

Engineering Week aims to foster SEAS student pride

BY LILLIAN CHEN
AND SAMANTHA SOKOL
Columbia Daily Spectator

This week, students at the School of Engineering and Applied Science are celebrating what makes engineering awesome.

Engineering Week, which is hosted by the SEAS student councils, kicked off Sunday night with an opening ceremony featuring Engineering Student Council President Tim Qin, SEAS '13, and Engineering Graduate Student Council President David Parker.

Throughout the week, students will tour labs, listen to lectures, attend advising sessions with academic and pre-professional counselors, and enjoy some engineer bonding.

This year, building community is the council's main priority, ESC Vice President of Student Life Sheila Misheni, SEAS '14, said.

To do this, Misheni said the council reached out to more student groups than it has in previous years.

The goal was to "create a week where it's engineering pride, engineering community, also collaborating a lot with other student groups," Misheni said, including pre-professional and major-specific groups.

Qin said that this year's theme for the Columbia week, "Celebrate Awesome," will highlight engineering around the nation.

"We basically have a midterm every other week and the last midterm probably ends the week before finals," Qin said at the opening ceremony in Lerner Party Space. "At the end of the day, we should



KIMBERLY FLORES / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ENGINEERS ARE COOL | ESC gave out free food from Thai Market at the Engineering Week opening ceremony Sunday evening.

realize that we will make a difference in other people's lives."

"E-Week is a good thing because it attracts people ... so more students can get to know SEAS kids," Nancy Araceli, SEAS '16, said.

About 400 students lined up for the opening ceremony on Sunday, but Lerner Party Space is capped at 200 students.

Misheni said that though the dean usually speaks at the opening ceremony, SEAS Interim Dean Donald Goldfarb did not speak this year because planning became too hectic.

"We're just trying to keep it more student-focused rather than having administration come in," Misheni said of the ceremony.

However, she and Qin both

said that former SEAS Dean Feniosky Peña-Mora, who resigned in July, was very involved with planning E-Week.

Besides free food events that help bring the community together, Misheni said the council has also planned a large-scale major discovery event called Passport to SEAS.

A "huge sort of Mudd open house," Passport to SEAS is an event geared toward first-years and sophomores, to teach them more about the different majors at SEAS, Misheni said.

"We have lab tours, professors are giving lectures, we have CSA [Center for Student Advising] advisers and also CCE [Center for Career Education] for preprofessional stuff, as well as student groups

manning the floor so you can get a student perspective," she said.

Qin said this is the first time the councils have worked so closely with professors, administrators, and student leaders for an E-Week event.

"One of the main challenges students face is choosing their major, having little exposure to courses in their major," CSA adviser Andrew Plaa said. "The goal is to make students aware of what it will be like to pursue their major."

Though events are geared toward SEAS students, E-Week is open to the entire student body.

"We reach out in ways to bring everyone in," Qin said, citing examples such as CU

Assassins and a laser tag event planned for Saturday night.

This year, the Columbia College Student Council decided to change the CC version of E-Week—College Days—to a weeklong music festival leading up to Bacchanal.

Misheni said that the two councils have different visions of how to build community at Columbia, but that both work. She added that E-Week isn't a Columbia-specific event—it is celebrated at schools across the country.

Looking ahead, Misheni said ESC is always thinking of new ideas to make E-Week more exciting each year, such as collaborating with other schools in New York City.

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Local flower shop gets helping hand

BY CHRIS MEYER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

When Carolina Flower Shop Too closed in 2011, it looked like the end had finally come for a family-owned store that had served West Harlem for more than 70 years.

But for 48 hours last week, owner Phil Young was back in business during every florist's paradise: Valentine's Day.

Hundreds of customers streamed into Young's temporary outlet, a worn-down storefront on Amsterdam Avenue and 131st Street owned by the West Harlem Progressive Democratic Club, buying elaborate floral arrangements, teddy bears, and boxes of chocolates. Young did such a roaring trade the day before the holiday that Young was forced to restock the next morning just to keep up with demand.

"I would ask people to pay five dollars for a rose, and they would say 'Five dollars? That's ridiculous!'" Young said. "But then they would see the way we put it together, and in the end they said, 'Oh, only five dollars?'"

The store's return was the first of a number of experimental projects spearheaded by the Democratic club, which plans to lease out its Amsterdam storefront free of charge to local businesses, nonprofits, and community gatherings.

Corey Ortega, the club's president and a candidate for the local District 7 City Council seat, said he arrived at the idea of creating a multi-use community center in the neighborhood after seeing how often the space



TIANYUE SUN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

VALENTINE'S SURPRISE | Carolina Flower Shop Too owner Phil Young, left, got some help from City Council candidate Corey Ortega to reopen his shop for Valentine's Day.

went underused.

"The traditional business model for a Democratic club is that we meet once a month or twice a month for the members and a board meeting," Ortega said. "But for the most part, the space is underutilized. The doors are closed, and the gates are shut."

Ortega originally met Young in 2011 at the office of State Assembly member Keith Wright, where Ortega worked as an aide. Young came in looking for help with a debt burden that would eventually shutter his flower shop. Despite attempts to secure additional financing and restructure the business, Ortega was unable to prevent Carolina Flower Shop Too from closing.

But Ortega left Young, whom he described as a "master florist," with a promise.

"I saw that the man had a twinkle in his eye. He had talent for what he did," Ortega said. "I told Phil not to worry, and that if there is ever an opportunity down the road, I would help him come back. In my line of work, you just need to give someone time."

And so, three days before Valentine's Day, Ortega offered Young the newly available storefront for the holiday. Young, who had spent the last two years supporting himself by playing drums and selling flowers out of his house to local churches and funeral parlors, was quick to agree, leading to what Ortega called a "frenzy" of activity as they transformed a political office into a florist's workshop.

"He was invigorated," Ortega

SEE FLOWERS, page 2

Teachers union backs Levine for City Council

BY CHRIS MEYER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The United Federation of Teachers announced Friday that it was endorsing Mark Levine in the race for a Morningside Heights City Council seat, adding another big name to a growing list of local politicians and unions that have voiced their support for the Democratic district leader.

"I have been in the trenches with them fighting for labor for many years."

—Mark Levine
City Council candidate

"As a former UFT member—and as a public school parent—Mark has a deep understanding of the needs of our schools and the critical role played by teachers," UFT President Michael Mulgrew said in a statement. "As a Councilmember he will be a leader in fighting for students, teachers, and the education system as a whole, and we are proud to endorse him."

The formal support of the UFT, which boasts a membership of 200,000 New York public school teachers, represents a major coup for Levine, who

began his career as a bilingual teacher in the Bronx and later worked as the executive director of Teach for America in New York.

"Having been in the classroom myself, I know first hand just how tough teaching is. And I also know that we need to do everything we can to support the professionals who have dedicated their career to helping shape young minds," Levine said in the statement. "I look forward to working with the UFT to achieve this goal, and couldn't be prouder to have their endorsement."

Levine said in an interview that his past work within the public school system, as well as the relationships he had developed with school officials, made him an attractive choice for the union.

The race for District 7, which also includes Manhattanville, Hamilton Heights, and parts of Washington Heights and the Upper West Side, will likely focus heavily on education, as well as affordable housing and economic development.

In addition to the UFT, Levine has received support from a number of other labor unions in the district, including United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1500, the Uniformed Fire Officers Association, and Communication Workers of America Local 1180.

"These are people I also have relationships with," Levine said.

SEE LEVINE, page 2

Professor strips at FroSci lecture

Confusing performance featured videos of 9/11, WWII

BY TRACEY WANG
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

First-years in Frontiers of Science were supposed to hear a lecture on quantum mechanics from renowned physics professor Emlyn Hughes on Monday morning. But what they witnessed first was a bizarre performance from Hughes that left many of them baffled and confused.

As students filed into the lecture hall, all of the lights were off, except for two spotlights on stage where Hughes was sitting. With Lil Wayne's "Drop It Like It's Hot" playing in the background, Hughes stripped down to his underwear, then proceeded to change into a black T-shirt and pants. Afterwards, he sat down on the chair, hugging his knees in a fetal position.

Then, as a jumbled video that included footage of the planes crashing into the Twin Towers on 9/11 continued to play on the screen, two figures dressed in black came on stage with long swords. One of them proceeded to chop a stuffed animal in half on a stool.

Students said they were shocked and confused by what was happening on stage.

Darializa Chevalier, CC '16, said that she was caught off guard by the whole thing.

"I walked in the class, and the lights were out, so I thought something was off," she said. "Then the song comes on, and we were like, 'What version of 'Drop It Like It's Hot' is this?'"

Danielle Niemann, CC '16, said that she didn't realize Hughes was the professor because of how he was dressed.

"I was very confused. I didn't know if it was the professor or some crazy person," she said. "I thought I was maybe asleep and it was a dream."

The video on screen also showed footage of Osama Bin Laden and battles from World War II.

Maura Barry-Garland, CC '16, said that the incident was all the more disconcerting because Hughes did not provide an explanation for using those images.

"It was very disturbing, and I don't think anyone in the audience got what he was doing. He didn't explain it or provide a context, and that's why it was offensive to me and to other people," Barry-Garland said.

"This is a school in New York," Barry-Garland added. "I'm sure lots of people have personal connections to what happened here on 9/11, or have family members who died during World War II."

Reyna Pacheco Rios, CC '16, said that she has friend who served in the Marines, and she was shocked when the clip of the 9/11 attacks came on.

"I was like, 'How is this funny at all?'" Pacheco Rios said.

After the episode, students said that Hughes began teaching the rest of the lecture on quantum mechanics as though nothing had happened. He did, however, wear dark sunglasses and keep his hood up for the entire lecture.

"I was really confused," Niemann said. "He wore his sunglasses the whole time, so I

SEE HUGHES, page 2

A&E, PAGE 3

Student bands set to play (SIN)esthesia

After being declared the winners of Thursday's Battle of the Bands, Standard Delivery and Lubeen won the opportunity to open for CCSC's (SIN)esthesia headliner.



OPINION, PAGE 4

Reconsider the West

Letter to the editor: Misunderstanding discussions of "the West."

Promoting Sports

Bob Sun on how we could benefit from exposure to sports in NYC.

SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Lions struggle on both sides of the ball

Men's basketball committed a combined 38 turnovers over the weekend against Brown and Yale and largely failed to stop opponents in the paint.

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Hughes’ antics befuddle first-years

HUGHES from front page

couldn’t really see his face.”

Rios said that while she was intrigued by what Hughes was doing, she was also thoroughly confused.

“I liked that he was captivating our attention,” she said. “But at the same token, he didn’t take off his sunglasses the whole lecture...I didn’t know what to think of that.”

Others said it was tough to concentrate after witnessing what happened on stage.

“The actual lecture was normal, but I couldn’t get the first 10 minutes out of my head. It was really hilarious, and at the same time, really bizarre,” Chevalier said.

Hughes did not immediately respond to a request for comment Monday night.

It was surprising “that someone would think that was a good idea,” Barry-Garland said.

The performance was not Hughes’ first classroom stunt. In a FroSci lecture in fall 2011, he showed students nude photos of Woodstock attendees.

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Council candidate Ortega opens space to businesses

FLOWERS from front page

said. “The guy had an energy about him that I hadn’t seen for two years.”

After the success of what Young called an “initial experiment,” he and Ortega have already begun to map out the future of Carolina Flower Shop Too. Young is planning a similar temporary flower store for Easter, and the duo hopes that within the next year, the storefront will bring in enough business to help Young accumulate some savings. With about \$20,000, Young said, he could attract non-traditional lenders such as local development corporations.

“It’s not just about selling flowers. It’s about giving back.”

—Phil Young
Flower shop owner

“I have so many dreams and plans,” he said. “I’d like to see the shop in a few different places as well.”

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However, plans to use the space are not limited to small businesses. Ortega said he had already received interest from nonprofits that want to work out of the storefront, including Single Stop, a national anti-poverty organization, and Per Scholas, which offers technology training in low-income neighborhoods.

Another possibility would be to use the storefront for after-school programs, which Ortega said were especially important for a community suffering from budget cuts in education. The club has even received offers from a local yoga organization, which would use the space for morning sessions.

In the end, both Young and Ortega said the goal is not just to bring back Carolina Flower Shop Too, but also to give back to the community as a whole.

Young said he hopes to follow the example of his grandfather, who originally opened the store in 1939 and hired local children to work part-time in order to help the neighborhood.

“He always reached out, and that’s what it was all about,” Young said. “It’s not just about selling flowers. It’s about giving back.”

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District 7 race to focus on education

LEVINE from front page

“I have been in the trenches with them fighting for labor for many years.”

Candidate Mark Otto, an assistant principal at Facing History School in midtown Manhattan, has based his campaign predominantly on his education reform proposals, saying that local schools provide the most fundamental solution to economic development issues in the district.

Otto said in an email Monday that he was disappointed he had not received the UFT endorsement. Although he was not “thoroughly surprised” that Levine won the union’s support, he vowed to keep educational reform the cornerstone of his campaign.

“I have been an educator for 10 years and have the support of hundreds of teachers in my district and all across NYC,” Otto said. “Now, as both a teacher and vice principal, I know well our



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

IN IT TO WIN IT | The UFT endorsement of Mark Levine adds to a growing list of endorsements for the City Council candidate.

system’s strengths and weaknesses. I’m the only candidate who brings to the table a current, comprehensive approach to make our public school system better.”

Levine has also received

endorsements from prominent political figures including Bill de Blasio, the city’s public advocate, and Scott Stringer, the borough president of Manhattan.

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A grandson’s lasting passion for baseball

ANDREWS from back page

miraculously, and captured their first World Series since 1918—one of the reasons I will always believe that the Lions are going to win the Ivy football championship one of these years.

My grandpa passed away in late 2009, and some of the life left the house in Woonsocket. But my grandma and I still spoke frequently about baseball and her other love, tennis. My first week in New York, I thrilled her with a picture I had taken at the US Open, even if I think she wished I had seen Federer rather than Nadal.

But suddenly she, too, is

gone. Rather than a casket, at her small funeral my aunts and uncles left out her pink Red Sox hat, which she wore every day during the summer—an image that hit me harder than any coffin could.

I write not to posit that my experiences are unique and original. Nor am I attempting to degrade families that are not touched by sports. (My grandma, too, watched Downton Abbey religiously.) I only wish to say, not for the first time and not for the last, that for those of us who do care, sports are more than a game. Baseball will always mean more to me than balls and strikes, hits and runs.

And in my grief it comforts me to know that every February pitchers and catchers will head to Florida and Arizona for the start of a new season. With each Opening Day, hope springs eternal, and so will my memory of my grandparents—two strong people who left this world far too soon.

Peter Andrews is a junior in Columbia College majoring in history. He is studying at University College London this semester and is head manager emeritus of the Columbia University Marching Band. Lion in London runs biweekly. sports@columbiaspectator.com

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CU Jewelry shines thanks to GS alum

BY REBECCA DECZYNSKI
Columbia Daily Spectator

Commencement is three months away, but if you're already thinking about graduation gifts, one alumnus has you covered. Columbia students, graduates, and affiliates can share their school spirit with official university lapel pins, cuff links, and jewelry thanks to Philip Ehrlich, GS '88, the founder of Columbia Jewelry.

An Alumni Affairs project that started as a thank-you to the University, Columbia Jewelry enables Ehrlich to design, create, and sell hand-made pieces to share with the University community. He will sell his designs at the Columbia bookstore during the Graduation Fair from March 12-14.

"Really, it's for the whole Columbia family," Ehrlich said. "And in that regard, we have many designs. Some of them are for anyone in the University, and other designs are school-specific."

Designing jewelry was not always in Ehrlich's plans. Although he came to Columbia to study science and philosophy, he developed an interest in art history and took drawing and sculpture classes.

"I think through philosophy, I learned to appreciate all the arts—that's what started it," he said. "But then I had the amazing discovery that I had sculptural talent. It was a pure fluke."

Ehrlich ended up finishing school with 155 credits and a visual arts degree. Following graduation, he invested more time in his sculptural work and occasionally traveled to Paris.

Eventually, though, he needed to find a day job. He worked on Wall Street for 12 years, in trade settlement and banking for SMBC Nikko Securities (formerly Nikko Securities) and UBS AG (formerly Paine Webber), before quitting to resume making art. He managed to establish himself as a sculptor.

After attending his first alumni event, his career took off once more when the president of the Columbia Alumni Association asked him to join the board of directors. Ehrlich went on to become treasurer and then president. The association commissioned him to design fine jewelry for Columbia in celebration of its 250th anniversary in 2004.

"I guess I viewed jewelry as small sculpture, so that's kind of what I was already doing, just on a smaller scale," he said.

As for his designs, Ehrlich has adapted many of Columbia's pre-existing motifs, in addition to coming up with his own. For instance, he made his own three-dimensional design of the Columbia Lion, which has since become an official symbol for the university.

"I wanted to really incorporate the design fully and make it integral—a three-dimensional design—not just something stamped and mass-produced," he said. "I wanted it to be a real miniature sculpture of the Columbia symbols. That's important to me, and it's something that's not easy to come by."

He has also designed other works dedicated to Columbia, including a bronze owl sculpture for Lewisohn Hall, University shields for the president's office and the School of General Studies, bronze plaques, and teaching awards.

Ehrlich said he's ensured that his standards remain high as he manages a busy workload from his company, American Identity Designs, polishing most pieces himself to ensure their top quality.

As the volume of requested pieces increases, he occasionally turns to other craftsmen for assistance with operations.

"I always try to do the best I can for the design. I want to try to be a cut above what Columbia would get, just getting someone from the phone-books," Ehrlich said. "It's a given that I care about Columbia and I want to help Columbia. I'm a designer and a sculptor so that's one of the best ways I can help."

Columbia Jewelry pieces can be ordered via the Columbia Jewelry website, cujewelry.com.

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Standard Delivery, Lubeen to open (SIN)esthesia

BY JENNY PAYNE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

After an unexpected second Battle of the Bands at last Thursday's Glass House Rocks, a combination of student polling and committee yielded two winners: indie-alternative rock band Standard Delivery and hip-hop artist Lubeen.

The two bands will open for a to-be-announced artist at Columbia College Student Council's (SIN)esthesia this April, kicking off a week of student-focused performances at Columbia Music Festival. The musicians weighed in on their post-victory feelings and plans as they look toward April.

STANDARD DELIVERY

Comprising Jonah Belser, Prajit Gopal, Linan Qiu, Alex Roth, all CC '16, and Ethan Hogan, CC '13, Standard Delivery is excited to have the opportunity to continue its Columbia musical career at such a large-scale show, following up its performance at Lowlapalooza last fall. At Lowlapalooza, the band was still only Belser and Gopal, with the rest of the members joining since then. According to Gopal, Hogan had only played with Standard Delivery once before the Battle of the Bands. After the band's victory, all the members are starting to look forward to (SIN)esthesia.

"It's a big show, and we've never played a full set before," guitarist Gopal said. "It's going to be a lot of work, but I'm really excited for it."

The band members noted the importance of their fellow students' support, as a neck-and-neck popular poll vote determined their victory.

"I want to reflect how thankful we are to our fans for coming out to support us," lead vocalist Belser said. "I'm pretty much astonished beyond belief to have this kind of opportunity."

Standard Delivery is planning on heading to the studio to record at least two singles and make music videos before the April show, as well as continuing



COURTESY OF STANDARD DELIVERY

(SIN)FUL | Standard Delivery was one of two bands chosen to open at (SIN)esthesia April 9.

to do what it can to stay active in the music scene. "The Battle of the Bands was just an opportunity for us, and it ended up working out well," Gopal said. "We're going to continue taking opportunities as they come."

LUBEEN

"I'm not going up there to perform for myself," John Lubeen Hamilton, CC '13, said.

Though Lubeen—Hamilton's stage name—was pleased with his Battle of the Bands performance, watching the student polls unfold was nerve-racking.

"I thought my chances were dropping, even though I felt like I did my best in my performance itself," Lubeen said. "There were a lot of new faces that seemed really into it, which made me feel confident."

Sunday evening's announcement confirmed Lubeen's confidence in his performance when he was named the committee vote winner.

Lubeen puts audience satisfaction first in his goals for all of his performances.

"I want to put on the most entertaining show that I can," he said. "If the crowd doesn't enjoy it, I did something wrong."

He values the festival's goal of encouraging Columbia spirit and unity, glad to see "plain old fun activities" on campus.

"I think things like this make Columbia more college-y," he said.

After opening at Bacchanal two years ago, Lubeen looks at (SIN)esthesia as an opportunity to establish himself as a musician and encourage the student body to explore its own talent.

"I'd really love for this campus body to really embrace the talent on campus a lot more," he said. "Even if it's not me, I'd love to be able to be a part of whatever it is that gets the campus looking inward when people want to find good stuff to listen to."

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Dance Magazine to feature Columbia Ballet Collaborative

BY LAUREN WINGENROTH
Columbia Daily Spectator

This March, Columbia Ballet Collaborative will be featured in Dance Magazine, which has been continuously published since 1927. Comprised of current and former professional dancers across all undergraduate schools, the group has been featured in the New York Times. Spectator talked to CBC's artistic director, Ariana Lott, CC '13, about the company and its upcoming article in the nationally circulated magazine.

LAUREN WINGENROTH: Why do you think you were approached to be in Dance Magazine?

ARIANA LOTT: I think that people are really realizing that there isn't a lot of space for ballet choreographers to experiment. I mean, there's the New York Choreographic Institute that New York City Ballet runs, but it's very hard for an emerging choreographer to find a place with talented dancers and studio space that they can try out an idea on. Also, we are a professional-caliber student group, and that's something that's interesting.

LW: How does CBC distinguish itself as a professional-level company within a college setting?

AL: Our performances feature both student and professional choreographers. For example, this semester one [choreographer] is a corps member at ABT [American Ballet Theatre], one choreographed "Shrek the Musical," another has her own dance company and ... choreographed for Ballet Next, and then Emery LeCrone is our resident choreographer. We have two student choreographers, and we also are doing excerpts from

Balanchine's "Four Temperaments." So choreographers get an opportunity to work with us, but one thing is that when you're training, you do a lot of things that have been done for a really long time. You do "The Nutcracker," "Swan Lake," but it's rare to have a work created on you.

LW: Are you pleased with the way the Dance Magazine article depicts CBC?

AL: We're so thrilled. I was shocked, honestly—I was like jumping up and down. Seeing my name in Dance Magazine could have been the coolest thing in my life. It touches on all of the aspects of CBC, and it's short, sweet, really well written. We're so excited. All young dancers get Dance Magazine, and you read all the articles about all these really, really famous people, and I just never thought that a group that I was a part of would be in it. I came to Columbia because of CBC, and a lot of people in CBC did. I think that when your whole life is dedicated to ballet, the thought of going to college is really scary. It's such a huge part of your identity. I spent more time at the ballet studio than I did at my house. And for me, I needed to continue that at school. I didn't have to choose dance over school, and that's what CBC gives people.

LW: Does the student interest in CBC match the interest the national media is giving you?

AL: No. It's a big thing that we struggle with because we do have a large off-campus audience, because these are choreographers who are prominent off-campus. So they bring their following to our shows, which is amazing, but we've really tried to get the community excited. We're never going to be Orchestis, with 100 people who all bring all

their friends. That would be amazing, but we're not going to have that kind of campus presence. We definitely look at Orchestis as, like, we try to achieve that. You go to an Orchestis show and everyone is so excited and there are people from every school, every class, all ages, and we hope someday to maybe get to that in 20 years. And everyone knows what Orchestis is. Not everyone knows what CBC is.

LW: How exactly was CBC affected by the changes at Miller Theatre?

AL: We used to get Miller Theatre for free. Last year we had to start paying—they put us on a schedule, and we paid \$2,500 or something. This year, we're paying \$6,000 or more, and then next year, we'll pay the full price. Our allocation is \$600 and change. We do all the things we're supposed to do. ... We've gotten the Gatsby Grant every semester, but we pay our choreographers an embarrassingly small amount of money. And the thing is, the dancers are so good, and I like to think that they deserve the best choreographer that is willing to work with them. It's unfortunate that this semester there were choreographers that were interested in CBC, but the price was just not working, and that was a major factor. We have amazing choreographers working for us that are so gracious with their time and [with] the fact that we only pay them a small amount. We hope this national coverage will help us because, honestly, after this semester, we might not be able to perform.

This interview has been condensed and edited for clarity.

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Stripping and Osama bin Laden

BY NICOLE SELEME

Teachers can do some really exceptional things to grab their students’ attention. They can start the class with a funny speech, which they’ve probably been reciting in their minds for the past half hour. They can amuse their students by allowing crazy suggestions as examples in class (like imagining the costs of labor and capital of producing your very own Death Star). Or maybe they can have a surprise buffet of Japanese food waiting for you in the classroom. I’ve been fortunate enough to experience all of these. But today’s Frontiers of Science lecture was something else.

Why play with events of genocide, death, massacre, and tragedy?

At the first Physics Fro Sci lecture of the semester, a few girls at a very convenient vantage point managed to record professor Emlyn Hughes dancing to a strange version of Lil Wayne’s “Drop It Like It’s Hot,” as he stripped (yes, he got down to his boxers) and then dressed back in black while footage—of the Twin Towers’ falling, Osama Bin Laden, and Nazi troops hailing Hitler—played behind him. Oh, and don’t forget the random ski-masked people stabbing a cat piñata onstage.

I saw the video later that day. I can accept the stripping part. In fact, I think that if he’d done only that,

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Lanbo Zhang’s article (West versus west, Feb. 7, 2013), which critiqued the way students encountered and discussed the concept, “the West,” was problematic, offensive, and thus begs a response. Throughout his entire article, whether intended or not, Zhang essentially claims that the Global Core and similar spaces where students are asked to deconstruct “the West” are anti-intellectual, uncritical, and unscholarly. He writes that in those spaces, “the Western mentality” is “bastardized and unfairly depicted” and that class conversation “devolves into an indictment of Western civilization’s most cherished values.” These points are of great concern to me not just because they’re ridiculous and extreme, but because they reflect a larger institutional problem—a reactionary response from students and faculty to academic disciplines and scholars that require students to rethink their most cherished beliefs, including—but not limited to—“the West” and its relationship to the Third World.

This dismissive response has resulted historically in the underfunding or dismantling of academic fields of study, the denial of tenure, or even the denial of Ph.D.s for certain scholars. I suggest Zhang read the work of professor Paul Zeleza for a thorough discussion of how these dismissive responses explain why African studies is not given its due respect. I would also suggest he read about the experiences of Senegalese scholar Cheikh Anta Diop who was actually denied a Ph.D. from a university for his attempts at encouraging a solid deconstruction of “the West.” Zhang’s response, and others like it, reflect an unwarranted fear and encourage an academic setting in which it is considered wrong to require students to rethink their dearly held beliefs regarding “the West.”

He doesn’t demonstrate even a cursory understanding of the history, function, and content of certain classes considered part of Global Core.

Zhang engages in the very same game of caricature he claims he derides. He begins his piece by mentioning the Global Core, then moves on to his experiences from Asian humanities (which is still too general) to make his point—but then indicts Global Core as a whole. This is unfair. It treats his experiences in this narrow subset of classes (within a large field) as exemplary of intellectual practice in the Core more generally.

He doesn’t demonstrate even a cursory understanding of the history, function, and content of certain classes considered part of Global Core. His claim that we “desire to compare and contrast the Western with the non-Western” is false and misses the point of classes such as professor Mahmood Mamdani’s Major Debates in the Study of Africa. There, the framework of comparison is precisely what is rejected in his class on the grounds that it sets up one society or one way of being as “normal” and another as not. Moreover, the notion that class conversation “devolves into an indictment of ... cherished” values from the West grossly misrepresents the nature of class conversations. In the class, I am specifically asked: If there is solid evidence that science, mathematics, monotheism, philosophy, agriculture, and writing, existed in places like Northeast Africa and Southwest Asia long before they were present in regions we now call “the West,” how can they be termed “Western values”? This is a perfectly legitimate question to pose to students in an effort to get them to rethink the concept.

Kambi Gathesha, GS ’14

The Columbia Daily Spectator accepts op-eds on any topic relevant to the Columbia University and Morningside Heights community. Op-eds should be roughly 650 words in length. We require that op-eds be sent exclusively to Spectator and will not consider articles that have already been published elsewhere. Letters to the Editor should be no longer than 350 words and must refer to an article from Spectator or The Eye or a Spectrum post. Submissions should be sent to opinion@columbiaspectator.com. Please paste all submissions into the body of the email. Should we decide to publish your submission, we will contact you via email.

and then dropped his punch line about “stripping yourself of all your previous beliefs when studying quantum mechanics,” he would have probably caused me to choke with laughter. I can see that many people of more conservative beliefs might have been offended by this move on his part, but at least the humiliation is solely the teacher’s. It is much easier simply to close your eyes or turn around and ignore this guy who is stripping onstage.

But why the rest of the footage? Now he is treading upon dangerous territory. Why play with events of genocide, death, massacre, and tragedy? Why trample upon people’s past suffering and fears? According to two people who attended the lecture, the professor didn’t even give an explanation as to why he included the footage.

How could he have known whether someone among the 500 people in that lecture hall hadn’t lost family, friends, or loved ones in one of those atrocities? We are in New York—the city that witnessed, firsthand, the collapse of the towers that buried the lives of parents, siblings, lovers, friends, and dreams under their ashes and debris. No matter how many times I’d seen it before, as I saw today the video of the plane impacting the tower, the smoke rising and concrete crumbling, a flash of cold petrified my body again. I can only ever imagine the pain felt by people whose family and loved ones were inside that chaos—people who smelled the smoke, who heard the crash and screams, who felt the cuts and bruises, who saw death staring at their faces.

To show the face of that tragedy’s perpetrator, Osama bin Laden, together with Adolf Hitler’s troops bearing their banner, without even a speck of an explanation is

Take me out to the ball game

It is that awkward time of year again. No, not the inevitable fallout after Valentine’s Day. I’m talking about that lingering period in the late winter when football is over for the year but baseball has yet begun. Sure, basketball is still on, and so is hockey, but neither have the same pull on the national consciousness. The storied history of baseball and football in this country, and their traditions in the Northeast, set them apart. “America’s pastime” has involved an infield and an outfield for 150 years. Luckily, spring training has begun, so it’s only a matter of time.

Only a matter of time until I can watch baseball on television, that is—getting reasonably good seats at a Yankees game is obviously going to be prohibitively expensive for most college students. For all the opportunities and experiences Columbia students can take advantage of living in New York, most of us miss out on a whole dimension of the city. After all, no other place in North America has multiple teams from all four professional sports leagues within its metropolitan area.

We do have our varsity sports, but it is undeniable that we do not have the same collegiate sport structure or experience as many other American schools. Though we have our moments of community pride and traditional “school spirit,” attending Basketball Mania and Homecoming (if only in senior year for the free beer), Columbia simply does not revolve around athletics like a Michigan or a Texas or an Ohio State. Barring a miracle, we will certainly never fill up the seats at Wien Stadium for every single game of football in a season. Is it because Baker Field is simply too far out of the way for the Columbia student used to the Morningside bubble? Is it because our teams’ performances in the large spectator sports range from mediocre to downright terrible? Is it because we are all snooty elites that would prefer to go to the opera or visit the Met rather than contemplate a barbaric spectacle meant for the unwashed masses?

Hyperbole aside, it often does seem that, because we have so many options in the city, going to watch a moderately- or poorly-attended football game might not be the best use of our limited free time, especially if that game is likely to end in disappointment. Why spend a Saturday at the stadium when you could be at a concert in Brooklyn, exploring Flushing, or visiting one of the many museums to which we have free admission?

Increasing attendance or bolstering the nebulous concept of “school spirit” should involve making games more appealing to Columbia students, so that they feel it is as worthwhile as one of the many events posted on CUnats.



BOB SUN
TERMS
OF EN-
GAGE-
MENT

only an invitation to offense. Perhaps many people in that lecture hall were gratefully distracted by the professor’s little undressing performance. But it still does not justify his idea of showing two of the world’s most infamous men without proper justification.

Yes, I’ve been exposed to other kinds of shocking images: photos of children starving after a tsunami in my Principles of Economics class; censored propaganda posters in my Literature class; testimonials of torturers in times of dictatorship in Chile, where I was raised. But the teachers always had clear, explicit motives as to why they reopened scars of the past—to make us look forward and around us helping us to acknowledge the world we live in, if only to become more sensitive and respectful people.

But what could 9/11 possibly have to do with quantum mechanics, the topic of the ensuing lecture? A few classmates have tried to find a connection: “Well, quantum mechanics is related to warfare. I mean, nuclear weapons were created that way,” one classmate told me. But regardless, that wasn’t the ambience or tone a professor should have when addressing such a topic. Today’s act was simply a demonstration of complete lack of empathy and common sense on the teacher’s part.

Why touch upon events that scarred not only those directly involved, but also the entire world, without reason—and in such a degrading way? If being incapable of empathy and tact is the way some teachers are trying to be “cool,” I would much rather they kept quiet and simply gave me another gruesome lecture.

The author is a first-year in Columbia College.

Columbia needs an equivalent of the Arts Initiative for professional sports.

Giving students access to professional sports can help accomplish this. It simply doesn’t occur to a large cross-section of the student body, many of them among our ever-growing number of international students, to consider attending, say, a football game, on campus or off. Giving the average student who is casually interested in sports more opportunities to see high-caliber athletic performance might also whet their appetites for more sports. While the few baseball and basketball games offered through the Urban New York lottery are a good start, they are by nature limited and exclusive. Columbia needs an equivalent of the Arts Initiative for professional sports—a way of giving the student body awareness of, and access to, affordable tickets easily and consistently.

A couple examples of what we are missing: The Yankees and Red Sox play out one of the oldest and deepest rivalries in the history of professional sport each year only a subway ride away, and a living legend, who has been so dominant in his position that the National Hockey League changed the rules of the game to limit him, tends goal in Newark. Surely there is some merit in experiencing these spectacles just as there is in seeing a Broadway show.

If we lower the cost and effort needed to spend an evening at a game in the city with friends, we might see more students enjoying themselves at a sporting event. From there, the transition is an easy one—from off-campus to on-campus, from household names to campus ones. So come on, Columbia. Take me out to the ball game.

Bob Sun is a Columbia College junior majoring in history and biology. He is a member of the Committee on Instruction. Terms of Engagement runs alternate Tuesdays.



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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Edged out
5 Haka dancers of New Zealand
10 NetZero, e.g., briefly
13 South American chain
15 36-year Senator Hatch of Utah
16 Neither partner
17 Reached an agreement
19 Civil War nickname
20 Bordeaux buddy
21 Mothers on a farm
22 "I'd like to say something"
23 Thoroughly evil
28 Laundromat lineup
29 Snug as a bug in a rug
30 Followers: Sul.
31 Doesn't enunciate
33 Magazine VIPs
34 Very eager
38 Atty.'s group
41 Naval slammers
42 Peril
46 Rainy season
48 Family support group for some rehab patients
50 "My pleasure!"
53 Squeezers (out)
54 "Yankies"
55 California ball club, in sports crawl lines
56 Census datum
57 Sibling who stereotypically feels left out, and a hint to the little one hiding in 17-, 23-, 34- and 50-Across
61 Having four sharps, in music
62 Bit of broccoli
63 Singer Tennessee ____ Ford
64 Do simple math
65 Hal Prince's record 21
66 Quaint oath

DOWN

1 Flum brand with a cocktail named for it
2 Bewitches
3 "Fess up!"
4 Golf bag item
5 Choral work
6 Childish comeback
7 Bruin great Bobby
8 Part of most eyeglasses
9 Car owner's pmt.
10 Having serious debts
11 Got serious
12 Docs-in-training
14 Herd member
18 Holds
22 Make a move
24 New Ager John
25 Letter-shaped fasteners
26 Haus husband
27 Pump name seen in Canada
31 Stretch
32 Fireplace fuel
35 Wind in the orchestra
36 Walked all over
37 Air ____ Florida-based carrier

38 Memory malady
39 Shelf support
40 Took over, as territory
43 Hint
44 Horn of Africa country
45 Prepared for baking, as bread dough
47 French possessive
48 [Sigh]

49 With 58-Down, judge in 90s news:
51 Not in a predictable way
52 Spills the beans
57 Rockies hrs.
58 See 49-Down
59 "The ____ Patrick Show": sports talk program
60 Centuries-long realm dissolved in 1806: Abbr.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

ARKS	MALES	SEWS
WINO	DSAGE	ALAW
LOOP	MIDGE	LEVI
	THOMAS	ORDAVIS
ASH	RIG	OMENS
GEORGE	ORIRVING	
RELAY	EDIE	
AMEN	ONTOP	CLAW
	APER	OHARE
ANDREW	ORBROWNE	
CREAM	EYE	ROD
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awordeditor@aol.com 02/19/13

By C.C. Barnikel
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02/19/13

More than just balls and strikes

The journey from London to Woonsocket, R.I. takes you over four thousand miles by train, plane, and automobile. Woonsocket bills itself quite accurately as the most French-Canadian city in America, a former mill town that welcomes you with a sign reading “Bienvenue!” It is where my mom, her parents, and their parents all grew up, a town I have visited many times in my life, for Christmases and summers as long as I can remember. It is a town squarely in the heart of “Red Sox Nation,” where the first stirrings of spring training require huge headlines in the local paper. And it is where, sadly, my grandmother passed away last Friday after a long struggle with cancer.

The part of my identity that has been challenged most at Columbia is that of a sports fan. I have found pockets of people that share my passions, at Spec and in the marching band. But generally I have been forced to confront the practiced apathy—occasionally indistinguishable from its close cousins disdain and confusion—that so many Columbians have toward sports.

Once again, this year’s Super Bowl brought out the most expressions of this apathy, as my Twitter feed filled up with clever comments along the lines of “Yay sports! Go beat that other sports team,” or “Beyonce is the only reason I still have the tv on,” or “Chose Downton Abbey over the Super Bowl #yolo.” There’s nothing wrong with these remarks, at all. And yet they perplexed and irritated me, continually bouncing around in my head over the following week, as it became increasingly clear that I would need to return to the United States this week for a funeral.

My mom’s parents were married in 1956—Francis, a veteran of the Korean War and possessor of inexhaustible charisma, and Claire, a beautiful young woman and possessor of inexhaustible patience. They had six children in nine years, children whom they raised in a tiny house that to this day has one small bathroom and an oven barely larger than some modern Easy Bakes.

It wasn’t always easy, but they were a close family. And one of the things that kept eight very different people together was the Boston Red Sox. In the days before the Internet, the six siblings kept detailed notebooks (which, rather frighteningly, still exist) about the team’s performance, listened to games on the radio, and imitated the batting stance of Carl Yastrzemski in the backyard. Encouraged by my grandparents, April through October revolved around the Sawx, each year inevitably ending in bitter disappointment.

By the time I entered the world, there was no doubt that I would always be a baseball fan—and, hopefully, a Red Sox fan. I maintained dual loyalties to the Sox and my beloved Phillies until I swore sole allegiance to my hometown Phillies in 2006. My grandparents always encouraged me—when I’d visit during the summers, we’d all crowd around the TV in the air-conditioned sun porch, sheltering ourselves from the heat while watching Manny, Nomar, and Pedro on NESN. I, too, kept box scores on a pad of graph paper.

In 2004, the Sox fell behind to the loathsome and evil New York Yankees in the ALCS, three games to none. Optimistic to the end, my grandpa and I agreed that the Red Sox were going to make a comeback. Pessimistic to the end, I heard my grandma scream from across the house at us in her Rhode Island accent, “NO, THEY’AH DONE!”

Of course, they did come back,


PETER ANDREWS
Lion in London



JENNY PAYNE / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LACK OF EXECUTION | Steve Frankoski and the Lions played weak inside defense and turned the ball over a total of 38 times this weekend against Brown and Yale.

Light Blue struggles with turnovers, inside defense

BY MUNEEB ALAM
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

In Friday’s loss at Brown, men’s basketball held a two-point lead with 40 seconds to go. On its make-or-break possession, Brown burned a couple of time-outs to set up a play. With just five seconds left on the shot clock—10 in the game—senior Matt Sullivan beat a Lion around a screen, got open briefly beyond the arc, and nailed the game-winning three.



In general this weekend, a lack of execution in smaller details hurt the Lions, as they lost to Brown 58-55 and Yale 75-56.

Sophomore forward Steve Frankoski noted that chasing over screens is something the team needs to do better, but against Brown, the team’s 19 turnovers—up from an average of about 10 per game—might have been its biggest issue. Head coach Kyle Smith said that the team’s poor execution was the most prominent cause of all the turnovers.

The mistakes included uncharacteristic fumbled passes into the post and lost rebounds, wrestled

away by Brown. After one such sequence, Smith appeared to motion to his center to be more forceful in getting and securing the rebound.

It didn’t help that the team was missing its starting guards and primary ball handlers, senior Brian Barbour and freshman Brian Grant Mullins due to an illness and an ankle injury, respectively. Although both played about half of the game on Saturday, sophomore guard Steve Frankoski said their absence over the weekend from regular minutes—combined, over 60 a game—threw off the team.

“The guard’s job is to find the

scorer and look for their shots, and Grant and Brian do a good job of that,” Frankoski said.

The issues carried into New Haven, where the Light Blue committed 19 turnovers again, this time versus Yale. That game, though, highlighted several other prominent issues, as the Bulldogs shot nearly 70 percent in the first half. Frankoski mentioned after the game that the Light Blue defense needed to be better at getting around screens. Their struggles in that area led to Yale scoring 34 points in the paint.

Smith said another reason for Yale’s success inside—the

Bulldogs shot better than 60 percent for the game overall—might have been that Columbia was too aggressive in guarding the perimeter. The Elis attempted only 10 treys, instead opting to shoot many jumpers from 10 to 15 feet away from the basket.

“We just got to learn how to do the little things better,” Frankoski said.

“We’ve been competing. I think we’re just mentally broke after last night,” Smith said on Saturday. “We have to do some soul searching.”

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Tigers remain on top with 31st consecutive Ivy win

BY SARA BLAD
Columbia Daily Spectator

Women’s basketball fans saw several close contests this weekend among the Ancient Eight, as well as a few high-octane scoring fests. But the weekend belonged to Princeton, as the New Jersey powerhouse ran its Ivy winning streak to 31. Elsewhere, Penn swept Harvard and Dartmouth for the first time in nine years.



YALE	67
CORNELL	58

The halftime scoreboard showed Yale (9-13, 4-4 Ivy) leading 27-23, but Cornell (11-10, 3-4 Ivy) stole the momentum when Shelby Lyman hit a jumper at the buzzer. Cornell continued its push in the second half, opening a 34-30 lead after getting off to an 11-3 run. Cornell’s Allyson DiMagno was a major contributor to the surge, scoring 15 of her game-high 23 points in the second half. But Yale withstood the attack, using a 6-0 to go up 59-50 with 2:25 remaining, and held on to win 67-58.

HARVARD	72
PENN	77

Harvard (13-8, 4-3 Ivy) jumped out ahead, 7-6, but Penn (12-9, 5-2 Ivy) led the close game for most of the first half. Harvard closed the first period with a 7-2 run and trailed by only three at halftime. Penn took control in the second half when it opened a 43-33 lead. Harvard’s Temi Fagbenle’s layup brought the Crimson within two with less than a minute left, but Penn made five of six free throws in the last 31 seconds to seal the 77-72 victory.

DARTMOUTH	65
PRINCETON	77

Princeton (16-5, 7-0 Ivy) earned its 30th consecutive win with its 77-65 victory over Dartmouth (6-15, 4-3 Ivy). The game began as a

defensive struggle. Neither team scored before the Tigers’ Kristen Helmstetter hit a shot at 3:12 into the game. The lead seesawed until Princeton secured a 35-29 lead with an 8-2 run going into halftime, a lead the team held for the rest of the game. The Tigers started the second half with an eight-point run from Niveen Rasheed, the Ivy League co-player of the week, who scored 17 of her 25 points after the break.

HARVARD	51
PRINCETON	67

Harvard opened the game with a 5-0 run and held a seven-point lead with 14:58 remaining in the first half, but that was just a prelude to Princeton’s offensive surge. Michelle Miller’s three-pointer gave Princeton a 20-19 lead, which the Tigers would not relinquish. Princeton’s 67-51 win was its 31st consecutive Ivy-victory.

BROWN	58
CORNELL	60

Cornell (11-10, 3-4) opened a 17-4 lead with 12:42 left in the first half, but Brown’s 12-2 run tied the game at 19. The Big Red responded with 10 consecutive baskets and led by six at the half. The Bears’ 12-2 run tied the game at 40 with 10:16 remaining, and Brown led by five with just over two minutes left. But Cornell’s 7-0 run in the last 1:24, capped by Clare Fitzpatrick’s free throws with six seconds left, secured the victory.

DARTMOUTH	40
PENN	63

Penn dominated Dartmouth throughout the game, holding a double-digit lead for all but the first two minutes of the second half. Penn’s Keiera Ray was awarded Ivy League Co-player of the Week after amassing 50 points over two games this weekend. Ray had a career-high 31 points against Harvard and a game-high 19 points against Dartmouth.

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