

SGA forms financial advisory council

BY EMMA GOSS
Spectator Staff Writer

Barnard's Student Government Association has formed a council to advise a top administrator on financial policy in response to a perceived lack of transparency.

Last semester, Barnard administrators introduced a policy requiring students to pay full-time enrollment fees for all four years of college, ending a practice that allowed part-time students to pay part-time tuition. The change was met with widespread student opposition, in large part because students said they were not consulted on the decision.

Six students will sit on the Financial Advisory Council and offer input to Barnard Chief Operating Officer Greg Brown.

"I need to hear from the students what issues relative to the finance of the college are important to them, and they need to hear from me what I think is going on with the college so there is greater transparency," Brown said.

Naomi Cooper, BC '12 and SGA's vice president of finance, said she hopes the FAC will serve as a "sounding board for decisions that the college is going to make."

Cooper said she approached Brown after an SGA town hall in November during which members of Occupy Columbia University expressed discontent with the administration's decision.

Rachel Ferrari, BC '13 and vice president of student government for SGA, said that she hopes the council's existence will make students more accepting of future policy changes.

"I need to understand from students what it's actually like going through Barnard."

—Greg Brown, Barnard Chief Operating Officer

"We want them to receive it better than how the enrollment policy was received, because I think that's still on people's minds," said Ferrari, who is a member of the council.

Brown said he doesn't want students to feel left in the dark about administrative decisions.

"Sometimes a decision gets made and students feel like they weren't part of the conversation. And this is hopefully going to stop that," Brown said.

At the council's first meeting last week, Brown explained how Barnard's budget is allocated and how student tuition money is used. One of the major issues the group will tackle this semester is financial aid.

"Financial aid is really a key issue for me and one that I have a lot of expertise in, but I need to understand from students what it's actually like going through Barnard," Brown said. "It's that kind of thing where having the conversation makes for better administrative decisions."

The council, which was

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HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

RETURN TO CU | Attorney General Eric Holder, CC '73, Law '76, spoke at a World Leaders Forum event in Low Library on Thursday.

Holder talks financial crime, affirmative action at Low

BY YASMIN GAGNE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

United States Attorney General Eric Holder Jr. discussed financial regulation and affirmative action at a World Leaders Forum event on Thursday, although he did not take live questions from audience members, as WLF speakers normally do.

Holder, CC '73 and Law '76, spoke primarily about the Department of Justice's

response to the fraudulent lending practices and mortgage packaging that he said helped cause the economic downturn.

Several hundred Columbia students gathered in the Low Library Rotunda for the event.

University President Lee Bollinger, who introduced Holder, said that DOJ might have work left to do.

"One of the looming questions at this point in time is what left is to be done by legal

authorities, at the federal and state level, to hold authorities accountable for the creation of fraudulent mortgage-backed securities and other investment instruments," Bollinger said.

Holder listed several recent actions DOJ has taken to fight financial fraud, including reaching a \$25 billion settlement with the nation's top five mortgage providers over foreclosure abuses. He also said that under his watch, DOJ has

identified, prosecuted, and convicted a record number of individuals involved in financial fraud.

World Leaders Forum speakers—who can range from presidents of foreign countries to renowned artists—generally take questions from audience members after they speak. For this event, though, audience members who wanted to ask questions had to write them

SEE HOLDER, page 3

No University-wide protocol for student death notification

BY AMBER TUNNELL
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Margaret Cowie, SEAS '14, just found out Thursday that Samantha Kwek, a student at Columbia's School of Continuing Education, died in January.

"I didn't know about it," Cowie said. "It would be nice for Columbia to keep us informed."

When a Columbia student or faculty member dies, classmates and colleagues often join in family and friends' grief. But there's no University protocol that all Columbia schools share for notifying all students of other students' deaths.

It is the general practice for each school to notify its own student body, and sometimes its faculty, and then decide whether to share the information with the dean of students at the other schools within the University. Those schools decide on a case-by-case basis whether to share the information with their own students.

"That gives them the opportunity to tailor it to their audience if there is something specific they needed to add," said Terry Martinez, dean of community development and multicultural affairs for Columbia College and the School of Engineering and Applied Science.

But when a student not in CC or SEAS dies, Martinez said that she and Dean of Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger evaluate the situation and decide whether it is appropriate to notify the student population, they said.

"It has recently come to our attention that undergraduate students are interested in

receiving notifications when a graduate student has passed. There is currently no protocol in place for this situation; however it is something we are open to discussing," Shollenberger and Martinez said in a joint statement.

Even though Cowie didn't know Kwek, she said it feels wrong to be left in the dark. "The University is a cohesive unit. We do overlap with other schools," she said.

After Tina Bu, who was a member of the Columbia College class of 2013, died in October, Barnard administrators did not notify Barnard students.

In the case of a non-Barnard student death, Dean of Barnard College Avis Hinkson said that it depends on whether the student's school sends notice and how broadly the deceased's family would like the information shared.

"In general, it is much more likely that the news of a death of an undergraduate student at CC, SEAS, or GS would be shared with Barnard students due to the likelihood that the student may be in classes or live in residence halls with Barnard students," she said.

General Studies Dean of Students Scott Halvorson said that, when a GS student dies, he contacts GS students and then forwards the message to other divisions of the University.

If GS administrators receive notification of a student death in another school, they will share that with their students. Halvorson said that he received notification of Bu's death, so it was passed along to GS

SEE PROTOCOL, page 2



FILE PHOTO

COMING SOON | A marine transfer station could be replaced by a movie theater or vertical farm.

Winners announced in transfer station redesign

BY JILLIAN KUMAGAI
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

A competition aimed at revamping a vacant marine transfer station on 135th Street selected its winning entries, and if any of them get built, the Hudson River could become the site of a vertical farm, a movie and entertainment venue, or a culinary center.

Linearscape Architecture, a New York- and Shanghai-based firm, was awarded \$5,000 for its entry "Sym'bio'pia."

Sym'bio'pia's dominant features are five centrally located towers to accommodate hydroponic farming—a growing trend in dense urban landscapes, where it is difficult to

farm in soil. It includes plans for a culinary learning center, a bike rental and repair shop, and a farmer's market.

"We didn't want all the entries to be about vertical farms, because that's not a solution."

—Vanessa Alicea, ENYA co-chair

Vanessa Alicea, a co-chair of the Emerging New York Architects Committee, which

runs the annual competition, stressed that the competition is "purely design," but is hoping that Community Board 9 will work to implement one of the winning entries.

The projects would need tremendous financial support to begin structural work before any building could occur, said Alicea, who lives in Harlem. But a redesigned marine transfer station would be both an economic boon and a recreational destination for Harlemites.

"This was an international competition to spotlight this site that the Board has wanted developed for 10 years," Savona

SEE MARINE, page 3

OPINION, PAGE 4

Breathing between bites

Columnist Jessica Hills on setting aside time for meals

Give thanks

The Editorial Board talks about the impact of excellent teachers.



BASEBALL SUPPLEMENT

Baseball season is around the corner

Columbia's first game is less than a week away, and the Lions hope they can rebuild after falling short of an Ivy title a season ago.

EVENTS

Legacies of the Russian Avant-Garde

Examine the enduring heritage of Russian avant-garde works in a wide range of media.

1501 International Affairs Building, 9:00 a.m.

Spring Career Fair

Meet and network with representatives from numerous industries seeking employees and interns.

Lerner Hall, 11 a.m.

WEATHER

Today



46°/35°

Tomorrow



45°/28°



HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

GIVING ASSISTANCE | A teaching assistant instructs students in a metaphysics recitation section.

Course evals proposal to accommodate TA concerns

BY NINO REKHVIASHVILI
Columbia Daily Spectator

A University Senate subcommittee has reached a compromise that might bring Columbia one step closer to public course evaluations.

Opinions on making course evaluations public have been mixed, but for some, a particular sticking point has been the question of teaching assistants. Graduate students and some professors have expressed concern over the effects that public evaluations could have on teaching assistants' career prospects and development as teachers.

But members of the University Senate's Student Affairs Committee—which is pushing to make evaluations public—have decided to propose that TAs can opt out of having their evaluations made public. Course evaluations for all professors would still need to be made public.

SAC will likely present a public course evaluations resolution to the full senate later this semester. University Senator Sara Snedeker, BC '12 and co-chair of SAC's course evaluations subcommittee, said that the proposal now addresses hesitations that have been voiced by TAs.

Senators from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, whose constituents include many TAs, have "expressed concern over graduate student

proposals being made public in any way" because TAs are still learning how to teach, Snedeker said.

But even with the new compromise proposal, some TAs said they still don't see the advantage of releasing evaluations.

Nick Juravich, GSAS and a TA in the history department, said he fears that even if TA evaluations are not automatically made public, TAs could feel pressured to voluntarily disclose them, and that this pressure could distort their teaching.

"There's nothing wrong with incentivizing good teaching—that's a great idea," he said. "The harder question is, how do we evaluate in a way that helps turn TAs into good teachers without creating an impetus toward being a coddling, careful ... teacher?"

Some GSAS senators have argued that it would be unfair for TA evaluations to be public, since the evaluations could affect their future employment opportunities.

Nicholas Engels, GSAS and a TA in the philosophy department, questioned the need for publishing TA evaluations.

"Students don't know when choosing the course who their TA is going to be, and when they're in the course, they don't have the option of choosing their TA generally," he said.

Mike Woodsworth, GSAS and a TA in the history department,

said, "If there's such a desire among students to shop their TAs, why doesn't anybody do reviews on CULPA on TAs?"

Woodsworth was referring to the Columbia Underground Listing of Professor Ability, a website which contains student-written reviews of their instructors. The vast majority of the reviews are about professors, not TAs.

Snedeker said that although SAC has been discussing public course evaluations since September, there's a long way to go before the issue can be voted on by the senate or implemented.

"Even if the plenary were to approve the proposal, there would still be a lot of logistical things that would need to happen," she said. "So it's definitely a long term project."

If the final proposal is approved by the senate, the University would likely start by examining public course evaluations systems at peer schools and at the Columbia Journalism School, which shares quantitative course evaluations, in order to determine the best possible system.

Senators would also still have to determine which evaluation questions to make public, whether to restrict access to evaluations to students, and whether TAs would decide about publicizing their evaluations before or after the end of a class.

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AYELET PEARL / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ADVISORS | A committee of Barnard students will be advising Chief Operating Officer Greg Brown.

Barnard admin to consider council's input

FINANCE from front page

formed at the end of January, is scheduled to meet four more times this semester. It is composed of two first-years, one sophomore, two juniors, and one senior, as well as a mix of council and non-council members.

"I know that we have students

that will actually be involved next year," Brown said. "What we're trying to do is actually build a mechanism that's more permanent."

Ferrari said she found it "very touching" that Brown is taking student input into consideration before making financial decisions.

The first meeting "was pretty vanilla, but it set the stage for what should be really candid discussions with him," Ferrari said. "I think he wants us to be honest with him so there's no confusion when something is announced."

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ALPHA STANDARDS

The 5-Star Alpha Standards of Excellence Program, which was implemented this year, scored fraternities and sororities in five categories. Each category was worth 40 points, for a total of 200 possible points. Organizations earned five stars for 180-200 points, four stars for 160-179 points, and three stars for 140-159 points. Scoring below 140 could lead to an organization's charter being rescinded.

ACADEMICS

- No more than 10 percent of members can have GPAs of 2.50 or below (10 points)
- At least 25 percent of members must have GPAs of 3.50 or above (10 points)
- Sign and submit a Grade Release form (5 points)
- Hold a Balancing Academics and Leadership Enrichment Workshop (10 points)
- Chapter GPA must be above the non-Greek GPA for the year (5 points)

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND NEW MEMBER EDUCATION

- 60 percent of members should attend at least one leadership workshop sponsored by another organization (10 points)
- Submit all paperwork for recruitment and new member education (10 points)
- Attend regional and national leadership conferences and trainings hosted by national organizations (5 points)
- Attend all Residential Programs trainings (5 points)
- Complete Risk Management Educational Programs (10 points)

PHILANTHROPY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Raise minimum of \$60 or more per member each year through philanthropy (5 points)
- Organize one program or event per year to benefit a non-profit (10 points)
- Complete a minimum of 20 hours of community service per member per year (5 points)
- Attend at least one community service project as a group (10 points)
- Participate in InterGreek Council philanthropic or service events (10 points)

HOUSING AND CHAPTER MANAGERMENTS

- Chapters with housing only: Demonstrate good chapter management by establishing and meeting with an Alumni Housing Corporation (10 points)
- Have no violations of policy (chapters with housing: 10 points; chapters without housing: 15 points)
- Adhere to all university procedures and policies, as well as those of respective international or national organization (10 points)
- Submit all Full Recognition forms as required (chapters with housing: 10 points; chapters without housing: 15 points)

ACTIVITIES AND ALUMNI

- (10 points each)
- Have at least 60 percent of members involved in another registered Columbia University student organization
- Collaborate and plan at least 1 event each semester with another organization on campus
- Make efforts to reach out to alumni members
- Have a functioning alumni advisory board

INFORMATION COURTESY OF DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS/GRAPHIC BY CELINE GORDON AND SAMMY ROTH

Greek orgs with low scores could lose charters

ALPHA from front page

as the "outstanding chapter" at a recent awards dinner for students in Greek life.

"The only thing that it really did was formalize what we already had to do, like set hours of community service," Delta Sigma Phi President Sebastian Becker, CC '14, said. "We didn't have to make a big adjustment."

Asian-interest fraternity Pi Delta Psi received four stars and was two points away from five stars. Pi Delta Psi President Derrick Fu, CC '13, said that the formal appeal process was unclear.

"I reviewed submission with the board a few times and we decided that there was potentially a mistake," he said. "I emailed [Associate Director for Fraternity & Sorority Life] Victoria Lopez-Herrera, and they realized they had miscalculated. The mistake was corrected. We are a five-star organization."

"Mistakes like that are unavoidable," Fu added. "They really tried to make it a fair and judicial process."

Dean of Community Development and Multicultural Affairs Terry Martinez said in an interview earlier this month—before fraternities and sororities got their results—that if an organization received fewer than three stars, the committee reviewing the evaluations would recommend to Martinez that its charter be revoked. If this were to happen, Martinez said, she would meet with that organization and Dean of Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger before making a final decision.

Shollenberger said in a recent interview that he considers rescinding an organization's charter a "last resort."

"If it did get to that point, it shouldn't have been a surprise then to that group, because there would have been a process all along where they would have known where they might have been deficient," Shollenberger said. "We would

have put a plan together to help them improve."

"They would have been on probation, all of those things," Martinez added. "So it's not just based on this one piece of paper, without their involvement in the process."

Lopez-Herrera did not respond to multiple requests for comment. Fraternity presidents interviewed said they were not comfortable talking about other fraternities' evaluation results.

Martinez explained that one goal of creating the Alpha Standards was standardizing the information that administrators have about Greek organizations.

"I think they were rushed, could use a lot of improvement as far as specifics."

—Benjamin Ramalanjaona, CC '13, Beta Theta Pi president

"Part of it was for us to gather information that we just didn't have—how many programs were fraternities and sororities doing, what kind of leadership development was happening, what were their rosters like—that really wasn't consistent over time," Martinez said.

Becker said that the new program "definitely hasn't made anything worse," and if anything, has improved Greek life.

"I don't know what frats were doing before the standards were instated," he said. "There is more structure on the system, which is nice."

He credited the Alpha Standards with giving fraternities "the opportunity to get closer."

"In the beginning, everyone was like 'What the heck is this?'" Fu said. "But all of us rose to the challenge and met

the requirements and some took it a step further and became closer as organizations internally."

Still, Beta Theta Pi President Benjamin Ramalanjaona, CC '13, said that while the standards worked well overall, they could still be improved.

"I think they were rushed, could use a lot of improvement as far as specifics," he said. "A lot of things weren't made clear, and we had to talk to Victoria [Lopez-Herrera] directly to clarify some pretty basic points."

"It's documentation more so than changing things, but people scored lower because they didn't understand the rules," Ramalanjaona added. "Every single frat already has to fill paperwork for the North American Inter-fraternity Conference, but some fraternities are held to higher or lower than national standards by the Alpha Standards."

Interfraternity Council President Asher Hecht, CC '13, said in an email that "the new standards have definitely given the fraternities and sororities a much-needed jump start."

Ramalanjaona though, said that the Alpha Standards "maybe ... fragmented us a little bit." He also noted that he has talked to fraternity members at other universities, and said that the idea of evaluating fraternities is not exclusive to Columbia.

"I know there is something similar going on at Cornell, but it's much more intensive," he said.

Hecht said that Greek organizations will see the real benefits of the Alpha Standards over time.

"Having everything that happened over a year written down is a real tool in organizing a group like a fraternity, and one that I think people haven't had the chance to appreciate yet," he said in an email.

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Death notifications vary on case-by-case basis

PROTOCOL from front page

students. But he did not receive notification about Kwek, so he did not notify GS students.

Both Bu's and Kwek's deaths were covered by Spectator and Bwog, though only students in the School of Continuing Education received an email notification about Kwek's death. Shollenberger said in an interview this month that his office usually relies on campus media outlets to inform students, particularly in the case of a graduate student's death.

In the situation where Student Affairs relies on the campus media, Cowie said, "I feel like that's Columbia taking the easy way out."

"It only makes sense to notify everyone on campus. We come in contact with people from all different schools and the administration," Johnna Bratt, BC '15, said. Students at the same school as the deceased "are not the only ones to be affected, so they shouldn't be the only ones to hear about it."

But Jonathan Hofman, CC '14, is torn. "Ideally, when someone dies, I would like to hear about it, but at the same time, there's practicality," Hofman said. "If you announce every death, you create detachment. People may stop caring and not take it as seriously."

Shollenberger and Martinez said that making a University-wide email policy is "something

we would consider exploring in collaboration with the other schools."

For now, the case-by-case system works, Martinez said. After every student death, she said, "We really sit down and review and talk about it and debrief about how we can do this better, smoother, more community-oriented and what are the sensitivities about these issues. We do that every single time."

"We learn from every single instance," she said, "and so that helps us create additional steps or revise things."

Margaret Mattes contributed reporting.

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HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Q AND A | Holder answered questions submitted by audience members and posed to him by University President Lee Bollinger.

Holder does not take live questions at World Leaders Forum event

HOLDER from front page

down and submit them before the event began. Bollinger then posed questions to Holder.

One of Bollinger's questions concerned the United States Supreme Court's decision earlier this week to reconsider affirmative action. Bollinger was involved in defending affirmative action when the court declared it constitutional in a landmark 2003 case, and he said on Thursday that the court's decision to revisit the issue is "ominous."

Holder expressed support for affirmative action, saying that he "can't actually imagine a time in which the need for more diversity would ever

cease."

"Affirmative action has been an issue since segregation practices," Holder said. "The question is not when does it end, but when does it begin ... When do people of color truly get the benefits to which they are entitled?"

He added that as a Columbia student, he "saw diversity and interacted with people who had different views."

"People come from so many different backgrounds and bring so many different perspectives that the study of contemporary civilization is enriched by those people," he said.

Holder—who was appointed Attorney General in 2009 by

President Barack Obama, CC '84—also fielded a question about why the Obama administration has not yet shut down the American detention facility in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

"Congress wouldn't let us," Holder said. "President Obama came in and he said we want to close Guantánamo in a year, and here we are four years later."

During the event, several members of the Student Global AIDS Campaign protested Holder outside of Low. They criticized Holder's handling of a case involving Antonio Davis, an HIV-positive activist at risk of losing his paralegal license because medicinal marijuana was found in his system.

"We were trying to get the message across that this treatment is unjust and that it needs to change," SGAC co-president Amirah Sequeira, CC '12, said. "Our message for Eric Holder was that he needs to make sure that these charges are dropped."

Asked by Bollinger what he would like his legacy as attorney general to be, Holder said he wanted to be remembered as "a person who fought for justice, who tried to keep the Justice Department focused on great traditions that have always defined it."

Jeremy Budd contributed reporting.

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Redesign competition garnered overseas entries

MARINE from front page

Bailey-McClain, co-chair of CB9's economic development committee, wrote in an email. "The Board has wanted aqua-farming, hydroponics, mulching and seeding to take place at the site. This might help the effort."

The site of the old station is only accessible from a remote part of 12th Avenue, underneath the Riverside Drive viaduct and away from the hustle and bustle of Broadway.

"We wanted to ask, 'What will bring people back?'" Alicea said. "One interesting proposal created a dynamic performance space, and there's no performance space like that in that area of West Harlem."

According to Linearscape Architecture's website, Sym'bio'pia "is a prototype for dense urban environments where food can be locally grown year round in controlled symbiotic environments and distributed through existing networks of farmer's markets, grocery stores, and community

supported agricultural pick-up areas."

The competition, which began accepting proposals in October from architecture students and licensed professional architects with 10 or more years of experience, generated 98 entries from 16 countries.

While ENYA officials said that many teams originated from the New York metropolitan area, the competition also attracted entries from Iran, Italy, and Australia.

At an ENYA meeting on Thursday night, Alicea said that the jury—which included building and landscape architects, an urban planner, and a microbiologist—was looking for proposals that were both innovative and feasible.

"We didn't want all the entries to be about vertical farms, because that's not a solution," Alicea said. "We wanted a question—something that creates enough openness that you can pick and choose what it is."

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FILE PHOTO

THINKING BIG | Winners were chosen from among 98 proposals to redevelop the 135th Street space.

McCarthy's defense skills may hurt CU

OPPONENT from back page

coach Jesse Agel said.

Not only is McCarthy calm and collected on the court, but as one of the league's most talented defensive players. He poses a potent inside threat for the Light Blue. McCarthy ranks fourth in the Ivy League with 1.4 blocks a game, and also is a prodigious rebounder. The Lions' big men will have to do a good job of boxing him out if they hope to keep him in check.

"As all great shot-blockers, he possesses a natural ability and good timing. He has great length and good jumping ability," Agel said. "Andrew uses his quickness, smarts, and length to compete with big men like Mark Cisco."

"I have always had good timing blocking shots and I think my length surprises opponents at times. I gained some muscle last offseason which I think helped me get better defensive position on the block making it tougher for to score on me than earlier in my career," McCarthy said. "In regards to Cisco in particular, he is one of the few true centers in the league. He has a strong build and plays a very physical game which should prove to be a good challenge for a slither player like myself. He has been a very efficient player this year and is having an impressive junior campaign."

McCarthy also is one of Brown's most dangerous offensive weapons. While he is not their top scorer, his ability to score in double digits each game is a testament to his consistency. McCarthy has shot 52.4 percent from the field this season, the third-highest shooting percentage in the Ivy League.

"He's a vastly improved

player from where he was last year. He can score and block shots," Columbia head coach Kyle Smith said of the junior.

McCarthy's ability to put up a double-double each game has made him one of Brown's most valuable players. In the Bears' first matchup against Penn this season, McCarthy led all scorers with 20 points and added 12 rebounds. Last season, in the season finale against Columbia, McCarthy grabbed 10 rebounds and scored a career-high 21 points.

"He's a vastly improved player from where he was last year. He can score and block shots."

—Kyle Smith, men's basketball coach

Columbia will look to come out swinging offensively—as it did earlier this season against the Bears—hoping to put enough pressure on Brown's defense to shut down McCarthy and the Bears in Saturday's game.

"Columbia is efficient offensively and is led by an outstanding point guard in [junior Brian] Barbour, who puts a tremendous amount of pressure on any defense," Agel said.

However, if McCarthy can assert his dominance both offensively and defensively in Saturday's game, Brown will be able to play competitively against the Lions.

"We got to keep him off the boards, because that gives Brown a chance," Smith said.

Relay fencing system forces Light Blue to adapt

FENCING from back page

"The crucial thing to remember is that you inherit the situation of the previous bout, what that means is it's a running score," he said. "If a Columbia fencer, say, wins his first bout 5-3, well, then the next fencer starts his bout at 5-3 and goes to 10 touches. So you can start up a whole lot, or you can start with a lot of work in ahead of you, you can start down. So what really determines success in team

bouts is how the team functions together."

Aufrechtig believes the relay system favors teams with very strong mental and unselfish ability.

"It's really about focusing on the team, what's best for the team," Aufrechtig added. "If you let someone run too many points on you, it's game over."

Leahy and Kopecky both have faith in the Lions' ability to perform with the 45-touch scoring system.

"I have a lot of confidence

going into it because a lot of guys have a lot of experience at the national level with team competitions," Leahy said. "We're going to win or lose based on how we work together that day. So far, judging by Ivy League Championships and the rest of the season, the team's been functioning well, so I have high hopes for this weekend."

Last year, the women's epee squad won the gold medal at the event, while women's sabre earned silver. This year's

competition is expected to be much bigger, with Aufrechtig expecting around 23 different teams in all, but approximately 16 different teams per weapon. He confirmed that fencing powerhouses Princeton, Notre Dame, and St. John's will be present at the event.

The meet is scheduled to start at 8 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 26, at NYU's Jerome Coles Center.

Spencer Gyory contributed reporting.



FELIX SCHADECK FOR SPECTATOR

ON TOP OF THE WORLD | Led by senior epeeist Sean Leahy, the men's and women's fencing teams hope to find success at NYU.



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Why we should all ‘prendre une pause’ for lunch

This week Manuel, my friend from Lisbon, came to visit me in New York. It was his first time in the city, and in the United States, so we ran around the city trying to get a taste for both the tourist attractions and “real life” here.

This endeavor translated into a week of constant motion on foot and by subway, but there was one aspect of the visit over which we lingered: our meals.

One of the most immediately striking aspects of New York culture for Manuel was how quickly we eat. The first night he arrived, I cooked a big dinner for our friends from abroad. Within about 15 minutes, which I would place on the high end of the time-spent-eating-in-college spectrum, we had all cleared our plates. Except for Manuel, who continued to cut, chew, chat, and take a second helping.

The cultural differences in our approaches to food became a topic of conversation. He couldn’t grasp the concept of filling up a huge travel mug of coffee on the way out the door in the morning, as opposed to starting the day with an espresso at the kitchen table. Sitting and eating lunch at a desk, instead of taking a two-hour lunch break, sounded like solitary confinement. As I expounded on the virtues of street carts and disposable cups, and Manuel countered my arguments with the benefits of enjoying a long meal with friends, I was reminded of why I felt healthier when I ate in Paris, even if I was less aware of calorie and fat intake than I am in New York. In the efforts to lower the obesity rate, a huge emphasis is put on what we eat. But health should be equally defined in terms of how we eat.

Mayor Bloomberg’s initiative to combat obesity in New York manifests itself in calorie counts on menus and the infamous sugar tax. It’s hard to judge how much these specific policies are influencing people’s food choices. I value public education about nutritious, cost-effective options, especially for the populations that are most affected by obesity. At the same time, I think policy-makers need to place an emphasis on the systemic problems with the way people eat. In my experience, when meals are turned into a social activity, participants eat more slowly, consume less, and leave the meal feeling more energized than they would had they grabbed a power bar or sandwich and had lunch alone at a desk. I’ve also found that physically stepping away from the library or office for a period of time increases my energy level and efficiency upon returning. If I were to combine the time I spend on all of the “study breaks” I take to Gchat or text while I’m in the library, I would be better served by a solid hour spent socializing in person in the Diana or Cafe 212.

When I lived in Paris, the European “café culture” was a practice that was foreign at first, but one to which I slowly grew accustomed. Ordering a “café” (translated:



JESSICA HILLS

Urban Dictionary

an espresso) meant sitting with a friend or by myself for at least a half hour, while reading the newspaper or talking about politics, movies, or evening plans. One topic was off limits: schoolwork. The French expression “prendre une pause” inherently means to take a break from—to momentarily put a halt to—the daily grind.

But sitting and sipping is the antithesis of our New York “café culture”—if you could go so far as to call it that—which I would characterize by a finessed balance of running and gulping. Our meals, especially as students, are rushed, solitary ordeals consumed en route between class and library, babysitting and grocery shopping, club meetings and office hours. The concept of to-go food is as foreign to Europeans as eating salad after the main course is to Americans. When I reluctantly came back to the United States after seven months abroad, I told myself I was going to bring some of the “café culture” back with me. But that ideal quickly went down the drain when the reality of life in New York, and especially as a student, set in.

Policy makers need to place an emphasis on the systemic flaws that influence the way people eat.

For a week, though, while Manuel stayed with me, I was reminded of why I felt healthier—both physically and mentally—in Paris. Even if we were eating bagels or falafel in Washington Square Park, we sat for at least an hour, consumed our food slowly, and chatted between bites. His father, he told me, has a two-hour lunch break every day, during which he goes to a restaurant with colleagues, with whom talking about work is strictly forbidden.

There is a compromise between two-hour lunch breaks five days a week, which the American in me finds inefficient and excessive, and the intensity of the on-the-go culture that characterizes the majority of our food consumption. If Mayor Bloomberg wants to really change New Yorkers’ eating habits, he should consider initiatives that alter the systemic problem of the way we eat, such as encouraging offices to build lunch breaks into employees’ days at least a few days a week, or making “casual Fridays” into “lunch outside the office” days.

Now that Manuel has returned to Lisbon, will I stop taking my large coffee mug to-go? No. But as a health-conscious New Yorker, I will most certainly try to eat with friends more regularly, because my mental and physical health depend on it.

Jessica Hills is a Barnard College senior majoring in political science and French and Francophone studies. Urban Dictionary runs alternate Fridays.

A community united against discrimination

BY MALIHA TARIQ, RHONDA SHAFEI, AND MONA ABDULLAH

On Saturday, the Associated Press reported that the NYPD had been monitoring Muslim students on campuses across the New York metropolitan area, leaving the University Muslim community markedly distressed. We were disappointed that the NYPD targeted us strictly due to our religious beliefs. It was difficult to fathom that freedom could have been comprised at Columbia, an environment that was supposed to be a safe haven for us all. While shaken, the Columbia Muslim community grew stronger. Muslim students rallied together to share their concern and information on constitutional rights. We came together to support one another and to condemn the NYPD’s bigoted profiling during a time when we felt violated. Additionally, our Muslim Religious Life Adviser, Khalil Abdur-Rashid, fielded countless phone calls and organized impromptu meetings to ease the anxieties of worried Columbia parents and students.

On Wednesday, the University community at large grew stronger. In what can only be interpreted as a remarkable display of solidarity, Columbia affiliates of all ages, races, creeds, and colors filled Earl Hall auditorium for a town hall discussion on NYPD surveillance. Members of the Columbia Muslim Student Association sat beside students from various political, activist, and religious organizations. Barnard and Columbia administrators shared space with staff and faculty from the Mailman School of Public Health and SIPA. One after another, representatives from Columbia’s vibrant civil society affirmed support for the CU Muslim community.

These representatives underscored that NYPD surveillance is not a Muslim student issue—it is a campus-wide issue. It is an issue for any student, faculty member, or administrator who upholds the tenets of security, equality, and academic freedom. It is an issue for future parents, concerned about the precedent the NYPD is setting for the complete abrogation of civil liberties. It is an issue for any and all students of color, whose opinions and beliefs may run counter to those of a privileged establishment.

The diverse audience at Wednesday’s town hall is an indication that this community will not sit idly by as basic rights are trampled upon. This turnout is a

testament to the success that a broad-based coalition of concerned community members will achieve on this matter. It serves as a reminder to all frustrated Muslims that a 100-strong crowd of students from all backgrounds does not think that the NYPD is simply following leads or doing its “due diligence.”

Without a doubt, there are still many hurdles to jump. The Columbia community will not accept anything short of a University-wide email—sent from President Bollinger—condemning NYPD surveillance on Columbia’s campus to the fullest degree. We do not accept President Bollinger’s vaguely phrased statement to the press, hidden behind multiple layers on Columbia’s already hard to navigate website. We will not feel secure on this campus until the University receives full information on the degree to which Columbia’s campus was and is monitored. We demand that the administration wholeheartedly condemn the NYPD’s discriminatory practices.

Columbia is absolutely nothing without its vast multicultural core. Furthermore, the University cannot sustain its intellectual vigor in an environment that fosters fear, anxiety, and suspicion. We are confident that once Columbia administrators join the ranks of their Barnard colleagues—whose president Debora Spar expressed disapproval directly on Barnard’s website and sent it in an email to every student—it will put an end to the trepidation that plagues this campus.

The real threat this campus faces cannot be found in the NYPD’s 60-page report on its surveillance activities. We are at risk of shattering any remaining semblance of trust between students, Public Safety, and the University administration. While we continue to protect our community members, we expect our university to do the same.

Maliha Tariq is a Barnard College junior majoring in Middle Eastern studies and is the vice president of the Columbia University Muslim Students’ Association. Rhonda Shafei is a Columbia College senior majoring in history, and is the president of CIRCA and a member of CU MSA. Mona Abdullah is a Barnard College junior majoring in political science and is a member of Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine. This article was written on behalf of the CU MSA.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Profess your appreciation

This past Wednesday, the opinion feature, “The Canon,” posed the question, “Should Columbia give higher priority to teaching or research?”

The answer is complicated. We acknowledge that a person can both teach well and do excellent research, but it is hard to find faculty who do both. A good teacher will make the material fascinating, but may not receive a Nobel Prize. And while a Nobel laureate’s star power may inspire a student for the first few classes, it eventually wears off, and both the class and the material may lose their luster.

We recognize how difficult it is for an academic to make

an impact on students, but as undergraduates, we appreciate those who move us, who lead us to engage with the material, who make themselves accessible outside of class, who zealously prepare lectures, who challenge us, and who encourage our participation. We appreciate those who do it all—those whose passion leads them to success in their field and who know how to impart that same passion to the student.

We thank those who’ve inspired us: Marcellus Andrews, Alan Brinkley, Alessandra Casella, Susan Elmes, Erik Gray, Liza Knapp, Edward Mendelson, Carlos Montes-Galdon, and Alla Smyslova. We also thank the Society of Senior Scholars for its commitment to undergraduate education after the members’ retirement.

We encourage you to say thank you too: Nominate your professors for the Presidential Awards in Outstanding Teaching, and let their contribution be recognized.

Whither coeducation?

BY JULIE CRAWFORD

I started my job as a tenure-track assistant professor at the tail end of the last century. My first week at work, I was riding in the elevator with an older male colleague (since retired). “Do you know what was the best thing that ever happened to Columbia University?” he asked me. “No, what?” I asked, curious. “When they let women in,” he said, “It sure brightened the place up.” Among other things, this interaction, an exemplary instance of sexism-as-flattery, reminded me of how recent this history was, and how much work still remained to be done.

When Columbia officially admitted women students in the early 1980s—when my then-colleague was himself, perhaps, a bright young thing—the first coeducational class of Columbia College (the class of 1987) was 45 percent women. Shortly thereafter, and through today, women have made up half of the undergraduate student body at Columbia University—a nationally consistent average. It is thus striking to many of us that despite the fact that girls and women are as good—indeed usually better—students than boys and men through the highest levels of formal education, women remain so underrepresented in the faculty entrusted with their education.

In 1990, 30.8 percent of Columbia’s tenure-eligible faculty were women. The percentage rose to 33.3 by 2000. The percentage of tenured women faculty increased from 13.2 percent to 19.9 percent in that decade. By 2000, Columbia came in with numbers of 17 percent for female full-tenured professors, 33 percent for associate professors, 35 percent for assistant professors, and 62 percent for lecturers and associates. Given that the humanities are more likely to hire and tenure women professors, the proportional decrease in the number of humanities professors at the University, as a 2001 report by the Commission on the Status of Women pointed out, also adversely affects the percentage of women in faculty. Indeed the concomitant rise in University administrators—particularly high-ranking administrators, who are overwhelmingly both male and pale—also affects the gender story on Morningside campus. (The rise in administrators in proportion to faculty is something we should all be aware of because it affects us all. According to 2010 statistics, the Morningside campus has 1,385 members of the teaching faculty, and 3,288 administrators—a number that does not include support staff).

Despite the fact that girls and women are as good—indeed usually better—students than boys and men through the highest levels of formal education, women remain so underrepresented in the faculty entrusted with their education.

As of fall 2010, 27 percent of tenured faculty in the Arts and Sciences are women. The bright spot is that of those who are not yet tenured, but eligible for tenure, almost 40 percent are women (with both the social sciences and natural sciences showing impressive increases in numbers). These happy statistics are balanced by less clearly happy ones—women make up nearly 55 percent of teaching faculty who are not eligible for tenure (lecturers and adjuncts; some of these are stable jobs with benefits, others are not). Similarly, while the University has committed to a spectacularly diverse student body over the last several years, the faculty remains overwhelmingly white. In fall 2010, only 18.3 percent of tenured faculty and 21.7 percent of tenure-eligible faculty were minorities (Barnard, which as of 2011 has 49 percent women among its tenured faculty, only has 17 percent tenured minority faculty members). In 2004, President Bollinger, urged by a concerned group of faculty, created the post of Vice Provost for Diversity Initiatives, and that office helped bring a number of women and under-represented minorities to the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

Clearly Columbia has to commit resources and support for tenure-track women and minority faculty—many of whom provide a disproportionate amount of extra-classroom pedagogical and community support for our diverse student body (one of my friends calls it “representing”). There is no doubt whatsoever that coeducation changed higher education, and in celebration of 30 years of it at Columbia, it perhaps makes sense to expand what we mean by coeducation on our campus to include faculty as well as students. It also makes sense, I think, to celebrate what was the direct result of women’s activism with a call for further activism.

The author is the director of undergraduate studies in the Department of English and Comparative Literature and a member of the Executive Committee of the Institute for Research on Women and Gender.



HEIDI KELLER

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

Lions head to Ithaca for Ivy League Indoor Championship

BY MELISSA CHEUNG
Spectator Staff Writer

The Columbia men's and women's track and field teams will attempt to continue their recent success when they compete in their most important meet of the season, the 2012 Ivy League Heptagonal Indoor Track & Field Championships in Ithaca, NY.

"It's the first time we get to compete against the entire Ivy League at once," junior distance runner Mike Murphy said. "There are always some rivalries that come from it."

While meets before the Heps showcased some of the best squads in the nation, none were exclusive to the Ivy League schools, changing the dynamic of the events. The Heps, however, will feature only the Ancient Eight.

"It's a conference meet. It carries a lot more bragging rights, and the competitiveness is a lot greater," assistant coach Zach Richards said.

This past Saturday, the Light Blue competed in the NYU Division III Challenge. The tournament was the Lions' last meet before the Heps, where both the men's and women's sides posted promising results. Lions athletes turned out performances that broke Columbia and Ivy League records from this season.

"We don't bring anyone to the meet if they don't have the chance to score," Richard said. "Everyone has the opportunity to do something great."

Though both the squads will be heading into the Heps looking for first-place finishes, their situations will be different.

Unlike the women, the men will not be entered into every event, so they will be relying heavily on dominant performances in the events they do participate in. No matter the circumstances, assistant coach Will Boylan-Pett is confident that both squads will be ready for the biggest meet of the season.

"On the women's side, if they do their job, we'll have a shot," Boylan-Pett said. "And each event we are entered in on the men's side, we think we have a shot to win. We definitely have a shot to do what we want to do at the meet."

"We don't bring anyone to the meet if they don't have the chance to score."

—Zach Richards, Assistant Coach

With the weekend approaching rapidly, the Lions are gearing up for "what it all comes down to," as senior pole vaulter Jason Marks put it.

"We're trying to peak for this week," Marks said. "This is the one we train for. People are resting up and looking great."

As the 2011-2012 indoor season comes to a close with the Heptagonal Championships, Boylan-Pett put the meet into perspective.

"If Columbia's on the track," He said. "I expect them to go out there and give it their best and their all."

SPORTS BRIEFLY

MEN'S TENNIS

Columbia will take on Fairleigh Dickinson and Army this weekend. Despite losing its last two matches, FDU fields a talented international squad this season. Today's match against the Knights will feature Brazilian Yuri Grichenov, Slovakian Peter Svarka, and Latvian Arvis Berzins at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center. Junior Grichenov received first-team accolades in the North Eastern Conference last season, while classmate Svarka earned NEC second-team honors in doubles play. Freshman Berzins has been ranked as high as No. 10 in Latvia. In Saturday's match, West Point will pose a veritable threat with freshman Alex Van Velzer, who is the third-ranked player in Texas. Without a challenge from the newcomer, the Lions easily defeated the Black Knights, 6-1, in their match last year. However, that game took place on Columbia's turf and this Saturday's game will take place at West Point, where Army is currently unbeaten.

—Laura Allen

MEN'S SWIMMING

Fourteen members of the Light Blue head off to the 2012 East Coast Athletic Conference Swimming and Diving Open Championships, which begin today and go through Feb. 26. Assistant coach Gustavo Leal will coach the meet for the fourth time. "The team seems ready to go," Leal said. "This is their big meet of the year. It's a fast meet and the team will have to swim hard to make it back to the finals." Last year, the team finished in fifth place out of 22 teams with 308.5 points. This year, team members believe a top-three finish is possible as long as they swim well. In particular, the relay teams—the 200 free relay, the 400 free relay, and the 200 IM relay—have the potential to post strong performances. The ECAC championships kick off at 10 a.m. today with day one finals taking place at 6 p.m.

—Eric Wong

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

This weekend, while many of their teammates compete at Ivy League championships, the rest of the Lions will be representing Columbia at the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference championships. This year the meet will be hosted by Navy and held at Lejeune Hall in Annapolis, Md. today through Saturday. Last year, Columbia's squad placed 12th in a field of 22 teams. This weekend, the Lions will be one of 36 teams. While not the main championship of Columbia's season, the meet offers the attending swimmers a chance to gain invitational experience and to swim against a variety of quality competitors from the conference.

—Charlotte Murtishaw

LACROSSE

The Lions begin their season tomorrow against American in Washington, D.C. The squad notably won its first-ever Ivy League home game last year, defeating Yale 10-3. As the team continues to develop, it will rely heavily on the efforts of veteran junior attacker Kacie Johnson, the defending Ivy League leader in points and assists. She will be joined by two All-Ivy honorees on the defensive front: senior goalkeeper Karlee Blank and senior midfielder Taylor Gattinella. Returning players aren't the only key members of the squad. The newest Lion is assistant coach Katie Chrest, a member of the U.S. team that took the 2009 World Cup. Her experience includes assistant coaching at Loyola University Maryland. During her only year with the Greyhounds, they managed to take the 2011 Big East championship, finishing the season with a 17-3 record. Columbia will face Mount St. Mary's in its home opener this Wednesday at Robert K. Kraft Field.

—Laura Allen

WOMEN'S TENNIS

The Light Blue (5-1) will face the Maryland Terrapins on Sunday at Columbia's Dick Savitt Tennis Center. The Lions went 2-1 in their three matches last weekend at the Eastern College Athletic Conference tennis tournament, soundly defeating Dartmouth, 5-2. The Big Green is the defending Ivy League champ as well as the No. 53 ranked team in the nation. With a great boost in confidence from its win over Dartmouth, the Light Blue stands a good chance at beating another nationally ranked team in its matchup against the Terps, who currently hold a No. 51 national ranking. In order to pull off this back-to-back upset, junior Nicole Bartnik will have to continue her recent dominance at the No. 1 position. Bartnik crushed Dartmouth's Sarah Leonard 6-2, 6-1 and also took out Cornell's Sarah O'Neil last weekend, setting the tone for the team's two victories.

—Caroline Bowman

Winless in Ivies, CU searches for victories at home

BY MUNEEB ALAM
Spectator Staff Writer

The women's basketball team concludes its home schedule this weekend, searching for its first conference wins against Yale and Brown.

Both the Bulldogs and Bears are vying for the second spot in the Ivy standings behind dominant Princeton—a finish that would secure an automatic bid to the Women's National Invitation Tournament.

Columbia traveled to Yale and Brown only two weeks ago, losing to Brown in overtime and leading Yale well into the second half, before surrendering quick go-ahead runs to both opponents.

"I think in both games we probably did the best job we've done in terms of offensive execution," Lions head coach Paul Nixon said. "I think really focusing on trying to keep some of those runs under control has got to be our defensive mindset."

Junior guard/forward Tyler Simpson had 14 points and 10 rebounds at Yale, followed by a 26-point, seven-rebound performance at Brown.

"I think she found her openings within our offense and was able to

get to the rim," Nixon said. "I'm not exactly sure what to expect out of our opponents, but I know Tyler's looking to play the same way she has been and I think she's been doing a very good job for us."

"I know now they're going to guard me a lot harder, try to double me, and definitely not give me the same type of shots," Simpson said. "I've been working on getting different shots and crashing the boards at different times so I can create my own shots instead of the ones the plays create for me."

In losses to Princeton and Penn last weekend, the Lions were out-rebounded 93 to 48, and the Tigers and Quakers held a 44-7 edge in second-chance points.

Sophomore center Courtney Bradford said perimeter defense will be essential for defensive rebounding.

"I think that's something we need to continue working on, forcing their shooters to put the ball on the ground," Bradford said. "We can get shorter misses and be able to convert more rebounds and get more transitions."

Yale junior guard Megan Vasquez is the Ivy scoring leader at 18.7 points per game in conference play, and Yale narrowly trails Princeton for the Ivy

League lead in assists per game in conference play.

"I think it's really key with Yale to make sure they don't get really quick, easy looks in transition," Nixon said. "They like to shoot the ball off one or even no passes within their offense. For them to come down the floor and take a very quick shot is not unusual."

The Bears are coming off a week-end with mixed results. They first defeated third-place Harvard, 58-55, to extend their winning streak to four. Brown won the turnover battle, forcing 20 to Harvard's nine.

Saturday night, Brown fell to seventh-place Dartmouth, 57-52, after giving up a late, tiebreaking three-pointer. It won the turnover battle in that game as well, 23-16.

"It doesn't really matter what the score is, Brown is not going to go away," Nixon said. "If we're up by double figures, they're going to keep fighting until the end. They're going to keep trying."

"Our senior night, our last home game ... We're going to do everything in our power to get a win in that game," Nixon said.

Tipoff for both games will be at 7 p.m. in Levien Gymnasium.

Legacy of losing means CU suffers from cursed play

SHAPIRO from back page

The rest of the numbers speak for themselves. Apart from sharing a championship with Princeton in 1968, the men's basketball team has never won an outright title. Neither has the women's basketball team. The football program collected its first and only first-place finish in 1961, while Lions baseball has fared slightly better with seven total championships, but only two in the last 35 years.

My friends will tell you I'm the last person they'd expect to resort to calling a team, much less an entire athletics program, cursed. I'm not superstitious when it comes to sports. For instance, I don't believe mentioning that a pitcher is en

route to a perfect game hinders his chances of accomplishing that feat (case in point: Chicago White Sox pitcher Mark Buehrle's perfect game in 2009). "Premonition," "jinx," and, yes, "curse" are words I rarely associate with my love of sports. That is what has made Columbia so vexing to me and anyone else who has mulled our athletics program. It seems a curse has worked its way to being the most rational explanation. Now, I'm not sure what exactly the curse is or what started it, and, believe you me, I have no idea how to end it. If I knew these things I'd probably be running a palm reading shop in Times Square or picking stocks, not writing a column for Spectator. Call me crazy, but

something, or someone, has cursed our poor sports teams.

A curse makes perfect sense—it explains the unexplainable, justifies the unjustifiable, makes conceivable the inconceivable. But let me be clear: just because we may be cursed doesn't mean we're destined to spend eternity among the likes of the Chicago Cubs, LA Clippers and every Cleveland, Ohio sports team. Curses are meant to be broken, and so will ours in due time. Until then, with all its bumps and bruises, I, for one, am enjoying the ride.

Michael Shapiro is a List College senior majoring in history and modern Jewish studies.
sports@columbiaspectator.com

Willhite, McGonagill present challenge for CU

MEN'S BBALL from back page

selection averages 18.4 points and 9.9 rebounds per game—the best in the conference—the Lions limited him to 11 points and six boards in their last outing.

"In this league, coaches are so good we'll probably have to change things up," Smith said. "He's a good player—they'll look at the film and probably put in a few wrinkles."

Another threat posed by the Bulldogs will be senior forward Reggie Willhite, who scored a game-high 24 points against the Lions in their last contest. Smith finds it hard to prepare for Willhite's aggressive and scrappy play.

"He's an animal," Smith said. "He gets steals and he gets loose balls. It's hard to scout."

Smith's squad will likely be much more eager to relive memories of its last outing against Brown, a dominating 86-60 win and Columbia's most recent Ivy victory.

Despite the handy win, Smith doesn't worry about his team overlooking the Bears this weekend.

"As a coach you always say, 'Respect everyone but fear no one,'" Smith said. "And our team right now is not used to just rolling over people like it's nothing. Our guys, they know every possession matters, and they don't assume anything."

The return of the Bears' star sophomore point guard Sean McGonagill, who had been injured, may make this Saturday's game more competitive. McGonagill averages 13.9 points per game and 5.6 assists, both team highs. He scored 39 points a year ago as a freshman in his last game against the Lions.

With the end of their careers in sight, two seniors have had solid contributions of late and will likely see larger roles this weekend. Senior Blaise Staab started both games last weekend and scored 12 points in a losing effort against Princeton Friday night.

"We're going with Blaise," Smith said. "That gives us the best chance to win."

On the perimeter, senior guard Chris Crockett has come on of late as an outside shooting threat. The 5-foot-10 guard had 18 points on six three-pointers in the Lions' win over Brown two weekends ago and added a total of 20 points in the two games against Princeton and Penn.

"Chris Crockett has been coming on and doing well," Smith said. "He gives us a chance to win."

The primary scorers are not seniors, however, as point guard Brian Barbour leads the team with 15.2 points per game while sophomore guard Meiko Lyles and junior center Mark Cisco average 10.5 and 9.8, respectively. Cisco also ranks third in the Ivy League in rebounding with a team-high 8.1 boards per game in conference play.

If the last few games are any

indicator—eight of Columbia's 10 conference games have been decided by five points or fewer, with four of those decided by two points or less—both Friday's and Saturday's contests may come down to a few crucial plays at the end of the game.

Despite the Lions' recent run of tough losses, though, Smith has confidence in his team going into the weekend.

"Our guys are tough," Smith said. "We've just got to break through."

Tipoff for both games is at 7 p.m. on



ALYSON GOULDEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BLAISE OF GLORY | Senior forward Blaise Staab's efforts on the boards will be an important factor this weekend up against Yale's and Brown's big men.

PIXBOX

week # 6

- 1: Columbia at Yale (-5.5)
- 2: Cornell at Brown (+4.5)
- 3: Princeton at Harvard (-11.5)
- 4: Penn at Harvard (-11.5)
- 5: Missouri at Kansas (-1.5)
- 6: NBA All Star Game: East or West



Roar Lion
Ithaca
Not Lin
Oatmeal
Rock Chalk
I-95

You don't have to be funny if you're in first.

"Blammo! Another successful interaction with a man!" -Liz Lemon.

Columbia
Cornell
Princeton
Penn
Kansas
East



Michele Cleary (18-12)



Columbia
Cornell
Harvard
Harvard
Kansas
East

Ugh. It might be a good weekend for Harvard basketball.

Going for 2 straight perfect weeks...nbd

Lions
Big Red
Revenge
Quakers
Kansas
West



Ryan Young (18-12)



Columbia
Cornell
Princeton
Penn
Kansas
West

Kevin Love should be starting.

Glubes hit 3/5 free throws? Get this man suited up!

Sigh
Red
Orange
Crimson
Missouri
Eastside



Michael Shapiro (16-14)



Roar-ee
Cornell
Princeton
Penn
Kansas
East

Can we stop printing records for Jim's sake? #poorguy

North London is red! #COYG

Columbia
Not Brown
Harvard
Not Harvard
Misery
THE WIZZZ



Ronnie Shaban (15-15)



Lions
Cornell
Harvard
Penn
Kansas
West

I will be boycotting the All-Star Game by watching the Oscars.

If you know what the best part was, party at Bart's new place on Monday. We'll pretend it's a housewarming.

Big Apple
Providence
Beantown
Hahvahd
Red Ruby Slippers
East Coast



Victoria Jones (14-16)



Revenge
Big Red
Crimson
Quakers
Jayhawks
East FTL (For the Lin)

If second is the first loser, second-to-last is...?

Who else thinks Ron Washington shoulda received a best supporting actor nod for Moneyball this weekend?

Columbia
Cornell
Princeton
Penn
Mizzou
East



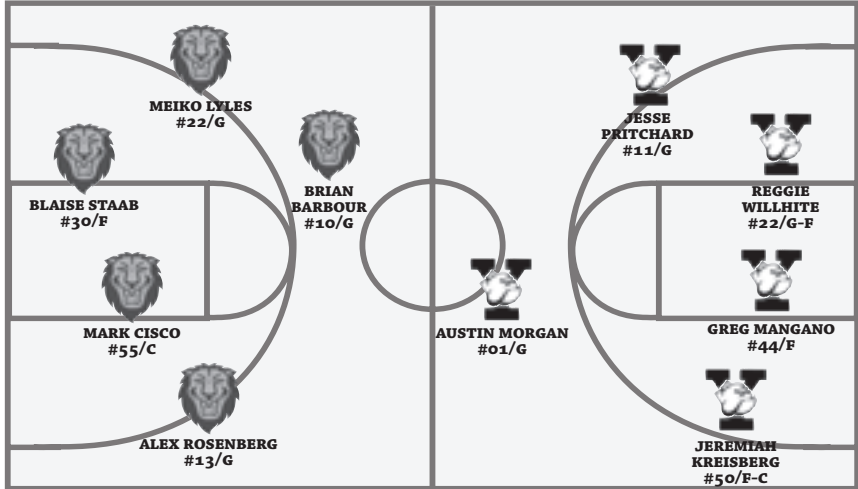
Jim Pagels (10-20)

STARTING LINEUPS

GAME 1:



AT



KEYS TO THE GAME

1

Be aggressive

Yale's tall frontcourt poses the biggest threat for the Lions, and to compete, Columbia's big men will need to be physical and aggressive. Yale is first in league with a rebounding margin of +5.5, and the Lions will have an uphill battle in keeping the Bulldogs from dominating the boards.

2

Composure

When Yale came to Columbia two weekends ago, the Lions had a 21-point lead in the second half, but lost 59-58. The Lions need to show composure and confidence in New Haven on Friday if they want to leave with a win, and if they take an early lead against the third-place Bulldogs, the Lions cannot afford to let it slip away.

3

Spreading the ball

Yale's big men give the Bulldogs less speed on the perimeter, and the Lions need to take advantage of that fact using their quick backcourt. Columbia's Brian Barbour, Meiko Lyles, and Chris Crockett will be key in helping the Lions spread the ball on the outside to open up shots from beyond the arc.

BY THE NUMBERS

POINTS PER GAME



REBOUNDS PER GAME



POINTS ALLOWED



FIELD GOAL PCT.



KEY MATCHUPS

Mark Cisco

Greg Mangano

Senior center Greg Mangano leads the league in both scoring and rebounding, and his versatility on the post and from midrange make him one of the biggest threats for the Lions. As Columbia's leading big man, junior center Mark Cisco will need to be physical against the taller Mangano to make a difference in the paint.



Meiko Lyles

Reggie Willhite

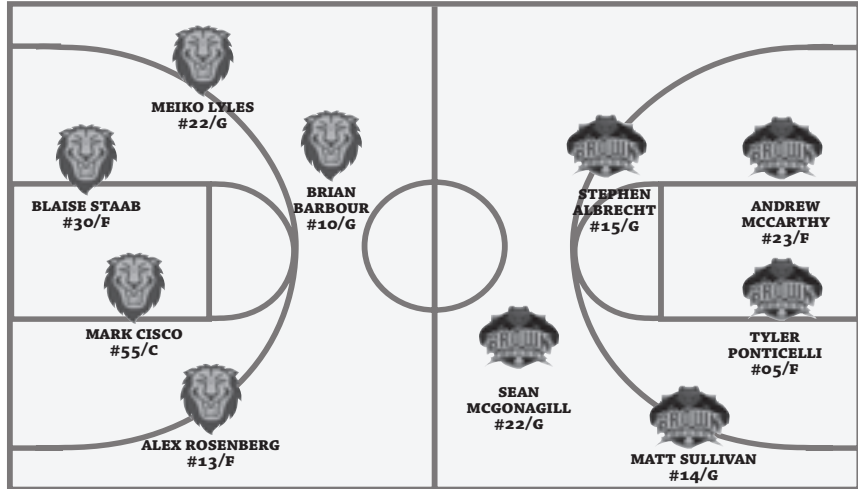
Last time the Lions and Bulldogs met, senior captain and forward/guard Reggie Willhite led all scorers with 24 points. While the Light Blue needs to focus on stopping Mangano, Willhite cannot go unmarked. Sophomore guard Meiko Lyles will be charged with defending Willhite, and Lyles will need to use his quickness to stay in front of Willhite.

STARTING LINEUPS

GAME 2:



AT



KEYS TO THE GAME

1

Stop the magic

Sean McGonagill will be back from injury and ready to compete on Saturday night against the Lions. As the Bears' leading scorer, McGonagill will be a threat from the outside. If the Lions can shut down Brown's perimeter shooting, they'll transfigure McGonagill into a nonfactor.

2

Rebounds

Last weekend, the Lions were outrebounded for the first time in league play this year when both Penn and Princeton beat the Light Blue on the boards. Against a backcourt-focused team like Brown, Columbia needs to assert its dominance on the glass, especially on the offensive end where boards can lead to extra points.

3

Focus

When the Bears came to Levien Gymnasium earlier this season, the Lions won handily by 26. Though the Bears are at the bottom of the table with Dartmouth, the Lions cannot overlook Saturday's game. Headed into the last weekend of play, a win at Brown will add needed momentum to Columbia's struggling season.

BY THE NUMBERS

POINTS PER GAME



REBOUNDS PER GAME



POINTS ALLOWED



FIELD GOAL PCT.



KEY MATCHUPS

Blaise Staab

Andrew McCarthy

Junior forward Andrew McCarthy is the Bears' leading big man, and he is sure to challenge the Lions on the boards and at the post on Saturday. Senior forward Blaise Staab, who asserted his presence on the glass last week at Princeton, will get the start again this weekend, and he'll need to work to limit McCarthy's rebounds.



Brian Barbour

Sean McGonagill

Two of the highest scoring guards in the league will face off when junior Brian Barbour (15.2 points per game) and sophomore Sean McGonagill (13.9 points per game) meet on Saturday. Barbour will need to make sure last season's Rookie of the Year does not get separation on the perimeter, or McGonagill will surely make the Lions pay.



GAMEDAY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24 • PAGE 8



COLUMBIA (14-12, 3-7 Ivy) at YALE (17-7, 7-3 Ivy)

FRIDAY, 7 P.M., NEW HAVEN, CONN.

RADIO: WKCR 89.9 FM, WWDJ 970 AM
SPECTRUM.COLUMBIASPECTATOR.COM



COLUMBIA (14-12, 3-7 Ivy) at BROWN (7-20, 1-9 Ivy)

SATURDAY, 7 P.M., PROVIDENCE, R.I.

RADIO: WKCR 89.9 FM, WWDJ 970 AM
SPECTRUM.COLUMBIASPECTATOR.COM



Cursed sports cause Lions' teams' struggles

Stop! Forget everything you know about sports. Check your Lit Hum and CC-inspired rationalism and expansive knowledge of Columbia athletics at the door. Just wipe your minds blank like a witness in a “Men in Black” movie. Done? Good. Now consider this:



MICHAEL SHAPIRO

Turn Up the Mike

Most Columbia students, if asked for the quintessential perception of Columbia sports, would probably say, “They suck.” Others would simply chuckle and change the topic. This used to be me, but not anymore. Because as I watched the men’s soccer team fall one goal short of an Ivy title, the football team complete a 1-9 season, and the men’s basketball team blow a 20-point lead to lose to Yale, I formed another conjecture: Maybe the teams don’t suck—maybe we are just cursed.

Think about it.

For many years I was just like you, a hopeful Columbian not quite able to wrap my head around our humble athletics program. I often wondered, like we all have, if Columbia would ever be known as a premier sports school. My mind was plagued with recurring questions: Why, oh why can’t our damn football team just have one winning season? Will the basketball team ever make March Madness? Will fencing, men’s tennis, and archery forever be our school’s only shining stars?

Naïve and optimistic as we all can

The teams don’t suck— maybe we are just cursed.

be, I’ve been suckered into believing that a simple quick fix or even a fundamental reform would bring change we can all believe in. Yet every criticism has been taken into consideration, every seeming improvement has been attempted, and all worthwhile reforms have been implemented—to no avail. And we’ve tried everything—coaching changes, roster adjustments, recruiting mix-ups, and even uniform swaps. We’ve built and continued to build state-of-the-art athletic facilities, added new teams, and distributed a whole lot of free beer and T-shirts. We’ve tried just about everything short of my colleague Zach Glubiak’s suggestion to enlist a real lion as a mascot. All efforts have been unable to change our losing ways.

You may be wondering about the difference between a bad sports school and a cursed sports school. It’s actually quite simple. A college that is merely bad at sports tends to lack the resources or interest necessary to bring home trophies. Given adequate funding, facilities, and dedication, however, these programs have the potential to succeed. A cursed school does not, no matter what you change. This is the case for Columbia, a university that annually spends upwards of \$19 million on athletics, has ample equipment and sports facilities, and supports 29 men’s and women’s varsity teams competing in a division comprised of just eight teams, all of which are restricted from granting athletic scholarships. We have the money, we have the teams, we have the facilities, and we have as fair an opportunity as any other Ancient Eight school to win championships.

Yet despite all this, Columbia athletics has only shelved a total of 87 Ivy titles since the Ivy League officially began in 1956. For those of you keeping score at home, that ranks us dead last in the conference and 30 titles behind the next closest school (Brown).

SEE SHAPIRO, page 3



KATE SCARBROUGH / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ALPHA LION | Junior guard Brian Barbour will look to continue his success in games at Yale and Brown this weekend.

McCarthy’s inside presence poses threat for Lions’ big men

BY HAHN CHANG
Spectator Staff Writer

As Columbia enters its final road trip of the season, the Lions look to break their three-game losing skid in games against Yale and Brown. The Light Blue’s last victory came against Brown on Feb. 10 as the Lions dominated offensively, scoring 47 points in the first half alone. Brown lost earlier this month to the Light Blue due in large part to the struggles of their big man, 6-foot-8 junior forward Andrew McCarthy. McCarthy, who has averaged 10.3 points per game and is third overall in the Ivy League with 7.5 rebounds per game, could not jump-start the Bears and was limited to just one point and five rebounds in the loss.

“I played well last year and played

poorly a few weeks ago,” McCarthy said in an email. “This year we came into Levien severely hampered by injuries and were not ready to compete and the results showed it.”

However, McCarthy hasn’t let one off night affect his desire to come back to secure a win for the Bears.

“I think having our point guard Sean McGonagill back will help us a lot and we feel we have come a long way since that game. I’m looking forward to the matchup and hopefully will have a good showing both personally and team wise,” McCarthy said.

“Andrew is an easygoing young man on the court. He’s someone with high energy, and his personality is transferred to the court where he stays on an even keel,” Brown head

SEE OPPONENT, page 3



FILE PHOTO

BEAR IN THE PAINT | Brown junior forward Andrew McCarthy (#10) leads the team in rebounding, and will look to control the boards in Saturday’s game.

Columbia heads to NYU for US championships

BY MRINAL MOHANKA
Spectator Staff Senior Writer

The Ivy League Championships may be over, but the Columbia men’s and women’s fencing teams have NCAAs on the horizon. However, prior to regional qualifiers for Nationals next month, the Lions will be traveling downtown to NYU’s Jerome Coles Center on Sunday for the United States Collegiate Fencing Squad Championships.

Head coach Michael Aufrichtig believes his team has moved past the performance at Ivies, where the men finished third and the women placed second.

“We had a feedback session right afterwards and everybody’s excited the way things are progressing, and disappointed because you always want to win,” he said. “But since then we’ve been having solid practices and, all in all, everybody’s really positive and ready for what we call the championship part of the season.”

Senior epeeist and captain Sean Leahy echoed the sentiment and credited his teammates’ focus.

“So far at practices it’s been a good feeling, but we still mostly feel like we have a lot of work ahead of us,” Leahy said. “As good as that result is, it’s not the end of the season, and frankly there are bigger challenges ahead. Obviously regionals—we want to qualify 12 fencers for NCAAs. With that in mind we’ve still been working hard.”

The event will take place in an Olympic-style 45-touch relay system, which is completely different from college fencing.

“I love the Weapon Squad Championships because it’s what fencers are traditionally used to—it’s team format the way we compete nationally and internationally,” junior epeeist Lydia Kopecky said. “What’s really great about this kind of tournament is that it’s a chance to really focus on strategy and outsmarting other teams more than having to win every single bout in order to get that 14-13 win.”

Leahy explained the important differences between the relay system and college fencing.

SEE FENCING, page 6

Lions try to rebound at Yale, Brown

BY ZACH GLUBIAK
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

With only four games left in the 2011-2012 campaign, Columbia (14-12, 3-7 Ivy) heads on its final road trip this weekend when it takes on Yale (17-7, 7-3 Ivy) Friday night and Brown (7-20, 1-9 Ivy) the next day.

The Lions will be looking to regain some momentum, coming off a heartbreaking 61-59 loss to Penn in overtime that came exactly a week after a 59-58 loss to Yale in Levien Gymnasium.

That contest against Yale saw the Light Blue dominate for the first 30 minutes, taking a 51-30 lead with 11:30 to go before the visiting Bulldogs rallied to take the win. In spite of those close losses, head coach Kyle Smith’s message to his team is clear heading into the final stretch.

“Quit or get better,” Smith said he told his players. “You’re either going to cash out or get better, and there’s no doubt in my mind these guys will keep competing. The tendency is to feel sorry for yourself, but if you feel sorry for yourself, you get beat again.”

Saturday night, the Lions will need to contend with Yale’s size, epitomized by star big man and senior Greg Mangano. Though the first-team All-Ivy preseason

SEE MEN’S BBALL, page 6

THE SLATE



MEN’S BASKETBALL
at Yale
New Haven, Conn.
Friday, 7 p.m.



MEN’S BASKETBALL
at Brown
Providence, R.I.
Saturday, 7 p.m.



WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
vs. Yale
Levien Gymnasium
Friday, 7 p.m.



WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
vs. Brown
Levien Gymnasium
Saturday, 7 p.m.



MEN’S TENNIS
vs. Farleigh Dickinson
Dick Savitt Tennis Center
Friday, 2 p.m.



MEN’S TENNIS
at Army
West Point, N.Y.
Saturday, 1 p.m.



TRACK AND FIELD
Ivy League Heptagonal
Championship
Ithaca, N.Y.
Feb. 25-26



WOMEN’S TENNIS
vs. Maryland
Dick Savitt Tennis Center
Sunday, 1 p.m.



**MEN’S SWIMMING
AND DIVING**
ECAC Championship
Annapolis, Md.
Feb. 24-26



**WOMEN’S SWIMMING
& DIVING**
ECAC Championship
Cambridge, Mass.
Feb. 23-25



LACROSSE
at American
Washington, D.C.
Saturday, 12 p.m.



FENCING
United States Weapons
Squad Championship
New York, N.Y.
Sunday, all-day

Malcolm X:

47 years after death, he's still making an impact in Harlem

BY EMILY NEIL
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Who is Malcolm X? Radical or visionary? Or both?

Though it has been exactly 47 years since he drew his last breath at the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem, Malcolm X's life and legacy continue to affect many in the Harlem and Columbia communities. His namesake street, Malcolm X Boulevard, lies at the center of the stores, schools, and homes of West Harlem, and he still serves as a cultural anchor and a political and moral inspiration with enduring power and direct relevance in modern America and throughout the world.

In his honor, the New York Public Library's Malcolm X collection, which includes everything from recordings of his speeches to diary entries, is currently on display at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. By popular demand, the center has extended the exhibit through March 8. Clearly, Malcolm X is just as intriguing a figure today as he was in the 1960s.

This past Tuesday, Feb. 21, the anniversary of his assassination, community members filled the Schomburg's Langston Hughes Auditorium to learn more about the man behind the iconic figure at a reading forum titled "The Indelible Influence of Malcolm X."

At the forum, host of local cultural and academic leaders presented readings from his unpublished works and correspondence, including radio host Esther Armah, hip-hop and spoken word artist Bryonn Bain, author of the bestselling memoir, "A Long Way Gone, Memoirs of a Boy Soldier" Ishmael Beah, and the Schomburg's own director, Khalil Gibran Muhammad, among others.

The Schomburg hoped the letters would frame the ideological thoughts and personal development of Malcolm X, oftentimes a controversial figure, and ground him in descriptions of his most human qualities. The audience was able to laugh at the young Malcolm, who writes nearly identical letters to two girls from home, asking them to send him a picture of themselves and begs them to respond soon and hear the gentle care and love with which he addresses his brother and expresses concern for his siblings. They listened in as he told his wife Betty in a letter to her written close to the end of his life, "Always mediate. Try to bring people together." Farah Griffin, a professor of English and Comparative Literature and African American Studies at Columbia, treated the audience to a reading of a letter Malcolm X penned to his friend in (sporadically) rhyming verses, and in which he states, "Only poetry can fill the vast emptiness created by man."

The quiet moments and subtle details of Malcolm's personal and intellectual life captured in his letters create a more complete portrait of Malcolm: a dynamic, compassionate, imperfect individual, who faced struggles within himself as well as the world in his desire to fight racism, which he referred to as "the world's most explosive evil."

The audience clapped and cheered when the writer Darryl Pinckney read out notes that Malcolm X had made for his "Ballot or the Bullet" speech in Detroit in 1964, including his criticism of the hypocrisy of America "posing as leader of the free world, and you over here singing 'We Shall Overcome.'" His summarizations were stark, succinct, and cut straight to the heart of many issues, such as when he noted, "Negroes put Dems first, Dems put Negroes last," a statement which resonated with the audience Tuesday.

Griffin, who was "humbled and honored" to participate at the Indelible Influence event, finds much that is personally relevant in Malcolm X's story, and sees his legacy as a living element both in Harlem and at Columbia.

"Malcolm's influence on me is immeasurable. He was a hero in my childhood. I admire his brilliance and his humanity. His potential for growth inspires me," Griffin wrote in an email.

"Malcolm's legacy runs deep in Harlem and throughout Black America with people as diverse as Clarence Thomas and President Obama claiming to have been influenced by him. He is a revered ancestor figure for many in Harlem," Griffin said, adding that Malcolm X's connection to Columbia is very strong, whether it is through the late professor Manning Marable's landmark biography on Malcolm X, the lounge titled in his name, or the role his writings and speeches fulfill in the syllabuses of many Columbia courses.

Many others speak to the significance of the many transformations Malcolm X experienced throughout his life.

Imam Khalil Abdur-Rashid, Columbia's Muslim life religious adviser and PhD student, said that as someone who "grew up in the ghetto," and experienced the difficulties of life in that environment, Malcolm X provided a powerful message and example of hope. He sees Malcolm X's growth as a leader as inspiring and an "amazing transformation, for someone who used to be a drug dealer."

"He shows the value of never giving up. To never lose hope. Malcom never lost

hope," Abdur-Rashid said, adding that Malcolm preached, "Be strong enough to fight for what you believe in. Never be a victim."

"He's a great example of someone who stood for justice and experienced an incredible transformation," Abdur-Rashid said. "Malcolm had an unwavering commitment to justice."

For Abdur-Rashid, Malcolm X is also very significant to his own family. The Muslim leader's speeches were the reason that Abdur-Rashid's father converted to Islam, even though they had ties to another famous African American civil rights leader—Abdur-Rashid grew up in Atlanta, Ga., and his father worked alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the civil rights movement, even studying the Bible with him every Sunday.

Abdur-Rashid explained that although his father agreed with Dr. King's long term vision for the civil rights movement, he was drawn to the "personal fuel" of Malcolm X, and "inspired by his aggressiveness."

Ultimately, for Abdur-Rashid, it was Malcolm X's cultivation of an "openness to the truth" that was unique and essential in his growth as an individual and as a leader. "Malcolm valued truth and justice. That was what he was comfortable with. I am a follower of Malcolm as he was at the end of his life," Abdur-Rashid says. "He embraced everyone."

Mark Harding, executive director of the Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Education Center, located at the former site of the Audubon Ballroom and Malcolm X's assassination, also feels that Malcolm X's message is universally meaningful for people of many different cultures and religions, with particular importance for the African American and Muslim communities.

"He had a rhetoric that was able to cut through all the nonsense and make things plain," Harding explained, adding, "Malcolm X's message was twofold. On the one hand, it was talking to the people who were perpetrating racial injustice. On the other hand, it was talking to the people who were victimized ... and asking them to not let victimization corrupt them and to be strong in their community."

"He had a rare ability to see power relations as what they really are and have the guts to stand up and say this is wrong, things have got to change," Harding said.

Harding feels that the Memorial Center is important in the community, as it continues to uphold Malcolm X's knowledge and memory in its exhibits and programs. The Memorial Center seeks to provide educational resources to the surrounding community, particularly for schoolchildren, although he said that this is "a long-term process because a lot of the young kids don't have the educational access to know about Malcom X, let alone the civil rights movement." Education, Harding said, is fundamental in both preserving and developing Malcolm X's vision.

It is not just schoolchildren who can learn from Malcolm X's work. Particularly in light of recent discussions on the NYPD surveillance of the Muslim Students Association, it is evident that questions of religion and race are still not resolved on the University campus.

Samiha Rahman, former vice president of the Muslim Students Association and CC '12, organized a panel in February 2010 with the Black Students Organization that focused on Malcolm X and the African American Muslim experience. For Rahman, there is much for Columbia students to learn from Malcolm X: the value of education and the relevancy of examining domestic civil rights within the international human rights discourse.

"Malcolm X's inspirational call for knowledge of self shapes my understanding of education as a powerful tool for liberation and community empowerment as a means of establishing social justice. His ability to draw parallels between oppression in the United States and in the Middle East and Africa is a reminder that the fight for human rights must be waged internationally and collectively by people of the world. His inspiring leadership and rousing speeches serve as models for how to serve, empower, and mobilize one's community," Rahman wrote in an email.

Harlem residents also continue to look to Malcolm X as a source of encouragement and inspiration.

"For me, Malcolm X represents the picture of a very sensitive, concerned, personal human being, with so much love for others. His legacy and directness has helped to shape and mold so many others," said Chloe Cameron, a Harlem resident who attended the Schomburg's event.

SEE MALCOLM X, page B3

Best of

Late Night Food

Do you often find yourself up until two in the morning studying with a fierce need for something to eat? Weekend presents four of Upper West Side’s best late-night eateries—all open long after John Jay’s 8 p.m. closing time—to satisfy any nocturnal cravings. —BY JENNY PAYNE AND ISAAC JOHNSON

Subconscious

For a cheap but substantial evening snack, head to Subconscious, a 24-hour sandwich shop appropriately named for the night owls looking to eat at 3 a.m. Just a short walk from campus at 120th and Amsterdam, Subconscious offers its patrons all kinds of sandwiches, from pepper-cracked turkey to a classic B.L.T. to a variety of vegetarian options. Sandwiches your style? Subconscious also offers an extensive salad bar and soup options.

Café Lalo

Known as the spot where Meg Ryan meets Tom Hanks in the 90s romantic comedy “You’ve Got Mail,” European-style coffee and dessert shop Café Lalo has become regarded as one of the best places in the city to satisfy an evening sweet tooth. Though a bit of a trek off campus at Amsterdam and 83rd, Café Lalo is an excellent choice for a 4 a.m. cappuccino run and a slice of chocolate peanut butter mousse cake—just one of many from over 100 dessert options.

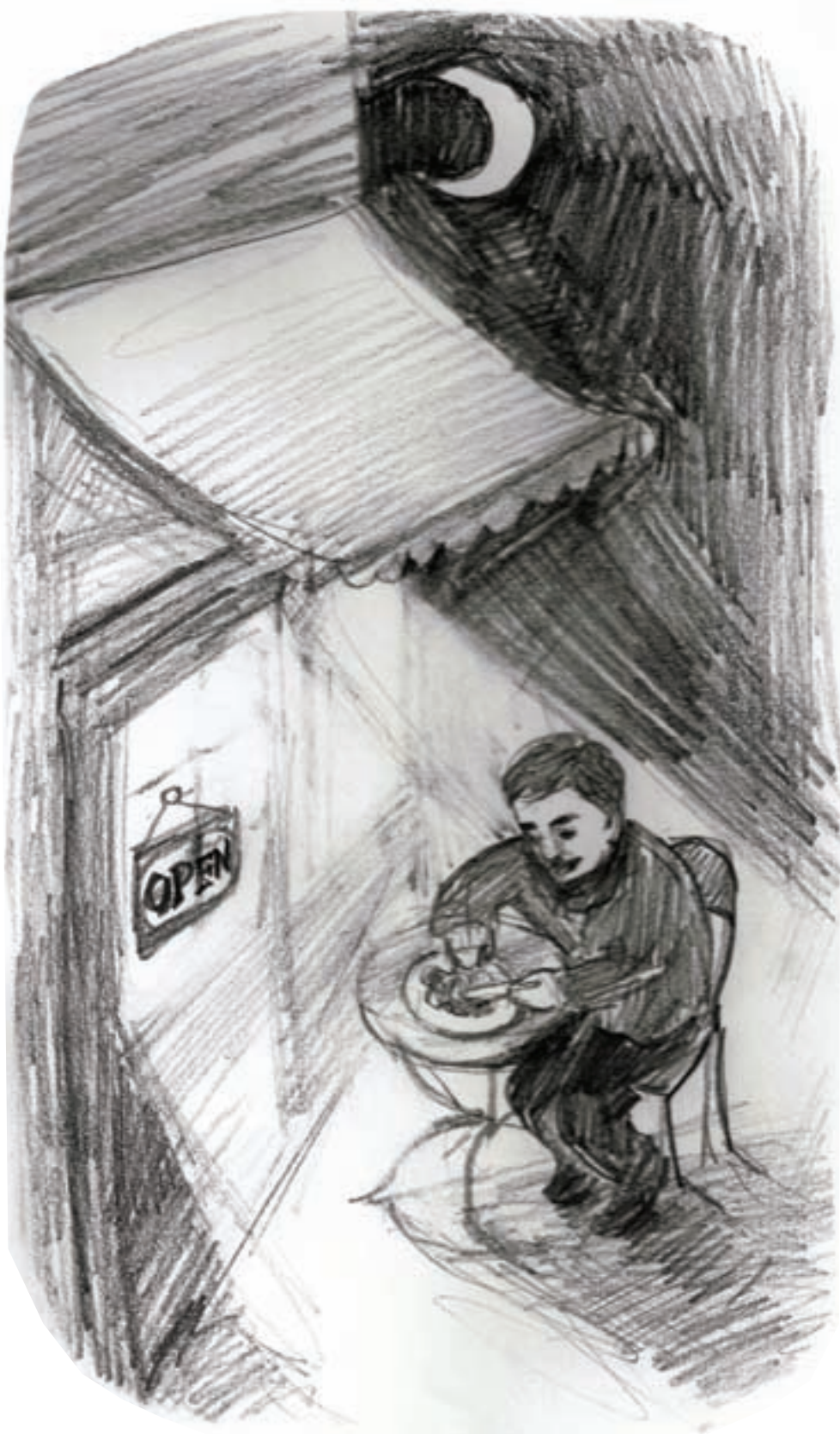


ILLUSTRATION BY IONE WANG

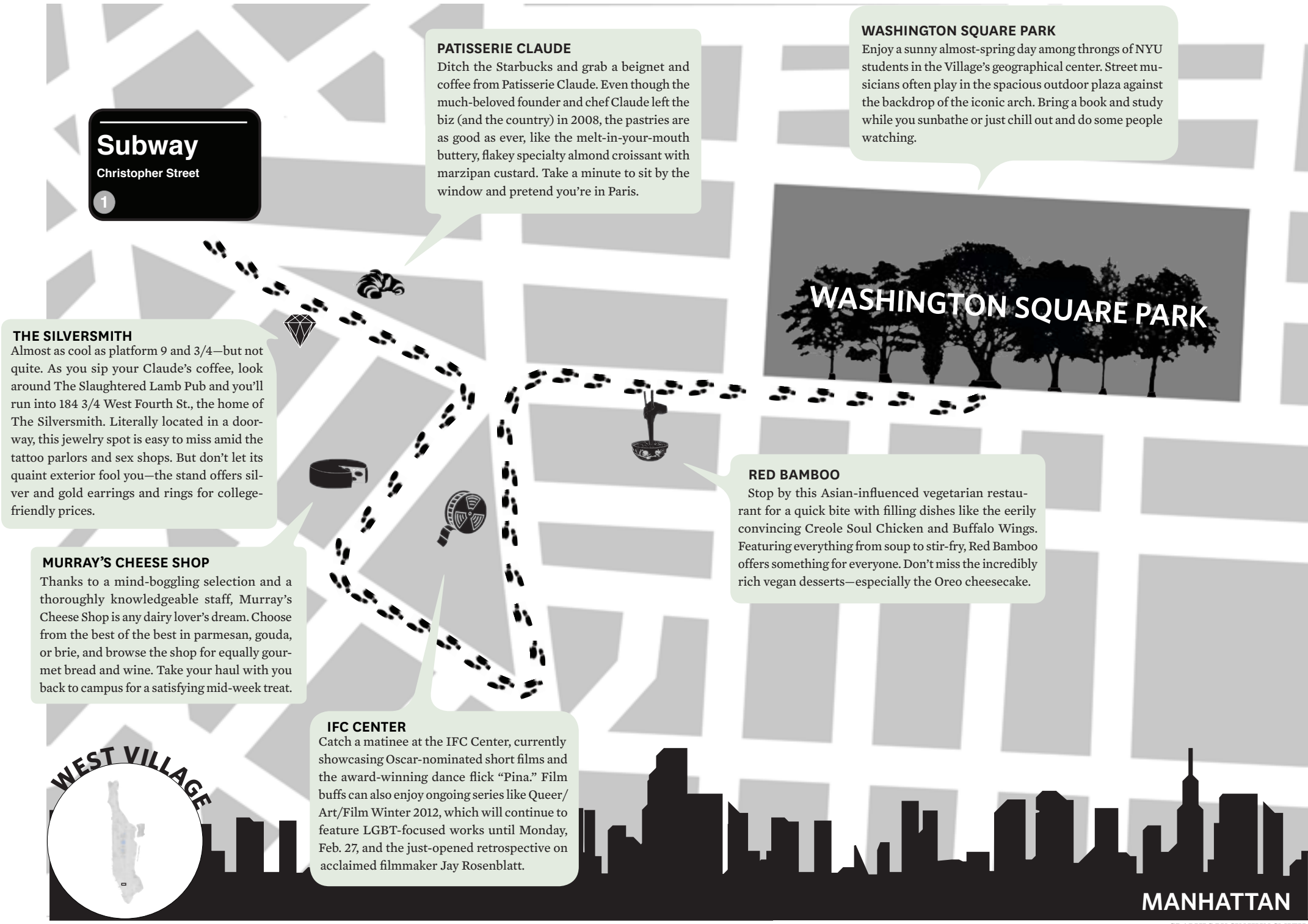
Insomnia Cookies

With locations in both Greenwich Village and the Upper West Side (420 Amsterdam Ave., between 79th and 80th streets), this late-night bakery is close to the heart of many college students for its late hours and fresh-out-of-the-oven confections. A quick ride on the 1 train brings ravenous Columbians within a block of this purveyor of Double Chocolate Mint cookies and ice-cold milk. Even better, the treats are a steal at \$1.25 each.

Planet Sushi

Planet Sushi is the ideal place to procrastinate on that CC paper via a late night fix of raw fish. Located at 380 Amsterdam Ave. between 78th and 79th streets, this “only in NY,” UWS ode to quality convenience serves up fast, reasonably priced, and fresh cuts of salmon, toro (fatty tuna), and eel until 2 a.m. on weekdays and 3 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. In a laid-back atmosphere, standout specialties include Queen’s Roll—a crunchy toro with caviar—and Japanese Pizza with crunchy tuna, avocado, onion, and a sweet sauce. Waiters are even sometimes known to give out complementary items.

Neighborhood Watch



Subway
Christopher Street

1

PATISSERIE CLAUDE

Ditch the Starbucks and grab a beignet and coffee from Patisserie Claude. Even though the much-beloved founder and chef Claude left the biz (and the country) in 2008, the pastries are as good as ever, like the melt-in-your-mouth buttery, flakey specialty almond croissant with marzipan custard. Take a minute to sit by the window and pretend you’re in Paris.

WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK

Enjoy a sunny almost-spring day among throngs of NYU students in the Village’s geographical center. Street musicians often play in the spacious outdoor plaza against the backdrop of the iconic arch. Bring a book and study while you sunbathe or just chill out and do some people watching.

THE SILVERSMITH

Almost as cool as platform 9 and 3/4—but not quite. As you sip your Claude’s coffee, look around The Slaughtered Lamb Pub and you’ll run into 184 3/4 West Fourth St., the home of The Silversmith. Literally located in a doorway, this jewelry spot is easy to miss amid the tattoo parlors and sex shops. But don’t let its quaint exterior fool you—the stand offers silver and gold earrings and rings for college-friendly prices.

MURRAY’S CHEESE SHOP

Thanks to a mind-boggling selection and a thoroughly knowledgeable staff, Murray’s Cheese Shop is any dairy lover’s dream. Choose from the best of the best in parmesan, gouda, or brie, and browse the shop for equally gourmet bread and wine. Take your haul with you back to campus for a satisfying mid-week treat.

RED BAMBOO

Stop by this Asian-influenced vegetarian restaurant for a quick bite with filling dishes like the eerily convincing Creole Soul Chicken and Buffalo Wings. Featuring everything from soup to stir-fry, Red Bamboo offers something for everyone. Don’t miss the incredibly rich vegan desserts—especially the Oreo cheesecake.

IFC CENTER

Catch a matinee at the IFC Center, currently showcasing Oscar-nominated short films and the award-winning dance flick “Pina.” Film buffs can also enjoy ongoing series like Queer/Art/Film Winter 2012, which will continue to feature LGBT-focused works until Monday, Feb. 27, and the just-opened retrospective on acclaimed filmmaker Jay Rosenblatt.

MANHATTAN

GRAPHIC BY SINJIHN SMITH

For high-end bargain hunters, Barneys is the place to be

They say New York is the city that never sleeps, and its fashion doesn't seem to take a break either. Just as the madness of New York Fashion Week wound down, Barneys opened its doors for its highly anticipated biannual Warehouse Sale—a name that will send some dedicated shoppers' hearts aflutter.

Every fashion lover considers Barneys an institution: The luxury department store displays trendy, funky designers such as Alexander Wang and Proenza Schouler as well as more iconic labels like Prada and Lanvin, attracting a wide clientele that ranges from Upper East Side housewives to the funky downtown set.

When it comes to sales, Barneys is pretty much Mecca: The retailer knocks 75 percent off every designer that matters, with continual markdowns as the sale goes on. The Warehouse Sale is the go-to savings event for those who want discounts on coveted designer fashions from last season, or, even better, overproduced on-trend items.

If there's anything I've gleaned from prior experiences at this sale, it's to show up early (the line started forming last Thursday at 5:30 a.m.). But this time around, whether you were an early bird or fashionably late, it didn't make a difference—this was not Barneys' best.

First off, the prices weren't clearly marked—many pieces didn't even have price tags, forcing me to wait in line forever just to get a price check. The markings that were there were very misleading (red dots meant absolutely nothing). On top of that, a good amount of designer items were "imperfect" (code for damaged). I was elated to find size 7 Manolos for \$79, only to realize—at the register—that the pair was defective: One shoe was, in fact, a size 6.

The setup of the sale was the same as in years past. The shoe rack was located straight across from the entrance, and was, as always, the most bountiful. The only downside is that all shoes must be boxed and tied up before you can move on to the rest of the sale, leaving me little to no time to mull over my purchase. I have to hand it to the Barneys salespeople—they knew the shoes were the best selection and they controlled it accordingly: An assembly line of people was on call to fetch the other shoe in your pair. Behind the shoes were a few worthless boxes of accessories, then racks with dresses, skirts, and trousers.

The jeans were tucked away to the right of those racks—size 27 seemed to be a plentiful size—and the home section lived just behind that. A fair amount of people hovered over the jeans—surprising considering most of the skinny jeans were gone and most of what was left were wide-leg cargo pants. Even so, seconds after I put down a pair of J Brand flight pants, they were snatched away.

"The stuff from winter, like, isn't here," one girl lamented. Her friend curly replied, "It's being stashed for the next warehouse sale." The ladies were right, perhaps due to a nonexistent winter, there were minimal sweaters and little to no outerwear on display, which is unusual for a fall/winter sale.

And of course, the extra-small and small sizes were the first to go. One girl looked longingly at a black Marc Jacobs dress before announcing, "It's a size 6, it's not going to fit!" She assured her friend, "As soon as I saw it, I knew it was Marc Jacobs." This is the kind of girl that attends this sale: the all-knowing, trend-spotting, balls to the wall fashionista.

Behind the checkout area were two racks (yes, only two) of designer duds, which were being attacked from all sides. The racks were annoyingly placed outside the entrance to the dressing room, which made the experience of trying on clothes even worse. Entering the changing area was like pushing through a crowded lounge downtown, except everybody is in their underwear, and instead of fighting for a spot at the bar, they're lunging for mirror space.

This once legendary sale is a shadow of its former self, likely because Barneys is currently struggling with a multi-million dollar debt load in conjunction with a 2007 takeover by the private equity firm Istithmar World. Like the past few Warehouse Sales, this one fell short—it wasn't worth the elbow grease. I think the woman next to me browsing the designer racks best summed up the sale when she turned to me and said, "It's kind of a scary place to be, here, isn't it?"

Claire Stern is a Barnard College senior majoring in English. Buyer's Remorse runs alternate Fridays.

Malcolm X exhibit raises new questions

MALCOLM X from front page

Shawn Livingston, who came from his home in Brooklyn to attend the Malcolm X event at the Schomburg, said that Malcolm X's legacy is important to him in the context of Islam.

"He justified the rights that are supposed to be known about in Islam," Livingston said. "At the end of the day, he was respectable because he thought a lot of things could go better than they were going and he did something about it."

Cameron expressed a desire to hear more community conversation and dialogue in response to the words of Malcolm X which were read at the Schomburg. But as the auditorium cleared and people walked out into the well-lit, crowded street at 135th and Malcolm X Boulevard, his name remained within their minds, on their tongues, and in their sight.

As Malcolm had written in a letter to his original mentor, Elijah Muhammad, "As long as they tell lies, they force me to tell the truth."



CLAIRE STERN

Buyer's Remorse



JENNY PAYNE FOR SPECTATOR

FONDUE DU JOUR | Artisanal Fromagerie and Bistro celebrates February with its Fifth Annual Fondue Month, spotlighting a new cheesy concoction for each day of the month.

Chelsea bistro and fromagerie melts hearts with February fondue special

BY MIA DHILLON

Columbia Daily Spectator

North of Madison Square, you can find the Artisanal Fromagerie and Bistro—and February is the month to try out their fondue.

With a quaint awning and Parisian interiors, the restaurant, located at Park Avenue between East 31st and 32nd streets, features a warm and cheesy refuge for those biting February days when the temperature drops below freezing. Although the restaurant features three blends of fondue daily, chef and proprietor Terrance Brennan is bringing more cheese madness with his Fifth Annual Fondue Month.

"February is one of the frigidest months of the year and because fondue is so heartwarming, I thought it would be fun to declare February fondue month," said Brennan.

Each day of February, Artisanal spotlights a new fondue with a themed blend for special holidays. Artisanal kick-started fondue month on National Freedom Day, Feb. 1, with a 50-cheese blend. President's Day featured the "Philly Cheesesteak Blend" of Grafton cheddar, caramelized onions, short rib, and Chateau Billerond Bordeaux.

"This year we have tried to make the flavors have more meaning with what's happening in February," said Sharon Bridbord, director of events, media, and catering. "French Onion is our best seller," she added. "We start classic with a flavor or dish, like Philly Cheesesteak, and deconstruct it," said Brennan as he described the creative process behind the fondues.

Artisanal celebrates its 11th year of business in March. It was opened in 2001 by chef Brennan, who has since become well known for his fusion of modern and classic French cooking

as well as his Guinness Book World Record for having prepared the world's largest pot of cheese fondue, at 2,100 pounds, for the first fondue month five years ago.

Toward the back of the restaurant is "La Cave," where customers can purchase Brennan's famous aging cheese over the counter. Wednesday, they announced their latest import, the Spanish Torta Del Casar sheep's milk cheese—it's traditionally eaten by slicing the top and scooping out the creamy center.

Another standout regular choice at Artisanal is a combination of Gouda cheese and stout beer. All of the fondues come in either "petite" or "grande," which feed two to three people for \$30 and four to six people for \$42, respectively.

Committed to charity, the Artisanal family donates 10 percent of the proceeds of fondue month to No Kid Hungry, a campaign that is fighting childhood hunger and lack of access to healthy food. On Feb. 16 for its Celebrity Fondue Fundraiser, all the proceeds of the day were donated to the nonprofit Parents, Family, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. The celebrity guest announced on Facebook and Twitter was ice skater Johnny Weir, and the fondue, titled "Amadeus," included all of Weir's favorite ingredients.

If it is difficult to make it downtown this week, rest assured. Artisanal plans to continue its annual fondue month next year. During the rest of the year, they serve a "Fondue du Jour" with extra dipping choices like fingerling potatoes, air-dried beef, and apples.

But the regular options can't compare with the novelties of February Fondue Month. For Bridbord, the special "is a great way to engage our clientele since fondue is our most popular item. It's a way to change things up."

Torturing loved ones at every unknown detour

Love will make you do crazy things.

I was gliding across the Brooklyn Bridge last weekend on my friend's shitty bicycle when I realized my 14-year-old sister was nowhere in sight. Amid a sea of fanny pack-wearers—of both the hipster and Midwestern variety—I spotted her, leagues behind me, walking my bike and looking cold, miserable, and winded.

Here's what a good sister would have done at that point: She would've walked "Babs"—my sister's nickname—back to Manhattan, bought her a hot cocoa, and taken her to Topshop or some other teenage girl nirvana. This was, after all, the first and most likely the last time my parents had sent her to visit me. I adore her, and she deserved a nice weekend.

Here's what I actually did: I circled back, biked alongside her and urged her on, making "Arrested Development" chicken dance noises. Babs was dehydrated and pissed and didn't really know how to ride a bike on an empty boardwalk back home in California, much less on the Brooklyn Bridge, which was packed with tourists who meandered as if they'd never seen a bike lane before. Koo koo ka chaaa!

Dragging my loved ones to places they don't really want to go is an unfortunate character flaw of mine. It's only gotten worse in New York City, where having an awesome adventure is as easy as getting lost and sampling goat meat at a neighborhood bodega.

When we got to the center of the Brooklyn Bridge I told my sister to turn around and grandiosely said, "This is New York." She mumbled, "Pretty," and stuck her frosty red nose in her BlackBerry, likely telling some boy back home how much she despised me at that very moment.

Here's what I actually did: I circled back, biked alongside her and urged her on, making "Arrested Development" chicken dance noises.

Chipper and oblivious to her suffering, I told Babs that we were almost at the Brooklyn flea market (give or take two miles), where I'm sure she could only imagine the awesome kitten-detailed teacups that lay in wait.

Seeing Babs' look of utter disdain and protest brought me back to a blistering day in July when I encouraged (read: forced) a certain Spectator editor-in-chief to come with me to Chelsea to find "the best rhubarb-plum popsicle you'll ever have in your whole life." It was over 100 degrees that day, neither of us had eaten anything, and I had no idea where to actually find these popsicles.

I wound up dragging this editor-in-chief 15 blocks atop the High Line through Disney World-esque crowds of sweaty, sweaty people and blinding sunshine. As I turned around to insist cheerfully that we were mere feet away from refreshments, she gave me a look of dehydrated loathing so powerful it would've stopped any sane person dead in their tracks.

I knew then that I should've let my friend get a sandwich at some corner deli that day, just like I knew last weekend that I should've just dropped the crusade of quirk and taken my sister to the Forever 21 in Times Square.

But even when the people I love are pleading with me with their sad, withering eyes, it's nearly impossible to throw myself off the hunt for whatever it is I think we're looking for.

Sometimes a person can feel so frantically in love with this city it defies reason. And sometimes even basic sisterly empathy.

Leah Greenbaum is a Columbia College senior majoring in English. Slouching Towards Somewhere runs alternate Fridays.



LEAH GREENBAUM

Slouching Towards Somewhere

Duo of documentary events offers array of Oscar fare, foreign films

In a statement on his website, Dennis said, "I am attempting to combine the power of the still image with advanced technology to change the vernacular of photojournalism and filmmaking. Instead of opening a window to glimpse another world, I am attempting to bring the viewer into that world."

Simon also warned not to discount the short documentary nominees, which are being shown on Sunday, hosted by New York Times chief film critic A.O. Scott and columnist David Carr.

"The films are dealing with contemporary issues, more so than the feature films this year"

—Ron Simon, Paley Center curator

Moviegoers wanting a documentary experience separate from this year's Oscars will find solace in the Museum of Modern Art's Documentary Fortnight 2012 and International Festival of Nonfiction Film and Media. Like the nominees being shown at the Paley Center, the films being screened were chosen because

the curators believed they examine the relationship between contemporary art and nonfiction filmmaking. And while they were not necessarily released in 2011, assistant curator Sally Berger chose many films that are making their United States festival premiere. The films include "The Great Northwest," the recreation of a famous 3200-mile road trip, and "El Field," the story of Mexican migrant workers who traverse the border between Mexico and California on a daily basis. The festival is in its second weekend, and various films are being screened through Feb. 28.

Simon claims that the documentaries are actually more progressive uses of the film medium than the feature film nominees. Simon explains "many feature films this year are dealing with nostalgia for another era. The documentaries this year deal with modern issues more provocatively. If you're interested in film, the documentaries are more creative than the feature films in terms of the digital film image and storytelling this year." In fact, the only Best Documentary Nominee not being shown this year is "Pina," a tribute to the late dance choreographer Pina Bausch. It was left out because the Paley Center does not have the capacity to screen films in the 3D format. Both events promise attendees some of the most acclaimed films of recent memory, and as Simon noted, "if you're interested in the form, this is a great experience to have."

Flipside

Guide

‘The Map and the Territory’

French literary authority charts
untraveled waters in new book

BY ALLEN JOHNSON
Columbia Daily Spectator

WHERE IT’S AT
Time: published Jan. 2012
Place: All major booksellers
Cost: \$15
Rating: ★★☆☆

Critics and readers know Michel Houellebecq as the enfant terrible of French literary fiction—yes, he’s the guy who called Islam “by far the most stupid, false and obfuscating of all religions” and who holds that “life is painful and disappointing.” Although his earlier novels sparked a considerable amount of commentary on his “pornographic” prose and ushered in a huge international readership, the mix of shock factor and depravity surrounding the author had grown a bit stale since then.

But Houellebecq’s latest novel, “The Map and the Territory,” translated by Gavin Bowd and published in English by Knopf this January, leaves behind the brothels and the sex trade that Houellebecq seemed fatally attracted to in his first works and moves the author onward to, as it were, new territory. It recently received the Prix Goncourt, the most prestigious of French literary awards.

“The Map and the Territory” charts the artist Jed Martin’s ascendancy through the ranks of the Parisian art world. Jed is a quiet, contemplative man who realizes he will flourish as an artist only once he “resolved to shut up, as much as possible.” Houellebecq seems to detest the assertive, flashy artists who construct some kind of presence or persona. Rather, the artist is a self-effacing, normal character for Houellebecq, in contrast with the sex-starved programmers and hermitic clones of his earlier works.

Houellebecq increases the number of artist-subjects by inserting himself into the novel as a character. How meta of him, but is it worthy of applause? The unkempt alcoholic, forever with cigarette in mouth, Houellebecq shows he understands how French tabloids perceive him. It’s a gesture towards self-awareness and humility that an author like Houellebecq has rarely expressed.

Houellebecq seems to be questioning us:

What is culture and where is located?

And what do we do when we cannot seem
to find it?

The most engaging works Jed produces are macro-photography shots of Michelin maps, which eventually put him into conversation with Michelin executives and his lover to-be, Olga. When Michelin begins to appropriate Jed’s art for its own corporate purposes, Houellebecq offers a commendably blasé, realist view of capitalism’s influence on art: “There, that was sorted out: he knew his market price.”

Jed’s complicity in the system leads to even greater success in his next series of paintings, which depict, of all things, laborers at their work. One can almost see Houellebecq sneering as he writes—but as he laments the inescapable system, he mocks the artists who want so fiercely to escape it. Jed succeeds in part because he doesn’t feel the need to raze everything to the ground.

The lover Olga is employed by Michelin to produce French guidebooks. Houellebecq uses her to spotlight the impossibility of ever knowing a place. The couple follows the guidebook to countryside hôtels de charme that turn out to provide experiences altogether different from what their texts promise. Jed sometimes feels a sentiment familiar to any New Yorker—that he is walking “aimlessly in the streets of this city that in the end he barely knew. He ... needed the help of a map.” Houellebecq seems to be questioning us: What is culture and where is located? And what do we do when we cannot seem to find it?

Houellebecq offers a half-answer: It seems that the moment you pin down such a culture, it transforms. Jed, “submissive” to his art, finds himself incapable of producing more map-related photography after its exhibition, and so he must destroy “an entire body of work, to set off in a radically new direction.” The contrast between the elusive nature of the artist’s subject and the culture the gallery-goers are seeking are momentarily captured in the vocabulary of mapmaking.

In light of the Prix Goncourt, the French literary establishment seems to believe “The Map and the Territory” to be Houellebecq’s chef d’oeuvre, and it is tempting to agree with the award committee. The writer has come to terms with his individual preoccupations and has extended his literary world to encompass other, more distant realities. And even if the author on occasion falls back on old tropes, he seems, like Jed, to have set off in a new direction.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTUNO

NEW SOUL | Esperanza Spalding, who won the Grammy for Best New Artist last year, returns to the stage with her long-awaited follow-up.

Esperanza Spalding

Latest effort by jazz singer will launch her into ‘Radio City’ fame

BY NOOR BRARA
Spectator Staff Writer

Quite a few faces in the audience held disappointed expressions when Justin Bieber didn’t take home the Best New Artist Grammy last year. Hailing from Portland, Oregon, jazz singer Esperanza Spalding was obviously shocked when her name was called. The unexpected win launched her presence in the music industry, attracting attention from all over the world. Spalding’s strange mix of honeyed, little-girl vocals paired with masterful, underlying bass rhythms had a distinctly unique appeal. Her voice appeared to have an epic split personality, paying tribute to the lost value of classical training.

“Radio Music Society,” her long-awaited follow-up to “Chamber Music Society” will be released March 20.

It’s a continuation of where she left off in 2010, when Spalding mentioned that she had originally intended to create a double album, but ran out of time. “One disc with a subtle exploration of chamber works,” she said, “and a second one in which melodies are formatted more along the lines of what we would categorize as ‘pop songs.’”

The new album delivers everything Spalding had in mind when she spoke of it back in 2010—and more. The gentler melodies of her earlier work would have been drowned out by the themes and power of “Radio Music Society,” which focus on her heritage and what it means

to be black—both now and what she imagines it would have been like in pre-colonial Africa.

“Black pride didn’t just start with the slave trade,” she said, commenting on what may well be the best track on the record, titled “Black Gold.” The song, like the rest of the album, is loaded with heavy brass lines and unexpected guitar cameos, bringing to light the stronger, edgier side of Spalding’s character and ability. She sings out against society’s tendency to equalize the importance of world tragedies to that of celebrity gossip in “Vague Suspicions.” Afterwards, she launches into “Land of the Free,” a song about a man who served 30 years time for a crime he did not commit.

Whereas Spalding’s backup was once just an upright bass, she now seems fueled by the full jazz orchestra that accompanies her, confidently declaring who she is and what she believes. The majority of the album is an energizing experience. She does little to censor her opinions, powerfully skating over goose-bump-worthy instrumental harmonies. The last few tracks finish up with a few forgettable love songs, as she wraps her big breakthrough to a quiet end. Luckily for Spalding, the initial thrill from the first few songs masks the mediocre finish, leaving the listener with the warm feeling of having overcome many of the obstacles in her songs.

While she is still a relatively new face in the jazz world, the album will assuredly take her one step closer to becoming an important player in the development of new age jazz and soul.



FAMILY FEUD | “The Forgiveness of Blood,” is an contemporary coming-of-age story set in a system of ancient laws and long-held feuds.

‘The Forgiveness of Blood’

Ancient vengeance runs deep in the ‘blood’ of modern Albanian families

BY RIVKA RAPPOPORT
Columbia Daily Spectator

In director Joshua Marston’s last project, an eight-minute short film for the collection “New York, I Love You,” an elderly couple bickers and hopes they “don’t have to make that cell phone work.” This communication barrier between today’s parents and children is the only thing that project shares with Marston’s latest endeavor, “The Forgiveness of Blood,” with a plot centering around an Albanian blood feud.

For the American viewer, the film, in Albanian with English subtitles, works on two levels: the familiar and the foreign. It is a coming-of-age story embedded in a complicated system of ancient laws and customs known as the Kanun. The Kanun regulates Albanian blood feuds, including the provision that should a member of one family kill a member of another, the victim’s family is entitled to avenge the murder by killing a male member of the other family. However, a caveat remains that the men are safe as long as they are in their own homes. This is how Nik, the protagonist of “The Forgiveness of Blood,” becomes imprisoned within his own home.

At a panel discussion following a screening of the film on Feb. 18, Marston explained that he was fascinated with the idea of a family with “cell phones and video games” in “self-imposed house arrest.” It is a story about the contradiction between modernity and tradition in a world where horse-drawn carts share the street with cars.

Portrayed by Albanian unknown Tristan Halilaj, Nik is a teenager living at the peak of adolescence. In his last year of school, he has just begun courting a beautiful, ambitious classmate. He dreams of

opening an Internet café. Suddenly, he is torn from his life—piled into a car by his cousins and taken home to discover that his father has killed a member of a rival family, making him a likely target. Nik begs his relatives to send a mediator, as is custom, to settle the dispute and allow him and his three siblings to return to school, but to them he is still a child, not to be taken seriously. His father, meanwhile, is evading capture by the police, further disrespecting the victim’s family. His uncle is in jail. Meanwhile, the days pass and he remains trapped by his home’s concrete walls and ancient customs.

Marston’s rendering of the bleak Albanian landscape is beautiful: The perpetual breeze outdoors makes the stillness indoors palpable. Inside, Nik is bathed in shadows, relegated to corners, tucked in and made small while he yearns for freedom.

His sister, Rudina, begins a journey of independence. Women are the only members of the family permitted outdoors, and Rudina, portrayed by newcomer Sindi Lacey, must assume her father’s business, running the local bread route. “You’re going to cell cigarettes?” a convenience store owner asks her, guessing her new business venture. “A girl like you shouldn’t even be selling bread.” She becomes the family’s quiet caretaker. While Nik rebels, she navigates the generational gap. Marston explains, “It seemed an interesting counterpoint to a story that I knew was going to be a dark story.”

The film is dark. Though Nik eventually stands up for himself, gaining his freedom, he pays a heavy price.

Marston recalls many of the interviewers during the construction of the story asking him, “Have you read that Kanun?” He continues, “That was code for: Do you care enough? Have you put the time in?” He does and he has, producing a film that is simultaneously completely foreign and utterly relatable.

COURTESY OF IFC FILMS

events

STYLE

Barneys Warehouse Sale
—225 W 17 St. between Seveth and Eighth
avenues, Friday to Sunday 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Follow columnist Claire Stern’s example and brave the Barneys Warehouse Sale, where designer duds will be up to 75 percent off the retail price. If it’s still outside a college budget, just watch as grown professional women fight for Alexander Wang and Prada.

FILM

Joe’s Pub Oscar Party
—Joe’s Pub at the Public Theater,
425 Lafayette St., Sunday 7:30 p.m., \$25

Watch the country’s favorite awards show with a drink and some laughs at this Greenwich Village bar, where entertainer Murray Hill keeps things lively with running commentary and movie trivia.

MUSIC

Tune-In Music Festival
—Park Avenue Armory, 643 Park Ave.,
Friday to Sunday, \$10

Head up to the Upper East Side for the second annual festival in honor of famed modernist composer Philip Glass. Highlights include performances by Patti Smith and jazz guitarist Bill Frisell, in addition to performances of works by both Glass and his favorite young composers.

MUSIC

YACHT
—Music Hall of Williamsburg,
66 North 6th St., Sunday 8 p.m., \$13

Deliciously creepy indie duo YACHT takes the stage at the Music Hall of Williamsburg this Sunday. A steal at \$13, this show is a must-see for fans of other indie acts like Yeah Yeah Yeahs and Crystal Castles.

BATTER UP



2012 BASEBALL SUPPLEMENT

FEBRUARY 24, 2012

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Boretti teaches team patience, focus

BY MYLES SIMMONS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Lions head coach Brett Boretti is a man who preaches patience and taking things one day at a time. Inconsistency, however, has plagued the Lions for the last few years.

Since the current senior class's first season in spring 2009, the Lions have finished third, first, and third again in the Lou Gehrig division, with Ivy records of 7-13, 15-5, and 9-11, respectively.

Yet hope springs eternal as Boretti enters his seventh season with the team.

Boretti believes in the value of a process, and in the game of baseball, that belief is invaluable. If the team hopes to achieve the ultimate goal of winning an Ivy Championship, it has to build its way there.

He has felt that way since he was named the Lions head coach in July of 2005. He came in with what he called very non-specific goals, insisting that the program be built up the right way no

matter how long it took.

"I didn't have a five-year plan where we're going to be here, and in ten years we'll be here—I didn't have anything like that," Boretti said. "I still don't."

Instead, Boretti has focused on specific short-term improvements to achieve long-term growth.

Senior infielder Jon Eisen explained how, at the beginning of the season, each team member submitted three team goals and two individual goals, with the requirement that individual goals had to be process-oriented.

"Instead of saying, 'I want to hit .400,' you say, 'I want to hit as many line drives as possible,' or, 'improve my swinging at good pitches,'" Eisen said.

This goes in line with Boretti's philosophy of patience and staying focused every day.

"It's about getting better on a daily basis—it takes time," Boretti said. "And I think it's something you try to talk about

SEE COACH PROFILE, page 6



KATE SCARBROUGH / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

STRONG LEADER | Behind head coach Brett Boretti, the Light Blue hopes to put forth a successful 2012 campaign in the Ancient Eight—and maybe find an Ivy Title.



KATE SCARBROUGH / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LION TAMER | In his practices with the team, head coach Brett Boretti seeks to replicate the format of a game so the team is fully prepared for the season.

COACH BORETTI AT COLUMBIA



SPRING 2010

The Lions get back on track by winning the most Division-I games in the program's history with 27, finishing with a 26-21 overall record—the first winning season in 23 years. The Lions won the Lou Gehrig division with a 15-5 record and advanced to the Championship series, where they lost to Brown, 2-1.



SPRING 2008

Boretti leads Columbia to its first Ivy Championship since 1977, winning the Lou Gehrig division with a 15-5 Ivy record. The Ivy Championship win automatically qualified the Lions for the NCAA tournament—its first appearance since 1976.



SPRING 2006

The Lions go 13-32 in Boretti's first season as head coach. The team improved to 6-14 in Ivy play, an improvement from the 5-15 record in 2005.



SPRING 2011

With high expectations, the Lions began the season well with a 7-3 record, but faltered as the season went on and finished 19-25. The Ivy season also didn't go as expected, with the Lions finishing 9-11 for third place in the Lou Gehrig division.



SPRING 2009

The team takes a step back after the Championship with an overall record of 11-32 and an Ivy record of 7-13, landing them in third place in the Lou Gehrig division. However, '09 did see the program's first victories over teams from Texas (Lamar) and California (Cal State Northridge).



SPRING 2007

The Lions make a dramatic improvement to 10-10 in Ivy play, including taking three of four from the eventual Ivy runner-up, Penn. In the fall of 2007, Robertson Field at Satow Stadium was upgraded with Field-Turf, which allows the Lions to have more outdoor offseason practices.



JULY 2005

Boretti hired as head coach.

GRAPHIC BY YUMA SHINOHARA

CU looks to move forward from 2011

BY ELI SCHULTZ
Spectator Staff Writer

themselves to the college baseball world, most of Columbia's best players will be returning this spring. The most notable exception is center fielder Nick Cox, who graduated last year. Cox led the team in stolen bases last season and his .353 batting average was the second highest on the team. The Light Blue lost another star in first-team All-Ivy outfielder Jason Banos, who was second on the team in homers and third in batting average.

Even without Banos and Cox, the Lions 2012 roster is by no means short on talent.

Columbia's pitching staff, which logged the second-best ERA in the Ancient Eight last year, should remain at the top of the conference. Senior Pat Lowery will likely anchor the top of the rotation once again this season, where juniors and fellow righties Tim Giel and Stefan Olson will join him. Pitching mostly out of the bullpen last season, Giel posted a team-best 1.71 ERA, while Olson's 3.63 ERA tied sophomore Zack Tax for second-lowest on the team. Senior Harrison Slutsky, fourth on the staff in ERA in 2011, will provide the Lions with a dependable right-handed arm out of the pen.

But pitching is not everything. "You can't win every game 1-0," senior

Entering the 2011 season with high expectations after topping the Lou Gehrig division two years ago, the Lions failed to repeat and stumbled to a third-place finish. This year, with many key players returning, the Light Blue seems likely to return to a competitive position within the Ivy League.

The highly hyped Columbia squad opened its 2011 schedule on March 4, with a deflating extra-innings loss to Stetson. The Lions relinquished a three-run lead in the eighth inning, going on to lose in the 10th. This loss would prove to be symbolic of the disappointing season, one in which nine of the team's 25 losses came in one-run games.

In the weeks following the opening-day loss, Columbia played relatively well and entered Ivy play with an even 9-9 record. However, it dropped its first two conference matchups—both to defending league champion Dartmouth—and never managed to establish consistency. The Light Blue finished second-to-last in its division with a 9-11 conference record and a mediocre 19-25 overall.

"We really had expectations we didn't reach," senior designated hitter Alex Aurricchio said.

Hungry for another chance to prove

SEE PRECAP, page 6



FILE PHOTO

TIE GOES TO THE RUNNER | Junior outfielder Nick Ferraresi will be a key factor in the Lions' attempt to take home the Ivy League Championship this year.



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY BASEBALL

SPRING 2012

SEASON SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Thurs, Mar. 1	The Citadel	Charleston, S.C.	5pm
Sat, Mar. 3	The Citadel	Charleston, S.C.	12pm
Sat, Mar. 3	The Citadel	Charleston, S.C.	3pm
Fri, Mar. 4	The Citadel	Charleston, S.C.	1pm
JACK GIFFORD MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT			
Fri, Mar. 9	San Jose State	San Jose, CA	9pm
Sat, Mar. 10	Lehigh	San Jose, CA	4pm
Sat, Mar. 10	Santa Clara	Santa Clara, CA	9pm
Sun, Mar. 11	Utah	Santa Clara, CA	4pm
Mon, Mar. 12	San Jose State	San Jose, CA	9pm
Wed, Mar. 14	Pepperdine	Malibu, CA	6pm
Thurs, Mar. 15	San Diego	San Diego, CA	6pm
Fri, Mar. 16	San Diego	San Diego, CA	6pm
Sat, Mar. 17	San Diego	San Diego, CA	4pm
Sun, Mar. 18	San Diego	San Diego, CA	4pm
FRI, MAR. 23	STONYBROOK	BAKER FIELD	12PM
FRI, MAR. 23	STONYBROOK	BAKER FIELD	2:30PM
Sat, Mar. 24	Holy Cross	Worcester, MA	1pm
Sat, Mar. 24	Holy Cross	Worcester, MA	3:30pm
WED, MAR. 28	ARMY	BAKER FIELD	1PM
FRI, MAR. 31	YALE	BAKER FIELD	1PM
FRI, MAR. 31	YALE	BAKER FIELD	3:30PM
SUN, APR. 1	BROWN	BAKER FIELD	12PM
SUN, APR. 1	BROWN	BAKER FIELD	2:30PM
WED, APR. 4	RUTGERS	BAKER FIELD	3:30PM
Sat, Apr. 7	Harvard	Cambridge, MA	12pm
Sat, Apr. 7	Harvard	Cambridge, MA	2:30pm
Sun, Apr. 8	Dartmouth	Hanover, NH	12pm
Sun, Apr. 8	Dartmouth	Hanover, NH	2:30pm
Tue, Apr. 10	St. John's	Jamaica, NY	3:30pm
Sat, Apr. 14	Cornell	Ithaca, NY	12pm
Sat, Apr. 14	Cornell	Ithaca, NY	2:30pm
Sun, Apr. 15	Cornell	Ithaca, NY	12pm
Sun, Apr. 15	Cornell	Ithaca, NY	2:30pm
Wed, Apr. 18	Manhattan	Riverdale, NY	1:30pm
Wed, Apr. 18	Manhattan	Riverdale, NY	4pm
SAT, APR. 21	PRINCETON	BAKER FIELD	1:30PM
SAT, APR. 21	PRINCETON	BAKER FIELD	4PM
SUN, APR. 22	PRINCETON	BAKER FIELD	1PM
SUN, APR. 22	PRINCETON	BAKER FIELD	3:30PM
WED, APR. 25	FORDHAM	BAKER FIELD	2PM
WED, APR. 25	FORDHAM	BAKER FIELD	4:30PM
Fri, Apr. 27	Penn	Philadelphia, PA	12pm
Fri, Apr. 27	Penn	Philadelphia, PA	2:30pm
SAT, APR. 28	PENN	BAKER FIELD	12PM
SAT, APR. 28	PENN	BAKER FIELD	2:30PM

SAT, MAY 05 - SUN, MAY 06

IVY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

THU, MAY 31 - SUN, JUN. 03

NCAA REGIONALS

New bat, new strategy

BY MRINAL MOHANKA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

When the batters for the men's baseball team stepped up to the plate in 2010, they broke one offensive record after another. However, by those hitters' own high standards, 2011 was a disappointing campaign. The batters were the same. The opposing pitchers and defense were the same. The bats looked the same. But looks can be deceiving: It's what's inside that really matters.

The NCAA's shift from BESR-certified composite bats to BBCOR-certified alloy bats before the 2011 season had a detrimental effect on offensive production across the nation that year.

The change in bats can very simply be described as a shift to a more wood-like, pitcher-friendly bat. The new bats have a smaller sweet spot and a lower coefficient of restitution—which means the ball comes off the bat with less force than it would with the old bats—so the ball leaves the new bats with decreased velocity, all else equal. As a result, the Light Blue offense struggled to put up the numbers it had in years past.

"I hit a few balls that I thought would have a chance, and with the new bats, they got caught at the warning track or they hit the fence instead of going all the way up," junior outfielder Dario Pizzano said.

Pizzano has tallied 21 homers in his two seasons as a Lion, and showed signs of adjusting as the season progressed.

"That was just getting a feel for the new bats. You do have to get used to them because there's a very small sweet spot on it and it's just the confidence that you have: All right, it's over. It's not new anymore. I know how to do this," Pizzano added.

"I think last year it was a big mental

thing," senior infielder Jon Eisen said. "People knew that the ball didn't come off as fast, so they thought they had to hit harder to compensate, and change their swing."

Columbia's number of hits fell from 471 in 2010 to 389 in 2011, runs scored from 310 to 230, and home run production decreased from 49 to 32. Even though the rest of the teams in the country suffered similarly, the Lions think offensive improvement is critical to a better performance this season. Eisen, who had a team-high batting average of .383 in 2010 but batted .258 with the new bats, believes the solution lies in forgetting about the change.

"Yes, the ball doesn't come off as hard, but if you hit a line drive, it's still a line drive," he said. "Maybe a blooper with the old bat is caught now, or a home run before is one hop in the wall, but it's really just getting over the mental aspect of something different and just forgetting about that and focusing on putting a good swing on the ball. Last year everyone was always talking about the bats, the bats, the bats—how much they suck—but this year no one is really talking about it at all."

Junior outfielder Nick Ferraresi only managed to hit one double with the new bats, compared to the team-leading 16 he totaled in his rookie campaign.

"We were used to hitting home runs in batting practice," he said. "When you stop doing that you think there's something wrong with your swing and you think you have to try harder."

The team has adapted its training to combat the issue, according to senior designated hitter Alex Aurricchio.

"I think this offseason we've focused a lot more on really fine-tuning our hitting in the cages with the coaches," Aurricchio

said. "We've worked on being a little more nitpicky in what we're doing wrong and what we're doing right and what we need to change. We've done a lot more video analysis so we can see ourselves."

Another significant statistic: Columbia's on-base percentage went from .393 in 2010 to .358 in 2011, but its opponents' went up from .353 to .360. Given that opposing offenses also struggled, the Lions are not underestimating the importance of drawing walks.

"We've worked a lot on pitch selection," Aurricchio said. "We need to understand getting the right pitch to hit instead of swinging at a lot of stuff that's not quite in everyone's zone."

The impact of the bats is not limited to individual strategies. Head coach Brett Boretti, who is in favor of the change, mentioned that there will be more of an emphasis on pitching, defense, running, and situational baseball in 2012.

"I think you could say that there will be more bunting going on as things progress, just because runs are not as available," he said. "Getting a guy over or getting a guy in—that philosophy is probably coming into play more so than earlier, when we could just wait to hit a double or a jack."

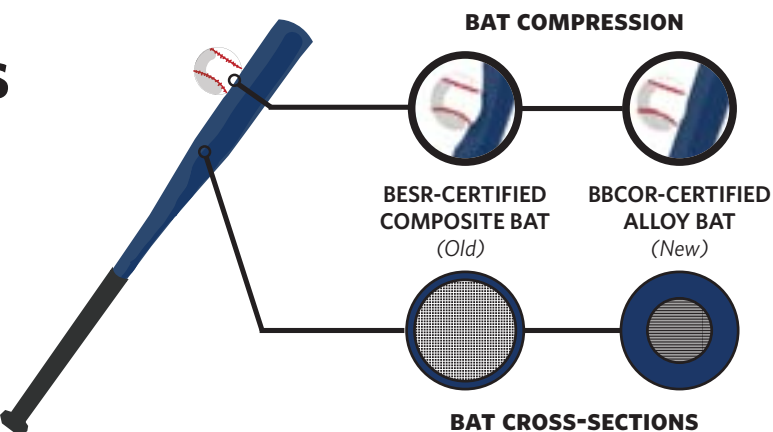
In terms of preparation, many Lions played in wood-bat summer leagues, which Eisen believes will help.

"Most of us who played last season with the new bats played wood in the summer. These bats are more like wood, but the ball comes off better than off wood," Eisen said. "So going from these new bats to wood to back to new bats, it doesn't feel like they're that terrible. I think most guys have forgotten about it and moved past it, and everyone's

SEE BATS, page 6

THE NCAA'S NEW BAT REGULATIONS

New regulations for baseball bats under the Bat-Ball Coefficient of Restitution measure the "bounciness" or "pop" of the bat as it makes contact with the ball. This is in contrast to the old Ball Exit Speed Ratio regulations, which measured the speed of the ball after it is hit. BBCOR standards favor solid alloy and wood bats, which absorb the ball's energy as it hits the bat and also reduce its speed. The new regulations, then, trade bat power for increased safeguards against injuries that may result from the ball warping hollow bats.



INFORMATION COURTESY OF NCAA/GRAPHIC BY CELINE GORDON

DATE Spring 2

PLAYER

1	A	Jon Eisen	LAST O
POS	B		C
3B			
2	A	Nick Cruet	LAST O
POS	B		C
2B			
3	A	Dario Pizzano	LAST O
POS	B		C
LF			
4	A	Alex Aurricchio	LAST O
POS	B		C
DH			
5	A	Nick Ferraresi	LAST O
POS	B		C
RF			
6	A	Eric Williams	LAST O
POS	B		C
1B			
7	A	Billy Rumpke	LAST O
POS	B		C
CF			
8	A	Aaron Silva	LAST O
POS	B		C
SS			
9	A	Ernesto Cabrera	LAST O
POS	B		C
C			
SP	A	Pat Lowery	LAST O
POS	B		C

PITCHERS

LEFT	
David Spae	Tim
	Stu
	Har
	Zac

Pizzano powers center of lineup

BY RYAN YOUNG
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

There may not be a more powerful force in the Ivy League this spring than what comes off the bat of Columbia outfielder Dario Pizzano. With just two Ivy seasons under his belt, the junior slugger has already made a name for himself—not just in the Ancient Eight, but also nationally.

Pizzano earned considerable recognition for his success this past summer in his second stint with the North Shore Navigators in the prestigious New England Collegiate Baseball League. Batting .340 with four home runs and 30 RBIs, he earned the league's most improved player award and started in the NECBL All-Star Game. He was also named the ninth-best prospect in the league for the 2012 Major League Baseball Draft by "Baseball America."

"I think what speaks a lot about him is that summer compared to the summer before in the same league," coach Brett Boretti said. "He's learned a lot as far as the hitting in that level of play."

In the past month, Pizzano also became the only Ivy Leaguer named to the College Baseball Insider preseason All-America team. While the accolades have increased Pizzano's confidence, he says he's focusing on the season ahead.

"That's a huge honor that I was really shocked and ecstatic when I heard about it," he said of his most recent nomination. "These are great achievements—not even, they are preseason achievements. It's nice, but I still got to play the season and have the numbers and live up to those expectations."

He surely lived up to expectations last year. Coming off of an Ivy League Co-Rookie of the Year season, Pizzano was named the team MVP after batting .359 with nine home runs and 36 RBIs. Such success also helped elevate the game of his teammates.

"He's a great hitter. If I'm hitting right in front of Dario, the guy doesn't want to walk you to get to Dario—I'm going to get a lot of fastballs," senior infielder Jon Eisen said. "If somebody's on base, it's good to know that there's a guy behind

me that—even if I don't get the job done, he probably will, and that takes a lot of pressure off of you as a hitter."

Teammates recognize that Pizzano has turned into a leader on the team.

"He's someone I think we all look up to as a hitter and as a player," senior outfielder Nick Ferraresi said. "I think he's got a great attitude. ... He works hard every day."

Boretti is impressed by Pizzano's work ethic, but recognizes that the junior knows there is still room for him and his team to improve.

"There's a little negative or bitter taste in their mouths with what happened with last year, and I think that's a little bit of a motivating factor for some of them," Boretti said.

After the disappointing 2011 campaign, Pizzano believes that lofty expectations combined with difficult losses at the start of the Ivy season caused the team to feel tense and therefore pressured to recreate his freshman year, when the team cruised to the Ivy League Championship series.

"We know the good and the bad now," he said. "So we know what it takes to get back there and I feel like I can be that kind of leader. We were like, 'We're gonna go 20-0, we're not going to lose a game,' and it didn't work out that way at all. We have to have the right mentality: one game at a time."

Personally, Pizzano knows the brighter spotlight will force him to make adjustments at the plate.

"Just have to not try to be anxious, and if they're going to pitch around me, I've just got to take the walks and not swing at pitches that aren't mine," he said.

He should also progress defensively, after having surgery on a broken elbow over the summer that had hampered him in each of his first two seasons.

"It was always in the back of my mind that I had a broken elbow. I couldn't throw, I couldn't even hit cutoff men last year. Pain was constant—every time I was going to throw, it felt like I was being stabbed in my elbow," Pizzano said. "That stuff, it's all gone now. I've been doing rehab since August. I'm throwing again, that's huge. I'm really happy that

SEE PIZZANO, page 6

Head coach motivates Lions to strive for constant improvement

COACH PROFILE from page 2

every year with a team—there's a starting point, and you just try to continue to get better day in and day out."

Borette says he will make sure his players are doing just that. Senior starting pitcher Pat Lowery explained that Borette insists that no practice should go to waste. Part of his technique, Borette said, involves making practice feel like a game.

"There shouldn't be a feeling of, 'Oh we're playing a game today, time to flip a switch.' There's no such thing as a switch," Borette said. "Part of our job is to make them feel uncomfortable in practice, because they're probably going to feel uncomfortable in the games."

Borette describes himself as a coach who wants to be a motivator.

"I'm not afraid to bark at guys, because I think guys need to sometimes hear it," Borette said. "I'm not afraid to bark at the better players, because they're setting an example that the young guys need to see."

Players say they notice this and appreciate it because of the positive effect it can have on both an individual and the team.

"Borette's not afraid to let you know if you're getting off the path and helps guys get back on the path and back with the

team quickly," Eisen said.

But Borette's player-side manner does not just include "barking," according to senior designated hitter Alex Aurrichio.

"He does a great job of working with each individual player to help them realize what they need to do and how they need to do it in order to be successful," Aurrichio said. "For different guys, he'll say something different that'll make the light go off as if to say, 'Now it makes sense.'"

Perhaps the most important aspect of Borette's coaching style is what he does not emphasize—and it might come as a surprise.

"I don't think a whole lot about wins and losses," Borette said. "Whether that's right or wrong, that's somebody else's decision. As a coach, I try to focus on us playing at a consistent level that I feel we're capable of playing. For me, it's about competing the right way."

That said, Borette challenges the team to go out and win an Ivy Championship each year, but he always wants the Light Blue players to remember something else on the baseball diamond as well.

"I hope that we are a team that has fun," Borette said. "Because at the end of the day, it is about enjoying the two to four hours that we're out there."

With a core of returning players, 2012 looks hopeful for Columbia

PRECAP from page 3

third baseman Jon Eisen said, pointing out one area of moderate concern for the Lions next year. Columbia will need its offense, which struggled at times last season, to back up its talented staff.

The Lions do have significant pop in the middle of the lineup. Junior outfielder Dario Pizzano led the league in homers and total bases last season, and finished near the top in a number of other offensive categories, including batting average, hits, and doubles.

However, Pizzano will need some protection from Aurrichio, who struggled last season after leading the team in homers and earning first-team All-Ivy honors in 2010. If Aurrichio can return to top form in 2012, he and Pizzano will form a deadly power-hitting duo. The Light Blue will also need someone to fill the void left by the departures of Cox and Banos. If Eisen can turn things around, he will give the Lions a big lift. His .258 average last season was 72 points below his career

average of .330, giving him ample room for improvement.

Junior outfielder Nick Ferraresi, whose stats also dropped significantly last season, is another player that could make a big contribution with his bat.

The Lions have some newcomers competing for lineup spots as well. "We got a very strong freshman class, and they're doing a good job," head coach Brett Borette said.

With its nucleus still intact, Columbia's biggest offseason change has been a shift in the team's outlook.

"I think with our high expectations last year, we kind of had a sense that we would just show up and it would be given to us," Eisen said.

Throughout the Lions' clubhouse, though there seems to be strong indications that this sense of entitlement is no longer prevalent and has given way to an attitude of focused competitiveness.

"We're out to show everyone that we're a force to be reckoned with," Aurrichio said.

Both ability and desire are in place. Now all the Lions need is a little bit of luck.



FILE PHOTO

SILVER SLUGGER | Junior left fielder Dario Pizzano will be feared on the plate by opposing pitchers—he led the Ivy League in home runs in 2011 with nine.

Bright future for junior slugger after strong sophomore season

PIZZANO from page 5

my arm's coming back to what it was in high school before I chipped my elbow."

Pizzano has high hopes for the future. In the short term, he'll be competing with senior designated hitter Alex Aurrichio to surpass the all-time Columbia record for career home runs

(they both are four short). In the long term, he has his eye on professional baseball.

"I've thought about that since I was five years old, so I would be lying if I said I didn't think about that at all," he said. "But it's out of my control now. I have to go perform this season, and get what I want most: an Ivy League Championship ring."



FILE PHOTO

SOLID FUTURE | Recent NCAA regulations on the bats players can use in the baseball season shouldn't be a big factor for Columbia after a year of adjustment.

Light Blue mindset not shifted by new bat, refuses to blame change

BATS from page 4

just focusing on swinging the bat well—and we've been hitting the ball pretty well."

Not many people are in a better position to judge the progress made by the batters than those who stand on the mound. Senior pitcher Pat Lowery believes that the Lions have improved.

"I think just having a year of adjustment

for most of the team has helped," Lowery said. "If you square a ball up, it's still going to go as far as with the old bats. It's just a matter of the bloopers and the singles that used to fall safe being caught now. Guys just have to focus on squaring balls up, and you can already see a difference this year."

A year has gone by with the new bats—and this time around, the Lions are making no excuses.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

BY MUNEEB ALAM
Spectator Staff Writer

2011 Standings

Lou Gehrig Division

1. Princeton (23-24, 15-5 Ivy)
2. Penn (19-21, 10-10 Ivy)
3. Columbia (19-25, 9-11 Ivy)
4. Cornell (10-30, 7-13 Ivy)

Red Rolfe Division

1. Dartmouth (30-12, 14-6 Ivy)
2. Yale (23-19, 11-9 Ivy)
3. Brown (13-29, 9-11 Ivy)
4. Harvard (9-36, 5-15 Ivy)

Princeton (23-24, 15-5 Ivy)

The defending Ivy League champions boasted a nine-game winning streak to start Ivy play last year and were picked to win the title again this year by CollegeBaseballInsider.com, although they finished the season with mid-dling numbers on both offense and defense. Reigning Ivy League Rookie of the Year sophomore pitcher Mike Ford, who appeared in each of Princeton's 47 games last year, should play a big role this year for the Tigers.

LOU GEHRIG DIVISION

Penn (19-21, 10-10 Ivy)

The Quakers had a strong, consistent season, with the second-best batting average in the conference, third-best team defense, and five all-Ivy selections. Three of the all-Ivy players graduated, including Ivy League Pitcher of the Year Paul Cusick. But with sophomore outfielder Greg Zebrack, the conference leader in batting during Ivy play, still in the mix, Penn looks to be among the top teams again.

LOU GEHRIG DIVISION

Dartmouth (30-12, 14-6 Ivy)

Leading the Ivies in batting average, slugging percentage, and team earned-run average, and sitting at second in the conference in on-base percentage, the Big Green used an 11-game winning streak to take control of its division. With three of its four all-Ivy selections returning, including two pitchers, Dartmouth is a legitimate threat from the Red Rolfe Division for the conference title.

RED ROLFE DIVISION

Brown (13-29, 9-11 Ivy)

The Bears did not have an all-Ivy standout last season, and with seven seniors recently graduated, they should expect to be over-matched by other Ivy foes. Fifteen of Brown's losses came in two losing skids, and it had the worst team defense and was .03 percent from ranking last in the Ivy League in batting average.

RED ROLFE DIVISION

Cornell (10-30, 7-13 Ivy)

The Big Red started slowly, getting its second win in its 14th game. Recent graduate Mickey Brodsky was a repeat selection to the all-Ivy team, and Cornell could find it difficult to replace him. The Big Red lineup, which now includes 10 freshmen, will need its youth from both this year and last to mature quickly.

LOU GEHRIG DIVISION

Yale (23-19, 11-9 Ivy)

With Ivy League Player of the Year first basemen Trey Rallis and fellow all-Ivy selection pitcher Vinny Lally now graduated, as well as eight other seniors, Yale might not be able to contend with Dartmouth this year. Last season, the Bulldogs ended the season as the division runners-up. Terrific fielding, though, should help mitigate Yale's losses to graduation. The Bulldogs need to win on the road—last year's road record of 10-10 was much worse than their 10-4 home performance.

RED ROLFE DIVISION

Harvard (9-36, 5-15 Ivy)

The Crimson lost its first nine games and 14 of its first 15, and things did not get much better from there. It ranked last in the conference in batting average and second-to-last in team-earned run average. With the Ivy leader in ERA, pitcher Max Perlman newly graduated, Harvard may very well have a tough season ahead.

RED ROLFE DIVISION

IVY LEAGUE STATISTICS LEADERS * signifies that the rank is shared by more than one player

Batting Average

1. Jeremy Maas, PENN .369
2. Terry Rallis, YALE .365
3. Ennis Coble, DARTMOUTH .361

Homeruns

1. Dario Pizzano, COLUMBIA 9
2. Brian Billigen, CORNELL 8
3. Greg Zebreck, PENN* 7

RBIs

1. Ennis Coble, DARTMOUTH 40
2. Sam Mulroy, PRINCETON 39
3. Dario Pizzano, COLUMBIA* 36

Steals

1. John Sheridan, BROWN 23
2. Nick Cox, COLUMBIA 18
3. Sam Mulroy, PRINCETON 13

ERA

1. Max Perlman, HARVARD 1.80
2. Brook Hard, YALE 2.23
3. Kyle Hendricks, DARTMOUTH 2.47

Strikeouts

1. Jeff Onstott, DARTMOUTH 46
2. David Turnbull, DARTMOUTH 39
3. Sam Mulroy, PRINCETON 37

DATA COURTESY IVYLEAGUESPORTS.COM / GRAPHIC BY YUMA SHINOHARA

