

CB7 approves bike lane extension

BY AVANTIKA KUMAR AND SOPHIE GAMEZ
Columbia Daily Spectator

A resolution to extend the Columbus Avenue bike lane from 59th to 110th streets was approved by Community Board 7 at the full board meeting Tuesday—a major victory for local bike advocates after years of debate over the lane.

The resolution, proposed by the city Department of Transportation, extends the current lane, which stretches from 77th to 96th streets, to span nearly the entire length of the Upper West Side. It also creates dedicated loading zones for delivery trucks and pedestrian islands to shorten street-crossing distances.

“I’m just very pleased about the outcome. It was a torturous process.”

—Janet Levoff
Bike lane supporter

Twenty-six board members voted in favor of the complete street proposal, 11 voted against, and one member abstained.

The resolution included provisions requesting that the DOT educate schools and senior centers to ensure safe street crossings, do outreach with local merchants and police precincts about the change to the street, and devise a means for the bike lane to negotiate the “bow tie”—the heavily congested Broadway intersection between 65th and 69th streets.

DOT representatives said they expect construction to begin in 2013, and that implementing the lane should only take about two months because it mainly involves surface work.

Over 100 people attended the meeting, the majority of whom said they supported the proposal. Activists said they were pleased by the results.

“I’m thrilled that we had a very extensive debate,” said Lisa Sladkus, director of Upper West Side Streets Renaissance, a group that advocates for transportation alternatives. She said she only heard one person testify against the proposal during public testimony. She added that in the future, she would like to see similar progress made on Amsterdam Avenue.

The resolution comes two and a half years after the original bike lane was added to Columbus Avenue in August 2010. At first, opponents of the lane outnumbered supporters at meetings, but in recent months, turnout from UWSSR members and other supportive locals put pressure on CB7.

During the public testimony, attendees testified overwhelmingly in favor of the resolution, arguing that expanding the bike lane would encourage bike ridership, make streets safer, and bolster local businesses.

“I’m just very pleased about the outcome. It was a torturous process,” Janet Levoff, who lives on the Upper West Side, said. She said she would ride

SEE BIKE, page 2

SPECIAL INTEREST HOUSING WINNERS

THE CONVENT	
MANHATTAN HOUSE (BY THE NATIVE AMERICAN COUNCIL) The group offers a variety of student-led events that advocate for native and indigenous rights on campus. Recently, the group hosted a teach-in and a drum circle in support of the Idle No More movement.	STUDENT WELLNESS PROJECT Founded in November 2011, the group is a student-led movement that promotes wellness and personal health throughout the University.
CREATIVE COMMONS Members hope to bring together diverse interests and talents at Columbia to foster discussion and learning among students and Morningside Heights residents.	COLUMBIA PRE-HEALTH COMMUNITY The first of its kind at Columbia, group members say, the community will gather undergraduate students in the pre-medical track and create a support system.
APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE The group aims to cultivate student creativity in the field of computer science and become a common resource for developers and coders.	



GRAPHIC BY SINJIHN SMITH

Five groups win 113th Street convent SIC spaces

BY TRACEY WANG AND ABBY ABRAMS
Spectator Senior Staff Writers

Six special interest groups and two fraternities won new housing spaces, the Special Interest Housing Committee announced Wednesday.

The former convent brownstones on 113th Street will be divided up between the Columbia Pre-Health Community, the Student Wellness Project, Creative Commons, Manhattan House by Native American Council, and the Application Development Initiative. Writer's House won a Special Interest Community space in Wallach Hall.

Meanwhile, Alpha Epsilon Pi

and Pi Kappa Alpha, which lost their brownstones following a drug scandal in December 2010, were selected from a group of four finalists to live in two East Campus townhouses next year.

The selection committee, which consisted of six undergraduates and five administrators, made its recommendations after meeting Tuesday with Terry Martinez, dean of community development and multicultural affairs. Martinez then made the final decision.

Joshua Boggs, SEAS '15 and a member of the selection committee, said that Martinez's final choices were the same as the committee's recommendations.

“We all thought it was a fair decision, and we all came to this

decision together,” he said.

Chris Godshall, CC '15 and a selection committee member, said that interviews with the applicants were the most important factors in the decisions.

“Having them speak to us was really the key to it,” he said. “The process was very fair, very robust.”

Engineering Student Council President Tim Qin, SEAS '13 and a member of the selection committee, said that he used his experience as a Resident Adviser to inform his recommendations on the committee. He said that he considered how the groups would interact with the rest of the residential community, and whether or not they would adhere to housing policies like

noise levels.

“The committee thought about who would best utilize the space and give back in terms of the community,” he said.

Leaders of the winning special interest groups said that the living spaces would help them achieve their respective missions and foster a greater sense of community.

Julian NoiseCat, CC '15 and treasurer of the Native American Council, said that NAC members are very happy about winning the SIC space—especially after the group was named a finalist for a 114th Street brownstone and ultimately didn't win the space.

SEE SIC, page 2

Bonnie McFarlane talks comedy

BY ALICE BREIDENBACH
Columbia Daily Spectator

Canadian comedian Bonnie McFarlane has won comedy competitions, had her own HBO special, and has appeared frequently on the late-night talk show circuit, yet she is frequently told that women aren't funny.

Together with her husband and three-year-old daughter, McFarlane goes on a journey to discover if women are, in fact, funny in her new documentary, “Women Aren't Funny.” Footage of McFarlane's personal experience balancing family life with performing stand-up are interspersed with interviews with club owners, bookers, writers, and well-known comedians such as Patrice O'Neal, Wanda Sykes, and Dane Cook. This Saturday, “Women Aren't Funny” will screen at Barnard's Athena Film Festival, an event on Barnard's campus, which celebrates women in film.

Spectator spoke with McFarlane about her experience making the documentary and the state of women in comedy.

ALICE BREIDENBACH: What inspired you to make “Women Aren't Funny”?
BONNIE MCFARLANE: I wanted to make a movie that I had access to people but also about

SEE MCFARLANE, page 7

BY HALLIE NELL SWANSON
Spectator Staff Writer

After shutting down its inpatient pediatric unit in order to take in evacuees during Hurricane Sandy last October, St. Luke's Hospital announced last month that it would not be reopening the ward, opting instead to move it to Roosevelt Hospital in midtown.

Although St. Luke's, which is partnered with Roosevelt under the city-wide hospital network Continuum Health Partners, argues that the decision will help improve the unit's quality of care, the closure has drawn significant opposition from local officials and pediatric nurses, who worry that it will reduce accessibility to adequate medical care for the children of West Harlem.

“I'm a mother, and if my child got sick I would certainly want to jump in a taxi and get my child to a hospital,” said Georgiette Morgan-Thomas, chair of Community Board 9, who noted that the hospital serves an area with a high frequency of respiratory ailments such as influenza. “That would cost about seven dollars, maybe 10, from most areas in CB9. But to go down to Roosevelt, that becomes cost-prohibitive.”

Jim Mandler, a spokesman for St. Luke's-Roosevelt, said that St. Luke's will only treat pediatric patients on an emergency basis, while all other patients will be directed to Roosevelt.

Prior to the closure, Mandler said, St. Luke's pediatric ward operated a unit that typically

filled only six of its 28 beds, while the 10-bed unit at Roosevelt usually held roughly three patients. He argued that combining the two units would allow the hospitals to pool their resources and give medical professionals more opportunities to gain hands-on experience with patients.

The new location is also more centrally located than St. Luke's, Mandler said, which will allow it to serve children throughout western Manhattan more effectively than two separate pediatric units did.



DOUGLAS KESSEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MOVING DOWNTOWN | St. Luke's pediatric ward was closed following Hurricane Sandy.

Greek org loses charter, IGC says

Rescission due to hazing incident

BY JEREMY BUDD
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

A Greek organization will lose its charter after committing a hazing infraction, the Inter-Greek Council announced in a statement on Wednesday.

The statement did not specify which organization will lose its charter.

“We are deeply saddened that this event took place and are extremely disappointed in the actions of this chapter.”

—Inter-Greek Council
statement

The IGC Judicial Board recommended the rescission of the organization's recognition after the incident came to light, and the IGC said that the decision would be upheld.

“We are deeply saddened

SEE GREEK, page 6

OPINION, PAGE 4

A blueprint for change

James Yoon on provocative proposals for undergraduate housing.

An unfair caricature

Lanbo Zhang on our narrow-minded discussion of Western values.

SPORTS, PAGE 3

Men's basketball switches up its lineup

After starting the season with an emphasis on physical play from its forwards and centers, Columbia's depth at guard has come to the forefront against its Ivy League foes.

EVENTS

Grandma's Basement: Barnard Archives Tour and Research Workshop

Learn how to utilize the Barnard archives and take home some vintage archive swag.

19 Lehman Hall, 7 p. m.

WEATHER

Today



32°/32°

Tomorrow



39°/23°

A&E, BACK PAGE

Athena Film Festival brings Oscar nominee, celebrated docs to campus

Spectator's film editor selects picks from this weekend's film festival at Barnard College.



In speech, Cuomo brings progressive message to Harlem

BY CHRISTIAN ZHANG
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

In the latest stop on a state-wide tour to share his State of the State address, Governor Andrew Cuomo came to the City College in Harlem Wednesday morning, where he outlined a long list of liberal priorities.

In his speech, Cuomo also announced how he planned to spend the first \$20 billion in federal funds for Hurricane Sandy recovery. The money will be used to rebuild infrastructure and homes and fund a home buyout program that will offer homeowners in highly flood-prone areas the chance to sell their land to the state in order to keep it undeveloped—to “give it back to Mother Nature,” as Cuomo said.

“There is a fact here that climate change is real,” Cuomo said in the packed City College auditorium, on Convent Avenue

between 133rd and 135th streets. He said repairing the state’s damaged infrastructure will include mitigation measures to ensure it will stand up to another storm.

“We’re not just rebuilding,” he said. “We’re building smarter than before.”

Cuomo also outlined his vision for the future of the state, which includes launching a \$1 billion affordable housing initiative, raising the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$8.75 an hour, implementing a 10-point women’s equal pay act, ending stop-and-frisk, and extending school day length.

In addition, he pledged to continue upholding abortion and same-sex marriage rights while expanding gun control legislation and closing the state’s \$1.3 billion deficit.

The proposals reflect the governor’s desire to turn New York into the “progressive

capital of the world,” a term repeated several times by State Assembly member Keith Wright and State Senator Bill Perkins, who also spoke at the event.

“When New York acts, it sends shockwaves across the country,” Wright said, referring to its recently passed gun control and marriage equality laws.

Cuomo has given the address, which he called a “conceptual vision” of the state government’s direction, in several communities across the state over the past few weeks. He touched on many issues relevant to Harlemites, including stop-and-frisk, a controversial police tactic that critics say unfairly targets young black and Hispanic men.

“Stop-and-frisk must end,” he said, as the crowd of more than a thousand people cheered.

Cuomo also proposed a \$1 billion affordable housing program to meet the demands of the city and the state.

“There is still a terrible housing shortage in the state of New York,” he said. “There is still an affordable housing crisis.”

Under the plan, the money would be used to provide 14,000 new affordable housing units. Some of the units will help house residents displaced by Hurricane Sandy, while the rest will help meet an ever-growing demand for housing as prices increase across the city.

Cuomo said raising the minimum wage from \$7.25, the federal minimum, to \$8.75 would bring it in line with other states in the Northeast.

“Housing alone is more than the entire cost of minimum wage,” he said. “My friends, the numbers don’t add up.”

Cuomo added widespread education reforms to his proposals. He advocated for increasing funding to State University of New York and City University of New York campuses, giving incentives

for school boards to increase the duration of the school day or year, and focusing efforts on supporting schools in poorer areas.

“A school in a poorer community has no resemblance to a school in a richer community,” he said. “Because a school in a poorer community ... has many more functions it needs to perform.”

Part of the plan to help poorer schools is to expand the state’s role in providing nutrition, health, and after-school services to support such schools.

“Invest in our children before the problems arise,” Cuomo said. “It’s the right thing to do.”

But the proposal that drew the most cheers from audience members was a 10-point wage equality plan that Cuomo said would end income and opportunity disparities between men and women.

“We did make history when we passed marriage equality,” he said. “You’re never going to solve a problem you fail to realize, and we discriminate—society discriminates—against women.”

Some audience members, though, said that Cuomo’s message for women’s equality could have been stronger.

Ayoka Johnson, an anthropology major at City College, said that while Cuomo backed up his other points with facts, his comments on gender discrimination were lacking in substance.

“You’re appealing to a very specific group of people in a very stereotypical way,” she said.

Still, many appreciated the governor’s visit to the neighborhood.

“I loved it,” Blondel Pinnock, president of the Carver Community Development Corporation, said. “It was the right way to go.”

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DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CAR-FREE | After years of debate over the lane, CB7 approved an extension of the Columbus Avenue bike lane Tuesday night.

Columbus bike lane to stretch length of Upper West Side

BIKE from front page

her bike once the protected lane was installed.

“You deserve to get to where you are going safely,” said Brooklyn bicycle activist and former Morningside Heights resident Ben Kintisch.

“The students of Columbia University do not deserve to have a highway called Amsterdam Avenue zoom past their campus,” he said, adding that both Amsterdam and Broadway are scary to bike on.

While students might not realize how unsafe it is to bike on busy streets “because they are 20 and they feel indestructible,” Kintisch said. “Their parents would be happier if the conditions around Morningside campus were safer.”

Henry Rinehart, owner of Henry’s Restaurant on 105th and Broadway, said that the expansion would increase traffic to his business and others nearby.

“I think the time is now, on all different sorts of levels,” Rinehart said. “This is a tried and true way to reinvigorate the Upper West Side.”

“It’s very important that the city streets get changed,” Peter Arndtsen, president of the Columbus/Amsterdam Business Improvement District, said. “This may not be the best plan, but it’s an important step.”

CB7 chair Mark Diller said the board would still be in contact with the DOT outside of future meetings.

“I am voting for this resolution. I would very much like to see different things in it. We are not going to be done with this tonight by a long shot, I and whoever succeeds me is going to have to be in the Department of Transportation’s face to make sure they get this right over and over again,” Diller said.

Former CB7 chair and City Council candidate Mel Wymore, who has received support from pro-biking groups, praised the meeting’s public testimony, saying that “tonight was awesome” in terms of a respectful public session, in opposition to some of the more rowdy meetings the board has held on the issue.

“It was so much more constructive than we’ve heard in the past,” Wymore said.

DOT representatives Margaret Forgione and Josh Benson answered committee members’ questions, many of which focused on the “bow tie” intersection between Columbus and Broadway. In response to committee

members’ concerns, the wording of the resolution was changed to emphasize that the board would need to see plans of how bikers would be protected in the “bow tie” area prior to construction.

Benson cited statistics he had presented at past meetings, saying that the DOT had installed bike lanes in high-traffic intersections before. Forgione said that the DOT would take responsibility for training school personnel, gaining support from local precincts, and improving cyclists’ awareness of their responsibilities.

While most committee members supported the intentions of the proposal, they disagreed on whether this proposal was the best way to achieve these ends.

CB7 member Gabriella Rowe, the head of the Mandell School—located on Columbus between 98th and 100th streets, across from the proposed bike lane site—said she did not believe the DOT would do enough to make sure kids could cross the street safely, adding that the department had been unresponsive to her concerns in the past.

“Streets, after all, are part of the public space, and they should be shared.”

—Elizabeth Starkey
CB7 member

Rowe, who voted against the proposal, said the tone of the testimony made her feel “vilified as anti-bike lane.”

“I am being told that by simply having concerns I’m anti-environment, anti-cyclist, and anti-safety, health, well-being of children,” Rowe said. “Quite frankly, I spent all of my life devoted to doing those things every day. I feel like I’m being bludgeoned into agreeing to something that in my heart I know isn’t safe for my constituents in its current form.”

CB7 member Elizabeth Starkey, on the other hand, praised the DOT’s efforts to do outreach to local merchants, adding that it would not be sensible to wait until the proposal has “every ‘i’ dotted and ‘t’ crossed.”

“We have turned over the streets to the car, to our detriment,” Starkey said. “I believe what we are trying to do is to push back a little bit, to share public space. Streets, after all, are part of the public space, and they should be shared.”

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LUCAS ALVARADO-FARRAR FOR SPECTATOR

NY RISING | Governor Andrew Cuomo described several proposals to help the state recover from Hurricane Sandy.

AEPi, Pike win EC townhouses, their first housing in two years

SIC from front page

“We’re excited to meet the other people,” he said. “We already have a strong relationship with other groups on campus, but this will help us continue to build those and work toward that.”

NoiseCat said that the new space, which will house 15 people, will allow the group to plan and hold bigger events.

“Last week we had a meeting in the IRC, so it will be nice to have a real space that we can rely on and other groups that we can rely on to interact with all the time,” he said.

Priom Ahmed, CC ’14 and a co-chair of the Student Wellness Project, said that having a common living space will help the group emphasize its goal. She said that the new space will encourage students not only to take

care of themselves, but also to take a personal responsibility in others’ wellness.

“We wanted to provide an inclusive, compassionate, and safe living space for students who might face pressure to engage in unhealthy or risky behaviors,” Ahmed said.

Brianna Olamiju, CC ’15 and recruitment coordinator for the Columbia Pre-Health SIC, said that she envisions the new space as a community where students going into all pre-medical fields can come together and support one another.

She said that the group is planning various events, such as Peer-to-Peer Talk, at which upperclassmen can advise incoming first-years about the pre-health course of study at Columbia.

Dayo Osuntokun, CC ’15 and

president of Pre-Health SIC, said that she wants the community to change the general perception that the pre-health field is stress-inducing and tense.

“I want the image to move from being a competitive major to a more collaborative, more supportive community,” she said. “When you live together, you can be there for each other.”

Molly Karna, SEAS ’15 and a member of Creative Commons, said the group hopes to “foster creativity” and “bring people together within our residence, within Columbia, and with the Morningside area around us.”

Living together will allow students to collaborate in a way that would not otherwise be possible, said Creative Commons member Malini Nambiar, SEAS ’15.

“Living together is crucial,” she said. “I always say shared

space is shared values, and I think with this, that is really true. We want to foster creativity within our living space and outside of it.”

AEPi and Pike, which unsuccessfully applied for their old brownstones last semester, will now have housing again for the first time in two years.

Boggs said that despite the controversy surrounding AEPi and Pike two years ago, they were the best fit for the spaces. He said he anticipated a negative response from the rest of the Columbia community, as well as angry comments on Bwog, “but we still believe that they were the best choices for the EC townhouses. We believe they had a big enough turnaround— new leadership, new members.”

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LUKE HENDERSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NEW SPACES | Julian NoiseCat, CC ’15, of Manhattan House; Dayo Osuntokun, CC ’15, and Brianna Olamihu, CC ’15, of Pre-Health SIC.



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

St. Luke’s pediatric unit relocated downtown after Sandy storm

ST. LUKE’S from front page

close the unit.

Although Morgan-Thomas said it was not acceptable to leave the unit closed, she called claims that the storm had been used as a front to close the ward “speculative”. Mandler said discussions to close the ward had been underway for months, especially as growing emergency room demand increased the

need for adult beds over pediatric beds.

As a result of the controversy, St. Luke’s has entered into discussions with CB9, and will appear at the body’s general meeting on February 21. Morgan-Thomas highlighted the need for cooperation between the two entities, and said she would fight to guarantee at least a few outpatient beds for pediatric patients,

many of whom come from low-income neighborhoods in upper Manhattan.

“We want them to be sensitive to the fact that our communities are often the first communities that suffer cuts,” she said. “If the unit is underutilized, we would like to see if the community board needs to do other things, such as find additional outreach or get additional funding.”

The closure of the unit will not take effect for at least a few months, and is unlikely to result in any job cuts, with some St. Luke’s employees moving downtown to Roosevelt. The state’s Department of Health must first approve the plan, after which the hospital will have 90 days to produce a formal plan for the consolidation.

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Requiem for CU men’s basketball

All right, Lions, you got me again. The sad thing is, I should have known better. I should have known that you wouldn’t have an elite scorer, someone to take the last shot with the game on the line. He left you last year when Noruwa Agho flew the coop, choosing the real world over one more year of basketball.



TYLER BENEDICT

The Road Less Traveled

I should have known that you wouldn’t have an elite post presence, despite hoping and praying that Mark Cisco (5.7 rebounds per game), John Daniels (4.4 RPG), and Cory Osetkowski (3.2 RPG) would figure it all out. But Cisco settles for too many 15-footers and struggles too often with foul trouble, Daniels doesn’t put the ball in the basket, and Osetkowski is hampered by his inexperience and lack of minutes. They don’t get to the free throw line (averaging 1.2 attempts collectively), their defense down low is suspect, and their offensive roles won’t be expanded any time soon.

In some corner of my mind, I was aware that these three big men were more Luc Longley than Shaquille O’Neal at this stage in the game. But, like so many Lions fans, I wanted so badly to believe.

I should have known that Brian Barbour was not the Messiah, no matter how many early-season accolades he received. Don’t get me wrong, Brian ... For four straight seasons, you have been my favorite Lion to watch, leading our Light Blue masterfully. But you aren’t meant to score 20 a game (which is what we need from you in order to win), especially when you’re chasing around quicker guards on defense. I’m sure you hear all the time that this Lions team will go as far as you take them, but even you have limits. At some point someone needs to have your back.

I should have known that the youth was not ready to contribute so quickly, though many of the Lion cubs deserve praise. Grant Mullins has shown composure with the ball in his hands, Maodo Lo is electric, and no one loves shouting “STEEEEEEEEEEEE VVVVVVEEEE Frank-OS-ki!” after a made bucket more than I do. But as much fun as it is to watch these spry whippersnappers rain threes in Levien, it’s not a recipe for sustainable success. At some point, the shots won’t go in.

I can already hear the response to this column: I will be asked to cut the team some slack, give our boys time. But in the Ivy League, one bad weekend can wreck a season, and thanks to our recent heartbreaking losses the clock is now minutes away from striking midnight. It’s time to accept that no superteam is on the horizon. The Barbour-Cisco-Daniels nucleus has failed to find its firepower, and the next wave of underclassmen hasn’t quite made the leap. There are reasons to be hopeful in the long-term (on our 18-man roster, 14 players are slated to return next year), but it stings to be thinking like that so soon. I thought these guys had it this year, despite evidence to the contrary, and I hate that I allowed myself to get suckered into swallowing the championship hype.

Lions, I love watching you play basketball, and I miss you when you go to godforsaken places like Philadelphia, Hanover, or (shudder) Ithaca. I respect your commitment to your



KIERA WOOD / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HEAVILY GUARDED | Instead of relying on the frontcourt players that it depended on in its nonconference basketball play, sophomore forward Alex Rosenberg and the Light Blue have shifted to using the versatility and depth of guards in more lineups to keep up with the speedier and stingier play of its Ivy League opponents.

Men’s basketball shifts playing style for Ivy League opponents

BY STEVEN LAU
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Four months ago, men’s basketball head coach Kyle Smith had plans to rely on a bigger frontcourt than last year—one consisting of sophomore center Cory Osetkowski, senior center Mark Cisco, and sophomore forward Alex Rosenberg.

And for most of the nonconference season, Smith did as he said, starting a center and two forwards. While senior forward John Daniels started in place of Osetkowski a few times, Smith’s starting frontcourt remained largely the same.

But when the Lions (9-9, 1-3 Ivy) came back from their mid-December break to play against Elon, they were sporting a smaller starting five with three guards.

Since then, Columbia has stuck with senior guard Brian

Barbour and freshmen guards Grant Mullins and Maodo Lo as the starting backcourt in all but one game.

So what happened to all the preseason talk about playing bigger this year and taking advantage of the Light Blue’s size?

The answer lies within the Lions’ recent opponents.

Both Cornell and Penn—the first two Ancient Eight teams that Columbia played this year—have similar, quick styles of play that utilize the speed of their guards.

In their two games against the Big Red and one game against the Quakers, the Lions looked to their own backcourt to get around their opponents’ high-pressure defense and to take care of the ball.

But even on Saturday against Princeton, one of the biggest teams in the Ivy League, the Lions did not deviate from playing a smaller starting five.

“Going into that game, I didn’t know whether we had the bigs to match up against them, because

that’s their strength,” Smith said on Tuesday. “We gave it a look for about two minutes, they got a couple easy looks, and I said, ‘You know what, I think our smaller lineup is better anyway.’”

“I don’t think Isaac and Mo know how good they are. They’re such good kids and they can be good players.”

—Kyle Smith
Head coach

The Lions’ small guards, especially Lo, were better able to use their speed to get behind the Tigers’ defenders. Saturday was easily Lo’s best performance to

date, as he scored a career-high 16 points to lead his team on offense.

And Lo is not the only up-and-coming guard for the Light Blue. Freshman guard Isaac Cohen has also been on Smith’s radar as someone who can support Barbour, Mullins, and sophomore Steven Frankoski in the backcourt.

“I don’t think Isaac and Mo know how good they are,” Smith said, referring to Cohen and Lo. “They’re such good kids and they can be good players.”

The depth and versatility in the Lions’ backcourt has shown in the team’s long-range scoring and its ball-handling. Columbia is currently third in the Ancient Eight for three-point field goal percentage and first for assist-turnover ratio.

But while the Light Blue’s focus seems to have shifted to a smaller lineup, the importance of its big men has not disappeared.

Rosenberg and Cisco are Columbia’s third- and fourth-highest scoring players this

season respectively, and Daniels and Osetkowski have continued to make important contributions in rebounds and defensive play.

This weekend, the Lions will face Dartmouth and Harvard. While they may be able to play a large lineup against Dartmouth at times, fans are unlikely to see three Light Blue big men—such as Osetkowski, Rosenberg, and Cisco—towering together in the frontcourt against the Crimson.

Since Keith Wright’s and Kyle Casey’s departures from Harvard, the Crimson has come to play a much faster style that relies on outside shooting.

Though Harvard may be shooting more than 40 percent from downtown, Smith said he is confident the Light Blue will be able to match up with the Crimson’s quick guards.

“I think we’re comfortable playing that way—we’ll be OK playing that style of ball,” Smith said.

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Fencing has final tune up before Ivy Championships

BY SPENCER GYORY
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Just 11 days ago, the men’s and women’s fencing squads competed at NYU’s Jerome S. Coles Sports Center and came back to Morningside Heights with perfect 5-0 records in what were easily their best team performances of the season.

The Lions are hoping to continue that strong play when they return to Greenwich Village Thursday afternoon to compete in the Historical Meet Plus, where they will take on host NYU as well as Vassar and Sacred Heart.

The meet will offer Columbia a final opportunity to prepare for this weekend’s Ivy League Championships at Harvard—the most important team competition of the year.

Due to the extremely short period between the two meets, the Light Blue, which is expected to dominate the competition, will not field its top roster.

Although the Lions have competed in just four official meets this season, many of the team’s top fencers have competed

individually at a number of national and international competitions throughout the season and could use some well-deserved rest. To that end, head coach Michael Aufrichtig gave his starters the option to choose how much they will fence, if at all, during the meet.

“Some of the athletes said they want to fence three bouts instead of all nine and others opted to just rest their bodies,” Aufrichtig said. “The nice thing is it’s allowing some of our other fencers a chance to fence a lot.”

The meet also offers the Lions another chance to improve their in-competition communication, something the team has emphasized since its four-day fencing camp during the final week of winter break. Effective communication could prove especially crucial at the championship, which is an extremely loud, intense, and stressful environment.

“In preparing for Ivies, we’re working more and more on communication with the team, communicating with each other, communicating strategy about opponents they are fencing and how to keep everybody in positive moods,” Aufrichtig said.


The first bouts of the competition will begin at 5 p.m.

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LUKE HENDERSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

EN GARDE | With the Ivy League Championships this weekend, some top fencers may not participate at the Historical Meet Plus.



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Fasten your seatbelts

They say that RAs are like flight attendants. When the flight is smooth sailing, all they need to do is be hospitable to passengers and hand out salted peanuts. Yet much of their impact comes from emergency preparedness and response. Their precautionary measures may seem like a nuisance, especially as they ask you to “return your seats to the upright position” when you’re about to take a nap. These small actions—and many of them taking place behind closed curtains—make a real difference in passenger safety. Similarly, much of resident advisers’ work is confidential, although crucial to ensuring student safety and wellness. No one really hears or notices our work, except when we’re mounting tags on people’s doors. I guess these door tags would be our form of complimentary peanuts.

Two weeks ago, columnist Lanbo Zhang framed RAs’ door tags as fruitless efforts to address Columbia’s “imaginary problem” with community development. I do first want to make it clear that our school’s fragmented community is not self-imagined.

We all know students restrict their social circles to the friends they found in their first-year dormitories. Students often affix an alphabet soup of abbreviations (i.e. ESC, CCSC, ABC) and Greek letters to their names, perplexing the rest of us who have no idea what these letters mean. Ever afraid of offending or alienating any single group, the administration in Lerner concedes to organizations’ requests to be sequestered in a brownstone or “Special Interest Community.” I’m not sure if administrators are aware that these concessions further divide our student body into fragments as small as a six-person suite in Ruggles.

While I sincerely believe in the substantive nature of my work, I do agree with Lanbo that there are limits on Residential Programs’ impact on community development. The unfortunate reality is that there are gross inequalities in housing conditions. Students choose their housing based on the best available real estate instead of the need to sustain existing relationships or build new ones. Only interested in the maximal use of their housing lottery number, they feel no attachment to any specific building.



JAMES YOON

Yooni-
versity

West versus West

Thanks to the Global Core requirement and its Barnard and GS equivalents, a Columbia undergraduate will be hard pressed to graduate without encountering the concept of “the West.”

Usually, there will be some attempt to “problematize” the idea. Along with it, we will be asked to “reconsider” what exactly constitutes Western civilization. Having reconsidered, the next step might be to define Western thought or literature or philosophy with a nice three-sentence summary. The upperclassmen of Columbia College, having recently bought and possibly read the books on the Literature Humanities and Contemporary Civilization syllabuses, make a routine habit of bandying about the term “Western civilization” as if the idea is familiar to all and challenged by none.

I find this practice distracting and annoying—the concept of the West is too broad and ill-defined to be of productive use in most class discussions. Too many Columbia students employ the term too loosely, ignoring the complexity of many ideas that often clash uncomfortably.

An Asian humanities seminar, while discussing the Qu’ran, can easily spend two hours coming up with dichotomies dividing concepts familiar to the Islamic tradition with those of the Western tradition: communities and individuals, charity and self-love, faith and secularism.

A different Asian humanities seminar, while discussing the Analects of Confucius, could spend another two hours discussing a different set of binaries: filial piety and the autonomous self, observation of



LANBO ZHANG

Second
Impres-
sions

A prime example is Watt Hall, an upperclassman building that lacks any common area, since every room has its own kitchen and bathroom. Content with the social life they have already forged, students choose this building specifically for the privacy it provides. When faced with a flimsy structural support for community, there’s only so much you can do with crafty door tags and a meager programming budget of \$200. Similarly, you wouldn’t expect much camaraderie in an airplane no matter how much hospitality the flight crew exudes or how many complimentary peanuts each passenger receives. Especially in business class, they’re only interested in getting to the next destination on their itinerary—not whoever is sitting in the plush seat next to theirs.

All of this does not mean you need to transfer to Duke or Dartmouth in search of community. Having attended the latter for a year, I can attest that they have problems of their own. Our ever-elusive problem with community can fall within our grasp, if and only if we recognize the following: The fundamental, structural cause of our fragmented community is the insufficient housing on this campus. Many of our recent acquisitions, such as Harmony or Watt, were originally apartments geared toward graduate students with special spousal needs. Several years or decades later, the buildings’ walls may have a new coat of paint, but they still are not appropriate for undergraduates. If students really want the experience of living as a New Yorker, there will be plenty of opportunities to do just that after graduation or during the summer.

My proposed solution to this problem is to institute a residential college system for Columbia undergraduates. Columbia would renovate or build all RCs from scratch to ensure that there is no disparity in housing conditions. In one building or building complex, each residential college will accommodate the housing, dining, and educational (e.g., library, conference rooms, faculty-in-residence) needs of all its occupants.

Once all the facilities are put in place, in the summer before freshman year, every student will be assigned randomly to a college. For the duration of their undergraduate lives, students make one RC their primary affiliation before all other student organizations. Every college will be under the auspices of a faculty member who observes office hours and oversees the general advising of all residents. There will be graduate advisers who either serve as Core instructors or tutors. It’s possible that there may be

tradition and progress toward a telos, communal agricultural economy and free market capitalism.

I use the example of Asian humanities because I am most familiar with the courses and because my impressions are fresh. Yet I do not think it an overstatement to say that in our attempts to learn about non-Western cultures and question Western thinking, there is a frequent tendency to hastily toss a simplistic, sweeping, and inadequate characterization of the West onto the discussion table. Usually done with a genuine and well-intentioned desire to compare and contrast the Western with the non-Western, what begins as an innocent academic exercise regularly devolves into an indictment of Western civilization’s most cherished values.

I would not know where to begin if something is merely labelled as Western.

While sober and legitimate concerns exist regarding most, if not all, of the Western Core, they are too rarely raised. More often, in my experience, criticism of the West begins by setting up a straw man—usually in the form of a radically individualistic, amoral, material-obsessed, strictly rational, rabidly secular, ends-driven, and progress-seeking capitalist. Bastardized and unfairly depicted, the Western mentality is often caricatured as some combination of Plato, Smith, and Kant, but rarely in their complex and full, true form. Moreover, in the wake of the recent history of Euro-American colonialism, the West is then represented as a malicious predator, a Frankensteinian brainchild of dead, white men that preys on the misfortunes of

no need for RAs. When students live in the same area for more than one year they learn how to mentor new residents (i.e., underclassmen) and take a personal interest in the upkeep and improvement of their place of living.

This housing system immediately resolves the problems of fragmentation, which are caused by administrators aimlessly catering to groups with either narrow interests or allegiances to an outside organization. At universities, it makes sense that students arrange their lives around academic responsibilities, which explains the presence of faculty and graduate advisers-in-residence. Residents should find their common status as students to be sufficient material for bonding and reconciling differences. Students will be part of an RC whether they like it or not. As in a family, a college is

I ask you to consider why a residential college system, in principle, works as a physical counterpart to the intellectual Core.

no place for exclusion and alienation. You don’t estrange Uncle Joe for his crazy Bolshevik exclamations at the Thanksgiving dinner table.

I recognize that this change will result in a multi-million dollar project, but the future returns from this investment can be huge. Faculty and graduate students can be compensated equitably for their interest in teaching undergraduates. In the distant future, we may be able to secure undergraduate-specific donations from alumni who continue to carry high morale for their college. In the space of a column, it is impossible to present a full blueprint for a completely new housing system. While I haven’t discussed all the minutia of such a project, I still ask you to consider why a residential college system, in principle, works as a physical counterpart to the intellectual Core. This major overhaul will undoubtedly reinvigorate undergraduate education in our institution.

James Yoon is a Columbia College senior majoring in environmental science. He is a resident adviser in John Jay Hall. Yooniversity runs alternate Thursdays.

anyone who dares to challenge Europe and North America’s manly hegemony.

I am being deliberately hyperbolic, but my hyperbole contains more than a sliver of truth. Even if the West is not purposefully set up as a straw man, the term is too vague to spawn a meaningful response and fruitful discussion. A Platonist sees metaphysics differently from an Aristotelian. A Christian view of morality is at direct odds with a Machiavellian one. Kant and Hume can both be considered to have written secular philosophy, but they are otherwise dissimilar.

I don’t mean to draw up these examples as binaries, but simply to point out that two or more ideas can be simultaneously Western and contradict each other. Sitting at a classroom discussion, I would not know where to begin if something is merely labelled as Western.

You would think that with the Core Curriculum, Columbia students would understand the West with a greater degree of complexity. Yet it seems that dismissing the West is almost in vogue. I find it frustrating when the unscrupulous—irresponsibly citing ideas loosely associated with multiculturalism or cosmopolitanism or post-colonialism—reject the validity of Western thought after cursory analysis.

Western thought is not above criticism. However, we would all benefit by avoiding lazy criticism and engaging the West with a level of specificity and only in its best articulation.

Thanks to the career of Edward Said, we know better than to caricature the Orient. In the hallways of Columbia, however, we are perhaps in more danger of becoming practitioners of Occidentalism rather than Orientalism.

Lanbo Zhang is a Columbia College junior majoring in economics and history. He is a former Spectator editorial page editor. Second Impressions runs alternate Thursdays.



ILLUSTRATION BY LAURA DIEZ DE BALDEON

Correction

The article, “It’s time to update Columbia’s HIV testing standards,” (Feb.5, 2013) stated that the Gay Health Advocacy Project does not offer post-exposure prophylaxis or polymerase chain reaction testing for HIV, and mischaracterized the amount of time it takes to get the results of an HIV antibody test. GHAP does offer PCR and PEP services in special circumstances, and antibody tests take from four weeks to three months for results. *Spectator* regrets the errors.

Spectator is committed to fair and accurate reporting. If you know of an error please inform us at info@columbiaspectator.com.

For general comments or questions about the newspaper, please write to the editor in chief and managing editor at editor@columbiaspectator.com.

After latest losses, CU’s Ivy season may be over

BENEDICT from page 3

Until that day comes, Lions, I will hold my breath, wear my free T-shirt, and wave in your jump shots like Carlton Fisk. I will be at every one of your games in Levien, exulting in every victory and cursing every defeat. I will keep the faith, because that’s what a Lions fan does, even if it has been 45 years since we made a trip to the NCAA tournament. Just don’t make me wait much longer, OK?

Tyler Benedict is a Columbia College senior majoring in English and Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies. He is the poet laureate emeritus of the Columbia University Marching Band. The Road Less Traveled runs biweekly. sports@columbiaspectator.com



FILE PHOTO

RESCINDED | A Greek organization will lose its charter, the Inter-Greek Council said Wednesday.

IGC does not specify which Greek organization

GREEK from front page

that this event took place and are extremely disappointed in the actions of this chapter and want to reiterate that the Greek Community at Columbia University does not align itself with organizations that engage in actions that psychologically or physically harm others,” the council said. “Furthermore, the IGC fully supports the IGC Judicial Board and the Greek Community’s system of self-accountability. That being said, we do not believe that this incident at its core is an issue of weak Greek values.”

The council said that the Greek community at Columbia “made tremendous strides in defining and upholding the values of Scholarship, Leadership and Empowerment,” and deferred all further questions to Director of Inter-Greek Council Public Relations and Marketing Jonathan Dean, CC ’15.

Administrators did not immediately responded to requests for comment. Several Greek community leaders referred requests for comment to Dean, who declined to elaborate upon the statement.

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NEWS BRIEF

Districting Commission approves new Council map

The city Districting Commission approved a revised plan for the new City Council map Wednesday night, potentially bringing major changes to Upper Manhattan districts.

Before the plan was approved, City Council member Melissa Mark-Viverito, a vocal critic of the commission throughout the redistricting process, released a statement signaling acceptance of the new lines, which drastically reshape her district. District 8 currently includes East Harlem, Manhattan Valley, and a small portion of the Bronx, and the new plan would almost evenly divide the district between the Bronx and East Harlem.

“While I cannot say that the final draft lines released on Monday have met all of the objectives of my community, a number of changes were made that responded directly to feedback from the public,”

Mark-Viverito said in a statement. “I stand fully prepared to represent this new district and I look forward to working with all of my Bronx colleagues and community leaders in the months and years to come to advance issues of importance for our communities.”

Mark-Viverito also praised the decision to unify Manhattan Valley in one district, District 7, and to incorporate Randall’s Island into District 8. She said the new boundaries would not reduce East Harlem’s “strength as a historic community of interest.”

Including Manhattan Valley in District 7, which has a large minority population, would mean an increase in the white population of the district.

Dr. Lisa Handley, a redistricting expert who presented a racial voting bloc analysis to the panel of commissioners, said despite the adjustments, District 8 would remain one

of the city’s 19 “ability to elect” districts. “Ability to elect” districts are those in which there is a particularly high percentage of racial minorities, meaning a single minority population may have the influence to determine the district’s representative. In order to pass federal review, the city must work to maintain these types of districts.

Although the final vote on the map was nearly unanimous, commissioner Jamila Ponton Bragg expressed concern that the addition of Manhattan Valley would threaten District 7’s status as an “ability to elect” district. However, Handley said her analysis did not find the white population growth in the district to be that significant.

The new plan now goes to the City Council, which has three weeks to reject it or send it to the Department of Justice for final review.

—Chris Meyer

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KIMBERLY FLORES FOR SPECTATOR

DOUBLE-TAKE | Matthew Ronay’s “Hoof Head Abdomen Hoof” recalls the respiratory system.

LeRoy Neiman Gallery gets metaphysical in newest exhibit

BY JOSEPHINE MCGOWAN
Spectator Staff Writer

A new exhibit at Dodge Hall’s LeRoy Neiman Gallery showcases eight artists’ ability to manipulate abstractions, ranging from force of nature to the supernatural.

Curated by Matthew Wilson, SoA ’13, “Metaphysical Interventions,” features an encased jaguar’s yawn by Ecuador-based artist Carlos Santillan, among other pieces across several media. The artists reinterpret abstractions in a way that at once beguiles and intrigues.

To create “Metaphysical Interventions,” Wilson collaborated with artists he met in Latin America and Italy who captured the essence of his idea for the exhibition.

“These artists are interested in art as a vehicle for these interventions and as structures that lie outside of the quotidian,” Wilson said. “I see the metaphysical intervention as something that resonates and that uses a physical means to achieving metaphysical effects. These works, together, are quite like a cone, which, viewed from one perspective, can seem so far apart from one another, but at another perspective, they converge.”

One video, titled “Stand Back,” plays with perspective by featuring a woman in a soft pink, flowing gown and “asking others to stand back and rethink her position and potential,” according to Angela Ellsworth, one of its creators. Standing against the background of clouds and reaching toward the distance, the woman serves as a statement on Mormon polygamist marriage. The piece was part of the Plural Wife Project, which strove to “imagine a community of women pioneering an alternative history,” Ellsworth said in an email.

Another piece, Jesse Bransford’s “Magic Square (Jupiter),” features Hebrew letters and their numerical equivalents on a cube. The drawing is based

on Cornelius Agrippa’s “Three Books of Occult Philosophy.”

“I redid it five times before I got it, so that if you looked at it one way, it is a flat mandala, but in another way, there are lines that would describe an isometric space,” Bransford said. “When you see that, it becomes like a computer game of depth-perception.”

Matthew Ronay defies another law of perception in his piece “Hoof Head Abdomen Hoof,” an installation that features white liquid dripping into a wooden bowl. Unbeknownst to viewers, the artist crouches within the piece for three hours at a time to keep it running.

“It is part of this idea of the respiratory system during meditation, and your breath balancing energy and carbon dioxide the environment,” Ronay said. “The end-product is a gift and creates unity between necessity and waste.”

Gallery worker Victoria Roth, SoA ’14, said that while Ronay’s “funky, beautiful, bizarre piece filled with many cultural references” first captured her attention, she particularly appreciated the benches at the center of the gallery stacked high with books chosen by the artists for visitors to flip through.

“The benches bring everything together, and the books selected by the artists really invite you to sit down, look at the works, and connect the two mediums,” she said. “It’s a very interactive process in that sense.”

Roth said she was intrigued by the exhibit’s disorienting effects.

“What I like about the show is that it has an amplified sense of mysteriousness and non-comprehension,” she said.

“Metaphysical Interventions” will be on display until Feb. 15 in the LeRoy Neiman Gallery, 310 Dodge Hall. It’s open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

josephine.mcgowan@columbiaspectator.com

BC student captures campus trendsetters for College Fashionista

FASHIONISTA from back page

the site about a year ago. I was excited to have this opportunity to promote myself as my favorite bloggers so successfully do, so I applied to be a Style Guru for the fall 2012 semester.

Q: Did you have any prior experience with fashion that inspired you to get more involved in CF?

A: I had always loved fashion growing up—my mom has the most amazing shoe collection and we began seriously collecting vintage dresses when I was in high school. In high school I interned at D Magazine assisting the style editor, which cemented my love of both fashion and magazines. When I got to Barnard I interned at Whitewall Magazine and also became more acquainted with social media that helped me to come across fashion bloggers who really inspired me to promote myself and my style.

Q: Do you see yourself working toward a career in the fashion industry?

A: Ultimately, I’d like to be an editor of an established magazine, which would be more to my liking than, say, a fashion director, because I would be able to dabble in all of the things I love—fashion, photography, beauty, writing, and layout. However, I am also an art history major and equally love museums. I may want to be a curator, which in my mind is very similar to being an editor.

Q: What draws you to a student’s individual style?

A: There is definitely a Barnard/Columbia look. There are lots of recurring pieces that I see a lot on campus like Fjällräven backpacks, Longchamp carryalls, cargo jackets, lots of motorcycle boots, and Oxfords. If someone looks a lot different than everyone else walking down the sidewalk, I’m more likely to notice them.

Q: Why do you think sites like CF are important on college campuses?

A: I think people can be intimidated looking at Vogue, but on College Fashionista someone might see another student wearing different trends and realize that it’s possible to pull them off. In that way, fashion gets more approachable.

Q: In regards to CF’s recent collaboration with the F*ck Cancer Foundation, do you think campaigns like this are effective?

A: I think my favorite examples of campaigns like this are Gap’s (RED) T-shirts and Lauren Bush’s FEED bags, which donate nearly all proceeds to charity. As for the bracelets, while an object like this will spread the word and raise money, sometimes I think it makes people think they are actually fighting cancer. I believe it is our duty to stay informed about how our money is spent.



MICHAEL DISCENZA / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FASHION FORWARD | Twyla Shelmire, BC ’14, showcases fashionable Columbians as part of her work with College Fashionista.

Q: How do you feel about the trends you’ve been seeing on campus recently?

A: This semester, I’m really into wedge sneakers, as well as army style coats and oxblood. However, I’m not a fan of regular tennis shoes and I also wish conformist footwear like UGGs and Sperry Top-Siders would go away. I’d like to see more vintage clothing—I think it’s so much cooler when you wear something that no one else is going to have.

Q: Do you have any parting advice for cultivating one’s personal style, 8:40 a.m. classes and all?

A: Sometimes people say they can’t ‘pull things off’ but the truth is, anyone can pull off any outfit. You just have to have the confidence to do so. After all, it’s your outfit—what you say goes. I have overall thematic images that come to mind when I am putting my look together day-to-day. Sometimes I like to get dressed up for special occasions, like I was five or six years old playing dress up. Don’t let trends dictate your personal style, and remember that classics are always a good foundation.

arts@columbiaspectator.com

McFarlane’s film to screen at Athena

MCFARLANE from back page

a topic that people would want to talk about ... and as I started thinking about it more and more I realized that this is a real debate. And I felt that without hurting too many feelings I could make a funny movie about something that is actually really controversial.

Q: Are there any key differences between male and female comedy?

A: Yeah, I think there are. But I think it’s more a product of what the audience is willing to hear, rather than what is actually funny to us versus what is funny to men. I think that men get away with a lot more. Women have to be really smart about how they approach stand-up comedy—much more thoughtful than men have to be.

Q: What do audiences not want to hear female comics say?

A: I know the first thing people think of is being dirty, but that’s not it at all. I think audiences are fine with women talking about sex. Of course, everything is transcendable, but I think it’s harder for women to talk about worldly events. People are so used to women talking about themselves ... Male stand-ups are preachy a lot. A man can stand on stage and tell a room of 300+ people how to live their lives and yet the audience is fine with it—they’re expecting it. And yet, I think that type of comedy’s a lot harder for women.

Q: Have you ever personally experienced any sort of discrimination as a female comedian?

A: When I first started making the movie, I looked at it as a much more frivolous topic than I think I should have. When guys would say, “Women

aren’t funny,” ... I felt like they knew I still could do as well as them on stage. But when they started saying it to my face in an interview setting, I started thinking, “Oh, this is real. Maybe they really believe it.” I think I had blinders on—which was probably a good thing—about the discrimination that was going on.

Q: Did making the film challenge or change your opinions on male versus female comedy?

A: I didn’t realize how angry people got about it ... I guess in real life it is the last thing that people can say in public without getting in trouble, like the last stand in misogyny. It’s one of those things that you’re allowed to say. You could never say that about another group of people. But if you get mad about it, it’s almost as if you’re proving their point ... It’s a frustrating thing to fight.

Q: Is there anything specific that you think female voices add to the world of comedy?

A: I think that women are really good at dissecting the minutia of real life ... and that’s what we do when men think we’re talking about nothing—we’re psychologically breaking things down and figuring it out.

Q: What do you think the future looks like for females in comedy?

A: I think women are sort of leading the comedy charge right now. If you’re funny and happen to be a woman, it’s a great fucking time to be you!

“Women Aren’t Funny” will screen Saturday, Feb. 9 at 9 p.m. in the Diana Event Oval. Tickets are available for purchase at <http://athenafilmfestival.com/program/2013-films/women-arent-funny/>.
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Our picks for the Athena Film Festival

Third annual festival brings Oscar-nominated features, documentaries to Barnard campus

BY CARROLL GELDERMAN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Last year, a whopping 3,000 people from across the city attended the Athena Film Festival, a celebration of women and leadership on Barnard's campus. This year, not only have several screenings already sold out, but the festival also reports that ticket sales have climbed 50 percent from last year.

The opening ceremony of the festival takes place Thursday night, kicking off a series of screenings that will continue through Sunday. Greta Gerwig, BC '06, producer Debra Martin Chase, and "Juno" writer and event co-chair Diablo Cody will present at the ceremony. Awards recipients include "The Walking Dead" producer Gale Anne Hurd and Columbia film professor Molly Haskell.

The screenings will begin Friday afternoon featuring a diverse lineup that includes four Academy Award nominated films—"Brave," "Beasts of the Southern Wild," "Inocente," and "The Invisible War." Below are Spectator's top picks for the weekend.

Ginger & Rosa

Ginger (Elle Fanning) and Rosa (Alice Englert) are teenagers growing up in London 1962—a time that brought with it the Cold War, the sexual revolution, and the threat of the nuclear bomb. They spend every moment together skipping school and discussing politics, religion, and their futures. Although they promise to be best friends forever, that plan begins to crumble amidst such political and social duress. The young Fanning has received rave reviews for her work alongside newcomer Englert ("Beautiful Creatures") and the two are joined by a stellar cast that includes Christina Hendricks ("Mad Men"), Annette Bening ("American Beauty"), and Timothy Spall ("The King's Speech").

Friday, Feb. 8—Diana Event Oval, 9 p.m.

Granny's Got Game

First-time filmmaker Angela Alford profiles a North Carolina senior women's basketball team in this heartfelt documentary about the power of friendship. For nearly two decades, this group of women in their 70s has played as a team, winning several tournaments and championships and becoming a family along the way. They have seen each other through breast cancer, heart ailments, and injury. A testament to their strong bond is Jo, who is no longer able to play, but still attends every practice and game to show her support. Facing the inevitable effects of time (their youngest player is 72), the team hopes to win one more championship title. Alford follows their triumphs and struggles in the year leading up to the final match.

Friday, Feb. 8—304 Barnard Hall, 6 p.m.

The Invisible War

Nominated for this year's Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature, "The Invisible War" is the shocking story of the cover-up of a rape in the United States military. Not only does director Kirby Dick display Congress' investigation of the matter, but he also tells the story of several victims as they struggle to cope with the aftermath of sexual abuse. In one heartbreaking testimony, a woman reveals that she watched as men received five years punishment for drug use and a mere two weeks for rape. Dick's illumination of this epidemic is not only an exploratory and revealing piece, but also a summons for change.

Sunday, Feb. 10—Diana Event Oval, 12 p.m.

Beasts of the Southern Wild

Nominated for four Academy Awards, this Sundance darling tells the whimsical and poetic tale of Hushpuppy, a six-year-old girl living off of the Louisiana coast in a ramshackle community called the Bathtub. Confronted by the threat of a natural disaster, her ailing father's irritability, and an ominous herd of aurochs, Hushpuppy goes on a hero's journey to understand her place in the world. Bolstered by an enchanting score and spectacular work from newcomer Quevanzhané Wallis, the film displays director Benh Zeitlin's bold and unique vision from its striking opening sequence to its bittersweet end.

Saturday, Feb. 9—Diana Event Oval, 6 p.m.

Diana Vreeland: The Eye Has to Travel

The legendary Diana Vreeland is a true visionary who transformed the world of fashion as editor in chief of Vogue during the colorful 1960s. Her granddaughter-in-law, Lisa Immordino Vreeland, directs this documentary chronicling the life and career of the aptly named "Empress of Fashion." The film takes the audience from Vreeland's humble beginnings in Paris, through her rise in the industry as a columnist at Harper's Bazaar, to her time as a consultant at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Alongside various film clips, imaginative displays of some of Vreeland's best photo stories, and interviews with Vreeland herself is an impressive array of testimonies given by the likes of Anjelica Huston, Manolo Blahnik, and Calvin Klein.

Saturday, Feb. 9—Northwest Corner Building (5th floor), 6 p.m.

Future Weather

From director Jenny Deller comes this film about Laduree, a young and ardent environmentalist consumed by inevitable environmental disaster. At the start of the film, her disinterested and detached mother flees to California, leaving Laduree to fend for herself. Unwilling to move out of her house, she is forced into the care of her alcoholic grandmother. As the story progresses, the two learn to cope with their present and prepare for their future. Perla Haney-Jardine's portrayal of Laduree has been equated to that of Jennifer Lawrence in "Winter's Bone." She is joined by Lili Taylor ("Six Feet Under") and William Sadler ("The Shawshank Redemption") who occupy small but important supporting roles.

Sunday, Feb. 10—304 Barnard Hall, 12 p.m.

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ACTION | "The Invisible War," "Beasts of the Southern Wild," "Diana Vreeland: The Eye Has to Travel," "Future Weather," and "Granny's Got Game" (from top) are among the films featured at this year's Athena Film Festival.

Bacchstage Pass goes viral in new social media campaign

BY JENNY PAYNE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

If you've logged on to Facebook over the last few days, chances are you've seen someone share Bacchanal's punny new promotion, the Bacchstage Pass. With its promise of giving two randomly-selected students the chance to go backstage at Bacchanal and meet the performers, the Bacchstage Pass has garnered over 880 shares since Monday.

The promotion is part of Bacchanal's campaign to be more accessible to the student body, something board members feel has been a student concern in the past.

"We definitely hear people saying that Bacchanal isn't open enough, and we're trying to change to be as open as we can," executive board member Gil Feig, SEAS '15, said. "We are as open as we possibly can be within the confines of our contracts, and this is just something to add to that while also allowing us to connect with the Columbia community year-round."

This year, the executive board has been trying to increase its transparency through events such as a town hall meeting last October, which sought student opinions on potential artists, projects, and events.

So far, the Bacchstage Pass has helped spread the word about Bacchanal on Facebook. Before the promotion, Bacchanal's Facebook page had about 170 likes, but it has surpassed 1,000 since the promotion began Feb. 4.

"It's definitely been a success," Feig said. "We're starting to get messages with questions, which we're excited about. We want



FILE PHOTO

VIP | Big Gigantic wows the crowd at last year's Bacchanal, which was held on Low Steps.

this to become an outlet of communication with the campus for us."

In addition to increasing Bacchanal's Facebook presence, some believe the promotion has increased student interest in the event.

"Even though I already had plans to attend Bacchanal, this upped the stakes a little bit more," Elizabeth Heyman, GS/JTS '16, who has shared the Bacchstage Pass, said in an email. "When things are publicized well on Facebook, it's difficult to ignore them and especially when you have the potential to gain something as awesome as a backstage pass!"

For Tina Kit, SEAS '13 and another sharer of the Bacchstage Pass, the image appeared

"every time I opened up my Facebook page."

"Underneath I would see that 10 people have shared this picture," she said in an email.

Part of the promotion's popularity comes from the fact that a chance to go backstage could mean meeting a favorite artist, having something to brag about, and ending the year on an exciting note.

"It would be an awesome way to spend my final Bacchanal at Columbia," Kit added. "I would be forever indebted to the Bacchanal e-board for making my last Bacchanal the most epic one yet."

Lesley Thulin contributed reporting.

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Style meets smarts on College Fashionista

BY REBECCA DECZYNSKI
Columbia Daily Spectator

As Columbia students strut around campus wearing everything from chunky platforms and peacoats to capes and flats, they are getting much-deserved acknowledgement for their sartorial expertise thanks to Twyla Shelmire, BC '14, and fashion website College Fashionista. CF connects appoints student correspondents from different colleges to serve as "Style Gurus" who spotlight trendsetters on campus.

"It is a sisterhood, a kind of internet sorority of like-minded, fashion-savvy women," former Columbia CF Style Guru and Chief Marketing Intern Toby Milstein, BC '14, said.

As an editorial assistant, Shelmire helps to edit and share snapshots of fashionable students. Last semester, the art history major even snapped some photos of her own on the Columbia campus as a Style Guru, a blogger for the website who captures photos of campus street style. Spectator spoke to Shelmire about vintage fashion and the woes of conformist footwear.

REBECCA DECZYNSKI: How did you first find out about College Fashionista?

TWYLA SHELMIER: My uncle was College Fashionista Founder and Creative Director Amy Levin's professor in college, so he told me about

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