

Charity gets competitive at CU, BC

BY MADINA TOURE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

How do you measure the value of community service? Mayor Michael Bloomberg says, with points.

Barnard, Columbia, and other New York City colleges are now taking part in Bloomberg's "College Challenge," a program designed to encourage student and faculty volunteer work through competition.

The challenge, launched by NYC Service, an office Bloomberg created in April, 2009 to oversee service initiatives, tracks different universities' service efforts through a portfolio of goals and points logged online that are based on hours volunteered.

Will Simpkins, program director of community and diversity initiatives at Barnard, said that the program was a good way to numerically monitor progress.

"It's an incredible opportunity for us to collect data that we've never collected before," he said. "Barnard has long been involved ... but the information is not all in one place." Simpkins is also the program director of the New York City Civic Engagement Program, a participating community service organization founded in 2003 to increase civic engagement between Barnard students and the local community.

Students participating have scored points with programs and events such as Dance Marathon, Columbia Community Outreach, the Athena Center for Leadership Studies, Relay for Life, and First-Year Reach Out.

For every hour students spend with nonprofits, they earn their school one point.

As of Thursday evening, Barnard had 73 points, and Columbia had 70. The top three schools now are St. John's University, with 927 points, Hunter College, with 562.5, and the College of Staten

SEE CHARITY, page 2



FATEMA VARSİ FOR SPECTATOR

TIME OUT | Local kids at Harbor Morningside Children's Center on 120th Street may not have this city-sponsored service for much longer. New York City's Administration for Children's Services announced that budget woes may force a shutdown of day care centers citywide.

City to close Morningside day care for low-income families

BY SHIRA POLIAK AND SARAH DARVILLE
Columbia Daily Spectator

Without child care, Donna Williams, who has a nine-year-old son and a three-year-old in preschool, said she would have to take a break from her education. And for Williams, this nightmare could soon become a reality in Morningside Heights, with her local day care center facing termination.

Harbor Morningside Children's Center, located on 120th Street east of Manhattan Avenue, is one of 15 child care centers that the city announced would likely close by the end of the school year due to budget cuts.

This local center, funded entirely by New York City's Administration for Children's Services—the agency that oversees child care and child protection—includes a preschool and an after-school program for elementary school students. It serves a total of about 90 children from low-income families. In response to budget woes, the city is shutting down some of these services throughout the city to save millions of dollars.

And as parents and neighborhood residents worry about the loss of child care space, Harbor Morningside administrators and ACS officials tell very different stories about how the school, and its parent organization, not-for-profit Boys and Girls Harbor,

were informed of the pending shutdown.

Closure confusion

Harbor Morningside Director Rory Scott said he first heard the school might be closed at an ACS meeting on Jan. 29.

"My boss and myself were very surprised to hear it, and asked people we knew from ACS if they knew anything about it, but they didn't know. We spent a week trying to get information, but didn't get any," he said.

But ACS Director of Communications Sharman Stein said in an email that ACS had spoken to Boys and Girls Harbor Executive Director

Michael Marrone on Jan. 28.

"The sponsoring organization, Boys and Girls Harbor, in fact welcomed the consolidation for its own reasons— and was responsible for communicating with the center director. The executive director said he had no issue with the closing," Stein said.

Stein added that the closing might have happened without city intervention at all. "In fact ... he [Marrone] was planning to contact ACS in Feb. to discuss Boys and Girls Harbor restructuring of its services, which will include downsizing and consolidating ACS child care services [closing sites]," she said.

SEE DAY CARE, page 2

Class increase for CC

Deans confirm permanent shift

BY AMBER TUNNELL
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Columbia College confirmed on Thursday that it is permanently increasing its first year class size by 50, and administrators said they are working now to address the needs of a larger student body.

For the class of 2013, Columbia College accepted 50 more first year students than it had in prior years, to create a class of roughly 1070 students, up from the previous norm of around 1020.

And according to Kevin Shollenberger, the dean of student affairs, this increased class size will become the new standard, resulting in 200 more students entering the College over four years. The School of Engineering and Applied Science will not see any increases.

The University wanted to ensure that the change in class size would not be problematic for students, Shollenberger said, adding that the decision was expedited because of the economy. Now, he confirmed, they "are going to go forward with their plan" to make this size permanent.

Administrators did not comment on the specifics of the financial changes surrounding this increase. Michele Moody-Adams, the dean of Columbia College, said in an interview on Thursday morning of the financial implications, "It depends. It's a very complicated calculus. It depends on who is in the class, what level of need they have or don't have."

Kathryn Yatrakis, the dean of academic affairs, said of the University's finances, "I think we are faring better than some other universities but we have not escaped the economic situation." She added that the University was able to go forward with

SEE CLASS SIZE, page 2

Sentence reduced for Tajbakhsh

BY AMBER TUNNELL
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

On Wednesday, an Iranian news agency announced that an Iranian appellate court reduced Kian Tajbakhsh's prison sentence from 15 years to five years.

Tajbakhsh, a U.S.-Iranian scholar who earned his Ph.D. from Columbia, was arrested over the summer, during the aftermath of the controversial presidential election. He was given a 15-year jail sentence in October on charges of spying and being a threat to the national government. He was accused of working with George Soros' Open Society Institute and being on the email list of Columbia researcher Gary Sick, both of which Iran connects to the CIA. Sick has denied this charge.

Tajbakhsh was supposed to step into the position of visiting professor in the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning,

SEE TAJBAKHSH, page 2

NEWS BRIEF

Bill Clinton hospitalized at CU Medical Center

Former President Bill Clinton underwent heart surgery at New York-Presbyterian Hospital at Columbia University Medical Center on Thursday.

At a press conference in front of the hospital Thursday night, Chief of Cardiology Alan Schwartz said that the procedure went smoothly.

"The president has since been up and walking around, visiting with his family, in good spirits," he said.

Clinton underwent a procedure to put two stents, which are metal mesh tubes, in one of his coronary arteries. Clinton had been complaining of chest discomfort, but tests did not show any evidence of heart attack or heart damage.

A hospital spokesperson confirmed to Spectator that

Clinton was still a patient Thursday evening, and Schwartz said he expects Clinton to be released Friday.

"President Clinton is in good spirits and will continue to focus on the work of his foundation and Haiti's relief and long-term recovery efforts," Clinton's aide, Douglas Band, said in a statement.

In 2004, CUMC's Craig Smith operated on Clinton to clear four blocked arteries, also at Columbia Presbyterian. Smith is the chairman of College of Physicians and Surgeons' surgery department and the Calvin F. Barber Professor of Surgery.

—Sarah Darville

BE MY SWEETIE



EMMA PATTIZ FOR SPECTATOR

LOVE KITCHEN | Local eatery Kitchenette offers affordable Valentine's Day options for students strapped for cash but not for romantic interests. See story page 5.

INSIDE

A&E, page 5

Unexpected date locales mix up V-Day monotony

Dinner at a dimly lit restaurant may be the norm, but there are a variety of cheap, unconventional Valentine's Day dates for students. The city offers outings to suit any student's mood, even those spending the holiday single.



Sports, back page

Lions hoops are set to face off against Ivy foes

Men's basketball begins their weekend in New Jersey tonight against an undefeated Princeton squad before heading to Philadelphia to take on the Quakers in their second Ancient Eight competition in as many days.

Opinion, page 4

Egoistic environmentalists

Elizabeth Kipp-Giusti defends environmentalism as a fundamental human right.

China, not 1984

Google's recent controversy in China requires cultural exploration.

Today's Events

Human rights in the Arab world

A report says that the condition of human rights has deteriorated significantly on several fronts. 311 Fayerweather, 12 p.m.

Carla Cook Quintet

JazzTimes calls her "a mad-loose straight ahead jazz diva." Miller Theatre, 8 p.m.

EMAIL
info@columbiaspectator.com

PHONE
Daily Spectator (212) 854-9555

WEATHER



Today
34/21

Tomorrow
33/24

With city budget woes, Harbor Morningside Children’s Center may shut down

DAY CARE from front page

Scott, however, said he was surprised to hear that Boys and Girls Harbor had any intention of shutting the center down.

“That’s news to me. Another site is closing because the landlord tripled the rent, maybe they thought he was referring to that. I don’t like to say that people are lying, but I just don’t know whether that was the case,” he said.

Bernadette Wallace, the director of day care services for Boys and Girls Harbor, said that nothing about the situation was clear.

“Marrone is trying to get additional information. Right now it’s all rumors, and we don’t like rumors, we like specifics. I know he’s put in several calls, whether he’s received calls back I don’t know,” she said.

Marrone could not be reached for comment on Thursday.

But all parties agreed that without city funding, the Morningside day care could not exist.

Teacher Keisha Kennedy from the center said, “ACS pays for the children to come and pays the rent. If they say they won’t, we have no other option. We have 20 staff without jobs and 99 children without a school.”

Choosing Morningside

Stein said that ACS had looked to close centers that have empty seats to consolidate neighborhood services, and Scott, Morningside’s director, acknowledged that the site was not operating at full capacity.

“We have had some issues with enrollment,” Scott said, explaining that the city stopped funding kindergarten classes, which meant that all pre-K students had to leave the



CLOSING TIME?| Children play at Harbor Morningside Children’s Center, which the city may close at the end of the school year. Some low-income families who utilize this city-sponsored center fear that they will not have any other child care options if this location is shut down.

center.

Neighborhood residents said that other local day care centers exist, but that Morningside Harbor is known for its quality.

Stephanie Dubsky, who lives close to the center, said, “The good places have long waiting lists, and some others are just not good. Of course there are options, but they might not be good options.”

Patrice Eaton, who lives a block

from the center, said that Harbor Morningside has helped fill in the gaps created by other neighborhood after-school programs slashed by budget cuts.

“There are a lot of centers, but that’s the biggest. A lot of neighborhood kids go there,” she said, adding that the center also serves many Senegalese immigrants.

Scott said that 75 percent of children have West African

immigrant parents.

Though the city council still has to approve the budget cuts in early March, the ACS said they were moving ahead with the plans to shut the center down. Stein said that they will soon begin to communicate with parents and present them with other child care options, including vouchers for private child care providers.

“In the coming months, ACS

will be reaching out to each center and enrollment will be frozen,” she said in an email.

No other options?

Scott said he had sent a letter to parents letting them know about the possible closure, and the response was intense.

“We have many second and third-generation parents here who

Kian Tajbakhsh’s prison sentence reduced to 5 years

TAJBAKHSH from front page

and Preservation in September. Prior, he had conducted research at Columbia’s Global Center in Amman, Jordan.

The Iranian government also arrested Tajbakhsh in 2007 for similar reasons, and he was held in Evin Prison for over four months and released only after his family paid a bail fee.

Since his latest arrest, University administrators and professors have lobbied for his immediate release.

In the fall, Columbia and the White House both called on Iran to discharge Tajbakhsh. A letter advocating his release circulated amongst the faculty at the time and gathered over 150 signatures. In January, a group of faculty and administrators also sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton asking for her help to obtain his release. Early this month, a spokesperson for Clinton followed up and asked for the release of Tajbakhsh and other Iranian prisoners.

This week’s sentence reduction was the first good news, several supporters said.

Kenneth Prewitt, the Carnegie Professor of Public Affairs at Columbia, said that he is hopeful this change would help the effort.

“I am greatly encouraged by this

sentence reduction, and join with many of Kian’s supporters the hope that this is a step toward release, even if on bail,” he said in an email on Thursday.

Prewitt also learned recently that Tajbakhsh had been allowed to see his family, a further sign of hope.

“I am also encouraged by informal word that he has ... been allowed to visit his family, who report that he is healthy, and, always important to a scholar, that he has access to books,” he said.

Despite this optimism, for some it is only a minor feat.

Sick said in an interview on Thursday that he is “very happy that they cut his time in jail down” but that it is still “five years longer than it should be” since “he doesn’t deserve to be in jail at all.” He also said that he did not understand the political reasons behind the reduction.

In an interview in January, Iranian Studies professor Hamid Dabashi, who signed the letter to Clinton, said, “We want to keep the case of Kian Tajbakhsh at the forefront of global attention so that political considerations or the geopolitics of the region are not allowed to override the more pressing human rights abuses.”

amber.tunnell@columbiaspectator.com

Bloomberg urges charity competition for NYC colleges

CHARITY from front page

Island with 489.25. Barnard and Columbia are in 8th and 9th place out of 13 schools currently tracking hours.

The city chooses the winning school based on the Service Portfolio and the average number of points logged by each volunteer, and the individuals with the highest number of hours will win the challenge.

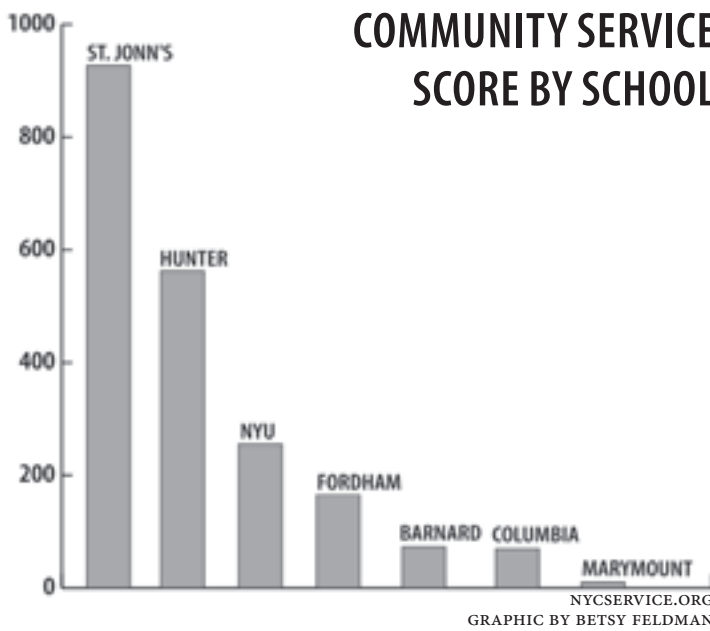
Simpkins acknowledged that the current comparisons don’t take into account differences in school size. “They’re much larger than we are,” Simpkins said, referring to schools such as New York University and The New School.

But for many involved, it’s not about the competition.

Ana-Maria Poveda-Garcés, SIPA ’11 and the top Columbia volunteer in the challenge so far, with 32 hours as of Thursday, said that she appreciated the concept.

The challenge is “an incentive for more people to get involved,” she said.

Logging hours is also a productive way to keep track of the amount of service each school is doing, she said, adding that the process, “gives valuable



information for the analysis of local planning ... I think it’s a good proxy for centers to promote those other programs that need more community involvement.”

Poveda-Garcés began volunteering in Colombia, her native country, before volunteering in the states. When she came to Columbia, she joined the Double Discovery Center, a department of Columbia College founded by Barnard and Columbia students to serve low-income, college-bound, local youth.

COMMUNITY SERVICE SCORE BY SCHOOL

Marvin Cabrera, outreach coordinator for DDC, said that when NYC Service came to Columbia in September, 2009, it was a good partnership opportunity.

“College volunteers have always helped support the organization,” Cabrera said. “We’re always trying to increase the number of volunteers.”

The Barnard Student Government Association is also participating in the effort.

Katie Palillo, BC ’10 and SGA president, said that SGA brainstormed a list of organizations

are very upset,” he said.

Williams, who has two children in the program, said she was worried that if the site shut down, she would be unable to find child care for her youngest son even if the city provided vouchers.

Of the closest other day care centers, she said, “They don’t take vouchers, so we’d have to travel far out of our way. I’ll have to stay home, stop everything, work and school, for a year. And that would slow me down ... It’s hard to improve your life, improve your education without child care.”

Kennedy said that the school hopes to reach out to local politicians to fight the closure. Lynette Velasco, spokesperson for City Councilmember Inez Dickens, said that while she hadn’t yet received a specific inquiry from Morningside Harbor, day care is an important issue for her office.

“The councilmember had been advocating about cutbacks in day care centers for the last year. It’s important for kids to get a good foundation, and it allows people to work, especially in this economy ... It’s a very, very serious issue,” Velasco said.

Stein acknowledged that closing day care centers is upsetting to the neighborhood, but said the city’s hands are tied by the budget problems.

“The people are emotional about losing their local child care centers because people hate to lose their local services. Parents want the known entity that they are used to and trust.

She added, “While child care centers are an essential service, it’s really hard to find money for it in tough times.”

news@columbiaspectator.com

CC administrators confirm increased first year class will be the new standard

CLASS SIZE from front page

certain hirings while other peer institutions entirely halted.

With the increase, administrators said they are currently discussing appropriate ways to address changing needs in housing, advising, and academics.

Moody-Adams said, “We are taking really seriously the need to do everything we can to ensure the quality of student experience.”

She said the University’s plan to decrease the ratio of advisors to students would not be affected.

Yatrakis also said that they are committed to the 22 student limit per Core class. To accommodate the class of 2013, she said they added three sections of Literature

Humanities and two sections of Art Humanities. They also raised the cap of 12 students for University Writing courses to 14, although Yatrakis said that only one section had 14 students this year while the average was 13.

Despite next year’s large sophomore class, Yatrakis said that they do not think at this point that they need to increase the number of sections of Contemporary Civilization. “We think there is enough spaces to accommodate individually one [student] per section, but we are going to monitor this very carefully,” she said. The University has tried to monitor what courses sophomores tend to take, which Yatrakis described as “very difficult.”

She also discussed the need to “start migrating class schedules”

to less normal times to create more possible classes for students to take. Right now, since classes are usually held only at certain times, class space quickly becomes an issue. “One of our biggest challenges has less to do with the actual size of the incoming class but how much space we have to offer the courses that they take,” Moody-Adams said.

According to Shollenberger, financial aid will remain unaffected by the new class size.

Scott Wright, vice president of student auxiliary and business services, said that to accommodate the second wave of additional students, the University will work on three major housing projects over the summer.

In Harmony Hall, a space that was previously a superintendent’s

apartment, will be converted into undergraduate housing, which will generate room for five students.

In Ruggles, seven singles will become doubles, adding seven new beds to the building. He said the change would be “consistent throughout,” by changing one single in seven different suites.

And the largest change is in McBain, where the University will be “converting and moving some walls in McBain” to create 20 extra beds. For example, he said, two 300-square foot rooms will become three 200-square foot spaces. Additionally, some singles will be turned into doubles. Ultimately, McBain will have relatively few singles.

It is uncertain whether these new spaces will be included in room selection, Wright said,

adding, “It may be assigned space later.”

With around 60 empty beds at the start of fall semester this year, and the 32 additional beds from renovations, “We believe we will have plenty to accommodate the now two year additional student base,” Wright said. Wright also said that seniors and juniors who want singles will still be able to get them.

But some students still expressed concern. Shana Yearwood, CC ’11, questioned the decision to add more students to an already crowded University.

“I feel like they’re cramped for space as it is. ... I just feel bad for the freshmen who’ll be crammed into doubles that used to be singles,” Yearwood said.

Last year, for the class of 2013,

Housing Services converted Harmony Hall to undergraduate housing. In regards to the fourth year of additional students, Wright said that it is “a little bit far in advance” to discuss the changes. “Every year there are changes to the number of living spaces Columbia is working with,” Wright said, adding “I don’t know right now what the best options will be.”

Other students said they were happy about the change. “That’s great,” said Noam Prywes CC ’10, who said he wasn’t worried about crowding in houses or dorms, or resources being stretched thin. “Maybe this’ll make our acceptance more reasonable.”

Leah Greenbaum contributed reporting.

amber.tunnell@columbiaspectator.com

ADDRESS & EMAIL
Columbia Spectator
2875 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10025
info@columbiaspectator.com

PHONE & FAX
Daily Spectator (212) 854-9555
Editorial Fax (212) 854-9611
Business (212) 854-9550
Business Fax (212) 854-9553

EDITORIAL POLICY
For more information about the Columbia Daily Spectator and editorial policies, visit http://www.columbiaspectator.com/about.

ADVERTISING
For more information about advertising visit http://spc.columbiaspectator.com/.

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

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

CORRECTION

In “Panel tells all at Law School’s discussion on military policy,” we reported Jeannie Chung to be from the Center for Gender and Sexuality Law, when in fact she is part of the institution called the Sexuality and Gender Law Clinic. Spectator regrets the error.

Wrestling gears up for three weekend challengers

BY BART LOPEZ
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Columbia wrestling team will face a trio of opponents throughout this weekend. The Lions are coming off of a tough two game stretch in which they lost to Cornell and Binghamton by significant margins.

On Saturday, Columbia will hit the road to take on Ivy rival Princeton. The Tigers (8-8, 2-0 Ivy) are currently on a four-match winning streak. Last weekend, Princeton defeated both Harvard and Brown on the road, before beating Sacred Heart by a large margin the following day. The last time these two teams met, the Lions emerged victorious, winning 32-9 at home.

Four hours after the start of the match against Princeton, Columbia will travel to Philadelphia to face Drexel. The Dragons (6-10 overall) have had little success as of late, losing their last two matches by large margins. Against Missouri, Drexel fell 31-9, and three days later it lost to American 40-6. The Dragons feature two wrestlers with nearly identical and impressive records. Kyle Frey, 285 pounds, is 26-7 overall with 11 major decisions and Steve Mytych, 125 pounds, is 26-6 overall. Last year the Lions hosted the Dragons and won 21-14.

COLUMBIA AT PRINCETON
Princeton, N.J., Saturday, 1 p.m.

COLUMBIA AT DREXEL
Philadelphia, Penn., Saturday, 5 p.m.

COLUMBIA AT PENN
Philadelphia, Penn., Sunday, 1 p.m.

After a night's rest, Columbia will head back to Philadelphia, this time to face conference foe Penn. The Quakers (8-4 overall, 2-0 Ivy) are coming off big wins over Brown and Harvard, which they won 35-6 and 41-11 respectively. Penn will bring a tough squad with a few standout wrestlers. Penn's Gabe Burak, 165 pounds, is 20-4 overall with six major decisions and Zack Kemmerer, 141 pounds, is 17-5 overall with a team high 19 decisions. The last time these two teams met, the Quakers trounced the Lions, winning by a final score of 32-6.

Including this weekend's competitions, the Lions have just five matches left before the EIWA championships. Next weekend, Columbia will be back at home, so wins this weekend will provide some much needed momentum going into the last home stand of the season.



ELAINE BURCHMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TAKE IT TO THE MAT | Columbia wrestlers prepare to grapple with Princeton, Drexel and Penn in their busy upcoming schedule this weekend.

Tennis heads to weekend tournament

MEN'S TENNIS from back page

The Lions enter as the top overall seed this year, after reaching the final last year as the No. 2 seed. Columbia ran into a tough Harvard team in that final, and despite then-freshman Ekin Sezgen holding multiple championship points in his match at No. 4 singles, Harvard was able to eke out a 4-3 win. The Lions however, went on to defeat Harvard 4-3 in Ivy play and go on to win the Ivy title in 2009.

Columbia's first opponent will be the winner of the battle between

the No. 8 seed Dartmouth and No. 9 seed Sacred Heart. Dartmouth, who finished in last place in the Ivies last season with a record of 0-7, enters this weekends tournament with a 4-1 record this season, including a 5-2 win over Sacred Heart. Sacred Heart has a 1-1 record this season, with their sole win coming over NJIT.

Harvard, ranked No. 63 in the nation, appears to be the main competition for Columbia at the ECAC's, but danger could lurk in the form of other Ivy League schools. Cornell and Yale, who tied for second place

in Ivy play last spring, are dangerous teams in the draw. Yale has been bolstered by the play of two star freshmen, Marc Powers and John Huang. Powers, in fact, reached the finals of the ITA Regional Championships in the fall, and represented the Northeast Region in the Indoor National Tournament. As the host this weekend, No. 70 Yale could prove to be tough competition on their home courts.

The tournament is scheduled to run from Feb. 12—14, with Columbia's first round match scheduled for Saturday at 4 p.m.

Swim preps for final dual season matchup

BY JULIA GARRISON
Spectator Staff Writer

The women's swimming and diving team will compete in its final dual meet this Saturday against Dartmouth. The Lions are currently 5-2 (3-2 Ivy) and are looking to improve their final record to 6-2. Seniors Caitlin Bertelsen, Allison Hobbs, Christina Hughes, Katie Omstead, and Delghi Urubshuraw will be recognized, as this will be the final dual home meet for these four-lettered Lions.

When Columbia challenged the Big Green last year, the Light Blue came away with a significant win, trouncing Dartmouth 205-95. Senior Shannon Hosey brought in the initial first-place finish by winning the 3-meter diving competition. The medley relay team of Lauren Fraley, Mariele Dunn, Allison Hobbs, and Hannah Galey kept the points coming for the Lions by taking first in the race with a time of 1:48.50, touching the wall a full second ahead of the competition. Columbia went on to sweep the 1,000 free, with Isabelle Vandenbroucke, Paige Endsley, and Abby Reilly securing first, second, and third, respectively. Galey gained another win for the Lions in the 200 free, barely beating Dartmouth's Maddie Steiner. The next two events were not as close, and Columbia swept first, second, and third in both the 100 back and 100 breast, leaving the Big Green no chances to gain points.

Back on the diving board, Hosey triumphed again for the Light Blue, taking the first-place spot in the 1-meter competition, and the Lions had another 1-2-3 finish in the 200 back with Urubshuraw, Bridgette

McCabe, and Vandenbroucke. The Lions won the majority of the events throughout the rest of the meet, finishing up with first-and second-place finishes in the 400 free relay.

With last year's win over Dartmouth, Columbia improved to 9-2 (5-2 Ivy). This year, they will hope to conclude their regular season with a win and send the senior swimmers out of Uris Pool with a victory.

"I'm really excited for the meet on Saturday. I'm glad our last dual meet is at home, because I love competing at Uris, and it will be nice to see our families and friends come support us at our last meet," Bertelsen said. "I'm definitely sad

COLUMBIA VS. DARTMOUTH
Uris Pool, Saturday, 11 a.m.

that Saturday will be my last dual meet, but at the same time, it's been a great four years of swimming here and I'm so grateful to have been a part of this team. Every year at the last home meet, the juniors give speeches honoring the seniors and give us our senior gifts, so I'm definitely really excited for that. It should be a fun meet!"

The Dartmouth-Columbia meet will begin at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 13.



JOSE GIRALT / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FINAL LAP | The women's swimming and diving team hosts Princeton this weekend as it closes out its Ancient Eight schedule.

Agho, Lions look towards Ivy competition

MEN'S BASKETBALL from back page

Jones expects senior tri-captain Kevin Bulger to match up against Davis. He thinks the real danger for the Lions is Princeton's interior play.

While acknowledging that "Doug Davis is a very good guard," Jones explained, "I think their post players present a problem. I'm definitely concerned about their post players, particularly the freshman [Ian] Hummer."

The strength of the Tigers' game, however, is in their defense, currently the best in the Ivy League. Jones explained that in order to breakdown Princeton's featured 1-3-1 zone, his team will have to be sharp on defense.

"We've got to be sure to throw crisp passes. They've got some long guys who can cover a lot of ground," Jones said.

On Saturday, Columbia heads down to Philadelphia to face a Quaker team that has shown a willingness to compete, posting a .500 mark in Ivy play

after taking only one of their first 16 games.

Under the leadership of interim head coach Jerome Allen, who took over for Glen Miller following Penn's loss at Monmouth on Dec. 12, Penn is led by guard Zack Rosen. Rosen, averaging 16.7 points per game, has attracted Jones' attention. He will likely draw Bulger, the Lions' defensive stopper.

"They play with a lot of pride, and the kid Zack Rosen is a good guard. He does a good job, and he's a big key for them."

Yet Jones and Agho are adamant that the Light Blue needs to focus on itself.

"For the remainder of the season we have to play with a chip on the shoulder that we haven't had, and we have something to prove," Agho said.

The first area where Agho and his teammates will be expected to show that edge is on the boards, where Yale outrebounded Columbia by 19, 46-27, on Saturday. "I have got to take

responsibility for my guys not going out there and rebounding the basketball," Jones said. "Looking at the game, it was pretty obvious that that's why we lost. I've been here seven years, and I don't remember getting dominated like that in league play in a long time."

Jones also emphasized the importance of not falling victim to the team's recent Achilles' heel—slow starts. "We have to be able to play forty minutes in the game."

On Friday, the Lions will have a chance to make that statement, and anyone around the program will tell you that if the focus returns to hard work and aggressiveness, Columbia will be in good shape.

And although the odds are stacked against a Light Blue win on the road that night, Princeton just might have their eye on a huge showdown the next night against No. 22 Cornell, the league's other unbeaten. That could be all the opportunity Jones' squad needs.

SHEN YUN

A REVIVAL OF LOST CHINESE HERITAGE. LIVE ON STAGE.

神韻晚會

Special discount
for Columbia
students and staff!

Go to : www.webticketcenter.com/ny
And enter code: SYCU15 to avail a

15% discount!

FEB 13-21

RADIO CITY

ALL-NEW 2010 PROGRAM
WITH LIVE ORCHESTRA

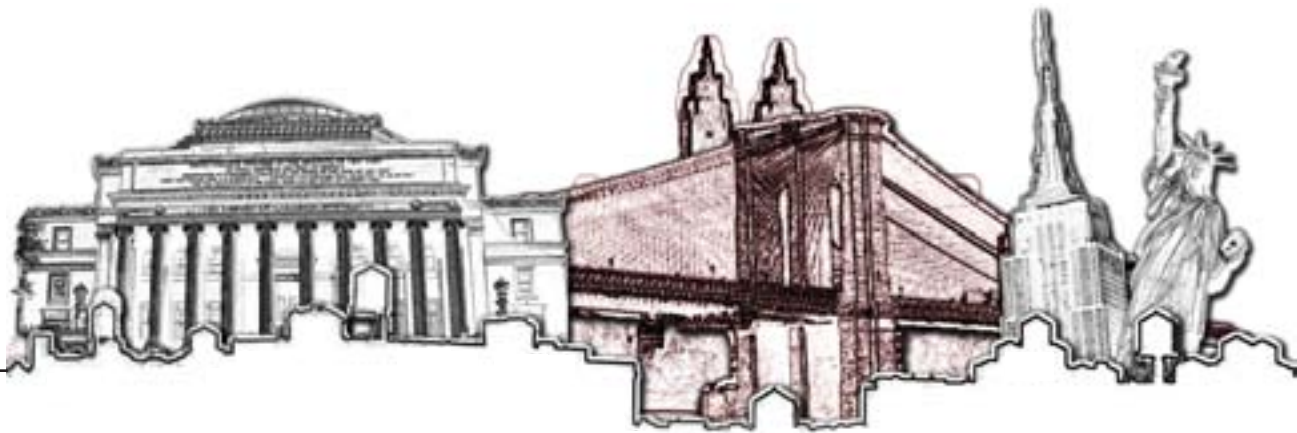
TICKETS: 866-858-0008
RadioCity.com

"I don't know how many hundreds of performers are involved in this. But between the musicians, the performers, the number of costume changes, the extent of the lighting, the writing, the effects—there's almost no show like this anywhere."

—J.B. Miller, Emmy Award-winning producer and co-founder of Empire Entertainment

"For once we have something gorgeous that you can recommend to people in all its beauty from beginning to end... Everybody says you have to see it to believe it. You cannot describe it in words; it must be experienced."

—Christine Walevska, considered by some as one of the greatest cellists living today



LOWER LEFT, CENTER: EMMA PATTIZ FOR SPECTATOR. UPPER LEFT, UPPER RIGHT, LOWER RIGHT: NOMI ELLENSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

VALENTINE'S DILEMMA | Eating an upscale meal on a downsized budget is hard—especially in the big city. Restaurants like Kitchenette and Cafe Lalo offer a more student-friendly menu for a sweet holiday deal. But a perfect evening would not be complete without a trip to a museum or gallery for some visual candy, all at no extra cost.

Classy on the cheap: a modern take on romance in NYC

BY JULIÁN MANCÍAS
Columbia Daily Spectator

STYLE Love is certainly filling the frigid New York air. Though a candlelit dinner at a cozy brasserie is a safe bet, couples can find innovative ways to surprise their significant others. At \$15 or less, some dates can have the best and still be affordable, creative, and enjoyable. Though rarely considered, breakfast can make for a great date. Breakfast is often said to be the most important meal of the day, and there is no greater neighborhood for morning romance than our very own Morningside Heights. Tucked between 122nd and 123rd streets on Amsterdam Avenue, Kitchenette is

the perfect breakfast locale to jumpstart an important day. The scents of homemade meals, sweet confections, and strong coffee are excuse enough to wake up early and head out to this cozy country-style restaurant. The Kitchenette Special is the best deal for breakfast. At just seven dollars, diners can enjoy two eggs, bacon, and American cheese on a biscuit—plus the added bonus of free coffee until 11 a.m. Those with a sweet tooth can satisfy their cravings at Cafe Lalo. Behind the restaurant's gorgeous French doors, hundreds of devilishly delicious desserts await. The brownies, mousses, and tarts are all gratifying choices. And while slices of red velvet, chocolate satin, and peanut butter cakes are sure to arouse the senses, nothing is

more romantic than the heart-shaped crème brûlée large enough for two. The cappuccinos are perfect for warming up the body and a selection of flavors and liqueurs may be added for a truly intoxicating state of euphoria. Couples may also choose the ultimate date classic: one thick milk shake and two straws for sharing. After the taste buds are satisfied, visual stimulation should follow. A stroll through the Met, a lecture in Art Hum, and a seat at a fashion show all teach that love is often expressed through art. For a taste of modern love, romantics should head down to 15 Gramercy Park South and the National Arts Club's gallery, currently featuring photographer Chris Craymer. The London-born artist is well known for his fashion

photographs and portraits of celebrities, including Johnny Depp, Mischa Barton, and Jamie Dornan. However, this exhibit strays from the commercial and focuses on the intimate and romantic lives of real-life couples. It is an ode to the beauty of couples' raw moments and roller coaster of emotions, conveying joy, sexiness, power, and soul. Shots of lovers rolling in crumpled sheets and couples getting dressed the following morning inspire spectators to create their own romantic moments. Craymer's photos capture the fantasies of the busy Columbian's fevered sleep. For those who have not been as fortunate in their quests for romantic love, this weekend can prove that love is not limited to the guy or girl they have been crushing on

all semester. If Carrie, Charlotte, Miranda, and Samantha have taught fellow New Yorkers anything, it is that the greatest love that exists is the one between the best of friends. Singles can embrace their status and gather their best friends for a singles date night. Together, they can head down to Westside Market, pick up a box of Bella Famiglia pasta, and choose a few good sauces for a comforting dinner. After eating their hearts out, friends can scroll over to the iTunes store and buy "Sex and the City's" "An American Girl in Paris: Part Une." There is no better way to end an evening than with beautiful women, handsome men, Blahniks, and couture. With glasses raised, a toast should be made: "This is modern love."

Nontraditional vegan Valentine's satisfies all tastes

BY ERIN FLYNN
Columbia Daily Spectator

FOOD & DRINK Valentine's Day is a mezzanine holiday. Markets stay open, employers refuse to give time off, and there are no family feasts requiring days to prepare and digest. But like most major holidays, Valentine's Day has earned a link to traditional foods. Retailers emphasize indulgence, touting champagne, rich dinners, and, of course, sweets. Perhaps, with this week's emphasis on the heart, lovers should make an effort to reward that important organ. Instead of taking the high fat, cholesterol-laden path of conventional desserts, today's Valentine's celebrants should consider a heart-friendly, vegan alternative. By eschewing all animal products, vegans sometimes seem like the extremist sect of vegetarians. Once a rare find in the dining community, veganism has definitely arrived, and is a central feature at many New York restaurants. Bonobo's, a small cafe located at 18 East 23rd St., is brightly-lit

with bare white walls and may appear to be a poor date choice, but the prices are cheap and the staff is friendly. Standard choices include sorbets, frozen pies, 'milk' shakes, and truffles. For a Valentine's Day dessert, Bonobo's offers truffles, a traditional option. A mesquite truffle tastes like a granola bar—a big ball of nuts and grains clumped together with date paste. The truffle is not appealing visually, and its date taste overpowers the other flavors. The core, too moist and sweet, feels like cookie dough—a dollop on a finger might be nice, but too much is tough to stomach. Bonobo's frozen fruit pie, however, is creamy and light, featuring a nice banana and coconut combination. The flavors meld together, and each forkful tastes deceptively like rich ice cream. The crust is firm but moist, although, again, the date paste used to bind it is discernible. Peacefood Cafe, located at the corner of West 82nd Street and Amsterdam, has a pleasant, sit-down atmosphere. Dim lights, along with earthy, soft décor, set the mood. While it has higher prices

than Bonobo's, Peacefood offers a wider variety of desserts and seasonal treats. One of their Valentine's treats, the Lover's Cake, is a heart-shaped cake, the perfect size for sharing. This dessert satisfies any chocolate craving—topped with a thick layer of fudge, white frosting lines the sides of each double-layered yellow cake, striking a nice balance of sweet and bitter. The frosting resembles cream cheese with a whipped consistency. For students desiring something more traditional for Valentine's Day, consider Peacefood's chocolate cake. Thick and pure chocolate frosting contrasts well with the moist cake that subdues the frosting's richness. A traditional flavor without that "vegan edge," the chocolate cake is the safest bet for a non-vegan—it competes with the real thing. The major difference between this cake and the non-vegan version is its lightness, allowing for a quick getaway from romantic dinner to the rest of the evening. For students who go vegan this Valentine's Day, the palate might never know the difference, but the heart surely will.



ANTHONY YIM / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HEALTHY HEARTS | Vegan Valentine's Day menus at eateries like Angelica Kitchen put a refreshing twist on tired desserts like mass-produced boxed chocolates.

WEEKEND PICKS

The Editors' Best Bets For The Weekend Ahead

THEATER

When The Rain Stops Falling. *Mitzi E. Newhouse Theater, Lincoln Center, 150 West 65th St. (between Broadway and Eighth Avenue). Various days and times, \$20 with CUID.*
This family saga analyzes the age-old relationship between past and present. Student rush tickets are available two hours before curtain, and since this is the first weekend of previews, tickets should be widely available.

FOOD

Valentine's Day Walking Tour. *120 Broadway (between Duane and Reade streets). Saturday, Feb. 13, 12-3 p.m., \$25.*
This Lower Manhattan walking tour hits the best spots for aphrodisiacs, available only to students age 21 and over.

FILM

"It Happened One Night." *BAM Rose Cinemas, Brooklyn Academy of Music, 30 Lafayette Ave. (between St. Felix Street and Ashland Place), Brooklyn. Sunday, Feb. 14, 6 p.m. and 8:15 p.m., \$12.*
For Valentine's Day, BAM is showing one of the quintessential romantic comedies, "It Happened One Night," for a V-Day event that will appeal to all tastes. The first film to ever win all five major Academy Awards, Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert star in this screwball romantic comedy about a spoiled heiress who runs away from an arranged marriage and on the way meets up with a roguish newspaperman.

TV

Judah Friedlander. *Comix, 353 West 14th St. (between Eighth and Ninth avenues). Saturday, Feb. 13 at 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., \$35.*
You might know him as 30 Rock's Frank Rossitano, but funny-man Judah Friedlander has been a stand-up comic for 18 years. He's doing a special show in honor of Valentine's Day weekend.

ART

Olafur Eliasson at Tanya Bonakdar Gallery. *521 West 21st St. (between Tenth and Eleventh avenues). Tuesdays-Saturdays, now through Mar. 20, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., free.*
Danish-Icelandic artist Eliasson brings his sixth solo exhibition to the gallery. Viewers are invited to navigate a myriad of screens and light projections in which they become part of the spectacle.

MUSIC

Love Hurts: A Karaoke Party. *The Bell House, 149 Seventh St. (between Second and Third avenues), Brooklyn. Sunday, Feb. 14, 9 p.m., free.*
Few things can soothe V-Day anguish quite like belting out Mariah in a room full of strangers.

STYLE

Barneys Warehouse Sale. *255 West 17th St. (between Seventh and Eighth avenues). Now through Feb. 28, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., free.*
The coveted Barneys warehouse sale is back once again—the best designer fashions are straight off Barneys racks and all 50-70 percent off. You might have to fight someone for the perfect item, but at those prices it's worth it.

BOOKS

Adam Haslett Reading. *163 Court St. (near Pacific Street), Brooklyn. Friday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m., free.*
Venture out to Brooklyn and join Adam Haslett, finalist for the 2003 Pulitzer Prize and author of acclaimed short-story collection "You Are Not a Stranger Here," reads from his debut novel "Union Atlantic."

WILDCARD

Anti-Valentine's Day Ex-orcism Party. *Village Pourhouse, 982-988 Amsterdam Ave. (between 108th and 109th streets), Sunday, Feb. 14, 7 p.m., free.*
The best way to get over your ex is, of course, to throw darts at a photo of his or her face. And get free alcohol! Bring a picture of your ex and get one free beer. Hit the photo on the dartboard and get a free hour of drinks.

WILDCARD

Naked Brooklyn Scavenger Hunt. *Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Parkway (at Washington Avenue), Saturday, Feb. 13, 2 p.m.-4:30 p.m., \$24.50 with CUID.*
Go in search of nudes—nude works of art, that is—at the Brooklyn Museum on this tour, organized by Watson Adventures. Seek out specific pieces that are notable both for their beauty and their nakedness. Hot.

SEARCH FOR THE BEST LESSER-KNOWN THEATER WRITERS



COURTESY OF JUSTIN BORUCKI

GOSSIP COUPLE | Tony-nominated writer Douglas Carter's new play "Mr. and Mrs. Finch" features John Lithgow and Jennifer Ehle.

Playwrights on the rise work to revive Broadway

BY SHIRA LAUCHAROEN
Columbia Daily Spectator

THEATER Though productions by the likes of William Shakespeare, Eugene O'Neill, and David Mamet are practically guaranteed to be of a passable quality, the most memorable theatrical experiences of any given season come from previously unheard-of, up-and-coming playwrights. This season will hopefully stay true to history with plays by first-time writers, young prodigies, specific voices, backstage professionals, and the most hilariously twisted mind in theater today.

"The Pride," a play that compares the experiences of gay men 50 years apart, marks the debut of playwright Alexi Kaye Campbell. Distinguished by its structurally intriguing form, the play originated at London's Royal Court Theatre before jumping the pond to the Manhattan Class Company, picking up a handful of stars along the way, such as Hugh Dancy and Ben Whishaw. A former actor, Campbell appeared in the television shows "Jericho" and "Waking the Dead" before trying his hand at playwriting, for which he won the U.K.'s national playwriting prize, the John Whiting Award.

Lucy Prebble—another British import—shifts her focus from the escort industry, as portrayed in her television show "Secret Diary of a Call Girl", to corporate scandal in the Broadway premiere of "Enron," which comes straight from an acclaimed run in London. At the ripe age of 28, Prebble has already won the PMA Most Promising Playwright Award, the George Devine Award, and the Critics' Circle Award for Most Promising Playwright, and is currently under commission by London's Royal Court Theatre and the Royal National Theatre.

Continuing August Wilson's examination of African-American life, Pulitzer Prize winner Suzan-Lori Parks' "The Book of Grace" is a passionate portrayal of a Southern family which is having its world premiere at the Public Theater in New York. The daughter of a military officer and a graduate of Mount Holyoke College, Parks studied under the tutelage of black intellectual James Baldwin. Over the course of her career, she has crafted works that synthesize the poetical with the theatrical, inventively shedding light on black culture in America in such acclaimed works as "Topdog/Underdog."

Following the success of his Tony-nominated play "The Little Dog Laughed," Douglas Carter Beane provides another behind-the-scenes look

into the arts world, this time covering gossip columnists in "Mr. and Mrs. Finch," playing at Second Stage Theater and starring John Lithgow. Beane's past work includes writing the book for the Broadway rendition of the flashy '80s musical "Xanadu." Known for his social commentary underneath a biting sense of humor, Beane's upcoming projects include a fusion of "Lysistrata" and "High School Musical," as well as a cheerful musical about terrorism.

The latest work by Irish playwright Martin McDonagh—"A Behanding in Spokane," starring Christopher Walken and Sam Rockwell—will be his first Broadway premiere and his first play set in America. Born in England to Irish immigrants, McDonagh—the author of "The Lieutenant of Inishmore" and "The Pillowman"—left school at age 16 to begin his writing career. His plays have garnered numerous Tony Award nominations and a Laurence Olivier Award, and McDonagh has cultivated a niche in both the film and theater worlds with his characteristically dark humor, absurd violence, and twisted stories.

Though attending one of the many revivals of classic plays may be a safer choice, seeing an original production of a show that may receive revivals for years to come is an experience hard to find outside of New York City.

Gay bars find history in the nightlife of West Village

BY ANDREW WAILES
Columbia Daily Spectator



Welcome back to the West Village. One article is not nearly enough space to adequately cover all the options this nightlife haven has to offer, especially when those options include incredibly cheap drinks at wonderfully kitschy gay bars. NYU kids may be spoiled when it comes to nightlife, but at least Columbians have the 1 train.

A mere 35 minutes from campus, step off the Christopher Street stop into the heart of nightlife fabulousness. It may not be as known for gay destinations as Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, but the West Village houses a breed of gay bars all its own. Away from the bears in Chelsea and the after-work crowd of Hell's Kitchen, this neighborhood is where gay New York really began back in 1969 with the Stonewall Riots.

Just a couple of blocks away from the Stonewall Inn on Christopher Street is the ever-colorful Pieces Bar. Pieces is the West Village's response to Morningside's very own gay bar, Suite, only Pieces has more colorful décor and cheaper drinks—even \$3 specials.

On its relatively quiet block, Pieces stands out with a multicolored sign in the window. Inside is everything one might expect from a village gay bar: shiny streamers, half-naked men, and Christmas lights all year round. Plus, as a bonus on cold nights, the coat check is free.

Each night at Pieces is an event in and of itself. Tuesday karaoke may be the most well known, but there are also "Balls to

the Walls" Bingo on Sundays and beer pong on Thursdays. All the while, music videos play on the screens behind the bar in sync with the music playing through the speakers—something rare and very much appreciated.

For more \$3 drinks with a gay crowd that caters more to the ladies, there is Cubby Hole on West 10th Street. There is usually a line on weekends, but the small kitschy space inside is worth every second spent waiting out in the cold. The ceiling is fully covered with a collection of hanging objects, from mobiles to rainbow pinwheels to big fluffy-looking lips.

Cubby Hole's brilliant randomness is epitomized by a collection of plastic toads adorning the cash register behind the bar, a magical

place serving up \$3 whiskey sours every day of the week and \$2 margaritas on Tuesdays.

The themed nights at Pieces seem to be missing at Cubby Hole, but Cubby Hole certainly redeems itself with a "Glee"-singing jukebox and a "RuPaul's Drag Race"-worshipping TV.

"The first time I came here as a customer I knew I had to work here. I have fun; they want me to have fun," said one of the bartenders as he popped up a fresh bag of popcorn, a free bar-side snack.

While many gay bars seem to cater mostly to men, Cubby Hole does a great job at catering to everyone. It may be classified as a "lesbian bar," but with its colorful and friendly atmosphere it is a spot loved by all.

From wine and beer to \$3 drink specials, the West Village is certainly not a disappointment.



ANDREW WAILES FOR SPECTATOR

A COLORFUL SPOT | The West Village is full of dive bars and eclectic clubs that cater to the gay community but welcome anyone looking for a night on the town.



JOURNALISTIC TRAUMA | Laura Linney stars as a journalist back from war after being wounded by a roadside bomb, while Brian D'Arcy James plays her supportive husband.

Stars shine in ‘Time Stands Still,’ a modern tale of love and war

BY STEVEN STRAUSS
Spectator Staff Writer

THEATER A simple hug is an unlikely culmination for two and a half hours of relationship drama. However, that is exactly what occurs in the climax of Pulitzer Prize winner Donald Margulies’ new play “Time Stands Still,” a deceptively simple drama that examines the effects of war journalism on relationships. Margulies is an actor’s writer, focusing his plays not on pithy dialogue and flowery language but on painfully realistic human relationships. As such, his

work relies on the prowess of his cast, which here is in top form. Laura Linney brings her innate grace to the character of Sarah, a war photographer removed from the field after suffering severe injuries from a roadside bomb. The play begins as her husband James, played by Brian D’Arcy James in the performance of his career, happily brings Sarah back home after months overseas under the false assumption that she’s finally ready to settle down. Rounding out the cast is playwright-turned-actor Eric Bogosian as their newspaper editor and Alicia Silverstone, still in “Clueless”-mode, playing Bogosian’s very young fiancée.

War journalism’s popularity has been on the rise since the Vietnam War, reaching an all time high this past decade with the war on terror. Surprisingly, there have been very few plays covering this phenomenon, which is why the subject feels so fresh in the hands of Margulies. A true modernist piece, the play unfolds in real-time, slowly revealing the devastating effects the constant adrenaline rush of war journalism can have upon those returning to their comfortable lives at home. In fact, the play is realistic almost to a fault. Instead of including theatrically conventional scenes of high drama and emotional involvement, the play feels

like it was torn out of the pages of reality. Though admirable, such an insistence on keeping the play grounded prevents the audience from becoming emotionally invested. As such, the work succeeds mostly on an intellectual level. Yet the level of intellectual probing almost makes up for what the play lacks in theatrical emotion. Margulies’ insight into the adrenaline-addicted psyche of a war journalist will especially hit home with journalism majors considering a life in the field. Coincidentally enough, Sarah and James fell in love during college over of their shared passion for documenting the world, a love which in the end nearly tears them apart.

No place for manipulation in the booty text



VALERIYA
SAFRONOVA
The Secret Life of Coeds

Gone are the elementary school days when Valentine’s Day meant Snoopy cards and Hershey’s Kisses. Since then, I have pretended not to care much about Feb. 14. I’ve tried distracting myself forcibly with some sort of activity, with a boyfriend, or with friends, but honestly, Valentine’s Day has always come with a gust of pressure from an invisible region nestled somewhere between my insecurities, capitalism, and the media. This year—despite every proclamation I have made about my indifference—I felt the tiniest glimmer of anxiety while scrolling through the barrage of Valentine’s Day deals that I seem to have received from everyone: credit card companies, Rite Aid, and even that blessed website, Expedia. I just could not stand for it. Choosing to refrain from grumbling, I decided to find love my way—by writing an entire column dedicated to booty calls. Any examination of the classiest act of all—the booty call—must begin by acknowledging that the term is not completely appropriate. I rely so heavily on texting that I hardly know how to speak into my phone anymore, so how could anyone expect me to actually dial a number and put my dignity on the line by requesting a few hours of the dirty? The world has evolved and now the booty text gets us college kids through the days. The text is a delicate obstacle. I have seen messages that range from the simple and direct: “We’re hooking up tonight, stay up (if ya know what I mean)” to drunkenly poetic, replete with obscure references to philosophy. The options are endless, but the important thing is to write from the heart—or more accurately, to filter what comes from the nether regions—and to stick to a few helpful guidelines. First, watch your timing. Promoter Stephan Vincenzo, CC ’12, whose past events have had names as colorful as “The SexXx Party,” said, “If you call after 12:45, it is definitely a booty call.” The best way to make it clear to someone that they are the lucky chosen one for the night is to mind the time. Do not ask for sex on Monday between French and CC—your weekend partner from Campo might assume you actually like them! Second, sprinkle the seeds well in advance of doing the deed. It is often a good idea to establish some line of communication earlier on in the day, while still sober and capable of forming witty thoughts. This sets you up as a considerate lover. Try throwing a nice text at your booty call during brunch mentioning that you should be wasted by 3 a.m., and passed out by 4, leaving them with an open timetable for when to pounce. Third, be wary of the distinctions between sexual partners. No, by this I do not mean that you should use memory games to differentiate between “Boy from the Green Party” and “Boy from that Morning I Woke Up In John Jay.” It is important to know what exactly you want out of your lover, and to make sure they know it too: casual sex partners indulge in both sex and conversation, booty calls say little besides their greetings above the sheets, and friends with benefits have sex when nothing is on TV. Understand what you want and speak up. A friend once told me that one of his rules for booty texting is to completely refrain from waving, making eye contact, or making any gesture that might make your booty call aware of your existence outside the bedroom when you run into them on campus. This rule is absurd, and my friend was mostly joking, but the unfortunate truth is that this type of situation actually arises all too often. It may seem anathema to booty calls, but try being honest. The bad rap that booty calls have most often stems from people’s fear that they are being tricked or lied to, and therefore used. If everybody was clear with each other about their needs, desires, and dislikes, booty texters from McBain to EC would be able to smile, wave, and maybe even chat in the street. As a very wise person told me recently in regards to a booty call, “I want to have sex, she wants to have sex... so we just have sex.” Drama, lies, and manipulations have no place in the booty call world. Save that for when you fall in love.

Valeriya Safronova is a Columbia College sophomore. The Secret Life of Coeds runs alternate Fridays.

Contemporary Greek fiction brings campus scholars to Book Culture

BY NICOLLETTE BARSAMIAN
Spectator Staff Writer

BOOKS What’s the first thing that comes to mind when one thinks of Greece? Maybe the Parthenon, Aristotle and Plato, or the Greek gods? Well, guess what—Greece exists in the present, too, and it’s a country rich with literary talent, as demonstrated by authors Margarita Karapanou and Ersi Sotiropoulos. These authors’ works were featured in translation at an event titled “Greek Fiction Reading with the Program in Hellenic Studies at Columbia University” at Book Culture on Thursday night. Karapanou won the French national prize for the best foreign novel, and Sotiropoulos’ book was the first Greek novel to win the country’s national prize for literature and Greece’s book critics’ award. Karapanou’s most famous novel, “Kassandra and the Wolf,” is a modern Greek classic. Clockroot Books recently put the book back into print, along with another of Karapanou’s novels, “Rien Ne Va Plus.” Karen Emmerich translated this novel, along with Sotiropoulos’ book of short stories, “Landscape with Dog.” Evangelos Calotychos, a professor in Columbia’s Hellenic studies program, planned the event and opened it with a few words. “It’s rare to be in a position of presenting three recently published English translations of Greek novels,” he said. “And three from one press! We are very grateful.” Calotychos explained that Karen Van Dyck, another professor in the Hellenic studies program who was supposed to read at the event, was unable to come due to a family matter. Spectator interviewed her prior to the event. She published a book called “Kassandra and the Censors: Greek Poetry since 1967.” It featured an in-depth analysis of Karapanou’s Kassandra and the Wolf. Van Dyck said, “It was a wonderful example of how censorship and self-censorship can be worked out together. But it’s also a way of taking the political as personal and the personal as political. It’s hard to tell what’s self-censorship and what’s coming from the outside. This idea was central to my book.” Reading two chapters of “Kassandra and the Wolf” in Van Dyck’s place



GO GREEK | On Thursday, authors Margarita Karapanou and Ersi Sotiropoulos were joined by CU translators and professors.

was Patricia Felisa Barbeito, a fellow translator of Greek literature. Following the reading, there was a question and answer period. Sotiropoulos admitted to currently reading Madame Bovary for the third time and loving Roberto Bolano’s books. She said, “I don’t like boring things. I

don’t like authors who try to teach you things. I don’t like serious things.” For the reading, Sotiropoulos read two of her short stories in translation by Emmerich, and Emmerich read excerpts from her own translation of “Rien Ne Va Plus.” Emmerich, who is currently a graduate student in comparative

literature at Columbia, has received translation grants and awards from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Modern Greek Studies Association. “Translation is the most fun thing you can do,” Emmerich said. “It’s the best way to read a text. It’s fun and creative, but also academic.”

Students seek a Mediterranean holiday at Fig and Olive

BY MATT POWELL
Columbia Daily Spectator

FOOD
&
DRINK

Fig and Olive provides a warm haven for students exploring Fifth Avenue, its welcoming doors protecting fingers and ears from frostbite.

Located at 10 E. 52nd St., Fig and Olive is certainly not the flashiest building on the block—Armani Ristorante is just a couple yards away. Once inside, gleaming olive oil bottles filled to the brim with golden elixir immediately greet diners. The walls of the restaurant are lined with uniform rows of bottles, except for the wall of the bar, which is packed with every necessary variety of alcohol. The bar itself has an antique look, as if it was taken from an old beach home on the Mediterranean. Orange, green, and white décor further emphasize the Mediterranean feel. Fig and Olive offers an extensive menu, mostly comprised of items made entirely of figs and olives. Many diners will require ample time to consider the daunting array of choices.

A first course of tomato red bell pepper soup with cannellini crostini makes for an excellent accompaniment to leisurely studying. Although the soup warms up diners from the blustery weather, the crostini comes cold—surprising for a dish that is typically served warm.

Just as students scrape the last spoonful of soup from the bowl’s bottom, a fig, prosciutto, arugula, gorgonzola, and tomato tart arrives. Although some of these items—tomatoes and figs—seem incompatible, the mixture works well. The fresh arugula atop the dish tastes fresh and spicy, pairing flawlessly with all of the ingredients. When the gorgonzola, prosciutto, and fig combine in one bite, the dish reaches its culinary climax. And the puff pastry for the tart is impeccable.

Finally, for dessert, comes an olive oil gelato with blood orange caramel. Less-adventurous eaters may cringe upon hearing this flavor profile, but the end product tastes absolutely fantastic. Rather than



OLIVE TWIST | Midtown eatery Fig and Olive offers innovative fare and a relaxing environment, which adds up to a safe bet.

vanilla extract, the surprising key ingredient in this gelato is the olive oil, which gives it a taste reminiscent of a sweet vanilla butter, and a perfect creamy texture.

Even when the restaurant is completely full and bustling, the atmosphere at Fig and Olive is not crowded or rushed like

at peer institutions. Waiters take time to answer questions and engage in cordial conversation. Fig and Olive creates an ideal ambiance, appropriate for a casual date or an outing with the parents. Maybe olive oil gelato is not the best choice for a cold day, but students willing to brave

the cold and make the trip to the other side of Central Park will not regret it.

Orozco MoMA exhibit thinks outside the ‘Shoe Box’

BY MARGARET BOYKIN
Columbia Daily Spectator

ART

As viewers pass through the white entryway of the Gabriel Orozco exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art, they are greeted by trash—more specifically, a single shoebox, laying abandoned at their feet.

This piece, appropriately titled “Empty Shoe Box,” is one of the many Orozco works that confuse and surprise the viewer. Within the first few minutes of being in this almost surreal exhibition, viewers’ expectations of an art exhibit are dashed. Orozco is not your typical artist. His work, ranging from spit on graph paper to a painted human skull, is odd and intriguing, frustrating and comical.

Orozco likes to push the boundaries of what defines sculpture, and play with the viewer’s reaction to his assortment of materials. Walking through his mishmash of recycled art, it is easy to feel lost without the audio tour. The objects on display seem bizarre and fascinating, but don’t readily give themselves to the label “art.” However, with Orozco’s own lulling (and pretty sexy) voice guiding the tour, one is able to see these objects as he sees them—as something bigger than just whimsical confusion.

The aforementioned skull is a piece titled “Black Kites.” It is a human skull,

patterned with graphite details of black diamond shapes. Orozco drew on the human skull over a series of weeks while on bed rest for a collapsed lung. “A lot of my work has to do with time...for me that is very important, the timing of perception and awareness,” Orozco said. “Black Kites’ has that concentration of time, for an object that is not very big it is very powerful,” he said.

Studying the delicate skull, students can easily see why Orozco stands out from the seemingly spontaneously driven artists of our time. “Black Kites” is not about attention-seeking, modernist experimentation. It is quiet and thoughtful, representing one man’s reflection on a symbol of death, after having come very close to the reality himself.

All of Orozco’s works on display at the MoMA have the quiet, complex irony of “Black Kites.” Orozco’s exhibit is worth visiting, if only to experience seeing the world through the artist’s enchanted gaze, where unsuspecting objects are transformed into unique, thought-provoking works, and a small, nondescript piece of cardboard is much more than just a shoebox.

The Gabriel Orozco Exhibit is currently at the Museum of Modern Art (11 West 53rd St.) and runs until March 1. Admission is free with CUID.



DRY BONES | Orozco’s skull sculpture “Black Kites” is one of his norm-defying works.



SEX IN THE CITY | At the Museum of Sex, a condom history exhibit is on display.

Sex, spice, and everything nice hides in Midtown East

BY ELIZABETH FOYDEL
Spectator Staff Writer

STYLE

No romantic candlelit dinner planned for this weekend? Go low-key instead and take a trip to the oft-unexplored Midtown East.

In addition to its bustling shopping and business districts, this curious corner of Manhattan is home to a host of Indian restaurants, vintage stores, and the raciest of museums. Here you’ll also find the perennial favorite treat for those celebrating Feb. 14 with or without a valentine—some pretty spectacular chocolate.

Opt for risqué on Valentine’s Day with a visit to the Museum of Sex at Fifth Avenue and East 27th Street. The latest exhibit, “Rubbers: The Life, History & Struggle of the Condom,” defines the condom as “a critical artifact of sexual history ... at the epicenter of debates regarding morality, religion, and disease.” A colorful collection of historical condom cases ranges from 1920s Trojan tins to 2008 Obama, McCain, and Palin condom boxes. An alphabetized list of condom slang spans “Anti-Baby” through “Zucchini Beanie,” and a collection of condom artwork by Randy Pumbo incorporates the titular object into multimedia pieces or “libidinal objects.” Through this reinterpretation Pumbo hopes to unsettle common notions of masculine and feminine.

The permanent collection features sex-related photography, including explicit vintage photographs, French postcards, male art nudes, and pin-ups. Other finds are a Pablo Picasso abstract vellum etching and several Keith Haring silk screens. There are also exhibits titled “Sex &

Technology” and “Kink: Geography of the Erotic Imagination.”

The shock value draws museumgoers in but also serves a political purpose. The exhibits unsettle traditional ideas or misconceptions, with areas of the current condom exhibit dedicated to HIV/AIDS prevention, eugenics, and the female condom—the latter in the context of gender politics. The museum shop, of course, is unabashedly provocative, with a large selection of sex-themed coffee table books, masturbatory devices, and aphrodisiac chocolates.

Post-museum, stop at one of the many Indian restaurants in the surrounding Murray Hill, called “Curry Hill” by many residents. Bhatti Indian Grill at Lexington Avenue and East 27th Street has an extensive menu of delicious and affordable kebabs, curries, and kathi rolls. Especially notable is the vegetarian Tandoori Chaat Kebab (\$6.95) which combines diced apple, pineapple, bell pepper, and sweet potato—tossed with balsamic vinegar and spices and grilled in a tandoor oven. The mango lassi is also praise-worthy for those in need of a sugar fix.

Then, in honor of Fashion Week, continue uptown to window-shop the spring and summer designer lines. Despite the snow, Barneys, Madison Avenue and East 61st Street, and Bloomingdale’s, Lexington and East 59th Street, have long moved on from the cold weather with colorful installations and light styles. While the windows bid welcome to spring, remember that the pink-and-red Hallmark holiday still has yet to pass. Pick up chocolates to give—or eat—at La Maison du Chocolat at 30 Rockefeller Plaza. The dark chocolate truffles make one forget all the pressure of Valentine’s Day.

Neighborhood Watch



HALEY VECCHIARELLI / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ON YOUR MARK | Columbia's track runners prepare to hit the oval this weekend. The Lions are looking to improve seed times and gain valuable experience on the way to the Heptagonal Championships in two weeks.

Light Blue track runners return to the Armory for pair of weekend meets

BY GREGORY KREMLER
Spectator Staff Writer

Columbia track and field is back in action this weekend. The team will once again compete at the supreme facilities of the Fort Washington Avenue Armory in two separate meets. The first group will race Friday night at the Lafayette/Rider Winter Games, and a second will compete on Saturday in the third and last edition of NYRR Saturday Night at the Armory.

Both meets are, in a way, tune-ups for the Heptagonal Championships, which are just two weeks away. Indeed, league rivals Penn, Brown, and Cornell—the defending Heptagonal champions—will be in attendance for the Saturday competition.

However, the focus this time around will be more of an individual one, with many athletes racing open events as opposed to relays, and multiple ones at that. The constituent parts of the thus-far dominant women's 4x400m,

for instance, will be spread over the 400m and 200m events.

The Lions will seek to utilize their deep distance squads—first and third at the 2009 Cross Country Heps—in the mile and 3k. “All the top cross guys are running 3k,” head coach Willy Wood said. “Our hope is that enough run under 8:20 to get into the fast heat at Heps.”

Senior Serita Lachesis and junior Jacqueline Drouin—who currently rank third in the conference at 1k and 3k,

respectively—will team up at the middle ground in the 1 mile.

“Jackie and Serita are both aiming for a fast mile. There will be a rabbit, and the goal is to break 4:50,” Wood said.

Other highlights include sophomores Monique Roberts and Kyra Caldwell in the high jump and 60m hurdles, in which they are ranked first and third in the conference, respectively. Additionally, the men's 800m and mile events are stacked, and should be fertile ground for super-fast times.

COLUMBIA AT ARMORY INVITATIONAL

The Armory, Saturday, 6 p.m.

But more than anything, this weekend is an opportunity for any and everyone to take a shot at a fast time and position herself for top-of-the-league competition two weeks from now. Wood said, “Anyone who is healthy is running and going to try to do something that will influence their seeding at Heps.”



SHIVINA HARIJANI FOR SPECTATOR

POWER SERVE | Tennis looks to carry its momentum into this weekend's competition.

Women's tennis heads to Cambridge for ECAC match

BY LAUREN SEAMAN
Spectator Staff Writer

The women's tennis team will travel to Cambridge, Mass. this weekend to compete in the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Team Championships, hosted by Harvard. The Lions are going into the championships with powerful momentum gained from the wins it had this past weekend against Stony Brook and Farleigh Dickinson. In particular, the match against Farleigh Dickinson gave the team tremendous confidence as the Lions were able to defeat the Knights 6-1 in nail-biting third sets.

“Many of the singles matches went to three sets and our team fought hard to finish it out,” head coach Ilene Weintraub said. “Third sets sometimes come down to fitness and our intensity and energy level remained high.”

The team plans to play with this same intensity and energy this weekend to prove itself a strong contender in the championship. Columbia is going into the match seeded No. 8 based on last season's score, but remains confident in its ability as a young team to improve with every opponent faced.

The Lions are scheduled to play No. 1 seed Princeton on Friday in a match that is expected to be quite difficult.

“The first match will be good to break us in,” Weintraub said. “It will give the younger players a chance to see what the competition will be like.”

COLUMBIA AT ECAC CHAMPIONSHIPS

Cambridge, Mass., Feb. 12-14, All Day

ECAC competition is especially valuable for head coach Ilene Weintraub, as it gives her an opportunity to see the other Ancient Eight rivals in action before the conference matches begin in March.

“I see the championships as an early scouting opportunity,” Weintraub said. “They are important to me to prepare for the later Ivy matches.”

If the Lions win Friday's first-round match, they will advance to play the winner of Dartmouth vs. Brown. If they lose, they will face the loser of the Big Green—Bears matchup. The Light Blue is expecting even stronger competition than last season as the Ivy League continues to bring in stronger players each year. It has become a trend with blue-chip recruits to get the best education possible. In fact, four of the Ivy eight teams were ranked in the top 75 recruiting class this year.

“The league is getting stronger,” Weintraub said. “Women's tennis especially is seeing the level increase every year with better players.”

Weintaub is especially confident in No. 1 singles player Nicole Bartnik and No. 2 singles player Natasha Makarova to bring in great results this weekend.

“Nikki and Natasha are the solid rocks of our team,” Weintraub said.

The ECACs are scheduled to run from Feb. 12-14 at Harvard.

Lions prep for weekend foes Princeton, Dartmouth

BY VICTORIA JONES
Spectator Staff Writer

Tonight, the men's swimming and diving team launches into its final weekend of dual meet competition with meets against Princeton and Dartmouth.

The weekend begins today at 7 p.m. in Princeton, where the Lions (4-4, 1-4 Ivy) will try to avenge last year's 178-119 loss at the hands of the undefeated Tigers.

So far this season, Princeton has taken on six Ivy League foes and defeated them all by over 50 points. A victory over Columbia would lock in the Tigers' spot atop the Ancient Eight, while a loss would tie them with the Crimson's record heading into the Ivy Championships.

The Light Blue will have its work cut out tomorrow against the Tigers. The last time the two teams met, Princeton showed depth all around the pool with victories in the diving events and distance and mid-distance races.

The Lions were, however, superior in the relays as well as the sprinting events,

as now-junior Adam Powell won both the 50 and 100 free.

“Princeton is undefeated this year and should finish up that way,” said head coach Jim Bolster. However, he also noted, “We will use the meet as an opportunity to familiarize ourselves with their pool, which is the site of our Ivy League Championship meet.”

On the other end of the scale is Columbia's final dual-meet opponent of the season, Dartmouth (3-7, 0-5 Ivy), which has yet to record a conference win. Dartmouth has faced all the other teams in the Ancient Eight to no avail, but has run up the score in a few non-conference matchups. The Big Green's most recent victory was a 276-52 decision against Maine.

The last time the Light Blue and the Big Green faced off, the Lions came out on top 182-117. Dartmouth's top swimmers of the day were then-freshman Michael Ahern in the 100 and 200 backstroke and then-junior Scott Sorensen in the 100 and 200 freestyle.

COLUMBIA AT PRINCETON

Princeton, N.J., Friday, 7 p.m.

COLUMBIA VS. DARTMOUTH

Uris Pool, Saturday, 3 p.m.

Columbia was otherwise strong in the distance races, as well as the sprinting and breaststroke events.

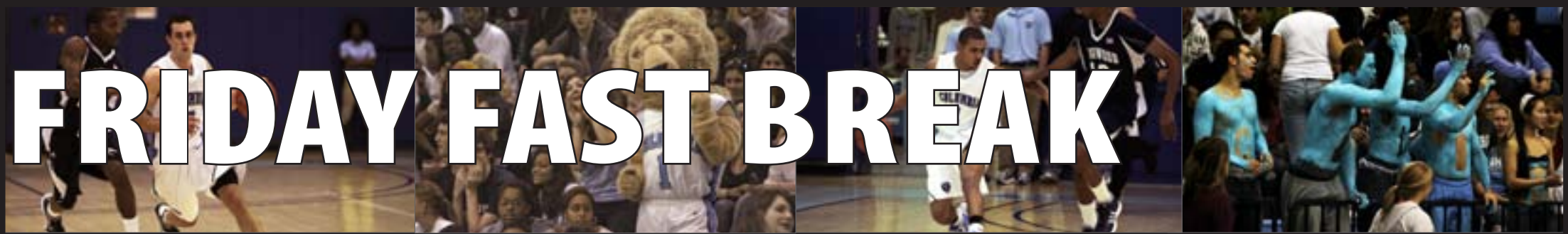
“The meet versus Dartmouth will have special significance in that it will be the final dual meet in the careers of our graduating seniors, and we will want them to finish up on a high note,” Bolster said. “I am confident that if we swim the way we have all year, we will be able to put the right swimmers in the right events to capture the win.”

Before they face Dartmouth, the Lions will have to get through tonight's meet against powerhouse Princeton at 7 p.m. on the road. Tomorrow's meet is set to begin at 3 p.m. in Uris Pool.



JENNY HSU / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

REACHING FOR THE WALL | Men's swimming and diving faces perennial powerhouse Princeton this Friday night in the undefeated Tigers' homepool before returning to Morningside Heights to dive in against Dartmouth in the final dual meet of the season.



BY THE NUMBERS

POINTS FOR

COLUMBIA

62.7

PRINCETON

59.6

POINTS AGAINST

COLUMBIA

67.2

PRINCETON

52.9

FIELD GOAL PCT.

COLUMBIA

.416

PRINCETON

.429

REBOUNDS

COLUMBIA

33.8

PRINCETON

29.9

ASSISTS

COLUMBIA

10.3

PRINCETON

11.9



CHEST PASS | Dan Mavraides, a junior guard from Princeton, looks to score against the Lions tonight.

BY THE NUMBERS

POINTS FOR

COLUMBIA

62.7

PENN

61.2

POINTS AGAINST

COLUMBIA

67.2

PENN

75.9

FIELD GOAL PCT.

COLUMBIA

.416

PENN

.388

REBOUNDS

COLUMBIA

33.8

PENN

31.8

ASSISTS

COLUMBIA

10.3

PENN

12.8

LAST TIME THEY MET

P

44

March 6

AT

Levien Gym

58

Lion

KEY MATCHUP

Davis vs. Bulger

Princeton sophomore guard Douglas Davis is leading the Tigers with 13.4 on 43.8 percent shooting. If Columbia's defensive specialist, senior guard Kevin Bulger, can shut Davis down, the Light Blue will have a good shot at its first win at Jadwin Gymnasium during the Jones era.

DOUGLAS DAVIS

KEVIN BULGER

COURTESY OF PRINCETON ATHLETICS AND COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

Junior guard Mavraides looks to lead Tigers against Big Red, Light Blue

BY MICHELE CLEARY

Spectator Senior Staff Writer

After Saturday, there can only be one undefeated team in the Ivy League, as Princeton (13-5, 4-0 Ivy) is set to host reigning champion Cornell (20-3, 6-0 Ivy). In order for the Tigers to pull off the upset, they'll need to execute their illustrious defense flawlessly. Though Princeton has several big men, its leading rebounder is junior guard Dan Mavraides, with 4.8 boards a game. If Mavraides, along with the rest of the Tigers, can defend as well as he has been, they have a fighting chance at knocking off the Big Red.

Mavraides was born in Boston, but eventually moved to California where he attended Junipero Serra High School. Mavraides was a two-year starter at Junipero Serra, helping his team to two Central Coast section championships. As a junior, Mavraides was named his team's Defensive Player of the Year during the same season that his squad won the Northern California championship. As a senior he was picked to the second all-league team, thanks to his averages of 13 points and six rebounds a game.

Before heading to college, Mavraides did a postgraduate year at Phillips Exeter Academy, where he averaged 20 points and seven boards.

As a freshman at Princeton, the 6-foot-3 guard saw limited minutes, playing in only seven games. However, Mavraides did start once

against Dartmouth, tallying eight points and two rebounds in 18 minutes of play.

Mavraides' minutes increased dramatically sophomore year. He saw action in every game, averaging 27.3 minutes a contest. The rest of his stats increased with the surge in minutes. Mavraides—who started the final 18 games of the season—was second on the team in scoring with 10.3 points per game and pulled down an average of 3.1 boards a contest. Mavraides also had 30 steals on the season, a team-high.

In a game against Harvard on Jan. 31, 2009, Mavraides dropped a career-high 22 points on 6-for-8 shooting, helping the Tigers to a 77-71 victory. The night before in a contest at Dartmouth, Mavraides posted 13 points and five boards en route to a 59-54 Princeton win. For his performance that weekend, Mavraides earned Ivy League Player of the Week honors.

So far this season, Mavraides has started every single game, averaging 30.1 minutes a contest. In 13 of the 18 games, he has scored in double figures resulting in an average of 11.6 points a game.

Last weekend at Harvard, Mavraides dropped a co-team-high 14 points while also grabbing six boards. His nine second-half points were crucial to the Tigers' victory, as the Crimson went on a run in the latter part of the game, cutting Princeton's lead from nine to three. However, the Tigers came out on top, winning 56-53.

The next night at Dartmouth, Mavraides scored in double-digits again, tallying 10 points on 3-8 shooting while also pulling down five boards.

Opponent Profile

LAST TIME THEY MET

51

March 7

AT

Levien Gym

50

P

Lion

KEY MATCHUP

Rosen vs. Agho

Penn's sophomore guard Zack Rosen is leading his team with 16.7 points this season, over four points higher than the next player on his team. On the other hand, Columbia sophomore guard Noruwa Agho is leading the Lions—and the league—with 17.7 points.

ZACK ROSEN

NORUWA AGHO

COURTESY OF PENN ATHLETICS AND COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

WEEK 4									
	Tom Di Benedetto (15-9)	Lucas Shaw (15-9)	Jelani Johnson (14-10)	Lisa Lewis (14-10)	Bart Lopez (12-12)	Holly MacDonald (11-13)	Jacob Shapiro (11-13)	Matt Velazquez (11-13)	Kunal Gupta (10-14)
	Columbia at Penn (+4.5)	Lions	Lions	Columbia	Blue	Lions	Lions	Columbia	Columbia
	Cornell at Princeton (+9.5)	Tigers	P-town	Cornell	Red	Biggie Red	Cornell	#9 seed	Cornell
	Harvard at Yale (+5.5)	Harvard	Harvard	Harvard	Crimson	Crimson	Harvard	Harvard	Harvard
	Dartmouth at Brown (-2.5)	Brown	Bears	Brown	Brown	Bears	Brown	Brown	Brown
	West Virginia at Pitt (+6.5)	Pitt	Pitt	Pitt	Pitt	Mtneers	Pitt	Pitt	Mountaineers
	Tennessee at Kentucky (-5.5)	KU	Kentucky	Kentucky	Wildcats	Cats	Kentucky	Volunteers	UK
	NBA Dunk Contest Winner	Wallace	Nate the Great	Nate Robinson	Shannon Brown	Shannon	Gerald Wallace	Matt Velazquez	Repeat
	NBA All-Star Winner	East	West	West	West	Least Coast	Kevin Durant	Go West	East
THE BEST PART	This all-star game is going to be less fun without D-Lee	Thanks again, Michele.	"Sade's new album is a banger..."	Clear your calendars everybody-- Take Back The Night will be on Thursday, April 15th this year!	Strange week: fencing, impolite bs, first modeling gig...	Only 24 more days until spring football...	Holly, you're not you when you're hungry.	I can't wait until it snows again...	I'm shooting for the moon... here's to going .500 this week!

With season underway, NBA picks stand



JELANI JOHNSON

Can't Knock the Hustle

I had a football column prepared for today. However, I woke up early yesterday morning and realized that we were only 24 hours away from NBA All-Star Weekend. If you've ever read my column, you probably know that the NBA is my favorite professional sports league (although the NFL is close behind). I want to use the NBA midpoint as an opportunity to discuss this weekend's All-Star game and revisit my preseason NBA predictions.

Before the season, I selected Houston, Phoenix, and Miami as my sleeper teams. So far I'm 2-for-3. Houston started the season pretty strong, and while they've wilted a little bit, they're still three games over .500 and two games out of the eighth seed in the West. I knew that the Rockets would surprise people, despite missing Yao and the Artist Formerly Known as T-Mac. Last season, Aaron Brooks and company were able to perform admirably without their two stars, and that trend has definitely carried over into this season.

This season, the Suns have played like the Suns from the latter half of last decade. After firing Terry Porter, the Suns got back to running and utilizing Steve Nash's strengths. It's no coincidence that their offense is ranked first in the league. After a strong start, Phoenix struggled a bit, but they've rediscovered their groove and look to be a lock to make the playoffs in the Western Conference (unless they decide to deal Amar'e Stoudemire before the trade deadline).

So far, the only team that's making me look foolish is the Miami Heat. The Heat are lucky that they play in a weak conference. At one game under .500, they're still in position to make the playoffs—but if they continue to catch L's, there is a very real possibility that Dwyane Wade will leave once he becomes a free agent this summer.

Apart from my sleeper teams, I was also correct with the rest of my predictions. I told you that Carmelo Anthony was going to go off this year, and he's done just that. He has continued to forge his reputation as the best scorer in the NBA, averaging 29.5 points per game. More importantly, Denver has made it clear that last season's deep playoff run was no fluke. They're clearly the second best team in the Western Conference. I also stated that the Celtics made a great decision in deciding to sign Rajon Rondo to a long-term contract extension. His selection to his first All-Star game has validated my earlier sentiments.

Speaking of the All-Star game, I just want to say that the NBA All-Star weekend is clearly the best all-star event of all the major sports. No one has the patience to sit through an MLB All-Star game, the NHL All-Star game is irrelevant, and the NFL Pro Bowl is a joke. I also think that the slam dunk contest, the 3-point shootout, and the Rookie-Sophomore game all trump the MLB Home Run Derby on their own, let alone collectively.

I think that the Western Conference will probably win this year. While I have faith that LeBron and D-Wade are going to carry their team, there is no way I can pick the East to win when they're starting Allen Iverson and Kevin Garnett—both first-ballot Hall-of-Famers who are past their prime. I'm looking forward to watching Kevin Durant exhibit no conscience and shoot from everywhere on the court. I am not looking forward to watching Zach Randolph do the same thing.

The second half of the NBA season is going to be fun to watch—probably not as fun to watch as Big East basketball, but fun nonetheless. Enjoy All-Star weekend and get excited, because March Madness is only a few weeks away.

Jelani Johnson is a Columbia College senior majoring in history. sportseditors@columbiaspectator.com

COLUMBIA (8-12, 2-4 Ivy) at PRINCETON (13-5, 4-0 Ivy)

FRIDAY, 7 P.M., PRINCETON, N.J.



RADIO:
WKCR 89.9 FM
WWDJ 970 AM

WWW.
GOCOLUMBIA
LIONS.COM



COLUMBIA (8-12, 2-4 Ivy) at PENN (3-15, 2-2 Ivy)

SATURDAY, 7 P.M., PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Hoops readies to travel to Princeton, Penn

Men's basketball leaves Levien for the weekend to take on a pair of Ivy foes

BY ZACH GLUBIAK
Spectator Staff Writer

Shots may not fall, referees may make bad calls, but Columbia will play hard.

Toughness has been the cornerstone of head coach Joe Jones' program in his seven seasons in Morningside Heights. On the court, that mentality has translated into an aggressive defense and a strong record at home.

This weekend the Lions will need that workman-like mentality as they look to right the ship after a disappointing 2-4 start to their Ivy season in two road contests against Princeton and Penn. Princeton has yet to lose in Ancient Eight play, and Penn is sitting at 2-2 in the league after a horrendous 1-15 stretch to start the season.

Both teams play at historically tough venues where success has been hard to come by for the Light Blue. Princeton's Jadwin Gymnasium is the only Ivy arena where Jones has yet to win, despite several close calls and an overtime defeat.

After last Saturday's loss to Yale at home, Jones and his leading scorer, Noriwa Agho, expressed a desire to return to their bread and butter. Both seemed more than a little shocked by the Bulldogs' 79-65 dismantling of the Lions in Levien Gymnasium. After a brutal three game stretch to open the Ivy season against Cornell (twice) and Harvard left the Light Blue 0-3, Columbia responded with two straight wins and looks to be a team on the brink.

And while the outlook remains a bright one, last Saturday night neither Agho nor

Jones seemed interested in their double-figure wins over Brown and Dartmouth.

"I think it's kind of like getting hit in the mouth," said Agho of the loss. "We definitely have to play with some pride and just know that regardless of what happens that we have to play harder than are opponent because we're not just losing, we're getting crushed. I think that it's a character check."

Jones agreed, emphasizing that the competitive spirit has been the linchpin of his teams at Columbia. "One of my teams hasn't played like this in a long time. We've played with much more pride than this in the past, and it's disheartening because that's not really how we built this program."

This weekend will be a critical one for the program, as the Lions face off in their first weekend of back-to-back road games. On Friday, the Light Blue heads to Princeton to take on a Tigers team that has quietly announced itself as a contender for Ivy hardware.

After early season attention brought Cornell and Harvard to the forefront, Princeton bested Harvard last weekend to bring its conference mark to a perfect 4-0. A balanced offense, a trademark of the Tigers' program, consists of five starters, all of whom can create problems for opposing defenses.

They are led by guard Douglas Davis, who is averaging 13.1 points per game.

SEE BASKETBALL, page 3



ALYSON GOULDEN FOR SPECTATOR

TO THE HOOP | The Lions are shooting for a .500 Ivy record this weekend.

Basketball gears up for pair of Ancient Eight competitions

BY SARAH SOMMER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

After playing its four most recent Ivy League games on the road, the Columbia women's basketball team returns to Levien

Gymnasium this weekend. The Lions host Princeton on Friday night and Penn on Saturday night. Columbia (13-7, 4-2 Ivy) is currently tied with Yale for second place in the conference standings.

Last weekend, Columbia achieved a 65-60 victory at Brown before

dropping an 81-74 decision at Yale. Although the Lions recorded one win, they struggled defensively in both games. Their full-court pressure was largely ineffective against an aggressive Brown squad, while their inability to rotate quickly in a half-court defensive set led to open outside shots for Yale's guards.

"The biggest thing we've been working on is being able to get out and do a better job of contesting shooters," said Columbia head coach Paul Nixon. "We've got to get back to being a lot stingier on the defensive end if we want to have success this weekend."

A strong defense will be especially crucial against Princeton (17-2, 5-0 Ivy), the only Ivy team still undefeated in conference play. In particular, the Lions must find a way to stop freshman forward Niveen Rasheed. Rasheed leads the Tigers—and is second in the league—with 14.9 points per game while also averaging 7.7 rebounds, 2.9 assists, and 2.2 steals per contest.

Of course, limiting one person on a squad as balanced as Princeton will not automatically lead to a victory. Three other players—junior guard Addie Micir, sophomore guard Lauren Edwards, and sophomore center Devona Allgood—each average more than 10 points per game for the Tigers. Micir is a force from the perimeter, scoring 13.7 points per game and

COLUMBIA VS. PRINCETON

Levien Gymnasium, Friday, 7 p.m.

COLUMBIA VS. PENN

Levien Gymnasium, Saturday, 7 p.m.



JASPER CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TEAMWORK | The Lions will have to work together in order to win upcoming away games.

Tennis to travel to New Haven for ECAC

BY KUNAL GUPTA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The men's tennis team will travel to Yale this weekend for the Eastern Conference Athletic Championships, as the No. 1 seed in the region. The draw features Sacred Heart, St. John's and seven out of the eight Ivy League teams, with only Penn missing. The Lions are the top seed, followed by defending ECAC champion Harvard, who took out Columbia last year in a thrilling 4-3 match in the final.

"This is our biggest tournament of the year before the Ivies," said head coach Bid Goswami. "It was easy for us in Mississippi because we wanted to win, but we did not have as much pressure [as with the No. 1 seed]. We have become the hunted instead of the hunters. But the good teams always come through so we'll see."

The men, who are currently ranked No. 53 in the nation, are coming off a strong showing at the ITA Team Indoors Kick-Off Weekend in Mississippi. Although the Lions went 0-2, they played against some of the strongest teams in the nation, losing to No. 49 Indiana 4-2, and 4-1 to No. 51 Arkansas.

"I felt we played really well," said Goswami of his teams performance in Mississippi, "the results were very close. Indiana just played really well against us."

The standout performance of the weekend was sophomore Haig Schneiderman defeating Indiana's Lachlan Ferguson at No. 3 singles. Schneiderman won his match in three sets, 6-4 in the third.

"Haig probably had the biggest win of his collegiate career," said Goswami. "The guy he beat was a senior from Australia who was top

COLUMBIA AT ECAC CHAMPIONSHIPS

New Haven, Conn., Feb. 12-14, All Day

30 in the world as a junior."

The Lions had mixed results in their doubles play all weekend, losing both of the doubles points. In the second match, Goswami was forced to change up the doubles teams due to an injury to star singles player Jon Wong, who was forced to retire from his singles match later that afternoon.

"It was hard to tell whether Indiana played really good doubles, or we didn't play that good," said Goswami. "It was hard to gauge. It went very fast, and I couldn't make out how it was."

"We had to mix around on the second day [against Arkansas]," continued Goswami, "and we didn't have much of a chance to play doubles last week, so we'll see."

SEE MEN'S TENNIS, page 3



FILE PHOTO

ACE | The men's tennis team looks to take part in ECAC competition this weekend on the Bulldogs' home turf.