



PATRICK YUAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NEGLECT? Rick, a resident of the Pennington on 95th Street, says that his landlord has allowed his apartment to deteriorate, while illegally renting out SROs in the building to tourists at higher prices. Rick says that he feels unsafe with strangers frequently coming in and out of his building.

Despite recent stabbing, crime down in Harlem

BY AARON KIERSH AND KIM KIRSCHENBAUM
Columbia Daily Spectator

In the first week of January, nine-year-old Anthony Maldonado was fatally stabbed by his 25-year-old cousin at the General Grant Houses.

This news broke just a few weeks after the New York Police Department announced a record-low murder rate for 2009—with the fewest homicides in a 12-month period since the current tracking system was created in 1963.

With murder and overall crime rates declining significantly throughout Morningside Heights and West Harlem, as well as the rest of the city, the murder at the public housing complex on Amsterdam, just north of 123rd Street, reminded residents that serious crimes still occur, despite changing trends.

The changes within the Police Department's 26th Precinct, which encompasses the Columbia campus and much of West Harlem, are equally dramatic as citywide declines. CompStat, which the Police Department uses to track crime citywide, reports that in 1990, 15 murders occurred within the 26th Precinct. Last year, there were only

two. And while 339 robberies took place in this region in 1998, only 197 were reported within the precinct in 2009.

Other comparable neighborhoods have also shown dramatic decreases, with Washington Heights jumping from 103 murders in 1990 to only 2 in 2009, and the South Bronx decreased from 72 murders in 1990 to 14 last year.

Jeffrey Fagan, co-director of Columbia's Center on Crime, Community, and Law, said that these trends reflect nationwide changes.

"The homicide rates have been going down for a long time. It is a broad historical ... decline across the board in cities as diverse as Milwaukee to, say, St Louis," he said, adding, that the major decline in Harlem and New York dates back 15 years.

At Grant Houses though, some of the recent crimes—two instances of animal abuse and a major drug bust, along with the murder—have raised some questions about the historical trends.

"There's crime on every street, every corner," Robert Exorphe, a resident at Grant Houses, said. "People have been

SEE CRIME, page 2



GRAPHIC BY HANNAH D'APICE

Land swap conflict sparks zoning war

BY SARAH DARVILLE
Spectator Staff Writer

Six months after Jewish Home Lifecare and developer Chetrit Group proposed a controversial land swap, the deal remains in zoning limbo.

In August 2009, Jewish Home Lifecare, a nursing home on 106th Street between Columbus and Amsterdam avenues, announced a plan to swap properties with Park West Village developer Chetrit. The deal would allow the nursing home to acquire space on 100th Street to build a new facility, and allow Chetrit to develop properties on 106th.

Jewish Home is entrenched in a nearly three-year zoning battle with several neighborhood organizations. City council member Melissa Mark-Viverito announced in October that she had a solution, but now questions linger about the financial reality of her plan.

In 2007, community

activists organized a sweeping downzone of the Manhattan Valley neighborhood, to limit tall developments.

But local politicians granted JHL at 106th Street an exemption, because the non-profit claimed it needed less-restrictive zoning regulations so that it could build a new nursing facility.

So activists who had fought for the downzone were surprised when JHL announced in 2009 that it would be giving its property to Chetrit—a deal which JHL officials claimed was the only viable financial option.

Some residents feared that Chetrit would take advantage of the less-restrictive zoning laws at 106th, put in place for the nursing home, and build an out-of-context skyscraper.

In response to cries of betrayal, City Council member Melissa Mark-Viverito, with the support of Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, announced in October that she would begin applying to downzone the JHL

property herself, rather than wait for JHL to take care of it once the Chetrit deal is finished.

Chetrit officials have said since the swap was announced that they plan to abide by the neighborhood's restrictions, and JHL said they would initiate and pay for the rezoning, but only after a deal is set, which JHL spokesperson Ethan Geto said would likely be in 2011.

Now, questions remain over how the immediate downzone that Mark-Viverito proposed will actually be funded, since finances do not typically come from a single party.

Part of the process would include a costly Environmental Impact Statement.

Hope Cohen, a Community Board 7 member, said in an interview, "At the December land-use meeting, Melissa Mark-Viverito came and talked about needing the \$200,000. I'm hoping that everyone

SEE JEWISH HOME, page 2

Barnard prepares to launch spruced-up website

BY CARLY SILVER
Spectator Staff Writer

Barnard's makeover has gone digital.

As students get acquainted with the new Diana student center, which opened this month after years of construction, Barnard's Electronic Communications is currently in the process of revamping its entire website, according to Director of Electronic Communications Scott DiPerna.

The construction process was launched in January, and DiPerna said he hopes to have the new website up by the end of the year.

The current website has generally been criticized for being unorganized, technologically behind, and disjointed. The new site will be more streamlined and advanced, with a single content management system, or CMS, to simplify navigation.

The CMS will allow the website to have blogs, syndicated content like RSS feeds, event calendars and newsletters for departments, and easily updated faculty profiles. The content will allow for more multimedia features.

DiPerna said that Barnard President Debora Spar has urged on the development. "She's a driving force behind modernizing Barnard and especially bringing new technological advancement to the college. She really championed this project," DiPerna said. He also added that Spar's goal is to keep the Barnard legacy intact.

Headed by DiPerna and Barnard Vice President for Information Technology Carol Katzman, the CMS Advisory Committee, consisting of professors and administrators with an interest in the website's reconstruction, will determine its aesthetics.

To keep students, faculty, and administration updated on the site's progress, the Electronic Communications Department regularly updates a blog, barnardwebsite.wordpress.com.

There, students can offer suggestions. DiPerna said, "I look at that thing daily to see what people have said. That, to me, is a perfect forum for having these types of conversations."

Some students expressed a desire to make the site more interactive.

SEE WEBSITE, page 2

Politicians protest city's illegal hotels

Tenants, legislators fight to stop landlords from renting to tourists

BY HIEN TRUONG
Spectator Staff Writer

After Anne Cunningham's superintendent caught her speaking with a journalist last year, he called the police.

Cunningham, a resident of Tempo Hotel, a residential hotel on 73rd Street, said that her home often feels like a prison, and the call to the police was just one example of the oppressive environment.

As a tenants' rights advocate, she is not alone in her frustrations with a persisting phenomenon on the Upper West Side of what local politicians call "illegal hotels"—traditional residential buildings that are used as tourist hotels and hostels.

Opponents have criticized landlords for illegally renting residential apartments to tourists for years, because these landlords often make a greater profit from visitors, compared to permanent low-income tenants.

Though a New York State Supreme Court decision one year ago said that these hotel converts are in fact legal, this week, city and state legislators and community activists are renewing the fight against these hotel conversions.

Legal or illegal?

Three buildings have been at the center of the controversy—the Continental and the Pennington, both on 95th Street, and the Mount Royal on 94th Street. The buildings are all Single Room Occupancy buildings, or SROs, with rooms that have either a bathroom or a kitchen.

In 2007, the New York Supreme Court granted the city an injunction, which stated that those three buildings could not be used as hotels or hostels.

But the case of City of New York v. 330 Continental LLC in 2009 overturned that injunction. The State Appellate Court ruled in January 2009 that though units in these buildings were being used for "transient occupancy," or stays of less than 30 days, the city could not prove that the buildings were used primarily for that purpose. This effectively allowed the landlords to continue converting SROs to hotels.

Now, New York State Assembly member Richard Gottfried's office, with the support of Mayor Michael Bloomberg, is currently drafting legislation in response to the Appellate Court ruling.

According to Gottfried's deputy chief of staff Michael Kaplan, a bill which will be introduced later this month will clarify the difference between permanent residence—"Class A multiple dwellings"—and a transient occupancy.

Right now, transient occupancy is too ambiguous, Kaplan said. "It's legal and illegal depending on whose definition you use," he said.

Gottfried protested the idea that buildings could legally house both transient and permanent residents.

"If a building's certificate of occupation says that it is a Class A multiple dwelling, that's all it should be. I believe the [Appellate] court decision misinterpreted the current law," Gottfried said. "I believe that the city's bill will make that crystal clear."

'Not exactly the Plaza Hotel'

For some residents of these buildings, renewed legislative efforts to halt the practice of illegal hotels could not come soon enough.

Rick, one resident of the Pennington, who has lived in the building for more than 15 years and declined to give his last name for fear of retribution from the landlord, said that he believes government action up to this point is "just tied up in knots in the court and tied up in political corruption."

In converting SRO units into hostel units, the Pennington has neglected to address the needs of tenants with stabilized rents, he said, pointing out the caving floorboard in his own unit, deterioration of paint and plaster on his ceiling, and cracks on his walls.

While catering to tourists leaves the building clean, he said that he does not feel safe with strangers in the building.

He said he has even received knocks on his door soliciting drugs and sex.

Rick said that the Pennington's

SEE HOTELS, page 2



COURTESY OF BARNARD COLLEGE

INSIDE

A&E, page 3

Show immerses audience in intellectual web

Columbia Stages' "Black Snow" follows a Russian writer along his ascension to fame and search for intellectual gratification. The production is directed by Columbia MFA candidate Mikhael Tara Garver.



Sports, page 6

Monique Roberts breaks high jump records

Sophomore Monique Roberts proves a big asset to Columbia track and field as she breaks school and personal records in the high jump. In fact, this past weekend, she set a new school record of 1.82m. She now looks forward to the rest of a promising season.

Opinion, page 4

War on warming

Our understanding of climate change can never come too early, but the actions we take can come too late.

Jigsaw pieces

Anna Arons embarks on a metaphor hunt to connect the dots between board games and the real game of life.

Today's Events

Wind down Wednesday

Let's face it. We could all use a "free mini back-rub."

1st floor lounge, Wien, 4-5 p.m.

PitchFest

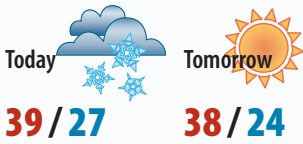
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301 Uris, 6:30 p.m.

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WEATHER



UWS illegal hotels spur new legislation, action

HOTELS from front page

employees are unresponsive to tenant requests and inquiries regarding the building's operations. "They play dumb," he said. "How much can you take? This is just a game they play to get you out," he added.

David Satnick of Loeb and Loeb LLP who represents Continental LLC, the owners of the Pennington, denied allegations that the company is trying to get rid of any of its tenants. He said allegations of harassment are a serious matter and he encourages individuals to come forward.

When asked about the accusations of shoddy maintenance work and unresponsive landlords, Satnick added, "This is something I'd like to know about because it means my employees aren't doing the best job they should."

Satnick was one of the lawyers representing the Continental LLC in the 2009 State Appellate Court case that that ruled in favor of transient residential hotels.

He said in a recent interview, the Pennington and its sister hotels are legal and provide tourists a chance to explore the city in a tough economy.

"These hotels have been transient since the beginning of time. They've always been a hybrid," Satnick said.

"When most hotels in New York got to be so expensive, a lot of visitors started looking for alternate accommodations. A single room is not exactly the Plaza Hotel," he said.

Tenants forced out?

At other SROs on the Upper West Side, tenants say they have faced harassment by managers and landlords. A tenant in a rent-stabilized apartment on the first floor of the Imperial Court Hotel on 79th Street, who wished to remain anonymous for fear of harassment, said that he knows of cases within the building where landlords have taken tenants to court on false charges in attempts to illegally evict them.

"They don't do repairs, they don't put the heat on, they tamper with the mail. They're treating tenants like second class citizens," he added.

He said that he also reported a complaint to the Department of Buildings that "over 60 percent" of the Imperial's rooms are being used as hotel rooms, as evidenced by their keypad locks as opposed to basic doorknobs.

The complaint can be found on the Department of Buildings website, which says that further inspection is scheduled.

"Legislation has to be stronger, with much more teeth. It has been ineffective," he said.

Sarah Morgan, assistant manager at the Imperial Court, denied allegations of illegal evictions or any such attempts. Landlord Michael Edelstein could not be reached for comment.

Despite the fact that the Imperial advertises online, some West Side residents said they had no idea tourists are staying in nearby buildings.

Andrea Fry, a resident in the neighborhood since 1991, said she hadn't heard of any controversy.

"I wasn't aware, but I don't doubt it," she said.

Legislative agenda

In February of 2008, Gottfried introduced Assembly bill A.6013, with the co-sponsorship of several politicians and the Illegal Hotels Working Group, to address concerns over illegal hotels. The bill included several different pieces of legislation surrounding illegal hotels.

While the original bill never made it to the floor, the offices of assembly members Gottfried, Linda Rosenthal, and Micah Kellner are each slated to introduce parts of it this week.

Rosenthal will introduce the "Natural Persons Bill," according



PATRICK YUAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

RENT | Tenants say that landlords have neglected rent-stabilized apartmnnts in illegal hotels.

to her legislative director Jonathan Davis. That bill will limit the ability to solicit a lease in SRO residential buildings to "flesh and blood human beings" as opposed to corporate entities, which can currently lease blocks of these buildings and transform them into hotels, Davis said.

"These folks are a source of harassment of tenants," Davis said. The bill is an attempt to restore these buildings to their intended purposes, he added.

According to Legislative Director Eliyanna Kaiser, Kellner's office is slated to introduce legislation that will allow the Attorney General to consider the operation of an "illegal hotel" as a factor in deciding whether or not to grant requests by building owners for condo and co-op conversion.

Gottfried's office will introduce a provision that will allow the city to enforce state rent control and stabilization requirements. "When a landlord takes a residential apartment and illegally rent them out as transient hotels, this deprives the city of affordable housing and the regular tenants have to put up with disruption," Gottfried said.

Turning the tide

An advocate of tenants' rights for over 30 years, Tempo Hotel resident Cunningham said the problem is so rampant around the city that her efforts have become a "work of dedication."

She said the superintendent has been a source of fear and intimidation for many residents. His services have been terminated by AIMCO, a real-estate investment trust that oversees the Tempo, as of this past Friday after an investigation prompted by tenants' written complaints, she said.

Neither the superintendent nor an AIMCO representative could be reached for comment.

"There is so much money to make from this that it has become a game," Cunningham said. "Politically, the momentum is lost because the problem has been out of control for so long," she said.

Of the proposed legislation she said, "We have many elected officials on our side, but there are many more who are upstate where it is not affecting their communities."

"It would be a miracle if it passed in our favor," she added.

Jackie Del Valle, community organizer at the West Side Neighborhood Alliance, a community group that mobilizes residents on housing issues, agreed that the issue remains unsolved.

According to Del Valle, West Side Neighborhood Alliance has done an informal study and suspects that there are at least 297 "illegal hotels" in the city. The Alliance considers these hotels illegal if they are renting rooms out on a transient basis, when their certificate of occupancy reads that they are intended for permanent residence. Del Valle emphasized that while those numbers are by no means conclusive, they indicate the scope of the problem.

She said, "The loophole that was created by this unfortunate ruling really needs to be fixed."

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Barnard professors, techies debate revamped website

WEBSITE from front page

"I would certainly enjoy a more personable or user-friendly interface which allows for interaction," said Madalena Provo, BC '12, class vice president. She also expressed interest in a personalized page for eBear—Barnard's email and student profile system—but, in a Jan. 15 post on the Barnard website blog, DiPerna stressed that eBear—as a series of internal applications—will require a separate redesign.

A majority of the blog comments have come from alumnae and professors, and not students.

Charlie Dinkin, BC '12, said, "I trust them to get it right without reading or commenting on a blog."

Chemistry professor Christian Rojas expressed a desire for the redesign to make "accounting and tracking of budgets and budget expenditures more straightforward."

And Elizabeth Castelli, Barnard professor and chair of the religion department, said, "I think that the main thing that

I would like to see is ... more focus on intellectual work that's going on at the college."

There has also been some debate about preserving department websites with the new design.

Lesley Shrap, anthropology professor, commented, "I hope that you'll let departments keep their web sites ... to help maintain the individual character of the department."

DiPerna responded saying that non-participating departments "will not enjoy any of the benefits

of CMS, which would be a loss not only for your department, but the College as a whole."

He added, "There is obviously a balance to strike for academic departments: to clearly be part of the whole College, while maintaining the department's distinct character. And it will obviously require some level of compromise from everyone, but ... I believe we will all be better for it."

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Despite recent Harlem violence, crime down citywide

CRIME from front page

shot a lot. People do get stabbed, and people do drugs. I do see it, the police see it, what's going on every day."

But James Harper, the community affairs officer at the 26th precinct, explained that the recent Grant Houses incidents are fairly common and do not suggest that crime is on the rise.

"To me, these incidents do not seem unusual," Harper said. "Crime is down overall, but this kind of thing is not unusual for this type of neighborhood. Stabbings are not uncommon at all. They happen all year round, especially in a place like the Grant Houses. Generally people are happy with the situation, though."

Fagan agreed that the recent crimes are not statistically meaningful. "Things spike ... Very rarely is anything flat. If it spikes up and stays up, then I'd be worried," Fagan said.

Sarah Martin, president of the Grant Houses Residents Association, explained that the January murder is not indicative of the general nature of crime at Grant Houses.

"It was an isolated issue," Martin, resident for 50 years, said, adding, "I think that our biggest crime here is drug-related. There are many people out there that are jobless and for other reasons are trying to make a dollar." And in January, 11 people were in fact indicted for selling cocaine in and around the housing complex.

For many residents living at the Grant Houses, these isolated crimes in the first month of the decade are not cause for alarm.

"I've been here 52 years and I've never had a problem because everybody here knows me," Rose Rodriguez, a Grant Houses resident, said.

For some local officials there remains much room for improvement in public safety, despite larger declines in crime.

"We can't get comfortable," Reverend Georgiette Morgan-Thomas, Community Board 9 chair for health and environment issues, said. "It's an ongoing task that we have to be vigilant about," she said.

But City Councilman Robert Jackson, a Democrat who

represents parts of Harlem and Morningside Heights, said that better communication between the NYPD and residents has helped reduce crime.

"When you build a relationship between community and police, when police know about what's going on in a certain area, people are able to communicate directly," Jackson said. "That helps to keep the neighborhood safe. We should be positive about what's happened here."

"There really has been a gallant effort on the part of police," Morgan-Thomas said. Jackson added, "As a member of the city council, the most important thing is the safety of the people I represent."

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Upper West Side land swap dispute causes strife

JEWISH HOME from front page

realizes that we don't really need an EIS of that magnitude."

Geto, spokesperson for JHL, said that JHL is close to finishing a restrictive declaration in a few weeks—a legal agreement that binds them to a downzone when they complete the swap. He said that this would meet everyone's needs and not require community activists or politicians to shovel out large sums of money for an unnecessary zoning process.

"That [the restrictive declaration] will give the community and elected officials the comfort they need, and everyone will know with certainty that they'll get the zoning they want if we

sell to Chetrit," JHL spokesperson Ethan Geto said.

But CB7 member Miki Fiegel said, "People don't trust Chetrit, and Jewish Home had this about-face. The community wants to feel protected."

Glory Ann Kerstein, president of the Duke Ellington Boulevard Neighborhood Association—which fought for the original downzone—said she did not trust the restrictive declaration, but also expressed concerns about the status of Mark-Viverito's plan.

"The declaration is only as good as it can be enforced," she said, adding that her organization does not have the money to hold Chetrit accountable in court.

Kerstein said that Mark-Viverito asked the community for help with fundraising for the downzone at a December meeting, but added, "It's three months later, and we're not clear what's happened."

CB7 member Sheldon Fine said that paying for an immediate downzone seemed unnecessary. "Elected officials feel compelled to guarantee in the short run anyway," Fine said. "The obstacle now seems to be the cost."

Stringer said in an e-mail on Tuesday, "The residents in this area have been working for years to make sure that new developments are in keeping with the context of this neighborhood."

He continued, "With the announcement of Jewish Home Lifecare's land swap proposal this past summer, it became clear that the only guarantee against out-of-scale development was an immediate re-zoning ... By supporting Council member Mark-Viverito's planned rezoning of this area, I believe we can offer more timely protections against future high-rise development on and around the current JHL site."

Representatives for Chetrit did not respond to requests for comment. Mark-Viverito's office did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

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Columbia Stages production covers M’side in ‘Black Snow’

BY DANIEL FLICKER
Columbia Daily Spectator

Make no mistake—Columbia Stages’ new production, “Black Snow,” has lofty ambitions.

Following a young writer as he is catapulted into the throes of artistic recognition, the play—according to its press release—sees the protagonist, a bohemian writer named Sergei, fall “down the rabbit hole into an adventure of ridiculous proportions.” Adapted from Mikhail Bulgakov’s 1967 novel, “Black Snow” addresses the artistic underbelly of Stalinist Russia with razor-sharp wit and an undying love for the insane. The play, showing at Riverside Theatre through Feb. 6, features an Alice in Wonderland-like rendition of mid-century Moscow that serves as a backdrop for one man’s tumultuous journey to greatness.

Upon finding out that the most prominent theater in town wants to adapt his unpublished novel—entitled



“Black Snow”—Sergei is whisked into a manic world of bureaucrats, megalomaniacs, and drama queens. Set to an original score by Andrew Gerle and with a text as giddy as it is satirical, “Black Snow” is a trippy showcase of the road to literary fame.

Columbia MFA candidate Mikhael Tara Garver directs the production, her senior thesis. Garver is also the artistic director of The New Ensemble, a New York-based group of actors and designers dedicated to “telling stories in evocative, sensory environments,” according to the group’s mission statement.

“Black Snow” hopes to use the creative forces of the Ensemble to create an engaging and poignant experience that—according to Garver in a phone interview—literally “puts the audience inside of the piece.”



DANIEL FLICKER FOR SPECTATOR

FRESH ‘SNOW’ | Cast members of Columbia Stages’ first production of the year, “Black Snow,” rehearse on stage at Riverside Theatre. The performance is directed by a current Columbia MFA candidate.

As both a student and a seasoned professional director, Garver believes that many of the play’s intellectual themes are especially important in a university community. Sitting in the theater and watching Sergei at work, “you [the audience] become immersed in ideas of things, and in the romance of what it is to think and learn,” Garver said.

As the young writer on stage struggles to maintain control over his vision and manage the powers that be, the audience is continually invited to question what it means to leave one’s mark on the world, and whether public recognition at a high price is ultimately worthwhile.

But while the play poses many relevant questions on a cerebral level, Garver expects its emotional content to be even more resonant, particularly for college students. “I think that it’s incredibly human, especially in New York, to be surrounded by thousands of people and still to feel what it is to be alone,” she said.

Garver believes that, like Sergei, most undergraduates are forced to deal



with constant outside scrutiny for the first time upon arriving at Columbia—an experience that, in spite of the constant presence of colleagues and advisors, can be deeply isolating. “This piece looks at why it hurts to be alone ... and how to continue to approach the day with hope and connection. Solitude becomes a revelation—and college, and that time, is a part of it.”

WHERE IT’S AT

Time: Wednesday-Saturday, Feb. 3-6, various times.
Place: Riverside Theatre, 490 Riverside Dr. (between 121st and 122nd streets)
Cost: Free with CUID



Twist on classic cassoulet provides one-pot warmth on the cheap

BY ALISON HARD
Columbia Daily Spectator

For college students, recipes that require a substantial investment of time or money might seem intimidating, but many “slow-cook” dishes can easily be adapted to cook more quickly than called for without sacrificing flavor. Cassoulet—a traditional stew from southwestern France featuring white beans, sausage, and duck—is the perfect one-pot meal for the college student on a budget.

Unlike its

cousins boeuf bourguignon and coq au vin that feature meat and wine, cassoulet is all about the beans. When made with chicken stock or water, the cost falls to as little as \$4 per serving, depending on whether the chef includes meats. With the emphasis off the meat, there is no need to set up a marinade over night, so no long-term planning is required.

A hot topic in France, cassoulet is surrounded with intrigue—three different towns claim to be its birthplace and each offers a different rendition. The major

disagreements are over the use of lamb (a faux-pas in Toulouse) and tomato (acceptable only in Carcassonne).

Chef Régis Courivaud of Le Monde—located on Broadway between 112th and 113th streets—said that cassoulet can easily be made on the cheap at home. Le Monde offers “Cassoulet Toulousain” at \$17.25 for dinner and \$16.25 for lunch, featuring lamb and duck confit that has been cooked and cured for days. To make at home, Courivaud advises cutting out the lamb. Pre-made duck confit goes for \$10.99 a leg at Gourmet Garage—which is on Broadway between 96th and 97th streets—and is enough for two people.

According to traditional recipes, soaking the dried beans overnight is an essential, albeit tricky, step. But there’s no need to fret. If patience and planning ability appear lacking around dinner time, buying canned beans and boiling them for a couple of minutes works well instead. Remember, even the French do not agree about the “right” way to make cassoulet.

Courivaud challenged, “You see the one you make, you see if it’s close to the one we have, and from there you see if you succeeded or not.”

Cassoulet à la College Student

Ingredients:

Serves 4-6 (or can be saved to serve you all week)

- 3 cans great northern beans
- 4-6 cups water or chicken stock
- *1 package (4 sausages) pork sausage (unseasoned is best but sweet Italian is acceptable)
- 4-6 slices thick bacon
- 4 carrots
- 1 red onion
- *1 tomato or 1 small can tomato paste
- *2-3 legs pre-cooked duck confit
- Fresh parsley (approx. 6 sprigs)
- Fresh thyme (approx. 6 sprigs)
- 1-2 bay leaves
- Salt, pepper

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Pour beans and water or stock into large stockpot, preferably ceramic, and bring to a boil for two minutes, then leave on burner with heat off while you prepare other ingredients.

While beans are soaking, cook sausages in a skillet until sides are browned (but not cooked through). Put sausages aside, then cut bacon into 1-inch chunks and cook in skillet. Set bacon with sausages, draining off fat if you wish. Sweat chopped onion then add tomato and carrot and cook in skillet until carrots are just soft.

Duck confit can be cooked with the rest of the stew, or in a glass pan in the same 400 degree oven until the skin is crispy, then served on top of the finished stew.

Place sausages, bacon, herbs and vegetables in pot with beans, adding more liquid if ingredients are not submerged. Cook, covered, in 400 degree oven for at least one hour or as long as patience remains.

*Ingredients are optional.

Former Columbian Lorca highlights everyday beauty of New York

BY ADRIANA TOMA
Columbia Daily Spectator

It has been exactly 80 years since Spanish poet, playwright, and novelist Federico García Lorca lived and studied at Columbia University.

Born in 1898 in Fuente Vaqueros—a village outside of Granada, Spain—Lorca is one of Spain’s most celebrated writers, known for his inspired plays, extraordinary poetry, and gift for prose.

Soon after his term at Columbia, Lorca moved to Madrid and discovered his élan for writing. He wrote his first play “The Butterfly’s Evil Spell” in 1920, which achieved extremely little success—it depicted the romance of a butterfly and a cockroach, and was cancelled after four performances due to lack of critical appreciation.

However, Lorca’s later plays, including “When Five Years Pass” (1931) and “Blood Wedding” (1932), were much better-received.

Lorca also became close friends with artist Salvador Dalí and filmmaker Luis Buñel, both associated with the Surrealist movement in Spain. Dalí and Lorca collaborated on stage projects, with Lorca as writer and Dalí as set designer.

In addition to plays, Lorca wrote a number of poetry books throughout the 1920s and 1930s. Later, Lorca immortalized his year spent



COURTESY OF THE FEDERICO GARCIA LORCA FOUNDATION

CITY RHYTHM | Lorca, far right, wanders the Columbia campus during his term as a student.

on Columbia’s campus in a collection entitled “Poet in New York” (“Poeta en Nueva York”), published in 1940.

In this collection, Lorca writes beautiful verses—an apotheosis of New York with its urban energy and mosaic of cultures, as well as an ode

to Harlem, which became his favorite neighborhood during his stay in the city.

In Lorca’s poem “The Dawn,” from “Poet in New York” under the subheading “Poems of Solitude at Columbia University,” Lorca writes: “The New York dawn grieves / Along the immense stairways / Seeking amidst the groins / spikenards of fine-drawn anguish.”

In his poem, “Ode to Walt Whitman,” also published in “Poet in New York,” Lorca venerates Whitman, imagining him in New York as a source of inspiration: “And you, beautiful Walt Whitman, sleep on the shores of the / Hudson / With your beard pointed toward the pole and your hands open. / Soft clay or snow, your tongue is calling / comrades to watch over your bodiless gazelle / Sleep : nothing remains / A dance of walls shakes the prairies / And America skinks into machines and tears.”

Lorca’s poems written in and about New York describe the streets, the people, and the natural environs of the city in beautiful and evocative verses. He is known to have said that his year in New York was both pivotal to his literary career and full of inspiring images and human interactions.

These images are familiar to us as students: the Hudson River, dawn on Riverside Drive, walking home on Broadway. All are moments that Lorca captured with fresh eyes and with great attention to the detail and beauty of quotidian life in New York.

Author’s work spans urban and rural America

BY NICOLLETTE BARSAMIAN
Spectator Staff Writer

More than 30 years ago, Luc Sante, CC ’76, worked at the Butler Library reference desk as a Columbia student.

Today, Sante is the author of six books, frequent contributor to the “New York Review of Books,” recipient of the Whiting Writers’ Award, and winner of the Grammy Award for best album notes. He is currently a professor of writing and photography at Bard College.

In his most recent book, “Folk Photography,” Sante displays his real-photo postcard collection and analyzes them with an eye for photography and culture. The postcards depict myriad American activities in the early 20th century.

“Almost anything could be the subject of a real-photo postcard,” Sante said. “Babies, storefronts, bank robberies, house parties, hogs ... The list is endless. Taken together, the cards present a very complete picture of what rural and small-town life was like a century ago.”

The title “Folk Photography” is partially derived from the unexpected innovation that arises from rural communication. The postcards “were made by so many people in so many far-flung small towns ... almost seeming as if they were inventing photography and establishing its conventions day by day,” Sante said.

The strong presence of folk music in America also contributed to the book’s title. Folk sounds appeared to be “the creation of a great floating hive mind in the middle of the country well before radio or sound films.”

Sante’s curiosity for postcards originated 30 years ago, when he purchased some from a street peddler in New York City and began a collection. “They were physically beautiful ... And they blurred so many lines: between public and private, professional and amateur, art and artifact,” Sante said. His debut novel “Low Life,” published in 1991, is more specifically rooted in New York. “What I wrote was a work of literature about the gentrification of the lower east side,” Sante said.

Sante noted differences between the New York he once lived in and the city’s more modern evolution. He said, “My old dollar store where I used to go buy sponges is now a rock club called Southpaw. There’s no solution [to gentrification], really.”

Back during Sante’s Columbia years, there was a point at which he switched from writing poetry to prose, which he admitted “was very avant-garde.” Sante said, “I was a ‘writer’ when I was at Columbia. It was a big time for poetry. All my friends were poets. It was the hip thing to do.”

Still, he has remained faithful to prose ever since, from the novel “Low Life” to the essay collection “Kill All Your Darlings.”

“Writing is my passion. It’s my lever. It’s what I do, who I am,” Sante concluded. “If you are really passionate about something, there’s no use trying to be something else.”



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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Bogs

5 New moon, e.g.

10 Month, in Mexico

13 Short article

14 Memory mishap

15 Brewer's need

16 India's first prime minister

19 Lead-in for suited or timed

20 Slurpee alternative

21 Wrinkle-resistant fabric

22 Washington wine region

26 Used the alley, in a way

28 Tweak, e.g.

29 Nymph associated with Artemis

30 Careful shopper's criterion

32 Pea holders

33 Malice

34 Thompson of "Sense and Sensibility"

38 Taxpayer, e.g.

39 Iraqi, for instance

40 Subway Restaurants spokesman ____

42 Lake that's a source of the Mississippi

43 Chicago "L," e.g.

46 Leg bone

47 Actress Sommer

48 Model Landry

51 Part of a twill suit

55 Southernmost cross-country U.S. highway

56 Rubberneck

57 Chick tenders

58 Away partner

59 Letter-shaped opening

60 May race, for short

DOWN

1 Pacific island nation

2 Research paper abbr.

3 Honeymooner, probably

4 Wee, to Burns

5 Unruffled

6 Polygamous household group

7 Cop ____

8 FICA funds it

9 Sushi bar serving

10 "Symphony of a Thousand" composer

11 Judy Jetson's brother

12 Leave speechless

15 First name in country

17 Raised

18 "The Prince of Tides" co-star

23 Quaint complaint

24 Medal-worthy behavior

25 Homecoming guest

26 Cork

27 Juegosi

30 African grassland

31 "Wheel of Fortune" purchase

33 Completed

34 Tony's portrayal on "NYPD Blue"

35 All wet

36 Buddy

37 Santa ____, seat of California's Orange County

38 Frock wearer

39 Confused

40 Talk on and on, and a hint to the three-letter starts of 16-, 22-, 43- and 51-Across

41 Like some swarms

42 Type of printer

43 Gaucho's rope

44 Related to the kidneys

45 Last Olds off the line

46 Cry after a hard week

49 Expend credit

50 Minuscule

52 It ends in flow

53 Part of 46-Down

54 Fraternity letter

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

A	H	M	E	S	A	L	O	N	E
M	E	A	L	U	L	E	E	P	A
P	A	R	S	S	T	E	A	M	P
T	S	E	L	I	O	T	Y	E	A
A	S	H	E	A	R	S	H	A	S
G	U	E	S	T	L	O	C	K	E
E	P	S	O	N	F	I	R	S	P
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S	M	O	K	I	N	G	G	U	N
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By Dan Nadler

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02/03/10



Head to columbiaspectator.com to check out a preview for fencing Homecoming. Both the men's and women's teams will be competing in a multi-meet this afternoon.

ONLINE

Exciting schedule needed to pack the house



JACOB SHAPIRO

Put it on the Board

Opponent might be your only chance to see the game played correctly for the entire season.

Such was certainly the case two weeks ago when students took the advice of my colleague, Bart Lopez, and “packed the house” for the men's basketball game against Cornell (which was just ranked No. 25 in the ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll). While Columbia's chances of winning were slim, many students wanted to get a glimpse at the best Ivy League team in over a decade, the team that almost knocked off No. 1 Kansas over winter break.

“It was pretty cool that we got to see them. They're not bad for a state school,” my suitemate, Mike Landes, said.

Case in point: Saturday's contest against Dartmouth—where Columbia won its first conference game—was only sparsely attended. However, the “packed house,” from which many (my girlfriend included) were turned away in the end, demonstrates that Columbia students can and will fill the gym on certain occasions.

It is my contention that an improved schedule would draw more fans to games, not just at Columbia, but in all sports.

Playing all of the teams in your conference or division a certain number of times is a staple of organized athletic competition and required to ensure fair results. Each team needs to have ample opportunity to play others that are in direct competition for playoff spaces. But many times these games are boring and stale.

Baseball teams must play each division opponent 18 times. That said, those games against the Royals, Pirates, and Orioles are hard to sit through, even if your team is in a tight race for the postseason.

Interleague play, which was initiated in 1997, is widely viewed to be a major success for baseball, although it was highly controversial at the time. Each season, teams are scheduled to play six series against teams from the other league.

Aside from the ability to take on rivals from the same city, fans get to enjoy seeing different players and teams from other divisions. Additionally, when a team is away, fans are treated to seeing their teams in different stadiums that make the game more interesting.

The NHL instituted schedule changes a few years back to plan more matchups between the Eastern and Western Conferences, but the league needs to do more. Hockey is making a solid comeback right now—it must give fans across the country opportunities to see young stars like Alex Ovechkin, Sidney Crosby, and Jonathan Toews up close.

For example, my Blackhawks—who are one of the top teams in the league—will not make a trip to Madison Square Garden all season. Fans of the NHL's “Original Six” teams (Blackhawks, Red Wings, Rangers, Bruins, Maple Leafs, and Canadiens) are always purists who would prefer more matchups between the old rivals.

Returning to Columbia for a moment: If certain scheduling tweaks were made, attendance and excitement could improve dramatically.

Most of our teams play some nonconference games against serious teams each season. Unfortunately, these games often take place away from Columbia, and so students don't have an opportunity to attend. When I remind some students that our basketball team played Syracuse, for instance, I usually receive blank stares.

People attend events when there is a buzz on campus. Our basketball team isn't good enough to justify watching their pre-Ivy season games on the road. But if Duke, Syracuse, or Ohio State (all teams Columbia has played over the past few seasons) made appearances at Levien Gymnasium early in the season, the place would be packed, and it would build interest for the rest of the season.

The better teams don't need to host the games on their campus either. If I'm a Duke student, I'm not showing up to a game against Columbia, no matter what.

I spoke with several students at the Cornell game who were at their first Columbia basketball game—or sporting event—ever. Let's just say it wasn't Columbia athletics that brought them to the game.

Jacob Shapiro is a List College senior majoring in history and Talmud. sportseditors@columbiaspectator.com



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK | Barnard Sophomore Monique Roberts is ranked seventh in the nation in the high jump.

Roberts sets new school, personal records

Promising season awaits high jumper after impressive weekend

BY CAROLINE CASEY
Columbia Daily Spectator

Last weekend at the New York Road Runners College Saturday Night, sophomore Monique Roberts broke a school and personal record with a 1.82m high jump, earning first place and contributing 10 points to the women's total team score. The outcome also trumps her 1.81m jump at the last tri-meet.

Although Roberts has a manifest desire to crush the competition, she chiefly intends to fulfill her own capabilities. She also has accountability to her coach and teammates in mind.

“Generally I just don't want to go out there and embarrass myself,” Roberts said, although she is in little danger of doing so. But ultimately, she adds, “No one's going to carry you over the bar.”

Self-motivation has been key to Roberts' success. She offers vacation time from school as an instance in which this initiative is critical. Unlike some other teams, the track and field team does not go on training trips or train extensively together during

school breaks. This January, Roberts voluntarily returned to school early to begin training on her own.

“Home's going to be there when I'm done,” she said.

Encouragement from family and others is also constructive.

“I'll get texts from my old track team,” Roberts said. “It's cool that it excites so many people.”

Roberts' winning strides can be traced back to a fateful day in the late 1990s, when Sheri Mitchell enrolled her energetic daughter in a local track program. In a suburb of Syracuse, N.Y., where they still live, Roberts continued running throughout middle and high school and tried her hand at volleyball. Before coming to Columbia, she was named to the All-Central New York Girls Track and Field Team, ranked fourth in the U.S. high jump in 2008, and won the sectional state qualifier in the pentathlon.

Now a Barnard sophomore, Roberts, 6-foot-0, carries her success in both sports with her here, devoting the fall to volleyball and reserving the winter and spring seasons

for track and field. Last year, with a high jump of 1.81m (or 5'11.25”) at the NCAA East Regionals, Roberts earned second place, broke a school record, and advanced to the NCAA Championship preliminaries. She also finished second in the high jump at the 2009 Outdoor Heptagonal Championships, and earned second-team all-Ivy.

Since high school, Roberts has kept herself motivated by setting goals. Back then, she ran on the North Stars track team.

Now, just before the jump, “I have to find some way to turn off my mind, and still have confidence,” she said.

When it comes time to talk hurdles, Roberts becomes uncharacteristically quiet, suggesting there may be something special in store for the season ahead. Off the track, Roberts is scaling the personal hurdles endemic to athletes. Being on the team carries social pros and cons.

“I see people at dinner, but I don't go out as much,” Roberts said.

Camaraderie is an important source of support, even when tackling diet challenges.

“We're really honest with each other,” Roberts says of her teammates. “Eating together makes it easier to resist the temptation of pudding in John Jay.”

Roberts benefits from years of experience balancing athletics with schoolwork. A self-proclaimed “television freak,” she is even able to indulge her love of soap operas, Gossip Girl, and One Tree Hill, catching up via YouTube daily.

Her enthusiasm and zeal to fulfill her capabilities carries over into the classroom. In both realms, Roberts says, “I always want to do more.” She is currently veering toward a major in art history but is open to possibilities for her academic and professional future. As to how far she will take running or volleyball after graduation, Roberts says she will just wait and see.

As far as this season is concerned, the last two weeks bode extremely well for women's track and field. Injury-free and feeling good, Roberts muses of the future, “If I did 6'2... no, 6'3, I would lose my mind.”

Princeton continues winning streak, dominates Yale and Brown

BY MICHAEL ZHONG
Spectator Staff Writer

This past week in Ivy League women's basketball answered many early season questions. Princeton (15-2, 3-0 Ivy) showed that its rampage through its nonconference schedule was no fluke, demolishing Yale and Brown 69-48 and 75-44 respectively. Those matchups featured a balanced Princeton attack with four players reaching double-figures in both games.

Freshman Niveen Rasheed has paced the Tigers all season, averaging 15.5 points and 7.5 rebounds per game, and this team currently stands clear first in the Ivy League with a



ANGELA RADULESCU / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SECOND BEST | The Light Blue stands second in the Ivy League after a mixed showing this past weekend.

3-0 record.

The team is currently riding a ten-game winning streak and, perhaps even more impressively, has won every game by double digits. For their strong start, the Tigers recently even garnered votes in the Associated Press poll. The next two weeks will determine if any team in the Ivy League can catch Princeton when the Tigers embark on the difficult part of its schedule, facing a doubleheader against perennial powerhouses Harvard and Dartmouth before traveling to Manhattan to face Columbia.

Penn's performance (1-16, 0-3 Ivy) has been the exact opposite of Princeton's thus far. The Quakers are the only Ancient Eight team not averaging over 50 points a game and they have lost by an average of 16 points a game. This weekend, they fared little better, losing at home to Brown 61-47 and to Yale 58-51.

As has been the case all season, the Quakers had a hard time putting points on the board. In the Yale matchup, Penn was down by 10 at the half. However, behind senior guard Sarah Bucar, Penn climbed to within four points with 6:13 remaining in the game. This was still not enough, and the Bulldogs pulled away to achieve their win. Guard Kim Adams led the Quakers with 16 points in a losing effort.

Up against the Brown Bears, the Quakers did even worse, failing to have a single player score more than 10 points and shooting 29 percent for the game. Defensively, Penn couldn't stop Brown's Hannah Passafiume, who scored 21 points in 23 minutes off the bench. It's not looking any better for the Quakers next week as they face Dartmouth—the reigning Ivy League champions—and then Harvard, the champions the year before.

Brown (5-13, 2-2 Ivy) has already


surpassed last season's conference win total and has been better than expected this season. The team was thrashed against Princeton, failing to stop the Tigers' scorers and failing to get a single player of its own into double digits. The next game, though, the Bears rebounded to defeat the Quakers. Next up for Brown are Columbia and Cornell—the Bears hope to steal a win when they visit.

Dartmouth (7-10, 2-1 Ivy) followed its pattern of close wins all season last Friday, defeating Cornell 55-53. Big Green forward Margaret Smith hit two free throws at the end of the game to secure the win. That dramatic finish versus the Big Red marked the third consecutive game the Big Green won by two points or less.

The day after had little dramatics, though, as Dartmouth was walloped by Columbia 72-59. Reigning Player of the Year Brittney Smith got into early foul trouble and that was all the Lions needed to surge ahead in the first half. Columbia forward Judie Lomax posted game-highs of 26 points and 16 rebounds. The Big Green is currently tied for third in the Ivy League.

The other team in third place is Harvard (11-6, 2-1 Ivy). The Crimson had a good weekend, defeating the Columbia Lions 73-55 and the Cornell Big Red 69-53. Versus Columbia, Harvard's Emma Markley dominated the game, scoring 19 points, securing eight rebounds, and patrolling the paint with seven blocks. Christine Matera also played well, scoring 14 points and shooting a perfect 4-4 from 3-point range.

The game against Cornell proved another strong showing by Harvard, out-rebounding the Big Red by 12 and getting four players into double-digits. These victories by the Crimson allowed Markley,

IVY LEAGUE STANDINGS		
	OVERALL STANDINGS	IVY STANDINGS
PRINCETON	15-2	3-0
COLUMBIA	12-6	3-1
HARVARD	11-6	2-1
DARTMOUTH	7-10	2-1
YALE	7-11	2-2
BROWN	5-13	2-2
PENN	1-16	0-3
CORNELL	5-12	0-3

a forward, to win the Player of the Week award.

The Crimson looks to improve its record when it plays games at Penn and Princeton this week.

Yale (7-11, 2-2) defeated Penn 58-51 on Friday before getting flattened by Princeton 69-48. Against Penn, guard Megan Vasquez scored 16 points and had 4 assists. Yoyo Greenfield had 11 points the next day against the Princeton Tigers.

Cornell (5-12, 0-4 Ivy) has struggled of late and is currently on a nine-game losing streak. It had a solid showing against Dartmouth, losing 55-53. The next day it started out well versus Harvard but faltered late in the game and lost 69-53. One bright spot for the Big Red has been the play of freshman forward Clare Fitzpatrick, who scored 25 combined points in both games.

Lastly, Columbia (12-6, 3-1 Ivy) had a mixed showing the past weekend. It started slow in the first half versus Harvard, but the next day used the first half to spring the team to a win over Dartmouth. Columbia currently stands clear second in the Ivy League and travels next week to Brown and Yale.