

INSIDE

News, page 3

Local entrepreneurs need financial boost

Council member Robert Jackson, who represents Morningside Heights, is teaming up with other city politicians to sponsor the Small Business Survival Act.



A&E, page 7

Varsity Show unlocks CU's gated talent

The 115th Varsity Show premiered this weekend to full audiences, but did it fulfill expectations? Maddy Kloss reviews this year's ensemble-driven performance.



A&E, page 7

Students turn up the music, not the heat

New York City is famous for its outdoor music festivals, many of which feature some of today's biggest stars as well as up-and-coming bands for little to no cost.

Opinion, page 4

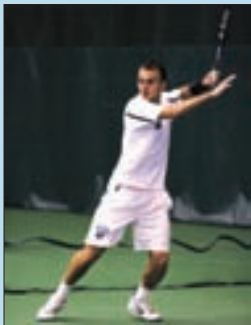
In Thy light shall we see light

Columnist Eric Hirsch concludes the semester with an earnest and perceptive reflection on the role of religion at Columbia.

Sports, page 9

Haig Schneiderman is the league's top rookie

Men's tennis freshman Haig Schneiderman was unanimously selected as the Ivy League Rookie of the Year, while senior Bogdan Borta made the all-Ivy first team for singles.



Sports, page 10

Men's tennis prepares for NCAA tournament

The men's tennis team will face No. 22 University of Miami in the first round of the NCAA tournament. The Lions will travel to Gainesville, Fla., on May 8.

ONLINE

ColumbiaSpectator.com
News around the clock

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



Angela Radulescu / Senior staff photographer

MO MONEY MO PROBLEMS | Local activists joined student protesters to rally against the use of stimulus funding for Columbia's campus expansion project in Manhattanville. The intimate group signed mock blank checks from the government to the University.

Activists protest stimulus funds for M'ville

BY MAGGIE ASTOR
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Protesters gathered on College Walk to rally against the possible allocation of federal stimulus funding to Columbia's Manhattanville expansion project on Saturday.

Members of a campus activist group, the Student Coalition on Expansion and Gentrification (SCEG), and a local organization, the Coalition to Preserve Community (CPC), staged the protest in light of statements by University President

Lee Bollinger and other Columbia officials, who have spoken about requests for stimulus funding but have not elaborated on the amount or governmental channels being pursued for money.

"It is the University that has touted over and over and over again that there would be no tax dollars involved in this project, but we knew that was not true," Nellie Bailey, a CPC member and president of the Harlem Tenants Council, said after the rally.

The protesters bemoaned their lack of input in and knowledge about the

details of Columbia's stimulus funding requests, casting such funding for the Manhattanville project as a "blank check" for the University. They called on administrators to be more transparent about their communications with the government, as attendees signed mock blank checks which will be delivered to the administration on Tuesday.

When asked about seeking a blank check, Bollinger said, "Well, I have no idea what that means."

SEE SCEG PROTEST, page 2

Shoplifters hit local stores, other crime rates fall

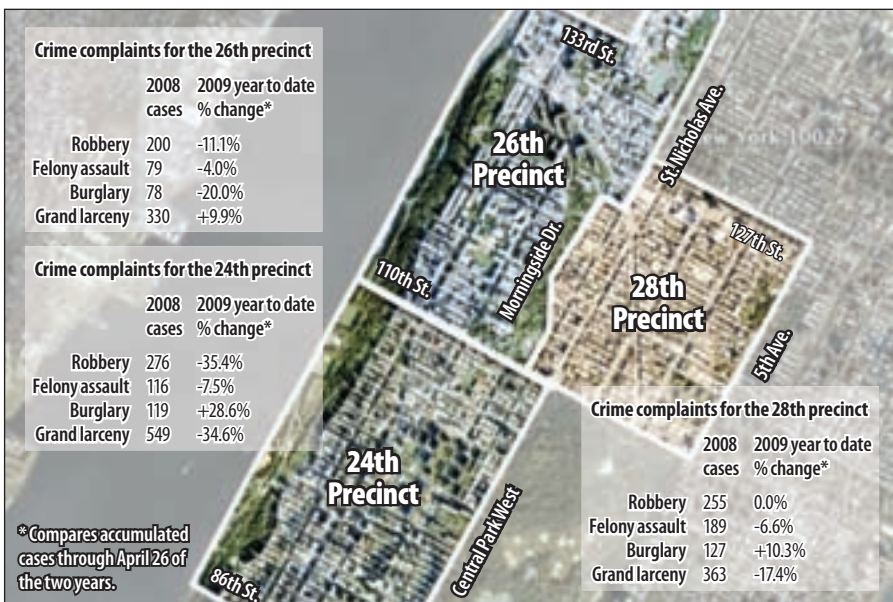
BY SAM LEVIN
Spectator Staff Writer

With a decrease in murders, robberies, and assaults, Morningside Heights can boast safer streets and fewer criminals—that is, except for one crime.

Shoplifting and larceny, locally and nationwide, have significantly increased with the economic decline, and many New Yorkers with otherwise spotless records are choosing to fill their empty pockets with stolen goods.

According to the CompStat report for the New York Police Department's 26th precinct—bound by the Hudson River and Henry Hudson Parkway—there has been a 9.9 percent increase in reported crimes of grand larceny from 2008 to 2009 to date.

SEE CRIME RATE, page 2



Source: NYPD / Image source: Google Earth / Graphic by Yipeng Huang

Commencement 2010 date changes due to Jewish holiday

BY KIM KIRSCHENBAUM
Spectator Staff Writer

Commencement 2010, a ceremony the University describes as one of "pomp and circumstance," would have been less celebratory for those who would have been unable to attend due to a religious holiday conflict. But a controversial and unexpected administrative decision was made last Thursday to change the date in order to avoid this problem.

In response to complaints about a conflict between next year's Commencement date and a major Jewish holiday, Shavuot, that celebrates the giving of the Torah, University President Lee Bollinger and the Board of Trustees approved a date change for Commencement. But the decision, which came after more than eight months of discussion, was made in spite of opposition from the University Senate, whose members argued that since the University is a secular institution, the academic calendar should not revolve around religious holidays. While one religious accommodation has been made, administrators are just learning that they need to address a similar conflict between Commencement and the Islamic holiday of Ramadan in 2018.

"When there are a substantial number of students who have a conflict of conscience ... we want to do everything we can to accommodate that," Bollinger said in an interview on Friday, when he first announced

the change. He noted that Columbia is a secular university, which usually accommodates religious groups with makeup exams and classes, but "this is one that you can't help people make up."

Referring to the 2018 conflict, Bollinger added that he assumes Columbia will stay true to precedent—the date for Commencement has been changed twice in the past for similar reasons—in order to accommodate all students, though he had heard of it for the first time on Friday.

The Education Committee, a body within the University Senate that reviews and sometimes recommends policies concerning the University's education system—including the academic calendar—was approached several times at the beginning of the 2008 academic year about the conflict with Shavuot. But after discussing the issue, the Committee unanimously voted—and confirmed that vote during a subsequent meeting—not to move the Commencement date.

"Even though the members of the committee are mindful of the difficulties this will cause to those who will be affected by this decision, ... Columbia University is a secular institution," the report stated, noting that in the past 20 years, the changing demographics of the student body have resulted in the observance of many religions.

These changing demographics point to another reason for the University Senate's

SEE 2010 COMMENCEMENT, page 2

Bollinger to name provost soon

Brinkley leaving after the end of academic year

BY ALEXA DAVIS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

University President Lee Bollinger said in an interview on Friday that he would announce the name of Columbia's next provost—or chief academic officer—over the next week.

The new candidate will take over after current provost and history professor Alan Brinkley steps down to take a year of leave before returning as a faculty member of the history department.

The appointment of a new provost—whose role includes responsibilities pertaining to the University budget, faculty hiring, tenure, diversity initiatives, the School at Columbia, and the Columbia University Press—is particularly noteworthy in light of the endowment decline and budgetary readjustments that the University has endured due to the financial crisis. It also takes on a heightened significance during a year of much administrative turnover, as the next year will see new deans at Columbia College and the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

"There will be many things that ... I'll want that person to get done, one of which will be looking at the budget model across the whole University," Bollinger said of the incoming provost's responsibilities. "I think it's probably a time in which to deal with University finances."

Bollinger also stated that the new provost will have to continue working on the University's Capital Campaign, in order to raise funds to compensate for the financial losses sustained recently. Bollinger added that he plans to release an update on the University's economic situation soon.

In addition to dealing with the repercussions of the economic crisis, the new provost will be responsible for a host of issues that have been developing within the University over time. One such issue is the University's long-term, large-scale expansion into Manhattanville, and the internal ramifications the new spaces will have.

SEE BRINKLEY, page 2



Courtesy of Columbia
ALAN BRINKLEY

RIVERSIDE CHURCH



Angela Radulescu / Senior staff photographer

Rev. Dr. Brad R. Braxton was installed as the new Senior Minister at Riverside Church on Sunday, despite a motion filed by a group of congregants with the Manhattan State Supreme Court that contested the Reverend's pay (exceeding \$600,000 by some estimates) and the opaque selection method through which he was chosen. Questions about Rev. Braxton's commitment to diversity and progressivism have also been raised.

The Riverside Church, whose congregants include many Columbia students and faculty members, as well as residents of Morningside Heights and Harlem, has been a center for diversity and social activism since the civil rights era, but has recently become more conservative.

Supreme Court Judge Lewis Stone adjourned the case to the end of May and asked both sides to reach a resolution in the interim.

In an interview with the *Spectator* last year, Rev. Braxton asserted his commitment to diversity and said he hopes to "bring serious, high-level conversation to Riverside Church."

—Pooja Reddy

WEATHER

Today
58 / 50



Tomorrow
55 / 50



INDEX

News
A&E

2, 3
7

Opinion
Sports

4, 5
9, 10

Classifieds
Contact Info

6
6

EVENTS — MAY 4

Coulter at Columbia

Conservative political commentator Ann Coulter will speak on campus to promote her new book, *Guilty: Liberal “Victims” and Their Assault on America*.

Altschul Auditorium, IAB, 8 p.m.

Hello, cruel world

Writer Kate Bornstein—known for her commentary on sex, gender, and alternatives to teen suicide—will discuss her new book with members of Columbia’s bondage and discipline, dominance and submission, sado-masochism group.

202 Altschul, 9 p.m.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Well, I have no idea what that means.”

—University President
Lee Bollinger

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

HOW TO REACH US

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

CORRECTIONS

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

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

SEAS budgets withstands endowment decrease

BY CLAIRE STERN
Spectator Staff Writer

As schools across Columbia cope with a decrease in endowment funds, a recent University statement said that the School of Engineering and Applied Science will be affected relatively minimally.

One financially motivated SEAS change will include an extension of planned projects over longer periods of time to save money.

“SEAS carefully reviews all its expenditures, including its administrative salaries, requires competitive bidding for projects, and actively works to maintain or reduce recurring costs for items such as office supplies,” Director of Media Relations Robert Hornsby said in the statement. “In addition, the School is apportioning its capital spending for necessary renovations so that upcoming projects will be contracted over a longer period of time,” he added.

In late January, when University President Lee Bollinger announced portfolio losses of 15 percent over the six-month period ending Dec. 31, 2008, he called for an eight percent decrease

in endowment payout across all budget units. Bollinger referred to “hard choices in the months ahead,” and Provost Alan Brinkley said in an interview that he hoped to save money without causing “irrevocable damage.”

Interim SEAS Dean Gerald Navratil noted that the school was less affected by the endowment cut than others, since “at SEAS we only depend on our endowment for 15 percent of our operations.”

Peter Valeiras, Engineering Student Council president and SEAS ’09, noted that other universities, such as Harvard, who are endowment-dependent, have suffered more than Columbia overall.

Administrators have said SEAS benefits from a diversified revenue portfolio, which decreases the school’s endowment dependence. A significant source of annual revenue for SEAS comes from research activity—which may even stand to benefit, due to the new stimulus programs and research funding made available through the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Defense.

As for next year’s SEAS budget, Navratil said the endowment drop will not have a significant effect on the school’s plans.

Unlike the College, SEAS anticipates no change in the student-faculty ratio in Engineering classes. “Any changes to

class size for SEAS students might occur in Core Curriculum courses, and those small changes should be negligible,” Hornsby wrote in the statement. He added that, also unlike the College which will enroll an additional 50 students in the class of 2013, SEAS will not see an increase in class size.

Preparing for the worst, SEAS has reserved additional funds to sustain the recent enhancements for student financial aid, and has also budgeted support for unexpected changes in family income levels and need.

“While it [SEAS] is not immune to the effects of the economic conditions in the world outside its walls, and while its resilience may be tested, there is every reason to believe that the School will continue its steady progress, both nationally and internationally,” Hornsby wrote. “Albeit at a slower pace than would occur in a better economy.”

Valeiras said that fundraising will help balance the losses. He added that the school remains ahead on its annual giving campaigns. Last year, the annual fund increased from 9,000 dollars per year to 1.4 million. This year, SEAS raised slightly more money.

SEAS also expects other annual revenue sources, including patent licensing fees, to be higher.

news@columbiaspectator.com

New provost ends long string of hires for Bollinger

BRINKLEY from front page

“The planning of Manhattanville will go into a new stage, and we will be creating a body of advisory groups, faculty, and students to help with the concrete planning of Manhattanville,” Bollinger said.

Aside from continued work on the expansion, Bollinger said he hopes the new provost will take initiative on other aspects of the University that could be improved. These aspects include advancing the Global Centers in various locations—in addition to the current offices that are open in Amman and Beijing, a launch in India and a rededication of Reid Hall in Paris are in the works—as well as changing the relationship between Columbia’s Morningside Heights and Medical Center campuses.

Bollinger also expressed relief at the imminent announcement, because it marks the end of a line of major administrative appointments that have been announced throughout the semester, including the

appointment of Michele Moody-Adams as Columbia College Dean and Feniosky Peña-Mora as the dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science.

“I think we’ll come to a point here where I will not have any more appointments to make,” Bollinger said, laughing. By next year, the deans of most of Columbia’s schools and other top administrators will have been appointed by Bollinger.

While the appointment of the new provost holds great significance for the future of Columbia, the announcement may not seem relevant to students in the short term, especially when it is often not clear to them what exactly the provost does.

For instance, Liana Tedesco, CC ’11, said she knew neither the name of the current provost nor what the title signified.

“The appointment of a new provost doesn’t really affect my everyday life,” Tedesco said. “But since it’s important to Columbia, I guess it’s indirectly important to me too.”

news@columbiaspectator.com

2018 Commencement conflicts with Ramadan

2010 COMMENCEMENT from front page

reservations about changing the date of Commencement—if the date were to be changed for Shavuot, it would also have to be changed in 2018, when Commencement coincides with Ramadan.

“It’s a slippery slope,” said University Senator Rajat Roy, SEAS ’10, who was recently impeached. “If you move it for Shavuot, then some other culture comes up with something, and then eventually you have a pretty bad snowball effect.”

To some Shavuot observers, the “slippery slope” argument was unsatisfactory. Hundreds would have been affected, whether they themselves would have been unable to attend or whether they would have had family members absent from the event. Some students began to call on the Education Committee for a change several months ago, and felt that their problem was initially disregarded.

When Columbia/Barnard Hillel became involved several weeks ago, in light of increasing complaints from students and their families, students said the administration began to consider their requests more seriously. There was close communication between Hillel Executive Director Simon Klarfeld, Rabbi David Almog, and the University administration. With mounting pressure on the University to change the date, Bollinger and the Board of Trustees signed off on the change last Thursday.

“I think on all sides there was active discussion, which is why I think in terms of the University timeline, there was a

pretty quick resolution,” Hillel President Sarah Brafman, BC ’10, said. “I think even the faculty senators who decided they didn’t want to change it for religious reasons, didn’t want to shut anyone out of discussion.”

University senators reiterated at a meeting last Friday, the day after the change was made, that they disagreed the change, but Bollinger and the Trustees had already made the decision to reschedule.

And while the University Senate’s perspective remains at odds with Bollinger’s and the Trustees’, another conflict remains unsettled. Commencement will coincide with the first night of Ramadan in 2018, a problem that Bollinger was unaware of until an interview on Friday morning. And as this issue is put on the table, students are hoping that administrators will make similar adjustments as they did for Shavuot.

“I think the bigger picture is that if the date cannot be changed, then there should be accommodations set up that would benefit the students,” Sharmin Ahmed, BC ’10, Student Government Association vice president of finance-elect and a member of the Muslim Students Association, said. “This is not to say that a push for a date change is not necessary. After all, commencement is supposed to be for the students who have worked hard for four years and are entitled to that one day.”

Joy Resmovits contributed reporting to this article.
news@columbiaspectator.com

Rally chides ‘blank check,’ sends some to Bollinger

SCEG PROTEST from front page

“Columbia shouldn’t be entitled to getting stimulus funding without a transparent process,” SCEG member Andrew Lyubarsky, CC ’09, said. “If Columbia were to get stimulus funding without anyone in the public knowing the content of their application, that would be a form of a blank check, no matter what amount of money they would be receiving.”

“This is a non-profit educational research institution and we do what we do because there is a public benefit,” Bollinger said, adding, “We have an assignment in this society, and it’s not to make a profit ... it’s just that’s not what we do. And so to be criticized for being selfish, it just doesn’t apply.”

SCEG also maintains that such funding would be inappropriate because of the use of eminent domain—the process by which the state can seize private property for the “public good,” a designation granted to Columbia’s campus development—and the possibility of residential and commercial displacement from the expansion.

“For this very wealthy university to have embarked on a project like this ... it should be financed exclusively with

its own money and not that of taxpayers,” Bailey said. “Thousands of tenants throughout the greater community of Harlem will be displaced, and we have to pay for our own displacement—that’s just a bit much.”

But Columbia officials maintain that the expansion will benefit the community economically, making the project consistent with the purpose of the stimulus package.

“At a moment when New Yorkers need new jobs, this is a project that fulfills the multiple goals of the nation’s economic agenda: creating immediate construction employment, investing in long-term jobs with good benefits, and supporting research and discoveries that are important to our City and State’s economic future,” University spokesperson Robert Hornsby wrote in an e-mail.

The event, which began at noon at the Sundial, was the latest in a series of efforts SCEG has led this year surrounding aspects of the expansion. In February, the group worked with Ramon Diaz—the owner of Floridita, a Cuban restaurant on Broadway and 125th Street—to organize a rally at Floridita in support of Diaz’s efforts to maintain the restaurant in its present location within Columbia’s 17-acre expansion zone.

In 2007, SCEG was one of the primary organizers of a student hunger strike, one of the demands of which was a significant modification to the Manhattanville plan.

“It’s an issue of feeling like the school that I’m a part of has the integrity that it claims to have,” Tom Reed, CC ’11 and a SCEG member, said. “We need to make sure that we don’t just talk about how we’re a community about truth and fairness and virtue, and then not really follow through. It’s important for us as students to watch over that and make other students aware, and try to be that oversight group.”

The protest was “a way to get a lot of people who wouldn’t otherwise necessarily get involved with the issue ... to show the administration that they care,” Margo Kulkarni, SEAS ’10 and a SCEG member, said. “It gives people something concrete that they can work on, which I think has been a theme in SCEG this year.”

Still, “It would have been good to have a better steady turnout,” she added, attributing the comparatively small turnout partly to the overcast weather. “A lot of people came but kind of passed through.”

news@columbiaspectator.com

Surge in shoplifting may result from economic downturn, rise in stress

CRIME RATE from front page

Meanwhile, the rate of every other crime within this precinct has decreased.

According to James Harper, community affairs officer of the 26th precinct, reports of grand larceny mostly reflect cases of stolen personal property left unattended. In his eight-and-a-half years at the precinct, Harper said the trends of shoplifting seem to be fairly constant.

“It is the same people committing the same crimes,” Harper said of shoplifting in Morningside Heights. He added that the NYPD consequences for shoplifters are “not enough to deter them from committing the crime again.”

Harper finds within the precinct, organizations nationwide and locally have reported noticeable increases in retail arrests and vendor charges, as well as a rise in those criminals requiring prevention programs.

According to Barbara Staib, director of Communications for the National Association for Shoplifting Prevention,

her organization has seen a 9-percent increase in referrals to date in 2009, following a 23-percent increase from 2007 to 2008.

She noted that current economic woes have likely encouraged first time offenders. “The people on the fence, if given the right circumstances or ability to rationalize their behavior will try their hand in shoplifting,” she said.

Breenzy Fernandez, program director of Stoplift—a New York shoplifting prevention organization within the Education and Assistance Corporation, echoed Staib’s observations. “People have lost their jobs and are under a lot of psychological distress,” Fernandez said. “People don’t have the means to purchase something, and this is their outlet, their answer.”

Along with these reported increases in shoplifting prevention referrals, local defense lawyers said that more petty larceny offenders are seeking representation.

“In the past you get more of a kid who’s just swiping something from the

store,” said Michael Berardino, a former prosecutor and now a New York criminal defense practitioner. “Now individuals do have financial pressures and stresses on them.”

Berardino said that struggling businesses were also pursuing charges much more in recent months, a factor he said has greatly contributed to increased demand for shoplifter representation at his firm. He added that the offenders seeking defense are younger, with many just out of school and now jobless.

Experts agreed that the new offenders include not only the poor, but also the frustrated middle class.

“People are looking to cut corners,” said Paul Jones, vice president of Asset Protection of the Retail Industry Leaders Association. “When people get mad and frustrated they tend to justify their actions.” Jones said that this “epidemic” includes a lot of economically stable people who are being driven toward greed. “This is reasonable people making dumb decisions,” he said.

Fernandez of Stoplift agreed, saying that the motives of new offenders referred to her program were not purely financial. “For some, it is more of a want than a need.”

Many local store owners in Morningside Heights agreed that no matter the cause or incentive, shoplifters are appearing in greater numbers.

“There has definitely been an increase,” Devon Jones, loss-prevention officer of American Apparel on 110th Street, said. “The spectrum has gotten wider. People with money come in here looking for a break any way they can get it.” He said that recently, many customers have bought several items, but have attempted to walk away with a few extra unpaid.

“We are the only clothing store around here. We are a target,” Jones said, adding that recently his “duties have really expanded.”

Peter Soter, owner of Morningside Bookshop on 114th Street, said that in response to increased shoplifters he has widened his aisles, added a big

mirror, and placed hardcover books in visible sight.

“I’ve caught a few more people recently,” Soter said, referring to a woman who attempted to leave with a pile of Penguin Books in her bag last week.

“Last month, there was really quite a wave of it,” said Fred Lazorcak, an employee at Liberty House, a hand-made clothing store on 113th Street. Lazorcak added that the store has recently had a lot of trouble with the same criminals re-entering their store, forcing them to ultimately ban entry to specific local offenders.

Jones from American Apparel noted that his store reports every single case to the police, but Soter and Lazorcak said they do not always involve the local precincts if it is not necessary.

Raja Singh, an employee at Famous Deli on 108th Street, said that despite a lot of attempted shoplifts, none under his watch were successful. “It happens every day twice a day. But we don’t ever have to go to the police.”

news@columbiaspectator.com

WANTED:
SENIORS TO PROFILE

Nominate outstanding seniors—from all four undergraduate schools—who you would like to see profiled in our commencement issue.

Please send the following to specnews@columbia.edu by Sunday at midnight: the senior’s name, school, and why he or she deserves to be written about.

City water budget drops, costs may rise

BY AARON KIERSH
Spectator Staff Writer

Like many other indicators of decreased consumption during the recession, water use has dropped in New York City over the past year.

To compensate for falling revenue, city officials have proposed charging more for water use. Specifically, citing a decline in usage as well as the need to protect purity standards and maintain facilities, the Water Board has suggested a 14 percent rate price increase over the next few years.

Unlike most public services, the city and state do not fund the water supply, leaving users to bear the costs. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), in conjunction with the Water Board, oversees the upkeep of filters and tunnels and enforces quality standards. This generally requires a per-family fee of between \$500 and \$1,000 per year.

But with many households struggling financially, some politicians are coming out against the rate increase.

“It’s going to be harder for many people,” said Sarah Morgridge, a spokesperson for City Council member Robert Jackson, who represents West Harlem. “Water is a necessity. If you’re a poor family in Washington Heights with 10 people sharing an apartment, you are paying the same rate, which means a greater proportion of income for them, as others.”

In addition, higher prices for such a basic item as water may have political implications in a municipal election year dominated by economic concerns. New York City Comptroller William Thompson, a Democrat who hopes to capitalize on frustration with the city’s budget crisis as he campaigns against Mayor Michael Bloomberg, testified before the Water Board in April and called for the Department of Environmental Protection to cut

its operating budget. Thompson also suggested that federal stimulus money be used to cover costs. The DEP did not return calls for comment.

But such concerns may not forestall the rate hike before the City Council votes on it next month.

“We have a fair system,” said Marc Lavorgna, a spokesperson for Mayor Bloomberg. “You are paying for what you get. But we have to make up revenue right now because consumption has dropped. We don’t have any desire to raise any rate but we need a good product.”

Lavorgna added that a deficit would force the Water Board to cut back on its projects, such as the construction of a third North-South tunnel that would enable the city to receive more water from upstate New York. The two other tunnels are widely seen as old and corroded.

But locals still object to a water rate increase, particularly as the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) prepares to raise fares, and numerous city agencies, including the MTA, scale back on services.

“The economy has made life difficult for everyone,” said Meltem, a Teachers College student who declined to provide her last name. “It is very difficult to find jobs, especially for international students. We really do not need this extra expense.”

Kryssy Wright, a Columbia employee who commutes from Brooklyn to her job in Lerner Hall, said she felt that city officials have made New York a much less affordable place to live, and noted the irony of raising water rates for people who have cut back on water use to save money.

“I just wonder how much money these agencies need to remain operational,” Wright said. “They raise rates because we are conserving, after they have told us to conserve. The consumer is always going to lose.”

news@columbiaspectator.com



File photo

BUSINESS BOOST | Robert Jackson, the City Council member from Morningside Heights, is working on legislation that seeks to provide financial support for local businesses. Yet some neighborhood entrepreneurs are skeptical about the bill’s effectiveness.

As rents rise, small businesses need a boost

BY MINJI REEM
Spectator Staff Writer

As the recession continues to take a toll on small businesses, the New York City Council is considering a measure to help them. Along with 18 co-sponsors, Council member Robert Jackson, who represents Morningside Heights, recently proposed the Small Business Survival Act to grant commercial tenants additional rights during the lease renewal process.

While reactions to the proposal have been largely positive, some small business owners were skeptical of the legislation’s motives and effectiveness. In the past, legislative emphasis has focused on rent control, whereas the newly proposed act aims to facilitate the process of lease renewal between landlords and commercial tenants.

A spokesperson for Jackson said the bill is still being revised and has not yet been introduced

to the council’s Small Business Committee, but Jackson expects it to move forward by September.

“Small businesses will bring a lot of money to the city,” said Wassim Malaeb, co-owner of Samad’s Gourmet, located on Broadway between 111th and 112th Streets. “So now they’re trying to help us, because they want to encourage people to come back and work instead of paying them unemployment fees. I support the proposal, but the money they grant to small businesses, they’ll end up getting double, unless they have tax relief for us and let us go again.”

For decades, the lease renewal process has been a primary reason behind small business failures. Jackson’s bill responds to how “the absence of legal protection for the interests of commercial tenants in the lease renewal process has unnecessarily accelerated the closing of small businesses and resulted in lost jobs, tax revenues and community

instability,” according to the text of the legislation.

More specifically, the Small Business Survival Act aims to give local entrepreneurs greater predictability of future costs, through a two-step procedure of mediation and arbitration for negotiating commercial lease renewals and rentals.

An arbitrator would be present as a third party in the lease renewal process and resolve any disputes between the landlord and the tenant over the lease or rent. The arbitrator would be chosen by the two parties, the American Arbitration Association, or any other recognized arbitration organization, and his or her decision on the rent price would be binding for both parties.

Local business owners had mixed reactions, and some were confused about the city’s positions on particular issues. For instance, liquor shop owners were told that a separate proposal had been made to allow liquor

to be sold in larger supermarkets, or to instigate storing fees on liquor shops for holding a certain volume of alcohol. The Small Business Survival Act appeared to contradict these previous proposals for small liquor shops.

“It’s funny how that they are hitting small business and yet they are also saying that they are protecting small businesses,” said Jorge Alvarado, an employee at Vino Fino, a liquor store on Amsterdam Avenue between 121st and 122nd streets. “I guess the money we would be saving on the lease, we would be giving up to the government anyway.”

But many businesses expressed relief that the City Council was working to protect employers as well as employees. “Small businesses bring the people together,” Malaeb said. “It brings everyone back to the small neighborhoods—it creates a safe haven for everyone.”

news@columbiaspectator.com

Summer at Columbia School of the Arts

More than 40 courses in Film, Visual Arts, Writing and Theatre Arts

Workshops, Undergraduate and Graduate Levels
Credit and Non-Credit Available

New Offerings Include:

- The Creative Writing Master Classes
13 Workshops Including *Writing Mean and Funny* and *The Fantastic and the Grotesque*
- Jean Guy Lecat in Residence at School of the Arts:
Master Workshop in Theatre Design
- The Bridge Project with Richard Foreman and Sophie Haviland
- Writing Film Criticism
- Screenwriting Bootcamp
- Topics in American Cinema: Horror
- and Multiple Workshops in Painting, Drawing, Printmaking and Photography

Register Now
arts.columbia.edu
www.ce.columbia.edu/summer

Despite tough market, condos thrive

BY KATHERINE MEDUSKI
Spectator Staff Writer

Amid a slew of struggling housing developments in New York City, the Kalahari, a luxury condo development on West 116th Street between Lenox and Fifth Avenues, is going green in more ways than one.

Despite the poor economy and housing market, all but 20 condo units of the Kalahari’s total 248 have been sold. Residents and management alike attributed this success to a strategic marketing plan, a progressive “green” design, and the community benefits the building offers.

The Kalahari’s developers, Full Spectrum Building & Development and L&M Equity Participants, constructed the property in accordance with the “silver” rating standards of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System, which was created by the U.S. Green Building Council Board. The Kalahari’s design follows the “indigenous motif of Sub-Saharan Africa and its people,” according to its Web site.

“We have a filtered air system so you don’t need to open your window,” Julia Lynch Siegel, project manager of sustainability for Full Spectrum, said. “This is especially important in this neighborhood because of the high asthma rate.”

The building also includes locally produced granite, bamboo flooring, Energy Star lighting and

appliances, rooftop solar panels, recycled glass tiles in the kitchens, water-saving fixtures in the showers, faucets, dishwashers, and three on-site hybrid Zipcars. “We want to be sustainable not only to the people that live there, but the people living around there, and continue to expand outward,” Lynch Siegel said.

In addition, the building provides mixed-income housing. Of its 248 condos, 120 are adjusted to cost 30 percent or less of a resident’s income if that resident makes between 90 and 150 percent of the area’s median income. The Kalahari is part of the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development’s Section 421a Program, which offers a property tax exemption for buildings that provide affordable housing.

The Kalahari is under a 25-year contract with the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, and unlike many fixed-rate apartment buildings in the area with expiring contracts, it is not at a risk of losing its affordable housing status.

“After we sell all of the units, we no longer make money off of them,” Lynch Siegel said, explaining the building’s participation in the program. “We got the land from the city at a much reduced price.”

The Halstead Management Company began working with the Kalahari in November in an aggressive marketing campaign, to which the building

can attribute much of its recent financial success.

“We’ve given a new face to its marketing,” Stephen Kliegerman, executive director of development marketing at Halstead, said. “A lot of the developers are holding some of their marketing reserves and more aggressive marketing efforts until the buildings are more complete, so buyers can touch and feel. Most buyers today aren’t looking to speculate.”

Most residents praised the unique development.

“This building is incredibly diverse,” Joanie Siegel, a resident since November, said. “It’s financially and ethnically diverse. Tenants are Jewish, non-Jewish, Latino, Asian, white, black, and part of interracial families. It’s a good reflection of the melting pot of New York City.”

“My condo is a bargain by New York prices,” Lewis J. Stadlin, a resident since July, said. “Everyone should have the opportunity to live in a place like this.”

“Any time there are incentives to make housing accommodations affordable, we support that,” noted W. Franc Perry, chair of Community Board 10.

Michael Buckley, director of Columbia’s Real Estate Development Program, said he hopes that the Kalahari can act as a paradigm for city development in the new “green” age.

“We want to see more of this happen and see more of this in New York City,” Buckley said.

news@columbiaspectator.com

CONGRATULATE YOUR GRADUATE IN THE SPECTATOR!

Are you looking for a special way to express your “Congratulations” to a graduate of the class of 2009? Commemorate your graduate or group of graduates by placing an ad in The *Columbia Daily Spectator’s* Commencement Issue! We will format and print your personalized message and optional photograph.

This year’s special issue will be published on graduation day, May 20th, 2009. Please submit your request by Tuesday, May 12th.

Your text and photo will be formatted by our production staff and incorporated into the layout of the issue, along with our year-in-review reporting and reflections by faculty and students.

Visit grads.columbiaspectator.com/ for more information.

To the Oxford comma

BY DARYA DEKER

I started writing this column in my head last April as I was walking through campus. It was raining hard and I was rainboot-less and living in Plimpton, so naturally, my feet were soaked by the time I reached the gates. As I trod carefully (so as to not eat shit), I was reminded of one of the first articles I ever edited for *Spec*. It was called “Hateful Things” and it enumerated annoying aspects about the University that beg a collective groan from the masses. The specific hateful thing that came to mind that night was about halfway down the writer’s list: “The entire campus is made of marble, so when it rains, students have an 80 percent chance of death.” And hey, look at that, it was a senior column too. Well, Chris Beam was on to something. There are tons of things wrong with this school—staff edits, Bwog comments, the Varsity Show, and I will be the first to tell you that—but having a mechanism through which and a group with which to bitch is perhaps the most effective way to deal with them and get out of here alive. But

SENIOR COLUMN

please note, this column isn’t about bitching. It’s about acknowledging that sometimes things here are difficult (when isn’t life sometimes?) and that my getting through those times, and these past four years, was due in large part to *Spec*. I joined the *tator* in the spring of my freshman year. I was attracted by the witty fliers, by the prospect of meeting people, and because it was between this and cheerleading—I didn’t partake in either in high school—and my roommate threatened to move out if I joined the latter. I guess a “thank you” is in order, Shana. After *Spec*, joining Copy just sort of happened naturally. I’ve heard a lot of analogies describing that glorious section—someone charmingly called it “the bastard child of *Spectator*” and another wise person likened it to “being a surgeon in the Civil War—usually all you can do is hack off the most gangrenous part and hope for the best.” While I agree with the statements from both of those Copygods, I think I’d have to say that it’s like Columbia: The only time it ever gets any recognition is when it fucks up (and/or doesn’t catch some inaccuracy about the Dalai Lama or something). And because Copy gets no love, I’d like even more so to note my appreciation for it, especially since it was through the section that I met some of my best friends. They were my roommates, my support system, and my family when my real family was so far away. And they’re probably the only people reading this right now. For them I am truly grateful.

Writing columns is hard. No wonder I joined Copy. So to you, Copybrethren: Thank you. It has been a pleasure working with you and an honor leading (e-mailing) you briefly on 132. You’ve given me more than you could ever imagine and, more importantly, you’ve had—and continue to have—an unquantifiable effect on the paper. Without you, *Spec* might as well be written in Jiwarli, because no one would be able to understand it. And while I’m doing the senior thing and imparting gratitude, I guess I should also pass on some things I’ve learned and advice to future *tator* tots. Here goes: So little of what you learn at this school comes from classes so don’t waste four years in the library, the best bagels in the area are at Absolute (107th and Broadway), the plural of “haiku” is “haiku,” walking through campus at six in the morning is an almost religious experience, it’s pronounced “Sker-mer-horn” (it’s Dutch), if someone sneezes, for god’s sake, you should say “bless you,” and no matter how much you planned, hoped, or expected, your college experience will never be perfect (similarly, no matter how long I pore over this column, it won’t be either). Nothing is. But let’s not dwell on that. We are young, generally devoid of responsibilities, and relatively healthy (I will not ask the last time you slept/ate a balanced meal), and we are in one of the greatest cities and at one of the finest institutions in the world. So for that, I’d like to toast to our favorite underestimated punctuation and athlete. Whichever

talented ACE is editing this, raise your beer (let’s be honest, you’re drinking a beer right now, aren’t you?) and toast with me: to the Oxford comma (and JB)! If production hurries up, why don’t you meet me at The Heights when you’re finished?

The author is a Barnard College senior majoring in anthropology. She was the deputy copy editor for the first semester of the 132nd Deputy Board and the copy editor for the second semester of the 132nd Managing Board.



ILLUSTRATION BY ERICA LEE

Coming to terms with Columbia

BY BRENDAN PRICE

I like Columbia. This school has been good to me, and I’ve had a good run. That wasn’t always the case: for much of my time here, I was quietly disappointed and more than a little bitter. I couldn’t place why, but a 1929 Frederick Woodbridge quote (and *Stand Columbia* epigraph) gets pretty near the mark: “I have seen many a comer to Columbia a little lost because he has not yet found anything to worship.” I’m not lost anymore. I don’t know that I’ve found anything to worship here, but I’ve found enough to admire, and I’ve certainly found my place. I came to campus with high hopes and absurd expectations. Orientation week tricked me into

SENIOR COLUMN

thinking that college was somehow about ineffable summer nights and unconstrained conversation and parties on the deck of the U.S.S. Intrepid, of all places. My romanticized image of university life was bound to run aground, and it did. The promised 4 a.m. philosophy conversations never quite materialized, at least not in the right way. I never made it onto the party circuit, partly because I didn’t know how and partly because I didn’t want to. I wasn’t miserable. I made good friends, I liked my classes, and I loved the independence of living on my own. But something was missing. The fact that I was attending a school as prestigious and as expensive as Columbia obligated me, in my naïve eyes, to tell anyone who asked that I was happy. I had trouble admitting to myself that I wasn’t. In my first year, I spent most Thursday and Friday nights in self-imposed exile from John Jay 7, a local locus of hardcore partying. I wandered around campus listening to Mahler, Dvorak, and Shostakovich at deserted hours. At the time, I welcomed this weekly chance to introspect, but it was a symptom of loneliness and discontent, to say nothing of teenage angst. Nonetheless, it was a critical piece of my college years, and I can’t wish it away. If I worship anything at Columbia, it’s the spots all over campus where I burnt my mid-

night oil—Van Am Quad, Delacorte Fountain, Le Penseur, and places filled with Latin inscriptions I took the time to memorize. “Horam expecta. Veniet.” Await the hour. It will come. Things were better sophomore year. I’d had a string of academic successes, and I was less of a wallflower. I was, however, still wedded to old notions about what Columbia ought to be. I blamed Columbia for losing touch with its past, its early history buried beneath Rockefeller Center, its modern history forgotten in the press of each new semester. I blamed Columbia for not having more midnight wanderers like me. I banded about quick-fix theories of social interaction, as though some alchemical trick would turn my grievances into gold. If only I could find the right courtyard or the right club or the right conversational tactic, everything would miraculously fall into place. By the end of junior year I had come into my own—partly because I had matured, partly because I had found my niche, and partly because I had reconciled myself to what Columbia could realistically offer me. I stumbled on a relatively coherent academic plan (think economics), and I started putting my midnight oil to public use (think *Spec*). I carried myself like an upperclassman, someone who knew he’d earned his right to be at this place. I

also discovered alcohol, bless it. Most of all, I found a critical mass of people wired sort of the way I’m wired. Those long-awaited philosophy conversations finally started happening, mishmashes of ethics and economics and biology and math. Everything since then has been good: just the academic grind and an easygoing way of life. What I’ve come to appreciate—worship is too strong a word—about Columbia is that it gives its students the space in which to reinvent themselves, on their own time scales and on their own terms. I suppose that’s true of colleges everywhere, and I don’t mean to make it sound like some kind of profound revelation. I’m not presumptuous enough to claim that I’ve had anything other than a typical—which is to say typically idiosyncratic—tenure at Columbia. But if you want to take anything from this column, take this: A lot can happen in four years. If you’re graduating with me, you already know that. If you’re not, you’ve still got time to figure things out. Await the hour. It will come.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in economics-political science and concentrating in mathematics. He was a member of the Editorial Board for the 131st Associate Board and the deputy editorial board editor for the 132nd Deputy Board.

Prohibiting smoking: the best policy?

BY BILLY FREELAND AND LEARNED FOOTE

On April 17, 2009, a representative from the Alice! Health Promotion Program sent an e-mail to the members of the Columbia community, informing them of a “proposal to prohibit smoking within the gated areas” on campus. This proposal was developed by a workgroup comprised of student and staff representatives. In order to respond to the proposal, all Columbia students were allowed to submit an online survey providing feedback, and four meetings were scheduled in order to solicit conversation between the administration and any members of the University community. During a CCSC meeting on April 26, 2009, Scott Wright, the vice president of Student Auxiliary and Business Services, clarified some of the intentions behind the survey. As far as we can tell, the workgroup has no specific power to enact this proposal, so no changes are imminent on our campus (you won’t return to campus in the fall to find that every ashtray has been junked). Nonetheless, CCSC found it necessary to draft a response to the workgroup’s recommendations. We appreciate the efforts of the workgroup to gain student opinion, but we recognize that not every student has the time or inclination to respond to a survey or attend a meeting during this busy time of year. If the administration wishes to seek student opinion, we encourage them to reach out to the student councils and to the Student Affairs Caucus of the University Senate. It is our job to protect students’ interests, and remain cognizant of any policy discussions that could impact student life.

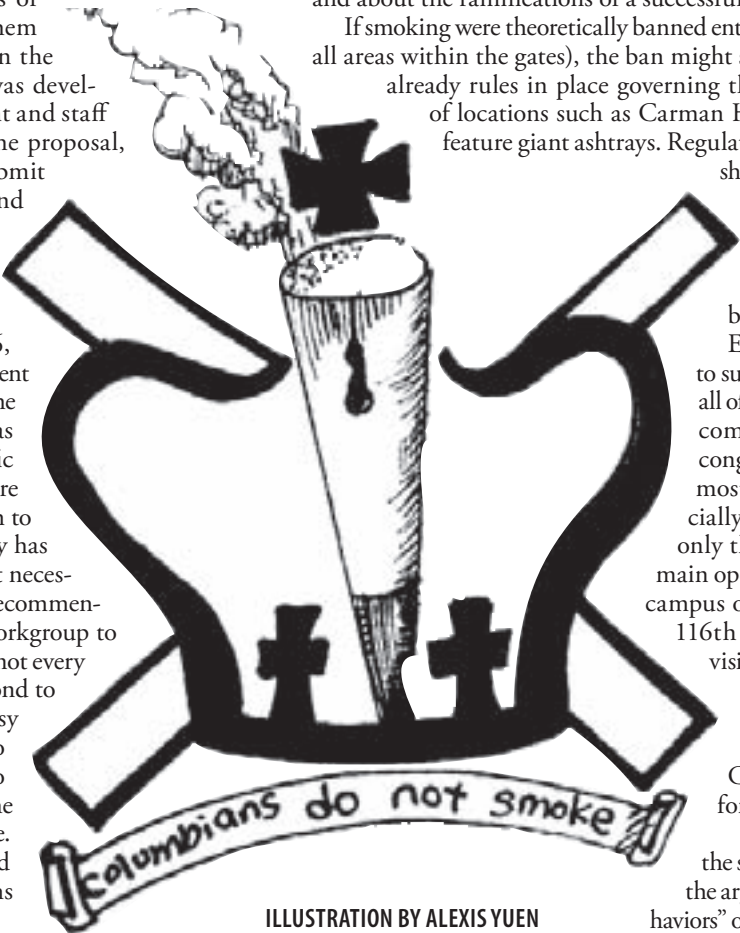


ILLUSTRATION BY ALEXIS YUEN

The CCSC voted nearly unanimously against the spirit of the proposal to ban smoking from campus. Our proposal rested on a series of concerns about the efficacy of such a ban in actually decreasing smoking on campus, and about the ramifications of a successful ban on campus life. If smoking were theoretically banned entirely from campus (defined as all areas within the gates), the ban might simply be ignored. There are already rules in place governing the area immediately outside of locations such as Carman Hall, yet these locations also feature giant ashtrays. Regulations that are already in place should be enforced before a more restrictive set of rules comes into place. The workgroup did not clarify how students or guests who violated the ban might be punished. Even if the administration were to successfully enforce such a ban, all of the members of the Columbia community who smoke would congregate outside the gates. The most convenient locations, especially in the evening hours when only the main gates of campus remain open, would be the entrances to campus on 116th and Broadway and 116th and Amsterdam. As most visitors to campus enter through these gates, this ban would provide an especially unappetizing first glimpse of Columbia University, especially for prospective students. In their rationale for change, the smoking workgroup advanced the argument that the “healthier behaviors” of non-smoking would produce

“workplace benefits,” especially insofar as staff members would use their time more effectively were they not taking smoking breaks. We find this argument unconvincing, partly because anyone who wishes to smoke will be forced to spend time looking for a location where he or she is permitted to do so. Furthermore, we resist the idea that staff members or students should be coerced into healthier modes of behavior. Of course we appreciate all the efforts made by Health Services on behalf of all members of the Columbia community. Second-hand smoke also represents an important concern that should be addressed by Alice!, and no student should have his or her health compromised by second-hand smoking. The policies implemented at buildings such as Lewisohn, which have encouraged smokers to move away from the entrance, should be extended to the areas outside of Butler Library, Carman Hall, etc., so that non-smokers are not needlessly exposed to second-hand smoke. Additionally, the smoking cessation programs are a valuable resource that should be fully advertised for any student who wishes to take advantage of them. However, there are students who do not smoke on a regular basis, but who may yet enjoy the occasional round of hookah on the steps of Low Library. The administration has already taken a number of steps to limit student participation in traditional collegiate activities. If students remain at a distance from others while they smoke, they should certainly be allowed to make decisions for themselves regarding tobacco. CCSC did overwhelmingly vote against the spirit of proposal to ban smoking from campus. We acknowledge, however, that there are divergent opinions, and CCSC hopes to represent the broad range of views on our campus. We encourage students to weigh in on decisions such as these, both through individual surveys released by the administration and by reaching out to the CCSC, so that we may actively work to express student opinion.

Billy Freeland is a Columbia College senior majoring in political science. He is a University Senator. Learned Foote is a Columbia College sophomore. He is president of the Columbia College class of 2011. “We” in this op-ed refers to the authors, not CCSC. The opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of CCSC.

Poodles, power-washing, and St. John the Divine: lessons from Spec

SEBBA from page 4

Columbia. I’ve found that community on South Lawn in the spring, on the steps during Obama’s inauguration, in the audience at Orchestis performances, in Butler before finals, at basketball games, and at Deluxe on Sunday mornings. And I’ve also found it in the *Spectator* office, at 4 a.m., when misplaced commas or misspelled words are suddenly hilarious. *Spectator* is not unique in its ability to shape and to dominate someone’s Columbia experience—most student groups at Columbia have the same effect. Friends of mine who devoted their time to the Varsity Show, the dance team, community service, or their academic coursework have been shaped

by those activities in equally important ways. I’ve learned that the people who most enjoyed their four years here are generally also the ones who got the least sleep—whatever they did, they gave it everything they had. I could have chosen to be a better student. Instead, I attended a *Spectator* information session on a whim during Orientation. *Spectator* was my Columbia experience, and, as I’ve learned, it was a great way to spend four years.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in history. She was an associate copy editor on the 130th Associate Board, the deputy A&E editor on the 131st Deputy Board, and the managing editor of the 132nd Managing Board.

Peace out, homies

FAURE from page 4

I’m still not quite clear why this seems to matter, but it matters. As the world changes, so too must the industry and the aesthetic—this is obvious, and no amount of hand-wringing will make up for the fact that the journalism industry was bloated, complacent, and in need of a neat kick in the ass. But this does not pose a great threat to the idiosyncratic charm of the *Spectator*. As long as there are students who want to take part, *Spec* will keep on rolling in some form. That was always the point. I probably should be telling you something awesome that suggests that I’m really awesome and that Columbia is awesome and that *Spec* is really awesome, as is walking home just before dawn after putting an awesome issue to bed.

And it is, definitely. It’s naked and raw at its best, frustrating and tragically pointless at its worst. The camaraderie and masochism toward a common cause are a good way to approach life and struggle. But it is unfair off to me to summarily tell you these things, and since I have transgressed this far, I must at least resist the temptation of a wholesome conclusion. The fact is that the happiest hearts carry the longest shadows, and I don’t care to sum up the harrowing and yet rather typical narrative of my undergraduate career. As can sometimes happen this time of year, it’s nice out and my friends just called to meet up on the steps. Peace out, homies. The author is a Columbia College senior concentrating in philosophy. He was a deputy news editor on the 130th and 131st Deputy Boards and was the editor in chief of the 132nd Managing Board.

V&T

PIZZERIA & RESTAURANT

Italian Food at Its Best

FULL MENU • PRIVATE PARTY ROOM

WE DELIVER • OPEN 7 DAYS

SIDEWALK DINING

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

1024 Amsterdam (betw. 110-111 Sts.)

663-1708 • 666-8051

Imagine a World without

AIDS

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

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

HAPPY HOUR SPECIALS • 4:00 PM-7:00 PM

\$3 beer & wine • \$6 padthai, red curry, basil and fried rice

MONDAY & TUESDAY—COLUMBIA NIGHT: \$3 beer & wine ALL NIGHT!

LUNCH SPECIAL—\$8 Prix Fixe

suratha

THAI URBAN KITCHEN

2656 Broadway (100-101st) • 212.665.8888

For more info, visit our website: www.surathaikitchen.com

EDEN

SALON & SPA

Full Service Salons for Men & Women

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

New Offering: FACIAL THREADING
OPEN SEVEN DAYS

212.864.3720

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

Solutions to Previous Issue's Puzzle

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

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

APARTMENTS
APTS, SUBLETS & ROOMMATES.
All NY and US cities. Browse and post listings FREE. Visit www.sublet.com or call 1 (877) 367-7368.
NYC APTS—Buying, selling or renting a NYC Apt? Work with a CU Alum (CC 94, MIA 99). www.joshnathanson.com. (212) 875-2970.
CENTRAL PARK WEST/102 ST Direct Central Pk views. 1 BR, 1 bath. Pre-war condo, 24-hr doorman, live-on-premises superintendent. Elevators, A/C, new kitch, new bath, D/W, high ceilings. Washer/dryer on premises. Bus stop in front of bldg, A & C subways at 103 St station. \$2300/mo, \$4600 security deposit. Philip (212) 267-7900. (212) 267-7900.
SIX CLASSICALLY BUILT condominiums. 3 blocks from Central Park, 1.5 from Morningside Pk. 2, 3 & 4 BRs, light and outdoor space from \$699,000 to \$1,799,000. (212) 595-4549. Visit: www.west113.com

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

FOR SALE
TOYOTA YARIS HATCHBACK, 2007 Absolute Red. Outstanding condition. 21,200 K miles. Manual transmission. Over 40 mpg. Ask \$8500. Call (212) 662-5169.

Code \$01 gets 20% off

Learn Chinese in China

Summer & Winter Camps
small class size
varied options
home stays
travel

Professional & Experienced Teachers
Mandarin & Cantonese Available
Custom Private and Group Classes

www.emwchinese.com
questions@emwchinese.com
+86 13927440414

www.cubic21.com

Analyses of Time & Culture

Contact Information

The Columbia Daily Spectator, the nation's second-oldest college daily, is an independent, student-run newspaper published by the Spectator Publishing Company, Inc. for the Columbia University community.
The Managing Board of the Columbia Daily Spectator has sole authority for the content of the newspaper. All inquiries or complaints concerning that content should be directed to the Managing Board at the address below.
The Columbia Daily Spectator welcomes opinion submissions and letters to the editor from readers. Submissions and letters must include the author's name, telephone number, and Columbia affiliation; if any. Readers may submit submissions and letters electronically, by e-mailing spectator@columbia.edu, or by sending hard copies to 2875 Broadway New York, NY 10025.
Opinion submissions may not be less than 600 words and may not exceed 800 words; letters may not exceed 300 words and may not be signed by more than four persons. All submissions and letters may be edited for length and content.
Opinion submissions do not reflect the views of the Editorial Board.
The Columbia Daily Spectator is published Monday through Friday during the academic year, except during examination and vacation periods.
Acceptance of an advertisement does not imply approval of policies of the advertiser. All rights reserved.
Spectator is free on campus. Limit one copy per reader please.
Office & Mailing Address:
2875 Broadway Third Floor
New York, NY 10025
Advertising Director:
Dan Smulyan (212) 854-9552
Office Manager/Classified Advertising:
Ellen Lannon (212) 854-9550
Controller:
Thomas Carlyle (212) 854-9550
Publisher: (212) 854-9545
News: (212) 854-9555
Editor-in-Chief: (212) 854-9546
Editorial/A&E: (212) 854-9546
Sports: (212) 854-9546
Fax: (212) 854-9553
E-mail: info@columbiaspectator.com
©2009 Spectator Publishing Company, Inc. Spectator is published by the Spectator Publishing Company, Inc.
Julia Feldberg, President
Melissa Repke, Vice President
Elizabeth Simms, Treasurer

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

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

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

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

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

HOUSEKEEPING COTTAGE in Maine. Lakefront, private dock, 2 kayaks. 2 BRs, barbecue. Near Portland, Freeport, golf. \$900/wk. onraymondpond@gmail.com

SUMMER JOBS

...to protect our civil liberties. \$1400-2200 per month.

Work with Grassroots Campaigns, Inc. on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union to restore our rights, stop NSA spying on US citizens, and put an end to illegal torture and detention. FT/PT/career. Call Sam (212) 219-1502.

You can sell just about anything with a Spec Classified 854-9550

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

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

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

CLEANING
Yorkshire Cleaning Services. Cleans apartments and rooms. We provide all supplies. Prompt, reliable—and very inexpensive! Call (646) 241-1633.

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

PHD GRADUATION ROBE WANTED Wanted to purchase: Columbia University doctoral robe. Hood and tam desirable if available. (212) 316-4415.

www.columbiaspectator.com

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Entrée

5 Beatnik's "understood"

9 "I goofed"

14 Jacob's biblical twin

15 The Beatles' "Love ..."

16 Italian violin maker

17 Excellent performance

19 Big name in precision blades

20 Dangerous household gas

21 Perp's excuse

23 Author Kersey

24 Writer fisherman's tool

26 Out of kilter

28 Old map letters

29 Sci. class where many an "E=mc²" is heard

33 Germany's von Bismarck

35 Payment to an ex

36 Light bulb unit

37 "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" playwright Edward

40 Gardner of film

41 Skewered meal

42 Honey

43 Register at the hotel

45 Spanish sunspell

46 Bill for what you drank

47 Concorde, e.g.

50 Academy trainee

52 Musical ineptitude

54 The Big Apple, initially

55 Eurasian range

59 Flourless cake

60 Conger catcher

62 Satan

64 Handles roughly

65 Showed up

66 Old Bologna bucks

67 Round trip?

68 Revue component

69 Went under

DOWN

1 Rubble

2 Newton and Stern

3 Smoothing tool

4 Science fiction awards

5 Babysitter's handful

6 ...vu

7 "American ..."

8 Desert largely in Mongolia

9 "A stitch in time ..."

10 Vocalist Sumac

11 Betray by bad-mouthing

12 Vouch for

13 Singer Celine

18 Lacking what it takes

22 Eater of purled peas

25 Nintendo game system

27 Dubuque native

30 Nebraska city

31 Tryst participant

32 Put on ...

34 Toul's hangout, briefly

35 Eagle's nest

37 Say further

38 2012 is the next one

39 Angels or Dodgers

41 Be a nuisance at the card game

43 "Ten-four" speaker

44 "Krazy" comics

47 Belgrade's country

48 Ringed planet

49 Host who expects you to question his answer?

51 Explode

53 Carols

54 Verne captain

56 First grade basics

57 Faucet problem

58 18-wheeler

61 Connecticut hy

63 Allow

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

G I A N T S T A R D O G G Y
I N C O N T A C T S N O R E
B E H I N D T H E S C E N E S
B R O S E R O S H E A
S T O M P R I P S O T T O
C L A S S A S P O D E
M A D A M T R E E P A D
E A R L Y A D M I S S I O N S
O E B A S E A T A S T E
G L I N T A S T H M A
E S T O A R C O E W O R K S
T R O M P A R P M O L
O R A N G E F R E E S T A T E
N O T A T H O R S E S H O E
O M E N S A L O T T O A S K
xwordeditor@aol.com 05/04/09

By Gila Chelish
©2009 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

05/04/09

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BOOKS



Embry Owen for *Spectator*
SOUTH OF THE BORDER | Liza Monroy explores teenage drama in her book *Mexican High*.

MFA student revisits high school in first novel

BY OLIVIA SHIH
Columbia Daily Spectator

“I definitely didn’t set out to write a novel,” said Liza Monroy, a current nonfiction MFA student in Columbia’s creative writing program.

Monroy looks young enough to be an undergraduate, yet *Mexican High*, which she wrote five years ago, was published by Spiegel & Grau last summer, and it will be released in paperback on June 9.

Mexican High is about an American high school girl who is uprooted from her life as a cheerleader in Washington, D.C. and thrown into chaotic Mexico City for her senior year. Although Milagro (Mila) Marquez is placed firmly behind the gates of a maximum security international high school and told to stay put, she immediately begins to explore her new environment and takes up with a large cast of sometimes-questionable characters. The book, brimming with drugs and high school drama, chronicles a constant struggle with identity. “I just love novels and teenage protagonists,” Monroy said.

Like Mila, Monroy also spent her high school years in an international school in Mexico City—“but that’s where anything autobiographical ends,” she added. Autobiographical or not, however, Monroy never intended on writing a novel. She had originally attempted to write a non-fiction piece about her experience in Mexico. It was only after she concluded that her life “didn’t really have a cohesive plot” that she decided to unleash her imagination.

But Monroy’s novel takes on a little more than it can handle. In the span of 334 pages, *Mexican High* tackles mother-daughter relationships, love, rape, and an environment of corrupted politicians and affluent high school kids skilled in the arts of bribing guards and police. At times, the fast-paced plot overwhelms the novel, and Mila is the only thread that attempts to hold everything together.

To Monroy’s credit, Mila reads as a true-to-life teenager who is often prey to her own uncontrollable sense of curiosity. Mila’s character embodies transitions and liminal spaces—not only is she half-Mexican and half-American, but she has also moved more than six times throughout her years in school. Monroy explained that she wanted to reach an audience of people who grew up crossing borders, and to address “the idea of always having to go from one place to the next and never really feeling sure of where their roots or where their home was.”

One of the most memorable scenes in the novel is Mila and her mother’s encounter with an armed man at a country club pool. The man, holding a long black machine gun, literally commands Mila and her mother to strip so that he can rape them, and the two women barely escape. When Mila and her mother return the next day to ask if anyone had been arrested, Monroy writes: “The woman at the front desk just looked at my [Mila’s] mother up and down blankly. ‘Señora, I have no idea what you are talking about,’ she said, as if nothing had even happened.”

Despite having published a fictional novel, Monroy ultimately decided to join the small group of non-fiction writers in Columbia’s MFA creative writing program. “It was interesting to have a book before in a different genre, ... and coming here has deepened my experience of literature and my understanding of the craft of writing,” she said.

In “The Unnameable,” one of her MFA classes, Monroy has been reading “books that defy the notion of plot and character building, and any conventions that have to do with story-telling. ... It’s about decentering your center and not just reinventing the idea of a narrator in your story.”

Just as Mila Marquez embraces her fluid identity as a student in Mexico City, so Monroy embraces her fluid identity as a writer at Columbia. She admits that she is interested in transcending the barriers between fiction and non-fiction, and literature and philosophy, but says she still has much to learn about writing. This, if anything, she said, is why she applied to Columbia’s MFA program. “My one mission was to become a better writer.”

THEATER

Minor characters shine through V115’s *Gates*

BY MADDY KLOSS
Spectator Staff Writer

In the 115th Annual Varsity Show, titled *The Gates of Wrath*, the minor characters didn’t just steal the show—they were the show.

This year, the creative team decided to rename the traditional “cast” and “chorus” as “principals” and “ensemble.” It was a smart move—the title of “chorus” doesn’t do justice to the talent of the students who landed supporting roles.

This year’s Varsity Show featured intertwining love stories involving a motley cast of characters: a homework-laden SEAS student, a failed investment banker, a first-year wanting nothing more than to go to NYU, and a GS student who no one seems to acknowledge is only 21 years old. Their stories were set against the backdrop of Columbia College Dean Austin Quigley’s master plan to trap the entire student body inside the University gates in order to reign over them as king.

Yet while the aforementioned characters were entertaining enough, they were not able to carry the show alone. The lead actors were at worst, passable and at best, magnetic (especially Giselle Gastell, CC ’09, as the SEAS first-year with Broadway dreams), but the biggest laughs often went to the actors without solo numbers and romantic plot lines.

One standout performer was Yonatan Gebeyehu, CC ’11, whose no-holds-barred comedic style inspired many rounds of applause from the audience. His interpretations of the notorious Hallelujah Man, University President Lee Bollinger, party enthusiast Stephan Vincenzo, CC ’12, and a first-year screaming about the inconvenience of his meal plan were all spot-on.

Other juicy ensemble bits included an emo creative writing major brought to life by John Goodwin, CC ’12, and a Bwog commenter with a bad sense of humor played by Connor Spahn, CC ’12.

The four female ensemble members (Morgan Fletcher, CC ’12, Nicole Lopez, CC ’12, Jill Schackner, BC ’11, and Emily Wallen, BC ’11) proved the strength of their Broadway belts with not-frequent-enough solos. If it hadn’t been for the unreliable sound system that rendered many of their lines unintelligible, their collective vocal skills could have outshined that of any principal actor.

Sound glitches notwithstanding, however, the technical aspects of the show were quite successful. The set



was impressive, and at times played a central role in the action. At the end of the show, the cast opened the mechanized campus gate with a giant VingCard key—truly a stroke of creative genius.

But the writing and music were not as inspired as the set design. Certain elements, like the requisite stereotyping of the University’s local “rival” (Boy: “I’m transferring to NYU.” Girl: “You’re gay?!”) and the ever-popular commentary on Cornell’s isolated location, were predictable, but still managed to yield expected laughs. In addition, Gabrielle—Gastell’s brainy science student who has a secret passion for singing—seemed to be mysteriously drawn right out of *High School Musical*.

The most creative element of the plot was the maniacal portrayal of Quigley by principal Patrick Blute, CC ’12. Blute turned Quigley from a well-mannered Brit into a power-hungry, CU Assassins-loving beast perched on a comically large throne. Quigley himself was in the audience at Saturday night’s sold-out performance,

and said of his doppelgänger, “I think I’ll let other people judge its accuracy, but I find it very funny—anything but offensive.”

V115’s three-hours-plus running time, however, sent some audience members darting out the door after the first act. The length of the show might not have been a problem had every moment been captivating, but some scenes lagged and there were songs that seemed to drag on for no reason.

An anthem in the vein of last year’s power-ballad “Strong, Beautiful” might have given V115 the necessary lift, but alas, the audience was left instead with the bizarre love song “Please, Don’t Go,” as well as more than one superfluous tap dance break.

V115 faced the daunting challenge of following last year’s much-lauded production. And though the show may not have exceeded the high expectations established by V114, it boasted a universally talented cast and even a few singularly memorable characters who just might keep “Hallelujah!” running through our minds until this time next year.



Ajit C. Pillai / Senior staff photographer

A DEAN’S DEMISE | In its usual fashion, the 115th Annual Varsity Show poked fun at many campus figures including Columbia College Dean Austin Quigley. Patrick Blute, CC ’12, portrayed the outgoing dean as a megalomaniacal villain looking to close the main campus gates and build a castle, complete with an alligator-filled moat in which students would take the swim test.

MUSIC



David Xu for *Spectator*
LIVIN’ IS EASY | Famous music festivals like Central Park SummerStage and Celebrate Brooklyn! draw major crowds away from the bustling city and into the sun.

NY summer music festivals that won’t break the bank

BY REBECCA PATTIZ
Spectator Staff Writer

New York City is, in some ways, a pretty unpleasant place to be over the summer. The streets get so hot you can feel the heat through your shoes, the humidity makes your hair look as if you’ve been electrocuted, and an influx of European tourists crowd the streets and create endless lines in front of the Metrocard machines. But whenever summer in the city has you hating on New York, an abundance of free outdoor concerts can make you fall back in love again.

Central Park SummerStage is the most famous summer venue—and with good reason. For 20 years, this summer arts festival has been showcasing wide array of live performances, from dance shows to plays to concerts. And with fantastic musical acts performing for free outside in the park, it makes you wonder why you would ever pay to stand inside a stuffy club to hear music during the summer months.

This year’s festival kick-off concert with TV on the Radio and Dirty Projectors on June 5 is the only that requires tickets—the money from this show is meant to fund the rest of the season—and is unfortunately already sold out.

But if you’re willing to brave the sometimes shock-inducing lines and unpredictable weather, there are many more wonderful acts to be seen—if you can get in. Last summer’s highly anticipated M.I.A. concert was so created so much hype that thousands of people had to be turned away. Assuming you can make it through the gates, you can catch Explosions in the Sky, Matisyahu, Q-Tip, and M. Ward, among others, in the open air and free of charge.

Though SummerStage is the most famous of the summer music festivals, Prospect Park’s Celebrate Brooklyn! is the oldest. Maybe Frederick Law Olmsted, who designed both Prospect and Central parks way back when, had music in mind when

SEE SUMMER MUSIC, page 8

FOOD & DRINK

Brain food to fuel CU students through finals

BY LAURA TAYLOR
Columbia Daily Spectator

Ever wondered why your attention span is waning even after all that coffee you drank?

For most of us, reading week is crucial to our semester’s success: Either we’re playing comeback kid to boost our grades, or striving to maintain the grades we’ve worked so hard for since January. For sources of energy that won’t put your body through the ringer, here are some important nutrition tips to give you strength and energy for studying and help you ace your finals and papers.

To start off: Make sure to eat enough. It’s easy to put eating on the back burner while studying, but this attitude can end up doing more harm than good. When a body needs sustenance, it focuses on assuaging that hunger. When people consume fewer calories than they use for an extended period of time, they will lack the fuel needed to perform energy-intensive tasks like studying, writing papers, or working out.

It is also a good idea to consume a consistent stream of complex carbohydrates like rice, cereals, breads, and pasta—these are the body’s primary sources of energy, and they supply minerals and fiber to help you stay healthy and alert. Choose whole grains instead of enriched white carbs whenever possible, because whole grain foods are less processed and contain more nutrients.

Fruits and vegetables are also important because they contain crucial minerals and vitamins that help the body repair itself and ward off diseases. Fruits are a natural sugar source that can give you an extra burst of energy. Ferris Booth Commons in Lerner Hall offers freshly cut fruit and fruit smoothies made with Odwalla juice, for an alternative (but still healthy) energy source.

The amount of nutrients in two bananas can provide enough energy to study hard (or take a stress-releasing run) for about 90 minutes. Spinach is a great super food, because it’s high in calcium, potassium, vitamin A, and magnesium. Protein-rich foods like almonds and other nuts are great for late-night studying, because they will fill you up and last longer than most vending machine fare. A trail mix with almonds, raisins, chocolates, and other nuts is a good snack as well—just make sure it’s low in sodium to reduce the likelihood of increased blood pressure.

If, like many students, you’re staying up late and need another source of energy besides food or sleep, drink coffee instead of energy drinks. Research shows that coffee may actually be much better for your body because it is derived from plants and relies on natural caffeine. Energy drinks, on the other hand, rely on artificial sugars and synthetic sources of caffeine to unnaturally jolt the body into action.

There are, of course, certain foods to steer clear of entirely during this high-stress period. Any food with trans or saturated fat, ingredients that include the words polydextrose or high fructose corn syrup, and foods with unhydrogenated oils will harm, rather than help, your productivity. Too much trans or saturated fat raises blood cholesterol levels and increases the risk of heart disease, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. High fructose corn syrup and polydextrose are synthetic sugars that take longer and require more energy for a body to break down than natural sugars, and are often stored on the body as fat. Synthetic sugars also cause extreme withdrawal, without the added benefit of sustained sugar high to get you through your studying.

And above all, remember that while grades are important, so is your health.

Summer festivals bring music to the outdoors

SUMMER MUSIC from page 7

he made these spaces so ideal for al fresco jamming, Prospect Park’s festival, like Central Park’s, features a blend of dance, theater, spoken word, film, and music, all under the park’s acoustic arc bandshell.

The story of Celebrate Brooklyn! is very much the story of Brooklyn’s renaissance. Started in 1979, the festival was created to draw people to Brooklyn and to make the borough a cultural institution. With the subsequent popularity of the festival’s programming came money to refurbish the beautiful but neglected Prospect Park.

Now that Brooklyn has reached a peak of cultural relevancy, Celebrate Brooklyn’s music lineup is looking appropriately exciting. On June 8, David Byrne will open the festival, and the rest of the summer lineup includes everything from jazz to bluegrass to klezmer. There is a suggested donation of \$3—less than the price

of a latte—but if you really can’t pay, you won’t be turned away.

Further proving Brooklyn’s hold on the arts, a brand new music venue will premiere this summer in Williamsburg. The famed and fabulous McCarren Park Pool parties, some of the city’s most popular outdoor concerts, have been moved to a new space on the Williamsburg waterfront, since, strangely, the pool will now actually be used for swimming.

The Open Space Alliance for North Brooklyn, which organized last year’s concerts, has not announced the full list of performers for this summer’s series, but if last year’s shows are any indication, the bar is pretty high. Everyone from Gogol Bordello to Wilco made it to the pool last summer, and this year the alliance is hoping to add classical and opera concerts to the mix. The only confirmed act so far is a Simian Mobile Disco DJ set on August 9th.

And for those times when you need some serious Woody Allen-esque New York romanticism, there is

no better remedy than the outdoor concerts at South Street Seaport.

This year’s schedule is not yet up on the Seaport’s Web site, but blogs have been buzzing with word that bands such as Black Moth Super Rainbow and The Pains of Being Pure at Heart have been confirmed.

Sure, the place is totally kitschy, filled with stores like Bath and Body Works in “ye olde” buildings, but when your favorite band is playing, most of the audience is stoned, and the masts of the port’s historic ships are glowing in the stage lights, you realize why there are so many songs written about this city.

For all the frustrations the urban heat can bring, there’s a reason all those families in ’50s movies flee the city in the summer. There is something so magical about a bunch of urbane New Yorkers gathered outside to listen to music—it can make anyone forget, for just a few hours, that there is no air conditioning.

M. golf prepares for NCAA tournament

After winning the Ivy League Championship by a single stroke over Penn on April 26, the men’s golf team will open this year’s NCAA Championships by hosting the 2009 NCAA East Regionals. The Lions, who qualified for the tournament for the second year in a row with a conference victory, will be looking to build off an exciting win at the Ivy League Championships in Atlantic City, N.J., which featured a late come-from-behind surge to overtake the Quakers on the last hole.

The East Regionals will be held May 14-16 in Galloway, N.J., and the NCAA Championships will take place May 27-30 in Toledo, Ohio.

—Jacob Levenfeld

Thinking back on four years: *Spectator* key, crucial to Columbia experience

TAYLER from back page

8:30. More than one reading assignment or lecture or section has been lost to *Spec*. While professors lectured and TAs led discussions, I sat on my lap-top and pecked away at my next byline, be it a 1,600-word feature on Tommy John surgery or a 350-word preview of a nonconference lacrosse match (and there is a surprisingly large number of those).

I showed up for the *Spec* open house as a freshman still drunk from the night before. When the interest sheet went around, I signed up for the two sections that I was most interested in joining: Arts & Entertainment and Sports. With A&E, I had delusions of grandeur, like being asked to interview Thom Yorke or getting free tickets to any movie I wanted. With Sports, I had the promise from the then-editor, Anand Krishnamurthy, that if I joined I would be given a byline in a week and free beer.

Sports won out in the end.

I didn’t know where *Spec* would take me. When they asked for new writers to apply to be associates, I did because it just seemed to make sense. When they asked for associates to apply to be Sports editor, I did because it was just the logical progression for me. And when my time as Sports editor finished, I applied to be managing editor of the newspaper because that was the last highest position I could take. So when they rejected my bid, I sat down and wondered to myself why I kept giving time to an organization that hadn’t provided me anything concrete, save my name in print and a severely mangled sleep cycle.

I took the rest of my junior year and the first part of senior year off from *Spec*. I turned in columns when asked, but I barely if ever wrote. I stayed away from the office, tried to get my grades in order, even tried to adopt normal sleeping hours. But I came back in my last semester because, during those two semesters away from *Spec*, I felt lost. So I came back and helped run the section. I started writing again, turning in bylines like crazy. I felt like I’d rediscovered some part of myself that I’d tried to bury.

People—mostly my parents—asked me why I worked as much as I did with *Spec*. *Spec* doesn’t pay you. Your articles will be printed but read by a student body that’s

mostly apathetic to athletics, by administrators, players, and coaches who can find no good in what you write, and by parents and alumni who rail against the administrators and coaches who they believe are the root of the problem. The Sports section of *Spec* sometimes feels like a giant Little League newsletter. Frank Zappa once said that rock journalism was people who can’t write interviewing people who can’t talk for people who can’t read. *Spectator* Sports isn’t very far from that path.

But despite all the losses and truculent coaches and moronic administrators and long hours, I really, genuinely, truly enjoyed it. I enjoyed being at *Spec* no matter how late it got or how much I hated writing about field hockey, a sport that has rules and terms far too complicated for something as simple as hitting a ball with curved sticks. For as much as I complained and moaned to all in earshot about how much I couldn’t stand being in that office, I can’t help but feel all warm and fuzzy when I think about my time on the third floor of 2875 Broadway.

In my last column, I wrote that, no matter how many losses this school produces, the wins will always stick with me. The same is true of *Spec*. No matter how many times K4 crashed or how many lame headlines I wrote (“‘Consistency key for Lions’ ... done.”), I still loved being in that office.

Spec wasn’t just the articles and the layout. We played hockey and baseball and occasionally soccer with a ball of tape while waiting for printouts. We ate pudding with scissors while the copy staff looked on in horror. We ogled Shannon Munoz shamelessly. We stole the American flag from the former *Eye* office and nailed it up to the wall in our office along with a dozen other quotes and printouts, including my favorite, the long departed “SportsKartik” page. We had Shiny build a boat and “fuck youse guys” and Reuter Sauce and the *Spec* Sports “Vicotry!” edition and a thousand other idiotic inside jokes that no one cares about but that I’ll smile about when I’m doddering around as an old man.

We’ve made mistakes. We’ve run photos upside down or twice or of the wrong person. We’ve mis-attributed quotes, run incorrect scores, and said that lacrosse has had only one coach in its program’s history when, in reality, there

have been two coaches who have contributed so wonderfully to that sport’s total failure here. We ran the names of recruits when we weren’t supposed to, we didn’t get quotes in every article, we couldn’t send a writer to every home game, we couldn’t even get a regular beat writer for field hockey or wrestling or lacrosse.

But no matter what, I will never stop defending my section or this paper. The way I see it, the only way you would agree to give up those hours and classes and everything else is because you really care about sports here. And we do. We want to watch these teams win and celebrate, if only because it’s much more fun to write about teams that are good than of teams that are terrible.

I’ve written over 100 stories for *Spec*, but I somehow never thought I would write this one. I’d give anything for 100 more.

It would take more words than *Spec* allows for me to thank everyone who has been a part of my four years here. But I’ll try to make do with what I have.

Theo Orsher built this section from the ground up. I never got to work with Theo while he was Sports editor, but he’s always been one of the most affable people I’ve known here at Columbia. Without Theo, there is no *Spectator* Sports.

Anand Krishnamurthy is the reason you’re reading this. He brought me on board, gave me open stories even though I’d never written a single newspaper article before, taught me everything he knew about the Ivy League and journalism and then some. Andy Krishna is one of the most creative people I know and someone who is always pushing you to do more and do better. He’s been the model for me as Sports editor, and I can only hope that I’ve been able to match up to the lofty standards he set for the entire section.

Jon Kamran was a good editor and a good man. He was one of us. He was a man who loved the Dodgers... and baseball, and as an editor he ripped apart terrible club sports features and calculated VORP for Columbia’s starting pitchers and made me rewrite headlines and captions so that they didn’t suck. He left New York, like so many young men of his generation, before his time. In your wisdom, Lord, you took him to the West Coast, as you took so many bright flowering young

men from 1020, the Heights, and Lions Head. These young men left this city. And so did Jon. Jon, who loved the Dodgers. And so, Jonathan Avraham Kamran, in accordance with what I think you would have wanted this section to be, I’ll just say that New York’s not the same without you.

I’ve got six words for Josh Robinson: he’s the best writer and the best editor that I’ve ever known. If you look at the *New York Times* Sports section, you won’t be able to go more than a page without seeing his name. He’s doing for the *Times* what he did for *Spec* day in and day out: raising the bar and improving the quality with every article he writes. And every article I’ve ever written has been measured in my mind against his best work. Josh taught me to go wide, flash it up high, weave it in, and *Spec* the fuck out of every article that I’ve by-lined. He’s been with me from McSorley’s to Las Vegas and everywhere in between. I couldn’t have asked for a better friend.

Charles Young is the most underrated person on *Spec*. You could always count on him to take a story, help edit, come up with a feature idea, design a graphic, and anything else. And I could always count on him for, without a doubt, the best shoutouts in PiXBox each and every week. Charles is, has, and always will be straight gangsta.

I spent every Sunday night my first semester sophomore year with Max Puro as an associate. We edited stories, each person trying to get the other to read field hockey or volleyball. We wrote headlines that Josh and Jon made us change every time. We managed to convince a writer to come in and do box scores for Puro by telling our staff that he was retarded, and I’m pretty sure that the girl who did the box scores (and did them terribly) fully believed us. We played basketball while in chairs and stalked Jon August’s drunken hookup on Facebook (which we’ve both refrained from sharing here). We became friends and stayed friends. And it goes without saying that those were some of the most fun nights that I’ve had here.

Jonathan Garrett August.

We’ve turned you into multiple house ads. We’ve obliterated you in shoutout after shoutout after shoutout in PiXBox. We’ve told you about the swallow flying at night and the red fox hunting at dawn about 300 times. We’ve brought up the

blue hat and the Puma ballet shoes and wearing flip-flops to play soccer. We’ve given you more shit than should really be humanly possible. But no matter what, I’ll always be grateful that you were Sports editor with me and that you’ve been my friend from the start. One last time: Fuck you, Auggie Doggie. You’re the best.

There are still countless more people I want to thank. There are all the production folks—Andrew Scheineson, Andrew Pramberger, and Ben Cotton—who made the page look beautiful day in and day out. There are the photographers—especially Will Davis and the delightful Laurene Aigrain—who dutifully covered games in even the worst of conditions and produced some jaw-dropping shots. There are the copy editors—Amy Shaw, Bob Ast, Darya Deker, and Lucy Hunter—who had to read all the drivel we’ve published.

Then there are the staff writers and associates whom I’ve had the utmost pleasure of knowing and working with. Matt Velazquez shouldered an almost impossible load as Sports editor. Holly MacDonald, Lisa Lewis, Jacob Shapiro, Lucas Shaw, and Sonya Chandra went above and beyond the call of duty. The associates whom I’ve worked with this semester—Michele Cleary, Bart Lopez, Jacob Levenfeld, Michael Shapiro, Kunal Gupta, and Sara Salzbank—kept the paper going under tremendously tough circumstances. I have no doubt that this section will continue to be the best in the paper with talented and dedicated kids like those at the helm.

Finally, I want to thank my friends. In four years here, these are the people whom I drunkenly sang along to the Clash and Pavement with, went to concerts with, watched Jeopardy! with, who listened to my ranting and offensive jokes and laughed instead of backing away. And a special thanks to two people—LK and Double L—who have been more important to me than anything or anyone else in the world. Thanks to all of you for being there.

Like the Good Doctor said, this is the point where the weird turn pro. And as S.M. so eloquently put it, everything’s ending here.

Go Sox.

Jonathan Tayler is a Columbia College senior majoring in history. sports@columbiaspectator.com

LOOKING TO RENT IN NYC?

QUALIFY FOR THE APARTMENT YOU WANT!

If you're starting a job, the Insurent Lease Guaranty eliminates the need for co-signers, additional security or prepaid rent.

For more info, visit www.insurent.com

INSURENT

LEASE GUARANTY

INSURENT

The Institutional Guarantor of Residential Leases

ADVERTISE IN THE SPECTATOR

854-9552

Obstetrics and Gynecology Associates

Serving Morningside Heights, Upper West Side, and West Harlem

Uchenna Acholonu, Jr, MD

BA: Columbia University

MD: SUNY Upstate Medical University

Ob/Gyn Residency: St. Luke's and Roosevelt Hospitals

Special Training: Minimally-Invasive Gynecologic Surgery

Se Habla Español



Louise Chuu, MD

MD: SUNY Health Science Center at Brooklyn

Ob/Gyn Residency: St. Luke's and Roosevelt Hospitals

Board Certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology

Fluent in Mandarin Chinese



Deborah B. Schwartz, MD, FACOG

MD: Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Ob/Gyn Residency: Long Island Jewish Medical Center

Board Certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology

10 years practice experience

Se Habla Español



- General primary and preventive health care for women;
- Prenatal care and all obstetrical services, including labor and delivery;
- Birth control, complete gynecologic exams, and testing;
- HPV testing and vaccine to help prevent cervical cancer;
- Medical and surgical care for gynecologic problems, including fibroids, abnormal bleeding, and premenstrual syndrome (PMS).

OB/GYN Associates

1090 Amsterdam Avenue, Suite 3A, New York, NY, 10025

www.nywomenshealth.com/3A

Call (212) 636-1130

Most insurance plans are accepted

St. Luke's Roosevelt

Academic Affiliate of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

Continuum Health Partners, Inc.

Senior staff writer bids farewell to Columbia, *Spectator*

AUGUST from back page

Athletics would forego its most popular event outside of homecoming. As I have stated many times before, and will for the final time here, winners get people to games. The reason why students came out to basketball games this season was because the team was actually competitive and made games exciting. When people know that the outcome of a sporting event won't be a blowout in favor of Columbia's opponent, there is an impetus to actually support the team, as student support can lead them to victory. The marketing department's half-hearted efforts to get students to games by giving them free things is not only demeaning, but completely ineffective. To the two-headed brain trust behind these promotions: End them, and come up with something else.

Outside of the flawed marketing campaigns continuing to drag down the athletic department, M. Dianne Murphy, director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Physical Education, needs to fire coaches who do not get the job done. Her hires, outside of Leo Chappel, have been able to bring their teams to a level of respectability within the Ivy League, not to mention a few winners like Rich Mueller in golf and Brett Boretti in baseball. Still, the fact that coaches like Kerri Whitaker have a job despite abysmal league records confounds me. My personal theory about coaches is that they deserve four seasons to bring their teams within competitive striking distance of a title. This way, every athlete they have will have been a recruit of theirs and the administration can make an accurate judgment about how well they are doing. Coach Norries Wilson, I'm looking in your direction this upcoming season.

As for *Spectator*, this place has a tremendously proud history and some amazing writers that have passed through its doors. The friendships forged within the office's walls are some of the strongest I have seen anywhere on this campus. That said, I have slowly seen the paper degenerate to the point it is at today, and I'm not necessarily sure it will bounce back. The news stories now lack an in-depth perspective, opinion columnists bicker between themselves, and even the sports stories are repetitive. While it isn't necessarily the fault of the writers themselves—as there are some talented people currently on staff—I haven't seen that journalistic drive for the bigger story. Most importantly, *Spectator* has a system of promoting from within its own ranks,

and, unlike a professional paper where a new and more experienced editor can be hired, if section editors aren't passing on quality skills to their associates, the paper will only continue to worsen.

Additionally, *Spectator* needs to get over the sensitivity of campus groups and students. In the end, this paper is still the main outlet for getting facts out to the majority of people on campus, and while Bwog may have taken some of the breaking news elements away from traditional print media, *Spec* will be there for the hard-hitting issues. Failing to go after a big story or print the opinions of writers because it may anger certain people within the community is when journalism no longer does its job. The role of a newspaper is to present facts and opinions with the purpose of stirring up public reaction. Otherwise, what is the entire purpose of putting out such a publication for consumption by the masses?

Finally, *Spectator* needs to continue its push into the online realm. Print media as we know it is dying, and it isn't going to make a recovery. The new Web site was only a first step, and further actions will be needed in order to make sure *Spectator* is around in the future. Build a group of ad sales representatives dedicated solely to the Web site, and do it soon. Print advertising is drying up and companies are looking for ways to reach a much broader audience at lower costs. *Spectator* needs to take advantage of its place in the Morningside Heights community and be a leader in developing advertising strategies for local stores and restaurants. Doing this will help keep the print budget solvent for a longer period of time and produce new ways to enhance online content that are going to be needed in the upcoming months and years.

I know there are people on staff who can make this paper thrive and I truly hope you do, as *Spectator* is something too valuable to lose.

I would be remiss if I did not take some words to thank the most important people who have made my time on this campus a memorable one.

Coach Kolombatovich: I have had the luxury and pleasure of covering Columbia's most successful team for four seasons. Your generosity has been overwhelming and I cannot thank you enough for the access you gave me to both yourself and your fencers.

Current associates/new sports editors: You have all been very impressive in your desire to maintain this section

and stepped up at every point that we asked you. I have no doubts that you will be able to bring this section back to where it was. Best of luck.

To the sophomores—Lucas, Sonya, Chris, Kunal, and Sarah: You stepped up big when the section needed you and I know that many of us older editors will never forget that. Thanks for the good memories.

To the Copy table—Darya, Emilie, Bob, and Amy: Why you would choose to read what gets put in this paper everyday will never stop confusing me, but I'm eternally thankful that you did. You were easily the sports section's extended family and I can't think of a better group of people to have shared time with in the office.

To the production and photo folks—Pramberger, Will, Laurene, Tami, Haley, and Ben: I honestly don't know what I would have done without you all. You made the pages look great every night and kept the sports staff (mostly me) in check when we needed it. Thank you for all your help.

To my talented associate class—Matt, Lisa, Holly, Shapiro, Mike, Madeleine, Kavitha, and Finn: Thank you for making all those long nights tremendously enjoyable. We put out some wonderful issues and had some pretty good laughs at the same time (mostly at my expense). Matt, you kept this ship on course and we are all grateful for it. You'll be getting a call from Omar soon. Lisa, your kindness and talents are limitless. Sorry we have to bear the Nuggets though. Holly, you have burnt orange in your veins, and you are a wonderful person. Thanks for talking football at Westminster, for VY in '06, and go Horns. Shapiro, you ripped me too many times in PiXBox to count, but you are a true friend in the end. If I am ever in Chitown, we'll grab a Sox game.

Charles: The amount of general knowledge you have is truly incredible. I have no clue when you find the time to learn all of it, but it's really impressive. From covering softball together freshman year to writing concurrent columns, it's been a great ride. Have fun up in Purchase.

Shiney: You may have lived on JJ 7, but it was in the production office that I got to know you best. It isn't an exaggeration to say that you single-handedly saved me on many nights and probably kept my candidacy for sports editor alive during my shadowing week. You've been an incredible roommate for two years and an even better friend for four. I'm sure Beijing will be a blast.

Theo: I only knew you for one year, but you were always there to lend a hand to anyone who needed it. You didn't hesitate to help me get a job when I was interested in journalism, and without you, this section would not be nearly what it is today.

Anand and Kamran: There were many nights that I lost my cool in the office, but you were always there to help me through it. The encouragement you gave me to improve my writing and editing skills was invaluable and even though you made a lot of jokes, I don't know two people who helped me more at *Spec* than you.

Robinson: Of all the people from *Spec*, you were the person I thought I was least likely to become friends with. In the end, you turned out not only to be one of the most reliable and genuine people I have ever met, but also an incredible friend. Simply put, you are the best writer I know and the *Times* is lucky to have you on its staff. Thanks for introducing me to the beautiful game and the greatest team on the planet, Arsenal F.C. Let's go bowling, dude.

Puro: The running joke in the office was always how you ended up at Columbia, but it was never really a mystery. You are incredibly loyal, extremely bright, personable to the utmost degree, and the nicest person I have met on campus. Your knowledge of sports is simply dumbfounding and through all the ribbing, you are undoubtedly one of my closest friends. Thanks for everything, and go blue.

J-Tay: What you did for this section I don't think can ever be praised enough. That year we spent as co-editors was one of the most mentally and physically exhausting things I have ever done, but there was no way I could have done any of it without you. From putting a supplement together in less than two weeks to dealing with the administration, you had a level head that I didn't think was possible in this job. Outside of the office, you are an even better friend whose wit is truly unparalleled. It was a pleasure working with you and a privilege to call you a friend.

To the non-paper friends whom I do not have the space to mention here by name, I think you know who you are. From the parties to the late-night poker games, thanks for being exactly what I needed outside of this place.

Thanks for reading.

Jonathan August is a Columbia College senior majoring in economics-philosophy. sports@columbiaspectator.com

Haig Schneiderman wins Ivy League Rookie of the Year

The No. 53 Ivy League champion men's tennis team picked up another award last week when the annual all-Ivy teams were released. Freshmen Haig Schneiderman was a unanimous selection for Ivy League Rookie of the Year, and senior Bogdan Borta was named to the all-Ivy first team for singles. Junior Jon Wong and junior transfer Mihai Nichifor were named to the second team all-Ivy in singles, and Borta and Nichifor were named first team all-Ivy in doubles. In addition, Wong and Schneiderman were named second team all-Ivy in doubles, and Schneiderman earned honorable mention for his singles play.

Schneiderman was the second Columbia player ever to be honored as Rookie of the Year. Wong was named Rookie of the Year in 2007 when he went undefeated at No. 3 and 4 singles to lead the Lions to the 2007 title. This season, Schneiderman went 13-6 in the spring and 6-1 in Ivy play, mostly at No. 5 singles.

"Personally, the award represents all of the effort that I have put into improving and reminds me of those who helped me along the way," said Schneiderman. "All of the upperclassman have proven themselves over the years, and people know what to expect from them, so it's nice to come in during my freshman year and really be an addition."

Schneiderman, who is from New York City, was at the match against Harvard last season when the Lions lost 4-3, and saw the Crimson win the Ivy title with a record of 7-0.

"I really wanted to come in and get the guys and the coaches back to the top," said Schneiderman.

Schneiderman expected the team to be in rebuilding mode after the loss of three starters from last year, but the Lions performed above expectations.

Schneiderman is quick to spread the credit, however, citing others on the team as equally deserving.

"I might have won Rookie of the Year, but Mihai was a newcomer and went 7-0," he said. "He was our MVP. We also had Rajeev [Deb-Sen] and Ekin [Sezgen] really make an impact and I think we all really helped, motivated, and pushed each other to come up big, especially in the important moments. We were really 'Rookies of the Year,' I believe, going 16-5 between the three of us in Ivy League play."

— Kunal Gupta

EASTERN MOUNTAIN SPORTS®

Grand Opening Celebration

✓ UP TO 30% OFF*

Exclusions apply; visit store for details.

✓ SPEND \$125, GET A FREE NYC-SoHo TECHWICK® T-SHIRT*

While supplies last.

✓ PRIZES EVERY HOUR*!

• Jamis® bike

• Two-day Gunks climbing trip sponsored by Mountain Hardwear®

• Eastern Mountain Sports gift cards

• Prizes from Marmot®, Osprey®, and more!

BACKPACKING • TRAVEL

TRAIL RUNNING • HIKING • CAMPING • PADDLING

CLIMBING • BIKING • RENTALS

May 8-10, 2009, at the NEW Eastern Mountain Sports.

NYC-SoHo emssoho.com

Spring & Broadway 212-966-8730

*% off regular price. Offers valid 5/8/09 thru 5/10/09 at Eastern Mountain Sports-NYC-SoHo only. Not valid on repurchase of returned merchandise, gift cards, or product rentals. In-stock merchandise only. While supplies last. Cannot be combined with other offers or coupons.

SHOP THE WAY YOU WANT online ems.com | phone 888-463-6367 | stores 64 locations

Eastern Mountain Sports™

Freshman tennis star Haig Schneiderman was honored with the 2009 Ivy League Rookie of the Year award.



PAGE 9

SPORTS

MONDAY, MAY 4, 2009 • PAGE 10



Check out our Web site for the latest updates on Columbia's track and rowing teams.

ONLINE

Lions to battle Hurricanes in NCAA tournament

BY KUNAL GUPTA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The men's tennis team will travel down to Gainesville on May 8 to take on No. 22 University of Miami in the first round of the 2009 NCAA Division I Men's Tennis Championships. The No. 53 Lions got the automatic berth after winning the Ivy League for the second time in three years, while the Hurricanes got into the tournament via an at-large bid, finishing second in the powerhouse ACC. The winner of the match will take on the winner of Marist and No. 10 Florida on May 9.

"We will be playing right in the midst of reading period," head coach Bid Goswami said. "Some of them even have exams on Wednesday and I have to proctor a test on Friday right before the match. It's not the best of circumstances, and not playing for three weeks [since their final match against Princeton] doesn't help either. The focus is not that good, unfortunately. We will give it our best shot—I know the boys want to do well. The preparation unfortunately is not what I would like before going to play nationals.

"I told the guys that their academics are their No. 1 priority," said Goswami, "and tennis is 1a. Not 2, but still. They gave me their best effort till we won the Ivy, and it's taken a bit of a backstage now for the time being."

The Lions (16-5, 6-1 Ivy) will be capping off a tremendous season which saw them dominate in the fall and continue their stellar play into the spring season. In the fall, senior Bogdan Borta qualified for the Intercollegiate Tennis Association National Men's Team Indoor Championships by advancing all the way to the finals of the ITA Regional Championships, where he lost in three tight sets to Chris Clayton of Harvard. In addition, junior Jon Wong won the Princeton Invitational, and junior Mihai Nichifor won the "A" Flight of the Columbia Classic.

The Lions went 6-1 in Ivy play. They beat Harvard in a crucial 4-3 victory where the Lions got wins from No. 3 through 6 singles—including wins by three freshmen. Columbia suffered its only defeat to Brown, but rallied to win the title outright when Brown stumbled down the stretch, losing three of its last four.

The Lions are led by Borta, who went 4-3 in Ivy play at No. 1 and 2 singles. Wong went 3-3 in Ivy play and Nichifor went 7-0 in Ivy play at No. 3 singles. Haig Schneiderman was named Ivy League Rookie of the Year, as he went 6-1 in conference play, splitting time between No. 4 and 5 singles. Borta was named

first team all-Ivy for his singles play, and Wong and Nichifor were named second team all-Ivy for their singles play as well.

One factor for the Lions will be the weather. Columbia will be playing their second outdoor match since spring break, and it will be their first time outdoors in the Florida heat.

"We will practice on Thursday in Miami," said Goswami. "Miami is a good team, but it's a good draw. If we had played them during the regular season at home, I think we would have a shot. I think we will give it our best effort, and we have to play well to do well."

The Hurricanes will be appearing in their fourth straight NCAA tournament. They are led by fifth-year head coach Mario Rincon, who carries a 3-3 career tournament record. Miami went 9-2 in the ACC, and finished in second place during the regular season in a conference which is sending seven teams to the NCAA.

"I have not had the opportunity to see Columbia play recently," said Rincon, "but I have known coach Goswami for many years. Every year he puts together a really good team and he has been very successful. Having won the Ivy League seven times, he is obviously doing a great job with the team."

The doubles point will be crucial to the outcome of the match. The Hurricanes have the No. 44 doubles team in the nation with Daniel Vallverdu and David Rosenfeld. The duo has gone 8-4 this season. Columbia's top team of Borta and Nichifor has gone 10-7 this play at No. 1 doubles.

"I know their doubles are really strong," continued Rincon.

The Hurricanes are led by Vallverdu, who is ranked No. 12 in the nation in singles and was invited to the NCAA Singles Tournament for the third straight year. Vallverdu is a four-time all-American and four-time all-ACC selection.

"I was looking at their records, and No. 3 singles could also be a really tough match for us," said Rincon. "We're looking forward to a really good match against them."

Rincon has set lofty goals for his talented squad this season.

"We want to make it to the Sweet 16," he said. "To get there we would have to win a pair of really tough matches. At that point, we would create a new set of goals for the rest of the tournament. But going into the tournament, that is our goal."

The match is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. in Gainesville, Fla.

File photo

STAYING FOCUSED | The Columbia men's tennis team will head to the first round of the NCAA tournament in the midst of final exams. The Lions will have to remain focused as their opponent, No. 22 University of Miami, finished second place in the ACC with a 9-2 regular season record.

A few minor suggestions on the way out



JONATHAN
AUGUST
FULL COURT
PRESS

I wasn't supposed to end up in this place. Coming to Columbia nearly four years ago, I knew I wanted to get involved in some sort of extracurricular activity, but I presumed it was going to be something comprising a mixture of law and politics. Yet during my first week on campus, I blindly followed one of my floormates to a small office on 112th and Broadway upon hearing there would be sports fans there. What I found was a place that would bring me my highest highs and lowest lows at Columbia, with a set of ridiculous stories in between. I ended up spending the majority of my nights at this school in that little office, praying that the computers wouldn't die on us close to PDF time—and I wouldn't have had it any other way.

Before getting all sentimental though, there are still a few things I think need to be said on the state of Columbia sports and this paper.

Columbia athletics, contrary to popular belief and many sentiments held by people on this campus, are getting better. Many programs that languished in the cellars when I got here—baseball, men's and women's basketball, field hockey, and men's rowing—have become competitive compared to their Ivy counterparts in the intervening seasons, mostly due to coaches who know their personnel well and can recruit with the best in the Ancient Eight.

In addition, there is a feeling among some students that athletes shouldn't be here, but the stereotype that the athletes here are just unintelligent jocks only holds for a select few on this campus. The overwhelming sentiment I have gathered when speaking to, and becoming friends with, them has been that they are just as deserving of being here as any of the rest of us.

Before becoming too much of an athletics apologist, however, there are certainly things that need to be fixed within the department. First and foremost to be tackled is the marketing of athletics on this campus. To say that the marketing plans of Columbia sports are anything above atrocious would be a flat-out lie. Canceling Midnight Mania in favor of a rewards program was one of the single worst decisions by any department in my time at this school, and it continues to perplex me as to why Columbia

SENIOR
COLUMN

Spec Sports: exuding sexuality since 2005



JONATHAN
TAYLER
YOU'RE WITH
ME, LEATHER

four years at *Spectator* justice.

In four years here, I've written close to 150 stories and columns, most of them on the night they were due in a back office in the *Spectator* building after the assigned writer flaked. I've covered every varsity sport on this campus, just about every varsity sport on the seven other Ivy campuses, and a handful of club sports to boot. I've sent out what feels like a trillion media requests to every Ivy school, even the ones that don't answer you back (here's looking at you, Princeton). I've been upbraided by a number of coaches, just about everyone on the Sports Information staff at Columbia Athletics, and M. Dianne Murphy herself on three separate occasions. I even traveled to Providence and back on the same day for a basketball game, taking a four-hour bus ride from Rhode Island to New York that included a stop at Foxwoods Casino to pick up some late-night gamblers headed home for the day.

If an average weeknight at *Spec* for the Sports editor begins at 8 p.m. and ends at 1 a.m., and the average Sunday and Thursday night at the office last from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m., then I spent just about 18 hours per week at the office as one-half of an editing tandem for two full semesters. By my math, that's 72 hours per month, or 216 hours per semester, or 432 hours out of a full one-year term. That adds up to 18 full 24-hour days simply of being in the office. And that's just one year as Sports editor, not taking into account the year spent as an associate editor or the semester as a deputy, or the hours spent outside of *Spec* working on *Spec*, writing and editing and reporting and budgeting and going to games.

Somewhere in those hours, you need to find room for work. And your friends. And sleep. That last one can be particularly tough when you're at the office until 4 a.m. on a Thursday night and have to get up for work on Friday at

SENIOR
COLUMN

SEE TAYLER, page 8

SEE AUGUST, page 9

RENTING AN APARTMENT IN NYC CAN BE CHALLENGING

Find out why it doesn't have to be
MyFirstNYapt.com

- One month free rent*
- No broker fee
- No security deposit*
- Shares welcome
- Spacious rentals in downtown Manhattan

888.269.2215
Leasing Office: 252 First Ave. (between 14th and 15th street)

*On select residences with approved credit. EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY