

STAFF EDITORIAL

For SEAS dean, we endorse Paul Weiss

Within a few weeks, University President Lee Bollinger will choose the next dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science after receiving the recommendations of a search committee. We've spoken with the four finalists, and we urge Bollinger and the search committee to select UCLA professor Paul Weiss.

Weiss is the director of the California NanoSystems Institute, a nanoscience research center based at the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is also an internationally recognized scientist who has spent years teaching undergraduates and collaborating with engineers around the world on cutting-edge research. He has the potential to be a transformative leader for SEAS, fueling an increase in interdisciplinary research, fostering a culture of entrepreneurship, and attracting venture capitalists and high-quality professors to the school.

Earlier this month, the search committee announced the finalists: Mary Boyce, head of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's mechanical engineering department; Andrew Gellman, head of Carnegie Mellon University's chemical



COURTESY OF CENTRAL SCIENCE

Paul Weiss, director of the California NanoSystems Institute

engineering department; Donald Goldfarb, the current SEAS interim dean; and Weiss. In interviews with Spectator's editorial board, all four candidates demonstrated that they would bring innovative ideas and a wealth of experience to SEAS. Gellman oversaw a \$26 million overhaul of CMU's chemical engineering facilities, an experience that would prove useful here, and Boyce said that she would create connections between the engineering school

and other "pockets of excellence" at Columbia. Additionally, choosing the first female dean of SEAS would be an exciting, symbolic step forward for women in engineering.

Goldfarb presented a strong case for continuing as dean. He has taught at SEAS for more than 30 years, including a year-long stint as interim dean in the mid-1990s. He also built up the industrial engineering and operations research department,

transforming it from a weak link into the school's highest-ranked department during an 18-year tenure as chair. Considering Goldfarb's long and successful history at Columbia, it should be no surprise that when then-dean Feniosky Peña-Mora lost the faculty's trust in 2011, central administrators turned to Goldfarb to rebuild that trust, appointing him executive vice

SEE WEISS, page 4

Tejraj Antooa, former SEAS student, commits suicide

BY ABBY ABRAMS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Former engineering student Tejraj Antooa died on Jan. 24, Engineering Student Council President Tim Qin, SEAS '13, announced in an email Monday. The death was a suicide, friends said.

Antooa, who was from Elmont, N.Y., on Long Island, was pursuing a major in computer science and involved with the Hindu Students Organization and the Columbia International Relations Council. He was 22.

Friends said they will remember Antooa, who entered the School of Engineering and Applied Science as a member of the class of 2013, as a happy, giving person who went out of his way to help others and enjoyed spontaneously exploring the city.

"He was just always there, you know," said Siddhi Mittal, SEAS '13 and a member of the suite in which Antooa had planned to live before taking time off from Columbia. "He hung out with people all the time, had different groups all the time."

During his first year at Columbia, Antooa joined the HSO, where he met some of his closest friends in college.

"We became very close—he was one of us," Kapil Wattamwar, SEAS '13 and a member of HSO, said. "Mostly, when I think of him, before I think of HSO, I primarily think of him as a brother and as a

friend."

In addition to his involvement in HSO, Antooa was a member of CIRCA's traveling team.

Antooa took a leave of absence from Columbia after the spring 2012 semester and did not return.

Both friends noted Antooa's intelligence—some of their favorite memories of him featured the electronic devices he would build. One, which he called the "TV B-Gone," worked like a universal remote that could turn off any television.

"One day we took the elevator down in Broadway and shut off every TV" in the building, Wattamwar said. It was in the middle of a big football game, and everyone trying to watch was baffled, Wattamwar and Johri recalled, laughing.

While Antooa's friends miss his presence greatly, they say they will remember him as an important member of their close-knit group.

"I think if anything, all of us have just gotten closer because we kind of went through all this together," Mittal said. "I guess he will always be remembered as one of us. We'll know he's always one of us and he'll be remembered anytime anything good happens."

Normally after the death of a Columbia College or SEAS student, Dean of Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger sends an email notifying the student body of the death.

SEE ANTOOA, page 7



COURTESY OF KAPIL WATTAMWAR

DEPARTED | Former engineering student Tejraj Antooa, right, who was in the class of 2013, committed suicide on Jan. 24.

Hughes tones down FroSci lecture antics

Students still puzzled by strange introductory sequence

BY NATALIE FELSEN
Spectator Staff Writer

Physics professor Emlyn Hughes, who attracted national media attention for stripping at a Frontiers of Science lecture last week, toned down his antics for Monday's lecture on the development of nuclear bombs and their proliferation, but still left some students puzzled by his actions.

Hughes began this lecture, like the previous one, with rap music—"Gangsta's Paradise" by Coolio—set to a video of nuclear devastation, and also featured a ninja, who did not return after the introductory sequence.

Clad once again in a black hoodie and sunglasses, Hughes acknowledged the national hubbub over his performance, saying that he had turned Horace Mann Auditorium at Teachers College into "the most famous classroom in America."

But in spite of his odd attire, he quickly got down to business with a lecture that examined both the physics and politics of nuclear weapons in detail.

Only one other stunt occurred in the course of the hour-and-a-half-long lecture. As Hughes discussed the repellent properties of like particles, twin girls walked onstage from opposite sides of the auditorium, sat down at desks, and began to type on laptops in sync.

All their actions, from

hair-tossing to phone-checking, mirrored each other perfectly. After about three minutes, they simultaneously packed up and left, without any acknowledgment from Hughes.

In a question and answer session, when a student asked him about the situation, Hughes told students that they had "more to talk about" at the next lecture, and that they would have a "good, long talk."

Security was tight at the lecture—students were required to present CUIDs to enter the building, and teaching assistants with iPads checked to make sure students were enrolled in the course. Before Hughes came on stage, Frontiers of Science coordinator Ivana Nikolic Hughes—Emlyn's wife—told students that no photo, video, or audio recording was allowed.

Some students said after the lecture that they had expected an explanation for Hughes' behavior.

"I can't say I'm able to put together exactly what the overall vision is," Russell Moors, GS, said. "I could use some traction."

Moors said that the shift in mood was to be expected.

"I was disappointed, but what we had last time was a surprise," he said. "Coming into lecture, there was no way of telling what happened next. I don't think

SEE HUGHES, page 7



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | 125th Street has been a key Harlem artery since the neighborhood was a village on NYC's outskirts.

After 200 years, 125th is still Harlem's 'main street'

When 125th Street was signed into existence 200 years ago by surveyor John Randel Jr., Harlem was a nondescript village in the countryside, a day's trip north of New York City. The street was intended to be the village's major thoroughfare.

BY FRANÇOIS CHARLOTTIN

Now, with its bodegas and churches, Gap and Old Navy outlets, iconic theaters and street hawkers, 125th Street represents the conflicts and changes that have come to define Harlem's history.

2013 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of the street, and the 20th anniversary of the 125th Street Business Improvement District, the main organization responsible for its business and community prominence in recent decades. Festivities are planned to commemorate the event later this year, BID President Barbara Askins said, but historians are unsure of the exact date the street was established.

What they agree on is that the story of the street is the story of Harlem: its shifting economic fortunes,



demographics, and popular image.

DEVELOPMENT AND DIVERSITY

Despite its initial isolation, geography dictated that 125th Street would become a major travel route.

Running through a valley, it was an obvious choice for connecting the East River to the Hudson River. Quick growth along the street sparked the construction of the Harlem Railroad to downtown New York in 1836, as well as a New Jersey ferry connection in 1863.

"It was always a major stop for all the trains, and that was very significant for the development of the area," Columbia history professor Kenneth Jackson, a renowned expert in New York history, said.

But Harlem really only started to grow in the late 19th century with the arrival of thousands of European immigrants, coinciding with the expansion of Manhattan's street grid. Manhattanville, on the west end of 125th Street, became predominantly German, while East Harlem was mostly Irish and Italian. After the completion of a subway stop at 125th Street and Broadway in 1904, an influx of

SEE 125TH, page 2

A&E, BACK PAGE

Diversity inspires Lunar Gala fashion show

Columbia's Chinese Students Club will present the 34th annual Lunar Gala. The fashion show seeks to provide a multicultural perspective.



OPINION, PAGE 4

Go big or go home?

Andrew Godinich on the bleak job prospects for international students.

Suffering in silence

Ayelet Pearl on recognizing the stories that remain in the shadows.

SPORTS, PAGE 3

Barbour returns to help Lions top Quakers

With senior point guard Brian Barbour back on the court, the Lions defeated the Quakers, in spite of a weak showing in the second half, to make up for Friday's tough loss to the Tigers.

EVENTS

Middle Eastern Poetry

Join the Columbia Iranian Students Association for an evening of translated and original poems from the Middle East.

St. Paul's Chapel, 7:30 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



45°/37°

Tomorrow



47°/39°

As Harlem’s demographics, economics, popular image change, so does 125th Street

125TH from front page

Jews moved to the area.

“It became the second Jewish neighborhood after the Lower East Side,” Jackson said.

This fostered a level of social diversity that is only being seen again now in the pedestrians on 125th.

“There was a working class as well as an upper middle class,” Kevin McGruder, a scholar-in-residence at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, said. “It had the reputation to be a bedroom suburb. The brownstones were owned by lawyers or physicians who would have a servant living on the upper floor.”

‘THE BLACK CAPITAL OF THE WORLD’

Early in the 20th century, African Americans started to move into Harlem, and the demographics of the area changed rapidly. By the time of the Harlem Renaissance in the 1920s, Harlem was known as “the black capital of the world.”

“Harlem was improved by its people, and outsiders sometimes don’t understand the process.”

—Kevin McGruder, scholar-in-residence, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

“Harlem became an attractive, spicy place for nightlife,” Jackson said, as establishments like Lenox Lounge, on Lenox Avenue just south of 125th Street, became well-known even far outside of Harlem.

Despite diversity, racial tensions were high. Most of the 125th Street bars and nightclubs were owned by white managers, and did not accept African Americans as customers. The famed Apollo Theater on 125th Street and Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard, as well as other iconic venues, were “white only,” even during the Harlem Renaissance.

As the Great Depression took hold, 125th Street was hit by several riots. In 1935, a massive riot—Harlem’s first—was sparked by a false rumor that a black Puerto Rican had been beaten to death by a shopkeeper. Three people died and hundreds more were wounded.

These struggles set the precedent for the civil rights movement in the neighborhood, and Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. gave speeches and led rallies down 125th Street.

At the same time, brownstones were emptying and crime and poverty were both rising, which led to negative stereotypes of the area.

“In the 1960s and the 1970s, Harlem was not a place where you felt particularly welcomed,” said Father David Nolan, a pastor at St. Joseph of the Holy Family Catholic Church on 125th Street and Morningside Avenue. “Even in this church there was a man shelter. You had to deal with poverty everywhere.”

GENTRIFICATION HITS

It is the changes over the past two decades, however, that have caused most of the current tension between residents and newcomers. Gentrification has made 125th Street safer and cleaner, but has pushed its real estate prices sky-high.

“Retailers now see 125th as a vibrant shopping mecca with a potential for future growth,” Jackson said.

Meanwhile, police have cracked down on the unlicensed vendors that hawk their wares on the street’s sidewalks every day.

“There is a greater divide between those who have and those who don’t have,” Nolan said. There used to be “jobs that would normally go to people because nobody wants them,” he said, but “now everybody wants a job, so it becomes more difficult.”

“I’m not sure it’s all positive,” lifetime Harlemite Barbara Thompson, 74, said. “You see a store and suddenly the store goes out of business.”

Thompson, who was born on 118th Street, recalled when elevated trains still ran up Eighth Avenue and trolleys carried shoppers up and down the street.

Up until about 30 years ago, “125th Street was still 125th Street,” she said. “There was still the stores I had as a child”—stores that are now gone.

Others, however, say that the changes to the street are more positive than negative.

“At one time it was torn up because of riots and what not,” Brenda Hudson, who has lived in Harlem for 45 years, said. “But as time went on, they fixed it up, and now its revitalized.”

“We have basically the same thing: a lot of new stores, a lot of food stores,” she said. “The Apollo’s been there forever, that I can remember.” When she was young, she said, she would go to the Apollo “every week.”

The word gentrification is



TOP RIGHT: FILE PHOTO; BOTTOM LEFT: SELBY BYASHIMOVA FOR SPECTATOR; OTHERS: DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HISTORIC HARLEM | 125th Street, which was chosen to become a street because of its topography, is now a thriving thoroughfare.

still loaded, though.

“To some people it is an inflammatory term,” McGruder said. “Harlem was improved by its people, and outsiders sometimes don’t understand the process.”

Askins said that current and future developers should be thinking about how the community benefits “from the growth everybody is pushing for.” The constant news coverage of a gentrifying Harlem only covers one side of the issue, she said.

“It discourages people. It makes people feel like they don’t have a chance,” she said.

But Askins said that after 200 years, 125th Street would remain the heart of Harlem culture, even as new development creates economic opportunities for locals.

“We have to be getting that interesting mix, making sure we don’t just become anywhere else,” Askins said. “We have to bring property developers together and get them to buy into the vision.”

Christian Zhang and Avantika Kumar contributed reporting.
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CU to offer 2 online degree programs in fall

BY SAMANTHA COONEY
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Two Columbia master’s programs will be offering degrees online starting in the fall of 2013.

The master’s of arts in statistics, housed at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and the master’s of science in actuarial science, based at the School of Continuing Education, will make use of social networks and video conferencing to replicate a traditional classroom using a digital format.

“The network learning online model really is intended to extend our offerings,” School of Continuing Education spokesperson George Calderaro said.

The program, which will make use of software designed by the School of Continuing Education for other online programs, will feature weekly live video sessions taught by Columbia faculty and will offer opportunities for students to communicate and work together through social networking.

“The program will have a face-to-face component,” Calderaro said. “That’s what’s really distinctive about the online version.”

Calderaro added that the online programs “will be similar in

course content” to the on-campus programs already offered at Columbia. Students can choose to take their course loads entirely online or split their time between on-campus and online work.

Hongzhong Zhang, an assistant professor of statistics who taught a course in the statistics master’s program last semester, said he was a bit wary about teaching statistics online, noting the “complexity” of some of the content.

“It may be difficult for students to follow and understand online,” he said, noting that he thought programs with more graphic representations may be better suited to the online format.

In addition to its new program, the School of Continuing Education offers online graduate work in bioethics, strategic communications, and technology management.

Students from across the country and around the world will “now have the opportunity to engage with our faculty and each other in a unique online learning environment,” Kristine Billmyer, dean of the School of Continuing Education, said in a statement.

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AROUND THE IVIES

Princeton GOP refuses to support Ivy League gay marriage petition

BY CATHERINE KU
Daily Princetonian

Princeton College Republicans has decided not to endorse a statement of support for marriage equality circulated by the presidents of numerous Ivy League Democrats and Republicans chapters. All eight College Democrats chapters, including Princeton’s, have signed on to the pledge while among the College Republicans chapters, only the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia have confirmed their support.

“We, the Presidents of the College Democrats and College Republicans chapters of the Ivy League, stand united to affirm the right of all Americans to marry the person they love, regardless of gender,” the statement read. “We challenge our nation’s leaders to join us in defense of marriage equality for gay and lesbian couples.”

Princeton College Democrats president Will Mantell ’14 said that even though the statement only indicates the points of view of him as president, the whole organization supports the statement as well.

Princeton College Republicans president David Will ’14 said while he personally supports gay marriage and initially agreed to the pledge, he decided not to publicly endorse it after consulting with his fellow executive officers.

Will said that while the College Republicans officers had mixed reactions on the topic of marriage equality, he recognized that it was his prerogative as president to sign a pledge that technically said only he was in support of marriage equality. Nevertheless, he said he ultimately decided not to sign the pledge “out of respect” for the officers and members of College Republicans.

“I determined that it would be too fractious,” he said. “It would still be too cozy of a use of my capacity as president that might unfairly associate themselves with the statement as well.”

Will is also a columnist for The Daily Princetonian.

“I’m wary of signing pledges. I feel that they’re restrictive,” Will explained, adding that the marriage equality statement failed to distinguish between the federal versus state right to marriage, which he said he felt was an important distinction.

Both Will and Mantell said that although the College

COURTLAND THOMAS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CROSSING THE AISLE | Columbia University Democrats President Janine Balekdjian, CC ’13, and Columbia University College Republicans President Tyler Trumbach, CC ’13, released a statement supporting marriage equality this month.

Democrats and College Republicans did not unite on this issue, it will not prevent the two groups from collaborating in the future.

Motion for a statement in support of marriage equality began at Penn, when Penn Democrats president Matthew Kalman said both Penn Democrats and College Republicans “realized that there’s an opportunity to come together across partisan lines on this issue.”

Columbia College Republicans released a pre-statement endorsing marriage equality on Valentine’s Day.

Kalman said the pledge is still being finalized and will be released in the next two weeks. He declined to confirm which Ivy League College Republicans chapters had signed on, saying, “things are still in flux.” However, representatives from College Republicans chapters at Brown and Dartmouth told the ‘Prince’ they have declined to endorse the statement. Cornell College Republicans said it has not given a final response at this time.

A version of this article was originally published by the Daily Princetonian on Feb. 25, 2013.

The future, and what could have been

Every Wednesday, I interview Columbia men's basketball head coach Kyle Smith to discuss the previous weekend's games and preview the upcoming slate for our pregame shows on WKCR. Usually, Coach Smith is pretty upbeat during these sessions, no matter what the weekend's results were. He is also more candid than any other coach I have had the chance to talk to at Columbia.



SAM TYDINGS
Booth Review

All of this made my last interview quite the downer. Smith blamed himself for tinkering too much with the lineup at Yale, leading to a 19-point blowout in New Haven. He ended our interview by saying that those two games had “broke us, mentally and spiritually” before meticulously peering over hustle statistics from the previous day's practice, trying to find an inefficiency against Princeton in an ultimately futile effort.

At 3-7 now, the Lions' last four contests will either lead to them salvaging the season by approaching the .500 mark in the Ivy League, or completely bottoming out, approaching last year's 4-10 mark. After Smith told me the team had their spirits broken, they were blown out by Princeton and then beat Penn by 17, despite failing to make a field goal in the final 15 minutes.

On Saturday, the Lions put away the Quakers in a testament to the principles that Smith has been preaching all year: an offense based around generating open three-point looks and getting to the foul line, and a defense that smothers opponents in the paint and contests every movement on the perimeter. The Lions went 22-26 at the foul line against Penn, including 19-22 in the second half to crush any ideas of a Quaker comeback. After the loss to Princeton, and on the second night of a back-to-back homestand, it would have been reasonable to expect the team to fold. They were taking on a Penn team that had just upset Cornell 79-71 Friday evening and had a chance to improve to 5-4 in the Ivy League after winning only three games in nonconference play. Despite all of these factors, Smith helped the Lions right the ship.

This has been an extraordinarily trying season for the men's team. All of the preseason hype was centered around the expectation that Barbour and Cisco would lead the team, with the underclassmen rounding out on-court production when necessary. This was a team that was supposed to win by playing big while other teams in the Ivies (like 9-1 Harvard) were playing smaller lineups. The expectations only grew when the Lions beat Villanova on the road and later dominated Cornell in the second half to begin Ivy play 1-0. Since then, it has been a collection of heart-breaking losses due to poor late-game execution on the court and a string of debilitating illnesses off the court which have doomed this Lions team to its current standing in seventh place.

While the fact that the Lions won't compete for the Ivy title these next two weekends is immensely disappointing, there are positives to look forward to in the years to come. Freshmen Grant Mullins and Maodo Lo have grown into legitimate scoring threats and Lo is already an elite perimeter defender. Sophomores Alex Rosenberg and Cory Osetkowski have improved their games dramatically in year two, especially on the defensive end as they shut down opposing front courts on a regular basis. Steve Frankoski missed all of last year due to a foot injury but has proven himself capable to get open and rain three pointers without skipping a beat.

Going into 2013-14, the team will lack the preseason hype that this year's team brought to the table. It will also need to find its identity and some depth in a hurry due to the four graduating seniors. They will, in all likelihood, not compete for an Ivy title. What does need to happen next season is the continued growth of the current underclassmen. Kyle Smith has proven himself highly capable of improving guards: One just needs to look at Brian Barbour's progression over his three years under Smith and Mullins and Lo's improvements over the past five months for proof. It is far more likely that the 2014-15 team is the one making a run for the NCAA Tournament than next year's squad, but that is a long way away. All we know now is that, despite the broken spirits of the 2012-13 team, Smith has brought in talented underclassmen who could break the hearts of the other seven Ivy schools in years to come.

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DOUGLAS KESSEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HEALTHY HOOPER | Over the past few weeks, the Lions struggled without point guard Brian Barbour, who was instrumental in his return in Saturday's game.

In his return, Barbour proves key for Light Blue

BY MUNEEB ALAM
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

With health issues keeping senior point guard Brian Barbour out of the lineup and limiting his minutes over the last couple of weeks, the men's basketball team struggled to maintain control of the ball and get open looks. Two weeks ago, it committed 19 turnovers both at Brown and at Yale, which are last and fourth in the league, respectively, at forcing turnovers.

After receiving intravenous therapy five times on Thursday, Barbour said his coaches were not completely comfortable giving him regular minutes on Friday. He played nine minutes and Columbia lost by nineteen to Princeton—its second consecutive loss by that margin or more. After the game,

head coach Kyle Smith said he hoped Barbour would feel better the next day for a game against Penn.

“He means so much to us, leadership-wise, competitive spirit,” he said. “There's always going to be an adjustment if a guy's down like that.”

Barbour did play against Penn, and Columbia's fortunes changed drastically.

During his return to significant minutes, Barbour had 12 points and two assists in 28 minutes of action—all right around personal season averages or below—but his impact went well beyond his row in the box score.

Freshman guard Grant Mullins, who had not made a three-pointer during a game in three weeks, knocked down two, and credited Barbour's assistance on the first as helping him get into a shooting rhythm.

“When Barbour was out, I would have to try to get shots on my own,

dribbling and stuff, but when he's out there, either of us can bring it up the court,” Mullins said.

Seven of Columbia's 13 first-half field goals were assisted—two each from Barbour, sophomore forward Alex Rosenberg, and freshman guard Maodo Lo, and one from Mullins—as the team shot 52 percent from the field, its best single-half shooting performance since its Ivy-opening win at Cornell. Moreover, all but four of Columbia's first-half attempts were from either beyond the arc or in the immediate vicinity of the basket—the two most effective scoring areas on the court.

“I think it was good because I had a lot of energy,” Barbour said after the win over Penn. “I was able to contribute and it felt good being back out there and kind of running the team and getting a win.”

And with Columbia struggling to hit

shots in the second half, making only two of its 20 attempts, Barbour was there to hit free throws. Barbour—who has ranked in the top 25 in the country in free throw percentage for the last three years—made seven of eight attempts from the charity stripe in the final eight minutes, including three of four after Penn was called for back-to-back technical fouls.

“He's giving everything he has, and I say we're going to go down or we're going to win with this guy,” Smith said after the win over Penn. “He's just earned that opportunity to try and make it happen.”

This weekend, Columbia has a chance to avenge a pair of road losses of two weeks ago against Brown and Yale. Unlike those previous games, however, it appears Barbour will be healthy.

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Harvard sweeps Brown and Yale, holds first place in Ivy League

BY NOAH STEBBINS
Columbia Daily Spectator

Nothing could stop the Harvard men's basketball team last weekend as the Crimson swept both Brown and Yale on the road. With a four-game win streak, Harvard continues to lead the Ivy League, with Princeton trailing close behind. Penn came back after the first half in its game against Cornell, contributing to the Big Red's 0-2 record for the weekend. Both Yale and Brown went 1-1, while Dartmouth saw two defeats.

FEB. 22

DARTMOUTH 67
YALE 78

Yale (11-16, 5-5 Ivy) rallied to blow out Dartmouth (6-18, 2-8 Ivy) at home with Michael Grace and Sam Martin each contributing 12 points for the Bulldogs. The game ultimately came down to the plays by each team's bench as Yale pulled 46 points from its reserves, while Dartmouth only got 14 points. Even in defeat, Dartmouth guard Alex Mitola scored an astonishing 27 points in 34 minutes. Guard Tyler Melville aided him with 11 points, but it was not enough to stop the Bulldogs, who started the second half with an 18-6 run.

SEE AROUND THE LEAGUE,
page 7



COURTESY OF THE HARVARD CRIMSON

IVY DOMINANCE | The Crimson, led by Wesley Saunders, crushed Brown on Friday and topped Yale on Saturday to remain atop the Ivy league.

RK	TEAM
1 9-1	HARVARD CRIMSON On Friday, the Crimson crushed the Bears, holding Brown to only 47 points. The next day, Harvard topped Yale in a comeback win.
2 7-2	PRINCETON TIGERS The Tigers stand just beneath the Crimson after winning their third straight game against the Lions and beating the Big Red.
3 5-5	CORNELL BIG RED Over the weekend, Cornell lost both of its contests, falling by eight to the Quakers before falling by 19 to the Tigers.
4 5-5	YALE BULLDOGS Yale's bench stepped up to help the Bulldogs pound the Big Green, but Yale could not hold on against the Crimson.
5 4-5	PENN QUAKERS The Quakers mounted a strong second half comeback to top the Big Red, but fell behind early against the Lions the next day.
6 4-6	BROWN BEARS The Bears fell to the dominant Crimson on Friday, but made up for the loss with a resounding victory over the Big Green.
7 3-7	COLUMBIA LIONS Against Princeton, the Lions lost their third game in a row, but Columbia impressed with a victory over Penn the next day.
8 2-8	DARTMOUTH BIG GREEN Dartmouth dropped both of its games over the weekend, earning its fourth and fifth straight losses against Yale and Brown.



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International students should have a choice

The Columbia admissions office loves to point out the diverse environment they have created: “All 50 states! Look how many Native Americans we have! 150 countries!!!” Admirable achievements, to be sure. Nineteen percent of the class of 2016 is international, and Columbia plays host to one of the biggest cohorts of foreign students of any American university. Whatever your feelings about Columbia’s “global” nature, international students are an integral part of the Columbia community. But what happens after we—at least those of us who are American— have provided them with the best education and the best opportunities Uncle Sam can offer (Taxpayers who provide \$1 billion to Columbia annually)? Do we encourage these students to set up shop here and recoup our investment by building businesses and creating homegrown jobs? How much time do we give them to find or pursue jobs after graduation?

Three months. The current U.S. policy on international students amounts to little more than an unceremonious kick to the curb. Holders of F-1 visas (the visa for foreign university students) have three months after graduation to find full-time employment, and then a year to apply for permanent residency, with extensions available if the graduate’s degree is in a STEM (science, technology, engineering or math) field. Although this situation might seem merely inconvenient or uncomfortable, consider that most firms simply lack the resources needed to navigate the Byzantine residency application process. When I asked Bruno Rigonatti



ANDREW GODINICH
Too Be Frank

STAFF EDITORIAL

Weiss for SEAS dean

WEISS from front page

dean. By all accounts, Goldfarb has done so, first in that role and, since July, as interim dean.

But while no candidate can match Goldfarb’s three decades of experience at Columbia, Weiss has successfully navigated a similarly complex bureaucracy at the University of California. Since his appointment as director of the NanoSystems Institute in 2009, he has overseen 125 faculty members from more than 25 departments and reported to both the chancellor of UCLA and the president of the UC system. Furthermore, he has already developed an impressive familiarity with Columbia—unlike the other two external candidates, he pointed immediately to Manhattanville when asked how to solve the engineering school’s notorious space problem, and he cited the exact number of professors that the Institute for Data Sciences and Engineering plans to hire. SEAS would no doubt experience growing pains as Weiss adjusts to the intricacies of Columbia’s bureaucracy, and after their experience with Peña-Mora, SEAS professors might distrust another outside hire. But Weiss’ outsider status is not an insurmountable barrier.

What begins to set Weiss apart from the other candidates is his penchant for interdisciplinary work. He oversees a research group at UCLA that includes chemists, physicists, biologists, materials scientists, electrical and mechanical engineers, and computer scientists. The work of the NanoSystems Institute, meanwhile, spans the sciences, engineering, medicine, art, law, public policy, and film. Weiss expressed enthusiasm about the data sciences institute and the planned Mind Brain Behavior Institute, and he said he would work to coordinate more interdisciplinary efforts as SEAS expands into Manhattanville.

Goldfarb, too, has a history of crossing disciplinary boundaries—he has taught chemical engineering, computer science, and industrial engineering and operations research. But he also indicated that, as dean, he would give his department heads almost total autonomy to choose their departments’ research focuses and specializations. While the SEAS faculty had an understandably poor response to Peña-Mora’s tendency to micromanage, we think it is important for the dean to play an active role in encouraging collaboration. The most pressing problems facing the world today demand interdisciplinary solutions, and Weiss’ ability to break down traditional academic boundaries would keep SEAS relevant and ahead of the curve on cutting-edge research.

Weiss also understands that Columbia has not done enough to promote innovation and entrepreneurship or to engage with the growing New York City tech scene. He said he would push to give all undergraduates access to laboratory experience, as he did for every honors chemistry student during the decade he taught freshman chemistry at Pennsylvania State University. Columbia has long earned significant patent royalties, but few student or faculty spinoffs have made a mark in the tech world. Weiss said that he would prioritize attracting more venture capitalists to Columbia, and considering his success in interdisciplinary work and his network of international connections, he is likely to succeed.

Although Weiss has not worked directly with undergraduates at UCLA, Penn State recognized him with its Excellence in Honors Teaching Award in 2004. He also expressed interest in implementing a pass/D/fail policy for engineering students, calling the disparity between the SEAS and CC policies one of the “odd differences” he has noticed between the two schools. He promised to study these disparities systematically and weed out those that don’t make sense. More generally, Weiss was in tune with the issues important to SEAS undergraduates. Like Goldfarb, he expressed a desire to strengthen study abroad options for engineers, which are generally limited because of the restrictive nature of the engineering curriculum. He also emphasized that he would balance the needs of undergraduates against the needs of the school’s growing master’s student population, ensuring that undergraduates have sufficient access to professors and upper-level courses.

Goldfarb would no doubt continue to be a strong dean, but we consider him the safe choice, someone who will keep SEAS moving along its current path but not push its faculty and students to new and greater heights. We have some reservations about recommending an outside candidate for SEAS dean, and we hope that Goldfarb would serve in a senior advisory role under Weiss, helping him navigate Columbia’s bureaucratic waters and providing invaluable input and institutional memory on issues ranging from globalization to online education. But Weiss’ bold, forward-looking vision makes him the best candidate for the school’s long-term growth, and we endorse him in the strongest terms.

Mendes, ’CC 14, a student from Brazil, about the difficulty of finding employment stateside after graduation, his response was emphatic: “No question. For internationals, it’s literally go big or go home. Hence pretty much everyone who stays goes into multinationals, banks, etc.” As a result, many of the students who are able to find employment are channeled into jobs at large corporations with equally large legal departments willing to shoulder the cost (in capital and time) to retain them.

So what’s the problem? Well, instead of staying here and helping to found the next Facebook (like fellow Brazilian and dual U.S. citizen Eduardo Saverin), students like Bruno are left with the choice to go corporate fast, or pack up and find a job back home. Startups and small firms simply cannot afford them. In other words, the current system is an institutionalized brain drain, where we attract the best and brightest from abroad, train them, and then send them home with little to show for it.

The immigration crisis poses very real consequences for Columbia’s ability to attract and educate international students.

A recent piece in the Wall Street Journal explored the ways in which the United States pales in comparison to some of our competitors in the way that we treat skilled immigrants. Only 7 percent of our permanent visas are awarded for employment purposes (the allocation of the remaining 93 percent is an economics and logic-defying nightmare all its own). By comparison, that figure approaches 60 percent in Britain. The Economist ran an article in October



AYELET PEARL
Pearls of Wisdom

about entrepreneurs who wanted to immigrate to the U.S., but were discouraged by a potential decade-long waiting list. They chose Chile instead—hardly a first-choice by any measure—where open labor laws award potential job-creators with \$40,000 in seed capital.

When I asked my good friend—and ubiquitous international student and fellow columnist—Rega Jha about her experience with “the system,” her response was just as frustrated as Bruno’s. Facing potential post-grad unemployment, we have cried over many a beer and hookah pipe together. But without residency, Rega’s job search has an added element of urgency: “I have lots of friends that have been turned away and ended up settling either back home in India or in other countries with easier visa restrictions.”

I would much rather Rega and her writing stay in this country, thank you very much. There is a very real face to the current immigration reform debate. It is the future Salman Rushdie in your creative writing class, or Nikola Tesla or Sergey Brin in your senior engineering design group. The immigration debate is one that has been obscured by rhetoric about competition for “American” jobs and a visa system that amounts to little more than a protectionist tariff on “American” talent. Mayor Bloomberg’s “Partnership for a New American Economy” initiative, a national organization of mayors lobbying for immigration reform, estimates that we are facing a shortage of 230,000 advanced degree workers: a deficit that smart reform could go a long way toward solving. But the real tragedy of the failure of immigration policy cannot be summed up in a couple of neat statistics. The immigration crisis poses very real consequences for Columbia’s ability to attract and educate international students, the hallmark of a global university in a global city.

Andrew Godinich is a Columbia College senior majoring in sociology and Portuguese studies. Too Be Frank runs alternate Tuesdays.

Because, of course, their circumstances truly appear to be no different.

Perhaps they are the people we think of as perfect, as so put-together, as happy and carefree, as well-adapted and functional. The attractive student sitting across from you in the library at whom you steal glances every so often. The intelligent, well-spoken peer you want to be just like in your seminar.

Or, perhaps, they are the ones that are so callously judged for being unfriendly, for being cold, or for just seeming “weird.”

Perhaps they are the ones who are looked down upon for seemingly never having suffered, as if everything was handed to them on a silver platter. Maybe someone will even call them out for being “privileged,” assuming that they can’t understand true hardship or struggles, because it seems like they have none of their own.

These are moments when silence hurts to the point where it surpasses the suffering itself.

Everyone you see is struggling somehow, everyone is working through obstacles and personal setbacks.

For these people, their bravery is their silence. It is their personal resolution to protect those around them, or the exceedingly private details of individual circumstances, that is to be admired and lauded.

Look around you right now. Everyone you see is struggling somehow, everyone is working through obstacles and personal setbacks. Every single person is dealing with something that you may never know, that you cannot possibly imagine.

We learn early on never to judge a book by its cover, but this becomes increasingly difficult as covers become increasingly illustrative and transparent. Our community has begun to open up about mental and physical wellbeing, encouraging dialogue and communication about personal suffering. But in a culture that is finally becoming a safe space to speak about personal struggles, often it appears that those who do not share have nothing to share.

When we are lucky enough to read or hear someone bravely exposing the details of their struggles, let us not only praise them for their courage, but take it as a reminder to not judge those around us. We must use such pieces not only to understand that particular problem, but also to glean a more universal message: one in which we become increasingly sensitive to the unseen suffering all around us; one in which we can develop an appreciation and admiration for those who will never have such a voice.

Ayelet Pearl is a Barnard College and Jewish Theological Seminary junior. Pearls of Wisdom runs alternate Tuesdays.

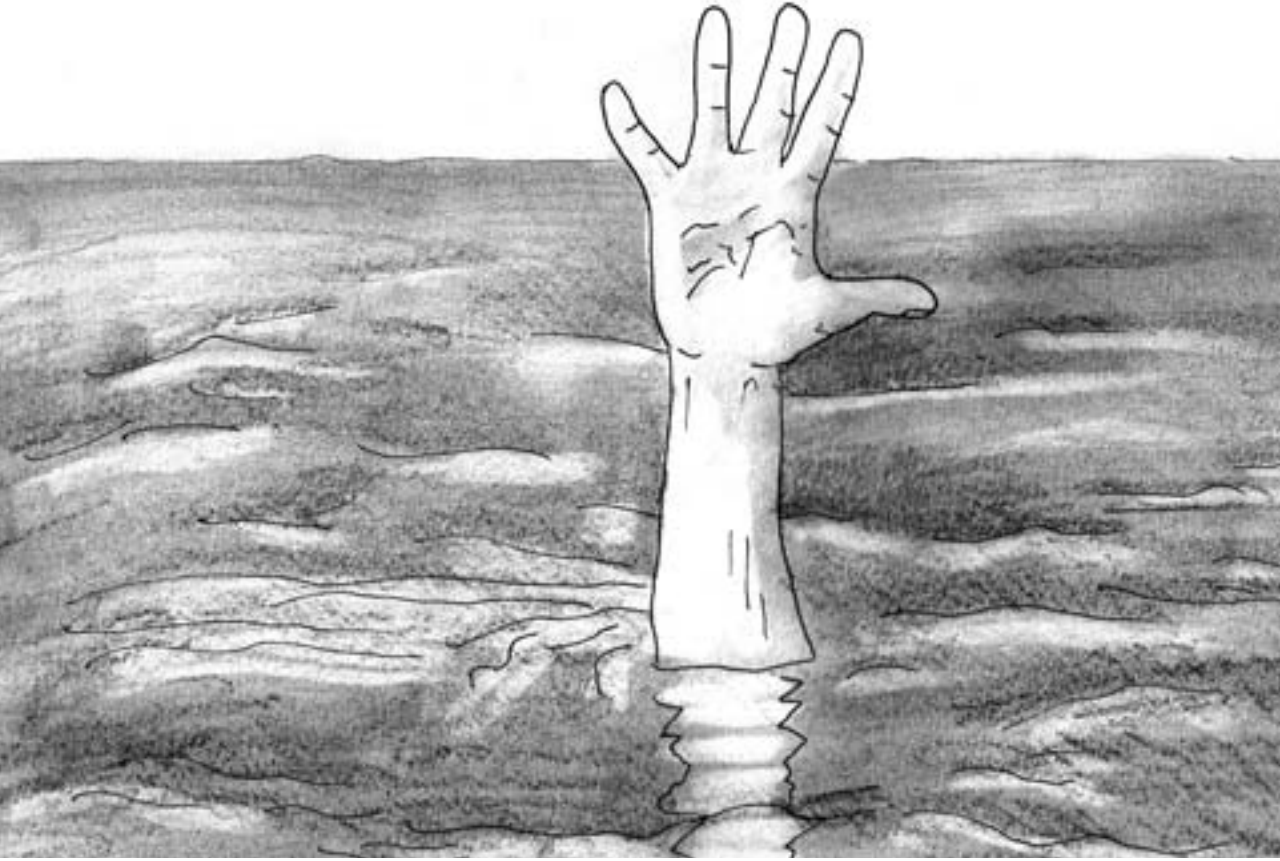


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6	3	5	1	9	4	2	8	7
7	4	8	6	2	5	1	9	3
8	6	1	7	4	3	9	2	5
3	5	7	9	8	2	4	6	1
4	2	9	5	6	1	7	3	8
5	1	6	3	7	9	8	4	2
2	8	3	4	1	6	5	7	9
9	7	4	2	5	8	3	1	6

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

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Leftover bit
6 Kitchen meas.
10 Highland tongue
14 Thrill to pieces
15 Commuter's option
16 Cuts short
17 "Understood"
18 Egg on
19 Debt-heavy corp. takeovers
20 Pittsburgh fan base, collectively
23 A pop
24 Confirmation or bar mitzvah
25 Tons of, casually
27 Phila's pride
31 Pet welfare org.
32 Tie up loose ends?
33 Shed a few tears
34 "Bus Stop" playwright
37 Radar's favorite drink
40 Buter on the farm?
43 Windy City trains
45 Solemn promises
49 Annual political speech
54 Appeared on TV
55 Penlight batteries
56 AFL affiliate
57 Commercial interruptions literally found in this puzzle's three other longest answers
61 Just as you see it
62 City near Sacramento
63 Young neigh sayers
65 Adjust, as strings
66 Close
67 Slippery as female prime minister
69 Nile threats
70 Toy bear named for a president

DOWN

1 Line piece: Abbr.
2 Places to hide skeletons?
3 Dilapidated dwelling
4 End in ____ come out even
5 He refused to grow up
6 Faithfully following
7 Oil units
8 Talk with one's hands
9 Earliest request
10 Nixon attorney general
Richardson
11 Like some of Michael Jackson's moves
12 Advertiser
13 Twisty curve
21 DMV certificate
22 Dr. Mom's specialty
23 "This is your brain on drugs," e.g.
26 Unspecified quantity
28 12th century opener
29 Daughton who wrote the "Hook, Line and Sinker" trilogy
30 40-Across mate
35 Prefix with thermal
36 Santa's helper
38 Pet on your lap, maybe

39 Author Fleming
40 Cape Town's country: Abbr.
41 Being debated
42 Bond's is shaken, not stirred
44 Comedy genre
46 Got a giggle out of
47 Passed, as a flag
48 Nestlé's ____Caps
50 Movie trailer, e.g.

51 Boston summer hrs.
52 Nurse's clothing
53 Kernel holder
56 Rick's love in "Casablanca"
59 Fireworks responses
60 Top-shelf
61 Way to check your balance, briefly
64 Sneaky

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

B	R	S	P	U	N	D	I	T	N	C	R
I	O	N	S	B	R	U	I	S	E	O	L
L	O	O	P	S	I	N	G	L	E	B	O
L	E	O	N	E	S	S	A	T	R	E	
E	X	T	I	N	C	T	I	N	R	O	A
M	S	G	S	O	A	R	G	E	N	I	E
I	T	O	S	C	R	A	P	E	S	E	N
F	R	A	I	L	N	E	D	I	N	E	S
F	U	L	L	Y	E	N	G	A	G	E	D
C	L	I	E	N	T	K	E	Y	C	A	S
O	K	I	E	D	E	L	E	A	S	E	D
R	O	N	J	U	S	T	M	A	R	R	I
S	U	E	A	S	T	R	O	S	D	A	T
O	T	S	M	E	S	S	E	S	N	O	S

wordeditor@aol.com 02/26/13

By Matt DeGuay-Carpenter
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Friends remember Antooa as happy, giving, involved

ANTOOA from front page

But administrators chose not to announce Antooa's death because he was not enrolled as a student at the time of his death, student affairs spokesperson Katherine Cutler said in an email.

"We did recognize that he was still connected to the community, so we did reach out to the student groups and peers we know were close to him to offer support," Cutler said.

After hearing about their friend's death, Wattamwar and another friend, Ansh Johri, SEAS '13, asked administrators if they could make an exception for Antooa, "given the magnitude of his involvement in organizations, and as part of the campus community, the number of friends he has here, everything," Wattamwar said.

Dean of Community Development and Multicultural Affairs Terry Martinez did not announce the death, citing a "general practice," Wattamwar said, even after family members and friends asked that the student body be notified.

"He didn't even graduate, he's not an alumni—he's still part of our community in every way possible," Wattamwar said. "But even

given that, the administration still wasn't ready to make an exception for this."

Martinez suggested that Antooa's friends reach out to the class council presidents and ask them to make announcements, and Qin included a blurb on Antooa's death, written by Wattamwar and Johri, in his newsletter on Monday.

Antooa's close friends have come together to remember him over the last month.

"The entire experience after his death of going back to his home and meeting his family and his friends really put things into perspective," Wattamwar said. "It was only then that I realized how much of a hometown hero he was."

Antooa's wake in his hometown on Long Island was packed beyond capacity, Wattamwar and Johri said.

"After awe went to his house we were like, 'This guy is so loved by so many different people.' It was crazy," Johri said. "There were hundreds of people at his wake, and it wasn't just random people, you could see tears in every one of their eyes—everyone had a strong connection with Tejrāj."

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Students still seeking explanation from Hughes

HUGHES from front page

anything that he could have done this week would have been nearly as engaging or surprising."

Chayenne Skeete, CC '16, said she believes the mystery of the twins will unravel next week.

"I was just a bit confused by ... the demonstration, but I think he's going to explain that and he'll be a good sport," she said.

Skeete said she was further confused by the media fallout from last week, which she felt detracted from Hughes' academic purpose.

"He's a fantastic teacher, which frustrated me when I was reading comments from articles like CNN and ABC, because they were like, 'Oh, this is what you spend your tuition on?' It's like, you don't understand, those were only the first few minutes of class, and after that he gave an incredible lecture on quantum physics," Skeete said. "It was just as boring as you would imagine it to be, but just as dry as people would hope."

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Princeton still trails Harvard in rankings

AROUND THE LEAGUE from page 3

PENN	79
CORNELL	71

Guard Tony Hicks led Penn's (7-19, 4-5 Ivy) second half comeback, scoring a career-high 29 points in just 28 minutes. Meanwhile, Cornell (13-14, 5-5 Ivy) faced a second-half drought of three-pointers, hitting only three of 12 after halftime, despite making almost half of its three-pointers in the first half. Guard Nolan Cressler did all he could to stop the Quakers, scoring 22 points for the Big Red, but Penn notched the win.

HARVARD	65
BROWN	47

On Friday night's game against Brown (10-14, 4-6 Ivy), there was no stopping Wesley Saunders as he drilled in 19 points to seal Harvard's (17-7, 9-1 Ivy) third straight victory. His teammates Siyani Chambers and Christian Webster helped cement the win, scoring 14 and nine points, respectively. Harvard's 26-9 rally at the beginning of the game helped give the Crimson its nine-point lead at

the end of the first half. Neither team fared well from behind the three-point line, with Harvard making only 16.7 percent of its attempts and Brown nailing an even lower 7.1 percent.

FEB. 23	
DARTMOUTH	50
BROWN	59

A key performance by Melville with 14 points and five rebounds was not enough for Dartmouth in its game on Saturday against Brown, giving the Big Green its second loss in two days. The Bears emerged victorious with leading players Matt Sullivan and Sean McGonagill scoring 16 and 13 points, respectively. Melville was the only Dartmouth player to score double digits, though forward Connor Boehm came close with seven points and seven rebounds. This game marked the Big Green's fifth consecutive loss.

PRINCETON	72
CORNELL	53

Princeton (14-9, 7-2 Ivy) saw ball after ball land in the net from starters Ian Hummer,

Will Barrett, and Denton Koon, who together combined for a total of 47 points. Cornell, even with an outstanding 23-point performance from Shonn Miller, could do little against Princeton as the Big Red was handed its second loss of the weekend. Hummer dominated on the court, grabbing eight rebounds in addition to his 23 points. Princeton stands right behind Harvard for the lead in the Ivy League.

HARVARD	72
YALE	66

Yale's momentum from its victory over Dartmouth was not enough to stop the Crimson, as Steve Moundou-Missi contributed 17 points and both Saunders and Chambers added 14 points. Despite trailing 57-51 early in the second half, Harvard managed to overcome the six-point deficit and clinch a victory with three foul shots in the last 32 seconds of the game. Yale's duo of Matt Townsend and Javier Duren unleashed a nasty 30 points and six rebounds, making it a close game, but ultimately a loss for the Bulldogs.

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Met exhibit reveals fashion’s influence on Impressionism

BY DEBORAH STACK
Columbia Daily Spectator

A well-executed portrait that depicts its subject clothed in the latest fashion can be even more revealing than the most luscious nude. “Impressionism, Fashion and Modernity,” a new exhibit at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, turns a fresh eye to the dialogue between fashion and Impressionist art created between 1860 and 1880. This results in a renewed appreciation for—and understanding of—many of the classic and beloved paintings that punctuate the movement.

The exhibit, which debuted in Paris with a record-breaking volume of nearly 500,000 visitors, hosts many of the most influential and well-loved Impressionist paintings from around the world, many in New York for the first time.

The works on display pay homage to dress, which has the unique ability to instantly reveal details about the sitter’s social status, personality, financial situation, and era. Especially in portraiture—where the artist’s task is to encapsulate his subject in a single moment—knowing the latest trends can prove to be a crucial tool in keeping a portrait up-to-date.

Although critics of portraiture throughout the mid-to-late 19th century called the practice “frivolous” and deemed the genre the artistic equivalent of a MySpace selfie, a new appreciation for the style began to grow in the 1870s, following the development of the Impressionist movement. Notable for its distinctive tendency toward staccato, visible brush strokes, and a celebration of light and shadow, Impressionism is continually celebrated for its influential techniques.

The Met’s exhibit provides a fascinating and unusual insight into the importance of fashion to Impressionist painters.

Throughout the gallery, massive vitrines showcase carefully draped costumes, mirroring the garments in nearby paintings. In the case of Monet’s “Bazille and Camille (study for Luncheon on the Grass),” two dresses nearly demonstrate the detailed edging in the painting.

Beside Albert Bartholomé’s “In the Conservatory (Madame Bartholomé)” stands the same dress depicted in the painting—proudly erect, a testament to the artist’s attention to detail and the subject’s impossibly narrow waist. Fans, shoes, and hats are displayed beside their parallels on the canvas, allowing for a greater appreciation of the artistic prowess of the pieces on display, and of the historic richness of their subject matter.

The exhibit concludes with an exploration of male fashion that features a collection of dapper top hats and dainty shoes. Although menswear was generally more passive and neutral than its female counterpart, there was still plenty of room for self-expression. Among my favorite examples were top hats, carefully tailored suits, and fantastic facial hair. No mustache on a single-speed bicycle in Brooklyn could compare to the wildly dramatic stubble in this gallery. With elegant pocket watches and easy panache, the gentlemen in the final section of the exhibit made me long for a time when waistcoats were the norm.

Unfortunately, it is far more likely to find a slouchy knitted hat and ironic t-shirt than a top hat and waistcoat on College Walk, and until the trend returns, I’ll be stuck with reruns of “Downton Abbey” to remind me of the importance of hemlines and dramatic hats.

But for those desiring a close-up on the costume of yesteryear, the Met’s exhibit provides a fascinating and unusual insight into the importance of fashion to Impressionist painters and displays some of the most famous paintings of the movement, alongside stunning costumes and accessories.

The show runs from Feb. 26 to May 27 and admission is free with a CUID.

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COURTESY OF THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

YESTERYEAR | “Impressionism, Fashion and Modernity” debuted in Paris and hosts some of the most well-known Impressionist works of art, many of which are in New York for the first time.



JENNY PAYNE / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MAN ON THE MOON | Dakota Ceneta, CC ’16 (left), will model at Lunar Gala this Thursday. Diversity and minimalism inspired the fashion show.

Lunar Gala to recreate Fashion Week experience

BY STEPHANIE BALAKRISHNAN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Columbia’s Chinese Students Club’s 34th annual Lunar Gala, “Essence,” will strip fashion down to its simplest form this Thursday evening.

“We’re really getting down to the essence of the clothes—what makes clothes clothes, and what makes fashion fashion,” Shaun Ang, SEAS ’15 and co-director of the show, said. “There’s a trend in fashion that’s all about minimalism.”

Inspired by the recent collections of minimalist designers such as Céline and Jil Sander, the show will feature clothing from Bloomingdale’s, BCBG, Marc by Marc Jacobs, Sue Wong, and Shoptiques. This eclectic blend will reflect the high-low aesthetic that Ali Douvre, BC ’15 and co-director, hoped to achieve.

“It’s interesting to mix a range of designers and see how they are styled,” Douvre said.

For Douvre and Ang, who both served as show producers last year, the goal of “Essence” is to emulate professional fashion shows by minimizing the choreographed aspect of past shows and incorporating a new element—goody bags, a staple at New York Fashion Week. The show will also feature four scenes typically found on the fashion week circuit in New York

and Milan—resort, ready-to-wear, couture, and menswear.

But one element of the show that has remained consistent throughout the gala’s history is the showcase of diverse cultures. The show’s team itself is reflective of this multicultural perspective. Douvre and Ang hail from France and Singapore, while other members represent Bangladesh, China, Haiti, and Albania.

“It’s been such a long adventure, and to see it on stage is a major success.”

—Ali Douvre, BC ’15
co-director of Lunar Gala

“What’s neat about our team is that we represent a variety of different cultures,” Douvre said. “It’s something that I placed a lot of emphasis on.”

Marie Chia, a visiting third-year student from the University of Edinburgh, was impressed by

the international aspect of the show, saying that it was what had attracted her to model. For her, the show embodies “something unique to the school and to New York,” and she found that it was a great way to meet new people.

Nam Phatprasit, and Justin Seek, both CC ’14, who have both served as Lunar Gala models in the past, said the best part of the gala was the bonding experience.

“I was on CSC for the last two years, and this year, we wanted CSC people to do a scene together, so we just hang out with all our friends,” Phatprasit said.

In addition to the fashion show, Lunar Gala will feature student arts and cultural groups such as Lion Dance, Radiance, and Raw Elementz, as well as student band Morningsiders, which recently won a Battle of the Bands to clinch the opening act at Bacchanal this spring.

Douvre and Ang said while coordinating the show is a lot of work, it is ultimately a rewarding experience.

“I’m definitely going to cry,” Douvre said. “It’s been such a long adventure, and to see it on stage is a major success.”

Lunar Gala will take place on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in Roone Arledge Auditorium. General admission is \$10. Tickets may be purchased at the TIC. arts@columbiaspectator.com

Taal to kick it up a Naach with South Asian fusion show

BY KENYA WATSON
Columbia Daily Spectator

Nontraditional Indian dance will find its niche at this Saturday’s Naach Nation. Hosted by Taal, Columbia’s South Asian fusion dance group, the event will showcase fusion dance groups from around the Northeast and benefit charity.

The dancers in Taal all bring different levels of experience and styles of dance to the table, from traditional Indian dance such as Bharatanatyam to ballet. The finished product is a combination of these contrasting styles, very different from any other dance group on campus, according to group members.

“We like meeting other people from other schools and people who like to do what we do.”

—Anagha Nagaraj, BC ’15

Because Taal and groups like it feature unique dancing, they tend to have difficulty finding a place within traditional Bollywood competitions. Thus, Naach Nation was born.

“There is a very large collegiate world of competitions for other types of South Asian dance, which is something teams like us don’t fit into as nicely,” Rachel Turner, CC ’13 and Taal president, said. “This is to create a place for teams to interact with each other.”

The social dynamic of Naach Nation is important to its participants.

“We like meeting other people from other schools and people who like to do what we do,”



QIUYUN TAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CENTER STAGE | Columbia’s South Asian fusion dance group, Taal, will host the eleventh annual Naach Nation showcase this Saturday. Groups from colleges around the Northeast will participate.

said Anagha Nagaraj, BC ’15 and a performer in last year’s Naach Nation.

Not only does Naach Nation bring together students with a common passion for dance, but it also provides students with an opportunity to give back to the community. Each year, 20 percent of the money raised is given to a local charity.

This year’s charity is Save Our Streets Crown Heights, which seeks to prevent crime and urban violence. The charity works to curb gun violence by counseling at-risk men and women.

But for performers, the charity goes along with doing something they love: dancing in a style that gives them the freedom to experiment.

“We can make it our own and introduce different ideas,” Radhika Gupta, CC ’16, said.

Gupta’s previous dance experience includes Bharatanatyam.

“It was a new way to rejuvenate what I had done earlier,” she said.

In addition to fusion groups from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Drexel University, and University of Massachusetts Amherst, this year’s Naach Nation will also feature Columbia’s cello ensemble String Theory and Deewane, a Hindi and American a cappella group from Carnegie Mellon University.

Naach Nation will take place in Roone Arledge Auditorium on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$6 in advance with CUID and \$8 at the door. They may be purchased at the TIC.

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