

Special ed heightens charter debate

BY RAY KATZ
Spectator Staff Writer



Grisel Hanton does not know where to send her five-year-old to school next year.

Hanton, whose daughter Kayla is autistic, sends her two older children to P.S. 241 in West Harlem. But the school isn't equipped to address Kayla's needs, Hanton said, and she is in the process of looking into other special education programs—including some offered by charter schools.

Whether children like Kayla are better off—or even able to obtain a spot—in a charter school is the subject of ongoing debate. As the storm of controversy surrounding New York City charter schools continues to brew, special education has emerged as a particularly contentious issue.

This past week saw a tense public hearing on charter school accountability, held by the New York State Senate Committee on Corporations, Authorities, and Commissions, where some critics claimed that charters attempt to counsel students with special needs into other programs. Days later, State Senator John Sampson (D-Brooklyn) proposed a bill that threatens to shut down charters that don't enroll English Language Learners and students with special needs in the same percentages as district schools.

The majority of Manhattan's 27 charter schools, which are public schools run by a private board of directors, are located in Harlem, where the debate has been especially heated. Critics argue that charters take away space and resources from struggling district schools, while charter advocates argue that new schools with specific missions provide unique choices for families.

SPACE DEBATES, TEACHING CHALLENGES

P.S. 241 is a case in point. The traditional public school currently shares a building with two charter schools—Harlem Success Academy, which is part of the Harlem Success Network run by former City Council member Eva Moskowitz, and Opportunity Charter School. Last year, the Department of Education moved to close P.S. 241 while keeping the charters open, citing low grades on P.S. 241's accountability report.

Although the school was ultimately allowed to remain open, three grades—pre-kindergarten, fifth grade, and sixth grade—have been eliminated, and the seventh grade is slated for elimination next year, according to Magda Velez, PTA president at P.S. 241. And, she added, bitterness among parents over the shared space with charters has not abated.

"I'm disgusted. We've been here forever," she said of the school's co-location, adding that two more P.S. 241 classrooms were just eliminated.

A shared building, according to Velez, means that special education teachers at P.S. 241 no longer have office space in which to meet with the students they pull out of class. Instead, she said, they now hold meetings in hallways and stairwells.

But some charter school families say that the programs for

SEE SPECIAL ED, page 6



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SHUTTERED | With the closing of Floridita, 36 employees, many of whom have worked there for over 20 years, are out of jobs. Columbia officials say they must repair the kitchen floor and that it can reopen in six weeks, but a relocation to a new building seems imminent.

Student Leaders Forum examines 21st century women's roles

BY ELIZABETH SCOTT
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

In the student counterpart to the World Leaders Forum Tuesday night, panelists discussed the challenges of amplifying women's voices in the media and redefining feminist movements.

The Student Leaders Forum is a recent addition to Columbia's World Leaders Forum tradition, which brings international figures to Morningside for speeches and panels.

University President Lee Bollinger moderated "Women and Leadership in the 21st Century" with guest speaker Jehmu Greene and four student panelists from the University.

Greene is president of the Women's Media Center, a women's advocacy organization, and also helmed Rock the Vote.

The four student panelists



NOMI ELLENSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FORUM | Students and faculty came to the Italian Academy Tuesday evening for this year's Student Leaders Forum on women's roles.

were Jia Ahmed, CC '11, Janna Metzler, Mailman '11, Maisah Rashid, BC '10, and Jose Robledo, GS.

Emily Kenison, BC '11 and a Columbia University Senator from Barnard's Student

Government Association, chaired the forum and said that the students were chosen because they are "some of the best and brightest and most passionate students at Columbia University."

Bollinger said that the Student

Leaders Forum is a key component of the larger goals of the World Leaders Forum. "We wanted to make sure that part of the World Leaders Forum involved the opportunity for students to think about who they would like—you would like—to have as part of the ongoing array of speakers and subjects."

Bollinger said of the chosen topic of discussion, "It is very clear that we face as a society and as a world a very important set of questions around women in leadership roles."

Greene, during the discussion, spoke about the importance of increasing women's voices in the media and as experts in their fields. Issues branded as specific to women also need to be universalized, she said. "If women are the only ones talking on an issue, the national conversation suffers."

SEE STUDENT LEADERS, page 6

St. John reaches out to CU students

BY SHIRA POLIAK
Spectator Staff Writer

Father Richard Sloan, a volunteer Episcopalian faith advisor at Columbia, is working to bridge the gap between two of Morningside Heights' largest institutions.

Sloan, who is also the Diocesan Stewardship Officer at the Diocese of New York, which is located at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, has been working since the fall to establish greater connections between the Cathedral and the Columbia student body just a few blocks north.

Since joining the campus chaplaincy in November 2009, Sloan has organized free vertical tours of the Cathedral for Columbia students, many of whom have never entered the building's impressive Gothic façade.

Last Saturday, 43 undergraduate and graduate students braved the early morning and 13 flights of stairs to get a close look at the Cathedral's stained glass windows that date back to the 1930s, study its elaborate architecture, and climb to the top of the Cathedral.

"I'm aware that if you've never been in a cathedral or are not a church-going person, entering a cathedral can be daunting," Sloan said. "Through the tours, I hope to break down those apparent barriers."

Sloan said he wants to encourage students to enjoy the Cathedral's concerts, literature, and worship events, as well as the quiet gardens and chapels, which he said can be sanctuaries from busy college life.

He added that recently the Bishop has approved his

Columbia shuts down Floridita restaurant

Relocation deal nears completion

BY MAGGIE ASTOR
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

As of 6 p.m. on Tuesday, the door to Floridita, the popular Cuban restaurant on Broadway and 125th Street, was locked, and it was unclear when it would reopen.

According to owner Ramon Diaz, in the morning, University officials showed up at Floridita—which is a Columbia tenant—to tell him he needed to close by the end of the day. The immediate reason was a damaged kitchen floor that Columbia spokespeople said posed a danger to occupants. But that was just one small piece of the puzzle in this latest development over the course of two years of often-contentious negotiations between Diaz and University officials.

Diaz has a lease—good until 2014—on two Columbia-owned storefronts that the University needs for its planned campus in the Manhattanville neighborhood of West Harlem. Recently, the two parties agreed on a new, unspecified location for Floridita, and all that remains is for both to sign the lease, which would be a major breakthrough in drawn-out negotiations that have often seemed to lead nowhere. But, so close to sealing the deal, both parties blame the other for the delayed finish. University officials claim they have already signed and are just waiting on Diaz, while Diaz says he has signed and is waiting on Columbia.

In a statement released Tuesday,

SEE FLORIDITA, page 2

After decade decrease, slight uptick in crime

BY AARON KIERSH
Spectator Staff Writer

After enjoying a year of record-low crime that capped a decade of decreasing rates across the five boroughs, New York City is currently enduring a mini-sized crime wave.

Locally, there has been a very minor uptick in crimes for 2010, though many experts argue that the increase over this short period, across the city, may not yet be significant enough to declare a trend.

According to NYPD data, in the 26th Precinct—which encompasses the Columbia campus as well as portions of Morningside Heights and West Harlem—there have been two murders and five rapes through

“When people are unemployed and getting desperate, they do things they wouldn’t usually do.”

—City Council member

Robert Jackson

ter of 2009. And Morningside Heights has not escaped unscathed. A fatal stabbing of a young child at the General Grant Houses in January drew citywide attention. Last

SEE CRIME, page 2

Sports, back page

Granum leads golf team to third straight Ivy title

Junior Clark Granum helped the Light Blue to its third consecutive conference championship this past weekend. Granum finished tied for first in the individual standings, but fell to Penn's Scotty Williams in the playoff.

Opinion, page 4

A thing of nothing

Yurina Ko explains why questioning everything and knowing nothing is the way we roll.

Stalemate?

Taking one step forward and one step back with the academic calendar.

Today's Events

Vikram Pandit at World Leaders Forum

Chief Executive Officer of Citigroup speaks on campus
Rotunda, Low Library 6 p.m.

Fourth Dimension of Poetry

Cornell professor speaks about the next dimension of poetry.
2nd Floor, Heyman Center, 6:15 p.m.

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EMBRY OWEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NEW HEIGHTS | St. John the Divine has created a new vertical tour for Columbia students, in an effort to forge stronger ties with the University.

INSIDE

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Confusion and uncertainty heighten Varsity Show buzz

The Varsity Show is perhaps one of the most anticipated campus traditions, as well as one of the most mysterious. First-time attendees don't always know what to expect from the production and often have misconceptions.



Sports, back page

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ARCHITECTURE STUDIES | St. John the Divine is now offering new tours to Columbia students in an effort to increase ties. Architecture students say they appreciate the opportunity to explore the Gothic structure.

St. John the Divine Cathedral forges ties with Columbia, offers free tours

ST. JOHN from front page

a beautiful Gothic structure that I pass by during my school commute,” Kim said. “I have this emotional attachment to it, this sense of awe, this sense of the craftsmanship that went into it.”

The Cathedral’s vertical tours are a popular tourist attraction that often cost visitors \$15 per person, though the Diocese has underwritten the flashlight-guided tour for

Columbia students twice this year.

“We stopped at five different levels, and each time I thought that it was the final level and was more amazed at the access and what we were seeing,” Ryan Salvatore, a post-baccalaureate student studying architecture, said of his tour. “We were standing between the ceiling and the church in this amazing cavernous space.”

Sloan said there is a strong

relationship between the University and the Cathedral “on the upper, administrative level” between the Deans of the Cathedral and the President of the University but that he wants to “broaden the relationship and make students feel welcome.”

In addition to exposing the general campus to the Cathedral, Sloan has focused on strengthening ties between the Cathedral and an Episcopal

religious group on campus.

Peter Thompson, CC ’12 and president of the campus Episcopal group, said that this year the Episcopal and Lutheran students were able to get free tickets for the holy service at the Cathedral. He also said that Sloan has been very active in creating shorter prayer and social events, such as a Wednesday afternoon lunch and prayer service, to fit students’ busy schedules.

University chaplain Jewelnel Davis also welcomed the initiative and said that it is an important addition to the already strong historical connections between the University and the Cathedral, and the Episcopalian movement in general.

From the appointment of the first official university chaplain, Reverend Cornelius Duffie, in 1857 until the late 1960s, for over a hundred

years, the university chaplain was Episcopalian, Davis said.

She added that though the cathedral is a globally recognized landmark, students in its backyard sometimes have little knowledge of it. “We have visitors come from all over the world who know more about the Cathedral than Columbia students, and it’s in our neighborhood.”

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Columbia shuts down Floridita

FLORIDITA from front page

the University emphasized that the closing was temporary and due solely to maintenance issues—specifically the kitchen floor—and not to the larger question of Floridita’s relocation.

The problem, the statement said, is urgent: “An architect [Marin Nanca Architects] and consulting engineer [Ysrael A. Seinuk, P.C.] inspected the condition of the kitchen floor on October 14, 2009 and found it to be ‘in a state of disrepair and in danger of collapse.’”

“While we regret the inconvenience caused by Mr. Diaz’s internal management, the University must first and foremost take actions that will maintain a safe environment for both employees and patrons,” the statement continued. “To that end, we will make the repairs as quickly as possible so that Mr. Diaz can resume his operations.” Columbia expects the repairs to take about six weeks.

agreement were not finalized by April 26, “We will close the current location for the appropriate repairs.”

Accordingly, the closing was ordered on April 27, despite the seemingly imminent relocation.

Diaz said this email was only one in a more complex series. While he declined to provide details about the other emails, citing a confidentiality agreement in the negotiation process with the University, he said, “There have been a number of emails that went back and forth, and that email is not necessarily the story.”

He said he had agreed to close for the repairs only as a last resort and emphasized that, in his view, there were still preferable alternatives available. For instance, he said he had offered to pay for an outside engineer to inspect the kitchen, which could have led to a 120-day extension on the original six-month grace period. With that extra time, he said, he could have finalized the lease on the new space, moved, and avoided having to lay off—temporarily or otherwise—his 36 employees.

“It’s not so much me, but the 30-plus families that are living off this work. This has real impact on real lives,” Diaz said.

And on Tuesday, some employees echoed Diaz, saying they couldn’t afford to be unemployed even for six weeks.

employ her part-time and allow her to attend school as well. “How can I go to university, how can I pay my rent? It’s not fair for us,” she said.

Some customers, too, were surprised by the news.

“I eat here all the time, and it’s the shit,” said Michael Davis, a senior at the Manhattan School of Music. “This is one of the big hangs—it’s cheap, it’s good, it’s open late.”

His friend Mike Ruby, a first-year master’s student at MSM, said he has been eating at Floridita for four years. “My first encounter with New York was Floridita. It has a lot of memories,” he said.

“This is truly saddening to me,” Ben Totushek, GS and a member of Columbia’s Student Coalition on Expansion and Gentrification, wrote in an email. SCEG has been particularly active in supporting Floridita and has organized multiple protests and rallies in the past two years on Diaz’s behalf. “It seems that they don’t want Floridita to keep serving its loyal clientele, for whatever reasons.”

Columbia has adamantly disputed such claims, saying it wants Floridita to succeed and still hopes to reach a mutually acceptable agreement. Diaz, the statement said, has been offered “a long-term lease for appealing alternative space in a prominent location on West 125th Street and we await his signature on final, mutually agreed-to lease documents”—and Diaz himself said he was happy with the offer and wanted to finalize the lease.

His lease on his current property is good until 2014, and according to the statement, he has two options: to close for six weeks for the kitchen repairs, reopen in the same location, and stay there until his lease expires, or to move to a new location now.

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Slight crime uptick, despite decade decrease

CRIME from front page

Wednesday, Mohammed Nofal was fatally shot in the head outside a jazz club on 118th Street, and on Saturday James Williams, 30, was shot to death on 118th Street and Morningside Avenue—which falls in the 28th Precinct.

Some, including Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Police Commissioner Ray Kelly, have attributed the rising crime rates to budget cuts necessitated by the city’s ever-ballooning deficit. Despite the slight recent rise in crime, veteran analysts and members of the NYPD assert that the higher numbers represent a statistical fluctuation with little bearing on the city’s overall security.

“Crime goes up and down periodically,” said Jeffrey Fagan, co-director of Columbia’s Center on Crime, Community, and Law. “It is the long-term trends that should worry us or make us feel safer. I wouldn’t make too much of this increase until it becomes a sustained pattern that lasts for six months or more in the same neighborhoods.”

Fagan added that he thinks potential NYPD budget cuts will not significantly affect the safety of city streets. Under Bloomberg’s proposed budget, the Police Department would be unable to rehire 892 officers through attrition, and would cut overtime salaries by \$25 million in 2010 and \$50 million in 2011. “Crime is more responsive to what the police do than to how many there are,” he said.

One local NYPD officer, who wished to remain anonymous due to protocol, agreed that finances have little direct impact on security. He also

dismissed claims that the crime rate is rising. “You can’t contextualize crime in a three-month period,” he said. “I know there have been more shootings in this period of the year but that doesn’t mean we have lost the war on crime. You have to look at over the course of one year or many years.”

Some neighborhood residents said they were not aware of any changes in crime patterns. Maddy Bassi, GSAS ’11, said she “always feels quite safe” around her 122nd Street and Morningside Avenue residence. “I haven’t seen any crime in three years living here. I haven’t noticed any uptick.”

Claude Wampler, who lives on 111th Street between Amsterdam Avenue and Broadway, said that recent incidents are not “symptomatic” of the neighborhood’s true nature. “I always feel very safe,” she said. “I have never been scared of the neighborhood.”

For more than a decade, the NYPD was lauded as a

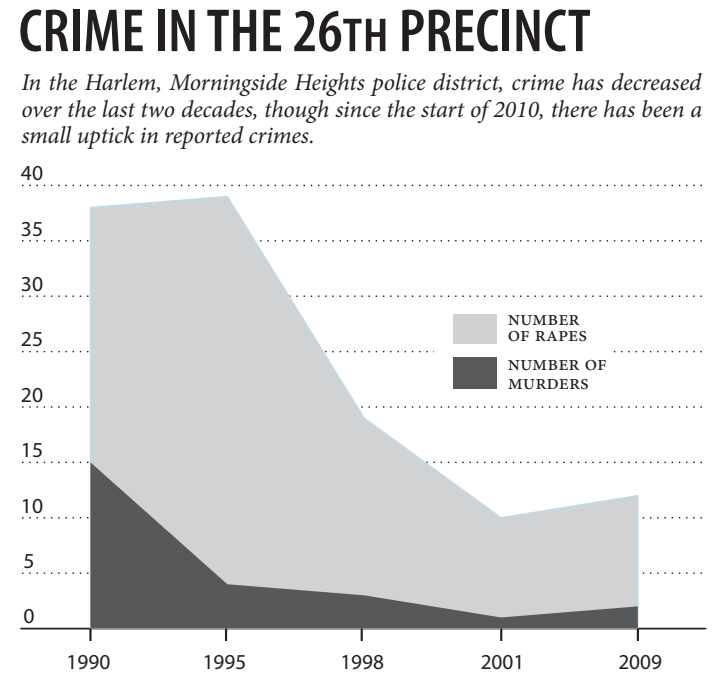
successful crime-fighting force as New York completed a dramatic turnaround to become one of the nation’s safest major cities. In 2009, the NYPD announced a record-low murder rate as the fewest homicides in a 12-month period occurred since the current tracking system was created in 1963.

But some politicians say that new times bring new challenges. City Councilman Robert Jackson, whose northern Manhattan district includes the Columbia campus, argues that prolonged local economic problems will encourage the crime rate to increase.

Jackson said he is worried that the city is headed for a nearly permanent state of debt—and perhaps higher crime rates—until Albany directs more resources towards the five boroughs.

He added, “When people are unemployed and getting desperate, they do things they wouldn’t usually do.”

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CORRECTION

In “CC, SEAS name top seniors,” we misstated the major and current CU Dance Marathon position of Arianne Richard, a biochemistry student. She is the co-overall chair of CUDM. Spectator regrets the errors.

Up until premiere, Varsity Show’s mystique leaves students guessing

BY MARICELA GONZALEZ
Columbia Daily Spectator



From hoarding dining hall food to avoiding the McBain shaft, most freshmen arrive at Columbia with a lot to learn. One campus ritual often foreign to new students is the Varsity Show, the annual Columbia-themed, student-run theater production, now in its 116th year. For upperclassmen, the Varsity Show represents the last big on-campus event before the doldrums of finals. But for many freshmen, it continues to be one of the last big mysteries of Columbia life, laden with uncertainty and confusion. With V116 premiering this Friday, Columbians of all years will finally have the chance to see what all of the past semester’s hubbub is about.

Each year, some freshmen are first exposed to the Varsity Show through specially-targeted performances during Days on Campus for accepted students and during orientation week for incoming students.

After seeing a preview of the Varsity Show during NSOP week, Brian Wagner, SEAS ’13, enjoyed the performance because it offered a respite from the week’s uncomfortable social dynamics.

“It was good, but mostly because I didn’t have to awkwardly talk with any more people I didn’t know yet,” he said.

Mentioning that he perceives the

Varsity Show as a “singy-comedy troupe,” Wagner was unsure whether he would be attending the show or not. “Probably, if my friends are going to see it,” he said. “Can I Flex it at the TIC?”

Unlike Wagner, Molly Karcher, SEAS ’13, got a sneak preview of Columbia life by seeing the 115th Varsity Show’s performance during last year’s Days on Campus.

“It was alright, but I didn’t understand it at the time,” Karcher said. “They gave us a reference sheet to explain some of the jokes, but I didn’t really like that because jokes aren’t funny when you explain them.”

However, similar to Wagner, Karcher had some misconceptions about the show as a Columbia institution.

“Well, I thought last year’s show was the 116th, so I assumed it was a joke because we’re on 116th and Broadway,” Karcher said.

Dina Shapoval, CC ’13, also caught her first glimpse of the Varsity Show from Days on Campus.

“It was good,” Shapoval said. “It was funny, but I still don’t really know what it is.”

Despite this uncertainty, Shapoval, aware of the Varsity Show’s aura of tradition, was quick to state she would be attending V116. “I feel like I’d be missing out. I’d like to be a part of the Columbia tradition,” she said.

Hannah Cui, SEAS ’12, saw the Varsity Show her freshman year for the same reasons. “I think the Varsity Show is especially appealing to first-year students because it is marketed as a deeply rooted Columbia tradition,” Cui said. “But even for upperclassmen, it is still a

tradition because there is a show every year whether they go see it or not.”

Cui added, “I am going to see this year’s show, to see how it’s different from last year’s, how different this school year was from last year, and just to see the show.”

Hoping to ensure that no one misses out on the tradition, the Varsity Show cast and crew often act not only as actors, writers, producers, and craftsmen, but also as ambassadors of Columbia’s longest-running student-operated performing arts institution.

Freshmen Varsity Show cast members, like Tessa Slovis, BC ’13, and David Offit, CC/JTS’13, find themselves in the unique position of knowing everything about the upcoming show while most of their peers grapple with rumors and misconceptions.

Slovis, however, said that not too long ago, she included herself among the unknowing freshmen.

“I am one of the few people that knew absolutely nothing about the Varsity Show. When I first got here I didn’t know anything about the theater community at all, and actually Emily Feinstein, who is also in the Varsity Show, was like, ‘Oh you should audition, it’s this huge tradition.’ She told me all about it and I did it on a whim and ended up getting in. So I knew nothing about it, which is really funny because I think everyone knows everything about it,” Slovis said.

Conversely, Offit first heard of the Varsity Show soon after deciding to attend Columbia.

“A friend’s father, who had graduated from Columbia in the 80s, told me all about this great tradition of people coming together to put on a student-written musical about Columbia,” Offit said. “When I heard about the show, I only pictured myself in the audience—I never guessed I would have been on stage!”

Slovis suggested that students can appreciate this year’s production no matter how familiar they are with the Varsity Show as a campus institution. “This show especially translates so well to college life and to every student. I think regardless of school or age, putting all of that aside, it follows such universal themes,” she said.

Regardless of any misconceptions—yes, this is actually the 116th production of the Varsity Show, and yes, tickets can be purchased with Flex at the TIC—freshmen and upperclassmen alike will soon experience yet another of Columbia’s traditions. Hopefully, unlike another campus “tradition”—finals—this one will allow them to enjoy themselves in the process.

Student artist’s work embraces the era of peace and love

BY ELYSSA GOLDBERG
Spectator Staff Writer



It’s easy to fetishize the ’60s. Many students have heard, “Aw man, if only the Beatles were around today,” or any statement of nostalgia for the ’68 riots and revolutionary fervor. While that decade might be over, Seattle native Madison Burgess, BC ’10, seeks to recreate it with her ’60s-inspired art.

Burgess’s activist aesthetic is illustrated literally and metaphorically. She has posted her own political posters all over campus, allowing her art to transcend the institutional and become interactive. The posters feature phrases like “Educate to Liberate” and “Make Love.” What better way to represent activism than to incite it?

She is currently most drawn to printmaking—although her favorite medium is normally pencil drawing—and her subject matter of choice for the moment is late ’60s political protest. She sees no value in still lifes and chooses instead to focus on good weather, engaging films, and exciting people as inspiration.

Burgess describes herself as “positive, spontaneous, attempt to be spontaneous, and colorful,” and it’s easy to believe her. She dresses in psychedelic garb, the bright colors and swirly patterns moving in stark contrast to the dreary, rainy backdrop of New York in April. Her nervous giggle and infectious, open personality are perhaps related to her upbringing with two artist parents. Her mom, a costume designer, taught her how to draw while her father, a comedic actor, introduced her to a different kind of art.

Burgess seemed self-conscious about delivering quirky responses to slightly invasive personal questions, saying, “It’s scary to paint yourself with these kind of facts. It’s like Inside the Actor’s Studio.” Still, she consistently offered unpredictable and interesting tidbits about herself. For example, her favorite space in the city to think is not even in the city. It’s the Metro-North line along the Hudson, an unconventional sanctuary she discovered once upon a time while visiting a friend at Vassar. She loves that train so much that she recently rode it to Marble Hill just to go to Target.

Burgess is so open-minded that it’s easy to feel conservative in her presence. She lives her life by the saying, “Success is having options,” which was imparted to her by her “quasi-adopted Chinese aunt, but also Harrison Ford.” She’s so open that she eats—or at least has eaten—pizza off Broadway. As in the street. As in off the sidewalk. She sees no problem in believing in good luck and has a go-to rabbit’s foot keychain. She also falls in love, over and over again. When asked if she’s ever been in love, she replied with a confident, “Yeah! All the time.” Her world is boundless.

In that way, Burgess’s art becomes self-reflexive. She’s as vibrant and reminiscent of the spirit of the ’60s (and not in a hokey way, either) as her pieces currently on display for her senior thesis on the fifth floor of the Diana Center. She’s a girl of constant change, ready to take on the world with a refreshing flexibility and hesitant to classify her work at all. Instead, she said, “Well it’s usually... No... Let’s just say that this year has been late ’60s political activism.” So what source of inspiration might next year bring? Even Burgess herself will just have to wait and see.

Elyssa Goldberg’s biweekly series In the Studio profiles some of Columbia’s student artists.



FATEMA VERSI FOR SPECTATOR
WELCOME TO THE ’60S | Madison Burgess’s posters and prints capture the spirit of the ’60s. She recently distributed her “Make Love” poster (below) around campus.



Columbia says ‘konichiwa’ to Japanese Film Club

BY SIMON RIMMELE
Columbia Daily Spectator

Thanks to the recent creation of Columbia’s own Japanese Film Club, fans of Japanese cinema no longer need to make the extended trek to downtown art-house cinemas or snuggle up alone with a laptop and a Criterion Collection DVD. Founded this semester by Sam Walker, Cathi Choi, Xueli Wang, and Alex Plana, all CC ’13, the young club aims to share its enthusiasm for Japanese cinema with both committed cinephiles and other merely curious students.

The club is the newest of an expanding array of official and unofficial Columbia clubs dedicated to foreign cinema. In recent weeks, the club has already screened several staples of classical and modern cinema, including Yasujiro Ozu’s “Tokyo Twilight” and Shinoda Masahiro’s “Pale Flower.”

Sam Walker, a tentative East Asian languages and cultures major, admits to having been somewhat intimidated when starting the club as “a freshman who wasn’t even studying film.” He nevertheless brought with him a passion for Japanese cinema and culture in general, which he traced back to his first time

watching Akira Kurosawa’s “Rashomon” in high school, an experience which, he said, “opened my eyes to the power and beauty of film.” A simple talk with Columbia’s EALAC faculty yielded an available weekly room and access to a projector, and with only these resources, the Japanese Film Club was born.

This semester the club has chosen to screen films the organizing members themselves “have seen and loved”—films they want to share with the Columbia community.

The club’s most recent screening, Masaki Kobayashi’s “Harakiri,” is a heart-wrenching story of dignity, loyalty, and family amid the suffering and societal turmoil of feudal Japan. The screening drew a mixed audience of film majors, casual fans, and Japanese language students looking to test their skills in an entertaining way. Despite the good turnout, the founders hope to expand the club’s audience while keeping the atmosphere relaxed. By showing a greater variety of films and possibly leading discussions among students and guest speakers, they agree that they would like both to attract more and more members of the community and to

expose them to different aspects of Japanese culture that are often overlooked by people interested in traditional Japanese pop-culture. Walker said he hopes “to reveal another side of Japanese culture to those who may not have experienced it. ... Ideally, the club could spark an interest in Japanese literature as well.”

As often seems to be the case for campus clubs, though, lack of time—rather than lack of interest—may dissuade some students from attending. Keir Daniels, GS ’12 and a first-year Japanese student, became interested in the club after seeing fliers posted across campus during recent weeks, but said he has not been able to make it to any of the club’s events thus far because of other time commitments.

For now, the club remains a casual affair, with screenings every Thursday night. This week, for the last screening of the semester, the club will be showing Masahiro Shinoda’s “Double Suicide,” an innovative on-screen adaptation of a traditional Kabuki theater piece. Even if end-of-the-year stress could discourage potential moviegoers from attending this week’s event, it’s a worthy alternative to watching DVDs in a dorm room.

Cozy study spot Max Caffé whips up frothy coffee drinks with bohemian flair



EMBRY OWEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
ECLECTIC EATERY | Max Caffé’s delicious latte makes a satisfying complement to a warm croissant. Students can snack and study while seated on plush antique chairs.

BY EMBRY OWEN
Columbia Daily Spectator

As finals and warm weather approach, students can tear themselves away from Butler and explore a range of neighborhood study spots. With campus life concentrated around 116th and Broadway, it’s easy to forget the plethora of café options on Amsterdam Avenue. Max Caffé stands out as one of the best choices in the neighborhood for a long afternoon of coffee and Kant.

Max Caffé serves a more diverse clientele than many Broadway cafés. Although there are plenty of students typing away on Macbooks, older neighborhood residents meet up with their friends here, too. Mismatched chairs and couches invite customers to sit and linger, creating an intimate atmosphere. Paintings on the walls

and funky chandeliers add charm. In short, this is the perfect spot for students who lament the lack of independent, bohemian cafés uptown.

Students coming after class will want to start with the café’s coffee and espresso options. A full array of hot and iced drinks is available, and Max’s espresso stands out from that served at other, more conventional shops nearby. Their latte seems a bit heavy on foam but maintains a dark, bold flavor and a delightfully creamy finish. Coffee drinks come in sizeable portions and are fairly priced.

While Max offers a variety of lunch and dinner options such as paninis, soups, and tapas, finding something appropriate and filling to accompany a coffee drink in the afternoon feels difficult. The café’s only pastry offerings are standard croissants, available with jam and butter, and

sfogliatelle—pastries filled with ricotta cheese. The croissant comes warm, sprinkled with powdered sugar and accompanied by strawberries. While the sugar adds an intriguing contrast to the rich flavor of the croissant, the overall effect tastes a bit dry and leaves some butteriness to be desired.

If Columbians hope to enjoy themselves here, let alone get work done, a pair of headphones is an absolute necessity. Max Caffé has a poor playlist, blasting ’80s and ’90s hits on repeat. Students are better off bringing their own soundtracks, since Max’s detracts from an otherwise perfect atmosphere.

On warm days, the café opens all of its windows to create an open-air atmosphere, with outdoor seating available as well. If students snack beforehand and stick to Max’s coffee, they’ll be quickly charmed by this delightful café off the beaten Columbia path.



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Signing the years away

ANNA ARONS

By the end of high school, I'd become somewhat of a yearbook-signing savant. Even for acquaintances, I'd think of what to write days ahead of time, finding the right combination of memories and aspirational wisdom for each person. I took great pride in my personalization—no generic “Have a great summer! Good luck next year!” from me. And yet here I am, writing my college equivalent to the high-school yearbook signature, and I find that no combination of “2 Good 2 B 4Gottens” and “Keep in touches” can come close to capturing my years here.

I've spent the past semester writing a column that my sister lovingly referred to as “Your chance to point out everything that's wrong with the student body (no offense or anything)!” And I don't regret doing so. But as I look back over the past four years, I realize that what's good about this place often goes overlooked. It's much easier to catalogue the flaws of Barnard and Columbia, especially when everyone else is doing the same, than it is to admit that these institutions may get a few things right.

I'm just as guilty of this negativity (perhaps more so) as anyone else. I did, after all, work as a copy editor for two years. The nature of that position is to find the mistakes that others make, and ideally, quietly correct them. That, of course, is not the reality. The conversations at the copy desk, the notes left for other editors, the G-chat statuses, all of these can be merciless in their mocking of the unfortunate writer who was unaware that, according to Associated Press



YURINA KO

2 + 2 = 5

come out of nothing,” cleverly quoting Shakespeare's *King Lear*. But I must confess two things. Firstly, I lied: I was, in fact, thinking about something—mainly, what to write about for my last column. Secondly, I am an expert on nothing.

The latter statement can be interpreted in multiple ways. I could be an expert on the philosophical concept of “nothingness,” which has been a heated topic for over 2,500 years and takes almost 10,000 words to summarize in an encyclopedia of philosophy. English literature students, too, obsess over Wallace Stevens' famous line, “Nothing himself, beholds / Nothing that is not there and the nothing that is.” But I'm not going to talk about this particular aspect of nothingness—I'm only here to reveal an inconvenient yet incredible truth that the liberal arts degree, and especially the philosophy major, makes a non-expert out of you.

Most undergrads aren't experts in academic fields, despite having to choose a major, concentration, or minor. Even our research papers or theses, while promoting “original” ideas and arguments, are products of quasi-experts who have the potential to delve further into the topic if given more resources and time.

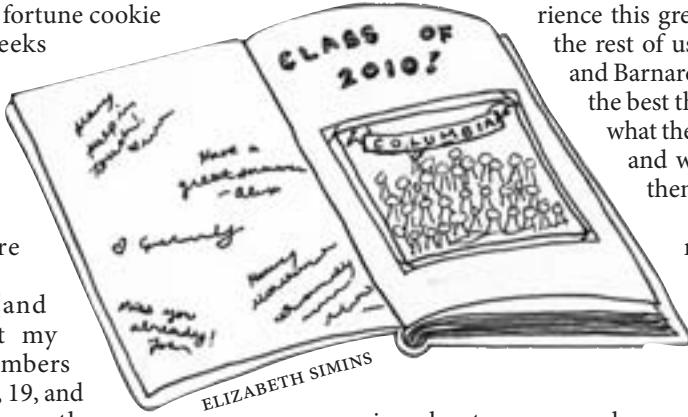
A troubled sophomore asked me a day before the major declaration date, “How important is your major for finding employment after college?” I gave him the same answer my older peers gave me last year: “Not

style, “website” should always be written, “Web site,” Digital Age be damned!

Maybe copy as a section wouldn't be so negative if we weren't subject to the same negativity that we perpetuate. Copy often goes unnoticed, inside and outside the paper, unless we make a mistake. When readers notice typos, missed punctuation, or misspelled names, they might wonder about the competence of the copy section. But if the paper is miraculously error-free, then the contributions of copy go unremarked-upon. Sure, we probably should have caught that thing about the Dalai Lama giving hundreds of men AIDS, but what about all of the times we didn't allow slanderous statements about religious leaders go to print? Did anyone comment on that?

I got a fortune cookie a few weeks ago telling me, “Those who can endure most are rewarded most” (and also that my lucky numbers are 12, 46, 19, and 31). I threw the fortune away, but it turned up again on my desk, so I decided to take it as a sign of something other than my own forgetfulness. From all the complaints I hear, I get the sense that we imagine that this University (capital U, for Spec style and for self-importance) forces us to endure a great deal. But really, our own negativity can be as damaging as anything Barnard and Columbia throw at us.

For one second, for one column, I'd rather focus on the positive: friends who understand the appeal of the Double Down and a round of Bananagrams, who are just as indecisive as me, and who support me when I'm at my most negative;



ELIZABETH SIMINS

the bliss of an Absolute bagel on a Sunday morning; the joy of actually getting to learn all day, every day; the fleeting feeling of community that emerges with the sun each spring; the sense of accomplishment of turning in a thesis (OK, I've yet to do this last one and am currently writing this column instead of my thesis, but I assume it's a great feeling).

And these positive things aren't just on a personal level—Barnard and Columbia are flawed institutions, but their flaws do not define them, just as none of our flaws define us (at least, I hope not). These schools give us access to professors who genuinely want to teach and who care about us; freedom to explore our interests, to make mistakes, and to grow up in a protected setting; and the chance to live in and experience this great city. Like the rest of us, Columbia and Barnard seem to do the best they can with what they're given—and what we give them.

I realize now that I've spent my senior column complaining about everyone else complaining—a fitting tribute to my own negativity, I think. But I do it because I care, and maybe that's true for all of us: If we didn't care about this University and the people in it, we wouldn't go to the trouble of complaining. And if no one complained, we would stagnate. I think back to high school yearbooks, all those signatures saying, “Never change!” and I finally know what I would write now: “Remember all the good times. And never stop changing.”

The author is a Barnard College senior majoring in urban studies. She was an associate copy editor on the 132nd and 133rd Associate Boards.

An expert on nothing

very.” The liberal arts curricula at the undergraduate institutions make us well-read through general requirements, and every department demands both careful analysis and critical thinking. This is why anthropology majors are not hindered from becoming financial consultants, English majors from becoming lawyers, and so forth.

“The goal is less to teach him a truth,” wrote Rousseau, “than to show him how he must always go about discovering the truth.” Like the biblical idea not simply to give a man fish but to teach him how to fish, students are equipped to investigate a variety of problems and situations, not to find

Most undergrads aren't experts in academic fields.

the ultimate answer to everything in the universe (I still don't buy the “Hitchhiker's” answer that it's 42).

The philosophy major takes this broad, non-expertness to a further degree. Despite my clear understanding of Plato's dialogues, Aristotelian metaphysics, and the Hegelian dialectic, to name a few, these ideas have made me less and less sure about my own understanding of the world. They have urged me to continue questioning rather than answering or resolving issues.

A student in a philosophy class exploring the theory of knowledge argued that the more she learned about the different theories, the less she realized she knew. “Yes! That's exactly what I want you to get from the idea of knowledge!” the professor responded, smiling.

While this status of confusion may seem detrimental to one's future endeavors, I find myself more flexible to different opinions than I was prior to studying philosophy, something that I believe will benefit me in whatever I pursue from now on.

For example, this mentality of “knowing

nothing” is useful for some vocations, especially editing. In order to edit, one needs to view a piece of writing, however solid it may seem, from the most ignorant and naive perspective in order to solidify and clarify the argument to the utmost degree. (Of course, the editor must be skilled in grammar and syntax, but that is easily handled by copy editors alone.) The editor is not expected to be an expert on whatever topic the article may be about, but an expert at being a non-expert. In that sense, Socrates exercised his philosophy by admitting his ignorance and making sure his companions were consistent in their arguments (which was rarely the case).

A few years ago, I would have never had the courage to name my column “2+2=5” out of fear of sounding absurd. But just as I learned that there is no easy answer to or consensus on a question like “What is there in this room?” (chairs, computers, people, ideas, dreams, the Internet, shadows, holes, etc.), I learned to perceive my local observations and events on campus via the same light. From music, film, women's history and literature to computer science and, of course, astronomy, I wanted to demonstrate to readers that anything can be the target of philosophy if you just think about it hard enough.

Perhaps King Lear was wrong: Something can come out of nothing (just as nothing can come out of something). And in defense of suggesting that 2+2=5, I'll leave you with the words of one of my favorite philosophers, Bertrand Russell.

“This seems plainly absurd,” he said, “but whoever wishes to become a philosopher must learn not to be frightened by absurdities.”

Yurina Ko is a Barnard College junior majoring in philosophy. She is a senior editor of the Columbia Political Review. 2+2=5 runs alternate Wednesdays.

Resolving the academic calendar: First steps

THE STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

When students sat down with faculty senators at the Senate Education Committee meeting on Friday, April 16, the fight over the academic calendar had come to a stalemate.

Student senators, along with CCSC, ESC, and SGA, backed a plan that would start school before Labor Day twice every 10 years. Faculty senators were dead set against it and proposed eliminating the Election Day holiday or holding finals on weekends or in January after winter break.

Even if any one of these changes were adopted, however, it was clear that due to schedules already being finalized, next year's calendar would not change.

The battle lines were clearly drawn—and nobody wanted to give in.

And then—compromise. The four undergraduate schools already allowed students to move finals if they had three or more on one day, so why not expand that system? Why not change the policy to allow students to reschedule finals that fall on December 23?

The proposed resolution that followed—which will allow exactly that—will come before the full Senate plenary this Friday.

It is important to remember, however, that this is not the end, but the beginning—an important first step in addressing student concerns about the academic calendar.

In January, over 1,600 students attached their names to a petition that asked the Senate to either change the calendar or change the policy regarding the moving of tests.

“It is not acceptable for [international] students that exams continue until the day before Christmas Eve and thus must fly or travel on this holiday,” read the petition. “The university should recognize the importance of this time of year and make appropriate provisions for its students.”

It was clear that due to schedules already being finalized, next year's calendar would not change.

The petition continues, “If the college feels it cannot officially change the calendar, then it must change its policy to accommodate students that this schedule affects.”

That is exactly what this resolution does—the Senate is changing University policies to accommodate students.

Organizers of the original petition have objected to this new policy, the exact one they lobbied for.

In an email to several senators, faculty, and administrators, students claimed this resolution fails to address the main concern of students who signed the petition.

They said the “resolution does not provide a list of situations and circumstances that will be deemed acceptable.”

The new policy, however, mandates that the respective dean of student affairs offices operate with a “strong presumption that the rescheduling request [would be] granted” .

In a sense, the burden of proof falls on the dean of students to explain why a request was denied, rather than the student having to present a grand, intricate case to explain why he or she needs exams rescheduled.

The email also claims some students may be too shy to ask to have finals rescheduled. However, we believe there's no action the Senate can take to give people the self-confidence needed to submit a form.

One issue—not addressed by either the original petition or the later email, but important to student leaders—is the limited number of study days that accompany an academic calendar that ends on December 23.

Several undergraduate student leaders have claimed this will exacerbate the problem, giving students even less study time if they have to reschedule exams that fall on the 23rd.

There's nothing in the resolution, however, that says rescheduled exams must fall before the 23rd, merely that it is one option available to students.

It's important to remember that legislating is about making compromises. A number of things were clear: next year's calendar wasn't going to change, students didn't want to lose fall break, and faculty wouldn't start before Labor Day.

In this case, our priority was ensuring that students this year, not years down the road, could make it home in time for the holidays.

This isn't the end of the conversation, but the beginning. The Education Committee also plans to submit a concurrent resolution that will require the Senate to reexamine this policy in the fall.

As student senators, we will continue to push and work toward settling the study days issue and address further concerns as they arise.

This policy is a win for students. If it appears it isn't working next winter, then we will work to fix it. This is only the first step in an important conversation.

The authors are members of the Student Affairs Committee of the University Senate.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

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1 Hist. or sci.
5 Penn. crosser
9 "This is for real"
15 Composer Schilin
16 Noah of "ER"
17 Singer Morissette
18 Response to comic Anderson's "What's for dinner?"
20 Forceful, as an argument
21 Response to Spanish tenor Kraus's "What's for dinner?"
23 1861-'89 territory
25 MFA, for one
26 Outer okay
27 Get ready
29 Bighorn sheep, at times
33 What's up?
34 Like machine-stamped mail
37 Response to Revolutionary Arnold's "What's for breakfast?"
42 Most proximate
43 Cold and wet
46 Fude relative
49 Leather source
53 Tokyo, once
54 Sitter's handful
57 Sly
58 Response to actress Bracco's "What's for brunch?"
63 Dump
64 Response to jazzman Peterson's "What's for dinner?"
67 "Eventually ..."
68 Nastase of tennis
69 Maestro Klempner
70 They're sometimes worn under helmets
71 Building extensions
72 1966 Jerry Herman musical

DOWN

1 Beehive St. capital
2 Old Mideast org.
3 Mark of shame

4 Change positions often
5 Like many garages
6 Stooges' laugh
7 Practiced, as a trade
8 New Hampshire college town
9 Table salt, to a chemist
10 Swedish statesman
11 Five-time NHL scoring leader Jaromir
12 Cyclops feature
13 More considerate
14 Prevents, legally
19 ... line under
22 Accept
23 Infelders' stats
24 Indy's pursuit
28 Involve, as in conflict
30 Dull finish?
31 "Something tells ... gooted"
32 CLX x X
35 Wide shoe spec
36 Heavy wts.
38 Health food co.
39 Former GM division

40 Actor Mineo
41 Potentially lucrative track bet
44 Do something
45 "Give me a reason"
46 Ahab's whaler
47 "Don't ask me!"
48 Menacing snake
50 Libra symbol
51 Small band
52 Kidnapper's demand
55 Dinner companion?
56 Head & Shoulders competitor
59 Musical finale
60 Den ____
61 Netherlands
61 Nestlé ice cream brand
62 Track fence
65 PIN requester
66 Fish delicacy

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com 04/28/10

By Dan Nadler
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Lions look to end Ivy dry spell at NCAA tournament

TENNIS from back page

losing 4-3 in a match that came down to the third set of the final match, where Harvard senior co-captain Cliff Nguyen lost his match at No. 4 singles 6-3, 6-7, 6-2. Harvard dropped the doubles point in that match but rallied to win three singles matches in three sets, but Illinois pulled out a close victory on its way to the semifinals.

The previous year, Harvard had advanced to the second round of the tournament, beating VCU in the first round 4-3, but losing to No. 15 Alabama in the second round 4-0. While Harvard went 7-0 that year as well, Brown went 6-1 in Ivy play and earned an at-large bid into the NCAA Championships, losing in the first round of the tournament to No. 28 Wake Forest, 4-3. David Loewenthal won the match at No. 1 singles for Wake Forest 6-4 in the third set to give the Demon Deacons their first ever NCAA win in program history.

In 2002, the same two teams represented the Ancient Eight in the NAAs, this time with Brown earning the automatic bid by going 7-0 in the conference, and Harvard going 6-1 and receiving an at-large bid with a national ranking of No. 33. Although Brown beat Harvard during the season, Harvard advanced further in the tournament, reaching the second round with a 4-0 win over the Metro Atlantic Athletic champion Marist in the first round, for their first NCAA win since 1999. Harvard lost 4-0 in the second round to Baylor, the No. 4 team in the nation. Playing No. 1 singles for Baylor that year was Benjamin Becker, who currently plays on the ATP tour and has been ranked as high as No. 38 in the world. Brown had a tough draw, landing seventh-ranked Ole Miss in the first round and losing 4-0.

Harvard and Columbia would share the title in 2001, as both went 6-1, although Harvard would advance to the tournament, having beat Columbia head-to-head. That season, Harvard suffered their only loss at the hands of Yale, but when both teams tied, the team that won the head-to-head won the automatic bid. The rule was changed to a playoff after that season and then changed back after 2007 when Columbia beat Penn in a playoff.



ALYSON GOULDEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MAYBE THIS TIME | Senior Jon Wong has already been to the NCAA tournament twice, but has yet to see his team advance past the first round. The Lions will find out who their first opponent is on May 4.

2000 saw Columbia represent the Ivy League in the NCAA Championships after the team went 7-0 in conference play and entered on a 12-match winning streak against No. 16 University of Minnesota. At the top of the doubles lineup for Columbia were Salil Seshadri and Akram Zaman, who would go on to reach the quarterfinals of the NCAA Doubles Championships. But Seshadri would get hurt during the doubles point, and the duo would lose their match. Columbia never recovered, losing 4-0, as their co-captain and No. 1 singles player didn't play in singles.

Recent NCAA matches have brought mixed results to the Ivy representative. In 2008, Harvard

dropped a 4-2 decision to No. 17 Texas Tech, getting two wins from freshmen Alexei Chijoff-Evans and Aba Omodele-Lucien, who currently play No. 1 and 2 singles for the team. Last spring, Columbia lost to No. 22 Miami, 4-0. The Lions lost the doubles point, even though junior Jon Wong and freshman Haig Schneiderman won their doubles match 8-1. At No. 2 singles, senior Bogdan Borta was up 4-1 in his match before hurting his back. Mihai Nichifor at No. 3 singles was about to give Columbia their first point in an NCAA match since 1987, before his match was called off with him leading 6-2, 5-4.

In 2007, the Lions shared the Ivy title with Penn, but

won the NCAA bid after beating Penn 4-1 in a playoff at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center. The only holdover from that team is senior Jon Wong, who this spring became the first player in Columbia tennis history to win three Ivy titles during his four years at Columbia. That season, the Lions faced No. 2 seed Ohio State, who had won their past 55 matches and featured some of the nation's best players, including two top-50 doubles teams. The Buckeyes went 28-1 that season and would advance all the way to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Championships before losing to Illinois.

The draw for the men's NCAA Championships will be revealed on May 4.

For one last time, put it on the board

SHAPIRO from back page

cell on a weekly basis, railed on a certain pompous news editor, added verbs to Puro's subject-full stories, and wrote bad headlines for stories in which our "prophetic" coaches came to the realization that our teams needed to score points in order to win.

Sadly, my academic responsibilities in pursuing two bachelor's degrees, as well as my commitment to LionPAC—Columbia's pro-Israel group, which I ran for two years—prevented me from taking on an increased administrative role at Spectator. However, unforeseen events gave me the opportunity to serve as the sports editor for one night a week during part of my junior year. I've also had the opportunity to grace our sports page with my columns for the past two years and to recruit new writers and editors (including my brother) to keep our section strong. Now, I know that my columns often focused on "real" sports topics and not on Columbia, but let's discuss that aspect for just a moment:

I want to state one last time that I commend every one of our student athletes here at Columbia. As someone who is overextended, I am well aware of what it means to participate in our athletic program while maintaining sound academic requirements.

Sometimes we write things that aren't positive, and I've witnessed the wrath of the Athletic Department on several occasions. But I speak for all of my colleagues in that we are always trying to present the truth. Furthermore, it may be hard to see Spec Sports in this way, but we are your biggest fans on campus.

A few, brief words on those that made my time at Spec so enjoyable:

Kamran and Robinson: You two were the great fathers of the section when I arrived, and I'm grateful for your initial guidance and for the opportunities that you provided.

Jon August: Yes, you were the subject of most of my jokes, so thank you for the popularity points. But you can also throw a few punches as well from time to time, and you're one hell of a writer and editor. I'm still pissed that you made me fix all those standard headlines. It's hard for me to write this, but you have been a true friend over the years and I'm happy that we stay in touch and consult on our futures.

Jon Tayler: When I hear your name, I start laughing. You are one of the most hilarious people I've ever met, and you certainly adopted "That's what she said" before it was popularized. During your tenure, we associates always felt relieved when you walked into the office instead of Auggie—I know you appreciate that. Your assistance and encouragement in the weekly

pranking operations was much appreciated, and your near-death stories at each Sunday meeting are just classic.

Matt, Lisa, and Holly: We all started off as freshmen in this section together, and spending four years covering sports with you has been a really special experience. Holly, you're living proof that stereotypes (and especially those about Texas) are always true. Lisa, I'm really excited about your job for next year and know that we'll continue to be in touch.

And Velazquez: You, sir, certainly give JTay a running for the most hilarious person on campus. Your energy is contagious in a non-cliché way, and it's no secret why people gravitate around you. Your presence sends a jolt into any room, and I've enjoyed watching you dance with your goblet and cheering/mourning Joe Bova's back condition with every turn of events.

Charles Young might be the smartest person I know. C, I've loved going to ballgames with you, even if your sports knowledge is scary sometimes. Puro, I'll never forget the time when you basically didn't make it to Spec Dinner, and you'll never forget another verb.

Lev: I still don't know how you left campus during an incredible NHL playoffs and what will certainly be a Stanley Cup run for our Hawks, but I know how much you needed this time off. You've become such a close friend, and if you could just abandon your Cubs obsession, I could start loving you 100 percent.

Mikely: What a special thing this has been—getting to write the baseball beat with my little brother and appearing on the same page on several occasions. Whaddaya say I get out of your way and let you make your own name here?

To Jenna Baldachin, my girlfriend, and Seth Samuels, my husband: You both know how much you've contributed to my life during these years. Thanks so much for everything.

And to all the others with whom I've worked: Anand, Bart, Jelani, Michele, Dave, Kunal, Kavitha, Lucas, Ben, Repko, Chris, Sarah, Madeleine, and so many more, thank you.

I've come out of this university a different person, as someone who is able to engage with and think critically about the world that I am inheriting. I am especially proud that I've been able to share my thoughts with you, the readers, for several years now.

For one last time, "You can put it on the board... Yes!" And as the great Jon Tayler once ended his senior column: Go Sox!

Jacob Shapiro is a List College senior majoring in history and Talmud.
sports@columbiaspectator.com

Softball gives up 18 runs to Big Red in loss

SOFTBALL from back page

Dalrymple for their only first inning runs of the series. Tulig led the rally with a one-out base hit to center, followed by a successful bunt by Dani Pineda that resulted in an error and allowed Tulig to reach third base. Kayla Lechler hit a single down the left field line to score Tulig, and Maggie Johnson followed with a RBI base hit to score Pineda. Stephanie Yagi's single to the pitcher loaded the bases with two outs, and Bergeron's single to left brought home Lechler to

give Columbia a 3-0 lead. But Cornell answered with four runs in the bottom of the first and six more in the second inning to put the game out of reach. Dyrample won her 17th game of the year, allowing two unearned runs off five hits in four innings. Lauren Marx allowed three runs (two earned) off five hits to seal the win in her one-inning of work.

Columbia will play its final nonconference opponent, St. Peter's, this Thursday in Jersey City, N.J. in a doubleheader scheduled for 3 p.m.



SHIVINA HARJANI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TWO STRIKES | Jennifer Bergeron and the Lions lost both games to Cornell.

Columbia goes after Rams in midweek doubleheader

BASEBALL from back page

seven innings of shutout ball in the Lions' 3-2 win on Saturday. Giel continues to impress on the mound this season with a 5.57 ERA and a 3-1 record.

Fordham has had a roller coaster of a season and currently sits 14-25 overall in 2010. This past weekend the Rams dropped a three-game series against Dayton. On Friday the Rams were bulldozed 11-0, but responded with an extra-inning victory on Saturday 5-3. The Rams' starting pitcher Max Krakowiak pitched a jaw-dropping 10 complete innings to pick up his third win of the season.

With the series tied 1-1, the two teams traded runs for the first seven innings of the contest. However, the Rams could not hold on to their 7-6 advantage for two more innings, as Dayton's shortstop Cole Tyrell crushed a walk-off two-run homer to win the game and the series.

Fordham has struggled both offensively and defensively in 2010. The ballclub is currently hitting a combined .275, with low slugging (.371) and on-base (.341) percentages. Senior Ryan McCrann leads the Rams in hitting with a .351 batting average, two home runs, and 22



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SUBWAY SERIES | This afternoon, the Light Blue baseball team will face off against uptown rival Fordham.

RBI. Junior Chris Walker has also been a force at the plate this season as his batting average hovers at .327 and he leads the team with 33 RBI.

With a team-leading 4.12 ERA, 67.2 innings pitched, and three complete games, Krakowiak has been the Rams' number one starter this year. Besides Krakowiak, however, Fordham's starting pitching has been relatively weak. The squad

holds a combined 6.13 ERA and has allowed 299 runs to cross home.

The Rams have struggled in particular in their road matchups with a 6-14 record, so the Lions have reason to be optimistic. Regardless of today's outcome, Columbia will have to remain focused on its key season-ending series against Penn. The Light Blue needs to at least split against Penn to secure a position in

the post-season. "All we need to do is win two games," Ferrera explained. "Still, we are shooting for a four-game sweep because we want to secure home field advantage. We want to take one game at a time and not look too far ahead." The first pitch of today's doubleheader will be tossed at 2 p.m. at Robertson Field.

Three-time Ivy champ Granum trying for U.S. Open

GOLF from back page

a 36-hole sectional qualifying stage, and finally the national round. A couple years ago, Granum attempted to qualify for the U.S. Open, but failed to advance past the local rounds. This year, though, after developing his fairways and striking, Granum is more prepared for the contest.

"I think I have a shot at advancing through locals if I play my best," Granum said. "Sectionals will be a lot tougher."

"If he makes it, great. If he doesn't, that's fine too," Mueller said. "If he really wants to pursue professional golf, though, he can definitely do it."

For the qualifications, Granum plans to head to Galloway National Golf Club in Galloway, N.J. Just two years ago, he earned a third-place individual finish in the Ivy League championships on the Galloway course. Having proven himself before on this difficult and windy course, Granum is prepared to give the

U.S. Open a shot. "We've played on that course at least a dozen times," Mueller said. "It's extremely difficult, but I think he stands a great chance at it. He's accustomed to that pressure level."

And how has Granum been preparing for this?

"He's been winning Ivy League championships," Mueller said.

Still unsure about his long-term plans for his golfing career, though, Granum plans to see what happens in the qualifying rounds and take it from

there. "I'll keep at it if I don't make it," Granum said. "If anything, it will be good experience."

So, though the Ivy competition is over, Clark and his teammates still have some more work to do. First up for Granum are the U.S. Open qualifiers scheduled for May 11. Then Granum and his squad will compete in the NCAA Division I Men's Golf Championship, for which regional play is slated to take place May 20-22.

The softball team will face Saint Peter's tomorrow for a doubleheader. This will be the Lions' last nonconference matchup of the season.

TOMORROW



Check back tomorrow to see how the baseball team did against Fordham in its final nonconference matchup before its weekend series against division rival Penn.

TOMORROW

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2010 • PAGE 8

Ivy League success rare in NCAA men's tennis tournament

Harvard only Ancient Eight team to advance past first round of championships in last decade

BY KUNAL GUPTA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

When the Columbia men's tennis team takes on its first-round opponent in the NCAA Championships, it will be trying to break a five-year losing streak for Ivy teams in the tournament. The last Ivy team that won an NCAA tournament match was the 2004 Harvard men's tennis team, which advanced all the way to the round

of 16. Columbia, which has represented the Ivy League in the NCAA Championships two out of the past three years, will also be looking for its first point in the tournament since 1987, having lost 4-0 in all of the following appearances.

Although the Lions have not had success in the NCAAAs in recent years, there was a time when they were among the top teams in the nation. In the 1980s the NCAA Championships only

consisted of 16 teams instead of the 64 that it does today. In order to get in, Columbia had to win the Eastern Intercollegiate Tennis Association Northeast Region, which Columbia did in 1984 and 1987. In 1984 the team lost to Pepperdine in the NCAA Championships, but the 1987 team was one of the best teams Columbia ever fielded, being ranked as high as No. 17 and finishing at No. 24. In 1987, the team lost to UC Irvine in the

NCAA tournament, a team that was ranked behind them but had beaten them earlier that year. The loss was Columbia's best chance at an NCAA victory since head coach Bid Goswami's arrival in 1982, as Columbia had a 3-1 lead in the match, and Columbia star Howard Endelman, who would later go on to qualify for the US Open, led his match by a set and a break. Endelman, however, would lose his match and Columbia would lose to Irvine

6-3, despite Irvine's being seeded 15th in the tournament.

In the 1990s the tournament was set up different from today's as well, and Columbia never managed to make it out of the region.

In 2004, the Harvard team entered the NCAA tournament as the No. 16 seed, coming off an undefeated season in the Ivy League. The team took out Quinnipiac, 4-0, in the first round, in a match that was played

on Harvard's home courts at the Beren Tennis Center. In the next round, also played at the Beren Tennis Center, Harvard defeated No. 19 Tulane, 4-2. The win put Harvard into the round of 16, where they faced the defending champion and No. 1 overall seed Illinois, who was riding a 62-match win streak. The underdog Crimson gave the Fighting Illini all they could handle,

SEE TENNIS, page 7

CU to face Fordham in preparation for weekend matchup with division foe Penn

BY MICHAEL SHAPIRO
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Coming off a four-game road series this past weekend against Cornell, the Lions will take a mid-week break from conference play to host Fordham in a doubleheader this afternoon. This nonconference matchup should be a good warm up for Columbia as it prepares to face Penn in a crucial four-game series this weekend.

The Light Blue enters today two games ahead of Penn for first place in the Gehrig Division with an 11-5 Ivy record (20-18 overall). This past weekend Columbia split its back-to-back doubleheaders against the Big Red in mostly close contests. Despite a brilliant complete game outing from Pat Lowery, the Lions' bats couldn't scrape together a single run in the 1-0 loss. However, the resilient Light Blue edged Cornell in game two by a score of 3-2. The story remained the same on Sunday as the teams each picked up a win. This time it was the Lions who picked up a 'W' in game one, 4-1, before imploding in the series finale in a 7-0 defeat.

"We would have liked to get one more at Cornell," said Lions shortstop Alex Ferrera. "But as coach was telling us, don't look back, just keep looking forward and just play our game."

A series sweep against Cornell could have given Columbia a nice cushion on its division lead, but rookie Tim Giel was named Ivy League Rookie of the Week for his

SEE BASEBALL, page 7



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ROOKIE OF THE WEEK | Freshman pitcher Tim Giel earned Ivy League Rookie of the Week honors for his performance against Cornell last weekend. Giel and the Lions will look to defeat Fordham this afternoon in preparation for their important series against Penn this weekend, as the Quakers only trail the Light Blue by two games in the Gerhig Division.

For one last time, put it on the board



JACOB SHAPIRO

Put it on the Board

would change my life.

Upon entering the joint program between the School of

SENIOR COLUMN General Studies at Columbia and List College at the Jewish Theological Seminary, I knew

that I would need to make an extra effort to break into both communities. Students in my program are treated to a close-knit community at JTS that is unparalleled in American academia. But at the same time, living off of Columbia's campus can make acceptance and entrance into the wider Columbia undergraduate community difficult.

So like some of my colleagues, I left my freshman dorm room and ventured out to open houses for different student groups, looking for a place to build relationships and call home. The reputation of the Columbia Daily Spectator preceded my move to New York, and I decided to attend an open house.

I was shocked by the confusion and suffocating cluster of people that gathered in the office that day, but in the very back of the room, I noticed a group of guys that were laughing their asses off under a sign that read "sports." My father wrote for the Daily Illini exactly 30 years ago and had instilled that indescribable love for the game in me from a very young age.

I felt the magnetic pull and

slowly sifted through the horde of people, finally reaching the back office of the Spectator, where I was destined to spend so many hours. I was greeted by Jon Kamran and Joshua Robinson, who immediately gave me a story and with it, a group of friends that I truly cherish. As I soon realized, the people I was looking to meet on this campus weren't in the fraternities or the student government—they were on the sports staff of Spectator.

Over four years at this paper, I've written 115 stories on nearly all of our sports teams at Columbia. I covered the baseball team for four years, wrote a few articles for that lowly news section, ripped Collegeboxes when they refused to return students' belongings, and reported on the inauguration of Chancellor Arnold Eisen at JTS.

As I soon realized, the people I was looking to meet on this campus weren't in the fraternities or the student government—they were on the sports staff of Spectator.

By far my best year at Spec was my associate year, when I worked under the illustrious Jon Tandem. In that one year alone—where I partnered for half of the year with Finn Walter McManus Dusenbery—I spoke to Auggie's mother on the phone, called Lukas from August's

SEE SHAPIRO, page 7

Softball drops two to Cornell

BY CHRISTOPHER BROWN
Spectator Staff Writer









Cornell secured a first place finish in the Ivy League South Division by defeating the Columbia softball team in a pair of games yesterday.

Game one was scoreless until the bottom of the third when Cornell second baseman Izzy Pines hit a home run to lead off the inning. But Columbia answered in the top of the fifth inning, turning shortstop Jennifer Bergeron's one out single into a run. Freshman Alison Lam and junior Anne Marie Skylis hit back-to-back singles, loading the bases for junior Karen Tulig's RBI on a fielder's choice to tie the score at 1-1. But Cornell scored three runs in the top of the sixth inning, including infielder Ashley Garvey's two-RBI double with one out and center fielder Devon March's two out RBI single to score Garvey.

Bergeron hit a leadoff single to start the seventh inning, but Elizabeth Dalrymple retired the next three Columbia hitters in order, earning her 16th win of the season in a 4-1 Cornell victory.

In the second game, the Lions surrendered a season high 18 runs in five innings to the Big Red offense. However, the Light Blue offense managed to get to

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	COLUMBIA	1	
	CORNELL	4	
	COLUMBIA	5	
	CORNELL	18	

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

BY LAUREN SEAMAN
Spectator Staff Writer

While some athletes make history under bright lights and screaming fans, others master their sport a bit more under the radar. The latter is the type of athlete you might consider SEAS junior and golf superstar Clark Granum. A mainstay in the starting lineup since his freshman year, Granum has earned titles and shattered records for the men's golf program. And while men's basketball coach Joe Jones and women's basketball star Judie Lomax have seized recent sports headlines, Granum has been quietly putting away on the green, leading his squad to historic victories in the Ivy League. Just last weekend at the Ivy League championships, Granum helped his team win its third consecutive league title—all of which were claimed during Granum's career here at Columbia.

On top of that, Granum has made quite a name for himself in the individual rankings. Placing in the top five at every Ivy championship in which he's played, Granum has been named all-Ivy League every year since he was a freshman. At this weekend's championships, Granum tied with Penn's Scotty Williams for the top individual score of 214 after the three-day, 54-hole tournament.

"Clark really pushed all the guys on the team in terms of score. He is the best player on our team," head coach Rich Mueller said. "He challenges people—not in an antagonistic way, but in a supportive way—to play their best. If you play with Clark, you'll learn a thing or two about the sport."

And for this golfing machine,

Granum leads golf to third straight title

the Ivy League tournament was just another day on the green. In a competition that can cause top players to crumble under the pressure, Granum kept his cool and dominated the course. Putting and driving as he would at practice, he turned in a complete performance at the three-day championships.

"I think the only way this league tournament was different from any other tournament we play is that we all knew what was on the line. We won for three years and were really trying to defend the title," Granum said. "Every year, we have the same goal: to win the Ivy League tournament."

And that's just what he did. Even though the team entered the competition as underdogs, Granum and his teammates clawed their way to the top after suffering in the first round.

"We definitely weren't expecting to be in the lead, but we handled it well the last day," Granum said. "I played my best golf in the last round. I didn't really make any mistakes."

Playing flawlessly in the final round of the competition, Granum fired a three-under par 67 on the par-70, 7,066-yard course and successfully maintained the high level of play his coach and teammates are used to seeing every day at practice.

"I think at the Ivy championships, Clark just did what he normally does," Mueller said. "Clark is capable of shooting the scores he did at the Ivies on any given day. I don't want to say I expected him to win or anything, but let's just say I knew he was going to play extremely well."

Now that Ivies are over, Clark will take his sport to the next level. In case you were under the impression that Lomax is the only Lion ready to go pro, think again. After three years of triumph on the green, Granum recently announced his aim to qualify for the U.S. Open on May 11.

The qualifying rounds consist of an 18-hole local round,

SEE GOLF, page 7



COURTESY OF CLARK GRANUM

THREEPEAT | The men's golf team won its third straight Ivy League title this past weekend, thanks in large part to Granum who tied for first.