



WILLIAMS: CHRISTOPHER NAVARRO FOR SPECTATOR, JOHNSON AND SCHLEY: DOUGLAS KESSEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
ESPAILLAT: COURTESY OF ADRIANO ESPAILLAT, RANGEL: FILE PHOTO

THE RACE | Clockwise from top left: State Senator Adriano Espaillat, incumbent Rep. Charles Rangel, former Democratic district leader Joyce Johnson, businessman and activist Craig Schley, and former Bill Clinton adviser Clyde Williams.

In race for 13th District, it's Rangel vs. them

BY JILLIAN KUMAGAI,
GINA LEE,
AND CASEY TOLAN
Spectator Senior Staff Writers

On April 10, in his first public appearance in two months, Rep. Charles Rangel told reporters that he had never had so much as a backache in his life. His words were meant to re-assure the press of his good health, after a back injury kept him out of the public eye since

WELCOME TO DISTRICT 13
This is the second in a two-part series that explores the history and changing dynamic of the Congressional district centered in Harlem.

Seeking 22nd term, incumbent faces 4 challengers

February, but they were unconvincing, spoken by a congressman in recovery using a walker to get around. The injury kept him from Capitol Hill. He had missed hundreds of House votes and lost valuable time on the campaign trail. With a district that is no longer primarily African-American, a race crowded with hopefuls, and insupportable rumors that he might bow out, Rangel has his work cut out for him. Just as in 1971, when Rangel, then an ambitious state legislator, defeated a longtime

congressional incumbent, State Senator Adriano Espaillat could pose a similar threat today. **A CROWDED FIELD** Espaillat, who would be the first Dominican-American congressman, is the only elected official among Rangel's four challengers. Following a required decennial redrawing of the district this year, there is, for the first time, a majority-Hispanic voting-age population—seen by many as an opportunity for Espaillat. At the April press conference, Rangel called Espaillat a

“good man.” Others called him an admirable legislator, but whether he has what it takes to defeat the incumbent is still up in the air. “Espaillat is a good candidate,” Dan Cohen, state Democratic Committee member said. “While he's a good public servant, he isn't able to generate enough support to exceed Rangel's current support.” Some residents said they appreciated how visible Espaillat was in his area. “Espaillat is younger. He comes into the coffee shops,

SEE DISTRICT, page 2

Councils giving money to help inconvenienced GS families

BY YASMIN GAGNE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Columbia College Student Council, the Engineering Student Council, and Barnard's Student Government Association will contribute money to a fund to help the families and friends of General Studies students change their Class Day travel plans. Barnard President Debora Spar, GS Dean Peter Awn, and University President Lee Bollinger set up a “modest fund” to help GS students and their guests after GS Class Day was moved to May 13, a day earlier than originally scheduled. CCSC, ESC, and SGA will contribute to that fund, CCSC president-elect Karishma Habbu, CC '13, said on Thursday night. Awn announced on Monday that GS Class Day was being moved because security measures being taken for President Barack Obama, CC '83—who is speaking at Barnard's commencement May 14—would have required guests to arrive at 5:30 a.m. On Tuesday night, the General Studies Student Council held a town hall at which students voiced their frustrations about the change, which comes within a few weeks of the ceremony and will force many guests to modify their travel plans. “All the councils wanted to do their part to show their solidarity with GS and what their students are going through,” Habbu said,

adding that the councils “wanted to show that there is a community among the four schools.” She said that all four councils were involved in the conversation about donating money. “We issued a statement of support, but we wanted to do something more official,” she said. Habbu added that the councils' donation would be largely symbolic. “Obviously, we can't foot the bill for everyone,” she said. “Details are being hammered out about who we give money to, and how we get the money.” ESC president-elect Tim Qin, CC '13, said that the gesture is “more about showing support than fully funding anything.” “We definitely support GS students and families, and we hope that they can have a good Class Day under the circumstances,” he said. “We hope that the University will continue to look for ways to help families affected by the change.” The details of the councils' donations, which are still being finalized, are set to be released today. “We are really appreciative of the gesture and outreach we have received from the other councils,” GSSC President Jacqueline Thong, GS '12, said. “It's nice to see the entire Columbia community standing behind one undergraduate community.” yasmin.gagne@columbiaspectator.com

Baker Field construction on track for Homecoming

BY GINA LEE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Construction at Campbell Sports Center is still on schedule, meaning Columbia sports teams might be able start their fall seasons in a brand new athletics complex. Work on the sports facility—which is currently being built at 218th Street and Broadway, on the southeast corner of Baker Field—will continue through the summer, and if all goes as planned it will open by the fall. The University plans to have the complex open by the Homecoming football game in the upcoming fall season. According to University spokesperson Victoria Benitez, the construction currently involves building the exterior faces of the building and the interior structure and walls. Work on the enclosure and the interior began in January, after the building reached its maximum height and the crane was dismantled. “Later phases will involve

SEE BAKER, page 7

Business zoning restrictions loosened

BY AVANTIKA KUMAR
Spectator Staff Writer

A rezoning proposal restricting storefront sizes on the Upper West Side was amended by the city this week to give landlords more flexibility. The proposal, if passed by City Council, will limit the width of storefronts, banks, and residential lobbies to preserve the “small-store” character of the Upper West Side. The recent amendments loosen the original proposal's restrictions on existing businesses that want to expand, allow currently non-conforming businesses to be permanently “grandfathered” into the rezoning, and increase the maximum width of residential lobbies from 15 to 25 feet. The rezoning proposal, which was approved unanimously by Community Board 7 in February and will be ruled on by the City Planning Commission on May 9, has divided Upper West Siders and drawn the ire of some business groups. The Real Estate Board of New York, which originally feared that the proposal would jeopardize businesses and property owners, voiced support for the amendments. “REBNY appreciate the responsiveness of Chair Amanda Burden and her staff at DCP

[Department of City Planning] to work cooperatively to mitigate the proposal's adverse impact,” the organization said in a statement. “We will continue to work with City Planning and the City Council as this proposal is refined.” But proponents of the rezoning are divided on the new amendments. Former CB7 chair Mel Wymore, who is running for an Upper West Side City Council seat, said that the relaxed restrictions do not threaten the proposal's original objective—maintaining an active, small-scale streetscape. “That remains the net effect of the proposal,” Wymore said. Wymore said that the “most important” change is the

decision to allow businesses to expand up to 60 feet—instead of 40 feet—without needing to obtain an Environmental Impact Statement—a process, Wymore said, that could take more than a year. Under the revised proposal, businesses would be able to go through a faster process with the city planning department. Wymore added that the decision to expand the maximum lobby size—a response to Stringer's concern that lobbies would have limited design options—would be easiest to implement. But the decision to allow businesses to grandfather non-conforming buildings could be contentious.

SEE STOREFRONTS, page 7



DOUGLAS KESSEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MOM AND POP | Up and down Amsterdam Avenue are hundreds of small businesses, like San Juan Pharmacy at 107th Street.

OPINION PAGE 4

Culture of change

Student groups should be more innovative.

Making history

Professor Robert Shapiro on Obama's upcoming Barnard speech.



SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Lions end season with series against Penn

After winning three out of four games against Princeton, the third-place Light Blue ends its season this weekend with a home and home series against fourth place Penn.

EVENTS

The 118th Varsity Show

Watch the first performance of the annual student musical satirizing Columbia. *Roone Arledge Auditorium, 8 p.m.*

DFA End-of-Semester Conversation

Get introduced to the work of the Design for America studio. *504 Diana Center, 7:30 p.m.*

WEATHER

Today



57°/48°

Tomorrow



58°/42°

Rangel has strong political network, but with new district, he’s got his work cut out for him

DISTRICT from front page

talks to people, and comes into the community,” Inwood resident Giselle Suazo said. “Rangel sits down a lot—you know? He’s not a go-getter. He doesn’t go into the community as much.”

Inwood resident A.J. Perez agreed that Espaillat is more engaged with the issues in the community.

“Espaillat talks about the issues—he goes beyond the issues to fix the situation,” Perez said. “You can tell he’s sincere.”

Espaillat did not respond to repeated requests for an interview or comment.

Rodolfo de la Garza, a political science professor at Columbia, said Espaillat’s candidacy was a “nationalistic candidacy—that is, ‘We’re Dominicans, we deserve a Dominican representative.’” Espaillat’s base of Washington Heights is a heavily Dominican neighborhood.

“Everyone here’s Dominican. They’re going to get behind him because it’s a patriotic thing,” Washington Heights resident Mayra Feliz said.

A focus on the Dominican angle, and not the broader Latino community, could hurt Espaillat, though, by alienating non-Dominican Hispanic votes, de la Garza said.

“Rangel has worked well with Latinos, so you’re going to have to mobilize a very pro-Latino vote” to beat him, he said.

Moreover, Espaillat doesn’t have the mantle of an anti-Rangel candidacy to himself. Three other candidates are also challenging Rangel, which could complicate Espaillat’s electoral math.

Joyce Johnson, a former local Democratic district leader, is running again after coming in third to Rangel and Adam Clayton Powell IV in the 2010 primary. That year, only 18 percent of voters turned out for the primary. Johnson said she was even more concerned by turnout this year, as the primary has moved two and a half months earlier.

In January, a federal judge moved up the primary from Sept. 11 to June 26 to allow military voters enough time to receive their ballots before the November general election. Johnson said it was alarming that, exactly two months away from the primary, “people are really just not engaged.”

“After Labor Day, after August, people say, ‘Oh, there’s a primary.’ That’s always been the engagement point. There is no such thing this time around,”

she said.

Craig Schley, a Harlem activist who built his reputation by opposing the 125th Street rezoning in 2008, is challenging Rangel for the third time, but this is his first on the Democratic ticket.

Schley has challenged Rangel’s status quo on the campaign trail. In an interview, he said, “We haven’t been going in a different direction since just after man walked on the moon.”

Clyde Williams, a former adviser to Bill Clinton and political director of the Democratic National Committee, is the only first-time candidate of the three. But unlike the other candidates, who began in local government, Williams’ experience comes straight from Washington, D.C.

“If you’re 60 or younger, Congressman Rangel’s name has been on the ballot for a long time,” Williams said. But, he added, “I believe the best candidate regardless of background, is the person people will vote for—I’m the only challenger that is certified.”

Four challengers could be too many names for voters to keep track of, and with such a diverse field comes the possibility of splitting the anti-Rangel vote.

The concern has already pushed another candidate to drop out. While Johnson, Schley, and Williams all insist they’re in it to win it, Vince Morgan, who also ran against Rangel in 2010, withdrew from the 2012 race and endorsed Espaillat on April 10.

“In a crowded field in a compressed cycle, it doesn’t help anyone that doesn’t come with a built-in base,” he said at the time.

POLITICAL NETWORKS

In a party dominated by complex political hierarchies, Democratic clubs and committees, and the elected representatives who lead them, incumbency is a powerful advantage.

“There are definitely political clubs,” according to Harlem historian Kevin McGruder. “It is difficult for somebody to come in from the outside not working their way through those networks, at least in Harlem.”

Both Rangel and Espaillat have the force of the Upper Manhattan political establishment behind them.

“Because they are the ones who are elected, the same establishment supports them, just different groups,” Johnson said. “They represent the establishment and the establishment has a vested interest in one or the other. There’s not

much difference between them whatsoever.”

Securing the endorsement of Democratic clubs across the district gives candidates the support of some of the most involved and dedicated citizens, who volunteer their time to the campaign.

While Espaillat boasts several endorsements, most of the clubs who have determined their endorsements so far—including the local Broadway Democrats and Three Parks Independent Democrats—have thrown their support to Rangel, a sign that the party establishment is coalescing.

And in terms of elected official endorsements, Rangel is far out front.

“The majority of my constituents are Dominican, and I support Charlie Rangel,” City Council member Robert Jackson said. “I also support Dominican elected officials. I’m supporting Charlie Rangel because he’s the best person to represent the 13th.”

For other elected officials, the consistency of having a recognizable representative in office is crucial to succeeding in Congress.

“My support for the congressman is really born out of his unique contribution to our community, and not wanting to lose his extensive tenure,” Harlem Democratic district leader Jamaal Nelson said. “Your effectiveness in Congress is determined by the length of your service. To change horses in the middle of the river now would put our community in jeopardy of not being able to secure the much needed resources that Rangel has been able to provide.”

“In his worst day, he’s better than most people on their best day,” Upper Manhattan Assemblyman Herman Farrell, a longtime friend of Rangel, said. “He can get things done and that’s what is important. When he walks around D.C., everyone knows who he is.”

‘RANGEL’S TO LOSE’

There are several external factors that could help re-elect Rangel.

Deadlock in the state legislature delayed redistricting, the decennial process of drawing districts’ new lines based on census changes. The issue was eventually settled in the courts in March, nearly three months after the expected completion date.

For non-incumbent candidates, that meant less time to generate campaign

OTHER KEY FIGURES



GRAPHIC BY SINJHN SMITH / PHOTOS BY DOUGLAS KESSEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER AND ANA BATUISTA FOR SPECTATOR

POLITICAL PLAYERS | Left to right, New York State Assembly members Herman Farrell and Keith Wright and City Council member Robert Jackson, all longtime Rangel supporters. Farrell and Wright have publicly endorsed Rangel in this primary. It has been rumored that if Rangel vacates his seat while in office, a committee of Democratic party officials will nominate Wright to a special election to fill the vacancy. Rangel and his supporters have vehemently denied those rumors.

momentum—a significant disadvantage against a well-known incumbent like Rangel.

“It seems clear Charlie Rangel can win this race,” longtime political consultant Hank Sheinkopf said. “Winning elections is all about turnout, and people do not turn out in June. Voting is a learned behavior, and people in New York vote in November, not in June.”

Furthermore, Rangel’s ethics problems may have somewhat faded from the public mind since the last election. He was in the midst of a well-publicized ethics hearing when he handily won the 2010 primary.

“If a challenger was going to be victorious, it was immediately post-censure, two years ago,” Cohen said. “Some of those things were embarrassing, but I don’t think they’re fatal.”

While Espaillat is a stronger opponent than Rangel’s challengers in 2010, Cohen said, “it’s Rangel’s to lose.”

But Rangel still faces the prospect of electoral fatigue. Some district residents think his time has come.

Inwood resident Tracy Tee, who has volunteered for Espaillat and worked with him in the past, said Rangel shouldn’t have run for re-election.

“It’s hard to let go. It’s like boxing—you always see him coming back for one last fight,” Tee said. “He’s done a lot of good, but you should go out like you come in. He should let someone else younger come in.”

“For this community, it’s changed so much that it’s time for someone new to come in with a new perspective,” Suazo said, adding that she wants “someone fresh.”

The biggest unknown for Rangel is the new district itself, with its Hispanic majority and new territory in the Bronx.

“That’s a significant shift of what his constituency is,” McGruder said. “People will start looking at his age. When you put that combination together it won’t be smooth sailing because of those challenges. It will just be a matter of time.”

SWITCHEROO?

Among the politicians standing behind Rangel at the April press conference was one man who is seen by many as Rangel’s favored successor. State Assembly member and Manhattan Democratic Party Chair Keith Wright, a longtime Rangel supporter, looked on stoically as Rangel fielded questions from the press.

Rumors have been flying in local political circles that Rangel might step down after winning the nomination, possibly clearing a path for Wright onto the Democratic ticket and into the halls of the Capitol.

Rangel has maintained that he plans to serve out his full two-year term if elected.

“Let me make it as clear as I can: It is an insult to my integrity

and to my reputation to infer that after being supported for 40 years by such a wonderful, supportive constituency that I would ask them to vote for me with the intention that someone else would be serving,” Rangel said.

But several Democratic party officials in the district said they would not put it past Rangel to pull a “switcheroo” after the primary.

“I do believe that the possibility of Rangel stepping down after he has won the Democratic nomination in favor of the New York County Chairman Keith Wright is highly likely,” one official, who asked to remain anonymous, said. “Rangel feels like he owns the seat and it is his to give, and as a result, I believe that he will bequeath the seat to Keith Wright.”

“I believe it’s likely to happen despite Rangel’s denial,” the official added.

According to state election law, if a nominee steps down after the primary, the county committee of the party chooses a new nominee to run in a special election. In Rangel’s case, the job of choosing a replacement Democratic nominee would be put to the committees of the Bronx and Manhattan Democratic Parties, large bodies comprised of hundreds of local activists and insiders.

Wright, the chair of the Manhattan Democratic Party, did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

“Keith is coming to meetings he’s never been to before, club meetings at the southern end of district,” the official said. “He

wants to solidify his base and curry support” among members of the county committee.

Johnson said that the committee is “very much an insider ballgame.”

“That is the ultimate establishment,” she said. “They are the playmakers. The rank and file is obligated to serve the top of the line. And so those thousand people would certainly nominate Keith Wright” if Rangel were to step down.

BRIDGING THE GAP

As in every election, the political and demographic divisions will have to be reconciled as a single congressman represents the district come January.

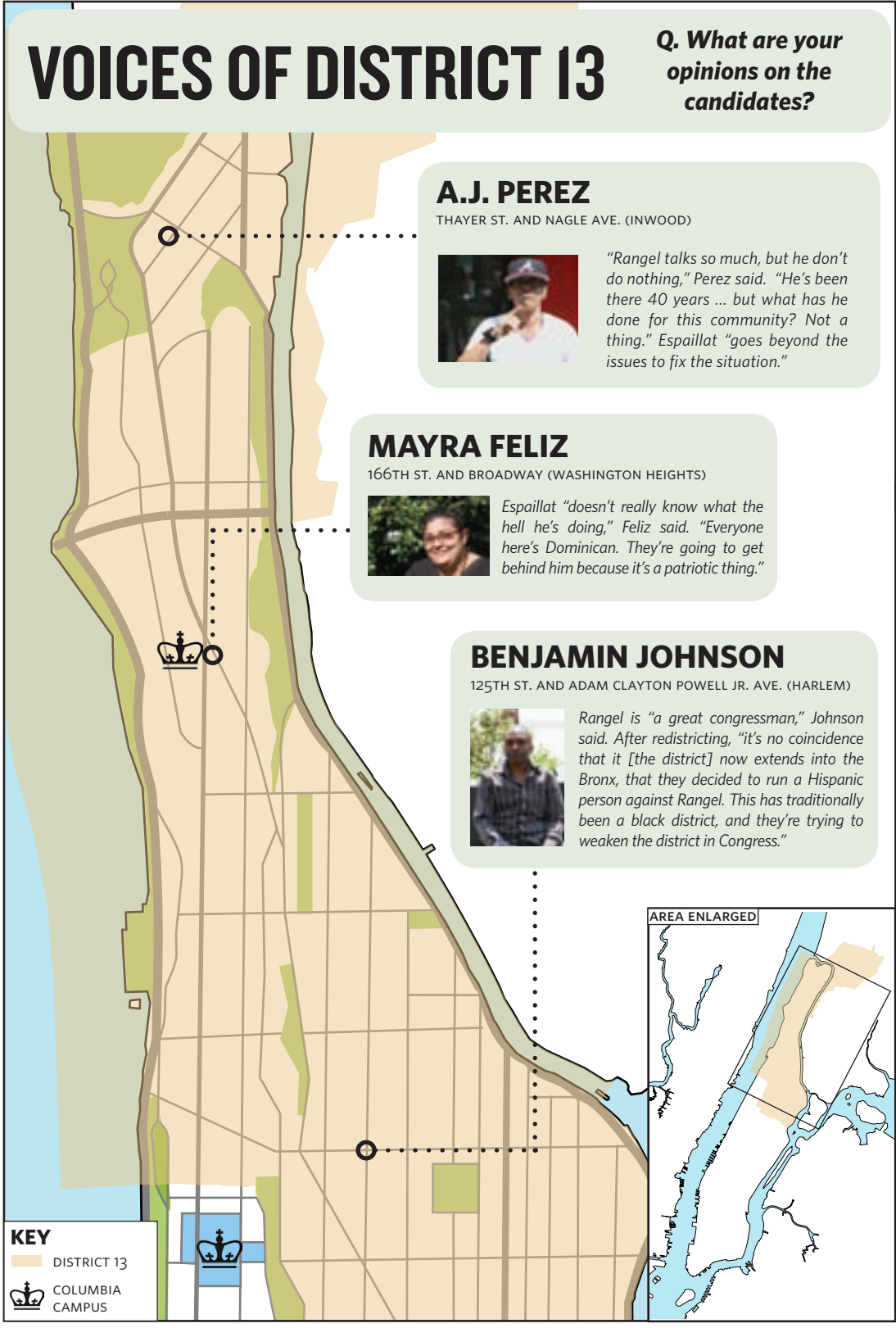
If re-elected, Rangel could be the candidate who would unite the diversified neighborhood after the contentious race, his supporters say.

“When it’s all over, we all have to come back to work on the 13th Congressional District,” Jackson said.

On the other hand, the voters may decide 41 years of Rangel has been enough, and hand the district to a new representative.

All politicians are conscious of their legacy, Rangel said, himself included. The legacy of a 41-year congressman would be pre-eminent anywhere, but especially so in a district that remembers and lionizes its leaders. And no matter his next chapter, from his office in a building named for his predecessor, above a street that is always changing, Charlie Rangel has left a legacy in Harlem.

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY JILLIAN KUMAGAI AND HENRY WILLSON / GRAPHIC BY YUMA SHINOHARA, JILLIAN KUMAGAI, GINA LEE, AND CASEY TOLAN



JILLIAN KUMAGAI FOR SPECTATOR

EYES ON THE PRIZE | The Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building, where the congressman’s offices are located.



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Impetus to innovate

BY JASON HAN

When I was a freshman experiencing everything at Columbia for the first time, I was captivated by all that this campus had to offer. In particular, the various culture shows impressed me the most, and I attended as many of them as I could in hope of finding laughter, inspiration, and community.

Four years later, while I still find immeasurable value in the way in which they rally together the Columbia community to celebrate a certain culture, I have also grown more disillusioned and, subsequently, critical. Just as “Water for Elephants” has divulged the far less romantic reality of day-to-day circus life, time and experience have revealed to me that the culture shows are also not as grandiose as I once found them.

It was not the content that concerned me as much as the fact that the content has remained relatively stagnant at its core for the past four years.

For example, the Chinese Students’ Club Lunar Gala, the Asian American Alliance’s Culture Shock and the Korean Students Association’s Culture Show all happen during the spring semester. Each of these shows has a fashion show component. This means that during my time here at Columbia University, there have now been 12 fashion shows from these groups alone. Have we grown so complacent in the entertainment value and the allure of these fashion shows that we have lost the motivation to change and, perchance, improve them? Given that each of these shows costs thousands of dollars to hold, I find this cost to be exorbitant when it’s not used to incentivize change.

It is not my intent to exclusively criticize these culture shows, although I have cited them as examples. Lack of innovation is not unique to this single campus corner and many student groups often fall in to a similarly comfortable cycle and fail to change. If they’ve tried something and it has worked in the past, isn’t it reasonable to keep to it? Why would they invite change when there is nothing wrong with the status quo? After all, innovation only seems necessary when the community is confronted with a problem to solve. But the true challenge is to spark innovation even when everything is already going well.

We’ve got to resist falling into these complacent cycles because, in my opinion, innovation is what makes life interesting. It brings us updated Apple products (too often). It brought us a social network, valued over \$100 billion, and inspired a movie that almost won an Oscar. It would be prudent to inject this energy into transforming people’s lives and communities right here at Columbia.

The true challenge is to spark innovation even when everything is already going well.

But inspiring change is not easy. To this end, I would recommend two things. First, hold a semiannual meeting with the entire board to discuss the group’s vision for the future and to brainstorm new ideas that can improve the current structure. Decide upon one or two feasible ideas and commit to them before planning out the year. Understandably, your board may already be tied down with day-to-day tasks, but having this meeting is essential to moving forward.

The second recommendation is directed towards the governing boards that fund these student organizations. Create incentives for new programming ideas that can further enrich student life on this campus. At the moment, each group is awarded an allocation package based on its projected cost of operation for the upcoming year. Because the governing boards check the validity of this projection against the group’s event history, it discourages groups from asking for more money to fund new, exciting projects. In my opinion, the governing boards can do more to financially support innovative endeavors in place of some of the older, staler events.

But perhaps more important, always look for inspiration among your peers. A young organization, the Journal of Global Health has already successfully published many voices and opinions that were missing from this campus prior to its establishment. Also, the Student Wellness Project already boasts an impressive repertoire of events despite its short history. The same could even be said for The 212’s cool, chic campaign website. It was the first of its kind and it worked beautifully.

Let us never tire of this spirit of innovation and keep it a constant part of our lives.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in neuroscience and behavior.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

In response to the support for the School of General Studies (“In support of GS,” April 23): I would suggest that any funds graduating seniors were planning to give to the University be given to the families of GS students who will be unable to attend their children’s graduation.

*Allan Lenzner
Morningside Heights resident*

What will Obama say?

BY ROBERT Y. SHAPIRO

“Presidential Power” was a classic book published in 1960 by then Columbia professor Richard Neustadt. Neustadt defined presidential power as the “power to persuade,” and President Obama demonstrated this decisively when he asked and was invited to speak at Barnard’s graduation, bumping New York Times executive editor Jill Abramson, who graciously agreed to speak at a future date. In the same spirit, we should look forward to the day when the first woman president of the United States exerts the same power in ousting an important male public figure at a university commencement somewhere.

The White House contacted Barnard in early March at the start of an escalating debate over whether health insurance provided by institutions run by religious organizations should be required to cover contraception. This issue and the use and availability of contraceptives became a heated topic among Republican candidates in their presidential campaigns and among party leaders and pundits more broadly, with the Democrats looking to capitalize on this issue in the upcoming battle in November for the support of women voters. No doubt the White House had this in mind at the time in asking to speak at one of the world’s leading women’s colleges, where President Obama could use the occasion to emphasize women’s rights, the difficulties women still face, and the important leadership role of the next generation of women at Barnard and in the nation. As I wrote this, Rick Santorum stopped his campaign, and the latest polls showed President Obama benefitting from potentially a larger than usual gender gap against Mitt Romney, which he will try to capitalize on further. And through the media’s national coverage of his Barnard commencement speech, Obama could attempt to appeal to young adults more broadly, whose support was important in 2008 and which he will need again. He could also continue to press his current campaign theme of economic inequality or any new one that he wants to try out. I say “could,” because we do not know for sure what Obama will say, though any appearance at a women’s college symbolizes an appeal to gender, equality,

After Office Hours



JESSICA
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Each Friday, a professor will share scholastic wisdom readers won't find in lectures. Suggestions regarding which professors to feature are welcome.

and age, as he gives his own high-minded motivational speech to the graduates and their families.

But what else could Obama say? How about discussing a national issue for which he wants to mobilize public support? Neustadt’s “power to persuade” is visibly relevant for presidents when it comes to their relationships to the public and voters in particular, and it’s long been a hot topic for political scientists, including me, who study the “public presidency,” as presidents “go public” or even “go local” in attempting to lead—or manipulate—public opinion. What we know from this research is that changing public opinion toward a particular issue or policy solution is difficult (e.g., health care reform) and occurs rarely, unless the public is already favorably predisposed. Or unless the president raises an issue or proposal that is not currently salient—it has not been discussed in the media—and that will not be immediately engulfed in current partisan conflict that squashes everything. Doing this would turn the graduation address into a “major” speech that would be amplified by the press and the reactions of other leaders and pundits, and that could in turn mobilize public support. Or rather than being a one-hit wonder, the speech could be the start of a sustained leadership effort which could keep the issue or proposal visible and increase support for it.

Obama himself has lamented the difficulty presidents have in “breaking through the noise and speaking directly to the American people.” The Barnard speech, occurring in New York’s major media center, is an opportunity to break through the noise. He would honor Barnard—and Columbia and its surrounding community—if he rose to the occasion like Secretary of State George C. Marshall did in his “Marshall Plan” speech in June 1947 to the “gentlemen” of Harvard University. Even if what Obama says can’t crash through the barrier of partisan conflict—and granted, this may be a near impossible task—I hope he will give it the good old Barnard and Columbia try. If not, we can wait and see what that first woman president does at commencement time.

The author is a professor in the department of political science.

schools open in New York City, with the largest concentration right in our West Harlem neighborhood, one argument in favor of the movement is that these schools provide traditionally underserved populations with more options for where to send children to school. It’s important to weigh both sides of the issue, however, and to question whether all charter schools are necessarily better than the public schools they claim superiority over.

4. Public art—Those unidentifiable sculptures on the median strips of Broadway, the public patios outside office buildings in Midtown, and the High Line are considered examples of art that we can enjoy without entering a museum. They make up part of the city’s effort to beautify public spaces, which, depending on your aesthetic sensibility, you may or may not appreciate. As you ponder what the bronze bird symbolizes, think about the “dirt” that these installations aim to cover up—homelessness, poverty, litter—and question whether they can fix these problems without being accompanied by policy changes.

5. Hegemony—As a political science and Francophone studies major, I use this word so often, and it will be a bittersweet moment when I realize that it doesn’t exist outside the world of academia. If you’re against the use of eminent domain in Manhattanville, feel free to equate Columbia’s expansion with imperialism, and then call the University’s actions “hegemonic.”

6. Obama—Barnard’s 2012 Commencement speaker. This guide fits on a regulation double-sided, 8 1/2 x 11 piece of paper. One last piece of senior wisdom: Get in line for the printers now.

Jessica Hills is a Barnard College senior majoring in political science and French and Francophone studies. Urban Dictionary runs alternate Fridays.

equipment to be heard at all, or whether they will even have a place to practice in the first place. Space and funding issues are a real problem for Columbia performing arts.

Many performing arts groups have specific requirements when it comes to practice space—sprung floors, mirrors, pianos—but those needs are not adequately considered when space is allocated. Before the semester begins, during the precalendaring process, most space is scheduled for use during the semester—but without student input. While student group advisers purportedly act on behalf of their respective advisees during precalendaring, the process is closed to the students they represent, and, as a result, priorities for space allocation are not well aligned with student groups’ needs. It is essential that students are present during the precalendaring process.

More than precalendaring, performance groups are suffering from a lack of space in general—even more acutely than the rest of us. The conversion of Wien Lounge into a performance arts space with renovated, hardwood floors is a step in the right direction—but more needs to be done. Performing arts groups need more space, and existing spaces need to be open for longer periods of time.

Even more pressing than space is the issue of funding. Despite initiatives such as CUArts’ Gatsby Grants, groups still

don’t have enough funding. Andrew Wright, CC ’14, told us about budgeting issues he encountered as the musical director for a recent performance: “For ‘Bright Lights, Big City,’ we didn’t have enough funding to give every cast member microphones. Instead, we could only give four people mics, and because of that our lead and a number of supporting actors couldn’t be miked. It was hard for the audience to hear the show. It’s ridiculous that a musical theater society can’t put on a musical with sufficient equipment, because it really detracts from the finished product.”

Equipment and funding issues for performing arts are a serious concern. During the election cycle, The 212 proposed to make use of some of CCSC’s roughly \$80,000 surplus—which, when you include past years’ surpluses, could be thousands more—to support the student groups’ need for equipment. While the editorial board was skeptical about specific details of its plan, we hope that CCSC will explore productive methods to spend a portion of this money to support the performing arts community.

When we sit down for the Varsity Show this weekend, we’ll expect to be dazzled by the creative abilities of our fellow Columbians. What we won’t recognize are the countless hours that they devoted to putting on the show, and the bureaucratic barriers they had to hurdle to secure practice space.

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

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

Senior Columns

Former Spectator staffers share their experiences and thoughts before graduation.

Discovering a niche

BY HANNAH LAYMON

All the benevolent souls who brimmed with advice on making the most out of college pointed me in the same direction: extracurricular activities. According to them, that was the one reliable way to have a fulfilling social life and discover my passions, my two dearest ambitions for the four years to come. Of the personalities I imagined for myself, the one that involved darting around between privileged corners of campus and whipping out articles about its dramatic goings-on was the most attractive, and I decided journalism was for me.

By January of my first year, I'd finished my news training, joined the copy staff, and started showing up to the occasional Arts & Entertainment meetings. I was on my way to being a real Speccie. All that was left for me to do was write an article—and this is where things got problematic.

Once I'd taken my first assignment, the challenge became apparent. I had to chase down

Branching out

BY LEAH GREENBAUM

My parents used to blackmail me to play with other kids. A crisp \$2 bill if I would show Natalie my Beanie Babies. Time-outs and a stern talking-to when I refused. Appointments with kiddie shrinks came just in time for my painful, pimple-faced adolescence. But there weren't enough chapters in "How to Win Friends and Influence People" to get me to fit in.

Last week, I stood atop the roof of Spectator, banging out some reading and eating a burrito. I looked down at a crowd of chattering high schoolers gathered outside Pinkberry, a couple walking lovingly, hand-in-ass-pocket, and rugby players who hustled up the stairs to the Heights, no doubt fixing to split the house salad. I remembered myself at nine, watching neighbors and scribbling little stories from the top of a tree in our front yard. I often think it is this inclination toward aloneness, this separateness from everyone else that drew me to writing about other people's lives. It was easier to watch a neighborhood game of capture the flag from afar—to see each move unfold below—than get caught in the fog of war, just like it's easier to do interviews than it is to have conversations, to have sources instead of friends.

But then came Columbia Daily Spectator. Spec did what my parents, therapists, teachers, and peers never really could: It got me to play with the other kids.

Spec is the first place where I didn't feel like an outsider. I went from creeping on the fringes of Haitian Students Association meetings to going "home" to a place where everyone knew my name and there was a Blue Moon waiting for me in the fridge.

I don't want to get schmaltzy in this column, but dammit, how can I not?

I could have so happily continued to be that solitary journo kid at the top of the tree, the same way the Atlantic could've just been a monthly magazine forever. But my friends at Spectator wouldn't let me off that easy, and as the story goes, the Atlantic's editors forced the tired, old publication to go digital, to interact across new, innovative platforms. So much of journalism today is about surging forward and engaging with communities—not just telling stories, but creating meaningful relationships.

At Spec, I learned to sit on couches and shoot the shit with people I didn't really know. I learned to hug and fist-bump whenever possible. I learned how to stand up to bullies, be they sources or other Speccies. I climbed down that tree, and thank the lord, there were legions of incredible people there to greet me.

I can only thank a few of them here: Joy, Betsy, Ben, Thomas, Sam, and Alix, I would've been a little lost lamb without the mentoring and encouragement each of you gave me.

To all of the sassy bitches of 135, they really don't make 'em better than you, do they?

Mikey, my lil' bro, turns out freedom really ain't nuthin' more than missing you.

I learned everything I know about pluck, poise, and passion from you, Hannah.

To all the wonderful newsies, past and present, man, was I lucky to work with such a talented bunch. From scoring the chaplain's digits to all-nighters with Occupy Wall Street, y'all humble and amaze me.

Sammy and Finn, you boys did everything way better than I ever could. Is it strange that the thing I'm most proud of is having you two take over?

Abby, I am so glad we walked into that church.

To my friends, roommates, and family, thank you for being there for me, whether that meant reading my pieces of crappy college journalism, bear-hugging me when I was down, or understanding why I didn't call enough (sorry again about that, Mom and Dad).

Jacob, you were the best scoop I ever got around here. Thanks for everything, but most especially for letting me write about your strange courtship rituals.

Sarah, to quote Virginia, how could two people possibly be happier than we have been? Your friendship—from that first mint tea at Hungarian to gin and juice on Plympton to Sauvignon Blanc in the office last week—has meant everything to me.

And to everyone I see from the top of 2875 Broadway—readers, sources, everyone—thanks for getting me and Spec outta that damn tree.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in English and human rights. She was a deputy news editor on the 134rd volume, news editor on the 135th managing board, and a training editor on the 136th volume. She is an arts columnist.

several professors and administrators, sweet-talk them into letting me pepper them with questions, and condense the whole experience into a compelling 500-word story. I—the queen of indecisiveness, apologizing, and taking half an hour to write a sentence—was being called upon to discard my sense of shame and pry information from people so I could share it with a few thousand others. Maybe I wasn't cut out for this.

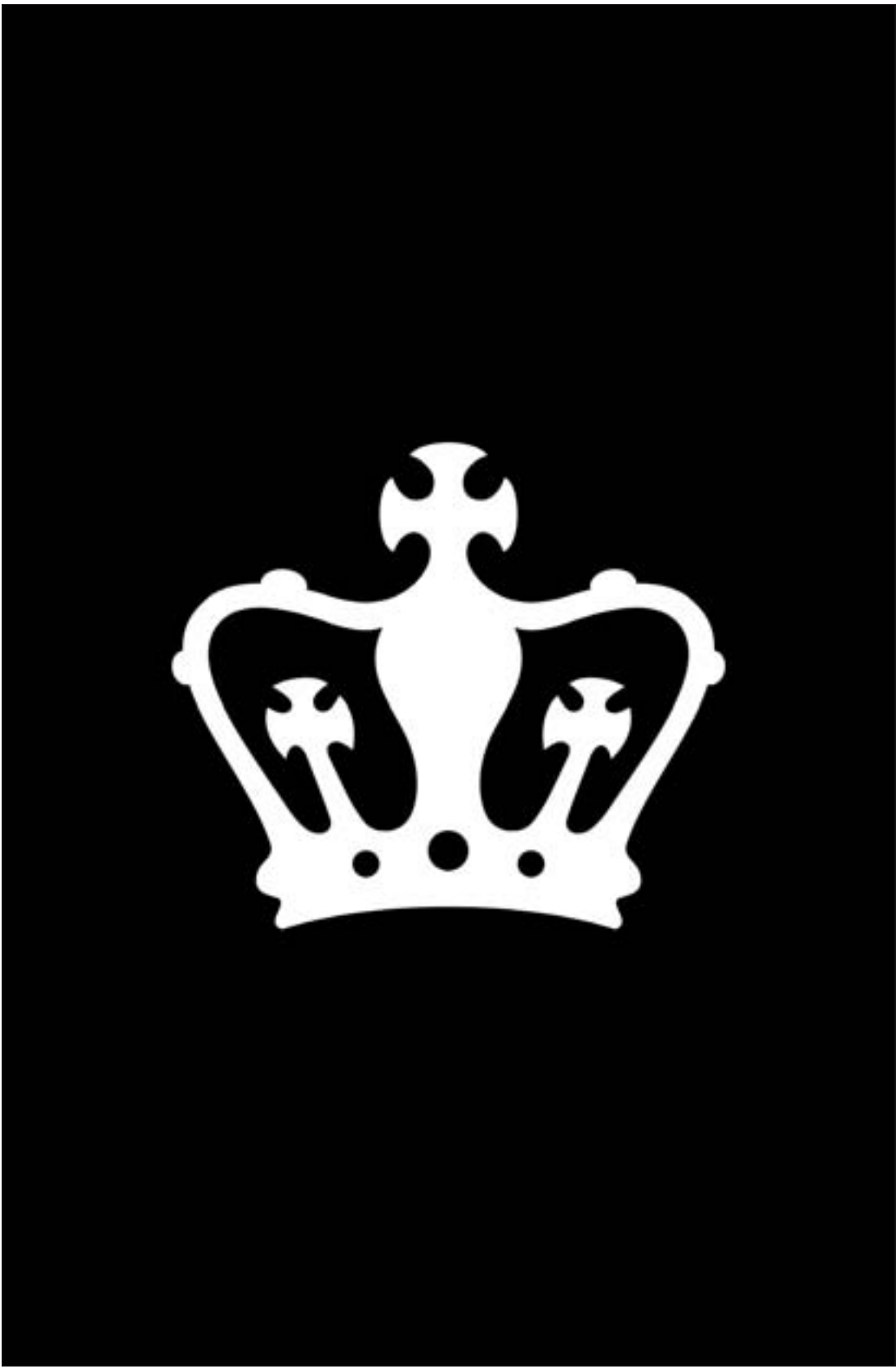
I kept writing for another couple of months, and to be fair, I did enjoy getting to be the one to tell my peers about the new sophomore pair-up option in room selection. But around mid-April, after a few too many all-nighters and awkward phone conversations, I stopped coming to writers' meetings. The prospect of a byline had lost its draw, and by that point, I had figured out where the real fun was to be had.

As a member of the copy staff, I got to spend three hours a week at one of the office's paleolithic computers, correct the spelling and punctuation of finished articles, and read out the occasional, hilariously incomprehensible sentence to a crew of like-minded people. The work was subtle but mechanical enough to leave some mental energy for gossip and schoolwork-related kvetching. I had finally found the perfect setting

in which to indulge my love of linguistic nitpicking, and meanwhile, I got to eavesdrop on tales of high-powered journalistic internships, private chats with President Bollinger, and the amazing feats of scheduling that allowed people to juggle the two massive commitments of being a Speccie and being a student. In my mind, there was no better place to be.

The work was subtle but mechanical enough to leave some mental energy for gossip and schoolwork-related kvetching.

So I stayed there. I was a staffer for five semesters, first for the website, then for the daily. In the fall of my junior year, I finally applied to become an associate, thereby signing up for one long night a week of scanning articles' final versions for dire problems. On my first night as an associate, I wished I'd taken that plunge long ago. It turned



YUMA SHINOHARA

And now, an extended metaphor about this newspaper and a book I once read

BY EMILY TAMKIN

The summer before I began eighth grade, I read a book by the title of "Midnight Hour Encores." The book (which I do not particularly recommend, so don't run out to pick up a copy and then judge my literary taste) is about, among other things, a girl who plays the cello. She goes to audition for one cello teacher, and he asks her why she's learning to play this instrument specifically. She replies, "Because it's big enough to hold me."

At the risk of sounding schmaltzy and saccharine (although I fear it may be too late for such concerns), this newspaper—and, more particularly, the editorial page (that's this page, which you're reading right now)—was my cello. Columbia Daily Spectator gave me a place at this university. It gave me my first group of editorial page associates, whom I still consider family, however much we've grown apart; my predecessor, Amin, from whom I learned both how to edit and how to be a better person; my co-editor, Raphael, with whom I learned that, though one cannot always get what one wants (which, in my case, is total control over everything, always), sometimes one gets what one needs (a co-editor with whom one can do what was, in my never-humble opinion, a great job); the 134th managing board, a remarkably talented and thoroughly decent group of individuals; and some of the best friends I've made at this school and in my life.

And, in ways that I will never be able to articulate, it gave me a sense of purpose. I cried (yes, actual tears) over this page when I did something wrong. I was prouder of myself then I'd ever been when I got something right. I loved soliciting

op-eds from across campus in the hopes of creating a better forum for discussion and debate. I loved overseeing the writing of snarky editorials about the state of dining (my belated apologies to one Mr. Scott Wright) and slightly less snarky ones about what, exactly, the Global Centers do. I loved editing—taking something somebody wanted to say and helping him say it more persuasively. I loved that I had found something that was big enough to hold me.

This newspaper was my cello.

It didn't stay big enough, of course. And I moved on to find things that were. To study abroad. To meet new people. To commit myself with the interest and enthusiasm I learned while working for Spectator. To write a column and to blog and to be edited, instead of editing. To watch my successors (who, for what it's worth, have made me very proud), and to know that the page is holding them now, not me, and that that is fine and right.

But that doesn't mean that I don't owe a tremendous amount to this paper. It just means that, because of my time at Spectator, I'm big enough to hold it now. To carry what it taught me wherever I go. To use it to play my next cello.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in Russian literature and culture. She was an associate and deputy editorial page editor for the 133rd volume and the editorial page editor for the 134th managing board.

out the office came alive after 10 p.m. People I had come to know as sane, poised, and intimidatingly cool started dancing to Lady Gaga or ranting about sleep deprivation and elusive sources. I watched as editors received articles for the next day's paper at midnight and searched frantically for writers to cover sudden twists in the ongoing drama of our Columbia experience.

Not even this semester, as I spent three nights a week editing The Eye and scrambled to keep my grades at a respectable level, did it ever occur to me that being a copy editor for Spectator was anything but an enormous privilege. The dedication of my talented fellow Speccies gave me as close a view as I could handle of the action below Columbia's dignified, granite surface, and the guidance of a few august style experts helped me develop a skill that suited my natural inclinations. Even as I railed at the spinning rainbow wheel on my desktop and raced to finish homework between articles, I knew joining Spec had been the right decision.

The author is a Columbia College senior concentrating in French and Romance philology and German literature and cultural history. She was a an associate copy editor for the 135th volume and is the head copy editor of The Eye.

Turn Spec inside out

BY HANNAH D'APICE

In this fractured university of many moving parts, students tend to get lost in the mix. For this reason, the goal of serving as a forum, resource, and voice for students has been at the top of each Spec editor's "To-Do" list for the four years I've been here. But Spectator's greatest flaw remains its ongoing struggle to connect with and fully represent undergraduates themselves.

Instead, within our student community, Spectator is perceived as insular. It's true that Speccies form a tight crew. College is a time of shaping personal identity, of situating oneself in the world, and having a close-knit group of people to identify with enables that. The most important thing I will take from Spectator is the sense of belonging it gave me, of feeling like this was a place where I could grow as a person while contributing something meaningful to the people around me.

But because Spectator's self-stated mission is to be a forum and platform for all students, not just its staff, it's in a slightly different position than other student groups. There are a finite number of points that those in power pay attention to, and use to take the pulse of the undergraduate student body—and for better or for worse, Spectator is one of them. In March, a trustee had an op-ed published in our Opinion pages. Administrators, alumni, and neighborhood residents regularly comment on and submit articles, and again, the paper is perceived as an authoritative student voice.

So it troubles me when I hear that different groups on campus feel they are not represented in Spectator's pages. The worst I'd ever heard was an acquaintance referring to Spectator as Columbia's "Fox News." And that's not the only statement of its kind. How can this be? The people Spectator most wants to connect to are, literally, our next-door neighbors, students in our classes, residence halls, and extracurriculars. They are our peers. But a dividing line remains between Spectator and the rest of the undergraduate community.

To a certain extent, I think it is in the nature of student groups at Columbia to exist in their own bubbles. Our university can have an alienating effect, and developing smaller, close-knit communities is one way of alleviating that effect. But to reconcile the goal of community dialogue with each individual staff member's desire for personal development, Spectator should cultivate an internal culture of external engagement.

This is not a new idea. I have increasingly seen editors make appearances at campus events and discussions, trying to indicate that Spectator cares and is paying attention. So as my own small contribution, I'd like to take a line from one of the CCSC tickets this year (The 212) and suggest that Spectator should not just reach out to students, but turn itself inside out.

I will present two examples. First, there should be as few questions as possible about how Spec operates internally. We call for transparency from administrators all the time, and Spectator can benefit from its own transparency. Consider Opinion's recent series on how its op-ed process works—having things like that permanently on the "About" page would be great.

Second, in spite of the fact that I have hugely benefited from using it as a private study room, the office should be treated as a more open and accessible space. Spectator hosts a lot of internal events, and while these are for the benefit of the staff, I don't think anything will be lost by inviting other people in.

I said earlier that a sense of belonging and contribution defined my time at Spectator. Readers should also feel that they have the access and ability to contribute to the direction of the paper, and the current culture does not encourage that. If Spectator can change this, then maybe those outside the organization will feel something of what I, inside the organization for so long, have felt for it.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in political science. She was a design associate on the 133rd volume, design editor for the 134th managing board, staff director for the 135th managing board, arts & entertainment training editor for the 136th volume, and is a member of the editorial board.



DOUGLAS KESSEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

STOREFRONT | A measure to restrict the width of storefronts along Broadway, Amsterdam, and Columbus avenues—an effort to protect small businesses—was amended to appeal some critics.

Board concedes some changes in zoning proposal

STOREFRONTS from front page

“I think you have various perspectives ... It’s a streamlining of the zoning resolution in a certain way,” Wymore said, adding that the amendment “affords for the larger spaces to be larger.”

He added that community board members wanted less grandfathering, whereas landlords wanted more. He noted that grandfathering would eliminate concerns that landmarks would be affected by the rezoning proposal, and that only 37 buildings would be affected by this amendment. Just one of those buildings is north of 96th Street, according to former CB7 chair Shelly Fine.

Helen Rosenthal, another former CB7 chair and Upper West Side City Council candidate, said she was “not a fan” of the amendments.

“It doesn’t strike me that

it moves us in the direction of maintaining our independent businesses,” Rosenthal, who will face Wymore for the City Council seat in 2013, said. “You know, the goal of the rezoning was always intended to improve the retention of family-owned businesses.”

According to Peter Arndtsen, president of the Columbus-Amsterdam Business Improvement District, property owners are mostly concerned that larger and more prominent businesses would be able to legally circumvent the restrictions, regardless of the details of the rezoning plan.

“A key piece is that it’s evenly applied,” Arndtsen said.

At this point in the legislative process, Arndtsen said, the proposal is “beyond community input.” But while he has not been tracking the proposal closely since it has moved past the community board level, he is optimistic

about leadership at the city planning department.

“I think you have various perspectives ... It’s a streamlining of the zoning resolution in a certain way.”

—Mel Wymore, former CB7 chair and City Council candidate

“They’ve been very open to hearing ideas about the process,” Arndtsen said. “I trust there will be something that works for them.”

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CU providing 32 camp scholarships in Inwood

BAKER from front page

the interior fit-out and finishes,” Benitez said. Interior fit-out includes the installation of ceilings, floors, and partitions, as well as the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems.

The sports complex will include meeting and conference rooms, a strength-and-conditioning center, a lounge

and study room, and other facilities for Columbia athletes and the athletics department.

The University is holding a “hire on the spot” event May 8 for minority, women, and local union workers looking to get construction jobs on the site. The event will give workers the chance to meet with contractors to discuss opportunities in various construction

projects, including painting, flooring, and roofing.

Also in accordance with a community benefits agreement reached with Community Board 12, the University is providing 32 children living in CB12’s neighborhood with scholarships to attend sports camps at Baker Field this summer.

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HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PLAY BALL | Construction on the Campbell Sports Center at Baker Field is proceeding along schedule. Administrators are providing 32 Inwood children with sports camp scholarships.

Men’s golf tees off at Ivy Championships

BY JOSH SHENKAR Spectator Staff Writer

The men’s golf team will seek to regain conference supremacy when they compete in the Ivy League Championship this weekend at Galloway National Golf Club.

The Lions have won three of the last four Ivy team titles, but in last season’s competition they faltered, finishing second to Yale by 20 strokes.

Columbia will field a talented five-man squad that includes senior Brendan Doyle, junior Michael Yiu, sophomore Andrew Kim, junior Ford Fischer, and sophomore Jordan Lee. According to Light Blue coach Rich Mueller, the players’ experience at previous Ivy League Championships should help the team have a successful performance this weekend.

“Brendan’s Ivy experience is very important—he knows Galloway better than anyone,” Mueller said in an email. “Don’t forget Michael Yiu and Ford Fischer were part of the championship team at Baltusrol in 2010. Andrew and Jordan both have strong national junior experience and a second place in

the Ivy last year—they’re both hungry.”

The Lions have had a solid season so far and enter the Ivy League Championship full of confidence. Columbia’s Golfstat division rank of No. 160 is second in the Ivy League, and the team’s 296.57 team round average is the fourth-best in the conference. The Lions have achieved third-place finishes in both of their last two tournaments: the Princeton Invitational and the Navy Invitational. Mueller emphasized that these recent successes are due to the team’s approach, which has raised the Lions’ confidence heading into the Ivy Championships.

“Our approach and confidence right now is coming from our ‘process,’” Mueller said. “It boils down to making good swings and strokes—specifically, capitalizing on the things we can control. The last three weeks we’ve really honed in on what gives us the best chance to play well—and it has been working as evidenced at Princeton and Navy.”

Doyle, having placed third at last year’s Ivy League Championship, which was also

at Galloway National, is expected to lead the Lions this weekend. Mueller said that one of the Lions’ keys for winning is staying patient and not rushing shots, in addition to “recognizing that par on every hole is a great score.”

“Brendan’s Ivy experience is very important—he knows Galloway better than anyone.”

—Rich Mueller, men’s golf head coach

“Galloway National is extremely difficult and requires concentration on every shot,” Mueller said.

The three-day championship will be held in Galloway, N.J. The first round begins Friday at 8 a.m., the second round begins Saturday at 11 a.m., and the final round begins Sunday at 11 a.m.

Pizzano hopes to break HR record in final weekend

BASEBALL from back page

This weekend’s four-game set will also have special significance for the Light Blue’s eight seniors—Jon Eisen, Billy Rumpke, Harrison Slutsky, Anthony Potter, Zach Epstein, Mark Heil, Alex Aurricchio, and Pat Lowery—who will try to finish their collegiate careers on a winning note.

Lowery, the Light Blue’s ace, will get the start in game one on Friday for his last outing as a Lion. He’s currently second in the league with a 2.44 ERA and third in opponent batting average at .239.

“Pat has done an awesome job for us all year,” head coach Brett Boretti said. “I’m hoping he finishes up strong—I’m sure he will. We’ve got a lot of confidence in him on the hill. He’s done a great job. He’s had a great career here.”

Another key senior playing his last series as a Lion is Eisen. The infielder has shredded Ivy pitching so far this season, batting .414 in league contests. That mark ties him with Dartmouth’s Joe Sclafani for

the league lead.

“Jon continues to start our offense,” Boretti said. “I’m looking forward to seeing him continue the same thing for the last four games.”

On the other side, Boretti singled out one Quaker that the Lions will have to keep in check this weekend.

“[Greg] Zebrack, their center fielder, is one of the best in the league,” he said. “He’s a guy you’ve got to pitch carefully, and he’s a guy—when he gets on base—that likes to run. He’s definitely their best offensive threat, no question about it.”

Zebrack has had a great year for the Quakers. He’s leading the team in batting average at .364, but he’s also first in the entire league in slugging percentage (.711), on-base percentage (.468), doubles (17), and total bases (86). He is second in the league in runs scored (33) and home runs (seven) to boot.

Overall, the Lions should be able to handle Penn’s pitching. The Quakers’ staff ERA sits at a hefty 5.26—third-worst in the league. Starters Vince Vairo and

Cody Thompson have done well for the Quakers, boasting ERAs of 2.24 and 3.13, respectively. But the third and fourth starters have been a problem for the Quakers. Matt Gotschall has started seven games, but has an ERA of 5.40 in just over 36 innings. No other Penn pitcher has started more than four games.

Still, the Lions know the series will be a good battle.

“Penn’s always scrappy and always plays hard, so it’s always a good rivalry,” Boretti said. “We’re always the last weekend of the year against each other, so it’ll be a good dogfight all the way down to the last out of each game.”

Even though the division title won’t be on the line, the Lions’ players and coaches are ready to battle to the last strike.

“Coach Boretti has really been giving us that pep talk—it doesn’t matter what’s at stake, you just go out there and try to win a baseball game and have fun doing it,” Pizzano said.

First pitch is slated for noon on both Friday at Penn and Saturday at Robertson Field.

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HEAVYWEIGHT ROWING

Light Blue rowers face Midshipmen in the final dual meet of the season

Still searching for a first-place finish in the month of April, the Lions will race Navy for the Maxwell Stevenson Cup on Sunday in their last dual meet of the season. Since Columbia won the Alumni Cup on March 31, the varsity eight has struggled to perform at the top of its game. The Lions' most recent meet in Boston, Mass. ended in a disappointing third-place finish

behind Syracuse and Boston. Conversely, Navy's varsity eight has finished first in two of its last three races. Last weekend, Harvard edged the Midshipmen by two seconds in the Adams Cup, and Navy will look to rebound with a strong performance against the Lions. The Maxwell Stevenson Cup will begin at 10:40 a.m. in Princeton, N.J.

—Steven Lau

SOFTBALL

Lions wrap up conference play with 2 doubleheaders against Quakers

The Lions (12-29, 6-10 Ivy) will close their Ivy slate this weekend with four games against Penn (28-15, 11-5 Ivy). The South Division-leading Quakers defeated Delaware 3-2 on Wednesday, despite being out-hit and committing three errors, thanks to left fielder and leadoff hitter Sydney Turchin's RBI single in the bottom of the seventh. Last weekend, Penn handed Cornell three

of its five conference losses. Columbia split four games with Princeton last weekend, and freshman pitcher Brooke Darling gave up only one earned run in her 14 innings pitched. The Quakers and Light Blue will play a doubleheader in Philadelphia, Pa. on Friday afternoon starting at 2 p.m. before returning to play in New York on Saturday at 12:30 p.m.

—Muneeb Alam

LACROSSE

CU hopes to break 3-game skid with road win at Virginia Tech

The Lions (2-12, 0-7 Ivy) will finish their season on the road at Virginia Tech (9-6). The Hokies competed in the ACC Tournament last Friday and lost in the opening round 15-7 to No. 4 Maryland. Freshman attacker Megan Will was the only player who mustered more than a single point for Virginia Tech, scoring three goals on five shots.

Columbia's offense also sputtered last weekend as it scored only three times in a seven-goal loss to Harvard. Junior attacker Kacie Johnson had two assists, and any assists or points she registers on Saturday will add to her single-season school records in those categories. The opening draw is at 1 p.m. in Blacksburg, Va.

—Muneeb Alam

Reflecting on 3 years, lessons learned from Spec Sports writers

GLUBIAK from back page

up. It was three in the afternoon. Three years later, I know why. That Friday afternoon I signed up to start writing. As I approach graduation, I can confidently say it was one of the best decisions I've made in college. That said, I don't want to make this column a tribute to Zach Glubiak or "Boom Goes the Dynamite." I would like to write something profound and share some of the wisdom I've accumulated in the last four years. I would like to eloquently capture the essence of my experience and put into words all it's meant. In short, I want to write Kunal Gupta's senior column from last year. Yet I don't have all of that quite figured out. I don't have all the answers. Instead, I've learned that I have very few of them—and that's OK. Much more than any all-encompassing life lesson I've gained here, I've grown to understand the importance of the people I've met. Oftentimes senior columns have a big, powerful message and then reserve the closing words for shoutouts almost as an afterthought. For me, the shoutouts are the point, not because I'm into self-indulgence, but because what I've learned here has not been any overarching key to success, happiness, or sleep, but a series of smaller lessons, each with a different aim and each from a different person. The following is my attempt both to thank some of those who have taught me these things and to share the lessons themselves. To Kunal, who taught me about, well, everything. More than your overwhelming ability, it is your humility, enthusiasm, and unwavering dedication—to this school, Spectator, and those around you—that has always inspired me. To Mrinal, who taught me that it is, in fact, possible to do it all. Your contributions to this school have touched so many areas that I think no one person can truly appreciate their scope. Your caring nature and your

willingness to take on responsibility are unsurpassed. To Jim, you again and again showed you were willing to write what you thought even if it was unpopular. While I rarely agreed with you, I just as often felt like the conversations you sparked were worthwhile. To Steven, who reassured me that the future of Spectator is just as bright as the past. You are the man, Steven, and it takes no explaining. To Trevor, Jeremiah, and Rebeka, who taught me there is so much more the section can do that we never thought of, thank you for having the courage to change things up. To Sam, who taught me that being blissfully ignorant of most goings-on in the realm of Columbia athletics does not preclude your being intensely devoted to the University. I am again and again blown away by your brilliance and your thoughtfulness. To Ronnie, who brought his sunny outlook to Spectator and demonstrated that truly enjoying whatever you're doing goes an awfully long way, no matter whether it's on the soccer field or in the Spec office. Arguably more importantly, thank you for laughing at my jokes on the Sportscast. And, finally, to Michele, who taught me that being selfless often involves a lot more than simply deflecting praise. You are the type of person I hoped I'd find at Columbia, and I never fail to be impressed by the things you do. The combination of talent, devotion, and compassion you embody makes you an absolute force of nature. And to Spectator and particularly to the sports section, who taught me more than I could ever explain. I may have never met Jay-Z, but I think I did much, much better inside of 2875 Broadway. Thank you, and best of luck in the years to come. Zach Glubiak is a Columbia College senior majoring in history. He is a member of the varsity men's soccer team. sports@columbiaspectator.com

FRIDAY FULL COUNT



VS.

COLUMBIA

Jon Eisen (3B)
AVG: .336, OBP: .419, SLG: .396

Nick Crucet (2B)
AVG: .270, OBP: .316, SLG: .351

Dario Pizzano (LF)
AVG: .346, OBP: .456, SLG: .537

Nick Ferraresi (RF)
AVG: .311, OBP: .404, SLG: .515

Alex Aurricchio (DH)
AVG: .202, OBP: .256, SLG: .333

Alex Black (1B)
AVG: .354, OBP: .402, SLG: .500

Billy Rumpke (CF)
AVG: .268, OBP: .352, SLG: .333

Aaron Silbar (SS)
AVG: .192, OBP: .254, SLG: .240

Mike Fischer (C)
AVG: .227, OBP: .311, SLG: .364



VS.

PENN

Greg Zebrack (CF)
AVG: .364, OBP: .468, SLG: .711

Austin Bossart (C)
AVG: .273, OBP: .328, SLG: .322

Rick Brebner (3B)
AVG: .313, OBP: .396, SLG: .438

Ryan Deitrich (RF)
AVG: .333, OBP: .386, SLG: .579

Spencer Branigan (1B)
AVG: .227, OBP: .325, SLG: .371

Derek Vigoa (SS)
AVG: .312, OBP: .379, SLG: .320

Brandon Engelhardt (LF)
AVG: .231, OBP: .304, SLG: .313

James Mraz (DH)
AVG: .256, OBP: .333, SLG: .293

Kyle Toomey (2B)
AVG: .204, OBP: .267, SLG: .259

GAME 1



Cody Thomson
Penn
ERA: 3.13, K: 33, BB: 18

vs.



Pat Lowery
Columbia
ERA: 2.44, K: 39, BB: 15

GAME 2



Matt Gotschall
Penn
ERA: 5.40, K: 20, BB: 26

vs.




David Speer
Columbia
ERA: 4.64, K: 37, BB: 12

GAME 3




Vince Vairo
Penn
ERA: 2.24, K: 54, BB: 12

vs.




Tim Giel
Columbia
ERA: 3.91, K: 29, BB: 12

GAME 4



Ronnie Glenn
Penn
ERA: 4.15, K: 17, BB: 17

vs.



Stefan Olson
Columbia
ERA: 4.25, K: 29, BB: 10

KEYS TO THE GAME

- Kick 'em when they're down**

Last weekend, Cornell won three out of four games against Penn to drop the Quakers' Ivy record to just 7-9. Losers of eight of their last 10, Penn is ripe to be beaten down with so little momentum coming into the weekend.
- New record**

Junior Dario Pizzano tied Gene Larkin's career home run record of 25 by launching one on Wednesday afternoon. He's been one of the Lions' most consistent batters all season long, and look for him to continue the power surge and possibly break the record this weekend.
- Seniors' last hurrah**

The Lions have eight seniors going into their last four collegiate games this weekend. Look for big contributions from all of them, but especially Pat Lowery, Jon Eisen, Alex Aurricchio, and Billy Rumpke.



FILE PHOTO

GLARE OF A CHAMPION | Michelle Piyapattrra will try to defend her Ivy League title this weekend.

5 Columbia golfers compete for Ivy title


WOMEN'S GOLF from back page

score in relation to par with her 3-under 69 at the Roar-EE Invitational two weeks ago. With that score, she won both the Roar-EE Invitational this year and last year's Ivy championships. Piyapattrra thinks that the addition of three new freshmen this year could lead to more competition from the Light Blue as a team. "There's more competition now for spots so I think everybody's much more focused while last year, we only had


five so everybody would always travel," Piyapattrra said. "And I think it's good to have more people help you." Joining the sophomore is classmate Jane Dong, freshman Lisa Combs, senior Lynda Kwon, and senior Robin Lee. Co-captain Kwon has shown a lot of promise in her final year at Columbia, cutting off 16 strokes at the Roar-EE Invitational two weeks ago. Kwon fired her lowest score with a 2-over 74 in the final round of the invitational. "Because this is my last time playing for Columbia and playing the last time ever at a

conference match, I really want to win," Kwon said. "Compared to other years, that hunger is definitely there. Every year I've wanted to win, but this year, it's kind of like, 'Last chance.'" Kwon placed No. 31 last year in her third championship appearance. Co-captain Lee also brings experience, tying for No. 22 in her best round of championship golf last season. Despite the windy, hazard-filled course conditions, past successes may help the Light Blue earn a win and advance to regionals. The first round of the three-day competition begins Friday at 8 a.m.


THE SLATE




BASEBALL
at Penn
Philadelphia, Pa.
Friday, 12 p.m., 2:30 p.m.




BASEBALL
vs. Penn
Robertson Field
Saturday, 12 p.m., 2:30 p.m.



SOFTBALL
at Penn
Philadelphia, Pa.
Friday, 2 p.m., 4 p.m.




SOFTBALL
vs. Penn
Columbia Softball Field
Saturday, 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m.




LACROSSE
at Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Va.
Saturday, 1 p.m.



WOMEN'S GOLF
Ivy League Championships
Galloway, N.J.
April 27-29



MEN'S GOLF
Ivy League Championships
Galloway, N.J.
April 27-29




HEAVYWEIGHT ROWING
Maxwell Stevenson Cup
Princeton, N.J.
Sunday, 10:40 a.m.



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GERMANIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES GREEK HINDI-URDU HISTORY HUMAN RIGHTS
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MIDDLE EASTERN, SOUTH ASIAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES MUSIC PHILOSOPHY PHYSICS POLITICAL SCIENCE
PRELAW PREMED PSYCHOLOGY RELIGION RUSSIAN PRACTICUM SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SOCIOLOGY SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE STATISTICS VISUAL ARTS WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

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GAMEDAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 27 • PAGE 10



COLUMBIA (18-23, 9-7 Ivy) vs. PENN (16-20, 7-9 Ivy)

FRIDAY, 12 P.M., 2:30 P.M. PHILADELPHIA, PA.

SATURDAY, 12 P.M., 2:30 P.M. ROBERTSON

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1 last boom of dynamite from Spec Sports

When I visited Columbia on my recruiting trip as a high school senior in the fall of 2007, one of the then-freshmen on the soccer team told me he had recently run into Jay-Z downtown. A year later as I was getting ready to move into my new home in Morningside Heights, I was still responding to questions about my expectations for Columbia with little quips like ‘maybe I’ll meet Jay-Z!’

To say I was green when I showed up in the Big Apple would be an understatement. I had no idea what I was getting myself into. That was not really a bad thing. In fact, it was one of the reasons I chose to take whatever talents I had to Manhattan. Nonetheless, I stepped onto campus in a state of mind that was somewhere between curiously anxious and absolutely terrified.

A year later, in the fall of 2009, I walked into an open house at Spector with more or less the same mindset. I didn’t have a clue about the people I would meet, the seemingly endless hours I would spend in that office, or the 100-plus stories I’d write for the paper. Instead, I simply asked where the sports section was. I remember the sports editor at the time told me he’d just woken



ZACH GLUBIAK

Senior Column



FILE PHOTO

JONNY B. GOODE | Senior Jon Eisen is an offensive catalyst, having amassed 189 base hits and 116 runs in his four years.

Piyapattra, Lions search for Ivy Championship

BY LAURA ALLEN
Spectator Staff Writer

Women’s golf will compete in the 2012 Ivy League Championship at Seaview Golf Resort’s Bay Course in Galloway, N.J. this weekend. The Lions believe that they can take home first place at the 54-hole tournament, despite last season’s fifth-place finish.

“We have had good and sometimes great play from all of our starters throughout the course of the year,” coach Kari Williams said in an email. “We are going to AC with a single purpose: play our best rounds of golf of the year to win the Ivy Championships.”

Sophomore Michelle Piyapattra leads the five-golfer squad as the defending individual Ivy League

champion. Piyapattra shot a 2-under 214, which was the best score at an Ivy League Championship since 2008.

Piyapattra’s success has carried over to this season, in which she is currently ranked No. 63 in the country, above any other Ivy League player. She recently matched her career-best

SEE WOMEN’S GOLF, page 8

CU finishes Ivy season in series against Quakers

BY MYLES SIMMONS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

It’s the final stretch for baseball, as the Lions (18-23, 9-7 Ivy) conclude the season this weekend with four games against division rival Penn (16-20, 7-9 Ivy).

It is a home-and-home series, meaning the Light Blue will first head to Philadelphia for two games on Friday before coming home for Senior Day at Robertson Field on Saturday.

Cornell’s three wins against the Quakers last weekend mean that the Lions have been eliminated from the Lou Gehrig Division title race. Cornell needs just one win in four games this weekend versus Princeton to punch its ticket to the Ivy League Championship Series.

Though the Lions have been eliminated from the postseason, they still have plenty to play for this weekend.

After tying the record for career home runs set by Gene Larkin, CC ’84, junior outfielder Dario Pizzano will attempt to stand alone in the record books after the four games against Penn.

Still, it’s not just about making history for the left-handed slugger.

“Obviously, we want to win every game,” Pizzano said. “We’re statistically eliminated, but that doesn’t change competitive athletes—they always should want to go out and give it their all every time and win.”

SEE BASEBALL, page 7

Some restrictions apply. Subject to availability, reservation required by 4/20/12.

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Summer in the City: Checking off the endless to-do list

BY OLIVIA AYLMER

Let's not beat around the bush: New York City in the summer means unbearable heat, an influx of tourists sweating in their \$10 I Love NY shirts, and overcrowding on public transportation. Yet, it also means outdoor dining, long walks in Central Park, and a list of ways to spend an afternoon that could span the length of the Brooklyn Bridge. After nine months spent primarily studying for classes and involved in extracurriculars, why do Columbia students choose to stay in the city during their three months of academic freedom? Even native New Yorkers find themselves charmed by the city all over again in the summer. As Kelly Huang, BC '15, said, "I love the way the sun rises in the morning and you hear the birds chirping, kind of naturalistic, but then under all of that you'll hear the whizzing of car tires on the pavement." Indeed, winter afternoons wiled away in libraries are replaced by warm days full of sunlight that last into the evening hours. "I've spent essentially all my summers in Brooklyn and NYC, and I find myself occupied with things I like to do—bike riding, painting, eating, just taking it all in," Huang said. "I don't want to sound like a tourist brochure, but the opportunities are literally endless."

For some, summer vacation provides a chance to take advantage of the prevalent internship and job prospects that New York offers students, whether off- or on-campus. Jaclyn Horowitz, BC '15, plans to stay close to her home away from home as an assistant in Barnard's library, where she will read, abstract, and organize their extensive collection of zines. "It's easy to forget that the center of the universe is just a mere 10 minutes away when you are so immersed in your immediate surroundings," she said.

Others, such as Chris Pecaro, CC '15, choose to head downtown once finals end. When he is not working at The Hole, an art gallery on the Bowery, he plans to check out the various free concerts held throughout May to August. "It's like a whole other world," Pecaro said. "There's this lawless vibe that I really like. In the summer you have time to explore the city and get to know it better."

Whether it be starting the morning with a jog through Riverside, returning to a favorite café, or exploring a new neighborhood, a summer in New York caters to the whims of any Columbia student looking to forget those all-nighters in Butler, if only for a few blissful months.

Your Summer Bucket List

—Visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art to take in the Costume Institute's latest sartorial exhibition, "Schiaparelli and Prada: Impossible Conversations."

—Stop to smell the roses and other beautiful blooms at the New York Botanical Garden.

—Relive your childhood with a ride on the 1922 merry-go-round at Brooklyn Bridge Park.

—Arrive fashionably late to the Veuve Clicquot Polo Classic on Governors Island equipped with sun hat or bowler, and take in an afternoon polo match while munching gourmet snacks and sipping champagne in one of two new lounges.

—Indulge in dessert D.C. style at the newly opened Georgetown Cupcake in SoHo (111 Mercer St.).

—Grab a mat and celebrate the summer solstice on June 20 with some downward dogs and deep breathing in the middle of Times Square at Mind over Madness, an all-day yoga fest.

—Sip an iced coffee in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, brewed for 20 hours by the baristas at Blue Bottle Coffee (160 Berry St. between North Fourth and Fifth streets).

—Spot the peacocks that strut around the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, the fourth-largest cathedral in the world, and then take a vertical tour up to the roof for a breathtaking view of Morningside Heights.

—Embrace your inner Parisian with French music, wine, and sweets at Bastille Day on Sunday, July 15 (60th Street between Fifth and Lexington avenues).

—Spend an evening stargazing on the High Line, or scope out the best and brightest with one of three telescopes provided on the Pier 1 promenade in Brooklyn Bridge Park.

SEE MORE PICKS, PAGE B2

Best of

Escaping the City

Even the most devoted urbanite sometimes needs a break from their long-term relationship with Manhattan. Luckily, no plane ticket is necessary to find a little rest and relaxation outside of the city’s frenetic bubble for a day or two (or seven).
—By Charlotte Murtishaw, Alison Herman, and Olivia Aylmer

Coney Island

Though cautious bathers may want to avoid the less-than-crystalline waters of the Coney Island beach, the Brooklyn landmark still serves up a variety of on-land activities with a sweet punch of nostalgia. With landmarks like the Wonder Wheel and the Cyclone still standing tall but the rest of the park in disrepair, Luna Park was recently revamped to revive the amusement park culture which popularized Coney Island in the first place. Despite these renovations, the area still manages to retain its yesteryear quirk: Perhaps the most charming part of Coney Island’s motifs is their wackiness, a testament to a bygone era that shocked a public blissfully unaware of the Kardashian phenomenon.

Jersey Shore

It’s hard to find a beach (correction: shore) so infamous—even the shenanigans of those kids on Laguna Beach fail to measure up to the all-out poopshow that’s been nationally televised. A trip down to the Garden State doesn’t guarantee an out-of-the-blue pregnancy or a punch to the face, but maybe that’s for the best. Still, equipped with adequate spray tans and muscle tees, tourists can revel in the sleaze for a day. A trip to tell the grandchildren about, or to hide from the grandchildren?

Far Rockaway

Ride the A train all the way into Queens and you’ll find yourself at this scenic summer haven. Historically known as the “Irish Riviera,” Far Rockaway is famous for its rich immigrant past, surf-friendly waves, and the Ramones song “Rockaway Beach.” Lie out in the sun and sand, take a swim, or go onshore for some grub—many of New York’s best eateries have Rockaway locations, including Blue Bottle Coffee and the all-vegan Babycakes bakery. Whatever you choose to do, Far Rockaway is an excellent way to escape to the beach without ever leaving New York.

Montauk

Though the Hamptons may be known for its exclusive parties, seaside mansions, and high-end boutiques, Montauk offers a more relaxed retreat for even the most haggard New Yorker. Located at the easternmost point of Long Island, “The End” as its locals call it, caters to seasoned surfers and provides lessons for those looking to catch a first time wave. Stocking up on summery attire at Tauk, run by two former models and known for its colorful espadrilles, is a must. Top off a day trip with dinner at Hideaway, an open-air eatery hidden in the back of a marina, and polish off a grilled Mexican corn on the cob while taking in the sunset. What more could a city slicker looking for a little getaway ask for?

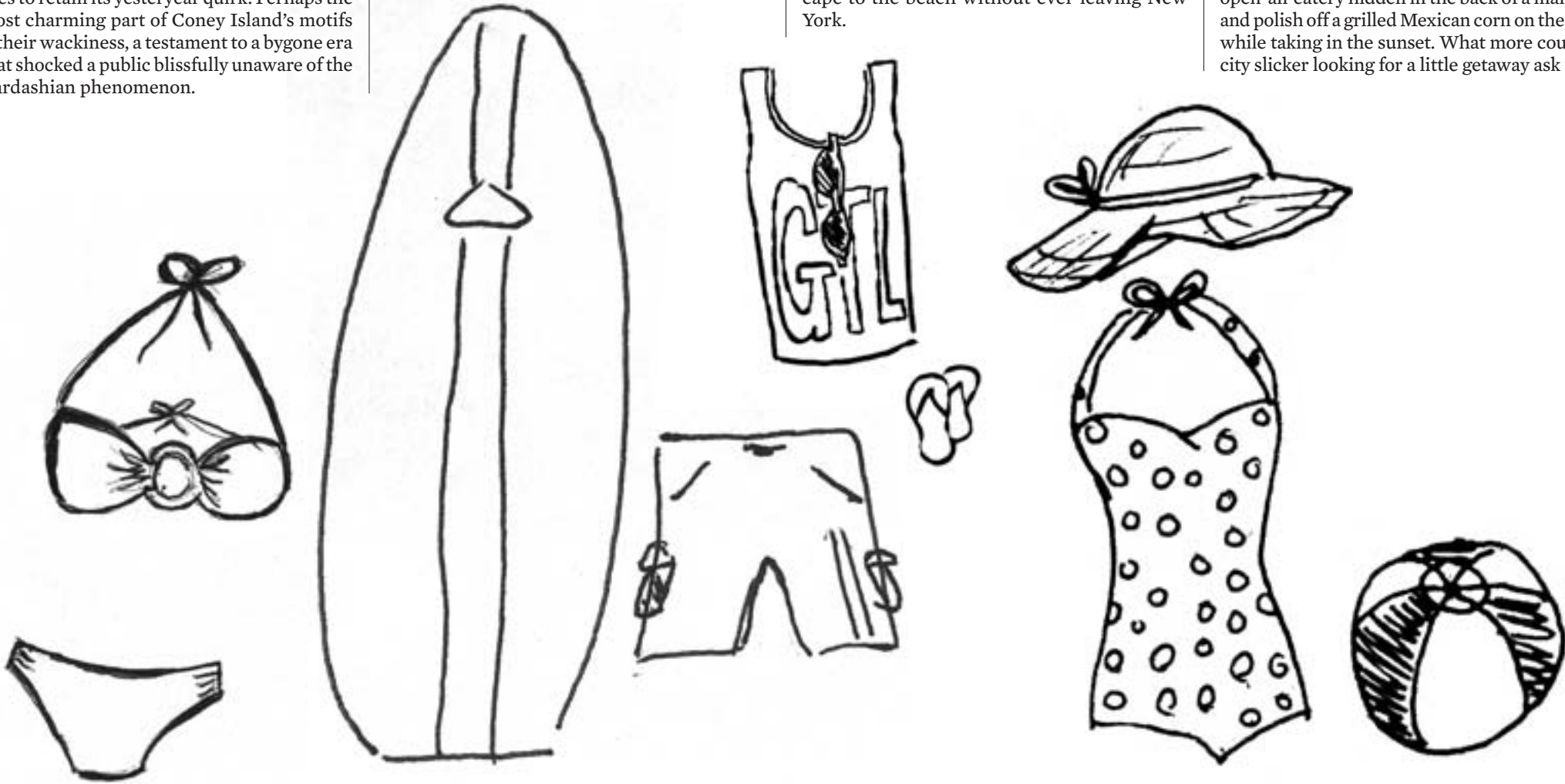


ILLUSTRATION BY CHARLOTTE MURTISHAW

Editor’s Picks

Still stuck for summer plans?

The A&E editors bring you their summer picks for events, openings, and general things to see in the city in the coming months.
Continued from B1.



Stefan Countryman

FILM

Outdoor Screenings
Nothing is nicer than enjoying a balmy evening outside watching a movie. Central Park and Bryant Park both probably have the most famous summer series, but there are dozens of smaller, more specialized outdoor venues for those willing to look.

Independent Theaters
Blockbusters may have a stranglehold on big cinemas during the summer, but independent theaters like Anthology Film Archives, Film Forum, Lincoln Center, IFC Center, BAMcinematek are constantly playing independent or classic films.



Alison Herman

TELEVISION

“True Blood” (June 10)
Everyone’s favorite campy, sexy, and supernatural show, returns. Whether or not the vampire trend is dying down—in books, film, or TV—this series still has bite worth tuning in for.

“Game of Thrones” (June 3)
Get ready for the “Game of Thrones” finale. This season of HBO’s hit sword-and-sorcery drama is already packed with surprises.

“Breaking Bad” (July)
When the new season premieres, catch a high-school chemistry teacher turned meth tycoon continue on his downward spiral.



Charlotte Murtishaw

MUSIC

Governors Ball NYC (June 23–June 24)
This two-day, two-stage festival is held on Randall’s Island and features groups like Passion Pit. Enjoy gourmet fare from some of the city’s best food trucks while listening and dancing the night away wearing wireless headphones and blaring crystal clear music from live DJs.

Harlem Jazz Shrines Festival (May 7-13)
During this week-long festival, celebrate the epicenter of the jazz world in New York by attending performances from today’s up-and-coming artists at an array of the neighborhood’s classic music clubs.



Lesley Thulin

THEATRE

The Public: Shakespeare in the Park
The 50th anniversary season of Shakespeare in the Park will feature “As You Like It” (June 5 to June 30) and “Into the Woods” (July 23 to August 25). Tickets are available at the Delacorte Theater in Central Park.

“All New People” play by Zach Braff (June 28 to August 14)
Zach Braff stars in a new self-written comedy that opens with a suicide interrupted by a real estate agent. The property agent, a fireman, and a prostitute assemble to cheer up the suicide in a darkly comic work at the Second Stage Theater.



Jade Bonacolta

FOOD & DRINK

LuckyRice Festival 2012 (May 1-6)
This annual festival brings the world’s top culinary talent to shine a spotlight on Asian cuisine. Enjoy both an Epicurean Cocktail Feast hosted by Dave Arnold and Momofuku and Asian Street Market.

Smorgasburg (Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
Smorgasbord + Williamsburg is the Brooklyn Flea’s all-food counterpart. You eat standing up, and everything is priced between \$1 and \$10. Try Shorty Tang’s Cold Sesame Noodles with a yuzu, lime leaf, and honey lemonade from 4π².

STYLE

Yoga in Bryant Park (Starting May 1)
Healthy, relaxing, and comes with free Lululemon yoga mats—what’s not to love? Bryant Park will be hosting free hour-long classes Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and Thursdays at 6 p.m.

The Antiques Garage (Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
A Chelsea institution, this flea will relocate any month now—browse the city’s best vintage and while you still can. After you’ve scored the best finds, check out the rest of the area: There are other fashion must-sees like the Hell’s Kitchen Flea or Manhattan Vintage.

ART

Tomás Saraceno on the Roof: Cloud City (May 15-November)
Tending toward the conceptual, Saraceno attaches clusters of transparent cells to construct a highbrow version of those things that were so much fun to crawl around in at Chuck E. Cheese’s—this time on the Met’s roof.

The High Line
Cliché? Maybe. But it’s worth the reminder that the perennially popular park includes art installations. Catch public art during a stroll through the greenery, as exhibits like “Lilliput” aim to surprise the viewer with micro-installations in unlikely places.

BOOKS

“In One Person” a novel by John Irving (released May 8)
John Irving, the critically acclaimed author behind the novel “The Cider House Rules,” will release his latest novel. Told from the point of view of a bisexual man who struggles with his identity.

The Half King Reading Series (Monday at 7 p.m.)
Join the neighborhood crowd of literary types at this downtown pub (505 W. 23rd St.) that serves up fresh pints and home-style dishes during readings of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. One Monday each month is devoted exclusively to magazine journalism.

ILLUSTRATION BY IONE WANG

Welcome to the Dick Clark’s rockin’ world

When America’s “oldest teenager” Dick Clark died last week, I was surprised by the outpouring of emotion from so many different corners of the entertainment world. To most of my generation, Dick Clark was little more than an appendage of New Year’s Eve, with his trademark “New Years Rockin’ Eve” broadcast—the two went hand in hand, and we scarcely thought of either one the rest of the year. The truth is, however, that any and every fan of pop music owes him a debt of gratitude. His death should not only make us contemplate the last 50 years of the music industry, but also where it might be heading.

As the host of the revered, mocked, and often copied American Bandstand, Clark provided exposure to up-and-coming acts like Elvis Presley and the Jackson Five, among countless others. His show was a virtual “youth center” and gave American teenagers a “meeting place” to learn and share what was happening in their musical world. It was a primitive model for MTV and helped to pave the way socially for the kind of sharing that would later explode on the Internet. In a way, the transition from Dick Clark to the Internet is representative of what’s been happening to American music since the sixties—moving from a personality-driven medium controlled by large institutions such as television and radio to a nameless, faceless, centerless web of human connectivity.

The positive side to this change is the democratization of thought and culture. In one place, the Internet holds a limitless reservoir of music. From iTunes to torrent sites, all music is available to all people. Instead of change being driven by a strong institution or individual, diverse perspectives fight for attention. While this may resemble cultural apathy from the outside, it’s important to remember that competing beliefs can be just as passionately felt (maybe even more so because of their personal nature) as those of earlier large-scale movements. In a Dick Clark world, dubstep or indie rock might never have found a voice.

It was a primitive model for MTV and helped to pave the way socially for the kind of sharing that would later explode on the Internet.

Diversity of taste and opinion has always existed in popular culture, but in its early years it was often overshadowed by the power of television and personalities like Dick Clark. The journey from centralized media to the Internet didn’t signify the end of the musical “youth culture” but the birth of a vibrant multitude of musical “youth cultures.” In his own way Dick Clark helped provide the starting point of this evolution. It’s easy in hindsight to laugh off the old pioneers as primitive, but one has to remember that they were pioneers—they had to create an entirely new paradigm. Dick Clark created one of the first musically oriented meeting spaces for America’s youth—the very premise that the Internet music scene was later built upon. Without Dick Clark and without American Bandstand, the path towards today’s diverse and dynamic network of musical interests facilitated by the Internet might never have developed.

David Ecker is a first-year in Columbia College. Slightly Off Key runs alternate Fridays.



DAVID ECKER
Slightly Off Key



MOTLEY CREW | Peter Lord from Aardman Animations directs the stop-motion animation “The Pirates! Band of Misfits,” which is adapted from a children’s book.

‘Pirates!’ film is more than schoolboy humor

BY CARROLL GELDERMAN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Forget “Love Actually” or “Notting Hill”—Hugh Grant will take on a different kind of role with “The Pirates! Band of Misfits,” the latest film to be released by four-time Oscar-winning production company Aardman Animations and partner Sony Pictures Animation.

At a press junket held at a Midtown hotel on April 20, Lord and Grant addressed Grant’s the atypical casting, as he normally portrays more charming and charismatic characters. Lord said, “The big selling point for me with Hugh was his ... comedy, like in ‘About a Boy.’”

Grant was not initially convinced to make the transition to animation. He said, “I panicked, really. I read it on the page, I thought ‘Oh, that’s not very me.’ And then I looked at the character ... and I thought, ‘That’s really not me at all.’” But he added, “I have done jobs when it [the script] made me laugh, which is very rare. Any time I came across one of those scripts I’d do it, no matter what the part was.”

Think “Pirates of the Caribbean” meets “Wallace & Gromit” and you’ll have “The Pirates! Band of Misfits.”

The film, directed by Aardman co-founder Peter Lord, will be released worldwide on Friday. Adapted from children’s author Gideon Defoe’s book, the film follows the always-enthusiastic Pirate Captain, voiced by Hugh Grant, as he leads his motley crew across the seas in an attempt to win the award for Pirate of the Year. Unfortunately, his pirate credentials are somewhat lackluster. His ship is disintegrating, his booty amounts to one small sack, and his presence is less than intimidating.

And Defoe’s script does deliver quite a few

laughs. Much of the humor stems from its vibrant characters. Standouts include the Albino Pirate, voiced by Anton Yelchin, who is endearingly pathetic in a Michael Cera sort of way, and Pirate Captain’s rival, Black Bellamy. Voiced by Jeremy Piven, he has the biting sarcasm of Ari Gold, Piven’s former role on “Entourage.” Although the film is for children, its humor also comes from references geared toward an older audience. In one scene, the Pirate Captain shares a dinner with a very sassy Jane Austen, Charles Darwin, and a strange man with a bag over his head, meant to be Joseph Merrick, the Elephant Man. The soundtrack also features HBO favorite Flight of the Conchords. As Lord put it, “We’ve got quite smart humor for the adults, ludicrous schoolboy humor for children, and I think everything in between.”

Physical humor also plays a large part in the film, which is ambitious considering that it was shot using stop-motion animation. This means animators manipulated live puppets and sets frame by frame to create movement. Lord explained that completing six seconds of film was a successful week’s work for an animator, and consequently, it took over 18 months to shoot. Grant said of the process, “They took me down to [the studio in] Bristol to see these lunatics at work ... and it’s just astonishing.”

The amount of attention given to the animation influenced their decision to use 3-D. Lord said, “It seemed perfect because the sets are so beautiful ... [In 3-D] you can enjoy it a bit more, I think.” The ship used in the film is so beautiful, in fact, that it is currently displayed in a museum in Bristol.

“Does it come out of dock again for another outing or stay in the museum? Well, that kind of depends on box office, on whether there’s a sequel,” Lord joked. “I’d love to do it again.”

Val Kilmer’s new film builds an ‘insane’ concept of reality

BY STEFAN COUNTRYMAN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

It’s Val Kilmer as you’ve never seen him before: as a man who is a motivational speaker best known for his appearances on cable television. He lives in Tennessee and rides his BMX bike around with his wife. He dreams of a fourth dimension made of cotton candy.

This is the premise of “The Lotus Community Workshop,” the first of three segments by three directors that collectively form “The Fourth Dimension.” “Chronoeye,” directed by Aleksei Fedorchenko, is the film’s second segment. It follows Grigory, a Russian mathematician who wants access to the past. The third is “Fawns,” the story of four friends roving through evacuated towns, directed by Jan Kwiecinski.

Set against each other, they form a dissonant triptych—as well they should, since the three

directors did not cooperate or even meet until three days before last Tuesday’s TriBeCa premiere.

It gets weirder. Financing came from Grolsch Film Works, a subsidiary of the beer company, which inexplicably finances independent films. The film’s sinew is a page-long-brief given to each director by producers at VICE Media. Directives include “The hero tells bad jokes. But they’re good.” and “Someone should wear tap shoes.” These and other elements made it into the movie, though the directors found its constraints unusual at first.

Fedorchenko said that his first reaction was “only a totally insane person could have written that.”

Kwiecinski agreed. “When you’re reading them, it sounds deranged,” but when working with them, they “create the structure of the movie,” he said. “I didn’t feel that my creativity was somehow limited.”

Fedorchenko suggested that the constraints demanded greater creativity from the directors, drawing a parallel to Soviet cinema.

“The best movies in Russia were made during Soviet times,” he said. The format isn’t much of a departure for Fedorchenko, who has frequently imposed restrictions on himself. In the ‘90s, he worked on films with the belief that anything could be communicated within 10 minutes or less.

Kwiecinski’s work also rose out of constraint. With its crisp, eerily empty village, it is perhaps the most visually polished of the three. It also had the shortest production—screenwriting was constrained to two weeks. And the village wasn’t empty. Kwiecinski originally wanted many 360 degree shots, but villagers waved constantly at the camera. “We had to change this idea when we started shooting, but it was all for good,” he said.

Surprisingly, the Kilmer joke was not intended from the start. Val’s character appeared as “Hector” in the script.

“He [director Harmony Korine] just started calling me Val all the time, which I suggested might be bad for me professionally, since I say so many horrible things ... and he said it’s an alternate reality,” Kilmer said.

Korine’s playful innovation matches the absurd, playful tone of his segment.

“This is exactly what you’d hope Francis Ford Coppola would be doing at this point in his career,” Kilmer said, praising Korine’s style.

It is common in criticism to seek the structural unity of a work. Often, constraints either provide unity or foster its development. VICE’s manifesto triumphs in destroying this unity. What results is not perfect, but neither is it imperfect. The film is so divorced from the notions of unity and perfection that it escapes their confinement. It raises a middle finger to the mainstream. It raises another one to pretension. It is irreverent and playful.

So what is the fourth dimension? For Val Kilmer, it’s just cotton candy.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DANILO PARRA / TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL

VAL KILMER ON VAL KILMER | In this new film, Val Kilmer plays an alternate version of himself: a motivational speaker who dreams of a fourth dimension made of cotton candy.

Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Mister Softee

The April evening settles down with the smell of steaks in alleyways. From the Williamsburg Bridge I hike to Union Square. I turn back, and the path-way sways. It hangs like a catenary curve, a taffy rope swung in one slow spiral into thick braids. With muddy feet that press to late-nite coffee stands, we straggle over the sunset. A flood-tide licks below. He rode over Connecticut in an ice cream truck. Things have come to that. Chess hustlers smoking cigars smile at my Mister Softee cone. Ice cream in the shape of flowers and domestic objects is a swoosh of concupiscent shit. “Is that real ice cream?” The anarchist strokes his fuzzy beard. “I don’t think so,” I say, and eat my curds.

II
“When you hear it, it unleashes the little kid inside of you & i know I’m the only person who wants scream ICE CREAM!!!!!!” wrote Deborah danieliz R. “If you’ve ever had home-made local soft serve ice cream, then you would think that soft serve from Mister Softee is too thick, too sweet, and feels very commercial-ized—like it came from a huge bag mix,” wrote Siv L.

The primary theme of the Mister Softee truck is futility and absurdity.

III
There is a Mister Softee truck at Union Square that attracts American Appareled coeds. Ignore the crowd and elbow up to the faded window. Dip cones are available, just like the ones you licked on Montauk. Order a vanilla cone. It is great. Luscious slurps of cream linger on the tongue. The first bite is like greased lightning. This is a fantastic spot to stop before an East Village siesta, and perhaps, it might be good for breakfast if you can find it after a fourth scotch and soda.

IV
This Union Square “hot spot” is a “gathering place for soft serve fanatics who don’t care for artisanal spin-offs.” Try “the original vanilla,” which “pleases the kids and dad alike,” or a “cherry dip” that “stands up to luxer treat trucks.”

V
Fabulous Mister Softee: vintage truck from my childhood, plush vanilla, wafer cone, thick swirl. hot early summer downtown. I love the cold first bite. #Jubilant.

VI
Parked underneath a double blooming wisteria, by a dusty brick sagging wall where an old woman sat and watched and talked the town up with her brother, the Mister Softee truck jingled like a virtuous horse dragging around a coach. Yes, mute smiling child, who loved ice cream, let the afternoon drip down your shirt and smile while your mother pays the truck driver whose leathery grin makes you cold even though April is too hot already.

VII
A buzzy new Mister Softee truck has pulled up to Union Square. Amal Jafar Dragomirov, formerly of Masa, The Brindle Room, Noma, and Kutsher’s Tribeca, spins bespoke cones with artisanal toppings. Vanilla soft serve with local mayonnaise, chili porchetta chocolate crumbles, Fritos, alder-smoked salt, sauerkraut, or gluten-free snicker-doodle streusel? Indulge your foodie cravings and order all of the above!

VIII
In the early summer of that year we lived in an apartment in New York City that looked across Union Square. The park was filled with tourists and policemen. I liked the Mister Softee truck very much, it was pleasant and made me feel very well.

IX
The primary theme of the Mister Softee truck is futility and absurdity. It could be said that the ice cream is interpolated into a postconceptual irrationalism that attacks the mimetic transparency of art. A number of lacunae concerning not, in fact, materialism, but neomaterialism, may be revealed. In a sense, the taste de-structs a mythopoetical paradox.

X
I ditch the spoon and dropper at the Union Square Station, run up the stairs, push a not half bad Ivy League type out of the way, and look for the Mister Softee Truck. Two old junkies are ahead of me in line. Spittle dribbles off their patchy chins, globes of slime. I am waiting patiently to score, but some foodie dick is holding everything up with something black and hungry in his eyes.

XI
The vanilla cone did not disappoint. I still prefer homemade, authentic ice cream, but with a dollop of flavorful caramel, the Mister Softee soft serve was sinful. Nom. Churned to perfection, this über-sinful dessert is to die for.

XII
The bells of Grace Church boomed out over Union Square, eleven strokes, each shaking the tips of lilacs, roses, and daffodils just poking out of earthy-sweet planters along the park edges. Everything came to a sudden stop, the throb of taxicabs and Occupy Wall Street drum circlers, and Terrance Chamberlain sampled his Mister Softee cone with an air of quiet detachment.

XIII
“This isn’t as good as DQ.”

Jason Bell is a Columbia College junior majoring in English. In Defense of Delicious runs alternate Fridays.



JASON BELL
In Defense of Delicious

Flipside Guide



COURTESY OF KATHRYN CHETKOVICH

WHERE IT'S AT
Place: Bookstores everywhere
Cost: \$26

‘Farther Away’

Essay collection holds a mirror to author’s inner psyche

BY ALLEN JOHNSON
Spectator Staff Writer

Jonathan Franzen is the literary star of the present. The first author pictured on the cover of Time magazine in nearly 30 years for his 2008 bestselling novel “Freedom,” Franzen seems to have sufficiently rehabilitated his image since his public 2001 spat with Oprah over her decision to include his novel “The Corrections” on her televised monthly book club. Oprah picks “schmaltzy, one-dimensional” books, he said in an interview, and was later uninvited from the show.

Nowadays, Franzen bears the image of a cantankerous, crotchety Luddite who uses his considerable fame to speak out on the perils of the Internet and its socially-connected projects like Facebook and Twitter. In one essay in his new collection “Farther Away,” Franzen derides Facebook as a narcissistic enterprise: “It’s all one big endless loop. We like the mirror and the mirror likes us. To friend a person is merely to include the person in our private hall of flattering mirrors.” But is he wrong?

For Franzen, the personal essay is a kind of self-involved contemplation on what it means to be him, special and unique as he is.

Solipsistic? Immodest? In a word, yes. But there is pleasure to be taken from watching Franzen pour over the inconsistencies of his own psyche through the filter of the prison-industrial complex, the history of the tobacco industry, or a voyage to a remote Chilean island. For anyone who has read a few of Franzen’s novels and a sprinkling of his nonfiction with even just a shred of sympathy, the frequent media criticisms of Franzen as an elitist grouch hold very little weight. Franzen is completely earnest in his fears and struggles—his self-consciousness is total.

When Franzen scribes a line like “Privacy, to me ... is about sparing me from the intrusion of other people’s personal lives.” It can come across as admittedly callous, but if read as a part of the full essay and not as a decontextualized line picked up by a sloppy critic, his logic is defensible and at least worth considering. To be unwilling to meet Franzen on his own terms is unfair and has led to a great misconstruction of his previous works by critics. It is the failure of communication that he laments in his essays.

Franzen is a deeply well-read person and he doesn’t hide it. His work has been called elitist because it’s quite allusive, but it seems that Franzen actually lives a literary life, construing his everyday existence in terms of the great novels of the past. While Franzen has previously included literary analogues to whatever may be the concern of his essays, “Farther Away” is a unique offering in his oeuvre because interspersed between essays about travel and bird watching are meditations exclusively on books. Franzen shines at discussing novels not in the impenetrable form of high academic criticism, but rather in an engrossing and egalitarian project of linking art and life. It is pure joy to read this type of essay, and he is the only writer I know of who can be conversational about literature while maintaining rigorous, defensible interpretations.

I have often said that “How to Be Alone” would make a perfect course text for University Writing. The thing is stuffed with lens essays, conversation pieces, elements of intensive research, and they are all, at their core, personal. It’s the kind of writing that the Columbia Writing Department seems to want to posture its students to perform—pieces that would not be out of place in the New Yorker, Harper’s, or the Wall Street Journal. This claim holds for “Further Away,” which is, if possible, even more polished than his previous collection.

Franzen is the disembodied voice of the perfect college admissions essay. My only worry is such a voice—metered, manicured, informative, and unadorned—is really only good for engaging in a form of pseudo-academic solipsism that has little bearing on the social conditions with which Franzen claims to be wholly concerned. While Franzen is not the technology harpy that the media pigeonholes him as, I do worry whether his inability to see utilities like Facebook as merely expedient conduits for personal interaction is the product of his tragic inability to get outside of himself.



WHERE IT'S AT
Time: Friday, midnight;
Saturday, 8 p.m.
Place: Sundial on Low Plaza
Cost: free

MIDNIGHT MISHAPS

Members of King’s Crown Shakespeare Troupe, in their enactment of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” turn the familiar campus grounds into a stage where magic and enchantment reign.

On a night when the weather was more fitting for “The Winter’s Tale” and with a drizzle threatening to turn into “The Tempest,” the members of King’s Crown Shakespeare Troupe took up their positions to begin “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” on the Sundial. By no means did the production end in the same position. Guided around campus by the fairies of Oberon and Titania’s ensemble, or the ministers of Theseus, KCST turned the familiar campus landscape into an ever-shifting stage to display the Bard’s most distinguished comedy.

As Theseus readies himself to wed his Amazon bride, a quarrel arises within the city as Hermia, played by the accomplished Samantha Grecco, BC ’12, refuses to wed Demetrius, who is depicted by Alex Dabertin, CC ’15, as the stereotypical blonde, muscled quarterback. Demetrius is opposed by Hermia’s true love, the slightly scrawnier Lysander, represented by the talented Thomas Kapusta, CC ’12. To further complicate matters, Elizabeth Kipp-Giusti, CC ’12, performing Helena, has fallen for Demetrius, who only shows scorn for her, in his pursuit of Hermia.

On the grassy lawn in front of Lewisohn Hall, all is not well either in the fairy court, as the glowing, rave fairies of Titania and the leather-clad punk rockers of Oberon view the squabbles of their masters over infidelity and an Indian prince. Out of this fray shines the mirth and joviality of one Robin Goodfellow, better known as Puck, subtly and cunningly portrayed by Gabby Beans, CC ’14. In a



COURTESY OF LUKE HENDERSON

‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’

KCST returns with a magical performance of Shakespeare’s classic comedy

BY REUBEN BERMAN
Spectator Staff Writer

On the Low Steps, the audience views the preparations of another theatre troupe, this one of Athens, as they ready themselves for the princely nuptials. Contained within these players is the ever-hysterical Bottom—in gut-busting presentation by Gerald Ramm, CC ’13—who has the unique misfortune to give voice and visage to, as it were, an ass.

As all these story lines coincide, one can only look with unabashed laughter at the hilarity of each situation—laughter facilitated by the brilliant staging of KCST. With a Katy Perry song and Silly String, as well as a few original melodies and David Bowie makeup, the ensemble easily wins over the hearts of even the most solemn of audience members and reduces all to shameless giggles.

With all of the glee provided in three short hours, the excellence of KCST keeps the audience craving more jokes and laughter yet. Unfortunately, the hilarious merging of the world of mortal Athens and the party-glutted hedonists of the fairy world must come to a close, and by the end of the night, all is settled within both worlds, as the fairies are reconciled and the lovers united in harmony. And so, we too must return to the monotony of daily life on campus, the grind of tests and papers. Yet, if we try, we can sometimes see Robin Goodfellow looking back at us from the hedges, smiling and laughing at the joke of his own doing, and we can take a moment out of our busy schedule to laugh with him.



WHERE IT'S AT
Time: Monday-Saturday, 12 p.m.-7 p.m.; Sunday, 12 p.m.-6 p.m.
Place: 181 Mott St.
Cost: \$50-\$300



SUMMERTIME CLOTHES | The newly opened boutique Warm lives up to its namesake by satisfying New Yorkers’ summer clothing needs—with prices fit for a spontaneous splurge.

Warm

Boutique offers summer-ready threads for a pretty price

BY JENNY PAYNE
Spectator Staff Writer

As we move out of what has been an unnaturally temperate east coast winter, a new boutique is opening up to the streets of NoLiTa ready to satisfy New Yorkers’ summer clothing needs. Warm, a small shop opened last month by surfer couple Winnie Beattie and Rob Magnotta, stays true to its name, selling clothes intended for warm weather and offering its customers a calm, welcoming atmosphere to match. Beattie describes the vibe as “dirty French girl meets Southern California surfer,” and the store certainly lives up to this claim.

Walking through the door, I was instantly greeted by a heavy, though not unpleasant, perfume in the air and an almost-humid atmosphere. Initially it hit me as trying a little too hard, but after a few minutes looking at sandals and listening to the reggae remix of Ace of Base’s “Don’t Turn Around,” I began to get into the laid-back beach mood. Though the store clerk was on the phone when I walked in, she greeted me with a completely unnecessary “I hope it isn’t too messy for you!” and made pleasant conversation with me as I browsed after she hung up.

Looking through the racks, one can find pastel tank tops, cutoff jean shorts, beaded maxi dresses, and all sorts of beach attire meant to be worn with a tan and messy sun-bleached hair. Most of the clothing comes from smaller, less well-known designers and brands, such as Roseanna, Agua Bendita, and Giada Forte. Warm also offers an

all-children’s book for aspiring surfer-chic babies, a variety of hipster-ish photography books, and a wide selection of sunglasses.

The outrageous prices of most of Warm’s clothes sadly detract from what is otherwise a gorgeous collection of summery items. Price-wise, Warm’s clothing is the too-common New York shopping combination of painfully beautiful and painfully expensive. As I perused the selection, I made up a little game trying to find the smallest amount of fabric for the largest amount of money, ultimately a \$260 black-and-gold metallic bralette. It certainly isn’t the best choice for buying clothes on a college student’s budget—it was hard to find much under \$200, much less under \$100—but would be a good spot to head to if you’re looking for a spontaneous summer splurge.

Beattie and Magnotta want Warm to be a place where shoppers can feel comfortable and “hang out.” They plan on offering manicures and screening movies for kids on the store’s small back patio, if the reggae remixes and miraculous artificial humidity weren’t enough to get customers to relax.

According to the store clerk, Warm has been quite successful since its March 12 opening, assisted by the beautiful sunny weather of the last few weeks. Things will only heat up for Warm as summer approaches and the shop fills with customers looking to stock up for their summer getaways. If you’re headed to a sunny climate this summer and have some money to spare, check out Warm’s selection—even if you can’t afford anything, you’ll certainly leave the boutique feeling ready to relax in the summer sun.

events

MUSIC

Cold Cave

—Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 1071 Fifth Ave. (at 89th Street), Friday, \$27

This concert is part of a three-part series of live music that accompanies “Choices,” an exhibit showcasing the work of the late sculptor John Chamberlain. The music continues this weekend with Cold Cave, a classic synth-pop outfit with a menacing edge.

FOOD & DRINK

New Amsterdam Market

— New Amsterdam Market, South Street (at Fulton Street), until Dec. 23

The growing season kicks off with the seasonal food bazaar, featuring high quality local vendors and artisan bakers. For a respite from shopping, be sure to check out the “pizza theater,” where Jim Lahey of Sullivan Street Bakery will demonstrate the art of pizza making.

BOOKS

Puppet Making Workshop

—Westbeth Center for the Arts Community Room, 463 West St. (between Bank and Bethune streets), through May 2, free

Itching for an escape from the traditional seminar setting? The PEN World Voices Festival gives participants a chance to breathe life into famous books at “giant-puppet making” workshops with the Processional Arts Workshop.

THEATER

The Law Firm

—Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre, 307 West 26th St. (between Eighth and Ninth avenues), Friday, \$10

The latest of UCBT’s teams to make the leap from Harold Night to a weekend slot, “The Law Firm: Law and Disorder,” showcases a lot of great talent. The night of improv will be based on audience members’ hilarious confessions of crimes and misdemeanors.