



DAVID BRANN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HOME TURF | President Obama was met by protesters Thursday in Harlem, which is traditionally a Democratic stronghold.

Wellness Project gains momentum, student support

BY ABBY ABRAMS
Spectator Staff Writer

The Student Wellness Project is readying a plan of action, with yoga parties, weekly runs, and peer-to-peer mentoring among the group's potential plans.

The group, which will hold its first meeting of the semester on Sunday, is a product of dialogues that started last semester following the death of Tina Bu, CC '13. The project's goal is to make Columbia a more supportive, healthier environment

for all students, according to its founder, Wilfred Chan, CC '13 and a former Spectrum daily editor.

"Columbia is a tough place, and to put it simply, we want to do whatever we can to help students feel like their best selves while they go here," Chan said.

Chan and a few other students, including Karishma Habbu, CC '13, started meeting with administrators last semester, among them Dean of Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger and Columbia

College Interim Dean James Valentini. Shollenberger and Valentini have both expressed a willingness to work with the Wellness Project, with Shollenberger saying that he is "thrilled there has been a community dialogue about this issue."

"Having these types of open discussions are an important step forward in fostering better awareness of overall student well-being," he said in an email.

Habbu said enthusiasm for the project increased after Sarah Ngu, CC '12, and Chan

wrote the article "How We're Doing" in *The Eye*, the weekly magazine of the Spectator, last month. After the publication of the article—which discussed mental health and dealing with loss—many students approached Chan to share their own stories and get involved. Overall, 40 to 50 students have expressed interest in working on the project.

"I'm happy that more discussions are taking place about healthy living," Chan said. "To

SEE WELLNESS, page 2

Cash-strapped St. John's planning to develop land

BY CASEY TOLAN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Administrators of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine are planning a new residential development on the cathedral grounds—but local preservation advocates say it will tarnish a historic monument.

Steve Facey, executive vice president of the cathedral administration, said that real estate deals on the cathedral grounds are necessary to improve the cathedral's ailing finances.

If built, it would be the second apartment building on the cathedral grounds, after the 2008 construction of Avalon Morningside Park in the southeast corner of the cathedral's estate.

"We knew we needed two projects to make it work," Facey said. "With one, we somewhat stabilized the finances. ... The northern development will put us not only in a stable but a sustainable situation."

The new development faces

opposition from local activists, including members of the Morningside Heights Historic District Committee, which advocates for city designation of Morningside Heights as a historic district and campaigned against the Avalon development.

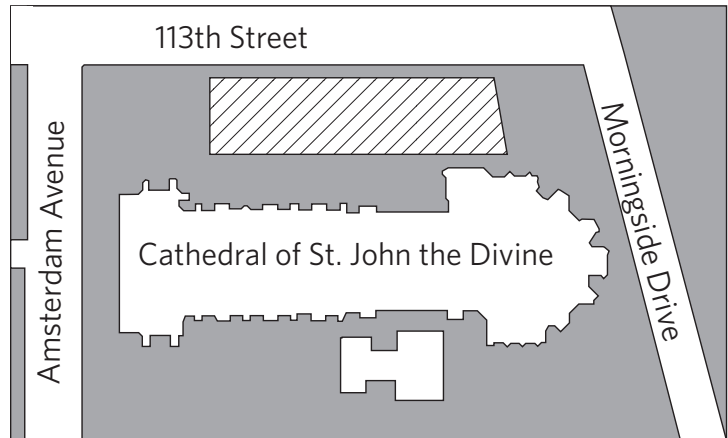
"We're watching essentially the systematic chipping away of this site," Gregory Dietrich, historic preservation consultant and advisor to the MHHDC board, said.

PROPOSAL

Cathedral officials want to see the residential development built at the north end of the grounds, on 113th Street between Amsterdam and Morningside avenues. A parking lot and several sheds left over from past construction currently occupy the proposed site.

"For a number of years, Columbia had an option on the site," but withdrew from it in

SEE ST. JOHN'S, page 2



SINJHN SMITH

Terasaki ends mandatory meetings for CCSC reps

BY BEN GITTELSON
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Columbia College Student Council representatives will no longer be required to attend CCSC meetings, in a policy change intended to make council members more productive.

The measure, which also makes committee membership optional, was introduced by CCSC President Aki Terasaki, CC '12 after discussions with the executive board.

"One thing we also wanted to emphasize this semester was flexibility in being able to respond to issues as they come up in a very quick way," Terasaki said. "Sometimes we get accused of dragging our feet too long through issues. This is one way for us to be a little more responsive."

Vice President of Communications Virat Gupta, CC '12, said he hopes the new measure will engage representatives individually and help them find "the places where they want to work as opposed to just pushing them into different areas."

"We don't expect every council member to be able to contribute to everything," Vice President for Campus Life Jasmine Senior, CC '12, said. "If housing's what you want to do, we want to make sure you're given the time and space to do that."

Some council representatives, however, have questioned whether the measure

SEE CCSC, page 2

Wright protégé's archives coming to Avery

BY MARGARET MATTES
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The architectural archives of Edgar Tafel, who was best known as an apprentice of Frank Lloyd Wright, are coming to Avery Library.

Tafel, one of three apprentices who directed the construction of Wright's famous Fallingwater house in the 1930s, died last January. The Edgar A. Tafel Living Trust announced Wednesday that it would give his archives and research files, as well as \$100,000 to help fund their processing, preservation, and presentation, to the Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library.

The collection is composed of materials taken from Tafel's 11th Street home in Manhattan, where he lived for years above his architecture office. It includes his drawings, manuscripts, and correspondence, as well as photographs of his work, and will be available for faculty and students in about a year.

Carole Ann Fabian, the library's director and acting curator of art properties, said Avery is "a natural place for the collection to come to fulfill Tafel's wishes."

"Tafel had a desire that his assets be given to support architectural education and scholarship," she said.

The donation was the result of months of discussion between the trust and Avery Library staff members, particularly Curator of Drawings and Archives Janet Parks. Parks said it helped that she already knew some of the foundation's trustees, many of whom also have connections to the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation.

Protesters greet Obama in Harlem

Several hundred criticize Commander in Chief outside fundraiser at Apollo Theater

BY SHAYNA ORENS
Spectator Staff Writer

Barack Obama, CC '83, became the first sitting president to visit Harlem's legendary Apollo Theater Thursday night. But in his second visit to Harlem since taking office, Obama was met by fierce protests.

The fundraising event was closed to press, but 125th Street was overflowing with supporters of the Occupy movement, members of political action committees, and local residents hoping to catch a glimpse of the president. Hundreds of people turned out, but the majority of them were there to protest—a potentially troubling sign for Obama, for whom Harlem should be a stronghold of support.

"I'm protesting Obama's policies," Gilbert Rosa said. "He's just as crooked as anyone. They voted for him because he had pretty rhetoric. At the end of the day, you can have different players. But if you don't change the game nothing is gonna happen."

Obama carried 95 percent of the African-American vote in 2008, according to CNN exit polls. But the heavily black community which W. E. B. Du Bois and Hubert Harrison called home hardly seemed well-disposed to Obama Thursday night.

Laurie Wen, a Morningside Heights resident and activist

for Healthcare For The 99%—an Occupy Wall Street working group—said that Obama's visit felt like a stab in the back.

"I worked 14 to 16 hours a day, seven days a week, for several months on Obama's campaign," Wen said. "I never thought he was a messiah, but he has really disappointed his supporters."

Protesters broadcast their anger with signs and jeers, including Bob Nash, who came to protest from Cold Spring Harbor with a sign criticizing Obama for his relationship with Wall Street.

"Wall Street has been bailed out and the American people have been sold out because of Obama," he said.

Others sang, "Obama is a Nazi."

Passersby said they were angered by the protesters' presence. One group of four encouraged protesters with signs to "use that shit for toilet paper."

"They have a right to protest, but not to classify him as a Hitler," Harlem resident Wesley Ward said. "He came in when the seat was hot. He ain't kill nobody like Hitler did."

Obama last came to Harlem in March for a \$30,800-per-person dinner at the Red Rooster. Thursday night, for a sold-out fundraiser featuring the singers Al Green and India.Arie, tickets ranged from \$100 to \$25,000.

SEE OBAMA, page 3



AYELET PEARL / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WRIGHT STUFF | Curator Janet Parks shows off original Frank Lloyd Wright blueprints recently acquired by Avery Library.

Although Avery receives three or four collections of this magnitude each year, Parks noted that Tafel's is unique because of its breadth.

"What's interesting about Tafel is that it's a full life," she said. "It's all of these different phases of his career and his engagement with these major figures and their work that makes Tafel's a more unique, interesting kind of collection."

Tafel studied with Wright at his studio, and worked on such iconic Wright projects as

Fallingwater, a house in southwestern Pennsylvania. Later in his career, he branched out and designed his own projects—including New York's First Presbyterian Church and the State University of New York's Genesee campus.

He also worked on restoration projects for some of Wright's buildings and became a historian of Wright's work. Fabian said that Tafel's connection to Wright makes his

SEE AVERY, page 2

OPINION, PAGE 4

Keeping it real

Jeremy Liss suggests New Year's resolutions for the Columbia student.

Speaking for the subaltern

Gary Okihiro shares his story of discovering a passion for ethnic studies.



SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Lions look to find success against Big Red

After dropping two close contests against Penn and Princeton, Columbia men's basketball hopes to pick up their first Ivy League victory with a game against Cornell.

EVENTS

DuPont Winners Circle Panel

A talk with CBS Correspondent Lara Logan and other award-winning journalists.
Journalism School Lecture Hall, 9:30 a.m.

Inside the 'New Iraq'

A lecture by researcher Michael Knights, a former embedded adviser in Iraq.
1512 IAB, 12:15 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



34° / 27°

Tomorrow



38° / 25°



LINDA CROWLEY FOR SPECTATOR

CHURCH AND REAL ESTATE | Local advocates are skeptical of Cathedral administrators’ new real estate development plans.

City considers giving cathedral historic status

ST. JOHN’S from front page

2009, Facey said. Since then, the administration has been in talks with elected officials and community board members about turning it into a residential space.

The development, designed with realtor Equity Residential, will rise at most 145 feet—no higher than the cathedral’s eave line.

“We’ve protected most of the viewsheds,” Facey said, referring to the sightlines of the cathedral, including those looking down Amsterdam and Morningside avenues.

In addition, the development will create a garden space between the development and the cathedral, a cloister that will offer access to the cathedral for disabled persons.

“We’ve just begun the schematic design process,” Facey said. “We’re about a year, year and a half away from being ready to go” with construction. A public community forum on the development will be held in early February.

Facey said the development would be beneficial for the northern section of the cathedral grounds, also known as the close.

“Right now, the north side is like a brownfield,” Facey said. “We’re not tearing down any buildings. It’s not going to be a negative, it’s going to improve it.”

HISTORIC OBJECTIONS

In a statement to Community Board 9, Dietrich called the proposal “grossly inappropriate from urban planning, historic preservation, and religious charitable institutional perspectives.”

The development could be prevented, Dietrich said, if the cathedral grounds were designated a historic landmark by the city’s Landmarks Preservation Commission. According to Dietrich, the close has been under review by

the LPC since the 1980s.

In 2003, the LPC agreed to exempt two sections of the grounds from becoming historic landmarks—as long as the cathedral agreed that any new buildings in those sections would not exceed a certain height and square footage.

Avalon now stands in one of those exempted sections, and the new development is planned for the other one. Facey said the cathedral has the right to build in that section, as long as the LPC does not declare it historic first.

“We have both supported and encouraged the landmarking of the historic buildings on the close,” Facey said.

The development could be prevented if the cathedral grounds were designated a historic landmark.

Dietrich said “it’s enormously frustrating” that no progress has been made on designating the grounds as a landmark after suggestions by the LPC a year ago that there was some momentum.

LPC spokesperson Elisabeth de Bourbon said that both the cathedral and its grounds “remain under active review” by the LPC, but declined to comment further.

FUNDING

Facey said that the development is necessary to support the cathedral financially.

“You can imagine, with a 11.5-acre site and six major buildings, the cost of maintaining them,” Facey said. “We have a small organized congregation here ... but not a huge funding

base that a parish church might have.”

The economic recession had a significant impact on St. John’s. “We did a major downsizing, laid off staff, had salary cuts,” Facey said. “We still ran a pretty substantial deficit last year.”

Revenue from the real estate deals will also be put towards preserving the close.

“Part of this effort on the real estate initiative is not only to stabilize our finances but also to really take care of what we already have,” Facey said. “We have done a substantial amount based on the southeast project [Avalon] to fund preservation and conservation on the close ... but there’s a backlog of preservation and maintenance work on the building.”

The new development will model Avalon’s arrangement with the cathedral, a 99-year lease in which the Avalon management pays the cathedral rent in exchange for the land. Facey said the new development will have a similar arrangement, which he called “a long-term steady stream of revenue.”

Some visitors to the cathedral on Thursday said they were uncomfortable with the idea of a development on the grounds. Maria Prieto and Freddy Lafonte, who were visiting New York from Colombia, said they thought the cathedral was monumental.

“It’s amazing, huge, really impressive,” Prieto said. “I think it would be less nice” with a development next door.

But Gregory Floyd, who works nearby, said he didn’t have a problem with the idea of a development.

“There’s nothing going on over there right now but a parking lot,” he said. “I’m okay with it, as long as the residents are respectful, living next to a church.”

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CCSC policy change tries to increase efficiency

CCSC from front page

will actually make the council more efficient. Class of 2013 Representative Alex Jasiulek, CC ’13 said that while CCSC often “doesn’t accomplish the majority of the things we discuss,” making meetings optional is not the solution.

Scheduling issues, Jasiulek said, already make it difficult to push initiatives through, and the meeting policy could worsen that problem by giving representatives even less time to work with each other. Instead, he thinks the board should take a more proactive approach to engaging its representatives.

“Sometimes the leadership either does not create the opportunity or does not engage with the opportunity to elicit responses,” Jasiulek said. “I definitely think that it’s worth a try, but I think making meetings not mandatory is not in itself going to fix the problem.”

Terasaki said feedback about the policy from CCSC representatives has been “mostly positive,” although the measure did not come up for a vote or discussion with the

entire CCSC. Student Services Representative Karishma Habbu, CC ’13, who is not an executive board member, said the policy might not have been passed had the executive board brought it up for discussion first.

“I know that there’s been a lot of bitching,” Habbu said. “There are decisions that need to be made with the entire body, and there are decisions that, if put up for discussion, would never get done.”

Habbu said individual representatives have accomplished a lot this year, although she agreed that there are productivity problems on the council. She called the policy change “bold” and “out of the box.”

“Generally with CCSC, we like to follow certain protocols,” Habbu said. “I think people like to keep in those little boxes from year to year, so I applaud the fact that they’re going outside the box and trying something new.”

Senior said the executive board realized they needed to make significant changes to the council’s structure after talking with a meeting consultant.

“We definitely knew there was a problem there,” Senior said. “Something needed to be done.”

Terasaki said the policy will accompany changes in how the council runs its Sunday night meetings, which will mostly be town hall-style events focused on specific issues.

Gupta said the policy is “not just a meeting change,” but a “mindset change” for CCSC.

“It’ll be reflected in the way we conduct ourselves internally, sort of seeing ourselves as a cohesive organization and making sure that we’re doing real work for the students,” he said.

According to Terasaki, the policy will come up for review later in the semester. Senior hopes it will help less engaged representatives live up to their potential.

“It’s just that they weren’t doing what they are capable of doing, we thought,” Senior said. “We know that they can definitely bring something great to the table, so we want to encourage them and push them a bit.”

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AYELET PEARL / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

COLLECTIVE WORKS | Carole Ann Fabian, director of Avery, said that the library is “a natural place for the collection to come to fulfill Tafel’s wishes.”

Tafel collection supplements related archives

AVERY from front page

archives particularly useful.

“The Tafel archive is going to feed this whole cadre of Wright people,” she said. “And then, more generally, this becomes the study ground for the

historic preservation students,” at GSAPP.

Parks noted that Avery also houses archives of many of the architects with whom Tafel worked, including some of Wright’s archives.

“They all kind of fold and

flow together, and speak to each other,” Parks said.

“You don’t have a second chance at these materials,” she added. “This is like the first touch of raw history.”

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LINDA CROWLEY FOR SPECTATOR

CATHEDRAL PARKWAY | The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, struggling financially, has proposed to build an apartment building here, at the northern end of the close.

Wellness Project to organize jogs, start conversation

WELLNESS from front page

me it shows that wellness is a very important issue to many Columbia students on a very personal level.”

At this Sunday’s 1 p.m. meeting at the Student Government Office, the group’s leaders will discuss a three-part plan of action.

The first piece of the plan involves what Habbu called “attainable projects for this semester.” These projects may include a “wellness hub” to centralize information about campus health resources and a peer-to-peer mentoring program.

The second aspect of the plan is the organizing of weekly events such as “wellness jogs” and yoga sessions, and the third part will focus on student discussions, Habbu said.

Habbu and Chan have also been working with Health Services and Counseling and

Psychological Services to pinpoint “ways that students’ health on campus was lacking and how we could improve it,” Habbu said.

“Wellness is a very important issue to many Columbia students on a very personal level.”

—Wilfred Chan, CC ’13
and founder of the Student Wellness Project

“There are lots of resources already here—definitely not everything at Columbia sucks—but lots of students don’t know about the resources,” she said.

As the group starts working to bring its ideas to fruition, Chan emphasized that he is willing to go with the flow—the last thing he wants, he said, is for students to stress over a project that is supposed to alleviate stress.

“My big goal is that whatever we end up getting done, that we have a good time doing it,” Chan said. “We’re all human, and I know that the Student Wellness Project is obviously not going to be a perfect organization, so I’ll be happy with whatever comes out of this, whether big or small.”

Valentini said he has been “very impressed” with the group’s efforts.

“They have a lot of good ideas about improving students’ quality of life at Columbia,” he said in an email. “I’m eager to find ways to implement these ideas.”

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In shift,
Harlemites
voice
discontent
with Obama

OBAMA from front page

Some Harlem residents passing by the Apollo, who hadn't known Obama was visiting, were taken aback by what they saw.

"I never saw protests in Harlem before," resident Benjamin Carl said. "There weren't protests when Bush was in office. Why now? Why in Harlem?"

Diane Sare, a Congressional candidate in New Jersey's 5th District from the fringe LaRouche Democrats group, used the event to campaign against Obama. She insisted that his policies violate the Constitution.

"Sadly, Obama is the worst president we've ever had," she said. "He bombed Libya without going through Congress, he signed NDAA [the National Defense Authorization Act] on New Year's Eve when everyone was drunk, and he's allowing U.S. citizens to be detained without a trial."

A much smaller group welcomed Obama's visit. Guy A. Surpris held up a sign thanking Obama for his actions following the earthquake in Haiti two years ago.

"I'm here because I want to thank the president for his help in Haiti following the earthquake. He provided help immediately and asked former President Bush to go help," Surpris said. "On behalf of the Haitian people, and on behalf of those who passed away, I'm saying thank you."

Harlem resident Gregory Gabson said it was "excellent" that Obama came to Harlem to campaign.

"Because he's running, he needs to be in here letting people know he needs four more years," Gabson said.

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THEY WANT CHANGE | President Barack Obama, CC '83, faced an unexpected barrage of protesters outside the Apollo Theater, where he held a fundraiser Thursday.

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Reflections of self and labor

BY GARY Y. OKIHIRO

I must confess to beginning with myself. My admission is all the more glaring in the light of the theoretical and political failures of experience and identity politics. As I write this column in the enveloping spaces of my study with a solitary window to the outside world, upon reflection I return to selective though vivid memories of my past, which have informed and continue to inform my labors.

The October sun cast long shadows in the early morning chill. The year was the eventful 1968. I taught science at a rural high school in South Carolina and was on my way to teach. I remember the day well because in front of me was a group of students, one of whom wore an oversized pair of leather shoes without laces or socks. It wasn't fashionable—it was mired in need. The picture of that young man remains with me today some 43 years later, because it was a snapshot of the poverty that surrounded me and to which I could never get accustomed.

I was in the South among African-Americans and the rural poor, training for the Peace Corps to teach in southern Africa. The Corps had this peculiar notion that hanging out with black folk in South Carolina would prepare us for our labors in Africa. I was fresh out of graduate school, and I entertained cocky dreams of middle-class luxuries

After Office Hours

Why so resolute?

By now, most of you reading this have already broken your New Year's resolutions. Some of these failures aren't your fault. How could you have known intern applications took so long? Since when did CPR require mouth-to-mouth? And who would have guessed the harness would break? Other shortcomings, though, fall squarely on your shoulders, like those hundred-pound weights you thought you could press.

I don't mean to sound condescending. When it comes to resolutions, I'm as bad as they come. I try to cut down on TV, and then I discover The Wire. I pledge to keep a diary, but end up repressing memories. I try to sculpt my butt, only to make it bigger. These are just a few examples—I pledged to make a full list this year, but, well, you know...

What's important at this point in the year is to realize that you're not alone. According to a recent survey conducted by psychologist Richard Wiseman, 88 percent of those who make New Year's resolutions don't



JEREMY LISS
Liss is More

STAFF EDITORIAL

Trends to track

The beginning of this week marked a new semester for Columbia and a new volume for Spectator. As an editorial board, we look forward to taking on new developments that concern us both as a student newspaper and as a group of students. Yet the new semester also brings with it topics of interest that we inherit from the past. The following are some general themes we will be monitoring throughout the semester:

WELLNESS—On a campus in which excellence and talent are the expected norm, an intense environment and a culture of ambition are unsurprisingly ingrained in the Columbia psyche. Unfortunately, the pressure to achieve good grades and find attractive career options can come at the expense of our general well-being. While the concern about ambition seems timeless, the concern for wellness has only recently come to the forefront. Before Wilfred Chan and Sarah Ngu took on this conversation in their Eye lead, “How we’re doing,” wellness was seldom a topic of conversation. Since then, wellness has penetrated Columbia's collective mindset, producing tangible changes, such as the recently revamped Go Ask Alice! website. We are enthusiastic to see this conversation develop and continue to bring change.

DIVERSITY—As a perennial issue at Columbia, diversity is simultaneously a topic of pride, debate, frustration, and confusion. Though we often hear that we are more diverse than our peers, the conversation is not over, nor should it be. This conversation is further complicated by a lack of consensus on what Columbia understands diversity to mean. With President Bollinger's Jan. 15 Washington Post op-ed, “College diversity at risk” defending college diversity in public universities, we are once again reminded of the importance of this discussion at Columbia. During the coming semester we expect to see the conversation continue and grow.

FACULTY ACTIVISM—Last semester's high degree of faculty activism is unique in recent memory. Professor Delbanco's very public criticism of the University administration's decisions with regard to Columbia College, the SEAS faculty's open letter to the New York Times questioning Dean Peña-Mora's leadership, and some high-profile instances of faculty support for Occupy Wall Street are especially of note. We will be mindful to watch the evolving relationship between faculty, students, and the administration.

ACCOUNTABILITY—With the resignation of Dean Moody-Adams and developing unease with the leadership of Dean Peña-Mora, accountability seemed especially pertinent last semester. We believe it should continue to be and will look for current administrators to directly address the evolving roles of the deans of these two schools. Likewise, concerns over F@CU's operations last fall reflect similar concerns about student groups and student government. Transparency in the University governance, at both the administrative and student government level, is integral for continued improvement in student life.

While we will look to comment on these issues, we recognize that our voice is only one part of what should be a larger campus discussion. To facilitate this, Spectator is looking to expand the breadth of conversation in its editorial pages. We plan to streamline the process for submitting op-eds and letters and to expand our presence in print, social media, and online. More than ever, we hope you will join us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Only at Columbia could/would a sports writer (Mrinal Mohanka's “Columbia sees Agbo Theory in effect,” Jan. 18) appeal to theory as an explanation for actual events and the sequela thereafter. Bravo!!!

Professor Robert Kretschmer
Teachers College, Columbia University
Jan. 20, 2012

and unrestrained opportunities. And here I was in South Carolina, in the midst of momentous civil rights struggles and an increasingly ferocious war in Vietnam that the U.S. was waging.

I recall stepping into the home of the Singletons, black sharecroppers and my generous hosts, and seeing on the wall a framed certificate. “Oh,” I said in acute observation, “one of your children must have graduated from college.” “No,” Mr. Singleton replied. “That's our daughter's high school diploma.” My cheeks still burn with shame over my innocence of struggles engaged and achievements earned. I had forgotten that impoverished black children in the rural South often failed to make it through high school. That diploma was a singular triumph.

It was not always so with me. I was miseducated into extravagance. In truth, I was a child of poverty, having grown up in a sugar plantation camp in rural Hawaii without the benefit of hors d'oeuvres or pocket change. My family wasn't rich. My mother was a barber, maid, and laundry worker, and my father a sugar-mill worker, garbage collector, and janitor. I should have known. My mother never made it through elementary school, and my father, through middle school. Neither had a high school diploma. They didn't have a chance.

So when I decided on African history in graduate school, I thought I could make a difference. I would confer historical

follow through. For all you humanities majors out there, that's a B+ in failing. These staggering numbers could get you down, but wallowing in self-pity doesn't seem like a good use of time (unless that was your resolution).

Perhaps we need reconsider what kinds of resolutions people make in the first place. We're like Icarus, flying too close to the sun. Sure, it's a great way to get a tan, but so is lying nude at the beach, which is a much safer option. (Police arrests notwithstanding.)

So this weekend, let's use our post-New Year's guilt as a motivation to fulfill a new set of semester resolutions. These goals shouldn't be grandiose or difficult to achieve. In fact, you should avoid resolutions that are doomed to fail, like attending Columbia squash games. The lower the bar, the better. Here are a few ideas:

1. If you're going to sleep in a lecture, make yourself comfortable. Bring earmuffs, sleep masks, and a pillow.
2. If you're going to be late for a seminar, make a good entrance. I suggest borrowing a CAVA uniform.
3. Ask a question every class, even if it's only for permission to go to the bathroom.
4. If you order a Double Chocolate Chip Frappuccino with whipped cream from Starbucks, ask for 2 percent milk. Despite its name, “half and half” is not low-fat.
5. Don't let dining dollars go to waste. Snacks from Café 212 make great birthday presents.

BUSTING OUT OF BUTLER



ILANA SCHULDER

Facebook state of mind

BY JORDAN KALMS

As a new semester and a new year begin, now is the time to forge resolutions and commit to new paths of self-improvement and moderation. It is the opportune moment to remove soda from your diet, quit your nail-biting, and restrain yourself from ordering Hamdel's number seven breakfast wrap past midnight. For this student, and I encourage you to join me, it is also time to quit Facebook.

Along with its innovations, the Internet has brought tremendous woes to Columbia's campus, allowing students to play poker and peruse Amazon from the comfort of the classroom, oftentimes while class is in session. However, Facebook is more than your average frivolous entertainment, and it poses a much greater threat than saturating our class time with statuses that read, “My room smells like kettle corn x_X,” or pictures of car crashes plastered with the caption, “You Got Owmed.” Unlike online games or catalogs, Facebook seems to be affecting the ways in which Columbia students think and communicate, both in and outside of the classroom, and (need I say it?) not for the better.

Last semester, I witnessed a fellow student say “LOLZ” to our professor during a classroom discussion. In one of my English lit courses, someone referred to the qualms of the protagonist as “whitegirlproblems.” A few weeks before finals, one of my highly intelligent TAs described his reaction to the harrowing events of a Shakespearean tragedy with the phrase “frowny face.” Ultimately, hearing such an expression employed by a staff member in the lofty halls of Columbia University was more discomfiting than the gruesome events of the Shakespeare play itself.

These words and phrases appearing in our classrooms indicate not only the stultification of speech but of thought as well. The purpose of a college education, especially one devoted to the liberal arts, is not to teach students what to think but how to think. If the aphorism is true, then we come

agency to Africa's masses, I thought, extol African resistance against imperial and colonial oppression, and pluck African nuggets from the tailings of European history. I would right past wrongs. And when ethnic studies met me upon my return from Africa in 1971, I embraced it with the same passion I felt for the African past. It was a career and a cause.

Ethnic studies began in that year, 1968, as a Third World people's liberation movement. I knew it immediately. I chafed at white boots marching in an Asian land, and resisted the draft and refused to fight in the imperialist war in Southeast Asia. In Botswana, I felt anger well within me when I saw African workers being “seasoned” for then-apartheid South Africa with leather whips intended for cattle. And when my friend's infant died, I cursed the physicians at the missionary Scottish Livingstone Hospital in Molepolole who dispensed pills with “NTO” inscribed on them for “native treatment only.”

Our history and social condition, properly understood, will resurrect the unnamed dead, and free us all from the iron cages of colonialism, racism, and economic exploitation. That consciousness is our version of the 19th-century “Ghost Dance.” Its rhythms haunt me, pulsating from my subject position, rocking my labors and my commitments.

Gary Y. Okihiro is professor of international and public affairs and the sole member of the department of social formations.

6. Smile more often. It's less suspicious.
7. Look at the glass half full. You're not a lazy slacker who needs to pull an all-nighter—you're a perfectionist.
8. Pick up a copy of the Spec every day, especially if you're not carrying an umbrella.
9. If you're going to a party instead of doing Lit Hum reading, at least bring the books with you. The host might not have coasters.
10. Don't skip class without a good reason, but interpret “good reason” loosely.

The beauty of these hair of the dog resolutions is that they're compromises. We already know that we can't accomplish our loftiest goals, so we're going to fail in the best way possible.

Of course, a few of you might avoid all the hassle and guilt by not making any resolutions in the first place, but I think that's a mistake. The Victorian poet Robert Browning once said that “a man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's heaven for?” I tend to agree. You're going to end up empty-handed either way—might as well get a nice stretch out of it.

Jeremy Liss is a junior in Columbia College majoring in English and comparative literature. He is creative editor for The Current. Liss is More runs alternate Fridays.

to Columbia not to stockpile factoids or formulas but instead to discipline and develop our critical minds—to adjust and improve our perceptions.

However, rather than expanding our mental and spoken vocabularies and broadening our avenues of thought, Facebook is inducing the undergraduate community (and beyond) to limit its thinking by confining its language to hashtags and idioms. This is not conjecture—it is an observable and increasingly prevalent phenomenon on campus, and as we adopt the language of Facebook as our means of communication, we unwittingly restrict our thought process to a lexis befitting of an infant. Then, as we relinquish the task of speaking conscientiously or striving for any weight of voice whatsoever, we rid ourselves of the ability to think with any complexity, nuance, or independence. The connection between language and thought cannot be stressed enough. This is the distinct reason that the government of Orwell's dystopian superstate attempts to limit the vocabulary of its citizens with the insidious implementation of Newspeak. As Orwell knew so well, to confine a person's vocabulary is to confine their mind. Well, it seems that we don't need the government after all, and that we are happy enough to enforce a Newspeak of our own as long as we can keep using the superlative social network free of charge.

To opt out of Facebook is to attempt to escape its side effects. It is an attempt to keep one's head free of the fatuous jargon that pervades the site and, increasingly, our university. When an ungainly man drops his books outside of Butler and someone says “awksauce,” or when a professor walks to the front of the hall to cancel the lecture and your friend expresses his pleasure monosyllabically (“like!”), there is a problem. The reality is that as a result of Facebook, our campus is increasingly full of clichés and internet parlance, not just in speech but in thought as well—and the problem is that Columbia is the place where we came to escape these bovine instincts and verbal lethargy, not to indulge them.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in English literature.

The Columbia Daily Spectator accepts op-eds on any topic relevant to the Columbia University and Morningside Heights community. Op-eds should be roughly 650 words in length. We require that op-eds be sent exclusively to Spectator and will not consider articles that have already been published elsewhere.

Letters to the Editor should be no longer than 350 words and must refer to an article from Spectator or The Eye, or a Spectrum post. Submissions should be sent to opinion@columbiaspectator.com. Please paste all submissions into the body of the email. Should we decide to publish your submission we will contact you via email.

SPORTS BRIEFLY



WRESTLING

After falling to Army 19-15 last weekend, the Lions head to Ithaca for the New York State Collegiate Wrestling Championship with high hopes. “I fully expect that our starters will have a really good performance,” Columbia head coach Carl Fronhofer said. “Overall, last weekend was our poorest performance of the year.” The Light Blue will look for a big performance from junior Steve Santos, who has excelled this year in the 149-pound weight class. Senior captains Kyle Gilchrist and Kevin Lester, at 133 and 285 pounds respectively, also look to make key contributions. Lester has rebounded from a rough start to the season, going 3-0 at the Pitt Duals two weeks ago and winning his bout against Army freshman Stephen Snyder last weekend. Senior Eren Civan, who has had trouble readjusting after taking last semester off, could come up big for the Lions at the 165 this weekend. “He’s been kind of up and down,” Fronhofer said. “Historically he’s wrestled really well at this event.” If he performs at his best, Civan has a realistic chance of winning the tournament. The Light Blue will compete in a deep 19-team field that features teams from across the Empire State, including a very talented Cornell squad. The tournament lasts all day on both Saturday and Sunday.

—Eli Schultz



MEN’S TENNIS

The Columbia men’s tennis team begins its spring season this weekend in Blacksburg, Va. in the Larsen Bowker Invitational. The Light Blue will take on Virginia Tech, Davidson, and Middle Tennessee State University. Senior captain and returning No. 1 singles player Haig Schneiderman, who earned second-team all-Ivy honors the past two seasons, had an all-star performance during fall competition. Schneiderman’s fall highlight came at the 2011 USTA/ITA National Indoor Intercollegiate Championships where he upset No. 5 Chase Buchanan of Ohio State to reach the quarterfinals. “He’s slowly becoming one of the best in the Ivy League,” Light Blue head coach Bid Goswami said. Schneiderman, junior Nathaniel Gery, and senior co-captain Rajeev Deb-Sen will lead the team this spring, but the team’s freshmen are expected to make big contributions as well. Freshman Winston Lin won the B singles draw at the USTA Billie Jean King NTC Men’s College Invitational in the fall over his teammate and fellow freshman Ashok Narayana. As for Columbia’s opponents, Virginia Tech recently earned a No. 34 national ranking in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association preseason poll with two players receiving national singles rankings. This season, Davidson also boasts two nationally ranked players and it has its first nationally ranked doubles team in school history. MTSU has big expectations for its spring season as the team looks to defend its Sun Belt tournament title and make another trip to the NCAA regional tournament. The Light Blue will face its opponents with a balanced team dynamic consisting of experienced upperclassmen leaders and young players looking to prove themselves in team competition.

—Caroline Bowman



MEN’S SQUASH

The Columbia men’s squash team will compete in the 2012 Pioneer Valley Squash Invitational in Amherst, Mass. this weekend. The Lions will play a double-header this Sunday, facing No. 22 Amherst at 1 p.m. and No. 21 Wesleyan later in the day. Coming off two victories last weekend against No. 20 Brown and No. 13 Bowdoin, 6-3 and 7-2 respectively, the Light Blue will take a strong stance against the upcoming foes. At last year’s Invitational, the team won all four matches, highlighted by a 5-4 defeat of Wesleyan. Columbia has started the 2011-2012 season strong, moving up four spots in the national rankings to No. 16 with the support of senior players and the energy of the newcomers. Among the freshman crew, No. 1 singles player Ramit Tandon has had a stellar performance, winning most of his games in three straight sets. Following the Pioneer Valley Invitational, the Lions will play host to Middlebury at 5 p.m. and Connecticut College at 7 p.m. on Jan. 28.

—Mi Yeon Park



WOMEN’S SQUASH

Last week was trying for the women’s squash team, losing to No. 2 Yale and No. 11 Brown. The Light Blue has had rough outings against its Ivy competitors this season. Among the Ancient Eight, Columbia has the lowest ranking at No. 16, but its record does not reflect its efforts to hold its own in the conference. Last weekend, the team put up a fight against Brown, ultimate falling 8-1. The team did find success against No. 19 Bowdoin in a 9-0 win. That success will have to propel them to find wins this weekend at the Amherst Pioneer Valley Invitational. There they look to improve their 3-4, 0-3 Ivy record against No. 13 Mount Holyoke, No. 15 Amherst, and No. 20 Wesleyan. Last year, the Lions had an impressive 5-0 run at the Pioneer Valley Invitational, taking 6-3 and 7-2 wins from Mount Holyoke and Wesleyan, respectively. The No. 16 Lions will need to repeat that type of performance in order to upset Mount Holyoke and Amherst. After this weekend, the Lions will head into a run of six straight home matches.

—Alison Macke



MEN’S SWIMMING & DIVING

Coming off of a win against the Bucknell Bisons, the men’s swimming and diving team looks for its first win against Cornell in the last eight years on Saturday. Last year, standout senior Adam Powell had a spectacular individual effort, setting a record for the 100-yard freestyle, but even that was not enough to top the Big Red, who won 164-136. Backed by a talented freshman class, the Light Blue is hungry for a second Ivy League victory. Beyond the success of freshmen Alex Ngan, Stanley Wong, and David Jakl at the previous meet, sophomores Harry Stephenson and Dominik Koll also picked up wins in their events. Cornell has been struggling this season, having gone 0-5 in the Ivy League so far, with its only win being a nonconference meet against Colgate on Jan. 14. The Lions next meet will be at Homecoming this weekend. The meet kicks off at 3 p.m. at Uris Pool.

—Eric Wong



WOMEN’S SWIMMING & DIVING

The Columbia women’s swimming and diving team (3-1, 2-1) looks to continue its recent success when it plays host to Cornell (1-5, 0-5 Ivy) on Homecoming Day. The Lions have won their last two meets, beating Penn 247-51 and Wagner 169-88. Cornell has struggled throughout the early part of the season, though the Big Red managed to win its last meet against Colgate. The Lions have been successful against the Big Red in recent history, winning the last five meets between the two schools. Columbia won last year’s match-up in Ithaca 168-132. A variety of swimmers led the Lions as junior Katie Meili won the 200 IM while sophomore Laney Kluge won the 200 backstroke. The Lions will depend on continued strength from Meili and senior Dorothy Baker. Meili was the December Student-Athlete of the Month and won four events in the meet against Harvard and Penn. Baker set a record last month when she finished the 100 backstroke with a time of 56.32. The meet will begin at 11 a.m. in Uris Pool.

—Josh Shenkar

Guide for novice Light Blue basketball fans

JONES from back page

“Harvard rejects” should also strike a chord with Yale and Penn. Feel free to get creative, but these are some tried and true chants to get you started.

3) Be loud (except for when you shouldn’t)

There’s such a thing in sports as home field advantage. Part of this advantage comes from loud, supportive fans. Levien is not that big, so it’s actually the perfect place to do lots of yelling and have a big effect. In reality, you can yell and scream and cheer whenever you want, but there are a few cardinal rules of basketball games that you should know. First, yell during other team’s free throws: taunt, jeer, distract, whatever. They’re trying to focus—make that as difficult as possible. On the flip side, though, be quiet during Columbia’s free throws. Again, they’re trying to focus—let them. “Air ball” should also be shouted whenever appropriate for the opposing team. If you don’t know basketball enough to get this one, just follow the crowd—someone else will be paying attention. Heckling the refs is also a good way to get some frustration out if things aren’t going so well. Coaches aren’t allowed to comment on officiating, so someone’s got to make sure those refs get a performance review from time to time.

So there it is, ladies and gentlemen—a few quick tips on looking like a seasoned veteran in the stands. I can’t force you to go, and if you’re going to be all hipster and whine about it, no one really wants you there anyway, but there’s a lot of heated conference competition coming up, and there’s no such thing as too many fans.

Victoria Jones is a Barnard College senior majoring in French.

Lions face crucial Ivy test at home

MEN’S BBALL from back page

capabilities, as he hit seven treys the last time Cornell came to Levien and almost gave the Big Red a come-from-behind victory. In last year’s matchup the Lions hung on for the 79-75 victory, but this Saturday they hope Ferry’s scoring slump will make him a non-factor.

Smith says Columbia’s advantage against Cornell will likely come from the Light Blue frontcourt and its work on the boards.

The Big Red is last in the Ivy League in rebounding, and the Lions are looking to use junior big men Mark Cisco and John Daniels to control the glass. Cisco tallied 10 rebounds against the Tigers while Daniels had eight against the Quakers.

The primary obstacle to the Lions’

success in the frontcourt will be foul trouble, a problem for Cisco since last year.

“Mark’s got to keep himself on the floor,” Smith said. “It hurt us a little bit—him getting into foul trouble—against Penn. It makes him tentative defensively, and makes him less effective.”

The Lions will have one more important advantage over the Big Red on Saturday: the home court. With a record of 0-8 on the road, Cornell has yet to win a game away from Ithaca this year, and Smith hopes the Lions will take the opportunity to bounce back from last weekend’s performance with a win over the Big Red.

Saturday’s tipoff against Cornell is scheduled for 7 p.m. in Levien Gymnasium, immediately following the women’s basketball game.

Fencing travels to St. John’s and NYU

FENCING from back page

Saturday to compete against Penn State, Ohio State, Notre Dame, Harvard, and host St. John’s. On Sunday, the Lions will travel downtown to take on Ohio State, Notre Dame, St. John’s, North Carolina, and Wayne State at NYU.

At last season’s NCAA Championships, Notre Dame finished first, Penn State second, St. John’s third, Ohio State fifth, and Harvard sixth. Columbia, represented by nine fencers, finished in seventh place overall.

Due to the high level of competition they will face, this weekend’s tournaments will be a telling barometer of how far both the men’s and women’s teams have come since last season.

“The schools we are fencing on Saturday will probably be five of the top six this year as well” said Aufrichtig. “Fencing them right off is going

to tell us what our competition will be when we make it to the NCAA’s in March. Our goal is to go out there, give it all we got, and welcome them to a new Columbia fencing team.”

“The schools we are fencing on Saturday will probably be five of the top six this year.”

—Michael Aufrichtig, Fencing Coach

Competition will begin on Saturday at 10 a.m. in St. John’s Carneseca Arena and on Sunday at 8 a.m. at NYU’s Jerome S. Cole Sports Center.

Cornell’s Ferry presents a three-point threat

BY HAHN CHANG Spectator Staff Writer

If you see Cornell basketball fans cheering, Drew Ferry probably just sank another three. Ferry, Cornell’s senior guard and captain, is the team’s leading scorer and a proven sharpshooter from downtown. On Dec. 3 in a game against Lehigh, Ferry finished the game with a team-high 20 points, five of them coming in overtime to propel the Big Red to victory. Fast forward to the Big Red’s next game two weeks later against Albany where Ferry lit up the scoreboard with seven baskets from behind the arc for 26 points.

“Drew is a great kid and shoots the basketball as well as anyone in the country,” Cornell head coach Bill Courtney said.

Though Cornell sports a 6-10 (1-1 Ivy) record going into Saturday’s game against the Light Blue, Ferry is a force to be reckoned with as one of the Ivy League’s top shooters. This season he leads the Ivies in three-point shots made (54) and three-point shots made per game (3.4 per game), and he ranks second in three-point field goal percentage (42.5 percent). Having averaged 13.8 points per game this season in non-conference play, Ferry has also

set the pace for the Big Red in scoring. “His quick release allows him to get shots off against bigger defenders,” Courtney said. “His ability to make shots from deep allows us to space the floor on offense and he plays with the confidence a senior guard gives you.”

Ferry started his collegiate career in the Horizon League with Valparaiso before transferring to Florida’s Palm Beach State for his sophomore year. It was not until his junior year that Ferry came to Cornell, but he has already made his mark upon the Ivy League. Upon joining Cornell last season, Ferry immediately contributed, averaging 11.9 points per game and helping Cornell to finish strong with three consecutive wins to wrap up the 2010-2011 Ivy League season.

“I think the way we finished the season last year—with three straight Ivy wins—set the tone for this year,” Ferry said. “It sent the seniors out on a high note and rewarded us for our hard work after so many disappointing close losses. I think we stayed together as a group, and we hope that will propel us into Ivy play.”

Against Columbia, Ferry has had mixed success. In his first match-up against the Lions in New York City, he sank a season-high 23 points, going 7-11 from beyond the arc. But only a week

later in Ithaca, the Lions neutralized Ferry, limiting him to just five points and only one successful trey.

“This conference is scouted very well, and you get to know the tendencies of everyone you see,” Ferry said. “I had a great night shooting the basketball in one game, and they did a nice job limiting my touches in the other. Columbia will try and chase us off the three-point line and I need to do the little things to allow me to get good looks.”

With the two New York rivals squaring off on Saturday as Columbia attempts to secure its first Ivy League victory, the spotlight will be on two of the Ivy League’s best shooters—Lions junior guard Brian Barbour and Ferry—when they match up in their third meeting.

“Barbour is an outstanding guard in this league and they are very disciplined,” Courtney said. “I expect that we’ll be in for dogfights over the next two weekends.”

“Columbia has been resilient all season,” Ferry said. “After losing Noruwa Agho, they have put together a great string of basketball. They play extremely hard and really try and beat you on the backboards. Barbour is obviously very talented and makes everyone on the team better. Slowing him down will be a big key for us over the next two weekends.”



FILE PHOTO

TRIPLE-THREAT | Senior guard Drew Ferry has emerged as a prolific three-point shooter for the Big Red since transferring to Cornell from Palm Beach State after his sophomore year.

PIXBOX

week #1

1: Cornell at Columbia (+1.5)


2: Yale at Brown (+4.5)

3: Harvard at Dartmouth (+14.5)

4: St. Joseph's at Penn (+1.5)

5: Ravens at Patriots (-6.5)


6: NY Giants at SF 49ers (-2.5)



Tom Caruso

Columbia
Yale
Harvard
Penn
Ravens
49ers


So the shout-out is just one line tangentially related to the games at hand?



Michele Cleary

Beat Cornell
Yale
Dartmouth?
Rosen
Pats
Giants!


I'm back, bitches!



Zach Glubiak

Roar Lion
New Haven
Crimson
Palestra
Belichick
Harbaugh


No matter what happens, at least I'm seeing "Lion King" this weekend...



Victoria Jones

Light Blue
Big Red
Big Green
Penn
Pats
49ers


I miss the days when this was the beast part...



Sam Klug

Columbia
Yale
Dartmouth
St. Joseph's
Patriots
Giants


I hope Tebow's left hand isn't too calloused from all his incomplete passes.



Mrinal Mohanka

Roaree
Brown
Amaker
St. Jo's
Ravens
Eli


Revenge will be sweet you little cheat.



Jim Pagels

Cornell
Brown
Dartmouth
Joe's
Uggs (Pats)
Elizabeth


The fans wanted me to go out on top, but I couldn't resist one more huge contact.



Ronnie Shaban

Columbia
Yale Squash
Jeremy Lin
St. Joey's
Kraft
49ers


Toronto about to get D-Blocked



Michael Shapiro

Tebow
Yale
Vard
Quakers
Tom
Sorry, Eli.


Ok boys, let's do this. I'm goin' in.



Myles Simmons

Columbia
Brown
Harvard
Penn
Patriots
Giants

My mom said weeks ago the Giants would win the Super Bowl. Never pick against mom.



Ben Spener

Columbia
Yale
Harvard
St. Joseph's
Patriots
Giants


Letting my Giant feelings of Patriotism Roar.



Ryan Young

Roar
Bulldogs
Crimson
St. Joseph's
GRONK
G-MEN

NY getting back to the Super Bowl would be a heck of a 20th b-day present.



STARTING LINEUPS

GAME 1:

AT

MEIKO LYLES #22/G

JOHN DANIELS #15/F

MARK CISCO #55/C

ALEX ROSENBERG #13/F

BRIAN BARBOUR #10/G

GALAH CANCEY #01/G

BITAN CHEMEIRINSKI #55/F

SHONN MILLER #32/F

CHRIS WROBLEWSKI #03/G

DREW FERRY #15/G

KEYS TO THE GAME

1 Shake off the losses

After falling to Penn and Princeton last weekend, the Lions need to put those losses behind them and focus their attention on the Big Red for the next two weekends. If the Lions are to prevent a winless three-game home stand, they can't be distracted by lingering doubts.

2 Patience, patience

This season, Cornell has limited its opponents to 28 percent from beyond the arc. The three-point shot has played a large part in the Lions' wins this season, and if Columbia is going to continue to rely on the shots from downtown, it will need good ball movement and patience on the perimeter in order to find open shots.

3 Freshman presence

Columbia's freshmen have played a significant role in the team's nonconference success this season, but now it's time for them to step it up in league play. If the Light Blue want a win, forward Alex Rosenberg, guard Noah Springwater, and center Cory Osetkowski must make a difference when they are on the court.

BY THE NUMBERS

POINTS PER GAME

COLUMBIA	65.2
CORNELL	66.4

REBOUNDS PER GAME

COLUMBIA	35.8
CORNELL	32.4

POINTS ALLOWED

COLUMBIA	59.2
CORNELL	68.4

FIELD GOAL PCT.

COLUMBIA	.418
CORNELL	.414

KEY MATCHUPS

John Daniels

Shonn Miller

Freshman forward Shonn Miller, who has had a breakout season for the Big Red, is coming off a double-double against Penn last weekend. Junior forward John Daniels will be tasked with guarding the 6-foot-7 Cornell forward, and Daniels will need to use his height advantage to control the boards and contain Miller.

Brian Barbour



Drew Ferry

It will be a battle of two of the Ivy League's best shooters when junior guard Brian Barbour (15.5 points per game) and Cornell's senior guard Drew Ferry (12.6 points per game) face off. Barbour and the Lions cannot give Ferry open perimeter looks, as the senior guard has shown with his 54 treys this season that he is a threat from the outside.

Light Blue looks for first Ivy win at home against Cornell

BY MUNEEB ALAM
Spectator Staff Writer

The Columbia women's basketball team (2-13, 0-1 Ivy) will look to get back on track Saturday, as they host Ivy foe Cornell (6-9, 0-1 Ivy). The Lions were last in action last Sunday, falling 94-35 to Ivy favorite Princeton. Senior guard Melissa Shafer scored 10 points and junior forward Courtney Bradford added eight rebounds in the effort. "The Princeton game showed us we have to get a lot better in a short period of time," head coach Paul Nixon said in an email. Despite the lopsided defeat, the seventh-year coach took positives away from the game. "We kept hustling and fighting all the way to the end despite the huge halftime deficit," Nixon said. "It's going to take a full 40 min. effort to win games in the Ivy League this season, and that's what we'll need to do to beat Cornell on Saturday." Turnovers were a significant factor for the Lions against Princeton. The team turned the ball over 30 times while forcing only 10 giveaways by the Tigers, leading to a 43-2 edge for Princeton in points off turnovers. Apart from ball handling troubles, Columbia also had difficulty gaining possession on the boards, as Princeton out-rebounded the Lions 57-34. "The key to offensive rebounding is being able to anticipate when a shot is going up and then beating your defender for position to the ball," Nixon said. "This is what we've been focusing on in practice." The Big Red enter Saturday's game coming off a 60-40 win Tuesday night at home against Ithaca College. Sophomore guard Allyson DiMagno had 16 points and 10 rebounds as Cornell out-rebounded its visitors 52-30. "I think Cornell is a very strong team top to bottom," Nixon said. "They don't have just one or two players who we can focus on defensively ... If we don't play good, solid team defense, anyone they have on the floor at any given time can hit a big bucket for them." All five Big Red starters average at least six points per game, with DiMagno and junior forward Clare Fitzpatrick leading the pack with points per game averages in the double figures. Columbia has three players averaging at least six points per game—Shafer, junior guard/forward Tyler Simpson, and sophomore guard Taylor Ward. Prior to its Tuesday win, the Big Red dropped its Ivy opener at Princeton thanks in large part to shooting 12-50 while the Tigers sunk 22 of their 59 attempts. Fitzpatrick scored 12 points and junior guard Taylor Flynn added 10 points off the bench for the Big Red, whose defensive effort in the first half held Princeton to just 25 points and just 30 percent shooting. But Princeton won the battle on the glass by a 55-24 margin, resulting in the Tiger victory. Last year, Cornell finished seventh in the Ivy League with a 3-11 conference record. It split its two meetings with Columbia, falling on the road, 61-54 before coming out on top in Ithaca, 53-50. Tipoff against Cornell is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. in Levien Gymnasium.



LION IN THE POST| Freshman center Amara Mbionwu leads the Light Blue in rebounds with 96 and also has four blocks.

HENRY WILSON / SPECTATOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

GAMEDAY

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COLUMBIA (11-7, 0-2 Ivy) vs CORNELL (6-10, 1-1 Ivy)

SATURDAY, 7 P.M., NEW YORK, N.Y.

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How to cheer for Columbia basketball

Welcome back, everyone. While I'm sure you're all a little rusty from sleeping past noon all month and spending your days comatose in front of the TV, it's time to get back into the swing of things. That means classes, homework, extra-curriculars, and yes, sports.

While you were away catching up on four months of missed sleep, the basketball team has been hard at work. The guys have been out on the court, practicing, training, and facing off against all sorts of nonconference opponents all break long. But just this past weekend, the games really began—Ivy League competition has officially started.

While the Lions, unfortunately, weren't able to pull off a win against either Penn or Princeton, both games were within four points and came down to the last minute. And even with the two losses, the Light Blue is still sporting a winning record of 11-7.

Now, I know this isn't the most informed campus when it comes to sports—even the marquee ones—but that's why we're here. If you've read anything I've written in the past six months (humor me and pretend), then you know that I'm all about the football team. So understandably, basketball isn't really my jam.

Bringing school spirit to Columbia? You should get extra credit for that.

One of the great things about sports, though, is that as long as you love the atmosphere, you'll find that any sport has the ability to capture your attention.

So, despite my fondness for the gridiron, I still enjoy hitting up a good Columbia basketball game. And to be honest, there's really no reason not to. Levien Gym is crazy close—you could probably sprint there from most dorms without a coat on and regain full limb use in minutes. Plus, it's entirely free. All you need is your CUID to get in, and it's not like you ever walk around without that. Finally, let's be honest, it's a completely justifiable way to avoid studying. Bringing school spirit to Columbia? You should get extra credit for that.

If you're going to go to a game, though, you've got to know what to do. As someone who has had to pick up a couple pointers along the way, I've compiled a little introductory cheat sheet to help you fake it 'til you make it.

1) Wear Columbia blue

It sounds simple, but you'd be surprised by how many people don't show up in the proper attire. This is college basketball, ladies and gentlemen. We all go to this school. We all know what the school colors are. If, by some chance, you don't already have a Columbia shirt lying around, the athletic department gives them away for free quite often at sporting events. All you have to do is go to one of those and you're golden. Then you'll be all set to join the sea of good old Columbia blue in Levien.

2) Taunt without mercy

Now, heckling is a normal part of any sports competition. But with the less able members of the Ancient Eight coming to town, there's some extra fun to be had. Columbia is, of course, the best of the Ivies. Therefore, it is your job as a fan to make sure that each and every other school that plays in Levien knows that they're in our house. The best way to do this is to concisely point out their flaws. For example, a simple "safety school" chant will suffice for Brown. And it can never hurt to remind Cornell about its "state school" status.



VICTORIA JONES

Batting A Thousand



JOSÉ GIRALT / SPECTATOR SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BARBOUR SHOP | Junior point guard Brian Barbour will look to cut through Cornell's stifling defense this weekend. Barbour has 61 assists this season and has scored 279 points, while Cornell has given up an average of 68.4 points a game.

Columbia searching to rebound against Big Red

BY STEVEN LAU
Spectator Staff Writer

Last in the Ivy League having dropped its first two conference matches at home, the Columbia men's basketball team (11-7, 0-2 Ivy) needs a win on Saturday when it takes on Cornell (6-10, 1-1 Ivy).

Saturday's match will be the Lions' last home game for three weeks and their prime opportunity to turn around what has been a disappointing start to Ivy League play so far.

Last weekend's losses to Penn and Princeton hit Columbia especially hard, as the Lions had entered the weekend having won 11 of their last 12 games.

"It's great to get that situation where we're starting to play with expectations of ourselves," head coach Kyle Smith said. "We're battling history a little bit. We've got to just keep plugging and get better."

The Light Blue's 62-58 defeat by Princeton on Saturday was eerily similar to the previous night's 66-64 conference-opening loss to Penn. In both games, the Lions let a slim halftime lead slip away in the second period, and despite last minute comebacks, they were unable to overcome the deficits.

Junior guard Brian Barbour led the charge against the Tigers and the Quakers with a game-high 25 points in

both contests, but Barbour's last-minute heroics were not enough to take the win.

Smith expects Barbour to face considerable pressure from a Big Red defense characterized by its aggressiveness.

"They'll take more chances and they'll probably double and press us a little bit more," Smith said. "We'll have to make them pay to be successful."

"It's great to get that situation where we're starting to play with ex- pectations of ourselves."

—Kyle Smith, head coach

Cornell's defense has had particular success this season in pressuring three-point shots, holding its opponents to just 28 percent shooting from beyond the arc.

For the Lions—who only hit six of their 30 three-point shots last weekend—it will be important to keep the ball moving on the offensive end to limit the effectiveness of Cornell's length and quickness.

"We have to be shrewd on the ones

we take," Smith said. "When a team defends the three that well, it's not going to be the first look usually. You've got to be patient enough to work for the next look."

The Big Red's defense had mixed success last weekend when Cornell faced Penn and Princeton. After a strong 67-59 win over the Tigers in which freshman guard Galal Cancer had a game-high 17 points, the Big Red fell to the Quakers, 64-52.

Freshman forward Shonn Miller—the Ivy League Rookie of the Week for the fourth time this season—earned a double-double against Penn with 19 points and 10 boards. But the Quakers' shooting, highlighted by 18-point performances by senior guards Tyler Bernardini and Zack Rosen, proved too much as Penn went 10-20 from three-point range.

Miller was the only Big Red player to hit double figures against Penn, but against Princeton, there were three Cornell players that scored more than nine points.

Senior guard Drew Ferry, the Big Red's leading scorer and the fifth-ranked three-point shooter in the nation, was uncharacteristically quiet last weekend, scoring a combined eight points in the two games.

The Lions are well aware of Ferry's

SEE MEN'S BBALL, page 6

Fencing competing in first dual meets of the season

BY SPENCER GYORY
Spectator Staff Writer

On Saturday and Sunday, Columbia's men's and women's fencing programs will take on the top programs in the country at the St. John's Super Cup and the NYU Duals. These two tournaments mark the beginning of collegiate play for the Lions, as well as the beginning of a new coaching era.

Michael Aufrichtig, current chairman of the New York Athletic Club Fencing program, was announced as the new head coach of the men's and women's fencing programs in late June 2011. Aufrichtig replaced legendary coach George Kolombatovich, who led the program for 33 years.

Aufrichtig inherits a young but extremely talented group of fencers. Last year's team included 16 first-year fencers and only one senior on the women's side.

The men's squad was plagued by lack of depth throughout a season in which they finished with a disappointing record of 2-18 and placed last at Ivy League Championships. While the women started off slowly, they finished strong, completing the season at 10-9, including a second-place finish at Ivies for the third straight year.

The Lions' 2012 cause will be greatly aided by the incoming recruiting class which includes 10 talented fencers. These fencers are expected to add depth and provide competition for the starters immediately. For example, freshmen Will Spear and Michael Josephs finished in first and seventh, respectively, in junior men's sabre at this past weekend's North America Cup in Portland, Ore..

"I am extremely, extremely happy [with this year's class]" Aufrichtig said. "We are already bringing in two individuals that have been competing at the junior world level. At the last two North American Cups, some of our recruits are actually finishing higher than some of our starters. That's always a really good sign. People understand that our mission here is winning NCAA and Ivy League Championships."

"I think the depth issue has been addressed and it will be more addressed next season even further," Aufrichtig said. "Pending no injuries, we should be fine."

Both players and coaches expect the team to improve upon last year's performance. Aufrichtig believes his fencers have a great opportunity to win at Ivy League Championships and climb the ladder at nationals.

"For sure, we want to do a lot better than we did last year," Aufrichtig said. "With regards to nationals, we'll be able to accomplish seventh or better this year."

"We have got to win Ivies," said junior epeeist Lydia Kopecky, who finished seventh at NCAA's last season. "For three years we have been a bout or two away from winning, which is very frustrating. My expectation for this team at the very minimum is to win Ivies. I also think we will field a much greater number of fencers at NCAA's this year."

Kopecky contends that the team's greatest difficulty will be continuing to make up for its lack of experience with grit and heart.

"We are a young team," Kopecky said. "I know people say this all the time but we really are, so the experience isn't there. We don't have tons of seniors and juniors to pull up the younger kids. The most important thing is to make fighters out of all of us."

The team captains for this season will include Kopecky, senior sabre Sammy Roberts, junior foil D'Meca Homer, senior epee Sean Leahy, and senior sabre Billy Fink.

The Light Blue hopes to get off to a better start than last season when they travel to Jamaica, Queens on

SEE FENCING, page 6

SEE JONES, page 6

Restaurant Week Guide

Another reason to love NYC is the advent of Restaurant Week. Recently, “Restaurant Week” has become a misnomer, since the restaurateurs behind this event are allowing it to last for almost a month. During the weeks between Jan. 16 and Feb. 10, from Monday to Friday, diners can sample lunch and/or dinner at dozens of Manhattan restaurants that, otherwise, may be too draining for the average paycheck. **Tulsi, Gravy, 9, and Hill Country** are four participating restaurants. —*Jade Bonacolta and Kimberly Topilow*



9 RESTAURANT

9 Restaurant (800 9th Ave., between 53rd and 54th streets)
Having opened last year, 9 is a small and trendy, yet cozy Hell’s Kitchen joint where locals and theatergoers can score a comfort-food fix. For \$24.07, customers can munch on a lunch starting with three-cheese macaroni, followed by salmon with brown butter and spinach, and ending with mini ice cream cones. Carnivores can have meatball sliders as an appetizer, while vegetarians can have the tomato-burrata panini as their entree. For \$35, diners can enjoy a dinner starting with “lobster pigs-in-a-blanket”, followed by braised short rib, and concluding with maple doughnuts drizzled with white chocolate. It is worth noting that 9’s prix fixe dinner menu does not have any vegetarian entrées.

BAR BASQUE

Bar Basque (839 Avenue of the Americas, at 29th Street)
Bar Basque is a Spanish-reminiscent sanctuary that houses the finest Spanish wines, grilled meats, and small plates. The futuristic building was designed by concept artist Syd Mead, and provides a unique ambiance. Chef Yuhi Fujinaga celebrates Restaurant Week with appetizers of roasted local beets, wild mushroom soup, and mixed sautéed chorizo. Entree selections are the golden snapper, slow braised shortrib of beef, wood oven roasted chicken breast, or seared yellowfin tuna. Dessert includes the choice of a bittersweet chocolate ganache or banana mousse. This Basque cuisine comes at the same prix fixe as the others and offers an exotic atmosphere.

AJNA BAR

Ajna Bar (25 Little W. 12th St., at Washington Street).
This Asian fusion hotspot is a blend of bold Asian cuisine and décor, infused with a subtle French influence. Appetizer selections include mini-chirashi, spicy chicken and coconut soup, or a field green salad with roasted beets and sesame goat cheese in a tangerine vinaigrette. Entrees include crispy Alaskan black cod, roasted lemongrass chicken, and, for the vegetarian, vegetable curry. To sweeten one’s palate at the end of the night, diners can choose between a salted caramel molten chocolate cake and passion fruit mousse. In addition to the \$24.07 and \$35 prix fixe meals, the lounge’s nightlife features music spun by DJ Timka to create a bustling evening.



EN JAPANESE

EN Japanese Brasserie (435 Hudson St., between Leroy Street and St. Luke’s Place)
Upon entering EN Japanese Brasserie, one can’t help but marvel at the charming and sleek Asian décor. The Japanese meal begins with smooth, melt-in-your-mouth tofu delivered in quaint 3-by-3-inch wooden boxes. The wari joyu sauce is prepared with fish oil, so my vegetarian alternative starter, bathed liberally in soy sauce, was a tad too pungent.
The first Kyoto-style appetizer consisted of delicious Japanese mushrooms prepared with a subtle peanut flavor and garnished with sesame seeds. The second, fried tofu, was again overly soaked in a spicy sauce and would have been more agreeable had it been served hot, rather than chilled. Among entrées, the mushi fuyu yasai offered the most unexpected array of pumpkin, lotus root, scallions, and turnip, which were each distinct in texture and flavor. The Kobe-style steak was brought sizzling loudly on a heated rock, accompanied by scallions, a dipping salt, and soy sauce that found the right balance, bringing out the flavor of the meat without overwhelming the dish.
The meal closes with onigiri (rice) and miso soup to clean one’s palate. After a few moments of digestion, a scoop of black sesame ice cream is brought in a chilled dish.



KEFI

Kefi (505 Columbus Ave between 84th and 85th streets)
Kefi, a Greek “taverna-style” restaurant in the West 80s, is split-level as well as split-atmosphere. Upon walking in, customers will either be seated on the ground level, where tables are packed close together and the chatter is loud, or beneath the street, a great place for meeting dates or friends, with all the ambience of a tavern in Santorini. This place is a true gem. Everything on the \$35 Restaurant Week dinner menu was a culinary marvel. Diners are presented with a circular platter of pita triangles and four types of spreadable goodness. The hummus was earthy and creamy—just the way hummus should be. The eggplant purée had a pleasantly sweet undertone and the Greek yogurt was light and savory. The favorite was definitely the caviar spread, who’s richness was offset by a subtle smokiness.
The bowl of three meatballs that arrived next would have made Mario Batali cry with joy. Stewed with garlic, tomatoes, and olives, they end up bursting with juicy, meaty flavor and slicing like butter, and are followed by a platter of two grilled branzino filets layered on a bed of herbed potatoes, chopped olives, and stewed tomatoes. My dining companion’s braised lamb shank was succulent and fall-off-the-bone tender. It is paired with a tomato-inflected orzo to create a meal ideally suited to arm diners against the brutal NYC winter.
Every dinner should be concluded with a frothy cappuccino and a nutty, triangular piece of walnut cake. The crumbly, lightly sweetened confection is enhanced by an accompanying scoop of walnut ice cream.

TULSI

Tulsi (211 E. 46th St., between Second and Third avenues)
Tulsi is a sleek, classy restaurant serving “New Indian” cuisine. After being seated at a table surrounded by curtains, diners will choose from a menu featuring Indian favorites with a twist. The three-course lunch menu is \$24.07 and the three-course dinner menu is \$35. Both include a starter, entrée, and dessert. Tomato rasam, which is a puree of lentils, chilies, mustard seed, and curry, is among the starter options at lunch. Lunch entrees include a choice of the roasted pesto portabello mushroom stuffed with paneer, a white cheese, or Bombay chicken curry topped with coconut milk and cucumber salsa. At dinner, the pumpkin green pea croquettes with green chutney aioli should make for an interesting starter. Diners can choose between entrees such as the malai kofta, which are Indian dumplings, and chicken with a pistachio, fennel, and cinnamon sauce. A sweet ending could be cinnamon bread spread with cardamom cream and candied cashews.

GRAVY

Gravy (32 E. 21st St, between Park Avenue South and Broadway)
Gravy is the first of its kind in NYC: a trendy restaurant in the upscale Flatiron district serving “New Southern” fare. The chef takes familiar dishes from the American South and adds a few modern touches. Influenced by the cuisines of New Orleans, Charleston, and Savannah, the \$24.07 prix-fixe lunch could include a starter of “Market soup”, an entree of either cornflake-crust-ed chicken or a grilled vegetable po’ boy, and ice cream for dessert. The \$35 dinner features options such as a starter of cauliflower soup with leeks and pecans, an entree of scallops paired with honey grits, toasted corn relish, and lobster barbeque jus, and a selection of pies for dessert. Both lunch and dinner come with Gravy’s “grits three ways”. The sampler includes honey, cheesy, and “porky” grits. Gravy is perfect for those who are tired of run-of-the-mill pork and beans.



Best of

Excuses to break resolutions

It's that time of year again—filled with facetious resolutions to eat more leafy greens, smile at strangers, cut down on the “Real Housewives” habit , and learn a foreign language. But before you while away the remaining days of January dreaming of a fitter, happier, Italian-speaking you, check out A&E’s list of the most common New Year’s resolutions and proposed ways to ditch those short-lived promises now—and in spectacular style. —*Katy Tong*

Resolution #1: Spend less, save more

Regardless of whether the world will be coming to an end anytime soon, there's no excuse for getting caught in the daily grind of time management. But rather than escaping from real time via Facebook or Twitter, ride the 6 train towards the Brooklyn Bridge, and stay on as the train loops around to return uptown. Passengers with time to spare will pass through the abandoned but beautifully preserved City Hall Station, which closed to the public in 1945. Situated along a rounded portion of the track, the platform and mezzanine are uncommonly elegant, complete with skylights, brass chandeliers, and colored-glass tile work. A time-consuming trip for sure, but time well spent.



Resolution #2: Tame the bulge

The most famous of all New Year’s resolutions—eating healthy and staying fit—often turns out to be a trying and melancholy experience. Ditch those dieting blues with a sugar-rush treat at Two Little Red Hens (1652 Second Ave., between 85th and 86th streets). According to Serious Eats, this quaint, unimposing bakery on the Upper East Side is home to New York’s best cheesecake, a classic spiced carrot cake, and a tender-crumbed ginger mango pear pie, among other worthy creations. Its standout Brooklyn Blackout Cupcake, filled with a cool, voluptuous pudding and sealed with a layer of fudge, will sate anybody’s craving for chocolate.

Resolution #3: Lose the alcohol

While New Year’s Eve hangovers may be reason to quit drinking, the happy hours at Verlaine (110 Rivington St., between Essex and Ludlow streets) will likely cause many a shattered resolution. The sleek, dimly lit Lower East Side lounge specializes in Vietnamese-inspired cocktails—think lychee martinis, sangria, and Bloody Marys—made with a choice of lemongrass, melon, or hot pepper vodka. And the deals won’t dent your wallet: Select drinks are half off between 5 and 10 p.m. daily, with additional discounts on Sunday and Monday evenings.



ILLUSTRATION BY RUNTAO YANG

Resolution #4: Manage time effectively

Attention to all fashionistas suffering from frugality fatigue: Christian Louboutin—the man behind the iconic red-soled stilettos—is celebrating his 20th anniversary with exclusive limited-edition shoes, on display at Barneys New York (660 Madison Ave., at East 61st Street). Adding to their appeal, each pair will be personally autographed by Louboutin himself. These darlings can be picked up for a mammoth four grand, pricey enough to kiss that “spend less, save more” mentality goodbye. If splurging is impossible, opt to indulge in window-shopping fantasies at the window front à la “Breakfast at Tiffany’s,” or purchase the special anniversary book depicting the history of Louboutin’s designs.

2 Avenue Station

F

Neighborhood Watch



Dolce Vita Boutique

Walking down Ludlow Street on the Lower East Side after sundown, it can be easy to miss the Dolce Vita boutique (149 Ludlow Street between Rivington and Stanton streets), blending into the hubbub of the exciting Lower East Side. But look closer and Dolce Vita’s window display is unmissable: A tie-dye mini dress, a denim romper with a striped cardigan, a white lace short-sleeve mini dress, and a coral sleeveless dress with ruffle detailing beg for attention. Only after entering the store does one realize that the price is as irresistible as the style—items start at \$40.

Shoes are Dolce Vita’s specialty. Colorful, chic—and the prices don’t break the bank. Top sellers during the fall/winter season included the Jax Ankle Boot (\$199), a leather ankle boot with a low stacked heel and the Esperanza Western Moto Boot (\$169.50 from \$209).

Of course, options abound when it comes to shoes, but these ones aren’t your average designer knock-offs—they are stylish. Each boot, heel, flat, and sandal is chic enough to wear around the city.

The style has broad appeal. “It’s anyone from 15 years old to 65 that shop here,” store manager Brittany Neves said. According to Neves, the wide age distribution shows that their shoes can last—customers won’t grow “too old to wear them.”

Dolce Vita also carries clothes, including many marked down items. Chunky wool sweaters, patterned silk button-up tops, and leopard print coats line the racks. Two racks showcase new spring/summer trends: bold colors, cutout styles, embellished belts.

Dolce Vita stocks its own line—Dolce Vita and DV by Dolce Vita—as well as pieces by Twelfth Street by Cynthia Vincent, Mara Hoffman, Minkpink, and Adam, among others.

The store also carries accessories: bags by Cynthia Vincent and jewelry by Vanessa Mooney and Chan Luu.

The boutique’s floor is an Art Deco-inspired mosaic, and four modern chandeliers light the space. There are two dressing rooms, ample mirrors and cushioned seats for quickly trying on shoes. The atmosphere is soothing, with slow jams playing from iPod speakers.

Dolce Vita has stylish inventory and great prices. Stop by the store any afternoon of the week. Both Dolce Vita and DV by Dolce Vita are sold at department stores, specialty boutiques, and online retailers, but Dolce Vita’s charming storefront on Ludlow Street gives shoppers a local feel that can’t be found elsewhere.

—*Claire Stern*

Eleven Rivington

Since opening in 2007, Eleven Rivington (11 Rivington St., between Bowery and Christie streets) has faced tough competition—in a neighborhood of only a few blocks are roughly 29 galleries. Not only is the venerable New Museum located just a few blocks down on Prince and Bowery streets, the tiny gallery faces competition from the Dodge Gallery located right next door. Eleven Rivington consists of only one room. What Eleven Rivington lacks in size, however, it more than makes up for with its fascinating exhibitions.

Director Augusto Arbizo packs the gallery with exhibitions both thought-provoking and innovative. Last summer, the exhibit “The House of Exile” (2011), a play on formal compositions made from antique paper jackets and hardcover books on linen, reflected the aesthetic of the gallery and the neighborhood itself: the transformed identity emerging from repurposed book covers seemed to mirror that of the LES itself, a neighborhood struggling to maintain its identity and culture despite gentrification.

Currently, the gallery is presenting a solo exhibition from Hilary Berseth (CC ’01) featuring six understated drawings and numerous sculptures. Berseth went back to basics for the drawings, relying solely on graphite and paper. He overlaid two subjects on each sheet, bringing them into a single space through creative shading. His sculptures also rely on drawing, although the paper is twisted and rearranged into three dimensional shapes. Extra illusory volume comes from trompe l’oeil illustration. Berseth has appeared at Eleven Rivington before—previous works ranged from similar paper constructions to jagged, coralloid copper on white plaster cubes.

Eleven Rivington is thoroughly versed in this expertly executed play between abstraction and representation, reflected by the fact that director Arbizo’s own work ranges from abstract watercolors to compelling, fully fleshed-out nature scenes. Furthermore, by drawing consistently noteworthy talent, Eleven Rivington is a LES gem that more than holds its own in a neighborhood defined by its connection to the arts.

—*Anatole Ashraf*

John Hemingway unpacks his fractured family history in memoir

BY LESLEY THULIN
Spectator Staff Writer

Literature reached several milestones in 2011: The King James Bible turned 400 years old, while Jane Austen’s “Sense and Sensibility” turned 200. In American literature, last year marked the 50th anniversary of Ernest Hemingway’s death.

“I was invited all over the place,” John Hemingway, grandson of Ernest Hemingway, told *Spectator*.

John is the author of the 2007 family memoir “Strange Tribe,” which describes the complicated family dynamics of the Hemingway clan, focusing specifically on the relationship between Ernest and his youngest son, Gregory, the author’s father. John currently lives in Montreal and works as a journalist and creative writer.

“Strange Tribe” centers around Gregory (later Gloria) and his struggles as a transsexual who lived in the shadow of Ernest’s hyper-masculine image. Like John Wayne and Clint Eastwood, Ernest embodied “a standard, a measure of what it was to be an American male,” John writes in “Strange Tribe.”

But John argues that Ernest and Gregory were more similar than people had realized. They were both interested in androgyny and experimented with it in different ways. As a physician who ultimately underwent gender reassignment surgery, Gregory explored androgyny in a bodily way, while Ernest dealt with it in a literary way. Ernest’s unfinished novel “The Garden of Eden” follows a husband and wife who both fall in love with the same woman.

In unpacking this similarity, he “tried to show a different [Ernest]—a much more maternal man.” According to John, Ernest “was attached to his son, who seemed a mirror image of him.”

Gregory’s 1976 memoir about his father, “Papa: A Personal Memoir,” testifies to this bond. Gregory wrote of Ernest, “The man I remembered was kind, gentle, elemental in his vastness, tormented beyond endurance, and although we always called him papa, it was out of love, not fear.”

But Ernest and Gregory also shared an unfortunate similarity: Both father and son suffered from bipolar disorder and alcoholism. While Ernest’s mental health issues led to his suicide in 1961, Gregory died from hypertension in 2001 in Miami-Dade Women’s Detention Center, days after being charged with indecent exposure and resisting arrest. He had also struggled with drug abuse throughout his life.

When John’s cousin Margaux committed suicide in 1996 one day before the anniversary of her grandfather Ernest, the press talked about



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN HEMINGWAY

ALL IN THE FAMILY | John Hemingway’s memoir, “Strange Tribe,” describes the bond between his father and the famed grandfather he never knew.

the “Hemingway curse,” John writes, “as if my great-grandfather Clarence had made some sort of Faustian pact with the devil.”

The son of a bipolar father and a schizophrenic mother, John somehow managed to escape the family “curse.” But he is wary of this term. John instead attributes his family’s tragedies to genetics and bad luck.

About 11 months old when his grandfather Ernest died, John has no memory of the literary giant. Learning about his grandfather through family folklore and his world-acclaimed books, John said that he admires Ernest’s “ability to end a story in a way that hits you in the gut” and is “constantly surprised” by the different points of view from which a reader can interpret his texts.

But John also tries not to let his last name define himself as a writer. “In the beginning it was kind of a problem,” he said. So he resolved to find his own voice and develop his own style, different from his grandfather’s.

“I admire him [Ernest] tremendously,” John said. “He was truly a gifted author. [But] at the same time you have your own voice. If you try to imitate someone else it’s going to sound fake.”

Since he knows his grandfather only secondhand, writing “Strange Tribe” became a scholarly pursuit as well as a journey into his own family’s dark history. “I was learning as I was writing,” he said.

Aside from the pressure to get all of the details right, one of the most difficult parts of writing the memoir was developing the tone, Hemingway said. Although his relationship with Gregory had its turbulence, he made a point not to “trash” his parents or sound “self-pitying.” Instead, he opted for compassion. “The biggest thing for me was understanding and forgiveness,” he said.

In the end, most family members found it “pretty fair” in the way that it captured the turmoil of Gregory’s life.

A UCLA graduate with a B.A. in history, John likens writers to historians. Like historians, writers think about characters and how they react in certain situations. While writing his own family history, he realized that the discipline of history “teaches you humility.”

History “keeps you grounded in the reality that everything we do is not the absolute truth,” he said. “I never wrote [in “Strange Tribe”], ‘This is the way it was: I wrote, ‘This is how I see it.’”

The Case for Improvisation

A little over a week ago, pianist Brad Mehldau played a five-day set legendary New York jazz club The Village Vanguard. I own nearly all of Mehldau’s albums and am an obsessive listener, yet did not recognize a single song throughout his set. From an obscure McCartney cover to something from AMC’s “Mad Men,” Mehldau managed to go 90 minutes without resorting to the familiar, even in the eyes of his most ardent fans. His solos turned each song into a mini-symphony, and the communication between Mehldau and his rhythm section would be the envy of even the most loving spouses. For me, it was pure musical fulfillment: simultaneously witnessing the creative process and hearing the final product. If you know where to look, these magical moments are everywhere—the music industry is just too bloated to recognize them.

In the 21st century, music resembles water. It flows abundantly from numerous sources, and in the industrialized world we seldom think twice before accessing it. Much of it seems the same, unless it’s locally bottled (indie rock), sparkling (hip hop), or contaminated with foreign elements (Lady Gaga’s meat dress). Perhaps the key difference between water and music is that instead of periodic shortages, we face a flood of epic proportions. What used to be a valued product, handcrafted by skilled professionals, has become a commodity that anybody can produce and distribute. As a result, it is not only harder for an artist to break through, but harder for the general public to care about one who actually does.



DAVID ECKER
Slightly Off Key

In the 21st century, music resembles water. It flows abundantly from numerous sources, and in the industrialized world we seldom think twice before accessing it.

To hear Mehldau play is extraordinary—partly because you know you can’t relive the experience. The spontaneity and intense communication are impossible to reproduce and are lost immediately after they occur. Unlike a pop concert, where the audience pays to hear exact replicas of a band’s record, a jazz audience gets a different experience every night. It seems strange that the music industry, increasingly reliant on “experiences” for income, hasn’t latched onto jazz. If live performance is the only hope a modern musician has for financial success, and the improvisation in jazz makes a performance impossible to replicate. When I see a show, whether it’s folk rock or hip-hop, it is those elements that play with my expectations and differ from the recordings that intrigue me the most.

Improvisation has no stylistic boundaries. One can improvise within rap, pop, rock, country, and dubstep disciplines. All it requires is a reliance on the present moment, as opposed to a mere reiteration of the past. In a world that changes rapidly and faces an abundance of skillful producers and craftsmen, “the moment” is the only place where the average musician still has the upper hand. There’s no need to rush towards an overproduced single—it will be there in that same exact state forever and then some. When it comes to improvisation, however, you can’t afford to blink.

The coming years will see an increase both in the amount of music produced and the availability of that music. Those artists who embrace the irreplaceable nature of “the moment” will build a place for themselves, while those that produce single after single will find themselves lost in the heap-ping pile of all available media.

David Ecker is a first-year in Columbia College. Slightly Off Key runs alternate Fridays.

‘Vote for Pedro’ in new animated series based on cult classic film

BY ALISON HERMAN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

“Napoleon Dynamite,” the 2004 comedy following the misadventures of two socially awkward teenagers in small-town Idaho, made its small-screen debut on Fox last Sunday as an animated series of the same name.

The show retains the original cast of the film, including Jon Heder as the show’s bespectacled title character and Efrén Ramirez as Napoleon’s best friend Pedro. The series airs between popular series “The Simpsons” and “Family Guy” as part of the network’s weekly animation lineup.

According to executive producer Mike Scully, director Jared Hess chose to adapt Napoleon Dynamite as a television series to avoid the “diminishing returns” that often face traditional sequels.

“Napoleon Dynamite” earned a cult following for its quotable script and offbeat encounters. But the show intends to reach a more general audience, including those unfamiliar with the plot and characters of the original film.

“We wanted it to be a show that stands on its own, for people who’ve never seen the film or even for people who’ve seen the film and for whatever reason didn’t care for it,” Scully said.

The show also differs from the original Napoleon Dynamite in its writing style, opting for fast-paced jokes over the film’s signature pause-heavy dialogue and deliberate pacing. “When you work on an animated TV show, the timing is different, because you really have a clock of 22 minutes,” Ramirez explained. “So in those 22 minutes, things need to be happening.”

Scully said that animation’s ability “to do things you can’t do in live action, like dream sequences and flashbacks and thought bubbles,” prompted the switch.

For old fans, the series also expands on the movie’s original setting and characters. “It’s still set in the small town in Idaho, but you get to see more of the town and more of the characters living in the town,” Scully said. “You get to see not only Napoleon Dynamite, but also the relationship between Kip and Grandma, where Uncle Rico really comes from, Rex, and some new characters that evolve.”

After settling on the new style, Hess contacted the movie’s entire original cast, all of whom agreed to join the project.

“As an actor, I’ve worked on so many different sets,” Ramirez said. “Napoleon Dynamite was one of

the sets where I became a family member and they became a family to me.”

But classic characters and fresh humor aside, Scully had a simple argument for why the show should appeal to everyone. “It’s funny!”



ILLUSTRATION BY MARIA CASTEX

The search for an ‘Island in the Sun’ in East Harlem callaloo greens

At Sisters Caribbean Cuisine, you need a memory. The restaurant overlooks Marcus Garvey Park’s bare magnolias, gossips with the Deli Candy Store next door, and does a good takeout business with podiatry students from the Foot Clinic of New York.

Since 1995, Marlyn Lawrie-Rogers and Elsie Darrell—the sisters in question—have served island and Southern food from the same East Harlem location. You need a memory to contain all relevant details. The space is thick, and you will want to stroke its weft and remember its knots.

Jerk chicken is an Ad Reinhardt, black, an abstraction of flavor but intensely material, a dish



JASON BELL
In Defense of Deliciousness

that requires concentration, that absorbs and concentrates heat. As I finish: “The world had stopped just as it was; no longer was there any desire and I, too, was utterly satisfied.”

Candied yams are a shivery vapor of earth, like sweet fresh loam run through the fingers. Recund dragon teeth allowed to sprout in dark cupboards. Their frothy juice foams over.

Callaloo, coconut-creamed greens, born from a great iron cauldron, stores a measure of concentrated light. Even a tiny bite frees the tongue to collect photons from thin air.

This summer, I met Sisters’ Nelson, who first introduced me to callaloo. He comes from Jamaica and works the steam table at the restaurant. In July, he told me that he missed the islands where “the sun always shines”—but on a January Wednesday he wore a 2010 ING New York Marathon T-shirt. He likes to watch the runners and seems to bear the winter months with a half-hearted grin.

Rice freckled with peas, varnished with grease, slips off Nelson’s spoon. Examined from the proper angle, Sisters recedes back from the street. Minutes progress slowly—watches are set for island time. Sunlight, however impoverished, flows in curly rivulets. Yet, it is neither easy nor desirable to abandon all memory and leap into fantasy. Sisters denies cruisers a port of call: no simple holidays here. Beneath the quiet of melting ice—the almost silent “sound of countless people’s joints all cracking at once”—a wonderful tension, a dramatic complication, holds Sisters suspended between East Harlem reality and island holiday. As Weezer defines it in “Island in the Sun,” a holiday is a dream of never feeling bad anymore. But the aesthetic power of Sisters depends on your ability to feel bad, and good, and conflicted. Complete feeling—the ability to taste across the color spectrum—is a prerequisite to ethical, compassionate pleasure. At least over a plate of brown stewed chicken, in wavering

afternoon light, on the island of Manhattan.

It’s an amnesiac escape. Placeless and timeless, the island is a space of forgetting. If embraced with no regrets, a commitment to ignorance offers an elaborately disguised diversion from ugly, ordinary life.

Sisters Caribbean Cuisine is not on an island in the sun—because it is firmly planted in this neighborhood and rooted in these people. It is not hip because it is not anesthetized. If it is sleepy, it does not slumber. It feels the profound pain of distance stretched through time. In fact, the island, which refuses family and history, is antithetical to Sisters. Whereas the island defeats genealogy, Sisters subsists on it. So lord help the mister who comes between sisters: Family recipes regularly prove stronger than brute force.

Jason Bell is a Columbia College junior majoring in political science. In Defense of Deliciousness runs alternate Fridays.

Flipside

Guide

‘Richard III’

Actor Kevin Spacey gives a standout, complex performance at BAM

BY LESLEY THULIN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

WHERE IT’S AT

Time: Through Mar. 4
Place: 651 Fulton St.
Cost: Tickets start at \$30
Rating: ★★☆☆

With the recent downfall of former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, the Bridge Project’s new production of Shakespeare’s 400-year-old tragedy “Richard III” at the Brooklyn Academy of Music seems especially relevant.

Oscar-winning actor Kevin Spacey stars as the titular villain in the Sam Mendes-directed production. Spacey and Mendes previously collaborated on the 1999 Oscar-winning film “American Beauty.” The show opened on Jan. 10 and will run until March 4.

The tragedy narrates Richard, Duke of Gloucester’s despotic tenure as King of England, from his ruthless ascent to the throne to his death in battle against his successor, King Henry VII, the first monarch of the House of Tudor. Set during the aftermath of England’s War of the Roses, “Richard III” tells the story of a man who will do anything to attain power.

The play opens with Richard slouched in a chair, with a paper crown on his head. He freeze-frames footage of his brother, King Edward, then blows a party whistle and reveals to the audience his scheme to gain the throne.

Assuming Richard’s deformed stature with a hunchback, a contorted leg fixed in a calliper, a sleeve for his crippled arm and a cane, Spacey stole the show as the Machiavellian king. He impressively managed to retain his grotesque posture throughout the entire performance.

Spacey not only physically embodied his character, but he also rendered Richard with astonishing emotional complexity. An actor who plays Richard may be tempted to overact and yell most of his lines, but Spacey was often unpredictable and always convincing.

Part of Spacey’s brilliance as Richard lies in his ability to both charm and frighten. He stomps, makes threats, snarls, and throws his cane.

Spacey achieved this complexity partly by inserting humor into his performance. After he impales Lord Hastings’ severed head with his own cane, Spacey, in perfect comedic timing, immediately takes out his handkerchief in order to clean the cane, and then use the same handkerchief to dab his brow.

One of the show’s funniest moments occurs in the third act, when Richard is projected on a screen via video-conference. Buckingham calls Richard and “interrupts” him, as he is in the middle of a religious ritual. Buckingham stages this scene in order to make Richard appear pious while he publicly asks him to assume the throne. After faking humility, Richard assents.

Spacey also builds his rapport with the audience through Richard’s numerous soliloquies. In the first scene he introduces himself: “Since I cannot prove a lover / To entertain these fair well-spoken days, I am determined to prove a villain.” Richard’s character often breaks the fourth wall, inviting the audience to compare him to a dramatist. After all, he “lays plots” in both senses of the word.

Seemingly in cahoots with the audience, the villain charms us. But part of Spacey’s brilliance as Richard lies in his ability to both charm and frighten. He stomps, makes threats, snarls, and throws his cane.

But Spacey also manages to elicit empathy from the audience. At the end of the play, he becomes haunted by the ghosts of the people he had killed in order to further his political agenda. In the final scene, before his death, he says, “There is no creature loves me / And if I die, no soul shall pity me.”

While Spacey’s performance outshone those of the other actors, Annabel Scholey was exceptional as Lady Anne. There is a particularly difficult scene in the first act in which Richard tries to court Lady Anne, the widow of Prince Edward, whom Richard had killed. The scene begins with Lady Anne scorning Richard for killing her husband, but by the end his courtship seems to work.

The set and the costumes also “work.” The set is sparse and Orwellian—there are three walls lined with 18 doors. In some scenes, bright light emanates from the open doors and projects harsh shadows on the walls. Paint peels off of the walls, reflecting the ruin of the English state. When Richard gives a speech as King, the walls open up and a giant portrait looms behind him. Foreboding drums punctuate the end of each scene.

The men in the cast wear military garb and business suits. Mendes adds to the play’s modern flair with his use of video footage. Overall, the set and costumes consistently remind the audience of the play’s relevance to contemporary politics.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KEN HOWARD/METROPOLITAN OPERA

TAKE A BOW | A scene from “the Enchanted Island,” the latest production from the Metropolitan Opera, with Joyce DiDonato as Sycorax, Plácido Domingo as Neptune, and David Daniels as Prospero (shown above in order as listed).

‘The Enchanted Island’

Jeremy Sams stages a modern take on Baroque with new Met Opera

BY REUBEN BERMAN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Those who question the future of opera as a continuing form of art need look no further than the stage of the Metropolitan Opera to find a resounding defense of it’s worth. The Met (Lincoln Center Plaza at 65th and Broadway) played host to the world premiere of “The Enchanted Island,” which will run through Jan. 30, and packed the house with viewers eager to see the latest addition to the musical world.

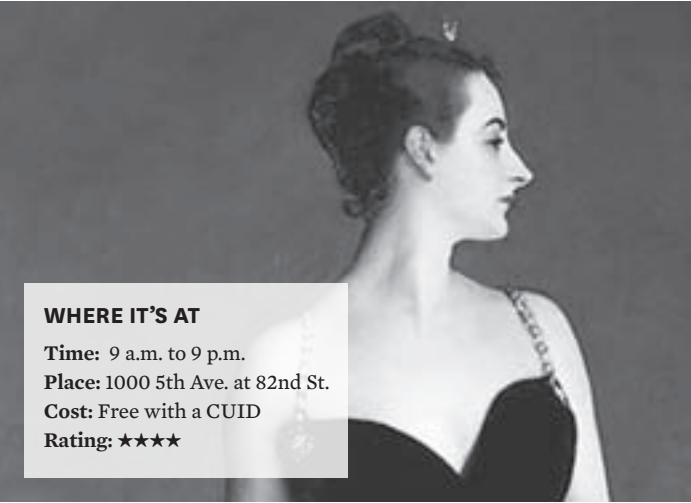
Although Jeremy Sams wrote the words (the libretto is in English), he can make no such claim on the music. Drawing from the Baroque operas of Vivaldi, Handel, Rameau, and others, he created a pastiche that combines the works of two or more composers with different words and a different storyline. The most modern opera is actually a construction of Baroque masterpieces, complete with a harpsichord in the orchestra pit.

The storyline is also a combination of past masterpieces, as Sams comically yet cleverly merges characters and plot from Shakespeare’s “The Tempest” with the Four Lovers from “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” The aging Prospero, sung by the countertenor David Daniels, commands that Ariel, the incredibly talented Danielle de Niese, create a storm at sea and then bring him his nephew Ferdinand, who would be washed up on shore,

to marry his daughter Miranda. However, Sycorax, voiced by the marvellous mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato, a rival sorceress and mother to the enslaved Caliban, corrupts the spell, and instead of wrecking Ferdinand’s ship, it targets the Four Lovers, as they sail on their honeymoon cruise. All falls into confusion as Demetrius and Lysander mistakenly fall in love with Miranda and forsake their wives, and it is up to Neptune, sung by the legendary Plácido Domingo, to help put everything right.

By virtue of the comic plot, this opera may not be capable of taking itself seriously, nor should it be. Although there are solemn and contemplative moments, especially surrounding the wronged Sycorax, overall, the opera seeks laughs and receives them readily. The stage and libretto were full of gimmicks and humorous lines, such as Ariel appearing in deep-sea diving gear to visit Neptune. The set also had the wonderful feeling of old opera, with painted skies, cardboard waves, and not an abstract visual concept in sight, while under the baton of William Christie, the reduced orchestra performed beautifully, filling the opera house with tunes that are rarely heard in that hall.

It was once said that if we do not learn from history, we are doomed to repeat it. However, “The Enchanted Island” brings to the stage of the Metropolitan Opera one of the events that proves that a repetition of history can sometimes be a blessing in disguise.



WHERE IT’S AT

Time: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Place: 1000 5th Ave. at 82nd St.
Cost: Free with a CUID
Rating: ★★☆☆



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

MUST SEE | The American Wing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art boasts a wide array of pieces of mediums, including John Singer Sargent’s “Madame X” and the woodwork and wallpaper collection from the Great Hall of Van Rensselaer Manor House.

The American Wing at the Met

Patriots will love the newly reopened wing at Metropolitan Museum of Art

BY ALLIE CARIERI
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

After being closed for four years, the New American Wing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art reopened to the public on Jan. 16, 2012, with 3,300 feet of additional space and a total of 26 enlarged and renovated galleries.

The wing is impressive in both magnitude and breadth of pieces. Great American painters like John Singleton Copely, Gilbert Stuart, Thomas Cole, Thomas Eakins, Winslow Homer, and John Singer Sargent are well represented in the collection, which was curated by a team led by Morrison H. Heckscher, chairman of the American Wing. Famed paintings like “The Heart of the Andes” and “Madame X” are on display and complemented by just as skilled, though not as celebrated, works.

Mimicking the coiled-snakelike design of the wing, the works are arranged roughly by subject chronologically—the 19th-century portraits gallery leads to a gallery of Hudson River School landscapes. The architect firm Kevin Roche, John Dinkeloo, and Associates combined the original two-floor space to create a wing on a single floor, with large galleries wrapping around smaller ones.

The American Wing certainly uses these architecture and structural changes to enhance the message and meaning of this collection of art. When entering the wing from the 18th- and 19th-century European galleries, viewers are greeted by a dazzling display of crystal vases, silver tea sets, and sparkling jewelry. The collection, which features houseware and decorative items from colonial America to the Jazz Age, uses the light from the large windows at the top of and on the ceiling of the atrium to create different effects on the shiny and shimmering surfaces. On the floor below, patrons wander past sculptures neatly arranged to

replicate a park or a town square, complete with large copper street lamps. Once one enters through the large glass doors to the painting galleries, a small set of stairs leads down to a series of recreated rooms, with furniture and architectural features recalling colonial homes.

Themes of freedom, expansion, exploration, utopia, perseverance, and success ring through the works in the wing. Celebrated paintings guide viewers through a history of America and its art. In a time of political and social changes, it is both engaging and reassuring to see the changing representation of America’s people, land, and events through the lens of artists as America itself changed.

Wandering through the galleries, patrons can see that story told through genre paintings: farmers toiling in the fields, children playing in a snowy Central Park circa 1905, men on horseback charging into battle, a crowded city with smoke rising up into the sky. The American frontier is glorified in the scores of landscape paintings, and the hero is seen in monumental yet human portraits.

At 21 feet by 21 feet, the iconic and dignified George Washington stands tall above the men pushing the boat along the icy waters of the Delaware River contained in a gilded frame with a sculpted eagle atop it in Emanuel Leutze’s 1851 “Washington Crossing the Delaware.” He is the undisputed centerpiece, capturing the eyes of viewers and drawing them in, silhouetted by the rectangular doorways of the other galleries. Anyone passing by could not resist stopping and sitting on one of the benches nearby to take the painting in—the magnificent piece dominates the entire wall and embodies the strength and patriotism of the entire exhibit.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art is open 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (Tues.–Thurs., Sun.) and 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. (Fri.–Sat.). It is located at 100 Fifth Avenue between East 80th and 84th streets. Admission is free with a valid CUID.

events

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Lower East Side Pageant

—*The Bowery Poetry Club, 308 Bowery, between Houston and Bleeker streets, Friday, Jan. 20, 10 p.m., \$5*

In the spirit of this week’s Neighborhood Watch, check out the 12th Mr. Lower East Side Pageant, where contestants will participate in a one-minute talent competition in the quest for pizza from Rosario’s, a six-pack of Budweiser, and a crown with a detachable bong.

TELEVISION

Portlandia

—*Paley Center for Media, 25 W 52nd Street, between Fifth and Sixth Aves, Saturday, Jan. 21, 1 p.m., \$15*

The stars and creators of IFC’s hit original comedy series Portlandia, now in its second season, will be answering questions and talking about life, television, and their total love for Oregon and its quirky residents.

MUSIC

The Dirty Projectors

—*Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, Friday, Jan. 20, 9 p.m., \$25*

Continuing their tradition of showcasing rising indie bands, the Dirty Projectors will headline at the American Museum of Natural History, treating guests with their DJ talents. If they don’t turn out to be your cup of tea, never fear—attending the concert gets visitors complimentary admission to the Hayden Planetarium.

FILM

‘Grey Matter’

—*Museum of Modern Art, 11 W 53rd Street, Friday, Jan. 20 at 4 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 21 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Jan. 22 at 5 p.m., free with CUID*

Set in the Rwandan capital of Kigali, this poignant movie is a film-within-a-film, telling the story of a film-maker working to fund his first project, the tale of a sister and brother dealing with the aftermath of the devastating genocide.