



COURTLAND THOMAS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CROSSING THE AISLE | Columbia University Democrats president Janine Balekdjian, CC '13, and Columbia University College Republicans president Tyler Trumbach, CC '13, were among Ivy League leaders who backed marriage equality in a joint statement.

Barnard allows support animals in dorm rooms

**BY EMMA GOSS
AND JANET CERON**
Columbia Daily Spectator

While street traffic is often audible from Barnard bedrooms, barking and meowing may soon be a regular sound as well.

A new Barnard policy will allow support animals—dogs or other domestic animals that provide therapeutic support to students with disabilities—to accompany students in dorms.

Students have long been allowed to house service animals, which are trained to perform specific tasks like hearing

or guiding. But the college's Service and Support Animal Policy now allows support animals as well, bringing it in line with Columbia's policy.

"While we will still generally limit the presence of privately owned animals on campus, we are now committed to accommodating anyone with disabilities for whom these animals provide tremendous comfort and assistance," Barnard Dean Avis Hinkson said in an email to students on Saturday.

Support animals are not allowed in common spaces or elsewhere on campus, only in student rooms. (Service

animals are allowed most areas on campus.)

The new policy is a response to a new federal regulation that college residence halls fall under the jurisdiction of the federal Fair Housing Act, which means universities must provide accommodations for individuals who qualify for support animals, said Amy Zavadil, Barnard Title IX coordinator and community conduct director.

"This change is in response to the legal climate," Zavadil said at Monday night's Student Government Association meeting, adding that other colleges

and universities throughout the country are implementing similar policies.

Zavadil said that only "a couple of students" approached the Office of Disability Services with documentation for a support animal in the past. The policy was implemented in light of those requests, Hinkson said.

"Columbia adopted the same policy six months ago, and it was feasible due to their vast amount of public space, whereas Barnard is more restricted in space," Rachel Ferrari, BC '13 and SGA representative for

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CUCR supports marriage equality

All Ivy League Democrat, GOP clubs back same-sex marriage

BY ABBY ABRAMS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Republican and Democratic clubs of the Ivy League have come together to publicly support marriage equality.

A joint statement released Thursday marks the first time several of the clubs, including the Columbia University College Republicans, officially supported marriage for same-sex couples.

"We, the College Democrats and College Republicans chapters of the Ivy League, endorse marriage equality and challenge our nation's leaders to join us in defense of marriage equality for gay and lesbian couples," the statement reads.

CUCR typically doesn't take public stances on any political issues, president Tyler Trumbach, CC '13, said.

"We think it's the right thing to do now. Personally, I think we should have done this years ago," Trumbach said. "It's important for us to do this now to let people know that not all Republicans agree with the mainstream Republican party—especially young Republicans don't all agree with that message."

The idea for the statement came from University of Pennsylvania students, who then reached out to the other clubs, seeking support for an Ivy-wide statement.

"When we got the email, we said of course we'll sign, this is a no-brainer," Columbia University Democrats president Janine Balekdjian, CC '13, said. "We've been for marriage equality since way, way before I got to Columbia, and we were just very excited to hear that the Columbia

Republicans had signed on." The two Columbia groups released an additional joint statement Thursday. Club leaders wanted to release it early to ensure that it would be noticed on Valentine's Day, Trumbach said.

"The Columbia Democrats and Columbia University College Republicans are pleased to endorse marriage equality for gay and lesbian couples," the statement reads. "We join with all of the College Democrats and College Republicans chapters of the Ivy League in urging our nation's leaders to move forward on an issue too important to be held hostage by party politics. Our generation overwhelmingly supports marriage equality, and we look forward to a future of bipartisan cooperation in ensuring equality for all Americans."

"It sends the message that we're not afraid to stand up for important values such as this."

—Tyler Trumbach, CC '13

CUCR president

"I think the goal of this is just to let other college Republican chapters across the country know—there are a lot them that do support marriage equality, but they just feel uncomfortable coming out and saying it—that

SEE MARRIAGE, page 2

NEWS BRIEF

\$3.5 million donation to fund TC food policy research center

Philanthropist Laurie Tisch has donated \$3.5 million to Teachers College to establish a food policy research center, which will be launched at an event on Thursday.

The gift, part of a \$15 million initiative by the Tisch Illumination Fund to combat hunger, will provide funding for research that aims to increase access to healthier foods in local communities.

Pamela Koch, the director of the new Center for Food, Education, and Policy and a professor of nutrition education at TC, said that the donation will help enhance current food policy research at Teachers College.

The donation "is supporting new faculty down the line and doctoral students to be able to do research in the area that we want to focus on," Koch said. "There's a lot of work going on trying to increase access to food for people."

"When people have access to food and are getting really good-quality, motivational messages, that will really make them believe that healthy eating is worth it," Koch added.

While some of the initial funding will help hire new faculty members for the center, Koch said that it will also finance research to identify the best methods for teaching food skills like cooking and growing a garden.

The center will offer courses focused on nutrition education,

including a course that examines community initiatives to eat healthier and a course on how students can teach "good, effective, nutrition education that will change the way people eat," Koch said.

Tisch, whose foundation created the Green Cart Initiative in 2008 to increase the availability of fresh produce in low-income neighborhoods, said in a statement that she hopes the research she funds will help change government policies on hunger and other food-related issues.

Thursday's launch event will feature Newark Mayor Cory Booker, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, City Council member and mayoral candidate Christine Quinn, and USDA food official Kevin Concannon.

"Public officials like Christine Quinn and Cory Booker want to know where public dollars can make a difference, and they are making their decisions based on what information is out there," Tisch said in the statement.

Koch said that she hopes the new center can influence public policy with concrete evidence on how certain programs, including healthy bodegas and farmers markets, influence the community.

"We're really excited and thankful for the gift," Koch said.
—Samantha Cooney

All-male a cappella group places at ICCAs

BY EMMA FINDER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Spectator sat down with Zach Vargas-Sullivan, CC '14 and one of the founders of the all-male a cappella group Sharp. This past weekend, Sharp participated in the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA), placing third in the quarterfinals for their division.

EMMA FINDER: So, how did Sharp get started?

ZACH VARGAS-SULLIVAN: Sharp started in October 2011. My friend Danny [Murcia, CC '13] and I were in Notes and Keys, which is another group on campus, and we decided that we wanted to start an all-male group that was one, competitive, two, had this sort of smooth, "sharp" vibe to them, and that's sort of how we came up with the name, too. We don't really feel like there's any sort of rivalry or anything with Kingsmen because we are such different groups, and that's why we felt comfortable enough to establish Sharp on campus, because we felt like it was a group that Columbia needed.

EF: This weekend was the ICCA's, that's right?

ZVS: Mm-hm. So, the way the

SEE SHARP, page 6

Sherry Hour brings CU, BC together

BY MEENA LEE
Columbia Daily Spectator

Columbia and Barnard students gathered in Barnard's Sulzberger Parlor Wednesday evening to sip wine and socialize as part of the University's first ever Sherry Hour.

A tradition common at many small liberal arts schools, Sherry Hour is an informal cocktail party offering a space for students, professors, and alumni to get to know each other in a non-academic setting.

At the Sulzberger event, which was hosted by Barnard President Debora Spar,

students and their guests mingled over cheese, fruit, and light pastries, while drinking sherry and sparkling water.

The idea of the event was for Barnard students to invite guests from elsewhere in the Columbia community—not fellow Barnard students, but students at other schools or professors—in order to create inter-college friendships.

Daniela Kempf, professor of public speaking and manager of the Speaking Fellows Program at Barnard, was invited to the event by her senior speaking fellow, Tabia Santos, BC '13. Kempf called Sherry Hour "a fantastic idea."

"It makes us feel like we're part of a larger tradition," Kempf said, "like part of a larger academic community." It was a "great chance to have meaningful cross-major and cross-departmental discussions," she said.

Sasha Stedronsky, BC '15 and Maryam Masood, BC '15, planned the event. Stedronsky said she got the idea from her father, a Williams College alumnus who remembered weekly Sherry Hours as a big part of his liberal arts college experience. Stedronsky said she hopes to foster more of a

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WINN PERIYASAMY FOR SPECTATOR

CHEERS | Students, faculty, and administrators gathered for the first ever Sherry Hour at Barnard.

A&E, BACK PAGE

Where to eat for Harlem Restaurant Week

The Harlem Restaurant and Retail Week begins on Feb. 15. Our guide outlines which local eateries are offering special prix fixe menus and deals through Feb. 28.



OPINION, PAGE 4

Rega-rding Columbia

Rega Jha on how the mourning process in a digital age.

Small Talk

Sydney Small on why you shouldn't study abroad.

SPORTS, PAGE 3

Dominance defines Columbia fencing

The Light Blue's fencing program has been one of the best in the country for over a century, thanks to elite coaching and training facilities.

EVENTS

Performing Shange

Barnard students perform excerpts from Ntozake Shange's music, led by music producer Ebonie Smith. Shange speaks with dance artist Dianne McIntyre about her life and work.
Diana Center event oval, 6-7:30 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



45°/37°

Tomorrow



48°/34°

Organizers hope Sherry Hour continues

SHERRY from front page

community vibe on campus through these events.

Sherry Hour “was the way he got to know some of his favorite professors, and other students who were interested in,” she said. “I thought Barnard would be a wonderful place to have it, especially with Columbia across the street. I thought it would be a great way to get people on Barnard campus who normally wouldn’t come here.”

Stedronsky presented her idea last spring to Spar during one of her office hours.

“It was a great idea, and Sasha and her friends found a way to make it work,” Spar said.

Ajla Karajko, BC ’14, who heard about the event from fliers posted on Barnard’s campus, also enjoyed Sherry

Hour. She said she hopes it will “clarify the situation between Barnard and Columbia” by helping students from the two schools get to know each other personally.

“It’s not just my Sherry Hour, but everybody’s Sherry Hour.”

—Sasha Stedronsky, BC ’15

Sherry Hour founder

“With the dean’s support, this could be a tradition for years to come,” Kamran Etemad, GS ’14 and social chair of the General Studies Student Council.

After seeing the first Sherry Hour in action, Stedronsky said her next steps will include recruiting more members from each of the undergraduate schools for her committee, diversifying Sherry Hour attendance, and forming a Student Government Association-recognized student group.

While she hopes Sherry Hours will become a monthly tradition in the future, her larger vision for the idea is for the Columbia community to embrace the concept and take ownership of it.

“I hope that everyone at the University wants to throw their own Sherry Hours so that it really becomes a staple to the University, so that it’s not just my Sherry Hour, but everybody’s Sherry Hour,” she said. “I hope that a Sherry Hour becomes a noun here at Columbia University.”

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DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SO MUCH MONEY | Graduate Student Advisory Council President Ahmet-Hamdi Cavusoglu says that a 2011 GSAS benefits package didn’t keep up with the rising expense of going to graduate school.

Rising expenses outweigh GSAS benefits

BY YING CHANG
Spectator Staff Writer

The cost of going to graduate school is on the rise, and a Graduate School of Arts and Sciences financial package implemented in 2011 has done little to stop it, according to students.

As part of a \$4.6 million plan, the package increased stipends by \$350 and guaranteed \$3,000 in research funding for up to five years. It also covered the University Facilities fee for its students and added a new \$1,000 childcare subsidy per child per year for student-parents with preschool-age children.

However, although GSAS administrators said that the 2011 package has been successful at helping students avoid increased expenses, students said that the package hasn’t gone far enough.

The stipends and benefits “have helped to ease the financial burden for our doctoral students,” GSAS spokesperson Robert Ast said in an email. “That said, we will continue to assess our funding model.”

GSAS Dean Carlos Alonso said in an email that the school also offers funds for students to travel to present their work in professional conferences, as well as year-long and semester-long fellowships for traveling or research

in the field.

“Increasing living costs outstrip the increasing stipends,” said Graduate Student Advisory Council President Ahmet-Hamdi Cavusoglu.

“New York is a particularly expensive place to live,” Alonso said in the email. “We are aware that the rent increase for this year outpaced the stipend increase. We will continue to argue for the improvement of the financial situation of our graduate students.”

However, the increase in stipends “starts to put students more in line with the stipends provided to students of other peer institutions,” Cavusoglu said. “Columbia was always somewhat mediocre compared to other graduate schools at providing stipends.”

The idea for increasing benefits came in the wake of the 2011 debt ceiling fight in Congress, which resulted in a reduction in federal funding for research. Students said guaranteeing summer research funding was the most helpful reform in the package.

“It was nice to have it guaranteed,” said Emily Hayman, a sixth-year English doctoral candidate, referring to the fact that the school funded her research without her having to apply for it.

Keith Orejel, a fifth-year history doctoral candidate, noted that “the University summer funding was a pretty big one” in terms of improvements.

“Now the incoming students have less to worry” about, he said.

Space issues are another problem the administration is focused on.

“They are trying to make resources on housing assistance more accessible and plentiful—to learn how to choose better accommodations and how to negotiate better prices of rent,” Cavusoglu said. “The hope was that while facilities fees would increase total packaging provided to students, it would also streamline some of the difficulties they feel.”

Hayman said that in her experience, she has found a lack of common and individual space for GSAS students.

Meanwhile, many graduate students take on side jobs to keep up with rising costs. Carolyn Arena, a fifth-year history doctoral candidate, said she has been hard at work applying for funding sources.

Despite higher expenses, Arena said, the new funding package “does make us a more attractive institution to apply to.”

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Research shows dogs have calming effect

ANIMALS from front page

college relations, said.

Alexandra Horowitz, a psychology professor at Barnard and the director of a dog cognition lab, said in an email that support animals have the potential to noticeably improve a student’s mental wellness.

Therapy-animal programs use dogs to aid people with physical disabilities and to reduce anxiety, depression, and stress, she said.

“Considerable research shows that the presence of, or interaction with, dogs can have beneficial effects,” she said. For example, petting a dog can reduce blood pressure and lower breathing rate, and looking a dog in the eyes can release oxytocin in the brain.

“The dog-human bond is potent,” Horowitz added. But therapy animals aren’t just dogs.

“Dogs, cats, birds, horses, pigs... Lots of animals have been used,” she said.

Allowing animals into residence halls brings about issues such as allergies, animal care, and damage to facilities.

“We were really trying to take into consideration the needs of all of our students in making this policy,” Hinkson

said in an interview. “We wanted to think about the fact that there may be students with allergies, who are fearful of different animals.”

Students voiced concern over the logistics of the policy.

“There are a lot of people who have allergies, and how will Barnard control that?” asked Camille Houmprak, BC ’15.

Elisa Han, BC ’15, said that “students need to be aware the dogs are doing their job” and aren’t there to be fawned over.

Others said that caring for an animal could be difficult for many students.

“The life of a college student can be a lot different from the life of ‘normal people,’” said Julie Hecht, the lab manager of Horowitz’s lab. “It’s an interesting environment to put a dog into, and it could raise some issues for a dog’s well-being.”

“There’s a lot of work that goes into being a good communicator with your dog, and it could be potentially more stressful on people,” she said.

“Barnard College women are busy and do not want to neglect an animal,” said Shivani Vikuntam, BC ’16 and SGA first-year class president, said. She added that she thought college

employees should regularly check up on the animals to ensure their safety.

“The responsibility for care is on the student, and any damage caused is the responsibility of the student,” Hinkson said, adding that administrators will “be monitoring closely whatever wear and tear” occurs on facilities.

Morgan Murray, who oversees Barnard’s Office of Disability Services and is in charge of implementing the policy, said at Monday’s SGA meeting that students are responsible for acquiring their own support animals, but that she will be in regular contact with the students to assess how things are going with their animals.

“Like most other federal policies, this one has the potential to really help some individuals and also to be abused,” Horowitz said. The policy will require documentation of the student’s disability.

“Overall, though, I am in favor of having dogs around campus,” Horowitz said. “There’s something about these nonhumans that humanizes us.”

Abby Abrams contributed reporting.

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TIANYUE SUN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BARNARD UNLEASHED | Amy Zavakil, BC’s Title IX coordinator, and Morgan Murray, director of disability services, answered questions about the new support animal policy at Monday’s SGA meeting.

CUCR support shows change in club

MARRIAGE from front page

there are resources, there are other chapters that will back them up on this position,” Trumbach said.

He added that the CUCR board voted to approve the statement with over 75 percent in favor, something he said never would have happened when he first joined the club his first year, or even last year.

Recent board changes have given the group “a new dynamic, a dynamic that’s not afraid of taking these stances,” Trumbach said. “Looking at our general body, we saw this same openness to accept marriage equality as well.”

Balekdjian said she felt excited about the declaration of support because she sees it as indicative of the larger national discourse.

“I think it’s supposed to be a sort of barometer of young Americans in the national discourse and how we feel about gay marriage and that we support it,” she said.

Tom Callander, CC ’13 and CUCR director of finance, also said he hopes the statement will have implications beyond the immediate Columbia campus.

“We think it’s an important step in showing the campus and people outside the Columbia community that there are a number of issues on which Republicans and Democrats can agree and there are common-sense bipartisan solutions, and we think that is an important lesson that not just people on our campus should learn, but our nation’s leaders as well,” he said.

However, Balekdjian said she believes the statement matters

less at Columbia than at other schools with less liberal student bodies.

On the other hand, Trumbach said the statement is important for Columbia’s perception of CUCR.

“It sends the message that we’re not afraid to stand up for important values such as this,” Trumbach said. “Even Republicans, who are viewed kind of negatively on Columbia’s campus—in reality, we’re part of the community as well, we see these struggles and issues.”

Trumbach called this statement “one of the most important things this club has ever done” and said he hopes the joint effort will inspire students in other places to “not be afraid to take stances on controversial issues that are important for our time.”

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Photos by Michael J. Doolittle

Men’s tennis provides bright spot in CU sports scene

Anyone who has even remotely tried to follow Columbia sports this season can tell you that much of the past year has been marked by, well...disap- pointment.

If in search of athletic frustration, one needs to look no further than the football team. Despite all the buzz and excitement involved with hiring new head coach Pete Mangurian, the team provided fans with a 2-5 conference record, headlined by a 69-0 loss at Harvard. Yes, that was the actual score. No, we weren’t playing Alabama.

With the coming of winter, so too arrived newfound athletic hope—men’s basketball. Led by all-Ivy accredited senior point guard Brian Barbour, the men’s team was set to make a splash in Ivy play—or at least such was the hope. Reality saw an all-too-familiar outcome, as countless blown opportunities and poor late-game decisions have led to a heartbreaking season and an Ivy-worst 2-4 conference record.

Once again, it does not look like Columbia will achieve athletic glory (even in its own conference) through the standard, large-viewership collegiate sports programs. But as I mentioned two weeks ago, there are successful athletic teams at Columbia. They just need to be given more attention.

Although Baker may be located all the way up on 218th Street, attending a tennis match is well worth a ride on the 1 train.

One such program is men’s tennis, which, sitting on a No. 42 national ranking, has established itself as one of the best teams in the Ivy League. With a 2-2 record that includes an impressive 4-1 thrashing of No. 35 Louisville, the tennis-playing men in light blue have given fans much to be excited about.

Now, it’s up to the fans to get excited.

If there is any Lions team to get behind this spring, this is the one. They’re young (with nine of the 14 men on the roster being underclassmen), resilient, and—most importantly—good. Currently riding a two-match winning streak as they head into the ECAC Team Championships in Ithaca, the Columbia men seek to improve a 0.500 record that does not do justice to the team’s actual capabilities.

With a high level of both singles and doubles play, respectively led by No. 44 sophomore Winston Lin and the No. 17 ranked tandem of fellow sophomores Ashok Narayana and Max Schnur, the team’s record will, in all likelihood, reflect a much different story on Mar. 30 when Cornell’s visit to the Dick Savitt Tennis Center opens up Ivy conference play.

Despite the fact that they are just sophomores, Lin, Narayana, and Schnur have eagerly accepted leadership roles on a team that features, by far, the youngest core group of players in recent history. Freshmen Dragos Ignat and Eric Rubin have been nothing short of exceptional, wasting no time in providing fans with memorable performances on both the singles and doubles courts. Most remarkable has been the poise and resilience of the freshmen, who, just four games into the season, can both already boast come-from-behind three-set victories.

Although Baker may be located all the way up on 218th Street, attending a tennis match is well worth a ride on the 1 train. Those who make the trip will be greeted by a state-of-the-art tennis center, which, since its 2002 renovation, is surely one of the best arenas in the Ivy League. While most supporters appear to be friends or relations of players, there is a distinct, healthy sprinkle of hard-core tennis fans and loyal Lions whose passion for the game provides an electric atmosphere.

The men’s tennis team will surely go on to do great things this spring. The only question is, will there be fans to see it?

Alexander Bernstein is a Columbia College first-year. Contrarian Review runs biweekly.



ALEXANDER BERNSTEIN

Contrarian Review



PETER BOHNHOF / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BLADES OF GLORY | Columbia fencing is steeped in a rich tradition of success thanks to world-class coaching and its prime location in New York City.

Columbia fencing has proud history of success on national stage

By almost any measure, the men’s and women’s fencing program is the most accomplished athletic team in Columbia’s history. But what explains the program’s elite status? The answer lies in part with its elite coaches.

BY SPENCER GYORY

Over the past 115 years, the fencing program has built an incredible list of collegiate achievements. It’s won 13 NCAA team championships, 41 Ivy League championships, 33 individual NCAA championships, and has seen a number of athletes go on to fence at the highest international levels.

Part of this tradition was honored last October when legendary head coach James Murray, program alumni Robert Nielsen, CC ’51, Barry Pariser, CC ’55, Monica Conley, CC ’03, Emma Baratta, CC ’06, and the entire 1988 men’s team were inducted into the Columbia Athletics Hall of Fame.

A great deal of Columbia’s fencing success stems from the fact that the program has been led by a quintet of world-class coaches during most of its 115-year history.

Murray, Columbia’s first coach earned the nickname the “Dean of American Fencers” and was considered by many to be the finest American-born coach of his age. While also coaching at the New York Athletic Club, Murray led the program for 50 years (1898-1948), taught over 2,500 fencers, and laid the foundation for Columbia’s future success.

The second great Columbia fencing coach was Jose Velarde, who led the program to consecutive NCAA team championships in 1951 and 1952. To this day, Velarde remains the only fencing coach to win NCAA titles at multiple schools—Columbia and West Point. Velarde’s time at Columbia was limited to three years when he was recalled to active military service during the Korean War.

Following Velarde’s departure, the team went on to have one of its greatest runs under Irv DeKoff. During DeKoff’s 15-year tenure, the team won four NCAA titles (1954, 1955, 1963, and 1965), took home 11 of the first 12 Ivy League championship round-robins, and had a miraculous winning percentage of .843—the highest in team history.

Yet perhaps the team’s greatest coaches were its two most recent: George Kolombatovich and Aladar Kogler. Both retired in 2011 after 32 and 28 years with

the program, respectively.

Kolombatovich remains one of the most respected names in international fencing. His list of accomplishments includes coaching the United States national team at six Junior World Championships and seven Junior Pan American Championships, authoring a major handbook for referees, and refereeing at three Olympic Games.

Kogler, a native of Hungary, coached the Czechoslovakian Olympic and national teams from 1963 to 1981 and served as a coach for the U.S. at four Olympic Games.

Like Kolombatovich, Kogler’s tremendous knowledge of the sport and outstanding teaching methods have made him one of the most revered coaches in recent history.

Three-time All-American sabrist Sammy Roberts, SEAS ’12 said he believed the coaching duo provided fencers with an unparalleled knowledge of the sport.

“Aladar is a walking encyclopedia of knowledge,” Roberts said. “You can’t find someone that knows the sport as well as he does. Having those two coaches and being able to pursue any other outside coach you wanted, you had such an open wealth of knowledge coming into Columbia.”

Serving together as co-coaches, Kolombatovich and Kogler quickly established a dynasty at Columbia, winning five NCAA titles in seven years (1987, 1988, 1989, 1992, and 1993), winning 25 men’s and women’s Ivy League championships, and coaching 17 NCAA individual champions.

But coaching is only one part of the explanation for Columbia’s success. The other key ingredient is the program’s location in New York City, the mecca of American fencing. For decades, fencers have flocked to New York to train at its prestigious fencing clubs, receive lessons from top-flight coaches, and fence against world-class competition.

“New York is a tremendous hot spot of fencing in the United States,” current head coach Michael Aufrechtig said. “You have probably 75 percent of the top fencers in the country working and training here full-time. With the exception of the Olympic Training Center, it’s where everybody is.”

For example, 13 out of the 20 fencers representing the United States at the 2012 London Olympic Games were associated with fencing clubs in the New York area.

One of those athletes, Jeff Spear, CC ’10, stayed in New York City after graduating so that he could continue to train with Kogler at the New York Athletic Club in order to give himself the best chance at qualifying for the men’s sabre squad.

“The principle advantages of New York are the number of high-level athletes with whom to train and the

available coaches,” Spear said in an email. “The greatest concentration in both for all weapons is in New York. I stayed to keep training with my coach and to take advantage of these training opportunities. There was simply nowhere else to go.”

But Columbia fencing did not always exploit its geographical advantage. The program only began to do so under Kolombatovich and Kogler, and has continued under Aufrechtig.

“The program had pretty much hit rock bottom when I came in 1979,” Kolombatovich said. “The three years prior to my getting there, the team had a 1-10 record each year, losing all of their Ivy matches. The whole program needed a complete turnaround because there was no recruiting going on. Without getting recruits, Columbia was unable to be the kind of program it could be.”

Kolombatovich knew that in order to recruit top talent, the program would need to provide fencers the flexibility to follow their own training regimens at the clubs downtown.

“I started recruiting serious fencers with collegiate goals, national goals, and international goals,” Kolombatovich said. “For someone at that level, to help them achieve their highest level, you needed to afford them the opportunity to spar with top fencers, which New York City makes available to them. Being open to that kind of training allowed a lot of top fencers to realize they could have the very best of both worlds.”

The importance of being in New York for fencers has only amplified over the years. Until recently, fencers had two training options: the Fencer’s Club in North Chelsea and the New York Athletic Club on Central Park South. But the number of renowned clubs has since increased, further enhancing the network of great fencers living and training in the area. These new clubs include the Manhattan Fencing Center near Times Square, Empire United Fencing across the Hudson River in Hoboken, N.J., and the Peter Westbrook Foundation, which is located at the Fencer’s Club facilities.

“I don’t know much about how the situation has changed for other weapons, but for men’s sabre, what was dominance for NYC ten years ago has become practically a monopoly today,” Spear said.

A trio of large universities—Ohio State, Notre Dame, and Penn State—has dominated the NCAA championships in recent years, winning 19 of the last 25 titles. The schools boast a number of advantages over Columbia, including tremendous facilities and the ability to provide athletic and academic scholarships.

Yet despite these opponents and new challenges, there is little doubt within the program that Columbia fencing, thanks to great coaching and an optimal location, will continue to do what it has always done—win.

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Containing Brown’s McGonagill a priority for Light Blue on Friday

BY KYLE PERROTTI
Spectator Staff Writer

The men’s basketball team (8-12, 2-4 Ivy) snapped out of its slump Sunday by defeating a talented Harvard with one of the strongest backcourts in the Ancient Eight. Friday, the Lions will travel to Providence to take on Brown (8-12, 2-4 Ivy), a team that also possesses a formidable backcourt led by junior standout Sean McGonagill.

“In that gym, he has murdered us. I can’t put it any other way.”

—Kyle Smith

Head coach

McGonagill, a 6-foot-1 guard, has become an all-too-familiar name to the Light Blue, as Columbia has witnessed his stellar play at home two years in a row.

“He is our bugaboo, McGonagill,” Columbia head coach Kyle Smith said. After reviewing the scouting report, Smith said he turned to assistant coach Mike Magpayo and said, “Know one thing, it’s this McGonagill. We got to come up with a way to find a way to slow him down.”

In last year’s contest in Providence, McGonagill put up 28 points, shooting 8-11 from the floor. He was also within shouting distance of a triple-double, getting eight assists as well as eight rebounds. The Bears won that contest

94-78. The most dominant game of McGonagill’s collegiate career came in his first season with the Bears when the Light Blue made the trip to Rhode Island, when McGonagill netted an astronomical 39 points on 15-19 shooting.

“In that gym, he has murdered us. I can’t put it any other way,” Smith said. “Two years ago, when he was a freshman, we were up nine and he just kind of took over the game.”

Upon finishing his first season, McGonagill was named Ivy League Rookie of the Year. His solid play continued into his sophomore season during which he averaged 13.5 points per game and an Ivy-best 5.4 assists per game. He was named to the All-Ivy second team.

Although the Bears have had a sub-par season thus far, McGonagill and his counterpart in the backcourt, Matt Sullivan, have both had outstanding seasons, averaging just over 14 points per game each, with McGonagill also leading the team in three-pointers and assists.

Because of Brown’s ability to get points from different people on the court, Smith said the Lions must find a way to defend McGonagill “without throwing everything at him.”

“It starts and kind of stops there,” Smith said. “If we don’t make him earn it, make him work for it, and give him easy baskets, he gets a huge confidence in that gym.”

The Lions could have an even tougher time trying to defend McGonagill with freshman guard Grant Mullins possibly sidelined with an ankle sprain. Mullins sustained the injury against Dartmouth on Friday, and Smith said that the team won’t know for sure if Mullins can play until Thursday night.



COURTESY OF EMILY GILBERT / BROWN DAILY HERALD

THORN IN THE LIONS’ PAW | Brown guard Sean McGonagill has put up career highs and stellar performances against Columbia in his home court.

“We need him, because he’s one of our tougher perimeter defenders,” Smith said of Mullins. “I think we’ll need him in trying to contain McGonagill. McGonagill’s tough and strong, and so is Grant. Grant’s not super quick, but he’s quick enough.”

The Light Blue will tip off on Friday at Pizzitola Sports Center at 7 p.m. before taking on Yale in New Haven the following night.

Muneeb Alam contributed reporting. sports@columbiaspectator.com



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The opportunity cost of study abroad

My unseemly stack of lug-
gage was ready. My visa and
scribbled list of the finest pastries
per arrondissement were in hand. I
was (properly) concerned about the
French skills I had garnered after
about a year of study and how they
would fare in philosophy classes at
the Sorbonne but I was incredibly
thrilled.

I never planned on studying
abroad during college, but at the
beginning of last semester I applied
straightway. I wanted out. I knew I was struggling
with perspective. I thought the best option was a
change of scenery and a reminder that there was
more out there. Paris, c'est toujours une bonne
idée. But it was a difficult decision for personal and
academic reasons. So the semester progressed with
copious vacillation and the creation of lengthy pro/
con lists ad nauseam.

Each subsequent person gave me a different
opinion and the opposite recommendation. I re-
ceived word that none of my intended or assured
classes would count for my graduation require-
ments. Finals week trudged by, and I still did
not know whether or not I was going abroad. My
friends were appalled and stunned it was still an
option. In my defense, endeavoring to procure cred-
its for my majors was time-consuming and bureau-
cratic but ironically not as challenging as fulfilling
my Global Core requirement while abroad. (Which
genius decided to release petition results for Global
Core classes only after the completion of the class?)

Then certain factors out of my control put an end
to my study abroad plans and I started the semester
here in New York City. Back on our wintry cam-
pus, I only wanted to stroll down Boulevard Saint-
Germain. I even longingly looked at my intended
host family's petite apartment on Google Earth.
However, since then I have realized that staying at
Columbia was unequivocally the decision I should
have made last year.

First, let me establish that this is not an argu-
ment against cultural immersion, traveling, or living
abroad. It is an account of why our eight semesters
at Columbia University should be spent here. The
opportunity cost of studying abroad when we at-
tend a school of the caliber of Columbia University
is extraordinary. Why accept those costs when all
the benefits of studying abroad can be achieved
both now and after graduation?

The financial costs alone are staggering. It costs
about \$10.55/hour to be here. If you study abroad



**SYDNEY
SMALL**
Small
Talk

you pay Columbia tuition, but, across the board,
university tuition in Europe and other countries
around the world is significantly lower. Although
international students often pay higher fees than
citizens, the difference is negligible in compari-
son to our tuition costs. In six European countries,
including the Czech Republic and Italy, tuition is
the same for local and foreign students. In Italy,
the average fee is \$1,928.44/year. You can study in
the best universities in Buenos Aires for as little as
\$3,700/year.

Instead of shopping in Paris, I had to settle for
shopping for classes. During those two weeks I
went to a class during every single time slot of the
day. Simply witnessing the breadth and diversity of
knowledge and passion bursting from this institu-
tion was astounding. We should feel privileged ev-
ery day to be at Columbia, where over 90 percent of
the individuals who apply are rejected, not to men-
tion the billions around the world who never have
the opportunity to apply.

After intending and then failing to go
abroad, I realize how much I should
appreciate Columbia. I was chasing
perspective by running away.

Ask yourself if you are making the most of your
time here. The most valuable thing about Columbia
is its human capital—the professors and students. I
made a concerted effort to get to know more of both
this year, and I only wish I had started earlier. Go to
your professor's office hours solely with the agenda
of having a conversation. Sit in on a lecture just
once. I found myself considering petitioning for 32
credit hours before realizing with resignation that
choices were obligatory and that I only had three
semesters left.

Beyond the gates of Columbia lies a metropolis
that cannot be mastered in four years. New York
City is an amalgamation of many countries and
cultures. Try something new, whether it's an El
Anatsui exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum or casu-
ally stalking Bill Cunningham. Turn the corner from
1020 and you'll encounter a small plaque at 501
W. 110th St., where Gershwin wrote "Rhapsody in
Blue". Simply questioning the people you encounter

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I am a neighbor on Claremont Avenue. I live surrounded
by Columbia, in shadow of that "manor on the hill," my
street dominated by buildings and institutions that are ei-
ther owned or partnered with the University. To those of us
not officially affiliated, Columbia is the bully, the patroon,
the tsar, its size and power able to push us around. Our only
defense is our "agitation" and yes, education! I fought to
bring back my favorite restaurant (Floridita) and to save the
residents and businesses which have been pushed out by
the "expansion." I will continue to stand up for the imple-
mentation of the many promises that Columbia made to
my community.

In the editorial of Feb. 10, 2013, you imply that the
Student-Worker Solidarity group needs to do "less agita-
tion" and "more education." I grew up in the 1950s in
Tennessee, and to me this sounds like what the Southern
establishment used to tell those working against segrega-
tion. I attended the workshop at Highlander Folk School
with Rosa Parks, who, a few weeks later made her defi-
ant stand. There were those who urged the activists to be
"more polite." Had they adhered to that advice we'd still
have "whites only" lunch counters!

I am grateful to the depth of research and very con-
siderable education which the students have provided to
those of us in the neighborhood about conditions in food
service at Columbia. I have been to several meetings and
have been impressed with the serious, yet often joyous and
hopeful, approach to the problem of worker exploitation by
Columbia University.

You can hear the words of the students and workers and
to see their carefully planned protest, which went ahead
despite quite difficult weather, please watch my YouTube
video of that snowy day: <http://youtu.be/mUr4KadISZI>
My camera is only now drying out.

DeeDee Halleck

STAFF EDITORIAL

We, the editorial board of the
Columbia Daily Spectator,
would like to point out that today is
a very special day. Yes, our Facebook
home pages have been flooded with
anonymously posted pickup lines
that sound like they've been cop-
ied from candy hearts, columnists
and bloggers alike have taken over
Spectator's pages with their roman-
tic musings, and Bwog keeps trying
to set up strangers. And despite all
of these distractions, we can finally
focus on what's important: See you
all at Glass House Rocks tonight!

The Columbia Daily Spectator accepts op-eds on any topic relevant to the
Columbia University and Morningside Heights community. Op-eds should
be roughly 650 words in length. We require that op-eds be sent exclusively
to Spectator and will not consider articles that have already been published
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should be sent to opinion@columbiaspectator.com. Please paste all submis-
sions into the body of the email. Should we decide to publish your submission,
we will contact you via email.

on a daily basis can paint your worldview a differ-
ent color. My last cab driver lost all of his family in
the Cambodian Killing Fields, but he was so exuber-
antly happy to be alive and in America. When's the
last time you asked someone his or her story?

All of the legitimate reasons for studying abroad
apply after graduation. Live abroad, work abroad,
travel, or study after college. This summer, take a
job in a city you've never been. How many of the
Columbia students who extol studying abroad come
back during the summer to live in NYC or in their
hometowns? I am the biggest proponent of per-
spective-taking, reflecting on how to give our lives
meaning, interdisciplinary study, and learning at ev-
ery moment. I want to live abroad when I graduate.
I want to attain fluency in the languages I speak. I
love traveling. But after intending and then failing
to go abroad, I realize how much I should appreci-
ate Columbia. I was chasing perspective by running
away, and that is not necessary.

Gaining perspective is a daily struggle, and you
don't have to fly across the world to do it or to
think outside of the box. Decide to open yourself to
understanding others. On a personal level, actively
consider why someone thinks and does what they
do. Change yourself. No matter where you are, you
can learn more about who you are, draw upon a
wealth of values, and improve. This topic ultimate-
ly reduces to a problem with a flawed philosophy
about college. College is not the be-all and end-all,
but don't take it for granted. I often manage to fail
on both fronts. Imagine the peasants you might en-
counter while studying abroad in Peru who would
give anything to be here. Make the most of your
time here so you can better the world when you are
forced to leave.

We tend to view the world in terms of weeks,
months, and finite chunks of time. We work until
the weekend, we think we have to make our best
friends in college, and we may often hear that "it all
goes downhill from here." But life is a continuous
process, and ultimately, no one will care more about
the path you chart than yourself. Life doesn't end
when college ends and your situation doesn't define
you. As Buddhist philosopher and leader Daisaku
Ikeda has said, "Your environment does not mat-
ter. Everything starts with you ... I urge each of you
to create something, start something, and make a
success of something. That is the essence of human
existence, the challenge of youth."

Sydney Small is a Columbia College junior majoring in
economics-philosophy and neuroscience. Small Talk runs
alternate Thursdays.

I miss you, brother. You have my heart. Rest in peace.

In a Facebook message he sent me last April, Sammy at-
tempted to explain what it felt like to nearly die. "I realized
that life is about memories," he wrote. "Memories are the
foundation of love, of respect, and trust. Memories force
us to adapt, to grow stronger and cleverer. Stranded, but
awake in the sickbed that might become your deathbed,
it's only the good memories that accompany you during
sleepless nights. You long for nothing more than to recreate
those memories again, the travel, the dinner parties, Disney
World."

I asked Louise, who had dated Sammy for several years
at the time of his passing, what role social media had played
in her mourning. "Knowing that his profile was there—all
the pictures, everything he had written, old messages from
high school—was a comfort, at first," she responded in an
email. "Much in the same way that having certain keepsakes
(t-shirts, books, etc.) is comforting, even if they are stashed
away out of sight. But then that's it. You realize that what's
there is all that there will ever be—there won't be any new
messages, no new photos uploaded to the collection. And
that hurts, that's hard, because you want more—you want to
make more memories."

"A few weeks after his passing, the fact that his Facebook
was still up was probably a reason I was finding it so difficult
to process his passing and my grief," she continued. "In the
real world, you can recognize that somebody is gone because
they are physically no longer present—no longer sitting in the
same chair, laying in the same bed, calling you. You are able
to feel the absence. But you can't really do that on Facebook
... Because they are still there."

Eventually, Louise deactivated his Facebook and deleted
his Twitter, paving the way for hundreds of us, all around the
world, to take steps toward real grief and—maybe eventu-
ally—real closure. It was only when searching for "Sammy"
led to a stranger's profile that we began to register the loss
we'd been dealt.

Sammy, although the grief will never go away, there was
some relief—however minor—in preserving all of the memo-
ries, just as you said we should. Although the loss will never
blunten, Sammy, there was solace in knowing that you live
on in thousands of people in thousands of places, and that
you always will. There was comfort in watching the world
shrink to mourn you. There was joy, albeit feeble and short-
lived, in seeing you render all of the realest distances virtu-
ally irrelevant by calling, instead, on our realest love.

Rega Jha is a Columbia College senior majoring in creative
writing. Rega-rding Columbia runs alternate Thursdays.



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

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			5	8	4	6		
7					1		8	
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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Geometry subject

6 Vend

10 "Don't let anyone else hear this"

14 Cowboy, at times

15 Palm product

16 Classic cream-filled snack

17 For the birds?

18 Agile deer

19 Actor Ken

20 Stout

23 Seaside raptor

24 Have to thank for, with "to"

25 Horn sound

26 Belgrade native

28 Lamin option

29 Nova Scotia hrs.

32 Relative via remarriage

36 Shell out

37 Stout

40 Gremlin and Pacer

41 Able to come back

42 Cole Porter's "Clown"

43 Bond, for one

45 "Heavens to Betsy!"

46 Place to tie up

48 "... we having fun yet?"

49 Intractable beast

52 Stout

57 Dead set against

58 Ram, e.g.

59 Significant

60 Sax immortal

61 Politico Bayh

62 Blue hue

63 Reaction to being cut off

64 Not a good mark

65 Hem again

6 Milkshake choice

7 Gradually vanish

8 Cobb of "12 Angry Men"

9 Not get the better of

10 Flickr image

11 Ring insert

12 Knife in "West Side Story"

13 Shape (up)

21 Tire-shaped

22 New England catch

26 Nos. for beachgoers

27 Chemical suffix

28 Cryptozoologist's quarry

30 Name meaning "young warrior" in Old Norse

31 Short communication

32 Work on a deck

33 Large volume

34 Yosemite attraction

35 Not a good mark

36 Crossword component

38 Rival of Rory

39 Greeting in Filipino

43 When doubled, a breath freshener

44 Specialized undergrad course

47 Permanently

48 Liam Neeson voiced him in "The Chronicles of Narnia" films

49 Like many a prime rib serving

50 One in a Lincoln quarter?

51 Scatter

52 Reason for stitches

53 "Do ..."

54 Late-inning achievement

55 Barbra's "Funny Girl" co-star

56 Flabbergast

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

C	C	S	A	N	S	W	E	R	C	L	I	P
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										S	A	W
										D	A	D

[crosswordeditor@aol.com](mailto: crosswordeditor@aol.com) 02/14/13

DOWN

1 Talk and talk

2 Casanova

3 For the bees

4 Tide type

5 Cubemaster

Rubik:

Art of Living brings Yoga Remix to campus

BY GRETCHEN SCHMID
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The drinks will be sans alcohol, the food will be organic, the dance will be combined with connective partner yoga, and the band, Bhakti, will play dance-rock Sanskrit chant fusion. No, it's not the weirdest East Campus theme party ever. It's actually Columbia's first Yoga Remix event.

The event, which is described on the Facebook as a "mind-body dance party" is being presented by the Art of Living Club at Columbia, led by president Zoe Lepage, BC '13. The club, which is one chapter of the national organization, provides free yoga and meditation classes every week.

"Often when people party they lose themselves and escape consciousness, and this is about being conscious in yourself," Lepage said. She attended a Yoga Remix party last summer at the New York chapter of The Art of Living Foundation and was inspired to hold one on Columbia's campus.

"It was so cool to be in a room of people that are interested in being conscious and so much fun to let yourself go and be caught and captivated in the music. So, after that I came back to campus in September and told my board, 'We need to do this,'" Lepage said.

The event will commence with a "Happier Hour" from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. with Indian food, fresh fruit, and non-alcoholic drinks. After that, Jivamukti Yoga instructor Jules Febre and Lepage will lead a partner yoga

class.

"It's really about creating a fun atmosphere. You don't have to know how to do yoga—it's going to be fun," Lepage said. "Connective partner yoga is a nice way to break down our barriers and connect with people in the room. You're holding hands with someone across from you, or you're taking a twist and doing it back-to-back with someone else. It's really about letting go and being present with the person you're with."

When the yoga portion is over, the party will break down into music and hip-hop asana, which is "more of a dancey thing—a blend of dance and yoga," Lepage said.

One of the event's main features will be the live band, Bhakti, which plays Sanskrit chants to a rock-pop beat. Bhakti's lead singer, Manish Tandon, BS '04, Tandon grew up listening to Sanskrit chanting but found it boring. He met the other members of his band through the Art of Living Club in New York City.

"We put a little twist on the ancient chants," Tandon said. "The beauty of them is that Sanskrit is a language of vibration, so every sound has an effect on the nervous system. We make them much more mainstream, much more accessible, a lot of fun. It's pretty revolutionary to bring this ancient practice into parties."

The Art of Living Club was able to convince the Interschool Governing Board to fund the event.

"I think the Columbia 'community' is such a big buzzword

and something we're really trying to build on campus. I convinced them an event like this will show the students that the university really wants to support them, and they [the IGB] were really receptive to the idea," Lepage said.

Lepage also hopes that the event will spark interest in the Art of Living Club's other offerings.

"One of the main things that our club offers is the Yes!+ board, which stands for 'Your Enlightened Side,'" she said. "We all have this inner nature that's full of creativity and energy, and it is all about tapping into that. We're going to have a course starting on February 27, and we really hope that the Yoga Remix serves as an introduction for people and that they will be excited and sign up for it."

She urges everyone to attend the event, regardless of their yoga experience.

"It's really the spirit of yoga, it's not about can you do this or can you touch your toes," she said. "It's about can you connect with your breath, can you be present?"

Singing along to the chanting "has a very healing effect on the system," Tandon said. "It's coming to a place of release and playfulness and joy, but from a very conscious place."

Yoga Remix will take place on Friday, Feb. 15 in the Broadway Room of Lerner Hall from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$5 advance purchase through Ticket Information Center or \$8 at the door.

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Growing up, leaving the nest

I could be wrong, but the "going off to college" experience was pretty similar for all of us. It's like what you'd picture if a Hallmark card could come to life: an image of too many bags stuffed in the trunk and "Leaving on a Jet Plane" playing as you open the bi-fold. Or maybe it's more like the melodramatic scene in the forgotten 1996 flick "Fly Away Home." Trust me, it's a real tearjerker: The girl releases a flock of geese she's raised, and it takes off toward the sun-kissed horizon. Just like our fair-feathered friends, we embark on our own migratory path to college after years in the high school coop.



TOBY MILSTEIN

Our car hits the pavement with the GPS set for 116th Street, and none of us care enough to stretch our necks back to see our childhood dwellings vanish in the distance. Leaving for college is a milestone for adolescent independence. It's the teenage equivalent of the cutting of the umbilical chord. Although our experiences leaving for college may follow similar trajectories, our unique situations also distinguish them. For me, the departure was not met with much pomp and circumstance. Because I'm the third child, my family already knew the schtick and was desensitized to the routine of it all. No waterworks from a usually sensitive mom and no prolonged, awkward hugs with dad—just one younger sibling drooling over blueprints, planning how he would redecorate my room.

Once we leave the nest, coming back is never quite the

same. There is a strange, inexplicable sense of detachment between you and that once-familiar space. For most people, that "I'm in college now" feeling hits with the madness that is NSOP or the realization that Thursday is the new Friday. But if you're slower at reacting to change, like me, it hits you the second you walk into your house that very first time back. It's a privilege, though, for students to be able to live away from home. Undeniably, the unregulated, carefree experience that typifies the American collegiate life is not enjoyed by all—many American students make a daily commute to and from college.

When we consider the average American collegian's lifestyle compared to an Italian's, it would be easy to conclude that we have something better than even the best homemade tiramisu.

But perhaps a more striking difference lies between us and our European counterparts. While it could be viewed as undesirable for Americans not to live on college campuses, that is the norm in Europe. Though we tend to glamorize 20-somethings in Europe, they don't

gallop off to college and say *arrivederci* to those back at home. Not even close. Let's take Italy as our first example.

According to latest Italian figures, more than 60 percent of Italians aged 18 to 34 still live at home. This cultural phenomenon even comes with handy terms to categorize those who don't stray far from the *casa*: *bamboccioni* ("big babies") or the more common word *mammoni* ("mama's boys"). While these terms do come off as deprecating to an American eye, they aren't viewed as harshly by Europeans themselves. The names serve to underscore a long social tradition. And it's not specific to the Italians. In other European countries, such as France and Germany, 25 is the age at which people leave their childhood homes. Most Europeans attribute the collegiate stay-at-home status to financial limitations. The typical rent for pint-size rooms in a rundown apartment is, as we say in America, too damn high. And what rational Italian would give up his mama's *spaghetti alla carbonara*, or easy access to his papà's Fiat? But as my Italian friends describe it, these perks come with a predictable downside: a kind of eerie sameness that stretches from childhood to early adulthood.

When we consider the average American collegian's lifestyle compared to an Italian's, it would be easy to conclude that we have something better than even the best homemade tiramisu. We have our independence. But perhaps we should reconsider this independence. How self-reliant are we American college kids anyway? If the mark of our autonomy compared to that of Italian

SEE MILSTEIN, page 7

Sharp makes splash on a cappella scene

SHARP from front page

the competition works is that there are quarter-finals, and there are semi-finals, and there are finals. We went to the quarter-final competition this weekend, and we placed third, which means that we're not advancing to any other competitions. But it does mean that we did place above every other group from New York City that was at the competition this weekend, which was pretty exciting for us because it was our first competition ever. And that felt really good for us—and that's sort of what the whole goal of the group was. to be competitive, and we were. The guys were so happy. I've never been so happy to get third in my life. But yeah, we placed, which was better than six other groups did.

EF: What was the preparation like?

ZVS: The preparation was really intense, and to be honest we're sort of happy that we didn't move on, because we don't know if we should have continued to be that intense for the rest of the semester. We had auditions during the first week of classes, and we got five new guys—Jason Kempner [CC '16], Andrew Vogel [SEAS '16], Jimmy Guan [CC '16], Sammy Sainthil [CC '14], and Cameron Lemley [SEAS '16]. And they have been with us



COURTESY OF LAURA QUINTELA

ACA CADABRA | Sharp, an all-male a cappella group founded last year, competed and placed third at a quarterfinal competition.

literally for a week and a half. We had a Saturday boot camp that was six hours on nothing but Sharp, and then every day this past week we had rehearsal. We just spent entirely too much time together, but it was really great for the group because these new guys need to somehow get incorporated into the group culture, group atmosphere, and they gell so well, and they've gone through this process with us, and they just were complete champs throughout the entire thing. They put the group first for the week and a half that they have been with us, and we couldn't have asked for better new guys. They worked their butts off. They learned songs that took old guys three or four weeks to learn in two or three days.

EF: Is there something you're especially proud of, just this past week or this past year, for the group?

ZVS: I think this is true for Danny [Murcia], too—Danny is our other co-founder. When we started Sharp, we wanted it to be the best group on campus. We wanted to create a premier a cappella group for Columbia. We didn't want it to be sort of this average group. We sought out the best guys, we try to produce the best arrangements, and we try to have the best choreography. And going into our first competition, I'm very proud to say that we did all of that.

Sharp's next performance will be at Glass House Rocks this Thursday.

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SPEC OPINION



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SAFE SPACE | (left to right) Chana Tolchin, BC '14, Talia Lakritz, and Deborah Pollard, both BC '16, have collaborated on a female arts showcase. The event will act as the collaborators' response to what they saw as a lack of outlets for religious—especially Jewish—women.

Students create safe space for religious female artists

NEW MOON
from back page

of Jewish lens, whether it be doing work or doing something artsy. So, I think that this is a really great opportunity. A lot of the acts aren't about Judaism. I think that Jewish people come together and have this kind of event.

CT: As Talia said, at the beginning, an-other motivating factor was people feeling like they couldn't do artistic opportunities on campus because of their religion. Oftentimes, especially for religious people, maybe who've been in religious schools all of their life before coming to college, suddenly, you feel—many people feel—a little bit restricted by their religion on campus because you can't do certain things because of laws, your Sabbath, feelings about modesty. Not necessarily laws—it could just be personal feelings relating to religion. Here, this is kind of using religion as a way to go all out and to express as opposed to feeling restricted.

TL: I definitely felt that way coming to college. I had done theater all through high school, and then I got to Barnard, was like, "Okay, now what? How am I going to continue to develop as a performer and as an artist and still stay true to my values?" If you want something done, you gotta do it yourself.

ZM: Since the event is focused on women and faith, how has gender shaped your perception of what faith is?

DP: I come from a Conservative background. I went to an Orthodox day school. I really had the best of both worlds, I feel. I love all the sects of Judaism. I definitely feel that being a Conservative Jew and being in a very dominant Orthodox setting, it's really made feminism much more important to me than if I would not have come from that sort of setting. When I practice my Judaism, it always comes hand in hand with feminism. That's what I kind of strive to do in my everyday life—not only incorporate women's rights

and feminism into secular life, but into my Jewish life as well. I'm always thinking about that two-pronged way of life.

TL: I'm an Orthodox Jewish woman, but I'm also a feminist, and I think that's a really unique combination. There's so much potential for projects and outreach and empowerment, and because maybe there's not so much going on in that area, there's a really unique opportunity that anything you do makes a huge impact. An event like this is one way of combining gender and religion and spirituality and music and all of those fun things.

DP: For me, feminism has always—always, meaning since I've been at Barnard—been about being able to be yourself and that when there's something in the way, that's when feminism needs to come in, when there's something in the way of freedom of expression or potential or whatever because of being a woman, that's when you need to fight the fight. And

I feel like religion should, at its best, be that, too—a development of spiritual potential or communal potential. But I feel like sometimes things get in the way of that because of societal pressures in religious communities, etc., or people construing laws to whatever ... people being judgmental of each other in religious frameworks. I feel that that's when feminism needs to come in, to remind everyone that there can be difference in a religious context, and that people can do things differently, and to have respect, and to let people grow and be themselves. That's kind of what brought me, also, to JOFA [Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance]. I felt like their mission was like my feeling, because I'm an Orthodox Jewish woman as well. It's important to me to be Orthodox and also to be able to feel that I can be myself.

"New Moon: A Festival of the Arts" will take place at 7 p.m. in Barnard Hall's James Room.

arts@columbiaspectator.com

Harlem restaurant honors black and Jewish musicians

BY MOLLIE GALCHUS
Spectator Staff Writer

Above a square table with wine glasses and cloth napkins hangs the framed sheet music to Irving Berlin's 1911 hit "Alexander's Ragtime Band." On the opposite wall is the 1917 poster of Scott Joplin's "Fig Leaf Rag."

These posters are part of "Black and Jewish Music Culture 1890-1930," an exhibit that has been extended through March 31 and is currently housed in Harlem's Ristorante Settepani.

Curated by Harlem historian John T. Reddick, the exhibit features the original sheet music covers of songs from the Tin Pan Alley era written by composers from Harlem. This includes music written by Columbia alumni Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart, one of the great songwriting duos of the Great American Songbook.

The display introduces the patriotic music composed by black and Jewish populations in Harlem, including sheet music covers for the 1915 hit "America, I Love You" and the 1909 song "Gee! but ain't America a grand old place."

Reddick also includes the Harlem addresses of the composers and entertainers with their music. Just 18 blocks away from

Settepani, Sidney Leff, the illustrator of the sheet music for "Ain't Misbehavin'," attended high school on Lenox Avenue.

Reddick also focuses on the Pabst's Harlem Casino and the Lafayette Theatre, two historic venues at which the featured music was introduced and where it thrived in the early 20th century.

The exhibit showcases specific songs from the black and Jewish music cultures in Harlem, but, shedding light on the relationship between these two communities.

Jews and blacks worked together in the entertainment industry, so by the 1920s Jews were not only composing songs, but were also publishing music and working with black entertainers.

To share more about Harlem's music culture, Reddick leads a walking tour of Harlem that includes the houses and theaters presented in the restaurant and ends at the Apollo Theater.

These tours, offered through Harlem One Stop, leave from Settepani on Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and will run through the end of March.

Ristorante Settepani is located at 196 Lenox Ave. between W. 119th and W. 120th streets.

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Growing up, Italian style

MILSTEIN from page 6


college students partially entails being able to cook our own meals, do our own laundry, and clean our living spaces, then we exclude every American student who eats in the cafeteria, uses a campus laundry service, or lives in a dorm equipped with maintenance crews. I give major kudos to the students who do it all or some of based on this superficial checklist of "independence." I'm not here to pass judgment on whether you're the one who turns the dial on the washing machine. I'm simply wondering the extent to which we can claim our right to adulthood while thinking less of others who live at home in their 20s or 30s.

We may not understand how anyone could still have an 11 p.m. curfew, just as they find it hard to believe that many of us live on our own and can barely turn on a stove. But we do share a goal, whether it is at age 18 or 30: to find ourselves and learn how to be adults in whatever way we can manage.

Toby Milstein is a junior at Barnard College, studying abroad in Rome. Her lifestyle column From Rome, With Love runs on alternate Thursdays.

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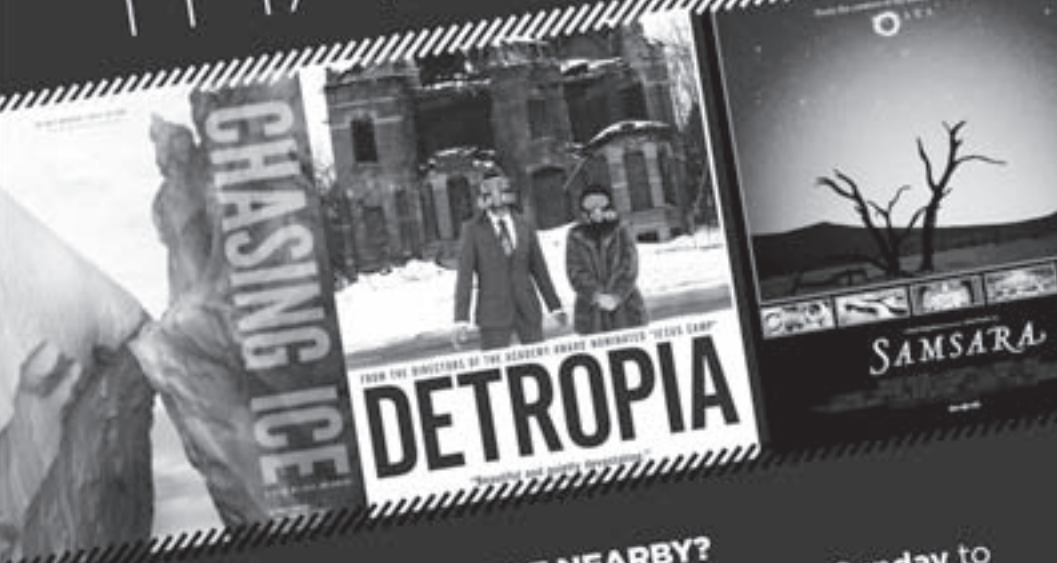
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Harlem restaurants offer 2 weeks of deals

BY ALLISON SCHLISSEL
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Are you still longing for the halcyon days of NYC Restaurant Week, or kicking yourself for completely missing it? Good news: You haven't missed your chance to enjoy delicious prix fixe meals at esteemed restaurants for great prices. Harlem Restaurant and Retail Week, which runs Feb. 15-28, features many of Harlem's highest-rated restaurants. With lunches priced at \$20.13 and dinners at \$30.13, this is a fine dining deal you do not want to miss.



PETER BONHOFF / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ME WANT FOOD | From Feb. 14 to Feb. 28 Harlem Restaurant and Retail Week will see many local eateries participating with prix fixe menus and special pricing to bring in hungry locals.

Ristorante Settepani 196 Lenox Ave.

Like Harlem Food Bar, Ristorante Settepani offers diners two choices between any salad, sandwich, or soup for the restaurant week lunch. The sandwich selection is nothing to scoff at, boasting not only the classic caprese, roast vegetable, and chicken varieties, but also a truffled egg salad sandwich and a roasted mushroom sandwich. The soup selection, which offers a butternut squash, cauliflower and almond, or corn and potato options, is equally strong. For dinner, the classic prix fixe format offers a dried fig and prosciutto or salad starter, homemade pappardelle with porcini creme sauce, and braised monkfish or roast chicken as mains. A sophisticated and accessible establishment, Ristorante Settepani would be a great addition to any student's Morningside/Harlem Italian repertoire.

Native 161 Lenox Ave.

Taking inspiration from Caribbean cuisine, Native boasts a range of dishes that synthesize Caribbean flair and European or Asian influences, which is also reflected in its restaurant week menu. In addition to the roast beet salad, French onion soup, and chicken spring rolls as starters, you can also choose the apple bourbon pork chop, spinach cheese ravioli, and Native chicken fried rice as entrées. For dessert, familiar items like pecan pie, tiramisu, and red velvet cake never fail to satisfy.

Bleu Violin 1400 Fifth Ave. at 116th Street

Bleu Violin gives off a hip vibe since it does double-duty as both a restaurant and a nightclub. Living up to its namesake, even the lights are blue. The prix fixe menu contains an appetizer, entrée, and dessert. Have the jumbo butterfly shrimp (stuffed with spinach and crab meat) on cilantro rice, then try the "Bleu" velvet cupcake for dessert.

67 Orange St. 2082 Frederick Douglass

This dimly lit, cozy place is known for its innovative cocktails. Orange Street features lime aquavit, dry sherry, vanilla agave nectar, cinnamon stick, and apple spice rim. The prix fixe menu includes a cocktail, an appetizer, and an entrée. For starters, the artichoke fries and the brussels sprouts are both appetizing. For an entrée, the chicken and red velvet waffles are a funky combination worth a try.

Harlem Tavern 2153 Frederick Douglass Blvd.

A friendly restaurant and beer garden on 116th and Frederick Douglass, Harlem Tavern has become a neighborhood staple, and its relaxed atmosphere makes it a great alternative to student hangout spots in Morningside. For lunch start with pecan-crusted catfish bites or veggie quesadillas, and follow with the signature burger or spiced mahimahi salad. The seafood focus really comes to the fore in Harlem Tavern's dinner menu, which offers a choice of seafood gumbo, shrimp sambal, or salad to start, and cajun spiced mahimahi or brick chicken as mains.

Harlem Food Bar 231 Frederick Douglass Blvd.

The best thing about Harlem Food Bar's restaurant week dinner deal is that the diner can choose any entrée on its regular menu, along with a glass of wine or dessert, for the price of the set lunch. Offerings include standard, casual fare such as burgers, sandwiches, tacos, and wings.

Chez Lucienne 308 Lenox Ave.

This French bistro achieves authenticity with a low-key, comfortable atmosphere devoid of pretentiousness. The prix fixe menu is a great deal, containing intricate appetizers and entrées. With appetizers like the salade de merguez (grilled lamb sausage with couscous and raisins) and entrées like boeuf bourguignon (braised beef and seasonal vegetables in a Bordeaux wine sauce), how can you go wrong?

Corner Social 321 Lenox Ave. at 126th Street

Corner Social is just as much a comfort food restaurant as it is a social scene—but the food is still delicious. The Satur Farms green salad is a good choice with champagne vinaigrette, tomatoes, and ricotta salata. As entrées, the jerk spiced chicken baguette or the butternut squash lasagna are both great options, topped off with either sweet potato cake or pie.

BC students plan night of female art

BY ZOË MILLER
Spectator Staff Writer

Talia Lakritz and Deborah Pollack, both BC '16, and their new collaborator, Chana Tolchin, BC '14, sat down with Spectator to discuss "New Moon: A Festival of the Arts," a new event happening this weekend that will showcase a variety of talents, ranging from slam poetry to singing to theatrical performance—with a religious twist. This unique performing arts event will solely feature female performers and women of all faiths on Sunday.

ZOË MILLER: What inspired you to create this event?

TALIA LAKRITZ: I saw there was a void for ... performance opportunities on campus. There are a ton of amazing opportunities to perform—lots of different kinds of people, lots of different demographics that are catered to. I thought one that needed some pumping up was religious women who, for whatever reason, would feel uncomfortable performing in front of men, or with men, or wouldn't perform on Friday nights if they're Sabbath-observing.

"I really wanted to do an event that celebrated women in the arts and particularly provide a safe space for religious women who would have a harder time finding outlets."

—Talia Lakritz, CC '16
Event co-creator

There's so much talent in the religious community in general that really needs to be a part of this. And also I just wanted to create a really awesome event about women in the arts. Barnard is a great place to do that ... I really wanted to do an event that celebrated women in the arts and particularly provide a safe space for religious women who would have a harder time finding outlets.

CHANA TOLCHIN: We also wanted it to be kind of an intimate, more joyful kind of setting. We feel that often there is a more competitive edge in these kinds of things on campus. It's hard to get in something. A religious woman might not even know whether they should take the chance to get into something if they are going to deal with issues like Sabbath. So, this is something that has less of a pressure level.

People have to come to us first with ideas. There's a self-screening process, but not a formal audition process.

DEBORAH POLLACK: When Talia brought the idea to me, I thought it was amazing. So, I'm the representative from JWOC, which is Jewish Women on Campus. I provided ideas from that organization itself. But what I love about it [New Moon], which I think is very unique, is that I think that a lot of the performers who are coming on Sunday don't usually perform in general ... I think it really allows them to major in unafraid.

TL: And not all the women are Jewish. Not all of them are religious. Really, anyone's welcome as long as they're female.

CT: A lot of our sponsors are based out of Hillel, so it gives us a nice foundation of a support system. But even the people coming from having seen the flier or having seen the event on Facebook, or religious women from other communities, that's gonna add a really nice blend.

ZM: How have your own religious backgrounds influenced your perception of what faith means?

CT: I'm in a painting class now and my teacher said that sometimes the most beautiful pieces of work are religious or spiritual pieces of artwork because of the emotion or the level of care that goes into them. I kind of feel that way about lots of art. I feel that even if the work that people are doing here isn't overtly religious, there's still kind of a religious, spiritual undertone to the whole thing that makes people care, makes people happy, brings this kind of ... joy. It's an element in spirituality and in art. So, the combination of the two creates a more interesting way of doing art as opposed to without that religious lens. It brings something new to it.

TL: I think inspiration takes a lot of forms. People can be spiritually inspired, they can be artistically inspired. I think that's what so nice about this event. It's bold. People are just going to come away inspired, hopefully, one way or another. In terms of faith, to echo what you [Tolchin] said, I'm taking a music class, and a lot of the music that serves as the foundation for a lot of the music that's made today has a basis in spirituality, in faith. There's a lot to say about it, there's a lot to sing about it, there's a lot to talk about it. That's what's so nice about this campus also, that there's so much diversity, so many different perspectives. I think it will be interesting because I think some people will read poems or sing songs that have more of an overtly religious nature, and some people won't.

DP: I think it's great. I think being a Jew, it inspires you to do different things and take everything with this religious lens. I live my life and try to do everything with some sort

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JAZZ

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