

CU Harlem garden stalled

BY CHRIS CRAWFORD
AND LEAH GREENBAUM
Columbia Daily Spectator

As most horticulturalists know, starting a garden is never quite as easy as throwing seeds in the dirt. But it can be even more of a challenge when you're an unrecognized student group trying to start one at the Grant Houses public housing complex on 124th Street and Amsterdam.

The Grant Houses Community Garden Project, an offshoot of the Columbia Food Sustainability Project, is a student-run organization that has been trying to bring a public garden to the Grant Houses since 2008.

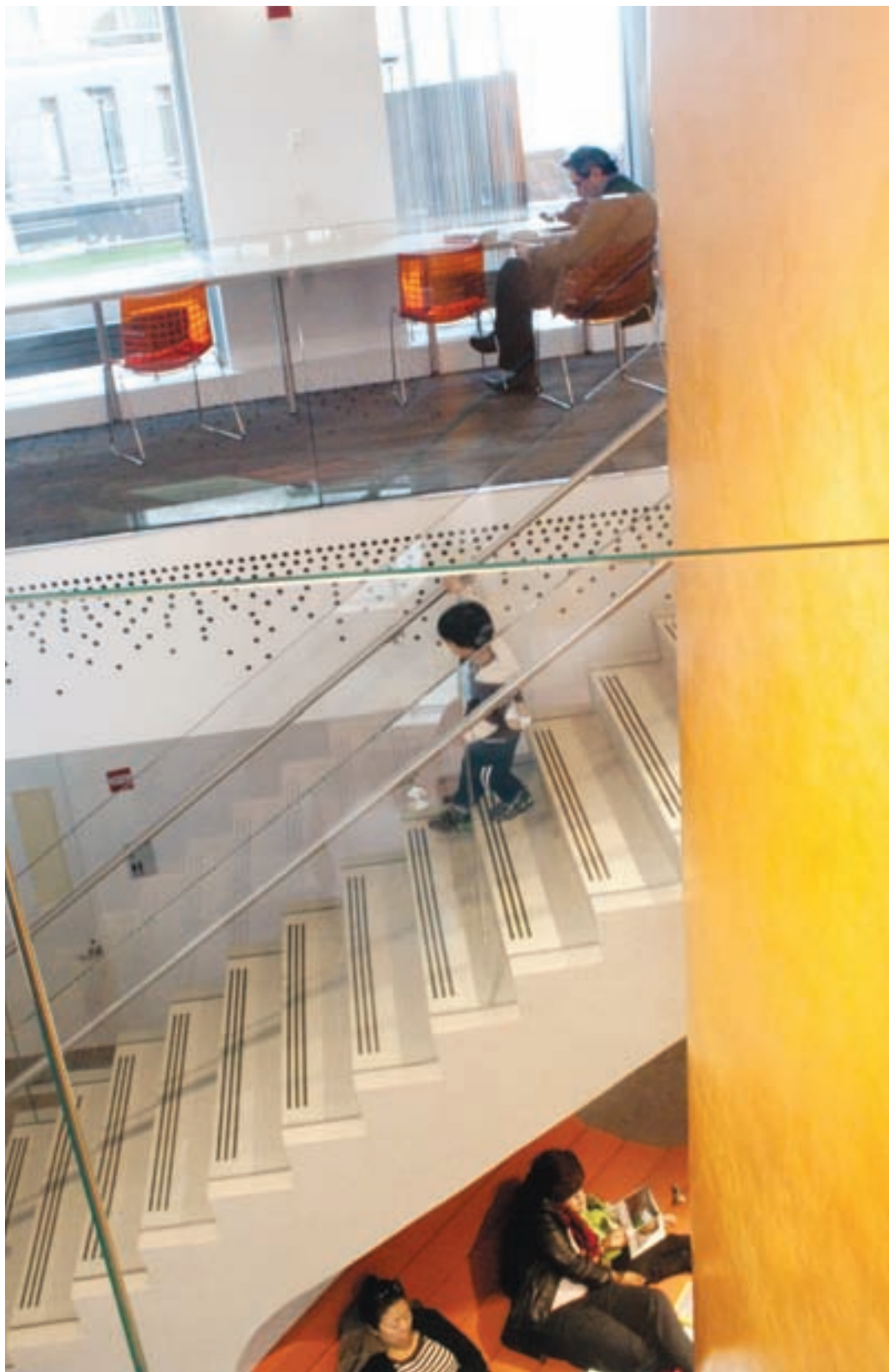
But so far, no seeds have been planted due to difficulties in getting recognition from governing boards on campus, applying for funding, and navigating citywide red tape, said co-coordinator Andrew Kim, CC '11.

Kim said the group has tried to get recognition—independent from the Food Sustainability Project—through several campus organizations that oversee clubs. They tried and had no luck with the Student Governing Board, Community Impact, and the Earth Institute, he said. So far, they've relied on outside funding through grants not affiliated with the University.

Devora Aharon, CC '10 and former president of SGB, said that while the Garden Project "does great work," it didn't fall under SGB's mandate since neighborhood service is its primary mission. Community

SEE GRANT HOUSES, page 2

GREEN BRANCH GROWS



NOMI ELLENSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

GREEN INK | Happy readers lounge in NYPL's first completely eco-friendly library in Battery Park.

2014 admit rate most competitive in history

CC accepts 8.30 percent, SEAS accepts 13.36 percent

BY AMBER TUNNELL
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

In the most selective admissions process in the University's history, Columbia College and the School of Engineering and Applied Science admitted 9.16 percent of overall applicants for the class of 2014.

The admit rates for both schools have decreased, which makes the new class of 2014 the most selective yet. The College accepted 8.30 percent of its applicants, down from 8.92 percent last year and 8.71 percent the year before. SEAS accepted 13.36 percent of its applicants this year, down from 14.42 percent last year and 17.6 percent the year before.

This decrease stems from the increasing popularity of both schools. Columbia College received 21,747 applications total, up from 21,274 last year and 19,117 the year before. This year, 1,805 of these applicants were admitted. SEAS admitted 592 of 4,431 total applicants—277 more than last year.

Dean of Undergraduate Admissions Jessica Marinaccio said, in a statement. "Chosen from among 26,178 applicants in the most selective admissions cycle in our history, admitted students hail from 75 countries, all 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands."

Last year, the admitted students represented 78 countries and all 50 states.

This cycle was the most competitive, despite the increased class size norm Columbia officially adopted this year. The class of 2014 is the second to be affected by the new size, which was

increased by 50 students last year for the Class of 2013 and beyond. This change was made to create a class size norm of roughly 1070 students, up from the previous standard of around 1020.

2014 is also the last class to be accepted through the unique Columbia Application, since the University announced recently that it will be adopting the Common Application in an effort to make the process accessible to a wider pool of students. Peer institutions have reported an increase in application numbers following a transition to the Common Application, though the Office of Undergraduate Admissions said it is uncertain of what type of increase Columbia expects, if any, due to the switch.

Other Ivy League universities also sent out decisions this week, with uniquely competitive admit rates. At Harvard, 6.92 percent of applicants were accepted—the most competitive rate in the Ivy League. Brown was most similar to Columbia with a 9.30 percent acceptance rate, and Cornell had the highest admit rate in the Ivy League with 18.40 percent.

Though waitlist numbers at Columbia are not public, representatives from Admissions said they plan on utilizing the waitlist to the extent necessary depending on yield rate.

Marinaccio said of the class of 2014, "These young men and women are in a larger sense the next generation of leaders, innovators, scientists, engineers and humanists who will make significant contributions to society as Columbians have been making for over 250 years."

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Commuters raise meal plan concerns

BY MADINA TOURE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

A new required meal plan at Barnard ignores the needs of commuters, according to some students who ride the subway to campus every day.

Administrators in March announced that starting in the fall, all students must purchase a meal plan. Previously, only first-year residents and students living in the Quad were required to have some form of a meal plan.

In an effort to address student concerns—which first surfaced in December when Barnard housing leaked the possibility of this new

plan—Barnard Dean Dorothy Denburg and Chief Operating Officer Gregory Brown met with a task force of 12 students: six from Barnard's Student Government Association and six from the general student body, including one who self-identified as having allergies and one commuter student. After the students made recommendations to Denburg and Brown, they announced a revised meal plan program that administrators say will offer students more options.

Commuter students, who make up roughly 1 percent of the student population, will be required to purchase a meal plan as well, though only the

"convenience plan," which costs \$300 a semester.

Some commuters though have said that being forced to choose from one of several meal plan options may pose difficulties, while administrators argue that the new plan includes viable options for these students that will help better integrate them into campus life.

"We're assuming that they would select the 'convenience plan,' which is the most minimal requirement," Denburg said. "The only people required to be on the unlimited are first-years, which represents no change."

SEE MEAL PLAN, page 2

Engineers debate USenate roles

BY ELIZABETH SCOTT
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

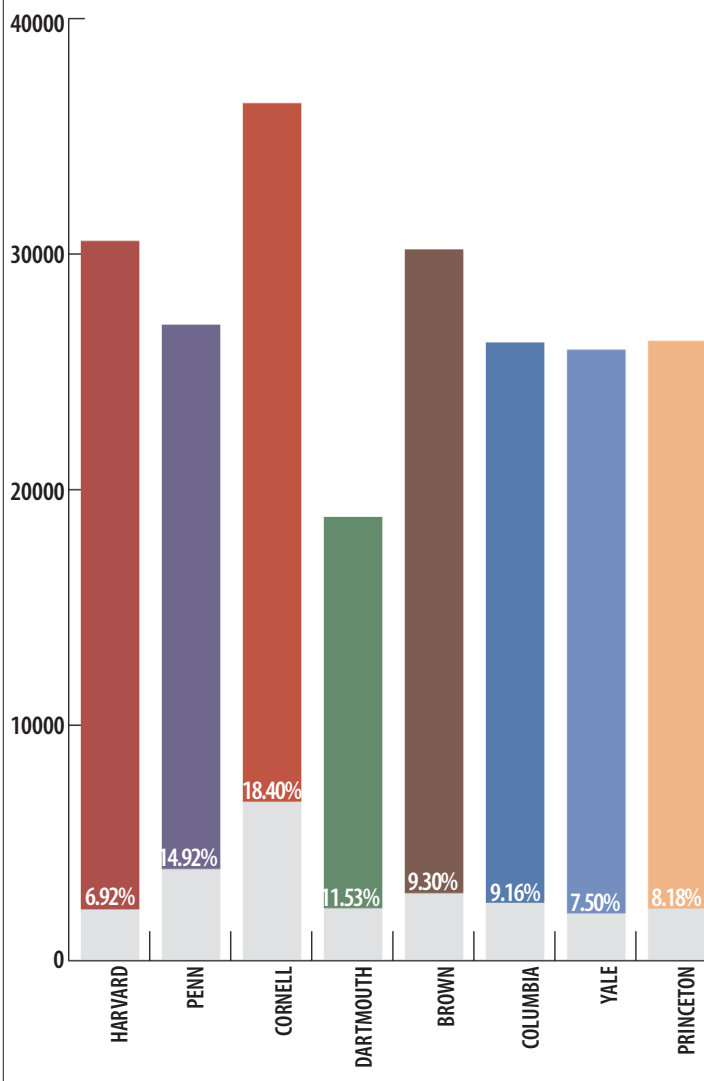
Graduate engineers are seeking greater representation in University politics, but some undergraduates fear that a new proposal to address this desire may only decrease collaboration.

A recent proposal penned by the Engineering Graduate Student Council seeks to split the two student engineering University Senate seats—both of which are currently open to graduate and undergraduate candidates—between the undergraduate and graduate populations, a move which has been met with serious concern by the Engineering Student Council, which represents undergraduates.

Currently, the USenate has two seats for the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, which encompass both graduate and undergraduate populations. The seats are up for grabs by both undergraduates and graduates, and are currently occupied by two undergrads. The new proposal from EGSC would split the seats definitively between the two schools, so that one seat would be for an undergraduate senator only and

Competitive admit rates for Ivies

The Ivy League sent out decisions for the class of 2014 this week. Harvard had the lowest admit rate at 6.92 percent; Cornell had the highest, at 18.40 percent.



DATA COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES, GRAPHIC BY BETSY FELDMAN

Urban Outfitters moves in, Metro left empty

BY PATRICK YUAN
Columbia Daily Spectator

After a string of legal troubles and property disputes for the vacant historic Metro Theater, a national retail chain and potential tenant has decided to take its business across the street.

Urban Outfitters is scheduled to open its seventh store in Manhattan at 99th Street and Broadway this summer, the chain recently announced.

This development comes after a drawn-out struggle for the trendy outlet to find space on the Upper West Side. In

Jan. 2009, Urban announced it had leased space in the building that was once the Metro Theater, located on the east side of Broadway, between 99th and 100th streets.

The deal fell through as litigation persisted between the landowner, Al Bialek, and John Souto, the net lessee who leased to Urban. Bialek had leased the space to Souto, who was responsible for some of the property's expenses. Though Souto leased to Urban, the store was not able to break ground as the landowner and lessee were stuck in litigation, Bialek said in January.

Souto, Bialek, and representatives from Urban could be reached for comment after the recent news about the new location across the street.

Since the litigation, Urban Outfitters has been released from their contractual obligations with the Metro Theater property and has begun construction on their new space across the street, said Amira Yunis, the real estate agent who represents the landlord, Hudson Island LLC, of the site on the west side of Broadway where Urban will move this summer.

SEE URBAN OUTFITTERS, page 2

SEE SEAS, page 2

INSIDE

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East Village tours offer musical flashback

Public tours provide punk aficionados a way back to the golden age of New York's rock and roll renaissance by pointing out landmark locations where some of the greatest rockers graced the streets of Manhattan.



Sports, back page

Biggest match of the season awaits men's tennis

The Lions enter this weekend having won their last eight straight matches. However, Ivy foe Harvard seeks to stop the Light Blue's campaign in its tracks. The Crimson has already done it once this season so the Lions will have to come out swinging as best they can.

Opinion, page 8

À toutes les gloires de Sarko

How did the French president's speech speak to students?

Green-hot loving

Elizabeth Kipp-Giusti proposes that Columbians are more likely to do it in the dark.

Today's Events

Drink for Development at Campo

Engineers without Borders gets you cheap drinks for a good cause.

Campo, 11:30 p.m.

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Today  Tomorrow 
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Urban Outfitters plans for 99th, leaves Metro deal

URBAN OUTFITTERS from front page

The Metro Theater remains vacant.

“I think this is a better position for Urban,” Yunis said, citing the landmark status of the Metro Theater property. That protection would have meant that Urban would have had to consult with the city before making certain architectural changes, she said.

At the bottom of the 31-story Ariel West tower, the store will feature two floors and nearly 15,000 square feet of retail space for clothing and housewares.

“It has a lot to do with the Columbia University setting,” Yunis said of Urban’s demographic, adding that the location will also allow the store to take advantage of the affluence and growing retail scene in the area. The Upper West Side is an “emerging, cutting-edge neighborhood,” she said.

Currently, the only Urban location on the Upper West Side is at 72nd Street and Broadway, and some patrons there said they were excited about a location farther uptown.

Claudia Talamas, a student at City College at 135th Street who was returning a dress at the 72nd Street location, said, “I like the clothes because they’re trendy and inexpensive.”

“I would definitely go [to the new location],” said Alexis Solorzano, who goes to high

school on the Upper West Side. “It’s a lot closer to where I live.”

For some longtime residents, the news of Urban’s arrival speaks to a larger change in the neighborhood environment.

Over the last year, many large stores have opened nearby, notably at the Columbus Square development between 97th and 100th Streets on Columbus Avenue, which includes a Whole Foods and a T.J. Maxx. Previously, the block had a diner and a small supermarket.

“It’s great—it’s a neighborhood in transition, there are many new buildings,” said Margaux Teil, a high school student shopping nearby.

But the increase in big stores hasn’t been a positive development for some residents, who have opposed the fast influx of retail and the rise of residential towers like Ariel East and West.

Batya Lewton of the Coalition for a Livable West Side—a local group that has opposed out-of-context development—said, “The community does not need huge stores that cater to a limited population and not the neighborhood.”

Lewton, who grew up on the Upper West Side, said that years ago, “What you had were mom and pop businesses all along Broadway all the way up to 96th Street. ... With all the new stores we drove out all of the local businesses.”

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Students partner with Grant Houses, despite garden delay

GRANT HOUSES from front page

Impact, Aharon said, oversees these kinds of organizations.

But Kim said that CI turned them down earlier in the year because it couldn’t afford funding an additional program.

“Some people have been supportive but as a whole, there hasn’t been strong administrative support,” said Rebecca Davies, CC ’10 and the project founder and director. Davies emphasized, though, that the main goal of the club is to develop a relationship with Grant Houses, and not to build a garden.

Outside of the challenges of club recognition, there have also been logistical delays in coordinating with Columbia and the city to get approval for the actual implementation of a garden.

Columbia, after reviewing paperwork and confirming that the project was within university safety regulations, gave the group the go-ahead this month, Davies said, adding that she hopes they can break ground on the garden this spring, before she graduates.

Now Davies said they are only waiting for finalized paperwork from the New York City Housing Authority, the city agency that oversees the public housing units.

NYCHA spokesperson Heidi Morales said in an email on Thursday that the Authority has to follow certain procedures before recognizing these kinds of partnerships.

“All groups wishing to work in our spaces must appreciate



ROSE DONLON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

STALLED GRANT | CU volunteers hope to plant a public garden at the Grant Houses.

that we have to protect the safety of our residents and the integrity of our property,” she said, adding, “NYCHA is especially interested in forming partnerships that will further its environmental sustainability initiatives and that will also improve the health of our residents, and beautify our properties.”

Davies said that the students have already been in contact with representatives from Grant House’s senior center, after-school program, and tenants association.

“They were enthusiastic and since then we have found a lot of ... frustration that it hasn’t happened yet,” Davies said.

Sarah Martin, president of the Grant Houses Tenants Association, said, “We’ve been talking about it for quite a while so something’s gotta happen soon.”

Commuters concerned with meal plan

MEAL PLAN from front page

But some students called the requirement unfair for those who spend most of their time off-campus.

“It doesn’t make sense for people who are living at home—who are probably on campus between the hours of nine and five—to be forced to take it,” commuter student Nyimasita Aisha Kanuteh, BC ’12, said, adding, though, that it doesn’t affect her personally, since she would have purchased a plan anyway. “We have disadvantages as commuters as it is, and then we’re forced to fork out money on meals that we don’t need.”

Mariya Meshcheryakova, BC ’12, echoed these frustrations, saying, “A commuter student can live an hour and a half away and still be expected to eat the same number of meals on campus. ... First year, I was commuting three hours a day, working 15 hours a week, and on campus for two meals a day—therefore two meals a week.”

Task force member Mercedes Mulford, BC ’11 and president of Skip Stop, the commuter organization at Barnard, said, “I personally don’t really like the idea that commuters have to be on the meal plan.” Mulford raised these concerns

to administrators at task force meetings, she said.

Denburg, who was a commuter student when she attended Barnard, said she understands the concerns of commuters and feels that the meal plan requirement does in fact take their needs into account.

“I commuted for more than five semesters, so I’m very sensitive to both the lifestyles and special considerations of commuter students,” Denburg said. “By making this plan flexible and leaving commuters at a points program, they will actually be able to, for the first time, access the Quad—not as an interloper, but as a fully vested member of the community.”

But Meshcheryakova said she doesn’t need a meal plan to help integrate her into the campus community. “I spend plenty of time with friends, but it certainly wasn’t bonding over dining hall meals.”

She also questioned the administration’s motives, arguing that they include commuter students only when it helps them accomplish their goals.

“When it comes to inclusion as an opportunity to increase costs for students, then it [inclusion of commuters] becomes an issue,” she said. “Inclusion of commuters only matters to

“The garden has been our ultimate goal, but since it’s taken a long time, we’ve been able to focus on the small components of building a partnership with the Grant Houses community,” Kim said.

Students involved regularly visit with children and seniors at the Grant Houses, a public housing complex that has experienced several crimes since January, including a young child’s murder and a drug raid.

Davies said that the topic of food and nutrition has been a good opportunity to forge ties between Columbia and the housing project.

“Students have established a community coalition centered on food, nutrition, and environment,” Davies said, adding that the group is “using food as a platform to develop relationships between Columbia and the Grant House community.”

Kim has been in charge of coordinating an after-school program for about 15 Grant Houses children. Twice a week, the elementary school students learn about nutrition and gardening, and Kim said students from Columbia took them on a field trip earlier this year to a Brooklyn food co-op.

Kim also organizes informal lunches between Columbia students and senior citizens living in the Grant Houses, many of whom are former agricultural workers.

“We don’t think of it as community service but a partnership,” Davies said.

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Graduate engineers seek USenate seat

SEAS from front page

the other seat would be reserved for a graduate student.

Student senators on the Student Affairs Caucus represent their school in the USenate—the University-wide legislature which meets monthly and makes policies on a range of issues that extend beyond a single school.

Timur Dykhne, EGSC president and one of the council members to pen the proposal, said the proposal was motivated by the fact that the graduate student population of SEAS has about 2000 students, while the undergraduate population of SEAS is about 1400 students.

Council members recently brought the proposal to the Senate Elections Commission for deliberation.

“Given our large student population ... and given the fact that graduate students are fundamentally different from undergraduates, they have different expectations and are concerned about different issues on campus. ... We feel like the most equitable situation would be to be guaranteed a seat for the graduate population.”

But members of the ESC, which represents the undergraduate students of SEAS, have expressed some hesitation. According to ESC president

Whitney Green, SEAS ’10, senators are supposed to represent the entire body of SEAS, not just an undergraduate or graduate population. “According to the senate definition we are one school with one dean, one faculty, one constituency. We have undergrads, grads, masters, Ph.D. students, but we are all under one engineering school,” she said.

Another concern, voiced on both sides, has to do with collaboration between the graduate and undergraduate student councils. According to Green, splitting the seats may decrease collaboration between the two bodies. “ESC has been very much in the direction of trying to bridge that gap and have more collaboration. ... If we split the seats, does that mean that we sever that tie because there’s no need for us to work together anymore?” Green said.

Dykhne, though, responded to these concerns, saying, “It’s not a power grab or any sort of struggle. ... We would love for the undergraduate senator to sit on our council and for our senator to sit on ESC to represent the entire student population, but from the different perspectives that come from being part of different student bodies,” he said.

Both councils say they are also taking timing into consideration.

According to Dykhne, “There’s a golden opportunity—in the sense that both senators are graduating this year and the election will be in the fall—and we feel that if we were to do the split right now, in some sense everything would work as its always worked.”

But Green said it’s late in the year to effectively solicit feedback from SEAS students about this proposed change—and the Senate Elections Commission, which received the proposal, asked that a referendum be issued to SEAS students about the issue.

Ultimately, though, Dykhne argued, “This is not a unique thing. The College [CC] and GSAS [Graduate School of Arts and Science] have different senators—independent senators—that’s been around for 40 years and it’s worked, and we feel that that would work for the engineering school.”

But current undergraduate University Senator from ESC Rajat Roy, SEAS ’10, said that the definitive split is unnecessary. “Students care whether a candidate is qualified, not whether they’re an undergraduate or a graduate. Experience matters more than age.”

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Ancient Eight foes set to host Light Blue tennis team

WOMEN’S TENNIS from back page

competition. Mental strength advanced the competition further as Nicole Bartnik, Natasha Makarova, and Chelsea Davis all impressively defeated their opponents.

“After the match, someone asked me what the difference is between the players who won and who didn’t, and I really think it comes down to hard work,” head coach Ilene Weintraub said, applauding the Nos. 1 through 3 singles players. “Chelsea continues to amaze me. When she comes off the court, she is soaked with sweat. She’s like that in practice too, and it really contributes to her success. Chelsea just gets out there every time to win, and that’s what she did.”

“Nikki and Natasha, too, really deserved their wins. Nikki played really smart against a girl who had a lot of weapons, and I’m really happy for Natasha. She was down in the beginning and just kept a clear head, which is what she needed to do,” Weintraub said.

The Lions will need to continue this type of aggressive play if they want to win this weekend. They will also have to make some improvements, especially at the tail end of the ladder. Columbia’s downfall against Cornell came from the lack of aggression and mental strength when the Lions had a chance to win. With the match riding on Nos. 4 and 5 singles, both Katarina Kovacevic and Eliza Matache ultimately failed in their tiebreakers.

“Eliza was so nervous and tight throughout the day. She started out bad in doubles, as she was missing all the balls. Even when she played, there was a sort of fear in her eyes,” Weintraub said. “She disappointed me in the third set in singles, because she’s had the most experience of anyone on the team in that situation and could have won. I told her it doesn’t matter the result as long as you play aggressively, and she didn’t do that. She got herself into this mental state where she couldn’t perform. I sometimes try to joke and relieve the

pressure. In the end, though, it has to come from within.

“And Katarina is a freshman. It’s the first time for her in that situation, and I think on her end it was all about nerves. She felt the pressure and just didn’t perform,” Weintraub continued.

For success this weekend, the Lions will need to learn from their losses.

“This weekend and in the future, we have to do two things,” Weintraub said, offering insight into future strategy. “The first involves doubles. We just need to be more aggressive. Against Cornell, they didn’t play aggressively in the end. At this level, the team who plays most aggressive in doubles wins. That team wasn’t us.

“The second thing involves singles,” she said. “We have to make sure we stay more relaxed. We need to discuss ways and rituals that can help us avoid being nervous so we can just play and enjoy.”

This weekend is important for the Lions—not only are Harvard and Dartmouth conference competitors, but they’re nationally

ranked. The goal for the program since the beginning of the season has been to earn a national ranking. This is their chance. If the Lions can top one of the teams, there is a chance they may be pushed into the rankings.

But winning won’t be easy. First the Lions will head to Cambridge, Mass. to take on Harvard. The Lions haven’t faced the Crimson since last season, when they lost 6-1. On Saturday, Columbia faces Dartmouth, a team that has maintained consistently strong play throughout its season and also defeated the Light Blue 6-1 last season. Both teams have winning records, Harvard with an 8-6 standing and Dartmouth with an impressive 13-2 record.

“This weekend is going to be difficult,” Weintraub said. “Harvard’s 1-6 singles is really stacked. Dartmouth has also had a great season. What I hope the girls take away from the Cornell match is that they can compete against anyone. If we play as aggressively as we can, we can win.”

Tennis’ winstreak at stake against Harvard, Big Green

MEN’S TENNIS from back page

its doubles teams have been a strength all season.

“Their doubles is awfully good,” Goswami said. “We have to match their intensity and play good doubles. We’ve been working hard with the doubles, and we know what is at stake. And even if we lose the doubles point, we know that we still have a shot in singles.”

Last year, the Lions beat the Crimson in Cambridge in a match where they lost the doubles point, but rallied to win the No. 3 through 6 singles including three wins by freshmen in singles. This time though, Columbia will have home court advantage.

“Both Harvard Tennis Center and ours are so good, our lights are great, backdrops are great, courts are medium-paced, that it’s not that much of an advantage,” Goswami said. “But still, we play on our courts all year, so I still think it’s a little advantage for us. But as we proved last year, it

doesn’t matter that much, it boils down to who plays well that day and who produces.”

On Saturday, the Lions will take on the Big Green, who finished in last place in the Ivy League last spring with a record of 0-7 in Ivy play. This season, the Big Green enter with a record of 9-6 in the spring, but have already lost once to Columbia in the second round of the ECACs. Columbia beat Dartmouth 6-1 that day, with the only loss coming at No. 3 for Columbia where Bucher played above his normal spot and lost in three sets. Dartmouth’s No. 1 singles player, Daniel Freeman beat Jon Wong in the ITA Regional Championships in the fall in three sets, and Wong will certainly be looking for revenge, having missed the ECAC matchup due to an injury.

The Lions will take on Harvard at 2 p.m. on Friday, and Dartmouth at 2 p.m. on Saturday. Both matches will be played at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center.

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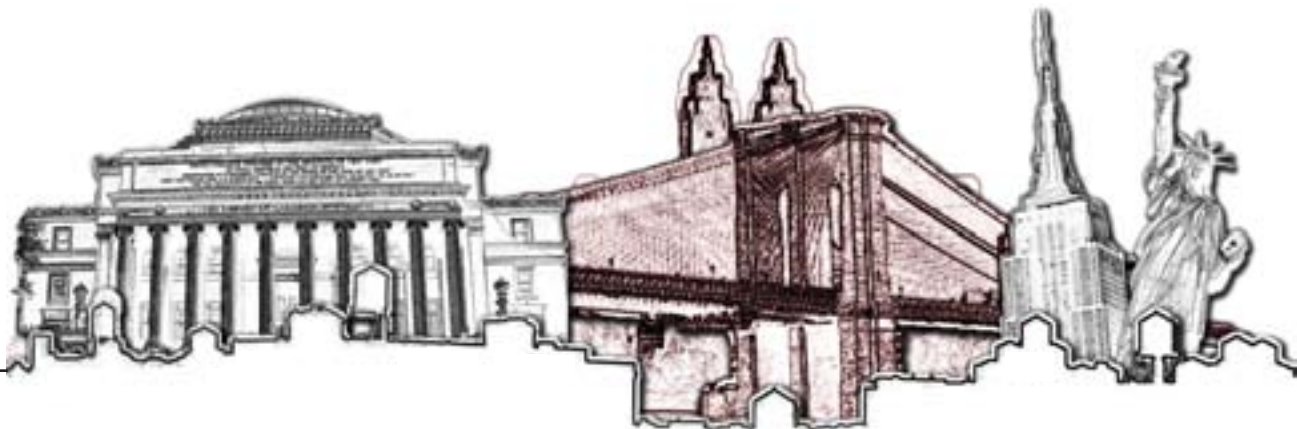
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ZARA CASTANY FOR SPECTATOR

ROCK AND ROLLIN' | THE EAST VILLAGE ROCK 'n' Punk tour takes music lovers from far and wide on a trip through time to display an older face of the neighborhood, when bands like the Grateful Dead and the Allman Brothers ruled the area. From CBGB to Fillmore East, participants trek to various landmarks on the musical landscape that sometimes faded into the backdrop of the vibrant city.

Punk rock stages NYC takeover with East Village tour

BY ZARA CASTANY
Columbia Daily Spectator

Standing on the crowded sidewalks of St. Marks Place, tour guide Bobby Pinn is recognizable by his bleached blond hair—spiked for extra effect—multiple earrings, and aviator sunglasses. His shoulder bag, stuffed full of old record covers and photographs to display, sports a patch from one of his favorite punk bands, Rancid. Oh, and his real name isn't Bobby Pinn, because the great punk rockers never went by their real names. Just ask Sid Vicious, Iggy Pop, and Joey Ramone, to name a few.

Pinn, whose real name is Ron Colinear, runs Rock Junket, a company that gives

walking tours of New York City's musical history. On the East Village Rock 'n' Punk tour, he guides curious natives and tourists alike through the streets of the East Village and Alphabet City, pointing out the landmarks of punk, jazz, and rock that in today's landscape go unnoticed by most passers-by.

"When you think of the East Village, you immediately think of creativity, music, artists, and fashion. In the 1950s and '60s, St. Marks Place was becoming the counterculture street of America," Pinn said.

The tour begins outside the final home of American punk icon Joey Ramone, on the corner of 9th Street and Second Avenue, and this serves as a fitting start to a journey back in time to a classic era of cultural rebellion. While pointing out

sites such as the house where Iggy Pop once lived and the building that graces the cover of the Led Zeppelin album "Physical Graffiti," Pinn drops in interesting nuggets of information—for instance, how Joey Ramone liked to drink Yoo-hoo backstage at his shows.

In many ways, the East Village of today bears little resemblance to the East Village of 30 years ago. For instance, Fillmore East—the rock venue where bands like the Grateful Dead, the Allman Brothers Band, and Jefferson Airplane played sold-out shows—is now the site of a bank, with the interior completely gutted and replaced. The street where Madonna first lived in squalor among drug dealers and the homeless is now lined with luxury apartments and neighborhood moms

going for walks with their strollers. Much of the punk and rock 'n' roll spirit that once charged the city streets seems gone.

"Like any big city, a lot of New York revolves around money and the pursuit of affluence. Punk music offers a rejection of that," Natalie Robehmed, CC '13, said. "I also think that the community spirit punk fosters can be really comforting. Punk is all about DIY ethics—putting on a show for you and your friends even if you have no venue other than your own living room."

Robehmed hosts "Oi! Oi! Oi!," a ska-punk show, on WBAR every Friday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. She finds that small venues such as Death By Audio, located in Brooklyn, keep the punk spirit alive today, offering all-ages shows for under \$10.

"I don't think making punk into a tourist attraction will really keep the spirit alive—it's in the small venues and the music of local punk bands that you'll get it," Robehmed said.

The last stop on the tour, CBGB (which stands for country, bluegrass, and blues), served as the epicenter of the emerging new wave and punk movements of the 1970s, featuring performances by bands such as the Ramones, Blondie, the Talking Heads, and the Misfits. Though the punk landmark is now the site of high-end men's fashion brand John Varvatos, original graffiti still adorns the walls inside, preserving a small part of the musical history of the East Village for the years to come.

Unconscious unfolds on stage in 'Ersatz' debut

BY ISHANI MITRA
Columbia Daily Spectator

Yisa Fermin, BC '12, sticks her small foot out the theater door, and then her hand. The audience members lined up in the lobby pay little attention to the opening door until Fermin leaps outside in a neon blue blouse and silver shorts, sporting a white painted face and a feather in her hair. She then proceeds to communicate with the audience—using high-pitched squeals—reminding everyone to turn off their cell phones. Afterwards, she leads the bewildered and dazed viewers into the actual venue, giving them just a taste of what they should expect for the next hour and fifteen minutes.

With a beginning as strange and unexpected as that, viewers know right off the bat that NOMADS's production of "The Leap of Ersatz!" won't be an ordinary show. With no dialogue, but instead dancing, painting, videos, and music, the crew puts on a show almost impossible to fully understand, and yet breathtakingly beautiful all the same.

The protagonist of the play, Ersatz (played by sophomore Sean Barrett of Baruch College) frantically searches for meaning in a life of disillusionment. As he experiences his hidden memories and deepest desires while unconscious, the audience sees these same images acted out on stage, including a birthday party, love scene, and night club. While none of the characters talk, the dancers, led by choreographer Dominique Nieves, CC '12, perform slow dance medleys, expressing the surrealism and beauty of Ersatz's thoughts through their movements.

As the main character, Barrett depicts Ersatz convincingly and with depth. His



ISHANI MITRA FOR SPECTATOR

SPEECHLESS | Surreal dance choreography and inventive live music amp up NOMADS's conversationless multimedia production of "The Leap of Ersatz!"

years of dancing experience show quite clearly as he lithely and effortlessly moves across the stage. His expressions of bewilderment, confusion, and heartbreaking sadness evoke a multitude of emotions in the audience.

Fermin transitions easily from the mischievous and vivacious child to the older and wiser lover. Perhaps enhanced by her impeccable costume and makeup, her characters are both understandable and enjoyable to watch.

Above and behind the stage is a large screen that continuously projects unintelligible video clips, organized by Victor Suarez, CC '11, of the actors filmed beforehand and even of scenes from classics such as "Casablanca" and "Singing in the Rain." While the video component is sometimes difficult to understand, Suarez is able to

integrate the film with the play and add to the overall artistry of the production.

But the real star of the show spent all of his time backstage until curtain call. Alex Klein, CC '12, wrote the music for the entire show, without which "The Leap of Ersatz!" would not be nearly as effective. With a poignant viola melody that permeates almost every song performed, Klein uses live electronics, a cello, a guitar, a saxophone, and an accordion to provide a range of music from a loud, intense blare to barely audible guitar strings. Cindy Gooden, CC '10, accompanies perfectly on vocals.

This play is not for those who like mundane convention and witty dialogue. "The Leap of Ersatz!" provides a surreal experience for the viewers while displaying the work of some of the most talented artists on campus.

Stress-busting on every budget for pampered undergraduates



NNEKA MCGUIRE

The Fun, the Fantastical, and the Freakish

and be conscientious about our spending. But every now and again, indulgence is healthy and even necessary to combat the stress and fatigue inherent in a Columbia education. In less than two weeks, let the (semi) guilt-free indulgence begin during Spa Week 2010.

Similar to Restaurant Week—except that it caters to your physical body instead of your palate—Spa Week offers reduced-price spa treatments at some of the finest salons on the island of Manhattan and beyond, in the outer boroughs. Compelled by a totally selfless humanitarian impulse (the only explanation as to why I'd postpone studying to have my toenails painted), I visited a couple of the spas participating in Spa Week to bring you the "Fun, Fantastical, and Freakish" version of Spa Week 2010, as well as some not-so-cheap but delightfully offbeat spa treatments.

FANTASTICAL

Usually, champagne is served

in cups for drinking, but at Faina European Day Spa, you dunk your feet in it. Faina's Grape Peel Pedicure begins with a warm foot soak in effervescent champagne soap suds. Next, your feet are exfoliated with a champagne rose scrub, then covered in a champagne rose mask. Before the sweet-smelling mask is removed, your feet are wrapped in plastic and placed in two funny-shaped silver slippers that make them feel quite toasty. After about five minutes, the slippers are removed, the mask is rinsed away, and your feet are moisturized with champagne rose lotion. A lengthy, luxurious foot massage follows, succeeded by the application of toenail polish. The whole process takes longer than your average pedicure, but it is also more pleasurable. The Grape Peel Pedicure is not available for a reduced price during Spa Week, but Faina's classic European Pedicure is. Although the classic is sans champagne, Barno, the Faina technician who did an exquisite job on my toes, assured me that it's très fantastique.

FREAKISH

Facials—complete with exfoliation and extractions—are common fare at spas. But do you ever recall seeing a facial for the rump listed under a spa's services? Unconventionality aside, such a thing does indeed exist. The upscale

WEEKEND PICKS

THE EDITORS’ BEST BETS FOR THE WEEKEND AHEAD

THEATER
“Next Fall.” *Helen Hayes Theatre, 240 West 44th St. (between Broadway and Eighth Avenue). Various days and times, \$26.50 student rush tickets may be available at the box office beginning two hours prior to showtime.*
“Next Fall” sheds light on the conflict between religion and homosexuality in America. Revolving around a group of family and friends coming to terms with a personal crisis, the play traces the relationship of a gay couple—one religious and one atheist—through poignant, often hilarious, flashbacks.

FOOD
Upper West Side Chocolate, Desserts, & Wine Tour. *72nd Street and Broadway. Sunday, April 4, 2:30-5 p.m., \$54.50.*
City Food Tours leads trips through Columbia’s own backyard that will open students’ eyes to the Upper West Side’s sweet wonders. Although these tours seem like a great way to get to know the neighborhood, ambitious students might be able to avoid the high sticker price by organizing their own impromptu “tour.”

FILM
“Sunrise.” *Film Forum, 209 West Houston St. (at Sixth Avenue). Friday-Thursday, April 2-8, various times, \$12.*
For one week only, Film Forum is featuring F.W. Murnau’s classic silent film “Sunrise,” about a married country man who is seduced by a young city vixen. The film is thought of as one of cinema’s greatest masterpieces. Take another look at this film class staple in its beautifully restored new 35mm print.

TV
Celebrating Sondheim at 80: “Anatomy of a Song” and “A Little Night Music.” *Paley Center for Media, 25 West 52nd St. (between Fifth and Sixth avenues). Friday-Sunday, April 2-4, 1 p.m., free with CUID.*
Sondheim talks about some of his greatest work in the TV programs “Camera Three: Anatomy of a Song” (CBS, 1976) and “Pebble Mill” (BBC1, 1996). Excerpts of his work can also be watched in clips from “The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson” (NBC, 1973) and “The Best of Broadway” (PBS, 1982).

DANCE
Faye Driscoll: There is so much mad in me. *Dance Theater Workshop, 219 West 19th St. (between Seventh and Eighth avenues). Friday-Saturday, April 2-3, 7:30 p.m., \$15.*
Faye Driscoll’s dance company examines extreme, antithetical emotions through dance. What is the difference between the emotions associated with falling in love and feeling violent? How can people distinguish what is real from what is imaginary?

ART
William Kentridge. *Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd St. (between Fifth and Sixth avenues). Various days and times through May 17, free with CUID.*
This exhibit is nothing if not a spectacle. The artist’s medium, which is largely paper and ink, is transformed into an immense event. The exhibit features three decades of the artist’s work, and the several animated films are breathtaking.

MUSIC
Bonnie “Prince” Billy & The Cairo Gang. *Monster Island Basement, 128 River St. (at Metropolitan Avenue), Brooklyn. Friday, April 2, 8 p.m., \$12.*
He may be one of the funniest-looking human beings ever, but Will Oldham has the voice of an angel and puts on a great live show. Expect soul-soothing, heart-wrenching alt-country—or whatever you want to call it—and many bearded men in flannel.

STYLE
“Monsterfaces” Launch Party. *Tattoo Culture Gallery, 129 Roebling St. (between North Fourth & North Fifth streets), Brooklyn. Friday, April 2, 7-10 p.m., free.*
Who hasn’t considered a little bit of body art at some point? The new Tattoo Culture Gallery exhibition “Frank Russo: Monsterfaces” offers some intriguing, if not totally bizarre, tattoo inspiration.

WILDCARD
Newmindspace’s “Urban Pillow Fight.” *Union Square. Saturday, April 3, 3-6 p.m., free.*
Indulge your seventh grade slumber-party girl and whack a few feathers around at this annual free event. Then join new allies and enemies alike at The Bell House, at Seventh Street between Second and Third avenues in Brooklyn, for a \$15-a-person after-party. The party lasts until 4 a.m.—and by that time your own pillow will sound pretty sweet.

SEARCH FOR THE BEST

ICED COFFEE



Morningside

caffeine goes

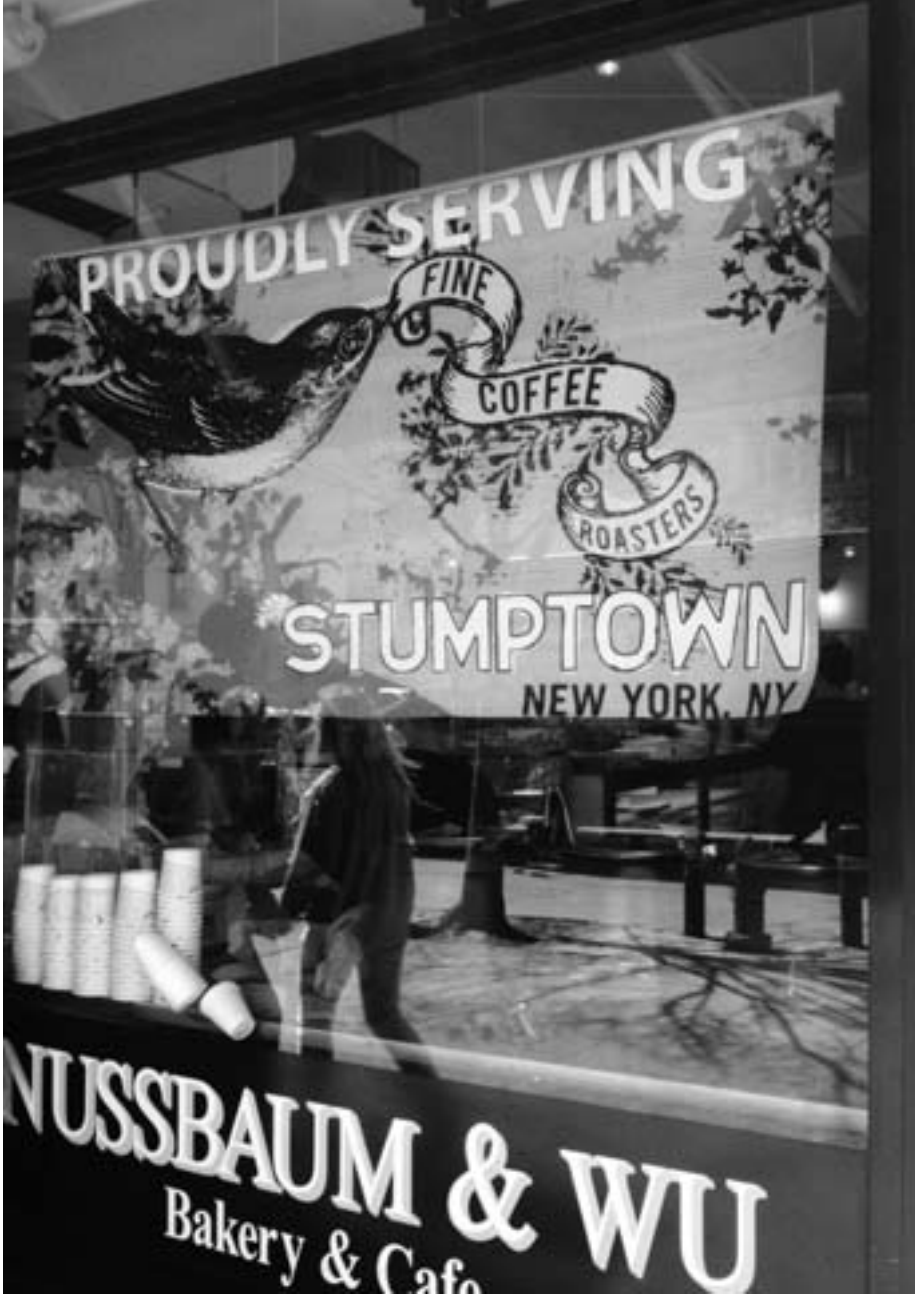
ice-cold

BY JASON BELL
Spectator Staff Writer

When walking Morningside Park’s terraced paths of blooming daffodils, a balmy spring breeze rustling newly green grass, nothing feels better than sipping iced coffee. Among the innumerable coffee shops catering to the student crowd, a few stand out as particularly accessible, wildly popular, and cultishly worshipped. Choosing to drink chilled java isn’t difficult—choosing where to procure it is.

Just across from campus, Nussbaum & Wu (113th Street and Broadway) recently began serving Stumptown coffee. A hugely fetishized brew, Stumptown receives high marks among coffee fanatics for its nutty bitterness and smooth feel. Indeed, business appears correspondingly booming at Nussbaum after classes on a Thursday, with dozens of students lining up inside for a fortifying caffeine hit before the weekend begins. Unfortunately, when watered down with ice, the strong Stumptown drip tastes flat and stale, washed of any complex flavors. Sure, Stumptown’s characteristic richness still lingers on the tongue, but finishing a whole one-note cup feels like a chore.

At least Nussbaum’s iced coffee seems truly iced, unlike the stuff offered at



JASON BELL FOR SPECTATOR

CAFFEINE FREEZE | Nussbaum & Wu’s newly adopted Stumptown brew makes for an acceptable-tasting and convenient ice-cold summer coffee drink for tired students.

Oren’s Daily Roast (between 111th and 112th streets on Broadway). Although many Columbians prefer a cup of Oren’s to a less wholesome Starbucks roast, iced coffee should feel appreciably cold, a quality Oren’s forgets. Served lukewarm, Oren’s iced coffee takes a splash of milk as well, leading to unctuous and sweet slurps. Ask for the special flavor of the day on ice, rather than the ordinary blend, since added notes of vanilla, hazelnut, or chocolate help disguise the terribly “off” temperature.

Quite a walk from the gates, Society Coffee (114th Street and Frederick Douglass Blvd.) provides an excuse to stroll through Morningside Park and back for the best iced coffee in the neighborhood. Brightly acidic tones

balance against a deep earthiness, creating an expansive brew that feels rustic and raw. This well-balanced and intriguing cup sparkles, especially when poured over ice cubes. Although sitting in Society’s comfortable café to watch the world wander past is tempting, take a step outside and walk leisurely along Frederick Douglass. During afternoons in the neighborhood, each moment seems to drip along slowly, distilled into relaxing sips from a chilled glass in hand.

As the weather turns warmer and Morningside Heights transitions into spring, fear not a longer walk to find refreshment. After all, coffee can be about more than caffeine-powered speed—it can also be about slowing down.



COURTESY OF IFC CENTER

FILM FRENEMIES | Big-time movie directors James Cameron and Kathryn Bigelow, who also used to be married, will battle their movies “Aliens” and “Strange Days” in IFC’s midnight show debut.

Cameron and Bigelow are first to face

off in IFC’s new film battle

BY MARICELA GONZALEZ
Columbia Daily Spectator

Unlike the normal healthy competition between directors, James Cameron, mastermind behind the two highest grossing films of all time, and Kathryn Bigelow, School of the Arts alum and first female winner for Best Director, have a more complicated relationship. From 1989 to 1991, Cameron and Bigelow were married. Despite the assumed rocky relationship between exes, the filmmakers maintain an amiable friendship of sorts, advising and collaborating in film projects after their divorce. But if Bigelow and Cameron won’t face off in a battle, their films will: now through April 17, the Independent Film Channel Center is hosting a weekly midnight skirmish between some of the best science fiction, action, and thriller movies of the past 30 years.

First to battle it out are two of the directors’ classics: Bigelow’s “Strange Days” and Cameron’s “Aliens.” “Aliens,” which features space-travelling humans terrorized by a killer extraterrestrial, is one of the best science fiction films to date—it is loved by both fans and critics, a feat few sci-fi flicks have accomplished. However, as fun as “Aliens” is to watch—from the then-groundbreaking special effects to the feminist tour de force of Sigourney Weaver as Ripley—“Strange Days” is a fundamentally better quality film than “Aliens.” Released in 1995, “Strange Days” shows a Los Angeles of 1999, where hustlers sell recordings of other people’s memories, police officers are always in riot gear, and the millennium brings vague warnings of the End of Days. Granted, the story is written by Cameron, but it remains an excellent example of the fast-paced yet

emotionally driven style of Bigelow’s directing. The modern film noir feel of the movie, coupled with poignant performances from Ralph Fiennes and Angela Bassett, elevate the feature as both a social commentary and a work of art.

Next up is “Near Dark” versus “The Terminator.” Is there really any competition between these two 1980s action thrillers? Bigelow’s redneck vampire film “Near Dark” starts with an interesting premise—a beautiful vampire drifter bites a young cowboy and attempts to bring him into her world of roaming the West at night. While the film has its moments—usually the silent ones where Bigelow’s classical directing shines through unencumbered by the clichéd dialogue—the picture mostly comes across as a failed experiment. The standout of the film is a young Bill Paxton (current star of TV’s “Big Love”) who shines as a delightfully maniacal vampire with an affinity for slashing veins with his spurs.

And “The Terminator”? It’s a classic for a reason: dystopian Los Angeles, naked time travel, and Arnold Schwarzenegger as a badass robot sent to destroy the mother of the leader of the Resistance. What’s not to love? The plot of “The Terminator” may be a little out there, but with the slightly off-kilter delivery of Michael Biehn as time-traveling hero Kyle Reese and the perfectly deadpan performance of Schwarzenegger, the film maintains its status as an American landmark.

While Cameron may one-up his Academy Award-winning ex-wife when it comes to the science fiction thriller genre, the killer combination of Cameron’s writing and Bigelow’s directing in “Strange Days” tops any film either director has made alone.

Stress-busting

on every

budget

MCGUIRE from page 3

Haven Spa in SoHo offers the Baby’s Bottom treatment, which is essentially a facial for the behind.

Starting with a special exfoliating scrub, the Baby’s Bottom treatment also includes an acid peel to prevent unbecoming bumps on your backside, an extraction of existing pimples, and soothing moisturizer. I have to admit, I was quite intimidated by this treatment. Baring my backside to a total stranger was—to say the least—daunting, but if anyone can make a person feel at ease while exposing her butt cheeks, Bozena, the charming Haven employee I bared all to, can. Luckily, Bozena informed me that the skin on my bottom was in tip-top shape, so I was able to escape the extractions. For those aiming to become bikini-ready in preparation for the summer months, I suggest Haven’s Baby’s Bottom treatment—it’ll make your bottom gleam like it’s golden.

FUN
For a quick mani and pedi at a convenient location, visit The Back Room Hand & Foot Spa in Harlem. The Rose Petal Ritual manicure and pedicure includes a hand massage in rich, fragrant lemon and rose hand cream and a foot bath in a rose petal soak, followed by a foot massage using rose and coconut moisturizer. The Tropical Paradise manicure and pedicure combo is also available during Spa Week.

Faina European Day Spa is located at 315 West 57th St., near Columbus Circle. Haven Spa is located at 150 Mercer St. in SoHo. The Back Room Hand & Foot Spa is located at 24 West 125th St.

Nneka McGuire is a Columbia College junior majoring in creative writing. The Fun, the Fantastical, and the Freakish runs alternate Fridays.

Electronic beats bump it up a notch with rave-centric music festival Hard NYC

BY RAEYE DANIEL
Columbia Daily Spectator

New York City: If you can make it here, you can make it anywhere. That seems to be the mentality adopted by Gary Richards, the creator of the Los Angeles-based rave empire, Hardfest.

On Saturday, the highly-anticipated second installment of Hard NYC, an electronic music festival, will take place at Terminal 5 (56th Street between 11th and 12th avenues). For many, the concert series represents a major push towards expanding New York's exposure to the genre.

Headlining this electronic extravaganza will be Boys Noize, the stage name of electronic music producer and house-bumping DJ Alexander Ridha, who hails from Hamburg, Germany. Also headlining is Hard NYC repeat Major Lazer, the reggae-using, dancehall-booming, DJ/producer duo consisting of Philadelphia native Diplo (aka Thomas Pentz) and London's Switch (aka Dave Taylor).

Hardfest, better known as just Hard, was established in 2007 by Richards (DJ Destructo) in Los Angeles. In one year, he transformed a concept into one of the most recognized and profitable rave establishments in the world. By the end of October 2008, the name Hard essentially became synonymous with the term rave and took over the electronic concert scene.

California went from having just two Hard-run concerts in 2008, to booking six full-fledged raves for the year 2010. This expansion, however, was not limited to the borders of California. This fall, Richards decided to take his vision one step further by introducing his brainchild to one of the largest music hubs of the world: New York City.

When asked about his take on the expansion to New York, Richards said, "L.A. and New York—that's what makes the world go 'round. It seemed like it was the natural progression. I had no idea what to expect because I didn't really know what would happen in New York. Many people wanted me to do a larger show but I picked Terminal 5, a smaller venue, and made sure we did a good job. The event sold out, and it was great



COURTESY OF DOWNTOWN RECORDS

LAZER SHOW | The second installment of Hard NYC, an electronic music concert, opens this Saturday at Terminal 5, featuring repeat headliner Major Lazer.

to know that people in New York accepted us so well."

The highly anticipated opening of the Hard NYC branch took place in October 2009. How New York would receive the electro-craze wasn't entirely clear, but with headliners Crookers and Major Lazer, success was expected—but nobody knew just how much.

Tickets sold out, Terminal 5 was packed, and a sea of hundreds of New Yorkers' bodies pulsated to everything from reggae to dubstep, trip hop to

house music. Acceptance was an understatement—Hard NYC was a hit.

Attendee Claudia Vargas, SEAS '13, found out about the event through a friend on her floor. "I had never been to a rave before, so I wanted to see what it was like. I was indifferent about electronic music before, so Hard was like an exploratory thing for me, but I definitely enjoyed myself and it certainly opened my views on a genre of music that most people consider an 'acquired taste,'" she said.

Anna Zielinska, CC '13, who has had more exposure to the electronic music genre, attended the first Hard NYC and is coming back for more this Saturday. "I've been exposed to electro ever since I attended a summer program in France six years ago," she said. "I'm coming back because it was one of the best events I had been to—the energy, the crowd, the overwhelming beats were amazing."

The first concert was so successful that a few weeks later, Hard NYC

decided to release this Saturday's show date. A third show, set to take place on Governors Island, was announced for this summer with M.I.A. headlining.

"We just did Miami, we're about to do San Francisco, and in August, we're also launching a countrywide tour," Richards said.

That's two major release dates in New York, a show in Miami, an addition in San Francisco and a major U.S. tour all in the span of six months. If that's not considered making it, what is?



NATASSIA MILLER FOR SPECTATOR

SLOPPY SHOW? | Financial District Asian eatery Baquette offers a unique Indian-inspired take on the American summer classic with its "Sloppy Bao."

Vietnamese sandwich shop deserves a Bao from students

BY NATASSIA MILLER
Spectator Staff Writer



Baquette's sandwiches and strong New York following provide motivation for students to make the trek down to the Financial District for a taste of banh mi.

Perhaps none of Michael Bao's eateries have made as lasting an impression as his Vietnamese sandwich shop, Baquette. It's Shake Shack's Asian counterpart—with shorter lines and fewer addictive items on the menu—and boasts one sandwich worth getting that puts all others to shame. Behold the Baquette, a concoction that produces an epiphanic reaction. A poster outside of the entrance deconstructs its nine different layers, but one bite explains it all.

Like any self-respecting baguette, the crust is browned, served warm and crunchy—a perfect introduction before Bao goes in for the kill. Thick chunks of pork pâté and a stack of thin pork terrine slices double up in a hot mess of green chilies, black peppercorn, and

spicy Sriracha sauce. Pickled carrots, cucumbers, and cilantro add a refreshing twist. It's massive, and for \$6, it makes any student wish Bao would consider opening a location near campus.

Aside from the main act, there are four other sandwiches. The Sloppy Bao—an interesting take on the American sloppy joe—showcases ground beef spiced with curry instead of tomato sauce. Other components include thin slices of green mango and lemongrass, as well as a touch of basil and cilantro. While the filling isn't enough to warrant a sloppy reputation, somehow, after a few bites, it doesn't matter. Every bite just keeps getting better, thanks to a few squirts from hot chili sauce bottles innocently sitting on the counter.

Summer rolls and salads like the green papaya with tiger shrimp, mint, peanut, and lime dressing provide healthier options. A trip to Baquette, however, isn't the time to worry about dieting. Instead, it's the time to revel in a succulent marriage of pork, bread, and spices. Never mind the bare interior resembling a Subway with yellow walls, a small counter, and a few bar stools. Besides, the disappointing atmosphere places greater emphasis on the food, for it's the Baquette that's worth the pursuit.

Lincoln Center sweets keep gourmet cheap

BY KATHERINE FREEDMAN
Columbia Daily Spectator

While there's nothing like munching something naughty while watching a good movie, it's never a good feeling to hand over \$5 for a pack of M&M's—especially when gourmet treats are available for the same price or less. In particular, Lincoln Center is a hot spot for great desserts, and the area happens to house both AMC Loews Lincoln Square 13 for feature films, and Lincoln Plaza Cinemas for art-house flicks.

Bouchon Bakery, on the third floor of the Time Warner Center at Columbus Circle, will fly taste buds nonstop to Paris. It's difficult to forget about the tiny but extravagant "fugheddaboutit" (\$3.25), a Rice Krispies treat layered with caramel, covered with milk chocolate, and topped with sea salt. The crispy rice gives the "fugheddaboutit" a crunchy texture, and the mixture of sweetness and saltiness reaches perfection. Macaroons, priced at \$3, seem like some of Bouchon Bakery's most popular items. The passion fruit coconut macaroon has a light, tangy crust with a thick, creamy coconut filling. Madeleines are another specialty. Although a dubious shade of green, the pistachio madeleines, at \$1 each, possess a fluffy cake-like consistency, and a rich but not overpowering pistachio flavor.

While gelato seems like a tricky dessert to sneak in a pocket or purse to eat during a movie, Screme Gelato Bar (between 69th and 70th streets on Broadway) is well worth a visit before or after a film. Made fresh daily, Screme's gelato is some of the best, and perhaps most unique, gelato in the city. Their flavors, which differ every day, can be followed on Twitter, and include Nutella Brownie, Fresh Fig, Key Lime Vodka, and Banana Bread, along with other, more conventional flavors. This gelato feels so rich that a single scoop, priced at a lofty \$5, will likely be all that students desire. Try the Snickers gelato, a cool creamy chocolate base sprinkled with crunchy, salty peanuts.

When students are anywhere close to Levain Bakery (74th Street and Amsterdam) their noses will be able to lead them the rest of the way. Levain is famous for their six-ounce cookies—chocolate chip walnut, dark chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin, and dark chocolate peanut butter chip. They come fresh from the oven every



COURTESY OF SCREME GELATO BAR

DESSERT DIVINE | Locales such as Bouchon Bakery, Screme Gelato, and Levain Bakery make Lincoln Center the UWS's top milieu for mouth-watering treats.

thirty to forty-five minutes. Priced at \$4, students might want to share these cookies, not just to save money, but also to avoid a chocolate coma. The chocolate chip walnut is Levain's most popular flavor, with a simply utopian chocolate chip to walnut ratio. Indeed,

this ridiculously decadent dessert will make Chips Ahoy a last resort.

If "Hot Tub Time Machine" isn't enough of a draw to Lincoln Center, perhaps the lure of freshly made French pastries, gelato, or chocolate chip cookies will do the trick.

Skyscrape away at NYC architecture in the Financial District

BY ELIZABETH FOYDEL
Spectator Staff Writer

As the temperature goes up, head down to the lower tip of Manhattan to enjoy the sun. Beyond the tourist traps and financial headquarters on Wall Street, the **STYLE** Financial District is home to a number of destinations, from the Skyscraper Museum to South Street Seaport, that inspire an appreciation for the physical beauty of the city.

The Skyscraper Museum is the only museum in the world devoted to the study of the building type. Its exhibitions examine the construction of skyscrapers and their place, both in history and current societies, around the world. Although it often focuses on the architectural heritage of New York, the current featured exhibition, “China Prophecy: Shanghai,” looks at recently built or proposed architecture that makes Shanghai a model for 21st-century urbanism. The permanent exhibit includes mini-Manhattan models by Michael Chesko, photographic and cartographic collections of Lower Manhattan, and areas dedicated to the history of the Twin Towers and the rebuilding of Ground Zero.

Also celebrated in Lower Manhattan is Century 21, a discount designer department store. The chain has outposts throughout the boroughs, but its flagship location at 22 Cortlandt St. offers steep discounts on both menswear and womenswear from such labels as Dolce & Gabbana, Marc Jacobs, and Alexander McQueen. Its stock is known to be even better than that of the Barneys’ Warehouse Sale. City natives push through the tourists who occasionally brave the crowds to find incredibly discounted last-season wares.

When competitive shopping becomes tiring, Adrienne’s Pizza Bar should provide ample sustenance. The crispy brick-oven crust and seasoned sauce of their gourmet pie has made them one of the city’s

most raved-about pizza joints. Rectangular lunchtime pizzas with a variety of toppings are delicious, as are the crispier rounds served on the dinner menu—the siciliana eggplant and classic margherita variants are particularly worth trying. The restaurant takes reservations, which might be good idea during the more bustling lunch-time hours.

Or make the meal to-go and munch a gourmet pizza slice while strolling around South Street Seaport. Perhaps the crown jewel of the area, the seaport, on Fulton Street, is sandwiched between towering architecture and the East River. This historic district was the original port of New York City and is home to some of the city’s oldest downtown architecture. At its entrance stands the Titanic Memorial Lighthouse, built in 1913 and dedicated to the passengers who died on the fated RMS Titanic. Although modern tourist shops and restaurants have also taken up residence in the area, renovated sailing ships and beautiful river-front scenery can still be found.

Much of the area is intended to give a glimpse of what the district looked like when it was dominated by commercial maritime trade in the mid-1800s, and a portion of Fulton Street is still preserved in cobblestone. The South Street Seaport Museum includes everything from exhibition galleries to a maritime library and a fleet of historic ships, but the site tends to speak for itself. A walk along the Manhattan skyline juxtaposed against the East River is a simple, and free, way to experience the magnificence of the city in the springtime.

The Skyscraper Museum is located at 39 Battery Pl. near Little West Street. The museum is open from 12-6 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday. Student admission is \$2.50. Adrienne’s Pizza Bar is located at 54 Stone St. near Pearl Street. The South Street Seaport Museum is located at 12 Fulton St.



COURTESY OF RICHARD BERENHOLTZ

FINANCIAL FUN | The Skyscraper Museum and others make it worth the trip to the tip.



NOMI ELLENSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

GREEN READS | The NYPL’s Battery Park branch saves trees for future books with a new environmentally friendly initiative.

Battery Park City checks out first green NYPL branch

BY CLAIRE FU
Spectator Staff Writer

Think green, read green: The New York Public Library takes “reduce, reuse, and recycle” to new literary heights.

BOOKS On March 18, the NYPL opened its environmentally friendly Battery Park City branch, the first green library in Manhattan. The two-story branch houses 24,000 books, videos, audio books, and other items. There are 36 computers for public use and reading areas designed for children, young adults, and adults. Also prominent is the multipurpose programming room on the second floor, complete with self-checkout machines. This environmentally sustainable library promises valuable resources for Battery Park City residents and other New Yorkers alike.

Unique to the library are the recyclable and renewable building

materials used to construct interior details. “Everyone comments on how beautiful the space is, how beautiful and appealing the materials used are, but they don’t register as recycled materials,” library manager Billy Parrott said. “The carpet is made from car tires, but you’d never know it just by looking at it. It is very subtle, which lends itself well to teaching moments when we describe the materials and design of the library.” Other flooring material is composed of recycled glass and mirror, while the woodwork is a collection of recycled cardboard.

The coral-red and light orange chairs, woven together with parachute straps, brighten up the room and provide comfortable spots to recline with a book, while the color scheme imbues the space with a lighthearted and modern atmosphere. The amorphously-shaped orange sofa built into the wall

is popular among children as a lounge area. In addition, the large glass-paneled windows provide enough natural lighting for the whole floor, and perhaps library-goers can even catch a sliver of the Hudson River.

With its environmentally friendly features, the branch is pending a LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. In particular, the library focuses on reducing energy consumption. The low-energy heating and lighting serve to power the library using minimal electricity, while plumbing fixtures intend to decrease water usage. Indoor air pollution is also reduced through low-emission electronic products.

“I have fond memories of my first visits to local libraries. Those visits, the staff, the place itself, instilled a lifelong love of reading,” Parrott said. “I like to think that the Battery Park City branch will be some child’s first library.”

Landmark Delmonico’s all class, no bite

BY MATT POWELL
Columbia Daily Spectator

After taking the long subway ride down to the Financial District, Delmonico’s seems to be an ideal choice for an exquisite dining experience. Opened in 1837, **FOOD & DRINK** Delmonico’s is one of America’s oldest restaurants, housed in a structure reminiscent of the Flatiron Building. The home of classic dishes such as eggs Benedict, lobster Newburg, and Baked Alaska, its signature dessert, Delmonico’s raises high expectations.

With dim lighting and dark wood accents, the restaurant’s décor gives off an air of American antiquity. The patrons of the restaurant seem to reflect the upper crust of the city—women in fur coats and men in finely tailored suits.

In spite of appearances and reputation, however, Delmonico’s proves to be far from perfect.

Upon arrival, one of the hosts appears, taking diners to their seats. Bypassing the luxurious main dining room and the beautiful bar area, he leads deep into the bowels of the restaurant, right outside the entrance to the kitchen. Looking around, one notices that the seating assignments are reflective of age. Most of the customers seated in the back area appear young, late teens to late 20s. It seems as if the restaurant wants to shove the younger patrons to the back, out of sight of the older and wealthier diners.

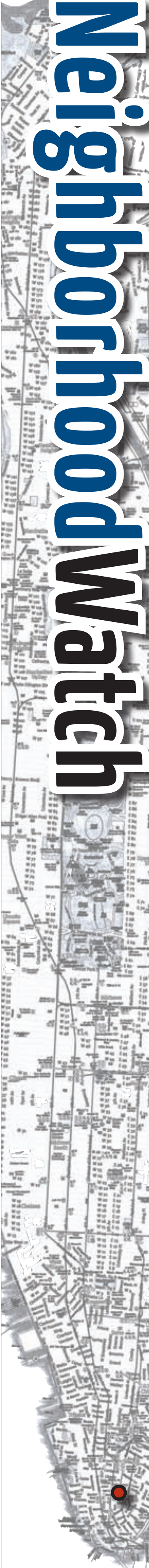
After about 15 minutes, a waiter finally arrives to hand out menus. Hardly saying a word, brusque servers make younger diners feel unwelcome at Delmonico’s. Staring down his nose, he hastily jots down orders, offering curt responses to questions about the menu. For the next 30 minutes, diners will enjoy bread and butter—appetizers seem to take an eternity to come out of the kitchen.

Luckily, a first course of scallops and bacon tastes delicious. To be completely accurate, though, the dish should be called scallop and bacon—there is only one, lonely scallop on the plate.

Unfortunately, this appetizer turns out to be the highlight of the dinner, as each subsequent course feels more and more disappointing. The filet mignon offered is hardly up to par for a restaurant that claims to be a steakhouse. And the dessert menu is unimpressive, with the exception of the aforementioned Baked Alaska. Indeed, the desserts seem to follow tradition—cheesecake, brownies, pumpkin pie. Nothing creative whatsoever. Settling for “Idiazabal Cheesecake,” a diner finds that the most extraordinary part of this treat is the name—it is simply a New York cheesecake in disguise.

After spending a good amount of money, students will leave less than satisfied by the food and the service. Perhaps the outcome would be different if an “adult” were brought along in order to buffer the apparent ageism. Delmonico’s may offer a legend of excellence, but it is nothing more than a myth.

Neighborhood Watch





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La vie Sarkozy

BY EMILY SHEA

Seeing Nicolas Sarkozy speak on Monday was more than worth the 45-minute wait in the rain, the airport-style security, and then the hour-long wait once inside. In fact, aside from lottery number disappointment, Monday was arguably one of the best and most exciting days of my nearly two years at Columbia.

This excitement, however, did not stem from any particular love for Sarkozy as a politician or for his policies, which I have mixed feelings about at best. Rather, the combination of simply getting to hear an influential and controversial political leader speak in such an intimate and close-to-home setting, the leader being president of the country where I plan to study abroad, Sarkozy's undeniable charisma and refreshing frankness, and, of course, the presence of Carla Bruni, made this event so exciting for me that the actual content of Sarkozy's speech became almost secondary.

Furthermore, while his conversational and outspoken tone was convincingly organic, he clearly knew his audience and tailored the content—and the delivery—of his speech accordingly. He strongly echoed Columbia's love for free speech and embodied exactly the Sarkozy image that President Bollinger praised during his introduction—his lack of fear of the political repercussions of being bluntly honest about his opinions on complex and controversial issues.

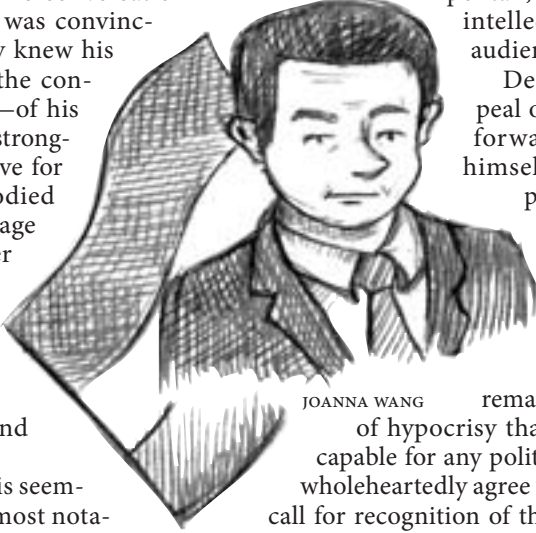
Sarkozy expressed this seemingly unafraid attitude most notably in his criticisms of the two hottest topics of the moment—the economy and the health care debate. While telling us that France hasn't had to reform its health care system in a hundred years is not exactly a constructive way of criticizing the multiplicity of flaws in both the U.S.'s health care system and the debate itself, his point shed light on the need for the U.S. to look and listen to other countries—a reflection of his larger point. His approach to the economy took a similarly blunt, though slightly more lighthearted, tone. He began his attack on our economy by

openly addressing the “suspensions” about his own socialist nature, a move that I appreciated. He defended his views by essentially verifying these rumors—he claimed that heavier regulation (more socialism) is necessary in order to save and maintain capitalism, a theory that was proven in the recent economic crash and bailout. Going even further with his disparagement of capitalism, Sarkozy questioned how one could possibly defend a capitalist system of speculation after seeing the huge losses it has brought upon us. Though I do not consider myself a socialist, he had a point, and I think more people than would readily admit find themselves questioning the strength of our capitalist economic system. Describing the kind of global economy he envisioned, Sarkozy painted a highly idealistic picture of all countries—including the underrepresented Latin American, Asian, Arab, and African nations—working together to prescribe a set of rules and regulations and form a functional global economy. This point, combined with his unobstructed praise of our universities, to me, revealed Sarkozy's very clear understanding of the critical, cosmopolitan, idealistic, and intellectual student audience.

Despite the appeal of his straightforward, true-to-himself (or to his politically manufactured image) tone—and I did find it appealing—there remains an element of hypocrisy that seems incapable for any politician. While I wholeheartedly agree with Sarkozy's call for recognition of the interdependence of the world's nations and for more global discourse, it is hard for me to take this demand seriously coming from someone with seemingly close-minded immigration policies.

However, especially in the moment, the coolness factor outweighed these more substantive concerns, and Sarkozy succeeded at presenting himself as a relatable, honest, open, and worldly world leader.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in French & Romance philology.



JOANNA WANG

Turn the lights down, the heat up



ELIZABETH
KIPP-GIUSTI

A Tree Grows In Morningside

hmm, let's talk about carbon sequestering while I unplug the phone...

This kind of debauchery happened all over the world this past Saturday night during the fourth annual Earth Hour, the global day of action which asks its depraved participants to switch off lights and other energy-sucking devices from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. local time. Started in lascivious Sydney, Australia, as an interactive way to get individuals involved in climate action, the excuse for a late evening trip Down Under has spread internationally. It's reached five continents, thousands of cities, and roughly one billion individual philanderers last Saturday night, more participants than have ever registered before, which goes to prove that this kind of monkey business is catching on, much to our chagrin. Even the farthest poles of the planet were touched by this excuse to cuddle close to your Birkenstocked, grana-la-crunching significant other: 27 people and/or businesses in Antarctica registered on the Earth Hour website, and Antarctica does not even have permanent residents! Are the penguins also going to be getting in on this green love free-for-all? When even the fowl have run afoul, something must be done.

For, while the Earth Hour home page may claim it is a “campaign based on hope not fear,” let's call a spade a spade—this is a campaign based on the stuff of fevered teenage fantasies. The entire world, over a span of 24 hours, in sexy, environmentally conscious intimate darkness! You don't have to be a rocket scientist to know how much awareness of nature is an aphrodisiac. And while it is unfair for me to speculate and generalize, surely we can make the assumption that those so eager to flick off bedside lamps are monopolizing on a rare opportunity. The personal hygiene

practices of the Earth Hour participants simply can't be up to snuff (conserve water and smell good? I wasn't born yesterday!), and, most egregious of all, when you spend all your day hugging trees, why would you look for a human to love? There seems to be no better way to cure what ails 'em than to gather up all the social misfits around the globe, and spend one day hiding from the harsh, unforgiving glow of an incandescent bulb. When great landmarks like the Las Vegas Strip, the “Bird's Nest” Stadium in Beijing, or the Acropolis in Athens were plunged into darkness on Saturday, you know that nobody was settling down for a nap.

I stray from my concern in order to make one bold suggestion, though it pains me greatly. Columbia, we need all the help we can get. Our notorious lack of sexuality on campus can only benefit from this kind of blatant, devil-may-care condoning of romance. Books, archives, and library shelves aren't the only things that get dusty from disuse. So, let's get on case, my fellow Lions, and one again be masters of our domain.

The immortality of rock 'n' roll legends is based in a melancholic credo: it's better to burn out than fade away. Let's be honest, though, we've never been as cool as our vinyl legends, and frankly it is cliché to aim for one blaze of glory. Earth Hour aims to accomplish equal lasting power, but one that is sustained by attention, awareness, and involvement, and if that manifests itself in international days of turning the lights down low, then c'est la vie. It may not have any practical ends, but what is lacking in applicable change is compensated in participation, and for that reason we, too, should throw in the hat. We don't have the luxury to be remembered—what matters is the here and now of activism. To that end, New York City itself saw the darkening of the Empire State Building, Times Square, the Brooklyn Bridge on Saturday night. Next year, Columbia should power down with the rest of them, and declare our support for personal environmental responsibility. Who knows? Maybe these crazy Earth Hour kids are onto something.

Elizabeth Kipp-Giusti is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in religion with a concentration in human rights. She is a Columbia EcoRep. A Tree Grows in Morningside runs alternate Fridays. opinion@

Nicolas Sarkozy addresses Columbia

BY SHANNY PEER

President Nicolas Sarkozy's keynote address in Low Library on March 29 marked a historic moment for Columbia University. This was the first speech given by a French president at Columbia since the French Fifth Republic was founded in 1958.

The last time a French president visited Columbia was in 1951, when the role was still largely a ceremonial one. Time magazine captured the moment: “When France's President Vincent Auriol arrived at Penn Station last week, the Big City picked him up with a whoosh; he was dusted off by blasts from the police band, photographed, delivered to the Waldorf-Astoria behind exactly 32 motorcycle cops, and then formally welcomed to the city at a three-hour banquet for 1,500 ... Then he ... whirled up to Columbia University, accepted an LL.D. degree, made a speech, whirled back, and went to another banquet. . . . [By the next day] New York, a city which gulps up princes and presidents like gumdrops and remembers almost nobody, was rumbling away as if nothing had happened at all.”

Given today's media cycle, our memories are now even shorter. But President Sarkozy's visit on Monday should not be gulped up and forgotten like a gumdrop, because the topics

he addressed are substantive and urgent. His speech focused on key international issues which, he argued, must be faced and solved by the United States and Europe working together. He called for greater regulation of the global financial system as well as the global market economy, and stressed the need to reform world governance by expanding the U.N. Security Council to include permanent representatives from Africa, Latin America, and the Arab world, as well as India and Japan.

In the 21st century, said President Sarkozy, “no single country can impose its own ideas.” He underlined that, because of the tremendous power the U.S. wields in the world, it must remain engaged in dialogue and resist isolationism (the French term he used was “nombriliste,” or focusing on one's own belly button). President Sarkozy emphasized repeatedly the need for the United States to listen, to hear, and to debate with others, in a speech intended for an audience broader than the 400 Columbia students and faculty who were lucky enough to get a seat in Low Library. The message was also presumably directed at President Obama, since the French president worries—as do some observers of Europe-U.S. relations—that Obama is not sufficiently attentive to France and Europe. (President Obama's reply the next day carried a hint of irritation: “I listen to Nicolas all the time. I can't stop listening to him.”)

Although the focus of his talk was largely international, President Sarkozy did field a student question about U.S. health care reform—an important domestic policy area in which the U.S. compares unfavorably with France. President Sarkozy didn't mince his

words: “From a European perspective, as we listen to this debate about health care reform, we have a hard time believing what we hear ... Excuse me for saying so, but this is a problem we solved 50 years ago.” And then, “Welcome to the club of countries that don't drop people when they're sick.” Although delivered rather bluntly, the point is well taken. The French health care system has been ranked first in the world by the World Health Organization, while the U.S. scored a lowly 37th, slightly

President Sarkozy's visit on Monday should not be gulped up and forgotten like a gumdrop, because the topics he addressed are substantive and urgent.

better than Cuba and just one notch above Slovenia. France spends less money than we do on health care, provides universal coverage, and gets better health outcomes. Sarkozy was sincere in congratulating Obama for passing health care reform that Americans urgently need.

There were some interesting Columbia-France connections in President Sarkozy's visit. Antoine Compagnon, a distinguished Columbia professor who divides his time between the department of French and the Collège de France, was a member of the

official presidential delegation travelling from Paris. Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz received a bear hug from President Sarkozy before he went on stage, and was cited in the speech for his work leading a commission convened by the French president to devise new methods for measuring economic growth. President Sarkozy also gave an appreciative nod to the numerous professors from France who teach at Columbia (in a wide array of disciplines, from genetics to economics to literature), adding that he wished American professors could come just as easily to teach in French universities.

Although the emphasis in Monday's address was on pressing concerns of today, it's worth mentioning that, at Columbia, French-American friendship and exchange are grounded in a rich past. During World War I, for example, a number of Columbia students, a French professor, and even the then-50-year-old chairman of the French department, Raymond Weeks, volunteered to serve as ambulance drivers on France's battlefields with the American Field Service. At the height of World War II, Columbia's Maison Française showcased the French Resistance, and in 1946, Jean-Paul Sartre spoke at an exhibit at the Maison Française on General de Gaulle and the liberation.

President Sarkozy's visit on Monday was a great honor for Columbia University and a memorable testament both to the enduring alliance between our “sister republics” and to the lasting ties between Columbia and France.

The author is the director of the Maison Française of Columbia University.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Casual Friday: Be uncommon

Columbia's admissions office recently announced that the class of 2015 will apply through the Common Application. This change, officials explained, will give every potential Columbia applicant—regardless of background or familiarity with and understanding of the college admissions process—an equal opportunity to submit his or her name to the pool of potentials. We were outraged. Will Columbia now start accepting students who were too lazy to fill out a separate application? Our separate application made us special. However, after realizing the elitist strain of this way of thinking, we've changed our minds. The focus should not be on the type of application. We should instead focus our argumentative energies to stress that, whether Columbia-specific or Common as clay, our application should make students prove that they understand what it truly means to be a Columbian. We humbly submit for the consideration of the Powers That Be our recommendations for the pivotal

section of the Columbia application: the supplement.

1. a. What books have you read outside of school in the last 12 months?
b. What books have you actually read outside of school in the last 12 months?
c. Okay, screw it. What YouTube videos have you watched today?
2. What neighborhood in Harlem would you least like to preserve? Explain.
3. a. If you could invite four people to lunch in order to abruptly criticize them in your introduction, who would you pick?
b. Assume you have really fantastic hair. How does this change your answer from part a?
4. Describe a scenario in which you would take drastic personal action in defense of an ideal. What sports drink would you drink?
5. Have you ever been convicted of a felony or attended a football game? If the answer to either is “yes,” please explain the circumstances.
6. Who is your favorite Greek god or

- goddess and why? (Half-gods, nymphs, and centaurs will also be accepted if you can give an argument that can neither be proved nor disproved.)
7. Describe your favorite pattern in one word or less. (Hint: It should be plaid.)
 8. Which ancient white man do you admire the most for his influence on Western civilization?
 9. It is 10 p.m. on a Sunday night, and you are scavenging Butler Library for an open seat. Everything is taken. How do you take out the competition?
 10. How do bureaucracy and red tape make you feel inside?
 11. Do you have school spirit? If “yes,” please explain how you would cope with this affliction at Columbia.
 12. Are you a Republican? If “yes,” please explain how you would cope with this affliction at Columbia.
 13. a. Do you know what the Core is? If “no,” please do not submit this application. If “yes”:
b. What is your favorite Core class?
 14. Why do you want to go to Columbia?

JODY'S DRAWINGS!



“Attention ladies and gentlemen, if there is a doctor on board, preferably with flight experience, please press your call button.”

JODY ZELLMAN



JOSE GIRALT / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

IVY OPENER | Pitching will be the main focus of this weekend's competition as the Lions host both Yale and Brown in doubleheaders to start their conference schedule. Columbia is coming off a successful outing against St. Peter's.

Bulldogs, Bears to visit Baker for start of baseball's Ancient Eight competition

BY JACOB SHAPIRO
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

After Wednesday's matchup against Monmouth was rained out, the Lions executed a complete victory over Saint Peter's on Thursday.

For Columbia, it was a game of firsts. The 9-0 victory is the Lions' first shutout of the year, and the team's first since it blanked Princeton on April 12 of last year. The victory also pushed Columbia's current winning streak to five games, a feat the team has not accomplished since a late season run took them to the Ivy League championship in 2008.

The Lions' offense remained hot and every starter had at least one hit, except for center fielder Billy Rumpke, who walked to get

on base. Columbia roughed up the Peacocks' starting pitcher, Jeremy Ives, for eight earned runs in just 2.1 innings.

Freshman Nick Ferraresi opened the score with a homer to deep center field in the second inning. The next seven runs came in the third inning with one out, when Columbia sent 12 men to the plate. The Lions cracked three doubles in a row off the bats of Alex Godshall, Jon Eisen, and Dean Forthun before Bobby O'Brien delivered a huge two-run triple to break the game open on an 0-2 count.

But the most comforting part of the victory was the domination by the Columbia pitching staff. Seven Columbia pitchers scattered just four hits and struck out 12 batters. Apparently solving some control problems,

the Lions walked just one Saint Peter's batter and did not bean any, either.

Roger Aquino was the fortunate pitcher on the mound in the third inning when the Lions' offense put up a seven spot, and the junior improved to 3-1 on the season.

With an off day today, Columbia couldn't ask for much more than a five-game win streak to lead them into the Ivy League season. Columbia plays host to Yale and Brown this weekend for the first four games of the conference season.

Although the Lions are undefeated at home this season, they will face serious challenges from their Ivy League foes on Saturday and Sunday. Yale arrives in New York with an 11-6-1 record this year. So far this season, the

Bulldogs have knocked off foes including Army, Rhode Island, and Indiana. Yale also tied with Bowling Green and nearly beat Miami of Ohio at the RussMatt Invitational in Florida.

The story is not the same for Brown, which has lost its last six games en route to a 2-13 record entering Ivy League play. Brown's only wins came against Pepperdine and Holy Cross, and the Bears will travel to Penn before arriving at Robertson Field on Sunday. Columbia should sweep Brown in the doubleheader, but the experience that each team gained in pre-season, nonconference play cannot be quantified.

Columbia's offense has put up steady numbers, but the Lions are hitting just .287 as a team, compared to Yale's .327.

COLUMBIA VS. YALE
Robertson Field, Saturday, 1 p.m.



COLUMBIA VS. BROWN
Robertson Field, Saturday, 12 p.m.



The games will most likely come down to pitching and defense, as they always do.

Head coach Brett Boretti has utilized six starting pitchers this season, who are a combined 3-8. The team ERA is still hovering near the mark of seven runs per game, and there are still four Lions with ERAs in double digits. The good news comes from the bullpen, where Derek Squires, Zach Epstein, and Clay Bartlett have performed well as of late.

Squires threw two shutout innings yesterday, and Bartlett—who led the team with 20 appearances as a key to Columbia's

2008 championship—was back in form, tossing an eight-pitch inning. Bartlett and his colleagues in the bullpen will determine in part the success of the team this year.

While Columbia hasn't allowed an opponent to score more than five runs since losing 22-21 on March 24, the Bulldogs' bats, along with the added pressure of conference play, will determine if the pitching staff's troubles are indeed over.

Columbia hosts Yale for a doubleheader beginning at 1 p.m. on Saturday at Robertson Field. Sunday's games will start at noon, also at Robertson Field.

Lacrosse to face No. 4 Penn in weekend matchup

BY JULIA GARRISON
Spectator Staff Writer

The women's lacrosse team has been preparing all week for a big game this Sunday against No. 4 Penn. The Lions will have over a week's rest going into the match, and their most recent competition was a success, as they defeated Bryant on March 26. Penn (8-1, 3-0 Ivy) is entering the game on a six-game winning streak, having most recently topped Cornell 15-6 on March 28.

When Columbia and Penn matched up last year, the Lions were a huge threat to the Quakers, especially in the second half. However, the Quakers were able to finish the game with the win, 16-11.

It was the Quakers who dominated the first half by a landslide, taking an 11-0 lead until

there were just over six minutes left in the half. At that point, senior Lauren Olsen broke the scoring streak with an unassisted goal at 6:36, and Brittany Shannon put in two for the Lions before the conclusion of the half. Penn also scored another two, bringing the score to 13-3 heading into halftime.

Although the Light Blue had a daunting gap to close, it rallied in the second half, outscoring Penn 8-3. Gabrielle Geronimos was the first to score in the half, putting in one of her two goals for the game, while Penn also tallied two more goals, keeping its lead at 15-4. However, the Lions came back fighting, scoring seven of the remaining eight goals in the game.

Their loss to Penn last year brought the Lions to a 5-3 (0-2 Ivy) record. However, this year Columbia will be looking to improve its 4-3 record and gain its



ALYSON GOULDEN FOR SPECTATOR

FACE OFF | The Lions are looking to avenge last year's loss when they face the Quakers this weekend on the road in Philadelphia.

first Ivy win of the season.

The game against Penn will take place in Philadelphia, Pa. at 1 p.m. this Sunday.

COLUMBIA VS. PENN
Philadelphia, Penn., Sunday, 1 p.m.



Columbia rowing squads disperse for weekend regattas

BY MICHELE CLEARY
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

All three of Columbia's rowing teams will be in action this weekend, as the lightweight men's team will be racing for the first time since the Governor's Cup regatta on March 20. The heavyweight squad is coming off a sweep at the Collins Cup, while the women's team most recently lost to Yale and Penn at the Connell Cup.

The lightweights will be seeing their first Ivy competition of the spring season, taking on Princeton and nonconference foe Georgetown. The Light Blue has taken two weeks off from racing after placing third in the mixed eights race at the Governor's Cup regatta. The Lions finished with a time of 6:05.4, close behind Florida Tech's first varsity heavyweights, 6:00.2, and Columbia's second varsity heavyweights, 6:02.5.

The Light Blue's race against the Tigers and the Hoyas is set to begin at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday in Princeton, N.J.

The heavyweight men defeated Rutgers last weekend to capture the Collins Cup. The Light Blue



ELAINE BURCHMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BLUE AND WHITE | All three crew teams will dip their blades into the water as their spring season continues.

LIGHTWEIGHTS VS. PRINCETON, RUTGERS
Princeton, N.J., Saturday, 10:30 a.m.

HEAVYWEIGHTS VS. MIT
Pelham, N.Y., Saturday, 3:30 p.m.

WOMEN VS. PRINCETON, RUTGERS
Princeton, N.J., Saturday, 11:15 a.m.

varsity eight boat finished in a time of 5:40.60, defeating the Scarlet Knights by over 13 seconds.

Next up for the heavyweights is the Alumni Cup regatta, in which they will face off against MIT. The race is scheduled to

begin at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday in Pelham, N.Y.

The women's team will look to rebound from last week's loss when it takes on Princeton and Rutgers this Saturday. The Light Blue came in third at the Connell

Cup last weekend, finishing behind Yale and Penn with a time of 6:24.4.

The Lions' race against the Tigers and the Scarlet Knights is set to begin at 11:15 a.m. on Saturday in Princeton, N.J.

Columbia football's own trying to make it to NFL

MACDONALD from back page

The first phone call Knowlin had with Olawale happened four years ago when they had both committed to Columbia.

“We clicked right away because we were very straight up about our business,” Knowlin said.

Since they're both trying to pursue professional football, the two practice throwing and route running every day, and they run track together when they can.

“We've just always been right there and always pushing each other,” Knowlin said. “At the end of the day, it's always going to make me better as long as someone's right there pushing me more.”

He and Olawale both attended Fordham University's Pro-Day in March, a result of the connections Columbia coaches have with Fordham. Knowlin also attended the Pro-Day at the University of Connecticut. A player is allowed to attend Pro-Days only if they are within 50 miles of his school or his home, so Olawale, a California native, was not allowed to attend.

Because UConn is a three-hour drive from the

city, Knowlin went home the night before so he could be rested for the workout. Head coach Norries Wilson picked Knowlin up from his house in Newington, Conn. the next day and drove him to UConn.

Knowlin was the only player there who had not played at UConn, but that didn't bother him much. In fact, as there were only 13 players and 25 scouts, Knowlin felt he got some valuable face time.

Several teams, including the Browns, have requested film, and draft experts say Knowlin's punt returning ability appeals to teams.

While draft projections have him going anywhere from the fifth round to free agency, Knowlin said as long as he gets to play, he'll be happy.

It's why he gets up at six in the morning and why he works out three times a day. It's why he doesn't mind when someone stops him for the 20th time to ask him which team he'll play for in the fall.

Holly MacDonald is a Barnard senior majoring in history and English.
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"This DYNAMITE THRILLER SHIVERS with SUSPENSE. In a word, WOW!"
Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

"CHILLING AND IMMENSELY SATISFYING."
Betsy Sharkey, LOS ANGELES TIMES

"★★★★★!"
Roger Ebert, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

STIEG LARSSON'S
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO

STARTS FRIDAY, 4/2
LINCOLN PLAZA CINEMAS 10:00 PM
CITY CINEMAS 10:00 PM
CLEARVIEW CINEMAS 10:00 PM
LANSHIRE THEATRES 10:00 PM
STARTS FRIDAY, 4/2
LINCOLN PLAZA CINEMAS 10:00 PM
CITY CINEMAS 10:00 PM
CLEARVIEW CINEMAS 10:00 PM
LANSHIRE THEATRES 10:00 PM

Columbia's own strives to make the NFL



HOLLY
MACDONALD

The Eyes of Texas

Knowlin is trying to get into the NFL. After watching him from the press box for four years, I sat down with Knowlin for what could likely be our last interview while both students at Columbia.

In one of the sports information offices, Knowlin picked up a mouse pad that had a picture of him breaking a tackle and told Darlene Camacho, sports information director and assistant athletic director, that he wanted some mouse pads for himself. Knowlin isn't shy about his talent—when you make it this far in the draft process, you know you're good. But he's worked long and hard to get to this point.

He and Millicent Olawale, a friend and Columbia quarterback, took two weeks off after the end of the season and then immediately went back to work with one goal: This time next year, they want to be playing football.

A typical day during training for Knowlin had him going down to Velocity Sports Performance before 7 a.m. to work with a trainer—which his agent pays for—coming back uptown

Austin Knowlin can't go anywhere without someone asking him how the training is going. For a school that has remarkably low attendance at its football games, it seems most everyone knows

For a school that has remarkably low attendance at its football games, it seems most everyone knows Knowlin is trying to get into the NFL.

for classes, running track, going to more classes, throwing with Olawale, and then cooling down by swimming laps.

"It's always long days," the senior said. "Always something to do."

Of course, Knowlin says balancing this schedule isn't much different than what he had to do while playing for the Lions. It's all about time management, he said.

The training mainly focused on the tests featured in Pro-Day workouts: 40 time, vertical jump and agility tests like the L-cone and 5-10-5 short shuttle. He's seen marked improvements across all fields since starting training in December.

"I had no technique, honestly," Knowlin said.

He'll graduate in May with the rest of us, thanks to his mother's insistence. Knowlin's agent, Michael Peterbog, originally wanted him to move to Florida this semester to train. Knowlin was all for it—until his mother found out.

"She's been saying ever since football season ended, 'You're finishing school. Make sure you finish school,'" he said. "Obviously it would've probably been more beneficial to do that [move to Florida], which is why I wanted to do that, but I told my mom and she said, 'You're going back and you're finishing the semester.'"

In the long run, Knowlin said, it's better to have the degree now—he's majoring in sociology—and not have to worry about finishing school later. And here, he has the support of his coaches and friends to keep him motivated.

SEE MACDONALD, page 9



EIGHT IS GREAT | Columbia's tennis team is on an eight-game winstreak heading into this weekend's fierce competition against Harvard, who beat the Lions earlier this season.

Light Blue, Crimson rackets to battle this weekend

BY KUNAL GUPTA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The men's tennis team will play its biggest match of the season thus far when it takes on perennial Ivy contender and No. 64 Harvard at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center today at 2 p.m. The No. 54 men's tennis team will be in action again on Saturday at 2 p.m. as it hosts Dartmouth in its second Ivy match of the weekend. Columbia enters with a record of 11-3 (1-0 Ivy) and will be looking to defend its Ivy title from last spring, as well as avenge an earlier defeat to Harvard this season, in the finals of the Eastern College Athletic Conference Championships in February.

"I think we are ready," head coach Bid Goswami said. "You know Harvard

is, of course, a very good team as they showed us in the ECAC finals, but we are all prepared. All of the guys have done their work, so if Harvard beats us, it will be because they played well, not because we played badly."

Columbia enters this weekend with an eight-match winning streak, including a win over Cornell on March 6. The Lions' last loss came at the hands of the Crimson, when they were defeated 5-2, in the ECAC finals. In that match, Columbia lost the doubles point and never managed to recover in singles play. Senior Jon Wong was battling a back injury and lost to Alexei Chijoff-Evans at No. 1 singles. Senior Mihai Nichifor and sophomore Haig Schneiderman each won at No. 2 and 3 singles respectively. However, Harvard

COLUMBIA VS. HARVARD

Dick Savitt Tennis Center, Friday, 2 p.m.

COLUMBIA VS. DARTMOUTH

Dick Savitt Tennis Center, Saturday, 2 p.m.

dominated the bottom of the lineup, winning at No. 4, 5 and 6 singles. The No. 5 singles match was a very close one however, as Columbia's freshman Cyril Bucher lost to Crimson freshman Christo Schultz, 7-5 in the third set.

"They match up well for us, and we match up well with them," said Goswami. "They will be ready, [Harvard head coach] Fish's team is always ready."

Harvard has changed its lineup around since that meeting, with different players filling in the bottom of the lineup. However, the two most consistent singles players for Harvard have

been Chijoff-Evans at No. 1 and Aba Omodele-Lucien at No. 2, as they have manned the top two spots for entire spring season.

Harvard comes into the match with a record of 9-8 on the season, but is coming off a loss to the red-hot Binghamton Bearcats. The Bearcats defeated the Crimson 4-3 on Tuesday. Harvard swept the doubles point, but Binghamton won the top four singles matches. Harvard has only lost the doubles point in five of its dual matches this spring, and

SEE MEN'S TENNIS, page 2

Tennis looks to rebound against Ivy foes

BY LAUREN SEAMAN
Spectator Staff Writer

Despite Wednesday's heartbreaking loss against Cornell, the Lions must go on. The women's tennis team moves into its second round of Ancient Eight competition this weekend as it travels to face Harvard and Dartmouth. Both teams will pose tough competition for the Lions, as both the Crimson and the Big Green are nationally ranked: Harvard at No. 52 and Dartmouth at No. 47.

The loss against Cornell gave the Lions a lot to think about as they prepare for this weekend's contents. The Lions demonstrated particularly inspired tennis at the top of the singles bracket—some of the best all season. There, Nos. 1 through 3 singles dominated their opponents, proving Columbia's potential to excel in Ivy

SEE WOMEN'S TENNIS, page 2

COLUMBIA AT HARVARD

Cambridge, Mass., Friday, 2 p.m.

COLUMBIA AT DARTMOUTH

Hanover, N.H., Saturday, 12 p.m.

Softball preps for conference season opener

BY CHRISTOPHER BROWN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

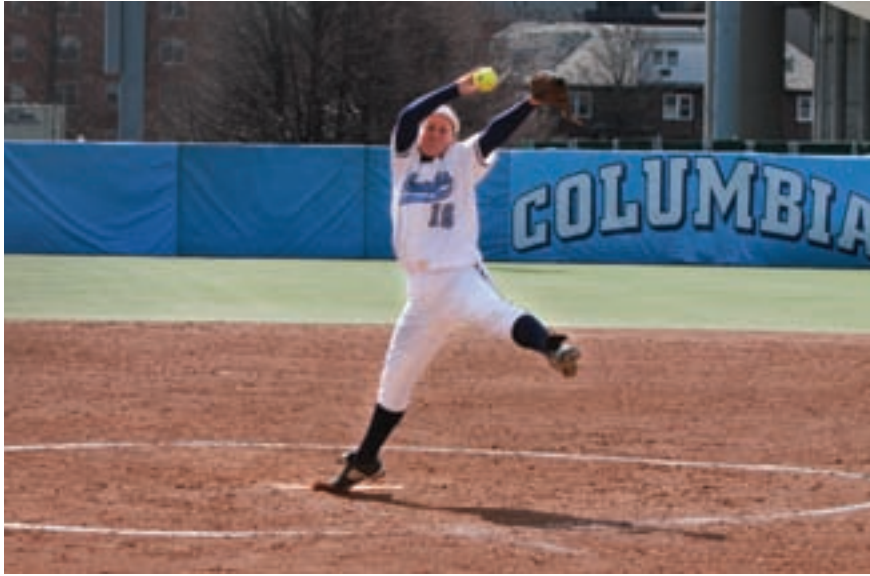
With four days off since its last game, the Columbia softball team (5-14) should be well-rested in time for the Ivy League schedule to begin, as the Light Blue will take on Yale (4-11) and Brown (11-6) this weekend.

The Lions had the second game of their doubleheader against Manhattan scratched last Sunday and saw Tuesday's contest against Monmouth canceled because of rain. The team split a pair of games against Iona last Saturday before losing to the Jaspers to finish with a home record of 1-2.

The Light Blue lost the two games it played against Yale last year in New Haven. Kayla Kurelich threw three scoreless innings to seal the 2-0 shutout victory for the Bulldogs, and she leads the team again this year with a 2.15 ERA and 44 strikeouts in 42 1/3 innings over eight appearances. Senior Holly Gutterud and freshman Jackie Manzer both have ERAs of 3.00 or less with at least 23 innings pitched apiece.

The problem for the Bulldogs this season has been offense, where they have scored a paltry 29 runs while hitting just .223 through 15 games. Ashley Sloan leads the team with a .294 batting average while Christy Nelson has a team high of two home runs, 19 total bases, and a .487 slugging percentage.

Columbia managed to win one of its two games against Brown last season in



SHIVINA HARIJANI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FAST PITCH | The Lions will face Yale and Brown in their first weekend of Ivy competition.

COLUMBIA VS. YALE

Baker Athletics Complex, Friday, 2 p.m.

COLUMBIA VS. BROWN

Baker Athletics Complex, Saturday, 12:30 p.m.

Providence. The Bears also boast a stellar pitching staff that has a 2.47 ERA in 119 innings this year. Freshman Liz DiMascio has pitched a team-high 54 1/3 innings with a 2.96 ERA, while junior Kristie Chin has a 0.47 ERA and 34 strikeouts in 30 innings. Sophomore Trish Melvin, who threw two scoreless innings against the Lions last year, has a 2.97 ERA with 21 strikeouts in 30 2/3 innings.

On offense, infielder Stephanie

Thompson has a .417 average and 32 total bases in 17 starts. Sophomore Kate Strobel leads her team with seven home runs while driving in 17 runs with a .400 average. Senior Katie Rothamel has a .327 batting average with one home run and 17 RBI.

Columbia will host a doubleheader against Yale on Friday with games at 2 and 4 p.m. before facing Brown at 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday.

BASEBALL PREVIEW

Cornell vs. Dartmouth



The Big Red and Big Green take the field this weekend in a matchup that will feel strangely similar to the end of the 2009 season. The doubleheader marks the season opener for both squads, which closed out last year



in the playoffs against each other. Dartmouth walked away with two of the three games and the championship title, while Cornell settled for second in the Gehrig Division. So far this season, the Big Red has a 4-7 record while Dartmouth has gone 6-8. The games kick off Saturday at 12 p.m.

BASEBALL PREVIEW

Penn vs. Yale



After Yale opens its conference schedule against Columbia on Saturday and Penn takes on Brown, the Bulldogs (11-6-1) and the Tigers (9-9) will face off against each other in Philadelphia. After weeks of nonconference play, Yale is topping most of the charts statistically on offense. So far, the Bulldogs lead the league in batting average (.327), runs scored (150), and even batters struck out (112). In comparative fields, though, Penn is often lurking nearby in third. The doubleheader showdown is set for noon on Sunday.



BASEBALL PREVIEW

Princeton vs. Harvard



The Crimson (6-11) and Tigers (5-13) enter this weekend's matchup essentially even, as the two both finished with a 10-10 record in the Ancient Eight last year. Furthermore, the pair split last year's doubleheader after the Tigers took the first game 3-1 before falling to the Crimson 13-12 later that afternoon. If either team could pull off a sweep this weekend, it would be a year-long tiebreaker that could put the victor on top for the rest of the season. The battle begins tomorrow at noon in Princeton, N.J.

