

Block may blossom with locals' effort

BY ABBY MITCHELL
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

What do you do if you can't plant a tree? If you're Alicia Barksdale, president of the 3333 Broadway Tenants' Association, you get some planters.

There are no trees on 135th Street between Amsterdam Avenue and Broadway, leaving the block austere and bleak. When she approached Million Trees NYC, an organization that plants new trees across the city, she learned that a complex system of pipes and cables underground makes growing plants nearly impossible on her block.

She wants to install 35 planters, with at least 15 on each side of the street, which she hopes will revive both the streetscape and residents' morale.

"Not only would it make our street look better, more beautiful, but it's all about getting the community involved in something," Barksdale said. "They would help with the planting and everything. I really believe that people would take care of the block much more if they literally planted something or made something."

Jasmin Marinara, a 3333 resident, said she is confident the neighbors would take care of the plants if needed.

"Years back, the area by Riverside was not developed. We all got together and planted tulips," Marinara said, adding that the flowers are still there. "It would make the neighborhood much nicer, keeping the space clean."

Barksdale began fundraising for the project last Monday by

SEE TREES, page 2

HIGH TIMES



MARIA CASTEZ / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SYNCHRONICITY | Students take a study break to watch the classic *The Dark Side of Oz*, which syncs up Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon" with the 1939 film "The Wizard of Oz."

Bollinger, Spar, deans take on 'going global'

Panelists offer differing views on academia and globalism

BY SAMMY ROTH AND
AMANDA STIBEL
Columbia Daily Spectator

At the Columbia Goes Global Conference on Wednesday, the word "globalization" took a beating.

"I've really come to hate the word 'globalization,'" Barnard President Debora Spar said. "Everyone throws it out all the time, and I don't think there's ever any agreement what they're actually talking about when they talk about globalization."

University President Lee Bollinger has spent the last few years pushing Columbia to "go global," and the conference was billed as a discussion of how the University can best execute those plans. Panelists agreed that it is important for Columbia to create a more global presence, although they had different opinions about what that should mean.

Columbia has already opened global centers in four cities—Amman, Beijing, Mumbai, and Paris—and several more are on the horizon in Chile, Kazakhstan, Brazil, Turkey, and Kenya. Vice President for Global Centers Kenneth Prewitt said centers in Nairobi and Istanbul should open in the fall, with the center in Santiago, Chile, to follow in the spring.

The conference, held in Low Library, featured three panels—one with professors, one with students, and one with Spar, Columbia College Dean Michele Moody-Adams, and School of General Studies Dean Peter Awn.

Moody-Adams stressed that Columbia must balance its role in New York City and its emerging global presence.

"The institution that hopes to be global ... will always at the same time be local," she said.

Spar added that globalization must be viewed as having both an "export" model, in which America takes its educational institutions elsewhere, and an "import" model, in which America learns from the rest of the world. She said the U.S. might now be leaning toward the latter.

"There was a long period of time in which we as Americans presumed that we would always be the dominant car manufacturer, the dominant television manufacturer," she said. "We never thought that we would become an import in those sectors."

Spar highlighted various initiatives Barnard has

undertaken to increase its global presence, like hosting international symposia—including one in South Africa last month—and maintaining its Visiting International Students Program, which brings foreign students to study at Barnard for a semester.

One visitor from Japan said that in other countries, the word "globalization" is often seen as a euphemism for "invasion" by the English-speaking world. Teachers College alum Michael Rand, who attended the conference, said that Columbia has to work to combat that perception.

"I think clearly they have to ... say up front and show through their actions, maybe through marketing tools, whatever, that they're in it to create relationships of equals," Rand said.

"The institution that hopes to be global ... will always at the same time be local."

—Michele Moody-Adams,
Columbia College dean

In addition to the three panels, Victoria de Grazia, the interim director of the Columbia Global Center in Paris, spoke about the University's new Global Scholars program, a ramped-up study abroad experience. The program will take students abroad for eight months rather than the traditional semester, and students will work with professors extensively on research. It will be tested for the first time at the Paris global center this fall.

"It is Columbia in a different country," de Grazia said, adding that the University is eager to play a larger role in the experiences of undergraduates who choose to go abroad.

Some students who attended the conference said they were enthusiastic about the new program, but others were unsure whether undergraduates would want to spend more than one semester abroad.

"I was surprised that there weren't more options for study abroad in France when I was looking, and I would definitely have liked to see more," said

SEE GLOBAL, page 2

Residents fed up with landlord at former illegal hotel

BY GINA LEE
Spectator Staff Writer

The elevator hasn't worked for months, but that's only one of the complaints residents

have at what was once the Pennington Hotel.

The former hotel—one of many single room occupancy buildings on the Upper West Side—now houses permanent

residents and about 50 homeless men as part of a transitional shelter operated by Volunteers of America and the New York City Department of Homeless Services.

According to residents of the 168-unit building at 316 West 95th St., the owner has been neglecting maintenance to focus on profit-making schemes for years. The city forced him to stop operating the building as an illegal hotel in 2007, and DHS moved in a few months ago to operate the transitional shelter. After a brief period of improvement, residents said, all the former problems—including broken elevators, roaches and bedbugs, and lack of security—have returned.

"Even though we had been talked about and written about, everything went back to normal," said one resident who has lived at the Pennington since the 1990s, referring to media coverage surrounding the hotel in 2007. "He has been trying to come up with one venture after another."

Fearing eviction, residents asked to remain anonymous, but they said conditions at the Pennington have become unbearable. According to records from the city's Department of Buildings, no violation was issued after a Feb. 1 complaint stating that the elevator in the seven-story building had been out of service since Dec. 14, 2010.

A resident of the transitional shelter said that the owner promised to have the elevator operable by March 15, but it's still undergoing repairs.

"Historically, SRO tenants face a lot of harassment at the hands of their landlords on the Upper West Side," said Marti

Weithman, director of the Goddard Riverside SRO Law Project, which provides organizing and legal services to tenants of SRO buildings on the Upper West Side.

Weithman said the Law Project, one of several programs run by the Goddard Riverside Community Center, has been working with tenants at the Pennington to resolve the problems they have with their living situation.

As for the owner's decision to bring the homeless shelter into the building, "It wasn't cool that he didn't OK it with the tenants that are already here," said one resident, who described herself as having lived at the Pennington for a "long time."

The owner did not respond to multiple requests for comment. DHS also did not respond to requests for information about the building.

A resident of the transitional shelter said there are two security guards there 24/7, but the longtime resident said there are times when she doesn't see security around, usually late at night—which is also when people often crowd the steps outside the entrance.

According to the shelter resident, the environment there is generally safe, and most of the people housed in the transitional facility are working or receiving disability or unemployment benefits.

"It's not like there's a fight in there every day. It's sporadic," he said, adding that some fights are inevitable because some of the single occupancy rooms house two people.

But when fights do break out,

SEE HOTEL, page 2



KATHERINE SCARBROUGH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SRO CONCERNS | Pennington residents say that the owner routinely neglects maintenance to pursue financial ventures.

A&E, PAGE 3

Film raises awareness of sexual assault

Co-sponsored by Barnard and Columbia Health Services, the documentary film "Very Young Girls" was screened last night as part of the ongoing Sexual Assault Awareness Month.



OPINION, PAGE 4

Another one bites the dust

Don't evaluate your life by its tragedies.

The art of Bohr

Science and art go hand in hand.

SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Freshman sensation

In her first year of collegiate golf, freshman Michelle Piyapattra leads the Lions in almost all statistical categories. She has two first-place finishes in her last three competitions.

EVENTS

La Noire de ...

This unconventionally-titled French film tells the story of a Senegalese woman who takes a job as a governess in a French family.

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Panelists say Columbia must tread cautiously

GLOBAL from front page

Hannah Klain, CC '13, who will be spending part of her junior year in France. “Eight months is a long time, though, so I don’t know if I would want to do that.” John Kenney, CC '13, who will spend next semester in Australia, added that Columbia’s extensive requirements would make an eight-month study abroad program hard to schedule.

“It’s difficult to add a

semester abroad to a schedule that’s already full with a major and the Core,” Kenney said.

Only 24 percent of Columbia students currently choose to spend time abroad, and the majority leave for no more than three or four months.

Most of the panelists said they were optimistic about Columbia’s prospects for becoming a global university, but Aaron Liskov, CC '11—who sat on the panel moderated by Bollinger—sounded a note of

skepticism.

Liskov said after the conference that while it’s clear the University has to adapt to become more global, he is not sure how it should do so. He added it is important for Columbia to determine how exactly the global centers will affect undergraduates.

“It’s very easy to see why global expansion is so appealing,” he said, “because globalization is just such a popular term.” news@columbiaspectator.com

Frequent maintenance problems at SRO

HOTEL from front page

security isn’t always effective, a friend of the resident said.

“There was an argument between two residents,” the friend said. “The security guards didn’t know what to do. One called the police.”

One resident said unsanitary conditions and questionable security have led some

tenants to move out recently, which Weithman said is often an SRO building owner’s goal.

“It’s very common for us to see, in a number of SRO buildings, landlords cutting off heat and water or shutting down an elevator in order to force residents out,” she said, adding that city contracts can be more lucrative.

The low rent keeps

people from moving or speaking out against the owner of the Pennington, but conditions aren’t getting any better, said the resident who has been living in the building since the ’90s.

“At the end of the day, we are collateral damage,” she said. “It’s just been one crazy circus freak show.”

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A new week and a different result for the Lions against Manhattan College

BY TREVOR COHEN
Spectator Staff Writer

Manhattan College may have had a bad trip to the Upper West Side a week ago, but it was the Jaspers who were riding high after their doubleheader rematch against the Lions yesterday. A week to the day after Columbia ended the team’s NCAA-high 10-game winning streak in an ad hoc midweek makeup contest last Wednesday, Manhattan secured its vengeance with a dominant two-game sweep at Baker Field.

“Not a very good day of baseball,” head coach Brett Boretti remarked, after his team followed a 7-2 loss to start the day with a 6-0 shutout to end it. “We need to get geared up and ready to go for the weekend.”

He was referring, of course, to the upcoming four-game set against league-best Princeton, currently three games ahead of Columbia in the Lou Gehrig Division. After Wednesday’s performance, Boretti said that the Lions have some work to do if they want to make the most of the pivotal intra-league matchup.

“We put ourselves in a position that we couldn’t dig ourselves out of,” Boretti said of Columbia’s play against the Jaspers. “I think that there’s a lot of stuff we need to fine-tune before we play again.”

Missed opportunities were the theme of game one for the Light Blue, which left 11 men on base in the seven-inning contest. Manhattan got on the board first, with two runs in the second inning on a squeeze bunt and a throwing error from sophomore Nick Ferraresi in right field. A leadoff double off the bat of senior Nick Cox and RBI

single from junior Jon Eisen cut the lead in half an inning later, though, and the Lions had their big opportunity to go in front in the fourth.

Columbia seemed to have Manhattan reliever Dan Feinberg’s number, after rookie starter Jared Hirschberg had kept the Lions in check through the first three frames. Upon entering the game to begin the fourth inning, Feinberg promptly hit junior Alexander Aurrichio, yielded a single to sophomore Nick Crucet, put both runners into scoring position with a wild pitch, walked rookie shortstop Aaron Silbar on four pitches, and went to a 3-1 count on freshman catcher Enmanuel Cabreja.

As quickly as the opportunity materialized, though, it ended even more abruptly. After fouling two pitches off, Cabreja hit one back to Feinberg on the mound to start a 1-2-3 double play, keeping the tying run off the board. Cox then grounded out with runners on second and third to end the inning.

Manhattan scores in each of the last three innings shut the door to a Lions victory.

The Jaspers scored first again in the second game, off senior southpaw Max Lautmann. Manhattan center fielder Mark Onorati doubled on the first pitch of the game, and scored a play later on a ground ball to first base. Columbia loaded the bases again in the second inning with two outs, but again came up empty when Ferraresi struck out looking. Manhattan tacked on two in the fourth and three in the fifth, while its starter, Scott McClennan, pitched a complete game seven-inning shutout to give the Jaspers their second win on the day.

The leadoff double from

Game 1	
COLUMBIA	2
MANHATTAN	7
Game 2	
COLUMBIA	0
MANHATTAN	6

Onorati in game two carried more misfortune for the Lions than just handing them an early deficit. After chasing the ball in right-center, senior center fielder Nick Cox had to leave the game with an injury, likely a flare-up of the pulled hamstring that bothered him earlier this month. While it did not appear to be severe—he walked off of the field without assistance—any limitations for Cox would deal a serious blow to the Light Blue at a crucial point in the season. The co-captain leads the team in runs scored out of the leadoff spot and is, according to Boretti, the best defensive center fielder in the league.

While it is true that the midweek nonconference games Columbia plays have no real impact on their record, as an NCAA bid depends only on their Ivy League play, Boretti in no way views them as inconsequential.

“They’re extremely significant. They’re as significant as the conference games, in my mind,” Boretti said. “I know we have a 20-game conference schedule, but you can’t approach weekend games any different than midweek. If we’re doing that, we’re flat wrong. I don’t care if it’s a Tuesday or Wednesday or Saturday or Sunday. There shouldn’t be any difference.”

Be that as it may, the Lions hope to see some difference in their play this weekend against the Tigers. The fate of their season hangs in the balance.

Still work ahead for Columbia lacrosse

CLEARY from back page

last in the league with an 0-5 record, but it’s still impressive that the Light Blue was able to completely own another Ivy League team like that.

Despite all of that, though, one win is still just one win. If the Light Blue want to prove that this is a turning point for

the program, it’ll have to win at least one more conference game this season—preferably against a team that has actually won another conference game itself. While the program isn’t going to turn around overnight and start winning Ancient Eight titles anytime soon, it has to start somewhere.

Two wins in one season may not seem like a lot, but it would be a starting point, and it might be enough to make the front page again.

Michele Cleary is a Columbia College junior majoring in history. She is Spectator’s managing editor. sports@columbiaspectator.com

Resident hopes to bring additional trees to 135th

TREES from front page

launching a website and reaching out to local officials for their support. The website is run through ioby.com, which supports sustainable fundraising projects in the city by matching every dollar raised.

The current budget for the 135th Street Beautification Project is \$3,240, including the cost of equipment and the planters themselves. According to the project’s page, the 3333 Broadway Tenants’ Association has raised \$40 so far.

The planters will likely be self-watering, with a holding tank inside to catch rainwater.

“We want to get the self-watering ones so that it would be less of a hassle for the community,” Barksdale said. “It all depends, though, because they’re more expensive.”

Once enough money has been raised, the project will seek approval from Community Board 9 and then begin planting. Barksdale is hopeful that the trees will be in place by the fall.

But not all residents see the trees and planters as a good investment, given the economic climate.

“I don’t think trees are a priority. Our view is great, we have the river, so we don’t need trees,” resident Helena Darwin said. “If

any money at all is going to anything in this building, it should be to the elevators.”

According to Darwin, one of the two elevators in 3333 Broadway has been broken for weeks, forcing residents to wait or walk.

Other residents, like Martha Lara, said they are excited to hear that there may soon be trees in the neighborhood.

“Having trees will lighten up the area,” Lara said. “If other neighborhoods get trees, why not us?”

Karla Jimenez contributed reporting.

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ZARA CASTANY / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TREELESS HORIZON | Residents hope to change West 135th Street’s current lack of vegetation.

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LACROSSE

Another win for Columbia on road, against Bucknell

The Light Blue lacrosse team started yesterday off with a bang.

After winning its first home Ivy League match in the history of the program against Yale on Friday, the Lions (4-8, 1-4 Ivy) continued their success as they traveled to Lewisburg, Pa., to take on Bucknell (3-12). Columbia won the match 16-7 after an explosive first half that saw it leading the Bison 10-1 at the break. This was the team’s third consecutive win of the season.

The Lions scored early, with freshman attacker Paige Cuscovitch putting Columbia on the scoreboard less than two minutes into regulation. The Bison tied it up two minutes later, but senior attacker Gabrielle Geronimos found the net again after another five minutes of play to give the Light Blue a lead it would maintain for the rest of the game. The Lions

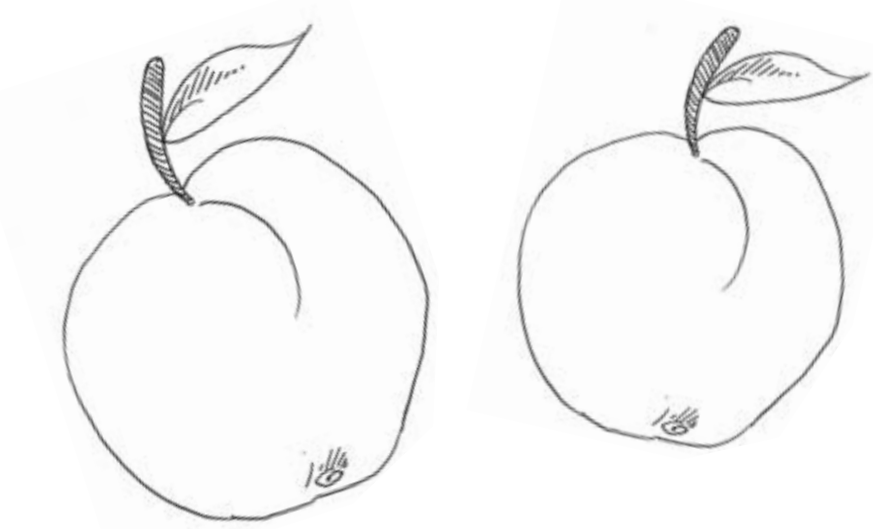
maintained their scoring throughout the half. The offensive surge during the first half saw junior midfielder Kelly Buechel, sophomore attacker Kacie Johnson, senior attacker Emily Kager, and sophomore midfielder Olivia Mann all notch at least one tally.

The Lions continued to light up the scoreboard during the second half. Bucknell tried to chip away at Columbia’s lead, but the Light Blue refused to allow it to close the substantial gap it had created. Almost every time the Bison scored, the Lions responded with a goal of their own.

Mann led the Light Blue with five goals, and Geronimos contributed four tallies. Junior goalkeeper Karlee Blank ended the day with four saves.

—Rebekah Cohan

Freshen up recipes with spring produce

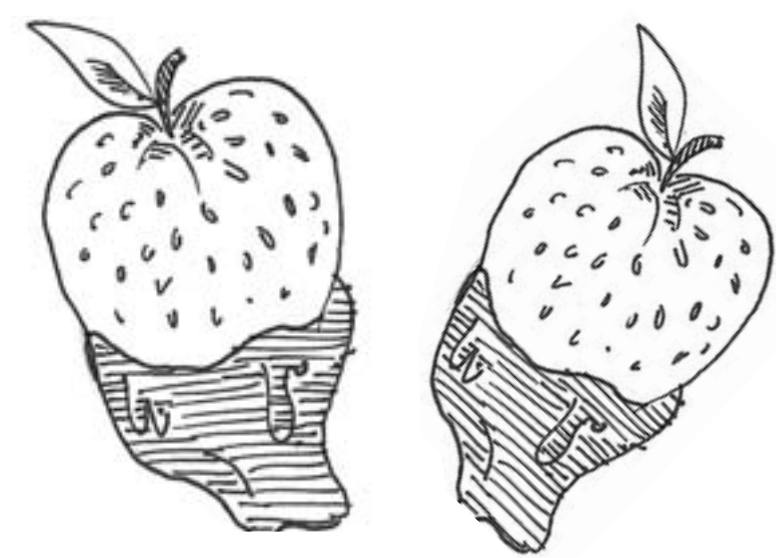


Tzimmes

Tzimmes is a traditional Passover dish that lightens up a big meal of meat and green vegetables. While Tzimmes looks more like an autumnal dish due to its deep orange color, apricots just begin to come into season in late spring, which is usually when Passover falls on the Gregorian calendar. If they’re tangy and sweet, they bring out the more subdued flavors of the sweet potatoes and carrots. Some tzimmes dishes involve mashing the vegetables into a puree, while some are made with more cooking liquid, like salted water, and turn out soupier.

This recipe is chunky yet soft and sweet—a happy medium between the two extremes. Simply combine all of the ingredients in a large pot, bring to a boil, and then cover and let sit over low heat until the vegetables are tender, about an hour.

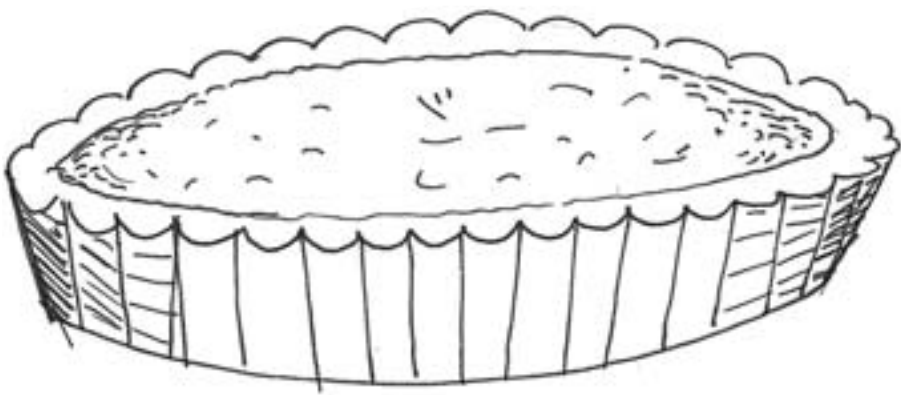
- 1 pound carrots, peeled and diced
- 2 parsnips, peeled and sliced
- 6 medium-sized sweet potatoes (about three pounds)
- ½ cup pitted dried prunes
- ½ cup dried apricots
- 1 cup orange juice
- ¼ cup honey
- Salt and pepper to taste



Chocolate-Covered Strawberries

Strawberries come mostly from Florida and California. Though they are in season January through November, peak season is April through June. Making chocolate-covered strawberries is pretty intuitive, but there are a couple of tricks to prevent burning the chocolate and to make the presentation more aesthetically pleasing. While it is possible to melt the chocolate by microwaving it or simmering it in a saucepan over low heat, more ambitious cooks can try creating a makeshift double boiler. Place the chocolate in heatproof bowls and hold them over a saucepan of simmering hot water. This will melt the chocolate slowly and carefully without searing or burning it. Dip the strawberries in the semisweet chocolate, place on a pan covered with wax paper, and drizzle with white chocolate for a zigzag design.

- 6 ounces semisweet chocolate, chopped
- 3 ounces white chocolate, chopped
- 1 pound strawberries with stems (about 20)



Spinach Quiche

Quiche is surprisingly quick and easy to make, especially when using store-bought crust, and spinach is the perfect quiche ingredient. While spinach is technically in season year-round, its quality varies with climate, being better in summer and fall in cooler areas and fall through spring in warmer areas. Quiches and savory pies can be fancy, but simple ones involve combining eggs, cheese, and a vegetable, then dumping them all into a crust. The bitterness of spinach complements cheese particularly well. Depending on the strength of cheese preferred, students can use Monterey Jack or Parmesan on the milder end, and sharp cheddar, Gouda, or goat cheese on the stronger end.

To begin, saute the onion with some butter in a skillet, add the spinach, and cook until dry. Next, sprinkle the dry cheeses across the bottom of the pie crust. After adding the spinach mixture, cover it with a combination of eggs, cottage cheese, salt, pepper, dill weed, and nutmeg. Lastly, cook the quiche at 375 degrees for about 50 minutes.

- 1 10-ounce package frozen spinach
- 1 9-inch frozen pie crust
- ½ cup each two kinds of cheeses, grated
- ½ cup cottage cheese
- 4 eggs
- 1 onion chopped
- Pinches of dill weed, nutmeg, salt, and pepper

—Catherine Rice

Documentary opens eyes to sex trafficking

BY GARNET HENDERSON
Spectator Staff Writer

The average age of entrance into prostitution in the United States is 13 years old. That’s legally too young to consent to sex.

This, among other harsh realities, is the subject of the 2008 documentary “Very Young Girls.” On Wednesday, April 20, Barnard and Columbia Health Services’ Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Program co-sponsored a screening of the documentary at the Diana Center Event Oval. The event was part of ongoing programming for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

“Very Young Girls” provides an eye-opening and honest look at sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation in the streets of New York City. Many of the young women who tell their stories in the film were as young as 12 or 13 when they were forced into prostitution. They reveal stories of extreme manipulation and abuse, and cameras follow them closely as they struggle to escape “the life.”

But there is also an uplifting aspect to the documentary. Much of the film focuses on Girls Educational and Mentoring Services and its

SEE DOCUMENTARY, page 6



CAROL KIM FOR SPECTATOR

EYES OPEN | The April 20 screening of “Very Young Girls” was part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

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The art of science

Sometimes when people ask me what I study and I answer, “Well, my major is neuroscience,” I inevitably get this odd answer: “Oh. That sounds cool. And really hard!” Then I shrug a little, and I explain that I’m actually more of a photographer. That confuses many people.

There is this misplaced assumption that because you’re a scientist you don’t appreciate things like art or literature, and vice versa. We grow up in all kinds of boxes: There are the math nerds, the drama kids, and the literature wonks. We don’t mix or match—until we all end up in Frontiers of Science together. But by then we’ve been so conditioned to think of the humanities and the sciences as disciplines entirely separated by everything—from academic boundaries to the physical sectors of the brain—that we tend to hate the experience even if we acknowledge the good intentions behind it. And a few hours of Frontiers can do very little to bridge this gap.

What we do not internalize until maybe too late in our education is that both spheres are manifestations of the same innate curiosity. When scientists set out to answer fundamental questions about human nature, what we have dubbed as “humanities” and “science” can hardly live without each other.

From that same separatist sentiment flows much of today’s cognitive science-loving media, including Tom Wolfe’s ominous yet far-seeing 1997 piece, “Sorry, But Your Soul Just Died.” There is a notion that everything that has to do with human nature lives “somewhere” in the brain, or in our DNA. We have the “god gene,” the “love gene,” the “gay gene,” and even back in the 20th century, Wolfe got so excited about the advent of brain imaging that he



ANGELA RADULESCU

The Rookie Brain

categorically declared, “We live in an age in which it is impossible and pointless to avert your eyes from the truth.” He was convinced that somewhere out there, people in white lab coats work day and night to point us to a form of truth that might replace the capacity of arts or the humanities to do the same.

The matter of fact is, we are a long way from empirically grasping satisfactory answers to the most complex questions.

Ironically enough, the media picks up on whichever “truth” resonates with and reconfirms everyday experience (liberal brains vs. conservative brains, men’s brains vs. women’s brains, etc). Nowadays, we seem to think that we can explain anything away by labeling it as “hardwired.”

But like other science commentators, Wolfe may have overlooked that from within, science humbles as much as it awes. The matter of fact is, we are a long way from empirically grasping satisfactory answers to the most complex questions. For example, to understand how to think of something as fundamental as memory, one would have to first go back to Dr. Eric Kandel’s work with the marine mollusk *Aplysia californica*, whose neurons have been the first to give us clues about the changes that happen in cells during learning. The search did not stop there: In the aftermath of that work came roughly 40 years of further conceptualizing what memory means, of studying everything from owl brains to human vision. The more one digs

into the literature, the less defined “truth” seems to be. And when studying the human brain, one heeds many forms of intuition.

David Eagleman, a young neuroscientist recently profiled in the New Yorker, began wondering about the nature of time perception after nearly falling to his death from the roof of his parents’ house. He says it best: Much like artists, “scientists are often drawn to things that bedevil them.” Conversely, art historians are pushing their own work against the boundaries of neuroscience. Columbia art history professor David Freedberg studies the psychological responses to art in an attempt to understand images that seem to “come alive.”

Science and art need not exclude each other. On Columbia’s campus in particular, even among students, the notion of “well-rounded” is more than just a catchphrase. Many here juggle between drawing and chemistry, between biology and literature, between programming and theater, between music and psychology. Carl Schoonover is a graduate student in neuroscience whose best-known work is a book titled “Portraits of the Mind.” To a great extent, the mind reveals itself more readily when we train it to think in different ways.

But to close this gulf between science and the humanities, one must start much earlier in education. Neglecting this gives less of a chance for human curiosity to manifest itself and creates the divides that later hinder our ability to collectively solve the most complex of riddles. Stumbling upon the beauty of connecting the two should not be an accident. It should rather be constructed into the way we learn. And most importantly, into the way we teach others.

Angela Radulescu is a Columbia College senior majoring in neuroscience and behavior. She is a former Spectator photo editor. The Rookie Brain runs alternate Thursdays.

Not an apartheid

BY DAVID BOWLES

I was deeply offended by the recent op-ed by Alaa Milbes and Dina Zbeidy, “The Politics of Tokenism,” which compares Israeli society to apartheid South Africa and Jim Crow in the United States (April 8, 2011). Its allegation is false and offensive to anyone who champions universal equal rights and wishes to uphold the memory of detrimental practices. The authors’ blatant insensitivity to these landmark events undermines the significant progress the world has made with regard to race relations.

Examples of Israeli-Arab success in Israel are not examples of tokenism or attempts to whitewash Israeli society. The truth is, Israel is not perfect, and neither is any other western democracy. The United States suffers from various forms of discrimination that affect several of its communities. However, no rational person would label the United States as an apartheid system. Similarly, while there are female members of Congress, they certainly do not comprise 50 percent of representatives. Does this lack prove the United States is misogynistic? If the existence of prejudice and inequality were to demonstrate apartheid, then every country in the world would fall under this indictment. So the real question is this: Why did the author not equate every nation to one of South African apartheid or Jim Crow? Why is there a double standard applied to Israel?

By misrepresenting Israeli society and belittling Zionism, the authors diminish the suffering of segregation’s victims.

Perhaps the answer can be found in the author’s most offensive claim, namely that Israel (and, subsequently, Zionism) is a colonial enterprise. The author implicitly claims that just as European colonists oppressed the indigenous South Africans, the Jews expelled and continue to oppress the Palestinians. Any historically-minded person should have serious qualms with this claim. Unlike European colonists, Jews have had a long connection to Israel, and Zionism is largely an answer to two thousand years of anti-Semitic discrimination and violence—a cause with which any promoter of civil rights should empathize. What this claim does is compare the Israeli-Palestinian relationship to the uncontrolled exploitation of black people by Europeans, something that is a gross mischaracterization of the Zionist movement. Rather than denigrate the national aspirations of the Jewish people, the authors should recognize that Jews deserve the same right to self-determination that every group ought to enjoy.

By misrepresenting Israeli society and belittling Zionism, the authors diminish the suffering of segregation’s victims. Apartheid and Jim Crow are not simply tangential anecdotes that can be used for political expediency, but devastating historical episodes that ravaged the lives of millions and still play a part in the very real racial resentment that exists today. Jim Crow is a system that reinforced the persisting idea that black Americans are second-class citizens. Whether we’d like to admit it or not, segregation’s crippling side effects can be found in major American institutions and still have profound psychological impacts within black America. The reality is that no other nation on earth has the complex race problems that exist in America. It is clear that the authors don’t understand this sensitive historical matter, or they would have reconsidered making such a comparison.

But my problem with this incident goes further. It is so much more than just a hyperbolic comparison—it is the underlying issue at hand: hatred. This on-campus tension comes from misunderstanding and a lack of knowledge. Instead of resorting to behind-the-back, petty attacks, both sides need to grow up and act like adults. Demonizing each other will not further either side’s cause but will only lead to more ignorance and hatred. As a student at one of the most advanced institutions of higher education, I am pained to see students willingly forego a logical approach to problem-solving to act on their feelings of disagreement in a hateful, childish manner.

Rather than taint the Columbia campus with hateful rhetoric, both Palestinian and Israeli activists at Columbia should promote peaceful negotiations to the Israel-Palestine conflict. While it may seem clichéd, the real solution is to come together and identify areas of agreement between the two groups. I’m sure the entire campus would see the situation in a much more positive light.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in economics. He is a member of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and the Columbia University College Republicans.

Falling into the jug

In the 11th century, Amir Onsorolma’ali Kaykaus, a prince of the Ziyarid dynasty, lived and wrote prolifically in the Caspian coastland of modern-day Iran. In one vignette he included in a letter to his son, he told the story of a tailor who owned a little shop outside the city gates within sight of the graveyard. The tailor had hung a jug from one of the rafters outside his home. Each time a funeral procession passed through the city gates en route to the graveyard, the tailor would toss a little pebble into the jug, one for each death. The tailor repeated this process ceaselessly, dutifully making note of monthly tallies, until one day he too met his end. Some time later, a man came by the store, his clothes in need of altering. As he approached the shop, unaware of the tailor’s passing, he saw that the doors and windows were shuttered. The visitor asked a neighbor the tailor’s whereabouts. The neighbor simply responded, “The tailor too has fallen into the jug.”

In this day and age, we, like the tailor, are fixated by the myriad ways in which the numbers are stacked against us. The statistical probabilities of death and destruction are probed with zeal and reported with unmerited urgency. In the event of bad news, we always seek quantifications. We seek to know the body count, the economic cost, the rejection rate, the weight gain, the grade-point reduction, the probability of inheritance, the number of infected. Like the tailor, we seek to quantify in order to control, and we believe that by marking catastrophes big and small, we might cope better. But Kaykaus passed on the story of the tailor to his son for a reason. He was issuing a warning that a life preoccupied with inevitable tragedies is a tragic life in the end. As the neighbor’s response testifies, it’s hard to live a life worth remembering when one devotes one’s energies to counting funeral processions.

The University, unlike any other place, forces us to count funeral processions as a by-product of education. We are compelled by our courses to grapple with the deficiencies of the status quo and the atrocities of the past. We never know enough, and we are always on the brink of repeating history. Our cultures, societies, and states become the ephemeral contents of textbooks, and they cease to be the constants of our livelihoods.



ESFANDYAR BATMAN-GHELIDJ

C.U. in Hell

Everything is ashes to ashes, dust to dust. Mortality and morbidity are the hallmarks of human existence—science fighting a valiant fight to sustain us, the art of letters seeking to nourish us. But we always die in the end, with volumes of wisdom unused. And on top of all of this, we have more practical concerns of the quotidian. To a certain extent, getting an education is only as valuable as the job it provides. That job is only as rewarding as its paycheck. That paycheck is only as valuable as the groceries it buys. The groceries are only as valuable as the biological functions they sustain. And really, how valuable is a churning stomach?

In the event of bad news, we always seek quantifications.

Infinitely valuable. A churning stomach nourishes the body, which in turn feeds the mind. The mind breeds ambition, passion, fraternity, and love. Our emotions drive us to build and bolster, to inquire and innovate, to test and test again. This is the project of the University, which is a forum for the exercise of human faculties as a force that can make a job into a vocation, an individual passion into a societal paradigm shift. In the present, as students of Columbia, 90 percent of what matters to 90 percent of the world’s population is addressed for us in one trip to John Jay dining hall. In the future, our skills as thinkers and tinkers will enable us to overcome the challenges we face. We have the opportunity to be remembered as remarkable people by our neighbors, both local and global. Mercifully, opportunity doesn’t exist in probabilities. It is a binary: Either it exists or it does not. We always have the opportunity to excel. And we will, beating back the specter of disaster for our neighbors, so that they may remember us as more than mere pebbles in the streambed. As students, we all share this potential.

But if, by some twist of statistical probabilities, our lives are struck by disaster, if next week a tornado cuts a path through Columbia dormitories, well then, I’ll see you in hell.

Esfandiyar Batmanghelidj is a Columbia College freshman. He is a member of the rugby team. C.U. in Hell runs alternate Thursdays.



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9	2	7	3	6	5	1	4	8
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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle
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ACROSS

1 "..." Legacy;
2010 sci-fi sequel
5 Chihuahua city
11 Is for all?
14 Top-notch
15 2010 World Cup
16 Potter abbr.
17 Acquire
incominating info (or), as hinted by 19-Across
19 "I'm heading out," in netpeak
20 Ethically indifferent
21 Facebook friends, e.g.
23 Pearl weights
28 Stone's 14: Abbr.
28 First-century B.C. pharaoh, briefly
29 "... but a ... without a cat?"
Alice
30 Pay-per-view event
31 Color in a stable
32 "Here's how I see it," in netpeak
33 Lament about a lost opportunity, as hinted by 32-Across
36 Unexpected issue
37 Bracelet bit
38 "Break time's over," as hinted by 41-Across
41 "Oh, and did I mention ...," in netpeak
44 Bullish start?
45 Eliza's "wiper"
46 Storied cocky racer
47 Poet Pound
48 Check out
49 Stuffed containers
51 Rich soils
53 Wood shop device
55 "That's too funny!" in netpeak
56 Charity for young alcoholics
sufferers, as hinted by 55-Across
61 Scrape up, with "out"
62 Turn right?
63 Midwest airline
64 "Norma ..."

65 Large TV family
66 Marathon prep, maybe

DOWN

1 Playground runaround?
2 Fish delicacy
3 Michigan neighbor
4 Court figure
5 Greet the visitors
6 Open org.
7 Good-looking
8 1991-'96 Indian prime minister
9 Put the kibosh on
10 Silents star Pitts
11 "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" autobiographer
12 Private place
13 Exhorts
18 Gossip-worthy
22 New England catch
23 "Avatar" spec. effects
24 Upper limb
26 Water bearer, maybe
27 One in a herd
30 It often gets away, so we've heard
33 Cartridge filler

34 Partners
35 Deadwood's term
36 "Get lost!"
38 Antitank weapon
39 Civil War love song
40 Totaled
41 Robin's way down
42 Uno e due
43 Bentley of "Ghost Rider"
44 One taking a lot of notes

46 Claudius' nephew
49 Congeals
50 Brit. fliers
52 Pig at the table
54 "Ohio" folk-rock quartet, initially
57 Hockey great
58 "Covert Affairs" org.
59 Soccer mom's need
60 Hooved grazer

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O	W	E	N	S	L	A	B	S	U	P	S	E	T
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By Neville L. Fugere
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Barnard and Columbia Health co-sponsor documentary ‘Very Young Girls’ on sex trafficking

DOCUMENTARY
from page 3

inspirational founder, Rachel Lloyd. GEMS works to “empower girls and young women, ages 12-21, who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking to exit the commercial sex industry and develop to their full potential.”

A former prostitute herself, Lloyd now dedicates her life to helping other women escape their abusers, heal, and get an education. GEMS partners with several other New York City agencies, such as the Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center, in order to help young women recover their lives.

The screening included a Q-and-A session with Janice Holzman, the communications and development director for GEMS. At one point in the film, a police officer refuses to help a woman whose daughter is being held against her will by a pimp. After strong audience reactions to the scene, Holzman reminded viewers that improvements have been made since the film was released. “That was 2006 when ... a lot of that footage was

a taken,” she said. “It’s not 100 percent better, but we’re making movements in the right direction.”

The movements to which Holzman referred include New York’s Safe Harbor Act. This legislation defines underage children as victims of sex trafficking, which means that minors are no longer charged with prostitution and treated like criminals. In fact, many young girls are sentenced to GEMS programs instead of prison.

As shown in the film, rehabilitation is a long and difficult process. “We see it as very similar to the situation of domestic violence in that it takes five or seven times for these girls to leave their attackers,” Holzman said.

Phung Tran, a spokesperson for Columbia Health Services, said events like this one are relevant to Columbia students because they encourage engagement with difficult issues. “All SAAM events are student-generated and student-driven,” Tran said. “Events and film screenings ... provide a forum for dialogue among the campus community.”



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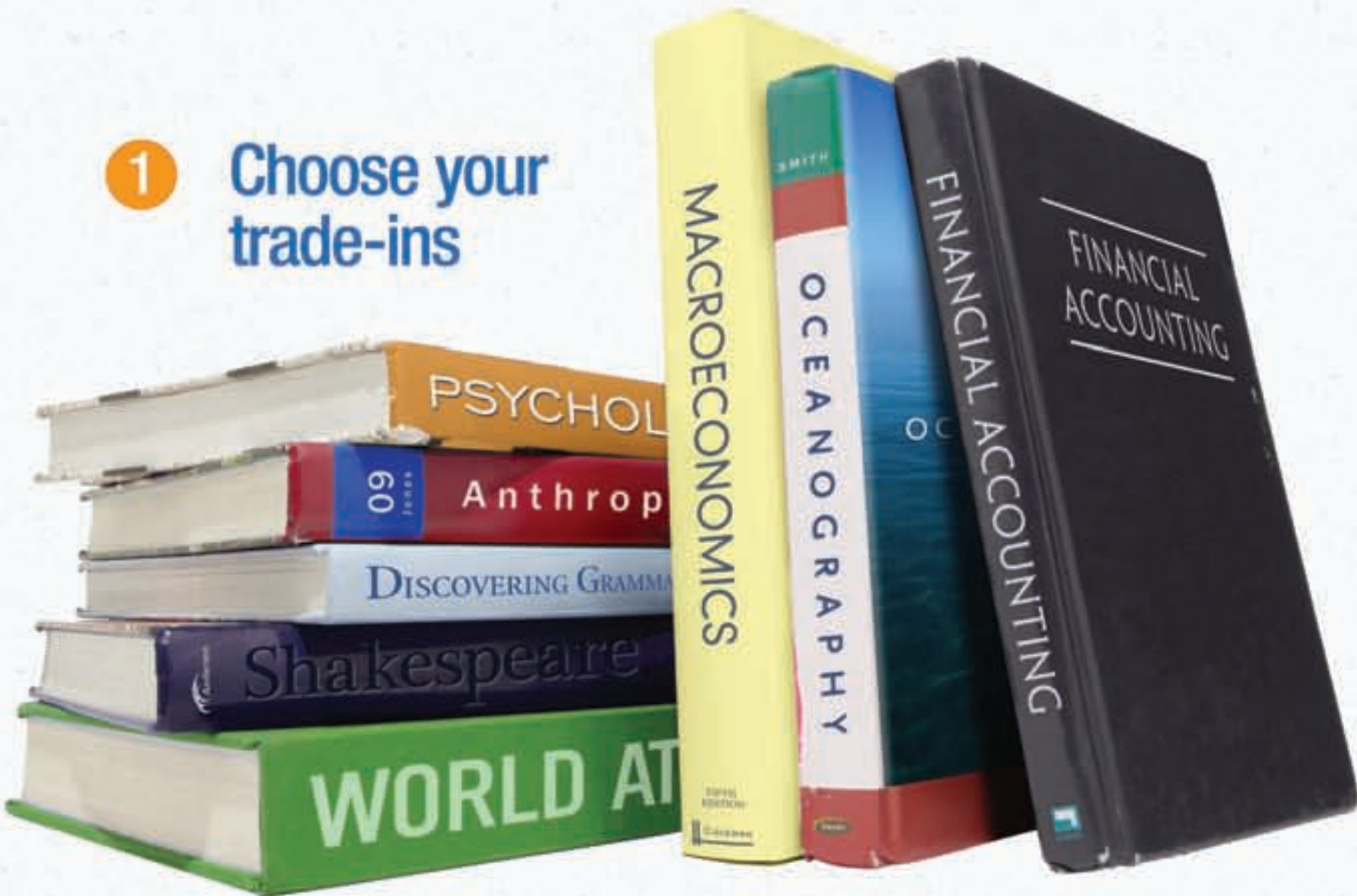
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Major milestones for Lions Lacrosse

Nestled just below the lead story on the front page of Monday's paper was a recap of the women's lacrosse team's win over Yale. It's rare that a sports article runs on the front page of Spectator, but not completely unheard of during football and basketball season.

Baseball will occasionally get a spot above the fold, too, if they make the Ivy playoffs or something. Never in my time at Columbia, though, have I seen women's lacrosse on the front page, and there's a good reason for that.

In the program's 13-year history, it has only won three Ivy League games, last weekend's 10-3 victory over Yale included. To be fair, the team didn't compete against other Ancient Eight squads in its first year. Even taking that into account, though, there's no denying that the program has struggled, to put it kindly. Before the Light Blue defeated the Bulldogs, its only two conference victories had been against Harvard—one in 2005 and the other in 2009.

Those victories both came before current head coach Liz Kittleman took over the program after last season. Kittleman's predecessor, Kerri Whitaker, stood at the helm of the program for eight seasons, guiding the Light Blue to a 2-54 record in the Ivy League. Now, the fact that Whitaker was allowed to hang around for eight seasons seems to imply that the athletic department was fine with not just mediocrity, but utter futility. In fact, sports editor emeritus Jonathan Tayler wrote a column less than a month before the team's 2009 victory over Harvard calling for Whitaker to be fired ("Why isn't Whitaker on the hot seat?," March 26, 2009). When the Lions managed to pull out a 11-10 win over the Crimson later that season, he was furious, asking why the team didn't "just roll over and take it" so that Whitaker would certainly lose her job. While I don't think he was serious about the team intentionally losing, that victory did buy Whitaker one more season. It appears that M. Dianne Murphy finally got fed up with the program after it went winless in 2010, though, as Whitaker "resigned" at the end of the season.

Never have I seen women's lacrosse on the front page, and there's a good reason for that.

When Whitaker left, it finally seemed like the athletic department was committed to building a decent women's lacrosse program. It spent about a month looking for her replacement and landed on Kittleman, a former assistant at Penn, where the Quakers won four straight Ivy titles and made it to the 2008 NCAA championship during her tenure. Not too shabby, right?

Still, the team has continued to struggle this season. The Lions won only one of their first nine games, defeating nonconference foe Iona but falling to Brown, Cornell, Dartmouth, and Penn. If hopes were high at the beginning of the season, they certainly weren't anymore when the Light Blue lost to Quinnipiac 13-12 in overtime on April 6.

Something seemed to click after that loss, though, as the Lions have won three consecutive games since then. Two were against out-of-league opponents Lafayette and Bucknell, but sandwiched between those two wins over Patriot League squads was the 10-3 victory over Yale.

One victory might not seem like a lot, and to be fair, it might not be. Who knows how long it'll be before the next one? Still, there was something very different about this win. For one, it wasn't against Harvard—the only Ancient Eight squad the Lions had been able to defeat up until last weekend. Also, the team didn't just win. It dominated. In their two victories over Harvard, the Lions only won by margins of 11-9 and 11-10. Of course, the Bulldogs are dead



MICHELE CLEARY

I Can See Cleary Now

Rookie golfing sensation at the top of her game



COURTESY OF CU ATHLETICS

DON'T PATTRA-NIZE | In just her freshman year, Piyapattra has dominated with a historically low single-season average of 76.26 strokes per round.

BY JEREMIAH SHARF
Spectator Staff Writer

Going into the Ivy League Championships this weekend, freshman Michelle Piyapattra already holds the best single-season scoring average—by nearly an entire stroke—in the history of Columbia women's golf.

"I started [golfing] when I was 5," Piyapattra said. "My parents wanted me to play golf because not that many people were playing it, and there's a good future in it."

Her father had the biggest influence on her golf game, as she recalls spending most of her early golf years with him.

"He'd always pick me up after school and we'd go practice, and on the weekends, mostly playing with him," Piyapattra said.

Although her mother was never an athlete, Piyapattra has a strong sports pedigree, as her father was an Olympic-level archer.

Despite the early start, Piyapattra was a little slow coming out of the gates.

"I had my first tournament when I was 7, but I didn't start winning until I was 9," she said.

Since she started winning, there has been very little looking back. At the age of 14, she qualified for the USGA Amateur Championship. One year later, she was of four 15-year-olds to qualify for the 2008 U.S. Women's Open while starting her tenure as three-time captain of the golf team at Lutheran High School in Corona, Calif.

Head women's golf coach Kari Williams immediately recognized Piyapattra's talent when she saw it, but with so many top women's golf schools around the nation offering spots on the team, she was worried. Ultimately—although she would like to take all the credit for recruiting—Williams admits that the Ivy League education was the biggest factor in Piyapattra's decision to play golf at Columbia.

In addition to her talent on the links, Piyapattra had several other characteristics that Williams liked. "She was a great fit for the team," Williams said. "She has a great sense of humor, so that is nice."

Piyapattra is only a freshman but

already has plans to study political science and also hopes to attend law school.

Despite being a California native, Piyapattra was not worried about the weather adjustment. She noted that she actually enjoys the cold weather and has learned to embrace the limitations of living in New York City.

"Because I don't have the opportunity to play 24/7 as I would in California, I'm much more focused in my limited practice time," Piyapattra said. "It makes me appreciate golf more ... being in the city, then being out on the golf course where it's peaceful and quiet."

"At first I thought, 'With the break my game is going to get worse, because I'm not going to have that many practices,'" Piyapattra added, "but it's actually been fine."

Although she has performed extremely well this season, the fall season was not as smooth. Williams says that most of the problems could be blamed on putting. While Piyapattra has never had trouble hitting the ball far, it took some time to get used to the East Coast greens.

This spring she has been shooting lights out: two first-place finishes in three competitions.

Her first top finish was at the Paradise Desert Classic on March 16 in Kailua, Hawaii, where she shared medalist honors with Arizona State's Giulia Molinaro.

Piyapattra's second top finish occurred this past weekend at the fifth annual Roar-EE Invitational, at Spook Rock Golf Course in Suffern, N.Y. Despite disastrous weather conditions, Piyapattra says that she was frustrated when the tournament had to be called off in the middle of the second round, as she felt she could have increased her two-stroke lead.

After the weekend, Piyapattra's scoring average dropped to an impressive 76.26 strokes per round, and her low round of 73 also leads the team. Despite putting woes throughout the season, she still averages fewer than two putts per hole.

The freshman sensation seems to have hit her stride at the perfect time, with the Ivy League Championships just a few short days away.

If all goes according to plan, she could lead the Lions to their second Ivy title.

Spring season offers no rest for Columbia men's soccer team

BY MRINAL MOHANKA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

It's 10 p.m. on a Tuesday, and he's sporting a bandage on his forehead—the result of an elbow he received against Fordham over the weekend—and a black eye as well. But junior soccer player Mike Mazzullo is hard at work in Butler Library. He smiles as he explains that, while it may come as a surprise to some since soccer season doesn't really get underway until September, the team members have a practice and lifting schedule that keeps them almost as busy as they will be when the fall arrives.

The team has had two spring fixtures so far—it hosted Southern Connecticut State first, followed by a visit to local rival Fordham. The Lions won the first game convincingly (4-1) with reigning Ivy League Rookie of the Year Henning Sauerbier grabbing a pair and sophomore Will Stamatis and junior Francois Anderson adding one each. Against the Rams, the Light Blue was looking for revenge, having lost 2-1 in the fall, and Sauerbier was on hand to add to his spring tally and secure the win.

"The guys have really made the transition well, and we looked good against Fordham," Mazzullo said. "All of our hard work in the winter definitely gave us a good base, and we felt fit as a team entering the spring. We weren't really outside 'til after spring break, and because we focus on fitness and strength during the winter, the guys were hungry to come back after break and just play soccer."

Mazzullo doesn't believe the time off has affected the team too much. "We've definitely had a strong energy on the field after spring break. Practices were really intense and some guys were able to play the full 90 minutes against Southern Connecticut and Fordham, which is obviously difficult to do at this stage in the year."

Head coach Kevin Anderson shared Mazzullo's sentiments.

"I think we've put in good performances so far," Anderson said. "We've been able to assess the depth of our team, and we've come away from both contests with wins, which is always a good sign. I think a combination of a bunch of guys have done extremely well. I think that if you look at the two strikers up top, Will Stamatis and Henning Sauerbier, they've had multiple points in each game and are looking to form a good partnership."

Last fall, the Light Blue predominantly used a 4-2-3-1 formation, with

two holding midfielders behind the attacking quartet. This semester, they have changed their formation to 4-4-2 with a diamond in midfield, and if the early signs are anything to go by, it suits the team better.

"We're creating better chances, more chances, and we're scoring multiple goals," Anderson said. "In two games, it's five goals scored and only one against, which was a penalty. Over the two games, besides the penalty, there's only been one other shot the goalie has had to save."

That statistic is a testament to the Lions' impressive defense, which did not concede a goal in the last three Ivy games in 2010. The Light Blue has been without junior goalkeeper Alexander Aurricchio all spring, since he is also on the baseball team. In Aurricchio's absence, junior Zach Glubiak—who is also Spectator sports columnist deputy—and rookie Michael Attal have played the gloved guardian role.

"They've both split time in goal," Anderson said. "Unfortunately for them, they haven't seen any action. They've done what they've needed to do but haven't had a chance to show their talent."

It's not only Aurricchio missing from the fall squad, though. The Lions will lose three seniors to graduation: striker Bayo

Adafin, right-back Hayden Johns, and midfielder Peppe Carotenuto. However, rookie defender David Westlake and junior right-back Will Young, both of whom missed almost the entirety of last season due to injury, will be returning. In addition, midfielders Michael Abraham and Andrew Celsus, center-back Jack Gagne, and striker Greg Gudis have all confirmed that they will be joining the squad as part of the class of 2015.

"We're excited about the incoming class," Anderson said. "They're a good group, and they'll complement our team well."

"We have another striker, which we need, and Gudis is supposed to bring us some pace up top," Mazzullo added. "And we have two midfielders and a center-back as well, and it's good to have a class representing every position."

Anderson also confirmed that he was attempting to bring freshman Kofi Agyapong to Morningside from Wake Forest, but no further information was available. Agyapong is an attacking player with flair in abundance, and he will be one to watch if he does join the Light Blue in the fall.

Mazzullo, who has co-captained the team along with Carotenuto for the past two seasons, will be the sole

leader in the fall. He will be joined by no fewer than six of his classmates, several of whom have been regulars in the starting 11, in one of the largest senior classes in recent years for men's soccer at Columbia.

"I'm really excited for the upcoming season," Mazzullo said. "I think our group of seniors will have a lot more experience than in previous years, and it's really our time to perform. We have a good combination of experience and youth, especially with Henning and David, two standout Ivy League players. I feel we have a good balance to our squad."

Before the fall season starts, though, there is the question of the summer, which may change certain aspects of the team between now and September.

"The summer is really a chance for guys to improve individually, and it's really crucial for our fall season that everybody comes into preseason in tip-top shape and healthy," Mazzullo said. "Last year, we saw how a few guys made a huge jump from the spring to the fall and really established themselves in the team, and it's a good opportunity for everybody to improve. Since we have so little time when we come back for preseason ... It's crucial that guys come in ready."



FILE PHOTO

MASTER MAZZULLO | Team captain Mike Mazzullo and the Lions are in full swing, preparing for preseason in the fall.