



TALIA KORI FOR SPECTATOR

BOOKS | Due to the recession, New York public libraries across the board have been hit with cuts. As a result, branches are closing up early and limiting services.

Recession forces New York City libraries to check out early

BY KIM KIRSCHENBAUM
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Library lovers may have to start frequenting other places for more time with their books.

The New York Public Library announced in early February that it would reduce hours at two-thirds of its 87 locations, the most drastic change made since 2001 in the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001, according to NYPL administrators. Put into effect on Feb. 16, this reduction comes on the heels of a \$5.9 million mid-year cut for Fiscal Year 2010.

Library hours have been scaled back from an average of 51 to 45 hours per week.

“We have worked very hard to maintain as many services as possible in these economic times,” New York Public Library President Dr. Paul

LeClerc wrote in a press release. He said that in the wake of the announcement, library administrators “are struggling to sustain the high level of service our patrons have come to expect.”

Local changes have been minimal—a four-hour weekly reduction was made for the Morningside Heights branch on 113th Street and Broadway.

But branch manager Thaddeus Krupo said their light reduction was a fortunate one, as other branches in Manhattan were hit much harder by the cuts.

“We’re so heavily used,” Krupo said, explaining why the branch may have been less affected than others.

Krupo also noted the library’s training lab consisting of several dozen laptops available for public access, a unique feature to the Morningside

Branch that he says lends itself to the branch’s importance.

New York Public Library administrators said that a host of factors were taken into

account when determining the libraries’ respective new hours of operation.

They particularly took into consideration branch

locations, peak hours, and demographics. Some widely-used branches did not experience cuts.

“The goal is to make this as painless as possible for each individual branch,” said New York Public Library public relations manager Angela Montefinise.

But despite what might seem to be minimal changes to the Morningside Heights Branch, the adjustment may not be an easy one for everyone.

“I think it’s dreadful,” Carol Iannone said of the change. “I work at home all day, so I can only come to the library at certain hours. It’s important that the library is open more—not fewer—hours.”

Others have raised specific concerns about the library opening an hour later each day



TALIA KORI FOR SPECTATOR

CLOSING TIME | The Morningside Heights Branch has not been hit as hard as others—the library will be open four fewer hours per week.

SEE LIBRARY, page 2

Locals debate 107th St. shelter

BY SARAH DARVILLE
Spectator Staff Writer



Homeless in 2010

A Community Board 7 committee meeting Tuesday night became a passionate forum against plans for a transitional housing shelter on 107th Street.

The meeting was publicized as an informational presentation by Help USA, the organization planning to operate the shelter for 135 homeless women. But both Help USA and the city’s Department of Homeless Services pulled out of the meeting on Tuesday afternoon, according to CB7 Health and Human Services Committee co-chair Barbara Van Buren.

“Help USA hasn’t backed out yet, but they’re not happy with the situation,” Van Buren said at the start of the meeting. “DHS had decided that they’re not sure if they’re going to stay with the site.”

The shelter would operate out of 237 West 107th St., a “single room occupancy” building that has recently operated as the West Side Inn.

Van Buren said that the city has temporarily suspended the project because of community concerns about the building’s landlord.

“They’re going to be examining the background of the owner more carefully in the next three to four days,” she said, but added that she wasn’t sure how long the project would be on hold.

Committee members have been fighting the project because it is an example of affordable, low-income housing for permanent residents being converted into transient housing.

SEE HOMELESS, page 6

Professors to put textbook info online

BY SAMANTHA JEAN-BAPTISTE
Columbia Daily Spectator

Beginning next semester, students will be able to access all textbook information for prospective classes before registration.

The Higher Education Act—a law that allows for the better use of federal educational resources for universities—was renewed in 2008. The new law, which will be put into effect July 1, called for universities that receive federal financial assistance to provide students with the ISBN and retail price of all required and recommended college textbooks.

This new law comes in the midst of a continuous debate at the University to get professors to post their syllabi before classes start. Last spring, the University Senate passed a resolution stating that professors must post their course syllabi on Courseworks two weeks before the start of classes. At the first meeting this semester, the Senate acknowledged that there has not been full compliance with this issue.

“One hundred percent of people will never comply, but I’ll think you’ll get a very good response rate,” Sharyn O’Halloran, the chair of the Senate’s executive committee, said about the syllabi policy.

Textbook information will be accessible to students through CourseWorks and the price will be updated every two hours through a new software, Bowkers, that posts the suggested retail prices to the professor’s course site, according to Senior Vice Provost Stephen Rittenberg.

The site will show the publishers’ suggested retail price.

While students will theoretically be able to look up their books before registering for classes, this information may not always match up with the actual texts that will be used. Professors will be able to change their book selection during the semester without violating the law since it only requires that the information be updated to the best of their knowledge.

“Students should be aware that

SEE BOOK PRICES, page 2

Columbia profs work to improve hybrid solar cells

BY CHRIS CRAWFORD
Columbia Daily Spectator

Columbia’s Engineering School has one solution for making buildings greener—hybrid solar cells that produce heat and electricity simultaneously.

Three departments at Columbia’s School of Engineering and Applied Science—physics, chemistry, and engineering—are actively researching how to create more efficient hybrid solar cells.

In December, Weidlinger Associates, a New York City-based structural engineering firm, received a \$150,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to work with Columbia to develop sturdy hybrid solar roofing panels.

The grant was matched by a 10 percent commitment from New York State. They had applied for one grant in July from the National Science Foundation, and another from the Department of Energy.

Huiming Yin, assistant professor of civil engineering and engineering mechanics and creator of the panels, said that the purpose of the project was to create more efficient solar cells.

“We want to increase the efficiency of solar cells in our experimentation so that the solar cells don’t waste so much energy when they absorb sunlight,” Yin said.

According to James Yardley, professor of electrical engineering, sixteen professors from different departments are involved in the program, as well as researchers from the University of Texas, Purdue University, University of Arkansas, and Tel Aviv University in Israel.

The first phase of the project, which started on Dec. 7, demonstrates the purpose of the project.

If this phase is successful, Columbia and Weidlinger will move their work into a second phase in June that involves

SEE SOLAR PANELS, page 2

NEWS BRIEF

McBain empties after Deluxe fire

An electrical fire that originated on a sign above Deluxe Restaurant on 113th Street and Broadway, forced residents of McBain—which is adjacent to the building—to evacuate for approximately an hour Wednesday morning.

The awning of the restaurant on the ground floor caught fire, according to student witnesses and firefighters. “It looked like there was an electrical fire caused by the restaurant sign,” a firefighter on site said at 2:30 a.m.

Jeremy Grossman-Greene, CC ’12 and a resident of McBain 212—the corner room on Broadway and 113th Street—said that he smelled smoke and pulled the fire alarm at 1:55 a.m. on his floor, prompting approximately five fire trucks to arrive.

“The firefighters opened my window with an axe,” Grossman-Greene said. “They had to break part of the window and chopped down part of the shutters.”

Several fire fighters climbed through students’ windows.

Students in rooms near the source of the fire said that they were not even aware that there was a fire until someone on the street notified them.

“I had opened my window earlier and started smelling smoke in the room,” Stephen Luban, CC ’12, said, who lives in Room 322, directly above where the fire began. “We heard a girl outside screaming ‘fire, fire,’ and then I realized there was a huge fire right below me.”

Students were told that they would not be allowed back in for at least three to four hours, but they were permitted to re-enter the building shortly before 3:00 a.m.

Students assessing the damage on the second floor said that it was mainly limited to several broken door locks and a little bit of water.

According to residents with damaged locks, housing representatives said the locks will soon be replaced.

—Kim Kirschenbaum

INSIDE

A&E, page 3

Sneed brings unique gospel fusion to Miller

This Friday, classical, jazz, and gospel musician Damien Sneed will perform at Miller Theatre along with a large choral and instrumental ensemble. Sneed will present original pieces as well as a few gospel favorites.



Sports, back page

Women’s tennis player Matache clinches match

Sophomore Eliza Matache won her high-pressure match last weekend to give the Lions a victory against the previously undefeated Buffalo team, defeating her opponent with a resounding 6-1 in the final set.

Opinion, page 4

Fighting for social justice

The real interactions should be made with people, not just our checkbooks.

A different standard

Yurina Ko earns points for reaching the top on her own terms.

Today’s Events

Great American University

Former Provost Jonathan Cole lectures on research universities. 1501 IAB, 6 p.m.



Law School Preview

Give law school a test drive with a Legislation class introduction. 568 Lerner Hall, 8 p.m.

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WEATHER

Today  Tomorrow 
42/33 **38/30**

Lecture tries to decipher Cervantes work

BY TIM BARKER
Columbia Daily Spectator

Every Literature Humanities class may discuss “Don Quixote,” but Miguel Cervantes thought a different book would be his masterpiece.

BOOKS That work, “The Trials of Persiles and Sigismunda,” was the topic of “Writing the Outsider: Perspectives from Spain,” a lecture presented Tuesday by Barnard’s Center for Translation Studies. Sonia Velazquez, a doctoral candidate at Princeton University, used the text to explore Renaissance concepts of speech and barbarism.

Using a slide presentation of antique dictionaries and period maps, Velazquez discussed a time when burgeoning globalization forced issues of language and foreignness to the forefront. “Persiles and Sigismunda” narrates journeys to unknown lands, inspired by the newly discovered Americas. This intercontinental scope allowed Cervantes to depict diverse groups of people and their languages, from Irish to Polish to Arabic.

Cervantes’ approach, Velazquez argued, departs from both classical and Renaissance conventions of writing about barbarian speech—for instance, in Homer’s “Odyssey,” even the crass cyclops speaks intelligible Greek. Early modern writers usually presented unconventional speech as a sign of dubious character. Cervantes, however, embraced the roughness of exotic languages but questioned the connection between linguistic sophistication and moral quality.

In an interview, Velazquez said, “In his novels, he [Cervantes] depicts the melting Mediterranean world of people trying to communicate in a blend of Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Turkish.” She praised Cervantes’ “humanity and sympathetic ear towards the Other,” citing as an example his charitable attitude towards a Christian who feigned conversion to Islam in “Don Quixote.”

Velazquez stressed the relevance of translation to connect her lecture to the mission of the Center for Translation Studies. The CTS was founded in fall 2009, with a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. It sponsors translation courses in addition to academic colloquia. “I think it’s great that Barnard has a center for translation,” Velazquez said.

Valezquez attributes a recent trend of such centers, including one founded at Princeton University in 2007, to a growing awareness “that we live in a multilingual world, and that in order to be able to succeed in both a very material sense and also as human beings, we need to understand that language is very important.”



COURTESY OF DJJ PRODUCTIONS LLC

ECLECTIC EXTRAVAGANZA | The multitalemted Damien Sneed comes to Miller Theatre this week in the Damien Sneed Gospel Extravaganza, with backing from a choir and orchestra. Sneed has been singing and playing piano since age three and draws upon gospel, jazz, and classical music as sources of inspiration.

Miller Theatre goes gospel with Damien Sneed

BY LAURA OSELAND
Columbia Daily Spectator

Gospel music, normally reserved for Sunday church services, will be performed for a different sort of congregation this week.

MUSIC On Friday, classical, jazz, and gospel musician Damien Sneed will come to Miller Theatre as part of the venue’s Jazz Series. The Damien Sneed Gospel Extravaganza will include performances by nearly 50 professional instrumentalists and vocalists, including a choir of 20, eight musicians, 10 background vocalists, and 10 soloists.

Sneed has appeared at Miller twice before, with renowned musicians Wycliffe Gordon and Eric Reed. The pianist, organist, vocalist, guitarist, composer, and conductor now returns

as the bandleader and will sing and play a host of his original songs, as well as one or two traditional gospel songs.

Sneed’s music is influenced by a variety of genres, including country, rock, jazz, and even opera. His open-mindedness toward music in virtually every form and style is informed by his equally eclectic background—he was born in Georgia and attended school in both Maryland and New York, where he currently lives. “Being in school was what allowed me to perform in different genres...I’m a city guy now, I love it,” Sneed said.

Despite his diverse history, one factor has been a constant in Sneed’s life—music. He picked up the guitar and piano at age three and began singing soon afterwards. Sneed was interested in classical music from a young age, and while he later branched out to

appreciate nearly every genre, he still considers opera to be his favorite style of music.

Today, Sneed continues to share his long-standing passion for classical music with his students as a professor of music at Queensborough Community College in Queens. He is also a staff accompanist at The Juilliard School at Lincoln Center and the music director of the Greater Allen Cathedral of New York in Jamaica, Queens.

Sneed’s resume includes performances in 42 U.S. states alongside a variety of music legends, including Tanya Blount, Stevie Wonder, Carlos Santana, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, and the Boys Choir of Harlem. He has composed commercial music for “American Idol” Fantasia Barrino and a Ford Motor Company commercial and made his conducting debut at Jazz at Lincoln

Center in 2008 with Wynton Marsalis.

Sneed has several special guests lined up for the performance, including his own biological family, with whom Sneed was reunited after he wrote a song about his adoption. Their presence at the performance will make it all the more poignant for Sneed, who said he feels “honored to have so many friends who are willing to work with me.”

Additionally, every one of the singers and musicians performing with Sneed on Friday has worked with him in the past, so the show is truly an intimate affair. “All of these vocalists, I know them very well, I know their voices very well. I’ve worked with all of them before. That’s what’s really amazing,” said Sneed. “Everybody is going to come to the stage with such a level of excitement and excellence in their execution.”

Gina La Fornarina offers hot food, hot atmosphere



JACK ZIETMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

INTIMATE ITALIAN | The bar at Gina la Fornarina is just one aspect of the restaurant’s cozy, romantic ambiance—and the food is just as satisfying as the décor.

BY ERIN FLYNN
Columbia Daily Spectator

After a long day at Butler Library, transitioning into nightlife smoothly seems tough. Fortunately, newly-opened restaurant Gina La Fornarina is here to help, with reasonable prices and a sensual, thoroughly European vibe.

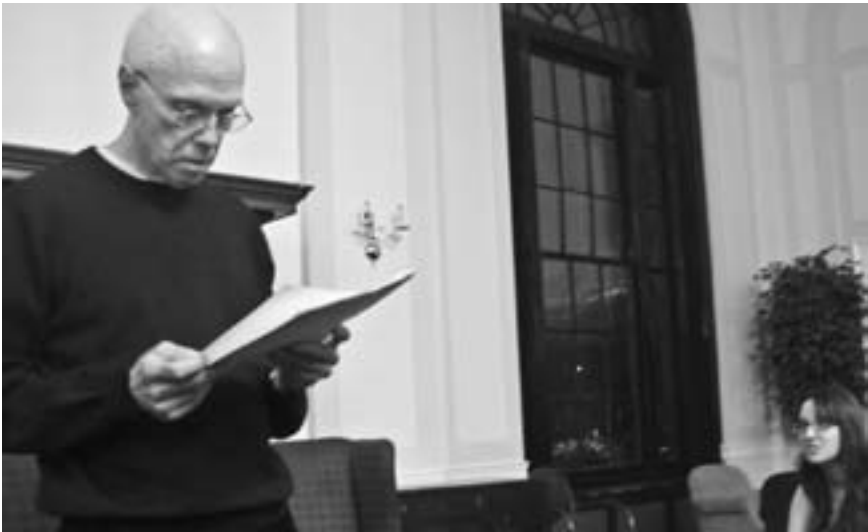
FOOD & DRINK Located on W. 73rd St. and Amsterdam, this restaurant is close to campus, yet classier than normal neighborhood haunts. Still, Gina’s has a young, sexy vibe. Filled with two-person tables, the restaurant clearly targets the dating crowd. But despite the mostly modern décor, Gina’s also boasts techno music and a pink hue, like a disco lined with wine racks.

Gina’s menu offers traditional Italian dishes and some lighter, café-style fare. Nothing on the menu is over 20 dollars, even the fish and steak dishes, and the portions are neither oversized nor tiny. Traditional dishes feel very authentic, and the ingredients appear impeccably fresh.

Crispelle spinach and ricotta consists of three crepes filled with ricotta cheese and spinach, topped with Parmigiano cheese and tomato sauce. While the serving size is generous, the dish is so delicious that it is easy to finish. The ricotta’s creaminess and the sweet home-made tomato sauce turn this pasta dish into a rich and satisfying meal. The mixture of savory cheese and thick sauce delivers a well-balanced flavor, though the actual amount of sauce is disappointing.

On the café side of the menu, Gina’s also offers thin, crisp pizzas, sized for an individual. One original flavor, the thin and crispy focaccia Gina, contains Robiola cheese, tomato, prosciutto crudo, and avocado. The flavors come through distinctly, and the pizza tastes like a healthier version of eggs Benedict. The avocado’s creaminess brings out the saltiness of the prosciutto, and even with slightly soggy tomatoes and bitter greens, the pizza’s flavor satisfies. The crusts are thin like crackers and keep the pizza light.

Like the rest of Gina’s menu, the desserts range from traditional Italian,



NICOLLETTE BARSAMIAN FOR SPECTATOR

WORD PLAY | Above, alum Ron Padgett reads from his body of unconventional new poetry in Wien Lounge as part of an event hosted by Writers House.

Padgett returns to campus with offbeat original poetry

BY NICOLLETTE BARSAMIAN
Spectator Staff Writer

In his college days, Ron Padgett, CC ’64, was an eccentric aspiring poet, maybe even what current students would deem a hipster.

BOOKS Now Padgett has published numerous volumes of poetry, and he returned to Columbia last night for a reading and Q&A, held by Writers House in Wien Lounge.

Around 20 people turned up for the event, a decent turnout considering the rainy weather. Padgett opened his reading by talking about a “brilliantly scary” professor he had at Columbia. “He was the only person in the world who could speak Sumerian, Babylonian, Akkadian, or some ancient language like that. I think he dreamed in it [that language],” Padgett said.

Padgett continued by presenting a poem called “Lines Written at Columbia,” which he had never previously read in public. The poem consisted of segments of many different poems that he wrote during his years on campus. Some particularly interesting lines included “Faust opened the can of peas,” and “I used to think you were Emily Dickinson in the line, I am Emily Dickinson.”

Continuing the homage to Columbia, Padgett also discussed his dislike of Contemporary Civilization.

Padgett read for almost an hour, drawing on a variety of new material. Much of the poetry, including a bedtime story he wrote for his five-year-old grandchild about monkeys, was humorous—a style that Padgett is known for.

The greatest downside of the reading was the noise coming from students in the nearby kitchen and laundry room.

During the Q&A, Padgett talked about how he has changed since his days at Columbia. He said, “I still drink in culture, but not in the same way I did then.” He even confessed to some methamphetamine use, although only on three occasions, because it hurt his stomach.

He also confessed, “I was extremely happy to leave Columbia after four years. I was a weirdo poet. Most guys wanted to be doctors or businessmen. They all wore suits. I wore jeans and cowboy boots.” He also talked about his favorite professor, Kenneth Koch, who made him stay in school.

Writers House member and former Spectator books editor, Yin Yin Lu, CC ’12, said, “He’s a really chill person. He is one of the funniest poets I know. He’s naturally funny. I’m surprised by how friendly and approachable he was.”

Another member, Marshall Thomas, CC ’12, added, “It was nice to have a poetry reading with brevity that was non-somber.”



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Educate yourself

BY JAMIE RUBENSTEIN

Study after study has shown that Teach
for America teachers are less effective than
traditionally certified teachers in their first
two years of service (the amount of time
most members stay in the program), but
you wouldn't know it from the increasing
number of people who apply.

There are, undoubtedly, many under-
graduate education programs that are not
very good. But at Barnard and Columbia,
students have access to an excellent
program that focuses on the intellectual
controversies of education: our country's
testing fetish, immigration, school and
teacher accountability, "the achievement
gap," and the relationship between housing
and school segregation. What becomes ap-
parent is that the problems schools face are
enormous and structural—too large for any
individual teacher to solve.

Teachers who hope to make an impact are
put in the precarious situation of trying to sub-
vert a system that privileges certain students
over others even while under constant pres-

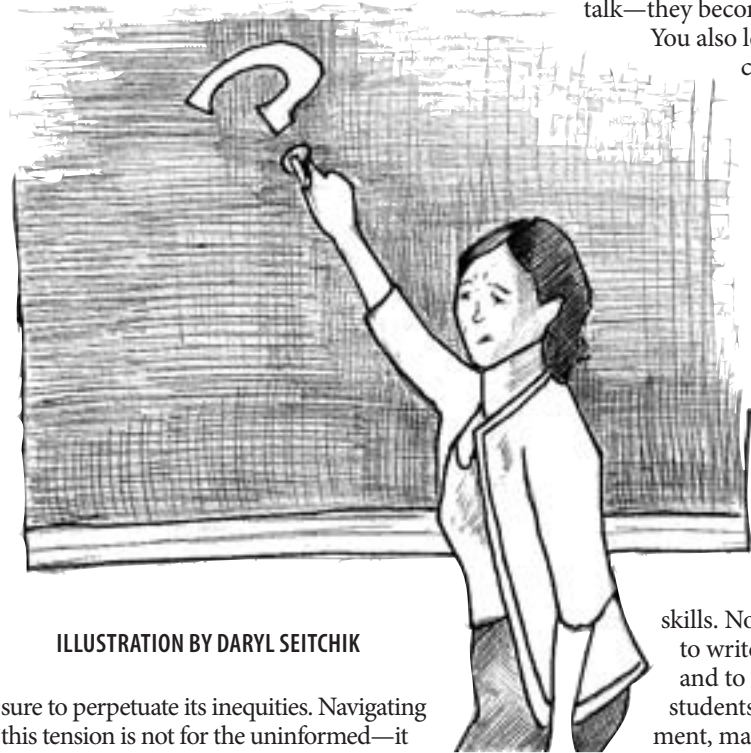


ILLUSTRATION BY DARYL SEITCHIK

sure to perpetuate its inequities. Navigating
this tension is not for the uninformed—it
demands more of teachers than just show-
ing up and being smart. This is where Teach
for America misleads its candidates.

Essentially, TFA candidates are led to
believe that, because of their innate bril-
liance (as evidenced by their good grades),
they will radically impact American educa-
tion by simply showing up. Now, to all of
the TFA-folk reading this and getting ready
to pelt me with paper airplanes, I am glad
that there is some system to draw more of
the bright-eyed and bushy-tailed (that's what
you are, of course) into the field of educa-
tion. I wish you had just signed up for the
Barnard education program instead—we
would have loved to have you.

It is a testament to how our culture de-
values the work of teachers that has forced
us to add competition—or prestige—into
the field of education. And with surface-level
logic, this makes sense. Anyone who has
done well enough in school to be accepted
into TFA could have fulfilled the education

requirements here. Yet it appeals more to
achieve-aholics to have to go through the
process of applying for something selec-
tive and, importantly, not a long-term
commitment.

I'm sure I'm going to hear an earful of the
following: "Jamie, you have it all wrong. I
want to make a difference. I really care. And
who knows, if I like teaching I might stay
longer." To this, I say that you cannot just
waltz into a school to see if you like it, as if
you were trying on shoes in a department
store. Student teaching and studying educa-
tion, as opposed to jumping right in with
TFA, is the difference between going for a
hike in the woods with a first aid kit, food,
water, bug spray, and rain gear, and going
out Lear-style—unadorned in a storm with
nothing but your ever-increasing insan-
ity. You learn the art of posing questions to
a class so that the same five students don't
answer all the time (behavior expectations,
clear phrasing, wait-time) and how to meet
the needs of students with a wide range of
skills (hint: it is impossible to do this if you
stand in front of the room and lecture ev-
eryday). You learn that it is actually a serious
problem if a student does well on written as-
signments but never speaks in class (they are
denied the chance to learn through
talk—they become invisible).

You also learn that the best
classroom manage-
ment strategy is
simply, and not so
simply, to have a
lesson plan that
is organized and
engaging, and that
this involves lots of
planning.

The schools
that need to hire
TFA teachers
usually have the
students who
need the best
teachers around,
because typically
these students
lack essential

skills. Not having the skills
to write, to understand,
and to argue prevents
students from civic engage-
ment, makes them victims to
advertising, and severely limits
their career and life opportu-
nities. Every day of every year is critical.
Consider the weight of that for a minute.

I can already tell you from my early
student-teaching experiences that it is all
too easy to get caught up in worrying about
grades and covering material. It requires a
constant presence of mind to think critically
about your actions as a teacher. When you
make mistakes, what will ground you is a
clear philosophy of why you're there—what
you're teaching for and against. "Teaching is
never neutral," to paraphrase Paulo Freire.
The unique thing that the Barnard program
will give you is the ability to locate yourself in
the crossfire of American education today, to
be an advocate for students and meaningful
learning, not just to be a pawn in the system.

The author is a Barnard College senior.
She is a writing fellow and a participant in the
Barnard Education Program.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

The editorial "Unsung Heroes" (2/22/10)
was clear in urging the Columbia University
community to nominate their Barnard
peers in nontraditional leadership roles for
Student Government Association Leadership
Awards. The editorial made a glaring er-
ror, however, in stating that administrators
issue the awards. SGA Leadership Awards
are wholly peer-nominated. The SGA
Leadership Awards Dinner Committee plans
and executes the Student Leadership Dinner
each April at Barnard. At the dinner, the

Committee presents the awards to Barnard
students, staff, administrators, administra-
tive departments, and SGA-recognized clubs.
SGA Leadership Awards celebrate and honor
all types of student leaders on campus—the
only thing SGA asks for is your participation
in the nomination process which is open un-
til 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25. Please visit www.
barnard.edu/sga for the nomination form.

Amy Chen, Barnard College '10
Chair, Student Leadership Dinner Awards
Committee
VP of Student Activities, SGA

STAFF EDITORIAL

Down to the wire

At Columbia, where there are so many
big, interesting, important projects under-
way, the continuing absence of wireless
Internet in the dorms may seem a trivial
inconvenience. In reality, though, the lack
of wireless access in most dormitories at
Columbia and some at Barnard is a daily
reminder of inefficiency on campus. The
prompt implementation of wireless in all
dorms would mark both a necessary im-
provement to the everyday quality of stu-
dent life and a welcome change to bureau-
cratic stalling.

The issue is hardly new. The entire cam-
pus—much of which is quite old—is wireless,
save for the places where students actually
live and work: their rooms and lounges. The
necessity of Ethernet cables—many of which
must be plugged into inconveniently located
jacks—hinders individual study habits and
the ability to study in groups in the dorms.
Columbia is behind the 21st-century times:
The University of Pennsylvania, for example,
has wireless all across campus, including
in the dorms. At a school that has had its
own email server for over a decade, where
professors often post last-minute changes to
assignments online, and where students are
frequently expected to participate in online
discussions, the lack of wireless in dorms is
outdated and irrational.

This is not to say that the administration

The fight against heartless social justice

BY SY HOEKSTRA

Columbia, we love social justice. It's really
quite remarkable. I've never heard of another
university that spends as much time on it as
we do. Think about it. The entire Millennium
Villages Project is run from right here. We are
one of very few universities in America where
students can concentrate in sustainable de-
velopment as an undergraduate. There are so
many social justice student groups on cam-
pus, I'm not even going to bother to look up
the actual number. And when John McCain
and Barack Obama wanted to find a venue to
stop all their vigorous campaigning for a day
and talk about community service, where did
they go? Roone Arledge Auditorium.

So here's a question: What are we doing?
Really, stop for a second. Why do we do all
of this helping the poor? I don't mean the
moral imperative. What are the goals? Is it
just to get poor people some wealth? In and
of itself, that alone seems like a strange goal.
After some thorough googling, I pulled up
a few different studies about which nations
have the people happiest and most satisfied
with their lives. The highest I saw America
ranked was 156, always with several much
poorer countries ahead of us. Does that not
strike us as odd? We are the richest country
in the history of the known universe, and the
Venezuelans think they're having a better
time than we are.

Can I make an incredibly clich  sugges-
tion as to why this might be? If we give people
money, they're not any happier. They just have
more money. Sure, their lives are easier, but
that doesn't appear to make much of a differ-
ence in people's perceived quality of life.

But there's a bigger problem with the
way we approach social justice. We all go to
Columbia, so we've probably been to some
event where someone was raising awareness
and funds for some issue, right? How does
he do it? Step one is to explain to you the
mind-boggling travesty that is his particular
issue, both with statistics and tear-jerking
anecdotes of tragedy. Next, he details his or-
ganization's outstanding work combating this
travesty, both with statistics and tear-jerking
anecdotes of success. Finally, he asks you to
get out your checkbook.

Of course, this can all be done with pure
intentions and in an acceptable way, but it can
also be done in a way that totally objectifies
the very people we are trying to help. They
become those statistics and those anecdotes.

The gold standard



YURINA
KO

2 = 2 = 5

has been: What will I do when I gradu-
ate? Interestingly, the people who recently
helped me explore this dreaded topic this
time were not those whose names are en-
graved on Butler Library, but rather, attrac-
tive men on ice: the Olympic figure skaters.

Some people assume that philosophers
are equipped with some esoteric skill to an-
alyze and solve personal worries. In fact, if
life were such an easy problem to work out,
philosophy itself would cease to exist—just
as competitive figure skating, let alone the
Olympics, would be nonexistent had it not
been for the uncertain, slippery stage.

While entertaining myself with this
aesthetic sport, I couldn't help but notice
a strange similarity between the figure
skating world and the current state of the
Columbia community. These days, juniors
and seniors around me are starting to
resemble these Olympians, racing for their
respective versions of the gold medal:
Latin honors, acceptance to a prestigious
graduate school, an offer from the most
lucrative firm, the biggest paycheck. With
the smooth show of discipline, careful
concealment of stumbles, and their fash-
ionable finales followed by standing ova-
tions, these competitors are sliding by me,
left and right.

While I tell myself to disregard this
unofficial, superficial game, it's been dif-
ficult standing idly on top of a spot of thin
ice, an area labeled "Unprepared to Face
the Real World." It suddenly seems naive
to think that I should try to understand
difficult and interesting material when I
could have taken "easy A courses" to boost
my GPA. "How else do you survive the
résumé selections," one student argued,
"given this job market?"

Indeed, earning the points may be the
swiftest way to the top. But the rise and fall
of Russian figure skater Evgeni Plushenko
last week proves otherwise. Plushenko, who
already owns an Olympic gold medal from
2006, wanted to defend his title with a qua-
druple toe loop jump—the technique that
earns you the most points from the judges.
Oddly reminiscent of a guy who approached
me during my freshman year, saying, "You
know, I got a perfect score on the SATs,"
Plushenko jumped the "quad," ending the
performance with a pretentious smirk.

They are a means by which we prove the worth
of our own organizations and raise funds so
that social justice may continue marching for-
ward. Then, we can feel good about ourselves
for having acted according to our sociopoliti-
cal beliefs and ideologies.

Meanwhile, there's a homeless man on the
corner who really just wants someone to talk
to, which brings me to the actual point of this
article. Social justice is great. I'm a big fan. Keep
doing it, but make sure we don't lose the heart
of the whole endeavor. People want more than
just occasional hand-outs or even a sustain-
able income. They want real interaction and
relationships with other people, and I'm not
just talking about the poor. That goes for us
too. The funny thing is that it looks like a lot
of poorer people have figured out how to be
happy in this way a lot better than we have.
That's not always true, but life satisfaction does
appear to be somewhat class-blind.

Now, we all go to an Ivy League school,
which means, regardless of our background,
we are now official, card-carrying members
of the top one percent of the world. Welcome.
It's quite comfortable up here. But people like
us are not known for associating with people

But there's a bigger problem with the way we approach social justice.

who do not have homes or jobs. We're perfectly
happy to set up a government program to as-
sist them in their attempts to be just a little bit
more like us, but we don't actually talk to them
very often. What if we did though? What if
Columbians were known for sitting on the steps
and hanging out with the poor in our neigh-
borhood, or staying in the village instead of
the nice hotel downtown on our summer trips
to Africa? What if Public Safety started to get
extremely uncomfortable with all the reported
incidences of students letting their homeless
friends sleep in their dorm rooms? What if the
social trends that dictated how people interact
with people from other income brackets com-
pletely broke down at Columbia?

Radical? Yes. But since when was it a bad
thing to be radical at Columbia? We've had our
radical fire stomped out sometime in the last
few decades, and I'd be more than happy to
help rekindle the flames, which is why I leave
you with a small challenge. Next time you go
to Morton Williams, there will probably be a
tall guy with long hair standing somewhere just
outside the door. His name is John. He seems
like a good guy. Try making a new friend.

The author is a Columbia College senior ma-
joring in history and Germanic languages. He is
the former president of the Veritas Forum and a
member of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.

The result? A silver medal, defeated by
someone who didn't even attempt com-
plicated techniques. "I am not prepared
to skate well and lose," Plushenko whined.
Not only did he have a skewed conception
of what "skating well" meant, he considered
being second in the world to be a failure.
Similarly, I've heard an acquaintance com-
plain that he "only got a 97 percent" on a
philosophy midterm. My proudly earned
B-plus suddenly felt unsatisfactory.

I thought about my family as I watched
and listened to the crowd at the Olympics,
pretending for a few seconds that they
were all cheering for my apparently me-
diocre college career. Just as the skating
rink invites a unique type of nationalism
where a collective force is entirely invested
in a represented individual, our families at
home root for our success in college and
employment.

When this warm encouragement turns
into stifling pressure, however, figure skat-
ers and college students alike lose their
smiles and any glimpse of happiness. I
know several people who are applying to
law school to fulfill their parents' dream,
which looks noble on the surface, but is
deceitful nonetheless.

One thing about figure skating that
I want replicated in real life is standing
back up after falling from a big jump, and
continuing as though nothing went wrong.
Japanese figure skater Daisuke Takahashi
failed to jump "the quad" during the free
performance, which was anticipated by
many, seeing as he just recently recovered
from a severe knee injury.

Despite the imperfection, Takahashi's
overall performance moved me the most.
After hearing that he came in third place,
he smiled and told the interviewer, "I'm
happy to take a medal. I had many prob-
lems to solve and I take this as a new start
for my career." This piece of wisdom from
a 23-year-old shows just how silly the
Columbia race is, and even sillier the per-
son who feels persecuted by it.

In the end, my "success" is not decided
by a point system, judges, supporters, or
a particular audience. When American
skater Evan Lysacek came in second after
the short program, he called it "a winning
performance, whether it was deserving of
a bronze, a silver, a gold—it didn't matter."
With that attitude, he skated with elegance
and passion during the free program, earn-
ing him the gold medal.

I'm not prepared to sacrifice an educa-
tion and lose in a race that isn't even mine.
I have my own gold standard.

Yurina Ko is a Barnard College junior ma-
joring in philosophy. She is a senior editor of
the Columbia Political Review. 2+2=5 runs
alternate Wednesdays.

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Solutions to Previous Issue's Puzzle

4	7	6	1	9	5	2	3	8
9	2	8	6	4	3	1	5	7
1	3	5	8	2	7	9	4	6
5	8	9	3	1	4	6	7	2
6	4	2	5	7	9	3	8	1
7	1	3	2	8	6	4	9	5
3	6	7	4	5	1	8	2	9
8	9	1	7	3	2	5	6	4
2	5	4	9	6	8	7	1	3

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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.

			7	1	8			
6			5		9			
	1	9			7			
5			1	2		4	8	
4	3		6		5			1
		4				1	3	
		1			7			2
	8		2		9			

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Memeorized
5 Medicinal amt.
8 Fenway Park city
14 "East of Eden" director Kazan
15 "Do You Love?" Bo Diddley classic
16 Concert bonus
17 "Stable storage enclosure
19 They save the day
20 Affliction
21 Be scared to
22 Blank acct. entry
23 Symbol on several keys
24 No ___ menu notice
27 Company featuring cavemen in its ads
29 Letter-shaped hardware
33 Chinese currency
35 Play thing
36 It's a wrap
37 Mrs. Peel of "The Avengers"
38 Arias, e.g.
40 Plastic surgeon's offering, for short
41 "Ghostbusters" co-writer Harold
43 Laugh from a Stooge
44 In unfamiliar territory, maybe
45 Dandruff site
46 Commonly cluttered room
48 Maiden name lead-in
49 Forward for merit
51 Egg carton no.
53 Great Plains terrain
56 Mötley Crüe's two
60 Attach, perhaps with hardware that begins the answers to starred clues
61 "Benjamin Button" portrayor
62 Feller's realm
63 Site of the smallest bone in the body
64 Lowly worker
65 Sleep apnea sufferer, often

DOWN

66 The Hartford logo
67 Egyptian snakes
1 Former gen.'s status
2 Jail
3 Cam's output
4 Sulu portrayor on "Star Trek"
5 Lively "Texas" dances
6 Cobbler's concern
7 Spitz-type dog, for short
8 Joy of "The View"
9 Burdensome
10 "Wacko"
11 Ren or Stimpny, e.g.
12 Its crime may be eaten first
13 Homer's home
18 Titled
21 Fail to finish school
23 Altar boy
24 Clinton press secretary Dee Dee
25 "Poison" shrub
26 Beta follower
28 Early metalworking period
30 Belted constellation
31 Forgetful moment
32 Conservative IRA asset
34 "Game that goes down to the wire"
39 Sudden-braking result
42 "I don't want to hear the rest"
47 More than chilly

50 Iraqi money
52 Rock artist Frank
53 Cpls.' underlings
54 Picnic spoiler
55 "It will come ___ surprise"
56 River through southern Russia
57 One-eighties
58 Corvette roof option
59 Train sched. list
61 Blossom visitor

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

R	A	T	E	B	A	R	E	R	S	C	A	T
A	C	R	E	A	R	E	N	A	T	O	D	O
C	E	I	L	I	N	G	F	A	N	E	L	I
E	S	P	R	I	O	C	A	N	O	E	S	
				P	I	S	T	A	C	H	I	O
				F	I	N	I	S	H	B	E	E
				A	M	I	S	H	H	A	R	R
				C	O	L	A	C	E	N	T	S
				E	K	E	P	O	N	D	S	
				C	A	I	R	O	T	R	I	C
				L	I	G	H	T	N	I	N	G
				A	D	D	R	E	S	R	O	E
				M	A	N	O	L	A	T	I	N
				A	H	E	M	O	P	I	N	E
				S	O	R	E	T	E	N	D	S

By Scott Atkinson
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02/24/10

Transitional housing finds little support



HOUSING | Locals said they are concerned a landlord is making a profit off of a shelter that has suddenly appeared on 107th Street.

HOMELESS from front page

“Nobody cares if your neighbors are poor. They care if your neighbors aren’t really neighbors,” committee member Miki Fiegel said.

Because it would be transitional housing, neighbors voiced concerns about buses bringing people to the shelters at night and picking them up in the mornings.

Committee member Sheldon Fine urged neighbors to tell their elected officials that they wouldn’t stand for the sudden appearance of a shelter on their block without proper consultation.

“Let them know not because you’re against people who find themselves homeless, but because when these things are done in an emergency situation, they’re not well thought-out,” Fine said.

The committee said it would call for a meeting this week with relevant city officials.

Single room occupancy buildings like 237 West 107th St. are generally made up of rent-stabilized units, meaning that residents may pay

relatively little per month, according to Fiegel. When turned into a DHS shelter, the city pays almost \$3,000 per month for a room.

For that reason, landlords have a financial incentive to pressure tenants to leave, which community members see as another blow to affordable housing.

“I’m concerned because it’s a building for profit,” said a resident of another building on 107th Street, who requested anonymity because she had previously been threatened by the landlord in question. “This is a shelter that’s going to result in someone making a lot of money, since the city’s paying.”

The building’s website, which is still inviting reservations, describes the accommodations as “very cozy,” though online reviews describe it as dingy, with New York Magazine criticizing its “dirty everything.”

Upon entering the building, an employee who would not provide his name asked about having a reservation, then denied it was operating as a hotel. The building still has a plaque

on the outside calling it the West Side Inn and brochures for local tourist attractions by the front doors.

Stephan Russo, executive director of the Goddard Riverside Community Center, who works with its SRO Law Project, said he thinks the building only has five permanent tenants.

“I don’t think we should soft pedal on this. We cannot lose more permanent affordable housing and we should not,” Russo said, urging the committee not to negotiate with the city about maintenance and security until the larger issue is settled.

But he emphasized that the primary opposition was not to the shelter itself, but to the way DHS would be putting large numbers of people into buildings with questionable landlords and without relevant community input.

“This is not a NIMBY [not in my backyard] discussion,” he said.

The only support for the project, though measured, came from the Rev. John Duffell of the Church of the Ascension on 107th Street.

“This was going to be a good provider, and there was going to be a contract with the provider,” Duffell said, referring to Help USA. “The provider was going to take care of maintenance, security, and providing social services together. The major concern was just the landlord, who has a history.”

Help USA spokesperson Alexandra Sorrota declined to comment before the meeting.

Neighbor Ellen Goodwin said the idea of transitional tenants scares her because of the large number of families on the block.

“There are 50 children under 10 in my building. I don’t want people begging, smoking pot—and I’m not saying these people will, but there’s a higher possibility,” Goodwin said. “I’m a permanent resident and I have rights too, and this temporary houses scares the hell out of me.”

sarah.darville@columbiaspectator.com

Gina’s offers hot food, hot atmosphere



COZY CUISINE | Local Upper West Side newcomer Gina La Fornarina features many intimate tables for two, making the restaurant an appropriate choice for students’ date nights.



GINA from page 3

like tiramisu or torta di ricotta, to more contemporary pastry choices like apple tart or chocolate bomb cake. Crepe cake with Chantilly cream is delicious—moist layers of syrupy caramelized crepes topped by a nicely sweet cream. The apple tart is tasty, too—a rich cake soaking in a vanilla bean sauce. However, it’s regrettably more cake than apple.

In addition to well-prepared

food, Gina’s also provides a diverse and reasonably priced wine list.

Early in the evening, the service is friendly and attentive, but as the night wears on, waiters become hard to find and often take a long time to retrieve checks.

Overall, Gina La Fornarina executes authentic Italian cuisine masterfully, never straying too far from traditional flavors even in specialty dishes. Although still a new restaurant with service kinks to work out, this sexy little Italian number is hot.

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Merber seeks first individual conference title

MERBER from back page

as much as improving personally,” Merber said. “If I’m doing everything I can to be better, then eventually high finishes in races will come. Down the line, as I get stronger and gain experience, I’ll have those opportunities.”

As is the case with most distance runners endeavoring to compete at the Division I level, Merber had become committed to track by the time he reached high school, but his experience in the sport dates back to the first grade.

“Once you experience a little success as an individual or with

Merber’s Mile Times	Time
June 2008	4:12.11
March 2009	4:05.82
February 2010	4:02.60

a team, it just makes you want to work that much harder,” he said.

That is just what Merber was busy doing in the early months of winter. While the majority of the student body spends winter break relaxing with friends and family, success on the 200m circuit allows no such frivolity. After weeks of constant training and a rust-buster 3k—13 seconds under his freshman-year best, 8:26—Merber was ready to take on the event in which he was the national indoor champion in his high school senior year.

“Leading up to the race, workouts had been going really well—everything had been clicking,” Merber said. “We went in with the intentions of setting a big PR [personal record].”

With sophomore Lion

Adam Behnke pacing the field through the halfway mark in about two minutes—a 4-minute-mile pace—Merber was the only one who could hold out. He powered through the remaining laps solo to cross the line in a blazing 4:02.60. That mark granted him the top spot on the all-time list for Columbia, along with headway in his quest for the coveted 4-minute-mile barrier.

Since that performance, it’s been back to the grind in anticipation of the next challenge: the Heptagonal Championships. This year’s edition will take place this coming weekend at Dartmouth’s Nathaniel Leverone Fieldhouse in Hanover, N.H. This is a critical point of any Ivy athlete’s season, and the meet is fiercely contested. Merber leads the league at both the 1-mile and the 3k heading into the meet, and will seek his first individual conference title there after being a member of the cross-country Heps squad this fall.

Victorious or not, the larger concern of the indoor season remains the 5k outdoors. There, the aim will be toward the NCAA East Regionals meet in late May.

Though already full of excitement, Merber’s story is still in its early chapters. If, as per his goal, he continues to improve with each season, he will be a force to be reckoned with. Wood, at the very least, seems confident in that prospect.

“Kyle has a huge influence on our team. He trains perfectly, lives righteously, and races well,” Wood said. “What else could you ask from an individual in terms of being an example to others? I have no doubts that he will lead the men’s distance program to the next level.”



COURTESY OF DOUG AUSTIN

RECORD TIME | With his 4:02.60 mile, Merber set a new school record and qualified for NCAA championships.

Club sports teams could provide fans

GUPTA from back page

make a concerted effort to draw in fans and supporters through club sports. Sports such as men’s and women’s tennis, archery, and women’s volleyball have direct club sports partners, while others, including cross country and swimming and diving, have related clubs in the form of CU Road Runners and men’s and women’s water polo, respectively.

If the head coaches or assistant coaches from the varsity teams reached out to the student leaders in their respective club sports teams, an open line of communication between the two could form. For the most part, I would imagine that students who are interested enough in a sport to take time out of their busy schedules to play it, often off-campus, would also be interested in seeing it competed at a higher level. Club leaders could be informed of the date, time, and location of important contests for the varsity squad, and could inform members by emailing the club listservs. Once enough members began showing up, the clubs could become the vocal section of the crowd that Columbia sporting events often lack. In return for their support and enthusiasm, the varsity teams could provide free transportation to and from contests, thereby eliminating one of the main hassles students face when trying to attend sporting events not located directly on campus. It would benefit the varsity teams by creating a winning and positive atmosphere, and would allow the club to watch the sport that they play, or enjoy watching, played at the highest collegiate level for free.

Of course, this would have to be a two-way street. While it’s important for the Athletics Department to reach out to club sports leaders, the club sports themselves should take some initiative and reach out to their members on their own.

The same principle could be applied to intramural sports on campus. Every year, students swarm out with their friends and sign up to play sports such as volleyball, soccer, basketball, and flag football. Once again, if these students are willing to take part in these often time-consuming events, why would they not be willing to watch the same sports played at a higher level against a rival Ivy League school?

Columbia Athletics has tried a number of different ways to encourage the generally apathetic student body to go to Columbia sporting events. However, busy academic and social schedules, the inconvenient distance to Baker Field, and a general lack of enthusiasm toward sports has rendered most of these campaigns useless. Last season’s Student Rewards Program failed to generate the buzz around campus that it was designed to. The Athletics Department is trying new and novel ways to generate student attendance and fan support at Columbia sporting events. Some efforts, like Midnight Mania, were clearly a huge step in the right direction. There is nothing that will get certain people to come to a sports event—they just don’t care. However, for everyone else, in focusing on a variety of intricate and complex ways to attract students, it seems as if the Athletics Department has missed one method sitting right in its backyard.

Club and intramural sports would provide the varsity squads with a set of fans who have an interest in and knowledge of the sport. It is easy to forget that in many sports, the athletes at Columbia are some of the finest in the nation. Nothing is more disappointing to a fan than to see an opponent’s cheering section dwarfing Columbia’s, even when the contest is being held at Columbia’s home venue. Far too often, athletes and casual fans alike complain about the lack of support for both winning and losing programs. The potential to grow a loyal fan base of students is there for many of the school’s varsity teams. It is now up to club boards and Athletics Department officials to take advantage of this.

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Romanian Matache finds academic, athletic opportunities as a Lion

MATACHE from back page

a third?’ When she told me I would be, I knew it was up to me” Matache explained. “I told myself I would have to win somehow.”

Though Matache faced her opponent alone, she built off the energy from the home crowd to rack up points. Matache attributes much of her success to the support of her team, who gathered around the court to cheer her on during her match.

“I was so tired after the second set, but after I saw my whole team supporting me, I didn’t feel so tired,” Matache said. “I knew they would be supportive of me even if I lost, but I really didn’t want to disappoint them. So going into the match, I just refused to think about anything but winning.”

In particular, Matache is thankful for the support of her teammate, junior co-captain Natalia Christenson.

“Natalia was there the whole time watching me. She was so supportive and stayed so calm, even though being calm is something so hard to do when you’re watching tennis,”

Matache said. “I tend to play better when people are watching, though, so Natalia being there really helped me.”

Christenson, who watched from the sidelines for the entirety of the match, applauded Matache’s performance with admiration.

“Eliza played so incredibly and fearlessly,” Christenson said. “She just went after it with so much confidence, and she destroyed the girl in the third set.”

It is not unusual for Matache to be poised and able to cope with intense pressure. In fact, Matache explains how she went into the stressful third set with a clear head, just as she goes into her other matches.

“I try not to think about anything before matches,” Matache said. “You can get too stressed out that way. I just like to take everything that’s happened in the past and put it aside. Really, I just try to live in the moment.”

Now a sophomore, Matache has been living in the moment since she got to New York two years ago. Hailing from Romania, Matache is thankful for the exciting opportunity to

play tennis in the States.

“Tennis was one of the reasons I came to America,” Matache said. “In Romania, you have to choose between sports and academics when you go to college. I just wasn’t ready to make that choice. So I decided I wanted to come to America. I

“Going into the match, I refused to think about anything but winning.”

—Eliza Matache

came to visit Columbia, which was my first choice. As soon as I got here, I knew I wanted to stay.”

Growing up in Romania, Matache began playing tennis at a young age. The limitations of her home country, however, held her back from getting the practice she needed year-round.

“I started playing tennis when I was seven years old, but

I wasn’t that serious,” Matache said. “I mostly only practiced in the spring. We didn’t have very many winter courts available in Romania, so it was really hard to practice other than in the spring.”

Despite the restrictions, Matache continued to play tennis, and soon was granted the opportunity to play on a team outside of her country.

In high school, at German College Goethe, Matache played tennis where she was ranked in the top 20 for Romania Girls 18s. She explained this as the real kickoff to her tennis career.

“In high school, I became more serious,” Matache explained. “I actually started playing for a team in Germany through high school. I started after the coach saw me playing and asked me if I would for them ... I played for them through high school and commuted from Romania to Germany on weekends to play, which was really exciting.”

Sharing her athletic gifts with another country, Matache is overjoyed to be living in America. After taking time to adjust to living in a new

country, Matache is ready for what’s to come.

“After getting used to living here in America, I think now I am more prepared to cope with everything in general—managing the long practices in the spring with my schoolwork and everything else,” she said.

This year, Matache is excited to spend more time with her teammates during the rest of the spring season. She is especially pleased by how close the team has become during her time as a Lion.

“Tennis is such an individual sport that sometimes it’s hard to get to know people,” she said. “But this year, I learned how to make the team like a group of friends.”

Thinking about a major in political science or economics, Matache is still unsure what the future holds. Either way, she knows she will continue to play tennis.

“I cannot live without playing” she said.

Eliza will be back in action this Saturday, Feb. 27, at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center where Columbia will host local rival Long Island at 12 p.m.



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DRIVING INSIDE | The Harvard Crimson rebounded from a nine-point loss to Cornell by soundly defeating Columbia, 77-57.

Tigers fall, Big Red alone atop standings

AROUND THE LEAGUE from back page

percent from the field overall, the highest percentage conceded by the Tigers all season.

The Bears were clinical from the charity stripe, too, converting 18 of 19 attempts from the charity stripe, good for an unheard-of 94.7 percent as a team. Two of those were vital to the win, as senior Steve Gruber iced the game with two made free throws with eight seconds to go. After Princeton’s Patrick Saunders cut the Brown lead to 55-53 with 18 seconds remaining, Marcus Schroeder pulled the Tigers within one when he knocked down a free throw with 11 seconds. That’s as close it got, though, thanks to Gruber’s free throws at the other end.

Schroeder led Princeton with 15 points.

The Tigers’ loss came on the heels of an 82-58 thumping of Yale, an offensive explosion from a team that is not known for scoring points. In that game, Dan Mavraides, Kareem Maddox, Saunders, and Davis all scored in

double figures, with Mavraides leading the way with 20.

The other big game of the weekend, however, was Cornell’s trip to Cambridge, Mass. to take on the youthful and talented Harvard Crimson. The game was a boon for NBA scouts, as both the Big Red’s Ryan Wittman and the Crimson’s Jeremy Lin are considered legitimate candidates to be the first Ivy Leaguers drafted in years. It was Wittman who stole the show, scoring 27 points in leading Cornell to a 79-70 win. Louis Dale added 20 for the visiting Big Red.

Harvard slipped to 17-6 overall and 6-3 in conference as the 6-foot-6 Wittman showed the more-than-a-dozen NBA scouts in attendance the versatility of his game, adding eight rebounds, two blocks, and an assist to his game-high scoring total. Lin did not underperform, though, scoring 24 points to lead the Crimson, which shot 94 percent, 32 of 34, from the free throw line. That impressive showing did not do

enough to prevent the loss and Harvard’s relegation to third place in the Ivy League.

Cornell set its school record for wins in a season the next night with an 88-74 win in Hanover, New Hampshire over last-place Dartmouth.

Princeton, despite its loss to Brown, still sits at second in the conference, Penn has been the surprise of the Ancient Eight so far, posting a 4-5 league record after winning just one game in their nonconference schedule. After beating then-nationally ranked Cornell last weekend, the Quakers (5-18, 4-5 Ivy) beat Yale on Saturday to earn their fourth straight weekend split.

The Bulldogs (10-17, 4-6 Ivy) had a rough weekend, and after double-digit losses to both Penn and Princeton—both on the road—they are tied with Brown for fifth in the Ancient Eight. At the bottom of the standings, Columbia (9-15, 3-7 Ivy) finds itself ahead of only Dartmouth after dropping away decisions to both the Big Green and Harvard.

The Columbia women's swimming team is traveling to Cambridge, Mass. tomorrow to compete in the Ivy League Championships.

TOMORROW



SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2014 PAGE 8



Pick up a copy of the Spectator tomorrow to see what's going on in women's basketball around the Ivy League.

TOMORROW

Matache Point



POISED | Sophomore Eliza Matache performed extremely well under pressure last weekend and helped her team secure a 4-3 victory over Buffalo.

FILE PHOTO

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Matache leads team to victory

BY LAUREN SEAMAN
Spectator Staff Writer

Even under pressure, sophomore Eliza Matache is an inspiring tennis player.

Last weekend, Matache carried the women's tennis team to a thrilling 4-3 victory against the previously undefeated Buffalo team. Matache clinched the winning point in the No. 5 singles spot by defeating Buffalo's Tamara Markovic, 4-6, 7-6(4), 6-1. Highlighting Matache's incredible skill was her performance during her tiebreaker against Markovic.

With the overall score tied at 3-3, Matache played in a nail-biting third set, knowing the entire match rested on her shoulders. Despite the pressures of her responsibility to win, Matache crushed her opponent in the final set, 6-1, pushing the Lions to victory.

Matache's confidence was the key reason for her win. Once she realized that the team depended on her, she firmly decided that she would not lose.

"After my second set, I went to my coach and asked 'Am I playing

SEE MATACHE, page 7

Sophomore Merber breaks school record with Ivy League-leading 4:02.60 mile



JOSE GIRALT / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LATE START | Despite debuting late, Merber has seen great success this season.

BY GREGORY KREMLER
Spectator Staff Writer

Columbia College sophomore Kyle Merber opened his indoor track season later than most—just three weeks ago, Feb. 6, at the New Balance Collegiate Invitational—and has competed only twice. But those outings alone were sufficient to grab the attention of the Ivy League and the larger NCAA. His 8:09.01 3k debut currently tops the league, as does his 4:02.60 mile from the Virginia Duals on Feb. 13. The latter set a school record, in addition to satisfying the provisional standard for the NCAA Championships.

Merber's striking success at such an early stage fulfills the hopes that the coaching staff had when recruiting him.

"From very early on, coach [Jon] Clemens and I identified Kyle as a potential program changer," track and field head coach Willy Wood said. "He had many great wins in high school, including Millrose and the national championships [Nike Indoor Nationals 2008], with very limited training."

That training has since intensified, with a freshman-year weekly prescription of 60 miles and a current regimen in the mid 80s. These increased numbers have strengthened Merber into a versatile competitor with significant range.

"I consider myself an 800 to 10k runner, including cross and the steeple chase," Merber said. "I would like to think that if I'm ever needed for the team in any event, that I could help

them out—whether it be the Penn [Relays] 4x8 or cross 10k."

Aside from his capacity to run fast times, it is this characteristic altruism that sets Merber apart, and his teammates have taken note. His training partners are primarily junior Brendan Martin, the top man for much of the cross-country season, and senior Bobby Hartnett, who shares Merber's specialty of 1,500–5k.

"I think we are able to help each other a ridiculous amount by training together," Martin said, though with a preference for cross country, it was Martin who set the tone throughout the fall. Now Martin is having a tougher go at it with Merber on the track.

"In the fall, I was doing a lot of the pushing. Now I'm doing a lot of the

hanging on," he said, but added, "Kyle's helping me get to a new level myself."

Hartnett has the broad perspective of an accomplished senior and commended Merber's disciplined maturity.

"Him and Brendan, especially, put in a lot of hard work, and it's definitely paying off," he said. "Kyle has just been a consistent performer, and once you do that, you're automatically a leader."

The precocious sophomore has handled the burden of the expectations placed on him as a star recruit with the composure and sensibility of a seasoned veteran. His is a patient focus, with a view toward the long term.

"Coming into college, I tried to put as little pressure as possible on placing,

SEE MERBER, page 7

Club sports are ready fan base for teams



KUNAL GUPTA

Moving the Chains

Anyone who has ever been to a men's or women's tennis match, knows that attendance for matches, high profile or not, is sparse. This lack of interest might indicate a general, campus-wide apathy toward tennis. However, one need only look to the Columbia Tennis Club sign-ups in order to disprove this notion. At the beginning of every semester, students from the College, SEAS, General Studies, and even graduate and medical students line up outside the Lou Gehrig Lounge in Dodge Fitness Center and wait to secure a coveted spot in the Tennis Club. After paying dues of \$40 per semester, the first 90 or so in line sign up to play once a week on the night of their choice at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center, which has six indoor courts. The time allotted for the Tennis Club to play is probably the least desirable time possible to play tennis: from 10 p.m. until midnight, including on Friday and Saturday nights. Often, members will take the subway to and from Baker Field—an unwanted trip, particularly during the winter months.

Despite this undesirable time slot, as well as the dues every semester, students often wait for more than two hours in line, and every semester there are inevitably many students who do not receive spots in the club. There is clearly an appetite for tennis on Columbia's campus.

In the interest of full disclosure, I should note that I myself am one of those crazy tennis fans who waits in line to sign up every year and takes the subway up every week to go play at Baker.

The tennis teams at Columbia should

SEE GUPTA, page 7

Cornell dominates, Princeton upset by Brown

BY ZACH GLUBIAK
Spectator Staff Writer

Cornell is alone at the top once more. As the Big Red (22-4, 8-1 Ivy) swept its weekend matchups against Harvard and Dartmouth, the Princeton Tigers (16-7, 7-2 Ivy)—the only other Ivy League squad with just one loss in conference play—found themselves upset by Brown, 57-54.

Brown's Saturday-night win in Princeton, N.J., followed another road victory at Penn on Friday, marking only the second time ever that the

Bears topped both Killer P's on the road in a season.

On Saturday, Brown (10-17, 4-6 Ivy) became the first team all year to top Princeton when the Tigers took a lead into the locker room at halftime. Princeton, who had been 11-0 when leading at the half, opened up a 33-26 lead a minute into the second half with a Douglas Davis three-pointer.

Brown responded with a 16-6 run to put themselves on top, 42-39, after a trey by Peter Sullivan. Sullivan ended the night with 13 points on 5-for-8 shooting.

Throughout the weekend, the Bears were led by senior big man Matt Mullery, who posted 22 points in an

80-73 win at Penn on Friday, and contributed 15 points to the Bears' cause on Saturday with 66 percent shooting from the field. Freshman Tucker Halpern gave the visitors a boost against Princeton in the first half, coming off the bench to nail six of his eight attempts. Halpern finished with 12 points, all of which came before intermission.









It wasn't just those three that were hot from the field for the Bears. Brown's dead-eye shooting was the story of the night. Princeton, the league leaders in defense, saw their opponents shoot 57.6

SEE AROUND THE LEAGUE, page 7



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

JUST OUT OF REACH | The Columbia men's basketball team could not win either one of its road games this weekend. The Light Blue's loss to Dartmouth Friday night gave the Big Green its first Ancient Eight victory of the season.

Rank	Ivy Power Rankings	Last Week
1	CORNELL (23-4, 9-1 IVY)  The Big Red returned to form, sweeping its weekend matchups.	1
2	PRINCETON (16-7, 7-2 IVY)  The Tigers lost this weekend, making a win in Ithaca Friday necessary for a shot at the Ivy title.	2
3	HARVARD (18-6, 7-3 IVY)  The Crimson failed to defeat the Big Red this weekend, diminishing title hopes.	3
4	BROWN (10-17, 4-6 IVY)  A road sweep of the Killer P's gave the Bears a major boost.	7
5	PENN (5-18, 4-5 IVY)  The Quakers rebounded from a Friday-night loss to Brown with a 81-69 win over Yale.	6
6	YALE (10-17, 4-6 IVY)  The Bulldogs have struggled, dropping both of their games this weekend.	4
7	COLUMBIA (9-15, 3-7 IVY)  Back-to-back road losses have dropped the Lions to seventh place in the league.	5
8	DARTMOUTH (5-19, 1-9 IVY)  The Big Green won its first Ivy victory of the season on Friday.	8