



HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

STUDENT ADVISING | Dean of Advising Monique Rinere speaks about the mainly positive undergraduate feedback about CSA.

CU construction mentee Eagle Two audited for fraud

BY FINN VIGELAND
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

One of the construction companies certified through Columbia's small business mentorship program is being investigated for fraud, and the University has suspended it from consideration for contracts.

An audit by State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli found that Eagle Two Construction submitted fraudulent bids for work at the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn. The company submitted fake bids from affiliated companies to simulate competition and secure work.

Columbia describes itself as Eagle Two's "biggest client" on the University's website. Eagle Two owner Roxanne Tzitzikalakis went through the University's Construction Trades Management Certificate/Mentorship Program for minority-, women-, and locally-owned businesses, which seeks to help small-business owners compete for contracts at Columbia and around the city.

The audit also alleges that Tzitzikalakis' father, Demetrios—who had been convicted of grand larceny and falsifying records at a different company—was involved in Eagle Two's daily operations. Until DiNapoli's investigation is

finished, Eagle Two will not be considered for Columbia contracts, a University spokesperson told Spectator on Friday.

"Eagle Two completed a rigorous application process to participate in the Columbia/NYC Department of Small Business Services contractor mentorship program," the spokesperson said in an email. "However, given the recent allegations, we have suspended the firm from future consideration pending the outcome of the State Comptroller's investigation."

The University prides itself on the mentorship program, which is in its fourth year. Participants have said they've expanded their

businesses and become qualified enough to bid on competitive Columbia projects, with a few of them winning those bids.

After being certified by the mentorship program, Eagle Two replaced all the doors in Carman Hall when a new lock system was installed, renovated the King's College Room in Low Library, and replaced windows and a façade at University buildings on 112th and 113th streets.

In an undated article that appeared on the Columbia Facilities website through at least March 31, La-Verna Fountain—Columbia's associate vice president of

SEE EAGLE TWO, page 2

Mock trial team takes eighth place at nationals

BY AILEE KATZ
Columbia Daily Spectator

Columbia's mock trial team placed eighth at the American Mock Trial Association's national championships last week. Forty-eight of the association's 600 college mock trial teams qualified for the National Championship Tournament, which was held April 13 to 15 at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minn.

Nine of the Columbia team's 14 members participated in the tournament—six first-years, two sophomores, and one junior.

"If someone told us in September that this particular team, given the lack of experience, would do this well, I don't think anyone would believe it," third-year assistant coach Whitney O'Byrne, a Law School student, said.

Marilyn Robb, CC '13 and the team's vice president of external affairs, agreed.

"It's really easy to become very fragmented in your role," Robb said. "Everything that we put on was a team effort."

The tournament was composed of four rounds in which teams role-played a mock court case created by the AMTA. In every trial, three students acted as prosecutors, three students from the other school played defense attorneys, and three students from both schools testified as witnesses. After each round, two judges scored the students

SEE MOCK TRIAL, page 2



ISAAC WHITE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

AT THE CORE | Marian Guerra, CC '14, painted Sonya reading the story of Lazarus in Fyodor Dostoyevsky's "Crime and Punishment."

4 student artists, poets win Core Scholars Program prize

BY JEREMY BUDD
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Rowan Buchanan, CC '12, started working on an Ovid-inspired painting without any intention of submitting it for the second annual Core Scholars Program.

"I just really, really like Ovid," she said. "I was doing them, and at some point somebody told me about the Core Scholar thing, and I said, 'Oh, I guess this really fits.'"

This weekend, Buchanan and three other students—Marian Guerra, CC '14, Gabriela Pelsinger, CC '14, and Anneke Solomon, CC '15—were named winners of the Core Scholars Program, a distinction that comes with a \$200 cash prize. Each of them submitted a "Core Reflection" that expressed, questioned, or analyzed an idea presented in a Core class.

The competition was open to all students who have taken a Core

class. Ovid also inspired Solomon to enter, albeit spontaneously, she said.

"I had actually written a poem that was loosely based on the Daedalus story, but I didn't want to submit just one poem," she said. "I went back through what we were reading for Lit Hum and found the characters that I found most fascinating and began to play with them."

Solomon's poem, "Departure—In Four Parts," is a response to the stories of four Literature Humanities characters: Daedalus, Dante, Daphne, and Dido. The alliteration of the characters' names was unintentional, but it became a way to unite the poem, Solomon said.

Pelsinger won for a spoken-word poem in which she responds to Eve's story in Genesis.

SEE CORE, page 3

Former NYPL pres. to direct Paris global center

BY MELISSA VON MAYRHAUSER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Columbia's global center in Paris is expanding its academic offerings, forging ties with campus cultural houses, and will soon have its first permanent director.

University President Lee Bollinger announced on Thursday that French literature scholar and former New York City Public Library president Paul LeClerc, GSAS '69, will direct the center starting in July. He will replace interim director Victoria de Grazia, who has led the center since it opened in 2010.

"The fact that he [LeClerc] wants to become the director of our European center is a very strong signal of how seriously people are now taking our centers," Vice President of Global Centers Ken Prewitt said.

LeClerc told Spectator that he

wants to expand the center's regional scope, so that students have the chance to reflect on contemporary European issues—such as the debt crisis, demographic shifts, and energy policy—with policy-makers.

"What I would like to think about is how we offer Columbia students a kind of privileged level of access to European thinkers that would be unique to this program," LeClerc said.

LeClerc said that he would like to develop other new programs by fostering a close relationship between the global center and Columbia's cultural houses. He currently chairs the advisory board of Maison Française, Columbia's French cultural house.

Columbia's other European cultural houses are Casa Italiana, Casa Hispanica, and Deutsches Haus. LeClerc expressed interest in creating closer relationships with those cultural houses as well.

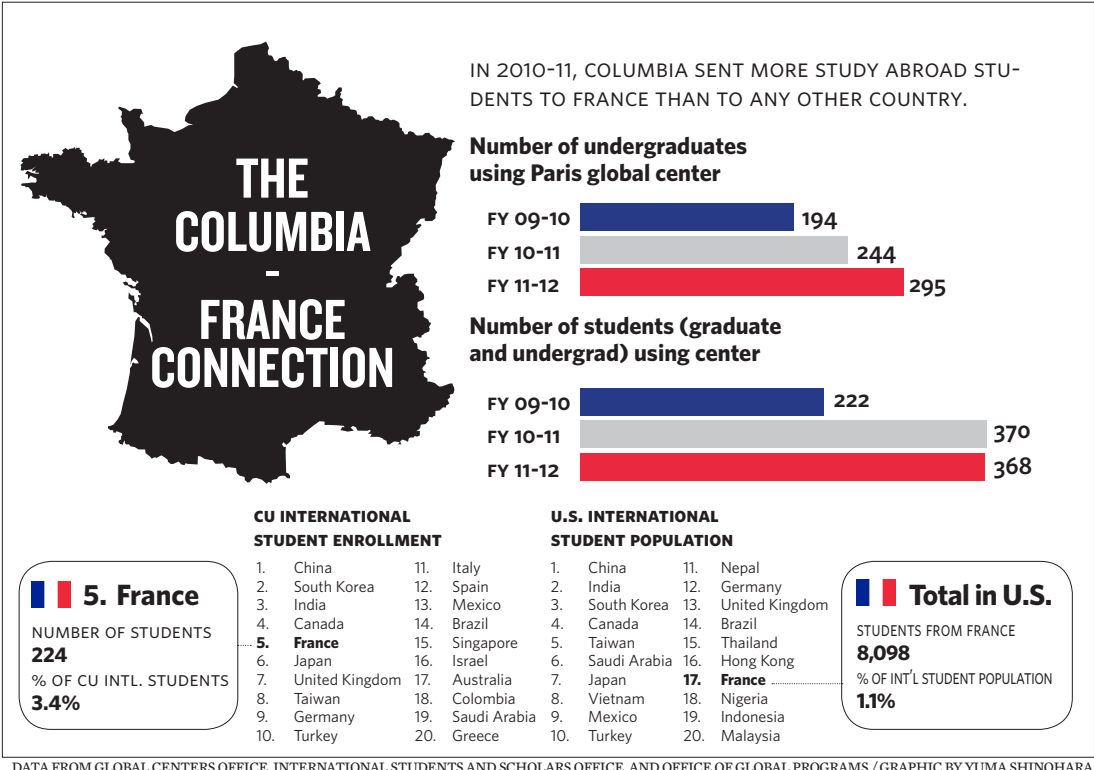
"If the German program is going to be collaborating with us to do things, I hope, in Paris, why don't we start doing things together here in New York between the language houses?" LeClerc said.

Shanny Peer, the director of Maison Française, hopes to forge ties between the Maison and the global center in Paris. They might increase awareness about their research projects and conferences through the use of technology.

"That [relationship] could take different shapes," Peer said. "That could be organizing a series of conferences or talks that take place here and there. That could be a conference here that's Skyped to Paris, and vice versa."

LeClerc, who was a pioneer of the digital library during his tenure as NYPL president, plans to expand the global center's digital offerings.

SEE FRANCE, page 3



OPINION, PAGE 4

Linguistics

Columbia should formalize a linguistics major.

Self reflection

Cecilia Reyes urges students to take time and think.



SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Lions split on Friday, sweep on Saturday

Columbia took three of four games from Princeton over the weekend, but Cornell's 3-1 performance at Penn knocked the Lions out of contention for a division crown.

EVENTS

Columbia V-Day presents

A panel discussion on gender-based misconduct and how to prevent it.
Ella Weed Room, 2nd floor Milbank Hall, 7 p.m.

CU Guitar Ensemble concert

Listen to the strumming of guitars during the ensemble's spring concert.
St. Paul's Chapel, 7 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



59°/39°

Tomorrow



55°/45°



HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ADVISER IN CHIEF | Monique Rinere discusses the CSA review at Sunday night’s CCSC meeting.

After review, advisers get individualized feedback

CSA from front page

Dunn said. Dunn added that with the review complete, CSA is looking to expand its services in new directions. “There is room for enhancement in newer, broader CSA goal areas, such as encouraging students to pursue their passions,” he said. “Advisers should be more proactive in their adviser-student relationships.”

MAKING ADJUSTMENTS

The review found that first-years are more likely than upperclassmen to be engaged with their advisers and to find their advisers helpful. According to a summary of the report, students’ relationships with CSA “tend to start early, but currently seem to wane over time.” “Students get discouraged,” CSA Associate Director Monica Avitsur said. “They are more likely to disengage if they don’t think their adviser is supporting them in a proactive way.” Some students reported being frustrated that their advisers have given them incomplete or incorrect information, or have directed them to websites that they’ve already examined. The

report also showed that engineering students are more likely to be satisfied with CSA’s services than CC students are. CSA has come up with a few strategies to address concerns brought to light by the review. Rinere said at the CCSC meeting that CSA has given advisers individualized feedback based on student comments. “They’re using that information to craft their own professional development plans,” Rinere said. “Some people need to be more approachable. Some people need to increase their knowledge base. Some need to learn more about study abroad.” CSA also hopes to improve its communication with incoming first-years—at summer advising sessions and via email—to clarify what they can expect from their advisers when they get to campus. In a related initiative, CSA will try to increase the time students can spend with their advisers during the New Student Orientation Program from 10 minutes to 15-20 minutes. Rinere said that during NSOP, CSA advisers meet with 1,600 students in four days. Another goal for CSA is to better “manage the transition”

for the 27 percent of students who change advisers, Dunn said. Rinere believes that CSA needs to do more to communicate to students that they can switch advisers. “We’ve taken steps in place so students don’t feel shuffled,” Dunn said. CSA recently started a peer advising program based on preliminary results of the review, and the office is also looking into the possibility of a group advising system. Peer advisers will be trained in academic areas like the Core Curriculum and departmental resources. CSA plans to hire four CC and four SEAS peer advisers. “Talking to students can make a nice bridge to their adviser,” Dunn said. Despite these changes, Alex España, CSA’s assistant dean and director community outreach, is happy with CSA’s current services. “We are a trusted and indispensable source of knowledge and support for all students, but there is always room for improvement,” he said. *Sarah Darville contributed reporting.* *yasmin.gagne@columbiaspectator.com*

CU has hired several firms with troubled pasts

EAGLE TWO from front page

construction business services and communications—is quoted as saying that Eagle Two, having gone through the mentorship program, “used the opportunity to deliver great service to Columbia and has since established a great relationship with the University.” The article was no longer available as of Friday morning. Eagle Two’s relationship with Columbia “expanded as a result of the company’s participation in the mentorship program,” according to a Google Cache version of the article. Tzitzikalakis established Eagle Two in 1999 with two other employees and used contacts from her father’s company to take on projects valued at less than \$5,000, according to the article. The company grew, and it now operates as a general contracting firm, managing renovations that cost up to \$1 million.

Eagle Two’s connection to an ex-convict echoes a concern that some had raised about Breeze National, a company overseeing demolition for the Manhattanville campus expansion. Breeze’s former vice president was convicted on federal bribery charges in 1988 and found to have ties to an Italian mob family. In March, Breeze employee Juan Ruiz died after a beam collapsed during a planned demolition. Just weeks earlier, the city’s Department of Buildings had issued Breeze two violations associated with that demolition site—one for failure to safeguard and for a lack of safety harnesses, and one for failing to inform the DOB that the demolition was underway. Last month, a Breeze spokesperson dismissed the company’s connection to the Lucchese mob family and attributed the beam’s collapse not to safety oversights but to an unusual, latent condition in the 100-year-old beam.

Additionally, Felix Associates, a Bronx-based, minority-owned firm that once did utility work on the Manhattanville construction site, was found to be involved in “bribery and kickback schemes” with several Consolidated Edison employees in 2009 and 2010, according to a state Department of Public Service report. Contractors at Felix artificially raised the cost of several Con Ed construction projects around New York and split the profits with the Con Ed employees. As recently as January, Par Wrecking was listed on the Columbia website as working on abatement and demolition with Breeze in Manhattanville. In 2010, the United States Attorney’s Office found that Par had paid over \$35,000 in cash to an associate of the Gambino crime family to use non-union labor on a Newark, NJ, construction project. *finn.vigeland@columbiaspectator.com*

Mock trial students have high hopes for next year

MOCK TRIAL from front page

on a scale of one to 10, rewarding them for qualities like mastery of the law, persuasiveness, and the ability to adapt quickly as the trial progressed. The team with the highest collective score would move on to the next round. Duke University’s team won the tournament. “The National Championship Tournament is an experience unlike any other,” Robb said. “You can feel the energy.” “You eat and breathe and sleep it,” O’Byrne said. For this year’s qualifying tournaments, O’Byrne and head coach Mia Eisner-Grynberg—who has worked with the team for seven years—divided students into an A team and a B team. While both teams went undefeated at the regional round, the B team pulled off a second undefeated round at the Opening Round Champion Series, pushing it on to nationals. At the national tournament,

teams tried a case about a car accident in which one passenger was killed by extremely reckless drunk driving. “The time went by so fast and each round felt like it was 10 minutes,” Robb said, referring to the three-hour trial sessions. “It was very surreal.” During the regular tournament season, the team met twice a week for three hours, but in the weeks leading up to the national tournament, participants met with O’Byrne individually for four to five hours a day. “Over the course of the season, our young team of underclassmen and assistant coach Whitney O’Byrne put in more time, energy, and focus than I have seen in seven years with program,” Eisner-Grynberg said in an email. O’Byrne and Robb called the success of this year’s relatively young and inexperienced team a major triumph. “I was so proud of them,” O’Byrne said. “It’s such a reflection of how hard they worked and how much they wanted it.” Students said they were eager

MOCK TRIAL TEAM: A HISTORY	
Year	Placement in championships
’99-’00	9TH PLACE
’00-’01	HONORABLE MENTION
’01-’02	4TH PLACE
’02-’03	6TH PLACE
’03-’04	NATIONAL RUNNER-UP 10TH PLACE (TEAM 2)
’04-’05	7TH PLACE 10TH PLACE (TEAM 2)
’05-’06	6TH PLACE
’06-’07	5TH PLACE
’07-’08	DID NOT QUALIFY
’08-’09	10TH PLACE
’09-’10	4TH PLACE
’10-’11	DID NOT QUALIFY
’11-’12	8TH PLACE

DATA COURTESY OF MIA EISNER-GRYNBERG / GRAPHIC BY YUMA SHINOHARA

to do even better next year, with Robb noting that the team has no graduating seniors. Eisner-Grynberg has high expectations for next year as well. “The coaching staff is incredibly excited to build on this year’s base towards our goal of bringing a National Championship home to Morningside Heights,” she said in an email. *news@columbiaspectator.com*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS APR. & MAY

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

04/17
LYN HEJINIAN
& ELEANOR JOHNSON
7 PM

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			01	02	03	04 05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED,
ALL EVENTS ARE WHEELCHAIR
ACCESSIBLE.

MORE INFORMATION ONLINE
WWW.BARNARD.EDU

BARNARD COLLEGE
3009 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10027
PHONE 212.854.2037

04/18
REFLECTIONS ON KINSHIP
TROUBLE
The Bacchae Revisited
7 PM

Julius S. Held Auditorium, 304 Barnard Hall

04/19
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
SENIOR THESIS POSTER
SESSION
4 PM

Event Oval, The Diana Center

04/21
SPRING CONCERT
8 PM

James Chapel, Union Theological Seminary

04/24
AFRICA IN BRAZIL?
Samba, History, and the Allure
and Challenge of Diaspora
6 PM

Event Oval, The Diana Center

04/27–04/28
BARNARD DANCES AT MILLER
2 PM (Saturday), 7 PM

Miller Theater, 2960 Broadway

04/27–04/28
SENIOR THESIS FESTIVAL II
8 PM (Friday)
3, 6, 7 & 8 PM (Saturday)

05/04–05/05
THE PEDAGOGIES OF
TRANSLATION
Current Methods and Future
Prospects

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

BARNARD
THE LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE
FOR WOMEN
IN NEW YORK CITY

LeClerc looks to link Paris center, cultural houses

FRANCE from front page

“I want us to have a huge Web presence with as much of what we do there on the Web for people to see,” he said. “Lectures, conferences, all those kinds of things—ideally even someday courses.”

But while the global center in Paris becomes more Eurocentric, Columbia students and faculty continue to show a fascination with Francophone studies.

More Columbia students did study abroad programs in France than in any other country in 2010-2011, and the fascination is mutual—224 French scholars studied at Columbia last year, more than from any other European country. The large number of French students at Columbia is partially due to the Alliance Program, an agreement between Columbia and three French universities—the École Polytechnique, Sciences Po, and the Université de Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne—to encourage scholarly exchange.

And with Columbia students increasingly choosing to study in France, a faculty committee is pursuing the idea of offering Core Curriculum classes at the Paris

global center that would connect to French culture and politics.

“The project that is most advanced at this point is in Paris,” Dean of Humanities Pierre Force said, referring to a project to bring the Core Curriculum to the global centers. He noted that Contemporary Civilization, Art Humanities, and African Civilization are three courses that professors might teach in Paris.

“We think that offering Art Humanities in Paris would provide us with many possibilities to take advantage of the local resources, such as the local museums in Paris and trips to places in Paris to see art,” Force said.

Faculty members are also developing courses for the global center in Paris that relate to French and Francophone culture and history. They might start developing programs that address Francophone scholarly interests in West Africa, and the global centers office plans to open a global center in West Africa as well.

“Right now we are expecting to do some West African planning with the global center in Paris, partly because Paris and the French in general have very strong ties with West Africa,”

Prewitt said. “Then it may be easier to do it with France as our base of operations, at least until we can open an office there.”

But even as Columbia looks to strengthen its academic relationship with France through the global center and cultural house, that relationship is steeped in history—nearly 100 years’ worth, in fact. La Maison Française was founded in 1913, and it was “the first French academic and cultural center of its kind on an American campus,” Peer said.

The cultural house was part of former University President Nicholas Murray Butler’s vision to make the campus more international a century ago. Butler also created Columbia’s first visiting professorships with France in 1912, according to Peer.

By opening global centers, Columbia is in some ways continuing Butler’s tradition of international education.

“I think there’s an orientation difference between globalization and an international focus,” Peer said. “But still, it’s a continuous line of openness to other countries.”

melissa.vonmayrhauser@columbiaspectator.com

Core Scholars engage with texts in unique ways

CORE from front page

Guerra, a Spectator news writer, won for a painting of Sonya reading the story of Lazarus in Fyodor Dostoyevsky’s “Crime and Punishment.”

“I created the piece last year as a final project for Lit Hum—our teacher basically wanted something very similar to what the Core Scholars Program wanted,” she said. “I thought that a painting would be most fitting since I wanted an excuse to allocate more time to painting.”

Gurrera said that while she used to paint daily during high school, she had struggled to find the time for it at Columbia.

“I hadn’t painted in a long time, but having this opportunity to use my time to actively engage with a text that I really liked was a good thing,” she said. “There was nothing to lose when applying.”

Raphael Peterson, GS ’12, and Lesley Thulin, CC ’14 and a Spectator A&E associate

editor, earned honorable mentions. Peterson said that it felt good to be recognized as a “creative person.”

“I feel like there’s so much to get out of all the texts,” he said. “They almost require that you respond in this way to engage in that dialogue.”

Thulin made a sculpture in response to a scene in Ovid’s “Metamorphoses” in which a flood annihilates the “corrupt majority.” Peterson composed a piece of experimental music that responds to the process of self-discovery in Plato’s “Symposium” and “Republic.”

“I am a musician, so music is definitely my primary mode of expression,” he said. “That’s more or less it—I started working on that piece and then decided that it represented a lot of things I thought about throughout the Core Curriculum.”

Peterson said that focusing on a specific idea or passage was difficult for him.

“It’s challenging to figure out how to create something in response to these texts,” he said. “How do you absorb all of these ideas?”

For Buchanan, a senior, the Core Scholars Programs offered a chance for her to reflect on all the time she had spent in Core classes.

“It was a nice way to look back and think about things I hadn’t consciously thought about,” she said. “It helped me to look at the Core more as a whole than just as a, ‘This is your reading for the week, do it.’”

Solomon felt that writing her poem helped her to connect with the Lit Hum texts on a different level than most students do.

“I didn’t look at them so rationally,” she said. “When I’m in class, I feel like I have to think about it in a certain way, but here I got to see the texts from a more emotional standpoint and connect with them personally.”

jeremy.budd@columbiaspectator.com



DELUGE | Lesley Thulin, CC ’14, made a sculpture responding to the flood in Ovid’s “Metamorphoses.”

Light Blue keeps Ivy title hopes alive

TENNIS from back page

the Light Blue may still earn an at-large bid to the tournament if they maintain or improve their No. 45 national ranking.

“We’ll see how the cookie crumbles,” Goswami said. “It’s not in our hands anymore—we did what we had to this weekend, so we’ll wait and see.”

Too much emphasis on major sports unhealthy

CLEARY from back page

to provide a fan bus to the game at Cornell. (Full disclosure: As managing editor, I sat on the editorial board when this piece was written.) Perhaps it was financially untenable, but building fan support behind any team that has a chance to win, not just the most popular or marquee teams, is what will really change the culture at Columbia.

While it is my hope every year that each team (especially the men’s basketball team) will win a championship, I realize

that’s a tad unrealistic. What I do hope for next year and the years to come is that the athletic department and whatever you would like to define as the Columbia community rally around the teams that have the best chance of winning a title and that their support helps bring a trophy (or several) home to Morningside Heights.

Michele Cleary is a Columbia College senior majoring in history. She is a former Spectator managing editor. sports@columbiaspectator.com

THANKS FOR READING!

We are collecting data on our readership to better serve the community and improve our paper. Please fill out an anonymous survey at this link to give us feedback!

(<http://tinyurl.com/spec-survey136>)

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR

SPEC SPORTS

TERRORIZING THE OFFICE SINCE 1877

Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola

student specials

\$5 After Hours

\$10 Mondays

\$15 Select Artist Sets

Join our mailing list at jalc.org/dccc for special student offers.

Live Jazz Nightly

RESERVATIONS 212-258-9595 / 9795



The 136th year of publication
Independent since 1962

CORPORATE BOARD

SARAH DARVILLE
Editor in Chief

MAGGIE ALDEN
Managing Editor

ALEX SMYK
Publisher

MANAGING BOARD

SAMMY ROTH
Campus News Editor

FINN VIGELAND
City News Editor

ANDREA GARCÍA-VARGAS
Editorial Page Editor

LANBO ZHANG
Editorial Page Editor

ABBY MITCHELL
Arts & Entertainment Editor

REBEKA COHAN
Sports Editor

JEREMIAH SHARF
Sports Editor

JUSTINE HOPE
Multimedia Editor

STEPHEN SNOWDER
Spectrum Editor

ASHTON COOPER
The Eye, Editor in Chief

CATHI CHOI
The Eye, Art Director

ANNELIESE COOPER
The Eye, Managing Editor, Features

MEREDITH FOSTER
The Eye, Managing Editor, Optics

ABIGAIL FISCH
Head Copy Editor

ZARA CASTANY
Photo Editor

MAYA PEGAN
Design Editor

ISAAC WHITE
Design Editor

JAKE DAVIDSON
Online Editor

TALA AKHAVAN
Staff Director

REX MACAYLO
Sales Director

DANIELA QUINTANILLA
Finance Director

ROB FRECH
Alumni Director

DEPUTY BOARD

News Editors

Jeremy Budd, Yasmin Gagne, Ben Gittelson, Jillian Kumagai, Gina Lee, Margaret Mattes, Casey Tolan

Opinion Editor

Grace Bickers

Arts & Entertainment Editors

Joseph Pomp, Katy Tong

Sports Editors

Trevor Cohen, Myles Simmons

Multimedia Editor

Naomi Cohen

Copy Editor

Emily Sorenson

Photo Editors

Hannah Choi, Ayelet Pearl, Kate Scarbrough, Henry Willson

Photo Training Deputy

David Brann

Graphic Design Editor

Yuma Shinohara

Sales

Wes Rodriguez, Ethan Yee

Finance

Marilyn He, Noah Kolatch, Jiagi Liu, Bruno Mendes, Kinno Norojono

Alumni

Audrey Greene, Amanda Kane, Kristine Musademba

ASSOCIATE BOARD

News Editors

Melissa von Mayrhauser, Emily Neil, Jessica Stallone, Henry Willson

Editorial Page Editors

Luke Foster, Jessica Geiger, Joohyun Lee, Sonalee Rau, Alan Seltzer

Arts & Entertainment Editors

Jade Bonacolta, Allie Carieri, Stefan Countryman, Alison Herman, Charlotte Murrishaw, Lesley Thalin

Sports Editors

Muneeb Alam, Hahn Chang, Melissa Cheung, Steven Lau, Alison Macke, Mia Park, Eli Schultz, Josh Shenkar, Eric Wong

Copy Editors

Abby Abrams, Laura Allen, Peter Andrews, Natan Belchikov, Augusta Harris, Megan Kallstrom, Hannah Laymon, Rukmini Mahurkar, Natalia Remis, Alexandra Salerno, Andrea Shang, Ben Sheng

Photo Editors

Maria Balasinde, Chabli Bravo, Douglas Kessel, Kevin Roark, Lucy Suarez

Page Design Editors

Chancellor Agard-Wilson, Lillian Chen, Andrew Demas, Diana Ding, Sarah Greenberg, Regie Mauricio

Graphic Design Editors

Celine Gordon, Kay Lodge, Sinijih Smith

Illustrations Editor

Runtao Yang

Staff Development

Youjung Jun, Algerim Saudabayaeva

Sales

Shawn Ang, Erin Chuah, Nora Long, Rebecca Pottash, Jessica Skoczylas

Finance

Emily Aronson, Andrea Bonilla, Dat Dang, Jesse Garrett, Alex Go, James Horner, Frankie Lam, Kevin Zhang

Alumni

Marquerite Horikawa, Maren Killackey, Rukmini Mahurkar, Danielle Ng, Moriah Schervone, Malina Welman, Diarra White, Wenzin Yan

EDITORIAL BOARD

Hannah D'Apico, Richard Falke-Wallace, Simon Gregory Jerome, Marcela Johnson, Leo Schwartz, Robin Simpson-McKay, Virgilio Urbina Lazardi

SUNDAY NIGHT STAFF

Copy

Stephanie Balakrishnan, Naomi Cohen, Abigail Golden, Meena Lee

CONTACT US

2875 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10025

info@columbiaspectator.com

Twitter: @CU_Spectator

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 www.columbiaspectator.com/about.

CORRECTIONS

The Columbia Daily 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.

Cutting back on P.E.

BY GISELLE BORESTA

Last Friday, April 12, Barnard's administration decided to cut the physical education requirement from two semesters to just one. The decision was made in light of Barnard's "financial constraints," which are very real, and reflect a trend with the administration that indicates that our little campus will be the site of much change within the next five years. Assuming that a cut absolutely had to be made somewhere, I think there were better means of administering the necessary cutbacks.

Firstly, the two-semester physical education requirement was an integral part of the Nine Ways of Knowing. Emphasizing the whole self, the Nine Ways should include a physical education requirement because exercise provides so many physical, mental, and emotional benefits. It may be interesting to consider the fact that the physical education requirement has changed considerably, though.

Generations back, the requirement was six semesters, and then reduced to four, then two, now only one semester. This cut is unfortunate. However, going forward, if Barnard wants to maintain the integrity of the Nine Ways, it should be sure not to do away with this requirement completely.

Another reason to oppose this move by the Barnard administration comes to mind in light of the national health scene. With the growing unhealthiness of the general American population and the trend toward obesity, it is a little sad that this requirement is taking the fall for this semester's round of changes. Perhaps it will start dialogue among students about the need to take responsibility for one's own personal health—but less time in the gym (or studio) usually means more anxiety and stress that can affect the whole student body. The two-semester requirement was Barnard's way of ensuring students strived for a healthy lifestyle—now the onus is more on the students than ever. Hopefully they will follow the American trend of not exercising only rarely.

My personal experience with the physical education requirement was that it forced me to re-enter ballet classes after I had stopped dancing for a year and a half. I doubt I would have chosen to take ballet again without the requirement, and I certainly could have tried another dance form, but the requirement gave me that extra little push to get back in the studio. Although I disliked receiving a grade and having it count in my GPA, it also forced me to attend class and really put in the effort. Now that the requirement is reduced, I doubt I will take dance again. Perhaps I am missing out on another important experience, but with my double major and various other requirements, it does give me a bit of breathing room that I certainly appreciate. For me, there also was a lot of personal value in reconnecting with ballet and with maintaining physical health that would have been lost without the requirement.

While I do not approve of the changes that have been made, this one seems to be inciting very little backlash and touches an area that students feel rather indifferent toward. However, I encourage students to start thinking of the other ways they may be affected in the future, especially considering the programs and opportunities that may be revised, if not cut. This alteration highlights a communication issue between administration and students, which is a continuation of last semester's decision to eliminate part-time tuition.

Another example of communication issues between students and administration is the shut down of the swimming pool beneath Barnard Hall. Students undoubtedly had mixed feelings on the issue. Barnard does want to take students' sentiments into consideration and works closely with the Student Government Association to do so, but there must be more communication between the general student body and the administration. There are many changes coming, Barnard students, so make sure that you keep in touch with what is going on around here.

The author is a Barnard College sophomore majoring in economics and French language and literature.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Talking majors

Noam Chomsky published his first book on linguistics in 1957, sparking the rise of generative linguistics and widespread study of linguistics as a discipline. Columbia had a linguistics program that rose with the popularity of the field in the '60s, but later dropped off before being suspended in 1991. Today, we are left with no formal linguistic department. A program was started in the early 2000s, but a lack of funding and professors has precluded any possibility of the revival of a full department—any student interested in linguistics suffers for it. As a recent news article highlights ("Linguists grapple with lack of a formal major, a blessing and a curse," April 19), Columbia remains only one of two Ivy League schools that does not offer a linguistics major—the other is Princeton. How can Columbia deprive its student body of a formal major in an established academic field?

Offering a major means more than just allowing people to study a field. Formalizing a major legitimizes a discipline and brings it recognition. Currently, students interested in linguistics can still study linguistics, albeit through a roundabout procedure of declaring an individual major. With a formal major, the University would be able to attract prospective students looking to study linguistics. Columbia might also produce more linguistics majors, as students wouldn't have to discover the individual track on their own.

More importantly, Columbia would be able to revitalize an important area of academics that is currently dormant. Students presently have to go elsewhere—specifically, New York University—to take classes in rare languages. We understand that hiring experts in these narrow areas might be taxing and inefficient. But as the two most prominent professors within Columbia's linguistics program—Slavic languages professors Alan Timberlake and Boris Gasparov—will soon retire, Columbia needs to reinforce the core of the program first. To allow a vacuum to exist following their retirement would be criminal to any academic standards this institution retains.

Revitalizing a linguistics program should not be a question of resources. Recently, Columbia College announced the formation of a new major, Medicine, Language, and Society, apparently formed to cater to the premed crowd who really enjoyed Literature Humanities. Although the University already offers a number of courses that will count toward the major, a number of new ones are being specifically created for it. Clearly, resources are being allocated for that new major, just as they were for all of the new majors that have popped up in the last few years. If it had the will, Columbia would have no problem scrounging together the resources to build a program as academically established as linguistics.

The issue goes deeper, though. The role of a university is to make it possible for us to study, not to hinder our academic pursuits. In a field as influential and deep-rooted as linguistics, there is no reason for Columbia not to pave the way to a formal major and eventually a full department. We should not have to worry about making this happen from a financial standpoint—money should exist to serve ideas, not the other way around. From the student perspective, academics should remain an unimpeded pursuit, and it is Columbia's responsibility to make that happen.

Finding solitude

My freshman year is almost over. The realization came at a most inopportune moment, as I watched a video of a squirrel eating a lemon in the late hours of a Thursday night. That evening was one of the slowest, and sweetest. After dinner, I planned all the assignments I would start early. Not about to start too early, I meandered into conversations about anything and everything with a friend. We watched the colors of the sky settle into placid pastels, and the low rays of the sun caress the top of buildings on campus and Morningside alike. Fixating on an ever-lengthening horizon, it was easy to cease the flow of words and stop.

Stopping was unthinkable in September.

There was an unnamed something about orientation week that forbade not being in constant motion. The moments I did not spend meeting new people seemed wasted. One of my many high school graduation cards read, "try not to spend college in your room!" I took this to heart. In fact, my expectations of a magical first week were such that I was terrified of being alone at all. I didn't want to ruin it, whatever it was.

It's worth mentioning that I hated orientation week.

I often woke up with a buzzing feeling of nervousness. I went through my days second-guessing my actions, wanting to recapture my words after they had escaped me. I ceased to carry a sketchpad, but pulled out my cellphone as soon as I even had to walk to my classes by myself. I was increasingly helpless before the contacts that just wouldn't evolve into friends. Most of all, I felt distinctly unlike myself.

Months later, I realized the problem was that I wasn't feeling at all. Or rather, that I hadn't allowed myself to think about what I felt, even though I had been warned.



CECILIA REYES

Reyesing Expectations

Before I left and when I could still reach for my dad's hand, he urged me to sit down and reflect as much as possible. At the time, I was infatuated with the possibilities of never-sleeping city lights, and the deep discovery of other human beings. Who has time to sit down in New York City, after all? Who in his right mind can choose thoughts over actions?

It goes without saying that I was wrong. In my defense, it isn't common to value a night in solitude over one spent at a party, especially in the throes of freshman year. But in affirming that, what type of behavior are we defending? At times, I found myself preferring the company of people I didn't like. When we turn our attention inward, there is no place to hide. Thinking alone is like playing chess against yourself. You can't help but anticipate the next move—it's impossible to win.

But it's also impossible to lose. Too often, we relegate solitude to a corner with negative connotations like being antisocial or self-absorbed. There is a time and place for everything. Spending a couple of hours lost in thought will always lead to more meaningful interactions than texting someone and pretending to know them.

It's not just about richer relationships with others. Reflection is the root of creativity, and new ideas. Perhaps a lack of aimless thinking is the reason there doesn't seem to be much to discover anymore. A cycle of cynicism and impatience with our own thoughts separates us from the childish and simple excitement of arriving at our own conclusions.

I slowly slipped back into my skin after I reassured myself there was nowhere I needed to run. Whether because I grew wiser or lazier, I stayed in my room to write letters or doodle in the margins of my notes more and more. Soon enough, it was acceptable, and even respectable, to watch videos of squirrels eating lemons, and think about the inevitable passage of time.

Cecilia Reyes is a Columbia College first-year. She is on the board of the Artist Society. Reyesing Expectations runs alternate Mondays.



BEN SWETLAND

Tug of war with 'the night'

BY OLIVIA LANSDALE

In the spirit of "Take Back the Night," I'd like to share a secret. I, for a long time, doubted the event's ability to make a difference. The following is an account of how I came to understand what it really is: an invaluable tool for the eradication of rape culture.

The idea of marching was what bothered me most—what did they expect people to learn about a cause as self-evident as "anti-rape?" I thought of Gay Pride parades. "Parading" didn't seem like too much of a stretch for the women from one of TBTN's organizing student groups I saw the week before, carrying a giant prosthetic phallus around in Lerner. I cringed trying to imagine a TBTN rallying cry ("We're here, we're hurt, stop looking at us?"). So when I saw a flier in Hamilton decrying the event for buying into the politics of victimhood, I was galvanized; it seemed more real than the women I'd seen distributing starry "Night" T-shirts like counselors at a summer camp.

As a self-identified feminist, I alarmed myself by thinking of those women so condescendingly. I decided, then, to search for the root of my annoyance by attending the event. I wouldn't march, but I'd listen afterward.

Initially I was disappointed. Lots of people's phones were out, and the door was constantly slamming. The set-up also frustrated me: why did the room have to be dark when the speakers were already hidden? Why was the stereo system arranged so their voices seemed ubiquitous, inescapable? There was something cultish about it, the whole auditorium's murmuring "We support you," in unison periodically. And, like a giant morbid slumber party, everyone was huddled in blankets. Was it a bonding experience, hearing strangers lick their wounds?

No. Discomfort was the point. Hearing the words, the breaths, the sobs of the speakers amplified. Finding myself in the dark, crouched centimeters away from strangers, being exhausted—all heightened my sense of vulnerability. I felt everything more acutely.

When I was first invited to the event, I'd mistakenly registered it as an accusation that I didn't know how to take care of myself. That instinct, along with my overeager reaction to the flier from Hamilton, is a textbook symptom of "rape culture."

In my wariness of those most eager to discuss rape, I perpetuated a pernicious facet of rape culture—the notion that sexual violence is an unsuitable topic for public

consideration. Like a bad rash, it's something you should keep between yourself and whoever helps you.

Late in the event, one woman said she was once groped on the subway. She went on to explain that more than that experience, what upset her were the reactions of those around her—people were simply surprised it hadn't already happened, since it happens to everyone.

I perpetuated a pernicious facet of rape culture—the notion that sexual violence is an unsuitable topic for public consideration.

Suddenly I thought of all the women I knew with similar stories. They too stayed quiet during their violation. I'd always chalked that up to shock, but this speaker made me see the subconscious choice involved. It hinged on the very quality I had wished upon the TBTN promoters: reluctance to draw attention to yourself. Why make a fuss when it's not like you can step off the train the instant he stops? By that logic, why report incidents in the Columbia/Barnard community? You can't just flip a switch and never see your assaulter again.

So here's what "spreading awareness" means. It's not just teaching people not to rape or providing a checklist of scenarios to avoid. It's identifying the aspects of assumptions about assault that are inaccurate and unfair.

I wish I could share quotes to illustrate the power of the event, but that would be its own kind of violation. All I can say is that before I went back to my dorm, I spent a silent moment at the microphone. Standing there, I felt something like reverence. In that spot, a number of brave individuals had performed what must have been an immensely difficult task. And the most powerful part is, none of them were alone. TBTN, I support you.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in creative writing and sustainable development. She is on the editorial board of the Consilience Journal for Sustainable Development.

The Columbia Daily Spectator accepts op-eds on any topic relevant to the Columbia University and Morningside Heights community. Op-eds should be roughly 650 words in length. We require that op-eds be sent exclusively to Spectator and will not consider articles that have already been published elsewhere.

Letters to the Editor should be no longer than 350 words and must refer to an article from Spectator or The Eye, or a Spectrum post. Submissions should be sent to opinion@columbiaspectator.com. Please paste all submissions into the body of the email. Should we decide to publish your submission we will contact you via email.

Senior Columns

Former Spectator staff share their experiences and thoughts before graduation.

No more excuses, no more half-truths

BY NEIL FITZPATRICK

I was never a very good opinion editor. I joined Spectator as an associate editor during orientation week freshman year. I was young and shy and, at that point, knew about five people on campus. Recruiting articles was difficult. I also had minor philosophical issues with the idea of college op-eds (kids posing as experts, producing content for content’s sake, etc.).

So, after a year and a half, I took the only logical step for someone who had questions about the very act of opinion writing, and became an opinion writer. I had a column called Excuses and Half-truths. I told myself that the title was a nod to my status as a reluctant commentator. In reality, it was just a nonsensical reference to a song I liked. But, like a lot of “good” opinion writing, it had the illusion of meaning.

Then, spring of my sophomore year, a smart kid named Thomas Rhiel spearheaded the creation of Spectrum. I wrote the first opinion post on Spectrum, which I’m proud of, though I can’t remember what it was about. Eventually, I quit my column gig and became a full-time blogger.

Writing Columbia

BY SAM KLUG

“All right, guys. Ideas.” So began nearly every meeting of my two semesters on Spectator’s editorial board. Walking up the cold, marble stairs to the Spec office on a Tuesday night or a Sunday afternoon, I would rack my brain for that elusive object, that spark that would light 10 minds on fire for a brief hour.

“All right, guys. Ideas.” College brings us together, not only so we can learn from our professors, but also so we can learn from each other. The ethos of the editorial board is exactly the same. Every one of us is meant to have an idea. Ten ideas may not be better than one—it’s generally a bad idea to try to fit 10 ideas into one article, although JUST YOU TRY AND STOP ME—but having 10 committed voices makes it much more likely that we can find that one good idea. Learning from each other, moreover, means learning that we’re sometimes wrong. Columbia doesn’t do a great job of keeping us humble, generally. But being forced to have your ideas and opinions challenged by nine other students, twice a week, can have that effect. I’m reminded of the moment, in the midst of a heated debate, when one of my editorial board colleagues began his sentence, “When I was in Fallujah ... ” Oh, right. It turns out we have a lot to learn from each other, if we’re forced to listen.

What does it mean to write a campus newspaper? And why do we bother?

“All right, guys. Ideas.” What makes an idea worthwhile for this paper? Sometimes the idea is big, broad, philosophical: “solitude” was a favorite of one colleague. Sometimes it’s small, narrow, meticulous: the F@CU budget process, for instance. The one requirement, of course, is that it be “Columbia relevant.” This need for “Columbia relevance” is a constant thorn in the side of a Spec writer or editor. It’s the most common admonition I’ve heard as an opinion columnist, sports columnist, and Spectrum opinion blogger (the other Spec hats I’ve worn). In a way, it seems so antithetical to what college is supposed to be about: our classes take us to other continents and other centuries; our lives lead us across the city, the country, and the world; our ideas span such broader spaces than this campus. But the blue boxes where Spec is delivered each day tell us that what we are reading is “the newspaper of Morningside Heights and Columbia University.” It’s great to read Plato, or to travel to India (or even Brooklyn!). But it’s just as important, too, that we come back to our quirky community. Spec, at its best, is truly a campus newspaper, keeping us grounded in the space between (and just outside) our gates.

What does it mean to write a campus newspaper? And why do we bother? It’s really a narcissistic endeavor, at first glance. We’re “just” college students, after all—immature, impatient, selfish. But in that “just” lies our potential. Sometimes our impatience is exactly what’s needed to stir a passive administration to action. Sometimes our immaturity humanizes the structures that threaten to suck the life out of this place.

Over the last two years, I’ve gained more and more respect for the mission of a campus newspaper. We operate in a tremendously hierarchical and often unaccountable institution. Little information is shared with us, and our input counts for even less. Many of us go through weeks and months without giving any thought to the decisions that shape our lives here. Without paying attention, the life of the school can easily pass us by.

But if we don’t write Columbia, the stories will still happen. They will happen to our financial aid packages, our Core Curriculum, our administration. They will not appear in print with a student’s name in the byline. They will not show up in those blue boxes every morning. But they will still happen, and we just might not know it. If we don’t write Columbia, someone else will.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in history. He was an opinion columnist, opinion blogger, sports columnist, and member of the 135th editorial board.

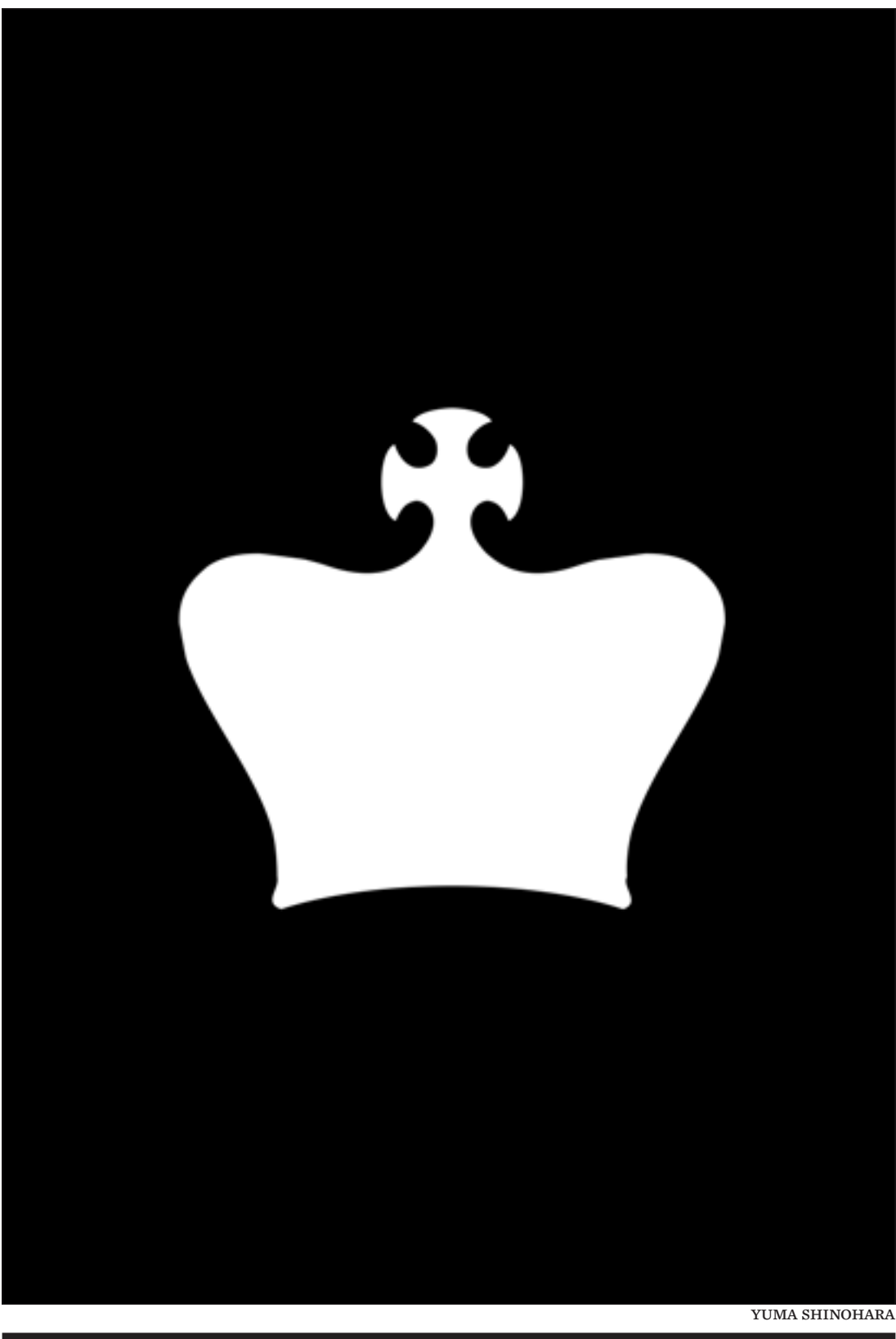
Blogging is my real legacy at Spec. (Legacy is probably too strong a word. Let’s say blogging is my real schmegacy at Spec.) For almost two years, I wrote once or twice a week about topics ranging from smoking bans to Spicy Specials to elevator etiquette. I enjoyed it, but the requirement to produce content so frequently meant there were times when I was writing things I half-believed or half-cared about (I would like to apologize formally here for my two-plus posts that consisted entirely of haiku). I quit blogging, too, before this semester started, feeling like I had less to say than ever before, like my heart wasn’t in it.

And that’s my three and a half years at Spec. If I sound cynical and disillusioned it’s because, at one point, I was. A lot of Spec seniors use these columns to talk about the incredible relationships they formed in the office. As a writer, I was never in the office. The other day I met—for the first time, in a bar—a former managing editor who had once sent me daily emails. And though I certainly met terrific people/friends in my time at the paper (Amin, Caroline, Daryl, Derek, Elaine, Emily, Paula, Rebekah, to name a few), I was never a real “Specchie.”

Yet half a year after quitting the paper, my disillusionment has turned to appreciation for what Spec gave me. For one, it gave me a voice. Dozens (hundreds?) of blog posts and columns helped me find a personal style, sense of humor, etc. My voice came to me through a forced process of trial and error (thank you, editors, for sending me threatening emails to turn in my posts, for making me throw words at the proverbial wall until something stuck).

If I sound cynical and disillusioned it’s because, at one point, I was.

It also gave me an odd kind of courage. I’ve been called an idiot (and much, much worse) on the Internet more times than I care to remember. I found that my work both on and off the Internet got a hell of a lot sexier, sharper, and more meaningful once I stopped paying attention to comments and started writing for myself or for the audience I wanted.



Columbia’s creators

BY CLAIRE STERN

One of the biggest perks of being a journalist is that you can score press credentials for events that you might not otherwise get the chance to attend. Even though Spec is in the same city as some of the world’s most renowned publications, being based in Manhattan still puts it on the map. Spectator serves not only the Columbia community, but also the greater Morningside Heights area. A lot of people in this city know Spec’s name and what a great paper it is, which is probably why, when I applied for a press pass for The Creators Project launch event, I actually got it.

Obviously Spec isn’t just about getting into swanky events and meeting guys.

For those who haven’t heard of it, The Creators Project is a global arts initiative created by VICE and Intel to support visual artists, musicians, and filmmakers, and encourage them to “create.” The New York launch promised an impressive lineup of live bands: Interpol, M.I.A., and Sleigh Bells, to name a few, as well as artwork from all over the world. I had to get a ticket. When I arrived that day to pick up my press pass with my friend Julia, a writer for The Eye, I couldn’t be more excited. After we surveyed the artwork and threw back a few deliciously fruity (and free) drinks, it was time for the music. (I actually planned to cover this event for Spec, but it didn’t end up happening. Sorry guys!)

While my friend and I were waiting for the first band to come on, we spotted another friend from Columbia who then worked at VICE. As my friend talked to him, I talked to his co-worker, who was

to attend the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism in the fall. The first thing he asked me was how I nabbed a ticket to the event (the only reason he was allowed to be there was because he promised to help carry flat-screen TVs into the space), and when I brought up Spec, we quickly struck up a conversation about journalism and writing. The two of us spent the majority of that night talking, laughing, and listening to music. We’ll have been dating two years this summer.

Obviously Spec isn’t just about getting into swanky events and meeting guys (although Speccest is an actual thing), but the journalists in the world, the curious people that love getting out there, experiencing new things, meeting new people, and creating great work, are the people you encounter at Spec.

When I arrived at Barnard, I knew I wanted to join Spectator (I was editor in chief of my high school newspaper and hoped to attend Columbia Journalism School after graduation), but I didn’t anticipate meeting so many new and exciting friends—in and through the publication. Out of all the things I did at Columbia, Spec was by far the most eye-opening and influential.

Since joining Spec in the first semester of my freshman year, my curiosity has led me to places I probably wouldn’t ever have gone if not for the purposes of a story. Everyone knows Spec is a close-knit community: Like me, everyone is a writer, insatiably curious about what’s going on around them. Some of the best times I’ve had in college can be attributed to Spec, where I’ve been in the company of others who are passionate about creating stories to service Columbia University and beyond. Species are the true creators out there, and I can’t wait to see what they come up with next.

The author is a Barnard College senior majoring in English. She was a news beat chief for the 133rd and 134th volumes, a deputy arts and entertainment editor for the 135th volume, and an arts and entertainment columnist.

Most of all, though, Spec helped me figure out the kind of writing I really wanted to be doing. I came into Columbia thinking I wanted to be a journalist. Four years later, I’m headed to Colorado State to get an MFA. I’ve realized that there’s nothing wrong with opinion writing—I just want to write fiction.

I’ve landed in a medium that lets me work at my own pace, that lets me do work that always excites (even as it frustrates) me, and that lets me throw out entire stories if they’re no good. I’ve found work that makes me happy. And some of the credit for that find belongs to Spec. So thank you, Columbia Daily Spectator. Thank you to all my editors, to my friends, and to anyone who ever read my posts or columns (even if you hated them). It’s a season of lasts. This is the last time my byline will appear in Spec. I don’t know if that means anything to anyone else, but it means a lot to me. So again, thank you.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in creative writing and East Asian studies. He was an associate editorial page editor for the 133rd volume, and an opinion blogger.

The wayfarer’s farewell

BY CAROLINE BLOSSER

Like the elephant in the room, only bluer and more massive, there’s a Big Ass Blue Whale at Columbia. Many of us have felt the blue whale: the isolation, brokenness, and discontent, in the torn holes in the hearts of our undergraduate community, and the neglect, disconnect, and even cruelty in our interactions (or lack thereof). My initial response to this Columbia Blue was to withdraw. I had many great adventures in the city, falling in love quickly and madly with New York the way others fall in love with actual people. But on campus I remained a silent observer, a passerby, and a stranger.

There are still some days that I feel like a stranger here. For various reasons, I’ve often felt like some constant visitor trying to pass herself off as one who belongs, but in reality, I was like a fish out of water, or a hippo in a hot air balloon, which is to say, a bit out of place.

So it is with great gratitude, affection, and amusement that today I truly call Columbia home.

Reflecting back, I still see all the shades of Blue. Some are silly and meaningless and have already been forgotten. Others are more serious: dark moods and depression, loneliness, loss. Failures so destructive that they tore down entirely who I thought I was. And, most regretfully, there are wrongs I did to others. But if I am to talk about brokenness on this campus, it is only for the sake of healing, not despite the Blue but through it, and for the affirmation of joy and wellness that we may every day become a kinder and greater community of scholars and friends.

I hope we look back with affection and joy and humility and a sense of wonder and magic.

It’s quite a long story, but in the hour of my greatest need and least deserving, I encountered something at Columbia, something so contrary to so much in elite academia, indeed in much of our world. And it changed my life, and caused me to stop running away from campus and instead turn to face that Big Ass Blue Whale toe-to-toe (if whales have toes). I joined the conversation on community at Columbia, and began my journey writing about these issues for the Columbia Daily Spectator. It’s all very absurd, and beautiful, and humbling when I think about it, that I, a silent stranger and a serious loner, would start publicly advocating for fellowship and community. And all because of the thing I encountered here, the thing that I rediscovered, which was grace—grace and the meaning of friendship.

Indeed, Columbia has become for me the place where I fell in love with grace, the place where I rediscovered the lives of others. I’ll still be leaving a little bit wounded, but faithful are the wounds of friends. So as the years go on and the dust beings to settle and we embark on the lifelong journey of unraveling everything that happened here, I hope we look back with affection and joy and humility and a sense of wonder and magic. I’m glad the journey was difficult—but I’m even gladder I didn’t have to do it alone. For all things will eventually pass away: our degrees, our accomplishments, our intellect. What matters are the people we meet and the relationships we have with them.

It’s my time for moving on, and, since I’m no stranger to cheesiness, I hope you’ll oblige me as I leave with these last cheesy tidbits: Not all that is true makes sense, and not all that makes sense is true. Knowledge is power, wisdom is better, and wonder is best—even still, I’d rather have friends. What a gift you’ve all been, each one of you. I only hope I’ve given back. So I say goodbye with this hope and prayer that wherever you fare, you’d fare well, whether here or there, near or far, fare well my friends, wherever you are. Farewell.

The author is a Barnard College senior majoring in ancient history. She was an opinion blogger.

SPORTS BRIEFLY



WOMEN’S ROWING

For the second year in a row, the Lions struggled at the Dunn Bowl in Ithaca, N.Y. The varsity eights started strong, holding the lead over the first half of the 2,000-meter race, but the Light Blue lagged behind in the second half. No. 10 Brown and No. 14 Cornell took advantage of the change in pace, finishing ahead of Columbia by 10.5 and 8.2 seconds, respectively. The second varsity eights finished second, only 2.2 seconds behind the Bears. Meanwhile, the varsity fours finished third, 20.5 seconds behind the Big Red and 10.3 seconds behind Brown. Up next for the Lions is the Ivy League Championship in Camden, N.J. on Sunday, May 13.

—Alison Macke



SOFTBALL

The Light Blue (12-29, 6-10 Ivy) split its weekend series with Princeton (14-27, 8-8 Ivy). In the first game of the series, freshman pitcher Brooke Darling allowed only two hits after the first inning. Darling exited the game with the score tied at one in the bottom of the seventh inning. With two outs, junior outfielder Christie Taylor laid down a sacrifice bunt to drive in the winning run, and the Lions took the first game, 2-1. Princeton came out strong in the nightcap, scoring two runs in the first, and won the game, 3-2. In the third game of the series, Darling pitched seven innings, allowing only two runs, but the offense did not provide any run support, managing only five hits in the 2-0 loss. The Light Blue won the final game of the series off of a three-run home run from freshman catcher Liz Caggiano. Boosted by Caggiano’s fifth homer of the season, the Lions won, 8-2.

—Hahn Chang



WOMEN’S LACROSSE

The Lions (2-12, 0-7 Ivy) will finish the season winless in conference play after a 10-3 setback against visiting Harvard (8-6, 4-2 Ivy). Junior midfielder Danielle Tetreault struck twice early to put the Crimson up by two, but sophomore midfielder Camille Richardson and senior midfielder Taylor Gattinella answered for Columbia. Although Harvard came out of the break only up by one, it scored seven unanswered goals before freshman midfielder Katie Angulo scored the final tally of the match with a little more than seven minutes to play. The Crimson held a large 42-16 shots advantage and took 12 of 15 draw controls. The Light Blue will finish its season Saturday at Virginia Tech.

—Muneeb Alam



MEN’S ROWING

It was a rough weekend for Columbia. Both the heavyweight and lightweight squads had disappointing results in their respective races this weekend. In Boston on Saturday, the heavyweight varsity eights dropped their third-straight cup race when they lost the Doc Lusins Trophy to Boston University. The Terriers finished in 6:02.8, seven seconds better than the Lions’ 6:09.8. Syracuse, who was challenging Boston for the Conlan Cup, bested both teams with a time of 6:01.7. The freshman eights also finished in third. The lightweight squad competed twice this weekend, losing both the Geiger Cup on Saturday and the Subin Cup on Sunday. In Boston on Saturday, Cornell (6:11.4) beat out the Light Blue (6:18.6) and MIT (6:41.4) in the varsity eights race. Columbia also came up short in the second varsity eights and freshman races. The next day in Hanover, N.H., the varsity eights fell again by a narrow margin, finishing 6.2 seconds behind Dartmouth with a time of 5:39.6. While the second varsity eights also fell to the Big Green, the freshman squad defeated Dartmouth’s boat by just 0.7 seconds.

—Michele Cleary



MEN’S GOLF

The Lions finished third at the Navy Spring Invitational this past weekend in their final competition before the Ivy League Championships next weekend. After an excellent first round that saw Columbia end Saturday in second place, the Lions struggled to adapt to the stormy weather that plagued Sunday’s play. The Lions’ score of 314 in second round was 22 strokes higher than their first round score. Penn boasted the only squad that did not have its score increase dramatically on Sunday. The Quakers finished first, 13 strokes ahead of the Light Blue. Junior Michael Yiu and sophomore Jordan Lee led Columbia by tying for 13th, while sophomore Andrew Kim and senior Brendan Doyle finished in a tie for 20th place. Junior Ford Fischer rounded out the Lions lineup by tying for 66th.

—Josh Shenkar



TRACK AND FIELD

Columbia notched 16 top-10 finishes between two meets this weekend, showing its strength in both running and field events. At the Larry Ellis Invitational, the women controlled the 5,000-meter run, with juniors Emily Lanois, Caroline McDonough, and Claire Buck taking fourth, fifth, and sixth, respectively. At the War Eagle Invitational, the women’s side dominated the field events. Senior Monique Roberts captured first place in the high jump, junior Uju Ofoche took fifth in the long jump, and freshman Nadia Eke finished just behind Ofoche in the long jump to take sixth. Eke also took third in the triple jump. The men had an impressive finish in the 800-meter run, as junior Liam Tansey and freshman Connor Claflin finished third and fourth, respectively.

—Melissa Cheung



WOMEN’S TENNIS

The Lions (13-6, 4-3 Ivy) fell to Princeton 5-2 on Friday and defeated Penn 6-1 at home on Sunday in their last weekend of spring competition this season. The Light Blue ended the season with its best overall record and first winning Ivy League record in team history. Junior Nicole Bartnik ended the year with a perfect 7-0 record in the Ivies. The Lions fell behind early against Princeton on Friday after getting swept in doubles. Only Bartnik and sophomore Iani Alecsiu pulled out wins against the Tigers in singles play. The Lions got off to an early 1-0 lead over Penn on Sunday after winning the doubles point and went on to win five straight singles matches to clinch the win. With the win over the Quakers, the Lions have secured a third-place finish in the league, their best ever in the Ancient Eight.

—Caroline Bowman

MONDAY MORNING
week 4 CLOSER

GAME BALL

Game ball goes to senior righty Pat Lowery, who got the win in Friday’s series opener. Lowery surrendered just one unearned run in six innings of work while striking out four Tigers.








NEW GUY

Freshman Robb Paller had one of the best games of his young collegiate career on Saturday, going 2-4 while driving in two runs in the opener.

IVY STANDINGS

	W	L	PCT
Cornell	13	3	.812
Princeton	10	6	.625
Columbia	9	7	.562
Penn	7	9	.438
Dartmouth	11	5	.688
Harvard	7	9	.438
Brown	5	11	.312
Yale	2	14	.125

IVY SCHEDULE

 VS. YALE 3/31 1 P.M. W 3-1 3:30 P.M. W 3-0	 VS. BROWN 4/1 12 P.M. L 3-4 2:30 P.M. W 14-6	 AT HARVARD 4/7 12 P.M. W 4-3 2:30 P.M. W 10-1	 AT DARTMOUTH 4/8 12 P.M. W 4-3 2:30 P.M. L 3-11	 AT CORNELL 4/14 12 P.M. L 1-2 (8 INNINGS) 2:30 P.M. L 0-3 4/15 12 P.M. L 4-5 2:30 P.M. W 5-1	 VS. PRINCETON 4/21 1:30 P.M. W 4-1 4 P.M. L 2-5 4/22 1 P.M. W 8-7 3:30 P.M. W 8-5	 AT PENN 4/27 12 P.M. 2:30 P.M. VS. PENN 4/28 12 P.M. 2:30 P.M.
--	---	--	--	--	--	--

TAKING DOWN
THE CHAMPS

The Lions managed to go 3-1 this weekend against defending Ivy League champion Princeton.

INJURY REPORT

Junior Alex Black strained his hamstring in game one on Friday and did not play for the rest of the weekend.









BY THE NUMBERS









8 Total number of earned runs surrendered by Columbia’s four starters this weekend





24 Career home runs for junior left fielder Dario Pizzano after this weekend—he’s just one dinger shy of Gene Larkin’s Columbia career record



6 Number of different Lions that knocked in runs in Saturday’s nightcap





SCOREBOARD



BASEBALL	
	Columbia 4
	Princeton 1
	Columbia 2
	Princeton 5
	Columbia 8
	Princeton 7
	Columbia 8
	Princeton 5


SOFTBALL	
	Columbia 2
	Princeton 1
	Columbia 2
	Princeton 3
	Columbia 0
	Princeton 2
	Columbia 8
	Princeton 2


MEN’S TENNIS	
	Columbia 6
	Princeton 1
	Columbia 7
	Penn 0

LACROSSE	
	Columbia 3
	Harvard 10


WOMEN’S TENNIS	
	Columbia 2
	Princeton 5
	Columbia 6
	Penn 1

LIGHTWEIGHT ROWING	
	Finished second of three versus MIT and Cornell
	Finished second of two to Dartmouth

HEAVYWEIGHT ROWING	
	Finished third of three behind Boston University and Syracuse

WOMEN’S ROWING	
	Third out of three at Dunn Bowl

MEN’S GOLF	
	Third place in Navy Spring Invitational

TRACK AND FIELD	
	Competed in Larry Ellis Memorial Invitational and in War Eagle Invitational



ZARA CASTANY / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SOUTHPAW SPEER | Sophomore lefty David Speer picked up a no-decision, allowing three earned runs in four-and-one-third innings.

2 8-run outbursts propel
Lions to Saturday sweep

BASEBALL
from back page

“I was looking all fastballs because that guy had a lot of walks on the year, he was throwing a lot of fastballs,” Rumpke said. “I got ahead 3-1, fouled one off, and got another fastball that I hit in play.”

After another four-pitch walk to reload the bases and with Crucet at the plate, Fagan uncorked a fastball that sailed all the way to the backstop, allowing Ferraresi to dive into home with the game-winning run.

The Lions’ bats carried the momentum into game two. Columbia rallied for five runs in the first three innings. Eight of the nine Columbia starters had at least one hit in the game, as Crucet was a home run shy of the cycle.

“The scouting report said they were going to be in the zone,”

Crucet said. “By the fourth game, we were used to seeing the ball in the zone, our coach was telling us to be aggressive. That’s what I did, saw the ball in the zone, got good bat on it, I got lucky.”

After cutting the deficit to 8-5, Princeton got the tying run to the plate in the ninth inning after an error and a walk. But freshman David Spinoso induced a double play to quell the threat and earn his fourth save of the season.

By winning three games against Princeton this weekend, the Lions put a serious crimp in the Tigers’ hopes of repeating as champions, since the Tigers now need to win all four games against Cornell next weekend in order to reclaim the division crown.

“It’s always good to beat the defending champs,” Boretti said. “To get it here at our home field and take it to them, it’s good.”

CU athletics should support all contenders

After four years, nearly 200 articles, and countless hours spent watching Columbia athletics events, my sportswriting career is coming to an end. This is the final installment of my column, and the final chance I'll have to ramble on about Columbia sports.



MICHELE CLEARY
I Can See Cleary Now

So I'm going to say this: It is time for Columbia teams to start winning Ivy titles and it is time for the athletic department to start supporting the programs that have a shot at winning—even if they aren't the most popular sports.

It is time for the athletic department to start supporting programs that have a shot at winning—even if they aren't the most popular sports.

"You mean teams should try to win?! Duh!" you might be thinking, or "It's not that easy," or "Four years and that's the best argument you can come up with?" But please, hear me out. While our job in the sports section is to objectively cover the Light Blue, we're also some of the Lions' biggest fans and defenders. Just look back through old sports columns or ask the editors how hard it is to get us to write something that doesn't promise our readers that things are getting better, we'll get that Ivy title next year! For example, take a look at the graphic accompanying the Nov. 17, 2011 sportscast, which shows that while none of our fall teams won Ivy titles, as a whole, Columbia had one of the top seasons in the league.

It is certainly true that across the board, the Lions have improved tremendously over the past four years. Men's soccer went from finishing 2-5 in the league in 2008 to coming within one goal of the title back in November. Women's volleyball was winless in conference play four years ago, but Coach Wilson's squad finished third in a competitive title race this fall. Field hockey, swimming and diving, tennis, baseball, cross country, and wrestling have all seen a fair amount of success over the past four years, too, and people have noticed. Athletic Director M. Dianne Murphy and her staff should be praised for both making our programs more competitive and for drawing more fans to events than I could have imagined four years ago.

That being said, nothing puts butts in seats like winning. Nothing gets people talking about Columbia sports like a team winning the Ivy title, regardless of which team that is. After the women's track and field team won Indoor Heps, I overheard people in my Music Hum class discussing it—people whom I had never seen at games or heard talking about Columbia sports before.

I am certainly not trying to take anything away from what the other programs here have achieved or say that it doesn't matter that men's soccer was this close or that field hockey had a chance to win the title. Both of those teams had great seasons and I think anyone with a passing interest in Columbia sports knows that. But that's precisely the point. The only people who really notice this improvement are people who already care about the Light Blue. To draw in a new audience, to combat the omnipresent sports apathy on our campus, more trophies need to make their way to Morningside Heights.

While it would probably take a championship in men's basketball or football to really get the whole campus buzzing about sports, every little bit helps. And while men's basketball should have a fair shot at the Ivy title in 2013, it will probably be a few years before football comes close. Therefore, the athletic department should focus its marketing efforts on some of the "smaller" sports as well, especially those that have a shot at winning. When it was clear that the men's soccer team would have a chance at winning the championship, Spectator's editorial board called for the athletic department

SEE CLEARY, page 3



ZARA CASTANY / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FERRARESI MAKES IT LOOK EASY | Junior right fielder Nick Ferraresi went 3-3 with a double, a RBI, and two runs scored in Friday's game one win over Princeton.

Lions go 3-1 against defending Ivy champion Tigers

BY RYAN YOUNG
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Columbia baseball came into the weekend hoping to get revenge against the defending champion Tigers, who won three out of four at Princeton last year and knocked the Lions out of play-off contention. The Light Blue did just that, as Columbia (17-22, 9-7 Ivy) took three out of four to put Princeton (17-17, 10-6 Ivy) on the brink of elimination.

Friday saw the two teams split a doubleheader, with a 4-1 Lions victory in game one and a 5-2 Tigers victory in game two.

Columbia got on the board right away in game one, behind doubles by senior third baseman Jon Eisen, junior outfielder Nick Ferraresi, and junior third baseman Alex Black, grabbing a 2-0 lead. Black would later pull his hamstring trying to beat out a double play ball in the fourth inning, and was not able to play for the rest of the weekend.

"That was good to see us coming out swinging and being aggressive against Mike Ford, who's a quality arm," head coach Brett Boretti said.

Senior righty Pat Lowery was impressive on the mound, pitching into the seventh inning without allowing an earned run and striking out four. He

had to deal with a tight strike zone, but despite four walks, Lowery induced a lot of ground balls to work out of a couple of bases-loaded jams.

"I felt pretty good today," he said. "I had good defense behind me, I was a little wild, but I got under control and my pitches were working."

The Lions added two insurance runs in the sixth inning, including one on junior left fielder Dario Pizzano's third home run of the year, which moved him one away from tying the all-time Columbia record of 25 career home runs.

"He threw me a slider that hung over the plate and I just put my barrel on it, put a good swing on it, and it went," Pizzano said.

Both Columbia junior pitcher Tim Giel and Princeton junior righty Zak Hermans were dominant at the start of the nightcap. The Lions struck first in the fourth inning, when Ferraresi, following an intentional walk of Pizzano, hit a two-run double to right center. But Hermans was able to escape a bases-loaded jam to end the threat, getting junior second baseman Nick Crucet to hit into a double play. Hermans and Tigers' senior reliever Ryan Makis did not allow another run for the rest of the game.

"I think he was just doing a really

good job of mixing his pitches, and throwing them all for strikes," Eisen said. "So it just was tough trying to get a good pitch to hit."

Meanwhile, Giel struck out seven, while allowing no walks and two earned runs in 5 2/3 innings. Trailing 2-1 heading into the sixth, Princeton rallied for two runs after an error on a routine ground ball by Crucet allowed the leadoff man to reach. Outfielder John Mishu followed with an RBI double on the very next pitch and with two outs, catcher/first baseman Tyler Servais singled him home to put Princeton on top, 3-2, for good.

Even though the Lions were eliminated from winning a division title by Cornell's win early on Saturday, their bats came to life as they scored eight runs in both games.

The next day, game one got off to an inauspicious start for the Light Blue, as it committed three errors in the opening inning, allowing Princeton to score three runs on just one hit. But Columbia battled back, scorching five doubles off junior Matt Bowman to take a 4-3 lead.

"I think with Bowman, we were aggressive, he's a guy who likes his fastball, likes to come at you and we were aggressive with that," Boretti said.

Sophomore pitcher David Speer

struggled with his control over his 4 1/3 innings of work, but he struck out six and only allowed three earned runs.

"Dave grinded it—he didn't have his best stuff today," Boretti said. "We kicked the ball early on him, that definitely didn't help things."

After the Tigers scored a run in each of the third and fifth innings to tie the game at five, freshman designated hitter Robb Paller delivered his second RBI double of the game in the bottom of the inning to retake the lead for the Lions. Princeton recovered to tie the game on an RBI single by Mishu in the sixth inning and took its first lead since the first inning on a two-out RBI double by Blake Thomsen that landed just out of Ferraresi's reach in right-center field in the seventh.

But the Lions would come back once again in the bottom of the final inning. After allowing a leadoff single, Bowman was relieved by sophomore Michael Fagan, who walked Pizzano and Ferraresi to load the bases with nobody out. After a Paller strike out, senior center fielder Billy Rumpke grounded a fastball into center field for a base hit to tie the game, even though Pizzano was cut down at the plate trying to score the winning run.

SEE BASEBALL, page 7

Columbia picks up wins over Princeton, Penn in final weekend

BY STEVEN LAU
Spectator Staff Writer

Two strong wins this weekend capped off the men's tennis team's Ivy League season and positioned the Lions for a possible NCAA tournament bid.

The No. 45 Light Blue (18-4, 5-2 Ivy) dominated Princeton (12-12, 3-4 Ivy) in a 6-1 home win on Friday before finishing the season with a 7-0 sweep of Penn (10-10, 2-5 Ivy) on Sunday.

"We felt really good," head coach Bid Goswami said. "We had two good wins in the end—too bad last weekend didn't turn out how we wanted."

Columbia's two losses to Yale and Brown last weekend dropped the Lions to second place behind the league leader, No. 24 Harvard, forcing the Lions to win the rest of their matches to stay in title contention.

Friday's match began promisingly when the Light Blue took the doubles point against Princeton. The Lions' lead was quickly extended, thanks to freshman Ashok Narayana's 6-0, 6-1 win in the No. 4 singles spot, signaling the trend of the day.

The only match that the Tigers took from the Lions was in the No. 1 singles spot, where senior Haig Schneiderman fell to junior Matija Pecotic in two sets, 6-3, 6-4.

Columbia carried its momentum into Sunday's match in Philadelphia, Pa., where it blanked the Quakers, 7-0. The only match the Lions lost the whole day was in the No. 3 doubles spot, where junior Cyril Bucher and sophomore brother Tizian Bucher

fell in a tiebreaker.

Freshman Winston Lin continued his success, winning in the No. 1 singles spot, 6-4, 6-2. Lin finished the season undefeated in Ivy play and with a 21-1 singles record overall.

Despite his recent four-match skid, Schneiderman rallied back against Penn freshman Jeremy Court in the second and third sets, earning a win in his final Ivy match and completing the sweep of the Quakers.

Goswami stressed the role Schneiderman and classmate Rajeev Deb-Sen played as the team's co-captains this year.

"More than anything else, I feel we owe the two captains a lot," Goswami said. "They've been really good this whole year, especially with the freshmen, and I can say they've been two of the best captains I've had in my 30 years."

With its two wins, Columbia maintained its second-place position, a half-match behind the Crimson. The Lions still have a chance for the title, but their fate is in the hands of Harvard and third-place Dartmouth.

If Harvard loses to Dartmouth next Saturday, then the Ivy title will be split three ways between the Crimson, the Big Green, and the Light Blue.

Because the Lions defeated Harvard and Dartmouth head-to-head during the season, the Lions will earn the bid to the NCAA tournament in the case of such a tie.

But even if Harvard does not lose,

SEE MEN'S TENNIS, page 3



ALYSON GOULDEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TIZMANIAN DEVIL | Sophomore Tizian Bucher won both his matches this weekend and his victory over Princeton in the No. 6 spot clinched the win for CU.