



DOUGLAS KESSEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**REAL ESTATE TALK** | State Assembly member Daniel O'Donnell, a founding member of the Morningside Heights Historic District Committee, voices his opposition to a plan to build two apartment buildings on the site of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine.

## O'Donnell, locals continue to oppose St. John's expansion

**BY AVANTIKA KUMAR AND CASEY TOLAN**  
*Spectator Staff Writers*

State Assembly member Daniel O'Donnell and other local preservationists continued to speak out against the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine's development plans on Tuesday night.

Under the proposal, two apartment buildings would be built on the cathedral grounds, also known as the close, along 113th Street between Amsterdam

Avenue and Morningside Drive. St. John's representatives say the development is needed to help stabilize the cathedral's struggling finances.

Members of the Morningside Heights Historic District Committee, which sponsored the meeting, said the development would be a blight on a historic icon.

"What you see in front of you is extremely troubling to me," O'Donnell said. "In my opinion, this just goes too far."

O'Donnell, who lives on 111th

Street and was a founding member of the MHHDC, questioned how the presence of a 400-unit residential development in the area would affect the neighborhood as a whole, independent of its effect on the cathedral itself.

"They do good things, but does that mean they have to build at this level?" he asked, referring to the cathedral. He characterized the development as "big and bulky" and said it would create problems for neighbors.

The meeting is the latest in an

ongoing battle between the cathedral, which has maintained the development is necessary for the church to survive, and the neighborhood, whose residents have urged St. John's to look for other solutions.

Simeon Bankoff, executive director of the citywide Historic Districts Council, emphasized the responsibility of the cathedral to maintain its aesthetic and social benefits for the community,

**SEE ST. JOHN'S, page 3**

## Activities Board elects Kalathur president

**BY LILLIAN CHEN**  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Saketh Kalathur, CC '13, and Julian Richardson, CC '14, were elected president and vice president of the Activities Board at Columbia on Wednesday night.

In his speech, Kalathur said he wanted to make ABC—the governing board that oversees performing arts groups, cultural groups, publications, and other special interest groups—a more visible entity on campus.

"It would allow us to advocate for our groups in a much more positive way if we have more of a say on campus," he said, especially in F@CU, the process by which the councils allot money to the governing boards, which in turn fund student groups.

Kalathur said that a lack of communication between governing boards and councils led to issues that became bigger than they needed to be: the move some groups made from ABC to the Student Governing Board, and an initiative that would make the Broadway Room more of a student space and less of a practice space for dance groups, which are represented by ABC.

Because the vice president traditionally sets the policy agenda and is in charge of ensuring the implementation of policies that are passed, Richardson focused on policy in his speech.

This semester, ABC passed a policy of representative sign-off

**SEE ABC, page 3**

## NASA planetary scientist to be next Lamont director

**BY LILLIAN CHEN**  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Geophysicist Sean Solomon will be the next director of Columbia's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, the University announced Wednesday afternoon.

Solomon, who is currently the principal investigator for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's orbiting exploration of the planet Mercury, will take over as director July 1. He has served as president of the American Geophysical Union and as the director of the Carnegie Institution for Science in Washington, D.C.

"I have always admired the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory for its broad contributions to understanding our planet," Solomon told Spectator. "They have always been able to recruit outstanding scientists and students. Their programs have made world leaders."

The observatory is located in Palisades, N.Y., and is a division of the Earth Institute, which Solomon called an "absolutely first-rate and novel experiment," praising its integration with other schools and departments at Columbia.

"Columbia is really ... trying to bridge all of the ways of dealing with the future and with the earth," he said.

Solomon has served on the Earth Institute's board of advisers.

As director, Solomon said he would like to create new programs, expand existing ones, and see a "regular exchange"

with the Morningside Heights campus.

"There are continuing opportunities to engage undergraduates ... in research at Lamont, if only they would hop on a bus and spend a little time on the other side," he said.

**"I have always admired the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory for its broad contributions to understanding our planet."**

*—Sean Solomon, incoming director of Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory*

At the same time, Solomon said, he wants to interfere as little as possible with the strong work he has observed from current students and faculty. "I'm not coming to impose a lot of directions from the top. I'm coming to enable the folks who are there to do the very best science ... to continue to do innovative frontier scientific research," he said.

Art Lerner-Lam has been the interim director of the LDEO since January 2010, when its previous director, G. Michael

**SEE LDEO, page 2**

## Police, Harlemites look to curb speeding bikers

**BY LUKE BARNES**  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Police and residents of West Harlem are working to combat the problem of dirt bikers and all-terrain vehicle drivers, whose noisy street races at illegally high speeds have plagued the area for months, they say.

"It's absolutely disrespectful to the entire neighborhood to ruin everyone's peace," said Cator Sparks, the president of the 122nd Street Block Association of West Harlem who has helped to coordinate the local response to the issue. "All I want is peace and quiet on the weekends."

The riders, alone or in large groups, have been using the streets east of Morningside Avenue for illegal racing and stunts at all hours, leaving police

helpless and residents anxious about the unsafe conditions.

The problem has been present for several years now but seems to have exploded recently, said Cindy Worley, a former teacher who has lived in West Harlem for 32 years.

Captain Kevin Williams of the 28th Precinct, which spans Central Harlem, has repeatedly acknowledged the problem at precinct and other neighborhood meetings.

"It's one of the biggest challenges I have," he said in early March.

But Williams reminded residents at the meeting that the traffic and urban layout of Manhattan makes catching riders in the act extremely difficult. Because it borders a park, Morningside Avenue does not have stoplights at every block

or a constant flow of cars turning onto it, making it easier for the cyclists to speed down long stretches of the street.

"The chase is romanticized in movies and on TV but it's something that we can't do in the five boroughs," he said. "These people act in a manner which I will never allow my officers to."

Williams has encouraged his officers and residents to "think tactically" by trying to find out where the bikes are being kept. The police have had some recent success, making three arrests and seizing eight bikes, with Williams personally apprehending one ATV rider.

The riders, meanwhile, do not seem to be trying to evade the attention of the community and the police. Multiple videos

**SEE BIKERS, page 3**



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**SPEED DEMON** | A motorcyclist zooms onto Morningside Avenue on Wednesday. Police and locals are working to eliminate the unsafe conditions caused by speeding cyclists in West Harlem.

### A&E, PAGE 5

#### Theater Guide 2012

A&E brings you a recap of this month's upcoming undergraduate theatrical performances and interviews with the directors and playwrights behind them.



### OPINION, PAGE 6

#### How great are we?

Samuel E. Roth reminds us not to lose sight of our humanity.

#### Mushy feelings

Noel Duan urges jaded students to stop and smell the roses.

### SPORTS, BACK PAGE

#### CU students build cars for competition

Operating out of Mudd Hall, Columbia's SAE builds and races cars in competitions around the nation.

### EVENTS

#### Race and the City

Professor Brendan O'Flaherty and Community Board 9 chair Rev. Georgiette Morgan-Thomas discuss urban development and race.

*Lerner 568, 6 p.m.*

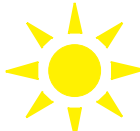
### WEATHER

#### Today



57°/39°

#### Tomorrow



59°/39°



NEWS BRIEFS

Stringer supports pro-small business zoning proposal

Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer announced on Wednesday that he would recommend the approval of a proposal designed to protect small businesses on the Upper West Side.

The rezoning proposal, which limits storefronts to 40 feet on sections of Amsterdam and Columbus avenues and banks' storefronts to 25 feet on sections of Amsterdam, Columbus, and Broadway, is designed to preserve the neighborhood's historically small-scale retail appearance.

"The ground floor experience is one of the most important aspects of a neighborhood's character ... the most direct interaction residents and visitors have with surrounding buildings," Stringer said in a statement. "Active streetscapes discourage crime, engage pedestrians, and contribute to a neighborhood's healthy economic growth and vitality."

Community Board 7, which represents the Upper West Side, overwhelmingly approved the measure last month. The proposal was also welcomed by many small businesses and residents, but some business groups have come out in opposition because of concerns it would prevent successful small businesses from expanding into adjacent storefronts.

Stringer, who lives on the Upper West Side, represented the neighborhood in the State Assembly before becoming borough president.

"Many residents have

expressed concern about recent trends to assemble large commercial spaces," Stringer said. "The trend has resulted in storefronts remaining vacant for significant time while property owners wait for neighboring sites to become vacant. Further, once the resulting combined spaces become available, they often lack the commercial diversity that has become familiar to pedestrians on Broadway, Amsterdam and Columbus avenues."

The proposal now goes to the City Planning Commission, which will hold a hearing on the issue at its downtown office next Wednesday. If approved, the proposal will need City Council support before it goes into effect.

—Casey Tolan

Upper West Side supermarket shuts its doors

Associated Supermarket, a popular Upper West Side store on Amsterdam Avenue and 99th Street, closed this week.

Associated opened in 2010 as part of the Columbus Square development—a revitalization of the area from 97th to 100th streets along Columbus and Amsterdam avenues. Many items were on sale, and shelves were half-empty as of last week. The store was then shuttered this week.

A clerk at Associated Food Stores headquarters, who was reached by phone Wednesday but declined to give his name, said that the store had closed because the rent was too high.

There is another Associated Supermarket on Amsterdam Avenue and 97th Street, which has been in business for many years. The manager of the 97th Street location declined to comment.

The market was beloved among neighbors for its lower prices.

"I shop there all the time—the prices are excellent, especially compared to stores on Broadway," local Stephanie Tegnazian said.

Julius Bryan, who was shopping at the 97th Street location Wednesday afternoon, said the closing was "terrible."

"Often their meats were much fresher than here, and their lines weren't as long," Bryan said. "Higher rents—basically that's what's happening throughout the neighborhood."

Peter Arndtsen, director of the Columbus/Amsterdam Business Improvement District, which includes the property, said he didn't know the specific details of the closing, but agreed that high rents "are an issue throughout the area."

"People are dealing with a down economy and needing to make their rents," Arndtsen said. "In general, we've seen rents rising in the area, but there are new businesses opening here and they're able to make it."

"I was really surprised when they opened the second one two blocks away from the second one," Arndtsen said.

Residents also thought that the proximity of the two stores may have led to the newer one's closing.

"It was strange having it a block and a half away," Upper West Side resident Bob Botfeld said. "They weren't able to get enough business."

Botfeld said he liked the large underground section of the store and its wide selection. "It's a real shame for the neighbors," he said.

—Casey Tolan



HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

GOODBYE | The popular Associated Supermarket shuttered its windows this week.

Participatory budgeting funds playground equipment

New playground equipment is coming to the Frederick Douglass Houses, one of six benefactors of the city's first ever direct-democracy budgeting program.

Through the process of participatory budgeting, voters in City Council District 8 decided how to allocate \$1.54 million in city funds to various neighborhood improvement projects.

Four City Council members are participating in the pilot program this year, including Melissa Mark-Viverito, whose district includes the Manhattan Valley, East Harlem, and part of the South Bronx. More than 1,000 people in Mark-Viverito's district last week.

Of the 29 finalist projects, six were chosen—most in East Harlem, although a handful in the Bronx and the Upper West Side.

With over half of the votes, the first-place project was \$100,000 in transportation for seniors and a new delivery van for the Meals on Wheels program throughout East Harlem.

In third place was \$500,000 for the installation of enhanced playground equipment like climbing apparatuses, castles, and bridges for the Millbrook Houses in the Bronx and the Frederick Douglass Houses, between 100th and 104th streets on the Upper West Side.

The other winning proposals will fund high-resolution security cameras in public house complexes, partial construction costs for a community organization headquarters and charter school, a new

ultrasound machine for a public hospital, and new technology for a public library branch, all in East Harlem.

Those proposals exhausted the \$1 million originally budgeted for the process, but Mark-Viverito decided to raise the cap.

Lauren Quinones, who works in Mark-Viverito's office, announced the winners at a Community Board 7 meeting Tuesday night. "Melissa was really happy with the amount of people who showed up and who participated, so she decided to allocate an additional \$500,000," with a final total of \$1.54 million, Quinones said.

All winning projects will receive funds in next year's city budget.

—Casey Tolan



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE | Residents voted on participatory budgeting projects last week. \$1.5 million of city funds were allocated to projects chosen by non-politicians.

Sciences Po director's death unexpected

BY MADINA TOURE  
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Sciences Po Director Richard Descoings was found dead in his Midtown hotel room on Tuesday afternoon.

Descoings was scheduled to speak at the Global Colloquium of University Presidents at Columbia on Tuesday, but did not arrive when the conference was scheduled to begin on Tuesday morning.

Sciences Po—a Parisian university officially known as Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris—is one of Europe's most prestigious educational institutions. It has a double-degree program with the School of General Studies, along with several other joint programs with Columbia.

A call was made to the Manhattan North Precinct about an unconscious white male from Paris, aged 54, at the Michelangelo Hotel in midtown at 12:55 p.m. on Tuesday, a police spokesperson said. Descoings was discovered dead on arrival in room 723.

He had been the director of Sciences Po since 1996. He graduated from Sciences Po in

1980 and studied at the Ecole Nationale de l'Administration from 1983 to 1985.

According to Reuters, Descoings' colleagues phoned the hotel, and staff members thought they heard snoring when they went to his room. Hotel staff went to his room again when he still did not show up at the conference, at which point they found his naked body and a messy room.

Police are treating the circumstances of the death as suspicious. There was evidence indicating that alcohol had been consumed and that Descoings may not have been the only person in the room.

Descoings had attended a reception on Monday evening following United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's address, which opened the colloquium.

On Wednesday, the medical examiner found the autopsy inconclusive, according to several media outlets, which reported that his cell phone and laptop were found on a landing four floors below his room as if they had been thrown out a window.

"We are deeply saddened

by the sudden death of our colleague Richard Descoings, the Director of Sciences Po, one of the world's top universities," Ban and University President Lee Bollinger said in a joint statement yesterday. "He was a global leader on education policy, recognized and honoured both in France and around the world for his contributions to research and policy."

In a statement, French President Nicolas Sarkozy praised Descoings, describing his career as "the exceptional career of a great servant of the state, who devoted his whole life to his chosen cause of education without distraction."

By late Wednesday night, Sciences Po had not released a statement on Descoings' death, although its website shows a photo of Descoings smiling in front of a row of desks and a banner saying, "Thank you, Richard Descoings: 1958-2012."

Francis Verrillaud, vice president and director of international affairs for Sciences Po, came to Columbia to sign an agreement with Provost John Coatsworth concerning exchange students at Columbia and Sciences Po, according to Christophe Lagier, director of the Columbia-Penn Program at Reid Hall in Paris. Upon news of Descoings' death, Verrillaud returned to Paris.

During Descoings' tenure at Sciences Po, he doubled the number of students and brought in students from underrepresented communities in France, according to Lagier.

"It was always the same type of people coming from the same background attending Sciences Po or being able to succeed in entering at Sciences Po ... you have to be selected and it's very hard," Lagier said. "He really assisted on that part of making it accessible to people that it wouldn't be accessible to."

Lagier said that he was also seen as a controversial figure in France, partly because of his role in the school's shift from a specialized to a more regular university, and because he pursued students from underrepresented groups.

"Some people didn't see that with a good eye," Lagier said. "It's such an elitist institution ... opening it up for other realms of the population was not necessarily taken as a positive thing for those critics."

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COURTESY OF FLICKR / -KITMAN-

EDUCATOR | Richard Descoings, the director of the eminent French university Sciences Po, which had a dual-degree program with the School of General Studies, died suddenly on Tuesday.

NASA scientist is Lamont's new director

LDEO from front page

Purdy, was named Columbia's executive vice president of research. When he left the observatory, Purdy said that his predecessor would be picked after an "exhaustive open search process" that could take up to a year.

Lerner-Lam said that he has known Solomon for about 30 years, having worked on various scientific projects and served on several national committees with him. "He's one of

the world's leading earth scientists and a planetary scientist, and he'll bring not only his science stature but also a fantastic record of institutional leadership to Lamont and Columbia," Lerner-Lam said.

University President Lee Bollinger praised Solomon's "extraordinary scientific accomplishments and executive experience" in a statement.

There are over 400 researchers at LDEO, who study all aspects of earth and environmental sciences,

-ranging from climate, to marine biology to geology. The observatory has been part of Columbia since the late 1940s.

"We're working very hard to understand the environmental stresses that the planet faces, and we are going to continue basic scientific research to support the sustainability of humanity, to help solve some of the problems that humanity faces," Lerner-Lam said.

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COURTESY OF NASA / PAUL E. ALERS

OUTER SPACE | Sean Solomon, the principal investigator for NASA's orbiting exploration of the planet Mercury, will head the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory beginning in July.







# Balkan movie series gives voice to common heritage

BY CARROLL GELDERMAN  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Students from the former Yugoslavia gathered in Hamilton Hall on Monday to view a film that pointed out their differences, but also reminded them of their similarities, at the most recent installation of student cultural group Ex-Yu@CU's Balkan Movie Night series.

Starring and directed by Branko Djuric, the 2003 Slovenian comedy "Kajmak in Marmelada"—loosely translated to "Cheese and Jam"—depicts the tumultuous relationship between an out-of-work Bosnian man, Bozo, and his fed-up Slovenian wife, Spela. Comedy ensues as Spela moves out to live with her overbearing parents and Bozo attempts to find a legitimate job, but displayed throughout are social issues resulting from a post-Yugoslavian era.

Established in 1929, Yugoslavia was an Eastern European country situated in the West Balkans. The country was in a turbulent political state until socialist leader Josip Broz Tito took control in 1945. When Tito died in 1980, ethnic and political tensions escalated and the Yugoslav Wars erupted. By 1996 Yugoslavia separated into six nations—Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia.

Ex-Yu@CU works to unite "Ex-Yugoslavians" from these regions. "We bring together all of the different students from the graduate and undergraduate schools and give platform for ... reconciliation and going back to that idea of unity," said the group's treasurer Ema Avdagic, CC '12. But the group's goals are not just about internal relations.

"The purpose of our group is to find a voice for all of us because the Balkans are not a particularly exciting region to Americans," said president Roko Rumora, CC '14. Americans are typically enamored with countries like France because of the "Midnight in Paris" effect, but they want to show that the Balkans also have rich culture.

"It doesn't come from a nationalist point of view; it's just raising awareness that there's a whole world there," Rumora added.

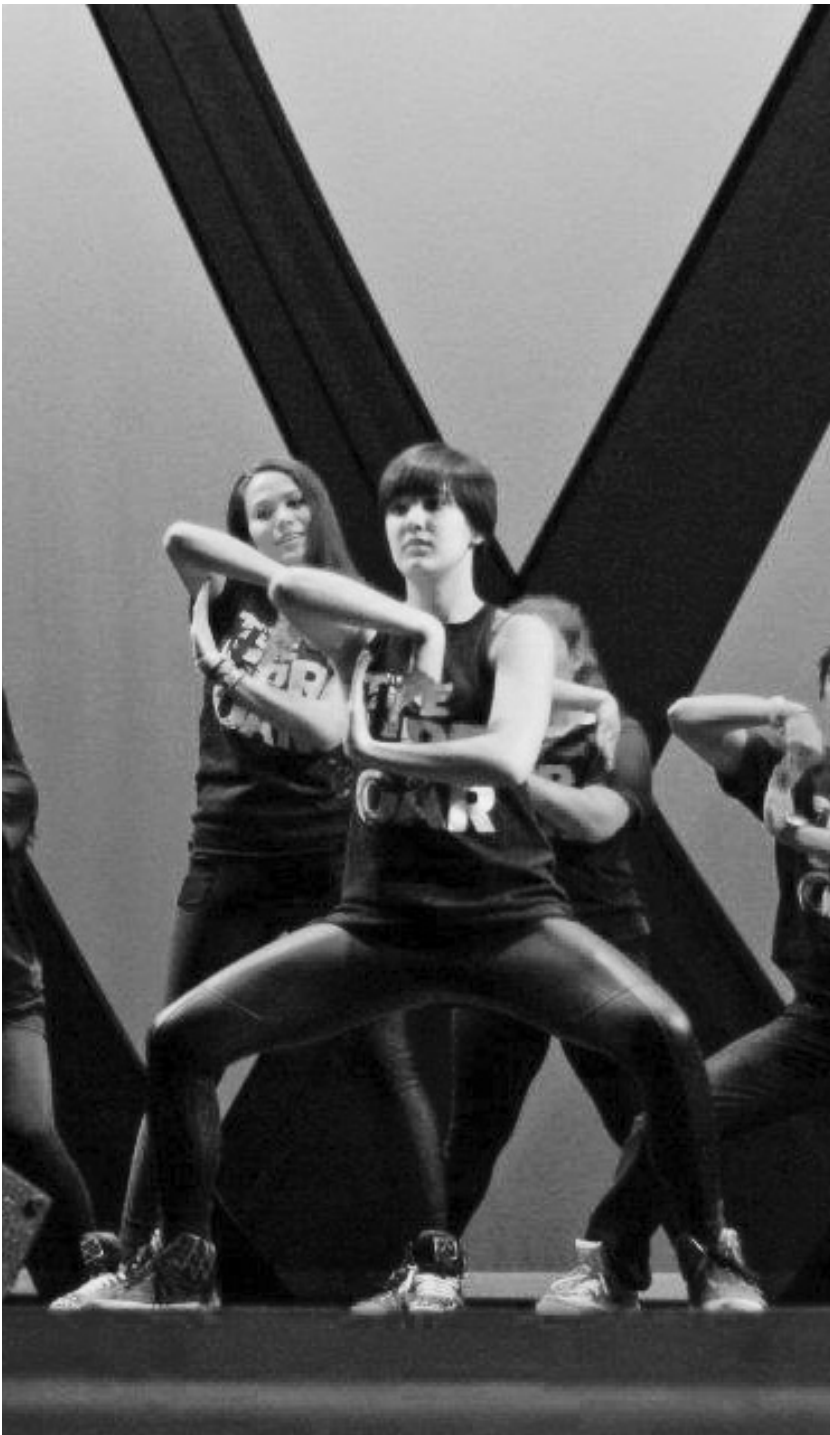
In showing "Cheese and Jam," Ex-Yu@CU hoped to display a bit of this world through depictions of Slovenian culture, such as cuisine, family life, and music. The film also displays the stereotypes attached to immigrants, as Bozo is called a criminal and a bum because he is a Southerner.

"Minorities have less access to jobs and it often happens that people end up going that unfortunate route," Avdagic said, explaining the stereotype. "I'm not saying that it should be like that, but that's just how it happens to be," she said.

Yet, such prejudices were treated with levity in the film. Rumora said, "We now have that privilege of having different identities that aren't endangered anymore—they're malleable and you can joke around with them." The sheer quantity of stereotypes cast between the regions indicates that no single one can be the absolute truth. "It's all a matter of perception," Rumora said. "These identities or stereotypes are fluid and are not something that define you as a person."

The flexibility of these stereotypes is reflected in the film's title itself. The cheese and jam referred to are Bosnian and Slovenian delicacies, respectively. In theory, the two should not make a good combination, just like Bozo and Spela shouldn't with their ethnic differences. But Spela insists that this combination works. To her, the cheese and jam mix well and, in the end, she returns home and realizes that she and Bozo mix well, too. Cheese and jam can, in fact, coexist.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF HARRISON LIEW

STEP UP | Raw Elementz, Columbia's hip-hop dance group, hosts Rawcus each year and features several different dance and music groups on campus.

## Raw Elementz takes this year's Rawcus off-stage

BY CHARLOTTE MURTISHAW  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

The best angle to present one's point of view? According to Raw Elementz, it's 360 degrees.

The campus hip-hop dance troupe is hosting Rawcus, its performer showcase, this Saturday. Though an annual tradition, this year's show promises a new twist on tradition—moving the action off the stage and onto the floor of Roone Arledge Auditorium. By dancing within a marked circle on the same level as the audience, Rawcus allows audience members to watch the battle for the \$500 prize from all 360 degrees.

A monster collection of on-campus groups, Rawcus spotlights dance performances by Raw Elementz, Onyx, CU Generation, Multicultural Greek Council, and a debut by the brand-new step team Venom, as well as a separate individual break dancing competition.

Raw Elementz publicity chair Alejandra Garcia, CC '14, noted that hosting the event gives the group more freedom than they typically receive when they participate in other events.

"For our own showcase, we get to do more than one set," she said. "This time, we put together several different ones that we get to be

more dynamic and more creative with because it's our own style ... Sometimes, when we perform, different events ask us, 'Oh, we're doing Chinese New Year's showcase. Can you incorporate that into your set?' And this time we just kind of get to do our own thing."

"Everybody is ... pulling out all types of crazy moves that if I were to try I'd break my neck."

—Lubeen Hamilton,  
CC '13 and CUSH member

However, Rawcus isn't just a spectator sport: the Columbia University Society of Hip-hop is slated to join in, drawing out a more interactive side to the event with elements that require audience participation.

Lubeen Hamilton, CC '13 and a member of CUSH, described performing at last year's competition as really enjoyable.

"Rawcus last year was one of my first times performing with CUSH at a large-scale campus event, so of course I was a little nervous," he said. "We asked the crowd to throw out storylines, and we would basically rap that storyline ... During my performance, the story I was given by someone in the crowd was you go to the store and they don't have your favorite candy. I took that and ran with it, and it ended up being a really funny song."

Hamilton found the event and its energy to be unique among the range of campus events that creates a lot of hype and really incites the crowd.

"The b-boy competition is so cool because it's not something that we get often at Columbia," he said. "Everybody is really interested and they're pulling out all types of crazy moves that if I were to try I'd break my neck ... Everybody's really excited, really amped up watching the show."

Performances kick off at 8:30 p.m. in Roone Arledge Auditorium. Tickets may be purchased through TIC for \$5 and also permit free entrance into the afterparty that night at Il Cibreo.

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# Theater Guide 2012

By Lesley Thulin

You know you’re nearing the end of the semester when the number of theatrical productions skyrockets. Here’s a selection of some of the upcoming undergraduate performances.

## ‘SPEARS’

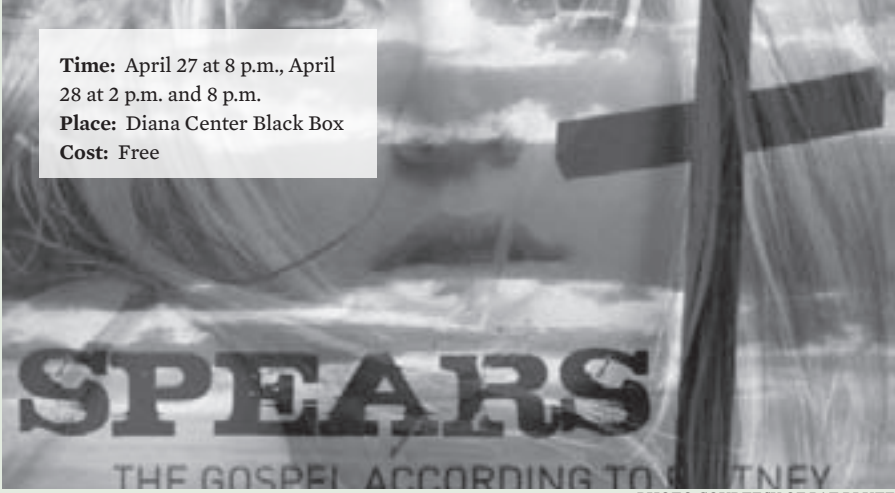


PHOTO COURTESY OF PAT BLUTE

“SPEARS: The Gospel According to Britney” is an original work created by Pat Blute, CC ’12, that narrates of the life of Jesus through Britney Spears’ music. The musical contains no dialogue and none of Spears’ lyrics have been changed, except for gender pronouns.

We talked with creator and director Pat Blute, CC ’12.

Q: How and when did you come up with the idea for “SPEARS”?

A: “SPEARS” started as a compare-and-contrast project between taking something that has a lot of poignancy and reverence—a story people take completely seriously—and then, in lieu of recent media events, pitting it against someone’s story who doesn’t have that same reverence. So what I thought that first is that there is some type of strange, comical element to pitting these two characters against each other ... They have lots of motifs of love, loyalty, trust, betrayal, and redemption, which is probably the biggest thing that carries through both characters. I listened to her entire CD collection and I was able to pinpoint which narrative could dictate part of the story of Jesus. It was a very trippy time.

Q: You were talking about the common misconception people have about the musical—that it’s blasphemous—can you elaborate?

A: Pitting those two against each other can definitely leave room for people to question the values that are expressed in the piece. However, I can assure anyone who may have any questions about whether or not it is a tasteful piece, is it is ... Its main goal is not really to poke fun at either character, but to showcase that passing judgment on people is never ok. So this is really a piece about re-questioning what we value, why we value it, and who will be the judge.

Q: What should audiences expect to see?

A: The Greatest Story Ever Told. The Greatest Music Ever Written. And there will be some cool people in the audience.

## ‘CHERRY ORCHARD’

We talked with director Kyle Radler, CC ’13.

Q: As the director, what is your vision/concept for the play?

A: We have conceived the play as a way to examine and explore the notion of progress. In “The Cherry Orchard,” various characters get stuck in the past, unable to move forward, while others advocate radical and speedy change. This production is questioning the nature and value of progress. We wonder: What do we leave behind in our race for the future? And what do we gain through our own advancement?

Q: In a few words, what should audiences expect to see?

A: In the play, one character remarks: “People shouldn’t go to plays. They should spend time looking in the mirror, at their gray lives, and pointless conversations.” Audiences will see the mastery with which Chekhov has rearranged these lives and conversations in order to explore the complexities of human nature. We hope that we too have rearranged Chekhov in such a way as to make this play fresh, new, and relevant. In our consideration of human progress, we play around with time period, evoking a Russian turn of the century feel and a more present-day aesthetic.

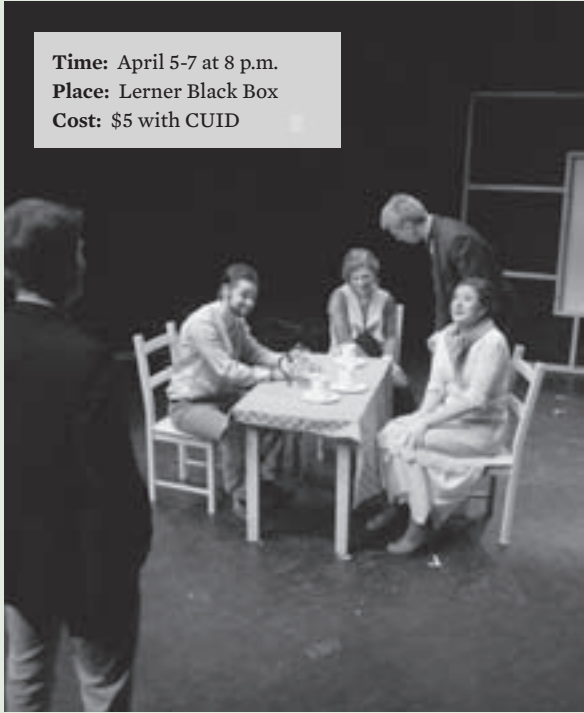


PHOTO COURTESY OF LILA NEISWANGER

Russian playwright Anton Chekhov’s “The Cherry Orchard” focuses on an aristocratic family’s fall from grace as they stand on the precipice of losing their ancestral home. The play explores social hierarchy and materialism in the early 20th century.

## ‘SURE’

We talked with playwright Cassandra Adair, BC ’12.

**Time:** April 20-21 at 8 p.m.  
**Place:** Alpha Delta Phi  
**Cost:** Suggested \$5

“Sure” is a staged reading of a new play by Cassandra Adair, BC ’12, based on interviews conducted with members of the LGBTQ community at Columbia about their lives.

Q: Can you briefly describe the plot?

A: “Sure” follows the lives of five young men and women as they navigate the coming-out process, from rejection to acceptance, from first loves to first heartbreaks, from trying to figure out who they are to being sure.

Q: In a few words, what should audience members expect to see?

A: The play is based on interviews with members of the queer community at Columbia, so the audience members can expect to see a show that is very personally relevant and may even hit home. The show is going up in ADP, so the alternative space makes for an even more intimate experience.

## ‘BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY’

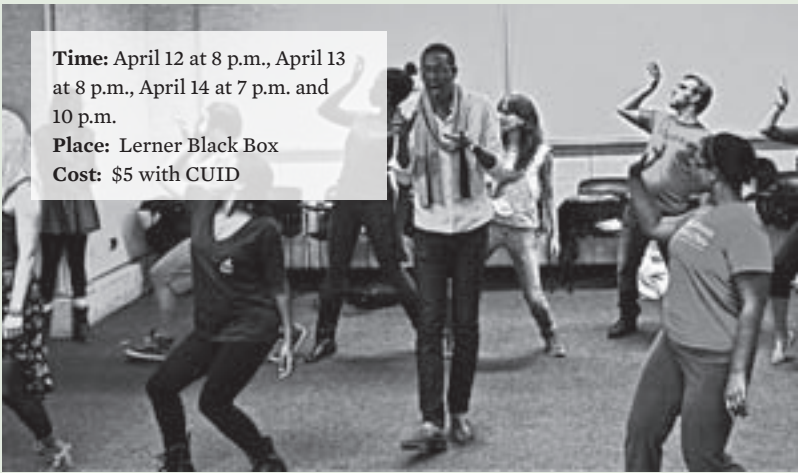


PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILE BARRAZA

**Time:** April 12 at 8 p.m., April 13 at 8 p.m., April 14 at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.  
**Place:** Lerner Black Box  
**Cost:** \$5 with CUID

“Bright Lights, Big City” follows a Manhattanite who’s living his fantasy life and one day wakes up to realize that he’s miserable. Set in the 1980s, this musical chronicles a disillusioned writer’s turn to drugs and hysteria, and then the process of reclaiming his life.

We talked with producer Emile Barraza, SEAS ’13.

Q: How is the play relevant to students, aside from the fact that it’s set in New York City?

A: The protagonist tries to escape from the pain in his life, from being bored at work. We can all relate to that. But the musical also goes on to suggest that we can choose a direction and take a stand.

Q: What should audiences expect to see?

A: Rousing rock music, great acting, and a couple surprises.

## ‘MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM’

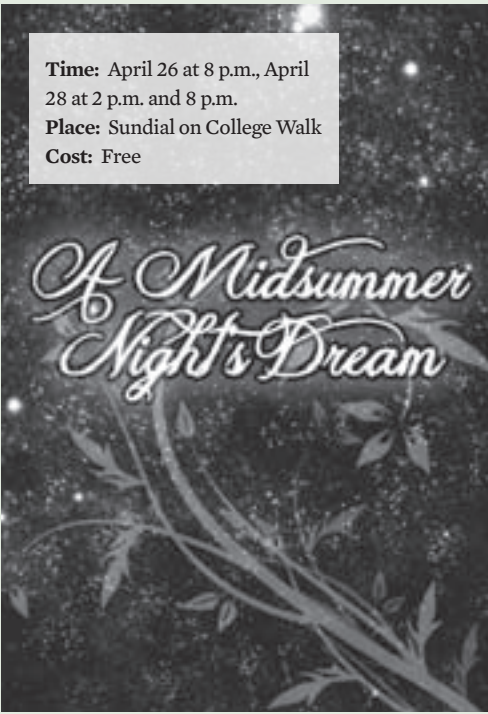


PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN LAPERCHE

One of Shakespeare’s most famous works, “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” is also one of his most confusing, featuring four star-crossed lovers, meddling fairies, magical potions, and an ass. Lauded for both its comedy and poetry, the play is a goldmine for famous Shakespearean quotes—useful for LitHum alumni who want to expand their range beyond “King Lear.”

We talked with director Brian LaPerche, CC ’12.

Q: What is your “vision” for the show?

A: My whole idea for the show is just one big party on campus. It’s the end of the semester and we just want to find a way to celebrate. The characters in the play are plagued by the issues they have in the city, so they escape to the forest to get away from it all. I want this play to be a similar escape for the audience. Forget all the stress that the end of the semester brings and just have a good time!

Q: In a few words, what should audiences expect to see?

A: In traditional KCST fashion, this spring show will be taking place all around campus. Don’t expect your average play where you sit down and watch a performance. The actors will be partying with you, running around you, yelling at you, and dancing with you as you happen upon scenes, songs, and dances. Bring a blanket and prepare to join in the festivities!

## ‘ANNA IN THE TROPICS’

**Time:** April 6 at 8 p.m., April 7 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.  
**Place:** Diana Black Box  
**Cost:** \$3 with CUID

Set in Tampa, Florida in the summer of 1929, Nilo Cruz’s Pulitzer Prize-winning work tells the story of a Cuban family working in a tobacco factory. A lector introduces the family to Tolstoy’s “Anna Karenina,” and it changes their lives forever.

We talked with director Cristina Ramos, CC ’12.

Q: What is your vision for the play?

A: My vision for the play came about in Elaine Combs-Schilling’s anthropology seminar “The Dialogic Imagination of Opera” where we spent a lot of time discussing the elements of opera as tools for communication. I was mostly struck by Wagner’s concept of the “Gesamtkunstwerk”—the total work of art ... Create a palette of colors and light like a discerning painter would. Work out movement in detail so that every moment furthers not only the plot of the play but also the feeling, the ambience, of the time and place.

Q: Can you tell me about the process of producing this play? What other student groups are involved?

A: As an undergraduate at this school, it’s almost impossible to do something as an individual project, even if you do have a department backing you up and family and friends who are willing to help fund it. Plus, I always knew I wanted to get the Latino community involved from the get-go. ... The Student Organization of Latinos has been my main guardian angel in that sense but I’ve also had some help from the Columbia University Forum on Cuba and the Office of the University Chaplain.

Q: Why did you select this play? What does the play mean to the Latino and Cuban community at Columbia?

A: I took a class in the Latino studies department my sophomore year called “Contemporary Latino/a Theatre in the U.S.” ... I was just floored by all of Nilo Cruz’s work that I was studying at that time, but particularly “Anna in the Tropics,” since on the one hand it speaks to everything in me that is most Cuban—family, heat, passion, nostalgia—and yet on the other hand, is also so universal with its treatment of modernity and tradition, of morality and love, and of so many kinds of loss.

## ‘WORDPLAY’

**Time:** April 24 and 25 at 8 p.m.  
**Place:** Glicker-Milstein Theatre  
**Cost:** Free

“Wordplay” consists of two hour-long staged readings that are written by David Silberthau, CC ’15, and Hallie McPherson. Both works are directed, and performed by Columbia undergraduates.

We talked with co-producer Shelby Brody, BC ’15.

Q: Can you briefly describe “Wordplay”? Is it an annual production that features original student-written and performed work?

A: Near the beginning of the semester, NOMADS asks for submissions of scenes written by students. We choose the most promising candidates and extend an invitation to them to join “Wordplay.” Every Sunday, Cassandra [Stroud, BC ’12 and co-producer] and I meet with the writers and we read the work aloud, give suggestions, etc. Recently, we interviewed and selected directors for the project, who then cast the shows.

Q: Can you provide a brief synopsis of each play?

A: To put it vaguely and protect the playwrights (and to build suspense, of course): Hallie’s play is a meditation on familial dysfunction and the blurred boundaries between the idealized and the actual. David’s play is a drug-induced conversation between three friends about their individual futures. Both are fantastic.

Q: In a few words, what should audience members expect to see?

A: Audience members should expect to see anything from a traditional staged reading—black clothes, read from behind music stands—to a traditional, low-scale staging of the play. In any event, we have put together two amazing teams who have, in turn, assembled intensely talented casts to bring these shows to life.





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# My own ‘The Baby-Sitter’s Club’ sequel

“Do you have a boyfriend? How much are my parents paying you? You mean, a month? Oh, an hour?! What do you want to do when you grow up? Like, when you’re not baby-sitting anymore.”

No. Ten euros. No. Yes. What do you mean? Oh. Uh. Tough question. Let’s go back to talking about boyfriends.

For a 10-year-old, her questions were painfully honest and probing. But this is how I’ve been spending my Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday afternoons in Paris: treading the fine line between being a surrogate older sister and American role model, and trying to maintain some semblance of dignity for myself.

My dormant maternal instincts are coming out this spring. Perhaps it’s springtime in Paris that makes me want to feed ducks in the park by my residence, buy a puppy from one of the pet stores along the Seine, and shower my little sister with gifts of macarons from Pierre Hermé and chocolate-covered marshmallows. At the risk of sounding desperate, I just really want something to love.

Unfortunately, I just read a sign in the park that said feeding ducks is illegal, I’m not sure my building manager would approve of a pet, and my little sister is a 7,000-mile flight away. So I’ve discovered the next best thing for a cash-strapped college student in a foreign country: baby-sitting. Baby-sitting is such an underrated part-time job, y’all. You get to tap into your inner child for a few hours every week, feel validated at how far you’ve come since you were seven years old, and get paid while doing it.



NOEL DUAN

## You Write Like a Girl

The two little Parisian girls I’ve been baby-sitting for the past three months have tested my values and loyalties in ways that Contemporary Civilization never did. For example: Should I tell your mother that you spend your pocket change at the candy store after school, after she clearly forbade you from eating sweets? Should I let you spend an extra minute talking to your best friend, when you’re clearly late for piano practice? Should I drill you on grammar exercises when it’s such a beautiful spring day, and when you clearly want to ride your scooter around the garden?

Columbia taught me about Plato’s “Cave” and Picasso, but it never taught me how to look into the bright, hopeful, innocent eyes of a little girl and say, “No.” In these moments, nostalgia takes hold of my common sense, and I remember a so-called simpler time in my life when sneaking a chocolate bar past my mother made my day a success. So I let my kids have the chocolate bar before we head home to do homework. And I spend the rest of the evening wondering if I’m a “good” or “bad” baby-sitter.

Today, my two girls and I rushed home after I vehemently denied them a trip to the candy store because they needed to finish their homework before piano practice. “I’m not going to be soft today,” I thought. Just as we approached the house, the youngest girl stopped me from unlocking the front door.

“Come!” she beckoned to me, running into the gardens and forcing me to chase after her. “You really need to finish your homework,” I snapped back. Why didn’t she ever worry about her schedule? She didn’t reply. She just pointed silently at a cluster of pink roses.

“Look, it’s spring! They’re blossoming!” she

exclaimed. “Let me show you more!”

I was shocked. She wasn’t trying to procrastinate. She wasn’t trying to lure me away from the front door. This little seven-year-old, with the Hello Kitty backpack that drooped off her small shoulders when she ran too fast, just wanted to show me the pretty flowers that I hadn’t noticed before. We proceeded to walk around the garden for a few more minutes, in spite of the piano practice and the pile of grammar worksheets looming within near distance.

Oh, oops. I promised my editor that I wouldn’t use any clichés in this piece, especially since it’s about springtime and children and fuzzy feelings. Well, unless he forces me to change this, I want to announce to every single person reading this column that you should and must stop in your tracks and smell the roses, whether you’ve been in Butler all morning—or night—or are trying to look busy at a thankless internship. Clichés are overused and for lazy people, but so is being jaded.

After baby-sitting tonight, I was going to go home immediately and finish this column, but instead I took a walk around the park, admiring the black swans (they exist!) by the lake. And then I submitted this column to my editor late, for the first time, after he had already emailed me asking me where it was. Am I fired yet?

I can’t believe I’m saying this, but seeing the world through the eyes of a careless child doesn’t feel so bad at all.

Noel Duan is a Columbia College junior majoring in anthropology and concentrating in art history. She is currently studying abroad in Paris and is the co-founder of Hoot magazine. You Write Like a Girl runs alternate Thursdays.



ILANA SCHULDER

# Incoming and outgoing

I finally took the swim test the other day, which may have been a mistake. My parents, of course, had been urging me to get it over with from the day I graduated high school. But I’d always imagined I’d take the test with everyone I knew, days or perhaps hours before donning those light blue robes and being formally pronounced a graduate. As it happened, there were a few friends on hand when I showed up to take the test, but nearly everyone had already finished when I jumped into the chlorinated water and swam.

And swam. The first of the three required laps was easy enough—apparently, I still remember my middle-school freestyle—but as I reached the far end of the pool, I was struggling for breath. Pushing into the second lap, I started to find it hard to keep going. I began to doggy paddle, slightly bending the rule against stopping, as I tried to regain my cool. I considered, for the first time, that I might fail.

There’s not a lot that’s supposed to come hard to us here, is there? To be sure, we’re a community of industrious, hard workers, and each of us confronts an array of private difficulties and disappointments. But from day one, we’re told what exceptional applicants we were to be admitted. As we progress, we learn about what amazing things we’re doing in the academy and in the world. At graduation, each school’s dean brags that his division has molded some extraordinary scholars and activists.

Yet as these final months of college roll on, I remain unsure of whether we are extraordinary people. When this semester began, it was charged with a new energy around student wellness. But rather than developing into our best selves, we’ve spent this semester exposing some of the darkest sides of our personalities. From the Columbia-Barnard relationship, to student council elections, to the newly-announced diversity hiring initiative, we consistently manage to sully the conversation with self-satisfied meanness and adolescent name-calling. Reading comments online especially, I often stop to wonder, “Who are these people?” But of course, there is no them on the other side of the screen. There is only us.

In some sense, I treasured not having taken the swim test—because it meant that, among all the things nearly finished, there was still something not yet begun. As a nest of complicated requirements turned into a neat list of courses passed, it was comforting to know that there was still something preventing me from graduating.



SAMUEL E. ROTH

## We Are Not Alone

Maybe, if all of us seniors could delay taking the test until the last possible moment, we’d have the time for all the things we meant to do in college.

But the fact is this: We seniors have but one month left as undergraduates at Columbia. Let’s use the time we have left to change the tone of discourse on campus. The Student Wellness Project has made these past few days into a Random Acts of Kindness Week with a series of events designed to inspire happiness on campus. That’s superb. What we really need, though, are Systemic Acts of Kindness.

And if you ask me, the first thing to change is the endless declaration of just how special we are. When you’re convinced of your own exceptionality, it’s easy to dismiss others’ points of view. When you’re the most meritorious, things that don’t go your way are not just disappointments, but injustices. But at an institution where nearly 100 people have won a Nobel Prize, nobody is entitled to get all the things they want, and nobody is so special that they no longer need to listen to others. We’ve all got to kick our legs and paddle our arms as hard as we possibly can.

# As we progress, we learn about what amazing things we’re doing in the academy and in the world.

I’d like to replace the swim test with a civility test, with a free-response section on humility and kindness. We can and should be skeptical of administrative pronouncements, critical of our academic and cultural choices, and smartly honest with one another. But we must do all of that with a little more self-doubt and a whole lot more reflection on what our words and actions will mean to our classmates. That work is yet to begin.

So, to the recently admitted Class of 2016: Congratulations. You’ve done some great work to get here, I know. But the really hard work lies ahead. You’ve got to tackle the problem of how to rise through the ranks of a competitive and ambitious institution without losing your essential humanity. The right answer will be worth more than anything you learn in any of your classes. Don’t leave it until the last minute.

As I began the third lap, I turned over in the water and eased into a slow backstroke. The water around my ears deadened the pool noise; all I could see were the ceiling tiles far overhead. Nothing left to do but float on down the lane and, for better or for worse, make it all the way to home.

Samuel E. Roth is a Columbia College senior majoring in history and political science. He is a former Spectator editor in chief. We Are Not Alone runs alternate Thursdays.

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SOFTBALL

Light Blue loses two close games to Marist

Columbia (7-20, 1-3 Ivy) dropped two heartbreakers to Marist (14-17) on Wednesday. In their first game against the Red Foxes, the Lions started off strong with a 3-0 lead. The Red Foxes rallied to tie the game at four, ultimately hitting a walk-off home run from third baseman Danielle Koltz to win the game 5-4. In their second game, the Lions again jumped out to a 3-0 lead, but Marist took the

lead after a four-run fourth inning. Going into the seventh inning the Red Foxes led 6-3, but Columbia began to mount a comeback, scoring two runs off three hits. However, with two outs and the tying run on third base, the Lions grounded out to end the game. The Lions will look to break their five-game losing skid at Harvard on Friday. First pitch will be at 2 p.m.

—Hahn Chang

Ex-player connections important for college sports

SHABAN from back page

Alumni games can take two forms: current players against former players, or young and old playing together on each side. Either way, the main benefit of a game like this is not to give the current team a competitive scrimmage but to give alumni a chance to relive their glory days. Who wouldn't want to feel younger again? Along with that youthful glow the retirees get to experience, there are the connections they get to make that day, with both teammates they used to share the locker room with and young 'uns who occupy that same locker room now.

Although these direct connections only happen for a short period of time, their effects are everlasting. Alumni who are connected to the program through personal relationships are more likely to support it. As with any collegiate program, alumni support is the lifeblood of college athletics. They don't just show support with dollar signs but also by networking and simply being fans. They care about their program because they've spent the best years of their lives committed to it. It is only natural for them to try to see progress in the program even after their playing careers are over. Creating events for alumni helps to tap into and utilize that devotion.

These events happen all the time here, but only the people who are involved are aware that they are going on. Most programs have post-season award banquets, and those sports that are able to have these alumni games put them on each year. Unfortunately,

some sports are harder than others for people to play long after their athletic primes. Imagine an underclassman linebacker on the football team nailing Bill Campbell, captain of the 1961 Columbia football team and chairman of Columbia's Board of Trustees, with a big hit during an alumni game; I doubt he would keep his spot on the team or even at the school.

But regardless of the type of event, the important thing is that the experience is enjoyable for everyone involved. Even if athletes don't enjoy every minute of their collegiate careers while they are here, it is possible to make their involvement with their programs entirely pleasant.

I doubt any of the students outside a particular program have an interest in alumni events. Even those student-athletes on a team would probably rather play in an actual game than be a part of one. But it's funny to think that events like these could be considered most important to the future of that team. Maybe, in that way, they are like the American Pie movie series. The actors are just a team who go about their business and are now going through the production of another movie. Fans and moviegoers are excited to see them reunite, having supported them over the years. Together, those dedicated followers of the series and those who just want to enjoy a movie will be watching. That's the power of a reunion.

Ronnie Shaban is a senior in the School of Engineering and Applied Science majoring in mechanical engineering. sports@columbiaspectator.com



DOUGLAS KESSEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DOUBLE DASH | Junior first baseman Alex Black had an RBI double in the bottom of the sixth and later scored the tying run.

Columbia erases late deficits to win second straight

BASEBALL from back page

said. "We work on that all the time—dirt-ball reads where it's a bad pitch—and he took off right away."

Pizzano made some noise of his own, cranking out a home run in the bottom of the sixth to kick off a four-run inning for the Lions. It was Pizzano's first home run of the season.

"It's a huge pressure off, finally," he said. "I know I was just missing them,

they were hitting the wall, and finally I got it out. So I don't have to worry about that anymore."

Another key play for the Lions was a pinch-hit, opposite-field double by freshman outfielder Gus Craig that tied the score at six in the bottom of the eighth. Freshman David Spinosa then came on to pitch the ninth and walked the first two batters. But he quickly got out of the jam by recording two strikeouts and a fly out. Spinosa

also worked a clean 10th inning, and was among three relievers Boretti mentioned as being key to the win, along with sophomore Joe Donino and senior Zach Epstein.

But even with all the ups and downs of the game, the Lions stayed focused and avoided a "mid-week letdown."

"Every game matters," Pizzano said. "We never lost our focus or lost our momentum, so it's a good win. A good overall team win."

Sports and engineering collide on racetrack for Knickerbocker Motorsports

RACECAR from back page

driver's license last July, and has been one of the team's primary drivers since October.

When he returns home to Ukiah, Ong helps run the farm on a Mahayana Buddhist campus where his father is a bhikshu, a fully ordained monk. On the farm and at Columbia, Ong meditates, or "sits," regularly. He said that "meditation plays into all aspects of what you do, including racing." Eating falafel with Ong—an appropriate meal, since he is a vegetarian in accordance with Buddhist values—I asked how the serenity of meditation and Buddhism in general is compatible with the action and volatility of auto racing. "As long as this is settled," he said, pointing to his head, "everything is OK, and things are clear even though it's messy outside."

Having tried out the race simulator in Knickerbocker's shop, crashing almost immediately, and then watching Ong zoom around the simulator track and drive the real car, I can attest to the amount of coordination and focus that the sport demands. As he suggested, the key to his success in auto racing and other sports is mental clarity, which he attains through meditation. Ong has actually found success in a variety of sports over the years. He classifies surfing, skateboarding, and mountain biking as hobbies—he also played point guard for his high school basketball team and was, at one point, the Rubik's Cube champion of Malaysia, achieving an official time of 22 seconds and unofficial times as low as 14 seconds.

Although he has gone head-to-head with rivals in a variety of sports during his life, Ong told me explicitly that he is not very competitive and has always been more concerned with personal bests—getting better for his own sake—than beating others. It may be this seemingly dissonant mix of passivity and motivation that makes Ong so good at sports, engineering, and academics.

Ultimately, he would not mind ending up farming, as he did growing up, but he also has a variety of other goals that range from being a professional racecar driver to working at an observatory in Chile to being an astronaut (seriously). Talking to him and watching him break into a childlike grin when driving around, playing basketball, or solving a Rubik's Cube, you realize he is the kind of athlete—the kind of person—who is motivated by the great joy he gets from pursuing these things, even when that means spending hours each weekend



PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER BOHNHOF

STREET REPAIRS | Columbia SAE has to both make and drive its cars for competition. Most team members are in the engineering school, but a few are in CC.

working in the auto shop with the rest of the Knickerbocker Motorsports team. Ong stresses that the team as a whole, is what, rather than any individual, is what brings success at competitions. Although winning the race is ultimately left to the driver, auto racing is very much a team sport, since it takes the efforts and skills of the entire group to put a fast car on the track.

And this team's car is fast—it goes from zero to 60 miles per hour in about 3.5 seconds and has a top speed of 110 mph. Moreover, the car must be able to perform well in a variety of races, ranging from tight, short tracks to courses

as long as 22 kilometers. This class of car is called Formula SAE, and students from colleges across the country compete against each other every year in both dynamic competitions, which refer to races, and static competitions, which involve a car features such as design and cost. Generally, Columbia's entry rings in with a price tag under \$13,000—not bad for a racecar. Clearly, this competition presents a significant mechanical engineering challenge, along with the physical task of driving the car during races.

The team is looking forward to its race in May and has been working on

various aspects of the car. When I arrived at the shop, several students were drafting a cost report for one of the static competitions, and Ong commented that they would have to deal with powertrain issues over the weekend. These days, the entire team prays for good weather every weekend so that they can get out to a track in New Jersey and test the car. While the simulator is a good way for drivers to get seat time, it is not a substitute for driving the actual car, not to mention that the engineers need to see the car in action to identify potential design flaws or ways to improve its performance.

For the most part, the car is close to finished and will soon be sporting a custom-fitted fiberglass body made by the team. Emblazoned with Columbia colors, this car will represent Columbia at the SAE races in Michigan in a few weeks. The team's performance in these races will demonstrate not only the coordination and levelheadedness of the drivers but also the immense engineering prowess of the Columbia students who designed and built it. As Ong put it, "Without the team, there's no car. I don't even know if I'll be driving in May, but the important part is that we get the car on the track. Then we can race."



# It's happening at Columbia in April

## Sunday, April 1-Friday, June 1



**Florine Stetthaimer: Alternative Modernist**  
Chang Octagon Exhibition Room, Butler Library, Morningside campus

The Rare Book and Manuscript Library presents a small exhibition drawn from the library's Florine Stetthaimer Papers that includes Stetthaimer's significant paintings, as well as figurines, drawings and sketch books from her early years. For more info, call (212) 854-7309 or visit <https://alumni-friends.library.columbia.edu>.

## Sunday, April 1-Friday, July 27

**Exhibition: Gorey Preserved: The Collection of Andrew Alpern**  
Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Morningside campus

For more info, call (212) 854-7309 or visit <https://alumni-friends.library.columbia.edu>.

## Monday, April 2

**Who Cares?**  
6:30 p.m.  
Wood Auditorium, Avery, Morningside campus

Speakers Helen Caldicott, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and Kate Orff, Graduate School of Architecture Planning and Preservation, Columbia University, mark the publication of *Loving This Planet: Leading Thinkers Talk About How to Make a Better World and Petrochemical America*. For more info, call (212) 854-3414 or visit [www.arch.columbia.edu/events](http://www.arch.columbia.edu/events).

## Wednesday, April 4

**Sustainable Development Seminar Series: History of Science and Sustainable Development**  
4:00 p.m.  
555 Lerner, Morningside campus

Moderator: Patricia Culligan, Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, Columbia University. For more info, call (212) 854-6709 or visit [www.earthinstitute.columbia.edu](http://www.earthinstitute.columbia.edu).

## Thursday, April 5



**Blue Notes in Black and White: Photography and Jazz**  
8:00 p.m.  
622 Dodge, Morningside campus

A talk and book signing by author Benjamin Cawthra. For more info, call (212) 851-1633 or visit [www.jazz.columbia.edu/events](http://www.jazz.columbia.edu/events).

**New Play: Paintings by David Moreira**  
5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Russ Berrie Medical Science Pavilion, Medical Center campus, 1150 St. Nicholas Ave. at 168th Street

For more info, call (212) 854-2875 or email [artsoutreach@columbia.edu](mailto:artsoutreach@columbia.edu).

**The Modern History of Oxford University Press and the Future of Academic Publishing**  
6:30 p.m.  
523 Butler Library, Morningside campus

Speaker: Daniel Raff, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. For more info, call (212) 854-7309 or visit <https://alumni-friends.library.columbia.edu>.



**The Creative Writing Lecture Series: George Saunders**  
7:00 p.m.  
501 Dodge, Morningside campus

Speaker: George Saunders, author of the award-winning story collections *CivilWarLand in Bad Decline*, *Pastorale* and *The Braindead Megaphone*. For more info, call (212) 854-2875 or visit [www.arts.columbia.edu](http://www.arts.columbia.edu).

**Barnard Women Poets Prize Reading**  
7:00 p.m.  
Sulzberger Parlor, Barnard Hall, Barnard campus

This reading celebrates the publication of Traci Brimhall's *Our Lady of the Ruins*, winner of the 2011 Barnard Women Poets Prize. For more info, call (212) 854-2037 or visit [www.barnard.edu/events](http://www.barnard.edu/events).

## Saturday, April 7

**Women's Lacrosse vs. Connecticut**  
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Baker Athletics Complex, 218th Street and Broadway

For more info, call (212) 854-2535 or email [st3419@columbia.edu](mailto:st3419@columbia.edu).

## Monday, April 9



**Café Science: Science Extraordinary and Pathological: How to Tell the Difference**  
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
PicNic Café, 2665 Broadway at 102nd Street

Speaker: Nick Turro, Columbia University. \$10 per person. Seating is limited. For more info, call (877) 854-2586 or visit [www.cafes.columbia.edu](http://www.cafes.columbia.edu).

**How to Reflect?**  
6:30 p.m.  
Wood Auditorium, 100-level Avery, Morningside campus

Speakers: Barry Bergdoll, Steven Holl and Mark Wigley, all of Columbia's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation; and architects George Ranallit and Lebbeus Woods. For more info, call (212) 854-3414 or visit [www.arch.columbia.edu/events](http://www.arch.columbia.edu/events).



**U.S. Film Premiere: Madwomen**  
7:00 p.m.  
Held Auditorium, Barnard campus

Film screening and discussion with director Elena Wood, and Maja Horn and Nara Milanich, both of Barnard. For more info, call (212) 854-2037 or visit [www.barnard.edu/events](http://www.barnard.edu/events).

## Tuesday, April 10



**Pop-up Concerts: Birth of Electronic Music**  
5:30 p.m.  
Miller Theatre, Morningside campus

Composer Jean-Baptiste Barriere. For more info, call (212) 854-7799 or visit [www.millertheatre.com/events](http://www.millertheatre.com/events).

**Women's Tennis vs. Binghampton**  
1:00 p.m.  
Dick Savitt Tennis Center, Baker Athletics Complex, 218th Street and Broadway

For more info, call (212) 854-2535 or email [cs2732@columbia.edu](mailto:cs2732@columbia.edu).

## Wednesday, April 11

**Women's Lacrosse vs. Lafayette**  
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Baker Athletics Complex, 218th Street and Broadway

For more info, call (212) 854-2535 or email [st3419@columbia.edu](mailto:st3419@columbia.edu).

## Friday, April 13

**The Disciplines Series: OSS, Intelligence And Knowledge of the World**  
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Heyman Center, East Campus, Morningside campus

Speakers: Peter Mander, University of Cambridge; Bruce Kuklick, University of Pennsylvania; Osamah Khalil, Syracuse University; David Engerman, Brandeis University; David Price, St. Martin's University; Priya Satia, Stanford University; Robert Vitalis, University of Pennsylvania; and Mark Mazower, Columbia University. For more info, call (212) 854-8443 or visit [www.heymancenter.org](http://www.heymancenter.org).

## Friday, April 13-Saturday, April 14

**Technics and Art: Architecture, Cities and History After Mumford**  
10:00 a.m.  
East Gallery, Buell Hall, Morningside campus

Moderated by Casey Nelson Blake, professor of history, Columbia University, and Reinhold Martin, Graduate School of Architecture Planning and Preservation, Columbia University. For more info, call (212) 854-3414 or visit [www.arch.columbia.edu/events](http://www.arch.columbia.edu/events).

## Sunday, April 15

**Women's Tennis vs. Brown**  
Noon  
Dick Savitt Tennis Center, Baker Athletics Complex, 218th Street and Broadway

For more info, call (212) 854-2535 or email [cs2732@columbia.edu](mailto:cs2732@columbia.edu).

**Getting to Columbia**  
The Morningside Heights campus is located at 116th Street and Broadway. By subway: No. 1 train to 116th Street station. By bus: M4, M11, M60 or M104.

## Monday, April 16



**Café Humanities: Hindi, Hindu: A Tangled History**  
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
PicNic Café, 2665 Broadway at 102nd Street

Speaker: Allison Busch, professor of Indian literature, Columbia University. \$10 per person. Seating is limited. For more info, call (877) 854-2586 or visit [www.cafes.columbia.edu](http://www.cafes.columbia.edu).

## Tuesday, April 17



**Music at St. Paul's: It's Instrumental**  
6:00 p.m.  
St. Paul's Chapel, Morningside campus

A concert featuring an assortment of Columbia's talented instrumental performance groups. For more info, call (212) 854-1487 or visit [www.columbia.edu/cu/earl/music.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/earl/music.html).

## Wednesday, April 18

**Who is the Public in Practice?**  
6:30 p.m.  
Wood Auditorium, 100-level Avery, Morningside campus

Speaker: Yoshiharu Tsukamoto, Atelier Bow-Wow, Tokyo. For more info, call (212) 854-3414 or visit [www.arch.columbia.edu/events](http://www.arch.columbia.edu/events).

**Symposium: Enchantment Across the Disciplines**  
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Heyman Center, East Campus, Morningside campus

Speakers: Michael Saler, University of California at Davis; Wendy Faris, University of Texas at Arlington; Sumathi Ramaswamy, Duke University; and Akeel Bilgrami, Columbia University. For more info, call (212) 854-8443 or visit [www.heymancenter.org](http://www.heymancenter.org).

## Thursday, April 19



**Nonfiction Dialogues: John D'Agata**  
7:00 p.m.  
413 Dodge, Morningside campus

John D'Agata is the author of *Halls of Fame* and *About a Mountain*, and co-author of *The Lifespan of a Fact*. For more info, call (212) 854-2875 or visit [www.arts.columbia.edu](http://www.arts.columbia.edu).

**Defining a Field: Jewish Books in the Age of Print**  
6:00 p.m.  
523 Butler Library, Morningside campus

Speaker: Emile Schrijver, curator, Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana, University of Amsterdam. For more info, call (212) 854-7309 or visit <https://alumni-friends.library.columbia.edu>.

## Friday, April 20

**The Money Series: The Culture of Credit: A Conversation Between Historians and Anthropologists**  
9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Keynote: Jeff Madrick, columnist and critic. For more info, call (212) 854-8443 or visit [www.heymancenter.org](http://www.heymancenter.org).

## Saturday, April 21



**Spring Concert**  
8:00 p.m.  
James Chapel, Union Theological Seminary, Morningside campus

Students from the Barnard and Columbia music department perform *War Requiem* by Benjamin Britten. Tickets \$5, \$3 for students. For more info, call (212) 854-5096 or visit [www.barnard.edu/events](http://www.barnard.edu/events).

**Women's Lacrosse vs. Harvard**  
Noon  
Baker Athletics Complex, 218th Street and Broadway

For more info, call (212) 854-2535 or email [st3419@columbia.edu](mailto:st3419@columbia.edu).

## Sunday, April 22



**Lecture: Peak Earth: Population, Climate and Energy in the 21st Century**  
3:00 p.m.  
Monell Building, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Lamont campus

Speaker: Peter Kelemen, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, the Earth Institute, Columbia University. Registration required. For more info, call (845) 365-8998 or email [events@ldeo.columbia.edu](mailto:events@ldeo.columbia.edu).

## Monday, April 23

**Café Social Science: Magema Fuze: A Heretic's Scribe**  
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
PicNic Café, 2665 Broadway at 102nd Street

Speaker: Hlonipha Mokoena, professor of anthropology, Columbia University. \$10 per person. Seating is limited. For more info, call (877) 854-2586 or visit [www.cafes.columbia.edu](http://www.cafes.columbia.edu).

## Tuesday, April 24

**Africa in Brazil? Samba, History and The Allure and Challenge of Diaspora**  
6:00 p.m.  
Event Oval, Diana Center, Barnard campus

Speaker: Marc Hertzman, Latin American and Iberian cultures, Columbia University. For more info, call (212) 854-2037 or visit [www.barnard.edu/events](http://www.barnard.edu/events).

**Italy at Columbia Lecture: Italo Calvino's Stories of Love and Loneliness**  
11:00 a.m.  
The Italian Academy, 1161 Amsterdam Ave., Morningside campus

Speaker: poet Richard Howard. For more info, call (212) 854-2306 or visit [www.italianacademy.columbia.edu](http://www.italianacademy.columbia.edu).

## Wednesday, April 25

**A Difficult Woman: The Challenging Life And Times of Lillian Hellman**  
Noon  
Lehman Center, 406 International Affairs, Morningside campus

Speaker: Alice Kessler-Harris, Columbia University. For more info, call (212) 854-2927 or email [lehmancenter@columbia.edu](mailto:lehmancenter@columbia.edu).

**Baseball vs. Fordham (Double Header)**  
2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.  
Baker Athletics Complex, 218th Street and Broadway

For more info, call (212) 854-2535 or email [ptm2102@columbia.edu](mailto:ptm2102@columbia.edu).

## Thursday, April 26-Saturday, April 28

**A New Vision of Black Freedom: The Manning Marable Memorial Conference**  
8:00 a.m.  
Low Library, Morningside campus

This conference reflects the late professor's emphasis on history and social analysis as ways of illuminating global socioeconomic crises and their causes. Scholars, students, activists, teachers, artists, social workers and community residents will engage in conversations about the task of creating a more equitable and just world. For more info, visit <http://iraas.org/node/229>.

## Friday, April 27-Saturday, April 28

**Barnard Dances at Miller**  
7:00 p.m.  
Miller Theatre, Morningside campus

Cutting-edge choreographers premiere new works made for Barnard and Columbia dancers during a semester-long creative process. Tickets \$20/\$12 with CUID. For more info, call (212) 854-7799 or visit [www.barnard.edu/events](http://www.barnard.edu/events).



## Alumni events lead to team success

I am no movie or film connoisseur. The last one I watched was “2 Fast 2 Furious,” and I really enjoyed it—so that should give you a small idea of my taste in movies. If you’re one of the many students who listen to Pandora Radio or watch shows on Hulu then you must have noticed advertisements for another movie I’m excited about: “American Reunion.” I was a big fan of the raunchy comedy series during my adolescence—for obvious reasons—so I’m actually planning on going to see this one.



RONNIE SHABAN

### Squeaky Bum Time

It’s funny to think that events like these could be considered most important to the future of that team.

I’ve been thinking about reunions lately, as I am no longer a member of the men’s soccer team here. Luckily for me, this particular group has various forms of reuniting. In fact, many former Columbia athletes find their way back to campus for homecoming, pre- or post-season banquets, and, my favorite: alumni games.

SEE SHABAN, page 8



PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER BOHNHOF

**ENGINEERED TO PERFECTION** | Knickerbocker Motorsports tested their student-built car on Randall’s Island in November in preparation for May races in Michigan.

## Building racecars a team effort for CU undergrads

BY BENJAMIN SPENER  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

When following Columbia sports, most people neglect athletes that don’t run, jump, or handle a ball when playing their sport. It’s easy to miss a group of students that hides out in the basement of Mudd Hall and builds racecars. The Columbia University Society of Automotive

Engineers—also known as Knickerbocker Motorsports—is a group of 10 to 20 Columbia undergraduates who design and build a racecar from scratch each year, and then uses it to compete in a series of races in Michigan every May. I met with one of the team’s drivers and system heads, a compelling 19-year-old named Hwei Ru Ong, CC ’14.

As I was walking toward

Mudd Hall with Ong to get a tour of Columbia SAE’s shop, School of Engineering and Applied Science Dean Feniosky Peña-Mora stopped us and specifically said hello to Ong. Peña-Mora has met with the SAE team several times and has been very supportive of the program, helping to make Knickerbocker Motorsports one of the better-funded student groups on

campus. The team also counts on the support of alumni donors and an ample supply of energy drinks from their sponsor, Red Bull.

Specifically, Ong is in charge of the “impact continuator,” a system of safety bumpers that protect the driver in case of a crash. Although most of Knickerbocker Motorsports’ members are SEAS students, Ong decided to attend Columbia College so that he

could pursue degrees in both English literature and astrophysics while doing some engineering and racing outside of the classroom. He has a passion for auto racing, having learned to drive with a manual transmission on a tractor working on an organic farm near his home in Ukiah, California. Ong finally got his

SEE RACECAR, page 8

## Lions win in extra innings on passed ball

BY MYLES SIMMONS  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

It may not have been pretty, but the Columbia baseball team (10-14, 3-1 Ivy) kept fighting and outlasted Rutgers (14-13) for a 7-6 victory in 10 innings.

Freshman infielder Justin Wong scored the winning run in the 10th on a passed ball. Wong had just been put in to pinch-run at first base for senior designated hitter Alex Aurrichio, who had drawn a one-out walk. After that, Rutgers shot itself in the foot

three times to get Wong home. First, a pickoff throw that Scarlet Knights first baseman Andres Vasquez could not handle sent Wong to second. After that, a wild pitch allowed Wong to advance to third. Finally, a passed ball skipped in the dirt and was blocked by the catcher before it got away. By the time the catcher could field the ball near the backstop and make a high throw to the pitcher covering home, Wong had slid in safely for a walk-off win.

Even with Rutgers’ help, head coach Brett Boretti gave

the freshman a lot of credit for his effort.

“Both of those were totally him,” Boretti said, in reference to Wong taking third and home. “You can’t tell from our angle how far that ball is getting away from the catcher, but he did a nice job and reacted.”

Junior left fielder Dario Pizzano was also quick to praise Wong.

“He was sitting there for 10 innings so he has to be ready, and he did a great job,” Pizzano

SEE BASEBALL, page 8



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**HOME RUN DELIVERY** | Junior left fielder Dario Pizzano homered in the bottom of the sixth inning.

### CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

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