

M’ville looks for minority, women, local businesses

BY JILLIAN KUMAGAI
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

At the site of Columbia’s Manhattanville expansion, five years of work are beginning to show signs of definite progress, with the expansion of construction to surrounding blocks.

With the next phase of construction approaching, more jobs will open up, and the University is looking to fill many of them with minority-, women-, and locally owned firms, a promise it made in the Community Benefits Agreement.

On Tuesday, officials from Columbia Facilities and the Manhattanville project’s contractors, Lend Lease and McKissack & McKissack, held an information session for minority-, women-, and locally owned firms looking to bid on construction contracts for the new campus.

Although bids will begin soon for work in the interior of the buildings—including painting, elevator installation, and plumbing—Marcelo Velez, associate vice president for Manhattanville construction, said that interior construction would not actually begin for two to three years.

More than 200 people attended the information session, cramming into the 125th Street office over which Manhattanville’s cranes loom.

SEE MANHATTANVILLE,
page 2



HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

EXPANSE | The slurry wall, which surrounds the base of the infrastructure in Manhattanville, will be complete in about two months.

Impostor scams students in lecture

Man, posing as CU employee, makes \$200+ in ticket sales

BY FINN VIGELAND AND
SAMMY ROTH
Spectator Senior Staff Writers

A man pretending to work for Columbia entered at least three undergraduate classes this week, selling \$5 tickets he claimed would get students in to popular nightclubs.

The man, who was eventually apprehended by Public Safety on Thursday, announced at the start of those classes that he was a representative from the Division of Student Affairs. He told students he was selling tickets to 12 nightclubs across New York, including Pacha and Webster Hall.

According to students in the three classes, he sold at least 45 to 50 tickets in total. He had gray hair, was wearing a blazer, and appeared to be in his 50s.

Sara Garner, SEAS ’15 and a Spectrum weekend editor and Spectator online developer, bought a ticket from the man in her 4:10 p.m. computer science class on Thursday. She said there was nothing suspicious about his appearance.

“The thing I was most struck

SEE TICKETS, page 2



HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

L’CHAIM | Eric Kandel, a professor of brain science, raises his glass in honor of the 15th anniversary of Chabad, which honors “pride in being Jewish” on campus, in Low Library on Thursday.

Nobel Laureates celebrate Chabad’s 15 years

BY BEN GITTELSON
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Nearly 200 rabbis, students, alumni, and faculty nibbled on kosher sushi as they listened to Nobel Laureates Eric Kandel and Richard Axel speak at a fundraiser for campus Jewish organization Chabad in Low Library on Thursday night.

Kandel, a professor of brain science in neuroscience, received the first Columbia Lamplighter Award from Chabad, which honors “pride in being Jewish” on campus. Axel, also a neuroscience professor, introduced him.

The fundraiser, 15 Years: Celebrating a Milestone, also celebrated husband and

wife Rabbi Yonah Blum and Rebbetzin Keren Blum’s 15 years at Chabad.

Keren Blum said it felt odd to receive the award. “We’re about giving, not receiving, so when we receive these honors, it’s out of character for us,” she said.

Axel noted the importance of learning and “intellectual striving” in Judaism and said both Chabad and Kandel exemplify that characteristic.

“Jewish tradition begins with inquiry,” Axel said. “In this tradition, it is indeed appropriate that Chabad honor Eric Kandel.”

Most of the speakers, including Kandel, commented on the openness of Chabad, an

Orthodox organization.

“Chabad is so remarkable in its inclusiveness,” Kandel said. “It itself is Orthodox, but it is so liberal that it welcomes even Richard Axel and Eric Kandel even though we’re not quite as religious as Chabad.”

Kandel stressed the importance of inclusion over exclusion. He noted that ultra-Orthodox Jews in Israel, who have drawn criticism for their support of gender segregation and refusal to associate with non-Orthodox Jews, have the most to learn from Chabad.

“Their distorted value systems increase stress levels with the Jewish community,

SEE CHABAD, page 2

With grant, libraries make tool to simplify citations

BY HENRY WILLSON
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

For most Columbia undergraduates, making bibliographic citations boils down to a few formatting styles, like MLA and Chicago, to learn in University Writing.

But for professors, researchers, and graduate students, there are over 1900 different styles to contend with. Their lives might be about to get a little bit easier—the Columbia University Libraries received a \$125,000 grant last month to build a new digital tool to help manage existing styles and make new ones.

In collaboration with Mendeley, a private developer of reference management software, the Libraries hope to develop a simple, graphical interface with which authors can navigate the maze of styles available, and modify them to create their own.

“Basically every journal requires a different citation style, and these change over time,” Jan Reichelt, the co-founder of Mendeley, said.

Furthermore, researchers often wish to modify existing styles to meet particular needs. Most styles are encoded in a programming markup language called CSL, similar to HTML, the basic language of websites, but “more complicated,” Jeffrey Lancaster, GSAS ’11 and the leader of the project for the libraries, said.

As a graduate student in chemistry, Lancaster wanted to modify a citation style to include an additional feature like a hyperlink for each

bibliographic reference, but found that “it’s not as simple as you might think.”

The new tool is meant to “empower researchers to be more flexible” in crafting custom styles, Reichelt said. The tool will incorporate a “what-you-see-is-what-you-get editor,” enabling users to drag and drop fields to add to styles.

“Basically every journal requires a different citation style.”

—Jan Reichelt, co-founder
a private developer of
reference software

The collaboration, funded by a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, was praised by both parties. At Mendeley, “they have extensive knowledge to build on already” in working digitally with citation styles, said Lancaster, who is also a Mendeley advisor.

He anticipates that a prototype of the new tool will be done around the end of April, after which the libraries and Mendeley will reach out to the Columbia community to find beta-testers.

The tool, which will be built on open-source software, will likely include the ability to share new citation styles with

SEE CITATION, page 2

Gilchrist says he would not accept CUCR invitation

BY YASMIN GAGNE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Minuteman Project leader Jim Gilchrist will not be coming back to Columbia.

Gilchrist wrote in an email that “after careful thought, I will not entertain, nor will I accept, an invitation from Columbia” to speak on campus. The Columbia University College Republicans had been considering inviting the controversial figure to speak at an event, although they had not formally invited him.

The Minuteman Project, which patrols the Mexican border for illegal immigrants, calls itself “a citizens’ vigilance operation monitoring immigration, business, and government.” Critics have accused the vigilante group of pursuing a thinly veiled racist agenda.

“It seems pointless to speak to a campus where witch-hunters of free speech so often dictate, through intimidation and disruption, who will be allowed to participate in liberty and who will not,” he wrote in a comment on the Spectator website.

Gilchrist’s last visit to campus, at a CUCR-sponsored event in October 2006, led to rowdy protests. The incident garnered national media attention and sparked a debate over free speech on college campuses.

“If Columbia University ever establishes a universal policy of free speech, then I might have an interest in speaking there,”

SEE GILCHRIST, page 2

OPINION, PAGE 4

Campus compassion

Jeremy Liss anecdotally comments on Columbian good will.

Urban outgoers

The Editorial Board urges you to get out and enjoy the City.



SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Lions travel to take on two Ancient Eight rivals

After a tough loss at Cornell, the men’s basketball team looks to rebound this weekend in away games against Dartmouth and Harvard.

EVENTS

Mormonism & American Politics

Get an historical perspective on Mormons’ roles in American politics at this conference.

1501 International Affairs, 9:00 a.m.

What the Frack?

Come for lunch and a forum on hydraulic fracturing, the controversial gas drilling technique, with Green Umbrella.

717 Hamilton, 12 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



46°/31°

Tomorrow



46°/30°

Impostor selling nightclub tickets in class barred from campus

TICKETS from front page

by was that he came in and asserted himself as an authority, as if he was familiar with the school,” Garner said. “He dressed professionally—khaki pants, a button-down.”

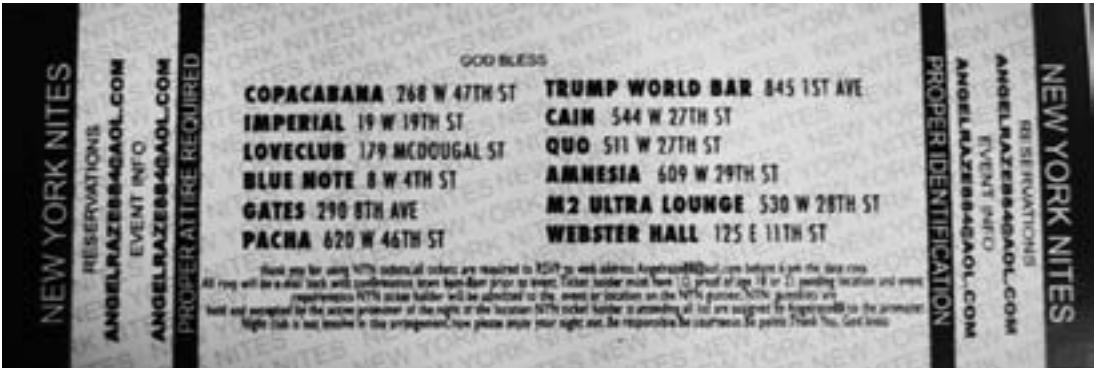
But the man was not affiliated with the University and has been barred from campus, according to Swapneel Sheth, GSAS, who is the preceptor of Garner’s class. In an email to his class later Thursday evening, Sheth said Public Safety told him that the man “has been declared ‘Persona Non Grata’, which means that he can’t come to campus for any reason as he’s not allowed to sell anything on campus.”

After being tipped off by a student in one of the classes, Public Safety chased the man down and apprehended him in Havemeyer Hall.

A Public Safety spokesperson was not available for comment Thursday evening.

In each of the three classes, the man arrived at the scheduled start time and asked the teacher for permission to speak. He then spent about five minutes explaining that he was selling the tickets for \$5 dollars—a bargain, he claimed, compared to their usual price of \$20, and what he said was Columbia’s usual price of \$10.

It’s unclear how many classes the man hoodwinked before getting caught. He sold about half a dozen tickets in Gil Eyal’s 1:10 p.m. sociology class on Tuesday and also gave Eyal a free ticket, according to Travis Simon, CC ’15 and one of Eyal’s students.



ZARA CASTANY / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NEW YORK’S HOTTEST CLUB IS... | An impostor sold at least 45 of these tickets to undergrads this week by walking into lectures and claiming to be a representative with the Division of Student Affairs.

Simon said that he would have bought a ticket, but he didn’t have any money on him. Still, not having the full \$5 wasn’t a problem for some students, Simon added.

“There was someone next to me, who only had four dollars, and the guy was like, ‘That’s fine,’” he said.

On Thursday, he sold about 20 tickets in Fabio Nironi’s 2:40 p.m. Calculus III section, according to Charlie Stigler, SEAS ’15 and one of Nironi’s students.

“He had a blazer on. He was kind of older,” said Stigler, who bought a ticket during class. “He seemed like the kind of guy who would be coming to

do stuff like this.”

Jane Kim, CC ’14, said the man sold about 20 more tickets in Sheth’s 4:10 p.m. class on Thursday.

Kim said that she might have bought a ticket if she’d had \$5 on her. She assumed the man was affiliated with the Columbia University Arts Initiative, which does sell discounted tickets to city events—but in retrospect, she said, he “was definitely sketchy.”

“He had an envelope and people were just giving him \$5 bills,” Kim said.

It was unclear Thursday if the tickets would actually grant students access to clubs. The

man told students that if they emailed the AOL.com email address on the ticket before 6:00 p.m. on a given day, they would be given two tickets to the club of their choice that evening.

The tickets, which purported to be issued by an organization called, “New York Nites,” had several misspellings, including, “Night club is not involve in this arrangement.now please enjoy your night out” and “NYN ticket holder will be admitted to the event or location on the NYN guestiest.” They also had the words “God bless” printed on them in two places.

news@columbiaspectator.com

Libraries organize over 1900 citation styles into one database

CITATION from front page

other users. Theoretically, the interface itself could even be adapted to other markup languages, like HTML.

According to Lancaster, the project has received an enthusiastic response from the scholarly community.

“People seem really excited about this, which is good,” he

said. “Mendeley has a feedback forum, and this is something that people have been asking about for a long, long time; we’re hoping to sort of fill that need with it.”

Students also spoke positively when asked about the prospects of the project.

Second-year law student Lars van Amsterdam said that the development of a more

user-friendly citation tool could prevent students from being dissuaded from entering academia.

“It’s a positive thing—as students, we could publish more,” he said. “When we write articles, we’re asked to cite almost everything. It’s complicated for people because you have to use so many different styles.” Deborah Kerzhner, a

third-year law student, thought that streamlining citation would benefit students across all disciplines.

“I think it would be useful,” she said. “It makes sense—it’s something they should have done long ago.”

Jeremy Budd contributed reporting.

henry.willson@columbiaspectator.com

Columbia’s ‘witch-hunters of free speech’ drive Gilchrist away

GILCHRIST from front page

Gilchrist said in an email explaining his decision not to return to Columbia.

He had previously told Spectator that he “would gracefully accept an invitation to engage in free speech at Columbia.”

On Wednesday, Gilchrist wrote in a comment on a Spectator staff editorial about him: “I am going to resolve your controversy surrounding the possibility that I might be invited to speak at your campus. ... I

would not be reaching an audience with the caliber of intellect and reasoning necessary to stimulate progressive and productive debate.”

CUCR President William Prasifka, CC ’12, said in an email that “no final decision with regard to Jim Gilchrist had been made.” The purpose of inviting Gilchrist to speak, he added, would be “to discuss academic freedom and the freedom of the University.”

yasmin.gagne@columbiaspectator.com



FILE PHOTO

NO THANKS | Minuteman Project found Jim Gilchrist, although initially receptive to the idea of speaking again at Columbia, said Thursday he does not want to come.

CORRECTION

“Senate under mandate to end smoking debate” (Jan. 26) indicated that University President Lee Bollinger had “mandated” that the University Senate External Relations debate a potential smoking ban and make a decision before the end of this semester. There is no clear timeline for when the debate will be resolved, and Bollinger cannot “mandate” that a senate committee discuss a particular issue. Spectator regrets the errors.

Honorees thank Orthodox Chabad for unorthodox inclusiveness

CHABAD from front page

undermine our values,” Kandel said.

Keren Blum said Kandel did not know much about Chabad before he received the award and that his speech showed that he was clearly a “scientist.”

“He self-professes that he doesn’t know much about Chabad, but he knows we do good work,” Blum said. “He did his research.”

Yonah Blum said he had hoped to raise \$100,000 but “didn’t quite meet” that goal. In spite of the fundraising issues, Blum said the gala had a “good vibe” and hopes to make it an annual event.

“It’s our first time doing it,” Blum said. “We didn’t know

what to expect. Hopefully we’ll be able to make this an annual event. It’ll be a springboard for the next 15 years.”

Keynote speaker Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, who studied Jewish history as a graduate student at Columbia, praised the Blums for making Chabad a home away from home for Jews at Columbia, explaining that they were a nervous parent’s “dream.”

He ended his speech on an uplifting note: “May your 15 years grow to 30 years, and may your 30 years grow to 45,” Telushkin said. “It’s a blessing for Columbia, and it’s a blessing for the Jewish people to have you here.”

ben.gittelson@columbiaspectator.com

As construction progresses, Manhattanville seeks contracts

MANHATTANVILLE from front page

The University has often had a strained relationship with its neighbors in working on the campus expansion, especially when it comes to fulfilling its employment promises. But small business owners said they had a lot more to be happy about on Tuesday.

Thirty-five percent of Manhattanville construction contracts are to be awarded to MWL firms. Of the \$17.2 million that has been paid to them over the course of construction, local firms have received 70 percent, an announcement that was met with applause by the meeting’s audience.

Maria Lores Brown, a Colombian immigrant and owner of a small construction firm in Queens, said that the scope of the project stands out in her 24 years of construction experience, and called the work available for minority firms “tremendous.”

“It’s humongous, it’s excellent. How great for education in New York. We need that very much. What more can you ask for?”

Derrick McKenna, a participant in the University’s small-business mentorship program, said that he hopes the project will pave the way for more firms like his.

“This doesn’t happen. More owners are following the steps of what this is doing. I think everyone should follow this lead.” Columbia officials emphasized that efforts to provide contracts to MWL firms would be ongoing over the decades-long development in Manhattanville, although the first buildings are scheduled to open in 2016.

“It’s not a one-shot opportunity. Their trade may not come up, but this is going to be happening over many years,” Philip Pitruzzello, vice president of Manhattanville construction, said.

The slurry wall, which will support the foundations of the Jerome L. Greene Science Center for Mind, Brain, and Behavior and the Lenfest Center for the Arts, will be

finished within the next two months, according to updates from the University.

Construction of the wall began in March 2011. The slurry wall, a crucial step in the laying of building foundations, is composed of reinforced concrete-filled steel cages around the perimeter of the site.

“How great for education in New York. We need that very much. What more can you ask for?”

—Maria Lores Brown, owner of a small Queens construction firm

Velez said that further slurry wall construction will move to the block between 130th Street and 131st Street.

In addition to the progress on the Greene and Lenfest centers, five building demolitions slated to take place this spring will clear room for an academic research center devoted to the applied sciences and two buildings for the Columbia Business School.

According to Velez, early construction of the central energy plant, which will provide power to the entire campus, will also begin in the spring.

Associate Vice President of Construction Business Services and Communications La-Verna Fountain said she was feeling “philosophical” about the progress of the Manhattanville campus. She said that she was especially hopeful that Harlemites would feel like a part of the future campus.

“People who live in this area, they will say, ‘Yeah, I’m a part of that.’ That’s a big deal, that can create a trajectory change.”

jillian.kumagai@columbiaspectator.com



HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MENSCHES | Chabad, the Jewish pride organization on campus, recognized its 15-year anniversary and Nobel Laureates Richard Axel (above right) and Eric Kendel on Thursday. Above, Rabbi Joseph Telushkin delivers the keynote speech in Low Library.

Men’s basketball hits the road to take on Dartmouth, nationally ranked Harvard in search of Ivy win

MEN’S BBALL
from back page

Dartmouth. The Big Green (4-16, 0-4 Ivy) has struggled so far this year, but Smith doesn’t think Dartmouth’s record reflects the quality of its players. “These guys at Dartmouth, they’re tough to score on, they’re physical, and they’re young,” Smith said. “I think some of their lack of success is their just being young.”

“Dartmouth’s a good team. It’s tough playing on the road in the league,” Barbour said.

“Every game is tough. We’ve got to go in there and bring energy.”

The Lions have held opponents to 59.3 points so far this year, and have relied on their defense all season long. Recently, though, according to Smith, Columbia’s defense has been put under increased pressure by the team’s offensive struggles.

“You can’t shut people out,” Smith said.

“And you need to cash in on the offensive end. I think we need a breakthrough there.”

Barbour explained the team has talked about simplifying its offensive strategy going into the weekend.

“We have so many sets that sometimes we get so caught up trying to run everything,” Barbour said. “Sometimes we get away from basics.”

The Light Blue will try to get junior center Mark Cisco going in the post. Cisco has come on strong in the Ivy season, contributing a combined 28 points and 31 rebounds in the last two games.

“He’s a beast right now,” Barbour said of Cisco. “He can throw it out, he can score, he’s playing good defense and rebounding extraordinarily well.”

Smith will also look to his

bench for an offensive spark on the perimeter.

“I think there’s not a big difference between our seventh through 15th guy,” Smith said. “And we haven’t been shooting the ball well, so somebody like [senior guard] Chris Crockett, who hasn’t been playing much, may see more minutes.”

Smith may be particularly inclined to use his bench given the back-to-back games facing him this Friday and Saturday. The game against Harvard figures to be a low-scoring affair, with both teams ranked in the top 25 nationally in scoring defense—Harvard at third and Columbia at 21st.

The Crimson will be led by the reigning Ivy League Player of the Year, senior forward Keith Wright, who is averaging 10.6 points per game and 7.8 rebounds per game. Wright’s fellow big man, junior Kyle Casey leads the scoring for Harvard with 11.0 points per game, as sophomore guard Laurent Rivard is close behind with 10.6 points per game from the perimeter.

Cisco will match up against Wright to start, but will probably get help from the likes of Cory Osetkowski, among others. Smith does not plan to shut down Harvard’s formidable big man, but wants to make life difficult for him.

“I think you’ve just got to get him off the block,” Smith said. “If you let him get down in deep on you, he’ll kill you.”

The difficulty facing the Lions against Harvard makes Friday’s contest at Dartmouth all the more important.

“Saturday is going to be a very, very tough game,” Smith said. “And coming off a loss Friday, it would be heartbreaking.”

Tipoff is set for 7 p.m. in Hanover, N.H. on Friday and 7 p.m. in Boston, Mass. on Saturday.



HANNAH D’APICE FOR SPECTATOR

LOCAL BARBER | Columbia junior point guard Brian Barbour will be a key piece in the Light Blue’s quest for a second Ivy win.

SPEC SPORTS

FORBIDDEN LOVE SINCE 1877

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR

FOUNDED 1877 • PUBLISHED SINCE 1961



The 136th year of publication
Independent since 1962

CORPORATE BOARD

SARAH DARVILLE
Editor in Chief

MAGGIE ALDEN
Managing Editor

ALEX SMYK
Publisher

MANAGING BOARD

SAMMY ROTH
Campus News Editor

FINN VIGELAND
City News Editor

ANDREA GARCÍA-VARGAS
Editorial Page Editor

LANBO ZHANG
Editorial Page Editor

ABBY MITCHELL
Arts & Entertainment Editor

REBEKA COHAN
Sports Editor

JEREMIAH SHARE
Sports Editor

JUSTINE HOPE
Multimedia Editor

STEPHEN SNOWDER
Spectrum Editor

ASHTON COOPER
The Eye, Editor in Chief

CATHI CHOI
The Eye, Art Director

ANNELIESE COOPER
The Eye, Managing Editor, Features

MEREDITH FOSTER
The Eye, Managing Editor, Optics

ABIGAIL FISCH
Head Copy Editor

ZARA CASTANY
Photo Editor

MAYA FEGAN
Design Editor

ISAAC WHITE
Design Editor

JAKE DAVIDSON
Online Editor

TALA AKHAVAN
Staff Director

REX MACAYLO
Sales Director

DANIELA QUINTANILLA
Finance Director

ROB FRECH
Alumni Director

DEPUTY BOARD

News Editors

Jeremy Budd, Yasmin Gagne, Ben

Gittelson, Jillian Kumagai, Gina

Lee, Margaret Mattes, Casey Tolan

Opinion Editor

Grace Bickers

Arts & Entertainment Editors

Joseph Pomp, Katy Tang

Sports Editors

Trevor Cohen, Myles Simmons

Multimedia Editor

Naomi Cohen

Copy Editor

Emily Sorensen

Photo Editors

Ayelet Pearl, Kate Scarborough,

Henry Willson

Photo Training Editor

David Brann

Graphic Design Editor

Yuma Shinohara

Sales

Wes Rodriguez, Ethan Yee

Finance

Marilyn He, Noah Kolatch,

Jiaqi Liu, Bruno Mendes, Kinno

Norojono

Alumni

Audrey Greene, Amanda Kane,

Kristine Musademba

ASSOCIATE BOARD

News Editors

Daphne Chen, Melissa von

Mayhauser, Emily Neil, Jessica

Stallone, Henry Willson

Editorial Page Editors

Rae Binstock, Luke Foster, Jessica

Geiger, Joohyun Lee, Sonalee Rau,

Alan Seltzer

Arts & Entertainment Editors

Jade Bonacolta, Allie Carieri, Stefan

Countryman, Alison Herman,

Charlotte Murtishaw, Lesley Thalín

Sports Editors

Muneeb Alam, Hahn Chang,

Melissa Cheung, Steven Lau, Alison

Macke, Mia Park, Eli Schultz, Josh

Shenkar, Eric Wong

Copy Editors

Abby Abrams, Peter Andrews,

Natan Belchikov, Augusta Harris,

Megan Kallstrom, Hannah Laymon,

Rukmini Maharkar, Natalia Remis,

Alexandra Salerno, Andrea Shang,

Ben Sheng

Photo Editors

Maria Balsinde, Chabli Bravo,

Douglas Kessel, Kevin Roark, Lucy

Suarez

Page Design Editors

Chancellor Agard-Wilson, Lillian

Chen, Andrew Demas, Diana Ding,

Sarah Greenberg, Regie Mauricio

Graphic Design Editors

Celine Gordon, Kay Lodge, Sinjihn

Smith

Illustrations Editor

Ronao Yang

Staff Development

Youjung Jun, Aigerim Saudabayeva

Sales

Shaun Ang, Erin Chuah, Nora Long,

Rebecca Pottash, Jessica Skoczylas

Finance

Emily Aronson, Andrea Bonilla,

Erin Chuah, Dat Dang, Patrick Fu,

Jesse Garrett, Alex Ge, Marilyn

He, James Horner, Frankie Lam,

Louis Lin, Ayan Nasir, Andre Paiva,

Rubab Rehman, Wes Rodriguez,

David Shi, Ethan Yee, Grant Yuan,

Kevin Zhang

Alumni

Marguerite Horikawa, Maren

Killackey, Rukmini Maharkar,

Danielle Ng, Moriah Schervone,

Malina Welman, Diarra White,

Wenxin Yan

EDITORIAL BOARD

Hannah D'Apice, Richard Falk-

Wallace, Simon Gregory Jerome,

Marcela Johnson, Robin McKay,

Virgilio Urbina Lazardi

THURSDAY NIGHT STAFF

Copy

Laura Allen, Brooke Bainum, Elaine

Han, Melanie Shapiro, Rosa Smith,

Jenny Xu

Design

Margaret Mattes

CONTACT US

2875 Broadway, 3rd Floor

New York, NY 10025

info@columbiaspectator.com

Twitter: @CU_Spectator

PHONE & FAX

Daily Spectator (212) 854-9549

Business (212) 854-9550

Business Fax (212) 854-9553

EDITORIAL POLICY

For more information about the

Columbia Daily Spectator and editorial policies,

visit www.columbiaspectator.com/about.

CORRECTIONS

The Columbia Daily

Spectator is committed to fair and accurate reporting.

If you know of an error,

please inform us at copy@columbiaspectator.com.

COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

For general comments or

questions about the

newspaper, please write to

the editor in chief and

managing editor at editor@columbiaspectator.com.

A wallet-sized offense

Getting your wallet stolen is always such a hassle. First, you convince yourself that it's just been misplaced. So, you check all the usual locations: coat pocket, refrigerator, that rock climbing gym in Staten Island. Next, you begin to panic. This is the stage when you begin to mutter profanities under your breath. It usually sets in when the first pangs of hunger strike and you realize that there's no hope of procuring food without cash, credit card, or sympathetic pictures of family members. Finally, you reach what I call the "object resignation" phase, and call your parents with the bad news. The stern words you receive will be comparable to the "you crashed the car" lecture, but not as bad as the "you forgot your 11-year-old brother at a gas station after midnight" lecture.

If I sound familiar with the process, it's because I'm an extremely empathetic person. Also, someone stole my wallet on Tuesday. The irony that the theft occurred during my self-defense class was not lost on me. If only the bandit had assailed me face-to-face with that extremely specific and ineffective attack that I'd been trained to ward off! Instead, the varmint slipped the wallet out of my



JEREMY LISS

Liss is More

The dilemma of grades

BY MERRY YUE CAI

As spring 2012 rolls in with 40 new faces on my CourseWorks student roster, the blue books from fall 2011 still sit on my desk, reminding me of the intense and dreadful week of grading before Christmas. I look forward to meeting another group of brilliant young minds, but I am also dreading the unavoidable question: "How do I get an A in this course?"

Please don't get me wrong. It really is great to hear that everyone wants to excel and get an A! But, unfortunately, not everyone can ace my course. In fact, the average grade for most courses at Columbia is B or B+, which by definition indicates a solid understanding of the course material. The grading system is not perfect, and neither are the exams. But I think there are some merits to this system. For me, the purpose of assigning grades to work is to promote diligence and raise alarms when someone is off track. I think most professors want students to do well in their classes. But more importantly, we want to share our knowledge and enthusiasm with the students, to stimulate new ideas, and to prepare them for the uncertain future with something useful.

But here is the dilemma: If we were to give everyone A's, then I'm afraid very few students would actually receive the highly-priced college education they came here for. And here is why: Without the pressure of grades, it is all too easy for the mind to wander in class and for the knowledge to slip by you without leaving much impact in your life. I had to learn this myself.

When I was in college in China, we didn't have websites like Yelp or CULPA. But gossip did go around. We figured out that a few professors were very lenient, and as long as you showed up and turned in a report you would probably get an A. I took a few of them to fulfill my college credit requirement. Ask me now, what did I learn from them? I remember nothing. It's strange to think that hours of lectures by renowned professors from one of the best universities made absolutely no difference in my life, all because I was too relaxed to learn.

If we were to give everyone A's, then I'm afraid very few students would actually receive the highly-priced college education they came here for.

So what DO I remember from college? To tell you the truth, my most vivid memories are the times when I answered questions wrong in class, which was quite often; and secondly, from a few assignments and exams for which I worked really hard to get a good grade.

I am certain that students today, especially at Columbia, are more driven than I was. But, from time to time, I see my old self in them when someone starts playing games in the back of the lecture hall, knowing that the lecture will be available on podcast—or, when someone writes a diary entry on the homework, because he or she doesn't think I will grade it. Thus, as much as I hate grading, I will have to continue to use grades, to encourage and to alert.

Having just praised the grade-based educational system, I have to admit that grades are over-emphasized in today's society. A math professor friend, who recently decided to become a Wall Street banker, told me that a company that interviewed him asked for his high school transcript. As ridiculous as this story sounds, this grade mania is invading and polluting our classrooms, so much so that the most important question becomes, "Is this going to be on the exam?"

So here comes my second dilemma about grades: Being able to show your achievement in coursework is important, but that should not be the only measure of your success at Columbia.

I feel that student life is way too precious to be wasted in doing everything according to the book (or the professor). Within the scope of a solid college education, why not test your own hypotheses, debate about your own opinions, or find something new to challenge yourself? The best part is that you are in good company. If you happen to fail the first time around, you will be backed by an amazing group of people, some of whom might have made the same mistakes as you. They will be able to show you how to do things better next time around. After all, the faculty is what makes Columbia great. They are professionals at asking questions and struggling for answers. So why waste this golden opportunity by only asking how to get an A in the course?

I hope these same inner voices are what really motivate the students today, and I hope that this semester I will get more questions like "Why isn't the universe shrinking?" or "Why can't we store nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain?" Because in the end, curiosity and critical thinking are what matter when you face the challenges of the future, not the ability to squeeze the last point out of each assignment and test.

The author is a *Frontiers of Science* teaching assistant and an earth and environmental science lecturer in discipline.

jeans-pocket after I'd changed into my "gi," a karate uniform that makes me look like a portly chef.

What hurt me most was not losing my driver's license and my Pinkberry stamp card—although losing the stamp card was a tremendous blow. It was the realization that somebody in the Columbia community had stolen my wallet. I felt short of breath, tired, and a cold sweat ran down my spine. Of course, it's possible these symptoms had more to do with my P.E. class than the betrayal of my trust. But it feels much better to blame the thief.

Abstractly, I always knew that something like this could happen to me. My inbox gets more spam from Public Safety than Viagra. (Not by much, though.) Yet, Columbia has always felt too much like home for me to take the notifications seriously. It probably doesn't help that I've never read those emails, anyway.

Pretty soon, I found myself re-examining some of my basic assumptions about our school. Is Columbia a tight-knit community or a cold bureaucracy? How many people on this campus can I really count as friends? And why is there a lactation room in Carman? None of these questions have simple answers, but most of us go about our daily lives taking them for granted.

Luckily, I did not have to wait long for relief. That evening, my roommate took me out for pizza. When we stopped by Pinkberry afterwards, a sympathetic employee gave me a frozen yogurt on the house. More surprisingly, a complete stranger approached me on the street and

Shit Columbia says about Barnard

BY SUSAN COHEN

A fellow Barnard alumna sent me the Spectrum video, "Shit Columbians Say," Columbia students' take on the latest YouTube craze ("Shit Columbians say," Jan. 29). For the most part, this video was one I definitely could have skipped, and from the number of hits, I'm sure many feel the same way. Though the video lacked anything funny enough to quote, there was one line that caught my attention. The line went, "My best friend went to Barnard—well, like, she goes to Barnard. We're not really friends anymore."

I, like many Barnard alumnae and current Barnard students, am used to "humorous" comments such as this one. I will admit, I have laughed at some of them and have even made a few of my own. Part of being human, after all, is saying funny things, and students on campus make sure to keep it light. For example, it is not uncommon for someone to have a computer problem and say, "I need a SEAS student."

Underneath some of these so-called "jokes" is evidence of a serious problem on campus—Columbia undergraduates disrespecting Barnard students.

The difference between, say, a SEAS joke and a Barnard joke is that there is often a fine line between humor and offense in the latter. Underneath some of these so-called "jokes" is evidence of a serious problem on campus—Columbia undergraduates disrespecting Barnard students.

Now, I am by no means saying every Columbia undergraduate disrespects Barnard students. If polled, I'm sure it would

offered me a back rub. He seemed quite genuine.

The best news of all came when I arrived home and checked my email. Someone had not only found my wallet, but also taken it upon himself to personally return it to me. While the money was long gone by the time it was discovered, the thief had left behind my credit card, driver's license, and my ticket for a show described by the New York Times as "shockingly mediocre." I thanked the student for tracking me down, resisted the impulse to jokingly ask if he was the one who'd stolen my cash, and parted ways.

With the incident behind me, there are now two options going forward. I can embrace Columbia as an imperfect, yet generally good community. Or I can barricade myself in my room with a mini fridge and cry hysterically until the semester is over. For most of us, it should be obvious that the former is better than the latter. Just be careful not to leave your valuables out in the open where they can be stolen.

At the end of the day, it's impossible to live somewhere for four years without beginning to feel invested in the place. Schapiro Hall is my house. John Jay is my kitchen. The underground tunnel system is my rat-infested basement. And all of that is as it should be. Except, please, someone get rid of the rats.

Jeremy Liss is a Columbia College junior majoring in English. He is the creative editor of *The Current*. Liss is More runs alternate Thursdays.

be only a small percentage of Columbia students that do. Nor am I saying that this video is offensive. Like all the "Shit [blank] Say" genre of videos, it is intended for people to both identify with and laugh at their cohort. However, a video produced by Columbia students with a Barnard statement is an opportunity to start a dialogue about the problem.

Regardless of the amount of disrespect on campus, its mere presence is enough to suggest there is a problem. This is by no means a new problem. It is an ongoing, long-standing problem in which undergraduates cite school affiliation as grounds for who is smarter, who is better, who does or doesn't deserve to be on campus. This type of thinking is just the tip of the iceberg. It gets far worse. I experienced this disrespect at Columbia University's 2008 commencement, as my CC peers threw not just apple cores but full apples at myself and my Barnard class. Sure, it was in jest, but the gesture says a lot.

No one deserves to be a second-class citizen at Columbia. It does not matter what school you are in, or how low the acceptance rate is at that school. You are a member of the community and deserve to be treated with respect. Every undergraduate on campus, whether he or she goes to CC, Barnard, SEAS, or GS, enhances the undergraduate community. Each student, from the moment they step onto campus, makes Columbia better. Whether a student provides a different perspective in a seminar or is a member of a varsity team, the University benefits from his or her presence. The University needs to have a no-nonsense policy on academic bullying between schools. Respect at Columbia should be non-negotiable. It should be a given. It should not matter what school you are in. Yes, the administration cannot stop all mocking between schools, but there is a line and it continues to be crossed.

The University should look to Barnard's unofficial motto, which is that each of its students is a "strong, beautiful Barnard woman." If the rest of the campus adapted this motto just imagine what a strong, beautiful Columbia it would be.

The author graduated from Barnard in 2008. She is currently pursuing a master's in forensic linguistics at Hofstra University.



HEIDI KELLER

STAFF EDITORIAL

The Big Apple is your oyster

Many of us can testify that what brought us here was not just Columbia University—it was Columbia University in the City of New York. And yet, it's become a running joke that Columbians don't get away from the neighborhood enough. We fall into the routine of visiting the local nightlife staples, East Campus, 1020, and The Heights. The farthest south we might go on a given day would be Westside, and the farthest north would be Knox Hall, with Riverside and Morningside parks marking our lateral limits. Essentially, we've come to Columbia University in Morningside Heights instead.

But, if there's any weekend to prove that stereotype of the "Columbian in the Columbia bubble" wrong, it's this one. Students can indulge in the benefits of Restaurant Week, Broadway Week, and Off-Broadway Week. Ever wanted to visit New York's famous 21 Club? Take advantage of Restaurant Week and dine for large discounts at swanky New York eateries until Feb. 10. Broadway Week, although it ends on Saturday, is still offering two-for-one tickets for Jersey Boys and Phantom of the Opera. Plus, Off-Broadway Week will still be running as late as Feb. 12 and a few simple clicks on nycgo.com can land a person the same price for tickets to less mainstream acts like Avenue Q

and the Blue Man Group. No one will need to go out on a limb (or a loan) to explore the city.

The best thing is, after two days of wining, dining, and show-hopping, this weekend will end on a lazy Sunday—and not just any lazy Sunday. The Super Bowl will be playing, and the Patriots and the Giants will be gunning for the trophy. Settle back in Nevada Smiths sports bar in the East Village with your noisy fellow Giants fans and glut yourself with chicken wings, pizza, and beer while whooping every time the Patriots fumble.

So, Columbians, swipe \$2.25's worth through the turnstile and take the 1 out of Morningside this weekend. Make those restaurant and ticket reservations fast. But remember that there's more to New York than the fancy restaurants and Tony-nominated shows. Remember the other places you have yet to explore, and the shamelessly touristy things you have yet to cross off your list. And remember that going out of Morningside is something we should all strive to do this year, and not just confine to a single weekend.

Lanbo Zhang recused himself from the writing of this editorial because he is a New England Patriots fan.

The Columbia Daily Spectator accepts op-eds on any topic relevant to the Columbia University and Morningside Heights community. Op-eds should be roughly 650 words in length. We require that op-eds be sent exclusively to Spectator and will not consider articles that have already been published elsewhere.

Letters to the Editor should be no longer than 350 words and must refer to an article from Spectator or The Eye, or a Spectrum post. Submissions should be sent to opinion@columbiaspectator.com. Please paste all submissions into the body of the email. Should we decide to publish your submission we will contact you via email.

SPORTS BRIEFLY



MEN'S TENNIS

The men's tennis team (1-0) will host Cleveland State (0-1) on Friday in its second match of the season. The Lions are coming off a 7-0 win against Fordham in which Columbia won all nine matches. The Vikings are looking to rebound from a season-opening loss to Duquesne by a score of 4-3.

Freshmen Bert Vancura and Winston Lin will be key contributors for the Lions. Both players dominated their matches last week as Vancura won 6-0, 6-0 while Lin won 6-1, 6-2. The match will be held Friday at Columbia's Dick Savitt Tennis Center at 2 p.m.

—Josh Shenkar



WOMEN'S SQUASH

The No. 15 Columbia women's squash team will face stiff competition at home against No. 1 Harvard on Friday night and No. 8 Dartmouth on Sunday. If the Lions (5-6, 0-3 Ivy) can manage a victory this weekend, the win will mark both their first triumph in conference play as well as their first win against a top 10 team this season.

The Light Blue, in only its second year as a varsity sport, is at a disadvantage when compared to other Ancient Eight programs, many of which have decades of varsity experience.

"The other Ivy League schools are the best in the country and really dominate college squash," head coach

Kelsey Engman said. The Ivy League's supremacy is clear in the national rankings, with seven Ivies in the top 10 and Harvard sitting atop with a 10-0 season.

"When we look towards Harvard, we hope to use the match as motivation for where we want to be in a couple of years," Engman said. The Light Blue has shown promise against other Ivies in the past, including this fall when No. 1 seed and senior captain Liz Chu defeated Brown's No. 1 seeded player. The match against Harvard will begin Friday at 7:30 p.m. and the match against Dartmouth will start at noon on Sunday.

—Caroline Bowman



MEN'S SQUASH

The Columbia men's squash team jumps into a double challenge this weekend, facing two strong Ivy opponents in No. 4 Harvard and No. 7 Dartmouth.

The No. 15 Lions (5-6, 1-2 Ivy) split their matches last weekend, defeating Georgetown and Connecticut, but falling to No. 12 Middlebury and No. 11 Williams. Currently tied with the Big Green (6-4, 1-2 Ivy) for fifth place in the conference, Columbia looks to move past Dartmouth into the top half of the standings with a win on

Sunday. Dartmouth will come into the match without momentum, having suffered two losses last weekend against Trinity and Rochester.

The Crimson (11-2, 2-1 Ivy) is tied with Cornell for third place in the Ancient Eight, and after a 7-2 victory against Rochester last Saturday, Harvard moved one spot up in the national rankings to fourth.

The match against Harvard will begin Friday at 7:30 p.m., and the match against Dartmouth will begin Sunday at noon.

—Mia Park



TRACK AND FIELD

The Columbia men's and women's track teams will return to action this weekend as both will run in the 11th annual New Balance Collegiate Invitational this Friday and Saturday at the Armory. The competition has become one of several premier college indoor meets, showcasing the best athletes from 130 schools nationwide. The Lions' abilities will be challenged by teams currently ranked in the USTFCCCA NCAA Division I top 25 poll, including No. 3 LSU, No. 9 Texas A&M, and No. 14 BYU.

The Light Blue hopes to match, if not improve on, its 2011 results from this meet, during which then-senior Jeff Moriarty won the 1000m race, the men's 4x800 team took second, now-senior Sharay Hale finished second in the 400m dash, and now-senior Sarah Engle set a Columbia record in the pole vault while coming in fifth place. The New Balance Collegiate Invitation will be streamed live beginning at 2:30 p.m. on Friday at ArmoryTrack.com.

—Melissa Cheung



MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Going down the stretch, the Columbia men's swimming and diving team continues its season with a dual meet against the Navy on Friday at 2 p.m. Despite the Navy's formidable 9-1 record, the team hopes to follow in the footsteps of Ivy League rival Princeton and pull off a win to avenge its loss last season. The Lions are coming off a double dual tri-meet against Brown and Boston University, with the Light Blue winning both

matchups. The medley relay squad has been doing well lately, having won its event at consecutive meets. Last year, then-senior Hyun Lee broke a pool record at Uris by finishing the 200 free in 1:37.64. Navy enters this weekend with plenty of confidence, having previously defeated Penn State 155-145 in its last meet. The meet will be held at the Navy's Lejeune Hall pool in Annapolis, Md.

—Eric Wong



WRESTLING

The Lions will be the underdogs when they travel to Ithaca, N.Y. this weekend to take on Cornell. "They're by far the strongest team in the Ivies," coach Carl Fronhofer said. "They're really, really good." The Big Red are ranked third in the nation, and feature multiple All-Americans including 197-pound senior Cam Simaz, last season's Ivy League Wrestler of the Year. However, the upset-minded Light Blue have a fighting chance at many weights. "I think Santos can get a good win at 149," Fronhofer said of junior Steve Santos. Seniors

Kyle Gilchrist and Kevin Lester, at 133 and 285 pounds respectively, could also come up big, as could junior Stephen West at 174 pounds. Barring any injuries, Shane Hughes, at 184 pounds, figures to be Columbia's only freshman in the lineup. "I think our guys are prepared," Fronhofer said. "I think we will compete very well this weekend against them." However, the Lions will need a good deal of luck to come home with a victory. "We know we're gonna have to have a good day," Fronhofer said.

—Eli Schultz



WOMEN'S TENNIS

The women's tennis team will play two home matches against Hofstra and UMass this weekend. After a strong start to its spring season at the Cornell Winter Invitational, the Lions will face a tough test against the Pride and Minutemen. While the Pride have not played an official team match this season, they finished 8-9 last year and returned several key players. The Minutemen are 1-3 and have struggled

to compete with their last two opponents, losing to both Boston College and Harvard. The Lions will look for continued production from impressive sophomore Bianca Sanon, who won the Flight A singles bracket last week. The match with Hofstra will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday and the match with UMass will start at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

—Josh Shenkar

Wright presents challenge for Lions' post players

BY MUNEEB ALAM
Spectator Staff Writer

Coming into the season, the Lions' junior center Mark Cisco was looking forward to testing himself against the Ivy League's other top big men: Yale senior center Greg Mangano and Harvard senior forward Keith Wright.

"It's going to be tough going up against them, but I think that it's definitely going to be a good challenge, and I'm just going to do my best and it'll work out well," Cisco said.

He will get his first crack at Wright this Saturday night.

Wright is a psychology major and a second-year co-captain. Last season, he was Ivy League Player of the Year, averaging 14.8 points, 8.3 rebounds, and 1.8 blocks per game after starting in each of Harvard's 30 games.

This season, he averages 10.6 points, 7.8 rebounds, and 1.6 blocks per game. Although his per-game numbers have decreased, they appear to be a result of his decreased minutes, an effect of Harvard's improved frontcourt depth.

Nonetheless—as his 58.8 percent field goal shooting this year attests—he remains dangerous.

"You let him bury it deep, he's going to score on about anybody," Columbia head coach Kyle Smith said.

However, the team is not looking to make any drastic adjustments, optimistic that centers Cisco and freshman

Cory Osetkowski can contain Wright.

"[He]'s turning into a good post defender," Smith said of Cisco. "Even defending the on-ball situations, got much improved, so I think we're okay there."

If fouls become an issue, Smith can turn to the 6-foot-10 Osetkowski.

blocks through 20 games this season, after 54 blocks last season—the second-highest mark in Harvard history.

"They really cover the rim well with Casey, Wright ... they do a good job," Smith said. "That's where Cisco helps. Cisco can hit 10-, 12-foot, 15-foot jumpers."

"We gotta put it inside to keep them honest, but also with the understanding that they really cover the rim."

Last season, Wright was successful against the Lions, as Harvard won both meetings with Columbia. He posted 14 points and seven rebounds in Cambridge, playing mostly against Cisco and junior forward John Daniels. A couple of weeks later, he scored 16 points and added 12 rebounds in Manhattan, facing senior forward Asenso Ampim and centers Zack Crimmins and Max Craig.

More recently, however, Wright had a relatively quiet night against fellow 2011 All-Ivy frontcourt presence Mangano, who has posted a dominant 18.7 points, 9.9 rebounds, and 2.6 blocks per game through 18 contests. He had seven points and five rebounds, while Mangano scored 17 points in New Haven, Conn. A night later, Wright scored nine points and added 11 boards at Brown.

"He's a good player, but I've gone up against other good players before," Cisco said. "Just gotta go in with the mindset that I'm going to play hard and do my best, and that's really all I can do."



DOUGLAS KESSEL / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HOME COURT ADVANTAGE | Sophomore Taylor Ward looks to lead the Lions to their first Ivy win at home.

Lions face test against Dartmouth and Harvard

WOMEN'S BBALL from back page

"The biggest problem with Clark, Berry, and Lippert is that any one of the three of them are capable of going off for a monster game against us," Nixon said. "Our focus needs to be to limit them to at least staying at or below their averages and not having a 'career night,' and then we have to be able to score often enough on our end to keep up."

Last weekend, Harvard fell to Yale before rebounding against

Brown. Both times, the Crimson led going into the half. Each game, though, the Crimson allowed its opponents to get back into the game. Yale used a 12-0 run at the beginning of the second half to go up by seven and never looked back, while Brown overcame an 18-point second-half deficit to tie the game before Harvard went on a late run to secure the win.

Both teams pose a threat to the Lions, who are still in search of their first conference win.


"I see two teams who play with very contrasting styles, but both are very dangerous teams," Nixon said. "It is important that we don't get caught up in looking at their records because there isn't as big a disparity in the caliber of teams they are as their records might indicate."


Tipoff against Dartmouth is scheduled for 7 p.m. at Leven Gymnasium on Friday, and tipoff against Harvard is scheduled at 7 p.m. on Saturday.



PIXBOX

week
3

- 
- Tom
Caruso
- I'm not
going to be
in first
place
anymore
:((((
- I one day
hope for
a love as
wonderful
as Jim and
Mrinal's.*

	Light Blue
	Yale
	Brown
	No. 23
	NY heroes
Ryan Young	South Beach



**Zach
Glubiak**



**Mrinal
Mohanka**

**Roaree
Penn
Brown
Harvard
Pats
LeBron**



Myles Simmons

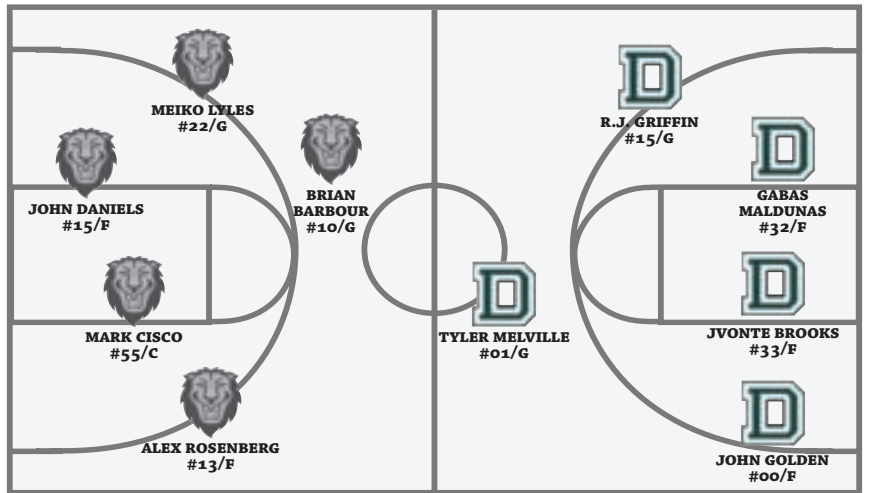


Sam Klug



Jim Pagels

GAME 1:



The Lions have only shot 39.8 percent in their four league games so far. Faced with a Dartmouth team that has done well defensively, the Light Blue needs to find a scoring rhythm, not only to defeat the Big Green, but also to gain momentum for the Harvard match.

Dartmouth's greatest strength may be its youth and athleticism, but it can also be the Big Green's primary weakness. Columbia's starting lineup is much more experienced than Dartmouth's—which has three freshmen—and the Lions need to use this to their advantage in pressure situations at the end of the halves.

3

This weekend will be the first time in two weeks that the Lions have back-to-back games. It will be important for the Light Blue to be fresh for Saturday, meaning that the bench has to play a bigger role against Dartmouth. With the physicality of the Big Green, frontcourt substitutes will be especially important.

COLUMBIA	59.3
DARTMOUTH	63.0

Meiko Lyles



Tyler Melville

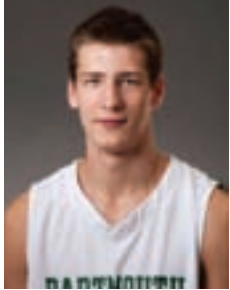
Sophomore guard Tyler Melville was the only member of the Big Green to score in double-digits in both games last weekend, tallying 11 points at Brown and 14 at Yale. Sophomore guard Meiko Lyles and the Lions will need to make sure the smaller Melville doesn't slip away for open shots.



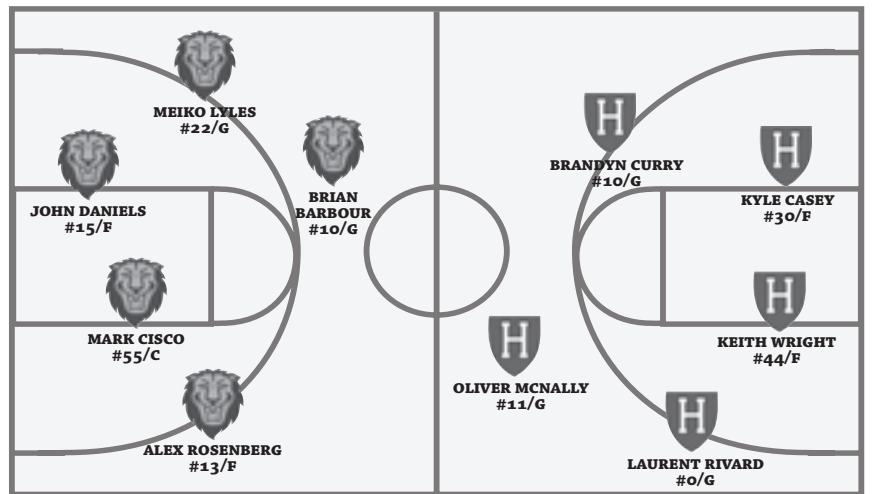
Mark Cisco

Gabas Maldunas

It may be forward Gabas Maldunas's first year of collegiate basketball, but he leads Dartmouth with 8.8 points and 7.1 rebounds per game. Junior center Mark Cisco has been a force on the boards, and he'll need to use his size and experience playing against the Ivies' best big men to make sure Maldunas is a nonfactor.



GAME 2:



1

Harvard's offense is the best in the Ivy League, and the best way for the Lions to stop the Crimson from scoring will be to dominate the frontcourt. Pitted against the likes of Keith Wright and Kyle Casey, CU must clog the lane to make it difficult for Harvard to get points in the paint.

In nonconference play, the Light Blue was hot from beyond the arc, but in the last four games, its three-point shooting has been at 21.2 percent. If there is a game when hitting treys is a must for the Lions, it's Saturday. Keeping up with Harvard's scoring will only be made harder if CU does not connect from downtown.

3

While Brian Barbour has been the goto man all season when the Light Blue need to score, other players will need to step up against Harvard. If Meiko Lyles can break his recent scoring drought, and if Mark Cisco provides another double-double, Columbia will be on its way to making Saturday a close contest.

COLUMBIA	59.3
HARVARD	53.4

Mark Cisco



Keith Wright

Junior center Mark Cisco is tasked with the defending the reigning Ivy League Player of the Year, senior forward Keith Wright. Cisco will need strong defense at the post to make it difficult for Wright to score. To score, Cisco will have to rely on more midrange jumpers rather than fighting against Wright under the basket.



John Daniels

Kyle Casey

The Crimson's other prominent big man is junior forward Kyle Casey, who leads his team with 10.5 points per game in league play. Junior forward John Daniels will need to put a body on Casey to contest points in the paint—if Daniels is able to hit a few shots, Casey will be occupied on defense, giving space for Lion guards to penetrate.

GAMEDAY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3 • PAGE 8



**COLUMBIA (12-8, 1-3 Ivy)
at DARTMOUTH (4-16, 0-4 Ivy)**

FRIDAY, 7 P.M., HANOVER, N.H.

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



**COLUMBIA (12-8, 1-3 Ivy)
vs HARVARD (18-2, 4-0 Ivy)**

SATURDAY, 7 P.M., BOSTON, MASS.

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



Danger in CU overlooking Big Green

Two years ago, the men's basketball team headed up to Hanover, N.H. in the middle of a four-game road trip. The 2009-2010 season didn't start out well for the Lions, but they were starting to find their groove. After dropping its first three games by a combined 76 points—to a Cornell squad that eventually made the Sweet 16 and a Harvard team led by future NBA player Jeremy Lin—the Light Blue won three of its next five. Another win was all but guaranteed for Columbia, as Dartmouth, the whipping boy of the Ancient Eight, had managed only four nonconference wins that season.

I don't know if it was the long bus ride, the game against Harvard the next night, or something else, but the Lions did not coast to an easy victory like they had when they played the Big Green at home. Columbia made just seven of its 28 first-half field goals and was lucky to only be losing by two (17-15) at halftime. The Light Blue couldn't find its form and handed Dartmouth its only Ivy win that year.

Because I was covering both games that weekend and there is absolutely no way to get from Middle-of-Nowhere, N.H. to Boston via public transit on a Friday night, I got to travel with the team. Man, was that a long bus ride. For two and a half hours, everyone sat in almost complete silence. We finally arrived in Newton, Mass. around midnight—just 19 hours before the Lions had to face off against a Crimson team that had beaten them by 29 points at Levien. The Lions ended up losing the next night, 77-57.

What was the point of this trip down memory lane? Tonight's matchup against Dartmouth is a trap game. On paper, the Lions are pretty much ensured a victory. The Big Green is last in scoring offense, field goal percentage, assists, and steals. Dartmouth has won only four nonconference games this year, and no player is averaging more than nine points per game.

The quirky Ivy League schedule makes practicing and strategizing for each weekend tough for both the coaches and the players. Head coach Kyle Smith has to make sure his players are prepared for both games, while also ensuring that they are focused on what's in front of them when they take to the court on Friday. That task is likely even more difficult this week with No. 23 Harvard looming in the second half of the road swing.

The game against Harvard is going to be the more challenging one, but in a 14-game season with no tournament, every victory matters. While the Lions have looked good for stretches, they've come up just short in three of their first four conference games. If they want a spot in the top half of the league, they can't drop any more close games. Dartmouth is a must-win. And it's not going to be as easy as it looks.

In a midweek interview, Coach Smith acknowledged that Dartmouth's relative strength is its defense—the Big Green has held opponents to .413 shooting from the field and .347 from beyond the arc. Normally this wouldn't be such a problem for the Lions, who are an even stronger defensive team. However, in the first four games of conference play, Columbia has made only 39.8 percent of its shots from the floor and 21.2 percent of its buckets from downtown. If the Light Blue continues to struggle to put points on the board, Friday could turn into a long night.

Besides the obvious, there is another reason why the Lions have to win tonight—they need to get their momentum back. Coming into league play, they had won 11 of their last 12. Two close losses in the first weekend of Ivy play and a third one this past Saturday seem to have taken some air out of their tires. A solid victory over Dartmouth could help restore some confidence in the team going into its toughest test of the season. After all, you can only beat what's in front of you.

Michele Cleary is a Columbia College senior majoring in history. She is a former Spectator managing editor. sports@columbiaspectator.com



MICHELE CLEARY

I Can See Cleary Now



DAVID BRANN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LION LEADER | Junior Center Mark Cicso has been critical to the Light Blue's success so far this season.

Lions looking for first Ivy win in weekend games

BY MUNEEB ALAM
Spectator Staff Writer

Women's basketball (2-15, 0-3 Ivy) returns to action this weekend with back-to-back games at home, facing Dartmouth (2-15, 0-3 Ivy) on Friday and Harvard (9-8, 2-1 Ivy) on Saturday.

Last weekend, Columbia fell 75-50 at Penn. Junior guard/forward Tyler Simpson led the Lions with 19 points and six rebounds, but ultimately the Light Blue could not overcome one of the Quakers' best offensive games in years.

"Against Penn, I felt we ran into a team that was on fire," head coach Paul Nixon wrote in an email. "They put up offensive numbers that were not only season highs, but also highs for the coach McCaughlin era."

"I was actually pleased with some of the progress we made on our offensive end in terms of cutting down on our turnovers and

putting more points on the board," Nixon added.

While the Light Blue averaged only 39.5 points and 25 turnovers per game in its first two Ivy contests versus Princeton and Cornell, it scored around its season average and only committed 16 turnovers against Penn.

Although the Lions have the lowest scoring average in the Ivy League, Dartmouth has the second-lowest average—less than a point higher than Columbia's average of 50.9.

"Dartmouth is similar to us in that not only do we have identical records, but we each have a number of talented young players who are 'learning on the job' how to play college basketball and how to play together," Nixon said.

Dartmouth lost last weekend at home against both Brown and Yale, going into halftime both times in contention, before falling apart in the second half. Junior guard and

captain Faziah Steen led the Big Green with 28 points combined between the two contests—posting her ninth and 10th consecutive game with double-digit point totals in the process. Steen averages 15.6 points per game this season, while freshman center Tia Dawson grabbed 21 rebounds combined to bring her average up to 6.9 boards per game.

"We're going to have to focus on playing good, solid fundamental defense and limiting their easy, open looks," Nixon said. "If either one of them is allowed to 'get on a roll' they will be tough to contain."

Harvard also boasts multiple impact players capable of taking over a game, three of whom play at guard. Sophomore Christine Clark, senior captain Brogan Berry, and junior Victoria Lippert all average over 12 points per game, and each shoot nearly 40 percent or better.

SEE WOMEN'S BBALL, page 6

Light Blue faces two Ivy rivals

BY ZACH GLUBIAK
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Four games into a 14-game Ivy slate, Columbia can honestly say it has been in every game. Unfortunately for the Lions, they have only one win for their efforts.

After losing three conference games by a combined 11 points, the Light Blue (12-8, 1-3 Ivy) hits the road this weekend to face Dartmouth on Friday and Harvard the following night.

"We've just got to keep fighting," junior point guard and captain Brian Barbour said. "We're so close. Our energy is real positive, and I think that's a good sign. No one is cracking. It's tough losing three games by 11 points, but we know we're right there."

"We've played hard these past four games," head coach Kyle Smith said. "It's just disappointing we haven't made shots."

The No. 23 Crimson (18-2, 4-0 Ivy) has been impressive this year, boasting a 23-game home winning streak—a program record and the fourth-longest active streak in the country behind Kentucky, Ohio State, and North Carolina.

Before the Lions get to Boston, Mass. though, they will take on

SEE MEN'S BBALL, page 3

THE SLATE



MEN'S BASKETBALL
at Dartmouth
Hanover, N.H.
Friday, 7 p.m.



MEN'S BASKETBALL
at Harvard
Boston, Mass.
Saturday, 7 p.m.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
vs. Dartmouth
Levien Gymnasium
Friday, 7 p.m.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
vs. Harvard
Levien Gymnasium
Saturday, 7 p.m.



WOMEN'S TENNIS
vs. Hofstra
Dick Savitt Tennis Center
Saturday, 1 p.m.



MEN'S TENNIS
vs. Cleveland State
Dick Savitt Tennis Center
Friday, 2 p.m.



WRESTLING
at Cornell
Ithaca, N.Y.
Saturday, 1 p.m.



MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING
at Navy
Annapolis, Md.
Friday, 2 p.m.



MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SQUASH
vs. Harvard
New York, N.Y.
Friday, 7:30 p.m.



MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SQUASH
vs. Dartmouth
New York, N.Y.
Sunday, 2 p.m.



TRACK AND FIELD
New Balance Collegiate Invitational
New York, N.Y.
Friday, 2:30 p.m.

Out of the shadows

Young stand-up comics take center stage

BY ANATOLE ASHRAF
Spectator Staff Writer

The crowd is ready in a Park Slope basement packed beyond capacity. The sound of cheap drinks and rich conversation weaves around the cozy space, creating a sense of anticipation, as if everyone knows they're in for a treat together. The stage everyone faces barely qualifies as a stage: On a tiny platform rests a table set for two with a bottle of wine and a couple of glasses, some flowers, and a popcorn machine, but like most shows worth seeing live, the stage is hardly hindered by anything as finite as dimensions. As the two stars take the stage, the room erupts with hoots, hollers, and laughter.

Keep in mind, this is not a play, but a stand-up comedy show. It's called "Cheap Date," the brainchild of Sharron Paul and Tyler Fischer, two comedians barely out of college. It's quickly becoming one of Brooklyn's most buzzed-about comedy events, drawing luminaries like Saturday Night Live alum Colin Quinn and writer John Mulaney. Moreover, "Cheap Date" and its creators are a sign of New York City's current state of independent comedy, a vital scene thriving with talent and more active than ever.

New York's comedy scene is older than Regis Philbin at this point. According to Paul, "there's comedy at every turn."

"You could trip and fall into a show," Paul said. "We're in tough economic times and there are free and cheap shows all over the place. People love to be entertained and welcome it with open arms."

Fischer called the city "an encouraging place for a comic to start out," but emphasized that there are a lot of anticipations.

"You have to deal with performing to people who aren't listening to you," Fischer said. "And you have to deal with people not laughing at all."

The city has been launching comedians since the 1940s with Steve Allen, first host of NBC's "The Tonight Show." Other New York comedians include Lenny Bruce, George Carlin, the original cast of SNL, and Eddie Murphy. Stand-up comedy suffered a setback in the early 1990s due to oversaturation, but roared back in the 2000s, a time when one of Columbia's own, Steve Hofstetter, GS '02, started making waves.

According to Fischer, there are "an endless amount of venues" for live comedy, with each one catering to various tastes. Traditionally, most comedy venues have been located in Manhattan. Caroline's in Midtown and the Comedy Cellar in the West Village are popular tourist traps for stand-up, while Upright Citizens Brigade in Chelsea is an improv institution.

The most authentic shows, though, happen in smaller venues with a tightly packed audience. "Cheap Date" marks the spread of the comedy scene to the outer boroughs, with shows and venues popping up in Williamsburg, Greenpoint, and Park Slope.

After securing the famed Union Hall in Park Slope, Brooklyn, Fischer and Paul ran their first performance of "Cheap Date" in August 2010. Each show is framed as a date night in which the hosts play characters hopelessly unlucky in love.

It's those two hosts that make "Cheap Date" stand out. Both in their early twenties, Fischer and Paul have shared a love of comedy since before they can remember. Fischer graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a degree in acting, working local theater and television pilots. Paul appeared in CollegeHumor videos before hosting stand-up comedy, and in March, she will appear in a reality show on a major cable network. But the fact that they became professional comedians is a complete surprise to both.

"I could never envision myself doing comedy," Paul said.

She started participating in comedy shows after being urged into a few open mics by friends and fellow comedians.

By the time Paul and Fischer met in mid-2010, each had been performing in comedy for at least two years—time spent developing their chops and "meeting the right people," Paul said.

Like Paul and Fischer, Hofstetter, a Queens native and comedian of 10 years, had no intention of doing comedy as a career, but started performing improv when he was 13 years old.

While at Columbia, he started going to shows at The Underground, and eventually did a set there during his senior year. Hofstetter credits Bill Hicks as a big influence on his own work.

SEE COMEDY, page B3

Best of

Super Sunday

Floor lounges and local sports bars might cut the mustard on any other Sunday, but this is the Super Bowl—take your football revelry downtown for a more exciting (and delicious) experience at one of these spots. —BY STEFAN COUNTRYMAN

Gallagher’s Steakhouse

Stop by Gallagher’s Steakhouse, located at 228 W. 52nd St. by Broadway, for a pre-Super Bowl lunch. The renowned chophouse is celebrating the Giants’ post-season streak with a special prix fixe menu, the “Big Blue Power Lunch.” Notable choices include the Eli Manning Man-Eater Big Blue Burger and the Bradshaw and Brandon Beef Tenderloin and Asparagus Salad. This three course treat comes in at \$32.

Housing Works

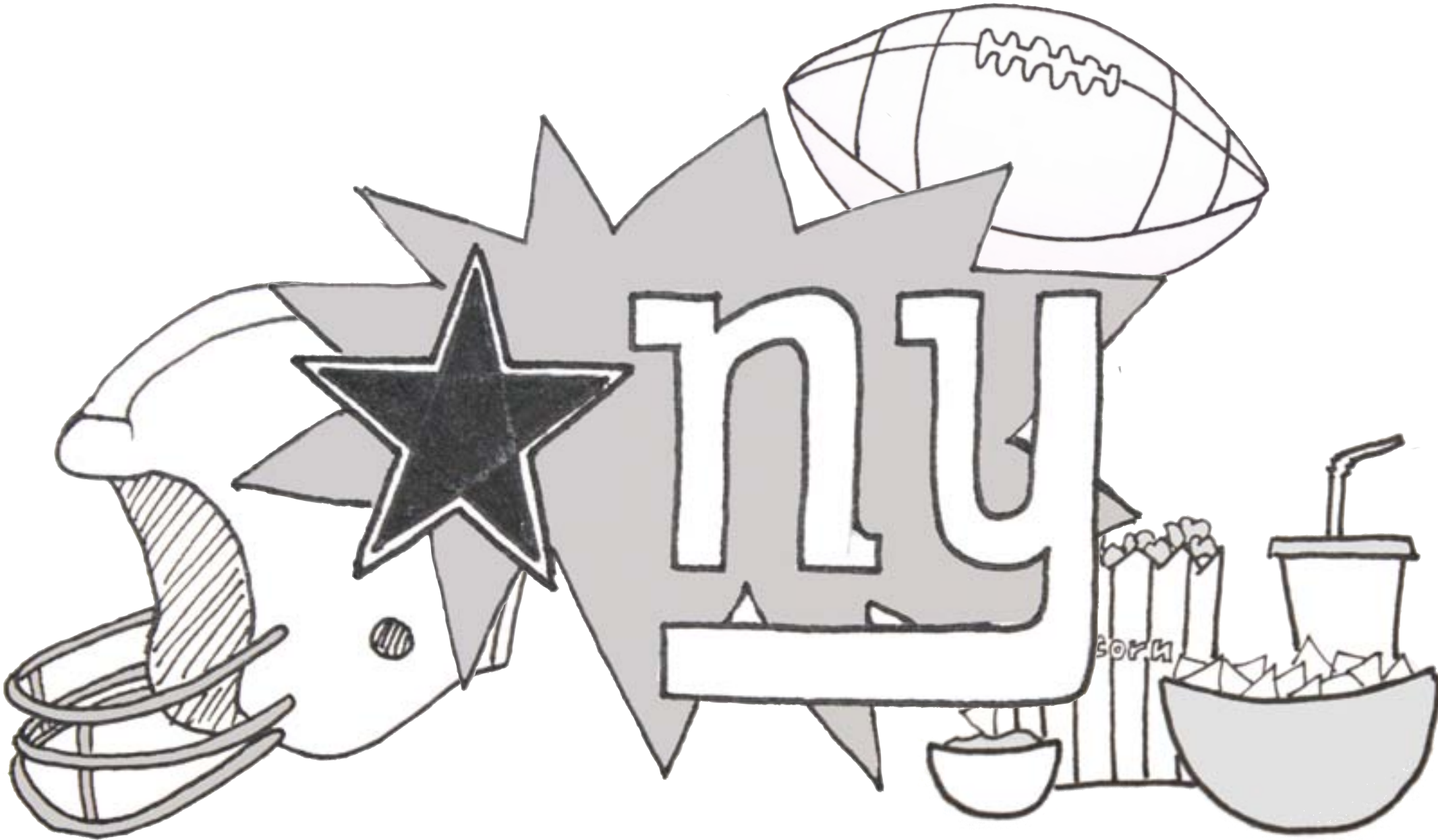
Football fans with a bookish twist can head down to Housing Works, at 126 Crosby St. by E. Houston St., for what might be the only Super Bowl party held in a bookstore. With \$12 Pabst buckets, a wall-sized projected picture, and a mission to support AIDS sufferers, Housing Works is providing a nice fusion of novelty and game day tradition.

The Cannibal

Thanks to The Cannibal, at 113 E. 29th St. between Park and Lexington avenues, you don’t have to choose between booze and dead animals. Enjoy both with the Hellen’s Angel cocktail—smoked-pork-fat-washed bourbon and pineapple juice—or craft beers for the less adventurous. Either way, diners can cheer for the home team with 50-inch HDTVs and \$11 fine sausages among other hearty dishes.

Standings Bar

Advanced beer snob cum football fans will appreciate this gimmick: Standings Bar, located at 43 E. Seventh St. near Second Avenue, serves up microbrews shipped from the homes of visiting teams. Drinking a pint of Shipyard Applehead wheat ale, brewed in Portland, Maine, might be the only excusable form of support that a Giants fan can give New England—its light, apple cinnamon flavor transcends geography, especially when accompanied by free pizza.



Neighborhood Watch

Brooklyn Flea Market Q

The glittering chandelier-lit ceiling and marble-columned interior of the former Williamsburg Savings Bank at 1 Hanson Place make it the last place where you’d picture fleas. Yet the building is the winter venue of the Brooklyn Flea, a Saturday and Sunday market described on its website as “hundreds of top vendors of antique and repurposed furniture, vintage clothing, collectibles and antiques, as well as a tightly curated selection of jewelry, art, and crafts by local artisans and designers, plus delicious fresh food.” In only its fourth year, the Brooklyn Flea has already been widely praised by organizations such as Citizens Union, and publications such as the New York Times and Time Out New York.

Like the space itself, the merchandise at the Brooklyn Flea alternates between grandeur and thrift. Weaving one’s way through this high-ceilinged amorphous maze, one finds vendors selling the used, unused, reused, and occasionally, the totally original.

Of the used merchandise, many collections look like transplanted garage sales—complete with rusty tools and beat up file cabinets. Glorifying the used, many of these vendors push the line between “collector” and “pack rat.” And they charge you accordingly for this novelty: Used records are \$15-\$20, vintage sweaters \$30-\$50, and worn Dooney & Burke purses \$95.

Other vendors retool used items. For example, the vendor Olde Good Things offers mirrors and décor fashioned from ornate ceiling tiles. The high prices—up to several hundred dollars apiece—are thus somewhat justified by the originality and quality of the pieces.

Some merchandise however, is totally original and fits under the banner of “flea” in spirit only. Highlights include street art, animal-shaped cushions, colorful picture frames, graphic t-shirts, and jewelry. In line with the novelty value this market places on used goods, these “new” items are often more reasonably priced: Distinctive, high quality jewelry ranges from \$10-\$35.

Blue, who sells prints by his close friend, artist Matt Schwartz, explained the artistic process. Images are transferred from Polaroid negatives onto damp watercolor paper. Most vendors return each week, and some have established friendships over the years. “Monica was in one of Matt’s photos,” he said, pointing to a dark-haired woman working at a nearby pastry station. But Blue was nostalgic for summers when the market is outside. “This is so gloomy!” he lamented. If not festive, the market is certainly a place where people as well as merchandise are worth watching. Everyone—couples, singles, families—was dressed to the nines, matching the dichotomy of “flea” and “fancy”: dressing up to dress down, and looking anything but brand new.

—Grace Mattingly

Masonic Temple G

The Brooklyn Masonic Temple (317 Clermont Ave., at Lafayette Avenue) is every bit as quirky as it sounds, but not the way one would expect. The imposing marble building, as the name suggests, is home to the Freemasons, but also houses one of its attached offerings—a live music venue. Welcome to Brooklyn.

The temple, which was erected in 1907 as a replica of King Solomon’s Temple, cost four million dollars to complete and contains a collection of Masonic murals. Owned and operated by the Empire State Grand Council, the structure also holds a concert space that consists of a multi-level standing room area, complete with balcony and chandelier. Bare, hardwood floors give the space a rustic feel. Since they opened their doors to the public in 1977, the Freemasons have rented out many of the temple’s rooms for weddings and other events.

Given, those tend to be less offbeat than live music, but if it ain’t broke, don’t question it. The concerts are run by BOOM Collective, a Brooklyn-based music booking company that works with a hive of venues such as The Bell House and Le Poisson Rouge.

The musical acts are typically of the indie persuasion, which draw hipsters to Brooklyn in droves: Past performers include New Jersey rockers Titus Andronicus, experimentally-minded Panda Bear of Animal Collective, art rockers Les Savy Fav, and the eclectic yet renowned TV on the Radio.

Because of the nature of the building, it hosts only a handful of events a year relative to other, more music-oriented venues, with a sporadic schedule—sometimes with shows several weekends running, other times skipping a few weeks at a time. Still, the artists it features are impressively popular for such a low-profile space. Snug yet grandiose, the format of the venue offers few bad seats, and the history can’t help but to make it an experience.

—Charlotte Murtishaw



Hanson Place

Clermont Ave
Carlton Ave
Lafayette Ave



LAUGH OUT LOUD | Young comedians (clockwise from bottom left) Bill Hofstetter, members of CU’s Chowdah, and Sharron Paul and Tyler Fischer take New York by storm.

Students, professionals reveal the truth behind successful stand-up

COMEDY from page B1

“I want to be like Bill Hicks if Bill Hicks didn’t hate his audience,” Hofstetter said.

Hofstetter started as a sports comedian, having written for ESPN and Sports Illustrated. In 2006, however, he gained attention for criticizing Larry the Cable Guy on his album “Cure for the Cable Guy.” Hofstetter was motivated to speak out against him after the military adopted the Cable Guy’s catchphrase “Git-R-Done” as their slogan, and especially after an Indiana teenager responsible for two shootings claimed to be a huge fan of the character.

“An artist is never responsible for their work,” Hofstetter said. “But they are responsible for reacting to the reaction to their work.”

Last December, Hofstetter opened his own comedy club, the Laughing Devil in Long Island City in Queens, which hosts a college night every Thursday with \$3 admission.

As a Columbia alumnus—or “Columnus” as he called himself—Hofstetter reminds fellow Columbians to “never take yourselves too

seriously.” As it happens, Columbia itself boasts a strong comedy scene. Fruit Paunch, an improv group on campus, gained national attention when founding member Jenny Slate, CC ’04, appeared on SNL in 2009.

More recently, the sketch comedy group Chowdah had its first show outside campus, participating in UCB’s “Backyard Brawl,” battling Dinner for One, a seasoned sketch comedy group from Boston’s Emerson College on January 27. Even though Emerson won, this event represents a new era in student comedy at Columbia.

Chowdah co-president Charlie Dinkin, BC ’12, mirrors the aesthetics of the typical NYC comedian. As a London native, she comes from “a deeply entrenched” comic tradition of Monty Python and the Cambridge Footlights. As a comedy city, she found New York “intense” and “overwhelming,” but admired the “encouraging” variety of opportunities.

Dinkin is also coordinating the formation of a new comedic venture: This year for the first time ever, Columbia will be sending a team to Rooftop

Comedy’s College Stand Up Competition. The final eight students who make it through the auditions this week will have a TBS-televised face off against NYU students at the Gotham Comedy Club on March 20.

“Comedy is really fun,” Dinkin said. “It’s about looking at your world and understanding it in a different way, and now is the time to try it. So everyone should have a go.”

New York remains an institution, a destination, and a foundation for comedy. The centers may be shifting, as Brooklyn and Queens steadily—and rapidly—build their own scenes. The comedians, though, remain alike—devoted, disciplined, and above all, funny. Hofstetter, Paul and Fischer, and Dinkin may be at different stages of comedy, but they are all part of a process that makes this city vitally relevant, and forever an invaluable home for comedy.

Back at “Cheap Date,” Fischer celebrates news of having received “an amazing book deal.”

“I’m so excited!” Fischer says. “\$2.50 for ‘Catcher in the Rye!’ You usually can’t get it for under four dollars.”

The sweet life: a chocolatier’s journey from banking to bonbons

BY ALLISON SCHLISSEL
Spectator Staff Writer

The chocolate industry isn’t as simple as it looks in “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.” Chocolat Moderne, a modern-day factory, resembles an assembly line, with almost every piece of equipment on wheels at its home on the ninth floor of an office building in the Flat Iron District.

Chocolat Moderne is a chocolate lover’s dream, with hand-painted artisan chocolates, coupling the craft of the chocolatier with non-traditional flavors.

“This chocolate is not just any candy. It is a culinary work of art,” said Joan Coukos, chocolatier and CEO of Chocolat Moderne.


Coukos wasn’t always the chocolate aficionado that she is now. Coukos only picked up chocolate making in 2000 when vacationing in Brussels. After finding chocolate molds in an antique market, she said that she was intrigued.

“I didn’t know anything about chocolate,” she said. “I didn’t know it could be trendy.”

When she returned to the United States,

Coukos started experimenting with different chocolate ganache flavors in “her tiny Manhattan kitchen.” At the time, Coukos was working at Chase Bank and the only audience for her creations was her coworkers, who she said fell in love with them.

“This chocolate is not just any candy. It is a culinary work of art.”



—Joan Coukos,
Chocolat Moderne owner

With the JP Morgan and Chase Bank merger, Coukos found herself without a job. Even though she was offered jobs at other companies, Coukos said that she decided to take a risk and follow her dream of becoming a chocolatier.

Since then, Coukos has made a name for herself with her odd combinations and nontraditional flavors, such as the popular grapefruit-caramel bonbon, a fruity caramel ganache filling covered in a smooth dark chocolate. Some other unlikely flavors include a shiso and lime ganache, tomato-lemon caramel, olives and sea salt with caramel, and a dark chocolate tart with wild Italian cherries in a vodka-infused sour cherry syrup.

The best selling chocolate is the Sea Salt Moderne Bar, which comes in six different toffee flavors.

For Coukos, every experiment is worth it. “Whatever we sample, people buy,” she said.

The proof of Coukos’ success is in the pudding. Although about 90 percent of Chocolat Moderne orders are for retailers, Coukos said that the shop still has a loyal customer base—on a recent afternoon, she beamed when one of her customers walked in to buy a Valentine’s Day gift. “You are the first man in the United States to buy a Valentine’s Day gift this year!” she said.

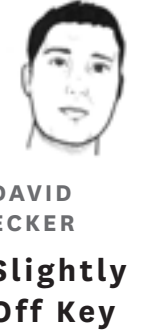
When asked why he bought chocolates from Chocolat Moderne, he answered with a smile, “Women love them. It’s like crack.”

Grooveshark’s legal woes are not the end

The New York Times recently reported that Grooveshark, for many a popular alternative to torrent sites, was facing lawsuits from “all major labels.” Although the labels site specific royalty issues, it’s not far-fetched to think that the music industry may be growing more hostile towards sites that offer their content for free. The recent debate over SOPA (The Stop Online Piracy Act) and PIPA (The Protect IP Act) also points to this, as does the fact that Grooveshark has already had to “shut down its operations in Germany” due to “unreasonably high” licensing costs.” What would it mean if their efforts proved successful? What if legal streaming became thing of the past? Should we even care?

I posed these questions to several Columbia students, and the general consensus was that Grooveshark’s demise might be inconvenient, but it would have no impact on their expectations of free music. “It wouldn’t matter,” said bassist Caitlin Kelliher, CC ’15, who admits to getting most of her music through YouTube or friends. “I like taking [music] from people I know,” added SEAS first-year Adam Gayoso, who also agreed that Grooveshark’s demise wouldn’t change his habits. Even musician and loyal Grooveshark user Eli Aleinikoff, CC ’15, admits that it is “hard to say” how exactly its demise would affect him.

Although I have a deep interest in the music industry—I’m writing a column about it, for Pete’s sake—I can’t think of a single way that Grooveshark’s demise would alter my daily habits. After all, I still have Spotify, YouTube, Google, a double-male chord, friends with massive libraries, Pandora, last.fm, Myspace Music, Bandcamp—you get the idea. I’m not attached to any one of these methods, and if half of them went away tomorrow, I probably wouldn’t blink.



DAVID
ECKER

**Slightly
Off Key**

Throughout all of this change, the great constant has been our ability to easily acquire free music ... If all the current streaming sites fail, there are dozens of startups that would gladly fill the void.

Our generation has grown up witnessing a rapidly growing and changing Internet, including the rise and fall of Napster, Kazaa and countless others. Throughout all of this change, the great constant has been our ability to easily acquire free music. Why should they expect anything different? If all the current streaming sites fail, there are dozens of startups that would gladly fill the void. Yes, the powerful old guard is trying to maintain its empire, but it’s a lost cause. The market has spoken—music, up to a point, is now free.

The initial wonder of free music has faded into an unenthusiastic acceptance, along with an intrinsic belief that the status quo can withstand whatever big money throws at it. It is with this reality, and not Grooveshark’s demise that I take issue. Free music may be the reality now, but it doesn’t mean that we should get complacent. This is the time when it’s most imperative for us to keep innovating, keep developing, and keep improving the reality for musicians and listeners alike. For the industry to have a decent future, it must take advantage of the free and volatile world in which it now finds itself. Likewise, consumers need to break out of their stupor and realize that the ball is in their court. They hold the power, and should begin thinking critically about what they want to do with it.

If we glean anything from Grooveshark’s struggles, it should be a reminder of all that we are currently taking for granted. Change may be still be a ways down the road, but if we keep our current attitude, it could catch us completely off guard.

David Ecker is a first-year in Columbia College. Slightly Off Key runs alternate Fridays.

Exotic dishes at Bowery outpost offer lesson on Orientalism

Like a pig’s tongue, the human lingua, from root to apex, is a fleshy, muscular organ. I have personally performed a glossectomy of necessary and delicious ends. Cooked in soy sauce and chilled until dense and gelatinous, his tongue tastes like curses and corned beef.

[He has hairy hands and a big yellow watch, eats a burger dipped in mayo on the train, and it all turns my stomach.]

Lunch is long. A Chinese woman with a bitter face and rubber rain boots takes my order. I am not speaking Mandarin. I ask her, “What is good? What should I eat? What soup? What is that—” pointing at untranslated characters—and she gestures at the owner, who sits at a table and eats tofu and rice porridge. He stands up, adjusts his coat, looks at the menu,



JASON
BELL
**In Defense
of
Delicious**

and returns to his own meal. Finally, the waitress says, “Beef,” I say, “Yes,” and she puts the order in. I wait and read the menu and listen to a Chinese game show play behind me.

It’s oxtail floating in a gallon of broth. I gnaw fat and cartilage off the bone, dipping fingers—so gauche, blistered from a dry January—in the soup to pick up the spine.

The owner and waitress converse in Chinese. I eavesdrop. But I am harmless, because I cannot understand their musical

morphemes—brassy, farting, symphonic squawkings like shortwave fuzz coming in long distance. Perhaps they discuss the owner’s wife. The soup arrives. “98. 清炖牛尾湯” It’s oxtail floating in a gallon of broth. I gnaw fat and cartilage off the bone, dipping fingers—so gauche, blistered from a dry January—in the soup to pick up the spine. Every few vertebrae, I drink deeply, licking beef grease off my lips.

[Osteography: I am training for a marathon. I can feel the bulbous curvature of my spine through my Billy Joel T-shirt, lump-lump-bump of bone sticking out of skin. I grow thin—I shall wear the bottoms of my bangs trimmed.]

Saturday night, I return to Best Fuzhou with friends. East of Bowery, a few firecrackers still pop. New Year’s celebrations are ending. While I order (the same waitress! smiles and laughs, proud of me and her food), three men drink coronas.

We start with rabbit in red wine lees. The succulent meat (succulent rabbit! how

strange) sops up vermilion, jugular, sauce. Then, a bowl of “Water Melon w. Fish Stomach Soup,” an error in translation; it is white gourd and flotation bladder; vegetal, subtle, of seawreck. Duck kidney, chewy and non-Euclidean, comes with cauliflower. And we get our own Sterno burner for wu geng chang wang, a sizzling casserole of pork intestines, chili, celery, and wiggly livery brown congealed blood. Fifth Watch Intestine’s Brilliance, so-called in honor of its ideal serving time, an hour of night perfect for eating pig entrails.

[I am not growing my hair out, I am just not cutting it off. It is something happening on my head. Hopefully, I will collect enough strands to form a great knobbly ushnisha.]

The task of the food writer is the task of the translator.

Jason Bell is a Columbia College junior majoring in English. In Defense of Delicious runs alternate Fridays.

Flipside Guide



PHOTO COURTESY OF INEZ VAN LAMSWEERDE AND VINOODH MATADIN

MUSICOPHILIA | Icelandic singer-songwriter Bjork’s latest avant-garde project “Biophilia” combines music, art, and even iPad apps.

‘Biophilia’

Icelandic icon’s forward-looking concept album is no swan song

BY ANATOLE ASHRAF
Spectator Staff Writer

Very few artists can successfully combine what is educational and informative with what is entertaining. For those as insanely creative—and creatively insane—as Bjork, however, rock and roll is a learning experience as much as a tour-de-force performance.

The famous swan-dressed Icelandier—and as the Gothamist put it, “sometimes New Yorker”—Bjork will be performing 10 shows over three weeks in February. The dates will be in support of her “Biophilia” project, a live show and concept album that was released last year over a series of iPad applications.

To call “Biophilia” merely a concept album and tour is an understatement. It can be more accurately described as an undertaking combining art, music, and science, formed in collaboration with app developers, scientists, writers, inventors, and of course, a plethora of musicians. The iPad apps, however, are fittingly gaining a lot of attention for their innovation.

“I wanted to write the album using a touch-screen,” Bjork said in an interview on “The Colbert Report.” “This was in 2008, two years before the album came out, so I couldn’t even imagine that would happen.” The idea for the apps took shape as Bjork adopted electronic techniques to write the album. The result is an interactive musical experience that allows listeners to join. The song “Cosmogony,” for example, was released as the “Solar System” iPad app, enabling listeners to push buttons, move slides, turn wheels, and even destroy planets in order to play the notes of the song. There’s even a tutorial app for the apps on the album.

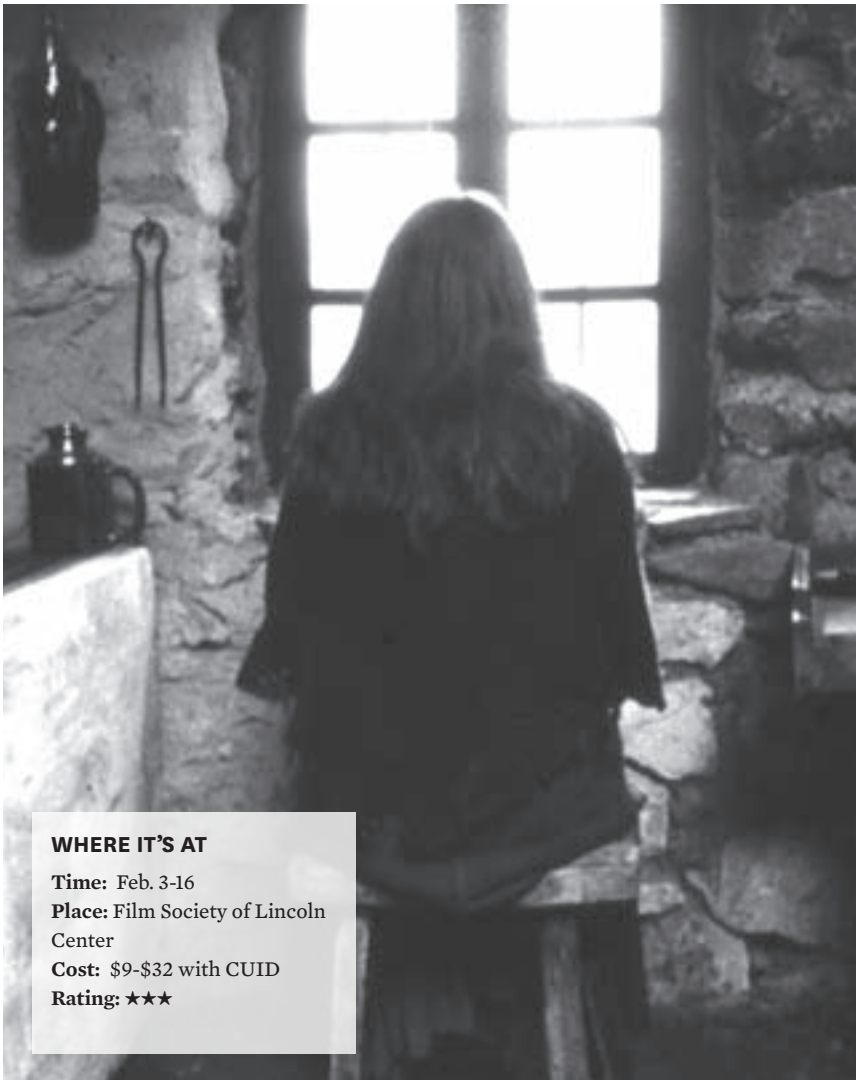
The themes of science, physics, and innovation are reflected in the album’s subject matter. Song titles like “Crystalline,” “Dark Matter,” “Mutual Core,” and “Solstice” suggest that the collection would hardly be out of place at a party filled with astrophysicists in search of extraterrestrial life—and who are maybe even using Bjork’s apps to do so.

Bjork will play four shows in Roseland Ballroom (239 W. 52nd St., between Broadway and Eighth Avenue), beginning Feb. 22. The shows will feature more of the innovation associated with the album, including instruments built by an Icelandic organ builder and an MIT graduate. Joining Bjork on stage will be Manu Delago, an Austrian percussionist known for playing the Hang—a Swiss percussion instrument invented in 2000 and based on the Indonesian gamelan. In a rare move for a computer programmer, app developer Max Weisel will be performing alongside Bjork and an award-winning 24-piece female choir.

Six more of her New York shows will be held at the New York Hall of Science (4701 111th St.) in Queens, the city’s only hands-on science and technology museum. The first is on Feb. 3.

Bjork is also establishing a three-week education series for middle-school children, with interactive science and music workshops. Students will learn about scientific concepts within the album’s songs, as well as how use the app’s function to compose music.

With a vision spanning various forms of media and a focus on science and education, Bjork may have raised the bar for innovation as a musical artist—at least until Justin Bieber figures out the Kinect.



WHERE IT’S AT
Time: Feb. 3-16
Place: Film Society of Lincoln Center
Cost: \$9-\$32 with CUID
Rating: ★★★



COURTESY OF FILM SOCIETY LINCOLN CENTER

SCREEN TIME | The Film Society of Lincoln Center presents a retrospective on the complete works of Hungarian director Béla Tarr, known for his polarizing films and dream-like cinematography.

Béla Tarr Retrospective

The six films at Hungarian filmmaker retrospective are hit or miss

BY WINN PERIYASAMY
Columbia Daily Spectator

Next weekend, New York film buffs have a rare chance to experience the works of Béla Tarr, a renowned Hungarian director. The work of the independent film giant is rarely shown in the United States—and his latest film, “The Turin Horse,” will likely be his last.

In honor of his retirement, the Film Society of Lincoln Center at West 66th Street has decided to showcase his work in a retrospective titled “The Last Modernist: The Complete Works of Béla Tarr” running Feb. 3 to 8 at the Walter Reade Theater. Six films will screen this weekend: “Werckmeister Harmonies,” “The Prefab People,” “Damnation,” and “Family Nest,” play on Friday. “Macbeth” and “Satantango,” the filmmaker’s most acclaimed (and longest, at 450 minutes) play on Saturday. “Satantango” plays again on Sunday.

Tarr’s films are famously polarizing. In “Werckmeister Harmonies,” the arrival of unusual circus attractions stirs trouble in an impoverished Hungarian village. It also focuses on Janos, a local postal man who regards the stars with a kind of wonder that is rare to see in modern-day life. It is at once dreamlike and nightmarish.

“Werckmeister” is a haunting masterpiece, both serene and sad—a black-and-white marvel. With only 39 shots in total, action glides gracefully from one shot to another. Tarr’s style respects the value of each shot, and by extension, each character. The

performances are disciplined. Their effect is slow. Tarr clouds his audience’s thoughts, but he never loses control.

“The Man From London” also showcases this style, though not as well as “Werckmeister.” It follows Maloin, a railway worker who witnesses a murder involving a cash-laden briefcase. A police investigation ensues, but the story stays centered on Maloin’s quest to escape the solitude he once embraced. On his journey, he wrestles with questions of mortality and the guilt of inaction, ultimately realizing that one spontaneous act is insufficient.

The premise of “The Turin Horse” is unexpected: Friedrich Nietzsche spent the last 10 years of his life in near silence after witnessing the brutal beating of a horse by its master. This horse, his driver, and his family—not Nietzsche—form the focus of Tarr’s final film. In addition to winning the Silver Bear at this year’s Berlin International Film Festival and a Main Slate entry in the 2011 New York Film Festival, “The Turin Horse” is Hungary’s entry into the Academy Awards. Its Lincoln Center debut marks its first showing in the United States.

Tarr’s work is painstaking, but a lackluster plot and dull characters leave the film a bore. Without substance, his slow pace becomes daunting and futile.

Fortunately, Tarr’s measured pacing is usually an asset. Viewers who enjoy the early work of Gus Van Sant and Andrei Tarkovsky can expect a similar tempo. He’s the kind of filmmaker you either love or hate. But if you love him, you’ll be left wanting more of his meditative storytelling at the end of every film.



WHERE IT’S AT
Time: 5 to 10:30 p.m. Sun.-Thu., 5 to 11 p.m. Fri. and Sat.
Place: 558 Broome St.
Cost: \$7.50-\$34
Rating: ★★★★★



AUSTIN ARITA FOR SPECTATOR

FANCY FREE | La Sirene offers a relaxed, unpretentious take on French cuisine, with its wallet-friendly BYOB policy and a casual, emoticon-filled menu that might even draw out a chuckle or two.

La Sirene

Newest entrant to French cuisine offers no-frills approach to fine dining

BY AUSTIN ARITA
Columbia Daily Spectator

A self-proclaimed “comfy 25-seat BYOB” French cuisine restaurant, La Sirene is one of the few frills-free French restaurants left in the city. From well-mannered French waiters to the authentic taste of Chef Didier Pawlicki’s food, there is no sense of the superiority and haughtiness many New Yorkers associate with French cuisine. Without a liquor license, the restaurant does not charge for uncorking—a practice that is unheard of in a New York restaurant, let alone in one serving French cuisine.

The small restaurant is marked by its lovely atmosphere. But even as they pass by the well-lit windows, visitors might be more enticed by a wonderful display of delicious concoctions.

Looking closely at the menu will draw a chuckle or two—dishes are listed with their ingredients, along with Internet-lingo emoticons and nonstandard grammar. The Kassulet Toulousain de la Maison—a casserole of garlic duck confit, bacon, and pork sausage—is listed as “Yummy but Rich!! Was Created for Warriors

to defend the City ! Don’t take it if you can’t bear it.” The candid, friendly menu—decorated in pink flowers—is convincing enough to encourage any diner to order the completely meat-free Tartelette de Chevre Frais, or the Goat Cheese Tart. For a slightly pricey \$16.95, the perfectly warm tart—made with shallots, truffles, grapes, and 180 day-aged Swiss cheese—was a colorful canvas of tastes.

The composition of the dessert rivaled even the meat-heavy Filet Mignon in terms of complexity. In addition to a wonderful presentation, the tart came with a side salad and was rimmed with a bright red beet sauce that contrasted well with the rich goat cheese in the tart.

La Sirene was quite full during its late-dinner shift, half filled with young professionals and couples on dates, the other half with older patrons. Two birthday parties were ongoing. With a half-open style kitchen, the warm smells permeated through the restaurant, combining with its convivial atmosphere. For patrons willing to spend \$50 on rich-tasting, no-drama French food, La Sirene is a standout.

events

MUSIC

Tycho

—*Music Hall of Williamsburg, 66 North 6th St, between Kent and Wythe avenues, Saturday, Feb. 4, 8 p.m., \$18*

Scott Hansen—under the recording name Tycho—combines synthetic sounds with lush, organic instrumentation to create atmospheric soundscapes. Also on the bill is Oneohtrix Point Never, the widely hyped project of Brooklyn-based experimental musician Daniel Lopatin.

FILM

Kill List

—*IFC Center, 323 Sixth Ave. at West 3rd Street, through Thursday, Feb. 9, \$13*

A hitman tries to recover his career after a botched job. But unlike most hitman movies, “Kill List” skips the thriller category—instead, it morphs from a marriage drama straight into horror—and unlike most hitman movies, it’s actually good.

WILDCARD

Flushing Lunar New Year

—*From Union Street and 39th Avenue to Main Street and 39th Avenue, Saturday, Feb. 4, 11 a.m., free*

Bring out the paper lanterns and firecrackers in celebration of the Year of the Dragon. Three years older than the one in Manhattan, this annual parade travels through Queen’s Chinatown, and features traditional Chinese performances, including the dragon dance.

BOOKS

Charles Dickens at 200

—*Morgan Library & Museum, 225 Madison Ave., at 36th Street, through Sunday, Feb. 12, various times, \$15*

To mark the bicentennial of the celebrated novelist, the Madison Avenue institution has gathered Charles Dickens’ letters, manuscripts, and illustrations. The collection keys readers in to the surprisingly salacious past of the author.