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Journalism Leaps Off the Page

The *Spectator's* annual Blue Pencil Lecture hosted *New York Times* Washington Bureau Chief and Assistant Managing Editor Dean Baquet, who looked ahead to the field's future.



A&E, page 3

A Blend of Opera and Unbridled Passion

The Metropolitan Opera's production of *Eugene Onegin* is a heartwrenching masterpiece, and a fitting tribute to the lyricism of Tchaikovsky's original libretto.

A&E, page 3

Russell Goings Keeps The Children Coming

Russell Goings will discuss *The Children of Children Keep Coming: An Epic Griotsong*, his book on the African-American experience, tomorrow night at Low Library.

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Speaking Through Proxies

Columnist Philip Petrov sheds conventional intellectual facades to expose what we really say when we talk politics.



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Men's Basketball Tied For Second in Ivy

Foul-trouble and fatigue on Saturday led the Lions to a disappointing loss against Yale. With the win, Yale advanced its record to match Columbia and Dartmouth.

Sports, page 12

Lions Display Successful Offensive Strategy

Playing in front of a pumped-up crowd, the Columbia women's basketball team defeated Brown Friday and finished the weekend perfect against Yale on Saturday.

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Rangel Withstands Political Controversy

BY AARON KIERSH  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Though reporters and constituents have followed the money to tie U.S. Representative Charles Rangel (D-Harlem) along a string of controversies over the past year, he remains a fixture both in Washington and New York as his past credentials and ability to charm a crowd maintain Rangel's political stature.

Last week, Rangel turned ahead to discuss the economic crisis and field questions from members of the local Broadway

Democrats—some of his most loyal supporters. In his speech at Congregation Ramath Orah on Thursday evening, Rangel asserted that healthcare reform is progressing as planned, emphasized the importance of education, and frequently praised President Barack Obama.

"We support him 100 percent," Broadway Democrats president Luis Roman said. "He has a nearly 40-year career of accomplishments in Washington and an incredible history of representing Harlem."

Rangel, 78, enthusiastically greeted neighborhood residents whom he has

gotten to know over his 38 years representing Upper Manhattan in Congress. He appeared comfortable—reflecting confidence in the district where he tends to win re-election by upward of 80 percentage points. This November was no exception, as he trounced a field of lesser-known opponents to cruise into his 19th term in office.

When asked about accusations of Rangel's corruption, Roman said, "The ethics committee will make its investigations." Yet the congressman has been

SEE RANGEL, page 2

LUNAR GALA



Mira John / Senior Staff Photographer



Kenneth Jackson / Staff Photographer



Kenneth Jackson / Staff Photographer

LUNAR GALA | Lunar Gala, the culture and fashion show put on by the Chinese Students Club in celebration of the Chinese New Year, was held on Saturday night in the Roone Arledge Auditorium.

Teenager Found Dead on 1-Line Subway Tracks

A young man found was dead on the tracks of the 1-line subway between the 116th and 125th Street stations on Thursday.

Adam Brenes, 17, was a senior at New York City's High School for Environmental Studies in midtown.

Investigators have determined that Brenes was killed by a northbound 1-train as he was walking along the tracks between stations early Thursday morning.

The Office of the Medical Examiner was unavailable for comment.

A memorial service for Brenes was held Sunday at 11:00 a.m. in the social

hall of the Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew at West 86th Street and West End Avenue in Manhattan, and was attended by dozens of friends and family members.

"Usually you have 10, 15, tops 20 people attending these services. But at around 1 or 1:30 p.m. there were more than 100 people, everyone well-dressed," Vince, a security guard at the church, said Sunday.

Friends of Brenes said that a wake is planned for Monday at 3:00 p.m. at the Ortiz Funeral Home on 72nd Street between Broadway and West End Avenue.

—James Tyson

Patients Seek Kidney Transplants Abroad Despite Health Risks

BY MARGAUX GROUX  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Most tourists go on vacation to relax and sit in the sun. Transplant tourists leave the country to get new kidneys.

New research at UCLA shows that surgeries carried out in foreign countries often come with a lower standard of care, and higher risk of infection for both patients and donors. Yet an increasing number of American patients are traveling abroad for organ transplants over frustration with long waiting times in the US system. Depending on the region of the US and the availability of a tissue match, patients with kidney failure have to wait up to five years for a transplant.

"There aren't enough kidneys for everyone that wants kidneys," said David Cohen, Columbia professor of clinical medicine, who published a commentary last month on the research done at UCLA.

When diagnosed with renal failure, patients usually undergo dialysis until a donor is found. A majority of transplants are from deceased donors, so patients have no way of controlling their wait

time. "Most people just get on the list and hope they get lucky," Cohen said

For those who are unwilling to wait and who have the available funds, "transplant tourism" is becoming a more popular option. Americans travel to places like Iran, China, the Philippines, India, and South America to undergo surgery. Though the buying and selling of kidneys is illegal nearly worldwide, it is not policed well in these countries and the legal consequences are often minimal.

"In China, prisoners get executed and their organs get sold," said Cohen. According to research, though the prisoners have the right to decide what happens to their organs, there is suspicion that provincial leaders make money off the transaction. "Proving all of this is difficult, though," he continued.

Cohen explained that though there have been a few cases of organs being forcibly removed from vulnerable people in foreign countries, this is mainly a myth sensationalized in films and TV shows. In the foreign market, a vast majority of

SEE KIDNEYS, page 2

Manhattan Valley Cuts Resident Cost

Landlords Seek to Attract Buyers by Slashing Rates

BY SAM LEVIN  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

While it comprises only a sliver of Manhattan real estate, Manhattan Valley—the region between the Upper West Side and Morningside Heights running from 96th to 110th streets—is a compelling case study to exemplify the citywide drop in market housing prices.

An area whose name many believe was coined by realtors seeking to draw more people to a lesser known region, Manhattan Valley was once bustling with growth, investment, and sky rocketing rents. In 2006, residents called on Scott Stringer, Manhattan borough president, to explain and solve their rising rent crises. "Why have rents increased so much in the past few years in Manhattan Valley?" one resident asked at a meeting in September of that year. Stringer's answer: "You created the community, and now people of wealthy means want to push their way in, and we have to fight back." Yet today, that trend appears to have reversed as landlords desperate for renters slash rates.

According to Sofia Kim, vice president of StreetEasy—a Web site that tracks real estate trends—there was an 8.7 percent drop in real estate prices in Manhattan Valley in the fourth quarter of 2008, and 45.7 percent of sellers participated in this reduction.

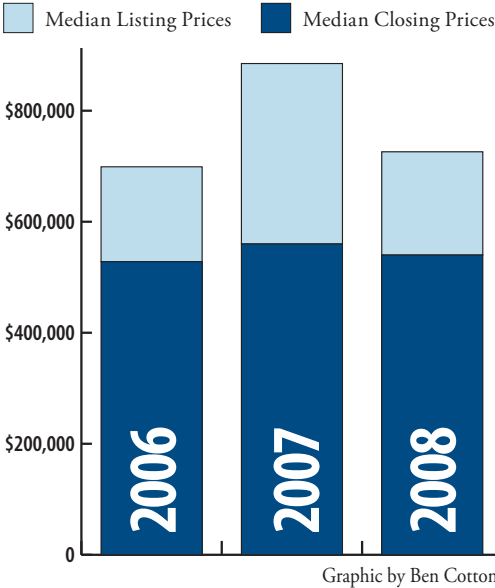
"In general, we are seeing inventory vastly increasing right now," Kim said. "But in an economic climate that is so uncertain, people are waiting to buy. No one wants to commit."

With more apartments on the market and fewer buyers with the means to make the long-term commitment, apartment owners struggle to find ways to attract a fickle sea of buyers.

From 2007 to 2008, Manhattan Valley saw a 3.6 percent drop in the median closing price as well as a dramatic 18 percent drop in the median listing price. Real estate experts attribute price cuts to "a huge oversupply," as Richard Shiu, managing partner of New York Real Estate Partners,

SEE MANHATTAN VALLEY, page 5

HOUSING PRICES



FOR SALE | In Manhattan Valley—spanning to the west of Central Park from 96th to 110th streets—median listing and closing prices for apartments have experienced a rise and fall over the past few years.



EVENTS — FEBRUARY 23

Sustainable Development

Jeffrey D. Sachs, director of the Earth Institute at the Graduate School of Journalism, will host a discussion on sustainable development called “Promoting Global Understanding of Sustainable Development.”

Journalism Lecture Hall, 4 p.m.

Affirmative Action Debate

Columbia students are invited to a debate on affirmative action in Roone Cinema between the Columbia University College Democrats and the Columbia University College Republicans.

Roone Cinema, 8 p.m.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“There aren’t enough kidneys for everyone that wants kidneys.”

—David Cohen,  
Professor of Clinical Medicine

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CORRECTIONS

An article on LionPAC and Charles Rangel that ran on Feb. 20 incorrectly stated that Jacob Shapiro, president of LionPAC, is GS/JTS ’11. He is GS/JTS ’10 as well as deputy sports editor of the Spectator.



Kenneth Jackson / Staff Photographer



Lila Neiswanger / Staff Photographer



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LUNAR GALA | Lunar Gala consisted of a variety of events, including a VIP dinner, a culture show that showcased talents such as singing and dancing, and a fashion show.

# Constituents Remain Loyal to Rangel Amidst Criticisms

RANGEL from front page

criticized by many others for improperly wielding his influence as chairman of the powerful House Committee on Ways and Means.

Specifically, Rangel was accused of occupying rent-stabilized Harlem apartments while listing a Washington, D.C. address as his primary residence, steering corporate money to a City College of New York institute named in his honor, and failing to pay \$75,000 in taxes on a beach villa in the Dominican Republic.

In an attempt to quiet his critics and clear his name, Rangel requested that the House ethics committee investigate the CCNY matter, and by Feb. 10 that committee had formed a sub-committee to investigate him. Still viewed as inadequate by some Republicans, Rep. John Carter (R-Texas) filed a formal, though unsuccessful, resolution on Feb. 4 to remove Rangel from his post at the head of Ways and Means.

Rangel has also faced local criticism. “The community is in desperate need of new representation,”

“People in power have a tendency to feel that they are above the law. When you are in power that long, and you’re untouchable, it’s very easy to forget. He never has to look over his shoulder.”

—David Eisenbach

Craig Schley, a local activist who campaigned against Rangel last fall, said. Schley added later, “Our interests are being misused by our politicians. How can the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee be unfamiliar with the tax code?”

Columbia history professor David Eisenbach ascribed Rangel’s alleged improprieties to a sense of complacency common among elected officials who have served for such long stints.

“Rangel is not unusual in having tax problems,” said Eisenbach, who lectures in American media and politics. “People in power have a tendency to feel that they are above the law. When you are in power that long, and you’re untouchable, it’s very easy to forget. He never has to look over his shoulder.”

Still, Rangel remains unfazed by the controversy. Asked if he was worried about losing his committee chairmanship, Rangel responded with a smile as he walked out of the synagogue, saying, “That is a question that will be decided in 2010,” he said. “That’s an election year.”

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# Professor Stresses Education as Solution to Risky Transplants

KIDNEYS from front page

kidneys come from people who voluntarily sell their organs to make quick money. “Usually it’s poor people in debt who see they can get about \$5,000,” he explained.

Still, many of these impoverished donors do not benefit from the transaction. People who sell their kidneys must take time off from work and are often considered “less employable” because of a social stigma, explained Cohen. Despite financial compensation for their kidney, many donors fall back into debt quickly. “Usually the donors are worse off after they do it,” he said. “Their care isn’t that great and there’s nobody advocating for them.”

The recipients of the transplants also put themselves at risk when choosing to undergo surgery abroad. Compared to U.S. standards, patient


care and the screening of donors are generally inferior in locations where transplant tourism takes place. Upon returning to the U.S., many patients must be hospitalized.

“They come back with all sorts of weird infections,” said Cohen. He explained that even when obvious malpractice occurs overseas, not much can be done about it because “over there the legal recourse is pretty minimal.”


Currently, only about 50 percent of families in the US consent to donating the organs of their deceased relative. Education, Cohen said, could potentially increase the number of organ donations, and make people aware of the consequences of transplant tourism.

“People are desperate over here and wherever there’s a crack in the system they exploit it,” Cohen said.

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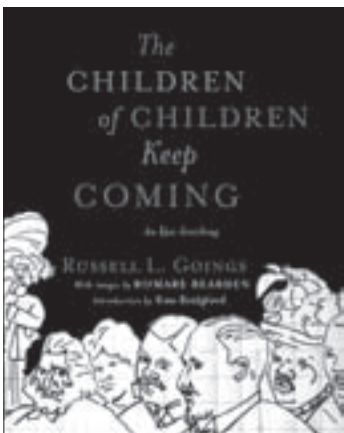
A Poetic African-American Odyssey

BY ANNA KELNER  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

The *Odyssey*, the *Iliad*, the *Epic of Gilgamesh*—these cornerstones of the LitHum curriculum make no apologies for their sweeping stories, their dramatic climaxes, or their mythic giants. In *The Children of Children Keep Coming: An Epic Griot Song*, neither does Russell Goings.

Tomorrow, the Friends of the Columbia University Libraries will host a conversation with Goings about his book—an epic poem detailing two anonymous slaves’ journey to freedom—in the Low Memorial Library Rotunda. As Goings’ everyday heroes travel through fields of slaves toiling in the sun and pass over mounds of graves, they encounter African-American icons like Frederick Douglass, Billie Holiday, and Rosa Parks.

A leader in the African-American community, Goings himself merits entry into his pantheon of heroes. A Renaissance man, he once played professional football, helped found *Essence*, a magazine designed for black women, started the first



Courtesy of Matt Hampel

**ELEMENTAL EPIC** | *Children of Children Keep Coming* author Russell Goings will speak about his epic poem at Low Library.

black-owned firm on the New York Stock Exchange, and documented the recollections of the late Romare Bearden, a famed artist and his close friend.

As Goings sips tomato juice at the Metro Diner, where he chats with the waitstaff and appears to hold a running tab, he often closes his eyes, reciting long passages of his book. Despite his many trades, Goings is unmistakably a poet. He speaks in

metaphors. His sentences contain the unmistakable rhythm of blues and jazz.

The “giants” who came before him necessarily inform his poetry. Goings remains deeply anchored to his past—he even refers to himself and the African-American people as one unified subject. “It’s only been 144 years since I’ve been free—free and not enslaved,” he said. “It was time to meld our experience into a literary form that speaks to who we are as a people.”

Goings aimed to reclaim the tales of valor and courage in Western myths for the African-American community. “If Sisyphus had the strength to roll the rock up the hill, then Jackie Robinson had the power to hit a home run,” he said.

Yet Goings sees his poetry as more than an opportunity for political liberation. For him, poetry is elemental. It chronicles those who have come before, it is “about singing and music,” it “becomes a part of our red blood cells.”

Goings interacts with the heroes of his tales as viscerally as he does with the waiter who takes our order. He wakes up every morning at 3 a.m., sits at his desk,

and listens to the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the songs of Aretha Franklin. When asked about his inspiration for writing *The Children of Children Keep Coming*, Goings merely shook his head and said, “I have visitations.” When questioned about the nature of those conversations, he shook his head a second time and answered, “It’s divine.”

Clearly, Goings’ poetry is highly personal, drawing from a deep collective past. Nonetheless, the root of his epic lies not in the tale of one nation, but rather in the trials and tribulations of all mankind. “Grief is grief,” Goings said. “The music of my soul is the same music of your soul.”

WHERE IT'S AT

**Time:** Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** Faculty Room, Low Library  
**Cost:** Free and open to the public

*There will be a reception and a book signing in the rotunda afterward. Copies of The Children of Children Keep Coming will be available for sale.*

DANCE



Courtesy of Ellen Crane

**EN POINTE** | After dancing for the NYCB for over 30 years, Darci Kistler announced that she will retire in the 2010 season.

Balanchine’s Last Ballerina Bids Adieu

BY NICOLE SAVERY  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Earlier this month, New York City Ballet principal dancer Darci Kistler announced that she would bid goodbye to the stage during the company’s 2010 season.

Over the course of her illustrious 30-year career as an NYCB dancer, Kistler interpreted leading roles in many ballets, ranging from George Balanchine’s *The Nutcracker* and *Sleeping Beauty* to *Agon* and *Symphony in C*. In addition to taking on works from the Balanchine canon, she was offered numerous roles by Jerome Robbins and Peter Martins, the current ballet master and Kistler’s husband.

Balanchine, the NYCB’s legendary co-founder, spotted Kistler soon after she moved to New York from her native California to study at the School of American Ballet. In a matter of only two years, she rose through the ranks of the corps de ballet and was appointed soloist. By 1982, the 17-year-old dancer had become the youngest principal in the company’s history.

It is an unfortunate fact of life for dancers that their chosen career is limited in duration and often cut short or interrupted by injury. Kistler is no stranger to this occupational hazard—she was sidelined early in her career by an ankle injury and later took temporary leave for spinal surgery. But after every challenge, she returned to the stage.

Kistler has the supreme distinction of being admitted to the exclusive club of “Balanchine ballerinas” singled out by Mr. B (as he was affectionately known) himself. Kistler’s upcoming retirement is especially significant, then, because the NYCB is losing not only an outstanding dancer in her own right, but also the final Balanchine protégé.

Once she leaves the company in 2010, the NYCB will be filled entirely with dancers hired by Peter Martins. As Martin explained in a NYCB press release made public on February 5, “Darci’s retirement marks an important milestone in ballet history as she is the last of the Balanchine ballerinas. With the conclusion of her dancing career, the torch will be completely passed to a new generation.”

Kistler’s decision to retire is coupled with a desire to dedicate more of her time to teaching classes at the company-affiliated School of American Ballet, where she has served as a member of the faculty for the past 15 years.

While members of the ballet-viewing public may no longer have the privilege of seeing Kistler herself onstage, they will be able to enjoy the product of her teaching efforts as her students take the stage. In her retirement, Kistler will join a host of other dancers-turned-teachers who provide the vital link between the rich past and the promising future of classical ballet.

MUSIC



Courtesy of Beatriz Schiller

**UNREQUITED LOVE?** | *Eugene Onegin*, the Metropolitan Opera’s production of Tchaikovsky’s libretto masterpiece, is a tale of the tumultuous romance that blossoms between Tatiana, a simple country girl, and Onegin, a sophisticated, urbane gentleman who is plagued by convention.

Eugene Onegin Exposes the Aches and Pains of Love

BY JOSEPH NAPOLI  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

No one could remain seated after the passionate cries of *Eugene Onegin*’s protagonist reverberated through the Metropolitan Opera at the opera’s final performance on Saturday evening. The performers’ thorough understanding of the work and skillful execution of their roles made for a moving production of Tchaikovsky’s distinctly Russian masterpiece, based on Alexander Pushkin’s verse novel of the same title.

*Eugene Onegin* opens with a melancholy depiction of autumn on an idyllic country estate. Despite the simply constructed set, the production managed to achieve a sense of grandeur thanks to masterful employment of lighting techniques. Rich hues of red and blue were contrasted with the tragic story of a man plagued by convention and lack of purpose.

In Act I, the innocent Tatiana (Karita Mattila) professes her love to Eugene Onegin (Thomas Hampson) in a letter of unbridled passion. The renowned “Letter scene,” in which Tatiana crosses the stage in an outpouring of melody and seething adolescent angst, proved to be the most memorable part of the evening.

Later in the opera, Onegin rejects her plea, explaining that he feels he will grow bored with marriage and that she must exercise better control of her emotions. In the final act, he realizes too late his love for Tatiana, who, despite her enduring affection for him, resolves to remain faithful to her husband.

The rapidity with which Tatiana becomes enamored of Onegin at first seems somewhat forced, but it is gradually (albeit not fully) elucidated as the story progresses. Yet whether or not the audience

was immediately convinced of Tatiana and Onegin’s love for each other, it was undeniably moved by their relationship’s development throughout the opera.

Although the Met first premiered *Eugene Onegin* in 1920 in Italian, it presented the opera in the original Russian for the 2008-09 season. This choice greatly accentuated the lyricism of Tchaikovsky’s libretto and was an unequivocal testament to his aptitude for composing both lush melodic passages and sprightly dance scenes.

*Performances of Eugene Onegin have ended for the 2008-2009 season. The Metropolitan Opera offers ongoing discounted tickets for upcoming operas, in addition to online ticket drawings for weekend performances. Students tickets cost \$25 for weekday performances and \$35 for Friday and Saturday performances.*

NOT TOO LATE YETEvent Preview

BOOKS

Oates to Speak on the Process of Revision

BY KASSY LEE  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

If you want to get some perspective on the number of papers you have to write this semester, look no further than Philosophy Hall. Monday night, Joyce Carol Oates, one of the most prolific writers working today, will be the featured speaker at the School of the Arts’ Creative Writing Lecture Series.

Oates has published over fifty novels, short stories, and poems to date, and is renowned for her ability to produce these masterly works in short periods of time. Yet Oates herself denies that she is particularly prolific. “Perhaps I am ‘prolific’ only in a context in which others are ‘less prolific’ ... these matters are all highly relative,” she said. In any case, Oates has produced an inimitable corpus of work since her first book was published nearly fifty years ago.

With such a lengthy career, Oates offers deep insight on the process of revision. She

will discuss this process at Monday’s lecture in addition to reading a short story and discussing other elements of fiction writing. “Short stories are a natural form of storytelling—perhaps my favorite genre to both read and to write. The novel is a far more difficult and demanding form, of course.”

In between writing and giving lectures, Oates teaches creative writing at Princeton University. She explained that she loves working with writers of all ages on their craft. Oates hopes to help aspiring writers find the subjects that most interest them—aspiring writers who may later inherit the legacy of her and her peers. “Most writers explore themes consistently through their careers,” Oates said, “and I suppose that I am in this tradition.”

WHERE IT'S AT

**Time:** Monday, 7 p.m.  
**Place:** 301 Philosophy Hall  
**Cost:** Free and open to the public








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# Economy Drives Housing Cutbacks, Sacrifices

MANHATTAN VALLEY from front page

explained, adding, “There is just too much out there.”

The banks’ credit crisis is also viewed to be exacerbating the real estate crunch. “Banks are not loaning and if they are doling out new loans, they are very, very strict,” Shiu said. “It is hard to build new projects.”

Michael Buckley, director of the Real Estate Development Program in Columbia’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, noted that, “Financing for new projects or for rollover of existing mortgages is extremely difficult. These unusual challenges in the next year or so will clearly depress prices.”

Landlords likewise have been challenged by the economic slowdown.

“Rental prices are pretty steep, and my residents are losing their jobs,” Donna Gibbons, executive director of the Manhattan Valley Development Corporation, said. “Landlords have to make decisions when trying to fill property now. You have to worry about the security of the property, and if it is not secure, you will have to rent.”

Kim also said that many landlords have relied on innovative sacrifices. “With people moving out, losing jobs, and breaking leases, some landlords are offering one to even three months of free rent.” She also added that in the current crisis, it is common for landlords to pay broker’s fees as opposed to the usual practice of renters providing broker’s checks.

Still, some Manhattan Valley condos are not faltering. Ariel East and Ariel West—two high rises in Manhattan Valley—have not lowered their asking prices, which range from \$1.95 to \$3.49 million.

Mike Saleh, concierge at Ariel East, said, “The owner has the money and can hold it”—adding that eight condos remain unsold.

Across the street, concierge John Avaya of Ariel West said that nine condos remained unsold. He suggested that the owners were free from the burden of vacancy since the retail property of their building had been sold. Yet predictions for the long-term future of Manhattan Valley real estate varied.

“We have not hit bottom yet,” Kim said. “The recovery will not start until inventory flattens, prices flatten, and deals start being made.”

“This is a Darwinian economic event,” Buckley said of the current market. “It is frozen except to those with cash.” Buckley predicted that recovery would begin in the fourth quarter of 2010.

Nonetheless, residents of Manhattan Valley shed light on a positive outcome of the crisis.

Renate Nash, who rents an apartment on Central Park West, said, “They should be lowering prices. I have been here since 1971 and worked the whole time, but if I had to pay market value, I could not live here.”

news@columbiaspectator.com

## VARSITY SHOW



Lila Neiswanger / Staff Photographer

**CURTAINS UP** | Students got a sneak peek of the 115th Varsity Show at Havana Central on Friday evening. Though the substance of the final performance is carefully veiled until opening night in the spring, this weekend’s preview offered a taste of the antics.

# SELF-REALIZATION

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# Baquet Talks Journalism at Blue Pencil

BY SCOTT LEVI  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

At the *Spectator*-sponsored Blue Pencil Lecture in Low Library Saturday night, *New York Times* Washington Bureau Chief and Assistant Managing Editor Dean Baquet encouraged a room of both seasoned journalists and novice reporters to continue pursuing a craft whose future many consider dubious.

“Your generation will get to reinvent journalism in a more meaningful way,” said Baquet, who left the *Los Angeles Times* in 2007 after a two-year tenure as the paper’s executive editor.

The first black editor of the California daily, Baquet rose from roots as a lowly beat writer at his local New Orleans rag to Pulitzer-prize fame—encountering false hope and a host of ethical challenges along the way.

The annual event, which attracted over 170, united *Spectator* editors from boards going back a half-century, and

included Columbians now known for their careers at outlets like ABC and the *Washington Post*. Baquet’s link to Columbia was slight but telling, as he attended the College for only a few semesters before taking a job as a reporter back home.

This year’s Lecture also marked the end of a long reign by the chairman of the *Spectator*’s board of trustees, Richard Wald, CC ’52, who has served in his post for decades. Wald’s Contemporary Civilization teaching partner, Max Frankel, CC ’52 and former executive editor of *The New York Times*, roasted Wald for “residing over a fiscally precarious operation.”

“Wald has ruled *Spectator* only a few years less than Fidel Castro” has ruled Cuba, Frankel said. But he also extolled his colleague for transforming the paper from a school-funded to independent news organization. Once president of NBC News, Wald “taught us that the only free press is one you own without University subsidy,” Frankel said.

Among media giants who conquered the field during its golden age, Baquet inverted conventional fears about the role of journalism in the coming decades, as the power of print fades under a glow of increasing digitization.

Newspapers “are worth less than they were a decade ago, and readers can spot it a mile away,” Baquet said. A new generation, he explained, can revive journalism by “pioneering a new way of writing” that integrates media technology into written stories.

In addition—having won a Pulitzer for unmasking corruption in the Chicago City Council—Baquet urged reporters to keep an eye on the business practices of large corporations, as well as keep rooted in the rich fields of small-town, small-paper journalism.

“I’ve been a banker for 20 years,” said Mischa Zabolin, CC ’85, after the speech. “Now I want to quit and become an investigative reporter.”

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In the bustle of academic life, Columbia students and faculty still recognize art as essential to their everyday lives. This Monday, *Spectator* Opinion asked three students and one professor to offer their perspectives on the meaning of art. Hillary Kritt examines the underfunded state of student theatrical productions, Professor Aki Sasamoto writes about teaching art in an academic environment, Shaina Rubin discusses the role of comics in society, and Sevan Gatsby shares her experiences as an intern at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

# Setting the Stage

BY HILARY KRITT

As theater-goers, even in the so-called center of the world that we know as New York City, we look forward to the escapist feeling of being in a bubble, unaware of, or, more likely, pleasantly ignoring the world around us. Characters in shows live in faraway times and places, sing, and dance their way through life, speak prepared dialogue, and—even if something bad happens—in the end, discover that it is all just pretend. In fact, that is why the theater often survives even amid the direst of circumstances. When reality gets too real, people want to get away. Either they want to feel the happiness of a life that is better than their own or marvel at the problems of others. In turn, they feel more secure in their own circumstances.

But when it comes to realities, none have hit theater harder than the economic crisis. Yes, theater is used to escape reality, but sometimes reality—in this case, money—gets the upper hand. A walk down Broadway is a walk through a graveyard of short-lived productions, of dimmed neon lights and covered windows. A walk up Broadway, to Columbia University, reveals a similar state of theatre, albeit one that is less apparent.

I am assistant-producing my first show at Columbia this semester through the Columbia

Musical Theatre Society, and it has really been an amazing experience. There are so many talented people at this school who are dedicated to their work, and who, unlike many, are unashamed to be involved on campus. With all of the craziness of the typical Columbia student’s schedule, I am pleased and impressed with the people I find so dedicated to a student-run production. The talent is professional quality, the production team is professional quality, the vision is professional quality, but the budget and the resources cannot be held to those standards. The “act poor, be rich” motto cannot hold true when the money is just not there.

As far as my knowledge goes—this is my first year at Columbia University—Columbia has been very generous in the past about giving money to student productions, and, understandably, the students have not hesitated to take the offers. Productions on this campus were not usually limited by resources—aside from the high demand for space and the impractical set-up of both Roone and the Lerner Black Box—but times, as we all know, have changed. We do not have the budget that we expected to have last year, or even last semester. In fact, we came back from winter break to find some big budget cuts on our production that we had not expected at all. The bubble was burst—theater and the real world collided. We were forced to take a look at our expenses and cut anything that we

deemed at all superfluous. This included the microphones we had intended on renting, and we trimmed down our set and costume budgets as much as we could handle. We were left with very little wiggle room.

What I’ve realized is something that the producer in me is incredibly weary of: we’re better off without the money. The cliché remains. Less is, in fact, more. The few sets and costumes that we are going to have will be impeccable because we won’t be overreaching our capabilities. There will not be sloppy microphone enhancement in a space that was never meant for microphones in the first place. The show will not be too big for the small Lerner Black Box. Most importantly, the production will not be extravagance in a time of prudence—it will be appropriate for and reflective of our time. We will be poor, but still look good. Theater is a form of entertainment that always survives during hard times because it provides an escape. That escape, however, should not be a blatant insult to reality. It is important that we enter a new mental state, as a part of Columbia’s theatre community. We need to be innovative with the resources that we have.

*The author is a Barnard College first year. She is the assistant producer of Little Shop of Horrors.*

# Low Comic Book Politics

BY SHAINA RUBIN

Art is a medium—it represents a culture and its ideals. However, art can be both high and low, and nowadays, the low culture seems to be winning out. Comic books are a “low” art form, and yet they are a distinctive means of communication. They are reproducible and able to reach the masses, and maybe that is why they are so looked down upon. Last weekend at the New York Comic Convention (also known as ComicCon) this base society of comic books showed that even the “lowest” art form reflects the society upon which it is based on. Art is reproducible and mass-marketed, but even the “lowest” media incorporates the prevalent issues of the day and sometimes even change the minds of those involved. Comics reflect society, regardless of class, age, and gender.

Comic books are not impressionist paintings or classical Greek sculptures. They’re mostly not one-of-a-kind and priceless (though who wouldn’t want the original Superman strip?). Many people can afford to buy a comic book, and that is why the medium is considered below other art.

However, mass availability has its advantages. Comic books have created obsessive fans and complete genres of entertainment, and movies are a prime example. Movies bring millions of fans together to enjoy one experience. The people’s recognition of comic books give them and their characters the power to reach greater populations and influence their opinions to some extent. Everyone knows the X-Men. Everyone knows Clark Kent.

People think that all comic books are about superheroes and frivolous adventures, but nowadays, the world of comics has welcomed more serious material into its line-up. Though everyone associates comic books with Spider-Man, Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman, there’s much more teeming beneath the surface. Spider-Man is no longer just a hero fighting bad guys in an imaginary world. The new Marvel *Spider-Man* issue pictures President Barack Obama on the cover. In the story, Spider-Man meets Obama and even talks basketball with him. The comic-book art form allows everyone from an adult to a toddler to enjoy a one-on-one session with the president. A comic book reader feels more connected with the president by seeing him chat with his favorite superhero.

The mass production of comic books has allowed even politicians to reach more supporters. In the past, comics were the satirical enemies of public figures—now politicians are patrons of the medium. Indeed, a writer and artist even hitched on to Obama’s staff during the election tour. They documented everything that happened so they could put it into graphic novel form. Throughout the book, Hillary Clinton, John McCain, Joe Biden and many others are featured. Both Clinton and McCain have eerie lines and angles on their faces which make the audience cringe—the visual informs its readers while also subtly shaping their attitude towards different political figures. For Obama, the great accessibility of graphic novels and comics like *Spider-Man* helped him win over supporters that he perhaps couldn’t have reached otherwise.

Politics have not only invaded comics, but also the associated merchandise. Even without directly drawing the president and the vice president, other comic book producers have taken economic advantage of renewed interest in politics. One artist, John Gallagher, took his likeable teenage hero and put him on a T-shirt in the likeness of the red, white, and blue Obama face. Then the hero, Buzzboy, attracts both the young and the older more informed reader. The merchandise follows the immense popularity of the comics and helps to garner more enthusiasm from its fans.

Not only the artists and writers, but also the retailers have taken on politics. Alex Ross, a famed comic book artist known for his depiction of Superman tearing off his suit, did an impressive rendition of Obama in the same position. The image has been put on T-shirts and sweatshirts as an inside joke: Obama as the new Superman, or maybe even more than Superman. Even at the New York ComicCon, the optimism for Obama’s future runs strongly in the air. Though comic books are “low art,” their reproducibility and mass market allow them to encompass the current issues affecting our American culture.

*The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in English and comparative literature. Her comic, “Politics on Stilts,” runs every Monday and Thursday.*

# Art in Academia

BY AKI SASAMOTO

Where is art?

These days, we can ask any discipline to locate itself, and the search can quickly get lost, splitting into thousands of destinations. And if we ask multiple disciplines to pick the topics of the day, they often end up on the same page. You can find the applications and references of many studies throughout every profession. Entryways into different fields are multiplied thanks to the Internet and the increase in free time (though we seem to think we have less time in our busy lives, microwaves and Netflix have saved us). Secrets are unveiled because of ideas like open source collaboration, an approach that encourages people to share knowledge. Specialists are talking to each other. We are in the age of interactive communities. Columbia University is simply a small part of this phenomenon. Our intellectual curiosities plunge into so many pools. Architectural structures on this campus are a series of wide-open mouths into every discipline. The campus is laid out to convey the proximity and ease of such interactions.

I take pride in teaching art on such a campus, because I am one of those scholars who has too many parties in my head. Columbia makes us tipsy in a good way, with brain party drinks. It allows me to see art inside out.

Inside the art world, art is a mixture of other disciplines. Media, concepts, morals, stakes, and everything else vary so greatly from one artist to another that I am constantly surprised all of us can be bunched up under the same category. As a confirmation of the variety within the art world, I see art everywhere when I step out of my profession hoping for an “objective” view. But art pervades the world. It affects everybody: it may look like an Apple computer, it may sound like a letter of persuasion between politicians. People are striving to find creative solutions, even in the fields that seem to be least associated with art. With a varied level of awareness, people use the magic of art as a way of thinking and a way of execution. It is no longer a particular class you take. It may be a small fraction of a student’s academic life, but whatever tiny amount, how common it is for a student to relate to art somehow! Art

is part of every cocktail at Columbia. It slips into your lives, sometimes without looking like itself. Knowing how inclusive my study is, I am not surprised to see it bleeding into many systems of students’ lives.

As I teach an art course at this academic institution, I take joy in witnessing and participating in the win-win dialogues between art and X, with X representing any other discipline that a student may study. The back and forth dialogue between art and X is so evident that you may just delve into Sculpture I and figure out your true area of interest through the assignments. I believe this interdependency is productive for the future ways of working within any field. You need an extra perspective to succeed in X, and it has to be spicy and attractive—a different look, a different mode of thinking, and a different dimension in which you can freely examine facts—the attraction lies inside the grace of how we do things. Art as it is taught in a big academic institution is a perfect platform for experimentation, where you can talk about anything from A to Z. And if you ever end up inside the art world in the future, you must have X to stabilize yourself within the tumult of what’s fashionable.

Teaching art, as well as studying art, is far more enriching at an academic institution where every other context is conveniently in reach within. As we train ourselves to incorporate art into X and X into art, we become more in sync with the world’s outlook on interactive communities. Good luck to me. Good luck to you.

*The author is an adjunct assistant professor in the visual arts division of the School of the Arts.*

# Under the Artistic Influence

BY SEVAN GATSBY

I introduce myself as an artist, but “art addict” might be a more suitable term. I am a slave to the artists that I spy from my window. And so, in the same breath, I am a slave to my internship.

Every Friday and Saturday, I force myself out of bed at some unreasonable morning hour and take the M86 to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where the Thomas J. Watson Library is located. Processing, labeling, and shelving books is not exactly a glamorous job—I’m just a library page. But that has probably put me in contact with a more diverse selection of art than I could ever have imagined. In fact, art outside the University is perhaps more a part of my education than the slew of art history and theory courses that I am taking.

In the Watson stacks I experience first-hand where all my professors’ lectures come from: treatises, criticisms, journals, auction catalogs, museum publications. True, my interaction with the artistic world is technically still being mediated through books, which does not seem that much different from flipping through my course reader. But an important note must be made: these are original pieces of literature, not textbooks. They are art history made tangible.

I once stumbled upon a dusty old box marked “FRAGILE.” Inside it was a miniature art journal from the early 1800s, on the verge of falling apart. Ignoring the clear warnings, I decided to look

through it—one of the pages cracked in two under my touch, abruptly putting a stop to my exploration. But to this day, I remain in awe of the discovery. I could have in no shape or form come close to such an artifact in the lecture hall, or even have come to know of its existence. University classes tend to focus on the masterpieces, the da Vincis and Rauschenbergs of the art world, the big pictures and big ideas that impacted the course of history. But what of the eclectic collections of once-prominent art patrons? Or the artists who never had their names in lights but nevertheless produced art worth highlighting? And let us not forget the lesser-known contributions of art to the world—while preparing auction catalogs to be shipped off-site, I learned that one of Paris’ famous auction houses, Espace Pierre Cardin, had held a sale in 1989 to benefit child victims of the devastating Gyumri Earthquake in Armenia. In class I learn that art played a role in almost every historical social movement, but rarely do I hear of its importance in humanitarian causes. That crumbling journal is in ways a symbol of the significant yet forgotten figures of the art world, of the people and pieces that had vital influences on the famous artists of every era, and of the librarians (and pages) who make sure that their additions to art, however small, are preserved and readily available for discovery by the curious student.

As one of those curious students, I wish that I could check books out of the Thomas J. Watson Library—it would definitely make me a more productive intern. I estimate that 40 percent of my time there is spent flipping through and reading




ILLUSTRATION BY ERICA LEE

the books that I am supposed to be processing and labeling. But through my unproductive habit I have recently been introduced to Cecily Brown, Prudencio Irazabal, Arijis Skride, Jörg Lozek, K.O. Götz, among many others. And it never ceases to strike me that I probably would never have known the names or works of these extraordinary people had it not been for my quite ordinary post—not to mention my location in the city of New York. As much as the following will resound of college recruitment literature, here, the city is your classroom: it has to be. What is taught in an art history lecture is only a small proportion compared to what the city has to offer. So take what you can, whether it means you’ll be stuck in a dark basement of a library or rubbing shoulders with up-and-coming artists. Volunteer at an art festival, apply for internships at museums, auction houses, or printmaking studios: what you learn in all your classes combined is nothing compared to first-hand experiences in the city.

*The author is a Barnard College first-year.*





COLUMBIA CATHOLIC MINISTRY

# LENT 2009

## ASH WEDNESDAY

February 25<sup>th</sup>

Masses: St. Paul's Chapel 12:15 P.M.  
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The Church of Notre Dame 8:00 A.M., 12:05 P.M., 5:30 P.M.  
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Sunday 8:30 A.M., 11:30 A.M., 5:30 P.M.

Confession: Saturday 4:30 P.M.,  
30 minutes Prior the Mass, please call the Rectory

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Monday 9:15 P.M.

Undergraduate Holy Hour: Tuesday 8:15 P.M. (Except March 17)

Undergraduate Fellowship: Thursday 6:15 P.M. (Except March 19)

Stations of the Cross: Friday after 12:05 P.M. Mass, 7:00 P.M.  
Followed by Adoration of the Cross

Liturgy of the Hours Morning Prayer: Following 8:00 A.M. Mass

Rosary: Following 12:05 Mass (Except Fridays)

Private Prayer: Monday – Friday 7:30 A.M. – 5:45 P.M.  
Saturday 9:30 A.M. – 6:30 P.M.  
Sunday 8:00 A.M. – 6:30 P.M.

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A Rising Tide?  
6:30 PM  
202 Altschul Hall

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WRITERS AT BARNARD  
Meena Alexander, Mary Jo Bang, and  
Mónica de la Torre  
7:00 PM  
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

02/09  
MONDAY  
TRANS POLITICS ON A  
NEOLIBERAL LANDSCAPE  
6:30 PM  
James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

02/18  
WEDNESDAY  
PEDAGOGY OF THE  
DISPOSSESSED  
Decolonization and the Struggle  
for Democracy  
Noon  
BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

02/18  
WEDNESDAY  
WEST INDIAN IMMIGRATION  
IN THE BRONX  
7:00 PM  
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

02/24  
TUESDAY  
LOUISE BOGAN (ALONGSIDE  
E. NESBIT)  
'What purports to be surrender'  
7:00 PM  
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

02/28  
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4	7	2	8	5	3	9	6	1
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2	1	6	7	4	8	5	3	9
6	4	8	5	2	7	1	9	3
1	3	7	4	8	9	6	5	2
9	2	5	3	1	6	7	8	4

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9. That means that no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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### Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

**ACROSS**

1 It went everywhere Mary did

5 Capp's LI \_\_\_\_

10 "Good buddy"

14 "Tosca" feature

15 Pickling medium

16 Je ne sais quoi

17 Actress Ringwald makes her escape?

19 1502, to Caesar

20 Hoi \_\_\_\_ the masses

21 Moved, like many headlines

23 Tiles for Fox and Rabbit

26 2004 film in which Brad Pitt played Achilles

27 Nevada border lake

30 Franz's "Alas!"

32 Davis of "Do the Right Thing"

35 Salty greeting

36 Emergency waiters

38 Env. in an env., say

39 D.C. wheeler-dealer

40 Lions and tigers, but not bears

41 Commotion

42 Popular ISP

43 Legally on the hook

44 Daze

45 Hair arrangement

47 Souvenir shop

48 Gypsum painting surface

49 Frosty coating

51 Jordan neighbor

53 Wanders the Web

56 Plant pests

60 Metronome sound

61 Actress Brice prepares for a trip?

64 Sommer of "A Shot in the Dark"

65 Beginning of el aho

66 Exiled

67 Snoopy

68 Lear daughter

69 Piano's 88

**DOWN**

1 Genie's home

2 Buck suffix

3 Flour producer

4 Tennis match kid

5 Yippie Hoffman

6 Pil in the hood

7 Zero

8 \_\_\_\_ actor: intermission

9 Put back to zero

10 Small parts for big names

11 Elsen ushers at the theater?

12 Cleveland's lake

13 Busting operation

18 Olden days

22 Christian symbol

24 Rebuslike battery

25 Medieval copyists

27 Seville snacks

28 "Give \_\_\_\_ don't pollute": old Forest Service slogan

29 Actress Hunter visits a pawn shop?

31 English regatta town

33 Pakistan river

34 "Money-saving," in product names

36 Signora's six

37 Hillary Clinton, \_\_\_\_ Rodham

40 Pet parasites

44 Seattle NFLer

46 Not at all intense

48 Footballer George who ultimately inspired a Reagan nickname

50 Allude (to)

52 Synthetic silk

53 Vitamin \_\_\_\_

54 Hershey's candy

55 Compos ments

57 Slurpee cousin

58 Designer label initials

59 Concordes, e.g.: Abbr.

62 Not pos.

63 Gun owners' org.

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

L	I	F	E	J	A	C	K	E	T	C	A	S	H
O	R	O	N	O	M	A	I	N	E	O	C	T	O
D	O	N	O	T	E	N	T	E	R	S	T	A	R
E	N	T	R	C	T	S	M	A	T	I	N	G	
M	A	H	I	Z	I	P	C	O	D	E			
C	R	E	O	L	E	H	I	T	S	O	N	G	S
R	E	V	O	P	R	E	N	E	E	H	U	E	
A	M	A	S	S	O	R	E	S	J	E	A	N	
I	A	L	S	T	A	B	S	P	U	R	R	S	
G	R	U	N	T	E	R	S	D	E	M	O	E	
S	K	A	T	E	R	S	P	E	R	P			
L	A	T	E	T	O	M	A	J	S	D	A	K	
I	B	I	S	I	N	A	D	E	Q	U	A	T	E
S	L	O	T	I	N	E	D	E	C	U	A	T	E
T	E	N	S	S	W	E	A	T	S	T	A	I	N

xwordedfor@aol.com 02/23/09

By Mike Polansky  
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# Wrestling Drops Two, Closes Dual-Meet Season



BY JACOB LEVENFELD  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

On Friday, temperatures never cracked 30 degrees in Cambridge, and Columbia's wrestling team received an equally chilling reception by Harvard with a 25-18 loss. The Light Blue extended its slide at Brown on Saturday, losing 22-9 in the team's final dual of the season. The Lions closed out the Ivy campaign with six losses in their last seven duals, including three in a row.


The Crimson (5-11, 2-3 Ivy) took control early on Friday, overcoming a forfeit at 125 pounds to win the next four bouts and six of the next seven overall. Walter Peppelman and Andy Olsen contributed to Harvard's early lead, with Peppelman picking up a technical fall over Nick Standish at 149 pounds and Olsen pinning Mike Wolfer in 5:45 at 174 pounds. By the time the Lions managed to pick up two wins (Lou Miller with a decision over Patrick Ziemnik and Ryan Flores via a forfeit), the Crimson were far enough ahead to come away with the victory.

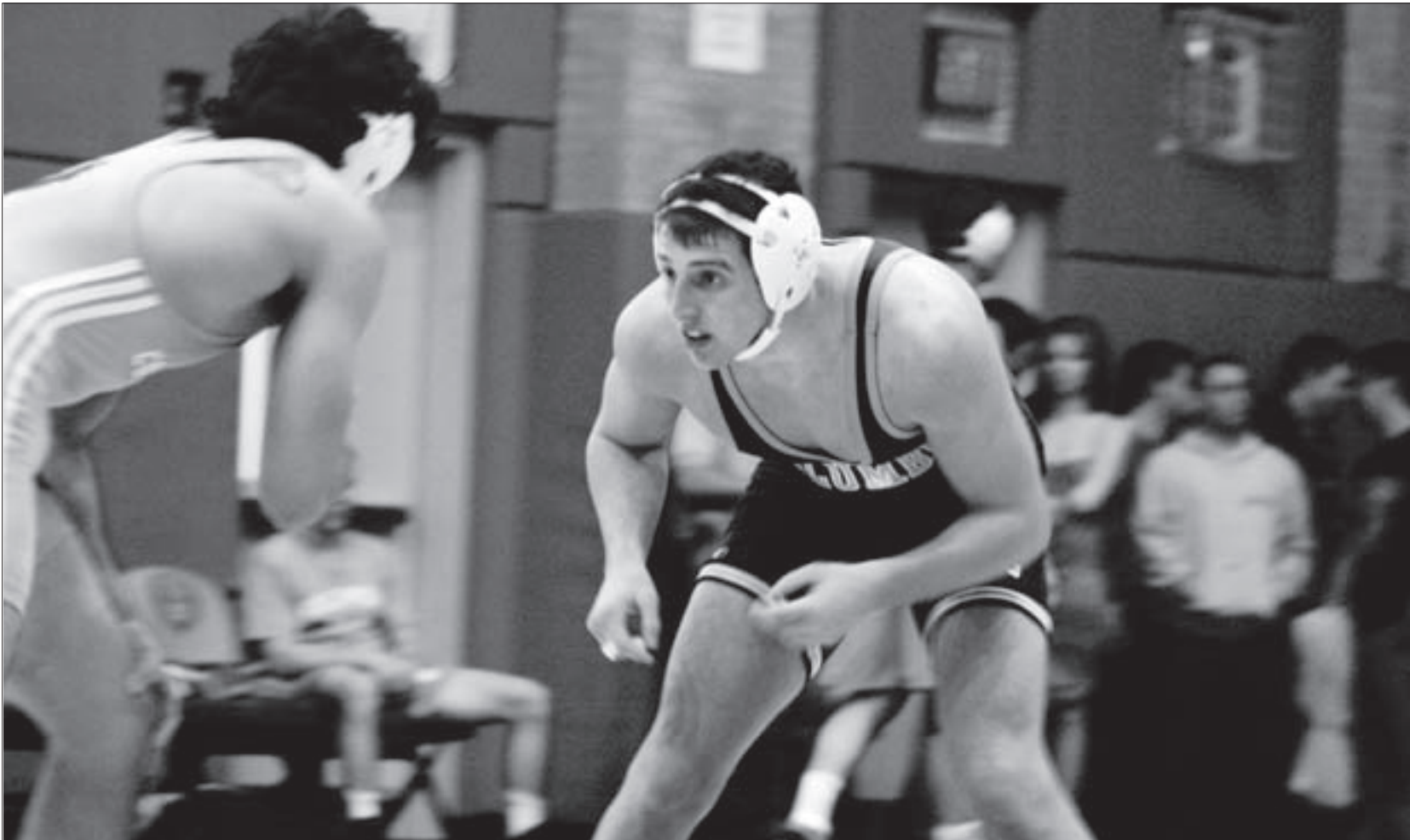
For Columbia, Eren Civan also decided his opponent at 165 pounds, and Kevin Tao won in a forfeit.

The match's most exciting action came at 157 pounds, when Columbia's Derek Sickles faced off against No. 4 J.P. O'Connor. The senior co-captain kept things close, trailing 6-5 in the third period

	COLUMBIA	18
	HARVARD	25

	COLUMBIA	9
	BROWN	22



File Photo

**PINNED** | Losing six out of its last seven dual meets, the wrestling team has struggled this season, and with its falls to Harvard and Brown this weekend, dropped to 3-14 overall (1-4 Ivy). The Lions will need more than the strong performances of key contributors Eren Civan and Ryan Flores if they wish to succeed at the EIWA Championships.

as time ticked away, but O'Connor pulled through with a 7-5 win for the Crimson in the end.

In Providence on Saturday, the Lions started off even slower against the Bears, dropping the first five bouts and seven of the first eight en route to a season-ending defeat. Brown (6-11, 3-2 Ivy) held

Columbia at bay until Civan earned a 4-1 decision over Chris Musser at 165 pounds, but the Lions were unable to hold onto the momentum, as Wolfer fell to Bran Crudden in a major decision at 174. For the second straight day, the Light Blue won the final two bouts behind Miller and Flores. Flores

finished dual action with an unblemished mark of 18 wins and zero losses on the campaign.

As a team, the Lions completed their dual season with a 3-14 overall record (1-4 Ivy).

Columbia does not return to the mat until Mar. 7, for the EIWA Championships in Philadelphia.



Lenny Pridatko for Spectator

**DOUBLE-DOUBLE** | With a team-high 20 points and an impressive 18 rebounds against Yale, sophomore forward Judie Lomax posted her ninth consecutive double-double.

## Light Blue Notches Third Consecutive Win

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL from back page

Columbia successfully executed its offensive strategy, as two of its post players scored in double figures. Sophomore forward Judie Lomax finished with a team-high 20 points and sophomore center Lauren Dwyer scored 12 points.

"We wanted to come out strong and just take care of all the little things," Lomax said. "It's all about Columbia at this point."

The Lions led the Bulldogs by 10 points after just five minutes of play, but Yale went on a 10-0 run to tie the game at 16-16. Nevertheless, Columbia rallied and held an 11-point advantage at the intermission. Sophomore guard Kathleen Barry made a short-range shot at the buzzer to put the Lions up by double digits.

"She only had one basket in the game, but it was a big one," Nixon said. "It's really a psychological edge."

Columbia was on a roll in the second half and pulled out a 77-61 victory. The Lions are now third in the conference standings and will host Harvard and Dartmouth, the top two teams in the league, this coming weekend.

## Columbia Fencing Sweeps Opponents, 3-0

FENCING from back page


Jacobson earned second-team honors along with freshman epeeist Neely Brandfield-Harvey. For the men, senior co-captain Sherif Farrag earned first-team honors in foil, while defending national champion Jeff Spear took the top spot in men's sabre with the best overall men's record of any fencer. Junior Alex Rudnicki also earned second-team accolades for his performances in sabre.

"One of Jeff's real strengths is that he is extremely consistent," Kolombatovich said of Spear. "Aladar Kogler has been teaching him and improving his game over what it was. Stephanie [Aiuto] and Sammy [Roberts] also fenced fantastically even though one of our usual starters, Daria [Schneider], did not compete due to injury."


The Lions have suffered a number of injuries over the course of the previous few weeks and will be looking to get healthier for the NCAA Regionals at Harvard.

"We're going to take all of our injuries on a case-by-case basis," Kolombatovich said. "There is no question that anyone who has been a serious athlete or a serious coach knows that injuries are not just a physical thing. It's also very mental and Jim [Gossett] is so good with understanding the athletic mind and our team. I'm quite confident that we'll be ready enough to do well at Regionals."

Columbia next fences at the IFA championships, the nation's oldest collegiate competition, at Brandeis this Saturday.



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# W. Tennis Sweeps Nonconference Foe LIU

BY KUNAL GUPTA  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

The women’s tennis team continued its recent impressive form this spring season, sweeping nonconference foe Long Island University 7-0 to improve its record this season to 3-3. The Lions were led by sophomore Stephanie Zilberman, who, at No. 1 singles for the second time this season, played the most dramatic match of the evening.

“I thought everyone played amazing,” said head coach Ilene Weintraub. “I was so proud of my team. I was especially proud of third doubles, they had played together last year and had a good record in the Ivies, but this was their first time together this spring.”

Columbia got off to a fast start in the match sweeping the doubles point. First doubles was manned by Zilberman and senior Marlena Hall, who entered the match with only one loss on the season as a doubles team and defeated Long Island’s No. 1 team, 8-5. The No. 2 doubles team of Nina Suda and Natasha Makarova defeated the No. 2 team, 8-4, after getting a quick lead and never looking back. Third doubles then proved to be the closest match of the doubles point, as the new doubles team of Natalia Christenson and Carling Donovan found themselves down 3-6 before rallying to 7-7. Since the doubles outcome was already decided, the teams played a tiebreak to decide the winner. The tiebreak highlighted the Lions shot making ability, as well as Christenson’s big first serve, which got the team out of trouble when facing a match point. Eventually, Columbia managed to seal the deal, and took the tiebreak 11-9.

“I thought they both served well in the end,” said Weintraub.

At No. 2 singles, Makarova managed to set the tone early for the Lions, dominating her opponent with stinging groundstrokes en route to a 6-0, 6-0 win. Senior co-captain Suda, at No. 6 singles, was tested in the first set by Dara Lahens of Long Island, before running away with the second, as she won her match, 6-4, 6-0. Freshman Nicole Stanziola, playing at No. 3, won her match in straight sets with identical 6-4 victories. Donovan and freshman Eliza Matache also won each of their matches in straight sets to secure the win for the Lions.

“I was really proud of Natasha as well, she rolled through that match,” said the head coach. “And that girl was a pretty good player, they were second in their conference and they had a lot of wins last season.”



File Photo

**OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGE** | Senior co-captain Nina Suda, playing at No. 6 singles, was tested in her first set against LIU’s Dara Lahens before dominating the second set, 6-0, and taking the match.

But No. 1 singles would prove to be a battle, as Zilberman found herself up against Selma Babic, a sophomore transfer from Clemson, who fought valiantly until the last point. Babic won the first set 6-4, but Zilberman rallied to win the second set by the reverse score of 6-4, demonstrating great defense as Babic hit heavy groundstrokes from the baseline. The two played a tiebreak to decide the match, and Zilberman soon found herself down 3-7, before managing to come back and win seven of the next eight points, en route to a 10-8 win.

“Stephanie beat a girl who transferred from Clemson,” said Weintraub. “And she was high ranked as well. Stephanie had a tough match and in the third set breaker she was down 3-7, and then rallied back to win it. That is almost unheard of to come back from that far down.”

“I thought it was a great day for our program,” Weintraub added. “And I thought the girls played really focused and determined.”

The Lions will return to action on Feb. 28, when they will travel to West Point, NY to take on the University of Massachusetts.

# M. Tennis Picks Up Two, Primes for Ivy Season

BY KUNAL GUPTA  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

The Columbia men’s tennis team swept its two nonconference foes, St. John’s and Fairleigh Dickinson, this weekend, pushing its record to 6-2 on the spring season, and seemingly priming Columbia for another run at an Ivy League title.

The men opened the weekend by defeating St. John’s in their first home match at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center this season. The team was shorthanded by injuries, as well as a bout of the flu, which hit the team over the weekend. Junior Mihai Nichifor, who normally plays No. 3 singles, sat out the weekend’s matches forcing everyone in the lineup to move up a spot on Friday, including freshman Rajeev Deb-Sen who got to see the first dual-match action of his career.

The Lions got a 1-0 lead in the match by sweeping the doubles point. Junior Jon Wong teamed up with freshmen Haig Schneiderman to play No. 1 doubles and the duo cruised against St. John’s team of Alex Svetlakov and Derek Wallensteen 8-3. At No. 2 doubles, Bogdan Borta who normally teams with Nichifor, instead joined up with Deb-Sen to take on Milo Hauk and Martin Kosut. Columbia won the match 8-4, and third doubles won 8-2 to give Columbia a sweep.

Wong, competing as No. 1 singles, led the Lions by defeating Asaf Honig of St. John’s in straight sets, 6-4, 6-1. But Borta, hampered by a left leg injury, went down to Hauk 6-2, 6-1. Columbia fared well at the bottom of the lineup, however, as Deb-Sen notched his first dual-match win against Jordan Talbot in a close match, 6-2, 7-6. Kevin Kung, beginning his return to form after missing the fall season with a leg injury, defeated his opponent at No. 5 singles 7-5, 6-2. Kung displayed dominating form in the second serve, hitting his groundstrokes with authority. Columbia’s other two freshmen, and regular starters, Ekin Sezgen and Schneiderman, both fell in three sets, despite both winning the



Ajit Pillai / Senior Staff Photographer

**FIRST TIMER** | In the first dual-match action of his career, Rajeev Deb-Sen picked up a win against St. John’s in a close 6-2, 7-6 victory.

first set. With the aid of the doubles point, Columbia was able to defeat the Red Storm 4-3, and advance to 5-2.

On Saturday, the Lions faced off against Fairleigh Dickinson University. The Knights came in undefeated this spring, and held their own in the doubles point. The Lions took first and third doubles by 8-6 scores earning the team the doubles point.

The Lions then found themselves shorthanded once again, as Borta only played doubles against the Knights and Nichifor sat out with flu-like symptoms. Matt Gordon, a sophomore from England, pushed Wong, who manned the No. 1 position, hard. Wong was up a break in the first set, and was serving when Gordon rallied and broke Wong, forcing a tiebreak. Wong had a set point in the tiebreak, but Gordon fought that off as well, and went on to win the first set. Wong, however, won the second set 6-3

and outlast Gordon in the third, winning 7-5. Deb-Sen, playing No. 4 in the match, won his second consecutive match as did Schneiderman at No. 3 singles. Senior Jon Chan saw his first action of the spring in singles, and played a spectacular match winning in three sets against Markus Bolinder. Chan lost the first set 6-4, but rallied to win the second by the same score. Since the outcome had already been decided, the two played a tiebreak to decide the match, which Chan won 10-5.

Dan Urban, part of the Lions’ third doubles team, also got his first singles action this season, and won his match, giving Columbia a sweep of both the singles and doubles in a 7-0 win against the Knights.

The Lions will next take on Binghamton at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center on Friday, Feb. 27 at 2 p.m.

# Lions End Weekend in Three-Way Tie for Second

## MEN’S BASKETBALL from back page

and his team went into the half with a two-point lead.

Foley led the Lions early in the second half, building their lead to as large as nine twice. However, after a layup by Jason Miller put Columbia up 41-32, Yale dominated the rest of the way. The Light Blue committed four fouls in less than two minutes and put the Bulldogs in the bonus with more than 12 minutes to play.

“I thought we got fatigued in the second half,” Joe said. “We started reaching and fouling. That was a big part of their run. We just put them on the foul line.”

After Miller’s layup, Yale went on a 10-0 run with six points coming from the foul line. Niko Scott regained the lead for the Lions on a layup with 7:20 to go, but the Bulldogs responded with yet another run, scoring six unanswered points, four of which came from free throws.

“We fouled just too much coming down

the stretch,” Foley said. “We didn’t get in the gaps. We weren’t on the help side. It helps down the stretch where every foul you’re shooting two in a row.”

Up 48-43, Yale held its lead the rest of the way.

With the win, Yale tied Columbia and Dartmouth for second place in the conference. Cornell now holds a two-game advantage in the league with just four to go. The Lions will travel to take on Harvard and Dartmouth next weekend.

## 2008-2009 MEN’S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time / Result	Record
Nov. 14	at Fordham	65-62, W	1-0
Nov. 16	at Seton Hall	50-71, L	1-1
Nov. 21	vs. Bryant	70-54, W	2-1
Nov. 22	vs. UMBC	52-66, L	2-2
Nov. 25	vs. Albany	49-66, L	2-3
Nov. 29	vs. Stony Brook	60-62, L	2-4
Dec. 3	vs. Wagner	84-69, W	3-4
Dec. 9	at St. Francis	57-59, L	3-5
Dec. 20	at Virginia Tech	52-64, L	3-6
Dec. 21	at Marist	63-58, W	4-6
Dec. 29	vs. Sacred Heart	79-84 (OT), L	4-7
Jan. 2	at Lehigh	59-73, L	4-8
Jan. 5	at American	50-62, L	4-9
Jan. 9	vs. NJIT	73-50, W	5-9
Jan. 17	vs. Cornell	59-71, L	5-10 (0-1 Ivy)
Jan. 24	at Cornell	72-83, L	5-11 (0-2 Ivy)
Jan. 30	vs. Yale	53-42, W	6-11 (1-2 Ivy)
Jan. 31	vs. Brown	65-59, W	7-11 (2-2 Ivy)
Feb. 6	at Penn	74-63, W	8-11 (3-2 Ivy)
Feb. 7	at Princeton	35-63, L	8-12 (3-3 Ivy)
Feb. 13	vs. Dartmouth	65-52, W	9-12 (4-3 Ivy)
Feb. 14	vs. Harvard	60-59, W	10-12 (5-3 Ivy)
Feb. 20	at Brown	70-57, W	11-12 (6-3 Ivy)
Feb. 21	at Yale	49-57, L	11-13 (6-4 Ivy)
Feb. 27	at Harvard	7 p.m.	
Feb. 28	at Dartmouth	7 p.m.	
Mar. 6	vs. Princeton	7 p.m.	
Mar. 7	vs. Penn	7 p.m.	

## GAME BALL

Junior point guard Patrick Foley had an outstanding weekend in lower New England, scoring a career-high 21 points against Brown and a game-high 17 against Yale. His efforts put Columbia only one game back in the Ivy League after Friday night, but the Lions suffered a letdown late in the second half against the Elis, en route to a weekend split.

## TURNING POINT

After falling down by 10 in the first half, the Lions came back strong against Yale to take a nine-point lead with just under 14 minutes left. Columbia’s offense went cold, however, and the Light Blue did not score a basket for over seven minutes as Yale went on a 10-0 run. The Lions continued its struggles, eventually falling by eight points in a crucial game.



## FREE CHARITY

Yale took advantage of Columbia’s defense in the second half of Saturday’s contest, shooting 24 free throws in the final 20 minutes of the game. For the contest, the Elis outscored the Light Blue 21-10 from the free-throw line, including 16-4 in the second half. Columbia committed 21 fouls for the game as the team fell by eight points, lower than the free-throw edge held by the Bulldogs.

## HOT AND COLD

Senior guard K.J. Matsui is known for his streaky shooting and it was no different this past weekend. Matsui scored in double figures for the third straight game on Friday against Brown—14 points—but only two points against Yale on 1-for-6 shooting, including 0-for-5 from beyond the arc and 0-for-3 in the second half.

# BY THE NUMBERS

**21** A career-high in points for junior point guard Patrick Foley on Friday night against Brown, leading the Lions to a 70-53 victory.

**9** The number of turnovers against Brown for the Light Blue, limiting the number of fast-break points for the Bears to zero.

**11** Yale’s scoring edge at the free-throw line in Saturday’s loss to the Elis. Columbia ended up falling to Yale by only eight points.

**7** Number of minutes that Columbia went scoreless against Yale as the Elis went on a 10-0 run to take a one-point lead.

## IVY LEAGUE STANDINGS

	IVY LEAGUE			OVERALL		
	W	L	PCT	W	L	PCT
Cornell	8	2	.800	18	8	.692
Columbia	6	4	.600	11	13	.458
Yale	6	4	.600	11	13	.458
Dartmouth	6	4	.600	8	16	.333
Princeton	5	4	.556	10	12	.455
Penn	4	5	.444	8	15	.348
Harvard	3	7	.300	11	13	.458
Brown	1	9	.100	7	17	.292

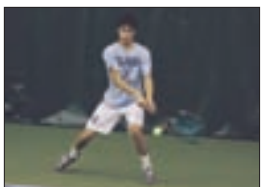
## SPECTATOR PIXBOX STANDINGS: WEEK TWO

1	Lisa “That’s What She Said” Lewis	29-12
2	Matt “The X-Factor” Velazquez	26-14
2	Max “Pure Overtime” Puro	26-14
4	Jelani “Can’t Knock the Hustle” Johnson	22-18
4	Jonathan “You’re With Me Leather” Tayler	22-18
6	Jonathan “Full Court Press” August	21-19
6	Charles “Charles in Charge” Young	21-19
8	Jacob “Put It On the Board” Shapiro	19-21
9	Mike “Bad Newz, Mike” Shannon	18-22



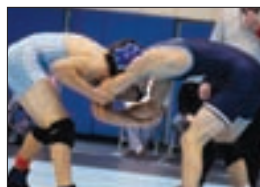
Advancing to 6-2 for the spring, the men's tennis team defeated St. John's and Fairleigh Dickinson this weekend.

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# SPORTS

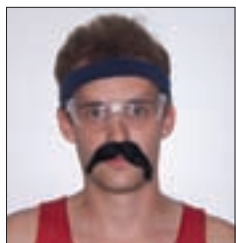
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The wrestling team suffered its second and third consecutive losses on the road to close out the dual-meet season.

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## Fencing Prank Gone Awfully Awry



MICHAEL SHANNON  
BAD NEWZ, MIKE

As a result of a few simple miscalculations on my part and a prank that escalated way too quickly for anyone to control, last week I received a challenge to duel the entire women's fencing team at Brown University. Don't ask me to rehash the embarrassing turn of events that led to my current circumstances. I don't think it will do any good to tell the truth, but I respect my readers far too much to lie. As I always say, "Bad Newz, Mike" fans are the greatest fans of any bi-monthly college sports columnist in the contiguous United States. Let's just leave it at this: Fencers have honor, and fencers also have sabres, foils, and épées. When their honor is offended, fencers challenge you to a duel with their sabres, foils, and épées—the Brown women's fencing squad can't take a joke, so I found myself in a predicament.

The "duel," if you can call it that, was supposed to go down like this. Yesterday, the final three rounds of the Ivy League fencing round robins went down in Providence. I was to arrive at Brown prior to the start of the second day of competition for the opening ceremony, in which I would face all 15 scorned and armed Brown women's fencers. It is actually a centuries-old fencing ritual known as "Le Massacre du Cochon"—loosely translated, "the Slaughter of the Pig."

Let me tell you, at first I felt bold enough to take on the entire team. I've never fenced before, it's true, and what little fencing I've watched I've never really paid much attention to, but what I lack in experience and formal training I make up for by fighting dirty. I figured the Brown girls wouldn't want to deal with me first thing in the morning. Could they really be totally gung-ho about teaching little ole me a lesson? I mean, who am I?

I'm Bad Newz Mike, damn right. Of course they want a piece of this, and I was totally ready to give it to them. Hell, I'd have given them more than just a piece—I would have given them a seven-course meal of the whoop whoop with a mint at the end. But then I used freetranslator.com to check on "Le Massacre du Cochon," and it kind of freaked me out.

So instead of show up in Providence yesterday morning to be made into mincemeat for the Bears, I did the only thing I could do. I cowered and I cried. I can't even say that I made it as far as Penn Station. I spent my entire Sunday literally hiding in my room alone, shades drawn, door locked. It was pathetic, I know, but I'd like to see you face 15 angry women with knives and training in the deadly art any better than I did.

As you can imagine, the Brown girls are pissed, and they were pretty angry before. I mean, first off, they really didn't do all that well in the two days of Ivy round robins, and secondly, they are still pretty upset that I have thus far gotten away with doing what I do. They still want to teach me a lesson.

Thankfully, the Brown women's fencing team is going to be pretty busy for the next month, which should delay my day of reckoning. They'll be in Brandeis next week, the NCAA regionals in Boston on the 8th and the NCAA Championships starting on the 19th. So I've got a little time, but then again I'm trying to prepare for the worst—getting my affairs in order, making sure my will reflects my current feelings towards people, etc.

To my fans: Thanks for sticking around and for all the support you've given me in the past. Worse comes to worst, I'm probably going to have to call on you all for some help. The Brown fencers, they know where I live and I am sure that they want nothing more than to come to New York City and drive me from my home with swords and fencing garments as a flaming effigy. If anyone has a couch or some place for me to sleep until this whole thing blows over, it would be much appreciated. No cats or whole milk, please.

To those seeking revenge upon me, a final plea: There is no need to teach me a lesson. I get the point, and I'm sorry. I can't say it won't happen again, because it almost definitely will, but next time you won't know it was me. And P.S.: Get a real weapon.

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## Lions Triumph Against Bears, Fall to Bulldogs



Jenny Hsu / Senior Staff Photographer

**CAREER HIGH** | After posting a career-high 21 points against Brown, junior Patrick Foley led the Lions for the second consecutive night versus Yale. Despite the loss, Foley notched 17 points, four rebounds and three assists.

BY LUCAS SHAW  
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Yale coach James Jones had lost to his brother, Columbia coach Joe Jones, four straight times. Ross Morin went 2-for-11 from the floor when the Bulldogs lost to the Lions, 53-42, at the end of January.

They picked a good time to get their revenge.

The Bulldogs completed a weekend sweep Saturday night, beating the Lions, 57-49, to move into a tie with them for second place in the league.

"This one hurt a lot," Columbia's Jason Miller said. "The other ones hurt. Princeton was embarrassing, but the close one is always tough, especially when we're feeling good and on a roll."

The Light Blue entered Saturday's game closer to Cornell in the league standings than it had been since losing its first league game of the season to the Big Red.

Friday night, James Jones helped his brother, handing Cornell its second Ivy loss of the year. Joe Jones, whose team entered the weekend two games back, did his part as well in guiding the Lions to a 70-57 victory at Brown. Pat Foley led Columbia with a career-high 21 points and Noruwa Agho contributed 17 points of his own, 14 of which came in the second half.

The Light Blue trailed for most of the first half, but an Asenso Ampim layup with 3:39 to go in the first half sparked a 9-0 run and gave his team its first lead. Columbia never trailed again.

The win against Brown moved the Lions to one game back in the Ancient Eight entering Saturday's game, but following the season's trend, they came out flat.

"We seem to be prone to slow starts," Foley said. "They came out with a lot of pressure and took us out of our game."

Yale took advantage of several early Columbia turnovers and held a 14-4 lead eight minutes into the game. After a timeout, however, the Light Blue took advantage of the absence of Ross Morin, Yale's leading rebounder and second-leading scorer who was sitting on the bench, saddled with two fouls.



The Lions gradually chipped away at the Bulldog lead, eventually tying it on a jumper by Foley with 2:14 to go in the half.

James Jones opted to play Morin in the first half after he picked up his second foul, sensing the Lions' advantage without him on the floor. With three-and-a-half minutes to play, Morin picked up his third foul, sidelining him for the rest of the half.

With less than two minutes to go in the half, a jumper by Kevin Bulger put the Lions ahead, 24-22,

COLUMBIA	70
BROWN	57
COLUMBIA	49
YALE	57

SEE MEN'S BASKETBALL, page 11

### POSTSEASON SCENARIOS

#### NCAA TOURNAMENT

For Columbia to earn a shot in the Big Dance, the Lions will have to win out against Harvard, Dartmouth, and the Killer P's. In addition, Cornell will have to lose three of its last four, leaving the Big Red with five league losses.



#### NIT TOURNAMENT

Should Columbia win its last four games and Cornell drop two of its final four, both teams would finish at 10-4 in the Ancient Eight. With the Big Red's sweep of the Lions, Cornell holds the tiebreak and would receive the NCAA birth. Columbia would receive an invite to the NIT.



#### NO POSTSEASON

If Columbia cannot end the season with equal or fewer losses in the Ivy League than Cornell, the Lions will miss out on all postseason play. Given the team's near .500 record, it is highly unlikely the Lions would garner any attention for an at-large bid.



Lenny Pridatko for Spectator

**POWER OFFENSE** | One of two post players to score in double digits on Saturday, center Lauren Dwyer scored 12 points against Yale.

BY SARAH SOMMER  
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Their laughs could be heard from outside the basketball lounge, and when the players filed into the hallway their smiles told the whole story. The Columbia women's basketball team (13-11, 6-4 Ivy) had many reasons to celebrate on Saturday night after winning their third consecutive league matchup against Yale and completing a weekend of sweeps.

A game against a team with only one Ivy win does not ordinarily attract hordes of students to Levien Gymnasium on a Friday night. But Feb. 20 was far from ordinary for Columbia and its fans, some even showing up with their bodies painted. The Lions participated in the Women's Basketball Coaches Association's Pink Zone, an initiative to raise breast cancer awareness and research funds. By the end of the evening, Columbia had achieved an 88-57 victory over Brown (3-21, 1-9). The Bears are the first opponents to be swept by the Lions this year.

"We really excelled in essentially every aspect of the game," Columbia head coach Paul Nixon said. "I thought we did a very nice job of pushing the tempo, creating the style and pace that we wanted to play."

Columbia held a 22-point advantage at halftime



BROWN	57
COLUMBIA	88
YALE	61
COLUMBIA	77

and extended its lead to as many as 36 points in the second half. While blowout wins generally lack suspense, the game had some exciting moments for Columbia. Freshman guard Jazmin Fuller saw a career-high 13 minutes of action and scored her first collegiate points with two foul shots. It was the fourth game of the season in which Fuller has competed.

"I wasn't even thinking about career points," she said. "My team needed me, and I got the rebound for them. It wasn't a matter of my self."

After Columbia swept Brown, it finished the weekend with a victory over Yale (10-14, 3-7), marking the team's first sweep of back-to-back games this season. The Bulldogs were playing without junior forward Haywood Wright, who tore her ACL in a game against Princeton on Feb. 13. Wright torched the Lions for 17 points earlier this year, and the Bulldogs came away from that matchup with a 63-61 win.

"We decided after the last game [against Yale], even before Haywood was hurt, that this was a game we were going to have to do more in to establish the inside," Nixon said. "The last game, it was pretty much all penetration scores, and we got very few post feeds and post opportunities."

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, page 10

## Fencing Grabs Second-Place Finishes In Ancient Eight Championships

BY JONATHAN AUGUST  
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Columbia fencing team did its part on Sunday afternoon, going a combined 3-0 against its opponents, but there were no upsets in Providence, leaving the Lions in second place in the Ivy League on both the men's and women's sides. Still, even a second-place finish in the Ancient Eight is a strong result.

"The league is extremely tough," head coach George Kolombatovich said after the meet. "We're certainly one of the better teams in the league and over the long run, the perception of success is determined by expectations. The fact that we came in second is a real accomplishment. The expectations are so high and coming in second in the toughest league in the country, it makes me very proud."

For the Lions to have earned a share of the title, there would have needed to be two upsets—one on the men's side and another on the women's. Penn's men's team squeaked by Harvard, 16-11, in a competitive meet, but steamrolled over Yale, 22-5, in the final meet of the day to take home the

Ivy title. The Crimson women earned an easy 20-7 win over Brown and then faced a very tough Penn team that pushed them to the limit. Eventually, however, Harvard got a 15-12 win and with it, the Ancient Eight crown.

Even so, there were a lot of positives to come out of the Ivy championships for the Lions. Columbia actually won more total bouts than any other team in the competition and received very strong contributions from some of the team's younger fencers.

"I think the fact that our first years did so well bodes very well for the future," Kolombatovich added. "It really proves that we had a very good recruiting year last year. I think that everyone who will be back next year is looking forward to next season already because we always want to win the Ivy championship."

The Light Blue had nine All-Ivy fencers, six of whom were first-team honorees—the most of any school. Freshmen women's sabrists Stephanie Aiuto and Sammy Roberts took first-team honors, along with sophomore foilist Nicole Ross, and junior epeeist Tess Finkel. Sophomore sabrist Jackie



Kenneth Jackson / Staff Photographer

**NO UPSETS** | Despite going 3-0 in Providence this weekend, the fencing team failed to earn a share of the Ivy

SEE FENCING, page 10