

INSIDE

News, page 2

Mind Matters: Finding Creativity

When faced with stressful situations, some Columbia students have found inner strength by turning to their creative sides.



A&E, page 3

Shining the spotlight on mental illness

Four A&E reporters examine the depiction of depression, bipolar disorder, and other manifestations of mental disease in the entertainment industry.

A&E, page 3

Finding a book that encapsulates the self

In her last column of the semester, Lucy Tang struggles to find the book that perfectly matches her personality, and strikes gold with the *Essays* of Montaigne.

Opinion, page 4

Handing out policy advice

Adam Sieff rebuts columnist Lauren Salz's claim that welfare programming adversely affects society.



Sports, page 10

Baseball season ends in disappointing style

Hoping for a repeat of its 2008 championship success, the baseball team attempted a series sweep of Penn this weekend but failed after dropping the second game, 11-7.

Sports, page 10

Defensive struggles hamper CU softball

Sloppy work in the field resulted in three Columbia losses this weekend. On Saturday, the Lions dropped the opener 4-3 even though the Quakers only picked up two earned runs.

ONLINE

ColumbiaSpectator.com

Your source for news
around the clock

Just like you, the news never sleeps. Check out our Web site 24/7 for campus and city news that matters to you.



Mason Fitch / Staff photographer

FIRE AND SMOKE | Residents of 600 West 113th—the Nussbaum building—were awakened on Friday morning by a fire alarm after flames broke out in neighboring Community Food & Juice restaurant.

Nussbaum dorm damaged in fire

Some students forced to
move out for rest of semester

BY SAM LEVIN
Spectator Staff Writer

After a fire broke out in neighboring restaurant Community Food & Juice at 9:40 a.m. on Friday, residents of 600 West 113th St.—the Nussbaum dorm—were evacuated from their building.

The fire was contained by 11 a.m., and FDNY firefighters left within the hour. At around noon, Columbia Housing Services sent an e-mail to the Nussbaum residents, saying that the residents of two suites should expect to move temporarily. Though Housing had not yet been able to assess the full extent of the damage, the e-mail reported “smoke and water damage, as well as some broken flooring and windows.” The Nussbaum building houses undergraduates and graduate students, as well as private tenants.

According to chief firefighter Thomas McKavanaugh, the flames originated from a “grease fire in the kitchen.” McKavanaugh confirmed that it was “all put out” by 11 a.m., adding that the fire was fully contained to the restaurant and that “only smoke, and very little” spread to the dormitory. McKavanaugh said he was grateful that the building was concrete, a factor that, he said, made the scene easy to be controlled.

According to Roberto Juárez, who works in the Community Food & Juice kitchen, the fire “started on the grill.”

“Something was cooking, and then the fire suddenly goes up,” Juárez said. “All the time, you see fire, but that was just crazy.”

SEE FIRE, page 2

Recession brings rise in TC applicants

BY JESSICA HILLS
Spectator Staff Writer

In today’s grim job market, many are turning to one profession that may have been hit less hard than others.

Educators seem to be having a relatively easier time finding employment than their job-seeking peers going after corporate positions. As both undergraduates and career-changers recognize this trend, many are deciding to pursue degrees at schools of education like Columbia’s Teachers College. TC has already seen a six percent increase in applications—roughly 300—for the summer and fall semesters combined, as well as a five percent increase in committed students compared to this time last year, according to executive director of enrollment services Tom Rock. This increase follows last year’s record number of applicants and enrolled students, and Rock said he is hoping to sustain that level.

“Certainly when there’s an



File photo

SCHOOL IS COOL | Many job-seekers are turning to careers in education during economic downturn. TC is seeing a rise in applications.

economic downturn ... graduate schools in general do see an upswing in applications,” Rock explained, though he added later that “for the teaching profession, people are looking at it because it’s through education that we’re going to create a better society.”

Service-oriented programs, such as those for education or

social work, tend to see a particularly significant increase in applicants. These programs “really see a big difference because people want to go into a graduate school where they can really feel they’re making a difference,” Rock explained. “With the economy

SEE TEACHERS, page 8

Edwards wins General Studies council presidency

BY ALIX PIANIN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

As General Studies Student Council election results came in this weekend, newly-elected leaders pointed to what may be a historic year for student government—one in which all four councils will be led by female presidents.

Katherine Edwards, current GSSC vice president of communications, won with 212 votes, and Alfred Davis, who serves on the Activities Board at Columbia, garnered 125 votes. With a combined total of 337 votes, the election marked another year of relatively low turnout for candidates listed on the ballot. While GSSC elections have not drawn many students to the polls in recent years, this year there were also technical glitches that delayed voting as well as a proliferation of write-in candidates.

Elections Commission member Emily Mousseau-Douglas said last week that delays were due to a technological issue with the web vendor that the dean’s office uses to set up the online polling.

Columbia College Student Council president-elect Sue Yang, CC ’10, said in an e-mail that she believed this was the first year that all four class councils were to be headed by women—the Engineering Student Council will be led by Whitney Green, CC ’10, and Barnard’s Student Government Association will be led by Katie Palillo, BC ’10.

Edwards said that she saw the top three priorities for next year’s GSSC as improved financial aid for General Studies students, more housing, and the distribution of Latin diplomas to GS students, whose diplomas, unlike their Columbia College and School of Engineering and Applied Science counterparts, are printed in English.

SEE GSSC RESULTS, page 8

Men’s golf captures 2009 Ivy League title

BY SARA SALZBANK
Spectator Staff Writer

The Columbia men’s golf team found itself trailing Penn by three strokes going into the last round of the Ivy League Championships. In the end, four strokes were all it took for the Lions to defeat the Quakers in a late comeback effort on the last hole and to capture the 2009 Ivy title. Columbia left the Atlantic City Country Club on Sunday with a team score of 858—one stroke ahead of Penn. Dartmouth and Yale took the third and fourth spots ahead of Princeton, Harvard, Cornell, and Brown.

Day three of the competition featured a battle between Columbia and Penn from the start. After Dartmouth—just one stroke off pace entering the final day—fell behind, the Lions and Quakers emerged as the uncontested front-runners.

The lead switched back and forth throughout the day until the Lions faced a three-stroke deficit entering the final round. But in the end, with the score tied at +10 after four of five team members had finished their rounds, the title came down to the final hole. It was a showdown of freshmen

SEE GOLF, page 7

PUT YOUR HANDS TOGETHER



Lauren Weiss / Staff photographer

HOLI DAY | Students had a messy good time with colored chalk powder to celebrate Holi, the Hindu festival of colors.

V115: A spectacle long in the making

For the past several months, A&E reporter Maddy Kloss has been interviewing members of the cast and crew, sitting in on select rehearsals, and speaking to Varsity Show alumni about their experiences to investigate the culture surrounding the beloved campus tradition. This installment of the series examines the show’s creative process.

BY MADDY KLOSS
Spectator Staff Writer

It is early March. The three writers of the Varsity Show sit in separate armchairs in Lerner Party Space, laptops in hand, prepared to make some final changes to the script before a preview performance.

When prompted with questions about their work on this year’s production, they effortlessly finish each other’s sentences, gliding from point to point as if they’ve rehearsed the conversation beforehand. It’s clear that the trio has been working together for many hours, so this type of talk flows naturally.

It’s no surprise, then, that the word that best describes the annual effort behind the Varsity Show is



Ajit C. Pillai / Senior staff photographer

HANDS IN THE AIR | According to cast members, typical V-show rehearsals last up to eight hours a day—and this is just the beginning.

“collaborative.” The creative process involves weeks of discussion, continuous rewriting of songs and scenes, and extensive joke-testing to ensure that the Columbia satire is well received.

On Friday, May 1, the opening night of the 115th Varsity Show, the audience will be presented with a product that has been fine-tuned by 45 cast, crew, and creative team members who have worked on the production for more than a semester.

The Varsity Show is Columbia’s oldest performing arts tradition. Founded in 1894 as a fundraiser for Columbia sports teams, it soon became a spectacle in its own right. Its nontraditional creative process,

sometimes-polemical casting, and satirical take on the University attract hundreds of Columbia students, alumni, and faculty every year.

The Varsity Show’s official creative team consists of a director, two producers, three writers, two composers/lyricists, a choreographer, and an art director. Their work outlining the overarching concept for the show begins in November.

Columbia College Dean Austin Quigley has seen nearly 20 past Varsity Shows, and remarked that the production unites many gifted students, linking them in a collaborative effort unlike any other on campus. “It brings together students

SEE VARSITY SHOW, page 3

EVENTS — APRIL 27

Gender in military culture

Join female veterans and professors for a panel discussion about gender identity and women’s issues in the armed forces. Free pizza will be served.

Satow Room, Lerner Hall, 7 to 9 p.m.

Wild, wild west: Barnard spirit day

Barnard will host a wild west-themed day of food, games, and announcing the name of the Nexus building.

Lehman Lawn and all over campus, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“You can’t talk the talk without walking the walk.”

—*Reverend Canon Patti Welch*

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Columbia Spectator
2875 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York City, NY 10025
info@columbiaspectator.com
Daily Spectator (212) 854-9555
Editorial Fax (212) 854-9611
Business (212) 854-9550
Business Fax (212) 854-9553

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

HOW TO REACH US

Have a question? Criticism? News tip? You can contact us directly by emailing info@columbiaspectator.com.

CORRECTIONS

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

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

Area Dems critical of Paterson’s performance

BY AARON KIERSH

Spectator Staff Writer

For New York Governor David Paterson, even his home turf is a tough spot.

West Harlem and Morningside Heights would seem to be safe political ground for Paterson, CC ’77. He formerly represented the state senate district now served by Bill Perkins, which includes the Columbia campus and a large swath of West Harlem. His civic roots run deep in the area since his father, Basil Paterson, was West Harlem’s state senator in the 1960s and a founding member of the Harlem Clubhouse—a group including Congressman Charles Rangel which has dominated local politics for decades.

But even the staunchest area Democrats have been dissatisfied with Paterson’s performance since he was sworn in as governor in March 2008, following the resignation of Eliot Spitzer. Some said they would vote for Attorney General Andrew Cuomo—billed as Paterson’s foremost Democratic rival—in the 2010 gubernatorial primary.

“I am not happy at all with the job he’s done,” said Walter South, a member of Community Board 9 and urban planner who lives on Riverside Drive between Tiemann Place and West 129th Street. “Why should I be happy? He’s proved to be an embarrassment.”

South was in attendance at a meeting of the Broadway Democrats held on April 23 at Congregation Ramath Orah on 110th Street, where Paterson’s performance was a subject of extensive conversation and criticism.

Complaints were indicative of a larger trend that has decimated Paterson’s once-high approval ratings. A Quinnipiac survey released in early April showed that only 28 percent of registered voters in the state approved of Paterson’s performance—the lowest rating ever reported for a New York governor.

A number of factors have contributed to these poor ratings. Chief among them is the recession, which hit New York particularly hard and forced Paterson to make budget cuts in light of massive state and municipal deficits.

Paterson’s selection of former U.S. Representative Kirsten Gillibrand to fill Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s U.S. Senate seat also jeopardized his support among liberals, as Gillibrand’s views are closer to the center than the left. Others criticized the length of the selection process and Paterson’s review of Caroline Kennedy.

“Anybody in his position would have a problem with such a huge budget deficit,” Democratic strategist Hank Sheinkopf said. “The Caroline Kennedy issue probably cost him a great deal of support in places like Morningside Heights, because the Kennedy name has a great deal of respect among liberals. But no one likes anybody when jobs are gone and times are tough—it’s hard to capture the public imagination, especially when it seems like you’re not in control.”

In recent weeks, Paterson has tried to reclaim his liberal base by introducing a bill that would legalize gay marriage. But Sheinkopf

said this move was insignificant compared to the economic crisis.

“New Yorkers are generally supportive of gay marriage,” Sheinkopf said. “But eating, getting on the subway without fare increases, and preventing foreclosures are greater concerns right now.”

But Luis Roman, president of the Broadway Democrats, defended Paterson by noting the “difficult situation” presented by an uncooperative state legislature and the poor economy.

“You can count on one hand the people who have been thrust into the kind of situation that he has found himself in,” Roman said. “People here think he has been working very hard to govern. We give him the benefit of the doubt. He seems to be a very capable public servant.”

And regardless of Paterson’s current unpopularity, his future is by no means sealed.

Fourteen months remain before the 2010 gubernatorial primaries. “That is a very long time in politics,” Roman explained. “You can’t say right now what’s going to happen. He has to begin regaining trust by showing the voters he has a handle on leading Albany. Small accomplishments can give people a sense of leadership.”

Sheinkopf also emphasized that current approval ratings are not necessarily a measure of future electoral success.

“Five minutes in political life is 50 years anywhere else,” Sheinkopf said. Between now and the next elections, “anything can happen.”

news@columbiaspectator.com

St. John the Divine hosts sustainability fair

BY SAM LEVIN

Spectator Staff Writer

From the busloads of tourists competing for entrance into the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, came multiple green campaigns to promote faith, sustainability, and a better planet in the cathedral’s premier Green Day event on Saturday morning.

This five-hour recycling and renewable-energy promotion shed light on the growing movement to turn the big apple green. Many organizations at the cathedral argued that this environmental enthusiasm must be ignited by religious passion.

“Every major faith has principles of environmental stewardship—caring for our Earth and for the poor, vulnerable, and hungry,” said Nicola Coddington, executive director of New York Interfaith Power & Light. “This is the great turning point. We have to change course and shift. There is a tremendous amount of excitement,” Coddington said, adding that she would like to see all faiths come together for global change.

Reverend Canon Patti Welch, clergy leader and organizer of the event, said that St. John the Divine, “the green cathedral,” has an obligation to act as an environmental role model. “You can’t talk the talk without walking the walk,” Welch said.

With green on everyone’s mind—both the symbol of sustainability and the scarcity in wallets—the event brought to light the struggles of a growing movement in a declining economy.

Outside of the cathedral, the Upper West Side Recycling Center and Pedals for Progress offered and promoted electronics recycling opportunities and a bike donation center for developing countries, respectively.

Drew Decker, Pedals for Progress representative, noted the organization has seen fewer bicycles donated, but with slightly better quality—a shift Decker said reflects the hurt of the middle class who no longer have the confidence or resources to donate.

Jeffery Twine, president of the UWS Recycling Center, said that, locally, people

are not mobilized. “There are very few people willing to recycle,” he said. “Peer pressure, convenience, and financial incentive” are the only major motives for recycling, Twine argued.

Despite Twine’s frustration, he was pleased to see all kinds of people dropping off assortments of electronics—everything from a large monitor to a small mouse.

Recyclers who stopped by the cathedral agreed that the event provided a dual opportunity to support environmental causes and declutter their New York City apartments.

“There is so much stuff we don’t use, and we thought, instead of just dumping it in the trash, we’d rather recycle it here,” Mike Brecher, who came with his family, said.

Frank Kehl, who lives around the corner from the cathedral, said, “We are pretty conscious about the environment. We do what we can.” He added, “And this stuff had accumulated in our halls for weeks.”

news@columbiaspectator.com

Community Food fire damages neighboring buildings

FIRE from front page

Two days later, the fate of the restaurant and Nussbaum residents remains uncertain.

Yujie Zeng, SEAS ’11, lives in room 1 of Nussbaum Suite 2B, which faces the shaft. Firemen broke through both of her windows, tore up the floor boards, hacked through the walls of her room, and shoved the desks in the middle of her room, which is a double.

She and her roommate, as well as another girl who lives next door were all forced to leave the building and move to singles in Broadway, where they will live for the rest of the semester.

When the fire alarm first went off, “It was very scary. I was putting my contacts in, and I saw all this smoke coming from the radiator. I thought the fire was coming from our room,” Zeng said.

“My stuff was fine—the biggest problem was trying to get smoke out of everything. That took a long time,” she added.

Silvia Puma, CC ’10, who lives in Suite 2C, said the floor still smells of smoke. Though little damage was done to her room, Puma said she is still waiting for her locks to be fixed since the firefighters broke in.

According to Scott Wright, vice president for student and administrative services, students living in the B and C suites on the second floor of Nussbaum were relocated, and many are currently staying in Broadway.

A Schapiro guard, who declined to give his name, said that three people had temporarily moved in this weekend, adding that one would be moving back to Nussbaum on Sunday night.

Malik Nawaz, the superintendent for Nussbaum, could not be reached by press time, and Vice President for Public Safety James McShane declined to comment.

According to fliers posted in the dorm, the gas will be off and one elevator will be out of order for several days. In the meantime, Nussbaum residents must go across the street to 601 West 113th St. to do their laundry.

Community Food & Juice representatives could not be reached for comment, but a sign posted on the door said the restaurant would be closed for several weeks to “repair the damage done.”

When the fire first broke out, smoke spread through both the restaurant and the dormitory, so Columbia Public Safety officers and firefighters were initially uncertain of the origin of the flames.

Matthew Hoine, CC ’10, said there was a significant amount of smoke on the 11th floor of the dormitory.

“I thought it was a false alarm, and then I saw that there was a fair amount of smoke in the hallways, and I thought I’d better leave,” Hoine said.

“A lot of people thought it was a drill, so they were slow to come out,” said Journalism School student Randall Mah, who also lives in the building. “When we were running down, we could see the smoke.”

James Tyson contributed reporting to this article.
news@columbiaspectator.com

Students find creative outlets for stress

BY GINIA SWEENEY

Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Before Sue Cho, CC ’10, decided to take a leave of absence from Columbia, she would sit in front of her computer to work, but would become paralyzed, unable to begin. She felt pressure from the combination of unexpressed anxieties and the expectation of academic excellence. “I’ve been brought up in an environment where emotions aren’t recognized at all,” Cho said. “I never even had the language to talk about it.”

At that point, Cho realized that she needed to take some time off from school to reevaluate her life and her goals. She moved to Seoul, South Korea, where her parents have been living since Cho started college and became involved with the performance art scene there. With the help of both therapy and art, Cho said she became more aware of her deep-seated emotions and how to handle them.

Like Cho, many students at Columbia have discovered that creative activity is a way to tap into their emotions and deal with mental struggles productively.

Joseph Reynoso, a psychologist at Barnard’s Furman Counseling Center who specializes in psychoanalysis and the study of various art forms, especially film, said, “There are ways that writing, that performing, that painting, sculpting are ways for a person to access a part of herself that she may not have any other verbal means to do.”

He emphasized, though, that art is not a substitute for therapy, “particularly when someone is struggling with any kind of chronic suicidality, or chronic sorts of difficulties that could best be helped with any form of more formal therapy or medication.” Used as a supplement to therapy, creative expression may help students deal effectively with challenging emotions and situations and can even help them learn more about themselves.

Channels of expression

Alex Cook, CC ’09 and an architecture major, took an etching class last spring and said it was more challenging than any other class he has taken. “Dasha [Daria Shishkin, the instructor] asked me to tap into emotions and feelings that would lend credence to the work, that would make it apparent that it was valuable to me, so that it would be valuable to other people as well,” he explained.

Cook said he thinks that this is what makes good art: real personal involvement. After spending the last two summers training to be an officer, he plans to join the Marines after graduation.

“I used the opportunity to channel a lot of the personal feelings I have about my life decisions, about joining the Marine Corps, about going to war, about being taught that my job is to kill people,” he said. “It helped me to find pride in the things that I was doing because it gave other people an opportunity to see how much I cared about them. They saw how much time I invested in making the art that concerned those decisions.”

Reynoso said he encourages his patients to try art, but added, “Often you don’t have to dig so deep to find that they used to engage themselves creatively.” Students will often say they used to draw, or sing, but don’t have time for it any more.

This was the case for Cho. “I always thought of art classes as kind of extraneous. It’s not academic, so I always put it off,” she said.

But when these students engage their dormant creativity, Reynoso said, “A lot of times, people will surprise themselves by what they actually produce, artistically. A lot of our experience does happen on an unconscious level, particularly emotionally.”

When Cho first got to Korea last April, she described herself as “lost,” saying that she found an internship with a law firm to please her father. But when the internship was over in September, she thought of an experience she had had when she was in first grade and her mother brought her to a woman’s festival. There, Cho saw a Korean dancer perform a nude walk in front of a large audience on a rainy day.

“She seemed like a being and not a person,” she recalled. “In my memory, I felt like there was no rain: there was a shield around her, and she wasn’t getting wet. It left a strong impression on me.”

Remembering this, Cho decided that she wanted to start nude modeling and began working at a creative nude models’ association. She also began taking film classes, and incorporated the two, making a film about her experiences as a model. The film had no words, and Cho said that instead, “It was about myself and how I was expressing myself.”

A woman whom Cho now describes as her mentor—a well-known avant-garde Korean dancer—saw Cho’s film and invited her to perform in one of her pieces. Cho performed a nude walk, like the one she had seen as a child, in front of a large audience. She describes the experience as liberating. Each one of these steps, she says, is part of her healing process: she has been able to express the difficulties she was experiencing without words, and has prepared herself to return to Columbia. “It’s more sincere,” she said of her performances, “and more communicative that a thousand words.”

Dealing with failure

Sometimes, though, the fact that art is so personal can be detrimental.

“When the odds on the table are that you are trying to create something that is going to be beautiful and impressive to everyone that sees it,” Cook said. “It’s so easy to become frustrated when you are unable to convey the message that you want.”

Often, this frustration happens when students are studying art as a discipline and more than just a hobby. Reynoso said: “Here there are so many people who are in school to be an artist, so it gets so merged with pressure and competition.” He said that when art becomes someone’s work, it can actually become in some way part of the difficulty they’re dealing with.

In the end, Cook said that he couldn’t take another art class, because as much as he enjoyed etching, he felt it was too much of a responsibility. “Maybe that’s the downside,” he said, “If you take it [art] more seriously than a hobby, and you fail, it’s very hard to come back.”

When the correct balance is achieved, not only can art help students cope with their emotions in a different way from traditional therapy, but, according to Reynoso, the self-examination that comes with therapy can help students improve their creativity.

“Therapy and treatment can often enhance one’s artistic creative process and more directly address and manage many of the emotional conflicts and states that an artist is consciously or unconsciously confronting with varying degrees of success,” he said.

news@columbiaspectator.com



Do your ears need glasses?

You'd get your eyes checked if your vision became blurry. So why ignore your ears when they ask for a little help? Hearing loss can cut you off from people you love and take the joy out of life. Go see a hearing health professional to find out the options available to return you to the world of sound.

When your ears ask for help, listen.

For a free "Guide to Better Hearing" and other help go to

betterhearing.org
1-800-EARWELL



©2007 Better Hearing Institute

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Ajit C. Pillai / Senior staff photographer

CENTER STAGE | The Varsity Show, one of Columbia’s oldest and most beloved traditions, will premiere this year on May 1. Over 40 cast, crew, and creative team members will work to fine-tune the production until opening night. “You think of classes as that hobby you have...this [the Varsity Show] is your job,” said co-writer Sam Reisman.

From casting to curtain, V115 gets creative

VARSITY SHOW from front page

from several of the theater groups and programs on campus and pools their talents, along with the talents and achievements of many of their predecessors,” Quigley said.

Putting It on Paper

The Varsity Show begins as a brainstorming session, and then evolves into a script that forms the backbone of the production. The writers begin by combing through what they know. “Our ideas come from *Spec* and *Bwog*, trying to find out what’s going on on campus, and personal experience,” co-writer Sam Reisman, CC ’10, said.

The jokes are tested on cast members to gauge the audience’s probable reaction. As scenes are finished, they are read aloud in front of the cast and creative team. “We all sit in a circle and write ‘laugh’ or ‘no laugh,’” co-writer Erica Drennan, CC ’11, said.

The jokes are intended to be accessible to the average Columbia student, but occasionally they go over the heads of underclassmen and need to be reworked to be more universal. “Sometimes the writers will come up with a joke and we’ll read through, and everyone will start laughing, and we [first-years] will be like, ‘What’s so funny?’” principal actor Patrick Blute, CC ’12, said.

The team also works to compose satirical music to reinforce the jokes. For composers Rebecca Greenstein, BC ’10, and Matt Stauffer, GS ’09, writing an original score about Columbia life is challenging and exciting, but also restrictive. “The only thing that’s limiting is that lyrically it [the music] has to bend to Columbia’s will. You have to be really corny ... It sometimes takes away from the show,” Stauffer said.

Though Stauffer and Greenstein said they wanted V115’s songs to have a darker mood, they explained that the need to follow a certain structure while also

incorporating Columbia-related jokes every few lines inherently limited how distinct the music could be from that of Varsity Shows past. Like any traditional musical, every Varsity Show demands a climactic melody, a token melancholy tune in Act II, and a grand finale—and each of these songs must be full of campus commentary.

“They [the writers] are creating a script around us; we’re creating songs around them,” Stauffer said. To keep the music and script in sync, the writers and composers frequently share their material with each other, as well as with the cast. “Sometimes we test it [the music] out for the creative team first,” Greenstein said.

From Auditioners to Actors

Just as the writers and composers each craft their material with the other group in mind, they must also tweak it to accommodate the actors. The creative team does have a large say in the casting of the Varsity Show, but this system has also led to accusations that the audition process is unfair.

Investigation into the rumors of audition bias proved difficult—when asked for the names of anyone willing to discuss being rejected by the Varsity Show, the V115 producers were reluctant. The only name they surrendered was that of a student who didn’t get into the production because her job prevented her from attending callbacks.

However, a few past auditioners offered some insight into what truth lies behind the rumors. “I think each creative team picks the people they’d want to work with, given their audition and, truth be told, what they already know about them,” Varsity Show alumna Carly Hoogendyk, CC ’07, said.

Cassie van Stolk-Cooke, BC ’12, auditioned for V115 and said she was a casualty of the creative team’s tendency to choose a certain type of actor. “Upon hearing about the casting decisions, I realized what the cast members had in common,” she said.

“They had all acted very crazy and silly during the callback process. ... I had no idea that that was what they [the creative team] were looking for.”

Whether or not the audition process is entirely fair, this collaborative selection of “crazy and silly” actors, while not beneficial to every student who auditions, does make sense. Judging by just a few peeks at Varsity Show rehearsals, it is obvious that the process requires actors who are willing to look ridiculous and act over the top. During one March rehearsal, for example, a pair of male actors had to perform an awkward, overly long embrace between “bros”—a task that may not be suited to the timid or easily embarrassed.

The Consequences of Creativity

It is also crucial that the creative team consider the amount of stress and commitment that comes with involvement in the Varsity Show, for both their own welfare and that of the cast. Rehearsals begin in late November and consistently consume between 25 and 35 hours per week until May. Both the writers and composers agreed that they spend seven to eight hours on Varsity Show work every day of the week. “You think of classes as that hobby you have, and this [the Varsity Show] is your job,” Reisman said.

“I wouldn’t even call class a hobby—I’m not there,” Stauffer corrected. “I spent four hours on classes this month, and it was the four most guilt-filled hours I’ve ever spent.” Co-writer Rachel Leopold, CC ’10, added, “It is pretty much our whole lives.”

The overwhelming nature of the Varsity Show affects not only class days, but breaks as well. Over the last weekend of winter break, the creative team met to hammer out the story and characters, and then spent spring break in Cape Cod retooling the show and converting it to final form.

But no matter how much time is spent toiling over songs, scenes, and casting decisions, the creative team said it’s all worthwhile. When asked to name their favorite part of the production, the team had an almost unanimous reply: knowing that they’re in it together.

BOOKS

Of discovering the self within a book



LUCY TANG

SENTIMENTAL EDUCATION

The other day in one of my seminars, a classmate, who I will refer to as “C,” revealed that his favorite book was John Kennedy Toole’s *A*

Confederacy of Dunces. I was absolutely flabbergasted—not from shock, but by how perfectly the book matched his personality.

A little background story will help to elucidate my bewilderment. *A Confederacy of Dunces* revolves around Ignatius J. Reilly, an obese, selfish, sarcastic, lazy, pedantic, failed Boethius scholar. The book itself is a whirlwind of madcap events and caricatural bit players.

Now, C is also a character in his own right. Trust me, he is memorable. Like Ignatius, and to a certain extent John Kennedy Toole, C is one of those singular types who straddle the line between crazy and potentially “genius.” While I cannot attest to his genius or lack thereof, I can safely state that he is the only person I know who can be so completely encapsulated in one book. This made me jealous. I wanted—no, needed—to find a book wholly representative of myself.

I ran through my mental list of favorite titles to see which one screamed “Lucy Tang!” and only “Lucy Tang!” *Confessions*? I could only identify with Augustine pre-conversion—post-conversion Augustine was too virtuous. *Middlemarch*? Maybe it’s Columbia’s academic environment, but a little part of me still prefers Casaubon to Laidislaw. My ordinary thought process is a bit too silly for *Mythologies* and *Illuminations*. *The Woman Warrior* is too obvious, and I don’t totally agree with Maxine Hong Kingston’s portrayal of the Chinese-American experience.

As I’ve aged, I’ve come to realize that many people suffer panic attacks whenever the thought of death arises—there goes *Nothing to Be Frightened Of*. *Herzog*, *Rabbit, Run*, or *Infinite Jest* would suit me just fine, if I were a 20-something white male slaving over the next great American novel in Washington Heights.

Or perhaps Proust is right: “In reality every reader is, while he is reading, the reader of his own self.” When reading Rousseau’s *Émile*, I find a kindred spirit in Sophie, who bemoans her unrealistic crush on a character in a book. And does it come as any surprise that Mary—the only plain one in the family, [who] worked hard for knowledge and accomplishments, was always impatient for display—is my favorite character in *Pride and Prejudice*? Junot Díaz’s Oscar Wao loves anime, while I occasionally peek at *The 4400* fan fiction.

Even when I go on the subway, I bring at least two books (sometimes I’ll substitute one for a magazine or journal). How am I supposed to choose one to embody myself? Maybe it’s good that I’m not so easily pigeonholed, even if the book that encompassed me were part of the western canon.

Then I realized—Montaigne! Of course! *Les Essais*! When I first met Montaigne, I was 18 and cavorting around in gold lamé. Needless to say, it wasn’t love at first sight. But he was patient and came back in the spring of my sophomore year—I fell, and fell hard. For two and a half weeks, he was my constant companion—“We go hand in hand at the same pace, my book and I” (“Of Repentance”).

Now, one year later, I’m still lugging around my copy of *Les Essais*, marked with honey, wine, chocolate, and even blood stains. Next year, I look forward to weekly rendezvous with Michel. I’d be hard-pressed to think of a better author to frame my college experience.

In “Of Giving the Lie,” Montaigne describes *Les Essais* as “a book consubstantial with its author.” So, by reading *Les Essais*, I become consubstantial with Montaigne. As Pascal writes in *Pensées*: “It is not in Montaigne, but in myself that I find everything that I see there.”

Well, what drew me to him? That is best answered by the man himself: “If you press me to tell why I loved him, I feel that cannot be expressed, except by answering: Because it was he, because it was I.”

Lucy Tang is a Columbia College junior majoring in English. Sentimental Education runs alternate Mondays.

Broadway and TV put mental illness center stage

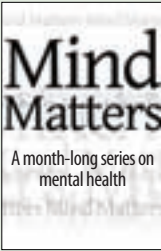
In conjunction with Spectator’s “Mind Matters” series, several A&E reporters explored the manner in which mental illness is depicted and examined in entertainment. Famous artists are not exempt from mental illness, and many have recently used their art as not only a means of catharsis, but also as a forum for discussing their illnesses. In the past few months alone, theater and television have addressed depression, bipolar disorder, suicide, ADHD, and the role mental health plays in our society.

—Ruthie Fierberg

NOT QUITE NEXT TO NORMAL

Former Columbia students Brian Yorkey, CC ’03, and Tom Kitt, CC ’96, are the creative forces behind *Next to Normal*. Originally entitled *Feeling Electric*, the musical concerns the unraveling of a nuclear family trying to come to grips with the delusions of its troubled matriarch.

Diana (played by Alice Ripley) is a suburban housewife who suffers from bipolar disorder. Haunted by a tragic event in her past, she seeks a combination therapy of specialists and pharmacological cocktails. Meanwhile, her husband struggles to cope with her illness, her daughter hankers for her parents’ attention, and her son remains the omnipotent golden boy.



Courtesy of Joan Marcus

CLOSE TO HOME | *Next to Normal* explores how families are affected by mental illness—Diana, a housewife and mother of two, struggles with bipolar disorder, and her family struggles to support her.

The musical had its start at the New York Musical Theatre Festival in 2005, and made its off-Broadway debut at Second Stage Theatre last season.

Unique in content, *Next to Normal* was the only production to ever feature a song and dance in Act I that closely detailed the risky psychiatric procedure of electroshock therapy. But with its uptown transfer, its creators have done away with this controversial scene in the operating room, and director Michael Greif (of *Rent*) has opted for sincerity.

It was a wise choice, because while *Next to Normal* doesn’t promise happy endings, it makes

you feel anything but numb. Composer Kitt and book writer and lyricist Yorkey have created an addicting pop-rock score that moves a taboo subject to Broadway’s center stage.

—Laura Hedli

Next to Normal is playing at the Booth Theatre (222 W. 45th Street). Rush tickets are available for \$25, and regular tickets can be bought at www.telecharge.com.

SEE CAPSULES, page 9

BETWEENNATIONS

On Columbia's campus, you don't have to look far to find an individual who had to travel thousands of miles—even fly over an ocean—to get here. This Monday, *Spectator* Opinion hears from three international students on their experiences coming to Columbia from a life abroad. Kevin Sun explains the differences between attending college in China and in the U.S., Dexter Thompson-Pomeroy discusses the value of finding diversity abroad, and Anupriya Kohli writes about the experience of studying far from home.

Feels like home

BY DEXTER THOMPSON-POMEROY

My being here at Columbia is, to a large extent, a fortunate accident. One day in the fall of my senior year of high school, when I was writing college applications, my mother asked, “So why aren’t you applying to Columbia?” Trying to piece together vague memories from my college tours of two summers ago, I thought for a moment and said, “I don’t know.” On a whim, I applied to Columbia without knowing much about it. I later had an admissions interview with an alumnus, and I asked him, “So what exactly is the Core Curriculum?”

My unexpected admission into what I had thought of as a distant reach school plunged me into a period of uncertainty and indecision, as I tried to decide between Columbia and another school. One day, I took a walk in the park by our house and went up to a high point with a panoramic view. It was a beautiful, clear spring day, and the sakura (cherry trees) were in bloom. I could see the ugly smokestacks of the oil refineries on Tokyo Bay, with the Bay Bridge spanning it, and off in the distance, Mount Fuji. I knew that I needed to make a decision then and there, and I decided on Columbia.

I’m one of those people who doesn’t quite know how to answer the question “Where are you from?” The easiest answer is, “I’m American but I live in Japan.” That doesn’t quite capture it, though. I feel like a foreigner in both countries. In ethnically homogeneous Japan, I’m immediately marked out as a *gaijin* (foreigner) by my physical features and by certain linguistic and cultural barriers. In the U.S., the country of my birth and citizenship, nobody can immediately tell, but I

don’t feel like I’m at home. Little things give it away. I still don’t get Fahrenheit. I often don’t get basic American pop culture and history references. I have to refrain from peppering my speech with Japanese words like we did in high school, and like I do with my sister—let alone launching into full-fledged Japanese or Japlish. So where do I feel at home? Having lived in Japan for 10 years, the greater Tokyo area feels like home, but I’m still a *gaijin*. The only places outside my house where I really feel at home are Yokohama International School and Columbia.

One of the major factors that brought me to Columbia was the global outlook of the university. I knew before coming here that Columbia has one of the highest percentages of international students, and that the various culture- and language-oriented programs (the School of International and Public Affairs, the departments of East Asian Languages and Cultures and Middle East and Asian Languages and Cultures, etc.) are very prestigious. We’re also in New York—enough said.

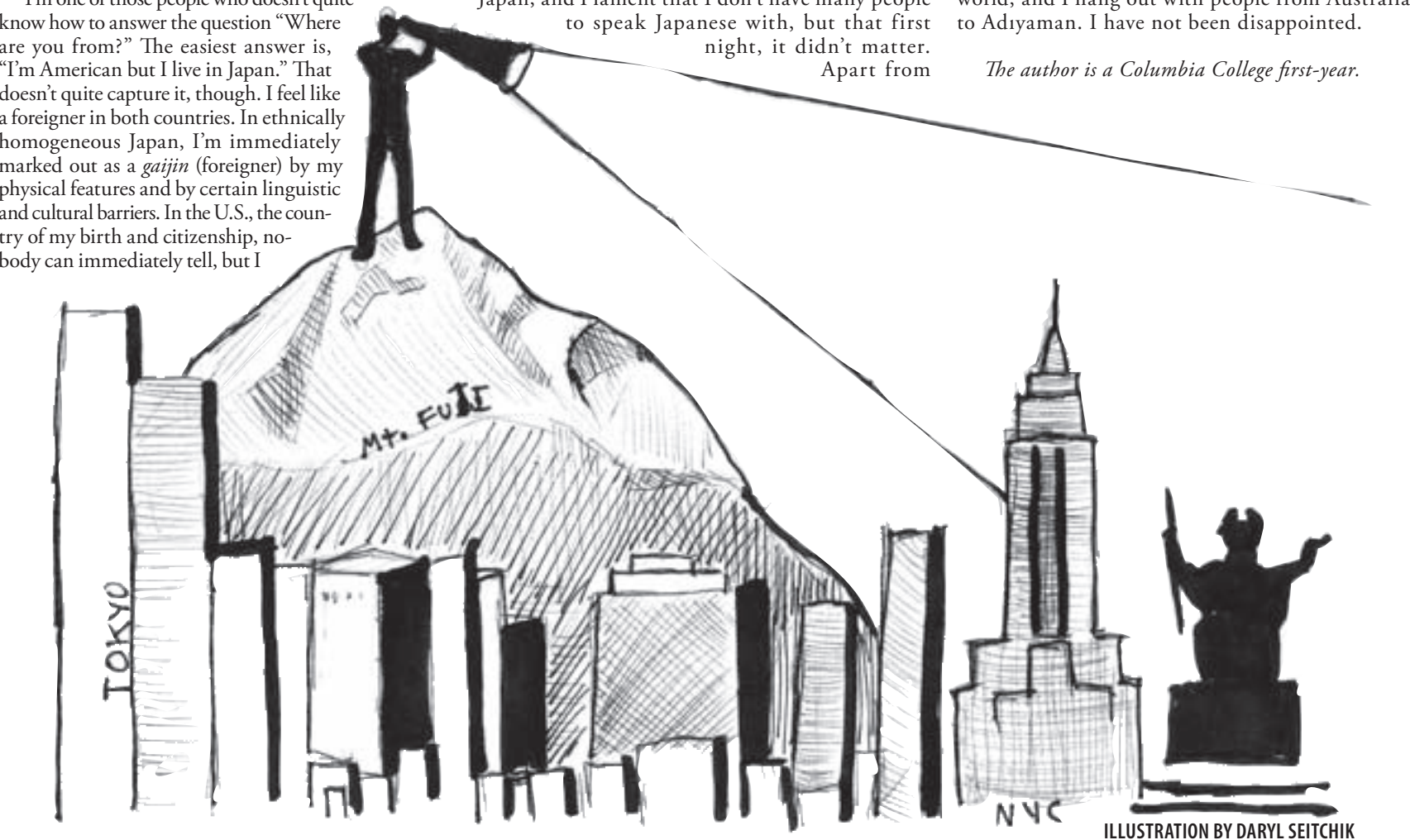
The first night I moved into Columbia, I attended a dinner for international students, followed by a speed meet-and-greet. The next morning, there was a breakfast event for international students, who had all moved in early. I can think of at least six people that I met at those two events alone who are now some of my best friends. I’ve admittedly been disappointed at how few freshmen I’ve met from Japan, and I lament that I don’t have many people to speak Japanese with, but that first night, it didn’t matter. Apart from

the fun of meeting people from really cool countries, it was important to be in a room with people who were just as scared as I was about moving—many of us across oceans—to what in many ways was, even for me, a new and strange place.

After a year at Columbia, I never cease to be impressed by its global outlook, which to a certain extent rises above that of my international high school. In high school, when I tried once to get some groovy Arabic or Hindi music played at a dance, people teased me for listening to “weird” and eccentric music. Here, CU Bhangra is revered as one of the best and coolest dance groups on campus, and I was thrilled to see that students of various backgrounds attended Basement Bhangra.

As I looked at the stereotypically Japanese panorama of sakura and Fujisan, I was struck by how much I would miss the country I confusedly call home and the international setting in which I had been raised. Among the thousands of considerations of financial aid, how much interest I actually had in dead white men, and the programs that intrigued me in the colleges I was considering, I knew I wanted to be in a city as dynamic as Tokyo/Yokohama, and I knew that I wanted to continue to be educated among people with strikingly diverse experiences, backgrounds, and life stories. And as it turned out, I ended up in the most dynamic and cosmopolitan city in the world, and I hang out with people from Australia to Adiyaman. I have not been disappointed.

The author is a Columbia College first-year.



The journey and the destination

BY ANUPRIYA KOHLI

When someone asks me for the umpteenth time how difficult it is to go to school in a country so far away from home, I almost automatically reply with the oft-repeated answer that it really isn’t any more difficult for me than it is for people who leave their homes in far-flung U.S. states. While I do miss home and bemoan the fact that I can’t visit as often as some of my classmates, it really isn’t that big a deal. Indeed, I’ve repeated the refrain so many times that I may have inadvertently started believing it due to a phenomenon that my psychology professor would love for you all to appreciate.

Realistically speaking, international students have no easy task—going to school thousands and thousands of miles away from home, seeing their families and old friends maybe once a year, and adjusting to a completely new and at times dauntingly unfamiliar environment and culture. One might wonder, then, what motivates the members of the thriving international student community on our campus to undertake this momentous journey, leave behind their hometowns, families, and the ways of life they know and love, and fly across the oceans to this, “the land of the free and the home of the brave.”

For many international students though, these considerable sacrifices pale in comparison to the benefits and perks of an American education. One of the key factors for many who decide to study in the U.S. is the flexibility the educational system affords. Even today, in many countries across the globe, including mine, students are expected to specialize and decide as early as grade ten on the career paths they eventually intend to pursue. This eventually determines the colleges one would apply to in one’s home country, and by the time one starts college, the career path is pretty much set in stone—students are oftentimes restrained and struck down under the weight of a parochial curriculum and a narrow scope of study.

It is not surprising, then, that the academic flexibility and seamless synthesis of an education rich in both the liberal arts and the sciences, along with the freedom to choose what one would like to study according to one’s own interest, appeal to a large number of students from countries with restrictive curricula and rigid academic structures.

Another major factor that attracts a number of students is the unique campus life experience across

colleges in the United States, and the opportunities that it offers. Coming to the U.S. broadens not only your educational experience but also your cultural opportunities. Where else would I enjoy a dinner table discussion with friends from the U.S., Japan, India, Australia, Turkey, Mexico, and the United Arab Emirates? Not many places can boast about this opportunity to interact with people from all over the world and participate in a multitude of student groups and organizations. From an international student’s perspective, that diversity is very valuable. You may choose to live in a completely different environment, being challenged with new situations every day. Yet at times, you may be pleasantly surprised at finding a part of the U.S. that resembles your home country in some ways, and take comfort in those similarities.

In addition to global exposure, experience in such a diverse setting is much desired by employers, and an American education is seen as helping to further long-term career prospects for many students. Indeed, in this era of globalization, as companies strive to establish a stronger global presence, many of them avidly seek the wide range of knowledge, adaptability, and experience that international students acquire by studying in the United States.

At the end of the day, it takes a certain kind of individual to make this life-changing decision and seek the American shores, far away from the comforts and security of home. International students, in making this decision, already embody an inherently American quality—a sense of adventure and the drive to make something out of their lives. Firmly holding on to their dreams and aspirations, they arrive on campuses across the U.S. to begin what they hope will be a journey towards accomplishing all that they seek. These are people willing to go the extra mile, to take that unfamiliar step, and to be the catalysts for change in their own lives by choosing not to tread the conventional path back in their home countries.

And Columbia University, with its diverse student community, liberal outlook, nonchalant campus environment, eminent faculty, location within arguably the most diverse and lively city in the world, and comprehensive Core Curriculum, embodies and personifies the many reasons for which international students choose an American education. Encouraging students to be independent, giving them the freedom to make their own choices,

yet grounding them with the knowledge and awareness needed to become responsible and successful future citizens, Columbia strikes the perfect balance. The welcome attitude to diversity on campus—along with the established support networks for international students, beginning with the international programming during New Student Orientation Program and including the efforts of the Society of International Undergraduates and the International Students and Scholars Office—further endear Columbia to the international student population.

As I walked back from class in the fading daylight, taking in the majestic Butler visage looming over me, mindful of the sounds emanating around campus where the student community is always astir, of the buzzing excitement in the air, and the tingling vibe and energy of New York City right outside, I took a deep breath and realized how glad I was that I had decided to come to Columbia. I rest assured in the fact that most international students have had such moments, and deep down, we all know the answer to the question why so many of us choose to leave our home countries behind to come to the U.S.

The author is a Columbia College first-year. She was a junior board member of the Society for International Undergraduates and is the president-elect for the 2009-2010 school year.



Testing out

BY KEVIN SUN

For the vast majority of Chinese high schoolers, taking the National Higher Education Entrance Examination (Gaokao) and trying to get into a good Chinese university are the most natural things in the world. Many kids’ lives are oriented around these goals from infancy. Students are swamped with classes after school and on weekends, and the last year of high school is spent doing almost nothing other than taking piles upon piles of practice exams, without learning anything new (except test-taking techniques).

Finally, the exam arrives in early June after senior year. Over the course of three days of extreme stress, all of a student’s life experiences, talents, abilities, and personality get distilled down to a single number: the Gaokao score. All the universities have to do is look at the final distribution and decide on their cutoff score for the year. Essentially, they are enrolling numbers, and the actual people come afterward. This system sucks.

As I neared the end of high school in China, being a U.S. citizen, I decided that studying in the U.S. would be a pretty straightforward thing to do. For one thing, I would be avoiding the hassle of Chinese examination fever. Also, I had no idea what I wanted to major in, and most Chinese universities have students specify their desired department before even taking the exam. My classmates found themselves holed into specific areas like “information security,” “water supply management,” and “railroad engineering” before even taking a single class, much less having any idea what their majors were actually like. That just wouldn’t work for me.

I may have been one of the few U.S. citizens applying from a regular, non-international Chinese high school, but I was by no means the only Chinese high schooler who wanted out of the system. While the roots of China’s screwed-up, life-consuming college exam system can be traced back to the imperial examinations of the Tang Dynasty, China has an equally illustrious, albeit somewhat shorter, tradition of having its talented students pursue studies overseas. Many of China’s greatest thinkers, writers, and political figures of the Modern Era received some education abroad, and were instrumental in accelerating the modernization of their country over the past century. As the Communist takeover soured China’s relations with the West, however, such exchanges came to an almost total standstill for decades. My parents were part of the first generation to have the opportunity to study abroad again, after the Cultural Revolution ended. Having completed their studies, they returned to China and made great contributions in their respective fields (and put me in an odd, not-really-international/not-typical-U.S.-situation). To this day, thousands of eager Chinese students continue to be attracted to places of higher learning in the West, especially in the United States.

Despite, or perhaps because of, the number of Chinese students wanting to study abroad, the Chinese government’s attitude has been oddly ambivalent, at least at the undergraduate level, so there is not a single public SAT testing center in all of mainland China. There are other difficulties, too. Students need to develop very strong English skills to have any hope of going overseas. Assistance in the application process is hard to come by, letters of recommendation need to be translated, and sometimes school administrators might even be reluctant to provide transcripts. Stressful and undesirable as it may be, the Gaokao remains the path of least resistance by a wide margin.

Living and studying in another country is a huge undertaking. Not everyone is comfortable going far from home to stay at a place with different customs and ways of life. And yet the Chinese internationals I know have all adjusted really quickly to the life in the States, and perform well even in classes like Literature Humanities, where one would expect them to be disadvantaged. And while they understandably enjoy the company of their compatriots from time to time, they get along and socialize with students from the U.S. and other countries just as easily. They are sociable, outgoing, open-minded, and can go after an objective with all their energies once they decide on it. It would be quite hard to imagine a Chinese student getting into an American university, much less an Ivy, without these traits. And these things are precisely what the Chinese exam system in its current form is unable to reflect.

I suppose a lot of this applies to students from other countries as well. Surely, going abroad to pursue an education is never the easiest choice. Making that decision takes a special kind of person. International students are not afraid to take matters into their own hands in order to get what they want. With that spirit, and everything they learn while over here, it is to be hoped that they will do great things, wherever they were born.

The author is a Columbia College first-year.

V&T

PIZZERIA & RESTAURANT

Italian Food at Its Best

FULL MENU • PRIVATE PARTY ROOM

WE DELIVER • OPEN 7 DAYS

SIDEWALK DINING

TUESDAY NIGHT • 15% OFF W/ CUID (DINE-IN ONLY)

1024 Amsterdam (betw. 110-111 Sts.)

663-1708 • 666-8051

CLASSIFIEDS

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

ADOPTION
PROFESSIONAL MARRIED COUPLE of South Asian/Indian origin looking to adopt a baby from the US. We promise your baby a life filled with love, warmth and well-being. Confidential, expenses paid. Call us toll free at 1 (866) 261-9871 or e-mail us at: hopefulindian@yahoo.com. And visit http://indiancoupleadopts.com

APARTMENTS
NYC APTS—Buying, selling or renting a NYC Apt? Work with a CU Alum (CC 94, MIA 99). www.joshnathanson.com. (212) 875-2970.

SIX CLASSICALLY BUILT condominiums. 3 blocks from Central Park, 1.5 from Morningside Pk. 2, 3 & 4 BRs, light and outdoor space from \$699,000 to \$1,799,000. (212) 595-4549. Visit: www.west113.com

EGG DONOR
HEALTHY WOMEN 19-29: Egg donors needed. Help women with infertility create families. Be compensated for doing good! To apply, e-mail info@mydonor.net or call (212) 691-6600. Info will be kept confidential. www.MyDonor.net

HELP WANTED
CAMPAIGN JOBS TO PROTECT our civil liberties. \$1400-2200/mo. Work with Grassroots Campaigns, Inc on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union to restore our rights, stop NSA spying on US citizens, and put an end to illegal torture and detention. FT/PT/ career. Call Sam (212) 219-1502.

SHIPPING COMPANY LOOKING for Sales/Office Manager. PT/ FT. Room for advancement. Great salary. NYC office. Flexible hours. Call (646) 772-8203. ronen300@yahoo.com

PSYCHOTHERAPY
COUNSELING—DEEP Psychotherapy. Faculty/Staff/Students for relief of inner conflict, sadness, anxiety, fears, social challenges, intimacy, and gay & lesbian issues. W 97th St. (914) 632-7111; (914) 393-5506.

RESEARCH
WEIGHT OR EATING PROBLEMS? St Luke's Hospital (114 St & Amsterdam). Overweight individuals, 18-65, weekly individual or group counseling. Low fee. (212) 523-4180 or stlukes.weightloss@gmail.com

SUMMER RENTAL
BERKSHIRE SUMMER RENTAL Egremont, MA. 3 BRs, 2 family rooms, dining and living room. Near French Park, Prospect Lake, 5 miles from Great Barrington, 20 min to Stockbridge and Tanglewood. Avail July 2009 through Labor Day. Pix avail. Contact Phyllis (212) 666-3400; e-mail phyllow@aol.com

HOUSE ON GREAT CRANBERRY Island, Maine coast. Offshore from Acadia Park. For rent by week, June-Sept. Entire property and all furnishings also for sale. 4 BRs, 2 baths. 2 acres. Ocean view. Sleeps 7. Modern kitch, master suite. Details/photos at cranberryisles.com/house-sales.html. Call (716) 835-7451.

TYPING & EDITING
PROFESSIONAL EDITING by Columbia Ph. D. Dissertation and academic style expert (APA, Turabian, MLA, etc.). Typing services available. (212) 371-1272.

MISCELLANEOUS
GET RID OF YOUR ACCENT...NOW! Gain an edge for the competitive job market. Improve communication with colleagues for presentations, conversation, and the telephone. Individualized training. Close to CU. Licensed speech and language therapist with special training in accent reduction. Experienced in ESL and Adult Ed. wellsaid123@verizon.net; (212) 932-3047.

HUDSON RIVER SAILING PARTIES Network, socialize or crew this Spring/ Summer aboard 50 ft sailboat. We're a group of Columbia students who volunteer crew, with space for 25 per trip, and always need more revelers. Leaves from 79th St. No exp necessary. E-mail to join our exclusive free day trips: gfh2104@columbia.edu

35% OFF WAXING & FACIALS for CU students and faculty at DLK Day Spa, 168 W 86 St. www.Dlkdayspa.com. (212) 580-1622.

Imagine a World without AIDS

Volunteers needed for a research study: HIV negative men and women who are 18 to 50 years of age are needed to volunteer for an HIV vaccine study. (You cannot be infected with HIV from the vaccine.) All volunteers receive risk reduction counseling and are paid for their time and travel.

Call for free information: (212) 305-2201.

Pregnant? Didn't mean to be? We're here to help... 212.689.1705

Compassionate care for you and your unborn baby

www.columbiaspectator.com

FOR MANY STILL SEEKING A PLACE TO CALL HOME, THE STORM ISN'T OVER.

All across the country, for many hurricane victims housing discrimination is its own storm. If you are looking for a place to call home, remember housing discrimination based on your race, color, sex, religion, national origin, familial status or disability is illegal. Please call and report it. There is hope, because there is help. 1-800-888-9777 TTY 1-800-827-9275 visit www.hud.gov

Ad Council.org

EDEN SALON & SPA Full Service Salon for Men & Women

10% OFF FOR STUDENTS & STAFF w/CUID... SENIORS TOO

New Offering: FACIAL THREADING OPEN SEVEN DAYS

212.864.3720

1233 Amsterdam Avenue (between 120th & 121st Streets) BENEATH PLUMPTON HALL

Solutions to Previous Issue's Puzzle

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

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

Community Organizer, 1976

Carter Flemming American Red Cross Volunteer

The Corporation for National & Community Service provides opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their communities.

Lead. Inspire. Change the World. Again.

"Most of my generation felt that as younger people it was important to serve and give back to the community. So, I have been doing just that all of my life...from organizing events at my community center to serving on the board of the local Red Cross."

We inspired before. We continue to inspire today. Join thousands like me who are still asking what they can do for their country and community. Discover which opportunity is right for you.

Visit www.getinvolved.gov or call 1-800-424-8867 (TTY: 1-800-833-3722)

Corporation for NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Contact Information

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

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

The Columbia Daily Spectator welcomes opinion submissions and letters to the editor from readers. Submissions and letters must include the author's name, telephone number, and Columbia affiliation. If any Readers may submit submissions and letters electronically by e-mailing: specopinion@columbias.edu, or by sending hard copies to 2875 Broadway New York, NY 10025.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Advertising Director: Dan Smullyan (212) 854-9552

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

Controller: Thomas Carlyle (212) 854-9550

Publisher: (212) 854-9545

News: (212) 854-9555

Editor-in-Chief: (212) 854-9546

Editorial/A&E: (212) 854-9546

Sports: (212) 854-9546

Fax: (212) 854-9553

E-mail: info@columbiaspectator.com

©2009 Spectator Publishing Company, Inc. Spectator is published by the Spectator Publishing Company, Inc.

Julia Feldberg, President

Melissa Repke, Vice President

Elizabeth Simms, Treasurer

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS	DOWN		
1 Big name in mix	1 Coffee-chocolate mix	29 Thought	48 Bracelet site
5 Improvise on stage	2 How some tuna is packed	30 Fabric fuzz	49 Advance slowly
10 Yawn-inducing speaker	3 Beach drier	31 Not punctual	50 Deck with a Death card
14 "You want the light ___ off?"	4 Dada pioneer	32 ___billy	51 Ice cream drink
15 Gaucho's rope	5 Governor	34 Easy gait	52 Great Salt Lake state
16 Manipulative sort	6 Cut into cubes	35 Use crib notes	53 Somewhat, in music
17 One who's at home on the range	7 Bert of "The Wizard of Oz"	38 Andre the Giant, e.g.	54 Sauna sites
19 Venetian blind part	8 Suffice with Canaan	42 Karma ___	56 Rage
20 Make haste	9 Voice between bass and tenor	44 Regret	59 IV amounts
21 Transvaal settler	10 Oster villain who attacks from hiding	45 Considered	
22 Words after "Hi, honey!"	11 Norway's capital	47 Rens of "Tin Cup"	
24 Counting everything	12 Paper quantity		
25 Crock-Pot potful	13 Art Deco designer		
27 Antiquity, once	18 Horseshoe-shaped hardware		
28 Gunfighters' graveyard	23 "Have we ___?"		
32 Boneless cut	25 Girl looking a pop star, perhaps		
35 Jean Auel's "The ___ of the Cave Bear"	26 Uses a hang glider		
36 1996 Sarah McLachlan hit	28 Run, as colors in the wash		
37 Boatloads			
38 In what place			
39 Penny			
40 1960s Cosby/Culp espionage series			
41 Roger of "Cheers"			
42 Do axels and lutes			
43 Corned beef is usually ordered on it			
45 Payable			
46 Throw out of office			
47 Take back, as a public statement			
51 Fozzie Bear, e.g.			
54 Liliant			
55 Org. that sticks to its guns?			
56 At the peak of			
57 Noisy eater			
60 Dolly material			
61 Clear the chalkboard			
62 Queen played by Liz			
63 Norse thunder god			
64 Patch the lawn, in a wily			
65 Labor Day mo.			

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

W	H	I	Z	B	A	N	G	M	Y	N	A	H	S	
R	E	C	E	I	V	E	R	T	E	A	S	E	T	
E	X	E	R	C	I	S	E	W	A	T	T	L	E	
C	A	F	E	S	A	S	T	R	O	S	E			
K	N	O	X	O	U	T	O	F	A	N	I	L		
S	E	O	E	X	P	W	I	Y	P	R	I	N	T	
				A	L	L	A	H	J	E	T	S	K	
D	U	A	L	C	I	T	I	Z	E	N	S	H	I	P
U	N	C	L	I	P	T	A	W	N	Y				
C	I	T	E	D	R	E	N	E	E	S	A	G		
T	R	I	S	B	A	S	E	L	M	A	U	L		
T	O	V	M	A	T	H	C	O	N	G	A			
A	Y	E	S	I	R	A	D	J	U	D	G	E	D	
P	A	L	I	N	G	R	O	C	K	E	T	R	Y	
E	L	Y	S	E	E	K	A	T	E	M	O	S	S	

By Pascho Harrison ©2009 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

04/27/09



Courtesy of CU Athletics
GRABBING THE TITLE | Coach Rich Mueller led the men's golf team to victory over Penn at the Ivy Championships.

M. golf captures Ivy title by single stroke over second-place Penn

GOLF from front page

as Columbia's Brendan Doyle faced off against Penn's Scotty Williams to play the ninth hole. Refusing to allow his nerves to get the better of him, Doyle coolly made the par-four while Williams ended with a bogey. Doyle and Austin Quinten had great performances for the Light Blue, finishing the tournament tied for eighth place. Quinten also had the most impressive Lion round, ending two-under-par at 68 on Sunday. Clark Granum led the Lions with a total of 213 after three days. Granum ended the tournament tied for fifth place and earned all-Ivy League recognition for the second year in a row. The women's team did not fare as well this weekend, finishing the championships in fourth place after carding 305 on Sunday for its best

round of competition. Harvard placed first with a total team score of 904 while Yale and Princeton followed with scores of 906 and 909, respectively. Columbia finished with 945—again, a single stroke ahead of Penn. Brown and Dartmouth finished with 985 and 1029, respectively. Senior Sara Ovadia, who was the 2007 Ivy League Individual Champion, closed out her collegiate career with a team-best round of 74. Her two-over-par finish was the lowest for the Light Blue all weekend and advanced her for a 14th-place tie in the tournament. Freshman Robin Lee had the women's best individual performance, ending the tournament in a tie for 12th. With the men's win, the Light Blue advances to the NCAA Men's Golf Championship for the second consecutive year. The championships begin on May 14.

Columnist gets the opportunity to play on team of his own

VELAZQUEZ from back page

shape, experience the thrill of competition, and get to know a bunch of new people. I accomplished all three to some extent, and can say now that I didn't just meet a bunch of rugby guys—I sweated, bled, and bonded with a new group of friends. That final part was something that I wasn't fully expecting, but I'm very glad that it happened. Thus far, *Spec* and CURFC have been

isolated parts of my Columbia experience, but next semester the two will have to find a way to mesh. I'm excited to come back to campus in the fall and head up to Baker multiple times a week, not just to continue to cover the football team, but also to play for a team of my own.


Matt Velazquez is a Columbia College junior majoring in history. sports@columbiaspectator.com

WANT to STAY
IN NYC OVER
THE SUMMER?

On-campus Summer
Housing in University
Residence Halls and
Brownstones is available
to Columbia University
students throughout the
Summer starting at \$1050
per six-week term.

For more information
about eligibility, rates, and
the full Summer Housing
schedule visit:

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/housing>

 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
Housing Services

Ron Williams sets Columbia record as baseball season comes to a close

BASEBALL from back page

tacked on its seventh run of the inning when Nick Cox brought Billy Rumpke home with a double to left. After their explosive first inning, the Quakers only added one more run on a solo shot by Grandieri in the top of the fifth. The Lions, however, relentlessly plated six more runners and went on to win by a final score of 13-5. Scarlata improved his record to 4-5 on the season in a seven-inning complete-game effort in which he fanned five and allowed five runs. Grandieri's brief outing dropped his season record to 1-5. While Penn's pitchers struggled in game one, the next contest played out differently as starter Todd Roth lasted eight innings. Seven Lions crossed home on his watch, but only four of those were charged to his ERA. After two scoreless innings, each team scored twice in the third. The teams continued to swap runs over the course of five innings as the Quakers trampled starting pitcher Pat Lowery and reliever Roger Aquino. Harrison Slutsky also allowed a run to score before Joey Mizzoni put a stop to the onslaught with two shutout innings. The fatal blow to Columbia came on a grand slam off Will Gordon's bat in Penn's half of the sixth inning. The Quakers never really managed to fully subdue to the Lions' bats, but nevertheless they were able to pull off an 11-7 victory. The defeat eliminated Columbia mathematically in its quest to win the Gehrig Division. After splitting Saturday's doubleheader, the teams packed up and traveled to Philadelphia for another twin bill on Sunday. Playoff hopes crushed, Columbia scored one run in the top of the first in game three, but the Quakers

countered immediately and posted a four-spot in the bottom of the first to take a lead they wouldn't relinquish. The Light Blue came within two runs of its adversary with a run in the third on an RBI double by Alex Aurrichio to bring home Jon Eisen. But Penn's hitters got to Dan Bracey again in the fourth with an RBI double by Grandieri and a three-run blast by Gordon. The Quakers busted the contest wide open in the fifth as they rallied on three hits to extend their lead to 8-2. Penn's Vince Vairo pitched a gem into the seventh inning, when his control wavered and the Lions tried to salvage some dignity with four hits and three runs in the inning. Regardless, the effort didn't match that of the Quakers, and Columbia lost 11-5. The Lions closed out their season in embarrassing fashion in Sunday's second game. After his offense scored in each of the first two innings, Penn's Chris McNulty was rung up for four runs in the top of the third. The Lions added to their lead with a run in both the fourth and sixth innings, and a three-spot in top of the seventh to take a 9-2 lead. With a season-ending win in sight, the Light Blue's bullpen couldn't find its control, and in the blink of an eye saw its seven-run lead evaporate. The Quakers shelled Slutsky, Joey Mizzoni, and Brian Valero en route to scoring an eye-popping 13 runs in the bottom of the eighth. Columbia bats were silenced in the top of the ninth, cementing Penn's 15-9 victory. Columbia needed four wins this weekend, along with a series split for Cornell and Princeton, to attain a three-way tie atop the division. While the Big Red and the Tigers obliged by winning two apiece, the Lions were unable to hold up their end of the bargain to force a tiebreaker. Columbia will have a long offseason to contemplate the events of 2009's final weekend.

Lacrosse seniors say farewell with 1-20 conference record

LACROSSE from back page

As her seniors depart, Whitaker once again will likely face scrutiny for another disappointing conference season. Despite capturing its first Ivy win in four years, Whitaker's 2009 squad let potential victories against Yale, Brown, and Dartmouth slip through its fingers. It remains to be seen how much patience Athletic Director Dianne Murphy will have for a program that seems to be in a perennial state of rebuilding. The Lions still have one game left this year, a nonconference matchup with Bucknell on Apr. 28. But win or lose against the Bison, 2009 was another season of close calls and shortcomings. Whether or not Whitaker will get a chance to make up for the lost opportunities in 2010 has yet to be determined.



Jenny Hsu / Senior staff photographer
BACK-TO-BACK | Senior Rachael Ryan scored back-to-back goals twice in her final collegiate appearance.

Lions pick up one victory in four-game series versus Quakers

SOFTBALL from back page

Dempsey was able to redeem herself in game two of the doubleheader, hitting the walk-off single that gave the Lions their first win against Penn since the 2006 season. The game was close throughout, with four lead changes. The Quakers struck first, putting a run on the board in the first thanks to an RBI single by Jamie Boccanfuso, but the Light Blue struck back immediately with a two-run homer by Johnson in the bottom of the inning. After several lead changes, Columbia entered the top of the seventh with a 5-3 lead. Penn managed to tie the score on a two-run single by Boccanfuso, setting the stage for Dempsey's heroics. With two on and two out in the bottom of the eighth, Dempsey celebrated Senior Day by knocking in the winning run on a single to left field. The second pair of games took place at Warren Field in Philadelphia and resulted in a sweep for the home team. Penn took the first game 8-1 before winning the second decision 8-6. The Light Blue was again plagued by errors in the opener. A costly miscue by Dempsey in the

bottom of the sixth resulted in four unearned runs for the Quakers. The only run for Columbia came off an RBI single by Johnson. Erica Clauss got the start for the Lions, but was relieved by Jessica Rakonza after giving up four runs on seven hits in three and one-third innings of work. Rakonza went two and two-thirds innings in relief, giving up four runs (none earned) on three hits. Though the second game of the day was closer, the Lions still couldn't salvage a doubleheader split. An uncharacteristically poor performance by Johnson on the mound cost the Light Blue the game. Johnson gave up eight runs on 11 hits and two walks in only four and two-thirds innings. Johnson partially redeemed herself in the batter's box, going 2-for-4 with a run. Dempsey and Kayla Lechler pitched in with impressive offensive performances, each adding two hits. Dempsey also had an RBI and a run scored while Lechler managed to cross the plate twice. In the final weekend of Ivy play, Penn's victories lifted it to second in the Southern Division, while the Lions finished in the Ancient Eight cellar.

Heavyweight rowers suffer first loss of season, women also fall

BY MICHELE CLEARY
Spectator Staff Writer

The heavyweight crew team suffered its first disappointment of the season this weekend, losing to Boston University and Syracuse in its quest for the Doc Lusins Trophy. The women's team also lost, falling to Brown and Cornell at the Dunn Bowl. The heavyweights (10-2) dropped their first regatta of the season on Saturday, snapping their win streak at five. The Orange came in first in the varsity eight race at 6:04.7, while the Terriers followed closely behind with a time of 6:06.2. The Light Blue came in a distant third at 6:14.1. The Lions finished third in the second varsity and freshman races as well. Boston University took the second varsity race in a time of 6:17.6, with Syracuse coming in at 6:23.5 and Columbia at 6:37.5. The Light Blue finished the freshman eight race in 6:48.6, behind the Orange and the Terriers

but ahead of Syracuse's second freshman squad. Meanwhile, the women (6-6) traveled to Providence to take on Ivy League rivals Brown and Cornell for the Dunn Bowl. The Bears took the Bowl, winning the varsity eight race with a time of 7:05.66. The Big Red finished second in 7:23.0, ahead of the Light Blue at 7:32.76. The Lions finished second behind Brown in the second varsity race with a time of 7:39.19, roughly a second ahead of Cornell. Columbia's freshman boat came in third with a time of 7:48.65. In the varsity four race, the Bears' A, C, and B boats took the first three spots, while the Light Blue finished fourth in 8:12.47. Brown finished first in the varsity-four B-race, 13 seconds ahead of Columbia. The heavyweights will compete in the Maxwell Stevenson Cup this Sunday against Navy, while the women will head to Boston this weekend to take on Northeastern for the Woodbury Cup.

Teaching job availability in question

TEACHERS from front page

and with Obama’s message about service, places like Teachers College really fit in nicely.”

To respond to the larger number of applications the institution is receiving, the admissions office at TC has made some changes. The school has admitted nine percent more applicants this year than this time last year, Rock said.

The office is also considering waitlisting more students, a tactic Rock said “can certainly be used strategically as a safety net for many institutions” in bad economic times. Acknowledging the importance of enrollment for tuition-based institutions such as TC, Rock said that waitlisting is recommended in the admissions office.

Speaking from the National Association of Graduate Admissions Professionals Conference that took place last week, Rock said that dealing with the current recession, which “is nothing compared to anything any of us has been through” was the theme of the conference. “We all have to reexamine policy, procedures. ... We don’t know if we need to rethink them for one year or forever,” he said.

In addition to recent college graduates, a significant number of “career-changers” are expressing interest in TC, Rock said. “I can’t tell you how many phone calls we’ve been getting from people

who’ve worked in the private and corporate sectors looking to go into education.” He also noted that for these students in particular, salary might not be the most important thing anymore.

Still, questions remain about the demand of public schools to hire teachers.

“Yes, it’s not as hard as other industries, but it’s not as easy as it’s been in the past because school districts might not be doing as much hiring,” said Naomi Naiztat, associate director of career services at TC.

Naiztat said it will be hard to know exactly how many teachers school districts can hire until budgets are released over the summer.

She emphasized that, compared to other sectors, teachers aren’t losing jobs in the New York City public school system. But the question is how many new teachers the Department of Education is going to need. Teachers may get job offers later than they have in the past, though this information also will not be definite until August, when schools post all of their open positions, she added.

While Naiztat didn’t have specific figures on this year’s TC graduates’ success in job placement, she said that the decrease in employers at the school’s career fair—about 94 this year compared to 106 with a waitlist last year—is some indicator of a more difficult job market due to the economy.

There are still some types of teachers who will have an easier time finding jobs than others. For instance, Naiztat said, teachers willing to work in more challenging, urban environments, such as the Bronx schools, will have an easier time getting hired because fewer teachers want to work in those areas.

She said that there is no clear pattern of whether principals are looking more for new teachers or seasoned professionals.

Harriet Barnes, District 5 Community Education Council president, speculated that the rise in the number of charter schools might make it easier for teachers to get jobs.

“I see charters coming up, and really coming up, and that’s where the jobs are going to be,” Barnes said.

Many schools in Barnes’ district cut their big art rooms and gymnasiums for students long before the current budget cut, she said. Naiztat echoed that teachers specializing in certain areas, such as math, science, and special education, might have an easier time than those focusing on art, music, or English, a very popular concentration.

Although there is no way to make a definitive statement yet, Rock said that “someone willing to take risks and think outside the box” will have an easier time finding jobs.

news@columbiaspectator.com

Write-in candidates win two vice-presidential positions

GSSC RESULTS from front page

General Studies Dean Peter Awn “has mentioned they’re trying to do a hybrid [financial aid] model between need-based and merit-based,” Edwards said. While a large cross-section of the student body is currently on financial aid, it is often not enough to relieve the financial burden placed on students who fund their own education, and many are forced to turn to expensive private loans.

Edwards also noted that finding housing has become increasingly difficult for GS students, as those living in buildings like Nussbaum are being encouraged to find other residences, and the school seems to be pushing housing in the Bronx. While the accommodations are said to be attractive, the uptown location, especially with a pending subway fare hike and service cuts, could make for a difficult commute.

Edwards said GSSC would encourage the administration to shift its focus to Ph.D. students who could potentially move uptown instead.

As for Latin diplomas, Edwards said she thinks the council is “closer than ever” and would continue to appeal to current students and alumni to promote circulating petitions. Edwards said she is prepared to hold fundraising drives to help bankroll the initiative.

Scott Jurkowski, a write-in candidate for vice president of policy who collected 50 votes—21 more than his write-in opponent Jenny Chong—called Latin diplomas a lower priority than pushing for GS equality with CC. While finally nabbing the diplomas would be a tangible goal, Jurkowski said, leveling the playing field for GS and CC students—such as gaining greater access for GS students to required Core classes—is more pressing.

“When you make progress in those areas, it will translate into progress in other areas,” Jurkowski said.

This is Jurkowski’s first involvement with the council, although he noted that his counterpart at CCSC, vice president of policy-elect Sarah Weiss, CC ’10, was the first Columbia College student he ever met back in December 2007, before he had moved to New York and started classes.

“Getting people to take part in much more complex and removed initiatives is going to be difficult,” Jurkowski said. “But if we make it a point to project some sort of level of achievement,” more people may display the same enthusiasm they have for the Latin diplomas.


In one of the more distinct victories, current social chair Hannah Kim won for vice president of student life with 220 votes over opponent Chin Kim, who received 47 votes. Incidentally, more students seemed to vote in the vice president of finance elections than the student body president elections, where Jacqueline Thong was victorious over Allen Settle by a margin of 236 votes to 106. Settle also ran for the executive board last year.

University Senator Paige Lampkin, who was running as a write-in candidate, lost her bid for re-election to Paul Zachary. Zachary stated in his platform that he thought his time working on the Barack Obama campaign would be useful in navigating the political and communicative responsibilities of student senators.

Many of the positions on the council remain unfilled. The elections produced no winner for the alumni affairs or student services representative positions, nor for senior class vice president or sophomore class president or vice president.

news@columbiaspectator.com

GET READY.



CASINO NIGHT

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

JOHN JAY DINING HALL

5:00PM TO 8:00PM

FOR MANY STILL SEEKING A PLACE TO CALL HOME, THE STORM ISN'T OVER.



All across the country, for many hurricane victims housing discrimination is its own storm. If you are looking for a place to call home, remember housing discrimination based on your race, color, sex, religion, national origin, familial status or disability is illegal. Please call and report it. There is hope, because there is help.

1-800-669-9777 TTY 1-800-927-9275 visit www.hud.gov

Ad Council.org



www.columbiaspectator.com

CAPSULES from page 3

FOR COLORED GIRLS SHOWS STRENGTH IN UNITY

“Sometimes you have to dance to keep from dyin’,” the women declared as they danced and stepped onstage, each unified with the others yet distinguishable by her respective colors.

Ntozake Shange’s *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf*—presented this past weekend by Columbia’s Black Theater Ensemble—is a choreopoem exploring the plight of women of color. The women’s stories are of mental and sexual abuse, exploitation, and manipulation.

Each woman represents a distinct color, just as each one struggles with distinct situations that have exacted all her strength and exhausted her to frailty of stature and will. The play deals with the way “colored girls” are perceived in the world, but, more importantly, it also deals with how they view themselves.

For Colored Girls consists mainly of monologues, one overlying theme of which is the exhaustion of women who are historically supposed to be able to handle

everything. Their questioning of their entire existence is described by Lady in Yellow: “bein alive & bein a woman & bein colored is a metaphysical dilemma.”

Despite this inner conflict, the play is not about suicide, but rather about the strength and communal support it takes to prevent mental collapse. The women help each other through their suffering, and celebrate the reclaiming of mind, body, and essence through dance, song, and step.

The unity of the bright colors is a constant reinforcing connection that prevents the women from becoming mentally insane. In many ways, both the written work and the production’s use of light and color render depression and suicide a solitary and lonely act—in stark contrast to the happiness the women want for themselves. But they dance to keep from dying, illustrating that unity is the most useful survival technique.

—Kelicia Hollis

KERNEL OF SANITY CHRONICLES THE ESCALATING LUNACY OF A WASHED-UP ACTOR

When a show leaves you confused about what happened, you know the topic will circulate in your head for a long time after the final bows. Such is the case with New Federal Theater’s *Kernel of Sanity*.

Set in the ’70s, *Kernel of Sanity* is about a day in the life of Frank Tracy, a washed-up actor who retreated to the Midwest to escape his past. Later we meet his reluctant girlfriend, Rita, and Roger Peterson (a fellow actor from their past collaboration on *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*).

On the surface, the theme of insanity enters the play when Frank receives a letter from the government. They have registered him as mentally insane, a label that results in a monthly stipend. But this is just the tip of the iceberg.

When Roger stops by unannounced, his long periods of silence mixed with enraged tangents about becoming Smokey Robinson beg the question—who is really insane?

What was fact at the beginning of the show eventually turns into fiction. Rita tells Frank she is pregnant, but later claims that she was only proving she could act. Roger admits to having murdered a producer. When Frank asks him if it is true, Roger refuses to tell him.

They all know their lives are on a downward slope toward self-destruction, yet none of them try to stop it.



Courtesy of Gerry Goodstein

FACT INTO FICTION | Neither the audience nor the actors themselves know who is insane in New Federal Theater’s *Kernel of Sanity*, until everything is too late.

Roger carries around a prop gun, Frank is perpetually writing his autobiography, and Rita has a psychotic obsession with Janis Joplin. The levels of lunacy rise more and more until all sense of reality is lost.

What the characters learn is that mental instability is not a joke. Because of mental disintegration, people become recluses, pathological liars, and even

murderers. The worst part is that you don’t even realize you are insane until it is too late. All you can do is hope that there is just one *Kernel of Sanity* left.

—Lily Cedarbaum

Kernel of Sanity is playing at the Henry Street Settlement (465 Grand Street) until May 3. Call 212-598-0400 for tickets, which are available for \$20.

DESPERATION DIVIDES PERSONALITY OF CHEMISTRY TEACHER IN BREAKING BAD

In AMC’s hit drama *Breaking Bad*, the name of the game is desperation.

Although it affects everyone to a certain extent, desperation takes a significant toll on the show’s protagonist, high school chemistry teacher Walter White (Bryan Cranston)—it pushes him to open up his own crystal meth lab, and subsequently to the edge of his sanity.

In the pilot episode, Walt frantically drives the RV that doubles as his meth lab through New Mexico, wearing only underwear and a gas mask, and with a gun in tow. Just three weeks before this first scene, he was a normal (albeit bored) family man. However, soon after his 50th birthday, he is diagnosed with stage three terminal lung cancer.

Faced with the realization that there will not be enough money for his wife Skyler (Anna Gunn), his son Walter Jr. (RJ Mitte), who has cerebral palsy, and his unborn daughter to survive when he is dead, Walt looks for a way to provide for them. He decides to put his chemistry skills to good use: cooking and dealing crystal meth with one of his former students, Jesse Pinkman (Aaron Paul).

This decision splits Walt into two very different people. At home, he tries to be the loving husband and father he has always been. In the drug world, he is Heisenberg, the absolutely ruthless man who makes the purest meth. The stress of his double life makes it almost impossible for him to function well in either role.

Now in its second season, the show makes it hard to tell how tight of a grip Walt actually has on his sanity. Nonetheless, it is visibly becoming more difficult for him to live with himself, the things he has done, and the things he knows he will do.

In last Sunday’s episode, “Negro y Azul,” the show highlighted the increasing flimsiness of Walt’s justification for his meth business. He is becoming a big shot as Heisenberg, testing the limits of his morality as a cold-blooded dealer. He manipulates Jesse and convinces him to expand their operation.

In terms of securing his family’s future, expanding the business may be the best move for Walt—but at what cost? Steadily, he is creating enemies much more threatening than himself, and the precious time he has



Courtesy of Ben Leuner


LOSE YOUR COOL | Split personality is the result of desperation on *Breaking Bad*.

left with Skyler is strained, as she is now beginning to suspect that he is hiding something.


Walt is playing a dangerous game with both the law and his health, and it seems that there are few, if any, safe exits left. Big problems loom for this divided soul, and he may lose more than he hoped to win.

—Liz Lucero


Breaking Bad airs Sundays at 10 p.m. on AMC.



I can
paint



I can
coach



I can
dance

how can you
keep a kid off drugs?

The truth is, a little of your time can make a lifetime of difference. Because kids with something to do are less likely to do drugs. **You can help.** For more information on drug prevention programs in your community, call or visit:

1 877 KIDS 313
www.youcanhelpkids.org



Office of National Drug Control Policy



Some homes protect more than families.

change.

Build a healthier living environment.
Ask about what the ENERGY STAR® label could mean for your new home.



Money Isn't All You're Saving

1-888-STAR-YES

Learn more. Visit www.energystar.gov

ENERGY STAR is sponsored by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Department of Energy.

The Ivy League lacrosse season came to an end this weekend. Penn finished on top with a 7-0 conference mark.

TOMORROW



SPORTS

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2009 • PAGE 10



The regular season ended this weekend for Ivy baseball with Princeton and Cornell tied atop the Gehrig Division.

TOMORROW

Softball closes out 2009 season with three losses

BY MICHELE CLEARY
Spectator Staff Writer

The Columbia softball team closed out its season with a disappointing four-game series loss against Southern Division rival Penn. The Lions won only one of the four contests, dropping them to 4-16 in the Ivy League and 16-34 overall.

The first doubleheader took place at the Baker Athletics Complex and ended in a split for the Light Blue. Penn (15-18, 10-10 Ivy) took the first matchup 4-3 before Columbia won the second game 6-5 in extra innings.




Five fielding errors may have cost the Lions the first game of the day. The Light Blue gave up a pair of unearned runs on two errors by Chantee Dempsey, two by Keli Leong, and one by Karen Tulig.

Pitcher Maggie Johnson was tagged with the loss in her complete-game effort, despite giving up only two earned runs (four runs overall). Johnson gave up eight hits and no walks on the day. She also tallied five strikeouts.

Though Columbia's sloppy defense proved extremely detrimental, the Lions benefited from similar Quaker defensive struggles. Of the three runs the Lions scored, only one was earned.

Jackie Ecker led the Light Blue offense, knocking in two runs on 1-for-2 hitting. Despite their struggles on the field, Leong and Dempsey were able to produce at the plate, combining to score two runs on 3-for-6 hitting.

First baseman Kelsey Wolfe led the Quakers with two hits and an RBI.

	PENN	4
	COLUMBIA	3
	PENN	5
	COLUMBIA	6
	COLUMBIA	1
	PENN	8
	COLUMBIA	6
	PENN	8



Jenny Hsu / Senior staff photographer

AT BAT | Chantee Dempsey had two errors in the first game, but came through in the second with the walk-off single that gave the Lions the win.

SEE SOFTBALL, page 7

Stepping from the sports office onto the field



MATT VELAZQUEZ
THE X-FACTOR

My focus during my first five semesters at Columbia was solely on *Spec Sports*. I spent a year and a half climbing the ladder by writing boatloads of stories, editing articles, and learning as much as I could about Columbia athletics. In December 2007, I was rewarded with the

position of sports editor for the 2008 calendar year.

Being sports editor was as rewarding as it was time consuming, and left little time for much else in my life. During winter break a few months ago, I realized I had a huge gap in my spring schedule considering that I was no longer going to be spending most of my free time at the *Spec* office or dealing with *Spec* things. It was then that I decided I was going to be "new Matt," the guy who—just like everyone else—made the New Year's resolution to go to Dodge and get in shape.

Getting in shape—lifting, running, etc.—is a good thing on its face, but I knew that I'd have a hard time keeping myself on track. It also wasn't going to satisfy my competitive nature or my desire to be involved with an extracurricular activity on a regular basis. After years of telling my rugby-playing suitemate that I would consider joining the Columbia University Rugby Football Club, I finally did it—I decided to dedicate less time to writing about athletes and more time to participating in them.

I thought I knew what I was getting into, but—surprise, surprise—I didn't. Three years of doing as close to nothing as possible in terms of fitness didn't translate very well to keeping up during the first practice of the spring season—which happened to be chock-full of conditioning on a freezing Saturday morning on the last day of January. Despite being frozen and sore, I was excited that I didn't take any sprints off and was looking forward to future practices where I expected that I would hack and wheeze my way to better fitness and learn what rugby was and how to play.

The rules and how to play might sound like things that rookies would learn at the first practice or two, right? If that was the case, all I knew after two or three weeks of practice was that rugby involved a lot of running, passing, and samurai swords. There was also something called a lineup, but there was no explanation as to when or why it was done. I also knew that at some point there would be a scrum, but I wasn't sure when or if I would be in it.

Eventually, I began to learn the game, mostly through trial by fire. The first game I ever played, I was put into a position I hadn't practiced, but things ended up OK—I learned on the field. It's easy to figure out the game on the fly if you ignore your instincts. For example, usually you try not to run into people, but as a forward on the rugby pitch, that's 99 percent of what you should be doing. If you're running into someone—whether you have the ball, they have the ball, or you're fighting for the ball—you're probably doing the right thing.

I would tell you how much I learned, how well the team bonded, and how much fun was had during our spring break tour to practice and play teams in Trinidad, but that's against the rules. What happens on tour stays on tour.

This weekend was the culmination of the spring season—the Ivy League tournament. Since the Ancient Eight rugby teams don't play each other with any regularity, seeding is based on the previous year's tournament. Last spring, Columbia finished seventh, meaning that on Saturday, we faced Harvard, the No. 2 team. To the surprise of everyone but ourselves, we beat Harvard in every aspect of an extremely close game, that is, except for the score. A win and a loss later, CURFC finished sixth, which was not the goal, but was a higher ranking than the team had achieved in the previous four years.

I didn't join the team to write this or to back up statements in earlier columns that I've written saying that club sports are a worthwhile venture and people should look into them. I joined because I wanted to get in

SEE VELAZQUEZ, page 7

Disappointing finish for CU baseball



Jenny Hsu / Senior staff photographer

ON THE MOUND | After pulling through with a 13-5 series-opening win, the Lions fell 11-7 in game two as the Quakers trampled starter Pat Lowery.

Light Blue blows chance to force tiebreaker with series loss to Penn

BY MICHAEL SHAPIRO
Spectator Staff Writer

After last year's championship season, Columbia baseball struggled in the second half of the 2009 campaign and found itself in dire need of a series sweep against Penn this weekend. With a loss in game two of Saturday's doubleheader, however, the Lions' quest to repeat as Ivy League champions came to an end.



One bright spot in weekend action was first baseman Ron Williams' record-setting performance in game one of Sunday's doubleheader. With his 204th career hit, he overtook Bart Teal, CC '95, to set the all-time hits record at Columbia. He finished his four-year career with 205.


Both teams struck early and convincingly in the first game of the series on Saturday at Robertson Field. Senior Joe Scarlata took the hill for the Lions in his last collegiate start. Penn leadoff hitter and starting pitcher Tom Grandieri started

things off with a double to right-center and advanced to third on a passed ball. Derek Vigoa brought his teammate home on a double to left field. After Scarlata walked Will Gordon and retired Jeremy Mass, Dan Williams launched a long three-run homer to dead center. Scarlata managed to quell the onslaught, but the Quakers had a 4-0 lead heading into the bottom of the first.

Columbia made sure the lead didn't last, racking up seven runs in the bottom half of the frame. Grandieri walked the first three batters he faced before Ron Williams popped out. Mike Roberts took advantage of the bases-loaded opportunity to muscle a grand slam over the center-field wall and knot the game at four runs apiece. Three hitters later, Alex Ferrera deposited a round-tripper to right-center, knocking in Bobby O'Brien. After Pat Brennan was called to relieve Grandieri, the Light Blue

SEE BASEBALL, page 7

	PENN	5
	COLUMBIA	13
	PENN	11
	COLUMBIA	7

	COLUMBIA	5
	PENN	11
	COLUMBIA	9
	PENN	15

Lions break 4x800m school record at 2009 Penn Relays

BY SABINE SCHULZ
Spectator Staff Writer

The Columbia track and field team traveled to Philadelphia on Thursday for the three-day Penn Relays. The Lions took on Ivy League foes along with some of the best nonconference track teams from all over the country at the prestigious meet.

Last year the Light Blue finished the men's 4x800-meter and women's 4x400-meter relays in third place. Both teams' performances earned them second-best finishes in school history. This year, the squads placed fifth in the 4x800-meter Championship of America relay. The men's team of juniors Mike Mark and Chris Hays, sophomore Jeff Moriarty, and freshman Kyle Merber finished in 7:21.27, setting a new school record. Moriarty posted the third-fastest 800-meter split on the day, but was outpaced by Jacob Hernandez of the University of Texas and Georgetown's Liam Boylan-Pett (a former Lion).

While the men's squad finished the championship relay less than five seconds behind the top finisher, the women's team was less successful. The group of junior Serita Lachesis, sophomore Jackie Drouin, and freshmen Sharay Hale and Laura Meadors crossed the finish line in 8:54.05, roughly 37 seconds behind the University of Tennessee, the event's winner. But in the 4x400-meter heptagonal relays, the women's squad of sophomores Jacqui Brown

and Laura Vogel and freshmen Kyra Caldwell and Hale beat out four Ivy League opponents to finish second behind Cornell with a time of 3:47.90. The men's team finished fourth in the event.

In the men's 3,000-meter steeplechase championship, senior Jeff Randall came from behind to narrowly edge Reuben Mwei and Gilbert Limo in the close competition for second place. Scott MacPherson of the University of Arkansas took the title, outpacing Randall by five seconds. On the women's side, senior Kari Higdem took the event title in 10:48.58. Fellow senior Megan Lessard took fourth place in the 5,000-meter college run.

Sophomore Brendan Martin managed a time of 14:28.98 for fifth place in the men's 5,000-meter run. Senior Alaina Miller and junior John Ryan Withall—the fastest 5,000-meter runners—represented the Light Blue in the Olympic development 5,000-meter run, finishing 12th and 11th, respectively.

The standout performance in the field events came from freshman Monique Roberts' high jump. Roberts captured first place in the women's college event with a jump of 1.72 meters. Senior Elisse Douglass and freshman Uzunma Udeh finished 27th and 28th in the long jump with lengths of 5.22 and 5.21 meters. In the triple jump, however, Douglass came in 22nd with combined jumps of 11.13 meters, while Udeh only managed a total of 11.02 meters.



File photo

PERSONAL RECORD | Senior Jeff Randall finished second in the 300m Steeplechase Championship.

The Columbia track and field team will return to competition next weekend for the Princeton Elite meet, which will run from Friday, May 1 to Saturday, May 2.

Dartmouth defeats Columbia lacrosse in Ancient Eight finale

BY JONATHAN TAYLER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

With just a second remaining in the first half and up by one over Dartmouth, it seemed like Columbia might finally be building some positive momentum. The Lions were riding a three-game winning streak coming into the weekend's Ivy League finale, a streak that included their first conference victory of the year. And against the 16th-ranked Big Green, the Light Blue had overcome another early deficit, taking a 6-5 lead with two minutes left before the break.

But in the last second of the period, Dartmouth's Katherine Chiusano dashed Columbia's hopes of a halftime lead, scoring her second goal of the day to tie the game at six. And as has happened so often to the Lions this season, the tide turned dramatically and irreversibly in the opponent's favor.

On a hot Sunday afternoon with no clouds in the sky, the Light Blue blew their early lead and fell to Dartmouth by a score of 12-9 in the last home game of the year at Baker Field. The loss leaves Columbia with a 1-6 record in Ivy play and cements a last-place finish in the Ancient Eight for a 12th straight season.

If there was one constant in Columbia's season, it was an inability to take the lead early or hold the lead late. Against Dartmouth, the Light Blue fell behind at the outset, with back-to-back goals by Kat Collins and Chiusano in the first 10 minutes giving the Big Green a quick 2-0 advantage. The teams traded goals over the next 15 minutes before a three-goal run by Columbia, including back-to-back scores by Rachael Ryan in the last game of her collegiate career, gave the Lions a 6-5 lead.

Chiusano's goal right before time expired erased the brief lead, however, and four consecutive Dartmouth goals after the opening whistle of the second half

killed any chance of a second Ivy win for the Light Blue. In four scant minutes, the Big Green, keyed by Chiusano and Collins, turned a 6-6 tie into an insurmountable 10-6 advantage. Not even another two goals by Ryan, again back-to-back, could bring Columbia even again. Collins scored the afternoon's final tally to carry the game, and Columbia's season, to an inglorious close.

Senior Day also brought a close to the careers of Ryan, starting goalkeeper Emma Mintz, leading goal scorer Holly Glynn, and Lauren Olsen. Ryan, Glynn, and Olsen have started all 15 games for the Lions this season, and their departure will tax head coach Kerri Whitaker's attempts to move the Light Blue out of the cellar next season. The four seniors will finish with a 1-20 record in Ivy play over their four years.

SEE LACROSSE, page 7