



AYELET PEARL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CROSSING BRIDGES | Ruby Bridges, left, the first black student to attend a desegregated South school, packed the house on Wednesday.

Desegregation icon Bridges talks with Moody-Adams

BY MARGARET MATTES
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Ruby Bridges, an icon of the desegregation of schools in the 1960s South, told a packed room on Wednesday evening that she believes that racism today is worse than it's ever been.

Bridges was interviewed by former Columbia College Dean Michele Moody-Adams in only her second public campus appearance since she stepped down as dean in August, and by U.N. Research Specialist Gabrielle Apollon, CC '09, in Barnard's Diana Oval.

Bridges, the first African-American student to go to a desegregated school in the South, spoke about her life story and her optimistic philosophies. "Racism is a grown-up disease," she said. "Each and every one of our babies come into the world with a clean heart. ... We have got to come together if we are going to make our world a better place."

Repeatedly referenced and framing the stage was the Norman Rockwell painting of Bridges entering her New Orleans elementary school in 1960 with four federal marshals

surrounding her.

Bridges said she didn't really have a say in attending the school, because "in black families, you didn't say 'no.'"

For Bridges, her lifelong philosophy comes from Martin Luther King: "We are never to look at a person and judge them by the color of their skin," she said.

She began to understand that lesson on that famous first day at William Frantz Elementary when she realized that her first-grade teacher, Ms. Henry, was white, just like the protesters outside.

"I knew that she looked like them, but she was nothing like

them. She showed me her heart," Bridges said.

"That moment right there shaped me for who I am today," she said.

In addition to her elementary school experiences, Bridges also talked extensively about her life, work, and faith as an adult.

She admitted that she did not understand the importance of her past until much later in life. After she was fired from her job as a travel agent, she said, she realized that she had to rededicate her life to fighting injustice.

SEE BRIDGES, page 6

SIPA alum cuts middleman with new real estate start-up

BY EMILY NEIL
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

For graduate students looking for housing in the city, there's a new option—and it's made by someone only a year out of grad school.

RentJolt, a real estate website founded by Avi Dorfman, SIPA '11, cuts broker fees in half and allows prospective and current tenants to interact directly.

Dorfman founded the

startup with college students searching for New York City apartments in mind. He developed the idea for the company after thinking about the money and time people spend on finding an apartment, particularly graduate students who come to the city without a place to stay.

"People were forced to find a place in this four-to-six-week scramble," Dorfman said—and paid sometimes exorbitant fees

SEE RENTJOLT, page 6



ZARA CASTANY / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HOUSE HUNTER | Dorfman envisions RentJolt as a hub for students in GS or grad school who need to find housing quickly.

CB7 looks to slow traffic outside 109th St. school

BY CASEY TOLAN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Upper West Side is known for its brownstones, its bagels, and its residents' outspoken opinions, but certainly not for its abundance of parking.

And so a proposal to redesign a Morningside Heights block with speed bumps and narrower streets is being praised for its attention to improving traffic congestion, but has made residents upset at the prospect of even fewer spots to park their cars.

The stretch of 109th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam includes P.S. 165, and some locals have complained of unsafe overcrowding during the school's pick-up and dropoff. A proposed street redesign from the Beacon Group, a real estate company that owns 17 of the 24 residential buildings on the block, aims to change that and calls for more curb space, speed bumps, and space for bus loading.

"We've got a great block with narrow sidewalks and huge institutional users where children are both walking to and getting dropped off by bus," said Paul Proulx, a land use lawyer representing Beacon, in a presentation before the Community Board 7 transportation committee last week.

"The key concerns were

SEE 109TH ST., page 2



NICK PLEASANTS FOR SPECTATOR

SPACE JAM | The space-crunched School of the Arts will keep Dodge Hall despite its planned expansion into Manhattanville.

School of the Arts to retain Dodge post-M'ville

BY SAMMY ROTH
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The School of the Arts will keep all its space in Dodge Hall after its new building opens in Manhattanville in 2016, Dean Carol Becker told *Spectator* on Wednesday.

"We're not moving the school ... The school will be here in Dodge," Becker said. The Manhattanville building is "a new venue building that's going to provide spaces we don't have."

The Lenfest Center for the Arts—named for University trustee Gerry Lenfest, who has pledged \$30 million toward its

Bollinger's response not enough, says MSA

NYPD surveillance of Muslim students 'traumatic' revelation

BY JESSICA STALLONE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Emotions ran high at a town hall meeting hosted by the Muslim Student Association on Wednesday, where students discussed reports revealing that the New York Police Department had monitored the MSA's website as recently as 2007.

A panel that included MSA Vice President Maliha Tariq, BC '13, expressed disappointment and shock, saying that surveillance of this nature was an infringement of their intellectual freedom and basic civil rights.

But those in attendance took aim mostly at University President Lee Bollinger, criticizing his lack of a University-wide response to the allegations.

In a statement, Bollinger said that Columbia "did not know or condone the surveillance of publicly accessible websites by the NYPD."

"We are deeply concerned about any government activity that would chill the freedom of thought or intrude upon student privacy, both of which are so essential to our academic community," Bollinger said.

University spokesperson Robert Hornsby said that the statement was "being provided to student leaders."

The consensus at the town hall was that Bollinger's statement was inadequate and should have been issued to all University affiliates. Many members of the group felt that the statement trivialized the scale

of the allegations.

"My official reaction is that I'm glad there was a response," Kahlil Abdur-Rashid, Columbia's Muslim religious life advisor, said. But at the same time, he said, "We're being bullied by the NYPD. We need someone to step up and say, 'Stop bullying our kids.'"

The Associated Press published a report on Saturday stating that officers from the NYPD's Cyber Intelligence unit patrolled the websites of various Muslim student groups, including Columbia's, as part of a "daily routine."

Abdur-Rashid called on Bollinger to demand an explanation of city officials and investigate how deeply embedded police officers were in Columbia student life.

"President Bollinger, I need you to pick up the phone and call Commissioner Kelly and call Mayor Bloomberg," he said.

The panelists praised Barnard College President Debora Spar and NYU President John Sexton for making public statements.

"The College is firmly committed to protecting the civil liberties of our students and stands by the Muslim Students Association in its concerns about the actions of the NYPD and its calls for further explanation," Spar wrote an email to all Barnard students on Tuesday.

Many of the speakers emphasized the traumatic effect

SEE MSA, page 2

A&E, PAGE 3

Woody Allen talks 'Radio Days'

Filmmaker and award-winning director Woody Allen and Dick Cavett recalled the golden age of the radio with a screening of Allen's film.



OPINION, PAGE 4

Efficient altruism

Cecilia Reyes argues that we should think about getting the power to effect change first.

Monitored assembly

Andrew Godinich worries that indifference may be eroding our fundamental values.

SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Light Blue defense slowly improves

Despite having trouble finding an Ivy League win this season, the women's basketball team's defense is beginning to come together.

EVENTS

Senior Gala

CCSC, ESC, and SGA present this annual formal, with music provided by Spicy Special Crew.
Roone Arledge Auditorium, 10 p.m.

WEATHER

Today


55°/44°

Tomorrow


52°/37°



FILE PHOTO

PROFILING | Members of the MSA say that University President Lee Bollinger needs to do more.

MSA dismayed with Bollinger’s reaction

MSA from front page

that this news has had on Muslim students on campus. Some expressed fear of going to and speaking in class, in case they were recorded on a lap-top or cell phone. Others stated that they were being more cautious about whom they spoke to, what they talked about in regular conversation, and what they searched for on the Internet.

Abdur-Rashid was disturbed by the fact that students with whom he previously had close relationships were now too intimidated to enter his office and have an honest conversation. The fear of being watched, he said, has prevented certain Muslim students on this campus from confiding in someone they used to trust.

Numerous student groups and organizations were represented at the meeting, with attendees showing their support for MSA and all Muslim students on campus. Representatives from student organizations including Occupy Columbia University, Students for Justice in

Palestine, and the Student Governing Board made statements expressing their support for MSA.

Barry Weinberg, CC '12 and SGB chair, said that the message of the meeting was that the University administration needed to do more to publicly support Muslim students and advocate on their behalf when dealing with external forces.

“There were no upper-level administrators from the University. One of their duties is to handle external issues with the University. They needed to be there because this is their role in the community,” he said. “They haven’t been public in how they’re going about carrying out that duty, which is just as bad because of the lack of transparency.”

Administrators at the meeting included Barnard College Dean Avis Hinkson, Columbia College and School of Engineering and Applied Science Dean of Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger, Barnard College Vice President for Community Development Vivian Taylor, and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Dean Carlos Alonso. Rabbi Yonah Hain of Hillel was also present.

After the meeting, Hinkson told Spectator, “Certainly we will continue to engage students, continue to have open doors for students to come in and talk.”

“The emotional feelings of the students are critical to us and we want them to continue to feel that they can come and express their concerns,” she said.

Shollenberger said he did not want to comment on behalf of the University.

“I was just really here to listen and be supportive of the students, and I’m certainly going to follow up with some of the student leaders about what they had to say, but beyond that I’m not prepared to say much more,” he said.

For Abdur-Rashid, nothing is more frustrating than inaction from administrators. “This is not conducive to an academic environment. Saying ‘They’ll be OK, that’s fine, we’re handling this’ ... what a condescending thing to say.”

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M’ville arts center will not have classrooms

SOA from front page

Renzo Piano to nickname it “the lantern building”—it will be much smaller than the Business School and SIPA’s new buildings, even though it will not have any offices or classrooms. As a result, it will do nothing to help solve SoA’s existing space crunch in Morningside Heights, Becker said.

Executive Vice President for Arts and Sciences Nicholas Dirks said in a recent interview that SoA’s space problem is urgent.

“We have some units in the Arts and Sciences that are really, really pressed for space,” Dirks said. “The School of the Arts is having trouble finding offices for some of the most distinguished faculty that we have recruited.”

Becker said that she is involved in discussions about how to fix SoA’s space problems, and that several ideas are being considered.

“There’s some things that are in the works, you know, I don’t want to say yet,” she said. “When they happen, they’ll happen.”

“We don’t have anything like this now, where you have all of these things together in a beautiful building that’s open to the public.”

—Carol Becker,
School of the Arts dean

It will be easier for everyone to find more space on the Morningside campus, she added, once some schools begin

the move to Manhattanville.

“If SIPA has a new building, then eventually they will vacate their building. Business School has a new building, they’ll vacate their building,” Becker said. “Over the next period of time, space will open up on Morningside too.”

Senior Executive Vice President Robert Kasdin said in an interview last week that despite Lenfest’s \$30 million gift, SoA still needs to raise significant funds to pay for its new building.

Kasdin expects donors to close the funding gap soon, though, and Becker said there is no question that enough money will be raised.

“Gerry’s gift was monumental and exciting for us ... It’s a great vote of confidence,” she said. “And when you have that kind of confidence, other things follow, and other people become very committed to it as well.”

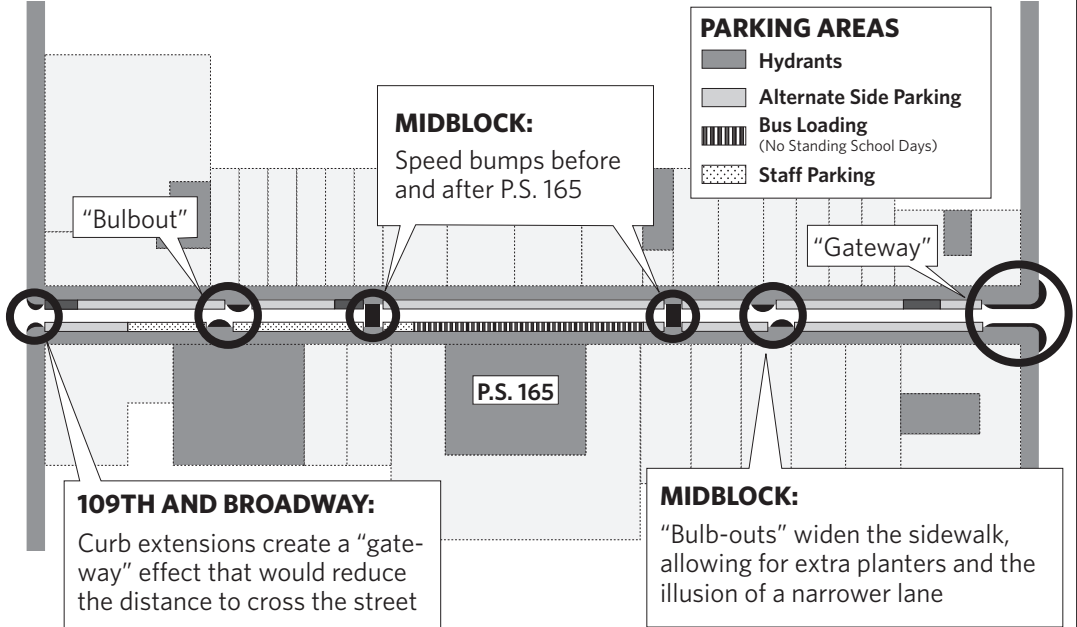
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NICK PLEASANTS FOR SPECTATOR

TIGHT SQUEEZE | Executive VP for Arts and Sciences Nicholas Dirks has called SoA’s space problem “urgent.” SoA will add the Lenfest Center after the Manhattanville expansion.

109TH STREET: PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS



BEFORE



AFTER

(Rendering)



DATA AND RENDERING COURTESY OF BEACON ORGANIZATION / PHOTO BY NICK PLEASANTS FOR SPECTATOR / GRAPHIC BY YUMA SHINOHARA

Proposal would kill 22 parking spaces

109TH ST. from front page

safety concerns,” Philip Winn, who designed the proposal, said. “We have a combination of speeding happening and quite a bit of congestion.”

The city’s Department of Transportation, if it approves the plan, would provide funding, although Proulx said Beacon could make a financial commitment as well.

On a block dominated by parked cars, the proposal would broaden the narrow sidewalks at certain bulb-outs along the block, allowing space for another planter. In addition, a gateway with wider sidewalks that stretch into the street on the intersection would reduce the distance to cross the street.

Winn said that the gateways and midblock extensions would create the “psychological effect” of a narrower lane, which “has been shown to reduce speed.”

In addition, speed bumps would be installed to the east and west of the school.

Those in attendance were surprised to learn that speed bumps had been already approved for the block, independent of the larger proposal. Josh Orzeck, a Department of Transportation representative, said that they were due to be installed this spring and summer.

The proposal would repurpose 22 parking spaces on the block—12 for green space and 10 for bus loading and staff parking. The spaces for buses and staff would revert to normal parking after 4 p.m. and before 7 a.m.

Winn said that the minimal area for buses creates a lot of congestion on the block, whereas the proposal would triple the space for the loading zone.

But residents said the loss of so much parking was a deterrent.

“Already, the school takes away a lot of residential parking during the day. A lot of residents here are forced to park their vehicle on Riverside Drive, where people smack into their cars,” Jie Wang, a Ph.D student at NYU and block resident, said.

“It would go a long way towards ... creating a safer environment for the students.”

—Aracelis Castellano,
P.S. 165 principal

Proulx and community board members said there was a possibility of editing the proposal to include more parking.

For instance, just including the bulb-outs “wouldn’t have the biggest impact on the parking—two to four spots lost because of them, and that’s a little less disagreeable,” Proulx said in an interview.

“We understand parking is a need in this neighborhood,” CB7 transportation committee co-chairman Andrew Albert said, quoting the 1990 John Gorka lyric “I lost my car to Riverside Drive.” (For the record, the song is about a car theft, not a driver hopelessly searching for a parking space, but Albert’s meaning came through.)

Others said the safety measures weren’t necessary.

“I see you talking about the safety issues, but I haven’t heard of or seen anybody get hit by a car on 109th Street in years,” lifelong block resident Thomas McCarthy said.

“We don’t need to close that street any more than it is right now—there’s ample sidewalk, no street problem,” CB7 member Oscar Rios said.

There have been 18 pedestrian injuries and one pedestrian fatality between 1995 and 2009, according to data gathered by Transportation Alternatives, a group that studies street safety. “That doesn’t happen when cars are going the speed limit,” Winn said.

The proposal “would go a long way towards alleviating these problems and creating a safer environment for the students,” P.S. 165 principal Aracelis Castellano wrote in a letter to the community board.

Design changes are in part based on the DOT’s federally funded Safe Routes to School Program, an initiative that focuses street improvements near schools with the most dangerous traffic conditions. The program has specifically identified P.S. 165 as a priority school.

In addition to concerns about the proposal, some residents at the meeting voiced issues with Beacon itself.

“I’ve seen this block’s transformation since I came here,” Wang said. “You’re proposing something that is cosmetic and benefits Beacon’s property value. Who are they considering? The residents of 109th Street?”

Proulx said that the proposal will benefit all street users, not just Beacon.

“Everybody agrees that safety and streetscape improvements and sustainability initiatives that make the block greener are good things, but my fear is we’ll never even get to those proposals because these people who are pro status quo and against my client have so loud a voice,” he said.

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Dancers explore wild side in ‘Unearthed’

BY GARNET HENDERSON
Columbia Daily Spectator

Barnard and Columbia dancers will explore their animal sides this weekend in “Unearthed,” the 2012 installment of the MaMa Project.

The dance performance is sponsored by Orchesis, and will be presented in the Lerner Black Box Theater Feb. 23, 24, and 25 at 8 p.m. The MaMa Project is a yearly event that allows one choreographer the opportunity to create a conceptual work with a small cast of dancers. This year’s show is choreographed by Marie Janicek, BC ’12, who took her inspiration from the survival-driven movement of animals.

The piece begins with a spoken introduction by Janicek, revealing the motivation behind her choreography. In the introduction, she explains that animals are “captivating” to watch, because every movement they make directly impacts their chances of survival. “One wrong move, and they forfeit their lives,” she says. “As a result, every animal is always fully present in its body and scrupulously aware of its personal relationship to its environment.”

Janicek goes on to say that humans have lost this instinctive sense of connection. She envisions “Unearthed” as a journey through which she and her dancers reconnect with their “animalistic origins.”

The focused nature of the MaMa Project shows in the final product. The dancers have absorbed Janicek’s movement, and look completely natural in their performance. The organic nature of the dancing highlights the themes of intuition and survival. In “Unearthed,” dancers shift effortlessly between spontaneity and calculation. At times, the performers move together, as if they are part of a pack. At other moments, they dart past each other and exchange careful glances.

Janicek also utilizes the unique setup of the Lerner Black Box to its full effect. She and other dancers often use the exposed wall at the back of the stage as if it were a partner. Performers enter the stage from many different points, so that their entrances and exits never become static or predictable. The constantly evolving light design also contributes to this sense of unexpectedness.

The MaMa Project provides a unique opportunity for dancers on campus. The creative process leading up to the performance is very different from that of the other Orchesis showcases each semester, which feature the work of several different choreographers, and involve large casts, since every dancer who auditions is guaranteed a spot.

However, the MaMa Project is conceived and executed by just one choreographer. The choreographer can be selective, and work with a smaller ensemble of dancers who apply for the position in the fall. “Unearthed” features a cast of just 14, including Janicek, allowing for an intimate rehearsal process, which fits the venue. The Lerner Black Box blurs the lines between performers and spectators, and allows audience members to see the dance up close.

The MaMa Project presents a rare opportunity for a student choreographer to work so closely with a group of dancers over an extended period of time. In the case of “Unearthed,” the result is an exciting and primal experience.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF JOYCE CULVER

BACK IN TIME | Woody Allen directs Marion Cotillard, Alison Pill, and Owen Wilson in his latest film, “Midnight in Paris.”

Woody Allen reminisces at local film screening

BY STEFAN COUNTRYMAN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The heyday of radio may be gone, but for Woody Allen’s generation, the golden age of air-waves was an important one.

“When I grew up, radio was all you had, and you turned it on the second you woke up,” Allen said.

The tried and true New Yorker was joined onstage by talk show legend Dick Cavett Tuesday night at 92Y, for a screening of Allen’s nostalgic comedy “Radio Days” and an hour-long talk moderated by Annette Insdorf, director of Columbia’s undergraduate film program.

The conversation stayed loosely tied to radio, often drifting into reminiscence—many of Allen’s anecdotes were variations or explications of scenes from “Radio Days.” In the autobiographical, Oscar-nominated film, Allen narrates life from the perspective of a younger self growing up in Rockaway Beach during the late 1930s. The plot is guided by the stories his family hears on the radio.

Both speakers marveled at the technical expertise of radio stars, and the challenges of being confined to sound. “For years, there was a sense that silent comedy was much harder to do. They

didn’t have the benefit of sound, and so they had to work just with their bodies and props, and sound is much easier, but I always felt that it was much harder because you’re stuck with speaking and your voice,” Allen said.

For the biggest stars, this was no handicap. Allen joked about the contrast between physique and voice embodied in Jackson Beck. “He had this fabulous voice. He played a number of heroes on the radio, but he was this squat paunchy little man. But when you heard his voice, you thought you were saved by Superman.”

Before television and the Internet expanded media options, the radio was a central thread which united much of the nation, since nearly everyone could recognize the voices of radio stars such as Beck.

Cavett recalled the force of 1950s radio and television personality Arthur Godfrey’s voice. “Godfrey was the king of radio, so much so, when I was a kid ... you could walk down the street in Lincoln, Nebraska on a hot day—we had no air conditioning and the windows were open—and not miss a word of Arthur’s show as you went from house to house to house.”

They often returned to the transcendent power of radio. “Sunday afternoon, 40s, my mother

comes out to the yard, gets me and Mary, my little friend, and said, ‘You better come in and listen to the radio. This will mean something to you someday—the Japs have gotten us into the war,’” Cavett said.

Allen asked, “When we were kids, was there any more blissful thing than you pretended you were sick, you didn’t go to school, you faked an illness, held a thermometer over the radiator? You were in bed all day being waited on by subservient parents ... You listened to the radio for 12 hours. It was just bliss.”

Though radio was the common experience that unified their America, Cavett and Allen were forced to admit that the comedies, mysteries, and talk shows that once enraptured the nation are extinct, replaced by other media. But Cavett argued that even new media sources are finding a place for older media.

“There is a vast amount, on the Internet, of old radio, tons of it,” Cavett said. “‘Little Orphan Annie,’ ‘The Lone Ranger,’ everything you’ve ever found, you can hear on there ... There’s a lot of it there, so we can all go home and have a nice recollection of something we remember in the past.” Cavett paused. “It’s nice that it’s retained.”

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Classical Performers team up with Harvard

BY EMILY OSTERTAG
Spectator Staff Writer

Columbia Classical Performers is hoping to up the ante with its latest collaboration with Harvard.

On Saturday, Feb. 25, Columbia Classical Performers will continue its five-year-old partnership with Harvard’s Brattle Street Players in a collaborative concert at the Church of the Holy Name of Jesus on West 96th Street, at 8 p.m. The concert will feature Tchaikovsky’s “Serenade for Strings,” Mozart’s “Divertimento K. 136,” Ravel’s “Tombeau de Couperin,” Mendelssohn’s “Octet for Strings,” Brahms’ “Sextet for Strings,” and Gaubert’s “Soir d’Automne” from his “Trois Aquarelles.”

Columbia Classical Performers was founded in 2001 as a group dedicated to giving classical musicians on campus opportunities to perform in front of their peers in stress-free environments.

This year, said CCP president Caroline Sonnett, the group is focusing on carrying out that mission by expanding its recital program with four recitals this semester and five recitals last semester. All of the recitals are open to the campus community and are available for anyone

who wants to sign up to perform.

The collaboration with Harvard’s group also includes fourbythree, a selective, student-run chamber group at Columbia similar to the Brattle Street Players. Since the partnership began, the groups have alternated the locations of their yearly joint concerts between Boston and New York.

The groups only began preparing the repertoire for this concert a month ago and the rest of the semester will be busy for CCP as well.

In addition to the upcoming recitals, the group will also be organizing the second annual Music Hum in a Day concert on March 27, a marathon performance of some of the highlights covered on the Music Humanities syllabus, as well as the first Columbia Composers concert, a performance of works by student and faculty composers at Columbia.

Sonnett is particularly excited about the inclusion of Ravel’s “Tombeau de Couperin” in the Brattle Street collaboration concert. “It’s not a standard chamber piece because it was first written for piano, then for orchestra, and then for quintet,” she said. “It’s interesting to look at the quintet and see what remained from the original version.”

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LINDA CROWLEY FOR SPECTATOR

TUNING UP | CU Classical Performers will play this weekend with Harvard’s Brattle Street Players.

Literary journal hosts Occupy panel

BY JULIEN HAWTHORNE
Columbia Daily Spectator

“Framing Indignation” was a particularly appropriate name for the Tuesday night faculty panel on the Occupy movement, “framing” the occupy movement in a university context.

Presented by the Columbia Journal of Literary Criticism, the panel of professors hailed from a variety of academic disciplines and activist backgrounds, and questioned why students and professors should engage in the movement.

“In the fall, we went from a moment to a movement,” said Todd Gitlin, a panelist and Columbia journalism professor. “We have the opportunity to be in a mass movement. However, the key is not what the movement can do—it’s what you should do, and what I should do.”

“There is a disquieting gap between our lives as students and our lives as ethical agents who participate in society and politics.”

—Thomas Bettridge,
CC ’12 and CJLC co-editor

Though none of the speakers were against the Occupy Wall Street movement, each provided constructive criticism, from the international to the individual level. The audience was composed of members of both the university community and other activists.

Andrew Ross, professor of social and cultural analysis at NYU, brought the particularly relevant issue of increased student debt to the table.

“An indebted citizenry is not a free citizenry,” declared Ross. “I can no longer ignore that my salary is paid for by the debt that students incur to attend the university.”

On the other end of the spectrum, Gitlin brought up the professionals who are, in part, responsible for the nation’s financial woes. He suggested that Occupy Columbia address how the actions of the Business School and related alumni affect the enabling of economic inequality. “I believe that one angle of an Occupy Columbia movement should be addressing correctly the role of this economics and



ZARA CASTANY / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

OCCUPY UNIVERSITY | Stephanie Luce, Bruce Robbins, Todd Gitlin, Andrew Ross, and Stathis Gourgouris sit on CJLC’s panel.

business profession in making legitimate what is essentially a flat earth society idea of how the world works,” he said.

“I think there is a case to be made for teach-ins, or I prefer to think of them as reconciliations, in which some of our colleagues explain themselves,” added Gitlin.

While many believe that the Occupy movement has lost the momentum it had in the fall, this panel suggested that there is a future for the movement which depends on continued participation.

“The best thing about this kind of event is that it inspires all participants to start thinking about immediate action,” said Puya Gerami, CC ’12, the other co-editor of the CJLC. “We feel energy. This campus needs more events like this, organized by the wide range of diverse student groups active here at Columbia. But we also need more activism, the kind of activism that the Occupy movement has inspired in the past few months.”

Although the Occupy movement began and is still primarily carried out on the streets, much of the discussion centered around the role of the educated elite in university reform.

“I think that this kind of discussion is essential to the Occupy movement,” Dorian Bon, CC ’15, said. “It puts what happens on an everyday basis into an ideological context and helps bridge divides between academic communities. It can be a very potent conversation.”

“There is a disquieting gap between our lives as students and our lives as ethical agents who participate in society and politics,” said CJLC co-editor Thomas Bettridge, CC ’12. “The goal of the event was to bridge that gap.”

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Financial burdens of a Columbia education

BY LAUREN BROWN

My dad called me yesterday to break the news. He said it was time to think about transferring. Time to start over at another school that we could actually afford.

I prepared to fight back, but he argued with experience on his side. He had been to college and had paid for it. The loans we took out for the first year of Columbia alone were accruing more than two dollars in interest a day. I would be paying off these loans for decades. It would be irresponsible to let me graduate with that. He told me I had done nothing wrong, that he was proud of me, but that didn't matter in the least. His pride couldn't pay the bills. It was time to be practical. And so, with his logic, he disarmed me.

I cannot be the only one facing this issue. Columbia costs an obscene amount of money. It's one of the most expensive schools in the nation. Even though the Columbia grant is supposedly generous, it absorbs thousands of dollars in outside scholarships and leaves me swimming in debt. The financial aid office has been less than helpful, simply frowning sympathetically and reciting policies. The deceiving "need-based" financial aid plan isn't recognizing that I need more.

At the beginning of the year, when things were

A sea of troubles

Since I arrived at Columbia, I haven't stopped thinking about my future. I know it's silly, and I know I shouldn't think about it. I know declaring a major is not the same as choosing a specific life path. So to gain perspective, I often think about my future. What will it be, and can it be more than one thing? Will it affect someone? Do I want that?

A couple of days ago, a dinner conversation inevitably gravitated toward the same questions. Here, our thoughts dwelled in the satisfying stupor of a big meal. He asked me if I would return to my native Mexico, try to fix what is broken, and urge my compatriots to open their eyes. I said no. I admitted the cynicism and cowardice in my words, though I knew the real answer wasn't as confidently definitive. I turned the tables. I pitched the question back, and got what I was expecting: Educate the masses, become one in their plight, raise awareness! Create change and believe.

I was smiling when I looked down at my plate and listened to his answer. I had already mulled over how to rid the Mexican government of corruption. At the tender age of 14, I had redesigned the infrastructure of public education in my head, wondering "who were the idiots who hadn't noticed?" After all of that, I realized the cry is always the same: We need to change. The claim is wonderfully versatile, vague, and timeless. You supply the "we" and I'll add whatever injustice is in vogue.

It's simply not realistic, albeit ideal and beautiful, to try to change the world right away, alone.

I played with my food. Some Shakespearean quote floated in and out of my head, and I couldn't remember what play it belonged to. "Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune or to take arms against a sea of trouble..." My companion had finished, and I didn't know where to begin. There was no way to refute his idealism outright. Of course helping people is good. Sure we should spread understanding and vote in all elections. But where would all the goodwill come from, and is "noble suffering" the best way to go about reform?

I have always been wary of that word "suffering." Defending a cause shouldn't feel tedious or burdensome if it's worth it. Yet there's a curious martyr-glorifying culture surrounding volunteer work. It's obvious that people who like to boast about how hard they work are working for the wrong reasons. For one, it shouldn't be about assuaging guilt. When discussion about Occupy Wall Street peaked at Columbia, many pointed to the hypocrisy of self-entitled student protesters, and other students cited their privileged positions as motives of protest. Neither one is constructive. This activity and inactivity both neglect to include the most important component of altruism: others.

But once we have taken arms, how do we best orchestrate the attack? This is where the biggest disconnect between goal and method lies. It's simply not realistic, albeit ideal and beautiful, to try to change the world right away, alone. I often think about all the recent graduates who join the Peace Corps—some without any particular reason—and hope they keep in mind that their actions all pool into small revolutions, commendable but small.

I think it is more practical to spend time becoming someone with the power to create substantial improvements. Saying "I want to change things for the better!" is empty without a real plan behind it. In a way, I can't help but viscerally reject the thought that a person of power could do good. The idea doesn't fit into what we consider hard-earned historical victories. It suggests average individuals can't effect change. But I still think it is much more likely to work.

I finished talking. Suddenly, I remembered. The quote came from Hamlet, fittingly enough, after his famous line: "To be or not to be." I hated Hamlet. I could never take him seriously, as much as he claimed to be in agonizing uncertainty and paralyzing contemplation. He also talked about the afterlife too much for my taste. After finishing dinner, and remembering our looming midterms, my friend and I hurried out of the dining hall. I was waiting for the elevators when I realized my dislike of Hamlet stemmed, perhaps, from my ability to identify with him: caught in inaction by thought, the antithetical yet vital component to reform.

"What a piece of work is a man," I thought. When he wants to be.

Cecilia Reyes is a Columbia College first-year. She is on the board of the Artist Society. Reyesing Expectations runs alternate Thursdays.



CECILIA REYES
Reyesing Expectations

sunny and promising and the bills hadn't come in the mail yet, I felt like Columbia would do things for me that no other university could. Now I see that the price is too high. What exactly is it that Columbia can give me that would justify taking on tens of thousands of dollars in debt? Why would I choose to be a twenty-something looking for work and carrying huge college loans?

Even though the Columbia grant is supposedly generous, it absorbs thousands of dollars in outside scholarships and leaves me swimming in debt.

If we're here looking for a brighter future, more and more studies are finding that students who get into Ivy League colleges will be successful whether they go to these colleges or not. It's not the college that makes the success—it's the student. Elite colleges conveniently ignore this fact and act like admission is a privilege I should pay through the nose for. I'm done falling for that trick.

So it's a hard knock life. Transfer to another school, major in something that isn't so obscure that it needs

to hide behind an Ivy League diploma, get a job, and live a middle-class life like our parents. Or maybe I'll do even better. It'll be fine—probably more than fine. I can't practically say that about Columbia anymore. Of course, it might be fine here too. Maybe I'll be obnoxiously successful right out of college and the loans will mean nothing. But I can't afford "maybe."

I know it seems like I'm settling, but the facts are these: My loans for two semesters at Columbia accrue hundreds of dollars each year. I still have three more years of loans to go. My parents have two other kids to put through college after me, and Columbia doesn't sympathize. So my resolution is to "settle" for the path that was good enough for my parents and that led to the life that was always good enough for me. And frankly, I'm not sold that I would do any better as a Columbia graduate. If I can make it here, I can make it anywhere, and I can make it for a much lower price. It seems like it would be safer to be that missing 1 percent in Columbia's freshman retention rate.

I know that I can't be the only middle-class student whose "demonstrated need" leaves much to be desired. Columbia should watch out—with the cost of tuition and the financial aid policies the way they are, and the economy the way it is, more students may start making practical decisions like I am. They'll take their brilliance somewhere else. I made my own success and Columbia recognized that. That's why I'm here. But if Columbia can't help me out anymore, then I'll have to go.

The author is a Columbia College first-year.

The threat of indifference

On Sunday, the Associated Press reported that the New York Police Department actively "monitored" the Columbia Muslim Students Association, along with a dozen similar organizations at other universities in New York and the Northeast.

My initial reaction was indifference. My second was shock—shock at my indifference. And then amazement—amazement that I could accept as mundane the idea that the people charged with our defense would actively engage in such an action. While their "monitoring" appears to have been limited to keeping daily tabs on CU MSA's website, undercover cops were dispatched to meetings at other New York area schools. One undercover policeman even went on a camping trip with a Muslim group from the City College of New York. No outrage? No upsurge of protest? Are these things are to be expected? Have we already surrendered to the Orwellian police state? That appears to be the case. One MSA member who was interviewed claimed that she was "barely fazed" by the news—in fact, she expected it.

A quick polling of my friends revealed similar feelings, ranging from quiet acceptance to mild approval for the NYPD's actions. This put me in a bit of a pickle. I normally find myself siding with the "national security" camp on these issues, but wasn't this a step too far? I don't think it's a flight of liberal fancy to say that students should be able to go to a campus group meeting without fear of their activities being monitored by the police. Is it a stretch to draw parallels to the days of the Red Scare and blacklisting? Surely we have learned this lesson before. I am a firm believer in providing wide latitude to law enforcement, in giving them the tools they need to do their jobs well. But it is a strange day indeed when I find myself playing the Michael Moore to their Dick Cheney. Police monitoring of these groups is an affront to one of our most cherished freedoms: freedom of assembly. We have the right, especially as students, to listen and affiliate ourselves with non-threatening student groups without fear of reprisal. Isn't that what Columbia is supposed to be about?

To hide behind the aegis of national security here is fraudulent. The NYPD claims that its action was justified because 12 people with links to Muslim terrorist groups were part of Islamic student groups while in school. I don't doubt it—this is a prime example of correlation, not causation. I am just as sure



ANDREW GODINICH
Too Be Frank

they were also part of mosques in their local communities before that. Should everyone who attends a mosque in New York be subject to secret police monitoring? It is indicative of an inductive reasoning that is at best illogical. At worst, it is un-American.

Police monitoring of these groups is an affront to one of our most cherished freedoms: freedom of assembly.

Independent of Muslim stereotyping arguments, secret police monitoring on campus is a violation of the idea of universities as forums for safe dialogue. I am sure that these policemen were within the law in their surveillance. I am sure no criminal laws were broken. But that is not to say that an investigation of this nature is breaking the unwritten code of neutrality that universities should embody. The American university is one of the few places in the world where Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Hindu, and any other number of religious groups can meet side by side without fear of judgment or reprisal. The unspoken accusation that one of these groups is serving as an incubator for terrorism—without any proof, without any university input—is a profaning of that code.

In an earlier column, I wrote that I feared our generation was in danger of becoming the most indifferent in modern times. I fear that if we do not speak out against seemingly petty violations such as this one, we set a dangerous precedent for academic freedom at the university level. Who are we when we cannot promise minority religious groups a police-free space on campus to worship? Are we simply so used to these petty injustices that we look the other way when they happen? I cannot help but feel that we have achieved such a level of disinterest for these concerns that we will not speak out against them when they do occur. No, the real threat here is not police overreach. It is indifference.

Andrew Godinich is a Columbia College junior majoring in sociology and Portuguese studies. He is the Latin America and Caribbean affairs correspondent for the Columbia Political Review. Too Be Frank runs alternate Thursdays.



CHARLOTTE MURTISHAW

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Bridges, with Moody-Adams, talks faith, social justice

BRIDGES from front page

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RentJolt founder

Gracia Sidabutar, SIPA '12, said she would consider using

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Bridges' story of absolution

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Despite losses, Lions see improvements

IN FOCUS from back page

the course of the season. The Light Blue averages over 10 steals in Ivy League play, which is good enough for fourth in the Ancient Eight. Senior guard Melissa Shafer and junior guard/forward Tyler Simpson lead the Lions in steals, with 39 and 34 respectively. Simpson said that speed and the players' ability to anticipate passes have been the key reasons for the Lions' success.

"I think we're really quick—we're quick to be off someone and then anticipate where the ball's going and get our hands in the passing lane. And that works in our favor," Simpson said.

Another recurring problem for the Lions this season has been their perimeter defense.

In the beginning of the season, the Lions allowed at least four three-pointers in four of their first five games. The Light Blue

"As we have gotten into the Ivy League, I feel like we have done a lot more in the half court."

—Paul Nixon,
women's basketball coach

has slightly improved during conference play, but it is still only ranked fifth in the conference in three-point field goal

percentage defense.

"One thing we need to work on—and that we have been working on—is pressuring outside shooters," Simpson said.

The Lions' switch in their primary defensive system might be part of the reason for any recent upward trends. As the Lions have adjusted to Ivy League play, they have eschewed their press defense in favor of a more conservative half-court defense.

"As we have gotten into the Ivy League, I feel like we have done a lot more in the half court, not quite as much pressing as maybe we did earlier in the year, and I think that's because we have gotten a little more solid in the half court defense," Nixon said. "That's an area that hopefully we are able to sustain for the last five games."

Squash heads to Nationals this weekend

BY CAROLINE BOWMAN
Spectator Staff Writer

The No. 13 Columbia women's squash team heads to Cambridge, Mass. this weekend to compete in the Women's College Squash National Team Championships hosted by No. 1 Harvard.

The Lions will be competing against teams ranked nine through 16 in a single-elimination bracket for the B Division Kurtz Cup Tournament title. Last year, in its inaugural season as a varsity sport, the Light Blue fell to Williams 6-3 in the first round of the same tournament.

Columbia will face No. 12 Williams in a first round matchup in a chance to avenge both last year's tournament loss as well as a recent 8-1 loss to Williams earlier this season. Although the Lions have remained on the losing side of this rivalry thus far, coach Kelsey Engman is confident that her team's improvement this season will make for a more competitive matchup against Williams in the postseason.

"We would love to play Williams and some of the other top-ranked teams again because we are starting to figure how to compete as a team in bigger matches," she said.

Engman has increased the number of challenge matches within the team to two per week in order to get the squad match-tough and ready to compete at nationals.

"I like the challenge matches because the players who are the most consistent competitors come out on top of the lineup," Engman said.

Despite the team's lack of experience—there are only two upperclassmen on the roster—Engman has seen a vast improvement in the team's play since the beginning of the season.

"It's hard to see all of the progress that we've made because we've only moved up three spots in the rankings, which is still great progress," Engman said. "Last year we moved up 10 spots, and we've improved as much this year as we have last year. You just don't see it reflected in the rankings."

The Lions will also have to overcome the recent hamstring injury to senior captain Liz Chu.

Ultimately, the success of the squad at the tournament will depend on team effort rather than a single star.

"The team isn't based around one star player. They are all very strong and on any given day could all win their matches," Engman said. "I will leave it up to them and see who is up for the challenge."

Engman's "diplomatic response," as she put it, speaks to the major strength of the Light Blue: From the top of the lineup to the bottom, all the players have the potential to emerge as leaders in the postseason.

Looking beyond the first round, the Light Blue is 0-4 against the tournament's top four seeds—Middlebury, Bates, Brown, and Williams—and has yet to play the other three teams in the B Division. To make a run for the title and bring the Kurtz Cup home for the first time, Columbia will have to utilize the depth and strength of its lineup and pull out some upsets.

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No more close losses for the Light Blue

The saying goes, “close, but no cigar”—but frankly, with the kind of agony that close losses can cause a team and its fans, I’m thinking Columbia may need the cigar.



RYAN YOUNG

**Roar
Ryan
Roar**

Yet another game decided in the final seconds went the way of Columbia’s opponent on Saturday. However, you have to give the Lions credit—despite these heart-breaking defeats, they have come out and played every single Ivy opponent tough. They hung with defending Ivy champion Princeton and second-place Penn both times they met, looked unstoppable against Brown and for 30 minutes against Yale, and played a more competitive game at Lavietes Pavillion than any other visiting Ivy team has this year. The Light Blue is fourth in the league in scoring margin, and similarly middle-of-the-pack in most other categories. None of this would seem to describe a team with a 3-7 league record.

One of the most disturbing elements of these close losses is that Columbia has had leads for significant periods in most of them—in all four of the games against the Killer P’s, and of course during most of the Yale tragedy. As much as I feel the need to praise the Lions for surpassing expectations in several of their games and for proving they can outperform any Ivy team on any given day, the inability to pull out tight games diminishes my excitement. It’s clear, due to their frequency, that these losses are no fluke. Surely luck plays a part, but there are other contributing factors that the Lions can improve upon.

Handling nerves and performing under pressure could be part of it. There have been some strong clutch performances this season, such as Cisco’s game-winning jumper at Dartmouth and Barbour’s unsurprising clutch free throws in the waning seconds of overtime at the Palestra. Following Barbour’s foul shots, though, Columbia’s defensive miscue cost it the game. Against the Bulldogs, the Lions were plagued by complacency with a large lead, and an errant pass by Alex Rosenberg and two missed free throws by Blaise Staab in the final minute completed the collapse. In a league that is so close in talent, consistency is a must.

The same can be said for Ivy football last season, where the Lions were a better team than their record showed. Homecoming against Penn shows why victories were so elusive for the Light Blue last fall, and that coaching plays a large role in closing out games.

Hopefully, a new coaching staff and attitude for football and another year of experience for the returning basketball players will finally translate into inspiring victories rather than excruciating losses.

One Columbia squad is already looking to make that transition this spring: the baseball team, which will play its first game a week from today.

The Lions suffered several one-run losses last Ivy season, but none were more frustrating than the series of defeats in their first two weekends. Columbia lost its first game of the Ivy season by blowing a ninth inning lead against Dartmouth in an Ivy Championship rematch, before being swept in a gut-wrenching double-header at the hands of Brown a week later.

Having heard from several players in the past week, it’s apparent that the team did not know how to react to the early-season adversity after a dominant Ivy season in 2010. High expectations mixed with demoralizing defeats caused Columbia to place more and more pressure on itself as the season progressed, snowballing into an very disappointing 9-11 Ivy record.

Even though Coach Boretti regards this as a poor excuse, there is little doubt that last year’s experience will aid the team when it faces adversity this season. That, teamed with the fact that the Lions are no longer the Lou Gehrig Division favorites (defending Ivy champion Princeton has attained that honor), may allow Columbia to relax at the plate.

And when it’s close, hopefully the Lions will be able to smoke the victory cigar more often than not.

Ryan Young is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in economics statistics. He is a sports broadcaster for WKCR.

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ALYSON GOULDEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WOMAN-TO-WOMAN | As the Ivy League season has progressed, the women’s basketball team has worked on improving its defense, and it is beginning to see results.

Light Blue defense improves as season progresses

BY JOSH SHENKAR
Spectator Staff Writer

In what has been a disappointing season for the Columbia women’s basketball team (2-21, 0-9 Ivy), the Lions’ inability to play consistent defense has undeniably hurt their efforts. Despite not being able to record a conference win, the Lions have shown encouraging, if small, signs of improvement in recent Ivy League games. Head coach Paul Nixon attributes these changes to



the overall effort of his team and the players’ increased familiarity with the defensive system.

“I think the team has really tried to commit to being consistent defensively. I think it’s something that they really put a concerted effort into all season,” Coach Nixon said. “I think we have gotten better as the seasons gone along in understanding our system, understanding the different defenses that we run, and how those can be effective.”

One major problem for the Lions early in the season was fouling opponents, as the Light Blue’s aggressive

practice play made it more foul-prone in games. Early in the nonconference season, Columbia allowed Long Island to shoot 19 foul shots in its December loss and Morgan State 20 foul shots in its January matchup. The Lions have allowed 443 foul shots this season, for an average of just over 19 a game.

But in its recent games, the Light Blue has done a better job at preventing opponents from getting to the charity stripe. After struggling on Friday night against Princeton, which took 32 foul shots, Columbia was able to readjust. In the following night’s loss to Penn, the Quakers

only went to the line nine times.

“We’ve definitely gotten better at not fouling,” sophomore forward Courtney Bradford said. “Sometimes we get so aggressive, because especially in practice we go as hard as we can. But in games, it’s like, you can’t do that. I just think we all started focusing more so that in practice we go as hard as we can, but in games we just pull it back just a little bit so we don’t get those fouls.”

The Lions’ defense has also improved in its ability to get steals over

SEE IN FOCUS, page 7

Columbia heads to Cambridge, hopes to take Ivy Championship

BY CHARLOTTE MURTISHAW
Spectator Staff Writer

On the heels of a triumphant second-place finish in the regular season, the Columbia women’s swimming and diving team is heading to Cambridge, Mass., to compete in the Ivy League Championships. From Thursday to Saturday, athletes from the eight Ivy League schools will battle through innumerable heats of over 40 relays, individual, and diving events in a quest to claim the top prize: the title of Ivy League Champions.

Historically, Princeton and host Harvard have dominated the top of the podium, but this year Columbia hopes to break up the duo.

“There are many layers of goals,” head coach Diana Caskey wrote in an email. “Moving up from last year’s third place finish is one of them.”

The goal is all the more promising given the Light Blue’s regular season performance. With an overall dual-meet record of 7-1 and a 6-1 Ivy record, one of the first indications of the team’s depth came in a narrow loss to top-ranked Harvard, 143-157, in December. Despite the outcome—the Light Blue’s only loss all season—it was an encouraging sign, especially because it was the closest Columbia has ever come to winning against the Crimson.

Two months later, Columbia traveled to New Jersey to square off against the other perennial Ivy League foe, Princeton, which had just tasted defeat from Harvard. Columbia walked away from the meet victorious, the only team to ever beat Princeton in the Tigers’ own pool. The next day, the Lions thrashed Dartmouth at home.

“Women’s swimming and diving has strong momentum heading into Ivies from the exciting dual meet finishes at Princeton and home vs. Dartmouth,” Caskey wrote. “The energy and confidence added from those wins coupled with the taper process makes us very well prepared for great swims and

excellent performances on the boards.”

The championship meet, an invitational, differs from the dual meet process due to the number of teams involved. Preliminary sessions are held in the mornings and the top 18 finishers in each event return at night to compete for points in the championship, consolation, and bonus finals.

The Lions will be led by versatile junior Katie Meili. Meili, last year’s 200 IM champion, holds the fastest times this season in the Ivy League in the 200 breast and 200 IM, not to mention the second-fastest times in the 50 free, 100 breast, and 4 IM. However, each swimmer is only allowed to participate in three individual events, so it remains to be seen where Meili will deploy her formidable talents.

A young team, Columbia’s squad features several rookies who threaten to crack into the top heats. Freshmen freestylers Chacha Bugatti and Salena Haung bring dangerous endurance and speed to both individual events

and relays.

Bugatti, a distance swimmer, ended her first collegiate regular season having logged the second-fastest time in the 1000 free and the third-fastest times in the 500 and 1650 free for the Ivy League in 2011-12.

A notably well-rounded freestyler, Huang enters the meet with the second-fastest 100 free, third-fastest 200 free, and fifth-fastest 500.

Fellow freshman Mikaila Gaffey will also make her debut, contributing in the freestyle sprints and breaststroke.

In addition, sophomore Laney Kluge, a backstroker and IMer, should exert some pressure on her competitors, and senior co-captain Dorothy Baker will make contributions in the backstroke events.

Overall, though, it will be a team effort and the Lions won’t be reliant on one star. “We expect great performances from everyone,” Caskey wrote.

And the team should be well-equipped to do so: The meet comes on

the heels of the release of the newest generation of Speedo technology, the Fastskin III. The new suit is an update to the ubiquitous FS Pros and LZRs which have dominated championship meets for the past few years.

However, the new suit has already received negative reviews. Last weekend at the SEC championships, many of the top teams opted out of the suits, citing defective panels that ripped easily. Columbia ordered the suits months ago, but whether the team will swim in them is yet to be determined.

Ultimately, though, suits are secondary to the swimmers themselves, who have put in a season of rigorous discipline to prepare for the meet.

“The hard work and determination of this team will be one of my best memories of this season,” Caskey wrote. “The team and the coaches set high goals and had courage and confidence in going after them. I expect the coming weekend to be a testament to that.”



ALYSON GOULDEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

GOING FOR THE GOLD | After upsetting Princeton earlier this season in the Tigers’ own pool, the women’s swimming team heads to the Ivy League Championships this weekend with the hope of finishing in one of the top two places.