

Cluster Columns

cluster columns), but we do have some exciting stories of our own. Keeping them under wraps is only doing our cluster an extreme disservice. Please, from now on take your lead from Felton and Sam. Feel free to let it all hang out. Then, be sure to send us the pictures.

After all, even though the official cluster elections are behind us, there are still some vital (and equally important) unofficial titles for which to contend. Don't be left out.

Cluster H

Ladies and gentlemen, pimps and hos

By Karen Laakmann

Apparently nobody in Cluster H wanted to hear the truth. In

his campaign speech for cluster chair, **Jeff G.** referred to his classmates as "ladies and gentlemen, pimps and hos." Unable to handle the truth, Cluster H voted **Dave L.** into power instead. But events of the week suggested Jeff may have been onto something ...

Who says married girls aren't fun? **Lindsay K.** was overhead after happy hour calling her husband to inform him she was not going to make it back to their Jersey City home after happy hour. Instead, Lindsay was to crash with **Laurie P.** Later that evening, witnesses report hearing her say something about how it didn't "count" if you were in "different area codes." Okay, Lindsay, my boyfriend has a 646 cell phone, but really

Meanwhile, **Mike C.** may have been elected social chair, but apparently he's also willing to offer his services as cluster pimp. Mike posed the following question in an email

to Cluster H: would we be interested in mixers with other Columbia schools???? (The best thing about Barnard girls, you get older, they stay the same age ...) Mike also wanted to know how important being able to hook up at social events was. Hearts were broken all over Cluster H when declined to provide the service himself ("you're pretty much on your own here"), but he did say he could "provide the venue to make it happen." Well, Mike, if your place is near campus, someone may just take you up on that. A long train ride downtown on the 1/9 does tend to kill the mood.

With pimps and hos in our cluster, and a cluster poker night on the calendar for next week, could a "study trip" to Las Vegas be in store for Cluster H later this year? Perhaps we could apply our stats learning at the craps table ...

Old news: those of you who read last week's Cluster H Column may have noticed it

ended abruptly, stopping just short of the punchline with: "when she caught Patricio doing." Why did it end abruptly? Truthfully, it was a cheap ploy by yours truly to get elected: the rest of the story was promised to Cluster H in exchange for votes. However, when the rest of the story was shared (**Patricio A.** was in fact caught doing the walk of shame), it seems certain international students in Cluster H were confused as to what exactly the walk of shame constituted. To those

unfamiliar, the walk of shame refers to returning home in the bright of day wearing last night's clothes, following an unplanned romantic interlude.

Linda Meehan wasn't kidding when she said you'll learn as much from your classmates as from your professors. Nonetheless, our European counterparts were still confused. "Shame?" said a Frenchman who spoke on the condition of anonymity, "what es zer to be ashamed of ... 'tis naturell ... lovemaking ... a beautiful thing."

Blackstone Chairman Speaks

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President Panos Kiayias.

Quoting the German philosopher Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Mr. Peterson stated that "the ultimate test of our morality is world we leave to our children." In this context, Mr. Peterson went on to say, the current record Federal budget deficit would leave future generations with an incredible burden.

Mr. Peterson believes that any large scale tax cut should come only after what he calls "entitlement reforms in Social Security and Medicare," and should not be a top priority. He strongly disagrees with what he calls "the Neo-conservative agenda of tax cuts any time, any where," believing that such actions represent irresponsible transfers of the current generation's obligations to future generations.

After speaking about the problems he sees in the Bush Administration's "theological belief in cutting taxes" and its tendency to become "big-government Republicans," Mr. Peterson proceeded to air his divergence with what he calls the policy of "universal entitlement for everyone" that the Democrats favor, believing that such policies cannot be easily funded.

As he put it, "if everyone is on the wagon, then who would pull the wagon?" Using healthcare as an example, he spoke about how most Americans believe they should always receive the latest and greatest in diagnostic technology and premium medications, when less expensive test and generic drugs would produce

similar results. He stated that the cost to the nation of social and medical benefits for each individual has increased six-fold during the last 50 years, a trend that is "shifting the responsibility of paying for our benefits to our children."

After addressing the shortcomings in both parties' policies, Mr. Peterson added, "Now you can see why I am so popular with everyone."

In terms of solutions, Mr. Peterson recommended his new book "Running on Empty" to those who are interested. In the book he lists several possible solutions to the Social Security, Medicare, and the budget deficit problems.

Mr. Peterson believes it would be a good first step to appoint a bi-partisan commission to study the issues and recommend solutions. He mentioned Robert Rubin and Sam Nunn, among others, as potential candidates for this commission.

Before his speech, Mr. Peterson had lunch with a small group of students, and talked about his career as a public servant and his concerns with the ballooning cost of healthcare, among other things.

The event with Mr. Peterson marked the inaugural event for the Hellenic Business Association. Panos Kiayias, the HBA president, said after the speech that the HBA plans to bring many more well-established and exciting speakers to Columbia Business School in the coming year. The speakers will range in background from politics to finance to media.



Joint Ventures Bike Ride

Bike from Columbia to Battery Park

- Sunday September 26th from 12.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.
- To sign up, contact Margot (212) 316- 2668 or margotdebruijn@yahoo.com
- Bring your own bike or rent one (7\$ an hour, Margot will arrange this for you)
- Bring money to buy lunch on the way. We will have a picnic at Riverside Park!