

City explores historic district in CU region

BY MELISSA VON MAYRHAUSER
Columbia Daily Spectator

A preliminary city plan to create a Morningside Heights Historic District could place significant checks on the University's development.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission, the city agency that oversees and creates historic districts, is now pushing

“They [Columbia] haven’t been exactly transparent in their attitudes toward preservation.”

—Alexis Stephens,
BC ’05, Neighborhood
Preservation Center

forward with a potential plan to designate Morningside Heights a historic region—in a proposed area where 43 of the 63 buildings are owned by Columbia.

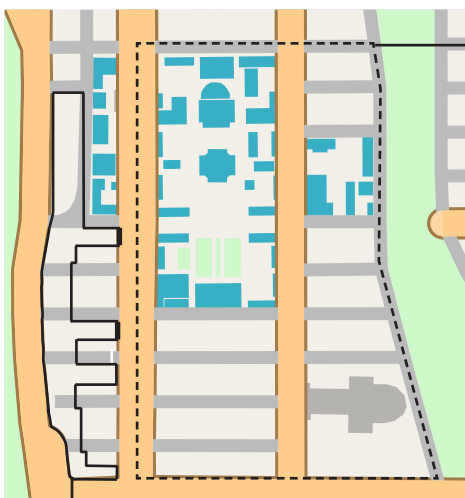
“Columbia is a very large landowner within Morningside Heights,” said Simeon Bankoff,



HENRY WILLSON FOR SPECTATOR

PROTECT AND PRESERVE | 116th and Riverside could be part of a Morningside Heights historic district.

PROPOSED HISTORICAL DISTRICT



Some activists wish to see the district include the area between Broadway and Morningside Drive, almost all of which is owned by Columbia.

The proposed district lies between 119th and 110th streets and includes 63 buildings, 43 of which are owned by Columbia, including the undergraduate dorm 47 Claremont.

GRAPHIC BY GEETIKA RUDRA

TC earns grant for community college research

BY CONSTANCE BOOZER
Columbia Daily Spectator

With an \$850,000 grant awarded to Teachers College this week, professors hope to begin research that could lead to radical improvements in the community college structure.

The grant, from the national Kresge Foundation, will go to TC's Community College Research Center for a launch research project that is now in the early stages.

The study will focus on Macomb Community College near Detroit, Mich., and using their findings, the researchers hope to create new policies for community colleges across the country.

“We need to begin looking at the institution as a whole,” said CCRC director Thomas Bailey, who is part of the team working on the project. “Institution-wide policy and structures could be tweaked to help smooth the way for systemic improvement across the whole school.”

Bailey said he hopes their research will address a lack of coherency in community college policies as well as structural

problems hindering student success.

Researchers said they chose Macomb because it seemed fairly representative of community colleges and could be a good springboard for future initiatives.

Though it's not the largest grant the center has received—prior ones have ranged from \$20,000 to \$10 million—Bailey said he was optimistic that this research could have a serious impact.

But this grant from the Kresge Foundation differs from many of the center's grants in the past due to the extent of its impact, he said.

The center has tackled specific problems related to community colleges before, but this time, he said, the team hopes to be more comprehensive.

“We did the math and realized that specific programs, no matter how wonderful, are unlikely to accomplish change on the scale required,” Bailey said.

Shanna Jaggars, a senior research assistant at TC, said the project will provide an outside

SEE GRANT, page 2

BC partners with Goddard to fill vacancy

BY SHIRA POLIAK
Spectator Staff Writer

When Barnard built its Cathedral Gardens dorms in 2005, it created two storefronts on 109th and 110th Streets to be used for community space. Since then though, the over 5,000 square foot property on 110th Street and Manhattan Avenue has sat vacant, its windows papered over.

But that may change as Barnard moves forward with negotiations to move a local organization's college preparatory program to its site.

Goddard Riverside Community Center, an organization that provides education, shelter, and food to residents of the Upper West Side and West Harlem, is planning to move its OPTIONS program to the space in Barnard. The program—currently located at 88th Street and Columbus Avenue—provides students from low and middle-income backgrounds free SAT

SEE COLLEGE PREP, page 3

GOING GREEK



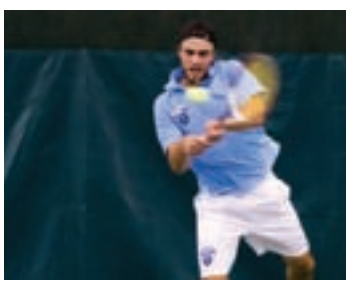
ZARA CASTANY / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SEEKING RECOGNITION | Doris Domoszalai, BC '11, and Alexandra Voss, BC '11, talk with Amanda Hemenway, BC '12, about sorority recognition from the Student Government Association.

OPINION, PAGE 4

Notes on a rally

Charlotte Crawford and Katie Tongalson argue that there's nothing to fear but insanity itself. Amanda Gutterman bemoans our generation's apathy.



SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Kung and Gery impress at Nationals

Kevin Kung and Nate Gery recovered from a season-long dry spell to deliver astounding results at the National Indoors, ultimately matching the No. 2 Stanford team.

EVENTS

Taste of Asia

Party with the Asia Pacific Affairs Council celebrating international food and music.

6th Floor Cafe, SIPA, 7 p.m.

Roslyn Silver Science '27 Lecture

Listen to a lecture on cravings, desires, and frightening things.

Sulzberger Parlor, Barnard Hall, 6:30 p.m.

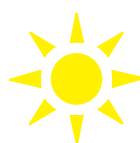
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Today



58° / 38°

Tomorrow



54° / 38°



HENRY WILLSON FOR SPECTATOR

HISTORY LESSONS | Architecture in Morningside Heights would have more protections under an LPC historic district proposal.

City explores potential Morningside Heights district, could impact CU

LANDMARKS from front page

executive director of the Historic Districts Council, a nonprofit preservation group. “Should the LPC designate a district, then they would own a lot of landmark buildings, which they would not be able to tear down easily.”

Once an area is designated an historic district, most external changes to buildings—and any renovations or demolitions—have to be approved by the LPC.

Local residents and elected officials have been pushing the LPC to consider the neighborhood for protection since 1996, arguing that its architectural history and variety are worth officially recognizing.

In September, LPC officials proposed boundaries that stretched from 110th to 119th streets along Riverside Drive, which includes some Columbia dorms. The agency says the plan is not definitive and it is currently conducting further research.

Getting approval for changes

takes time, said Alexis Stephens, BC ’05, of the Neighborhood Preservation Center, an advocacy group. “It would probably be something that would be a major hassle to them [Columbia],” she said.

But Andrea Goldwyn, director of public policy for New York Landmarks Conservancy, said that designating the neighborhood wouldn’t negatively impact the University.

“It’s not particularly onerous,” she said of the LPC process. “You need to have maintenance, and Landmarks Commission process does add a layer of regulation, but it’s also good guidance about what’s best for the building to keep it safe and secure and continue to be a nice link to the neighborhood’s history.”

For other activists, though, restricting the University is the point—something that Andrew Berman, the executive director of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, emphasized. In overseeing its neighborhood’s nine historic districts, his organization often works to restrict

New York University’s development goals.

“It is by no means an all-encompassing action that means no change whatsoever in terms of a university and its position within a community, but obviously it’s a significant layer of regulation which can go a long way in terms of conserving the physical fabric and scale of the neighborhood,” Berman said.

The University declined to comment on what impact a historic district would have on its operations and whether it would support a historic district or involve itself in the planning, referring only to a 2009 University statement. “We are certainly open to the study of an appropriately-defined district in the area,” spokesperson Robert Hornsby said then, adding that Columbia “has long been a good steward of its valuable architectural legacy.”

For Stephens, this stance is typical. “I’m not surprised at all that they haven’t been exactly transparent in their attitudes toward preservation.”

The LPC is also currently reviewing additional buildings

outside of the proposed area.

At a September LPC meeting in Riverside Church, Community Board 9 member Brad Taylor voiced concerns that the proposed area doesn’t include Broadway and Morningside Drive.

“There’s got to be some politics at play. It can’t just be based on merit,” Taylor said.

Lisi de Bourbon, an LPC spokesperson, said that the agency decided after the meeting to review some of the streets east of Broadway, though there is no timeline yet.

Assemblymember Daniel O’Donnell, who has been at the forefront of the fight for years, said that he has not heard more from the LPC since September.

“However, I’m hopeful that this delay means the LPC is taking into account the overwhelming community support for an expanded historic district and carefully designing its new map to match what the community so clearly wants,” O’Donnell said in a statement.

Sarah Darville contributed reporting.
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Teachers College earns grant for community college research

GRANT from front page

perspective on the school. “You could almost call this a radical approach. Unlike past smaller projects, we are approaching the sharp angles of institutions with the hope to overcome day-to-day problems in creating a large-picture solution,” she said.

Bailey said it’s important to focus research efforts on

community colleges, which are accessible to a wide subset of the population.

“They provide low-income students with the opportunity to get a higher education and move on to a well-paying career,” he said. “These students face many challenges as they attempt to persevere through college and earn a degree.”

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Barnard fares worse than Columbia in Newsweek’s latest urban schools rankings list

BY MELANIE BRODER
Columbia Daily Spectator

They may be right across the street from each other, but Barnard and Columbia are far apart in Newsweek’s latest college rankings list of “Most Desirable Urban Schools.”

In the magazine’s list released this fall, Columbia was ranked at number four, behind Harvard, Yale, and MIT. Barnard was ranked at number 17—the only single-sex school on the list. On the “Most

Desirable Schools in America” list, Columbia was ranked at number six, while Barnard was not ranked at all.

“My fear is that you look at the number, but you don’t understand what you’re reading and why you’re reading it,” Jennifer Fondiller, dean of admissions, said, adding that rankings often fail to acknowledge the Barnard-Columbia partnership and weigh heavily factors such as facilities, dining, endowment, and full-time faculty that seem modest

when considering Barnard independently.

Newsweek considers a school “desirable” based on academic credentials of admitted students, rate of admissions, along with the quality of the school’s academic and nonacademic experience. The ratings rely on a number of measures, including retention rate, student-to-faculty ratio, student views of dining, housing, and the school’s facilities, a climate score, and the school’s endowment.

“It comes as no surprise that

Columbia is featured on a list of top urban universities,” Jessica Marinaccio, dean of undergraduate admissions, wrote in an email. “Our location in New York City undoubtedly affords students with unique and exciting opportunities.”

But Fondiller said that the arbitrary rankings sometimes miss the point. Today’s society is obsessed with lists, she said, questioning why journalists, as opposed to educators, are driving what’s valued as important in higher education.

Still, Fondiller said she was pleased Barnard earned the number 17 spot on the urban schools list.

“Nothing is quite like Barnard,” she said. “You can feel when you are on this campus that you know people walking back and forth. It has that smallness to it, but the minute you walk outside of the gates, you don’t have to get on a bus to get you into the city.”

For some students, the rankings don’t always represent the student experiences accurately.

“I think we should be number one,” Kathleen Tatem, SEAS ’13, said. “If you think of Harvard, you think of snobby rich kids. We’re so diverse. There’s people from so many countries. We’re all New Yorkers so we have that in common.”

She added that she enjoys the social life at Columbia, which she feels differs in many ways from most American colleges. “You’re literally never bored here,” she added.

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New pairing paying dividends for men’s tennis in recent play

TENNIS from back page

Columbia was given a wildcard into the singles and doubles draw at the National Intercollegiate Indoor Championships as the host school. Kung and Gery were dealt the wildcard for doubles.

“I think it’s important that we were invited into the tournament,” Gery said. “It’s important not to try to just hang in there with these guys. We actually wanted to compete. Bid wanted to make sure that that would happen.”

“I was a bit afraid when I saw them warming up. They didn’t miss a ball. But then Nate held easily, and then I held easily, and then I started to think that these guys aren’t that good.”

—Kevin Kung, CC ’11

“It was a clean slate for us,” he continued. “We put in the work a week before, and we were playing to beat these guys, we were playing to win and to prove to ourselves that we can do it.”

The tournament didn’t get off to a great start for Gery and Kung, however, as they lost in the first round of the main draw to a big-serving team from Ohio State. The duo was entered in the back draw, and it was there that they recaptured their magic.

In the quarterfinals of the back draw, they played a team from BYU, which won the Mountain Region doubles title.

“I thought that this might be the last tournament that I played in college tennis,” said Kung, a senior. “I got tight at a crucial point against Ohio State. I just thought, I’m going to go out and play the points. If we lose, it’s going to be because they played better.”

Columbia stayed on serve until 7-8, where BYU had two match points with Kung serving. But then two solid serves

and good volleys by Gery staved off the match points, and the duo roared back to win the match in the tiebreak.

Up next in the semifinals was the No. 2 team in the nation from Stanford of Bradley Klahn and Ryan Thacher. The team had won the ITA National Indoor Championships in 2009, and Klahn was the NCAA singles champion in May and played in the U.S. Open.

“We knew they were a good team—better and more experienced than we were,” Gery said. “But that’s the thing about indoor doubles. With a good serve, anyone can beat anyone. It’s enough to be in good position and in a pro-set [eight-game set], it’s not like three out of five sets where the better players have more time to play better. We didn’t really know what to expect.”

Gery had actually played Klahn, a junior, a few times in juniors in both singles and doubles.

Kung conceded that the level of tennis from the Stanford pair was impressive at the start of the match.

“I was a bit afraid when I saw them warming up,” he said. “They didn’t miss a ball. But then Nate held easily, and then I held easily, and then I started to think that these guys aren’t that good. There’s nothing different that they do in doubles that we can’t. But I was surprised that we were competing at the same level as them consistently.”

The match played out similar to the BYU match in the fact that it remained on serve throughout. Columbia fought its way into a tiebreak, where Kung and Gery fell behind 5-1. But as they had all weekend, they fought their way back to tie it at five. Then Gery stepped up to serve.

“I was serving so well,” he said. “I was going to go for a big first serve, or a big second serve and come in. I had nothing to lose. I felt like it would be stupid to play safe and lose at that point.”

Gery bombed a serve out wide that Thacher mishit. The backhand stayed low, however, and Gery missed the volley. Stanford served it out on its first and only match point.

“It all balances out,” Kung said. “If I look at just those two points, yeah, I feel like we were pretty unlucky. But we were lucky to come back from 1-5 down. We were also down 0-40 on serve, and won five straight points at one point.”

The future is bright for Kung and Gery when it comes to the spring and team dual matches. The win over BYU may give the team a national ranking when the new rankings are released in January, and it’s sure to instill confidence in the pair.

“I think the way they played, they played really well,” Goswami said. “Sometimes you just click. Nate has a big serve and Kevin is active at the net, and Kevin has served much better in the last year or so and that’s made a difference.”

“It shows us that we play at this high level,” Gery said. “We’re not going to see this high caliber all season. We want to improve our return games and win matches that we should win. It’s all about finding consistency, but we know we have played at that level before and it doesn’t get better than that competition.”

In fact, the duo was broken only

once in three matches at National Indoors, but failed to break serve in any of those matches.

“We want to beat everyone that we’re supposed to beat,” Kung said. “I’d like for us to make spring nationals [NCAA Tournament] and compete against players of this caliber again.”

One of the factors behind their goals and expectations for the spring is their continued improvement since coming to Columbia.

“My doubles has improved a lot,” Kung said. “Bid is one of the best doubles coaches in the entire country, and it’s the same with Howie [associate head coach Howard Endelman]. Howie was a great doubles player as well.”

Although the team recently lost its top two players to graduation, Gery and Kung should help keep the Lions competitive in the Ivy League while they continue to make their presence felt on the national stage.



NATE GERY

CC ’13
Aurora, Ontario

- Played No. 6 singles in the spring, going 10-4 in singles and 10-8 at No. 2 doubles, playing with Haig Schneiderman
- Canadian National Juniors champion in the U14 and U18 divisions
- Was ranked as high as No. 190 in the world as a junior



KEVIN KUNG

CC ’11
Hong Kong

- Reached the finals of the Columbia Classic “A” draw in 2010
- Went 3-1 in Ivy singles at No. 5 singles in 2010 and 4-3 in doubles, partnering with Rajeev Deb-Sen
- Suffered only one singles loss all season
- Named ITA Scholar-athlete in 2009
- Won two tournaments in the fall of 2007, and went 11-2 in singles
- Ranked No. 1 junior in Hong Kong as a junior and No. 274 in the world

PHOTOS COURTESY OF COLUMBIA ATHLETICS / GRAPHICS BY STEPHANIE MANNHEIM

New coach, new beginnings for men’s basketball

SHAW from back page

robbed the team of any sense of stability, prevented the players from jelling on the court, and undermined everyone’s confidence.

Second, please establish an offensive scheme. This may not be a problem since Smith comes from a school with a good track record, especially on offense. However, after seeing the Light Blue offense of the past few years, this is a clear necessity. Too many times, players would just stand still, whipping the ball around the outside, convinced that at some point, the defender would just go away and give him an open shot. There was no flow, just little penetration and lots of low-scoring games. I would start recounting a few, but almost all of them drove me to the bottle. This team probably will not be an offensive juggernaut this season, but a real strategy on offense would do wonders for a squad that averaged 63 points or fewer each of the past three seasons.

Finally, figure out what is causing all these injuries. I sure never could. Was it too much contact in practices? An overstretched training staff? Brittle players? One way or another, the number of injuries that piled up over the past few years was downright frightening. Justin Armstrong never recovered from a knee injury, Joe Bova’s back resembled that of an octogenarian, Niko Scott had a constant flu, and Pat Foley injured every part of his body at least twice. As much as the team could be infuriating, it is undoubtedly tougher to play when most of your best players are not actually on the court.

Those are by no means the only ways Smith can elevate this program to another level, and I am sure he already has his plan in place. Still, one thing is certain: Jones took this team from the basement to the middle level, and now it’s time for Smith to take it to the penthouse.

If only I could say the same for Wilson.

Lucas Shaw is a Columbia College senior majoring in political science. sports@columbiaspectator.com

Water polo enters weekend tournament with high hopes



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WINDING UP | With a victory over Cornell in the state finals, the Lions captured the New York Division title for the third consecutive year.

WATER POLO from back page

Columbia Business School.

“We are a relatively laid back team,” he said. “Some of the other teams out there do practice five days a week and have tournaments every single weekend. We don’t quite have the time or the availability of the pool to do that, but we try to get in and swim every day that we don’t have polo.”

Samardzija has been involved with water polo at Columbia since 2004 but has been serving more as a consultant and advisor to the team for the past two seasons. He is the full-time varsity water polo coach at St. Francis, which has a Division I program.

“This year we have excellent team leaders in Will Reid, Akhil Mehta, Daniel Kirel, just to name a few,” Samardzija said. “But basically we will mostly rely on the depth of our squad as this is the first time that I remember that the whole team will actually be available and playing.”

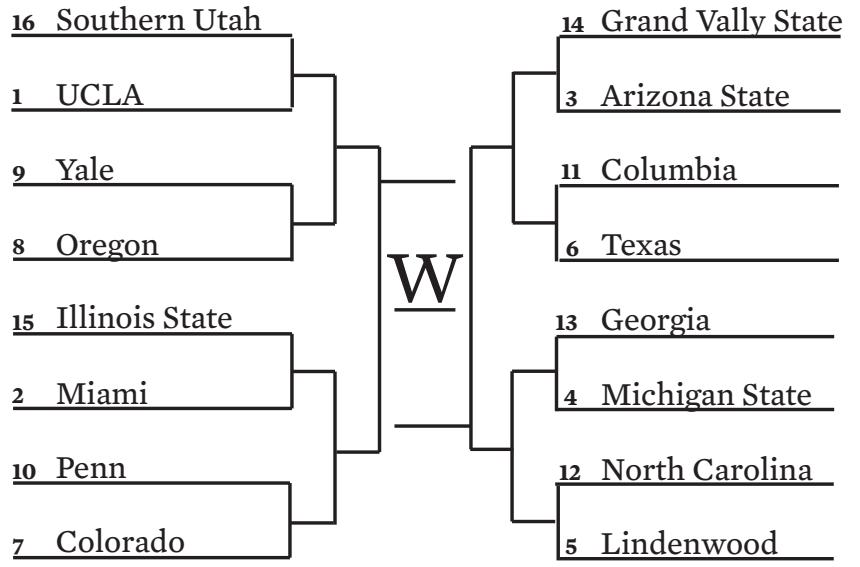
Samardzija also lauded Kai Golden, a sophomore from Hawaii, for his strong play.

“We expect him to lead the team next weekend as well,” Samardzija said. “Kai possesses great understanding of the game and he’s also a great swimmer.”

Tournament action opens on Friday in Cedar City, Utah.

Editor’s note: Akhil Mehta, captain of the club water polo team, is Spectator’s publisher.

TOURNAMENT BRACKET



GRAPHIC BY EMILY SHARTRAND



YIAN PAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FILLING THE VOID | Barnard is negotiating a partnership with a nonprofit to move into empty space on 110th by Cathedral Gardens.

Barnard seeks partnership with neighborhood program

COLLEGE PREP from front page

and admissions counseling.

In need of more space and counselors, OPTIONS’ move would help give them more resources and bring new students into the program, director Jane Heaphy said.

“The new site will put us closer to Harlem high schools and neighborhoods where there is tremendous need,” she said.

Teaming with Goddard Riverside comes at an opportune time for Barnard, said Vivian Taylor, Barnard’s vice president for community development. Due to rising costs, Barnard this year terminated its Liberty Partnerships Program, a state-funded tutoring program for neighborhood students.

“I look at ways that we can help young people succeed through educational avenues. This is another program to serve young people,” Taylor said.

Goddard Riverside will pay rent to Barnard based on the operating and maintenance costs of the space, said Greg Brown, Barnard’s chief operating officer.

OPTIONS has a terrific track record in direct college preparatory work with neighborhood high school students as

well as serving as a training ground for mentors and counselors across the country,” Brown wrote in an email, adding that he hopes the program will utilize Barnard volunteers.

“The new site will put us closer to Harlem high schools and neighborhoods where there is tremendous need.”

—Jane Heaphy, OPTIONS director

Some neighboring businesses said they also support Goddard filling the vacancy.

“It’s a noble cause,” said Norma Darton, owner of Spoonbread Catering, a business and restaurant two doors down from the empty space on 110th

Street. “I don’t know if kids applying to college will come get a meal, but it’s a good cause.”

Because the space was already zoned for community purposes, Goddard Riverside and Barnard did not need Community Board 7’s approval on the measure. Still, CB7 voted in favor of a resolution supporting the move, at its monthly meeting Tuesday night.

Peter Arndsten, district manager of the Columbus Amsterdam Business Improvement District, said that this is a fitting use for the space. “This will serve the youth of the neighborhood, give them guidance, and help them see beyond the neighborhood.”

Arndsten also said he thinks this project could boost local business. “Anytime you have an empty space filled with people who’ve never been here before it’s a good thing.”

Mark Diller, CC ’80 and chair of CB7’s Youth, Education and Libraries Committee, said he hopes Goddard Riverside can use CB7’s vote to show funders that neighborhood residents support the move.

“This program is bursting at the seams in its current space,” Diller said. shira.poliak@columbiaspectator.com

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 "60 Minutes" correspondent
6 ... Helens.
10 Setup punch
13 Pump option
15 Tad
16 L.A.-based oil giant, familiarly
17 Get there
18 Flea market cousin
20 Soccer VIPs?
21 Source of low-alcohol wines
23 No longer newsworthy
24 Mickey Mantle or Mark Teixeira, notably
27 Diet successfully
28 Counsel
32 "... Gold"; Peter Fonda film
35 Helper: Abbr.
38 Lobbying gp.
39 Fill in at school
43 Modern ...
44 Friend's pronoun
45 "Then ..."
46 Karate instructor
49 Glued to the tube, say
51 Currency differential
57 Shoelace protector
60 Smack back?
61 It's wet in Oaxaca
62 Commercial imbalance
64 "The Sound of Music" quintet
66 "Awesome!"
67 Botanical junction
68 Golf commentator
69 Poet Lowell
70 Texan's sign-off
71 Many Miley Cyrus fans

DOWN

1 Sends unwanted e-mail
2 Road sign symbol
3 Nuclear pioneer
Enrico
4 Bible letters

5 Toyota ... 4: SUV model
6 Peruvian volcano
El
7 Namely
8 Ticketing place: Abbr.
9 Danced like Bojangles
Robinson
10 Stereotypical diner name
11 Forest choppers
12 Unit of computer memory
14 Slang assents
19 Sportscaster
Albert
22 Knife holder
25 Budgetary concern
26 British art institution
29 Apple touchscreen computer
30 Anatomical pouches
31 Return from a cave?
32 Finds a purpose for
33 Dangle a carrot in front of, so to speak

34 "My Country" author
36 Seek damages
37 Buffet heater
40 Suffix with meteor
41 Finish line indicator
42 Play break
47 Watermelon bit
48 Magnitude
50 "... What ... boy am I!"

52 Exciting
53 Adrien of cosmetics
54 Colorful quartz
55 Shroud city
56 Lets up
57 Name on a razor
58 Fat measure
59 ... Luck
63 Understood
65 Heavy drinker

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

SCRAG RABBI PJS
PRIMA ALARM RAP
FOSBURYFLOP EVE
CELLO ALLO SAW
ELMS IRAS
THREEPOINTTURN
MIA ORTS EERIE
NALLE ITS REIGN
NRFOX TOUT ZOE
MACKENZIERIVER
RICO SAME
SKA UVEA SPIEL
PEZ TEXASHOLDER
ARE ENERO SEGAR
RID BASES EDENS

xwordeditor@aol.com 11/10/10



By Pamela Amick Kiewit
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Can Smith take basketball team to next level?

I have been struggling to sleep the past couple of days and I am sure you all know why. I could not be more excited for this week-end's special event. A hint: It happens just once a year and is only held at Columbia every other year. It's time for the third annual "Cornell Saves Norries Wilson's Job Classic" (Trademark, Lucas Shaw).



LUCAS SHAW

In the Refrigerator

It was just two years ago that Nathan Ford inaugurated this sacred holiday by throwing four second-half interceptions. Last year, Ben Ganter and Stephen Liuzza raised the stakes, combining for six. How high can the Big Red go this year? Coach Jim Knowles can only guess, but if they hit eight, they'll double this season's total through eight games.

As much as this annual shindig means to me, there is actually something we should all be more excited for: Light Blue basketball starts up again, new coach and all.

Having been around the program

This year, we begin a new era, one with a coach we don't know a ton about. I will meet him for the first time this week, and I can only hope he is as good a person and an interviewee as Jones.

the past three years, I grew to like former coach Joe Jones quite a bit. He was affable, caring, and surprisingly forthright—for a college coach, that is. What stood out above all was that his players clearly loved him. You could see the look on their faces at their final game and just know that whether or not Jones made them better basketball players, he impacted their lives in a positive way.

However, there is that whole basketball thing and on the court, there were two trademarks of the Jones era: inconsistency and squandered opportunities. Yes, Jones pulled the program out of the gutter, and for that he deserves immense gratitude. He brought in talent the Lions had not had in some time—inferior to some other schools, but a big improvement nonetheless.

Still, the team crested at 7-7 in the Ivy League, hitting that mark three years in a row, before slipping back below .500 his final season. Was it that the other teams were just better? Maybe. Did injuries seem to ravage the roster every year? No question. But his teams seemed to turn the switch on and off without any control, looking like a potential Ivy champion one night and a doormat the next.

There was the year the team sat at 6-3, one game out of first place. The next night, the Lions inexplicably lost at Yale—Jones never could beat his brother—and closed the season with a catastrophic home loss to a hapless Penn team. The year before that, the team sat at 7-4, poised for a top-three finish. Then, the Lions lost three in a row to finish, including a shellacking at home to ... Dartmouth.

Like I said, inconsistent.

One cannot blame Jones entirely, but as we are constantly reminded by a certain propitious football coach, coaches have to prepare their team to play hard the whole game, every time.

This year, we begin a new era, one with a coach we don't know a ton about. I will meet him for the first time this week and I can only hope he is as good a person and an interviewee as Jones.

Equally important is that Kyle Smith learns a few things from the Jones era, things that, in my humble opinion, precipitated the Lions' exasperating inconsistency.

First off, set a rotation and stick with it. Week to week, Jones never seemed to use the same players in the same roles. Hell, not even game-to-game. It

Kung, Gery form dynamic duo for men's tennis

BY KUNAL GUPTA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

One of the defining qualities of a great sports team is the ability to make the best of a bad situation. In May, the Columbia men's tennis team went on the road to play No. 22 Wake Forest in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. On paper, Columbia had a shot to score its first NCAA win in recent history, but injuries to the No. 2 and 3 singles players, coupled with the fact that they hadn't played a match in nearly a month, made the road much, much tougher. Injuries forced the squad to reshuffle its doubles lineup for the first time all season. Head coach Bid Goswami paired Kevin Kung and Nate Gery and put them at No. 2 doubles. From there, a winning combination was formed.

"It was making sense to me last year," Goswami said. "I felt it was by accident that it happened because Mihai [Nichifor] got hurt, he couldn't play doubles."

"Kevin was active at the net," the coach continued. "I thought if I gave him Nate with his big serve, Kevin would take advantage of that. I kept that in the back of my mind and thought, let's start off with them."

Kung, a senior from Hong Kong, and Gery, a sophomore from Ontario, Canada, form quite a doubles team on the tennis court. Gery, a big-serving righty, is complemented by the left-handed Kung, whose quick hands enable him to end points quickly and effectively up at net.

Kung and Gery played an impressive match against Wake Forest, leading 6-4 when it was halted because the doubles point had been decided.

"That was the first time we played together," Kung said, "and it worked out pretty well."

"We didn't lose any points because of miscommunication," Gery added. "And for a new team, it's important to understand and have a familiarity with your partner. We played the important points well."

Aside from their incredible talent (both were ranked in the top 275 in the world as juniors), there are several factors on the court that make the duo effective.

"Nate's serve and my poaching is one thing," Kung said.

"We take care of our service games pretty well," Gery said. "That allows us to really play our return games aggressively, because we have confidence that we are going to hold."

The duo was once again paired up in the fall as Goswami tried to recapture the success that the pair had against Wake Forest.

The results were great at first. They advanced to the semifinals of the Princeton Invitational "A" draw and lost to the top seed and eventual champion from Penn State, 8-5, although Columbia had numerous break chances

early in the match to get ahead.

"They played a really good tournament the first tournament," Goswami said. "I thought, wow, that was good!"

"We came into Princeton having confidence from playing well at Wake Forest," Gery said. "Our second match was good, we beat a good team. We put some pressure on ourselves that we had won matches, and now it was time to beat a top team, but there were still positives to take away from that match."

What followed, however, was a slump that lasted until this week-end's National Intercollegiate Indoor Championships. The duo struggled to win from mid-September until November, losing close matches almost every time.

"We knew they were a good team—better and more experienced than we were. But that's the thing about indoor doubles. With a good serve, anyone can beat anyone."

—Nathaniel Gery, CC '13

"They were just not playing well," Goswami said. "They played regionals as badly as you can play, it's not a bad team [Sacred Heart], but they lost 8-3 and it was not even close, so I thought we needed a change."

"We were up 7-4 against Penn's No. 1 team at the National Tennis Center Invitational, and we lost a bad match," Gery said. "Then against Dartmouth we were up a break, and we just didn't close and finish. We were ahead and fell apart. We just weren't taking care of our jobs at the end of matches, and then it became a slump, and then we didn't play well."

Kung points to a practice match of an example of how bad it got.

"In practice, we played Cyril and Tizian [Bucher], and their returns are just incredible. We lost at love every service game—we didn't win a point when we served. We lost 6-0. It just started to break down our confidence."

"Tennis is a mental sport," he went on. "At first we played with nothing to lose and we started off well, but then we started to realize, 'We're good,' and we started to put pressure to uphold our ranking or seeding in tournaments and it just spiraled."

The duo had one last chance to get back on track in the fall, however, as

SEE TENNIS, page 3



ALYSON GOULDEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MEANT TO BE | After a slow start to the season, Nate Gery, above, and Kevin Kung reached another gear at the National Intercollegiate Indoor Championships.

Water polo to take on nation's best at weekend tournament in Utah

BY JACOB LEVENFELD
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Everyone has midterms and finals to contend with, but members of the Columbia club water polo team are pretty much guaranteed to be busier than the rest of us this coming weekend. Fourteen of them are flying out to Utah on Thursday to compete in the National Collegiate Club Championships beginning on Friday.

A year ago, the Lions placed 11th in the same tournament, which was held in Gainesville, Fla. It was Columbia's best finish at Nationals to date. Competition this weekend will consist of 15 regional champions from across the country plus Southern Utah University, which is hosting the event. Penn and Yale also won their geographic regions, so the Ivies will be well represented out West.

"Our goal at the Nationals is to improve on our record from last year," team coach Igor Samardzija said in an email. "Basically, the first game is also the most important one, as only winners advance to quarterfinals and so on."

Columbia's opening matchup pits the Lions, who won the New York Division two weeks ago, against Texas, winner of the Texas Division. For the Lions to run the table, they'd have to beat Texas on Friday, win both their games on Saturday, and then finish it off in the championship match on Sunday.

Will Reid, a student in the Business School who earned all-tournament team honors in Florida last year, is hoping for a year-to-year improvement.

"It would be a surprise to other teams and to ourselves if we do walk away with

the national championship, but we have a pretty good shot of taking down Texas in our first-round game," Reid said. "They are a very strong team, but we could surprise them. We've got an awful lot of offensive firepower and if we finish somewhere in the top four or five ourselves we'd be pretty pleased with that."

With its victory over Cornell two weeks ago, Columbia has now captured the New York state title three years in a row.

"Not a surprise to have won the New York tournament," Reid said. "We felt we were a tier or two above most of our competition."

The club water polo team has a somewhat unique makeup. Representing one of five Ivy League schools without varsity water polo teams, the club has an ability to draw from Columbia's huge and varied student body. Columbia's strong graduate programs and many schools give the club an intrinsic advantage over much of the competition.

"It's a very diverse team," Reid said. "Almost every other club team in the league is predominantly undergrads, but Columbia just gets lucky because it's got so many high-powered grad programs that the starting lineup is more than half grad students."

Reid, who plays hole set for the Lions, finished his undergraduate degree at Yale in 2004 and then coached there for two years. He grew up in Greenwich, Conn., and has been playing water polo since the age of six. He credits the existence of a strong club water polo program here as a major factor in his decision to attend

SEE WATER POLO, page 3



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SHOT AND A GOAL | Water polo hopes to improve on its 11th-place finish from a year ago at the National Collegiate Club Championships in Utah this weekend.

SEE SHAW, page 3