

Senate sets deadline for smoking ban decision

BY LUKE BARNES
Spectator Staff Writer

Nearly three years after the University Senate began debating a smoking policy change, discussion of a full ban has been referred back to committee—with a mandate to end discussion on the matter by the end of the semester.

At the most recent Executive Committee meeting, University President Lee Bollinger suggested the new mandate, according to University Senator Mark Cohen, who is on the Executive Committee. The mandate aims to deal with a matter that Cohen readily acknowledges has taken “forever” to resolve.

Cohen, a vocal advocate for a full smoking ban, has become increasingly frustrated by the slow pace of debate on the matter.

The bureaucratic process, Cohen said, “should never supplant the principle. This flies in the face of common judgment.”

The mandate sends the discussion back to the External Relations and Research Policy Committee.

“Many members of the Senate agree that this issue needs to be dealt with in a much better manner,” Cohen said. “This University should not be held hostage by process.”

Some senators criticized Cohen for pushing his proposal for a campus-wide smoking ban less than a year after the existing 20-foot smoking ban was approved and far ahead of its

SEE SMOKING, page 2



ZARA CASTANY / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MINUTE TO WIN IT | Nashoba Krishnamurthy Santhanam, CC '13, at the College Republicans general body meeting on Wednesday. CUCR is looking to invite Jim Gilchrist to campus.

Preservation advocate to receive award

BY CASEY TOLAN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

State Assembly member Daniel O'Donnell will be recognized tonight for his work in trying to obtain historic district status for Morningside Heights.

In 1996, O'Donnell was one of the founding members of the Morningside Heights Historic District Committee, which is giving the award. As an elected official representing Morningside Heights and part of the Upper West Side, he has supported the efforts of the group in advocating for historic status for the neighborhood.

“Without him making this a priority of his work as an Assembly member, the committee wouldn't be here today,” MHHDC President Laura

Friedman said. The MHHDC's first awardee, O'Donnell “has the vision and sensibility of a preservationist,” Friedman said.

According to O'Donnell, the committee lost its focus after MHHDC founder Carolyn Kent, whom Friedman described as “the driving force of the movement,” died several years ago.

“A lot of the people involved in the original effort moved on to different landmarking issues, not necessarily specifically on the historic district,” he said.

“Danny stepped into the void,” Friedman said. “He used the good graces of his office to make sure that the issue not only stayed alive but moved forward.”

As an Assembly member, O'Donnell has regularly called for a historic district, working to get places in the neighborhood

on the historic register.

But the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission, which designates historic districts, hasn't yet moved to fully preserve Morningside Heights, though LPC spokesperson Elisabeth de Bourbon said last week that the district remains “under active review by the Commission.”

O'Donnell said he isn't satisfied. “I think if you look at what Morningside Heights has, and look at what they've designated in the past ... it's absolutely grossly negligent for them to fail to move on this,” O'Donnell said. “There's no excuse.”

He stressed the distinct style of the neighborhood's architecture, including buildings “by

SEE O'DONNELL, page 2

CUCR looks to reinvoke Gilchrist

Republicans in talks with Minutemen founder

BY YASMIN GAGNE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Last time Jim Gilchrist set foot on campus, mayhem ensued. Six years later, the Columbia University College Republicans want to bring him back.

CUCR hopes to bring the controversial founder of the Minuteman Project—which calls itself “a citizens' vigilance operation monitoring immigration, business, and government” on its website—back to campus as a speaker.

According to CUCR president William Prasifka, CC '12, “Gilchrist is willing to do it, it's a question of expense and whether people will allow free speech on campus.”

Gilchrist, whose last visit to the University in fall 2006 ended in a violent and controversial brawl, had said in 2007 that he wanted to return to campus.

Prasifka said that the event is intended to promote free speech, not to push a political agenda. “The sole reason for the purpose of the event would not be to discuss immigration policy but to discuss academic freedom and the freedom of the University.”

The Minuteman Project claims to provide legitimate aid to U.S. law enforcement by patrolling the Mexican border for illegal immigrants. Critics have accused the group of being a thinly veiled racist organization that practices vigilante law.

On the evening of Oct. 4, 2006, Gilchrist visited campus, also at the request of CUCR. Early in his speech, protesters mounted the

stage with a banner reading “No one is illegal” in three languages.

The clash that ensued between protesters and supporters of Gilchrist led to several people being kicked, hit, and tackled. Gilchrist's appearance received national media attention and sparked debate over the limits of free speech and protests on college campuses.

“It's a question of expense and whether people will allow free speech on campus.”

—Will Prasifka, CC '12 and CUCR president

Prasifka acknowledged that Gilchrist's last visit to campus caused protests, but insisted that CUCR does “not want to be seen as trying to do something stupid to get attention or relive past glories of the organization.”

Emily Tamkin, CC '12, general manager of Columbia Political Union and a former Spectator editorial page editor, said, “We absolutely support CUCR and any other organization's right to bring any speaker to campus that they feel would further political and civic engagement.”

Columbia University College Democrats media director Sarah

SEE CUCR, page 2



YAN CONG FOR SPECTATOR

ADVOCATE | Hakim Rasheed, director of social services at Broadway Community, Inc.

A life in shelters, now its leader

Broadway homeless center director now helps others off the streets

BY MADINA TOURE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Throughout the 1970s, Hakim Rasheed lived in and out of homeless shelters. The Vietnam War veteran was incarcerated several times and has been in “almost every detox” program in the five boroughs.

“I slept in the streets, train tracks, rooftops, alleyways, subways—you name it, I've been there,” he said. “You name the substance, I've tried it.”

But he cleaned up his act, and now Rasheed, 64, works to help the homeless as the director of social services at

a soup kitchen across from Lerner Hall.

Rasheed's story of turning his life around now inspires dozens at Broadway Community Inc., a soup kitchen and homeless support services center which operates within the Broadway Presbyterian Church at the corner of 114th Street and Broadway.

“He's a good man,” said Arnold Urquila, a student in the Foodservice and Nutrition Training Awareness Project, a culinary training course offered by the soup kitchen. Urquila has been a “guest”—the term the BCI directors use

to refer to those who make use of their services—for almost three years.

“He's wise, street-wise, because he comes from the streets,” Urquila said. “He was homeless, and he could relate to people that come to the center here.”

As director of social services, Rasheed has confronted a variety of issues when dealing with his guests, related to housing, entitlements, ID and documentation, mental illness, family problems, and immigration. He said that some guests struggle to communicate their problems because of language barriers.

“By their misarticulating, they wind up in an embarrassing situation ... so they need a mouthpiece,” he said.

But because he's been in

SEE RASHEED, page 2

For some, disability access not enough

BY AVANTIKA KUMAR
Spectator Staff Writer

For Christopher Baswell, a Barnard and Columbia professor who has been at this campus for 25 years, getting around has never been easy.

Baswell, who is paraplegic and uses a wheelchair, must take three elevators to access Schermerhorn Hall and call security to enter the Heyman Center for the Humanities, located in East Campus. Until about three years ago, he could enter Philosophy Hall only during office hours. In order to access many buildings, Baswell needs to use a combination of tunnels and elevators—and security guards are often unaware of how to help him use these routes.

Baswell's difficulties reflect a larger problem of how Columbia's environment, both inside and outside the classroom, can feel less than welcoming for disabled students, staff and faculty.

BREAKING BARRIERS

Rachel Adams, an English professor who leads a Columbia project called “The Future of Disability Studies,” said she encountered difficulties even in the process of arranging the project's first event—a panel discussion on Oct. 6 of the University's treatment of disabled students, staff and faculty.

According to Adams, finding a room with easy access to disability-friendly bathrooms and microphones to accommodate the hard of hearing was a challenge in itself.

“My thinking about it was that it would be an intellectual

project,” Adams said. However, she said, before they even started examining disability studies as an intellectual field, “there were actual problems with people getting into the room.”

“There are places where Columbia falls short of being a truly welcoming and inclusive environment,” Adams said. “Even if the resources are there, most faculty and staff are not well educated in the measures

that need to be taken to create truly accessible environments, and that is where I think there is a shortcoming.”

Baswell, who spoke at the panel, agreed that disabilities accommodations at Columbia are lacking. While he said he's seen improvements over the last quarter-century, much of campus is still hard to navigate—and

SEE DISABILITIES, page 6



HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TAKING STEPS | Many locations on campus are more easily accessible by stairs. Some cannot be reached by elevator.

A&E, PAGE 3

Collaborative eschews industry trends

Student ballet dancers reflect on tough audition seasons and explain how Columbia Ballet Collaborative breaks those stereotypes.



OPINION, PAGE 4

MoHi elitism

Are Columbia students too intellectual to relate to “normal” people?

Hiding behind a name

Students should stop dwelling on Columbia's prestige.

SPORTS, PAGE 8

25 years of Columbia women's soccer

Columbia women's soccer is celebrating its 25th anniversary this weekend by bringing back some players from the team's inaugural season

EVENTS

Columbia Neuroscience Society Mini-Lecture

Dr. Joseph Fins, a Weill Cornell Medical College Professor of Medical Ethics, will discuss the disorders of consciousness and their ethical and political consequences.

Lerner Satow Room, 7 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



43°/40°

Tomorrow



52°/34°

Assembly member O'Donnell to be recognized for M'side preservation efforts



HISTORIC MOMENT | State Assembly member Daniel O'Donnell, a staunch advocate for the recognition of Morningside Heights as a historic district, at a local forum he hosted in 2010.

O'DONNELL from front page

some of the leading architects of their time.”

But MHHDC members have something else to celebrate at the ceremony tonight: Last week, Morningside Heights was recognized by the Historic Districts Council, a city-wide nonprofit preservation organization, as one of the 2012 “Six to Celebrate” neighborhoods most deserving of preservation—a distinction Friedman called “thrilling.”

“We are very honored to have been chosen by the HDC,” Friedman said. “They’ll really move the process forward in a meaningful way.”

Meanwhile, a proposal by the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine to build an apartment building on the north end of its grounds worries MHHDC

activists, including O'Donnell.

“I’m very concerned about that,” O'Donnell said. “I encourage the Cathedral to engage the community in all stages of design, and not just come to the community and say this is what we want to do.”

Friedman said the proposed development saddens her.

“St. John the Divine is one of New York City’s jewels, and to see it being chopped up and sort of tinkered with in such a fashion ... is really a tragedy in a lot of ways,” Friedman said.

“We’ll vigorously try to have input into this process,” including at a public forum on Feb. 21, she said.

Looking forward, O'Donnell said, “I think the community and elected officials have to put pressure on the mayor and the Landmarks Commission.

Nobody who’s running for mayor ... will get my support without supporting this long-overdue designation.”

“It’s not going to be an easy ride to get a district up here,” Friedman said. However, “ultimately, I do believe we will have this district just because it’s natural,” she said.

The event honoring O'Donnell will be held at 6 p.m. tonight at 603 W. 111th Street, Apt. 3E (between Broadway and Riverside Drive), at the apartment of Janet Cohen.

“It’s the last political event I’m attending before I get married,” O'Donnell said, on his way to the barbershop for his wedding haircut. O'Donnell will marry his partner of three decades on Sunday.

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Gilchrist could return to campus

CUCR from front page

Gitlin, CC '13, said that the Democrats were not opposed to the visit, despite opposing Gilchrist’s ideology.

“The Minutemen are obviously a group of very hateful vigilantes and we object strongly to any of their actions,” she said, “but we do support free speech on campus and are not opposed to CU Republicans’ right to bring them on campus.”

“We do hope that many people will show up to question them on their actions,” she added.

Gilchrist’s visit would require a large expenditure from CUCR—Prasifka estimated security would cost a minimum of \$1000, while travel and living expenses for Gilchrist’s stay could cost up to \$1500.

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Senate under Bollinger mandate to end smoking debate by May

SMOKING from front page

scheduled review this December.

Cohen vehemently criticized the 20-foot rule, which bans smoking within 20 feet of all University buildings and has proven difficult to enforce.

“The 20-foot rule is an expression of stupidity,” he said. “I won’t stand anymore for anything half-assed.”

Executive Committee member Alex Frouman, CC '12, a co-chair of the senate’s Student Affairs Committee, said in November he did not support the full ban because of the existence of the 20-foot rule.

But he also said at the time that a full ban resolution proposed by Cohen “circumvents the senate process by avoiding the External Relations Committee. It would seem inappropriate for the Executive Committee to sponsor the resolution as it doesn’t follow due process.”

Cohen cited multiple schools, such as the University of Michigan and the University

of California system, that have implemented full campus smoking bans. “If Columbia is going to be true to its place and space as an enlightened institution, then it shouldn’t be the last university

“The 20-foot rule is an expression of stupidity. I won’t stand anymore for anything half-assed.”

—Mark Cohen, Business School professor and University Senator

to resolve this matter.”

Barnard implemented a full smoking ban last spring, which Barnard assistant professor Rebecca Jordan-Young described as a success.

“The full ban is easier to

enforce and it has worked very well at the uptown campus,” Jordan-Young said.

On Columbia’s campus, she said, many feel uncomfortable asking an individual to stop smoking because of the ambiguity of exactly where one is allowed to smoke, a problem that would be resolved with a full ban.

The full smoking ban has met with resistance from some students, who believe that smoking on campus is a personal right, and from University employees’ unions, which believe that a ban would shorten their workers’ break times.

Cohen said he did not accept either of these notions. “The union problem is a smokescreen, and an issue that has to be resolved with agreements with unions. It is a matter no different than that which hospitals, other universities, or the City of New York has faced.”

Margaret Mattes contributed reporting.

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MIGUEL GALLEGO FOR SPECTATOR

SECONDHAND THOUGHTS | The University Senate is to decide by semester’s end on a full campus smoking ban.

‘He gave me courage’: Broadway homeless center guests say director can relate to them

RASHEED from front page

their shoes, Rasheed feels he can lend a hand. “They need someone who can articulate their entire situation properly so they can get the right help.”

TOUGH GUY

Rasheed is no stranger to the issues he faces on a day-to-day basis at BCI. His past is marked by substance abuse and several crimes, including armed robbery and assault with a deadly weapon.

Still, he says he has no problem sharing his story. “My life is an open book. I don’t hide anything that I have done.”

After sleeping in shelters at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and the All Angels’ Church, Rasheed finally made his way to BCI in the 1980s. At the time, the organization consisted of only a soup kitchen and a substance recovery program.

Since he assumed the role of director of social services five years ago, Rasheed has neither missed a day of work nor taken time off for vacation. He shows up to work five days a week at around 8:30 a.m. and leaves at around 5 p.m.

Rasheed doesn’t sugarcoat things. He can be blunt—while giving the guests a motivational speech on Wednesday, he promised to throw out one guest who interrupted him multiple times.

Chef Michael Ennes, who runs the soup kitchen, said that guests can sometimes be put off by Rasheed’s personality, but his toughness enables him to deal with individuals who “deal with city bureaucracy and the welfare bureaucracy” very effectively.

“They don’t give it out for nothing,” Ennes said of the city’s willingness to dole out resources to the homeless. Rasheed “really performs that role well of fighting for people to get things for us,” Ennes said.

for his hot sauce business. According to Rasheed, the guest had only six weeks to live due to cancer, but his application for money to fund his housing was rejected.

Impersonating somebody else in order to get the commissioner of the Department of Homeless Services on the phone, Rasheed says he gave an impassioned plea and convinced him to give Hot Sauce another chance.

In his five years as director, he always comes through for his guests—that is, unless they don’t listen to him.

“That’s the only time that I have not been successful since I’ve been here—is when a client is lazy and don’t do their footwork,” he said.

Bronx native Imani Grace said Rasheed has been an invaluable advocate for her since a fire in 2007 forced her to relocate to a hotel room.

“He stepped right in,” Grace said. “He was very effective. When he was first able to speak to the people, they told me what I needed to do was gather all the information to the doctors and the social workers, and I did all that, and then they rejected me. They didn’t want to give it to me. So I spoke to him. He gave me courage.”

One year later, she found the soup kitchen, and she’s been a regular visitor ever since.

Texas native Lucious Conway

currently lives in Praxis, single-room occupancy housing for people with HIV or AIDS. His first time at the soup kitchen was this Monday, but he’s already been struck by Rasheed’s willingness to help him.

“Hakim was thoughtful enough on one particular day ... to help me out because I didn’t have any food in my room at the SRO, and he gave the referral to here,” he said.

Beyond caring for the guests, Rasheed is “good for recovery,” BCI guest Matthew Wilson said.

“Sometimes I think about getting high, and I go and talk to him and stuff like that,” he said. “He has a way of convincing me that it’s not even worth it to even start getting high.”

Michael Isaacs, a resident of a Wards Island shelter who has been coming to the soup kitchen for seven years now, said that Rasheed goes out of his way to support the guests’ creative pursuits, too.

“One time we were doing a Shakespeare play here on stage, and he was nice enough to stay and be the only person in the audience watching us,” Isaacs said.

REACHING OUT

Wednesday afternoon, Rasheed gave his weekly motivational speech—the “Wednesday Hour of Power”—in which he discussed empowerment and encouraged the guests to take responsibility for their actions.

“Silence, listening, remembering, understanding, judgment, and action,” he told the audience. “Empower means to enable yourself, your group, your company, your organization, or your society, to put yourself in a position to do something.”

He concluded his speech with a request that the guests follow their conscience.

“So what I want to say to you and I hope you keep in mind, the key is empowerment,” he said. “The key is knowledge. The key is you. That means the program is you. You don’t have to do anything. In fact, we insist that you don’t do nothing unless yourself suggests that you do it.”

Jamal Williams, who has been a guest at BCI for around two years, said that the speech gave him courage.

“It’s a very intellectual, straight-to-the-point, valid information that he has to offer,” he said. “It’s a great thing that he does on Wednesdays.”

Rasheed also works closely with Columbia’s Student Health Outreach Program, a Community Impact program that helps people get access to health insurance, food stamps, and other public benefits, and with Advocacy Coalition, which provides referrals for benefits to homeless and low-income clients.

Community Impact provides funding for some of BCI’s programs and covers insurance for

the organization as well.

Rasheed provides training sessions for the two groups along with Katy Saintil, the senior program coordinator at Community Impact who provides oversight for both groups.

“When I think of Hakim, I think of a resource center, because to me he represents, to some extent, the face of service or the best outcome, because he is someone from the community who understands the community, who genuinely cares,” Saintil said.

Colleen Shaffer, CC '12 and lead coordinator for Advocacy Coalition, said that the group sees him as an expert on homeless and low-income individuals. One time, she said, Rasheed attempted to communicate with an individual that approached her table who could only speak Russian and Polish.

“I will make him talk to me in English,” she remembered him saying.

Sandy Helling, associate

director of Community Impact and co-president of BCI’s board of directors, said Rasheed tries to cater his services to individual needs.

“He does approach each of the participants ... at the site very individualistically in terms of what their situation is, what they need, and kind of walks alongside of the person to make sure that they obtain these services and government benefits,” she said.

Rasheed said when he first arrived at BCI, he was placed in good hands. Now, he wants to return the favor.

“There were times when I was 100 percent clean for a number of years, and then there were times where I went crazy for a number of years. It was a seesaw for me and I didn’t get myself together,” he said. “So I came here and I met some people here who had some kind of interest or concern about helping people like me.”

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GETTING RESULTS

Those who know him said that beneath the tough exterior, Rasheed cares deeply for his guests.

He spoke fondly of one of his guests who passed away recently, nicknamed “Hot Sauce”

LEFT: YAN CONG FOR SPECTATOR / RIGHT: MIGUEL GALLEGO FOR SPECTATOR

NO PLACE LIKE HOME | Patrons of Broadway Community, Inc., at the Broadway Presbyterian Church at 114th Street, chop carrots in their “four-star soup kitchen.”

Baker St: a band of Columbians makes some noise

BY CHARLOTTE MURTISHAW
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The members of Baker St, an indie pop/rock band made up of Columbia alums and one current student, gathered last Friday in a Chinese restaurant a few blocks away from the Delancey on the Lower East Side. There, they played a release show for their new EP, Irregulars.

The gig was only one night, but the band is looking forward to a longer residency at the Sidewalk Cafe at Avenue A and 6th Street in April.

“We basically get to do a bunch of different types of shows,” said frontwoman Michelle Hutt, CC ’09. “One show’s going to be all covers or stuff we always want to play or that our friends want us to play, and one will be a normal type of show, and for the other we’ll bring in friends.”

“We have friends?” said bassist Mke Kennelly, CC ’11.

“Well, we have some friends,” she said.

If anything, friendship seems vital to the dynamic of the quartet, which is comprised of Hutt, Kennelly, Kevin Oshinskie, and Jimmy Nugent, CC ’13.

“We’re friends who happen to be in a band,” said Oshinskie, a student at Fordham University. “It’s something we do for fun. It’s not something we do to make ourselves known to bolster our own careers.”

The band, whose name and EP title are nods to Sherlock Holmes, came together in 2009 after Hutt met Kennelly in a music theory class at Columbia. Hutt soon pulled in Oshinskie, an acquaintance from her hometown, to be their drummer.

The puzzle wasn’t complete, however, until Nugent came on the scene, a recruit from Kennelly’s quantum physics class.

“I was, like, I play guitar and Ken was, like, I’m in a band that needs a guitarist,” said Nugent, who’s majoring in computer science-mathematics.

“And it was perfect,” Hutt added of Nugent joining the group.

Nugent’s arrival allowed the band to expand its sound in terms of lead guitar, said Kenelly, and freed Hutt, who played rhythm guitar in addition to singing, to move to the keyboard and synthesizer.

When asked about influences, the members cite a variety of individual sources, from Ben Kweller and Juliana Hatfield to Tré Cool and Slash.

“I don’t think we do too much pandering in terms of what we do,” Hutt said. “What’s coming out of Brooklyn right now, it’s getting more and more noise-oriented, synth-oriented, less and less songs where you have a whole line and there’s a melody and there are lyrics you can actually hear and we don’t really do that because it’s not what we’re about. ... We like doing short, sweet, pop songs.”

Currently, the band members juggle their music with school and day jobs. Kennelly recently accepted a job offer as an analyst—“whatever that means,” he joked—while Hutt is teaching art in public schools.

The demands of everyday life, however, don’t deter the band, who have released three EPs, the latest being Irregulars.

“At some point, I’d like to go on some form of a miniature tour and do some more stuff,” Hutt said. “But again, it’s more like, we’re not hunting for something. ... It’s supposed to be fun.”

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PHOTO COURTESY OF PAUL GOODE

JUST DANCE | Kimi Nikaidoh and Richard Isaac perform with the Columbia Ballet Collaborative, which boasts former professionals among its members.

Collaborative offers a new kind of ballet audition

BY DENNIS DACARETT
Columbia Daily Spectator

The start of the new year inspires many people to improve themselves. For dancers, it is a high-pressure time that requires them to already be en pointe: the beginning of audition season.

On Saturday, Jan. 21, student dancers gathered at Barnard’s Studio 1 in hopes of being cast in the Columbia Ballet Collaborative’s spring performance. This semester, CBC will showcase works created by Anne Milewski Cary, Richard Isaac, Emery LeCrone, Kimi Nikaidoh, and Avi Scher—all professionals in the dance industry who work with companies like American Ballet Theatre and the Tulsa Ballet.

With prominent industry figures at the front of the room, the audition setting is sure to make the dancers nervous, even if both Barnard’s dance department and ballet technique are familiar territory.

But CBC, which was founded in 2007 by five former professional dancers, attracts students who spent their formative years in ballet companies and have faced the trials of the audition season before.

“I remember an open call audition at SAB [The School of American Ballet] where, after every combination in center, the director’s assistant would make a cut,” said CBC dancer and director of public relations Caitlin Dieck, GS ’13. “She would call out people’s

numbers, hand them back their résumés, and ask them to leave.”

Dieck, a former dancer with North Carolina Dance Theatre and Charleston Ballet Theatre, gave more insight to her trauma after facing the brutality of the dance world. “I remember crying so hard after an audition with Sacramento Ballet because I was so worried I wasn’t going to get a job and that I would have to stop dancing,” she said.

When another CBC dancer, Gretchen Schmid, CC ’15, auditioned for the Cincinnati Ballet, she found herself trying to stand out in the crowd from the many other girls who were hungry for a position. She said that she was technically, artistically, and emotionally ready, only to find out that her orthodox dance wear didn’t impress. “I showed up wearing a slicked-back bun and a black leotard over pink tights, only to realize that in real company auditions no one dresses like that. Everyone else had tights over their leotards, or no tights at all, or their hair just pulled back in a clip, so I felt very stupid and young,” she said.

Having been solely on the artistic side of the ballet industry for many years, Dieck, as well as others now on the administrative side of CBC, said that she tries to change those stereotypes by breaking down the barriers between the directors and the auditioning students, making the process a more pleasurable learning experience.

“I always hope to make our CBC audition less scary and nerve-racking than summer program or company auditions. My main goal is to make our audition a safe and relaxed environment, where the dancers can enjoy themselves and not stress out,” said Dieck.

Former dancer with the Pennsylvania Ballet and assistant artistic director Rebecca Azenberg, GS ’13, led the audition with a warm, playful tone while critiquing the dancers individually.

“You got to make it a bit sexier,” Azenberg instructed after the first round of a temps lié exercise. She later warned about spatial awareness, defining it in her own comical terms before the grande allegro combination, saying, “Spatial awareness—If you’re hitting someone around you, it’s a problem.” More than half of the choreographers sat on the floor stretching as they evaluated the dancers’ capabilities to make casting calls, rather than behind desks.

This different kind of environment and vibe seems to work for Columbia Ballet Collaborative—the group has been featured in the New York Times, Time Out New York, and has earned critical appeal across campus.

“To this day, I would say those auditioning years were some of my hardest and most painful,” Dieck said. “In the end, auditions did force me out of my shell, though. I had to learn to believe in myself and have confidence. To this day I’m grateful for that.”

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SoA play delivers uplifting ensemble performances, an original score

BY DAVID FROMKIN
Columbia Daily Spectator

In the School of the Arts’ new production of “As You Like It,” director and M.F.A. candidate Shannon Fillion has created an exquisite and entertaining world. From its mournful beginning to its uplifting conclusion, the play succeeds.

In the first scene, Rosalind sits alone staring aimlessly at the audience. Though large and fairly empty, the stage feels crowded by the presence of three large canvases that function as walls. Implied is the presence of the invisible fourth wall, just as large and imposing, which separates the audience from the stage.

The emergence of a frenzied collection of characters amplifies the claustrophobic atmosphere of the court of Duke Frederick. The audience is almost relieved when Rosalind and Celia are forced to flee the court, traveling instead to the Forest of Arden. Signaling this transition, the walls fall dramatically. The full space of the stage is finally visible, and the transition dispels instantly the isolation of the court.

The characters grow gradually more celebratory as they find themselves increasingly at home in the warm and welcoming environment of the forest. The sense of belonging contrasts starkly with the lonely environment of the court.

At the same time, the audience becomes immersed

in the world of the play, absorbed by the compelling cast of characters. Certainly the ensemble is at the heart of this production, with each character more memorable than the last.

A student of Anne Bogart, Fillion is interested in physicality, and the performances reflect this concern. Yet she cautioned that the play is “not a physical comedy.” Instead, the focus with Shakespeare is on the language. The cast embraces this goal, communicating with clarity and dexterity.

The attractive set and lighting create the appropriate mood for the performance as well.

The play also features an original score to accompany Shakespeare’s words, and the music plays an important role in the production. As Fillion noted, “It’s the music that draws people together.” The characters’ joy is never as palpable as when they are singing together at the play’s climax. Indeed, the most wonderful thing about the production is how much fun the cast seems to be having with it.

The world of “As You Like It” is one in which “things are going very wrong,” Fillion said. “But there’s a glimmer of hope.”

She is perhaps too pessimistic. There is a lot to be happy about in this production.

The play runs until Jan. 28 at the Riverside Theatre. Students enter free.

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CHRISTOPHER NAVARRO FOR SPECTATOR

CELEBRATING ARTS | Sonia Sanchez, Philadelphia poet laureate and civil rights activist, is being honored for her lifetime achievement in arts and advocacy at the Artivist Film Festival.

Artivist brings grassroots films to Miller

BY ALEXIS NELSON
Spectator Staff Writer

The film festival that premiered “Supersize Me” is back on campus with a new lineup of progressive short films and documentaries.

The Artivist Film Festival toured eight cities and will wrap up tonight at Columbia’s Miller Theatre with free screenings at 6 p.m., including documentaries “From Farm to Fridge” and “Vegucated.” The 8 p.m. presentation will consist of a special, interactive screening of “Zeitgeist: Moving Forward,” a documentary directed by Peter Joseph, followed by Artivist’s “Best Animal Advocacy” short “Together: Dancing with Spinner Dolphins.”

Through screenings of international narrative and documentary films, the festival brings attention to social issues. At the end of each movie, viewers are connected to various global and local nongovernmental organizations whose work is relevant to the films’ themes.

“It’s about linking up the energy and inspiration that movies can deliver with the practical side, and it’s about being inclusive—holistic,” said Artivist Festival founder Diaky Diaz.

The festival, which was started in 2003, has since screened over 400 films in more than 60 countries. It makes an effort to showcase films that push for progressive reform, addressing issues like animal rights, mental health advocacy, environmental concerns, and child labor abuses.

Five shorts were shown yesterday, all of which won the Artivist award for “Best Short” in their respective categories. Following these films, the festival honored Sonia Sanchez—an eminent poet, activist, and professor. According to Diaz, Sanchez, a tireless advocate for the black arts movement, typifies Artivist.

An activist of the civil rights movement, Sanchez is the poet laureate of Philadelphia and an American Book Award winner. Her poems grapple with the struggles of African-Americans and meld poetic forms with musical styles such as blues and jazz.

“She really is an inspiration, especially for us women; she blazed a path,” said Diaz.

The night concluded with a screening of “Shake Loose Memories,” directed by Columbia film professor Jamal Joseph., which revolves around interviews with Sanchez and features an eclectic musical tribute to Sanchez’s impact on the Afro-American community.

To Diaz, the festival’s holistic approach to content and participants sets it apart. “One problem is that the activist community is often very one-sided,” she said.

In particular, she highlights the festival’s partnership with progressive Brazilian ethanol powerhouse Petrobras. “You can’t say everyone is invited except the corporations. We’re all on the same ship.”

Tickets for tonight’s showings may be reserved online at ARTIVIST-NYC4.eventbrite.com.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROL ROSEGG

THE BARD | A scene from Shannon Fillion’s production of “As You Like It” to an original score.



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Ivy beleaguered

Admissions statistics for the class of 2016 came out last week. Initially surprised by the slight decrease in applications, I have since come across various explanations for the drop. Most striking was Businessweek's claim that applicants are scared off by the “impossible” odds of getting in. There's weight behind this argument, given that applicants seldom apply to Ivy League universities completely confident of their admission (I definitely didn't). But I am more interested about the other side of this conjecture. We were quick to send the link to our friends in a manner which seemed to say “that's my school—so good we scare people!” This attitude is largely unfounded. There is a discrepancy between how well we Columbians perform and what we take credit for.

I'm sure you're all familiar with bell curves. The way Cs and even Fs can turn into As is almost magical, and I confess I was completely taken aback by this phenomenon. How could I ever proudly bare a mark in full knowledge that beneath it lay a more honest evaluation of my performance? A friend of mine puzzled over this discovery with me and eventually concluded: “It's never how much you know, but how much you know compared to everyone else.” Instinctively, there's something fundamentally wrong about this type of education, if it can even be called that. Yet, when I exposed my outrage, the responses were eerily similar: “It's Columbia. Classes are harder.”

I'm not proposing the abolishment of Gaussian curves altogether, nor am I in the habit of assigning immense value to a letter and calling it learning. I'm not crazy about grades or standardized testing, but I am fooled even less by self-entitlement. Because to wave away hints of underperformance in the name—and just the name—of an institution is ridiculous. Today, we are proud to point at rankings and admissions rates, but we fail to see that Columbia did not earn its place by thinking itself effortlessly superior to other schools.

We won't go to Columbia forever, so we can't shield our shortcomings behind its name.

Indeed, classes at Columbia are by no means incompatible to classes in other universities, although by looking around, it may well seem like it. There is a reason courses in other schools are transferable—the material covered is essentially the same. And if the big difference were to lay in a renowned faculty, oft-cited complaints about the limited teaching capabilities of that faculty would bridge the chasm straight away, for no expert can stand in lieu of a curious disposition. I will admit that a long, but by no means exhaustive, Internet search revealed a lack of available comparisons between courses in universities in the United States, and so I can't offer irrefutable, non-conjectural similarities. Even so, this does not diminish the need to downplay our inflated Columbian egos.

I don't intend to say that we might as well have enrolled in the nearest community college for all the good Columbia will do us—though there are some compelling proponents of just that. The admission process is rigorous, the classes are no piece of cake, and it is with the sweat of our forehead that we earned a spot in the heart of the world. However, though they deserve acknowledgement, these achievements are, for the most part, achieved. It's time to focus our time and energy on our next big adventure and to stop looking down when we are merely a few inches from the ground. We knew all of this.

In fact, before we enrolled in this magnificent institution, we recognized that the name of a university was not going to determine our future. A testament to the bright minds we offered upon admission was the awareness that there was no “right school.” dream colleges were a myth and, as the Mexican saying goes, “el perico dónde quiera es verde,” (the parrot remains green anywhere)—the student makes the school. In this same way, it's high time to humbly recognize that this coveted position we hold is largely temporary. We won't go to Columbia forever (or one would hope not), so we can't shield our shortcomings behind its name, however awe-inspiring it is.

As idealistic and romanticized as it sounds, we did not come to Columbia for the grades. High school exceeded our tolerance of crying girls in teachers' offices and rude students arguing over low marks. We weren't interested in doing just enough academically. We yearned to be next to equally inquisitive people and looked forward to the promise of long philosophical talks on Low Steps. We can now cynically flip through those Blue Notes and mark off all that we haven't done, but we would be flaming hypocrites if we claimed the lawn-basking glory was not appealing.

And so, reevaluate your own performance in the dark, when no one is watching, and don't lie or hide behind big names. You've come this far—you owe it to yourself.

Cecilia Reyes is a Columbia College first-year. She is on the board of the Artists Society. Reyesing Expectations runs alternate Thursdays.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

In Sam Klug's recent article (Light Blue finally out of own shadow, Jan. 24) he questions the power of Punxsutawney Phil. I know the article was in fun, but Phil does read the paper. He rolled over, grunted, and went back to sleep ... after all, it is the hibernation season. Phil usually sticks to weather predicting ... but don't mess with the seer of seers, the prognosticator of prognosticators ... no one can be sure of the expansive nature of his powers. I wouldn't want future games to be “influenced” because of slurs made by Mr. Klug. Never underestimate the power of Phil. He watches all, he reads all, and he is 100 percent accurate in his predictions of the weather ...

From Gobbler's Knob,
In Punxsutawney Pennsylvania,
Happy Groundhog Day,
Ben Hughes
Official handler (retired) of Punxsutawney Phil



CECILIA REYES

Reyesing Expectations

Hard to relate

We, Columbia University, have a public relations problem. No, I'm not referring to our proclivity to invite world leaders with questionable human rights records to campus. Nor am I referring to our school's reputation for leftism (leading a good friend of mine to declare us “The University of Stalin”). The intellectual class, for better or worse, is “not cool.” We, as Columbians, pride ourselves on our intellectualism. We survived the gauntlet of college admissions: endless counselors, achievement tests, application essays, and interviews. We are, in the eyes of the public, the “elite”—literally, the one percent. Here in our haven of Morningside Heights, locked in our ivory tower (more specifically, in the fourth floor of Butler), we can find solidarity in our mutual accomplishment. It is in our little six-square-block preserve where we can “let our freak flag fly” and bare unabashedly the pretentious intellectual buried within.

And this is all well and good. These spaces should exist—top universities should serve as breeding grounds for networking and discussion. But what happens when we leave? When we are forcibly evicted from our safe space and are forced to communicate with—dare I say it—normal people?

Unfortunately for us, the Core doesn't have a class that teaches us how to communicate with the outside world. We have been branded “out of touch” by the casual Middle American. They might have a point—we attend a school that charges significantly more the annual median personal income in tuition. An Ivy League degree is often not an advantage—rather, it invites accusation of elitism. We are not one of “them,” but something else: look at Bill Clinton. When Clinton filled out his inner-circle with too many Ivy League graduates, he was lambasted as being unable to relate to “Real America.”

There appears to be a disconnect between those educated at “elite universities” and this elusive “Real America.” Members of the former react with disgust and thinly veiled contempt when they thought voters had pushed social conservative Rick Santorum to a narrow second-place finish in Iowa. But they are not alone in their contempt. A California congressman recently criticized President Obama as “Professor Obama”—too well-educated to know what was really wrong with this country. Since when did “professor” become an insult? While it is easy to dismiss the episode as “typical” of his party, I would disagree. What we have is an image problem.

The educated American class—us—has either been unwilling or unable to engage the American public in a way that instills trust. From the outside looking in, it's not



ANDREW GODINICH

Too Be Frank

hard to see why. Didn't Ivy League-educated Wall Street executives run the economy into the ground? While Ivy League-educated politicians and bureaucrats wrung their hands and proved ineffective at stifling the crisis across two successive administrations? We must shoulder part of the blame for this mistrust—while the ivory tower is warm and safe, there's a whole kingdom out there that we are answerable to.

I hate the people who point to Europe, sigh, and utter the inevitable “In Germany/Finland/Switzerland such and such is so much better.” But I'm going to be that person briefly. From the outside looking in, they appear to have few problems with the highly educated running things. Over lunch, a flustered history teacher from Italy once exclaimed to me—“Why is it that here it is good to be inexperienced? Don't you want the smartest people in charge?” Berlusconi jokes aside, I think she had a point. For whatever reason, we have not convinced the American public that we have the know-how to be in charge.

An Ivy League degree is often not an advantage—rather, it invites accusations of elitism.

Keep an open mind—they see a group of people, largely upper-class and from the East Coast, who have little interest in improving the lives of the “little guy” or in ever visiting the “fly-over states.” One reason for this is that it is true. The less-affluent section of American society is underrepresented at Columbia. Nearly half of Columbians are from the Northeast. This is not representative of the public at large.

We need a public relations makeover. We need to show that we are not only a global university, we are an American one as well. Let's recruit a student body that is more indicative of the financial and regional demographics of this country. But beyond that, let's be more open to fact that we are in the position, and have the obligation, to be leaders. Our Global Centers—whatever they are—sound great. But what about increasing the number of initiatives closer to home? Let's make this great university more accessible to more people (read: lower tuition). Let's show the American people that their intellectuals work for them too. Let's make being smart cool again.

Andrew Godinich is a Columbia College junior majoring in sociology and Portuguese studies. He is the Latin America and Caribbean affairs correspondent for the Columbia Political Review. Too Be Frank runs alternate Thursdays.



HEIDI KELLER

To the Editor:

Three cheers for your recent excellent feature on Columbia's role as an American institution (The Canon, Jan. 25). I do not believe that Columbia has to decide between being an “American university” versus an “international university.” Joseph Nye, the former dean of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, recently quoted former Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew as saying “China can draw on a talent pool of 1.3 billion people, but the United States ... draws on a talent pool of 7 billion.” An international university is not some ill-defined bastion of “globalization,” but rather one whose fundamental values—fundamental American values—of freedom and opportunity regardless of birth, circumstance, religion, or creed—draw and continue to attract the world's talents. These American values have, not coincidentally, made American universities, in general, and Columbia University in particular, international leaders among the world's universities.

Tao Tan
Columbia College '07
Columbia Business School '11

To the Editor:
The Occupy protest against President Obama outside the Apollo Theater (“In traditional Democratic stronghold Harlem, barrage of protesters greets Obama,” Jan. 20) reveals the moral bankruptcy (in addition to the impending financial bankruptcy) of this movement. The disgruntled group of largely white people coming into Harlem, singing songs and carrying signs depicting our President as Hitler, referring to him as a “Wall St. Stoooge” and an “enemy of civil liberties” should, once and for all, be seen by all Columbia students and faculty as anarchistic wackos and possibly big-ots. The pictures taken by the Spectator photographer show 11 white protesters and one African-American, which was likely an accurate representation of this group. A protester's sign depicting President Obama with a Hitler mustache is highly offensive (though First Amendment-protected) and is evocative of anti-Semitic signs that were on display in Zucotti Park among the Occupy protests. Wake up, everybody!

Neil Rothfeld
Morningside Heights resident

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Utah's state gem

6 Stable newborn

10 Emblem

14 "Don't try to be _____"

15 _____ June

16 Slicer's warning

17 See 38-Across

20 Passed down, as folk mus.

21 Shop gripper

22 Four Holy Roman emperors

23 '40s-'50s pitcher Maglie

24 Tangle of hair

25 P.D. alert

26 See 38-Across

33 Silver and gold

35 Absorb, as a loss

36 Via, à la Burns

37 "____ you clever!"

38 Clue for 17-, 25-, 43- and 57-Across

39 Intersect

40 Unlike Wellesley College

41 Board partner

42 Downloadable media player

43 See 38-Across

46 Clunker

47 Cruel fluid

48 Corn serving

51 That and that

54 Proverbial equine escape site

56 Sharp part

57 See 38-Across

60 Plotting

61 Head start?

62 Neutral shade

63 Dry run

64 No sweat

65 Being pulled

5 San Diego attraction

6 Having limits

7 Makes a choice

8 U.S. Open stadium

9 Ricky broke his stolen base record in 1991

10 "Assuming that's accurate," biblically

11 Winter garb

12 Guesstimate words

13 Takes home

18 Rogers's partner

19 Last year's frosh

24 Hot sandwich

25 Sequence of scenes

27 It's not posed

28 Aptly named author

29 Holiday tuber

30 Dismissive bit of rhetoric

31 Highland tongue

32 Legendary seamstress

33 Eponymous physician Ernst _____

34 Switch add-on

38 "I'm talking to you!"

39 PC key below Shift

41 Wicked

42 Turner memoir

44 Member's payment

45 Where kroner are spent

49 Disco era term

50 Sign up for more

51 Letter-shaped fastener

52 Optimism

53 Graciosa grain

54 "____ Bing!": "The Sopranos" nightclub

55 Some votes

56 First lady's garden site?

58 Gaffer

Michelle

59 Hitler's stat

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

C	A	M	P	F	A	C	T	B	U	D	O
C	A	N	O	E	A	L	A	R	U	P	O
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By Billie Truitt
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Disabled say campus meets bare-minimum standards

DISABILITIES from front page

Columbia's disability services lag behind those of schools such as Harvard, Yale and the University of Pennsylvania, all of which he has visited.

"Very often, people with motor disabilities ... have to take a very, generously put, a very alternate route," Baswell said—one which often involves "not dignified ways," such as through basements and elevators.

"It's unusual for any major university, such as Columbia, to have such a major piece of its intellectual fabric, such as the Heyman Center, that inaccessible," Baswell said. He added, "in terms of disability access, we really are lagging behind."

Both Baswell and Adams acknowledged that Columbia's two-level geography makes it physically harder to improve accessibility.

Ryan Mandelbaum, CC '13 and class of 2013 president, also raised this concern at a Columbia College Student Council town hall meeting on Sunday. Pupin Hall, Mandelbaum pointed out, does not have elevator access in some sections, and many of the buildings—which, since they were built before the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed in 1990, do not fully comply with regulations—are difficult to get around on a wheelchair or crutches due to the number of stairs and inclines.

Mandelbaum told Spectator that the number of staircases on campus makes navigating with a disability appear "extremely inconvenient." He said he thought prospective students with disabilities, given a choice between Columbia and other comparable institutions, would probably choose to go elsewhere.

CHANGING ATTITUDES

Questions about disabilities are not limited to campus accessibility. According to Susan Quinby, director of Barnard's Office of Disability Services, 90 percent of the students who register at the Office have an "invisible" or "non-apparent disability" such as ADHD, frequent migraines, or a learning disability.

Suzanne Walker, BC '12 and a speaker at the October panel, said that people's attitudes about disabilities needed to change both inside and outside the classroom. Although Walker, who sometimes wears a hearing aid, said that her own experience had been "very good," she said that the general campus attitude toward disability "varies greatly."

"I have a lot of friends who are

registered with ODS at Barnard and, again, there are instances of professors being really accommodating and really helpful, and then there are also instances of professors really not," Walker said.

According to Walker, dealing with disabilities on campus requires both attention to accessibility issues—such as having microphones at campus events or complying with ADA standards—and eliminating stigmas, especially toward "invisible" disabilities.

And while students are generally accommodating, she said, she feels the administration by and large does not go above or beyond basic standards.

"There's always a difference between complying with standards, which is bare minimum, and actually making it so that the University is a place where people with disabilities can feel like they have access to everything," Walker said.

"Very often, people with motor disabilities ... have to take a very, generously put, a very alternate route."

—Christopher Baswell, English professor

BETTER INFORMATION

Although interviewees said they are satisfied with the services ODS provides, Baswell, Adams and Walker expressed concern that the information was not easily available—and the lack of centralization could be the reason students do not always have positive experiences.

"One thing we do lack is a centralized place for disseminating information about events that might be of interest to people in the Columbia community who care about disabilities," Adams said.

ODS—which spans three different offices at Barnard, Columbia and Teachers College—has responsibilities that include extending the length of exams or providing a quieter setting for them, and finding scribes and note-takers for students.

According to Quinby, Barnard's office sends out brochures to every student and practices an "early self-identification policy" in which it's the student's responsibility to notify professors. That

way, the student is able to define the disability in his or her own terms and choose whether or not to speak with his or her instructors.

"It's a team approach," Quinby said. "The idea is to help students to be their own self-advocates and also to realize that having a safety net ... can help them as they're proceeding through the semester."

Baswell agreed that ODS' services are generally helpful. However, both Baswell and Adams said they were concerned that, while the office's programs are substantial, other University staff members do not always know how to serve people with disabilities.

Baswell said that security guards, for example, often aren't aware of how to operate disability-access routes inside buildings—which "can be very, very frustrating for visitors."

"We're still challenged in getting centralized campus information," Baswell said. "Things tend to be done piecemeal, school by school."

Adams said that professors are not informed about what life is like as a disabled person at the University.

"People have goodwill, but they're ignorant," she said. "Even if someone wanted to improve the environment, they just don't know how, or they may not be aware of how they may be excluding their students or making them feel uncomfortable."

Ultimately, changing the campus attitude with regards to disabilities would be an extended process—one which would have to tackle day-to-day issues of accessibility, such as the ones Baswell faces, as well as making the issue of disability services a more central issue for the campus overall.

"I think that you can't put in structural change unless you have widespread support, and you can't have widespread support unless people's attitudes have changed," Walker said.

"Once you get more people to say, 'Oh, everybody, no matter what their ability, should be able to have access to everything that people without disabilities have on campus,' then there will be more motivation for the structural changes that needs to happen," she added.

According to Adams, it needs to start with a genuine effort to make sure disabled people have full access to the campus's resources.

"Even one step before you get to discussion of any substance is, can you get people into the room?"

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Dartmouth, Harvard, Penn fall in nonconference games

ATL from back page

out to a 36-24 lead. Harvard made another comeback to pull within four, before the Fighting Sioux had a run of their own that pushed its lead to 11.

With two minutes left and North Dakota leading by seven, it looked like the game was over. Junior Victoria Lippert, who led the Crimson with 15 points, got Harvard back in the game as her three-pointer cut North Dakota's lead to four.

After a missed Fighting Sioux foul shot, Lippert had a chance to tie the game at the buzzer, but unfortunately could not get her shot up in time for the Crimson.

Harvard will host conference rival Yale on Friday.

PENN 47, TEMPLE 72

Temple managed to pull away in the second half to beat Penn (7-8, 0-1 Ivy) 72-47. Freshman Jackie Kates led the Quakers with 17 points, while sophomore Kristen Kody added 12 points.

The first eight minutes of the game were even as Temple and Penn traded buckets, with the game tied 11-11. Then Temple went on a 10-0 run, fueled by its suffocating press defense. The Quakers were able to find their way back into the game, thanks to Kates and Kody. However, Temple went on a run at the end of the half to lead by eight points going into intermission.

Temple continued the momentum from its first-half performance into the second half and built a 17-point lead behind senior Joelle Connelly and junior Victoria Macaulay's outstanding play. Penn was never able to regain the momentum it had before the first half.

The Quakers will next host Columbia on Friday in the Palestra at 7 p.m.

LONGWOOD 86, DARTMOUTH 76

Dartmouth (2-13, 0-1 Ivy) lost its 12th consecutive game, falling to Longwood (5-18). Dartmouth was led by junior guard Faziah Steen, who led all scorers with 29 points.

The game was evenly matched in the beginning of the first half, before Dartmouth's reliance on Steen for points was exposed. Longwood went on a run to take a 24-13 lead as Steen struggled to make shots. Although Steen managed to cut the Lancer lead to five with six minutes left, Longwood managed to go on another run to take a 41-30 lead going into halftime.

Longwood continued to control the game in the second half and looked to be in danger of running away with the game at several moments. With the Big Green trailing by 12 points with one minute left in the game, Steen and freshman guard Milica Toskovic both hit threes to pull Dartmouth within six. However, Longwood made seven of eight free throws to ensure the win against the Big Green.

Dartmouth struggled with turnovers—it had 25 in the game, which led to 27 points for the Lancers.

The Big Green will try and snap its losing streak when it hosts Brown this upcoming weekend.

RK (IVY)	TEAM
1 13-4 (3-0)	PRINCETON TIGERS Even though the Tigers didn't play last week, their three blowout league wins from the weekend before maintain their top status in the Ancient Eight.
2 10-6 (1-1)	BROWN BEARS The Bears opened the Ivy season with two games against Yale, losing the first game and winning the second. The Bears look to continue their success against Dartmouth.
3 9-7 (1-1)	YALE BULLDOGS After winning one of two games against Brown in the past two weeks, the Bulldogs look to continue their recent success at the Crimson next weekend.
4 7-9 (1-1)	CORNELL BIG RED The Big Red has won four of its last six games, and will look to get its second consecutive conference win at Penn when it travels to Philadelphia.
5 7-8 (1-0)	HARVARD CRIMSON After beating a hapless Dartmouth squad, the Crimson will face a much tougher test at home against a competitive Yale team this upcoming weekend.
6 7-8 (0-1)	PENN QUAKERS The Quakers struggled at home against Princeton—their visit to CU this week will be a more realistic assessment of the team's skills and standing in the conference.
7 2-14 (0-2)	COLUMBIA LIONS The Lions lost their first two Ivy games, getting blown out at Princeton and beaten by the Big Red at home. Columbia will look for its first Ivy win against Penn.
8 2-13 (0-1)	DARTMOUTH BIG GREEN The Big Green struggled in a loss to Harvard after a tough nonconference season that saw it lose 14 of 16 games, nine of which immediately preceded conference play.

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Noted Author/Poet/Activist **Sonia Sanchez** will be honored during the first evening, (following the screening of her film, "Shake Loose Memories"), and presented with the Artivist Award for 'Lifetime Achievement in the Arts and Advocacy'.



The closing night program includes an evening with filmmaker Peter Joseph discussing his upcoming new film, "Zeitgeist: Beyond the Pale", the power of the Zeitgeist community, and his thoughts on the economic and social revolutions sweeping across our planet today.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
MARK CISCO



DAVID BRANN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

REBOUND KING | With 18 points and 20 rebounds—setting a Levien Gym record—junior center Mark Cisco dominated under the basket on Saturday in the Lions' win over Cornell. Cisco's career-best performance earned him his first Ivy League Player of the Week honor.

With loss of leading scorers, the Lions need better shot choices this season

IN FOCUS from back page

on during Ivy play. Two games into conference play, the team has had mixed results.

"Well, certainly the shot selection at Princeton I didn't think was bad," Nixon said. He identified the team's 30 turnovers as the primary concern from that game. The following weekend against Cornell, however, bad habits returned.

"I thought, in the Cornell game, we settled for too many long, outside, contested shots," Nixon said.

"I don't think we did a good job of getting enough high-percentage looks around the basket."

—Paul Nixon, head coach

her success as the result of simply taking good shots.

"I think I was just being aggressive, getting a lot of shots up, and not giving up when a certain shot doesn't go in," Simpson said. "We didn't play as aggressive as we know we can, and I just think next time we'll go out with a lot more aggressive mentality."

"We're just really focusing on developing a more consistent

offensive identity and knowing what are good shots for this team," Nixon said.

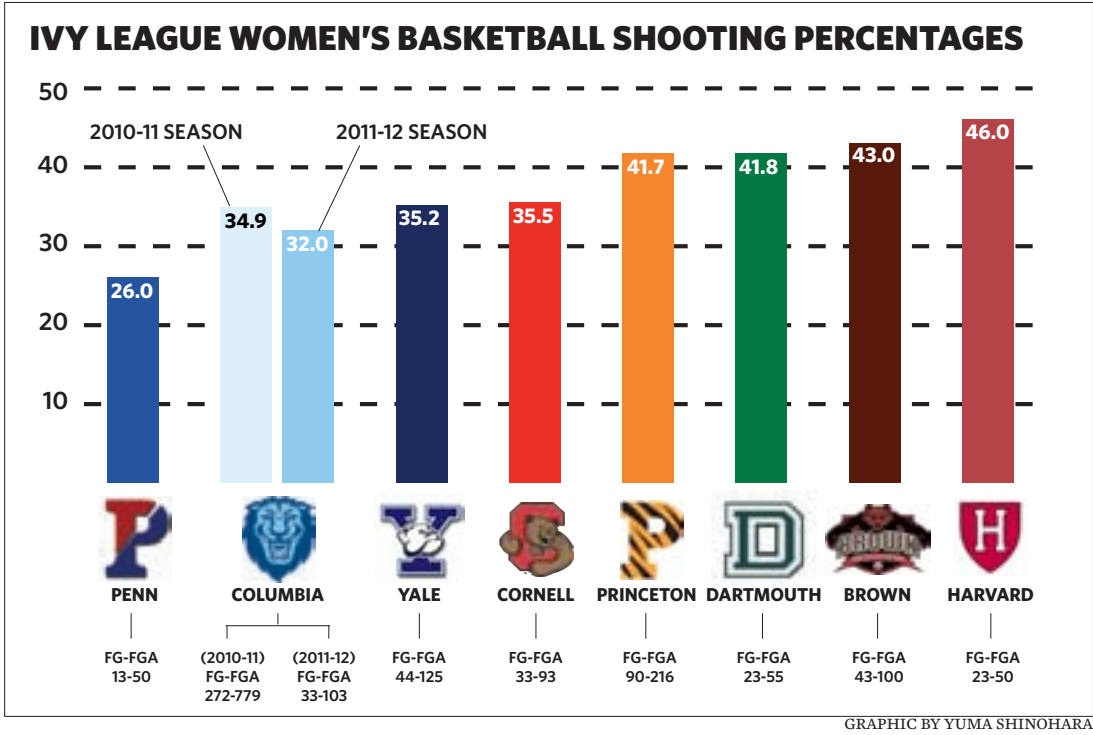
He sees potential improvement in this regard coming from the team's freshmen.

"I think all our freshman are capable of contributing," Nixon said. "I think in different games through the course of the rest of the Ivy season, they're going to have their opportunities."

During the Ivy teleconference, he singled out guards Miwa Tachibana and Caitlyn Unsworth as being particularly productive.

With games against Penn, Dartmouth, and Harvard—none of which have held opponents to shooting under 36 percent—coming up over the next two weeks, the Light Blue has a chance to work itself into a rhythm offensively.

"I think it's going to be better, but it's not where we need to be yet," Nixon said.



Light Blue women's soccer welcomes back players from first-ever team

ANNIVERSARY from back page

sixth place at the same tournament a year earlier.

A week later, Columbia faced its first Ivy opponent in the Harvard Crimson. The Lions fell 1-0 to Harvard, but remained positive even with the defeat. The Light Blue held the Crimson to a 0-0 tie until the 51st minute of the game, when Harvard's Jen Gifford scored the lone goal of the match. Columbia maintained a strong defensive effort throughout, which resulted in a compromised offensive effort. The Lions did not record their first win against an Ivy League team until 1989, when they shut out Penn 3-0 on a hat trick by Anne Gamache.

"It wasn't pretty, but it was a victory and that's what counts,"

then-senior co-captain Kristin Friedholm, CC '90, said to describe the game in an old Spectator article.

Twenty-five years later, the Lions are a new team

Since the Light Blue squad became a varsity squad, things have changed, such as its success in the Ivy League—the Lions last went winless in the Ancient Eight in 2002.

"The varsity program was started because of the drive of the women who played on the club team. The other teams had a head start, but in the years that I've been around, the program has really progressed," McCarthy said.

The varsity Lions celebrate their quarter century birthday under a coach who has seen the team develop and blossom into an impressive Ivy team.

On January 28, the Lions will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the varsity soccer program. "The event planned will honor the women who played on the first team. We've gotten great response and I'm really looking forward to it," McCarthy said.

Even though the team loses seniors to graduation and brings in new groups of freshmen each year, one thing that stays the same is the strong alumnae connection.

"The alumnae stay connected in many ways. They offer internships, attend matches. The connections are strong and after the event, they'll be even stronger," McCarthy said.

"The upcoming anniversary will strengthen the bonds between all the women, which will serve us even better in the future."

Save the stress, avoid the buzzer-beater

Denver Broncos quarterback Tim Tebow earned himself the nickname “The Mile High Messiah” this season by consistently leading his team to victory through late-game heroics. Those who have been swept up in Tebowmania tend to attribute his success to divine intervention, calling him a miracle worker, or even the second coming. But the Tebow phenomenon—winning ostensibly unwinnable games in the clutch—can actually be explained quite simply: Teams try exponentially harder toward the end of close games.

It is common knowledge that the clock slows down as basketball or football games reach their final minutes. Teams take desperate measures in last-ditch efforts to generate offense. In football, quarterbacks spike the ball, and remaining timeouts are spent to stop the clock. In basketball, fouls are strategically used to give the losing team a chance to win. In hockey—a sport in which play rarely stops—teams pull their goalie for an additional offensive attacker. When a close contest is up for grabs, the fundamental strategy in sports is transformed to an almost unrecognizable extent.

Broadly speaking, close games are inevitable in sports. Parity naturally exists on the professional level, in which the best few hundred players in the world at their sport compete against one another. Therefore, it should be no surprise that many games are so evenly matched that every last second of regular time—and often additional time—is needed to determine an outcome. Yet this is only a part of the explanation.

The other, more interesting reason for the frequency of last-minute decisiveness is that most games are programmed to cruise control for the bulk of regulation—just as a long-distance runner wouldn’t start a marathon by sprinting. But what if the unparalleled aggressiveness conventionally found only in the home stretch of a close contest were shifted to beginning?

For Tebow, who is at his best in the clutch, this would be a complete game-changer. During their mid-season five-game winning streak, the Broncos won every game by one touchdown or less. Tebow tossed just two complete passes against the Chiefs, but the second was a 56-yard touchdown pass to Eric Decker with 6:44 left in the fourth quarter that led the Broncos to a 17-10 win. Such was the story throughout the heart of the Broncos season. While the so-called “miracle” wins made for great TV, the approach ultimately proved unsustainable. When the Broncos finally collapsed, they fell hard.

With the Ivy League basketball season just underway, it’s critical that the Lions don’t succumb to a Tebowesque strategy of banking on buzzer-beating wins. My colleague and Ivy basketball aficionado Michele Cleary pointed out in a recent column that the playing field this season is particularly level in the conference, and such parity heightens the importance of winning close contests. In that case, why not try to avoid close contests altogether?

After entering Ivy play having won 11 of its past 12 games, the Light Blue dropped its first two division matchups to Penn, 64-66, and Princeton, 58-62. Both of these hard-fought efforts were winnable, but both narrowly slipped away from the tenacious Lions. Alas, that is the nature of close games—which is why transferring late-game intensity to the start of play could avoid last-second heartbreaks.

Fortunately, the Lions’ 61-56 nail-biter against Cornell this past Saturday ended in our favor. It was a big win, one that should make this weekend’s rematch in Ithaca all the more interesting. But rather than rely on a few tense, adrenaline-fueled minutes at the end of the game, let’s grab an early lead, stick to a consistent strategy, and ride the momentum to a stress-free victory. Let’s play the first five minutes as if they were the last, throw the Big Red against the ropes, and show no mercy. Unlike Tim Tebow, the Lions aren’t going anywhere.

Michael Shapiro is a List College senior majoring in history and modern Jewish studies.

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MICHAEL SHAPIRO

Turn Up the Mike

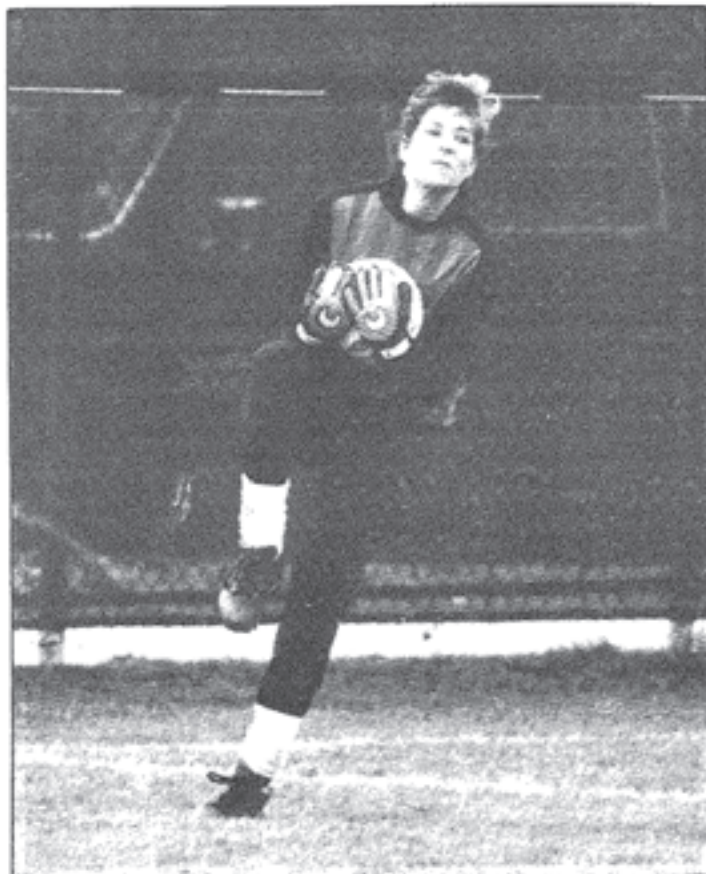
Celebrating 25 years of Columbia women’s soccer



BROADWAY/GABRIEL KUPERMANC Nancy Dobrow is a member of the women’s soccer team, which associate athletic director Marjorie Tversky hopes will be elevated to varsity status within two years.



SPECTATOR/MARK SIEGEL TAKE A GIANT STEP: The women’s soccer team took giant strides this season towards becoming a solid Ivy League competitor.



SPECTATOR/MARK SIEGEL WOMEN’S SOCCER LOSES: Goalkeeper Lauren Nisonson (above) had five saves last night at Baker Field, but the Lions still fell to Army by the score of 1-0.



SPECTATOR/DYVONNE JARNEY HOME FREE: Freshman sensation Kristin Friedholm isn’t quite there yet, as she maneuvers with a Stony Brook player during yesterday’s 2-0 loss at Baker Field.



SPECTATOR/NILOOFAR RAZI HOW DOES THIS GRAB YOU? Keeper Lauren Nisonson must’ve had trouble staying awake yesterday. While Columbia peppered the Iona net with 31 shots, Iona, embarrassingly, managed none.

FILE PHOTOS

LIONESSES OF THE PAST | Women’s soccer plans to welcome back some of the players from the inaugural team to celebrate its 25th anniversary this Saturday.

BY MELISSA CHEUNG
Spectator Staff Writer

Mets fans will tell you that 1986 marks the year that their team, the once-beloved New York Metropolitan, stood atop the baseball world as World Series Champions as what many considered a dream team. Since ’86, the Mets’ fortune has taken a disastrous turn and things have hit a dead end.

For the Columbia women’s varsity soccer team, 1986 could not have been any more different. It was not the beginning of the end, but rather the start of it all. This past 2011-2012 season saw the 25th anniversary of the Light Blue becoming a varsity squad, a momentous event in the history of a team that has established itself as a force in the Ivy League.

Last but not least

Brown, Harvard, Princeton and Cornell had already been fielding strong women’s teams for several seasons by the time Columbia began its first as a varsity team in 1986.

On the whole, women’s athletics faced many issues early on at Columbia, having to deal with problems such as lack of facilities, funding difficulties, and even being overshadowed by and less promoted than men’s athletics.

In an interview for a 1985 Columbia Spectator feature, Marjorie Tversky, then-associate director of athletics at Columbia, said, “I’m hopeful that in the next year or two crew and soccer [now club-varsity sports for women] will be elevated to varsity status.” Less than a year later, the Lions were gearing

up for their debut as a varsity team at the Seven Sisters Tournament at Bryn Mawr.

The beginning

Prior to its first season as a varsity sport, Columbia’s club squad finished below .500, with a subpar record of 4-9. All of a sudden, the Lions were being thrown into a fiercely competitive league of established soccer programs, some of which were even nationally ranked teams. The biggest problem the new varsity team faced was the quandary of bringing together multiple elements needed for a team to be dominant in an extremely short amount of time.

The Light Blue had all the makings of a championship team—a group of talented freshmen, key returning players,

a new assistant coach—but becoming one cohesive unit proved to be a significant obstacle. When asked about how the soccer program has changed since its establishment in 1986, current Columbia head coach Kevin McCarthy, who has been at the helm for 18 years, referred to this difficulty.

“It always comes with a fair amount of growing pain,” McCarthy said.

Columbia played its first match as a varsity team on Sept. 13, 1986, against Swarthmore, the first of its three competitors that weekend at the Seven Sisters Tournament at Bryn Mawr. The Lions defeated Swarthmore 2-0, and went 2-1 in the tournament, finishing in third place. It was an encouraging result for Columbia, who finished in

SEE ANNIVERSARY, page 7

Bears avenge loss by beating Yale in women’s Ivy basketball

BY JOSH SHENKAR
Spectator Staff Writer

Only one lone conference game was held this weekend outside of Morningside Heights in the Ivy League—an exciting nail-biter between Brown and Yale. This was the second time this season the two teams had faced off.

The other teams in the Ancient Eight which played suffered tough losses to nonconference competition. Meanwhile, the Princeton Tigers did not play this past weekend, as the team is currently focusing on studying for final exams.

BROWN 60, YALE 55

The Bears (10-6, 1-1 Ivy) managed to avenge their loss last week by winning at Yale (7-9, 1-1 Ivy) for the first time in three years. Yale junior Megan Vasquez scored 14 points for the Bulldogs and fueled Yale’s early 10-4 lead, before Brown responded by going on a 9-0 run. The game continued to be evenly matched as Brown and Yale traded baskets, with the Bears taking a 26-24 lead into halftime.

Sophomore Lauren Clarke led the Bears with 15 points and made the difference late in the second half. Yale led 45-44 with four minutes left before Clarke and the Bears began to pull away. The Bears went on a 10-5 run and forced Yale to foul with a minute left. Clarke then stepped up and made four key free throws to ensure a critical first Ivy win for the Bears.

On Friday, the Bulldogs will face a critical matchup when they travel to play Harvard. Brown will also look to improve its conference ranking when it travels north to play a hapless Dartmouth squad.

NORTH DAKOTA 60, HARVARD 57

Harvard’s (7-8, 1-0 Ivy) valiant comeback against North Dakota (9-9) fell three points short on Tuesday. North Dakota dominated the first half as it raced off to a 12-6 lead behind the play of junior Nicole Smart, who had 12 points. Harvard recovered to pull within three points before North Dakota went on another run to end the half leading 31-23.

After the intermission, North Dakota started where it had left off, as it jumped

SEE ATL, page 6

Women’s basketball seeks to recreate offensive identity

BY MUNEEB ALAM
Spectator Staff Writer

Last season, three Lions averaged over eight points per game: guard Kathleen Barry and center Lauren Dwyer, the only two seniors on the team, and then-freshman guard Brianna Orlich. Earlier this season, Orlich was forced to cut her college basketball career short due to knee injuries, leaving the Lions without any of their top three scorers from last season.

The departure of these three players has exacerbated an already-pressing issue: creating good shots. Last season, while the Light Blue took 4.1 more shots per game than its opponents, it converted on only 33.7 percent of those attempts, while its opponents hit 42.6 percent of their shots. This season, the Lions are shooting 33.1 percent from the field and their opponents are shooting 40.9 percent. While there are only small reductions on both sides, this year’s team is being outshot by one basket every two games. As a basis for

comparison, the top two Ivy teams last year—Princeton and Harvard—both shot over 44 percent from the field.

Altogether, Columbia is averaging five fewer points per game. If the Lions were able to produce the same output as last year, they would have had a fighting chance in the closing minutes the eight losses it suffered by 10 points or fewer this year. With 39.5 points per game, the Light Blue ranks last in the Ivy League—five points behind seventh-place Dartmouth and less than half of first-place Harvard’s average.

“For us, it’s really got to be about our shot selection,” head coach Paul Nixon said during the Ivy midseason teleconference.

“We’ve had some games where we’ve done really well in that department, and we’ve had some games where we’ve done a little too much outside of the framework of the offense, and taken some shots that I don’t even think [the best players] could make consistently.”

Nixon was optimistic, however, citing the team’s improving shot selection as how Columbia will be able to hang

SEE IN FOCUS, page 7

