

Benefits cuts will provoke faculty flight, profs warn

BY SAMMY ROTH
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

At a meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences last Wednesday, University President Lee Bollinger spent almost 40 minutes fielding questions about the impending cuts to faculty and staff benefits.

Since the cuts were announced last month, faculty members have reacted to them with almost uniform exasperation, saying they will lead to faculty flight and make it harder for Columbia to recruit top professors.

The substantial cuts to health care benefits, retirement plans, and college tuition benefits for employees’ children were recommended last month by a task force of professors and administrators. The University’s “fringe pool,” which employees contribute to out of their salaries and which pays for their benefits, has been losing \$25 to 35 million per year, and the task force was charged with eliminating that deficit.

“You have to pay those costs. You have to pay the hospitals, you have to pay the retirement claims.”

—Claude Steele,
Provost

Classics professor Stathis Gourgouris said that everyone who questioned Bollinger at the meeting opposed the cuts.

“I have never seen A&S faculty of all ages, ranks, and persuasions so united on an issue,” he said in an email. “The unanimous demand was that the administration go back to square one and reconsider entirely the proposed cuts.”

Provost Claude Steele, a co-chair of the task force, said the task force members tried their best to make the cuts—which would only apply to full-time professors, researchers, administrators, and librarians—as painless as possible.

But professors say that the recommended cuts would only hurt Columbia. Reaction has been especially strong among Arts and Sciences professors, who are among the lowest-paid at the University.

“I have spent the better part of the last week in discussion with various faculty across the entire Arts & Sciences, all of whom feel that the changes in

benefits would have a hugely negative impact on our ability to attract the best faculty,” Physics department chair Bill Zajc said in an email.

And while faculty members knew that cuts were coming, that has done little to temper their frustrations with the University.

SLASHING BENEFITS

The cuts to tuition benefits and retirement plans will only affect new hires. It is the cuts to health care plans that would have the biggest impact—both because they would affect all employees and because health care costs are the biggest part of the deficit problem.

Despite the cuts to tuition benefits and retirement plans, the cuts to health care will have the biggest impact because they will affect all employees, not just new ones, and they make up the biggest component of the debt problem.

“You could cut and cut and cut those and you still might not satisfy this beast of increasing health care costs,” Steele said.

The main recommendation for changing the University’s health coverage is making its “100 percent plan”—under which all health care costs are covered—more expensive, encouraging employees to switch to its “90 percent” plan under which the University pays 90 percent of costs up to an out-of-pocket maximum.

Earth and Environmental Science professor Maya Tolstoy, the co-chair of the University Senate’s Commission on the Status of Women, expressed concern about the consequences of more employees choosing to use the 90 percent plan.

“That’s very significant for a junior woman who’s going to have a child, if she has to pay 10 percent of the cost involved in that,” Tolstoy said. “That’s going to be very significant for her.”

One explicit goal of the changes is forcing employees to think more carefully about how they incur health care costs. The report notes that, “When medical treatment costs the individual relatively little, people tend to consume more services without questioning their cost and value.”

The Commission on the Status of Women faulted this view, saying in its preliminary end-of-year report that it is also important to remember that when costs are high, individuals are less likely to seek necessary health care.

“I’m concerned about whether or not you really want to be discouraging people from going to the doctor,” Tolstoy said. “And personally, I let my doctor

SEE BENEFITS, page 10

CHANGES IN FRINGE BENEFITS

Tuition

- Currently 100% for children attending Columbia, will be cut to 80%
- Currently 50% for children attending other schools, will be cut to 40%
- This will be grandfathered (changes will only apply to employees hired after the changes are made)

Retirement

- University contributes less to employee pensions
- Employees will be automatically enrolled in a plan to contribute three percent of yearly salary to their pensions, to make sure they start saving earlier, although they will be able to opt out
- This will also be grandfathered (current faculty and staff will keep the retirement plans they have)

Health Care

- Encourage employees to switch from the 100% plan to the 90% plan, under which University pays 90% of all health care costs
- Create a high-deductible “Health Savings Plan” through which the employee pays more but can put away more tax-free money to pay for health care

Other

- Establishment of a \$1 million fund for preschool education for children of employees
- Expanded health care benefits for same-sex domestic partners of employees

GRAPHIC BY REBECCA SCHWARZ

CITY ROCKED BY NEWS OF BIN LADEN’S DEATH



KATE SCARBROUGH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

JUBILATION | Thousands of New Yorkers descended upon Ground Zero early Monday morning upon hearing news of the death of Osama bin Laden. Many carried flags or banners and joined in singing the national anthem and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance near the site of the fallen towers.

Local businesses agree to display LGBT safe space labels

BY DANIELLE GRIERSON
Spectator Staff Writer

Residence halls aren’t the only places in Morningside Heights labeled LGBT safe spaces anymore.

The student group Everyone Allied Against Homophobia has gotten almost 40 businesses to sign on to its Safe Morningside campaign, including Tom’s Restaurant, Famiglia, Chipotle, and The Heights.

“We have gone to most of the stores and restaurants in Morningside Heights and asked them to place both a pink sticker in their window to show their support to patrons and a sign for employees that explains how to create a safe space,” Steven Pfau, CC ’13 and co-president of EAAH said. “Most businesses we’ve spoken to have been very supportive.”

Tom’s manager Mike Zoulis

said he had no reason not to place the sticker on their window.

“We like all types of customers whatever they are. It doesn’t matter, it’s a restaurant ... a public space. We don’t discriminate,” Zoulis said.

Although EAAH hopes the campaign will expand, Pfau said that some businesses have rejected the idea because of strict corporate policies.

“Most of the businesses who have definitively said ‘no’ don’t reject the campaign, but can’t, for whatever reason, stick anything in their windows other than corporate signage,” Pfau said.

Five businesses rejected the campaign, but according to Avi Edelman, CC ’11 and outgoing president of EAAH, only Koronet was unfriendly about the rejection.

“Koronet Pizza said no with the mention of the gay and

lesbian alliance,” Edelman said.

Cleom Manikis, Koronet’s manager, however, said that they rejected the sticker for policy reasons, not because it supported the gay-straight alliance.

“We don’t have to put stickers that say that we have no problems with gays, with bisexuals, or with anybody,” Mainikis said. “Generally we don’t like stickers on our door.”

The campaign was launched this semester to identify businesses that function as safe spaces for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and allied patrons and employees.

“Essentially it’s based off of the pink flyer campaign back in the fall,” Edelman said, referencing the fliers distributed at the beginning of the school year to be displayed in dorm windows identifying the rooms as safe spaces for LGBT

Students head to Ground Zero for rally, reflection

BY FINN VIGELAND
Spectator Staff Writer

Sarah Gitlin doesn’t have her shoelaces anymore. They’re keeping a flag tied to a lamppost next to Ground Zero.

Gitlin, CC ’12, joined over 60 Columbia students who gathered at the site of the World Trade Center on Sunday night after hearing word that the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks, Osama bin Laden, had been killed by American forces in Pakistan.

“It helps bring a little closure nearly a decade after 9/11,” she said. “Obviously, it doesn’t mean the end, but as witnessed by the crowd here tonight, a lot of Columbians and Americans are feeling relieved and encouraged.”

After news broke that bin Laden had been killed, dozens of Columbia students took the 1 train to the site where the World Trade Center towers once stood until al-Qaeda terrorists crashed two airplanes into them on September 11, 2001.

At Ground Zero, thousands gathered at Church and Vesey Streets and sang patriotic songs on repeat. Some people climbed up onto the lamppost extending over the intersection, where Gitlin’s shoelaces are now holding up a large American flag.

A bagpiper played “God Bless America,” and many carried homemade signs reading “Obama 1, Osama 0.”

Lieutenant Dan Choi, a gay Marine who became the face of the repeal of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell after being discharged, climbed up onto the lamppost with several of his friends from the Marines to lead the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sean Quirk, CC ’11, said, “There’s no better place in America to be on this day. To sit in my dorm would be completely unacceptable.”

SEE GROUND ZERO,
page 6

OPINION, PAGE 4

Squelched voices

Polls on ROTC ignored, leading to hopeless campus polarization.

Cheese or Mice?

Columbia dining, attracting more than just students.



SPORTS, PAGE 3

Baseball gets a win in final game for seniors

The Lions split their doubleheaders this weekend against Penn, as bats were electric and pitching faltered for both teams.

EVENTS

Jeffrey Sachs on the budget crisis

Earth Institute Director Sachs will give his perspective on America’s financial state.

IAB, Altschul Auditorium, Room 417, 4:30-6 p.m.

Fried Chicken Run Study Break

The class of 2013 will give out free KFC, CC study guides, and host a screening of “Chicken Run.”

Lerner ramps and Lerner Cinema, 7:30-10:30 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



60°/53°

Tomorrow



71°/59°

THERE'S NOT ENOUGH ART IN OUR SCHOOLS.

NO WONDER PEOPLE THINK

CARAVAGGIO

IS A GUY ON THE SOPRANOS.

It's hard to believe. Here's a 16th-century Baroque master whose bold naturalistic painting style first created a sensation, then a movement. A guy whose life was filled with the turbulence and excess of more than a dozen Mario Puzo novels.


If you're looking for Caravaggio, you're very, very old.

This guy who, while troubled, ultimately found redemption and immortality in his art. But does the average kid on the street even know who Caravaggio is?

Fuhgedaboudit.

Too bad. Especially when you consider how much our children can learn from the conflicted life of a great artist like Michelangelo Caravaggio.

He grew up in less than ideal circumstances. Most of his family died in the plague. Much of his youth was misspent on the mean streets of Rome. And as a

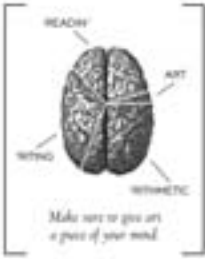


A self-portrait of Caravaggio as Bacchus. Honestly, he wouldn't last 10 minutes on The Sopranos.

young artist he struggled for years to make a living. He was angry. Yet the angry contrast between light and darkness in his work is the very reason why it now hangs in countless museums around the world.

If nothing else, it's a case study of the importance of having art as an outlet. Unfortunately, one we're fast removing from our kids' lives.

If the arts are indeed a vital part of your child's education (and studies show you believe they are), then you should demand his or her fair share. To find out how to help, or for more information about the benefits of arts education, please visit us at AmericansForTheArts.org. Because, as Caravaggio would tell you, life without art is torture.



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I wouldn't change a single word

After 102 published articles, 18 columns, several Spectrum posts, and positions on Spectator's associate, deputy, and managing boards, I'm pretty sure I've reached the pinnacle of my career. MJ may have said it better—and I don't see anyone calling a press conference for me—but that's not really the point. I'm retiring as a sportswriter.



JACOB LEVENFELD
SENIOR COLUMN

The job has not always been as glorious and rewarding as one might imagine. At times, it has seemed that for every positive I am able to identify in my capacity as a sports reporter, some sort of negative consequence or qualifier lies just around the corner.

I love, for example, that the Lions tend to offer stubborn competition in most major sporting events. Our high-profile sports teams, though, generally don't fare so well in the end. This is upsetting for writers as well as fans.

I have also grown to love the opportunity to interview athletes and coaches in person, on the phone, via email, and even with text messages. But I hate the way they are routinely overprotected by some personnel in the sports information office. Journalists, even students, do not appreciate when administrators or coaches tell them how to do their job.

I will forever treasure and miss the little things.

On the reporting end, I am indebted to Spectator for the face time it has given me and for allowing me a space for all these bylines and columns. I especially enjoyed covering the football team this year and developing a rapport with the coach and certain players. Maybe that's why I was so upset when Spectator's 134th editorial board failed to consult those most familiar with the issue at hand—the football beat writers—before publishing an uninformed editorial calling for Norries Wilson's dismissal.

As for apathy among Columbia's potential fan base, it's been discussed to death on Spectator's back page. After four years as a student and countless trips up to Baker, I can't pretend to offer a more brilliant or pragmatic solution than those already put forward. I do appreciate Columbia's initiative to provide free fan buses up to the games. But I really hate waiting outside in the cold when that concept is not effectively implemented, or worse, dealing for months with the long-term side effects of wrangling a seat on the marching band's bus and spending half an hour in a confined space with CUMB.

Now let's be real. Who doesn't love a free t-shirt? Even another light blue one? Promotions are great, but they don't replace winning (or even flyer-ing) as more effective strategies to boost attendance. I've said it before—the Student Rewards Program is ill conceived and annoying. One final unrelated gripe: I know what the sound guys are going for when they play that fake Lion roar over the loudspeaker at sporting events, but in reality it just sounds like a toilet flushing. Hardly an effective intimidation tactic.

But I don't want this column to turn into a deranged rant about the Athletics Department. There's a lot to love—unconditionally—about writing

SEE LEVENFELD, page 8



Bittersweet

Light Blue splits with Penn in season finale

BY RYAN YOUNG
Spectator Staff Writer

Columbia and Penn entered the weekend with their hopes of winning the Gehrig Divison already dashed, yet the Lions and Quakers still put on quite a show with four long battles to end their seasons and send off the seniors. Columbia's pitching may have been its strength this season, but it was the two offenses that dominated this weekend, as the teams split Friday and Saturday's doubleheaders in a series that included 63 runs, 88 hits, and 41 walks.

The Lions played their final home games of the year on Friday, with a 7-4 win over Penn in game one followed by a 13-7 loss in game two.

The opener had additional meaning, as it officially knocked the Quakers out of contention for a division title, ensuring Princeton a spot in the Ivy Championship series.

In the win, the Lions were able to knock around senior Paul Cusick in his final start for Penn.

"I think we took advantage of Cusick there, their number one and pitcher of the year candidate in the league," head coach

Brett Boretti said. "He was wild and we took advantage of the walks and had some key hits in big situations."

Pat Lowery—and all Columbia's pitchers this weekend—struggled. He could not make it out of the fourth inning, allowing four runs (three earned) in his final start of the season, nearly relinquishing the 5-0 lead. However, the Lions' bullpen impressed, as freshman David Speer got the Lions out of the jam and combined with sophomore Tim Giel to shutout the

SEE BASEBALL, page 9

KATE SCARBROUGH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER





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Columbia Spectator
2875 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10025
info@columbiaspectator.com

PHONE & FAX
Daily Spectator (212) 854-9549
Business (212) 854-9550
Business Fax (212) 854-9553

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On making opening remarks

What does it mean to start a conversation? Over the past two years, as a columnist for Spectator, I have struggled with this concept. My goal has been to start what usually happens organically, to jump-start discussion without knowing where it will lead. I titled my column “Opening Remarks,” because I imagined that what I wrote would not comprise a dialogue in itself, but would serve as tinder for discourse. Measuring my own success is impossible. However, this process has given me an insight into the state of discussion at Columbia. In many ways it is healthy, robust, and productive. I have certainly experienced conversations with brilliant and thoughtful people who have an earnest desire to understand the world. Such talk is characterized by its length, breadth, and ability to catalyze further consideration. It does not stagnate, but becomes something to share with others—an idea that begs further contribution.

Sadly, our campus has had too few instances of widespread interpersonal discussion. This is in part because the Columbia model of communication frequently resembles trench warfare. Dialogue becomes a slog as individual schools of thought erect the barbed wire of specialized vocabulary, oversensitivity, and hyperbolic rhetoric. A conversation, supposed to be a mutual exchange, becomes a diplomatic ballet to avert offending the sensibilities of the other party. While formalized institutions and departments bring ideas into contact with each other, individuals on the ground often only interact with thinkers of their own persuasion.

Occasionally, we make meaningful connections. Like Paul Bäumer in “All Quiet on the Western Front,” who becomes trapped in a hole with a French soldier he has shot, we find ourselves encountering an individual, not a mass. The exchange proves shocking as the faceless corpus of opposition gives way to profoundly human interactions. We are suddenly reminded that there are humans behind the arguments, and, like those rare personal encounters between wartime enemies, our conversations gain perspective. These interactions need not be the exception. I can think of two ways that we can begin the process of increasing the infection of dialogue and recovering the lost ground of intellectual entrenchment.

The first relates to the backbone of our education, the Core Curriculum. It has remained the centerpiece of what it means to be educated at Columbia for more than 90 years, mainly because of the academic interpersonal dialogue that it produces. I can think of nothing more beneficial for our personal and intellectual development than placing students from all the departments in CC and SEAS into a room, giving them a common ground of literature or philosophy, and facilitating discussion. Through the many clashes and conciliations of classroom debate we begin to understand each other and ourselves. However, this invaluable experience does not exist without threat. Recently, the Core has moved from being an intellectual environment in which professors considered it an honor to participate in to one that is dominated by graduate students. As regulations about which graduate students can teach increase, there are bound to be larger classes and, consequently, less involved discussion in class. To combat this decline, we cannot rely on others. The powers that be frequently find themselves in a position where larger classes and less qualified instructors are of financial benefit to Columbia. Rather than rely on them, we, as students, need to strenuously reassert the importance of a Core Curriculum defined by intimate class sizes and over-qualified professors. These classes are the beginnings of thoughtful dialogue throughout campus.

Smaller classes alone do not achieve the aim of enriched on-campus dialogue, however. They must be paired with a thoughtful and willing student body. While the intellectual caliber of Columbia's undergraduates is certainly not lacking, its productivity becomes crippled from a collective tendency to overstretch. Rather than leave room in our schedules to elevate our class work from drudgery to scholarly exploration, we allocate only the bare necessity of time to complete assignments. The remaining time is filled with extracurriculars, community service, and other preoccupations.

Professor Helfand's advocacy for a tighter cap on class registration cuts to the heart of this problem. He proposes limiting the number of classes that students can take and increasing the substance and teaching time of the remaining courses. He argues convincingly that such a system would promote a more meaningful understanding of the subject material and prompt students to dedicate genuine thought to their studies, not just requisite work hours to complete assignments.

The end goal is to promote what can only be called thoughtfulness. That is the characteristic that serves as the foundation for the considerate and authentic interactions that bring intellectual factions together in an atmosphere of contagious conversation. Absent this virtue, we remain entrenched in the obdurate camps of oppositional conflict. The encounter may evoke stings of disagreement, but the ultimate product is a truly vibrant atmosphere of thinking.

Derek Turner is a Columbia College junior majoring in anthropology and political science. Opening Remarks runs alternate Mondays.



DEREK TURNER

Opening Remarks

Farewell to unhindered thought

BY HELENE BARTHELEMY

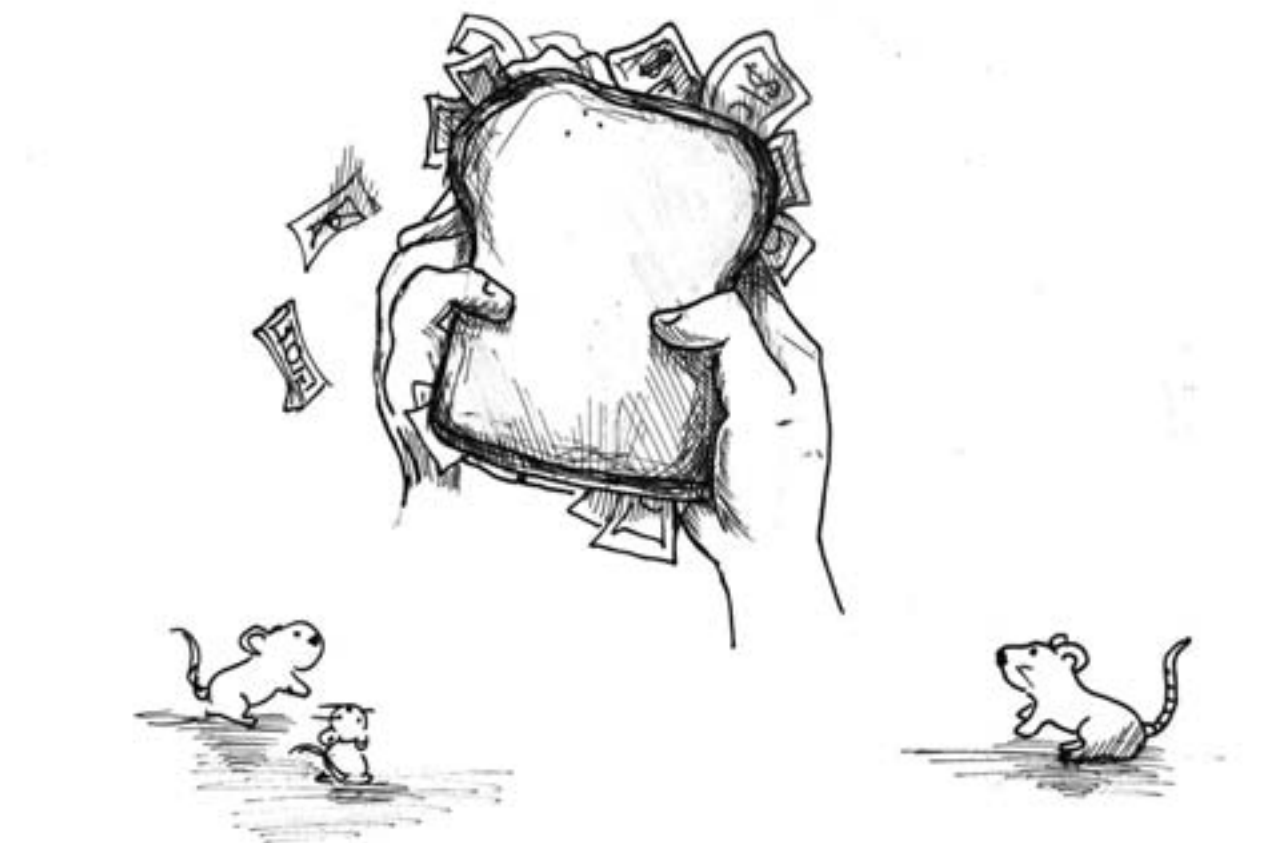
In a twist of Camus' words: “A free university can, of course, be good or bad, but most certainly, without freedom, the university will never be anything but bad.”

In a crucial, frightening vote on April 1, 2011, Columbia's University Senate voted 51 votes for and 17 against the implementation of ROTC on Campus. However, it seems that the majority of Columbia students are failing to see this as something more important than a mere spring prank. The polarizing of the University caused by the ROTC implementation, felt from that moment onwards, is already starting to lead to the slow decay of academic freedom on campus.

The great achievement of the United States was to mold universities as universal havens of free speech, where all nationalities, specialties, social classes, and political ideologies were represented. One could learn about anything, say anything, think anything, ally with anyone. The only limit to this liberty was the impingement on others, i.e. the sacrosanct ideal of tolerance. The University, in its institutional structure, is a fundamentally transcendent concept, detached from every attachment.

ROTC will result in the alienation of many students and faculty members at Columbia. The question is not, as many make it, a question of support of the American Army or of the military. Polarizing Columbia as a university violates its most fundamental value.

The essence of the University is its students and its faculty. We are the University, we are its thinkers, and we are free to adopt whatever opinion we want. But the institution itself should be neutral. We are not to accept any ideology that is dictated to us. Whether we agree with ROTC or not is not the question. The board of the school should not be ideologically polarized, because this would only result in alienating a part of the University's students and its teachers who don't espouse particular views. This will result in



ASHLEY SANG EUN LEE

Poisoned ivy

BY HANNAH GOLDSTEIN

Over the past six months, the New York Department of Public Health and Mental Hygiene has returned to campus for its annual sanitation inspections, the procedure responsible for every conspicuous restaurant-window letter grade in New York City—and for making those in the know here at Columbia feel a bit uneasy. Students who follow campus news developments might have been versed on what had been the status quo: John Jay, Hewitt, and Ferris all received alarmingly high scores on last year's inspections, with present improper thawing procedures, lack of protection from sources of contamination, and mice, rats, and cockroaches, in addition to “evidence” of said pests (interpret that as you wish).

In some of the ensuing comment threads on Bwog, students with a background in waiting or food preparation seemed unable to form a consensus as to whether such spectacular failure was actually extraordinary. I myself admittedly have only a small amount of foodservice experience to speak to the practicality point. I can, however, see from the NYDOHMH website that the majority of restaurants in New York receive A grades. Either way, I am inclined toward pretty certain disgust. Mice and their “evidence” are carriers of leptospirosis, rickettsialpox, lymphocytic choriomeningitis, hantavirus, and salmonella, and the tapeworm, ringworm, and H. Pylori parasites—“potential[ly] expos[ed]” food means lots of chances to contract these bugs. Incidentally, I happen to know many who have gotten salmonella here, present company included. This is an experience I'd prefer to avoid in the future, as would those I know. It doesn't really take a doctor, activist, or even germophobe to identify, does it?

The apathetic may shrug off mice, flies, and the like as the scourge of urban food establishments around the world. However, I'm not aware of any other restaurant in the world that contractually binds people to pay for its food, let alone as a condition of something totally unrelated (like, say, an education). This is a university of uniformly mandatory meal plans all around for “community-building” for first-years, if for nobody else. But this kind of implementation doesn't look very

a complete decaying of the University structure, as many students will feel overlooked and marginalized.

Columbia's traditional tolerance toward the military—as it attracts many veterans in General Studies—should have stayed Columbia's standpoint. Such clauses as the grand-father clause that the Military Veterans are trying to add to revise the new GI Bill should crucially be enforced, to continue to allow veterans to attend a private university like Columbia for free. The military's education is primordial and it is crucial that veterans and future soldiers could be educated within Columbia. Nonetheless, neutrality should be the overarching quality that defines every institution of learning, and though all students should be welcome, the University should stay free of any attachment.

Despite the fact that 60 percent of students voted for ROTC and only 33 percent opposed it, we should not let ourselves be victims of the tyranny of the majority, especially when there was such a high level of indifference going into the decision. Indeed there was a voice that we all forgot. The great minds of our world, many of which are faculty in our school, have been disregarded. Were they listened to by the Senate in their hasty decision? In a scintillating public statement published by Bwog, 55 percent of faculty were able to speak against ROTC. They declared that “In uniform, individuals are representatives of the military before all else, and their presence constitutes a symbolic militarization of campus.” It is that polarization that we have to strive against. We trust them to educate us, so why not to teach us what is right?

What a remarkable passivity has greeted the Senate's decision! Are you all so ready, fellow students, to bid farewell to unhindered thought? Are you all so quick to pick up the shovel to bury your own individuality, your cherished liberty? Columbia, are you so eager to bid farewell to Columbia?

The author is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in philosophy.

community-conscious at all. Columbia and Barnard may not be literally force-feeding anyone, but requiring a meal plan, thereby pressuring students to use it (obviously) and very possibly precluding many from having money for better, comparatively cheaper, and demonstrated more hygienic food, is the next closest thing.

In any case, when the NYDOHMH stopped by again this year it seemed reasonable to expect the scores to improve. Some did: John Jay, for instance, eliminated two out of three infestations—a somewhat comforting change, if only for the fact that mice alone kept it out of the B range this time around. Hewitt, on the other hand—that of the school with the, ahem, mandatory universal meal plan—received the exact same score as last year: a decidedly B-range 23 (including that count about “sources of contamination”). Dining dollar hotspot Café 212, as we all know, got a 62. Sure it closed last week to exterminate—but what negligence on the part of Columbia had brought it up 56 points from its eight points 20 months before? The net change in cafeterias in points since the last inspections, in fact, appears to be positive.

Adequate food is a basic human right. Food from an unclean kitchen is not adequate—it is not only potentially physically sickening, but it's psychologically sickening to ingest in the first place. Perhaps this point will not resonate with everyone, at least as long as Columbia cafeterias, by means of whatever legal loophole has somehow kept their own scarlet letters out of sight, continue taking advantage of whatever combination of ignorance, forgetfulness, or wishful thinking has kept students quiet thus far. But for many it will. And whether or not any contamination actually reaches students, at a certain threshold that possibility is exponentially higher.

So it's about time we spoke up and called Columbia out on neglectful sanitation practices and, as such, a fundamental disrespect for the bodily integrity of entire groups of its student population. It's our right; after all, it is us who will have to pay.

The author is a Barnard College sophomore majoring in history.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Never hold your peace

When writing these editorials this past semester, there have been few moments in which we've been at a loss for words. This does not speak so much to our skill at conducting editorial board meetings as it does to the never-abating waves of events and controversies that have swept over Columbia in recent months. Our dynamic campus is constantly hosting debates, providing opportunities for students to engage in activism, and even offering us ample fodder for criticism.

One message we have tried to convey over the past few months is the importance of open conversation to the health

of the campus. We were happy to see the Safe Space forum transform into a platform for open debate, and we have called for student groups to collaborate with each other and voice their opinions, but with truly open minds. Too often students close the door to other opinions before letting the other side even open its mouth to speak.

At the same time, Columbia should be a place where students are actively engaged in campus politics and activism, and this often means forming strong opinions. It may be difficult, but it is possible to retain convictions while acknowledging and respecting other points of view, and this is something we'd like to see more of next semester.

The administration is not exempt from the standards of openness and honesty to which we hold Columbia. Our faculty and administrators should contribute to such an atmosphere in the way they communicate with their students—as well as in the way they themselves operate. We have repeatedly called for transparency and a higher standard of ethics in the administration's actions in the Business School, President

Bollinger's connections with Kaplan Inc., and in the administration's planning of global centers. Students deserve to be aware of these events and changes that affect us, and to the administration's credit, it has moved forward in making students more a part of the plans for the global centers. However, students deserve to be aware of the changes that affect them and their school, and should speak up when the administration fails to respect either basic ethical standards or the opinions of its students.

As college students leading hectic lives, we are often so consumed by events in our daily lives that we forget to stay engaged and keep ourselves informed about what is going on in the world and on campus. But rather than bury ourselves in our studies and our work during finals, this semester as well as next, let's strengthen our dialogues so that true change can happen. We are proud to have seen our fellow students take such an active role in shaping our campus this past semester, and we look forward to continuing the conversation next year.

Senior Columns

Former Spectator staff share their experiences and thoughts before graduation. Today we hear from Ben Cotton, Akhil Mehta, and Thomas Rhiel.

Why I care

BY BEN COTTON

I first wandered into the Spectator office for an orientation-week open house unsure of what I wanted to do on the paper. I worked up the nerve to say hello to then-editor-in-chief John Davisson and to ask, only half-kidding, what I ought to do if I wanted to be EIC myself one day. He responded that I'd have to be crazy.

It was Amanda Sebba, managing editor now three years back, who saw straight through my initial doubts about throwing myself into the paper the way I had in high school. She pushed me to take on a deputy's role midway through the fall of my sophomore year, and then to run for a seat on the managing board as design editor. It was all over then, really—after a series of exhilarating all-night layout binges to get through our first week in January, I'd essentially made up my mind to run for a leadership role come year's end.

I could spill thousands of words on our year at the helm, rehashing titanic battles with administrators and intense staff meetings spent debating the future of the institution. People ask questions about those things, sometimes. But usually they want to know why it is I cared enough to spend the ungodly hours required to do what was more than a full-time job, and to suffer the unhealthy levels of stress that come with the responsibility of running an independent daily newspaper—a grown-up's responsibility in the hands of a college student.

Watching dozens of kids pouring in and out of the office every day while working tirelessly to make Spec shine generated a sort of infectious energy that never failed to inspire me. I wanted to push them all to strive for the very highest quality of work, and to do that I felt that I had to set the kind of example that would encourage that sort of effort. The special part of this job was feeling as though I could really make an impact on all of the people who walked through the door—that if I served as a positive influence by acting with professionalism and integrity and all the

other qualities I thought important in a leader, then they too would be inspired to act accordingly and to pass those lessons on to the students that would come after them.

Joe DiMaggio once said that there was always some kid who was watching him for the first time, and so he always owed that kid his best. (Joe then went back to wishing he could hit like Ted Williams. Go Red Sox!) I never knew when a first-year staffer was going to turn around to watch the way the editor operated. So I wanted to do it right all the time—I couldn't bear the idea that anybody who dealt with me would ever think that Spectator strove for anything less than the most upstanding and conscientious approach, so I didn't really see any other way to do it.

When we hit a rough patch and I wanted nothing more than to check out for a little while or head home early, I thought back to my own days as a young staff member and the way I had watched how the EIC handled himself. I remembered that somewhere out in the office was the kid who was going to run for my job at the end of the year, and the year after that, and the year after that. And for those kids, if for nobody else, I wanted to make absolutely sure that the example I set was everything it could be. I wanted them to believe that there was a right way to do the job, and that having the job meant having a responsibility to follow that path.

I talked to alums a lot, peppering them for advice. I wondered if they understood just how closely I hung on every word, how much I'd studied their own accomplishments. Most of them had come to realize, looking back, that Spectator was not, in fact, the most important thing in the world, regardless of whether those of us who come to reside there treat it as such.

The thing is, it always will be for somebody. And in some cases, that kid might not realize it yet—it might take prodding to get him to see that capacity inside himself, as it did for me. But when that realization comes, and that kid thinks back on the way each of his predecessors did the job, I want him to remember the best of me. And so I worked and worked and never allowed myself to be satisfied because I never wanted to wonder, looking back, if there was more I could have

done if only I'd tried a little bit harder.

And boy, do I miss it—the most ridiculous things, too. I miss more than anything the irrationally angry gchat vent sessions with incomparable managing editor Thomas Rhiel, joking about blood pouring out of the eyes over idiotic typos in blog posts all while knowing how much we both finally—finally—wanted to get everything just right. Knowing there was someone sitting next to me, night after night, who was going to keep on killing himself in pursuit of that goal—there was just no way I could bear to do any less.

At our final, tear-stained meeting on the last night of production in December, I told the managing board that I wanted to hold on tight to this year because I worried I might never have it so good again. I thought I'd let it go a little bit at the beginning of this semester, but now I'm writing this and realizing that my old desk is as close to being that of my successor's successor as it is to being mine. I'm remembering the energy that rushed through me night after night and I'm wishing for one more week, because once I'm gone I can't imagine how I'll ever summon up such passion again.

When friends would ask how things were going during this last semester of supposed freedom, my common refrain was that I wasn't quite sure who I was anymore, or what I was really doing. I knew who I was at Spectator, and at the end of every day (well into the next day, usually), I went to bed with the feeling that I'd really done something. No, I don't know when I'll have that feeling again. But I think, at least, that I have some idea now of what it takes to get there.

Perhaps someone will read this some years in the future while mulling over running for this job. To that kid—don't hesitate to get in touch. For you, I'll have all the time in the world. If you're just looking for reassurance that this job is worth it, though, I suppose I can save you the trouble. It was worth every second.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in history. He was deputy production editor on the 132nd deputy board, design editor on the 133rd managing board, and editor in chief on the 134th corporate board.

Think big, Spectator

BY THOMAS RHIEL

I've twice enjoyed the benefit of attending a journalism conference on Spectator's dime, and at each one I encountered the same specimen: a graying editor at a prominent publication describing with charts and figures the implosion of the traditional newspaper business, the handi-caps of online revenue models, and the scarcity of job prospects awaiting young journalists. At the conclusion of these presentations, after having beaten the drum of tumult and chaos and pain, the editor did his best to sound a note of optimism. "But you," he said two years in a row to the room of twenty-somethings, "you will be the ones to figure this out. And that's why you should be excited."

The man meant well, of course, but excitement failed to overtake us students in the audience. The unhappy truth, which we all knew to some extent, is that the journalism industry's travails are not on the verge of dissipation and that finding stable employment—particularly the kind that pays—would prove difficult. Many attendees, like myself, had devoted the entirety of our extracurricular hours to the school paper and all of our summer vacations to unpaid internships, and so we came to the conferences either to have those choices validated or to learn what more we could do, in the midst of an industry's messy upheaval, to guarantee security in our own post-college lives. Instead, we were told only that sunnier days lay in the indefinite future.

In uncertain times like these, what is Spectator and its staff to do? It's a difficult question, but the onus is on today's editors—and very likely tomorrow's—to answer it.

In some ways, the organization can afford to do nothing—that is, nothing different. The Columbia Daily Spectator may be a newspaper, and it may sharpen the skills of its reporters, editors, photographers, and designers better than even journalism school can, but its true worth extends far beyond the vocational. The production of a daily newspaper and an around-the-clock website requires tremendous intellectual and often physical effort, and those who commit themselves to the cause emerge stronger writers, sharper thinkers, more effective communicators, and better leaders. I personally have learned more about working with people in the past three years than I had in the previous 19. The nature of the enterprise simply necessitates cooperation: Either you do your job and play nicely with your peers, or else the paper doesn't come out and the website flounders.

If Spectator fails to keep pace with the trends of its industry, it risks sliding into irrelevance.

Speciees themselves, who dedicate considerable amounts of time to the newspaper for no pay and for less recognition than they deserve, are enough to make one's commitment to Spectator worthwhile. In my years at The Eye and the daily, I had the privilege of working alongside extraordinary people whose talents dwarfed my own and whose enthusiasm continually energized my efforts. I have laughed deep, diaphragm-straining laughs with my friends and cohorts on the paper, and, with their support, I have weathered my gloomier days.

These are obvious benefits. The skills and relationships that one develops over the course of a career at Spectator do not depend on the vitality of the journalism industry. They persist, and by themselves they justify the hours one devotes to Spectator.

But the newspaper does not exist primarily for the sake of its staff, and in important ways it can't afford to do nothing in the face of journalism's transformation. If Spectator fails to keep pace with the trends of its industry, it risks sliding into irrelevance—both to its readers and to its staffers seeking a journalism job in the real world.

Certain initiatives—many already underway—are necessary. As successful professional newspapers swell their ranks with technologists, Spectator should fully commit itself to recruiting Columbia's top development talent to make the Spec website more stable and more innovative. As news outlets increasingly expect multimedia proficiency and Internet savvy from their new hires, more and more Spectator reporters should feel comfortable using a DSLR and publishing breaking news copy on the web. And as readers continue to abandon ink for pixels, Spectator should think hard about how the more impressive efforts of its printed past—like full-page informational graphics or pull-out special issues—can enjoy a robust digital future.

More important to Spectator's growth than any of these undertakings, however, is a willingness to experiment. After all, although the optimistic tones of the conference speaker rang hollow, his fundamental message is undeniable. In a very real way, it is up to this generation to help resuscitate journalism. It will require abandoning old assumptions, embracing unpredictability, and anticipating a few setbacks. It will, without a doubt, be difficult. But there is no good reason, to my mind, that innovations that improve and sustain the practice of journalism cannot emerge from the laboratory of the college newspaper, where the cost of failure is slight and the reward of success may well be a career.

Think big, Spectator. And be bold.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in English and political science. He was the editor in chief of The Eye on the 133rd managing board and the managing editor on the 134th corporate board.



A good life choice

BY AKHIL MEHTA

"So you're the president of the company?" This familiar refrain became second nature to me through my year as publisher, as people registered their shock at a 20-year-old college student being in charge of a company. It certainly is an experience that I didn't think I was signing up for when I walked into the Spectator office as a freshman intending to write sports. I ended up joining the finance section for reasons unclear, though probably because Lauri Feldman, the then-Finance Director, said something about post graduation jobs that piqued my freshman curiosity.

The first year and a half I worked on the newspaper, my time in the office was minimal, and I was completely insulated from the newspaper part of the organization. I remember making fun of Mira John, my John Jay floormate, for drinking the Kool-Aid and spending so much time in the office, and, when I was running for finance director my sophomore year, asking her what the "managing board" was, who was on it, and whether being on it meant I had to actually devote time to Spectator.

Despite this, I was selected as finance director and roused for a 7 a.m. champagne celebration, wondering what I got myself into. I slowly started to become more involved, though. That summer, in Scotland, I recruited Colin Sullivan as alumni director over cider that hadn't met an apple in its life. Then, in October, an innocuous conversation about SubsConscious with Ben Cotton turned into an invitation to drinks at Havana Central. The events that followed strengthened my resolve to become publisher, and when it came time to apply for positions I had no reservations about running.

I threw myself into the process enthusiastically, so much so that I began receiving emails from Ellen, our office manager, reminding me to eat and sleep. When it came time to write my proposal, I had writer's block for two hours. After a quick trip to the movie theater to watch "Ninja Assassin," I came back and everything clicked. I wrote 20 pages in 10 hours and handed it in without editing.

My year gave me some very unique experiences. After winning a judgment for Spec against a sperm bank, I can end my law career undefeated. Everything about my job was on an accelerated timescale, which, while helping me adapt to the real world, definitely hurt my study habits. Urgency no longer became an exam tomorrow but the need to contact advertisers or negotiate with vendors. It was in these situations I'd have the conversation that started this column. Often I'd try to convince someone in the real world that I was legitimate, but just as many times I had to talk someone down from thinking I was a high powered executive and tell them I was only a college student.

Slowly, my life began to shape itself around the newspaper. Homework and going out took a back seat to trustee presentations and marketing initiatives. These new priorities led to some interesting parental discussions (sorry Mom!) and, without the undying patience of an IEOR friend in helping me with homework, my GPA surely would have taken a deeper hit.

I began to question whether I was pouring all of my energy into a black hole, but eventually it became clear that Spectator was a two-way relationship. Business board meetings became a highlight of the week, often lasting significantly longer than their allotted time. When I went through a personal rough patch this fall, I didn't expect the outpouring of support from Spectator friends. What I thought was a vicious cycle was quite the opposite. I spent more time at the office because I enjoyed myself,

and I enjoyed myself more because I was spending more time at the office—though I'm pretty sure my only contribution to the content side was delaying PDF times.

I'm not sure when again I will have an experience quite like Spectator. The ultimate responsibility and independence are so unique—there is literally no oversight, no cushion, and no administrators, only the guidance of trustees. Every senior column in some way tries to rationalize why so many people are so invested in the organization that they devote their lives to it, work long hours for free, and give up a "normal college experience." I won't offer an explanation, only a rationalization: it was 110 percent worth it.

A few people to thank:

Ben and Thomas—it's been an honor to work with both of you and when we had our first meeting I had no idea I'd make two great friends out of the year. I hope that somewhere down the road we can work together again.

April—thanks for convincing me things were going to be OK even when it wasn't clear they would be.

Ellen—You've become a second mother. Thanks for keeping me sane.

Dan—I'm not sure how much our random conversations killed our productivity, but it was worth it.

To the boys of John Jay 12—It's been an epic four years, thanks for everything, and here's to a lifetime of friendship.

And finally, to 134—From March Madness email threads to laughing under the table during turkey-shoots, its been great. Thanks for the ride.

The author is a senior in the School of Engineering and Applied Science majoring in financial engineering. He was an associate publisher on the 132nd board, finance director on the 133rd managing board, and publisher on the 134th corporate board.

Following bin Laden’s death, students join with thousands of New Yorkers at Ground Zero for rally

GROUND ZERO
from front page

Drew Gottstein, a second class marine cadet, said, “I’ve got to be up at six to get our ship ready tomorrow, but I’m not gonna sleep—I can’t sleep.”

“This is a once in a lifetime experience,” he added before joining a Marine friend and scores of others in shouts of “USA! USA!”

“A lot of us expect we will be doing all-nighters this night,” Gitlin said, as she boarded a subway from Ground Zero on her way to join the festivities in Times Square, “but for very different reasons than usual.”

Most students said they couldn’t believe bin Laden had been killed, after nearly ten years of war and speculation.

“I was on Facebook,” Matt Jones, CC ’11, said, like so many others who got the news online.

“I was very skeptical because there had been so many false reports before.”

Sarah Wolk, GS, said she was working on homework in a computer lab when someone “busted in and started yelling ‘Osama’s dead, we killed him!’” She said she felt overjoyed at the news, because “this guarantees Obama’s reelection in 2012.”

Incoming Columbia University College Democrats president Janine Balekdjian, CC ’13, said Sunday night was a time to put politics aside.

“This has nothing to do with Democrats or Republicans, it’s just amazing for America. It’s a clear victory in the war against terrorists—it’s amazing for everybody.”

John McClelland, GS and a veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, said he spent the evening celebrating in Times Square. Bin Laden’s death “gives the United States a little more credibility in saying its policies are effective. It gives us the moral foundation that we’ve at least paid a debt to our own citizens in fulfilling an outstanding promise of the past decade.”

Anum Javed Akram, CC ’11 and a senior adviser to Organization of Pakistani Students, said that even though it was a celebratory night, she and others are concerned about what lies ahead.

“This has come at the cost of a decade of war ... we’re certainly worried that this might be the start of an even darker period in our history.”

Akram said she fears Americans may come to resent Pakistan and that fundamentalists may seek retaliation in the coming years.

“When I heard he had been

killed, my first thought was just ‘I hope he wasn’t in Pakistan.’ But of course he was and it feels like scary times are ahead.”

The moment afforded many students the opportunity to reflect on all that has changed in the nearly 10 years since September 11.

Sara Liben, JTS/GS ’13, and David Offit, JTS/GS ’13, said they were in the same fifth grade classroom in Boston when they first heard about the attacks. Liben, whose brother was attending Columbia at the time, said, “It’s interesting for us to be living the next step.”

Liben and Offit headed down to Ground Zero together Sunday night. “For tonight at least everyone has a very positive outlook,” Offit said. “Even if it’s just for a little while, it feels like there’s a light at the end of the tunnel.”

“This is a great moment of unity for all New Yorkers, for all Americans, tonight,” Gitlin said.

Michael Mirer, CC ’02 and Spectator editor in chief in 2001,

Columbia is, it wasn’t fractious during that period at all,” he said. “Everyone was very much in the mood to come together.”

He said many gathered at The West End—now Havana Central—to watch news of the attack together.

“We felt very close and very far away at the same time,” he said.

Lydia Roman, a Jackson Heights resident, said she came to Ground Zero on Monday morning to remember her friend Christopher Santora, who, at 23, was the youngest firefighter to die in the World Trade Center attacks.

“Is this closure?” asked Roman. “Yes, both for me and for many, many people.”

Leah Greenbaum, Arvin Ahmadi, and Shira Poliak contributed reporting.

—Janine Balekdjian, CC ’13, incoming College Democrats president

said that 9/11 brought a similar sense of unity to campus.

“Everything was just so quiet that day. ... As fractious as

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V117 offers little ‘Scandal,’ but solid laughs and strong cast satisfy

BY CHRISTINE JORDAN AND
MADDY KLOSS
Columbia Daily Spectator

While at one time Columbia may have been satisfied with just PrezBo and MiMoo, there's now another administrative pet name to be tossed around campus like a frisbee: Ke\$ho.

The 117th annual Varsity Show “Another Scandal!” put its satirical spotlight on the high-profile controversies, both real and imagined, that shook campus this year. Its cast and crew put together a show that, in one fell swoop, spoofed the drug bust (real), ROTC town halls (real), professor incest case (sadly, real), and Dean Kevin Shollenberger’s secret double life moonlighting as pop star Ke\$ho (sadly, not real).

The production—which was staged Friday, April 29 through Sunday, May 1 in Roone Arledge Auditorium—showcased its writers’ skill with one-liners as well as a number of impressive vocal and comedic performances by the cast. “Another Scandal!” succeeded in giving attendees what they came for: a night of laughing at and reveling in Columbia’s idiosyncrasies.

The main plot followed University Senator Preston (Isaac Assor, CC ’14), in his courtship of Julia (Naomi Roochnik, BC ’13), an activist ADP member with an underground Four Loko brewery. Meanwhile, Barnard first-year Jesse (Chris Silverberg, CC ’13) struggled to hide his identity as a strong, beautiful Barnard man.

Hot on the pursuit of exposing all of the skeletons in Columbia’s closet was undercover cop Chaz (Andrew Wright, CC ’14). Chaz’s goonish, mustachioed boss (Bob Vulfov, CC ’13), addressed exclusively as “The Chief,” checked in on him periodically, displaying a penchant for gloriously tacky shirts and showcasing Vulfov’s knack for classic physical comedy.

As the show’s romantic leads, Assor and Roochnik contributed both vocal chops and charisma, although Assor arguably had the funnier material to work with and offered a more immediately compelling performance. His robotic chorus of “I am into that,” uttered each time his character fell for Julia just a little bit harder, sent peals of laughter through the audience.

Ensemble actors often had their own scene-stealing moments, most notably Sam Mickel, CC ’14, as an overzealous member of Conversio

Virium and Rachel Chavez, CC ’14, as a Sabor dancer with a love of puns on her club’s name, expressed during her references to “Sa-bondage” and to the head of the Hispanic studies department, her “Sa-biological father.”

Despite this varied and entertaining array of personalities, some characters in “Another Scandal!” lacked depth and failed to connect to the audience. Rebekah Lowin, CC ’14, gave a stellar vocal performance in “Campus Character,” but her character Nora, Preston’s fame-seeking little sister, seemed hastily sketched, with a slightly juvenile blog-obsessed persona and few redeeming qualities. Julia, too, flattened as the show progressed, losing much of her initial sass in favor of a tame do-gooder spirit to facilitate plot resolution.

But, while some characters lacked color, the show mostly made up for it with its subplot centering on Dean Shollenberger (Sean Walsh, CC ’14), who, according to the show, played Dean of Student Affairs by day and hygienically-questionable international singing sensation by night. Ke\$ho’s jokes and Walsh’s delivery were stand-outs even among the show’s barrage of explosive one-liners. The audience roared when Ke\$ho sentenced Julia to the worst punishment his office could give: probation from student council, RA, and athletic events.

Other noteworthy jokes highlighted ubiquitous but often overlooked aspects of Morningside life—a tried and true Varsity Show tactic. For one, when Preston began to doubt how well he really knew Julia, he expressed his disappointment with a metaphor all too familiar to Columbians: “It was all a façade, like Tom’s!” Another stand-out quip at last pinpointed the pungent, inescapable odor of Butler 409: kimchi.

Where writers Betsy Morais, CC ’11 and former Spectator city news editor, and Nuriel Moghavam, CC ’11 and former Spectator columnist, most succeeded in comparison to previous Varsity Show writers was in the way they tailored the show to Columbia at present. They not only created a coherent plot structure, but appropriated salient aspects of campus culture from this year in particular rather than dealing in vague generalities about Columbia, its students, and its problems. Notably absent was the typical Varsity Show joke about the sexual promiscuity of Barnard students.



COURTESY OF AJIT PILLAI

TAKE A BOW | The cast of the 117th Varsity Show, which sang, danced, acted, and laughed its way through four shows last weekend, maintains its light-heartedness while posing for the camera.

The show’s best songs, too, broke from traditional musical theater paradigms and styles used in Varsity Shows past. Ke\$ho’s number “Bust This Club!” a rousing techno anthem accompanied by flashing lights and gyrating dancers, was one of the show’s more unexpected, and memorable, moments. And while the song “Man Date” explored some bromantic clichés, the saucy Caribbean-inspired beat was a welcome departure from the show’s perkier tunes, and Assor, Wright, and Silverberg sold the lyrics with faux-intoxication and charm.

The sets, including a skillful replica of the bar at The Heights, proved to be the production’s most

impressive technical aspect. The models of dorm rooms—one for Chaz and Preston plastered with Justin Bieber posters and American flags, and a Barnard suite with a startlingly authentic-looking bulletin board—were also spot-on.

For a production about scandals, “Another Scandal!” could have been sharper and more scandalous, but it still delivered the Varsity Show spirit students keep coming back for—one that’s lighthearted, silly, and buoyant—or, rather, Sa-buoyant.

Jim Pagels, Claire Stern, Finn Vigeland, and Helen Werbe contributed to this article.



ABACCHALYPTIC | Saxophonist Daro Behrooz, CC ’12, (top), and the rest of the Lucky Chops band performed as part of CUSH, which also includes rapper Bship Grady (bottom). Victor Vazquez (middle) of Das Racist dropped some rhymes before Snoop Dogg came onstage.

Crowd survives the ‘Abacchalypse’ happily but with no new appreciation for Snoop

BY NICOLLETTE BARSAMIAN
Spectator Staff Writer

Did this year’s Bacchanal live up to its celebrity-act hype and \$106,425 budget? Most seemed to enjoy the concert, but perhaps it was not worth the money.

Bacchanal’s “Abacchalypse”-themed show, spotlighting Columbia University Society of Hip-Hop, Das Racist, and Snoop Dogg, presented an interesting departure on April 30 from the usual Columbia Saturday afternoon, when most are trapped in Butler or their dorm rooms frantically doing work. The weekend featured multiple arts events, including Holi, KCST’s “The Taming of the Shrew,” and the Varsity Show, but most students were seemingly only excited about being “fucked up, dude” at Bacchanal.

Normally, the show takes place on the steps, but due to a scheduling mix-up with graduation on the part of University Events Management, the show had to take place on the West Lawn. The new locale gave the show a very collegiate feel and the gates around it acted as a built-in barrier for Public Safety. The front part of the lawn opened at 1 p.m. and was off limits by 2:45 p.m.—those who weren’t already stamped, weren’t getting in. This seemed a bit absurd considering the opening act didn’t begin until 3 p.m. and Snoop Dogg came onstage much later than that. The rest of the lawn filled up quickly, and students formed rows of seats all the way back to the last steps of Low.

Snoop arrived to a g-funk variation of “O Fortuna” from Carmina Burana—an overly dramatic gesture. He wore a Columbia basketball jersey.

The weather was beautiful, but this made it hot and sweaty for the people smushed all together in the front. That said, the part of the lawn closest to the stage was a drunken revelry of a mosh pit and expectably, throughout the audience, several jays were lit and innumerable “water” bottles were passed around.

In the course of the opening acts, the front section lost quite a few people who ostensibly left to pregame and came back all the more drunk. But the Columbia University Society of Hop-Hop held their own. CUSH was accompanied by live band Lucky Chops, which gave the act a dramatic, marching-band feel—graffitied tuba included. The band performed its two Battle 4 Bacchanal songs—“Move” and “Twilight”—among others.

During CUSH’s performance, Bacchanal staffers threw out t-shirts and cups to appease the crowd. The emcee had everyone sing “Happy Birthday” to President Lee Bollinger—who, the crowd was told, loves Snoop Dogg but couldn’t make it to the concert. Girls in zebra pants and orange shirts danced along to the music onstage, and a song about graduating was played

for seniors. CUSH certainly pumped up the crowd for the rest of the performance.

There was a slight pause as the audience waited for Das Racist after CUSH had finished. Random hip-hop music was played to appease the masses. Das Racist came out and informed all that this was “the most collegiate scene ever.” It was hard to tell if they were mocking or not.

Das Racist opened with “Who’s That Brooown,” one of their more famous songs. Quite a few people could be heard saying, “Who are they again?”

Most students seemed to enjoy the performance, assuaging fears that the band was too indie. But towards the end of Das Racist’s set, people started chanting, “We want Snoop.”

At one point, the band asked for a “word” from attendees representing all the New York colleges, naming St. John’s and Stony Brook, among others. Only Columbia students responded. Apparently they didn’t know that everyone in the crowd needed a CUID. Das Racist ended with no encore and no “Combination Pizza Hut/Taco Bell.” Perhaps they were trying to prove their legitimacy as a band beyond that song.

The crowd eagerly awaited Snoop Dogg. Many people tried to sit down, while Bacchanal staffers and security guards told people they needed to move back or the concert wouldn’t happen. Some in the crowd screamed “assholes.” After awhile, audience members started to murmur about whether Snoop was even going to show after they had paid him.

Finally, at 5:43 p.m., Snoop made his grand entrance, nearly an hour late. The crowds cheered as soon as they glimpsed him near the Lerner-side opening. Snoop arrived onstage to a g-funk variation of “O Fortuna” from Carmina Burana—an overly dramatic gesture. He wore a Columbia basketball jersey and giant pimp rings with writing that may or may not have been attached to his actual mic.

Snoop pumped out hit after hit and the crowd seemed happy enough. Pre-concert, many worried whether or not they would like the playlist, but Snoop delivered. He played hits “P.I.M.P.,” “I Wanna Fuck You,” and “Gin and Juice.” He also played some newer songs off “Doggumentary,” which was released this April, and a few older hits like “2 Amerikas Most Wanted.”

Snoop supposedly turned down three other colleges and the Royal Wedding for this, but one wonders if it merely for him to get a kick out of telling Ivy-Leaguers to “Smoke weed, get drunk, and fuck.”

At times it was hard to tell if he was merely making fun of the University—in one song he repeatedly told “the ugly girls” to stop singing. He had audience members “do the surfboard,” clap, scream, and wave their hands throughout the entire act. Once again, one wonders if this was just for him to feel a sense of superiority, telling Ivy League students what they need to do. Clearly, Snoop has star appeal, because everyone in the front section listened. Snoop made repeated shout-outs to the people “in the back, next to the White House, or whatever that is.”

Snoop’s act ended on a seemingly random note—there was no grand finale. The concert just ended and everyone petered out. Many people could be heard making dinner plans. All in all though, it was a decent Columbia-community-like way to spend a Saturday afternoon.



FILE PHOTO

RESOURCEFUL RECRUITING | Head coach Kyle Smith admits that Harvard basketball is the force to be reckoned with.

Crimson coach Amaker looks to use salary for new talent

RECRUITING from page 9

Princeton, which defeated Harvard in a playoff to advance to the NCAA Tournament, has not been as fortunate. The Tigers face the departure of not just Johnson but two all-Ivy players in Kareem Maddox and Dan Mavraides as well. As a result of Johnson’s move, Clay Wilson de-committed, leaving the Tigers with just two incoming freshmen.

Penn and Princeton have long been the league’s titans, and they will be loath to give up that mantle. Earlier this year, the president of Princeton basketball’s booster club, James Lane, said that the other Ivy schools, such as Harvard, are just flashes in the pan.

Villegas begged to differ. A few years ago, the question was whether Harvard even had a basketball team. Now?

“Harvard has Penn and Princeton looking over their shoulders,” he said.

Robin Harris, executive director of the Ivy League, diplomatically refused

to recognize any kind of hierarchy.

“I’m just excited that for several years we’ve had different teams competing for the Ivy title,” Harris said. “We’d like to see all eight teams be able to compete for the title.”

When asked about a distinct Harvard brand, she said that every school has a brand of its own, none better than any other.

Most coaches and players do believe the league is improving top to bottom, and most schools have added a potential impact player this off-season. However, Harvard’s transformation stands out.

Evan Daniels, Scout.com’s national recruiting analyst, said as much in not consenting to an interview. Upon being contacted, he said that he felt comfortable talking about a few of Harvard’s incoming recruits, but for the rest of the league he’d need to follow up on some of his research.

This consistent stream of talent is one of many reasons Amaker chose to

stick around despite a lucrative offer from the University of Miami. Among the others are Amaker’s oft-stated enjoyment of Cambridge, his wife’s job at the university, and rumors that Amaker leveraged the offer into promises of pay increases for assistants and renovation of Lavietes Pavilion.

What could Amaker do with those increased resources? For one thing, continue to stockpile talent. Now that Harvard is looking to compete for titles instead of build a program, Villegas said he thinks Amaker’s job will only get easier.

While fellow coaches are pleased with the increased attention the league has gotten, for some Amaker’s departure cannot come soon enough.

When Smith discussed Harvard in February, he whispered his real feelings on this last subject, hoping to avoid a recording.

“Go, Tommy, go.”

For now, Amaker and Harvard only seem headed in one direction—up.

No distinction between college life and sportswriting

LEVENFELD from page 3

sports for Spectator.

I will forever treasure and miss the little things. Sunday sports meetings where everyone competes to tell the best weekend blackout story. House ads. Sending out the weekly budget. Football road trips. Flipping through old bound volumes for long-lost statistics or inspirational graphic ideas. Pixbox. Knowing enough about design rules to spot mistakes our readership would never notice. House ads. Coach Wilson commenting on my hangover. House ads. Ascending the press box elevator at Wien Stadium. Crossword puzzles.

It’s kind of funny that just one semester removed from serious involvement as a Spectator editor, those little memories are the ones that are sticking. Why not the major tasks and assignments such as managing board meetings or interview transcribing or editing articles or pounding out a quick game recap from the press box off some game notes and quickie stat sheets? Why not writing headlines or checking printouts or researching articles?

I can only imagine that as more time passes, this trend will intensify. What is so special about those little things, those moments that no Specie signs up for but none can avoid? Looking back on a full and fulfilling career, I think I can start to answer this question. Spec isn’t a job and it isn’t a time-filler; it’s neither a hobby nor a chore; not volunteering and not really even a mere extra-curricular activity.

It’s a way of life. One with its own rules, its own culture, and its own inside jokes. Its own nightly heroes and impossible challenges and workplace rhythm. I know I speak for dozens of others when I say I’ll never truly be able to separate “college” from “Spec” for the rest of my life. When I walk out the door at 2875 this week, Spectator will lose a pretty decent writer with strong dedication and solid organizational skills, not to mention unprecedented

wit. But I’ll lose a lot more: a haven, a home, an epicenter of everything college should be. A place to work and joke and eat and drink and laugh and even sleep. That’s how I’ll remember it.

I’ll remember how JTy taught me that an editor’s first job is to ensure the date is correct on printouts. Puro’s superficial work ethic and laid-back attitude essentially forced me into the position a semester early. Lauren, Sabine, and Sara were diligent associates and great personalities on my editing nights. I enjoyed serving on MB with all of 133 but especially Angela, Ben, Betsy, Dino, Joy, and Yipeng. From 134’s tenure: Akhil, Betsy, Mikey, Neel, Nina, Thomas, and Zach. 135: Jasper, Jeremiah, Jim, Leah, Mrinal, Rebeka. I will graduate in two weeks with friendships from 131 all the way through 136. The experience has been educational and humbling.

As much as Spectator provided a fertile breeding ground for life-altering friendships and memorable encounters, every college student needs some friends to come home to after a long night at the office. I’ll always appreciate the fine people of JTS ’11 (and affiliates) who have stayed close to me no matter how many Spec nights or supplements or football games got in the way. Thanks, guys.

Hannah: We’ve only been friends since the summer but you’ve kept me grounded throughout a wild senior year. Thanks for being a great friend to me and for being a constant, positive presence in the office and in my life.

J. Shapiro: We’ve bonded over JTS and the Chicago Blackhawks and summer softball in the park. Even though you root for the White Sox, I’ll miss having you around next year. Oh, and thanks for telling me I should write sports for Spec. I guess that worked out okay.

Matt: Clearly Spec would have been less valuable an experience for me without your guidance from the start. Your fun-loving personality—not to mention promises of press box food

that you may have slightly oversold—drew me in to Spec Sports and your editor’s eye helped me develop into the best writer I could be. Thank you for that.

M. Shapiro: You’re a good friend and a good guy, even though much like your brother you are afflicted with that mysterious baseball-related malady whereby you root for the wrong home team. You also suck at NHL, which is too bad for you. Still, I think you’ll turn out alright. Good luck in your senior year and keep in touch buddy.

Kunal: I’ve probably edited more Gupta tennis articles than anything else in my Spec career. Thankfully for both of us, that’s all in the past. You may be the token SEAS guy in our class, but you’re a lot more than that to me. You’re the kind of guy I love hanging out with on weekends and your utter, blind devotion to Spec is both freakish and incredibly impressive. Though I’ll forever hold a grudge because of that incident at Spec Dinner sophomore spring, there’s a decent chance I’ll miss you next year.

Michele: Apart from being one of my closest friends, you are in so many ways the person who makes Spec, well, Spec. Hard to believe we never shared editing nights, but that hasn’t stopped us from having all kinds of fun in and out of the office. I know you, Sam, and Jack will keep doing great things with the paper. Spec is lucky to have you running the show, and I’m lucky to have you as a friend.

When Jordan announced his first retirement in 1993, he left open the possibility of coming back one day. Unless I fail some finals next week, I won’t be writing for this newspaper again. Thanks for the ride, Spectator. It’s been quite a journey. I don’t think I’d change one word.

Jacob Levenfeld is a List College senior majoring in history and Talmud. He was sports editor on the 133rd managing board. sports@columbiaspectator.com

SPORTS BRIEFLY



SOFTBALL

COLUMBIA	12	COLUMBIA	0
PENN	4	PENN	9

Columbia softball might have finished its season with three losses, but it still managed to end its year on an exciting note as it said goodbye to four seniors: Maggie Johnson, Anne Marie Skyllis, Karen Tulig, and Stephanie Yagi.

The Lions dropped both of their Senior Day games at home on Friday to Penn, 12-4 and 0-9. Columbia traveled to Philadelphia on Saturday for its final two games of the year, losing the first 6-3 but coming from behind in the nightcap to win 9-5.

Friday’s games saw Penn’s bats come alive while the Light Blue’s remained fairly dormant. Columbia was leading after the first inning—Johnson doubled to bring classmate Skyllis and freshman Morgan Cook home. The Quakers tied things up at the top of the second, and Johnson replaced freshman Prophet Gaspard at the mound after two innings. Unfortunately for the Lions, the Red and Blue blew the game open and scored eight runs in the top of the third. The nightcap wasn’t much better for the Light Blue, as it was shutout by Penn pitcher Cailyn Hennessy.

The Lions split their final doubleheader of the year, dropping the first after Penn scored three runs in the bottom of the fourth. Columbia trailed 5-0 at the top of the sixth in the nightcap, but its bats exploded to give the Lions a come-from-behind win. Sophomore Jennifer Bergeron singled up the middle to drive in five of the six runs recorded in the top of the sixth. Columbia added three runs in the top of the seventh to seal the deal.

—Rebeka Cohan



LACROSSE

COLUMBIA	11
BINGHAMTON	11

The Lions lost their final game of the year to Binghamton 12-11 after leading at halftime. However, attacker Kacie Johnson finished up her sophomore year by recording the most number of goals scored in a single season at Columbia. Johnson recorded five goals against the Bearcats, putting her total at 59.

Columbia came out strong in the beginning of the first half, quickly taking a 4-1 lead. Junior attacker Taylor Gattinella scored three of the four goals. The Light Blue continued to hold its lead as the half progressed, notching five more tallies—two by the hands of freshman midfielder Paige Cuscovitch—before halftime arrived. The Lions went into the intermission with a 9-5 lead over the Bearcats. Junior Kelly Buechel scored out of the gate to give Columbia a five-goal lead early in the second half, but things went downhill from there. Binghamton notched five unanswered tallies in fifteen minutes to tie the game. Freshman Ashley Rinere scored one more for the Lions to take the lead again, but Binghamton tied things up just over a minute later. The Bearcats sealed their win with a goal in the final minutes of the contest.

This game was the last for many Lions, who will graduate at the end of this year. Seniors Mollie Andreae, Flannery Gallagher, Gabrielle Geronimos, Emily Kager, Caitlin Mullins, and Caroline Seery are the only class in the history of Columbia lacrosse to graduate with two conference wins, thanks to the Light Blue’s victory over Yale on April 15.

—Rebeka Cohan



WOMEN’S ROWING

PLACED THIRD IN VARSITY EIGHTS AT PRINCETON

The women’s rowing team saw both victory and defeat this weekend, as the unranked Light Blue team rowed against nationally ranked squads Virginia, Princeton, and Tennessee on Saturday in Princeton. The Lions edged out 19th-ranked Tennessee in the Varsity Eights, but could not top Virginia and Princeton, who are ranked No. 5 and No. 1 in the nation, respectively. The Light Blue was neck and neck with the Cavaliers near the end of the race, but ended up placing third by two seconds. The Lions finished last in second varsity eights, third varsity eights, and varsity fours A. They also finished fourth behind two Virginia teams and Tennessee in varsity fours B.

—Molly Tow



MEN’S HEAVYWEIGHT ROWING

PLACED SECOND IN VARSITY EIGHTS AT MAXWELL STEVENSON CUP

The men’s heavyweight rowing team continued to struggle this weekend, losing the Maxwell Stevenson Cup to Navy in New Jersey. The eight rowed well in the beginning and middle of the race, but faltered in the middle, allowing Navy to pull ahead. Navy took first in the Varsity Eights, Columbia second, and George Washington University third. In the second varsity eights, Columbia placed fourth behind two Navy squads and GW. Freshman Eights has been a highlight for the Lions—they placed second in the event on Saturday—which bodes well for the future of the team.

—Molly Tow



TRACK AND FIELD

FRESHMAN CODY LOVE TOOK 22ND OVERALL IN 400M HURDLES
MEN’S 4x800 RELAY TEAM POSTED FOURTH FAST TIME IN SCHOOL HISTORY

The largest track meet in the United States has come to a close, as the final two days of the Penn Relays saw several strong performances from the Lions on Friday and Saturday.

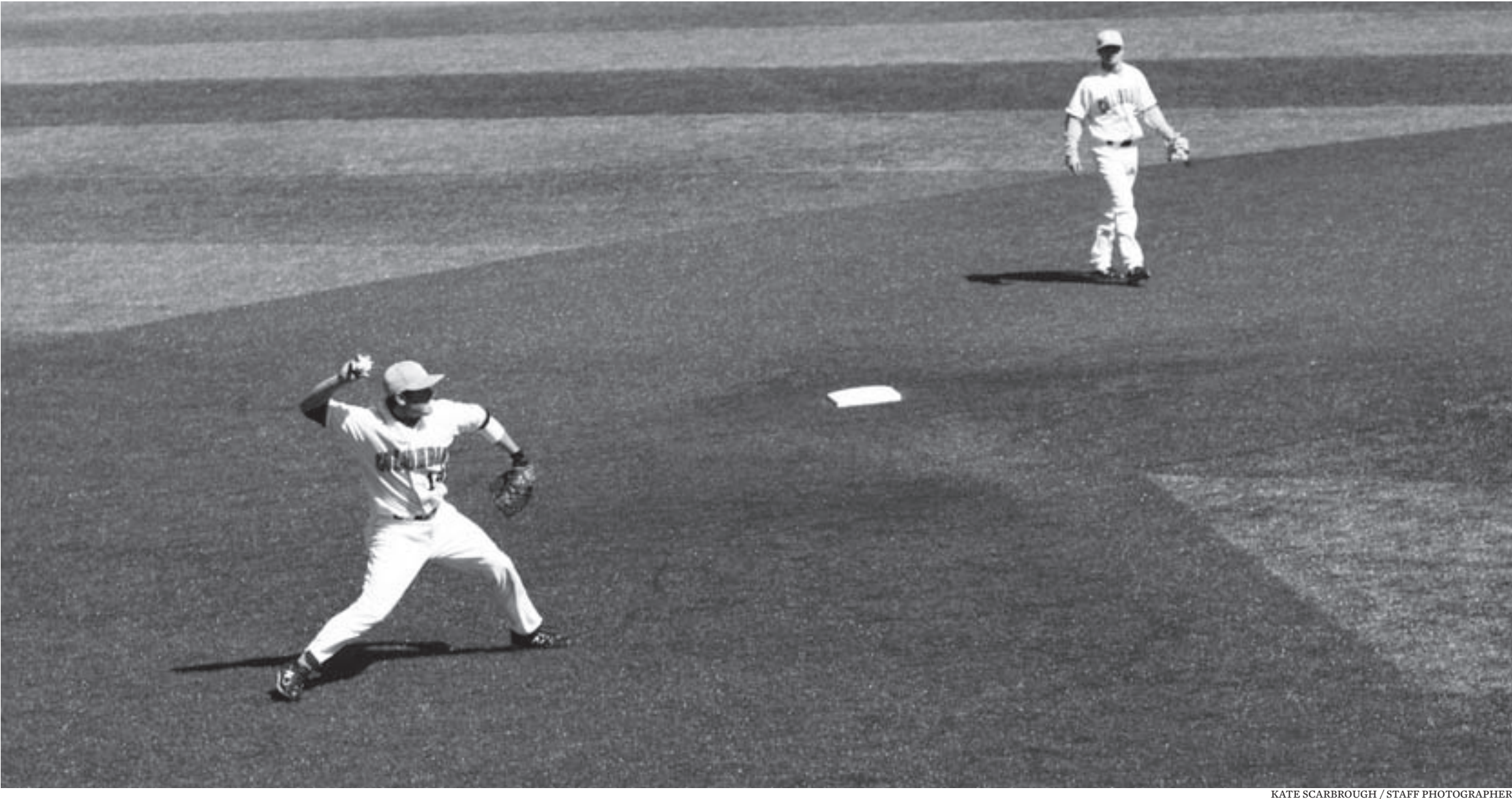
Freshman Cody Love took 22nd overall in the 400m hurdles, competing against some of the top athletes in the nation. Love’s time was 53.12 seconds, which was fast enough for a first-place finish in his section.

The men’s distance medley relay team took sixth place overall in the Championship of America race, which pitted the Light Blue against a difficult list of competitors. Despite the challenging field, the team managed to finish ahead of numerous national powerhouses, including No. 15 Virginia Tech. The squad also finished off Ivy League rivals Penn and Dartmouth, the only other Ivy teams competing in the Championship of America relay. The finishing time of 9:44.91 was tallied by junior Adam Bhenke, freshmen Sam Miner and Harry McFann, and sophomore anchor Mark Feigen.

The men’s 4x800m relay team completed the weekend with the fourth fastest time in school history. Freshman William Kovalczyk joined seniors Dylan Isaacson, Matt Stewart, and Jeff Moriarty to finish in 7:23.95, good for ninth place in the Championship of America. The Lions finished just ahead of Cornell as anchor Moriarty was able to hold off a late push by the Big Red’s Will Weinlandt.

Penn Relays was the final meet before the Ivy League Heptagonal Championships on Saturday, May 7 and Sunday, May 8 in New Haven, Conn.

—Jeremiah Sharf



KATE SCARBROUGH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FANTASTIC FERRERA | Senior shortstop Alex Ferrera had three home runs this weekend, as he went out with a bang in his last series as a Lion. He was also a defensive standout for all his four years.

Light Blue baseball to graduate nine seniors

BASEBALL from page 3

Quakers for the remainder of the seven-inning contest.

Columbia’s pitching quickly regressed once again in game two, as sophomore starter Stefan Olson allowed eight earned runs in under three innings of work. After Penn rallied for a seven-run third inning, the Lions put forth a valiant effort to try and come back, cutting what was an 8-2 deficit to 10-7 in the seventh, but the Quakers held on.

The Lions hit four homers in the loss, including two by sophomore Dario Pizzano, who smacked a pair of his three blasts in the doubleheader into the water beyond the outfield fence.

The other two long-balls belonged to senior outfielder Jason Banos and senior third baseman Kevin Roberts, who earned loud ovations after delivering in their final Columbia home games. Roberts’ home run was even more special since it was the first of his collegiate career.

“Kevin’s a kid that was the glue for the four years he was here,” Boretti said. “He’s the ultimate teammate.”

Boretti liked the resiliency he saw from his bats.

“Our guys were battling. We realize...they were thin in the bullpen and [Penn junior pitcher Vince] Vairo, their starter is one of the best starters in the league and we hit him, we got seven earned runs off of him in seven innings, so offensively we did our part,” Boretti said. “We just had that bad inning.”

On Saturday in Philadelphia, both offenses would explode again with a walk-off 6-5 Penn victory in the opener and an 11-10 Columbia comeback win in game two.

The Lions pulled out in front on senior shortstop Alex Ferrera’s solo blast in the second inning. In his next at-bat, Ferrera blasted yet another home run to center field, this time a three-run shot that regained the lead for the Lions at 5-3.

“It definitely felt good,” Ferrera said. “I struggled a little

bit at the plate this year early on and to end strong like that was definitely a good feeling.”

Senior starter Dan Bracey would hold Columbia’s lead into the final inning. Bracey escaped a jam in the previous inning and easily retired the first two batters of the seventh. However, after allowing a base-hit, Bracey’s final pitch as a Lion was deposited over the right field fence for a walk-off home run by sophomore first baseman Spencer Branigan. Visibly distraught, Bracey lingered on the mound before walking off the field to several hugs from his teammates.

“Danny pitched his ass off and we gave him the ball in the seventh after he got out of it in the sixth and he’s fired up,” Boretti said. “This yard plays small to right field. That’s just the way it goes.”

Fellow senior Geoff Whitaker did not fare any better in the season closer, allowing nine runs, although only three were earned, in four and two-thirds innings of work.

“Whit goes out and he doesn’t have his stuff and we didn’t make plays behind him,” Boretti said. “And I give Geoff credit, he doesn’t walk guys, he didn’t put guys on base and he hung up a couple zeros until we got him out of there, taking the lead back, and I give our offense a lot of credit.”

The offense powered the Lions to a win, rallying back from a 6-0 deficit. Banos and junior designated hitter Alexander Aurricchio led the charge with a combined six hits and nine RBIs. Aurricchio’s three-run homer brought Columbia back to a 6-6 tie and the Lions would not look back from there.

Reliever Giel and freshman pitcher Zack Tax held the lead in over four innings of relief to close out the 2011 season.

“They [the relievers] did a nice job in pressure situations and coming in and getting the job done,” Boretti said.

The Lions will have to replace the admirable work of both Bracey and Whitaker.

“Dan Bracey and Geoff Whitaker have been go-to guys for four years here,” Boretti continued. “Both of them as freshmen were key components of the championship season and they’ve taken every role that we’ve asked them.”

Offensively, the Lions will lose several key components of its lineup, such as outfielder Nick Cox, probably the Lions’ most valuable player this season.

“We’re going to miss them, there’s no question about it,” Boretti said. “It’s middle of the field guys which are very hard to replace. Nick Cox is a guy that I think is one of the best players Columbia has probably ever had, he’s an outstanding athlete, he’s in the top ten of all these offensive categories and he missed a ton of games because of injuries last year and some this year, his hamstring just wasn’t at 100 percent, and the kid gives everything he’s got.”

Key contributors in their final weekend, Banos and Ferrera will also have to be replaced.

“Jay Banos is one of the best pure hitters that I’ve ever had the pleasure to coach,” Boretti said. “Al Ferrera defensively has been a standout for four years. He had a good weekend with the stick and that’s good to see. I know he’s probably been putting a lot of pressure on himself”

The seniors will especially miss their college baseball experiences, which began in an Ivy Championship.

“Tough day today, having to finish up like this, but you know, along the way we’ve been a family, it’s a great group of guys, I love all these guys, I’ve had great experiences and I know that all the seniors have as well,” Banos said.

For a season that started with title aspirations, it was disappointing the Lions could not return to the Championship series, but Boretti is optimistic moving forward.

“I think we’ve got a really good recruiting class coming in,” Boretti said. “It’ll be great competition as it is in the fall and we feel good about the roster.”

BY LUCAS SHAW Spectator Senior Staff Writer

After a season in which Harvard secured its first-ever Ivy League basketball title—albeit shared with Princeton—coach Tommy Amaker seems intent on ensuring it will be the first of many.

Many developments have benefited the Crimson this off-season—from Sydney Johnson leaving Princeton to Amaker’s own return to Cambridge—but it all began on the recruiting trail, where Amaker has lined up yet another star-studded class.

The two names that jump off the page are Kenyatta Smith and Wesley Saunders, a duo of talented big men from Southern

California. Though recruiting websites often differ on their rankings, these two are universally seen as the highest-rated prospects entering the league in 2011-2012. Smith is considered one of the top twenty centers nationally, while Saunders just led Windward High School to a California State Division IV title.

In addition to Smith and Saunders, Amaker locked up four more quality recruits, adding a great deal of depth to a team that has plenty already. While every other team in the league will lose at least one key player to graduation, the Crimson return everyone, from reigning Ivy League Player of the Year Keith Wright to little-used reserves

like Dee Giger and Ugo Okam.

“He’s done a great job recruiting kids not just from Los Angeles, but all over,” Manuel Villegas, the coach at Windward High, said. “It only takes one or two players to saw ‘Wow they went to Harvard and they are great players. If they are going, I’ll go too.’”

Recruiting is something of a taboo subject in the Ivy League because the schools do not reward athletic scholarships, but it remains a key factor in a program’s success. Nowhere has that been more evident recently than at Harvard, where Amaker and his staff have lured deep, athletic classes since day one.

“He has a good product to sell, and I think he is in a lot of

ways overqualified for the job,” said Columbia coach Kyle Smith.

When Smith refers to ‘product,’ he means Harvard itself.

“The Ivy League has a brand of its own,” Smith said. “But it’d be a little inane to say Harvard isn’t its own brand. They all are, Columbia has it too, but Harvard is the one.”

Smith recounted former Princeton coach Joe Scott once referring to Harvard as the league’s sleeping giant.

“I don’t think that’s any secret,” Smith said. “I’m a parent and if the Harvard coach says I’d like to sit down and talk with you about your son I’m going to listen for sure.”

Some around the league have questioned Amaker’s tactics and

the school’s integrity. Back in 2008, there were reports of assistant coaches having illegal contact with recruits. There was also a New York Times story in which Yale coach James Jones, among others, said that Harvard had lowered its academic standards. Similar complaints were voiced in a Daily Princetonian article earlier this year.

While Harvard has received a secondary recruiting violation, the question of standards is only part of the equation. Penn coach Jerome Allen disagrees with any concept of a Harvard advantage. When asked about the talent Amaker has assembled, Allen shrugged it off, imploring others to look at the talent on his own team.

Among the other coaches, Allen has come closest to equaling Amaker in terms of recruits. A year ago he brought in Miles Cartwright, who turned into one of the league’s best freshman. This year he adds four players ranked in the top 100 at their respective positions, three of them frontcourt players.

That gives the Quakers a strong core for next year as Cartwright, Zack Rosen, and Tyler Bernardini all return to the backcourt. Rosen will enter his senior season coming off back-to-back all-Ivy first team selections, while Bernardini, a talented scorer, earned an extra year of eligibility.

SEE RECRUITING, page 8

MONDAY MORNING week 5 CLOSER

GAME BALL

Game ball goes to senior Jason Banos, who went 9-14 with eight RBI this weekend in the four-game series against Penn. He finishes his career tied for fifth in base hits, third in runs scored, and fourth in RBIs, among many other achievements in Columbia baseball history.

SENIOR SUPERSTARS

The senior class of 2011 has been a part of 78 career victories and 45 Ivy League wins during its time at Columbia. The Ivy wins are the second most in the Columbia baseball program’s history, as they trail by one behind the class of 2010.

IVY STANDINGS

	W	L	PCT
Princeton	15	5	.750
Dartmouth	14	6	.700
Yale	11	9	.550
Penn	10	10	.500
Brown	9	11	.450
Columbia	9	11	.450
Harvard	7	13	.350
Cornell	5	15	.250

IVY SCHEDULE

						
VS. DARTMOUTH 4/2 12 P.M. L 4-6 2:30 P.M. L 1-8	VS. HARVARD 4/3 1 P.M. W 11-2 3:30 P.M. W 8-0	AT BROWN 4/9 12 P.M. L 1-2 2:30 P.M. L 5-6	AT YALE 4/10 12 P.M. L 3-6 2:30 P.M. W 8-1	VS. CORNELL 4/16 12 P.M. W 2-1 2:30 P.M. W 12-2	AT PRINCETON 4/24 12 P.M. W 8-5 2:30 P.M. L 4-6	VS. PENN 4/29 12 P.M. W 7-4 2:30 P.M. L 7-13
				4/17 12 P.M. W 6-0 2:30 P.M. L 1-7	4/25 1 P.M. L 2-3 3:30 P.M. L 2-4	AT PENN 4/30 12 P.M. L 5-6 2:30 P.M. W 11-10

Faculty say changes to health, tuition benefits will hurt University’s ability to recruit professors

BENEFITS from front page

make the call about what tests I need.”

Faculty members also say they are worried that the recommendations don’t include estimates about how much the health care plans will cost—something Steele said would become clearer in a few months.

Columbia currently covers the full cost of tuition for employees’ children who attend Columbia, and half the cost of tuition for those who attend other colleges. Under the new proposal—which will only apply to employees hired after it is implemented—only 80 percent of Columbia tuition and 40 percent of other schools’ tuition would be covered.

The University would also cut its contributions to employee retirement plans. This change is being grandfathered in as well, so current employees will keep the plans they already have.

“We’re going to be paying more for our health premiums. We’re going to be paying more for our children to go to colleges.”

—Jean Howard,
English department chair

To try to make sure that new employees still have enough money to retire, the University would automatically enroll them in a savings plan that would put away three percent of their salaries per year, although they would be able to opt out.

Steele acknowledged that this new plan is a “trade-off,” but said it will benefit employees.

“The [new] system is more in line with what people generally think is the best strategy for retirement benefits...to put the money in early, then you get the benefit of compounding over the years,” Steele said. “So that’s another principle that I think is an improvement, even as it involves some cuts to the amount that the University puts in.”

Medical School professor Jessica Kandel, a member of the task force, said she believes the retirement proposal is reasonable.

“The proposed plan seemed to meet the goals to ensure a sufficient retirement package (so that officers could actually afford to retire), while controlling the University’s retirement costs,” Kandel said in an email.

But some faculty members objected to the concept of forcing junior professors to put away more money earlier.

“That’s going to put a very big burden on people whose salaries hover around \$75,000 per year,” English department chair Jean Howard said.

Steele also noted that not every recommended change is a cut. The task force also recommended the establishment of a \$1 million fund for pre-kindergarten education for employees’ children and expanding health care funds for same-sex domestic partners of employees.

But it is clear that employee benefits will be reduced substantially.

“We’re going to be paying more for our health premiums,” Howard said. “We’re going to be paying more for our children to go to colleges.”

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

Many professors see the cuts as the latest in a string of blows to faculty living standards at Columbia. Since the economic recession began, faculty salaries have increased zero to two percent each year, while rent for University-controlled housing has increased at four to five percent each year, pushing real wages down.

This effective salary decrease has hit Arts and Sciences faculty members especially hard, as they generally have lower salaries than professors

at the University’s pre-professional schools, such as the Law and Business Schools.

A recent study by the American Association of University Professors indicated that Columbia professors are the second-highest paid in the country, but faculty members said that this does not reflect reality.

“I don’t shop at grocery stores in Cambridge, Massachusetts,” astronomy professor Jim Applegate said. “I care about my salary here in New York City.”

Steele said that tuition benefits would still be among the best in the country after the cuts, but faculty remain unconvinced. History department chair Mark Mazower said that Columbia has traditionally given relatively high tuition benefits because of its low salaries and the high cost of living in New York City.

“If you cut what was generous but you don’t raise those elements where we do poorly, then you are in a very difficult situation,” he said.

Faculty members have said that the fringe benefits cuts, coming on top of declining real wages, will hurt the University’s ability to recruit the best professors and to keep the professors they have.

“A lot of the people you want to recruit have small children or are going to have children soon,” Applegate said.

Before makings its recommendations, the task force commissioned the consulting firm McKinsey to study the benefits at 16 peer institutions. The University has not released the data, but Zajc, one of nine members of the A&S faculty governing body, said that someone who has seen the data told him that Columbia’s pension plan is the worst in the Ivy League.

Steele had a different assessment. He said that Columbia would be in the “middle of the pack” with regard to retirement plans, and “right in there” with regard to health care plans.

But for many Arts and Sciences professors, the cuts are problematic regardless of how benefits at other universities compare to those at Columbia.

“I don’t think that people like paying more for health care, but this was assumed as inevitable,” Gourgouris said in an email. “The problem was that increasing premiums were concurrent with cuts in salary and benefits.”

Mazower said that if changes are not made, faculty members are likely to come to Columbia, receive good training, and then leave mid-career.

“They will see [that] if they get tenure and stay at Columbia, they will lock themselves into a cycle of declining living standards,” Mazower said.

Declining real wages also mean that longtime faculty might be forced to postpone retirement. Applegate, who is 56 right now, said that instead of retiring between ages 65 and 70, he might be forced to work until 75 or 80.

“Unless something is done about this structural problem in the Arts and Sciences, to be blunt, this starts to look like the teach ‘til-you-die plan,” Applegate said. “Because that’s the only thing left to squeeze.”

MANHATTANVILLE VS. SALARIES

At the Arts and Sciences faculty meeting with Bollinger last week, professors expressed discontent that faculty benefits are being cut as the University is spending on big capital projects.

“We have the utter discrepancy between, on the one hand, the President presenting a real bright picture of Columbia having solved its space problem with the Manhattanville project ... and Columbia’s most successful capital raising effort in its history (nearly \$4 billion), while, on the other hand, an announced project of stark cost-cutting of salary capacity and health-tuition-retirement benefits across the board,” Gourgouris said in an email.

Bollinger told Spectator that the funding for Manhattanville has and will continue to come primarily from donations that would not have been given for other projects. “While it may

appear, and I really do understand this, that there are these extremely important and bright buildings that are on the horizon...and you might conclude from that, that that is money being taken away from other things we might do, like increased salaries, the fact of the matter is it’s not a correlation,” he said.

Still, many painted the cuts as part of a larger problem with how the University treats its faculty members. History professor Susan Pedersen said that by allowing the living standard for faculty members to erode, Columbia is breaking its “moral contract” with its professors.

“We...accept that, in hard times, everyone will tighten belts,” Pedersen said in an email. “But we also expect that the institution will not, as common policy, steadily degrade the living standards of the faculty. That is how Columbia operates...and I find it very shocking.”

Mazower said it is especially important to protect the Arts and Sciences faculty, who hold most of the responsibility for undergraduate education.

“If you allow for a long-run degradation of the faculty living standards alongside other things ... that will have implications for the College, and it will have complications for the staffing and teaching of the Core,” he said.

BACK TO THE START

Steele said that faculty and staff input will be taken very seriously, and could lead to changes in the new benefits package. But the plan is still for the Board of Trustees to approve the finalized changes next month, he said, in time for the start of the new fiscal year on July 1.

He added that if these or similar recommendations are not implemented, the effects on the University could be drastic, with \$25-35 million in debt continuing to accumulate each year.

“That will have implications for the College and ... for the staffing and teaching of the Core.”

—Mark Mazower,
history department chair

“You have to pay that somehow, you have to pay those costs. You have to pay the hospitals, you have to pay the retirement claims, you have to pay them,” Steele said. “So that comes out of the core mission of the University—our instructional budget, our ability to hire faculty, our ability to give financial aid to students. Just every aspect of our University would have to feed that beast of increased health care costs.”

“We just have so much resources and they’re not as much as we need to do all the things we want to do, so we’re year after year in a position where we always struggle to get the right balance,” Bollinger said.

The University has held several town hall meetings for faculty members to give suggestions for changing the recommendations, and the University Senate’s fringe benefits committee is also discussing a response.

The task force’s recommendations include the establishment of a permanent committee to review these benefits every year—but faculty members are pushing for immediate changes, maintaining that the cuts are too severe.

Pedersen said she has heard people talk about the declining living standards for A&S faculty since she came to Columbia eight years ago, but that no one has made a real commitment to improving them.

“It’s all very upsetting,” Pedersen wrote. “This is one of the finest Arts and Sciences faculties in the country. It should be able to count on the institution’s leadership to make sure it is treated properly.”

sammy.roth@columbiaspectator.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL & MAY

APRIL

S M T W T F S

01 02

03 04 05 06 07 08 09

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20 21 22 23

24 25 26 27 28 29 30

MAY

S M T W T F S

01 02 03 04 05 06 07

08 09 10 11 12 13 14

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

29 30 31

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL EVENTS ARE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE.

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04/12

EUROPEAN MIGRATION SINCE 1500

Implications for World History

6 PM

Event Oval, The Diana Center

04/13

LIBERTY IN MIND

Women Philosophers from Margaret Cavendish to Mary Wollstonecraft

4 PM

Julius S. Held Auditorium, 304 Barnard Hall

04/16

SPRING CONCERT

Johannes Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*

8 PM

Union Theological Seminary

04/19

ARTS & POLICY

Dance and the NEA

7 PM

Event Oval, The Diana Center

04/21

SOUND POETRY

7 PM

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

04/21–04/23

LAS MENINAS

2 PM (Sat.) & 8 PM

Minor Latham Playhouse, 118 Milbank Hall

04/29–04/30

BARNARD DANCES AT MILLER

2 (Sat.) & 7 PM

Miller Theatre, 2960 Broadway
(at West 116th Street)

THEATRE THESIS FESTIVAL II

2 (Sat.) & 8 PM

Minor Latham Playhouse, 118 Milbank Hall

05/06–05/07

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Event Oval, The Diana Center

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

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

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NOTE TO CU PRESIDENT Lee Bollinger: My very sincere best wishes on your coming "milestone" birthday. You asked provocative questions at the recent Global University Forum. I went home knowing much, much more. —hn

QUESTIONS FOR SUMMER reflection: How is being a Philatelist (stamp collector) like being a US Constitutional Lawyer? How might either or both connect with the written Chinese language? Email your thoughts to timeandtide@w.cn Prizes!

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS	DOWN		
1 Indiana city of song	1 Bridal shower pile	36 Genetic letters	54 Archipelago unit
5 TV channels 2-13	2 Really like	39 Like JFK and FDR	55 Goosebump-inducing
8 Draw unwelcome graffiti on	3 Take a long bath, sily	41 Fun run length, for short	57 First stage in Africa
14 Concept	4 Connecticut Ivy League	42 Boston nickname	58 Largest city in Africa
15 Rowboat need	5 Promise	43 Boo-boo kisser	59 Common teenage emotion
16 Plan to Vegas to get married, perhaps	6 Pets on wheels	46 "Not happening!"	60 Slow, to Solt
17 "Come this way!"	7 Not stale	49 "Law & Order: ..."	65 Cork out, as an engine
19 "Dirty" hair color	8 Credit card user	51 Enthusiastic	67 Gmail alternative
20 Bread crumbs, in a children's story	9 Right-angle shape	52 Voting alliances	
21 Army NCO	10 Mail eatery site	53 Russian coin	
23 College official	11 Sleep clinic concern		
24 Blush-inducing H.S. class	12 Storage closet wood		
25 Annual black-tie broadcast, familiarly	13 Perfect places. Renaissance		
27 Needle hole	14 Perfect places. Renaissance		
29 Palm smartphone	15 Renaissance		
30 Turn over a new...	16 Renaissance		
34 Bungle the job	17 Renaissance		
36 Tall hat weaver at Buckingham Palace	18 Renaissance		
40 Beatles film with Blue Meanies	19 Renaissance		
44 Like Koolhaas magic	20 Renaissance		
45 Prefix with political	21 Renaissance		
46 Airport transport	22 Renaissance		
47 Writing tools	23 Renaissance		
50 Doc's org.	24 Renaissance		
52 Hot spot for pizza	25 Renaissance		
56 Inclined to opine	26 Renaissance		
61 Like rain forests	27 Renaissance		
62 "I Got You Babe," e.g.	28 Renaissance		
63 Asinine	29 Renaissance		
64 Half a Beatles nonsense title	30 Renaissance		
66 MERGE or SIGNAL AHEAD, e.g.	31 Renaissance		
68 Church official	32 Renaissance		
69 ...Jima	33 Renaissance		
70 Lead-in for while	34 Renaissance		
71 Living room piece	35 Renaissance		
72 8 x 10 or 11 x 14: Abbr.	36 Renaissance		
73 One of five who headed the directions in the first words of 17, 25-, 40-, 52- and 66-Across	37 Renaissance		

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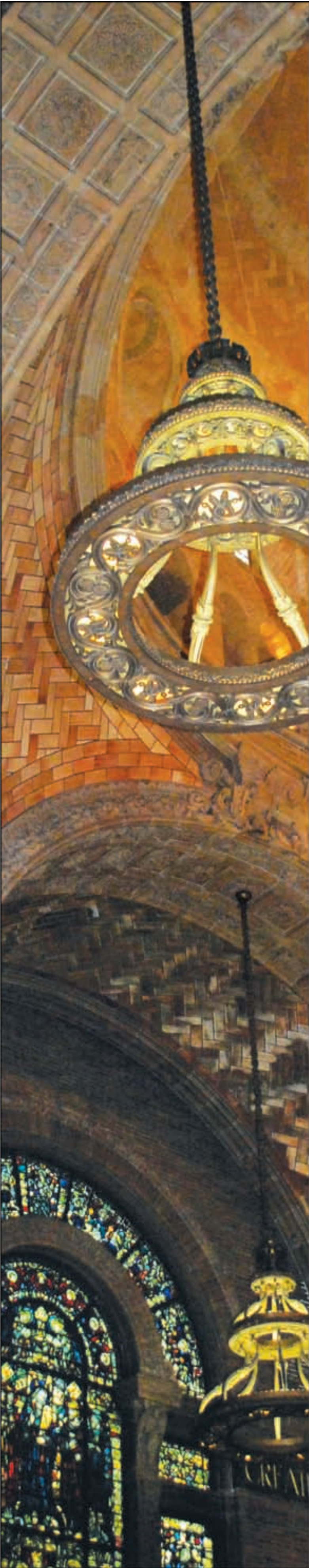
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Sunday, May 15, 2011
9:30–11:00 a.m.

St. Paul's Chapel
Columbia University
1160 Amsterdam Avenue at 117th Street

This event features a procession that includes undergraduate degree candidates from Columbia College, The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, the School of General Studies, and Barnard College. School deans, the University Chaplain, and faculty and administrators also participate. Highlights of the service include hymns and musical selections performed by student musicians and choirs.

Keynote Speaker

Peter Awn
Dean, School of General Studies

Student Speakers

Aviva Buechler
Barnard College, '11
Jewish

Michelle Harrison
Columbia College, '11
Seventh Day Adventist

Samuel Kerbel
School of General Studies, '11
Jewish Theological Seminary–List College, '11
Jewish

Samirah Majumdar
Barnard College, '11
Muslim

Warren McGee
Columbia College, '11
Catholic

Miguel Morocho
Columbia College, '11
Office of the University Chaplain

Sushant Sabnis
The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, '11
Hindu/Jain

The Baccalaureate Service is an interfaith, intercultural service celebrating the completion of each undergraduate's academic career. Tickets are not required for admission. Students must register to participate.

For questions, please email rjw2110@columbia.edu or call 212-854-4194. Visit www commencement.columbia.edu for more details.

The service is coordinated jointly by the Office of the University Chaplain and the Commencement Office/University Programs and Events.

The newly renovated Faculty House, located right on campus, is offering a special brunch for graduates and their guests during Commencement Week 2011. Following the Baccalaureate Service on Sunday, May 15, 2011, undergraduate degree candidates who join us for brunch at noon will receive a complimentary bottle of champagne for the table.

For more information and to make reservations, visit facultyhouse.columbia.edu/commencement.



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PAINT THE CAMPUS RED | Students reveled in paint splatter during the Holi celebration, sponsored by the Hindu Students Organization, rescheduled for last weekend at Pupin Plaza.



CAMPUS ARTS ATTACK



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SNOO-OOP | The one and only Snoop Dogg showed up on the Bacchanal stage repping CU with a basketball jersey.



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BUST A MOVE | Rajkaran Sachdej, CC '11, and Heema Sharma, BC '13, shared a post-paint-throwing embrace (top), while fellow Holi participants broke out into uninhibited song and dance before hitting the showers after starting their Saturday, April 30 morning off by throwing over 1,500 pounds of chalky paint at each others. Those who took part—and the whole plaza on which the event took place—ended up tie-dyed from one end to the other.



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DAS BACCHANAL | CUID-carrying crowd members were clustered across the West Lawn and all the way back to Low Steps. Fans put their hands in the air for Das Racist's Ashok Kondabolu (left, middle picture) and Victor Vazquez (right, middle picture), who opened their set with "Who's That Brooown" mid-afternoon on Saturday, April 30.



NIRAALI PANDIRI FOR SPECTATOR

SHREWD MOVES | The King's Crown Shakespeare Troupe took the English dramatist's "Taming of the Shrew" on a tour of Columbia's campus with three performances over the weekend.