



SARAH DARVILLE FOR SPECTATOR  
INVESTIGATION | The Department of Buildings has stopped construction at a Columbia demolition site to investigate the death of a worker.

## Media Watch to promote dialogue, members say

BY CARLY SILVER  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Campus Media Watch, which members say formed around a commitment to fair coverage of the Middle East, has its eye on Columbia in its first semester as a Student Governing Board-sponsored group.

The group has worked with several organizations that focus on advocacy for Israel, like the campus lobby LionPAC, and media watchdog groups, like HonestReporting.

CMW “constantly monitors the media in all of its forms, including lectures, speakers, events, and publications, and attempts to correct any inaccuracies that are encountered through rigorous fact-checking and careful analysis,” according to its website.

While many of the group’s core members are involved with Israel advocacy, Daniel Hertz, SEAS ’10 and president and founder of CMW, said a summer fellowship he did with the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America, a pro-Israel media watchdog group, taught him to use facts and statistics to dispel what he said were false assumptions about controversial subject matters.

He added that has reached out to campus groups from across the political and cultural spectrum, and that the group is committed to accuracy.

One of the group’s other founders and vice president Zahava Mandelbaum, GS/JTS ’12, is a Hasbara fellow, an Israeli organization that trains college students to be “effective pro-Israel activists” on American college campuses.

Early on the group received help from LionPAC, Columbia’s student lobby for Israel.

“We brought them in and they were a part of seeing how we function—how we run meetings,” said Eric Schorr, GS/JTS ’12, director of public relations for LionPAC.

He added that CMW is not an arm of LionPAC, but they will co-sponsor events together, as they did last semester.

Hertz said his group’s work depends on its membership; they intend to examine inaccuracies regarding the Middle East in media, classes, and campus events, as reported by students.

“We’re really trying to focus on Columbia now,” he said. “It looks like there’s enough work to do here.”

This semester Hertz decided to take ‘Palestinian and Israeli Politics and Societies’ with associate professor Joseph Massad, who has come under fire for remarks that some say challenge Israel’s right to exist.

But some question whether CMW can remain unbiased while maintaining affiliations with Israel advocacy groups.

Yusuf Ahmad, SEAS ’12 and chair of the public relations committee for the Muslim Student Association, said MSA had been approached about co-sponsoring events with CMW but not explicitly about ensuring accurate media coverage.

“Although Campus Media Watch may have a genuine desire to ensure that students will be able to base their beliefs on legitimate, unbiased information,” [as stated on their website] conflicting commitments and goals on the parts of CMW’s core founders creates a significant

“Hopefully the establishment of Campus Media Watch will elevate the Israel-Palestine debate.”

—SGB Secretary Beezly Kiernan, CC ’11

SEE MEDIA WATCH, page 5

## CU students debate Guantánamo Bay

BY AMBER TUNNELL  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Tuesday night, politically-minded students crowded into a Hamilton classroom to watch the Columbia University College Democrats and Republicans debate the Guantánamo Bay detention facility in Cuba.

Columbia Political Union publisher Rhonda Shafei, CC ’12, moderated the event.

Republican debaters Tyler Trumbach, CC ’13, and William Prasifka, CC ’12, argued that Guantánamo should not be closed. Trumbach said the detainees at Guantánamo should have “no civil rights or privileges” because they are “terrorists.”

“The United States has the right to keep them in a closed facility,” Trumbach said.

Their opponents, Democratic debaters Janine Balekdjian, CC ’13, and Sarah Gitlin, CC ’13, thought that the facility should be closed

immediately because it is a “violation of human rights and the Constitution.”

Balekdjian argued that the facility is “destroying America’s reputation,” and that holding hundreds of detainees without trials goes against the constitution.

But Prasifka countered that the facility does not violate the constitution because there is “no precedent at all under the law that enemy combatants be held like United States citizens.”

The debaters also disagreed on the treatment of the prisoners at Guantánamo.

When asked what valuable information has been received from the detainees, Trumbach replied that he didn’t know of any, but that the “Department of Defense has said that it has received good information” that cannot be released because it is a “matter of national security.”

The Democrats replied that most of the information received

from the detainees has been false and that the “information is not helping” the U.S.

When asked to propose an alternative to the facility, Gitlin said that “anyone being held at Guantánamo Bay ... should be given a trial.” If they are convicted, she said, they should be sent to jail, and if they are acquitted, they should be set free.

“If they [the detainees] were guilty, we wouldn’t have these problems,” Balekdjian said, arguing that there are “several innocent people at Guantánamo Bay. ... Many of them are not any more guilty than people sitting in this room.”

“When we have something that is wrong, ineffective, violates human values, and makes people hate us and want to kill us, we should get rid of it,” Gitlin said.

“We don’t think in Guantánamo Bay that the United States is doing something bad,” Prasifka countered. “They are doing something legal.”

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NOMI ELLENSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
DEBATE | College Republicans and Democrats talked Guantánamo at the semester’s first CPU debate.

## DOB investigates death at CU site

BY SARAH DARVILLE  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

After issuing an immediate stop work order at a Columbia demolition site, the New York City Department of Buildings is now investigating what caused the death of a construction worker who fell from scaffolding into an elevator shaft on Friday, Feb. 5.

A spokesperson for the New York Police Department said on Sunday that 51-year-old Jozef Wilkfell from third-floor scaffolding into an interior elevator shaft at 3229 Broadway, where 125th and 129th Streets meet in Manhattanville. He was treated for cardiac arrest after the incident but was declared dead on arrival at St. Luke’s Hospital.

According to DOB spokesperson Tony Sclafani, the agency has issued several violations since the incident.

After the initial incident inspection, the DOB cited Breeze National, a subcontractor of Bovis Lend Lease, the company managing the project, for failing to safeguard persons and property, and again for having an open and unguarded elevator shaft. On Tuesday, after further inspection, the DOB also cited the project for improperly constructed scaffolding.

“Following the accident, the DOB inspectors responded to the demolition site, investigated the accident and inspected the site itself, and as a result of the accident, we issued a full stop work order to the entire job,” Sclafani said.

Wilk was an employee of Breeze National, according to Bovis Senior Vice President Mary Costello.

“An investigation has commenced to determine the circumstances surrounding this tragic incident. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and coworkers,” Costello said in an email on Tuesday.

A spokesperson from Breeze said it was too early to comment on Tuesday.

Columbia spokesperson Robert Hornsby confirmed that Wilk was a Breeze employee, and said in an email, “At this time, our thoughts and concerns are with Mr. Wilk’s family. The New York City Department of Buildings is presently conducting an investigation as it normally does in such situations so we do not yet have all the facts of this incident.”

He added, “The University holds the safety of all individuals associated with construction projects among its highest priorities.”

On Tuesday afternoon, with the stop work still in place, only a security guard and two inspectors were on site at 129th Street. Johnnie Green, an Eddington Security employee, said, “Basically everything’s been put to a stop. After the incident occurred, that’s when everything went into effect.”

Brett Dalia, one of the Bovis inspectors at 129th, confirmed that they were doing an inspection, but declined to comment on any specifics.

It is unclear how long demolition will be delayed.

Sclafani said that when a serious accident occurs, the DOB usually orders the contractor and developer to produce reports on the incident and analyze the entire site, which can delay future work.

Mario Fernandez, an employee at Pearlgreen Corporation, which operates across 129th Street, confirmed that there has been minimal activity since the incident. “When I left Friday, I saw ambulances, police department, the FDNY here. Today ... it seems kinda quiet,” he said.

Meanwhile, in Jackson Heights, Queens, where Wilk lived, neighbors said they remembered the construction worker as a quiet man.

Cecilia Rubin, who used to be Wilk’s next-door neighbor but still lives on the same floor as his family, said that she and her husband talked to him regularly. They both saw him leave for work on Friday.

“He was like the nicest guy in the building. He was very quiet, all you would see was his smile,” she said.

Neighbors confirmed that Wilk is survived by his wife, a son, and a daughter, though his family could not be reached for comment. “They were very quiet people, but they would have Polish parties at Christmas—I would hear them singing,” Rubin said.

“I want to cry,” said Lida Nazarian, who lives a few doors down from Wilk’s family. “A very nice neighbor, very nice person,” she said.

Neighbor Felix Santana described Wilk as “a real gentleman.”

He said, “He was always wearing his Bovis construction hat.”

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### INSIDE

A&E, page 4

Chowdah cooks up atypical V-Day comedy

Columbia’s only sketch comedy troupe, Chowdah, brings a taste of the unusual to Lerner’s Black Box Theater this weekend for its first show of the year—“Chowdah’s Valentine’s Day Sextravaganza!”



Sports, back page

Agho has impressive showing past weekend

Sophomore guard Noruwa Agho gave an outstanding performance this past weekend, leading his team in scoring and matching a career high of 30 points in the game against Yale on Sunday.

Opinion, page 2

Equal footing on the Steps

Marriage for all should be the same, even if it is with the same sex.

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4	9	3	6	8	2	5	7	1
5	2	6	1	7	4	3	8	9
8	7	1	5	9	3	4	2	6
6	1	8	4	3	7	9	5	2
7	3	9	2	5	1	8	6	4
2	4	5	9	6	8	1	3	7

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# Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

**ACROSS**

1 Struggle (through), as a tedious book

5 Leatherworking tools

9 Sheriff's star

14 Incur additional cell phone charges, perhaps

15 Profound

16 Gonzalez in 2000 headlines

17 Nice retinue?

19 Mel, "The Velvet Fog"

20 Slob's opposite

21 Nice nonpro?

23 Filmom's Lupino

24 Hood bud

25 Prefix with morn, coined after historic 2009 births

26 Nice keepsake?

30 Dying-out sound

32 Riddle

33 More apt to be picked

35 "Dropped" drug

38 Space bar neighbor on a PC

39 Nice stand?

41 Wall St. news

42 Spoil

43 "Thanks \_\_\_"

44 Old beaker heaters

46 Wilma: Pref.

48 Nice behind?

50 Actor Morales

52 Phillies' div.

54 Tiny amount

55 Nice subdown?

57 Played some jazz numbers, say

61 "\_\_\_ be seeing things"

62 Nice walk?

64 Ship-finding acronym

65 Overhang

66 Folk singer Burl

67 Refuse

68 "\_\_\_ in Rome \_\_\_"

69 Site of a Lincoln profile

5 Vikings running back Peterson who holds the NFL record for yards rushed in a single game

6 Unsound, as an argument

7 Relay race part

8 Asparagus unit

9 "\_\_\_ blocker"

10 Umpleen

11 Privileged connection

12 Whole range

13 It began on viernes in 2010

18 Take in too little

22 One with a long face

24 Nice squad?

26 Cybertrash

27 "Return of the Jedi" green-skinned dancer

28 Govt. note issuer

29 "Dies \_\_\_"

31 Full scholarship, e.g.

34 With 53-Down, French toon who would be right at home in this puzzle?

36 Have heated words

37 Two tablets, say

40 It doesn't cover much of a 48-Across

45 Ill-fated vessel

47 Maxima maker

49 Cleanup hitters, briefly

50 Actor Jennings and pianist Gilels

51 South Pacific island nation

53 See 34-Down

56 Periodic table fig.

57 Peace symbol

58 Put away

59 "East of \_\_\_"

60 Means of determining proficiency

63 Cheer syllable

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

M	O	T	O	R	A	C	H	E	U	P	S	A	
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**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

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By Don Gagliardi  
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02/10/10





ROSE DONLON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**FUNNY VALENTINES** | Chowdah, Columbia’s only sketch comedy group, rehearses for their first show of the year, a “Sextravaganza” for Valentine’s Day. The show features some bizarre subject matter not typically connected with the holiday.

# Chowdah gets sex-travagant for V-Day

BY Yael Grossman  
Columbia Daily Spectator

THEATER

Sketch comedy is often considered the black sheep of the theatrical world—kind of awkward, unprofessional, and altogether a lesser art form. This Valentine’s Day, however, Chowdah looks to prove such a fallacy dead wrong with its first show of the semester titled “Chowdah’s Valentine’s Day Sextravaganza!”

For students unfamiliar with its past performances, Chowdah is Columbia’s only sketch comedy group. Sketch comedy is a somewhat vague term, but it usually signifies a series of scenes, between two and 10 minutes long, meant to convey an entire story.

Though mainly focused on humor, Chowdah also tries to infuse its sketches with thought-provoking material. “It used to be that when we would write a sketch for Valentine’s Day, the topic of a single sketch would be something along the lines of ‘teenage abortion-anal

sex.” Matt Shields, CC ’10, president of Chowdah, said. “Now, we try to stop the sketch from dissolving completely into smut. We want to change things up, help people acquire a new perspective.”

Such conscientiousness is a key component to Chowdah’s success. Though most audiences assume the sketches are written in a span of minutes, the group’s process is in fact much more intricate. The whole procedure begins with auditions for actors, writers, and those who can both act and write. Chowdah looks for students who are quick on their feet, even if they’re not experienced sketch artists.

Once the players have been assembled, the complete troupe gets together and decides on two weekends of the semester for performances, as well as when the writers can get together to submit their work to Shields. Once they have the final sketches submitted to the president—who final-edits the scripts—rehearsals begin.

Throughout the rehearsal process and up until the night of the show, sketches are updated as the writers and actors add their own flair to the

pieces. “The easiest way to explain it [the rehearsal process],” group member Alex Katz, JTS ’10, said with a smile, “is organized chaos.”

“Our earlier performance this year [for Halloween] was highly organized, but you can expect a looser style for the sequence of sketches at ‘Sextravaganza,’” Katz added. The show is set to include sketches about atrocious dates, rhyming friends, mysterious dips, and dogs in Riverside Park—to which one member of Chowdah, upon the first read-through, simply asked, “Can we get arrested for this?”

That would be the first-ever mass arrest for a campus comedy troupe—nevertheless, it sounds like Chowdah will hardly be dissuaded from continuing to push the envelope.

## WHERE IT’S AT

**Time:** Thursday, Feb. 11 at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m., Friday, Feb. 12 at 10 p.m.  
**Place:** Black Box Theater, Lerner Hall  
**Cost:** \$3

# Student musician Kayte Grace defies genre categorization

BY ANDREA FOLDS  
Columbia Daily Spectator

MUSIC

As if life as a Columbia student isn’t already busy enough, Kayte Dzime-Assison, CC ’11, is also making her mark on the Manhattan music scene.

Last night, she performed a set of original music at Sidewalk Café—New York’s self-proclaimed “Antifolk stomping ground”—under her stage name, Kayte Grace.

Grace’s self-described musical style of folk, rock, and pop lends itself to various niches in the music world. “My music is kind of all over the place, but I can say what it’s not. It’s definitely not rap, not ska, nothing extreme,” she said.

Her sources of inspiration for songwriting are just as varied, ranging from romance to poverty to inquiries about life. “One song I wrote called ‘Revolution’ was inspired by homeless people, by a lot of people in our neighborhood I’ve gotten to know, and about the gaps between people,” Grace said.

She added, “A lot of them [the songs] are about love, unrequited love, sort of sad love. ... I’m super girly and romantic so that sort of helps.”

Though her arrival to the music scene is relatively recent, Grace is no stranger to performing. “I’ve been acting professionally since I was in fourth grade, doing commercials and stuff, and that’s part of the reason I came to New York to go to college,” she said.

The transition from acting to music was a natural one that her family supported, and arose from her first encounter with a six-string.

“My family’s really musical and that’s cool because it’s always been natural for music to be a career possibility. Two years ago I got a 50-dollar guitar and started teaching myself how to play. I

was writing music while I was learning chords,” Grace said.

Grace’s industrious self-managing and promotional work are part of what has led her so quickly from learning chords to performing across the country. “I started posting videos of myself on YouTube and one of them [a song called “Soaked You In”] got 250,000 hits. ... It was on the main page of YouTube for a week!” she said.

Grace has produced CDs, booked shows, and built an online fan base independent of a record label contract. “There is no ‘getting discovered’ because there are so many people in this field that the record companies hardly need to go out and find people,” she said. “People should realize all the things you can do on your own.”

Despite just having started writing and performing her own songs at the beginning of the last school year, Grace is already releasing her first full-length album next month, titled “Written On.”

Kevin Plybon, CC ’11, performed alongside Grace at the Sidewalk Café and will join her at a number of other gigs later this year. The pair met last year through Columbia’s InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. Plybon, a classically trained guitarist, will be performing with Grace at the South by Southwest festival this March in Austin, Texas.

“She [Grace] always says she wants to get famous before we graduate,” Plybon said. “That would be good for me if she gets famous because then I could be a guitarist for a famous person.”

Though not as big as South by Southwest, Grace’s New York show still holds some significance. Regina Spektor, whom she cites as one of her biggest inspirations, performed at the Sidewalk Café in 2002 when she was still at the relative beginning of her career. “I’ll be in the presence of greatness,” Grace said.



ELEANOR SHI FOR SPECTATOR

**AMAZING GRACE** | Columbia student musician Kayte Grace juggles schoolwork with a budding professional career, including a performance downtown last night.



COURTESY OF CAFÉ RONDA

**A BIT OF BASQUE** | Café Ronda features dishes from the Navarra region of Spain and is one of 12 local restaurants participating in Navarra-related events this week.

# Food festival takes a bite out of Spanish regional cuisine

BY PAULA GERGEN  
Columbia Daily Spectator

FOOD & DRINK

“The first meal in Spain was always a shock with the hors d’oeuvres, an egg course, two meat courses, vegetables, salad, and desert and fruit,” writes Ernest Hemingway in “The Sun Also Rises,” a book which immortalized Navarra, Spain.

This week, students have a unique opportunity to experience the culinary delights described by Hemingway during Navarra Gastronomic Week in New York. Restaurants will offer special menus and hold events designed to highlight Navarra’s unique cuisine, including wine tastings and culinary exhibitions.

Navarra is a region steeped in history with an equally rich culinary tradition. Located at the north of Spain and bordering the Pyrenees, Navarra is subject to Basque influences and is famous for such events as the annual Running of the Bulls. This region includes areas with ancient Roman towns, medieval quarters, and modern renewable energy centers. Navarra’s extensive geographic diversity translates to widespread culinary diversity as well.

Particularly well-known for its piquillo peppers, Navarra also produces different regional cheeses and fungi. Additionally, wines from Navarra are generally considered to be some of the best in Spain. The region’s distinctive cuisine also takes advantage of artichoke hearts, asparagus, and hearts of lettuce. Paella and tapas are prevalent, and according to the festival’s brochure, the participating restaurants “will introduce you to ‘Patzaran, Hemingway’s Navarran Favorite,’ a sloe-flavored liqueur.

The festival has 12 participating restaurants in New York and 17 participating Navarran companies. For students interested in experiencing Navarran cuisine without traveling too far, the nearest of these restaurants is Café Ronda, a Latin bistro located at 249 Columbus Ave. (between 71st and 72nd streets). According to Joaquin Martinez, the restaurant’s director of catering and special events, Café Ronda became involved with the festival “because [its] chef is from the Basque country, so it was just natural [for it to participate].”

Café Ronda’s menu, created at the discretion of the chef, will include esparragos navarros, alubias rojas con sus sacramentos, txistorra al chardonnay de monjardin, ajoarriero con gambas, and empanada de setas y queso del roncal.

# Films show that animation is more than child’s play

BY JULIA ALEKSEYEVA  
Spectator Staff Writer

Subculture and Cinephilia

One Friday night last July, I found myself sobbing uncontrollably in a movie theatre, five minutes into Pixar’s “Up”—a film that is, for all intents and purposes, meant for children. Not helping was the throng of stone-faced ten-year-old girls in the row in front of me, whispering: “Hey, I think that lady behind us is crying.” Uh-oh.

Who is the target audience of films such as “Up”? The viewership of children’s films has expanded to include adults—even cynical college students. Young adults enjoy movies that remind them of an idyllic past—a place of misleading simplicity but also surprising complexity. More adults are seeing “kids’ movies” than ever, and this time, it isn’t only to placate a screaming seven-year-old. We wholeheartedly enjoy them.

On Feb. 2, the Academy Awards nominated Pixar’s “Up” for Best Picture. It became the first animated film to be nominated since Disney’s “Beauty and the Beast,” and the first since the installment of the Best Animated Feature award. Recently, there has been a renaissance of “family friendly” films—in particular, animated films—which are finally able to compete with live-action features in viewership and overall quality. Consider the plethora of well-reviewed animated films of 2009: “Coraline,” “Ponyo,” “Up,” and “The Fantastic Mr. Fox,” among others.

There are two reasons for this resurgence of interest in children’s movies: Contemporary PG-rated movies are simply better than the average R-rated ones, and “kids’ movies” have become increasingly relevant to young adults. Pixar in particular manages to perfectly fuse these two qualities.

Tony Jin, CC ’10, said, “I could write an essay on why I liked ‘Up!’ I think adults watch Pixar because we

have come to expect a level of artistic maturity from all of their films.”

Twenty or thirty years ago, the average college student would never watch a children’s film when an action flick or a thriller was readily available. Now the tables have turned: the best-made films are often PG, and even directors such as Wes Anderson are beginning to branch out. Anderson’s films have been marketed to hipster young adults for so long that the inclusion of a children’s film—“The Fantastic Mr. Fox”—in his oeuvre has become a mark of the kids’ film revolution. Anderson has also managed to retain his signature aesthetic and produce a work of art as enjoyable as, if not better than, its R-rated predecessors.

Jenny Lam, CC ’09, who dreams of working with Pixar, said, “I don’t think family-friendly films are just now expanding viewership to include

adults—I think we, as an audience, are beginning to realize that ‘family-friendly’ is not equivalent to ‘kids only’—it means there is something for everyone. As an audience, we are also finally beginning to accept the fact that something like animation—often associated with kids—isn’t a genre, but a medium.”

Of course, there are kids’ movies, and there are kids’ movies. Some college students may rush to the theatre to see “Coraline,” but most would never voluntarily set foot in “Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel.” The difference between these films lies in levels of artistry and plot complexity.

“Family friendly” no longer means “simple plot, no curse words”—the possibilities for these films are infinite, and college students have become a more than willing audience for their artistic feats.



COURTESY OF DISNEY PIXAR

**CHILD’S PLAY** | Oscar nominee “Up” may appear to be a children’s film at first glance, but it is just one of a score of recent kiddie flicks with an adult following.



# SGB recognizes ‘media watchdog’ campus group

MEDIA WATCH from front page

challenge: can CMW provide unbiased coverage while simultaneously acting as fellows trained by the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs to improve Israel’s image?” he said in an email message.

CMW has placed Massad’s course under “Class Watch” and Hertz blogs about what he says are inaccuracies in the lectures. After the first class session he blogged that most of the authors on the syllabus were among “Israel’s greatest detractors” and had written pieces that were “virulently anti-Semitic,” but so far he has said he’d like to reserve judgment on the class and professor.

Taylor Sanders, CC ’13, attended a recent information session and found the group’s mission to be appealing.

“I think they have the potential to really bring the speakers on campus into discussions with some of the facts,” he said.

SGB recommended the group

for recognition in December, although 34 groups voted against approving it, to 27 in favor. At SGB Town Halls, each SGB group gets one vote, except Hillel, which gets 5. A two-thirds vote would have been needed to overturn SGB’s recommendation.

But Beezly Kiernan, CC ’11 and SGB secretary said the board believes CMW will play an important role in mediating tensions between both sides this year.

“There’s a lot of bickering on this campus between pro-Israeli and pro-Palestinian groups. A lot of the time the bickering isn’t well structured and therefore doesn’t really lead to constructive discussion,” he said. “Hopefully the establishment of Campus Media Watch will elevate the Israel-Palestine debate on campus to a civil, academic level by ensuring that pseudo-truths and falsehoods propagated by the media are analyzed fully by all parties on campus.”

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Columbia fencers Neely Brandfield-Harvey, Daria Schneider, and Jeff Spear competed at World Cup in Budapest, Hungary.

TOMORROW



# SPORTS

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The Big Red continues to dominate men's Ivy League basketball, as it defeated both of its opponents this weekend en route to a No. 22 ranking.

TOMORROW

## Rising stock

## Agho earns first collegiate double-double over Brown

BY MICHELE CLEARY  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

"I'm not too complicated," insisted Noruwa Agho. Complicated? Maybe not. Talented? Most definitely. This past weekend, the sophomore guard turned in two superb performances against Brown and Yale. In the Lions' 65-54 win over the Bears on Friday, Agho posted his first-ever collegiate double-double with 18 points and 10 rebounds. Columbia was trailing Brown by nine at the half, but strong performances by Agho and teammate Asenso Ampim helped the Lions pull off the comeback.

"I feel like, especially in the first half, I tried to make an assertive effort to get us on track," Agho said. "We were down in the beginning of the game, and then we made the comeback. It was good to play well and also get a win at the same time."

The next night Agho tallied 30 points, matching a career high, in the Light Blue's loss to the Bulldogs.

Between the two games, Agho played a total of 77 minutes, spending only three minutes on the bench the whole weekend.

"I've had a good year so far, and I think coach Jones and some of my teammates are depending on me to be able to contribute at a high level for a long amount of time," Agho said. "I think now more than ever, I'm starting to really embrace that role. ... Anytime I can be out there and trying to impose my will on the game, it's great."

Agho has definitely stepped into that role this year, as he is leading the team with 17.7 points per game—almost double his 9.1 average from last season. In fact, he has improved drastically in almost every statistical category. According to Agho, this betterment is the result of a lot of hard work in the off-season.

"I really focused on breaking down my game and starting from scratch in a way, really working on some fundamentals that I didn't have last year," Agho said of his summer.

Head coach Joe Jones has lauded Agho's work ethic on many occasions, explaining that Agho goes above and beyond to reach his full potential.

"You know, I've said it, the kid is the hardest-working kid I've ever been around," Jones said of Agho after Columbia's Nov. 24 win over Bucknell. "He works so hard, sometimes we think he works too hard ... Before the game, he was in my office for about 45 minutes watching film of Bucknell, getting himself ready," Jones said. "He does a lot of things behind the scenes that really ... make him a much better player."

Agho spends at least an extra hour in the gym every day, either shooting or lifting—sometimes both. Teammate Issa Mase, who often works out with Agho, also praised his dedication.

"Off-season, during the season, I'm pretty much always in the gym with the guy," Mase said. "It's almost like we're used to it now—that's just what he does. He wants to be good, so he works hard at it."

The most noticeable change in Agho's game is his 3-point shooting. Last year, Agho shot 35.7 percent from beyond the arc and attempted only 84 threes the whole season. This year, he is fifth in the nation in 3-point percentage with 51.6 percent, and he has already attempted 91 shots from downtown.

His improved 3-point shooting has garnered national attention, as the New York Times published an article about Agho on Jan. 7.

"Hopefully that's just the start of something really special," Agho said of the Times article. "That's another thing that kind of motivates me to continue to work hard and be successful, and not quit and not get discouraged, and continue to push forward, because there is a possibility that we can turn the program around, that I can help turn the program around."

Though Agho is currently focusing on helping the Lions as much as possible, he has thought about a future in basketball.

"I'm definitely not ignorant of the fact that with continued success, that's definitely a possibility," Agho said of playing professionally. "But I'm really more concerned with myself and how I feel about myself. I want to be as good as I can be, and I want to be able to play and continue to play until I can't play any longer, so I don't have any regrets."

If professional basketball doesn't work out for Agho, he'll definitely have something to fall back on. Though he is still unsure about his career path, Agho has considered investing—something that has interested him since high school, according to Mase.

"He's really big into investing and that whole process," Mase said. "He started building his portfolio in high school. ... He's always reading one investment magazine after the next. ... That's just his little thing on the side."

For now, though, basketball is the biggest part of Agho's life, and he plans on continuing to work as hard as possible to make himself and his team better.

"I want to be able to say that I did all I could to be as good as I could possibly be," Agho said. "Whatever happens after that is a bonus."



NATASHA CLINE FOR SPECTATOR  
JASPER CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT** | Noruwa Agho has improved his 3-point shooting from last season and is currently fifth in the nation with 51.6 percent accuracy from beyond the arc.

## Agho's points must come from motion of offense in order for Light Blue to win

BY ZACH GLUBIAK  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

He had a career-high 30 points against Yale on Saturday night. Columbia lost by double figures. The night before, he had 18 against Brown, and the Lions won by 11. The difference?

Noruwa Agho, Columbia's leading scorer and breakout star, scored 25 of his 30 points unassisted against Yale. Against Brown over half of his points—10 of 18—were assisted. As head coach Joe Jones' squad has learned this year, not only must Agho turn in an impressive score line for the Light Blue to be successful, but his points must come from within the offense.

This is nothing new for Agho or his teammates. After the disappointing loss to Yale, Agho was adamant that it wasn't just his scoring alone that would lead the Lions to victory.

When asked about his career-best point total, he responded, "We're not going to win with me scoring 50."

Clearly, he cannot, and does not want

to, go it alone. Against Yale the 6-foot-3-inch shooting guard found baskets hard to come by, forcing him to muscle his way into the lane and draw fouls. Once he found his way to the charity strip, he made the Bulldogs pay. Half of his 30 points came from 15-for-18 shooting from the line.

The numbers are revealing. As long as a large percentage of Agho's points are assisted by his teammates, Columbia is successful. When he has to create his own shots, offensive production seems to stagnate.

Against Dartmouth, the Lions' other Ivy win, Agho scored 25 points, 11 of which came off of looks from teammates. Compare that to his other Ancient Eight games.

Against Cornell at home, Agho scored every one of his eight points without the help of an assist. The next Friday, when Harvard came to town, only three of Agho's 12 points were assisted.

In those two contests, the Lions lost by an average of 28.5 points. In both games against Dartmouth and Brown, where around half of Agho's points were assisted, Columbia won by double-figure margins. What's more, the Light Blue averaged 16 points per game more as a team in those

two outings than in the previous two against Harvard and Cornell.

Agho's meager 10-point average against Harvard and Cornell could explain the troubles Columbia had against their Ivy competitors, as could the impressive pedigree each of those teams—Jones' squad entered those games as heavy underdogs.

Saturday's loss to Yale muddles that picture, though. The Lions' scorer had 30 points, and the Bulldogs were supposed to put up a good fight, but not take the Light Blue's home floor by storm.

Instead Yale opened up a commanding lead early and would not let their hosts back into the game, despite several second-half spurts.

Coach Jones and his team emphatically pointed to a lack of focus in explaining their struggles in what should have been a much more competitive game. But Jones is quick to add that his players are not lacking in effort, and, while acknowledging that "every team could work harder," he looks elsewhere to find an explanation.

After the Cornell game, senior point guard Pat Foley talked about Agho's role in the offense and about the work the team had to do around him to make sure

its leading scorer was getting shots. Foley, currently out with a separated shoulder, puts the onus on himself and his teammates to ensure Agho's success.

"Noruwa's a big factor for us, and he couldn't really get off tonight ... It was really on all of us," Foley said.

"I think we got to work a little harder to get Noruwa some better shots. I think we had a few times we could have ... got him some easier ones and kind of get him in rhythm a bit, instead of having him go one on one all the time, which really kind of takes him out of rhythm."

Weeks later, this rhythm still seems to be eluding the Lions.

For his part, Agho readily acknowledges the importance of his teammates in his success as a scorer. After the Light Blue's win against Longwood, Agho credited his team for getting him good looks at the basket. In that game Agho showed signs of what was to come, scoring 24 points to achieve a Columbia win.

"My teammates are getting me in the right spots, and people are finding me," Agho said. "That's just as important as me making the shots."

Niko Scott, one of the team's best perimeter shooters, agrees.

"It's not so much of me finding my groove," Scott said. "it's basically us working together as a team. I get my shots a lot out of the motion of the offense."

Scott found the going tough against Yale, too, connecting on only one of four attempts from beyond the arc. The lack of cohesion in Columbia's offense affects not just Agho but the entire team. Agho's 18 free throws against Yale are an indication that he had to take the burden on his back, making it hard for his teammates to get into a rhythm, too.

If Columbia hopes to bounce back this weekend against Princeton and Penn, the Lions will have to find the ball movement and team offense that helped them become the number-one three-point shooting team in the country, a perch the Lions lost during their offensive struggles of late.

Agho has proved that he can score even if his team isn't clicking offensively, but the recent string of losses show that Jones' team does not want to put its leading scorer in such a position. Agho and his teammates must find their points within the rhythm of the offense, particularly as they match up against a disciplined Princeton defense on Friday that makes points hard to come by, even for the most dynamic of teams.

