



Angela Radulescu / Senior staff photographer

BREAKDOWN | P.S. 186 has been abandoned for over three decades. This photo from 2008 shows the decaying interior. This month, Walter South, chair of CB9's Landmarks & Preservation Committee, has been working to fight for its preservation, but has faced many roadblocks.

Grading disparities in CC, SEAS

BY HIEN TRUONG
Spectator Staff Writer

Inflation is not just for economics majors.

As the faculty and undergraduate councils continue to address concerns of grade inflation and grading methodology, students say the differences in Columbia College and School of Engineering and Applied Math transcripts can be problematic.

In the fall of 2007, Columbia College Student Council members discovered that CC transcripts disclose information on the percentage of A grades earned in a course, to combat perceived grade inflation, whereas SEAS transcripts do not. "Percent As" apply to those classes where more than 24 students enroll, therefore excluding many core classes and seminars.

CCSC considered the removal of "Percent As" while the Engineering Student Council weighed the benefits of its inclusion. Each school had its own faculty committee who was in charge of making these decisions.

After speaking with administrators and debating within the council, CCSC decided against pursuing the removal of "percent As," according to CCSC president Sue Yang, CC '10, who was on the council two years ago when the issue was first discussed. In a 2008 interview with Spectator, former ESC president Liz Strauss, SEAS '08, said, "It's just something we're leaving on our internal plate to keep looking at."

"It was an installation issue," Yang said. "If we don't include 'percent As,' the only way to tackle grade inflation would be to talk to faculty to deflate grades." Yet, the council found the alternative to be less favorable.

"As a student, I support the removal of 'percent As,'" Yang added. "I certainly understand the concerns of grade inflation and the rationale behind these figures. But such percentages, in my personal opinion, overlook a great deal of context and put further emphasis on grades rather than on learning."

SEE GRADING, page 2

Preservationists fight for historic P.S. 186

BY KIM KIRSCHENBAUM
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Walter South is trying to save a historic building, but a complex bureaucracy is stopping him at every turn.

South, chair of Community Board 9's Landmarks & Preservation Committee, mobilized local residents this month to call for the preservation of P.S. 186, a public schoolhouse on 145th Street between Amsterdam and Broadway that has been vacant since it closed in 1975.

But his coalition seeking to preserve the decaying building hit a major roadblock at Thursday's CB9 full board meeting in Harlem.

In its deteriorating condition, P.S. 186 was sold in 1986 to the M.L. Wilson Boys and Girls Club, a nonprofit organization dedicated

to providing space for local youth. During this transaction, the building was subject to deed restrictions for 25 years, which would limit what the new proprietors could do with the property. But these restrictions are set to expire in just 11 months, which will allow the Boys and Girls Club to do whatever it wishes with the property—including demolish it altogether.

Giselle Shorter, executive director for the club, told Spectator in October that the members were planning to redevelop the entire site into a mixed use complex with housing, community space, a new club for the organization, and potentially a public school.

And in light of the approaching deed restriction deadline—which will give the Club the opportunity to redevelop the property—South has upped

his calls for P.S. 186's preservation at recent CB9 meetings. On Thursday, he was supported by many community-based groups, including the Historic District Council and the New York Landmarks Conservancy, who both urged the board to help preserve the building.

But the layered community board system has put a serious strain on his effort.

He wrote an internal committee resolution urging the building's preservation, which passed unanimously in the Landmarks Preservation Committee several weeks ago. But his ambitions were stalled last week when CB9's Executive Committee, composed of the CB9 officers and the chairs of the standing committees, voted down the resolution by a

SEE PRESERVATION, page 2

NYCHA residents criticize upscale retail

BY KIM KIRSCHENBAUM
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Though a new Whole Foods Market on 97th Street has brought more organic goat cheeses and Pinot Grigio wines to the neighborhood, not everyone is cheering.

A host of newly constructed stores on the Upper West Side have been opening their doors since the summer, as part of the three-year Columbus Square housing and retail development project of Stellar Management.

Whole Foods opened in August, and Michaels Arts and Crafts and TJ Maxx followed in the fall.

The avenue used to have a small supermarket, a 99 cent store, and a corner diner. With 14 new retail spaces and five residential towers between 97th and 100th street near completion, some residents in the neighboring Frederick Douglass Houses between 100th and 104th Street say they are not happy with the neighborhood transformation.

This 17-building public housing complex, owned and operated by the New York City Housing Authority, is composed of over 2,000 apartments, housing primarily low-income residents.

Forgoing shopping at what they consider overpriced businesses of the new development, some residents said that they are taking their wallets several blocks north to the independents that have long been affordable and familiar to them.

"They feel that we don't need to be in the area," said Jane Wisdom, Frederick Douglass Tenants Association president, referring to the influx of newer, wealthier residents. "I guess as time goes by, people are going to have to deal with it because they're here. We can't just get rid of Whole Foods—they're here now," she said, adding, "We've been here and we're not going nowhere."

"That development as a whole is indicative of practices where lots of landlords disregard community needs, disregard the sort of affordability needs of even existing tenants," said Emily Goldstein, Tenants and Neighbors subsidized housing organizer. "It becomes a situation where there's a whole neighborhood geared towards rich people," she said.

Despite such assertions, Whole Foods has claimed to have taken the diverse demographics of the neighborhood into consideration. It offers store specials, volume discounts when items are purchased by the case, and "Shop

for 365 Everyday Value" offers, which allows for ways to save on items on a daily basis.

"We want to sell food to anyone who eats," Fred Shank, Whole Foods spokesperson, said in the spring, "whether you are on a budget or not." Another spokesperson, Michael Sinatra, said recently, "We've done a lot of things to reach out and partner with organizations in the community. Since we opened in August it's been very good and consumer response has been positive."

Sheldon Fine, a Community Board 7 member and previous chair, attested to Whole Foods' commitment to affordable prices.

"Whole Foods made it clear that they would try to accommodate the neighborhood residents and that would include everyone," Fine said, suggesting that the community board could facilitate a meeting between Whole Foods and NYCHA tenant leaders.

But many Frederick Douglass tenants believe that Whole Foods, the soon-to-be-opened Sephora, and other chain stores are targeting an exclusive clientele. "That's for the rich people," Frederick Douglass resident Gertrude Romero said, pointing to the

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Postcrypt: show must go on

BY LEAH GREENBAUM
Spectator Staff Writer

Last month, Ginia Sweeney, BC '10 and manager of Postcrypt Coffeehouse, feared that the student-run music venue might not survive through the end of the year.

But members said Thursday that, while Postcrypt will likely lose its free popcorn, they are hopeful that, for at least a few more months, they will be holding on to their historic location in St. Paul's Chapel—along with the microbrew beer and free folk music shows. After administrators imposed new regulations on the group in December, some said it could be difficult to continue operating.

In December, Postcrypt was asked to hire two alcohol procurers and a security guard—costs that Sweeney said could have run the group out of business—after Public Safety and the Office of Student Group Advising had expressed concerns about underage drinking at the Friday and Saturday night concerts, where beer is sold.

Over the years, Postcrypt has become an organization known for its location, and many worried the loss of St. Paul's would be a huge blow to the group. Now, some are more optimistic.

Sweeney said that after the club's woes were made public, the Securities Fund of the Student Governing Board and the Columbia Bartending Association offered to throw in money to hire the additional security.

"We're hoping we can use the money they've offered until we can get this sorted out," she said.

On Thursday, members of Postcrypt and representatives from SGB met with Jason Anthony, associate director in the Office of Student Affairs, to discuss the venue.

Though a lot is still uncertain and no final decisions were made, there were a few signs of hope at Thursday's meeting, according to some attendees. Galen Boone,

BC '12, who is set to take over as co-manager next year, said she is optimistic because of the recent additional funds from SGB and CBA, which she predicted could sustain the group for at least a few months.

Boone added that Anthony told them they could keep selling beer if they only sold enough for that evening. She said the advisers were encouraging about a potential appeal to the issues of a security guard and procurers.

But Sweeney said the group's members were told that a recent fire department inspection had revealed a number of safety hazards—a further obstacle.

"It seems like one little thing triggered this huge barrage of problems," said Sweeney, adding, "It's just kind of piling up." She said she has been in love with Postcrypt since she was a junior in high school.

But Boone said she is optimistic that the group will be up and running again in the basement of St. Paul's for its first show of the semester on Jan. 29. She said the members hope to lobby the Office of the University Chaplain to pay to get the building up to code.

Associate Dean of Student Affairs Todd Smith said in a statement to Spectator that OSGA recognizes the importance of Postcrypt and only hopes to support student groups and activities.

"As we work together through questions of safety and policy, it remains our hope that Postcrypt Coffeehouse can continue to provide an event for performers and students to enjoy," Smith said in the statement.

At a meeting in December, Postcrypt members said administrators had suggested to find a new space on campus, decrease the frequency of their events from biweekly to bimonthly, and stop selling alcohol.

"We don't want to be in a fluorescent-lit glass space in Lerner,"

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Raul Gonzales for Spectator

TRANSFORMATION | With most of the new Columbus Square businesses open, public housing residents say most of the shops aren't affordable.

INSIDE

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New Vampire Weekend album takes NYC by storm

With "Contra" hitting number one on Wednesday, the Columbia alumni of indie band Vampire Weekend tested their new album on hometown audiences with a three-day tour of New York City music venues.



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Men's basketball ready to challenge Big Red

The Light Blue works through the injuries of key players Foley and Grimes in preparation for tomorrow's game against Cornell. The Lions will challenge the Big Red in search of their first conference win this season.

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Pop cultural studies

Aarti Iyer on why it's OK that we care more about Tiger than Tehran.

Pain that doesn't leave

Feeling the tragedy from home, a Columbia student reflects.

Today's Events

Columbia vs. Cornell

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Embry Owen / Senior staff photographer

SALTY WORDS | Local restaurants and health experts debated the merits of Mayor Bloomberg’s proposal to reduce salt consumption citywide.

‘Hold the salt,’ Bloomberg tells New York businesses

BY NICHOLAS BLOOM AND SONAL KUMAR
Columbia Daily Spectator

Mayor Michael Bloomberg wants New Yorkers and local businesses to hold the salt. On Jan. 11, Bloomberg announced the National Salt Reduction Initiative, a plan aimed at reducing the amount of salt that restaurants and food manufacturing companies put in their food by 25 percent over five years. Citing the negative health impacts of consuming large amounts of sodium, especially high blood pressure, the initiative sets goals for sodium reduction for certain categories of foods. So far, these benchmarks are voluntary, and New York City restaurants and food processing companies will not be penalized for failing to meet the goals. “Americans consume roughly twice the recommended limit of salt each day—causing widespread high blood pressure and placing millions at risk of heart attack and stroke,” according to a Department of Health and Mental Hygiene press release on the initiative. The

release says that 80 percent of the sodium in Americans’ diets is added to foods before they are sold. Some local restaurant owners said they supported the initiative, under certain conditions. Chandir Malik, owner of the Indian Café on Broadway at 108th Street, had mixed feelings. “I think that encouraging restaurants to reduce salt is a good idea, because this way people will get used to eating less salt, which is better for them.” But Malik added that he is only in favor of the concept if it remains voluntary, which is the city’s plan at this time. “I think a law would add a socialist element to it. We all know that lack of sleep is not good for you—should we then regulate the hours of sleep we get each night? I think it is good that Bloomberg is encouraging us to reduce salt in our diets, but a law would be ridiculous,” he said. Malik added that he keeps salt in his restaurant’s food low to allow customers to add it as they see fit. “Regardless of Mayor Bloomberg’s suggestion, we are already conscious of salt in our food,” he said. For others, the initiative goes too far. “I heard Mayor Bloomberg

is also planning on regulating the number of breath intakes we can take per day,” joked Mike Zoulis, owner and manager of Tom’s Restaurant. “They’re eliminating fat, now salt ... it just seems a bit dictatorial to me.” Under the guidelines, a hamburger, which—according to the city Department of Health—has an average of 403 milligrams of sodium per 100 grams of burger, would be reduced to 330 milligrams of sodium. Zoulis said that while he can understand a ban on smoking in public places, since it affects other people without their consent, he sees salt consumption as a personal choice. “If our food is too salty, our customers provide us with that feedback and we’ll fix it,” he said. Joe Rice, general manager of Le Monde on Broadway at 112th Street, said he sees little cause for concern. Even if parts of the initiative became mandatory, reducing salt in his restaurant would be no real obstacle to his success, he said. “I think that really only the fast food places and the high end restaurants will be complaining. If this becomes a really big deal then we’ll talk about

it. Right now, it’s not,” he said. Dr. Richard Deckelbaum, director of Columbia’s Institute of Human Nutrition, sees the new guidelines as potentially effective and beneficial. “It is really healthy for kids, college students, and post-college. The guidelines point toward a good diet and healthy lifestyle.” The city calls it a national initiative because the benchmarks would apply to packaged food, not only restaurant food. Manufacturers would have a strong financial incentive not to make different products for New York City, leading to reduced sodium in packaged food across the country. According to Deckelbaum, salt is used excessively to preserve shelf life of prepackaged goods, and the key is preparing fresh food and making small steps toward healthier choices. “They are not saying to make the drastic change today or tomorrow, so it really makes a lot of sense,” he said. He added that the initiative “shows leadership in New York City by going ahead with this program. I am a big fan.”

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Students, faculty evaluate disparities in grading

GRADING from front page

She did not speak on behalf of the council, as the issue of “percent As” has not resurfaced in CCSC in the two years after it was initially discussed. According to Yang, there would need to be immense student support for the issue to be revisited. Yang said that CCSC is still tackling the issues of grades on other fronts. CCSC has been looking into the A+ policy. The council is debating a shift to a 4.0 scale, eliminating the A+, or leaving the policy unchanged. ESC president Whitney Green, SEAS ’10, said that ESC has been addressing the problem indirectly, looking at the way it may affect students’ future job opportunities. According to Green, ESC has been working to establish a clearer understanding of SEAS academics and grading within the Center for Career Education. Green also noted that CC and SEAS are grouped into a single indistinguishable cluster in the CCE system, which, she said, is a matter of great stress for many SEAS students. “We’re not entirely convinced that employers know that we are two different schools with very different academics,” said Green, who feels that this is especially problematic when CC and SEAS students both seek the same jobs. “This is a frequently discussed problem among all SEAS students—what we try to do is, once we get to the interview stage, we try to explain to our interviewer how the two schools have a different grading scheme,” said William Zhuang, SEAS ’12, who is in the process of applying for a major in financial engineering. “I think it would help to add any type of statistic to the class.” But according to Green, problems arise when certain employers have a minimum GPA requirement for interview selection. “I’ll be surprised to see if we come up with something and how we pass it,” she added, noting that the council is still in

the “idea stage,” where discussion of the merits of including “percent As” or average class grades comes into play. Columbia College Dean of Academic Affairs Kathryn Yatrakis said that “percent As” allow for more “specific grading” and that their inclusion supplies more information, so that those reviewing transcripts can better understand students’ performance and distinguish excellent students. She also said that the Committee on Instruction has plans to address general grading policies in the near future. “All issues relating to grading are within the purview of the faculty,” said SEAS Dean Feniosky Peña-Mora. “However, I would like to determine if our students will benefit overall from having the percentage of As listed on their transcripts or if some other indication is more appropriate.” He said that he intends to investigate the question more thoroughly, solicit input from students and, if necessary, bring the matter to the SEAS faculty’s Committee on Instruction. “Personally, I think grade inflation is an increasingly problematic issue in Columbia, one that will begin to affect the perception of the University, or more important for us, that of the students, graduating from the University, if it has not done so already,” Gilad Bendheim, CC ’11 and ESC academic representative, wrote in an e-mail. “I can truthfully say that I don’t know how effective it [percent As] is, but I think more substantial moves need to be taken.” He spoke as a student not on behalf of the council. He did, however, acknowledge that “percent As” could potentially help to deter enrollment in “A-guaranteed” courses, force professors to be more selective in grading, and show employers and graduate schools that “the University is serious about fair and honest grade distributions.” “If we accept the premise of grading in general, we should be able to accept the grading of grading as well.”

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Public housing residents criticize new development

RETAIL from front page

fledgling stores several blocks south of her building. “The others take up everything, and it bothers me.” Frederick Douglass resident Ivan Santell agreed, saying, “They put that Whole Foods there because they know the rich people are moving here, and they’re demanding.” But some local residents said they appreciate some of the new stores. “They built TJ Maxx which is a good thing—now I don’t have to go all the way down to 23rd Street,” Paul Smith, a neighborhood resident, said. And TJ Maxx manager Yolanda Martinez said, “We offer 50 percent off the original store prices all year ‘round.” Next door to TJ Maxx, a Michaels Arts and Crafts manager said that they also offer good deals. “We have weekly sale ads that appear in the local newspapers,” said Catherine, a store manager

who declined to give her last name due to company protocol. Some nearby businesses appreciate the development. “Those new places are no problem—now there’s more white people coming to shop around here, and then they come to eat here,” Wendy Zheng, an employee at Benny’s Chinese Food on 104th Street, said. Other food markets on the block said that despite the recent opening of Whole Foods, their usual customers have remained loyal. “We’ve been here a long time, this is a cheaper store than those other places down there,” said Tonny Sammy, an employee at Sammy Deli and Grocery on 104th Street and Columbus. “The same clients keep coming back here,” he added, as one customer in his store chimed in, “those other stores are bullshit.”

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Postcrypt seeks support, challenges new regulations

POSTCRYPT from front page

Boone said. “That’s not folk.” Devora Aharon, CC ’10 and chair of SGB, said that many of the administration’s demands appeared to be unfounded. “There didn’t seem to be a clear reasoning behind it,” she said of the new requirement for a security guard and alcohol proctors. “We want to really question every change and see what’s actually necessary and why.” Booking manager Lauraly Grossman, BC ’12, said group members agree that they do not want to break with Postcrypt tradition by charging a cover fee or moving to a new location. She said that Postcrypt’s recent interactions with the administration have been tense, adding that she learned recently that

Postcrypt had clashed with the administration in 2001 as well. “It’s happened before, and Postcrypt got through it. I think the difference now is that the administration has changed,” she said. The group has another meeting scheduled with OSGA, Public Safety, and the Office of the Chaplain, at which Sweeney said she hopes to smooth out the remaining issues and lobby for a return to the regulations of last semester. “I’m just trying to think of the next semester as continuing as we always have,” she said. “We have people who come here every weekend. It’s a staple of the neighborhood. It’s a huge asset to the University. It just doesn’t make sense that the administration is challenging it the way they are.”

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Molly Crossin for Spectator

ON WITH THE SHOW | After new administrative regulations threatened Postcrypt’s survival, members say there are now signs of hope.

Community Board 9 tables Landmarks Committee resolution to preserve P.S. 186

PRESERVATION from front page

narrow vote of 8 to 7. This prevented it from appearing on the agenda for a vote at Thursday’s general board meeting. Had it passed the general board meeting, the resolution to preserve the historic site would have been adopted—and the board would have moved forward with an effort to stop the demolition.

South felt that the executive board was precluding the general board from considering the issue, so he took legal action. “The whole point of taking legal action in the first place was to resolve the fact that the executive board is not a gatekeeper for the [general] board,” South said. He conferred with a lawyer, who contacted Manhattan Borough president Scott

Stringer’s office. Because CB9’s bylaws don’t address this kind of situation, Stringer’s office responded that the long-standing procedure is the default process, South said. So the Executive Committee kept it off Thursday’s agenda altogether. But South had another plan in mind. “When the adoption for the agenda comes up at the general

board meeting, they ask for the approval of the agenda, at which point I’m going to state that I’d like to amend it to include the resolution,” South said in an interview several days prior to the meeting. He did just that at Thursday’s meeting, but CB9 chair Pat Jones said that in order for the resolution to be considered, the general board would have to vote on whether to overturn the executive board’s ruling. In another

narrow vote following a heated debate, the general board voted to uphold the executive board’s decision, and South’s resolution was shut down again. “I guarantee you I’ll be on the phone with the Borough president’s legal counsel tomorrow morning,” Jones said to a laughing audience, but added on a more serious note, “I see no reason to believe that this motion can’t come back next month.”

South said he plans on bringing the resolution up for a vote once again at next month’s meeting. There were no representatives from the Boys and Girls Club at the full board CB9 meeting or the Landmarks Committee meeting two weeks ago. “I’m going to discuss this with my lawyer,” South said, adding, “This is absurd.”

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COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

For general comments or questions about the newspaper, please write to the editor in chief and managing editor at editor@columbiaspectator.com.

CORRECTION

“Students discuss aid for Haiti” stated that Columbia spokesperson Robert Hornsby attended the event, when it was actually Robert Taylor from the Student Affairs office. “Drug bust on 114th” said that tenants’ association president Coleman had known about the details of two arrests, when in fact she only heard there may have been arrests. Spectator regrets the errors.



File photo
JUMP SHOT| Danielle Brown, with six points last game, has been a consistent contributor to the women's team.

Women's hoops prepares for Big Red

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL from back page

Last weekend, the Lions committed 22 turnovers and allowed 21 offensive boards to the Big Red. "We've had a chance to watch a pretty good amount of video [of last weekend's game] and see the areas where we can improve," Nixon said. "Obviously, Cornell's going to be watching the same things, so I think if we can kind of anticipate the adjustments they're going to make, then we'll be in good position." Columbia also needs to maintain its potent offense. Lomax and junior guard Kathleen Barry each

scored 17 points against Cornell, while junior center Lauren Dwyer contributed 13 points. Lomax leads the Ivy League with 17.5 points per game, and her 54.6 percent shooting from the field is good for second-best in the conference. Dwyer averages 11.1 points per contest, while Barry is the league's seventh-highest scorer with 12.5 points per game. Cornell will need senior guard Allie Fedorowicz to be a stronger scoring threat than she was last weekend. Fedorowicz leads the Big Red and is sixth in the league with 12.6 points per game, but she converted only two of 10 field

goal attempts when Cornell and Columbia first met this year. Nixon anticipates that the Big Red will be more aggressive in its second game against the Lions. "I think they'll come in a lot less tentative," he said. "Now they've played against the pressure that we apply, and they have a game under their belts going against it, so I expect them to come out and probably be a little bit more assertive in that regard." Columbia and Cornell will battle in Levien Gymnasium on Saturday, with tip-off set for 4:30 p.m.

Light Blue swimmers set to race Big Red

MEN'S SWIMMING from back page

Continuing Columbia's lead early in the meet, the 200 medley relay team of Lauren Fraley, Mariele Dunn, Allie Davitt, and Hannah Galey finished first in 1:49.75, and junior Caitlin Bertelsen secured the top spot in the 400 and 200 individual medleys. Senior Galey

and freshman Paige Endsley went 1-2 in the 200 free. It was Endsley who touched the wall first in the 500 free as well. Junior Dunn had two first place finishes in the 100 breaststroke and 100 butterfly, while fellow sophomore Amanda Stewart closed out the meet for the Lions by winning the 200 breaststroke.

Last year's meet brought the Light Blue to a 6-1 overall record, 3-1 in the Ivy League. Today's contest will give the team the opportunity to gain a stronger standing in the Ivy League and improve upon its winning record. The Homecoming meet will be held at Uris Pool, starting at 4 p.m.



File photo
TIME FOR REVENGE| After last week's loss, the Lions look to take the best of the Big Red back in Manhattan.

Injuries can't stop Columbia's desire to win

MEN'S BASKETBALL from back page

competed," he said emphatically, pointing to the high level of energy the Light Blue showed for 40 minutes against the Big Red. Despite falling behind early by 16, the Lions clawed back to within eight before watching a quick 8-0 run before halftime undo their hard work. "We were right there—we were knocking on the door," Jones said. "They played pretty hard all game. ... We kept scrapping, we kept coming at them, and I was proud about that. That's a good sign for us." Unfortunately for the Lions, they have started to lose another trademark of their 2009-2010 campaign—their three-point shooting. Going into the break and into January, Columbia led the nation from beyond the arc, shooting 47.1 percent (the second-best long distance team in the country is Cornell's Jan. 6 adversary, the Kansas Jayhawks).

Yet in its last two games, the Light Blue has gone cold, shooting 19 percent in a 59-53 loss against St. Francis (N.Y.) and 20 percent against Cornell. While Jones points out that the trifecta was never meant to be a key component to their offensive game plan, their diminishing shooting percentage from long range has coincided with Foley's absence and with opposing teams starting to key in on Columbia's star scorer, sophomore guard Noruwa Agho. Although Agho has continued to perform despite the increased attention from the defenses he is facing, the Lions' go-to scorer found points tough to come by against the Big Red, finishing with only six. Agho is averaging 17.4 points a game this year, and for Columbia to be successful on Saturday, he will need to impose his will on the game. A healthy Grimes and Foley would certainly help his cause, giving the Big Red one more threat to worry about. Even if he can't play Grimes and Foley,

Jones has seen backup point guard and sharp shooter Steve Egee show his ability in Foley's absence, as well as the emergence of Matt Johnson as an athletic force in the paint-on defense. Fellow post players John Daniels and Asenso Ampim will need all the help they can get in neutralizing the Big Red's formidable seven-footer, Jeff Foote, whom Jones refers to only half-jokingly as "Bill Walton." Even if it does manage to shackle Foote, Columbia will have to deal with Wittman and the rest of Cornell's outside sharp shooters. But Jones points out that, while the Lions are well aware of the talent and pedigree of their opponents, they are not awestruck. "We respect them, but we don't fear them," he said. With a sold-out Levien Gymnasium at their back and a big-time Ivy League rival in town, it may be time for the hard-working Lions to earn a little respect of their own.

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Track set for Ivy tri-meet versus Dartmouth, Yale

BY GREGORY KREMLER
Spectator Staff Writer

Columbia's track team officially opens its indoor season this week-end with the annual Dartmouth-Yale-Columbia Tri-Meet, to be held at the Nathaniel Leverone Fieldhouse in Hanover, N.H. The Lions will face conference competition exclusively, six weeks ahead of the Heptagonal Championships.

Early still for a hard effort, the meet will serve primarily as a rust buster following weeks of steady preparation.

"We want to see how everyone's reacted to the training and get them used to competing again," assistant coach Jon Clemens said. "This information will help us to map out a season plan."

Men's competitors will include the whole of sprints and jumps and a mostly middle distance group. Star freshmen recruits Liam Tansey—who boasts a 4:08 mile—and Mark Feigen will make their debuts at 800m and 3000m, respectively.

Sophomore Adam Behnke will join Tansey in the 800m in his first race as a Lion, after a stress fracture saw him

COLUMBIA VS. DARTMOUTH AND YALE
Hanover, N.H., Saturday, 12 p.m.

sidelined during his entire freshman year. The Light Blue will also be well represented in the 1k event.

The women aim to showcase a stacked sprints and jumps squad, which includes sophomores Kyra Caldwell—Outdoor Ivy champ and school record holder over 100m Hurdles—and Monique Roberts—NCAA qualifier for the High Jump Outdoors. Additionally, freshman Dora Vegvari, who broke the school record in the long jump this past week, Uzunma Udeh, who broke the school record in the triple jump this past week, and Nnenna Okwara, a walk-on sensation in the throws, are names to watch.

Both groups will race at off distances as part of an overarching training plan. "Most long sprinters are running over-distance," said assistant coach Gavin O'Neal. "We're getting a gauge of where we're starting from."

Competition gets underway Saturday afternoon at 12 p.m. The Lions return next weekend to home turf for the Armory Invitational.



DOUBLE DUEL | The Columbia men's and women's fencing teams will compete in this weekend's NYU and St. Johns Invitationals

Fencing to face off in local weekend tournaments

BY NINA LUKINA
Spectator Staff Writer

This weekend, both of Columbia's fencing teams will be competing at the New York University and St. John's invitationals in their first competitions as a team this season. The highly ranked Lions will be competing against some of the best teams in the country, including familiar opponents such as Notre Dame, Ohio State, and St. John's.

At last year's NYU invitational, the Light Blue made a strong showing, as the women's team bested Notre Dame in a tense match with a final score of 14-13 before losing to St. John's.

The men came in close behind St. John's at the NYU invitational with a score of 14-13, also losing to Notre Dame and Ohio State, but

COLUMBIA AT NYU INVITATIONAL
New York, NY, Saturday, 8 a.m.

beating out teams from Wayne State and Stevens Tech.

On Sunday at St. John's, the Lions will challenge the same teams again, including Notre Dame and Ohio State, who came in second and third, respectively, in front of Columbia at the NCAA championships last year. The Light Blue will also be competing against the formidable Penn State team, who took home the top spot at the NCAA championships.

The women's team will start off what promises to be an exciting contest between the nation's best teams, with its first match against Northwestern at 8:00 a.m.



BACK IN SWING | Jon Wong and the tennis team return to the courts tomorrow against the Boston College Eagles.

Tennis takes on Boston College this weekend

BY KUNAL GUPTA
Spectator Staff Writer

The men's tennis team will kick off its 2010 spring season at home tomorrow, as it begins nonconference play against Boston College. The Lions, the defending Ivy League champions, enter this season with a roster laden with senior talent, and once again hope to finish at the top of the Ancient Eight.

This match will be the Lions' first dual match of the season, as all of the matches during the fall season were individual tournaments. The Lions had mixed results in the fall, as senior Jon Wong and sophomore Haig Schneiderman posted solid results, but fellow sophomore Ekin Sezgen and senior Mihai Nichifor struggled until putting together a solid run at the ITA Regional Championships.

Wong enters the spring ranked No. 2 in the region in singles and is the highest ranked singles Ivy League player. Nichifor joins Wong in the top ten, as he enters the nonconference portion of the season ranked No. 7 in the region. The Lions are the only team with two players ranked in the top ten in singles.

In addition to the seniors, Schneiderman, the reigning Ivy League Rookie of the Year, had a terrific fall season, which catapulted him

to the top of the northeast rankings. Schneiderman enters the spring ranked No. 14 in the region.

The highest ranked Boston College singles player is Thomas Nolan, who comes in just ahead of Schneiderman in the rankings at No. 13. Nolan is the only Eagle in the top 20 in singles. Nolan advanced to the round of 16 in the ITA Regional Championships, the farthest out of any of the Boston College players in singles, but lost to the eventual finalist in straight sets.

The Lions are the only team with two players ranked in the top 10 in singles.

The Eagles had better success in doubles, as they entered the tournaments with the top overall seed with Thomas Nolan and Erik Kreutzer, although the duo lost in the round of 16 at Regionals when one of the members was forced to retire with an injury.

Yet, the Eagles currently dominate the regions doubles rankings, as Nolan and Kreutzer are ranked No. 2 in the region, and the duo of Muppidi and Schroeder is ranked No. 4 in the region. In addition to

COLUMBIA VS. BOSTON COLLEGE
Dick Savitt Tennis Center, Saturday, 2 p.m.

being ranked No. 2 in the region, Nolan and Kreutzer are the highest ranked Northeast team in the nation, coming in at No. 27 nationally. The pair attained that ranking due in large part to a stunning upset of the No. 10 team in the nation from the University of Louisville at the All-American Championships in October. The Boston College duo defeated the Cardinal team by a score of 8-5.

The Lions defeated the Eagles by a score of 5-0 when they met last season at the Eastern Conference Athletic Championships in the first round. Columbia won the doubles point, although two of the three matches were very close. The Lions quickly won four points in singles, as they won at No. 2, 3, 4, and 6 singles. Then junior Jon Wong was locked in a tight battle with Nolan at No. 1 singles, and was leading 5-4 in the third set when their match was halted.

This match will be the first chance for Columbia's three freshmen to play in dual matches, and there is a good chance that they will see action in both singles and doubles.

The match is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. on Saturday at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center in New York.

Swimming takes on Ancient Eight rival Cornell

BY VICTORIA JONES
Spectator Staff Writer

Tomorrow, the men's swimming and diving team is bringing the competition back to campus with its 2010 homecoming meet against Cornell. This year, on its home turf, the Light Blue will have to fight hard to try and avenge last year's 167-122 loss to the Big Red up in Ithaca. Columbia enters the weekend with a 4-2 overall record on the season (1-2 Ivy).

The last time the two Ancient Eight foes met in a dual meet, Cornell went on a 10-event winning streak right from the start.

In the first event, the top Columbia 200 medley relay team was only able to grab third place, succumbing to both Cornell's A and B teams.

The story was much of the same in the 1,000 freestyle. Then freshmen

Chester Dols and Alex Smith finished third and fourth in 9:45.89 and 9:48.10, respectively. Cornell has since graduated its second-place swimmer, and freshman Sean MacKenzie has thrown himself right into the competitive mix for the Light Blue.

In the 100 backstroke, Darren Pagan found himself the first Columbian to finish, with a 53-second swim that only garnered him fourth place.

Eric Tang and Ross Ramone, now seniors, finished third and fifth respectively in the 100 breaststroke against a field that has not graduated any competitors, thus providing a tough match-up for tomorrow.

Now a junior and accustomed to victory, Adam Powell had Columbia's highest finish through the first nine events last year. Powell finished second in the 50 freestyle in 21 seconds, just seven-tenths

COLUMBIA VS. CORNELL
Uris Pool, Saturday, 4 p.m.

of a second behind Cornell's top swimmer, then-senior Jackson Wang.

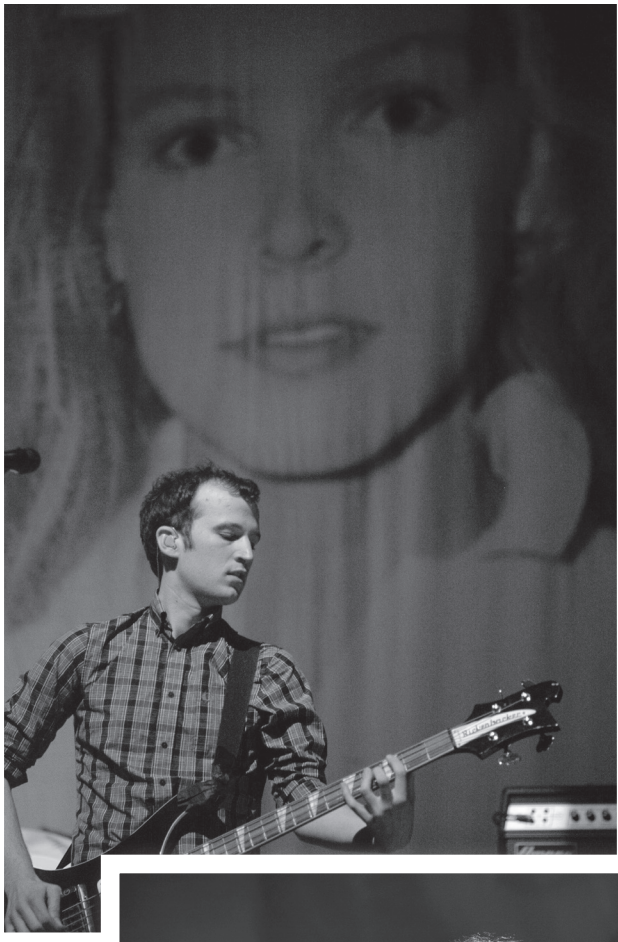
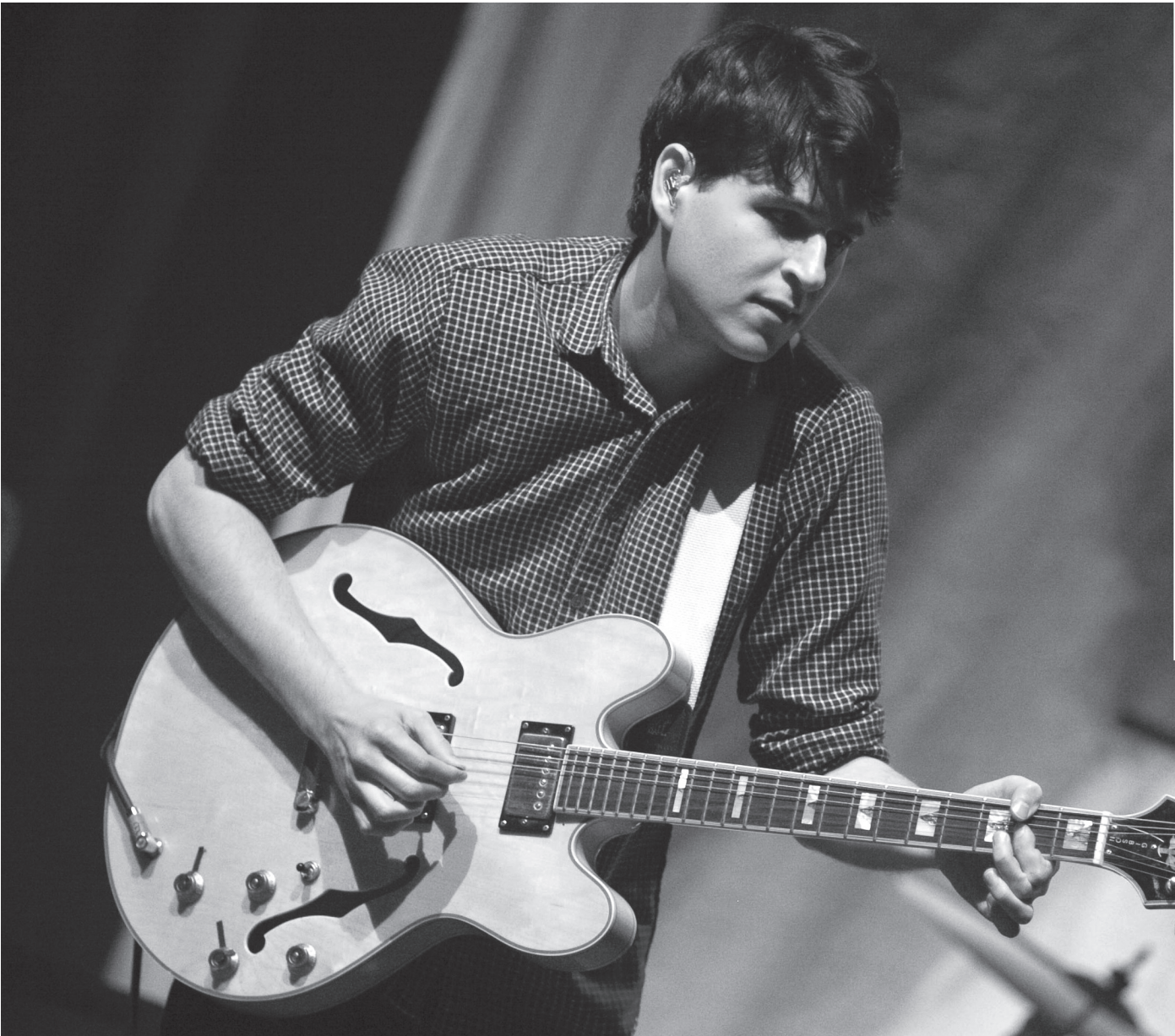
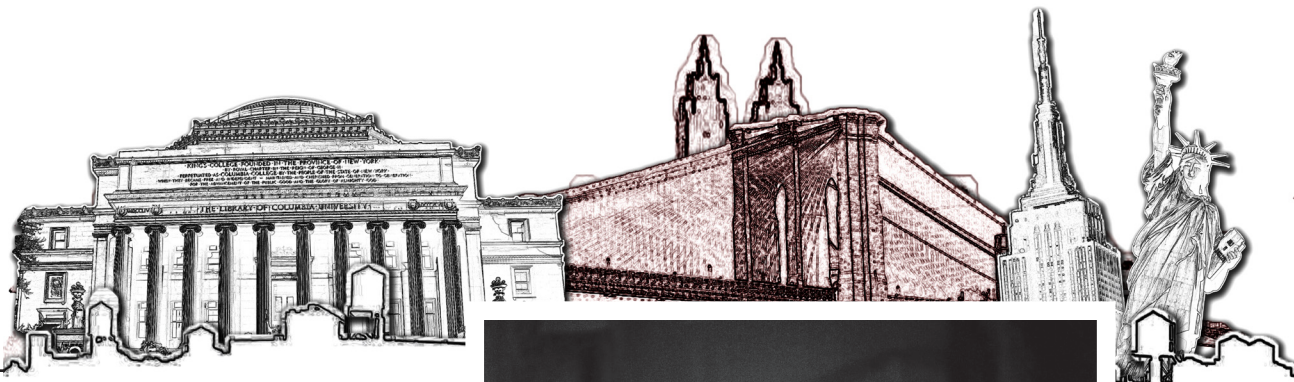
After 10 events and no success, the Lions finally fought the tides as Ramone topped the charts in the 200 breaststroke, out-touching the rest of the field with a 2:07.27 finish. Tang also raced the 200 breaststroke, taking fourth in 2:09.30.

Once the Big Red had numerically solidified its victory, most of the swimmers entered as exhibition participants, which allowed Columbia to sweep the last four swimming events.

The Light Blue will need plenty of speed as well as hometown support as it tries to take down the mighty Big Red. The two teams face off tomorrow, Jan. 23, at 4 p.m. in Columbia's own Uris Pool.



SINK OR SWIM | Tomorrow's meet offers the Columbia men's swimming team a chance to kick their way to a .500 Ancient Eight record.



Diana Wong / Senior staff photographer

LIKE A BAT OUT OF HELL | With its first hometown concerts since its debut album, the Columbia alumni band Vampire Weekend took New York City by storm with its chart-topping new album “Contra.”

Vampire Weekend descends on NYC with sophomore album

BY CHRISTINE JORDAN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

What’s remarkable about Vampire Weekend? For one, they’re thoroughbred Columbians, yet they’ve managed to infiltrate the popular current of cool. The indie favorites wrapped up a three-day concert sweep of New York City on Tuesday, five days after the release of their sophomore album, “Contra.” Like almost all bands who have enjoyed the view from the upper echelon of the musical food chain, with this album came Vampire Weekend’s renewed bid for relevance in the college music scene. “Catchy” is the musical watchword for the four-man ensemble, all CC ’06 except for bassist Chris Baio, CC ’07. At their

Sunday performance at the United Palace Theatre (4140 Broadway at 175th Street), the band wove seemingly every song from their addictive and sunny eponymous debut in with “Contra” tracks to keep the older fans nodding and bobbing about and the coeds swooning over lead singer and hipster pretty boy Ezra Koenig. “We didn’t say it before, but we put out a new album,” the soft-spoken and mild-tempered Koenig said to chuckles from the crowd after a grab bag of old and new songs. “We’re going to play some songs from it.” The band played many of them for the first time in New York, in an 80-minute set that was their longest show ever, according to Koenig. Jaunty Afropop gave way to newer tunes of a similar species, but with

some experimental twists: Koenig gave auto-tune a try with the motor-mouthed “California English,” drummer Chris Tomson switched to an electronic drum kit for the dreamy “Taxi Cab,” and a string quartet appeared, instruments at the ready, for “Diplomat’s Son.” It’s a new direction—a hillier track listing touts a generally crisp sound, with an expanded vocal performance by Koenig and more world and electronic influences—but they are still the same Vampire Weekend, notorious for either entrancing or enraging audiences with their infectiousness. But leaving little room for complacency has built buzz, which in turn helped “Contra” hit No. 1 on the Billboard album chart on Wednesday.

An acclaimed album, however, does not guarantee a great live performance—especially an album with heavily produced, electronic pieces. But the globally spanning, genre-blending pop of Vampire Weekend’s second album found a home in Sunday’s concert hall, the United Palace Theatre. Opened in the 1930s to bring the bustling New York vaudeville and film scenes uptown and restored in the 1960s by the Christ Community United Church, the theater is ornately carved, densely colored, and seemingly perfect to house the old-fashioned movie seats, religious statues, and smoke from the stage (and from the audience’s general preference for all things herbal). Koenig quipped to concert-goers that the trade-off to playing in such a theater

was the confining seats. “A few songs we play are very easy to dance to,” he said, suggesting that audience members try to do so even in the face of situational adversity. And despite some tamer pastures during slower songs, by the show’s encore, the people front and center to Koenig had agglomerated—yes, despite the seats—into one bouncing, sweaty mass. Even those initially too unaffected to do anything more than nod along had let go by the end of the high-powered set. Perhaps the resistant few didn’t expect it, but they had been drawn in by a live performance that appropriately rose to its unusual circumstances. After all, global, electronic, or Columbian nerd chic—the band’s cool has always had an entirely different ring to it.

Upscale Belgian restaurant hits the ‘Markt’

BY NATASSIA MILLER
Spectator Staff Writer

New Year’s resolution diets are delusional. After all, there’s no better time than January to crowd around glasses of imported beer or enjoy a heaping pot of moules frites. Markt, a classy Belgian bodega of sorts on the corner of 21st Street and Sixth Avenue, serves up these winter pleasures with style. The dim lighting exudes a curious, romantic flair that unexpectedly gives way to lively chatter inside—young professionals and old couples alike occupy sturdy, Bavarian-style chairs and dark wooden tables laden with candles and jars of sea salt. An inviting bar boasts an impressive list of approximately 40 beers, including Hoegaarden, Stella Artois, and dessert beers (\$5 to \$15 per glass). If this doesn’t hint at the Belgian influence, the Flemish writing on the walls and quaint portraits of Belgian royalty surely will. More often than not, Belgian cuisine is dismissed as French—after all, they are geographic neighbors. Yet, while Belgium’s southern half consists of the French-speaking Walloons, its northern half is largely Flemish. With the influence of about eight different ethnic groups, it’s safe to say that lumping Belgian and French food together would be criminal. True, the French influences are present: cream-based sauces, loads of butter, crème fraîche, and a meat foundation. Whereas French food is known for its refined, upscale sophistication, Belgian fare is significantly less self-conscious and enjoys heartier portions. At Markt, there are five different styles of moules frites—mussels and fries—on the menu (\$18 each). Apart from traditionally prepared moules—in a light broth derived simply from the steamed mussels and vegetables, or a beer base—there are also moules à la coriandre, which are steamed



Natassia Miller for Spectator

FLEMISH FLAVORS | Markt, a Belgian restaurant on the corner of 21st Street and Sixth Avenue, is known for its rich, upscale decor and dishes true to its culture. in a cream-based sauce with a delicious hint of curry. The mussels themselves are tender and garnished with a myriad of thinly sliced vegetables. Somewhere between soft and crunchy, the fries are delightfully cooked, served with the traditional Belgian side of mayonnaise. Under Les Poissons and Les Viandes, one finds generous selections such as grilled lobster with braised mixed greens in a Hoegaarden cream sauce (\$34) and Belgian beef stew made in Leffe Brown beer (\$16). There is also the classic waterzooi, a chicken and vegetable stew (\$19). The poulet aux cerises, however, steals the poultry spotlight (\$22). Underneath moist skin lies a delicate chicken breast covered in a gravy-like kriel beer sauce, infused with the beer’s subtle sweetness. And it wouldn’t be a Belgian dish if it wasn’t served with a side of potatoes,

in this case a potato soufflé topped and browned with gruyere cheese. If the generous portions haven’t satisfied, the dessert offerings will, with a variety of indulgent sweets. The warm chocolate tart alone rivals the city’s best, with an airy crust giving way to a sea of melted, dark Belgian chocolate (\$10). A refreshing pistachio ice cream made in-house contrasts with the deep chocolate flavor. For those beer fanatics, the lemon tart is served with kriel beer sorbet (\$8). Belgian cuisine may not be the most common ethnic food, but endless quality beers, ample servings of meat, and world-renowned chocolate make Belgian fare something to talk about. The Belgians know how to live life, so heading down to Markt may just be the right way to end a week filled with newfound stress and schoolwork.

Masochism for the masses at Lower East Side performance



NNEKA MCGUIRE
The Fun, the Fantastical, and the Freakish

New York City is like a superstore of startling proportions. Every district is a department, every street an aisle, all teeming with opportunities and activities to suit every taste. But as college students (read: generally poor and sleep-deprived) we can rarely afford the luxury of browsing the superstore’s wares to find a pastime that perfectly fits our tastes. Allow me to be your guide. I will travel to the ends of the earth (that is, outside Morningside Heights) to bring you the best of NYC entertainment—reports of popular, well-publicized events that cater to mainstream tastes; reviews of exotic, escapist activities for those seeking the fanciful; and news of strange, obscure, or outright bizarre affairs for those with unconventional affinities (or perhaps the under-indulged curiosity in all of us). In other words, I bring you the fun, the fantastical, and the freakish. This week, I’ll delve into what some might deem the freakish. On Tuesday, the first day of spring semester, most students dutifully attended a slew of classes, then perhaps spent the evening chatting with friends, getting an early start on an already-accumulating pile of homework, or simply relaxing and relishing that fleeting beginning-of-semester calm before the storm. However, I spent my Tuesday enjoying a play about masochism. Sitting

in a cozy third row seat in the Classic Stage Company’s intimate Lower East Side theater, I watched actor Wes Bentley (from “American Beauty”) and Juilliard-trained Nina Arianda alternately taunt, tantalize, and torment one another for approximately 90 minutes in “Venus in Fur.” It was, quite simply, an evening well spent. Inspired by the 1870 novella “Venus in Furs” by Austrian author Leopold von Sacher-Masoch—the word “masochism” was derived from his surname—the performance is a play within a play (very meta, I know). Beginning with a bang (quite literally—the curtain drops to the ground with a clap of thunder and a flash of lightning), the play centers on Thomas (Bentley), a playwright/director who has written an adapted stage play of Sacher-Masoch’s novella, and Wanda (Arianda), an actress auditioning for the female protagonist role. After a long and fruitless day of auditions, Thomas, disheartened, readies to leave his office and return home to his fiancée. As he prepares to depart, Wanda—a loud, crass, seemingly untalented woman—rushes in, dressed in a ludicrous outfit (a cross between prostitute and dominatrix) spewing apologies and explanations for arriving late. She convinces an initially unwilling Thomas to allow her to audition, and Thomas, as well as the audience, is quickly surprised by Wanda’s transformation from gauche to graceful. As the audition proceeds, the sexual electricity between Thomas and Wanda surges, power plays ensue, and the line between what is real and what isn’t vanishes. By performance’s end, the audience’s initial ideas about the respective natures of Thomas and Wanda and what each individual

WEEKEND PICKS

THE EDITORS’ BEST BETS FOR THE WEEKEND AHEAD

MUSIC

MMP vs. BBG, (le) poisson rouge, 185 Bleecker Street (between Thompson and Sullivan streets). Friday, Jan. 22, 10 p.m., free. New York’s own DJ DeeJay spins the classics (Madonna, Michael Jackson, and Prince) versus the titans of today (Beyoncé, Britney Spears, and Lady Gaga). Best battle ever? Quite possibly. On the downside, it’s 21-plus.

FOOD

Fried Chicken Friday, 160 East 46th Street (between Lexington and Third avenues). Friday, 5–11 p.m., \$25. Chef Charles Gabriel of the famous Charles’ Country Pan Fried Chicken in Harlem travels to Aretsky’s Patroon restaurant in Midtown East to serve up his Southern fare. Going to 46th Street to eat food available in Harlem might seem inane, but the \$25 menu looks like a steal with chicken, two sides, cornbread, and dessert included.

FILM

“Pop Star on Ice,” IFC Center, 323 Avenue of the Americas (between Third and Fourth streets). Friday, Jan. 22, 7:10 and 9:15 p.m., \$8.50. In honor of the winter Olympics, the IFC Center is presenting “Pop Star on Ice,” a behind-the-scenes documentary about three-time national figure skating champion Johnny Weir. Weir, who is the inspiration for the Jon Heder’s character in the skating comedy “Blades of Glory,” is a personality not to be missed on the ice or on the big screen. On Friday night only, Weir will be at the screenings in person for a Q-and-A.

STYLE

PPF Consignment clothing resale fundraiser, 168 Ludlow Street (between Houston and Stanton streets). Friday–Sunday, Jan. 22–24, 5–8 p.m. Friday and 12–8 p.m. Saturday–Sunday, free. While students are near the Lower East Side checking out Neighborhood Watch events, they can stop by Alice Chan’s newly opened PPF Consignment. Profits from all donations that are resold this weekend will go to the Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders.

DANCE

Urban Bush Women at Dance Theater Workshop, 219 West 19th Street (between Seventh and Eighth avenues). Friday–Saturday, Jan. 22–23, 7:30 p.m. Friday and 10:00 p.m. Saturday, \$25. Jawole Willa Jo Zollar celebrates female empowerment in the 25th anniversary season of her company.

ART

Jr. & Son’s at Zach Feuer Gallery, 530 West 24th Street (between 11th and 10th avenues). Friday–Saturday, Jan. 22–23, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., free. See the latest of what Chelsea has to offer in a show that features brightly colored, provocative, and original works by 14 artists. This weekend is art lovers’ last chance to see this group exhibition curated by Joe Bradley.

MUSIC

Paul Green School of Rock Music All-Stars at Crash Mansion, 199 Bowery Street (between Rivington and Spring streets). Friday–Saturday, Jan. 22–23, 5 p.m. Friday and 2 p.m. Saturday, \$10. For those obsessed with the movie “School of Rock” or just interested in Led Zeppelin covers, check out Paul Green’s School of Rock All-Stars on the Lower East Side this weekend. Music aficionados will enjoy watching young musicians performing rock classics, but those less enthralled with covers might prefer to pass.

BOOKS

KGB Bar Sunday Night Fiction, 85 East 4th Street (between Second and Third avenues). Sunday, Jan. 24, 7–9 p.m., free. Explore the best of contemporary fiction as literary heavyweight Jonathan Dee, who is also a Columbia graduate writing professor and staff writer for the New York Times, and debut novelist Stefan Block read from and discuss their works in this weekly reading series.

WILDCARD

ARTS! By the People Silent Auction. 171 Avenue C (between 10th and 11th streets). Friday, 6 p.m. – 12 a.m., \$20 suggested donation. A silent auction featuring works from both up-and-coming and established New York City artists. The evening will also include comedy, live art, music, and drinks. Students who attend will hopefully be satisfied to have made the trip to this out-of-the way event.

SEARCH FOR THE BEST ART SUPPLY STORES



Sarah Lipman / Staff photographer
COLOR HAVEN | Shopping for artist supplies is made easy and enjoyable with the colorful paint layout and hyper-organization at Dick Blick in NoHo. Dick Blick, along with New York Central and Utrecht, puts other NYC art stores to shame.

Brushing up on the city’s brightest art store offerings

BY SARAH LIPMAN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Three Downtown stores boast art supplies of every shape and color. It’s not necessary to pick only one store to be loyal to and it’s not uncommon to go to two or all three in one day—New York Central for paper, Utrecht Art Supplies for bulk ink, and Dick Blick Art Materials for animal-shaped erasers. New York Central is conveniently located off of Union Square at Third Avenue and 11th Street. This is a one-stop shop for the highest quality materials. Central is stocked with top-of-the-line brushes, paints, and inks, as well as an expansive selection of pastels in every color and brand. The store also has a few hard-to-find items, such as colorful molding wax and leafing in every metal and texture. Large sheets of high-quality white paper are provided near all the writing and drawing materials so customers can test any materials they want. Although its art supplies are a huge draw, what makes New York Central special is its paper department upstairs. It

carries paper from every corner of the world, including China, the Philippines, Japan, Nepal and South America. Accompanying each paper is a “life story,” including the origin of the paper, how it was made, the history of that specific type of papermaking, the best uses for the paper, and its pH. For artists dissatisfied with the selection of paper made in this decade, there is some available for purchase that is 50 to 100 years old, since Central buys antique paper from quality mills and stocks it for their customers. Utrecht Art Supplies is just around the corner from New York Central, on Fourth Avenue and 12th Street. Utrecht carries all the same materials as New York Central, but more generic brands. It also sells a lot of Utrecht brand supplies, including paints, canvases, and aprons. The staff here is completely preoccupied, so don’t expect questions to be answered. Utrecht has a lot of “best buys” and “back to school” deals. It is a good place to buy cheap good-quality supplies, both individually or in

bulk. There is also have a large selection of balsa wood, metal drafting tools, and blue Styrofoam blocks, so it’s a good spot for architecture students. Just a couple blocks west is Dick Blick on Bond Street between Broadway and Lafayette Street. This is the largest and brightest of the three stores. The aisles are clearly labeled, announcing the locations of various supplies, so it is easy to find things quickly. However, the time saved in finding items is lost waiting in the consistently long lines at the check-out. Like Utrecht, Blick carries some of its own brand of products, mostly canvases, and has “big savings” and “back to school” specials. Blick, unlike either of the aforementioned stores, also has a large selection of crafting materials. It has blank envelopes and paper in all colors, photo albums, paint-your-own kid robot toys, and gel window decorations. This is also the place to go for children’s art supplies like finger paints, stencils, and coloring books. The best thing about Blick, however, is the notebook and pad selection.

Sex and hospitality co-star in ‘A Vagabond Story’

BY ADRIANA TOMA
Columbia Daily Spectator

Through a remarkable series of encounters on Mexican beaches and beyond, debut author Grant Lingel found beauty, serenity, and the inspiration to document his journey. In his memoir, “Imagine: A Vagabond Story,” Lingel recounts his 2006 journey throughout Mexico and Central America. With a particular attention to detail and the creation of a sense of immediacy, Lingel recounts his experiences with “sex, drugs, and salsa dancing,” but more importantly, his spontaneous and fascinating encounters with new people. Having almost finished his undergraduate career at the City University of New York at Buffalo, Lingel decided to embark on a reflective journey to a distant place, where he hoped to discover a global perspective. Lingel left with only \$300, a one-way ticket to Mexico, and significant apprehension toward the difficulties he might face. One year later, Lingel returned to New York with an experience that changed his life. In an interview, Lingel described the ways in which his voyage was life changing: “I learned how to be a person, I learned how to survive, to question life and to be approachable. It’s amazing how quickly you can grow when you’re in a new environment with all new people and a clean slate,” he said. “If I hadn’t gone, I wouldn’t be so curious, or have such a wanderlust.” Throughout the memoir, Lingel describes his stays in the small towns and beaches of Mexico, where he volunteered and joined other foreign travelers on a road trip to Guatemala

and Belize. Lingel met many people who, collectively, contributed the most to the beauty of his experience. “It was the people that I met and the stories that they told me that taught me the most,” he said. Having met people from all around the world during longer stays in Playa, or briefer visits to neighboring countries, Lingel began to value the ephemeral moments shared between people. He cherished the stories that they had to tell and the connections that form instantaneously between strangers. In “Imagine,” Lingel openly talks of his personal experience with drugs and risky encounters with the Mexican police, as well as brief love affairs. The memoir is written honestly and objectively, resembling a travel journal. Lingel takes an approach similar to the writing of Bruce Chatwin, who, through descriptive passages, brings accounts of new places to life. When his journey came to an end, Lingel clung to the vivid memories from his adventures and encounters. He decided that the only way to preserve these moments was to write them down, and, in doing this, relive his experience. Lingel said that he intended for his memoir to inspire college students, in particular those in their final year, to travel and to be introspective, contending that through travel one can learn more about life and the world than one can in a classroom. “People need to learn that breaking past that fear and embracing the unknown can lead to paths that have never been walked before, doing things that seem impossible,” Lingel said.



Courtesy of Grant Lingel
ON THE ROAD | Grant Lingel, the debut author of “Imagine: A Vagabond Story,” journeyed through Mexico and Central America in 2006.

In the future, Lingel plans to travel to Tanzania and open his own hostel, where he can reciprocate the hospitality and generosity of those who welcomed him in Central America and to meet people from around the world. “My trip has transformed my opinion on the world, showed me that the world is really welcoming and will open itself to you. A hostel is a good place for like-minded, curious people, who want to experience much more than a two-week vacation,” Lingel said. For more information and to read the first three chapters of “Imagine: A Vagabond Story,” visit www.vagabondstory.com.

Sixteen years later, ‘Stomp’ still leaves ears ringing

BY LINDEN HILL
Columbia Daily Spectator

Buckets, dustpans, and mops typically collect dust in broom closets. However, for the performers in the dance production “Stomp,” these objects take on new meaning.

Subway signs, metal fencing, and rusting garbage are transformed into musical instruments at the Orpheum Theatre in “Stomp,” an off-Broadway performance that creates a compelling, though clamorous, evening for audience members. Performers seem to vicariously release the audience’s tension by whacking buckets and trash cans—a fitting study break for students desperate to drown out the stress of a new semester.

Originally opening in New York in 1994, “Stomp” remains popular 16 years later, perhaps due to its unique synthesis of music and dance. Pounding a broomstick in rhythm

seems difficult enough, but the added choreographic and visual elements of the show make “Stomp” especially interesting. Despite a cast of less than ten performers, the show does not lack vigor.

At one point, five performers spin at a dizzying rate, trash can lids in their hands, hitting one another’s makeshift cymbals to produce complex beats. The entire cast also chases through piles of sand on the stage, creating gritty sound effects to accompany a combination of step and tap dancing.

The performers, many of whom have extensive dance and music backgrounds, impressively manage to create numerous sounds from everyday objects while simultaneously moving across the stage. Whether squeezing in some break-dancing moves between the percussion solos or whipping out a highly technical turn series while still drumming, the performers

not only possess the rhythm of musicians, but also the athleticism of dancers and the stage presence of actors. Performer Marivaldo Dos Santos exuded energy as he pounded on plastic buckets strapped across his body, long dreadlocks slapping his arms.

Despite a number of mesmerizing segments, “Stomp” was littered with overly theatrical moments, and the repetitive sounds became dull after an hour and a half of continuous noise. It was a challenge not to succumb to a pounding headache by the end of the show—it might not be a bad idea for ushers to distribute two Advil with every program. Still, for students in search of a somewhat unorthodox stress-reliever, “Stomp” fits the bill.

“*Stomp*” is currently on an open run at the Orpheum Theater. Showtimes are available Tuesday through Sunday at 8 p.m. and on the weekends, there is a 3 p.m. matinée. Tickets are available for \$40.

Masochism for the masses at Lower East Side performance

MCGUIRE from page 5

represents are upended, and provocative questions about power, femininity, masculinity, and control linger.

Without spoiling the show, I can tell you that the usual implements one imagines when thinking of masochism or sadomasochism—whips, chains, and other frightening devices—don’t make an appearance in this play. Though unquestionably erotic, the performance is tasteful and stimulates the intellect more than the nether regions. In fact, most audiences will likely relate to the themes of love, power, and pain that permeate the piece. The play suggests that pain and love are inextricably interconnected, a fact that most of us—even those who don’t engage in S&M—can attest to.

Lastly, Columbians will get a kick out of the many references to Greek literature and mythology. Dionysus, the Bacchae, Helen, and most importantly, Venus, make prominent appearances in the performance. The legacy of Lit Hum lives on.

Surprisingly, strands of the Columbia core often appear outside the University’s gates in fun, fantastical, and freakish ways—perhaps we’re getting our money’s worth after all. Stay tuned.

The Classic Stage Company is located at 136 E. 13th Street. David Ives’ “Venus in Fur” runs through Feb. 21. Tickets cost \$60.

Nneka McGuire is a Columbia College junior majoring in creative writing. The Fun, the Fantastical, and the Freakish runs alternate Fridays.

Brazilian cult horror film series ‘Coffin Joe’ scares its way to Lincoln Center

BY VICTOR CHANG
Columbia Daily Spectator

What horror icon brandishes long, curly fingernails that claw at your soul and never give it back? If American nightmare Freddy Krueger comes to mind, think again—there was a Brazilian creepster that existed long before Kreuger started realizing Americans’ fear of being slashed to death. Not only does he possess long keratin structures—he also dons a black suit, cape, and top hat that complete his image as a Brazilian terror icon. And now he’s coming to haunt Lincoln Center on Saturday with an all-day marathon of the acclaimed Coffin Joe Trilogy.

Creator José Mojica Marins dedicated an entire series to this symbolic

figure, a madman who goes about killing anybody that gets in the way of his obsession with “continuity of blood”—that is, his desire to sire a perfect child with a particular bride. It was all so shocking that “Awakening of the Beast,” one of the three features playing this Saturday, was banned in Brazil until 1986.

Even from the beginning of the trilogy, “At Midnight I’ll Take Your Soul” (Brazil’s very first domestic horror film), it is apparent that Marins’ films are marvelously freaky, bloody, and disgusting—done in a jerky “cut and paste” style.

“What is existence? It is the continuity of blood,” says Joe directly to the viewer. The movie causes further chills as a clairvoyant gypsy

begs viewers to not watch the film, as Joe’s two long fingernails come toward the screen with the intention of poking not only his victim’s eyes but the audience’s too. The movie eventually enters a spiral of insanity, coincidences, and downright scary happenings. The inexpensive production quality contributes to the gritty tone that would make anyone jump. The audience never knows when a shocking image will pop up on the screen.

So before filmgoers saw aliens walking through a Brazilian birthday party in “Signs,” there was Coffin Joe—waiting to sever your fingers, haunt your dreams without even entering them, and then remove your lifeless soul. Freddy’s finally met his match.



Press photos

LIFE OF THE UNDEAD | The Coffin Joe trilogy, a horror series from Brazil, follows a madman on a murderous rampage, who has now made his way to Lincoln Center.

Four poets converge in East Village, present their work at Bowery Poetry Club

POETS from page 8

beware of well-intended sucker punches—in the literary sense, of course. One poetry club, four writers — all for \$5.

East Village’s very own Bowery Poetry Club is hosting the ongoing reading series “Readings on the Bowery.” This Sunday at 2 p.m., writers Michael Dumanis, Monica Ferrell, James Allen Hall, and Jay Baron Nicorvo will gather to discuss their works for an admission fee of \$5. The series is sponsored by the non-profit press Four

Way Books, which publishes works by established and emerging poets. As the go-to literary venue for poetry enthusiasts, the Bowery Poetry Club hosts a range of events from writing workshops to book parties to poetry slams.

“I hope that the audience leaves with not only an affirmation of the beauty of language but also, too, with its more elemental force: the conveyance of strong emotion,” participating author Nicorvo said. Nicorvo’s poetry, fiction and nonfiction have appeared in publications such as

“Washington Square” and “The Believer.” He will potentially discuss his forthcoming poetry collection “DEADBEAT,” featuring poems that “circle round a single persona, also called Deadbeat.” Exemplifying father-son relationships as well as “modern day foibles,” Deadbeat is “a bit of a hapless fellow,” Nicorvo said.

Hall, a Lambda Literary Award winner and another poet in the reading series, echoed Nicorvo sentiment. “I always aim to take the reader on an intense emotional journey,” he said. “I

hope they leave word-drunk and transformed.” Hall’s poetry collection “Now You’re The Enemy” seeks to explore “the redemptive power of desire and art.”

The remaining poets will also read from their works. Ferrell, winner of the 2007 Kathryn A. Morton Prize in Poetry, will showcase the fine line between being awake and dreaming in her debut poetry collection “Beasts for the Chase.” Also, Duminas will present segments from his Juniper Prize-winning debut poetry collection “My Soviet Union,” intertwining vivid

emotions with historical figures.

“The poems I like best are the ones that leave me feeling like I’ve just been sucker-punched in the ear—really clobbered and for no apparent reason,” Nicorvo said. “And so I’m hoping that all three of the other poets I’ll be reading with on Sunday really clobber me, and what better place to be clobbered than on the Bowery.”

Audience members attending Sunday night’s Bowery Poetry Club reading better beware of well-intended sucker punches—in the literary sense, of course.

My Brightest Diamond shines at Bowery Ballroom

BOWERY from page 8

willingness to travel to imagination land and a taste for vast instrumentation.

Elsewhere, Brooklyn band Xylos plays Saturday night at The Mercury Lounge. The band uses electronics, xylophones, acoustic guitars, and boy-girl vocal melodies to great effect, creating a sound that is as relaxed as it is unanticipated. Team Genius, Pearl and the Beard, Echo Station, The Static Jacks, and Valerie June are also playing. The 21+ show’s \$10 price tag is well worth the trip downtown.

For students who have tired of the downtown music scene, Greg Johnson’s weekly free comedy gig is held Sunday nights at Pianos. Johnson, also a blogger, actor and radio host, draws big names each week. The likes of

Todd Barry and Eugene Mirman have been known to stop in, and Johnson also has connections with The Whitest Kids U’Know. Johnson’s blogs “America” and “Sports” have an active and devoted following.

For an outfit worthy of such high-profile entertainment, head to Gargyle and browse clothing selections from the likes of Surface to Air, Shipley & Halmos, and Vena Cava.

My Brightest Diamond, The Bowery Ballroom, 6 Delancey Street. Doors open 8:30 p.m., tickets \$15 in advance, \$17 day of show, 18+. Xylos, The Mercury Lounge, 217 East Houston Street. Doors open 7:30 p.m., tickets \$10, 21+. Greg Johnson and the Comedians, Pianos, 158 Ludlow Street. Doors open 7:30 p.m., admission free. Gargyle, 16A Orchard Street. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Dinner and dessert duo receives a fusion twist

MOMOFUKI from page 8

bun with red onion slaw (\$12) is a house favorite. Although the bun comes a little too crispy and the slaw is barely noticeable, the pork is succulent and the barbecue sauce tastes perfectly tangy.

Next, head to Momofuku Milk Bar, a notably more casual establishment with standing room only around light wooden tables.

In an ice cream state of mind? The Milk Bar’s soft-serve is fittingly milky—almost like gelato (\$4.15 a cup). “Salt & Pepper” soft-serve tastes, remarkably, like salt and pepper and makes for an unexpectedly bland ice cream experience. Instead, go for the “Nut & Honey,” which preserves a salty kick but has more flavor.

A heftier option is the “Compost Cookie” (\$1.85

each), composed of pretzels, potato chips, chocolate chips, butterscotch, graham, oats, and coffee. It also tastes similar to the “Cornflake Chocolate Chip Marshmallow Cookie,” except that it’s a thicker cookie. Luckily, that shared taste is a good one.

The Milk Bar’s offerings seem more wacky than distinctly fusion. Yet in a city full of cupcake joints and other specialists in sweet concoctions, Momofuku Milk Bar makes a nice alternative for those who prefer salt over sugar.

Momofuku may mean “lucky peach,” but Chang’s restaurant success is no fluke.

Momofuku Ssam Bar, corner of Second Avenue and 13th Street. Momofuku Milk Bar, corner of Second Avenue and 13th Street.

Nublu promises genre-defying performers

NUBLU from page 8

inspiration from Brazilian music. Every Wednesday, Nublu hosts Forro in the Dark, a group that flavors traditional northern Brazilian party music with far-flung influences including American country and jazz.

Wax Poetic, a group that performed with Norah Jones prior to her 2002 breakthrough album “Come Away With Me,” combines trip-hop with acid jazz. 3 Na Massa, another regular, cites Brazilian music, electronics, and the films of director Federico Fellini as influences.

Nublu Records, also owned by Erşahin, occupies the storefront next door. It has put out records by Forro in the Dark, Wax Poetic, and 3 Na Massa, as well as other groups such as Love Trio and

the Nublu Orchestra. Erşahin plays saxophone and composes for several of the bands on his label.

Students seeking a pocket of untouched authenticity in the rapidly changing East Village probably won’t find it at Nublu. The music is free, but drinks are fairly pricey and small. Organic cotton t-shirts on sale for \$25 imply a certain target demographic, and the bathroom is way too clean to be edgy.

That said, Nublu’s unabashed delight in forward-moving fusion might appeal to those tired of mourning the death of “what New York used to be.” At the very least, it offers a loud, sweaty escape from the straight lines and right angles of the Columbia daily grind.



COOKIE MONSTER | A Momofuku Milk Bar chef prepares various cookies for hungry customers looking to satisfy cravings for sweets after a dinner at Momofuku Ssam Bar. Angela Radulescu/ Staff Photographer

Dinner and dessert duo receives a fusion twist at Momofuku eateries

BY ALLISON MALECHA
Spectator Staff Writer

Out with home-cooked holiday meals, in with the best of New York fusion fare. At Momofuku, the mini fusion food empire that has rapidly taken over the East Village, Chef David Chang oversees a collection of restaurants that will entice even the most budget-conscious Columbia students.

The Momofuku story began in 2004 when the then-unknown chef David Chang opened Momofuku Noodle Bar

on First Avenue. Now a varied chain, the Momofuku group also includes Momofuku Ko, Momofuku Ssam Bar, and Momofuku Milk Bar. Columbia students will favor the Ssam Bar and Milk Bar's enter-as-you-please policy and relatively reasonable prices over Ko's cut-throat reservation process and expensive prix fixe meals.

These two Momofuku experiences can be had simultaneously at the corner of Second Avenue and 13th Street. The combination of expensive entrees at Ssam Bar and lack of real sustenance

at the Milk Bar suggests a combination approach: hit Ssam Bar for small plates then head right two storefronts to the Milk Bar for dessert.

At Momofuku Ssam Bar, the decor is streamlined with cherry wood walls and ceiling. The long bar lined with wooden stools is ideal for solitary dining. Warm lighting and loud but relaxed music make for an inviting atmosphere. And despite the chain's snooty reputation, the waiters—a casual mix wearing hipster glasses or backward caps—are friendly and ready to offer recommendations.

At first glance, the menu prices seem ridiculous. An order of bread and butter is \$8 and "seasonal pickles" are \$11. The rest of the small plates, however, are similarly priced, but fairer-sized and heartier than the light fare at many higher-end restaurants.

The seasonal plates are a highlight—"Honeycrisp Apple Kimchi" (\$13) features chile-rubbed apple slices, crisp but juicy bacon, and peppery yogurt sauce. A very American smoked barbecue pork

SEE MOMOFUKU , page 7

Four poets converge in East Village

BY LAURA OSELAND
Columbia Daily Spectator

One poetry club, four writers — all for \$5.

East Village's very own Bowery Poetry Club is hosting the ongoing reading series "Readings on the Bowery." This Sunday at 2 p.m., writers Michael Dumanis, Monica Ferrell, James Allen Hall, and Jay Baron Nicorvo will gather to discuss their works for an admission fee of \$5. The series is sponsored by the non-profit press Four Way Books, which publishes works by established and emerging poets. As the go-to literary venue for poetry enthusiasts, the Bowery Poetry Club hosts a range of events from writing workshops to book parties to poetry slams.

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Audience members attending Sunday night's Bowery Poetry Club reading better

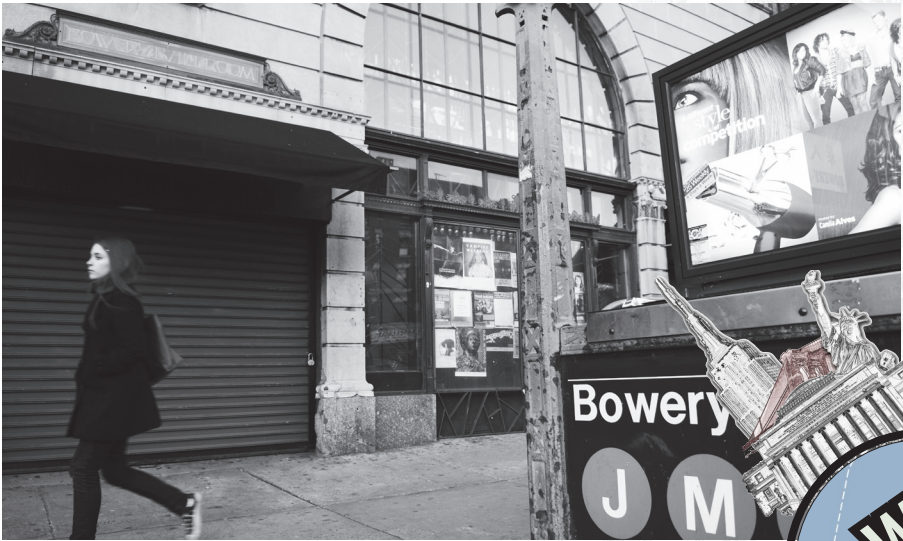
SEE POETS, page 7

'My Brightest Diamond' shines at Bowery Ballroom

BY LINDSAY WEAVER
Columbia Daily Spectator

For those looking to venture out of Morningside Heights, there are several events happening in lower Manhattan this weekend. This Friday, My Brightest Diamond is playing at the Bowery Ballroom—Basia Bulat is opening. Shara Worden, My Brightest Diamond frontwoman and former opera student, has worked with the likes of Sufjan Stevens and Padma Newsome of The National. My Brightest Diamond's latest release, "A Thousand Shark's Teeth," is described as a "musical snow globe" by Bowery Ballroom's Sean Michaels. The album's influences range from Tom Waits to Alice in Wonderland. Bring a

SEE BOWERY, page 7



Jose Giralto for Spectator

ALL THAT GLITTERS | On Friday, My Brightest Diamond is set to take the stage at the Lower East Side music venue Bowery Ballroom.

Nublu promises genre-defying performers

BY ANGELA RUGGIERO-CORLISS
Spectator Staff Writer

Very little about Nublu lends itself to rigid classification.

As its name—derived from "new blues"—suggests, fusion and fluidity are key at this East Village venue. From the décor to the music, Nublu rejects the cut-and-dry in favor of a chilled-out, improvisational vibe.

Owner Ilhan Erşahin founded Nublu in 2002 as a casual space to play music

with friends. The venue currently runs three live shows a night, seven nights a week. It featuring bands and DJs that tend to straddle genres and melt through categorization.

Nublu hides in a nondescript building on Avenue C, indicated by a tiny sign, behind two doors and two sets of curtains. A red neon glow bathes the entryway, and the hot, lightly incensed interior is a welcome escape from the chilly outdoors.

The venue's dim nooks and crannies are filled with whimsical bouncy-ball chairs, amoeba-shaped tables, and potted plants, giving the feel of a tricked-out tropical greenhouse. As fans trickle in before shows—which start at least an hour later than scheduled—musicians, bartenders, and regulars greet each other with hugs and chat like old friends at the bar.

Many of Nublu's live performers take

SEE NUBLU, page 7



Jose Giralto for Spectator

MIXING BEATS | Live bands bridge musical styles at Nublu, an elaborately decorated tropical paradise—the perfect escape for music lovers.

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Spectator is published by the Spectator Publishing Company, Inc.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Golf relative?
6 Camp sight
11 A favorite is a good one
14 Liquid fat
15 "The Audacity of Hope" author
16 Language of Southeast Asia
17 Scrabble cheat?
19 Cause of star wars?
20 Isn't on the level
21 Put one's cards on the table
23 Doctor's order
26 Babbles
27 White Rabbit's cry
28 "Like, wow!"
30 Antiquated alpine apparatus
31 Curl beneficiary, informally
32 Solution for a bad hair day
35 Rooster's mate
36 Moisturizer target
38 Printemps
39 Traffic reg.
40 Miss Muffet, before the spider showed up
41 E-mail heading word
42 Stay a while
44 Viselike device
46 Future doctor's project
48 Caribbean music genre
49 Oater prop
50 Low areas
52 Stop
53 Singer who loves flashy jewelry?
58 Bartender's concern
59 Leave alone
60 Piercing look
61 "Rosenkavalier": Strauss opera
62 "The Federalist" component
63 Ninnies

DOWN

2 Wright wing, maybe
3 Break fluid?
4 Old West badge
5 Low sock
6 Take for one's own use
7 French friar
8 Catches
9 East Ender's flat
10 Pendant pair
11 Perform a sheepish hip-hop number?
12 Boston College athlete
13 Whistle sounds
18 American Beauty, e.g.
22 Agua, across the Pyrenees
23 Collectible print, briefly
24 Fossilized resin
25 Boring boss?
26 Wash. title
28 More delicate
29 Andy Roddick, at times
31 Data measure
33 Tiny quantities

34 A conductor might pick it up
36 Subject to contradiction
37 Tattered duds
41 Achieve a piloting milestone
43 Suffix with Mao
44 Math class, briefly
45 Service providers?

46 Its gradual loss leads to baldness
47 Depend (on)
48 Shrewd
50 Convenes
51 Org. with the Chicago Sky and Seattle Storm
54 Paris article
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56 Pal
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

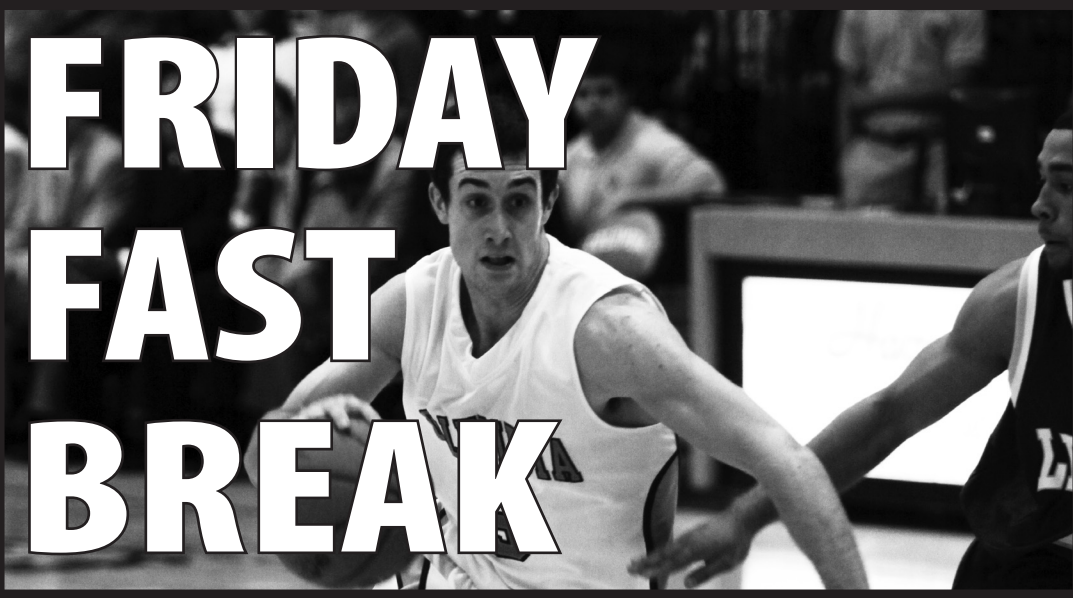
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By Fred Jackson III
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BY THE NUMBERS

POINTS FOR



POINTS AGAINST



REBOUNDS



ASSISTS



LAST TIME THEY MET



53

January 16
AT
Ithaca, NY



74



KEY MATCHUPS

Mark Cisco vs. Jeff Foote

Cornell senior center Jeff Foote is leading his team with 8.8 rebounds and is second in scoring with 12.9 points per game. Columbia freshman center Mark Cisco is third on the team in rebounds with 4.1 boards a game. If he can handle Foote, Columbia will have a shot at an upset.



Noruwa Agho vs. Ryan Wittman

Senior forward Ryan Wittman is leading the Big Red with 18.6 points this season thanks to an impressive 41.8 3-point field goal percentage. Columbia's sophomore guard Noruwa Agho is leading the nation in 3-point shooting with 56.5 percent and will challenge Wittman.

Photos courtesy of Columbia Athletics and Cornell Athletics

Cornell's Wittman leads Big Red offense

BY SPENCER GYORY
Columbia Daily Spectator

Ryan Wittman, a 6-foot-7 senior forward from Eden Prairie, Minnesota, has already established himself as one of the most prolific basketball players in Cornell's history. Ryan's outstanding numbers this season, 18.6 points and 2.1 assists per game, have helped the Big Red jump out to a 15-3 record, a mark that tops the Ancient Eight.



Basketball runs in the Wittman family. Ryan is the son of Randy Wittman, the Big Ten Player of the Year in 1983 while at Indiana University, an NBA player for 9 years, and the head coach of both the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Minnesota Timberwolves. Ryan, who hopes to play basketball after college, has taken the first steps towards continuing that tradition during his time with the Big Red.

"I knew I wanted to go to a great academic program," Ryan said of his decision to attend Cornell. "Cornell was one of the first schools to show interest in me."

Having visited the school, he decided to commit before his senior season in high school.

Ryan's four years at Cornell have been nothing short of sensational. He ranks first in Cornell's history in points (1766) and 3-point field goals made (1317), second in field goals made (601) and minutes played (3602), third in 3-point field goal percentage (.430) and fifth in free throw percentage (.853). In his first season, he was named Rookie of the Week six times and was the 2006-2007 Rookie of the Year.

In both his sophomore and junior years Ryan was a unanimous first team all-Ivy selection. This season, his last one with the Big Red, he has already earned Player of the Week honors five times and is in the running for Player of the Year.

"Ryan is a scorer for us first and foremost," said Cornell head coach Steve Donahue. "He's done that from the moment he walked on campus."

"Ryan looks and embraces the role of the scorer,"



Ajit Pillai / Senior staff photographer

SWOOSH | Ryan Wittman is the driving force of Cornell's offense.

Donahue continued. "He embraces the spotlight and wants to make the big plays".

Judging by his performances against Syracuse and Kansas, two perennial powers, Ryan doesn't shy away from pressure games. Against the Orange, currently ranked fifth in the nation, Ryan scored 19 points, and against the Jayhawks, the No. 1 team in the nation at that time, he scored 24 in a close 71-66 loss.

Yet, Donahue cautions fans to limit his importance as a basketball player to being just a great 3-point shooter.

"When Ryan's career began, around 75 percent of his points came off of 3-point shots," said Donahue. "Now, that number is around 50 percent. He scores in different ways for us now. Most people think Ryan is a great 3-point shooter and he is, but he also does a lot of the little things for us. He has a great basketball IQ. He defends. He rebounds."

When asked about his role on this team, Ryan said, "It's to be a scorer but also to play unselfishly. I try to take what the defense gives me and I don't try to force anything."

Ryan admits that, because he is known as a scorer, he does "sometimes get special attention from teams." However, he is also quick to point out, "We have other guys who can score."

It is because this Cornell squad has so many weapons—nine seniors—that it was picked by the Ivy media members to win the Ancient Eight for the third straight year.

"There will be target on our backs this year," Ryan said. "When you play in the Ivy League, all the games are ... intense. Because we don't have a tournament at the end of the year we have to play every game like a championship game." The focus and talent of this team-oriented squad will make the Big Red a tough opponent for anyone to beat.

KEYS TO THE GAME

1

Columbia must score

In order to exact revenge on the Big Red, the Light Blue must score points. Cornell is currently third in the league with 74.0 points a game, well ahead of Columbia's 53.0 points a game.

2

Rebounding

The Columbia Lions are much more likely to win if they out rebound the Cornell Big Red. Last time they met, the Light Blue were out rebounded 38-36.

3

Home court advantage

The Light Blue faithful must come out and support the men's basketball team in its attempt to upset the reigning champions. If the crowd is loud enough, the Big Red may lose its focus.

PIXBOX

WEEK 1



Tom Di Benedetto (0-0)



Kunal Gupta (0-0)



Jelani Johnson (0-0)



Lisa Lewis (0-0)



Bart Lopez (0-0)



Holly MacDonald (0-0)



Jacob Shapiro (0-0)



Lucas Shaw (0-0)



Matt Velazquez (0-0)

Cornell at Columbia (+14.5)	Lions	Columbia	Columbia	Best Night Ever?	The Fightin' Lions	Columbia	Columbia	Lions	Upset City Bay-Bee
Yale at Brown (-8.5)	Brown	Brown	Yale	Jones	Brown	Brown	Brown	Bears	Brownies
Harvard at Dartmouth (+20.5)	Harvard	Harvard	Harvard	Vard	Harvard	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Alex Barnett	Jeremy Lin
Goucher at Princeton (-20.5)	Tiggers	Princeton	Princeton	Princeton	Princeton	Princeton	Princeton	Really? Pton	Princeton
Texas at Connecticut (+9.5)	Huskies	Texas	Texas	Matt	Texas	SEXY DEXY	Tejas	Barnes & Noble	UCONN
Lakers at Cavs (-3.5)	MVP	Lakers	Lakers	King James	His Lordship	Lakers	Lakers	Candyman	Lakeshow
Jets at Colts (-8.5)	Colts	Jets	Colts	Colts	Peyton	Jets	Manning	Peyton	Green
Vikings at Saints (-3.5)	Vikes	Saints	Vikings	Evan FTW	Kim Kardashian	Saints	Saints	Brett's my boy	Nawlans

THE BEST PART

I'm only picking the Colts to jinx them.

I'm Baaaaaack!

Shoutout to Haiti

I changed my Matt vs Holly pick at least three times...I'm hoping the spread saves me! (Hook 'em!)

Saints-Colts superbowl FTW

This is a challenge to Matthew Velazquez: winner on Saturday must proclaim the other's inherent greatness in their next shoutout.

Champion of the Sun

I did these in one minute. Let the title run commence. The Cavs are little girls, time for revenge.

Saturday's men's basketball game is SOLD OUT to all non-students. If you're not there, you suck. Period.

Why we should pack the house



BART LOPEZ

The Tailgating Tales

Saturday, Cornell is coming to town for a double-header of basketball goodness. If the previous sentence has officially convinced you to attend the game, feel free to skip down to paragraph four. If not, continue reading.

The Columbia women's basketball team is currently on a two-game winning streak, which it looks to continue against Cornell. The 10-5 Lions have put together quite an impressive season so far, and therefore deserve to play in front of a packed house. In case you're the type of person that prefers impressive individual performances to team play, don't fear, because Judie Lomax is here. Lomax is averaging an outstanding 17.5 points and 14.7 rebounds per game. Throw in 39 assists and 27 steals on the season, and you've got yourself a one-player wrecking machine. Now that I've officially convinced you to go watch the women's game, why should you stay for the men's game at 7 p.m.?

In short, you should be there to witness a possible upset of nearly epic proportions. The Cornell men's basketball team is damn good. The Big Red will enter this weekend's game with a 15-3 record and a three-game winning streak. More impressive than its record is how well Cornell played on the road against Kansas. Up by three at halftime, the Big Red was in a position to upset the then-top-ranked school in the nation. Thanks to a late surge, Kansas pulled out the win and avoided the embarrassing defeat. But don't think that all hope is lost, as the fightin' Lions have enough firepower to topple the Ivy giant. Sophomore Noruwa Agho is averaging 17.4 points per game while shooting a crazy .565 percentage from behind the arc. A win for the Lions behind the hot shooting of Agho would be an upset that you'd regret not having seen in person.

At this point, I've convinced you to attend both games of Saturday's double-header, but attending comes with certain responsibilities. Earlier in the year, I highlighted how fans should behave at the Homecoming football game against Penn. While some rules remain constant—such as wearing Columbia colors—there are other, more specifically basketball-related rules.

First, making noise takes on a whole new meaning in the small confines of a basketball arena. Yelling, cheering, and stomping are all great methods to ensure that the opposing team doesn't play its best game. For example, if an opposing player shoots up an air-ball, it's important to remind him or her how terrible the shot was by chanting air-ball at least three times. If you do your job right, the Cornell players will hate having to play at Columbia.

Second, basketball officials make mistakes—they are human, after all. When they do make a mistake, make sure to call them out for their poor officiating. Chanting "bullshit" usually works pretty well, but there are plenty of more creative chants out there. Remember, if you don't remind them how crappy that call was, they might make the same mistake again, and no one wants that.

Third, don't show up just to snag a free T-shirt. I know it's tempting for you students who like to talk shit about Columbia athletics from the safety of your rooms, but both the men's and women's basketball teams are capable of doing quite well in Ivy play. These two games are big, so stick around and support the team.

Bart Lopez is a Columbia College junior majoring in economics-mathematics.

COLUMBIA (6-9, 0-1 Ivy) vs. CORNELL (15-3, 1-0 Ivy)

SATURDAY, 7 p.m., LEVIEN GYMNASIUM

RADIO: WKCR 89.9 FM WWDJ 970 AM • WWW.GOCOLUMBIALIONS.COM

Basketball looks forward to Big Red rematch

Columbia hopes for help from injured Foley, Grimes in conference contest



Jasper Clyatt / Staff photographer

FORWARD PROGRESS | Lions fans anticipate seeing forward Brian Grimes take the court again after injury benched him twice and restricted his playing time last weekend.

BY ZACH GLUBIAK
Spectator Staff Writer

With 49 seconds to play, the score was 64-63 in Allen Fieldhouse between Cornell and Kansas. At the time, the Jayhawks were No. 1 in the country, undefeated, and plastered all over SportsCenter's highlight reels on a weekly basis. And Cornell was winning.

The Big Red lost that game 71-66, but the weight of its performance and its plethora of quality wins throughout an impressive nonconference run will only add to the sense of occasion this Saturday night in Levien Gymnasium, when the Lions look to avenge last weekend's loss in Ithaca. On that night, Cornell (15-3, 1-0 Ivy) used the wide variety of offensive weapons at its disposal to steamroll a Columbia team reeling from injuries and struggling to find its rhythm in a hostile environment.

The 74-53 score line was not the result of a lack of effort on Columbia's part. In addition to the unfriendly confines of Cornell's Newman Arena, the absence of senior Patrick Foley, and the limited minutes of junior Brian Grimes, Columbia battled foul trouble the whole night.

"We're already not at 100 percent, and then when we get a couple guys in foul trouble, it really puts more pressure on some of our inexperienced guys to now carry the load," Columbia head coach Joe Jones said. With the team's rhythm disrupted, senior tri-captain Kevin Bulger's strong performance was lost among Cornell's offensive successes.

"To beat them, or to hope to beat them, you have to be able to score," Jones said. The Big Red simply has too many scoring options, so any cold spells can doom opponents to playing

COLUMBIA VS. CORNELL

Levien Gymnasium, Saturday, 7 p.m.

a brutal game of catch-up. Against Kansas, superstar Ryan Wittman notched 24 points, three assists, two steals, and four rebounds.

Against the Lions, Cornell showed what Jones was talking about when he said, "They really don't care who scores. They really don't." In that contest, Wittman and fellow guard Chris Wroblewski led the team with 13 points each. Center Jeff Foote added a double-double with 12 points, 10 rebounds, and two blocks. Geoff Reeves contributed eight points, Louis Dale had seven, and Errick Peck and Max Groebe poured it on with six apiece.

But Saturday's matchup should be very different. Grimes, a key post player and the Lions' No. 2 scoring option, has had a week for trainers to work on his strained calf after being limited to just 17 minutes of playing time last weekend. While Foley's status is still uncertain for Saturday—he did not play in the Ivy opener—Jones is hopeful his high ankle sprain will have healed enough for him to return to action.

With or without Foley, the Lions will have to be able to put together a complete performance. Columbia struggled over the break in the second half, and it will be hard to recover from any lapses against Cornell. "We've just had a hard time of being consistent this year so far," said a perplexed Jones, who could not point to anything in particular to explain the Light Blue's second-half woes this season.

What Jones is not hesitant about is his team's work ethic. "We've always

SEE MEN'S BASKETBALL, page 3

TEAM LEADERS



NORUWA AGHO
17.4 points a game



PATRICK FOLEY
37 assists



BRIAN GRIMES
6.6 rebounds a game
Courtesy of Columbia Athletics

Lions look for repeat win against Cornell at Homecoming meet



Lenny Pridatko / Staff photographer

DIVING IN | Women's swimming and diving is set to challenge Cornell at home tonight.

BY JULIA GARRISON
Columbia Daily Spectator

The women's swimming and diving team will compete in its annual Homecoming meet this afternoon against Cornell. Having beat Bucknell 129-114 in an away meet last Sunday, the Lions head into the dual meet against their Ancient Eight rival with an overall record of 3-2 (1-2 Ivy). The Light Blue hopes to improve its record in the Ivy League to 2-2 with a triumph over the Big Red.

When the two teams faced off last year, Columbia overwhelmed Cornell in Ithaca 189-111. At that point in the season, the Lions had already competed in six dual meets and had an overall record of 5-1. The Light Blue dominated the Big Red, winning 14 out of the day's 16 events.

Beginning with senior Shannon Hosey's first place finish in 3-meter diving, the Lions got off to a great start. Later on in the meet, Hosey was able to gain the top spot in the 1-meter diving competition as well.

SEE WOMEN'S SWIMMING, page 3

COLUMBIA VS. CORNELL

Uris Pool, Saturday, 4 p.m.

Lions strive for undefeated Ivy record in conference rematch

BY SARAH SOMMER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Following a 24-point victory over Cornell on Jan. 16, the Columbia women's basketball team will seek its second Ivy League win in as many games when it hosts the Big Red on Saturday. The Light Blue (10-5, 1-0 Ivy) has never started conference play with a 2-0 record during head coach Paul Nixon's tenure, but that could change this weekend.

The Lions are 6-1 since Dec. 8, and are winning games by an average of 14.5 points. They won a season-high four consecutive matchups before falling to North Carolina State, 60-58, on Jan. 4. Most recently, Columbia beat St. Francis (N.Y.) and Cornell.

While success can lead to complacency, the Light Blue is determined not to let its recent achievements prove detrimental. Despite the lopsided result of their first meeting with Cornell (5-9, 0-1 Ivy), the Lions know that they must enter the rematch with the same intensity that led them to a 68-44 win in Ithaca.

"The first key is to understand that that wasn't an easy win, to understand that we had to be prepared, we had to be focused, and just that that's the outcome that we're looking for the next 13 games," junior forward Judie Lomax said. "It doesn't matter who we're playing, it doesn't matter if we won the first time or not, it doesn't matter who they beat or who they lost to. [What matters is] just being ready to play that opponent, that night, at that time."

In order to remain a dominant team, Nixon said the Lions must limit their turnovers and grab more defensive rebounds. Columbia will expect Lomax, who currently leads the nation with 14.7 boards per game, to lead its rebounding efforts on Saturday.

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, page 3

COLUMBIA VS. CORNELL

Levien Gym, Saturday, 4:30 p.m.



Jasper Clyatt / Staff photographer

DOUBLE DRIBBLE | Kathleen Barry and her fellow Lions team up tonight against the Big Red in search of their second Ivy win.