



COURTLAND THOMAS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

GETTING SCHOOLED | Paramita Roy and Michael Rady, Education Umbrella members, attended the training workshop Tuesday.

Education Umbrella teaches future teachers

BY CAMILLE BAPTISTA
Spectator Staff Writer

Columbia students are getting a taste of what teaching in a real classroom is like thanks to a speaker series organized by a coalition of educational student groups on campus.

Students gathered in a Hamilton classroom Tuesday evening to hear from Teach For America alumnus Jake Jung in the second of five workshops hosted by Education Umbrella.

As he reviewed strategies for creating an orderly classroom, Jung sprinkled anecdotes throughout the session about his experiences with fifth- and sixth-graders at a Brooklyn charter school. One of his fondest, he said, was when he combined his class with a kindergarten class for a project.

“There were up to 50 kids in the class at any given point, between kindergartners and fifth-graders,” Jung said. “Between two teachers, we were able to manage everyone, largely because of the things that I’m going to talk to you about

tonight.”

Education Umbrella President Mike Rady, CC ’13, said he started the events because of his own experiences volunteering in an eighth-grade classroom.

“I realized there were a lot of skills that I wish I had before entering the classroom,” Rady said, citing techniques such as lesson planning and behavior management. “Teaching is not necessarily something that comes naturally to people.”

After reading about experiences and advice from published educators, Rady decided that new student teachers at Columbia should have access to important teaching techniques and materials before entering classrooms.

Rady, a Teach For America representative for Columbia, contacted the national organization in search of resources for the trainings. Using a grant he secured from the Columbia College Student Council, he arranged to have Jung come to Columbia to lead biweekly sessions covering a number of education-related topics.

In the 75-minute session Tuesday, Jung outlined a simple three-step classroom management technique called the Behavior Management Cycle, which he credited to his “classroom management guru,” renowned education expert Lee Canter. The cycle involves first giving students clear and detailed instructions in order to not leave room for interpretation, then acknowledging those students who are following directions, and finally identifying and giving consequences to those who misbehave.

Although the individual steps are not “revolutionary,” Jung said, it can be easy for teachers to forget them.

“It’s well-tested, it’s proven in research, and it works,” he said of the cycle. “Urban, rural, poor, rich—it doesn’t matter what kind of classroom it goes in. It works.”

Throughout the training, students were encouraged to ask questions in response to the material being presented, and many approached Jung after class to ask specific questions about his own

experiences and opinions.

“It’s cool to see them getting inquisitive. I definitely have had some positive feedback from the students,” Jung said after the training, adding that some students asked if they could visit his classroom.

Rady also reported positive feedback, as well as a diverse crowd of participants, from seniors entering the teaching field to underclassmen from all the undergrad schools.

Registration for the sessions increased after the first week, Rady said, with some new students showing up to the training events and signing up on the spot.

Ben Harris, CC ’14, said he enjoyed Jung’s teaching methods. He signed up for the sessions to supplement his teaching experience with Youth for Debate.

Jung “really does a good job showing skills instead of just telling us about them,” Harris said. “Should I end up pursuing teaching after graduation, I’ll have a

SEE TEACHERS, page 2

Locals plan year two of participatory budgeting

BY EVA KALIKOFF
Spectator Staff Writer

A mobile cooking classroom, a high-tech computer lab, a news kiosk—these are a few of the about 20 proposals presented by City Council member Melissa Mark-Viverito at a participatory budgeting expo Tuesday night.

Participatory budgeting, a process that lets community members vote on how to use at least \$1 million in city money for specific

projects in their district, started last year in Mark-Viverito’s District 8, which includes Manhattan Valley and parts of East Harlem.

“Over the last few months, budget delegates have been turning ideas into proposals,” Andrew King, Mark-Viverito’s director of community affairs, said during the event at the Children’s Aid Society of Frederick Douglass Houses at 104th Street and Columbus Avenue. Seven committees worked independently to come up with the

project ideas, which residents will vote on in April.

Neon triangular banners, emblazoned with letters spelling out “Participatory Budgeting,” decorated the gymnasium where the event was held. Tri-fold cardboard posters lined tables around the edges of the room, displaying each proposal with pictures and bullet points, and residents had the opportunity to view the displays and mingle with project leaders.

Local projects include an overpass for the 103rd Street subway entrance on Broadway, as the stairs can be dangerously slippery when it snows or rains, said Alex Medwedew, a member of the budgeting transportation committee.

“This is a low-tech project and it’s something community people have requested,” he said.

Medwedew also talked about an interactive, informational kiosk screen to be installed on a Manhattan Valley street, which would display local news and political websites. Medwedew asked the audience of about 50 assembled residents if they had Internet in their homes, and only about half of the group raised its hands.

“You could bring a lot of organizations together and present

information on the street corner,” Medwedew said, adding that the advertising revenue from selling ads on the screen would pay for the upkeep.

Another proposal would fund a mobile cooking classroom, a forum for residents to learn healthy recipes and cooking techniques. Susan Rodriguez, who presented the classroom, said healthy eating is often ignored, and it can be difficult for people to get to grocery stores during extreme weather.

“We want to be able to provide hot nutritious food for our fellow neighbors in times of need,” she said.

While this year’s proposals are moving forward, the results of last year’s budgeting process, which funded projects like new playground equipment and transportation for seniors, have not yet come to fruition. King said a monitoring committee ensures that the money gets to where it is meant to be, but the time it takes to navigate the city’s bureaucracy makes it likely that the winners will remain grounded for another year or two.

One focus this year for participatory budgeting, King said, is

SEE BUDGET, page 2

TC residents bemoan Bancroft closing

Planned two-year renovations force students, families to move

BY DENNIS ZHOU
Columbia Daily Spectator

Bancroft Hall, a Teachers College residence hall that houses 108 students and their families, will close in July for two years of major renovations—and residents say they are having trouble finding new housing.

The \$30 million project will replace all heating, plumbing, and electrical systems, and install new kitchens and bathrooms in every apartment. All current residents must move out by the start of construction and can either relocate to other Teachers College dormitories or find off-campus housing.

But available on-campus options do not suit families of four or more, said Catherine Box, an Ed.D. candidate who lives in Bancroft with her husband Jean-Baptiste and their children, Océane, 8, and Samuel, 3.

“Those of us with two children or more are finding that the process will be disproportionately challenging,” Catherine Box said. “Rents for a two-bedroom apartment are going to require an income of 40 times your monthly rent, so you’re looking at having to make \$80 to \$90 thousand a year, and as a full-time student, I don’t come close to that.”

Jim Mitchell, TC’s vice president of campus and auxiliary services, said that the administration had not anticipated students’

difficulties finding off-campus housing.

“The requirement of landlords for such a large guarantor amount, and also, in some cases, for up to a year’s rent payment in advance,” was surprising, he said.

The Box family lives in a two-story, three-bedroom apartment in Bancroft. The upstairs is converted into a shared bedroom for the two children, with a bunk bed and floor covered with toys. They moved to their current apartment three years ago, and have lived for a total of seven years in the dorm.

Catherine expects to pay at least an extra \$1,000 per month on rent for off-campus housing. But the biggest difficulty, she said, is the requirement for a guarantor with an even higher salary, which she can’t meet.

“So now the option is for me to stop taking care of Catherine and the kids ... and find a job, which would not be enough anyway to pay that much,” Jean-Baptiste Box, who currently stays at home, said. “It would be enough to pay the rent,” he said, but not enough to get a lease.

Teachers College may be able to sign leases as guarantor to placate the landlords.

“That’s pretty feasible for us to do,” Mitchell said. “I don’t see a reason why they wouldn’t accept that.”

SEE BANCROFT, page 2

CB9 resolution calls for Morningside historic rezoning

BY SOPHIE MAHER
AND AVANTIKA KUMAR
Columbia Daily Spectator

A Community Board 9 resolution calling for a rezoning that would limit development in Morningside Heights is a victory for local preservationists who say Columbia is hurting the area’s historic nature.

The proposal, which passed almost unanimously at the board’s meeting two weeks ago, requests that the Department of City Planning conduct a study for contextual rezoning, between 110th and 125th streets and from Riverside Drive to Morningside Avenue.

According to the resolution, the rezoning would prevent the construction of new buildings “that do not reflect the unique historic character of the neighborhood’s magnificent architecture.”

“It would mean that new development would have to be contextual with existing historic development,” CB9 member Brad Taylor said.

If the planning department goes forward with the rezoning, the city will enforce height or design requirements “more in keeping with the historic standards,” Taylor said.

“The City Planning Commission would have to decide if they would like to undertake this study, so that’s what has to happen next,” he said. Rezoning would also require City Council approval.

Contextual rezoning resolutions have passed nearby in West Harlem and the Upper West Side, leaving Morningside Heights potentially subject to increased pressure for development, the resolution reads.

While local preservationists have advocated for a historic district for the neighborhood,

which would require residents to get city approval for changes to building exteriors, the rezoning would be a separate effort.

“There’s got to be a two-pronged effort,” Taylor said. “The historic district is one, zoning is the other, because the rezoning will deal with sites that don’t have historic structures on them but could be developed in the future in a way that would be out of scale with the historic buildings.”

Preservationists said that a contextual rezoning would be a big step toward preserving the character of the neighborhood, and stopping what they said was out-of-context development by Columbia.

“Plans were set with a very reasoned approach with respect to introducing new construction into the historical context,” said Gregory Dietrich, Morningside Heights Historic District Committee adviser and preservation consultant, referring to a 1998 planning study that the University released. “The idea that they would dismiss this altogether when actually confronted with new development is basically not in the best interest of community preservation, neighborhood preservation, or preserving neighborhood character.”

Dietrich and other preservationists pointed to the Northwest Corner Building, on 120th Street and Broadway, as an example of a building that is outside the historic style of the community.

“Standing on the other side of the campus, I feel like it’s an eyesore,” MHHDC executive board member Betsy Cangelosi said. “It totally does not go with anything that you see in the viewpoint.”

“This is not a building that

SEE REZONING, page 2

A&E, BACK PAGE

Nick Hornby talks Ben Folds, writing

The acclaimed British author discussed his prolific career at the Kraft Center for Jewish Student Life.



OPINION, PAGE 4

Lens of Distortion

Lanbo Zhang discusses the moral ambiguity of recording Frontiers.

Reaching for Reality

Even in college, we might not be in the “real” world, Kaushik Tewari writes.

SPORTS, PAGE 3

Columbia cycling dedicated to its craft

The team is geared up for the Grant’s Tomb Consortium competition this Saturday.

EVENTS

“Argo” Film Screening

Join Ferris Reel Film Society and the Columbia Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers for a free screening of “Argo,” the winner of three Oscars, including Best Picture.
Lerner Cinema, 10:15 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



37°/32°

Tomorrow



41°/31°



PETE BOHNHOF / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NO ROOM OF ONE’S OWN | Bancroft Hall, a Teachers College residence hall, will close in July for two years of renovations.

Admins consider subletting MoHi apartment buildings

BANCROFT from front page

Another option, Mitchell said, is for Teachers College to acquire apartment buildings in the area and sublet spaces to displaced families. Those apartments would be offered in addition to the other four TC dorms, Grant, Sarasota, Whittier, and 517 W. 121st St.

Box said that she is also afraid her children, who attend The Speyer Legacy School on the Upper West Side and Corpus Christi in Morningside Heights, will have to switch schools and forfeit deposits due to the move.

“If we live outside of Manhattan, we can’t have the school bus, so we would have to drop her off, which is a main concern,” Jean-Baptiste said.

Ruaridh MacLeod, a fifth-year Ph.D. candidate, moved out Tuesday from Bancroft Hall with his girlfriend Anna Roberts, TC ’11. MacLeod lived as a Resident Adviser in Bancroft since summer of last year.

“Basically, no one’s happy,” MacLeod said, referring to the renovations. “They haven’t organized it very well at all.”

MacLeod and Roberts relocated off-campus to New Jersey, from where MacLeod will make a one-hour commute once a week to campus. MacLeod said

he thought the renovations were necessary, but expressed concern about how they were announced.

“Even for those of us who worked there, we got next to no information,” he said. “They kept changing the date for when it was going to be closed down, and they haven’t made any effort to help any residents find anything.”

Teachers College administrators said they’re trying to help students find appropriate housing.

“We’re being as flexible as we possibly can to make certain everyone is accommodated,” Dewayne White, director of campus services, said. “We’ve encouraged people to start looking now, before August or September, when a lot of other college students are trying to find housing.”

Wherever they end up next, the Boxes say they’ll have fond memories of their time in Bancroft. Océane, who has lived there most of her life, said she enjoyed trick-or-treating floor-to-floor for Halloween and attending parties in the basement playroom with her friends.

“In the hallways, sometimes the kids will run around with other kids, and the parents come out with a glass of wine and talk to each other,” Catherine said. “That part I’ll miss the most.”

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TFA alum talks classroom management at training

TEACHERS from front page

really useful basic set of skills.”

Emily Pries, GS and instruction director for the trainings, also said Jung was helpful.

“We found that there were a lot of people that have been working in education settings—whether it’s tutoring, or classrooms, or whatever it is—that just should have the basic training to do a good job,” Pries, a teacher in East Harlem, said. “We need qualified teachers. We need people who are excited about teaching.”

Nell Koring, BC ’13 and president of America Reads at Columbia, has been attending the training sessions along with other mentors at America Reads. She said that attending the sessions was like research for improving her own trainings.

“Classroom management is one of the things that our tutors have issues with,” Koring said. “It’s difficult to train someone to manage a classroom.”

Although the topics for future sessions are loosely defined, Jung said he hopes to adapt the lesson plans based on student feedback

and on the progress they make with each session.

“They all kind of build on each other,” he said.

Registration for the sessions is now closed, but Rady said he hopes that Education Umbrella will be able to continue the training in future semesters.

Jung said the program was “an arm for Teach For America” to reach out and generate interest in education among college students.

“I personally would be more than interested in continuing something like this,” he said.

Walter Jean-Jacques, CC ’14 and a teacher training participant, has applied to Teach For America with aspirations of becoming an engaging and inspiring teacher.

“I come from an area where education disparity is a really big issue,” Jean-Jacques said, explaining that at school in Newark, N.J., he often didn’t feel that his teachers really wanted to be in the classroom. “I want to be in that position and actually have the chance to educate people like myself,” he said.

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Projects include cooking classroom, high-tech kiosk

BUDGET from front page

expanding participation within the community.

“This year we have more youth involved,” King said. “We have formerly incarcerated young men.”

The former inmates are part of the organization Getting Out, Staying Out, an Upper West Side organization that works towards decreasing recidivism rates.

“They realized that a lot of populations that weren’t involved [last year] could be involved” in participatory budgeting, said Mark Leonida, director of measurement and outcomes for the organization. Leonida

also acted as co-facilitator of the education committee for the participatory budgeting process.

Jonathan Thompson, who got involved with participatory budgeting through Getting Out, Staying Out, presented on behalf of the education committee. His proposal involved converting a classroom into a high-tech computer lab.

Thompson said he got involved to make a difference for the students.

“We are searching for change, searching for uplift,” he said. “To give them a brighter future than what we had.”

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Preservationists call CU development damaging

REZONING from front page

makes any pretense of respecting campus or neighborhood context, but rather dominates its historic counterparts like an uninvited guest monopolizing any and all dinner party conversation,” Dietrich said in a letter to Columbia Magazine published in 2010, when the building was under construction.

MHHDC members also said that the University has not been vigilant in preserving the historic buildings it owned. In 2010, it tore down several brownstones on 115th Street.

Columbia’s “track record has not been preservation-friendly,” Dietrich said.

A Columbia spokesperson did not return a request for comment Wednesday about the rezoning.

In an interview Tuesday, Senior Executive Vice President Robert Kasdin said that the University took its role as a historic steward seriously.

“Columbia is committed

to responsible stewardship of all of its buildings, especially those with architectural importance,” he said. The University “doesn’t want to encumber itself or others with unnecessary regulation,” he said, referring to the proposal for a historic district.

Preservationists said the University had improved its preservation efforts, notably in its preservation of the original façades of the new alumni center and the convent-turned-residence hall being renovated on 113th Street.

“The community would really like to engage them with respect to their future development plans, and really have an understanding and a dialogue with respect to the planning of these properties,” Dietrich said, referring to Columbia’s future building projects. “And really work towards a viable solution that can satisfy the programmatic objectives while also preserving the neighborhood character.”

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GRAPHIC BY SINJHN SMITH

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Time to hand out this season’s hardware

The final week-end of basketball season is upon us, and while I still have time, I want to do a little something for those players who have distinguished themselves this season. That’s why it’s my pleasure to present the first (and last) annual Benny Awards, the most prestigious prizes in all of college basketball. All winners will receive a fine certificate suitable for framing, as well as a game-worn Mark Cisco head-band. Don’t lie to us, Mark, we know you’ve got thousands stashed away somewhere.

The Bennies are an equal-opportunity enterprise, so each award will have both a male and female recipient. If you feel your favorite player was snubbed, feel free to go crazy in the comments section, or just make up your own fake awards and not give me any. I promise I can take it.

THE GRUBHUB AWARD: *for the player who always delivers.*

Ah, the Grubby. Not a Most Valuable Player award per se (because Most Valuable Player doesn’t have a cool pun in it), but certainly the highest honor we here at the Bennies have to offer. The winner of the Grubby must be cool under pressure, consistent week-to-week, and satisfy his or her teammates’ late-night cravings for mozzarella sticks. (Maybe not that last one.)

I’m sorry, Grant. If it makes you feel any better, my friend Hayley still thinks you’re the cutest.

On the men’s side, Brian Barbour was predictably solid, leading the Lions in scoring, assists, and minutes per game despite struggling with an illness that hampered his production in the season’s home stretch. However, as usual, statistics can only tell part of the story. The Lions were simply a different team with Barbour running the point—he was, for lack of a better term, the team’s heartbeat. Perhaps most impressive was the way he took care of the rock: Although he was tasked with bringing the ball up on nearly every possession, he still only averaged 1.4 turnovers per game.

Tyler Simpson provides the same sort of leadership for the women’s team, topping all players in scoring and minutes by a wide margin. During an inconsistent season, the Light Blue could rely on Simpson to pour in 15 or so points with five rebounds and generally hold things together on the floor. Her poor free throw shooting is frustrating (she was only 45 percent from the line this year), but this one bugaboo is not enough to disqualify her from Benny glory.

THE VIAGRA AWARD: *for the player on the rise.*

The coveted Viagra Award goes to the first-year player who makes the greatest contribution to his or her team during the season. On the men’s side, it was a heated battle between Grant Mullins and Maodo Lo, but Maodo’s got to take the prize. I’m still not sure I made the right decision—Mullins is certainly more important to the team’s future, since he will be asked to take over Barbour’s role next year (I actually christened him “Baby Brian” because his skill set so uncannily resembles that of the senior standout), but “Chairman Maodo” reigns supreme based on his killer home stretch (double figures in four of his last five games, including 20 in a big victory against Yale). I’m sorry, Grant. If it makes you feel better, my friend Hayley still thinks you’re the cutest.

After the first month of the season, I could’ve sworn that the women’s award would go to Bailey Ott, who was fighting for rebounds and scoring in the post like Charles Barkley. Alas, Ott saw her playing time reduced once the Ivy season rolled around, leaving the door open for spark plug point guard Sara Mead to steal my heart and the Benny.

THE FRANK LUCAS AWARD: *for the big-gest hustler on the court.*

This one is near and dear to my



TYLER BENEDICT
The Road Less Traveled



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CYCLING

VICIOUS CYCLE | Columbia cyclers require an immense amount of dedication to their craft not only to compete, but even to find places to train in New York.

Cycling marked by unique but dedicated training

BY THERESA BABENDREIER
Spectator Staff Writer

The average Columbia athlete doesn’t think, “Don’t get hit by a taxi,” before heading out to train, but the members of the Columbia cycling team aren’t your average athletes.

The club team has been dodging taxis and pedestrians on the streets of New York since the early 1970s. Its predecessor, the Columbia Wheelmen, stuck to track racing on the velodrome beginning in 1901.

No longer practicing on the indoor track, the Columbia cyclists wake up at 9 a.m. on Saturdays nearly every week-end of the spring to head out for three-hour group rides. They also try to get out throughout the week to stay in practice, particularly when competitions are

coming up—like their annual Grant’s Tomb race this Saturday.

If they can’t take the bikes outside, the cyclists use the less preferable stationary resistance bikes to get some training in, but as team president Joseph Lee, CC ’15, said, “It’s pretty boring.”

The them builds its camaraderie with informal rides at the beginning of the season. Treasurer Michael Carroll, SEAS ’13, said the benefits of these social rides are that they’re focused more on “one, riding the bike, and two, getting to know people.” He added, “But it’s also nice to get to know people off the bike and actually see what people look like without a helmet, sunglasses, and spandex.”

“It’s weirder than you think,” Lee said.

The social rides also help integrate the new members, many of whom are new to racing. Cycling can be an intimidating sport, especially since it is potentially dangerous.

“Crashes happen,” Carroll said. “It’s kind of like a fact of bike racing. It’s almost inevitable. Everyone has a story.”

Like many New York-based cyclists, the team avoids some of the dangers by skipping the craziness of Manhattan in favor of popular bike routes across the George Washington Bridge—since, as Carroll pointed out, it’s “nearly impossible” to train in the city. Faced with a plethora of stoplights, taxis, and pedestrians, it becomes difficult to establish the pace and concentration necessary to train properly.

The preparation is vital heading into the long season of cycling, which can include up to three or four races per weekend. The cyclists dedicate themselves to training and racing nearly every weekend in the spring. Their season kicked off this past weekend with a race in New Jersey and will finish toward the end of April.

The length of the season and the quantity of races builds a community within the racing world. Those who begin cycling often continue the sport as a hobby for the rest of their lives.

“If you’re weird enough to get up at like 9 a.m. every weekend to go ride 50 miles and 4 a.m. on weekends in the spring to go race at some random place in the middle of nowhere, you like it,” Lee said.

The cycling community in New York is particularly dedicated, hosting the Century Road Club Association, the largest bicycle-racing club in the U.S. with over 700 active members. The CRCA, along with the collegiate teams, participates in a variety of races along the Eastern Seaboard, stretching from Maryland to Canada. Despite the geographical range, the cyclists often see

CYCLING, page 6

Light Blue must step up defense for final weekend of season

BY ELI SCHULTZ
Spectator Senior Staff writer

At halftime on Saturday, the men’s basketball team was up 31-20, against Brown.

The Lions (12-14, 4-8 Ivy) were riding high. They had just won back-to-back Ivy games for the first time this season and were well on their way to making it three in a row. But Columbia collapsed defensively in the second half, as Brown (12-14, 6-6 Ivy) put up 41 points in the last 20 minutes.

“I think the last three games—we’re 2-1 in those last three, and we were really defending well,” Light Blue head coach Kyle Smith said. “The second half against Brown, we made some mental errors defensively. And they made us pay.”

Columbia has suffered several of major defensive collapses this season, often due to an inability to contain its opponents’ star players.

The Light Blue held a 32-25 half-time lead over Bucknell in December,

but could not contain Bison center Mike Muscala, who erupted for 29 points and led his team to a comeback win. Columbia also blew a 31-20 halftime lead against Brown the first time the two teams faced each other on Feb. 15. Bears’ guard Matt Sullivan dropped 27 last month in Providence, including a game-winning three in the final seconds.

Sullivan hurt the Lions once again this weekend, putting up 11 points in the second half as part of a 17-point outing. Columbia’s old nemesis, Brown guard Sean McGonagill, also scored 11 points in the second half as Columbia’s lead disintegrated behind sloppy defensive play.

According to Smith, a lot of the Lions’ defensive struggles stem from the trade-offs involved in playing the team’s various personnel packages.

Smith said he thought the best way to describe the team’s condition is that “we’re a little like a football team.”

“If we put our best defenders out there, it’s gonna be hard for us to get away from people scoring-wise,” Smith said. “If

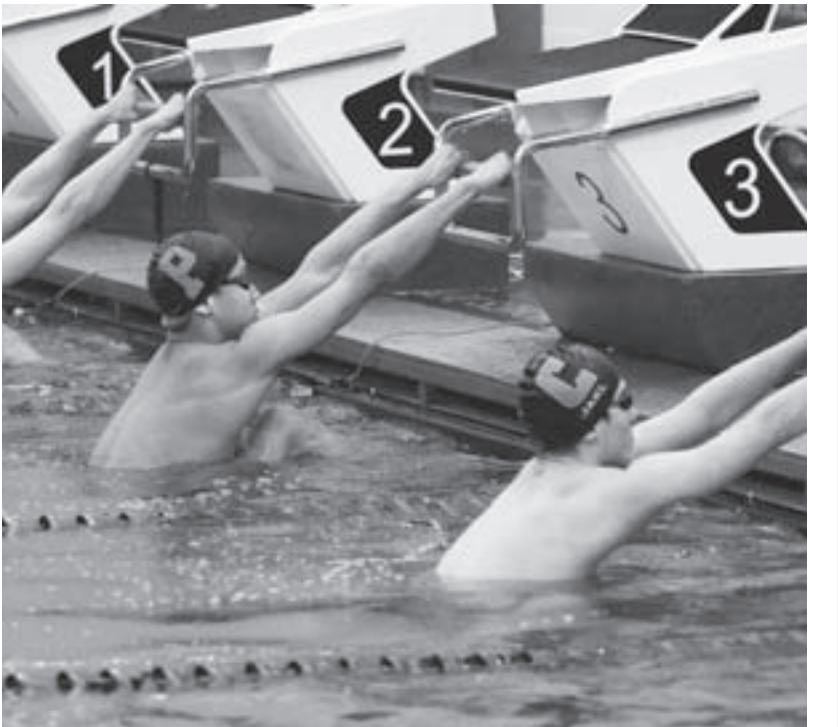
SEE IN FOCUS, page 6



KIERA WOOD / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FLUB STEP | Head coach Kyle Smith said senior point guard Brian Barbour is one of the team’s keys to having a strong defensive presence on the court.

MEN’S SWIMMING



DENIZ ROSENBERG FOR SPECTATOR

DOING SWIMMINGLY | Sophomore David Jakl and the Lions are looking for a strong showing at Ivies after a dominant regular season.

Light Blue heads to Ivies at Brown

Almost four months since its last loss, the men’s swimming and diving team (8-2, 5-2 Ivy) will ride its seven-meet winning streak to the Ivy League Championships in Providence. The three-day meet will be the ultimate test for the Lions, which bounced back from two early losses to Harvard and Yale—currently the top two teams in the league—to go undefeated since. Topped off by a signature win over 22nd-ranked Princeton, the Lions now seem to be well-prepared to go up against the tops in the league. The key swimmers will be the talented sophomore quartet of Kevin Quinn, Dominik Koll, Alex Ngan and David Jakl.

Jakl has emerged as a dominant force in the past month, with five wins in the past three meets—including the 200 butterfly, 200

backstroke, and 100 butterfly—to lead the Light Blue in its meet against the Tigers. With a solid performance in the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Championships this past weekend, Ngan also spurred the Lions to a strong finish, winning the 100 butterfly, 50 freestyle, and 100 freestyle.

In the diving competitions, sophomore Micah Rembrandt and senior Jason Collazo form an elite duo to further augment a surging Columbia squad.

The depth and talent in both aspects of the competition will be key as Columbia seeks to make a statement and continue its winning ways. Ivies will run Thursday through Saturday at Brown.

—Phil Godzin and Robert Mitchell

SEE BENEDICT, page 6



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Finding the real world in college

BY KAUSHIK TEWARI

I often ask myself whether anything that I learn in college has the potential to relate to what’s out there. By “out there,” I mean the real world. I have been waiting for the real world since I moved from grade school to middle school to high school and finally to college. It is like waiting for a tidal wave, with your teeth clenched together, your hands firmly on your ears to protect your eardrums, your eyes shut tight, and your entire body curled into a fetal position. You know the real world is somewhere out there, because everyone has told you so. You know that it is going to come rushing in one day when you are least prepared and sweep you off your feet.

And most people I speak to at Columbia have been doing the same. A friend of mine agreed that everyone in high school said college was the real world, the big-stakes game. We have all been holding our breaths waiting for the blast wave to strike, but it hasn’t come.

Most college societies that I have come across are merely façades, set up by an enterprising student looking for some résumé-building material. My biggest complaint is that they don’t think about the real world, the world out there. But is there a world out there? Am I in for a big disappointment, to have to walk into a corporate boardroom one day and discover that it is no better than my college fraternity, or, in some cases, worse?

This past weekend, I realized that nothing lies beyond. There is no “other” world. Sadly, the one that we currently live in is the only one we’ve got. The quantum

Daily flamenco dancing

BY EMILY NEIL

Like many of us, I often scrutinize and glare at the mirror as my enemy. I see, instead of myself in my totality, only pieces to change or parts to mold—as if our bodies are marble that can be chiseled to some ideal of perfection to simulate the images that have been engraved in our collective consciousness.

Our culture and surroundings constantly construct, subliminally or overtly, our expectations for our bodies. Though I have never suffered from an eating disorder, I think my experience is indicative of a battle many of us face against the societal and internal pressures surrounding body image and perception.

And so, when I began taking a flamenco dance class this semester through my study abroad program in Spain, I was initially discouraged by the fact that I had to not only face a mirror and observe myself throughout the entire class, but also somehow embrace my body enough to straighten my shoulders, throw back my head, pound the floor, sashay my hips, and do (read: try to do) all of the graceful, undulating dance movements that are far more foreign to me than speaking Spanish. At first, each time I tried an exercise, I felt a sinking feeling, a sort of barrier in my head that encouraged me to draw inward, shrink to the ground, and drift into the shadows.

In New York, and specifically at Columbia, we usually do not inhabit space on our own terms.

My teacher, though, did not allow me to shrink. Complete with turtleneck, long skirt, glasses, and hair pulled back tight, her appearance signals the stereotype of a studious, strict librarian rather than that of a sensual flamenco dancer. But when she begins to dance, she is a powerful, beautiful blur: Her hands are delicate; her arms are graceful, twirling snakes; her feet are quick and light; and her body curves and spins to spell out the deepest emotions of the human heart. During the very first practice, she took me aside and told me that I had to command my body and stand in the center as if I was not afraid of anyone looking at me, because “every person has their own rhythm.” With this, and her injunction to boldly step forward as if I was “a lion hunting for its prey,” she asked me to use my body very differently from my accustomed manner. She wanted me to take up space, to stretch, to be one with my own form, present in its power and potential.

Comfort with one’s body is, of course, but a single stepping stone on the path to mastering the technical artistry of any dance form, but learning flamenco has made me much more aware of how I conceive of my body. I have had to make an effort to love my form for what it is, in the truest way possible—not because I feel like it could be sexually desirable, or visually reminiscent of any ideal of beauty, but because it is me, and I am capable of expanding, loosening, unfolding within space that is utterly my own.

In New York, and specifically at Columbia, we usually do not inhabit space on our own terms. As students here, we all want to claim the appropriately sized room for our activities, a reservation during Restaurant Week, or a two-inch corner of the subway if we can cram ourselves into the crowded uptown 1 at rush hour. We want to fill the spot in the class, fit the position requirements, and have a niche to slide into, to call our own, and to present to the world as a definition of ourselves. Our mindsets are, at times, composed of limits and boundaries that reinforce negative body perceptions, in that they encourage us to think in terms of prescribed and recognizable achievements, identities, and outcomes.

I challenge myself, and all of us, to unfold and become flamenco dancers on a daily basis. Let us try to embrace our bodies as our beings and appreciate our forms for the way they don’t fit into a particular size, but instead for how they move in a sea of time, graced by cloth and air and skin—membranes and worlds unto themselves.

Breaking out of a cycle of negative self-perception is not simple, and I don’t mean to trivialize it by proposing clear solutions. It is a continuous, intricate process, with many obstacles and setbacks along the way. I know, though, that I have already begun to change my thought patterns from this encounter with a different way of seeing and being in my own body, and I believe that we all can seek out similar opportunities to, literally, reform our self-perceptions in more positive ways.

And as for flamenco, well, I hope that by the end of the class, I just might find that inner lioness as I stalk across the stage, exhilarant in every nerve and muscle of my body that form the fabric of my constant home.

The author is a Barnard College junior and a former associate news editor. She is studying abroad in Grenada, Spain this semester.

of “reality” and “unreality” is decided by how much we believe in what we are doing. It for us to choose what is “real” for each of us and work towards that. Life never takes us places—it is we who decide to go places.

I once heard Keller Rinaudo of Romotive speak about how, as an undergrad at Harvard, he tinkered with RNA and DNA and worked on creating cells that could identify malignant genes. Some time in his senior year, he took a wrong turn and ended up at the career office. The folks there took a good look at his résumé and advised him to take up a consulting job. Later, he realized that they gave that same piece of advice to every impressionable, soon-to-graduate senior who dared cross their threshold. However, after an enriching but challenging existence at a big-ticket consulting firm for a period of three whole months, he left to follow his love—mountain climbing and building robots. That is the story of Romotive’s birth.

But what do we do if college is not the right place for us? If not college, then what?

Many romanticize the notion of dropping out of school, especially in Silicon Valley, where it is seen as a badge of honor. But most people who drop out are the ones who are not getting the most out of college, or in some cases have already finished with what it has to offer and are thirsting for more. Another interesting case is that of Albert Ni—one of the first engineers at Dropbox and architect of most of its payment and analytics mechanism—who had already completed the degree

Indecent exposure

During the back and forth over professor Emlyn Hughes’ Frontiers of Science stunt, my mind was mostly in India. The Australian cricket team was touring and I was staying up to watch them play. As the Frontiers discussion has all but died down, I want to draw attention to one thing that completely escaped the Frontiers debate: the recording of the incident and the distribution of the recording. As with anything in life, we can gain some perspective by drawing links to cricket.

I grew up watching cricket when my team was on top of the world. For about a decade from the late ’90s to the late 2000s, Australia dominated the game, and every summer I watched my heroes live, in color, on TV.

Despite everything they did, however, that team will always be, at least in my mind, only the second-greatest team to play the game. In 1948, an Australian team toured England and didn’t lose a game. That 1948 team was later dubbed “The Invincibles” and lives on in folklore.

What little video that exists of The Invincibles is in grainy black and white. What makes The Invincibles great is exactly what makes a Jane Austen novel great. There is not an overabundance of detail, but just enough so that I can fill in the gaps with my imagination in just the way I want. I know The Invincibles only as a myth, and unlike the team I grew up with, I’m entirely ignorant of their flaws.

My point here is that video footage colors our perception of things. Video does not faithfully record narratives, it fabricates them. In the case of The Invincibles, the lack of video added to their mythical aura. In the case of Emlyn Hughes, the easy availability of video contrived a public controversy.

By now, we are all too familiar with Hughes’ stunt. We’ve all seen the footage, taken from some seat in the upper-right balcony of the lecture hall in which the scene took place. Anybody and everybody seems to have an opinion on whether Hughes did the right thing. Yet nobody stops to think about how the video itself contributed to the controversy.

Leaking video of Hughes’ stunt to the press served no purpose but to publicly shame him, taking the bizarre demonstration out of any context—redeeming or not—and invited public condemnation without giving Hughes the opportunity to respond. Despite what it appears to be, the leak was not an innocent attempt to practice impartial journalism. The lack of context around the leaked footage necessarily led us to view the incident in an entirely negative light. Though the

requirements for his math major before deciding to leave MIT to join Dropbox.

My realization that these people chose to do something that they felt was “real” and closer to their hearts, instead of continuing an existence they did not believe in. Sadly, there are a bunch of students, such as myself, on college campuses around the country who would like to use their time fruitfully but have no clue as to what is “real” for them. But what do we do if college is not the right place for us? If not college, then what?

I found the answer reading the blog of Paul Graham, co-founder of the highly successful tech accelerator Y Combinator. To paraphrase his advice, college is a time to prepare ourselves to face the challenges of tomorrow, and to figure out what we love and what makes us tick. It is not about the classes or the grades. It is more like a journey of self-discovery while sitting in a comfortable dorm room with (likely) someone else picking up the tab.

So, to all the people who are currently itching to go out in the “real” world and do something worth their time: The simple truth is there is no “real” world. If you have an idea that you believe in and you think you can pull it off, go for it, however, audacious it might sound.

I have decided to use this block of time known as a semester to focus on learning for my goals. Taking on-line classes on Ruby on Rails, working on cool projects, and finding a peer group that thinks like I do. College is important, but not for the reasons that people usually associate it with.

Focus on your goals, find a personal meaning of college for you, and treat it as an opportunity to make mistakes, experiment, and escape being judged by the “real world.”

The author is a first-year in the School of Engineering and Applied Science.

video does not change what Professor Hughes did, its distribution in the media caused us to perceive the incident in such a way that generated controversy.

Yet since the video first came out, nothing has been said about how and why it was leaked to the media—at least nothing that hasn’t be drowned out by the cacophony of opinion regarding Professor Hughes ought to have done what he did. In the back-and-forth over the tact and purpose of Professor Hughes’ demonstration, nobody has questioned the tact and purpose of the student who pulled out his phone, recorded Hughes in the middle of his lecture, and sent it to Bwog. The silence on the matter is an abdication.

Recording video of the lecture and releasing it to the press may not have been explicitly forbidden, but it should not have happened.

I don’t know if leaking the footage to the media violated classroom policy in Frontiers of Science, and I doubt that the student responsible for leaking the video knew either. Given that there is no uniform standard for recording and sharing classroom footage across departments and among professors, it can often be hard to know what University policy allows and what it doesn’t.

But I am not concerned about whether leaking the video of the lecture violated policy. I am significantly more concerned that the events that led to the publication of the now-viral phone footage violated the most elementary sense of decency. Recording video of the lecture and releasing it to the press may not have been explicitly forbidden, but it should not have happened. What goes on in the classroom should not be recorded and published for the public to judge without the permission of the instructor. This much should be understood without needing to be stated.

Whether Professor Hughes’ actions were appropriate for the classroom should have been decided within the University, without the judgement or input of the greater public. Leaking the video unnecessarily drew attention to the lecture and invented a public controversy. Professor Hughes’ demonstration was controversial by design, but it was made public only through an act of gross indecency.

Lanbo Zhang is a Columbia College junior majoring in economics and history. He is a former Spectator editorial page editor. Second Impressions runs alternate Thursdays.



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8	2	5	1	9	6	7	3	4
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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Theme
6 Woody's "Annie Hall" role
10 Slash mark?
14 NBC's "Weekend Today" co-anchor
15 Some parasites
16 Marching band instrument
17 See 60-Across
20 "Viva el matador!"
21 Has the stage
22 Winter airs
23 Plastic ___ Band
24 Summoning gesture
26 See 60-Across
34 Big name in big banking
35 Nick-named actor
36 Miss Piggy, to Miss Piggy
37 Neglects to mention
39 Communication no one hears: Abbr.
40 Cabbage salads
42 At an angle: Abbr.
43 Leg bone
45 Applications
46 See 60-Across
50 "... to market, to buy ... pig ..."
51 Snuggles on Santa's suit
52 Snowman's accessory
55 Hearing subject
57 Summer shade
60 Trio suggested by the answers to 17-, 26- and 46-Across
64 Sword with a guarded tip
65 Kept
66 Shah's late
67 "Buddenbrooks" novelist
68 Wild about
69 Provide room for growth, perhaps

6 Part for a singer
7 Oz visitor
8 Tivo ancestor
9 So far
10 It precedes "Substituted Ball" in the Definitions section of the "Rules of Golf"
11 Pickled veggie
12 First family member
13 Tropicana Field team
18 Date-setting phrase
19 Rich relatives?
23 "Count ___"
24 Story-telling song
25 Handyman's approx.
26 Shaggy's pal, to Shaggy
27 Unsettled state
28 Not straight up
29 With money at stake
30 Violin's supply
31 Member of the Five College Consortium, familiarly
32 Swimmer's need
33 Temper tantrum

38 World No. 1 tennis player between Martina and Monica
41 Abundant, plantwise
44 Tax shelter
47 Become pitiless
48 Ascribed, as blame
49 Old Testament queen
52 Mushroom piece
53 Club where "music and passion were always the fashion," in song
54 "Right on!"
55 Fries seasoning
56 Menu choice after an "ocean"
57 Dancing blunder
58 Folksy Guthrie
59 Rostov rejection
61 Sox, in line scores
62 Boy toy?
63 Send packing

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

H	O	T	S	A	T	I	N	D	E	C	A	F
O	V	C	O	M	A	N	I	E	N	O	L	A
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By Joel D. Lefkowitz
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03/07/13

Cyclers dedicated to team despite training obstacles, rigorous competition

CYCLING from page 3

familiar faces over the course of the season.

“We run into people who rode for Columbia’s team as an undergrad and then graduated, and now they’re in grad school somewhere else in the conference, and they’re racing for them,” Carroll said.

“There are different generations within the community,” Lee said.

All of those generations will be gathering this weekend in New York for the annual Grant’s Tomb Criterium, historically hosted by the Columbia cycling team.

“Grant’s Tomb is somewhat unique for a New York City bike race because usually the ones that are hosted in the park just attract the local crowd,” Carroll said. “But Grant’s Tomb has always been special because ... you’re getting the entire New York cycling community and the New England, Northeast college community coming to one event for one day of bike racing.”

This year, though, Columbia’s club has handed over the reins to the CRCA, which will host the event so that the team can focus on its performance in the race itself, rather than the organizational aspect.

But even without the added responsibility of event management, the team is still busy as the weekend quickly approaches, getting out on the bikes and fueling up for the race.

“Mostly we just eat,” Lee admitted.

Because of the length of the races, some lasting up to four hours, the athletes need to refuel constantly, even during the races themselves.

“My mouth gets so dry from just like the peanut butter and jelly, Clif bar, peanut butter and jelly, Clif bar, banana,” Lee said of his race routine. Hydration is critical as the athletes try to maintain their energy levels. Gatorade, the

favorite of many athletes, becomes a great way to stay hydrated and replenish electrolytes.

Besides taking care of their bodies, the cyclists are also preparing for the race by training with time intervals, as the length of a bike race is determined using time rather than a set distance. The cyclists ride until someone figures out how long it should take to complete one lap. Race officials then calculate how many laps the cyclists should be able to complete within a given time frame. That then becomes the length of the race.

Although the process is confusing, Carroll explained, “As you do it, you get used to it, and it becomes more intuitive.”

As the season is just gearing up, the cyclists have individual goals for the upcoming race. Some are more specific, such as achieving first place or improving a completion time, while other goals are simpler.

“A lot of times, finishing is an accomplishment,” Carroll said, explaining that cwith the potential for crashes, fatigue, or bike parts breaking, crossing the finish line can be a worthwhile goal.

While the Columbia cyclists do have individual goals, they also look forward to competing as a unit.

“People’s first impression of cycling is very individualistic, but it’s actually very team-oriented,” Carroll said. Team members work to advance a fellow cyclist, either by blocking the field so they can have a breakaway, cutting the wind, or pacing the leader. Though this strategy is more prevalent in professional cycling, it’s just as strong at the collegiate level, and that’s how the team plans on competing this weekend.

Grant’s Tomb is scheduled for Saturday, March 9 at 11 a.m. Spectators can witness the finish-line action on Riverside Drive just before the 120th Street intersection.

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Shutting down opposing offenses has been tough task for men’s basketball

IN FOCUS from page 3

we put our best offensive team out there, it’s hard for us to stop people.”

But there are exceptions to this rule.

An offensive linchpin as well as a strong defender, senior point guard Brian Barbour’s strong two-way play amplifies his importance to the team and brings proven leadership and performance to both ends of the floor.

“I actually nominated him for Defensive Player of the Year,” Smith said of Barbour. “He’s an awesome defender, he just had a little burst [against Brown]. I think you could see it a little bit.”

Barbour had 18 points against Brown on Saturday and shined defensively, posting five steals.

But with tough matchups against Harvard (17-9, 9-3 Ivy) and Dartmouth (7-19, 3-9 Ivy) on the horizon, the Lions will need to figure out a way to complement Barbour on the defensive end without sacrificing too much offensive firepower.

“We won’t win the way you need to win in this league unless we make that a

priority,” Smith said, referring to the need for a strong defense. “The guys that can make baskets, that can score, they gotta get to where they’re good enough defensively and make that impact”

Against Brown, the Lions were not able to maintain their lead, and everything came down to one defensive possession. Given the level of parity in the Ancient Eight, this situation could very well repeat itself.

This weekend especially, the games are likely to be close. The Lions lost to Dartmouth by three on Feb. 8, and though they blew out Harvard their last time out, the previous two matchups with the Crimson have been tight.

If it comes to that, the Lions will have to put their history of shaky defense, particularly in high-stakes situations, behind them.

“We’ve just got to make them miss it at the end. It’s easy to say that, but you’ve just got to really dig down,” Barbour said. “We haven’t done that yet this year when we really need a stop.”

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Big Green’s Mitola a tough Ancient Eight opponent

BY NOAH STEBBINS
Columbia Daily Spectator

When Columbia and Dartmouth met in Manhattan on Feb. 8, no one in Light Blue knew much about a 5-foot-11 guard from Florham Park, N.J. But after the freshman scored nine straight Big Green points in a four-minute stretch late in the game, the Levien Gymnasium crowd



could not forget Alex Mitola’s name.

“Mitola definitely got the best of us,” Columbia head coach Kyle Smith said of the guard’s performance in Dartmouth’s 60-57 victory. “He’s a good player. He’s such an important part of their deal.”

Despite his rookie status, Mitola has proved to be a leader on the court. Aside from their win against the Light Blue, he’s led his team in scoring six times this season—the last two at Yale on Feb. 22, where he scored 27, and at Penn where he

put up 17 in a win on March 1.

He attributed much of his success to his work ethic.

“It is all about playing as hard as I can,” Mitola said. “Everything I have done in training has prepared me for these games.”

In his solid freshman year, Mitola is putting up team highs of 10.7 points in 32.6 minutes per game. He also leads the team in free-throw percentage at 87 percent and in assists with 51. The key to his success is being aggressive in order to shut down the opposing team.

“The goal is to do whatever it takes to win,” Mitola said.

In the Feb. 8 contest, Mitola finished with 17 points, sinking four of his five shots from behind the arc. But his ability to drive in the lane also left an impression on Smith.

“We hadn’t seen him live, and we’ll probably play him a little differently,” Smith said. “He had two big layups, two big drives where I thought he’d have trouble. So that’ll be something we tweak.”

Mitola, is coming off an up-and-down weekend. Though he scored 17 against Penn, he followed that with a 2-10 shooting performance at Princeton—including 1-8 from behind the arc. Mitola finished the game with three turnovers and just five points.

“Princeton was not as good of a game for me,” he said. “Personally, I have to be more consistent.”

Still, Smith knows how important it will be to keep the freshman in check. The Light Blue coach said that sophomore Steve Frankoski and freshman Maodo Lo may be two players tasked with guarding Mitola on Saturday.

“Steve can guard,” Smith said. “There’s games where he’s been a really good defender ... He was pretty good against Dartmouth.”

While defending Mitola will be important for the Light Blue, the freshman guard is trying to stay even-keel in the final weekend of his first season with the Ancient Eight.

“There are a lot of ups and downs in a basketball season,” Mitola said. “The goal is not to get your highs too high or your lows too low. It’s an emotional ride, but you just need to stay consistent.”

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COURTESY OF ZONIA MOORE / THE DARTMOUTH

GREEN ENERGY | Alex Mitola has injected new life into Dartmouth.

Tyler Benedict dishes out his end-of-season awards

BENEDICT from page 3

heart. The highlight of my high school basketball career was taking five charges in one game, which tells you everything you need to know about my high school basketball career. Half the men’s team was in the running for this award (I really appreciated how willing Alex Rosenberg was to put his body on the line), but in the end it had to go to John Daniels, who plays tenacious post defense and fights for boards despite usually being smaller than his opponents.

Anyone who questions JD’s toughness must’ve missed him tumbling over the scorer’s table while diving for a loose

ball a couple of weeks ago.

On the women’s team, Brittany Simmons is the only choice. The senior guard isn’t shy about scrapping on both ends of the floor, and her game highlights the unselfishness that the Frank Lucas Award is all about. She racked up 38 assists (good for second on the team), but it’s her willingness to defend and track down rebounds that clinched the Benny.

That’s a wrap on the first annual Bennies. I only wish we had time to recognize Steve Frankoski and Miwa Tachibana for their shooting prowess (their 180 Award highlights how they

can turn a game around with just a few shots), and my girlfriend will kill me for not finding a way to slip Dean Kowalski in there somewhere. But until next year, these are your champions. Now if you’ll excuse me, it’s time to hit 1020 for the awards show afterparty.

Tyler Benedict is a Columbia College senior majoring in English and Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African studies. He is the poet laureate emeritus of the Columbia University Marching Band. The Road Less Traveled runs biweekly.
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Alumna penned ‘Party Worth Crashing’

KERRIGAN
from back page

working on material that they were working towards production on. Normally, you work on a song that somebody’s just doing in class. We go to a lot of conservatory programs and a lot of undergraduate musical theater programs, so you spend a lot of time working with people on what they’re doing in class, rather than what they’re about to do in production. It’s a slightly different process in how you help someone workshop something versus getting them to the place where it’s performance-ready. I focus on slightly different things. But in terms of doing a workshop, that’s about how text and music connect to each other. I would say that’s the focus for me when I’m doing a master class, because that’s the thing that I understand. Even performance. It’s about “How do these things tell a story? How are they interacting? Are they in concert with each other? Are they in conflict with each other? Is one commenting on the other? Which one’s driving the bus? Is it something that’s very lyric-driven, or is it more emotionally-based, and the lyric is trying to save the feeling that the music is talking about?”

ZM: What are some of your upcoming projects? Will you collaborate with Columbia or other universities in the future on any



COURTESY OF KAIT KERRIGAN

PARTY TIME | Kerrigan collaborated with the Columbia Musical Theatre Society for “Party Worth Crashing.”

of these projects?
KK: We just finished doing a production of “Tales From the Bad Years” at the University of Minnesota. One of the big things that we do is try to say yes to opportunities to see our work performed. It’s a hard thing in New York City to do a show full-out, because it’s very expensive, from the performers to the staging. Everyone has to get paid, and the space rentals are exorbitantly expensive. When we have the opportunity to work with a college where it’s educational, and therefore there’s not as many expenses connected to it, that is a great opportunity. And we try to take those

when they come to us. We’re doing a musical installation—a musical inside of an installation—in the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia. They built a time machine in the Kimmel Center, which is crazy, and it’s huge. There’s this enormous spiral that goes through the center of the Kimmel Center, and there’s a stage area, which also has these kiosks on it, so you can record information into them, and it’s interactive. And they’re having performances in the lobby all day long.

This interview has been condensed and edited for clarity.
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Coccola offers good food on the cheap

BY SARAH BATCHU
Columbia Daily Spectator

It can be difficult to plan a romantic meal on a college budget. Unless you’re willing to pay Manhattan prices, a date night may be a meal under Ferris Booth Commons’ fluorescent lights. Fortunately, I was saved from this fate with a visit to Coccola, a new Italian restaurant just off campus with a full menu of dishes for \$14 or less.

Situated on the corner of 139th and Amsterdam—only two subway stops and a short walk away—Coccola brings a breath of fresh air to Hamilton Heights.

Even in the early evening, the décor of the restaurant sets a romantic mood with tea light candles on the tables and dim

overhead lighting. The interior design is modern and clean, but the original character of the building peeks out on one side of the restaurant where its original tin ceiling is preserved. The place seems designed for couples, as all of the tables seat two.

After being seated, my eating companion ordered the mussels as an appetizer. They weren’t served with the proper fork—perhaps an expected trade-off when paying only \$9 for mussels. Despite this hiccup, the wine sauce was delicious, and the mussels were well-cooked.

My main course, the pollo panini with tomato, mozzarella, and chicken, arrived shortly after the mussels. Not only did the panini meet my expectations with its perfectly crispy bread

and juicy grilled chicken, but it was also budget-friendly at just \$9. My only complaint is that some parts were a little burned. On my next trip, I’m determined to try one of the 21 kinds of brick oven pizzas, which are all priced at \$10.50 or less.

A delicious molten chocolate cake with vanilla gelato topped off the meal, but the portion size seemed a bit small compared to the other items we ordered at roughly the same price.

At the end of the night, I left the restaurant content with the price I paid. For anyone craving quality food and a little ambiance without using a swipe or plastic utensils, head uptown and check out Coccola.

Coccola is located at 1600 Amsterdam Ave., at 139th Street.
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JENNY PAYNE / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MAKE ME A PIZZA | The new Hamilton Heights eatery offers 21 different kinds of pizza.

Gala explores intersection of art, faith

BY JENNY PAYNE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Mocktails, cocktail attire, and art will mix Thursday night at the Interfaith Arts Gala, a collaboration between the Barnard Student Curatorial Committee and the Interfaith Collective that aims to give student artists the space to explore and express their religious beliefs and share them with their peers.

The planners hope the event will promote conversation among students about art and its intersection with religion and spirituality.

“We love dialogue on this campus, but there isn’t a lot of dialogue about art,” said Ayélet Pearl, BC/JTS ’14, co-chair of the Student Curatorial Committee, and a Spectator opinion columnist. “The idea is for us to use art as a means to conversations about different things.”

By encouraging students to dress in formal attire, creating a casual environment with musical accompaniment, and offering mocktails to attendees, the gala encourages students to enjoy themselves while considering complex questions of faith and belief.

The works on display are all student-submitted, and include mostly paintings, photographs, and drawings. According to Pearl, the different mediums allow students to express their perspectives in different ways and with different intentions.

“People are capturing religion that already exists rather than putting their personal spin on it, which prompts questions of how we look at religion in our society,” Pearl, a photographer, said. “The artist is free to express their beliefs and struggles more openly and understand them in different ways.”

In addition to the different forms of visual artwork on display, musical groups such as Jubliation, S’madar, and the Kingsmen will bring the performing arts to the gala, singing pieces that represent beliefs from a variety of faiths and cultures.

“Whether it be a performance or music or acting or visual art, art is a really good way to express one’s religious feelings,” Alexis Erdheim, BC ’13 and co-president of the Interfaith Collective, said. “As someone who’s Jewish, going to Friday night services and singing is still a really powerful thing for me, and a really

important and integral part of my faith.”

Though the gala centers around ideas of faith and religion, there is plenty of diversity in the works on display, and students of all backgrounds are encouraged to attend.

“We’re inviting artists, people from our own faith communities, people from all different kinds of backgrounds,” Pearl said. “The submissions include Jewish, Christian, Muslim, and even some Hindu art, as well as some more general faith-based things that do not take positions on a certain faith. Everyone can appreciate a beautiful piece of art or a beautiful photograph.”

But the planners hope that attendees will take away more than exposure to beautiful art.

“I’m really looking forward to seeing all of these different expressions of faith come together in one space, as well as the start of a really great dialogue that I hope will move toward action,” Erdheim said.

The Interfaith Arts Gala will take place Thursday, March 7 from 8 to 10 p.m. on the second floor of the Diana Center. Cocktail attire is suggested.

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Deciphering signals in a new country

MILSTEIN from back page

discussions, I keep hearing the same thing: “Italian guys are really creepy!” These comments do not apply to all Italian guys, but it’s clear there are enough persistent, handsy, and aggressively flirtatious chaps to leave a strong impression. I’ll go further in saying that the small sampling of American girls I have spoken to are also not the first to walk away with this reaction. In fact, a large portion of our orientation lecture on safety focused on the intense nightlife atmosphere. We were told, “If you give a millimeter, Italian men will take a kilometer!”

Reflecting on the dynamic between American female collegians and young Italian men, I am forced to consider how much of the Italian male’s modus operandi is a reaction to our presence, or if the way we perceive them is an example of cultural disconnect. I wonder if, maybe, we American women misinterpret what they

consider passionate flirting as terrifying overtures. Or if there is a sort of inherent miscommunication between our body languages.

While it is hard to under-

I can’t claim to be a love expert, and I can’t answer my own questions about the dating culture in this city.

stand all the different factors at stake, I believe the issue comes from cross-cultural stereotyping. Just as some women carry lofty notions of this idealized Italian lover with high expectations for the type of men they are and

should be like, Italian men have their own ideas of us. My Italian guy friend told me that American girls are seen as easy—some see “YOLO” tattooed on our foreheads.

I can’t claim to be a love expert, and I certainly can’t even answer my own questions about the dating and love culture in this new city; it is as complex and stratified as Rome’s terra. Ultimately, when given a rose from a stranger on the street, we are also given a choice. Do we even want to pursue something with an Italian guy, and take him up on his offer for a cappuccino in the daylight? Or are we more comfortable staying with our American cadre and pounding one-euro shots at the bar?

Toby Milstein is a Barnard College junior majoring in history and studying abroad in Rome. Her lifestyle column From Rome, With Love runs alternate Thursdays.
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Due to limited enrollment, the deadline for applications is March 30. A number of merit-based scholarships are available through the Levy Institute.

For more information, visit www.bard.edu/levyms, or contact the program office at 845-758-7776.

Surviving the tide of Italian men

“I came here to meet my husband,” she said. The crowd erupted in an awkward, first-day kind of laughter. After an hour of listening to 99 regurgitations of the same three reasons for studying abroad in Italy, this fellow student was refreshing and completely unabashed. And once the intro session was over, a large circle of girls formed around her. Apparently, she wasn’t the only one with hopes of finding a hot Italian mate.



TOBY MILSTEIN
From Rome, with Love

Shakespeare understood this kernel of truth over 400 years ago when he set “Romeo and Juliet” in Verona. There is something deeply alluring about Italian men. Known for their sensual and passionate mien, they also play a lead role in the fantasies of American college women who decide to go abroad. As some dream up what their study abroad experience in Italy will be like, one reverie undoubtedly entails riding around on a Vespa, grasping tightly onto a sexy Fabio, Lorenzo, or Gianni.

According to the 2010 census, women outnumber men in the three major cities of the Northeast: Boston, New York, and Washington, D.C. The same is true in other metropolitan regions, including Raleigh, Richmond, Atlanta, and Baltimore. Thus it is not surprising that many American college girls, accustomed to a depressing male-to-female ratio at home, experience a gratifying culture shock in Italy. We see Italian men’s ears perk up the second they hear our accents and feel beautiful the first time they flatter us with arias of “ciao bella” as we stroll by. We see lovers kissing on street corners and we sigh, wondering if we can be that girl. To be scooped up by a gorgeous Italian man and fall in love in this “eternal city”—now that’s amore, Dean Martin.

But just like Shakespeare’s ill-fated couple, an American female study abroad student and an Italian ragazzo are, almost always, a star-crossed match. As I explore the difficult nature of this type of romance, allow me to issue a disclaimer: I’m sure there have been countless cases of American girls that fall in love with Italian men. What I am writing is simply a collection of observations and opinions based on my experience, my friends’ experiences, study abroad blogs, and “Roman Holiday.”

For many of the American girls I have spoken to, the desire to find love in Italy came to a crashing halt not long after they arrived. After countless

SEE MILSTEIN, page 7



AMANDA TIEN FOR SPECTATOR

HORNBY OF PLENTY | Author Nick Hornby talked about his diverse career experiences at the Kraft Center for Jewish Student Life on Wednesday.

Hornby discusses career, new book at Kraft Center

BY CHRISTIN ZURBACH
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

How many Barnard professors star in songs written by famous strangers? At least one: poet Saskia Hamilton, who, according to British author Nick Hornby, “has more assonance than she knows what to do with.”

Feeling inspired by her name after purchasing one of her books, Hornby penned the lyrics for Ben Folds’ 2010 album “Lonely Avenue.”

“It was the strangest email I think I’ve ever seen,” Hamilton said.

Three years later, Hamilton and Hornby had the chance to converse in person rather than through song, discussing his work for an audience on Wednesday at Columbia’s Kraft Center for Jewish Student Life. He began by reading an excerpt of the current novel he’s writing, “Miss Blackpool,” which examines a popular sitcom and the lives of those involved as they age over several decades, starting

in ’60s England. Hornby will join colleagues on Thursday to celebrate the 10th anniversary of literary magazine The Believer, for which he writes a book column.

The difference between these two events scratches only the surface of the variety that defines Hornby’s career. Hornby’s varied oeuvre, which includes a memoir, novels, lyrics, original and adapted screenplays, and music journalism, traces one opportunity leading to the next. The music component of his novel “High Fidelity,” for example, opened up a job for him as a music writer for the New Yorker, and his essay collection “Songbook” prompted contact from Folds, who proposed that Hornby write lyrics for William Shatner.

“That just seemed irresistible to me,” Hornby said. Nor has Hornby resisted requests to parlay his writing into other mediums, like film, theater, and television.

“I’ve not stopped anything from happening,” he said.

In reference to his own work, “I don’t feel it’s mine anymore,” Hornby said. “The moment something’s published, it isn’t yours anymore anyway. All sorts of people are going to come up and tell you what they think it’s about. It’s only yours until the moment you’ve finished. I think it’s rather great to put something out and see it become something else.”

Hornby also admitted that the process of beginning a book has not always been easy. Though he wanted to examine a relationship from a man’s perspective in “High Fidelity,” he initially struggled to create a profession for his protagonist.

“It’s always a problem for writers to find jobs [for characters], since we don’t work,” he said.

Nick Hornby, along with other contributors, will read at The Believer’s 10th anniversary party, with music by minimal electronica band Dawn of Midi, on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at Le Poisson Rouge, 158 Bleecker St. Tickets are \$12.

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Crashing the party with Kait Kerrigan

BY ZOË MILLER
Spectator Staff Writer

Playwright and musical theater lyricist Kait Kerrigan, BC ’03 and co-writer of “Party Worth Crashing,” sat down with Spectator to discuss her collaboration with the Columbia Musical Theatre Society, the logistics of song cycles, her experiences as a writing teacher, and what projects she and “Party” co-writer Brian Lowdermilk have in store. Since “Party Worth Crashing” is about firsts—first kisses, first road trips, first house parties—it was even more fitting that Kerrigan drew on a significant first from her career: the first play she wrote at Columbia.

ZOË MILLER: How did CMTS end up doing “Party Worth Crashing?” Did they approach you first, or vice versa?

KAIT KERRIGAN: They approached us. We have a pretty big following of teenagers and 20-somethings. We got requests for shows. Actually, at first we didn’t have a show to license, and we were getting so many requests—from colleges mostly, and some high schools, and some young theater companies. So, they pick the set list, they used our tools, and all of our orchestrations, and all of the band charts that we’ve created for other concerts that we’ve done. They put together an evening that is of their making. And it’s sort of their heart, their story.

We’re working right now on a piece that’s called “Tales From the Bad Years,” which has a lot of the songs that is in their [CMTS] “Party Worth Crashing.” That piece is our construction, and there is a through-line and an arc and characters that go throughout the piece. But the piece that they’re doing, “Party Worth Crashing,” is specifically about giving performers the ability to make their own piece of theater, and they can use our songs as tools rather than us saying what it has to be. So they can make something that is high-school friendly if they need to, or they can make something that’s a little raunchier, if they want to make something that’s at a late-night club or at a bar. If they want to serve alcohol, and have it feel like a party, you would pick a certain set list. If you want six-year-olds to be able to come to the show, you’d pick a totally different set list.

ZM: Has another show with the title “Party Worth Crashing” been performed locally or regionally, or is this the first time that there’s a show with that title?

KK: We license this pretty regularly. I think that there have been at least 10, probably closer to 20 performances of it. We don’t advertise it very much. It’s just the thing that we offer to people when they ask to do the show. We’re probably phasing it out pretty soon

because we’re getting “Tales From the Bad Years” ready for licensing, and that show’s almost done, so we’re probably not going to do this project any longer. It was sort of an experiment for us. We did a project called “The Freshman Experiment” with two freshmen in college, our first-years. One was going to college in a city, and one was going to college in the country. They both came from the same high school, and we followed them on a blog for their entire first year of college and wrote songs based on that. There are several songs that they’re doing in “Party Worth Crashing” that are from that. But that was a year-long experiment.

ZM: How did you find the high school students?
KK: They were both writing students that I’d had at some point. I’ve kept in touch with a lot of writing students that I’ve had.

ZM: What writing programs are you involved with?

KK: I teach at ESPA [Einhorn School of Performing Arts] at Primary Stages now, and I taught the Advanced Playwriting workshop at Young Playwrights, which is a national organization, but it’s based in New York City and is for writers who are 18 years old and younger. That’s actually how I met Hannah Ehrenberg, who goes to Barnard and is our assistant. I’ve met a bunch of other students from her class I’m still in touch with, mostly through Hannah. I’ve also taught at a place where Brian [Lowdermilk], my writing partner, and I are alumni at, which is called Young People’s Theatre Workshop, and that’s outside of Philadelphia. That’s where I started teaching writing workshops. The first show I wrote was kind of a writing workshop too, which is strange. It was at Columbia. It was through CUPAL [Columbia University Performing Arts League], and it was called “Girl with Possessions.” We didn’t have a script. I just gathered a bunch of writer-actors together and put them through this weird process where I made them write these monologues and improv monologues, and we put together a piece all together from nothing, which was a really strange thing to do, in retrospect. It seemed perfectly natural at the time.

ZM: On a similar note, then, you did a workshop with the “Party Worth Crashing” cast at Columbia. What was that like? Was it similar to other workshops you’ve done?

KK: It was sort of similar. In master classes, my writing partner and I generally do them together, and Brian wasn’t able to come this time. I was on my own, which was a little different. The other difference was that we were

SEE KERRIGAN, page 7

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