



MARIA CASTEX / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FUND FACTS | Barnard SGA representatives heard a presentation from Multicultural Greek Council President Jason Tejada on Monday.

## Candidates lay out priorities in Senate SAC chair race

BY SAMMY ROTH  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

The University Senate's 24 student members will meet behind closed doors on Friday to elect next year's head student senators.

The senate Student Affairs Committee—which is composed of the student senators—will elect its chair or co-chairs by internal vote. Alex Frouman, CC '12, is running alongside Business School senator Adeel Ahamed. Dustin Bowler, Dental '12, is on a ticket with Ron Mazor, CC '09, Law '12. Jose Robledo, GS, is also running, although he would not say whether he is running on his own or with another candidate.

SAC's discussion of the candidates and the subsequent vote will be closed to the public. SAC meetings are usually open, although the committee can go into a closed session at any time.

Before the discussion and vote, each candidate will make a public presentation in 212 Low Library, according to current SAC chair Tao Tan, CC '07, Business '11.

Frouman said that he would like SAC to adopt a "governing vision" next year of improving the educational experience. This would involve making course evaluations public, reviewing the role of teaching assistants, and finishing an ongoing effort to replace CourseWorks with newer technology.

Frouman said these efforts would seriously enhance students' educational experience,

even if they aren't as high-profile as some of the issues the senate has dealt with this semester.

"There may not be another ROTC to get everyone fired up in the senate," Frouman said. "There may not be another smoking ban."

Robledo listed the implementation of a Reserve Officers' Training Corps program at Columbia—an agreement to recognize the Naval ROTC on campus was just announced—as one of many issues SAC should deal with next semester. He said other issues include course evaluations, housing for graduate students, and transportation between the Morningside Heights campus and the Medical School campus.

"If we cannot resolve the inter-campus shuttle, it's not going to end up in the Wall Street Journal," Robledo said. "But if we cannot resolve ROTC, that will."

Robledo added that SAC should also review the Center for Career Education's expenditures.

"We still have stakeholders who have given money to CCE and want to know where the improvements are going to be made with this money," he said.

Mazor said the SAC chair's main role is supporting the efforts of other student senators, and that a top priority for him would be quickly familiarizing new members with often-complicated senate procedures. Student senators, he said, are at a disadvantage because they cannot serve as long as faculty members.

"When we enter next year,

we really have to be ready to step into our plenaries [general body meetings] without too much of a learning curve," Mazor said. "And I think it's important that our initial meetings and our new members are given a strong introduction to parliamentary procedure."

Mazor, who co-chaired the senate's Task Force on Military Engagement earlier this semester, emphasized that he and Bowler complement each other well.

Bowler, he said, is a strong communicator and public speaker, whereas he is more adept at maneuvering in the senate. He said he has read Robert's Rules of Order, the time-honored parliamentary rulebook, many times.

"I've kind of been the resident parliamentarian for SAC over the past year, so one thing I can do really well is break down how the plenary works and find easy ways to hold the floor and have one's voice heard," Mazor said.

Mazor noted that he and Bowler represent both campuses—Mazor is a Law School student in Morningside Heights, and Bowler is a dental school student on the Columbia University Medical School campus.

"I met Ron just this year, both of us on the senate," Bowler said. "I think we bring just a great mix together, that we work together well as a team. We enjoy spending time together."

Like Bowler and Mazor, Frouman and Ahamed touted their complementary skills.

Frouman, a two-year veteran of the senate, said that he will provide a firm knowledge of how the body works, while Ahamed has strong managerial skills.

Ahamed, who started at the Business School this year and was elected to the senate in the fall, is six years out of college. He spent those years working in finance, two of them in microfinance in Central Asia.

"I've really learned to work with pretty different constituencies and really worked at bringing a lot of consensus to issues," Ahamed said.

Ahamed added that Tan has done a "phenomenal job" as SAC chair this year, but said senators might expect more from him and Frouman.

"I think the other senators can sort of count on us to be as committed, if not more committed, than Tao was over the last year," Ahamed said.

Robledo drew a sharp contrast between himself and the other candidate pairs, whom he called "identical."

"The current candidates, though certainly motivated and involved, lack the experience in nuanced arguments, in being able to bring contrary discourses into a cohesive plan of action in actual policies that have affected the University," he said.

"My ticket brings more conflict resolution than both of their tickets combined," he added.

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## Inter-Greek Council to get Barnard funds

### Stage two recognition will allow IGC to begin adding new chapter

BY AMANDA EVANS  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Barnard's Student Government Association voted by a two-thirds majority Monday night to approve the Inter-Greek Council for stage two recognition, meaning it will now receive Barnard funding.

The IGC is a governing board that heads the Interfraternity Council, the Panhellenic Council, and the Multicultural Greek Council, and the decision marks an upgrade from the its current stage one recognition. Stage one allowed it to put up flyers and reserve space, and was awarded last November when SGA voted to recognize Greek life.

Before the Monday vote, SGA members debated the IGC's immediate need for additional funding.

Diana Rastegayeva, BC '11 and vice president of communications for SGA, described the decision to move IGC to stage two as not a matter of whether the IGC would get funding, but of whether it would get funding right now.

"It isn't about whether IGC will get money in the future, but whether Greek life has utilized their stage one recognition well since they were recognized," said Rastegayeva.

Lauren Perrine, BC '12 and Panhellenic Council president, emphasized that additional funds were needed because of their membership growth—10 percent of which was Barnard students. Perrine said that their hope is that with stage two recognition, the Panhellenic Council can also begin to add a new sorority—a process that would need to begin this summer in order to have a chapter start operations in fall 2012.

"The chapter size had become unmanageable and another chapter was desperately needed," Perrine said.

Some SGA representatives, including Verna Patti, BC '11, raised concerns last week about how the IGC had utilized their stage one privileges since receiving them in November. Patti said that the IGC hadn't been meeting SGA halfway by continuing to use Barnard spaces throughout the semester.

"Right now they are standing outside the Columbia gates, but haven't crossed the street yet," Patti said.

Perrine and MGC President Jason Tejada, CC '12, both highlighted the IGC events that have taken place on Barnard's campus since recognition, like a scholarship lunch held by Delta Sigma Theta on April 23 in the Diana Center and Delta Gamma's Rent the Runway event, which took place in Lefrak Gym last November.

When asked about the lack of additional activity on Barnard's campus by the IGC this semester, Perrine explained that the focus for spring semester was on recruitment.

"There isn't a lot of time to plan other events outside of that. During the fall we will have a lot more time to plan other events," said Perrine.

The reason most recruitment events took place on Columbia's campus was because the large number of women who participated made it impossible to trek back and forth between spaces like the Diana and Wien Hall, Perrine added.

Alexandra Voss, BC '11 and

SEE IGC VOTE, page 6

### T-SHIRTS AND POLITICS



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LETDOWN | In a speech at the College Days final event, professor Jeffrey Sachs said that President Obama has not delivered on his potential to bring in fresh leadership.



MARIA CASTEX / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

EC MADE EASY | Everyone entering and exiting East Campus uses the same doors, causing problems on Friday nights.

## New turnstiles should simplify EC sign-ins next fall

BY SHIRA LAUCHAROEN  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

At East Campus, Columbia students will be able to get the party started faster next semester.

The entryway to East Campus will be reconfigured and three turnstiles installed by September, allowing residents and guests faster entry to the building, according to Scott Wright, vice president of student and administrative services.

It's a solution to the problems created when weekend parties attract lines of students, obstructing the single entrance.

"People are usually drunk and loud and mill about, getting in people's way," Noah Baron, CC '11, said. "There's usually a lot of freshmen. It's towards the beginning of the semester. People don't have a lot of work." Entering residents and guests

will use two separate turnstiles, and people exiting will use the third. Since there will be separate space for guests to form a line, residents will have more room to get in and out—a change from the current layout, where everyone enters and exits through the same doors.

The entrance to EC gets "overwhelmed from time to time," Joel Gombiner, CC '11, a resident of EC, said. "You're in a high-traffic dorm. The security guards are doing their best."

Security officers will also begin using new software to scan the IDs of residents to see if they are authorized to sign guests in, which should also expedite the process.

While the current system merely recognizes that students live on campus, the new program will identify current EC residents immediately. Security will still require guests to deposit a

photo ID upon entry and provide a signature.

Columbia will be testing the scanning system at EC, the dorm with the most guest traffic, and will expand to other dorms over winter break if the program is effective, Wright said.

If the renovations are ineffective, security will increase the number of staff members operating the EC entryway.

The renovations to EC were prompted by an incident last October, when security officials barred students who were not EC residents from entering the building after an unusually long line formed outside the building. Non-residents were locked out of the building for half an hour as 200 students waited, said Chris Elizondo, SEAS '11 and outgoing president of the Engineering Student Council. Students also claimed to have been verbally abused by the security guards

on duty when they questioned the sign-in policy.

Elizondo, who first proposed renovations at East Campus through ESC, added that the changes should decrease the wait from an average of 80-100 seconds to 8-10 seconds maximum. Columbia College Student Council members also spoke with Wright about the issue in November.

Changes would be welcome, since signing guests into EC is difficult and time consuming, said Lizzie Americo, CC '11, who has lived in EC for three years.

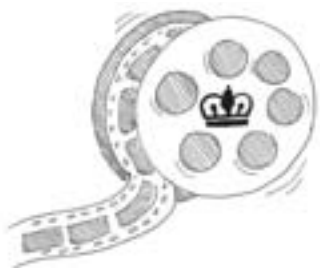
"I should be able to get into my place of living without having to wait," Americo said. "I have friends from New York City who don't have drivers licenses. I have to go to the public safety building to print them a temporary ID. Sometimes I try to sneak them in instead."

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A&E, PAGE 3

### CUFP hosts spring showcase of films

Presented by the primary filmmaking organization on campus, one of the most noteworthy features about the films shown was their diversity, both of subject matter and of style.



OPINION, PAGE 4

### Rewriting the Core

The Lit Hum syllabus should include books by American authors.

### Remember how to learn

Aarti Iyer wants to remember college as more than just grades and papers.

SPORTS, PAGE 2

### Princeton reigns over Ivy League

The Princeton Tigers have effectively forced the rest of the Ivy League into submission, with a league-leading record of 12-4 heading into the final week of conference play.

EVENTS

### Honorary Lecture Series: Edward Perkins

The former U.S. ambassador to South Africa will discuss human rights and the current situation in the Middle East.

Faculty House, Presidential Room, 8-10 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



78° / 61°

Tomorrow



72° / 60°



# A major in women’s soccer and basketball

BY SARAH SOMMER

I’ve never written one of these before. I guess anyone can say that of a senior column, but for me, it’s different—I’m the only

## SENIOR COLUMN

senior this year who wasn’t a columnist. So, in addition to writing my first and only senior column, I’m writing my first and only column.

Now that I have this platform, I’m going to write about the two Columbia teams that I have grown to love: women’s soccer and women’s basketball. Having covered these teams since my freshman year, I’ve been fortunate enough to attend several exciting games. And now, in no particular order, I present to you a collection of those contests:

### WOMEN’S SOCCER VS. HARVARD, NOV. 7, 2009

Columbia did not win this game, but the Lions came close to suffering a 1-0 loss in regulation until they earned a free kick with 15 seconds left. Meggie Ford fired the kick toward Lauren Cooke, who headed it into the net for her first career goal. Columbia lost when Harvard scored a second goal in overtime, but that final bit of the second half was an amazing, frenzied finish.

### WOMEN’S SOCCER AT YALE, NOV. 1, 2008

Columbia came back to tie and then win on the road, earning a 2-1 victory that allowed the Lions to enter the following weekend—the final weekend of Ivy League play—in a three-way tie for first place in the conference. Sophie Reiser displayed her intense will to win, setting up the Lions’ first goal just 13 seconds after Yale took a 1-0 lead. And Rebecca Taylor made incredible, back-bending saves. Columbia won despite taking seven fewer shots and four fewer corners than the Bulldogs.

### WOMEN’S SOCCER VS. PRINCETON, OCT. 16, 2010

So the 2010 season did not turn out as well as it seemed like it would for Columbia after this contest, but this was still one hell of a game. After a back-and-forth, scoreless first half, the Lions came out in the second and simply dominated. Princeton hardly ever had possession, and Nora Dooley scored twice to lead Columbia to a 2-0 victory. The win vaulted the Lions into sole possession of first place in the Ivy standings, a position that Princeton had occupied entering the game.

### WOMEN’S BASKETBALL AT HARVARD, FEB. 14, 2009

Okay, so I wasn’t at this game. And I don’t think I wrote the recap. But this was Columbia’s only win over Harvard in my four years here, and not only that, but the Lions won on the Crimson’s court. Judie Lomax had 19 points and 15 rebounds, Lauren Dwyer had 11 points, and Katrina Cragg had 19 points (including five—five!—three-pointers). By the end of the night, Columbia had earned a 74-71 victory.

### WOMEN’S BASKETBALL VS. CORNELL, JAN. 15, 2011

The phrase “a long time coming” sounds about right. After going 0-13 to start the 2010-11 season, Columbia achieved its first win with this 61-54 victory. Brianna Orlich showcased her explosive ability with a career-high 21 points. Kathleen Barry, meanwhile, had 14 points and 11 rebounds. For a team that had endured nothing but defeats, this victory was nothing but huge.

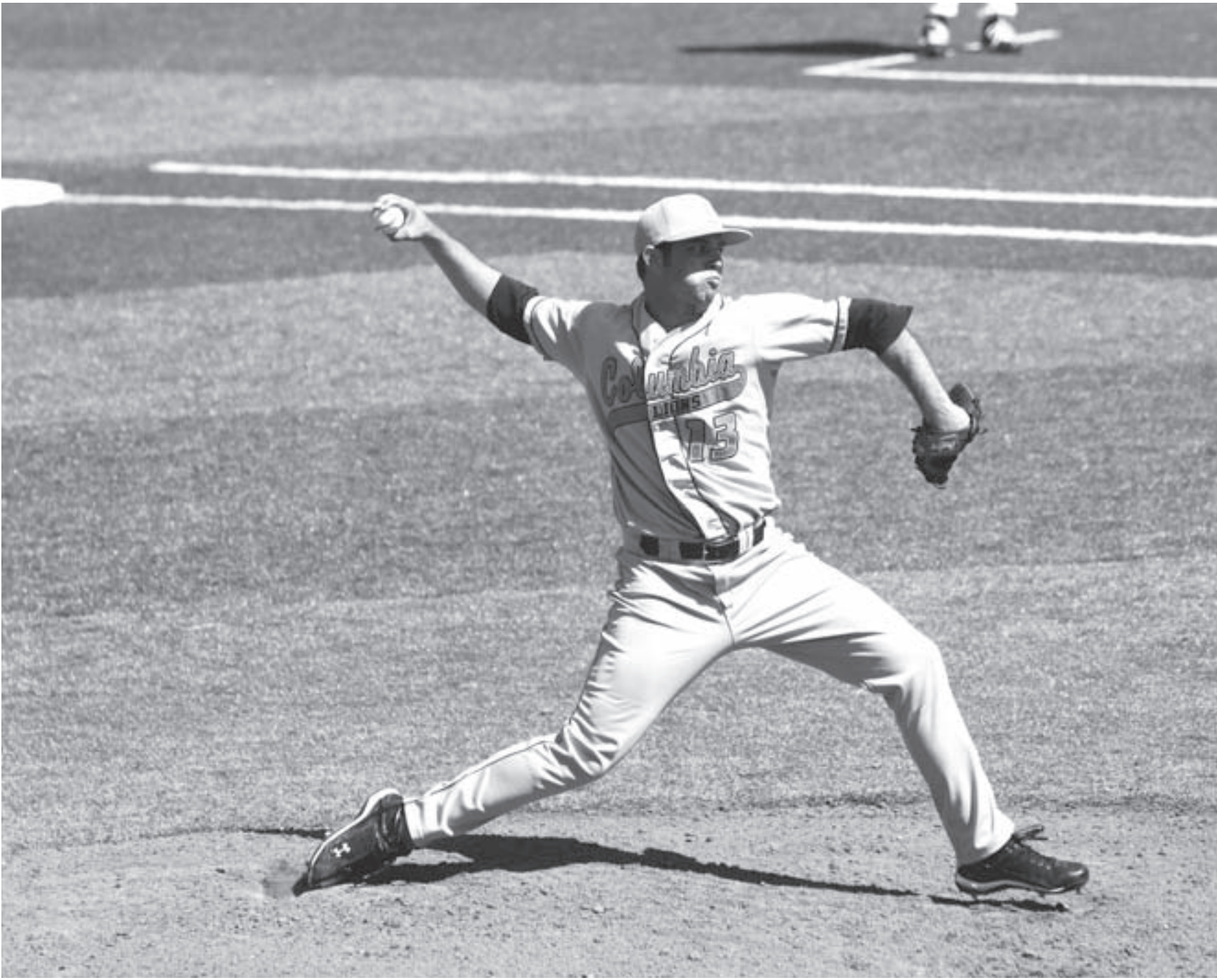
### WOMEN’S BASKETBALL VS. BROWN, MAR. 6, 2010

Columbia had already clinched the best Ivy record in team history with a victory over Yale the night before, but this game allowed the Lions to end the 2009-10 season on an even higher note. The 54-41 win was Columbia’s 18th overall and ninth conference victory. Oh, and Judie Lomax followed her 21 points and 21 rebounds against Yale with 20 points and 27 boards in her last Columbia game.

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So that, in a nutshell, has been my college career. I’m extremely proud to say that I spent most of my weekends at least one Columbia sporting event. The women’s soccer and women’s basketball teams are filled with talented, hardworking student-athletes and coaches, and it’s been an honor and a pleasure to watch them, talk to them, and, of course, write about them. I had no idea as a freshman that these two teams would factor so significantly into my college experience, but I wouldn’t have had

SEE SOMMER, page 6



KATE SCARBROUGH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WHI-TAKIN’ THE LEAD | Senior pitcher Geoff Whitaker pitched impressively but the Light Blue offense struggled to support him.

# Baseball team falls out of competition for playoffs

## Lions go 1-3 at Princeton, offensive struggles prove costly against Tigers

BY TREVOR COHEN  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

The mood was somber on the bus as the team traveled back to campus Monday evening. The championship dream had just died for Columbia baseball with the last out of yesterday’s second game in Princeton, N.J. As a result of the loss—their ninth in Ivy play this year and three more than they suffered all of last year—the Lions were mathematically eliminated from repeating their conquest of the Lou Gehrig Division with four games still to play in the season.

“The realization that we were no longer in the running kind of set in,” said senior pitcher Dan Bracey, who started the first game on Monday. “We knew going into this weekend that we had to do a lot of work to have a chance to win the division title. To lose that second game—it really set in, and I think everyone was disappointed.”

“I think we’re a lot better than 7-9, but unfortunately we haven’t been able to play like that,” said Bracey’s fellow classmate and starter Geoff Whitaker, who pitched game two. “I think everyone’s just a little disappointed and a

little frustrated, too.”

The Lions entered the four-game series down three games to division-leading Princeton (18-18, 12-4 Ivy) and one behind second-place Penn, whom they play in four games next weekend to close out the year. After rainouts across the league on Saturday, the Light Blue took game one in exciting extra-innings fashion on Sunday. That win, along with a little help from Cornell against the Quakers, put Columbia tied for second place, just two games out of first.

The Tigers justified their conference-leading record in the nightcap, though, handing Stefan Olson his first loss of the season on the back of a five-run fourth inning. Penn also beat Cornell in game two there to retake a one-game lead in the division. Columbia came into the day on Monday, then, in need of at least one win to stay in the running and two to give themselves a decent chance of besting Princeton’s record by the end of next weekend.

Going into the crucial set of games, head coach Brett Boretti’s confidence level was still high.

“My expectations were we that we were going to win two games today, and I’m sure the team’s expectation

was that,” Boretti said. “We had two seniors [on the mound] that had been there, done that.”

Both of those seniors, Bracey and Whitaker, upheld their end of the bargain. Each threw complete games, giving up just three earned runs apiece. In 14 combined innings, neither man gave up a walk, and Whitaker set a career high with eight strikeouts.

The deficiency for the Lions came on the offensive side, where they managed just two runs in each game, and were held to just two hits and four base runners in the first contest.

“We knew that we had to try and keep the team in the game, and we hoped that the bats would come alive at some point,” Bracey said. “A bunch of guys have been hitting well all year, so we were hoping that maybe something might happen in the late innings. It just didn’t happen today.”

“It’s definitely frustrating,” Whitaker said of the lack of run support. “I feel like our pitching staff this year as a whole has done a pretty good job of keeping us in the games, for the most part. Yeah, it gets a little frustrating, but at the same time, we go out there and do our job and that’s about all you can

ask from us.”

For Boretti, the team—which is fourth in the league in both average and run production this year—seemed to tense up in the face of such a decisive and pressure-filled situation.

“Sometimes, as a hitter, you want to do too much, and sometimes you get a little too anxious,” Boretti said. “I think our guys maybe wanted it so bad the past couple days that sometimes you can try too hard.”

The Lions could not figure out Princeton rookie starter Mike Ford in the first game, who threw a complete game of his own. The entirety of Columbia’s run and hit production came in the third inning—after the Tigers opened scoring with a run in the first, the Light Blue got one on in the third when right fielder Nick Ferraresi led off with a single and, after he moved to second on a sacrifice bunt, added another when Ford hit rookie catcher Mike Fischer. Both runners tagged and moved into scoring position on a fly out, setting the stage for two-out two-run opposite-field triple off the bat of sophomore third baseman Nick Crucet.

SEE BASEBALL, page 2

# Rampant Tigers force competition into submission

BY ROBERT WREN GORDON  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Another week of play saw Princeton extend its lead in the conference with a 12-4 record, while Dartmouth and Yale trail in second place with 10-6 records. The trio currently holds the only winning records in all of the Ivy League.

### BROWN

The Bears (6-10) struggled to win last week—the team is in the midst of a seven game losing-streak. Last Thursday, Brown lost its midweek game at Holy Cross, 10-7. Despite what initially seemed to be a close matchup, Holy Cross dominated in the sixth and seventh innings to take a 10-5 lead, placing the Bears in a deficit too steep to overcome. Brown moved on to play the Big Green on both Sunday and Monday, losing all four games by a combined score of 36-11. As the season winds to a close, the Bears hope to get back on track with two midweek games at home against Rhode Island and Bryant before heading to New Haven to play Yale on Friday. The Bears then host the Bulldogs on Saturday and end the season with a doubleheader against Marist on May 3.

### CORNELL

The Big Red (6-10) fared well last week, winning four of six games, including three wins against Penn. Cornell started off with a midweek

doubleheader at Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y. Despite losing the first game 8-3, the Big Red quickly rebounded, winning the nightcap 9-0 due in part to the efforts of freshman Chris Cruz, who went 1-for-1 with two home runs and two walks. Cornell followed up its big win with a 4-2 victory over Penn in Sunday’s opening game. Despite a game-two loss that same day, the Big Red came back to win both of Monday’s games 3-0 and 13-4, respectively. Cornell hopes to keep the positive momentum today during its midweek game at Binghamton University in Vestal, N.Y. The Big Red plays Princeton on Friday and Sunday before closing the campaign at home against Binghamton on May 4.

### DARTMOUTH

The Big Green (10-6) took advantage of a long series of home games to improve its record and break a four-game losing streak. Dartmouth got off to a great start against Saint Anselm last Tuesday, beating them 5-1 while tying a school record with four triples, two of which were scored by freshman infielder Jeff Keller. Despite having its Wednesday game against Hartford postponed due to rain, the Big Green carried its winning streak to five with a sweep of Cornell. Dartmouth now has one of the longest active winning streaks in college baseball, with 21 consecutive home victories. The Big Green is scheduled to play Hartford this Wednesday prior to four dates with Harvard. One last game will take place against Hartford on May 3.

### HARVARD

In what has been a season of struggles for the Crimson (5-11), who trail the league in standings, there were some bright spots last week as the Crimson went 3-4. Harvard struggled last Tuesday at home against Bryant, losing both games of that doubleheader by a combined score of 15-4. However, one night made a huge difference for the Crimson. It beat Massachusetts the next day in the Beanpot Championship in Brookline, Mass., 1-0, with a ninth-inning run by freshman outfielder Jack Colton after a one-out single by first baseman Danny Moskovits. The Crimson was able to split each of its weekend doubleheaders against Yale, winning 1-0 on Friday and 10-3 on Sunday. Harvard is back in action today against Boston College for the Beanpot Championship Game at Fenway Park before closing the season with a four-game series against Dartmouth.

### PENN

The Quakers (8-8) had a rough week, losing four of five games over the past week. Penn’s woes started during the midweek game at Lehigh in Bethlehem, Pa., where the Quakers lost 6-5 despite attempting a comeback in the ninth inning, at the start of which they trailed 6-3. The Quakers later traveled to Cornell. Despite a loss in game one on Sunday, Penn came back in the second fixture to handily defeat the Big Red 10-2 in a game

SEE AROUND THE LEAGUE, page 6

## LEAGUE LEADERS

### HOME RUNS

NAME	SCHOOL	HR
Billigan, Brian	Cornell	8
Branigan, Spencer	Penn	6
Pizzano, Dario	Columbia	6
Way, Marcus	Harvard	6
Mulroy, Sam	Princeton	6

### ON BASE PERCENTAGE

NAME	SCHOOL	OBP
Sclafani, Joe	Dartmouth	.456
Zebrack, Greg	Penn	.449
Rallis, Trey	Yale	.443
Pizzano, Dario	Columbia	.442
Coble, Ennis	Dartmouth	.441

### SLUGGING PERCENTAGE

NAME	SCHOOL	SLG
Billigan, Brian	Cornell	.633
Sclafani, Joe	Dartmouth	.618
Pizzano, Dario	Columbia	.614
Zebrack, Greg	Penn	.559
Mulroy, Sam	Princeton	.551

### OPPOSING BATTING AVERAGE

NAME	SCHOOL	AVG
Lally, Vinny	Yale	.178
Olson, Stefan	Columbia	.181
Perlman, Max	Harvard	.210
Sulser, Cole	Dartmouth	.220
Cusick, Paul	Penn	.222

### EARNED RUN AVERAGE

NAME	SCHOOL	ERA
Perlman, Max	Harvard	1.69
Lally, Vinny	Yale	1.87
Hart, Brook	Yale	1.93
Olson, Stefan	Columbia	2.14
Cusick, Paul	Penn	2.19



# Walker exhibits blur boundaries between art and racial politics

BY ANDREA GARCIA-VARGAS  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

If anyone has mastered artistic technique and can skillfully weave in racial politics as well, it's SoA Professor Kara Walker. With two exhibits that opened last Thursday, April 21—one with drawings, the other with short films—Walker captures several themes important to her vision of “Modern Black Identity,” as one of her pieces is titled.

With the name, “Dust Jackets for the Niggerati and Supporting Dissertations, Drawings submitted ruefully by Dr. Kara E. Walker,” the drawing exhibit at Sikkema Jenkins & Co. Gallery (530 W. 22nd St., between 10th and 11th avenues) was bound to be chilling and intense. The extensive use of graphite and ink was an appropriate choice since all of the pieces concern black-white relations. In fact, one drawing, named “White Space,” portrays a demonic-looking black woman baring her teeth against the pitch-black opening of a cave. Overhead, near the top of the drawing, the words “white space” are clearly traced in the soot of smeared graphite. The black figures are oddly cartoonish in nature—the stereotypical African-American physiognomy is very apparent in particular pieces, such as “And Encourages the Youth,” which displays four African-American heads on pikes, or “Cover of my negro novella,” featuring a black man with oversized lips dragging a limp black body. However, the cartoonish nature calls attention to the way African Americans were once characterized and to the racial stereotypes that still pervade today.

On the other side of the island, at Lehmann Maupin Gallery (201 Chrystie

St., between Stanton and Rivington streets), two of the three films at Walker's second exhibit were disappointing in comparison to her drawings. Both were a mere minute and 50 seconds, and the first of which, “Levee,” portrays a dark forest with the tree silhouettes against a sky on the cusp of reaching sunrise—and nothing else. The other shorter film, “Bad Blues,” is visually appealing, with rich browns, but contains confusing subject matter. The film flashed continuous three-second snippets of an African-American girl playing guitar, singing, putting her guitar away, and picking it back up. Both are beautiful but lack the racial politics Walker captures in her drawings.

The longer film, “Fall Frum Grace, Miss Pipi's Blue Tale,” however, is the gem of the two exhibits. The video uses silhouette puppets to play the story of a young white woman, Miss Pipi, who falls in love with a slave, identifiable by his racialized silhouette. A white man who is courting Miss Pipi finds out about her affair and cuts off the slave's penis with the help of a younger boy, and then they burn the body. The cartoonish silhouettes and the jerky motions of the puppets make the scenes even more horrific to watch, especially when the silhouette puppet is actually set on fire and the video captures it crackling and shriveling.

With entrance free on both ends, it would be a pity for Columbians not to visit the exhibits, which run through June 4. Their content is emotionally palpable and relevant to the issues of identity one often learns about in the classroom, like DuBois' “Souls of Black Folk,” or in the world after college, when a post-racial society will likely be a dream still being achieved.

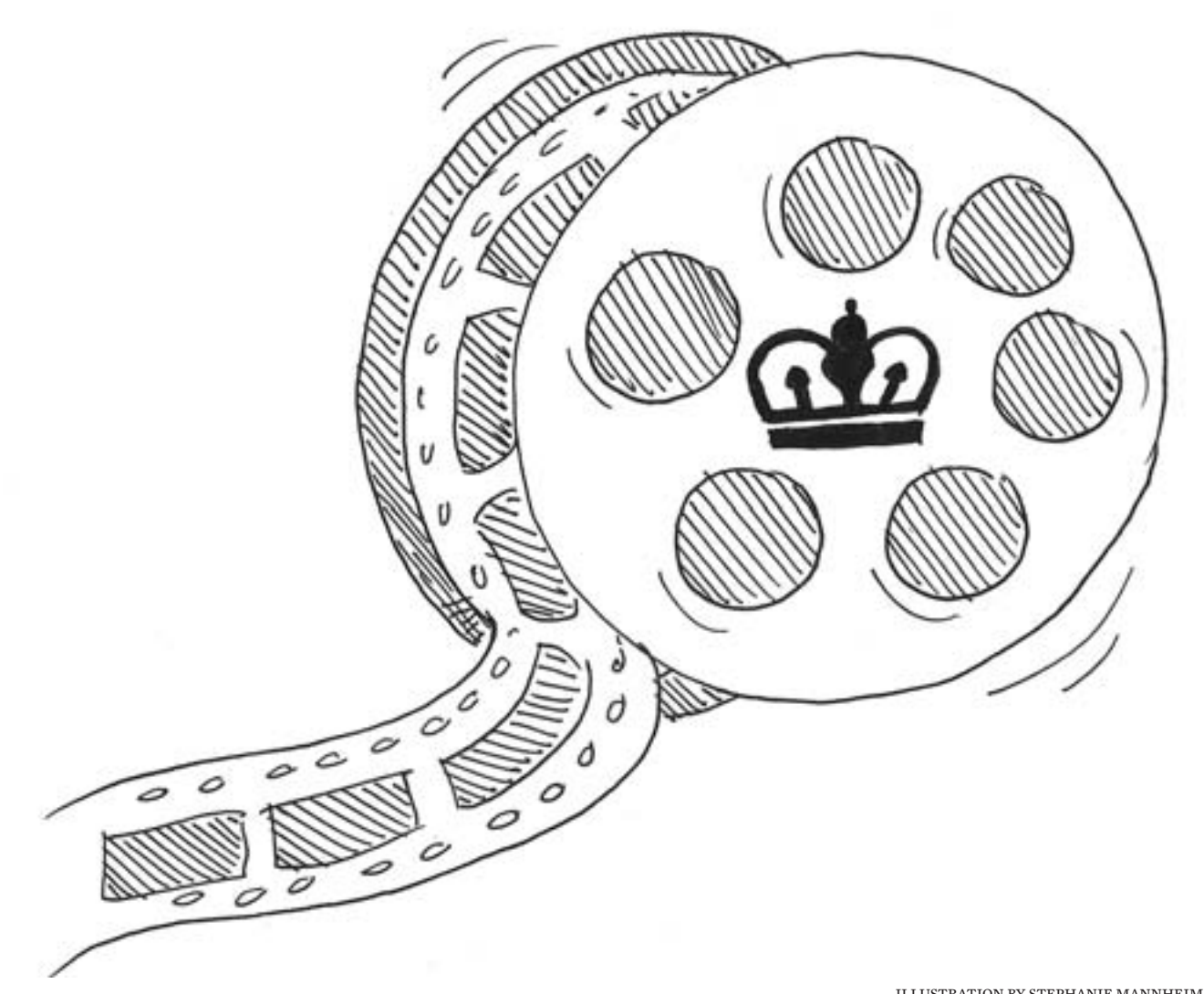


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE MANNHEIM

# CUFP welcomes spring with film festival

BY ANNELIESE COOPER  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

They've probably been seen around campus—toting heavy bags of equipment, slipping away for weekend-long shoots, stumbling bleary-eyed out of Dodge Hall instead of Butler. They are the few, the proud, the members of Columbia University Film Production, the primary filmmaking organization on campus. This past Saturday, April 23, marked the club's annual Spring Festival, a showcase featuring five films chartered by CUFP in its year-long production season. A dozen other shorts, made by film and econ majors alike, for classes or for fun, were also shown.

Indeed, one of the most noteworthy things about these films was their diversity, both of subject matter and of style. A majority touched on some issue of undergraduate life—an understandable focus, given the common age and occupation of their creators. However, the films still managed to cover a substantial range of topics, from a young couple's troubled marriage to a couple of friends' trouble with hypnosis, from the ethics of doing a love interest's homework to the ethics of kidnapping her and harvesting a vital organ.

Perhaps the most impressive thing about these films, though, is that they were even made at all.

Filmmaking is an especially time-consuming, even grueling enterprise, particularly when taken on in addition to a liberal arts education. Even

Avi Edelman, CC '11, a film major who made his entry, “Forced Move,” for a production class, found himself juggling the impossible time constraints of classes, extracurricular commitments, and an internship, let alone his own production schedule. “I was working 20 hour days twice a week, then pulling all-nighters before and after,” Edelman said. “It was definitely difficult.”

Still, CUFP is willing, if not eager, to cater to students. “The way CUFP has distinguished itself from other film groups is that our main goal is to give people who want to make movies the opportunity to make them, or to learn how to make them,” said Blair McClendon, CC '13, this year's Festival Director and a contributing filmmaker.

For example, the CUFP website hosts a “Production Resources” tab, which McClendon used for his own film, “Bathing Woman.” He tried to wrangle professional actors willing to work under the constraints of a meager student budget “for free, and maybe some food”—an offer that managed to garner hundreds of responses through the site. CUFP will even rent equipment for free, provided that one has worked with their crew at least once, “so you'll be familiar with the equipment, but also so we can get people working together,” McClendon said.

“The film industry can be very competitive and stressful,” Edelman said, “but with this festival, it seemed like the goal was really to showcase student work, not to put things in competition

with one another. The atmosphere was really enjoyable—people seemed genuinely excited to see what each other had done.”

This fostering of camaraderie may be CUFP's greatest accomplishment yet—one highlighted by their invitation to members of Authorized Dealer Films to speak at the end of this year's festival. The representatives discussed their upcoming project, the Alphabet City Dolly Film Festival, which will help to put local independent films in Alphabet City venues this August. “They're also doing something that I think a lot of people think is kind of impossible,” McClendon said. “They're not connected to a studio—they're just making movies—and they realized that the best way to do this is if they join together, which is the same message CUFP is sending out: If you go to Columbia, and you're doing something in film, we want to help you. And, more importantly, there are other people here who want to work with you.”

Ultimately, this is the exciting and even inspiring impact of the Spring Festival in celebrating this tight-knit community, reinvigorating it, and encouraging new members to come into the fold. “As much as it is for these people who have made a film and finally have a place to show it, it's also for those people in the audience who have been thinking about making a movie, to see that it is possible,” McClendon said. “It's hard work, but it's possible.”



ILLUSTRATION BY REBECCA SCHWARZ

# Eco-friendly stores and sites offer easy options to green student wardrobes

BY GEETIKA RUDRA  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

From the recycling bins all over campus to the locally grown produce served in John Jay, there are numerous ways to help the environment. Students can conserve water or recycle plastic bottles, but one of the easiest ways to help the environment starts in the closet—making eco-friendly clothing choices that will have a positive impact on both the environment and the wallet.

The idea of eco-friendly clothing may seem strange and complicated, but learning a few key guidelines will help make the switch much easier.

The term “eco-friendly clothing” refers to clothing that is either vegan, ethically produced, fair trade certified, organic, or recycled. Clothes that are certified vegan are made without the use of leather or animal products.

Ethically produced clothing has received Organic and Fair Trade certifications after meeting sustainability standards set by fair trade organizations, such as TransFair.

Organic clothes are made from natural fibers that have not been exposed to pesticides and other toxic materials harmful to humans and the environment. Clothes are certified organic by various nonprofit organizations. Recycled clothing, as the name suggests, is made from previously worn garments that have been repurposed.

The city is full of stores specializing in eco-friendly fashions. Moo Shoes (78 Orchard St., between Grand and Broome streets) is a shoe shop that only sells shoes made of faux-leather. Buffalo Exchange (504 Driggs Ave.,

at 9th Street) sells recycled and thrift clothes that combine environmental consciousness with vintage chic. For clothes that have been certified ethical, Kaight (83 Orchard St., between Grand and Broome streets) exclusively sells clothes made by companies that abide by fair trade labor and standard laws.

Eco-friendly clothing has grown popular online as well. Buygreen.com, a California-based website, only sells products made from green source material and ethical manufacturing practices. Bynature.com.au, based in the United Kingdom, sells not only environmentally conscious clothes but also products ranging from dorm room to travel accessories. Juteandjackfruit.com, based in Mass., sells certified fair trade clothes along with products from independent designers, who would not ordinarily have the opportunity to sell their collections to the public.

Aside from buying eco-friendly clothing, there are numerous volunteer opportunities for the environmentally conscious and fashion aware. Fashioning an Ethical Industry is an international organization that works to increase awareness on the negative impact fashion industry production can have in third world countries. The Fair Wear Foundation works to influence companies to create products that are good for the environment and for laborers.

The fashion industry wields enormous influence on international standards for fair labor and environmentalism. Increasing the demand for eco-friendly clothing will encourage the industry to produce more sustainable products.



ILLUSTRATION BY REBECCA SCHWARZ

# Escape from concrete jungle with picnic getaways

BY MELISSA HANEY  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

There is nothing quite like a picnic in the park. With the sun shining, dogs barking, and green leaves blowing, escaping into the New York City-style wilderness with some great friends and good food provides a last-minute moment of serenity before the excitement of summer begins.

While the Low Steps provide the quickest option for an al fresco experience, dining alongside Alma Mater and that guy from econ class doesn't necessarily amount to a calming relaxation. For that, all one must do is stroll down to either Riverside or Central Park, both of which are mere blocks away from campus. At these two locations, all real estate is prime—settle down far away from the streets, and the honking horns and

screaming sirens become nothing but a dim murmur overpowered by chirping birds (not pigeons) and enthralling conversation.

Morningside Heights offers some fantastic options to fill that wicker basket to the brim, whether one is set on indulging in a classic sandwich and potato chip combination or is in the mood for something a bit more exotic. SubsConscious (1213 Amsterdam Ave., at 120th Street) offers made-to-order 10-inch hoagies—opt for a cold one, such as the Columbia Cold Combo, which won't get all mushy in-transit and can be shared with friends upon arrival. Westside Market (2840 Broadway at 110th Street) is one stop shopping for those looking to stray from the all-American picnic fair. As tempting as it is, stay away from the sushi—raw fish and the hot sun do not make for a happy stomach. Instead, pick up

some tropical fruit, steamed dumplings, or homemade tortilla with fresh salsa. Milano Market (2892 Broadway, between 112th and 113th streets) is perfect for students desiring nothing more than an easily transportable and decent loaf of bread paired with some quality olives and cheese.

Yet, no matter how delicious the best picnic fare may be, nothing makes for a better escape from end-of-the-year craziness than an impromptu getaway with friends, all about to embark on their own vacations. So, when the sun comes up, run down to some Morningside eateries and pick up instant (and delicious) outdoor eats. Or just grab an apple from John Jay and use that saved money for a treat at the Mister Softee truck on the way back. Either way, a group venture to some of New York City's natural havens in this glorious time of year is a must.





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# Reading between the lines

I called writing “my first love” in my college personal statement, and I’ve done a lot of it during my four years at Columbia. I’ve written pages on Dante, Descartes, Foucault, and Faulkner, and countless blue books-worth of term identifications and passage analyses. I’ve close read, I’ve compared and contrasted, I’ve problematized. Veni, vidi, vici.

As the last few weeks of the semester race by and I struggle to tie a pretty red bow on my college career, I wonder whether those double-spaced Word documents were it—whether the thesis statements written in Butler study rooms somehow capture the life I’ve led here. In my room back home, there’s an ever-growing stack of folders and notebooks from semesters past, and I wonder whether those pages are accurate articulations of those semesters at all. Yes, I have opinions on things now, and I can capitalize words like “the Other” and see allusions to “The Odyssey” everywhere, but was that what my sixteen-year-old self meant by “first love”?

We all had those first loves we carried with us to Columbia, and Columbia makes it remarkably easy to let those loves die. I noticed it my first year. Those moments of small talk waiting for elevators or lingering after closing time at JJ’s always seemed to rotate around the same conversational fixture—how much work you had to do and how little time you had to complete it. But we were learning quickly: how to skim, what to underline, how to construct arguments, what made good essay topics. As time went on, our feats became more impressive—a paper due on Monday we hadn’t begun research on, a paper due tomorrow on a book we hadn’t read yet. We wrote and received a letter grade in return. There was something rote about our intellectual process, something safe.

## If Graduation is Judgment Day, I hope I have more to show for the past four years than a stack of papers.

But that’s not love. Love is a thought that won’t let go, at once both haunting and promising. It keeps you up at night and not because you’re fueled on Red Bull or because a deadline looms overhead or because you need anything in return at all. Somewhere along the way to finals week, we forget that. Perhaps it’s because we’re not in high school anymore, and we no longer feel the need to impress a college admissions committee with our genuine curiosity and extraordinary talents, that we let both fall to the wayside. Or maybe it’s because we feel the opposite, the pressure of graduate schools and competitive job markets that care little for our passions and pursuits. Either way, it’s a compromise we can’t allow ourselves to make.

Mark Twain famously declared that he never let his schooling interfere with his education. That’s all very witty and fine, but it’s particularly difficult to follow his advice when that schooling is the Core, when those old Greek names etched onto Butler’s façade stare down at you expectantly. Perhaps what keeps us from living and learning with the kind of pure, naïve love we felt before coming here is just fear. It’s far less scary to go through the motions of an education than to take the emotional leap of faith necessary to actually pursue one—to be affected by what we read, to write driven by desire, not word count.

If Graduation is Judgment Day—and as mine approaches, the metaphor becomes more and more apt—I really hope I have more to show for the past four years than a stack of papers in the corner of my room. What these years have meant to me won’t be in the lines but between them.

I won’t remember the grade I received on my first Lit Hum final, but I will remember studying for it with friends over pizza at Pinnacle, answering questions that never showed up on the exam. I’ll remember the sleepless dark nights spent writing stories more vividly than the workshops after. I’ll throw away those old notebooks in time, but I’ll never forget the way the world outside looks just a little bit different after walking out of an amazing lecture. Those were moments of true love my sixteen-year-old self wanted me to have. Those were moments I felt closest to those Greek names on Butler.

If the deadening weight of school ever threatens to extinguish the love you came here with, don’t let it. We were wiser than we knew when we wrote those college personal statements. Remember the person that naïve teenager wanted to be. Be that person, and more.

*Aarti Iyer is a Columbia College senior majoring in creative writing. She is the former editor-in-chief of The Fed. Culture Vulture runs alternate Tuesdays.*

## Rushing to the core

CC, as our acronym-loving campus has so affectionately dubbed Contemporary Civilization, is a treasure trove of thought. Regardless of whether students will use the course content to actually explore great questions of civilization, stock up for erudite dinner-party name dropping, or nothing at all, I feel strongly that the class is one of the most potentially enriching of the Core.

Yet as two semesters of the class come to an end, I wonder: Of the centuries of great political and social thought presented, how much have I really learned? I can’t speak for everyone, but I know that I am not alone in saying that despite good intentions, CC “reading” has often been late-night speed-skimming, if it happened at all. In an ideal world, it would be nice to sit down and really grapple with the texts, throwing myself into the mind of the author to discover the greater implications. But the reality is that when CC is just another four credits in an often over-ambitious schedule, it is often difficult to give it any real priority—come semester’s end, all I feel I have is a blur of names and vague concepts to take with me.

In retrospect, I wonder what would have happened if I had decided to wait to take CC. Unlike first-years’



AARTI IYER

**Culture Vulture**

# America, the land Lit Hum forgot

BY LANBO ZHANG

Soon the last of us will close the cover on “To the Lighthouse.” Some cannot wait for that moment to come. Others will find solace in the saying: “All good things come to an end.” Everybody will fill out a course survey with the question: “What did Lit Hum lack?” Before you answer, consider the following Lit Hum quandary.

Print out a map of the world. Not a Google Earth one, just one that has water in black and land in white. If you don’t know any geography, print out some country labels too. Then go steal a crayon from the nearest six-year-old. Next, color in what you consider to be the Western world.

At this point my Lit Hum professor would throw his arms up, protesting that the “Western world” is impossible to define because it is influenced by countless “Eastern” traditions. While he has a point, take an intellectual leap of faith for the sake of the exercise and assume that the concept of a Western world exists. What parts of the world would you color in?

Almost a century ago, the creators of what is now Lit Hum took this leap of faith and applied some color to Greece. Magically, “The Iliad” appeared on the Lit Hum syllabus. From there they began to expand into other parts of Europe. At some point they celebrated their seventh birthdays and bequeathed their crayon to the next lot of six-year-olds, who did some more coloring. At this point Columbia students were reading books by guys such as Virgil and Augustine. This magical crayon is now in the hands of some mysterious committee of Lit Hum gods who make decisions regarding the reading list.

We all know what this committee has colored in. If every work in Lit Hum work counted as one shade of color, then France, Spain, and Russia are pretty pale, England is two shades darker, Italy and the Near East (counting the bible as separate works) have a full five shades, and Greece has so much crayon on it that the paper becomes three dimensional. America is colorless.



JEREMY BLEEKE

Masterpieces of Western Literature and Philosophy—“Lit Hum” to the in-crowd—students are not preregistered for CC, although it is overwhelmingly a sophomore class. This immediate transition seems to be designed by the Core, and we all follow along. Yet even without this institutionalization, I am willing to bet we would see much of the same trend as students push to “get through” the Core as soon as possible. It’s no secret that value of some Core requirements is questioned among students, but I would like to think this is one worth taking. For those looking to make the most of CC, is it worth it to put it off for a semester or two?

My own CC instructor, Professor Courtney Bender of the religion department, first points out that CC was designed before our current “schedules-on-steroids” were the norm, but the curriculum has changed little to meet today’s realities. Without launching into a screed on the state of the Core, I have to agree. The staple classes of the Core (CC, the “Hums,” Frontiers, University Writing) tally up to 29 credits, enough for another major. Waiting to take CC until some fictional semester when there is nothing but time seems like a futile effort in procrastination—putting off the inevitable in the hope of better conditions to internalize the material.

But for those with a plan (or at least some desperate hope), there may indeed be a “better semester” to confront the likes of Marx and Hegel. If you care enough (and that is the big “if”), why not make every effort to find the best time to really understand the CC texts? Bender responds to this with an ostensibly anti-academic claim: CC is not about

The Lit Hum syllabus is already long, and many of the works are staples that will be read beyond eternity. But surely, not all of the works are sacred. Why do we need the Homeric “Hymn to Demeter” when we already have “The Iliad” and “The Odyssey”? Is Thucydides really worth reading after Herodotus? Do we really need four books from the Bible? Meanwhile it seems that other writers are on the syllabus not least because they increase its demographic breath. By literary influence alone, I can’t see how we can objectively choose Dostoevsky over Dickens or Woolf over Eliot. By including Cervantes, Austen, Dostoevsky, and Woolf, we broaden the focus of a syllabus that could easily have had Milton, Scott, Orwell, and more Shakespeare.

## Not all of the works in Literature Humanities are sacred.

While gladly rejecting the literary hegemony of dead, white Englishmen—but interestingly not dead, white Greek men—by listing works from two women, a Russian, and a Spaniard, the gods of the Lit Hum syllabus have forgotten that American literature had equally profound influences. Many argue that as Americans (mostly), Columbia students have read American works in high school. Yet Classical “masterpieces” such as “The Iliad” are read widely in high school as well. Ironically, this is due in no small part to the influence of Columbia’s Core Curriculum and its signature course—Literature Humanities. By helping to establish the tradition of reading Classical works as part of a liberal education, Lit Hum put Homer on a pedestal in the world of American academia. If anybody wants to argue that American works have no place in Lit Hum because they are already read, then by the same reasoning, we should toss “The Iliad” and “The Odyssey” out of the window first.

Don’t get me wrong. I love Lit Hum. I just wished that after seeing Dante in hell and going to the lighthouse with James Ramsay, I could have rafted down the Mississippi with Huck Finn as well.

*The author is a Columbia College first-year. He is a Spectator associate editorial page editor.*

mastery. Going through two books a week in less than four hours of discussion cannot possibly be meant to reach the heart of a text. A lighter semester might give more time to devote to processing the texts, but it is doubtful it would have radically altered the experience. Are my fellow sympathizers and I doomed to forever feel cheated by CC?

Very quickly it becomes apparent that names like Freud and Plato are not confined to the Core, but show up again and again in the liberal arts experience and in life. Maybe the value of CC as a sophomore lies not in being able to quote Kant’s categorical imperative years (or weeks) later, but in having been exposed to it at all. CC is hopefully just the first of many exposures to the ideas that make up our society.

Deferring CC is always an option, but for those who would like to treat the Core as its namesake suggests, I have been lead to think there is no wrong time to take the class. The comfort may lie in the fact that no matter when, we probably can never take it all in. It may require exposure in another class, in a few more years, or it may never happen.

This summer, Professor Bender will be teaching a one-day CC course for College alumni wishing to relive the Core experience. If a college degree and time still have left them feeling like there is more to learn, then maybe despite my feeling of a wasted opportunity, I’ve taken out just what I was supposed to from the class.

*Derek Arthur is a Columbia College sophomore. Shining Bright Blue runs alternate Tuesdays.*



Senior columns

Former Spectator staff share their experiences and thoughts before graduation. Today we hear from Maggie Astor, Angela Radulescu, and Scott Levi.

Sunrise with Spec

BY MAGGIE ASTOR

Back in August 2007, an awkward 17-year-old sat on a pile of boxes in a chalked-out square on Broadway. It's hard for me to recognize her now. Since then, I've been on a conference call with President Barack Obama and a yacht with Tommy Hilfiger, interviewed a homeless man who lays flowers daily on the "Imagine" mosaic in Central Park, ridden every subway line on a single MetroCard swipe, walked from Inwood to Battery Park, spent a night at an impound lot off the West Side Highway, and joined the Coney Island Polar Bear Plunge.

When I got out of the 40-degree water, I called the editor who had assigned the story and informed him, teeth chattering, that I hated him. His response: "Wait, you actually *did* that?"

The naiveté didn't last long. By my second semester I had fallen, completely by accident, into the Manhattanville beat. It started innocently enough, with a light feature on Floridita owner Ramon Diaz. But a month later, I found myself in his office, rifling through canceled rent checks and trying to piece together a dispute between him and Columbia, which I ended up covering for the better part of three years.

Then I started reporting on eminent domain. I didn't even know what the term meant before 2008, but that beat became my baby. I wrote about it so much that, by junior year, I could regurgitate three paragraphs of background in a minute and reel off a dozen sources' cell numbers. I followed the legal battle through the New York State Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals. All of a sudden, that girl from August 2007—now 19 and a little less awkward—was writing 2,000-word analyses on property law precedent and dropping everything for breaking news.

On Dec. 3, 2009, I woke up to a phone call from Diaz, who told me in a fit of excitement that the state Supreme Court had just ruled against eminent domain. I tabled my colloquium research paper for yet another day (any Speccie who's covered Manhattanville knows news *always* breaks near finals) and had a story online within the hour—before the New York Times. If I had one "holy shit, I'm a real reporter" moment, that was it.

A month later, I joined the 134th managing board as head copy editor and gained a whole new slew of unforgettable moments, like falling backward over chairs and seeing K4 translate articles into runes. It was damn hard at first to balance five nights at Spec, 17 credits, and 10 hours of work-study, but it became a routine: up at 10 a.m., class/work until 7:30, dinner en route to the office, home by midnight, work until 5 a.m.

Maybe I forfeited the “normal” college experience, but why is that bad?

When it ended after two absurd days in the office interviewing our successors and coining "FU" jokes, far from being relieved, I was devastated. On the last night, the MB gathered to talk about what Spec had meant to us. Most of us cried. Later, we sat in complete silence as the year trickled away.

I've spent most of college at Spec. I celebrated my 19th, 20th, and 21st birthdays there, finished a dozen papers there, and wrote and edited hundreds of articles there. Sure, I made friends elsewhere, including my boyfriend, but I didn't feel like he *really* knew me until he'd seen me spend 15 straight hours in the office, surrounded by empty Diet Coke cans and Chipotle bags.

A lot of Speccies talk about how much they gave away in grades and sleep, but that's not how I remember it. I remember the friendships I made while sitting under fluorescent lights, frantically pulling together breaking news, editing thousands of words only for K4 to crash at the end, and catching tiny mistakes on printouts as the sun rose. Maybe I forfeited the "normal" college experience, but why is that bad?

Every time I read a Manhattanville article now, I feel a little twinge because I didn't write it—because I'm not part of that world of adrenaline and all-hours camaraderie anymore. But I was, and that was worth everything I gave up.

To the unforgettable Speccies who were part of it with me (I can't list everyone—blame the word count—but you know who you are, and I love you):

Alix: The only other 2011 newsie who stuck it out through 134. We ranted a lot (remember, committing murder within our coverage area is for days when we're *really* low on content), but I know neither of us wanted it to end.

Sam: My co-city deputy and the best-ever Speccie at lightening the mood in the office at 4 a.m.

Alix, Lydia, Mary, and Scott: I kept all of your end-of-night emails. Thanks for reminding me why we put up with last-minute wiki panics and 5 a.m. printouts.

Ben: I'm sorry for yelling at you freshman year—but hey, remember that time we PDFed at midnight?!

Akhil: Long live the anti-possessive-plurals squad. And I'm expecting that email on June 1.

Copy: You guys made every single night as HCE worth it. I'll consider myself lucky if I ever have quite that much fun again.

134: I love you. And I won't forget to write my segue on the door on my way out.

*The author is a Barnard College senior majoring in political science. She is a former Spectator head copy editor, deputy news editor, and associate news editor.*

Memory montage

BY ANGELA RADULESCU

Photographs are not easy to make. It takes a shred of courage to introduce a camera into an instant, and it takes even more audacity to ask someone to forget the little devil is there and go about his or her life as if you're not creating a permanent record of it. Above all, though, the exchange between photographer and subject requires letting go of all that is seemingly known and thrusting forward into a momentary lapse of openness with each other. While poses and illustrations can exist without this intimate trust, a truly moving photograph can't. Images of all kinds can deceive and detract. But some photographs reveal the story, the character, or both in a single instant in which what one takes one also gives back, from either side of the camera. To be a documentary photographer, one learns how to trust others, even if for just a second. And to give permanence to this art, one has to trust oneself.

I was a very confused kid when I first set foot on campus. A shy, clumsy girl and first-generation immigrant (my official denomination continues to be "non-resident alien"), I had no idea that it is here at Columbia where every year the best men and women who spend their lives entrusted with the stories of others gather to be honored in Journalism Hall. Without being sure why, I had chosen New York over the dry streets of Pasadena, Calif., but I was still convinced I was going to be a biophysicist. I was ready to isolate myself in work and to live split in two, like I had seen many of

my Romanian friends do when coming here for college. I brought my mind and ambition to New York, but left everything else back home. I came to Columbia a foreigner and I didn't know how to fabricate familiarity and find trust, either in others or in myself.

When I was not in one piece freshman year, Spectator put me back together, one issue at a time.

And then Spectator happened. It is no exaggeration to say that when I was not in one piece freshman year, Spectator put me back together, one issue at a time. I could spend a while recounting moments that made my time at the paper the most formative and rewarding in college. There's poetry to those lonely West Harlem strolls while on assignment. There's adventure, the childish kind, in chasing CPC protesters down Broadway or in having brushes with the NYPD after breaking into abandoned buildings. There's masochistic tenacity in staying up until 4 a.m. on a daily basis working with others to make this daily happen every morning. And there's a thrill (I'd be hard pressed to describe it in words) to standing on a hill at sunset and watching thousands of people rush for a spot near the stage on which Barack Obama was about to speak the evening of November 4, 2008.

But beyond discovering the exhilarating fervor of storytelling, for me Spectator meant finding

people to look up to, to learn from, and to trust. I owe many more of you than I can name here thanks for helping me find my way:

Anjali, for trusting a temperamental, arrogant, and absolutely clueless freshman with a deputy editor job.

Joey, Isabelle, Jenny, Linda, Colin, Ian, Lila, Kristina, Mira, Ajit, Daniel, Alanna.

Yipeng, for that time we labored for 20 hours straight over a Year-in-Review supplement.

Haley, for listening to me at all the right times.

Betsy, for dreaming along, on the South Side and elsewhere.

Ben, Thomas, Dino, Raf, Ryan, for that first dinner at Pisticci.

Joy, for convincing me that even in the most difficult moments, one can "compromise and talk and grow."

Tina, for showing me time and again what good photography looks like.

Embry, for doing a way better job than I ever did.

Maggie, Mel, for being here, now, laughing at dinosaurs.

And last but not least, Dani, for passing me for your Swiss assistant at that Hillary rally and for being the best friend one could imagine ever since.

I don't know where all that started at 2875 Broadway will take me. I'm not sure I have the courage it takes to continue in journalism. But for giving me some of it, Spectator, I owe you. And I'm darn glad I trusted you.

Now... about those bleachers.

*The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in neuroscience and behavior. She is a former Spectator deputy photo news editor, photo editor, current opinion columnist.*



The Hardy Boy of Spec

BY SCOTT LEVI

The first article I was assigned to write for Spectator nearly drove me away from the paper. I was charged with discovering why what is now Barnard's Diana Center—then called the Nexus—had fallen behind its construction schedule. For a full week, I loitered outside the construction site in my free time, peering into the small opening in the makeshift gate in some vain effort to flag down construction workers for the "scoop on the street."

The strategy copied The Hardy Boys: amid the clunkers and the clatters, survey the workers for insider information that might later draw truths from high-profile Barnard administrators. The outcome copied the Pink Panther, with days of possible ear damage, calls to a friend complaining about how I hated Spectator, and robotic responses from workers that I should "speak to a manager." Concisely—zilch.

As I look back on my four years at Spectator it astounds me to consider all of the lessons I would not have learned, the professors, neighborhood residents, city council members, editors, and photographers I would not have met, and the quirks I would not have adopted had I just dropped out then and joined Bwog.

I would likely not know the value of acting fast to retain cell phone numbers in my contacts list at the close of a conversation, or place among my list of secret fantasies the opportunity to interview back-to-back the Manhattan Borough president, a famous Harlem pastor, and a US House

representative—a dream that realized when I attended an event in 2008. I would likely not be able to whip meager quotes into a story at 7 p.m. through a combination of nagging the right people and carefully contextualizing.

But most vitally, Spectator taught me to not underestimate the richness of the environment around me as a place where relevant stories could be born. Turning tips into full-fledged stories or apparent non-issues into real, important issues—as at the Barnard construction site—implied the fearsome consequence of being ignored or even reproached by sources who wanted everything but to speak to Spectator.

I agree that reporters may create more news than they record. Yet at Spectator, I found that fascinating narratives emerged through slow, self-assured probing of uncertain intuitions, and through interview after interview that expanded upon accumulating piles of once-scanty information.

Spectator taught me to not underestimate the richness of the environment around me.

Don't get me wrong. Patient fact-finding did not always work in Spectator's favor. In fact, at times it ended in harsh reproof: a message from a professor that my question made him laugh out loud, sharp accusations of prejudice, and cries by local residents of unsupported coverage. When sitting down with a professor to discuss a heated issue, such as the debate on Palestinian academic freedoms that shook the faculty two years ago or

the never-formed African studies institute, I felt like I was the one being interrogated. Where was I going with my inquiries? Who was "some people"? Could my background challenge my ability to objectively cover a topic?

The hours of question-writing, Googling, and transcribing that I devoted while writing long-form analysis pieces for Spectator led me to shed my naturally timid inhibitions to aggressively investigate problems. Finally confident that I could balance cautious restraint with calculated risk-taking to compose a controversial, interesting, and important article, I did not let my fears prevent me from developing the underdeveloped story.

In the best circumstances, my editors' prodding reaped products unattainable with a less daring temperament. Our investigations unmasked a landscape of issues that had brewed for years but never crystallized, like the creeping movement to overhaul a nucleus of the Columbia bureaucracy or the trends leading to the opening of Columbia's global centers.

The truth was that I always knew that there were stories to be unearthed around me. But I failed to realize that I had it in me to confront the dual prospect of breaking news or wasted hours of reporting.

Had I known this while contemplating trespassing on the Barnard construction site four years ago, I might have been able to pull off the Hardy Boys solution. But the process of arriving there—through the cell phone number storing, the nagging, and the realizing of my fantasies—made for half the fun.

*The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in Hispanic Studies with concentrations in philosophy and linguistics. He is a former Spectator copy staffer, associate news editor, senior staff writer, and training editor.*

WENDAN LI



# Penn and Dartmouth tied at second place in Conference

AROUND THE LEAGUE, from page 2

during which senior third baseman Dan Williams broke Penn's all-time hit record, recording four hits and ending the day with 196, surpassing the previous record of 194. Despite Sunday's record-setting performances, the Quakers were defeated by Cornell in both games on Monday, losing 3-0 and 13-4 respectively. Penn next play the Lions here in New York on Friday before hosting the Light Blue on Saturday.

PRINCETON

The Tigers (12-4) lead the league with the best record. The weather didn't cooperate with Princeton last week, as their first midweek game against St. John's was cancelled. The Tigers managed to play their second midweek-game, at Monmouth in West Long Branch, N.J., losing 5-1. Following the loss, the

Tigers geared up to play the Light Blue for a four-game series. Even though the Tigers lost game one on Sunday—the Lions scored four times in the top of the ninth—Princeton battled back to defeat the Light Blue in game two on Sunday and in both of Monday's games. The Tigers host Rider this Wednesday before playing Cornell on the weekend, and wrap things up with a fixture against Delaware on May 3.

YALE

The Bulldogs (10-6) struggled on the road this week, losing three of five games. Yale was handily defeated at Army, losing 10-2 after the Army's Black Knights had a nine-run third inning, breaking open what was a tied affair at 1-1. Last weekend the Bulldogs split both Friday's and Saturday's doubleheaders against Harvard. Today Yale plays Holy Cross, and will take on Brown this weekend.

# SGA grants IGC stage two recognition

IGC VOTE from front page

SGA representative to the Columbia College Student Council, said that the individual chapters were the ones to be held responsible for holding events on Barnard's campus, not the IGC.

"I know that a lot of activities are not governing board-initiated, they are club-initiated. I think that asking IGC to program as a club doesn't make sense," she said, pointing to Alpha Chi Omega's bi-weekly study sessions at the Diana Center, which used to be held in Butler Library.

Although the vote passed, it showed that the issues surrounding Greek organizations' role at Barnard haven't been fully resolved.

"We are starting the year and ending the year with the Greek life debate," Lara Avasar, BC '11 and outgoing SGA president, said.

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# Four years of memories of the court and pitch

SOMMER from page 2

it any other way.

Now, I have some people to thank:

JTay, you told me at my first Spec Sports meeting that I could have a byline that week, and since then, I've been part of the section. Thank you for getting me involved.

Coach McCarthy and Coach Nixon, thank you for so graciously teaching me about your respective teams. Your insights have been invaluable.

To the student-athletes whom I have interviewed, thank you for sharing your experiences with me.

Dan, Pete, and Darlene, thank you for all of your help.

Paul and Lynn, thank you for teaching me how to write sports stories.

Matt, Holly, and Lisa, thank you for being my mentors and friends.

To all of my editors, thank you for your hard work.

Laura, thank you for being an amazing, caring friend. I'm so glad I met you and have lived (and laughed) with you for the past two years.

I'm extremely proud to say that I spent most of my weekends at least one Columbia sporting event.

Sara Pro, even though you're all the way in Paris, I always think about you. Thank you for being such a good (and silly!) friend and suitemate.

Ashley, I'm so happy that we've become close friends this year. Thank you for being so kind and for being a great TV buddy.

Aviva, thank you for being a wonderful chef and suitemate.

Aileen, thank you for all of the laughs. It's been great to live with you.

Hadas, thank you for being an awesome friend. I've missed taking classes with you.

Miriam, you will always be my next-door neighbor and one of my best friends. Thank you for all of the good times.

Elana, Becca, Rachel, and Maddie, I'm so lucky to have known you for so many years, and I know that we will remain close friends for years to come. Thank you for all of the fun we've had.

Sharon, thank you for being a wonderful big sister. I love you.

Mom and Pop, thank you for reading every article for the past four years and for supporting me for so much longer than that. I love you.

Spec Sports, it's been fun. Joe Bova!

Sarah Sommer is a senior in Barnard College majoring in English.

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AL MAKES HISTORY | Senior Alex Ferrara struck the 17th home run of his Columbia career, good for ninth all-time at CU.

# Light Blue baseball unable to hold onto leads

BASEBALL from page 2

Princeton took the lead back in the bottom of the inning, though, with a pair of two-out hits, and that margin maintained to the finish.

In game two, Princeton starter Kevin Link—coming off of an injury—was knocked out in the fifth inning when, after a Ferraresi single, senior shortstop Alex Ferrera homered to dead center to give Columbia a 2-0 lead. Reliever Matt Grabowski had control problems at first, walking three of the first five batters he faced, but settled in to pick up the slack and hold the Lions scoreless for the rest of the game. Meanwhile, after breaking Whitaker's perfect game with one out in the fifth, the Tigers struck for three runs in the sixth on a barrage of five singles, two of which came with two outs to score the tying and go-ahead

runs. Princeton added one in the eighth to make it 4-2. After a leadoff single from Ferraresi in the ninth, Grabowski closed out the game and Columbia's hopes of a repeat entry to the Ivy Championship, and guaranteed at least a tie for Princeton for the division title.

"I thought they had a pretty good set of arms overall ... but at the same time, I think that they were definitely hittable," Whitaker said of the Princeton pitchers the Lions faced. "I don't think it was the best pitching we've faced all year, but you've got to give credit to those guys. They did their job."

Coming into the season, expectations were high for a Columbia team that returned most of its starters after reaching the Championship series last season.

"I can say in all honesty that I expected to not only win the Ivy

League Championship but then compete in the regional, and win a game or win a few games in the regional as well," Bracey said. "I think that was sort of the mindset from top to bottom, from Coach Boretti all the way down to the guys who hadn't even been here yet."

The team started the season with its best record after its spring break trip in over 20 years, but faced struggles upon returning north that continued into Ivy play.

"We might have a game when we were hitting the ball real well and we were fielding alright, but our pitching wasn't great, and then we had games, sort of like today, where our pitching was really good but we just didn't really hit the ball too well," Bracey said. "I'd say that's kind of the way the season broke down for us."

For a senior class which includes two starting pitchers

that did all they could for their team in its final opportunity to remain in contention, the idea that a championship title now eludes their reach is certainly disappointing. There remain six games to be played in the season, though, and four against Ivy rival Penn, who would be eliminated from contention with a single loss or one Princeton victory. The Lions' drive to succeed remains strong.

"We want to beat Penn bad," Boretti said with a chuckle.

"It would be nice to knock them out of the playoffs and kind of play the spoiler for them," Bracey agreed. "I think finishing on a strong note and kind of bouncing back from this weekend would say a lot about the team that we have here. Our losses and our struggles are certainly not from a lack of effort. Everyone's given 100 percent every time."

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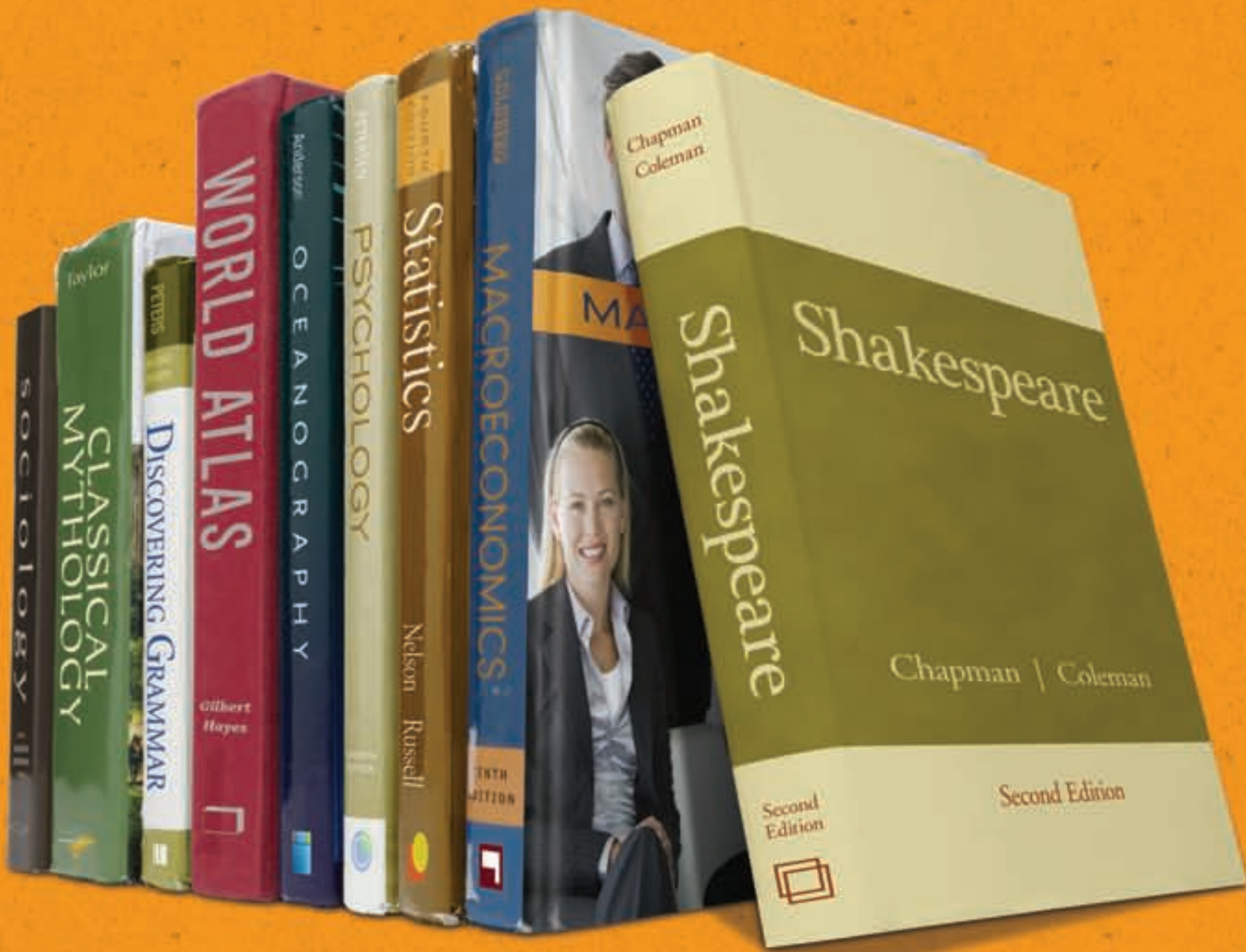


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