

Admins publicize new student health fund

BY ELIZABETH SEDRAN
Columbia Daily Spectator

After creating a supplemental student health fund last semester to address concerns over abortion funding, Health Services is now working to publicize the details of its new program.

After a change in the University’s insurance policy last semester left students without guaranteed coverage for abortion, Health Services created the fund for “special, time-sensitive health-care” services, such as abortions, emergency room-related services, STIs, and initial alcohol and drug treatment, according to Samuel Seward, assistant vice president of health services.

In the past, abortions were covered by the Columbia Health Program fee, which all students are required to pay, as well as the Columbia Student Medical Insurance Plan.

But last semester, coverage for abortions and three other services were removed from the fee, a change that left students who opt out of the Columbia insurance plan at risk of having to find their own abortions.

The new program, which is funded by discretionary money in the Health Services budget, allows students to request up to \$750 of coverage a maximum of two times per academic year or three times during their time at Columbia.

SEE HEALTH FUND, page 2

Leadership program holds first session at W. Harlem’s M.S. 161

BY KELLY ECHAVARRIA
Spectator Staff Writer

Columbia graduate students Lorraine Mull and Francesca ReDavid are bringing a simple message to local middle school girls: dream big.

Girl Meets World, which was founded three years ago by Teachers College student Mull and School of Continuing Education student ReDavid, hosted its first session at M.S. 161 on Amsterdam Avenue and 133rd Street on Wednesday.

A group of about 10 middle school girls filed into the school’s Learning Lounge and sat around a large round table to listen to Mull and ReDavid talk about themselves and their careers.

When the two speakers introduced themselves, the girls



TIANYUE SUN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TOWN HALL | Director of Health Promotion for Alice! Michael McNeil noted that 85 percent of Columbia students are non-smokers.

Levine, Ramadan gain ground in District 7 City Council race

BY CHRIS MEYER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

After city campaign funding reports were released last week, two frontrunners have emerged in the crowded Democratic primary to represent the greater Morningside Heights area in the City Council.

Mark Levine, a Democratic district leader, and Zead Ramadan, the chairman of the board of the New York chapter of the Council on

American-Islamic Relations, a Muslim civil rights organization, lead the pack in the race for District 7 in terms of fundraising, according to a New York City Campaign Finance Board report released last week.

Many of the candidates, who are running to replace term-limited council member Robert Jackson, have attracted support not only in the district, which also includes Manhattanville, Hamilton Heights, and part of Washington Heights, but also from particular constituencies citywide, including New York’s Muslim population and

occupational groups ranging from public school employees to political organizers.

Levine, who formally began his campaign seven weeks ago, leads the pack with roughly \$60,000 raised. He is followed by Ramadan, who began collecting funds only a week before the Jan. 15 filing deadline but has managed to rack up around \$40,000.

In an interview on Tuesday, Levine attributed his lead to a combination of individual donations from residents of the district and dedicated political activists with whom he had

worked in the past. He said these included members of his Barack Obama Democratic Club, as well as people he had worked with while in the nonprofit sector.

“I don’t have the fortune of having personal wealth or family wealth, so that is not a fundraising option for me,” Levine said. “It’s really people I have worked with in over two decades of activism, and to me, it’s really heartening to see so many people stepping up.”

According to the finance board’s report, Levine, who

SEE CAMPAIGN, page 2

USenate weighs smoking policies

Two years after 20-foot ban, debate continues

BY CECILIA REYES
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

More than two years after the University Senate passed a ban on smoking within 20 feet of all university buildings, the smoking debate is still unresolved.

Approximately 30 people attended a USenate town hall, which focused on the potential for new smoking regulations on Columbia’s Morningside and Lamont campuses.

University Senator Francis Lee, chair of the task force on smoking policy, said that the ban has been ineffective thus far because of the lack of proper signs and multimedia informational campaigns.

At the town hall, he showed maps of Columbia’s campus and photos of cigarette butts littered within walkable distance of butt receptacles, and stressed the importance of enforcing a ban.

Some students at the town hall, though, said that enforcement was not an issue.

SEE SMOKING, page 2



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

COMMUNITY | Souleimane Konate, the Masjid Aqsa imam, said that the mosque draws members from all over New York.

Masjid Aqsa mosque faces eviction order

Real estate development in West Harlem threatens to evict a longtime mosque. Congregants from near and far say the house of prayer is a critical community hub in one of the city’s biggest African neighborhoods.

BY CHRISTIAN ZHANG

On one side of Frederick Douglass between 115th and 116th streets sit the newly completed Livmor Condominiums, where a two-bedroom unit sells for \$1.2 million. On the other side is the Masjid Aqsa mosque, its green awning tucked between an alleyway tire shop and a Guinean convenience store.

Masjid Aqsa opened more than 16 years ago in a Harlem that was very different from today’s gentrifying neighborhood. But developers are now looking to evict the mosque and build more

apartments to meet the ever-growing demand for housing.

“They want to evict us,” Souleimane Konaté, the mosque’s imam, said. “They want to just destroy this building.”

The landlord, 2136 Frederick Douglass Boulevard, LLC, filed an order of eviction for months of unpaid rent, the New York Times reported last month. On Wednesday, Konaté said that the mosque was awaiting a court decision but was not facing any “financial difficulties.” The next court date is Jan. 31.

For the 1,500 congregation members, however, the pending court decision means that a hub of Little Senegal, one of the city’s largest African neighborhoods, hangs in the balance.

“Closing this place down, that means there will be no African community,” Konaté said. “Some people will come from Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, even New Jersey, because the service here is perfect.”

Joseph Rabizadeh, the plaintiff in the case against the mosque and the CEO of the company that owns the building according to public records, did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

“If this mosque moves, I don’t know what I’m going to do,” said Amadou Doumbia, a Bronx resident from Cote

SEE MOSQUE, page 2

OPINION, PAGE 4

Unfamiliar territory

Leo Schwartz shares his experiences in Paraguay.

ROTC responsibility

Professor Helen Benedict challenges sexual assault in the military.



SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Men’s Basketball faces Cornell at home

Following the Lions’ win over Cornell last week, the men’s basketball team looks for its second Ivy win on Saturday.

EVENTS

Yodle Tech Talk @ Columbia

A discussion with Jamie Kingsbery from online marketing firm Yodle.
Computer Science Lounge, Mudd Building, 4 p.m.

Barnard College Career Fair

Fair features employers from JP Morgan Chase to Human Rights Watch.
LeFrak Gymnasium, Barnard Hall, 11 a.m.

WEATHER

Today



27°/ 21°

Tomorrow



30°/ 16°

USenate town hall reopens smoking policy debate

SMOKING from front page

“As a smoker, I feel like I see non-smoking signs everywhere I go,” Andrew Grasso, GS, said. “On behalf of a lot of sentient smokers, I can say that we get it, and maybe the investment of more signs would not yield the result you think it would.”

As a possible solution, Senator Brendan O’Flaherty, an economics professor, proposed to designate specific smoking areas across campus, floating the possibility of charging for the use of such areas as a further incentive for smokers to put out their cigarettes.

But Columbia Law School professor Philip Genty said that arguments for a smoking ban are just “a moral issue disguised as a public health issue, pushed primarily by people offended by the idea of smoking.”

Genty also said that designated smoking areas run the danger of stigmatizing a portion of the University’s community.

At the meeting, Senator Kalliope Kyriakides, BC ’14, noted the success of Barnard’s no-smoking policy, but she qualified it by saying that Barnard has fewer students than Columbia, and that most Barnard students do not smoke.

“Smokers who want to smoke are going to smoke.”

—Rafael Castellanos, CC ’13

Michael McNeil, director of Alice! Health Promotion, pushed the conversation in a different direction when he presented the results of a revamped program that was implemented over four years ago.

According to McNeil, 1,128 students who wanted to quit smoking have taken advantage

of the free resources that Alice! provides, including nicotine patches and gum.

Eighty-five percent of Columbia students now identify as non-smokers, while daily smokers only make up a single-digit percentage of the population, McNeil noted.

Assistant Vice President of Columbia Health Services Samuel Seward said that a tobacco cessation program would be “the right way to go,” adding that “a very small number of those students would tell us the reason they decided to contemplate quitting smoking is because of the 20-foot rule.”

Rafael Castellanos, CC ’13 and a student who attended the town hall, said that restricting smoking to certain areas would be unrealistic. “I hate smoking. I think it is despicable and disgusting,” he said. “But smokers who want to smoke are going to smoke.”

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Mosque has served community for over 16 years

MOSQUE from front page

d’Ivoire who has been coming to Masjid Aqsa for the past 11 years and said he attends every prayer session. “Maybe the whole community will want to move.”

“It’s not just only prayer here,” Konaté said. “We’re defending Africans when it comes to immigration, police, health, financial issues.”

“We’re teaching people good manners ... how to be good citizens, how to prevent crime, how to vote,” he added.

Taxicabs and motorbikes were parked in front of the mosque for Thursday’s afternoon prayer as people in

clean-cut suits and wrinkled jackets alike streamed in. As they entered, members greeted each other in Arabic and English.

“I could be standing next to somebody who could be a multimillionaire, or somebody who’s homeless,” said a mosque member named Ayman who asked that his last name not be used. “Here, we are all equal.”

Muslims are required to pray five times every day, and men are obliged to pray in congregation, a reason why the mosque is so important to the community.

“When you come and see somebody four, five times a day, it builds community relations

better than everybody going to a bar or a club,” Ayman said. “We look out for each other here.”

“The mosque is very important for all immigrants in this place,” Doumbia said. “It’s very important for everyone here.”

The mosque sits in the middle of a stretch of Harlem that has changed considerably in recent years. Konaté said he’s not surprised by the changes.

“When you walk down the street, you see 10 churches,” Ayman said. “It’s important for us to have this one place.”

“It’s like a hub,” he said. “This community is very rich. It’s a blessing.”

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CHRISTIAN ZHANG FOR SPECTATOR
EVICTION ORDER | Masjid Aqsa has seen its surrounding neighborhood become more gentrified.

Emergency health fund can cover abortions

HEALTH FUND from front page

Applications are reviewed by the Columbia Health Special Healthcare Needs Fund Committee, which comprises Director of Medical Services Brenda Aiken, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services Richard Eichler, and Chief of Administration Thomas Palatucci.

Zoe Ridolfi-Starr, CC ’15 and a lead activist for the Columbia University Democrats who lobbied successfully for the creation of the fund, said she was proud that the fund was created so quickly.

Still, she said that she finds the \$750 cap worrying because “the average abortion is about \$470, but they can go up to \$3,000, \$4,000 depending on how late in the pregnancy it occurs and depending on if there are additional risk factors that can quickly jack up the price.”

“That still leaves people in a position where they’re expected to come up with hundreds or thousands of dollars in cash,” she said.

The \$750 coverage amount comes from a Health Services review of the average cost of each of the services that the former

safety net covered, according to Seward.

“It’s not to suggest that it will be enough for every student, but I can tell you based on our initial experience, it has been an adequate amount,” Seward said. “And based on our overall sense of what these things cost, we think it’s a good amount.”

Seward said that students have already started using the supplemental health fund this semester, although he declined to provide a specific number due to privacy issues.

Ridolfi-Starr said that the Dems had been gearing up for a larger campaign to speak out against the administration’s decision to eliminate some coverages, but after the creation of the supplemental fund, their plans changed.

“They came up with a magical solution that is very well-structured to suit the concerns that we had, which is great,” she said.

Now, the Dems’ focus has turned to increasing publicity for the fund.

Ridolfi-Starr added that she hopes that RAs let their residents know about the fund because “a lot of students look to their RAs when they’re dealing with crises.”

In addition to placing

information about the fund on the Health Services website and talking to administrators at Columbia College and the School of Engineering and Applied Science, Health Services informed the Student Health Advisory Committee about the fund and is working to inform more students, according to Seward.

Stefano Ciocca, GS ’13, said he is excited about the fund and believes that it is “good for the community to have healthy peers.”

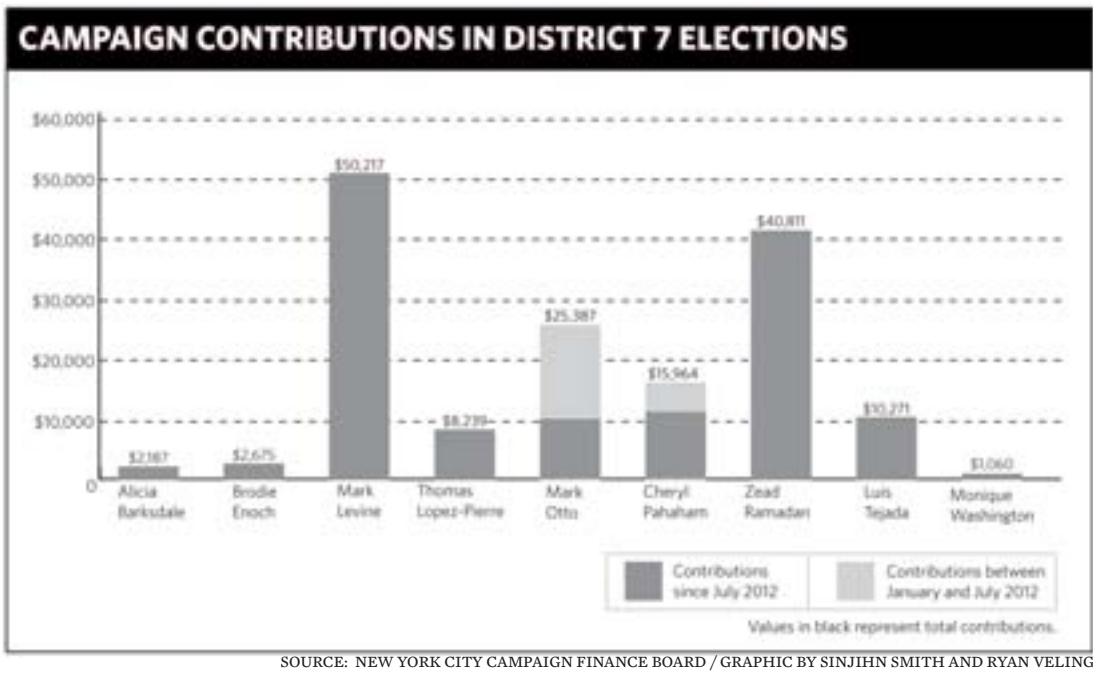
Seward said that Health Services is still taking suggestions from the Dems.

“We really appreciate students’ concerns, and we’re delighted we were able to do something about it,” he said.

While she believes her work is not over, Ridolfi-Starr expressed relief that the health fund is now up and running.

“If something bad ever happens to me healthcare wise, and I need to get that emergency time-sensitive coverage that my insurance won’t cover, I’m taken care of,” she said. “Columbia has made arrangements, and I’m taken care of. That’s not something that I have to stay up at night worrying about.”

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Muslim community supports Ramadan for Council

CAMPAIGN from front page

worked in the nonprofit sector in the past, has also attracted a number of donations from leaders in philanthropic organizations, including Teach for America, Fresh Youth Initiatives, and the Robin Hood Foundation, a city-based anti-poverty organization.

Meanwhile, Ramadan, who said in an interview on Tuesday that he raised most of his funds after returning from vacation with his family in early January, has leaned heavily on his relatives for donations. In addition to his immediate family, which owns a café in Washington Heights and has donated thousands to the campaign, Ramadan has reached out to his more distant relations.

“At this time in my life when I ask them for help, I know that they love me,” Ramadan said, referring to his extended family. “But with the fundraising that I’ve done, I’ve only reached out to about 10 percent of my extended family.”

Ramadan, a Palestinian-American, has also attracted

significant support from the district’s Muslim community, which he calls a “pride factor” and says is healthy to the democratic process because his candidacy involves more Muslims in local politics. (Jackson is the only Muslim on the council.)

The geographic distribution of Ramadan’s donations is also broader than his rivals’. Although no candidate drew donations exclusively from District 7, a notable percentage of Ramadan’s donations have come from areas outside Manhattan, including Staten Island, Yonkers, Brooklyn, and parts of the Bronx.

Political newcomer Mark Otto has also received donations from a broad geographic base, bringing in roughly \$25,000. Educators from around the city have been a major source of funds for Otto’s campaign, with employees of major universities, public school teachers, and nonprofit activists giving him thousands of dollars.

This aligns with the issue of education reform, which Otto, a public school teacher himself, has made the keystone issue of his campaign.

“We’re targeting LGBT activists, teachers, educators, principals, and parents of public schools, and those are groups that we have gone back to consistently,” Otto said. “The district money will come as the momentum continues to build, but the issues I represent are citywide. It’s not just about education or LGBT youth in District 7.”

Cheryl Pahaham, another newcomer who was among the first to declare her candidacy, was the fourth-largest recipient with roughly \$16,000, but did not reply to requests for comment Wednesday. Representatives for Luis Tejada, a community activist and the only other candidate to raise above \$10,000, were unable to comment before press time.

Corey Ortega, an aide to assemblyman Keith Wright who has announced his plans to run, was not included in the report because he has not started a campaign finance committee. Ortega said he will start raising money after the formal opening of his new Democratic club in Harlem. He plans to sign the lease for the club next week, he said.

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Students for Sensible Drug Policy president out

BY TRACEY WANG Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Earlier this week, Blaine Harper, CC ’13, resigned from her post as president of Students for Sensible Drug Policy following a semester of internal conflict.

In an email to the members of SSDP Tuesday, she said, “I cannot work with people who have insisted that mediation is not an option and who have since deliberately omitted me from multiple executive board notifications, meetings, and decisions. I hope that my departure will allow them to refocus their efforts.”

An election for her position was held on Wednesday night, and Vice President Mahogany Wright, GS, ran unopposed.

The resignation follows a semester of internal debate that Harper said ultimately left her with no choice but to leave her position.

In the fall, Wright and former treasurer of the club, Ariana Hirsh, BC ’13, attempted to have Harper impeached. Although a general vote later proved to be in Harper’s favor, she said that the impeachment colored her participation in the club and her interactions with Wright.

Harper said that the disagreement and tension within the

group stemmed from a misunderstanding. She said that after she sent an email earlier in the fall rallying the club to work together after it lost its room reservation for the semester, Wright replied saying that Harper was “out of line.”

Later, Harper said, her relationship with Wright and other club leaders became more tense. “They said that they wanted to work together, but that isn’t manifested in their behavior toward me,” she said in an interview Thursday. “I think it really comes down to personal conflict. Sometimes people just don’t get along. I just want to avoid conflict.”

“It’s still unclear to me what happened,” she said. “I really don’t know. We had a mediation session and I asked, ‘What can I do?’ But they said that they had already said everything they wanted to. I wanted to do more, but there was really nothing more I could do.

“I tried to work with them, but the effort wasn’t really reciprocated,” she said.

Despite the impeachment attempt and the personal conflict within the group, Wright said that Harper’s resignation was unexpected.

“Our last meeting of the semester was engaging, and there

was no tension,” she said. “This was definitely surprising.”

“Moving forward is just our primary goal,” she said.

Katharine Celentano, GS and former president of the club, said that she also found the tenor of the last meeting positive and did not know in advance that Harper was resigning.

“Everyone after that meeting was committed to moving forward,” she said. “We were really happy after that meeting, so this was surprising and upsetting.”

“There was absolutely no pressure from within the group for her to resign,” Celentano added.

During the election Wednesday evening, Celentano and Wright both said that they hoped Harper would stay a member of the club.

But Harper said that while she will continue to advocate for drug policy reform, she has no plans of returning to SSDP.

“We’re excited to move forward and do what we do best, which is to enforce good, sensible drug policy,” Celentano said. “This is not a place of conflict. Internal conflict pales in comparison to the responsibilities we’re charged with as a student organization.”

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LILY LIU-KRASON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
NEARLY IMPEACHED | Blaine Harper, CC ’13, announced her resignation from her post as president of Students for Sensible Drug Reform on Tuesday after a series of internal conflicts last fall.



LUKE HENDERSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

EMPOWERMENT | Mull and ReDavid discuss dream careers with a group of girls from M.S. 161.

Lessons seek to cultivate self esteem, compassion

LEADERSHIP from front page

They then discussed ground rules and what leadership meant to them. Mull passed out a personal-ity survey that asked the girls ques-tions such as whether they were cool-headed or warm-hearted.

Gabrielle Deveaux, a member of the Girl Meets World advi-sory board and a special educa-tion coach at M.S. 161, said that some girls are initially shy dur-ing session at the other two pub-lic schools in which the program operates, but that at M.S. 161, the students were different.

“The girls were very eager and jumped right in,” Deveaux said. “They’re really excited to meet new people and hear about differ-ent careers outside of being an ac-tress or a singer or a dancer.”

Mull and ReDavid, best friends, brainstormed the idea as they rode a subway back to Brooklyn one day and tried to think of ways to get in-volved in the community.

“We wanted to participate in a service that was more hands-on,” ReDavid said. “But nothing really made us excited.”

So they thought of a new idea. “We thought, ‘What do we love?’” ReDavid said. “We love working with kids, we love work-ing with girls. What were we passionate about? Empowering

women, empowering girls.”

The duo met with Rebecca Fagin, vice principal at Upper West Side middle school Mott Hall II, to start making their vision come to life. They began Girl Meets World later that year in 2010 and have so far received positive responses. The pro-gram held its first fundraising event on Jan. 10 and will expand to five schools next year.

“Initially, we thought we could teach them skills from the different professions like graphic design,” Mull said. But as she and ReDavid worked with the girls, she said, they started to focus on the “more broad lead-ership skills that are relatable to every person in any environment that they are going into.”

In future sessions at M.S. 161, Mull and ReDavid will bring in young professionals to talk about their career paths. One of their most memorable moments was a field trip to Rockefeller Center, where senior partners of a New York entertainment law firm met a group of girls.

“Not only do the students get something, but our speakers do, too,” ReDavid said. “Our speakers genuinely do love coming. They ask to come back to other schools or to come back to other sessions, so really, we help young profes-sional women as well as the kids.”

Deveaux said that Girl Meets World aligns with M.S. 161’s mis-sion: helping girls “dream bigger and think bigger, and to become very effective members of so-ciety and to be compassionate members of society as well as strong leaders.”

For example, Girl Meets World alumni have gone on to become student body presidents and vice presidents at their schools, Mull said.

“By the end of the year, I definitely feel like I can see them sitting a little taller, hold-ing their head a little higher. They’re able to speak more clearly,” Mull said.

Mull and ReDavid attribute the success of the program to their close friendship and collaboration.

“Lorraine and I really work well together. We’re best friends—we were best friends before the program. We really support each other throughout our busy sched-ules,” ReDavid said. “We both are on the same page when it comes to the program itself.”

Earlier in the year, the two decided to create a moral code for the organization.

“It’s pretty simple,” ReDavid said. “It’s all about the girls. If it’s not about the girls, then we won’t do it.”

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Fencing faces host of top-10 opponents

BY SPENCER GYORY
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Columbia men’s and women’s fencing teams will face their toughest test of the season so far when they compete at the St. John’s Super Cup and the NYU Invitational this weekend.

When the teams travel to Queens on Saturday, they will face a quintet of top-10 ranked teams: St. John’s, Harvard, Notre Dame, Penn State, and Ohio State. The competition doesn’t get much easier as they head to Greenwich Village the following day to face another stacked lineup. The Lions will once again take on St. John’s, Ohio State, and Notre Dame, and they will compete against North Carolina, Northwestern, and Wayne State, as well.

The men’s squad, ranked No. 7 in the nation, has jumped out to a 6-1 start, while the women, ranked No. 3 in the country, have notched a perfect 7-0 record thus far.

Because of the high caliber of the competition the teams will face on the strip, this weekend’s meets will give Columbia fencing fans an opportunity to gauge the strength of this season’s squads.

“Both the men’s and women’s teams have a lot more depth than they did



KIERA WOOD / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MOVING IN | Nzingha Prescod sizes up her opponent as she gets ready to make her move during a bout.

last year with the addition of all the freshmen,” men’s and women’s head fencing coach Michael Aufrichtig said. “It makes it a little more difficult to figure out who fences, but it’s a great problem to have.”

One area in which the freshmen have made a major difference is the women’s foil squad. This fall, it saw the addition of two talented freshmen, Margaret Lu and Jackie Dubrovich. Junior Nzingha Prescod, who took home a Division I title at a December North American

Cup event in Milwaukee, also rejoined the team after representing the United States at the London Olympics.

“The freshmen have made the women’s foil squad much stronger,” Prescod said. “For the women’s team, it’s a big deal because we know that our squad can help make up bouts if we find ourselves down.”

Competition will begin at the Carnesecca Arena and Taffner Field House at 10 a.m. on Saturday and at the Jerome S. Coles Center at 8 a.m. on Sunday. *sports@columbiaspectator.com*



KIERA WOOD / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FINE FOOTWORK | Freshman men’s tennis player Daniel Morgan displays perfect footwork as he prepares to blast a forehand back over the net at his opponent.

Men’s and women’s tennis look for road victories against strong opponents

BY MUNEEB ALAM
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

After dropping its first and only match in over two months, the men’s tennis team looks to rebound this weekend in a pair of ITA Kickoff Weekend matches in Oxford, Mississippi. The No. 44 Light Blue lost last week-end against Brigham Young University, 4-3. Sophomore Ashok Narayana and freshman Dragos Ignat were the only Lions able to post wins in the singles rounds after the Light Blue took the doubles point.

In their first road match of the spring semester, the Lions face No. 13 Ole Miss Friday

afternoon. The Rebels are led by No. 5 senior Jonas Lutjen, who put in a strong perfor-mance as Ole Miss played at the National Collegiate Tennis Classic in California last weekend. If the Lions knock off Ole Miss, they will play the winner of the match be-tween No. 41 NC State and No. 36 Louisville, and if not, they will face the loser in the con-solation round. The Wolfpack of NC State comes off back-to-back wins, while the Cardinals recently had a three-game winning streak snapped at Northwestern.

The women’s tennis team, meanwhile, will head to Georgia for another ITA

Kickoff Weekend event, with matches Sunday and Monday. The No. 73 Lions face host No. 6 Georgia Sunday afternoon, and if they win, they’ll play the winner of the match between No. 40 Oklahoma State and No. 70 Georgia State. (If they lose, they face the loser in the con-solation round.) Georgia was dominant in an invitational tournament last weekend and should be a very tough test for the Light Blue, which has not competed since November. The Cowgirls of Oklahoma State, come off a 7-0 sweep at Wichita State, and the Georgia State Panthers knocked off No. 72 Syracuse 5-2.

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Lions track team stays home for weekend

TRACK from back page

place in the 4x800 meter relay, the 3,000-meter run, the mile run, and the 1,000-meter run.

The men did not compete in the championships in 2012 but are looking to make a statement this time around.

“We are out there training every day, we want our races to reflect the progression in our

training from meet to meet,” Woode said.

The Lions will have an addi-tional opportunity to track their progression at NYRR College Night, the second meet of the doubleheader for the weekend. Neither the men nor the wom-en competed in this meet last season.

Columbia will be running in a field of 15 teams at College

Night, including Ivy rivals Cornell, Penn, and Princeton.

But whatever the meet, each athlete who takes the field will have the same goal, Woode said.

“The team is looking to work on aspects of our racing. Improving will help us lower our times and prepare us for the conference meet,” Woode said. *sports@columbiaspectator.com*

Is “that fan” present in the stands of Levien?

BENEDICT from back page

shooters with his rendition of “I’m a Little Teapot.”

If Wild Bill isn’t enough to convince you, how about an example from Syracuse? As the Orange rose to national promi-nence in the 1980s, the Carrier Dome was home to the “Dome Ranger” (alias Dennis Brogan), who donned an orange cowboy hat and mask to pump up the crowd. After the Ranger started galloping around the Dome, Syracuse ran off a string of six consecutive NCAA tournament

appearances, including a run to the championship game in 1987. Coincidence? I think not.

That Guy exists all over the college basketball landscape. At Ohio University, a new “yell leader” is crowned each year and tasked with the mainte-nance of the “O-Zone” student section. Over at Siena, a dude in a green and yellow bodysuit leads the “Dog Pound.” And at Duke ... well, you could say that every Duke basketball fan is That Guy.

So where’s our savior? All we need is one brave soul to

rise above the giggling and take Columbia basketball to the level that it deserves. So come see me underground tomorrow night, you Levien Lunatics. I’ll be the one in the blue cape and tights.

Tyler Benedict is a Columbia College senior majoring in English and Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies. He is the poet laure-ate emeritus of the Columbia University Marching Band. The Road Less Traveled runs biweekly.
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SPORTS BRIEFLY

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

This weekend, the women’s swimming and diving team hopes to follow up its successful meet against Cornell by defeating another Ivy League foe, Brown. Seniors Katie Meill, Caroline Lukins, and Kristina Parsons have all been highlighting the run to the Ivy League Championships next month and should prove essential tools in the Lions’ offense. The Bears are coming off a resound-ing 219-80 victory against Penn. Though Columbia and Brown are currently tied in conference standings, it’s notable that the Lions’ win against Penn was much slimmer—a mere 19-point margin. The two teams clash Saturday in Uris pool at noon.

— Charlotte Murtishaw

MEN'S SWIMMING

After dominating victories over Bucknell and Cornell during winter break, Saturday’s meet against Brown marks homecoming for the men’s swimming and diving team (4-2, 2-2 Ivy) as it looks to extend its winning streak to four. The Bears come to Uris fresh off their 171-129 win over Penn, their only Ivy win of the season. The Lions will look to assert themselves early, particularly in freestyle and diving events. The team won all but one freestyle event in its last two meets, and sophomore Micah Rembrandt won three of his four diving events, finishing second once. The Lions’ deep roster should continue to be consistent, as seven different swimmers won individual races against Cornell and Bucknell.

— Phil Godzin

MEN'S SQUASH

Coming off a 2-2 split the previous weekend, the men’s squash team (5-4, 1-2 Ivy) has a chance to make a big statement before heading into its second half of conference play. The Lions prepare to face No. 17 Middlebury on Saturday, followed by No. 11 Williams on Sunday. Despite losing to Middlebury 7-2 last year, the team is hoping that it can produce a win this year. The big match of the weekend will be against Williams, which the Light Blue played twice last year. During the regular season, the Lions lost to Williams, but the Lions upset them 5-4 in the B Division Men’s National Team Championships to achieve their No. 10 ranking. The Lions play Middlebury in Vermont on Saturday at 12 p.m. and Williams in Massachusetts on Sunday at 12 p.m.

— Eric Wong

WOMEN'S SQUASH

After winning three of six matches over winter break, the women’s squash team (3-4, 0-3 Ivy) will travel to New England to try and break .500. The No. 14 Lions will face No. 11 Middlebury on Saturday. Although Middlebury has a strong record of 11-3, it was swept in its most recent match against Yale. Last season, the Panthers defeated the Lions 6-3. On Sunday, the Light Blue will face No. 10 Williams. The Ephs (10-7), who are looking for their eighth straight win, defeated the Light Blue 8-1 last year. The Lions, coming off a sweep of Bowdoin, are looking for their first win on an opponent’s home court, as their last four games were neutral-court matches in Connecticut.

— Mollie Galchus

WRESTLING

The Columbia wrestling team (3-4) will host American for its first head-to-head home match on Jan. 26 in the University Gym. This weekend will serve as the checkpoint for the Lions before Ivy League play begins the following week.

The Lions enter the upcoming match coming off a tough loss to Bucknell, where they fought back from a 15-point deficit only to drop the last two matches. American enters the match at 4-3 for the season. The two teams have faced no common opponents this season, but the match is set to be a close one.

Columbia will then travel to Long Island to face Hofstra on Sunday for another head-to-head match. Hofstra will be one of the tougher teams the Lions face this season. The Pride has already wrestled against eight top-25 schools this season and also boasts four wrestlers in the top 20 of their respective weight classes.

— Steven Babendreier



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Stop doing what you love, embrace free time

BY KATIE CACOURIS

Like most people, I began my first year at Columbia excited to take advantage of the wide range of opportunities here, taking risks with activities I didn't have the chance to participate in during high school. One of the reasons I picked Columbia was because I was aware of how committed students here are to pursuing their interests, and I wanted to be surrounded by driven and engaged people. A few weeks into my first semester, I decided to try theater, and have spent the last year and a half immersed in this community.

Though it's not the only rewarding part of doing theater, a crucial element to the performing arts is having an audience to appreciate (or criticize) its work. At its best, theater allows its audience to consider characters' attempts to navigate difficult circumstances—raising questions and maybe even providing us with some insight into how we can best live our own lives. As a director, I have striven to present engaging theater in which the audience can experience emotional complexity. Without an audience, the drive to create performances feels less pressing.

The student theater community at Columbia is full of creative and insightful people who want to create complex and interesting pieces. Diverse groups—from NOMADS, which produces original student-written pieces, to the Varsity Show—present thought-provoking work for the community. But rarely does theater get attention from people beyond supportive friends of those involved in a production. Even more generally, performing arts as a whole, athletics, and other extracurricular activities seem to experience that same sort of apathetic reception from the general student body.

I recently realized that, since I arrived here 18 months ago, so much of my time has been scheduled that I have rarely felt able to be truly spontaneous at Columbia. Not only have I remained in Morningside Heights more than I might have wanted to, but more egregiously, I have not even been able to engage in the diversity of talent and ideas on campus that compelled me to come here in the first place. We fill our schedules with activities we deeply care about, often leaving very little time that feels truly free.

Many of us, myself included, often complain about the lack of community here at Columbia. But rather than deciding that the community does not exist, maybe we need to admit that few of us make an active effort to participate in the parts we are not directly involved in. Infrequent events like Bacchanal and the tree lighting ceremony are reminders that we share a common university, and perhaps an occasional desire to feel like a member of a general Columbia community.

Between our energy and the resources we have access to, it is unbearably tempting for us to throw our entire selves into what we love. I'm taking this current semester off from theater and deliberately not replacing it with anything scheduled. Instead, I hope to find the courage to embrace free time and take advantage of the freedom it will give me.

Especially as the semester begins, we are presented with so many tempting opportunities that it seems almost blasphemous not to take on more than seems physically possible. But perhaps we owe it to ourselves, and to the University, to occasionally drop the fifth (or sixth) class, say no to an internship, and give ourselves the chance to go to volleyball games, listen to a guest speaker, and maybe even see a show.

The author is a Columbia College junior majoring in political science and American studies. She was the director of the Columbia Musical Theater Society's production of "Hair."

STAFF EDITORIAL

Nurturing CCSC

Columbia College Student Council's Student Project Grants present a unique avenue to empower individual students' creativity and passion outside the parameters of student groups. Spearheaded by last year's CCSC and continued by the current year's executive board under the supervision of Vice President of Finance Daphne Chen CC '14, this new program for funding independent projects is exciting. As is evident from browsing the list of approved projects from this year and last, it is already helping students advance their visions for our community. But, as with anything new at Columbia, the grant initiative is facing its fair share of difficulties in its infancy.

The fact that 10 out of 13 projects approved last year failed to receive funding is cause for concern, and demonstrates a certain level of carelessness when it comes to how CCSC manages the student life fees of Columbia College undergraduates. The 10 projects failed to receive funding for two primary reasons: First, last year's grants were approved in April, so late into the spring semester that students had very little time to act on their approved projects. This issue has been addressed—CCSC has already announced the grant winners for the 2012-13 school year. Second, it appears that the CCSC committee that reviewed the applications did not consider the feasibility of the project or the preparedness of the applicants when making decisions about which projects to fund. This oversight meant that projects that should never have been approved without planning and coordination between the student applicant and the Columbia administration (such as a rock-climbing wall in Dodge Fitness Center) were promised money—only to fail.

However, it does not fall solely upon CCSC to make sure these projects succeed. Students who apply should do so with an understanding that, although CCSC can provide funding and guidance, applicants themselves must also be responsible for seeking administrative support. At the same time, CCSC should deny funding to projects that look underdeveloped and offer advice to applicants about how they can make their project feasible. In the case of the rock-climbing wall, a request that the applicant check with someone in the athletic department probably would have resolved the issue in a timely manner. With a bit more planning, the Student Project Grants initiative can continue to grow in a way that stays true to its mission of facilitating independent, student-led innovation.

Correction

An article in yesterday's paper, "Latest Faculty House negotiations end in standoff again," incorrectly stated that students activists were present for negotiations between administrators and Faculty House employees. Spectator regrets the error.

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A better ROTC

BY HELEN BENEDICT

In April 2011, Columbia's faculty and students voted amid much controversy to allow ROTC on campus for the first time since the Vietnam War.

Now, on the program's website, Reserve Officers Training Corps at Columbia, you will find a statement replete with promises to teach leadership:

"For 250 years, Columbia University has produced many of the great leaders and thinkers of our time ... examples of national service and military leadership abound among Columbia's alumni. The Reserve Officers Training Corps and other military educational assistance programs provide students with the opportunity to continue that tradition of leadership and scholarship through preparation for a career as a military officer."

Meanwhile, just this past December, the Pentagon released the latest of many studies exposing the military as rife with sexual predation and violence against women. One quarter of military women report having been sexually assaulted while serving, according to the report, while half say they were sexually harassed. Earlier studies show rates of sexual assault at nearly a third of women and 12 percent of men. In short, there is an epidemic of sexual assault in the military. And it's not going away.

In the academies—the schools that train military officers—reports of sexual assaults jumped by 23 percent in 2012, the third year in a row of such increases. If student officers are assaulting their comrades at such a rate, how will they go on to treat their subordinates? What kind of leadership is being taught in these academies, anyway?

In the course of my research on women in the military and the Iraq War, I have had the occasion to lecture at several military academies, including West Point. Women are always outnumbered at these places, as they are in the military itself, where they make up some 14 percent of troops. They are also isolated, regarded as inferior, and treated as sexual prey. Most of them have nowhere to turn if they are assaulted or harassed, and no way of reporting the problem without risking their reputation and careers.

This may seem appallingly retrograde, but it is realistic training for what happens in the actual military. Women—or men—who report sexual assault are routinely blamed, sometimes punished, and more often than not silenced. The military is so hostile to anyone who reports sexual assault that the Department of Defense itself estimates that some 80 percent of assaults, including rapes, are never reported at all.

The fact is that the military gives individuals more power over others than any institution in America, and most assailants are of superior rank to their victims. That means the

After Office Hours

Each Friday, a professor will share scholastic wisdom readers won't find in lectures. Please send suggestions regarding which professors to feature to opinion@columbiaspectator.com.

assailants are abusing their power, while their victims are trapped.

So, it is not hard to conclude that "leadership" training, as it is now, seems to be teaching men to assault with impunity, and women to shut up and take it.

We cannot let this happen at Columbia. We cannot allow the vote to bring ROTC back on campus to become a vote to prey on women. If the military culture of misogyny and sexual predation, bullying and hazing is ever going to be changed, the change must start with future officers, here, on our own campus.

Some suggestions:

- * For starters, no student with a history of violence toward women should be admitted to ROTC. The same must apply to faculty.
- * All faculty and students in ROTC must be given training in the prevention of sexual assault—not training designed by the military, but by civilian experts. This training should be focused on how to recognize and stop bullying, sexual harassment, and assault, not on how women should keep safe. Women don't cause rape. Men do.
- * All ROTC members must discuss the following facts: Rape is a war crime, whether it is against your own comrades or against the so-called enemy. Rape is not sex, but a violent crime that destroys lives.
- * Women must be given leadership positions in ROTC.
- * Cadets must be trained to protect their troops against each other as well as against an enemy.
- * Cadets should be rewarded for responding properly to reports of assault and bullying, and punished for trying to cover such reports up.
- * All cadets should have access to a sexual assault hotline and a counselor outside of the military framework. They must be able to reach out for help without anyone else in ROTC knowing and without fear of reprisal.

Yes, we can teach leadership at Columbia. But that leadership must be different from the status quo in the military. Instead of perpetuating the tradition of looking down on women and considering them prey, of brutal hazing and bullying, sexism and homophobia, let us teach our students to lead a new military that respects and safeguards its own.

Let's welcome ROTC back to campus as an opportunity to really lead.

Helen Benedict is a professor at the Graduate School of Journalism and the author of two books about women in the military, "The Lonely Soldier" and "Sand Queen." Her work inspired one of the first class-action suits against the Pentagon on behalf of women and men who were sexually assaulted in the military.

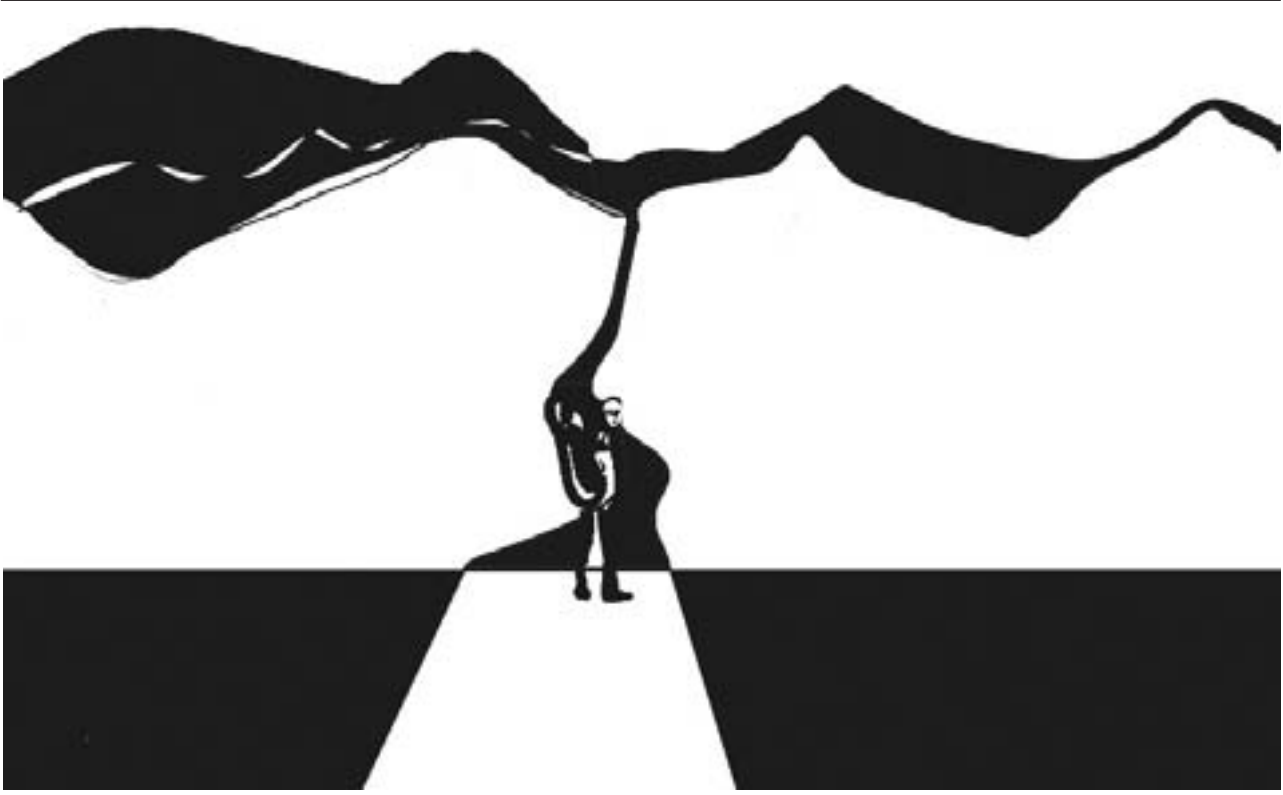


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Unfamiliar territory

"To see a thousand objects for the first and last time, what can be deeper and more melancholy? To travel is to be born and die at every instant."

—Victor Hugo, "Les Misérables"

My friend inscribed that quote in a Hunter S. Thompson anthology she gave me at the end of last semester, and I've kept both very close to heart since I began my five-month odyssey across South America a couple weeks ago. Normally I would dismiss that sort of French Romantic nonsense, but when each new destination opens my eyes to a world I never dreamed of, and disappears before I gain even the shallowest familiarity, such poetic melodrama as Hugo's is completely excusable, and quite possibly the only appropriate mindset.

I write the first of this semester's columns from my sister's porch in Tají, Paraguay. It is a small community about five hours from the capital, Asunción, with inconsistent running water, no Internet, and—from my own highly scientific census—far fewer people than cows (who have also claimed superiority over the clay dirt roads and seem offended whenever a moto or the very occasional car tries to get past).

It's about 1 a.m. in the heart of Paraguay—New York and Columbia many worlds away—and although it's louder than the average night on 114th Street, none of the noises are human-made. I'm even joined by a massive tarantula who has camped out to my left, venomously eyeing me and plotting his attack (although in all fairness, he hasn't seemed to move in the past 30 minutes, which I'm sure to check every second or so).

Paraguay is a funny place—it has been defined throughout its sordid history mostly by abject poverty and a pronounced distaste for democracy, but also by incredible perseverance and devotion to the tranquilo lifestyle. Paraguay's corpulent leader launched a war against Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay in the late 1860s that saw the demise of a staggering 90 percent of its male population. It never really had the time to recover, stumbling through a century of incompetent and occasionally brutal dictators that culminated in a strong man who challenged Pinochet and Videla in terms of treachery—a nasty German by the name of Alfredo Stroessner who yearned for the glory days of the Third Reich.

Despite all this, people of the campo—the grassy, rural farmland where the majority of Paraguayans reside—are probably the calmest, most down-to-earth I've ever

encountered (a quite noticeable change of pace from the Big Apple). They mostly just want to talk about their animals, the weather, and the goings-on around town as they pass around their cold yerba mate drink called tereré and gaze out into the stunningly beautiful marshy grasslands that seem to go on endlessly into the horizon. They certainly have their quirks—when my sister had a sty on her eye, the nurse in her town matter-of-factly told her that the best cure was to wave the penis of a newborn baby boy (still attached, thankfully) around her head. For the most part, though, the people and lifestyle of Paraguay—which I have now experienced for a month spread throughout the course of a year—truly define tranquility.

I love constantly encountering radically unfamiliar territory. There's something about spending months at a time on an island of 22.96 square miles, and for the majority of that time on a campus of probably less than 0.05 square miles (feel free to check my math, I have no greater hatred in this world than back-of-the-envelope calculations) that really makes you want to experience motion beyond taking the L train to Brooklyn. One of my favorite feelings is staring out the window during an 18-hour bus ride, watching the landscape dramatically change every three hours or so.

I love the people you meet while traveling. These friendships are the hardest, because you usually have no more than a night to bond, and you know that the most interaction you'll ever have from them again is seeing unwanted updates on their life if you make the mistake of becoming Facebook friends. But this brevity is a blessing as much as a curse. Because the friendship is so short, so is the awkward small-talk period.

This is the good life, marked by the occasional moments of extreme stress and fairly constant highs and lows. It's a simpler life defined by the day-to-day. Each day has a stand-alone story that is born when you wake up and dies when you go to sleep. And each day holds unparalleled excitement, adventure, and incomprehensibly new experiences and exposures.

Columbia seems the opposite. The familiar is routine, and the routine is familiar. It's near impossible to live in the moment, or even in the day. It's harder to enjoy the experiences you're having—classes, internships, and relationships—because they only matter for the impact they will have on the future. Finally, for now at least, they all live a world away.

I don't know how this semester is going to play out, or this column for that matter. For the first time, it's completely unknown. And I couldn't be more excited.

Leo Schwartz is a Columbia College junior majoring in political science and Latin American studies. He is studying abroad in Buenos Aires for the spring semester. Rationalizing the Irrational runs alternate Thursdays.



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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Fair share, maybe
5 Polite denial
11 Pro-
14 Arch type
15 Commensurate (with)
16 Soaked
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19 Brother
20 "I" strain?
21 Where to find Ducks and Penguins: Abbr.
22 Eyes
24 Cry just before dozing off?
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10 "Captain Kangaroo" character who told knock-knock jokes
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23 Someone to admire
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25 Sung approval?
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27 Bring on board
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29 '70s Olympics
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35 Deco designer

36 Beloved
38 Uffizi hangings
39 Hubbub
42 Pays to play
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45 Ocean borders
46 Patch plant
47 Rock's ... Boingo
48 Start
49 One may follow a casing

52 Trig function
53 XXX, at times
54 Three-handed game
57 Singer
58 DiFranco
58 Bookmarked item nowadays
59 "Gloria in Excelsis ..."
60 British rule in colonial India

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

M	A	O	R	I	W	H	I	G	H	A	S	P
E	X	O	N	W	I	P	E	E	W	E	R	
R	E	Y	O	F	L	I	G	H	T	Y	O	G
			N	A	E	H	O	G	F	L	A	X
A	D	D	E	N	D	A		N	O	S	E	
T	R	E	V	A	L	A	B	L	E	A	V	A
T	A	M	S	W	E	E		C	L	E	N	C
I	M	U	P		A	L	O	H	A		B	A
C	A	R	R	E	Y		N	O	R	A		C
A	S	S	E	T		B	E	Y	O	F	F	I
			Y	A	L	E		A	L	F	O	N
J	U	S	T		A	H	S		E	A	T	
O	P	I	E		D	E	Y	T	R	I	P	P
D	O	L	L		L	A	N	A		R	I	C
I	N	T	L		E	D	E	N		S	E	T

DOWN

1 Clinton's birthplace
2 Bug-eyed
3 Jay related to a peacock?

By Kurt Krasuski
©2013 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

01/25/13

GAMEDAY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25 • PAGE 6



COLUMBIA (9-6, 1-0 Ivy) vs. CORNELL (8-10, 0-1 Ivy)

SATURDAY, 7 P.M., LEVIEN

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



Wanted: someone to ignite Lions basketball fans

It's no secret that Columbia's basketball atmosphere could use a little juicing up. And when I say "juicing up," I'm talking BALCO levels, my friends. Right now, our program is like Skinny Barry Bonds, with little chicken legs and arms so emaciated you could slide a bagel over them. It's time we Lions rose up and became the hulking sluggers we were born to be.

Now, I'm aware that every year some schlub of a sports columnist writes a little piece about how sad it is that no one comes to basketball games, or how fun Levien actually is (Play4Kay T-shirt, anyone?), or that it's only a matter of time before the Lions break through and win a league title. But these columns have one fatal flaw: They never offer viable cures for our basketball anemia. Luckily, I'm here now, and I have the solution. It's so simple, you'll kick yourself. We don't need gift certificates, door prizes, or even winning teams to get Levien rocking. We just need That Guy.

It's time we Lions rose up and became the hulking sluggers we were born to be.

Before you start rolling your eyes too much, let me clarify. That Guy is not a once-in-a-lifetime superstar. It'd be nice if a budding LeBron James or Maya Moore decided he or she wanted to wear Light Blue, but we don't need better recruits to pull off our master plan. In fact, That Guy will never put on a Lions uniform, although he or she might as well be part of the team. That Guy is the überfan, the one who puts on the blue clown wig and the oversized novelty sunglasses and stands up yelling for the entire game. The one who starts all the chants, bounces around like he OD'd on Five-Hour Energy, and generally makes an ass of himself. Yes, Columbia, I know we're too cool to care that much, but read on. If we want to be great, someone's going to have to take the hit.

The genesis of the "That Guy theory" lies in an East Campus dorm room sometime in October. I was chatting with a good friend, and he wondered out loud why Columbia just didn't go all-in and become a "basketball school" like Duke or Georgetown. I found out later that he had stolen the concept from a Bwog hashtag (let's get that one trending, people!), but I found the concept intriguing. We have all the ingredients—a tiny, on-campus gym with a particular quirk (the fact that it's underground), scrappy teams that thrive on fundamentals (no, this is not code for "teams that are white"), and a collection of hated rivals (who doesn't want to see Columbia crush every school in the Ivy League, and Cornell, too?). As I mulled over the concept, I realized that only one thing is keeping us from being Duke North: the absence of That Guy.

Every true basketball school has a superfan. At Utah State (seven NCAA tournament appearances between 2000 and 2010), That Guy was "Wild Bill," who had a penchant for dressing up as Disney characters for games. Although his "Peter Pan" and "Little Mermaid" costumes were legendary (the 300-pound Bill gamely went topless for these), he is perhaps most famous for his turn as Mrs. Potts from "Beauty and the Beast," in which he serenaded opposing free-throw



TYLER BENEDICT
THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED



KIERA WOOD / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MAINTAINING FOCUS | Guard Steve Frankoski plays lockdown defense against a Big Red guard last Saturday en route to a Lions victory in Ithaca, N.Y.

Lions look for strong win in first Ivy home game

BY STEVEN LAU
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

With one conference road win under its belt, the men's basketball team is heading into this weekend's home game against Cornell in stride.

"It's tremendous," said head coach Kyle Smith. "You've got to temper your feelings a bit, but what I tell our guys is, 'I'm bought in.' Each day that you wake up and you're still in the hunt for the title, you're doing well."

Columbia (9-6, 1-0 Ivy) picked up a 67-58 victory over the Big Red (8-10, 0-1 Ivy) last Saturday in Ithaca to kick off the Ivy League season.

Relying on a smaller lineup for most of the game to match up with Cornell's speed, the Light Blue succeeded in getting around Cornell's high-pressure defense and hitting big shots when needed.

At the start of the game, the Big Red forced a few Light Blue mistakes in succession and jumped out to a five-point lead.

Though the Lions managed to battle back and take the lead, the Light Blue expects Cornell to bring strong pressure again on Saturday, senior guard Brian Barbour said after the game in Ithaca.

Barbour also said that one of the keys to winning the second game against Cornell will be defending the outside shot, especially from Big Red freshman guard Nolan Cressler, who hit some open shots from the wings on Saturday.

"I thought we did a better job on him in the second half, but part of it was that they got out in transition," Smith said. "He's really hard to find, and he's a really good scorer."

Smith stressed transition defense as a necessity for the Lions to prevent easy

buckets from Cornell's fast guards, like sophomore Devin Cherry and senior Johnathan Gray, and its top scorer, sophomore forward Shonn Miller.

Last week, the Light Blue limited Miller to just 13 points. For this Saturday, Smith said stopping Miller from getting easy second-chance buckets or fast break points is essential to keeping Cornell's offense out of rhythm.

"If we make him score out of the half court and keep him below 50 percent shooting, we'd be happy," Smith said. Columbia's offense was even more successful than its defense, as the Lions proved effective from both the post and beyond the arc. Four Lions finished in double digits, with senior center Mark Cisco leading the pack with 18 points and nine rebounds.

On Saturday, the Lions will need another strong showing from their

backcourt, especially sophomore guard Steve Frankoski, who has established himself as one of the squad's best sharpshooters from downrange.

But one of Columbia's biggest struggles in its second game against Cornell may simply be performing in front of its home crowd, said Smith, which the Lions have had trouble doing this season.

While the Light Blue is 5-3 on the road, it is only 3-3 at home and has seen some tough losses in Levien Gymnasium, including a 65-57 loss to Bucknell in December.

"We've left a couple at home that we'd like to get back," Smith said. "I just want us to shoot the ball well, play confidently at home, and be aggressive."

Tip-off against Cornell is set for Saturday at 7 p.m. in Levien Gymnasium.

sports@columbiaspectator.com

Women's basketball hopes to rebound in rematch with Big Red

BY CAROLINE BOWMAN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

After falling to Cornell last weekend in a 68-54 loss in Ithaca, N.Y., the women's basketball team (2-13, 0-1 Ivy) will have another shot at its conference rival Saturday at home. Although the Big Red dominated the second half of last week's matchup, the Lions plan to use the lessons learned from the loss to make some changes this time around.

Head coach Paul Nixon said that playing Cornell again so soon will have its advantages for the Lions.

"I think it gives us an opportunity to make some immediate adjustments and to work on some things that we can change that will help dictate the outcome, but also it certainly feels much better to have the second meeting at Columbia," he said.

While the Lions fell by a significant 14-point margin in their first matchup against Cornell, they will look to build upon a strong first-half performance that led them into intermission tied 37-37 with the Big Red. The Light Blue ultimately fell short in the second half after it failed to match Cornell's impressive offensive production. Returning to their home court, Nixon said, will give the Lions a decided improvement in their shooting consistency.

"I am very confident that the team is going to shoot well at home," he said. "We do tend to play with a little more confidence at home, and I think that definitely carries over to every area of the game, and especially shooting."

The Lions will also have to find a way to counter the commanding presence of Cornell's frontcourt players. Last week, starting forwards Clare Fitzpatrick and Allyson DiMagno each saw around 30 minutes of play time and combined for 33 points.



MIKE DISCENZA / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

RISING ABOVE | Guard Brittany Simmons takes it hard to the basket.

"There's no question that if you are going to beat Cornell, you have to do a better job of defending players like Allyson DiMagno than we did in the first meeting," Nixon said.

While facing the same team that soundly defeated them just a week ago may seem like a trying mental obstacle for the Lions, senior guard and co-captain Brittany Simmons said that the Light Blue will preserve a winning mentality going onto the court against the Big Red in front of its home crowd.

"Looking at the first game, it's disappointing, as always, to lose, but Coach said every game, it's a little pattern: We go up there, and we lose, and we come back, and we rout Cornell," Simmons said. "That's the mentality. We don't want to just win. We want to win big so we can prove to everyone in the league that we are for real because it's not enough to play well in this league. You have to win."

Tip-off is set for 4:30 p.m. on Saturday in Columbia's Levien Gymnasium.

sports@columbiaspectator.com

Track team to run in pair of New York meets

BY MELISSA CHEUNG
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Columbia men's and women's indoor track teams will compete in their second and third meets of the season at the Metropolitan Championships and the New York Road Runners College Night at the Armory this weekend. After using last week's season opener and second place finish at Yale to gauge their fitness level in a competitive environment, the Lions are set to make progress on their home turf.

"We'll all be trying to perform our best with the goal to improve our times, and win our heats and races."

—Denzel Woode
Junior distance runner

"A lot of us will be running in a different event than we did last week, so we'll all be trying to perform our best with the goal to improve our times and win our heats and races," junior mid-distance runner Denzel Woode said in an email.

The women will return to Mets as the defending champions, having defeated St. John's by a 23-point margin in a field of 14 teams last season. The Light Blue dominated the distance events, claiming first

SEE TRACK, page 3

THE SLATE



BASKETBALL
vs. Cornell
Levien Gymnasium
Men: Sat., 7 p.m.
Women: Sat., 4:30 p.m.



SQUASH
at Middlebury
Middlebury, Vt.
Men: Sat., 12 pm
Women: Sat., 12 pm.



SWIMMING
at Brown
Providence, R.I.
Men: Sat., 12 p.m.
Women: Sat., 12 p.m.



WRESTLING
vs. American
in University Gym
Sat., 12 p.m.



FENCING
St. John's Super Cup
in Queens
Sat., 10 a.m.



WRESTLING
at Yale
New Haven, Conn.
Friday, 7 p.m.



TRACK AND FIELD
Metro. Championships
Armory, New York, N.Y.
All day Friday

SEE BENEDICT, page 3

Chilling out, warming up at NYChiliFest



BY ALLISON SCHLISSEL AND BREA SALIM
Spectator Staff Writers

It may be chilly outside, but you can warm up with some chili this weekend. The third annual NYChiliFest will take place Sunday from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at Chelsea Market, where participants will feast their stomachs and eyes as they meander around a 500-foot concourse of chili. The NYChiliFest is equal parts original and absurd—and it turns out that this combination yields delicious chili.

Although an unusual festival theme, the competition appears to follow a standard food competition trajectory. A panel of four judges will determine the winner, who receives the coveted 2013 Golden Chili Mug. The runner-up will receive a prize and an honorable mention.

Each vendor receives the same meat from Dickson's Farmstand Meats with which to prepare their chili. The benefits of designating this ingredient are twofold: both to level the playing field and to promote the use of environmentally friendly meat with responsibly raised animals.

NYChiliFest is “a way to highlight organic meat, local and sustainable meat, wonderful quality produce and meats,” last year's NYChiliFest winner Barbara Sibley said. “It's a great way of bringing a message in a really fun way.”

One of the most impressive aspects of the chilifest is the variety of participating restaurants. This year, 23 restaurants are expected to participate. These restaurants range from highbrow establishments, such as the renowned Gramercy Tavern, to casual bars that usually serve pub food.

In a counterintuitive twist, most of the participating restaurants do not specialize in chili. Instead, many use the NYChiliFest as an opportunity to go out of their comfort zone.

“I typically don't have chili on the menu at all,” said two-time competitor Justin Philips, owner and co-founder of Beer Table in Park Slope. “It's just a fun thing to do.”

Another participant, Christian Pineda of Los Tacos No. 1 in the Meatpacking District specializes instead in authentic Mexican street tacos, tostadas, and quesadillas.

Although Mike Barbera of 'wichcraft specializes in sandwiches, he said, “We love the chance to showcase our chef's ingenuity.” 'wichcraft intends to feature that chili recipe as a catering special for the upcoming Super Bowl.

“'wichcraft is always a huge supporter of local farms and NYChiliFest is a really fun event, so it's a perfect fit,” Barbera said.

Four varieties of Samuel Adams beer will be dispersed throughout the concourse, and a country band, the Dixons, will provide the accompanying music for the duration of the festival. And just as the chilifest is no ordinary festival, the Dixons are no ordinary country band. Hailing from Brooklyn, New York, the Dixons infuse urban beats into country music.

The assortment of chili at NYChiliFest 2013 is mind-boggling. Each competing restaurant has its signature chili, drawing from a plethora of inspirations to form a complex take on the theme. For example, Ducks Eatery's chili will feature smoked lamb pastrami with lots of cumin hatch peppers, pickled onions, and fermented garlic, while 'wichcraft's chili will be slow-cooked beef with pinto beans and spices cooked with nut brown ale, cheddar, and cream.

The restaurants have their own reasons for entering NYChiliFest 2013, but respect for all aspects of the competition—especially the food and

SEE CHILI, page B2

ILLUSTRATION BY RUNTAO YANG

This Weekend in \$33

Inside...

1. Tour of Socrates Sculpture Park (free, p. B2)
2. Lunch at Empellón Taquería (\$25, p. B3)
3. Viewing of 'Zero Dark Thirty' (\$7.25, p. B4)

Of music and men

As usual, the new year has put me in an introspective mood, and therefore I'd like to use this column to address something that brings my very relevance as a musician into question. Last week, I read multiple stories about Iamus, a computer that composes surprisingly “real”—sound-ing music using nothing more than a series of algorithms.

According to the Huffington Post, Iamus was created at the University of Málaga in Spain by scientist Francisco Vico and can compose music in every style. While I use computers for damn near everything, there's something about this computer that I find deeply troubling. Digital production is the present and the future of the music industry—there's no doubt about that—but the computer is merely a medium. As computers continue to dominate the process of music production, it is important to remember that the initial impetus for creation always comes from human experience.

I'm a fan of electronic music. Even as a jazz pianist, I think that the genre is responsible for some of the most innovative and uniquely textured music that's out there today. But it's important to remember that technology is a means to an end, rather than an end itself. As the world's most important art form—and I'm not at all biased—music has a responsibility to connect to that which makes us human. We don't listen to music because it contains a certain note or rhythmic sequence—those are merely analytical constructs. We listen because it moves us, and links us, for a brief period of time, to its creator. Even if a song has hundreds of interpretations, it is the composer's initial input of feeling which creates these possibilities. It is music's humanity that gives it the ability to elicit deep nostalgia, romantic longing, and even tears. Without humanity, music is nothing but sonic manipulation—a cheap parlor trick that can momentarily entertain us, but never leave us feeling fulfilled.

I'm not a purist by any stretch. I hate overt music categorization, and I hate most debates about “real” versus “fake” art, but that's not what this is about. This is about the very essence of humanity. Computers can compete and win at Jeopardy!, beat chess masters, and connect us with people on the other side of the world. When it comes to emotion, however, they lack much of the necessary equipment. We live everyday under the pretense that what we do carries a certain weight, partly due to the knowledge of our own mortality, and this always comes through in truly great music. Iamus has neither mortality nor the urgency that comes with it. It can create sounds—some of which may be pleasing—but it can never achieve the emotional complexity and creative innovation of a musician or a composer. One could say that Iamus could be an ideal tool for creating meaningless top-40 tracks, but for me, this too would be troubling. Even the most transient and superficial of pop tracks take root in the human experience, and I believe that even those are worth protecting from Iamus.

As classes come back into full swing and we all seek refuge in our favorite tunes, I hope we all take a minute to stop and think about the men and women behind them. Whether you're all about a certain beat or you just can't get that one synth line out of your head, it's important to remember that a real live human being, somewhere, was responsible for that experience. I hate to get all “dystopian future” on you at the beginning of the new semester, but I just had to get that off my chest.

David Ecker is a sophomore in Columbia College. *Slightly Off Key* runs alternate Fridays.

ChiliFest heats up

CHILI from front page

the atmosphere—is a unifying factor.

But is the chilifest a friendly festival or a cutthroat competition? Like chili, the answer is not cut-and-dry. The restaurants notably take different perspectives on the competition.

“Being our first time participating, we are taking this very seriously,” Pineda said.

However, some view the competition in a more light-hearted way. “We don't take the competition all too seriously, but we try to make the best chili that we can. It's fun,” Philips said. “Mostly it's a good night, hanging out with other restaurant folks and seeing friends,” he added.

Although some restaurants are more focused on the competitive aspect of the festival than others, all the competitors intend to have a good time—especially since the NYChiliFest seems to have a strong social component built into it.

“Of course we take it seriously,” Barbera said. “But we also believe eating is about enjoying where you are and having a good time, so it will be all smiles winning or not.”

Indeed, even last year's chili champion is more focused on having a good time than taking home the Golden Chili Mug.

“I wasn't expecting to win last year,” Sibley said. “Everything is delicious, I really just was enjoying myself. I'm glad that I won. I really do it just to be there.”

NYChiliFest offers a classic New York tradition—sharing a love of food—but with the unique common denominator of chili.

“It's amazing to see what people do with amazing meat. It's very fast, serving chili in the entire time. You're making 1,000 people happy—how do I get to do that in one afternoon? When else do I get to do that?” Sibley said.

Tickets start at \$50 and can be purchased at NYChiliFest.com. Ticket proceeds will go to Food Systems Network NYC, which promotes regional food environmental health and prevents hunger.

Charlotte Murtishaw contributed reporting.
arts@columbiaspectator.com

Best of

Non-Chili Food Festivals

When the weather gets “chili,” New Yorkers turn out in droves at the annual NYChiliFest to dig into a steaming hot bowl of beans. Bad jokes and freak cold snaps aside, foodies not of the chili persuasion still have a wide variety of gourmet events to warm up to. *-BY DANIELA LAPIDOUS*




ILLUSTRATION BY IONE WANG

HOT CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL

For each of February's 28 days, City Bakery serves up an original flavor of hot chocolate to carry you back to your childhood and put a zany contemporary twist on it. Flavors include the slightly bizarre “Banana Peel,” “Chili Pepper,” and “Bourbon,” but you will have to sample “Sunken Treasure,” “Love Potion” (on Valentine's Day, of course!), and “Ode to the Polar Bear” for yourself and report back. Perhaps a cup of “Happy” will be what you truly crave by the time the semester kicks into full gear.

The festival runs from Feb. 1 to 28 at City Bakery on 3 W. 18th St.

WINTER STINKY CHEESE FESTIVAL

Tour De France NYC will present at the end of February its sixth annual week-long celebration of the most holy of dairy products: *fromage*. French restaurants across the city will feature special cheese-centric menus, but the main event will be the kick-off party on Feb. 28 with tastings and pairings galore. Tickets will go on sale on Jan. 31 at tourdefrancencyc.com, while the menus of participating restaurants will be revealed closer to the date.

The city-wide celebration runs from Feb. 28 to March 10.

SMORGASBURG

Call it nesting rather than hibernation. When Brooklyn's weekly Smorgasburg outdoor food market closed for the winter, a significant amount of its vendors moved over to feed the shopping masses at the indoor Brooklyn Flea. Check out the food court on the bottom floor, which used to be the vault of the beautiful Williamsburg Savings Bank. The thing about food markets is that you can satisfy so many cravings with a few small bites just steps away from each other: artisan grilled cheeses from Milk Truck, juicy pork sandwiches from Porchetta, made-to-order macaroni and cheese, or indie treats like “beer & pretzel caramels” from local company Liddabit Sweets. Go to brooklynflea.com on Fridays to see which vendors are serving the noms that weekend. Smorgasburg will be back to the waterfront in April.

Smorgasburg is open every Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Winter Flea at 1 Hanson Place.

Neighborhood Watch

By Nicollette Barsamian



ASTORIA

BOHEMIAN HALL & BEER GARDEN
2919 24th Ave.
This is the oldest outdoor beer garden in New York City. With a plethora of eccentric and standard beers that will impress even the best beer snob, this is a must for Astoria. Stop by for some food and, of course, some beer. You can study tomorrow.

LAYALI BEIRUT CAFÉ
25-60 Steinway St.
Lately, Astoria has developed two blocks full of Egyptian and Middle Eastern restaurants and cafés. Layali Beirut is a great new addition where you can partake in some hookah. Come at the end of your trip and relax for the subway ride home.

GRAND CAFÉ
3701 30th Ave.
Come here for a frappe, or brunch and people-watching, and you'll feel like you've been transported to Europe. Astoria is known for a plethora of outdoor cafes, especially Greek establishments, and Grand Café will not disappoint.

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE
35th Avenue at 37th Street
The museum is in the space that once held Astoria Studio (Paramount Pictures), but today, the museum itself is the site to see. With frequent events ranging from the “Signal to Noise” parties yo screenings of “The Muppets,” the museum is a great stop for either night or day.

SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK
32-01 Vernon Blvd.
Stop by the Noguchi Museum, which features the art and sculptures of Japanese artist Isamu Noguchi. Then saunter down the street to enjoy Socrates Sculpture Park, located only a block away. The park is an outdoor museum and public space featuring artists' sculptures and multimedia installations.

ASTORIA BLVD.
N Q

BROADWAY
N Q

36 Av.
N Q

VERNON BLVD.

30TH AVE.

31ST ST.

31ST AVE.

STEINWAY ST.

35TH AVE.

GRAPHIC BY BURHAN SANDHU

Restaurant Week Guide

New York City Restaurant Week is a great reason to love winter in New York. During Restaurant Week—which really goes on for more than three weeks—NYC’s most exclusive and expensive restaurants magically become more accessible to the general public with \$25 prix-fixe lunches and \$38 prix-fixe dinners. For most dining establishment, Restaurant Week began Jan. 14 and ends Feb. 8, so take advantage of these great deals while they last. -*BY ALLISON SCHLISSEL AND ANDREA CHAN*

21 CLUB

21 Club is as much a fine American restaurant as it is a history lesson and a New York experience, Restaurant Week or not. The walls, paintings, and jockey statues have unbelievable stories. This former speakeasy is one of the few remaining restaurants that cherishes old-school glamour. Diners will most likely eat in the Bar Room, where iconic tchotchkes hang. For starters, try the salmon tartare or the peppered duck leg, and for the main course, have either the sautéed scallop, sepia, shrimp, and cod, or the roasted organic chicken breast. For dessert, the vanilla bean crème brûlée is always a good option, or you can savor the classic coffee brownie sundae. Insider tip: If you dine at 21 Club when it is not busy and ask nicely, you may be able to get a private tour of the upper level.
21 W. 52nd St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues

BOULUD SUD

A Daniel Boulud outpost that deviates from his signature French line, Boulud Sud celebrates Mediterranean cuisine. A refined Upper West Side establishment that is, as expected, out of the price range for many students, Boulud Sud is offering a wide-ranging glimpse into its regular menu, which draws inspiration from Italy, Greece, Morocco, and more. Its Restaurant Week lunch menu offers assorted seafood and a spiced sweet potato soup as starters; a skate meunière, a harissa-spiced lamb burger, or a za’atar poussin as entrees; and mandarin givrè for dessert.
20 W. 64th St., between Broadway and Central Park West

EMPELLÓN TAQUERIA

Though he has no Mexican heritage of his own, executive chef Alex Stupak has made quite a name for himself by marrying modern sensibilities to Mexican classics. Boasting lamb barbacoa, fish tempura, skirt steak, and even lobster tacos that would cost between \$17 and \$39 on its regular menu, Empellón’s Restaurant Week lunch menu is a great deal. It includes roasted beets and halibut as starters, the aforementioned tacos as main courses (lobster comes with a \$10 supplement), and chocolate flan or passionfruit tart as dessert. Situated in a cosy West Village corner, lunch at Empellón makes for a great pit stop, or the start of a lazy neighborhood stroll.
230 W. Fourth St., between W. 10th and Christopher streets

LE CIRQUE

Le Cirque which has a history of celebrity customers, is one of NYC’s French staples. “Le Cirque” translates as “the circus,” and it lives up to its name, with symbolic circus knick-knacks and a circular tent-like appearance. But even though Le Cirque has a circus theme, it is nothing but a classy French cuisine experience. For the appetizer, try Daniel Boulud’s renowned “Le Cirque” salad with endive, watercress, citrus vinaigrette, and toasted pumpkin seeds, or the winter orecchiette pasta with Prince Edward Island mussels, chorizo, and tomato sauce. For the main course, dine on the seared merlu with butternut squash and parsley puree, or perhaps the seared Atlantic salmon with white beans and fennel. For dessert, the famous crème brûlée “Le Cirque” is unforgettable! Beware that some dishes come with a \$10 supplement, a charge clearly marked on the menu.
151 E. 58th St., between Lexington and Third avenues

LURE FISHBAR

As its name suggests, Lure Fishbar is a swanky, seafood-centric restaurant in SoHo. It offers both lunch and dinner Restaurant Week menus, which feature salmon tartare and crispy shrimp tempura to start and a sushi combo and steamed market cod as mains. Indulge in a mocha pot de crème and apple walnut cake for dessert. The dinner menu also includes a raw bar tasting appetizer and roasted branzino main course. For those who are of age, Lure boasts an extensive wine list that makes for great seafood pairings.
142 Mercer St., between Prince and West Houston streets



ILLUSTRATION BY IONE WANG

MAIALINO

A Danny Meyer classic, this self-proclaimed “Roman trattoria” is at once elegant and rustic—think high-end farmhouse. Maialino means “little pig” in Italian, evoking a simple yet immensely rich Roman cuisine which includes porchetta, or Italian-style roast pork, among its repertoire. One of Maialino’s signature dishes, the porchetta sandwich, will feature in one of two Restaurant Week lunch menus—the \$25 deal, from which diners can choose the salumi misti or stracciatella (a Roman egg drop soup) for starters, tonnarelli a cacio e pepe (another Roman classic) as a main, and olive oil cake. The \$35 lunch deal features smoked swordfish and prosciutto di darma as appetizers, the eponymous maialino (braised suckling pig) and hangar steak as main courses, and rounds off with almond cake or semifreddo.
Gramercy Park Hotel, 2 Lexington Ave., between East 21st and 22nd streets

STK MIDTOWN

STK holds true to its slogan, “Not Your Daddy’s Steakhouse,” with a chic atmosphere that departs from traditional masculine-looking steakhouses. STK has an unmistakably hip vibe with round booths, theatrical lights, fringed window curtains, and a DJ providing dynamic background music. No Restaurant Week menu is available online, but the surprise adds to the fun. Beware, STK only participates in Restaurant Week for lunch.
1114 Sixth Ave., between West 42nd and West 43rd streets

SPICE MARKET

Spice Market specializes in upscale Southeast Asian cuisine. Its atmosphere is unlike anything else: authentic and elaborate, yet sexy. The food is just as attractive as the restaurant itself. From the dinner menu, enjoy the soy-cured salmon with cilantro crème fraîche and Asian pear as an appetizer. For the entree, savor the sweet chili-glazed chicken with Thai herb salad. For dessert, the pineapple upside down cake looks not to be missed.
403 W. 13th St., between Ninth Avenue and Washington Street

‘We Were Shoulders’ stars Mel Gibson, we’re writing about Mel Gibson again. Fuck.

“EDITOR! EDITOR!” I yelled from my bed. The alarm bell had just gone off, and I was so excited for my first day back to school! “HELLLOOOOOO WORLD!” I meditated on how “We Were Shoulders” once, and young; but the reason I was so excited was because now that we are officially a column this semester [Ed. Note: crippling self-doubt overtook us as we returned to the dank drunk screening closet, where my cousin is sleeping on the couch which is now a fold-out futon; he’s been drinking all day why has he been drinking all day].



STEFAN COUNTRYMAN AND CHRIS RUENES
Drunken Spectator

I can’t. TO TELL THIS STORY WE MUST TELL IT FROM THE BEGINNING BUT WHERE DOES IT BEGIN, Mel Gibson chimes in. [Ed. note: Chris is the worst at taking notes THAT’S DON DRAPER THAT’S DON DRAPER.]

Everything feels raw. I’m sorry, reader; half of our columns have been about Mel “Swell” Gibson movies. We’ll never be as good as we used to but this is something, right? [Ed. Note: we didn’t watch the movie and we’ve all been really depressed lately. I’m not joking. Whatever. Enjoy some fucking Mel Gibson quotes.]

I didn’t get to see the hole movie. My editor walked out and he had to talk but then we never finished it and he left me alone like a kid in the supermarket. “Don’t suppose I have a choice in this, you don’t but I wouldn’t miss it goddamn day it is.” I’ve got new teeth for myself, editor has new cousin—news is broken like so much water on the feet of an army wife, LAY ME DOWN IN THE COOOOLD COOOOOLD GROUNDNNDDDDDDDD THIS WILL BE ARE HORSE

“I think my water’s gonna breakright in the checkout” she said, understanding that it was important that she breakright. ATEAEATEASE He’s a lieutenant otherwise it wouldn’t be so hooooooooooooottttt.

UR STATUS AS OFFICERS WILL NOT KEEP U ABOVE DANGER, U HAVE TO B WITH THEM THERE WHERE THE METAL MEETS THE MEAT says Mr. Mel “Glib” “Glibson” Gibson.

THE babies AREN’T HAPPY CAUSE WELCOME TO FUCKING PLANET EARTH. Where is my editor? Where am I myself editor?

I need water Why don’t we ask him I was raised catholic sometimes it did help but honest confessions are not in style but etymology is and think about it AUGUSTINE you could make oh god what has happened the only thing left is “self.” this hell war.

Concerning Mel Gibson’s family life, I found myself thinking, “Oh he’s gonna fuck her, he is going to fuck her, how you gonna fuck me, that you can find stubbornness in your children and think it comes from anybody but you, I said to myself, editor; have u said ur prayers? come on, I’ll say them with u.”

WHAT ARE YOU A FUCKING WEATHERMAN NOW you better watch urself, editor.

“My editor’s cousin has been drunk for days and he is asleep next to me “in this hell-war” which is Vietnam in the movie “we are shoulders” by Mel Gibson.”

There was something good about the movie which was the drill sergeant, he was good: “He is over 8 feet tall,” yells sweet-mate Augusto, who is short; Mel Gibson retorts, “Snakeshit, and you are the solution,” I love how up on men this movie is, Stefan editor, “we all get slaughtered”—can I bring up the fact that I’m all by myself, editor?!!?!?

I threw around possible nicknames for Augusto, including “Augusto-Mitch,” “Augusto the brittle-caged gusto,” and “Augusto the Fart.”

But the drill sergeant said CUSTARD WAS A PUSSY SIR.

And my editor is still gone, any of you sons of bitches calls me grandpa, I’ll kill ya.

“What do you think about being a soldier-father.” I think one makes yo better at the other.

Audience members wondered what is a war, to which Mel Gibson responded it’s something that shouldn’t happen but it does and its when some people in another country or any country try to take the lives of other people and DADDY STOPS THEM.

My editor is still gone. My editor’s cousin has been drunk for days and he is asleep next to me “in this hell-war” which is Vietnam in the movie “we are shoulders” by Mel Gibson.

Chris Ruenes is a Columbia College senior majoring in music. His former editor, Stefan Countryman, is a School of Engineering and Applied Science senior majoring in applied math. Drunken Spectator runs when our editor isn’t looking.

Birdland to feature performances catering to fans with varied tastes

BY MOLLIE GALCHUS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

If your jazz interests range from Simon and Garfunkel to Gershwin, then Birdland jazz club will let you have the best of both worlds in the coming weeks.

Singer and pianist Ann Hampton Callaway will perform with the Ted Rosenthal Trio featuring Rosenthal on piano, Martin Wind on bass, and Tim Horner on drums. The performance, titled “Bridges,” is inspired by Brazilian composer Milton Nascimento’s song of the same name.

In addition to songs about literal bridges—such as “Chelsea Bridge,” a 1941 jazz standard by Billy Strayhorn, and Simon and Garfunkel’s “Bridge Over Troubled Water”—Callaway will also perform the Gershwins’ song “Let’s Call the Whole Thing Off.”

“I was upset over how divided the country is,” Callaway said, explaining what inspired her to create a performance that addresses these differences through music. “Ira Gershwin wrote charming lyrics that say ‘Forget it, we don’t have anything in common,’” she said.

The song is about moving beyond these differences, Callaway said.

Callaway describes jazz as a language and an approach that leads her to perform songs of different genres. She also enjoys involving the audience in her show, explaining that she sits at the piano, asks the audience for words and phrases, and then composes a song on the spot—which always turns out to be humorous.

Her approach to preserving the Great American Songbook is to perform a song “not just the old way of doing them, but to arrange a song so it seems as if you’re hearing them for the first time and make



JIMMY KATZ AND BILL WESTMORELAND FOR SPECTATOR

ALL THAT JAZZ | Birdland will host John Pizzarelli and Ann Hampton Callaway in coming weeks.

them relevant to how we are living now.”

Next week, John Pizzarelli—a jazz guitarist, singer, and interpreter of the Great American Songbook—will perform alongside Larry Fuller on piano, Tony Tedesco on drums, and his brother, Martin Pizzarelli, on bass.

“Double Exposure,” Pizzarelli’s most recent album, features songs by pop songwriters performed with traditional jazz arrangements. Pizzarelli seamlessly blends Neil Young’s “Harvest Moon” with musical quotes of the early 1900s Tin Pan Alley tune “Shine On, Harvest Moon.” Growing up with two music collections in his house—that of his father, jazz guitarist Bucky Pizzarelli, and the classic rock music of his own generation—has influenced Pizzarelli’s song choice today.

In addition to singing along with his improvised guitar solos, Pizzarelli is known for his humorous

anecdotes between songs and his performance of “I Like Jersey Best,” a song which showcases his various impressions.

These upcoming performances at Birdland both focus not only on jazz but also on blending different styles of music while connecting with the audience through song and humor.

“I want the audience to feel inspired and feel that many parts of their heart were touched throughout the night,” Callaway said.

Ann Hampton Callaway continues her performance tonight and Saturday at 8:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. Tickets range from \$30 to \$40. John Pizzarelli will perform from Tuesday, Jan. 29 through Saturday, Feb. 2 with sets at 8:30 p.m and 11 p.m. Tickets are \$40. Birdland is located at 315 W. 44th Street. For reservations, call (212) 581-3080 or visit birdlandjazz.com. arts@columbiaspectator.com

Flipside Guide



LET’S DANCE | David Parsons brings two original pieces to The Joyce Theater, combining multimedia with original choreography.

Parsons Dance

New show combines innovative choreography, multimedia

BY GRETCHEN SCHMID
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Parsons Dance, the company of well-known contemporary choreographer David Parsons, has some of the most fearless, exuberant, and technically advanced dancers around. Fortunately for New Yorkers, those dancers are performing a show this month of five new works at the Joyce Theater in Chelsea. Their show is varied but complex and exciting all the way through—during the Sunday performance, the dancers elicited laughs, cheers, and standing ovations from the delighted audience.

Parsons’ style is thoroughly his own: contemporary, but with strong ballet influences and a proclivity to use extras, such as strobe lights, film, and multiple costume changes. It is a testament to his ability as a choreographer that these add to, rather than detract from, his movement.

The most extreme example of these extras comes in “Dawn to Dusk,” an ambitious work commissioned as part of Wolf Trap’s “Face of America: Spirit of South Florida” campaign, which aims to represent themes of the region’s national parks through performance. The dancers had traveled to southern Florida to film themselves dancing—and posing, and sometimes just staring at nature—in the Everglades. This film is shown on a screen in the back of the stage while the dancers perform to the music of Andrew Bird. Often, film on stage during a dance performance is gratuitous, but Parsons integrates the film with the dancing. Sometimes the dancers imitate the animals, while at other times a dancer performs the same choreography as he or she is performing on the screen, creating an interesting seeing-double effect. The piece is bizarre, comical, and entertaining right to its Miami-inspired finish.

But even without film, the other four pieces hold their own. “Caught,” a solo for one male dancer, uses strobe lights to great effect: While he jumps and turns around the stage, the strobe lights’ flashing gives the audience only fleeting glimpses of his movement. The result is that it seems as though he never touches the ground, but rather is floating in midair for the piece’s entirety. “Wolfgang,” the show’s playful opening piece, features the dancers in peasant-inspired costumes dancing to Mozart. The choreography leans heavily on partnering and explores the relationships between the dancers, who appear genuinely happy to be dancing with each other. The overall effect is something out of a fairy tale.

The weakest choreography of the show is Parsons’ world premiere of “Black Flowers,” a brooding, somber work with a little bit too much agonized face- and body-clutching for my taste. But the movement—which is heavily gymnastic and difficult—showcases the dancers’ breathtaking ability to throw themselves around the stage. In one solo, the male dancer dives horizontally across the stage onto the floor, only to immediately rebound and continue dancing. The work also contains a wonderful, emotional pas de deux for two men, something not often seen in the world of dance.

An upbeat, jazz-inspired piece to the music of Dave Matthews closes the performance. In brightly colored tank tops and jeans, the dancers seem to be having the time of their lives. Their energy was infectious, and many of the audience members left the show grinning widely.

Parsons Dance is performing at the Joyce Theater through Jan. 27.
gretchen.schmid@columbiaspectator.com



WHERE IT’S AT
Place: AMC Loews Lincoln Square, Broadway and 68th Street
Cost: \$14 (\$7.25 at the TIC)



COURTESY OF JONATHAN OLLEY

GERONIMO | Stationed in a covert base overseas, Jessica Chastain (right) plays a member of the team of spies and military operatives who devoted themselves to finding Osama bin Laden in “Zero Dark Thirty.” The thriller was directed by Kathryn Bigelow, SoA ’81.

‘Zero Dark Thirty’

Kathryn Bigelow, SoA ’81, directs suspenseful bin Laden thriller

BY ERIC WIMER
Columbia Daily Spectator

“Zero Dark Thirty,” released on Jan. 11, delivers on massive expectations. It bristles and stings, refining the grinding tension that Best Picture winner “The Hurt Locker” from Kathryn Bigelow, SoA ’81, nearly perfected.

Most films supply secure intervals in which the viewer can breathe before an actor is put in danger again. This film offers no such respite. It is a deftly executed cat-and-mouse game with little distinction between predator and prey.

When I first heard of this bin Laden film, I was very skeptical, expecting the usual quick cash-in, pro-America, gung-ho story. I was surprised when the film opened with a prisoner lying shirtless and weak before masked Americans. Chained up, stripped to his bare bones, and deprived of sleep by way of loud music, the prisoner agonizes through the first scenes, which move at an excruciatingly slow pace.

Mark Boal, who also wrote “The Hurt Locker,” simply sketches these vignettes and leaves any statement on the effectiveness of these actions up in the air. After a presidential change, Maya (Jessica Chastain), the woman behind the bin Laden hunt, is told, “You don’t want to be the last one holding the dog collar when the oversight committee comes.” She manages to get information in other ways, but it costs the CIA. The uncomfortable question of whether torture would have helped floats along the edge of this piece’s conscience.

Bigelow has a penchant for confronting you with an honest reality. I had actually thought that “The Hurt Locker,” a fictional film about an Iraqi bomb squad, was a documentary when I first saw it. “Zero Dark Thirty” could not fool me again, but the shaky handheld cameras lend just enough realism to make even the most cinematic sequences appear unnervingly human and flawed. Other films simply show bombs. In a scene in “Zero Dark,” the camera is caught in the blast, smashed to the ground in an explosion of flame, glass, and flailing bodies.

Chastain, whose character is based off of a real undercover agent, deserves to be a household acting name. Her tough, sometimes brazen, demeanor never detracts from her complete emotional availability. She is the engine that powers the rest of this movie, with her actions sending men scattering across the globe in cell-phone-tracking chess games and slick bribery. She is also the one who receives bad news, crumpled against the floor and visibly straining from the weight, but never broken.

The biggest strength of the powerful but understated score is when it cuts to silence. The viewer becomes eerily and keenly aware of every movement, breath, or footstep. In the inevitable raid scene, shot almost entirely in night vision, this technique is stretched out to perfection. The immersion in this world, with its unadulterated humanity and brutality, is unlike any other film. Never straying far from the records, this film makes us confront the post-9/11 age.

“Zero Dark Thirty” is playing at AMC Loews Lincoln Square 13 at Broadway and 68th Street.

arts@columbiaspectator.com



COURTESY OF BARBARA LAKE

NEVERMORE | Kevin Bacon (left) investigates a serial killer (James Purefoy) who has formed a cult following in Fox’s new cop thriller.

‘The Following’

New Kevin Bacon cop drama satisfies, despite tired tropes

BY DAVID SALAZAR
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

There’s something chilling about watching “The Following.” At first, I thought it was the blunt, graphic depictions of violence—several prison guards are eviscerated in the cold open, a woman stabs herself in the eye, and another woman has her eyes cut out. But as I watched the first four episodes of the series, which premiered Jan. 21 on Fox, I realized that it was unlike anything I’d ever seen, yet still eerily similar to everything.

“The Following” begins with serial killer Jim Carroll (James Purefoy, “Episodes”) breaking out of his maximum security prison. To help find him, the FBI calls in the man who caught him: Ryan Hardy (the ubiquitous Kevin Bacon), an FBI agent forced into retirement by Carroll’s knife. The first episode centers on Hardy working to find Carroll and keep him from finishing off the lone survivor of Carroll’s killing spree.

Throughout the episode and the series, the viewer is shown flashbacks to Hardy’s initial manhunt, when Carroll was a college professor who cut people’s eyes out on the side. Once Carroll is caught again, it comes to light that he has a cult-like group of followers who kill people for him. As the series progresses, they pose increasing threats to the people closest to Hardy—especially Carroll’s ex-wife, with whom Hardy was once involved.

The viewer also gets a glimpse of the goings-on with three of Carroll’s followers (I can’t say who without spoiling the show), who go around doing Carroll’s bidding, leaving a decent amount of blood in their wake as two of them realize that they’re both in love with

the third. The events that unfold as the show progresses paint Hardy as tortured by past mistakes with an inability to save everyone who falls victim to Carroll and his cult.

As we learn more about Hardy’s character, one of the more interesting things about this show is revealed: its ability to depart from crime show convention, while somehow sticking to tired character types.

On one hand, it gives a shocking depiction of serial killers and what makes them tick. On the other hand, at one point, Hardy throws a patio chair at a building in anguish—a somewhat melodramatic way to emphasize the “tortured law enforcement officer” trope that Bacon’s character embodies. Even more heavy-handed is the shot of a trash can full of empty vodka bottles when we first meet Hardy.

In attempting to avoid the formulaic feel of most crime shows, “The Following” does feature some solid twists. To a point, these are effective, but when pushed beyond their usefulness, the twists depart so far from convention as to be completely absurd. Take, for instance an attempt to kill Hardy by strapping a magnet to his chest that interferes with his pacemaker.

Of course, the show isn’t without its redeeming qualities. It’s rare that a show gives the viewer both sides of a manhunt—which is startling in that the bad guys are eerily similar to the good guys and are almost relatable (until they almost murder someone just for existing).

Really, that might be the takeaway that “The Following” is aiming for—showing people that not all the monsters live under the bed, and you won’t see them until they walk up and stab you in the gut.

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