

BACK ON THE BENCH



ALYSON GOULDEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

IFFY PLAYS | Right back Ifiok Akpandak drew a pair of yellow cards on Tuesday night to become one of two Lions players sent off in the game. Playing two men down, Columbia failed to score a goal for the fifth game in a row, losing 1-0 to Seton Hall

Once pets, abandoned turtles thrive in Morningside Park

BY CASEY TOLAN
Columbia Daily Spectator

On an autumn walk through Morningside Park, you'll see kids playing baseball, parents pushing strollers, and the last of the barbecuers holding on to the summer. Easy to miss are the large families of turtles lurking just below the surface of the park's signature pond.

These unlikely Morningside residents are an interesting ecological study, as most of the turtles are not native to the park. In fact, "almost all of the

turtles swimming around there ... or in any ponds in the city, are descended from animals that were pets," according to Chris Raxworthy, associate herpetology curator at the American Museum of Natural History.

The turtles spend their time hiding in the water, peeking out, and hoping for food as pedestrians approach the pond just off of Morningside Avenue at 113th Street. They swim sedately, only darting into the murky depths when someone or something gets too close.

"There was a big craze for

these things in the '60s and '70s," Raxworthy said. "They were commonly sold in pet shops as little hatchlings. People would buy them in a plastic aquarium and when they got too big ... they'd let them go."

It's unclear exactly how many turtles are living in and around the pond, but some parkgoers report seeing many of them at one time.

"On warm days in spring and summer, they climb all over the rocks" behind the pond, Morningside Heights resident Melissa Cooper said.

"I've literally counted 50 on the rocks ... not counting those in the water."

Brad Taylor, secretary of Friends of Morningside Park, said he has seen hatchlings, about half a finger's length, climbing down the slope above the pond leading up to Morningside Drive.

The turtles are longtime staples of the park.

"They've been there as long as I've been involved with the Friends of Morningside

SEE TURTLES, page 2

Researcher named in insider trading case

Med School kidney specialist allegedly shared info with hedge fund manager

BY SHIRA POLIAK
Spectator Staff Writer

An assistant professor at the College of Physicians and Surgeons has been accused of providing confidential information to a hedge fund manager who is now being investigated for insider trading, the New York Times reported last week.

Kidney specialist Andrew Bomback, P&S '03, provided Boston hedge fund manager James Silverman with nonpublic information about a study he conducted last year, according to an insider trading complaint filed against Silverman by the state of Massachusetts.

Bomback told the Times that while he consulted for Silverman, he never shared insider information. He declined to be interviewed by Spectator.

"Everything there is to comment on has already been commented," he told Spectator.

NONPUBLIC INFORMATION

Bomback researches novel therapies for specific kidney diseases, and in December 2009—the same month he was hired by Columbia—he started work on a retrospective case study of every patient in the United States who was known to have been given an H.P. Acthar Gel injection to treat a debilitating kidney disease known as nephrotic symptom. Silverman, the manager of

the Newton hedge fund Risk Reward Capital Management, first contacted Bomback in June 2010 with the assistance of Guidepoint Global, an expert network firm for which Bomback served as a consultant. According to the complaint filed by Massachusetts' secretary of the commonwealth, Bomback told Silverman the results of the study in a phone conversation that June—five months before making it public at a conference of the American Society of Nephrologists.

Bomback's study showed that the drug was very effective in treating nine of 11 patients who had a certain type of nephritic syndrome. Between June and September, Silverman invested over \$800,000 in Questcor, the pharmaceutical company that manufactures the drug Bomback was studying.

Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts William Galvin has charged Silverman with insider trading, for this and a few other alleged offenses. The case is still pending, according to Brian McNiff, a spokesman for Galvin.

Bomback has not been charged. If he provided Silverman with the nonpublic information five months before presenting it publicly, as

SEE TRADING, page 2

Three suspects apprehended in campus laptop thefts

BY ABBY MITCHELL
Columbia Daily Spectator

Three suspects believed to be responsible for the thefts of laptops and small electronics on campus were arrested last week in a joint venture between Public Safety and the 26th Precinct, which covers Morningside Heights.

"I am happy to report that Public Safety and the 26th Precinct detectives effected the arrest of those responsible for the wave of laptop larcenies in recent weeks ... All are to be commended for this outstanding team effort!" wrote Vice President for Public Safety James McShane in an email sent to administrators last Tuesday.

These arrests are a sigh of relief for many students after a string of thefts in Hartley residence Hall, the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity house, and the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority house.

The arrest was triggered when a student recognized the suspects from an alert Public Safety distributed early last week.

"It was a student tip and the other interesting thing was that all of the rooms where they stole the laptops from were unlocked," said Terry Martinez, dean of community development and multicultural affairs.

The suspects arrested have no apparent affiliation with the University or any of the occupants of the residence halls or houses, yet, according to Martinez, they had done their research.

"The other thing was interesting enough, once they were in the brownstones they had a lot of knowledge about the college and the buildings," Martinez said. "So they were

engaging with them, in these conversations with students, they mentioned like, 'Oh, you're going running why don't you go to Dodge.' They knew the campus. They posed as students."

Martinez added that it is important for students to be cautious about their space and their property, especially when strangers are around.

According to the New York penal code, grand larceny in the fourth degree is classified as a class E felony, carrying a minimum prison sentence of a year. Grand larceny is likely the charge that has been brought against these suspects, as the value of the property stolen exceeded \$1,000.

The 26th Precinct did not respond to requests for comment and declined to provide the names of the suspects.

Last week, Public Safety encouraged students to remain vigilant about locking their doors and to take advantage of campus security measures to register computers, bicycles, and other valuables.

For the residents of Hartley 8A, the suite where some of the thefts took place, it's back to business as usual.

"I think it was mostly just a problem of students taking responsibility for their possessions," said Rachel Chung, SEAS '15.

Carlos Alfonso, SEAS '14, also saw the thefts as isolated incidents.

"By now, I'm just getting into the habit of leaving it locked," Alfonso said. "I don't think a lot of people actually have the nerve to do something like that."

Jackie Carrero and Kelly Lane contributed reporting.

abby.mitchell
@columbiaspectator.com

GSSC suspends bylaws to appoint Finance VP, following vacancy

BY KARLA JIMENEZ
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Michael Oakley, GS, was appointed by members of the General Studies Student Council as their new vice president of finance last night, after some contentious debate and a fiery anonymous email that was circulated around campus.

Oakley was elected to this position by GSSC members after they voted to suspend the bylaws in the council's constitution in order to elect him internally, rather than open the election to the study body.

The bylaws of the council state that members of the executive board nominate candidates after interviewing them and then allow the student body to vote.

Jacqueline Thong, the president of GSSC, said that the council moved to appoint Oakley because some were worried that it would take too much time to run an election.

Amanda Koch, GS and senior class president in GSSC, expressed concern over having an important position empty for an even longer period of time. "We don't have the time to put this off for three weeks," Koch said.

"It affects our credibility within the University if we're the only council without a treasurer, without a vice president of finance," Benjamin Briggs, GS and comptroller of GSSC, said.

The position became vacant when Joshua Lewin-Jacus, who had been in JTS/GS, transferred to Columbia College, after he had already been elected to GSSC last semester.

"It was between study break and commencement, after F@CU that we found out he was transferring to another school,"

Thong said. "Given that we found out the information too late, it made more sense for us to open up the position at the start of September."

Not all GSSC members agreed to suspend the bylaw on filling vacancies though.

"We cannot set aside the rules," Mahogany Wright, GS and vice president of communications of GSSC, said. "We have no constitutional authority to do this."

Wright added that the constitution doesn't give the GSSC members the right to suspend laws.

On Tuesday a wordy, anonymous email titled "GSSC is up to its old tricks again!" was circulated around campus, claiming that GSSC members were acting unethically in moving to

nominate Oakley.

"What institution would propose to suspend their governance and not follow their special nomination process that is explicitly outlined in the constitution and by-laws which—get this—were rewritten last year by Ben Paladino (current VP of Policy and reported supporter of Michael Oakley), Nicole Morgan (current Chief Policy Rep and reported supporter of Michael), and Michael Oakley himself?!"

However, a majority vote of the members did support making this change to appoint a new VP of finance at Tuesday's meeting.

Some members said they were concerned about appointing Oakley, claiming that he received an unfair advantage since he worked closely with

Lewin-Jacus in his previous role as chief finance officer. Oakley had been presented to the council last week, but they voted to hear from more candidates before making a decision. After the vacancy was announced, seven candidates came forward to the council, a list that was later narrowed to three.

"The crime has already been committed," Jose Robledo, GS and University Senator, said. "There is no competition because Michael already spent too much time working very closely [with Lewin-Jacus]."

At the meeting on Tuesday, three candidates were to be presented to council members, one of them being Oakley. One candidate, Olga Hayden, GS,

SEE GSSC, page 2



KATE SCARBROUGH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SPECIAL APPOINTMENT | Members of GSSC hear from Michael Oakley, who was elected VP of Finance by an internal vote.

OPINION, PAGE 4

Dumb and Dumber

Intelligence is not a lauded commodity in the U.S.

The right to learn

A quality education should be a guarantee in America.



SPORTS, PAGE 6

Senior captain leads team at Cornell Invitational

Sam Mysock tied for second place as an individual, helping Columbia to a second-place team finish.

EVENTS

Latino Heritage Month Opening Ceremony

The ceremony will feature a keynote address from Professor Juan Flores of Yale University, salsa performances, and a traditional dinner.

Roone Arledge Auditorium, 7-9 p.m.

Wii Wednesdays

Every other Wednesday Barnard's Student Government Association sets up two big screen with Wii Sports, Mario Kart, and several other games

Second floor of the Diana Center, 6-8 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



71° / 66°

Tomorrow



72° / 59°



KATE SCARBROUGH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SATOW ROOM | GSSC members agreed to suspend council bylaws during a public meeting in Lerner.

VP of Communications upset with GSSC

GSSC from front page

left during the meeting without notifying council members, and the other, Peter Fisher, GS, announced his candidacy withdrawal before he was supposed to present his statement.

“Just based on what I’m hearing, it sounds like he’s [Oakley] doing a great job,” Fisher announced to GSSC members.

After a debate that was closed to Spectorator, members then voted to appoint Oakley to the

position.

“I truly thought he was the best candidate because he was the only one who had previous council experience,” Thong said.

karla.jimenez@columbiaspectator.com

CU researcher named in insider trading case

TRADING from front page

the complaint alleges, then he violated ASN’s embargo policy, which prohibits researchers from disclosing findings before their public release.

“ON HIS OWN TIME”

After reviewing the complaint, Columbia Law School professor John Coffee said he doubts a case will be filed against Bomback, because it is “debatable whether the prerequisite duty [of confidentiality] was breached,” he said in an email.

“But my bottom line conclusion is that his conduct was unethical ... where he knew the intent of the academic journal’s rule,” Coffee added.

Doug Levy, a spokesman for the medical center, said any actions Bomback took in this case are “not a University matter,” because they are tied to his outside activities, not his role as a University physician and researcher.

“This has to do with his outside activities, not his role as a faculty member,” Levy said. “What he does on his own time only becomes a matter of the University if it becomes a violation of the University policy.”

This is not the first time that Bomback’s outside activities have been examined. In January 2010, one month after he started working at Columbia, Bomback signed a \$50,000-per-year consulting agreement with Questcor. But that April, the contract was revised to \$10,000 per year to

comply with University rules limiting faculty members’ compensation for outside consulting.

The insider trading case raises questions about which outside consulting activities are appropriate for faculty members, a widely discussed topic during the last year as professors and administrators have debated changes to Columbia’s conflict of interest disclosure policies. The Business School passed a policy last year requiring professors to disclose publicly all outside consulting activities, and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences is close to approving a similar policy.

P&S professor Howard Worman, who has also served as a consultant for expert networks, said he is supportive of medical school faculty consulting with outside entities.

“I’m not concerned if they follow all of the rules and don’t break the law,” he said. “We have people with very specific and particular expertise that could help society—why prohibit that?”

But Paul Appelbaum, also a P&S professor, said that it is important to distinguish between different types of consulting activities. Many professors help develop new medications by serving on pharmaceutical companies’ scientific advisory boards. This he said, is “arguably a reasonable role for physicians to play—without the products we don’t have medicines to use to treat our patients.” But other types of consulting are questionable, he said.

“When a physician shares his

or her knowledge with an investment company, that’s a different kettle of fish. That doesn’t advance health, that doesn’t advance scientific knowledge,” said Appelbaum, who serves on one of the medical school’s conflict of interest committees. “That would appear to be a much more questionable endeavor on the part of an academic physician.”

Appelbaum said he was not familiar with the details of the Bomback case and so could not comment on it directly, but added that there is something “very odd” about a physician “selling information to a private company that intends to use it for its own or its clients’ gain.”

“We are in this field to advance medical knowledge,” he said. “That suggests that we ought not to selectively share information, but make it generally available.”

While medical center faculty have to disclose all outside consulting activities, including serving as consultants for expert networks, Levy said that there would be no way to determine how many Columbia Medical Center faculty members serve as consultants to expert networks.

Qais Al Awqati, the chair of the nephrology department, declined to comment through a spokesperson last week. Gerald Appel, a prominent Columbia nephrologist with whom Bomback has previously authored articles, could not be reached for comment.

shira.poliak@columbiaspectator.com



SHRIYA MANIAN FOR SPECTATOR

RED-EARED SLIDERS | You don’t always have to search the sewers to find turtles living in New York City. A colony of them has been living in Morningside Park for many years.

Some turtles don’t survive winter, others carry on

TURTLES from front page

Park—that’s 11 years now,” said Taylor.

“These things live a very, very long time ... easily 50 to 100 years,” Raxworthy said. And the population is likely increasing artificially. “My guess is that people are still releasing them,” he said.

Multiple species of turtles live in the pond, but the most prevalent seems to be red-eared sliders, which are identifiable by the red marking on the turtles’ heads, according to Raxworthy. He described them as “exotic animals that people have dumped in the water.”

“They’re not a local species at all,” he said.

Unfortunately, red-eared slider hatchlings probably won’t survive a New York winter. They are native to the south, and “it’s just too cold up here,” Raxworthy said.

However, not all of the turtles are destined for a cruel winter, he said. While the red-eared sliders appear to make up the majority of the population, other species could be better adapted for the cold.

As hatchlings, they face not only the threat of the cold winter, but also animal predators. Once they grow older, only larger animals—such as raccoons, foxes, or coyotes—prove any real threat, Raxworthy said.

“These things live a very, very long time ... easily 50 to 100 years.”

—Chris Raxworthy, associate herpetology curator at the American Museum of Natural History

Humans can also be a menace. “Every once in a while, a park worker has to warn kids about trying not to harm the turtles,” said Taylor, who in the past has served as the president of the Friends of Morningside Park and the chair of the Parks Committee of Community Board 9. “People try to get at them with

sticks and things.”

People can also affect the turtles indirectly by littering.

“Sometimes it looks really clean,” Cooper said, “but other times ...” She motioned to the plastic waste floating atop the pond. “I find it really, really sad.”

Cooper, who documents urban fauna and other natural sights on her blog, Out Walking the Dog, has written about the “turtle army” several times.

The cold-blooded turtles, who require sunlight to maintain their body heat, can be rather playful, jostling each other for a spot on a prominent rock on the south side of the pond, Cooper said.

They even fight with other animals, Taylor said. A large seabird used to perch itself on the rock and the turtles were sometimes successful in driving it away.

Joining the turtles in the pond are ducks, fish, and, this year, a larger-than-usual flock of 22 Canada geese, Taylor said. In the past, the pond has also played host to a wild turkey and a white egret.

“It’s quite a little ecosystem in that pond,” Taylor said. news@columbiaspectator.com

Brain cells from your arm? It’s possible

BY HENRY WILLSON
Spectator Staff Writer

Columbia researchers have successfully converted human skin cells into brain cells, opening up the possibility of innovative new treatments for Alzheimer’s and other degenerative brain diseases.

In a paper published in the journal Cell last month, a team of Columbia Medical School researchers revealed that it had directly reprogrammed human skin cells into functional human neurons, something never achieved before.

Christopher Henderson, a professor at the medical school, who specializes in motor neuron diseases, and who was not involved in the study, emphasized the significance of the study. He noted that other researchers have already begun trying to fight neurodegenerative diseases with the direct reprogramming method.

“I think it has a huge amount of potential,” Henderson said. “This provides a remarkably rapid way of making human neurons from skin cells.”

By injecting skin cells with

proteins known as transcription regulators, the researchers managed to flip a genetic switch in the cells, turning on genetic instructions that are encoded into every cell but which usually remain dormant. These instructions transformed the skin cells into brain cells.

These converted neurons show the same structure and behavior as their ordinary counterparts. The researchers injected the converted neurons into mice, and found them to be capable of exchanging signals with the mice’s existing neurons.

Medical school professor Asa Abeliovich, the study’s senior author, said that neurons produced with his group’s technique could be used in the laboratory to study and test new treatments for degenerative brain diseases. They could also be transplanted into the brains of individuals with such diseases, to replace dying cells.

This direct reprogramming approach is an alternative to a pre-existing method in which ordinary human cells are first transformed into induced pluripotent stem cells, known as iPS cells. All cells in the body start as stem cells, which can develop into every different kind of cell.

“Our system is much simpler

... than iPS or stem cell reprogramming, where you have to go all the way backwards” to the stem cell stage, Abeliovich said. “We don’t do any of that, we’re just putting the factors in and waiting two weeks.”

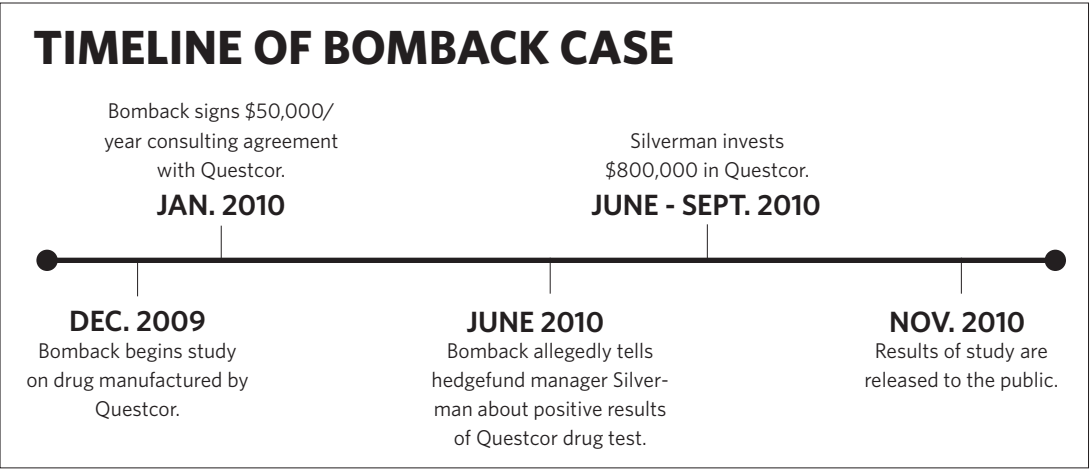
In addition to showing that direct cell reprogramming works, the researchers also used it to convert neurons for study from patients with a rare form of Alzheimer’s disease.

But Abeliovich noted that he hopes to use the technique to study the much more common, “sporadic” variety of Alzheimer’s. Scientists don’t have a strong understanding of the disease’s genetic roots, which has limited the potential for traditional research methods that use genetically modified mice.

However, with the new technique, researchers could gather skin cells from affected patients and then convert them into neurons, whose observable traits—known in biology as phenotypes—could be studied to find clues to the genetic and environmental factors responsible for the disease.

“We can take skin cells from anybody,” Abeliovich said. “We can make the [brain] cells and ask if there’s a phenotype.”

henry.willson@columbiaspectator.com



GRAPHIC BY YUMA SHINOHARA



Academics over revenue for Ivys

GLUBIAK, from back page

(and TV rights) west from the Big 12, which now may be in the buyer's market (heads up BYU) after looking like a skeleton league for weeks.

Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Penn, Princeton, and Yale. That's the Ivy League. That's it. In the 57 years since the league's inception, the membership has not changed.

This in a day and age when college sports have become so tumultuous and warped that NCAA president Mark Emmert recently felt compelled to emphasize to an audience of collegiate athletics directors, "We need to find serious ways of driving forward our message that we are in the business of education and development of young men and young women."

While it seems a sad state of affairs when those intentions need to be clarified, you can't blame Emmert for his comments. When Texas A&M announced plans to leave the Big 12 for the Southeastern Conference in August, the Aggies reopened questions about conference realignment that surfaced in 2010 when Colorado and Nebraska chose to leave the Big 12 for the Pac-12 and Big Ten, respectively. Some think the Big East and Big 12 may merge, while others think West Virginia is headed to the SEC. With Pitt and Syracuse now on board, the ACC has 14 schools and has hinted it wouldn't mind two more to make 16—with Notre Dame being the ultimate prize and Rutgers and UConn waiting at the door, hoping to get invited.

At the heart of the whole mess is TV money, and particularly the revenues generated by these schools' football squads. Basketball has largely taken a backseat, with the Big East—the nation's best hoops league—taking an absolute beating. Also in the backseat: the very ideals that Emmert tried to emphasize. Somewhere between the zeros in the TV deals these major conferences are hoping to sign, the idea of getting an education while playing collegiate sports got totally lost.

Put yourself back in the shoes of the Horned Frogs. This time imagine you are the TCU women's soccer team. Starting next fall, you are slated to play in the Big East. That means road trips to places like Syracuse and Milwaukee and South Bend to play conference foes.

I can say from experience that road trips to play schools in different regions of the country are a blast—but a cross-country flight every time you take the field against a league opponent? That's a lot to ask, particularly if you're talking about midweek games. And why is the women's soccer team going to be flying to the northeast over and over again next fall? Because the Big East is supposedly a better fit for the TCU football team. The thinking goes that TCU, taking advantage of the Big East's automatic BCS bid, would have a better chance in its new conference of getting a bid to a big-time bowl and millions of dollars in revenue to go with it.

But this is not an angry column about TCU's move. You could argue that, should its football team get a BCS bowl bid, the money it would reap would benefit everyone in the school's athletic department, including the women's soccer team. The point is that at schools like TCU and many, many others across the country, the factors driving decisions about conference affiliations are football and dollar signs, in some order.

Not so in the Ivy League, whose membership has never been in question. Maybe as a result, the conference has managed to steer clear of the black marks the most recent moving and shaking has left on many of the involved schools. In an age when the NCAA president is scrambling to restore collegiate athletics' image, the Ancient Eight looks great, simply for being elite.

Zach Glubiak is a Columbia College senior majoring in history. He is a member of the varsity men's soccer team. sports@columbiaspectator.com



ALYSON GOULDEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SEEING RED | Defender David Westlake received a straight red card in the 64th minute, becoming the second Lion to be sent off last night.

Columbia soccer once again left wanting for goals

BY MRINAL MOHANKA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Columbia men's soccer team (3-5-1) fell in a narrow 1-0 defeat at Seton Hall (4-3-2) last night. The Lions had two players sent off in the contest that saw them fall to their fourth consecutive 1-0 defeat, extending their scoreless streak to five games and their winless streak to six.

"Unfortunately it was a similar story as last game," senior captain Mike Mazzullo said, referring to the 1-0 defeat against Monmouth last week in which the Lions got off to a slow start. "We didn't get the start we needed to—this time it took us the red card to get our team galvanized and playing aggressively."

Sophomore David Najem was a notable absentee from the Lions starting lineup, and defenders senior Nick Faber and junior Brendan O'Hearn were also ruled out through injury.

The teams saw possession change several times in the opening exchanges without any attempts at goal, before the home side threatened first. The Pirates recorded a shot on target 15 minutes into the match, but Alex Aurricchio in the Columbia goal was equal to the effort and pulled off the save.

The Lions nearly went ahead in the 22nd minute thanks to sophomore Henning Sauerbier. Senior center back Ronnie Shaban found Sauerbier in the box with a long ball, but the forward's effort narrowly missed the target. (Shaban is a sports columnist for Spectator.)

It would be the hosts who eventually scored first, when senior midfielder Giovanni Zammiello's header from a corner in the 24th minute found its way past Aurricchio in the Columbia goal.

The Lions were left a mountain to climb when they lost junior right-back Ifiok Akpandak

to a red card in the 38th minute. Akpandak was issued a second yellow card for preventing a Pirates' breakaway.

Seton Hall, which edged the first half in shots 5-4, almost doubled its lead within two minutes of the restart, but sophomore midfielder Christian Battistesa saw his shot come back off the woodwork.

The visitors' misery was compounded shortly after the hour mark when sophomore defender David Westlake, who came off the bench, was awarded a straight red card for a late challenge. The Lions may feel aggrieved at the referee's decisions, as they received two yellow cards in addition to the sending offs, while no player from Seton Hall was booked. Furthermore, the Lions will be without both Akpandak and Westlake on Saturday when they host Brown in their Ivy League opener.

"The red cards were red

COLUMBIA	0
SETON HALL	1

cards," Mazzullo said. "We need to make better decisions in those moments of the game."

Junior forward Will Stamatis had an opportunity to equalize eight minutes from time after a cross by Sauerbier, but the junior was left holding his head as his finish was off-target. The Lions applied relentless pressure in the closing stages of the contest, including sending Aurricchio up to the Seton Hall 18-yard box for a corner, as they searched for the equalizer—but their efforts were in vain.

"Even after we went down to nine men, we executed our game plan and created scoring chance," Mazzullo said.

Ivy play will commence with the match against the Bears on Saturday, Oct. 1 at Columbia Soccer Stadium.

Teams square off in non-Ivy play

ATL, from back page

SHU 24, DARTMOUTH 21
Fans were at the edge of their seats this weekend when the Big Green (1-0) faced off against Sacred Heart. Scoring stayed even for the first three quarters. Hoping to take the lead in the fourth period, Dartmouth drove down the field to the Sacred Heart 21-yard line. However, senior kicker Foley Schmidt's field goal attempt was wide right, and the ball returned to the Pioneers, who went on to record a field goal of their own. With a minute left of playing time, Dartmouth battled down the field, giving Schmidt the chance to redeem himself. However, his attempt was blocked, resulting in a 24-21 Sacred Heart victory.

VILLANOVA 30, PENN 21
Although the Quakers (0-2) started strong against Villanova this weekend, they were destroyed by their own mistakes and lost 30-21. Six minutes into the first quarter, Penn defensive back Jason Schmucker intercepted a pass at the Wildcats' 14-yard line, enabling the Quakers to score the first touchdown of the game. However, during the second period, Quakers junior quarterback Billy Ragone threw two interceptions, both of which were returned for touchdowns.

BUCKNELL 34, PRINCETON 9
Plagued by blunders, the Tigers (0-2) were annihilated by Bucknell 34-9 this weekend. Princeton may have scored the first points with a field goal five minutes into the game, but it would be another 47 minutes of playing time before it scored again. This can be attributed to the many mistakes the Tigers made. Quarterback, Tommy Wornham, threw three interceptions, the first of which was returned for a touchdown—the other two occurred at the Bison's goal line. The Tigers fumbled the ball three times and missed a field goal attempt to ensure their loss.

From a young age, Mysock taking big swings

MYSOCK, from back page

Though he first picked up the golf clubs at a very young age, it was at age nine that he started playing the sport seriously by competing in his first tournaments. Mysock played for his high school team in Oklahoma before joining the Columbia team. During his career at Cascia Hall Prep, Mysock was a four-year letter winner, served as team captain his senior year, was named to All-Metro and All-State teams, and helped his team to an Oklahoma AAA State Championship in 2004. In addition to high school golf, Mysock also played junior tournaments all over the country during the summers.

"I plan to play golf for the rest of my life."

—Sam Mysock,
men's golf senior captain

"I actually competed against a couple of my current teammates, but of course I didn't know them back then," he said. Besides being a history major with a passion for ancient Greek history, Mysock is captivated by fishing.

"I fish as much as I can when I am home," he said.

The Oklahoma native appreciates being a part of the Columbia team, which won the Ivy League Championship in his first two years here.

"Golf has always been a huge part of my life, so it's tough to pinpoint one aspect that interests me the most," Mysock said. "It's definitely a relaxing sport and I've had the opportunity to meet some great people whom I would not have met otherwise. The team aspect of college golf is also great. As a kid I always wanted to play

in college, so it's absolutely a dream come true to be playing here. The Columbia golf team has obviously been really good the past several years, and I'm very thankful to be a part of our success. The educational opportunities provided here are a huge plus as well."

Being on the Columbia team has been instrumental in Mysock's development as a golf player. Regarding Mysock's progress throughout his three years on the team, coach Mueller noted, "There's just a sense of maturity. He's certainly developed. He's confident."

Mueller also praised the senior's overall level of play.

"He hits the ball really far," he said. "There are no weaknesses in his game. His level of concentration is really impressive."

Mysock also believes that he has grown a lot as a golfer due to his experience with the team.

"The gap between junior golf and college golf is pretty wide," he said. "Competition at this level is incredibly solid. I have had to work hard on several aspects of my game, not the least of which is hitting the ball straighter. I'm a better player now, and hopefully I can prove that this year."

With a good tournament under his belt early in the year, the senior is looking ahead to the Ivies in the spring.

"The team we have now is just as good if not better than in years past, so our goal is to bring home another championship," he said. "Our team and coach Mueller know how to win, so we just have to work hard and go get it."

After graduating, Mysock is interested in a career in finance and hopes to find a job in that field. He definitely plans to continue playing golf.

"I plan to play golf for the rest of my life," he said. "I think golf is really the universal language of business. It's the best way to develop relationships and meet new people."

COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL

THE ROGER HERTOG PROGRAM
ON LAW AND NATIONAL SECURITY

October 4, 2011 | 4:30 p.m. | Jerome Greene Hall, Case Lounge, 7th Floor

Intelligence as a Regulated Industry

with **Stephen W. Preston**, General Counsel,
Central Intelligence Agency

Stephen W. Preston is the chief legal officer at the Central Intelligence Agency, which is responsible for providing national security intelligence to senior U.S. policymakers. He has held numerous other high-level national security-related positions, including general counsel of the Department of the Navy and principal deputy general counsel and acting general counsel of the U.S. Department of Defense.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 1, 2011 | 4:30 p.m. | Jerome Greene Hall, Case Lounge, 7th Floor

National Security and the News Media

with **Barton Gellman** and **Dafna Linzer**,
National security journalists

November 8, 2011 | 4:30 p.m. | Jerome Greene Hall, Case Lounge, 7th Floor

Contemporary Issues in National Security Law

with **John Bellinger**, Former Legal Adviser,
U.S. Department of State and the National Security Council

November 15, 2011 | 4:30 p.m. | Jerome Greene Hall, Case Lounge, 7th Floor

Contemporary Issues in National Security Law

with **Mary DeRosa**, Former Deputy White House Counsel and
Legal Adviser, National Security Council

November 29, 2011 | 4:30 p.m. | Jerome Greene Hall, Case Lounge, 7th Floor

Contemporary Issues in National Security Law

with **Daniel Bethlehem**, Former Legal Adviser,
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All events are open to Columbia University faculty, alumni, students, and staff only.
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I'm with stupid

Last week, this year's SAT data came out—the average verbal score has dropped to 497 out of 800 possible points, three points lower than last year. To put that in perspective (for those who have mercifully forgotten) the average Columbia student scores around a 720. Over the century that the SAT has been administered, this year's is the lowest score on record. Not surprisingly, the past few days have seen an ongoing debate in the New York Times concerning the source of the problem and how it could be solved. Computers, television, lack of family communication, and lack of funding take the brunt of the blame. But we knew that already.

Grappling for a solution, educators have suggested encouraging kids to read, properly funding early childhood programs, and hiring better teachers. Somehow none of this feels new. What I think we have on our hands is an attitude problem and at that, one that is deeply enmeshed in our political fabric. At the end of the day, I am inclined to believe the solution lies in that realm as well.

The American embrace of stupidity is historical fact, which former Columbia professor Richard Hofstadter immortalized in his famous work, Anti-Intellectualism in American Life. We idolize the “self-made man,” the university dropout who went on to become a billionaire, because he reminds us of the burly frontiersman who supposedly conquered the West. Educated people have long been an emblem of class struggle and cultural tensions between urban and rural life. Americans have cheered those who are vocal in deriding the traditions of academia, notably President George W. Bush. As Paul Krugman wrote in a 2008 op-ed, Bush was “lionized as a real-world Forrest Gump, a simple man who prevails through his gut instincts and moral superiority.”

Of course, anti-intellectualism is not the same thing as stupidity, and the crude term “stupidity” does not translate directly into the SAT-score drop. But contemporary politicians such as Texas Governor Rick Perry are pushing it—whatever it is—to a new level, wholly beyond Bush's gentlemanly string of C's at Yale. Steve Benen of the Washington Post wrote, “Perry isn't just celebrating anti-intellectualism; he's living it. He doesn't care what biologists, climate scientists, economists, historians, or dictionaries have to offer; Perry already has all the information he needs.”

Americans have cheered those who are vocal in deriding the traditions of academia.

A writer from the Telegraph tastefully added, “The poor fellow can't even master a skipping rope.” And he has a point. The presidential candidate has traveled around the country bragging about how he was ranked tenth in his high school class of thirteen. Perry wears the F's he earned in college—in basic economics, Shakespeare, and a course called “Meats”—as badges of pride. To put it simply, the man has an attitude problem. Could he be expected to raise SAT scores? Could those who encourage his displays of stupidity be counted upon to safeguard our educational system? Or even to act as intellectually nurturing parents?

Many of the responses to the SAT article in the Times pointed to family life as a predictor of future success. At Columbia, most of us were lucky enough to be raised by bookish parents who encouraged us academically. It shouldn't come as a shock that people's basic attitude toward learning makes a difference. One of the best examples is the legendary “Tiger Mom.” In the Wall Street Journal, the formidable Amy Chua lays out the tenets of raising high-scoring kids, writing that hers were not allowed to “watch TV or play computer games, get any grade less than an A, not be the No. 1 student in every subject except gym and drama, not play the piano or violin.” Among other prohibitions.

Do I know anything about parenting? Not really. Do I think this is crazy? More than a little. But the point Tiger Mom makes, as well as its implications in a culture that embraces stupidity and scoffs at excellence, are real. When Rick Perry campaigns on the basis of his academic failures—as Maureen Dowd put it, “perpetrating the idea that there's no intellectual requirement for the office of the presidency”—he fuels a culture that applauds mediocrity. Remind me: Why are we surprised when the kids can't spell so good?

Every year, an international bureau called the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development ranks the educational achievement of its 34 highly developed member nations. Though it once topped the charts, America has sunk to the 25th spot. It is unclear whether this ranking system—or for that matter, the SAT test—is an accurate gauge of progress. What is clear is that we're facing a problem that “more time spent reading” and “early childhood education” will not be sufficient to fix. The problem is social, political, and when it comes down to it, personal.

Amanda Gutterman is a Columbia College junior majoring in English. The Far Side of the Familiar runs alternate Wednesdays.



AMANDA GUTTERMAN

The Far Side of the Familiar

Protect the sacred right to learn

BY PRIOM AHMED

In light of Columbia Students for Educational Reform's screening of “The Lottery” on Monday night, and its revelation of the persistent achievement gap in our educational system, it has become clear to me that we're currently experiencing an education crisis. As Columbia University students, we have the chance to address this issue right here on campus. “The Lottery” is an important film that examines the implications of the lottery system in NYC's public education, where only a lucky few of the residents of Harlem and the Bronx get the chance to enter the best schools—where only a lucky few get to succeed. The Columbia Child Rights Group makes it its mission to foster dialogue and raise awareness about the obstacles children face, both locally and internationally, in trying to access basic rights such as health, welfare, and education.

Education is a fundamental right, yet it is not guaranteed or protected.

When I was six, my mom and I immigrated to the United States from Bangladesh, motivated by what everyone in this country idolizes—opportunity. America offers the unique opportunity to receive a high quality education, which is also a prerequisite for success. However, as a student in the system, I found myself frustrated and overwhelmed when I couldn't ask my parents for help with homework or daunting science projects.



RUNTAO YANG

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

In his recent column (“Dinner with a dictator,” September 26), Jesse Michels asserts that, in contrast to Columbia president Butler's 1933 invitation of the Nazi ambassador Luther, a close encounter with Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad may serve an educational purpose. We disagree. Like the editorial board of the Spectator (“Reconsider S'il Vous Plait,” September 18) and the “Just Say No to Ahmadinejad” organization, we considered the students who accepted the invitation to dine with the dictator to have made an ethical, political, and intellectual mistake. Thus, while we were pleased to learn that the meeting of a delegation of students of the Columbia International Relations Council and Association (CIRCA) with Ahmadinejad did not take place, we are very disappointed that the delegation was disinvited rather than CIRCA withdrawing its acceptance. We are further chagrined that a delegation of students from the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) did participate in this dinner meeting and that the school's administration failed to speak out about this matter.

Like the Spectator's editorial board, we cherish academic freedom and freedom of association. However, freedom of association entails a responsibility to select worthy associates.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is responsible for ruthless murders in his country and in allied Syria and Sudan. He

They couldn't even comprehend the directions, as the instructions were in a foreign language embedded within a foreign educational system. I remember conversations I used to have with my friends who complained about their parents constantly nagging them to study for the city-wide tests, SATs, or APs when my parents didn't have the slightest clue what such terms even meant. My parents squirmed at the idea of coming to parent-teacher conferences where they would need me by their side to translate or fill in the awkward silences. Yet despite the apparent challenges and hurdles, I was able to succeed because of the efforts of great teachers I had in school.

The education that the majority of well-off students at Columbia received and the hurdles that they overcame were most likely different from mine. This sort of disparity is even sharper when we look at underprivileged and minority students right here in New York City. These students are more likely to receive a subpar education and attend a poorly funded school. Once students fall behind on very basic skills, it's almost impossible to correct past habits, make up for lost time, and catch up.

Education is a fundamental right, yet it is not guaranteed or protected. Without a strong education, children grow up to be unskilled, unconfident adults who do not succeed, rarely reaching our country's top tier. Children, because they are voiceless, can easily become victims and their difficulties can go unnoticed all too often. How can children grasp that the reason they are performing poorly is not because they are dumb, but because their surrounding system cannot support them in the way they need? Thus it's imperative for those of us who can recognize this problem to keep the plight of children in mind as we enter the job market, and as we go on to become influential in shaping our country's future. UNICEF defines education as one of a child's inherent human rights and states that “all children have the same right to develop their potential—all children, in all situations, all the time, everywhere.” Indeed, all children, even in Harlem and the Bronx, have the right to a good education.

The author is a sophomore in Columbia College majoring in biology and anthropology.



supports numerous terrorist organizations, including Hezbollah and Hamas. His regime has killed or imprisoned thousands of gays, women, students, faculty, journalists, and human rights advocates. It has financed and conducted terrorist attacks that resulted in the deaths of innocent civilians. Iran is officially designated under U.S. law as a state sponsor of terrorism. Ahmadinejad has repeatedly threatened to wipe Israel “off the map”; he is illegally pursuing the development of nuclear weapons with which to do so. As recently as a month ago, he denied the Holocaust.

Ahmadinejad's dinner companions may have learned that he slurps his soup, eats his vegetables, or knows how to use a fork. But in so doing, they have not advanced any academic pursuits. They have merely stroked their egos and provided a semblance of legitimacy to a mass murderer and his evil regime.

*Awi Federgruen
Charles E. Exley Professor of Management,
Graduate School of Business*

*Judith S. Jacobson
Associate Professor of Clinical Epidemiology,
Mailman School of Public Health*

*Co-coordinators, Columbia Chapter,
Scholars for Peace in the Middle East*

STAFF EDITORIAL

A time to stand

In light of recent protests all over the globe, from the riots in Athens, to the marches in Wisconsin and the stands against the cost of living in Tel Aviv, the Occupy Wall Street movement is a small but notable event in our time at Columbia. Modeled after the Arab Spring uprisings, protests of hundreds have been lining Wall Street for days, voicing their outrage at the economic gap between the wealthy and the poor, and what they see as corporate greed. Their main slogan is “We are the 99 percent,” which refers to the 99 percent of the population bearing the consequences of banks and insurance companies' decisions. Fifty-two other cities are occupied by supporters of the movement as well, but in New York, the police response to protesters has led to violence. More than 80 protesters—at least three Columbia seniors

among them—have been arrested, most of them charged with disorderly conduct. The arrests have only fanned the flames, intensifying the resolve of the participants.

Putting aside the question of this particular protest, political activism is something that members of Columbia have long embraced. Activism allows those who are voiceless and without power on their own to join with others and speak their opinions. And in the past two weeks alone, various groups on our campus have protested Rafael Correa's speaking at the World Leaders Forum, students dining with Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the execution of Troy Davis, and now, on Wall Street, the actions of corporations. Columbia has been known for decades as a hub of political engagement and expression, and many on campus today actively continue this tradition.

It may be easy to sit by and refuse to contribute to the policies and decisions that affect the community around us. When readings pile up and we spend time

with friends gallivanting through the city, it seems like there is no time to learn about the changes on campus, or in our state, nation, or globe. But being a student at Columbia and young people living in a world influenced by the opinions of its peoples, we would be missing out if we did not participate in the development of the structures that directly affect every one of our lives. So do something as small as talking to Dean Valentini about how Columbia could be improved, or join a larger movement that is affecting the whole country. Additionally, writing letters to Congressmen, joining or starting advocacy organizations, and lobbying are just a handful of many different ways there are to make your voice heard.

But it's important also not to romanticize such social action. Don't protest for the sake of protest if you aren't genuinely passionate about an issue. Commit to what you care about, and focus your efforts. Our contribution does not have to be huge, but together with the voices of hundreds and thousands of others, it will be most effective.

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Solutions to Previous Issue's Puzzle

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© Puzzles by Pappocom

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Olds compact

6 State secrets?

10 "Casablanca" character

14 Logger's competition

15 Get to

16 Like Switz. in WWII

17 Bottomless pit

18 Strike callers

19 Major...

20 "Test that sounds easier than it often is"

23 Fill with bubbles

25 Major stories

26 "End of discussion"

30 Weather map figures

31 Symbol of strict control

35 Cycle opener

36 "Z's"

39 Compete

40 She has a memorable smile

42 Hamlet, for one

43 "Thing to do before a heist"

47 Scrub, at NASA

50 Either "Cathy's Clown" singer

51 What the first words of the answers to starred clues describe

55 Genesis victim

56 Swedish furniture giant

57 Egg holders

61 Hindu royal

62 Tumbled

63 Corkers?

64 Howard's wife, to the Fonz

65 Offended, with "off"

66 Homework assignment

DOWN

1 Notre Dame's Paraghean

2 Tennis tactic

3 Bridge guru Culbertson

4 Vacation destinations

5 Brass band sound

6 Brown-haired boy

7 Trunk attachment

8 Chow chow

9 Affectionate gesture con los labios

10 Thorough

11 April 1805 pope

12 "Poison" shrub

13 Elemental bits

21 Greek vowel

22 "The Family Circus" cartoonist

23 "Bullying is ... school rule"

24 Dickens's Drood

26 Homecoming guest

27 Occupy, in a way

28 Roman numeral

29 Today, in Toledo

32 Help

33 Dolt

34 Bug bopper

36 November ticket

37 Embroidered word

38 Put to the test

41 Painter's medium

42 Half-story windows

44 Cape May County weekly

45 Time for celebration

46 Foster's dream girl

47 Security device

48 Kid-lit elephant

49 "Hee Haw" host

52 Break

53 ...Ball

54 Manuscript marking

58 Family nickname

59 Org. with body scanners

60 Retiring

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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61					62				63			
64					65				66			

By Bruce Yevor and Gail Grahamski
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Ancient Eight stays true to its name

Put yourself in the shoes of the Horned Frogs of Texas Christian University for a moment.



ZACH GLUBIAK
Boom Goes the Dynamite

The Horned Frogs were members of the Southwest Conference until its disintegration in 1996, after which they joined the Western Athletic Conference. Five years later, in 2001, TCU left the WAC for Conference USA. In 2005, TCU changed conference affiliation again, this time spurning Conference USA in favor of the Mountain West Conference. Just this past summer, the Horned Frogs decided to switch again, announcing that they will be members of the Big East Conference starting next fall.

Confused? You should be. That's five different conference affiliations in 15 years. And TCU is by no means isolated in its shifty feet of late. In many ways, the Horned Frogs have been reacting to a national firestorm across the NCAA landscape, most recently evidenced by Syracuse and Pitt's surprise announcements last week that they were jumping the sinking ship that is the Big East (surprise, TCU!) for the suddenly stable Atlantic Coast Conference.

Now let me ask you this: Can you imagine Columbia playing in any conference other than the Ivy League?

Absolutely not—the Ancient Eight, unlike the Big Ten (11 members going on 12) or the Big 12 (10 schools going on nine going on who-knows-how-many), actually has the number of member institutions its name suggests, and that's the way it's going to stay.

The Pac-12 is going to stay put at 12, the league recently announced, spoiling the scheming of Texas, Oklahoma, Texas Tech, and Oklahoma State to take their collective football prowess

SEE GLUBIAK, page 3



JOSÉ GIRALT / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

THE SHOES FIT | Sam Mysock has stepped into his role as a senior captain of the Columbia men's golf team. After facing his share of struggles, he has found his stroke and become an important component of a champion-caliber squad.

Captain leads the way for men's golf

AIGERIM SAUDABAYEVA
Columbia Daily Spectator

"A great kid. Works hard. Happy."

Those were the words used by Columbia's head coach of men's golf, Rich Mueller, when asked to describe senior captain Sam Mysock.

Mysock guided the men's golf team through an impressive performance this weekend, as the team placed second at the Cornell Invitational. The Lions finished

three strokes behind eventual winner Binghamton University.

Mysock played as an individual, finishing the event with a score of 216 and a tie for second place. Overall, he was very pleased with his performance this weekend, and expressed gratitude to Lions head coach Rich Mueller and his teammates.

"I have struggled with my swing the past couple of years, but I've worked pretty hard on it this year," Mysock said. "Coach Mueller and a couple of our sophomores gave me some swing advice that has really helped, and it

came together this weekend. It's important to me that I continue playing well since this is my last year, it's my last shot."

"The team had a tremendous weekend and played well in the last few holes. It was exciting to see," Mueller said.

Mysock started swinging a golf club when he was only three years old.

"My dad would take me out to the course with him on weekends and I'd run around the course and play a few holes," he said.

SEE MYSOCK, page 3

Beginning of conference play kind to Harvard, Yale

CONNALLY REID
Columbia Daily Spectator

Ivy League play began this weekend, with Harvard and Yale securing victories over Brown and Cornell, respectively. The remaining Ivy teams were unsuccessful against nonconference opponents.

HARVARD 24, BROWN 7

The Crimson (1-1, 1-0 Ivy) faced off against the Bears (1-1, 0-1 Ivy) Friday night under the lights. Struggling offensively, Brown committed five turnovers: two fumbles and three interceptions. These mistakes kept the Bears from scoring until the third quarter, by which time the Crimson had already recorded 14 points. However, Harvard sought to extend its lead, and drove 95 yards for another touchdown. This drive included a 56-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Colton Chapple to receiver Adam Chrissis. Harvard later kicked a field goal to achieve its 24-7 victory.

YALE 37, CORNELL 17

In New Haven this weekend, the Bulldogs (2-0, 1-0 Ivy) defeated Cornell (1-1, 0-1 Ivy) 37-17. Yale quickly took the lead, tallying 17 points during the first quarter. The Big Red was not so fortunate, but after an interception and a failed field goal attempt it was finally able to add three points to the scoreboard with three seconds to spare in the first half. Early in the third period, Cornell drove 96 yards down the field, when sophomore quarterback Jeff Mathews completed a 21-yard pass to junior receiver Luke Tasker for the team's first touchdown of the game. The Big Red continued to close the point deficit to one possession with 21 minutes of playing time remaining. However, the Bulldogs responded with two more touchdowns, the second of which ended in a 58-yard rush from junior receiver Allen Harris.

SEE ATL, page 3

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