



HANNAH MONTAYA / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PACKED HOUSE | At a town hall meeting in Lerner Hall, GS students discussed the University's decision to reschedule GS Class Day.

M'ville construction firm to pay \$50M in fraud settlement

BY FINN VIGELAND
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The company managing the first phase of construction in Manhattanville will pay more than \$50 million in penalties in one of the largest construction fraud settlements in New York City history. Lend Lease, formerly Bovis Lend Lease, admitted to defrauding clients by paying foremen for more hours than they had worked and misrepresenting the work they claimed was being performed by

minority businesses. The fraud took place between 1999 and 2009. One of the largest construction firms in New York City, Lend Lease provides construction management services for several of the buildings in Phase I of Columbia's Manhattanville campus expansion. The University was not identified as one of the victims of the fraud, although several large-scale construction projects across the city were, including work on Grand Central Terminal, construction of the Mets' Citi Field in Queens, and

ironically, the courthouse where a former Lend Lease executive pleaded guilty on Tuesday. The company cooperated with the U.S. Attorney's office and will not be charged criminally. Lend Lease officials admitted to the crimes, and the company will pay up to \$56.6 million in restitution to the federal government and to many of its clients. But James Abadie, the former executive in charge of Lend Lease's New York office, pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit mail and

wire fraud and faces a prison sentence of up to 20 years. Lend Lease employed a practice known in the construction industry as "eight plus two," paying laborers for an extra two hours of work each day so that they remain with the company. Abadie oversaw the day-to-day field operations of the workers and signed off on timesheets he knew had been falsified, with the intention of overbilling his clients.

SEE LEND LEASE, page 2

ABC proposes new funding system to SGA

BY LILLIAN CHEN
Spectator Staff Writer

The Activities Board at Columbia presented a proposal to Barnard's Student Governing Association on Monday night to change the way the two organizations fund dually recognized groups, just one week before the Funding at Columbia University process begins. Of ABC's more than 150 cultural, publication, academic, performance, and special interest groups, 40 are also recognized by SGA. These dually recognized groups currently receive two-sevenths of their funding from Barnard student life fees, which are distributed by SGA, and five-sevenths from Columbia student life fees, which are distributed by ABC. The 110 ABC groups that are not dually recognized are funded exclusively through F@CU—the process by which student life fees are distributed from the four undergraduate councils to governing boards and then

from governing boards to student groups. Currently, during F@CU, ABC is funded solely by non-Barnard student life fees. But at Monday night's SGA meeting, ABC representatives proposed that SGA fund ABC directly through F@CU—as the other undergraduate councils do—rather than funding their dually recognized groups separately. "There are 110 ABC clubs that have Barnard women participating in them and often leading them, yet they are not supported by SGA in any capacity—be it funding, space, advising, basically anything," ABC president-elect Saketh Kalathur, CC '13, said. "It's unfair for the funding for these clubs to come from the student life fees of CC, SEAS, and GS students and not from Barnard students." But many SGA representatives did not respond well to the proposal. Some SGA reps said that with just one week before the two-day F@CU process begins, ABC has not given them

enough time to make a decision. Others expressed concern that the plan would effectively force SGA to "relinquish" control over the 40 dually recognized groups, as SGA Vice President Rachel Ferrari, BC '13, put it. Under the proposal, SGA would be putting all of its funding for those groups in ABC's hands. If it approved ABC's plan, SGA would be "losing the majority of our clubs," outgoing SGA president Jessica Blank, BC '12, said during the meeting. There are currently about 30 student groups recognized only by SGA. "We're going to have no jurisdiction over all ABC clubs," she said. Kalathur and outgoing ABC president Dan Brown, CC '12, made the proposal at Monday night's SGA meeting, arguing that the current dual recognition system is broken and outdated. Their proposed system is largely identical to the system by which

SEE FUNDING, page 2

Barnard raises funds for FinAid at annual gala

BY EMMA GOSS
Spectator Staff Writer

Barnard raised \$2.2 million dollars for its financial aid program at the annual Barnard Gala on Tuesday night. At the auction and dinner event, which was held at the Plaza Hotel on 59th Street and Fifth Avenue, Tess Gannaway, BC '12, spoke about the importance of financial aid to her. A year's tuition at Barnard is roughly \$50,000, including room and board, and the college gives out about \$30 million in financial aid each year. "I was one of those girls that Barnard was my first choice," Gannaway said. "My family really needed the help, and Barnard's financial aid is out of this world compared to a lot of other schools." Both Gannaway and her sister Amanda, BC '06—who also attended the gala—received financial aid for all four years at Barnard. Barnard auctioned off full-tuition scholarships, meaning bidders didn't get anything in return. After quite a few people agreed to buy \$50,000 scholarships, the auction moved on to \$13,000 bids to pay for room and board, followed by bidding for smaller amounts. About \$660,000 was raised for financial aid during the auction, with the rest of the \$2.2 million coming from ticket sales. Most tickets cost \$1,250, and some guests paid as much as \$100,000 to underwrite multiple tables. Patricia Harrigan Nadosy, BC '68 and a member of Barnard's

SEE GALA, page 2

At town hall, GS Class Day anger boils over

As admins look for solutions, GS gets support from other schools

BY MADINA TOURE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

General Studies students expressed outrage about the University's decision to reschedule GS Class Day at an emotional town hall meeting Tuesday night. GS Dean Peter Awn announced on Monday that Class Day will take place May 13, a day earlier than originally scheduled, and will overlap with the Baccalaureate Service, where several GS students are slated to speak. Administrators rescheduled Class Day from the morning of the 14th because President Barack Obama, CC '83, is speaking at Barnard's commencement later that day, and Class Day guests would have had to arrive at 5:30 a.m. to pass through a security checkpoint. On Tuesday, Awn told students in an email that he, University President Lee Bollinger, and Barnard President Debora Spar had created a "modest fund" to compensate graduating seniors for additional travel expenses their families and other guests incur because of the rescheduling. But at the town hall meeting Tuesday night—which was sponsored by the General Studies Student Council—many students were still upset. Three administrators were in attendance—Dean of Students Scott Halvorson, Dean of Enrollment Management Curtis Rodgers, and Leslie Limardo, an associate dean for academic and administrative support services. Halvorson, the only administrator to speak during the meeting, said

he was "very moved" by students' responses. "I just want to say that for the record that I, at least, do apologize to you and your families for what has happened," Halvorson said. "With that said, we absolutely do care, and it's been a difficult day for us ... It means a great deal to us, and I'm very sorry that this has happened."

FINANCIAL BURDENS

Some seniors at the town hall said that they or their families would have to miss Class Day—which serves as GS graduation—and others discussed the financial burden of their families have to make new travel arrangements. Santana Inniss, GS '12, cried as she discussed her family's situation. She said that in addition to the financial burden to her family, her father has cancer, and her mother is disabled. "I really do resent this climate on campus—'Oh, you guys have to stop being angry,'" Inniss said, referring to backlash to GS students' reaction. "Honestly, if this was CC's [Columbia College] graduation being displaced, I don't think that this would be happening."

As of Tuesday at 5 p.m., 135 of the roughly 350 graduating seniors had responded to a GSSC survey. Fourteen graduating seniors said they would have to miss Class Day, and slightly less than half of those surveyed said they agreed with Awn's decision to avoid the 5:30 a.m. arrival time.

SEE CLASS DAY, page 2



NAOMI COHEN FOR SPECTATOR

KODAK MOMENT | Children take part in a photography workshop run by Lillian Alonzo Marin's Artistic Dreams International.

Nonprofit arts program moves to include Harlem youth

BY BIANCA DENNIS
Spectator Staff Writer

Lillian Alonzo Marin was eight years old when her family moved to the United States from Mexico City. In the United States, she benefitted from arts programs in public schools, but when she returned to Mexico City years later, she found that similar programs didn't exist there. Marin felt a void, she said, from the time she was 12 until well into her 30s, and that's why she founded Artistic Dreams International in March 2011. The program is based in New York, although Marin plans to expand it to Mexico. "I realized that there were thousands of other children in my situation—that I couldn't be the only one," she said. "That's what urged me to begin this, so that other kids could express themselves through the arts sooner in life."

ADI provides youth with free access to the arts. Volunteers at the nonprofit give guidance to young people, whose art is sold for revenue—part of which goes back to ADI programming and part of which helps establish college funds for ADI participants. The programs began in September and were originally held in downtown Manhattan, but Marin has since moved them to the George Bruce Library on 125th Street in Harlem. "It was easier to be closer to kids in the community, and they can do the program, then do their homework and get to bed at a decent time," Marin said. "It's got to be convenient for families."

"It's a huge transformation that takes place," Sanna Valvanne, ADI's choir director, said. Valvanne conducted and trained musicians in Finland before moving to the United States, where she continues to conduct

SEE ARTS, page 2



HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PROPOSAL | ABC president-elect Saketh Kalathur, CC '13, talks at an ABC meeting on April 4.

OPINION, PAGE 4

We have control of our unwellness

Mark Hay says that we are the main purveyors of our unwellness.

Classroom character

How should good character should feature in a Columbia education?



SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Postseason proposal gets mixed feedback

A proposal that would create a postseason Ivy League basketball tournament will be voted on by the athletic directors in the conference early this May.

EVENTS

Mumbai Stories

Screen the film, "Mumbai Stories: Music, Migration and Mobile Phones," followed by a question-and-answer session with its director.
Event Oval, Diana Center, 6 p.m.

Social media

Learn about the Levo League, a social media recruiting startup.
Broadway Room, Lerner Hall, 6 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



63°/48°

Tomorrow



61°/48°

Lend Lease fraud investigation began 2 years ago

LEND LEASE from front page

The company also admitted to defrauding the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York by misrepresenting the construction work being carried out by women- or minority-owned businesses. At least two public projects were awarded to Lend Lease under the condition that a certain amount of the construction be completed by the women- or minority-owned businesses, when in fact Lend Lease performed the work.

The University issued a statement saying, "All contractors and subcontractors who do business with the University are obligated to comply fully with city, state, and federal law, and we expect them to

conduct their business in an ethical manner."

"This includes the current leadership of Lend Lease Americas, which has strongly stated its commitment to improved controls and strengthened regulatory compliance," the statement read. "We also have and will continue to rely on our own internal processes to monitor performance on our projects."

Since the city investigation began in 2009, the firm fired or asked for the resignation of employees responsible for the fraud scheme, appointed a new chief executive for its Americas division, and enacted stricter regulations in its code of conduct, according to a statement from Lend Lease.

"We accept responsibility for

what happened in the past and have agreed to continue to make restitution to the affected clients," said Robert McNamara, who took over as chief executive officer of Lend Lease's Americas region in 2010.

Lend Lease's fraud settlement comes a week after the State Comptroller announced a fraud investigation of a company certified through Columbia's mentorship program for minority-, women-, and locally-owned construction firms. That company, Eagle Two Construction, allegedly simulated competition for construction bids in order to secure work at the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn.

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Class Day change comes with just weeks to spare

CLASS DAY from front page

Thirty-eight percent said that only some of their family and friends would now be able to attend Class Day, and 24 percent said none of their friends and family would now be able to attend. The average financial impact of the rescheduling for GS students' families was \$500.

At the town hall, students discussed ways to alleviate those financial burdens.

Early Wednesday morning, student leaders from CC, SEAS, and GS—including several student council members—released a statement expressing disappointment over the rescheduling and the manner in which it was announced. They called for the University to hold a graduation event for GS during the originally scheduled time frame, paid for by the Columbia and Barnard administrations.

"President Bollinger's e-mail did not acknowledge the enormous emotional and financial burdens the move of GS Class Day places on the families and friends of GS seniors," students wrote. "We request a formal apology to those students and their families that have been affected by the move."

Arakel Minias, GSSC's international students representative, suggested at the town hall that the University help students by offering inconvenienced families some of the money it would have spent to move Class Day to a different venue. Class Day is still being held on South Lawn, where Obama will speak the next day, though administrators had considered finding a new location instead of rescheduling.

Guy Tower, GS '12, suggested appealing to alumni for donations, and Senior Class Vice President Kyle Riggle suggested the administration help out with housing for guests, which Halvorson said was possible.

Ayla Kalani, GS '12, said that she has "hundreds of thousands of dollars of debt to repay," and that the financial burden should be placed on those responsible for the rescheduling. Elizabeth Littlefield, GSSC's alumni affairs representative, agreed, saying that it would be "appropriate for Barnard to chip in for a part of this."

GSSC passed a resolution calling for "guaranteed financial compensation for all fees incurred from altering planned travel and lodging," citing issues such as financial

and logistical burdens, the last-minute nature of the announcement, Bollinger's "unsympathetic message," and the University's plans for "modest" financial reparations.

LAST MINUTE

Quite a few students at the town hall questioned why it took Columbia so long to make the decision to reschedule. Obama was announced as Barnard's commencement speaker March 3.

GSSC Comptroller Benjamin Briggs said that he realized right away that Obama's presence would cause a "massive security situation," and that administrators should have better understood that fact.

"I knew that, and I don't know anything about how to do this [security]," Briggs said. "I don't doubt for a minute that the deans and that the president are very intelligent people. They should have known that."

"While it is comforting and inspiring that the student council has invited us here to express our concerns, I am here to hold Bollinger, Awn, and Spar accountable for this situation and to insist that they actively and diligently participate in finding a solution and a conclusion," Jessica Durdock, GS '12, said. "This is not blame. This is about the leaders of this University taking responsibility."

Tower said he was concerned about the tone of the emails sent out concerning the decision.

"Every single one of them says that it's nobody's fault," Tower said. "I would like to know why this happened."

In their statement, students leaders said that they were "disappointed with the manner in which this change has been communicated to the GS student body." Riggle expressed concerns about GSSC being "left in the dark" about the decision.

"If we're not given that information, then how are they [students] going to get it?" he said.

MARGINALIZED?

Another running theme throughout the town hall was the perceived marginalization of GS students, compared to students in other schools across the University. Adam Gentle, GS '15, said that the marginalization "must be coming from the very, very top of the University."

"I think for all of us that are not graduating, the best thing that we

can do is support those who are graduating in whatever way they ask us to," Gentle said.

Students from the other undergraduate schools came to the town hall to show their support for GS seniors as well. Barry Weinberg, CC '12 and former Student Governing Board chair, said that he "actually gasped out loud" when he learned of the rescheduling, calling it an "affront" to the seniors at GS.

"It's not just GS alumni or GS students who stand behind you, but also a lot of your classmates at CC and Barnard and SEAS feel that this is deeply unfair," said Weinberg, who signed the student leaders' statement.

Engineering Student Council Vice President for Policy Logan Donovan, SEAS '13, said she appreciated all of the experiences she has had with GS students, describing them as "an integral part of this university." Donovan, who also signed the statement, called for "more work to be done with integrating the schools."

Jose Robledo, GS '12 and a University senator, though, said that some students who feel marginalized are not aware of the administration's efforts to help them.

"We're not being marginalized, but it sure as hell feels like it, and it sucks for it to feel like it so much, time and time and time again."

Also on Tuesday, GS Equal Treatment—a new group seeking to end what its members perceive as unfair treatment of GS—announced its GS Equality Fund ahead of a scheduled summer launch. The fund, a senior fundraising campaign similar to the Columbia College Fund, seeks to finance projects that try to close the perceived gap between GS and other undergraduate schools. Trexy Ching, GS '12, pledged the first donation to the fund, and Gentle donated later in the day.

Scott Bacon, GS '13 and GSSC's vice president of student events, said that he hopes that the rescheduling will lead to the four undergraduate schools "uniting in solidarity, with common causes under a common good." The student leaders wrote in their statement that "Representatives and members from all of the undergraduate schools stand in solidarity with graduating seniors of the School of General Studies."

"Though there are four separate undergraduate schools, we stand as one undergraduate student body," they wrote.

Spar announces creation of Presidential Scholarship

GALA from front page

board of trustees, was one of several recipients of the Frederick A.P. Barnard Award at the event. She said that financial aid is something her family never takes for granted.

"My husband escaped from Hungary. He went to Brooks and Harvard on full scholarship and loans at Columbia Business School, so we are very familiar with going to school and getting ample financial aid and not having to stress about where the money comes from," Harrigan Nadosy said.

Harrigan Nadosy has been coming to the gala for 20 years. She recalled being present at times when Barnard students first received the news that they were getting full scholarships.

"I've been with them on days when they've gotten the notice that they're going to be fully funded, and it's life-changing," Harrigan Nadosy said. "They're able to have a life that's very different from what they could have had if they did not have financial aid."

"It's too bad we cannot make the whole education process more financially equal," she added.

Barnard President Debora Spar also announced at the event that President Barack Obama's decision to speak at Barnard's commencement inspired her to create the Presidential Scholarship, a \$10,000 scholarship for students working several jobs. Spar talked about the importance of financial aid in forming a diverse student body.

"Half of our admitted students are students of color, and 10 percent come from outside the United States," she said. "We could not do any of this without the support from each and every person in this room."

Jyoti Menos, BC '01 and a former president of Barnard's Student Government Association, said that although she didn't receive financial aid, she recognizes its important role in creating diversity.

"I've always loved to be involved with students as much as I can," Menos said. "I went to the Mumbai global symposium and it

was amazing. School is so expensive nowadays, especially in New York. It's really important to have a diverse student body."

An addition this year's gala was Gala Nights, a fundraising reception for recent alumni featuring drinking and dancing that took place after the main event.

"A lot of us didn't know how to be involved, and this is a great outlet for alumnae to come back and speak to the school and give back to the school, and feel like they get to be a part of the larger event that's happening tonight," Gala Nights chair Caroline Bliss Spencer, BC '09, said.

Gannaway said that receiving financial aid did not just open up academic opportunities, but social opportunities as well.

"The people in this room are so important, not only to me but to a lot of students, to my friends," she said. "Without them I wouldn't have a lot of my classmates and I wouldn't be here."

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ADI gives kids ‘something bigger than themselves’

ARTS from front page

and work with young people. Valvanne met Marin while conducting a choir camp, where the two connected right away.

"I've always loved singing and teaching," Valvanne said. "But, especially since working in Mexico and Guadalupe, I see how working with these kids can really change the lives of the children."

Valvanne's approach to teaching music reflects ADI's policy of allowing kids of all skill levels to join the music program without auditioning. Valvanne loosens up her students by asking them to stretch and make strange noises. She wants to ensure that they are comfortable before she begins teaching them songs, many of which are in different languages.

Bronx resident Erika Miranda brings her 11-year-old son Manuel

to choir rehearsals. Manuel is autistic, and Miranda said that he has improved significantly since joining the program.

"The chorus helps him to progress in social skills and communication," Miranda said. "It also helps him to be more focused and calm. Any time he's doing homework or taking a shower, he's singing."

With schools unable to provide as many after-school programs as they once did, Marin said that children are more likely to make bad choices when they're not in class. Many Harlem residents have blamed recent crime increases, which are often attributed to "youth crews," on a dearth of programs for young people in the neighborhood.

"When kids don't have programs like this, sometimes they will accumulate emotions within themselves that may find an outlet in a negative way," Marin said.

ADI intern Emily Neil, BC '14 and a Spectator associate news editor, said that seeing the children's responses has confirmed her belief in the importance of arts education.

"Here is a group of kids who had only met today who are singing together and holding hands, and that could only be created in a setting where creativity is at the center," Neil said.

As the children Neil described took a bathroom break during that first rehearsal, Marin pointed out the camaraderie they had formed after just an hour.

"They make friends automatically and they're playing," she said. "Kids who are a part of something bigger than themselves know that they have a chance to be a part of something exciting."

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SING | Artistic Dreams International's choir director, Sanna Valvanne, works with the choir.

Last-minute ABC proposal concerns SGA members

FUNDING from front page

SGA already funds the Student Governing Board.

"There are two aspects to this plan," Kalathur said. "One aspect is how to make things easier for the clubs that are already dually recognized, and one is to even the playing field between the 110 groups that are not dually recognized and the ones that are."

Kalathur and Brown stressed that the new system would not result in SGA's losing clubs—rather, they said, SGA would essentially be recognizing 110 new groups.

"I wouldn't want you to see this as transferring authority from SGA to ABC, which I don't think it is," Brown said at the SGA meeting. "I think you could think of it also as gaining a stake in 110 groups in which you now have no connection with. They'd also be allowed to program on your campus, and they'd be allowed to participate in Barnard student life in the way that they should be because they have Barnard student members."

"In a community of student groups where there are so little distinctions between Barnard and Columbia students, I think it's unfortunate that we as student leaders are stuck up in discussing issues of jurisdiction that we're forgetting what is actually good for the groups," Kalathur said.

AN 'ANTIQUATED' SYSTEM

Malvina Kefalas, BC '14 and SGA's academic affairs representative, said Monday night that she would want to make sure that SGA's 110 new groups actually become more involved in Barnard's community. SGA Vice President of Student Activities Gila Schwarzschild, BC '13, said that it would be important for leaders of these student groups to go through training that would "teach Columbia students how student life works here."

ABC surveyed dually recognized groups earlier this month about their experiences with both ABC's and SGA's resources. Of the 24 groups that responded to the survey, 23 said they prefer using Columbia's advising resources.

"What we're finding is that most of these groups that are dually recognized are not taking advantage of their resources at Barnard," Kalathur said. "A lot of them feel they don't know how to use the system as well as ABC's system."

Most of the 24 groups also

expressed a preference for Columbia's resources when it comes to space for meetings, space for larger events, reimbursements, and general purchases. Of the 11 groups that travel, nine said they prefer Columbia's resources for travel arrangements.

Sixteen groups said they prefer Barnard's printing services, which charge discounted rates. Still, 22 of the 24 groups said it would be easier if all of their funds were in one account rather than two, and Brown said that many dually recognized groups don't spend money from their SGA accounts.

"That's a lot of money that could be going to student programming that just isn't," Brown said. "It's really frustrating to see clubs not taking that initiative."

SGA Vice President of Finance Naomi Cooper, BC '12, said that dually recognized clubs have applied for joint council co-sponsorships when the money they are requesting is already in their SGA accounts.

"The way it's set up right now ... it's an antiquated and really weird system, and it doesn't make much sense," she said, adding that she hadn't had enough time to think about what the best solution would be.

In order to gain dual recognition, a group must consist of at least half Columbia College, School of Engineering and Applied Science, and General Studies students and at least one-third Barnard students. The system has been called outdated partly because certain dually recognized clubs no longer meet the requirements for dual recognition.

"All dual recognition means is that at a certain time in history, there was once a club that had this minimum requirement, and because of that they forever got two-sevenths from Barnard," Kalathur said. "Which I don't think makes any sense, because two-sevenths is less than 33 percent to begin with."

'SORT OF A CURVEBALL'

Brown and Kalathur hoped that SGA would vote on their proposal at Monday night's meeting, SGA's last of the semester. But several SGA members said at the meeting that one night was not enough time to come to a decision.

"It happened very, very late," Blank said after the meeting. "There are things that need to be worked out. It's not as black and white as, 'It's better for all of

the clubs."

"This all happened in the last 24 hours. It's sort of a curveball," Cooper said after the meeting. "There are a lot of possibilities that we don't have time to explore and we won't have time to explore in the next week."

Cooper added that since SGA's executive board first met with ABC on Sunday, there had already been six additional meetings in which the issue was discussed, involving both students and administrators.

"Seven meetings in the last 24 hours in which we discussed this, and just for a final decision to be made in the next 24 hours or in the next 72 hours," Cooper said. "It's just not realistically going to happen, because all of those people need to be re-included in the loop."

Kalathur and Brown's proposal included the provision that this year, SGA could allocate the same dollar amount to ABC during F@CU that it would normally contribute as its two-sevenths funding share. In future years, SGA would have to contribute more substantial amounts.

"The reason why we agreed to give them the same dollar value—which is a huge concession on our part—is that we understand the time crunch," Kalathur said.

Still, Cooper said that there are other ways to fix the current system besides ABC's proposal.

"Maybe a good solution would be, all dually recognized clubs could just see their accounts in SGA," she said after the meeting. "Just because we don't fund them at F@CU doesn't mean this won't happen next year at all. Just because we don't fund them at F@CU doesn't mean those accounts can't be consolidated over the summer."

"Regardless of what happens financially ... we can vote to recognize ABC groups in that they can use reserved space," Blank said after the meeting.

Kalathur said that if SGA agrees to fund ABC during F@CU, the details could then be worked out in the summer or fall.

"Instead of making a marginal change for dually recognized clubs, why don't we make a real change for all the clubs?" he said. "This is not just about accounts. This is about issues like fairness, what it means to have Barnard students participating in groups ... what it means to recognize a group. I'm worried that now, because this is getting delayed, that conversation will never happen."

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Complaints, critiques, columns, all for CU

SHAPIRO from back page

as much fun as you guys made it. Puro: guy funny you basketball Light Blue.

Victoria, Glubes, Shabam: You guys have made for some memorable Spec dinners. Operation Victory was perhaps the most epic Spec Sports moment of all time. Thank you all for that. Victoria: You like to give me a hard time, but I put up with it because I know you can beat me up.

Jim and Mrinal: Once we finally met I quite enjoyed you two goons. A Republican baseball addict and an Indian soccer fiend made for one hell of an editorship combo. Thanks for the hard work you put into this section.

Sharf, Rebeka, and Trevor: You guys were the first people to ever stand up to my writing, so thanks for keeping me in check. The section has never been stronger thanks to you, so keep up the great work. Jeremiah: Congrats on breaking Levenfeld's record for the tallest sports editor in recent memory.

Kunal: There were days when I advocated changing the "sports" masthead to just "Kunal." You were the go-to guy for showing

up to every Spec gathering with 40s, and in general one of the most entertaining and genuine people I met at Columbia. Thanks for the good times.

Michele: It seems like just yesterday that we were serving as associates together. You are what makes Spec, well, Spec. You have contributed more to this paper over the past four years than any single person, and I'm not quite sure how they are managing without you. Snaps. P.S. Thanks for saving my life that one time—I owe ya one (you too, Salzbank).

Levenfeld: You were like the brother I already had, except taller, leaner, and you like the Cubs. You were, without a doubt, the best writer to walk in that back office during my time here. Our 70+ games of NHL 2011 are some of my favorite memories from college. I look forward to many more real hockey games with you soon.

Dad: Remember bribing me with that game of catch after my interview at CJHS nine years ago? I do. Look how things work out ... and thanks for the column name.

Mom: Thanks for

actually reading every single one of these (or at least telling me you do). I know it's not always fun, so I hope this shout-out is some compensation.

Jacob: My brother. If not for you, I would have never come to Columbia, much less the Spectator. You went to Columbia, I went to Columbia. You wrote a sports column, I wrote a sports column. You ran LionPAC, so did I. It's probably safe to say that this isn't one big coincidence. For all this I owe you many thanks ... I think.

Jordy: My pet. You go to Stanford and write news for your paper, but hey, nobody's perfect. You're alright too though, kid.

And so with that it's time for me to go. The battery on this Mike is running out anyway. I hate drawn out goodbyes so I'll leave you with some words of wisdom a la Carlin, of course: "No one knows what's next, but everybody does it."

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Long road ahead for Ivy postseason play

BASKETBALL from back page

that teams not in contention for first place would still be motivated to fight to stay in the top-half of the table.

Jones also said a tournament would give the winning team momentum heading into the NCAA tournament, which might lend the Ivy League representative a better chance of making it out of the first round.

Beyond the national attention the league would gain, one of the strongest arguments for a tournament is that it would benefit the players, Smith said.

Columbia's junior center Mark Cisco said he recognized both sides of the argument, but that he

and many of his teammates are in favor of a tournament.

"To be honest, I think it would be awesome because it brings up the level of intensity a lot," Cisco said. "And if you're a team that started badly that year, when the first game of the tournament comes up, it's a clean slate."

Even if the proposal is adopted, it is unlikely that Cisco and the other upperclassmen Lions will be part of the team when the conference tournament is instated.

The proposal was modeled after the Ivy League lacrosse postseason tournament, which did not go into effect until 2010, two years after it was initially proposed.

But the lacrosse tournament's success makes Smith, Jones, and Nixon optimistic of the

current proposal's chances of being approved.

A conference tournament would guarantee at least two teams a spot in a national postseason competition, and the coaches hope that it would also increase the prospect of multiple Ivies earning a bid to the NCAA tournament.

"This isn't the Ivy League of 20 years ago where two teams were battling it out every year," Smith said. "This is a little more wide open and there's some really good teams. This would be just a great event for the Ivy League community and a way to bring attention to our league. If our guys are good enough to compete against the best teams, then we should let them."



KATE SCARBROUGH/SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
GAME OVER? | The proposal for a postseason tournament has already received negative responses.

CU swimming, track set winning standards

BOLLINGER from back page

spring sports."

The tendency of teams to feed off of each other's success and energy is especially visible in track, according to senior middle distance runner Kyle Merber. "Historically, the way it's always been is, like, if the women have a great meet, the guys have a great meet. If the guys have a great meet, the women have a great meet," Merber said.

The success has extended to

some Columbia programs, but others have not performed well. Tennis still has a chance at an Ivy Championship, and the baseball team has a winning record in the Ivies with several impressive victories under its belt. At the same time, some programs have still had difficulties this spring: Women's lacrosse has failed to win a single conference game this season.

Despite some programs' improvement, Bollinger said, there's still a need for the Light Blue to be competitive in marquee sports.

"Obviously we have to do better at football," Bollinger said, adding that he is "very optimistic" about new head coach Pete Mangurian's ability to turn the program around.

But Bollinger also noted that the strengthening of the all the University's sports programs—not just football—could help the greater Columbia community.

"It's important to win," Bollinger said. "It's important for the University. It's important for the students."

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SPEC SPORTS



DODGING ARROWS SINCE 1877

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

PAT LOWERY



FILE PHOTO
PITCHING PROWESS | Senior pitcher Pat Lowery gave up one unearned run and two hits over six innings in the Lions' 4-1 win over Princeton on Friday. The outstanding performance was good for Lowery's second Ivy win, and it lowered his ERA to 2.44 for the season.



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The Barnard pool: where I majored in unafraid

BY MITZI STEINER

In the tight economy in which we live, where schools find themselves in unsustainable deficits, physical education is often the first thing to go. The headlines at Barnard reflect this growing development in higher education. On April 2, the Barnard student body was informed that the physical education requirement would be reduced from two to one semester in the coming year. Announcements in a recent Spectator article (“Barnard Likely to Close Swimming Pool in 2013,” April 19) add to this troubling trend.

Physical education is often perceived as inessential, a luxury that this tough economy can no longer afford. Yet, in my college career, I have found that it is precisely through physical challenge that I, and many of my peers, have learned some of the most critical lessons of our college education.

When famed Barnard alumna Anna Quindlen reflects on her time as a Barnard undergraduate, she sums up her experience in four words: “I majored in unafraid.” I, too, majored in unafraid at Barnard. But it wasn’t in the classrooms of Millbank, or in the study spaces of the Diana, or in my multiple extracurriculars that I found the courage that Quindlen speaks of. It was, perhaps surprisingly, in the chlorine-rich waters of the Barnard pool.

Let me explain. As a blond girl from Los Angeles, it is often assumed that I was raised a beach child, swimming in the ocean and calling surfer-dudes my friends. Far from it, I dreaded the insecurity I felt when putting my head under water and found swimming to be one of my greatest fears.

The older I got, the more awkward my hydrophobia became. At pool parties I would hug the walls of the shallow end, desperately hoping that I would not get dragged into a game of Marco Polo. At the YMCA, I was the only student in Beginners’ Swim whose feet could actually touch the ground at four feet. Yet, no matter how socially uncomfortable my fear became, I refused to surrender it.

College, I told myself, was when I would confront my water demons. When, in junior year, I signed up for Beginners’ Swim, my instructor, Luci Rosalia, informed me that she had never had a student she couldn’t teach. I was sure that I would be the first. Yet, amid a class of women, many of whom had difficulty floating, I was determined to conquer my fears. I don’t remember which day I first learned to take a breath between strokes, but, if I did, I would celebrate it as the day that I majored in unafraid.

The following semester, I signed up for Barnard’s lifeguard training class. I struggled to keep up with my classmates, former swim-team members and summer camp water instructors (luckily there were no beach children from LA to compete with). But I was no longer afraid. I learned to hold my breath for longer and tug weights heavier than I had thought physically possible. Passing my lifeguard course was the crowning accomplishment of my Barnard career. Now, as a second semester senior, it has been the Barnard pool which has kept me sane. In between thesis-writing and job searching, I continue to frequent the Barnard pool to relax, to rejuvenate, and to push my limits.

The quality of a liberal arts education cannot simply be measured by academic success, leadership roles, or impressive internships. As a liberal arts school, we have the awesome responsibility, and the unique opportunity, to provide a college experience that develops all areas of a student’s strengths and talents. Physical education is crucial to this mission, and the Barnard pool symbolizes this commitment.

Budget deficits place tremendous pressure on our faculty and administration, and I would never wish to be the person to have to make cuts. But before we make any further decisions about physical education requirements or utilities on campus, let us recognize the vital resources they provide to students and think creatively about how we might spare them from further reductions, even in these difficult economic times. After all, the Barnard pool is where I, and generations of women before me, have learned to major in unafraid. It is a legacy that I hope will continue for years to come.

The author is a Barnard College senior majoring in American studies and human rights. She is a former SGA junior class president and a former SGA sophomore class representative.

STAFF EDITORIAL

In support of GS

On Monday, Dean of the School of General Studies Peter Awn announced that GS Class Day would be rescheduled to accommodate security needs for President Barack Obama’s appearance at Barnard’s commencement. We sympathize with all GS students whose families will not be able to attend their graduation due to the date change. Class Day is arguably the most important day of our college careers, save maybe for Convocation, the first day of classes, or Commencement. To change plans at the last minute and possibly deprive families from sharing in their graduates’ pride is, in Awn’s words, “unacceptable.”

Without knowing why Awn’s announcement came when it did, it is difficult and unproductive to assign blame. If the GS administration was kept in the dark about security, Awn should make that clear to students. As it stands, the University could help GS smooth out the logistical burdens that rescheduling entails. In particular, it should take the concerns of the affected students into consideration, especially as many have already expressed frustration at their lack of input prior to the rescheduling announcement.

From what we saw at the GSSC meeting last night, the GS student body is taking the change in stride. Students spent the meeting working on damage control and concrete solutions to deal with the rescheduling. It is especially encouraging that they are considering solutions for the families who won’t be able to come or who will have to spend more money on travel. Awn emailed the GS student body about a “modest fund” that the administration is setting up for any graduating senior who is facing an “excessive financial hardship” from the date change. We hope that the fund is expanded, though, to compensate the many students whose families’ plans were derailed due to the last-minute change.

Among the other proposals brought up at the GSSC meeting were plans to raise money from alumni and look to the other undergraduate schools for support. These plans show GS students’ creative and productive solutions. As the affected students seek a course of action, they deserve the attention and support of other students. CCSC, SGA, and ESC should show solidarity with GS graduates, and the rest of the undergraduate student body should follow their lead and demonstrate understanding and support.

We understand the logistical challenges the University faces when hosting the president of the United States and think it unfortunate that the GS graduating class must suffer. As the affected GS students adapt to Monday’s announcement, we hope the rest of the student body will show support.

Love the life you live

I hate Doodle. For those lucky few who have avoided it during their college careers, Doodle is an online scheduling system used to pick times for events and meetings. Its secondary purpose is the consumption and excretion of mauled souls. My obviously strong feelings about an inanimate and immaterial time management tool stem not from its inferiority to the design and usability of competitors like When2Meet. Instead my anger stems from the fact that every Doodle created becomes an uphill battle and a sad awareness of just how little time we all have. Doodle allows me to quantify and visualize just how much my work eats my time, just how few additional responsibilities I can stand to take on, and just how similar everyone’s boat is. Though I love keeping busy and love my work, a snapshot of a Doodle can still act as a graphic display of the overload, isolation-in-work, and unwellness of my life as a college student. And it’s a reminder that I do it to myself.

When I got into Columbia a little over four years ago, I assumed I would be a middling student. My high school career had been defined by long walks, plenty of time to read, and a deep love for movies. School and extracurricular commitments were important to me, sure, but I always put a great deal of value in keeping free time for myself, and I accepted that this relaxed attitude and the strictures of college would probably mean that I would be a decent student and come out the other end as a perfectly content government hack with a ton of free time on my hands.

But then I got my first A on a Literature Humanities paper. And it was so easy—easier than I thought it would be. Soon after, our first midterms rolled around and I was doing well, but still had more time than I needed. Then I knew that I could succeed here. I got bolder, took much more difficult classes, joined a number of clubs, and (wouldn’t you know it) started writing articles and columns for the first time in my life. It was not a matter of competition. In truth, this is not an extraordinarily competitive school compared to others. But there was just so much to do, and with so many others so heavily involved, there were just so many hints and tips to learn to make more time.

Success led to hubris. What started as exclamations of honest surprise at my accomplishments grew more self-confident and proud, eventually boastful. But the Icarus urge that this place can inspire, to always push a bit further, did burn me up. Eventually hubris shatters and the humility catches up fast and hard.

I’d love to say that my first major failures at Columbia helped to temper my pride forever and taught me a good lesson about balance, but that would be a boastful lie. Instead, as I reflect on my time at Columbia, I realize that my time here has been marked by a yo-yo pattern of pride and humble pie, of being primed and encouraged to succeed and over-achieve and then decentering and crashing down.



MARK HAY
The Whole Wellness

Columbia does a pretty good job of facilitating such oscillating experiences. There’s a certain tyranny of choice on this campus that does encourage one to take a greedy bite out of the courses, lectures, groups, events, internships, etc. available to us. But it can also be a harsh, fast, and aloof machine that will allow us to crash back down, only to provide the space for us to rise up again, learn to stand, evaluate our mistakes, and once more climb a bit higher.

There’s nothing wrong with this back and forth. I actually suspect that it’s a very good thing to test one’s limits, flirt with pride, and meet humility hard. It allows us to find our identities, to learn in truth what kind of person each of us is. But it’s important to recognize that this process of burn out, ego, and self-correction can be draining, especially when undertaken alone. There’s potential at this university to become amazing human beings. But there’s also the potential to really drive oneself into turmoil and pain if one pushes just a bit too hard—and it can be so tempting to push just a bit too hard.

I realize that my time here has been marked by a yo-yo pattern of pride and humble pie, of being primed and encouraged to succeed and overachieve and then decentering and crashing down.

Ultimately, Columbia is not to blame for all of this. Columbia is a tool that we might bend to our ends. Yes, it is an institution with its own unique dysfunctions and it can help to create a more or less well environment. But in the end, the majority of unwellness in our lives comes from ourselves. And total wellness, much like total bliss, is nearly mythic, given that we will tend to find ourselves at least flirting with unwellness for most of our lives. So the key—the one thing that hopefully has been inherent in most of the my columns—is to recognize that. For me, I recognize the unwellness I create for myself every time I see a Doodle. And then I make sure to clear out enough time on my schedule to watch a movie.

Unwellness, though our lives here may facilitate it, often stems from within us. But the seed to its cessation is within us. So be good to yourself. In the end, that’s the most important element of wellness. Just get some distance, reflect on the tumultuous process of becoming who you want to be, and make sure not to let it drag you into insanity. Step back, breathe, accept limitations and craziness, and be good to yourself. That is all.

Mark Hay is a Columbia College senior majoring in religion and political science. He is a coordinator of the Student Wellness Project and the acting chair for the InterPublications Alliance. The Whole Wellness runs alternate Wednesdays.

Doodle



CELINE GORDON

The world is out there

BY JOSHUA FATTAL

At Columbia, our personal interests in the greater world’s issues, in politics and wars and human rights, consistently fail to interest the student body as a whole. This lack of activism and concern is particularly disturbing and shameful at Columbia. President Bollinger has admirably advanced the legacy of this university as a global institution—now it is time that we become global students. For our own intellectual growth, we must carefully reconsider our interests and commitments.

The most revealing example of this problematic trend took place this past Sunday, in Urís Hall, with Iran 360: The Intersection of Human Rights and Politics. The event was organized and co-sponsored by a diverse array of campus groups, including the Columbia Iranian Students Association, LionPAC, Columbia University NAACP, Jewish Business Students Association, and an external human rights advocacy group, Iran180. The panel event featured renowned Iranian-American journalist and author Roya Hakakian and other top Iranian experts, seeking to provide students with intelligent discussion on the human rights violations of the current Iranian regime and what can be done to prevent them from continuing. This is the first event of its kind this year, and uniquely important in its focus on Iran, a country infamous for its consistent and terrible violations of the human rights of its citizens. The event was promoted through fliers, Facebook, an EventSalsa listing, and word of mouth.

17 students showed up. And of the 17, 10 had helped organize the event. The turnout was appalling. Where was everybody?

Of course, finals season is approaching and we are all particularly preoccupied. But we all know just as well that we are not studying every hour of every day. On that Sunday, there were sorority events, a belly dance festival, and an Earth Day celebration. But the Iran 360 panel was something different. It was a discussion of a country that executes its people and suppresses its protestors. It was not about a political issue, but about

a human issue of the most visceral kind. It was focused solely on the country whose president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, told us in 2007 in Low Library that Iran does not have homosexuals and that Iranian women enjoy full freedom. Meanwhile, 4,000 gays have been estimated to have been killed since 1979 and the women’s rights movement is always under the threat of being silenced. Iran 360 was about understanding the cruelties of that regime and the harms that are being inflicted upon the Iranian people. It warranted hundreds of students in attendance.

A trend exists here at Columbia, though, of apathy regarding events that are focused on the global community. At a Middle East debate hosted by Turath in Low Library in January, only 50 students showed up. During Israeli Apartheid Week in March, students passing by the LionPAC and SJP presentations felt more bothered by their presence than interested in discussion and debate. A CIRCA screening of a documentary exposing the faults of the UN last Thursday night—the night when most of us aren’t busy—was attended by a meager seven students. The World Leaders Forum, perhaps the most popular “global” event on campus, draws hundreds not because of the content discussed but because of the prominence of the speakers featured. Is this the Columbia University we all go to? Is this what we want our university to be?

As we sit in Butler studying for finals, we must look out the window more often. What are we if we care only about our next exam? Who are we if brotherhood in a fraternity means more than brotherhood with those being persecuted around the world? Caring about the world is what Columbia has always been, and should be, about. In 1968 we saw one extreme with several protests. Today we are seeing the unfortunate other extreme, and today, hundreds of individuals are being executed by Iran’s regime. Today we need to be using the power of our collective voice for the Iranian people. And if we are not at the forefront of American universities in caring about world affairs, no one else will lead. I was under the impression that we are here for more than just a good GPA. It’s time we begin acting that way.

The author is a Columbia College first-year.

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The Canon

“Columbia should seek to develop good character, not just intellect.”

The Canon runs every other Wednesday and is dedicated to the discussion of Columbia's perennial problems. Its prompts feature questions that we should repeatedly ask and constantly answer. While we may never come to firm resolutions, either collectively or individually, the belief is that there is some merit to the discussion itself.

FROM THE EDITOR:

In the opening chapter of his book “The Crooked Timber of Humanity,” Isaiah Berlin discusses the influence that the works of Machiavelli had on him. The revelation that came to Berlin, through Machiavelli, was “that not all the supreme values pursued by mankind now and in the past were necessarily compatible with one another.” Instead, Berlin goes on to argue, we must accept that inconsistencies exist and reject the pursuit of a fixed, universal ideal.

I tend to agree with Machiavelli and Berlin. I am uncomfortable with a stable definition of what is good. In all likelihood my understanding of what is good will change. I don't, however, reject the idea of good altogether.

None of the four authors featured here would agree with my understanding of the good. There is some consensus, though, that character is related to the notion of good. Regarding Columbia's role in fostering character, however, there is no consensus.

Lanbo Zhang
Editorial Page Editor

Reading character

BY DANIEL BONNER

Perhaps regretting his decision to spend all eight semesters in Columbia housing, an old suitemate once took a “semester abroad in New York.” I loved the idea. Flush with classes completed, books read and lectures heard, he embarked on an adventure of dislocation. Registering for the minimum amount of credits, he did everything else he could think of in the pursuit of that ineffable sense of purpose we all seek.

He found it. A semester in the King's Crown Shakespeare Troupe enhanced not only his sense of the other on stage but understanding of others off it. He visited one museum a week. He played the piano for the first time in years, exploring talents and abilities he did not know he had.

He—and others who watched the idea take root—came to see that there is an element of the human experience that cannot be felt in the classroom. Intellect's needs can be satisfied, but the calls for empathy, consciousness, discipline—all elements of character, perhaps—were left unmet. Eventually, the rest of us sought out such unconventional experiences: performances on campus, the occasional Rangers game for the spirit, and a day of service blocks away or study among people of faith for the refinement of our characters.

Why, the thinking went, do we hold ourselves to the highest standards of intellectual inquiry but lower our standards for developing good character? Good character defies precise definition. But it is no less critical in the living of a useful life.

For many—myself included—being a part of a religious community on campus instills a sense of discipline and moral ethos. Others experience that same growth, athletes spending time at Baker Field or activists perpetually traveling to Washington D.C. immediately come to mind.

We often do our growing far away from campus. The prevailing wisdom seems to suggest that character is best built beyond the classroom.

But in that pursuit of meaning it becomes too easy for us to profess the need for that semester abroad to make us “better people.” Columbia has taught me that inherent to our intellectual development, right here, is the development of good character. That's true of discipline—the I'm going to wake up for 9 a.m. class and sit in uncomfortable lecture hall chairs to “build character,” character. But it's also true of the “good character” that spurs righteous indignation and a steadfast moral compass. Character is best learned in the books we read, and it should be as central a goal as any intellectual achievement. Intellect and character are, in a sense, one and the same.

You can't help but acquire good character when acquiring intellectual depth. Character—sometimes meaning making mature, informed decisions—demands discernment and critical thinking, which are acquired most completely within our coursework.

A few weeks ago, Annie Murphy Paul wrote a New York Times piece, “Your Brain on Fiction,” that revealed the value of the texts we read. The research she quoted said what we've known all along: the brain perceives little difference between reading and experiencing an event. We identify with a character, his sadness, his joys and his challenges. And if we have read well—with the intention to develop good character just as we intend to refine our intellects—we come to recognize those same experiences in our own.

The question is not whether Columbia should or could seek to develop character—it must, and it does. But do Columbians seek good character with intention, as they pursue wisdom and depth of understanding?

Character is the most vulnerable of attributes—the first to be challenged by the ethical questions awaiting us—but it must be tied to our intellectual exploration. When that semester abroad becomes a life abroad—perhaps adrift—character is the only thing that matters.

The author is a Columbia College junior majoring in history. He is president of Columbia/Barnard Hillel and chair of Chaplain's Council.

Familial relations

BY JUSTIN D'AGOSTINO

In my experience as a residential advisor, one of the common issues that first-years face is conflict with friends. The recurring sentiment of many subsequent conversations is that everyone at Columbia is selfish. The root of this issue lies within the fundamental structure of the University's culture.

Throughout our education in the Core Curriculum, students are asked to focus on two fundamental questions: “What is moral?” and “What is happiness?” As students reflect upon these topics, a pattern of dominance emerges in which the quest for happiness takes precedence over morals. This mentality, justified through these texts, creates a culture of hostility that leads many to ignore the feelings and emotions of others, substituting “what is right” for “what makes me, and only me, feel the best.” Consequently, many are left at the mercy of a cruel culture that dominates not only in the classroom, but also in interpersonal relations.

We, as Columbians, often scoff at accusations of being a liberal elite or of being residents of the Ivory Tower. However, we embody one telling characteristic that our detractors attribute to us: relentless ambition. Our ambition, the drive to achieve personal success, is one of the determining factors in our admittance to Columbia and of our continued achievements. However, this ambition is also the root cause of a selfish campus environment. Justified by the philosophies of the Core, ambition, prioritizing personal success over all other goals, places “blindness” on our heads that lead us to ignore those in our path as we gallop towards our own finish lines. It seems that the best prescription is a shift in the cultural paradigm through the development of “good character.”

My high school experience at a Jesuit high school was probably slightly different from most. Religion and education aside, Jesuit high school education focuses on the development of a “(Wo)Man for others.” This system urges the individual to define his morals, focusing on determining the proper way to act towards others. This is thought to be accomplished through the completion of Jesuit education and most importantly, the fostering of a familial community.

Students genuinely cared about one another in this environment, because the administration actively endorsed character development. By being considerate of others, one developed character.

Columbia, school spirit, and campus family are never mentioned in the same breath. You would be hard pressed to find someone who would call every person on campus her family. The selfish ambition that is inherent in the individual student, myself included, leads to the disunity on campus.

Rather than fostering jaded and cynical students who distrust others in order to prevent hurt, the University should be proactive in promoting a familial community. Students, in determining their courses of action, would consider first their fellow person before charging head-first towards their personal goals.

Having a strong moral character is an asset as valuable as a good education. An education without good character is a dangerous. The only thing more bothersome than an asshole is an informed asshole.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in political science.

Beautiful violence

The use of the word “good” to describe character is problematic. There is no way to measure the goodness of character. Do we measure godliness? Selflessness? Patriotism? Empathy? Token acts of kindness spread throughout the day? Without an adequate measure, Columbia could never hope to develop a particular kind of goodness in the members of its community. What is possible is to develop strength. An objectively strong character, the character of someone with mettle and verve, with passion and commitment—that is the character we ought to strive toward. A strong character is what allows the individual to distill intellect into action, to face tough situations in spaces both public and private and make the necessary decisions.

Too often we think that having a strong character means having a strong moral fiber. Perhaps paradoxically, the opposite is true. A strong character speaks to the recognition that morality itself is a dilemma, a standard to which we must aspire, but whose means are ever shifting. Those engaged in intellectual pursuits are necessarily confronted with the problem of morality—they struggle with the tenuousness of the claim that man is a moral actor, if only because each phase of history ends in a reprieve of atrocity. But isn't it violence itself that brings the fruits of intellectualism to bear?

Every great nation on this earth, every bastion of liberal freedoms and intellectualism, was born from the fires of some great war. And in acts of self-preservation and self-actualization these nations continue to pursue violence by choice, so as to stoke the flame of progress. While the face of this violence may change—bombardment and torture giving way to more subtle, procedural, and structural forms of domination and disruption—the fundamental power dynamics are the same. It should be no surprise that the tools of violence employed by advanced nations are evolved in the departments of the University. Political science, economics, engineering, mathematics, anthropology, and sociology are all disciplines whose origins are intertwined with a genealogy of violence. As Foucault would attest, power is enshrined in fields of knowledge.

To successfully pursue our intellectual development in these fields, we cannot ignore the role that violence has played in their emergence and expansion. To participate in the educational project underway at Columbia is to place oneself by sheer force of will and effort at one of a handful of elite brain trusts that work to program the machinery of violence. What we risk by privileging a good character over a strong character is the capacity for violence itself. For the student, to become ineffectual and effete is to become entrenched in the intractable problem of reconciling morality with an engagement in an institution nourished by violence.

If economists and physicists and engineers suddenly became obsessed with the morality of their actions, the gears and cogs of progress would grind to a halt. Moral paralysis would set in. The man of strong character, on the other hand, is at peace with his inability to make clear moral determinations. And despite this ambiguity he still takes action to the best of his ability, confident that with the aid of his intellect he can make the right, if not the good decision. To delude ourselves that we can do anything more is to betray the lesson of history's cyclical nature.

In this view, violence is simply the act of self-assertion, of promoting a good that may be temporary and conditional, but nonetheless desirable and justifiable. A person of strong character retains in his capacity for violence a capacity for transcendence. He is able to transcend the quagmire of morality, to use his intellect in material, meaningful ways. This transcendence also occurs on an institutional level.

By decoupling intellectual development from the development of a good or moral character, Columbia is no longer burdened to identify a single notion of morality to privilege. At the very least, this may contribute to the longevity of the institution, as questions of morality depend on a sort of false teleology to which intellectualism should not be shackled. Reading the canon that begins with Plato, Aristotle, and the Bible and ends with Fanon and Beauvoir leaves us with little in the way of definitive moral truth. In negative space, only strength of character can complete the promise of transcendence. In violence there is beauty.

Esfandiyar Batmanghelidj is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in political science and Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African studies. He contributes regularly to The Canon.



RUNTAO YANG

Discovering goodness

Columbia College did not teach me what it means to be a good man. It certainly taught me how to be a smart man, a well-rounded man, a hard-working man, and an eloquent man. But a good man? That is where my college stopped short.

To some, this indicates a successful execution of a liberal arts education—it challenges you without being preachy or prescriptive. I gained skills and helpful attributes that I will use throughout my life, but I did not have to sign on to a particular worldview or buy in to a socially constructed value-identity. If Columbia had tried to teach me what it means to be a good man, it would be a step back to a time when people were so presumptuous as to subscribe to concepts like “good character” and “moral integrity.”

This conception of the liberal arts education falls too far into the realm of postmodernist thought. It mistakes the classical values of critical thinking and Socratic pedagogy for the moral and cultural relativism that has come to prominence in the past 30 years. It makes the misguided assumption that questioning ideas necessarily means that all ideas operate on the same plane of legitimacy. Because one can question the most fundamental values of Western civilization, they say, they are not particularly special.

We could be benefiting from critical discussions about what it means to be good.

The natural result of such thinking is that institutions such as Columbia must abandon the endorsement of any ideas of values if they are to be taken seriously. To have a stake in any particular tradition renders an institution tainted and biased, unable to truly educate or analyze. That is precisely why we have not been taught how to be good men or women. To do so would require Columbia to have a stake in a particular tradition of “goodness.”

Columbia should return to the philosophy it once had. At the turn of the century, our school still considered itself responsible for fostering the development of a well-rounded “gentleman” (with Barnard taking the mantle of developing

educated and refined women). In those days, courses not only facilitated intellectual development, but also worked to teach students the virtues they should cultivate in their lives. In the literary characters, philosophers, and artists under study, the students could discover characteristics to reproduce in their own lives. It was understood that 22-year-olds were still young enough to have their characters shaped.

There is an immense value in having a university identify characteristics that it sees as important to a successful life. If Columbia's students are tomorrow's leaders, why would we turn a blind eye to their character and only consider their intellect? In the words of a Columbia graduate, Theodore Roosevelt, “Character in the long run is the decisive factor in the life of an individual and of nations alike.” Why are we settling for such a single-faceted education when we could be benefiting from critical discussions about what it means to be good?

The implementation of this character-building mission of Columbia College does not have to resemble Sunday school. The Socratic, discussion-based methods that already exist in Contemporary Civilization and Literature Humanities can and should remain in place. The difference will come in the faculty members of the school allowing themselves to promote values that are already lionized by the texts we read and the art we observe. It is only a matter of altering the conversation slightly—just add a few more questions to the mix. Why is it important to show courage like Achilles? Should we concern ourselves with morality like Augustine did? Are envy, lust, and the love of money really as poisonous as Jesus Christ warns?

We need to concern ourselves with character. That starts with Columbia embracing values that it considers virtuous and facilitating a critical consideration of their merit. These values will not be exempt from analysis and criticism—like all ideas presented in a classroom here, they will be under intense scrutiny. The difference will be that that scrutiny will not just be theoretical, but personal. The students at Columbia will have to consider what virtues they want to reproduce in their own lives, and their professors will be there to give insight into the good life as informed by literature, art, and philosophy. It's time that we start graduating good men and women, not just sharp minds.

Derek Turner is a Columbia College senior majoring in political science and anthropology. He is a student representative on the Committee on the Core and contributes regularly to The Canon.



ESFANDYAR
BATMANGHELIDJ

Looking back through the lens

BY EMBRY OWEN

Once every December there is a late-night gathering in the Spectator office. Champagne bottles are lined up in a row. Plastic cups are set out. A few phone calls are made. There’s no exact time for these gatherings—when everything is ready, they begin.

The current board of editors hovers in the entryway, waiting as their newly-decided successors, who take over in January, arrive one by one. They have been chosen after a month-long process of shadowing current staff, writing too-long proposals for their desired positions, and sitting through grueling interviews. As the office door opens again and again, the cheers are loud and the bottles are popped. Another page in the paper’s history turns.

At my first of these celebrations, I was bewildered. I only recognized a handful of faces. I had never asked to be the photo editor of this paper—in fact, I had only found out earlier that day that I was being considered for the position. My predecessor introduced me to the rest of the new editors in quick succession. I vaguely understood that I would be spending most of my waking hours with them for the next year, but of course, I didn’t remember any of their names the next day. In the pictures from that night, I am excited and terrified. I had taken the leap, and I had no idea what I was in for.

During my second year, I was exhausted. I had spent the weekend locked in the Spectator office with my fellow editors, agonizing over the

The end of an era is approaching, and tears will be inevitable. After all, the times were good, the calls were close, the moments poignant, and the twists were unexpected. That’s right: The series finale of “Desperate Housewives” is almost upon us.

I’m not going to dignify your “You mean The Real Housewives of Somewhereirrelevantville?” No, I mean the narrative drama documenting the lives of Susan, Gaby, Bree, and Lynette. They laughed, cried, murdered, cheated, and endlessly gossiped, and I consumed the drama passively from my McBain double, recovering from late nights in the Spec office, and in avoidance of the Gmail threads where my input was anticipated. The neatly clipped lawns my virtual suburban escape; the namesake desperation of its inhabitants a vicarious foil to my own neuroses. Yes, I spent many a morning watching “Desperate Housewives” over breakfast during my time at The Eye—by morning, I mean from around 2-3:30 p.m., and by breakfast I mean a couple spoonfuls of peanut butter from the jar on my desk and two very, very strong cups of coffee. My routine took me next to class for the foreign language requirement that was bringing my GPA to a new low. Around 8 p.m., I’d head to the Spec office, at which point time entered a vortex. Leave at 4 a.m., repeat.

It’s senior column week at Spectator, and our pages will be filled with former editors glorifying the late nights and classes ditched for last-minute coverage. Don’t get me wrong: These things deserve to be glorified, if for no other reason than to validate the next generation of eager first-years. But behind the nostalgia, I think there’s a very real tension we don’t admit enough at Columbia: that college is a weird time, that managing new responsibilities is difficult, and that New York is not exactly the most welcoming place. And at some point (most frequently, the point we refer to as the “sophomore slump”), we secretly or not-so-secretly develop a set of habits and norms—sometimes coping mechanisms—that The Dude himself would tsk tsk. We grocery shop at 3 a.m. and wake up at 3 p.m., Febreeze our clothes instead of washing them, blow all our money at 1020 to the detriment of vegetable intake, and find the Internet an adequate substitute to real human interaction during meal times.

The Eye was both egregious enabler and source of stability in my new college lifestyle. Traversing the line between adult commitment to put out a weekly magazine and youthful desire to inject alcohol into any situation, The Eye office pushed our limits of drunken headline brainstorming and made possible procrastination to sunrise, while cultivating a team spirit that ensured we somehow got it done, for the sake of both the magazine and the co-editors we had come to respect. It was the first time I felt ownership over something real, a paper publication that miraculously appeared every Thursday morning after a 10-hour stretch in the Spec office the night before. Through tenuous trial and error, I learned that while the right number of Blue Moons is imperative to maintaining both my sanity and the issue’s dignity, the wrong number can quickly sacrifice both (and is, generally, very tempting). Despite the arguments of senior design and visuals editors to the contrary, there is no right number of Four Lokos for production night except an emphatic zero. From my fellow editors, I learned about the YouTube greats—Ciara’s “Ride” consistently topping the list of office music video break favorites, with D’Angelo’s “How Does it Feel” a close second—but also how to turn these greats into great pitches. And eventually I learned the way to get over my still-looming West Coast nostalgia, to survive in New York, at Columbia, was to find something I cared about and work at it. And here, the obligatory glorifying: I ditched classes to conduct last-minute interviews and speed-write emergency articles, pulled myself away from the cliffhangers of my favorite suburban drama to participate in the Gmail threads that awaited me. Everything in my schedule was up for last-minute contestation except a pre-sunrise PDF’ing on Wednesday nights.

During my tenure as managing editor, my life was a mess: my pants from the clean-ish pile on my floor, my CC response paper printing five minutes after class started, my hangover illicitly hair-of-the-dogged, and my mother’s calls ignored in favor of an escapist session swinging in Riverside Park to the soundtrack of the Smashing Pumpkins. I had no idea what I was doing, but the responsibility to lead story writers working on investigative pieces, to the associates that turned to my feigned editorial authority, provided some semblance of a structure. Sometimes working at Spectator felt like a way to package something neatly in order to hide the erratic loose ends of newfound adulthood. I may be scraping together quarters for a Chipotle burrito, but damned if that lede isn’t catchy and my name isn’t above it. To the next generation, I want to say: Prioritizing is difficult business, and sometimes you need your coping mechanisms. I would like to extend gratitude to the ladies of Wisteria Lane, brought to me by Marc Cherry and Hulu, for hosting my nutritionally deficient post-production breakfasts in a virtual perma-sunny suburbia wrought with drama, and devoid of real parental nagging (aside from that I had internalized). But college is a happily forgiving place to strike these new balances. To this end, I want to thank The Eye for giving me something to grow up for and people to grow up alongside.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in sociology. She was managing editor for features for The Eye for the 134th volume.

new board of editors. I had spent the year engulfed in the paper—the constant deadlines, the challenging assignments, the endless meetings—and also, the friends who had become like family, and the feeling of a fresh edition in my hands each weekday. In the pictures from that night, my face is heavy and the circles under my eyes are darker than before. I am tired, I am finished, I am content. I am closer to everyone in the room than I could have imagined the December before.

What I miss most about Spectator, and what I will continue to miss, is the sense of tradition and community that I found inside its office.

I went to my third and last celebration this past December on a whim. After spending spring of my junior year abroad, I became relatively removed from Spectator. That’s simply how the paper is—you’re either in the throes of it, or you’re not. I barely knew most of the new editors, but I celebrated with them regardless. I felt removed, yet satisfied to see the paper I loved being passed into

capable hands that would move it forward. In the pictures from that night, I am happy, and a bit out of place. I know that my days at the paper are finished.

What I miss most about Spectator, and what I will continue to miss, is the sense of tradition and community that I found inside its office. At the paper, there is a way of doing things—an order, a hierarchy, a goal. The nightly production cycle is—aside from the mishaps that inevitably arise—incredibly predictable. Similarly, we pass the torch in a systematic way, year after year. College can feel like four years of chaos, and Spectator offers its staff a sense of purpose and productivity.

In the same way, I will miss the profound camaraderie that I found at Spectator. For all of the late nights and seemingly impossible deadlines, we shared a lot of spirit, beer, and laughter. As an editor, I had the enormous privilege of interacting with Columbia peers whom I never would have met otherwise—peers who challenged me and made me a better journalist and human being.

In the pictures from my years on staff, there are Manhattanville expansions and campus elections, Harlem art walks, and bike lane controversies. But if you look a little harder, there is also the evolution of a beginning photographer into a journalist engaged with her community.

Thank you, Spectator, for putting the camera in my hands.

The author is a Barnard College senior majoring in economics. She was photography editor for the 134th managing board.



YUMA SHINOHARA

Yorkers—to focus only on the task at hand, not stopping to acknowledge others—as cold. But this signature trait allows people who live here a brand of freedom that you can’t get anywhere else.

I can walk down 23rd Street slowly, looking up at the buildings like a tourist; or with a Skrillex wig; or with a low-cut shirt and a coy smile; or all in black and with the hardened gait of someone who knows her shit. I can do all of that here, and of course, people won’t judge me—that’s the city’s trademark. The even better part? People won’t notice me at all. I can try it all on, with no consequence whatsoever. I don’t have to participate.

My favorite memories of my time at Columbia are the ones I spent by myself, getting to know and love this city, and—as the story has always gone since Joan Didion said goodbye to all that—myself.

I can’t write in public or read in public, but I like watching. Witnessing the simultaneity of the human experience without participating. Many times in the past few years, I would choose a destination—Sunset Park for banh mi, Brighton Beach for bushkas, the Cloisters for old people and silence—and spend a day by myself, watching people.

The city happens around me. Someone is having an orgasm and someone is crying and someone is dying and someone is being born and someone is experiencing the pinnacle of human joy, all within a very limited radius from where I stand.

This penetrated through my depression, somehow. I guess my thinking was: If everything around you is moving, well, you can’t just lie there.

So now I walk and watch.

I’m not sure who I want to be yet, so it helps to watch it all happen. To learn about what kind of person I want to be by listening to the city. That’s what makes me feel at home. Never lonely.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in English. She was a Spectrum daily editor, lead story editor for The Eye for the 134th volume, and editor in chief of The Eye for the 135th managing board.

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6	2	9	8	5	3	4	7	1
5	1	8	6	7	4	3	9	2
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9	7	1	3	4	6	2	5	8
2	8	4	5	9	7	6	1	3
8	9	2	7	6	5	1	3	4
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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9. That means that no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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			4	2			8	6

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Fodder figure?
5 First Greek consonant
9 Antlered grazers
13 Australia's national gemstone
14 Wall
15 Winter forecast
16 Melodies for a soothing atmosphere
18 "Henry's Crime" actor Reeves
19 College application part
20 Nothing to suggest, as foul play
22 Positive energy
25 Home of the Ivy League's Bulldogs
28 Safe havens
32 Lawyers' org.
33 Shopping center?
35 Ploch-poch
36 With 39-Across, convenience that might include the dish spelled out by the first few letters of the answers to 16-, 22-, 30- and 60-Across
39 See 36-Across
41 Course's 18
42 Sci. class
44 Sorority letter
45 Black hair and almond-shaped eyes, e.g.
47 Certain sail spans
50 Pick up momentum
52 Tour in a double-decker bus, perhaps
55 Valium maker
59 Southwestern bird
60 2002 Jodie Foster thriller
63 Deli subs
64 Nile slitherers
65 Par for the course
66 Unwelcome look
67 Apollo's instrument
68 "Don't move, Spot!"

DOWN

1 Unspecified amount
2 Wall St. events
3 Landlocked Asian republic
4 Gerontologist's study
5 Mitt Romney's alma mater. Abbr.
6 Homer's sulfurous-robed goddess
7 Star shine
8 Big name in foil
9 Refined and discriminating taste
10 Low in fat
11 Numbers game
12 Double — Oreo
15 Alpine competitor's protection
17 "Don't interfere," briefly
21 Grads-to-be: Abbr.
23 "My bad!"
24 Dork
25 Harbor party site
26 Can't stomach
27 All who retired with a perfect 24-0 record
29 Clucking quarters
30 Faith

31 Opposition group
34 Brownstone hangout
37 Dennis, much to Mr. Wilson's dismay
38 Will subjects
40 Mont Blanc, par exemple
43 "Piece of cake!"
46 Bro's playmate
48 Grand Marquis, for short
49 Decks out
51 Landlocked Asian republic
52 Satirist Mort
53 Nantes notion
54 Reason for an R rating
56 Odd old fellow
57 Wedding dance
58 Award for "Modern Family"
61 "Fresh Air" aier
62 Suisse suffix

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BAR	CHORD	CACTI
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ART	ISLAND	CHAIN
LEARN	DEAL	
LETITBE	BLOOPER	
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ORCS	GONOW	OKRA
BAUER	FACET	SOL
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xwordeditor@aol.com 04/25/12



By Don Gagliardo and C.C. Burdett
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Time to turn off the Mike, 91 articles later

Fellow Columbians, distinguished friends, and beloved family—where to begin? Well, for one, I'm four papers and three final exams from graduating. I'll become a "real person" on May 29, when I wake up at some ungodly hour for my first day of work. I drank my 40 on 40s, bought my cap and gown, and, as of this Thursday, will have attended my final classes. I'm excited for what the future holds in store for Columbia sports, but for now I'm afraid it's time to say goodbye. For these next few days will be my last as an undergrad, a New York resident, and a columnist for the Columbia Daily Spectator.

Now let's rewind four years, 59 classes, and 91 Spec articles ago to fall 2008. My brother, then a junior and a sports writer, dragged me to my first Spec Sports meeting. In those days the entire sports staff fit snugly into that claustrophobic back corner office. It was there that I was assigned a byline: a field hockey preview. In hindsight it wasn't the most profoundly important thing I've written, but damn did I pour my heart and soul into it. That was over 60,000 published words ago.

Over the next few years I paid my dues to Spec as an associate editor on the 133rd Spectator staff, baseball beat writer and, eventually, a senior staff writer and columnist. Those late nights in the office assembling the sports page, eating Spec pizza, and yelling at the girl I just called "copy" (love ya, Emily) are some of my fondest college memories. However, by junior year I took over as President of LionPAC and was forced to curtail my Spec commitment. I picked up this column, though, and never looked back.

Writing a sports column is difficult, period—doing so at an Ivy League university is near impossible. I used to ascribe to the conventional belief that all of our woes boil down to apathetic students and underperforming teams. But, honestly, we need to keep things in perspective. Students aren't apathetic: we work really hard, are super involved in extracurricular activities, and occasionally try to have social lives. And the sports teams aren't subpar: many play off-campus, and are nationally competitive in a league that prohibits athletic scholarships. We can criticize the athletes, coaches, and administrators, but we should do so constructively rather than blindly. A successful athletics program is a two-way street—students need to be supportive and teams need to produce results.

And so I've dedicated "Turn Up the Mike" to distilling the salient issues affecting Columbia, Ivy, NCAA, and pro sports. I've trashed the archery squad, defended Norries Wilson, argued for a CU varsity hockey team, and even made a case for Ivy athletic scholarships. Other writers have called me a quintessential provocateur, but my writing stems from more than a desire to attract controversy. The truth is that change is required to bring students and athletics closer together. Real change necessitates making tough decisions, and so I made it my task with this column to bring new ideas to the table. Sometimes this was done at the expense of a certain athlete, coach, or team, and I apologize for those who I burned along the way. But every word I wrote originated from a desire to boost the image of sports at this school, and so I have no regrets.

My friends and colleagues know that I love to complain, which is probably why I quote George Carlin so much. But I'm going to take the high road here and tell you what I'll miss about this place. So here goes:

I'll miss my friends. I'll miss those select few professors (Carnes, Blackmar, Berghahn, Gluck). I'll miss reading Spec, Bwog, GoColumbiaLions, and CULPA. I'll miss the late nights and early mornings in Butler (and my not-so-secret hideaway: Teachers College). I'll miss running around College Walk, the steps, and the lawns. I'll miss the Heights, 1020, Mel's, Koronet, AppleTree, MoWillie and even AmCaf. I'll miss running (often literally) between Columbia and JTS, regularly losing track of what school I'm in and what day it is. I'll miss hopping on the 1 train at 116th, wasting my days in Hillel, and writing for this newspaper. It comes to an end faster than you think. Yeah, I'll miss it all.

Before I say goodbye for real, though, a few shoutouts are in order.

My founding fathers [Velazquez, Auggie, JTay]: You are the three most hilarious, idiotic, boozing sports enthusiasts I've ever met. The section has never been, and will probably never be,



MICHAEL SHAPIRO

Senior Column

Proposed Ivy League Basketball Playoff Bracket (with 2012 records)

**2 PENN**
19-12 (11-3 IVY)

Previous Meetings:
Penn **82** - Princeton **67** (Jan. 30, 2012)
Princeton **62** - Penn **52** (March 6, 2012)
Overall Record: Penn 123 - Princeton 103

**3 PRINCETON**
19-11 (10-4 IVY)



IVY LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

**1 HARVARD**
26-4 (12-2 IVY)

Previous Meetings:
Harvard **65** - Yale **35** (Jan. 27, 2012)
Harvard **66** - Yale **51** (Feb. 18, 2012)
Overall Record: Yale 115 - Harvard 71

**4 YALE**
19-9 (9-5 IVY)

GRAPHIC BY BENJAMIN BROMBERG GABER

Postseason Ivy basketball tournament back on table

BY STEVEN LAU
Spectator Staff Writer

A recent proposal to create an Ivy League postseason basketball tournament has sparked varied responses from coaches and administrators in the last two weeks, as some cast doubt on its chances of gaining official approval.

The proposal, drafted by Columbia head coach Kyle Smith, calls for men's and women's basketball to have a two-round tournament each for the top four finishers in conference play.

The tournament champion would earn an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament, while the first-place finisher in regular season conference play would earn an automatic bid to the National Invitation Tournament.

The proposal was suggested at the Ivy coaches' annual meeting earlier this month, but in order for it to be approved, it must pass three rounds of review.

First, the Ancient Eight athletic directors must approve the proposal during their annual meeting from May 8-10. If passed, the proposal is then sent to a policy committee—consisting of vice presidents from each school—for evaluation before the university presidents render an ultimate decision.

According to Ivy League spokesperson Scottie Rodgers, the proposal only needs majority approval to pass each stage.

When similar proposals were submitted in the past, they failed to gain the necessary five out of eight votes. The last time a tournament was officially considered was in 2006, but the proposal did not even

make it past the athletic directors' meeting, Rodgers said.

Among the 31 automatic-bid conferences in the nation, the Ivy League is the only one to not hold a postseason tournament. Because of that, Smith believes players miss out on an important experience.

"It's a unique opportunity for a student-athlete to be able to play in a tournament environment—something totally different—that our guys don't get unless they're the lone representative from the Ivy League to go to the national tournament," he said.

As a two-year head coach in the Ivy League, Smith was not present for the 2006 proposal.

But Yale head coach James Jones—the longest-tenured coach in the league—is familiar with the Ancient Eight's resistance to a tournament.

Jones, a supporter of the tournament proposal, said that every year at the coaches' meeting there is talk about a possible postseason tournament, but the idea never gains momentum.

The 13-year head coach believes the Ivy League is at enough of a disadvantage to other conferences because of restrictions on scholarships and the requirement for Friday and Saturday games. The lack of a tournament, he said, only increases the gap between the Ancient Eight and other leagues around the nation.

"Every single conference in the country has a tournament," Jones said. "If it's good for everyone else why wouldn't it be for us? We already have enough differences. If we want to compete among the

best schools then we need this."

According to Smith, the men's basketball coaches are in unanimous support of a postseason tournament. However, that is not the case for the women's.

Light Blue women's basketball head coach Paul Nixon, the three-year chair of the Ivy League women's basketball coaches committee, is firmly in favor of a tournament. But Nixon said the other coaches have mixed opinions.

"The best way I can describe it is that we are not in consensus," he said. "I just think the state of college women's basketball is in a little bit different place just in terms of where the game is right now."

Courtney Banghart, Princeton women's basketball head coach, told The Daily Princetonian that she was strongly opposed to a postseason tournament for any single-bid conference.

Strong opposition to the tournament proposal is also present among at least one of the league's athletic directors.

Last week, Penn's athletic department released a statement from Athletic Director Steve Bilsky in which he made clear his negative stance.

"There are many philosophical, as well as logistical, issues and challenges to consider," he said in the statement. "In my opinion, to date, the reasons not to have a tournament have been much more compelling than the reasons to sponsor one."

Bilsky is the only athletic director to publicly oppose the tournament so far.

When asked for comment, Columbia Athletic Director M. Dianne Murphy declined to give an opinion on the matter, saying only in a statement that she

is "looking forward to hearing the proposal regarding an Ivy League Basketball tournament at our Ivy League meetings in May."

In response to the concerns raised by Bilsky, Smith said he does not think logistics would be a problem.

"There's just so much name recognition with the Ivy League," Smith said. "I think there are enough people that want to be associated with it that would underwrite any kind of tournament."

Smith also cited the 2011 playoff game between Harvard and Princeton, which sold out Yale's gym and was broadcast on ESPN3, as an example of how the proposed tournament—which would be held at the No. 1 seed's gymnasium—could bring attention and profit to the League.

The proposal also compensates for the possibility that players may lose class time by suggesting one nonconference regular season game be eliminated from the teams' schedules.

Beyond logistical concerns, critics of a proposal have also argued that there is nothing wrong with sending the winner of the 14-game round-robin regular season to the NCAA tournament.

ESPN's Eamonn Brennan wrote in a blog post last week that the current process sends the most deserving Ivy League team to the national competition, and that a conference tournament would make the regular season irrelevant.

Jones said that such an argument is absurd. The proposed tournament takes the top four teams, which means, she said,

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Lions face Fordham in last nonconference series

BY ELI SCHULTZ
Spectator Staff Writer

Coming off an impressive 3-1 series win over Princeton (17-17, 10-6 Ivy), the Lions will close out their nonconference schedule at home tonight against Fordham (17-25).

The Light Blue offense, which has struggled at times this season, has put up eight runs in each of its last two games, an encouraging sign for the Lions. A number of Columbia players are coming into tonight's matchup with great momentum.

Senior third baseman Jon Eisen and junior left fielder Dario Pizzano both recorded hits in all four of Columbia's games this past weekend. Eisen recorded two hits in three of them.

Junior right fielder Nick Ferraresi also had a good series versus the Tigers, recording four RBIs and a pair of doubles on the weekend and going 3-3 in the series opener. Ferraresi also shone defensively and scored the game-winning run in game one on Saturday on a wild pitch.

The offense should have plenty of opportunities against a somewhat shaky Rams staff that has a collective ERA of 5.12 on the season. No Fordham starter has an ERA below 4.17, although righty Daniel Munday is the reigning Atlantic 10 Pitcher of the Week. Munday is coming off a nine-inning shutout victory versus La Salle last Friday.

The Rams' bats are also unimpressive on paper. Fordham is hitting .247 on the season, while its opponents are hitting at a .285 clip. First baseman Mike Mauri is the Rams' most dangerous bat. Like Munday, Mauri earned a conference weekly award last week, and was named the Atlantic 10 Player of the

COLUMBIA VS. FORDHAM
Robertson Field, 2 p.m.



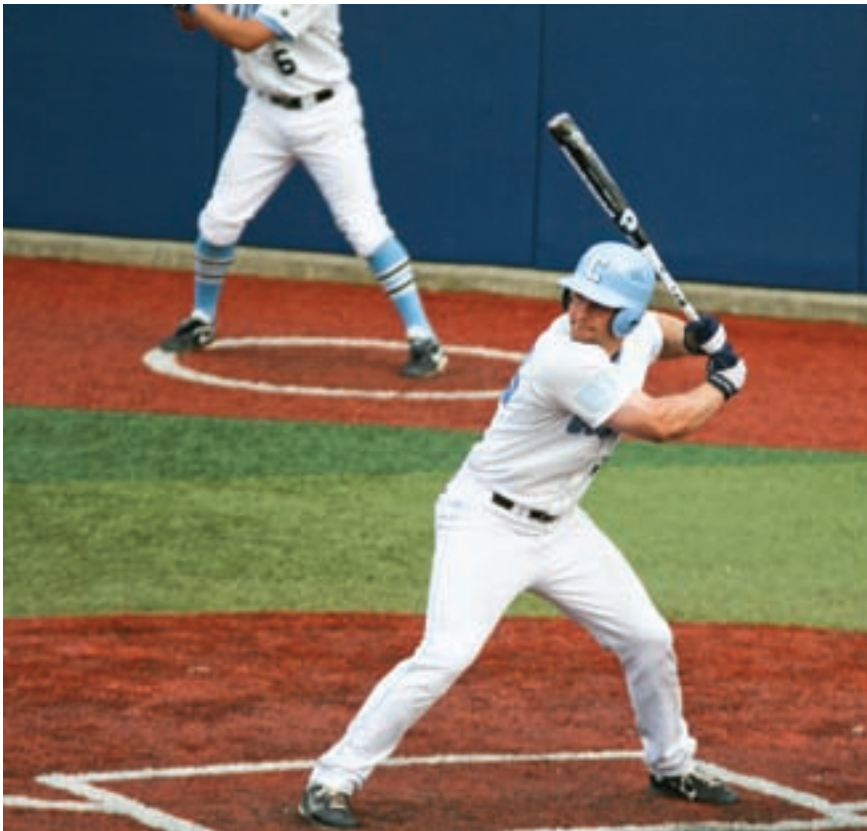
Week after going 10-for-17 in five games. Mauri's line on the season is impressive as well—with a batting average of .336, five home runs, and 26 RBIs, he is leading his team in every triple crown category.

Pizzano will be looking to make sure that the Lions, rather than Mauri and the Rams, grab the offensive spotlight in tonight's game. The left fielder, who

hit his third home run of the season last Friday, is now one home run away from tying Gene Larkin's all-time Columbia career record. Lions' senior designated hitter Alex Aurricchio is two shy of the mark, with 23 career round-trippers.

This will be the second-to-last home series for the Light Blue seniors, who will play their final games at Robertson Field on Saturday versus Penn.

The first game is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m., and the nightcap will start at about 4:30 p.m.



HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ONE SHY | Junior left fielder Dario Pizzano has been on an offensive tear recently, leaving him one home run shy of the all-time Columbia career record.

Bollinger honors track, swimming athletes' success

BY ELI SCHULTZ
Spectator Staff Writer

Columbia teams and athletes are winning. This was the message conveyed on Monday evening, as University President Lee Bollinger hosted members of the swimming and track teams at the his home in an event that honored successful Light Blue athletes, including members of the 2012 Ivy League champion women's indoor track squad.

"We've been trying for years to make the athletic department truly competitive in the Ivy League and even nationally in some sports," Bollinger said, emphasizing that the athletic department has made progress in recent years.

Among the athletes honored were members of the 2012 Ivy League champion women's indoor track squad. When the team captured its title in February, it marked not only a first for the women's program but also Columbia's first championship in the track program as a whole.

"It's just a big step forward for our program—we get a lot more respect from other teams now," senior pole vaulter Sarah Engle said.

Given Columbia's lack of a winning tradition in basketball and football, Athletic Director M. Dianne Murphy said, winning titles in other sports could provide an important boost to the overall reputation of Light Blue athletics. "Success breeds success," she noted, "and if you're really paying attention to what our teams are doing, we're having a great spring in all of our

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