

Students keep homeless shelters alive

BY MICHELLE INABA MOCARSKI
Columbia Daily Spectator

When Henry Zhang, CC '12, arrived at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue Next Step Men's Shelter on Wednesday night, volunteers had finished preparing dinner, and music was being played on the upper floors of the synagogue. The guests were about to arrive, and Zhang was there to stay the night as a volunteer.

"The first time I was here I was kind of nervous and shy," Zhang said. But "they did their thing and it was very pleasant and easy going," he said.

Zhang is a student volunteer with the Community Impact group Project for the Homeless, which provides volunteers for two Manhattan homeless shelters, both of them near Lincoln Center: the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue shelter, a men's shelter, and the New York Society for Ethical Culture, a women's shelter.

"It's not dangerous, and it's not scary," Dane Cook, CC '12 and PFH's chief executive coordinator, said.

New York state law requires homeless shelters to have a non-homeless supervisor on the premises during all hours when the shelter is open. The Project for the Homeless group helps shelters stay open each night by recruiting Columbia and Barnard students to be those supervisors.

"They have to have someone there. If a volunteer doesn't show up or if they don't have a volunteer, they have to close the shelter for the night," Cook said.

HIGH-IMPACT VOLUNTEERING

"It's a different kind of volunteering because, as Dane says, it's high-impact," Zhang said. "Just by being here, you're helping the shelter to stay open."

Sometime last semester, Zhang realized that he was going to graduate without having done much volunteer work while at Columbia. He found Project for the Homeless through Community Impact's website.

"I really didn't know what to expect because I haven't actually volunteered at a homeless shelter before, and in my mind I expected something like a huge room, with lots of beds next to each other," Zhang said. "But this area is really small and very nice, too," he added.

Students usually arrive between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m., when the synagogue volunteers are about to leave. All they have to do is be there—the shelter provides them with a private bedroom and bathroom, and they can spend the night studying, doing homework, or even sleeping. Lights go out at 11 p.m., and everyone wakes up at about 5:30 a.m.

"This type of shelter model is that the people who stay there are invested in the shelter, so they all have chores that they do, which means our volunteers do very little," Cook said. "Our volunteers are the living, breathing person who's there just to be there."

Student volunteers can talk to the homeless men and women as much or as little as they want.

"Whatever you are comfortable with doing," Cook said. "But I really enjoy talking to them because it kind of gives me a dose of reality you don't get at Columbia."

'SOME KIND OF HOPE'

Stephen Wise Free Synagogue's shelter hosts about 10 people at a time, most of whom are returning

SEE HOMELESS, page 3

College Republicans president, finance director resign



FILE PHOTO

OUSTED | William Prasifka, CC '12 (second from right), attends a debate on Guantánamo Bay in February 2010. Prasifka resigned as CUCR president and was replaced by Tyler Trumbach, CC '13 (right), formerly the club's executive director.

Movement to rename street for George Carlin still faces opposition

BY JEREMY BUDD
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

George Carlin Way won't be coming to Morningside Heights—at least not yet.

On Thursday evening, Community Board 9 members discussed the possibility of renaming the 500 block of West 121st Street after George Carlin, but they didn't reach a decision.

Kevin Bartini, a stand-up comedian who started the petition to rename the block for Carlin, said that the gesture would commemorate "a quintessential New Yorker" and "an amazing, amazing man." Carlin, a renowned stand-up comedian who died in 2008, grew up on the block.

Bartini, a writer at "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart," started collecting signatures for his

petition over the summer, and last October, he met with members of the Corpus Christi Church, who opposed his efforts.

Carlin "is known for his drug usage over the years, and we just don't feel that for kids that it sets a good example," Corpus Christi Church member Michael Hall said at Thursday night's meeting. "In addition, Mr. Carlin really lampooned the Christian faith, so we

were offended by that."

Advocates of the renaming have proposed compromising by hanging the street sign on Amsterdam Avenue, farther away from the church.

"Unfortunately, Reverend [Raymond] Rafferty did not accept the compromise," Bartini said. "We have gone out of our way to come

SEE CARLIN, page 2

Board cites 'loss of trust' after two draft invite to Ahmadinejad

BY YASMIN GAGNE, SAMMY ROTH, AND FINN VIGELAND
Spectator Senior Staff Writers

The Columbia University College Republicans' president and finance director resigned on Thursday, after other executive board members discovered that they had written documents purporting to invite Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to campus and that they had repeatedly lied about creating those documents.

Without telling the rest of the executive board, William Prasifka, CC '12, and David Paszko, CC '12, drafted an invitation to Ahmadinejad to speak on campus, executive board members told Spectator on Thursday. It is unclear whether Prasifka and Paszko intended for the invitation to be sent.

The executive board asked Prasifka and Paszko to step down for breaking the trust of the board by writing the invitation without informing other board members.

Prasifka and Paszko were "working outside the board and unbeknownst to the board" and "had written this letter which intended to invite Ahmadinejad," Nashoba Santhanam, CC '13, said. "We determined it was in violation of the club's ethical

SEE CUCR, page 2

College of Dental Medicine dean to resign

BY MARGARET MATTES
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

College of Dental Medicine Dean Ira Lamster will step down at the end of the academic year, University President Lee Bollinger announced on Thursday. Lamster has served as dean since 2001.

"The College of Dental Medicine has proven to be a dynamic institution under Ira's leadership, with new educational programs, clinical initiatives and research opportunities," Bollinger said in an email announcing Lamster's decision to resign. "We are grateful for Ira's outstanding service as dean since 2001 and as a member of the Columbia faculty since 1988."

Bollinger did not say why Lamster is stepping down, although he said that it was Lamster's decision. Lamster told Spectator that "it's time for me to explore some other possibilities, some other options."

"I jumped into the deep end and really have been very, very focused on what's best for the school," Lamster said. "After 10 years, it's time for some new ideas and a new person to lead."

Lamster said that the college is in great shape.

"It's hard to compare this school with any dental project in the country," he said. "It's a robust and vibrant institution."

According to Bollinger's email, during his tenure as dean, Lamster expanded joint degree programs with the Mailman School of Public Health, the Business School, and Teachers College; developed the dental college's continuing education and international programs; and worked to relate oral health to general health.

Richard M. Lichtenthal, chairman of the college's Section of Adult Dentistry, said that Lamster's reworking of the pre-clinical curriculum was perhaps his most important accomplishment.

"Dr. Lamster is much beloved and everybody is sorry to see him go," Lichtenthal said. "He's managed, over the last 10 years, to move the school forward tremendously—despite of many hardships that we have had."

Other colleagues expressed high praise for Lamster as well. "There isn't an individual in this school or on the faculty who doesn't feel totally loyal to the dean," said Louis Mandel, associate dean for Extramural Hospital Programs and a 60-year veteran of the college who has worked under eight different deans. "My relationship with the dean has always been extremely positive. He's been outstanding in his relations with the faculty, the students, the alumni, and with the community."

"He's a gentleman," Mandel added. "That's the highest praise I can give anyone."

"Personally, I'm going to miss working with him," Director of Development Geraldine Connors said. "But I'm going to continue to do a really good job after he's gone in his honor."

Lamster said that he plans to work at the New York Academy of Medicine and with Dean Linda Fried at the Mailman School.

In his email, Bollinger said that an interim dean will be appointed in the fall and that administrators will soon form a search committee to find a permanent replacement.

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ANA BAUTISTA FOR SPECTATOR

HERITAGE | Bianka Vega, president of the Dominican Bar Association, celebrates Dominican independence at an event hosted by City Council member Robert Jackson on Thursday night.

Council member celebrates Dominicans

BY JILLIAN KUMAGAI
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

On Thursday evening, in a stately museum courtyard adorned with Spanish and Latin American artifacts, New York City Council member Robert Jackson celebrated the 168th anniversary of Dominican independence.

The district that Jackson represents, which comprises significant portions of Upper Manhattan, including Manhattanville and West Harlem, has fostered an increasingly active and ever-growing population of Dominicans over the last decade. Jackson said that the demographic should be better represented by the congressional districts that New York state is redrawing.

His guests included well-known Dominican professionals and local elected officials. They mingled before a large Goya painting in The Hispanic Society of America, a museum and

research library in Washington Heights that served as both an aesthetic and cultural backdrop for the event.

Democratic District Leader Maria Luna, a longtime Washington Heights politician, said that the event was an important demonstration of the contributions of local Dominican leaders.

"We hope to be role models so youngsters will say, 'I can do that.'"

—Mary Rosado, Law '81, member of the Dominican Bar Association

"It's important that this event is open to everyone," Luna said. "We are always portrayed

negatively, but today you saw the number of organizations headed by Dominicans. We can be part of this society, and no one can look down on us."

With prominent New York politicians such as Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez and State Senator Bill Perkins in attendance, Jackson recognized three Dominican professional organizations—the New York Dominican Officers Association, the Dominican Bar Association, and the Association of Dominican American Supervisors and Administrators.

"It's very important for young people to see who the trailblazers were," Mary Rosado, Law '81, and a member of the Dominican Bar Association, said. "They were made up of minority groups who wanted to better their lives, and now we have Dominican lawyers, teachers, legislators. We hope to be role models so youngsters will say, 'I can do that.'"

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OPINION, PAGE 4

A degree's worth

Roderick Cooke discusses prestige vs. education in valuing a Columbia degree

Lin-ough already

Jeremy Liss suggests we celebrate Jeremy Lin as an athlete, not more.



SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Lions face Harvard and Dartmouth at home

After losing their last five games, the Lions look to salvage their season by upsetting conference power Harvard Friday and beating last-place Dartmouth at home on Senior Night.

EVENTS

To the Moon on a Budget

Come for this public astronomy lecture, stay for stargazing on the roof of Pupin.

Pupin Hall (follow signs in lobby), 7 p.m.

CMTS presents STAGES

Enjoy a showcase of musical theater favorites, brought to the stage by Columbia student directors.

Minor Latham Playhouse, Milbank Hall, 8 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



42°/42°

Tomorrow



56°/40°



JACOB JIRAK FOR SPECTATOR

BOTTOMS UP | Nectar Wine Bar, on Frederick Douglass Boulevard, closed on Wednesday night.

Harlem wine bar has its last last call

BY GINA LEE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Wine glasses were clinked for the last time at Nectar Wine Bar on Wednesday night as loyal patrons bid farewell to the now-closed establishment.

Nectar, which was located on the corner of Frederick Douglass Boulevard and 121st Street, shut down Wednesday after holding a “last call” party to thank its patrons. Owner Jai Jai Greenfield said she closed Nectar, which opened four years ago as the first wine store on Frederick Douglass, due to economic pressures.

“It is difficult for us to maintain the same quality of wine and food selection to our valued patrons,” she said in a letter.

On Wednesday night, Greenfield welcomed patrons to the party with hugs at the door as she shuffled between Nectar and Harlem Vintage, another wine bar she owns

next door, with bottles of wine.

“It was an honor to be intertwined in your lives and intertwined with the community,” Greenfield said in her letter. “Your support over the years has given us many reasons to keep clinking and drinking and for that, we are truly grateful.”

Greenfield started selling wine on Frederick Douglass nearly eight years ago, before the street became a hot spot for development. Harlem Vintage is now one of the oldest establishments on the boulevard.

Greenfield is also part of the Frederick Douglass Boulevard Alliance, which was started by small-business owners along the boulevard to promote the area to West Harlem and to the rest of the city.

Harlem Vintage, Greenberg’s wine bar next door, will stay open. Nectar was opened by Harlem Vintage—expanding Greenberg’s business to a restaurant and bar setting—but some locals said

they could see how the wine bar was a risky business venture for the area.

One attendee at Wednesday’s closing party, Karen Murphy, said she used to frequent the wine bar but had not been there as often recently, as she lives further downtown where there are more options for food and drink.

Murphy said that Harlem is known for good food to go along with good wine, but that Nectar did not offer a full menu. The wine bar concept is “not something I understand,” she said.

“I feel bad because now I’m here, and it’s wonderful,” Murphy said of the atmosphere.

“They took a chance,” said Curtis Archer, president of the Harlem Community Development Corporation, about Nectar.

“It’s challenging here,” he added. “Sometimes the economics don’t make any sense.”
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Jackson supports Latino congressional district

JACKSON from front page

Jackson also took the opportunity to voice his support for a Latino congressional district, an idea that has been gathering momentum during New York state’s controversial

redistricting process.

After months of delay in the state legislature, a court-appointed “special master” has said that she will release district maps by March 12.

The northern district border of Congressional District 15,

which is currently represented by Charles Rangel, may be moved as far north as Mount Vernon. Jackson advocates this plan, which he said would “capture the African-American community.”

“I think that if you look at Congressional District 15 historically, it is the hub and heart of the African-American community,” Jackson told Spectator. “We want it to continue to be the hub of the African-American community.”

But Jackson said that he also supports a plan that would redraw the lines of Rangel’s district—which, according to the 2010 census, is 46 percent Latino—to create an entirely new district and ensure that a Latino representative would be elected to the seat.

“Time will tell. I’m waiting to see like everyone else,” Jackson said. “But I would like to see an African-American seat and a Latino seat and have the type of diversity [in the House] that New York City should have.”

Denise Dominguez, a member of the Dominican Bar Association, said that the creation of a Latino district was the reasonable conclusion of recent census data.

“With redistricting, it’s one person, one vote, and we have things like voters’ rights that protect communities of minority interests,” Dominguez said. “And clearly there are numbers for a Latino district in New York City.”

Some, like Rosado, said that they supported the district as long as it does not misrepresent other minority groups, like African-Americans and Asian-Americans.

Georgiette Morgan-Thomas, chair of Community Board 9, emphasized that the groups’ “cultures are intertwined.”

“Dominicans and African Americans have the same basic three culture groups,” she said. “That’s a common bond, a common denominator that for some reason gets overlooked. It’s a reminder of the important role that our Dominican brothers and sisters play in the survival of our community.”

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ANA BAUTISTA FOR SPECTATOR

IN THE HEIGHTS | City Council member Robert Jackson celebrates the 168th anniversary of Dominican independence.

CUCR board says members went behind their backs

CUCR from front page

code that they had basically held out on sharing the information with the board.”

“Whenever you have an executive board, it’s based on trust,” Director of Intergroup Affairs David Bowles, CC ’12, said. “Our board in general felt hurt that we didn’t have the trust that we thought we had.”

In a statement to Spectator, Prasifka and Paszko apologized to the CUCR board for actions that included “holding separate meetings regarding Mahmoud Ahmadinejad without the knowledge or consent of the board.”

“In hindsight, we should have been more forthright with the entire situation,” they said in the statement.

‘UNDERSTANDABLY ANGRY’

In a resignation letter to the rest of the board, Prasifka and Paszko also wrote that they had “deceived the Board and members are understandably angry,” and that the two of them had chosen to resign for the good of the group rather than force a drawn-out arbitration process through the Student Governing Board.

Tyler Trumbach, CC ’13 and previously CUCR’s executive director, has become president, and Tom Callander, SEAS ’13 and previously director of operations, has become director of finance. Santhanam, previously CUCR’s regent director of creative affairs, has replaced Trumbach as executive director.

The idea of bringing Ahmadinejad back to campus—more than four years after he spoke at a controversial World Leaders Forum event in Low Library—started out as a joke last semester among CUCR members. But Prasifka and Paszko actually wrote several drafts of invitations to Ahmadinejad, some of which were reviewed by Spectator. The invitations were signed, “The Columbia University College Republicans.”

After Spectator reported on Sunday that several members of CUCR’s executive board had planned to send Ahmadinejad an invite, Prasifka and Paszko told the other eight board members that they didn’t know of any such plans, according to those board members.

The organization issued a statement on Monday—signed by all 10 executive board members, including Prasifka and Paszko—categorically denying that the organization had considered inviting Ahmadinejad.

CUCR board members said that by Wednesday, they had begun to realize that Prasifka and Paszko had been lying to them.

“Obviously we believe in the right of anybody to invite any

speaker they want,” Santhanam said. “It wasn’t the fact that they discussed it—it was the fact that they did so under the guise of CUCR without our board’s permission, and, following the fact that this got out, they refused to admit it to the board. The ethical violations brought about the need for resignation.”

Other members of the board examined multiple emails and drafts of invitations and determined that Prasifka and Paszko were the board members behind the documents.

“We had an internal investigation, and we’ve determined beyond a reasonable doubt that these two individuals were involved,” Trumbach said.

Paszko told Spectator that he and Prasifka never lied to the other board members, answering all of their questions truthfully even as they withheld the whole story. Paszko said that he acknowledged drafting the invitation to Ahmadinejad at a board meeting Monday, that he and Prasifka acknowledged being part of a secret task force when asked by other board members on Tuesday, and that he and Prasifka “came clean” about everything at a board meeting Wednesday evening.

The other board members asked Prasifka and Paszko to resign on Thursday. The two of them will be able to remain members of the general body of the club.

DEVELOPING STORY

Spectator’s initial story on Sunday, Feb. 26, that several CUCR members planned to invite Ahmadinejad, was based on documents verified by top CUCR leadership. On Tuesday, Spectator reported that CUCR’s executive board issued a statement denying that any such plans existed, but that another CUCR board member, who asked to remain anonymous, would not reject the possibility that several board members had worked on those plans without the knowledge of the others.

On Tuesday, Spectator published an editor’s note saying, “Before we included the information from those documents in our story, group leadership said that the documents were authentic. CUCR leadership’s intentions behind supplying and verifying the documents to us are now unclear.”

Paszko said that he and Prasifka had explored Ahmadinejad as a backup plan in case other speakers fell through. Pasifka and Paszko wrote in their statement to Spectator that their discussions about Ahmadinejad had not gotten very far.

“We would like the campus at large to rest assured that we never progressed beyond brainstorming and exploring various

funding options,” they wrote. “We never contacted any outside organizations about the event; we would never make a decision of this nature without bringing it before the Board for a vote.”

Santhanam said that in addition to Prasifka and Paszko, two other people, who are not members of CUCR, were involved in the discussion to bring Ahmadinejad to campus. Trumbach said that the club would not investigate who those two people were.

Over the last few days, Spectator also received several documents that purported to be emails sent between Paszko and other CUCR board members discussing plans to invite Ahmadinejad. One of the emails discussed trying to obtain \$20,000 in funding for speaker fees from Michigan and the United Arab Emirates.

It’s unclear whether these emails were real. Prasifka and Paszko had not secured funds from either location, and Bowles said that the board is “not going to pursue” whether they intended to secure funding or send the invitation they had drafted.

LOOKING FORWARD

In their resignation letter, Prasifka and Paszko wrote that “no one cares about this organization as much as we do,” and that they are “sad to leave.”

“Henry Kissinger once said about academia ‘never are the fights so fierce where the stakes are so low,’” Prasifka and Paszko wrote. “We hope that a year from now all members of the board will remember this incident with a sense of humor.”

“We believe that over the last few years we have really shaped the intellectual climate on campus,” they added. “Ann Coulter, Geert Wilders, and the Safe Space Forum were all great events. We hope that CUCR will continue to host events of a similar nature.”

Callander hopes that the removal of Prasifka and Paszko will allow CUCR to “rebrand itself” as a group. The club is in negotiations to bring four or five speakers to campus, and Trumbach and Callander plan to meet with the Columbia Political Union and the Columbia University College Democrats to discuss the transition of leadership.

The club will host an open question-and-answer session during its general body meeting on Wednesday at 8 p.m.

“Our goal at this point is to assure other members of this organization, as well as prospective members of this organization, that we are doing the best to solve this problem and become a more transparent organization,” Callander said.

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HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DIRTY WORD | Comedian Kevin Bartini is pushing to rename a block of 121st Street for George Carlin.

Carlin street renaming still faces local opposition

CARLIN from front page

up with a compromise. We think that we can honor this man without it having to be right in front of Corpus Christi.”

Still, Hall said that students at Corpus Christi could be adversely affected by Carlin’s legacy.

“We just don’t feel that for kids in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade that it sets a good example,” he said. “As far as the compromise that was presented, the Corpus Christi community viewed that as still impacting and de facto naming the block after George Carlin.”

Hall argued that it would be possible for a different street to be

named in honor of Carlin. Bartini, though, emphasized the connection between Carlin and the block, noting that Carlin’s mother also lived there for over 40 years.

“We can have a big public thing, but at the end of the day, the numbers are on our side,” Bartini said.

Assistant Secretary of CB9 Theodore Kovaleff said that he would be in favor of scheduling a town hall-style meeting for members of the community to voice their opinions, pointing out that many of the almost 9,000 signatures on the petition have come from outside of New York.

“It looks to me that what is necessary is a community hearing,”

he said. “Very frankly, I’m not very interested in someone from Los Angeles’s signature—I’m interested in representing my community.”

“As a comic, I don’t see a downside to publicly debating George Carlin,” Bartini said. “I just think that if they [Corpus Christi] don’t want to raise George’s profile to their children, then having this big thing is just going to invite that.”

CB9 plans to reopen discussion on the issue at its meeting in April. If the committee votes in favor of renaming the street, the City Council will make the final decision.

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THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME | Henry Zhang, CC '12 (top), sits in the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue Next Step Men's Shelter on Wednesday night. Below, shelter resident Ginyar Ejiofor, who moved to New York from Florida, lost his job, and was diagnosed with depression.

Staffed by students, homeless shelters stay open

HOMELESS from front page

guests and all of whom must be pre-screened for tuberculosis and drugs.

The two shelters served by PFH are both considered transitional shelters by the city, because they serve people who are in the process of getting public housing. The shelters provide them with showers, as well as dinners prepared by synagogue volunteers.

Cook said that based on his experience, the shelter's guests average between 20 and 35 years old, and come from all walks of life.

"Generally, the population is black and Latino, but not always, not necessarily," Cook said.

According to Cook, there are several reasons that people take refuge in shelters like these two.

"They are not the people that you normally think when you think of homelessness in New York," he said. "These are people who are working on not being homeless. They are real people. They have jobs. They have lives. They have fallen under harder circumstances," he said.

That's what happened to Ginyar Ejiofor, 28, who was at the synagogue shelter on Wednesday night. Ejiofor moved to New York from Florida in search of new job opportunities, but he was also drawn by the city's culture and the possibility of finding love.

"Pretty much employment opportunities, just life in general," Ejiofor said when asked why he had moved to New York. "Employment opportunities, love—because of my own sexual orientation—culture here, just events in so many different areas."

Ejiofor worked in retail and in journalism, but things started to change when he lost his job and was diagnosed with depression.

"Depression led to substance

use, lack of motivation, and I guess, at the end, total isolation," he said.

Ejiofor is still looking for a job, and he keeps himself busy by writing and blogging about fashion and life. He's now in his second week at the shelter, and he said he appreciates the volunteers' work.

"I know I'm not at the best situation, but it makes it a lot easier and manageable. And it's really uplifting," he said. "There's a clean environment that I can come to, and it's safe, and it's warm ... So it's a kind of recharge."

Although Ejiofor's situation is harsh, he hasn't lost hope.

"In terms of motivation, I am more than I can see," he said. "My existence is my validation. Can I do this? Can I kinda survive from this? And the answer is yes, because I'm still here. So, there is some kind of hope."

‘NOTHING IN STORE’

The search for a better life is also what holds Alex, 29, in New York City. Alex, who was staying at the synagogue shelter Wednesday night, suffers from schizoaffective disorder, a psychiatric condition which combines schizophrenia and mood problems.

Alex, who did not want to give his last name, said he thinks that being in his hometown, Lancaster, Pa., worsens his condition.

"While I was there, I was in psychosis the whole time," Alex said. "When I came here, the psychosis cleared up."

Before being diagnosed, Alex worked for over a year as an English teacher in Korea. Upon returning to the United States, he got diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder and took a job as a waiter in a golf club in Pennsylvania. He believes he moved to New York because of the mental issues this caused him.

"I came here with no plans, nothing in store," he said.

Alex currently works 20 hours a week for the city's meals-on-wheels program, delivering meals to clients. He has been living at the homeless shelter for four months, but he does not plan to move back to his parents' home in Pennsylvania.

"No, I'm not going back there," he said.

‘A GREAT REALITY CHECK’

Both Cook and Zhang described volunteering with PFH as a very positive experience.

"Someone needed to be there for that shelter to be open that night for those guys to sleep in beds, under a roof, for the night," Cook said. "And somebody has to do it."

Cook also said he has learned from his experiences. Once, he said, a guest told him his life story, making a particular point to tell him to stay in school.

"When a homeless person is telling you very earnestly, 'Stay in school and work hard in school,' it's such a great reality check," Cook said.

The next morning, that guest offered to buy him a cup of coffee from a street cart.

Cook said he found himself in a moral dilemma: "Do I accept this person's gift, who's definitely in a tighter circumstance than myself? Do I accept him buying me coffee? Or do I say 'Oh, no,' because obviously I can pay for my coffee?" Ultimately, Cook decided it was appropriate to accept the coffee.

"The reason I think he wanted to buy me a cup of coffee ... was that he was really grateful for what the shelter provided for him, and he was really thankful for the volunteers that came down," Cook said. "He liked meeting the Columbia kids who came down to volunteer."

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Harvard basketball led by Tommy Amaker

OPPONENT PROFILE from back page

years. I knew if Jeremy was given an opportunity in the professional ranks that he would make the best of it. It has been an amazing experience to witness the unbelievable success Jeremy has earned and received these past few weeks."

However, it was last season—his first without Lin—in which Amaker and his team looked set to make their long awaited return to the tournament. While the Crimson earned a share of the title for the first time in program history, it lost a heart-breaking Ivy League playoff game to Princeton at the buzzer. Despite a 12-2 conference record, Harvard was denied an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament and it was eliminated in the first round of the National Invitational

Tournament.

"We were certainly devastated with the loss to Princeton in the Ivy League playoff last season," Amaker said. "I believe that ending last season on that note helped focus our team during the off-season in preparation for this year."

The Crimson's impressive start to the 2011-2012 season was highlighted by winning the Battle 4 Atlantis, a tournament in which Harvard beat Florida State, which was ranked No. 22 at the time. Soon after, the Crimson achieved its first top 25 ranking in both the AP and coaches polls, which it retained until its first Ivy loss of the season at Princeton.

Columbia head coach Kyle Smith is impressed with what Amaker and his team have been able to achieve.

"He understands the value of the league, he doesn't look at

the non-scholarship thing as being a hindrance, and I think he's an excellent coach," Smith said. "I think he's underappreciated in that sense, that they are very fundamentally sound offensively and defensively. Their package is put together very well ... When I came in, everybody said, 'Oh, Harvard's got good talent.' I thought they'd just try to out-talent you, but not at all, they really try to outwork you, out-coach you."

Despite Harvard's great success this year, the Ivy League has vastly improved as well, illustrated by Harvard's one-point loss to Penn on Saturday. If both Princeton and Penn win out, there will be another Ivy playoff. Amaker does not plan on taking any Ivy matchup lightly, including when his team comes to take on the Lions at Levien Gym on Friday.

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Where to draw the Lin?

Jeremy Lin is a handful in the sack. I have this on good authority from Dr. Ruth Westheimer. At least, that's what she implies in her recent article in the Daily Beast, "What Jeremy Lin, Basketball Teach Us About Sex." Before you get up in arms, let me point out that the bedroom is just one of the arenas Lin apparently excels in. Last week, GQ magazine ran a piece about the overnight basketball sensation titled "What the GOP Can Learn From Jeremy Lin" and Forbes magazine published "4 Lessons Your Business Can Learn from Jeremy Lin(sanity)."

On the face of it, articles like these are completely ridiculous. When given a closer look, though ... Nope, still ridiculous.

Do we really need to drag celebrities and pop culture icons into spheres where they don't belong? When Lin scored 38 points to beat the Lakers, I'm pretty sure he wasn't thinking about the Republican Party. He was focused on winning the game. Massive endorsement deals might have also crossed his mind. And do we really need Jeremy Lin to teach us that sharing and working hard are recipes for success? No, that's why we have Sesame Street and Dora the Explorer.

What this really amounts to is an issue of over-extrapolation. This should be familiar to anyone who's taken Literature Humanities. Sure, it's possible the Iliad is a metaphor for Power Rangers: Zeus embodies Megazord, Achilles represents the Red Ranger, the Trojan War symbolizes 1990s children programming, etc. Argue the points until you're blue in the face, but at best I'm going to roll my eyes at you. At worst, I'll give you the Heimlich.

Perhaps the blame lies in close reading, an analytical mode drilled into us from middle school onwards. Zoom in too close, and you lose sight of the big picture. Dig too deep, and you find things that aren't there. Scratch too hard, and you get sent to the principal's office.

Laziness might be part of the problem, too. If you watched the Knicks instead of reading the Romantics, you might as well incorporate it into the class discussion. And your term paper on Jack Kerouac. You know what, throw basketballs into your senior thesis while you're at it. You can call it, "Keats, the Beats, and Jeremy Lin."

Maybe we're just bored. Picture it: You're in class at 7:40 p.m. The windows are bolted shut, and the thermostat's stuck at 30 degrees Celsius (whatever that is). The guy on your right has B.O. that's pungent enough to trigger your allergies. Suddenly, Kim Kardashian begins to seem extremely relevant to Machiavelli's "The Prince."

To be fair, skepticism cuts both ways. Jeremy Lin's example demonstrates that even the experts don't know diamonds from drek. By relying too heavily on our expectations, we risk missing out on something truly great. In fact, many of the most important innovations today bring together ideas that once seemed remote. Baby Einstein comes to mind.

As in the case of depressed, superstitious people, the solution is probably to find a happy medium. We should open ourselves to new possibilities, even as we keep a lookout for the attractively fallacious and familiar. Otherwise, we'll quickly find ourselves confusing media sensations for founts of wisdom.

This is not to disparage Lin. His triumph in the NBA is inspirational. I can't help feeling that if Jeremy Lin beats the odds, maybe Jeremy Liss can, too. Who knows? In a couple of years, "Lissanity," "Lissterine," and "Lissentious" may be all the rage.

Jeremy Liss is Columbia College junior majoring in English. He is creative editor for The Current. Liss is More runs alternate Fridays.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Do the right thing

As famed Core philosopher Friedrich Hegel once wrote, "each stage of world-history is a necessary moment in the Idea of the World Mind." His philosophy of history resonates in Columbia's academic tradition, which seeks to teach us the progression of ideas and the world-mind in the context of world history's linear march. In classes like Literature Humanities, and Contemporary Civilization, we are immersed in past history and thought to better understand our current world and ourselves.

Unfortunately, although the Core covers the vast expanse of history from Homer to Andy Warhol, we are seldom able to examine our own history, to meticulously take a scalpel into the world we were born into: the world of the '90s. For this reason, we are overjoyed by the recent announcement of the theme for this year's Bacchanal—Baccha90s—but also quite apprehensive.

As an appendage of the Core, and modeled after the ancient Greek festivals of drunken revelry, Bacchanal must respect that the '90s were a necessary stage in the progression of world history. We present this advice to the Bacchanal committee, hoping it takes it to heart: Please don't go chasing waterfalls, but stick to the rivers and the lakes that you're used to. Do Baccha90s right.

Baccha90s deserves to be a full house. To make it one, advertising for the festival should seek to pursue the '90s spirit. We expect our inboxes to be flooded with emails from baccha90s@earthlink.net, filled with old-school GIFs like the eternally spinning counter and the dancing 7UP spot. Fliers should reference pop culture phenomena of our childhood: "You're clueless if you don't come to Baccha90s!" or "I'll tell you what I want, what I really, really want ... to come to Baccha90s!"

The free merchandise can't be lame T-shirts or water bottles—we don't want to be slimed by shoddy preparation. When we enter the gates, we expect the option of a Pokemon or Digimon stamp, depending on our allegiance. Every attendee should receive a Tamagotchi upon arrival, with Beanie Babies (NOT Furbies!) awarded at the end of the day for whomever's pocket pet is still alive. Prize giveaways should include replica Totally Kyle wigs, boxes of Capri Sun, and first editions of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone."

Music, though, is most important. As eminent philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer said, music is "the most powerful and penetrating" of the arts. To capture the true zeitgeist of the '90s, Baccha90s must perfectly capture the sound. We don't want a band that was influenced by grunge or the boy band explosion, we want the original. Reassemble 'N Sync and the Backstreet Boys. Find Lauryn Hill and Fiona Apple. Resurrect Kurt Cobain, and demote Dave Grohl to his rightful spot as a drummer. Above all else, make sure the Macarena is constantly playing in the background.

The '90s were our Golden Age—a time of innocence, happiness, and Nick at Nite. However, since the oldest of us non-GS undergraduates was barely 11 when the '90s ended, remembering exact details may be as difficult as building the Shrine of the Silver Monkey. Still, Baccha90s must do its best. The '90s were an important stage in world history, and the decade must be treated with reverence.

In the timeless words of Mike Myers, "It's Bacchanal, Bacchanal, party time, excellent!"



JEREMY LISS

Liss is More

A crisis of values

BY RODERICK COOKE

During a recent conversation with a faculty member from another university, I was slightly startled to hear him evoke the disappointment some Ivy League undergraduates feel at being taught by graduate instructors. Scanning the comments section of Carlos Alonso's recent piece ("Teaching and research at Columbia," Feb. 16), however, confirmed that the sentiment is not only widespread, but it persists after graduation (if the handles used by commenters like Concernedalum are to be believed). Since I'm coming to the end of my time in this apparently polarizing group and have spent that time largely unaware of the issue, I feel compelled to address it.

A bachelor's degree from a top American university is often framed as a value proposition, and understandably so, given the immense costs involved. Even in my native England, where universities are public and traditionally affordable, the recent rise in tuition costs has provoked both widespread protests and a sharp year-on-year drop in the number of applicants—and those increased costs still wouldn't make many parents of Ivy Leaguers break a sweat. In the light of this economic burden, being taught by someone yet to obtain their Ph.D. may seem a little like paying for a golf clinic with Jack Nicklaus and getting his caddie instead.

But there is another side to the value proposition. David Helfand reported two weeks ago that a first-year student once explained his or her lack of curiosity thus: "You don't understand; I'm paying for a degree, not for an education." This may seem closely akin to the "economic" mindset that scorns the graduate instructor's contribution, but look again—they're actually antithetical. If all that matters is the final degree and its label of origin, what difference does it make who happens to teach the classes along the way? The concept of value, then, is slipperier than its proponents often suggest.

The confusion arises, I think, because the mentality underlying these claims sees value in terms primarily of branding (a gentler expression might be "symbolic capital"). The Nobel/Pulitzer laureate, and Columbia itself, are powerful, immediately recognizable, and (almost) universally respected marques. The presence of "Columbia University" on a CV enrolls a network of prestige in the graduate's service. Some of those who demand more time in the classroom with eminent faculty may be motivated more by a desire to see branding in the flesh than by a commitment to learning.

This is suggested by the presence in Spectator's opinion pages of commenters who allege that structuring the course schedule this way will produce more satisfied alumni who will give back more—again, the perspective is one of consumer loyalty towards the brand, not of learning in either its humanistic or practical forms. Alumni donations matter,

After Office Hours

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

and few modern universities could hope to be competitive without them, but an opportunity exists to shift the criteria in which people decide to give back. There should be no relation between these contributions and the tip left at a restaurant, and the longer the question remains "did I get my money's worth?" with no scrutiny applied to the terms in which "worth" in construed, the longer that unsavory analogy will lurk in the background.

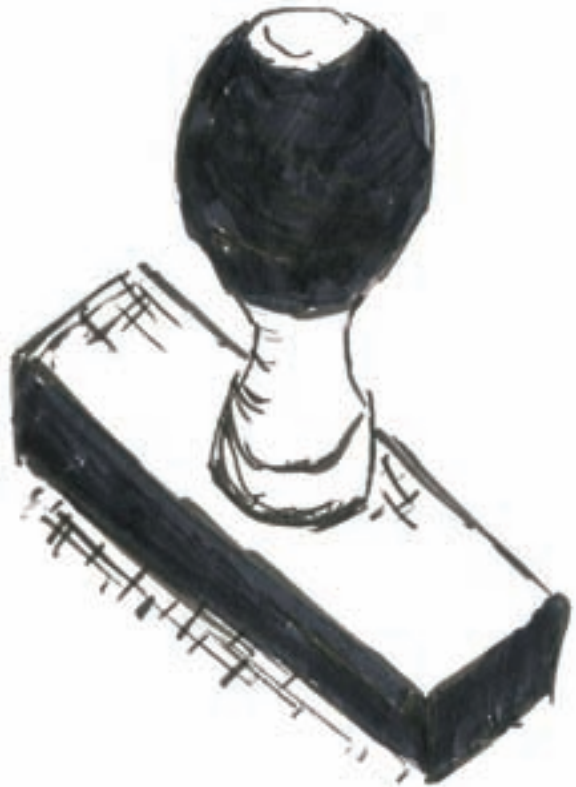
It's important to underline the tensions in the fiscally-inspired discourse surrounding an undergraduate education, but this leaves the unanswered question of how graduate teaching fits into the life of the university, more specifically the classroom experience itself. I have a couple of thoughts here. One is that doctoral students can provide an important bridge between undergraduates and the tenured faculty with whom they find themselves unfavorably compared. Both in age (more often than not, although many a grad instructor has felt the chill of seeing a cultural reference they thought was universal draw blank looks from their younger students) and in intellectual trajectory, Ph.D. candidates can mitigate generation gaps and present concepts in ways that speak more directly to undergraduates.

The concept of value is slipperier than its proponents often suggest.

What's more, some of the most valuable teaching by tenured faculty themselves falls outside their areas of expertise. Even the most erudite and long-serving professor will not be an expert in all domains of the Core syllabus. Instead, what often makes these classes successful—and I have heard this from both students and faculty—is the more collaborative approach the colossal scope of the readings invites, the shared discovery that results. When doctoral candidates teach in the Core, they come out of a competitive selection process and are keen to share in just that collaborative effort as part of their professional development. The same (I can assure you) is true of, say, the literature surveys taught in foreign language departments.

Whether or not one agrees that the true value of a Columbia bachelor's in 2012 is measured in prestige, not learning, the indisputable truth is that, for as long as we work and study here, we're stuck with each other. When that time is grounded in mutual respect for each other's abilities and motivations, it's hard to see the downside.

The author is a Ph.D. candidate and graduate teaching fellow in the department of French and romance philology.



HEIDI KELLER

Where are you from?

BY DMITRIY TIMERMAN

I have always struggled with answering the unavoidable "Where are you from?" question. I certainly know where I was born and where I have spent most of my life, but the real answer is slightly more complicated than that. Whether it's NSOP or another dreadful icebreaker, I have to tailor my response to the perceived interest of the audience. No one wants to listen for 10 minutes as I explain why it's hard for me to give one answer. To be polite, I usually reply with a short and simple "I'm from New York City" because I know that most of the time the person asking does not really care enough to hear the story.

I was born on a farm in a small village in the USSR that lacked adequate plumbing and electricity. Unfortunately, I do not recall what it was like to be a communist. Soon after, the Soviet Union collapsed and overnight, I became a proud Ukrainian. From what I remember, life in Ukraine was great. My sister and I lived with my grandparents on their farm while my parents worked abroad in Moldova and Turkey. We relied on a nearby well for water and on our crops and livestock for food. Taking a bath meant heating up many buckets of water, and going to the bathroom meant walking to the outhouse. Growing up, I believed that it was normal not to have an indoor bathroom and to use candles for lighting since that is how everyone around us lived. You don't think twice about it when you have never seen anything else.

In 1997, when I was seven years old, my family received religious asylum in the United States. (Only a few months ago, when I saw my original birth certificate, did I notice that under "Nationality," instead of "Ukrainian," it said "Jew.") For safety reasons, a majority of our relatives and friends were unaware when, early one morning, my family drove to Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, and boarded a flight to JFK International Airport. We were officially refugees. I was sleepy and confused when we arrived in a small Brooklyn apartment, which we would now call home.

Most of the people in our neighborhood were also immigrants, and so if I was ever asked, I would say that I was from Ukraine. It was a normal, acceptable answer. The English as a Second Language program at my elementary school was filled with students from the former Soviet republics. However, when I attended middle and high school, I modified the response to "Russia" even though I have never set foot in the Russian Federation. It was a way to avoid the "Is Ukraine part of Russia?" inquiry, or the equally amusing awkwardness when the second largest contiguous country on the European continent was not recognized by the listener. Curious follow-up questions such as "Is Ukrainian the same as Russian?" and "Did you live near Chernobyl?" were also conveniently avoided. (Not really and no.)

At Columbia, I usually switch it up to see the result. I added "Brooklyn" and "New York City" to the list of potential responses, and I even boldly use "Upper West Side" when I really want to score some points. If I'm in a rebellious mood, then I say that I'm from the "Soviet Union" and enjoy the entertaining and uneasy response. Sometimes the answer is not up to me: "When they ask where you're from, just say New York City—not Brooklyn," my ex-girlfriend advised me before I was introduced to her American family and friends. It was good advice. While students at Columbia wholeheartedly embrace the rich and wealthy diversity of our college community, I have learned that "Brooklyn" is not going to impress anyone.

I know that there are many students at Columbia who have interesting childhood experiences to share with their peers, and I especially enjoy talking to international students about where they grew up. But at the same time, I often feel the need to hide my own story in order to fit in. It is unfortunate that the truly diverse backgrounds usually result in undesired or unwarranted labels during a first impression. Those stories are also the ones that require some time to explain. I can only hope that whomever I'm talking to is polite enough to share their whole story, and listen to mine.

The author is a School of Engineering and Applied Science senior majoring in biochemical engineering.

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

Five nationally ranked wrestlers hope to snatch NCAA bids

WRESTLING from back page

winning the tournament,” Columbia head coach Carl Fronhofer said.

West has also wrestled well all season for the Lions, and he is expected to continue his success this weekend.

“I don’t think there’s anybody in the weight class that he can’t beat,” Fronhofer said.

At 184 pounds, freshman Shane Hughes is a dark-horse contender, whose slow start to the season will probably result in him receiving a lower seed than otherwise expected.

The Lions will hope to match a school record this weekend by sending at least five wrestlers to St. Louis.

“If we sent five or six guys to the NCAA that’s gonna be a huge step forward,” Fronhofer said.

When it comes to clubhouses, majors, don’t settle for less

SELTZER from back page

major decision awaits (ambiguity intentional), take comfort (or, at the very least, amusement) in the analogy of your upcoming choice and the planning involved to baseball teams’ spring training and roster setting. And, unlike Burnett, don’t settle and don’t be afraid of venturing into the unknown. Finally, if you’re planning on majoring in psychology, the Pittsburgh Pirates’ pitching trainers might have a job opening for you in the near future.

Alan Seltzer is a Columbia College sophomore and a Spectator opinion associate. He is currently without a major.

sports@columbiaspectator.com

THE SLATE

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MEN’S BASKETBALL
vs. *Harvard*
Levien Gymnasium
Friday, 7 p.m.
- 

MEN’S BASKETBALL
vs. *Dartmouth*
Levien Gymnasium
Saturday, 7 p.m.
- 

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
at Harvard
Cambridge, Mass.
Friday, 7 p.m.
- 

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
at Dartmouth
Hanover, N.H.
Saturday, 7 p.m.
- 

BASEBALL
at The Citadel
Charleston, S.C.
Saturday, 1 p.m.
- 

BASEBALL
at The Citadel
Charleston, S.C.
Saturday, 3 p.m.
- 

BASEBALL
at The Citadel
Charleston, S.C.
Sunday, 1 p.m.
- 

SOFTBALL
Mississippi State Bull-dog Classic
Starkville, Miss.
March 2-3
- 

WOMEN’S TENNIS
vs. *Memphis*
Dick Savitt Tennis Center
Saturday, 1 p.m.
- 

TRACK & FIELD
Columbia Last Chance Qualifier
The Armory, N.Y.
March 2-3
- 

WRESTLING
EWI Championships
Princeton, N.J.
March 3-4
- 

ARCHERY
Pennsylvania State Championships
Reading, Pa.
Saturday, 9 a.m.
- 

LACROSSE
vs. *Brown*
Robert K. Kraft Field
Saturday, 1 p.m.

Baseball drops first game of season to The Citadel, has three more chances

BY RYAN YOUNG
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Lions (0-1) opened their season last night in South Carolina with a 4-1 loss to The Citadel (4-4). Both teams struggled at the plate—Columbia was held to just three hits, and the Bulldogs were held to four.

Columbia ace Pat Lowery pitched six innings, allowing three earned runs on three hits. The junior right-hander walked three and struck out four in his season debut.

The two frontrunners for the fourth rotation spot, sophomores David Speer and Zach Tax, each threw an inning of relief. Speer walked a batter and allowed an earned run, while Tax struck out two in a scoreless frame.

Bulldogs senior left fielder Justin Mackert picked up an RBI thanks to a sacrifice fly to put The Citadel on the board first, and he smacked an RBI

triple in the third inning to put the Bulldogs on top for good.

Senior designated hitter Alex Aurrichio smacked a triple on the first pitch of the second inning, leading to the Lions’ only run of the game. The Light Blue was shut down by The Citadel’s junior starter Austin Pritcher, who, along with three relievers, struck out eight in the three-hitter.

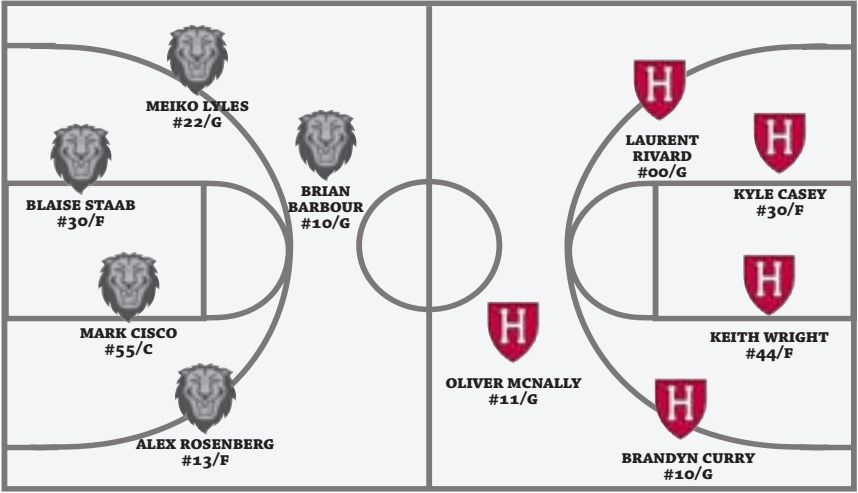
The Lions did draw eight walks, but they could not take advantage of their opportunities, going 0 for 16 with runners on base and 0 for 9 with runners in scoring position.

In the game, freshmen Jordan Serena, David Vandercook, Gus Craig, and Robb Paller all made their first collegiate appearances.

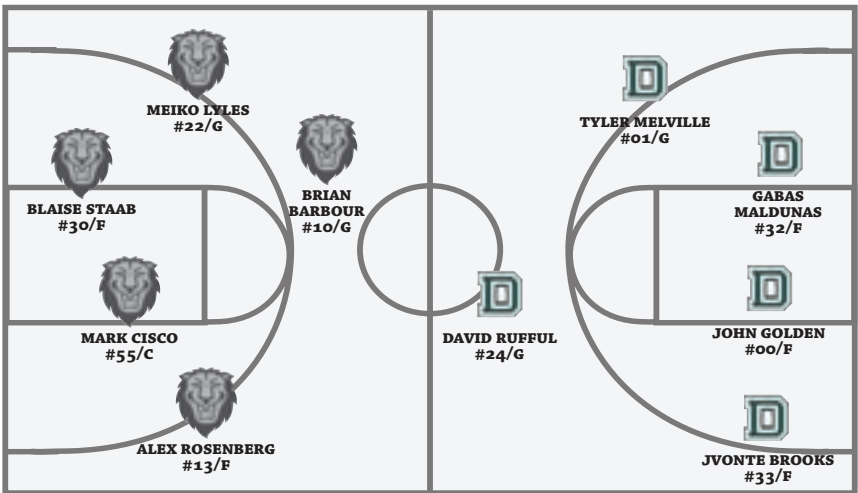
After a day off today, the Lions will play a doubleheader at The Citadel tomorrow and finish off their opening weekend with an afternoon tilt on Sunday.

STARTING LINEUPS

GAME 1 VS. HARVARD



GAME 2 VS. DARTMOUTH



BASKETBALL SENIORS

This weekend will mark the last time that six seniors suit up for the Light Blue on the men’s and women’s basketball teams. The men will face Harvard and Dartmouth in their last weekend at home while the women’s squad will hit the road to take on the Crimson and the Big Green.



CROCKETT, CHRIS
20, GUARD



ECEE, STEVE
12, GUARD



JOHNSON, MATT
3, GUARD



STAAB, BLAISE
30, FORWARD



FULLER, JAZMIN
11, GUARD



SHAHER, MELISSA
22, GUARD

Men’s basketball hopes for wins over Harvard, Dartmouth in final weekend

MEN’S BBALL from back page

Kyle Casey, who dominate the boards and score points in the paint.

But that task will be made all the more difficult if junior forward John Daniels, who suffered a shoulder injury last week and whose return is uncertain, is not fit to play.

Though Daniels’ absence in the front-court has been apparent defensively, last week’s games showed the Light Blue to be strong in the five-spot, with freshman Cory Osetkowski’s play off the bench.

“I feel confident that when Cory’s the way he was against Yale, we’re not missing much there,” Smith said.

Harvard suffered its second conference loss last Saturday against Penn, a game in which the Crimson’s three starting guards were uncharacteristically quiet, combining for only 19 points, while the Quakers’ starting backcourt tallied 36.

Columbia’s starting guards, junior Brian Barbour and sophomore Meiko Lyles, will need help from the Light Blue bench to shut down the Crimson’s perimeter shots and spread the floor on the offensive end.

While worrying about the action on the court, the Light Blue will have to also deal with the pressure of playing in front of a sold-out crowd.

“I think that part of getting good is being able to handle friends, family, and still play with the team concept,” Smith said. “They really want to do well and prove to everyone, ‘Hey, we’re good.’ So it’d be nice if we could do that and come out with a win.”

While the Lions won’t be able to improve from a sixth-place finish, they

have the chance to spoil Harvard’s dreams of a league title if they can manage a win Friday.

While the Harvard game has received the most attention, the Lions’ contest against Dartmouth on Saturday will be the team’s final opportunity to end the season on a positive note.

The game carries special significance for the four seniors: guards Steve Egee and Chris Crockett, and forwards Matt Johnson and Blaise Staab.

While these seniors have not played extensive minutes during their careers, Smith characterized them by their perseverance and willingness to make sacrifices for the team.

“I think they’re a good group of seniors that were thrust in a tough situation where there was a transition midway through their career,” Smith said. “They could have gone a lot of different ways, and they stuck it out and they’ve been great.”

The seniors will be looking to make their mark against a Big Green opponent that nearly proved itself too much for the Lions to handle earlier this year.

A jumper in the waning seconds by junior center Mark Cisco gave Columbia the two-point win, but this time around the Lions are hoping it won’t be so close of a contest.

Though Dartmouth has only one conference win and is a young team—its top scorers Gabas Maldunas and Jvonte Brooks are both freshmen—the Lions are not underestimating their opponents.

“This is our post season in a sense,” Smith said. “Every game is an opportunity to get better and an opportunity for our program to get better.”

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

SPORTS BRIEFLY

SOFTBALL

The Lions head south this weekend and begin their season by competing in the Mississippi State Bulldog Classic in Starkville, Miss. The Light Blue will play back-to-back games against Louisiana Tech (7-7) and host Mississippi State (9-5) on Friday, followed by another game against Mississippi State and a matchup with Samford (3-9) on Saturday. Louisiana Tech has had a mixed start to its season, but is currently riding a three-game win streak. The Lions will face a tougher challenge when they play the Bulldogs, who have only allowed 11 runs in their last four games. Columbia will end its weekend by facing a struggling Samford team, who has lost its last five contests.

—Josh Shenkar

LACROSSE

The Lions face Brown tomorrow in their first Ivy League game at 1 p.m. on Robert K. Kraft Field. The Bears opened their season with a 16-3 loss to No. 14 Ohio State last Saturday. The Buckeyes went on a 12-goal run, but Brown won the opening draw control and scored the first point. Senior attacker Kaela McGilloway enters the season with 130 career points, already slotted at seventh all-time in Brown’s history. The Bears handily defeated the Light Blue 14-6 last year, outshooting the Lions by a 20-3 margin in the first half alone. McGilloway posted a game-high seven points, but the Lions are returning senior defender Amanda Goodhart, a key player in last season’s matchup.

—Laura Allen

WOMEN’S TENNIS

The No. 64 Lions will face off against Memphis on Saturday at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center. The Light Blue (5-2) suffered its second loss of the season last weekend to No. 48 Maryland, 5-2, but Columbia will need to put the disappointing result behind them. Though the Tigers have lost their last two matches, their No. 1 singles player, junior Courtney Collins, was named Conference USA Women’s Tennis Athlete of the Week on Tuesday after upsetting two top-40 opponents. Collins will be challenging for the Lions’ No. 1 singles player, junior Nicole Bartnik, and Columbia sophomores Bianca Sanon and Tiana Takenaga will have to take on the Tigers’ No. 1 doubles team, which is ranked 30th in the nation. The match is set to begin at 1 p.m.

—Caroline Bowman

ARCHERY

Columbia will hit the road for the upcoming Pennsylvania State Championships in Reading, Pa. on Saturday. Five of the archery team’s eight returning athletes are seniors, including veteran recurve shooter Sarah Chai, one of the two Lions who made the first cut at the U.S. Olympic trials last fall. These returners will combine with four freshman shooters—including Sarah Bernstein, who competed on the U.S.A. Recurve Junior Women’s team at the World Archery Indoor Championships last month—to seek a national title this spring. The Pennsylvania State Championships will be the Lions’ last competition before the U.S. Indoor Regionals/Nationals tournament next weekend.

—Mia Park

TRACK AND FIELD

Columbia will compete in its final meet of the season this weekend before the NCAA Indoor Championships. The Light Blue will host the Columbia Last Chance Meet at The Armory, where the Lions will compete against athletes from 43 schools across the nation in hope of qualifying for the national championship next week. The Light Blue is coming off tremendous performances at the 2012 Ivy League Heptagonal Championships, where its 124 team points were enough to give Columbia its first Ivy title since 2010. Freshman Waverly Neer automatically qualified for the NCAA Championships with her performance at the Boston University Valentine Invitational in February, and freshman Nadia Eke’s triple jump will likely be enough to also earn her a spot at nationals.

—Melissa Cheung



KATE SCARBROUGH / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

COMING UP ROSENBERG | Freshman forward Alex Rosenberg recorded 26 points last weekend, and will be key if CU hopes to beat Harvard and Dartmouth.

PIXBOWL week #7

LAST SEASON'S WINNER

- 1: Harvard at Columbia (+11.5)
2: Yale at Princeton (-4.5)
3: Harvard at Cornell (+10.5)
- 4: Yale at Penn (-4.5)
5: North Carolina at Duke (-1.5)
6: Knicks at Celtics (-1.5)



JIM
PAGELS

PICKERS

FRIDAY FAST BREAK

GUESTS

Zach Glubiak
(22-14)

Roar Lion
Killer P
Big Red
Killer P
Tar Heels
10-2

7 p.m. this Friday and Saturday. Levien Gymnasium. Be there.

Michele Cleary
(21-15)

Egee!
Princeton
Honey Badger prepares refreshments...
Wrobo
Rosen
UNC
Lindependent since 62

Ryan Young
(21-15)

ROAR
Tigers
Cornell
Quakers
Blue Devils
Boston

When storming the court after tonight's upset, don't forget to wish Gigi a happy bday!

Tom Caruso
(20-16)

I hope Jeremy Lin shows up to my next pickup basketball game.

Columbia
Princeton
Harvard
Penn
Duke
Celtics

Michael Shapiro
(19-17)

End of the Road
Dear Lord
Red Tape
The Floor
Blue Echo
Dump City

I'll tell you when your answer comes in time.

Benjamin Spener
(19-17)

Oh no, I picked a guest that knows nothing about sports.

Columbia
Princeton
Harvard
Penn
North Carolina
New York Knicks

Mrinal Mohanka
(18-18)

Getting a call from J-Pizzle at 00:40 pleading to change my picks? Priceless.

Harvard
Yale
Harvard
Yale
Duke
Celtics

Ronnie Shaban
(18-18)

Hey Naj! Hope we aren't that bad this time.

Come on CU
Woof
Harvard
Quakers
Light Blue
Steve Novak

Myles Simmons
(18-18)

Whether I win or lose, I'll feel good because I didn't cheat like Jim.

Columbia
Yale
Cornell
Penn
North Carolina
#Linsanity

Sam Klug
(16-20)

Wish I could have gotten Clint Dempsey as my guest.

Columbia
Yale
Harvard
Penn
UNC
Celtics

Victoria Jones
(14-22)

And now for the ultimate, strategically-chosen, arbitrary picking scheme: the coin toss.

Columbia
Princeton
Cornell
Yale
Duke
Celtics

Jim Pagels
(14-22)

Thanks so much for taking time away from your blog to be my guest picker!

Harvard
Yale
Harvard
Yale
Duke
Simmons

GAME 1: vs.

BY THE NUMBERS

POINTS PER GAME



REBOUNDS PER GAME



POINTS ALLOWED



FIELD GOAL PCT.



KEYS TO THE GAME

1

Spread the floor

Harvard relies on its big men, senior Keith Wright and junior Kyle Casey, to dominate under the basket. For the Lions to open up the lane, the Light Blue backcourt will need to spread the floor with quick passing and constant movement. This will open opportunities for penetration and quick jumpers.

2

Start strong

Last Friday, the Lions found themselves trailing Yale 20-5 midway through the first half, and the Light Blue was unable to stage a comeback. The next night, CU trailed Brown 43-26 at the half, and never closed the gap. For a win against Harvard, the Lions need to start strong and stop the Crimson from taking an early lead.

3

Ball control

Against an offense like Harvard's that draws out the shot clock on every play, the Lions will fall behind quickly if they give up possession on easy plays. Junior captain Brian Barbour and the rest of the Light Blue backcourt will need to break the press and take care of the ball when moving down court.

GAME 2: vs.

BY THE NUMBERS

POINTS PER GAME



REBOUNDS PER GAME



POINTS ALLOWED



FIELD GOAL PCT.



KEYS TO THE GAME

1

Experience

The Big Green is made up of many young players, including three freshmen in the starting lineup. The Lions need to use their size and experience to their advantage against the green Dartmouth team in order to gain the upperhand on the boards and in the post. With the pressure of the last game of the season, the Lions must maintain their composure.

2

Contain Brooks

Last time the Lions and the Big Green met, freshman forward Jvonte Brooks tallied a team-high 17 points and spear-headed Dartmouth's offense. The Light Blue needs to do a better job of limiting Brooks's opportunities under the basket and grabbing defensive boards. Foul trouble has also been an issue for CU, and the Lions cannot let Brooks consistently draw fouls and get to the line.

3

Finish with a bang

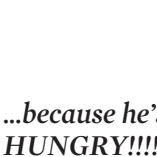
The Light Blue has struggled to close out some of its conference games this year, but against Dartmouth, CU cannot slacken its pace in the waning minutes of the match. Saturday will be the last game for the team's four seniors and the team's last chance to salvage the season, so finishing with a bang is a must for the Lions.



Nick Faber
Soccer player

Roar Lion
Bulldogs
Big Red
Bulldogs
Tar Heels
Knickerbockers

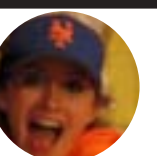
take dat wit chew



Gigi Clark
WKCR Sports Director

Columbia
Yale
Harvard
Penn
Duke
Lin-gature

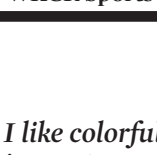
Jeremy Bleeke
Former design editor



Julie Hall
AWESOME

Columbia
Yale
Cornell
Penn
Duke
Celtics

Somebody bring me some HAAAAAMM!



Kunal Gupta
Former columnist

Harvard
Princeton
Harvard
Penn
Duke
Knicks

I like colorful jerseys!



Steven Lau
Best associate?

Columbia
Princeton
Harvard
Penn
Duke
Knicks

I'm baaaaaaack! And I'm not going away



Sam Kazer
Ben's friend?

Harvard
Princeton
Harvard
Penn
Duke
New York Knicks

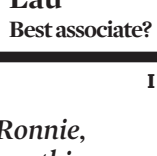
Lol how does this work...



David Najem
Pixbox Super Sub

Roar-ee
Big & Tall
Harvard
Big & Tall
Bad people
Celtics

Zach and Michele, can you explain how this works? I don't quite get it...



Ryan Smith
Myles' Cornell Bestie

I C(U) an upset!
Tiggers
Corny-ell
Pennsies
NC Redemption
Lin-coming King

It's nice that you outsource your picks to Ithaca, Myles.



Todd Nelson
Sam's friend?

One liner: I'm a basketball connoisseur, plain and simple.

COLUMBIA
Yale
Harvard
Penn
DUKIES
Knicks



Bart Lopez
Former columnist

Columbia
Princeton
Cornell
Yale
North Carolina
Celtics

I made my picks flipping a special coin: Tebow on one side, Lin on the other... I can't lose



Shadowy Mask
Traitor

BLEH!!! I am disgusted my words are in this filth of "news paper." Go die spect haters!!!!!!!

CrimsonSucks
DailyNewsSucks
CrimsonSucks
DailyNewsSucks
ChronicleSucks
GlobeSucks

GAMEDAY

FRIDAY, MARCH 2 • PAGE 8



**COLUMBIA (14-14, 3-9 Ivy)
vs. HARVARD (24-4, 10-2 Ivy)**

FRIDAY, 7 P.M., LEVIEN GYMNASIUM

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



**COLUMBIA (14-14, 3-9 Ivy)
vs. DARTMOUTH (5-23, 1-11 Ivy)**

SATURDAY, 7 P.M., LEVIEN GYMNASIUM

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



Major decisions for sophomores and MLB await

Next week, sophomores will be declaring their majors. The annual event marks an opportunity for concurrent planning and reflection, for examining past coursework and planning future classes accordingly. Major declaration presents the ultimate college decision: What, at least for the short term, do you want to do? Not only that, but is it feasible? Can it work with your schedule, with the Core—can you fit in that extra concentration?

As Columbia's sophomores mull their options and plan their futures, Major League Baseball teams are simultaneously making decisions of a similar ilk. Spring training, which began in mid-February, is in full swing (pun intended) and managers, owners, trainers, and coaches are weighing their options in setting their rosters for the 2012 regular season. Though perhaps not immediately obvious, Columbia students and MLB teams can learn from each other's similar situations.

Take a moment to consider the analogy. Both begin with an analysis of the past: what's worked, and what hasn't? If you're the Chicago Cubs and you led the Majors in errors last season while finishing the season below .500 and coming in second-to-last in the Central Division, you might consider shifting your focus to fielding for 2012. Likewise, if you fell asleep throughout Principles of Economics your freshman spring, despite the ever-present threat of Professor Gulati calling on you, you might want to consider pursuing something other than economics as your major. A college student's major or concentration is the academic parallel of an MLB team's defining characteristic—power hitting, small ball, or dominant pitching, to name a few. For fear of offending, I won't draw specific comparisons between majors and these characteristics, but on a high level, the analogy makes sense. Trying to combine strategies for a more well-rounded clubhouses—pursuing power hitting and strong relief pitching, for instance—is akin to declaring a double major, a concentration or two, or maybe a joint major program.

As the month-long spring training season officially begins this weekend, teams are in full planning mode, starting with rosters—which players can be counted on for the present or future, and which aren't worth the salary and roster space. Will the Red Sox look to retool their game this spring and focus on starting pitching? On solid relief? On bigger bats? Or will they stick to the contact-hitting, speed-based game that worked out well for most of last season? (Until it didn't.) Will you plan on taking the traditional route in your major, or will you petition for classes or outside experiences to count for credit? How will you balance your potential major and concentration requirements with the Core? Will the Yankees seek to become a starting pitching powerhouse in 2012? Or will the Bronx Bombers attempt to play small ball and focus on running and bunting this season? (Probably not.) Will you go all out and declare that double major?

Like Columbia students, a few baseball players can attribute their dilemmas to stress and anxiety as the season and spring training loom. Former Yankees pitcher A.J. Burnett was faced, for much of February, with uncertainty over his destination for the 2012 season. Before he ultimately arrived at the Pittsburgh Pirates' training camp in mid-February, Burnett dealt (poorly) with the possibility of trades to the Angels and Pirates, among other teams. His stress about his destination was as transparent as is the average Columbia sophomore's anxiety over major declaration. (Burnett, well-known over the last few years for his unconfident and bizarre composure before, during, and after pitching, reportedly vetoed a trade to the Angels on Feb. 16 because his wife was afraid of flying and California—the Angels play in L.A.—was too far of a drive. So he settled for Pittsburgh.)

So, sophomores—as next week's

**ALAN
SELTZER**
**Guest
Column**



KATE SCARBROUGH / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LAST CHANCE LYLES | Sophomore guard Meiko Lyles will need to contribute points from beyond the arc as the Light Blue makes its way into the last weekend of Ancient Eight play against the Crimson and the Big Green.

At home, CU looks for two wins to close out season

BY STEVEN LAU
Spectator Staff Writer

With only three conference wins, the men's basketball team will have its last opportunity to salvage a disappointing Ivy League season and when it plays its final two home games this weekend.

The sixth-place Lions (14-14, 3-9 Ivy) will go up against first-place Harvard (24-4, 10-2 Ivy) on Friday before facing last-place Dartmouth (5-23, 1-11 Ivy) the next night.

With two victories this weekend, the Lions would finish with a winning record for the second straight year—a feat Columbia has not achieved since 1979.

Columbia was left reeling after last weekend's losses at Yale, 75-67, and Brown, 94-78, in both of which the Light Blue never took the lead.

According to head coach Kyle Smith, the loss to the Bears was especially disappointing because of the Lions' lackluster effort on defense.

"We've gotta do what we do best and

maintain a really positive attitude," Smith said. "Obviously we're mired in a little bit of a slump—a defensive slump."

The Lions face a challenge in stopping the Crimson, whose plus-11 scoring margin is the best in the league. The Light Blue's defense, especially in the post, will be integral to achieving an upset.

Columbia's frontcourt will be charged with trying to limit and contain Harvard's big men, senior Keith Wright and junior

SEE MEN'S BBALL, page 6

Lions search for first road win against Harvard and Dartmouth

BY MUNEEB ALAM
Spectator Staff Writer

Having completed its home portion of the schedule, Columbia (3-22, 1-10 Ivy) will try to build on its win last weekend in away games at Harvard (14-11, 7-4 Ivy) and Dartmouth (4-21, 2-9 Ivy).

On Friday, the Lions defeated the Bulldogs for their first Ivy victory of the season, holding Yale to only 23.9 percent shooting and scoring on 39.3 percent of their own shots. Junior guard/forward Tyler Simpson recorded 20 points and sophomore center Courtney Bradford had 18 rebounds to lead the Light Blue. Although the team fell the following night to Brown, it shot 44 percent from the field and scored 63 points, tying its season-high in conference play.

"We're finally starting to recognize where our scoring opportunities are coming within the offense," Columbia head coach Paul Nixon said. "I think the shots that are coming now are much more within players', not necessarily comfort zone, but within the range of things that they do well."

The Crimson is coming off a tough weekend in which it was blown out by Princeton—which already clinched the Ivy championship—but rebounded the following night to defeat Penn. Junior forward Victoria Lippert nailed the go-ahead three-point basket with under two minutes left to play. Lippert, sophomore guard Christine Clark, and senior guard Brogan Berry all rank in the top 10 in the Ivy League in scoring, and Berry is the conference leader in assists.

In a 68-56 win over Columbia at Levien four weeks ago, Lippert scored 19 points and Clark scored 21. Bradford led the Lions with 17 points in the loss. Although Columbia shot 43.1 percent from the field, Harvard made all 21 of

its free-throw attempts, and the Light Blue was only 6-of-9. "Every team wants to try to get their best scorers shots," Nixon said. "The goal of the defense is to try and force somebody else to do the scoring, and we obviously did not do a good job of that in our first meeting with these two teams."

The Big Green had a difficult weekend, losing by a combined 51 points. After falling by 14 to Penn, it lost by 37 to Princeton. Although Dartmouth is only one win better than the Lions in the standings, it won comfortably four weeks ago at Columbia, 59-44. Junior guard Faziah Steen, freshman center Tia Dawson, and senior forward Sasha Dosenko all scored in double figures, while Simpson and senior guard Melissa Shafer combined for 34 of the Light Blue's 44 points.

"Doshenko and Dawson are both really good-sized posts," Nixon said. "They're legit Division I-sized post players, and when you allow players with that size and strength to catch the ball just a couple of feet from the basket, they're going to score quite a bit on you."

The Lions were outdone around the basket, losing the rebound battle 52 to 36.

"I think our players will be better prepared and recognize that it's not going to be a situation where they can just kind of beat aside Doshenko and Dawson and expect to get the rebound," Nixon said. "They're really going to have to work hard to block out. And then our guards really have to help us rebound."

"We just gotta come out a lot harder defensively," Simpson said on Saturday. "It worked against Yale last night, so we know we can play. We just need to go out and do it."

Tipoff for both games is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Amaker leads rejuvenated Harvard team

BY RYAN YOUNG
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The relatively recent rise to prominence of Harvard basketball since coach Tommy Amaker took over has become even more remarkable of late. The team that was 8-22 in his first year as head coach is now a 24-4 powerhouse that spent a long stretch this season in the top 25 and is now poised to make the NCAA tournament for the first time in 66 years.

Before his coaching career took off, Amaker was a star point guard at Duke, racking up several honors in his time playing under coach Mike Krzyzewski. However, once it was apparent an NBA career was not in the cards, Amaker took a position on Krzyzewski's staff, where he remained an assistant coach from 1989 until 1997.

"I was fortunate to play and then coach at a special place like Duke and learn so much from Coach Krzyzewski," Amaker wrote in an email. "My time at Duke was invaluable to my development, both as a player and then as a coach at Duke."

Amaker moved on to four successful years as Seton Hall's head coach before inheriting a Michigan team in disarray due to NCAA sanctions. While he was able to help the program recover its reputation, he failed to make the NCAA Tournament in any of his years in Ann Arbor, Mich. A month after Amaker was fired from Michigan in 2007, he was named Harvard's head coach.

Despite a difficult first season at the helm, and a controversy that surrounded his recruiting methods, the Crimson made great strides. In addition to his impressive recruits, Amaker was able to rely on an strong shooting guard throughout his first three seasons as head coach: Jeremy Lin.

"Jeremy was such an outstanding player and hard worker in college," Amaker said. "It was a pleasure coaching him for three

SEE OPPONENT PROFILE, page 3

In EIWA, Light Blue wrestlers seek to qualify for nationals

BY ELI SCHULTZ
Spectator Staff Writer

After finishing the duals season tied with Penn for second in the Ivy League, the Columbia wrestling team will compete this weekend in the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association Championships in Princeton, N.J. The tournament will be the last chance for individual Lions to qualify for the NCAA Championships, which will take place in two weeks in St. Louis, Mo.

Based on depth of talent, each conference is granted a certain number of bids per weight class. All automatic qualifying conferences are given at least one bid per weight class. The EIWA's 46 total bids give it the second-highest bid total, behind only the Big Ten, which has 74.

In weight classes with lots of competitors, such as 141, 149, and 157 pounds, the top six finishers in this weekend's

tournament will earn a spot at nationals, while only the top three EIWA wrestlers in the 125 and 285 weight classes will qualify. In addition to the bids that will be determined by the conference tournaments, four wrestlers at each weight will earn at-large bids, for a total of 33 wrestlers per weight.

There are five Lions who are nationally ranked among the top 33 wrestlers in their weight class. Senior Kyle Gilchrist is No. 30 at 133 pounds, junior Steve Santos is No. 23 at 149, junior Jake O'Hara is No. 33 at 157, junior Stephen West is No. 32 at 174, and senior Kevin Lester is No. 27 at 285.

Last season, Santos defeated the likely No. 1 seed, Rutgers junior Mario Mason, and this weekend, Santos has the potential to finish on top of the 149 class.

"He's a guy that's fully capable of

SEE WRESTLING, page 6



FILE PHOTO

WESTWARD BOUND | Junior Stephen West is ranked No. 32 in his weight class and hopes to compete at the NCAA Championships in St. Louis, Mo.

SEE SELTZER, page 6

Weekend

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT • FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2012 • PAGE B1

Bonjour Paris!

BY OLIVIA AYLMER
Columbia Daily Spectator

While New York may not have a French quarter, when it comes to film, Manhattanites cannot get enough. In light of “The Artist’s” five Oscar wins, including for Best Picture, it’s clear that the French maintain a certain *je ne sais quoi*. The Film Society of Lincoln Center is out to prove that French cinema still has a whole lot more to offer.

“French producers are more willing to take on riskier films, as their expenses are less and they are willing to play to a more restricted segment of the audience,” said Richard Peña, program director at Film Society of Lincoln Center and professor of film studies at Columbia. French film, according to Peña, offers “things American films don’t.”

“The Film Society of Lincoln Center’s Rendez-Vous with French Cinema” is North America’s leading showcase for contemporary French film and is returning to the city with two dozen premieres, showing at Lincoln Center, IFC Center, and Brooklyn Academy of Music through March 11.

For Columbia students, the festival is especially accessible, as Maison Française has arranged a special offer for students and staff with the Film Society of Lincoln Center. Tickets to any films in the “Rendez-Vous with French Cinema” series will be offered at a reduced price of \$10 for Columbia students and faculty.

“We have to be realistic about the fan base: It’s still largely urban or university-based,” Pena said.

But Columbia students need not travel far to catch featured festival films, or even meet the stars themselves. Writer, director, and actor Mathieu Amalric will also present his “Tournée” tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Dodge Hall, and an exclusive Q&A session. Rising director Ismaël Ferroukhi will show one of his films “Le Grand Voyage,” on March 6 at 6 p.m. in Buell Hall. Attendees will receive reduced ticket prices of \$8 to see the second of Ferroukhi’s films, “Free Men,” when it is released at Quad Cinemas on March 16. Maison Francaise and School of the Arts Film Division will sponsor the events.

With so many ways to explore French film only a subway ride or a short walk across campus away, students and faculty alike will undoubtedly be reminded of one of the perks of living in a modern cultural epicenter.

“When you live in New York, you have access to large, inexpensive apartments; terrific public education; clean, safe streets ... No, in fact, you really don’t have any of these things, but you do have access to cultural offerings that are unsurpassed by any other city in the world,” Peña said. “So many of us live here because culture is so important in our lives. It makes up for not having some of the other stuff.”

See below for Weekend writers Stefan Countryman and Christopher Ruenes’ picks for the must-see films of the festival.

“AMERICANO”

Mathieu Demy directs and stars as an expatriate named Martin who is summoned back to L.A. from Paris to settle his mother’s estate. When he arrives, he is confronted with his past—and the fact that his mother has bequeathed her house to a mystery woman named Lola, whom Martin seeks in Mexico. The film’s cinematography is interrupted with memory sequences taken from the 1981 “Documenteur,” a technique that calls into question the objectivity of memory.

“THE SNOWS OF KILIMANJARO”

Michel is a recently retired dock worker and union rep who, with his wife Marie-Claire, gets robbed by a laid-off ex-coworker named Christophe. When the couple learns that Christophe is supporting two younger brothers, they struggle over whether they should report him to authorities. The film is left-leaning, but it is much more than propaganda—it works through many tough questions about modern-day class relations.

“IMPARDONNABLES”

Veteran filmmaker André Téchiné’s latest film chronicles the lives of a group of individuals in Venice who can only thrive when they feel anxious. Over a year, the restless coterie desperately navigates their own irrational desires, grappling for rational justifications the entire time. Its detached narrative technique offers a mature criticism of the deception that human beings are ultimately led by reason.

“THE SCREEN ILLUSION”

Mathieu Amalric, director of James Bond film “Quantum of Solace,” adapts the French theater classic of the same name. Wizard and hotel concierge Alcantre helps a worried father find out what his son is up to. The twist: Filming took place over only 12 days. Amalric keeps Pierre Corneille’s original dialogue while transmuting the play into a modern setting.

“ZARAFÀ”

This beautifully animated family film centers on a very adult story: At only 10-years-old Maki is fleeing slave traders. He hides aboard a ship, where he meets Zarafa, a giraffe being gifted from a Bedouin prince to the King of France. “Zarafa” succeeds as both Mediterranean epic and exploration of France’s less-than-noble past.

“FAREWELL, MY QUEEN”

Benoît Jacquot revisits Versailles in the days immediately preceding the French Revolution. Unlike Sofia Coppola’s leisurely, pastel interpretation of the palace in “Marie Antoinette,” this film sticks to a classic style. It’s gorgeously shot, though—and it’s a great exploration of the contrast between Versailles and the rest of France.



Thrift and Vintage

Sick of the same old chain stores, and ready to try something—God forbid—used? Weekend presents four of New York’s best spots for the prospective vintage and thrift shopper of any budget, from the ambitious red carpet ready fashionista to the adventurous bargain hunter. —BY ABBY MITCHELL AND KATY TONG

Housing Works’ ‘Buy the Bag’ Sale

For those willing to make the trek to Long Island City, the Queens branch of the thrift shop chain becomes every bargain hunter’s heaven during its weekly “Buy the Bag” event. For a mere \$25, score everything from last season’s designer threads to tweed menswear—as long as you can fit them into a brown paper bag. Watch your back among the hungry crowds digging through bins upon boxes piled high, and you might find the occasional unexpected treasure. Proceeds go towards AIDS research.

INA

Even though “Sex and the City” ended in 2004, you can still snag pieces from Carrie Bradshaw’s wardrobe: INA, an upscale consignment boutique with chains throughout the city, is famous for acquiring the show’s wardrobe library when it wrapped. Even though it specializes in high-end goods such as slinky Manolos and cocktail dresses by Zac Posen and Missoni, the store slashes prices on items if they haven’t sold after 30 days, and they continue to drop until the item sells.

New York Vintage

Don’t come to New York Vintage expecting a bargain but you will find a stunning collection of collectors pieces—everything from 50s Dior gowns to cute animal-shaped, jeweled Judith Leiber evening clutches. The store also functions as a red carpet rental agency, loaning out gowns to celebs such as the Olsen twins and Julia Roberts, and appearing in Vogue and Vanity Fair. The store itself has a luxe-vintage feel, with poufs instead of chairs and an entire wall lined with one-of-a-kind headpieces.

Beacon’s Closet

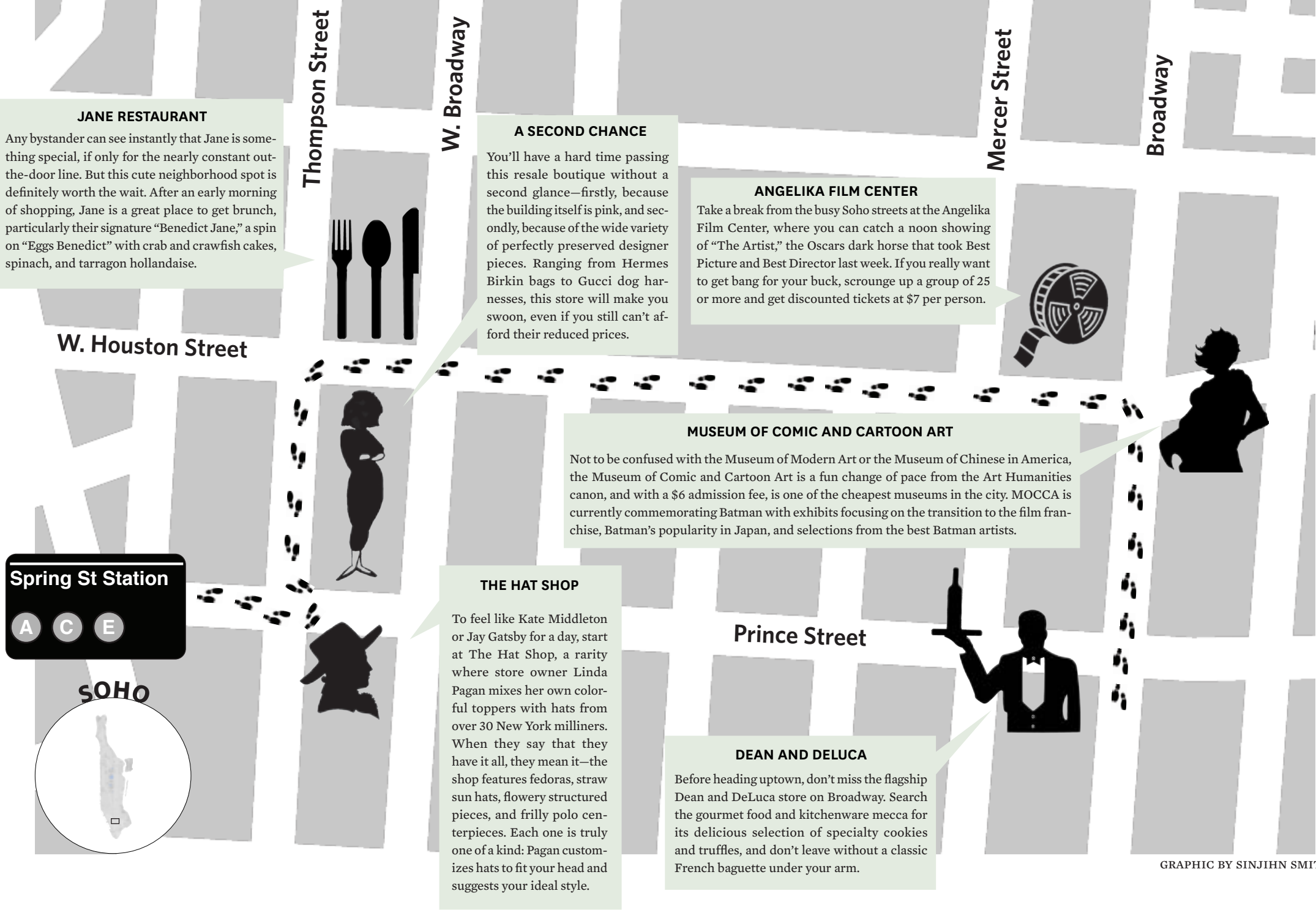
Brooklyn’s favorite thrift warehouse is now a shorter subway ride away. With a new store in the West Village right next to Parsons’ main campus, the store maintains its reputation as a clothing catchall: you’re liable to find everything from classy basics to a gaudy 80s prom dress. Luckily, the Manhattan store tends to be a bit pickier, with more high-quality designer swag up for grabs. If you’re low on cash, head downtown with your gently used, stain-free garb and get either 35 percent of the sale price in cash or 55 in store credit.



ILLUSTRATION BY RUNTAO YANG AND ISAAC WHITE

Neighborhood Watch

By Abby Mitchell and Katy Tong



GRAPHIC BY SINJHN SMITH

One couple narrates romance and surgery in strange new film

BY CHRISTOPHER RUENES AND STEFAN COUNTRYMAN
Columbia Daily Spectator

In 2003, artist and musician Genesis Breyer P-Orridge and his partner, Lady Jaye, underwent a series of plastic surgeries with an unusual goal—to assume each other’s appearances.

Marie Losier documents this project, their romance, and their lives in her new documentary, “The Ballad of Genesis and Lady Jaye.” The surgery is a recent addition to P-Orridge’s subversive, decade-spanning oeuvre, which includes playing in the proto-industrial group Throbbing Gristle and acid house band Psychic TV. Genesis’ upcoming “I’m Mortality” exhibit runs Feb. 17 through March 25 at Invisible Exports in Brooklyn.

“That’s all Marie’s work,” P-Orridge said. “If we had made it ourselves it would have been much too strange and illegal. She managed to find a really good filter.”

The warm tone of the film is deliberate. “The basis of any film portrait I have made is really an adventure of friendship,” Losier said.

The narrative, chiseled from six years of raw footage, is governed by improvisation and playfulness rather than order and structure.

P-Orridge considers the film’s triumph to be

the love story itself.

“The only thing that she [Jaye] wished for from life was to be remembered as a great love affair,” P-Orridge said. “It’s the joy within it, the fun, almost the playfulness, is what translates into the lovingness ... that’s Marie’s genius as an editor and a filmmaker. She found a way to change something that could’ve just looked eccentric into something really appealing.”

“If we had made it ourselves it would have been much too strange and illegal.”

—Genesis Breyer P-Orridge

This genuine romance makes the surgery—possibly his most radical work to date—his most touching and profound statement. He and Jaye took the common romantic desire for unity to its ultimate conclusion by fusing themselves into a single identity. This act of love was also a gender statement, as the couple melded into what they termed a “pandrogen.”

“We’ve decided to take pandrogyny to a whole

new level where we get surgeries and make it incontrovertible that this is what we’re doing and what we believe and what we’re going to signal by how we look,” P-Orridge said.

But beneath the romance and gender-bending is a layer of humor. “There’s not much of value in life, and you should laugh at the things that people take so seriously,” P-Orridge said. This humor permeates the film. Entire sequences feature absurd reenactments of scenes from their lives—one notably features a bird costume.

Genesis, Jaye, and Losier believe that humor and love are inextricably tied. The ability to joke depends on “a safe place,” P-Orridge said. “For a year, we worked together as two dominatrices ... there were times in the dungeon when we’d have some businessman tied up, upside down, in a ridiculous position, with his bum in the air, and we’d just start cracking up.”

To Losier, humor is “the strongest sense of ... emotion where sadness or very deep, intellectual things can pass through.” The film’s comedy is tinged with a love so powerful that it folds Genesis and Jaye into a third, united identity. The playfulness only magnifies the profundity of their connection and of P-Orridge’s body of work. It does what is so rare in conceptual art—it makes a complex idea accessible.

In the wake of the storm, breakfast food is only secondary

My brother Zach is screaming. I am helpless but cannot look away. He hurls himself against a wall, leaping, lunging, calves straining, veins terribly exposed on his reedy neck. They could burst while invisible fingers torment his skin and possess his limbs with maniacal fire. Exhausted, he collapses to the floor, gym shorts riding up on slender legs. His frustration fascinates me, even though I want to leave or stop him or hurt myself to ease his agony. Instead, I buy him breakfast the next morning at Patricia’s, a diner that leaves me unmoved. My spirit has been spent and I had no more to pay.

We eat deflated French toast, sodden with syrup and butter, scrambled eggs, and pancakes. He drinks weak orange juice. Patricia’s is average and extremely cheap, and sometimes filled with respectable wrinkled black churchgoers dressed for Sunday who actually live in New Haven and are not just overnighters. Weekday mornings, I am told, can be lonesome.

Like the enchanted island of all decent myths, Yale is an illusory and silent bubble encircled by violent storms. Mornings are empty and sunny, receding into meditative afternoons. Neo-Gothic spires stretch, languorous, and sip rum. I notched off two hours wandering the shore, walking around the Payne Whitney Gymnasium three times and counting its flotsam and condoms and wadded cigarette cartons. Land recedes into uncertain waters just beyond the gym. I beached out at a cruddy Shell station, where I paced in tight circles, mumbled neurotic prayers in my coat sleeves, and bowed before the clerk. I bought Raisinets and ate them for 30 minutes on a bench. I talked to a mousy girl about the perils of bicycling in blustery weather. Two boys wearing sweatbands came out and asked whether I was there for the ship, and I followed them away.



JASON BELL
In Defense of Delicious



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSS MCKINLEY

MUSICAL MEDLEY | Scottish art-rockers Django Django bear a distinctive sound of their own, yet fit in with the contemporary indie aesthetic.

In an aural world of sound-alikes, Django Django carves out own jingle

BY ANATOLE ASHRAF
Spectator Staff Writer

At first listen, art-rockers Django Django might seem like a novelty, but certain aspects of their sound linger long after the song is over.

Hailing from Scotland, the four lads of Django Django met at art school in Edinburgh. On Jan. 30, they released their self-titled debut album, four years in the making, and are currently wrapping up a U.K. tour. Vincent Neff, lead singer and guitarist, said that he is ready to hop the pond. On March 10, the band will play their first-ever show on American soil at the Glasslands Gallery in Williamsburg, followed by dates at Austin’s SXSW.

“We’re overwhelmed,” Neff said, referring to the reaction the album has received from both critics and audiences. U.K. music magazine New Musical Express gave the album a 8 out of 10 rating, and it reached No. 33 on the U.K. charts only a week after its release.

“We didn’t expect it all,” Neff said. “It was a bit of a shock.”

To say that Django Django’s music defies classification is an understatement. Neff’s guitar is lo-fi, a lower quality of sound recording, which he attributed to being influenced by the “stripped-down” qualities of surf, rockabilly, and Bo Diddley rhythms. Meanwhile, his vocals exude a classic feel, but are backed by harmonies from bassist Jimmy Dixon and synth operator Tommy Grace.

Percussion-wise, Maclean avoids the snare drum the way most motorists avoid traffic cones, a habit which “baffles sound engineers,” according to Neff.

“Dave comes from a dance background,” Neff said. “And sometimes you can do more with a shaker and kick drum.”

Maclean’s approach has led him to use unconventional instruments, like cocnut shells, on certain tracks. This adventurous spirit is reflected in the track “Skies Over Cairo,” which Grace and Maclean locked themselves in a bedroom to complete.

“Default,” the latest single from the album, was recently featured on iTunes as its free download of the week. The music video only serves to emphasize the group’s art-school sensibilities. Drummer and de facto bandleader David Maclean did most of the painting that decorates the video, a stop-motion stream merging to form a coherent and catchy indie pop offering.

According to Neff, this variety is the result of having “a big level of exposure to different kinds of music.”

“Some people listen to garage bands, and some only listen to rockabilly,” Neff said. “We listen to everything. The line’s not drawn clearly ... It makes it a bit more intense to us and the listener, that you’re going through different ebbs and flows.”

From the artwork to the music to the videos, almost every aspect of Django Django bears a distinctive stamp that appears to stands alone, yet still fits in with the Brooklyn aesthetic.

New York “is a bit of an unknown entity,” Neff said. “But we are definitely looking forward to it.”

Patricia’s is, like Dave’s parking lot, a threat to Yale’s romantic fantasy. It quakes the island and floods its shoals—it destabilizes the utopian masquerade.

I went to New Haven to see Zach play Caliban in “The Tempest.” He belongs to The Control Group, an experimental theater troupe. Last fall, The Control Group transformed a cast member’s house into a playpen for a life-sized Furby puppet. In this semester’s production, they cut out a third of “The Tempest.” No more does Prospero struggle with his brother, Antonio, for the dukedom of Milan. Caliban’s enslavement to and revolt against Prospero absorb all that dramatic energy.

“Most wicked sir, whom to call brother would even infect my mouth, I do forgive thy rankest fault—all of them,” Prospero tells Antonio. Prospero pardons Caliban, too for assaulting his daughter, but the pardon is no atonement for slavery. Caliban, unlike Prospero, never expresses forgiveness.

After the show, we went to see a parking lot that M.F.A. student Dave Whelan built underneath Green Hall. He paved over a gravel bed and painted in the yellow lines. A metastatic asphalt cell put down roots and grew into a quiet tumor. The parking lot, itself an unnatural and industrial space, has invaded institutional territory. One tissue swells in another, threatening to rupture the coherence of reality.

Patricia’s is, like Dave’s parking lot, a threat to Yale’s romantic fantasy. It quakes the island and floods its shoals—it destabilizes the utopian masquerade. Over coffee, Zach and I feel fine in our silences. Yet there is a storm working outside the windows. Greasy clouds crowd the blue horizon, ready to explode and set us adrift. In shallow water we will lie, and green sea wreck will moss-over our crumbling skin.

No more yet of this, for it is a chronicle of day by day, not a relation for a breakfast.

Jason Bell is a Columbia College junior majoring in English. In Defense of Delicious runs alternate Fridays.

The dark side of art: What we can learn from Whitney’s memorial service

Last week, Whitney Houston’s “private” memorial service was broadcast around the country, featuring eulogies by Tyler Perry and Kevin Costner, along with performances by Stevie Wonder and Alicia Keys. According to the New York Times, CNN’s coverage alone drew in 5.4 million viewers, which—to put into perspective—is more than twice the number of sales her latest album made worldwide. It’s common knowledge that a premature death enhances an artist’s popularity, and yet the dramatic nature of this phenomenon never fails to surprise me. What’s really lurking under America’s fetish for “dead heroes” (as John Lennon once described it to Rolling Stone magazine)? Is it simply a



DAVID ECKER
Slightly Off Key

touching way to acknowledge art’s immortality, or is it an attempt to mask the darker side of creativity that entertains us?

Once an artist has left us, however, they can no longer disappoint.

The “tortured artist” archetype has been around for years, and as a musician, I definitely feel there’s some truth to it. To constantly put yourself out there for consumption—for judgment—can be nerve-racking no matter how your audience reacts. Artists create because they feel a need to express something that can’t be expressed in any other way, usually something coming from the very core of who that artist feels himself to be. Regardless of external

factors, the creative process itself takes an emotional toll, and for this reason, many artists take refuge in destructive alcohol and drug habits.

This phenomenon is pretty well-accepted and understood, but its core reasons are often ignored. Living artists are imperfect—they have emotions, they have vices, and they sometimes fail to create something that we want to consume. Once an artist has left us, however, they can no longer disappoint. We can freeze them forever in their prime, forget the faults that made them human, and turn them into the product we always wanted them to be. It’s a disgusting practice, yet it happens over and over again. Overnight we turned Whitney Houston from a tabloid target to the fallen angel of song, just like we turned Michael Jackson from “Wacko Jacko” to the eternal “King of Pop.” Fifty-year-old Elvis clearly needed help, but why deal with that roller coaster when you can simply build 20-year-old Elvis a permanent

shrine at Graceland?

Let me be clear that I don’t think this practice is the work of evil media overlords simply out to make a quick buck. If anything, I think the responsibility lies with us. As humans, we constantly try to make order out of chaos (it’s what that whole brain thing is for), yet sometimes, we’re so desperate for a neat and tidy narrative that we fail to truly learn from the nuances of our experiences. I think it’s important not only to pay tribute to artists when they fall, but also to try to keep the number of the fallen to a minimum. Yes, art is eternal, but artists are real people with real flaws. It’s important that we not only glorify the dead as we wish to remember them, but also ask ourselves, “How can we keep this from happening again?”

David Ecker is a first-year in Columbia College. Slightly Off Key runs alternate Fridays.

Flipside

Guide

Galeria Melissa

Spring into step with innovative designs at the Brazilian footwear import

MELISSA HANEY
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Nothing compares to a great pair of shoes. The power of a killer heel or a fantastic flat deserves celebration, and who better to kick off the party than one of the biggest style icons of Brazil?

At the recently opened Galeria Melissa (102 Greene St., between Spring and Prince streets), Brazilian footwear company Melissa literally places their shoes on the highest pedestals: Here shoes are not just sold, but displayed as quirky works of art. Within a stark white interior, pieces from Melissa’s various designer collaborations are on view in rotating exhibitions, with pairs from Vivienne Westwood, Gareth Pugh, and Jason Wu frequently taking center stage.

And just as the Galeria Melissa serves as more than the average shoe store, the items for sale fittingly classify as more than just the average shoe. The most distinctive characteristic of all Melissa shoes, of course, is their jelly composition—even the heels are made with the soft, flexible material derived from recycled PVC.

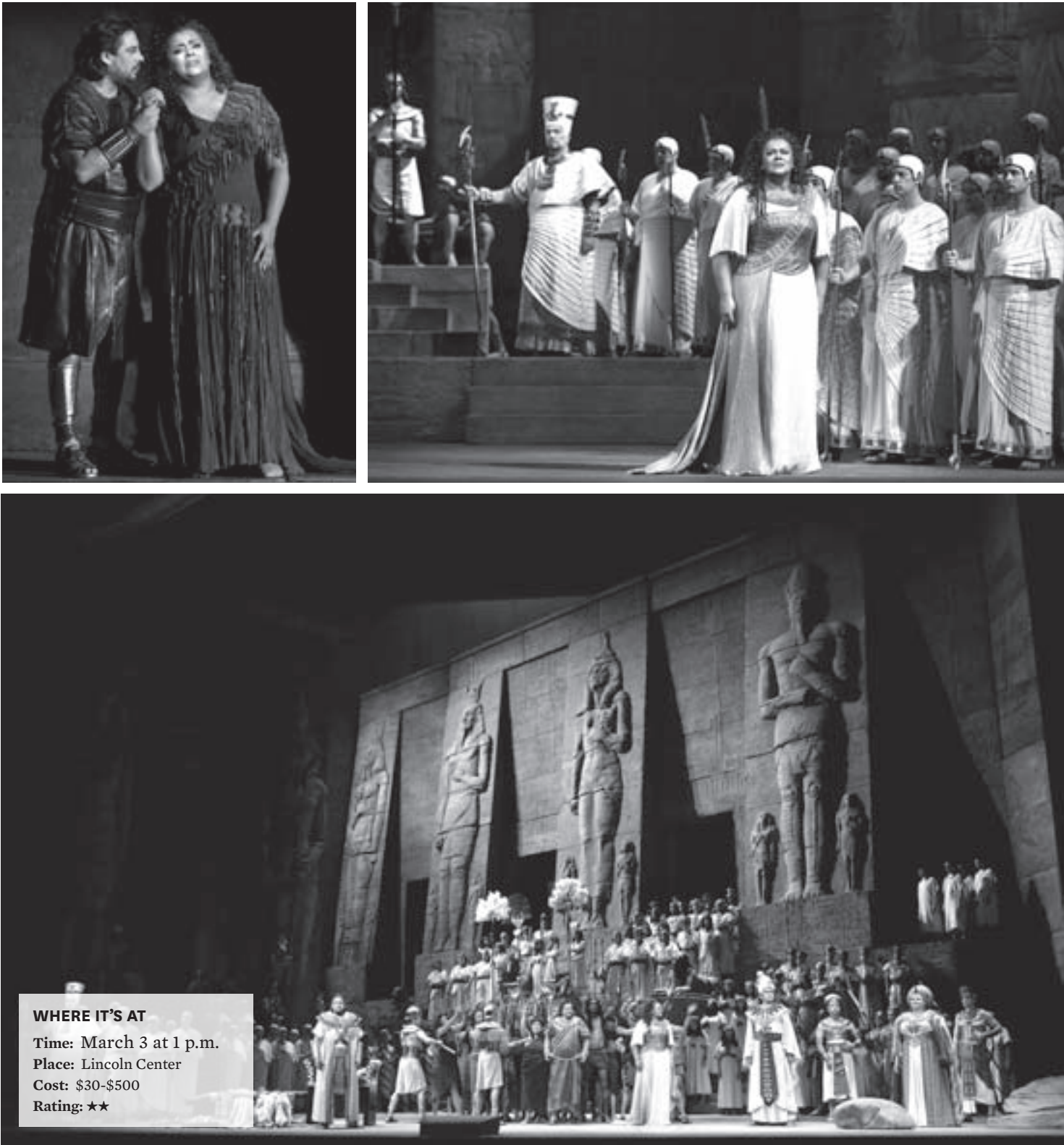
Perhaps because of this, each design is especially quirky and always innovative. Styles ranging from bird’s-nest-woven metallic gold and silver flats to opaque, rose-pink slingback platforms assure that every pair of Melissa shoes will add more than a bit of personality to any fashion-forward look.

Galeria Melissa serves as the South American brand’s first and only international flagship, granting New Yorkers a truly unique fashion experience. Visitors not only get the chance to glance at some funky, innovative shoe designs, but also become immersed in an intrinsically Brazilian world. Techno music blasting unapologetically through the sound system, bright lights flashing on the floor to the beat. A walk into Galeria Melissa evokes particular feelings of fun and celebration, embodying carefree ethos found on the streets of Sao Paulo.

As with all types of shoes, bright pink jelly peep-toe pumps don’t fit everyone. But, not to worry—at Galeria Melissa, all are invited simply to celebrate the power of an artfully designed shoe, with no purchase necessary.



DANCING SHOES | At Galeria Melissa, all of the shoes are made of plastic, but that doesn’t mean that they’re any less stylish, featuring designs by prominent designers like Vivienne Westwood and Jason Wu.



IN LOVE AND WAR | The most recent production of Giuseppe Verdi’s “Aida” at the Metropolitan Opera tells of a classic struggle between romantic and familial love but the cast’s vocal performances leaves little to be desired.

‘Aida’

Met Opera production of classic tale strong on drama, weak on cast

BY REUBEN BERMAN
Spectator Staff Writer

Since the birth of polity, many have struggled with the question of how much they are willing to sacrifice to save the State. It is that very question, which the title character of Giuseppe Verdi’s “Aida” addresses in the beautifully created, yet poorly cast performance at the Metropolitan Opera.

In an opera set at the height of Egyptian imperial power, Aida must choose between the man she loves—a general in the Egyptian army—and the country that bore her, Ethiopia. Yet, it is truly a pity when the opera’s enchanting arias, orchestral harmony, and comprehensive plot and set cannot be backed up by most of the major singers on the stage.

Princess Amneris—voiced by Stephanie Blythe—and the slave Aida—sung by a muffled Violeta Urmana—have both fallen in love with the same man, the tenor Marcelo Álvarez as General Radames. Aida is conflicted between that love and a love for her country, Ethiopia, where her father is king. Amneris suspects a secret rival, and falsely informs Aida of his death in order to draw a reaction out of her. This is Blythe’s tour de force, a moment where the psychological and vocal portrait of her character is on full display. Aida’s response leaves no doubt as to her loyalties, and both go off to celebrate Radames’ triumphant return.

In a scene overshadowed by monumental facades and a beautiful performance by the chorus, Amneris is given to Radames as a reward for his victory, which he cannot turn down. Aida also reunites with her father—travelling incognito—who asks her to

manipulate Radames into revealing his army’s marching orders on their next campaign against Ethiopia. Now bound by the impossible question, Aida sings one of Verdi’s most exquisite arias, “O patria mia,” as she longs for her home. She meets Radames the night before his marriage, and, begging that he run away with her and leave his home, draws the secret information out of him. The ploy results in a death sentence for Radames, while Amneris pleads for him to be spared, even if she could never have him as a husband. Buried alive, Radames finds Aida in his tomb, and together they proclaim their love for each other while Amneris prays for them.

Urmana’s solo moments were wonderful, but her voice paled against the stronger singers and was trampled by the orchestra, becoming almost inaudible at times.

Álvarez proved to be a convincing actor, but he could not capture his desperate love for Aida vocally. His opening admission of feelings for her was subpar. Throughout the opera he either bellowed or whispered, never reaching a happy medium.

But Blythe lifted the production. Blythe, who made her house role debut as Amneris, gave a dazzling and nuanced portrayal of the spoiled Egyptian princess. Full of jealous power, yet seductive and charming, the mezzo-soprano’s vocal talents could only be matched by her own acting abilities.

Regardless of the singing quality, the set was magnificent in its replication of grand Egyptian throne rooms, temples, and building facades. Marco Armiliato, conducting the orchestra, gave a rousing and glorious rendition, while the chorus, a staple of a Verdi opera, was in great form throughout the night.

Moscot

Eyeglasses boutique pairs retro chic frames with modern technology

BY ANDREW GONZALEZ
Columbia Daily Spectator

WHERE IT’S AT
Time: Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Place: 159 Court St.
Cost: \$225 and up
Rating: ★★★

As F. Scott Fitzgerald envisioned the “blue and gigantic” eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleberg looking “from a pair of enormous yellow spectacles,” so might have Hyman Moscot envisioned his own glasses on dozens of customers in need of a pair of stylish visual aids.

The newest Moscot glasses boutique, located at 159 Court Street in the historical Cobble Hill neighborhood of Brooklyn, sports a 20th century look. Customers are welcomed by cardboard cutouts of men with glasses in the windows. The vintage-inspired store décor nicely mirrors the frames that one finds in the center display cabinets.

The myriad choices give costumers options to find his or her personal style. The original and signature design of the Moscot brand serves as the centerpiece of the collection—but one

might also find a chic pair of aviators or wayfarers. Alongside the Moscot brand, customers can find brands like Bivil and Lindberg. An esteemed pair of Moscot glasses typically starts at around \$225.

The picturesque boutique offers a large and tasteful dose of antiquity. This small and quaint setting, however, does not stray too far from a chic and modern space. A portrait of Moscot, his wife, and his son Joel Moscot hangs above a bookshelf, showing off the softer side of the family-run business.

Complementing the atmosphere is a portrait from a 1950s issue of the New Yorker, showing eyes, drapes of fabrics on Orchard Street, and dozens of glasses—speaking to the exaggerated presence of glasses, eyes, and sight throughout the store. The black hardwood floors add a touch of class to the store’s simplicity, as do the brick walls and owl ornamentation.

All the while, the integrity and overall vision of this store and business remains intact. There is an optometry office, where workers can match your eyes to a snazzy pair of vintage-inspired specs. Their eye care equipment, ranging from lens meters to phoropters, dates to the early 20th century, but offers the quality eye care made possible by modern technology.

events

MUSIC

Cults

—Maxwell’s, 1039 Washington St. at 11th Street, Friday 9 p.m., \$15

Local indie pop outfit Cults will charm listeners with their brand of cheeky sing-alongs that often belie the darker lyrical content beneath their sunny exterior. Expect to hear tunes from their much-hyped self-titled debut LP, released last year. Garage-pop band Mrs. Magician will open the show.

ART

In the Company of Animals

—The Morgan Library & Museum, 225 Madison Ave. at 36th Street, through May 20, \$10 with CUID

Have a soft spot for cute, cuddly critters? This special exhibition will highlight the ways in which animals have served as the muses for writers, artists, and musicians. Notable displays in this “menagerie” include a first edition of T.S. Eliot’s “Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats.”

STYLE

Rent the Runway Sample Sale

—260 Fifth Ave. between 28th and 29th streets, Friday to Sunday

Scoop up savings of up to 95 percent off retail prices and replenish your spring wardrobe with gently used cocktail dresses and accessories. The shopping event, which comes to a close this weekend, includes garments from all the desirable designers, including Badgley Mischka, Nicole Miller, and Rebecca Taylor.

WILDCARD

Orchid Show

—New York Botanical Garden, Bronx River Pkwy at Fordham Road, through April 22, \$30

The absurdist French botanist Patrick Blanc presents a gravity-defying orchid show, titled “Vertical Gardens,” with floral arrangements that spring from not only ordinary pots, but also giant cubes and artist canvases. Alternatively, enjoy the vibrant displays while sipping a cocktail after 6:30 p.m.