

INSIDE

News, page A2

What Do CU Employees Think About Expansion?

Find out how some of Columbia's workers, who are also Harlem residents, feel about the University's relationship with its surrounding neighborhoods.

Opinion, page A4

Hyperactivism

Columnists Sarah Leonard and Kate Redburn examine whether acts of extremism, like the student occupation of an NYU building, actually benefit the causes of activists.



Sports, page A10

M. Basketball Returns Home to End Season

Coming in with a three-game slide, Columbia men's basketball will look to end its season with a sweep of traditional powers Penn and Princeton at the Levien Gym.



Sports, page A10

Women Seek Strong Finish to Season

The women's basketball team enters its final weekend and will travel to Penn and Princeton this weekend looking to improve on its 7-7 record from last season.



Weekend, B2

Contemporary Art Fair Returns to NYC

The 11th Annual Armory Show is featuring a selection of modern art in addition to its renowned contemporary galleries drawn from around the world.



Weekend, page B2

Make This Weekend a Doughnut Hole in One

Coffee's best friend can be yours, too—Lauren Herold scopes out the most sensational and the most understated doughnut shops in Manhattan.

ONLINE

ColumbiaSpectator.com

Week in Review: SpecFeed and Spec Cast

Check out our Web site for new weekly multimedia features, including a video recap of the week.



Sarah Gallagher / Staff Photographer

RALLY FOR DIVESTMENT | Thursday afternoon, a group of students from pro-Palestine clubs gathered on the steps of Low Library to present a set of demands to University administration. LionPAC held a silent counter-protest.

Apollo to Honor Past Performers

BY JESSICA HILLS
Spectator Staff Writer

Harlem residents who can remember the days when artists from James Brown to the Jackson 5 performed at the Apollo Theater might be able to take a literal walk down memory lane.

The Apollo Theater Foundation, Inc.—located on 125th Street between Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard and Frederick Douglass Boulevard—submitted a proposal to Community Board 10 in January to create a Walk of Fame on 125th Street as part of the theater's 75th anniversary this year. The walk would include

names of famous performers who graced the Apollo stage for people to reminisce over as they walk, according to Curtis Still, chair of the transportation committee for CB10.

"They wanted to honor an image of the Apollo and its historical significance regarding music and entertainment," Still said. The Walk of Fame would enhance the iconic legacy of the Apollo and echo the monuments that commemorate celebrities in Hollywood.

In addition, Still said that creating a Walk of Fame would provoke dialogue about who the Apollo performers were and what they did.

"It creates a conversation piece, and it's also a tribute to these people who entertained at the Apollo going back many years," Still said.

Andrew Dolkart, James Marston Fitch Associate Professor of Historic Preservation at Columbia, said that the Apollo's Walk of Fame would be "an extension of their historic role because their significance is in African-American entertainment."

But speaking about the project's impact on the surrounding neighborhood, Dolkart said that the Walk of Fame would be a

SEE APOLLO, page A3



Lila Neiswanger / Staff Photographer

VACANT STOREFRONTS | This is becoming an increasingly common scene in parts of Harlem, where the leases have gotten too expensive for local businesses.

Store Closings Plague South Harlem

BY SAM LEVIN
Spectator Staff Writer

On Frederick Douglas Boulevard from 111th to 125th Streets, the high density of retail vacancy reminds passers-by that the gentrification of South Harlem has not made the neighborhood immune to the pains of recession.

While closed-down storefronts are becoming increasingly common throughout the city as landlords demand rent that tenants cannot pay, South Harlem is an especially grim site.

"So many stores are closing down, customers aren't going to come here. With so few stores around here, there is no point," Saif Almari, manager of The Wise 99-Cent Plus Discount Store on 114th Street, said. Almari's shop is surrounded by more than ten vacant storefronts within a five-block radius.

"It is hard to run a business when you are paying \$4,000 for rent, \$7,000 for labor and \$1400 for electricity. Nothing here is 99 cents anymore," he added, as a customer who refused to pay \$1.25 for a Dutch Master left the store.

In some cases, landlords who can stomach the vacancy are unwilling to lower rent prices.

"It [vacancy] is not a financial burden. I own the whole building and have tenants paying rent. I could rent it out tomorrow if we wanted to be flexible and lower the price. But there is no need," Harut Saganda, owner of an empty retail space on 120th Street, said.

"In this business, you can't rent out to stores that don't have financial background," Saganda added. "We are not going to offer a lease

SEE BROADWAY, page A3

Pro-Gaza Groups Urge CU to Divest
Low Plaza Protesters Demand Financial Transparency

BY DANNY ASH
Spectator Staff Writer

As the sound of the group's megaphone reverberated across Low Plaza Thursday afternoon, the Columbia Palestine Forum presented its demands to the administration.

But many of the protesters doubted their actions would have an immediate effect on University policy, acknowledging the long road ahead.

The event, called by its organizers a Speakout for Transparency and Divestment, was the first public demonstration by the recently formed Columbia Palestine Forum, and included participants from

a wide array of student activist groups. Addressing a fluctuating audience of close to 30 people, about 15 protesters held signs in front of Alma Mater as spokespeople explained their demands for University divestment from companies that profit from the Gaza conflict, and, as stated on the group's Web site, a "public biannual disclosure of the University operating budget and endowment."

Meanwhile, a smaller group of students affiliated with LionPAC, a pro-Israel campus group, stood silently on the margins, handing out pamphlets and unfurling several large Israeli flags.

SEE SPEAKOUT, page A2

WORLD LEADERS FORUM



Linda Carrión / Senior Staff Photographer

SUZANNE MALVEAUX | Malveaux, Journalism '91 and CNN White House Correspondent, spoke on a panel moderated by President Lee Bollinger.

Local Charters Draw Praise, Criticism

BY JESSICA HILLS
Spectator Staff Writer

Monday morning, most students in New York City woke up excited to have a snow day. But one boy, who attends Harlem Success Academy Charter School on West 118th Street, was disappointed. "My son can't wait to go to school," said Kyesha Bennett of Harlem Parents United—a group that seeks to protect and increase school choice.

Last year, New York State approved the addition of 100 charter schools statewide, a significant number of which are popping up in Harlem, increasing the alternatives for Harlem parents and students. This proliferation of schools may be a ray of hope for locals frustrated by their educational options in the area, where schools are historically known for producing poor standardized test scores and low graduation rates.

Charters are "changing Harlem," Bennett said. As a founder of HPU, Bennet has been working to dispel misconceptions about charter schools with a group of Harlem parents who are similarly frustrated by the lack of school choice in their neighborhood. "We bring information out and expand choice for parents, and fight people who want to go back to how it was," Bennet said. "People want to keep the status quo, which is that these kids go to schools that don't educate our children."

The Right to Educational Choice

"It's a civil right to be educated at the highest level," Bennett said. "Expanding choice means allowing more charters if people want and putting children first."

HPU's insistence on locals' right to school choice seems to resonate with parents and politicians in the area. At the Harlem School Fair held last Saturday at City College, as many as 4,000 parents came

to explore area education options. The fair, which included 55 public, private, and charter schools, was proof "that people want an option," Natasha Shannon, another founder of HPU, said.

Local politicians also voiced support for parents' right to choose the course of their child's education. "If you're a parent, if you have children, you want the best for your children," Councilman Robert Jackson (D-Harlem) and chair of the Education Committee said. "Every school is not right for every child." Jackson later added that "public schools are not providing the outcomes that parents feel charter schools can provide."

New charter schools have greatly increased options. "We have way more choices than we've ever had before," Shannon said.

"There are so many schools here," Thea Woody agreed. Woody was looking for a school for her daughter Diamond, who is going into the third grade. "I didn't know there were so many schools in Harlem."

Choosing Charter

Woody said she was leaning towards charter schools because of their benefits over standard public schools—more challenging work, smaller class sizes, and more extracurricular programs.

Charter schools, which are public, are attractive in part because they provide education for the same cost as traditional public schools: for free. Any student who wishes to apply to charter schools is entered into a random lottery system that will accept a fraction of all applicants.

Unlike private schools, charters—such as Future Leaders Institute Charter School on West 122nd Street—traditionally serve economically poor communities where children have few school choices, according to Peter Anderson, head of school at FLI. FLI opened in 1999 and received official charter-school status in 2005.

"The idea behind charter schools ... is to give those families and communities that tend to have the fewest resources more choice," he said. "For so long in Harlem, families have been marginalized by conventional education and haven't had the opportunity to provide as robust choices for their children." Residents of more affluent neighborhoods, Anderson pointed out, have more resources to pour into their schools and are able to supplement what the school offers with private tutoring, for example.

Especially during difficult economic times, parents are realizing that without a sufficient education, their child's chances for long-term success are limited, Anderson added.

Consumer Education

Katie Duffy, director of external affairs for Democracy Prep Charter School on West 133rd Street—founded in 2005—said that the range of charter schools now enables parents to ask questions, such as whether their child would rather join the debate team or learn piano. These are questions that, for a long time, they hadn't been able to ask.

"Parents are becoming savvy consumers and they want to know what their kids are getting," Duffy said. "We tell our kids that if they work hard, they'll go to college and change the world, and as a school we have to be accountable to that ... parents are saying show me the results and that it matters and makes sense."

Describing the student body at Democracy Prep as "a melting pot," Duffy said that there's no typical student at her school, but rather a group of racially and socioeconomically diverse children who also differ in terms of ability and parental support.

A testament to the growing demand for charter schools,

SEE HARLEM, page A2

WEATHER

Today
48 / 40



Tomorrow
57 / 45



INDEX

News A2, A3
Weekend B1, B2, B3, B4

Opinion A4
Sports A3, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10

Classifieds A5
Contact Info A5

EVENTS — MARCH 6

First Friday MADONNA
Celebrate Women's History Month with Columbia Queer Alliance and the Panhellenic Council. Enjoy complementary drinks, and a comedic performance from Mel & El. Tickets cost \$5, free for the first 50 people.

Lerner Party Space, 10 p.m.

Non-Profit, Service Career Fair
Still struggling to secure that Wall Street internship? Consider service careers. Connect with over 80 employers from the U.S. Department of State, HealthCorps and more at the Center for Career Education job fair.

Roone Arledge Auditorium, 11 a.m.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Why isn't he calling me?” they ask. I always say, it's like Duncan Hines cakes—they'll always come back for more.”

—Cynthia Stokes, Barnard Desk Attendant

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Sarah Gallagher / Staff Photographer

DEMANDING TRANSPARENCY | Students who rallied below Alma Mater Thursday afternoon presented the Columbia administration with a list of demands regarding the University's response to the Gaza conflict. They demanded divestment from profiteers and increased financial transparency.

Students Protest CU Dollars in Gaza Conflict

SPEAKOUT from front page

First up on the megaphone was Rahel Aima, CC '10, who spoke on behalf of the Columbia Palestine Forum and drew broad parallels between current activist efforts and the protests that roiled Columbia in the late 1960s.

“The U.S. imperialist war in Vietnam is now the U.S.-funded and supplied Israeli imperialist war in Palestine. Columbia University's racist expansion into Morningside Park is now Columbia University's racist expansion into West Harlem,” Aima said, comparing Columbia's imminent expansion into Manhattanville to the University's ill-fated plan to build a gym in Morningside park in the 1960s. Citing a list of alleged Israeli atrocities, Aima accused University President Lee Bollinger of succumbing to “right-wing and Zionist pressures” by failing to condemn Israel's recent actions in Gaza, and said that the University is not practicing the progressive ideals it purports to hold.

Aima's speech was followed by others from members of the Student Coalition on Expansion and Gentrification, the International Socialist Organization, and

Students for International Indigenous Rights, who lent their groups' support to the efforts of the Columbia Palestine Forum. Also speaking was Tarek Ismail, a first-year Columbia law student who gave his own perspective on the issue of transparency.

“Everyone has a vested interest in what we're requesting today,” he said. “If you don't want to make this about Palestine, then don't make it about Palestine for you, but we have a right to know where our money is going.”

As the demonstrators spoke, members of LionPAC circulated around the crowd, offering anti-divestment leaflets to passers-by. “Obviously any student has the right to express themselves and express their opinion,” Ilana Arje, BC '10 said. But she said that the Columbia Palestine Forum's comparison of Israel's government to the South African apartheid regime was “factually inaccurate, inappropriate, and, as President Bollinger said, ‘grotesque,’” referencing Bollinger's comments that have earned him the moniker PrezGro among some activist circles.

Sara Ashman, BC '10 and political affairs director of LionPAC, echoed

these concerns. “We don't have an official position other than to say that we think divestment from Israel is wrong and we think that comparing Israel to an apartheid state is factually incorrect,” she said.

After their speeches, the demonstrators read a list of their demands, and proceeded up the steps of Low Library to deliver a written copy to Vice President for Arts and Sciences Nicholas Dirks. Demonstrators said that Dirks had been sent by the administration to accept the list on its behalf.

The mood among the demonstrators was positive, but they were less than optimistic when asked about the prospects of immediate success. “No, absolutely not,” said Nancy Elshami, BC '10, when asked whether she thought Bollinger would accept the group's demands. “I think that President Bollinger has a very clear history of siding with the dominant tide.” Nonetheless, Elshami, who had just joined the group, saw Thursday's event as a good first step. “You just have to have some kind of mass mobilization. You have to gather a larger backing behind your cause.”

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Employees Discuss CU's Role In Their Resident Harlem

BY ZEYNEP MEMECAN

Spectator Staff Writer

Many of the staff who check our identification at residence halls, prepare our burgers at JJ's Place, or clean up after our all-nighters at Butler live right up the street, in Harlem.

Cynthia Stokes is a weekend desk attendant at 616, a Barnard dorm. Barnard's location is convenient for Stokes not only because of the short commute from her home in Harlem, but also because of its proximity to the 104th Street building in which she grew up and in which her parents still live. She appreciates how this proximity allows her to see them often, as her 70-year-old father sometimes drops by her post to bring her a homemade lunch.

Stokes spends her time reading the Bible and listening to her favorite oldies on CDs as she greets students coming into 616. During the 21 years that she has worked at Barnard, she has had the chance to connect with many students—often offering motherly advice and comfort to those who seek it.

“Sometimes they come to me with boyfriend problems. ‘Why isn't he calling me?’ they ask. I always say, it's like Duncan Hines cakes—they'll always come back for more.”

Ady Matos also works as a Barnard desk attendant on the weekends. During her shift—when she's not buzzing students in through the door—she's doing research for a novel on 19th-century England that she hopes to have published one day.

Matos, who lives on 129th Street, said she was concerned about restaurants that have been closing down recently in her neighborhood. “Where I live, there used to be five restaurants that had been there for 30 to 40 years. Now they can't afford the rent, so they're closing.”

Other employees living in Harlem raised similar concerns. Yvette Pollard, who has worked for 21 years as a Barnard Dining Services staff member, said the Columbia condos currently in construction have been causing a lot of low-income families to struggle to keep up with rents that have “skyrocketed.”

Rosa Gomez—who hails from the Dominican Republic—has worked at John Jay Dining Hall for 23 years. Over the 30 years she's spent living in Harlem, she said one of her biggest adjustments to

neighborhood change was in 1988, when the Church of Notre Dame on 114th Street became associated with Columbia. Because services were no longer available in Spanish and were mostly attended by students, Gomez began going to a different church farther from her home. Yet she said, “Notre Dame is still my favorite place in the neighborhood.”

Facilities staff member Cesar Lee has been commuting to Columbia from his home on 125th Street for almost 30 years. Lee said that what he values most about living in Harlem is the rich history the area embodies. His favorite spot is the Cotton Club, established in the 1920s. Located in the heart of Harlem, this night club has featured African-American entertainers ranging from Nat King Cole to Louis Armstrong. “That was the place back in the day,” Lee said. “Cotton Club is a landmark. It's been there forever.”

Many others love Harlem for the more material things it offers. Lakiya Byers, CC '12, who works as a desk attendant in Carman, said she enjoys the neighborhood's wide variety of shops and boutiques.

“Just walk down 125th Street. You'll find any brand sneakers you want,” she said.

Yet as Columbia moves forward with its plans for campus expansion into Harlem, some staff members cast a critical eye on the project.

Byers said she was upset about gentrification in the area. “It's the people of Harlem that make it Harlem” she said. “If they were to move, it wouldn't be the same.”

Other employees like Fabiola Lafontant, a receptionist at Barnard Health Services, see the expansion as a positive development in the area. She said residents could benefit from new job opportunities and that local young people would be encouraged to pursue their education.

Charles White—a JJ's Place employee whose cheery smile has gained him much popularity among students—has a different take on the issue. According to White, Columbia could be doing more to enhance the area by building parks and opening up gyms and learning centers for young Harlem residents.

“If Columbia can help kids around here play some basketball, do something constructive, the community won't oppose its expansion—we'll embrace it” he said.

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Charters Gives Harlem Parents an Alternative to Traditional Public Schools

HARLEM from front page

Democracy Prep saw 800 applications for 100 seats last year and is expecting 1000 this year, Duffy said.

Still, defining success is not easy for charter schools.

One way that Democracy Prep—which teaches sixth through eighth grades—measures success is based on their graduates' college choices. The school hopes its students will go on to lead a life of active citizenship, Seth Andrew, founder and head of school, said. “Everything we do, from our schedule to our curriculum, to our extracurriculars, to our terminology, is a mechanism to make sure kids get to that end goal. Building that expectation is a part of that and they start that from the day they elect in.”

For example, sixth graders are referred to as the College Class of 2019 to emphasize the importance of not just getting to college, but of finishing.

Having What It Takes

According to an agreement with the state, charter schools are held to certain quantitative standards that, when met, qualify them to receive continued funding. As part of these five-year performance contracts with the state, specific goals are established in relation to test scores, attendance rates, high-school placement, and high-school graduation rates.

These schools seem to be meeting and exceeding these standards. In 2007, ac-

cording to FLI's Web site, 100 percent of FLI students in grades three through five outperformed all 18 of the closest traditional public and charter schools in combined reading and math test scores.

Democracy Prep ranked in the top one percent of schools in NYC in its first year, outperformed Westchester County in 2007 state math tests, and has won awards in debate, math, basketball, and dance tournaments, its Web site states.

Despite these schools' success rates, the trend of creating more charter schools raises contentious issues among parents. Khadyjah Wilson, parent coordinator for P.S. 180 Hugo Newman on West 120th Street and former charter-school parent, said charter schools' lack of experience and funding must be taken into consideration when parents are choosing schools.

While parents at a regular public school know the school's track record, new charters may be testing curricula for the first time. “New charter schools are going through growing pains,” Wilson said. She added that charters are known for their teacher turnover rate, which is higher than that of traditional public schools. In her view, charter schools still face the same issues as regular public schools.

Competitive Education

Despite the appeal of choice, some parents are wary of charter schools, say-



Lila Neiswanger / Staff Photographer

ANOTHER OPTION | The Harlem School Fair attracted nearly 4,000 parents last Saturday. Charter schools are becoming increasingly popular alternatives to traditional public schools as they consistently yield superior test scores and higher graduation rates.

ing that they divert funds away from traditional public schools.

Another complaint deals with space shared between traditional public and charter schools. At a recent CB10 meeting, local mother Liz Brock said, “I don't support charter schools unless they have their own buildings ... You got \$30,000—take that and build your own schools.”

Yet the need for extra space is just a side effect of the growing demand for charters from parents.

“I think it [the growing number of charters] just proves that what we're doing thus far is working, and the more we continue to do it, and the more success the movement has, the greater the confidence our parents have in us,” Joe Negron, principal of KIPP

Infinity Charter School on West 133rd Street, said.

“I predict that in five years you'll have kids, parents, and families begging to come to Harlem schools,” Andrew said.

Lydia Wileden contributed reporting to this article.

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Lenny Pridatko for *Spectator*

SEEING STARS | In order to recognize and commemorate the many great performers who have graced its stage, the Apollo Theater’s foundation is planning to transform its sidewalk into a Walk of Fame.”

Apollo Theater Plans Harlem Walk of Fame

APOLLO from front page

“tourist thing” that would not have a significant impact on community preservation.

“It’s great to recognize important people,” he said of the Apollo. “That’s what its history is all about.”

The walk would help preserve the legacies of performers who were key in Apollo’s development as a cultural landmark—artists including Ella Fitzgerald and Billie

Holiday, who launched their careers as contestants in the theater’s famous amateur night.

Currently, the idea for the walk is still in the proposal stage. Jonelle Procope, president and chief executive officer of the Apollo Theater Foundation, Inc. presented the plan to CB10, whose votes will only serve an advisory purpose. The foundation will still have to take its proposal to the city planning committee of CB10

in order to do work on the sidewalks. Then work can begin, Still said, though it is unclear how long such work will take.

Still emphasized how valuable the Walk of Fame will be for Harlem. “It would help the community establish its image as a historic area,” he said.

Apollo Theater Foundation, Inc., did not respond to repeated press inquiries over the past two weeks.

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Economic Downturn Undoes South Harlem’s Commerce

BROADWAY from front page

to a startup business. They need to prove that they will be able to survive.”

Yet the area’s business outlook is not completely without hope. Oren Elrich, the exclusive broker from Winick Realty for 2195 8th Ave., said that he is “currently negotiating the lease. An upscale supermarket is moving in.” Elrich said it should open within six months.

On the west side of this street, between 118th and 119th Streets, a bank and a Starbucks are the only operating businesses. One block north, the entire street is vacant.

“It is not an easy market, but it wasn’t that hard with this space. With 24,000 square feet, it just takes time,” Elrich said. The space was put on the market only eight months ago in a building constructed in 2007.

“It is going to bring people from all over,” Elrich said. “Visually, it is going to look nicer.”

Some noted that South Harlem is up-and-coming, despite its current decline in retail development. “My grandma has lived here 22 years, and the neighborhood has gotten much better for her,” resident Christina Estrada said. “Anyway, I do most of my shopping downtown or on 125th.”

Yet others described Harlem’s ongoing transition as now falling into decline. As she visited her mother who

lives in South Harlem, Shana Frost said, “First there was not much here, but then we saw an influx of all these great places. We come back now, and it has come full circle, with shops closed down everywhere.”

Bryan Williams, manager of Prudential Real Estate on 117th Street and 8th Avenue, said, “Nothing was solidified in this neighborhood before the downturn. Now, the neighborhood is just set back a year or two.”

Some were even less optimistic. Charles Pierre, an employee at MetroPCS—which opened less than a month ago—said, “People come here and they have to weigh the profit with the rent in this neighborhood. It is just not a place to open a business.”

Erich predicted that a turnaround will come in around a year and a half, saying, “Once the market is up, it will change a lot.” Many locals feel that the increasing diversity of Harlem residents, culturally and financially, will also eventually recharge the retail scene.

Saganda explained, “A lot of people are downgrading, moving from other neighborhoods to here where it is cheaper. There will be a lot more residents.”

And, as Rasheed Cissé, a server at Boulangerie Patisserie Café, pointed out, “People must come in first, then business.”

news@columbiaspectator.com

Lions to Open Season With Five-Game Series in Florida

BY SARA SALZBANK
Spectator Staff Writer

The Columbia softball team will finally escape the New York cold for some outdoor action, flying to Boca Raton, Fla. this weekend to face five major competitors in its season opener. Central Michigan, Florida Atlantic, Harvard, Towson, and Stony Brook will all challenge Columbia on the field.

“I think you get to a certain point inside that it’s just sort of frustrating to the team because they’re just like a caged animal—they’re waiting for someone to open up the cage,” head coach Kayla Noonan said. “They just want to get outside, they want to play, and then really we can look at what we need to work on.”

Central Michigan will be the first team Columbia faces in the series. Noonan acknowledges that Central Michigan—a competitive team in the Mid-American Conference—will be one of the tougher teams her players will face this year.

The Chippewas—who went 0-5 at the Troy Cox Classic at New Mexico State—recently fell, 7-6, to Eastern Illinois, who left the

competition with a 5-0 record. CMU had a successful first three innings against EIU, establishing a four-run lead with the help of a solo homer by junior Christina Novak. The effort was not enough, though. The Chippewas allowed seven unearned runs in the fourth inning, allowing the Panthers to grab the lead. In the loss, CMU posted five hits and five errors.

Following CMU will be Florida Atlantic. During its last competition, Florida Atlantic advanced to 11-9 on the season with a win over University of Nevada, Las Vegas. In the close 5-4 game, junior Ambar Jones picked up two RBI with a single in the second inning to give the Owls the early lead. The Owls added three more runs in the third with a double by junior Amber Barton and a Rebels error.

After Columbia faces FAU, it will take on Ivy foe Harvard (2-2).

“Harvard got a great freshmen class,” Noonan said. “They also have some really important returners.”

Freshman pitcher Rachel Brown and junior Jessica Pledger provide two examples of the

strength of the Crimson’s young and veteran players alike. Brown struck out 11 batters in her debut against Kansas before totaling another 10 the following day against North Texas. Pledger—who drove in the first and winning run against the Mean Green—and Brown were named to the all-tournament team at the Quality Inn and Suites Invitational.

After facing off against Harvard, Columbia will return to nonconference play against Towson (5-2). The Tigers, who recently fell to East Carolina, are led by juniors Kim Lempa and Mindy Bean. Lempa is hitting .556, while Bean has a team-best seven doubles, hitting .462.

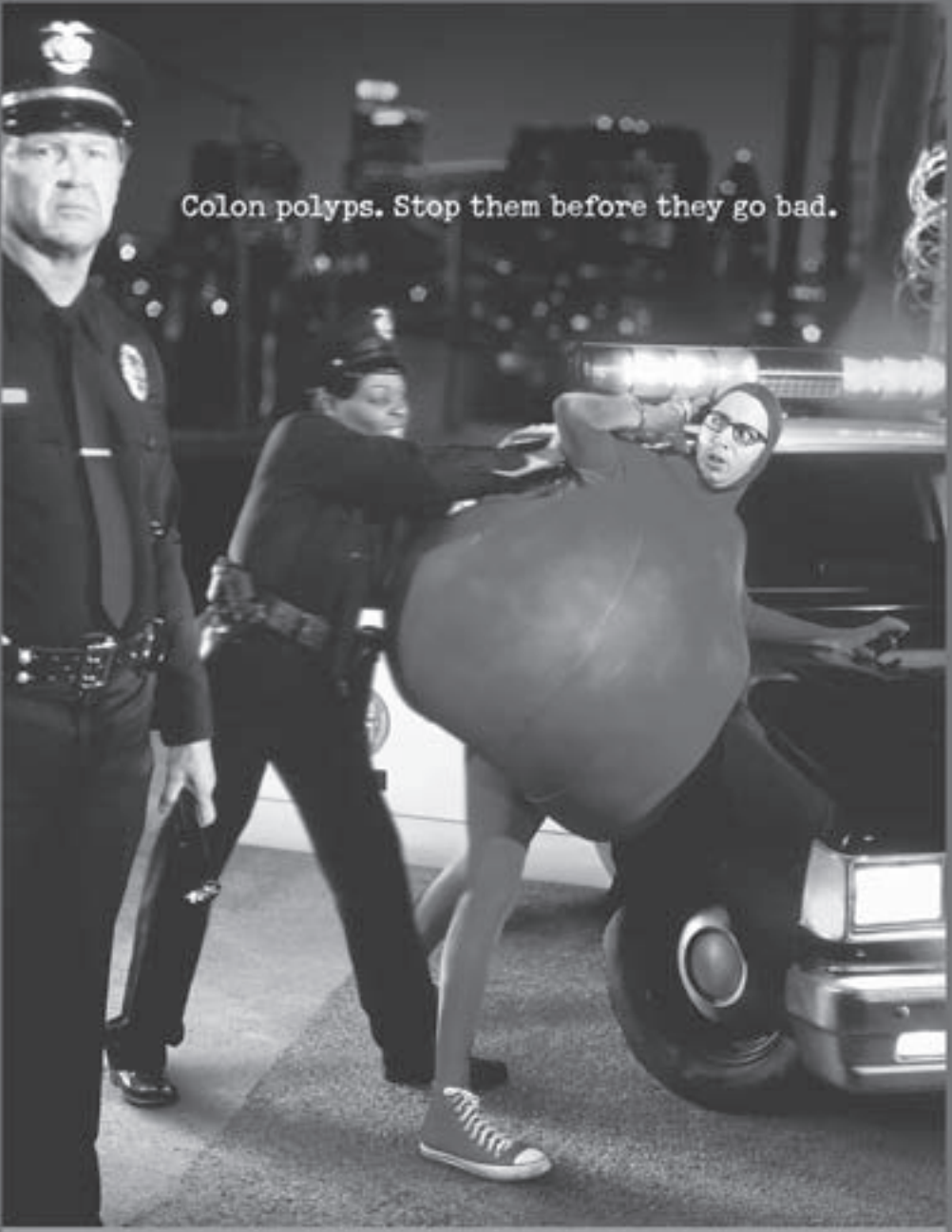
Columbia will round out the road trip with local competition against Stony Brook (4-1). Junior Vicki Kavitsky has led the Seawolves in their five games this season—she hit .643 last weekend with a double, three triples, a home run, three RBI, and five runs. After hitting a home run in Stony Brook’s first at bat of the year, Kavitsky was named America East Player of the Week.

The Lions will start off the 2009 season against Central Michigan on March 6 at 4 p.m.



File Photo

SLOW PITCH | Columbia softball will start its season against a bevy of nonconference opponents this weekend.





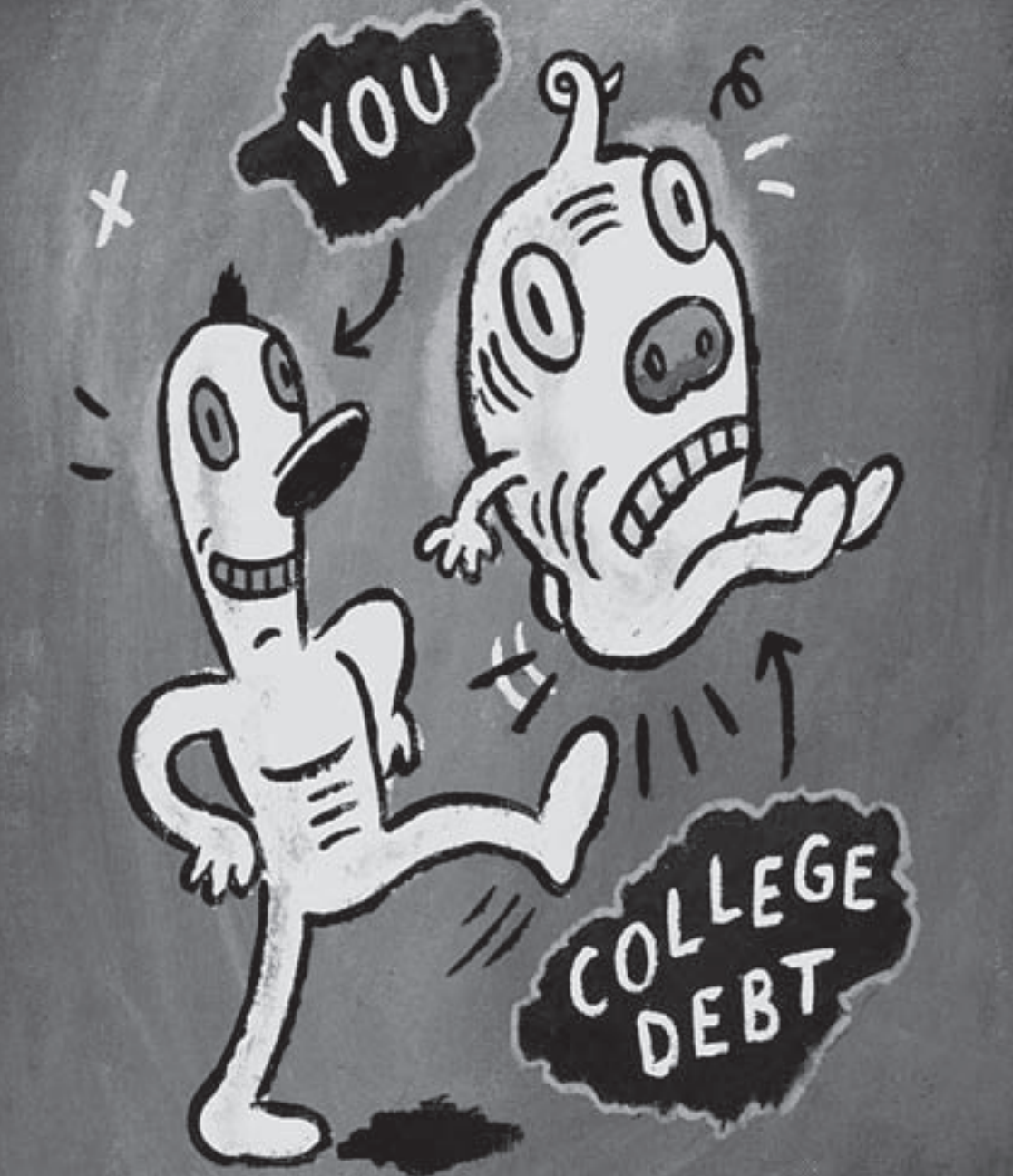
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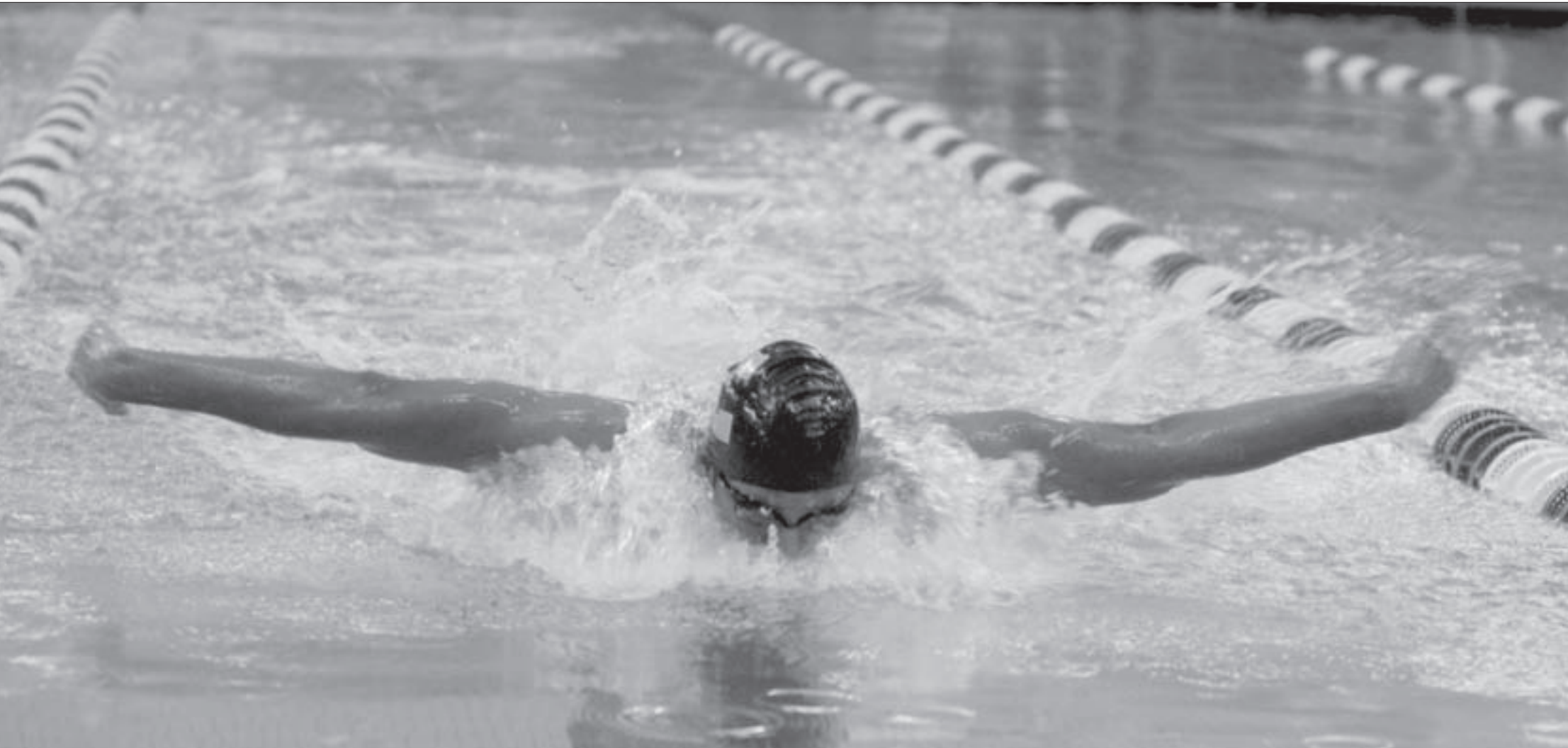
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FAST LANE | The men’s swimming team will try to topple perennial powers Harvard and Princeton this weekend at the Ivy League/EISL Championships. The Lions enter ranked No. 6 in the Ancient Eight this spring.

Lions Aim for Third in EISL Championships Behind Princeton, Harvard

BY BART LOPEZ
Spectator Staff Writer

The Columbia men’s swimming and diving team will be competing in the Ivy League/Eastern Intercollegiate Swimming League Championships this weekend at Princeton. The Lions will try to build on the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Championships by fighting for the top spot among the Ancient Eight.

The championships will showcase the highest caliber of swimming of the season, as each team is rested and prepared for the weekend’s competition. Princeton and Harvard have dominated the Ivy League/EISL Championships in the past couple years—the former won in 2007 with 1,406 points and the latter won in 2008 with 1,564 points. Columbia head coach Jim Bolster expects that these two teams will remain atop the Ivy standings.

“Princeton shapes up as the team to beat with Harvard not far behind,” Bolster wrote in an e-mail. “I believe there will be an interesting and very competitive battle for third between Columbia, Cornell, Penn, and Yale.” Columbia and Yale have battled for third place in the past two years, finishing within five points of each other in 2007 and within 11.5 points in 2008.

“I think the Lions are looking forward to the opportunity to race,” Bolster wrote.

“We have had a solid dual meet season, but all along we have been looking forward to this meet. If everyone meets their expectations we should have a fun weekend and be witness to some exciting racing.”

Going into the championships, the Lions are ranked sixth in the Ivy League, ahead of Brown and Dartmouth. While Columbia and Penn share the same Ivy record, 3-4, Penn won the dual meet earlier in the season and as a result is ranked fifth. Princeton is ranked first with a

7-0 Ivy record, followed by Harvard at 6-1. Cornell and Yale are tied for third place with a 4-3 Ivy record. Despite its fairly low standing, Columbia will be in a position to battle for one of the top three spots, as evidenced by individual performances this year and by Columbia’s performance in the Ivy League/EISL Championships in recent years.

Competition officially started Thursday and will carry on until Saturday at DeNunzio Pool.



LAI D BACK | The Lions will take a break from competitive tennis this weekend as they host alumni and friends of the program.

M. Tennis Hosts Annual Alumni Friendly

BY KUNAL GUPTA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The men’s tennis team, which was nationally ranked for the first time this season at No. 62, will remain at home this weekend to host the annual Varsity/Alumni Friends match at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center. This annual friendly features some of the players from the program’s past and present.

“There are guys from the past,” head coach Bid Goswami said, “and the guys who are around. It’s all a very laid-back affair. They come and they get to do whatever they please. Singles, doubles, but more than anything else, I want them to feel comfortable, meet the new guys, talk about old times, food, and laughter.”

The competition can escalate, though, as there is often pride on the line for alumni and elder players.

“The varsity team has never lost a match to an alum,” Goswami said. “If they are winning, I just make them keep playing so we win all the sets. Sometimes we will win 21-20, so it’s a fun thing, and it’s a good time.”

The annual meet also allows recently graduated members of

the team to return to the tennis complex and see their coaches and teammates.

“Mark Clemente will be the only guy here from last year’s team,” Goswami said, “since Justin [Chow] is in Hong Kong, and Jared [Drucker] is playing on the professional tour and is in South America right now. There will be some recent guys though—the Moore brothers, Paul Ratchford, and Rajeev Emany will all be there.”

For the head coach, the event also represents an important link between the program’s past and future.

“I think it means a lot to the guys,” Goswami said. “I feel it’s a good way of meeting some of the older guys, and to learn some of the history of the program.”

“I think it’s one of the good parts of being here longer,” Goswami—who is in his 27th year at the helm of the program—continued. “Guys get to have the connection through me. There are even guys who come from the ‘50s and the ‘60s who I didn’t teach, but are still involved in the program.”

The Varsity Alumni match is scheduled to begin Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center.

Lacrosse Looks to Extend Win Streak to Four

BY MICHELE CLEARY
Spectator Staff Writer

The Columbia lacrosse team will head to Poughkeepsie, N.Y. this weekend to take on Marist. Saturday’s game will be a clash of undefeated teams, with the Lions having won all three of their games and the Red Foxes sitting at 2-0.

Columbia is coming off a 12-7 victory over Wagner. The Lions struck first in this game when co-Ivy League Offensive Player of the Week Holly Glynn scored an unassisted goal 52 seconds into the game. The game remained close throughout the first half, with the Light Blue leading only 4-3 at the start of the second period. The Lions managed to put the game away by outscoring the Seahawks 8-4 in the second half. Brittany Shannon and Gabrielle Geronimos led Columbia with three goals each.

Marist had a tougher go in its last game, just pulling out a victory over Stony Brook, 11-10. The Marist victory was the result of an even attack by the offense—seven different players scored at least one goal. Cristin Begley led her team with three goals and one assist.

The only opponent that Columbia and Marist have both faced this season is Lafayette. While both teams were victorious, the Lions won by a much greater margin, defeating the Leopards last Sunday 15-8. Shannon led the Columbia offense in this game as well, scoring six goals on seven shots. Glynn also made a significant contribution to the offense, scoring three goals. Three other players scored two goals each.

Marist triumphed over Lafayette with a score of 18-14. After trailing 9-8 at the half, the Red Foxes were able to outscore the Leopards 10-5 in the second half to win the game. Stephanie Garland led Marist with six goals and one assist. Begley added four goals of her own and one assist, while four other players contributed with at least one goal.

Columbia has won all three of its games against Marist, but the last time the two teams met was nearly a decade ago. In 2000, the Light Blue defeated the Red Foxes 9-3.

The game is scheduled to begin on Saturday at 1 p.m. at Tenney Stadium at Leonidoff Field.

FIRE AWAY | The women’s lacrosse team will look to push its season-opening winning streak to four games this weekend when they take on the Marist Red Foxes on the road.

Four Seniors to Play Final Game

MEN’S BASKETBALL from page A10

weekend. Joe Bova is only half speed because of a back injury, and the inexperienced trio of Zack Crimmins, Issa Mase, and Matt Johnson is on the rotation for the front line. Columbia will probably play a quarter to a half of the game with Bulger, Matsui, Scott, and either Egee or Noruwa Agho all in the lineup at once.

With a smaller lineup, the matchups against Penn and Princeton will be noticeably different from those that took place one month ago. In the last game against the Tigers, the Lions were blown out early as their opponents jumped out to a 14-4 lead en route to a 63-35 win. Princeton’s methodical offense and tight defense forced Columbia to shoot a

measly 16.7 percent from the field in the first half (37.5 percent for the game). Combating Princeton’s smaller lineup with one of its own, however, might allow Columbia to reverse the trend this weekend.

Columbia has a fairly inexperienced roster without Foley and Ampim, and Bova is unlikely to play much—as such, going against the Princeton offense might prove difficult. The intricacies of defending the Tigers’ offense could prove difficult for a freshman, such as Masse or Johnson, to pick up quickly.

Saturday’s game, meanwhile, will give the Lions an opportunity for their first sweep of the Quakers since 1968. Earlier in the year, Columbia defeated Penn 74-63 at the Palestra for the first time in seven years. In the contest, Columbia received a balanced attack from

three guards—Scott, Foley, and Matsui—as well as a great performance from Miller, who was able to out-muscle Penn forward Brennan Votel for 21 points and 10 rebounds.

To garner a similar outcome, the Light Blue must again force its opponent to shoot poorly, as it did in the second half. During that half, the Quakers shot only 39.1-percent, including 1-for-6 from behind the 3-point line.

For the Lions to pick up that seventh league win, they may need to rely more heavily on the 3-point shot. With only Miller as an offensive threat in the paint and with their need to play with four guards, the Lions will look to shooters like Agho, Matsui, and Scott for big games.

Tip-offs are both scheduled for 7:00 p.m. at Levien Gymnasium.



Ajit Pillai / Senior Staff Photographer

RACING AHEAD | After a tough weekend of racing, only some of the team will travel this weekend.

Track Splits Up For Weekend Competition

BY SABINE SCHULZ
Spectator Staff Writer

Though many members of the Columbia track and field team qualified for the Eastern College Athletic Conference/IC4A Indoor Track and Field Championships, only a small number will travel to Boston, Mass. for the championships this weekend, while another squad heads to Notre Dame for its Last Chance Meet. The ECAC/IC4A Championships will present the Lions with their biggest challenge thus far this season. Not only will the entire Ivy League be present at the championships, but 82 other Division I schools from the East Coast will also be there.

Last weekend's Indoor Ivy League Heptagonals—during which the Lions won four individual titles and 15 runners earned all-Ivy honors—produced a number of ECAC-qualifying performances, but only a few runners will proceed to the national-level championships. Head coach Willie Wood explained the selection in an e-mail.

“We had many individuals and relays qualify for this year's championships,” Wood wrote. “However, we are coming off a very tough weekend of competition, so we are only taking those individuals who we feel will benefit from another week of competition.”

Senior Megan Lessard, who brought home the Ivy League title in the mile for the Light Blue, is one of the runners traveling to Boston. She hopes to qualify for the NCAA Championships in the 3000-meter dash this weekend. Sophomore Jeff Moriarty harbors similar NCAA dreams and will attempt to attain a qualifying time in the 800-meter dash at the Last Chance Meet. The men's relay squad, which has already won the Ivy League title and taken first place at the New Balance Collegiate Invitational, is hoping to improve its tremendous season at Notre Dame's meet.

Expectations for the individuals and the relay team are high, especially after the momentous success of Heptagonals.

“I think this type of competition is why we compete,” Wood wrote. “It is what we thrive on. Undoubtedly, they will do the best they are capable of.”

The ECAC/IC4A Indoor Championships will run from March 7 to March 8, while the Last Chance Meet will take place on March 8 at Notre Dame.

News and Notes From the Monthly Fanclub

SHANNON from page A10

ball on the blacktop when a boy tripped me, thereby causing me to hit the cement headfirst, sprain my wrist, suffer a mild concussion, and lose a front tooth. At age 16, after a couple months of unsuccessful physical therapy, my shoulder succumbed to tendonitis. I hung up my socks and my mitt. One dream down.

“That left my dreams of athletic stardom up to my basketball prowess. I had been playing on a couple teams every season for several years—one school team that I tried out for and made that was a real challenge, and another team in a recreational league that was open to

everybody so I could win and inflate my self-esteem. It was fun, and I showed real potential, but—as so often happens—tragedy struck down another dream of mine. I really wasn't all that good, and I was becoming busier with school and all that, so I quit. It haunts me to this day.

“Moral of the story, don't play sports,” I said.

At this point the crowd was so moved by my words that they took to vandalism and rioting. I had a great view from atop my soapbox. It was awesome.

Michael Shannon is a Columbia College senior majoring in sociology. Sports@columbiaspectator.com

Light Blue Returns to the South to Face UNC Charlotte

BY JACOB LEVENFELD
Spectator Staff Writer

After dropping three of four games to Lamar in Texas last weekend, Columbia's baseball team heads to North Carolina on Saturday to open up a three-game set against the UNC Charlotte. At Lamar, the Lions were outscored 31-4 over the first three games before exploding for 15 runs in a runaway victory on Sunday afternoon. Ending the weekend on an upbeat note has given the team a positive outlook for its series at Charlotte.

“We're hoping to take some of that momentum from that last game from last weekend for this next weekend, and hopefully we can get a series win,” freshman Jon Eisen said.

Eisen, a versatile Tennessee native who plays both infield and outfield, replaced reigning Ivy League Rookie of the Year Nick Cox in center field last weekend while Cox sat out with an injured hamstring as a precautionary measure. Eisen jumped at the opportunity to start in center, hitting .412 from the leadoff spot for the series and winning Ivy League Rookie of the Week. But he knows that Cox is expected to be back in his customary slot at the top of the lineup and in center field this weekend.

“We're definitely, definitely looking forward to having him in the lineup,” Eisen said, adding that he is ready to play wherever head coach Brett Boretti desires.

The Charlotte 49ers opened their season with three losses to Clemson, but have since won four in a row and will be entering Saturday's action with confidence. They have played only once since Feb. 26 after rain forced the cancellation of a three-game series against Canisius last weekend. The Lions, who face a very difficult nonconference schedule before league play begins in late March, welcome the challenge their opponents bring but have no illusions about the competition.

“They're also going to be a very good team,” Eisen said. “They're



File Photo

PLAY BALL | After dropping three games to Lamar last weekend, the Lions will travel to North Carolina this weekend. Columbia will look to get good hitting to counter UNC's strong pitching.

the favorites to win their conference this year.”

In the 49ers' most recent game, a 6-1 victory over Furman, Andrew Smith tossed five innings of one-run ball to pick up the win. He struck out six and issued no free passes for his first win of the season. Designated hitter Grant Bomann provided the offense, singling in two runs in Charlotte's five-run third and scoring one himself. Third baseman Aaron Bray also had a pair of RBI in the win.

Pitching has been a strength for the 49ers. Charlotte pitchers have yielded only five runs in their past three games.

The Lions know they will have to generate more successful offense than they did last weekend if they want to come out of Charlotte with a series win. The cold New York weather has

limited Columbia's outdoor practice time this week, allowing for extra time in the batting cages.

Although the season is young, March 28 is a date that looms large for the Light Blue. That's when Harvard comes to town to kick off the 2009 Ivy League schedule with a doubleheader that will represent Columbia's first step in its quest to capture the conference title for a second straight year.

“That's been our goal from the second we started offseason training the first week we got here on campus,” Eisen said. “That's something we've been stressing the whole time.”

If the Lions play as well as they did last Sunday, they will put themselves in a favorable position to go all the way once more. Columbia unloaded on Lamar's pitchers for 19 hits in the blowout victory, including

three for Eisen and four—three singles and a homer—for third baseman Mike Roberts.

Roger Aquino picked up the win for the Lions in long relief, allowing four runs over 3 1/3 innings. On the other side, Lamar went through eight pitchers in the pasting, five of whom lasted an inning or less.

The Lions are eager to take the field once more after closing out their opening weekend on a positive note, but they know their opponents will also be looking forward to the challenge.

“Being the defending Ivy League champs, we kind of have a target on our backs,” Eisen said. “It's definitely something we're looking forward to.”

The schedule calls for a twin bill Saturday afternoon, followed by a single game on Sunday. Games will be played at the D.L. Phillips Complex.



File Photo

TAKE DOWN | The Lions will hope to turn around a 3-14 season, including a 1-4 mark in Ivy League play, against their EIWA foes.

Wrestling Travels to Penn for EIWA Championships

BY JACOB LEVENFELD
Spectator Staff Writer

Two weeks after the close of its dual-meet season, the Columbia wrestling team heads to Philadelphia this weekend for the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association Championships, held at the University of Pennsylvania. The tournament, which begins on Saturday and runs through Sunday, brings together the 14 teams of the EIWA and will determine the conference winner. In 2008, the Light Blue came in seventh.

The Lions will be searching for greater success than they could find during the dual season, which they finished with a record of 3-14 (1-4 Ivy). They ended the season on a slide,

dropping six of their last seven duals. But the ten wrestlers who will take the mat on Saturday look to put the past in the rearview mirror and surprise their opponents.

“The season didn't go quite as planned,” senior Kenji Porter said. Porter will represent Columbia this weekend in the 184-pound weight class. “We had higher expectations and I think we could have done better.”

The wrestlers, who have not competed since Feb. 21, were grateful to have a weekend off and an opportunity to recuperate. The Lions have been hampered by injuries this season, and have been forced to forfeit weight classes on several occasions.

“It's important to let your body rest,” Porter said. “It's a long, rough

season. At this point, we're trying to make sure everyone's as healthy as they can be.”

Despite its open competition schedule, the team has not had a free pass over the past two weeks. Head coach Brendan Buckley has the wrestlers working hard in practice, especially on the mental aspects of the game.

“At this point, it's not an issue of technique or conditioning,” Porter said. “I mean, we're all in top shape and they've [the coaches] shown us all the moves they can. This last week was really just about trying to get us in the right mindset to compete at our best.”

Sophomore heavyweight Ryan Flores will occupy much of the spotlight this weekend. Currently ranked

No. 9 nationally, Flores won all 18 of his dual bouts this season, including five against league opponents. He was honored last week with a unanimous selection to the all-Ivy League first team. Eren Civan, a sophomore who wrestles at 165 pounds, was named to the second team with a 15-9 overall record (4-1 Ivy) as he finished the season on a hot streak.

The Lions plan to seize the chance this weekend to redeem themselves after a season widely seen as disappointing. “I think you can have a slow start, but it's important how you finish,” Porter said. “Once you put in the work, put in the hours, put in the years of training that we have, it really just comes down to who wants it more.”

Lions Try to Qualify for NCAA Championships

FENCING from page A10

Columbia expects junior co-captain and former national champion Daria Schneider to make her first appearance since the NYU multi-meet in mid-February as she recovers from an ankle injury. Senior and U.S.-foil-team member Kurt Getz is also expected to take to the strips for the Lions.

“I think Daria is going to be ready and I'm quite certain she'll do enough to qualify,” Kolombatovich said. “I think Kurt is ready to do something for us. We're certainly optimistic.”

Junior sabreist Alex Rudnicki and senior co-captain Max Czapanskiy are also expected to compete at MIT despite lingering issues.

The NCAA Championship-qualification

equation is divided into two parts: 40 percent is a fencer's regular-season record and 60 percent is a fencer's record at regionals, both of which are multiplied by a qualifier index. The result is a very easy-to-read number that makes judgment on fencers a simple process.









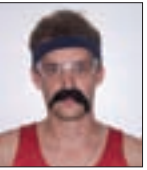
“Unlike other NCAA sports, the selection committee uses straight numbers,” Kolombatovich said. “The only issue that comes up for coaches is when you have three qualifiers per weapon, and here at Columbia we always go by the numbers when that happens. We want to get rid of the smoke-filled, back-room selection process because not everything is in a vacuum.”

While not an absolute necessity, it is highly unlikely that a

team can make a run at a national championship without qualifying the maximum number of 12 fencers. Without the greatest amount of opportunities to earn bout victories, title contenders will be hard-pressed to compete. For that reason, all that matters is hitting the requisite point value to earn a spot at the NCAA Championships, negating the need to win every possible bout.

“It would be nice to win everything, but we know that this is about qualifying the maximum number possible,” Kolombatovich said. “The team knows how many spots there are available and what they have to do to earn one.”

The NCAA Northeast Regionals begin Sunday at 9 a.m. at MIT.










<div>PIXBOX</div> <div>WEEK 7</div>									
	Lisa Lewis (31-17)	Matt Velazquez (28-20)	Max Puro (28-20)	Jelani Johnson (26-22)	Jonathan Tayler (26-22)	Charles Young (24-24)	Jonathan August (24-24)	Jacob Shapiro (22-26)	Michael Shannon (20-28)
Penn at Columbia (-2.5)	Columbia	Columbia	Columbia	Columbia	Columbia	Columbia	Columbia	It's Bova Time	Columbia
Princeton at Cornell (-7.5)	Princeton	Princeton	Cornell	Cornell	Princeton	Cornell	Cornell	Princeton	Cornell
Dartmouth at Yale (-2.5)	Yale	Yale	Yale	Dartmouth	Yale	Yale	Dartmouth	Yale	Yale
Harvard at Brown (+4.5)	Harvard	Harvard	Harvard	Harvard	Harvard	Harvard	Harvard	Harvard	Harvard
Connecticut at Pitt (-3.5)	UConn	UConn	Pittsburgh	Pitt	Pitt	Pitt	Pitt	Pitt	Pitt
Duke at UNC (-5.5)	FML	Duke	North Carolina	UNC	UNC	Raise up	Not Duke	Scheyer	UNC
Cavaliers at Celtics (+2.5)	Celtics	Cavs	Cavaliers	Cavaliers	Joe Smith	Cavs	Bron et co.	King James	Cavaliers
Nuggets at Jazz (-4.5)	Melo!	Denver	Jazz	Jazz	Mormons	Nuggets	Utah	Chicken Nuggets	Jazz
THE BEST PART	"I know a lot of guys on the football team ...Well, I consider you a part of the football team." —Ansley	Monday headline: Matt and Holly win Pixbox. Where's Lisa?!?! Second place.	1. I can't believe this is the last Pixbox ever, kind of sad. 2. Welcome back Man Ram, welcome back.	"Why do people like to feed pigeons, but try to shoot eagles?"	"I believe you make your own destination." —Manny Ramirez, Employee No. 99	16-0 FTW.	All PIXBOX line-creation applications are currently being accepted. It's been a fun ride.	"He's so full of crap. Ask him what the books says, then you'll know if you can believe him." —Ozzie on Lou Pinella reading motivational books.	America is subjectable to chemical attacks.



As the rest of the country begins to focus on March Madness, we here at the Columbia Spectator lament the end of Ivy League basketball season, which also defines the end of the winter edition of PixBox. It is quite apropos that as a strong group of seniors prepares to leave the men's team, Spectator bids adieu to its own strong group of seniors. To commemorate the final week of the basketball season, Spec Sports is opening up PixBox to nine guest pickers. Each of our nine columnists' guest pickers' selections will count toward his season total. The winter 2009 PixBox champion will be announced Monday, with a victory column to follow. Godspeed, PixBox. We bid you a fond farewell, until Ivy football returns in the fall.

LAST SEMESTER'S
WINNER:
LISA LEWIS



<div>PIXBOX</div> <div>GUEST PICKS</div>									
	Evan Sanford	Holly MacDonald	Anand Krishnamurthy	Ben Cotton	Jon Kamran	Michele Cleary	Joshua Robinson	Phil Levin	Josh Branfman
Penn at Columbia (-2.5)	CU	Lions	Roar	Columbia	Joe	Columbia	Columbia	Columbia	Touching
Princeton at Cornell (-7.5)	Princeton	Cornell	Knowles!	Cornell	Princeton	Cornell	Knowles!	Cornell	Tyson
Dartmouth at Yale (-2.5)	Yale	Yale	Elis	Yale	James	Yale	Dartmouth	Yale	Titillates
Harvard at Brown (+4.5)	Harvard	Harvard	Harvard	Bobby Jindal?	Harvard	Harvard	Vegas says Harvard	Brown	Tomboys
Connecticut at Pitt (-3.5)	Coach Smith	UConn	Pitt	Calhoun	Pitt	UConn	Levance and Co.	Connecticut	Tools
Duke at UNC (-5.5)	UNC	UNC	UNC	End Coach K	UNC	UNC	Duck Fuke	UNC	UNC
Cavaliers at Celtics (+2.5)	Celtics	Celtics	King	Red Sox	Cavs	LBJ	Starbury	Cavaliers	Reality
Nuggets at Jazz (-4.5)	Chicken Mc	Nuggets	Jazz	Jazz	Jazz	Nuggets	Frazzle	Nuggets	Uncanny
THE BEST PART	I've finally made it! I'm Lisa's guest picker!	Lisa Lewis, Since you didn't ask me to be your guest picker, Matt and I are taking you down. —sent from Paris, France	Sports editor by committee? I recall Theo Epstein's "bullpen by committee" experiment.	This has always been a dream of mine. Thanks to all who made it possible. I can only hope such an opportunity presents itself again.	"I understand the situation. I'm not bitter about it. But I want to play." —Juan Pierre, the \$28.5 million man	15-1 FTT.	"Robio, Robio, you know who I play Pixbox with? ... Yo mamma."	Dear Steroids, if only you would have found Frank Thomas' ass, the ChiSox might have won a couple more rings.	"America is subjectable to chemical attacks." —Bad Newz Mike




COLUMBIA vs. PRINCETON, FRIDAY 7 P.M., LEVIEN GYM	COLUMBIA vs. PENN, SATURDAY 7 P.M., LEVIEN GYM
BY THE NUMBERS <div><div>POINTS PER GAME</div><div><div>COLUMBIA</div><div>61.0</div></div><div><div>PRINCETON</div><div>58.6</div></div></div> <div><div>FIELD GOAL PCT.</div><div><div>COLUMBIA</div><div>.406</div></div><div><div>PRINCETON</div><div>.430</div></div></div> <div><div>REBOUNDS PER GAME</div><div><div>COLUMBIA</div><div>35.0</div></div><div><div>PRINCETON</div><div>31.0</div></div></div> <div><div>POINTS ALLOWED</div><div><div>COLUMBIA</div><div>62.8</div></div><div><div>PRINCETON</div><div>57.7</div></div></div>	BY THE NUMBERS <div><div>POINTS PER GAME</div><div><div>COLUMBIA</div><div>61.0</div></div><div><div>PENN</div><div>66.3</div></div></div> <div><div>FIELD GOAL PCT.</div><div><div>COLUMBIA</div><div>.406</div></div><div><div>PENN</div><div>.415</div></div></div> <div><div>REBOUNDS PER GAME</div><div><div>COLUMBIA</div><div>35.0</div></div><div><div>PENN</div><div>33.6</div></div></div> <div><div>POINTS ALLOWED</div><div><div>COLUMBIA</div><div>62.8</div></div><div><div>PENN</div><div>69.7</div></div></div>


PRINCETON TIGERS

Player	Yr	Pos.	No.	Player	Yr	Pos.	No.
J. Briggs	Sr.	G	2	N. Lake	Jr.	G	14
P. Buczak	Jr.	C	55	Z. Ma	Fr.	F	24
J. Comfort	Fr.	G	15	K. Maddox	So.	F	33
D. Davis	Fr.	G	20	D. Mavraides	So.	G	33
Z. Finley	Jr.	C	30	P. Saunders	Fr.	G/F	22
B. Foley	So.	G	11	M. Schroeder	Jr.	G	21
M. Huc	Fr.	G	1	M. Strittmatter	Sr.	F/C	34


PROJECTED STARTING FIVE




Dan Mavraides, G
10.5 PPG, 3.2 RPG, 0.6 APG




Marcus Schroeder, G
4.4 PPG, 2.7 RPG, 2.7 APG



Kareem Maddox, F
5.7 PPG, 3.8 RPG, 0.7 APG



Pawel Buczak, C
7.6 PPG, 4.2 RPG, 2.0 APG




Mike Strittmatter, F
2.0 PPG, 1.3 RPG, 0.3 APG

LAST FIVE


Opponent	Date	Result	Top Scorer
vs. Yale	Feb. 28	W, 62-54	Dan Mavraides, 16
vs. Brown	Feb. 27	W, 56-48	Doug Davis, 16
vs. Dartmouth	Feb. 21	L, 66-63	Dan Mavraides, 19
vs. Harvard	Feb. 20	W, 58-55	Doug Davis, 12
vs. Penn	Feb. 17	L, 62-55 (OT)	Zach Finley, 12

LAST TIME THEY MET




63

February 7
AT
Jadwin Gym




74

February 6
AT
The Palestra



35



63

COLUMBIA LIONS

Player	No.	Yr.	Pos.	Pts.	Rebs.	Asts.
Patrick Foley	5	Jr.	PG	10.9	1.6	1.9
Jason Miller	45	Sr.	F	10.0	6.7	1.1
Noruwa Agho	1	Fr.	G	9.3	3.0	1.7
Niko Scott	42	Jr.	G	8.3	2.6	1.2
K.J. Matsui	4	Sr.	G	7.3	1.5	0.6
Joe Bova	33	Sr.	F	5.9	4.4	0.6
Asenso Ampim	0	So.	F	5.9	6.1	0.7
Kevin Bulger	11	Jr.	G	5.1	3.6	2.2


LAST FIVE

Opponent	Date	Result	Top Scorer
@ Dartmouth	Feb. 28	L, 67-53	Two tied at 19
@ Harvard	Feb. 27	L, 72-63	Noruwa Agho, 13
@ Yale	Feb. 21	L, 57-49	Patrick Foley, 17
@ Brown	Feb. 20	W, 70-57	Patrick Foley, 21
vs. Harvard	Feb. 14	W, 60-59	Jason Miller, 8


PENN QUAKERS

Player	Yr	Pos.	No.	Player	Yr	Pos.	No.
R. Belcore	Fr.	G	30	L. Loughery	Fr.	G	14
T. Bernardini	So.	G	3	D. Monckton	So.	G	2
K. Egee	Sr.	G	15	Z. Rosen	Fr.	G	1
J. Eggleston	So.	F	24	A. Schreiber	Jr.	F	13
H. Gaines	So.	G	22	D. Smith	Jr.	G	5
M. Howlett	Fr.	F	23	C. Turley	So.	F	44
C. Lewis	Sr.	F	33	B. Votel	Sr.	F	42


PROJECTED STARTING FIVE




Rob Belcore, G
3.9 PPG, 1.7 RPG, 1.3 APG




Jack Eggleston, F
9.8 PPG, 6.0 RPG, 1.9 APG



Zack Rosen, PG
7.7 PPG, 3.3 RPG, 5.8 APG



Tyler Bernardini, G
13.7 PPG, 4.0 RPG, 2.0 APG




Brennan Votel, F
7.7 PPG, 3.9 RPG, 0.9 APG


LAST FIVE

Opponent	Date	Result	Top Scorer
vs. Brown	Feb. 28	W, 64-54	Harrison Gaines, 14
vs. Yale	Feb. 27	L, 87-79	Harrison Gaines, 24
vs. Harvard	Feb. 21	L, 66-60	Jack Eggleston, 14
vs. Dartmouth	Feb. 20	L, 69-59	Zack Rosen, 15
@ Princeton	Feb. 17	W, 62-55	Tyler Bernardini, 18


KEY MATCHUP




Jason Miller vs. Pawel Buczak
In their last matchup, Buczak dominated Miller down low, getting four blocks and two steals. Miller will try to reverse this trend this weekend.



KEY MATCHUP



Jason Miller vs. Brennan Votel
Last time, Miller had a career high 21 to go along with 10 rebounds by out manuvering Votel down low, and will look to repeat on Saturday.



Women’s Tennis Returns Home to Face A-10 Champ Temple

BY KUNAL GUPTA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Lions will play their final home tune-up before Ivy League play against the Temple Owls, the reigning A-10 champions, on Friday. The Lions will enter Friday’s contest with a record of 3-5 on the season, while the Owls come into the matchup with a 6-4 record. Temple has played a few Ivy foes already—the team lost to Dartmouth and Princeton but beat Penn 4-3.

“Temple is a competitive team,” head coach Ilene Weintraub said. “I expect it to be a close match.”

Columbia is coming off a weekend where it was narrowly edged by University of Massachusetts-Amherst and then lost to perennial power Boston University, 7-0.

The Owls, on the other hand, come off a tough defeat by the Big Green, their fourth match in five days that week.

Regardless of Columbia’s opponent, however, Weintraub believes that her team can play with the best of them.

“I really think we have a tremendous opportunity this year,” Weintraub said. “We have been competitive with all of the best teams.”

In the match against BU, Weintraub was particularly encouraged by the play of sophomore Natasha Makarova, who managed to stay with the Terriers’ top singles player despite an injury.

“Natasha was not at 100 percent,” Weintraub said, “but she managed to get up 4-1 in the second set. I think we have to stay focused, determined, and resilient in the course of a match.”

The Owls should prove a formidable opponent for the Lions this weekend. The defending A-10 champions return all eight of the starting players from their winning team from last season, including junior Anastasiia Rukavysnykova, who was named A-10 Women’s Performer of the Week this past week. Rukavysnykova went 3-0 in singles and 2-1 in doubles to earn the distinction, with wins at both third and fourth singles. The Ukraine native beat the No. 4 player from Dartmouth in straight sets, and improved her record to 15-4 in singles this season with a sparkling record of 7-3 in her past 10 matches.

Columbia will take on Temple at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center on Friday in a match scheduled to begin at 2 p.m.

Vitaly Druker for *Spectator*

ON THE RUN | The women will take on defending A-10 Champion Temple this weekend, in their last home match before Ivy play begins.

Lions Aim To Tame Tigers, Quakers

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL from page A10

a 20-point shellacking earlier this season at home. In that contest, Penn’s Carrie Biemer, the league’s leading scorer at 16.6 points per game, was held to just six points on only two shot attempts. Four Columbia players, meanwhile, scored in double digits—among them, Ivy Player of the Year-candidate Judie Lomax racked up 15 points and 12 rebounds. Lomax has 19 double-doubles on the season and leads the nation in rebounding at 14.1 boards per game.

This weekend will mark not just the end of the season for Columbia, but also the end of the career of one of its most dependable players. Katrina Cragg, who leads the team in 3-pointers made on the season with 44, will graduate after 91 games played. Cragg is averaging a career-best 7.8 points per game in 26 games, 15 of which were starts. This weekend will also hold the last pair of games for Christina Gordon, who has played sparingly in 23 games this season, including three starts.

Tip-off for Friday’s game is set for 7 p.m. at Jadwin Gymnasium. Saturday’s game will start at 8 p.m. at the Palestra.



The Bad Newz, Mike Fanclub



MICHAEL SHANNON
BAD NEWZ, MIKE

So you think you know Bad Newz, Mike, do ya? Sure, you've kept up with all the Bad Newz articles. You have gotten the inside scoop on the *real* sports stories that *Spec* refuses to print. You know the idiosyncrasies and tics of my unique brand of border-line-ethical, rav-

ing "journalism." You're for the formation of a Columbia bull-riding team and the construction of a 95,000-seat football stadium. You support me in my struggles against the Brown women's fencers and homelessness. But do you know the *real* Bad Newz Mike?

Such was the topic on Tuesday at the monthly meeting of the Bad Newz, Mike fan club. I don't usually make the fan club meetings—I'm a busy, busy man and am much more important than you—but I was led to believe this would be a particularly fruitful discussion given the month's topic: me.

I was flattered that my hard-core of the hard-core fans—shivering in the cold at our meeting place below the railroad track at East 105th Street and Park Avenue—had invited me to reminisce about my childhood, my sporting life, and the various turns in my life that have brought me to my present state.

So I arrived a little past midnight to find my fans already gathered. They were conversing amongst themselves, no doubt about the latest Bad Newz columns. I felt a sense of vindication to realize that they were so engrossed in my writing that they did not even notice its author as he approached.

Then I got bored of waiting for them to finish, so I just went ahead and got atop my soapbox. There I was, about to address the gang and talk about the *real* Bad Newz Mike—to remove my mask, figuratively speaking. Literally speaking, I find that wearing a mask to these sorts of meetings maintains my air of superiority and distance.

"You know my writing, you know my Facebook page," I began. "No doubt you all, the die-hard, fundamentalist constituents of my fandom, know much more about me than what I've let on—my columns are layered like that, with a lot of depth. But how many of you know the *real* me?"

"Bad Newz Mike was born Michael Thomas More Shannon II, an Aquarius born during a blizzard in January and baptized in April, also during a blizzard. I am proud son of Maryland, the wealthiest state in the union and the second-most educated. I grew up spending weekends on the Chesapeake Bay, I bathed with blue crabs to toughen me up, I went to school with the kids of politicians and lots of lawyers, which isn't cool at all. It kind of sucked, actually, so I feel a whole lot better at Columbia University, let me tell you.

"My 6-foot-2-inch, 185-pound frame would suggest that I was a star quarterback in high school, but nothing could be further from the truth: I was a star power forward and star catcher batting cleanup. Then again, back then I was a lanky teenager with bright eyes and dreams of having sports reporters from *Spectator* asking *me* questions. It was not to be.

"There are a couple of tragic tales that accompany my sporting career. I understand if you would like to leave... no no, now hold on. I *understand* if you want to leave, but I'm not done talking so put up with it. Jeez, all these overly sensitive... Anyway, my baseball career is marred by several incidents. At age 10, the umpire—my father—called me out stealing third to end the Tigers' season. At age 13, my PE class was playing

SEE SHANNON, page A7

COLUMBIA (11-15, 6-6)
vs. PRINCETON (12-12, 7-4)
FRIDAY, LEVIEN GYM, 7 p.m.



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



COLUMBIA (11-15, 6-6)
vs. PENN (9-16, 5-6)
SATURDAY, LEVIEN GYM, 7 p.m.



File Photo

SWEET STROKE | The Columbia Lions will try to send their five seniors out with style by beating Ivy powers Penn and Princeton in their final weekend.

CU Tries to Finish Season at .500 Mark

Injuries Will Hinder Lions in Their Effort to Beat Princeton, Penn

BY MAX PURO
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

If the Columbia men's basketball team wants to reach the .500 mark for the third consecutive season, it'll have to do so shorthanded.

After three straight losses on the road, the Lions will play their final two games of the season at home against Princeton (12-12, 7-4 Ivy) and Penn (9-16, 5-6 Ivy). Not since 1977-79 has Columbia—stuck on six Ivy wins this season since Feb. 19—rolled off three straight .500-or-better seasons in league play. With a win against either the Quakers or Tigers, the Lions can guarantee seven conference wins and at least a .500 record. The Light Blue will have to make due, however, without point guard Patrick Foley and forward Asenso Ampim.

Foley, who has missed seven games this season, aggravated his foot injury last weekend against Dartmouth. The junior guard was barely able to play in the second half, contributing only seven second-half minutes in spurts of around three minutes each. Foley's injury has

affected the team immensely. The Lions have relied heavily on freshman Steve Egee to fill the point-guard role while rotating in Kevin Bulger—a shooting guard—at the position.

Ampim first injured his ankle early in the first half against Princeton. The forward has tried to play against Dartmouth, Brown, and Yale, but missed both games last weekend. His injury has hurt Columbia's front-line depth at the forward spots behind and alongside Jason Miller.

Without Ampim, the Light Blue have gone mostly with a four-guard look. While this smaller lineup has the ability to stretch out the opposition and create open looks for 3-point shooters such as KJ Matsui and Niko Scott, the lack of size has affected the team on the defensive end.

Since they made the switch against Harvard, Columbia has been out-rebounded by an average of 10.5 boards per game. Yet the Lions are going to have to rely on the same lineup this

SEE MEN'S BASKETBALL, page A6

Final Weekend: What to Watch For

CHAMPIONSHIP SCENARIOS

The Cornell Big Red will have its destiny in its own hands this weekend in its bid to repeat as Ivy League champions. A sweep would ensure the title for the Big Red, while the Princeton Tigers would have to win their final three games and hope that the Big Red stumbles and loses its last two games.



File Photo

IVY LEAGUE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The race for Ivy League Player of the Year has played out like many had expected, with Alex Barnett, Ryan Wittman, and Jeremy Lin in the running. The front-runner is Barnett, a senior who leads the league in scoring with 21.2 points per game. Barnett has also led Dartmouth to a surprising 6-4 record and fourth place.



File Photo

IVY LEAGUE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

A surprising candidate for Ivy League Rookie of the Year has emerged right here at Columbia. Noriwa Agho is tops among rookies with 11.1 points per game and leads Columbia in assists with 2.1. His main competition for the award will be Cornell's Chris Wroblewski, who averages 7.5 points per game off of the bench for the Big Red.



File Photo

Fencing Travels to NCAA Northeast Regionals at MIT

BY JONATHAN AUGUST
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The magic number for the Columbia fencing team is 12.

On Sunday at the NCAA Northeast Regionals, the Lions will attempt to qualify the maximum number of 12 fencers for the NCAA Championships later this month. The task will not be easy, but is one that the team believes it can achieve.

"I think the team is certainly ready," head coach George Kolombatovich said. "If you want to go to the show, you have to perform. It's as simple as that. We have the people who are capable of doing so, but they have to

go out there this weekend and actually do it."

As has been the story throughout the season, Columbia is still feeling the effects of injuries to a number of starters. The Lions' handling of the pain this weekend will be important in determining how many fencers qualify.

"The big question is definitely the injuries," Kolombatovich said. "We never had all of our people together and healthy at one time this year, so I would say this has been the worst year I've seen in my time here, injury wise. If our fencers are healthy, though, we should do pretty well."

SEE FENCING, page A7



File Photo

MAXED OUT | Columbia will travel to NCAA Regionals this weekend looking to qualify the maximum of 12 fencers for NCAA Nationals.

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL vs. Princeton <i>Jadwin Gymnasium, 7 p.m., Mar. 6</i>	WOMEN'S TENNIS vs. Temple <i>Dick Savitt Tennis Center, 2 p.m., Mar. 6</i>
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL vs. Penn <i>The Palestra, 8 p.m., Mar. 7</i>	BASEBALL vs. UNC Charlotte <i>Charlotte, NC, 12 p.m., Mar. 7</i>
FENCING NCAA Northeast Regionals <i>Cambridge, Mass., 8 a.m., Mar. 8</i>	MEN'S SWIMMING EISL Championships <i>Princeton, NJ, 11 a.m., Mar. 5</i>
MEN'S TENNIS Friends Outing <i>Dick Savitt Tennis Center, 1 p.m., Mar. 7</i>	WRESTLING EIWA Championships <i>Philadelphia, PA, All Day, Mar. 7</i>
SOFTBALL vs. Central Michigan <i>Boca Raton, Fla., 4 p.m., Mar. 6</i>	TRACK ECAC/IC4A Campionships <i>Cambridge, Mass., All Day, Mar. 7</i>
LACROSSE vs. Marist <i>Poughkeepsie, N.Y., 1 p.m., Feb. 28</i>	TRACK Last Chance Meet <i>South Bend, IN, All Day, Mar. 8</i>



Dan Fainstein / Staff Photographer

WINNING SEASON? | The Lions will try to finish above .500 for first time in over two decades.

Women's Basketball to Close Season on Road

BY JONATHAN TAYLER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

For the first time in more than 20 years, a winning season is well within Columbia's grasp. But the women's basketball team will only get one shot to make such success a reality.

The Lions will take to the road this weekend, facing their first chance at a better-than-.500 season since 1987. To accomplish this, they will need to take down Princeton and Penn. A win at Jadwin Gymnasium on Friday night would guarantee the Light Blue at least a .500 season. A victory at the Palestra on Saturday would push Columbia to eight Ivy League wins—the most in a single season since Columbia joined Division I.

The Lions whiffed on their most recent opportunity to secure a .500-or-better season this past weekend, dropping their last home games of the season to Harvard and Dartmouth.

Poor defense was the culprit in both contests, especially against the Big Green, which was down 12 at the break but mounted a huge rally in the second half to pull out a two-point win.

Friday's contest against Princeton will afford Columbia more than one opportunity to pick up its seventh conference win. Should they upend the Tigers, the Lions would move to third place in the league, a spot they held just one week ago. Claiming that standing won't be easy, however. The last time the teams met, Princeton held off Columbia by a 69-59 score, thanks to solid shooting down low. Princeton shot 55 percent into the 3-point line, led by Devona Allgood and Krystal Hill, who each scored 14 points.

The Quakers, meanwhile, have been an easier task for the Light Blue as of late. Columbia has won three of its last four matches against Penn, including

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, page A9



ART



Nandita Kripanidhi for *Spectator*

The Armory Show 11th-Annual International Art Fair Emphasizes Presentation Over Profit

BY HANNAH YUDKIN
Spectator Staff Writer

Only one event can bring art lovers from all around the world to the 13.4-mile, cold island of Manhattan: the 11th annual International Fair of New Art, otherwise known as The Armory Show.

The Armory, a venue for buying and selling cutting-edge contemporary artwork, is widely considered to be the

most important art fair in New York and one of the most important art fairs in the world. Renowned for exhibiting an international pool of celebrated galleries and artists, The Armory Show attracts over 80,000 people in one weekend. Yet the pieces in this year's Armory are not heavy and confrontational, as might be expected because of the current economic crisis—rather, they inject viewers with a feeling of light-hearted

and uplifting urgency.

Christine Hill's *The Volksboutique Armory Apothecary* is one such example of art that is both playful and urgent. Behind a counter at Ronald Feldman's booth, Hill stands in front of tiny labeled boxes, prescribing remedies to her "sick" Armory customers. She offers pencil as the cure for one student suffering from "Moxey."

Because customers are required to



Nandita Kripanidhi for *Spectator*

ART FOR ART'S SAKE I

The Armory Show exhibits contemporary artwork from a wide array of international artists. Despite the current economic situation, the pieces are optimistic and spiritually uplifting rather than despairing and confrontational.

pay \$20 for a consultation, Hill questions the intersection of commerce and art, as well as the fact that a piece like *Armory Apothecary* is virtually impossible to physically sell. Marco Nocella, a representative from the gallery, offered an alternative interpretation: "This work is less focused on the commodity ... and I think that that's very refreshing as well as

SEE ARMORY SHOW, page B3

FILM

Three Cinematic Perspectives on A Dreary Yet Diverting Tokyo

BY RACHEL ALLEN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Tokyo is not an appealing city, according to director Michel Gondry. "It is a more oppressive city. They were all very anxious to know what we think of them."

Tokyo!, a collaboration of three unique films by French directors Gondry, Leos Carax, and Korean director Bong Joon-ho, forces viewers into fantasy worlds that exhibit the bleakness of urbanity. The film opens Friday in select theaters, and Gondry and Carax sat down last week to talk about their work. Like 2006's *Paris, je t'aime*, *Tokyo!* examines how cities can alter our conceptions of life.

Gondry perpetuates the brilliance of his work on *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* with *Interior Design*, a Kafka-esque tale of remarkable transformation with an unexpected, yet very Gondry-like twist. His protagonist, a young, uninspired Japanese woman who moves to Tokyo, embodies oppression as she struggles to make herself useful.

While the film's short duration slightly limits Gondry's creativity, his editing and cinematography skills are a marvel. His sensational technique favors in-camera effects and though he had to use CGI for a remarkable metamorphosis that takes place in the



Courtesy of Liberation Entertainment

URBAN ESCAPE I The new film *Tokyo!*, a collaboration of three directors including Michel Gondry and Leos Carax, depicts the Japanese city through a variety of fantastical lenses.

film, he maintains that making easy effects digitally "can only go wrong. It's simple and you get accidents when

you shoot in-camera that makes it interesting." Even if Gondry did not necessarily like the city, he stayed true

to his artistic vision, and depicted it faithfully through his own lens.

Leos Carax's *Merde* is much messier. "I had to make a masterpiece out of shit," he declared. Denis Lavant plays the grotesque creature, *Merde*—French for "shit"—who lives in the sewers and terrorizes Tokyo's citizens. Although hilarious, *Monsieur Merde* aptly reflects modern society's flaws and blindness in the face of fear and offense.

Though intriguing in concept and execution, *Merde* is the least remarkable film of the three. "I had no special interest in Tokyo," Carax explained. The film, a modern allegory of fundamentalism and racism, loses its focus early on. Had he only achieved cohesiveness between the multiple languages spoken in the film and the editing, *Merde* could have laid bare society's inadequacies.

For Carax, *Merde* represents a terror whose effects are eternally present. He even left the possibility of a *Merde* in NYC segment open-ended—"Maybe I'll confront him with a woman. Go up to Fashion Week, and kidnap Kate Moss, and take her to the sewers."

Bong Joon-ho, director of *The Host*, took a simpler, futuristic approach to Tokyo. *Shaking Tokyo* relies heavily on the introspective, striking performance of Teruyuki Kagawa, who plays a shut-in or *hikikomori*. When an earthquake and a delivery girl shake his world, the *hikikomori* takes a leap of faith and steps outside, only to find Tokyo as desolate as his apartment. It is a soaring statement of the remoteness anyone can feel despite being in a city of millions.

Tokyo! merely catalyzes these three directors' fantasies. This film is not only worthwhile because the trinity epitomizes the creative filmic minds of our future, but because it can simultaneously uplift a student's spirits. Instead of angsting over schoolwork, take the afternoon off, venture into the city, and escape to *Tokyo!*

Quality Over Quantity Reigns At French Roast



VALERIYA
SAFRONOVA

WEST SIDE FLAVORS

I wanted to love it. The reviews, from both professional critics and passionate eaters, were in agreement. The descriptions were enticing, arousing, and perfect. I pictured a Greek haven, reminiscent of a whitewashed villa, with subtly

delicious heaps of food for a price that would make any budget expert rejoice. The new, expanded Kefi sounded better than anything I could have thought up myself.

Before actually eating at Kefi, I had watched a special on it in the back of a taxi cab, read about it in at least five separate *New York Magazine* articles, and heard its fans moan with adoration. Walking into the brightly lit dining room, my expectations were—to say the least—high.

With a location on 84th and Columbus, just a few blocks from the 86th Street stop on the 1, Kefi had already earned points from me. Seeing the homey, cheerful atmosphere, elevated by the endlessly affordable Greek wine displayed behind the bar, made Kefi rise even more in my esteem. Then I tasted the food.

The sheep's milk dumplings, which I had heard praised numerous times, were terribly presented and absolutely bland. Though combining tomato and pine nuts with spicy lamb sausage, the dumplings failed to create even a hint of flavor. The walnut cake with walnut ice cream, glorified by critics, was dry, tasteless, and boring. Add to this experience the over-extended waiters (my friend had to request a fork five times before it appeared) and the broken, flashing lights, and all that I had left to say was "damn it."

I am an optimist. I went to Kefi a second time. The famous meatballs looked as if they had been microwaved and left me feeling uneasy about the span of time that had passed since their preparation. And the ravioli, of which there were only three small pieces, were drowning in butter.

As I hesitatingly handed over my money for this pitiable meal, I came to a conclusion: like Marxism, Kefi is a great concept in theory. In practice, however, it falls to pieces. Whether by fault of its popularity, its attempt at staying inexpensive, or some sort of mismanagement, Kefi has failed. Too many mouths to feed in too short a time leave little room for fresh ingredients and quality preparation. What's left to do? Sedate the masses with a bottle of Greek wine, and hope they stay confused in a foggy state of satisfaction.

Though Kefi has been dominating food media, it is by no means the only hope for tasty, affordable cuisine near the 86th Street stop. Just a block away from the subway, on the corner of Broadway and 85th, stands French Roast. Maybe it's because French food has become so widespread that it is practically conventional, or because bistros adorn half the corners of the city, but whatever the reason, French Roast has been overlooked by critics.

Inside, French Roast is crowded and dimly lit. Rather than be off-putting, however, this serves to create the sensation of being on a Parisian street in the very peak of the night, when hungry souls of all types gather together for a moment to recover and recollect. The crowd is varied, the conversation is constantly alive, and the food is most definitely worth the trip and the money.

The warm goat cheese salad is a classic, and French Roast does a great job of it. The typical flavor combination is made even better with the addition of a mango dressing, adding just the right amount of tropical tanginess to complement the partially melted, just barely bitter goat cheese. The crispy duck confit features tender, flavorful meat whose flavor is brought out by sweet figs. The skate fish entrée is almost silky, and delicately flavored. For dessert, the crepe cake is soft and layered with lightly sweetened cream.

As we have been told countless times in the last year, now is the time to save. This does not mean, however, that we should forsake pleasure and accept low costs without question. Kefi, a restaurant exalted by many, has chosen quantity over quality. French Roast, on the other hand, remains beneath the radar of critics and retains high standards despite the low prices. To me, it seems, the choice is simple.

Valeriya Safronova is a Columbia College first-year.

West Side Flavors runs alternate Fridays.

WEEKEND PICKS

THE EDITORS’ BEST BETS FOR THE WEEKEND AHEAD

ART

Berlin 2000 at PaceWildenstein. 545 W. 22nd St. (between 10th and 11th avenues). Friday, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., free. Although Armory Week is in full swing, you shouldn’t rule out a trip to Chelsea. Head on down to the opening of Pace’s new group exhibition, revolving around artists who were working during the collapse of the Berlin Wall. Make sure to keep your eyes peeled for celebrities and famous artists like Kiki Smith and Chuck Close.

FILM

The French Connection at the MoMA. 11 W. 53 St. (between Fifth and Sixth avenues). Friday, 8:30 p.m., \$6. Gene Hackman stars as ‘Popeye’ Doyle in William Freidkin’s paranoid cop thriller, in which the narcotics buster looks to take down a big French shipment. This classic is worth watching on the big screen simply for the impossibly dangerous and exhilarating car chase.

TV

Asssscat 3000 at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre. 307 W. 26th St. (between Eighth and Ninth avenues). Sunday, 9:30 p.m., free. The UCB Theater is known for hosting some of TV’s best comics, and each week at Asssscat 3000, they boast potential high profile special guests from *Saturday Night Live* and *The Daily Show*. Whether you’ll get lucky enough to see them is up in the air, but a good comedy show’s always worth the trip.

DANCE

Savion Glover at the Joyce Theatre. 175 Eighth Ave. and 19th Street. Thursday through Friday, 8 p.m., Saturday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., \$19. Put on your dancing shoes—or, at least, watch someone dance instead. Savion Glover will combine his renowned rhythmic tap sounds with the exoticism of live Flamenco music in his program “SoLo in TiME”, once again proving that tap dancing is not a purely physical form, but one that responds directly to its musical accompaniment.

THEATER

Senior Thesis Festival Part I at Minor Latham Playhouse. 118 Milbank Hall, Barnard College. Friday, March 6th and Saturday, March 7th, free. Three senior theater majors present their directing theses performed by Barnard Theater students. The classic coming of age story *Little Brother: Little Sister* will play at 8:30 p.m. on Friday and 10 p.m. on Saturday. *Sorry, Wrong Number*, about a woman who mistakenly overhears a murder plot, will play at 10 p.m. on Friday and 8:30 p.m. Saturday. The one-act *Life Under Water* is showing at 7 p.m. on Friday and 8:30 p.m. Saturday.

MUSIC

Reigning Sound at Southpaw. 125 Fifth Ave. (near Sterling Place), Brooklyn. Friday, 8 p.m., \$12. When over-produced electroclash has got you down, the Reigning Sound is a great reminder of the power of plain-old rock ‘n’ roll. The Memphis-based band takes their loud and country-tinged act to Brooklyn this weekend.

BOOKS

Stranger Love Panel Discussions at The New School. 6 E. 16th St. (between Fifth and Sixth avenues), Ninth Floor. Saturday, 1-5:30 p.m., free. Stranger Love is the South Asian Women’s Creative Collective’s Sixth Annual Literary Festival. The panelists, which include Fawzia Afzal-Khan, Meena Alexander, and Farzana Doctor, will discuss the intersection of literature and war, the exploration of travel and displacement in non-fiction, and unconventional re-imaginings of race, gender, and sexual identity.

WILDCARD

BDSM for Vanilla Folks at the Museum of Sex. 233 Fifth Avenue (at 27th Street). Friday, 7 p.m., \$13.50 for students. If you’re feeling a little masochistic after studying for mid-terms all day, head to MoSex to get some perspective. Sex-positive feminist Clarisse Thorn will lead a seminar about BDSM for beginners. She’ll be talking about the history of the movement, and how it functions today—but it might be best to leave your handcuffs at home.

SEARCH FOR THE BEST DOUGHNUT IN THE CITY

Forethought and Creativity Lead to Winning Doughnuts

BY LAUREN HEROLD
Columbia Daily Spectator

Ever since my first specialty doughnut, I’ve been hooked on these doughy delicacies. I’ll admit it: to find my way to a better doughnut, I’ve skipped school, taken rides in some sketchy cars, given away my credit card information—and I don’t regret a thing. But thanks to Columbia’s location, students in need of a weekend sugar fix can forget hitchhiking and instead hop the subway to a world of doughnut options.

It’s hard to talk about doughnuts in New York City without mentioning the Doughnut Plant, a international sensation on the Lower East Side. And while some of their doughnuts are out of this world—whoever thought to make a crème brûlée doughnut was a genius—for the most part, the doughnuts aren’t worth the hype (or the subway ride).

The Doughnut Plant’s inventive, organic doughnuts are its claim to fame, but I find them a bit overdone, too big, and simply not that tasty. To get the experience at a closer locale, Oren’s carries them—and they are half off after 12 p.m.

Café Falai, in Nolita, carries bomboloni, which are small, round, holeless Italian doughnuts that put American Dunkin’ Donuts to shame. The bomboloni dough is fresh, light, melt-in-your-mouth moist, and sprinkled with sugar. Inside, these bomboloni pack a sweet punch: each one is filled with jam, chocolate, or vanilla custard. Recommended by the staff, the vanilla is richly sweet and creamy, like the best cake batter you’ve ever had.

For a more traditional doughnut, head over to Balthazar Bakery, just a few blocks away from Café Falai in SoHo. These doughnuts are small, cute, and topped with a delicious banana-nut glaze combo. While they may sound like your run-of-the-mill glazed Dunkin’, don’t be fooled: their dough, which is still fluffy in the late afternoon, is neither too light nor too heavy and makes for the perfect snack. Whereas Dunkin’ always leaves me wanting more, this understated doughnut left me completely satisfied—an impressive feat for something so small.

For a doughy fix closer to home, hop the 1 train on a Saturday morning and head to Columbus Circle’s Bouchon Bakery. Don’t let the fact that Bouchon is located inside a mall



Courtesy of Deborah Jones

fool you—they are serious culinary artists, and their doughnuts are seriously good. And huge. If the bomboloni from Café Falai are dessert, these doughnuts are the whole breakfast.

But don’t let their intimidating size get you down—the dough is deep-fried, but still sweet and moist with a texture somewhere between bready and cake-like. Their only variety is holeless, and stuffed with a thick, chocolatey cream.

Ultimately, The Doughnut Plant’s mediocre organic products prove it’s not the hype or the specialty that makes a good dessert. Bouchon only makes their doughnuts on Saturday mornings, yet they are some of the best in Manhattan. Balthazar’s petite but delicious wares show that size doesn’t matter much, either.

Instead, making a good doughnut combines good ingredients and careful preparation. Add a delicate

DOUGHY DELIGHTS | Discover a variety of doughnuts in New York City, from Café Falai’s bombolini, to Bouchon’s chocolate-filled treats.



Courtesy of Deborah Jones

balance of insight and creativity, and you’ve got the makings for a delicious interpretation of this American favorite.

Café Falai is located at 265 Lafayette St. (at Prince Street);

Bouchon Bakery is located at 10 Columbus Circle (in the Time Warner Center, Third Floor); Balthazar Bakery is located at 80 Spring St. (at Crosby Street); The Doughnut Plant is located at 379 Grand St. (at Norfolk Street).

ART

A Melting Pot of Media at the Queens Museum of Art

BY JC BARCELON
Columbia Daily Spectator

It’s a bright and momentous occasion that takes a Columbian not just out of the Morningside bubble, but onto the mystic 7 line and all the way to Queens.

“Queens International 4” emits one such beckoning call. The fourth in a series of exhibitions held by the Queens Museum of Art, it’s exactly what it sounds like: a collection of work from numerous artists working in and around the multicultural neighborhood. Volcanically creative, “Queens” is an exotic ensemble of art alive with the borough’s cultural and visual diversity.

The museum itself is easily as large as the Met and stands out like a slate temple in the middle of Queens. While Manhattan is an Olympus of art, it is off the mountain where the most sensational stories occur. And some truly interesting things are happening outside of Manhattan.

In a dark room, Tommy Hartung’s, School of the Arts ’06, *Edward Holmes and the Family Tree ‘stay golden pony boy,’* is a video montage of clipped BBC footage from the *Ascent of Man* series portraying mud-brown children bathing in a river. The scenes are interjected with bizarre surrealist flashes of women and nature. In the artists’ words, the concept is to explore the mind of *Man*’s BBC narrator J. Bronowski. Meant as a dip, it feels more like a dunk—disorienting and rushed as the camera swims roughly from scene to scene. However, Hartung’s work seems less impressive compared with Ha Na Lee’s adjacent video display, *Abrasion*, a short but absorbing silent film recording a South Korean female’s violent response to a pig slaughtering.

The steel-entwined wooden structure of Yasue Maetake, School of the Arts ’06, juts up like a skyscraper, while

standing on a river of steel branches covered in images of translucent tadpoles. According to the artist, she challenges the wood, steel, and bamboo’s so-called strength: Are they really as durable as they seem? Or, like the tadpoles, are they both weaker and stronger than they look? Like Hartung, the concept behind Maetake’s work rouses interest, but the execution renders the message lost in the complexity and garbled assembly of the piece.

No doubt Hartung and Maetake entice the eyes—but not as successfully as Kymia Nawabi’s most visually explosive pieces *AH HA! HA! HA* and *Kaleidoscope Diamond Eyes*. Both mixed media pieces stand ten feet in height and best epitomize the spirit of the exhibition: vivid, creative and unapologetically ecstatic and tortured at the same time.

In *AH HA! HA! HA*, an assault of limbs and Victorian dresses pulse against supernovas of red, pale blue, and chalk, like a

dynamo. Nawabi comments that her work is a catharsis of her psychological demons. This is palpable, for no matter how full her canvas, Nawabi balances the edges with a serene border of negative space. To put it simply, she contains chaos.

Suggested donation-only, this is one exhibit unequivocally worth the trip off the mountain. While in impressive company, our fair alumni were sadly some of the less show-stopping. Nevertheless, Hartung and Maetake still do Columbia proud by holding their own among a phenomenal flock. While walking through the exhibition, its magnitude brought to mind that age-old question: where do graduates go after they graduate? As Hartung and Maetake demonstrate: to stand among the greats.

The Queens Museum is located in Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Queens. “International 4” runs through April 26th.

York Theatre Offers Progressive Education Initiatives

YORK THEATRE from page B1

recognition, the company also offers a site for innovation. The York has nurtured theatrical advancements among the ranks of Broadway’s Tony Award-winning musical *Avenue Q*, which launched via their ongoing Developmental Reading Series.

As a residence endorsing musical theatrical progression, the York

also leads initiatives to diversify and educate audiences through free and low-cost theater. Moreover, the York offers practical education initiatives through its volunteer and internship programs to help manage current productions.

Enter Laughing is currently playing on a recently extended run at the York. According to the York Theater Company’s Web site, the show—

directed by Stuart Ross—tells the story of a “stage-struck, woman-struck teenager who blunders his way into manhood via showbiz.” The musical comedy in the most literal sense now closes March 20th.

It may not be the vigorous scene of Times Square, but the musical theater of Midtown East is loud enough to still cause a ruckus in its relentless enterprise to bring new

and under-appreciated musicals to the forefront.

The York Theatre is located at 619 Lexington Ave. (between 53rd and 54th streets). Enter Laughing plays through Friday March 20th with performances Tuesday—Friday at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m. Student tickets are available for \$20 at ovationtix.com.

BOOKS

Closing of Bookstore Causes Wilde Reactions

BY MALLIKA NARAIN
Columbia Daily Spectator

On Feb. 3rd, the *New York Times* ran an article titled “Venerable Bookstore to Close in Village” to memorialize the Oscar Wilde Bookshop, believed to be the oldest gay and lesbian-themed vendor of literature in North America. Due to financial difficulties, it will officially shut its doors on Sunday, March 8.

The key word here, of course, is “venerable,” with its strong implications of age and historical prominence. This LGBT-themed bookstore has been around, first on Mercer St. but primarily at its current location on Christopher St., since 1967. It is, without a doubt, a neighborhood staple.

Situated near the Stonewall Inn—the site of the famous Stonewall Riots of ’69—and founded by Craig Rodwell, the late gay rights activist and one-time lover of Harvey Milk, the Oscar Wilde Bookshop serves as a visible testament to the progression of the gay rights movement over the past 40 years.

During the Bookshop’s formative years, Rodwell was strict in establishing its direction, pointedly refusing to sell pornography despite the genre’s popularity, and instead marketing the store

as a vendor of LGBT literature. Thanks to the reputability it has gained over the years and its ties to crucial watershed events in West Village history, the Bookshop’s demise will have symbolic repercussions extending beyond the immediacy of another neighborhood bookstore closing its doors.

Since owner Kim Brinster made the announcement about the Bookshop shutting down, forums all over the Internet have been abuzz with regrets and calls for activist mobilization. Many clients hearken back to 2003 in their comments, when the Bookshop was in a similar situation under then-owner Larry Lingle—but Lambda Rising Bookstores bought the store and bolstered it financially.

Unfortunately, this time it seems that not even support from advocate groups has been successful in fending off the recession from the Oscar Wilde Bookshop. In her official statement to the public, Brinster thanked booksellers and frequenters for their patronage, emphasizing the Bookshop’s community orientation and lamenting the fact that fiscal troubles have obligated her to close the store. She wrote: “We do not have the resources to weather the current economic



Courtesy of Cecelia Martin

VILLAGE VACANCY | The Oscar Wilde Bookshop, a Greenwich Village landmark and the oldest LGBT literature vendor in North America, will be officially shutting its doors this Sunday, March 8th, because of financial difficulties.

crisis and find it’s time to call it a day.”

After politely explaining that reporters have constantly hounded her over the past month, Brinster, who was working at the register when I visited the Bookshop last weekend, categorically refused to grant me an interview. Nonetheless, it was quite moving to watch customer after customer voice their apologies about the store’s closing, and the cordoned-off back room lent the store a som-

ber air of finality.

Although a fairly hefty number of books remain in the non-fiction, biography, travel, and graphic novel sections, these—along with the more eclectic selection of holiday mermen, themed calendars, and Obama T-shirts—are quickly dwindling as clients take advantage of the clearance discounts.

The Bookshop will continue to take online orders until the middle of March, and, fortunately, customers will still have

access to stores like Lambda Rising in D.C. and Giovanni’s Room in Philadelphia for their LGBT book needs.

With the Bookshop gone, Glad Day Bookshop in Toronto will take on the title of the oldest store of LGBT literature in North America.

The Oscar Wilde Bookshop is located at 15 Christopher St., and is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Through closing on Sunday, all books are 25 percent off.

Portraits Line the Walls of A Literary Institution

LIBRARY from page B4

as the finest folio views of 19th century American cities.”

To the left is Stephen Dupont’s extraordinary “Afghanistan, or The Perils of Freedom.” Dupont is a highly acclaimed photographer, documentary filmmaker, and war correspondent, and this is his first solo exhibition in the United States. A perfect example of art inciting change, Dupont’s coverage of the war in Afghanistan resulted in required cultural-awareness training for U.S. troops stationed there.

Dupont’s photographs of the war, and of Afghanistan’s burgeoning drug industry, are startling, even in black and white. One depicts a young man with an indescribable expression holding a rifle in his prosthetic arms, and another captures a bicycling man who seems to be more shadow than human being. These images are juxtaposed with a horrifying, dehumanizing portrayal of the effect of war: the back of a marine’s helmet, upon which is written, in stark capitals, “03 KILL EM ALL.”

On the other wall is a series of Dupont’s portraits of Afghanis

entitled “Axe me Biggie.” This phrase is, as *Now* informs us, “a phonetic rendering of the Dari for ‘Mister, take my picture!’” In the first set of photographs there is a decided lack of humanity—people seem mere objects in the landscape of war.

The subjects of the portraits, however, fiercely assert their right to be human, even when faced with war’s atrocities. Men with abrasive self-confidence pose clutching money or guns, a woman warily holds up the eggs she is selling, and a man with an incongruous bouquet of flowers all regard the camera with expressions that are part animosity, part incredulousness.

A visit to the Fifth Avenue library is part field trip, part pilgrimage, part mental awakening, as well as a chance to get work done outside of Morningside Heights. And for students who aren’t afraid to multi-task, this is a pretty perfect arrangement.

The New York Public Library of Humanities and Social Sciences is located at 42nd Street and Fifth Avenue. It is open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., and Sunday from 1-5 p.m.



Nandita Kripandhi for *Spectator*

ARMORY APOTHECARY | At the Armory Show, many galleries showcase artwork that isn’t easily purchased. But for \$20, performance artist Christine Hill listened to visitors’ ailments and prescribed personalized remedies.

Contemporary Art Uplifts at the Armory

ARMORY SHOW from page B1

being very affirmative and healing in a spiritual metaphysical sense.”

The belief that the works at The Armory are not necessarily there just for a profit seems to be the overall consensus. Its main goal is to showcase the best art, not necessarily the most “sellable.” As Giovanni Garcia-Fenech, the fair’s current communications manager and a former exhibitor, said, “A lot of what happens in the show is not about sales. It’s about meeting people and meeting artists.”

The Adam Fuss photographs at Cheim & Read are truly representative of the quality of the fair. Some of the best photo pieces in the entire show, these untitled photograms look like textured silk, spotted with arbitrary water droplets and waves. Similarly impressive are the golden El Anatsui installations located near the new Modern pier. The installations are enormous in size, and their intricacy is astounding: bottle caps and champagne wrappers have been carefully folded and attached by copper wires to create undulating wave-like masses.

Focused, bright, and carefully rendered, the works at Baronian Francey’s booth look like they belong together. A set of miniature photorealist paintings by Robert Devriendt are eerily restrained by their size, and Lionel Estève’s



Nandita Kripandhi for *Spectator*

EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS | Barnard professor John Miller showed his work—a set of found objects covered in gold—at The Armory Show.

playful, neon sculpture-painting asks to be touched.

Another exciting find at the fair is a collection of sculptures by John Miller, a Barnard visual arts professor. The sculptures are objects that range from guns to bottles, and they stand out amidst the surrounding paintings because they are covered with gold. When asking his dealer, Bruno Delavallade, how he and others were doing in terms of sales, he admitted, “Slower. I’d say slower.” But he quickly added, “I think it’s

a really beautiful fair.”

What is most interesting about this year’s Armory Show, however, is the addition of Pier 92 entirely dedicated to dealers of Modern art. Yet although this addition is significant, it makes the fair overwhelming and indigestible. “It’s a stamina issue,” said Nocella. The awkward separation between the two “zones” begins the dizzying transition, and only until you’ve walked through a couple of booths do you realize that most of the artwork can be seen at the MoMA. However, it is still exciting to see all of the artwork up close, which is why for a focused buyer, the pier is convenient. But for viewers, this section of the Armory would be better relegated to a different time of year.

From the humor of Wim Delvoye’s *Fuck 1* x-ray to the absurdity of Tony Matelli’s *Double Meat Head* meat constructed busts, The Armory Show is able to bring a breath of fresh air to Manhattan. In the end, the fair seems to articulate the hope that art may move beyond an objectively traded commodity to become something that is loved and valued for what it is.

The Armory Show runs through March 8. It is located at Pier 92 & 94, 13th Avenue at 52nd-55th streets.

FILM from page B4

The retrospective continues Friday and Saturday with screenings of *Man Push Cart* and *Chop Shop*.

If the sterile white walls of the MoMA leave you yearning for something a little more nostalgic, Midtown is also home to the famous Paris and Ziegfeld theaters. Not only are these iconic theaters among the last remaining single-screen theaters in Manhattan, they are also home to every major premier in the city.

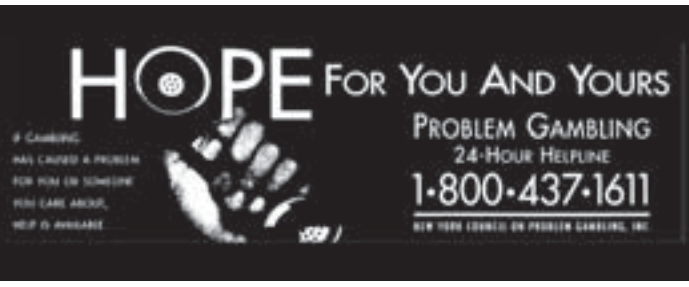
For art house cinema devotees, The Paris, which celebrated its 60th anniversary last year, offers mostly foreign and independent films, screening only one per week and eliminating irritating pre-show commercials. Best of all, at the Paris you can indulge your desire for an old-school film screening without worrying that the sentiment you’re paying for is kitschy or manufactured.

If you’re looking for something

a little more flashy and plush, The Ziegfeld might be more your fare. Not only does it have more seating, but its interior is also dripping in red velvet and gold accenting. The one trade off to the Ziegfeld’s authenticity is that, unlike The Paris, it only traces its history back to the late 1960’s when it was built as a semi-revival of an old Broadway theater. Nonetheless, The Ziegfeld is a recognizable landmark, hosting the New York Film Festival last fall.

Catering to a wide variety of tastes with its blend of substance and panache, Midtown provides a fix for even the pickiest cinephiles, looking for quality in both film and presentation.

The MoMA is located at 11 W. 53rd St. (between Fifth and Sixth avenues), the Paris is located at 4 W. 58th St. (off Fifth Avenue), and the Ziegfeld is located at 141 W. 54th St. (between Fifth and Sixth avenues).



Flying Solo in Union Square



SHANE FERRO
WEEKEND ROMP

Last week, I had a date. Except it wasn’t really a date—we were supposed to meet up when he got back into the city after Shabbat dinner in Queens, but I knew that he probably wasn’t going to make it back on time.

So I found myself sitting alone on the second floor of Whole Foods, tucked up against the floor-to-ceiling windows, staring out at the brilliantly lit Empire State Building over a bustling Union Square on a Friday night.

And it wasn’t as lonely as it sounds.

As a person who is completely captivated by the city and has little patience to wait around for others to be similarly enthralled, I often-times find myself hopping on the 1 train for a solo trip downtown. There are plenty of places in the city that are perfectly acceptable, if not preferable, to visit alone.

This particular evening, Whole Foods’ cafe was jam-packed. A businessman (and, he was eager to mention, a former Columbia student) explained life as a New Yorker to two German tourists, while a group of New York University modern dance students discussed all the things that were wrong with ballet teachers.

People from all walks of life passed through—couples, singles, families, workers, tourists, and lone faces like me just silently observing the rest. It struck me that New York is one of the only places in the world where such a lively scene is to be had at 10 p.m. on a Friday night—and one of the only places where I could be comfortable being completely alone at such a time.

As the evening waned, I decided to move from my perch (but not before observing two undercover cops bust a few drug dealers in the park). I headed up Union Square East to the W Hotel Union Square—another haunt that I knew would have space for a single person looking for a seat and a few crazies to observe. I was also hungry, and knew that they always have a large bowl of free apples at the check-in desk.

Instead of finding a comfy couch for myself, I discovered another one of my favorite things about New York—friendly strangers. What do you do if you are a 30-something-year-old guy out with a few buddies on a Friday night, and a lonely-looking girl walks in, obviously in need of a seat? You ask her to sit down.

And so my group of one became a group of six, and I found myself with a pseudodate for the evening. He was a theater producer out with his banker friends from New Jersey, and actually made being in theater sound more promising than being in finance. We discussed my lack of a date, my experience at Columbia, my future in law school, and my desire to save the world (everyone seems skeptical about that one).

I spent a perfectly pleasant hour and a half in the company of five people I had never met before, just because I decided to walk into a bar alone. At the end of the evening, a really drunk lady handed me a rose and told me I was pretty.

This is why I tell my mother that I don’t need to look for a husband. I can marry Manhattan.

Shane Ferro is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in political science and sustainable development. Weekend Romp runs alternate Fridays.

BOOKS

Libraries in the City

Hit the Books While Basking in Beautiful Art At the Fifth Avenue NYPL

BY ELIZABETH KEENE
Columbia Daily Spectator

In the midst of a hectic neighborhood made up of H&M, Pret-a-Manger, and corporate offices, stands the Humanities and Social Sciences Library, a serene haven for readers and perusers alike located on 42nd Street and Fifth Avenue.

The library is worth a visit, not only because it is a beautiful place to work, but also because the journey to Fifth Avenue affords a helpful change of scenery. For students in need of a break from Morningside Heights, this is just the place to spur your



Kenneth Jackson / Staff Photographer

brain out of stagnation. And, because it's an excellent space for studying, a trip to the Public Library makes for a guilt-free city excursion.

Past the library's cavernous entrance hall, the stairs lead to the Rose Main reading room. One of the best things about this library is that much of the art it contains is integrated into the building itself—murals and statues are everywhere. Stretching over the rows of reading tables are enormous windows through which readers have been watching the skyline change for nearly a hundred years. If you should happen to take a mental break and stare into space,

you can rest assured that you'll end up staring at something beautiful.

The library provides great opportunities for study breaks as well. Two exhibit halls flank the Rose Main reading room. To the right of the room is "William James Bennett: Master of the Aquatint View," a series of topographical prints created during the 1830s and 1840s of a variety of urban centers. The NYPL's magazine *Now* says of the prints: "Capturing the optimism of the new country, his [James Bennett's] magnificent works are regarded

SEE LIBRARY, page B3

NOT JUST THE BOOKS | In addition to its extensive collection of humanities and social sciences texts, the Fifth Avenue NYPL has two art exhibition halls.



Kenneth Jackson / Staff Photographer



Diana Wong / Staff Photographer

CINEMA CENTRAL | The MoMA, the Paris Theater, and the Zeigfeld Theater will delight art house and old school movie enthusiasts alike with their special screenings on the other side of the park.

THEATER

York Theatre Company Revives Overlooked Classics

BY RUTHIE FIERBERG
Spectator Staff Writer

Living on the Upper West Side, it's easy to cling to the easily accessible theater stops off the 1 train.

Though Midtown West is on the red line and no doubt the theater powerhouse of the city, in Midtown East there's a quieter more intimate theater scene worth crossing the park for.

The York Theatre Company located at 619 Lexington Avenue between 53rd and 54th streets provides a venue to explore smaller musical endeavors. Specifically dedicated to musical theater, the York has historically been the birthplace for new pieces as well as a place dedicated to the revival of previously under-appreciated musical nuggets.

A number of creations started at the York before migrating to successful show runs on Broadway and off-Broadway such as *The Musical of Musicals (the Musical!)*, *Sweeney Todd*, and Stephen Schwartz's *Captain Louie*. Since its founding in 1969 by Janet Hayes Walker, the York commits not only to producing an abounding quantity of musical theater—presenting approximately 200 musical performances per year—the company continues to commit to quality in its handiwork.

Through its Mainstage Series the York has



MUSICAL UNDERDOG | The York Theatre Company prides itself on presenting an abundant variety of new theater works as well as under-appreciated gems, and produces approximately 200 performances per year.

had the opportunity to premiere three to four full productions per year by both novice and reputable writers. Their Musicals in Mufti Series presents concert revival readings—full concerts in which actors perform with scripts



Courtesy of Phil Haas

and minimal staging—to showcase the city's musical performing talents.

Not only does the York provide a space for

SEE YORK THEATRE, page B2

FILM

East Side Movie Venues Offer More Than Mainstream Fare

BY VICTORIA FOX
Columbia Daily Spectator

Sick of the aggressive commercialism of the modern multiplex, but looking for quality films, and not just a DVD on a computer screen? From special film exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, to the historic single-screen Paris and Ziegfeld theaters, the Midtown cinema scene provides a satisfying balance between film's artistry and old-fashioned grandeur.

Regardless of when you find yourself in Midtown, the MoMA has daily film screenings. Of special note, this weekend the museum is featuring a retrospective on the films of Columbia alumnus Ramin Bahrani, CC '96. The MoMA lauds the "consistency and integrity" of Bahrani's work, highlighting it as a pure example of humanist cinema that "focuses on individuals at the margins of society who are vulnerable, under pressure, and determined to cope."

The exhibition, titled "Filmmaker in Focus: Ramin Bahrani," kicked off Wednesday with a screening of Bahrani's film *Man Push Cart*, followed by a showing of the director's newest film *Goodbye Solo* on Thursday.

SEE FILM, page B3

DANCE

Little-known Ballet Company Makes it Big

BY CATHERINE RICE
Spectator Staff Writer

If you're looking for an alternative source of classical ballet, New York Theatre Ballet—located at 30 E. 31st St. between Park and Madison avenues—is an option that will satisfy everyone from ballet connoisseurs to children. The company prides itself on the restoration of small works by canonized choreographers as well as presenting shorter, more accessible works based on children's literature meant for younger generations.

The company's New York season features a number of innovative programs and events. The *Once Upon A Ballet* series specializes in miniature works, approximately one hour long, based on famous ballets like *The Nutcracker*, *Cinderella*, and *Sleeping Beauty*. The choreography has been deemed by critics to be sophisticated enough to appeal to adults but simple and sweet enough to entertain children.

Signatures 08: A Celebration of Legends and Visionaries—a series to be presented in April—will feature a piece called *Dance/Speak: The Life of Agnes de Mille*, a dance/drama which tells the autobiographical story of choreographer Agnes de Mille, who achieved success in New York City theatre. The piece is a compilation of scenes from other well known shows such as *Oklahoma!* and *Brigadoon*, and through this montage of dances the artistic life of de Mille is revealed.

The series *Dance on a Shoestring* is ultimately designed for budding dancers to experiment with new ideas and roles in relatively smaller works that emphasize the Cecchetti aesthetic, named after the renowned ballet instructor Enrico Cecchetti of the late 19th century. This season's *Dance on a Shoestring* will feature both new and classic works, with programs after the performances that allow company members to teach children special choreography from the NYTB training school.

The training school of the NYTB maintains nearly as prominent a role in the ballet scene of New York as the actual company does. The children's division offers classes from pre-ballet through advanced levels, stressing a sense of theatre, style, and musicality over technique and strict form. The adult division offers a variety of classes for professional dancers, for intermediate dancers in both ballet and modern, as well as classes for nonprofessionals at the beginning and intermediate levels.

New York Ballet Theatre may not be as mainstream or groundbreaking as the divine New York City Ballet or providential American Ballet Theatre, but it's a breath of fresh air compared to the cutthroat quality of these dominating New York companies. There's something to be said for a ballet company that maintains its image as the "people's company" rather than that with the best technique and most prestige in the world.

Neighborhood Watch