

Local tutoring program on its way to Barnard dorm

BY EMILY NEIL  
Columbia Daily Spectator

After sitting dormant for over five years, two storefronts at 110th Street and Manhattan Avenue may see activity as early as this summer.

Plans are progressing for the relocation of a local tutoring program, which will move from 88th and Columbus Avenue to two unoccupied spaces in Barnard's Cathedral Gardens residence hall.

Gregory Brown, Barnard's chief operating officer, said that he expects construction to take place either this summer or during the summer of 2012 for the new location of Goddard Riverside Community Center's OPTIONS tutoring program.

"We're encouraged by the community's support for the project and hope the plans come together in the spring," Brown said in an email, adding that planning and fundraising efforts for the move have already begun.

One of 27 programs that Goddard Riverside runs throughout the Upper West Side and Harlem, OPTIONS provides SAT preparation and college admissions counseling for students from low-income and middle-income backgrounds.

The partnership will provide Goddard Riverside—which provides food, shelter, and education services—with over 5,000 square feet of property that has been vacant since Barnard reserved the two storefronts for community space after completing its Cathedral Gardens dorms on 110th Street in 2006.



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

GOING GREEN | Mayor Bloomberg announced a partnership with CU, NYU, and CUNY focused on reducing building emissions.

OPTIONS came into the picture after original plans to turn the space into a day care center were scrapped. Because the space is partially underground—a potential fire hazard—the city's Administration for Children's Services declared the property inappropriate for child care.

The arrival of OPTIONS will also provide Barnard with an opportunity to increase involvement with local high school students, especially after Barnard ended its Liberty Partnerships tutoring program for area youth last year due to increased costs and lack of state funding.

While the college is launching a pilot program called Barnard CITY—Community Involved

in Tutoring Youth—to address the immediate needs of former Liberty students, Barnard staff said OPTIONS's move will provide more choices.

"Barnard CITY involves Barnard and CU students who tutor, recruit volunteers, and make referrals for students and families," said Vivian Taylor, Barnard's chief of staff and vice president of community development, in an email. "Many former Liberty students are enrolled in other neighborhood programs, including OPTIONS."

Brown added that he hopes Barnard volunteers will become involved with the program once it opens.

"We see the relationship with

Goddard Riverside as a partnership, so an essential element will be the opportunity to involve the Barnard community," Brown said.

Mark Diller, CC '80 and chair of Community Board 7's Youth, Education, and Libraries Committee, said the move will be beneficial to OPTIONS because it will provide the program with a larger space while increasing its proximity to the neighborhoods where most of its students live.

"It's bursting at the seams and can't fit in the space they have been occupying," Diller said of the program's current location at 88th Street. "The core constituency in terms of students comes from north of this location as opposed to south of it."

"It's a program that has a record of success, and we think that it's a great use for the space," said Mel Wymore, chair of Community Board 7, which passed a resolution in November in support of the project.

Lily Owen, director of planning and special projects for Goddard Riverside, said the new location will serve current students better and attract future students.

"There's a lot of need uptown that hopefully we'll be able to meet in terms of college access and success," she said. "Having it at the storefront, from our side, is going to make it that much more welcoming and appealing to students."

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Bloomberg announces green tech partnership

Columbia, NYU, IBM to work together

BY DAPHNE CHEN  
Columbia Daily Spectator

Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced the launch of the NYC Urban Technology Innovation Center today at a press conference in the newly-opened Northwest Corner Building.

The UTIC partnership will join Columbia, Polytechnic Institute of New York University, the City University of New York, and the New York City Economic Development Corporation with technology companies and real estate developers to research green building technologies.

"We're launching a new public-private venture that will fuel innovation in the sector of our economy where innovation is key—and that is green energy technology," Bloomberg said at the conference.

Bloomberg was joined by Columbia's Senior Executive Vice President Robert Kasdin, School of Engineering and Applied Science Dean Feniosky Peña-Mora, NYCEDC President Seth Pinsky, and IBM senior researcher Dr. Jane Snowdon, among others.

Bloomberg emphasized the development of technologies that

SEE BLOOMBERG, page 4

Supermarket to compete with higher-end retail

BY GINA LEE  
Columbia Daily Spectator

A new grocery store is hoping to join the new and old Upper West Side.

With over 150 locations in New York and New Jersey, the Associated grocery chain has become known for its low prices. But as it gears up for the grand opening of a megastore at 99th and Amsterdam Avenue within the Columbus Square development, the store is looking to foster healthy competition with the nearby Whole Foods.

In an area that has been dominated by retail chains and five new residential towers in the past five years, lower income residents said they're grateful for a more affordable option.



ZARA CASTANY / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CHECKOUT | Associated Supermarkets, a lower-priced grocery store chain, has opened in the Columbus Square development between 99th and 100th streets, competing with nearby Whole Foods.

Foods, she has come to expect the low prices at Associated.

While the difference in prices might be slight among grocery stores in the neighborhood—organic cereals at Whole Foods range from \$3-8, while more common brands stocked at the megastore sell for an average of \$4 per box—local shopper Vanessa Rivera said every dollar counts.

"Not everyone in this neighborhood can afford the high-end stores," Rivera said. "Compared to a place like Whole Foods, it's good."

Manager Salomon Gelbstein said he expects the store to host its grand opening in the next few weeks. The store had a soft opening this past November, without advertisement or

promotion, in order to allow itself a period during which adjustments could be made without an overwhelming amount of customers.

"When a new store of this size opens, there are glitches here and there, and that may sometimes lead to customer disappointment," Gelbstein explained. "By doing a soft opening, we can more quickly address those glitches when they occur, which leads us to address customer concerns on an individual basis."

The 808 Columbus Ave. building, where the new megastore is now open, has little resemblance to its smaller location just two blocks down. The store has bright green and

yellow décor, an Internet café, and a kosher grocery section more fitting with the rest of the Columbus Square development, located on Columbus Avenue from 97th to 100th streets.

While flashier than its older, smaller location, which will continue to operate two blocks down on 97th Street, the new Associated branch will offer the same prices, Gelbstein said.

"Columbus Square has turned out to be a great location," he added.

Local shopper Joan Fields said she's also just looking to save money where she can.

"Everyone in this economy is looking for a deal," she said.

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University to fund graduate student center on campus

BY SONALEE RAU  
Columbia Daily Spectator

This fall, \$4.6 million will be reallocated to increase funding for Ph.D. students in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, which will include the financing of a center for graduate students on the Morningside campus.

"The overarching purpose of the enhancement plan is to underscore the centrality of graduate studies in the university and to signify in tangible ways our determination to attract the very best students to our graduate programs," said Carlos J. Alonso, acting dean of GSAS, in an email that went out to graduate students on Thursday.

Kristy Riggs, a Ph.D. student and vice president of the Graduate School Advisory Council to the University Senate, said that many graduate students have been waiting for a centralized place to interact with students across the University.

"GSAC members have been working towards the creation of a graduate student center at Columbia for over a decade. I am thrilled, along with my fellow GSAC members, to be a part of this long history and to see so much progress towards the center's creation," she said in an email to Spectator.

In a survey published in September, 77 percent of graduate students said they did not feel that they were a part of a close-knit community outside of their respective schools, a response GSAC attributed to the absence of a central space for all graduate students.

"The film community's like this weird hermetic crew ... I don't feel connected to graduate students

outside the discipline," said Matt Black, a film student in the School of the Arts.

In addition to a center, the enhancement plan will also fund five summers of guaranteed research for Ph.D. candidates and increase the basic stipend rate.

The announcement from Alonso comes four months after the University Senate voted to support a proposal by members of its Committee on Campus Planning and Physical Development to create an interim center for graduate students.

Alex Frouman, CC '12 and a University senator, explained that the vote in September was not binding but did express support.

"What was passed in the senate was a document in support of the graduate student center and one that agrees with the need it would meet. It did not mandate its construction—the senate does not pass resolutions mandating capital construction," he said.

Riggs said that decisions had not yet been made regarding the funding and location of the center, but she and other members of GSAC said they'd like the center to have multiple rooms for meeting spaces, a kitchen, and A/V equipment and to be accessible on nights and weekends.

According to Alonso's email, the enhancement plan was designed by Executive Vice President for the Arts and Sciences Nicholas Dirks and Provost Claude Steele, who worked closely with GSAS.

"The enhancement package helps GSAS to be more competitive with our peer institutions in recruiting incoming graduate students and for graduating students on the job market," Riggs said.

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OPINION, PAGE 2

Futile Freedom

Dino Grandoni wishes we could be more productive over break.

Partying Together

Arizona reminds us of the importance of bipartisanship.



SPORTS, PAGE 6

Both CU basketball teams head to Ithaca

The men and women of Columbia basketball will be looking to sweep the Big Red this Saturday as they try for repeat performances from last weekend's wins over Cornell.

EVENTS

Eiko & Koma: lecture and dance

A modern dance performance, in which Eiko & Koma will use their dancing bodies to "invite the audience's empathy."

Miller Theatre, 6 p.m.

CCSC 14's Back to School Party

Freshmen are invited to come dressed as their favorite high school stereotypes.

Lerner Party Space, 10:30 p.m. - 2 a.m.

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# Free to Slack

Like many other young, hip, literate college students, I tried reading Jonathan Franzen’s 562-page novel over winter break. “Freedom” is a sizable book, and if we are to believe Time magazine, it’s already the next Great American Novel. I’m not one to trust such claims (especially from Time), but I wanted to see what all the hype was about.

This column, though, is not about capital-F “Freedom”; I am not an English major, and as Lit Hum so painfully taught me, nor could I have ever been one. No, this is about little-f freedom—that little gift-wrapped curse given to college students every holiday season.

With three weeks off for winter break, it seems we have all the free time in the world to do what we want. Those first few days of break are so full of possibility as we map out in our minds all the things we could get done. As ambitious Columbia students, we naturally set some ad hoc goals for ourselves to accomplish before we go back to school. We’ll finally get around to organizing the clutter in our room. Or we promise to work out every day. Or maybe we tell ourselves we’ll read that book everyone’s been talking about.

## At the end of every break I feel the tiniest tinge of failure for not being as productive as I possibly could. I don’t think I’m alone among Columbia students when I ask: what is the point of winter break?

But then Jan. 18 rolls around, and we’ve only made it to page 300, our winter break dreams deferred again. At the end of every break I feel the tiniest tinge of failure for not being as productive as I possibly could have been. Maybe that’s just the way my psyche is built; maybe others feel perfectly fine doing absolutely nothing with all that free time. Or maybe others have theses to finish, God bless them. But I don’t think I’m alone among Columbia students when I ask: what is the point of winter break?

Don’t get me wrong, I love the time off. I’m just not exactly sure what I’m supposed to do with it. The purpose of that other, much larger block of free time—summer—seems quite clear. For the careerist, land an internship and pad the resume. For the cash-strapped, find a summer job. For the adventure-seeking (and much less cash-strapped), vacation.

The productive possibility of three months of freedom is exponentially greater than that of three weeks—there just simply isn’t enough time during winter break to truly accomplish anything.

I found myself first asking that question—“What the hell am I going to do with all this time?”—on New Year’s Day, sitting in bed while nursing a hangover and watching a second-rate Peanuts special (“Happy New Year, Charlie Brown”) I had found on Hulu. See, by New Year’s, all the important holidays have past, all the holiday parties have been attended, and all the relevant family members seen. In that one week between Christmas and New Year’s, I had—in the words of George Costanza—“decompressed” and felt rested enough to start another semester. But what I had in front of me was two straight weeks of absolute freedom, and it was driving me stark-raving mad.

Being forced to choose among seemingly unlimited options—that’s the dilemma of freedom. With all the choices I had, I was paralyzed. All I ended up doing over break was seeing a few friends, applying to even fewer jobs, and watching a lot of “Law & Order” on TNT.

So I have a suggestion. Columbia, it’s time to shorten winter break. Those one or two shaved-off weeks could be added to the summer. That might be what’s best for students as a whole, but I think if I were free to choose, I wouldn’t give up the extra time off during winter. I would just promise myself to accomplish something substantive the next time around and fail at it all over again.

On a deeper level, I might have just been homesick for Columbia. Having been here for four years, it’s more of a home to me now than my own home. I’m eager to start my last semester—even if it’s the beginning of the end. The real world, to say the least, is scary and demands to know what I want to do with the rest of my life. In fact, that’s when the real dilemma of freedom begins—but that’s another column altogether.

*Dino Grandoni is a Columbia College senior majoring in economics-political science. He is a former Spectator head copy editor. The Lowest Common Dino-minator runs alternate Fridays.*



DINO GRANDONI

## The Lowest Common Dino-minator

# Breaking teacher’s block

BY DAVID SABLE

A couple of decades back, a senior surgeon handed me a scalpel, addressed me as doctor, and told me to make my very first incision. My hand and the knife then hovered over the patient’s abdomen like a helicopter over a traffic accident before finally taking a timid swipe and barely scratching the skin. My colleague waited patiently for me to shake off my nervousness, and a couple of hours later, the patient and I—an intern—were both in stable condition in the recovery room.

Now I sit at my desk—a grid of PowerPoint slides on one computer monitor, my course outline on the other. I am a novice again, midway through the 28 lectures that I will present this spring. Only for the moment, I’m doing a lot of staring and very little PowerPointing, and the prospect of teaching an entire course for the first time seems far more daunting than performing surgery.

Medicine is a teaching culture. Second-year students show first-year students how to throw square knots, interns give impromptu seminars on fluid management during quiet moments in the intensive care unit, and bow-tied internists happily demonstrate the secrets hidden in the patterns of filling and drainage of neck veins to the first orderly or flower-cart pushing volunteer who happens to walk by. I left medicine a few years ago but continued to teach: an occasional hospital grand rounds where I had trained or lectured to science or business students.

Now I agonize over decisions that experienced instructors take for granted. In a few weeks I will teach my “Entrepreneurship in Biotechnology” students the 10/20/30 rule of effective presentation: 10 slides in 20 minutes using a 30-point font. Of course, my first lecture has 33 slides, but I rationalize that the first few are throwaway office hours / grade consists of / last day for drop-add types. Lecture two has only five slides so far, but I need to leave time for student presentations. Each presentation should last one minute, followed by two to three minutes of discussion. Four minutes per student unless the discussions get detailed and deep—but what would be wrong with that? Nothing—but what if the discussion is superficial and belabors the obvious? Or what if there is no discussion at all, just the kind of sinking silence that happens in comedy clubs when the comedian completely loses the audience, and everyone knows that he can’t win them back but also knows that he has to try and that they have to sit through it?

# Learn from Arizona

BY SAM MICKEL

Our country found itself in mourning last week as a memorial was held for the victims of the Saturday, Jan. 8, 2011 shooting outside of a grocery store in Tucson, Ariz. President Obama made an appearance, as presidents often do in the wake of a national disaster. His attendance and address called upon America to unite as a country—which is all one can only hope for after such a tragedy. By listening to his address, I was reminded of the fierce partisanship that has become a pervasive limiting factor that is getting in the way of the progression of our society today.

## This attempted unification comes at a time when party lines are becoming more rigid and harder to cross.

I would like to commend President Obama for focusing on the unity of the nation. He said that despite “all our imperfections, we are full of decency and goodness, and that the forces that divide us are not as strong as those that unite us.” He easily could have talked about gun control or lack thereof, challenged how we as a country deal with the mentally ill, or pointed fingers at members of the Republican party who might not have been Gabrielle Giffords’ greatest supporters. But Obama did what presidents are supposed to do following a national crisis—leave the debating for those writing op-ed pieces and try to bring the country together.

This attempted unification comes at a time when the party lines are becoming more rigid and harder to cross. Over the past year, countless pieces of legislation have been killed in either the House or the Senate due to various representatives’ refusal to vote outside party lines, simply for the sake of

*Each Friday, a professor will share scholastic wisdom readers won’t find in lectures. Suggestions regarding which professors to feature are welcome.*

Tonight I struggle with week one. The slides are unmatted black on white, with a little line at the bottom with the course number and “Columbia University GSAS” in small font. The slides appear in neat rows across the screen, but their concepts and ideas somehow remain hidden—the presentation a puzzle with all the pieces the same shape and no clues as to their correct order.

One of the business-world clichés that I will relate (though not necessarily endorse) is that a presentation needs to be delivered 25 times before it makes sense. I am unwilling to sacrifice coherence for my first 24 semesters, however, so I devise different practice methods. Most often, I lecture to two dogs in an otherwise empty room.

## I worry about letting them down. I focus on them and try to anticipate their expectations.

Weeks one and two are almost ready, but week three is not even close. My students-to-be are an extremely smart group: a mixture of undergrads, masters, and Ph.D.s in the sciences, hoping to cram as much of a business education as they can into one semester. I worry about letting them down. I focus on them and try to anticipate their expectations. I stop polishing my delivery and start listening for clarity. Suddenly the teacher’s block breaks, and a few of the slides almost jump off the screen and beg to be moved elsewhere. Quickly, week three is almost clear—its transitions logical and its conclusions evident.

My process is evident as well: course outline on one screen, slides on the other, practice out loud in an empty room, dogs optional.

Listen for what your students will hear, and make it logical for them to understand. Repeat as needed.

Ray Bradbury once said that living at risk is jumping off the cliff and building your wings on the way down. I used to think that cliff jumping was a young person’s sport, but I still find myself walking along edges, blueprints in hand.

*The author is a retired obstetrician-gynecologist. He teaches “Entrepreneurship in Biotechnology” in the Biological Sciences department.*

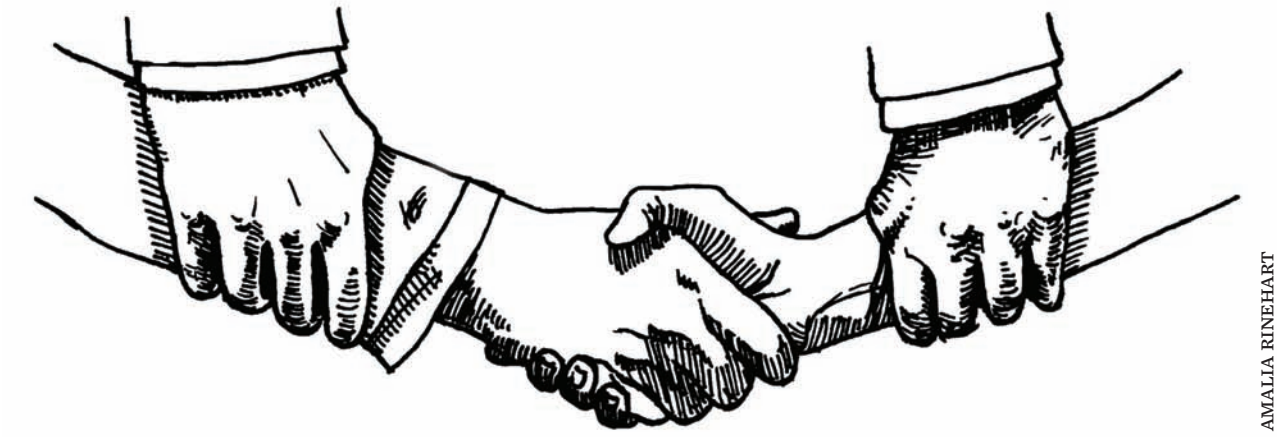
keeping parties separate, strong, and well-defined. Just look at Giffords, who originally identified as Republican but—because of partisan politics—ran and served in office as a Democrat due to her contrasting views on immigration and health care.

This whole situation reminds me of a Columbia Political Union debate I happened to attend earlier in the fall semester. The debate was between various members of Columbia University College Democrats and Columbia University College Republicans on the subject of immigration. Walking into Math 312 felt more like walking into a wrestling match than a political debate. The energy was high, and the room buzzed with the anticipation of a sporting round of good ol’ American Democrat versus Republican fisticuffs.

The debate commenced, and representatives from each side went at it. Oddly enough—while I don’t remember the specifics—I remember coming to the realization that both sides were making similar arguments. Whether this was a product of crafty debating skills or not, I don’t know, but regardless, both sides continued to argue because that’s what Democrats and Republicans are expected to do. In no way do I mean to bash CPU, CUCD, or CUCR for undertaking these debates. Immigration—as with any large issue—is a problem we’ll never come even close to solving without debate and discussion. But I would like to propose a less hostile debate. One filled with less eye rolling and frustration, and one that looks positively at the possibility of coming to conclusions. After all, people keep saying that our generation is supposed to come up with answers to some of the toughest questions of today.

So my hope is that—as horrific as this event was—it can be the opportunity President Obama suggested for our country to find unity. And more importantly, it may help us see that rallying party support though disdain and hate for the other side doesn’t cause progress, especially when it eliminates the possibility of truly hearing the conversations that take place. If senators and House representatives are boxing themselves in with only members of their parties, it makes sense that the larger public will follow suit. In this case, the majority of the country will end up running into the walls of their respective boxes as we try to move forward together.

*The author is a Columbia College first-year.*



AMALIA RINEHART

STAFF EDITORIAL

# Casual Friday: ’Tis (still) the season to shop

Depending on whom you ask, the pressure of finding the perfect gift, the softest scarf, or the most fashionable jeans can be the best or the worst part of the holidays. Either you score the perfect gift for that impossible friend, or settle and get a box of chocolates. If you’re really desperate, you re-gift.

By now, the holidays are long gone, and, as Columbia students, our bout of consumerism has ended. We have retreated to our corners in Butler (well, hopefully not yet),

picked up our Lit Hum and CC reading, and revisited the dreaded SSOL.

Much like choosing gifts sets the tone for the holidays, shopping for classes can make or break your semester. We crosscheck, read online reviews (CULPA, we love you), and sit in on first lectures. Though we usually shop for classes more conscientiously than we do for gifts, sometimes we throw caution to the wind and just enroll.

We shop for necessity and pleasure. After three bad snowstorms, you really need that pair of winter boots more than those stilettos. Art Hum, a class you need in order to graduate, takes precedence over the Shakespeare elective you’ve been dying to take. Regardless, you try them both on: Are they on the 7th floor of Hamilton? Is the classroom in a dark dungeon of Pupin? How many credits is it? Does it offer a take-home final?

Shopping for classes should be like a cocktail hour. Sip a drink, walk around, introduce yourself—but instead, classes are already in full swing. Signing up for a class late means

you’ve already missed all the introductions and canapés.

The beginning of the semester should be a time for sampling classes and re-acclimating to academic life after almost a month of mental lethargy. But instead, we find ourselves swept up in a race to sign up for classes and overwhelmed by the variety of choices at hand. We are happy that Columbia offers so many courses, but wish we had more time to try them on.

Without syllabi and comprehensive course descriptions, we cannot shop efficiently. We must rely on friends’ testimonials and time-consuming sit-ins. Even the decisive student has something to fear: SSOL crashes right as your crucial transaction is going through.

Class shopping suspends us in uncertainty about the impending future. We eagerly await the finalization of our schedules and hope our professors don’t turn into demons after the add/drop period ends.

Choose wisely, or you’ll be forced to wear that itchy sweater for the rest of the semester.



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**Aditya Mukerjee, President**

### Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

**ACROSS**

1 Cape Cod feature

6 Valentine trim

10 Embezzle

14 Medicinal plants

15 Comet competitor

16 Plantation near Twelve Oaks

17 Like ESP?

18 \_\_\_ avis

19 Prince William's alma mater

20 Heavy metal mimic?

23 Exotic guided tour

26 Subway co. in a 1959 song

27 Flop

28 Nickname for a pharmaceuticals czar?

31 Aim high

33 Commotion

34 Chapeau's perch

36 One bearing down

37 Surfing-induced torpor?

40 Williams of "Happy Days"

43 Peevish, as a puss

44 One shooting the bull?

47 Sharp Italian cheese

49 Sailor's pocket bread?

52 11th-century date

53 Mantel piece

55 Crankcase reservoir

56 Heavenly food on the nightstand?

60 Bit of plankton

61 C-3PO worshiper

62 Where to see government programs

66 Nat or Card

67 Sparkling wine city

68 Elicit a :- ) from

69 Dismally damp

70 "Lolita" star Sue

71 Pram occupant's wear

4 Ruinous

5 F equivalent

6 Blubber

7 Slightly gapped

8 Ricochet

9 Long-odds track wager

10 Stalk

11 Insect that can mimic a leaf

12 Cargo on the Edmund Fitzgerald when it sank in Lake Superior

13 Recipient of an annual baseball award since 1983

21 Rodeo prop

22 "Casey's Top 40" host

23 Bad Em's attraction

24 Give a leg up

25 Showman Ziegfeld

29 Chest muscles, briefly

30 Oldest musketeer

32 Zadora of "Hairspray"

35 OAS member

37 Zookeeper's main squeeze?

38 Lassitude

39 DuPont's Fiber A, now

40 Worn symbol of support

41 "Billy Budd," e.g.

42 Wee bit

44 Certain lounge frequenter

45 SFO listing

46 Soak up some rays

48 Tough test

50 Object of a kicking game

51 State of matter

54 Like a thorough update

57 Cutty \_\_\_: historic clipper ship

58 Agent inspired by Chan

59 Like, with "to"

63 Minor crying wolf?

64 Egyptian viper

65 Napoleonic Wars marshal

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

J	E	T	T	A	G	A	W	K	M	O	J	O		
F	A	R	A	D	I	L	I	E	A	L	O	U		
K	N	I	G	H	T	B	L	I	N	D	N	E	S	
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K	N	I	C	K	O	F	T	I	M	E				
S	I	G	N		N	O	H		D	O	N	E		
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By Kelley Blakley  
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# Tennis hopes to see success from hard work over break

## TENNIS from back page

as fellow freshman Ian Laster suffered a stress fracture in his foot toward the end of the season after playing well in the fall.

The players that took the court had their ups and downs as well. Senior Kevin Kung was the most consistent player for Columbia, making the quarterfinals of the Princeton Invitational and National Tennis Center Invitational and the finals of the “A” singles draw at the Columbia Classic. Sophomore Nate Gery, who played very well for the Lions last spring at No. 6 singles, had some quality wins in the fall as well. Freshman Tizian Bucher, the younger brother of last year’s No. 4 singles player sophomore Cyril Bucher, improved throughout the fall, culminating when he reached the finals of the “B” singles draw at the Columbia Classic. However, the team struggled mightily at its most important tournament of the fall: the ITA Regional Championships. Only Gery won his first round match, but he lost in the second round to Akash Muppidi from Boston College.

Goswami thinks that some of the team’s uncharacteristic struggles motivated players to practice and train more than they would have.

“I think they were very motivated [over break]—they felt they didn’t play as well in the fall,” said Goswami. “I think they worked hard, and you can make [that] out as they play. I think eventually this will help them. They look very sharp.”

Boston College comes into the match with strength at the

top of its lineup. Junior Akash Muppidi was ranked No. 60 in the nation in the fall, though he is unranked in the winter rankings. Muppidi, along with teammate Alex Skinner, reached the fourth round of the ITA Regional Tournament in the fall. He also reached the finals of the Bear Bryant draw in the Alabama Invitational in the team’s final tournament of the fall.

Last spring, Muppidi played No. 2 singles and beat four players with national rankings of 75 and better. He was the first Boston College player ever to be named to the All-ACC team. Although the lineups for each team won’t be known until the start of the match—since neither has played a dual match this spring yet—it is expected that Muppidi will play No. 1 singles and take on Schneiderman. Muppidi played No. 2 singles last year, and Schneiderman played No. 3.

“Boston College played us pretty tough last year,” said Goswami, referring to a 5-2 win. “We’re working also on the doubles, and we’re figure it out.”

One player who worked particularly hard over winter break was sophomore John Yetimoglu. Yetimoglu played in only one match last season, but played well during the fall, having his best result at the National Tennis Center Invitational, where he reached the semi-finals of the “E” singles draw before losing in a super tie-breaker.

“I like the way John Yetimoglu is playing. I think we’ll be OK,” said Goswami.

The match is scheduled to begin at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center.



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**BLOOMBERG** | Mayor Bloomberg announced a partnership among city universities Thursday to encourage green innovation.

# SEAS to work with NYU, CUNY, tech companies through center

## BLOOMBERG from front page

would help reduce energy use and emissions in new and old buildings citywide.

“The idea is to promote building efficiency, because in the city of New York, the largest user of energy is buildings, not transportation like most cities,” said Timothy Cross, senior director of the SEAS Center for Technology, Innovation and Community Engagement, which will manage the center. The center has been under development for about a year, he added.

“We feel that this partnership

brings together key consortium members to really drive new innovation in this important field, and it will also help to drive new jobs and sustainability and energy efficiency improvements for building owners and the real estate stock here in New York City,” Snowden said at the conference.

According to Cross, the UTIC is still looking for more companies and developers to join and doesn’t have a single physical location yet.

“So little money is yet on the table that the physical space is being spread among the three institutions, but IBM has shown interest and we are looking for other companies as well,” Cross told Spectator.

The partnership is structured so that companies and building owners can join at different membership levels, ranging from \$1,000 to \$50,000 a year.

So far, the NYCEDC is putting up \$250,000, and each university will provide upwards of \$500,000 of resources to launch the project.

Peña-Mora spoke about the opportunities for college students to participate in UTIC, saying that he perceives “a big role” for students and faculty from all institutions.

“The way I see it, the center is almost like a consumer report,” Peña-Mora said. “Established companies or start-up companies

might say, ‘I have this technology,’ and we can give it to students to take it and try to deploy it. Or Columbia researchers may have developed technologies in our labs that students can also experiment with, so UTIC incorporates both components.”

Peña-Mora said that both undergraduate and graduate students could participate in research at the center, either for credit or for pay.

“Everything is a big, wide canvas, but a year from now, I believe we will be seeing a lot more from this center,” he said to Spectator.

daphne.chen  
@columbiaspectator.com

# Despite strong start, CU can still seek improvement

## LEVENFELD from back page

behind the arc and 93.3 percent from the free-throw line. When he heats up, the game plan seems to be to get him the ball, clear some space, and get out of the way. Classmate Dyami Starks, another guard, has also made his mark as a rookie. Starks is averaging 15 minutes on the floor and has shown that he can hit the big three, too.

Columbia’s most important freshman, though, wears a suit and tie to the game. His name is Kyle Smith, and this past May, he was named Columbia’s 22nd men’s basketball head coach. And let me tell you, he is the real deal. After a nine-year stint as associate head coach at St. Mary’s in California, Smith has already shown what he can do with a group of capable basketball players at Columbia. He has immediately transformed the Lions’ offense into a faster-moving unit, and his set rotation has helped the players gel with each other on the court.

But there is more to Smith than his skillful diagramming and lineup plans. I was lucky enough to sit in on the press conference after the first home game this year, a 108-74 run-away victory over Maryland Eastern Shore, and that’s when I learned that Smith isn’t a typical Ivy League head coach. For one thing, he was positively giddy over the outcome. He literally could not hide his glee or contain his grin. And instead of offering stoic, formulaic answers to some of the tougher questions, he was brutally honest with himself, admitting freely some mistakes he had made with match-ups in the season opener, a road loss to La Salle. I even heard that Smith has used some very rough language in at least one interview this season.

I like that. If the head coach is going to hold himself to a high standard, if he is going to question his own decisions and admit that he can always improve, then surely he expects the same of his players. His emotions are transparent, meaning that whatever praise or criticism he may have will shine through clearly. Watching the body language across the bench, it’s clear that Smith has had no trouble gaining his team’s trust.

And then there is Agho. He

leads the league in scoring and he’s fourth in assists, 10th in steals, and seventh in minutes played. Columbia’s entire offense revolves around him, and he is the only player on the team who can really create something out of nothing. For the next season and a half, we will always know who’s going to get the ball when the game is on the line.

Throw in key contributors who have made strides since last year—point guard Brian Barbour (12.2 PPG), forward Asenso Ampim (6.3 RPG), and center Mark Cisco (.644 shooting percentage)—and the Lions seem to have found a recipe for success.

But there are reasons for pessimism, too—or, at least, reasons to suspend our high hopes until the next few weeks play out. This team has to learn how to win in unfriendly territory. The Lions are just 3-4 away from Levien Gymnasium, and while an occasional road loss to a strong team is acceptable, an Ivy frontrunner must dispatch mediocre teams with relative ease, no matter the location.

Furthermore, the team has an annoying habit of taking sure blowout wins and transforming them into nail-biting, down-to-the-wire affairs. (Fun fact: Columbia’s last 10 games have all been decided by six points or fewer. The Lions are 8-2 over that stretch.) Smith and his players need to summon the killer instinct to put away opponents when the opportunity presents itself.

Columbia plays Cornell again tomorrow, this time in Ithaca. This game will be a huge bellwether. Cornell is not the same team that reached the Sweet 16 last year, but the Big Red will have a strong home crowd. Chris Wroblewski, Cornell’s dynamic junior guard, probably won’t turn in a second straight disastrous performance. And the Big Red will be out for revenge.

But if Columbia can pull one out—if the Lions can sweep the Big Red, if they can win a big one on the road—then maybe, just maybe, we can start to get our hopes up.

Jacob Levenfeld is a List College senior majoring in history and Talmud.  
sports@columbiaspectator.com

# Bench will play key minutes for CU women

## WOMEN’S BASKETBALL from back page

has settled on a starting lineup, and the players who take the court—starters and substitutes—appear to understand their roles now.

Columbia has also shown an ability to learn from its mistakes. After a botched press break cost the Lions a win against Lafayette, and after the Lions committed several turnovers against Cornell’s full-court pressure, Columbia displayed more poise against St. Francis.

“I think we showed some improvement in some areas from the Cornell game—particularly at the end, [when] we started to get pressed,” Nixon said in a postgame interview on Wednesday. “I thought we did a much better job of maintaining our composure and not turning the ball over in the backcourt, [not] giving them very easy baskets right off the press.”

For all of the strides that the Lions have made, however, they still have room to develop. Though the Lions handled St. Francis’s pressure effectively, they allowed the Terriers to mount a late second-half comeback. Cornell also rallied late in the second half before losing.

“I still think we have to get better defensively,” Nixon said. “When a team goes into frantic mode, two things happen: one, they start pressing you, but two, they start putting their head down and just going to the basket. And we have to do a better job of not allowing people to get layups on us in those situations because we expect to have the lead again at the end of ball games—not just these two.”

If Columbia continues to receive contributions from a variety of players and improve at playing with a lead, the Lions could knock down their third consecutive win on Saturday.

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week #1

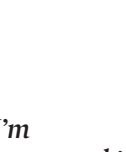
- 1: Columbia at Cornell (+1.5)
- 2: Brown at Yale (-2.5)
- 3: Dartmouth at Harvard (-10.5)
- 4: St. Joseph's at Penn (-2.5)
- 5: College of New Jersey at Princeton (-11.5)
- 6: Texas at Kansas (-3.5)
- 7: Lakers at Nuggets (+7.5)
- 8: Over/under 18.5 points for Noruwa Agho



Michele Cleary (0-0)

Columbia  
Yale  
Crimson  
Penn  
Tigers  
Kansas  
Nuggets  
Over

Get used to seeing me at the top.



I'm baaaaaack!

Columbia  
Yale  
Harvard  
St. Joes  
Princeton  
Texas  
Lake Show  
Under



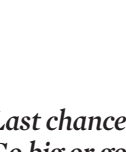
Kunal Gupta (0-0)



Zach Glubiak (0-0)

Mufasa  
Yale  
Harvard  
St. Joe's  
Tigers  
Rock Chock  
Kobe  
Over

Feels great to be out of the cellar for a week.



Last chance. Go big or go home.

SWEEP  
Yale  
Dartmouth  
Ivy Pride  
Princeton  
Texas  
Denver  
#1 FTW



Jacob Levenfeld (0-0)



Bart Lopez (0-0)

Beat Cornell!  
Yale  
Harvard  
Penn  
Princeton  
Kansas  
Nuggets  
Under

Last semester begins, it's gonna get crazy.



We need a soccer pixbox.

Columbia  
Yale  
Harvard  
St. Joseph's  
Princeton  
Kansas  
Lakers  
Over



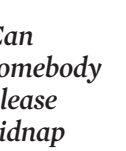
Mrinal Mohanka (0-0)



Jim Pagels (0-0)

Columbia  
Yale  
Harvard  
St. Joe's  
Princeton  
Hook 'em  
Thuggets  
Over

Now that I edit the standings, don't be surprised if everyone else is 0-8 on Monday.



Can somebody please kidnap Aaron Rodgers before Sunday?

CU  
Da Bears  
Vard  
St. Joseph's  
Jersey Boys  
Kansas  
Carmelo  
Over



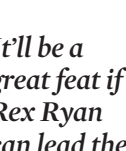
Michael Shapiro (0-0)



Lucas Shaw (0-0)

Columbia  
Jones  
Crimson  
Hawks  
Ptown  
Rock Chalk  
Nuggets  
Over

Vote candyman for the NBA all-star game.



It'll be a great feat if Rex Ryan can lead the Jets to a victory over the Steelers on Sunday.

Columbia  
Yale  
Harvard  
Penn  
Princeton  
Kansas  
Lakers  
Under

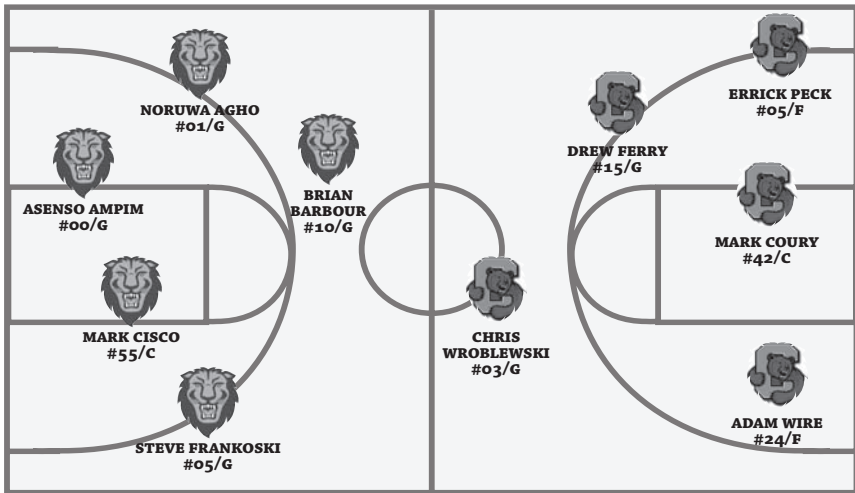


Myles Simmons (0-0)

STARTING LINEUPS



V.



KEYS TO THE GAME

1

Defense

The Lions are currently giving up an average of 72.7 points per game, the worst in the Ivy League. Success lies in the Light Blue's improving on its defensive game when in transition. In an attempt to hold off Cornell's top scorers, Columbia might utilize a 1-3-1 zone defense.

2

Rebounds

Columbia averages 38 rebounds per game, 6.8 more than its opponents. The Lions must continue their success on the boards—on both sides of the court. Center Mark Cisco had 7 boards against the Big Red last weekend and should once again be a force inside.

3

Winning away

Columbia hasn't won in Newman Arena since 2006 and is only 3-4 on the road this season. Playing a tough Big Red team in front of a raucous Cornell crowd will not make its first away conference match any easier. A win for the Lions could set the tone for the rest of their Ivy League season.

BY THE NUMBERS

POINTS PER GAME

COLUMBIA	74.5
CORNELL	65.9

REBOUNDS PER GAME

COLUMBIA	38.0
CORNELL	31.9

POINTS ALLOWED

COLUMBIA	72.7
CORNELL	69.7

FIELD GOAL PCT.

COLUMBIA	.451
CORNELL	.395

KEY MATCHUPS

Noruwa Agho

Errick Peck

In last week's game, sophomore Cornell forward Errick Peck scored 14 points and had six rebounds. Coach Smith hopes to contain Peck by matching him up against junior guard Noruwa Agho, who had 25 points in last week's matchup. Agho must keep a close watch on Peck, who managed to glide through Columbia's defense last week.



Brian Barbour

Chris Wroblewski

Even though Cornell's star junior guard Chris Wroblewski had an off shooting game last weekend, he still managed to score 14 points against the Light Blue. A repeat poor performance by the Big Red captain is unlikely, so the Lions will depend on sophomore guard Brian Barbour, who contributed 21 points himself, to keep Wroblewski contained.



Wroblewski remains as last key piece of dominant '10 team

BY TREVOR COHEN  
Columbia Daily Spectator

Cornell guard Chris Wroblewski's first collegiate media call-out was easy to miss. Buried in a Cornell Daily Sun article about the overcrowding of the school's unexpectedly large class of '12, the new freshman was briefly quoted—not about basketball, but about his cramped, uncomfortable sleeping conditions. Wroblewski soon became more than just another face in a class of 3,183, though, establishing a presence on the basketball court and making headlines ever since.

This weekend, the Light Blue heads to Ithaca's Newman Arena to prove that last Sunday's handling of Cornell was no fluke. To win the season series for the first time in nine years, Columbia will have to keep junior Wroblewski—whose conspicuous 0-for-11 start last Saturday isn't likely to become habit—at bay.

The Cornell tri-captain broke into the league two years ago as an immediate impact player. Just three games into the season, he stepped in for injured point guard Louis Dale, the then-reigning Ivy League Player of the Year, and filled a crucial role in his absence. When Dale returned, Ski (Wroblewski's confusion-reducing nickname) continued to contribute alongside Dale to give the Big Red an extra spark on offense.

"Every time he shoots, you expect it to go in," said his high school coach, Paul Harris, in an interview with the Lake County News-Sun when Wroblewski was a senior at Highland Park High School. "You're kind of surprised when it doesn't. And the thing about Chris is that he's so smooth."

In his debut Ivy League home

game against Columbia two years ago, Wroblewski ran the offense for the first half while Dale was in foul trouble, helping Cornell to an 11-point home victory with a game-high five assists. Wroblewski quickly became known for his high-percentage 3-point shooting, assists, and low turnover rates. With an inaugural season good enough to win him Ivy League Rookie of the Year honors, Wroblewski helped Cornell to an 11-3 conference record to defend its Ivy championship.

After Cornell won its third straight Ivy League title and advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament last year, the Big Red lost a key group of graduating seniors, including Dale, center Jeff Foote, and Ivy League player of the year, Ryan Wittman, making Wroblewski the only player left this season with two years of starting experience. Despite a lower projected finish for Cornell and his increased responsibilities, Wroblewski seemed unfazed coming into the season.

"I don't feel any pressure," Wroblewski said in an interview with the Daily Sun. "I'm looking forward to stepping into a new role as a leader and kind of embracing the challenge of it."

He's certainly elevated his game to fill that role, leading the team with an average of 15.5 points per game this season and trailing only junior guard Drew Ferry in minutes played. In Cornell's last non-conference game against Stony Brook, Wroblewski shot 8-for-13 from the field for a career-high 29 points. He'll now look to carry that momentum into Ivy League play, viewing Sunday's loss to Columbia as a mere speed bump on Cornell's path to a repeat title.



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**STRONG START** | Junior guard Chris Wroblewski first made an impact in his freshman year after filling in for junior point guard Louis Dale.

"This year, we're not only being written off nationally but also in the Ivy League," Wroblewski said before the season started. "I think this year's team is going to be playing with a chip on its shoulder, which will motivate us even more."

Columbia certainly isn't expecting the all-Ivy Leaguer to remain dormant again this weekend. "[His

struggles] made a big difference, because he's a key for them," junior shooting guard Noruwa Agho said after the game. "He's a great player. I'm sure he won't start 0-for-11—maybe for the rest of the season."

Whether or not Cornell will be able to match its past success, Wroblewski has made sure the Lions won't be sleeping easy before



# GAMEDAY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21 • PAGE 6



## Lions start path to promising basketball year

Those of us who carefully follow sports trends around campus are starting to pay attention to the men's basketball team.

It now holds a 10-5 overall record, and fans are starting to get excited. The Lions have won seven out of their last eight games. They are 7-1 at home. On Saturday, they knocked off Cornell, last year's Ivy champion, by a four-point margin after a finish that was way too close. And star junior guard Noruwa Agho is leading the Ancient Eight with 16.9 points per game and has a legitimate shot to win Ivy League Player of the Year. But it's too early to get our hopes up.

There are a lot of positive signs. This year's freshman class is very talented and has already worked its way into the starting lineup. Steve Frankoski, a first-year guard, has emerged as the team's three-point specialist. The sharpshooter from New Jersey is shooting over 40 percent from



JACOB LEVENFELD

### Eye on the Ball

SEE LEVENFELD, page 4

## THE SLATE



**MEN'S BASKETBALL**  
at Cornell  
Ithaca, N.Y.  
Saturday, 4:30 p.m.



**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**  
at Cornell  
Ithaca, N.Y.  
Saturday, 2 p.m.



**MEN'S TENNIS**  
vs. Boston College  
Dick Savitt Tennis Center  
Saturday, 2:30 p.m.



**MEN'S FENCING**  
NYU Duals  
New York, N.Y.  
Saturday, 8 a.m.



**WOMEN'S FENCING**  
NYU Duals  
New York, N.Y.  
Saturday, 8 a.m.



**MEN'S FENCING**  
St. John's Super Cup  
Jamaica, N.Y.  
Sunday, 10 a.m.



**WOMEN'S FENCING**  
St. John's Super Cup  
Jamaica, N.Y.  
Sunday, 10 a.m.



**MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING**  
at Cornell  
Ithaca, N.Y.  
Friday, 4 p.m.



**WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING**  
at Cornell  
Ithaca, N.Y.  
Saturday, 3 p.m.



**MEN'S SQUASH**  
vs. Navy  
StreetSquash Facility  
Friday, 7:30 p.m.



**WOMEN'S SQUASH**  
vs. Bates  
StreetSquash Facility  
Saturday, 12 p.m.



**WRESTLING**  
N.Y. State Tournament  
Binghamton, N.Y.  
Jan. 22-23, all-day



**TRACK AND FIELD**  
Ivy League Tri-Meet  
New York, N.Y.  
Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

## COLUMBIA (10-5, 1-0 Ivy) at CORNELL (4-11, 0-1 Ivy)

SATURDAY, 4:30 P.M., ITHACA, N.Y.

RADIO: WKCR 89.9 FM, WWDJ 970 AM • SPECTRUM.COLUMBIASPECTATOR.COM



ALYSON GOULDEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**MAKING AN IMPACT** | After scoring 21 points against Cornell, freshman guard Brianna Orlich scored only 9 points against St. Francis due to foul trouble.

## Women's basketball to try for third win at Cornell

BY SARAH SOMMER  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

The Columbia women's basketball team finishes its home-and-away series with Cornell on Saturday. The Lions are guaranteed at least a series split after beating the Big Red 61-54 at Levien Gymnasium on Jan. 15.

In the teams' first meeting, freshman guard Brianna Orlich scored a career-high 21 points to lead Columbia (2-13, 1-0 Ivy) to victory. The Lions shot 40.7 percent from the field while holding the Big Red to 29.4 percent. Freshman guard Stephanie Long scored a team-high 20

points for Cornell (3-12, 0-1) but missed 15 of 23 field goals.

Columbia followed its first victory of the season with its second, overtaking St. Francis (NY) 75-65 in a nonconference game on Wednesday. Orlich scored only nine points as she was plagued by foul trouble, eventually fouling out when called for a charge with 3:34 left in the game. It was junior guard Melissa Shafer who carried the Lions this time, tallying a career-high 24 points in 30 minutes off the bench.

Shafer led the Ivy League in three-point shooting percentage last year but has struggled from downtown this

season. On Wednesday, however, she hit six of eight three-pointers. Shafer also succeeded in setting up her teammates, recording a career-high six assists.

But Shafer is not the only bench player who has proven herself recently. Sophomore point guard Taylor Ball, who lost her starting spot after Columbia's first four games, has emerged as an explosive backup to freshman Taylor Ward. Ball played 19 minutes against St. Francis and shot 2-for-5 from the field while also grabbing two rebounds and making two assists. Two games earlier, against Lafayette, she achieved career highs

in points (nine), rebounds (five), steals (four), assists (three), and blocks (two) in 26 minutes.

Columbia has used a long bench in recent games in order to prepare for the rigors of back-to-back weekend matchups in Ivy League play. Eleven players saw action against Cornell, and 12 played against St. Francis. On Saturday, head coach Paul Nixon will likely continue to utilize his bench.

After 15 games, the Lions are finally looking comfortable as a team. Nixon

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, page 4

## Lions look to sweep Big Red this weekend

BY MOLLY TOW  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

The Columbia men's basketball team will look to sweep Cornell and stay undefeated in the Ivy League when it travels to Ithaca, N.Y., on Saturday. The Lions (10-5, 1-0 Ivy) edged out the Big Red (4-11, 0-1 Ivy) in their matchup last Saturday and hope to have the same success four hours north.

The Light Blue has won its last two games on the road and hopes to carry the positive momentum into Ithaca. In the matchup history between the two teams, Columbia has the winning record: a total of 119 victories to Cornell's 96, but the Lions haven't swept Cornell since the 2001-02 season and haven't won in Newman Arena since 2006. A victory on Saturday would continue Columbia's streak of successes as well as set a tone for the rest of conference play.

This will be head coach Kyle Smith's first trip to Cornell, but from what he has heard, it will be similar to his coaching experiences in Spokane vs. Gonzaga as an assistant for St. Mary's. "A cold town with a hot gym," he described it.

The first-year coach expects there to be some nerves, but Smith has already proven that he can put those uneasy feelings behind him at game time.

The Light Blue is approaching this game as it did the first, only making a few small adjustments and looking to guards Noruwa Agho, who is averaging nearly 17 points a game, and Brian Barbour to lead the team in scoring once again. Coach Smith hopes to improve on defending in transition. The Lions are currently giving up a total of 72.7 points per game, worst in the conference.

Last Saturday, Cornell's Drew Ferry, Errick Peck, and Chris Wroblewski all scored in the double figures. Coach Smith says that his plan for these three is to "give them different looks." He mentioned the possibility of trying



ALYSON GOULDEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**INSIDE PRESENCE** | Center Mark Cisco has been a key factor in the paint this season, dropping 14 points and pulling down seven boards against Cornell.

different people like freshman Meiko Lyles and junior Matt Johnson. Apart from variations in man defense, Smith said that the Light Blue is also "flirting with the 1-3-1 zone."

Another issue that surfaced during the last matchup was the issue of Cornell sophomore forward Errick Peck, who frequently seemed to disappear and escape Columbia defenders. Smith plans to put both Agho and Asenso Ampim on Peck on Saturday but realizes that no matter what, the all-purpose playmaker will be a significant threat. "He is a terrific, young, versatile player who will be on his home floor. It will pose a huge challenge," Smith said.

Up to this point, Cornell has been one the strongest team that Columbia has faced. "Their defensive pressure and mixing defenses poses a lot of challenges for our guards," Smith said.

Smith believes that in order to emerge victorious, the Lions must stay strong on the boards, both offensively and defensively. Thus far this season, the Lions have outrebounded their opponents by a margin of 6.8, led by sophomore center Mark Cisco, who has averaged 6.6 boards per game.

Smith understands the entertainment factor of the close games and small margins of victory but is confident that those games have taken a toll on his remaining years. "I feel like I need a bottle of Pepto next to me on the bench," Smith said.

All joking aside, the Lions know their game plan at this point. If they score like they have been scoring, step up the rebounding and defense, and throw in a few tricks, they can put the Big Red in an 0-2 hole to start the season.

Tip-off is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. at Newman Arena in Bartels Hall.

## Men's tennis resumes season against BC

BY KUNAL GUPTA  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

The short two-month offseason for the two-time defending Ivy League champion men's tennis team is over this weekend, as it begins nonconference play against ACC foe Boston College on Saturday at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center in each team's first dual match of the season.

"You know it's only one week [of practice], but we've been playing a lot of matches, and we're going to figure it out," said head coach Bid Goswami. "I think it will be better than the fall—they're looking sharp when they're playing. I think everyone looks pretty good. They played a lot over winter break, but it's one thing to practice, and it's another to play well in real matches."

Columbia, ranked No. 48 in the most recent ITA poll, is the highest-ranked Ivy squad but is coming off a fall season that saw mixed results. The team lost its top two singles players—who also formed the No. 1 doubles team last year—to graduation in May and saw injuries limit current No. 1 singles player Haig Schneiderman. Schneiderman, who played No. 3 singles last spring and went 7-0 in Ivy play, injured his back late in the summer. He played in only three fall tournaments and missed a significant amount of practice and match play in the middle of the season. When he did return for the USA/ITA National Intercollegiate Indoor Championships in November, he played well against two players ranked in the top 10 in the nation, but lost both matches to eliminate himself from the tournament.

Freshman Alex Yermanos didn't play at all in the fall due to a wrist injury that occurred just before school started. Yermanos was ranked in the top 30 in the nation as a high school junior. The injury bug bit once more at the end of

SEE TENNIS, page 4



# Weekend

ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT • FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2011 • PAGE 1



CHABLI BRAVO FOR SPECTATOR

## Play it cool with outdoor winter activities



CHABLI BRAVO FOR SPECTATOR

**ICE COLD** | Risk-takers towel off on the Coney Island boardwalk after participating in one of the Polar Bear Club's Saturday dips—which occur weekly throughout the winter—into the near-frozen waters off the island's snow-muddled beaches.

### WINTER BATHING

Baby, it's cold outside, but that hasn't stopped fun-loving health enthusiasts of the Coney Island Polar Bear Club from plunging into the frigid Atlantic Ocean since 1903. As the oldest winter bathing organization in the United States, members of this offbeat sports club take a chilly dip off of Coney Island every Sunday from November through April.

Some Polar Bears cite the health benefits of winter bathing—such as improved stamina and immunity—but for others, it's just plain exhilarating. After hopping off the 1 then Q trains, swimmers are invited to dip their toes and take leaps into the freezing waters. Participants can warm up afterwards with a steaming order of Nathan's Famous hot dogs topped with a generous amount of sauerkraut. If that boardwalk favorite doesn't cut it, head over to the towering Cyclone roller coaster—its twists and turns are enough to raise anyone's heart rate back up.

This alternative winter sport takes a dive into the mainstream when the Polar Bears host their popular annual New Year's Day swim. To the delight and shock of thousands of onlookers, participants brave the cold and sprint into the Atlantic to temperature-defying and hangover-erasing cheers. Donning itty-bitty bikinis, tiny Speedos, or full-on bathing suits, swimmers dot the Coney Island shoreline in this seasonal spectacle. The ensuing frolicking in the sea is for a good cause—helping to raise money for Camp Sunshine, a charity that supports children with life-threatening illnesses.

Winter bathing might just be the perfect winter activity for avid Columbian swimmers who are bold enough to turn up the heat while keeping their cool.

—Claire Fu

### MOONLIGHT RIDES

Need some motivation to accomplish that New Year's resolution to exercise more? Head over to Central Park for a bike ride under the night sky. Breezing through the park's winter wonderland of snowy slopes will literally take one's breath away.

Less than two hours in duration and under 10 miles long, the Moonlight Ride is a free guided bike tour through Central Park that meets on the first Friday of the month from July to March at the Columbus Circle entrance (Broadway and 59th Street) at 10 p.m. Far less hazardous than cycling alongside cars on the streets, the nighttime tour also avoids the pedestrians strolling the park all day long.

During the ride, bikers travel along the Central Park loop road and other park paths. Rollerblading is also welcomed—though not recommended for the faint of heart. Rollerbladers must be competent enough to keep up with bikers. And since moonlight can't

be counted on to entirely brighten the paths, smart riders might want to pack a bike light or flashlight.

The scenery in Central Park is especially picturesque in the winter with snow-capped trees enclosing the blanketed grounds and iced-over pools. Though the pace of the tour is leisurely to medium, stops are made at scenic spots, and the group rides past prominent landmarks such as the Bethesda Fountain and the Harlem Meer.

Not only is nighttime biking a workout to help students get closer to exercise-based New Year's goals, but Moonlight Rides are also environmentally friendly. The monthly event is sponsored by TIME'S UP!—a New York grassroots environmental group that educates people about living sustainably in the city, in this case by choosing eco-friendly transportation. Going green—and experiencing snowy white—is only a bike ride away.

—Julia An

Winter break is over but winter fun is not. Any number of Columbians sled and skate their way through New York winters, but only the daring venture into lesser-known winter activity territory. Dare on. Spice up boots with snowshoes and ditch hockey for broomball at different parks in Queens, take a thriller of a dip in the icy waters off of Coney Island, or chase the moon with a snowy nighttime bike ride through Central Park. There is outdoor fun to be had by hearty Columbians of all stripes—even as snowflakes and temperatures continue to fall.

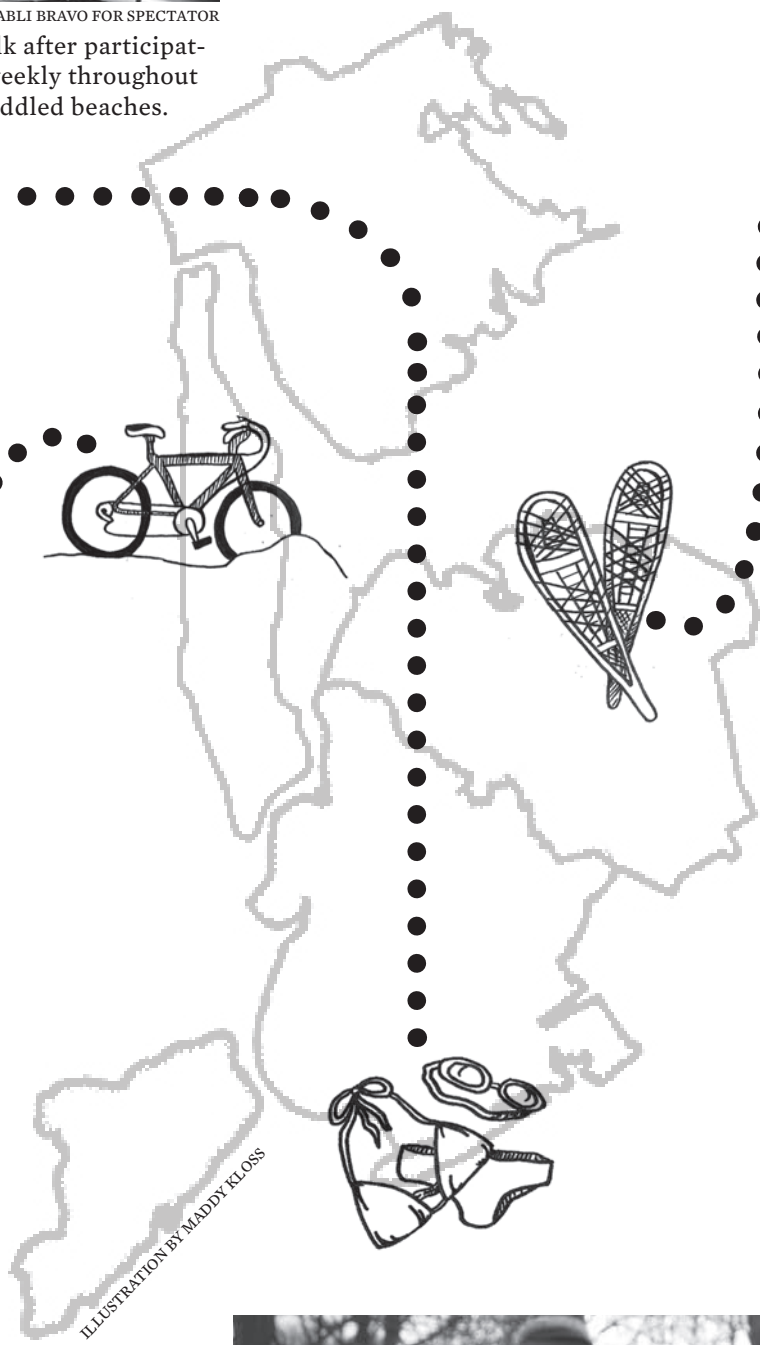
### SNOWSHOE AND BROOMBALL

Make tracks where Matinecock Indians and the original Yankees once did at Fort Totten Park. The park, which rests inside a modernized Civil War fortress, is located between Totten and 15th roads along Cross Island Parkway in Queens' Bayside neighborhood. The trek to upper New York or Massachusetts for powder skiing may be too much for most students, but floating atop fresh fluff in snowshoes can be just as fun.

Fort Totten's park services organize weekend snowshoeing events throughout the winter (weather permitting) and provide free snowshoes to boot. Literally, snowshoes attach to any old pair of boots. Events start at the park's main gates on 212th Street at 1 p.m., which means students needn't leave campus until after 11:30 a.m. The hour-and-a-half trek requires transfers from the 1 train to the 7 train to the Q16 bus. Snowshoeing is a couple-hour activity at most, so adventurers can still be back by dinnertime.

A slightly shorter hour and 10 minutes into Queens and accessible by subway alone (take the 1 then the E train to the 67th Avenue stop) is the 1,255 acre Flushing Meadows Corona Park. Here, those looking for a bit more physical exertion can cross-country ski around Meadow Lake or partake in a bit of classic Canadian broomball at the park's World Ice Arena. Broomball is hockey, grassroots style—with brooms and balls instead of sticks and pucks. It takes a hefty chunk of change for a broomball team to sign up with the NYC Social Sports Club (\$125 for a month-long session), but hey—brooms aren't as easy to come by as they used to be.

—Allison Malecha



MARIA CASTEX / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**SNOW TRACKS** | Central Park offers guided bike tours by moonlight the first Friday of every month, even through the winter when trails are crusted in snow and the park is transformed into a white wonderland.



Best of

Indoor Activities

Looking to avoid the cold weather and spend some free time off campus this semester? New York City is full of indoor activities that will keep students out on the town but away from the bitter cold outside. —BY DANIELLE ARONOWITZ

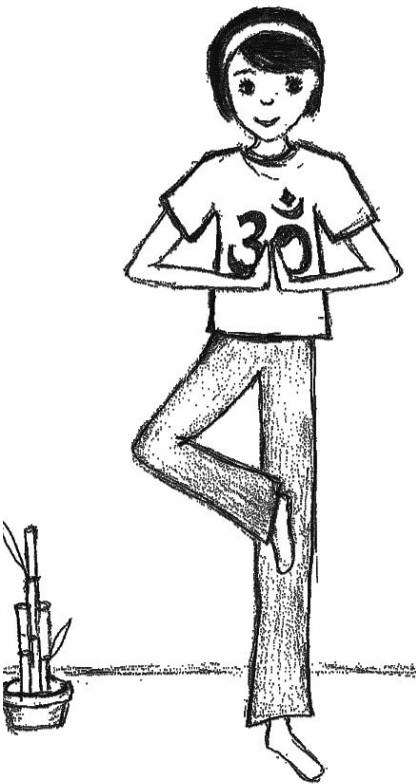


ILLUSTRATION BY REBECCA SCHWARZ

Yoga to the People

Those looking to stretch their dollar can head down to one of the “Yoga to the People” hot yoga studio locations (1017 Sixth Ave., at 38th Street, and 115 W. 27th St., between Sixth and Seventh avenues). Classes, like Hot Vinyasa and Traditional Hot Yoga, are held throughout the day for 60-90 minutes. Men and women of all ages and skill levels are welcome to attend as long as they come prepared to sweat with a mat, a towel, and water. The classes cost \$5 each, and if a mat and towel prove impossible to find, they are available for rent at \$2 each. Evening classes can fill up quickly, so yogis should make sure to arrive at least ten minutes early.

Fat Cat

Those with a competitive edge can show it off in a game of pool, shuffleboard, ping-pong, or even Scrabble at the famous West Village gaming lounge, Fat Cat (75 Christopher St., at Seventh Avenue). Get into a heated match of backgammon or just lounge around in one of the comfy couches lining the venue and enjoy the live jazz music featured most nights. There is a \$3 cover at the door and additional hourly rates for the different games available. The competitive bar is raised even farther on Sunday afternoons and Tuesday evenings when the Fat Cat hosts ping-pong and foosball tournaments.

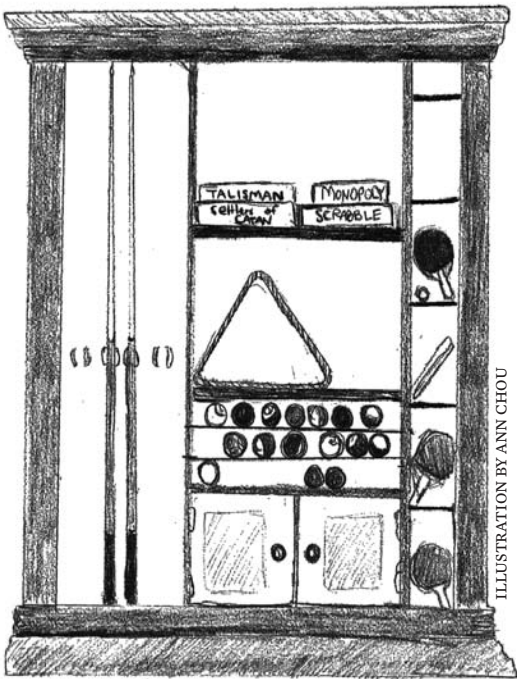


ILLUSTRATION BY ANN CHOU

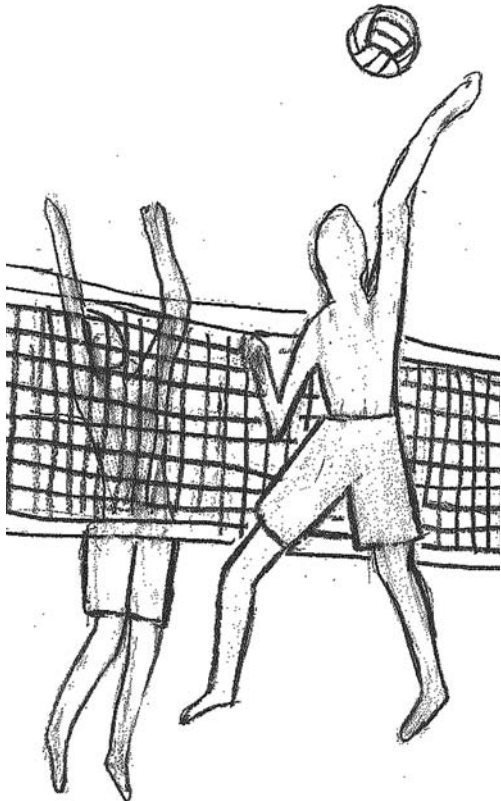


ILLUSTRATION BY ANN CHOU

Chelsea Piers Sports Club

If the winter months spark an urge to spend a day at the beach, why not gather a group of friends for a game of indoor beach volleyball? That’s right, slide in the sand in January at Chelsea Piers Sports Center (Pier 60, at 23rd Street and the Hudson River) between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Beach volleyball tournaments, advanced beach volleyball classes, and open play games—available to people of all skill levels—are held on an indoor court. Unless they are already members, students will have to get a day pass (\$50), which allows access to all of the club’s amenities. To take full advantage, visitors can also go for a swim in the indoor pool or climb up one of the 46-foot bouldering walls.

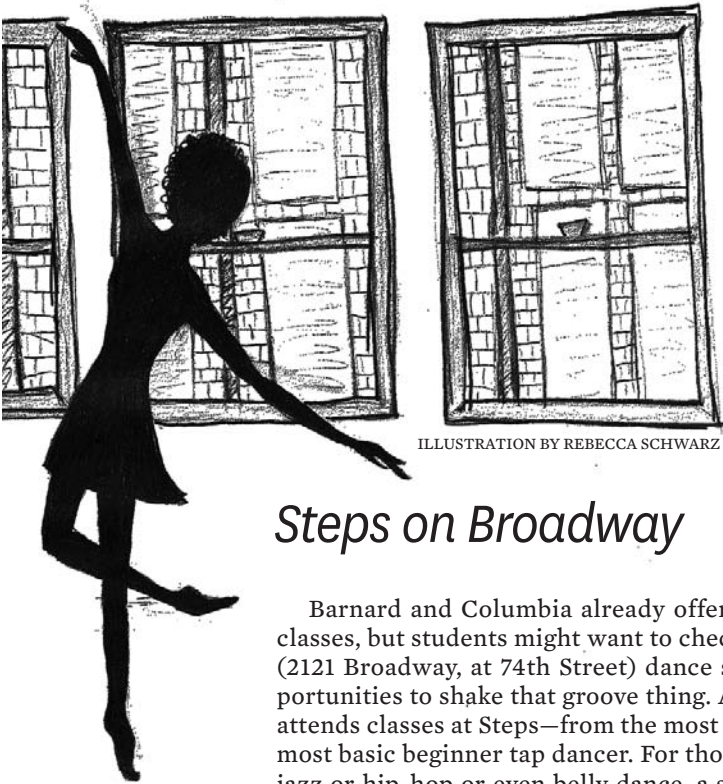


ILLUSTRATION BY REBECCA SCHWARZ

Steps on Broadway

Barnard and Columbia already offer a large variety of dance classes, but students might want to check out Steps on Broadway (2121 Broadway, at 74th Street) dance studio for even more opportunities to shake that groove thing. A broad range of students attends classes at Steps—from the most advanced ballerina to the most basic beginner tap dancer. For those hoping to learn a bit of jazz or hip-hop or even belly dance, a single class is \$17, while a 10-class series pass costs \$155.



JOSE GIRALT / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FILM FILES | The Museum of the Moving Image in Queens has seen crowds pouring in since its recent reopening following pricey renovations on the inside and out that took three years to complete.

Museum of the Moving Image is set into motion after expensive and lengthy renovations

BY ANDREA FOLDS  
Columbia Daily Spectator

Sixty-seven million dollars and a three-year face-lift later, the Museum of the Moving Image is finally re-open for business. And with the museum’s monumental expansion—nearly doubling its size and radically diversifying its schedule of exhibits—it’s almost easier to see it as a brand new entity than to compare it to its former self.

Architect Thomas Leiser’s work on the building has achieved an air of glamour for the museum’s exterior that matches its subject. David Schwartz, chief curator since 1985, likened the museum’s need to constantly modernize to the ever-changing nature of the moving image itself.

“We’re all about the art form that changes most quickly,” Schwartz said, “and we’ve got to respond to that.”

Crowds have already been seen pouring into the museum since its opening a few days ago on Jan. 15. Its attractions appeal to more than just the hardcore cinephile, according to Schwartz, which makes the museum a must-see for a broader category of New Yorkers.

“It sounds cliché, but really, we’ve got something for everyone,” Schwartz said. “There were too many art forms we wanted to display but couldn’t, so we had to expand. We even had school groups that we were turning away because we didn’t have room.”

Babysitting? Attend the convenient family matinee screenings of “Coraline,” “Oliver Twist,” and more. Aspiring tyrant? Check out the newly released film “Dolls vs. Dictators” for inspiration or dissuasion, playing continuously through April 10.

Plagued by the original question of whether anything is real? Trip through “Real Virtuality.” The exhibit’s six installations range in subject matter from Chinese capitalism to dreams to forest landscapes, which are controlled by the viewer’s own movements.

To start off its reopening with a bang, the museum played host to the fourth annual Cinema Eye Honors on Jan. 18. The night’s reception had an audience as diverse as the exhibits themselves but united by its zeal for documentary filmmaking. The Cinema Eye was created to celebrate the tradition of documentaries—which are admittedly under-appreciated by mainstream awards—and to distinguish the most innovative, progressive pieces of the year.

The ceremony’s spillover into a three-hour ordeal seemed to concern no one—a good sign of an enraptured audience. Throughout the night, celebrated film persons presented the Cinema Eye award (a comically heavy metal eyeball with 10 spiky lashes) to winners in fourteen different categories.

“There were too many art forms we wanted to display but couldn’t, so we had to expand.”  
—David Schwartz, chief curator

Among the presenters were indie filmmakers the Ross brothers, John Flansburgh from “They Might Be Giants,” experimental animator Emily Hubley, Academy Award-winning director Ross Kauffman, and Harry Shearer of “The Simpsons” and “Spinal Tap.”

Segments from the films, commemorations to beloved film heroes, and awkward jokes interspersed throughout the night provided possibly more excitement than the award announcements themselves. “Last Train Home” stole the show, winning three awards, with “Exit Through the Gift Shop” directly behind it, winning two.

The ceremony’s most controversial category—the Heterodox Award—went to “Putty Hill” for its brave sallying forth from the conventional confines of the documentary genre. On the opposite end, the Legacy Award was given to Albert Maysles’ “Grey Gardens,” and upon accepting it, Maysles pointedly declared his belief in the veracity of documentaries above all else.

Everyone laughed but was clearly on the same page at some level. Shearer hinted at the continuing relevance of documentaries: “We’re in a culture where the entire concept of reality has been turned into a combination of a joke and a fraud.” Those putting themselves on the line and behind the camera for documentaries are trying to bring reality back, and that seems to warrant celebration—even at a museum that highlights an ever-broader stretch of cinematic styles.





COURTESY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER OF PHOTOGRAPHY

**WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS** | Along with “Wang Qingsong” and “Jasper, Texas,” “Take Me to the Water” is one of three new exhibitions that brings historical traditions back into the forefront.

## International Center of Photography shows the big picture with diverse new exhibitions

BY CHRISTINA VLAHOS  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Buddhas holding beer bottles, homecoming queens, and communities congregating to observe an archaic ritual: However unrelated and bizarre these three images may seem, they are but a taste of what one will find in the collections currently displayed at the International Center of Photography (1114 Avenue of the Americas, at 43rd Street).

Friday marks the opening of what Brian Wallis, chief curator of the ICP, called “an eclectic and fascinating group of ... exhibitions.” The International Center of Photography introduces three new exhibitions that will run Jan. 21 to May 8: “Wang Qingsong: When Worlds Collide,” “Jasper, Texas: The Community Photographs of Alonzo Jordan,” and “Take Me to the Water: Photographs of River Baptisms.”

Qingsong, a leader of the contemporary Chinese art scene, designs his images to critique different social and political phenomena. In his exhibit, Qingsong explores three different “collisions”—the collision between traditional Chinese culture and commercial revolution, between Chinese culture and Western culture, and between the hopes for and the reality of life for migrant workers in China. Each of Qingsong’s large-scale and sardonic photographs is staged in a film studio. From downright gruesome interpretations of the lack of human personality in modern society to colorful commentaries on the transformation of bathhouses into centers for underground sex trade, Qingsong’s compositions are dramatic and affecting.

The second exhibitionist and a barber by profession, Alonzo Jordan made it his objective to

photographically represent the black demographic of Jasper, Texas—the scene of an infamous 1998 hate crime. His exhibit documents local events and milestones in individuals’ lives, immortalizing their intimate moments in his images. Jordan explores the different dimensions of life in Jasper, portraying both the emptiness of the small rural town’s Main Street and the liveliness of the Rowe High School marching band. His snapshots capture the energy and the essence of a community, and he treats his subjects with dignity.

“Take Me to the Water” does not showcase the work of a single photographer but instead, consists of material collected over 25 years from multiple sources. The exhibit covers photographs of river baptisms throughout the rural United States where—as part of a Christian revival movement—some congregations participate in full-immersion baptisms in rivers. The area of focus in the images is not the baptized individual, but rather, the content seems to emphasize the entire spectacle of the practice.

Commenting on the unconventional exhibition, Wallis said that it brings forth “fugitive photographic materials—things that look like throwaways or might not generally be considered museum objects—into the arena of discussion and applying to those seemingly ephemeral bits of photographic culture the same level of scholarship and research that you would apply to any sort of art historical icon.”

The International Center for Photography’s new exhibits join “The Mexican Suitcase, Rediscovered Spanish Civil War negatives by Capa, Chim, and Taro” in an effort to encompass a full picture of the many applications of the photographic art form.

## Cyber love at first click seems more and more prevalent but doesn’t always work out

By some miracle, the prettiest girl at the party let me take her out on a date. We talked and giggled nervously over Indian food, and I almost kissed her among shelves of old records. I wanted to see her again, but she didn’t return my call, my text, or even my Facebook poke. After a few days, a mutual friend broke the news to me: Miracle Girl had started an OKCupid account and was searching for British men ages 25-45. She had moved on.

Online dating used to be for total losers, but now, even hot girls are doing it, especially around this time of year—when it’s cold outside, and store aisles are filled with stuffed gorillas that sing love songs. To our generation, browsing online dating profiles just feels like Facebook-stalking, and we’ve been desensitized from the creepiness of both. Many students also like the practical aspect of online dating—rather than going to Strand and waiting to run into the next datable person reading the same obscure, yet deeply meaningful book as us by crazy random happenstance, online dating allows us to simply plug in our preferences and search.

Dating websites geared specifically toward Columbia students include DateMySchool and LoveAtCU, but one of the most popular sites among students in general is OKCupid. The fulcrum of OKCupid is a never-ending personality quiz that every user can take—with questions like “Would it bother you if a partner likes to cross dress?” In addition to answering “yes” or “no” to each question, the user also indicates how an Ideal Match would answer each question and how important that answer is to him or her (“Irrelevant” to “Mandatory”). The more questions the user answers, the more accurate matches are supposed to become.

“I answered like 200 of those questions when I was bored,” said Marshall\*, who started using OKCupid after a semester full of boring first dates. One day, an adorkable boy showed up in his top matches. But Marshall hadn’t set his geographic filters—Mr. Adorkable lived a thousand miles away. Marshall sent him a message anyway, thinking he would make a good friend. They fell in love instead—over casual talking, which became “date nights” (talking face-to-face over Skype, then watching a movie together on the internet), which became visits to see each other. They are so cute that even the most cynical of Marshall’s friends have to admit that the usually cold Marshall has a soul when they see the couple together.



LUCY SUN

**Column  
Queerbot**

On the other hand, Joan\* met someone who seemed awesome on the internet—he regaled her with tales from his academic research on the city’s lesbian dominatrix scene and of his nights out as a “fag stag” (a straight man who hangs out with gay guys and hooks up with the hot girls who tend to orbit around them). Joan and Mr. Stag decided on a first date at New York City’s No Pants Subway Ride—a flash mob of people who meet at a pre-arranged time and place to ride the subway, drop trou, and soak in the ensuing awkwardness. Mr. Stag showed up hung-over, which might have been excusable had he not been so boring.

Chemistry is hard to capture in an algorithm, especially because at least part of chemistry isn’t rational at all—it’s that element in someone that makes us drop the shopping list of traits we thought we wanted in another person and say, “I want that one.” The ability to see another person as a person and not as a bucket of traits is probably the very acorn of love.

**Online dating used to be for total losers, but now, even hot girls are doing it, especially around this time of year—when it’s cold outside and store aisles are filled with stuffed gorillas that sing love songs.**

While online dating websites like OKCupid give us the opportunity to articulate what it is we want in a lover, sometimes we have to admit that we don’t know what we want. While I’ve had wonderful lovers who I could have programmed into existence according to the specs important to me at the time (and I swear I wasn’t dating robots), I highly doubt OKCupid would have matched me with my current boyfriend.

“What, out of curiosity, would have weeded me out?” he asked.

“You’re a Republican, among other things,” I told him. Really, I didn’t know what I wanted until I met him. OKCupid would have assumed that I at least had a rough sketch.

*\*All names have been changed.*

*Lucy Sun is a Columbia College senior majoring in economics. Queerbot runs alternate Fridays.*

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Ashley Maclean

Israel Martinez

Amal Moussa

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Ryuji Wolf

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# Flipside Guide

## NYCB 2011 season

Famed ballet company pirouettes into the new year at Lincoln Center

BY GARNET HENDERSON AND MARICELA GONZALEZ  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Thanks to the popularity of Darren Aronofsky’s dark thriller “Black Swan,” ballet is having a major pop culture moment. Luckily for Columbia students, there is ample opportunity to explore the ballet world with the kick-off of the New York City Ballet’s 2011 season.

In its current season, which runs through Feb. 27 at the David H. Koch Theater at Lincoln Center, NYCB has chosen to highlight the diversity of its repertoire in an effort to offer something for everyone. The NYCB’s performances also encompass influences from a wide range of styles of dance, including ballet, jazz, experimental, and modern.

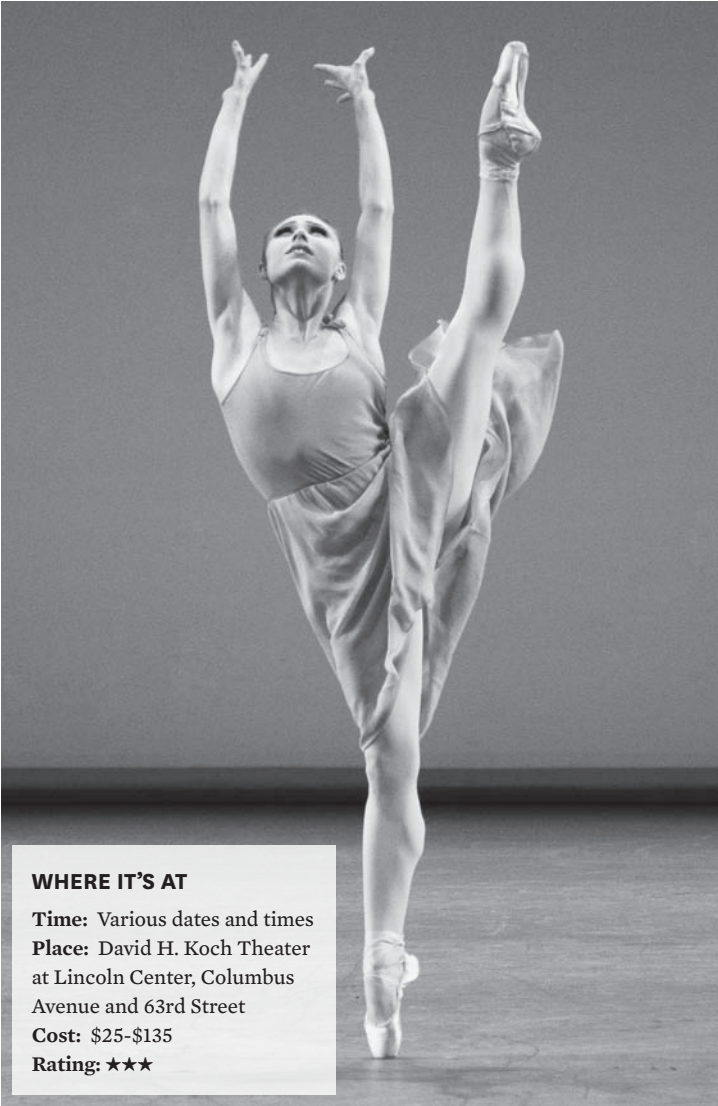
The season opened on Jan. 18 with a celebration of the works of George Balanchine, a founding choreographer of NYCB. On Jan. 22, which also happens to be Balanchine’s birthday, there will be performances of his “Walpurgisnacht Ballet,” “Duo Concertant,” “The Four Temperaments,” and “Cortège Hongrois.” Balanchine’s ballets range from the classical to the acrobatic to the avant-garde and look to challenge preconceptions about the centuries-old art form.

The NYCB similarly dedicated the second night of the season, Jan. 19, to its other co-founding choreographer, Jerome Robbins. Robbins was an acclaimed ballet choreographer but also choreographed iconic Broadway productions such as “West Side Story” and “Fiddler on the Roof.”

The Robbins program, which will be performed again on Jan. 25, showcased three distinct dance pieces. The first piece of the night, “Dances at a Gathering,” explored the relationships between a group of five women and five men. At times, the dancers brooded over complications of love, and at other times, drew laughs from the audience in comedic moments. The second piece, “NY Export: Opus Jazz,” was a vibrant tribute to popular jazz dances of the late 1950s. Dancers in brightly colored costumes flew, skipped, slid, and gyrated to lively music, exuding infectious energy.

In addition to its vibrant and diverse season—including its own production of “Swan Lake” from Feb. 13 to 22—the NYCB’s discount student tickets are an attraction. Student rush tickets are available at nycballet.com, and TIC also offers discounts for Columbia students every Thursday from now until Feb. 24. For those new to the art form and those well-versed in it alike, NYCB’s accessible and affordable performances make a good case to go out to the ballet.

Flipside Guide Theater reviews are evaluated for: storyline, quality of acting, originality, production value/spectacle, composition, and student interest.



COURTESY OF PAUL KOLNIK FOR NYCB

EN POINTE | An NYCB dancer shows her stuff in a performance of George Balanchine’s choreographed works on Jan. 19.

### events

FILM  
**Pee-wee’s Big Adventure**  
—IFC Center, 323 Sixth Ave. (at West 3rd Street), Friday and Saturday, 12:05 a.m., \$13.

Time travel back to 1985 to see this hilarious cult classic on the silver screen. Tim Burton’s debut feature and the movie that introduced Pee-wee to a generation of unsuspecting children was seemingly made for college kids to watch this late at night.

THEATER  
**Rough Magic**  
—Center for Performance Research, 361 Manhattan Ave. (between Jackson and Withers streets), Friday, Jan. 21, 8 p.m., \$18.

See “The Tempest” in a whole new light. This production transports the Shakespeare play to contemporary Manhattan and refashions Prospero as a sort of magician. The reimagined supporting cast includes “Linda Summers, a graduate student at Columbia University.”

WILD CARD  
**Oprah’s Legends Ball Live!**  
—Union Hall, 702 Union St. (between Fifth and Sixth avenues), Park Slope, Friday, Jan. 21, 10 p.m., 21+, free.

Catch up with one of Oprah’s finest hours on television yet the right way. Comedian Eliot Glazer presents this two-hour special about a three-day weekend party “featuring every famous black lady ever (except Whoopi Goldberg)” with commentary, special guests, and prizes.

ART  
**Free**  
—New Museum of Contemporary Art, 255 Bowery (at Prince Street), now through Sunday, \$8 with CUID.

Discover digital art inspired and generated by the internet in this comprehensive exhibit that includes photography, installation, video art, and more. While at the Museum, also check out “Voice and Wind: Haegue Yang,” which explores the sensory experience of the domestic space.

## ‘The Diary’ exhibit

Viewers read the minds of historical greats at the Morgan Library

BY MELISSA HANEY  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

I know what you are thinking. I know where you live. I know your favorite TV show is Friends. I do not, however, know you. In-depth Facebook stalking and constant Twitter alerts may be a bit creepy, but they have undoubtedly proved the universality of the human experience.

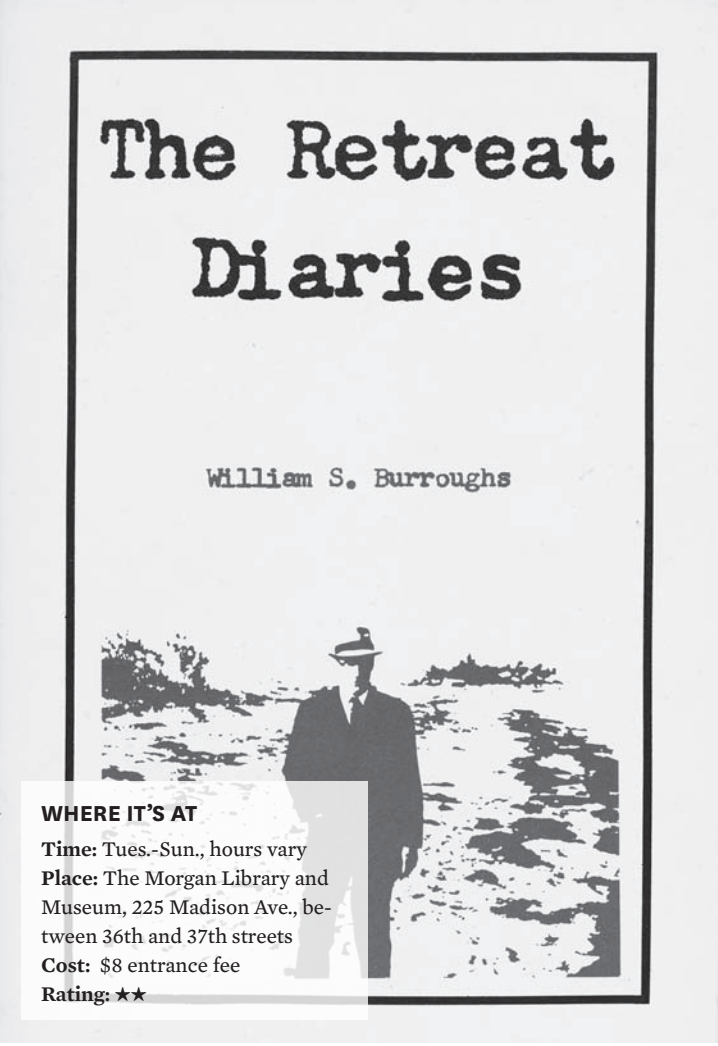
Walk into “The Diary: Three Centuries of Private Lives” at The Morgan Library and Museum (29 E. 36th St., between Park and Madison avenues), and this truth validates itself through more traditional means—meticulous record keeping of everyday life in the most basic form, a diary.

This new exhibition, which opens Jan. 21, accords an intimate look into the lives of notable people from the American Revolution to September 11th, demonstrating just how similar we all are. Visitors have the chance to read the handwritten tales of men like J.P. Morgan himself, who, at the age of twelve, spent time sled-ding, playing cards, and laughing with his dad, just like all other boys his age.

Featured within the exhibition are numerous volumes of personal records kept by author Henry David Thoreau while at Walden Pond. These books, bound with colorful flaps and full of sketches inspired by the nature around him, offer a more accessible look into the complex sentiments of the famous thinker. Certain inspirational excerpts marveling at the intricacies of life even appear to be Twitter post themselves. “Still streams run deep,” he writes—perfectly adhering to the 140-word blurbs of contemplation many member of the website strive to provide.

Many of the worn pages come with inspirational retrospectives, reminiscent of the times one re-reads those embarrassing old Xanga posts. After flipping through pages of previous entries, many authors remark how they were at first full of shame or embarrassment at foolish or naïve sentiments long past. Upon further reflection, however, most note that they were instead grateful, thankful for the lessons and evidence of growth the dated lines present.

Christine Nelson, curator of the exhibition, stated that society is in an “era of self-revelation,” but, as the words of each narrative demonstrate,



COURTESY OF THE MORGAN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

DEAR DIARY | The personal diaries of historical figures from William S. Burroughs to J.P. Morgan are on display at the Morgan.

this phenomenon appears to be nothing new. Keeping track of ones personal experience, whether it be through means of a quill pen, lead pencil, or touch-screen keyboard, provides a source of sanity, and a means of reflection integral to truly enjoying all aspects of the world.

Flipside Guide Book reviews are evaluated for: storyline, literary style, creativity, and student interest.



ATRIRA MAIN FOR SPECTATOR

KIMCHI CRAFT | Chef Hooni Kim’s recently opened restaurant has disappointing takes on traditional and modern fusion Korean food.

## Danji

Seoul food at new Midtown eatery seems over-priced and under-flavored, serving unimpressive fare despite head chef’s culinary celebrity status

BY JASON BELL  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

High prices and small portions rarely translate into a successful restaurant experience for students. At Danji, chef Hooni Kim takes advantage of basic arithmetic: ordering many “shareable” Korean small plates equals a hefty check. Kim, a veteran of Daniel and Masa, fails to meet the expectations that follow such a star-studded resume.

Located on a dreary Midtown block, Danji boasts a 33-seat dining room with banal tunes playing in the background. Menus can be found hidden inside the tables, as diners awkwardly pull open a drawer to reveal a secret compartment. Divided into “traditional” and “modern” categories, the options range from butternut squash congee, or rice porridge, to fried calamari with wasabi mayo. After pausing to contemplate an exquisite (and deliciously complimentary) cup of roasted corn tea, the choices seem clear: stick to conventional Korean classics, or travel back to 2001 for a rousing rendition of unimaginative fusion fare.

From the traditional side of the menu, try Danji’s interpretation of “k.f.c.”—Korean fried chicken. Popular enough to spawn a successful fast food chain, BonChon, Korean fried chicken tastes similar to the American version, albeit much gooiier and spicier. Here, five plump wings come stacked in a sticky pile, coated with garlic, soy, honey, and sesame. This chicken merits a list of food writing clichés: crispy, crunchy, meaty, juicy. But without any nuance or fiery kick, these wings are hardly the work of such an accomplished chef. Super Bowl Sunday, maybe, but refined? More than a feather short.

Another traditional option—“Danji” braised short ribs—comes

swimming in a viscous broth with fingerling potatoes and pearl onions. Presumably cooked in a danji, or clay pot, the short ribs disintegrate when prodded with a chopstick. Settling down to Danji’s short ribs nearly rivals an evening of Bubbe’s Brisket. The meat feels almost insubstantial in its tenderness, like biting through a marshmallow. This composition more clearly showcases Kim’s technical skill.

Unfortunately, spicy yellowtail sashimi seems calibrated for Milquetoast’s palate. Modern in its combination of Japanese technique and Korean sauce (cho jang, a red vinegary condiment), the concept underlying this dish is hardly original. Japan holds no monopoly over raw fish—in Korea, hwel refers to sashimi-style preparations dipped in, yes, cho jang. Worse, Danji’s iteration tastes too manufactured.

Miso-glazed baby lamb chops turn out better than the yellowtail, dense and infused with umami. Dripping with sweet fat, the bones deserve picking, and the gristly bits beg special attention. Despite the lamb’s high quality—New Zealand, no less!—the dish feels simplistic and undeliberated, not so much a small plate as bar food.

Danji brings in desserts such as mocha chiffon cake from a Korean bakery. Following an almost exclusively protein meal, a few carbohydrates never hurt.

Although Danji may appeal to yuppies giggling at cute interpretations of Korean food, the level of culinary creativity and technical precision remain uneven. Better meals can be had at better prices, particularly in New York’s Koreatown. Students would choose a bowl of kimchi stew over Danji’s shareable small plates any day.

Flipside Guide Food & Drink reviews are evaluated for: student-friendliness, price point, accessibility, quality, and cool factor.