



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

EARLY MORNINGS | At Morningside Heights' newsstands, like this one at Broadway and 116th Street, owners say a bad economy and weather have cut into business.

Newsstand, halal cart owners say business suffering more than usual

BY GINA LEE
Spectator Staff Writer

Walking down Broadway between 110th and 111th streets in the early morning hours, passersby see a familiar sight—Kabir Charania working the morning shift at his family's newsstand. The stand is open 24 hours a day because profits from late-night business—though

slow—outweigh the stand's heat and electricity costs. "He knows that at night, college students come out," Charania said of his father. "We do it because there's an opportunity to make sales. It's worth it." For Morningside Heights' newsstands and halal food carts, those profits have become harder to come by this year.

"Business is slow, not like before," said Akter Hossain, who owns a newsstand on the east side of Broadway between 115th and 116th streets. Business has plummeted almost 30 percent since last year, Hossain said, partly due to rising cigarette prices and the increasing popularity of online newspapers and magazines. Others blamed a harsh

economy whose effects have only been exacerbated by a cold, snowy winter. James Barakti, who owns the halal cart on the northwest corner of 116th Street and Broadway, has had to cut back. He used to have two additional employees running the cart at all times, but now he himself works with one other employee to maximize income.

"If I hire somebody else, it's kind of slow," Barakti said, noting that students have been less likely to stand in line for food in the cold. City regulations allow food cart owners to operate multiple food carts, like Barakti does, while newsstand owners can operate two stands.

SEE NEWSSTANDS, page 2

Law prof Wu ready for new FTC job

'Net neutrality' prof to advise on Internet law

BY MICA MOORE
Spectator Staff Writer

Columbia Law professor Timothy Wu is ready to enter the government "jungle," two weeks after announcing that he will serve as a senior advisor to the Federal Trade Commission. Wu, who coined the phrase "net neutrality," will be taking a leave of absence for six months to advise the commission on legal problems related to privacy, competition, and consumer protection. "If scientists have laboratories where they figure out the facts, for us in legal academia, that's the government. It's going into the jungle," he said in a Thursday interview. In an age when people are interacting with the Internet in revolutionary ways—he referenced Libya and Egypt—Wu said the legal implications of those technologies are even more pressing. "Most Columbia students are probably Facebook users, iPad users—those are great products, but they present new and interesting problems," he said, calling the Internet an anti-censorship force, a forum to express

SEE WU, page 2

Reid Hall center in Paris growing to accommodate Global Scholars program

BY MELISSA VON MAYRHAUSER
Columbia Daily Spectator

Once a small porcelain factory, Columbia's Reid Hall in Paris is now growing as the University's first European global center. Next January, Reid Hall will host undergraduates as part of a new Global Scholars program and has asked other programs to give up their lease to make more space in the academic complex that has long been home to study abroad students. Victoria de Grazia, a history professor and the director of Columbia's European Institute, has been heading up the global center, which will celebrate its one year anniversary in March. She said they expect to begin accepting applications for the new Global Scholars program in April.

"It's a different program from the current Penn-Columbia [program]," de Grazia said. "It [the new program] doesn't take away from it. It will be there side-by-side. The resources we built for that are supposed to be shared." Reid Hall had previously played host to a University of Florida study abroad program, but the UF student newspaper, the Alligator, reported earlier this month that the UF program at Reid Hall would be relocated because Columbia requested more space. The centers are part of a large, evolving University project to increase its presence abroad and launch new international research initiatives. Unlike study abroad centers at other universities, global centers are not "branch campuses," but low-budget research sites that allow students to get internships and conduct research.

In interviews with Spectator, University President Lee Bollinger has said he hopes that one day Columbia undergraduates will be able to do short stays on all seven continents. Global scholars will conduct research alongside faculty, create independent projects, workshop their findings, and might take part in international field studies beyond the borders of a local university. De Grazia said that in the next two to three years, the study of inequality will be a major theme at Reid Hall. Madeline Low, CC '12 and a current student at Reid Hall, said that the facility's new role as a global center "hasn't really been a part of my student life here." "I haven't heard much about the global center, or what it will mean for students abroad," Low said.

SEE PARIS, page 2



VICTORIA JONES FOR SPECTATOR

PARIS PROGRAM | Students can study in the courtyard at Columbia's Reid Hall in Paris, one of the University's global centers, which will host a new program for undergraduates in spring 2012.

Discussions with chaplain, Public Safety lead to new Postcrypt rules

BY KARLA JIMENEZ
Spectator Staff Writer

The University chaplain said Thursday that discussions with Public Safety led to her decision to allow Postcrypt to operate without security. Following a monthlong suspension, Postcrypt Coffeehouse will return to the basement of St. Paul's Chapel next week without security for the first time in over a year. Galen Boone, BC '12 and the manager of the student-run music venue, credited the series of meetings with the Office of the University Chaplain and the Department of Public Safety with the lifting of the security staff requirement, which the chaplain imposed in December 2009 following concerns about underage drinking. Last year the group agreed to stop selling beer, but members said they were upset and confused about why they were still required to hire a security guard to sit in on their Friday and Saturday night concerts. In recent meetings with the administration, the group was "able to sort our misunderstandings," according to Postcrypt's student government board representative, Barry Weinberg, CC '12. Boone and Weinberg sent out letters to the chaplain last Friday with a list of concerns, including

SEE POSTCRYPT, page 2

ZERO THE HERO



ALYSON GOULDEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BIG MAN | Senior forward Asenso Ampim, as one of the Lions' only big men, will be key in this weekend's matchups.

OPINION, PAGE 4

Thoughts from Baghdad

The ROTC debate reaches a Columbian in uniform.

Work less

Kathryn Brill is making time for her friends this midterm season.



SPORTS, BACK PAGE

CU basketball heads on final road trip

The Columbia men's basketball team will try to pull its record above .500 as it travels to Penn and Princeton this weekend in its final road trip of the season.

EVENTS

Women's basketball vs. Penn

The Lions look to end their four-game losing streak against Penn. *Levien Gymnasium, 7-9 p.m.*

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WEATHER

Today



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Tomorrow



40°/33°

Weather, economy mean food cart, newsstand business slow

NEWSSTANDS from front page

Still, business is hard, which is why Hooda’s Halal Food cart on Amsterdam Avenue opens at 6 a.m.

Business at Akter Hossain’s newsstand, on Broadway between 115th and 116th streets, has plummeted almost 30 percent since last year.

But employee Mohamed Elkassas said that the workday for Hooda’s employees starts well before then because they have to drive the cart over from a storage garage in Queens to its location just outside the Columbia gates before setting up. Hossain said newsstand and halal cart owners do not have any other option if they want to make money. His newsstand makes about a 25 percent profit

on the goods it sells, which is less than 40 cents per \$1.50 pack of gum and \$1.25 per \$5 magazine. “I cannot do any other business,” Hossain said, adding that he needs to “get some money for my suffering family” that lives overseas. Barakti, too, works his cart out of necessity. He studied for two and a half years to become a doctor, but had to leave school to make money for his family. He said he dreams of returning to his studies, but what he makes now is only enough to pay off his bills. “I’m going to stick with it until I can sell it,” he said of his cart. Hossain said he makes barely enough to get by and provide for his family, but raising prices isn’t an option. “We cannot increase prices because if I increase prices, people cannot buy,” he said. Though Morningside Heights is home to numerous newsstands, Hossain said he doesn’t resent their presence because he knows all of their owners are just trying to make a living like he is. “They are doing their thing, I do my thing,” he said. “I’m still trying. Making better times come in the future. It will come.”

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JASPER L. CLYATT/SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

GOOD MORNING | Halal carts, like this one on Amsterdam Avenue, face competition from other restaurants in the neighborhood.

Reid Hall to host additional scholars next spring

PARIS from front page

But others, including Tarini Shrikhande, CC ’12, said they have benefited from new academic offerings. “They have a series of lectures/talks which are very accessible for students (far more than at Columbia) with notable personalities on international topics,” Shrikhande wrote in an email. “I attended one on Diplomacy in the 21st Century given by a former editor of Le Monde and founder of

Mediapart, an online newspaper that has recently agreed to host the new round of WikiLeaks cables last week.” De Grazia said she hopes global scholars will live in international houses during their time in Paris, instead of with homestay families, to introduce them to other students from diverse backgrounds. She added that the program will encourage students to come back to the United States to work on their theses and take internships as a fifth year of study.

The new program in Paris will be a pilot for other undergraduate opportunities at the other global centers in Mumbai, Beijing, and Amman. On Thursday, the University also announced that a fifth global center in Istanbul will open soon. According to De Grazia, Paris was chosen for the pilot program because it is the most accessible to students. “I think I could get more people to go to Paris,” said De Grazia. news@columbiaspectator.com

New legal problems emerge on Internet, Wu says

WU from front page

opinions, and a place for business transactions. Wu has spent much of his career advocating for net neutrality, the principle that people should have access to an “open Internet” free of restriction from service providers with equal access to web content. While net neutrality does not directly fall under the jurisdiction of the FTC, his appointment has been seen as a boon for advocates of the policy.

“I was surprised that the chairman [FTC chairman Jon Leibowitz] would be able to so quickly appoint someone from academia,” said Wu. “I think he likes having different perspectives.” Wu’s latest book, “The Master Switch: The Rise and Fall of Information Empires,” addresses the influence of corporate centralization on communication technologies. Wu believes that encouraging open access will be particularly helpful to businesses, as the Internet is a useful tool for entrepreneurs attempting to start new projects or innovators trying to increase access to their inventions. “Part of the reason the Internet has been able to flourish as a marketplace is because it allowed everyone—even those working out of a garage or a dorm room—to compete on a level playing field,” said Sarah Gitlin, CC ’12, a lead activist for the CU Dems. The CU Dems held a phone bank event earlier this year for Senator Chuck Schumer to advocate for net neutrality. Still, some worry that introducing open-internet policies will overregulate the market for service providers. “It may not be a good business decision, but if a certain provider wants to give access only to certain websites, they have the prerogative to do so,” said Lauren Salz, BC ’11 and president of the Columbia University College Democrats. Wu himself said he was not expecting the appointment.



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

NET NEUTRAL | Law professor Timothy Wu will soon take a six-month leave of absence.

consumers in an age of private power. “We’re seeing a new sort of pattern where a small number of companies—for example, Facebook and Google—are an order of magnitude more powerful than other platforms,” Wu said. Although Wu said he was excited to work with government firsthand, he is firmly committed to returning to Columbia—where he said he would return with raw knowledge that will be useful to him as a professor, a position he called “the best job anyone could have.” Until then, he’ll be working to solve problems related to the ever-evolving world of Internet law. In this era, he said, “No one knows what the rules are.” mica.moore@columbiaspectator.com

“A small number of companies—for example, Facebook and Google—are an order of magnitude more powerful than other platforms.”

—Timothy Wu, law professor

“I’m happy that he’s in there as opposed to someone more connected with business, who might have conflicting interests,” Kaley Hanenkrat, BC ’11 and president of the Columbia University College Democrats, said.

Postcrypt policy changes given OK by chaplain

POSTCRYPT from front page

a request that the coffeehouse no longer have a security guard. Jewelnel Davis, the University chaplain and director of Earl Hall, then asked Public Safety for an opinion. “Public Safety acknowledged that Postcrypt didn’t need a guard anymore,” Weinberg said, adding that the decision came about because of Public Safety’s close interactions with the venue last semester. He explained that any special events will have to go through an event review with the chaplain’s office and Public Safety. Postcrypt was put on suspension by the chaplain after booking its concerts one week after student programming was scheduled to end last semester. It has been holding shows at a venue downtown, but will return to its historical location on March 4. Although the ’Crypt suffered economically because of security payments and the loss of revenue from bygone beer sales, no plans have been made to sell alcohol again. Weinberg

said the Postcrypt board felt there were more important problems to sort out first. Davis also said the prohibition on alcohol won’t change anytime soon. “That decision was made a long time ago. We don’t have alcohol sold in the chapel,” Davis said, amending that some groups do sell alcohol under tight restrictions. “The art gallery has alcohol at some of its openings, but they have monitors and security.” Security fees are currently not feasible for Postcrypt, which was entirely dependent on the Student Governing Board’s funding last semester, according to Weinberg. “It wasn’t fair to Postcrypt to pay for security,” he said, adding that SGB increased the group’s funding allocation to try to alleviate the financial burden. Postcrypt members have considered selling popcorn and coffee again, though a 2009 fire safety audit would require them to make it off-site. Although Davis said almost \$20,000 have been invested in the room to make sure violations are fixed, electronic

appliances are still prohibited in the coffeehouse’s venue. “There’s been talk of brewing coffee and making popcorn somewhere else and bringing it in [to the venue] and bringing Postcrypt back to normal,” Weinberg said. Regarding the past tension between the coffeehouse and the chaplain’s office, Davis said it was due to miscommunication. Previously, Davis’ office advised all SGB groups, but a change put SGB groups under the management of the Office of Student Affairs. “We had not been meeting regularly with Postcrypt. Now we’ve re-established if Galen, or any SGB group for that matter, has any concern, they can contact us directly,” Davis said, giving the example of Postcrypt members’ wish to have dimmer spotlights. “Nobody in my office knew about that.” Davis said she expects the coffeehouse “will be able to have the kind of safe event they want to have,” after the previous issues. “It’ll be good to have them back home.” karla.jimenez@columbiaspectator.com

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Women’s track and field, fencing are bright spots

MOHANKA from back page

made or are making a name for themselves in the big time, including the likes of Cristina Teuscher, an Olympic swimmer who won a gold medal at the Sydney games.

This led me to the oft-mentioned notion that people just don’t care about women’s sports, professional or collegiate. Some say that they just aren’t as exciting to watch because women aren’t as quick or as powerful as men. I would agree with the statement that the best male athlete is quicker or more powerful than the best female one, but I would hesitate to make generalizations. There are several cases of standout women athletes at Columbia who can hold their own among men playing the same sport.

On another level, Columbia boasts several women’s teams that are significantly more competitive within the Ancient Eight than their male counterparts. Track and field and women’s fencing are two examples that come to mind right away. The latter has finished second at Ivies for three years in a row, while the male fencers have been rebuilding and have finished at the bottom of the pile for two consecutive years. The female runners finished second last year, and this year have a very strong chance of winning their first Ivy team title in program history. Sprinter Sharay Hale will be hoping history repeats itself as she attempts to defend her Most Outstanding Performer of the Meet award from last year. Hale set an Ivy League record earlier this year in the 200m dash (23.75) and she also holds the meet record in the 400m (53.79). Another Lion, Kyra Caldwell, holds the League record in the 60m hurdles (8.24) and will look to break the 8.44 meet record (set by Harvard’s Brenda Taylor in 2001). Yet another, Emily Lanois, goes into the championships with the best time this season among Ivy teams in the 5000m.

And finally, the last layer of this argument and arguably the best reason to care about women’s sports: Columbia is fortunate to boast several individual female athletes

that are among the best in the conference, nation, and even the world. My knowledge is the only limiting factor in the list that can be drawn up, but several fencers have had World Championship experience, and will soon have Olympic experience too. Several archers have gained national recognition on multiple occasions. Sophomore Nicole Bartnik, from the women’s tennis team, is among the best players in the nation and recently notched wins against three Ivy opponents to remain undefeated for the spring. Several swimmers, such as sophomore Katie Meili, are primed to make a significant impact in this weekend’s Ivy championships, and, as mentioned already, the runners are in a very strong position as well going into the weekend.

On a note closer to home (and to appeal to that crazy obsession with marquee sports), the women’s basketball team celebrates Senior Night this weekend. The team had a disastrous start to the season, but has stepped it up just in time for conference play and now sits at 4-6 in the Ivies. This weekend, it hosts Penn and Princeton. The Lions are not at their best away from home, but a return to the comforts of Levien Gymnasium may bring success. Lauren Dwyer and Kathleen Barry will ply their trade in front of their home support for the final time, and their individual efforts are highly commendable. Dwyer sits at eighth in the all-time Columbia points scored list with 1,019 career points, and could easily move to seventh this weekend (she needs to score 21). Barry, who is in the top 20 of the all-time list, was just named to the Capital One Academic All-America First Team.

It really isn’t my hope that everyone who doesn’t care about women’s sports goes from indifference to obsession, but I strongly suggest you start paying attention. For all you know, in a few days, our runners may bring an Ivy title to Morningside.

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COURTESY OF PETE LODATO / DAILY PENNSYLVANIAN

LONG HAUL | Senior guard Tyler Bernardini suffered a season ending injury his junior year, and is planning to take a fifth year.

Bernardini looking to take a fifth year next season

BERNARDINI from page 6

give Penn ample opportunity to compete for the Ivy League title next season, as the Quakers will be returning three of their top four scorers next year.

Bernardini’s hard-fought recovery—and his subsequent performance this season—should come as no surprise. During his first two seasons at Penn, Bernardini was not only one of the Quakers’ top starters, but also one of the top players in the Ivy League.

As a sophomore in 2009, Bernardini earned himself an honorable mention all-Ivy award and came in sixth among all Ivy League players in scoring, averaging 13.7 points per game. As a freshman, Bernardini was the Ivy League Rookie of the Year.

Despite Bernardini’s impressive freshman year, he admitted that the transition from high school basketball to college hoops was difficult.

“It was tough, anytime you have a jump like [that] ... I think people don’t give [the] Ivy League as much credit as it

deserves ... you have to be very disciplined. It was a big adjustment period, most of it was on the defensive end, and I just realized that the only way you’re going to get better and you’re going to be good is you just have to work hard,” he said.

Thus far, all of his hard work has paid off. Despite setbacks such as the initial transition to college, and a major foot injury as a junior, Bernardini has excelled and has become a better athlete overall.

“I think I’ve just become a lot smarter as a player—a little more aware,” Bernardini said. “Definitely, I think I got a lot better defensively. I still want to improve and still try to get better everyday, but I think that in terms of just your intellectual level as a basketball player increases the more you play, and especially the higher level you play.”

Tonight’s matchup won’t be Bernardini’s last as a Quaker—he’ll still have a few more opportunities to try to defeat the Light Blue as both teams have their eyes set on earning league titles next year.im

SQUASH

Light Blue squash team to compete in Nationals this weekend at Harvard

The No. 20 men’s squash team will compete in Men’s Nationals this weekend in Cambridge, Mass. Regardless of the outcome, this season has already been a vast improvement over last year for Columbia. Last season, the team finished at No. 35 and competed in the Chaffee Cup (E Division) bracket, where the No. 33 through No. 40 ranked teams matched up.

For Nationals this year, Columbia will compete in the Summers Cup (C Division), two divisions higher than last year. The teams competing in this bracket aside from Columbia are No. 17 George Washington, No. 18 Amherst, No. 19 Bowdoin, No. 21 Wesleyan, No. 22 Colby, No. 23 Stanford, and No. 24 Hamilton.

Columbia has played three of those teams—George Washington, Wesleyan, and Colby. The Light Blue, in its first-ever varsity match, was crushed by George Washington 7-2 back in

November, but defeated Colby 7-2 in January and has played two close matches with Wesleyan. The team defeated Wesleyan 5-4 in the same tournament it beat Colby, but also faced Wesleyan two weeks ago in the team’s regular season finale, losing 5-4.

At Nationals, Columbia will start the competition off by playing Wesleyan for a third time. In both contests, Columbia’s highest ranked seeds have struggled against Wesleyan’s top group and Columbia’s lowest seeds have dominated Wesleyan’s lower ladder. For Columbia to emerge with the win in what figures to be another tight contest, it will need to notch a few wins from its top players. In both matches, Columbia’s lone win in the upper ladder came at the No. 3 position.

The contest will take place from Feb. 25 to Feb. 27. The team will play Wesleyan Friday at 11 a.m.

—Michael Zhong

Quakers, Tigers hope to trip up Lions this weekend

MEN’S BASKETBALL from back page

last weekend. A more consistent offense and an expected post advantage are what the Lions will concentrate on coming into the rematch. In addition, the Light Blue will need to recognize that, although it boasts sound transitional skills, sometimes the fastest pace is not the most effective.

“We have got to be patient enough to put it inside out and not be in a rush,” Smith said. “There’s no such thing as a 12-point play. You’re not going to make it back in one possession. That’s part of being a transition team—you get a stop and you want to make it happen. Well, good teams sometimes don’t let you make it happen right away, and you have to be patient ... you have to get to work to make easy baskets.”

Mental preparation is just as important as physical preparation for the Light Blue this weekend. Three weeks ago at Levien, the Princeton Tigers shot nearly 60 percent from the field and dominated the boards 42-32, led by the 25 points and 12 rebounds of sophomore forward Ian Hummer. Princeton, despite losing to Brown by 10 points last Saturday and dropping to second place in the division, still brandishes an 8-1 record in the Ivy League. In order to have a chance in the contest,

the Lions must pinpoint all mistakes made in their previous game with the Tigers.

“With Princeton, we’re going to have to really evaluate,” Smith said. “We had bad matchups. At times we had Noruwa guarding Hummer, and I don’t think that was a good matchup. I’d like to keep [senior forward] Asenso [Ampim] on him as much as we can. I think that would be the biggest change—see if we can keep a bigger guy on him. He had his way with us.”

Wherever the focus may lie, no strategies will result in a Light Blue victory if it doesn’t make baskets. The biggest hurdle for the Lions will be putting last weekend behind them and having confidence in the abilities and potential they displayed earlier in the season. “It’s like putting for a golfer,” Smith said. “When they’re making putts, they make everything and there’s a little bit of a mojo, a little bit of a confidence. When that gets shaken, you start missing, like short putts.”

Whatever the sports metaphor, Columbia will have to maintain focus and dispel any worries or hesitations it may have to contend against this pair of Killers P’s. Both opponents will likely be expecting to emerge victorious against the Lions, so the road-bound Columbia must attempt to milk its underdog status and pull off a couple of upsets.

Both men’s and women’s fencing teams to see action

FENCING from page 6

an excellent shot of making the Olympic team, because she will be competing at a World Cup event in Poland.

Freshman epeeist Gaby Strass is hopeful about this weekend. Strass displayed tremendous versatility and a willingness to do whatever she could to help the team at Ivies, and fenced foil rather than her usual epee. “We are open-minded and confident. Everyone is at

the top of their game right now,” she said.

The preparation for the Lions has been varied. While some continue to focus on technique, others, like Pensler, have turned to strategy. “A lot of it [my preparation] is just thinking about what I’m going to do before I do it, trying to outsmart my opponent,” Pensler said.

The tournament is scheduled to begin on Sunday at 8:30 a.m. at the Coles Sport Center in Greenwich Village.

MEN’S SWIMMING & DIVING

Men’s swimming to compete in final meet before Ivy Championships

The swimming season is almost over, but the Lions are not done yet.

This weekend, the Columbia men’s swimming squad (6-4, 4-3 Ivy) will be participating in the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Championship swimming meet. The competition—which runs from Friday through Sunday—is a major opportunity for the swimmers not participating in next week’s Ivy League Championships to see action in the pool for a final time this year.

The meet will take place in Pittsburgh, Pa., and comes at the tail end of a successful season for the Light Blue. Despite losses against the conference’s top teams, Harvard and Princeton, the Lions competed well in the Ancient Eight. Their last

meet of the season was a 162-138 win over Dartmouth.

Columbia is the only men’s team in the conference competing at the ECAC Championship this weekend. However, the Lions will again see action against Navy, which beat them 179-121 in the regular dual-league meet season. Columbia is one of 29 teams participating in the event. Others include Boston College, Bucknell University, and the U.S. Military Academy.

This weekend will be the final week of action for most members of the men’s swimming team. Next Thursday, the team’s top 16 swimmers will travel to Princeton and participate in the most important meet of the year, the Ivy League Championships.

—Rebeka Cohan

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College beyond the classroom

You can feel it in the air—it's that time of year again. What with midterms, papers, and projects, now is when we Columbians start to feel as though our work is punching us in the face. No matter how much I think I'm prepared for it, at this point in the semester, I always find myself staring wide-eyed at a syllabus and wondering why I thought this class was going to be easy. I end up having 20-minute conversations that are solely about homework, and at least one of my friends bails out of a plan due to forgetting about a midterm. In certain places—Butler, for instance—the stress is palpable, like moisture in humid air.

Obviously, no one enjoys this time of year, but it doesn't seem like there's much we can do to stop it from happening. After all, most teachers assign major assignments right around this time, and as much as we may not want to do the work, that 10-page paper won't write itself. So what do we do? Usually, at least in my experience, we develop tunnel vision, focusing only on our work at hand and surviving until it lightens up again. It almost seems inevitable.

We put too much importance on academics, and end up living our entire college lives as though it's finals week.

But why do we do this? How did this behavior become second nature? For most of us I think it stems from something more than just habit, some inherent belief in the life-defining nature of midterms. On some level, it's perfectly natural—midterms are often a huge chunk of our final grade, and no one wants to do poorly in a class. This explains the impetus to study but not really why we study so intensely. Maybe it's that we don't trust ourselves, and we fear that if we allow ourselves a couple hours of slacking off, we'll never get focused again. Maybe we really, truly believe that if we're not working like madmen and madwomen, we're doing something wrong. Maybe it's just a New York thing. Whatever it is, this type of studying is taken for granted as something everyone is doing.

Part of me rebels, though. We only have so many years of college, and it seems crazy to spend a few weeks of those years hunkered down in our rooms waiting for the onslaught of assignments to end. I'm often tempted to ask, "Are these papers and projects really that important?" Well, yes and no. On the one hand, we signed up for these classes. We learn from them, and we may even be enjoying them—therefore we owe it to our professors to complete our work.

The price I pay for listening to Saskia Hamilton read poetry on Mondays and Wednesdays is writing a ten-page paper analyzing that poetry, and there's no way around that. Besides, we want our education to take us somewhere, to a career or a way of life that couldn't be accomplished otherwise. In that sense, these assignments are important, and so, obviously the solution isn't to toss aside our work altogether and laze our way through midterms season.

But on the other hand, we can put too much importance on academics and end up living our entire college lives as though it's finals week. Sometimes we do have to shut ourselves away with our textbooks or stay up late to finish that problem set, but the operative word should be "sometimes." And even in the midst of those stressful times, we should take a step back. Academics are important, but if we're honest with ourselves, there are other things about our college lives that are important to us too. We tend to take these things for granted—until midterms week arrives, and we find ourselves putting other things aside to spend every waking moment on our work. That doesn't seem like a very attractive solution, but it's what I, and others I know, find ourselves doing time and time again whether we want to or not.

So I'm proposing a different solution. Let's keep looking at the bigger picture—beyond the assignments that are due tomorrow or next week, to the people and things that we know we'd miss if they weren't here. And let's make time for them in our schedules. I firmly believe that an hour spent with a friend strolling through Riverside Park is not a wasted work hour, but one that will surely leave us feeling less stressed and more revitalized than finishing that assignment we put off. Above all, let's keep in mind that college is more than work—it's also the people, places, and events that have nothing to do with academics. We won't be around them forever, and it would be truly sad if we missed out on the opportunity to spend time with them while we still are.

Kathryn Brill is a Barnard sophomore majoring in English. She is a member of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. We Should Talk runs alternate Fridays.



**KATHRYN
BRILL
We
Should
Talk**

Learning from Sisqo

BY DAVID O'CONNELL

As anyone who has ever experienced one of my discussion sections knows, I tend to make incessant references to pop culture when explaining political science concepts and theories. Or even when I am just organizing the class. Every single time I separate students into groups I quote Sisqo and promise to "cruise through the crews like connect the dots." No one ever really laughs, but that apparently does not matter. I also sometimes forget that most of the students were in elementary school when "The Thong Song" came out. Also that Sisqo is strangely not as significant to some people as he is to me.

However, I would argue both that pop culture can play an important role in helping us to understand political science, and that political science can play an important role in helping us to understand pop culture.

Take, for instance, ABC's summer airing of Bachelor Pad. The show was repulsive and made me feel bad about both America and myself. It's a shame that a dignified shepherd of love like Chris Harrison was contractually obligated to host this monstrosity. For Bachelor Pad, ABC invited back the looniest of characters from the Bachelor/Bachelorette universe to compete for love and money by winning at pie-eating contests and Twister. The final challenge, though, was a classic example of a Prisoner's Dilemma, a standard collective action problem.

The final two contestants, Dave and Natalie, were sent to separate rooms backstage where they had to decide if they would share the prize money or keep it for themselves. If one person chose to keep the money, they would receive all of it. But if they both chose to keep the money, they would each get nothing. Normally, in such situations, we would expect that the individually rational behavior (keep the money because you can't trust your partner) would lead to a collectively irrational outcome (both going home empty). But, thankfully, their lukewarm love for each other prevailed. They shared the money.

Or, we could consider recent episodes of Jersey Shore, another show that makes me feel bad about both myself and America. The Situation appears to me, at least, to be operating in what Fred Greenstein has called a "hidden hand" style. Greenstein revised our understandings of Eisenhower's leadership by illustrating how Ike stealthily undermined his opponents behind the scenes while

After Office Hours

Each Friday, a professor will share scholastic wisdom readers won't find in lectures. Suggestions regarding which professors to feature are welcome.

publicly remaining nonpartisan. Is that not what the Sith has been up to? He acts like he is a friend to both Sam and Ronnie, but in private he has worked to undermine their "relationship" through some well-timed violations of a mystical guy code. The Situation is practically a political genius. He'll also be an American hero if he can do anything to rid us of this toxic duo (please, just break up already!).

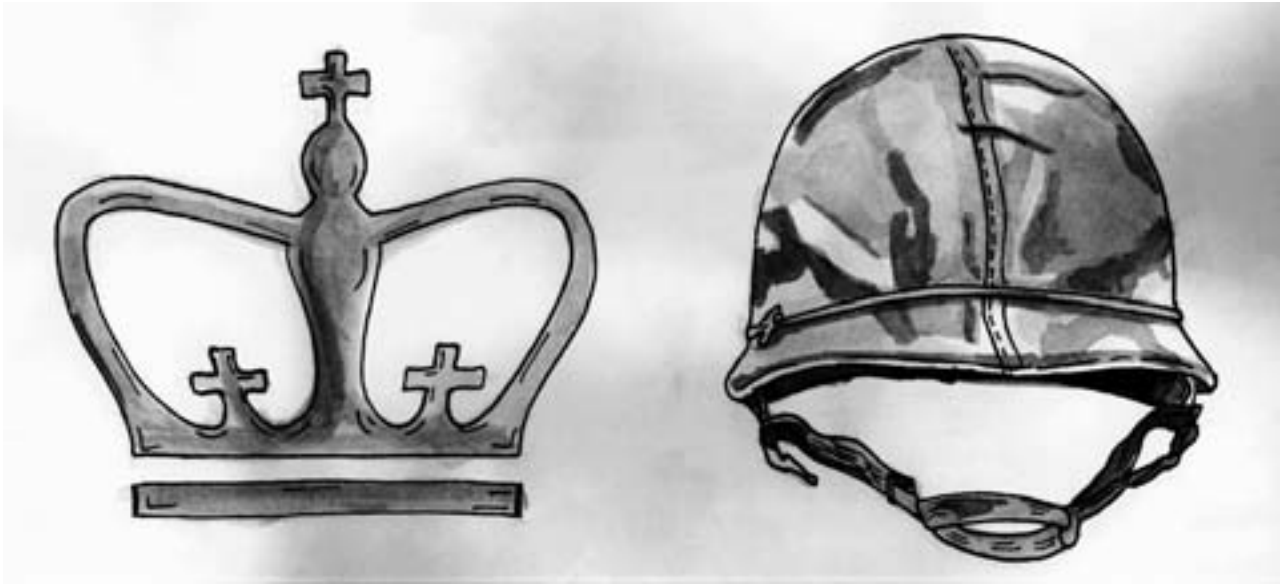
In some of my own recent research I have applied prospect theory to the study of presidential campaign management. Prospect theory has been used to explain everything from midterm loss to Latin American economic restructuring. An insight taken from experimental psychology, prospect theory shows how individuals are willing to run great risks to recover or avoid a loss but will refuse to run similar risks to make an equal gain. Think of a double or nothing bet—it's always the loser who wants to make such a wager.

We saw a recent example of this type of behavior on Gossip Girl. Chuck is faced with the impending loss of his father's company, Bass Industries, to his father's old rival, Russell Thorpe. Chuck is so desperate to maintain control of the conglomerate that he is willing to have his step-mother Lily thrown off the company's board. He thus risks losing the only family he has left (and his family-loving girlfriend) in order to avoid the loss. One can imagine that Chuck would be unlikely to make a similar move to make a gain by acquiring Thorpe Enterprises.

Similar examples abound. The latter seasons of 24 are a perfect starting point for a discussion of political theory and the issue of the proper balance between liberty and security. If you want to understand Kernell's concept of "going public," all you have to do is watch the last scene of Michael Douglas' "The American President." How could we understand the political turmoil of the '60s without reference to the protest music of the era? Tom Perrotta's excellent book, "The Abstinence Teacher" is a fine illustration of the practical intersection between liberal and conservative ideologies on modern social issues. And so on.

Two things should be clear. First, I, personally, have way too much time on my hands. And, second, even Sisqo has a place in the classroom. Well, maybe not Sisqo, but other media stars for sure.

The author is a Ph.D. candidate in political science. His research focuses on how presidents advance their agendas by means of the strategic use of religious rhetoric and symbolism. He has been a teaching assistant for Introduction to American Politics for the past three years.



AMALIA RINEHART

Baghdad Missive: Stay Civil, On Subject

BY PETER MIEJER

Our outpost in downtown Baghdad doesn't have many amenities. The closer you get to the center of this Iraqi metropolis, the more austere the conditions—war is chock-full of irony.

We get two meals a day, no regular mail, and suffer from terribly overpriced WiFi. But life's not all bad: "Stars and Stripes" gets dropped off on occasion. Yesterday, one of my soldiers cracked open the latest issue and read for a minute before letting out a long, low whistle.

"Hey, Sergeant, don't you go to Columbia?" That I do, did, will. Should have graduated with the Columbia College class of 2010 before my mobilization orders came in; hoping to fall in and graduate with CC '12 when my time is up.

He continued: "Looks like your fellow students heckled a wounded Iraq vet."

There was a note of snide derision in his voice and for good reason. This incident gave steam to the detractors who are happy to believe Columbia is an elitist institution stuck in 1968, removed from the national discourse, reduced to casting aspersions from the safety of our ivory tower. A convenient narrative—but completely off the mark.

When students in my class learned I was a non-commissioned officer in the Army Reserves, they were shockingly respectful. Even those with an extreme opposition to the military were civil to a fault, appreciative of the honest answers I gave to their informed questions. No opinions were changed, but no insults were hurled.

On an administrative level, I have encountered nothing but assistance and understanding when it came to my involvement with the military. The University's support of its student veterans has been exemplary, unparalleled among other Ivy League schools.

My experience has been remarkably positive because students and the administration were able to separate the individual from the institution. Likewise, detractors of ROTC need to ensure they don't confuse the institution implementing policies with policy makers.

If you just hate the military, that's one thing. You are entitled to your opinion. But don't punish the military for obeying this country's civilian leadership, as mandated by the Constitution.

The military follows orders, plain and simple. If you are against the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, take it up with the Commander-in-Chief; he is responsible for directing the military's actions. Particular policies of the armed forces drawing your ire? Talk to Congress; they were responsible for Don't Ask, Don't Tell and other controversial legislation.

The Columbia I know is a bastion of thought-provoking conversation. This is our strength, our reality.

Obfuscation and incivility do nothing but weaken legitimate arguments and distract the discourse. The Columbia I know is a bastion of thought-provoking conversation, whether in the halls of Hamilton or a back table in Hungarian. This is our strength, our reality. A few rude individuals does not a majority make.

Focus on the issue, and keep the conversation civil. Our military is plenty accustomed to bearing the brunt of the government's foreign policy decisions—that's kind of the point. It won't suffer at the hands of misdirected criticism. But for the sake of your argument's efficacy, seek the proper forum.

The author is a student in Columbia College on military leave majoring in anthropology. He is a sergeant with the United States Forces-Iraq.

and Brown eats sustainably-grown organic alfalfa sprouts with every meal. At Columbia we do things differently—we eat out of trucks.

It's no surprise that all the youngsters out there want to join our ranks. Who can blame them? We know how to read Howl, balance our coffee, and eat a gourmet Korean taco all at the same time.

Don't believe us? Just look at The Daily Beast's predicted admissions rate. Columbia will be the second most selective Ivy after Harvard at 6.9 percent—but the first in terms of badass-ery. All the young ones are clamoring for admission, but most likely we'll leave them in the dust.

If you really want to get into Columbia, play it cool. Don't wear argyle (Princeton), a North Face (Cornell), or a soccer jersey (Dartmouth) to your interview. Just

look cool—effortlessly chill.

Though we're laid-back, we're not afraid to speak our minds. We argue obnoxiously with professors in class and might even get in your face about Manhattanville.

Just look at Alexander Hamilton, Columbia alumnus. He decided he would rather die than give an apology to Aaron Burr, his political rival—who, incidentally, was a Princeton graduate and part-time traitor. Hamilton carries our fighting spirit—the next time a debate comes around, we will battle to the death.

Perhaps the next duel will take place this weekend in New Jersey when Columbia and Princeton face off at the basketball game. It's lions versus tigers: And we all know who's the king of the jungle. We're bold, bad, and boisterous—so come if you dare.

03/25/11

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

Penn’s Tyler Bernardini poses threat to Columbia’s Ivy record

BY ROBERT WREN GORDON
Spectator Staff Writer

The Columbia men’s basketball team has made it to the final four. Not the Final Four of the NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament, but the final four games of the 2010-11 season. The Lions rank in the top half of the Ivy League’s standings, but in order to make it to the finish line, they’ll have to make it past tough competitors, such as seasoned athletes like Penn’s Tyler Bernardini.

Bernardini, a senior from Carlsbad, Calif., started in all 23 of the Quakers’ games this season, averaging nearly 13 points per game. He’s also one of Penn’s best free-throw shooters, with a free-throw percentage of nearly 80 percent. However, Bernardini’s impressive stats aren’t what make him a special player.

Last season, Bernardini suffered a season-ending foot injury during Penn’s second game against Villanova. “It was tough, it was a lot of ups and downs,” Bernardini said. “[We were] getting ready to hopefully have a really good year, good campaign, try to win the Ivy League title, and the second game of the season it’s kind of all in jeopardy.”

In his absence, the Quakers went a dismal 6-22. All Bernardini could do was support his teammates emotionally—he couldn’t even work out during the initial phases of his rehab.

“You really can’t stay in shape when your foot’s in a cast, a boot, and you’re just kinda on crutches. There’s not really much you can do—you try to watch what you eat a little bit, maybe not many late-night pizzas and all that—but for the most part you just kinda have to wait until you can kinda get back in there and start doing some stuff,” Bernardini said.

Although it took a while, Bernardini eventually got back into the gym.

“I was a swimmer when I was younger, so I got in the pool a lot, I did a lot of swimming workouts and things of that nature,” Smith said. “Then as I sort of got better I rode the bike, got on the elliptical a little bit, and then once I was finally able to get back on the track, you know I just kind of hit the ground running, literally.”

Being inactive for a whole season brought about unique challenges for Bernardini during his recovery.

“The biggest thing that you gotta get is your wind and your leg strength back that you lose from an entire year,” he said.

Despite the challenges, Bernardini had his eyes set on getting back for his senior season.

“Between the track and the weight room, I tried to spend as much time in there as I could,” he said.

Fortunately for Bernardini, he was able to redshirt last season, meaning that he will have a fifth year of eligibility during the 2011-12 season. Adding another year gave Bernardini the opportunity to focus on helping the team this season, and not worry so much about ending his college career.

“I’m so very fortunate and lucky to be able to have the fifth year, because it takes a lot of less pressure off this year to try to get it all done,” Bernardini said. “My expectation for this year was just to try and come in and help the team in any way that I can ... just by leading by example, getting in the gym, working hard—just trying to be someone that the coaches and other guys on the team want to rely on throughout the season.”

Bernardini’s fifth year will also

SEE BERNADINI, page 3

Fencing to travel to NYU this weekend to compete

BY SPENCER GYORY
Spectator Staff Writer

Columbia’s men’s and women’s fencing teams will be traveling down to NYU for the third time this season to compete at the third annual United States Weapon Squad Championships.

The Lions will be one of 12 elite teams attending. The tournament will also feature top programs Notre Dame, Penn State, St. John’s, Ohio State, and NYU.

This meet will likely be a good litmus test for the women’s squad (10-9, 5-1 Ivy), which is coming off a second place finish at the Ivy League Championships. While the women struggled against many of these same teams earlier this season, their young talent is beginning to shine at just the right time. The depth that the women have at both sabre and epee has been critical in their most recent results.

The men emerged from the Ivies with a disappointing 0-5 result, bringing their overall record 2-16.

Pinpointing the biggest issue for the men’s squad, freshman foilist Alex Pensler said, “I’d probably say staying focused throughout the whole match. Usually we get up 2-0 and then lose 3-2.” Pensler performed extremely well at Ivies where he had the best record on the men’s squad at 11-4, earning him a spot on the first-team all-Ivy.

“It’s simply inexperienced. We don’t have the depth we need.”

—George Kolombatovich, head fencing coach

Head coach George Kolombatovich had other thoughts, however. “It’s simply inexperience. We don’t have the depth we need to do the things we want to do,” he said.

“It is more of a tune-up [this weekend’s meet]. This is a wonderful experiment. We are hoping to make this a yearly event. It will be exciting,” he added.

Kolombatovich is most intrigued by the format of the event, a relay system where the first team to 45 touches wins. The format gives teams the opportunity to come back from large deficits and still win.

The women will be without freshman foilist Nzingha Prescod, who is ranked No. 1 in the country and has

SEE FENCING, page 3



ALYSON GOULDEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SEEING DOUBLE | Senior guard Kathleen Barry is the only member of the women’s basketball team providing consistency on offense—she is the lone player on the Light Blue who is currently averaging double figures.

Lions hope for wins over Penn, Princeton at home

BY SARAH SOMMER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Columbia women’s basketball team returns to the place where all of its wins have come this season, only to face the two teams that started its current losing streak. Home may not be so sweet when the Lions host Penn and Princeton this weekend.

Columbia (5-19, 4-6 Ivy) has lost four straight games, all on the road. Its skid began with a 57-35 loss at Princeton, followed by a 60-40 defeat at Penn. Then, this past weekend, Columbia suffered 63-51 and 77-46 losses at Dartmouth and Harvard, respectively.

A major reason for the Lions’ setbacks is their lack of offensive production. No Columbia player is a consistent scoring threat. Currently, senior guard Kathleen Barry (10.5 points per game) is the only one averaging double figures. Even she is struggling, though, having scored just four points at Penn and three at Dartmouth.

Though the Lions’ offense has sputtered for the past two weekends, head coach Paul Nixon said that each weekend faced different problems. At Princeton and Penn, he said, Columbia did not take high-percentage shots and at Dartmouth and Harvard, the Lions took open shots but missed.

“The offense was executed pretty well [at Dartmouth and Harvard]—we

were getting players, really, very wide-open looks oftentimes—and I think we just got into a mental situation where one person would miss, and then the next person would miss, and then it would just kind of start snowballing on us a little bit,” Nixon said. “I think we got back to taking the right kind of shots this past weekend. Now, the goal this weekend is to get back to taking and making the good shots.”

But Columbia’s offense is filled with question marks. There is senior forward Lauren Dwyer, for example, who went 0-for-8 from the field at Dartmouth and then scored 10 points at Harvard the next night. Then there is freshman guard Brianna Orlich, who scored nine points in each of the past two games but went 2-for-12 at Dartmouth and 3-for-9 at Harvard. As a team, Columbia hit just 28.1 percent of its field goals and 16.5 percent of its three-pointers over its last four contests.

Columbia may try to improve its offense by shuffling its starting lineup. In a Tuesday interview, Nixon said that he and his staff had discussed, but not finalized, changes to the starting five. “It might be a game-time decision,” he said.

Barry and Dwyer have been locks in the first string and will likely remain as such, especially considering that this weekend marks their final two home games. That leaves Orlich, freshman

point guard Taylor Ward, and freshman center Courtney Bradford as the starters who could lose their spots.

Sophomore point guard Taylor Ball, sophomore forward Tyler Simpson, and junior guard Melissa Shafer are all possible candidates for starting roles. All of them have made starts this season, and all of them can score in double figures. Even they, however, are inconsistent. Shafer, for example, followed a game-high 18 points at Dartmouth with a scoreless outing at Harvard.

No matter who takes the court for Columbia, the Lions will face two teams with momentum on their sides. While Columbia has struggled recently, Penn and Princeton have not. The Quakers (10-13, 4-5 Ivy), after starting 1-4 in Ivy League play, have won three of their last four games. Princeton (19-4, 8-1 Ivy), meanwhile, has won five straight contests and has sole possession of first place in the conference.

The Lions have succeeded in their recent home games, winning their last three contests at Levien Gymnasium before their four-game road swing. The Lions will try to return to their winning ways on Friday and Saturday.

“We haven’t changed as a team,” Dwyer said. “We just haven’t been playing our best basketball. So we know we’re still very capable of that level of play, and we’re hoping to re-enact it this weekend.”



ALYSON GOULDEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NUMBER ONE | No. 1 singles player, junior Haig Schneiderman, will face tough competition this weekend when he goes against Binghamton tennis player Sven Vloedgraven, who is currently ranked No. 61 in the nation.

Men’s tennis will go against Binghamton, Army

BY KUNAL GUPTA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Coming off a rough weekend, which saw the No. 45 Columbia men’s tennis team get beaten soundly by two Ivy foes at the ECAC tournament, the Lions will have to regroup quickly as they host two non-conference opponents this weekend, including No. 68 Binghamton. Columbia (3-4) will also host Army on Saturday, but the match against the Binghamton Bearcats should be an indicator of the team’s potential for success in Ivy play.

Binghamton was the runner-up at the ECACs, falling to top seed Cornell in a tight 4-3 match in the finals. The Bearcats boast the Northeast’s top singles player, No. 61 Sven Vloedgraven, who is the two-time ITA Northeast Regional Champion. Vloedgraven is 4-2 this spring, and qualified for

the NCAA Tournament last season. When these two teams met last spring, Vloedgraven beat Columbia’s No. 1 singles player Jon Wong in straight sets. Wong retired with a back injury once the outcome of the match was decided.











Last spring, Columbia was the only Ivy team to beat Binghamton, winning a tight 4-3 match that saw three retirements in the six singles matches.

This spring, Binghamton has lost to all three ranked teams it has played, but has already beaten Princeton and Yale at the ECAC Championships. The Bearcats have a strong lineup behind Vloedgraven, particularly with senior Arnav Jain. Jain has split time this year at No. 2 and No. 3 singles and is 2-0 at No. 2 and 3-1 at No. 3. Last year, Jain went 35-3 all season in singles, and was undefeated in dual matches, including a three-set win at

No. 5 singles against Cyril Bucher of Columbia.

On Saturday, Columbia will host Army, which has struggled this spring. The Black Knights are 1-6 in 2011, and have lost their last six dual matches after beating Fairfield to start the season 1-0. Freshman Asika Isoh is 3-5 this spring in singles matches at No. 1 singles, and Donald Van Velzer is 1-5 playing primarily at No. 2 singles. The Black Knights have not played any common opponents with Columbia this spring, but did lose 5-2 to No. 71 Penn State in January. In that match, Army got wins at No. 1 and No. 6 singles with Isoh and sophomore Rashad Shelton notching victories at both of those positions, respectively.

Both matches are scheduled for 2 p.m. at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center, as the Lions begin a three-match home stand that will take them into their spring-break training trip to Texas.

THE SLATE	
	MEN’S BASKETBALL at Penn Philadelphia, Pa. Friday, 7 p.m.
	MEN’S BASKETBALL at Princeton Princeton, N.J. Saturday, 6 p.m.
	WOMEN’S BASKETBALL vs. Penn Levien Gymnasium Friday, 7 p.m.
	WOMEN’S BASKETBALL vs. Princeton Levien Gymnasium Friday, 7 p.m.
	MEN’S TENNIS vs. Binghamton Dick Savitt Tennis Center Friday, 2 p.m.
	MEN’S TENNIS vs. Army Dick Savitt Tennis Center Sunday, 2 p.m.
	WOMEN’S TENNIS at Maryland College Park, Md. Friday, 1 p.m.
	WOMEN’S TENNIS at Temple Philadelphia, Pa. Saturday, 5 p.m.
	MEN’S SWIMMING & DIVING ECAC Championships Pittsburgh, Pa. Feb. 25–27, all day
	WOMEN’S SWIMMING & DIVING Ivy League Championships Princeton, N.J. Feb. 24–27, all day
	MEN’S SQUASH Nationals Cambridge, Mass. Friday, 11 a.m.
	FENCING U.S. Weapon Squad Championships New York, N.Y. Sunday, 8:30 a.m.
	TRACK & FIELD Ivy League Heptagonal Championships The Armory Feb. 26–27, all day
	LACROSSE at Monmouth West Long Branch, N.J. Saturday, 1 p.m.

PIXBOX

week # 6

- 1: Columbia at Penn (-3.5)
- 2: Harvard at Yale (+7.5)
- 3: Cornell at Princeton (-9.5)
- 4: Dartmouth at Brown (-6.5)
- 5: BYU at San Diego State (-3.5)
- 6: Florida at Kentucky (+2.5)
- 7: Thunder at Magic (-1.5)
- 8: Pixbox wins for Jacob this weekend (Over/under 3.5/7)



Zach Glubiak (21-19)

Roar Lion
Harvard
Big Red
Bears
Jimmer!
Calipari
Durant
Over

100% participation so far...

Columbia
Yale
Princeton
Brown
BYU
Kentucky
Magic
Over

Jacob, I have confidence in you. Don't let me down. Or else.

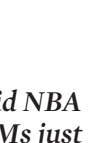
Kunal Gupta (21-19)



Jacob Levenfeld (21-19)

Hudson Shore
Yale
Cornell
Brown
BYU
Florida
OKC
Under

Cubs vs. A's, Sunday, 3:05.



Did NBA GMs just trade to trade?

Lions
Bulldogs
Le tigre
Brown
Aztecs
Cheaters
Russell
Under

Lucas Shaw (21-19)



Myles Simmons (20-20)

Columbia
Harvard
Princeton
Brown
BYU
Kentucky
Thunder
Over

Is it baseball season yet?

Carmelo Anthony: reminding NY that they have a basketball team since 2011.

+500!
Harvard
Big Red
Da Bears
SDS
Flo Rida
Orlando
Leven

Michael Shapiro (18-22)



Michele Cleary (17-23)

Lions
Harvard
Cornell
Bears?
San Diego
Florida
Magic
Team Edward

If I increase our coverage of soccer, will Gulati give me extra credit on my econ midterm?

Seriously, you can send in an 800-word column, but not eight words for Pixbox?

Columbia
Yale
Cornell
Dartmouth
BYU
Kentucky
Thunder
Over

Bart Lopez (16-24)



Mrinal Mohanka (16-24)

Columbia
Harvard
Princeton
Brown
San Diego St.
Florida
BeMagic
He's terrible

We may not run Pixbox standings on Monday.

Jacob, you better get this if you don't want your next column to read "majoring in calligraphy."

Columbia
Yale
Princeton
Brown
BYU
Kentucky
Sonics
Kermit

Jim Pagels (14-26)



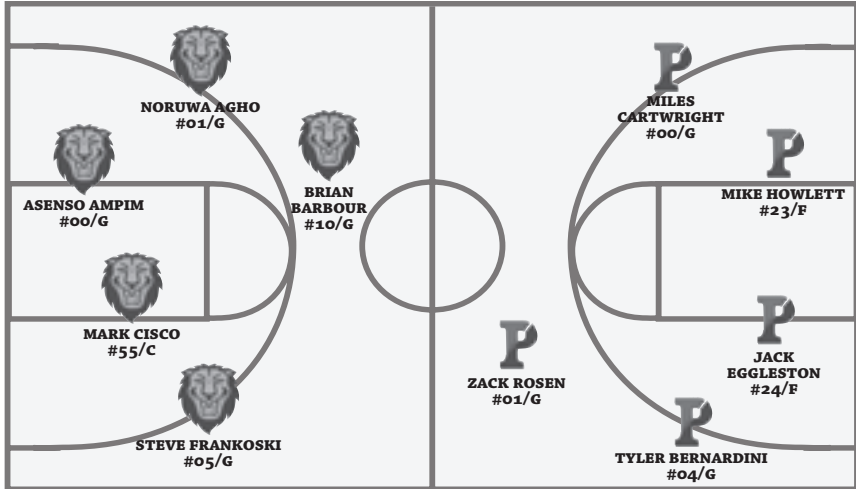
FRIDAY FAST BREAK

STARTING LINEUPS

GAME 1:



AT



KEYS TO THE GAME

1

Focus

Although the Lions are worried about facing Princeton after losing to the Tigers by 30 points at home, today's game against Penn is just as important. The Light Blue will be going against the Quakers in front of a raucous and riled up crowd, and the Lions must be focused to secure a win.

2

Shifting momentum

Last time the two teams met, Penn was extremely tired after coming off several difficult overtime losses. However, Penn has recently found its stride after sweeping an away weekend over both Brown and Yale. If the Lions hope to notch a win, they'll need to be strong from the start to topple Penn's confidence.

3

Spread the ball

The Lions' offensive woes come from star players, such as Noruwa Agho and Brian Barbour, being overextended due to the demand for them to both put up big numbers and guard the biggest offensive threats. If other Columbia players, such as Meiko Lyles, can step up and score, the Lions can secure a win.

BY THE NUMBERS

POINTS PER GAME



REBOUNDS PER GAME



POINTS ALLOWED



FIELD GOAL PCT.



KEY MATCHUPS

Meiko Lyles

Tyler Bernardini

Freshman guard Meiko Lyles has been lighting it up for the Light Blue recently, scoring 11 points against Dartmouth. However, Penn's senior guard Tyler Bernardini is a force to be reckoned with, and Lyles must control the tempo—both offensively and defensively—to shut down one of the Quakers' leading scorers.



Steve Frankoski

Miles Cartwright

In what is bound to be a battle of the freshmen, guard Steve Frankoski will need to be on the top of his game to help the Lions outscore Penn. Guard Miles Cartwright is averaging 11 points a game and was a focal point of the offense. The Quaker freshman needs to be contained in order for the Lions to outscore the Quakers.

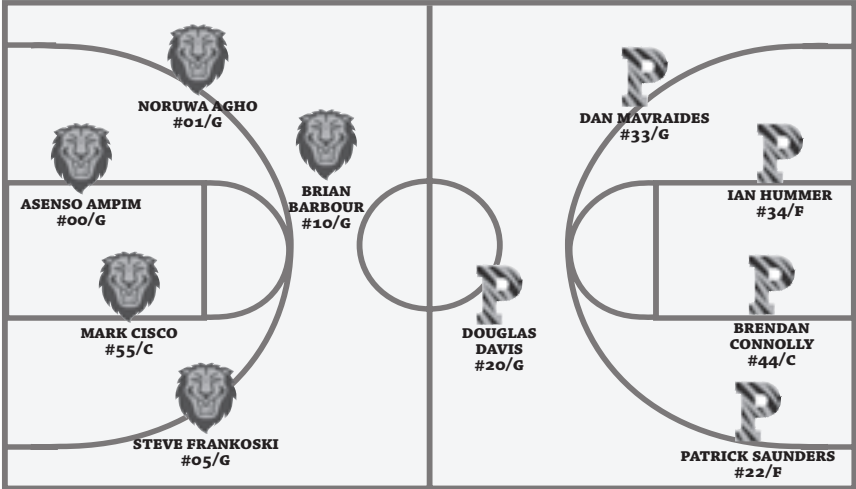


STARTING LINEUPS

GAME 2:



AT



KEYS TO THE GAME

1

Rack up points

While it sounds fairly obvious, the Lions need to score more than 48 points a game if they want to win. Against league leaders Harvard and Princeton, Columbia was held to under 50 points each time. The Lions will need to score more points if they want Ws.

2

Stay in the game

One of the Light Blue's biggest mistakes last time out against Princeton was its inability to stay in the game after falling behind. The Lions need to stay focused and determined even after falling into a huge deficit. Comebacks are not possible when a team is too busy panicking to take good shots and score.

3

Rebounding

Princeton is second in the League on the boards only to Columbia. If the Lions hope to rack up points, they'll need to beat the Tigers off the glass in order to get second opportunities to score. Successful rebounding will also help hold off Princeton's scoring, which will help Columbia contain the Tigers.

BY THE NUMBERS

POINTS PER GAME



REBOUNDS PER GAME



POINTS ALLOWED



FIELD GOAL PCT.



KEY MATCHUPS

Asenso Ampim

Ian Hummer

Last time Princeton and Columbia met, the Tigers' sophomore forward Ian Hummer had an explosive game, recording 25 points and 12 rebounds. As one of the Light Blue's only effective big men, senior forward Asenso Ampim must play aggressively in hopes of shutting Hummer—and a potent Princeton inside offense—down.



Noruwa Agho

Dan Mavraides

Senior guard Dan Mavraides was one of four Princeton players to score double digits last time the two teams met. Mavraides personally recorded 17 points. If the Lions have any hope to notch a win, junior guard Noruwa Agho will need to have a hot hand and be as explosive offensively as he was at the beginning of the basketball season.



GAMEDAY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25 • PAGE 8



**COLUMBIA (14-10, 5-5 Ivy)
at PENN (11-12, 5-4 Ivy)**
FRIDAY, 7 P.M., PHILADELPHIA, PA.

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



**COLUMBIA (14-10, 5-5 Ivy)
at PRINCETON (20-5, 8-1 Ivy)**
SATURDAY, 6 P.M., PRINCETON, N.J.

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



Women athletes also deserve to be recognized

Valeri Sikhuashvili, a close friend and a junior at Columbia, pointed out something very interesting to me the other day. He said, “You know your last column? It began with ‘David Beckham, Tiger Woods, Alex Rodriguez, and Rafael Nadal.’ Why were there no females in that list of brand-name athletes?”

It got me thinking. I’m no sexist, don’t get me wrong—that wasn’t something I had done intentionally. I asked myself who the most famous female athletes currently are, on a global scale. Really only tennis pros came to mind: Caroline Wozniacki, the Williams sisters, and Maria Sharapova (the latter for reasons other than sporting prowess). To be completely frank, I don’t know any current professional female athletes other than the tennis stars. However, I do know that several Columbia alumnae have



**MRINAL
MOHANKA**
**Word on
the Street**

SEE MOHANKA, page 3

For **THE SLATE**,
see page 6



MIKE DISCENZA / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BIG BRIAN | Sophomore guard Brian Barbour has been a big asset offensively for the Light Blue this season—he is currently averaging 12.7 points a game.

Tough away weekend to challenge Light Blue

BY MOLLY TOW
Spectator Staff Writer

No rest for the weary will be Columbia’s motto as it recovers from a frustrating weekend and embarks on its final road trip of the season. Although the commute is the easiest of the season, the same cannot be said of the teams awaiting the Light Blue’s arrival. Tonight, the Lions (14-10, 5-5 Ivy) will take on Penn (11-12, 5-4 Ivy) at the famed Palestra, and will then go up against Princeton (20-5, 8-1 Ivy) on Saturday.

The Light Blue is recuperating from a tough weekend at home, narrowly edging out Dartmouth on Friday and getting thoroughly thrashed by Harvard on Saturday. Multiple injuries, coupled with persistent shooting woes, were the most obvious things to point to in explaining the outcomes and Columbia’s statistics. Coach Kyle Smith believes that the inconsistency of player availability may have induced the problems seen on the court.

“We’re losing a little bit of depth, and it’s not a big difference, we still have good inside players, there’s a little difference in just the chemistry,” said Smith. “We finally got settled in ... had a pretty good team ... then JD [sophomore John Daniels] went out—and then with [sophomore Mark] Cisco, the chemistry’s changed, where our scoring’s come from has changed, and we haven’t digested well with that, simple as that.”

The subject of depth has recently

been an issue for the Light Blue. A lot is asked of junior guard Noruwa Agho and sophomore guard Brian Barbour, and although it may appear so at times, they do not have endless battery life.

“We’re just trying to get a couple-minute blow for Brian each half, so we give him 33, 34 minutes. Same with Noruwa,” Smith said. “They could be worn a little thin, because we ask them to do a lot besides score; they often have to guard the best players. They’re good enough to do it, but back-to-back nights and doing all of that stuff, getting late in the season, we probably need to develop more to help us in that area.”

As with most doubleheaders, the Lions must take the weekend one game at a time. The 30-point loss to Princeton may still be haunting, but the Light Blue must first play Penn at the Palestra—not an easy feat for any team. In their last matchup, Columbia beat Penn 75-62, but since then the momentum has shifted in Penn’s favor. The Quakers are coming off a road sweep of Brown and Yale, a trip that gave Columbia the opposite outcome earlier this season. Penn guards Tyler Bernardini, Miles Cartwright, and Zack Rosen, along with forward Jack Eggleston, have all appeared to be simultaneously in their season peaks. Added to these four is forward Conor Turley, who, although fighting injury all year, had two stellar performances

SEE MEN’S BASKETBALL, page 3



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New York offers up an Oscar-worthy cast of movie theaters

BY MARICELA GONZALEZ
Spectator Staff Writer

For tourists and locals alike, New York City is synonymous with theater. Though the city may be known for its diversity of stage theaters—from the lavish, grand Broadway theaters to tiny Off Off Broadway hole-in-the-walls—it is also home to a great range of movie theaters. Each of which offers a specific experience to its attendees, from overwhelming to claustrophobic.

The closest theater for Columbia students is the AMC Magic Johnson Harlem 9 theater (2309 Frederick Douglass Blvd., between 124th and 125th streets). The theater is equipped with standard AMC specs—top picture quality, crisp sound, and comfortable seats. But it is the crowd at Magic Johnson that can either enhance or take away from the theater experience. Magic Johnson’s moviegoers—who are often also included in Apollo Theater’s infamously harsh audiences—are not shy or coy about giving their opinions on the film. Especially on opening weekends, this phenomenon can elevate crass, predictable horror schlock into an audience-driven comedy show or reduce the suspension in watching melodramatic films to a point of annoyance to fellow filmgoers.

Unlike the Magic Johnson theater—or even the nearby AMC 84th Street 6 theater, which holds a striking resemblance to every bland suburban theater in America—AMC Lincoln Square 13 (1998 Broadway, at 68th Street) is expansive but still maintains a distinctive character.

The theater has three levels: the lower “New Jersey” section shows older and indie movies, the main level has individual theaters named after famous movie theaters, and the top level has an IMAX theater.

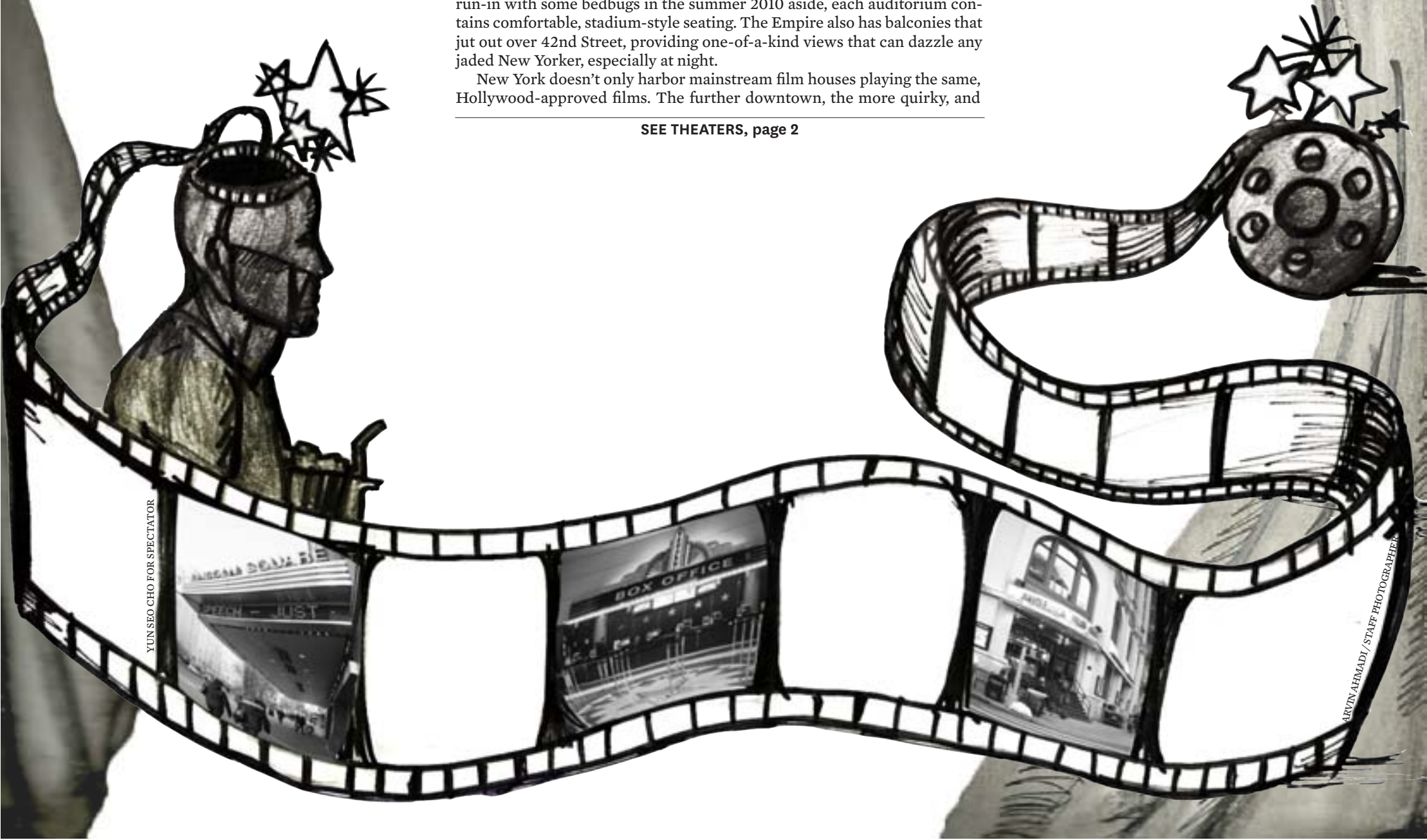
Boasting the largest IMAX screen in New York City, Lincoln Square offers both the perks of an international movie distribution giant and the uniqueness of a one-of-a-kind movie house. The best room in Lincoln Square is the Loews Auditorium, which harkens back to old-Hollywood film theaters with its red velvet seats, curtains, and orchestra-style setup, including a balcony. The behemoth that is Lincoln Square is nevertheless dwarfed by Midtown’s movie-house monstrosities.

Competing against its Broadway stage counterparts, AMC Empire 25 and Regal E-Walk 13 (234 W. 42nd St. and 247 W. 42nd St., between Seventh and Eighth avenues) pull out all the stops to entice tourists—and college students who don’t know any better—into their massive, multi-level spaces. While the dueling movie theaters have many similar features, including large-scale stadium seating and overpriced, calorie-packed concession stands, true movie theater aficionados know that Regal E-Walk 13 is no match against the Empire.

As an AMC theater, Empire 25 redeems AMC movie vouchers available for students at the TIC, with the cheapest movie option starting at \$6.75. With 25 screens, the Empire also has a wider array of film choices, from Hollywood blockbusters in IMAX and 3D to independent and foreign films. An unsavory run-in with some bedbugs in the summer 2010 aside, each auditorium contains comfortable, stadium-style seating. The Empire also has balconies that jut out over 42nd Street, providing one-of-a-kind views that can dazzle any jaded New Yorker, especially at night.

New York doesn’t only harbor mainstream film houses playing the same, Hollywood-approved films. The further downtown, the more quirky, and

SEE THEATERS, page 2



Best of

Indie Bookstores

Book hunting in New York City doesn’t have to mean visiting the nearest Barnes & Noble. Head over to these three indie bookstores, each with its own idiosyncratic quirks, and browse through the latest bestsellers or discover lesser-known books. —BY CLAIRE FU



ARVIN AHMADI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

STRANDED | Famous bookstore the Strand has enough books to keep any type of reader occupied all day long.

The Strand

The Strand’s (828 Broadway, at 12th Street) famous slogan proclaims that it has “18 Miles of Books.” Even if one hasn’t been to the Strand, it’s hard to miss the store’s ubiquitous tote bags that half of New York seems to own in a dozen different colors and patterns. The Strand is perfect for those who are looking for rare, antiquated, or out-of-print books—and who are willing to brave the crowds at the same time. From a well-worn copy of “Moby Dick” to a brand new edition of a Stieg Larsson book, there is truly something for everyone at this book lovers’ heaven. The down-to-earth feel of the Strand does away with the stale commercialization of typical chain bookstores, even if the Barnes & Noble Union Square branch right around the corner does serve as competition. The rows of tall bookshelves teeming with used and new books might conjure memories of the oftentimes unnavigable Butler stacks, but the staff at the Strand is genuinely friendly and helpful. Besides asking for help finding a specific book, it may also be a good idea to ask for book recommendations. Whatever one’s budget is, it takes a healthy dose of self-control to leave the Strand empty-handed, especially when there are alluring book carts lined up outside the store filled with \$1 books.

McNally Jackson

Tucked away in the streets of SoHo, McNally Jackson Books (52 Prince St., between Lafayette and Mulberry streets) is the place to be for those looking to buy a recent bestseller or to sit in a homey café. Between the wide selection of current books for up-to-date bookworms and a surprisingly varied array of travel books for literary-minded globetrotters, there are two floors of paperbacks and hardcovers for a rainy day’s worth of reading. Customers who have their hearts set on a book can perch on any of the sofas and chairs sprinkled throughout the bookstore. For a homier alternative to Starbucks, sit down at the café located on the ground floor and order their organic coffee or scrumptious scones. Sipping on lattes in cups with poem fragments written on them, one can lean against the wallpaper made up of book pages and look up at the unique décor of great classics hanging down from the ceiling. With up-and-coming authors as well as literary heavyweights invited to McNally Jackson for readings, it’s hard not to get starstruck at this indie bookstore. For an excuse to go to McNally on a regular basis, join the literature book club led by owner Sarah McNally herself the first Monday of every month.



ARVIN AHMADI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MCNALLY ALLY | This SoHo bookstore offers up a cozy environment for browsing travel books or sipping lattes.



ARVIN AHMADI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BOHO BOOKS | St. Mark’s Bookshop may be a favorite of NYU kids, but Columbians can easily learn to love it, too.

St. Mark’s Bookshop

For the secret bohemian inside of everyone, head over to St. Mark’s Bookshop (31 Third Ave., at Stuyvesant Street) for a diverse selection of books from the well-known to the obscure. The brick exterior lends just the warm and comforting atmosphere to the interior of the bookstore. Art enthusiasts can rejoice at the abundance of visual art, photography, design, and architecture books stocked here. Other specialty subjects include cultural theory, poetry, and film studies. St. Mark’s is particularly suitable for the casual browser, who can thumb through local zines, postcard collections, and grass-roots magazines at the back. Check out the sale section that won’t break the bank with severely marked down prices. And don’t forget to ask for a glance at the shop’s autographed book copies—if “The Lacuna” by Barbara Kingsolver isn’t already snagged by a fellow book lover. Bookshelves line the walls all the way up to the ceiling, so don’t be afraid to ask the knowledgeable staff for some help reaching the top shelf. The picture would be complete if there were places to sit in the bookstore, but customers are content standing and reading in the roomy aisles. Both the reasonable prices and cozy atmosphere of St. Mark’s are student-friendly at this common NYU haunt.



COURTESY OF ARGOS BOOKS

ALPHABET SOUP | SoA student Marina Blitshteyn’s recently released book “Russian for Lovers” has a poem for every letter of the Russian alphabet.

Marina Blitshteyn’s Russian-inspired poems aren’t lost in translation

BY KATIE REITBERG
Spectator Staff Writer

The poems of Marina Blitshteyn, SoA ’11, are more than just letters on a page—they are visual and performance art. On Feb. 24, KGB Literary Bar in the East Village celebrated the release of “Russian for Lovers,” a new book of poems from Blitshteyn, a current Columbia MFA poetry student. In “Russian for Lovers,” Blitshteyn’s melodies of syllables and silences lead readers through the Russian alphabet from “A” to “Я.” Published by Argos Books, “Russian for Lovers” is all about Blitshteyn’s passion for language. She uses poetry to translate her native culture to an American audience. Each poem relates to the way a letter of the Russian alphabet either sounds or looks. As an undergraduate at the University at Buffalo, Blitshteyn became involved in poetry slams. “I want to find that balance between what looks good on the page and what sounds good

to read,” she said. “Russian for Lovers” includes concrete poems that form shapes with the breaks between words and thoughts. She remembers becoming interested in the power of silence during her sophomore year of college and said, “I think it visually gives room to breathe. It gives you time to take in things you might overlook.” The poem for the letter “E” reads like an interview about Blitshteyn’s past, while the poem for “Я” sounds like a conversation between lovers overheard while one is stuck in traffic. There is a timetable and a series of unanswered questions, as well as meditations on articulation like “the tail end of it is harder to utter / makes you pucker your mouth / change the distance between your tongue.” “Russian for Lovers” is anything but conventional. Blitshteyn said, “The good thing about having rules sometimes, like what is and isn’t poetry, is that that too is exciting to break.” Though the book is about translation, there are only a few scattered Russian words. Blitshteyn

says this mirrors her life. She was born in the USSR, but her family immigrated to the US in 1991. Blitshteyn says she expresses herself best in English, which she learned partially through hip hop and cartoons. She remembers writing her first poem in the third grade. “My sister wrote,” Blitshteyn said, “she’s ten years older, and I think I respected it because she did it.” When she is feeling blocked, Blitshteyn looks to other forms of art: “I love going to museums and galleries and sort of living in somebody else’s vision.” “I used to like writing on the trains,” she said, “I had this technique of wrapping my arm around the pole and supporting the notebook in one hand and the pen with the other. I like writing in the middle of things.” An inventive new voice, Blitshteyn says she has more poems and plans for future books—“There’s always something lurking.”

New York offers up Oscar-worthy cast of movie theaters

THEATERS, from front page

unfortunately more expensive, the movie theaters become. Angelika Film Center (18 W. Houston St., between Mercer Street and Broadway) is called a film center for a reason. With a full-sized café instead of a concession stand, the Angelika is a popular haunt for downtown hipsters, NYU students, and film geeks alike. Despite any pretentiousness that may emanate from its usual crowd, Angelika Film Center is a nice diversion from the Columbia bubble. The tickets may be a bit pricier—\$8.75 with a discounted voucher from the TIC—but when going to the Angelika, one pays for the full film center experience. Sipping an iced latte and munching on freshly baked scones, audience members enjoy contemporary independent and foreign films in cozy—albeit a bit rumbling since the subway can be felt in some parts of the theater—seats. At Film Forum (209 W. Houston St., between Sixth Avenue and Bedford Street), movie snobs have to determine which of their obsessive compulsions will take precedence. While the theater has a great film repertoire, such as the current series on Al Pacino’s movies from the 1970s, the physical theater leaves something to be desired. With small screens and even smaller rows of seats, any notion of leaving the theater to use the bath-room or to buy snacks after the film has started goes out the window unless one doesn’t mind making a whole room full of New Yorkers angry. Just east of the cramped movie house is another small, art-house theater with a similar but more contemporary repertoire. The IFC Center (323 Sixth Ave., near Washington Square) features American and foreign film retrospectives, as well as a host of contemporary indie-foreign films. Formerly the famed Waverly Theater, the IFC Center continues to honor its anti-establishment, independent roots by continuing its midnight movie specials, featuring films like the awesomely demented “Fight Club” or the just demented “Eraserhead.” Unlike the AMC concession stands, the IFC Center’s concession is worth the expensive prices with its organic popcorn slathered in real, unprocessed butter and fun, film-themed T-shirts. What gives the IFC Center a leg up on Film Forum, despite the Forum’s more Columbia-accessible location, is the diverse and vibrant Greenwich Village neighborhood it calls home. Not to be upstaged by their play and musical counterparts, Manhattan’s movie theaters each provide audiences with a different take on the theater experience.

Lisa Cholodenko puts CU back on Oscar map

BY LUDOVICA PAGNI
Columbia Daily Spectator

Every year, as Academy Awards night approaches, the Columbia community anxiously waits to find out if there will be any alumni success to rejoice in. After the domination of Kathryn Bigelow, SoA '81, at the 2010 Academy Awards, there is another woman, Lisa Cholodenko, SoA '97, looking to win the school pride for 2011.

Co-written and directed by Cholodenko, "The Kids Are All Right," which won Best Motion Picture - Comedy and Best Actress in a Motion Picture - Comedy (Annette Bening) at the Golden Globes only a few weeks ago, will now try its chances at the Kodak Theatre. The film is nominated for four Academy Awards: Best Supporting Role, Best Actress in a Leading Role, Best Picture, and Best Original Screenplay.

Cholodenko's "The Kids Are All Right" touches on controversial issues like gay marriage and adoption by parents of the same sex. However, debate and awareness were not the director's intentions in creating the movie. "I didn't really have a specific message nor did I intend to make an overly political film. I just wanted to show that all families have their own struggles by trying to look deeper in what really keeps them together," Cholodenko said.

The director's sympathy with her characters is not casual, though, nor is her incredible similarity to lead actress Bening, since Cholodenko's own life played an important role in the film's creation. "The

thinking of making a family, sperm donors and raising kids ... came from my own experience," Cholodenko said. "My girlfriend and I wanted to start a family, and we were figuring out how we wanted to do it. So the original idea came from my personal life, but then it went off in a different direction."

When asked about her experience and her path to success, Cholodenko mentioned her time at Columbia. "When I started Columbia I had a little bit of background in film ... in the editing field," Cholodenko said.

Cholodenko said the highlights of her experience were the "great faculty and great mentors," with whom she also collaborated on her film "High Art" (1998). To those students seeking to enter the film world, Cholodenko said, "You can really make your way through any door basically—there's no particular way to do it. I did a lot of many different things, I was kind of all over the place."

After coming a long way with editing, writing, and producing, Cholodenko now finds herself nominated for Best Original Screenplay with her colleague Stuart Blumberg. "We spent five years on the script, and now it's a great satisfaction, it's validating. I'm really proud that I got to make it," Cholodenko said.

Cholodenko has a lot of plans for the near future—she is currently working on a television series at HBO and with another Columbia alum on a book-based screenplay. So, once the reflectors on the red carpet are turned off, stay tuned—Cholodenko hopes to have plenty more to offer.



ILLUSTRATION BY JIIN CHOI

Nights out get shifty when shifted downtown

It was one of those nights. Libby felt the same. We agreed—with sardonically serious facial expressions—that we just needed to go downtown. It was time to get away, so we hustled out, aiming for some friends on the Lower East Side.

On the West Side Highway in a yellow cab, a whale streaming down the Hudson, we were far away from the frat boys and academia of Columbia. We arrived at Broome Street, and my mouth curled a little. There was a buzz in the air, a sort of old-fashioned energy that flies around and licks its tongue into the corners of the evening.

Libby made a call, and we slipped into a bar—dimly lit and full of happy people—sitting down to the drinks waiting for us. We moved quickly through the small talk and got to carefree banter about the best things in life. As thoughts of friends and feelings, art and aspirations dripped out of our mouths, I was rediscovering how to relax. No one was drunk or going crazy. We were just sliding slowly, as though in a warm bath, into real social life.



KEMBLE WALKER

Restless Nights

It was lovely, but it couldn't last. Pockets vibrated with texts from around the city, places to see and faces to meet, and so we decided on a trade-off: a rather uninteresting and pretentious quasi-club in return for free drinks. With nothing better to do, it seemed like a good option.

"To Southside please," Libby said with sarcastic enthusiasm to the next cab driver. "Cleveland Place, between Broome and Kenmare."

Southside is nothing special. People associate it with people watching, which is correct, because you can barely talk inside—the music is loud, and the smirks are intimidating. The drinks flowed, all was well, but a few hours later our night took a turn for the worse.

Libby, in tipsy, unsuspecting confidence, put her bag down against the wall. A moment later, she asked for it. With a clear mental image of where it was, I coolly bent down—without looking—to grab it for her. I clutched at air. It was gone.

Suddenly, the warmth of our night vanished. Some opportunistic asshole had swiped her phone, wallet, IDs, and cash. Some opportunistic asshole, what's more, who was well-dressed enough to get past the bouncers.

Turmoil ensued, and our addled brains gasped for nicotine. Outside, we found more Columbia escapees. But they, like us, had been let down by the Lower East Side, with its trendy haircuts and vintage clothes. They were stuck in the cold with no one to call and nothing to smoke. "That bitch made her way to the front and went in without us," one of them said to me. All I could offer was a cigarette.

We crossed the street. The awkward throng of heels and collars looked silly from here. The night still had an energy to it, but it had taken a sinister turn. It was no longer comforting or sociable.

Suddenly, the warmth of our night vanished. Some opportunistic asshole had swiped her phone, wallet, IDs, and cash.

The night folded up like an origami wasteland, and we all headed home. I was upset and disillusioned. It had seemed perfect, but nothing in this city is perfect. I should never have believed it. I didn't want to be cynical, but I didn't want to get hurt.

The next day, Libby started replacing her things. Her brother gave her some cash to get on with. Everything would be all right, but it was hard not to be jaded. Back to work, back to late nights and papers and John Jay food. We bust our guts from January to May—then the switch flicks, and we're free. We enjoy our holiday, but there's a tinnitus buzz, an echo reminding us that we should be doing something. Was that all we knew any more?

A few days later I got a call. "Kem, you won't believe it. I called the place, and they found my bag. Yeah, I know, crazy. And everything's inside. Ridiculous. Even the cash."

My mouth curled a little. Maybe I'd have to give it a second chance.

Kemble Walker is a Columbia College freshman. Restless Nights runs alternate Fridays.

A&E'S OSCAR PICKS

COURTESY OF FORMER A&E FILM ASSOCIATE RACHEL ALLEN



BEST PICTURE

"THE KING'S SPEECH":
"The King's Speech" seems unstoppable after best picture wins at the PGA, DGA, and SAG Awards, especially as former favorite "The Social Network" is falling off the map.

ALSO NOMINATED:
"Black Swan," "The Fighter," "Inception," "The Kids Are All Right," "127 Hours," "The Social Network," "Toy Story 3," "True Grit," and "Winter's Bone"



BEST ACTRESS

NATALIE PORTMAN IN "BLACK SWAN":
Portman has been basically uncontested in this race thus far, and she will ride that wave directly to a golden statue.

ALSO NOMINATED:
Annette Bening in "The Kids Are All Right," Nicole Kidman in "Rabbit Hole," Jennifer Lawrence in "Winter's Bone," and Michelle Williams in "Blue Valentine"



BEST ACTOR

COLIN FIRTH IN "THE KING'S SPEECH":
Firth will belatedly receive the award he deserves at this year's ceremony.

ALSO NOMINATED:
Javier Bardem in "Biutiful," Jeff Bridges in "True Grit," Jesse Eisenberg in "The Social Network," and James Franco in "127 Hours"



BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

CHRISTIAN BALE IN "THE FIGHTER":
Critics have lauded Bale's performance as the titular fighter's brother and coach. He is the best bet in this year's race.

ALSO NOMINATED:
John Hawkes in "Winter's Bone," Jeremy Renner in "The Town," Mark Ruffalo in "The Kids Are All Right," and Geoffrey Rush in "The King's Speech"



BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

HAILEE STEINFELD IN "TRUE GRIT":
Though Melissa Leo has been a frontrunner for "The Fighter," her recent promotional mishaps give the edge to Steinfeld as the youthful outlaw in "True Grit."

ALSO NOMINATED:
Amy Adams in "The Fighter," Helena Bonham Carter in "The King's Speech," Melissa Leo in "The Fighter," and Jacki Weaver in "Animal Kingdom"



BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

"THE KING'S SPEECH":
The King's reign will most likely continue through to the screenplay race, though the unique outlook of "The Kids Are All Right" poses a real threat.

ALSO NOMINATED:
"Another Year," "The Fighter," "Inception," and "The Kids Are All Right"



BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY

"THE SOCIAL NETWORK":
Nothing can, or should, stop Aaron Sorkin's brilliantly intricate and fast-paced script.

ALSO NOMINATED:
"127 Hours," "Toy Story 3," "True Grit," and "Winter's Bone"

In a Better World

BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM

"IN A BETTER WORLD":
While most of the nominees are fairly unknown, the entry from Denmark has been making waves as a subtle, poignant film.

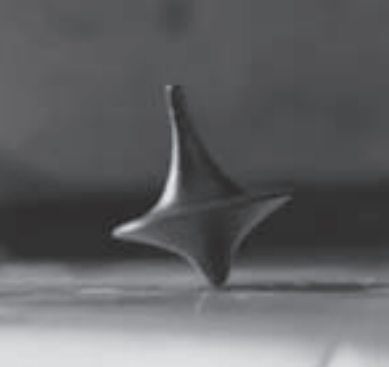
ALSO NOMINATED:
"Biutiful," "Dogtooth," "Incendies," and "Outside the Law" ("Hors-la-loi")



BEST ANIMATED FILM

"TOY STORY 3":
This is a no-brainer. Pixar's masterpiece has the award in the bag.

ALSO NOMINATED:
"How to Train Your Dragon" and "The Illusionist"



SOUND MIXING AND EDITING

"INCEPTION":
For once, these two usually unpredictable categories have a clear frontrunner: the sonorous "Inception."

ALSO NOMINATED:
"Toy Story 3," "Tron: Legacy," "True Grit," and "Unstoppable"

Inside Job

BEST DOCUMENTARY

"INSIDE JOB":
Hipster favorite "Exit Through the Gift Shop" probably never had a chance with the Academy voters; instead, the well-reviewed "Inside Job" will take home the golden statue.

ALSO NOMINATED:
"Exit through the Gift Shop," "Gasland," "Inside Job," "Restrepo," and "Waste Land"



Flipside

Guide

Kamrooz Aram exhibit

SoA alum waves a painted flag at Perry Rubenstein Gallery in Chelsea

BY IAN ERICKSON-KERY
Spectator Staff Writer

The creative talent of the Columbia community manifests itself in diverse ways and in various settings, frequently including New York galleries. Kamrooz Aram, SoA '03, currently has a show on view at Chelsea's Perry Rubenstein Gallery (527 W. 23rd St., between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues) called "Negotiations," which is open until March 26. The show is comprised of two different series of large paintings and a series of small collages.

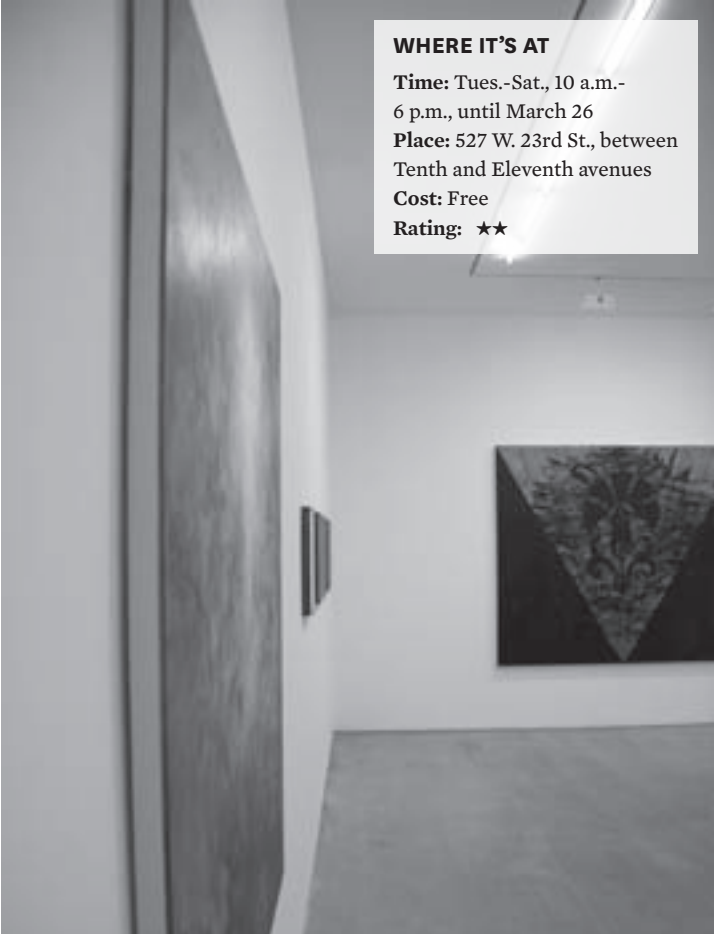
In his "flag paintings," in which oils are painted on flag-shaped rectangular canvases, Aram toys with the nationalist imagery of the flag by inserting texture and color gradation into an ordinarily solid and geometric iconography. In doing so, he calls into question the boundary between art and ideological, state-dispensed imagery.

He also incorporates elements of Persian carpet design, creating images in which modernist geometries coexist with abstract textures and traditional decorative forms. The viewer is left to negotiate this aesthetic amalgam, which can be especially challenging given Aram's unusual color palette. The task of deciphering is a worthwhile one, but viewers might find the stylistic tensions of the paintings unsettling at first glance.

More immediately pleasing to the eye is Aram's series of collages entitled "7,000 Years." The title refers to the phrase "7,000 years of history," which many Iranians use to evoke a nostalgic sense of pride for their culture's accomplishments. The collages are made up of clippings from mid-century catalogues of traditional Iranian art objects, which Aram arranges into simple, elegant images that please a modernist geometric sensibility. Aram performs the important task of mediating the relationship between traditional and modern forms, in addition to investigating his own transnational identity as an Iranian-American. His juxtaposition of different objects, such as ceramic sculptures and carpets, produces works that celebrate the aesthetics of different cultures and time periods.

Aram's "Fana" paintings are finished through the process of wiping away and sanding down the surface of the paintings at their centers, leaving behind a glowing space of exposed canvas. These works are interesting in their exploration of gradual erasure and their creation of a focal point from the absence of form. However, they lack the compelling complexity of the flag paintings, which make better use of symmetry for conceptual exploration and better straddle the line between abstraction and representation. The use of decorative floral imagery set within hazy, dreamlike environments creates a mood that is too romantic and even sentimental for truly thought-provoking contemporary art.

Despite the shortcomings of Aram's "Fana" series, the artist raises compelling and uniquely personalized questions through his other works in the show. His collages in particular achieve a level of balance and sophistication missing from the work of many contemporary artists too preoccupied with irony or concept. Columbia ought to applaud Aram's ability to creatively interpret and impact his world.



FLAGS UP | At left, a painting from Aram's "Fana" series followed by three small collage works. Opposite, a flag painting.

events

MUSIC

Tennis

—*The Bowery Ballroom, 6 Delancey St., between Bowery and Chrystie Street, Wednesday, March 2, 9 p.m., \$13-\$15.*

This Denver-based, husband-and-wife duo spent a year away from the music scene—and from any solid ground on which to play tennis—sailing from the Bahamas to Baltimore. What emerged was an unforgettable experience communicated with a thoroughly distinctive sound.

ART

‘Behind Every Curtain’

—*David Zwirner Gallery, 525 W. 19th St., between 10th and 12th avenues, through March 19, various times, free.*

Marcel Dzama's dramatic scenes of human intrigue have made him anonymously famous through work for musicians like Beck and They Might Be Giants. His most recent exhibition includes a film inspired by ballet and chess and life-size spinning puppet sculptures.

STYLE

Critical Mass

—*Union Square, between 14th and 17th streets and Broadway and Park Avenue South, Friday, Feb. 25, 7 p.m., free.*

Students can pull out their bikes and storm the streets in this monthly event organized by Time's Up!, New York City's Direct Action Environmental Organization. Participants will make a statement in favor of safer streets and green transportation—or at least of warmer weather.

FILM

French Cinema

—*The Film Society of Lincoln Center, 165 W. 65th St., between Broadway and Amsterdam, March 3-14, various times, \$10.*

French cinema has long been admired by the most cultured, and no doubt, cinephiles will be queueing up for the "Rendez-Vous with French Cinema" lineup of contemporary French films, all of which are making their New York debuts.



CAROL KIM FOR SPECTATOR

POETIC ARIAS | Marcello Giordani sang Thursday, Feb. 24 at Columbia's Italian Academy in an Italian Poetry Review-sponsored event.

Marcello Giordani

Famed Italian tenor cut short at Italian Poetry Review concert on campus

BY EMILY OSTERTAG
Spectator Staff Writer

It is a well-known fact that Italy has produced a large number of the world's best opera singers in history. Tenor Marcello Giordani is one of them. However, Giordani's performance at Columbia's Italian Academy on Thursday, Feb. 24 turned out to be such an exuberant celebration of Italian poetry that it almost undermined what a great singer he is.

The recital consisted of Italian music set to Italian poetry and was sponsored by the Italian Poetry Review, a plurilingual journal of poetry and criticism.

Giordani, accompanied by pianist William Lewis, sang melodies composed by Riccardo Zandonai, Leone Sinigaglia, Sir Francesco Paolo Tosti, Ottorino Respighi, and Pietro Cimara, all of whom lived between the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Gabriele D'Annunzio and Arrigo Boito are among the poets whose works these composers interpreted.

Giordani has been called "arguably the greatest leading tenor of his generation" by Opera News magazine, and to anyone who

attended this recital, it is no mystery why. He sang with sensitivity and precision that made the whole of the music far greater than the sum of its parts—melody and poetry.

However, not nearly enough of the concert actually included his singing. The evening began with lengthy introductions by several specialists in the fields, who gave detailed backgrounds of the poets and composers, as well as of the artist himself. There was extensive commentary between the songs by other specialists, including overly detailed analyses of the works, especially the poetry.

One such interlude included a mini-interview with Giordani, who has had several poems published in the Italian Poetry Review, about his own experience as a poet. At the end of this interview, Giordani asked jokingly, "Can I sing now?" It was a well-deserved question.

Much of the background information provided was very interesting and highly informative, especially given the unusual nature of the program. However, once Giordani began to sing, the music spoke for itself. "Music and poetry go together. Music and words, they are both the language of our feelings," Giordani said. Had the melodies combined with the poetry been allowed to speak for themselves, the concert experience would have been far more rewarding.

Ms. Lily's

New Jamaican jerk restaurant plays up the casual—in the trendiest of ways

BY ALEXIS NELSON
Columbia Daily Spectator

Though the concept of Ms. Lily's may seem endearingly casual, this restaurant's low-key style belies its upscale nature and trendiness.

This new Jamaican restaurant, billed as a "Jamaican jerk hut," is located in Greenwich Village at 132 W. Houston St. (at Sullivan Street). Famous and hip nightlife pioneer Serge Becker opened Ms. Lily's on Feb. 15. Anna Wintour—the editor-in-chief of Vogue who lives close by—famously opposed the restaurant's opening. There was some neighborhood concern that it could turn into a nightclub, which would attract a more raucous crowd.

Ms. Lily's serves up Caribbean food including delicious fried plantains, spicy jambalaya, and sweet potato in all its incarnations. The restaurant also presents seafood dishes like red snapper or Jamaican pasta with spicy lobster. There are also options for the more adventurous customer, such as oxtail stew. The kitchen is always busy preparing jerk chicken, the restaurant's mainstay meal. Though meat seems to be Ms. Lily's focus, there are some vegetarian choices as well.

The spicy pork burger with avocado, served with a side of thin and delicious sweet-potato chips, is tasty and unusual. The meat is very moist, and the accompanying sauce lends it a unique tang. In true Caribbean fashion, most dishes have at least a bit of a kick.

The restaurant offers a number of Jamaican and other Caribbean desserts, including banana pudding and traditional coconut rum cake with warm spices.

The food is fairly pricey considering its casual nature and the restaurant's informal orange Formica booths and checkered

floor. However, the price range is still not outrageous for a nice night out. Diners are also partially paying for those checkers and the hip environment that Becker has created.

At the bar in the front room, guests can order Red Stripes from a counter that is itself bright red. Thirsty visitors can also select a cold ale from a range of tropical brews, including the Caribbean favorite—ginger beer. Ms. Lily's offers many other tropical drinks, such as red and white wine sangria, tally, and of course, all things rum.

Those feeling a little more audacious should take a journey into the back room. There, the dimmed lights and black-cushion booths invite Wintour's association of the spot with a nightclub. This area generally seats a later-arriving crowd.

The downscale and intentionally kitschy décor, replete with Jamaican-style pop art, serves the restaurant's purpose well. Ms. Lily's seems to strive to make itself chic by manufacturing a casual, unpretentious environment. The ambiance feels nonchalantly stylish. In short, the new restaurant combines a laid-back Jamaican air with a hip, edgy New York twist.

Typical of Becker's creations, Ms. Lily's is not simply a restaurant but a carefully designed scene. It just so happens that this scene's food keeps pace with its finely honed aesthetic. The menu provides soulful, rich, and exotic flavors to match the escapist atmosphere of the restaurant.

WHERE IT'S AT

Time: Hours vary, open daily
Place: 132 W. Houston St., at Sullivan Street
Rating: ★★★