



Anthony Yim for Spectator

SIGN UP | Students showed interest in lending aid to Haiti at forum Wednesday night, where attendees suggested comedy shows, rap concerts, and runs to raise money for the struggling nation. Still, groups have yet to hammer out any solid course of action.

Students discuss aid for Haiti

Despite large showing at forum, no concrete plans made

BY LEAH GREENBAUM
Spectator Staff Writer

Sigma Nu fraternity wants to host a comedy show at JJ's Place. One student suggested a benefit concert featuring rapper Talib Kweli. The Columbia University InterVarsity Christian Fellowship is already planning a 5k run. Campus Media Watch, a group that follows Middle Eastern media coverage, offered to build a website.

These were just a few suggestions from over 300 attendees at a forum Wednesday night to discuss possible Haitian relief efforts at Columbia.

At the forum—led by the Haitian Students Association, Caribbean Students Association and GlobeMed—representatives recommended that student groups form an umbrella coalition to help out the Caribbean nation, which suffered a 7.3 magnitude earthquake

last week. The coalition could be part of a larger national movement to be facilitated by GlobeMed.

“Everybody wants to do something, but to do it quickly and efficiently, we need to work together,” said Keesandra Agénor, BC ’10 and president of the HSA, told the energetic crowd.

Most group representatives who spoke up at the forum offered to donate the funds they have collected or plan to collect to an organization of the HSA and CSA’s choosing.

Maya Cohen, CC ’10 and president of GlobeMed, advocated strongly for aiding Partners in Health, a non-profit health organization that has been running clinics across Haiti for over 20 years.

Cohen said that universities like Stanford and Dartmouth have already begun collecting funds for

SEE HAITI, page 2

Not all charter schools equal, parents say

BY SARAH DARVILLE
Spectator Staff Writer

Harlem is the battleground for charter school wars.

This was the theme of the Community Education Council meeting on Jan. 20 for Manhattan School District 3, which includes Upper West Side and West Harlem schools. Parents and school officials who attended the meeting at P.S. 242 on 122nd Street expressed anger over the inequalities between charter schools and traditional public schools which often share building space.

It is a particularly contentious issue in Harlem, where parents said that public school space has been reduced to bring in charter schools, which are public schools accountable to the Department of Education, but run by an outside not-for-profit board. Some opponents said the charters were unfairly receiving more space and resources. “My children go to the gym in a box, eat lunch in a box. There are no windows,” said P.S. 149 parent Sonya Hampton, adding, “We need to stand up for what’s right.”

Elizabeth Rose, director of portfolio planning for the Department of Education, fielded questions and concerns from the council and neighborhood parents.



Joy Resmovits for Spectator

CHARTERED | An audience member discusses problems in charter schools.

Rose said that the DOE is working with Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer in a series of “war room” discussions, in which different parties were brought together to find solutions to the overcrowding problem.

Discussion about overcrowding on the Upper West Side centered on increased enrollment, while the debate about schools above 110th Street surrounded the rising charter school tensions. Of 29 Manhattan charter schools listed on the New York City Charter School Center’s website, 24 are located north of 96th Street.

Rose said that representatives from schools that share space met in December, and recently launched group walk-throughs of schools to assess space divisions. “We’ve been taking hours going through these

schools, opening closets, opening maintenance rooms looking for space,” she said.

Noah Gotbaum, president of the Community Education Council, said he just wanted to ensure a level playing field when schools share space.

“We know you can’t put five schools in and make them work equitably,” he said. “A lot of our public school students are coming last.”

LaShawn Pressley, PTA secretary at P.S. 242, said, “As a Harlem school parent, I don’t know how the DOE will expand charter schools when they’re not diligent in giving to public schools. It seems that they’re favoring charter schools but turning around and saying you’re just as important,” she said.

SEE CHARTER SCHOOLS, page 2

Rabid raccoons run rampant in parks

BY GILA SCHWARZSCHILD AND
KIM KIRSCHENBAUM
Columbia Daily Spectator

There are new critters lurking about Morningside Park and Central Park—and unlike the dogs out for a stroll, they’re not looking to be man’s best friend.

Rabid raccoons have increasingly becoming a problem in northern Manhattan, prompting city officials to take action this month, distributing warning flyers throughout the neighborhood and increasing surveillance of local parks.

“We have a rabid raccoon issue in the upper Manhattan areas, which apparently is not getting any better, despite the colder weather,” Michael Congo, a public information specialist at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, said in an e-mail in early January to numerous local residents and community groups.

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has identified 15 raccoons infected with rabies over the past year in the local area. 11 were identified in 2009, and 4 more have since been recorded. Of these 15 rabid raccoons, most were in northern Central Park and one was found in Morningside Park.

Jacque Connors, president



Graphic by Betsy Feldman

Residents call for action on Harlem brownstones

BY ANDREA FOLDS
Spectator Staff Writer

For residents of the A. Philip Randolph Houses, the view across the street is not a pretty sight.

For at least five years, public housing residents of this New York City Housing Authority complex have stared at a row of 22 boarded-up five-story brownstones. Now, some tenant leaders are saying that they don’t want to wait any longer for the deteriorating structures to continue to get worse.

The Randolph Houses are comprised of 36 buildings on both the northern and southern sides of 114th Street between Frederick Douglass Boulevard and Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard. According to NYCHA spokespeople, in 2006, 159 families had to vacate their homes on the south side of the street. Sixty-four of those families moved across the street to other Randolph Houses apartments in an “intra-project” transfer,

SEE BROWNSTONES, page 6



Sam Levin for Spectator

BOARDED UP | Toya Jackson and other 114th Street residents are frustrated that the city has not renovated 22 boarded-up NYCHA brownstones.

Drug bust on 114th

Police shut down 114th Street between Frederick Douglass Boulevard and Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard Wednesday in a crackdown on alleged drug trafficking.

In the afternoon, a group of police officers from the 26th Precinct in Harlem blocked off the street to pedestrian and vehicle traffic, but let residents on the block pass through.

Officer Stokes from the 26th Precinct, who declined to give his first name, deferring to NYPD spokespeople, said that the street was closed because of “drug trafficking.” Spokespeople from the Deputy Commissioner, Public Information office for

the NYPD declined to comment, saying that they could not at this time confirm with the Narcotics Division whether or not any arrests had taken place at this site.

Several police officers on the street told pedestrians to leave the block for safety reasons if they did not live there.

While the details of the street closure still remain unclear, many neighborhood residents expressed concerns and frustrations.

Dennis Mondesire, 37, who said he has lived on the block since he was a baby said, “This is probably the only family-oriented block

SEE DRUGS, page 2

INSIDE

Sports, page 8

Women’s basketball wraps up nonconference play

League action takes center stage in women’s basketball as Princeton leads the pack in pursuit of a championship title. This coming weekend the Lions face a rematch with the Big Red as Cornell attempts to redeem itself.



A&E, page 3

Spring campus theater calendar is in bloom

From CU Players auditions to NOMADS choreographer interviews, campus performers are gearing up for a new season of nontraditional theater, ranging from original student pieces to new twists on old stage favorites.

Opinion, page 4

Signing off

Tony Gong ponders what’s in a name at the end of an e-mail.

Break out of take-out

One student is biting mad about unwritten rules at John Jay Dining Hall.

Today’s Events

CCE Internship Info Session

Time to plan summer already?
East Campus CCE Conference Room, 5:30 p.m.



Watch ‘The 400 Blows’

Finish off the week with a movie about stolen typewriters.
Maison Française, 7:30 p.m.

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WEATHER

Today  44 / 31
Tomorrow  41 / 29

Locals angered by drug bust

DRUGS from front page

in Harlem ... They're basically implying we're all drug dealers and users. That's why they are closing us all in here. They're asking us all to show our IDs to get on our own block." The street is guarded by cones on the west end of the block.

Other 114th Street residents echoed his anger, saying that the police were targeting the block now, so that the new Savannnah condominium on the corner at Frederick Douglass Boulevard would be attractive to wealthy buyers. Local resident Mike Gee said that the police have been increasing their presence over the last few weeks so that the longtime residents don't "lower the property value."

Michelle Jones, another resident on the block, said that she heard that drug busts were happening. "They want to keep people from selling," she said, adding though that she has known some of the drug dealers personally but that she did not necessarily think they were threats to the neighborhood.

Robertus Coleman, the tenants' association president for the A. Philip Randolph public housing units on the block, said that police have been making arrests over the last few weeks, and that she knew two people who recently got arrested for dealing cocaine. Though she said it is important to her that the police are respectful, she added, "It's pretty bad here. It's always been bad ... They are trying to clean it up."

—Andrea Folds

Space issue 'killer' for schools

CHARTER SCHOOLS from front page

Rose responded that the standards were the same for opening a district or charter school. "We use the same standards to site schools of all types ... DOE schools get funded based on enrollment—enrollment goes up, and resources go up," she said.

New York State Senator Bill Perkins, who represents parts of Harlem, spoke at the meeting, saying that the tensions are rising. "It's important to me that the charter school problem is addressed. It's an uptown phenomenon, where we have charter school wars ... Incumbent parents at schools that had the intent to expand are now at war with their neighbors," he said.

One Harlem public school teacher, who requested anonymity to protect her job, cast blame directly on the DOE. "The problem is more with the DOE than the charter schools ... Over the past

four to five years in Harlem schools, the DOE has decreased enrollment, taken away programs, and then come knocking with charter schools, saying 'you've got all this extra space,'" she said.

Gale Brewer, a New York City Council member who represents the Upper West Side, said in an interview that though she doesn't have any charter schools in her district, between West 54th and 96th Streets, it's still a concern. "The issue of space, taking over public schools, it's a killer for public schools. They say they don't have money for space but they shouldn't be taking over," she said.

Rose said that the DOE is ready to host another uptown "war room" as soon as possible.

"By the way, we do agree with those parents who would like to rename them 'peace talks,'" she said. "We're all trying to get the same things done."

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Rabid raccoons a 'concern' for residents



Courtney Douds for Spectator

RABID | A number of rabid raccoons have been discovered in Central and Morningside parks, a find that has sparked concern for Morningside Heights residents.

RACCOONS from front page

of Friends of Morningside Park, said that she first noticed a dead raccoon in Morningside Park on Dec. 15, 2009. She immediately reported it to the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, and to supervisors from a government agency called New York Animal Control. The Central Park Conservancy, a non-profit organization that manages Central Park, informed her that the raccoon had tested positive for rabies.

Brad Taylor, former president of

Friends of Morningside Park and the chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee of Community Board 9, said that they learned about the Central Park raccoons after they reported the Morningside Heights sighting. "We didn't know anything about it until this one raccoon showed up that was rabid," he said, adding that it is important to call 311 when raccoons are sighted.

Around Jan. 12, 2010, the Department of Parks & Recreation posted advisories in Morningside

Park, Taylor said. The health department has also increased its surveillance efforts, according to health department spokesperson, Celina De Leon.

Community Board 7 of the Upper West Side is aware of the problem, but has yet to receive any direct reports of sightings, according to CB7 District Manager Penny Ryan, who said that the Department of Health is responsible for responding.

Despite the city's precautionary measures, some dog owners in Morningside Heights are concerned that these agencies aren't doing enough.

"I know a lot of people are complaining that they're not doing anything," Erin Richardson said while walking her dog through Morningside Park. "I heard they're trying to kill all of them, but there's no sort of evidence of that."

Morningside Heights resident Alix Kutnick, said, while walking her dog through Morningside Park, "The fact that they're now out in broad daylight and don't even run away when my dog barks at them—that's a real problem." Kutnick no longer lets her dog off his leash.

Others said that such concern is unwarranted.

"This is a concern, but we don't want to panic," said Bob Marino, president of the New York Council of Dog Owner groups, a collective umbrella organization that represents 50,000 dog owners in the city. "People see rabies and tend to panic. The numbers are miniscule," he said.

Local veterinarians said that it is simply important that the correct precautionary measures be taken.

Henry M. Fierman, a veterinarian at Cathedral Dog & Cat Hospital at 101st Street and Broadway, said, "It is a very urgent matter that people be alerted and that people be aware."

news@columbiaspectator.com

Students discuss aid for Haiti victims at forum, but have yet to agree on a plan

HAITI from front page

Partners in Health, and hope to create a national student movement that would support this charity.

"I think that because there's a national movement growing around this organization, it'll bring Columbia into a conversation that'll keep the campus mobilizing."

Attendees took a vote at the end of the evening and decided that they would

speak with their respective clubs before committing to an umbrella coalition, a decision that defied earlier calls for a firm action plan to be made that night.

Haitian student Gregory Paul, CC '13, said he was disappointed that the night didn't end with a firm commitment from attendees.

"L'Union Fait La Force." "With unity, there is strength," he said, citing his homeland's national motto.

Paul said that the quake has left his uncle homeless in the streets of Port-au-Prince, and he believes that the people of Haiti need money, not supplies or visitors, more than anything else now.

But most attendees were not fazed by the decision to regroup later.

Gabrielle Apollon, CC '09 and one of the School of International and Public Affairs students who was in Haiti during the earthquake, said she was happy with

the turnout and results of the forum.

Apollon said she hopes to contact President Lee Bollinger in the coming weeks to encourage the University to match contributions made by students.

Students at Stanford have already raised \$18,000 and administrators there have agreed to match the funds they raise for two weeks.

"If Columbia did that too, it would prove that our institution truly is global

and truly does care," Apollon said.

Columbia spokesperson Robert Hornsby attended the meeting and told students that the University would like to funnel funds raised by student groups into one university-wide account.

He commented, "Our goal is really just to support you in doing the most for the most people."

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Discussion with Professor Josef Sorett (Department of Religion)
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MY FATHER, MY LORD
Directed by David Volach (2007)
Discussion with Professor Uri Cohen (MEALAC)
April 21

For more information, please contact Professor Jonathan Schorsch (js1167@columbia.edu).

CU theater groups hope to plant progressive spring calendar

BY DANIEL FLICKER
Columbia Daily Spectator

THEATER

Nothing says springtime in New York City like a heady dose of nontraditional theater, and Columbia's performance groups are seeking to rise to the occasion.

In addition to the anticipated 116th Varsity Show in May, member organizations of the Columbia University Performing Arts League (CUPAL) hope to make the coming semester a unique one for novice and veteran theatergoers alike.

For those unfamiliar with the spectacle that is the King's Crown Shakespeare Troupe spring show, now is the time to get acquainted. Each year, the troupe produces a massive outdoor Shakespeare production featuring action that roams throughout Columbia's natural stage—the campus itself. The fact that everyone who auditions is guaranteed a role just adds to the craziness—the size of the cast is limited only by the number of people who try out—and the same goes for this year's production of "Measure for Measure," directed by Allie Lalonde.

In addition, this semester will herald the fifth incarnation of KCST's Egg and Peacock Festival, a manic 24-hour period that encompasses the writing, directing, and performing of eight original student plays. Though the festival is typically a caffeine-soaked day, it serves as a valuable reminder that theater is one of life's greatest natural stimulants.

The Columbia University Players, fiercely dedicated to a performance schedule free of musicals and Shakespeare, will produce two exciting comedies this season: "Grandma Sylvia's Funeral" and "The Pillowman." The former, written by Glenn Wein and Amy Lord Blumsack, is, according to the production notes, an "interactive

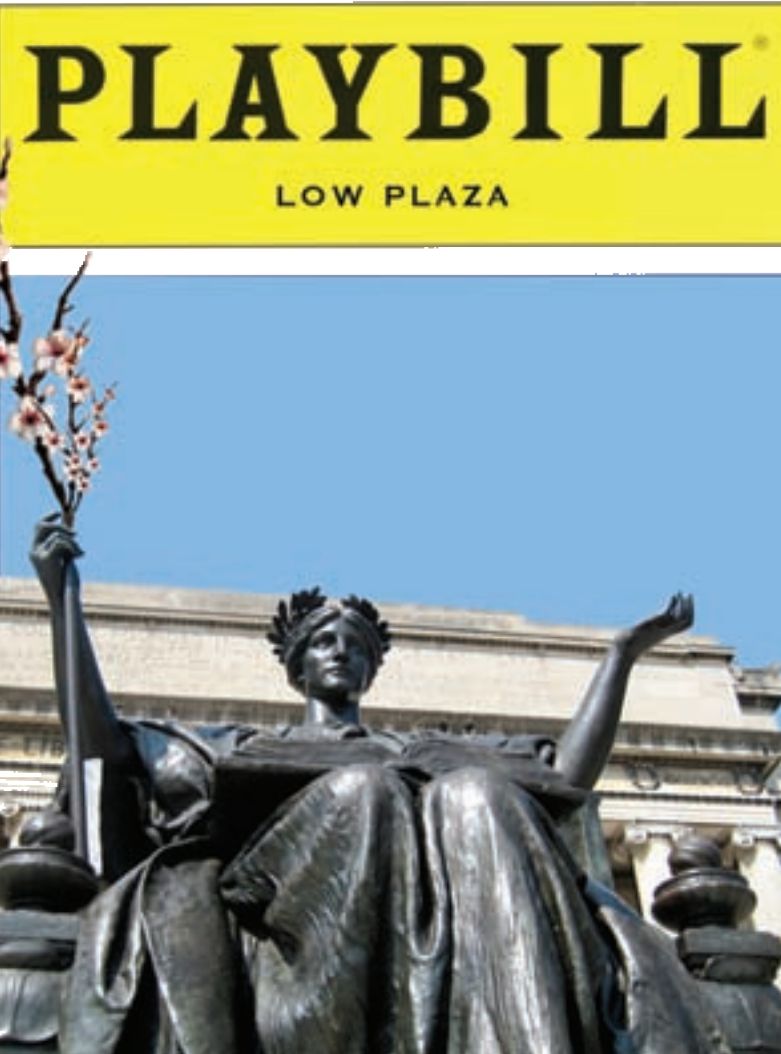
Member organizations of the Columbia University Performing Arts League hope to make the coming semester a unique one for novice and veteran theatergoers alike.

comedy" in which "actors and audience members will mingle and interact before the house opens, during the intermission, and after the curtain falls." Set at the funeral of an elderly matriarch, this unusual play explores the complex dynamic of a grieving family, and fully immerses the audience in the theatrical experience. The second CUP production is an award-winning black comedy by Martin McDonagh, famous for his Oscar-

nominated screenplay for the film "In Bruges." The story is one of an imprisoned writer whose fictional tales bear more than a passing resemblance to the grisly child murders occurring in his town. As in all of his works, however, McDonagh approaches this dark subject matter with a riotous sense of humor and a keen eye for the absurd.

This semester, New and Original Material Authored and Directed by Students (NOMADS) will continue its tradition of honoring cutting-edge student pieces with "Wordplay, A Festival of New Work." Having commissioned four hour-long plays from student playwrights, the organization will recruit directors and actors to put on a festival of staged readings, complete with post-show talkbacks and performances from student dance, music, and comedy groups. A week later, NOMADS will produce the first-ever performance in the Diana Center's black box theater with "The Leap of Ersatz!" a mixed-media piece that uses both visual and performing arts to convey the tumultuous unconscious of a poet searching for meaning in nature.

These are just some of the productions afforded to Columbia students this semester, alongside those being produced at such venues as Riverside Church, a mere block away from campus. The best part? It doesn't cost a gazillion dollars to get the best seat in the house.



Graphic by Jin Chen

New student fashion magazine gives a 'Hoot' about NYC style

BY HELEN BAO
Columbia Daily Spectator

STYLE

While most freshmen arrive doe-eyed at their first home-away-from-home and are slow to transition to independence, Noel Duan, CC '13 and a style beat chief for Spectator, hit the ground running.

With credentials like Seventeen's "Best Dressed Girl of 2008," an internship in Seventeen's fashion department, and a blog, MissCouturable.com, under her belt, Duan, with cofounder Jina Lim, CC '13, felt prepared and excited to start Columbia University's first fashion magazine, Hoot Magazine.

Hoot is currently updated online with posts about style, people in the fashion industry, and upcoming events.

Duan cofounded Hoot with Lim one fall day in Morningside Heights. "I was taking a walk with Jina along Broadway and suddenly realized that Columbia, in spite of its stylish students and the fact that it's in New York City, didn't have a fashion magazine," Duan said. "A lot of schools, like UC Berkeley and Penn, have campus fashion magazines, so we decided that it was time for Columbia to have one too." At that moment the fashion, lifestyle, culture, and arts publication was born.

Every magazine needs a name. The inspiration behind Hoot comes from none other than the Alma Mater. As countless tour guides have recounted, the first Columbian male to find the owl is said to become valedictorian of his class and the first Columbian female to find the owl is supposed to wed him. The hidden owl now has a new claim to fame: It lends its voice to the title of Columbia's first fashion print magazine. Another linguistic charm

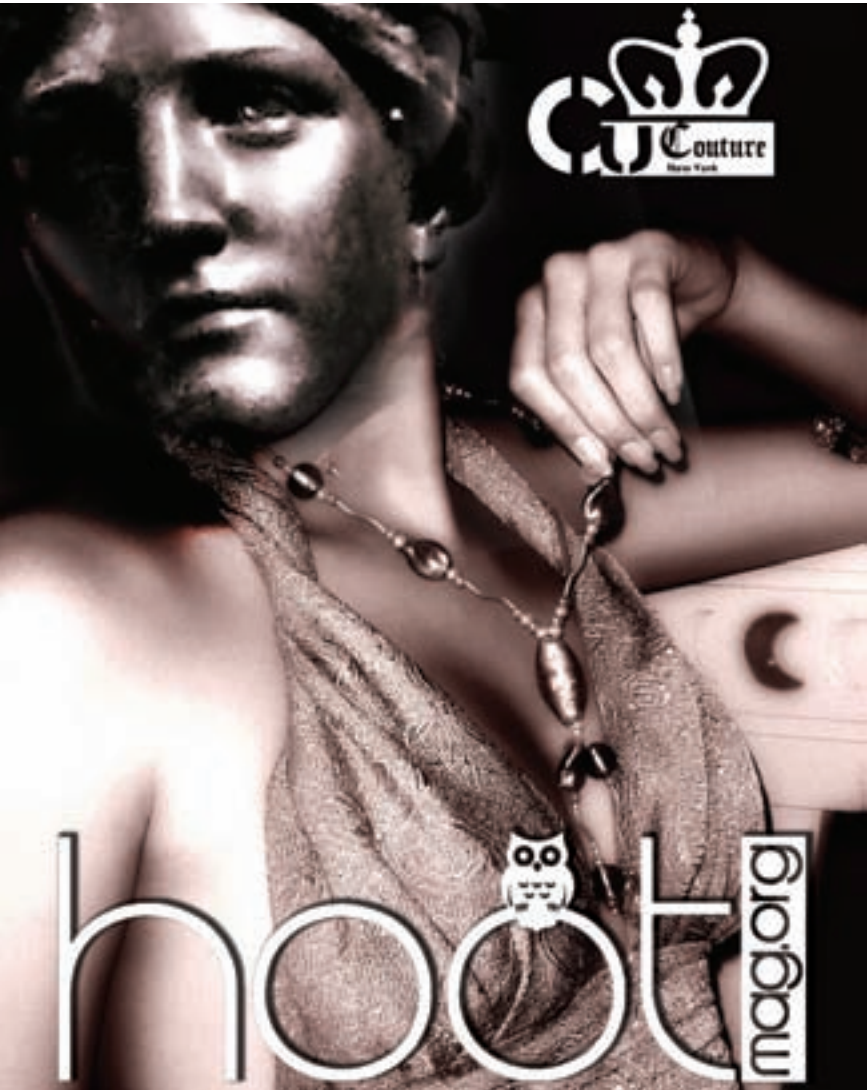
of the magazine's name is the resemblance of "hoot" to "haute" as in "haute couture."

While the Hoot blog has a variety of entries covering themes such as DIY, home décor, events, and behind-the-scenes at Hoot, so far only one entry exists under the topic "budget." Hoot Magazine doesn't make haute couture its focus, but many of its entries focus on profiling high-end items from websites like ChickDownTown and SaksFifthAvenue. These are pricey items that are well beyond the average college student's budget.

Perhaps the first in-print issue, which is currently in the works, will be more student-accessible. The editors and writers aim to have the all-color issue out in April. Duan and Lim hope to get Manhattan socialite Tinsley Mortimer, CC '98, to appear as cover girl with an exclusive photo shoot and interview. "It would be interesting to see how one of our most fashion-conscious former students reflects upon her experiences at the university," Duan said.

Other ideas in the works include coverage of the Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, a feature on North Korean brand Noko Jeans with an interview from the Swedish entrepreneurs behind the brand, a day in the life of a big-name designer, and a feature about the garment district. The editors won't give it all away, though. Duan and Lin are keeping their "fantastic fashion spreads" under wraps.

Duan and Lim encourage members of the Columbia population, no matter what their interests are, to delve more deeply into fashion and its influence on the world. The team behind Hoot Magazine hopes to channel the collective energy of its style-inclined students and become one of the most loved student-run publications on campus—big aspirations for an organization that has yet to churn out its first issue.



Graphic by Jin Chen

Law school film panel gets close-up of Guantánamo

BY ISAHIAH EVERIN
Spectator Staff Writer

FILM

What is to be done with suspected terrorists brought to Guantánamo Bay when many prosecutors have no substantiated evidence against them? This question has turned into one of the greatest of the decade.

"The Response," a short film produced and written by Sig Libowitz, which was screened at the Columbia Law School on Wednesday, aims to explore just that—how the military and government have chosen to act. For, as one of the military officers in the film attests, "Our response defines us."

The Combat Status Review Tribunals (CSRTs), which the film dissects, were a series of tribunals that determined the "enemy combatant status" of detainees at Guantánamo Bay. Libowitz said that upon seeing a report from the tribunals, he knew that "it had to be made into a film."

"The Response" looks at one tribunal of a suspected enemy combatant, Hassan Ali Al-Aqar, portrayed by Aasif Mandvi, as he is questioned by three military officials, played by Kate Mulgrew, Peter Riegert, and Sig Libowitz. Though the characters are fictional, the script is based on transcripts from the CSRTs.

Throughout the first half, Al-Aqar protests the fact that he is not allowed to know who has accused him of terrorist affiliation, while the officers remain stubbornly opaque and harangue him with questions he has no answers to. Shot

in an off-the-cuff documentary style, the scene is oppressive, leaning the audience's sympathies towards Al-Aqar.

Next, the officers consider in private how to deal with the case, and two of them realize that they don't know what the right decision is. Unlike the first half, this discussion feels heavily scripted as each officer sticks by predictable dialogue that summarizes the entire five-year debate on the issue in ten minutes.

The short is among the final ten being considered for a nomination for the Best Live Action Short Films at this year's Academy Awards. Anyone with a critical eye might wonder if this is due to the gravity of the content rather than the artistic merits of the film. The shooting style is

decently between mockumentary and low-budget, and it is admirable that the cast and crew worked on the film for little or no compensation, especially as the acting was well done. However, Libowitz's script is heavy-handed and falls short in the end.

The issues at hand are undoubtedly important ones, and this is a film that everyone should see, but there's a question in itself as to whether the film deserves an Oscar simply on the grounds that it presents stimulating discourse.

Currently the film is looking for a distributor and making a tour of universities and showing private screenings, including recently at the Pentagon. More information can be found online.



Isaiah Everin for Spectator

GIVING A 'RESPONSE' | Columbia Law School professor Matthew Waxman discussed Oscar short-listed "The Response" with the film's producer and two of its stars.

Las Palomas grocery opens Columbia to the world

BY JASON BELL
Spectator Staff Writer

FOOD & DRINK

Hidden at the corner of 100th Street and Broadway, Las Palomas offers an astounding array of Mexican groceries for students looking to expand their snacking options. For non-Spanish speakers, Las Palomas might seem intimidating or otherworldly. But rest assured that, once sequestered safely within this tiny grocery store, even those completely uninitiated to the subtleties of Mexican cuisine will find conventional flavors wrapped in unfamiliar packaging.

Chicharrones, or fried pork rinds, oftentimes appear in gas stations and convenience stores, puffy and corrosively salty. While Las Palomas offers a number of varieties, the best come from El Puerquito de Oro. Flat and crispy, the enormous curling slices of pig skin sparkle with heady pork flavor. Moreover, the plastic package proudly—and perhaps somewhat snarkily—advertises only one percent salt, certainly an improvement over the regular supermarket brands.

After polishing off a whole half-pound bag of chicharrones, the average procrastinating student will develop a powerful thirst. Fortunately, a glass case squeezed onto one wall contains a wide selection of traditional beverages. Try a Jarritos Tamarind drink, dull orange and lightly sparkling, a refreshingly sweet soda perfect for unseasonably warm winter days. Combining tangy fruit flavors with a measured sugary kick, Jarritos

Tamarind superbly cleanses the palate of residual chicharrones grease.

In addition, Las Palomas carries staples of Mexican cooking difficult to locate in mainstream stores. Bins of black beans, tomatillos, and peanuts rest underneath shelves of canned nopalitos, cactus pads and innumerable prepared salsas. Of course, chilis of all kinds abound too—pulla and guajillo peppers allow skilled cooks to introduce dazzling licorice and dried fruit flavors, along with an appropriate level of heat, into the most mundane dishes.

On Saturdays and Sundays, Las Palomas offers hot prepared foods at unbeatable prices. Trekking down to 100th Street seems worthwhile when barbecued goat, unbeatably tender and fragrant, awaits. Tamales, unbelievably cheap, tempt less adventurous palates.

Ultimately, Las Palomas represents a dying breed, those small neighborhood grocery stores that peddle specialized products to a specialized clientele. Stopping by on an extended study break, however, helps to keep neighborhood gems like Las Palomas alive.



Mira John / Senior staff photographer

INTERNATIONAL FLAVORS | The colorful products and flavors available at the Upper West Side Las Palomas grocery offer an escape from mundane college diets.

After local tension, residents call for quicker brownstone renovations

BROWNSTONES from front page

and the remaining moved into other NYCHA developments.

The move came on the heels of a citywide public housing renovation initiative that Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced in 2005. “We are undertaking the most aggressive efforts to build and preserve affordable housing for more New Yorkers and today’s announcement further demonstrates our commitment,” Bloomberg said in a 2005 press release, adding that this project would preserve housing for more than 420,000 residents of the development.

As part of the project, 22 of the 36 Randolph buildings would be completely gutted and renovated. But despite promises from city officials to modernize the south side of the complex, years later, the deteriorating structures are sitting idle in a worse condition.

“The buildings were all in dire need of entire renovation,” said A. Philip Randolph Tenant Association

President Robertus Coleman who has lived on the north side of the street since before the move. “The ground floor apartments were sinking, pipes needed to be repaired. To tear down the whole thing was the best way, so residents had to be relocated,” she added.

A press release in 2007 that said the final phase of the renovation would be complete by December 2009, but it appears that there has been no progress.

NYCHA declined to comment on this discrepancy, but wrote in an e-mail statement that it was “currently reviewing available funding options that are in alignment with the project, the needs of our residents, and that are in compliance with local codes, zoning and any historic district status that has been granted to the area and/or the buildings. NYCHA remains committed to the rehabilitation of Randolph Houses.”

Coleman said that she has been in touch with NYCHA about the boarded-up structures, and she is hopeful that the city will finish the renovation as promised. “Each time they tell us they are doing something, they claim that they run into problems

... It is very, very frustrating,” she said.

The task of cleaning up the blight must fall to the city, she said, adding, “We’re low-income—we have no money to rebuild this place.”

Coleman said she was upset that they lost so many residents on the close-knit block, and feared that after so many years, some wouldn’t even want to move again and return to 114th, if the renovation actually finished.

“They broke up the family composition we had here, and we are no closer to a solution,” she said. Coleman also claims that residents vacated well before 2005, though NYCHA maintains that the move happened that year.

The tension is increased by a new condominium on the rise at 114th and Frederick Douglass, called “Harlem’s Savannah.”

Some tenants fear that the city’s inaction is an indirect effort to encourage low-income public housing residents to move out and leave the blighted block.

“They want to clean up the area and put some rich people in here because it’s close to Central

Park,” Nebiyu Clette, a resident on the block, said. “The city can’t just move people like they did 25 years ago,” Clette said.

Other residents echoed these sentiments, fearing that the new development and lack of renovation may be a strategic move to push poorer residents out in order to usher in higher-income tenants. “They’re trying to get people out of there so they don’t have to fix the buildings themselves,” Malika Lopez, a 114th Street tenant, said. “I just want it to be so that families who have been in there for generations can’t get kicked out.”

Coleman said that she is going to call a meeting in early February with NYCHA, to ensure that the renovation is on track. She said she is giving time for the new chair of NYCHA, John Rhea, to take a stance. But, she added, the angry tenants are reaching their limit.

Though she hopes the renovation would kick off in February, she said, “If that doesn’t happen, you’ll see the tenants in the street.”

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Alumni donate time, resources to Athletics

Yale, Penn struggle as league play begins

ALUMNI from back page

had a prestigious award given to the University's top senior male and female student-athletes named after him. Past Connie S. Maniatty Award recipients include Marcellus Wiley, CC '97; Cristina Teuscher, CC '00; Caroline Bierbaum, CC '06; Shannon Munoz, CC '07; and John Baumann, CC '08.

"We have lost a special friend who had a great passion for Columbia and Columbia athletics," M. Dianne Murphy, the director of Columbia athletics, said. "His legacy is an important component of our athletics history. We miss him greatly."

Last semester, the award formerly known as Vincent dePaul Draddy Trophy was renamed for former football team captain William V. Campbell, CC '62. His unwavering commitment and support for Columbia athletics earned him the distinguished honor. Campbell currently co-chairs the athletics program's Campaign Leadership Committee with Robert K. Kraft, CC '63. The committee, which raises funds to improve all aspects of the athletics program, is comprised of 22 dedicated alumni from Columbia College, the School of Engineering and Applied Science, and Barnard College.

Involved alumni like Campbell and Maniatty are not uncommon in the Columbia community. Apart from the 22 members of the Campaign Leadership Committee, many other Columbia alumni remain involved with their alma mater.

"There are many men and women who are great examples of athletic alumni who give generously to the athletics program," Murphy explained. "We've been very fortunate to engage a large number of alumni, many of whom are former student-athletes."

Columbia alumni provide considerable financial support for Columbia athletics. The Fund for Excellence is an integral component of the athletics program's alumni campaign, the Columbia Campaign for Athletics. Recently, the campaign launched an ambitious \$100

million initiative to work toward its goal of improving the athletics program's experience for both students and coaches. However, donating to Columbia athletics is not the only form of financial support that alumni provide.

"Many individuals—both athletic and non-athletic alumni—support Columbia athletics by purchasing tickets to, and attending our athletics contests and special events, such as the Athletics Hall of Fame," Murphy said.

Many alumni also engage with Columbia by dedicating their valuable and limited time to volunteering on committees and boards. For example, the Varsity C Club is spearheaded by an executive committee consisting of five former student-athletes whose graduation years range from 1967 to 2004, and 29 alumni also serve as Program

they had while participating in sports at Columbia," Murphy said. "Participation in athletics provides tremendous life skills, including teamwork, leadership, perseverance and time management. The camaraderie that exists among teammates and coaches creates bonds that last a lifetime."

The athletics department and the Office of Alumni and Development work to maintain those strong connections between graduates and the University. From hosting events overseas to campus-oriented gatherings, the alumni office is at the forefront of preserving Columbia's solid base of dedicated alumni. Executive Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Susan Feagin, GS '74, and Vice President for Alumni Relations Donna MacPhee, CC '89, along with their staffs, have been crucial to engaging alumni.

"Susan and Donna, along with their staff, are absolutely fabulous and have been very helpful to us," Murphy explained.

At Columbia in particular, where fund-raising com-

prises a critical component of the athletics program's success, alumni involvement is a necessity not taken for granted. With dozens of ways for graduates to get involved after graduation, student-athlete alumni are among the most valuable to the University. The initiatives of Columbia athletics and the Office of Alumni and Development facilitate a rewarding and engaging experience for alumni. Few people understand the importance of athletics alumni as well as Dr. Murphy.

"The success of an athletics program is absolutely dependent on the engaged and continual support of its athletics alumni," Murphy said. "Whether by giving their time, talents, or treasures, active participation of athletic alumni is often the difference between a good program and a truly exceptional program."

The enthusiasm of athletics alumni like Connie S. Maniatty is part of what has made athletics at Columbia great. The support of both athletic and nonathletic alumni is vital to the experience of all students on campus.

"The camaraderie that exists among teammates and coaches creates bonds that last a lifetime."

-M. Dianne Murphy

Advisory Committee chairs. This volunteer-run organization is geared toward supplying Columbia athletics with the financial and moral resources necessary to expand and improve the program.

Besides supporting the athletics program through philanthropic giving and volunteering time, Columbia alumni also provide the program with an invaluable resource.

"Our alumni also provide their talents, by providing valuable support in the area of student-athlete career development, mentoring and networking," Murphy said.

So why is it that Columbia graduates, especially former athletes, feel the need back to give back to the University years after they receive their diplomas? While athletic alumni often donate to other sectors of Columbia besides the athletics program, it is no coincidence that they are among the University's most supportive alumni.

"It is true that many former student-athletes identify most closely with the athletics program because of the experiences that

BASKETBALL from back page

The Bears struggled over break against tough opposition, losing to St. Joseph's, South Carolina, Albany, and Syracuse, before defeating Yale to end their skid. Despite their recent string of losses, the 4-11 Bears, behind last week's Ivy League Rookie of the Week Lindsay Nickel, have already doubled their win total from last season.

Harvard's forward-guard Emma Markley and last year's Ivy League Rookie of the Year Brogan Berry averaged 28 points per game versus Navy, Massachusetts, and NJIT, propelling Harvard to victories in all three games. But the duo faltered in conference play against Dartmouth, scoring just 18 on seven for 27 combined shooting which resulted in a 45-44 loss. The Crimson's record is 9-5 and it is looking strong heading into its game against Florida State.

Penn achieved its lone win of the season in a 52-48 triumph over St. Francis on Dec. 31. But after this victory the Quakers' lackluster play continued, as they lost their next four games by an average of 20 points.

Over break, Cornell traveled to play in the Virginia Holiday

Tournament and was flattened by Liberty and Samford. Upon returning, the Big Red continued its slump losing by 30 to Binghamton, 14 to Bucknell, and 24 to Columbia.

In Cornell's conference opener against Columbia, its star point guard Lauren Benson was shut down, contributing just seven points and two assists while committing six turnovers. The Big Red defense failed to stop Lomax, who tallied 17 points and 16 rebounds. Cornell will look to avenge its last loss when it plays Columbia this Saturday at the Levien Gymnasium. Tip-off is set for 4:30 p.m.

Anybody else sick of all the kicking?

FOOTBALL from back page

The greatest problem with field goals is the strategy of "icing the kicker." Coaches at all levels believe that if you take a timeout right before the kicker is about to attempt a field goal, he will be forced to "think about" it and as a result, may miss the field goal.

What a stupid idea that is.

The kicker is already nervous, knowing that he might have to go in the game and kick, and if anything, a timeout gives him a chance to catch his breath and relax. But for the viewer, icing the kicker means that we have to wait until the play clock is almost at zero before waiting another five minutes for the game to come back from commercials after the timeout is taken. And this is all to see a field goal attempt that may not even come close to determining the result of the game.

I think that "icing the kicker" should be banned, at least from the first half or the first three quarters. If football coaches think that they're so in tune with psychoanalysis, they should focus their efforts on controlling their own players' childlike behavior that results in costly personal foul penalties that actually do change the game.

Lastly, field goals are simply unfair for teams that play in different climates or environments. Of course this argument could be extended to the rest of the game as well, but when kicking a 50-

yard field goal in a dome is easier than a 35-yarder in the snow and sleet, there is a problem.

Field goals are already too automatic—except for those made by Nate Kaeding or anyone playing for Northwestern—and are rarely blocked.

Extra points, which are so meaningless that they don't deserve their own pithy heading, are even worse. As an example of how automatic extra points are, consider that the last ranked team in the NFL converted 93 percent of their extra point attempts this year. In all, 16 teams converted on 100 percent of their attempts. Similarly, only five teams in the NFL blocked a punt all season—which just goes to show you how monotonous those plays can be.

Katastrophic Kickoffs

Arguably, the kickoff is more exciting than the punt or field goals because of the return. As opposed to punts, most kickoffs (about 85 percent actually) are returned leading to a potentially exciting play.

But to me, kickoffs are becoming perilously hard to sit through. As we know by now, they are always preceded—and usually followed—by a commercial. This fact alone demonstrates the unnecessary attention that is given to a relatively simple play. Let's be honest: Nine times out of 10,

the returner is pummeled on the 20- or 25-yard line. And this one play is worth 10 minutes of our time?

Finally, kickoffs always result in the field being littered with yellow flags and injured personnel. Just the idea of men running directly at one another at full speed is enough to understand why injuries are frequent on these plays. And for some reason, the seasoned professional athletes that make up special teams units still don't understand what a "block in the back" or "holding" penalty is.

I'm not advocating that the field goal be nixed or the kickoff replaced, but some rule changes could certainly improve the situation. Even an advertising rule such as the NHL's—which prevents commercial breaks after an icing call—would be a positive step.

But the fact remains that this overemphasis on kicking in football needs to be booted. To give you an analogy, imagine if there was a timeout called before the shortstop threw the ball to first base to record a simple ground-out—in order to "ice" him, of course—resulting in a commercial break. Yeah, that's what I thought you would say.

Jacob Shapiro is a List College senior majoring in history and Talmud. [sportseditors](#) [@columbiaspectator.com](#)



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Men's basketball looks to redeem itself in a rematch against the Big Red after a 74-53 loss last Saturday. Cornell will look to keep rolling in its quest for a three-peat.

TOMORROW



SPORTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2010 • PAGE 8



The Columbia women's basketball team will look for another win against Ivy rival Cornell, after defeating the Big Red 68-44 last weekend.

TOMORROW

Enough with the kicking, this is American football



JACOB SHAPIRO

Put it on the Board

Let's examine the most common uses of kicking from best to worst:

The Pugnacious Punt

In all honesty, I don't have too many problems with the punt. It's relatively fast, doesn't require any commercials and it serves as a decent way to turn the ball over to the other team. Punters are also pretty skilled when you think about it, and this is especially evident when they try to place the ball within a few yards of the end zone.

But where punting bores me is on the return. The majority of the time, the punt returner "fair catches" the ball, meaning he chooses not to return it. When the receiver does return the punt, he is usually tackled immediately, given the limited range of the punter's leg compared to the kickoff, where the ball is situated on a tee. Even worse are the monotonous occasions where the returner simply lets the ball bounce.

While these described outcomes are mostly boring, at least they happen quickly. And every so often, someone does actually return a punt, making the play tremendously exciting. So in all, punting occupies the small space that it should in the game.

Foul Field Goals

I'm sorry, but field goals are becoming extremely annoying. Even my father, who religiously rewinds his TiVo to catch every play, fast-forwards through the field goals, unless the game is on the line.

SEE FOOTBALL, page 7



Jasper Clyatt / Staff photographer

LEAGUE LEADER | Judie Lomax leads the Ancient Eight in both scoring (17.5) and rebounding (14.7).

Tigers, Big Green enter league play with high expectations

BY MICHAEL ZHONG
Spectator Staff Writer

While most Ivy League students went back home for winter break, women's basketball players around the league continued to compete in preparation for conference play.

No team has been hotter than Princeton (13-2) this season, and its strong performance continued during the winter recess. Princeton went 5-0, defeating Houston, Fairleigh Dickinson, Fordham, La Salle, and Penn by an average margin of 21.6 points. Princeton's Ivy League opener against Penn was especially resounding, as the Tigers dispatched their perennial foe 70-39. The Tigers won the game with ease despite last season's leading scorer Addie Micir contributing only three points.

In previous years, that would have meant trouble. However, this year's defense has dramatically improved from last season's already good defense and is currently allowing a league-low 51 points a game. Freshman Niveen Rasheed has also been sensational for the Tigers and is currently second



in the league (behind Columbia's Judie Lomax) in scoring with 16.9 points per game and fourth in rebounding with 7.9 rebounds per game. Princeton looks good enough to win the Ivy League this year, and looks to emphasize its legitimacy when it returns from its 20-day January break.

For Princeton to win the Ancient Eight title, it will have to take it from Dartmouth. The Big Green, which was picked in the preseason to repeat as Ivy champs, struggled early amidst a tough schedule, but has shown improvements in recent weeks. Dartmouth is coming off 45-44 and 49-48 wins against Harvard and New Hampshire respectively and looks to improve its 6-9 record when it hosts the Cornell Big Red and the Columbia Lions next week.

Yale has struggled this winter, losing six of seven on its seven-game road trip. The Bulldogs lost their Ivy League opener 60-56 to the Bears, who finished last in the league last year with a dismal 1-13 conference record. In fact, Brown's lone conference win last year also came in its opener versus Yale. Yale looks to get back on track and bolster its 5-10 record in its rematch against Brown this week.

SEE BASKETBALL, page 7

Alumni help CU Athletics thrive

Maniatty, CC '43, dies, leaves legacy of generosity

BY MICHAEL SHAPIRO
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Former Columbia baseball and football star Connie S. Maniatty, CC '43, passed away on Jan. 8. He was 90 years old. Maniatty was a Wall Street executive and served as a partner and managing director at Salomon Brothers. His success in the professional world was accompanied by his generous spirit and dedication to philanthropy. Maniatty never forgot his roots, and the school that helped him attain success. While Maniatty's passing was a traumatic loss for the Columbia community, the University has a rich history of dedicated student-athlete alumni who dedicate time and resources to Columbia's athletics program.

Maniatty served as permanent president of his class and as a Columbia College trustee. He also took on several positions within the school's athletics program, serving for 35 years as the chair of the Football Alumni Advisory Committee and chairing the President's Advisory Committee on Athletics. Maniatty received various accolades over his years as both a student and an alumnus, including the Columbia Alumni Medal, the John Jay Award, and the Varsity C Club Alumni Athletic Award.

Before being inducted into the Columbia Athletics Hall of Fame in its 2006 inaugural class for his dedication to the program as both an athlete and alumnus, Maniatty

ALUMNI FEATURE

SEE ALUMNI, page 7



Courtesy of Columbia University Athletics
GIVING BACK | M. Dianne Murphy with Maniatty.

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