has yet to achieve a win in conference play.


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## Only five months til CU football



MATT VELAZQUEZ  
**The X-Factor**

I think about Columbia football a little more than I should. What can I say? I just can't help it. Even though I can't attend the Spring Game this coming weekend, I'm graduating in a month, and the first game of the 2010 season is just under five months away, Columbia football is the first and only topic that crossed my mind for my final column—my senior column notwithstanding.

Since my co-beat writer Holly MacDonald covered the upcoming NFL Draft in one of her recent columns and beat me to the punch by blogging about the Spring Game on Spectrum despite knowing my plans to write about it today, I've decided to take on a different topic in this column. As I've already mentioned, the season is still about five months away, but I don't think that should stop anyone from looking ahead to what the 2010 slate of games might have in store for the Lions.

The first and most important thing that jumps out when looking at the upcoming schedule is the abundance of home games, especially at the start of the season. Columbia will play six of its 10 games at Lawrence A. Wien Stadium, with its opening four games all at home. For a team that will be relatively inexperienced compared to this year's squad, it will be good for them to be able to work out the kinks in the first few weeks without having to worry about playing in a hostile environment.

As usual, the Lions will kick off their season against Fordham in the annual battle for the Liberty Cup. The Light Blue took home the cup for the first time since 2006 with a 40-28 win in the Bronx this past season, and the Rams will be out for revenge. This season-opening game is a must-see, not only because it will be the first chance to check out the Lions, but also because it marks the first Liberty Cup game in which Fordham will compete using scholarship players after the school decided to begin giving scholarships to football players beginning in the 2010 season. Will that sway more talent Fordham's way and help them take the cup back? We'll have to wait and see.

Week two brings back a familiar foe, as Towson will complete a home-and-home series that started in 2008. That year, the Lions went down to Maryland and lost a close one to the Tigers in a rain-soaked game at Johnny Unitas Stadium. Not much to say about this game, though if 2008 was any indication, these teams should be evenly matched.

With the third week of the season comes the Ivy League opener against Princeton. It will also be the first Ivy matchup for Princeton head coach Bob Surace, who played for the Tigers in the late 1980s and took over the head coaching position after Roger Hughes was fired at the end of last season. The Tigers, who had strong contributions from underclassmen in 2009, will be out to make a statement to the rest of the league that last year was an aberration.

The next two games feature teams against which Columbia currently has lengthy losing streaks. Lafayette will come to the Big Apple to end the Lions' homestand, and the Leopards will, as usual, give the Lions a major test before they head into Ivy League play for the rest of the season. The last time the Light Blue beat the Leopards was in 2000—seven losses in that

SEE VELAZQUEZ, page 7



ALYSON GOULDEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**YEAR TO REMEMBER** | The No. 46-ranked Lions squad clinched the Ivy championship on Sunday. Seniors Jon Wong and Mihai Nichifor ended their illustrious careers on a high note.

## Columbia repeats as Ivy League Champions

### Light Blue finishes 6-1 Ivy season with pair of wins over Penn and Princeton

MEN'S TENNIS from front page

Wong got the Lions off to a fast start at No. 1 singles, winning 6-4, 6-2 against Eugen Brazdil. The duo played in the fall and Wong won in a third-set tie-break in that match, but had a much easier time this weekend, winning in straight sets. Nichifor defeated sophomore Phil Law in straight sets as well, 7-6, 6-4, and continued his undefeated record in Ivy singles. Schneiderman continued his stellar play at No. 3 singles, winning in straight sets as well, running his Ivy record this season to 6-0. At No. 6, Gery won his match in a third-set super tie-break, and freshman Cyril Bucher lost his in a third-set super tie-break. Kung, at No. 5 singles, lost his match by a strange scoreline of 6-1, 0-6, 6-1.

On Sunday, Wong and Nichifor played their final home Ivy match against the Princeton Tigers. The Lions started out strongly in the doubles point, winning at Nos. 1 and 3 doubles. Wong and Nichifor continued their strong play in doubles, and Kung and Deb-Sen played well too, giving Columbia the doubles

	COLUMBIA	5	
	PENN	2	
	COLUMBIA	6	
	PRINCETON	1	

point. The first one off the court was again Nichifor, who won 6-0, 7-6 at No. 2 singles.

The next match to finish was Wong's, at No. 1. Wong never managed to find his groove in singles play, and lost to freshman Matija Pecotic. Gery won his match in straight sets at No. 6, using his strong serve and forehand combination to overwhelm his opponent. The other matches all went to three sets, and came down to the wire. At No. 4 singles, Bucher served for his first set and ended up dropping it in a tie-break, but rebounded to easily win the second set. Kung, at No. 5 singles, struggled in his first set and lost, but rebounded to win his second set as well, going up 5-0 before winning it 6-3. Schneiderman won his first set at No. 3 singles, but dropped his second.

Schneiderman continued to battle into the third set, staying on



COURTESY OF JENNIFER KHALAF

serve with his freshman opponent until late into the set. At 4-5 in the third set with his opponent serving, Schneiderman fought all the way to deuce. With the entire crowd chanting "Let's go Lions," Schneiderman won the next two points with tremendous aggressive hitting from the baseline to clinch the win for Columbia. The team mobbed Schneiderman as soon as he won.

Kung rebounded from an early break deficit in his third set to win it 6-3, shouting emphatically as his match finished. Another shout went up from the team as they found out that Harvard had defeated Yale, giving Columbia the title outright. All eyes turned to Bucher, who was locked in a tight battle in the third set against Matthew Siow. The match featured Bucher's strong returns against Siow's net-rushing game. Just as it looked like it might go into a third-set tie-break, Bucher raised his game up a level, winning the match 7-5 in the third set.

The Lions won the eighth Ivy League title under head coach Goswami, who has been at Columbia for 28 seasons.

"All in all it was a great year," Goswami said. "We started the

last decade [the 2000s] with a win, and now we started this decade with a win. I hope we keep on doing the same thing for the next decade."

The win had several historical implications for the Lions as well. Jon Wong became the first player in the storied history of Columbia tennis to be a three-time Ivy champion, winning in 2007, 2009, and 2010. Nichifor, a transfer from Manhattan College last fall, went undefeated in Ivy singles play, going 14-0 over his two seasons at Columbia.

Goswami compared his team this season favorably to his past teams.

"I tell you, it has changed so much, college tennis has, since the '80s," Goswami said. "In '87, we had a team that competed against a lot of national teams. I thought we had a lot of fight these last two years. ... I wanted Nate to play [No.] 6, and I was deciding between Kevin and Rajeev at [No.] 5. It's a good problem to have. Tennis is so funny. When you have confidence, you can do so many things. The depth of the team

was special. We'll definitely miss Jon and Mihai a lot, but we have a good core that will work hard."

Goswami turned his focus toward the NCAA tournament after the match.

"It's always a tough time for us," Goswami said, referring to the tournament being held right after final exams. "They will have to get back to studies—I've taken a lot of their time. But we'll work hard indoors, and then we'll work hard outside. I thought we played well against Miami last year, but I didn't think we were that well prepared."

Goswami had only kind words for his top three singles players, who truly dominated the conference this year.

"I think Jon, Mihai, and Haig, the Big Three, they really dominated the league," Goswami said. "You lose two matches at the top and win the rest—that's really unbelievable."

Columbia will play its next match at the NCAA Regionals. The first match is scheduled for Friday, May 14. The draw for the competition will be unveiled on ESPN News on May 4.

## Softball drops three games to Princeton

BY CHRISTOPHER BROWN  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

The Columbia softball team (10-25, 2-10 Ivy) managed to take one of four games from Princeton (10-26, 4-8 Ivy) this past weekend.

The Lions went to extra innings for the first time this season in game one of the series last Saturday. Princeton got on the scoreboard first with two runs in the top of the second inning. Infielder Candace Button and right fielder Lizzy Pierce both scored unearned runs on a pair of Columbia errors. Princeton added another run in the third with center fielder Kelsey Quist's solo home run to lead off the inning.

Columbia managed to rally in the bottom of the third when Alison Lam reached second base on a leadoff single and an error by Princeton left fielder Ellen Scott. Lam scored on Dani Pineda's double to left center and came around to score when Scott committed her second error of the inning on Maggie Johnson's

	COLUMBIA	6	
	PRINCETON	5	
	COLUMBIA	1	
	PRINCETON	2	
	COLUMBIA	4	
	PRINCETON	6	
	COLUMBIA	2	
	PRINCETON	6	
	COLUMBIA	2	

hit. The Lions scored again in the fourth, as Stephanie Yagi's leadoff walk was cashed in by two sacrifice bunts and Lam's RBI single tied the game at 3-3.

Jamie Lettire hit Princeton's second home run of the game to lead off the fifth inning, giving her team a 4-3 lead, but Kayla Lechler responded with a home run of her own with one out in the bottom of the seventh to send the game into extra innings. The Tigers scored a run in the top of the ninth inning, but after Pineda's leadoff single in the

bottom of the inning, Lechler hit her second walk-off home run of the year, and the Lions took game one 6-5. Maureen O'Kane pitched nine innings while allowing three earned runs.

Columbia lost the final three games of the series, including a 2-1 loss in the second game of Saturday's doubleheader. Jennifer Bergeron scored a run in the bottom of the first inning to give her team an early lead, but Princeton answered with two runs in the sixth inning off Johnson, who threw seven innings and struck out two in the loss.

Jessica Rakonza allowed six earned runs in 5 2/3 innings in a game one loss on Sunday. The score was tied 2-2 until Princeton scored four runs in the top of the sixth. Columbia scored two in the bottom of the frame, but it eventually lost 6-4. Princeton won the final game of the series 6-2 behind seven innings from Lettire, who picked up her third win of the season.

The Lions face Rider in a doubleheader at home this Thursday starting at 3 p.m.



SHIVINA HARIJANI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**SMACKED** | Billy Rumpke had four hits against Princeton on Sunday.

## Lions increase division lead to three games

BY JACOB SHAPIRO  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

With timely hitting and effective pitching, the Columbia baseball team posted three victories over Princeton this weekend. For the third week in a row, the team took three out of four games, which pushed its lead in the Gehrig Division to a convincing three games.

Coming into the weekend, the Lions were a better club

	COLUMBIA	7	
	PRINCETON	2	
	COLUMBIA	6	
	PRINCETON	3	
	COLUMBIA	3	
	PRINCETON	9	
	COLUMBIA	3	
	PRINCETON	4	
	COLUMBIA	9	
	PRINCETON	3	

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JOSE GIRALT / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**HUSTLE** | The Light Blue's lone win of the weekend came in a 6-5 triumph that lasted nine grueling innings.