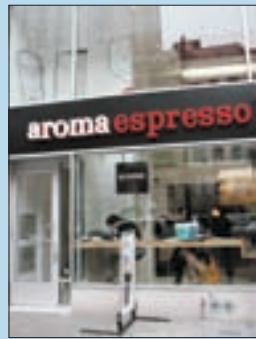


INSIDE

A&E, page 3

Professor Combines
Script and Strings

Columbia professor Mark Strand takes time off grading papers to write accompanying poetry for the Brentano String Quarter's "The Seven Last Words of Christ."



A&E, page 3

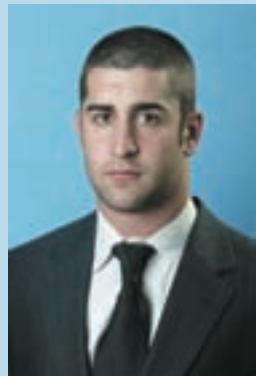
Take Study Breaks
With Coffee Cakes

Aroma Espresso Bar offers a plethora of drinks and snacks, and while none of them are particularly great, the atmosphere is tough to beat for hardworking students.

Opinion, page 4

No Offense

Columist Chris Morris-Lent recounts two instances of censorship to show that censors deny freedom of speech to hide their own insecurities.



Sports, page 8

Sophomore Civan Looks
To Go to Nationals

Eren Civan, after suffering a season ending injury last year, has had a terrific 2008-2009 season. Now Civan looks to earn a bid to nationals at the Ivy championships



Sports, page 8

Columbia Softball Lacks
Depth, Experience

The Columbia softball team will enter the 2009 season with very few reserves. The Lions only have 13 players on the roster, tied for the fewest in the Ivy League.

ONLINE

ColumbiaSpectator.com

An Alternative Aspect
Of the Gaza Conflict

Read about Wednesday night's event addressing the conflict between Israel and Gaza in terms of humanitarian issues.



Andra Mihali / Staff Photographer

DEMANDING DIVESTMENT | Professors Gil Anidjar, Mahmood Mamdani, Brinkley Messick, and Bruce Robbins spoke on the panel at the Columbia Palestine Forum's "teach-in" on Wednesday evening.

Panelists Push Divestment, Support Gaza

BY ELIZABETH SCOTT
Spectator Staff Writer

A "teach-in" organized by the Columbia Palestine Forum Wednesday night drew a crowd of supporters, dissenters, and interested students and faculty that filled the Hamilton classroom and spilled into the hall.

It came to light during the meeting that University president Lee Bollinger has agreed to meet with the faculty to discuss the issue.

The group, whose recent formation began with a demand for University divestment from companies profiting from the Gaza conflict and for protection of Palestinian academic freedom, hosted a discussion with a panel composed of four University faculty members, two speakers from the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions

campaign, and a Barnard student representing the CPF. Supporters and critics of the Forum sounded off in a question-and-answer follow-up that mostly took the form of commentary on the recent and historic Gaza conflicts.

The faculty members speaking on the potential benefits of Israeli divestment were Bruce Robbins, Old Dominion Foundation Professor in the Humanities, Gil Anidjar, a professor of religion who also teaches in MEALAC, Mahmood Mamdani, Herbert Lehman Professor of Government and anthropology professor, and Brinkley Messick, anthropology professor.

Faculty first clarified the terms of CPF's demands. Robbins said that "students don't have academic freedom, professors do" and that the denial of education—a basic human right—

rather than academic freedom—as associated with tenure—is the heart of the matter. He added that because academic freedom is not a universal or democratic right, the conflict surrounding Gaza becomes more divisive when this terminology is used.

During the panel, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was continuously compared to the South African and Liberian apartheid, though this analogy was met with varying reactions from the audience. It was noted that Columbia divested from South African companies during its apartheid. In this context, Anidjar advocated boycotting as an appropriate "exercise of freedom" and affirmed the group's demands as "change we can believe in." Eric Heitner, CC '05, spoke on

SEE PALESTINE, page 2

Alumnus Working for United Nations Kidnapped in Pakistan

BY KIM KIRSCHENBAUM
Spectator Staff Writer

A suspected separatist group holding John Solecki, a Columbia College and School of International and Public Affairs graduate, said on Sunday that it would kill him in four days if the Pakistani government did not release more than 1000 imprisoned members of Baluchistan separatist groups, according to an article in *The New York Times*.

Solecki, the top United Nations official in Pakistan's Baluchistan Province, was kidnapped on Feb. 2 by gunmen of the Baluchistan Liberation United Front who shot his driver as the two were en route to the U.N.'s local offices in Quetta. Solecki has been held captive since, but Pakistani security forces have discovered Solecki's location and say he will be released soon, according to a report released Wednesday by Press TV, an Iranian international news network.

On Feb. 13, the kidnappers issued a threat to Solecki's life and released a 20-second video of Solecki blindfolded in which he said he was "sick and in trouble." While the group did not carry out the threat, they released a similar one on Sunday and set the deadline in a letter sent to the local news agency Online International News Network. The separatist group's spokesman, Mir Shahiq Baloch, wrote that the date was "our final deadline for killing John Solecki."

During Solecki's abduction, Columbia University administrators have been closely monitoring the situation through news reports,

according to Robert Garriss, senior associate dean at SIPA. Garriss said that SIPA administrators have not been in contact with anyone in the U.N. regarding Solecki's captivity.

"I've been in touch with several parts of the University and all of us are being kept up to date," Garriss said. "We're obviously very concerned about him."

Solecki's family and friends have acknowledged his selfless nature as a man who has dedicated his life to public service.

History professor Richard Bulliet, who was one of Solecki's professors at CC, wrote about his dedication to his job in a column in the *International Herald Tribune*.

"He is imperturbable," Bulliet wrote. "He soothes the feelings of people in stress."



Courtesy of Facebook

JOHN SOLECKI

Bollinger Hosts First Fireside Chat for Graduate Students

BY MINJI REEM
Spectator Staff Writer

Amid the freezing weather and bitter winter winds Wednesday night, graduate school students gathered at University President Lee Bollinger's home for the first-ever fireside chat exclusively for them.

Students were eager to voice their opinions and concerns, emphasizing their interest in what the University is doing to help students find jobs after graduation, the need for cooperation among graduate schools, and international education.

The conversation began with an update from Bollinger on the University's financial situation. According to Bollinger,

the University is in both "a good and bad position." He said that everything but the endowment is in good shape. "The tuition revenue is strong, clinical revenues are up and fundraising, believe it or not, is doing well," he said.

Bollinger then acknowledged that the economy is on everybody's minds and recognized that his audience is directly impacted by this situation, as its members are "making some serious choices in life."

The issue of scarcity of jobs after graduation was brought to the table multiple times. One student pointed out that faculty

SEE FIRESIDE CHAT, page 2

ALP Funding Shrinks
American Language Program's International Enrollment Shifts

BY SCOTT LEVI
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Columbia's American Language Program—an English-language school distinguished both by its worldwide prestige and its reliance on international enrollments—is feeling the crunch from the downfall of foreign markets, as shown by a 40 percent decrease in its majority South Korean constituency and an urgency to target growing economies elsewhere.

As the University attempts to weather the recession by assessing finances across the board, the ALP thinks in terms of nationality rather than socioeconomic status. The program, which provides English language instruction for varied purposes and proficiency levels and serves both Columbia students and students not

enrolled at the University, has in past years helped to bridge the linguistic gap for one quarter of the foreign students entering what the Institute of International Education ranks as the United States' third most international university.

"Economic changes and fluctuations in currency rates have had a significant impact on Asian clientele," said Peter Awn, dean of the School of General Studies, who is temporarily in charge of the School of Continuing Education. Last fall, Awn brought the once-independent ALP under the auspices of Continuing Education.

Established in 1911, the program lacks a tenure system or departmental status, but has over time managed to expand its offerings and reach out to

SEE ALP, page 2

Top 15 Countries of Citizenship for ALP students (2006-2009)

Country of Citizenship	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
South Korea	684	726	442
Taiwan	266	201	226
Japan	216	257	205
China	192	186	134
Italy	38	50	64
France	28	34	41
Spain	28	23	38
Russia	27	31	31
Turkey	39	30	17
Brazil	24	19	27

Source: International Students and Scholars Office

Japanese Restaurant Vine Opens in
Former Caffe Swish Location

Lila Neiswanger / Staff Photographer

NEW PLACE ON THE BLOCK | Vine, a new Japanese restaurant, replaced Caffe Swish.

and is essentially "taking over Tomo's business," Chang said.

Swish and Tomo were both owned by Tsu Y. Wang, who now owns Vine and Ollie's. Three weeks ago, allegations of unfair labor practices such as sub-minimum wages culminated in a strike outside Tomo just days before its closing.

But Vine has already attracted a steady flow of sushi-craving students and locals. At lunchtime on Wednesday, some even left in frustration after waiting in a line that extended to the doorway.

"During this time, we expect it to be very busy. There is good business now," Ho said. But come summer, "once students leave, it might get really slow here."

-Sam Levin

ESC 2012 STUDY BREAK



Lenny Pridatko for Spectator

SNACK TIME | The Class of 2012 Engineering Student Council provided cookies and milk for SEAS students on Wednesday night on the Lerner West Ramp

EVENTS — MARCH 5

Columbia Political Union Pub Night
Talk politics over drinks and food in a casual environment with the Columbia Political Union. The group's first Pub Night offers free food and relaxed conversation.

Pourhouse, 7 p.m.

Nash Some Hamentashen
Bake your own hamentashen—triangular cookies with sweet fillings—with Columbia/Barnard Hillel in preparation for Purim, which begins Monday night. The cost is \$2 to bake and take home your own batch.

The Columbia Bayit, at 535 W. 112th St.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Let’s get practical about this. If you have ideas, send me an e-mail.”

—President Lee Bollinger

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Andra Mihali / Staff Photographer

CROWD CONTROL | Students, faculty, and others interested in the “teach-in” on the Gaza conflict on Wednesday had to find seats in the hallway.

Attendees at Forum ‘Teach-In’ Spill into Hallway

PALESTINE from front page

behalf of the BDS and presented figures indicating how tax dollars and other expenses contribute to the profit of companies supporting what he considers the Israeli occupation of Gaza.

Messick expressed that an

impending meeting between Bollinger and the faculty about the letter issued listing the CPF’s demands is an “historical moment” for the University.

A lively question-and-answer session allowed attendees to express their reactions to the panelists’ assertions. Critics condemned the

lack of a more realistic approach to solving the issue and cited the need to incorporate Hamas into the discussion.

Some students said they felt the event was successful. “Everyone was calm and it was good to have perspectives from professors and activists and commentary

from the community,” said Edna Bonhomme, MSPH ’10, and a member of the CPF. “A dialogue about the Israel occupation is central and people should be able to put their opinion on the table and figure out what could be the best option.”

news@columbiaspectator.com

ALP Reaches Out to New International Regions

ALP from front page

other branches of the University. Current study options range from four weeks of intensive English to upper-tier courses intended to boost communication skills in a chosen discipline. The School of Engineering and Applied Science, and the School of Business, among others, regularly place students in the ALP.

Statistics made available by Continuing Education reveal a 24 percent drop in ALP matriculation between the 2007-2008 academic year and the current one, with enrollments from the top 15 countries of origin slipping from 1,607 to 1,208. While countries such as France, Italy, and Spain are sending more students than before, mixed economic conditions in the countries that send the most students—South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, and China—contributed dramatically to the slump.

“It’s considerably more expensive to come to the U.S. now than it was five years ago,” Awn said.

Academic director David Quinn said he views the enrollment downturn as an opportunity to spread awareness of the program in less represented regions of the world. Citing Columbia’s parallel efforts to construct small research offices overseas, Quinn said he hopes to use the ALP as a means of increasing enrollment from Latin America and Europe. And despite this year’s decline of nearly 30 percent in Chinese students in the program, he and Awn predicted increases over the summer from what Awn called a “still robust” economy in China.

“This program always recovers,” Quinn said. Unlike other Columbia schools, the ALP’s success remains entirely subject to external forces, though it survived the 1992 devaluation of the Japanese yen, a severe monetary crisis in Korea in 1997, and a lull following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Awn maintained that the program’s “financial processes are up to University standards” and that “we planned for this.”

Whether a strong connection exists between patterns

affecting the ALP and developments in Columbia’s recognizable international communities is inconclusive, but the data reflects a telling correlation between the foreign student population at each school of the University and the percentage of ALP students hailing from each school.

According to a 2008-2009 report from the Office of the Provost, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences drew the most foreigners in 2008, a statistic mirrored by attendance data from the ALP. These similarities suggest that the current dearth in the language program speaks to diminishing numbers of international students within the rest of the University.

In spite of its fame for training in English as a second language, the ALP’s distinct financial difficulties relate to its status as a historically autonomous entity. For years, it was recognized as quasi-independent without strings attached to a particular school, so the program was deprived access to central resources such as student affairs and registration. Lecturers—whose job title emphasizes a traditionally

pedagogical role—often had to tend to necessary staff work such as registration, admissions, scheduling, and advising.

“We had so many people [students in the program], our efforts were somewhat diluted,” Quinn said of the effect of these responsibilities on instruction.

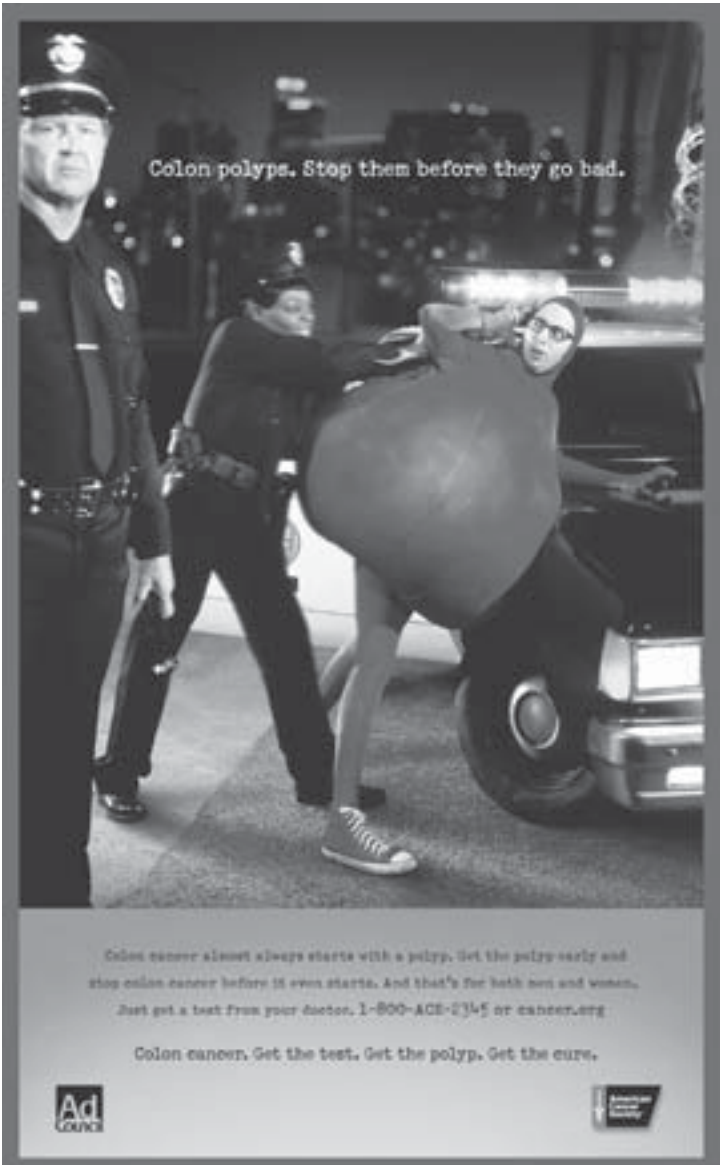
As part of Awn’s broader initiative to consolidate Continuing Education, all administrative responsibilities in the ALP have now shifted to external offices, like Student Affairs and the Registrar.

“The ALP will now be a more diversified creature, spearheading a series of programs that will attract better and brighter students,” Awn said. In the works are a college preparatory program and courses for lawyers and businesspeople.

But as the ALP moves forward in a risky financial climate, a slew of other qualitative issues persist.

“The core of the faculty is delighted,” Awn said, but “you cannot make a dramatic change without some people being nostalgic.”

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Bollinger Shares Cocoa, Cookies with Grad Students

FIRESIDE CHAT from front page

lines were rapidly decreasing and asked Bollinger what the University had on its agenda to help current Ph.D. students with this situation. Bollinger replied that the University had no immediate solutions to this problem but that he was optimistic about the future of Ph.D. students. “I must say that universities will enter a period again of expansion. There is too much need for knowledge.”

Another reoccurring theme throughout the evening was the fact that the various graduate schools at Columbia are isolated from each other in terms of their curricula. One student said that there were not enough opportunities for students to

interact with each other. Overall, students voiced their desire for synergy and centralization—for the schools to share their breadth of knowledge and experiences with each other.

In response, Bollinger acknowledged that there is more room for interaction, and he linked this area to a need for an international mixing of ideas. “This fits into a bigger issue for me—the issue of globalization and the need to deal with this intellectually,” he said.

A student from the Graduate School of Journalism voiced her concerns for the bleak job prospects that J-School students face. “Students are going to graduate this year as if there are jobs for us out there. But there aren’t,” she

said. “We’re educating people as if there are still newspapers out there. But there aren’t.”

Bollinger admitted to the decline of the journalism job market, saying, “this is a threat where society is losing institutions that took a century to build up.” He added that he is working with Nicholas Lemann, Dean of the J-School, to help students prepare for their futures.

Next, a student from Europe said that compared to the University’s quality of education, the facilities at Columbia are substandard. “There might not be that many Nobel Prize winners in Europe but the facilities are definitely better,” she said.

When Bollinger asked for a show of hands of how many

people agreed, a vast majority of students in the room responded that they did. “We are working very hard to build up our resource base,” Bollinger said. “Our fund-raisers have been very successful in doing this.”

As the chat came to an end, Bollinger asked students how well they felt they were being prepared for the global world. Many students expressed their feeling that there was a lot of room for globalization in the grad schools’ curriculums.

Throughout the chat, Bollinger repeatedly emphasized that he was always open to ideas from students. “Let’s get practical about this,” he said. “If you have ideas, send me an e-mail.”

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ARTS&ENTERTAINMENT

MUSIC

Columbia Professor Performs a Symphony of Words

BY MIA JOHNSON
Columbia Daily Spectator

Even the most eloquent and charismatic professors cannot really be described as poets. That is, unless the professor in question happens to be a former U.S. Poet Laureate.

This Friday at Carnegie Hall, the Brentano String Quartet will perform a new rendition of Joseph Haydn's "The Seven Last Words of Christ," accompanied by a newly-commissioned poem by Mark Strand, Columbia English professor and former Poet Laureate of the United States.

This "symphony of words," or alternation between music and poetry in a concert, takes on a monumental subject—Jesus' last words. Mark Steinberg, the first violinist of the Brentano String Quartet, commented, "Without breaks for contemplation and text in between the movements, it would be difficult to absorb, to concentrate on a big, complex piece for that long." Strand's poetry acts as a highlighting complement to the involved and historical piece of music.

Strand's poem is based on the Gospel of Thomas, a document comprised of the 114 sayings attributed to Jesus, and provides a way for the audience to follow the music and read between movements of

Haydn's piece.

After serving as Poet Laureate from 1990-91, Strand was approached in 2002 by the quartet to write poetry specifically to accompany this piece. Yet for Strand, this collaboration was an experimental undertaking. "A lot of my poems have been set to

music, but it has never been a collaboration," he said. "This is the first time I have written a poem for music."

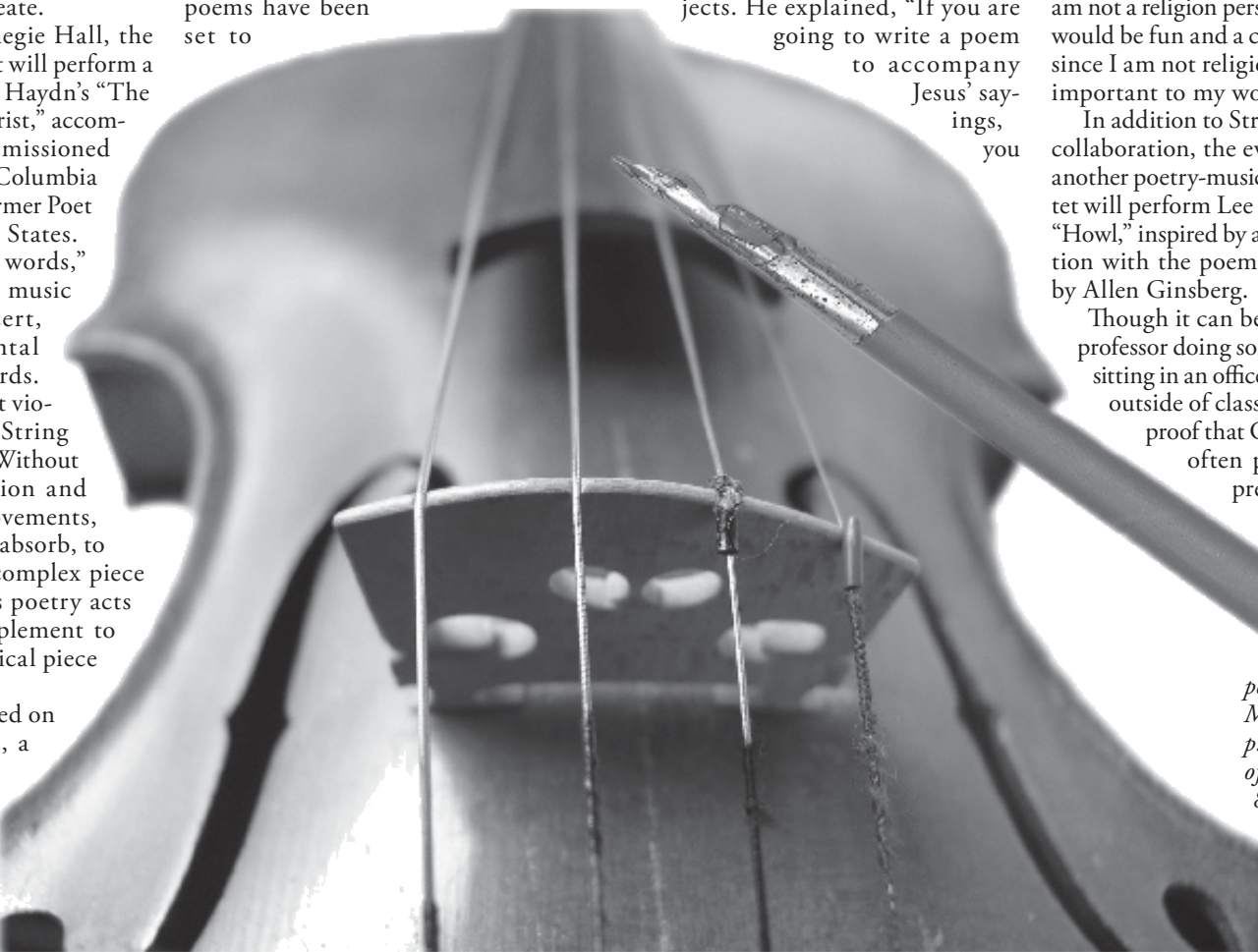
Strand's inexperience with this kind of collaboration made the venture an interesting challenge, forcing him to think beyond standard poetic subjects. He explained, "If you are going to write a poem to accompany Jesus' sayings, you

are not going to write a poem about daffodils and steamshells."

Though the religious aspect of Haydn's work initially posed an obstacle for Strand, he came to find his distance from the subject exciting. "I resisted taking on this piece initially, because I am not a religion person. But I thought it would be fun and a challenge, especially since I am not religious. Religion is not important to my work in the least."

In addition to Strand and Brentano's collaboration, the evening will include another poetry-music alliance. The quartet will perform Lee Hyla's composition "Howl," inspired by and read in conjunction with the poem of the same name by Allen Ginsberg.

Though it can be hard to imagine a professor doing something other than sitting in an office and grading papers outside of class, Strand's poetry is proof that Columbia professors often practice what they preach.



"The Seven Last Words of Christ" will be performed on Friday, March 6 at 7:30 p.m. in Zankel Hall of Carnegie Hall at 881 Seventh Ave. (at W. 56th Street) Tickets are \$50-\$56, available at the Carnegie Hall Box Office.

Photo Illustration by Felix Vo

FOOD

Cafe Offers Food for Thought During Midterm Crunch

BY STEPHANIE ZHANG
Columbia Daily Spectator

Pressure seems to be the prevailing mood on Columbia's campus on a weekday morning or afternoon. But there are plenty of places to relax that are removed from—yet still in proximity to—the sickeningly ambitious atmosphere of the Columbia campus. Students should check out Aroma Espresso Bar's new Upper West Side location.

True to its name, Aroma offers a pleasant atmosphere for a weekday study escape or tea with a friend, giving students a convenient SoHo vibe just steps from the 1 line at 72nd St.

While this is only Aroma's second location in New York, it is the largest and most popular coffee chain in Israel.

The two-tiered café offers plenty of study space—the upper-level boasts lounge areas perfect for chit-chatting with friends or group get-togethers for projects, and a deck is a promising alcove for sun-basking and reading during spring.

While the space is great, the décor leaves something to be desired. The jarringly white walls are interrupted by large blocks of bright red furniture. For students working on mind-numbing problem sets, the open and bright space may help battle sleepiness during a long work session, but it's not exactly calming. Plus, the cafe tends to be crowded, especially on the weekends.

As an espresso bar, coffee is what Aroma does best. It is one of the rare places in the city to get a genuine Turkish coffee. The drip coffee is rich, and their cappuccinos and lattes are probably the best items on the menu—served in a cute mug or to-go cup, and always complete with a signature square of chocolate. The café also maintains an inclusive selection of teas for the coffee-averse.

Pastries include standard cafe-fare like croissants, eclectic ethnic desserts like Burkea and cheese strudel, and vegan cupcakes made by a local bakery. There is also a full cafe menu with a selection of made-to-order soups, salads, and sandwiches.

While there is plenty of variety, the food quality is not quite up to par. Aroma offers plenty of options, but only the prices seem to stand out. Still, the espresso bar is sure to satisfy a plethora of cravings. One could easily spend an entire day at Aroma, grazing on their abundance of small items or simply drinking cup after cup of drip coffee.

If anything, the best reason to go to Aroma is not for the remarkably cheery staff—cheeriness seems to be a prerequisite for a job—but for the free, all-you-can-eat Wi-Fi.

Aroma Cafe is located at 161 W. 72nd St. (between Columbus Avenue and Amsterdam Avenue).

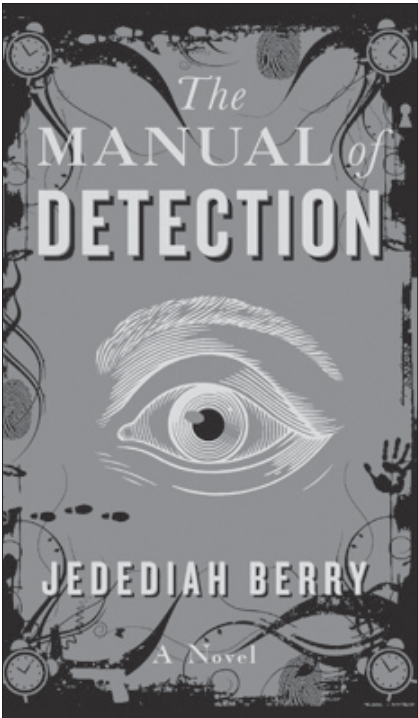


Malya Schulman / Staff Photographer

STUDY SNACKS | While the food may be subpar, Aroma Cafe gives students an appealing study space removed from campus, and offers free wireless Internet.

BOOKS

Familiar Detective Novel Gets an Unfamiliar Treatment



Courtesy of Penguin Press

TWISTING TURNS | *The Manual of Detection* offers a strange and fantastical world.

BY JOSEPH CROSS
Columbia Daily Spectator

The story of the "reluctant hero" is nothing new. We're all familiar with its basic components: an ordinary guy unwillingly goes on an adventure, saves the day, and thereby proves that he is not so ordinary after all.

Heroes like Harry Potter and Neo of *The Matrix* are so ubiquitous in popular culture that few authors are able to use one in a way that feels original. But Jedediah Berry did it with his recently published debut novel, *The Manual of Detection*.

The Manual of Detection tells the story of Charles Unwin, an office clerk at a massive detective agency in an unnamed, rainy city much like New York. Unwin spends his days filing meticulous reports for the legendary detective Travis Sivart, until one morning Sivart mysteriously disappears and Unwin is forced to take his place. At first reluctant to accept the

promotion, Unwin soon realizes that his years spent filing Sivart's reports have trained him perfectly for the job. Armed with only an umbrella and the agency's "Manual of Detection" handbook, Unwin sets out to find the missing Sivart.

So far, Unwin sounds like a typical, boring, reluctant hero." And he does predictably get mixed up in some huge mysteries, which he in turn solves heroically. But the familiar story is invigorated by its position in the fantastical world Berry creates. Detectives roam the streets like knights-errant, sinister carnival folk run webs of organized crime, and dream-detection (reading people's dreams) is standard fare. No one bats an eye in disbelief when a femme fatale struts into Detective Unwin's office and says, "My name is Vera Truesdale, and I'm the victim of a terrible mystery." Berry's world is just that cool.

The Manual of Detection is a pleasant surprise for those who

might think detective stories are only for diehard fans of the genre. It is equal parts noir, sci-fi, fantasy, and detective fiction. There are elements of *Minority Report*, Raymond Chandler, and Franz Kafka all in the same paragraph—Berry takes delight in mixing the styles and conventions of various genres, yielding a finished product that is his alone.

But even though *The Manual of Detection* has coolness in spades, it lacks the appropriate pacing for a mystery novel. The revealing, puzzle-solved moments that should explode off the page merely whimper. The tension is simply not tense enough, and it never brings the reader to the edge of their seat. I chalk these shortfalls up to first-novel jitters. Having only published short fiction before this, Berry isn't yet fully acclimated to the pacing of the novel form. Hopefully with his next effort, he will learn to milk the crucial moments for all they're worth.

ART

Russian Takes On Rappers at Art Exhibition



LORRAINE WHITE

GALLEREASE

Back home in Hawaii, rap culture is more of a remote abstraction than a cultural phenomenon. It conveys social distinction to wear the garb or listen

to the music (we do have MTV there, after all). But with relatively low rates of violent crime, and relatively high standards of living in most counties, lyrics about life in the inner city are more apt to conjure exaggerated images of films like *Notorious* or TV shows like *The Wire* than to speak to the true first-hand experiences of local listeners.

Russian-born painter Alex Melamid was equally alien to the culture that gave rise to American hip-hop, but a lifetime spent scrutinizing the personality cults responsible for sustaining Soviet leaders' incredible, unchecked feats of ego gave him sound grounding to tackle his latest subjects—the czars of the rap industry.

Melamid first gained notoriety working with artist Vitaly Komar to pioneer a subversive blend of Pop Art and Socialist Realism—a genre endorsed by Stalin to depict select "social concerns" and promote a Communist agenda—which was christened "Sots Art." Together, the duo freely satirized state propaganda, and was met in turn with open hostility from the Russian government and Soviet critics.

While Melamid no longer collaborates with his erstwhile partner, he has continued to paint, moving from the stylization characteristic of his Sots Art days toward a much more classical, old master aesthetic. It is with such Rembrandt-esque realism that the works of "Holy Hip-Hop!," the newest exhibition at Forum Gallery, have been rendered.

Clad in bling and full street regalia, the life-size figures of 12 eminent rap moguls pose in front of a flat, stark backgrounds. This has led some reviewers to draw comparisons to the high-contrast African-American portraits of Barkley L. Hendricks (though it should not be overlooked that the realism of Melamid's work contributes a compelling immediacy not present with Hendricks). Among Melamid's subjects—among them, Snoop Dogg, 50 Cent, Common, Kanye West, and Lil Jon—not one looks unconvinced of deserving his place among the wealthiest and most influential individuals of our time. Despite the relaxed air with which each presents himself, it is plain that these are serious, ambitious players. As novelist Francine Prose described the exhibition, "Melamid's subjects seem aware, on an almost cellular level, of their master-of-the-universe power and impeccable social standing."

Unlike the work of Kehinde Wiley, in which the deification of rap culture is explicit and unequivocal, there is a certain ambiguity about Melamid's project. It is unclear whether the artist means for us to appreciate these works as straightforward glory portraits of rap royalty or whether we are meant to detect an element of kitsch in them, seizing upon the clash of high and pop culture and ask if Melamid is mocking something about the way rappers self-mythologize. Melamid, who described his motivation by remarking "I thought it would be interesting," leaves such interpretation, either for good or ill, entirely up to us.

"Holy Hip-Hop!" runs until March 14. Forum Gallery is located at 745 Fifth Ave. (off of 58th Street) and is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Lorraine White is a Columbia College junior majoring in French and economics. Gallerease runs alternate Wednesdays. arts@columbiaspectator.com

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

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 AOL exchanges
4 Rerender harmless
10 Crude thermometer in the pool?
13 Biblical skipper
15 Kuwait's peninsula
16 Feminine side
17 "Veggie tray item"
19 GOP fundraising org.
20 First team to play in a domed stadium
21 "Colossus"
23 "Demi"
24 Shakespearean asserts
25 Actress Hayek
26 Backfield exchange
28 Serving dish
29 "Not erupt for a while"
32 Non-PC suffix
35 "Wait Ti' My Bobby Gets Home" singer ____ Love
36 Some Windows systems
37 "Ran into at the market, say"
39 Dole (out)
40 Kennedy designer
46 Early '70s courtroom drama
47 Mil. mail letters
49 Maker of the MX-80 printer
50 "Sierra Nevada attraction"
52 T.S. and others
53 Places for RNs
54 "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" playwright
56 Explicit
57 Why
58 Prix de ____ de Triomphe: annual horse race
59 One of two movie adventurers
60 Venus's sister
61 Stratford, Eng., playhouse dedicated to the bard

DOWN

1 One way to pay
2 Brandy Norwood sitcom
3 Southern California's ____ Sea
4 Fortnight's 14
5 Form letters?
6 Did nothing
7 ____ Irish Rose
8 Like Håagen-Dazs
9 See to it
10 From Innsbruck
11 Balm
12 Bewitches
14 Friend of Claudius I
18 Tiller opening
22 Old school attachment?
24 Blazing
27 Swing out of control
28 Skater Harding
30 Bit of pole support?
31 Pioneering name in car batteries
32 Prepare for new owners, as a house

33 Fish that swims upright
34 Under pressure
35 Idealists, sometimes
38 A followers
41 Ward of "House"
42 Bounty target
43 Weather map line
44 Memo makers

45 One can be found at the end of each "answer"
47 Fighting
48 Veggies in a pudding
51 Invertebrate's starting point
52 Poet ____ St.
55 1961 World Series co-MVP Coy

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

C	U	S		P	O	O	F		H	O	S	T
U	N	I		I	L	I	A		A	T	W	A
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I	R	R		C	A	B	I	C	E		G	A
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xwordeditor@aol.com 03/05/09



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Civan Maintains High Expectations

WRESTLING from page 8

in my knee,” Civan said. “I was scared to get in certain positions.”

This fear would only get worse as four matches into his freshman campaign, Civan tore the meniscus in his same knee. He had the meniscus repaired and was healthy entering his sophomore year. By early September he found himself in the trainer’s office again, troubled by the same knee. This time, having torn the same meniscus, he decided to just have it removed.

“In wrestling all your joints get wrenched a lot,” he said. “It’s part of the sport. I’m a flexible wrestler so I get into weird positions and when I was younger I could just have it bend the wrong way and be fine.”

Fortunately for Civan, because the injury occurred so early in the year, he would be able to wrestle for most of this season. Yet taking almost two full years off from competition was admittedly a large hurdle.

“It was a confidence issue. He didn’t believe he was in good enough physical condition,” head coach Brendan Buckley said.

“I had the third injury in September so I missed the first

part of the preseason and was a little out of shape,” Civan added. “I hadn’t competed in so long.”

It showed at first as he dropped several of his early matches — ones Civan believes he should have won.

“It’s obviously been a tough road to come back from all the injuries,” he said. “The season has been pretty good but it could have been better.”

While he feels he could have been better in non-league play, it is clear from speaking with Civan that he was focused on one loss in particular—his only one in Ivy play.

Civan’s first-ever Ivy match pitted him against Mack Lewnes of Cornell. Cornell has dominated the Ivy League for nearly two decades and is currently ranked second in the nation. Lewnes entered the match undefeated and ranked as the nation’s top wrestler at the 165-pound level.

None of this phased Civan. He claimed a lead 33 seconds into the match with a takedown and ended the first period tied at 3. He then fell behind 6-4 at the end of the second period but started the third with an escape to draw within one. He soon got the chance to end Lewnes’ un-

defeated season by taking a 7-6 lead with 36 seconds remaining. Yet, Lewnes would not be denied, using a reversal with 11 seconds left to earn the 8-7 decision. Little did Civan know, that loss cost him his second chance at perfection—a perfect Ivy season.

“In the duel against Cornell that was a big confidence booster,” Buckley said. “I think that really motivated him.”

Civan proceeded to breeze his way through the rest of the Ivy season, winning all four of his matches. He was named to the All-Ivy second team with Lewnes taking the spot on the first team.

“He’s one of those guys when we put him out on there we expect him to win,” Buckley said.

This weekend he gets his chance at revenge in the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association Championships, where he’ll be joined by three top-15 wrestlers in his weight class, including Lewnes. Three spots at the NCAA championships are up for grabs.

With his confidence restored and a healthy knee, Civan has another chance at perfection.

“This is a big weekend,” he said. “My expectation is to make it to nationals.”

Lions Can Cut Tigers’ Season Short

BASKETBALL from page 8

biggs (Tyler, Foote, and Jason Hartford), allowing one to rest. This year, they have not gotten enough from Kreefer to do that. This has produced poor performances offensively and defensively against fellow bigs, resulting in losses at Harvard and Princeton.

This could all be for naught if Cornell takes care of business or Princeton losses at Columbia—something that could occur given the Lions’ strong performance at home and that a number of Columbia’s key players have taken time off. If it falls Princeton’s way, it’ll essentially set up a one-game play-off at Cornell to see if there is another one-game play-off.

While this may sound confusing, here are the facts: since the Ivy League has no tournament, if two teams

finish tied in the standings, they play a one-game playoff to see who goes to the NCAA Tournament. The league picks a neutral location (as was the case last year when there was three-team play-in at Columbia for the women’s crown).

The possibility of this is quite exciting. A one-game play-in could garner some television rights for the League. Since it is such a rarity—this last happened in 2002 with Yale, Princeton, and Penn all tying—it could produce some excitement in a league that currently needs it. Up until last season, any journalist could have projected either Penn or Princeton winning the league.

Now, with Cornell supplanting the Killer P’s at the top, any sort of upset would be beneficial to the Ivy League. If this play-in game were to hap-

pen, and Princeton were to win (I know, I am clearly jumping ahead, considering that I think Columbia has a great chance of dashing the Tigers’ hopes), it would send two Ivy League teams to playoff basketball for only the third time since 2000. Cornell, with a current RPI rating of 100, is on the cusp of making the National Invitation Tournament if it were to lose the League.

On the flip side, Cornell losing the League would most likely put Princeton in the 65-game in the NCAA tournament. So what should you root for this weekend? Columbia squashing Princeton’s hopes, so that the Lions assure a .500 finish and Cornell plays a probable 3-seed in the NCAA tournament.

Max Puro is a Columbia College senior majoring in history. sports@columbiaspectator.com

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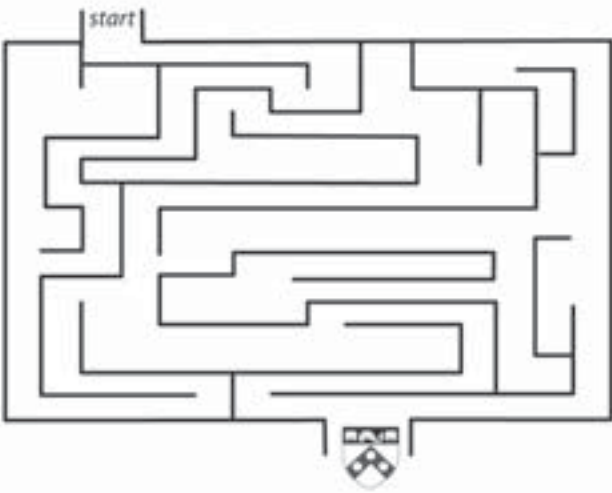
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TOMORROW



SPORTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2009 • PAGE 8



The Columbia baseball team will travel to Charlotte, North Carolina this weekend to face UNC Charlotte.

TOMORROW

Will There Be An Ivy Playoff This Weekend?



MAX
PURO

PURE
OVERTIME

For the past two years, I have written columns, discussed in depth with friends, and even published a faux letter to the Ivy League pleading with them about an Ivy League tournament for basketball. This weekend, my wish may be granted. Many, including myself, expected Cornell to run away with the League this year. Sure, all-Ivy League performer Adam Gore re-injured his knee. And sure, Louis Dale missed the first half of the season. But with the core still intact from last year's 14-0 squad, anything short of another perfect campaign would be a disappointment.

Cornell returned 76.8 percent of its scoring from a year ago. Furthermore, the talent among the Ivy League was expected to be down. The teams were younger. Graduation deprived Brown of two all-Ivy players (Damon Huffman and Mark McAndrew), Columbia of two-time all-Ivy Leaguer John Baumann, and Yale of Eric Flato.

With so many unknowns and a recruiting class that was supposedly near a top-50 mark at Harvard, nobody could tell who was going to follow the Big Red. Cornell was the unanimous choice in the pre-season poll, followed by Penn, Yale, Harvard, and Brown lumped together. Surprisingly, the bottom three (Columbia, Dartmouth and Princeton) are currently ahead of the pre-season top four (except for Yale).

So what gives? How come Cornell has lost three Ivy games this season?

Despite playing challenging road non-conference games, such as at Siena, Indiana, Syracuse, and Minnesota, the Big Red has struggled away from home (they currently have a 19-game home winning streak). In the Ivy League, they possess only a 4-3 road record.

Further, Cornell's scoring and field goal percentages have been down from last season. While Ryan Wittman and Geoff Reeves have improved statistically in nearly every area, they have taken the biggest hit up front.

Jeff Foote has developed into one of the best big men in the League. But aside from him, Cornell has gotten inconsistent play from Alex Tyler and Brian Kreefer. During their undefeated season, Cornell rotated three

SEE BASKETBALL, page 7

CU Softball To Rely On Young Roster

BY MICHELE CLEARY
Spectator Staff Writer

"Prepare, trust, play."

This is softball head coach Kayla Noonan's motto for the team this season. After finishing last in the South Division of the Ivy League last season with an overall record of 15-33 (3-17 Ivy), the Columbia softball team is looking to use this motto to improve its record.

The Lions begin this season with a very young and rather small roster. Having lost two seniors to graduation—Rachael Gargano and second team All-Ivy selection Ciji Rich—and five current juniors, nine of the 13 spots on the roster are filled by freshmen and sophomores. According to Noonan, preparation and trust are crucial for such a young team.

"We have a pretty young roster so I want each of them to feel confident that they are doing the work, putting in the reps in practice, so that they can then trust that and just go out and have fun and do what they do best," Noonan said.

Lack of collegiate experience is not the only obstacle faced by the Light Blue, as the relatively small size of its roster will also be a challenge throughout the season. Besides Princeton (which also has 13 players), the other Ivy teams have anywhere from 15 to 23 players.

"We've had small rosters in the past," Noonan said. "I think it just takes everyone staying on task and making sure that they're doing what they need to be doing, making sure they're asking each other for help. I think it actually can help you because it fosters that teamwork that you're always looking for in a team sport."

The new additions will have to play a crucial role this season. Columbia added sophomore utility player Valerie Berrin, freshmen Kayla Lechler, a catcher, and Jessica Rakonza, a pitcher.

According to Noonan, Lechler's most important contribution will be her bat. As of right now, she will probably bat somewhere in the middle of the lineup. On the other hand, Rakonza will add variation to the pitching staff.

"She [Rakonza] has had some really fantastic workouts in the last couple of days throwing live against our team," Noonan said. "She brings a little bit different looks. She has a couple of different pitches than some other pitchers on our staff so she's a good arm to add."

The few returning starters will also greatly influence the performance of the team. Along with Rich, junior Dani Pineda was the only other Lion named to an All-Ivy team. The first baseman and outfielder batted .313 last season, while leading the team with eight stolen bases.

Another key returning player is senior shortstop Keli Leong, who batted a team-best .342 last season. She is the only player in program history to record more than 50 hits in a season three seasons in a row.

The Light Blue also return sophomore pitcher Maggie Johnson. Johnson recorded the lowest ERA on the team last year, 4.24, and struck out 81 batters in 142 innings.

Even though the Lions have over three weeks and 20 non-conference games before league play begins, they are already focusing on Ivy season. For Noonan this means staying focused on the task at hand, something her squad struggled with last season.

"We're really looking to stay in the moment instead of looking ahead," Noonan said. "To be there pitch by pitch, to make the play that is important to us right then and there."



Daniel Yeow / Staff Photographer

PLAY BALL | After a disappointing campaign, the Columbia softball team will have to rely on freshman and sophomore in a highly competitive Ivy League.

Because of this stress on remaining in the present, Noonan is less concerned with the opponent than how her team plays.

"I think every single time we are out on the field playing we want to get better, we want to get better, we want to get better," Noonan said. "Rarely are we playing the other team, we're always sort of playing ourselves."

However, Noonan indicated that reigning champion Princeton, which is also in the South Division, will provide a difficult challenge for the Lions, as will Harvard, which finished first in the North Division.

The Lions begin their season this weekend with five games in Florida.

Eren Civan Sets Sights On Nationals

BY LUCAS SHAW
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Perfection.

The impossible goal dreamt of by every athlete. Just like a World Series trophy or an Olympic gold medal, a perfect record is something that no one can take away. It is the ultimate confidence booster.

For Eren Civan, it is both a painful reminder and a constant source of encouragement. Twice, the sophomore wrestler has had it within his grasp and twice he has fallen just short.

Civan's first glimpse at perfection came in high school. He exploded onto the scene at Maryland's Walt Whitman High School, going undefeated and winning a state championship at the 130-pound weight class as a freshman. Having started the sport as a second grader, he already had a lot of experience.

"Back then it was fun," Civan said. "I was a physical kid. I liked the combat aspect. It was why my dad suggested I start."

Sophomore year Civan moved up to the 140-pound division, and again he went undefeated en route to a state title. Despite another move up his junior year, this time to 152 pounds, the results stayed the same.

Going undefeated tends to merit accolades and Civan hauled them in. He was named to the *Washington Post* all-Met Team in 2005, his sophomore year, and his junior season he not only made all-Met but was also named the All-Met Wrestler of the Year.

Given his dominance in Maryland, Civan tested his chances at national tournaments and again he found stiff opposition hard to find. He was the 2005 Cadet National champion in Freestyle and Greco-Roman, the two styles featured in the Olympics. The next year, he was the FILA Cadet National champion in Freestyle and OW.

"Besides the pressure with success, which you'll face at any time in your career, it helps because wrestling is such a mental sport that confidence plays a huge part," Civan said.

His senior campaign, Civan got an opportunity to get revenge for a prior defeat, dating all the way back to middle school. Having compiled a 135-0 high school record, he was well on his way to another fourth state championship when he met Caravel Academy's Luke Rebertus in the finals of Mount Mat Madness on January 13, 2007.

Against Rebertus, Civan began to feel pain in his knee during the first period. The referee stopped play, but Civan continued after an injury timeout. Up 1-0 in the second period, his knee buckled as he tried to put weight on it and the match was called. He still had not been pinned or lost by decision but his record stood at 135-1 and his high school career was over. He had torn his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) and medial collateral ligament (MCL) in his knee.

"I definitely took a hit in terms of confidence

SEE WRESTLING, page 7

EREN CIVAN
Columbia College '11
WEIGHT: 165
RECORD:
2007-2008:
2-2 Overall, 0-0 Ivy
2008-2009:
15-9 Overall, 4-1 Ivy
ACHIEVEMENT:
3 time Maryland State Champ (2004, 2005, 2006)
Amateur Wrestling News Scholastic All-American

Lacrosse Off to Best Start Since 2006

BY JON TAYLER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Columbia lacrosse continued to roll through its nonconference schedule, defeating Wagner 12-7 in an afternoon game in Staten Island. The win pushes the Lions to 3-0 on the season, the team's best start since the 2006 season.

Things started off with a bang. Only 52 seconds into the game, the Light Blue jumped out to a 1-0 lead on an unassisted goal by Holly Glynn. The Seahawks rattled off two straight goals in a two-minute span to snatch back the lead, but Columbia tied things up just two-and-a-half minutes later on with a goal by Gabrielle Geronimos. Wagner retook the lead on an unassisted goal three minutes later, and things quieted down after that. But with six minutes left in the half, Lauren Olsen made the most of a free position shot to tie the game once more, and just before the break, Rachael Ryan added a goal to give Columbia the 4-3 lead.

The Lions' offense quickly found its footing in the second half, blitzing the Seahawks with 16 shots and eight goals. Brittany Shannon led the Columbia charge,

scoring all three of her goals after the break, including two in a five-minute span to give the Light Blue a 7-4 lead. A goal by Wagner's Lauren Petrik pulled the Seahawks within two, but that was as close as they would get, with Geronimos scoring twice in under a minute to push the lead to 9-5. Goals by Shannon, Ryan, and Olsen capped the scoring and gave the Lions their third straight game in which they've scored 10 goals or more.

Shannon was the team's leading scorer again and now leads Columbia with 13 goals. Glynn, who tallied two scores, is second with 11. Geronimos chipped in her first goals of the season with three, while Ryan and Olsen rounded out the scoring with two goals a piece.

Defensively, it was another strong effort for the Lions, who held an opponent to 10 goals-or-fewer for the third time this season. Goalkeeper Emma Mintz registered 10 saves on the day, a season high, while boosting her save percentage to .457. In total, Columbia has allowed just 25 goals to its opponents while racking up 41.

The Lions will take a short break before returning to action on Saturday to face Marist on the road. This weekend's contest will be the team's second-to-last nonconference tilt before beginning Ivy League play on March 14.

ORIENTAL MUSIC ENSEMBLE

of the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music – Palestine

MONDAY MARCH 9, 8:30PM

The Oriental Music Ensemble of the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music-Palestine comes to Miller on a United States tour. The ensemble, founded and formed by four talented faculty members of the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music-Palestine, performs classical and contemporary Arab music for oud, nay, clarinet, qanun, and percussion.

ORIENTAL MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Suhail Khoury, nay (flute)

and clarinet

Ahmad Al-Khatib, oud

Ibrahim Attari, qanun

Yousef Hheisch, percussion



ANERA (American Near East Refugee Aid) presents The Oriental Music Ensemble (OME) of the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music (ESNCM) to benefit the construction of a school of music for the ESNCM Bethlehem Branch and the re-establishment of a music school destroyed in Gaza on December 27, 2008. Support provided by The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Additional support from the Ford Foundation is also provided through Yabous Productions and from Alvan for the Arts.



Arabic Music by Vladimir Tamari

TICKETS: \$25

CU STUDENTS W/ VALID ID: \$7

CU faculty/staff and Non-Columbia students w/ valid ID: \$15

(Discounted tickets limit 2 per ID)

Co-presented by ANERA and Miller Theatre at Columbia University

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