



TERSIA SHEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PANEL | Avi Edelman, president of EAAH, speaks during the safe spaces forum. William Prasifka of CUCR sits to his left.

TRANSITION

This is the process of changing sexes (but does not have to be within the binary). Cross-dressers, drag kings, and drag queens tend to not transition permanently. This is usually a long process (can take months or even years) and may or may not involve gender reassignment. It is important to note that not all transgender individuals will transition.

Courtesy of Everyone Allied Against Homophobia summit

TRANSMAN

A person who identifies as male and was female-assigned at birth.

It is important to note that “transgender” is an adjective, not a verb: To speak about someone as “transgendered” suggests that such a state into which the individual has fallen as opposed to a property that they possess.

TRANSWOMAN

A person who identifies as female and was male-assigned at birth.

Forum on safe spaces filled to capacity

Panelists, audience members interject during debate

BY DANIELLE GRIERSON AND ANNE BRINK
Columbia Daily Spectator

Although one space was enough for two previously separate forums on safe spaces, there wasn't enough room in Mathematics 203 for the many students who wanted to attend last night's Safe Spaces Forum.

The Columbia University College Republicans and Everyone Allied Against Homophobia hosted a contentious debate after CUCR distributed fliers opposing the existence of safe spaces to residence halls last week.

About 40 students were turned away from the debate by Public Safety officers, who said the lecture hall had reached capacity.

“I'm really angry. I came early. I wanted to speak my mind. And now I'm standing out here,” Leah Farrell, BC '13, said.

Members of CUCR argued that the University as a whole should be a safe space for all students, and that designated safe spaces for specific groups are not necessary and promote minority discrimination.

“What we are trying to argue is that safe spaces are offensive to the rest of campus. They send the message that if you're a minority, you don't fit in at Columbia. The only way you fit in is if you have your own separate zone,” said William Prasifka, CC '12, a member of the panel and director of public relations for CUCR.

Sean Udell, CC '11 and president of the Columbia Queer Alliance, countered that safe spaces are necessary not as places of separation, but rather spaces for students to gain peer support and engage in conversation. Without safe spaces, Udell argued, the University sends a message that “anyone who is a marginalized person must stand up for themselves,” even though, Udell said, “that's an unfair expectation.”

“There is still an assumption that everyone at Columbia is not racist or homophobic,” he

said. “We have to have a space where we can have an open and frank discussion.”

Panelists from both groups interjected throughout the forum. Audience members, in solidarity with one side or another, snapped fingers and shouted out comments, eventually reminded by the moderator to keep responses respectful and disruption to a minimum.

Farrell, an organizer of the upcoming Take Back the Night march, said she was angered by the fliers distributed by CUCR and the notion that the University is already a “safe space” as a campus.

“If that were the case, one in four women wouldn't be sexually assaulted before they graduate,” she said.

“They [safe spaces] send the message that if you're a minority, you don't fit in at Columbia.”

—William Prasifka,

CUCR media relations director

Two established safe spaces at Columbia are the Stephen Donaldson lounge, for LGBT students, and the Malcolm X lounge, for African-American students.

Christopher Travis, CC '11 and historian of the Black Students Association, said his group doesn't have a monopoly over the Malcolm X lounge.

“In order to reach the people we need to reach, we need to have these spaces,” he said, adding that “90 percent of what we do is not in that room.”

Several students in support of CUCR took the microphone to question whether or not safe spaces foster diversity, if

SEE SAFE SPACE FORUM, page 2

Congress to propose GI Bill clause

BY ARVIN AHMADI
Spectator Staff Writer

The U.S. House and Senate are both introducing legislation today that would allow current Columbia veterans fully covered by the GI Bill to continue attending the University at no cost.

The Senate bill will be introduced by Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and the House legislation will be introduced by Representative George Miller (R-FL), chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor.

The revised GI Bill, passed last December, caps tuition benefits for veterans at \$17,500. While this helps veterans at public universities, it hurts those at private ones like Columbia. Even with the Yellow Ribbon benefits included, Columbia veterans, who had matriculated with the promise of full financial aid and stipends, would end up paying anywhere from \$5,000 to \$15,000 out of their own pockets.

“This legislation will fix this inequity and ensure that our veterans receive the full benefits they were promised and rightly deserve,” Schumer said in a press release. “It will make sure we don't change the rules in the middle of the game.”

The legislation would guarantee full funding for currently-enrolled student veterans, though not for future ones. The U.S. Military Veterans of Columbia University have been lobbying politicians for such a grandfather clause throughout the semester. Over spring break, the group of

SEE GI BILL, page 2

Breakups really do hurt, researchers find

BY SONAL KUMAR
Columbia Daily Spectator

Getting dumped and getting hit in the face with a dodgeball may have more in common than you think.

According to a study led by University of Michigan psychologist Ethan Kross and co-authored by Columbia psychology professors Walter Mischel and Edward E. Smith, the emotional

pain of a breakup closely resembles physical pain.

“For a long time, researchers have known that there are specific regions of the brain that respond to physical pain. We wanted to identify specific brain regions for emotional pain,” Smith said, explaining that the same brain regions are active when people experience physical pain and emotional pain. “Our study shows

that the expression ‘I'm really hurting from this rejection’ can be taken literally.”

Columbia neuroscience professor Eric Kandel, a Nobel Prize winner in physiology and medicine who was not involved in the study, said these results show just how much the field of psychology can benefit from a more biological outlook.

SEE STUDY, page 8

City Council votes 46-1 to approve Baker Field plans

BY CHELSEA LO
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Columbia got the long-awaited green light to break ground at Baker Field on Wednesday.

The City Council voted 46-1 in favor of a zoning waiver that the University needs to begin construction at 218th Street on a new 48,000-square-foot Campbell Sports Center and a public waterfront park known as Boathouse Marsh.

“We are pleased that the City Council and related committees voted in favor of our application to create new public access and new amenities on the waterfront,” Columbia senior public affairs officer Victoria Benitez said in an email statement. “The Boathouse Marsh project will increase public access to the waterfront, restore and extend the area's native marshland adjacent to Inwood Hill Park, and create an opportunity for increased educational and recreational activities for the community.”

The vote was the final step in the city approval process,

and allows Columbia to provide only 1.5 percent of its property for public waterfront access, instead of the required 15 percent. The one vote against came from Council member Charles Barron of Brooklyn, who could not be reached for comment.

Plans for the five-story Campbell Sports Center include offices for coaches, a student-athlete study center, an auditorium, and meeting spaces. The Boathouse Marsh plans include a waterfront park area designed by James Corner Field Operations, the landscape architecture company that created the High Line park in Chelsea.

Inwood residents have been working with local elected officials to create an enforceable community partnership agreement stipulating benefits for the community in light of the partial waiver of waterfront zoning laws—a waiver that allows Columbia to provide only 10 percent of the public waterfront access required by law.

SEE BAKER FIELD, page 8

BC looks to address transgender students

BY KATIE BENTIVOGLIO
Spectator Staff Writer

When Rey Grosz, GS, entered Barnard College as a first-year in 2007, he was already taking male pronouns and planning to begin transitioning from female to male. Although he had decided to attend a women's

college, Grosz knew several transmen who had graduated from Barnard and assumed everything would be fine. But midway through



This is the second part of a series exploring the experience of gender non-conforming students at Columbia

orientation week, there were already problems.

“When I got there, my roommates were uncomfortable,” Grosz said. “They told the administration that they didn't want to live with a boy.”

After just a week, Grosz was

SEE GENDER, page 2



PHOEBE LYTLE / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TAKE FIVE | Grosz takes a smoke break outside Dodge Hall, where he is helping with an art show.

A&E, PAGE 3

Class of 2013 all aboard Hudson River cruise

About 200 CC and SEAS sophomores will party this Friday night away on a boat cruise around Manhattan, with music provided by DJs Fred Dulsion, CC '13, and Simon Herzog, CC '12.



OPINION, PAGE 4

Till the world ends

Courses at Columbia don't teach us survival skills.

Eye-opening

Iran Week gives us an unskewed awareness of the nation's culture.

SPORTS, PAGE 6

Olson wins, helps Columbia take two

Sophomore Steph Olson helped throw a wrench in the Lions two-game losing streak, pitching seven scoreless in the tail-end of a Harvard sweep.

EVENTS

CCSC Candidates Forum

Spectator Editor in Chief Samuel E. Roth moderates a debate between the three parties running for CCSC's executive board.

Havana Central, 7 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



52° / 43°

Tomorrow



52° / 41°

Baker Field construction approved by City Council in midst of University and local negotiations

BAKER FIELD from front page

Susan Russell, chief of staff for Council member Robert Jackson, said the community agreement is close to completion.

“The community partnership agreement is almost done, it will be pretty much put to bed over the next few days,” she said. “We’re waiting for Columbia to get back to us on a few things, and then we need to work out some language. It’s moving along.”

While the agreement may be done soon, it shouldn’t be rushed, said Ibrahim Khan, chief of staff for Senator Adriano Espaillat, whose senatorial district includes Baker Field.

Last month, Espaillat and Council member Ydanis Rodriguez were involved in a public spat with Council member Jackson, whose district covers Baker Field. Rodriguez, whose district is adjacent to Jackson’s, said he and Espaillat had not been included in the process and that not enough time had been given to consider community concerns with the project. Two weeks ago, the politicians’ disagreements led to Espaillat and Rodriguez sponsoring a separate public forum from the one held by Jackson that same weekend.

But Khan said Senator Espaillat’s central concern is securing benefits for Inwood residents.

“Senator Espaillat’s main focus now is on advancing a community benefits agreement that enhances the partnership between Columbia University and residents,” Khan said. “It’s possible it may be done soon, but we’re not in this business to be setting deadlines.”

The community agreement signals the close of a lengthy

approval process that has spanned many months and included a deadlocked vote on the proposal by Community Board 12, review by the Department of City Planning, and at least 19 community meetings or tours sponsored by Columbia.

Roger Meyer, a member of Advocates for Inwood Manhattan—which represents over 600 Inwood residents—said the group looks forward to working with Columbia to finalize the community partnership agreement.

“Unfortunately it was brief, so it was hard to dig into the community benefits,” Meyer said of a meeting on Tuesday, at which residents sat down with University representatives and Council member Jackson to discuss the agreement. “It wasn’t really an environment to discuss.”

But Meyer said residents hope to be able to secure most of the community proposals listed in an online petition that garnered 545 signatures, which was submitted to Columbia and local representatives on March 30.

“I expect there to be a demonstration of community partnership that Columbia answers to in the future as well,” Meyer said. “We certainly hope that Columbia will work constructively with elected officials and community to reach an agreement satisfactory to the community and that they’ll continue to keep the community engaged.”

Susan Ryan, an organizer of Advocates for Inwood, said residents appreciate being part of discussions with Columbia and Council member Jackson. She

added, however, that she’s wary because an enforceable agreement with Columbia has not yet been finalized—something she said the community finds “concerning.”

“This has been a wake-up call for our community and a wake-up call for our elected officials,” Ryan said. “The waiver that was approved is a downward modification of the 15 percent waterfront access that is normally required by law.”

Ryan added that the community expects Council member

Jackson to continue fighting for community benefits.

“Because as of today we still don’t have an enforceable agreement with Columbia University, we would say this to Council member Jackson—you need to know that we will be watching how you champion this cause for our community,” Ryan said. “We will be watching how you follow through on the public commitments you have made.”

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FILE PHOTO

WATERFRONT | With City Council’s approval, Columbia can move forward with plans for the Boathouse Marsh, a public park along the Hudson river.

Transgender students finding place at Barnard

GENDER from front page

staying with a friend at NYU and commuting up to Barnard every day—but technically, there was no reason he couldn’t be there.

“I wasn’t on T. I hadn’t had surgery. There was nothing physical that would make me male,” Grosz said. “It was simply an identity issue.”

“T” refers to testosterone, which causes physical changes such as a deepening voice, more body hair, and increased muscle mass.

Grosz said that he asked to be moved to a single and that Barnard denied his request, saying singles were unavailable to freshmen.

Barnard confirmed that Grosz’s request could not be accommodated. The college has since made two singles available to first-years, for students with disabilities or exceptional circumstances.

“If we received a request for a single room based on a reason related to gender identification, it would be taken into consideration and evaluated based on the particular situation. However, as is the case for any requests for single rooms, we would not be able to guarantee placement. Our policy is that all first year students who elect to live on campus must live within the first year area, without exception,” Avis Hinkson, the dean of Barnard College, said in a statement.

During the last decade, students who do not identify or do not exclusively identify as female have become increasingly visible at women’s colleges, something schools like Barnard have struggled to address.

Grosz said he went to Barnard’s administration, looking for solutions to his unique situation, which Barnard could not provide at the time.

“They were definitely not mean,” he said. “But they didn’t give me another place to stay, and they kind of made it seem like it would be hard the entire time.”

Ultimately Grosz transferred to Columbia’s School of General Studies, where he is in his final year studying visual arts and anthropology.

At Barnard, students struggled to express how they felt about classmates who don’t

identify as strictly female. Many said they were torn between the importance of creating safe spaces and fostering conversations about gender and upholding Barnard’s status as a women’s college.

“I think Barnard has a lot of conversations about gender issues and present themselves as this inclusive, expansive kind of place,” said Sophia Allan, BC ’13.

But at the same time, Allan acknowledged the difficulties Barnard faces in accepting and accommodating transgender students. “It’s definitely a sticky situation,” she said.

Hinkson said Barnard is committed to providing a welcoming environment for all its students.

“In terms of admissions, as a women’s college, Barnard accepts applications only from women. Once students are matriculated, regardless of their identification, we provide support and resources on a case-by-case basis to best accommodate the needs of both the student and the College,” she said.

Avi Edelman, CC ’11 and the president of Everyone Allied Against Homophobia, said that he believes Barnard can be a women’s college and still be supportive of students who don’t identify across traditional gender lines.

“I think that Barnard is still struggling to grasp what it means to be a women’s college when gender is more complicated than just men and women,” he said.

Daly Franco, BC ’12, said she would never want a Barnard student to feel they didn’t belong because of their gender identity.

“It would make me upset to know that a fellow classmate is uncomfortable,” she said. “But I don’t think it’s fair for people to get angry at the school for their decisions, because traditionally Barnard is a women’s college.”

Franco added, “There are some people who go to this school because it’s all women, and to have one male changes that.”

Many Barnard students said they were unsure about the validity of gender as a concept, especially at a school founded on the rejection of certain ideas about gender.

“Gender is a cultural thing.

It’s a social construct,” said Tabia Santos, BC ’13. “It’s something that’s forced upon us.”

Santos added that whatever the Barnard administration does, efforts on behalf of transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals cannot be limited to campus.

“It’s going to have to be something that goes beyond Barnard,” she said. “Until we as a whole accept being transgender and change our minds, Barnard can’t change everything.”

Hinkson said that Barnard provides its students with a variety of resources related to gender identity.

“Throughout the academic year Barnard’s Office of Diversity Initiatives offers a variety of programs, events, and activities that are intended to support Barnard’s LGBTQ community,” she said. “In addition to the available resources through that office, the Office of Diversity Initiatives also works with several student organizations like Q and EAAH (Everyone Allied Against Homophobia) and campus coalitions like the Barnard Queers and Allies Network and Queer Central to make sure that the campus community is a welcoming, safe space for non-gender conforming students.”

She added that the administration plans to reinstate a Transgender Working Group on campus.

Although Grosz said he wished his situation had been handled differently three years ago, he emphasized that the responsibility for changing attitudes on campus cannot rest solely with the administration and policy reforms.

“I don’t know how much more cooperative people would be if there was a system in place,” he said. “Part of the reason that all of this activism stuff is so hard is because we have such a huge student body and a huge campus and so many people coming for different reasons.”

Grosz added that he doesn’t believe there is a definitive way to teach people about transgender issues.

“It’s just something they have to figure out or accept as existing in the world.”

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Columbia vets hoping for best from Congress

GI BILL from front page

students met with the offices of Schumer, congressman Charlie Rangel (D-NY) and Senator Kristen Gillibrand (D-NY) in Washington DC.

“I’m ecstatic. It feels like a lot of the hard work has paid off,” said Dan Lagana, a MilVets member and GSSC vice president for finance. “Given how our trip in Washington went and how productive it was ... I would say that I was not too surprised.”

While Lagana had previously told Spectator that the matter was

“out of our hands at this point,” this legislation’s momentum is upping the MilVets’ lobbying efforts earlier than they had expected.

“Now we get another chance to show our support to those senators and congressman who are showing us support,” said Jose Robledo, GS and a University senator. “This is a very reciprocal conversation.”

Robledo said that after meeting with members of Congress, he is confident that the House and Senate will support the premise of the legislation.

“It’s not a question of what veterans are entitled to,” Robledo

said. “When anyone reneges on a contract, rule of law always says that that’s the wrong way to go.”

One issue that may hinder the legislative process is the need for a conference committee, if the House and Senate bills are different. The main issue threatening the grandfather clause’s passage, however, is funding. Lagana is “cautiously optimistic.”

“There’s got to be a budget compromise,” Lagana said. “We’re asking for an increase in funding when the political and economic climate dictates otherwise.”

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Students turned away from packed forum

SAFE SPACE FORUM from front page

meetings take place in enclosed spaces. Prasifka said he agrees that safe spaces encourage insularity.

“I oppose certain groups that have privilege,” he said. “Why should I need a particular room to go into to feel my identity? Why would the university be subsidizing this?”

Avi Edelman, CC ’11 and

president of EAAH, agreed that groups “can become factionalized.” However, he added that “groups should challenge themselves to reach beyond their spaces.”

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TERESA SHEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SNAPS | Audience members snap to show approval at the Safe Spaces Forum on Wednesday night.

Students struck by Cupid’s virtual arrow with Facebook app iWould

BY ELIZABETH FOYDEL
Spectator Staff Writer

Since Valentine candy conversation hearts started bearing slogans like “Fax Me,” it has been clear that technology adjusts dating protocol for the Millennials and the Net Generation. But where texting has replaced love letters and eHarmony can substitute for the first in-person encounter, the new Facebook application iWould seeks instead to facilitate the realization of relationships.

The idea was born last year at Columbia Business School when John Budish, Business ’10, reflected on a pre-existing Business School tradition: Before graduation, everyone in the graduating class had the opportunity to write down the names of three other students in whom they had an interest as a last-ditch effort to pursue romantic possibilities before graduation. If there was a match, both students were notified. Budish and his classmate, Tariq Chaudhri, Business ’10, decided to expand the concept and make it digital. They brought in Eliza Howard, Business ’11, to work on marketing the app.

Launched on Columbia’s campus last week, iWould allows a Facebook user to add up to 10 of their current Facebook friends to a list of people with whom

they would be willing to have a romantic or sexual encounter. The user’s list, as well as use of the app itself, remains secret and invisible to all other Facebook users—unless someone on their list also signs up for the iWould app and includes him or her on their own set of desirables. In that case, when both users have indicated an interest in each other, both receive email notification of the mutual interest.

The goal is to provide the opportunity not to meet someone new, but rather to make a connection with someone familiar. “It’s ambiguous for a reason,” Howard said. “We don’t want to take the fun out of it. It’s a list of 10 people that ‘you would ...’ You figure out what you would do.” Budish’s own experience highlights what iWould could make possible: He was too nervous to ask out a cute girl in one of his courses without knowing how she would react, and he was aware that, if rejected, he would still have to see her frequently in class. He graduated without having pursued her but developed a digital means of eliminating the problem. A year later, the app is live on Facebook.

“What I like about it is that it doesn’t replace any means of communication: We

SEE IWOULD, page 9



ILLUSTRATION BY MARIAN GUERRA



COURTESY OF DANIEL MURCIA

HITTING THE WRITE NOTES | Songwriter and singer Daniel Murcia, CC ’14, interns at Atlantic Records and will compete in the Battle 4 Bacchanal.

Columbia freshman and self-taught musician to compete for Bacchanal

BY GEETIKA RUDRA
Spectator Staff Writer

Balancing classes, jobs, internships, and extracurriculars can be overwhelming, especially when also planning to perform to the utmost in this year’s Battle 4 Bacchanal—as Daniel Murcia, CC ’14, is set to do on April 15. Murcia is a singer, a songwriter, and an intern at Atlantic Records. His website, listentodanny.com, has been advertised on Facebook and in campus dormitories.

Now a member of Columbia’s a cappella group Notes and Keys, Murcia is a self-taught musician. He picked up the guitar when he was little and taught himself to imitate sounds he heard on TV. His instrumental repertoire soon grew to include the piano as well. Murcia has never taken formal vocal lessons. “I was greatly influenced by Bruno Mars as a songwriter,” said Murcia. “He had to write different songs for different artists before he could make music for himself. It’s

important to learn how to cater to different musical tastes.” Murcia also cites Michael Jackson, Maroon 5, and producer Dr. Luke as sources of inspiration.

Murcia’s catchy rhythms leave listeners unconsciously tapping their feet and bobbing their heads. His songs incorporate simple but catchy hooks characteristic of the pop songs heard on the radio. “I’m not trying to sound like other people—failure is imitation. But my comfort is top 40 pop,” Murcia said.

Murcia has learned the importance of creating songs with mass appeal from his internship with Atlantic, which has Mars as a signed artist. Interning with Atlantic, which receives demo tapes by the thousands from hopeful artists like Murcia, has proven a pivot-point in Murcia’s music career.

“You need to be aggressive. I’ve learned the importance of networking and making people listen to you,”

SEE MURCIA, page 12



MARICELA GONZALEZ FOR SPECTATOR

I’M ON A BOAT | The Columbia College Student Council will host the Class of 2013 Hudson River Boat Party on Friday.

All aboard boat party for sophomores

BY LUDOVICA PAGNI
Columbia Daily Spectator

Forget the NSOP party at Central Park Zoo and forget formals. This semester, for the class of 2013, the Columbia College Student Council is throwing a floating party on the Hudson River.

The party, conceived and organized by the class council, will take place Friday, April 8, at 8 p.m. on a Circle Line Sightseeing Cruise boat hired for the event.

The boat will leave from Pier 83 (West 42nd Street, at the Hudson River) and will circumnavigate

Manhattan for the rest of the night. All students can participate, since there is no age restriction and only non-alcoholic refreshments will be served on board. Tickets are \$20 at the TIC and are now sold out.

“We originally started with the idea of a loft party or something that no one had ever done before. However, then the idea of a boat seemed a lot more feasible, since it fit the number of people that we wanted and it worked out with our budget,” Keyur Naik, CC ’13 and member of his class council, said.

“We will have an uptown-down-town theme ... the boat has two levels,

and for each level there will be a different DJ,” Naik said. The original idea was to play a different kind of music on each floor in order to reflect the lifestyles of people in various parts of Manhattan. Although the theme was later set aside, the main idea of having two DJs playing various sorts of music on the two floors remained. Fred Dulson, CC ’13, will perform on one level, and Simon Herzog, CC ’12, will play on the other.

The whole council participated in the planning, but Mario Rosser, CC ’13, played a particularly large role. Zaik

SEE BOAT PARTY, page 9

Dance group leaps between professional and campus ballet

BY GARNET HENDERSON
Spectator Staff Writer

Students can catch a glimpse of the world of professional ballet without even leaving campus in the upcoming performances of the Columbia Ballet Collaborative.

The student group is performing at Miller Theater on Saturday, April 9, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 10, at 3 p.m. CBC gracefully straddles the gap between campus art and the professional world. It was founded in 2007 by five former professional dancers and has since expanded to include students from all four undergraduate colleges and several Columbia graduate schools.

In the years since its inception, CBC has gained more and more recognition on campus, as well as within the larger dance community. The group has been featured in the New York Times, Time Out New York, and more. CBC is consistently praised for its support of emerging choreographers, as well as the professional-level opportunities it affords students.

Growing interest on campus has allowed CBC to expand and diversify its offerings. “We have had a lot more people come to auditions, which means that our pieces have grown a lot in size,” Erin Arbuckle, GS ’11 and assistant executive director of CBC, said.

But, as Arbuckle points out, there are drawbacks to critical attention. “It’s hard to have the reviewer keep the perspective that we are, in fact, a student group,” Arbuckle said. Still, she is proud of CBC and the place it occupies on campus, noting that “Barnard offers a dance major, and we offer something more low-key.”

This semester CBC will showcase works by professional choreographers like Adam Hendrickson, a soloist with



COURTESY OF ERIC BALANO

IN STEP | Elysia Dawn, Artistic Director of the Columbia Ballet Collaborative, and Richard Isaac, dancer, showcase their dance moves.

SEE BALLET, page 9



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Drop him like he’s hot

BY ANABEL BACON

On April 14, Columbia students will march around Morningside Heights in support of victims of sexual violence as part of Take Back the Night. A few weeks later, Snoop Dogg will come to campus, and we'll take that night to listen to a guy whose lyrics support the very kind of disrespect for women that leads to such crimes. Something's wrong here.

Snoop is a 14-time Grammy nominee. Great. He also has an affinity for marijuana, run-ins with the law, and scantily clad women, the latter of which his music frequently objectifies. I find those lyrics offensive, no matter how catchy his songs may be, and I find it worrisome that we're willing to welcome him to campus. For a university that prides itself on its affiliation with one of the best women's colleges in the nation and is home to some of the country's brightest female students, we could have done better.

Unfortunately, I can't support my argument with examples of Snoop's lyrics, since most of the ones that relate to women are unprintable (his token mother-appreciation song, "I Love My Momma" off 1999's "No Limit Top Dogg," would seem to be one of the only exceptions). Perhaps that fact itself is evidence enough. But I encourage you to Google his songs, to actually sit down and read the message behind the beat, and to ask yourself if these are really the values our community espouses. They're certainly not mine.

We need to be especially vigilant about how we address the issue of sexual violence on college campuses. At least one in four college women will be the victim of

Foucault my life

Students consider a lot of factors when course selection rolls around. We consider the credits awarded, the professor's reputation, the course material, the location, the time, and the chance of getting that elusive A. But we don't usually consider the wider context of our choices: how a college class will equip us for life outside the chambers of the ivory tower. This myopia becomes problematic when you consider what the real world might look like in the next few decades.

My former high school librarian, now a dear friend, often rants about the "power-down" that is on the horizon. We exchange emails regularly, and his typical correspondence is a wonderfully poetic and pessimistic take on the calamitous times we live in. Here is but a taste: "My only take on the human species these days: Die off by the billions. I have no other way to put it. We are too many, so overpopulated and obese and sick-looking, that it seems to me anyone with a shred of common sense would come to the same conclusion." This column is largely an homage to his emails, a sarcastic imagining of the myriad ways he has suggested the world might end, a playful exposition of the futility and fatalism of our current path.

In a recent typically cheery email, my former teacher provided some unsettling advice: "If I could attend any one education program right now, it would be lessons in learning to live off the grid ... Anything for self-sufficiency, anything to remove myself from the reality of the ticking time bomb we find ourselves under." In the next week, Columbia students will select their courses for the coming fall. As they furiously scan course listings, few students will contextualize their choices in the wider scheme of potential global catastrophe. The question that emerges is a troubling one. If we are to take the advice of my sage friend and only choose classes that teach self-sufficiency in a world without the grid, what classes ought we to choose at Columbia?

I'll put the answer up front: The prospects are bleak. A search in the Directory of Classes yields no results for the terms "shelter," "self-defense," "horticulture," "first aid," or "blacksmithing." There is a dearth of technical, pragmatic classes that operate outside the realms of abstraction. The closest thing Alma Mater can offer is engineering courses that require fabrication skills, but even these are predicated on the use of elaborate machinery. We would like to think that all have the potential to be the father in Cormac McCarthy's "The Road," or Robinson Crusoe, or Bear Grylls, or even some Vermont hippie who knows what mushrooms to forage. We all believe that intrinsic to our humanity is some deeper survival instinct, a treasure trove of evolutionarily encoded knowledge that will sustain us when the fire and brimstone rain. But it simply isn't true. And our preoccupation with the status quo, with the acrobatics of the mind that make Columbia such a sensational and stimulating environment, only blinds us to our frailties.

On Maslow's hierarchy of needs, the Columbia student occupies the very peak, seeking self-actualization through a heightened morality, creativity, and knowledgeability. We have been blessed thus far not to have to worry about safety and physiological needs. Well, it looks like ascending Maslow's hierarchy is a Sisyphean task, and mankind is poised to let the ball roll back down into the Dark Ages. And when the world powers down, when systems of governance and of finance, of laws and of markets dissolve, self-actualization will come to mean diddly.

So we are stuck. Unsure if there is any real cause for concern, unwilling to rock the boat so much as to go "Into the Wild" and subsequently die an embarrassing and ridiculous death at the hands of some berries, we are left to blissfully attend our seminars on The Archaeology of Sex and Gender. But for those of you who are now worried by your lack of preparedness, there remains one means of recourse. Perhaps it makes the most sense to take philosophy. For if one cannot do anything to halt the doomsday clock's slow ticking, then perhaps being able to deconstruct the epistemological and metaphysical meaning of this metaphorical clock will provide some semblance of comfort to a wanting mind. As the mushroom cloud grows on the horizon line and everything you have known and loved is vaporized, at least you'll be able to ponder what Michel Foucault would have made of the unfolding events: Twentieth-Century Philosophy, V3301.

Esfandiyar Batmanghelidj is a Columbia College first-year. He is a member of the rugby team. C.U. in Hell runs alternate Thursdays.



ESFANDYAR BATMAN-GHELIDJ
C.U. in Hell

a sexual assault during her academic career. Between 2008 and 2009, there were 19 reported forcible sexual assaults in Columbia residence halls. This number is certainly low when you consider that New York City emergency rooms reported that 1,637 patients were treated for sexual assault in 2008 alone, but it's still higher than the number it should be: zero.

For these reasons, we coordinate events during Sexual Assault Awareness Month and during NSOP to educate our community about various forms of sexual violence and how they can be prevented. The efficacy of this programming is debatable (I, for one, don't particularly remember much of my Consent is Sexy workshop), but at least it exists. Inviting Snoop Dogg to campus implicitly endorses his music and delegitimizes many of these other on-campus initiatives we have to combat sexual violence. At the very least, it sends a mixed message about our values. I'm also willing to bet my Columbia degree that many (many, many) more people will show up to Snoop's concert than to a screening of a documentary about the sexual exploitation of underage girls in New York City, our own backyard. I understand why—sexual assault is not a comfortable thing to talk about. But we should be up for this challenge.

Columbia students, faculty, and alumni are trendsetters in so many important professional fields, but I think we missed an important opportunity here to set the bar higher for our extracurricular lives. We're smart people who demand a lot of ourselves at our jobs and in the classroom. We should demand more from our entertainment, too.

Before you write me off as an Angry Feminist, it's

Iran Week: a journey of cooperation

BY JONATHAN HUBERMAN
AND ROXANNE MOADEL-ATTIE

In light of the recent political instability in the Middle East, Iran, like many other countries in the region, has become a centerpiece of American attention and media. However, very few have focused on the spirit and culture of the Iranian people. This week, the Columbia Iranian Students Association and LionPAC are hosting several events that analyze the geopolitical questions surrounding Iran within the context of Iranian culture and nationalism.

Despite Iran's rich culture, Iranians all over the world are negatively stereotyped based on the actions and behavior of their unpopular government. The word "Iranian" has become a loaded term used only in association with "nuclear weapons," "Islamic fundamentalism," and "terrorism." These media hot topics have overshadowed the long-standing ethnic and religious diversity within Iran, spotlighting overgeneralizations and negativity about Iranians on the whole. Contrary to common misconceptions, Iranians belong to a variety of ethnic groups, including Persians, Kurds, Azeris, Arabs, Armenians, etc., and practice many religions, such as Shi'ite and Sunni Islam, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, and the Baha'i faith. The beauty of the mainstream Persian culture lies in its ability to interweave many ethnic and religious beliefs and traditions, while also honoring ancient customs and rituals.

The word "Iranian" has become a loaded term used only in association with "nuclear weapons," "Islamic fundamentalism," and "terrorism."

While our two groups recognize the richness of the Iranian culture, we both share contempt for the Iranian government in different ways. Following Ahmadinejad's recent re-election, Iranians flocked to the streets to protest the contested electoral results as well as many of the government's other unpopular policies. For example, Christians, Baha'is, LGBT individuals, and other minorities have been targeted by legislation that denies them equal opportunity. In light of these injustices and as CISA's mission, this week's events encourage the Green Movement as an expression of Ira-

worth mentioning that objectification in music is certainly not an exclusively male phenomenon. Guys, when Britney tells you to "hold it against [her]" or Katy Perry wants to see your "peacock," I certainly hope you're as offended as I am when other pop songs tell me my value is directly proportional to the size of my breasts or how much I'm willing to "put out." It's a trend that needs to stop—from both sides.

Inviting Snoop Dogg to campus implicitly endorses his music and delegitimizes many of the on-campus initiatives we have to combat sexual violence.

I'm not saying that everyone who listens to Snoop Dogg agrees with his lyrics—in fact, at a place like Columbia, I think exactly the opposite. That's why it's so disheartening to me that we didn't choose a little more wisely. There are plenty of popular musicians whose music celebrates healthy relationships and builds people up instead of tearing them down. How about we get one of them next time? Hey, I'll even take Rebecca Black.

The author is a Columbia College first-year.



WENDAN LI

In Ivy League, perfection is elusive feat

What is the most daunting accomplishment in the wide world of sports? Is it scoring four goals in a hockey game? Or an undefeated football season? Or even sinking a hole in one? Throughout it all, one feat has stood out above the rest. This achievement has occurred once every eight years on average since the founding of professional baseball in 1869. I'm talking, of course, about throwing a perfect game.



MICHAEL SHAPIRO

Turn Up the Mike

In the history of Ivy League baseball, only Cornell's Gary Gronowski achieved perfection.

Twenty-seven consecutive outs, allowing no opposing hitter to reach first base for any reason. Twenty-seven up, 27 down. It's a test of pitching prowess, endurance—both mental and physical—and a stalwart supporting defense in the field. Simply put, it's a perfect storm of skill and circumstance, and any pitcher who has experienced the glory of a perfect game will tell you that it is the crowning achievement of his career.

Over the past two years, three major league pitchers have thrown bona fide perfect games: Mark Buehrle, Dallas Braden, and Roy Halladay. I say bona fide to bid respect to Tigers pitcher Armando Gallaraga's imperfect game last season, which was spoiled on an admittedly botched call by a first base umpire on what would have been the game's final out. Buehrle, Braden, and Halladay, however, join an elite echelon of pitchers that includes Babe Ruth, Sandy Koufax, Don Larsen, "Catfish" Hunter, and "Cy" Young. It's an accomplishment so notable that Buehrle was rewarded with a guest spot on Letterman and a congratulatory phone call from President Obama, a known White Sox fan.

Before learning just how rare the feat was, I had assumed that about 40 to 50 had been thrown in baseball's extensive history. When I discovered that my guess was more than double the actual stat, I was amazed—clearly, I underestimated the rarity of perfect games. And having covered the Lions baseball beat for two seasons, I started wondering whether they were as rare in Ivy League history.

It didn't take extensive Googling to discover two things: that (i) in the history of Ivy League baseball, only Cornell's Gary Gronowski achieved perfection, in a seven-inning game 33 years ago against the Division III Oneonta Red Dragons, and that (ii) there are several logical reasons as to why perfect games are rarer in Ivy history than in the Majors.

In the MLB, where a pitcher must throw a minimum of nine innings in order to be awarded a perfect game and where hitters are the crème de la crème, the fact that it has only happened 20 times is understandable. However, in the Ivy League, where an official game can be as short as seven innings and hitters are less experienced, one would expect perfect games to occur more frequently. In theory, one dominant Ivy pitcher should be able to subjugate inexperienced hitters to defeat on a given day.

I know, I know. You're probably thinking, "Well, maybe Ivy pitchers just suck." Not only is that untrue, but, after looking more closely into the matter, I discovered that the seemingly inexplicable absence of perfect games in Ivy history actually makes a lot of sense.

One fundamental difference between pro and college ball is in the material from which bats are made. Whereas wooden bats are required in the MLB, the NCAA allows hitters to use bats made of metal, aluminum, and other composite materials that produce harder and farther hits.

Another disparity between tossing a perfect game in the majors and in college is that college pitchers often do more than just pitch. Whereas most pitchers in the MLB can focus all their attention on throwing and batting, many college-level hurlers are also asked to occasionally field other



FILE PHOTO

BY MRINAL MOHANKA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

When Stefan Olson walked onto the mound to throw the first pitch against Harvard on Sunday, he was cool, calm, and collected. The 6-foot-5 right-handed sophomore looked completely at ease for the duration of his seven innings—he gave up no runs and only three hits in the Lions' 8-0 success. Even when he walked off, it was with a composed look on his face. However, there's more than meets the eye with Stef, as he is referred to by teammates and coaches.

"Stef competes hard—he may not look like it all the time—but he's a very good competitor," head coach Brett Boretti said in an email. "I thought he did well [against Harvard]. I think he's matured on and off the field."

The Lions' pitching coach, Pete Maki, knew that Olson had a good arm and a good feel for pitching when he decided to recruit him.

"Stef threw very well [against Harvard]," Maki said in an email. "He forced a lot of contact early in counts. He established his fast-ball to both sides of the plate early in the game."

The outing against the Crimson was Olson's third start of the 2011 campaign, and his 1.71 ERA is the best of the Light Blue's starting rotation. But where did it all begin for the California native?

"I started playing baseball at a very young age," Olson said in an email. "My parents decided to start me on a few different sports. I played soccer and I golfed as well to see what I liked best, and baseball just stuck."

His official visit to Morningside Heights left no doubt in his mind that Columbia was where he wanted to be as a college athlete.

"I already knew Columbia as one of the most elite universities in the world academic-wise, and I felt I had a good feel for the baseball coaches as well," Olson said. "But when I finally had a chance to visit and stay with my then-future teammates, I knew this is where I wanted to be."

Olson made 10 starts as part of Columbia's rotation in his freshman season and finished the campaign with a 2-2 record, striking out 40 batters in 49 1/3 innings pitched. The competition is stiff among the Columbia pitching staff, and Olson is currently part of a rotation that consists of junior Pat Lowery, 2010 Ivy League Pitcher of the Year, and seniors Dan Bracey and Geoff Whitaker.

"Coming in as a freshman last year, I was a little intimidated," Olson said. "But they [Lowery, Bracey and Whitaker] started taking me under their wing—especially Dan, who people started saying was my 'big brother,' and I started to feel more comfortable as the season progressed. This year I'm more used to the competition, and I know that Coach Boretti isn't biased towards different years,

SEE OLSON, page 7

TENNIS

Women's tennis drops 4-3 heartbreaker to Cornell in final match

Once again, the match came down to freshman Tiana Takenaga—and once again, the No. 6 singles player found herself down. Unlike earlier this spring, however, Takenaga could not rally against her opponent, and the women's tennis team fell to Cornell 4-3 in their third match of Ivy play.

The teams met earlier this spring at the Eastern Conference Athletic Championships, where Columbia won a 4-3 thriller when Takenaga rallied from a 5-2 deficit in the final set of the deciding match to win it 7-5.

On Wednesday, the match started similarly, with Cornell once again sweeping the doubles point. Columbia lost 8-3 at No. 3 doubles, and 8-4 at No. 1 and 2 doubles, giving Cornell a 1-0 lead.

Singles was a tight battle at every spot. The first player off the court was sophomore Katarina Kovacevic, who was on the wrong side of a 6-3, 6-1 loss at No. 3 singles. Despite being down 2-0, Columbia would rebound

quickly to tie up the score. Freshman Ioana Alecsiu routed her opponent 6-2, 6-1 at No. 5 singles and senior co-captain Natasha Makarova had her most dominant win of the spring at No. 4 singles, winning 6-1, 6-0. However, the good luck wouldn't continue for Columbia. Freshman Bianca Sanon fell at No. 2 singles 6-3, 6-3 to put Cornell up 3-2 and leave them only one match away from winning. But sophomore Nicole Bartnik wasn't ready to be done, and she defeated her opponent 6-3, 7-6 at No. 1 singles to even the match at 3-3 and shift the focus to Takenaga. Takenaga had lost the first set in a tiebreak, and was down 3-0 when Bartnik evened the match count, but eventually fell 7-6, 6-1.

Columbia (9-9, 0-3 Ivy) will have little rest as it travels to Yale and Brown on Saturday and Sunday respectively, with both matches starting at noon.

—Kunal Gupta

LACROSSE

Light Blue lose close match, carried by record-breaking scoring performance

History was made yesterday afternoon at Robert K. Kraft Field.

Although the Light Blue women's lacrosse team fell to Quinnipiac 13-12 in a heartbreaking double-overtime loss, sophomore attack Kacie Johnson found her way into the Columbia record books after scoring a record eight goals in a single game.

Yesterday's contest marked the 18th straight matchup in which Johnson recorded at least one tally. To date, she has netted 81 overall goals.

Quinnipiac put itself onto the scoreboard after only two minutes of playing time, but Columbia quickly responded, and the Light Blue led 3-1 five minutes into the game. Two of those early goals were thanks to Johnson. Unfortunately for the Lions, three unanswered goals by the Bobcats gave Quinnipiac the lead.

The remainder of the half

featured back-and-forth scoring between the two squads, with the Bobcats leading 9-7 at the end of the half.

The Bobcats maintained their lead after the intermission. For most of the second half, the Lions trailed by two tallies. However, with four minutes of regulation remaining, the Lions tied the score thanks to back-to-back goals by Johnson, leading the Light Blue into overtime.

Columbia wasn't able to take any shots during the first overtime, but junior goalkeeper Karlee Blank made a save to keep the game alive.

The Bobcats, though, managed to find the net with 27 seconds remaining in the second overtime.

The Lions return to action next Wednesday when they go on the road to take on Lafayette at 7 p.m. in Easton, Pa.

—Rebeka Cohan

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Olson integral to Lions’ strong pitching staff

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so now every day is just a competition on the mound.”

Bracey believes that Olson’s attitude is what sets him apart and that it is something that even the seniors can learn from.

“One of the things that are important as a pitcher is being able to deal with the highs and lows of the game very well,” Bracey said. “You’re going to give up hits, there will be errors—so keeping a level head is the most important thing you can do. Stef’s attitude on the mound is ideal, and I could take a page out of his book.”

Bracey continued, “He never gets too stressed, and that’s helpful. It’s rubbed off on some of the pitchers, including myself. He has a good outlook on the game and taking each pitch one at a time. At this point, we expect Stef to go out there and give us a quality start every time he goes out onto the mound.”

It was a sentiment echoed by Maki, who also emphasized Olson’s development since coming to New York.

“He has gotten physically stronger and improved his athleticism since he’s been here,” Maki said. “His breaking ball has sharpened up a good deal from last year to this year.”

“He has always been pretty even keel on the mound—never gets too up or too down and has kept his focus on the task

at hand, which is always, in a pitcher’s case, the next pitch.”

Bracey added that, although young, Olson already has the backing of the full squad, and was particularly impressive in his outing against Harvard.

“He got the ball in game three of the championship series last year, so obviously the team and coaches have faith in his abilities,” Bracey said. “He’s picked up this year where he left off, and he’s put in a lot of hard work to limit the walks he was giving up. This past weekend was a good example of him forcing contact and throwing his changeup and making the batters get themselves out. And he was fun to watch!”

Olson appreciates having the faith of the coaches, and knows his role in the team.

“It feels great knowing that my coaches trust me to go out and get the job done,” he said. “Our entire staff all has the same job: to get on the mound and throw outs.”

With an offense capable of exploding against any team and arguably the best pitching staff in the Ivy League, an Ivy title is certainly the end goal for the Lions, and Olson knows firsthand the team’s and his own aspirations for 2011.

“As a team, we are all thinking the same thing: being right back in the Ivy League Championship and winning,” Olson said. “Personally, I would love being on the mound in that game.”

Difficulty reaching perfection due to fewer games and less focus

SHAPIRO from page 7

positions. Therefore, Ivy pitchers are disadvantaged by the very nature of college ball.

Perhaps the biggest and most obvious difference, though, is that while professional hurlers start every five games on average over a 162-game season, college pitchers have many fewer starting opportunities over a 40-game season. Couple a major league pitcher’s ability to focus solely on pitching with more chances on the mound, and it’s easy to see why they are more likely to toss a perfect game than an Ivy pitcher.

Furthermore, there is a significant discrepancy in the use of designated hitters. A DH functions solely

as an offensive generator positioned in the heart of a lineup. In the pros, only half the league uses a DH. However, the entire Ivy League uses this position, thus making it even more difficult for pitchers to blank a team’s lineup.

A perfect game is a rare phenomenon in the MLB, but due to some inherent disadvantages faced by Ivy pitchers, the task is even more difficult in college baseball. So when you attend a Columbia baseball game this season you can expect some exciting action, but don’t get your hopes up for perfection.

Michael Shapiro is a List College junior majoring in history and modern Jewish studies.

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CU fails to hold onto two-run lead at Rutgers

BY MOLLY TOW
Spectator Staff Writer

Another close game, and another victory that has slipped through Columbia’s fingers. Well, in this case, more like its gloves. Three errors by the Lions contributed to the their loss.

Yesterday, the Columbia baseball team (11-12, 2-2 Ivy) took on Rutgers University in a closely contested game that was not decided until the bottom of the eighth inning. The game appeared to be very evenly matched, as each team took turns scoring two runs until Rutgers took a one-run lead in the bottom of the eighth and held the Lions scoreless in the top of the next frame to win it 5-4.

Both teams got on the board early, each scoring twice in its half of the first inning. Junior infielder Jon Eisen was the first Lion to get on base, connecting for a single up the middle in his first at-bat. Sophomore outfield Dario Pizzano, who has been a consistent offensive producer for the Light Blue so far in its season, advanced Eisen to third with a single of his own. The Lions showed their skill in hitting with runners in scoring position following this pair of hits, as the two Columbia runners eventually crossed the plate after a Columbia double and groundout.

The Scarlet Knights responded in the bottom of the first, however, with

two runs of their own. Rutgers second baseman Nick Favatella belted a two-run home run off of Columbia sophomore pitcher Tim Giel. Favatella, a freshman, was responsible for all four of the opponents’ RBIs for the day.

“We gave them opportunities and they took advantage of them,” head coach Boretti said.

On the mound, the Light Blue staffed the game as it usually does mid-week, using five pitchers total. Giel started the game, throwing the first two innings and allowing two runs on two hits. Although the righty allowed the two-run homer in the first, he was able to regroup quickly and pitch a solid six more outs in his outing, striking out two Scarlet Knights in the process. Following Giel, the Light Blue saw freshman Zack Tax, seniors Max Lautmann and Roger Aquino, and junior Harrison Slutsky take the mound.

The game remained tied at two until the fifth inning, in which another two Lions crossed the plate. Senior outfield Nick Cox, who had been silent to that point in the game, whacked a triple to put the Lions ahead one, and then proceeded to be driven in by Eisen, making the score 4-2. This lead only lasted until the seventh, though, when Favatella struck again, hitting a clutch single up the middle, driving two runs to even the game at four. The go-ahead run for Rutgers came in the bottom of the eighth, when Lautmann’s wild pitch

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allowed a Scarlet Knight to score from third. The senior had issues with his control in relief, allowing three walks and two runs. Although sophomore pinch-hitter Nick Crucet got on base after walking in the ninth, Rutgers reliever Rob Corsi struck out the last batter, his third K of the day, to finish off the Lions.

Slutsky was a standout for the Light Blue. The righty was the last Columbia pitcher to enter the game, stepping on the mound with one out in the bottom of the eighth. The junior was lights-out in his performance, as he fanned the only two Rutgers batters he faced. Shutting the opponent down in late innings has been a trend for Slutsky lately, and the Lions hope that he can be consistently solid in this role in the future.

The Lions have not fared too well this season in back and forth games such as Wednesday’s contest. Seven of Columbia’s 12 losses have been decided by three or fewer runs.

This weekend, Columbia will take on another pair of Ivies, as it prepares to go on the road to face Brown and Yale. “We need to find ways to win close games,” Boretti said. “This weekend is a great opportunity to compete hard and lay it on the line and the results will take care of themselves.”



KATE SCARBROUGH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ALL EISEN ME | Jon Eisen was a bright spot for the Lions on Wednesday, going two for three and driving in a run.

Spec Classifieds

854-9550

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CHABLI BRAVO / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FOUNDATIONS | A view of the Manhattanville site shows contractors are getting ready to lay concrete.

Physical construction beginning in M’ville

BY GINA LEE
Spectator Staff Writer

Columbia has begun laying the foundation for the construction of buildings on its Manhattanville campus. According to updates from the University, the process of installing the foundations and slurry walls for new buildings—including the Jerome L. Greene Science Center for Mind, Brain, and Behavior—began at the end of March on the block bordered by West 129th Street, West 130th Street, Broadway, and Twelfth Avenue.

The slurry walls are crucial to the foundations of the buildings, and construction includes excavation and pouring concrete. This is the last step before buildings start to go up in Manhattanville, said Dan Held, a spokesman for the University.

“Once the slurry wall is complete, excavation can be finalized and building foundations can be installed,” Held said. “Following that, the construction of the building will begin.”

A slurry wall is a construction technique that reinforces concrete walls in areas with high ground water, like Manhattanville.

The Jerome L. Greene Science Center, where foundation is currently being set, will be a research and teaching facility and is the cornerstone of the planned expansion of Columbia’s neuroscience department.

As the science center starts to go up, another phase of demolition will begin this month. The buildings along the east side of 12th Avenue between West 130th and 132nd streets are next to be demolished, and the area is currently being fenced off and prepared. The 10-story building at 3243-3247 Broadway will be the first to be demolished.

The University has emphasized that they are dedicated to sustainability as construction moves forward.

“The plan commits to incorporating smart growth, new urbanism, and ‘green’ building design principles,” Held wrote

in a statement. “The University has also been working with [the] Environmental Defense Fund to ensure all construction applies the cleanest air emissions controls available while keeping community communication doors open.”

Held added that Columbia is also working to keep the construction area clean, preserve air quality, and mitigate noise and vibration by using low-sulfur diesel fuel and diesel particulate filters, as well as quiet equipment and sound barriers. Pest management has been integrated into the work plans as well, especially after recent reports of increased rat problems in the area.

Despite some complaints from neighbors about late-night work, construction updates from the University say that work only takes place during business hours, and locals have not been notified of any irregular hours.

“All work is proceeding as planned,” Held said.

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Emotions hurt, Columbia profs find

STUDY from front page

“Every psychological phenomenon has a biological cause, and the study confirms the importance of this idea,” Kandel said.

The study was published in the March issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The researchers looked at the fMRIs—a type of specialized brain scan—of 40 subjects as they performed two tasks, one dealing with social rejection and another dealing with physical pain.

In the social rejection task, subjects were required to look at a picture of their “rejecter” in order to relive the specific rejection experience. In the same task, subjects were also asked to look at a picture of a friend and to think about a positive experience shared with that friend. In the physical pain task, subjects were given a hot stimulation on their left forearm, followed by a warm stimulation in the same area.

After each task, subjects were asked to self-report how they felt from one to five, where a lower number indicated more distress.

One of the unique features in the study, Smith said, was making the social rejection task as realistic as possible. Smith says the biggest challenge

for the team was to recruit willing subjects who wanted to relive an emotional experience for the sake of science.

“We got sensational results because we did not create a lab situation where people are rejected,” Smith said. “We took advantage of the fact that there are people out there who felt rejected from a recent breakup.”

During both the social rejection and physical pain tasks, whole-brain analysis was performed using fMRIs. Results indicated that the anterior cingulate cortex and anterior insula were activated in both tasks.

Kandel praised the study as both important and well-executed.

“Meaningful experiments in cognitive psychology often require two things: powerful imaging techniques to reveal with precision and accuracy where something is located, but equally important, or perhaps more important, is a sophisticated behavioral experiment. I think the study achieves this beautifully,” Kandel said. “I believe it is a well-controlled and thoughtful experiment, and the findings were interpreted in a creative way.”

news@columbiaspectator.com

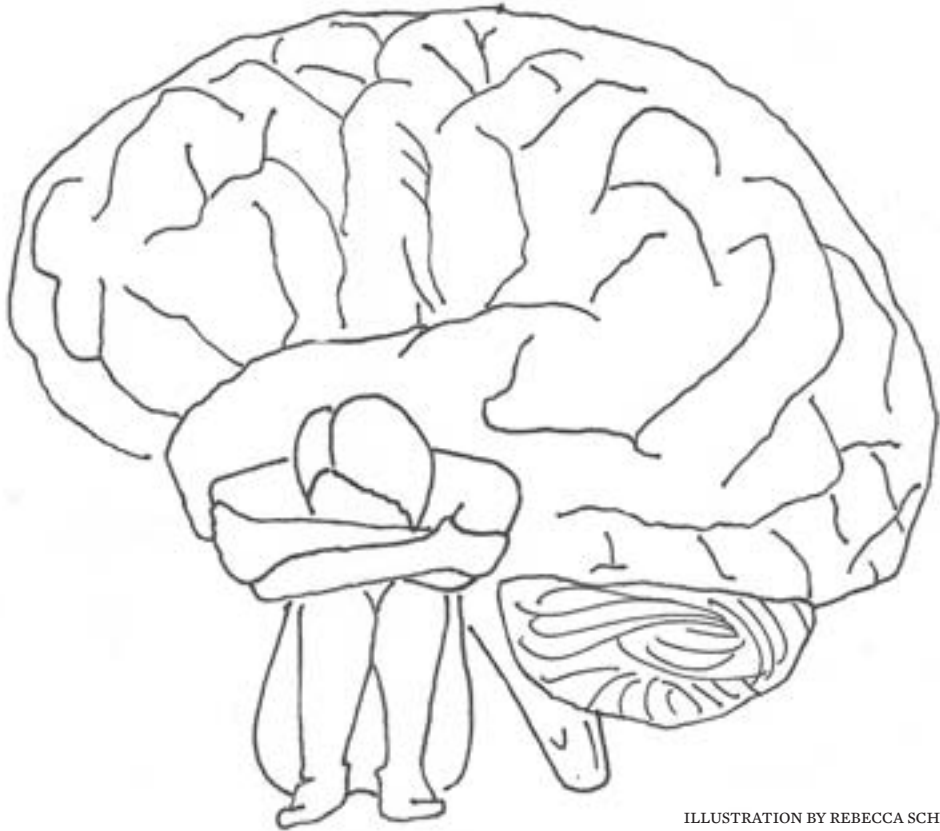


ILLUSTRATION BY REBECCA SCHWARZ

*The Columbia Daily Spectator
invites you to participate in the*

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THURSDAY, 4/7, 7 P.M.
HAVANA CENTRAL

Submit questions online at
spectrum.columbiaspectator.com



Sophomore council hosts its first-ever boat party

BOAT PARTY from page 3

said that Rosser “played a big part, talked with our advisor, and was in contact with the two DJs.” Rosser, an appointed member of the class council,

is currently running for class president.

The event has caught the attention of the sophomore class—the original cap was 225 people, but the council increased the number of tickets

to 300 due to popular demand. The first 200 tickets were sold within a week.

“We hope that everyone shows up on Friday,” Naik said, “and that the weather will be good.”



MARICELA GONZALEZ FOR SPECTATOR

FLOAT YOUR BOAT | The Hudson River Boat Party will take place on a chartered Circle Line boat.

Columbia Ballet Collaborative performs at Miller

BALLET from page 3

New York City Ballet, and Daniel Catanach, artistic director of Urban Ballet Theater. Melissa Thomas, current GS student and former American Ballet Theater dancer, will make her choreographic debut in a piece featuring current ABT dancer Grant DeLong.

CBC’s resident choreographer, Emery LeCrone, will also present a new work. LeCrone

has choreographed for companies such as North Carolina Dance Theatre and Oregon Ballet Theatre, and has received praise for her innovative contemporary ballet works.

Another highlight of the performances will be a new piece by Chehon Wespi-Tschopp, first prize winner at the Royal Ballet Choreographic Competition. “He always does strange and interesting things,” Arbuckle said, “so I’ll be excited to see his piece.”

The show also promises to present a wide variety of choreographic styles. The pieces range from emotional and dramatic to abstract to jazzy and flirtatious—in an effort to present ballet that can be entertaining and relevant to audiences young and old.

While CBC dancers may still be students, they dance with the dedication of professionals, and the fruits of their labor are not to be missed.

Business students launch online dating app

IWOULD from page 3

tell you this person likes you back but we don’t go the extra level of asking them out on a date for you. Once you have a match, it’s your responsibility,” Howard said. The app is completely private, with users even coded by number instead of by name, and a user’s list of iWoulds can be changed at any time. The five core members of the iWould team, in fact, are all users of their own application.

The app’s success has already exceeded their expectations,

with nearly 10,000 users. As of this week, the app has launched at eight more universities nationally, including Duke and Penn, with a marketing tactic similar to that initially used by Facebook.

“We wanted it to work how Facebook did: You start with a few universities, and it organically spreads like wildfire,” Howard said, “But I had no idea it would explode so quickly.” As of the beginning of April, 139 matches had been made between Facebook friends who

mutually chose each other on their iWould lists.

Although the app is available to anyone with a Facebook account and friend list, it is targeted to the university student demographic. The app is ideal for the college student looking for relationships but wary of pursuing classmates whom they regularly run into on campus. When Music Hum crushes become so low-risk, it’s no wonder that much of the traffic iWould has already generated is Columbia-affiliated.

‘Writers at Barnard’ series features profs across literary genres

BY SHIRA LAUCHAROEN
Columbia Daily Spectator

As part of the “Writers at Barnard” series, Barnard will host authors Tanya Barfield, Shira Nayman, and Frances Richard as they read selections from their original writings this Thursday, April 7, at 7 p.m. Now in its eighth year, the series offers attendees a glimpse of the written work of Barnard professors.

The reading will be distinguished by its “aesthetic variety,” according to Timea Szell, director of the creative writing program at Barnard. The writers will present works from three different genres: drama, fiction, and poetry.

Barfield, a playwright and actress, is an adjunct assistant professor at Barnard who currently teaches a Playwriting II course. Her play “Blue Door,” which follows an African-American mathematician’s struggle with his identity, was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Progressing through a single night, the play illuminates a protagonist grappling with his cultural heritage.

Barfield’s other works include the plays “Defacing Patriotic Property” and “The Houdini Act,” as well as a children’s musical.

The reading will also highlight the work of Nayman, an

associate professor at Barnard, who teaches a fiction course. Her two fiction works, “Awake in the Dark” and “The Listener,” both portray the psychological effects of the Holocaust. A clinical psychologist, Nayman has worked in psychiatric hospitals and formerly taught psychology at Columbia.

Attendees will also hear poetry from associate professor Richard, who teaches a literary history class. Besides publications on contemporary art, Richard has written a collection of poems, “See Through,” characterized by its sonorous tone and the quick movement of its images.

The series was started by Barnard professor and author Mary Gordon and former Barnard professor Caryl Phillips.



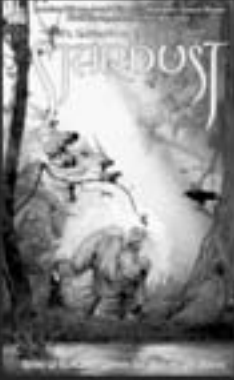
Past readers have included professors Saskia Hamilton and Sigrid Nunez.

In addition to celebrating faculty endeavors, the series allows students to engage with their professors’ works and ideas beyond the classroom, according to Szell.

“I look forward to students seeing what their instructors are up to. They never regret coming,” she said. “It’s helpful for them to see that they are not the only writers.”



An Evening with Neil Gaiman



Thursday, April 14
7:00pm
Symphony Space
(2537 Broadway at 95th Street)

Join Paul Levitz, former publisher of DC Comics and lecturer at Columbia University's Center for American Studies as he talks with Gaiman about his life and his writing

FREE for Columbia Affiliates with ID
(RSVP in advance and show ID at Box Office window)
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SNAP DRAGON


AN EVENING OF IMAGES FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE



Melissa Lohman BC '10



Emma Impek BC '10



Alison Silveira BC '10

SNAP Dragon celebrates the photos and stories of Barnard's Study Abroad returnees and VISP (Visiting International Students Program) students.

Wednesday, 04/13
6-7:30 PM
The Diana Center
Fourth Floor Gallery

Everyone is welcome.

Refreshments will be served and the winners from the Office of International Programs' Annual Photo and Essay Competition will be announced.

The SNAP Dragon exhibition will be on display in the 4th Floor Diana Gallery from April 11th-13th, and in the Altschul Tunnel throughout the month of May.

Sponsored by
The Camille Bouquet '07 Memorial Fund and the International Initiatives Fund of the Office of the Provost. Prizes donated by Aramark and the Barnard Store.

BARNARD

It's happening at Columbia in April

Friday, April 1

The Lionel Trilling Seminar: Reading The World in the Postcolonial
6:15 p.m.
Common Room, Heyman Center, Morningside campus


Speaker: Ngugi wa Thiong'o, professor of comparative literature, University of California, Irvine. For more info, call (212) 854-8443 or visit www.heymancenter.org/events.php.

Friday, April 1–Friday, May 27

Exhibition: Alma Mater: Origins
Chang Octagon Exhibition Room, Butler Library, Morningside campus


This exhibit explores the establishment of King's College, student life at the time, origins of the Core Curriculum and the move to coeducation. Among the material on display is *The Book of Misdemeanors*, used to record student infractions in 1771. For more info, call (212) 854-7309.

Saturday, April 2


 **Concert: Three 2nds with Lucy Shelton**
8:00 p.m.
The Italian Academy, 1161 Amsterdam Ave.

The concert will feature vocal chamber music with soprano Lucy Shelton and friends. For more info, call (212) 854-2306 or visit www.italianacademy.columbia.edu/events_calendar.html.

Monday, April 4

 **Green Metropolis**
6:30 p.m.
Wood Auditorium, Avery, Morningside campus

David Owen, staff writer, *The New Yorker*, will discuss why living smaller, living closer and driving less are the keys to sustainability. For more info, call (212) 854-3414 or visit www.arch.columbia.edu/events.

 **Café Arts: Costa Rican Development: The Nature-City Paradox**
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
PicNic Café, 2665 Broadway at 102nd Street

Speaker: Clara Irazabal, Columbia University. \$10 per person. Seating is limited. For more info, call (877) 854-2586 or visit www.cafes.columbia.edu.

Tuesday, April 5

Theater of War: A Dramatic Reading Of Sophocles' Ajax
5:00 p.m.
Miller Theatre, Morningside campus

Theater of War is an innovative project that presents readings of ancient Greek plays as a catalyst for town hall discussions about the challenges faced by service members, veterans, their families and communities today. Panel discussion with audience participation to follow. Reservations required. For more info, call (212) 854-7799 or visit www.millertheatre.com/events.

What's Water Worth?

6:30 p.m.
James Room, Barnard campus

This panel will discuss the balance between New York's economic need for natural gas drilling and guaranteed protection of drinking water resources. Speakers: Paul Gallay, executive director, Riverkeeper; Caswell F. Holloway, commissioner, New York City Department of Environmental Protection; and Martin Stute, Columbia University. For more info, call (212) 854-2037 or visit www.barnard.edu/events.

The Sustainable Perspective: Leadership and Innovation
2:30 p.m.
Rotunda, Low Memorial Library, Morningside campus

Speaker: Eric Corey-Freed, principal and founder of OrganicArchitect. For more info, call (212) 854-6709 or visit www.earthinstitute.columbia.edu/articles/view/1877.

City of Cities: Istanbul


6:00 p.m.
312 Mathematics, Morningside campus

Speaker: Talat Halman, Turkey's first minister of culture, dean of humanities, Bilkent University, Ankara. A concert of classical Turkish music by Ahmet Erdogdular will follow the lecture. For more info, call (212) 854-2556 or visit www.columbia.edu/cu/mesaas/events/.

Wednesday, April 6

Garden Tour
1:00 p.m.
Morningside campus

You will be introduced to a wide variety of plants and trees on Columbia's award-winning grounds, including perennials and red maple trees. Reservations required. To register, email facilities@columbia.edu. For more info, visit www.facilities.columbia.edu/garden-tours.

 **Book Signing: Pietro Reviglio**
6:00 p.m.
The Italian Academy, 1161 Amsterdam Ave., Morningside campus

In his new book *Cinematography of Urban Madness*, Italian artist Reviglio recreates fragments of an imaginary screenplay about an artist and his studio, in which alienation intertwines with folly and tension gives way to violence. For more info, call (212) 854-2306 or visit www.italianacademy.columbia.edu/events_calendar.html.

Screening: Pray the Devil Back to Hell
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Earl Hall Auditorium, Morningside campus

Pray the Devil Back to Hell chronicles the remarkable story of the courageous Liberian women who came together to end a bloody civil war and bring peace to their shattered country. Visitors requiring disability accommodations should contact Louisa Versaw at lv2261@columbia.edu or (212) 854-3500. Reservations required. RSVP to commonmeal@columbia.edu.

Thursday, April 7

Refiguring the Spiritual
6:30 p.m.
Miller Theatre, Morningside campus

Speaker: Lynda Benglis, artist and sculptor. For more info, call (212) 854-2875 or visit www.arts.columbia.edu.

New York City as a Sustainable City
5:00 p.m.
Faculty Room, Low Library, Morningside campus


Speakers: David Bragdon, director, New York City Office of Long-term Planning and Sustainability; Cas Holloway, commissioner, New York City Department of Environmental Protection; Bill Solecki, director, City University of New York Institute for Sustainable Cities; Ester Fuchs, director, Urban and Social Policy Concentration and professor of international and public affairs, Columbia University; Steve Cohen, executive director, Earth Institute, Columbia University. For more info, call (212) 851-0772 or email aschecter@ei.columbia.edu.

Friday, April 8

Columbia Water Center Seminar: Water For a Crowded World: Lessons From the Northeast Corridor
12:15 p.m.
924 Mudd, Morningside campus


Speaker: Charlie Vorosmarty, director, Environmental Crossroads Initiative, City College of New York. For more info, call (212) 678-8950 or email jah2153@columbia.edu.

Saturday, April 9

 **Columbia Ballet Collaborative**
8:00 p.m.
Miller Theatre, Morningside campus

Columbia Ballet Collaborative proudly presents a dynamic program of all new contemporary ballets at Miller Theatre. Tickets \$7-15. For more info, call (212) 854-2875 or visit www.arts.columbia.edu.

Monday, April 11


 **Regenerative Urbanism: Cities After Depopulation**
6:30 p.m.
Wood Auditorium, Avery, Morningside campus

Speakers: Laura Lawson, chair, landscape architecture, Rutgers University; and Terry Schwarz, director, Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, Kent State University. For more info, call (212) 854-3414 or visit www.arch.columbia.edu/events.

Café Science: Toward Sustainable Energy
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
PicNic Café, 2665 Broadway at 102nd Street

Speaker: Alissa Park, Columbia University. \$10 per person. Seating is limited. For more info, call (877) 854-2586 or visit www.cafes.columbia.edu.

Tuesday, April 12


 **Baseball vs. St. John's**
3:30 p.m.
Robertson Field, Baker Athletics Complex, 218th Street and Broadway

For more info, call (212) 854-2535 or visit www.gocolumbialions.com.

Wednesday, April 13

The 12th Annual Mitsui USA Symposium: The Realities and Relevance of Japan's Great Recession
6:00 p.m.
301 Uris, Morningside campus

Speakers: Adam S. Posen, Peter G. Peterson Institute for International Economics; and David E. Weinstein, Columbia University. Registration required. For more info, call (212) 854-3976 or visit www.gsb.columbia.edu/cjeb.

 **In Dialogue With Gravity**
6:30 p.m.
Wood Auditorium, Avery, Morningside campus

Speakers: Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara, Grafton Architects, Dublin. For more info, call (212) 854-3414 or visit www.arch.columbia.edu/events.

Thursday, April 14

Creative Writing Lecture: Tom McCarthy
7:00 p.m.
501 Dodge, Morningside campus

The acclaimed author of *C* discusses experimental fiction. For more info, call (212) 854-2875 or visit www.arts.columbia.edu.

A Long Road Home: Investigation And Recovery in the E. Forbes Smiley Map Thefts
6:00 p.m.
523 Butler Library, Morningside campus

Speaker: Michael Inman, curator of rare books, the New York Public Library. For more info, call (212) 854-4746 or visit www.alumni.libraries.columbia.edu.


Friday, April 15

The Path to a Sustainable Future: Public Health and the Environment
9:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Rotunda, Low Memorial Library, Morningside campus
Registration required. For more info, call (212) 678-8950 or email events@ei.columbia.edu.

Composer Portraits: Chaya Czernowin
8:00 p.m.
Miller Theatre, Morningside campus

Tickets \$25. For more info, call (212) 854-7799 or visit www.millertheatre.com/events.

Saturday, April 16


 **Symposium: The Creative Music Studio**
9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
301 Philosophy, Morningside campus

Moderator: Karl Berger, conductor, founder and director of Creative Music Studio. This all-day colloquium will capture oral histories related to Creative Music Studio and its impact on the larger world of music and culture. For more info, call (212) 851-1633 or visit www.jazz.columbia.edu/events.

Softball vs. Cornell

12:30 p.m.
Baker Athletics Complex, 218th Street and Broadway
For more info, call (212) 854-2535 or visit www.gocolumbialions.com.

Sunday, April 17

 **Columbia University Jazz Ensemble Spring Concert: Karl Berger**
8:00 p.m.
Miller Theatre, Morningside campus

Karl Berger, conductor, founder and director of the Creative Music Foundation Inc. and Creative Music Studio. For more info, call (212) 851-1633 or visit www.jazz.columbia.edu/events.

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 18

Café Humanities: Positive Pollution and Cultural Toxins
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
PicNic Café, 2665 Broadway at 102nd Street

John Gamber, Columbia University, will discuss the role of waste and contamination in U.S. ethnic literature. \$10 per person. Seating is limited. For more info, call (877) 854-2586 or visit www.cafes.columbia.edu.

Tuesday, April 19

Confederate Reckoning: Power and Politics in the Civil War South
Noon
Lehman Center, 406 International Affairs, Morningside campus

Speaker: Stephanie McCurry, University of Pennsylvania. Reservations required. For more info, call (212) 854-3060 or email lehmancenter@columbia.edu.

Wednesday, April 20

What Is Wisdom?
6:15 p.m.
Davis Auditorium, Schapiro Center, Morningside campus


Speaker: Charles Larmore, professor of philosophy, Brown University. For more info, call (212) 854-8443 or visit www.heymancenter.org/events.php.

Monday, April 25

Café Social Science: The End of Hunger
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
PicNic Café, 2665 Broadway at 102nd Street

Speaker: Glen Denning, associate director, Center for Globalization & Sustainable Development, Earth Institute, Columbia University. \$10 per person. Seating is limited. For more info, call (877) 854-2586 or visit www.cafes.columbia.edu.

Tuesday, April 26

 **Columbia University Film Festival: Outdoor Screening Sundown**
Butler Lawn and Low Plaza, Morningside campus

The 24th annual film festival will run April 25-May 6. For full listings, locations and tickets, visit www.cufilmfest.com. For more info, call (212) 854-2875 or visit www.arts.columbia.edu.

Wednesday, April 27

A Law Is Just the Beginning: 20 Years Of the Americans With Disabilities Act
6:30 p.m.
Morningside campus

Speaker: John Hockenberry, radio host, *The Takeaway*, WNYC. Sign language interpreting will be available. The venue is also wheelchair accessible. For more info, call (212) 854-2388 or visit www.health.columbia.edu/20ADA.

Thursday, April 28

The Climate Crisis as a Health Crisis: Disease, Disasters, and a Path to Resilience
6:00 p.m.
Faculty House, Morningside campus

Speaker: Journalist Dan Ferber. Registration required. For more info, call (212) 678-8950 or email climate@ei.columbia.edu.

Thursday, April 28 - Saturday, April 30

Toward an Intellectual History of Black Women: An International Conference
9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Faculty House, Morningside campus

Emerging work on black women's contributions to black thought, political mobilization, creative work and gender theory will be used to piece together a history of thought and culture that maps the forces that have shaped black women's ideas and intellectual activities. Panels, roundtables and keynotes featuring Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Harvard University, and Elizabeth Alexander, Yale University, will focus on black women as intellectuals, from Africa, the Caribbean, North and South America, and Europe. Register at <http://iraas.org/node/202>.

Friday, April 29

Baseball vs. Penn
Noon
Robertson Field, Baker Athletics Complex, 218th Street and Broadway

For more info, call (212) 854-2535 or visit www.gocolumbialions.com.

This is a small sampling of the public events at Columbia. For additional CUID events or general information visit www.columbia.edu or call (212) 854-2871. For Columbia sports info, visit www.gocolumbialions.com. Guests in need of disability services should call (212) 854-2284 prior to the event.

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Photo by Erin Baiano

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Freshman Murcia to battle it out for Bacchanal

MURCIA from page 3

Murcia said of what his internship has taught him. “You also need to hit producers with something powerful. You need to make songs for the purpose of making a hit that will resonate with a lot of people.”

Murcia makes his music primarily about the audience, but this is not to say Murcia creates

music with only the listener in mind. “It’s a struggle balancing making music for yourself and for other people,” he said.

While Murcia’s main focus is learning more about the music business, he has also been actively promoting himself around campus and in the city. He has performed at Postcrypt and recently recorded a CD with Notes and Keys. He has

also played at the Times Square subway station, where he gave sample CDs to onlookers.

On April 15, Murcia will compete for a stop in the Bacchanal lineup in Battle 4 Bacchanal. “I’m the underdog of underdogs—I’m the only freshman,” Murcia said. “It’s going to be an uphill battle, but I’m going to put on the best show possible.”

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DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES,
TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

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6 PM TO 9 PM
Macy Gallery

+ WELCOME RECEPTION

+ WORKSHOPS IN CREATIVITY
AND IMAGINATION

APRIL 29
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+ KEYNOTE

+ JAZZ PERFORMANCE

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