

City plans phaseout of ‘dirty oil’

BY CATHERINE MAS
Spectator Staff Writer

Robin Kerner may not have specifics on what’s in the air in her 110th Street and Broadway apartment, but she senses it’s unhealthy.

“In the winter, when the windows are closed all the time, I do notice it’s harder to breathe. It makes me very concerned about what I can do to find out what’s in the air in my apartment,” Kerner said.

Kerner did not know what type of oil her building burned.

“I’m wondering how I could find that out,” she said. “It’s something we should know.”

As it turns out, Kerner’s is one of many Upper West Side residential buildings that burn No. 6 oil, also known as residual fuel oil or unrefined sludge. No. 4 and No. 6 oils emit toxic soot and nickel, substances that have serious negative consequences on health and on the climate.

The Environmental Defense Fund released a report last December that specifies the pollutants associated with No. 4 and 6 oil and outlines policy recommendations that aim to solve the city’s problem by enforcing a switch in heating oils from No. 4 and 6 to the significantly cleaner options of No. 2 oil or natural gas.

The EDF’s report singled out the Upper West Side as one of the neighborhoods with the highest concentration of “dirty buildings.” Though just 1 percent of New York City’s buildings use No. 4 or 6 oil, that 1 percent contributes to 87 percent of the City’s total soot emitted from burning heating oil. These dirty fuels are detrimental to air quality because they emit higher levels of PM 2.5 (soot), sulfur dioxides, nitrogen oxides, and carbon dioxide than the emissions of No. 2 oil or natural gas.

“PM 2.5 is dangerous to health because the particulates are very small—the diameter of human hair—and when you inhale them, they go deep into your lungs, and there’s clear



HIZARA CASTANY FOR SPECTATOR

SOOT | Historic buildings in Harlem and Morningside Heights, such as the Britannica, burn harmful No. 4 and No. 6 oils. The soot from these oils poses a danger to both the environment and public health.

evidence that by inhaling PM 2.5, you’re at a much higher risk of serious health issues are very small—the diameter of human hair—and when you inhale them, they go deep into your lungs, and there’s clear

of Green Allowance and a member of Community Board 7’s Green Committee. He presented the EDF’s report at the most recent Community Board 7 meeting.

The major policy

recommendation the EDF suggests is to phase out use of No. 4 and 6 in buildings by 2020.

Currently, the city allows many buildings to burn dirty fuels. The

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Campus groups attempt to collaborate on Haiti aid

BY MADINA TOURE AND
LEAH GREENBAUM
Columbia Daily Spectator

While the disaster in Haiti has prompted initiatives across campus, for some councils and student groups, joining together in a unified effort is not always a simple task.

Several campus groups are taking their cues from an umbrella organization, while others say say that cross-club coordination can be challenging. For some students though, this kind of major global issue is an opportunity to connect otherwise disparate campus groups in a meaningful way.

Since the 7.3-magnitude earthquake hit Haiti on Jan. 12, killing tens of thousands and decimating

the country, campus groups have spearheaded aid initiatives. An umbrella coalition—formed by the Haitian Students Association, the Caribbean Students Association, and the Columbia-Barnard chapter of GlobeMed—has been lead-

ing the way with for many with forums, meetings, and initiatives including a table for the coalition at Glass House Rocks to promote donations and awareness.

According to Student Government Association President Katie Palillo, BC ’10, the cause has united class councils, which are “in almost continuous contact.”

For other councils, the coalition itself has served as a source

“People tend to rally around those things. I don’t think that’s unique to Columbia.”

—ESC President Whitney

Green, SEAS ’10

HELP FOR HAITI, page 2

SEAS embraces stem cell research, technology

BY HIEN TRUONG
Spectator Staff Writer

Stem cell research is one of the latest currents to hit the world of science, and with the creation of a new state-funded research project at Columbia, the University is among the institutions following the trend.

The interdisciplinary nature of stem cell research at Columbia—drawing upon research in such diverse fields as biomedical engineering, biology, computer science, and physics—gives students access to the field from a number of backgrounds, professors say.

Research into stem cells, which are characterized by their ability to become a variety of different types of cells, has allowed scientists to transform the cells into tissue- or organ-specific cells.

“Eventually, these cells will be utilized with other advanced technologies to repair or replace organs and tissue in human patients,” said Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic,

a professor of biomedical engineering and a leading figure in Columbia’s stem cell research initiative. As the population ages, regenerative medicine becomes increasingly important, she added.

In 2008, Vunjak-Novakovic led a group of 26 researchers from six different departments to establish the project, called the Functional Imaging Core for Stem Cell Research. The Core, funded by a \$1 million grant from New York State Stem Cell Science, which “works to assist advances in stem cell biology related scientific discoveries,” according to its website, is made up of a set of top-of-the-line equipment, available to all faculty and students.

In 2009, the researchers also obtained more than \$200,000 in funding for the planning of a Stem Cell Consortium, a community of stem cell researchers at the Columbia University Medical School.

“As the promise of stem cells

SEAS, page 7

Fatal fall raises new questions

CU contractor has a record of unsafe working conditions

BY SARAH DARVILLE
Spectator Staff Writer

Almost two weeks after a construction worker fell to his death at a Columbia construction site, questions remain about the incident and the contractor’s safety record.

Jozef Wilk, a 51-year-old employee of Breeze National, died on Feb. 5 at 3229 Broadway in Manhattanville. The building, owned by Columbia, was being demolished when Wilk fell from third-floor scaffolding on the outside of the building into an open elevator shaft.

Immediately after the incident, the city’s Department of Buildings stopped work on the site. The job was being managed by Bovis Lend Lease, a global construction company with deep connections to Columbia. Bovis’ New York division has been under scrutiny over the last three years for safety issues.

After a fire killed two firefighters in the Deutsche Bank building near Ground Zero being demolished by Bovis in 2007, the city launched an investigation into the conditions that allowed for the deaths.

According to Department of Investigations documents, a Bovis site safety manager was eventually indicted for falsifying safety documents and the company agreed to a non-prosecution agreement that included promises to hire new safety employees.

“The company had worked on capital projects for the University for more than ten years and had experience with large New York City-based projects,” said Dan Held, director of communications for Columbia facilities.

Bovis spokesperson Mary Costello said the investigation into the Columbia incident is still ongoing. “We are committed to learning from this incident and ensuring that our job sites are run safely and in compliance with all relevant safety rules and regulations,” she said in a statement.

Department of Buildings records show that the permit issued in October 2009 to Breeze National, a subcontractor at the site, was in the name of Toby Romano, Jr. Court records indicate that Romano was convicted in 1988 of bribing a public official to refrain from reporting Environmental Protection Agency violations at demolition jobs.

Walter South, chair of the Landmarks and Preservation committee of Community Board

9, said he had serious concerns about the death.

“When something is called an accident, it’s probably something that’s going on repeatedly. There are probably many, many safety violations going on,” he said.

“My guess is that they gave the contract to the cheapest guy, rather than the most qualified, and they can’t make money unless they cut corners,” South added.

Held said that the process for choosing Bovis for the work was standard policy.

“Consistent with University policy, there was a competitive process for the selection of a construction manager for the project which includes the 3229 Broadway site. Among the key criteria were a strong commitment to environmental health and work site safety, company and key staff project experience and a commitment to working with minority, women-owned and locally-owned businesses,” he said in a statement.

Published reports say that Bovis is currently under joint investigation by the FBI, the U.S. Attorney’s office in Brooklyn, and the Manhattan District Attorney’s office for overbilling.

Robert Nardoza, spokesman for the Brooklyn’s attorney, said, “Local rules preclude us from confirming or denying an investigation,” but acknowledged that the investigation had been reported elsewhere.

The Manhattan District Attorney’s office also declined to comment.

Ramon Diaz, owner of Floridita Restaurant and Tapas Bar across the street from the demolition site, said that he has spoken with construction workers who have come in since the incident who have not voiced safety concerns.

“These guys, apparently they’ve been told not to talk much. They’re careful and cautious about why they say. They’re taking care of their company and their jobs. ... They always seem to have their safety harnesses, jackets, hard hats on,” Diaz said.

According to the police report, Wilk was treated for cardiac arrest at the scene before being taken to St. Luke’s Hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Diaz said that the construction workers thought that he fell into the shaft inadvertently after having the heart attack.

In a statement Bovis released after the Deutsche investigation,

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ANTHONY YIM / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CONSTRUCTION | A worker’s death has raised questions of site safety.

INSIDE

A&E, page 3

Mac and cheese made with mac and ease

Ferris Booth Commons kicked off a free monthly cooking class series for students. The first class, on Tuesday, led by chefs from Columbia’s local food purveyor, showed attendees how to make gourmet macaroni and cheese.



Sports, back page

Basketball switches offensive focus

The Columbia men’s basketball team needs to control the paint if it wants to salvage its conference season. When the Lions outscore or equal their opponents inside, they’re 2-1. When they don’t, they’re 1-4.

Opinion, page 4

Heartbreak kid

Tony Gong explains why he’s loving Columbia’s lack of loving.

Race to be interracial

Though Columbia may be diverse, its groups have a little too much in common.

Today’s Events

Engineering Week Mixer

Mix, discuss science, be merry.
Low Rotunda, 6 p.m.

Bridging the Divide

The Muslim Students Association talks about the Sunni and Shia sects.
418 Barnard Hall, 7 p.m.

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WEATHER



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City plans to change heating oil to improve air quality

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only regulation is that the building's boilers be checked every three years by the Department of Environmental Protection.

"It's akin to a license to pollute," Reale said.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg intends to introduce regulation to eliminate use of No. 4 and 6, spokesman Jason Post said, and Isabelle Silverman, an attorney with the EDF, said that the EDF is working with the Mayor's Office of Long Term Planning and Sustainability to issue a rule that would eventually ban the use of dirty fuels.

"No. 6 oil is cheaper than No. 2 oil, so without a rule or regulation, very few buildings are going to switch to cleaner fuels," Silverman said. "The cleaning of dirty heating oil is really the only thing that is in the city's power to do to clean up the air in New York City substantially."

Upper West Side Assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell has been working to address the issue by introducing legislation that would regulate the grade of heating oil that buildings use.

"I am proud to be the prime sponsor of legislation which would ban the use of No. 4 and No. 6 grade heating oil in residential buildings," O'Donnell said. "The issue was first brought to my attention by constituents concerned about their and their

family's health. In 2008, I introduced a bill that would ban the use of No. 6 fuel oil. That bill was expanded to include a ban on No. 4 heating oil and reintroduced this legislative session."

Environmental experts agree that residual fuel pollutants are damaging to public health. Dr. Steve Chillrud, senior research scientist at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and codirector of the Exposure Assessment Facility Core of Columbia's Center for Environmental Health, said that there is a long history of studies on PM 2.5 and metals and their associations with both respiratory and cardiovascular problems.

Switching to cleaner fuels "makes a lot of sense both from a health perspective and a maintenance perspective," Chillrud said.

Chillrud suggested that buildings use ultra-low sulfur versions of No. 2, the same oil that diesel trucks now burn, as it would make a big difference in the city's overall air quality.

Franklin Legarda is the superintendent at 905 West End Ave., a residential building that burns No. 6 oil. According to Legarda, the building burns five thousand gallons of the unrefined sludge every 15 days.

"I don't think it's going to change," Legarda said when asked if the building would look into switching to a cleaner option. "It's a big boiler."

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ZARA CASTANY FOR SPECTATOR

OIL | According to the Environmental Defense Fund, the Upper West Side has one of the highest concentrations of "dirty buildings" in the city due to the burning of No. 4 and No. 6 oil. Mayor Michael Bloomberg plans to introduce legislation to reduce the use of the oil.



GRAPHIC BY JIN CHEN

Coordinating campus groups for cause can be difficult, student leaders say

HELP FOR HAITI from front page

of guidance for the Engineering Student Council and other groups—the ESC, said President Whitney Green, SEAS '10, has been following the umbrella group's lead in planning initiatives.

Sue Yang, CC '10 and Columbia College Student Council president, said that CCSC is trying to increase communication between the coalition and administrators.

But piecemeal campus efforts may need a push to effectively work together.

"It seems like each group is acting independently and it might be nice to do something collective, so we're exploring that," said Marita Wright, GS and student

life delegate-at-large for GSSC.

Trisha Gill, GS and vice president of student life for the General Studies Student Council, said that GSSC is working on coordinating a large outdoor event to raise funds for Haiti and said that GSSC is working on coordinating a large outdoor event to raise funds for Haiti, and is also interested in sizing up how all the schools are participating

"But it would require student groups to be involved in one project," she noted. Gill and others also worried that the immediacy of the cause would fade before disparate initiatives could be incorporated into one initiative.

"It seems like the American attention span is very short," said

Wendy Carlson, SIPA/Social Work '11 and a member of SIPA's Human Rights Working Group. "There's always a great rush to aid, which is fantastic, but it always tapers off."

Greek organizations have also been getting involved. Sigma Chi fraternity is hosting a video game competition in which the winning team will take home 20 percent of the money and the other 80 percent will go toward buying supplies for Delta Gamma's fundraising drive or the American Red Cross.

"As far away as we are, and with as little money as we have, we want to do whatever we can," Sam Cecil, CC '12 and a Sigma Chi member, said.

At a coalition meeting last month, members discussed

choosing one charity that the entire university could support, but most groups have been donating to charities that suit their organization's interest.

Felicia Pappas, CC '11 and a member of Delta Gamma sorority who is coordinating the sorority's Hope for Haiti Challenge, said it was important to her sorority to support a charity that would help women and children.

Sorority members have been going door-to-door on Frat Row asking Greek organizations to collect medical supplies and clothing for the NYC-based non-profit MADRE that delivers goods directly to women and children in Haiti.

Groups maintain that it was the earthquake's impact on a

diverse set of people that called for a team effort.

"People tend to rally around those things," Green said. "I don't think that's unique to Columbia."

Maya Cohen, BC '10 and President of GlobeMed— a national student organization that works with grassroots organizations to improve health amongst the impoverished—said that the issue has brought GlobeMed together with both humanitarian groups and other groups on campus.

"Working together through Haiti has allowed us to forge relationships with different groups," Cohen said.

But Yang stressed that the large number of groups on campus with specific goals in

mind makes working together challenging.

"I think there's a lot of partnerships that occur with the fewer number of groups and groups that are more aligned," she said. "We have 450 student groups that all have specific goals and objectives."

She said that the only opportunity for groups to come together is "when something instigates or when some event occurs on the outside" but admitted that "it certainly is something that would be great to see more of."

"Everyone's on different schedules. ... It's typical, you can't coordinate the entire university," Gill said.

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Worker death raises questions of safety

CONSTRUCTION from front page

Bovis said, "In order that something positive come out of this tragedy, Bovis pledges to institute reforms to enhance safety on all Bovis sites in New York City."

South said that he doubts those protocols were being strictly followed.

"How in the hell can you have an open window in an elevator shaft? It's beyond me. There should have been a barrier or netting of some kind. It can't possibly just be an accident, it has to be a whole culture of lack of safety," he said.

Held said that the University was confident in Bovis's record.

"Bovis Lend Lease developed a thorough safety plan for the work it is doing for Columbia. The fire ... occurred in August 2007. We have closely monitored how the company has responded to investigations and continue to do so," he said.



ANTHONY YIM / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SAFETY | Contractor Bovis Lend Lease, which oversees constructions on some Columbia buildings, has had a spotty safety record.

The incident has been closed as a criminal case, according to Detective Cheryl Christin from the NYPD's public information office.

"Had he been pushed, this would be a criminal accident, but this accident has nothing to do

with us ... We have to investigate in terms of closing paper work, but no criminality," she said.

Breeze National did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

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Lenten Lectures

Unknown Gospels

Presented by Rev. Andrew Stehlik, Th.D.

February 24th - Lost Gospels, Papyri fragments and Agapha
Lost Gospels or censorship in the Bible?

March 3rd - Gnostic Gospels of Thomas and Judas
Early Christian Esoteric Spirituality

March 10th - Infancy Gospels of James and Thomas
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Light meal starts @ 6:30 Lecture begins @ 7:00 Childcare provided
Rutgers Church - W. 7th St. just west of Broadway - (212) 877 8227

Further information - <http://rutgerschurch.com>

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Monthly Ferris Booth cooking classes to redefine ‘Easy-Bake’

BY PAULA GERGEN
Columbia Daily Spectator

There may be no such thing as a free lunch, but students can now take advantage of a free dinner prepared for them by professional chefs.

FOOD & DRINK Ferris Booth Commons has begun offering free monthly cooking classes. The first class, held on Tuesday, featured a tutorial on making gourmet macaroni and cheese. Chefs from J. Kings Food Service Professionals, Inc., a Long Island company that is Columbia’s local food purveyor, lead the classes. The February class was led by chefs Tom Mulzoff and Sean Coleman.

According to Christopher Neary, corporate executive chef at J. Kings, the classes arose as an attempt to “put some excitement into your [Columbia’s] dining system” by “providing a different type of a culinary service.”

John King, president of J. Kings, emphasized the local aspect of his company’s products and their role in the dishes at the classes—“local,” for King, means anything grown within 100 miles of Columbus Circle or within New York state. For instance, the pasta used at the class was manufactured in New Jersey, the milk was from New York state, and the butter from Vermont.

Macaroni and cheese was chosen for the first class because J. Kings “really just wanted to make it fun” and felt that it was important to “start off really basic,” as King said. Inspired in part by the popularity of such restaurants as S’MAC with college students, J. Kings

believed the dish would have universal appeal on Columbia’s campus and be easily adaptable to dorm kitchens. “The idea of mac and cheese is that you can’t make it wrong,” King said.

Mulzoff led students through the demonstration on how to create the basic béchamel sauce step by step, which can be used for all versions of macaroni and cheese. Though recipes were distributed to participants, the demonstration helped clarify the steps for students. “Cooking is go by feel, go by your heart,” Mulzoff said while stirring the sauce.

While the chefs were finishing up the sauce, students were allowed the opportunity to sample the three different kinds of macaroni and cheese that the chefs had previously prepared for the class: four cheese, buffalo chicken, and bacon cheeseburger, all topped with bread crumbs and baked in the oven. Mulzoff pointed out that the bread crumbs not only add texture to the dish, but they also help absorb the excess oil and prevent grease from collecting at the top.

The freshly prepared sauce was then used to create versions of macaroni and cheese requested by participants with the various ingredients J. Kings provided. For instance, additional versions included one with mushrooms, Gruyère, and chicken, and one with green apples and pecans.

Students in attendance seemed enthusiastic about the these cooking classes and inspired by the dishes. “It [the class] just gave me a whole new spin on macaroni and cheese,” Norita Mengu, CC ’13, said. “I never thought I’d put apples in my mac and cheese but I loved it.”



XUELI WANG FOR SPECTATOR

MAC AND PLEASING | At the first Ferris Booth Commons cooking class, chefs from Columbia’s local food purveyor introduced innovative and easy recipes to students looking to make macaroni and cheese, one of which listed apples as an ingredient.

Scorsese heads in new direction to ‘Shutter Island’

BY RACHEL ALLEN
Spectator Staff Writer

A highly-esteemed director’s evolving oeuvre is constantly critiqued and analyzed, but every once in a while he or she should be allowed to have a little unadulterated fun.

FILM For Martin Scorsese, fun means “Shutter Island,” his 1950’s psychward detective drama and homage to B-horror flicks, where the protagonist is unironically called “boss” and a wide brimmed fedora fills every corner of the theater’s widescreen.

At a “Shutter Island” press conference, Scorsese and stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Sir Ben Kingsley discussed their descent into the madhouse that resides on the film’s titular location.

Scorsese’s muse DiCaprio is Teddy Daniels, a U.S. marshal investigating the escape of a patient at the prison-slash-mental institution on Shutter Island, where everyone answers to the quietly domineering Dr. Cawley (Kingsley). A bone-shaking gale, a mysterious

lighthouse, and a haunted past contrive to keep Teddy on the island. Nothing is what it seems and Scorsese doesn’t let the audience believe what they’re seeing for a minute.

“The film is very much being publicized as—and is—a thriller in a lot of ways with the surprise ending or with terrifying elements to it, and very much a genre piece,” DiCaprio said at the conference. “But at the end of the day it is what Martin Scorsese does best and that is portraying something about humanity and human nature and who we are as people.”

And DiCaprio is right. The most impressive moments of the film are character driven—heavily psychological and well-acted scenes with DiCaprio, Kingsley, and the rest of the strong supporting cast members—rather than the manufactured “horror” details that come in the form of hallucinations and somewhat misplaced Holocaust imagery.

What is most apparent after viewing the film is Scorsese’s unyielding admiration for the B-horror genres. Equal

parts film-buff and director, Scorsese tried to infuse every shot with a little bit of history. The film “draws a lot on a kind of very very long memory of films that I’ve seen and books that I’ve read and music that I’ve listened to over the years,” Scorsese said, citing cult-icon Jacques Tourneur’s “Cat People” and “Out of the Past” as influences. Scorsese humbly gave the B-movie auteur his due: “I can’t reach that level of Tourneur, he was remarkable.”

A more cinematically intellectual and complex film than many blockbuster horror films in recent memory, Kingsley pinpointed what makes Scorsese one of the greatest living directors. “Marty directs like a lover,” he said. “Everything is held together by affection, affection for his craft, affection for his actors, affection for his crew, affection for the material, and affection for the great journey of cinema in our lives.”

But the film was no simple love-fest between those involved. DiCaprio admitted that becoming his complex character were “some of the most hardcore filming experiences I’ve ever had... It was like reliving trauma in a way—it was pretty intense.”

Scorsese agreed. “When you see rain and wind hitting the actors, to the level it’s almost impossible for them to move in the frame, this was a brutalizing experience for them—for everybody,” he said. “This is the way films are made.”

While “Shutter Island” never quite rises to the level of artistry as Scorsese’s already-acknowledged classics “Taxi Driver” and the more recent “The Departed,” it doesn’t really have to. This is a different game. Let Scorsese have his mind-twisting fun. After all the hard work he put into winning his first Best Director Oscar three years ago, he deserves it.



COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

CASTAWAY | Leonardo DiCaprio stars in Scorsese’s new drama “Shutter Island.”

Recorders charm Miller with Baroque pieces

BY GWEN DIPERT
Columbia Daily Spectator

The recorder—in all of its cheap yellow plastic glory—may be the first instrument that many American students learn to play. But few students have chosen to pursue playing the instrument professionally.

MUSIC These few, however, include the internationally acclaimed Flanders Recorder Quartet. On Feb. 20, the group will make its Miller Theatre debut with “Circa 1600” at the American Academy of Arts & Letters as part of Miller’s ongoing Early Music Series. Founded in 1987, the quartet has played more than 1,500 concerts in 42 countries and has toured the U.S. twice a year for the past four years.

Part of FRQ’s success may be owed to each member’s mastery of a relatively obscure instrument, but most of its success is likely a product of the excitement with which the group approaches its playing, as well as the group’s unique musical programs.

“Circa 1600” will provide a sample of the music that held sway during the Baroque era in Europe from the end of the 16th to the middle of the 18th century. The period was characterized by a shift that took place from purely vocal to instrumental music and the emergence of much bolder musical expression.

Despite the recorder’s massive popularity during the Baroque era, though, pieces written solely for the recorder are hard to find. “We think that the biggest composers did not write for the recorder,” Tom Beets, who has played with FRQ for the past four years, said.

So how does the group find music to play? For a recorder quartet, there is just no easy way, so flexibility is key. Two of the pieces in the “Circa 1600” program were originally written for organ, one for voice, another for keyboard, and the rest for various collections of instruments (though no groups of recorders). Quartet members must arrange nearly their entire repertoire from music that they can never be 100 percent sure was ever written with the recorder in mind.

It might be argued, then, that the quartet’s performance couldn’t possibly be authentically Baroque. Columbia music professor Susan Boynton, who specializes in early monastic vocal music, seriously objects to this accusation. “Authenticity’ is a term that’s been seriously misused,” she said. Instrumentalists during the Baroque era were flexible too, Boynton said, and would adapt music for their instruments just as the Flanders Quartet has. A successful period performance serves as more than a note-for-note reproduction of the work. “The spirit

of it [the music] must be preserved in a modern transcription,” Boynton said.

To stay close to the piece’s original style, the quartet draws from a private collection of 67 recorders, and often borrows more, to choose those that are as period—and musically—appropriate as possible. Though the recorder is known for its lack of dynamic range, this does not limit expressiveness in a performance, especially, as Beets said, if each of the four players pays close attention to the nuances of his playing and to one another.

The location for the performance has also been specially chosen for the quartet. According to Miller Theatre’s Director Melissa Smey, the auditorium at the American Academy of Arts & Letters is more acoustically appropriate for early music than Miller Theatre.

When the Flanders Recorder Quartet takes the stage on Saturday, even if the notes and the instruments and the concert hall aren’t exactly as they were nearly 400 years ago, the spirit of the Baroque era may very well leap through time and space to reach audience members all in one piece.

WHERE IT’S AT

Time: Feb. 20 at 8 p.m.
Place: Miller Theatre
Cost: \$7 with CUID

Junoon’s Ahmed rocks MSA’s Islam Awareness Week

BY CYRUS MCGOLDRICK
Columbia Daily Spectator

“Anyone got a 12-string guitar?” Salman Ahmed—musician, doctor, United Nations Goodwill Ambassador, and now author—strolled to

MUSIC the stage at the Columbia Journalism School on Wednesday as part of the Muslim Students Association’s Islam Awareness Week. Ahmed is the founder, lead singer, and guitar player of Pakistani rock band Junoon, called by many “the U2 of Asia” with fans worldwide including Bono himself.

Embodying the oft-mentioned “new Muslim cool”: sneakers, slacks, and a t-shirt reading “Coexist” under a khaki jacket and furry hat turned backwards, Ahmed captured his audience with a powerful song on acoustic guitar (lyrics courtesy of 13th century poet Amir Khosrow).

Afterwards, he sat down with news anchor Daljit Dhaliwal for an informal interview that traced his path from Pakistan to New York and back again. His anecdotes were endearing, his memories familiar, and every tangent captivating and true to the identity he presented. He reminisced about being introduced to rock by classmate Danny Spitz (years later the lead guitarist of the band Anthrax), who gave him a ticket to his first concert: Led Zeppelin. He described his family’s pressure against pursuing music as a career, talked about

“jamming” with famous Sufi qawwali singers, all while quoting the prophet Muhammad on the value of education and discussing his dreams for a more peaceful world.

Before he retired to shake hands, sign books, and take pictures with his supporters, he finished the two-hour session with three more songs, inviting the audience to sing along. Mr. Ahmed sings from a heart trained better than his voice, bending in and out of notes, hitting each one with the impressive spiritual force that has moved crowds for fifteen years from Lahore to Los Angeles. His fingers move effortlessly between mystical ragas and notes from the blues, adding the rhythm of the heartbeat to poetry spun from the souls of Sufi masters.

“Never did I think I was playing a Western instrument,” Ahmed explained. “I was just jamming.”

Mr. Ahmed’s career has been full of what many may perceive as an ironic juxtaposition of identity, but he uses his position for such humanitarian and social good that one could not imagine a better example of the unity of humanity, a better reminder that East vs. West is merely a “false dichotomy created for marketing purposes.”

“We live in a time of crisis,” he said, while discussing the problems facing Muslims in the West. “But you know the Chinese word for crisis, don’t you?”

The answer came from the front row: “opportunity.”



FATIMA VERSI FOR SPECTATOR

JOURNEY | Pakistani musician and UN Goodwill ambassador Salman Ahmed visited the Journalism school to read excerpts from his book and play some of his songs.



**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2010
@ 7:00 P.M.**

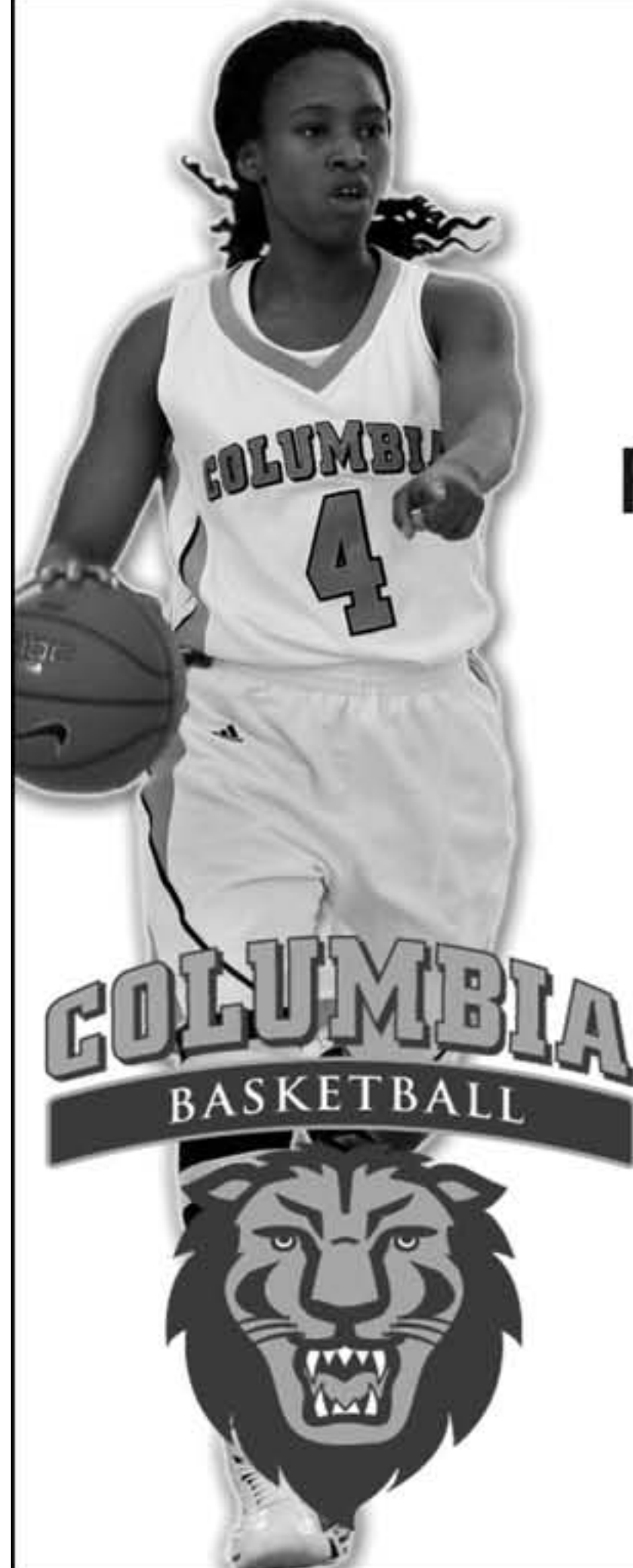
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Grant allows SEAS to expand stem cell research

SEAS from front page

for regenerative medicine strategies gains greater momentum, our ability to perform better and more quantitative studies will be important,” Clark Hung, a professor of biomedical engineering, said of the importance of having the most up-to-date technology. “The idea is that we can do things better than before and maximize the information that we can get from our studies.”

Vunjak-Novakovic said she chose to come to Columbia partly because she saw an opportunity to build a program in a budding field—and the program has come to fruition in recent years. The two grants paved the way for the creation of two new courses in the spring of 2009: an undergraduate course called Advanced Microscopy, taught by biomedical engineering professor Elizabeth Hillman, and the graduate-level seminar Seminar in Stem Cell Biology, taught by a team of four professors, including Vunjak-Novakovic and Hung. The classes were created so that students could be brought up to date with new research developments and connected with leaders in the field.

“It is very dynamic because the field is developing so quickly,”

Vunjak-Novakovic said of teaching stem cell biology. This renders the use of conventional textbooks unreliable, she added.

“I find the field very exciting,” Amandine Godier-Furnemon, SEAS '09 and current SEAS graduate student, said.

She is currently enrolled in the graduate seminar and noted that during her undergraduate years, there were few courses geared specifically toward stem cell research.

“I got to know the field through my independent research,” she said, “although as a biomedical engineer, I learned about some specific tissue-engineering applications of adult stem cells in my tissue-engineering course.”

Vunjak-Novakovic said that as the field develops, more courses could be added.

Ultimately, Godier-Furnemon said, it is necessary to incorporate stem cell research into the curriculum as its use becomes more widespread.

“Huge advances are being made with stem cells very rapidly, and it would be great for students to become more familiar with this increasingly important field.”

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JACK ZIETMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Offensive rebounds, second-chance points necessary for Light Blue victory

MEN'S BASKETBALL from back page

bunch, has been benched for health reasons at various points throughout the season. Ampim was definitely missed last Friday at Princeton, where Columbia was outscored 24-16 in the paint and out

rebounded 31-25. "I think he's probably been our most consistent low post player," Jones said. "He's been the guy that's probably scored the most inside. With his absence, I thought that was a factor in that game." Against the Tigers, the Light


Blue missed 12 layups, a stat that highlights its struggles with finishing inside. "We've just got to finish," Jones said. "We've got to be able to finish better and that's a big thing, you know. If we can score the ball in the paint, we're going to be in good shape."

Besides finishing inside, another aspect of solid post play is rebounding. In their three conference victories, the Lions have held a 98-76 advantage on the boards, but have been out-rebounded in all five of their losses. Jones acknowledged the

importance of rebounding and the effect it would have on the Light Blue's offense in the paint. "We've got to get on the glass," Jones said. "I think if we can score the ball better ... and then we can get some second-chance points in the paint, those numbers should really improve."

When Columbia defeated Brown on Feb. 5, it was due in large part to its 16 second-chance points and its dominance on the boards. "I mean that's great, rebounding is very important," Ampim said after the game. "That's one of our game goals, usually to get six more rebounds than the other team, so getting second-chance points is one of our key points for our game plan." The night after its triumph over the Bears, the Light Blue

was trounced by Yale, 79-64. In that game, Columbia was out-rebounded 46-27 and had only 12 second-chance points to the Bulldogs' 20. "We just didn't play hard, we weren't focused, and they just played tougher, flat-out," said sophomore guard Noruwa Agho about being out-rebounded by 19. "It's really that simple. When the ball goes up, there's no Xs and Os. Somebody's got to get the ball, and they got the ball." Since that loss, Jones and his team have been focusing on playing harder and grabbing more boards. "Overall, we all have to take a step in that direction, get better at rebounding the ball," Jones said. If Columbia can control the glass this weekend, it may find itself with a .500 Ivy record on Sunday.



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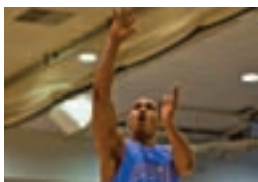


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Men's basketball continues its road trip, traveling to Dartmouth and Harvard this weekend in search of a .500 Ancient Eight record.

TOMORROW



SPORTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2010 • PAGE 10



Columbia women's basketball looks to rebound from last weekend's ugly loss to Princeton when it takes on Harvard and Dartmouth at Levien.

TOMORROW

In order to win, Lions must dominate paint

Injury to Foley puts pressure on post players to perform offensively

BY MICHELE CLEARY
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Things haven't been going Columbia's way this season. After opening its conference slate with two losses to league-leading Cornell and a 74-45 shellacking at the hands of Harvard, the Light Blue (9-13, 3-5 Ivy) lost its playmaker, senior point guard Patrick Foley, to a shoulder injury.

With Foley out, the Lions have had to redefine their offensive identity, and that means relying on their post players.

"We've just had to change our mind-set with Pat being out ... We've really had to change the focus of our offense," head coach Joe Jones said. "We've kind of gone and done some different things, and our inside play has got to be something that we have to start to look to more often."

In its three Ivy wins this season, Columbia has outscored its opponents in the paint 72-56. But in their losses, the Lions have been outscored by an average margin of 12 near the basket. As these numbers show, if the Light Blue wants to win, it must play well inside.



"But that's something we're really working on and I really feel like, if we're going to keep getting better, that's where we got to go," Jones said. "We got to be able to throw it in there, and we've got to be able to finish. So we've been working really hard at getting better."

The Light Blue definitely does not have a shortage of capable inside players, with five athletes who have been fighting for playing time all season. Centers Max Craig, Mark Cisco, and Zack Crimmins and forwards Asenso Ampim and John Daniels have all seen a few starts and significant playing time during conference play. Columbia also has forward Brian Grimes, who has started 17 of the 20 games he's played in.

"Whoever is the guy that plays the majority of the minutes, they've got to be able to hold it down," Jones said. "We have so many guys on the front line that can play, but if we're going to give 20 minutes to a guy they have to get the job done."

Though all six have shown that they can play, most are lacking collegiate experience and are not always consistent. It doesn't help that Ampim, the most experienced of the

SEE MEN'S BASKETBALL,
page 8



JASPER CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DRIVING INSIDE | The Columbia men's basketball team has a group of capable post players that need to consistently perform offensively in order for the Light Blue to succeed in Ancient Eight play.



Why league should bring back all-star football game



MATT VELAZQUEZ

The X-Factor

NBA All-Star game were held over the past few weeks. Had it not been for the Olympics, the NHL All-Star game also would have been held a few weeks ago.

Just about every sport in the Ivy League allows its best team to participate in postseason play, with the notable exception of football. This topic has been discussed and deliberated ad nauseam, so I'm not going to get into it again by restating that the policy of barring the Ivy League champion from the playoffs is ludicrous.

However, all of these recent all-star games gave me an idea for postseason play that is not unheard of in the Ivy League: Let's have an Ivy League football all-star game. The reason why this idea isn't so novel is that there was a series of Ivy League all-star games from 1989-1996. After an unofficially sanctioned game was held between Ivy League all-stars and Japanese all-stars in Yokohama, Japan in 1989, the series became official in June 1990, when the Council of Ivy Group Presidents approved an annual contest dubbed the Epson Ivy Bowl. The game was played each year in Japan, pitting a team of Ivy League seniors against a squad of Japanese all-stars. As one might expect, the Ivy League team won all games against the Japanese all-star teams, including the final game in 1996.

A game like the Epson Ivy Bowl must have been an incredible

experience for the Ivy League football players and their Japanese counterparts. It garnered recognition from media outlets such as the New York Times, which undoubtedly helped spread knowledge of both Ivy League and Japanese football. Unfortunately, it seems like it would be extremely difficult to keep up such a game, because of both the cost of travel and the general lack of competition—the closest game was a 10-point Ivy League win in 1995, and that result was fairly atypical.

The Ivy League could definitely revive an all-star game if it wanted to, although it would have to be done differently. First, the game would have to be played in the United States. Foreign travel would be nice, but ultimately would be very expensive. If the game were to occur during college football bowl season—winter break—there's a possibility it could be played at an NFL field. Considering the location of the Ivy League schools, Giants Stadium and Gillette Stadium would be the most logical locations.

But playing the game at an NFL stadium might not be practical, as such a location could be expensive and almost certainly wouldn't fill up. Maybe a different venue would be better. Rentschler Field, the home of the University of Connecticut football team since 2003, has a capacity of 40,000 and is a central location for all Ivy League schools. If that would not work, the Ivy all-star game could go elsewhere, or could be played on a rotational basis at each Ivy League stadium.

A second tweak would be that the Ancient Eight all-star game would feature the top talent of Ivy Leaguers going head-to-head against each other, instead of against an unrelated team. The most equitable way to divide teams would be geographically. The four teams from the mid-Atlantic

states (Columbia, Cornell, Penn, and Princeton) would take on the four New England teams (Brown, Dartmouth, Harvard, and Yale). This way, more Ivy League players would be able to play in the game—only about 40 participated in the Epson Ivy Bowl each year—and there would be no bias as to which teams would play together.

Finally, the game would not be limited only to seniors. In order for the game to be respected as a legitimate all-star game, the teams would be comprised of the best players in the league. Surely, many of them would be seniors, considering that 20 of the 27 players who made first-team All-Ivy this year on offense or defense were seniors. But how could very talented players like Columbia's own Jeff Adams, Dartmouth's Nick Schwieger, Harvard's Collin Zych, and Yale's Adam Money be turned away? Simply put, they couldn't be.

Right now, the idea of another Ivy League football all-star is just that—an idea. What the Ivy League needs to understand is that a game like this could provide revenue while building the reputation of the league. Television networks would likely be interested in airing this game, and I'm fairly sure that with the powers of the Ivy League combined, the game could find a few sponsors. The game could also be a major boost for players with dreams of playing at the next level, as an Ivy League all-star game might coax out a few scouts to see what the league has to offer. If you've seen Ancient Eight football, you know that there are players in this league that have something to offer at the next level. Now they just need a venue in which to shine.

Matt Velazquez is Columbia College senior majoring in history.
sportseditors@columbiaspectator.com

Former Columbia football star Ginepra, CC '55, passes away

BY MICHAEL SHAPIRO
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

This past week, Columbia athletics lost a friend when Dr. Alfred "Al" Ginepra, CC '55, died in his home in Los Angeles, California at age 76.

Ginepra, born in Boston, Massachusetts on July 30, 1933, entered Columbia College in 1951 on a pre-law track after graduating from Brookline High School. During his undergraduate years, Ginepra thrived on the gridiron as a tackle for the Lions' football team. He was a three-year letter-winner, a two-time recipient of the Class of 1913 Football Cup award, and an inductee into Columbia's 100-year football centennial squad in 1970.

After completing his bachelor's degree in 1955 as a National Honor Scholar, Ginepra enlisted in the U.S. Army. Following his stint with the army, Ginepra returned to Morningside Heights to receive an MBA from Columbia Business School, which he earned in 1963.

Ginepra spent the last 34 years of his life as a professor and senior lecturer at various Southern California universities including Woodbury University and City University Los Angeles.

In addition to teaching, Ginepra remained an active alumnus. He served as a member of the 1754 Society, a Business School alumni group comprised of "alumni and friends of Columbia Business School who have made plans for the School or University through a trust, estate or other future gift."

While Ginepra never pursued football after college, he became an avid rugby enthusiast as a player, coach, and referee. Ginepra spearheaded and co-founded the Los Angeles Rugby Club in 1965 with Bob Sardell and El Holt. The club held weekly clinics during the



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS
FORMER LION | Al Ginepra, CC '55, was a tackle on the CU football team and was a three-time letter-winner.

summer in which Ginepra would teach fundamentals of the sport.

"Al was a larger-than life character who was brash and opinionated about most everything," wrote Bill Kelly, the club's former president, in an e-mail.

Ginepra also worked as an administrator for the Southern California Rugby Football Union, a parent body for rugby leagues in Southern California, Arizona, and Nevada. Additionally, he served as a spokesman for the Los Angeles Chapter of the United Service Organizations.

"Al Ginepra loved rugby football, and his passion for the sport was contagious," Kelly said. "He will be greatly missed."

Ginepra leaves behind two children, Joanne and Lawrence, and three grandchildren.