

Vets will have to pay more, following GI Bill changes

BY ARVIN AHMADI
Spectator Staff Writer

Columbia veterans, who attend the University for free on the post-Sept. 11 GI Bill, may wind up graduating with hefty tuition bills after the lame-duck Congress voted in December to revise the historic piece of legislation.

The most recent incarnation of the GI Bill—unofficially dubbed “GI Bill 2.0”—will fully fund tuition at public universities but instates a \$17,500 cap for tuition at private universities. When the new GI bill goes into effect later this year, Columbia student veterans can expect to pay between \$5,000 and \$15,000 on their own in tuition fees.

“My initial reaction was, ‘Good for everybody else, but bad for Columbia veterans,’” said University senator and veteran Jose Robledo, GS. “It definitely makes it difficult for veterans to get to some of the more elite institutions.”

Members of Columbia’s veterans association, the U.S. Military Veterans of Columbia University, said they’re prepared to fight to enact a grandfather clause that would allow veterans who attended Columbia under the original post-Sept. 11 GI Bill to continue attending cost-free.

“I had sort of prepared myself for the cap,” said Dan Lagana, a veteran and GSSC vice president for finance. “But the fact that it did not have a grandfather clause ... is shocking to me.”



FILE PHOTO

TENANT TENSION | Relocated Cuban restaurant Floridita’s owner Ramon Diaz has filed a legal complaint against CU, his landlord.

Since the original GI Bill was passed in 1947, General Studies was redesigned specifically for veterans and over time it has become increasingly supportive of the veteran community.

The post-Sept. 11 GI Bill along with the Yellow Ribbon Program—in which the Department of Veterans Affairs matches tuition contributions from the University—gave eligible veterans at Columbia a tuition waiver, housing allowance, and \$2,700 per month living stipend. As a direct result, the number of veterans at Columbia’s School of General Studies increased from 60 during 2008-09

to 180 this semester. There are about 300 veterans enrolled at Columbia.

Peter Awn, dean of General Studies, said that trend is likely to reverse under the revised GI Bill.

“Will they decline? The answer is ‘yes,’” Awn said. “How much debt can you assume and be confident that you’ll be employed ... and earn enough to pay your debt back? Especially when you can go to a state school and incur far less debt.”

Awn added that many veterans would not be able to attend private universities, like Columbia, without financial assistance.

“For most veterans, they do not come with lots of independent resources,” said Awn. “It was not uncommon for veterans before the post-Sept. 11 GI Bill to be graduating with somewhere between \$60,000 and \$120,000 in debt.”

The MilVets said they are planning a trip to the nation’s capital and will continue to protest the tuition cap on private universities.

“This is a collective idea that we share. I think this dynamic that we have moving forward is really positive,” Brendan Rooney, GS and president of MilVets, said. “You’re going to see a lot more coming down from the

MilVets this semester.”

Rooney added that as part of its lobbying campaign, the group has been in touch with local politicians, such as Senator Kristen Gillibrand.

“Senator Gillibrand does not want any veteran student to lose the funding he or she needs to continue their education,” Gillibrand’s spokeswoman Angie Hu told Spectator. “The Senator will use her seat on the Senate Armed Services Committee to continue to fight to provide better opportunities for veterans and military families.”

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Floridita owner files legal complaint

Diaz claims CU should remove toxic asbestos

BY ABBY MITCHELL
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Columbia and a Manhattanville restaurateur are at odds once again—this time, over potentially toxic material.

Ramon Diaz, owner of the Cuban restaurant Floridita, is pursuing legal action against Columbia—the latest act in a long and contentious history between the University and his restaurant.

Diaz is claiming that he found dangerous asbestos in the restaurant’s new location on the corner of 12th Avenue and 125th Street, which he is leasing from Columbia, and that the University did not alert him of the problem before he signed a lease last May.

“You took me out of a space that you claimed had a structural problem, you closed down my business, you threw me into a building that was contaminated, and now you say that I have to pay for it,” Diaz said.

Now, Diaz is claiming that Columbia is responsible for the cleanup, but the University claims that the job is Diaz’s.

“The university has met all of its obligations with respect to providing the space to the tenant for fit-out. Instead of meeting his

SEE FLORIDITA, page 4

Editors from NYT, Guardian talk Wikileaks

BY JESSICA STALLONE
Columbia Daily Spectator

At a panel hosted in Low Library, two of the biggest figures in old media discussed their relationship with Julian Assange, the founder of Wikileaks, a controversial website that publishes classified government documents.

Bill Keller, executive editor of the New York Times, and Alan Rusbridger, editor of the Guardian, spoke at the panel hosted by the School of Journalism on how they persuaded Assange to work with the mainstream media to coordinate the release of 250,000 diplomatic cables.

In November, Wikileaks, in concert with the Times, the Guardian, and several other newspapers, released confidential diplomatic cables that raised questions about what sort of journalistic activity is protected under the First Amendment.

According to Keller, the Times

worked closely with the State Department and the Pentagon regarding the information they would publish.

“We certainly did not send them our articles before they went to print, but we gave them a heads up on what cables we were going to use and they made suggestions of what we should keep. Sometimes we did not,” Keller said.

In December, the faculty of the Journalism School sent President Barack Obama a letter warning against rumored prosecution of those associated with Wikileaks.

According to Keller, it would be “very hard to conceive of a prosecution of Assange that would not stretch the law in a way that would be applicable to us.”

Last semester, the School of International and Public Affairs sent its students an e-mail passing along a message

from a Columbia alumnus at the State Department, warning that students who posted information from Wikileaks on social networking sites might hurt their chances of landing government jobs down the line. Keller said that while the government taking that position does not surprise him, he finds it “a little absurd.”

“I think it’s sort of hard to decide whether that whole thing is sort of tragic or just comical,” Keller told Spectator.

Albert Samaha, Journalism, said he enjoyed hearing about how the editors weighed their risks in dealing with the classified information.

“It was a really powerful presentation and was cool seeing the actual people who were involved,” he said. “They mostly covered themes that people already knew about, and I was hoping for them to give us some more revolutionary information.”

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BY JACKIE CARRERO
Spectator Staff Writer

The Palestinian film festival held on campus this week is a big step up from previous classes that focused on Middle Eastern cinema, organizers said.

“They used to have to punch a hole into the wall to project films from [an] adjacent cubicle in the small basement all the way in the bottom of the Mathematics building,” professor of Iranian studies and comparative literature Hamid Dabashi joked in his opening remarks at the festival’s start on Wednesday.

The film festival, titled “Dreams of a Nation,” was organized by the Center for Palestine Studies at Columbia, which launched last October.

Students who attended the festival, which runs until this Sunday, Feb. 6, said that it contributed to a new representation of Palestinian culture on campus—one that went beyond Middle East conflict.

“It’s a great opportunity for Palestinians to be represented in a capacity that isn’t solely related to the Israel-Palestine conflict,” Gabriela Siegel, CC ’13 and a MESAAS major, said. “It’s a celebration, not a protest.”

Caitlin Watson, CC ’13, agreed. “When we talk about Palestine, it’s always just a big protest on Low,” she said.

Renda Wahba, one of the organizers of the film festival and a student at Columbia’s Mailman School of Public Health, said that the event was aimed at honoring Palestinian culture.

“We were hoping to showcase Palestinian film and celebrate Palestinian cinema because it hasn’t received a lot of attention worldwide,” Wahba said. “The movies we want to show are not about Palestine, but by



SHIVINA HARJANI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FILM FEST | Lead actress Hiam Abbass spoke after the New York City premiere of her film “Pomegranates and Myrrh.”

Palestinians.” Rawan Hadid, the curator of the film festival and Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies masters student, agreed with Wahba.

“The curatorial intent is to celebrate national achievements recognizing the fragmentation of the Palestinian narrative,” Hadid said. Dabashi said that Palestinian culture has been underrepresented worldwide and at Columbia—a trend that seems to be changing with events such as the film festival and the activity of the Center for Palestine Studies.

The festival also featured the New York City premiere of the film “Pomegranates and Myrrh,” including a panel discussion with director Najwa Najjar and

lead actress Hiam Abbass.

The film, about a newlywed woman who falls in love with her dance instructor after her husband gets arrested by Israeli authorities, caused controversy in Palestine because of its depiction of the wives of prisoners.

But Najam Haider, a professor of religion at Barnard who attended the screening, thought it contributed to a positive dialogue about Palestinian culture.

“Art relates to real life perspectives and these are perspectives that are not really seen. We get a sense of empathy from watching the film that causes real change,” she said.

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JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LEAKED | Bill Keller, executive editor of the New York Times, left, and Alan Rusbridger, editor of the Guardian, spoke at a panel discussion on Wikileaks in Low Library on Thursday evening.

OPINION, PAGE 2

“Odi et amo”

A professor explains his Latin tattoo.

Cold at Columbia

Dino Grandoni wants his coat back.



SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Lions head back on the road this weekend

The Light Blue is hoping to end its five game road trip on a positive note and improve its conference record to 5-1 as it travels to Brown and Yale this Friday and Saturday.

EVENTS

Solidarity march for the people of Egypt

Head downtown to march in support of democracy in Egypt.
44th Street and Second Avenue, 3:30-6:30 p.m.

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An open letter

Dear Stranger,

It was 3:30 a.m., last call at Mel's on Saturday night. We only interacted briefly, but you left me thinking about you for the rest of the night. If you find it in your heart, reach out to me so we can reconnect.

Now, I know what you must be thinking: This is one of those Missed Connections. Oh, Lord, no. Not even close. The Internet is good for a lot of things, but I'm not yet desperate enough to turn to it for dating. No, stranger, we probably didn't even meet, we probably didn't share a single word or exchange a single glance. But I know you are an egomaniacal, self-serving little prick. For, you see, last Saturday night, you stole my coat off the bench at Mel's and left me to walk back to EC in single-digit temperatures and minus-zero wind chill, cold and coatless.

Did my jacket keep you warm? Does it fit you well? It's a pretty nice coat—a black Banana Republic pea coat. It's my favorite coat, in fact, one that I had owned for three-and-a-half years, having brought it my first semester at Columbia. People wear pea coats in New York, but not in Buffalo, my hometown; with that coat I felt one step closer to being a New Yorker. Which is to say, that coat had sentimental value to me but none to you.

My evening had been going well, at least by Columbia standards—a dorm party at EC, followed by 1020 and Mel's. So when, around a quarter to four, the bartenders were shooing the dipsos away from the bar and the bouncers started leering at patrons to leave, I went for the bench where I had placed my coat an hour earlier and found the scarf and hat I had stuffed into my jacket lying suspiciously alone on the bench.

Why you didn't steal those accessories along with my coat, I'll never know. Perhaps like other bottom-dwelling, scum-of-the-earth criminals you leave your signature at the scene of the crime just to baffle grizzled police detectives and sozzled college students. Whatever doubt I had over whether my coat had been stolen or just taken accidentally was laid to rest when I saw two other barflies buzzing around in search of their respective winter wear. You'd obviously lifted theirs too. This wasn't just some sudden kleptomaniacal itch that you were scratching; this was pre-meditated thievery.

Theft is not uncommon on campus, and surely every single last one of us has had something taken from them (Lord knows I find food more appetizing when it's my suit-mates'). Unknowns among us—some obviously Columbia students, some obviously not—steal property for myriad motives: for kicks, for profit, for personal use. I ought not speculate on your particular motives, stranger, but I will anyway: Given that three coats had gone missing that night, I imagine you stole the coats to sell them. Perhaps you truly need the money—but more likely than not you are a fellow Columbian, and that is not the case. Everyone knows Columbia students sell drugs when their wallets are light.

When I asked a bouncer at Mel's that night what I should have done to protect my property—given that the restaurant didn't have a coat check, as far as I could tell—he simply offered that I should have kept a better eye on it. I didn't agree with him then—I did, after all, have to walk half a mile home in cold, albeit comforted by a slice of Koronet pizza. Now, as I prepare to take a day out of this weekend to shop for a replacement jacket, I realize I should have been more careful with my belongings.

I wish I could say that Columbia is a community of mutually supportive and respectful collegians who abide by a simple kindergarten maxim of not taking what's not theirs. But as an economics major, I've been taught that people—college-educated or not—are self-interested actors, and if their interest is to steal your coat, they'll be damn sure to act on it. If I had been more careful, I wouldn't need to write this letter. I'm the one responsible for my irresponsibility.

What I mean to say to you, connection I wish I missed, is: It's not you, it's me.

Always yours,
Dino

Dino Grandoni is a Columbia College senior majoring in economics-political science. He is a former Spectator head copy editor. The Lowest Common Dino-minator runs alternate Fridays.



DINO GRANDONI
The Lowest Common Dino-minator

C.U. ink

BY JAMES UDEN

Many Columbia professors have tattoos. They are hidden on ankles or wrists, concealed under coats and trousers, or lie behind sleeves that never get rolled up. (I refer in particular to the Columbia and Barnard Classics Departments, but I'm sure professors from other departments are hiding just as much ink.) By contrast, I love showing students my tattoo. I've made a positive ritual out of it in my Latin classes. The ritual typically takes place on the first day of class, when both professor and student are keen to make a big impression. Why, I ask, are you interested in learning a difficult, long-dead language, with very little practical application? That's the start of a speech whose script has been written bit-by-bit over the years, in which I explain my life-changing high school encounter with the Latin poet Catullus. Catullus' picture of the agony and excitement of love, his seductive picture of fast-living Roman elites, and his disorienting inversions of gender and sexual norms stirred my imagination like nothing I had ever read. It all seemed peculiarly—in fact, impossibly—relevant to my teenaged Australian self. That Catullus and his language were so long-dead only excited me more—I felt like I was talking to ghosts. My favorite poem was poem 85—"odi et amo," "I hate and I love," in which Catullus describes the emotional paralysis that results at the end of his affair with the woman he calls Lesbia. That phrase, "odi et amo," I declare to students, will, as a result of my affection for Catullus, always be tattooed on my heart—and on my arm. Cue the rolling up of sleeves.

Of course, there is nothing particularly rare about having a Latin tattoo. This language, which—as Nicholas Ostler put it—"created Europe," is now most prominent in popular culture in school mottos, magical spells, and tattoos. It is a frequent occurrence for a member of the general public with little or no knowledge of Latin to call up the Columbia Classics Department seeking a Latin translation of his favorite phrase, so that it can be inked onto his body for life. Latin seems stately and intellectual, I guess, and it does have the reputation of sticking around for a very long time. The artist in Sydney who did my own tattoo (who, incidentally, specialized in Tolkien-themed tattoos) told me that Latin phrases were one of his most frequent requests, especially short phrases such as "requiescat in pace" ("may he/she rest in peace") and "audentis Fortuna iuvat" ("Fortune favors the brave," the

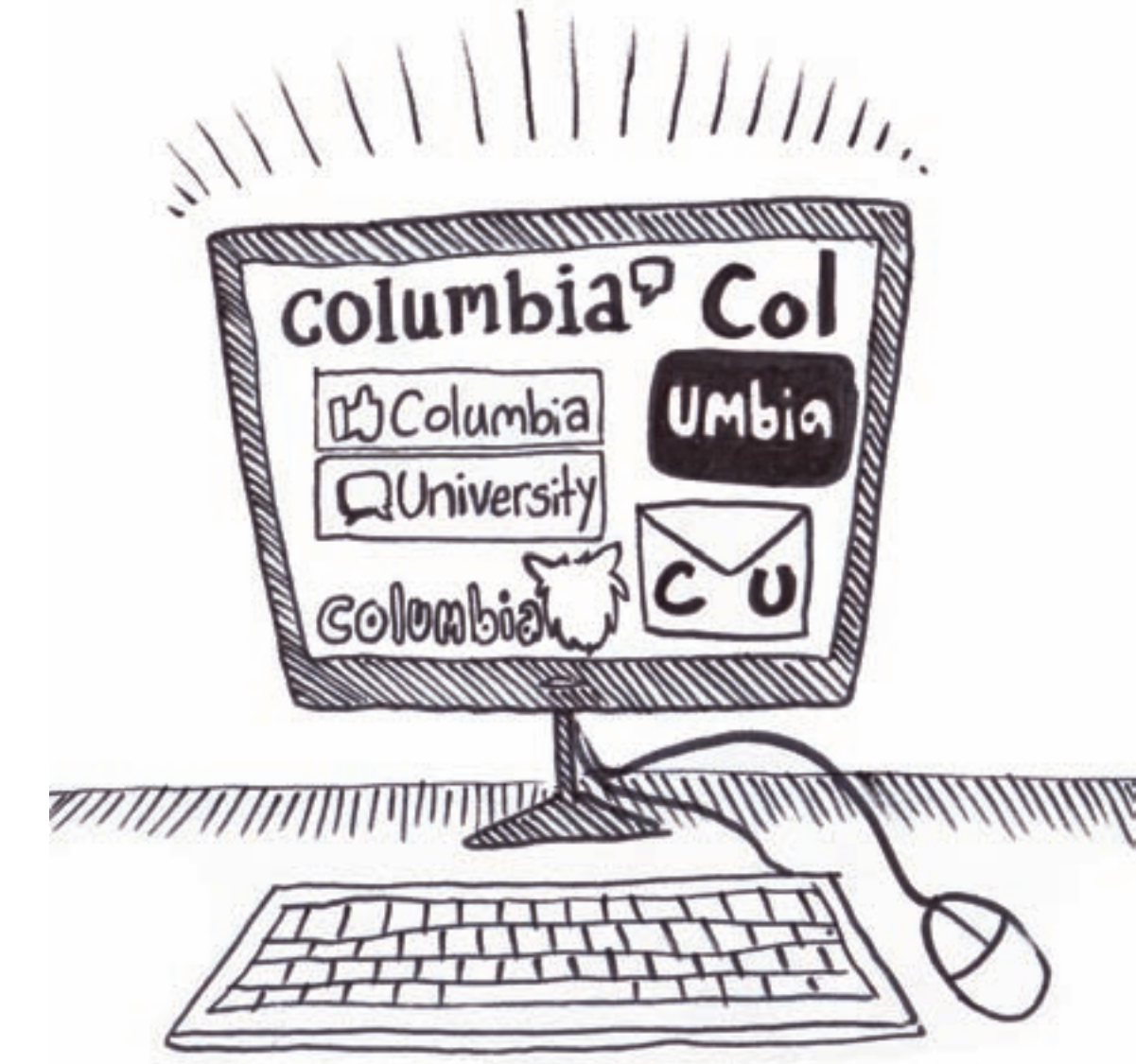
After Office Hours

foolish slogan of the reckless Turnus in book 10 of "The Aeneid"). The New York Post ran a story a couple of years ago in which Latin professors attempted to decode the pseudo-Latin tattoo "tutela valui" spied on the stomach of a prostitute linked to Eliot Spitzer. But that's the problem with any tattoo, of course. It'd better be correct. I double, triple, and quadruple-checked my own, even though its three words are familiar to any elementary Latin student.

Latin seems stately and intellectual, and it does have the reputation of sticking around for a very long time.

But with the words are permanently there, I have constantly been surprised at how much their significance has changed over the years. The entire poem, in English, runs like this: "I hate and I love. Why do I do it, you may ask? I don't know, but I feel it happen, and I'm crucified." Catullus' poems have described every stage of his love affair with the woman he calls Lesbia, moving from elated excitement at their first contact to wary joy as the relationship develops, then bitter anger at her abandonment. This poem, on the other hand, captures an emotional state seemingly independent of anything she does or says, of residual emotions in agonizing co-existence. I related to the poem on a pretty literal level when I first encountered it. Its eight verbs and zero adjectives seemed to strip romantic feelings down to their absolute core. No angry teen could fail to relate. But then "I hate and I love" seemed much more broadly, and positively, to be a call to the intensely-lived life. Catullus lives in extremes, and I wanted to too. Now, I admit, the line to me represents a pledge of allegiance to a language both difficult and long-dead. Studying classics means inserting oneself in a long tradition, and the tattoo is my way of claiming a small piece of it for myself. I don't know what my students make of my ritual. But, as the semester develops, I always hope that they savor the thrill of becoming a part of that tradition too.

The author is a Lit Hum preceptor and graduate student in the Department of Classics.



STEPHANIE MANNHEIM

Making the connection

BY DANIEL SIMS

Homepages, frankly, are dull. They often merely act like the main road in a town, shuttling people from the highway to the business or house they want to go to. That's all the Columbia University Information Technology programmers had to build—a way to get students to Courseworks, prospective students to admissions, and researchers to research pages. So I was only expecting a shiny skin over the old site's dull code. They scored on all the basic points: The site looks nice, the navigation is clear, and there are no annoying sounds that automatically play when the site is opened. But they went a step beyond.

Instead of banning social media like so many other organizations, Columbia has embraced it and is showing it to the world.

On the pages that list student groups, departments, centers, and institutes, you can find social media icons next to each entity's name. The icons are small, but they represent the exciting potential the website has to engage people outside this community.

Some might point out that there aren't many social media icons right now, but there is a big link near the top right of each page where you can submit links to your group's social media presence. Furthermore, these pages are formulated to easily access and submit links. Columbia is trying—this seems like an authentic attempt to display every group that represents Columbia online. For this website to be effective, Columbia's student groups—along with academic departments and institutes—just need to submit their profiles.

This listing presents a great opportunity to connect with members of our community. No public relations departments, no filtering—just one-on-one communication. This is why Columbia's new website will go viral. A PR department and its diluting, bureaucratic process cannot capture the excitement of being in this community, but a student tweeting and blogging for a department can explain the department's passion for its discipline.

Those departments and groups have always been tweeting, using Facebook, and blogging. In the past, it would have taken a bit more digging through Google to find these opportunities to interact. Furthermore, instead of banning social media like so many other organizations, Columbia has embraced it and is showing it to the world. Lastly, the Google rankings for that group's social media will increase, pushing campus research activity and chapters of national organizations toward the top of the more general search term. This is because columbia.edu, in Google's opinion, is a high-quality website, and its computers assume that any website that has a link coming from our website is worthy of a higher position.

I have a few ideas that would turn this website's grade from "A" to "A plus."

There should be a way to allow a group's email to be posted on these pages. Yes, there is a risk of spam, but some groups are already taking that risk on their own websites. Also, the website would be improved if there were a message on these pages welcoming students to contact departments and groups. It's true that the website already heavily implies that it is allowed, but if you remember your time on College Confidential, Columbia is intimidating to everyone at first. A friendly invitation to connect with community members would help people overcome their fear of connecting with us. We can make ourselves available for student assignments, blog posts, and news articles based on the research we do, creating an experience that a person will never forget.

All in all, this website represents a highly effective social media plan for Columbia. Realizing how to use social media as an effective tool is a major hurdle for most organizations. For Columbia, the hard part is over. We just need to use this new platform.

The author is a first-year in the School of Engineering and Applied Science.

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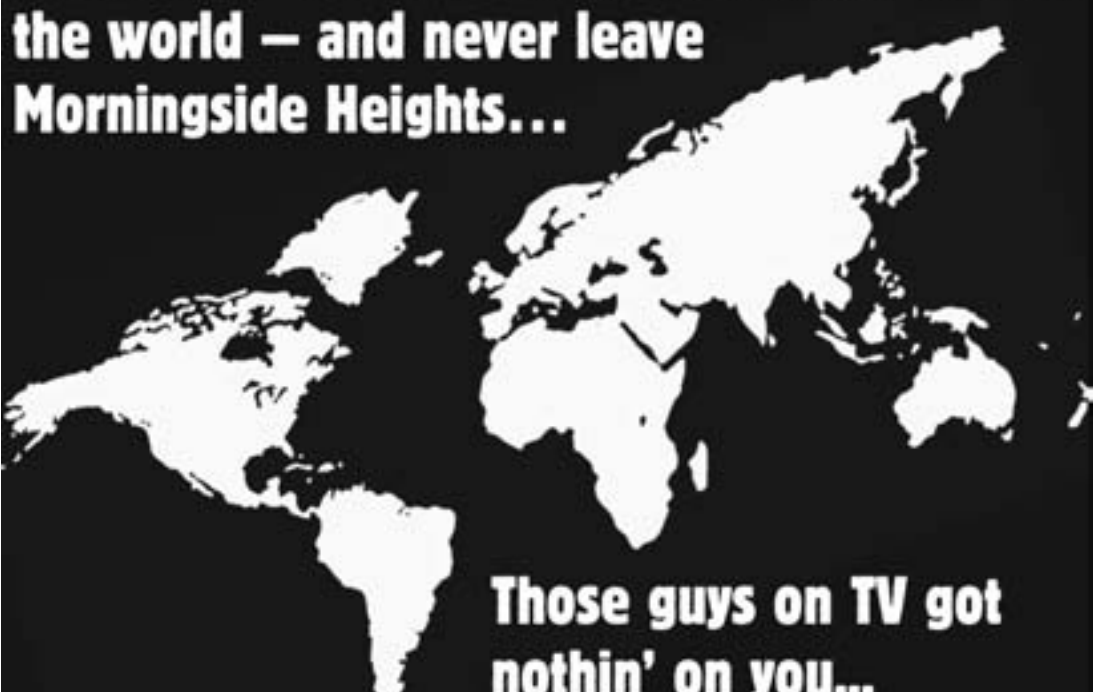
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Aditya Mukerjee, President

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 In development, as software

5 Ancient meeting place

10 Bloke

14 School since 1440

15 Really enjoy

16 Symbolic ring

17 "Oklahoma!" prop?

19 Heavenly bodies

20 Subject of a 2009 national tournament

21 Time off spent with Rover?

23 Star car

25 Downslizing event?

26 Extend across

28 Fingers

31 Fumble (for)

34 Undercover operations where agents can bring guests?

37 Tampa NFLer

38 Jobs, idiomatically

39 Tesla, by birth

40 Sol lead-in

41 Creative output

42 Dance for lousies?

44 "Beau ...", Gary Cooper film

46 Head of government?

47 Body shop figs.

48 Close connection

50 Water carrier

52 Taser switch?

56 Mickey's "The Whistler" co-star

60 "Young" reformer

61 Fancy shoes for the campaign trail?

63 "Young Frankenstein" lab assistant

64 Small trucklet

65 Lollipop, for one

66 Cheers

67 Exhaust

68 A long, long time

DOWN

1 "Summertime" singer

2 Caesarean rebuke

3 Warty hopper

4 Luanda natives

5 Rock collection?

6 Needle-nosed fish

7 Numbered piece

8 Sign of age

9 Garden pest

10 Round jewelry item

11 Not easily topped

12 Jessica of "Sin City"

13 Bridal accessory

18 Scratching (out)

22 Butts

24 Deepwater horizon, for one

26 Disconcerting look

27 Penguins' home

29 Blackmore heiress

30 Took a sirious path

32 Knitting stitches

33 Sci. concerned with biodiversity

34 Thick carpet

35 Behave

36 Co. that merged into Verizon

40 Clear as mud

42 Texting button

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45 Mighty Dump Trucks, e.g.

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54 At the peak of

55 "Kick, Push" rapper ... Fiasco

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59 Silvery threats

62 Co. with a butterfly logo

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

P	I	N	M	O	Z	A	R	T	P	E	A	T	
O	N	E	O	R	E	I	D	A	U	L	N	A	
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D	O	L	E										

xwordeditor@aol.com 02/04/11



By Ed Serna
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Mangano an offensive, defensive power

MANGANO from back page

New Haven, Conn. Though the Bulldogs do have other weapons in freshman center Jeremiah Kreisberg and junior forward Reggie Willhite, there's no disputing that Mangano is the most feared item in their arsenal. Since Mangano's recruitment, Coach Jones believes that the three-time Ivy Player of the Week's improvement has been his strength, something the Light Blue will certainly have to work to negate. Mangano is no slouch on the offensive end either, averaging 14.8 points per game—the fourth highest in the League. While Coach Jones says he is not worried about foul trouble, the Lions should look to drive the basketball early in hopes of throwing Mangano off his rhythm. As the anchor, the junior forward contributes nearly a third of Yale's rebounds and over half of his squad's blocks. Jones says Mangano's versatility is his best characteristic and that he can pose

a threat in all facets of the game—even behind the arc on occasion. The forward has been on a tear recently and despite two uncharacteristic team performances this past weekend, has averaged 17.8 points and 11.3 boards per game in his first four conference games this season. Coming off two tough losses at Penn and Princeton last season, Mangano and the team are aware that they need to stay focused. “There can't be any slip-ups from here on out,” he said. This weekend's matchup is important for both Yale and Columbia, as each squad knows the added pressure that comes with playing a competitive Ivy team. The winner of this Saturday's contest is expected to be the only team that could potentially join Penn in the attempt to dethrone Princeton or Harvard. Columbia looks to win this game—the second game of its road trip—and carry a strong performance into the

coming games at home against Princeton and Penn. When asked about how he feels about the Ivy League mentality toward sports, Mangano responded with a chuckle. “It helps keep your head on straight,” he said. As with all Ivy League schools, Mangano says that academics definitely come first at Yale. According to him, however, there is a growing hoops interest within the school. While it will certainly be a longshot, Mangano spoke about his hopes to play professional basketball in the future. Though it is a rarity in this league, with the recent attention Cornell's miracle run received and players like Jeremy Lin of Harvard in the NBA, maybe his dream can come true. Either way, Mangano looks to impose his will on the Ivy League for the remainder of the year and if his rigorous workout regimen continues, will be an even bigger presence next season.



COURTESY OF YALE DAILY NEWS

STANDING TALL | Yale forward Greg Mangano is currently ranked fourth in the league in scoring with 14.8 points a game.

WRESTLING

Lions will face No. 1 Cornell

The Columbia wrestling team will kick off its Ivy League season this Saturday against the No. 1 team in the country, Cornell. This will prove to be steep competition for the Lions, who are currently No. 57 in the nation. The Big Red boasts a 6-1 record so far this season, and eight of its wrestlers are ranked in the top 11 in the country, led by 197-pounder Cam Simaz, who's currently top in the country. Cornell lost to Iowa at last year's NCAA finals and certainly looks well on its way to getting back to the championship this season. The competition will be fierce for Columbia, but there are definitely some weak spots in Cornell's lineup where the Lions could rack up points or even victories. Neither Columbia nor Cornell has a ranked wrestler in the 141-pound weight class, which will give Light Blue freshman Matt Bystol a fighting chance against the Big

Red's freshman Mike Nevinger. Another area where Cornell suffers is its Heavyweight class, where Columbia's junior Kevin Lester, who was recently elected Columbia Athletics' Athlete of the Month for his perfect January season, will have a good chance to pull out a W. Other promising matchups will be Columbia's 165-pounder senior Eren Civan, who was previously ranked 18th in the country, against Cornell's #5 senior Justin Kerber. Looking ahead to the rest of the season, this will be Columbia's toughest match until the EIWA Championships, where they will face the region's top wrestlers. While No. 20 Penn may be a difficult contest for the Lions, they will fare better against No. 40 Harvard, No. 56 Princeton, and the unranked Brown Bears. The action this weekend kicks off at 6 p.m. in Dodge Fitness Center.

—Meredith Mead

In Ivy play, Light Blue hopes to continue league success

MEN'S BASKETBALL from back page

7-footer Zack Crimmins will get their chance against Mangano. “We'll probably go with our aircraft carriers on that one,” Smith said, referring to Craig and Crimmins. “[Craig's] been practicing well. They're both seniors, and Max has had a great attitude. You can tell, he knows it—there's five weeks left in his career. Both of them do.” Smith acknowledged the Bulldogs' defense, pointing to the size of Yale's big men, from Mangano to 6-foot-9 freshman Jeremiah Kreisberg. “They're really hard to score around on in the basket because they're so big,” Smith said. “They're strong and they're physical. They're really sound defensively.” Beyond the battle in the post, Columbia will have to keep an eye on both sophomore point guard Austin Morgan, who averages 12.7 points per game, and senior guard

Porter Braswell, who adds 10.6 per game. To help the Light Blue's two leading scorers, Agho and starting point guard Brian Barbour, with defensive duties, Smith will turn to freshman shooting guard Steve Frankoski as well as defensive specialist Meiko Lyles. Smith calls Lyles his best on-ball defender, a role the Lions have struggled to fill thus far this season. “Meiko is long and big, so he's hard to get around,” Smith said. “Against Harvard, he did a pretty good job. [Point guard Brandyn] Curry's a good player and he had something like five turnovers.” For fans, this weekend may not seem like much more than a stepping stone for the Light Blue. Indeed, Columbia supporters would relish the chance to see their team prove itself against two of the league's best teams, Penn and Princeton, next weekend in Levien Gymnasium. For the Lions to stay league contenders, though, they will have to take care of business this weekend.

Lions hoping for a sweep this weekend

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL from back page

“I don't care if you beat the University of Florida in ping pong—that's a big deal,” said Nixon, who graduated from Vanderbilt, another SEC school. “But you beat them in one of the primary sports like women's basketball, that's a really good win. They've shown that they're a very capable team.” Major threats include junior forward Aileen Daniels, who Nixon said is “as athletic as any player in the Ivy League at the post.” She leads the team with seven blocks and averages 5.0 rebounds per game. The team is also focused on Brown's leading scorer Sheila Dixon, a sophomore guard who also tops her team in steals, rebounds, and assists. “She's a player who's a real challenge to guard because she shoots the ball so quickly that sometimes ... you're just kind of hoping she misses it,” Nixon said of Dixon. “If she wants to take the shot, she's gonna get the shot off.”

Brown's biggest threat, Nixon said, is its unpredictability. “Traditionally, the best way I can describe going into a game with them is ‘expect the unexpected,’ because I never have any idea ... if I'm gonna see man, if I'm gonna see zone, if they're gonna press, if they're not gonna press—if they're gonna do all of the above or none of the above,” Nixon said. While Brown has struggled, Yale has been successful thus far into Ivy season. It is third in the league with a 3-1 record, with its only loss coming against Princeton last weekend, after two wins against Brown and one against Penn.

Fuller, who has seen the Bulldogs four times in her time at Columbia, thinks the Lions can manage what Yale throws at them. “Yale plays very aggressive-style defense, but that's something that we're used to playing against each other in practice every day, so that shouldn't be a big problem,” she said. Fuller has additional familiarity with the team—she's a friend and former high-school teammate of Bulldogs sophomore guard Megan Vasquez, who leads her team with 13 points per game.

“It's always fun playing against one of your best friends,” said Fuller. “We grew up playing together, so we're very familiar with how each other plays. But it's fun—both of our families come out. It's a big deal for them.” Personal ties aside, Fuller and the rest of the Lions look forward to taking on this weekend's challenges and trying to raise their Ivy League record—and maybe even play a game that doesn't come down to the wire, for once. “We're definitely trying to get the sweep,” Fuller said. “It's definitely possible against these two teams, and hopefully we'll have a bigger margin of victory this time.”

Restaurant owner, CU disagree on asbestos clean-up responsibility

FLORIDITA from front page

obligations, Mr. Diaz has chosen to take action against the University,” La-Verna Fountain, associate vice president of Columbia's Construction Business Services and Communications, said in statement. **INSPECTION RESULTS** Diaz is no stranger to negotiations with Columbia. The original Floridita location, at West 125th Street and Broadway, was also in a Columbia-owned building and was in the site plan for the University's Manhattanville expansion. Two years of negotiations led to the new location two blocks west on 12th Avenue, next to Dinosaur Bar-B-Que. Since signing the lease, Diaz has been making plans for the new restaurant space and negotiating with Columbia. Diaz's complaint is the result of an inspection, required by the city in order to begin renovations, that discovered significant amounts of loose asbestos in the building after he had signed the lease. Jeremy Hassett—a project manager at Whitestone, the firm that completed the inspection—said in an email to Diaz that asbestos was found throughout the building where Floridita is proposed to open. “The entire floor space is considered to be contaminated with this ACM [asbestos-containing material],” the report states. The debris described in Whitestone's report, which Diaz provided to Spectator, included remnants of insulation and floor tiles with asbestos concentrations greater than one percent. According to Tom Hei, an environmental health sciences professor in the Mailman School of Public Health, such concentrations of asbestos are only dangerous if they become airborne or brittle. That is consistent with the descriptions in the report, which describes the majority of the asbestos as “friable,” or brittle. That report resulted in the city's

Department of Environmental Protection issuing a “stop-work order” for the property, which bars any non-authorized personnel from entering the building. Floridita must now undergo asbestos abatement to remove the hazardous material—something Diaz says he doesn't have hundreds of thousands of dollars to do. **LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY** For Columbia, the issue is not whether the asbestos is present or not but whose legal responsibility it is to abate it. Fountain said that handling the asbestos falls under Diaz's obligations as a tenant based on his lease with the University, which specified that Diaz was leasing the property “as is.” “The lease, which the university signed with Mr. Diaz after extensive input and further negotiation by his own legal counsel, provides that Mr. Diaz accepted the property in its ‘as is’ condition, including the tenant's responsibility for ensuring compliance with all code requirements,” Fountain said in a statement. “Consistent with the obligations of Mr. Diaz's lease, as well as any lease, the tenant has obligations.” In an email provided by Diaz, Columbia's lawyer Melissa Bernard said to Diaz's lawyer Jay Friedrich that the University is not in breach of any agreements. “Your client is responsible for filing the paperwork and performing the necessary remediation or encapsulation in its premises,” she wrote. Diaz maintains that the “as is” agreement does not extend to environmental issues. “If they had included it, I might not have a case. ... I have to build-out the restaurant, but it doesn't mean that if there are structural problems I have to fix it or contamination I have to contain it,” Diaz said. Friedrich cited the lack of information on the loose asbestos when the lease was signed as validation for Diaz's complaint. “As is” still states that you are

taking a premise or a thing without any right to object to its condition. However, there is an understanding ... that all information provided by the landlord is accurate,” Friedrich said. **DISCLOSURE DISAGREEMENTS** In letters to Diaz's lawyer obtained by Spectator, Columbia's lawyer denied misleading Diaz about the building's asbestos. In a December 2010 letter to Friedrich provided by Diaz, Bernard wrote that buildings like the one Diaz is leasing typically contain asbestos and referenced previous asbestos abatement work that Columbia had done in the building. “The University has always been clear with your client that asbestos was found in the building,” Bernard wrote. Any building built before 1974 will contain asbestos, Hei said. In the years before Diaz signed the lease on the 12th Avenue property, the University did multiple renovations on the building—and the inspection reports from those years don't indicate dangerous asbestos levels. The 10 reports filed with the city by an inspector hired by Columbia between June 2006 and June 2008 concluded that no asbestos was present, except for six samples of black tar found behind an insulated wall, where contamination is unlikely. Prior to signing his lease, Diaz said that he had no indication that any significant asbestos issues existed, and Friedrich said the later Whitestone inspection results were “a complete surprise to Diaz.” Diaz's architect, Santiago Carrion, said that on walkthroughs of the building with a Columbia project manager before the lease was signed, the only asbestos brought to their attention was in cement found behind a wall. “There was asbestos beyond what they told us,” Carrion said. In a statement responding to Diaz's claims, Fountain called Diaz “an experienced business owner who has executed retail leases before.”

“The University has had a track record of working productively with a variety of locally-owned retailers and restaurants to create win-win situations for both business owners and the community. We have repeatedly tried to do this with Mr. Diaz since he took over Floridita from its former longtime owner in April 2006,” she said. The University did not comment further on previous inspections or asbestos abatement and said it does not comment on ongoing litigation. **MOVING FORWARD** Diaz filed the breach-of-contract complaint two weeks ago, and in another two weeks that will become an official injunction. The stop-work order is still in place, and since the complaint was filed, Columbia has abated asbestos in 99 square feet of the building—but according to Bernard, Columbia's lawyer, that area is not part of the proposed Floridita space on the building's first floor. Now, Diaz says he's waiting to see if he will have to pay for the asbestos abatement, which he says would be too big of a financial burden to bear. Cost estimates for abatement are in the hundreds of thousands, according to Friedrich. “Filing this report came out of desperation,” Friedrich said. Hei said the cost of abatement would be significant. “It costs so much because it is a dangerous job and in order to dispose of it properly in a designated site,” Hei said. “It'll put me under. I can't sustain that kind of expense,” Diaz said. “I'm into more than six figures of legal fees with this mess. I've paid my architect, I've paid my engineers. I've spent the last six months planning to build a restaurant and when I finally get them ... to approve the plans, I file my environmental [inspection report] and the place is contaminated.” “It's a never-ending battle,” he added.

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CU still has impressive season so far

PAGELS from back page

(Side note: Brown earned a 15-seed in the NCAA Tournament that year and ended up losing 52-101 to No. 2-seed Syracuse in the first round. Good to know the Bears still managed to stick to their roots come March Madness time.) Who would have guessed that the last team to come out of nowhere to win the Ancient Eight would be the '85 Bears? The Super Bowl Shuffle must have been blaring in Providence that year. (Even more bizarre, the football Bears' combo of Coach Mike Ditka and quarterback Jim McMahon was countered by basketball Bears' duo of Coach Mike Cingiser and forward Jim Turner.) And there are no signs of this third-place minimum trend changing this year. The two clear-cut favorites to win the league, Princeton and Harvard, finished—you guessed it—second and third, respectively, last year. Winning those first two games against Cornell seemed huge at the time, as Columbia hasn't taken down the three-time defending champ in five years. But after Cornell's subsequent collapses against Dartmouth and Harvard last weekend, it's become clear that the 0-4 Big Red is a mere shadow of its former selves without Ryan Wittman and Jeff Foote. **Winning a title is a multiyear task.** After dropping their first Ivy game to Harvard last week, the Lions will find it extremely difficult to make that up in the standings against the top team in the conference. They'll need Harvard to lose tonight in the Ivy Super Bowl against Princeton and then, to take care of business against the Crimson when it comes to campus in two weeks. (Not to mention, they'll probably need at least one W against the Tigers.) I'm not writing this to say we should give up on this season. I'm saying that we shouldn't be upset with the Lions if they can't pull off a miraculous series of incredible upsets to win our first Ivy title since 1968. It's simply an accomplishment that the opening sentence of this column needed to be said. Had I made that statement two months ago, it would have been like predicting Hosni Mubarak won't win the Nobel Peace Prize this year. While Columbia's games against Harvard and Princeton will certainly generate the most buzz, it's the games against Penn, Yale, and Brown—which will be fighting with the Light Blue for positions three through six—that will be most critical to the success of the season. There's simply a massive difference between finishing third in the league and third to last, with top recruits infinitely more likely to commit to the Lions if they're a perennial contender for a spot in the NCAA Tournament. The Light Blue certainly has a solid core of backcourt youth in sophomore point guard Brian Barbour and freshman shooting guard, Steve Frankoski, but until Columbia finds a bigger inside presence, they'll be run over all day against the likes of the top big men in the conference. The Ivy League crowns a champion every season, but winning a title is certainly a multiyear task. Let's hope that this season is the part of the process of bringing an Ancient Eight trophy back to Morningside Heights sometime soon.

Jim Pagels is a Columbia College sophomore. sports@columbiaspectator.com

PIXBOX

week
3

- 1: Columbia at Yale (+1.5)
2: Harvard at Princeton (pk)
3: Dartmouth at Penn (-7.5)
4: Cornell at Brown (-2.5)
5: Kentucky at Florida (+4.5)
6: Magic at Celtics (-3.5)
7: Steelers vs. Packers (-2.5)
8: Lebron or Packers: more points in first half



Kunal Gupta (8-8)

Columbia
Harvard
Penn
Cornell
Florida
Magic
Packers
'Bron

Since when did Pixbox become the NFC West?

Will leaving the lights on speed up global warming and cut down on all the snow?

Columbia
Harvard
Penn
Brown
Kentucky
Boston
Green Bay
Green Bay



Jacob Levenfeld (8-8)



Myles Simmons (8-8)

Columbia
Harvard
Penn
Cornell
Kentucky
Celtics
Packers
LeTraitor

I hope Big Ben has been distracted by chasing Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders this week.

Counting on beginner's luck.

Lions
Princeton
Penn
Brown
Florida
Celtics
Steelers
Lebron



Mrinal Mohanka (7-9)



Jim Pagels (7-9)

Columbia
Princeton
Dartmouth
Brown
Florida
Magic
Steelers
LeEgo

The Packers should pay a stripper to publicly claim Big Ben owes her \$100k.

How does Norv Turner still have a job? Only in San Diego.

Mufasa
Tigers
Quakers
Big Red
Gators
Celtics
Cheeseheads
King James



Zach Glubiak (6-10)



Bart Lopez (6-10)

Columbia
Harvard
Penn
Cornell
Kentucky
Celtics
Packers
LeBron

Aaron Rodgers FTW... "Steel curtain, what is that velvet?" —Weezy

Let's go cheeseheads.

Light Blue
Harvard
Quake show
Big Red
Gators
Boston
Omar Epps
LeDouchebag



Lucas Shaw (6-10)



Michele Cleary (5-11)

Columbia
Princeton
Penn
Brown
Florida
Boston
Steelers
Wade's Robin

Pumped for the big game this weekend, and I'm not talking about the Super Bowl.

It's lonely down here...

CU
Harvard
Penn
Cornell
KU
Celtics
Puck Fackers
Puck Fackers



Michael Shapiro (5-11)

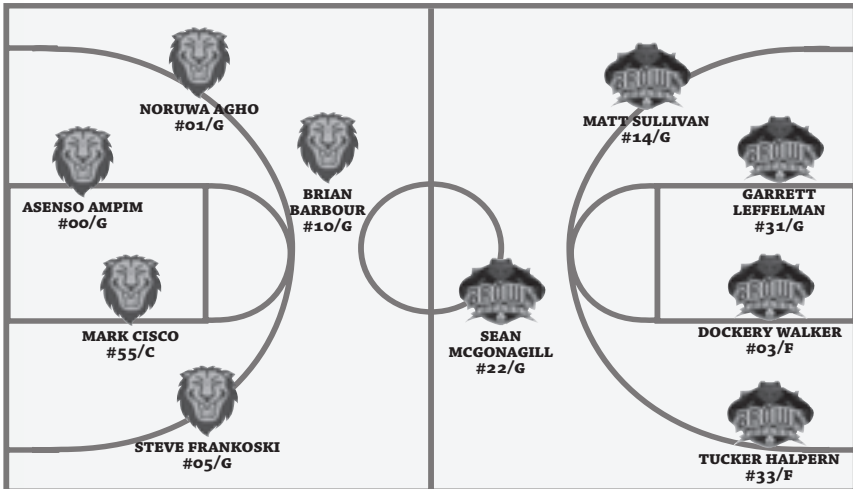
FRIDAY
FAST BREAK

STARTING LINEUPS

GAME 1:



AT



KEYS TO THE GAME

1

Rebounding

Brown currently averages 34.9 rebounds a game and is second in the Ivy League only to Columbia, which records 37.6 boards a game. If the Light Blue can beat the Bears on the glass and get second opportunities to score, it should be able to control the pace of the contest.

2

Overcoming speed

The Bears lineup features speed and versatility, with players who can pull quick shots. If the Lions can slow down their competition and control the speed of the game using its size advantage—Brown does not have a player who is over 6-foot-8—they should be able to contain the Bears and seal the win.

3

Focus

While it would be easy for the Lions to overlook the Bears, who are 0-4 in the Ivies, Brown's conference losses have been to the league's top teams—in their loss to the Tigers, Brown led throughout the first half. After a double overtime loss to Penn last weekend, Brown will be determined to notch its first league win.

BY THE NUMBERS

POINTS PER GAME



REBOUNDS PER GAME



POINTS ALLOWED



FIELD GOAL PCT.



KEY MATCHUPS

John Daniels

Tucker Halpern

Sophomore forward Tucker Halpern currently averages 11.2 points and 4.7 boards per game. If sophomore forward John Daniels can have a repeat performance and pull down 12 boards like he did last weekend against Dartmouth, the Lions should be able to successfully shut down second chance scoring opportunities for the Bears.



Brian Barbour

Sean McGonagill

Freshman point guard Sean McGonagill is a big offensive threat to the Light Blue. McGonagill is a skilled ball handler, averaging 4.9 assists a game—the third in the league. If sophomore point guard Brian Barbour, who averages 1.4 steals a game, can pressure McGonagill into turning the ball over, Columbia should be able to seal the victory.

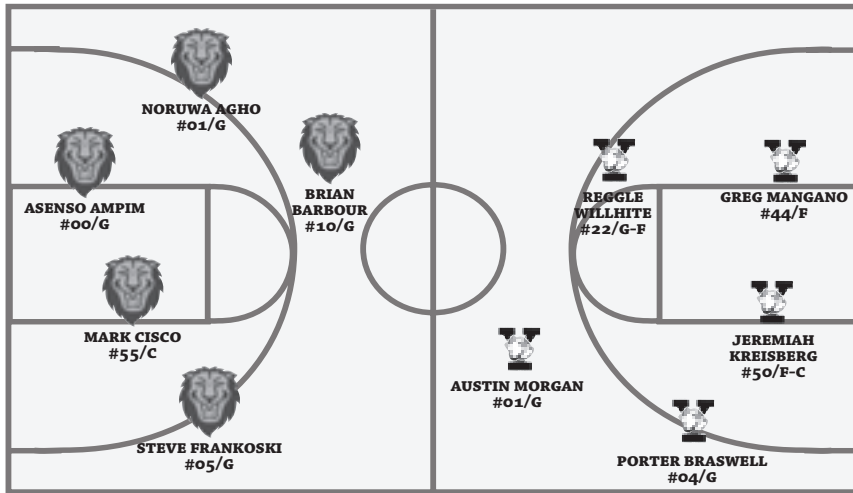


STARTING LINEUPS

GAME 2:



AT



KEYS TO THE GAME

1

Playing big

Saturday's matchup differs from Friday night's, as Yale's lineup features huge players, including Greg Mangano and Jeremiah Kreisberg. Playing against tall competition can be difficult, but the Lions will look to senior centers Max Craig and Zack Crimmins to shut down the Bulldogs.

2

Being aggressive

Yale's players are big, and that will pose a problem to Columbia not only offensively but defensively as well. If they hope to remain in contention throughout the game, the Lions must play aggressively, driving to the basket and potentially drawing fouls from the Bulldogs—especially their star, Greg Mangano.

3

Spreading the ball

Columbia's top scorers, Barbour and Noruwa Agho, have made the Light Blue—which leads the league in scoring—into an offensive threat for any opponent. However, if the Light Blue hopes to maintain the success it's found so far, players like Meiko Lyles and Steve Frankoski must step up and add to the Lions' point totals.

BY THE NUMBERS

POINTS PER GAME



REBOUNDS PER GAME



POINTS ALLOWED



FIELD GOAL PCT.



KEY MATCHUPS

Max Craig

Greg Mangano

Junior forward Greg Mangano is the only player in the league averaging double figures in both points and rebounds. At 6'1", his size will be a challenge for the Lions, but head coach Kyle Smith hopes to shut Mangano down with the help of 7-foot senior center Max Craig, who has something to prove with only five weeks left in his basketball career.



Meiko Lyles

Austin Morgan

The Lions chances are threatened by sophomore forward Austin Morgan, who has a .444 3-point field goal percentage. He will be pitted against freshman guard Meiko Lyles, who has been heating up for the Lions lately, playing well against Harvard's Brandyn Curry last weekend. Lyles' size will help shutdown Morgan, who is only 5'11".



GAMEDAY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4 • PAGE 6



**COLUMBIA (12-6, 3-1 Ivy)
at BROWN (7-11, 0-4 Ivy)**

FRIDAY, 7 P.M., PROVIDENCE, R.I.

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



**COLUMBIA (12-6, 3-1 Ivy)
at YALE (9-9, 2-2 Ivy)**

SATURDAY, 6 P.M., NEW HAVEN, CONN.

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



Ivy title out of reach for this year's squad

I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but Columbia isn't going to win the Ivy League this year.

Ever since the two Cornell wins to open up Ivy play, my fellow columnists have seemed like over-supportive parents who hire an NBA agent for their son after he scores twelve points in his youth YMCA game.

Let's face it—the odds are stacked against them. After going 5-9 to finish in a three-way tie for fifth last season, the Lions entered the season predicted to finish only ahead of Dartmouth. Four months later, that would be quite a turnaround.

To win a title in the Ancient Eight, the magic number seems to be three—as in third place. In the past 25 years, every Ivy League champion has finished at least third in its previous season.

In fact, you'd have to go all the way back to 1986 to find an Ivy Champion that had finished outside of the top three the previous year. That season, after going 5-9 to finish seventh in 1985, Brown came out of nowhere to roar to a title.



JIM PAGELS

On the Couch

SEE PAGELS, page 4

THE SLATE



MEN'S BASKETBALL
at Brown
Providence, R.I.
Friday, 7 p.m.



MEN'S BASKETBALL
at Yale
New Haven, Conn.
Saturday, 6 p.m.



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



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



WOMEN'S TENNIS
vs. St. John's
Dick Savitt Tennis Center
Friday, 1 p.m.



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



MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING
vs. Navy
Uris Pool
Friday, 2 p.m.



WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING
vs. Princeton
Uris Pool
Saturday, 6 p.m.



MEN'S SQUASH
vs. Haverford
StreetSquash Facility
Sunday, 1 p.m.



WOMEN'S SQUASH
vs. Haverford
StreetSquash Facility
Sunday, 1 p.m.



WRESTLING
vs. Cornell
University Gymnasium
Saturday, 6 p.m.



ARCHERY
Pennsylvania State
Championships
Reading, Penn.
Saturday, 4 p.m.



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BIG NUMBERS | Freshman guard Steve Frankoski, who totaled 13 points last Saturday against Dartmouth, will be key in Columbia's two games this weekend.

Columbia looks to topple Brown, Yale

BY TREVOR COHEN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Last weekend may have included yet another game with a decisive and disappointing final few seconds for the women's basketball team, but the Lions have made it clear that they should not be judged by their season-opening 0-14 record. After defeating Dartmouth and holding a lead into the final five seconds against co-league leader Harvard a week ago, Columbia is playing for a home sweep this weekend against Brown and Yale.

"I think it's gonna be difficult because I do still consider us the underdogs," head coach Paul Nixon said, "but we're definitely capable of winning both games. We're gonna have to play well twice."

The Lions were clearly the underdogs coming into last Friday's game against Harvard, which is now a perfect 3-0 in the league and has a five-game win streak. The team, however, was anything but surprised to find itself hanging with the Crimson until the final buzzer.

"It may sound shocking to people not inside our program, but we expected to win both games," Nixon said. "We came into the weekend with the expectation of getting a home sweep—that was our goal."

Columbia stayed within five points of Harvard the entire game. The Light Blue held the lead 11 different times, including one gained with 13 seconds left in the game on a layup by freshman guard Taylor Ward, only to be relinquished when Crimson freshman Christine Clark hit a baseline jumper with 3.5 seconds on the clock to give Harvard the victory. Despite the unpleasant ending that came on the heels of a similar loss to Cornell the weekend before, junior guard Jazmin Fuller saw it as a step in the right direction.

"I think, in both games, we showed a lot of heart as a team," Fuller said. "We showed what we were really made of."



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LATE LAYUP | In last weekend's heart-wrenching loss to Harvard, the Lions were leading until the last second due to freshman guard Taylor Ward's layup.

The team now looks to carry that momentum into a challenging but—they believe—manageable Ivy weekend.

Brown comes into the weekend struggling, having lost its last seven games and sitting alone at the bottom of the Ancient Eight standings at 0-4. It has suffered double-digit losses to each of its Ivy opponents, including two

Big weekend looms for Light Blue at Yale, Brown

BY ZACH GLUBIAK
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Forget trap game. Think trap weekend. With two Ivy League undefeateds, Penn and Princeton, looming next weekend, Light Blue faithful could be forgiven if it looks past the Lions' trips to Brown and Yale tonight and tomorrow.

Head coach Kyle Smith and his 12-6 (3-1 Ivy) team know better, though.

Despite the fact that Brown has yet to win a game in the Ancient Eight and Yale is coming off a two-game losing streak, Columbia could be vulnerable to stumbling on the road either night as it closes out a five-game road trip.

"You have two new opponents," junior Noruwa Agho said. "They have another week to scout us, so [the Dartmouth game] was a great win, but it doesn't add any points to the next game. We just have to make sure we stay the course."

Up first will be a 7 p.m. tip-off at Brown's Pizzitola Sports Center in Providence, R.I. "We're on the road again," Agho said. "We have got to get ready to go."

A key for the Light Blue will be to use its size to overwhelm the Bears on the glass. Brown, which does not feature a player over 6-foot-8, will have to contend with the Lions' slightly bigger frontcourt. Sophomores John Daniels and Mark Cisco have gotten the start for the Light Blue recently, with senior Asenso Ampim coming in off the bench for significant minutes in the last game against Dartmouth.

Smith compared Brown's team to Dartmouth, indicating a similar rotation can be expected.

"Brown is a little more similar to Dartmouth in that sense," Smith said. "They play a little smaller, a little quicker. They shoot the ball from three and spread you out. I think our advantage will be inside with our bigs."

Another concern for the Lions will be Brown's freshman point guard, Sean McGonagill. The 6-foot-1 Brookfield, Ill. native has started every game for the Bears this season, averaging 32 minutes per game. Columbia may look to pressure the first-year player into some extra turnovers, but Smith does not anticipate McGonagill will rattle easily after all the minutes he has played this year.

"He's going to be a really good player in this league," Smith said. "He's got pretty good size, really heady, really good passer. He's going to be a key to defending them ... you can't leave him open. If you've got a point guard that can hit a three, it's pretty valuable."

McGonagill leads the team with 4.9 assists per game. Sophomore forward Tucker Halpern contributes 11.2 points and senior shooting guard Garrett Leffelman averages 9.9. Senior guard Adrian Williams stretches defenses with a 40.9 three-point shooting percentage. But luckily for the Lions, Brown's leading scorer, senior forward Peter Sullivan is injured and likely won't play.

While Friday's game will offer the Lions a smaller, scrappier opponent, on Saturday night, they will come face to face with the league's leading rebounder and fourth-leading scorer, 6-foot-10 junior Greg Mangano. The Orange, Conn. native averages a double-double with 14.8 points per game and 10.1 boards.

"He's athletic and he's bouncy," Smith said. "He can make a three, too."

To deal with Mangano, Smith will likely turn to 7-foot senior center Max Craig. Craig began the season as the starting center, but has seen reduced playing time after ceding the spot to Cisco and dislocating his thumb a month ago. This weekend, though, he and fellow

SEE MEN'S BASKETBALL, page 4

Yale's Mangano poses threat to Lions' victory

BY JEREMIAH SHARF
Spectator Staff Writer

With only two returning starters for the 2010-2011 season, the Bulldogs knew they would need their bench to step up. Still, it's hard to imagine anyone could have expected 6-foot-10 forward Greg Mangano to perform the way he has. That is, except for Mangano himself.

Mangano, a junior, currently stands in the top 20 in the nation in rebounds (10.1 RPG) and blocked shots (2.67 BPG), topping the Ancient Eight in both categories. The Lions hope to shut him down this weekend but stopping that will certainly be easier said than done. "[Mangano] anchors both the offense and the defense," Yale head coach James Jones said.

As a two-time all-state selection at nearby Notre Dame West Haven High School, Mangano averaged 26 points and 15 rebounds in his senior year of high school and was nominated for the McDonald's All-American Game. Yale was the logical choice for the hometown kid, but that's not to say he didn't have his options. After narrowing it down to Ivy League schools, he decided on Yale. "[It's] the kind of school that you can't really turn down," he said. The combination of the close proximity to home, high level of education, great coaches, and a connection to the guys on the team was too great for Mangano to pass up.

It appears that he made the right choice given his recent success. After missing the entire off-season as well as several games at the beginning of last year, Mangano used his first healthy summer to become more comfortable with Yale's facilities, which he cited as another benefit of living nearby.

Jones also noted the importance of a complete off-season. "He's [Mangano] really worked on his game. Now that he's had a full year of playing, he's doing what I believe he's capable of," Jones said.

Mangano's wide range of capabilities is what the Light Blue should focus on this weekend when it travels to

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, page 4

SEE MANGANO, page 4



MEGAN BAKER FOR SPECTATOR

DANCE LION DANCE | Lion dancers, festive floats, and crowds of people will weave through Chinatown streets on Sunday, Feb. 6 for the 12th annual Chinatown Lunar New Year Parade and Festival.

Lion dance into the Lunar New Year on or off campus

BY CARMEN REN AND RUBII PHAM
Columbia Daily Spectator

Although traditional American holiday festivities have come and gone, the Eastern Hemisphere rang in the Year of the Rabbit on Thursday, Feb. 3 with Lunar New Year celebrations. But let the festivities continue—both New York City and Columbia will be reveling in the New Year spirit all weekend long.

Students can head to Chinatown this Saturday, Feb. 6, for its 12th annual Chinatown Lunar New Year Parade and Festival. As decked-out floats, magicians, acrobats, and lion dancers weave through Chinatown streets, spectators can join in on the fun themselves by setting off firecrackers and tossing confetti.

Dedicated celebrators can make the trek to Flushing, Queens for perhaps a more authentic taste of Asian culture at the 15th annual Flushing Lunar New Year Parade on Feb. 12. Students should plan on arriving before 11 a.m. to snag a good spot for watching the dragon dancers and steel drummers.

The area is known as New York's second Chinatown and has an atmosphere and food scene that rival those of Manhattan's original. Lunch at the popular Sichuan restaurant Spicy and Tasty (39-07 Prince St., at 39th Street) introduces students to the spiciest Chinese cuisine, especially when they order the classic dan dan noodles and double cooked pork.

For those who prefer to stay a little closer to home, the Metropolitan Museum of Art will host a Lunar New Year Festival of its own on Feb. 5. An all day event, it features a lion dance procession, a Peking Opera performance of "Little Red Riding Hood," calligraphy and face painting demonstrations, and various other cultural activities.

But students need not leave campus to hop into the Year of the Rabbit with style. Columbia's Asian-American community has established its own way of celebrating the Lunar New Year. The Chinese Students Club will hold its 32nd Annual Lunar New Year Gala, a cultural show in honor of the Chinese New Year, on Saturday, March 5. Lunar Gala is the biggest cultural show on campus, attracting alumni, students' family members, friends, friends of friends, and over 500 students.

This year the show will feature acts from the Chinese Yo-Yo Club, traditional Chinese dance group Radiance, martial arts group Wushu, and dance group Raw Elementz. Student models will also strut down the stage for a themed fashion show. In the past, featured designers have included Vera Wang, Vivienne Tam, and Shanghai Tang. The newly added gala art show will display student submissions of Chinese-themed artwork.

Mailing Wu, SEAS '12, one of three Lunar Gala co-directors, said that the Lunar Gala will offer a "more Chinese-American interpretation" of the New Year in comparison to the traditional parades elsewhere in the city.

Linda Zhang, BC '13, another Lunar Gala co-director, elaborated: "Having Lunar Gala is celebrating the tradition from the aspect of the Chinese-American experience."

Zhang said that the differences from traditional Chinese culture arise from "the fact that adaptations are inevitable. We want to keep it [our celebration] true to the students." The gala caters to Columbia students by fusing aspects from traditional Chinese culture and the modern Chinese-American experience.

Zhang added that the Lunar Gala is a "good way for everyone to get together" in the tradition of Chinese New Year, which revolves around family gatherings and celebrations in China. Chinese-American students have a chance to experience home away from home.

CSC is planning on holding a variety of promotional events to lead up to Lunar Gala, including a party at upcoming event Glass House Rocks in Lerner Hall, distributions of traditional red envelopes, and various study breaks.

Of course, no Chinese New Year celebration would be complete without some famous lion dancing. Stephanie Shih, BC '12, president of the Columbia University Lion Dance said, "Generally around New Year's time, we get hired by ... Google, Goldman Sachs, and restaurants." In the past, they've opened for the Museum of Chinese in America, Mayor

Bloomberg's New Year reception, and the annual dinner of the Asian Columbia Alumni Association.

According to Shih, lion dancing is "a celebratory tradition" for good luck in order to "kick off the New Year with a bang." The lion is called awake in the New Year to welcome good fortunes for the year and to drive away evil spirits.

In their performances, Shih and her fellow lion dancers follow tradition in tearing apart a head of lettuce with the lion head and tossing it into the crowd to represent the spread of good fortune.

Aside from Lunar New Year celebrations, Lion Dance usually performs at weddings or cultural events. In mid-February, they will be performing for the Singaporean ambassador to the United States.

Lunar New Year is a time of celebration and family gatherings, but students far from home will still have a chance to partake in festivities in the city and on campus with friends. As one of the most diverse universities in one of the most diverse cities in the world, Columbia can proudly boast that here, the festivities never end.



ILLUSTRATION BY RENATA MITTNACHT



MEGAN BAKER FOR SPECTATOR

FESTIVE FUN | Throughout Chinatown this weekend, people will set off colorful confetti poppers and fireworks to celebrate the new Year of the Rabbit, which was officially inaugurated Thursday, Feb. 3.

Best of

Asian Restaurants

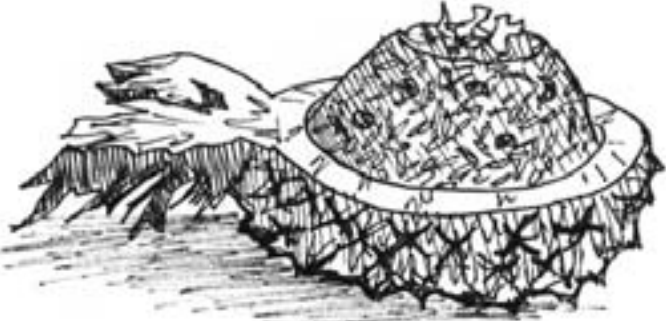
Sometimes there is no better way to celebrate a culture than by enjoying its food. Whether students head down to Chinatown for the Chinese New Year parade on Sunday, Feb. 6 or not, there are plenty of delicious ways to show Lunar New Year spirit this weekend without having to brave the cold. Dig into a meal at any of these Asian restaurants for ultimate foodie satisfaction. —BY ALLISON MALECHA



Fatty Crab

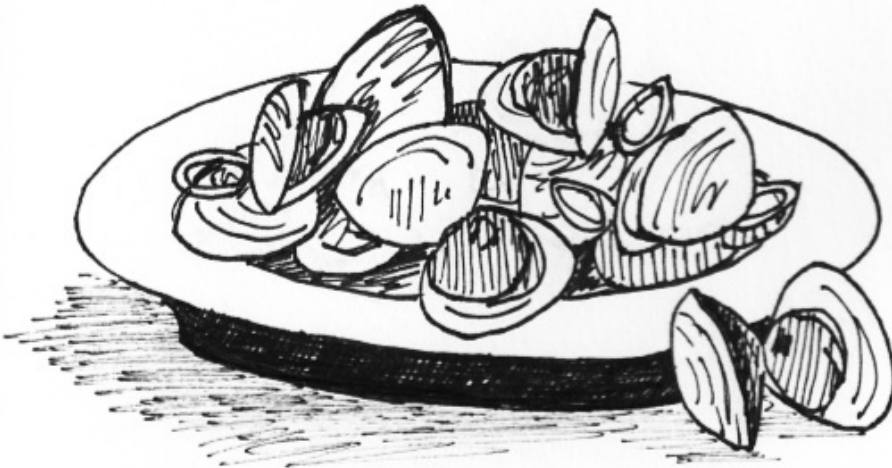
A more specific Malaysian fusion restaurant, Fatty Crab (2170 Broadway, between 76th and 77th streets) is fully flavored from one end of the menu to the other. The hugely portioned Wonton Mee soup (\$16) pairs tender shrimp and pork wontons with crispy fried noodles in a pleasantly spicy broth. Those looking to broach new flavor frontiers can try the watermelon pickle and crispy pork (\$17) or the ginger-tinged Malay Fish Fry (\$14) served with crab curry. On the bar side, Mekong spiced rum gives an extra kick to any meal. The restaurant’s combination of a mood-lit red interior and a rollicking soundtrack makes it a fun date spot.

Nyonya

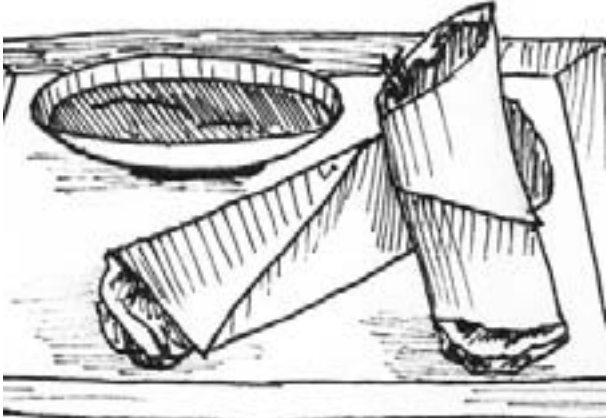


Although technically in Little Italy, Nyonya (199 Grand St., between Mott and Mulberry streets) offers the most authentic Malaysian food in town—and is the cheapest of the four restaurants. Traditional Roti Canai (\$3.50) is the most-recommended appetizer—basically a crispy pancake bread served with curry dipping sauce. Nasi Lemak (\$6.50) is a specialty coconut-flavored rice dish spiced with cloves and pine leaves and topped with an interesting mix of anchovy, pickle, hard-boiled eggs, and curry chicken. For those craving a fruity tang instead of a vinegary one, there is pineapple fried rice (\$7.95) served with pork, shrimp, chicken, and basil leaves. Finish the night with coconut jello served inside a coconut shell.

Ping’s Seafood



There couldn’t be a “best of Asian food” without at least one Chinatown mention, and Ping’s Seafood (22 Mott St., between Worth and Bayard streets) is certainly a standout. The spot is dually known for some of the best dim sum and fresh-killed fish in the area. Fresh-killed as in kept live in tanks until an order is placed. Since seafood is Ping’s specialty, go for steamed shrimp dumplings (\$4.95) followed by the lobster with garlic sauce (mkt), clams with black bean sauce (\$12.95), or seafood pan-fried noodles (\$12.95). The food is fairly inexpensive (except for those who settle on the \$70 Superior Shark’s Fin Soup), but credit cards are still accepted—something that can’t be said for a lot of Chinatown hot spots.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY MADDY KLOSS

Spice Market

Incredibly cavernous but at the same time intimate, Spice Market (403 W. 13th St., between Ninth and Tenth avenues) stands out stylistically from the Meatpacking District’s usual modern chic with an opium-den inspired décor steeped in deep reds and dark woods. Jean-Georges Vongerichten’s multinational Asian fusion restaurant has something on the menu for everyone. Start with mushroom egg rolls (\$9.50) with galangal emulsion or west-turned-east chicken wings (\$9) topped with spicy-sweet chili sauce. For a main course, the grilled chicken with kumquats (\$16) is charred but fall-off-the-bone succulent and tangy but not too citrusy. The Vietnamese chicken curry (\$18) is also full of flavor. Finish off the evening on a refreshing note with ginger ice cream (\$4.50).



COURTESY OF MILLER THEATER

KEY NOTES | Jazz musician, composer, and music professor Neal Smith will play Saturday, Feb. 5.

Musician and composer Neal Smith will get down with quintet to jazz up Miller Theater

BY MARICELA GONZALEZ
Spectator Staff Writer

For drummer and composer Neal Smith, the venue is of little importance when it comes to playing jazz.

“I play every situation the same,” Smith said. “I’m not going to alter my mood or music because my performance is in a concert hall or at an outdoor jazz festival or a club. It’s all the same to me. It’s just another opportunity and outlet to play some music.”

Accordingly, Smith brings his unadulterated jazz sensibilities this to Miller Theatre with the Neal Smith Quintet this Saturday, Feb. 5.

Smith claims to have lived, breathed, and eaten music since childhood. After studying at Oberlin College and playing with jazz and R&B greats such as Cyrus Chestnut and Isaac Hayes, Smith became a jazz composer, a percussion professor, and the leader of his own all-jazz band.

Despite leading The Neal Smith Quintet for 15 years, Smith explained why the rest of the band’s lineup has gone through periodic changes over the years.

“Each configuration [of the Neal Smith Quintet] is different depending on where I am in my life,” Smith explained. “This particular configuration that’s going to be performing with me on Saturday just so happened to be the individuals that I hear playing the music that I’m interested in playing right now.”

When he’s not on tour with the quintet, Smith teaches in the Percussion Department at Berklee

College of Music. “My main goal is for the student to really be able to pull the best out of themselves and realize the process in doing it. That’s a really complicated thing because confidence is everything, and it’s takes a lot to become confident in what you’re doing, especially in playing music,” Smith said.

He also explained what lasting lessons he hopes to leave with his students. “When the student is not with me, or with an instructor, the goal is that they understand the continuum in terms of the process of how to get better and be open-minded and to make sure that they can take and retain information,” Smith said. “That’s huge.”

Although Smith certainly takes pride in his work as a professor, he still finds his true calling to be jazz composer and musician. “Well, I am a true jazz musician. That’s just where my heart is,” Smith said. “And just being true to myself, this is the music that got me, got everything for me. And, I don’t just listen to and play jazz...but my heart, at the bottom of it all, is in jazz music.”

The Neal Smith Quintet’s upcoming performance is poised to showcase both Smith’s newest compositions and his musical history.

“When I perform jazz it’s kind of like a fusion of everything I grew up listening to. It’s all connected to me, and the older I get, I really understand that more and more,” Smith said.

Whether jazzing it up in the hall of Miller Theatre, on the stage of an outdoor festival, or inside a smoky club, the Neal Smith Quintet works to provide its audiences with the same passion for live jazz music.



JOSE GIRALT / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LIQUID GOLD | City Bakery’s Hot Chocolate Festival features a new flavor each day of February.

City Bakery transforms the classic into the exotic with February Hot Chocolate Festival

BY GEETIKA RUDRA
Columbia Daily Spectator

What do bourbon, spicy fig, and banana peel have in common? They are all featured flavors in this year’s Hot Chocolate Festival, hosted by The City Bakery (3 W. 18th St., between Fifth and Sixth avenues). The festival—brainchild of The City Bakery proprietor, chef, and hot chocolate connoisseur Maury Rubin—began Feb. 1 and will feature one hot chocolate flavor shot a day for the rest of the month.

The Hot Chocolate Festival originated 18 years ago as a party to stimulate the bakery’s business and has since evolved into a month-long celebration of one of winter’s most satisfying treats. “Chocolate is addictive,” Rubin said, “and hot chocolate is a wonderfully broad palette for a baker to work with.”

Rubin starts preparations a year in advance, experimenting with different flavors, tastes, and ingredients. Working as a self-professed “committee of one,” Rubin is the only person to taste his concoctions, and he alone decides which flavors will be presented. The flavors this year range from the comfortably expected, such as cinnamon and caramel, to the delightfully eclectic—love potion and “What Would Faulkner Drink?”

Rubin shows little apprehension about presenting his new hot chocolate flavors to the public. Even after February is over, The City Bakery’s creamy and frothy standard hot cocoa—which comes served beneath an oversized puff of marshmallow—remains a favorite amongst

critics, seasoned foodies, and hot chocolate lovers.

Save for an announcement on the bakery’s website and an email to its listserv, very little promotion goes into the Hot Chocolate Festival. Rubin has yet to host an unsuccessful festival, though, and predicts that this year will be no different.

“Chocolate is addictive, and hot chocolate is a wonderfully broad palette for a baker to work with.”

—Maury Rubin, The City Bakery proprietor

Flavors to look out for in 2011 include chili pepper, “Ode to the Polar Bear,” and “Moulin Rouge”—made with dark chocolate, espresso, pomegranate, and lemon. The festival’s calendar of flavors can be found on The City Bakery’s website.

For the uptown student, this downtown bakery may seem a bit of a financial stretch. The City Bakery does feature a happy hour menu with items priced no higher than \$10, yet a small cup of hot chocolate costs around five bucks, six including a marshmallow. Nevertheless, chocolate lovers in need of a warm winter pick-me-up might find the Hot Chocolate Festival worth the splurge.



HANNAH CHOI FOR SPECTATOR

FASHION FORWARD | After leaving Bryant Park, Mercedes-Benz New York Fashion Week events have been at Lincoln Center since fall of 2010.

Internet is students' ticket to the glamor of New York Fashion Week

BY JULIA AN
Columbia Daily Spectator

From Feb. 10 to 17, Mercedes-Benz New York Fashion Week Fall 2011 will take Lincoln Center by storm for the second time. Unfortunately, most students are not able to attend the shows, since guests typically need either a press pass or a special invitation from the designer to get in. But even without obtaining a coveted invite, there are ways for students to celebrate Fashion Week alongside the fashion industry elite.

One of the most thorough—and quickest—ways to experience Fashion Week is to check out fashion websites and blogs. The official Fashion Week website posts photos and videos of each designer's show. Footage of backstage chaos, red carpet moments, and models strutting down the runway give viewers a feel of what it's like to be at an actual show. Style.com also has great comprehensive coverage, complete with a review, photos, and a video of each designer's show. The website's unique celebrity search feature allows users to track actors, musicians, and socialites through the week's red carpet, front row, and party photos. Those dying to know what it's like at a Fashion Week party can find summaries and

photos of various swanky soirees on these two sites, as well as on other online sources like New York Magazine's The Cut and Fashionista.com.

Fashion fused with technology is ideal for busy students running around campus. The Ralph Lauren Collection created a free iPhone application that currently features its two latest collections. Dolce & Gabbana also has an iPhone app.

"Twitter is the best way to stay updated on Fashion Week. If you follow the right people, you get an insider glance that you'll never get elsewhere," Noel Duan, CC '13 and Hoot Magazine Editor-in-Chief, said.

Some students who work in the fashion industry during the school year are able to attend certain shows for free. CU Couture President and JAZ collection Co-Founder and CEO Alice Zhang, CC '12, will be attending trade shows to find inspiration for her next jewelry line.

"The best way to get into Fashion Week as a college student is to intern for a major fashion publication, become a popular fashion blogger, intern for a PR company or IMG [Fashion], or work for a campus publication," Duan said.

For Columbians not involved in the industry, Zhang offers advice. "Have an eye open for an after party or small shows. Any shows not in the [Lincoln]

Center] tents are easier to get [into]," Zhang said.

For students willing to pay the price, there are tickets available to purchase for certain shows. American Express offers card members entrance into the Council of Fashion Designers of America/Vogue Fashion Fund Cardmember Only Show and VIP packages to Fashion Week shows at MAC&Milk. Couture Fashion Week, held from Feb. 18 to 20 at the Waldorf-Astoria, sells tickets online. Additionally, Charity-Buzz auctions off tickets for shows including L.A.M.B. by Gwen Stefani, the benefits of which go to numerous charity organizations.

To get just a glimpse of the excitement, students can spend the week hanging around Lincoln Center Plaza. Nearby hotspots include restaurants Lincoln (142 W. 65th St., between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue), P.J. Clarke's (44 W. 63rd St., between Broadway and Columbus Avenue), and Josepina (1900 Broadway, between 63rd and 64th streets).

The cheapest and most inclusive way to feel part of New York Fashion Week, however, is to stay online. "Sometimes, some shows are open to purchase if you have a couple hundred dollars to spend. But most college students don't, and they can probably get a better view of the collection on Style.com," Duan said.

Alajaji explores the role of hip-hop in a restrictive culture

MUSLIM RAPPERS from page B4

Alajaji said. These dimensions are gender, religion, ethnicity, and national identification.

Alajaji also supplied an overview of hip-hop as a genre. She discussed the creation of the cross-Bronx expressway in the 1960s, which displaced 60,000 low-income families. The subsequent travails of these and others led to the creation of a genre rooted in locality—hip-hop.

Hip-hop was also revolutionary in its sound. During early stages, it was characterized by a lack of rhythm and a texture of samples that creates, as she phrased it, a "collage of sound."

The locally inspired and revolutionary aspects of hip-hop allow it to become a global template for others to express their own identities. "The message is in the medium," Alajaji said.

The U.K.'s most famous Muslim rapper Deeyah—who elicits threats, censorship, and controversy—is often referred to as “Muslim Madonna.”

The U.K.'s most famous Muslim rapper Deeyah, is often referred to as "Muslim Madonna." A South Asian Muslim who moved to the U.K. from Norway to flee death threats, Deeyah is a figure whose non-conservative dress and mere existence in the hip-hop world elicits threats, censorship, and controversy.

To support nascent Muslim rappers, Deeyah created a mix tape of submissions called “Sisterhood”. The artists, mostly teenagers and young adults, sing about topics such as break-ups, lost love, and rape. Only one song—about Islamic honor killings—addresses faith. Despite the mostly secular topics of the songs, commentary on the mix tape has focused on the religion and gender of the performers. A council of British Muslims condemned the mix tape and non-Muslim interviewers have focused on religious issues.

Ironically, Alajaji herself called the work on the mix tape “bad music.” However, until society accepts these women as musicians rather than solely as representations of greater cultural, religious, and political issues, they cannot be evaluated on their talent—or lack thereof.

Broken gaydar lights up new ways of looking at sexuality

At a First Friday dance, it's a frustrating time telling which girls are queer. A girl flirts with me, so I flirt back—only to have her leave without my phone number and her best friend tell me that she's straight.

I give up and spend the rest of the night dancing with my favorite gay men. At two in the morning, one of my gay bros, George*, pulls me close and kisses me. At first, I don't think much of it—in my circle of friends, gay men make out with their girlfriends all the time as a token of friendly affection. But tonight, George is kissing me in all yearning seriousness.

I had long since dismissed George as gay and off-limits. We had met at the Activities Fair, where we were each tabling for our respective extracurricular activities. "Thanks for the music!" he said, pointing at my boombox, which was blaring Ke\$ha. Super cute, I thought. And super gay.

"He's culturally gay, but he doesn't practice," one of our mutual friends says the next day, "like how some people are culturally Jewish, but don't practice." Despite my judgment, George is actually bisexual and sleeps with mostly women. Seeing as I'm bisexual myself, it shouldn't throw me off so much to find that others aren't 100 percent straight or 100 percent gay.

It turns out I'm not the only one having gaydar issues at this school. My boyfriend has a history of being shot down for dates by lesbians, and my gay friend Yuri* admits to having practically no internal gaydar—"Facebook is my gaydar," he says. Another friend, Rhonda*, shakes her head in defeat when I ask her about gaydar and says: "Here's my rule for gaydar: If I like him, he's gay."

My friend Elle* takes it a step further: "I just assume every man I meet is gay until proven otherwise. Then again, I'm really involved in the theater community." Amusingly, when Elle gets really, really drunk, she goes on what friends call a "gay witch hunt," pointing to every openly straight man in the room and yelling, "You're gay! You're gay! You're just in denial."

My sexuality will likely always be in flux, and I shouldn't assume anything different of others. The lovers I have appreciated the most over the years have been those who never thought of my sexuality as something that belonged to them.

It frustrates us if we can't label and categorize one another. After all, we want to know who we can and can't hook up with. Yet, the whole George situation makes me feel like I've made more than an innocent mistake. When I categorized George as gay at the first flamboyant hand gesture, I stopped "wasting" any kind of romantic or sexual energy on him. The deck flipped head-spinningly fast at first kiss.

In part to preclude situations like this, some people have chosen to turn their gaydar off, like Kyle*, who is queer. "I don't claim to be able to own someone else's sexual orientation," he says. As a result, sexual orientation doesn't define the set of people sexually viable to him. Instead, it's questions like "what kind of books do you like to read?"

I was skeptical of this approach, but my gaydar is traumatized from the experience of its own poor judgment and refuses to do any more work for me.

Perhaps this is all for the better. My own coming-out process took years, my sexuality will likely always be in flux, and I shouldn't assume anything different of others. The lovers I have appreciated most over the years have been those who never thought of my sexuality as something that belonged to them.

I ask Eli, "one of these past lovers and now a good friend, what his gaydar looks like." "Well, it's pretty safe to assume someone is gay if they tell me they are," Eli says. "You know Andrew*?" he asks. Yes, I know Andrew—he set my gaydar off the charts when I met him. Eli says, "I am 60% sure Andrew is gay, but we have never had a conversation about it, so I am not sure."

Eli takes a lot of math classes, and his conservative gaydar methodology may come off as overly rational. But there is something to be said for letting people define themselves—and being okay with it if they don't.

My gaydar being permanently broken, I now do my best to appreciate compelling qualities in others, whether or not I think they swing my way or even play in my league. Instead of relying on labels to sort a potential lover, I watch in hope for the signs that he or she may be Lucy-sexual.

*All names changed.

Lucy Sun is a Columbia College senior majoring in economics. Queerbot runs alternate Fridays.

Flipside Guide

‘Restrepo’

Documentary explodes onto film scene, exposing the reality of war

BY KAVITHA SURANA
Spectator Staff Writer

Whether liberal or conservative, staunchly pro-war or fiercely pacifist, students will likely find their reactions to “Restrepo” contrary to expectation. Sebastian Junger and Tim Hetherington’s war documentary, recently nominated for an Oscar, is a film that every American, regardless of other affiliation, should see.

Cautiously apolitical, the film follows a year in the lives of American soldiers deployed in Afghanistan’s Korengal Valley, widely known as one of the most dangerous military bases. The emphasis on objectivity and evasion of a clear political message is explained by the backgrounds of the film’s creators—journalist Junger and photojournalist Hetherington are both seasoned war correspondents. In “Examining Restrepo,” a film screening and discussion event organized by the Columbia University School of Journalism on Thursday, Feb. 3, the two explained, “we wanted to relate the emotional terrain of war.”

Instead of analyzing the reasons behind the war in Afghanistan or the political implications of the war, the filmmakers lived side-by-side with soldiers for a year in an attempt to intimately understand their experience. The film opens with an explosion that rocks a convoy vehicle. The shaky camera movements make the viewer acutely—even uncomfortably—aware of how close the cameraman is to the action and its potential consequences.

The film includes other dangerous encounters, as the cameramen document gunfire, hostile locals, and forays into no-mans-land. Most dramatically, the audience witnesses the immediate aftermath of an American soldier’s death in the field, followed by the emotional breakdown of a nearby soldier who can’t control his sobbing.

Part of the intrigue of “Restrepo” is how familiar the soldiers are and how easy they are to identify with—each one seems like a friend’s brother or a student down the hall. They aren’t monsters but men in a high-pressure situation who, at times, display humor and camaraderie, as well as fear and vulnerability. Yet sometimes the soldiers might seem insensitive or crude, such as when they celebrate the shooting of an enemy plane and call their experiences under gunfire “the ultimate high.”

Hetherington said in the discussion, “war is also very funny sometimes—that’s an awful thing to say.” Yet it rings true when one soldier says to another “hearts and minds,” and his friend jokes, “yeah, we’ll take their hearts and take their minds.” There are other moments of humor, such as when some of the men start dancing to techno music in the bunker or engage in jovial wrestling competitions.

The post-interviews with soldiers who have returned to civilian life explore the complexities of the situation and the susceptibility of men. Specialist Cortez smiles uncomfortably in the interviews, describing how he can no longer sleep at night because of nightmares. Almost all the men appear on the verge of tears at one point or another.

“Restrepo” is no “Fahrenheit 9/11” with hidden political devices and manipulations. It never even asks the men why they decided to join the army or what they think about the war. Neither is it a glorification of America’s military prowess. Hetherington’s theme of “exploration of young men and violence” helps contextualize the film.

Even more telling, Junger sees the film as an exploration of brotherhood. “In society, what someone will do for you is about how they feel about you,” Junger said. “Brotherhood isn’t like that – it’s family, a family of male peers out there ... who’d die for each other.”



KATE SCARBROUGH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ROUGH REALITY | ‘Restrepo’ directors Junger and Hetherington spoke at an on-campus screening of the film Thursday, Feb. 3.

events

FILM

Urban Scavenger Hunt

—West 3rd Common, 1 W. 3rd St. (between Broadway and Mercer Street), Saturday, Feb. 5, 2-5 p.m., free in advance or \$5 at the door

This weekend, head down to SoHo for an urban scavenger hunt themed around the new indie comic-mystery “Cold Weather.” Participants can drink alongside the film’s director Aaron Katz at a happy hour following the event. The winning team will receive two free Independent Film Channel annual memberships, and all participants can get discounted tickets to Saturday night’s IFC Center showing.

MUSIC

Tapes ’n Tapes

—The Music Hall of Williamsburg, 66 N. 6th St. (between Kent and Wythe avenues), Friday, Feb. 4, 8 p.m., \$17

Minneapolis indie-rockers Tapes ’n Tapes have a raucous, playful sound evocative of Pavement, The Pixies, and The Shins. The band enjoyed immediate acclaim from the hype machine with their first LP “The Loon.” Their third album “Outside” was released last month, and they promise to play a solid repertoire of old blog favorites and new jams.

ART

Art World Relationships

—EFA Project Space, 323 W. 39th St., (between Eighth and Ninth avenues), 3rd Fl., through Mar. 5, free

“I Like the Art World and the Art World Likes Me,” an exhibition organized by “bootleg” artist Eric Doeringer, questions the authority of the art world and its antics at the EFA Project Space. The 20 artists in the show look at their love-hate relationships with the art world, which simultaneously facilitate and problematize their success in the industry.

FOOD & DRINK

Burger Deal at Elsewhere

—Elsewhere Restaurant, 403 W. 43rd St. (at Ninth Avenue), Sunday, Feb. 6, 5-11 p.m., \$15

Start the Sunday cram session off right with chef Morgan Johnson’s signature burger (caramelized onions and five-spoke Tumbleweed cheese on a kaiser roll), fries, and a beer for only \$15. Thoroughly committed to local and sustainable eating, the restaurant grows herbs in-house. Its rustic, exposed brick interior will provide a welcome change of scenery from John Jay.



SERENA PIOL FOR SPECTATOR

SO SOBA | This new Delancey Street restaurant may be tiny—only seating 14 around a sleek, angular bar—but it is bursting with flavor.

Cocoron

Dive into the city’s finest bowl of soba noodles at new Japanese restaurant

BY JASON BELL
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Cocoron is New York’s best new restaurant that no one is talking about.

Along a stretch of Delancey Street plastered in shadow where traffic moves at bewildering speeds, the city seems to articulate itself in its coldest terms—a dialect of forgotten urban space and benign loneliness. Yet, a small noodle shop serving only soba and a few Japanese appetizers manages to humanize this block, offering an enclave of warmth to those wise enough to dine a while. Open since December, Cocoron (61 Delancey St., between Eldridge and Allen streets) has just 14 seats, accepts no reservations, and takes only cash. But for those lucky enough to negotiate a spot at Cocoron’s bar, a bowl of the city’s finest soba awaits.

Soba, or skinny buckwheat noodles, comes in two primary variations at Cocoron: cold with dipping sauce or warm in a broth. Unlike many of its New York competitors, Cocoron makes its soba at the restaurant. The difference shows—these little strands of heaven spring with elastic intensity. Warm oroshi soba comes garnished with grated daikon radish and radish sprouts, all immersed in a bonito broth. The soup sparkles on the tongue, an ineffably pure oceanic expression that evaporates in swirls of salty, hammy steam. A bowl of tororo soba topped with sticky mountain yam feels even denser and richer than the oroshi.

The menu draws special attention to the stamina soba, available either hot or cold. Evidently, this soba defines Cocoron’s entire noodle aesthetic: a balance between the gustatory, the spiritual, and the nutritious. The witty menu assigns every dish a health

benefit—stamina soba’s name says it all. Order this soba cold, since dipping chilly noodles into steaming pork-infused stock provides a particularly meditative experience. Fatty, tender slices of pork, meatballs, and scallions afford entertainment when the noodles run out.

Besides soba, Cocoron prepares a list of small Japanese dishes. Pork and okara (soy pulp) croquettes come fried to an exact state of transcendent crispiness—crunchy golden crust shatters to reveal smooth, starchy filling. Texturally, this appetizer rivals the city’s hauteut amuse-bouche.

Cocoron’s homemade tofu, a barely solid mass of jelly, explores a different end of the textural spectrum. Presented with ginger, seaweed, scallions, bonito flakes, and soy sauce, the tofu is a disembodied gesture of creaminess.

As a side dish or drinkable snack, Cocoron serves “miso coleslaw,” a kind of chopped cabbage suffused with sulfurous, fermented flavor. Heavily dressed in miso, the cabbage provokes a terrific thirst for tea, broth, or some other legal libation.

With reasonable prices and an unpretentious, unaffected atmosphere, Cocoron offers students a worthwhile opportunity to escape from campus. Meander to Bryant Park and take the D downtown to Grand Street—walk from the edge of Chinatown into the Lower East Side, preparing mind and stomach for aesthetic shock. The physical distance from campus is considerable, but following a grueling week of class, Cocoron’s soba is the only prescription that provides relief. Cocoron deserves spirited applause for its humility and enthusiasm, so refreshing in such a disenchanting dining age.

Flipside Guide Food & Drink reviews are evaluated for: student-friendliness, price point, accessibility, quality, and cool factor.



ROSE DONLON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HIP-HOP TALK | Sylvia Alajaji, a Franklin and Marshall College professor and musicologist, spoke at Barnard’s Sulzberg Parlor on Feb. 3.

‘Maneuvers from the Margins: Female Muslim Rappers’

Musicologist Sylvia Alajaji explores the role of hip-hop in a restrictive culture

BY CHRISTIN ZURBACH
Columbia Daily Spectator

On Thursday, Feb. 3, while many Columbians pre-gamed in celebration of the end of a school week, musicologist Sylvia Alajaji addressed a rapt audience of 30 with commentary on an emerging group of female Muslim rappers in the United Kingdom. In the austere setting of Barnard’s Sulzberger Parlor, attendees listened to recordings of Public Enemy and the U.K.’s “Muslim Madonna” as part of Franklin and Marshall College professor Sylvia Alajaji’s “Maneuvers from the Margins: Female Muslim Rappers of the U.K.” exploratory lecture.

Sponsored by Barnard’s religion department, the event was

equal parts hip-hop history, religious examination, societal critique, and introduction to a little-known contemporary movement of female Muslims trying to break into the music industry, specifically through hip-hop. Alajaji first talked about how Muslim women are often spoken for or about but are rarely allowed to speak for themselves, even in non-Islamic communities that claim to decry their marginalization. Hip-hop, a genre not commonly associated with female Muslims, is somehow a comfortable outlet for their expression.

Alajaji next addressed the question “Why music?” Music allows exploration of the “simultaneous dimensions of their reality,”

SEE MUSLIM RAPPERS, page B3

CORRECTION: In the Jan. 28, 2011, edition of the Columbia Daily Spectator, we published a review of the film “Take Me Home Tonight.” That film was made available to the reviewer under an agreement that prohibited the publication of reviews until the week of Feb. 27. Spectator is committed to honest and fair dealing with its sources. We hereby retract the article.