



ALLIE FISHER FOR SPECTATOR

JOB SEARCH | The Center for Career Education has re-prioritized its efforts on campus in response to changing job trends during the recession. High unemployment rates have some students seeking the center’s resources more frequently, while others only use it once in awhile.

Center for Career Education busy during recession

BY EMILY KWONG
Spectator Staff Writer

With unemployment at an all-time high, business is booming at the Center for Career Education. Despite the economic downturn, job offerings through the CCE are at their highest in history. Still, some students question how effective CCE really is.

“Have we noticed a change [due to the recession]? Absolutely. We got together and re-prioritized when we saw there were issues. Jobs are different and we have to work with students in a different marketplace,” Niamh O’Brien, the director of undergraduate career development, said.

Career development services have worked to bring seniors and alumni from a range of industries together

in networking events like “Job Search Saturday.”

“You’ve got to have a lot of eggs in your basket at a time like this,” said Kavita Sharma, dean of the Center for Career Education.

According to CCE’s numbers, there are over 900 active job postings available on LionSHARE, the Columbia online recruiting system, at any given point during the semester. The positions range from entry-level, full-time, part-time, to internship opportunities. Sharma also pointed to numerous other resources for students, such as career fairs and industry panels, a vast alumni network, and mock interviews.

“There are opportunities. But the opportunities are going to go to the students who are actively engaged in the search,” Sharma said. “And that is more than

looking in LionSHARE.”

As a freshman, Joanna Phillips, CC ’12, took advantage of CCE as soon as she set foot on campus. While she initially used it as a place to browse for babysitting jobs, Phillips eventually found her current job as a study assistant in the Equipment Room at the Graduate School of Journalism.

Irina Cuadra, CC ’12, found her internship through another of CCE’s services, the Columbia Arts Experience, which offers New York-based internships in the arts industry during the spring semester. “The process was very smooth,” Cuadra said, describing an application and two-part interview procedure that landed her a job working in the archives of the Ballet Hispanico. “The CCE also helped me when I was applying

to my summer internship at the Disney Studios. Even though it was only a 10-minute walk-in appointment, the career counselor I met with was very helpful in making my cover letter as professional as possible.”

Senior Courtney Morrison, CC ’10, also secured a business development internship through the CCE as a sophomore, but hasn’t had much success through the CCE otherwise. Morrison has plans to enter the entertainment industry, and felt that the positions offered through LionSHARE and the On-Campus Recruiting program were geared more towards finance and consulting. “For internships, they seem to incorporate a wider range of fields, but when it comes to jobs, I haven’t seen very many,” Cuadra

SEE CCE, page 2

Harlem groups organize Haiti aid

Local nonprofits, stores join together to provide relief

BY NICHOLAS BLOOM
AND LEAH GREENBAUM
Columbia Daily Spectator

Elementary school children are selling lemonade on the corner of Broadway and 116th. Nonprofits are collecting medicine. Grassroots organizers are training educators.

Across Morningside Heights and Harlem, residents have joined together to show their support for the people of Haiti, who are struggling in the aftermath of a 7.0 earthquake that caused devastation across the country on Jan. 12.

Some nonprofits are preparing to send a range of supplies, from prosthetic limbs to baby food, while other merchants and neighborhood organizations are collecting cash to donate to doctors.

“It’s amazing, because you know that the U.S. economy is horrible, unemployment is 10 percent, and yet we are able, as a community, to come together,” said Elisa Vasquez, president of P.A.’L.A.N.T.E., a non-profit in Harlem that has been gathering supplies to send to Haiti

later in the year. “The fact is that every little bit counts,” she said. P.A.’L.A.N.T.E. has partnered with Generation Harlem, a youth nonprofit that is collecting clothes, toiletries, and over-the-counter medicines to send to the Caribbean nation in mid-February or early March. Their plan is to support Haiti in the early spring and summer, when aid will start to dwindle but the need for it will not.

Marvin Bing, Jr., the founder of Generation Harlem, said that while the immediate response from the community has been great, he hopes people remember that rebuilding Haiti will be a long-term process.

“A lot of people maybe will forget in a few months,” he said. “We want to pick up the slack when things fall off. They will still need a lot of help.”

So far the group has filled 74 boxes and has even rented storage space to accommodate all the donations.

Lynette Velasco, spokeswoman for councilwoman Inez Dickens, said the

SEE HAITI, page 2

Restaurant brings new tastes to Morningside

BY KIM KIRSCHENBAUM
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

A Morningside Heights grocery store is preparing to take on an entirely new business venture.

2869 Broadway, situated between The Heights and Pinkberry, on Broadway between 112th and 111th streets, will soon become the site of a two-floor Mediterranean restaurant and wine bar lounge, called Vareli. Under the ownership of current Westside Market owner George Zoitais, Vareli will feature two bars on an upper and lower level, lounge areas, and a wine cellar, as well as a slew of Mediterranean entrees.

The concept originated in June 2008, when Zoitais first purchased what was formerly Academy Hardware. In light of the recession, he put the retail space on the

market but was unable to attract any buyers. Newmark Knight Frank Managing Director Ross Kaplan, who represented the Zoitais family through many of their real estate ventures, said that the building required some renovation. Zoitais did repair work, but was unable to get the price he was seeking from prospective tenants. Ultimately, he decided to hold onto the retail space and transform it into a wine bar.

“I live in the neighborhood, and I felt like it didn’t really have a cozy spot because everything at the time was cold and publish,” Zoitais said. “There’s no reason anybody should leave here. It should be a destination spot.”

Zoitais said he intends to provide a relaxing, romantic atmosphere for his target

SEE MEDITERRANEAN, page 2



EMBRY OWEN/SENIOR SPECTATOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MEDITERRANEAN | Westside Market owner is preparing to open a new Mediterranean joint wedged between The Heights and Pinkberry.

MTA scales back service cuts for M104 and crosstowns

BY MAGGIE ASTOR
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

There may be a glimmer of hope for Upper West Side residents afraid to cross Central Park alone at night.

After the Metropolitan Transportation Authority threatened to eliminate nighttime service on several crosstown bus lines, it announced changes last week to its proposed budget cuts, though some transportation advocates deemed the revisions insufficient.

In December, the MTA proposed a sweeping slate of cuts to subway and bus service city-wide, including the elimination of the M10 bus line, which runs along Central Park West, and the elimination of late-night service on the M104, which runs along Broadway, the crosstown M96, and the M79. But on Jan. 22, it announced a scaled-back set of reductions that would spare nearly all those lines, MTA spokesperson Aaron Donovan said on Monday.

While the M104 and M10 will continue to run as usual on the Upper West Side, there will be no service along 42nd Street once the M104 gets downtown, and the M10 route will end at Columbus Circle.

Public transportation advocates said they appreciated the MTA’s efforts to soften the cuts, but emphasized that even a scaled-back set of reductions would be devastating to riders.

“It looks like there might be more crosstown buses available under the plan today than the plan still withstanding as of Friday. Slightly more service would be available overnight for Upper Manhattanites,” said Cate Contino, coordinator for the Straphangers Campaign, a riders’ advocacy group. “We still think the cuts are bad and are definitely going to hurt lots of riders. ... I feel like they are taking a better tack than they were before, but they are still horrible cuts.”

Straphangers Campaign staff attorney Gene Russianoff said there was little hope that the cuts could be averted altogether.

“The MTA has resigned itself to doing these. There is no rescue plan,” Russianoff said. He called on the MTA to apply federal stimulus funds to lessen the sting for riders.

While he said he appreciated the MTA’s “effort to limit the impact of the cuts,” he added, “Waiting longer or transferring to another bus—these are not minor inconveniences.

“They are not getting rid of it, but they are making it harder to use,” Russianoff said of the M10 and M104.

The MTA, which faces an unexpected financial shortfall of \$400 million, has come under fire for several recent changes, including two fare hikes. Last summer, the fare for a single ride increased from \$2 to \$2.25, and service was simultaneously reduced, a combination that encouraged substantial public protest. On Friday, the MTA released 120 pages of documents of adjustments, but Straphangers officials said they do not address major concerns.

Contino said she and other Straphangers employees are reading through the latest documents carefully before settling on an official position, but, she added, “The judgment call is going to be whether we still want to call this doomsday, or something worse, or something slightly more friendly.”

Sam Levin contributed reporting.

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JACK ZIETMAN FOR SPECTATOR

CROSSING TOWN | After budget woes threatened the nighttime service of the M104 and crosstowns, the MTA announced it won’t make major changes.

INSIDE

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Exhibit depicts vividness of life in black and white

The new exhibit at the Wallach Art Gallery displays the works of Thomas Roma, director of photography in the Columbia art department. What the photographs lack in color, they make up for in complexity.



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Lions overcome early struggles against Big Red

Despite a slow start in round two of their Ivy League clash with Cornell, Columbia delivered two strong performances on consecutive weekends thanks to the efforts of star Judie Lomax and sharp shooter Melissa Shafer.

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Tell it like it is

Amanda Gutterman defends our increasingly vague vernacular.

Fighting dirty

Daniel Amzallag on why Columbia’s posturing on Manhattanville is bad news for idealists.

Today’s Events

Freedom of speech

Panelists debate the controversy of free speech in the global world. 1501 SIPA, 6 p.m.

Ending hunger

Have we made global progress in ending hunger and malnutrition? 102 Jerome L. Greene Hall, 4:10 p.m.

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WEATHER

Today  Tomorrow 
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Bedbugs spread, residents criticize city’s inaction

BY CLAIRE LUCHETTE
Columbia Daily Spectator

Forget swine flu. Politicians have moved on to tackle a different ongoing health threat, but Purrell won't help them here.

Bedbugs are the nasty pests now bothering New Yorkers at a high rate, and many feel the city isn't doing enough to eradicate them.

Bedbugregistry.com, an independent website that allows people to submit reports of bedbugs, has had 30 cases registered in New York City hotels and apartments in the past week. Within a half-mile of the University gates, 15 reports have been posted since September 2009.

The site allows residents and visitors of the city to report bedbug encounters publicly, perhaps to provide an outlet for the frustration about what City Council policy analyst Kihani Brea referred to in an e-mail as the “plague.”

At a January meeting of Community Board 7, which represents the Upper West Side, City Council member Gale Brewer said that 26 city agencies are tackling the problem.

In March 2009, Mayor Michael Bloomberg signed legislation creating a Bed Bug Advisory Board, and appointments followed in September. Within nine months of the appointments, the board is expected to release a report on the prevention and treatment of infestations.

The City Department of Health hosts a website with bedbug fact sheets, and the city began monitoring 311 calls related to bedbugs last April, according to the organization New York vs Bed Bugs.

Sarah Morgridge, spokesperson for City Council member Robert Jackson, who represents parts of Harlem, said that city efforts to address the problem have been “slow” and that more needs to be done. “It’s all about public education and swift eradication,” she said, adding that they plan to distribute large quantities of CDs with PowerPoint presentations about eradicating bedbugs.

This idea, she said, is much more practical than past efforts.

“We had a forum two years ago in the Hall. We distributed the presentation on paper ... which is not so green, not so helpful,” Morgridge said.

Education or no education, local residents say the bugs haven’t gone anywhere.

“My friend had bugs ... They ate her up, but what can you do at a point? It’s a city, it’s packed, you’re going to get bugs. It’s all about being careful and stopping the problem at the first clue,” said a resident of a building on 109th Street, who asked not to be identified to avoid trouble with her landlord.

Some residents have grown increasingly aggravated as they deal with what they think is a lack of response from the city.

Mark Quinn, a Morningside Heights resident whose building on West 109th Street, was listed on the bedbug registry, explained, “It’s so hard to get rid of these things, and you can’t ever tell where they are, but I’ve seen nothing done. We need to be aware and alert and the city needs to respond.”

The Morningside Inn, located on 107th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam, has four reports of bedbugs listed on the site.

Patrick Arroyo, manager of the Inn, said he shares the community’s frustration but added that management should not be blamed.

“The city hasn’t done a thing ... The city is a joke with their approach. I take every report seriously and address each case, but the city’s going to have to do something, because bedbugs have no prejudice,” Arroyo said.

Morgridge acknowledged that eradicating the pests is not a simple process. Speaking about bedbugs spreading, she said, “They travel. They’re not passed through contact or personal interaction, but move on their own through luggage and furniture.”

Arroyo said he is trying to stop the recent outbreaks, but it’s a time-consuming task. He said, “I’ve got a guy in here the first of the month, every month, exterminating. My sheets are clean, clean, clean. I’ve done everything I can.”

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GRAPHIC BY JOANNA WANG

Westside owner opens new restaurant on B’way

MEDITERRANEAN from front page

clientele of students, professors, and local residents ages 21 to 28, and added that it will not be “a binge-drinking type of atmosphere.”

“It’s going to be a comfortable, cozy place where you can come out ... and have a good meal and a nice glass of wine,” manager Nicholas Belegrinos said.

And it is that type of tranquil environment that Zoitass hopes will set Vareli apart from other bars in the area.

“We’re on a different level from The Heights—we’re not serving Tex-Mex cuisine or margaritas,” said publicist and consultant Steven Hall of the Hall Company, whose public relations company helped Zoitass develop his concept. “And as far as Campo goes, that’s a traditional pizza, pasta, antipasto place, and we’re not serving that either—we’re going to be a little more encompassing in a way that opens up the boundary to represent foods from Spain, Greece, and parts of France,” Hall said.

And while Vareli strives to set itself apart from other local bars, neighborhood businesses

are not worried about the prospect of new competition.

“There will be some amount of competition, but we don’t have that business model of going after another competitor,” Jim Ciacci, manager of Campo, said. “We would just increase promotions and change our business model—I anticipate having to change the business model, but that’s okay. That’s the nature of business.”

The Heights likewise plans to keep its operation the same, despite its new next-door neighbor.

“I don’t think that just because another bar opens in the area, it means you have to change what you’re doing,” said Feras Samad, of The Heights. “We feel pretty strongly about our business plan.”

Construction is complete for Vareli, according to Hall, and only the “odds and ends” and “decorative touches” await completion. Zoitass has received all of his permits, and as soon as he receives his liquor license from the State Liquor Authority, the place will open, which Hall anticipates will happen by next Friday.

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Career center busy with students during recession

CCE from front page

agreed. “For the career fair I went too, I felt like the majority of positions were finance jobs,” she said.

Sharma stressed that the positions offered through LionSHARE were not indicative of all the positions available through CCE and, moreover, available in the working world. “Each industry has a different hiring cycle, down to having different timelines. One of the reasons that you see so many finance, consulting, and technology [jobs] in September is because that’s their time. Whereas if you look at our spring program of events, you see more from the not-for-profit sector and media employers because this is their cycle.” Sharma explained that monitoring job availability in accordance with a shifting market is an important strategy for students looking to find the right job at the right time.

For seniors, opinions differ on how useful the CCE is in finding a job post-graduation. After receiving his degree, Pedro Duran, CC ’10, plans to work at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, continuing a clinical research position he obtained as a sophomore through the Office of Preprofessional Advising’s pre-health sector. “I think CCE is a great service, but I’ve never personally needed to use it,” he said. “It could be that those areas or fields of study that aren’t attached to an office—such as pre-health or pre-law—would need representation through the CCE.” Morrison also has no plans

to use the CCE to search for an entry-level job, but mentioned a peer who continues to use their services after graduating last year. “I bumped into him at the CCE office. He said he was using it to job search, so I guess something [a job] fell through.”

O’Brien said that CCE continues to offer assistance to seniors in the summer after their graduation.

Brandon Storm, CC ’12, experienced frustration with the CCE after waiting a month to speak with a counselor. “At that point I was more interested in finding a research position, and the counselor I finally met with just told me to ask individual departments, which is not anything I needed to wait three to four weeks to hear. I imagine if I had asked them something more internship-gear, they would have been more helpful.”

For Storm, resources outside of the CCE have proven more helpful, such as the Office of Fellowship Programs and e-mails from the Office of Multicultural Affairs that offer opportunities in the field of policy and non-governmental organizations. “To me, LionSHARE is overwhelming. There’s forty bajillion jobs and I’m only interested in two percent of them, whereas with OMA e-mails, they’re relatively infrequent, but whenever I hear from them it’s all fairly relevant to what I’m interested in.”

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PATRICK YUAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HELPING HAITI | Local community groups have launched relief efforts for Haiti. FUNTOSALUD, above, is raising money for an aid trip.

Neighborhood groups organize to aid Haiti

HAITI from front page

councilwoman, who represents parts of Morningside Heights, is interested in long-term relief efforts and has spoken to UNICEF about planning a fundraiser.

Vasquez and Bing said they will seek the support of local politicians like Dickens in getting the financial assistance to send the supplies they have collected to Haiti.

Bing said that charity and generosity are characteristic of Harlem.

“Harlem being Harlem, we wanted to get the younger folks involved and have nonprofits come together. The Dominican, Spanish, and African-American youth in the neighborhood are organizing,” he said. “We want their recovery to be as sustainable as much as possible.”

Sarah Gitlin, CC ’13 and a member of the activists council of the Columbia University Democrats, said the club has learned firsthand this week how generous the neighborhood is as they prepare to send their first \$3,000 check to Doctors Without Borders.

They collected money solely from donation cans that were distributed to 120 local businesses.

Gitlin said that while smaller, independently operated stores have been enthusiastic about displaying donation cans, larger corporate-owned businesses, have been unresponsive.

Still, she said, the interactions with local stores have been positive.

“The hardest part has been carrying the coins. They’re so heavy!” she said, adding that they’ve gathered 75 pounds in

spare change and hope to collect \$10,000 in the coming weeks.

In other parts of Morningside Heights, neighborhood groups are launching alternative relief efforts.

The Border Health Mission of FUNTOSALUD, a Bronx-based grassroots organization dedicated to providing aid and education to the border region between the Dominican Republic and Haiti, has set up a relief drive on the corner of 108th Street and Amsterdam to fund a mission trip to Haiti.

“What we do is provide a more unconventional, grassroots way of helping people,” said Alba Mota, the Mission’s coordinator. “We’re asking for food and medicine, but we’re also bringing spiritual leaders, toys, and educators on our trip.”

Their approach, she said, looks to offer “more holistic ways of providing aid.”

Mota stressed that FUNTOSALUD was different from other relief organizations, because they have spent time in Haiti and understand what will be effective within the existing culture.

“Too much aid right now is being concentrated in Port-au-Prince, and not enough in the country and in villages,” she said.

Vasquez said that she was also planning a trip to Haiti with P.A.L.A.N.T.E, and agreed that they should focus efforts in areas outside of Port-au-Prince. She said, “These are our brothers and sisters, of course.”

Shira Poliak and Sam Levin
contributed reporting.

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Lomax leads team in points

IN FOCUS from back page

in the rematch, leading all scorers and tying her career high with 30 points. After receiving all-Ivy first team honors last season, Lomax’s game has only improved. She followed her 17-point showing against Cornell on Jan. 16 by making 12 field goals—including several jumpers—and six of seven foul shots on Saturday, in a performance that garnered her Ivy League Player of the Week honors for the fourth time this season.

“If we want to be successful and achieve the goals that we have for this team, then we’re all going to need to fill our parts,” Lomax said. “Free throws and outside shooting is something that I’m going to have to be able to step up and do.”

With a perfect Ivy record to defend, Columbia travels to Harvard on Jan. 29 and Dartmouth on Jan. 30.

Favre has done it all, time to hang it up

SHAW from back page

It was quintessential Favre, except for one thing—a younger Brett would have run it. This Brett is too old, too banged-up, and just as cocky using his cannon of an arm. That play represents why I hope he hangs it up.

Though I wished he had quit two years ago, I understood that he felt slighted and that he wanted one more shot at a title. Last summer, I knew he would not let his horrible last few weeks with the Jets be his final encore.

Having destroyed all doubts, there is nothing left for him to do but win another Super Bowl title. Realistically, is he going to win one? While he had an incredible season, the classic Favre magic is gone. Some say it’s karma. I say it’s age.

Favre is just one of many players who are to blame for

Minnesota’s loss, but while most of his teammates will learn and improve, he will not. He has sustained an astonishing level of excellence and it would be sad to see him go the route of many before him. It was hard to watch Brett Favre seem washed-up in Green Bay, and equally odd to see him in a Vikings uniform. The two together might make my head explode.

Maybe he has another season like this last one in him, but I know that even I don’t need to see another postseason interception. He already has that record, just like all of the others, and with that, it’s time for the greatest player of his generation to finally say goodbye.

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Princeton defeats Dartmouth 181-119

MEN’S SWIMMING from back page

of Mike Dominski in the 100 backstroke.

A few events later, Yale’s Goksu Bicer, with a time of 21.59 seconds, out-touched Navy’s John Tortorich at the wall by just 0.06 seconds in the 50 freestyle.

In another close race, the 200 backstroke was decided by just five-hundredths of a second, as senior Tom Robinson beat Navy’s top finisher to the wall in 1:50.50.

The Bulldogs racked up quite a few crucial points in the diving events, taking three of the top five spots in the one-meter dive, and three of the top four off the three-meter board. The Elis saw impressive performances from sophomore Colton Staab and seniors Drew Teer and Eric Olson.

Despite their best efforts,

Yale became the third team in the Ancient Eight to add another tally to the loss column.

In the final Ivy event of the weekend, Princeton (4-0, 4-0 Ivy) took on Dartmouth (1-8, 0-6 Ivy) in Hanover and beat the Big Green 181-119 on its home turf.

Princeton freshman Stephen Vines barely squeaked past Dartmouth’s Mikey Brown in the three-meter dive to start the meet. Vines accumulated 320.77 points to narrowly top Brown’s 319.50.

The day’s first swimming events saw Princeton ahead of the pack as well, with victories in the 200 medley relay, the 400 individual medley, and the 200 freestyle. Big Green sophomore Mickey Ahern swam away with first place in the 100 backstroke. Ahern won in 51.90 seconds before Princeton’s Travis

McNamara could take second in 53.67.

Princeton’s Christopher Quemena quickly turned the tides, though, beating out Dartmouth’s Ben Reasons by a slim margin in the 100 breaststroke. Quemena touched the wall in just 1:00.32, with Reasons close behind in 1:00.43.

The Tigers went on to win seven of the next ten events to take the meet, maintaining their perfect record in the Ancient Eight and keeping the Big Green stagnant at the bottom of the standings.

This Friday, Harvard, Princeton, and Yale will face off in a three-day meet as the Crimson and Tigers both fight to remain the only undefeated Ivy team. Elsewhere in the league this weekend, Columbia challenges Brown, Penn hosts West Chester and Dartmouth visits Orono to take on Boston College and Maine.

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Eye for the unusual at Wallach Gallery show

BY FRANCES CORRY
Columbia Daily Spectator

ART Photography too often falls into a hackneyed realm of sentiments—children holding hands, rolling green landscapes, sepia pictures of despair.

Yet, Thomas Roma, director of photography for the Columbia art department, does nothing of the sort in his exhibition “Pictures for Books” at the Wallach Art Gallery. His black-and-white gelatin prints show familiar subjects—a pregnant woman, a morning at church, laundry hanging out to dry—yet reveal subtle absurdities rather than digestible clichés.

The photographs in the exhibition are arranged according to the artist’s photographic publications. Images of the Italian countryside are labeled after his book “Sicilian Passages,” the emotional photographs of an African-American church service are titled “Come Sunday,” and “Found in Brooklyn” displays a symposium of street scenes.

Faces are rarely turned towards the camera, often obscured by a sheath of hair, an outstretched hand, or the back of another’s head. Only in rare group scenes do a human subject’s eyes connect with the camera. Instead, the detail of the environment is favored—styrofoam cups in the gutter are vivid, signs in the distance can be read.

The subtle complexities of Roma’s photographs reveal incongruities to

the viewer. At times, these intricacies can be amusing. In an image from “Come Sunday,” a large young woman sits under a sign for the office of the pastor, and while it should be a sterile subject matter, her body suggests a sexual connotation. Another photograph features a synagogue with a Star of David on its front—directly below it is a cross, seemingly made from the architecture of the windows.

The images are not beautiful in the classical sense. They are vivid, often hard-edged, and at first glance, some may even seem dull. Living in New York, one sees a lot of trash, a lot of concrete, a lot of construction, and so these images can be easily passed by unnoticed.

“Pictures for Books,” then, has to be taken with time. In an image from “Found in Brooklyn,” an alighting flock of birds mimics the budding leaves on the tree from which it came. The background shows rows of cookie-cutter houses. It is a normal, beautiful repetition, but one that needs a concerted effort to be seen. Roma’s vividness seems to shake free of cool aloofness, because the things of everyday life are, in fact, not so black-and-white.

“Pictures for Books” is exhibited at the Miriam & Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery, on the eighth floor of Schermerhorn Hall, until March 27. Thomas Roma and MoMA curator Susan Kismaric will host a gallery talk at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 3.



ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROMA | Art department director of photography Thomas Roma’s new show “Pictures for Books” is a black-and-white exhibition of the everyday.

Restaurant Week Winter 2010

OTHER SUGGESTED PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS ON THE UPPER WEST SIDE

Ocean Grill (Seafood)
384 Columbus Avenue
212 579 2300
Lunch/Dinner/Sunday Dinner

Telepan (New American)
72 W. 69th St.
212 580 4300
Lunch/Dinner

Nice Matin (French)
201 W. 79th St.
212 873 6423
Lunch/Dinner/Sunday Dinner

Bar Boulud (French)
1900 Broadway (at 63rd St.)
212 595 0303
Lunch

Compass (Seafood)
208 W. 70th St.
212 875 8600
Dinner/Sunday Dinner

Restaurant Week makes choice eats financially palatable

Local choices please varied tastes

As winter break comes to a close and students are inundated with countless syllabi, there is always one beacon of hope—NYC Restaurant Week. Yet, with so many restaurants on the list, choosing just the right one can be daunting—the atmosphere and food are essential. On the Upper West Side, there are three exceptional choices that offer \$24.07 lunches and \$35 dinners that call out to the Columbia students, encouraging a trip down the red line and away from John Jay.

- Matt Powell

A VOCE

At 10 Columbus Circle, A Voce, provides a simple, traditional Italian meal. Over the busy street below, diners eat while people-watching. Executive chef Missy Robbins crafts dishes with uncomplicated presentations—appetizers are served on polished wooden plates. Although the Restaurant Week menu is beautiful, a few dishes stand out, such as the appetizers prosciutto danitra and duck breast with Montasio cheese. Main dishes seem more daring, with options like Cjalsons, a ricotta, pear, and walnut pasta with cinnamon and cocoa, which chef Robbins manages to pull off. The only downside is that only one option is offered for dessert—a Meyer lemon cake with pears and mascarpone, a truly and unoriginal offering.

DOVETAIL

Dovetail, at 103 W. 77th St., is John Fraser’s first venture as proprietor and chef. Yet, the restaurant’s look and menu indicate the hand of an experienced restaurateur. Ultimately, the restaurant’s minimalist style—with its wood panels, brick columns, and tables covered with plain white linens—highlights attractive platings. Between the lunch and dinner menus, dinner choices appear superior. For an appetizer, rabbit mille-feuille presents something never offered around campus eateries. Duck confit with curry squash and hanger steak with Hen of the Woods mushrooms make picking a main dish difficult. Dessert has options such as almond bread pudding. It seems unlikely that Dovetail will disappoint adventurous eaters.

NOUGATINE

Winter Restaurant Week suggestions would be incomplete without mentioning Nougatine, Jean-Georges Vongerichten’s restaurant at 1 Central Park West. Vongerichten has designed a menu sure to please both lunch and dinner crowds. For dinner, Nougatine deviates from the typical three-course prix fixe, featuring four courses with choices such as butternut squash soup, cheeseburgers, baked free-range chicken, and Vongerichten’s warm chocolate cake for dessert. While lunch has three courses, its menu offers more variety, including options like goat cheese fondue with pear and crystallized pecan salad and pan-roasted cod. With such a distinguished chef, visitors will likely leave satisfied.

Life imitates art, art imitates audience in CC alum’s ‘Dorian Gray’ adaptation

BY JOY RESMOVITS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

THEATER Watching the adaptation of “The Picture of Dorian Gray” penned by Daniel Mitura, CC ’08, is like staring into a hall of mirrors—the effect is illuminating, but only sometimes exhilarating.

“Dorian Gray,” the only novel by Victorian playwright Oscar Wilde, centers on art. It juxtaposes the stalwart, Jiminy Cricket-like morals of artist Basil Hallward (Leif Huckman) with the witty New Hedonistic epithets of Henry Wotton (Yayu O’Donnell). Mitura’s production in the intimate 99-seat black box Kirk Theatre highlights this aspect, while a no-nonsense set and small ensemble minimize other themes.

In “Dorian Gray,” Hallward paints a portrait of Dorian (Wil Petre), a young man lauded for his beauty. After making a fateful wish, Dorian’s face holds its youth while the painting’s visage ages along with his sordid soul.

Mitura’s most significant decision has the audience standing in for the portrait—Basil faces outward while dragging a paintbrush through thin air. The three actors

gawk at the audience, admiring the masterpiece. Later, Dorian stares in disgust as he realizes the portrait is aging. In addition to forcing a more intimate connection between Dorian and his audience, this reminds the spectators that they only age while observing art, as Dorian gets to experience a hedonistic life.

While not in scenes, the six actors linger around benches toward the rear, statuesque in a bluish glow. They remain behind a rope that evokes a museum exhibition, forming yet another layer of art observers. Between the rope and the audience lies a platform, another element common in showcases.

The play, produced by Adam Blanshay and Columbia theater group NOMADS, is strongest in this emphasis on metatheater. Artistic self-consciousness creates palpable tension.

Basil, Henry, and Dorian gaze at the audience while allegedly watching a performance of “Romeo and Juliet.” The actual audience laughed most audibly when the spurned lover Sybil Vane, portrayed by the vocally rich Christina Broccolini, enacted Juliet’s suicide unconvincingly. The adaptation’s—and Wilde’s—ability to turn tragedy into comedy is something

to behold, and plumbs artistic questions. Mitura pokes fun at his own art form.

Mitura’s intrepid “Dorian” proceeds with a tall IQ, highlighting the complex questions that have perplexed English majors and philosophers since Plato.

But to those unfamiliar with Dorian, the EQ may not soar as high. O’Donnell’s Henry is smooth, but rarely exciting. He recites monotone truisms—one refrain calls the death of the past its beauty. This lack of dynamism perhaps intentionally demeans Henry’s character, but fails to engage novices. The minimalist setting exhibits the story’s timelessness, but forgets its popular Victorian roots.

Petre’s portrayal of Dorian is versatile. One can easily trace his flipping between the influences of Basil and Henry by his changing tone of voice and posture.

Huckman’s Basil is heart-wrenching. His earnestness in advocating for Dorian’s goodness is more universally true than factually believable.

The staging of director Henning Hegland, SoA ’09, is brilliant, and his positioning of the characters highlights their ever-changing hierarchies and attractions.

The trick with all adaptations is preserving the original author’s voice and

plot while staging a performance that has more voice than a mere copy. Mitura’s play toes the line quite nicely until, in a new vignette, it overtakes the original text toward the end. Still, Mitura’s dialogue weaves in and out of Wilde’s original lines seamlessly. The play is clearly his own—and is intellectually stimulating enough to make any Columbian proud.

WHERE IT’S AT

Time: Now through Feb. 6, times vary
Place: Kirk Theatre, 410 West 42nd Street (between Ninth and Tenth Avenues)
Cost: \$18, but \$10 for Columbia Students with online code CUARTS.



ART ON AIR | The audience is Mitura’s canvas in his adaptation of “Dorian Gray.”

Fighting budgetary and culinary temptations in all corners of the world



BY JULIA HALPERIN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

There’s a reason there’s no direct translation of the word “cheap” in French.

A week into my semester abroad at Columbia’s Reid Hall in Paris, the entire concept of my series, “Abroad on a Budget,” seems adorably naïve.

My goal was to find innovative ways to experience Parisian culture—the food, the wine, the art, the fashion—without entirely emptying my wallet. I would take on one aspect of French culture each week, comparing student-friendly cultural activities in New York City with those in Paris and reporting on how well Reid Hall facilitates students’ access to culture.

But as I type on my laptop in a café, sheepishly sipping the equivalent of a \$5 coffee and nibbling on an \$8 panini, it

seems my plan is in need of slight adjustment. At the end of my first week, I’ve discovered three things about being—and eating—on a budget in Paris.

First, a student’s ability to save money is directly proportional to how embarrassed she is about her broken French.

During my first three days in Paris, I wandered around for hours at a time, taking in the impressive displays of pastries, cheeses, and wines in the windows of the specialty shops that line my neighborhood’s narrow streets.

(It is my personal opinion that food shop window displays in Paris are equivalent to department store window displays in New York. Both businesses take them incredibly seriously, not only as effective ways to attract customers but also as veritable works of art. And in both cases, their main purpose is to inspire lust. It seems fitting that in French, the word for window-shopping is “faire du lèche-vitrines”—literally, “window-licking.”)

But every time I peeled my tongue off the glass windows and walked into

a store, I got so nervous about having to speak to the shopkeeper in French that I pretended to be looking for someone, turned around, and walked out. I hardly spent any money that weekend.

After three days of subsisting entirely on the free orientation lunches at Reid Hall and whatever I could sucker my host family into offering me, I made my second discovery about eating on a budget in Paris. There is, in fact, one easy way to eat good French food without going broke.

Step one—swallow your pride and acknowledge that you have a thick American accent. Step two—go to a patisserie and buy a baguette. Step three—walk down the street to a fromagerie and buy some cheese. Step four—go to a wine store and ask the woman behind the counter for the best, inexpensive red wine. Voilà, affordable breakfast, lunch, dinner, and drinks for at least one full day.

(One caveat, however. Like any fad diet that relies on eating the same thing multiple times a day, this kind of financial diet can lead to unexpected cravings

and hiccups. Hence the \$8 panini.)

My third discovery is a bit more troubling. Although I have managed to eat well, visit museums, and even go out a few times during my first week here, I’ve realized how truly challenging and almost unfeasible it is to study abroad in Paris with severe monetary limitations.

I don’t mean my own—I’m on a budget like most students, but I don’t rely on income from a work-study job, and I can count on my family to help me out if I run out of cash entirely.

With the value of the dollar plummeting, I think it is important to acknowledge that the term “budget” is relative, and that for many students, a cup of coffee—let alone a dinner out—is truly an unaffordable extravagance in Paris. Even being able to feed myself here is a constant reminder that this experience is not available to every student.

But though I feel it is a privilege that I must acknowledge, it is also one I do not intend to squander.

That is, until I run out of money.

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Solutions to Previous Issue's Puzzle

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4	5	1	9	8	7	2	3	6
6	8	9	3	4	2	7	5	1
9	1	6	2	5	8	4	7	3
7	4	5	1	3	9	6	8	2
3	2	8	4	7	6	1	9	5
1	9	4	7	2	5	3	6	8
5	6	3	8	1	4	9	2	7
8	7	2	6	9	3	5	1	4

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 "I did it!"
5 Outplays
10 Jack's inferior
13 Holly genus
14 Draw a better bead on
15 Pitcher Hideo
16 "Big name in tequila
18 Gossip tidbit
19 Abu Dhabi's federation:
Abbr.
20 "Mexican muralist
22 Actor Brody of "The Pianist"
24 Pep
25 ___ one mind: disagreeing
26 Fil. preceder
28 Short film role
30 Some
31 On the double
33 "Spanish painter (1746-1828)
38 For all to see
39 Submissive
41 Gas brand with a landmark sign outside Fenway Park
45 Vegas cube
46 Iraqi seaport
47 Opposed (to)
49 "The Picture of Gray"
50 "Roger Federer rival
54 Gold units:
Abbr.
55 Big pictures:
Abbr.
56 Home to this puzzle's theme
58 Fight-ending calls, briefly
59 Insect stage
60 Animal whose fur was used for Crockett's cap
61 Word that forms a city when combined with the first names in answers to starred clues
62 Slow to catch on
63 Barley beards

DOWN

32 Happy Meal extra
34 Lariat loop
35 Poet Khayyám
36 "That's not news to me"
37 Soda-making no-show
4 Lumberjack's tool
5 UCLA player
6 Extra wide, on a shoebox
7 Puppeteer Tony
8 VCR successor
9 Campfire treat
10 For the full length of a pregnancy
11 Come to light
12 "Skip the sandwich dressing"
15 Skin care brand
17 B-G link
21 Working undercover, for short
23 Corn Belt state
26 Gave it a shot
27 Mubarak of Egypt
28 "I give up!"
31 Angel dust, briefly

32 Happy Meal coating
34 Lariat loop
35 Poet Khayyám
36 "That's not news to me"
37 Soda-making process
40 Tepeka natives
41 Insertion marks
42 The Donald's daughter
43 Nonstick
44 Lawn makeup
46 Western tie
48 Spanish hero played by Heston
49 Willem of process
51 Appear
52 Actor Alda
53 Uses a spade
57 Color TV pioneer

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

AOL	BABES	FEAR
SDI	ATTICS	IAGO
SEL	DOWNHEARTED	
ASYLUM	LAPS	
ISLA	SPHERE	LIP
LAIRS	OOP	EACH
VIENNA	HOLMES	
LEATHERLUNGED		
MORTAL	SUBURB	
ORES	FEB	SERFS
TED	SCARED	CAEN
SOAK	IDO	IDO
THINSKINNED	NOW	
AUDI	ERRATA	ERE
BEST	SASSY	DAD

xwordeditor@aol.com 01/26/10

By Dan Nadror
(c)2010 Tribune Media Services, Inc. 01/26/10

After earning first-team All-Ivy recognition last year, Judie Lomax's encore performance is proving to be even more impressive now.

TOMORROW



SPORTS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2010 • PAGE 6



Check out tomorrow's paper for a look at how the Lions' Ivy League record stacks up against the performances of their conference foes so far this season.

TOMORROW

Maybe it's time for Favre to say goodbye



LUCAS SHAW

In the Refrigerator

games streak on it transformed him into the ultimate iron man, playing arguably the nation's toughest sport.

At the time, I wanted him to stay retired—not because I'd had enough of him, but because I wanted his legacy to remain pristine.

Now, two years later, he will never quite be what he could have been. He has alienated most of the Green Bay faithful, every Jets fan, and many others to boot. To them, the sport's ultimate team player turned into its biggest egotist.

However, this is still Brett Favre—one of the five greatest quarterbacks of all time and one of the toughest players to ever lace up his cleats. As much as some may dislike him, he has another chance to go out on top—or as close to it as he can get. Again, I will hope that he does.

Full disclosure: Brett Favre made me a pro football fan. I've loved the Dodgers, Lakers, and UCLA Bruins since birth, but football? Los Angeles has no team, and when your college football team's top pro prospect of the decade was Cade McNown, well, you have to look elsewhere. My dad never had a problem as a lifetime University of Southern California football fan. Me? I watched Brett Favre lead the Packers to a Super Bowl when I was six years old and never looked back.

That being said, even if I didn't have an oversized man-crush on him, Favre should have had the right to be the Packers starting quarterback forever. He had a "lifetime pass."

This applies not just to football players, but to all team sport athletes who have been the face of various franchises for years, players who people associate with the franchise, and not vice versa.

Brett Favre was one of those players. Green Bay has always been a historic organization, but he put the Packers back on the map. He won a Super Bowl, seven division titles, three straight MVP awards—the list goes on. What's more impressive is that he did it all without ever having as good a supporting cast as he did this year in Minnesota.

When Green Bay decided to force him out to ensure Aaron Rodgers would not leave, I understood it from a football standpoint. I had seen enough of Rodgers at UC-Berkeley to know he was special. I was baffled when so many teams passed on him in the first round, and downright giddy at the thought of him as Favre's successor. Yet, I was still enraged when the Packers treated Favre like any other player.

I would have probably understood had Favre been awful the year before, as he had been in 2005 and 2006. Those two years, Favre seemed to have finally lost it—47 interceptions, sub-75 passer ratings and a career-low completion percentage in 2006. Still, Favre came back with a vengeance in 2007, throwing for more than 4,000 yards, completing 66.5 percent of his passes, upping his touchdown totals, and even cutting back a little on interceptions. When the most important person to your franchise since Vince Lombardi is still playing well enough to be named an All-Pro, you do not kick him out the door.

Some critics say Favre forced his way out to get to Minnesota, but I believe that desire arose later. Green Bay had just been in the National Football Conference Championship Game, and as everyone should be able to see, all Favre has ever wanted is to win.

Two years later, Favre is no longer Green Bay's prodigal son. However, in every other respect he faces a nearly identical decision as the one he made two years ago.

Once again, Favre is coming off a renaissance season. Not even I thought he had so much left in the tank, posting his first ever season with a passer rating over 100.

In doing so, he has answered any lingering questions about his ability at age 40 and proven that his struggles down the stretch last season were injury-related. While his supporting cast was excellent, that can only make one wonder what numbers he would have posted had he played with such skill players in his prime.

Nonetheless, like in his 2007 season, he's coming off a bruising championship game loss, one that ended with a trademark Favre interception—on-the-move, across his body, to the middle of the field.

SEE SHAW, page 2



ANGELA RADULESCU / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HOT HAND | Columbia was able to overcome its slow start against Cornell thanks to the hot shooting of guard Melissa Shafer off the bench.

Lions overcome slow start in weekend victory

Sophomore guard Melissa Shafer provides instant offense from downtown

BY SARAH SOMMER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

In its first game against Cornell this season, the Columbia women's basketball team opened the first half with a quick burst of offense. The Lions (11-5, 2-0 Ivy) scored five unanswered points in the first two minutes of action, and added six points over the next three minutes. While they experienced minor scoring droughts throughout the half, the Lions used a 9-0 run midway through the period and solid inside-outside play in the final seven minutes of the half to reach 43 points by the intermission.



In Saturday's rematch, Columbia got off to a slower start. Junior forward Judie Lomax opened the game with a layup for the Lions, but Columbia did not score again until four minutes had passed. After six minutes, Columbia had tallied only seven points.

While they initially struggled to put points on the board, the Lions eventually found their stride and beat the Big Red (5-10, 0-2 Ivy) by a comfortable margin for the second time this

year. Columbia opened Ivy League play with a 68-44 win over Cornell, and completed its sweep of the Big Red with a 68-47 victory.

"I thought that it would be a much more challenging game the second time around," Columbia head coach Paul Nixon said. "Obviously, [when] you play a team [in] back-to-back weeks, you expect adjustments to be made."

Cornell switched from a zone defense to man-to-man for the rematch, stifling the Lions early, but not for long.

Sophomore guard Melissa Shafer came off the bench sooner than usual for the Lions when junior guard Kathleen Barry injured her left hand, and she provided some much-needed offense for Columbia in the first half. Her three-pointer with 15:52 remaining in the period gave the Lions their first points since Lomax's first-possession layup. Shafer's next trey—with 13:18 left in the half—gave Columbia a 12-4 lead. Her third and final three-pointer of the half put the Lions ahead of the Big Red by 18 points.

"Wow," Nixon said, of Shafer. "She was a big spark off the bench for us—I mean, tremendous. ... Her play was exactly what we're hoping to get out of her."

POINTS SCORED BY COLUMBIA AGAINST CORNELL

	AT 05:00	AT THE HALF	FINAL SCORE
GAME 1	11	43	68
GAME 2	05	35	68

GRAPHIC BY HANNAH D'APICE

STUDY THE STATS | Despite first half troubles in game two, the Lions were able to complete the sweep.

In 18 minutes of action, Shafer contributed 12 points on four-of-five shooting from three-point range. After a five-point showing in Columbia's first meeting with Cornell, she was one of only two Columbia players to score in double figures on Saturday.

While Shafer delivered from beyond the arc, it was Lomax who dominated the Lions' offense

SEE IN FOCUS, page 2

Harvard, Princeton impressive in Ivy League competition

BY VICTORIA JONES
Spectator Staff Writer

In the swimming and diving world, this past weekend was a busy one for the men of the Ancient Eight. The weekend featured three Ivy League matchups as well as two meets against nonconference competitors.

Harvard (6-1, 5-0 Ivy) and Brown (2-6, 1-2 Ivy) got the ball rolling on Friday afternoon in Boston where the visiting Bears unsuccessfully tried to be the first conference foe to hand the Crimson a loss. In the end, Harvard edged the Bears out, 127-116.

The Crimson racked up quite a few points in the 1,000 freestyle, with four swimmers touching the wall before Brown could break up the streak. Harvard's first swimmer, senior Mason Brunnick, beat the field by six seconds with a time of 9:32.37.

Harvard also fared well in the diving competitions. In the one-meter dive, freshman Michael Stanton edged out Brown's C.J. Kambe with 304.88 points to Kambe's 302.55. Stanton placed in the three-meter dive as well, taking second with 313.28 points, behind teammate Zachary Ranta, who came out on top with a score of 331.88.

Many of the afternoon's events were tight races. The Crimson's Nicholas Tan and Will Heyburn finished the 100 freestyle in 46.49 and 46.63 seconds, respectively, just barely ahead of Brown's Tucker Wetmore in 46.84. The Bears responded in the next event, when J.D. Pinto out-stroked Harvard's Robert Newell by just 0.04 seconds with a time of 51.75 in the 100 backstroke.

While Brown was able to put together relay teams to take first and third in the last event, the 200 freestyle relay, those results weren't enough to overtake league-leader Harvard.

Apparently not fatigued, the Crimson hopped back into the pool the next day and trampled Boston University 201-99.

Harvard started the day on top with a victory

in the 200 medley relay and continued its success in the 100 breaststroke where Justin Davidson finished in 58.24 seconds, edging out Boston's Kyle Ernst by a tenth of a second. After continuing on to take first place in the majority of events that followed, the Crimson headed back to campus with their sixth win of the year.

Cornell was also triumphant on the road this Saturday, with a 152-148 win against Columbia (4-3, 1-3 Ivy). The Big Red (6-2, 4-2 Ivy) had to fight the Lions for their victory, though, as the meet went through several lead changes and came down to the last event. Unfortunately for the Light Blue, the Big Red's A- and B-teams in the 400 freestyle relay stole away second- and

third-place points to take the meet in front of Columbia's homecoming crowd.

Yale, too, found itself on the wrong side of a close decision this weekend against Navy. In what was nearly a major upset, the Bulldogs came up short by just ten points, with a final score of 152-142. The loss puts Yale's overall record just below .500 at 3-4, 1-3 in the Ancient Eight.

The Elis started out strong against Navy's fierce competition, taking first in the 200 medley relay to begin the meet. It would be another three events, though, before Yale took their next victory, a 52.17-second win on the part

SEE MEN'S SWIMMING, page 2



DIANA WONG / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

UP AGAINST IT | After losing a heartbreaker to Cornell last weekend, the Light Blue will have work to do if it wants to keep pace with league rivals Harvard and Princeton, both undefeated in Ivy competition.

What to Watch

The editors' picks for the week ahead

COLUMBIA:

Columbia vs. Harvard, Friday, Jan. 29, 7 p.m., New York, NY

The Columbia men's basketball team will host Ivy rival Harvard this Friday. The Lions will look to get back on track after losing big to the Big Red.

NEW YORK:

Knicks vs. Raptors, Thursday, Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m., New York, NY

The New York Knicks will be hosting the Toronto Raptors later this week. The Raptors are looking to continue their hot streak after upsetting the Lakers on Sunday.

NATIONAL:

Lakers vs. Celtics, Sunday, Jan. 31, 3:30 p.m., Boston, MA

The oldest rivalry in the NBA takes center stage this weekend as Kobe and the Lakers head to Boston to face Garnett and the Celtics.