



ZARA CASTANY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

RAPIDFIRE | ROTC cadet Sean MacKenzie, CC '13, patrols with his squad during a field training weekend in central New Jersey.

At field training, ROTC cadets prepare for battle

BY JEREMIAH SHARF
Columbia Daily Spectator

Sean MacKenzie, CC '13, freezes as a shot is fired from somewhere in the distance. His grip tightens on his gun. The enemy—a group of Spanish-speaking, Islamic fundamentalists from the Caucasus—has surprised Task Force Blue from a nearby tower. The cadets fall to the ground and wait for orders from their squad leader. This mission isn't going as planned.

Several times a semester, MacKenzie and the handful of Columbia students who participate in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps through Fordham University practice tactical drills in a forest in central New Jersey or upstate New York—preparation for the work they will one day do as military officers.

On Sunday after two days of simulated wartime scenarios, mostly in the rain, they return to Morningside Heights with just a few hours of sleep and papers to work on in Butler.

"It's the equivalent of being an athlete at Columbia. Except

when an athlete asks a professor for an extension, the professor says, "Yes," said Jose Robledo, GS and a veteran who hopes to return to service as an officer.

Robledo spent the weekend assessing platoons and filling out paperwork under his camouflage poncho, a space he referred to as "his office." He ordered snipers—actually other cadets with old paintball guns—to fire on MacKenzie's platoon after they missed a "weapons cache," or stockpile, in the "village" they were supposed to secure.

Over the last few months, Columbia students have heard a lot about the "don't ask, don't tell" policy and fears about the militarization of campus, as Columbia's University Senate considered inviting the program back after a 43-year absence. However, belly-down in the mud in a forest charred black by a fire years ago, cadets from across New York City said they don't think much about the politics behind the program that plays a key role in their lives.

IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE

It's easy to get lost in the terminology of the battlefield. At this training weekend in Fort Dix, NJ, third-years in the ROTC program, typically college juniors, are evaluated as platoon leaders. They shout out rapidfire orders, directing Bravo company to patrol lanes 300 meters ahead in wedge formation at 3 o'clock, a jumble of code names that squad leaders have trouble keeping straight before sunrise.

On Saturday morning, Task Force Blue attempts to obtain intelligence from Michael Cole, GS, who the cadets all call "Colenan," like Conan the Barbarian. Cole is playing a difficult local leader from an opposing village that has fired on American troops.

As a cadet attempts to negotiate with him, Cole accuses the soldiers of killing his wife. "I want a new wife and 10 camels," he demands, as some of the cadets look at each other and start cracking up. Others are dead serious—they could easily be in Iraq or Afghanistan.

The ROTC designs these scenarios to test leadership skills

among cadets and encourage them to think quickly on their feet.

"You're put into uncomfortable situations," MacKenzie said. "It makes you learn quickly ... learn about yourself."

Although the platoon leaders are given operational orders, or "op-orders," beforehand, they know to be ready for the unexpected.

"There are sets of guidelines for different scenarios, and you kind of have to mix and match," Robledo said.

When Robledo catches one female cadet not looking at her compass, he leads her around the field in circles until she notices her mistake.

Later that day, as they approach the dining facility, the cadets caution against the vegetarian omelet MRE—Meal, Ready-to-Eat. Apparently, it tastes like shit.

The U.S. Military distributes MREs as field rations that come in dehydrated, vacuum-sealed pouches.

SEE ROTC, page 2

Columbia to meet with Inwood Heights residents

BY CHELSEA LO
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

In preparation for the start of Baker Field construction later this month, Columbia has scheduled an informational meeting with Inwood residents for April 26, where locals hope to voice their concerns.

The meeting, which will be held Tuesday evening from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Chrystie Field House, will cover the construction plans for the new Campbell

Sports Center and Boathouse Marsh—two major projects that make up the University's \$50 million development plans at Baker Field, which sits at 218th Street and Broadway in Inwood Heights.

By the end of this month, Columbia will begin erecting perimeter site fencing and delivering equipment, a University spokesperson said.

Columbia's plans—which include coaches' offices, a

SEE BAKER, page 2

WINNERS, FINALISTS



YUN SEOCHO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PULITZER PRIZES | Columbia faculty and outside experts decided this year's literary honors. See Page 3.

Wacky projects take prizes for Core Scholars contest

BY SONALEE RAU
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Richard Lenz, CC '12, just won \$200 for crafting 12 German Expressionism-inspired woodcut prints illustrating the fifth story of the fourth day of "The Decameron" by Giovanni Boccaccio.

Lenz and three other Columbia College students are the winners of the first Core Scholars contest, the brainchild of Literature Humanities chair Christia Mercer that seeks to encourage students to make connections between different Core classes by submitting creative projects and interpretations of subject matter.

Amir Safavi, CC '14, Dominique Nieves, CC '12, and Ben Kaplan, CC '14, also won for their out-of-the box submissions.

Lenz said he was inspired to illustrate the story of Lisabetta, who places the head of her murdered lover Lorenzo in a pot of basil and mourns his death, after he read the lurid text during his Literature Humanities class. He said he was inspired by woodcut prints done by German Expressionist artists like Emil Nolde.

"I chose to emulate their style in my woodcuts for their graphic and emotional power," Lenz wrote via email from Berlin, where he is studying abroad this semester. "Some of the more interesting parts of the process included making charcoal drawings for the prints between stops on the New Jersey Turnpike on the bus to Baltimore at Thanksgiving break, and carrying two 3 by 4 foot sheets of bookboard on my back on a bicycle ride into strong winds from Canal Street to campus."

Kaplan was told about the Core Scholars contest by his professor and said that he immediately wanted to enter. "I thought this was just going to be a little project I did to show my Lit Hum class," Kaplan said.

He ended up penning a song that related Frontiers of Science and Literature Humanities. "I've always been an artist, so my first instinct was to draw something for my entry. But ever since I joined Uptown Vocal [Columbia's jazz-pop a cappella group] ... I've been singing more and more," he said.

SEE SCHOLARS, page 2

Admin considers cuts to fringe benefits

Recommends tuition benefits cuts, high-deductible health plan

BY LEAH GREENBAUM
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

In a few years, University employees may be denied full tuition compensation for themselves and their children, as the administration looks to correct a widening gap between fringe benefits expenses and resources.

According to a 38-page preliminary report released by the Task Force on Fringe Benefits, which is co-chaired by Provost Claude Steele, Executive Vice President Robert Kasdin, and Dean of the Faculties for Health Sciences and Medicine Lee Goldman, future University officers may be looking at limited tuition benefits, a vesting period to accumulate retirement benefits, and increased copays, deductibles, and coinsurance for healthcare benefits.

At Columbia, compensation for employees comes in the form of salaries and fringe benefits, and ever since the 2008 financial crisis, the central administration has been exploring ways to reduce the cost of the latter, which began increasing faster than revenue in recent years. The Task Force on Fringe Benefits, which includes University officers from various departments and schools, formed in August 2010 to assess potential cuts.

In an email sent to benefits-eligible officers last week, Steele, Goldman, and Kasdin wrote that the task force hoped to incorporate the opinions of the community into its recommendations.

"We would like to thank the Task Force members for their diligent and thoughtful work. They have met the dual challenge of proposing a set of programs that will help the University continue to provide high-quality, competitive benefits while addressing the financial imbalance that has developed in recent years," the email said.

Engineering professor Paul Duby chairs the University Senate's Task Force on Fringe Benefits, separate from the

administration's task force. He said he was concerned about the costs of the lower contribution, high-deductible healthcare plan that the report recommends implementing for all University employees.

"There are no numbers on the healthcare, so that's a question that's not answered ... You know healthcare costs have been going up, so most likely the cost of healthcare will increase, and there's no number on that, there's no information on that," he said.

To finance fringe benefits, the University charges schools and departments for a percentage of their employee's compensation and then combines the money together into a "fringe pool." According to the preliminary report, the fringe pool is expected to run an annual deficit of \$25-\$35 million, after the pressures of the economic downturn reduced the rate of growth in fringe revenue.

According to the email from Steele, Kasdin, and Goldman, the task force suggested introducing grandfather clauses wherever possible in order to guard current University officers against the new set of changes. The report recommends that officers hired before July 1, 2011 maintain their child-related tuition benefit program and tuition exemption program, which allows them to enroll in courses in Columbia's undergraduate and graduate schools for free. Officers hired after that date would be given tuition benefits for just one child, and only 80 percent of their undergraduate degree tuition would be covered.

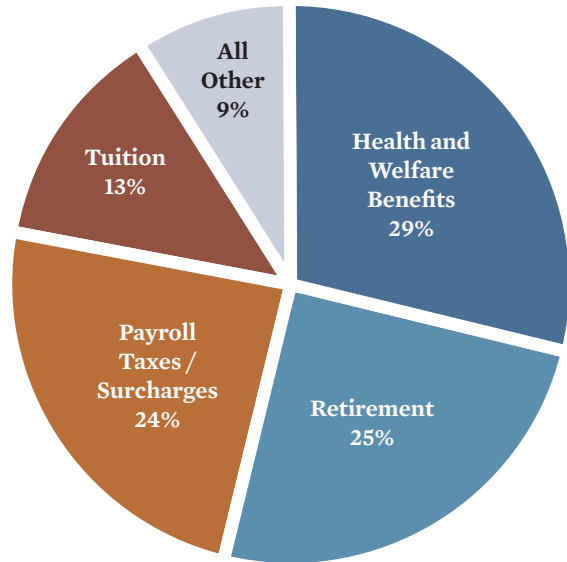
Duby said the report does not list information about the other universities' benefits packages, which it claims to have surveyed. He said he and others worry changes to the benefits packages will make recruiting faculty and staff more challenging.

"They say it will remain competitive, but I don't know."

Sammy Roth contributed reporting.
news@columbiaspectator.com

FRINGE BENEFITS REPORT

Total fringe pool: \$430.6 million



Key proposed changes

- Introduce four year waiting period to receive tuition exemption for children
- Tuition exemptions only for one child, even if both parents are Columbia officers
- Tuition exemption for officers will only cover 80 percent of their own undergrad tuition
- Introduce lower-contribution high-deductible Health plan
- Raise contributions, deductibles, copays, and car insurance
- Institute 4-year phased vested period in University Retirement Plan for new hires, to encourage retention

GRAPHIC BY ANN CHOU

A&E, PAGE 3

Three Columbia affiliates win Pulitzer Prizes

Professor Sig Gissler led the 95th annual Pulitzer Prize ceremony on April 18, awarding Professor Eric Foner, among others.



SPORTS, PAGE 6

Mistakes important in close games

With three of four teams in contention for each divisional title in the Ivy League, small miscues in close losses carry increasing weight and significance.

OPINION, PAGE 4

Embracing change

Emily Tamkin muses on the promise of next semester.

Accepted and dejected

Nick Bloom asks us to remember why we should love Columbia.

EVENTS

Policy in the Wake of the Global Crisis

The Economic and Political Development Concentration and the Microfinance Working Group at SIPA are pleased to present Dr. Roy Culppeper for a lecture on financial inclusion.

SIPA 1512, 6-8pm

WEATHER

Today



53°/47°

Tomorrow



61°/50°

Cadets rough it in the woods, return to Butler

ROTC from front page

Coles encourages everyone to add the cheese from one MRE to the chicken noodle soup MRE that's being served. "You learn to make recipes out of these," he says.

BALANCING ACT

LeTicia Brown, SEAS '14, grew up hearing about how her parents met in the Army. Her father recently retired from military service, and her sister graduated from West Point.

"I actually almost ended up going to West Point, but didn't really want the whole full-time military deal," Brown said. "So I figured ROTC would be a good way to split ... still having the whole army value thing and have a regular college life."

But choosing ROTC means balancing civilian life with the duties of an officer-in-training. It's not always easy.

"It's definitely tough," Brown, a bio-medical engineering major, said. "I just kind of make it happen. You've got to use time more efficiently."

MacKenzie, who will be the third generation in his family to join the military, said this semester has been his toughest yet. He turned down a chance to study at the Naval Academy for the opportunity to be in New York City.

A person must be a college graduate to become a commissioned military officer, either by participating in ROTC at a regular university, attending a Service Academy, or going to Officer Commissioning School.

Cole said that by this time of the year, a number of people have already dropped out of the program.

Robledo likens the field drill weekends to playing football in the mud and said it takes a particular kind.

"I enjoy the 'suck.' You have to embrace the 'suck,'" he said. news@columbiaspectator.com



ZARA CASTANY / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FIELD DAY | Students from across New York City attend field training weekends to develop tactical skills for battle. At top right, MacKenzie patrols with his squad as they prepare to enter an oppositional village. At bottom, cadets rest between missions. They are generally allowed three to four hours of sleep during training weekends.

Politicians look to finalize community benefits agreement before construction begins at Baker field

BAKER from front page

student-athlete study center, and meeting spaces at the new 48,000-square-foot athletics complex and a public waterfront park—were approved earlier this month by the City Council, which allowed Columbia to provide only 1.5 percent of its property for public waterfront access instead of the 15 percent required by law—a 90 percent waiver.

In exchange, local residents and politicians pushed to finalize a community partnership

agreement with specific benefits for Inwood locals—something that has yet to happen. Susan Russell, City Council member Robert Jackson's chief of staff, said Monday night that she was told to expect a draft of the agreement to come in from Columbia that night, but she had not yet received a draft at the time of publication.

Susan Ryan, an organizer of Advocates for Inwood Manhattan, said she's glad the informational open house is happening, but that outstanding concerns about

construction—some of which are being negotiated as part of the community partnership agreement—still remain.

"There are things such as pest management and rat abatement," Ryan said, noting that such issues were brought up in the city's Environmental Assessment Statement. "One of the other issues is the demolition of the building and how that's going to affect nearby residents. The permit for the project says it's a non-asbestos project, but we actually have questions about that."

Ryan, noting the presence of schoolchildren at the two elementary and middle schools across from Baker Field, added that Columbia's remedial action plan is of particular concern.

According to Columbia's Environmental Assessment Statement, no evidence of subsurface hazardous materials were found from soil and groundwater sampling, but the "greatest potential for exposure to these materials would occur during demolitions of existing structures (which could contain building materials

such as asbestos and lead-based paint) and during subsurface disturbance associated with construction of the proposed project."

Ryan said she also has reservations about the pace of the project because residents were not made aware that construction was happening so soon—she had to initiate the conversation about holding pre-construction meetings, a provision of the unresolved community partnership agreement.

"They knew that construction was going to happen, and we had to read about it in the newspaper,"

Ryan said of Columbia. "We had to come to them."

Ryan said she heard Columbia responded to AIM members after they inquired this past weekend about a date for the pre-construction meeting, but that concerns have yet to be resolved.

"We're not trying to unnecessarily alarm people, but we deserve answers and we want answers from qualified professionals," Ryan said.

chelsea.io@columbiaspectator.com

Each miscue counts in tight league

IN FOCUS from back page

However, Lowery was also bailed out by a spectacular diving catch by senior center fielder Nick Cox, which saved two runs to close out the top of the third inning. No player has been as defensively solid as Cox, who has had a knack for making stunning catches in big spots this season.

"Nick has been doing that for four years in center field and that's why I think he's the best center fielder in the league," Boretti said.

Cox and many of his teammates have also made sure to test other teams' defenses with their aggressive play and speed.

"We want to run and I think we

did a better job of that this weekend," Boretti said. "With Cox and Crucet and Godshall, those guys can run, so that's something we can utilize when they get on."

In each of the weekend openers at home, Columbia's base-stealing threat has led the opposition into key balks, which led to important runs for the Lions. Columbia's successful bunting and ability to leg out infield hits have also forced the opposition into errors, something that was prevalent on Saturday against Cornell.

The Lions' defense will be tested next when they host Manhattan for a doubleheader on Wednesday, beginning at 2 p.m.

Will the Lions finally make it over the hump

SIMMONS from back page

Now, I know we're in the middle of an Ivy baseball season where yours truly said the Lions had a lot of potential, and we're just not seeing it come to fruition. Is that disappointing? Sure. Is it a little bit harder knowing that our basketball team did a very similar thing to us this past winter? Yeah, probably.

But the thing is that it's not like these athletes aren't working hard and giving it everything they've got. And even if

we do end up in the middle of the pack for baseball, football next fall, and again with basketball next winter, we've still got to be proud of those among us who put on the Light Blue uniform and represent our university.

So Columbians, let's raise our glasses in a toast to the Texans, 76ers, Blue Jays, and, of course, the Lions.

Myles Simmons is a Columbia College freshman.
sports@columbiaspectator.com

Core Scholars winners create music, woodcuts and dance piece

SCHOLARS from front page

The song will be posted, along with the other winning entries, on Columbia's Core website. "I think that's the part that's most important to me, actually—the fact that my song is actually going to be shared with the greater Columbia community. For me, so much of the Core's power comes from its ability to foster community in Columbia," Kaplan said, adding that when he applied he "seriously had no idea cash was involved."

For his submission, Safavi, a violinist, decided to use music to interpret Euripides' "Medea" from the Literature Humanities syllabus.

"Medea, as a character, is both tremendously vulnerable and yet a force of unbridled rage," Safavi said, adding that he spent a great deal of time thinking about whether her actions in the book could be justified. "At the same time, I was aware that her society marginalized her because of gender and her status as a foreigner. I had written some rough sketches before I heard about the contest. I thought I'd enter so I'd make myself finish the piece before I forgot about it," he said.

Safavi said he felt that the solitary nature of Medea's struggle could be best conveyed by a work for solo violin. "The solo violin literature has shown a great

capacity for showing the spectrum of emotion on a small scale," he said.

"I think that's the part that's most important to me, actually—the fact that my song is actually going to be shared with the greater Columbia community"

—Ben Kaplan

"I still love some parts of it [the Core] and still am not a huge fan of other parts ... the beauty of the Core is that it exposes you to so many ideas and primary texts, creating an environment for you to wrestle with them and, ultimately, accept or discard them as you feel like," Safavi said.

Safavi said he plans to use his winnings to maintainance his instrument.

"I look forward to purchasing a new set of Evah Pirazzi violin strings ... and rehairing my bow," he said.

sonalee.rau@columbiaspectator.com



ROSE DONLON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CORE CRAZY | At top left, Richard Lenz; Below, Ben Kaplan; At right, Amir Safavi; At the bottom, Dominique Nieves, a dancer.

‘Lines in Code’ sets experimental bar for rest of ‘New Plays Now’ showcase

BY ALEXIS NELSON
Spectator Staff Writer

The fourth act opened with the following phrase: “Cigarettes and gin: Don’t do things you know better than to do, usually.” A projector screen behind the actors presented new, often cryptic sentences for each act. This unconventional feature was immediately engaging and characterized the experimental nature of the play “Lines in Code.”

This work was part of the presentation “New Plays Now,” which began April 13 and will continue until May 2, at the 3LD Art and Technology Center (80 Greenwich St., near Rector Street). The showcase is composed of works by the School of the Arts playwriting MFA class of 2011.

Samara Weiss, MFA student, wrote “Lines in Code” and was mentored by Will Eno through the process. Jen Wineman, who holds an MFA from the Yale School of Drama, directed the play. “Lines in Code” ran April 14, 16, and 17.

“Lines in Code” features only two characters. One is Charles Babbage, a prominent English mathematician, philosopher, inventor, and engineer. He is credited with conceiving the programmable computer. The other is Ada Lovelace, a woman who is often considered the first computer programmer. She worked on Babbage’s early computer.

Both characters are rational and immensely intelligent. They meet at a party and seem to slip into a sort of anachronistic dream world where they are trapped in a room together. They share banter laced with subtext and metaphors about concepts of infinity, memory, and the various gambles of life.

The two are clearly attracted to one another, and the play centers on the obstacles holding them apart. Both are competitive perfectionists, and Lovelace holds an intense fear of opening herself to others, especially to the code-breaking, investigative Babbage.

The play is ambitious in its attempt to portray the psychological struggles of two intensely driven, speculative souls.

Lovelace’s neuroticism and search for control inspire her work on a machine that makes decisions that can never be wrong. Babbage also begins work on a machine with the power to “understand things.” A steady stream of comedy, witticisms, and excellent delivery balances the weighty themes of the play.

The job was demanding for the two leads, and they presented captivating performances. Laura Esposito played Ada Lovelace, and Brian Hastert fully embodied Charles Babbage. Hastert’s performance straddled the comic and ridiculous while staying genuine. Esposito’s acting was packed with gripping emotion that inspired pathos for Ada’s sometimes grating character.

“Lines in Code” is daring, and its story and form complement each other, achieving something that felt fresh. The actors portrayed nuanced characters in a riveting manner, helping the play to resonate.

3LD Art and Technology Center, the performance space in which the plays are presented, communicates a modern, minimalist aesthetic. The walls of its entryway are white and dramatically slanted. Inside the theater, the atmosphere and the small size contribute to a more intimate viewing experience. Upcoming plays in the showcase include “Harlowe” by Jenny Lane on April 19 and “Iama Moon” by Zhu Yi on April 20, 21, and 24.



YUN SEOCHO / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PRIZE WINNERS | Professor Sig Gissler announced the 2011 Pulitzer Prize winners and conducted a Q-and-A afterward.

Three Pulitzer Prizes go to Columbians

BY NOOR BRARA
Columbia Daily Spectator

For writers throughout the United States, winning a Pulitzer Prize is considered as great a feat as winning a Grammy or an Oscar. This year’s winners were announced yesterday, April 18, at 3 p.m. during the 95th annual Pulitzer Prize ceremony, led by Pulitzer administrator and Columbia professor Sig Gissler. The event took place at Columbia’s School of Journalism, as per tradition, while figures from news media sources and publishing houses everywhere anxiously awaited the news.

Of the 21 awarded, three prizes were given to professors and graduates of Columbia. Professor Eric Foner was awarded the history prize for his book “The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery,” while professor Siddhartha Mukherjee won the general nonfiction prize for his book “The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer.” Columbia alum Zhou Long garnered the music composition award for his opera “Madame White Snake.” Ron Chernow, who has also won Columbia Business School’s George S. Eccles Prize for Excellence in Economic Writing, was awarded the biography prize for his book “Washington: A Life.” Another notable point of the ceremony was Jennifer Egan’s highly anticipated win of the fiction prize for her book “A Visit From the Goon Squad.”

The award was originally created by publisher Joseph Pulitzer, who felt it was necessary that writers across the country be recognized for their dedication to the written word. During his lifetime, Pulitzer sought to inspire journalists everywhere, introducing innovative techniques of what he called “new journalism” to his publications—methods that essentially led to the mass circulation of news that exists today. In an effort to ensure that all students interested in news writing would have a chance to pursue their dreams from within the walls of a respected university, Pulitzer left two million dollars to Columbia University to found the world’s first journalism school.

In 1917, shortly after Pulitzer’s death in 1911 and according to his wishes, prizes began being awarded annually to writers who continue Pulitzer’s legacy through their work in journalism, letters (fiction, nonfiction, biography, history, and poetry), drama, and music composition. The award has celebrated great talents such as William Faulkner, John Cheever, Upton Sinclair, Thomas Friedman, Steven Millhauser and Jhumpa Lahiri for their contributions.

Gissler kicked off this year’s ceremony with a bit of humor: “I hope you like my Pulitzer Prize tie....It has champagne bubbles on it because we’re going to celebrate later.” Audience members laughed appreciatively as they waited for the results.

As they were being announced, many nodded their heads in agreement and exchanged smiles amongst one another—for the most part, everyone seemed to be in accord.

Pleased as the audience seemed with the 2011 Pulitzer Prize recipients, one could not help but notice a common theme among the queries when Professor Sissler opened up the floor for a Q-and-A after the announcements. All attention seemed to be aimed at the world’s growing infatuation with digital news and media. Questions like, “Were WikiLeaks posts submitted and considered for the International Reporting prize?” and, “Have the roles of Facebook and Twitter influenced the breaking news category in any way?” took up the majority of the session.

Many also asked about new categories relating to online media. While Gissler admitted to the importance of digital news and writing in today’s day and age, he met proposals for new online-only categories with a smile. “Almost any form of human life has been proposed for a Pulitzer category,” he said, “and if we end up with too many categories, it may cheapen the currency.”

Regardless of how the manner of presentation changes in the digital age, the hope is that writers will continue to uphold Joseph Pulitzer’s love for and commitment to the progress of journalism and the arts.



JASPER CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ALL THE KING’S MEN | Columbia’s all-male cappella group will perform in its traditional matching red suits this Wednesday, April 20, at Miller.

Kingsmen sing to tune of classic barbershop and joviality

BY CHRISTIN ZURBACH
Columbia Daily Spectator

The Kingsmen will perform “the music your grandmother made love to”—as one of the a cappella group’s promotional posters claimed—at their upcoming concert this Wednesday, April 20, at Miller Theatre.

Many Columbia students know the Kingsmen, Columbia’s all-male a cappella group, for its tongue-in-cheek advertisements and its repertoire that combines barbershop with original comic ditties. The group’s reputation breeds mixed views among those who do not know them well—most pin them either as hilarious wits or as “Animal House” goons. But there may be more to the men behind the Kingsmen.

Unlike many of the other a cappella groups on campus, Kingsmen’s primary source of material is not contemporary pop, as is featured on “Glee.” Over the years, the group has stayed true to the classic barbershop sound that made it successful when alumni like Art Garfunkel were among its members, but still infuses it with new arrangements. Only to an extent, though—“Beatboxing is off limits for us,” Kingsmen president Will Ewing, CC ’11, said.

When describing their current sound, Ewing said, “It’s taking really good songs and making them a little shittier.” Although listeners can judge this for themselves, the group’s overall commitment to not taking themselves too seriously and the humility beneath the bravado can be refreshing.

Always capped at 10 Columbians, the Kingsmen’s small size and unique personality beg the question of how members are chosen. Experience is not everything for the Kingsmen, as it is for some groups, although potential for a great voice is. “Raw natural talent—that’s all I have,” Mitch Hayes, CC ’13, said jokingly when describing how he became a collegiate singer without any high school choral experience.

In addition to the voice, “You have to have a big sense of humor,” Ash Swamy, CC ’11, said. Kingsmen’s humor and sound have become distinctive enough that some first-years enter campus with a sense of the group and wonder whether

they can have a place in it. One such case is Sam Grunblatt, CC ’13, who said, “When I came to Columbia, I knew that I wanted to become a Kingsman.”

The Kingsmen’s all-male makeup is one of the factors that separate them from the other campus music groups. “It adds a different social element to the group, almost fraternity-esque,” Hayes said, except this “fraternity” serenades with songs like “Oh Shenandoah,” as five of its members did during the interview.

The members’ transparent closeness contributes to a jovial spirit that infuses all of their performances. “I don’t think anyone has more fun than us,” Swamy said.

The group’s inventive posters, which the members typically create together, are in the same spirit. They often parody both campus and worldwide events, as well as transform John Jay into John “K”ay before concerts and auditions.

“We also make fun of ourselves,” Grunblatt said. The posters’ proliferation across campus is noticeable and, every few years, controversial.

To clarify the Kingsmen’s goal, though, Ewing said, “We’re not trying to antagonize anyone.”

“Except Varsity Show,” Swamy said, interjecting with a smirk.

The Kingsmen combine strong sound with playful personality. The members arrange all their own music and “are a bit more choral than other groups,” as Swamy said. Despite their obvious similarities, though, the members do not “fit into this one stereotype,” according to Ewing. Each one has a different major, and “no one’s majoring in music,” said music manager Greg Schwartz, SEAS ’12, who has the convenient blessing of perfect pitch.

Perhaps the Kingsmen’s jab at grandma depicts them most accurately. As modern jokesters who wear matching suits with old-school charm, the Kingsmen always seek to combine the old and the new.

“There is a was deferens between us and other a cappella groups,” another poster claims. Whether in a Barnard classroom or Miller Theater, the Kingsmen are an experience, and their barbershop and banter are the tools that make them so.

New trends help build a peachy keen wardrobe for warmer temperatures

BY GEETIKA RUDRA
Spectator Staff Writer

With winter finally gone and spring ushering in summer, it is time to ditch those cable-knit sweaters, infinity scarves, and fur-lined Uggs in favor of more warm-weather appropriate clothes. Summer staples like jean shorts, V-necks, and Converse Low Tops are a given, but students can add fresh flavor to their wardrobes with trends that are making their way from the runway straight to College Walk.

Style setters should get ready for a sartorial blast from the past because this season, the ’70s are making a comeback. For this trend, think “Saturday Night Fever” meets “Charlie’s Angels”—it’s all about the laid-back silhouette.

While skinny jeans are still popular, try on a pair of flares, which are flattering for all body types. Wear them with wedges for a fun nighttime look or with tennis shoes for a relaxed day of classes. Accent jeans with a brown leather belt or a vest for that perfect modern-hippie look.

Denim cutoffs are a popular summer mainstay, but change things up by adding a few skirts. This season is all about skirts that end right below the knee. Made from cotton, these skirts flow beautifully in the summer breeze. They also come in a spectrum of styles, from solid neutrals to colorful prints. Pair a mid-length skirt with a tucked-in V-neck tee or a chambray button down

for an easy look that only takes minutes to put together. High-waisted skirts, especially paired with heels, help ensure that one’s figure doesn’t appear shorter than it actually is.

One of the most fun and versatile trends this year is the animal print. Though it has appeared over and over again in past seasons, this year, the animal print comes with a twist. Instead of faux leopard and cheetah spots, pick up pieces with faux tiger or zebra stripes. There are a plethora of options: printed scarves, dresses, skirts, and tops. Use this trend to build a collection of accessories that give any outfit an extra bit of glamour. Striped handbags and shoes are perfect for making an outfit more sophisticated. Just be careful not to go overboard—always pair an animal print with a more subdued neutral.

Every season has its color, and this season it’s peach. Not so light that it washes one out and not so dark that it brings back autumnal memories, peach is the perfect color for basking in the sun. Peach sundresses are everywhere and will likely be around for seasons to come. Pair one with white wayfarers for a daytime look.

Without coats and sweaters to fall back on, dressing for the summer can be intimidating. Remember to build a wardrobe that is light, airy, and comfortable. Simple trends like these can be used to build upon and enhance an already existing closet.



ILLUSTRATION BY REBECCA SCHWARZ



The 135th year of publication
Independent since 1962

CORPORATE BOARD

SAMUEL E. ROTH
Editor in Chief

MICHELE CLEARY
Managing Editor

ADITYA MUKERJEE
Publisher

MANAGING BOARD

LEAH GREENBAUM
Campus News Editor

SARAH DARVILLE
City News Editor

GABRIELLA PORRINO
Editorial Page Editor

REBEKAH MAYS
Editorial Page Editor

ALLISON MALECHA
Arts & Entertainment Editor

JIM PAGELS
Sports Editor

MRINAL MOHANKA
Sports Editor

MIKEY ZHONG
Spectrum Editor

AMANDA CORMIER
The Eye, Editor in Chief

ASHTON COOPER
The Eye, Managing Editor

CINDY PAN
The Eye, Art Director

ALEX COLLAZO
Head Copy Editor

JASPER L. CLYATT
Photo Editor

ANN CHOU
Design Editor

JEREMY BLEEKE
Design Editor

JAKE DAVIDSON
Online Content Editor

HANNAH D'APICE
Staff Director

ANDREW HITTI
Alumni Director

MABEL MCLEAN
Sales Director

SPENCER DUHAIME
Finance Director

DEPUTY BOARD

News Editors
Karla Jimenez, Chelsea Lo, Abby Mitchell, Sonalee Rau, Sammy Roth
Arts & Entertainment Editors
Claire Fu, Claire Stern
Copy Editor
Zuzanna Fuchs
Design Editor
Rebecca Schwarz
Photo Editors
Zara Castany, Maria Castex, Alyson Goulden, Phoebe Lytle, Christina Phan
Sports Editors
Zach Glibiaki, Kunal Gupta
Infrastructure Editor
Amrita Mazumdar
Sales
Thomas Elustondo, Alex Snyk
Finance
Gabriela Hempfing, Noah Kolatch, Daniela Quintanilla
Alumni
Rob Frech, Rex Macaylo

ASSOCIATE BOARD

Editorial Page Editors
Andrea Garcia-Vargas, Samantha Henderson, Leo Schwartz, Lanbo Zhang
Arts & Entertainment Editors
Ian Erickson-Kery, Maricela Gonzalez, Melissa Haney, Joseph Pomp, Katy Tong
Copy Editors
Maggie Alden, Jack Dickey, Abigail Fisch, Jessica Geiger, Emily Handsman, Michelle Lappen, Hannah Laymon, Gina Lee, Emily Neil, Emily Sorensen, Sean Wong
Page Design Editors
Maya Fegan, Joe Giron, Tarvi Gupta, Leila Lin, Geetika Rudra, Finn Vigeland, Isaac White, Laura Ye
Graphic Design Editors
Stephanie Mannheim, Yuma Shinohara
Photo Editors
Arvin Ahmadi, Hannah Botkin, Phoebe Brasnan, Kate Scarbrough, Henry Willson
Sports Editors
Rebeka Cohan, Trevor Cohen, Robert Wren Gordon, Jeremiah Sharf, Molly Tow, Ryan Young
Sales
Katherine Estabrook, Aurora Lende, Ross Lerner, Jamie Yu
Finance
Brendan Barry, Shivrati Chhabra, Michelle Lacks, Jiaqi Liu, Zhaojun Ma, Bruno Mendes, Gedion Negash, Kinnari Norojono

EDITORIAL BOARD

Sarah Ahmed, Yohana Beyene, Sam Klug, Jonathan Lee, Stephen Snowden, Vighnesh Subramanyan

WEDNESDAY NIGHT STAFF

Copy
Peter Andrews, Imani Brown, Molly Greathead, Natalia Remis, Kiley Shields
Design
Megan Baker, Esther Kim

ADDRESS & EMAIL

Columbia Spectator
2875 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10025
info@columbiaspectator.com

PHONE & FAX

Daily Spectator (212) 854-9549
Business (212) 854-9550
Business Fax (212) 854-9553

EDITORIAL POLICY

For more information about the Columbia Daily Spectator and editorial policies, visit <http://www.columbiaspectator.com/about>.

CORRECTIONS

The Spectator is committed to fair and accurate reporting. If you know of an error, please inform us at copy@columbiaspectator.com.

COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

For general comments or questions about the newspaper, please write to the editor in chief and managing editor at editor@columbiaspectator.com.

We shall meet again, in Petersburg

Dear Columbia, I do not officially come home until early June, but the semester already seems to be coming to a close. Moreover, your semester is actually ending, which means that this is the last time you will hear from me until we are together again. I will not be the same as I was in December. But neither will you. Your seniors, some of whom have seemed so very much a part of my last three years, will be gone. A whole class of new Columbians will eagerly and anxiously burst through the gates (shortly after which they will pretend to be too cool for such earnestness). In some ways, we will not be whom we were when I left. We may not know each other at all, at first. And then we will again, but differently.

There was a Soviet poet by the name of Osip Mandelstam (though to call him Soviet seems somewhat wrong, since he distinguished himself by writing a 16 line poem that completely berated Stalin and was then sent to starve to death in a labor camp). He penned a poem that begins, “We shall meet again, in Petersburg.” The bitter irony of it is that he wrote it at the time when St. Petersburg was known to all as Leningrad, renamed by the Soviet regime Mandelstam so strongly resisted. He was not simply saying that he and whoever the poem’s recipient was would one day find themselves in this particular city. He was moving them out of their misspent present and into a moment in time that they could make sense of—a time of Petersburg, and not of Leningrad.

Maybe we all have a Petersburg—a time and place when the yearning for what was mingles with the courage to face what is.

But that time was not necessarily in the past. The poem begins, “We shall meet again, in Petersburg” but continues, “as though there we’d buried the sun, / and for the first time, speak the word / the sacred, the meaningless one.” Later on, he writes, “Bored, by a fire we warm ourselves, / perhaps the centuries will pass, / and beloved hands, women’s, blessed, / will gather up the weightless ash.” I cannot be certain of what Mandelstam meant (furthermore, this is a column for a student paper, not a sad attempt at literary criticism). I do think, though, that one reading of these lines might suggest that Mandelstam was urging his reader to wait for him and for their city to catch up to a time when they could speak that sacred, meaningless word and shake off centuries’ ash. His Petersburg—this place of freedom, belonging, and poetry—is, in this work, still ahead of him.

Maybe we all have a Petersburg—a time and place in the future at which the terrible yearning for what was finally mingles with the courage to face what is and the hope to meet what will be. Maybe it’s in their Petersburg that your seniors, for example, out in the world, will think not of their fond college days (or daze), but rather of how what they learned therein has helped to bring them to where they are. Maybe that’s where the enthusiasm next year’s entering class had at the moment they received the 21st century equivalent of the thick envelope will be reclaimed and recalibrated to reflect the reality of the college life that is not what they expected and dreamed of, but, in its own way, infinitely better. Maybe it’s in this metaphorical Petersburg that I’ll finally be able to start to comprehend fully what the semester in literal Petersburg has meant to me. Maybe it’s there that I’ll find my place in you again, Columbia. It won’t be the same one that I gave up to come here. But we will understand the sacred, meaningless word in ways we didn’t and couldn’t before.

Tell those who are leaving goodbye for me, Columbia. Tell them I wish them all the best and that I hope they find whatever it is they’re looking for when they, for the first time, speak the word. Tell that, too, to the future first-years visiting for the first (or umpteenth) time. Tell them all to read Mandelstam.

So long for now, Columbia.

We shall meet again, in Petersburg.

From Russia with love,
Emily

Emily Tamkin is a Columbia College junior majoring in Russian literature and cultures. She is studying abroad in St. Petersburg this semester. She is a former Spectator editorial page editor. Foreign Correspondence runs alternate Tuesdays.



EMILY TAMKIN
Foreign Correspondence

Brushing away the Columbia blues

Last Friday, I walked outside of my whole in Butler Library into the sea of sunny, smiling loungers on Low Plaza to meet a friend who was visiting from out of town. He greeted me with a wild grin, his eyes flitting from the Greek heroes inscribed on Butler Library to the great columns of Low, and said, “Man, this is one sweet place.” “Yeah, it’s cool,” I responded, but secretly I was thinking, “He doesn’t know, he doesn’t know! It’s not so sweet in the winter, when people hustle past each other with hard, determined faces, or when you wake up in the morning with eyes burning after a long and frustratingly unproductive night at the library and five hours sleep, or...” But my friend was still beaming. “The idea of going to school here is really mind-blowing,” he said. Certainly, the rose-colored glasses with which one sees Columbia during one’s first visit to campus have slipped off most of our noses sometime between the first time we saw the sun rise in Butler and the 79th time we ate at John Jay dining hall. However, my friend’s awestruck attitude when viewing campus for the first time was a good reminder that going to school at Columbia is in fact “really mind-blowing.” At the risk of sounding like a powder-blue admissions pamphlet, I would like to remind all of you stress-ridden, sleep-deprived student-warriors: You are at Columbia University, one of the most intellectually vibrant places in the world, and in New York City, one of the greatest cities in the world. In high school, you earned your place here. Now, perhaps you should enjoy it.

By “enjoying your place here” I do not mean that now that you have earned your privileged place in society, you should stop caring about things and drink a lot of beer. Nor do I believe that sleeping five hours a night for an entire week—a regular occurrence for Columbia students—is ever fun, regardless of how positive one’s attitude is. Instead, I mean that it is always important to remember what it was that drew you to Columbia and to focus on and enjoy those things. For example, at the high school I attended in Pennsylvania, a good portion of my high school community, including many administrators, saw reading and deep intellectual activity as archaic forms of torture, which SparkNotes thankfully helped to eliminate. Thus, the intellectual rigor of Columbia fascinated me, as it still does. The idea that a teacher can



NICK BLOOM
Bursting Bubbles from the Inside

assign a book and reasonably expect most of the class to read it and be excited to share their opinions about it is still amazing to me, and I hardly ever find myself bored in class or while doing homework. Indeed, there are very few places in the world where I can have a conversation about Nietzsche with a random guy in my dorm floor bathroom at 3 a.m.— something I have done more than once at Columbia.

Columbia’s wonderful intellectual community is just one example of the many things that drew me here and that continue to keep me here. I could also mention the easy access we have to some of the greatest museums in the world, the beautiful campus (particularly in the spring), or the easy subway ride we have to countless venues both to play and to listen to music in the city—and these are just the things that I like. Other people have other reasons to love Columbia, including the close proximity to a million places of future employment in New York City, a specific program or professor, a particular student group or athletic team, or something I do not even know about.

Kathryn Brill wrote an excellent column last Friday analyzing Columbians’ cynical attitudes, particularly towards the happiness of prospective students during the springtime “Days on Campus.” “There’s something inherently lovely about Columbia in the spring,” she writes, “and if we aren’t seeing it, we should take a step back and reconsider whether we’ve lost something since our first visits.” Indeed, there is something inherently lovely about Columbia, period. If there weren’t, it would be hard to explain why 35,000 people would apply for just over 2,000 admissions to next year’s entering class. A little stress and a lot of homework are part of the natural flow at Columbia, particularly as we march towards finals week. However, if we choose to focus solely on this stress and allow our busy schedules to make our lives miserable, we are missing out on the unique aspects of life at Columbia which had us saying “man, this is one sweet place” during our first visits to campus. Indeed, if we search beyond our tired eyes and self-pitying groans and take a look at the boundless opportunities that we have at Columbia, I think we will see that this is still one sweet place.

Nick Bloom is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in English with a history concentration. He is a programmer at WKCR. Bursting Bubbles from the Inside runs alternate Tuesdays.



ILLUSTRATION BY MADDY KLOSS

Expansion against the community

BY TOM KAPPNER

Columbia’s latest expansionary drive into the community has exacerbated long standing tensions with the neighborhood over resource allocation and the provision of goods and services. Columbia has always relied on its public relations apparatus and its clout over public officials to gain whatever it deemed necessary at the expense of the most vulnerable in the surrounding community. Once again, Columbia has dictated what its needs are, made it clear that they must be met, and insisted that those of the community are expendable and indeed must be sacrificed for the greater good of humanity. Continuing on this path can only intensify the conflict with its neighbors in the years to come. In the short run, it may be the cheapest way for the University to get everything it wants, but in the end, it will prove to be much more costly. The alternative, while it may be more complex, will produce more satisfactory results and a better future for all concerned.

The community’s 197-a plan charted this path in great detail. Columbia chose to ignore it, immediately raising the enmity incurred over its past disregard of the community. But the issues addressed by the 197-a cannot be wished away, and ignoring them will only continue to intensify existing antagonisms.

To improve its relations with the community, Columbia must adopt a change in its approach and policies. It must cease relying on PR to sugarcoat the disastrous impact

on the community and stop dealing with intermediaries who make agreements in exchange for some token self-serving concessions. Instead, Columbia must work directly with the community to ensure that the real needs of both sides are addressed substantively, as was proposed by the 197-a and carried out by the initial West Harlem Local Development Corporation before Charles Rangel and Robert Jackson insisted on derailing real community input.

Here are the issues that remain to be addressed if Columbia wants to move forward with the community rather than against it:

Stop legal harassment and reliance on forceful expropriation. Work with Nick Sprayregen, Gurnam Singh, Parminder Kaur, and Ramon Diaz to accommodate their needs with safe, uncontaminated, appropriate space within the expansion zone. Allow all existing community residents to remain in place.

Share space rather than displace and destroy the existing community. Permanently set aside the remaining rent-regulated units in University Apartment Housing as affordable community housing, as proposed in the 197-a. Work actively with the community to preserve public housing, other subsidized housing such as 3333 Broadway, and all existing low-income and rent-regulated housing in the area. Stop reneging on past commitments to mitigate the damage from decades-long displacement of the neighborhood, such as the promised community retail space in the School for Social Work, which the administration

now refuses to honor.

Make sure that 7,000 permanent jobs promised for community residents are in fact delivered for community residents.

No biotech laboratories, power plants, or any other facilities that are environmentally harmful or connected to military research.

No bathtub on a flood plain and earthquake fault line. Underground construction only between adjacent buildings and not under the street.

Allow new construction only if it respects the historical and architectural integrity of the surrounding community and is contextual in size and bulk.

Columbia’s reneging on its lease to Floridita Restaurant particularly reflects the trustees’ approach to the 197-a community plan and to the greater Harlem community in general. Floridita had a long-term lease which, in the eyes of the administration, made it an obstacle to the expansion. Instead of viewing it as a community asset, an affordable ethnic restaurant with a diverse clientele worth preserving, Columbia approached it as though it was another hurdle in the eminent domain condemnation process. Instead of sharing and accommodating, the University used harassment and intimidation.

Is Columbia a part of the community or against community?

The author is a Columbia College ‘66 graduate and a long-time local resident in rent-regulated housing.

V&T

PIZZERIA & RESTAURANT

Italian Food at Its Best

FULL MENU • PRIVATE PARTY ROOM

WE DELIVER • OPEN 7 DAYS

SIDEWALK DINING

Order online at: **VTPIZZERIARESTAURANT.COM**

TUESDAY NIGHT • 15% OFF W/ CUID

(DINE-IN ONLY)

1024 Amsterdam (betw. 110-111 Sts.)

663-1708 • 666-8051

Union Theological Seminary's

LANDMARK GUEST ROOMS

3041 Broadway
at 121st Street
New York, NY 10027

UNION Comfortable guest rooms within the Seminary's walls blend the best of old and new. Our peaceful garden is an ideal spot for strolling, reading, and meditation.

Union is just a short bus or cab ride away from all the excitement that New York City has to offer.

Tel: (212) 280-1313 • Fax: (212) 280-1488

Visit us at: www.utsnyc.edu

You can sell just about anything with a

Spec Classified

854-9550

Solutions to Previous Issue's Puzzle

5	1	4	2	6	8	7	3	9
8	2	6	7	9	3	4	5	1
7	9	3	4	5	1	2	6	8
3	8	5	1	2	9	6	7	4
4	6	2	5	8	7	1	9	3
1	7	9	6	3	4	5	8	2
2	3	7	8	1	5	9	4	6
9	5	1	3	4	6	8	2	7
6	4	8	9	7	2	3	1	5

ADVERTISE

854-9552

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9. That means that no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

		3	4		2	6		
	1	6	7		9	8	4	
	4						1	
6			2	9	8			4
	9						7	
	5	8	9		1	3	6	
		7	5		4	1		

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED AD RATES:
\$8/00 per first 20 words.
25¢ each additional word.
Ad in all boldface \$4.00 extra.
All ads must be pre-paid.
2 business day deadline.
Call 854-9550 for information;
or fax ad to 854-9553.

APARTMENTS

7 ROOM CO-OP APT FOR SALE \$599K for 1275 sq ft 3 BR apt on 137 St betw Riverside Dr and B'way. The apt is sunny and spacious with charming accommodations such as 10 ft high ceilings and hardwood floors; it is located close to public transportation, CU, and Riverbank Park. Please note income restrictions apply, all offers will be entertained. To view please call Brian at (212) 831-1368 or email brianresales@gmail.com

WEST HARLEM—2 newly renov 2 BR apts just east of B'way on W 135 St. \$1350/mo (5th floor) and \$1550/mo (1st floor). Only 1.5 blocks from the 1 train and minutes from CU, City College, Riverbank Pk, Dinosaur BBQ and Fairway. \$50 fee for processing credit and background check—no application or broker's fee. To view please call Kathy (646) 457-0871 or email at trutledge@risingdevelopment.net.

EDITING & TYPING

PROFESSIONAL EDITING by Columbia Ph.D. Dissertation and academic style expert (APA, Turabian, MLA, etc.). Typing services available. (877) 922-9422.

EGG DONOR

HEALTHY WOMEN 19-29: NYC egg donors needed. Help someone create a family and be well compensated! Confidential. Apply at www.MyDonor.net

EGG DONOR NEEDED for same sex couple. \$15K-\$20K, + all expenses. Physician and attorney seek a well-rounded, healthy and intelligent woman between the ages of 21-27. Contact us through: info@aperfectmatch.com or call 1 (800) 264-8828.

HELP WANTED

HAVE AN IPHONE? Need extra money. Download the free Gigwalk App in iTunes App Store and start earning now! www.Gigwalk.com

PSYCHOTHERAPY

PHYLLIS LOWINGER, LCSW Experienced, sensitive, empathetic clinical social worker for help with relationships, school, career - w/specialties in infertility, adoption, 3rd party reproduction and parenting issues. Flexible fee. Located on the UWS. Call (212) 666-3400; email Phyllow@gmail.com

SPERM DONOR

\$\$\$PERM DONORS WANTED\$\$\$ Earn up to \$1200/mo and give the gift of family through California Cryobank's donor program. Convenient Midtown location. Apply online at: SPERMBANK.com

MISCELLANEOUS

GRADUATION PARTY, class seminar, laid back social, or any other special event, Rent out Haakon's Hall accommodations 50-185 persons please contact Haakon or James (212) 300-4166. james@haakonshallny.com

LOOKING FOR WITNESSES to a pedestrian being struck by a motorcycle on November 17, 2010 at B'way & 116 St, especially a woman who assisted the pedestrian to the curb and later spoke with the police. Please email rkass@sierraclaim.com or call (201) 207-3004.

FREE PIANO RECYCLING and moving. All NYC and vicinity. Free removal of all unwanted, used pianos in working condition. Non-working pianos and junk pianos removed and recycled as low as \$150. Pianos in 5-floor walk-ups are no problem. Your unwanted piano is our business. Grand pianos, baby grands, upright pianos, spinets and organs accepted. Fully equipped and experienced. Call Jay Fernando (646) 316-4442 direct. Also, estimates for other clean-outs of home and offices are available upon request.

PROFESSIONAL PAINTING by experienced Painter call Jay at (212) 529-5293. Experienced painter available to work on small or large paint jobs. I can paint your whole apartment, 1 room or even just one wall. Fix up your, bedroom, living room, kitchen or bath with a fresh paint job and enjoy your place even more. Reasonable prices. Estimates and references available upon request (or can work by the hour).

HUNGRY?

CLICK HERE

Oops! - That won't work...

Go to:

columbiaspectator.com

Check out the new

ONLINE DINING GUIDE

www.columbiaspectator.com

Contact Information

The Columbia Daily Spectator, the nation's second-oldest college daily, is an independent, student-run newspaper published by the Spectator Publishing Company, Inc. for the Columbia University community.

The Managing Board of the Columbia Daily Spectator has sole authority for the content of the newspaper. All inquiries or complaints concerning that content should be directed to the Managing Board at the address below.

The Columbia Daily Spectator welcomes opinion submissions and letters to the editor from readers. Submissions and letters must include the author's name, telephone number, and Columbia affiliation if any. Readers may submit submissions and letters electronically, by emailing opinion@columbiaspectator.com, or by sending hard copies to 2875 Broadway, New York, NY 10025.

Opinion submissions may not be less than 600 words and may not exceed 800 words; letters may not exceed 300 words and may not be signed by more than four persons. All submissions and letters may be edited for length and content.

Opinion submissions do not reflect the views of the Editorial Board.

The Columbia Daily Spectator is published Monday through Friday during the academic year except during examination and vacation periods.

Acceptance of an advertisement does not imply approval of policies of the advertiser. All rights reserved.

Spectator is free on campus. Limit one copy per reader please.

Office & Mailing Address:
2875 Broadway, Third Floor
New York, NY 10025

Advertising Director:
Dan Smullyan (212) 854-9552

Office Manager/Classified Advertising:
Ellen Lannon (212) 854-9550

Controller:
April Wong (212) 854-9550

Publisher: (212) 854-9549
News: (212) 854-9549
Editor-in-Chief: (212) 854-9549
Editorial/A&E: (212) 854-9549
Sports: (212) 854-9549
Fax: (212) 854-9553

Email: info@columbiaspectator.com

©2011 Spectator Publishing Company, Inc. Spectator is published by the Spectator Publishing Company, Inc.

Aditya Makarjee, President
Samuel E. Roth, Vice President
Michelle Cleary, Vice President

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Chase, as a fly
5 Comme ça, comme ça
9 Whaler's rear end
14 "... Fly With Me"
15 Sinatra standard
16 Hawk's home
17 Boo-boo, in tot talk
18 Grassland burrower
20 "Hungarian Rhapsodies" composer Franz
22 "My ___"
23 Mojave lizard
26 Boulevard, e.g.
27 Comical Coca
31 "You betcha!"
35 Bad doings
36 Soft drink suffix
37 Flipped ocean critter
41 Jack Homer's last words
42 Zoom or macro
44 Orange-and-black-winged butterfly
46 Dangles a carrot in front of
50 Jay with yikes
51 Sun-fooded Rockies denizen
56 Prayer set to music by Schubert and Gounod
59 1945 conference site
60 Playful swimmer
63 Object of worship
64 Some '80s Chrysler
65 Crescent's tip
66 It flows through Egypt
67 Feel intuitively
68 AMA concerns
69 Slippery fish

DOWN

1 Chew out
2 Canadian comic
Mandel
3 Not quite right
4 Old coots
5 "The Racer's Edge"

ACROSS

6 "... daily bread"
7 College football immortal Amos
8 "Yes, yes, Fill"
9 Verbally refused
10 Like most adolescents
11 Earth, in Germany
12 60-Across habits, to José
13 Ships in a photo lab
19 Wanderer
21 Cinq moins deux
24 Container weight
25 Gray matter creation
28 Flood-emergency op
29 Gp. that funds psychiatric drug testing
30 "Boola Boola" singers
31 "Boola Boola" university
32 Paradise
33 Email status
34 "Slippery" tree
38 Kansas city

DOWN

39 R.E.M.'s "The ___ Love"
40 Au pair
43 Almost boils
45 Hair-raising product?
47 Like some sandpaper
48 Continental coin
49 Tatletale
52 "Paper Moon" Oscar winner
O'Neal

53 Nostalgic record
54 Ring-shaped reef
55 Fairy stories
56 Torah holders
57 Smoking or drinking, some say
58 "... Almighty"
2007 film
61 That, in Toledo
62 Fast-spinning meats

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

ENTER	THAT	CAVE
GOOEY	REFI	OPED
APPLE	JUICE	VOID
DES	BOER	DEEPLY
	FEAR	PIER
SMILED	TANK	CARS
COLOR	TENT	HEEP
AVOW	TANGO	ARGO
RISE	ACES	FRIAR
SEY	RIGHT	RECENT
	POTS	MADE
ACTONE	PAGE	SOS
BLOW	AIRCURRENT	
CAGE	MOOR	ABACI
SPAR	SUMO	LITER

xwordeditor@aol.com 04/19/11

By John Langille
©2011 Tribune Media Services, Inc. 04/19/11

Not so bad, not so good, an ode to mediocrity

As the school year is (finally) winding down, I'd like to take this opportunity to give a toast to mediocrity.



MYLES SIMMONS
A Second Opinion

I'm talking about the average player or team that shows up to every game looking to be the best but ultimately ending up in the middle of the pack. Doesn't get too high or too low—just inconspicuously situated at the center of the standings. Not so bad that a fan wants to complain about it, but not so good that the average fan wants to hop on the bandwagon either.

Do you ever feel like we have too many Columbia teams like this? I know I do.

I don't want to discount what many of our teams are doing here because we do have some outstanding athletes in tennis, fencing, swimming, and archery—just to name a few. But when it comes to the big three of football, basketball, and baseball, it just seems to me that we are the pinnacle of mediocrity.

You see this kind of thing in the pros all the time—teams that are good enough to get by but are never thought of as serious contenders. Take the NFL's Houston Texans for instance. In five of the last seven years, the team has won six, seven, or eight of 16 games. Only once were they severely under .500, when they won just two games. And the lone season they had more wins than losses, the victories stopped at nine. It seems like every August NFL commentator talks about how "this could be the year the Texans break out of it and become competitive!" We'll probably hear it yet again before this season—that is, if the owners and players come to a new labor agreement—but based on the track record, it's hard to think that we'll see any different results.

You see this kind of thing in the pros all the time—teams that are good enough to get by but are never thought of as serious contenders.

Moving over to basketball, it's much easier to find those teams stuck in the middle because the league is so clearly divided between the "haves" and the "have-nots." However, the league is structured so that even those teams mired in the depths of mediocrity have a good shot at making the playoffs—especially in the Eastern Conference. Look at the Philadelphia 76ers—they are a perfect example of how a very average team can get by in the NBA. Since head coach Larry Brown's resignation following the 2002-2003 season, the 76ers have made it to the playoffs four times and only once had a record above .500. (It's worth noting that in '08-'09 and this season, the 76ers were exactly 41-41.) Add the fact that the NBA free agency has now become a "make your own All-Star team" event, and the result is the always-average 76ers, who are never bad enough to get high first-round draft picks.

The mediocrity train rolls right on into Major League Baseball, where it finds the Toronto Blue Jays. Canada's lone MLB team has been "just OK" since winning the World Series in the consecutive seasons of '92 and '93. Since then, the Jays have finished the season in third place a staggering nine times, fourth four times, fifth thrice, and second only once. Because they're in a division with the Yankees and Red Sox, which have dominated the AL East for the last 15 years (if there are any Rays fans, yes you won twice too), I find their mediocrity pretty understandable.

But you know what? All that doesn't mean that we as Columbians should have to like mediocrity or as fans should have to put up with it. I think it's pretty safe to say that we're a community of people who have always been at least above the average level of those around us. Otherwise, how in the world would we have been admitted here? Joe or Jane Shmoe from high school could probably never do what you've been doing to stay afloat here at Columbia because, as the name suggests, he or she is just average.

SEE SIMMONS, page 2



KATE SCARBROUGH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

REGRET THE ERROR | The Light Blue's defensive mistakes have been costly in several games already, and will continue to play an important part this Ivy season.

Small mistakes costly in evenly-matched conference

BY RYAN YOUNG
Spectator Staff Writer

Defense can decide games just as much as hitting and pitching—this became evident after outfield misplays led to runs and diving catches bailed out pitchers in Columbia's doubleheader against Cornell.



The Lions' defense has been solid, sporting the second best fielding percentage in conference play. Head coach Brett Boretti makes sure to emphasize playing sound defense in order to win games. "I think it goes back to our strengths. We feel pitching is our strength and our defense needs to be right there behind those guys, making the routine plays," Boretti said. "We feel if we bring those two things everyday, it gives us a shot to win, there's no question about it."

Even though Columbia has generally played dependable defense, a few miscues have precluded the Lions (16-16, 6-6 Ivy) from having a record above .500 in league play. Boretti has repeatedly mentioned that all the Ivy teams are close to each other, and so every

doubleheader is a battle. Indeed, six of the eight Ivy teams still have a great shot at winning their divisions. With this parity, there generally are several close games, and these contests often come down to one play, where one error can seal defeat.

This was the case for the Light Blue when it traveled to Providence two Saturdays ago. An error on the first play of that doubleheader for Columbia's defense led to an unearned run, and despite a largely dominant Pat Lowery performance, the Lions would lose by one run, 2-1. In the next game, errors by freshman catcher Mike Fischer would set up the first and last run of the game for the Bears, which resulted in another one-run defeat for Columbia. The very next day against Yale, a catcher's interference call (of all things) loaded the bases to set up a three-run rally in what would turn out to be a three-run loss.

In all three of those games, the Lions committed two errors and lost a tough contest. The final game of that weekend, Columbia did not commit an error behind senior starting pitcher Geoff Whitaker, and the result was a resounding 8-1 triumph over the Bulldogs. Of all four of the Columbia starters, Whitaker

is most reliant on his defense because he likes to pitch to contact.

It has been even tougher to play defense at home because of the howling winds that have consistently played tricks with fly balls at Robertson Field. This was a large factor against Cornell this weekend.

"I have to get on my horse and start going right away," sophomore outfielder Dario Pizzano said of tracking down fly balls in right field. "One ball got off the fence out there that should have been a pop-up, another one got off the fence the same inning. I ran into the fence twice, and those seemed like they should've been routine fly balls, so it's a lot different in right field with the wind blowing out there."

Playing right field has been even more challenging for Pizzano because until a few weeks ago, most of his playing time came in left field.

"It's definitely different than left field," he said. "The wind knocks everything down in left field so I have a lot more time to react."

He added that the ball comes off the bat differently from right and left-handed hitters in right field compared to left field.

"I've played in the summer in right field, so that's alright—it's just getting used to it," he said.

Pizzano had made room for senior outfielder Jason Banos in left field, who after playing at first base last season is now returning to the deep.

"I've been an outfielder most of my life, I think there was more of an adjustment to begin playing first base in the first place, so going back to the outfield, just taking reps, getting used to it, it was a pretty easy transition," Banos said.

The wind played tricks on Pizzano and Banos in the outfield on Saturday, including a ball that got under Pizzano's glove in right field that led to Cornell's only run of the opening contest.

"I got caught up in between, it was a line drive and the wind was actually blowing in and it didn't hang up as long as I thought and I tried to slide or dive or whatever it was at the last second and I made a mistake," Pizzano said.

Luckily, both outfielders would come through with their bats to sweep Saturday's doubleheader, ensuring that defensive mistakes would not cost junior starting pitcher Pat Lowery another win.

SEE IN FOCUS, page 2

LEAGUE LEADERS

HOME RUNS

NAME	SCHOOL	HR
Billigen, Brian	Cornell	7
Branigan, Spencer	Penn	6
Mulroy, Sam	Princeton	6
Way, Marcus	Harvard	6

ON BASE PERCENTAGE

NAME	SCHOOL	OBP
Coble, Ennis	Dartmouth	.457
Pizzano, Dario	Columbia	.451
Zebrack, Greg	Penn	.451
Sclafani, Joe	Dartmouth	.449
Maas, Jeremy	Penn	.439

SLUGGING PERCENTAGE

NAME	SCHOOL	SLG
Sclafani, Joe	Dartmouth	.636
Pizzano, Dario	Columbia	.609
Billigen, Brian	Cornell	.600
Davis, Will	Penn	.591
Maas, Jeremy	Penn	.568

OPPOSING BATTING AVERAGE

NAME	SCHOOL	AVG
Olson, Stefan	Columbia	.161
Lally, Vinny	Yale	.194
Perlman, Max	Harvard	.224
Sulser, Cole	Dartmouth	.230
Hendricks, Kyle	Dartmouth	.231

EARNED RUN AVERAGE

NAME	SCHOOL	ERA
Olson, Stefan	Columbia	1.25
Perlman, Max	Harvard	2.03
Hart, Brook	Yale	2.25
Lally, Vinny	Yale	2.30
Hendricks, Kyle	Dartmouth	2.47

Princeton takes conference lead, Yale in second

BY ROBERT WREN GORDON
Spectator Staff Writer

BROWN

The Bears (6-6) started off last week with a road game at Connecticut on Thursday, where they lost 6-2. Over the weekend, Brown split a four-game series with Harvard, sweeping the Crimson on Saturday before getting swept on Sunday. After a few days off, the Bears head to Massachusetts to play Holy Cross on Wednesday before heading to Hanover, N.H. to play Dartmouth on Saturday and Sunday.



CORNELL

The Big Red (3-9) had a rough week that began last Tuesday when it was swept in a doubleheader at LeMoyne College in Syracuse. Cornell's misfortunes continued this weekend when it headed south to play the Light Blue. Cornell was swept on Saturday by a combined score of 13-3. The Big Red was once again defeated by the Lions during Sunday's first matchup, 6-0, but it managed to pull one win out of the week, beating the Lions 7-1 during the nightcap. Cornell's schedule for this week includes a doubleheader today at Siena College and a four-game series at home against Penn on the weekend.

DARTMOUTH

After an impressive sweep of Cornell and Princeton, the Big Green (6-6) hoped to rise to the top last week. The week started off well with Dartmouth defeating

Boston College 15-10 last Tuesday. After a Wednesday game at Holy Cross was postponed due to rain, the Big Green saw its next action at Yale in New Haven. However, Dartmouth's luck—and its winning streak—came to an abrupt end at the hands of Yale pitchers Vinny Lally and Brook Hart, as the Big Green was swept by the Bulldogs last Saturday by a combined score of 11-2. Things didn't improve on Sunday for Dartmouth, as it lost both games, first getting shut out 3-0 and later losing 5-1. With a new week, the Big Green looks to turn things around and get back in contention for first place. Dartmouth has home games against Saint Anselm and Hartford this week before hosting Brown on the weekend.

HARVARD

The Crimson (3-9) had a great weekend in what has otherwise been a season to forget. After struggling since the start of Ivy play back on April 2, Harvard won its first back-to-back games on Sunday at Brown, winning the opener by a score of 6-3 before beating the Bears 12-7 during the nightcap. Earlier in the week, the Crimson lost last Tuesday's home game against Northeastern 6-5 before losing both games of Saturday's doubleheader against the Bears, 2-0 and 4-3. The Crimson has a doubleheader today against Bryant and will take on Massachusetts on Wednesday, with Yale visiting during the weekend.

PENNSYLVANIA

Penn (7-5) had no midweek games last week. Its first action came against Princeton on Friday, during which it split the doubleheader, winning the

first match 12-4 and losing the nightcap 6-5. Sunday proved to be a rough day for the Quakers, as they lost their remaining games against the Tigers 3-2 and 4-2 (after 10 innings). The Quakers play Lehigh this Wednesday at noon and then travel to Ithaca to play Cornell on Saturday and Sunday.

PRINCETON

Following a Sunday sweep of Penn, the Tigers (9-3) took a two-game lead in the Lou Gehrig Division and lead the overall Ivy League standings. After a postponed midweek game at Monmouth last Wednesday, the Tigers saw their first action on Friday in Philadelphia, losing to Penn 12-4. However, Princeton managed to bounce back late on Friday, beating the Quakers 6-5. This win gave Princeton the momentum it needed to sweep Penn on Sunday by a combined score of 7-4. The Tigers play St. John's here in New York and Monmouth on Thursday before hosting the Light Blue.

YALE

Since falling to Columbia in last Sunday's nightcap, Yale (8-4) has yet to lose another game. The Bulldogs started the week off strong, beating Connecticut 10-7 last Tuesday. After a canceled game against Fairfield on Wednesday, Yale proceeded to sweep Dartmouth, winning all four games by a combined score of 19-3, including one shutout. The Bulldogs, who are currently in the top spot in the Red Rolfe Division and second place overall, resume play Wednesday at Army before heading to Cambridge, Mass. to battle Harvard this weekend.