

City unveils sidewalk shed redesign

BY SHIRA POLIAK
Spectator Staff Writer

The city is designing a new umbrella, but this invention will protect New Yorkers from a lot more than just rain.

On Jan. 21, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, with the New York City Department of Buildings and the American Institute of Architects, announced “Urban Umbrella,” a new design for the city’s sidewalk sheds—the enclosures that cover sidewalks while construction is being done on a building. Sheds protect pedestrians from construction activity on scaffolding above them.

These basic plywood-and-metal boxes are located at construction sites citywide, and locally, these structures continue to fill a large, three-year development project on Columbus Avenue between 97th and 100th streets.

According to sketch renderings, the new design has arching metal bars that meet to form a colorful ceiling in a structure resembling an umbrella.

Marc LaVorgna, spokesperson for the Office of the Mayor said the design would improve pedestrian traffic and be more aesthetically pleasing.

“The new design will increase the amount of usable sidewalk space, decrease the opportunity for people to walk into poles, and create less impediments on the sidewalks,” he said. “It looks better, covers up less of the buildings, which is attractive for store owners and will be cheaper in the long run because the materials will last longer.”

But for some neighborhood residents, the shed’s appearance is a secondary concern.

After a crane accident caused part of a sidewalk shed to collapse in October 2009 at the Columbus Square project on 97th Street, local community groups held a forum with the Department of Buildings to address safety concerns.

Paul Bunten, President of Westsiders for Public Participation, a community group that has been vocal about protesting the causes of the October accident, said that he understands that “Urban Umbrella” is just a cosmetic improvement.

“This new design wouldn’t have prevented the accident at 97th and Columbus, because this new design is not related to safety,” he said.

The city’s mentions of increased safety with the new design are limited only to a note that the new structures will not have exposed bolts.

“Because of certain laws, more of the city’s sidewalks are covered for longer and longer periods, and they’re not attractive or inviting to walk under,” Bunten added.

Carly Sullivan, spokesperson for the Department of Buildings, said that the structure, designed to hold 300 pounds per square foot, meets all building code standards.

“Sidewalk sheds are important part of keeping the city safe, but we asked ourselves is there any way to make the pedestrian experience easier to navigate?” Sullivan said.

But one local scaffolding company raised safety objections to the proposed plan.

“Concept of beautifying is fine, but it’s not practical. I have yet to see a proposal that

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ELAINE BURCHMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

RAISE A GLASS | Barnard seniors share a toast at the annual event when administrators announce the Commencement speaker. This year, actress Meryl Streep will be speaking in May on campus. She was selected a year after Secretary of State Hillary Clinton gave the address.

Meryl Streep to speak at Barnard Commencement

BY MADINA TOURE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

She had to choose which of her children she would save in the Holocaust, she was the editor of a major fashion magazine, and recently she mastered the art of French cooking.

Now, actress Meryl Streep is preparing for a different kind of role.

After the annual senior toast was delayed a week due to the snow, Barnard Board of Trustees Chair Anna Quindlen announced Thursday evening that Meryl Streep will be the speaker at Barnard’s 118th Commencement ceremony.

The toast to seniors featured speakers Quindlen, Barnard President Debora Spar, and Diana Vagelos, BC ’55 and principal donor for the new Diana student center.

“On February 2nd, 2010, Meryl Streep was nominated for her 16th Oscar,” Quindlen said. “On May 17th, she will play a role she has never played before.”

An American actress who has worked in theater, television, and film, Streep has received 16 Academy Award nominations and 15 Golden Globe nominations and won two Oscars and seven Golden Globes. She made her first appearance in a play called “The Playboy of Seville”

in 1971, and since then, has been known for her roles in “Sophie’s Choice” (1982), “The Hours” (2002), “The Devil Wears Prada” (2006), and “Julie & Julia” in 2009.

Streep will be speaking a year after Secretary of State Hillary Clinton gave her speech.

“It was a challenge to follow Hillary, but I think we’ve met the challenge,” Quindlen said. “She’s a trustee at Vassar, so she

walks our walk and talks our talk,” she added.

Streep received her B.A. in drama from Vassar College in 1971, attended Dartmouth College as an exchange student for a semester before it became coed, and received her Master of Fine Arts from Yale School of Drama.

“We are so excited about Meryl Streep coming,” Spar said in an interview.



ELAINE BURCHMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WAITING GAME | Barnard seniors wait for the Commencement speaker announcement on Thursday. The event was snowed out last week.

“It’s exciting news,” Dean Dorothy Denburg said. “We’re all very thrilled.”

Many students, who waited an extra week for the announcement, said that they were pleased with the choice.

“I think that Meryl Streep is a phenomenal actress and also an intelligent, poised woman, and will represent our class very well,” Anna Brower, BC ’10, said.

Melanie Weniger, BC ’10, said, “I think she’s very elegant and really well-spoken.”

“There was talk that it was going to be Tina Fey, but she [Streep] is better,” Colbern Uhl, BC ’10, said. “She’s older and wiser.”

Allison Down, BC ’10, said she was happy that this year’s Commencement would feature an actress as speaker.

“I think it’s nice to have a break from politicians and have a different perspective,” Down said.

“I’m thrilled,” Chelsea Zimmerman, BC ’10 and Student Government Association senior class president, said. “You can just tell around the room, everyone’s excited about it.”

She added that it was “very unexpected, but very, very awesome.”

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Gender-neutral housing a no-go

Admins hold off policy for 2010 lottery

BY AMBER TUNNELL
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

When the housing lottery opens in March, gender-neutral housing will not be an option.

On Thursday, Dean of Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger and Dean of Community Development and Multicultural Affairs Theresa Martinez said that gender-neutral housing—which allows for mixed-gender doubles—will not be available for the upcoming year.

The announcement came as a surprise to students who worked on the proposal and expected the administrators to adopt the policy.

Shollenberger said the administration is seriously considering a pilot program for the 2011-2012 school year, which would be part of the 2011 housing lottery. Though the details of the potential program are

“We had our expectations raised but not met ... Eventually this will happen.”

—Sarah Weiss, VP of policy for CCSC

not yet clear, he said, based on similar programs at peer institutions, likely only a small number of students would choose to participate in the program. He said they hope to have a concrete plan by the fall.

If the pilot were implemented and were successful, then some sort of gender-neutral housing policy could be implemented for the 2012-2013 year.

Miranda Elliot, president of GendeRevolution, Sean Udell, vice president of the Columbia College class of 2011 and treasurer of the Columbia Queer Alliance, Avi Edelman, president of Everyone Allied Against Homophobia, and Sarah Weiss, vice president of policy for the Columbia College Student Council, co-authored the gender-neutral housing proposal last semester. CCSC, the Engineering Student Council, GendeRevolution, CQA, and EAAH presented the proposal to Columbia administration in the fall.

In their proposal, the option would not be open to first-years.

“We have looked over the proposal very seriously and Dean [Michele] Moody-Adams, Dean [Feniosky] Peña-Mora, and myself thought it had a lot of merits,” Shollenberger said, but, “We’ve decided not to make changes for this year’s lottery.”

Shollenberger explained that administrators want to make sure they have time to have a “larger community conversation” in

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INSIDE

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Bollywood dance class lets students get funky

Students can pick up some tricks at Ripley-Grier Studios’ Bollywood Funk dance class that will make reenacting the final sequence of “Slumdog Millionaire” within reach—while also learning some hip-hop moves.



Sports, back page

Full weekend awaits men’s basketball team

Niko Scott, Noruwa Agho, and Kevin Bulger look to keep the energy high as they lead the Lions into battle this weekend against Ivy challengers Dartmouth and Harvard. The Light Blue hits the road this Friday and Saturday.

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Righteous regiment

Will the vegetarian craze put an end to Columbians’ meat-filled Chipotle runs?

Facebook and feelings

Aarti Iyer ponders what we can learn from Alexander McQueen’s death.

Today’s Events

Yoga for human rights

GlobeMed celebrates the UN-declared Day of Social Justice. *Wien Lounge, 3 p.m.*

Helping Haiti

6 dollar Cuban food for charity *Florida, 3219 Broadway, 6 p.m.*

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WEATHER



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Alums discuss challenge of being LGBT at work

BY LEAH GREENBAUM
Spectator Staff Writer

In 2003, Chad Shampine, CC '00, spent his days on the trading floor hiding phone calls from his boyfriend. He spent his nights out with bosses who treated him to expensive trips to strip clubs, wondering why their best junior trader wasn't so into the women.

Shampine, now a vice president in the fixed income division of Morgan Stanley, discussed his difficult experience at an alumni panel on Thursday evening hosted by Columbia Pride and the Center for Career Education.

"It really wasn't the kind of environment where I wanted to come out immediately. Especially since they'd just spent thousands of dollars," he said.

At the event, five alumni panelists from finance, law, the non-profit sector, medicine and business spoke about the nuances of being LGBT in their respective industries.

“The take-away lesson is that the world is still a challenging place for LGBT people.”

—Adam Nguyen, CC '98

For Natalie Edwards, CC '98 and Law '01 and an attorney with Linklaters LLP, coming out to co-workers was a non-issue, but for Ahmet Altiner, a resident in dermatology at New York University Langone Medical Center, acting gay or aligning himself with other gay medical students has made him vulnerable to ridicule and hostility from his co-workers.

When Shampine came out, he said his co-workers accused him of coming out to avoid a lay-off, in light of down-sizing at the company, even though he made sure he came out at a time when he was the top trader on his team.

"The take-away lesson is that the world is still a challenging place for LGBT people. There are a lot of issues that need to be managed deftly," the panel's moderator, Adam Nguyen, CC

'98 and CEO of Ivy Link, a test prep company, said.

One Columbia College senior, who requested anonymity because she said she is not fully out, said she came to listen to the panel because she recently got a job at a start-up finance company and wasn't sure if she should tell her co-workers about her sexual orientation.

"I guess what I've learned here is get good at what you do, and then no one can really say anything to you," she said after the event.

But another attendee, Dave Ostwald, Journalism '68, said that being gay in the workplace is never easy.

"I've seen people deserving of advancement who are held back on a number of excuses that basically come down to the fact that they were gay," he said.

Beth Olson, Associate Director of CCE, said that occasionally students and alumni do come to CCE concerned about where sexual orientation fits into the workplace, but she was pleased to see Columbia Pride take initiative to plan the panel.

"We try not to set the agenda so much as take the lead from student and alumni groups like this, who have demonstrated need," she said.

Jeanette Clark, CC '10 and former president of the Columbia Queer Alliance, said that it is important to have this kind of panel at Columbia, where the accepting atmosphere does not always prepare students for the harsh realities of the workplace. "Often times, I think we are in a little bubble of general acceptance," she said.

But several of the panelists said the game in 2010 has changed for LGBT employees.

Shampine said that finance today is very different from when he first started working ten years ago.

"We seem to have an infinite budget for LGBT recruiting," Shampine said of Morgan Stanley, a global financial service that is this year's largest sponsor of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation media awards.

Edwards said that at her law firm, "No one cares so much."

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CATHERINE MAS FOR SPECTATOR

SETBACK? | Avi Edelman, left, and Sean Udell, right, are frustrated with the administration's surprise hold off on gender-neutral housing.

Gender-neutral policy a no-go for 2010 housing lottery

HOUSING from front page

the spring. They also want time to fully incorporate any change into the housing lottery, as well as into brochures and tours, before enacting the change. They have been researching the gender-neutral housing policies of about 30 peer institutions, he said, noting that Columbia already has coed floors and suites, which some other colleges actually consider gender-neutral housing.

Edelman said the decision was particularly frustrating, because they were working under a timeline that the administrators had suggested.

"We certainly felt that it was ready to go," Udell said.

"We had our expectations raised but not met," Weiss said, adding that she and other supporters had thought the policy would pass.

She added, "Eventually this will happen." Furthermore, "A pilot program will allow us to get all the kinks out," she said.

Over the next semester, the administration said they plan to communicate with the student body through possible town halls and forums, to discuss how

to implement a potential "open housing" plan—their preferred term for any potential gender-neutral policies.

Shollenberger said the emphasis would be on allowing students to live with whomever they are most comfortable, and not for couples to live together. Peer institutions with gender-neutral housing do not see any abnormal roommate issues, he said. Martinez added, "It has more to do with people's comfort around sexual identity and selecting their own roommates."

"We look forward to further engaging with students on this matter and to making a thoughtful decision in the best interest of our community," Columbia College Dean Moody-Adams and SEAS Dean Peña-Mora wrote in a joint statement.

Administrators said that a student task force to help develop the pilot program is in the works.

"This is something that most people were really pushing for, and that people were really behind," said Whitney Green, SEAS '10 and president of the Engineering Student Council. She said that the council plans to "identify what key issues we

need to address again" and be more thorough about what needs to be done. "These kinds of processes take a significant amount of time," Green said. "Columbia doesn't change overnight."

But many students said they felt the administration had not done everything possible to make the change happen this year, and added that some students will suffer for it.

Edelman said that the proposal stated that supporters were willing to do everything possible to reach out to students and to make the change happen this year, but claimed administrators did not take up that offer.

Udell agreed, saying, "We haven't heard anything from the administration until now," he said. "What is unfortunate is that you have this situation where you have a lot of students who took this proposal as what is going to be the policy next year."

This decision could be problematic for some students who had planned on living with the opposite gender next year, he said.

"There are students that are not going to find those comfortable living spaces next year," Edelman said.

Students not affiliated with the proposal also expressed disappointment with the decision.

"I was going to live with one of my best friends who is gay," said Sydney Shaefer, CC '12, who is now hoping to get a single in Broadway.

Shaefer added, "I hope they eventually will let it happen. ... I think for upperclassmen it is definitely a good idea."

Jeanette Clark, CC '10 and past-president of the Columbia Queer Alliance, said, "I'm extremely disappointed ... A lot of people who I worked with very closely over the past four years who helped put it together ... will not see it get passed or implemented in their time."

But some students still have reservations about the actual plan itself.

Michel'le Forrest, SEAS '12, said, "I think it's definitely the administration's place to make sure policies that get passed on this campus benefit everyone, and if they didn't pass it, that's their decision."

Leah Greenbaum contributed reporting to this article.

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ELAINE BURCHMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NEW SIGHT | Construction sites may soon be redesigned with a new NYC sidewalk shed plan that replaces eyesores with colorful structures.

Mayor Bloomberg proposes sidewalk shed makeover

CONSTRUCTION from front page

could meet building standards for scaffolds and could hold 300 pounds per square foot," said a vice president of a New York based scaffolding company who requested anonymity out of concern that his comments could negatively impact business. "The city should invest more time to ask engineers as opposed to just looking at the aesthetics."

David Lapham, an operations engineer for the Turner Construction Company, which is running a construction site at

120th Street and Broadway, said that a new design would need to meet specificity requirements.

"It could only work if it doesn't block sidewalks and pedestrian traffic," Lapham said.

LaVorgna said that once the city begins manufacturing the new sheds, businesses will be able to choose between using the current scaffold model—which, according to the mayor's office, has been in use since the 1950s—or the updated version.

And to the mayor, design matters, he added.

"The aesthetics of a product

matter and impact quality of life," LaVorgna said. "New York City strives to have the best quality design possible and street life is New York life."

Shelley Ferrall, an employee at the Mandell School located on the corner of Amsterdam and 95th Street, said that for the past five months her school has been blocked by a sidewalk shed, which makes it difficult for people to locate the school, and also blocks incoming light.

"People struggle to find us now—they would be able to see

us with this," Ferrall said of the proposed design.

Pointing to a sidewalk shed on Broadway and 120th Street, Ron Shapiro, GS/JTS '13, said, "This is disgusting to look at. If it had more of an aesthetic feel, construction would get a less disgusting response."

Leo del Vecchio, a construction worker at 120th Street, said that from a practical standpoint, new sheds are needed. "They should be replaced, they are heaved from years of frost."

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Men’s basketball looks to jump in Ivy standings

MEN’S BASKETBALL from back page

year. Even though the Tigers used a steady, mistake-free second half to pull out a 55-45 win, the Light Blue built on that performance the next night in Philadelphia. Behind an offensive explosion from senior tri-captain Niko Scott, the Lions jumped out to a 14-5 advantage that would turn into a 35-28 halftime lead. Jones credited Columbia’s leaders, Scott, fellow tri-captain Kevin Bulger, and Agho, the team’s top scorer, for bringing energy and toughness to the game’s early start.

Jones elaborated, saying, “I thought, overall, we had great energy. I thought Niko [Scott], Noruwa [Agho], and Kevin Bulger brought great energy into the game right away—we kind of took the game over, right away.”

At the same time, Jones pointed to the perseverance of his squad against Penn as another key factor in pulling out their first road win in Ivy play.

“I just thought we made play after play, and that was the difference in the game,” Jones said. “That was the difference with the night before [against Princeton]. We didn’t make those plays. Then, Saturday night, we made them.”

Building off that win will require both a strong start and timely contributions in the second half. Against Dartmouth on Friday, Columbia will face off against a strong backcourt in Robby Pride, Ronnie Dixon, and Jabari Trotter.

“Their three guards really hurt us [in the last game],” Jones said. “They’re just very good off the dribble, they’re terrific mid-range shooters, and [Robby] Pride made some big threes against us.”

The responsibility will fall on Lions’ three guards, Agho, Scott, and particularly Bulger, Columbia’s defensive ace, to clamp down on their counterparts. If the Light Blue can manage to keep the Big Green’s crafty guards out of the lane, it will have a good chance of heading to Cambridge with a 4-5 league mark looking to reach .500.

Once there, though, Jones’ players will have their hands full with a Harvard team that blew open their game in Morningside Heights with a full-court pressure defense that caused all kinds of trouble for Columbia.

“Against Harvard, their speed, quickness, and athletic ability are really the big keys,” Jones concluded.

The injured Patrick Foley, the Lions’ third tri-captain and starting point guard, will have to watch the second round of this matchup from the sideline. Despite Bulger’s steady performance in his absence, Foley’s ball-handling ability may be missed. Scott and freshman Brian Barbour will be called on to help share the responsibility bringing the ball up this weekend, especially against a Crimson team that forced several early turnovers in the last meeting.

“Harvard is having a great year. They’re more athletic than Dartmouth, and they play a little faster, so they present a different kind of problem,” Jones said.

He pointed to their depth off the bench as a reason for their ability to play a faster-paced game than many other Ivy League squads.

With such a tough matchup waiting in Cambridge, Jones acknowledges the importance of winning the first one in Hanover.

“I think it’s big. I know I feel different [after a loss], and I’m sure [the players] do too. I think it’s hard to be on the road and lose the first one—and come back and win the second one,” Jones said. “When you win the first one, it becomes a little bit like a single game, and you stay in rhythm. When you lose the first one, I think it just makes it a little bit harder.”

But if the Lions do bring the same intensity and road mentality they showed last weekend against Penn and Princeton, they may very well be heading to Harvard late Friday night preparing for a big time showdown at a hostile arena and a chance to prove themselves against one of the Ivy League’s best squads.



ADRIENNE HEZGHIA / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
BACK HAND | Columbia looks to improve to a winning record in two weekend matches.

Lions to lift rackets against New York foes

MEN’S TENNIS from page 10

strong in singles over their past two matches as well, dropping only one set in all 12 singles matches.

“Stony Brook is good too,” finished Goswami. “Their top two guys did well in Regionals [in the fall], both European, and both reached the round of 16.”

Last season, Columbia easily defeated Stony Brook 7-0, dropping only two sets in singles play. The Lions won the doubles point easily, winning the top two doubles matches by identical scores of 8-3. In singles, Wong set the tone for Columbia in the No. 1 spot, defeating Rummel by a score of 6-0, 6-2. The Lions’ toughest matches were at No. 2 and No. 5, where Borta and then-freshman Haig Schneiderman won their matches in third set super-tiebreaks.

The Lions will be in action on Friday against Binghamton and on Saturday against Stony Brook. Both matches are scheduled to begin at 2 p.m.

Light Blue to host Syracuse, Buffalo at home

WOMEN’S TENNIS from back page

improve every season and make it in their senior year.”

Because their doubles play has been so strong, the Lions have been devoting a lot of attention to singles play recently.

“Aggressive singles has been a huge focus of practice this week,” Weintraub said.

The Lions’ number three singles player, freshman Chelsea Davis, has spent this week really pushing her singles play forward. Davis went unnoticed during the championships, as she fell short in hard-fought matches. In her match against Brown, Davis worked to comeback from a

second set loss, battling her way through the third set, only to lose 11-9. In practice, Davis works to increase her endurance so she can prevail in her long matches.

“Chelsea is the one who is going to outlast her opponent,” Weintraub said, “She has been working on her focus so she can keep up during her very long matches.”

This weekend, Columbia faces Syracuse and Buffalo, two teams the Light Blue hasn’t played in many seasons. The new opponents won’t be a setback, though, as the Lions prepare for this match with a steady state of mind.

“We work on the things we need to work on no matter who

we’re playing,” Weintraub said.

Bartnik in particular will see close competition this weekend. Both opponents are close in ranking to Bartnik on the national level. She is matched against Emily Harman from Syracuse and Denise Harijanto from Buffalo. Though Bartnik anticipates tougher competition this weekend, she is more than ready. Coach Weintraub has applauded Bartnik’s improvements since the opening of the season.

“Nikki has improved her serve,” Weintraub noted. “She hasn’t ever allowed her serve to be a liability, but it’s definitely something she’s been improving on.”

The Lions expect tough competition from both teams. Both teams have often bested Columbia in the past, but the Lions face these two powerhouses for a reason.

“When putting together the program for this season, I tried to put high caliber schools on the schedule,” Weintraub explained. “Tougher matches help us prepare for the Ivies and can only help us. If we can steal the wins, it keeps us motivated. We’re ready for the challenge.”

Today’s matchup against Syracuse is set to begin at 5 p.m. At the same time tomorrow, Columbia welcomes Buffalo to the Dick Savitt Tennis Center.

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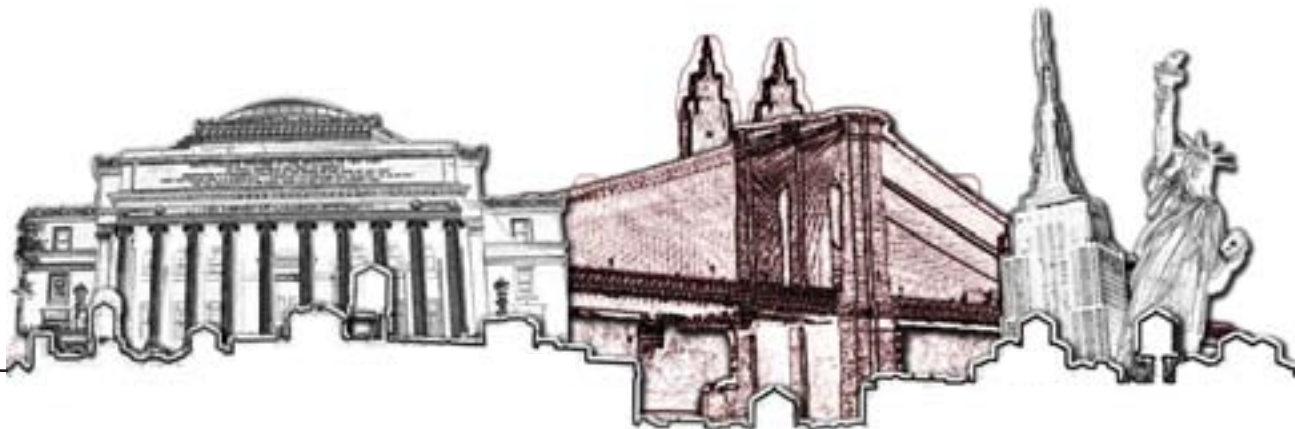
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BEST OF THE WEST



FILE PHOTO

VILLAGE PEOPLE | The West Village is a vibrant weekend destination, home to an assortment of entertainment venues appropriate for adventurous students.

Dance class teaches students multicultural moves

BY AMY STRINGER
Columbia Daily Spectator

Abandoning the bustling New York streets for the 16th floor of Ripley-Grier Studios is like entering another distinct metropolis of dancers.

DANCE Listed on a giant television screen in Ripley-Grier lobby—reminiscent of an airport marquee—are all the dance classes occurring that day, when they begin, and where in the building to find them. Ripley-Grier offers classes in a wide range of styles, including Bollywood Funk in room 16Q.

As described by Vicki Aubin, an instructor for the Bollywood Funk NYC Dance School, Bollywood Funk is a westernized fusion of dances based in the jazz style that incorporates aspects of street funk and contemporary urban dance set to modern Bollywood songs. According to the school's website, students who take the class "learn cutting-edge moves and grooves as seen in today's hottest Bollywood films, with a focus on rhythm, stage presence, technique and the 'art' of performing."

Part hip-hop, part street funk, and full of the zest of Bollywood, what Bollywood Funk offers is a style for all ages, levels, and backgrounds. The Basic Beginner Level is recommended for those with little to no dance experience, while the Advanced Beginner level is recommended for those with any kind of previous dance experience. The Intermediate Level, because it is more technically challenging, requires either instructor's

permission or entry by audition.

Before the class begins, other students can be found talking and laughing amongst themselves, sharing jokes and stories from their weekends. Ripley-Grier attracts a friendly crowd to its comfortable environment, which boasts a spectacular view of the city at night. This specific Advanced Beginner class began with a standard hip-hop warm-up, focusing on body isolations. After a bit more stretching the class was ready to learn the day's choreography.

Ayesha Khanna, artistic director of Bollywood Funk NYC Dance School, is also the artistic director and choreographer of the school's dance company. In class, Khanna reviewed the choreography of a routine started the week before. A large section of the class had already learned parts of the dance, but a few were completely new to the steps. Khanna went through the previously learned choreography slowly to ensure that everyone was up to speed, making it easy for newcomers to catch up to the other students.

The choreography was set expertly to the pounding rhythm of a Bollywood beat—each count of the dance reflected both the differing rhythms in the song and the lyrics. Fast-paced and repetitive motions were a staple of the routine—a common theme in Bollywood dancing. Khanna made sure that each dancer hit the moves at the right moment and with as much energy as possible. The upbeat and energetic nature of these songs requires the dancer to execute each different

motion as fully and precisely as possible while at an extraordinarily fast beat.

Khanna has had extensive experience in many styles of dance, beginning her training in New Delhi, India. "She received formal training in a classical Indian dance called Kathak," Aubin said. "Then she started training in other styles like jazz and ballet."

According to the school's website, Ayesha has appeared "as a leading dancer in Bollywood mega-hit films 'Dhoom Machale'...and the Dharmendra Productions movie 'Socha Na Tha.'" In 2006, Khanna moved to the United States and shortly after founded the Bollywood Funk NYC Dance School in 2007.

For students taking the class, Khanna emphasized not only the importance of learning the prescribed choreography,

but also encouraged the students to develop their individual style. During a few counts of choreography in which students could improvise their own moves, Khanna stressed that not only is this good practice in the dance studio, but it is also a useful confidence-builder beyond the colorful world of Bollywood Funk—especially when dancing with friends and in clubs around the city.

Bollywood Funk NYC Dance School offers classes at two different locations. Weeknight classes are located on the 16th floor of Ripley-Grier Studios at 520 Eighth Avenue (between 36th and 37th streets). Weekend classes are held on the 9th floor of Stepping Out Studios at 37 W. 26th St., between Sixth Avenue and Broadway. Class Packages begin at five classes for \$75.



ANDRA MIHALI / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BOLLYWOOD BEAT | Students learn a blend of dance styles at a Bollywood Funk class.

New art exhibits add color to wintry New York landscape

BY FRANCES CORRY
Columbia Daily Spectator

The art scene in Chelsea was in full swing this past Thursday night, despite the monochrome of grey snow and decidedly unglamorous frigid temperatures. What could make the fashionable and fabulous of the New York art world brave such horrid weather? If it wasn't the free white wine, then it must have been the creative and colorful palette common to the openings of artists Olafur Eliasson, Christina Mazzalupo, and Chris Biddy, who offered a bit of spring bloom in the depth of winter doldrums.

Tanya Bonakdar Gallery

This two-story space hosted the opening of the Danish-Icelandic artist Olafur Eliasson's sixth solo exhibition at the gallery. The contemporary artist, lauded for his large-scale interactive pieces, didn't disappoint. The first floor contained "Multiple Shadow House," in which Eliasson blurs the notions of observation and creation. As spectators enter a series of rooms, their shadows are multiplied in jewel tones upon white screens serving as walls. The viewer participates with the space whether they will it or not. Upstairs, this theme of overlapping hues continues, with watercolor paintings and a light display examining aspects of the color wheel. The exhibition is currently located at Tanya Bonakdar Gallery at 521 West 21st St., and runs Feb. 11-Mar. 24.

Mixed Greens Gallery

Upon entering Mixed Greens Gallery, viewers are confronted with words both playful and confusing, projected for a split-second upon a wall. They read things like "MARIJUANA" or "POUR SOME SUGAR ON ME." The exhibit, created by artist Christina Mazzalupo, follows this same line of quirky commentary throughout the exhibit entitled "Stomachache." Other pieces consist of a series of weekly watercolor charts that colorfully map things like pills, ailments, decisions, and foods. These works show the sardonic side of neurosis, and highlight the absurdity of oft-unquestioned language and organizational systems. "Stomachache" runs Feb. 11-Mar. 13 at Mixed Greens Gallery, located at 531 West 26th St.

ATM Gallery

Newly relocated ATM Gallery hosted the first New York exhibit of young artist Chris Biddy, entitled "New Message." Biddy's youthfulness is reflected in his work, which renders girls' angsty MySpace pics into color pencil pointillism and oil painting realism. The adolescent subjects stare back with pouty faces and cheesy poses, offering an awkward look at a desired sexiness. Viewers, who might pass over images like these on the Internet, are instead confronted with a more pensive look at these unlikely subjects. Biddy's "New Message" runs Feb. 12-Mar. 23 at ATM Gallery, located at 542 West 24th St.



ROSE DONLON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

GALLERY HOP | The quirky and playful contemporary exhibit "Stomachache," by artist Christine Mazzalupo, recently opened at Mixed Greens Gallery.

Mamet play fleshes out issues of 'Race'



NNEKA MCGUIRE

The Fun, the Fantastical, and the Freakish

Race. It's discomfiting. We try to ignore it, claim to see past it—in discussions we dance around it.

Interracial relationships are lauded by many but lived by few. Have you ever seriously dated someone outside your

race? Taken him or her home to meet mom? Even at Columbia, a largely liberal university where many students have at least one friend outside their race, interracial coupling is a delicate subject—one we confront wearing kid-gloves when we have to discuss it.

Every February, during Black History Month, we are reminded that the lens through which we view the world and each other is still, quite literally, black and white. Notwithstanding the immense social progress society has made since Black History Month was founded in 1926 by historian Carter Woodson, many wonder if we will ever fully move past racial prejudices and stereotypes both blatant and latent. Is a post-racial America possible?

David Mamet certainly doesn't seem to think so.

"Race," a currently running Broadway production is written and directed by (in)famous playwright David Mamet. Known for writing lightning-speed dialogue (often peppered with profanity) and dramas that unflinchingly tackle controversial issues, Pulitzer-prize winning Mamet has won Tony Award nominations for two of his plays and Oscar nominations for two screenplays. "Race," Mamet's most recent play starring James Spader ("Boston Legal"), Kerry Washington ("Ray"), David Alan Grier ("In Living Color"), and Richard Thomas ("The Waltons"), deals with the question of race in the 21st century in an incisive, painfully honest manner. So incisive and honest, in fact, that midway through the play the delightful older Caucasian gentleman sitting next to me—with whom I had become fast friends in the 15 minutes before the play began—leaned over to me and whispered, "Do you feel uncomfortable? Because I do." I couldn't help but concur.

Race follows Jack Lawson (Spader) and Henry Brown (Grier), partners in a successful law firm, as they debate whether or not to accept a highly lucrative and controversial case defending Charles Strickland (Thomas), a wealthy white man accused of raping his black mistress. Susan (Washington), a new, smart-yet-unseasoned lawyer at the firm immediately assumes that Strickland is guilty, but the audience can clearly discern that this assumption is based mainly on the grounds of his whiteness, wealth, and privilege rather than any real evidence (Susan conveniently claims that he just "looks like a guilty man"). Resulting from a series of seemingly accidental errors on Susan's part, the firm accepts the case. The question of who is guilty and what they are guilty of is complicated by each moment of the play. Each scene presents a new proverbial turn of the screw, and even those characters that seem above the fray—the seemingly unbiased and upright—are proved to be perhaps more disingenuous than the supposed perpetrators.

Mamet paints a bleak but infinitely provocative picture of race relations in America. Despite the somewhat demoralizing aspects of the play, the fast-paced dialogue crackles with intellect, humor, and wit. By the play's end, any hope of an imminent prejudice-free America is painfully deflated, but ironically, by examining the questions that Race raises, we may edge closer to a racism-free future. Even in the best-case scenario, however, it doesn't seem that glittering future will be arriving anytime soon.

Nneka McGuire is a Columbia College junior majoring in creative writing. The Fun, the Fantastical, and the Freakish runs alternate Fridays.

WEEKEND PICKS

The Editors' Best Bets for the Weekend Ahead

THEATER
“**The Tempest**”. *BAM Harvey Theater, 651 Fulton St. (between Ashland and Rockwell places), Brooklyn. Tuesday-Sunday, now through Mar. 13, 7:30 p.m., \$25-\$95.*
Sam Mendes directs this Shakespearean classic, now playing in repertory with another of the bard’s plays, “As You Like It.”

FOOD
“**Coffee and Tea Festival**”. *7 West 34th St. (between Fifth and Sixth avenues). Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 20-21, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., \$20.*
For an all-time caffeine high check out this massive trade show for coffee and tea drinkers only. An all-day pass is \$20, granting access to lectures and tastings of some of the world’s greatest energizing beverages.

FILM
“**2010 Academy Award-Nominated Short Films**”. *IFC Center, 323 Avenue of the Americas (between 3rd and 4th streets). Friday-Tuesday, Feb. 19-23, various times, \$12.50.*
Want a surefire way to best fellow students in an Oscar pool? Know the shorts. IFC center is ready to help put a little extra change in betters’ pockets by screening all of the Academy-nominated animated and live-action short films.

STYLE
“**Sonia Rykiel for H&M Debut**”. *H&M, various locations. Saturday, Feb. 20, 10 a.m.-9 p.m., free until purchase.*
Stock up on Sonia Rykiel’s signature knits at non-designer prices when her collaboration with H&M debuts its second round this Saturday. The pieces include lingerie for winter and sweaters for spring—a little weather-inappropriate, but no cause for complaint.

DANCE
“**Food for Thought**”. *Danspace Project, Saint Mark’s Church-in-the-Bowery, 131 East 10th St. (at Second Avenue). Friday-Saturday, Feb. 19-20, 8 p.m., \$10.*
Danspace presents its semiannual food collection benefit performance—tickets are half price for guests who bring two cans of food for donation.

ART
“**El Anatsui at Jack Shainman Gallery**”. *513 West 20th St., (between Tenth and Eleventh avenues). Tuesday-Saturday, now through Mar. 13. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., free.*
This African artist weaves complex and stunning tapestries out of pieces of discarded metal. His work inspires conversation on Africa and its juxtaposition with the western art world.

MUSIC
“**U-Melt**”. *Bowery Ballroom, 6 Delancey St. (between Bowery and Chrystie streets). Saturday, Feb. 20, 8 p.m., \$15.*
Nontraditional band U-Melt comes to Bowery Ballroom, promising an unusual performance of epic proportions, despite the fact that barely anyone has heard of them. This event is only for students age 18 and older.

BOOKS
“**Henning Mankell Reading**”. *150 East 86th St. (near Lexington Avenue). Friday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m., free.*
Release your inner Sherlock Holmes or Hercule Poirot and join mystery mastermind Henning Mankell as he reads from his latest thriller, “The Man From Beijing,” at this Barnes & Noble event. The Swedish author is best known for his Inspector Wallander mysteries.

WILDCARD
“**11th Annual Lunar New Year Parade & Festival**”. *Begins at the corner of Mott and Hester streets. Sunday, Feb. 21, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m., free.*
This event offers a double dose of fresh Asian food and entertainment. The festival features dragon dancers, musical performances, acrobats, magicians, and more. Meanwhile, the parade—the biggest winter parade on the entire East Coast—winds through every major street in Chinatown.

WILDCARD
“**Ninja Sex Party**”. *The People’s Improv Theater, 154 West 29th St. (between Sixth and Seventh avenues). Friday, Feb. 19, 11 p.m., \$5.*
This musical comedy duo promises ski masks, cheap laughs, and awkward dance moves—and if nothing else, the name alone hints at an interesting night ahead. It’s like Flight of the Conchords, but less New Zealand and more ninja.

SEARCH FOR THE BEST JAPANESE MUSIC STORES

Japanese shops’ melodies not lost in translation

BY SABINE SCHULZ
Columbia Daily Spectator

In an era of increasing global exchange, Japan has emerged as a frontrunner in cultural influence, spreading anime and karaoke to all corners of the world.

These two cultural exports have throngs of devoted fans, nearly as many in America as in Japan. Japanese music has surprisingly sparked a large, international sub-culture on the Internet, due to its appealingly optimistic songs that provide a relieving change of pace from the often-monotonous American music industry. With the wide availability of translation online, Japanese music is increasingly accessible to non-natives, and students can experience the upbeat melodies just a short distance from campus.

Kinokuniya Bookstore

The largest and only remaining Japanese specialty bookstore in the city, Kinokuniya Bookstore appears modest from its Bryant Park-facing exterior, but the storefront disguises a large interior with three levels of books, stationary, anime, and music. The music section, nestled between shelves of magazines and DVDs on the top floor, boasts a large selection of up-to-date releases, such as the five member boy band Arashi, ballad-dance group EXILE and girl group AKB48, with helpful and bilingual staff to assist.

Arashi—meaning “storm” in Japanese—stormed the music industry to claim the No.1 spot on the Oricon year-end album charts (the Japanese equivalent of the Billboard charts) with All the BEST 1999-2009, their ten year retrospective album. The album sold over 1.43 million copies, and the group’s vocal prowess, personality and catchy pop tunes have helped solidify them as a fixture in the Japanese music industry.

“Japanese music is increasingly accessible to non-natives, and students can experience the upbeat melodies just a short distance from campus.”

On the other hand, AKB48 has gained popularity after releasing the energetic, pseudo-military-themed song “River,” that opens with a drill-style dance break. Despite reflecting uniquely Japanese musical traits, the song appeals to a wider audience with cute girls, short skirts, hip-hop beats and “Apocalypse Now” scenes in the music video. But EXILE is likely to be the most accessible of all groups, combining yearning lyrics, R&B tunes and hip-hop style dances into one coherent whole.

BOOKOFF

Japanese company BOOKOFF offers not only an assortment of gently used books and music, but also English-language releases. While the store’s stock depends on what is traded in, BOOKOFF generally carries oldies but goodies, including some of Arashi’s older works. Notable among its stock is the diversity of Japanese rock music, which has waned in popularity in recent years. Indie enthusiasts will enjoy the beginnings of hardcore and overtly visual groups like X-Japan (Japan’s first rock band) and Dir en Grey, who have toured in the U.S. as part of Korn’s Family Values Tour, while those in search of meaningful lyrics and haunting melodies will be able to find them in L’arc~en~Ciel’s 19 years of releases. Additionally, BOOKOFF has some J-Urban offerings for fans who wish to discover varied and diversified hip-hop sounds and styles with artists such as m-flo, DOUBLE and Crystal Kay. While, like Kinokuniya’s products, BOOKOFF’s selection is sorted by the Japanese alphabet, the staff are very attentive and helpful in locating products. If nothing else, the low prices are incentive enough to make BOOKOFF the first stop for any Japan enthusiast.

Kinokuniya Bookstore is located at 1073 Avenue of the Americas (between 40th and 41st streets). BOOKOFF is located at 14 East 41st St. (between Fifth and Madison avenues).



CULTURE CLASH | “Culture is Our Weapon,” by Patrick Neate and Damian Platt, explores the political and social effects of music on Brazilian life. The book emphasizes music’s role in the lives of both city dwellers and citizens of shantytowns called favelas.

Book traces pulse of AfroReggae in Brazilian culture

BY ELISA DE SOUZA
Spectator Staff Writer

Beneath Brazil’s image of beauty, laughter, and hope, lies a constant tension of violence and corruption.

BOOKS

These tensions are violently exposed in “Culture is Our Weapon,” by Patrick Neate and Damian Platt. The book focuses on the work of AfroReggae, which aims to take favela (shantytown) residents out of the drug trade using music and culture. As the book weaves through both the culturally rich and violent realities of Brazil, the reader in turn oscillates between admiration and absolute horror. The book goes on sale on Feb. 28.

“Culture is Our Weapon” is not focused only on AfroReggae, however. The book offers a rich background on the corrupt, political reality in the country—it explores the way in which music in general has played a role in Brazilian’s lives and delves into the individual lives of favela residents, giving a unique perspective on the way social classes function.

Neate and Platt place favela life within a wider context. This sense for broader cultural surroundings lessens the probability of creating

artificial, romantic visions of violence, as often happens with this sort of inquiry. It is relieving to have a book that shatters such fantasies and, above all, desperately desires to convey the truth. This honesty is important at a time when, according to Platt, “people have become accustomed to the violence.”

“‘Culture is Our Weapon’ is not the average book in that it cannot offer readers a conclusion or an answer.”

The authors use plain and frank language. This style gives rise to an informal atmosphere, as if the author were directly speaking with his reader. Platt and Neate are not dictating, but conversing and explaining—they are urging the reader to react, to be drawn into what is happening. “Culture is Our Weapon” emphasizes that there are wars going on among the favelas—wars that are too often ignored by Rio and Brazil at large. Although the favelas are interspersed

throughout the city, they are ultimately shunned by the middle class and elite.

Such an attitude, Platt and Neate emphasize, gives rise to communities of voiceless peoples. What AfroReggae does, then, is to offer these people a voice. “Culture is Our Weapon” likewise emphasizes that Rio, and Brazil at large, is a wonderful and energetic place—something that is often felt and expressed through its music. Indeed, AfroReggae communicates that integral core of the Brazilian: a passion and need for music.

The circulation of this book is coming at an appropriate and important time—with the coming of the World Cup and Olympics in Rio, there are realities that need to be clarified, something which the book attempts to accomplish.

“Culture is Our Weapon” is not the average book in that it cannot offer readers a conclusion or an answer. It is feasible to walk away believing, like Platt, that AfroReggae is the “light in the tunnel!” But, as the authors assert, it is important to understand “what a serious situation” Brazil is facing.

Damian Platt will be speaking on March 11 at Bluestockings Bookstore.

Meat-loving students can feel right at home with Casa’s varied Brazilian offerings

BY NATASSIA MILLER
Columbia Daily Spectator



While Brazilian models make millions off of their slim bodies, the rest of the country is concerned with a more substantial matter—steak. Meat is one of Brazil’s greatest culinary assets, so it’s no wonder its steak houses have reached international fame.

Yet if indulging in endless protein gluttony—the trademark feature of churrascarias—seems overbearing, Casa, located in the depths of the West Village, provides a great alternative. Meaning “house” in Portuguese, Casa is the most genuine encounter students can have with home-cooked Brazilian food in the city. Nestled among the quaint townhouses on the corner of Bedford and Commerce streets, antique lanterns grace the restaurant’s discreet white brick wall exterior. By the entrance, a large window reveals a tiny, swarming dining room that could easily be mistaken for a residential dinner party.

The owner, Jupira Lee, has succeeded in crafting a nostalgic menu filled with dishes from different regions of Brazil, all prepared with the relative accuracy and care expected from a home-cooked meal. A basket of fried pastries stuffed with chicken, shrimp, or mild and irresistibly stringy melted cheese is the perfect introduction to this Brazilian experience.

Then comes the meat. Ranging from a hearty portion of tender Brazilian prime-cut steak to bife acebolado—a

long, thin slice of pan-fried steak with sautéed onions—carnivorous options appear boundless. The moqueca, a creamy, coconut milk-based seafood stew, offers a lighter insight into Northern Brazilian cuisine. Though the stew could be more generously endowed with shrimp, squid, and chunks of grouper and mahi mahi, side dishes will compensate for any disappointments.

Choose from a mound of moist, white rice cooked with bits of broccoli, or fried yucca sticks resembling a denser—and, dare I say, more delectable—version of French fries, or the West African-influenced farofa. The latter is a dry, toasted manioc flour mixture enlivened with tomato, onions, and bacon, which can be jumbled with rice and beans for a more authentic bite.

The spotlight, however, is reserved for the weekend brunch. Brazil’s foremost staple dish, feijoada, is an amalgam of pork parts encompassing ribs, sausage, and pork belly—to name only a few—slowly cooked in a black bean broth. White rice, farofa, and sautéed collard greens naturally accompany the dish, which two diners can easily share. Feijoada’s heavy nature suits a voracious winter appetite well, especially when washed down with a strong caipirinha—a Brazilian cocktail consisting of cachaça, sugar and lime.

After all that meat is cleared, the path of least resistance is towards the smooth, tangy passion fruit mousse. For a richer option, try the brigadeiros, or tiny chocolate balls made with condensed milk and studded with chocolate sprinkles. Brigadeiros are typically served at birthday parties, but doesn’t a meal like this warrant such a festive ending?



TALIA KORI FOR SPECTATOR
PROTEIN POWER | Brazilian restaurant Casa is a carnivore’s paradise, and features a homey atmosphere other churrascarias lack.



WEN WEN FOR SPECTATOR
EXHIBITION EATS | Many museum cafeterias have evolved into gourmet restaurants with costly, though not always tasty, dishes.

Museum restaurants put pricey food on display

BY JASON BELL
Spectator Staff Writer

While Columbia’s “Passport to New York” program mitigates admission fees at many of the city’s premier museums, new restaurants at venerable artistic institutions make enjoying an affordable museum meal impossible on a student budget. With fine dining spots sprouting en masse at the Guggenheim, the Museum of Art and Design, and the Whitney, museums’ haute cuisine displays the potential to compete with, or even eclipse, the art.

Adjacent to the Guggenheim’s spiraling snail-like structure, a restaurant called The Wright opened this past December in a diminutive and cramped space that feels like the interior of some mollusk’s shell. Architect Andre Kikoski fashioned the curving dining room, a starkly white chamber that mirrors the Guggenheim’s form. Art history majors might find Liam Gillick’s installation of rainbow horizontal bars an interesting exploration of color theory, but less erudite diners will scratch their heads and return to puzzling over Chef Rodolfo Contreras’ infinitely confusing and expensive menu.

Contreras trained with acclaimed French chef David Bouley and appears to fuse this haute cuisine background with his Mexican heritage. More often than not, this theme disappears under an unforgivable impulse to pay homage to contemporary, and typically tired, restaurant trends.

An appetizer of seared diver scallop comes paired with shrimp and crab, a mundane combination doused in a creamy sea urchin sauce. While the sensual, even sexual, brininess of the urchin paints a broad stroke on the plate, the entire composition seems trite and five years ago.

Similarly, slow roasted suckling pig accompanied by kumquat, violet mustard, shimeji mushrooms, and apple bacon kowtows to such a plethora of culinary movements that merely charting the dish’s influences is more entertaining than the act of eating it. If only the shredded pork possessed any hint of succulence, if only the cloying bitterness of the kumquat drowned out the shimeji mushrooms’ fungal funkiness. Unfortunately, this misbegotten, ill-conceived love child of chefs Fergus Henderson, Thomas Keller, and Jean-Georges Vongerichten fails to meet even the low expectations of the Guggenheim’s old cafeteria.

Worse yet, after partaking in such pretentious and unoriginal cuisine, students find themselves stuck with a bill multiple times the Museum’s regular ticket price. Perhaps Contreras imagines himself an artist on par with Tino Sehgal, but this menu’s devastating mediocrity overshadows the Guggenheim’s current exhibition.

Robert, the nascent restaurant resting on top of the Museum of Arts & Design at Columbus Circle, amplifies the problems observed at The Wright. A garishly, self-consciously hip restaurant complete with an antibiotic pink color scheme and hypnotic video art displays, Robert appears already destined for failure. In move presumably made to preserve tattered shreds of dignity and career, chef Brady Duhamel announced his departure from the venture earlier this month.

Even more claustrophobic than The Wright, Robert seems stuck in an identity crisis, offering a menu that leaps from torchon of Hudson Valley foie gras to pan roasted breast of Peking duck without missing a beat. Operating at a price point akin to The Wright, Robert still makes an impression of frenetic desperation. Hamachi sashimi with avocado,

pink grapefruit, and grains of paradise is a gesture at the avant-garde that almost succeeds, an exercise in acidic and peppery surrealism. But pastas like a mesmerizingly rubbery pappardelle and a Chef Boyardee-esque swiss chard and sheep’s milk ricotta tortellini disappoint those diners expecting more out of high-class, high fashion food.

Meanwhile, across town at the Whitney, restaurant tycoon Danny Meyer prepares to open another upscale museum restaurant this fall. Currently untitled, this work will replace Sarabeth’s, 20 years old and decidedly unassuming. Transitioning from a homey spot serving just brunch and lunch to an outpost of the Meyer mega-chain will almost surely shut out budget-conscious students from another practical museum dining option.

Nevertheless, Meyer’s establishment at the Museum of Modern Art preserves hope that diners will get their money’s worth at the Whitney. At MoMA, Chef Gabriel Kreuther prepares food that complements the artworks, engages the palate, and stimulates the mind. Here, cerebral creations like chorizo-crust codfish—an ample slice of mild fish topped with sausage slices standing in for scales—and pineapple ‘Chartreuse’—a combination of pineapple slices, buttermilk panna cotta, and herb sorbet that mimics the title liqueur’s flavor and puns on the shape of a crown—epitomize museum cuisine. For MoMA, “museum cuisine” means food that functions within the MoMA’s particular ethos, and that concludes a trip to the museum with an extraordinarily satisfying gastronomic adventure.

As museums cater to a wealthy crowd with increasingly expensive restaurants, students should choose wisely about where to spend their dining dollars. A Passport to New York can only take one so far.

IFC Center says ‘bienvenue’ to French crime film series

BY EVE ROTMAN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Voulez-vous aller au cinéma? This spring, the IFC Center is presenting a collection of classic French crime films that promise passionate love affairs, thrilling chase sequences, and Parisian cafés. The “La Crème du Crime” series runs through early April, and includes award-winning films directed by Robert Bresson, Julien Duvivier, and, of course, Jean-Luc Godard.

Over Valentine’s Day weekend, the selection was “La Sirène du Mississippi” (“Mississippi Mermaid”). Directed by Nouvelle Vague ingénue François Truffaut, the 1969 crime film is about more than just illegal acts—it could be labeled as a romantic comedy or even a tragic romance. The opening credits, a montage of personal ads for singles, makes it painfully clear why the film was a fit for both the series and Valentine’s Day.

Jean-Paul Belmondo plays the unsuspecting Louis Mahé, and Catherine Deneuve plays the mysteriously enticing Julie Roussel. Following the tradition of French couples on the silver-screen, Belmondo and Deneuve share excellent chemistry. “You are adorable,” Belmondo repeats to Deneuve during their characters’ ill-fated marriage.

When Monsieur Mahé is first introduced, he and Julia are already engaged although they have never met.

Mahé had placed an ad for a wife, Julie responded, and the two had been intimate pen pals ever since (think of it as an old-fashioned eHarmony.com). He greets his fiancée when her ship, “The Mississippi,” arrives. But the beautiful woman claiming to be Julie looks nothing like the one in the photograph sent to him. Mahé eventually comes to the shocking conclusion that his new wife is both an imposter and a thief.

Although the story slows down at certain points, the allure of the gorgeous European landscapes presented throughout “La Sirène du Mississippi” is undeniable. Over the course of the film, the characters travel to Paris, Lyon, and the French countryside. The spectacular scenery provides the escapism that moviegoers often hope for when watching a foreign film.

Other films being screened during the series include the stylistic pop-art 80’s classic “Diva”—about an opera-obsessed mail carrier who gets mistakenly involved with a mafia police investigation—as well as the Crime and Punishment-based “Pickpocket,” a loose and enjoyable Godard drama “Bande à Part” (“Band of Outsiders”), and Jean-Pierre Melville’s diamond-heist flick “Le Cercle Rouge.” “La Crème du Crime” is an excellent opportunity for foreign film lovers or fans of crime movies to get their fill of memorable films by historic directors. C’est magnifique!



COURTESY OF IFC CENTER
FRENCH FELONS | Jean-Paul Belmondo stars in the French film “La Sirène du Mississippi,” one of the works screened as part of an ongoing series at IFC Center.



VILLAGE VOICE | From tattoo parlors to upscale boutiques to underground music venues, the West Village presents a variety of opportunities for students to enjoy the city.

Historical music clubs jazz up students’ weekend routines

BY JEREMY PFAU
Columbia Daily Spectator

MUSIC Much of the West Village has changed since the days of the ’50s and ’60s, when musical and literary luminaries like Jack Kerouac, John Coltrane, and Bob Dylan made the neighborhood’s bohemian cafes and smoke-filled clubs famous. But there’s one thing that certainly has not been lost to time: The West Village remains one of the best places to see music in the city and is still the center of New York—and the world’s—jazz scene.

This week, the Village Vanguard—one of the oldest and most venerated Jazz clubs in New York—is celebrating its 75th anniversary. The Village Vanguard, located on Seventh Avenue, is an intimate basement club where no seat is far away from the music. The greatest of jazz legends have graced its stage (Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Thelonious Monk, Bill Evans, to name a few), and it continues to attract the biggest names in jazz. The cover here is usually \$25 per set with a \$10 drink minimum, so it may be a bit above a

student’s budget, but it’s worth it to see some of the best musicians out there.

Just a few blocks down Seventh Avenue on West 10th St. is Smalls Jazz Club. Far younger than the Vanguard—it was opened in 1993—Smalls has a similar old-school ethos. It, too, is in a basement. There are no tables or reservations in this place: just a bar and a few chairs. Smalls, as its name implies, is not the largest venue—but it manages to fit a lot of people. On a crowded night, people will be packed in all the way to the back of the room, some even standing on the stairs. The cover charge here is \$20, and unlike at most clubs, that is good for the whole night, not just one set.

One of the most fun places to hear music in the Village is Fat Cat, located on Christopher Street. It is owned by the same people that own Smalls but has a far different feel. Fat Cat is a huge basement bar that is more of a social hang out than a jazz club—there are plenty of pool tables, ping-pong and board games. The cover here is only \$3 and they have \$3 beers. While music is not the main attraction, there are usually decent musicians playing jazz or blues.

These are only a few of the many places to see music in the West Village. Other venues range from cheap, bare music bars (55 Bar on Christopher Street) to covers of \$40 dollars and full menus (Blue Note on West 3rd).

Whether students are seeking out live music, trying to find a good date idea, or just need to get out of Morningside Heights, a safe bet is to take the 1 train downtown and enjoy the vibrant tunes of the jazz hub of the world.



ALL THAT JAZZ | The West Village offers varied late-night venues for jazz enthusiasts.

At eclectic Arleen Bowman Boutique, shopping gets personal

BY CLARA YOO
Columbia Daily Spectator

STYLE The West Village is known for its independent boutiques with unique and diverse stylistic offerings. Arleen Bowman Boutique, conveniently located on Bleecker Street, is one such shop. Its eclectic merchandise includes clothing, accessories, perfumes, and small keepsakes—all from largely unknown brands.

“It is a boutique in the true sense of the word,” said Arleen Bowman, the proprietor and namesake. Indeed, this location embodies the essence of what a small shop

should be—its atmosphere is calming and eccentric, and patrons can enjoy shopping without feeling rushed by the staff. The shop’s simple décor adds to this sense of ease, with hunter green walls subtly accented by gold-framed paintings.

Bowman herself immediately welcomes anyone who enters. She is friendly and attentive, and carefully selects items specifically for her customers. “Whenever I see something beautiful that somebody would like to have, I make sure to carry it,” Bowman said of her inventory. From simple cashmere sweaters to elaborate tops and an assortment of fingerless gloves—which Bowman called “one of the best

collections of fingerless gloves in the city”—the inventory and staff tries to cater to client’s individual needs.

The West Village was a natural choice for Bowman’s boutique because of the clientele it attracts. Bowman often refers to her average customer as “a woman with a past, who is a girl with a future.” On an average day, the boutique’s visitors include everyone from teenagers to women in their seventies.

The most popular items are jeans from Peace of Cloth and Christopher Blue, which cost an average of \$150, and shirts that Bowman herself designed under the Hanna G. label, which range from

\$65-\$85. These pieces have a unifying theme of adventure and sophistication. Unfortunately, Bowman’s selections are not for those with a small budget—a top at this boutique can cost up to \$325.

While Bowman originally intended to showcase only her designs in the shop, she currently carries a wide variety of unique styles from many different designers—including Johnny Was and Judy Tampa. These labels and others deliver a quality of clothing that shoppers can rarely find. In short, Arleen Bowman Boutique is an enticing stop for students with larger budgets looking for well-made, versatile pieces.

Students’ pipe dreams can come true in West Village

BY DEVIN BRISKI
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

STYLE A once-over of many esteemed New York lifestyle publications may have readers believe Christopher Street is all about the trendy restaurants and “it” gay bars.

But a slightly seedier staple is ignored: the crooked Street is a smoker’s paradise, boasting head shops every other building, many attached to tattoo parlors. A win-win? Nick “Little Nicky” Atrach, an employee at Tattoo Dreams, would say so. “We’re a one stop shop,” he said. A joint tattoo parlor and head shop, Tattoo Dreams goes beyond basic Zig Zags and plastic water pipes.

One of their most prominent water pipe options has a mask configuration attached to the smoke chamber that maximizes efficiency—an unsettling contraption that looks like it was meant to protect from mustard gas in World War I rather than aid a chill Friday night.

Atrach explained that some people are into that kind of thing. “It depends on how crazy the person is,” Atrach said. “Certain people—they love the skulls, they love vampires.”

Others go for quality. Atrach pointed to a \$1,000 water pipe called the Hurricane. “When you smoke it, the smoke goes up like a hurricane,” Atrach said. Natural disasters seem to be a common theme as Atrach points out another popular option—the

smokeless Volcano Vaporizer, a conical machine which directs airflow and manipulates temperature.

Even smokers are not immune to the forces of conspicuous consumerism. “Some people, they just look for the name,” Atrach said. The most extravagant spenders hail from across the Hudson. “They come here and spend two or three grand,” he said.

While some smokers aim for glitz, others go to great lengths to appear inconspicuous, purchasing from Tattoo Dream’s selection of animal shaped glass blown pipes. “People can display it, it doesn’t look like a pipe,” Atrach said.

Atrach spoke of his store’s variety: “We have low quality and high quality.”

But the nearby Village Mania Ink has a clear specialty. Shelves are stocked with skull and crossbones-encrusted hookahs. “Those go to the younger generation,” employee Raj Gandhi said.

Gandhi also referenced a vague feeling many Christopher Street patrons get when making head to head shop comparisons: “There is no difference,” he said.

Employee Adams Ismail of West Village Ink would beg to differ. “We have different brands,” Ismail explained, and pointed out a selection of high quality hand blown Chameleon brand pipes, some of which glow in the dark.

In fact, everything about West Village Ink screams quality, including the five and a half foot hookah in their door. While Mania

can do goth-style starter hookah, WV Ink is the destination for glass with class.

Ismail said that the most popular water pipe brand was “Pure Glass” pipes that run for between \$200 and \$700. Ismail explained how the smoke runs through the water twice, purifying it. True to their self-explanatory name, the pipes are simple, clear, and straightforward—no curlicue sliders or twisted

smoke chambers to be found.

West Village Ink’s simple and straightforward approach doesn’t preclude the day-to-day challenges of working at a smoke shop. “Some people wouldn’t follow this sign,” Ismail said as he pointed at a taped up sign that read “For tobacco use only!!”



SMOKE SIGNALS | Tattoo Heaven is one of a number of eccentric West Village parlors.



Tennis to serve to Binghamton, Stony Brook

BY KUNAL GUPTA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The men's tennis team will return home this weekend for two matches against non-conference foes Binghamton and Stony Brook, looking to rebound from a tough loss at the hands of Ivy League rival Harvard in the finals of the Eastern Conference Athletic Championships this past Monday. Binghamton and Stony Brook represent some of the most difficult nonconference competition that Columbia will see all season. The two home matches this weekend begin a four-match homestand for the Lions, after which they will travel to Ithaca to take on Cornell in their Ivy League opener.

"I am definitely very cognizant of the fact that Binghamton is a very good team now," said head coach Bid Goswami. "They are very good and very deep. We beat them in a close match at home last year. It will be a very good test."

The Lions' first opponent this weekend will be the Bearcats, who are on a five match win streak, including two victories over Ivy schools. Binghamton beat Brown in Rhode Island, 5-2 and followed that up with a 5-2

win over Cornell in Ithaca. Binghamton also comes into the match with the No. 1 ranked singles player in the region in junior Sven Vloedgraven. Vloedgraven won the ITA Regional Championships in the fall, cementing his position as one of the top players in the Northeast. Coming in at No. 2 in the singles rankings for the region is Columbia's No. 1 player, senior Jon Wong, creating what promises to be an intriguing battle at the top spot in the lineup. In both of the matches against Brown and Cornell, Vloedgraven won his match at No. 1 singles in straight sets.

"He's very, very steady," said Goswami of Vloedgraven. "He never mishits, he returns every ball. He's a tall kid who moves around well, and keeps a lot of balls in play and makes you earn every point. But Jon, at our home courts goes through the ball pretty well, but he has to play well to win."

Last season, the Lions took out the Bearcats by a lopsided score of 6-1. In that match, Columbia jumped all over Binghamton in the doubles point, winning two of the matches by scores of 8-1 and 8-2. In singles play, Wong won at No. 1 singles against Moshe Levy, but then senior

COLUMBIA VS. BINGHAMTON
 Dick Savitt Tennis Center, 2 p.m.

COLUMBIA VS. STONY BROOK
 Dick Savitt Tennis Center, Saturday, 2 p.m.

Bogdan Borta was defeated by Vloedgraven at No. 2 singles in straight sets. The rest of the singles players for Columbia also won their matches in straight sets, giving the Lions a relatively straight forward win.

The Stony Brook Seawolves come into Saturday on a three match win streak, in which they have defeated their opponents by a combined score of 19-2. The Seawolves' top singles player is Ivan Rummel, a junior who is ranked No. 18 in the region's singles rankings. Stony Brook has defeated Fairfield, Army and Connecticut this spring, and has looked especially strong in doubles play this season, winning doubles in all three of their matches. The Seawolves have looked



ADRIENNE HAZGHIA / SPECTATOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
CROSS COURT | Jon Wang looks to serve up a win for the Lions in two upcoming matches.



ALYSON GOULDEN FOR SPECTATOR
EN GARDE | The Columbia men's and women's fencing teams will travel upstate to compete in the first part of the Ivy League Championships on Sunday.

Fencing heads upstate for Ancient Eight championship bouts

BY MICHELE CLEARY
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

This weekend, the men's and women's fencing teams will travel to Ithaca, N.Y. for the first part of the Ivy League Championships. The Championships are divided into two parts because of the number of bouts, and the second half will take place next weekend at Penn. The Lions, who were champions in both 2007 and 2008, will look to take back the title after placing second in both the men's and women's competitions last year.

This Sunday, the Light Blue will face off against Yale, Cornell, and Brown. Last year, the women defeated all three of these opponents and the men defeated Yale and Brown (Cornell does not have a men's team).

The women trumped the Bulldogs 21-6, while the men won 17-10. Against the Bears, the women again earned an easy win, 23-4, while the men's match was a little closer, 18-9. The women defeated the Big Red in a 20-7 decision.

Last year, the women were able to dominate the epee, going 8-1 in their

match against Yale and 9-0 in their match against Brown. Then-freshman Neely Brandfield-Harvey went 3-0 in both matches for the Lions. Current junior Martyna Urbanowicz only competed in the Yale match, winning 3-0, and current senior Tess Finkel also swept, going 3-0 in the match against Brown.

The men had similar success in sabre, going 7-2 and 8-1 against Yale and Brown, respectively. Current seniors Alex Rudnicki and Jeff Spear swept both matches that day, going 3-0 against Yale and Brown. Current junior Trevis Joyner split his bouts,

COLUMBIA AT IVY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS
 Ithaca, N.Y., Sunday, 11 a.m.

winning 2-1 against Brown but falling 2-1 against Yale.

During the first part of the competition last year, both teams lost to the eventual champions, as the women fell to Harvard in a 15-12 nail-biter, and the men were handled by Penn, 18-9. The Light Blue will have to wait until next weekend to exact its revenge.

The first part of the Championships will begin at 11 a.m. on Sunday.

Wrestling sets mats for Homecoming

BY BART LOPEZ
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

This weekend the Lions return home. After a tough three matches against Princeton, Drexel, and Penn, the Columbia wrestling team will host Ivy rivals Harvard and Brown on Friday and Saturday, respectively. The Light Blue is currently 6-10-1 overall and 0-3 in the Ivy League.

At 6 p.m. on Friday, Columbia will face off against Harvard in its Homecoming match in University Gym. The Crimson, 2-12-1 overall and 0-3 Ivy, is currently on a nine-match losing streak. All nine of the losses have been big ones, as the Crimson has failed to get within 20 points of its opponents during the stretch. Despite Harvard's subpar season, it will bring two wrestlers with impressive records. Senior Louis Caputo enters the competition with a 17-2 overall record, while fellow senior J.P. O'Connor is currently undefeated at 24-0 with a team-high six major decisions.

On Saturday, Columbia will host Brown in its last matchup of the regular season. The Bears, 4-11 overall and 1-2 Ivy, are coming off a big 33-6 loss to Lehigh. Brown's only conference win this season came against Harvard in a 33-12 decision at home. The last time these two teams met, Brown came out on top, winning by a final score of 22-9. This weekend, the Lions look to get some payback as a way to cap off an up-and-down season.

These final two matchups should provide the Lions with some late preparation for the EIWA Championships, which begin on March 7 in Bethlehem, Penn.

COLUMBIA VS. HARVARD
 University Gym, Friday, 6 p.m.

COLUMBIA VS. BROWN
 University Gym, Saturday, 4 p.m.

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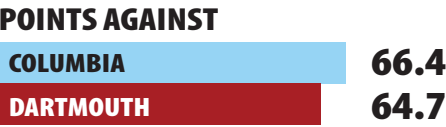
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For a schedule of more CU Jazz concerts taking place this month, please visit music.columbia.edu/mpp or email mpp@columbia.edu

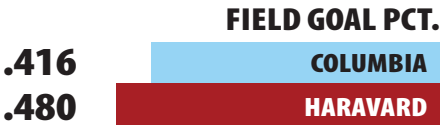
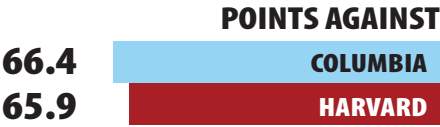


BY THE NUMBERS



COURTESY OF MEREDITH H. KEFFER FOR THE HARVARD CRIMSON
SLAM DUNK | Forward Kyle Casey has helped lead Harvard to its successful 17-5 record this season.

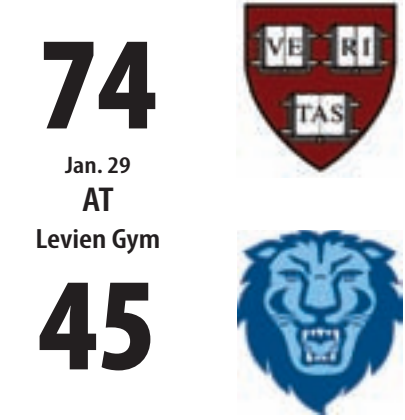
BY THE NUMBERS



LAST TIME THEY MET



LAST TIME THEY MET



Ivy Player of the Week, freshman Casey adds a fresh face to Crimson

BY CAROLINE CASEY
Columbia Daily Spectator

This season is shaping up to be very exciting for the Crimson (17-5, 6-2 Ivy), thanks in no small part to its much-hyped freshman recruits. Notable among them is Kyle Casey, who at 6-foot-7 and 215 pounds, plays small forward for Harvard.

Summoned to Cambridge last year by head coach Tommy Amaker, Casey is not far from home. He grew up in Medway, Mass. and attended Brimmer and May Academy in Chestnut Hill, where, as a three-time captain and three-year starter, he was primed for big-league recruitment. Casey was a 2008 Reebok All-America selection, three-time Greater Boston first team pick, and three-time New England Prep School Athletic Conference selection. He earned MVP honors at the 2009 St. Sebastian's Tournament and was a McDonald's All-America nominee.

Snubbing Stanford, Casey, a lover of poetry and singing, accepted Amaker's invitation to fortify the recently refashioned Harvard Men's Basketball program.

Last week, after facilitating Crimson triumphs over Brown and Yale, Casey was named the Ivy League Player of the Week. This honor has not been bestowed upon a freshman since January 28, 2002 when it was awarded to Brown's Jason Forte. The same day, Casey earned his second Rookie of the Week honor in a row and his fourth this season. He was named by Blue Ribbon College Basketball Yearbook as the Ivy League's Preseason

Newcomer of the Year. Casey was also mentioned in a Harvard Men's Basketball feature in Sports Illustrated's February issue.

Casey shares the Crimson limelight with senior guard Jeremy Lin, the first Ivy League finalist in ten years for the prestigious Wooden Award, as well as the first ever Ivy League finalist for the Basketball Hall of Fame's Bob Cousy Award—given each year to the nation's top point guard.

Though a Crimson squad has never won a basketball conference title, this year's team is in good position to make a run for it. Harvard currently stands in third place in the Ancient Eight behind Princeton (15-6, 6-1 Ivy) and league-leader Cornell (21-4, 7-1 Ivy). A part of this revolution, Casey is one of two fiery new recruits who has helped with Harvard's three-year—long transformation from an infamously unskilled basketball program to one brimming with potential.

Against the Light Blue on January 29, the Crimson, led by Lin and Brandyn Curry (who scored 14 and 13 points respectively), emerged too easily victorious with a final score of 74-45. That night, Noruwa Agho and Patrick Foley spearheaded Columbia's offensive effort, scoring 12 points and 10 points in 14 minutes, respectively. Unfortunately, Foley's recent shoulder injury does not bode well for the Light Blue, which will have to cope henceforth without the high scorer and leader in assists.

Before Harvard's matchup with Columbia, Casey and his teammates will look to redeem themselves from an embarrassing 86-50 loss to Cornell when they host the Big Red tonight.

KEY MATCHUP

Dixon vs. Bulger

Dartmouth's junior guard Ronnie Dixon gave the Lions a tough time the last time they met, scoring 11 points on 4-for-9 shooting. Columbia's defensive specialist senior guard Kevin Bulger will have to contain Dixon in order for the Light Blue to move one game closer to .500.



Ronnie Dixon



Kevin Bulger

KEY MATCHUP

Casey vs. Ampim

Harvard's breakout star, freshman forward Kyle Casey, has been a force inside all season, leading the team in boards with 5.5 a game and averaging a second-best 10.5 points. If Columbia's junior forward Asenso Ampim can defend Casey well, the Light Blue has a good shot at an upset.












Kyle Casey



Asenso Ampim

COURTESY OF DARTMOUTH ATHLETICS AND COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

COURTESY OF HARVARD ATHLETICS AND COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

WEEK 5									
	Tom Di Benedetto (20-12)	Lucas Shaw (20-12)	Jelani Johnson (18-14)	Lisa Lewis (17-15)	Bart Lopez (15-17)	Matt Velazquez (15-17)	Kunal Gupta (14-18)	Holly MacDonald (14-18)	Jacob Shapiro (14-18)
	Columbia at Dartmouth (+8.5)	Lions	Lions	Columbia	Columbia	Roar	Columbia	Columbia	Columbia
	Cornell at Harvard (+9.5)	Harvard	Crimson	Cornell	Vard	silence?	Cornell	Harvard	Cornell
	Yale at Princeton (-8.5)	Yale	Jersey	Princeton	Yale	Bark	Princeton	Princeton	Yale
	Brown at Penn (-4.5)	Penn	Quakers	Brown	Penn	Quakers sound	Penn	Brown	Penn
	Villanova at Pitt (+3.5)	Pitt	Nova	Villanova	Nova	Wild Meow	Nova	Pitt	Pitt
	Ohio St. at Michigan St. (-5.5)	Spartans	Tom Izzo	Ohio State	Buckeyes	SPARTA!	MSU	Ohio St	Michigan St.
	Cleveland at Orlando (+7.5)	Magic	Anti-LeBron	Orlando	Magic	Abrakadabra	Magic	Orlando	Orlando
	Boston at Denver (-3.5)	Nuggets	Melo	Denver	Nug Nuts	gold gold	Nuggz	Boston	Denver
THE BEST PART									
Anybody else pumped about T-Mac?		Donnie Walsh channeling Isaiah?		"You don't build a house without blueprints..."		Canada is full of fail...well said Kunal.		"You got to have smelt a lot of mule manure before you can sing like a hillbilly." - Hank Williams, Sr.	
				J Shap and I are starting our own network broadcasting all Chicago sports and all Colorado sports, all the time.				Can Lucas really be in first place without sending in a column and his picks for the past two weeks? Kangaroo Court!	
								In two days Mack Brown got 13 juniors to commit to play at the University of Texas. Is this normal? No, this is Texas.	
								Sweet Home Chicago	

Basketball just needs a little swagger



BART LOPEZ

The Tailgating Tales

The 2009-10 men's basketball season has been tough for me to watch. Before everyone went home for Christmas break we were sitting at 5-5 overall, with hopes of contending for the Ivy title. Since then, the Lions have gone 4-8 overall, with some ugly losses to conference rivals Cornell, Harvard, and Princeton. I can't help but ask, what's the deal?

Here at Spec sports, we've run all sorts of in-focus stories analyzing the ups and downs of the season—from the Lions' injury problems to their lack of ball movement. All the articles pointed to important aspects of the team's game that needed to improve. After reading these stories, it may appear as if we are, in short, inferior to Cornell. But this is not the case. Statistically, the Lions aren't that far off.

The Big Red is led by Ryan Wittman, who averages an impressive 17.0 points and 3.8 rebounds per game; the Crimson is led by Jeremy Lin, who averages 16.7 points and 4.2 rebounds per game. They are both good players, but we've got our own scoring machine. Noruwa Agho averages 17.0 points and 4.2 rebounds per game, on par with both Wittman and Lin. So, if we match up with the top two teams in the top player category then we must be lacking at the other positions, right? Not quite. The Crimson has two players that average over five rebounds per game and the Big Red has one. The Lions have two big men that average over five rebounds per game in Brian Grimes and Asenso Ampim. If you're wondering about the other statistical categories, we average nearly the same amount of assists, steals, and points as our opponents. In other words, when it comes to talent we can keep up with the big boys. So, what's the deal?

My answer is one word: swagger. I'm sure a few of you were expecting me to answer Coach Jones, but he is not the problem (although he can help solve it). It is all about swagger. The winners have it and we don't. But how does having swagger make a team better? I'm glad you asked.

Off the court, swagger can take a variety of forms: from walking with confidence to being able to chat up the

All they need is a shot of swagger directly into the bloodstream.

sexiest person in the room. On the court, swagger is knowing you are going to win the game no matter who is sitting on the opponent's bench. For example, a team that is playing with swagger is a force on the offensive end. Each pass, dribble, and shot is made with the sole purpose of scoring the rock. There is no wasted movement, and each man on the court knows exactly what must be done and when. Most importantly, the players are fearless and poised. Unfortunately for us, I do not see enough of this from Columbia. Far too often we make unnecessary and soft moves. In general, we look intimidated. On the defensive end, teams with swagger know the opponent isn't going to score and they follow the all-important rule: no easy buckets. Every shot is contested, the hoop is protected like it's made of gold, and when a foul is committed around the basket it's a hard one that is meant to remind the opposing player that nothing comes easy. However, I rarely see this attitude from our beloved Lions. I've witnessed too many dribble drives from opposing guards get all the way to the hoop, and not enough hard, "don't bring that weak shit" fouls.

Now I must point out that in no way am I criticizing the skill or drive of our players. I know they want to win and I know they have the skills to do accomplish that goal. All they need is a shot of swagger directly into the bloodstream. It's tough to get players to believe that they can beat any opponent any time, especially when 90 percent of the school doesn't think you can win, but it must be done. The only way to turn around the season is to change the way we approach the game. I mean, come on, we are the Lions. What has more swagger than a lion?

Bart Lopez is a Columbia College junior majoring in economics-mathematics. sportseditors@columbiaspectator.com

COLUMBIA (9-13, 3-5 Ivy) at DARTMOUTH (4-18, 0-8 Ivy)

FRIDAY, 7 P.M., HANOVER, N.H.



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COLUMBIA (9-13, 3-5 Ivy) at HARVARD (17-5, 6-2 Ivy)

SATURDAY, 7 P.M., CAMBRIDGE, MASS.



JASPER CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FAKE OUT | Kevin Bulger preps to lead the Lions into battle on the road this weekend.

Hoops hits the road for Ivy games

Lions must start strong in order to win at Dartmouth, Harvard

BY ZACH GLUBIAK
Spectator Staff Writer

The routine is different, the travel is different, the hotels are different, and even the locker rooms are different.

When Columbia takes to the road this weekend, very little will be familiar off the court. Once the Lions do take the floor, they will want to make sure to get off to a strong start so that those distractions become less of a factor and hostile crowds don't get a chance to get into the game.

The Light Blue travels to Hanover, N.H., this Friday to take on Dartmouth, and then travels to Boston for a Saturday matchup with Harvard. Earlier this year, the Lions rebounded from a 74-45 thrashing at the hands of the Crimson to down the Big Green 63-51. Starting with that game, Columbia (9-13, 3-5 Ivy) has gone 3-2 in conference play. If they hope to continue their climb through the conference standings, head coach Joe Jones' squad will need to make sure to have energy and focus from the opening tip.

Until this past weekend, the Lions had played five straight Ivy League games within the friendly confines of Levien Gymnasium. Columbia ran into trouble in four of those games due to sluggish starts, and in three of the four the Light Blue never managed to get back into the game.

Following a 79-64 drubbing at the hands of Yale on Feb. 6, Jones and

sophomore Noruwa Agho pointed to the Lions' lack of intensity early on as the major culprit in the embarrassing home loss. In that contest, the Bulldogs led the Light Blue 48-29 at halftime, a hole Jones' players simply could not dig themselves out of—despite cutting the deficit to 12 midway through the second half.

"When you spot a team 20 points, your chances are slim to make a comeback," Agho explained at the time.

That game was an accurate representation of Columbia's five home games as a whole, particularly the team's first half woes. The night before, the Lions needed a dominant second half performance to overcome a nine-point deficit to beat Brown, leaving the Jan. 30 contest against Dartmouth as the only outing in the entire home stand in which the Light Blue took control from the start.

In contrast, both of their road games last weekend saw the Lions start hot, a crucial component of success away from home.

"I think it helps," Jones said of getting off to a good start, "I think it helps your confidence, especially on the road."

Last Friday against Princeton, Columbia scored the first five points and opened up a 20-9 lead. Jones labeled the first half, after which the Lions led the then-Ivy League leaders 27-24, one of the best halves he'd seen his team play all

SEE MEN'S BASKETBALL, page 3

Light Blue welcomes Big Green, Crimson to Levien Gym

BY MICHAEL ZHONG
Spectator Staff Writer

Women's basketball will host Pink Zone Night and the reigning champions, the Dartmouth Big Green, in a momentous game on Friday, Feb. 19. This game is an annual event meant to raise breast cancer awareness, and half of all ticket revenues will be donated to breast cancer research.

The game itself is also significant because both teams are trying to stay afloat in the Ivy League standings. Columbia (14-8, 5-3 Ivy) broke its school record of wins in a season by defeating Penn last week, and is in great position to climb ahead of their current third place conference standing. Meanwhile, Dartmouth (9-12, 4-3 Ivy) was picked in the preseason to repeat its title, but has failed to live up to its expectations so far. A win for the Big Green would be huge, and would provide a lot of momentum for the second half of the season.

A win over Columbia would also be redemption for Dartmouth's 72-59 home loss to Columbia earlier in the year, in which the Big Green suffered its worst conference loss this season. The Lions' full-court press stifled Dartmouth's offense, forcing 18 turnovers in the game.

Judie Lomax posted a dominant performance, scoring 26 points, grabbing 16 rebounds, and getting six assists. However, Columbia may have to play this rematch without guard-forward Kathleen Barry, who dropped 17 points on Dartmouth's second-ranked Ivy defense last game.

Dartmouth's star forward, reigning Ivy League Player of the Year forward Brittney Smith had a solid game with 18 points and 11 rebounds, but it wasn't nearly enough to notch the win. Dartmouth's strength lies in its strong defense, and the team lacks the offensive makeup to allow another huge opponent point total.

Head coach Paul Nixon said of Dartmouth, "They're a team that really, really prides itself on their defense and limiting teams' scoring, trying to keep games in the forties and the fifties... We're going to have to be just as determined offensively as we were up there."

The next game will be equally significant when Columbia faces off against Harvard (14-7, 5-2 Ivy) on Saturday. Harvard currently stands in second place behind undefeated Princeton, and a loss on Saturday could cause the Crimson to drop beneath the Lions in the conference standings. The last time these teams

COLUMBIA VS. DARTMOUTH
Levien Gymnasium, Friday, 7 p.m.

COLUMBIA VS. HARVARD
Levien Gymnasium, Saturday, 7 p.m.

met, Columbia fell behind early in the game and eventually lost 73-55.

In the game, Lomax recorded 20 points but most came in the second half. Additionally, Lomax, the leading rebounder in the country, uncharacteristically struggled on the boards, recording only six rebounds that night. As a result, Columbia was outrebounded 35-26 in the game.

The Lions also failed to stop Harvard's star Emma Markley, who controlled the game with final totals of 19 points, eight rebounds, and seven blocks.

In order to have a chance of winning this time, Nixon said, "We can't give her as many easy baskets, or as many one-on-one opportunities. We have to do a better job of providing some help defense."

Tip-off in the Dartmouth game is set for Friday 7 p.m. in Levien Gymnasium and the Harvard game will be played the day after at 7 p.m. in Levien.



ANGELA RADULESCU / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TO THE HOOP | Judie Lomax and the Lions look to repeat their triumph over Dartmouth from earlier this season and avenge a loss versus Harvard.

Women's tennis to host upstate challengers in weekend competition

BY LAUREN SEAMAN
Spectator Staff Writer

Learning from losses is key to victory in any sport. This is exactly what the women's tennis team has been doing this week in preparation for this weekend's competitions against Syracuse and Buffalo.

Last weekend, the Lions trekked to Cambridge to play in the Eastern College Athletic Conference Championships hosted by Harvard. The weekend was quite a disappointment as the girls finished last in the championships, falling to Ivy foes Princeton, Brown, and Cornell. The bitter loss gave the team a lot to think about.

"Last weekend was kind of a wake-up call for the girls," head coach Ilene Weintraub said.

Fallen spirits would not get in the way of their practices this week though. The girls have been working harder than ever in practice to bounce back from the loss. Weintraub is pleased with the progress the team has made in just one short week.

"We've been really focusing on our endurance and our transitions," Weintraub said. "We're also working on short balls—taking them and putting them away."

Despite losing the championships, the Lions had some incredible moments of



SHIVINA HARJANI FOR SPECTATOR

OVERHAND | The Light Blue tennis team invites Syracuse and Buffalo to the city this weekend in hopes of avenging last week's tough ECAC loss.

play. The girls were particularly strong in doubles, and have proved it since the opening of the season.

"We've had really strong doubles so far this season," said Weintraub. "If our doubles are losing, it's because we're being outplayed, not because we're not performing."

Showcasing just how strong Columbia's doubles play can be, its No. 1 doubles team freshman Nicole Bartnik and senior Carling Donovan had tremendous success last weekend. Bartnik and Donovan shut out the No. 29 ranked doubles team—Cassandra Herzberg and

COLUMBIA VS. SYRACUSE
Dick Savitt Tennis Center, Friday, 5 p.m.

COLUMBIA VS. BUFFALO
Dick Savitt Tennis Center, Saturday, 5 p.m.

Bianca Aoubakare—in their consolidation match against Brown, 6-4, 7-5. This particular doubles win proved that Bartnik and Donovan can compete with the higher-ranked teams out there. Weintraub is particularly impressed by their performance this season.

"They make a great team. Nikki sets Carling up from the baseline where Carling is able to put the ball away," Weintraub explained. "It's a great matchup, and I'm excited to see how well they can do."

Donovan's success in doubles has been particularly exciting to see. Now a senior, Donovan has never been ranked before, but after defeating high-rank doubles teams this weekend she might get her chance to shine. Weintraub has alluded to Donovan's potential to make the ranks.

"This is why I coach," Weintraub explained sincerely. "I love to see girls

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