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A Garden Grows on the Upper West Side

The owner of the soon arriving Haakon Hall restaurant on 119th and Amsterdam seeks to turn a lifeless city plot into a vibrant community garden.

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Sick of Being Sick

Columist Daniel D'Addario gets so wrapped up in his sickness that he forgets to appreciate his Scottish surroundings.



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Lions Attempt Winning Ivy Record on Road

The men's basketball team will travel to Harvard and Dartmouth this weekend. Though an Ivy title is unlikely, a sweep would guarantee a winning record for the Ivy season.



Sports, page A8

Lions Face Elite Teams in Quest to Climb Standings

The women's basketball team will face conference-leading Dartmouth and second-place Harvard at home this weekend. Currently third, the Lions will look to break into the top two.



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The Perfect Nook for You and Your Books

Don't let midterms bring you down—order some coffee to perk you and your study buddy back up! Devin Briski reports on the best cafes to study at around campus.



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Finding Some Heart in New York's Core

A Neighborhood Watch trip to NBC Studios, Rizzoli Bookstore, or one of Midtown's restaurants or theaters will have you eyeing a new locale for the weekend.

ONLINE

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Moody-Adams Selected as Next Dean of CC

Michele Moody-Adams Will Replace Dean Quigley, July 2009

BY JOY RESMOVITS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Michele Moody-Adams, vice provost for undergraduate education and professor of philosophy at Cornell University, will become Columbia College's next dean, assuming the mantle from Austin Quigley and becoming

the first woman and first African American to hold the post. She will begin her tenure on July 1, 2009.

Moody-Adams will also take on an additional title, vice president for undergraduate education. In the newly created position, she will be the spokesperson for undergraduates to the senior administra-

tion. She will also hold an appointment in the philosophy department, where she eventually hopes to teach.

Moody-Adams' role will extend beyond the college, tying her into the central administration as part of Columbia's emerging vision for greater integration. In an e-mail notifying undergraduates of the appointment, University President Lee Bollinger lauded Moody-Adams for "ensuring the integrity and coherence of undergraduate curriculum and instruction at Cornell and overseeing a number of academic and residential initiatives."

The appointment of a new dean comes at a time of administrative flux for the University. The choice of Moody-Adams speaks to Columbia's direction towards further internal unity. The execution of Bollinger's long-term goals and upcoming plans—such as the impending expansion in Manhattanville—require cooperation across Columbia's many decentralized units.

Referring to the push for further cohe-



Courtesy of John Reis

MOODY-ADAMS | In July 2009 she will join Columbia, replacing Quigley as College Dean.

New Columbia College Dean To Come With Love of Plato, Fresh Philosophy

BY JOY RESMOVITS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Though men were scarce at Wellesley College, Michele Moody-Adams found love in a titan of philosophy.

"I made the clear decision to pursue academia in my sophomore year of college. People laugh at that. It was because of a Plato course that I took in college," she said over the phone from her Cornell office on Thursday.

"I took Plato from someone who didn't think that it was her specialty, but she loved Plato, and she just made Plato come alive. It was unbelievable. I just love Plato."

Drawing upon Plato's thoughtful scrutiny of the unexamined, Moody-Adams answers questions by balancing nuanced facets of issues. Her colleagues and the committee that chose her to become Columbia College's next

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SEE MOODY-ADAMS, page A3



Andra Mihali / Staff Photographer

HASIDIC REGGAE | Matisyahu performed at Miller Theater Thursday night along with a screening of *Call + Response*, a documentary about the horrors of the human trafficking industry. The screening was co-sponsored by a variety of campus groups.

Matisyahu Takes the Stage in Miller

Reggae Artist Joins Forces With VERITAS to Fight Human Trafficking

BY REBECCA PATTIZ
Spectator Staff Writer

Matisyahu—everyone's favorite one-named Hasidic reggae star—played a sold-out show at Columbia's Miller Theater Thursday night. But while many audience members came to see him beat box and sing about Zion, they left with a new commitment to social justice.

The evening was centered on the film *Call + Response*, which features musical performances by Matisyahu and other musicians in addition to interviews with celebrities, journalists, and politicians. Created by musician Justin Dillon, the documentary exposes the horrors of the human trafficking industry worldwide,

inter-cutting the disturbing documentary footage with musical performances, music-video style.

Co-sponsored by many campus groups including Ferris Reel, Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, and Hillel, the event was organized primarily by VERITAS Forum—a discussion group that aims to ask philosophical questions through a Christian lens. To those familiar with Matisyahu and his conspicuous religious views, this pairing may seem incongruous.

Nonetheless, the issues raised by *Call + Response* are not explicitly religious—no mention of religion is made in the film.

SEE MATISYAHU, page A3

Columbia Scientists Discover Genetic Link to Epilepsy

BY DANNY ASH
Spectator Staff Writer

As complex as it is devastating, epilepsy has always been a puzzling disease, rebuffing scientists' attempts to find a single causative factor. But through a combination of sophisticated analytical techniques and old-fashioned detective work, scientists are finally beginning to understand how subtle genetic factors can lead to faults in the brain's wiring.

"It is a very complicated area in that there have been so many different approaches that have been tried because nobody knows," Columbia researcher Dr. Deb Pal said. "Nobody has the winning formula."

But in a paper published Jan. 28 in an advance online edition of the *European Journal of Human Genetics*, Pal's team reports a finding that could change the way scientists look at many developmental disorders. They have discovered that a gene called ELP4 is strongly associated with a mild, childhood form of epilepsy. However, the gene does not seem to be the sole cause of the disorder, and may instead be responsible for some more

fundamental neurological problems common to other seemingly unrelated disorders.

For Pal, the paper marks the culmination of years of study on a form of the disorder called Rolandic epilepsy. RE typically strikes young children, causing seizures during which sufferers drool and are unable to speak. The disorder is sometimes considered "benign" because symptoms usually resolve spontaneously during adolescence.

The disorder's transient nature already made it difficult to study, but RE proved to be even trickier than expected. Scientists checked patients' DNA for problems near genes known to be critical to brain function, but came up empty or got results that could not be replicated. In 2004, an Australian research team suggested that the evidence for a genetic explanation for the disorder was so weak that scientists should concentrate their research on other factors.

Pal was not convinced. He was studying the disease from another angle. "For me the path is very natural," Pal said. "I'm a clinician." Instead of taking shots in the

SEE EPILEPSY, page A3

Columbia Acquires Properties in Manhattanville, Upper West Side

Columbia recently finalized the purchase of two buildings near campus, according to city records published on Thursday. One is a residential building at 619-623 W. 113th St., sold Feb. 19, and the other is an industrial building at 2305 12th Ave., sold Jan. 30. The University paid a combined \$13.65 million for the properties.

The industrial property, purchased for \$4.9 million, is a two-story building located on 12th Ave. between 131st and 132nd streets, within the University's 17-acre Manhattanville expansion zone. The purchase is part of Columbia's ongoing effort to acquire all outstanding properties within the campus development site.

Last December, the Empire State Development Corporation approved the use of eminent domain on Manhattanville properties whose owners do not agree to sell or relocate.

The 113th Street building, purchased for \$8.75 million, was formerly owned by the Community of the Holy Spirit Church, which used it as a convent. The nuns there plan to move to a new location on Convent Avenue and 150th Street, but this new building has not yet been constructed. University officials said Columbia will not use the newly purchased 113th Street property until the nuns find a new home.

"We do not yet have plans for the building on West 113th Street as the new building for the nuns of the Community of the Holy Spirit is not anticipated to be complete until the spring of 2010," Dan Held, a spokesperson for Columbia Facilities, wrote in an e-mail.

According to a Jan. 30 *New York Times* article, the nuns offered to sell the building to Columbia, which in turn agreed to assist the nuns in obtaining construction permits for their new site.

—Maggie Astor

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Left: The Unisex Barber Shop between 158th and 159th streets and Broadway provides men and women of the neighborhood with a variety of services from simple cuts to hair weaves. The owner Ramon Montilla, a local real estate broker, said that business has thrived since the shop's opening two years ago.

Alyssa Rapp / Staff Photographer

Neighborhood Tales: Sugar Hill

Photographers Andra Mihali and Alyssa Rapp explored Sugar Hill, an area in Harlem spanning from 150th to 162nd streets between Broadway and St. Nicholas Boulevard. They interviewed locals in English, Spanish, and Italian. One employee at a local business referred to the two Columbia photojournalists as “neighbors.”



Alyssa Rapp / Staff Photographer

Top: George Preston, artist and curator of the Museum of Arts and Origins at 420 162nd St., poses with his self portrait as a chief in the Akan tribe of Ghana. In his museum, Preston collects both contemporary pieces created by international artists as well as traditional works from a number of regions in Africa.

Right: For more than 50 years now, St. Nick's pub has enchanted jazz lovers with live music seven nights a week. It was previously owned by Duke Ellington's piano player, Lucky Roberts.



Andra Mihali / Staff Photographer

Bottom: A woman on the street lent herself to a study in portraiture. A New Jersey resident, she was visiting relatives in Harlem. She, along with other visitors, was attending the funeral of a young woman. The young mother died after struggling with AIDS for 10 years, leaving 8 children behind that will be taken care of by the community.



Alyssa Rapp / Staff Photographer



Alyssa Rapp / Staff Photographer

Left: Jose works at La Carniceria La Blanda meat market on Broadway between 159th and 160th streets. La Carniceria is the oldest meat market in the area and has been catering to the local Dominican community for 25 years.



Andra Mihali / Staff Photographer

Right: Children play basketball and run around the neighborhood. Twenty years ago, according to Jose, a Sugar Hill native, the streets around 160th Street were not even safe to walk on. The emergence of the PS 4 Duke Ellington School has encouraged community involvement and made the neighborhood safer.

EVENTS — FEBRUARY 27

Columbia-Harvard Game
Come support the Columbia Lion Women’s Basketball team as they take on the Harvard Crimson.

Levien Gym, Dodge Fitness Center, 7 p.m.

Columbia’s Iron Chef
See fellow Columbia students compete as they race to prepare dishes on a limited budget. Find out what “secret ingredient” each team will have to incorporate in their recipes. The event will be hosted by CCSC.

Lerner Party Space, 7 p.m.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“I think God’s saying ‘matisyahu,’ but I don’t have any way to get in touch with him.”

—Jeff Reid

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Columbia Spectator
2875 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York City, NY 10025
info@columbiaspectator.com
Daily Spectator (212) 854-9555
Editorial Fax (212) 854-9611
Business (212) 854-9550
Business Fax (212) 854-9553

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Bollinger Announces College’s New Dean

MOODY-ADAMS from front page

sion between the college and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Bollinger said in an interview on Thursday that “this a direction that I think is absolutely, clearly for the best interests of undergraduates and for the faculty and for the University. I and others made this point very clearly to Michele that this is a direction we’re headed in, and we want to keep going in that direction. I think alumni are extremely supportive and helpful in this transition. It will take many years because it’s overcoming a lot of years where there were different feelings about Arts and Sciences and the University, but we’re on the path and we have to stay on it.”

“With the appointment of Michele Moody-Adams, we know that Columbia College will continue to be in good hands in the years ahead,” he wrote in the e-mail.

Moody-Adams was chosen by a confidential selection committee spearheaded by Nicholas Dirks, vice president for arts and sciences, and composed of professors, students, and alumni.

Bollinger added that he was grasping for the proper words to describe the committee’s selection. “I think that her scholarly inclinations and accomplishments together with a sense of the importance of ideas and teaching students in the most serious way. It’s just exactly what we want to have in

this position.” He and others also said that she showed a strong devotion to the Core Curriculum.

In an interview, Moody-Adams said she was drawn to Columbia because of its unique composition as a “selective liberal arts college” within a larger university. “Columbia offers a distinctive combination in its commitment to the ideals of the classical liberal education—where you read widely in the humanities, culture, and literature and you’re encouraged to go and specialize in something—and innovation—where you engage with your faculty mentors in thinking about cutting edge, modern contemporary issues in all fields,” Moody-Adams said in a phone interview on Thursday.

Aside from her administrative post at Cornell, Moody-Adams is director of the Program on Ethics and Public Life at Cornell. According to Cornell’s Web site, “She does research and teaching on a variety of issues in ethical theory, the history of ethics, political philosophy, practical ethics, the philosophy of law, and the history of philosophy. Professor Moody-Adams has published on such topics as moral relativism, moral objectivity, and moral psychology, as well as on problems of social and economic justice, feminism and equality, and the moral implications of reproductive technologies.”

Moody-Adams graduated from Wellesley College in 1978 with a bachelor’s degree in philosophy. She attended

Somerville College at the University of Oxford on a Marshall Scholarship and received a B.A. in philosophy, politics, and economics in 1980, and went on to earn Ph.D. in philosophy from Harvard University in 1986. Moody-Adams wrote her dissertation on “Moral Philosophy Naturalized: Morality and Mitigated Skepticism in Hume” under the supervision of philosopher John Rawls. Before coming to Cornell in the fall of 2000, Moody-Adams worked at Indiana University, Bloomington as associate dean for undergraduate education.

Moody-Adams’ husband, James Eli Adams, will also move to the city. Adams, a Victorianist at Cornell, will teach as a visiting professor in English and comparative literature at Columbia.

Moody-Adams stressed her commitment to the Core Curriculum, and the college’s diversity. On her last visit to Columbia, Moody-Adams met with Barnard President Debora Spar. “I think Debora spar and I have a lot to learn from each other. As someone who went to a women’s college, I have a special interest in seeing Barnard thrive.”

Spar said she is also interested in bolstering the relationship. “It will be wonderful working with her next year, and joining forces with someone who clearly has such a long relationship with and commitment to women’s education.”

Joy Resmovits can be reached at joy.resmovits@columbiaspectator.com

CC’s Next Dean Driven by Philosophy

PROFILE from front page

dean stressed that she bridges the worlds of academia and student affairs administration. Moody-Adams’ appointment comes at a time when Columbia needs leaders who merge intellectual curiosity with real-world financial prudence. When she arrives in Morningside Heights on July 1 this year, she will inherit the reins of a College known for a traditional prescriptive curriculum, and she will be challenged to maintain that as the school weathers the economic crisis.

Moody-Adams was born and raised near the University of Chicago, a detail that she cites as a factor that influenced her career choice. Her parents taught elementary school, and “always expected me to do well,” she said. She earned bachelor’s degrees from both Wellesley College and the University of Oxford, and received her Ph.D. from Harvard on a dissertation supervised by philosopher John Rawls.

She began her academic ascent in Plato’s field of philosophy, focusing on ethical theory, political philosophy, judicial philosophy, and moral relativism. She worked as an administrator in the College of Arts and Sciences of Indiana University, Bloomington, and in 1997, published a book, *Fieldwork in Familiar Places: Morality, Culture, and Philosophy*.

“Maybe that’s why I naturally fit at Columbia, because of the Core and the cultures and critical thinking it involves,” she said, citing her background in philosophy as a perfect match for alma mater and its Core Curriculum. She was drawn to Columbia because of its “ability to blend respect for tradition with respect for intellectual innovation.”

According to Scott MacDonald, chair of Cornell’s philosophy department, Moody-Adams was recruited to Cornell to direct the Program on Ethics and Public Life, a program that aimed to draw philosophy out of the ivory tower. MacDonald said she taught a popular course on law, society, and morality that attracted students from across disciplines.

Four years ago, the provost at Cornell asked Moody-Adams to serve as the vice provost for undergraduate education—a position that married the academic with the administrative. Although becoming vice provost would lessen her teaching load, she said, “I couldn’t turn it down.”

“Change is good, and saying that doesn’t mean that the thing that you’re changing from is bad. What it says about Columbia is that they are willing to give the person who has the appropriate credentials and experience an opportunity. I will be a role model of sorts—I don’t have a problem of being such, and talking about issues of race and gender when it seems appropriate.”

—Michele Moody-Adams

noted that at Columbia, most academics do not have an opportunity to bring those two spheres together.

Likewise, MacDonald said that Cornell will remember Moody-Adams for her hand in initiating the summer reading program. Moody-Adams likened the program to the Core, in terms of “giving students some common ground.” MacDonald said that Moody-Adams distinguished this program by choosing “lots of very interesting literature, in terms of some diverse books, in addition to the classics.”

For example, she once assigned *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe, a book MacDonald called aberration from the canon in Cornell. “That was Moody-Adams doing what she does best,” MacDonald said. “We stretched a bit and did some things that wouldn’t be on the normal list of classics.”

That Moody-Adams shook things up at Cornell may speak to her openness with regard to the Core. “Even though I think it does many great things, I am really looking forward to helping shape the continuing evolution of the Core,” she said.

In her new post, Moody-Adams will have to blend the duties of fundraising—her predecessor, Dean Austin Quigley, is known for his skills in this area—and interacting with students. On her next visit, Moody-Adams hopes to dine with students. “A dean also has to emphasize intellectual academic leadership, in that there is important responsibility for the health of the Core Curriculum,” she said. “I don’t know how I will strike the balance. I only know that I will do it.”

Moody-Adams said she oversaw “living and learning initiatives” and “academic support programs aimed at all kinds of students, aimed expressly at first-generation college students, or some underrepresented minority groups.”

She is also shaking things up at Columbia as the first woman and the first African American to hold the post. “It’s not the reason why she was selected, but it is a great thing in itself,” University President Lee Bollinger said in an interview. “Columbia is a place that has a deep respect for and commitment to diversity of all different kinds. Clearly the fact that she’s a woman and that she’s African American is just right in the core of that principle.”

“It’s just an exciting opportunity to show the world that a person like myself can do a good job and bring good things to Columbia,” Moody-Adams said. “Change is good, and saying that doesn’t mean that the thing that you’re changing from is bad. What it says about Columbia is that they are willing to give the person who has the appropriate credentials and experience an opportunity. I will be a role model of sorts—I don’t have a problem of being such, and talking about issues of race and gender when it seems appropriate.”

Colleagues and the search committee described her as eloquent and humble, academic and practical. “She’s been a very well liked leader, people find her very easy to work with,” MacDonald said. “She’s open and receptive to conversation. That’s her intellectual background. She will be sorely missed at Cornell.”

Joy Resmovits can be reached at joy.resmovits@columbiaspectator.com



Lila Neiswanger / Staff Photographer

WASTELAND TO PARK | Area residents and business owners lead the charge to restore the beauty and function of this now barren plot of city land on 119th St. and Amsterdam Ave.

Local Entrepreneur to Plant Life in Barren City Lot

BY SAM LEVIN
Spectator Staff Writer

The grass is not always greener on the other side of the fence, and nowhere is this more apparent than on Amsterdam Avenue and 119th Street, where metal lattice and barbed wire section off nearly half a block of weeds, dead plants, and a pump house.

James Lenzi, owner of Haakon’s Hall restaurant—which is scheduled to open in mid-April—is organizing a transformation of this city-owned plot that sits adjacent to his business.

Lenzi has a threefold plan for the land. He envisions it as a space for greenery, community service, and outdoor dining. He aims to convert the lifeless lot into a seating area for his restaurant and a garden that would be accessible to the public, conducive to elementary school service projects.

“Instead of sitting around and watching television, students can come here after school,” Lenzi said. He suggested that they use the space to plant and harvest fruits and vegetables that would then be donated to area food banks. “It is definitely a win-win situation,” he said. “It will help underprivileged children in the city gain a sense of community service and it will make the area more green.”

Other residents agreed that the block’s condition begs for an improvement. “It looks drab, creepy, and weird,” said Carl Jones, a superintendent at another building on 119th Street.

Marc Mitchell, manager of Village Copier—the only open business on the block—said, “It is a waste to have it just sit there.”

Lenzi said that last summer, when bar Radio Perfecto sold him the space that will soon house his restaurant, he was under the impression that the land next door was part of the deal, and had made plans to use it. He was later disappointed to find that the shriveled

field was city-owned, falling under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Protection. “The city owns it and doesn’t take care of it,” he said. “It remains an eyesore for the community.”

Lenzi voiced his frustration with city bureaucracy. “I must have called the city 25 times,” Lenzi said. “Scott Stringer never got back to me. They are just sending me from one agency to another.”

Anthony Borelli, Director of Land Use for the Manhattan Borough President, said that he had no knowledge of these efforts, and regardless, all that they could do is “point him [Lenzi] in the right direction,” to the DEP.

Lenzi has had difficulties getting the project on its feet as he devotes much of his time to preparing for his restaurant’s opening. Much of his energy is going into oversight of construction. “It is not the right time to be opening a business, and we are behind,” he said.

To address the challenges of building and developing his restaurant space around the pump house, Lenzi has integrated it into his vision for the land by suggesting that its walls be used as a screen for movie projections in the summer.

A Morningside resident since 1977, Lenzi reminisced on the state of the land when his son was a child. “My son grew up in this garden. We used to play Frisbee, maybe plant some seeds on a Sunday morning.”

Jones shared in Lenzi’s nostalgia, saying, “I remember when kids used to go in there in the spring.”

Mitchell was hopeful about the impact the project could have on the block’s energy. “It could create a new dynamic for this street if it attracted people from the sidewalk to take a seat,” he said.

Lenzi was also optimistic about the inclusive, community hangout he intends to create. “This will be a place for everyone,” he said.

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Halvorson Discusses Teaching, Writing

HALVORSON from front page

course and is currently teaching his fourth semester of University Writing at GS. “Writing has always been an important part of my life,” Halvorson said.

“It’s also a chance for me to work closely with our students and get to know them much better.” In his capacity as a full-time advisor, Halvorson gets to know his students outside of class. He looks at his advising role as another aspect of teaching, referring to his explanations of how the school’s bureaucracy functions. Halvorson’s advisor position allows him

to give students the confidence to take control of their educations early on.

“No one is an expert in the Columbia system as soon as they arrive,” he said. “Every system has its complexities, and it’s important to teach students how to deal with them.”

Halvorson previously taught screenwriting in the School of the Arts, where he received a Master of Fine Arts in 2001. This experience gave him a window into the University at large. “Screenwriting is not just a free-for-all,” Halvorson said. “It has specific techniques you must teach to students, but there is still plenty of

room for creativity.” Halvorson won the Zaki Gordon Award for Excellence in Screenwriting for *Dakota*, his screenplay about a U.S. army colonel who leads a massacre of Native Americans in Dakota territory.

While Halvorson is far from his Jamestown, N.D. roots—this is his 12th year at Columbia—he has created a home for himself, and enjoys the dedication of the alumni he has worked with. “It’s thrilling to see ... [the PALS students’] transformation based on their own hard work and determination,” he said.

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Do your ears need glasses?

You'd get your eyes checked if your vision became blurry. So why ignore your ears when they ask for a little help? Hearing loss can cut you off from people you love and take the joy out of life. Go see a hearing health professional to find out the options available to return you to the world of sound.

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betterhearing.org 1-800-EARWELL

BETTER HEARING INSTITUTE

Scientists Make Strides in Understanding Epilepsy

EPILEPSY from front page

dark by searching for problems with known genes, Pal studied the patients and their symptoms. Pal and his colleagues looked at the cases of 90 tri-state-area children with RE, observing them and their family members. When the scientists began to put the data together, a pattern emerged.

The brains of children who had RE all exhibited a characteristic pattern of abnormal electrical activity, called centrotemporal spikes, or CTS. But this spiky pattern was also found in many

of those children’s siblings who did not have RE. In addition, the siblings had other disorders associated with CTS, such as speech problems and attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, at a far higher rate than that of the general population—about 50 percent, a percentage that is a telltale sign of genetic inheritance.

Armed with the results of this study, Pal’s team took DNA samples from 194 of the children and family members. They used a genetic scan to check whether the unknown gene was near any

of 1200 equally spaced locations in the subjects’ genomes, and found a strong association with a region on chromosome 11. Finally closing in, they performed a fine-grained analysis of the region, and discovered a clear link between CTS and ELP4.

ELP4 is a gene that helps cells create the tiny scaffolds that help them move. During development of the brain, in the womb and into early childhood, neurons migrate throughout the brain, linking up with each other to form circuits. A problem with ELP4 could affect the neurons’

ability to migrate, leading to a wiring problem that manifests itself as CTS.

However, this doesn’t explain why some children with CTS develop seizures, while others end up with ADHD or speech disorders or completely unaffected.

The most likely answer is that a problem with ELP4 induces a systematic wiring problem in the brain, but that it is the interaction of this wiring problem with other genes that causes this problem to develop into a full-blown disease.

news@columbiaspectator.com

Matisyahu Joins Forces With VERITAS and IVF

MATISYAHU from front page

VERITAS hoped this event would go beyond religious boundaries: “It will be an issue that can really transcend any beliefs, whether you’re an atheist or Christian or Jewish,” Intervarsity member Phillip Dupree, SEAS ’11, said. “When we see where our society is in terms of how civilized we are, this is something that really should not and cannot continue to exist, no matter what your beliefs,” he said.

Several members of both VERITAS and Intervarsity saw *Call + Response* in Tribeca in December and, taking the documentary’s title to heart, responded to the “modern day slavery” that the film exposes. Rebecca Fuller, CC ’11, is a member of Intervarsity and was one of the initial organizers of the event. “When I saw *Call + Response*, I saw God’s heart break for those people. God loves those people and those people don’t have any voice,” she said.

The group decided that the most effective way to call awareness to the atrocities they saw in the

film was to screen it at Columbia. However, getting the rights to the documentary proved a long and complicated process. The group did not expect to hold a screening until April.

But a series of fortuitous co-incidences in the preceding months enabled VERITAS and Intervarsity not only to hold a screening, but also to do so with one of the film’s stars present. When the group’s faculty advisor met a woman at a conference who had a connection to the rights to *Call + Response*, the event began to seem like a possibility.

More coincidence led the group to Jeff Reid, who works for a missionary organization and who helped VERITAS members meet with Matisyahu and organize the *Call + Response* Thursday’s event. “I had already been thinking of doing an event like this and I had already gotten in touch with the *Call + Response* guys, and Columbia offered me this venue. But we had no band. But we took it anyway. ... I was asking God, who should we have?” he said. “I said basically I think God’s saying

Matisyahu, but I don’t have any way to get in touch with him,” Reid explained.

After traveling to Colorado for a conference, Reid heard about a Matisyahu concert near where he was staying. “After the show I just kind asked God where was I supposed to go. ... I followed him into these different rooms... in the and I ended up a room with Matis and three other people.” Matisyahu agreed to perform for free at Reid’s event, and the plan was finalized.

For VERITAS, the point of showing the film was not only to raise awareness, but also to do something far more difficult: promote action. Tables for World Vision and Sex and Money—a group promoting the end of modern day slavery—were outside the concert for interested students.

Still, on a campus full of students wanting to save the world, the real challenge comes less in stirring interest and more in practically executing change. “A lot of the idealistic energy at Columbia goes to waste,” said Dupree. “We’d like to start channeling this energy

into some positive action.”

Dillon, the film’s director, said that screening the film at Columbia made him particularly hopeful. “These are future leaders. Columbia is an excellent school. ... What kind of dividends is that going to pay out? Will lives be different, will leaders be chosen, will papers be written?” he said.

For those who did know about *Call + Response*, a concert by a world-famous reggae star proved an incentive to attend the event. Matisyahu’s performance was interrupted briefly by a technical problem, but fans weren’t deterred by glitch. Akornefa Akeya, CC ’12, said she did not know the event involved a movie and came only for the performance. Nonetheless, she said, “it was really moving.”

Dupree and VERITAS Forum Chair Sybren Hoekstra, CC ’10 confirmed that VERITAS and Intervarsity hope to organize future discussion groups based on the evening’s screening and continue to explore ways to respond to the film’s call to action.

arts@columbiaspectator.com

Lions Head to Long Island for Championship

WOMEN'S SWIMMING from page A10

200-yard freestyle events, and the latter ended in the top ten twice in the backstroke. Galey has a good chance this season of capturing two of the three events she almost won last year, as Princeton’s Brett Shiflett graduated last spring, leaving a vacancy in the top spot.

Columbia will also be contending with strong Yale and Penn teams, which trailed behind by a mere 30 and 50 points last year, respectively. Yale’s Susan Kim will provide a challenge in the breaststroke. She is the Bulldogs’ record holder in the 200-yard event and stole the record in the

100-yard competition this season from the Tigers.

Penn freshman Laura Klick, who took the 100-yard breaststroke against Harvard and put up a fight against Princeton earlier this year, will also be a demanding addition to the pool. The Quakers will be hampered by an injury to junior Sara Coenen, which has taken the backstroke champion out of the race.

The Lions host this year’s Ivy League Championships at the Nassau County Aquatics Center in East Meadow, N.Y. The competition lasts a total of three days, during which preliminary sessions begin at 11 a.m. and final sessions at 6 p.m.

Light Blue Will Try to Move Past Harvard

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL from page A10

hard to play there. It’s the Cameron Craziest that are constantly on the opponent from the time they walk out for warm-ups,” Nixon said. “If you go play at Kentucky, it’s not the Rupp Arena floor. It’s the 24,000 blue fans that are screaming in the stands that make it such a tough place to play at.”

Columbia hopes that a supportive crowd can help the team gain some ground in its Ivy title run. The Lions certainly have their work cut out for them against the Crimson and the Big Green.

Harvard sophomore Emma Markley is the conference’s fourth-highest scorer with 14.1 points per game. The forward also pulls down 7.6 rebounds per contest, good for third in the league. Sophomore forward Brittney Smith averages 13.5 points per game and 8.2

boards per game for Dartmouth. She ranks fifth and second, respectively, among Ivy players in those categories.

“The biggest factor in the games this weekend is going to be rebounding,” Nixon said. “That’s something that was a big factor, especially in the Dartmouth loss, that we’re just going to have to do a better job of in this weekend’s games.”

Columbia will look to sophomore forward Judie Lomax to be a dominant frontcourt presence against Markley and Smith. Lomax earned Ivy League Player of the Week honors for a conference-best fourth time this year after averaging 18 points and 17.5 rebounds against Brown and Yale. She is third in the league with 14.5 points per game and first in the nation with 14.1 boards per game.

Tip-off for both contests is set for 7 p.m. in Leven Gymnasium.

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LUNGING TO VICTORY | Columbia’s men’s and women’s fencing teams will travel to Massachusetts this weekend to compete in the Intercollegiate Fencing Association Championships.

File Photo

CU to Compete in IFA Championships

BY JONATHAN AUGUST
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

After completing its Ivy campaign, the Columbia fencing team will travel to Harvard this Saturday to compete in the nation’s oldest collegiate athletic competition, the Intercollegiate Fencing Association Championships.

Unlike other college competitions, the IFA Championships do not count towards NCAA Championships qualification, meaning that fencers who would not otherwise compete regularly for the Lions will get the chance to make appearances.

“In many ways this competition highlights the depth of a team,” head coach George Kolombatovich said. “For some people, this is a chance to show that they are really good, and it’s a strong opportunity for others who have been traveling with us being substitutes to be part of the big team.”

The Light Blue is maintaining its focus on next weekend’s NCAA Northeast Regionals, where many of Columbia’s fencers will try to qualify for the NCAA Championships, held at Penn State in March. As a result, the Lions are taking extra precautions with some of the team’s injured starters.

“Max [Czapanskiy] only had to fence three bouts last week, and he is doing all

right and his leg is doing extremely well,” Kolombatovich said. “Alex [Rudnicki] is still bothered a little bit and he’ll fence this weekend, but probably not that much. Daria [Schneider] will not be competing this weekend because we’re going to make sure she’s 100 percent for regionals.”

This weekend presents an opportunity for many of the team’s freshman to contribute in a productive manner to the team and gain experience against a large number of the Northeast’s best fencers.

“The one thing is that this is a different structured kind of a meet, and it will be interesting how some of the first-years take to it,” Kolombatovich said. “They’ve been great this year and they really enjoy the team aspect. Only a few have competed in a team format so this will be a great opportunity.”

In the IFA Championships, fencers are ranked in the A, B, or C categories and compete only against other fencers with the same designations. Each bout is worth one point for the team, and the team with the highest total overall takes the title. Should fencers score enough individual points, they will be seeded into a knockout-style individual competition in which they will compete for medals.

The IFA Championships get underway this Saturday at Harvard University.

CU to Open Season Against Monmouth, Lafayette

BY JONATHAN TAYLER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The 2008 season opener for Columbia women’s lacrosse produced drastically different results for its participants. On one side was Monmouth, which squeaked out an 11-10 win over Columbia, finished second in the Northeast Conference, and came within one goal of playing in the NEC title game. On the other side was Columbia, which ended the year a far cry from playing in any tournament, much less at the top of any standings. One year later, the programs will clash again to begin the Light Blue season in a home opener. It will be head coach Kerri Whitaker’s first look at a retooled roster missing star midfielder Marisa Marcellino, as well as starting defenders Kristen Teatom and Dana Riley, all of whom graduated.

Even without Marcellino, Columbia still boasts the powerful duo of Holly Glynn and Brittney Shannon, who combined for 79 goals and 95 points in 2008. Joining them will be Rachael Ryan, who missed all

but one game last year due to injury. Ryan will man the middle of the field alongside returning starters Megan Donovan and Krista Giannattasio. Caroline Van den Berg will lead a defensive unit short on experience, while Emma Mintz returns for her second season as a starter in the goal.

Monmouth comes into Friday’s contest with only one result recorded in 2009. The team was blitzed by Fairfield on Feb. 22, falling 17-8. The Stags peppered Hawk goalie Monica Johnson with 45 shots, 36 of them on goal, earning an easy win. It was a marked change from a 2008 Hawks team that routinely held its opponents to under 10 goals per game. Then again, a lot has changed from last year’s Monmouth team. Megan Nutter and her team-best 51 goals and 67 points have left—so have starting defenders Jackie Trainer and Jessica Picciuto, as well as attacker Brittany Scott.

Despite the loss of Nutter, Monmouth’s offense should still have some punch. Rachel Feirstein, who was second on the team in goals with 46—despite being a freshman—forms

a potent midfield attack along with Megan Brennan and Ali Pollock. Shawn Evans will take Brennan’s place as the team’s primary attacker, while Erin Marley and Danielle Hawkins will anchor a defense that lost half its starters from 2008.

After hosting Monmouth, Columbia will travel to Easton, Pa. to take on winless Lafayette. The Leopards were just 2-15 last year and are off to a similar start in 2009, sitting at 0-3 with blowout losses to Penn State and St. Joseph’s followed by a close shoot-out with Marist. The Leopards totaled 14 goals against the Red Foxes after scoring only nine goals total against the Nittany Lions and Hawks. Erin Steel leads Lafayette in scoring with four goals, all off of the bench, while Lauren Brown has chipped in four goals and three assists. Defense has brought disaster for Lafayette—the team has let in 52 goals already, with starting goalkeeper Emily Bjork allowing 42 of those rallies.

Columbia will take on Monmouth at home on Feb. 27 at 3 p.m. Sunday’s game against Lafayette will start at 1 p.m. at Rappolt Field.



File Photo

RUNNING START | The women’s lacrosse team begins its season this weekend when they take on Monmouth at home and then travel to Lafayette.



Ajit Pillai / Senior Staff Photographer

BACKHAND | Jon Wong and the rest of the men’s tennis team will continue their homestand this weekend. The Lions will host Binghamton and Stony Brook at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center.

Lions Look to Continue Success at Home

BY KUNAL GUPTA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The men’s tennis team will stay home this weekend and take on two nonconference foes, Binghamton and Stony Brook. The Lions (6-2) are coming off a weekend sweep of St. John’s and Fairleigh Dickinson, and are in the midst of a five-match home streak.

Binghamton enters the match with a 5-2 record this spring, but is coming off a loss to No. 60 ranked Minnesota. In that match, senior Moshe Levy got the only point for the Bearcats, winning at No. 1 singles in three sets. Last season, Columbia played Binghamton in its first dual match of the season and notched a 4-3 win, in which Levy beat senior Justin Chow at No. 3 singles in three sets. This

season, Levy is 2-5 at No. 1 singles for Binghamton. Behind Levy is a deep and talented roster, which includes freshman Gilbert Wong at No. 4 singles. Wong is 20-5 on the season, including 6-1 in dual matches, his only loss coming against nationally ranked University of Minnesota. Wong and sophomore Sven Vloedgraven team up to play No. 1 doubles for the Bearcats.

Binghamton has played two other Ivy teams this season, beating Dartmouth 4-3 and losing to Cornell 5-2. The highlight of the Bearcats’ season thus far was a win over No. 53 ranked Drake by a score of 5-2. The win was the program’s first-ever win over a ranked team, as the Bearcats captured the doubles point by winning first and second doubles, and then went on to dominate

the singles, with wins at No. 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Stony Brook also comes in with a record of 3-2 this spring and 5-2 overall, its losses coming at the hands of South Carolina Upstate and Yale in the team’s opening tournament of the season. The Seawolves seem to have put those early setbacks behind them, winning consecutive games against UConn and Army. Hungarian sophomore Ivan Rummel leads Stony Brook into the weekend. As a freshman, Rummel had a good season going 5-1 at No. 2 singles and 15-9 overall on the year. Rummel has not been affected by a sophomore slump, rising up to No. 1 on the team.

The Lions will host Binghamton at 2 p.m. on Friday and Stony Brook at 10 a.m. on Saturday. Both matches will be played at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center.

Light Blue Faces Pair of Massachusetts Teams

BY KUNAL GUPTA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

“Be focused, be determined, and play with confidence.”

This mantra, coined by women’s tennis head coach Ilene Weintraub, embodies the mindset that she would like to see her young team adopt for the rest of its spring season.

Last weekend, Columbia squared off against Long Island University and came away with a 7-0 sweep. At No. 1 singles, sophomore Stephanie Zilberman was locked in a tight match with Selma Babic. Zilberman dropped the first set, but roared back to take the second. In the third-set tiebreak, Zilberman was down 7-3 but came back to win seven of the last eight points, ending her match victoriously. Zilberman took an injury timeout after the first set to have her knee taped.

“The highlight of the LIU match was Stephanie’s match,” Weintraub said. “She demonstrated what I think everyone on the team needs to realize. She was focused throughout that match and was determined and played with confidence. I think if you do this, you can prevail.”

The head coach’s mantra is applicable to the Lions in all situations.

“No matter who we play,” Weintraub said, “no matter their history, ranking, whether they are weak or better, if we consistently play with confidence, determination, and focus, we can succeed.”

This weekend, Columbia will travel to West Point to play University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and will then return home to face Boston University.

Last season, the Lions defeated the Minutemen 5-2 at home, by getting wins at No. 2 through No. 5 singles. This season, the Minutemen are 4-4 including a recent 5-2 defeat at the hands of Dartmouth. The team enters with a three-match losing streak, including a 6-1 loss to Syracuse and a 7-0 loss to Iowa State.

“UMass is a team that plays well at home,” Weintraub said, “but we are playing at a neutral site, since they were nice enough to meet us halfway.”

Columbia will then return home to play against BU, with the team hoping to get revenge for a 7-0 defeat last season. The Terriers, 5-1 on the spring season, suffered their only loss of the season against Brown by a 4-3 margin.

“BU is a very strong team,” Weintraub said. “They beat Dartmouth 5-2, and they



File Photo

SWING LOW | Women’s tennis will play UMass at West Point and BU at home this weekend.

have two very strong players at the top. Their No. 2 girl is a freshman who was top ten in the nation. But this gives our girls a lot of opportunity for big wins.”

This spring, the Lions have had two different players play No. 1 singles, Zilberman and Natasha Makarova. Both are sophomores, and Weintraub believes that having two No. 1 players affords the Lions a lot of variety and options.

“It’s a privilege to play No. 1 singles,” Weintraub said, “but is also physically demanding. Both can step in and are almost equal in ability, and this allows the two of them to share the physical demand of playing No. 1.”

Columbia will travel to play UMass on Saturday and then will return home to face BU on Sunday at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center. The Saturday match is at 9 a.m. and the Sunday match is scheduled for 1 p.m.



Brian Chan / Staff Photographer
JUMP START | Track and field heads to Harvard to take part in the Ivy League Indoor Heptagonals.

Cornell, Princeton Await At Indoor Heps

BY JONATHAN TAYLER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

After an indoor season that has pitted them against the tri-state area’s worst teams and the nation’s best, Columbia track and field will finally compete against its Ancient Eight foes at the Ivy League Indoor Heptagonals this weekend. The odds are against the men’s and women’s teams pulling off an upset and grabbing first place, but there should be a number of intense individual battles in Cambridge over the two-day event.

On the men’s side, Cornell—the defending Heptagonals champion—is a good bet to repeat in 2009. The Big Red is strong in the sprints, led by senior Nathan Crabtree, whose time of 21.93 seconds in the 200-meter dash is the fastest time recorded in the Ivy League this year. Cornell shines in distance events, however, with seniors Jimmy Wyner and Andrew Levy destroying competitors left and right in the 800-meter, 1000-meter, mile, and 3000-meter events. Wyner in particular has been a force in the mile, with a season-best 4:01.67 mark set at the Reebok Boston Indoor Games earlier this month.

For Columbia, success on the track will have to come through its stellar distance team. Junior stalwart Mike Mark has turned in top performances in the 500-meter dash, while sophomore teammate Jeff Moriarty will duel with Levy for the 800-meter title. Moriarty’s time of 1:50.60 in the 800 was just four-tenths of a second ahead of Levy for best time in the league this year. Junior Christopher Hays, meanwhile, will be gunning for Levy in the 1000-meter run. Columbia’s true standout this season has been its distance medley relay team—Hays, Moriarty, Mark, and senior Ryan Hays—which turned in a time of 7:33.16 at the New Balance Collegiate Invitational.

In the field events, Cornell and Princeton will battle for supremacy. Princeton junior Justin Frick and Cornell senior Garrett Huyler will square off in the pole vault, while Big Red junior Duane Teixeira will aim to hold off all comers in the long and triple jumps. A pair of Princeton upperclassmen dominates the weights, with junior Eric Plummer besting all other Ivy League contenders in the shot put and senior Alex Pessala topping the weight throw.

On the women’s side, Princeton will be hard-pressed to add a second straight title to its trophy case. Behind senior Jeomi Maduka, Cornell is tops in the sprints, while Brown has a dominant distance team, led by sophomore Samantha Adelberg. The Tigers will be nipping at the Bears’ heels all weekend in the distance events, though, with mile champion Liz Costello at the helm. The junior All-American has the Ivy League’s best time in the mile at 4:48.2, two seconds clear of Harvard sophomore Claire Richardson.

The Light Blue’s outstanding crop of freshmen will need big performances to garner some individual wins. Sharay Hale, already the school’s record holder in the 200-meter dash, is Maduka’s best competition in that event. She also leads the pack in the 400-meter dash. Kyra Caldwell has the best 60-meter hurdles time in the conference at 8.64 seconds. On the field, Monique Roberts faces an uphill task in taking down Harvard senior Becky Christensen in the high jump. Christensen’s jump of 6-feet-3.25-inches is far and away the top mark in the league. Sarah Engle will be pitted against a tough group of Princeton, Dartmouth, and Cornell jumpers in the pole vault, while Uzunma Udeh faces the unenviable task of taking on Maduka in the triple jump.

Ivy League Indoor Heptagonals begin on Feb. 28 at Harvard and continue through the weekend. The first event is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Saturday.

Reigning Ivy Champs Begin Quest for Repeat in Texas

BY MICHAEL SHAPIRO
Spectator Staff Writer

For Columbia baseball, the road to back-to-back Ivy titles begins under Friday night lights.

After an unexpected run to capture the league championship in 2008, the Lions kick off the 2009 season with a four-game series against the Lamar University Cardinals this weekend. It will not be an easy opener for the defending champions. The Cardinals are undefeated after their first six games, and Lamar’s skipper, Jim Gilligan, boasts the best overall record in the Southland Conference over the last half decade at 190-104 (.646). But Columbia head coach Brett Boretti believes that aggressiveness, his team’s trademark last season, will be the winning asset against Lamar.

“We are going to try to stay aggressive on the bases and play more small ball than we have in the past, trying to take advantage of every opportunity we have,” Boretti said.

Lamar’s pitchers are not afraid to throw strikes and record-quick outs. Thus far, the Cardinals possess an exceptional 1.83 ERA and 53 strikeouts in 52 innings. Junior Guillermo Cienfuegos dominated in his first game of the season, throwing five innings of shutout ball with nine strikeouts and only two walks against Siena, while senior Ricky Testa added six one-hit innings of his own, fanning 10 batters.

Columbia will counter with a relatively young pitching staff headed by senior cocaptain Joe Scarlata. Sophomore Geoff Whitaker will also be featured in the rotation after a breakout rookie season in which he led the team in wins with six. Senior cocaptain Joey Mizzoni will lead the bullpen after collecting four saves last season with a 3.68 ERA, accompanied by junior



File Photo
READY TO STRIKE | Columbia baseball will open its season and title defense in Beaumont, Texas this weekend. The Lions will compete in a four-game series against nonconference opponent Lamar University.

Clay Bartlett, who also posted a 3.68 ERA in 29.1 innings last year.

“I think we really have a shot at getting some strong starting pitching,” Boretti said, “and we have some guys in the bullpen that know their roles and can get outs in key situations.”

Getting outs will be no easy task against the Cardinals, who currently hold an impressive .309 team batting average and finished last season hitting .303. Lamar’s roster currently features three starters batting over .400, including senior outfielder Tyler Link at .444. Link has also homered once, driven in six runs, and leads the team

in both slugging percentage (.722) and on-base percentage (.615).

Nevertheless, the Lions too know how to put the bat on the ball, racking up a .283 team average last season. Many strong hitters have graduated, leaving holes in the lineup, so freshmen will receive playing time in order to fill the void. Boretti knows his hitters will need some time to adjust to seeing opposing pitchers, but he is not overly worried about them in the long run.

“Offensively, it’s tough to get it going early in the season,” Boretti said. “It’s our first time seeing some live pitching other than our own for the last three



Mason Fitch / Staff Photographer
RACING TOWARDS THE WALL | The men’s swimming and diving team will travel to Cambridge, Mass. this weekend to participate in the ECAC championships.

One Last Tuneup for CU Before Ivy Championships

BY BART LOPEZ
Spectator Staff Writer

With the regular season over, the Columbia men’s swimming and diving team will be focusing on the upcoming Eastern College Athletic Conference championships this weekend in Cambridge, Mass.

The ECAC championships feature a wide variety of teams, including several Ivies. Last year, Columbia

competed against Harvard, Marist College, John Hopkins, Rider, Binghamton, Yale, Penn, Loyola, and Iona College. Columbia finished in third place with 387.5 points, behind second-place Marist and overall champion Harvard, who totaled 513 points.

In the 2008 ECAC championships, the Lions had some difficulty breaking into the top three spots in most of the events. Their times were

strong enough, however, to edge out John Hopkins for third place. Some notable finishes for Columbia were Jordan Kobb’s second-place finish in the 400-yard IM as well as a third-place finish by the 200-yard freestyle relay team. The relay team consisted of Chris Scruton, Gunnar Aasen, Kobb, and Chris O’Connor.

This year, the Lions will “be locked in great battles for a finish in the top three,” head coach Jim Bolster wrote

in an e-mail, adding that “Harvard, Rider and Johns Hopkins will provide plenty of competition.”

The first day of competition is set to begin this Friday at 11 a.m. at Harvard. The competition will continue until Sunday. A solid performance at the ECAC championships will not only boost the confidence of those competing, but will also provide some momentum for Columbia, who will compete in the Ivy championships next weekend.

Win Will Guarantee at Least .500 Finish for Men’s Basketball

MEN’S BASKETBALL from page A10

But Columbia could not put away the Elis. Trailing 41-32, Yale mounted a furious comeback and intensified its defense, outscoring Columbia the rest of the way, 25-6, and winning 57-49.

In the second half, the Lions shot only 34.6 percent from the field, and over the final 14:03, went 4-for-19 (21.1 percent). Foley again led Columbia with 17 points, four rebounds, and three assists in 30 minutes.

The first weekend of play against Harvard and Dartmouth showcased a defense that clamped down at crucial moments. The Light Blue mounted a late rally against the Crimson, erasing an eight-point lead with 6:21 remaining. A Kevin Bulger one-handed floater with only 4.2 seconds remaining gave the Lions the 60-59 victory. The Lions defense tightened down the stretch, holding the Crimson to no field goals and only two free throws in the final seven minutes of the contest. Jason Miller led the way, scoring 19 points on 7-for-9 shooting and grabbing eight rebounds. Matsui caught fire in the first half, culminating in a 15-point night.

The Lions must play with the same defensive intensity and force turnovers in order to

duplicate this success. Against the Crimson, the Light Blue forced 15 turnovers, including six by all-Ivy candidate Jeremy Lin. If Columbia can force Lin to make poor decisions again by rotating Bulger, Agho, and Niko Scott on him, it has a solid chance of prevailing.

Columbia didn’t need a second-half comeback in its first matchup against Dartmouth. The Big Green controlled the first half of play, leading throughout, until a Matsui 3-pointer at the buzzer gave the Lions a halftime lead they would not give away.

Asenso Ampim and Foley entered the lineup alongside Miller, Agho, and Bulger in a halftime adjustment. That lineup led the Light Blue on a 17-2 run over the first seven minutes, which turned into a 30-5 run over a nearly 18-minute stretch.

Columbia received a stellar all-around performance from Agho, who scored 20 points on 8-for-16 shooting with nine rebounds.

If the Lions can keep Alex Barnett at bay, they have a good chance at winning Saturday’s matchup. While Barnett scored 20 points in the team’s first outing, he struggled in the second half as Agho, Ampim, and Bulger clamped down on the defensive end.

Tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m. for both nights.

Decision to Hold Column Draws Ire

COLUMN from page A10

has the right to dictate the tone of this year’s paper, and I am not in a position to disagree with them. As a result of my actions and beliefs surrounding the publication of the column, I gave notice of my resignation from the deputy board of *Spectator* effective immediately.

For those of you who think this column is simply my airing *Spectator*’s dirty laundry out of anger, it is not. The issue that arose on Wednesday was one that I felt strongly about. Given that the column was not published, it seemed appropriate to discuss the circumstances surrounding why as a way to encourage transparency both within and outside the newsroom.

I look forward to continuing my duties as a staff writer and columnist for the Sports section of *Spectator*, offering my opinion on Columbia, college, and professional sports.

Jonathan August is a Columbia College senior majoring in economics-philosophy. Sports@columbiaspectator.com



COLUMBIA vs. HARVARD, FRIDAY 7 P.M., LAVIETES PAVILION

COLUMBIA vs. DARTMOUTH, SATURDAY 7 P.M., LEEDE ARENA

BY THE NUMBERS

POINTS PER GAME



FIELD GOAL PCT.



REBOUNDS PER GAME



POINTS ALLOWED



BY THE NUMBERS

POINTS PER GAME



FIELD GOAL PCT.



REBOUNDS PER GAME



POINTS ALLOWED



HARVARD CRIMSON

Player	Yr	Pos.	No.	Player	Yr	Pos.	No.
P. Boehm	Fr.	F	13	D. McGeary	Jr.	G	3
E. Harris	Sr.	F	22	O. McNally	Fr.	G	11
D. Housman	Sr.	G	10	D. Miller	Jr.	F	24
M. Kenyi	Fr.	G	23	A. Pugar	Sr.	G	32
J. Lin	Jr.	G	4	P. Swiatek	Fr.	C	25
P. Magnarelli	Jr.	F	33	A. Van Nest	Fr.	F	20
M. Hugh	Fr.	F	15	K. Wright	Fr.	F	42

PROJECTED STARTING FIVE



Jeremy Lin, G
18.1 PPG, 5.3 RPG, 4.3 APG



Drew Housman, G
8.8 PPG, 2.0 RPG, 2.6 APG



Andrew Pugar, G
6.4 PPG, 2.0 RPG, 1.0 APG



Evan Harris, F
5.3 PPG, 4.6 RPG, 0.4 APG



Keith Wright, F
7.3 PPG, 5.3 RPG, 0.6 APG

LAST FIVE

Opponent	Date	Result	Top Scorer
@ Penn	Feb. 21	W, 66-60	Drew Housman, 22
@ Princeton	Feb. 20	L, 58-55	Drew Housman, 22
@ Columbia	Feb. 14	L, 60-59	Jeremy Lin, 19
@ Cornell	Feb. 13	L, 96-75	Drew Housman, 16
vs. Brown	Feb. 7	W, 64-63	Jeremy Lin, 27

LAST TIME THEY MET



59

February 14
AT
Levien Gym

52

February 13
AT
Levien Gym



60

65



COLUMBIA LIONS

Player	No.	Yr.	Pos.	Pts.	Rebs.	Asts.
Patrick Foley	5	Jr.	PG	11.7	1.8	2.5
Jason Miller	45	Sr.	F	10.0	6.8	1.0
Noruwa Agho	1	Fr.	G	9.4	3.0	1.8
Niko Scott	42	Jr.	G	8.1	2.6	1.4
K.J. Matsui	4	Sr.	G	6.9	1.4	0.6
Joe Bova	33	Sr.	F	5.9	4.4	0.8
Asenso Ampim	0	So.	F	5.9	6.1	1.2
Kevin Bulger	11	Jr.	G	5.0	3.5	2.3

LAST FIVE

Opponent	Date	Result	Top Scorer
@ Yale	Feb. 21	L, 57-49	Patrick Foley, 17
@ Brown	Feb. 20	W, 70-57	Patrick Foley, 21
vs. Harvard	Feb. 14	W, 60-59	Jason Miller, 8
vs. Dartmouth	Feb. 13	W, 65-52	Noruwa Agho, 20
@ Princeton	Feb. 7	L, 63-35	Zack Crimmins, 5

DARTMOUTH BIG GREEN

Player	Yr	Pos.	No.	Player	Yr	Pos.	No.
A. Barnett	Sr.	F	1	J. Mathis	Sr.	F	14
D. Biber	Sr.	F	2	R. Pride	Jr.	G	22
K. Crecco	Fr.	G	30	J. Riddle	Fr.	F	15
R. Dixon	So.	G	3	D. Rufful	Fr.	G/F	31
E. Fitzgerald	Jr.	C	32	M. Sanders	Sr.	G	23
K. Graeber	Sr.	C/F	41	J. Trotter	Fr.	G	25
H. Kouna	Fr.	F	33	C. Weeden	So.	F	42

PROJECTED STARTING FIVE



Jabari Trotter, G
7.3 PPG, 2.4 RPG, 1.7 APG



Marlon Sanders, G
4.3 PPG, 1.5 RPG, 1.2 APG



Kurt Graeber, C
2.3 PPG, 3.8 RPG, 0.3 APG



Alex Barnett, F
19.6 PPG, 5.7 RPG, 2.0 APG



David Rufful, F
6.6 PPG, 2.5 RPG, 1.1 APG

LAST FIVE

Opponent	Date	Result	Top Scorer
@ Princeton	Feb. 21	W, 66-63	Alex Barnett, 22
@ Penn	Feb. 20	W, 69-59	Alex Barnett, 20
@ Cornell	Feb. 14	L, 79-76	Alex Barnett, 22
@ Columbia	Feb. 13	L, 65-52	Alex Barnett, 20
vs. Yale	Feb. 7	W, 57-54	David Rufful, 14

KEY MATCHUP



Noruwa Agho vs. Jeremy Lin
Agho, Niko Scott, and Kevin Bulger forced Lin into six turnovers and only one 3-pointer in the last tilt with Harvard.



KEY MATCHUP



Asenso Ampim vs. Alex Barnett
Ampim helped keep Barnett in check last time against the Big Green, as the senior was held to his season average of 20 points.



PIXBOX

WEEK 6



Lisa Lewis
(28-12)



Matt Velazquez
(26-14)



Max Puro
(26-14)



Jelani Johnson
(22-18)



Jonathan Tayler
(22-18)



Jonathan August
(21-19)



Charles Young
(21-19)



Jacob Shapiro
(19-21)



Mike Shannon
(18-22)

Columbia at Dartmouth (-1.5)

Columbia

Lions

Columbia

Lions

Tip your hat

Columbia

Dartmouth

CU

Columbia

Cornell at Harvard (+5.5)

Cornell

Cornell

Cornell

Cornell

Knowles!

Cornell

Cornell

Cornell

Cornell

Yale at Penn (+2.5)

Yale?

Penn

Yale

Yale

Yale

Yale

Penn

Yale

Yale

Brown at Princeton (-5.5)

Tigers

Brown

Brown

Princeton

Princeton

Princeton

Princeton

P-ton

Princeton

Marquette at Louisville (-5.5)

Louisville

Louisville

Louisville

Louisville

Pitino

Louisville

Louisville

Marquette

Louisville

Missouri at Kansas (+4.5)

Mizzou

Kansas

Kansas

Kansas

Rock Chalk

Mizzou

KU

Mizzou

Missouri

Cleveland at San Antonio (-2.5)

Sorry, Chase

King James

Spurs

Cleveland

2010 Dunk Champ

Bron

Spurs

Spurs

San Antonio

Detroit at Boston (-6.5)

Alas. Celtics

Celts

Celtics

Boston

Starbury

Runner-ups

Celtics

Detroit Sucks

Boston

THE BEST PART

Who's it gonna be: Quest Crew or Beatbreaks? ABDC is the true test of athleticism. Quest FTW!

The 1990s + tiny, delicious cheeseburgers + New Jersey = Insane weekend ahead. COWABUNGA!

And the Marbury Era ends!

I'm stuck in quicksand.

Now taking all bets in Schneider dollars.

Friday can't come fast enough.

Q: If the Spurs and Celtics play in the NBA Finals, who loses?
A: Society

Q: Will August really quit the section?
A: And hang out with what friends?

Shizzam.

Baseball opens its season with a four-game series against nonconference opponent Lamar in Beaumont, Texas.

PAGE A8



GAMEDAY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2009 • PAGE A10



Track and field heads to Harvard for the Indoor Heptagonal Championships on Saturday and Sunday.

PAGE A8

Decision to Hold Column Draws Ire



JONATHAN AUGUST

FULL-COURT PRESS

As some of you may have noticed, there was no sports column in the Feb. 25 issue of *Spectator*. I would like to inform you as to why this was, in fact, the case.

One of our columnists, Jelani Johnson, had submitted a column that compared the way in which men speak about sports to the way in which they speak about their pursuits of women. The column attempted to analyze two apparently divergent subjects and harmonize them through a common language—sports jargon. This is not an entirely unreasonable theory and I think many people would agree that this is actually the case for some men.

I would like to state up front that I did not agree with the tone of the column, as it could have been read as if the writer were degrading women in the language and structure of the piece. That said, I personally found nothing in the column particularly worthy of being considered offensive or denigrating toward women. Others, however, disagreed with my assessment, and a number of editors on the paper believed that the column should not be published without revisions. In the end, the decision was made by the managing editor to postpone publication of the column.

The way I handled the situation was probably regrettable, and for that I apologize. I do not, however, apologize for defending the writer's opinion and the right to publish something that might bring about strong reactions from the public. I believe that the comparison made in the column was one worthy of investigation, and while the aims of the article might not have been conveyed in the best manner possible, they were not presented in a form unsuited for publication in *Spectator*.

One goal of a newspaper is to provoke discussion on a variety of issues, from news and sporting events to general opinions on artistic performances, politics, and gender studies. I think that the best course of action would have been to make small structural changes to the article and then publish it, with the reaction being left to the Columbia and Morningside communities. If people were personally offended by the work, they would have the right to submit a letter to the editor to be published in the Opinion section denouncing the article and further stimulating discussion on the issue.

The actions of a newspaper should be first and foremost to publish, and not to repress, opinions. The fact that the article may have led to strong reactions from various students and campus groups does not mean that the article was not worthy of publication. In many ways, such reactions give the piece more leverage to draw attention to a slowly dying form of media.

Not everyone agrees with my opinion regarding the article, and I have no problem with that. The reasons offered for the postponement of publication of the column were simply not compelling enough for me, and for that alone I defended my writer's right to have the work published.

In my three and a half years at Columbia, I have served on *Spectator's* associate, deputy, and managing boards. My highest position was as one of the paper's two sports editors for the 2007 calendar year. During my years, I have witnessed the publication of articles in various sections more vitriolic and offensive than the one held back on Wednesday night. As was made clear to me at the time, however, the current board

SEE COLUMN, page A8

COLUMBIA (11-13, 6-4)
vs. HARVARD (11-13, 3-7)
FRIDAY, LAVIETES PAVILION, 7 p.m.



RADIO:
WKCR 89.9 FM
WWDJ 970 AM
WWW:
GOCOLUMBIA
LIONS.COM



COLUMBIA (11-13, 6-4)
vs. DARTMOUTH (8-16, 6-4)
SATURDAY, LEEDE ARENA, 7 p.m.



Jenny Hsu / Senior Staff Photographer

JUMP SHOT | Men's basketball will try to separate itself from the pack and solidify its second-place spot in the standings at Harvard and Dartmouth this weekend.

Tigers, Crimson Stand in Way at League Championships

BY SARA SALZBANK
Spectator Staff Writer

It all comes down to this weekend for the Columbia women's swimming and diving team. The results of the dual-meet season no longer matter. How a team performs at the Ivy League Championships is the only factor in all-Ivy honors and league standing. If the Lions want to cap the season on a high mark, however, they'll need to take down the only two Ivy teams that blemished their record this year.

Tying the program's best record for dual-meet wins in a season, the Light Blue went 9-2 overall (5-2 Ivy) this season under the guidance of head coach Diana Caskey. The Lions won six consecutive meets before Princeton edged them out on a 156-123 margin. The team rallied the following week, defeating Dartmouth by 110 points.

Princeton and Harvard, the only Ancient Eight teams that defeated Columbia this season, are the frontrunners in this year's competition. Three-time defending champion Princeton (7-0 Ivy) is led by junior Alicia Aemisegger. In 2007, Aemisegger became the first member of the Ivy League in 24 years to take



Brian Chan / Staff Photographer

FINAL STRETCH | The women's swimming and diving team will be put to the ultimate test this weekend at the Ivy League Championships. Columbia will face the rest of the Ancient Eight in 21 events over three days of competition.

four titles in a single season. Aemisegger currently holds seven individual titles of her own, and needs six this weekend in order to break the all-time record of 13. Aemisegger is also the Ivy League's frontrunner in meet record times in all events of 400 yards or greater.

Harvard also has a strong team, with school record holders in individual medley events, freestyle events, and butterfly

events. Sophomore Katy Hinkle picked up the Ivy 50-yard freestyle championship last year, while junior Alexandra Clarke, despite falling to Aemisegger, took second in the 1,000-yard freestyle.

The Lions, who came in third last year—their best finish in program history—are ready to contend this year. Seniors Shannon Hosey, Hannah Galey, and Lauren Fraley have one last chance

for titles in their final conference championships of their collegiate careers. Hosey defeated Princeton last year in the three-meter dive to take the title and become the co-diver of the meet.

Galey and Fraley also saw success last February—the former finished second in the 50-yard, 100-yard, and

SEE WOMEN'S SWIMMING, page A6

Lions Try to Advance Past Leading Ivy Teams at Home

BY SARAH SOMMER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Third in the league standings, the Columbia women's basketball team will get its best chance of the season to break into the top two this weekend. Columbia (13-11, 6-4 Ivy) faces second-place Harvard on Friday night and first-place Dartmouth on Saturday night, closing its home portion of the schedule with a bang.

The Light Blue has won its past three games, a streak that started when it overtook Harvard (15-8, 7-2) by three points in Cambridge. The Lions scored 74 points in that victory, and their offense only improved in their next two contests, with 88 points against Brown and 77 points against Yale this past weekend.

While Columbia has momentum on its side, Harvard and Dartmouth (14-9, 9-0) are not lacking in confidence or ability. The Crimson swept its opponents last weekend, while the Big

Green is undefeated in league play. In addition, Harvard and Dartmouth are both unbeaten on the road.

"If we have a crowd like what we had for the 'Pink Zone' game, then I think we have a home-court advantage," head coach Paul Nixon said. "I don't think it's a coincidence that we had the best, most active crowd since I've been the coach at Columbia for our 'Pink Zone' night, and we set the program record for largest-ever margin of victory in an Ivy League game. I just don't think that's coincidence, that our players stepped up and played that well."

Every Columbia player contributed at least two points in the 88-57 win over Brown, with five Lions in double figures. Columbia didn't let up the following evening either, beating Yale by 16 points.

"When you look across college basketball, it's not the rims at Duke that make it

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, page A6

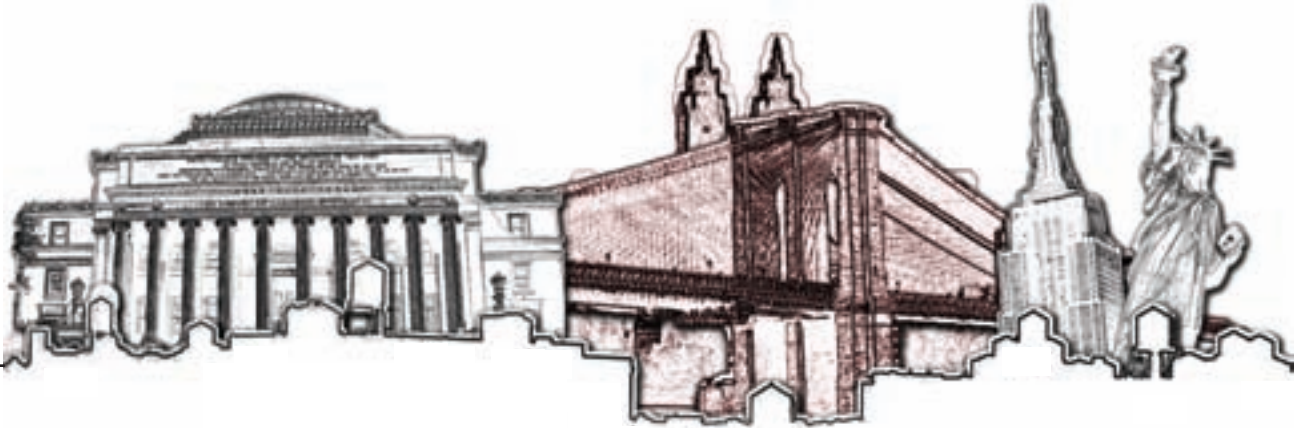
WEEKEND SCHEDULE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL vs. Harvard Levien Gym, 7 p.m., Feb. 27	WOMEN'S TENNIS vs. Boston University Dick Savitt Tennis Center, 1 p.m., Mar. 1
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL vs. Dartmouth Levien Gym, 7 p.m., Feb. 28	BASEBALL vs. Lamar Beaumont, TX, 7:30 p.m., Feb. 27
FENCING IFA Championships Waltham, Mass., 8:30 a.m., Feb. 28	MEN'S SWIMMING ECAC Championships Cambridge, Mass., 11 a.m., Feb. 27
MEN'S TENNIS vs. Binghampton Dick Savitt Tennis Center, 2 p.m., Feb. 27	WOMEN'S SWIMMING Ivy League Championships East Meadow, N.Y., 11 a.m., Feb. 26
MEN'S TENNIS vs. Stony Brook Dick Savitt Tennis Center, 10 a.m., Feb. 28	LACROSSE vs. Monmouth University Baker Athletics Complex, 3 p.m., Feb. 27
WOMEN'S TENNIS vs. UMass West Point, N.Y., 9 a.m., Feb. 28	TRACK Ivy League Heptagonals Cambridge, Mass., 11 a.m., Feb. 28



Ajit Pillai / Senior Staff Photographer

LEAP OF FAITH | Women's basketball will try to upset both Harvard and Dartmouth at home.



THE BEST OF TIMES SQUARE



File Photo

BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY | From crowded Times Square to the gems hidden in the core of the Big Apple, Midtown houses everything from charming bookstores to big tourist destinations. For more on midtown's offerings—including NBC studio ours, Broadway theaters, and the best food in the area—check out this week's Neighborhood Watch on B4.

MUSIC

Earn Your Spin Doctorate at These DJ Schools

BY LINH TRUONG
Columbia Daily Spectator

From hip-hop parties in the Bronx to all-night techno raves in Berlin, the DJ revolution has emerged from an underground culture to encompass every genre of music in nearly every part of the world. And now, anyone can train to be the life of the party with some lessons in scratching records at New York's DJ schools.

With complex skills and complicated equipment, DJing can seem a bit overwhelming to the novice looking to master the turntables. Luckily, in the past decade, starting with schools like the Scratch DJ Academy (434 Sixth Ave., between 9th and 10th streets), which was founded in 2002 by old-school legend Jam Master Jay of Run DMC, DJ schools have been popping up all over the city to cater to the needs of both beginning and professional mixmasters.

Another popular destination for many DJ students is Dubspot (348 W. 14th St. between 8th and 9th avenues). A small space tucked away in the Meatpacking District, it is equipped with the latest gear for electronic-music production, from standard Technics turntables to Pioneer CDJs.

The founders of the school have traversed the DJ scene themselves, both working the turntables and managing massive venues like the famous Crobar. This professionalism and knowledge shows in their teaching approach.

"It's more than just the technical skills," co-founder Dan Giove said, "there's a philosophical aspect that comes with it, too. It's less about competition and more about sharing music."

At a beginner's class I visited, the wide range of students reflected Dubspot's inclusiveness. An Italian man in a business suit proclaimed his conversion to hip-hop from European house music. A young, professional bass player wanted to learn to DJ so she could spin between her band's sets at gigs. Young teenagers who had never touched a turntable and older cats looking to brush up on skills lost years ago shared the same classroom.

Just like lessons for any musical instrument, Dubspot's curriculum includes a combination of technique and musical theory—except instead of hitting keys on a piano, you're scratching vinyl on a turntable. "Music is a spiritual experience," instructor DJ Solis told the class, "and DJing is just another way to tap into that. It's the modern-day guitar."

The most recent DJ school to open, In The Mix DJ School offers an additional benefit for some students—it gives lessons in both Spanish and English, making DJ lessons even more accessible to the city's residents. DJ Creme, the founder of In The Mix DJ School, is the only Spanish-speaking Pioneer national demonstrator and partnered with Pioneer to open the DJ school.



Linh Truong for Spectator

SCRATCH AND SNIFF | New York City DJ schools such as the Scratch DJ Academy, Dubspot, and The Mix DJ School, all offer tutelage to the willing about how to read a crowd.

In The Mix's location in Belleville, N.J. (335 Cortlandt St.) has not hindered its success, with students traveling for two hours or more just to study with an international DJ such as DJ Creme. Getting rid of vinyl and only teaching on CDJs, as is the current industry standard, In The Mix maintains a forward-thinking approach when it comes to the evolving technology on the scene.

"You have to grow with the new era or you'll be left behind," said DJ Creme. The

latest trend in the DJing world is the use of visuals and music videos running simultaneously with the DJ set, commonly known as VJing. Both Dubspot and In The Mix have already begun to incorporate VJing classes as well as classes in music production into their expanding and diverse curricula.

Whether your interest lies in turntablism, electronic music production, or just mixing party music for your friends, these DJ schools can help find the music in you.

FOOD & DRINK

Momofuku Has Columbia Students Crying Over Spilled Milk

BY ADRIENNE PEÑALOZA
Columbia Daily Spectator

Got some nostalgia for the good old days when mom would serve you a big glass of milk to make strong bones? David Chang's Momofuku Bakery & Milk Bar will have you wanting to trade college for elementary school.

When I first heard about chef David Chang's newest addition to his Momofuku empire, Momofuku Bakery & Milk Bar, I scoffed. Up until my visit to the bakery, I was a huge Momofuku skeptic. It was only a few weeks ago that I tried Chang's much raved about pork buns and ramen at Momofuku Noodle Bar only to walk away disappointed. There was nothing wrong with it, but there wasn't anything great about it either. I felt betrayed by the legions of blogging foodies' rave reviews of Chang's "genius."

But as soon as I took a bite of his marvelously layered pistachio cake, all doubt vanished. The moist, light layers consisted of a pistachio cake, "milk crumbs," and a tart lemon curd that cut through the cake's sweetness and its thin layer of pistachio buttercream.

The dulce-de-leche cake, consisting of plain vanilla cake layers, "milk crumbs," a cream cheese-like mousse, and a thick, dark stripe of dulce de leche, was good but did not impress as much as the pistachio cake.

Perhaps the most intriguing item on the menu was the soft serve, which came



in four flavors: cereal milk, fruity cereal milk, marshmallow cereal milk, and sweet-corn cereal milk. As I sampled the creamy sweet-corn cereal milk ice cream, the smell of toasted marshmallows wafted through the air and I was immediately transported to the Saturday mornings of my youth, where I would plop myself in front of the TV with a heaping bowl of sugary cereal. It did indeed taste like cereal milk with subtle overtones of fresh, sweet corn with a sharp, salty finish.

Other options include candy bar pie, an amalgamation of pretzels, chocolate, nougat, and toffee all nestled in a chocolate cookie crust, and "Crack Pie," a dizzyingly sugary confection that tastes like pecan pie, without the pecans.

Their compost cookie, a mish-mash of pretzels, chocolate and butterscotch chips, and potato chips, is also offered among other more conventional flavors like peanut butter.



Kenneth Jackson / Staff Photographer

PRETZEL TIME | David Chang's Momofuku Bakery and Milk Bar lives up to all the hype, producing creative milk-based treats. These innovative desserts will have Columbians taking the trek downtown to satisfy their late-night milk and cookie cravings with an upscale twist.

Given all the hype surrounding Chang, it's easy to disregard Momofuku Bakery & Milk Bar as just another culinary fad. However, Chang's whimsical take on dessert is definitely worth a try. Just be sure to bring a friend—because while the large portions are certainly generous, the ensuing sugar high is hard to stomach alone.

Momofuku Bakery & Milk Bar is located at 207 Second Ave. at 13th Street.

BOOKS

Does Bestseller Methodology Make the List?



REBECCA EVANS
ONE FOR THE BOOKS

Oscar Season may have finally reached its glittering conclusion, but the natural desire to know what is finally, conclusively, objectively the best spans both season and medium. For literature, there are two measures: major prizes and best-seller lists.

While the results of the former may be debated, it is difficult to argue that the prize winners are utterly unqualified. Whatever your literary preference, it is unlikely that you find either Junot Diaz's *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, which received the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, or Joseph O'Neill's *Netherland*, which received the 2009 PEN/Faulkner award, to be lacking in merit.

This is not the case with best-seller lists, whose methods and results are fiercely contested. The most well known list is published by the *New York Times*, and divided into various categories by genre—fiction, nonfiction, children's, and, depressingly, "advice"—and by format—paperback, hardcover, and mass-market. (For the uninitiated, mass-market books are cheap paperbacks, unique both in their limited genres—most are science fiction, romance, or mystery—and their return policies, which require bookstores to return only the front cover, not the entire book, to receive credit.)

These divisions address issues of practicality—if you're looking for a best-seller to give to a history buff, you're likely to be annoyed by having to sift through books on healthy relationships, and if you're trying to remember the name of the newest, hottest diet plan, it would be a pain to scan an unsorted nonfiction list.

There's another, snobbier impulse at work: Having compared sorted and unsorted best-seller lists, I've seen that mass-market fiction sales tend to trump those of trade paperback fiction. If the *Times* didn't separate the two, it might risk not being able to print "quality" fiction titles in the few top spots on its lists.

Sometimes, though, the divisions are less straightforward. Just as booksellers do, bestseller lists struggle with deciding where to place books. Stephanie Meyer's *Twilight* series was a teenage phenomenon, but adults are catching on, and Meyer's "adult" book, *The Host*, is currently No. 3 in the *Times* hardcover fiction category. What does this mean for *Twilight*'s placement on the list and on the shelf? Do you take it for granted that fans will look in more than one place for their favorite authors? A concrete example: How many Michael Chabon fans would find *Summerland* lingering in the young adult section?

Problems of classification extend into the literary world at large, but other, simpler questions are isolated to the lists—for instance, concerns about how the best-seller lists are compiled. Some consider Internet sales, some don't. Some restrict themselves to independent bookstores, excluding big names like Borders. Most don't even rely on actual sales, but on supplier's orders: If a bookstore orders hundreds of copies of a particular book, that number is counted before the store itself reports a single sale. That's how *Harry Potter* books showed up on best-seller lists weeks early, if anyone was wondering.

It's a divisive issue, this notion of the "best-seller." Culture wars are waged over this kind of thing. Perhaps hoping to avoid the conflict, the *New York Times* refuses to divulge details of its selection process, which isn't such a bad idea. After seeing this year's crop of angry articles on the Academy Awards in response to *Departures*' beating *The Class* and *Waltz with Bashir* for Best Foreign Language Film, I'm okay with some best-seller secrecy. In this case, obscurity, served with a dash of elitism, is better than righteous fury.

Rebecca Evans is a Columbia College junior majoring in English and creative writing. One for the Books runs alternate Fridays.

WEEKEND PICKS

THE EDITORS’ BEST BETS FOR THE WEEKEND AHEAD

THEATER
Forbidden Broadway Goes to Rehab at the 47th Street Theatre. 304 W. 47th St. at 8th Avenue. Closing Sunday, March 1 with final performances Friday, Feb. 27 and Saturday, Feb. 28 at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$61.50, student rush available.
This is the latest version of the 26-year-old musical parody *Forbidden Broadway*. Consistently updated and rewritten based on the current Broadway scene, the cast of four performs true-to-show melodies from the Broadway productions they mock with original, hilarious lyrics. Perfect for a quick night out, some great music, and a side-splitting laugh.

FOOD
A Slice of Brooklyn Pizza Tour. Fourth Avenue (between 13th and 14th streets), Brooklyn. Friday, 11 a.m., \$75.
Sitting on a bus with pizza-loving tourists may not be an idyllic Friday morning experience, but if you’re looking for a taste of Brooklyn’s best pies without the lines at mainstays like Grimaldi’s, this pizza tour is a good bet.

BOOKS
Yusef Komunyakaa and Juanita Torrence-Thompson at the American Association of University Women. 111 E. 37th St. (between Lexington and Park avenues), Saturday, 6:30 p.m., \$15.
For its annual Black Heritage Celebration, the American Association of University Women will feature Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Komunyakaa and highly acclaimed poet Torrence-Thompson. After the reading, there will be a book signing and an authentic Creole dinner.

FILM
Night of the Hunter at the Museum of Modern Art.. 11 W. 53rd St. (Between Fifth and Sixth avenues). Sunday, 6:30 p.m., \$6:
Charles Laughton’s solo directorial debut is one of the most imbalanced, over-the-top films ever made—but it’s worth it for Robert Mitchum’s crazed performance as a murderous former priest.

DANCE
Paul Taylor Dance Company at New York City Center. 130 W. 56th St. (between Sixth and Seventh avenues). Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m., \$10.
The 2009 season of the company at City Center features 19 dances by Paul Taylor, including two New York premieres—one of which examines the chaotic 1960s with music by The Mamas & The Papas—determining whether or not they can stand the test of time.

ART
“Martin Kippenberger: The Problem Perspective” at the Museum of Modern Art. 11 W. 53rd St. (between Fifth and Sixth avenues). Opens Sunday, 10:30 a.m., Free with CUID.
Traveling all the way from across the country, this large-scale exhibition of Kippenberger’s provocative oeuvre is rich with varying media ranging from music to sculpture to photography. Who wouldn’t want to see an artist whose work was allegedly condemned by the pope?

MUSIC
Final Fantasy at Brooklyn Academy of Music. 30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place, Brooklyn. Saturday, 8 p.m., \$25-55.
Named after his favorite video game, Final Fantasy is violinist Owen Pallett’s wonderfully whimsical one-man project. His performances, known for their theatricality, are worth the trip to Brooklyn. Indie darlings Grizzly Bear will open.

BOOKS
Free Books at Heights Books. 109 Montague St. (between Hicks and Henry streets), Brooklyn. Friday and Saturday, all day, free.
This bookstore, known for selling first editions and one-of-a-kinds, recently sold its space and will be moving to a new location on Smith Street. What are they doing with the books that can’t make the move? They’ve set them out in front of the store in a dumpster for all to take. Grab them before they’re gone.

WILDCARD
An Afternoon to Spread the Love. 174 E. 74th St. (between Madison and Fifth avenues). Sunday, 2 p.m., \$15 suggested.
The home of Richard Marker and Mirele Goldsmith is hosting a seminar all about organic food, replete with cooking demonstrations and conversation. There will also be a silent auction fundraiser for the New York Coalition for Natural Living and the New York Association of Naturopathic Physicians.

SEARCH FOR THE BEST LOCAL CAFES FOR STUDYING



SIDEWALK STUDYING | Lose yourself in a cup of coffee and a good book, even if it is for Contemporary Civilization, at these local study spots.

Cozy Cafes For Busy Study Days Around Morningside

BY DEVIN BRISKI
Spectator Staff Writer

It’s been a long hibernation in Butler with only stale Blue Java croissants for sustenance. While it’s not quite sunny enough to tan or read on the grass, a stroll over to Morningside Park to find a cozy cafe with free WiFi is slowly entering the realm of possibility. When looking for a study spot, students generally walk to perennial favorites Hungarian Pastry Shop and Max Caff  to crack the books. And while no one can beat Hungarian’s rum balls or Max Caff ’s cozy couches, both of these places have bad lighting and frequently end up too crowded.

For a less jam-packed option, Cafe Fresh is a little-known but cute eatery on Amsterdam and 121st Street. The atmosphere is warm and welcoming and their espresso is strong enough to keep your studying going. Ask for one of their “Love Brownies” made with Brazilian chocolate heated up for a sugar fix. Though Fresh is close to campus and not as crowded as the aforementioned student favorites, tables are a little small for midterm cramming, there is no wireless available, and, if you’re unlucky, you could end up with the barista who solely plays Europop. Other than that, though, it’s a great place to curl up with a textbook between classes.



HIGH SOCIETY | Society Coffee & Juice in Morningside Park is a cappuccino-lover’s paradise.

A little further downtown sits Zanny’s Cafe, on Columbus Avenue at 108th Street. The cafe may not host an edgy or hip crowd, but its wooden benches and old pillows lend it a rustic charm. The staff is extremely friendly and there’s usually upbeat folk music or classic rock playing. There is no wireless here either, but it’s rarely crowded. And while I’m doubtful of Zanny’s claim to the “best hot chocolate in New York City,” their cocoa does have a pleasant flavor and

is served with a chocolate garnish, though the cups look eerily like the salmon-colored John Jay mugs.
If you are willing to make the trek across Morningside Park, Society Coffee & Juice at 114th Street and 8th Avenue serves up an excellent cappuccino with an ambience perfect for the busy student. It’s dark brown leather couches, big square tables with plenty of room to spread out books, free wireless, good lighting, and tasteful music ranging from dub to jazz to Latin make for a perfect day of studying in style.
Society also has books, board games, and magazines available, as well as an extensive wine selection for a post-problem set toast. Laptops are not permitted on Saturdays and Sundays to encourage conversation, making it the perfect place to meet with your Gateway group over wraps and smoothies. Society Coffee is a little known jewel in Harlem for engineers and philosophers alike to find a quiet moment.
Hitting the books at cafes can be a rewarding excuse for a daytime stroll, a good cappuccino, and the opportunity to chat with fellow studiers. Unfortunately, Morningside Heights is at a loss for a truly great cafe culture, but scattered about the hills of our neighborhood lie a few study havens for those of us disillusioned by Blue Java.

ART



THE BARS THAT BIND | Tehching Hsieh’s latest exhibit at the MoMA shows the creative result of a mind isolated. Hsieh locked himself in a cage for 365 days and documented his physical and artistic transformation through photographs and drawings in this performance art piece, the first of a MoMA series.

Thinking Inside the Cage: Hsieh’s Newest Exhibit

BY YVAN ROSA
Columbia Daily Spectator

In 1978, the artist Tehching Hsieh locked himself in a cage and proceeded to stay there for 365 consecutive days. With only the bare necessities—running water, soap, daily rations of food—he spent that entire year without talking to anyone, reading anything, or doing anything whatsoever. He simply lived alone with himself and his thoughts.
The cage from Hsieh’s yearlong performance and general documentations from his other performance pieces are now on view at the Museum of Modern Art. The exhibit is the first

of a commendable enterprise by the museum that seeks to bring performance art documentation, original performance pieces, and live re-enactments into the museum setting.
Hsieh can be called an artist of extremes. He is best known for his year long performance pieces: one year punching a time clock every hour on the hour, one year living exclusively outdoors, one year tied to another person, and one year locked in a cage. To say the least, his brand of art requires tenacity.
A remarkable set of 355 documentary photos make up the exhibit (365 were intended, 10 were lost). Each is a deadpan, shoulder-length

frontal of Hsieh. This consistent, straightforward perspective makes the subtle variations in posture and facial appearance that much more apparent. The photos eerily record the passing of time—we can follow the slow growth of Hsieh’s hair, which he shaved off and allowed to grow throughout his performance.
With this explicit focus on his cage piece, the exhibit is restrained and focused. The sparseness of the display works well with the art, allowing space for the viewer to project and imagine what the passage of time would have been like for the artist.
The harsh, rigorous process of Hsieh’s art can, at times, make

it seem removed from practical matters. Yet at the core of all his artwork is an overwhelming preoccupation with everyday life. After all, he made time itself the medium of his art, and what’s more inextricable from life than time? The MoMA show, while not comprehensive, offers a wonderful space to contemplate a few conceptual treasures of a complex artist.
“Performance 1: Tehching Hsieh” is on view at the Museum of Modern Art through May 18. MoMA is located at 11 53rd Street (btwn Fifth and Sixth avenues).

FILM



Courtesy of Janus Films

DEAD AIR | Italian director Marco Ferreri’s cult masterpiece *Dillinger is Dead* shocks and awes audiences with a story of everyday tedium that turns into devastating violence. Catch the classic film at BAMcinématek through March 5.

Controversial Cult Film *Dillinger is Dead* Makes Cinematic Coup at Brooklyn Showing

BY RACHEL ALLEN
Columbia Daily Spectator

They say revolutions come in cycles—and perhaps cult films do, too. Italian director Marco Ferreri’s controversial masterpiece *Dillinger is Dead* has resurfaced yet again, this time at BAMcinématek.

The 1960’s were known for their rebellion, and *Dillinger* is true to its time. It is a film remarkably free of any convention, something of which modern films should take note. *Dillinger* has rarely been shown in the U.S., originally due to its devastating violence, but now because of its moralizing content. It is a treat to be able to see it on the big screen, and

though it’s not catered to broad tastes, I walked away glad I had seen it.

Glauco, played by Michel Piccoli, is a disenchanted industrial engineer who spends his days designing gas masks, and his nights with his drugged-up shell of a wife. His life is claustrophobic, and it shows in his character—Piccoli infuses the role with the look of a broken man, but the heart and emotional breadth of a child. When he finds an old gun hidden in his kitchen, he paints it red with white polka dots, like a kid with a coloring book.

Ferreri makes it his task to highlight Glauco’s tedious nocturnal activities, which take place over only one night. As the ordinary events languidly

play out in real time, the viewer often wonders if Ferreri is mocking the audience by making them sit through the mundanities of everyday life. Even when something intriguing happens—the uncovering of the gun, the seduction of his maid, and even the singular act of deeply unsettling violence—Glauco stays chillingly unemotional.

Ferreri’s minimalist touch greatly enhances the film. By leaving the camera immobile, he creates jarring shots that cut up the shapes of the bodies onscreen—a choice that makes the film interesting without being flashy. The bubbly pop soundtrack that accompanies the action only adds to the uneasiness one feels while watching Glauco’s stunted, infantile character onscreen.

What Ferreri manages to do with *Dillinger* is create a film that acts as a blank canvas and leaves the audience to wrestle with their own views and ideologies in response. No matter the year, the questions *Dillinger* raises are timeless. It may not be a date movie, but it does force viewers to stay active and take a decisive role—something missing in much of the mindless entertainment filling theaters today.

Dillinger is Dead is screening at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, BAM Rose Cinemas, from Feb. 27 to March 5. BAM Rose Cinemas are located at 30 Lafayette Ave., Brooklyn. \$8 with a student ID.

ART

Downtown Eatery Provides Fusion of Parisian Culinary and Creative Arts



ELYSSA GOLDBERG
FEAST FOR THE EYES

Do judge a book by its cover.

Located three blocks from the 1 train at 85 MacDougal St. (between Bleecker and Houston streets) on the Lower East Side, the French-American bistro Camaje uses its décor to transport its patrons to quaint Parisian side streets, but manages to retain the flavor of the neighborhood.

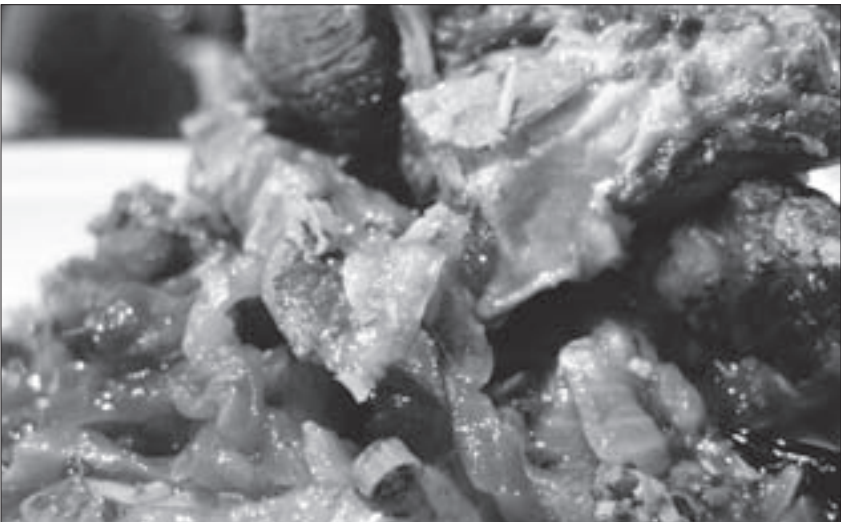
In the summer, the bistro transforms into a cafe, filling the small, sunny street with intimate outdoor tables. Winter windows become open French doors merging the dark burgundy interior with the gray pavement and sunshine of the outdoors.

Unfortunately, February days are too cold to enjoy long afternoons at an outdoor cafe. While the interior appears haphazard and antiquated, fabric-covered couches with oversized pillows and throw blankets in muted colors fill the restaurant. The floor tiles hail from 50 years ago, showing burgundy and white geometric patterns.

There are no more than 12 tables in the restaurant, seating only two people each. It looks and feels like your grandparent’s dual-purpose living room/dining room with Ragù-colored walls, horizontally oriented mirrors, tin boxes



HAUTE DECOR | Lower East Side bistro-café Camaje serves up a classy atmosphere and exquisite cuisine, while supporting photography from local artists in the downtown area.



Elyssa Goldberg for *Spectator*

restraining fake flowers in plastic vases, and wrought iron wall sconces. Among the perfectly geometric yet incredibly chaotic permanent wall fixtures sit beautiful and crisp photographs of wildlife, coniferous forests, and mountains.

I asked my waiter, Sam, about the photographs. He told me that Camaje supports local artists—the photographer is a Lower East Side resident who spent time in New Zealand photographing. Sam then told me that all of the hanging photographs are on sale, but, as he said, “they cost a pretty penny.” The featured artwork

changes every six months, letting at least two local artists display their work every year.

While the food is relatively lackluster (my lamb stew was good, but not memorable), Camaje makes good use of what it’s got. It shoots for French, but lands somewhere close to French-inspired American. Its décor tries for cafe, but ends up somewhere closer to bistro. Hints of its American roots give it a flavor that is eclectic and enjoyable.

Local artists’ works seem out of place but against the backdrop of other out-of-place

decorations, they stand out enough to appeal to potential buyers.

Camaje is just one example of the many dining establishments looking to local art for a unique, New York-centric design. While success for those pursuing art as a career (or even an involved hobby) may seem out of reach, Camaje suggests that aspiring artists have ever-increasing access to exposure, beginning just around the corner at their neighborhood bistro.

Elyssa Goldberg is a Columbia College first-year. Feast for The Eyes runs alternate Fridays.

MUSIC

Jazz Composers at Columbia Spread the Music

BY CATHERINE RICE
Spectator Staff Writer

It’s easy to think of jazz repertoire being set in stone like standard classical repertoire, canonized by the greats such as Thelonious Monk, Miles Davis and Duke Ellington. The Columbia University Jazz Composers Collective concert this Friday, Feb. 27 at 8 p.m. in Miller Theatre aims to disprove this notion.

The concert, debuting the collective as an established group on campus, will feature the original compositions of many award-winning student composers from the Columbia music department’s Composition Program. The performers range from Columbia undergraduates and graduate students to faculty and renowned alumni.

The purpose of the concert is to both showcase talented Columbia-affiliated jazz musicians and to present new compositions that, according to professor Chris Washburne, who will be conducting the ensembles on Friday, “are pushing the

envelope in various ways.” The new compositions aim to combine contemporary classical influence with jazz technique. They experiment with different instrumental combinations, including more traditional ensembles, like the big band.

The wide range of musicians contributing to the concert is a testament to the success that Columbians can achieve in the music world after graduation. A notable example is Patrick Zimmerli, CC ’90, who is featured in one of the concert’s pieces. He currently writes music for the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and is an active saxophonist in the New York area as well as a member of the Columbia music department faculty.

The collective is a brainchild of professor Washburne, who created the Louis Armstrong Jazz Performance Program in 2002. Since its humble beginnings as a small group of eight musicians and one ensemble, it has expanded to include 125 students, 14 ensembles and 12 faculty members. Washburne said that he formalized the once informal jazz community at Columbia with the establishment of these organizations.

For Washburne, this debut concert is particularly important because it focuses on the students. He explained, “The Center for Jazz Studies and the Jazz Performance Program both bring in other musicians from the outside, but we have to promote our own. I’ve had this [concert] in mind for many years and now we have a large enough community for it.”

In Washburne’s opinion, the composers collective is the last building block in establishing the jazz program at Columbia because it promotes the performance aspect of jazz at Columbia while enriching what is already a world-renown center of jazz scholarship. He hopes that the CU Jazz Composers Collective’s concert will become an annual event that brings together musicians, composers, students, faculty, and alumni to create a formalized jazz community for years to come.

CU Jazz Composers Collective will perform on Friday Feb. 27 at 8 p.m. in Miller Theatre. The concert is free and open to the public.

Theater’s Largest Spread Of Shows Takes the Midtown West Stage

THEATER from back page

show at the Broadway Comedy Club (318 W. 53rd St.).

Off-Broadway and off-off-Broadway theater thrives at Midtown. The Manhattan Theater Club manages New York City Center at 56th Street and the Samuel J. Friedman Theater (261 W. 47th St.) and commits to producing works—like the current *The American Plan* and *Ruined*—and hosting education programs geared towards as a wide an audience as the city’s diversity provides.

Appealing to a varied audience seems to be the new trend, as the New Victory Theater advertises itself as New York’s first theater for kids and families. Ranging from puppet shows to international artist showcases to the current production of *Henry V*, this 42nd Street located venue embraces theater on a multicultural and innovative level.

Though barely a sampling of all that West Midtown has to offer, there is no doubt that if you wander down Broadway, you will be sure to find all the theater you need.

BOOKS



Diana Wong / Staff Photographer

THAT'S AMORE | Rizzoli, an Italian-language bookstore, offers more than one may expect. With its beautiful architecture and exotic selection, even a novice in Italian will find this shop a bookworm's paradise.

Bookstores in the City: Rizzoli Doesn't Lose Visitors in Translation

BY EMILY TAMKIN
Spectator Staff Writer

If you are looking for a cozy, shop-around-the-corner bookstore, do not, under any circumstances, take the 1 train to Columbus Circle, turn on Broadway, and walk down West 57th Street. If, however, you are an art aficionado, a fashionista, European, or would like to be some combination of the above, you most certainly should consider taking the trip to Rizzoli Bookstore.

The physical building itself is actually worth the ride. Yet, even its aesthetically pleasing window displays don't prepare patrons for the visual feast awaiting them on the other side of its heavy doors. Rizzoli's books

sit on wooden shelves, which perfectly complement the staircase's railing. There are chandeliers on every floor, and the molding on the ceilings is strikingly beautiful. As one employee explained, Rizzoli is home to "enjoyable architecture." Her co-worker agreed that it's a "pretty place." If Rizzoli didn't actually sell anything, it would be worth going there anyway.

Rizzoli does, however, have plenty to sell. It is an Italian-language bookstore (complete with Italian-speaking customers), featuring plenty of Italian books, European periodicals, and a well stocked travel section. Calling it only an Italian-language bookstore, however, would be like calling Italy only the land where the Romans once ruled. True? Yes. Complete picture? Absolutely not.

As a Rizzoli employee noted, "We have a lot of books about fashion, design, and art." But the store's wares don't end there: an entire section houses works relating to religion, a substantial music section sells appealing alternatives to Top 40 hits, and yet another portion of the store offers a well stocked but idiosyncratic space for DVDs.

The only seating is in the back of the third floor (in the children's section), and they don't sell coffee, but the service is personable, and going to Rizzoli does make for "more of an enjoyable shopping experience," as the saying goes.

True, you won't be able to curl up with a book. But who ever curled up with the complete collection of Michelangelo's works, anyway?

THEATER

Venture Stage West to B'way Mecca

BY RUTHIE FIERBERG
Spectator Staff Writer

If the flashing lights, honking horns and vast crowds haven't convinced you yet, Times Square is the heart of New York—embodying the fervor of the entire city.

New York—renowned for its pulsating theater scene—draws artists and fans alike. As the heart of the metropolis, nowhere does theater beat harder than 239 W. 45th St.

Midtown West houses much of the vibrant theater scene on that little street running through Manhattan: Broadway. Theaters reside alongside the skyscraper-high billboards, including the Broadway Theater at 53rd Street—home to *Shrek The Musical* and its star-packed cast—including Tony Award Winner Sutton Foster.

Down the road on 47th Street and Broadway, the Palace Theater now previews the much-awaited revival of *West Side Story*. Equipped with a fresh young cast, the recreation of Jerome Robbins' original choreography, and the infusion of Spanish lyrics and dialogue, Broadway welcomes *West Side Story* with high expectations.

But not all Broadway theater meeting these expectations lies on the namesake street.

Moving westward, *August: Osage County* at the Music Box Theater (239 W. 45th St.) presents acclaimed acting talent in this drama that captured the 2008 Tony Award for Best Play.

For those musically inclined, Andrew Lloyd Webber's classic *The Phantom of the Opera* at the Majestic Theater (247 W. 44th St.) claims the spot of the longest running show on Broadway—8763 performances and counting.

Or if you need your light-hearted Disney fix, *The Lion King* captivates audiences with its African-inspired melodies and elaborate costumes at the Minskoff Theater (1515 Broadway).

If musical comedy doesn't suit you, perhaps straight comedy will. The small cast of four in Alfred Hitchcock's *The 39 Steps* at the Helen Hayes Theater (240 W. 44th St.) produces a humorous staging of the 1935 film.

But who needs Broadway to laugh? Midtown hosts an array of comedy clubs including ComedySportz New York—an interactive improvisation

FOOD & DRINK

Students Eat Happily on Cloud Ninth Avenue

BY HOLLY SHARPLESS
Columbia Daily Spectator

In the 50s, the trend seems to be that the further one goes west in Manhattan, the better restaurants get. While Seventh Avenue and Broadway are mostly lined with generic delis, Ninth Avenue is home to Restaurant Row, where you'll find restaurant after restaurant, many of them serving international cuisine at reasonable prices.

The Afghan Kebab House (764 Ninth Ave. at 51st Street) serves heaping portions of excellently seasoned and cooked kebabs in a small, but festively decorated dining room. The Lamb Tikka Kebab (\$12.95) is to die for, as is the Lamb Korma (\$13.95). Chicken and beef are also available, as are seafood and vegetarian options. It's bring-your-own-booze, so you'll want to bring along a full-bodied red wine to accompany

the strong flavors in the meat.

For a more traditional meal that's also BYOB, head to Nook (746 Ninth Ave. at 50th Street). The tiny restaurant is aptly named and the service is friendly. Staple appetizers like Tuna Tartar can be enjoyed for a mere \$6.50. Their signature entrée, Konrad's Goulash (\$12.00) is well seasoned and has an authentic rustic quality.

For students seeking a great wine bar or true fromagerie, Casellula Cheese and Wine Cafe is a must-see. Its crowded but pleasant dining room and bar offer many varietals at reasonable prices, and knowledgeable servers to help you make your selections.

The restaurant's food menu includes charcuterie as well as other appropriate wine accompaniments. Try the mac and cheese (\$13.00) or truffled cheese fries (\$14.00), unless you are looking for something a little meatier, in which case you should try their

pig's ass sandwich (\$14.00). The unique cheeses and pickles make it a stand out amongst pork sandwiches. For those who are not excited by wine, Casellula offers a rare beer selection as well.

Finally, for those in search of late night entertainment or simply longing for libations, 123 Burger Shot Beer (738 10th Ave. at 50th Street) is sure to satisfy. As the name might suggests, here cash-strapped students can purchase \$1 burgers, \$2 shots, and \$3 beers. The shots are unusual and interesting—you can select orange Tic-Tac or lemon drop, and the beer selections include classy varieties like Stella Artois that rarely go for an affordable \$3.

Getting off the main path, even if only for a drink, into some of these small private gems proves to be a rewarding and affordable experience, especially as a departure from the typical Morningside fare.

TV



Kenneth Jackson / Staff Photographer

TV AND THE RADIO CITY | *Saturday Night Live* and crowds of tourists can be found on one street in Midtown at a true New York icon.

NBC Studio Tour Garners Mediocre Ratings

BY LILY CEDARBAUM
Columbia Daily Spectator

The NBC Universal Store at 30 Rockefeller Center is like some of television's least favorite personalities: gaudy, loud, and all about the money.

Yet this is precisely where one must go to buy tickets to the NBC Studio Tour, a one hour and 10 minute trip around the building that houses the likes of *Saturday Night Live* and *The Today Show*.

The tour, which runs every 30 minutes on weekdays and 15 minutes on weekends, is certainly not something to attend on a whim. Most tickets, which go for a substantial \$19.25, sell out fast, making purchasing them the day-of risky business.

But what may be more distressing is that Columbia students must be prepared to face the embarrassment of being lumped into the same category as a bunch of tourists, a

label we've all been desperately trying to lose the first day we arrived on campus. Determined TV lovers will find, however, that the tour does have some redeeming qualities, in the form of potential celebrity sightings and free tickets.

The tour starts off with a cheesy video about NBC's storied past, reminiscent of the types of movies shown in high-school history classes. One of the clips in it is from *The Johnny Carson Show*—a zinger about sheep that has all the people above 65 rolling in the aisles and all those below rolling their eyes.

After that, though, things start to get fun: Most tours are guaranteed to see the *SNL* studio and one of the nightly news studios. There are also sections of the tour devoted to makeup and green screen technology before the guides conveniently abandon the group in the store food court.

"Spotting NBC talent is also very rare but not impossible," reads the NBC Universal Store's Web site, as if even the corporation itself knows the tour needs something to spice it up. The NBC tour becomes a trip to the zoo—spot the famous actor and the day is complete. Spike Lee and Jimmy Fallon popped up during last Friday's tour, and while we weren't allowed to pet or feed them, the tour guides encouraged a discussion of their backstage habits later in the elevator.

At a basic level, the tour isn't worth the time or effort, unless you are willing to make like a tourist and ask questions. Conversation with our guide got us information on NBC internships and free tickets to upcoming shows.

If you don't mind shrinking your New York ego, then the tour will win back some, if not all, of the dignity you lost waiting in line for tickets behind that group of fanny-packed women.

Neighborhood Watch