



SHELBY LAYNE/ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NO SOUP FOR YOU? | Late-night favorite and Morningside Heights tourist attraction, Tom's Restaurant is currently facing a lawsuit from a former employee, who claims that he was underpaid and mistreated. The owner told Spectator that the claims are not true.

Tom's ex-employee says he was underpaid, mistreated

BY CARRIE MONTGOMERY
Columbia Daily Spectator

Eduardo Gil Hernandez, a former employee at Tom's Restaurant, filed a suit against the "Seinfeld" diner in Manhattan Federal Court, citing unfair wages and mistreatment. Court documents state that during his employment, Hernandez worked five days a week, for over 40 hours each week. Hernandez was paid \$20 in cash for shifts of between eight and 12 hours—a fraction of what the law requires for minimum wage, the suit claims. He left Tom's in June 2010. In addition to not receiving minimum wage, Hernandez

alleged in the suit, which was filed on Sept. 8, that he was also denied overtime wages. Hernandez, who lives in upper Manhattan with his wife and three children, began working for Tom's in November 2007. "It was a difficult place to work. The owner was very aggressive and called me names. The pay was terrible," Hernandez said in his statement. Hernandez's attorney, Peter H. Cooper of Cilenti & Cooper, PLLC, said that his client should have been protected under minimum wage laws—the minimum wage, federally and in New York state, is \$7.25 per hour and \$10.88 for overtime beyond 40 hours each work week. "Foreign-born workers are

more likely to be employed in low-wage industries and are at great risk of minimum wage and overtime violations. ... When an employee works a span of 10 or more hours in any single day, he or she is entitled to one additional hour of pay under New York's 'spread of hours' law," Cooper said. Cooper is requesting payment of owed wages and overtime pay on behalf of his client. In addition, he is requesting that the court grant Hernandez a reward for the damages and stress during and after his time of employment at Tom's. Michael Zoulis, the owner and manager of Tom's, who was named as the defendant, responded to the claims at his restaurant

recently, denying any mistreatment. "I will say this: Everything is false," he said. "I treat every one of my workers well." Outside the restaurant, customers had mixed feelings about the accusations. Elissa Swift-Katz, CC '95, said she dines at Tom's once in awhile and that the owner is really nice every time. "I used to come a lot when I was an undergrad, and during the three or four times I've been back since, it's been a good experience," she said. Steve D'Agostino, a Teachers College student, said that the suit won't stop him from going to Tom's, but added, "I mean, do I think the workers should sue? Yes." news@columbiaspectator.com

Bollinger focuses on M'ville in fireside chat

BY LEAH GREENBAUM
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

More than just a catered dinner and an opportunity to dust off old suits and ties, the first fireside chat of the year gave about 50 undergraduates the opportunity to hear University President Lee Bollinger's personal views on familiar topics like the Manhattanville expansion, the lasting importance of the Core Curriculum, and building a global free press—at his personal residence Tuesday night. Beginning with a ten minute introduction on recent developments in Manhattanville, Bollinger did not waste time addressing his administration's top priority. "When I started here eight years ago, my line was that if you ranked universities by creativity per square foot Columbia would be first in the world, because we have to achieve this greatness with a fraction of the space that comparable universities have," he said, adding that the University has long been "starved" for space. He emphasized Columbia's right to be in the area just north of campus with "very few residents" and a "declining economy." While Bollinger addressed the very familiar topic of Manhattanville, he also took questions from students with more specific interests. One senior in SEAS explained in fine detail the difficulties he and fellow engineers had encountered finding jobs since, he claimed, the Fu Foundation does not have an



ZARA CASTANY / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CHITCHAT | At this year's first fireside chat, University President Lee Bollinger spoke about Manhattanville, the Core, and ROTC.

engineering co-op, or for-credit internship, program. After taking a sip of Pellegrino, Bollinger looked to the back of the room where several other administrators were seated. "I'm sorry. I know nothing about that. We'll find you an answer though," he said. Alexander Spangher, CC '14, said he felt frustrated by the number of questions related to specific programs and special interests. "I thought a lot of the questions only served the interests of the questioners...there's so much bureaucracy involved in running a university, most of the time he probably doesn't even

have control over many of those things," he said. Bollinger also fielded questions on his personal views on the potential return of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps to campus. Bollinger said he and many others in the University Senate are troubled by the discriminatory practices of the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy. "Of course I value the military enormously, but I do not think that as part of our academic program we should have a program that discriminates against any of our students," he said, adding

SEE FIRESIDE, page 2

Homeless shelter closure uncertain

BY SARAH DARVILLE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

A longtime plan to shut down a controversial transitional homeless shelter on 107th Street in November is still not finalized, Community Board 7 members said Tuesday night. In April, Robert Hess—then commissioner of the city's Department of Homeless Services—said that a homeless shelter at 237 107th St. would close in November. Even before the shelter opened in February, residents of the block had been vocal in their opposition to the city providing funds to that building's landlord, who they said was notorious for mistreating tenants. Hess' commitment not to work with landlord Mark Hersh, who has been called the "West Side Batman," was a major win for a group of community activists. But Hess resigned from his post at DHS shortly after that meeting, and neighbors said this week they are hoping that the new administration will honor his word. "The motivator is, the community is in opposition to the use of the shelter as transitional housing. That's what was driving that as part of the previous decision, but we don't know if the new staff will agree," said Robert Espier, a CB7 member, at the board's Health

SEE SHELTER, page 2

Harlem Hospital Center restructures

Columbia to decrease involvement

BY SARAH DARVILLE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

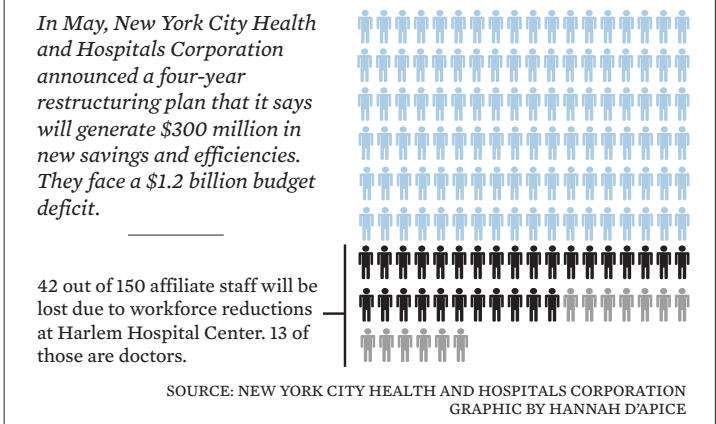
Behind a shrub on the corner of 135th Street and Lenox Avenue, a plaque with a gold Columbia crown reads, "Affiliated with Columbia University since 1962." It's attached to the entrance to Harlem Hospital Center, a public hospital in East Harlem where the Columbia University Medical School has essentially been in charge for the last 48 years. Columbia hires and fires, pays physicians' salaries, and runs the residency program. But come Jan. 1, 2011, that entire relationship will change. In response to the city's current financial situation, Columbia is in the process of significantly decreasing its involvement with the neighborhood hospital—leaving some employees and neighborhood residents concerned about the fate of this more than century-old medical institution.

A DIMINISHED ROLE FOR COLUMBIA

At the center of this shift are the current budget woes of the city's Health and Hospitals Corporation—the agency that operates 11 public hospitals, including Harlem Hospital. Those public hospitals have always borne the cost of treating the uninsured, but during the recession, with reduced state and federal Medicaid funding, the city Health and Hospitals Corporation's budget deficit reached a high of \$1.2 billion. The city is now in the process of a major restructuring of its hospital system in response to the budget concerns—an effort announced in May that includes reducing the

workforce and streamlining its affiliations with the city's medical schools to cut costs. Part of the transition includes breaking some ties with Columbia, a shift which has left employees at Harlem Hospital—known for its burn, trauma, and asthma centers—questioning the long-term implications. Columbia's affiliation will soon become academic only, with the University playing a much smaller role in Harlem Hospital's administration. And this changing affiliation with Columbia is just one of many adjustments coming to Harlem Hospital, which has become a neighborhood institution, an oft-cited example of Columbia's commitment to the local community, and a safety net for the thousands of uninsured patients it treats every year. Additionally, 593 people employed by the Columbia affiliation will experience a change in employment as of 2011, according to a notice that Columbia filed with the New York State Department of Labor on Aug. 30. Evelyn Hernandez, spokesperson for the city's Health and Hospitals Corporation, said that decisions about the work force are still pending, since negotiations with a potential new partner are still in early stages. She said she could not confirm the 593 number in the filed notice, but said that employees facing change will generally be employed by the physicians group that will eventually take over operations at Harlem Hospital Center. Though the total impact remains unclear, what is certain is

SEE HOSPITAL, page 2



NEWS BRIEF

Prof's lawsuit against city dismissed

A federal judge Tuesday tossed out Columbia microbiology instructor Oliver Jovanovic's lawsuit against the city, which alleged that he did not receive a fair trial over a decade ago. The lawsuit was centered on a case in 1998, in which he was ultimately charged with misconduct for sexually torturing a Barnard College student. Judge Paul Crotty this week filed a decision with Manhattan's Federal District Court that said the prosecutors on the original case hadn't improperly influenced the jury's outcome at the time with comments made to the press. Jovanovic is currently a microbiology instructor at Columbia. At the time of his conviction, he was a University doctoral candidate. Fourteen years ago, Jovanovic was arrested on charges that he tied up and assaulted a 20-year-old Barnard College student that he had met online. In 1998 he was convicted of kidnapping, sexual abuse, and assault, but the conviction was overturned the next year in

an appellate court. The court said the trial judge's decision to withhold explicit emails from the victim to Jovanovic hurt his defense. The charges were dismissed in 2001 after the victim declined to testify in a second trial. Jovanovic later leveled a \$20 million lawsuit against the city, saying that prosecutor Linda Fairstein had made comments to the media that influenced the jury's decision. At the time of the first trial, Fairstein had been head of the sex crimes unit at the Manhattan district attorney's office. "Defendants argue at length that the number of relevant statements made by Fairstein was extremely low, and that, in any event, the statements were not inappropriate," Crotty wrote. "There is no need to discuss the propriety of Fairstein's comments, however, because her extrajudicial statements—even if unwise and/or improper—did not in fact deprive Jovanovic of a fair trial."

—Alix Pianin

OPINION, PAGE 4

Mad money

Amanda Gutterman attacks the play-it-safe mentality that leads students toward economics.



SPORTS, BACK PAGE

David Najem is the freshman to watch

Freshman David Najem was named Athlete of the Week after helping Columbia soccer advance the program to impressive new heights.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Hitchcock's wife and collaborator

5 Floater with a ladder

9 Garnish on a toothpick

14 Radio tuner

15 Peace Prize city

16 Kind of spray

17 Ringing sound

18 Hurricane zone

20 Unflappable

22 Playful swimmer

23 Craft

24 ___ in November

25 Bodybuilder's pride

28 Alternatively

33 "Time out!"

37 TV ad-skipping aid

40 "M*A*S*H" role

41 Palo ___ Calif.

42 Dismay at the dealer

45 1970 World's Fair site

46 Hearth burn consequence

47 Jacuzzi, e.g.

50 Polite oater response

54 Destroyer destroyer

56 Sprinter's device

60 Sign of corporate success, and a literal hint to the puzzle theme found in 1B-, 20-, 33-, 42- and 56-Across

62 Con

63 Supple

64 Cornerstone word

65 Spotted

66 Prayer opening

67 Ball holders

68 Coastal raptors

DOWN

1 Appends

2 Play of "GoodFellas"

3 Some Musée d'Orsay works

4 Pool problem

5 Optimistic

6 "The Thin Man" pooch

7 Dentist's suggestion

8 Holy scroll

9 Not digressing

10 Prix de ___ de

11 Writer Dinesen

12 Shop cleaner, briefly

13 Caribou kin

19 Diagnostic proc.

21 "Shoot"

26 Drag

27 Joust verbally

29 Strong criticism

30 Mardi Gras city's Amtrak code

31 Trick-or-treat mo.

32 Bout stopper, for short

33 Wallop

34 NFL scores

35 "That's a not— not"

36 Cupid, to the Greeks

37 General associated with chicken

38 "___ a date!"

39 By way of

43 Negotiated white water, perhaps

44 Thick-bodied fish

47 One vis-à-vis two

48 Oregon State's cont.

49 Diet doctor

51 Med. drama sets

52 He rid line, of snakes, as the legend goes

53 Poch's creator

55 Unimpressed

56 ___ speak

57 Freq. test giver

58 Prime-time time

59 Pontiac muscle cars

60 Road warning

61 Up to, in ads

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QUAD	POLO	INCAN
URGE	ROAR	ZORRO
ADIN	FINITUM	ETO
TEC	ATE	REO
ERS	ATZ	SAY
CCCI		
CHESTY	SHALE	
COMMERCIAL	PAPER	
ADEER	ALLOYS	
TOSS	AFT	ODESSA
EMS	ELF	ESO
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A room with a view

BY JEFFREY KANDEL

Sometimes I get the feeling that our University's name, "Columbia University in the City of New York," is a bit disingenuous. We are certainly in New York City, but we are also separated from much of what it has to offer. Moreover, if you compare our offerings—art, music, dance, theater, and film—to the rest of Manhattan, it is clear that our campus is lacking, not in quality, but certainly in quantity. In my mind, however, we, even as students, have the capacity and resources to lift Morningside Heights out of its cultural slumber. The best thing for Columbia to do in this case is to branch out in a different direction. Arts at Columbia (all of them) should forget the rest of New York, and develop their own niche, applying all of their intelligence and expertise to creating something that is unique, but also world-class in caliber. How to go about this merits a much

Safety in numbers?

One day last week, I was poised to purchase a Japanese tea from one of the International Affairs Building's exotic vending machines when I was overwhelmed by a stampede, whose human constituents pelted out of their lecture on macroeconomics. I felt like someone trampled at a rock concert, only I had missed the main performance. How, I asked myself, can the economics major be this popular? In theory, I had been aware of the phenomenon—asked to define "political science" by an Aristotle-toting CC professor, a student in my class whispered, "The thing tacked on to an econ major."

Columbia has responded to this surge of interest and created a special concentration in business management and a specific major in financial economics, the subject of Derek Turner's recent column ("The pernicious temptation of the business concentration," Sept. 26). Columbia, by popular demand, has moved to sate the econ-crazed masses.

In theory, I had been aware of the phenomenon—asked to define "political science" by an Aristotle-toting CC professor, a student in my class whispered, "The thing tacked on to an econ major."

And it isn't alone. Many top colleges and universities have felt the strain of the increased demand for economics. David Colander, chair of the economics department at Middlebury College, wrote in "The Chronicle of Higher Education," "If the college actually provided enough professors to meet the demand for economics courses, it would have to change its name to the Middlebury School of Economics."

In the Chronicle article, called "Economics Is the 'Just Right' Liberal-Arts Major," Colander searches for an explanation for the increase in economics' popularity. He decides that, hedged between the rigors of hard sciences and comparatively "easy" social sciences, the major will not "hurt [students'] chances of being hired." In other words, kids these days are playing it safe.

It has not always been this way. According to statistics from the U.S. Department of Education, undergraduate degrees in business and economics account for almost a quarter of those

broader discussion, but I have for the past few years been considering one particular solution. It is about time that someone at Columbia put together a decent classic film club. "Why is this so important?" someone might ask. "There is the Film Forum, the Anthology Film Archives, the Walter Reade, and any number of other theaters in New York." The most practical answer is that New York theaters are expensive. But the goal is not to make a cheap alternative, but rather to create an arts institution, relying on Columbia's resources, that eventually will become a landmark in New York. We should do this because it could be so absurdly easy to do something incredible. More importantly, we should have comparable student-led institutions for all of the arts here at Columbia.

Let me share with you my image of such an institution: The Columbia Cinema should be, in every way, a proper movie house. It would be student curated. It would show a film every day of the week. The resources required would be a room, a projector, a DVD. At first it should be open mainly to students, but it would eventually be an institution for all of New York.

What will really distinguish this cinema,

conferred in 2004, nearly double the percentage in 1971. Meanwhile history majors are down from 18.5 percent to 10.7 percent, English majors from 7.6 percent to 3.9 percent, and foreign languages from 2.5 percent to 1.3 percent.

I think many economics majors, asked to justify their decisions, would explain that there are few well-paying jobs to be found in the current economic climate. Overwhelmingly, they might say, the lucrative jobs are to be found in the financial sector. (Perhaps ignoring Adam Smith's quotation: "To admire the rich and despise the poor... is the most universal cause of corruption.") They might agree with Colander that there is no harm in playing it safe. However, disregarding the moral ambiguities of a career in finance, that over a quarter of college graduates major in economics is a problem with serious consequences: personal, academic, and political.

The modern image of the Wall Street banker emerged in the era of the robber barons. It was not always around. Nor will this path continue to guarantee financial success—especially if everyone tries to do the same thing.

In his book, "Ill Fares the Land," historian Tony Judt writes, "In a survey of English schoolboys taken in 1949, it was discovered that the more intelligent the boy the more likely he was to choose an interesting career at a reasonable wage over a job that would merely pay well." And, these boys grew up in the Great Depression.

Judt attributes to our generation an unprecedented "failure of imagination." If young people, fearful, choose to follow rather than create, the real "opportunity cost" will be a lack of new ideas and ventures.

Judt, who taught history for many years at NYU, believed that academia itself suffers when we "restrict ourselves to issues of profit and loss," flattening layers of complexity. For example, a friend and I read Weber's "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism," which traces America's concept of success back to religious pathology. Then, her economics class flattened Weber's work into an argument for developing nations to adopt Protestantism over Catholicism.

On a larger scale, the surge of interest in finance puts America at risk. Goldman Sachs and others profited in the wake of the financial collapse, in particular, from betting against the American economy. Though not all economics majors choose this path, some future bankers are betting too: they cast their lot with the financial services industry, against the American economy.

The Center for Career Education's 2009 survey found that financial services attracted more graduates than any other industry. As the ranks of the parasites swell, they leave the animal from which they feed to starve. With resources siphoned away, who will be left to build?

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however, will be its programming. This takes consideration and knowledge, both about the history of film and about what is generally offered in New York. Yet, the

This would not just be a movie club, but a world-class theater. All it would take is seven people willing to present a movie once a week to as many people as are free to watch it.

end goal is pretty tangible: a list of about 30 movies per month that are alternatively important, interesting, and fun. There could even be theme nights: Wednesdays could be for Westerns, Saturdays (date night) for romance, and others. Most importantly, students should start engaging with artists themselves. Directors and actors

should come in to present their work. This might sound daunting, but just being here at Columbia carries a certain amount of weight. For example, Tilda Swinton, Sally Potter, and Isaac de Bankolé have all been featured on Columbia's radio station in the past few months.

Now, what movies would be shown? Simply put, the Cinema should focus on the classics, ranging from Fellini and Godard to Clint Eastwood and Al Pacino. Eclecticism should be a point of pride. Most importantly, the curators should know enough to make every movie worth going to. And, if I have not stated it, there are any number of aspects that could give prestige to this endeavor. Building up an archive of materials, acquiring special prints, and hosting artists are only a few of those. This would not just be a movie club, but a world-class theater. All it would take is seven people willing to present a movie once a week to as many people as are free to watch it. In fact, if six others contact me, I'll start it. In 50 years, it will be the best theater in New York.

The author is a Columbia College junior majoring in math.



It makes me want to shout

BY ANNA NEWMAN

Many people don't realize the importance of having health insurance. It is easy to take for granted the fact that whenever I don't feel well, get hurt, or have a medical question, I can simply go to the doctor and, with only a small co-payment, be seen immediately. Over one million people in New York City, however, are not afforded this same security. Working with Student Health Outreach, a Community Impact program that helps people get access to health insurance, food stamps, and other public benefits, has highlighted the difference that health insurance can make in a person's life. I have spoken to clients who have diabetes but cannot get insulin because they do not have health insurance. I have met someone who cannot undergo the eye surgery that she needs in order to see because she is uninsured. There are thousands of stories similar to these in New York City alone. While SHOUT works mostly with clients of soup kitchens and food pantries in the Morningside Heights area, many Columbia students do not have access to health insurance either. As of last week, however, this may have changed for many students. While universal health care may seem like an abstract idea in the distant future, changes are currently occurring that affect even Columbia students.

The health reform bill, signed on March 23, 2010, aims to provide health coverage to every American. Last week, on Sept. 23, many provisions of the Affordable Care Act went into effect. Any new health insurance plans are now required to provide free preventive care (yearly check-ups, immunizations, cancer screenings, etc.). In order to stop insurance companies from taking coverage away from people who get sick, health insurance companies are prohibited from rescinding coverage due to clerical or technical mistakes. As of Sept. 23, the act provides a way to appeal insurance coverage decisions. The act also eliminates lifetime limits on essential benefits (previously, insurance companies could put a limit on how much they would pay for health care in a person's lifetime) and regulates annual limits. In 2014, annual limits will be banned for all new plans.

The most important and relevant provision for Columbia students—which went

into effect on Sept. 23—however, is the extension of dependent care coverage. People under the age of 26 are now able to stay on or join their parents' health insurance plan. This applies to both existing and new plans. Young adults may be married, financially independent, students, living with parents, or living in a different state than their parents and may still enroll in their parents' health plan. In New York, young adults between ages 26 and 29 may still be eligible to enroll in their parents' plan, although at a higher cost. This provi-

I have spoken to clients who have diabetes but cannot get insulin because they do not have health insurance.

sion of the Affordable Care Act could have profound effects on Columbia students. It not only allows all students whose parents have health insurance to enroll in health plans, but will also allow students who graduate from college and are still unemployed to have health coverage while they are looking for jobs.

While we live in a world very distant from that of the world that many SHOUT clients live in, we are still profoundly affected by access to health care. It is easy for me to forget how much I benefit from being enrolled in a good health insurance plan and feel that the health reform bill is miles from my life. We are all, however, affected by health reform, and it is important to mark the provisions that began on Sept. 23 as the beginning of a process that will change the way in which we receive care. Given the changing face of health care in America, students must be informed about the options available to them in order to take advantage of the health care opportunities that they have.

The author is a Barnard College junior majoring in biochemistry. She is a SHOUT coordinator.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Grant Barnard a permanent Commencement space

Last year, Barnard's Commencement was, quite controversially, held outside of the International Affairs Building. Future classes were assured that this would not be the case moving forward, and that after the construction of the Diana Center was finished, Commencement could once again be held on Barnard's campus. Students were thus surprised to hear President Spar's recent announcement that she, with the near-unanimous support of the students she consulted, was trying to secure Grant's

Tomb as the Commencement location for the class of 2011. Grant's Tomb is in Riverside Park at 123rd Street, which is nowhere on Barnard's campus. If this is setting a precedent for years to come, one must wonder: Will Commencement ever be held at Barnard, and if not, will it continue to wander through the neighborhood, grounded neither in tradition nor location, from year to year?

We understand that last year's arrangement, and even this year's, may be

temporary, but some indication of the administration's thought process and efforts to secure a more permanent location would be welcome. Why will Commencement not be held, as was promised, next to the Diana—or anywhere on Barnard's campus, or, for that matter, anywhere on the campus of the university with which it is affiliated? Barnard would apparently need to pay to use Columbia's campus, which is one of numerous concerns in choosing a location for graduation. One would think, though, that there must be a suitable space somewhere at the college from which this class is graduating. Grant's Tomb, while an interesting national landmark and historical site, is not where Barnard women went to school.

The same can most likely be said for

wherever Commencement will be held in the years to come, and therein lies the point. Will every class of Barnard women hold their collective breath as they wait to find out whether they will don their caps and gowns anywhere near the place they called home for four years?

This question is a symbolic one, as is the point of Barnard's Commencement being on Barnard's campus. But so, too, is Commencement itself. Students graduate whether or not there is even a ceremony, and yet, every May, students gather to commemorate the four years they spent together and all that they learned from their professors and one another. That is a powerful symbol, and one that would be still more powerful if, year after year, it took place at Barnard itself.



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Making believers out of sports haters

Not everyone likes sports. Although the very idea of not liking sports baffles me, I have come to accept this fact. Normally, it isn't a problem since sports fans and haters tend to keep their distance from one another. However, every now and then a sports fan finds him or herself involved with a sports hater. Whether it's as roommates or boyfriend and girlfriend, these relationships between sports opposites can often lead to potentially awkward situations. Namely, do you go watch the men's basketball game on a Friday night or go see a movie? Or, what do you do on a Sunday afternoon during football season? Luckily, there are a few strategies a sports lover can use to deal with those stubborn haters.

I first have to address the obvious solution: ending whatever relationship you have with the sports hater. I get it. Sports are important and it takes two to play catch, but we have to remember that not everyone is like that buddy from your fantasy league. There's a high probability that not everyone you'll meet watches ESPN 24/7, and here are some more graceful solutions.

1. Highlight the drama. I realize this is the second most obvious solution out there, but it's still worth noting: Sports are so appealing because of the drama that comes from fierce competition, and even a hater should be able to appreciate drama. So try taking him or her to a Columbia basketball game, such as last year's matchup against Ivy rival Penn. With 2.7 seconds left on the clock, Brian Grimes nailed a fade-away 18-footer to give the Lions the 56-55 victory. Just being there as the fans hold their breath when the shot goes up and roar in excitement as it falls through the net should make a lover out of the hard-to-please sports hater. Remember, there's a reason that TNT, the station that knows drama, shows its fair share of NBA games.

2. Play the game. If you love sports, you have probably played some yourself (whether or not you're any good is a completely separate issue). It may not be a good idea to put on the pads and start some hitting drills, but a pick-up game of basketball or a game of catch is a good introduction to the world of athletics. I recommend starting off small—a pick-up game in Dodge is likely to drive people away. Take a walk down to Riverside and play some wiffle ball on the grass, or head over to Central Park and play Ultimate Frisbee on the massive lawns. Remember, everyone at some point in their childhood has played a sport—you just have to remind the hater how much fun it was.

3. Try to sell the environment. Who doesn't love tailgating? Tailgating a football game is less about football and more about drinking, eating, and being merry. While typical tailgating involves a truck and an NFL stadium parking lot, you can find plenty of good old-fashioned tailgating fun before Columbia football games, too. Before kickoff at Baker Field, there are free drinks if you're 21 and plenty of space to barbecue, although you'll have to bring your own food. Remember, haters are more likely to like sports if they're coupled with drinks and grilled meat.

4. Go for the free stuff. If the first three steps have failed to bring out your hater's inner sports fan, then it's time to bring out the big guns. It is common knowledge that free stuff attracts people (especially college students) and the athletics department knows this as well, which is why it gives away t-shirts, beanies, and towels at football and basketball games. In fact, I've gotten so many free shirts during my time at Columbia that I passed up a free one at a recent volleyball game. So get the hater to go for the free stuff, but definitely stick around since you're already there and hey, maybe the Light Blue will even pull out a win.

Now if you can't get him or her to go for free stuff, then your friend or loved one has bigger problems than being a sports hater. I'm sure there are plenty of other successful strategies out there, but I haven't had the need to expand my guide past number four. Regardless of how you make it work, you will both be happy that you were able to bring the hater into the light that is sports.

Bart Lopez is a Columbia College senior majoring in economics-mathematics. sports@columbiaspectator.com



BART LOPEZ
The Tailgating Tales

King David

Newcomer Najem helps soccer shatter old records

BY MRINAL MOHANKA
Spectator Staff Writer

American football came first and baseball came second. Soccer was last—but by no means least. Columbia freshman David Najem, a young member of the men's soccer team, was introduced to “the beautiful game” at the tender age of six, thanks to the influence of his father and uncle.

Fast-forward some 12 years. At the end of August this year, College Soccer News identified Najem as a “freshman to watch.” He was selected as one of 100 freshmen across the United States whose performances fans and media should pay attention to this season. The midfielder from Clifton, N.J. has certainly lived up to expectations and was just named Ivy League Rookie of the Week—a testament to the flying start he's made in his Light Blue career. He is the second member of the Lions squad to pick up the award this season, as his classmate Henning Sauerbier won it earlier this month. Columbia has won three games in a row for the first time since 2003, and Najem has played no small part.

“I'm really happy now that we're winning,” Najem said. “I knew from

my official visits that Columbia was the right school for me, and I'm really enjoying myself here.”

The Ivy League award is by no means the first major recognition Najem has received in his soccer career, but it is his first at Columbia. In his senior year at Paramus Catholic High School, Najem was named New Jersey High School Player of the Year by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, and he also earned NSCAA All-America honors. At Paramus Catholic, Najem was a four-year letter-winner, captained the side for two seasons, and set a school record with 54 goals and 146 points. He will also continue to represent the prestigious New York Red Bulls Academy team—which he joined at the age of 14 when it was still called the MetroStars—when the college season is over.

Najem has played a significant role in helping the Lions to their 4-4-1 record so far this season and leads the team in assists with three. He has played most of the Lions' last four fixtures and made major contributions to the team. He earned a well-deserved rest in the second half against Delaware, but only went off after the Lions were leading 3-0. Najem hit the

post with a quick free kick when the score was level at 0-0, and his marauding run in the first half started the attack that led to the Lions' opener. In last week's 3-2 win against Seton Hall, Najem helped the Lions fight back from 2-1 down when he leveled the game with a superb left-footed strike into the bottom corner. Soon after, his delivery from a corner led to the game-winner. His pinpoint set piece was met by junior Ronnie Shaban, who was able to head it toward junior co-captain Mike Mazzullo. Mazzullo then had the simple task of nodding the ball home. Najem added to his assists account with a delightful through ball at the start of the second half against the Long Island University Blackbirds on Friday. His pass put sophomore striker Will Stamatis clean through against the Blackbirds' keeper for the goal that gave the Lions a 1-0 win.

“It's nice to see the success coming back,” Najem said. “We're looking to break old records and set our own ones as well this season.”

Head coach Kevin Anderson is happy with the way the newcomer is performing, but will not let him get carried away. “He's a good player. Everyone knows

that, and there's no doubt about it,” Anderson said. “But he's only playing as well as he is because of the work the 10 other members of this team are doing around him.”

Najem excelled in the second half against LIU, playing in a slightly more advanced role ahead of Mazzullo instead of alongside him, and created numerous chances for his teammates. His passing has been a joy to watch, and his composure on the ball inspires confidence in the rest of his teammates.

Sophomore striker Nick Ayers, who scored the opener against Delaware, was full of praise for his new teammate. “He's a really great player, and he definitely inspires us all,” Ayers said. “He's a clever player who can find me with an incisive pass, and I love playing with him.”

The Lions open their Ivy League campaign when they visit Brown on Saturday, and Najem's quality in the center of the park will be vital if they are to come away with a win as they attempt to better last season's 2-5 Ivy record.

“We're all really excited for the Ivies,” Najem said. “It's a boost to go into the game with three wins on the trot, and now our warm-up is done. Here's where the big games start.”

Columbia soccer blanks Delaware 3-0 in biggest win since 2004

BY MRINAL MOHANKA
Spectator Staff Writer

The Columbia men's soccer team improved its season record to 4-4-1 with a dominant 3-0 win against the Delaware Blue Hens on Tuesday night. The score line represented Columbia's biggest win since it beat Hofstra in 2004, and the Lions have now recorded three consecutive wins for the first time since 2003. Columbia's goals came from sophomores Nick Ayers and Will Stamatis on either side of a goal by freshman Henning Sauerbier.

The game was extremely physical, with both teams conceding several needless free kicks early on. The Lions threatened from a free kick in the fourth minute but could only win a corner. Freshman David Najem nearly broke through in the sixth minute after he capitalized on a back-pass from a Delaware player, but he slipped after rounding one player and the chance went begging. Najem hit the post minutes later when sophomore attacker Nick Scott won a free kick on the edge of the box. Najem was quick to take a strike, but it cannoned off the post with the Blue Hens' keeper a spectator. Delaware came close with a chance of its own soon after, and it took a last-ditch block from Lions center back Ronnie Shaban to concede a corner after Demar Stephenson thought he had time and space to score.

The Lions came close again the 18th minute, but junior Francois Anderson's pinpoint delivery from the right flank was headed just wide by Najem. Junior co-captain Mike Mazzullo nearly put the Lions ahead, but his flicked header from Scott's free kick was glanced wide. Delaware surged forward soon after and Lions keeper Alexander Aurricchio fumbled a free kick, but Mazzullo was on hand to clear the danger. The Lions dominated the first half overall, but they were guilty of giving away possession very cheaply on certain occasions. The Blue Hens' attacking trio of Stephenson, Evans Frimpong, and Jon Scheer gave the Lions moments to worry about all game, but Delaware could never find the end product it needed. The opening goal came in

DELAWARE	0
COLUMBIA	3



the 35th minute when Light Blue striker Ayers, who had only entered the action moments earlier, tapped a header over the line after Sauerbier's headed effort bounced back off the post. The Lions took a well-deserved lead into the interval.

The second half started with Delaware looking to fight back, but the Lions doubled their lead eight minutes into the half when Ayers used his chest to beautifully cushion Anderson's ball toward Sauerbier, who took a touch to create space before rifling his effort from

the edge of the box past Kris Devaux into the Delaware goal. Fifteen minutes later, the Lions had their third. Scott found Mazzullo in the center and Mazzullo played an incisive pass toward Stamatis, who coolly finished past the keeper for his second goal in as many games. The Blue Hens did not give up, and Michael Attal in the Lions' goal—who replaced Aurricchio in the 70th minute—was forced to make a diving save from a Frimpong shot, but it was the closest Delaware would come.

Ayers' half-hour cameo from the bench was the difference, as he broke the deadlock and provided an assist for Sauerbier.

“It feels pretty good. I'm very relieved,” he said. “I've been close to scoring in recent games, and I'm glad the goal finally came. It's good to have won three in a row, and it's important that we're coming really together as a team.”

Head coach Kevin Anderson was pleased with his side's display.

“We're happy with the performance,” he said. “We're striving to score goals without conceding any, and today's result is a culmination of a lot of hard work in recent weeks. We won most of the individual battles out there today, and now we're going to focus on our trip to Brown.”

The Lions will open their Ivy campaign at Brown on Saturday, Oct. 2, at 7 p.m.



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MAKING HISTORY | Nick Ayers made the difference in the game against Delaware in the second half, helping his team improve its record 4-4-1 and giving the program its biggest win since its 2004 victory against Hofstra.