

## Franzen reads for affordable housing

BY JEREMY BUDD  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

National Book Award-winning author Jonathan Franzen made a low-profile appearance on Thursday, joining 100 Upper West Siders in ringing in the fifth anniversary of a local affordable housing building.

The “Freedom” novelist read excerpts from his forthcoming set of essays at the Semiperm apartment building, on 102nd Street between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue.

To commemorate the anniversary, Carol Lamberg, executive director of the Settlement Housing Fund, which runs Semiperm, invited Franzen, who is friends with her stepson. He read from his essay, “I Just Called to Say I Love You,” which will be published in his collection “Farther Away,” to be released later this month.

Semiperm has been a unique venture from the start, offering transitional housing for struggling single-parent families.

“We saw a need for this intermediate,” Lamberg said. “We got the financing together for the building and they built 23 one-, two-, or three-bedroom apartments and we came out of it debt-free.”

The building was funded by the city’s Inclusionary Zoning Program, which offers square-footage incentives for buildings that offer housing for low-income individuals.

“I did not know that there was

SEE FRANZEN, page 2



HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PRIME CUTS | Brooklyn resident Rico Cirignano, an employee at Harlem Shambles, concentrates on preparing a cut of meat.

## West Harlem’s new butcher shop expanding, adapting

BY ANUSHKA LOBO  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

A new butcher shop on Frederick Douglass Boulevard is reviving the West Harlem meat market, one fresh cut at a time.

Harlem Shambles, which opened on Frederick Douglass Boulevard at 116th Street this winter, sells grass-fed cuts sourced from local farms and butchered on the premises daily.

“We get a lot of positive feedback from the people here in

the neighborhood,” owner Tim Forrester said. “It’s been a while since there was a butcher here, so people are telling us that this is the kind of meat they are looking for, that they have been trying to buy.”

The first few months of business have been spent adapting to the demand in the West Harlem meat market and “ramping up and expanding the product line” with sausages, meat pies made in-house, and various stocks and fresh bread.

The past few years have been a period of major growth on Frederick Douglass, with eateries such as Harlem Tavern, known for its outdoor patio, Lido, and 5 and Diamond all taking root in the area.

Among the growth, however, there have been some closings as well. Nectar, a wine bar, closed in early March, and Society, a café, closed last fall.

The development of the boulevard also has its critics, who see the character of the

neighborhood disappearing as high-end businesses hike up prices, pushing out locals.

To foster the sometimes-contentious growth, the owners of businesses along the boulevard from 110th to 124th streets formed the Frederick Douglass Boulevard Alliance earlier this year to promote the boulevard as the gateway to Harlem, keeping the street attractive and supporting each other’s businesses.

SEE BUTCHER, page 2

## Hindu student group preps for Holi celebration

BY BIANCA DENNIS  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

The Hindu Students Organization is bringing more than 1,500 pounds of paint to Pupin Plaza for this Saturday’s Holi celebration.

“Be prepared, two months down the line, if you’re at a doctor’s visit and there’s red paint in your ears,” HSO board member Rithu Ramachandran, CC ’12, said. “It happens.”

Holi, which is also called the Festival of Colors, was officially on March 8. People traditionally celebrate by throwing colored powder at each other.

The Hindu holiday, which marks the end of winter and the beginning of spring, has come to symbolize the superiority of good over evil.

The festival is named after the demon Holika, who, as the traditional story goes, was the sister of a demon king who wanted his son Prahlada dead. After many failed

attempts to kill Prahlada, the king asked Holika to kill him. Holika, who was immune to fire, tried to sit with Prahlada in the middle of a fire, but the God Vishnu—to whom Prahlada prayed regularly—protected him, and Holika was killed instead.

“It’s a testament to worship and the power of god to protect you,” HSO co-coordinator Rohit Iragavarapu, CC ’12, said.

Still, HSO members emphasize that Holi is not only a religious celebration. Ramachandran said that even in India, religion has taken a back seat to celebrating.

“I think now one of the bigger significances of Holi is really the idea of equalizing. It’s a great equalizer,” she said.

“Especially given caste, socioeconomic, and all of those conditions in India ... you have a time to forget those boundaries and barriers, and everybody comes together as one people,” she added. “And I think that’s

great, especially now.”

Students of all faiths are free to attend HSO events, and board members hope that, no matter their background, they will leave with more knowledge about Hinduism and its culture.

“One of our mandates, if nothing else, is about spreading awareness about Hinduism, educating people about our traditions, our philosophies,” Iragavarapu said. “I think we live in a changing world, and it’s important for us to kind of spread a common understanding of our traditions. And Holi is fun.”

Iragavarapu also had some words of advice for students planning to attend the celebration.

“We order 1,500 pounds of paint, more or less, and we tie it to little sandwich baggies, and what people should absolutely not do is throw the entire bag,” Iragavarapu said. “That’s very painful. And it’s also a waste of paint.”

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FILE PHOTO

HOLY DAY | Students celebrate Holi, the Hindu Festival of Colors on Ancel Plaza. The Hindu Students Organization is bringing more than 1,500 pounds of paint to this year’s event on Saturday.

## Alpha Standards results met by mix of pride, concern

BY YASMIN GAGNE  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Greek organizations have had mixed reactions to the results of the Alpha Standards program, which were released in February.

The 5-Star Alpha Standards of Excellence Program, which was introduced this year, requires fraternities and sororities to meet minimum standards for philanthropy, academics, and leadership development, among other categories. Nine organizations received five out of five stars, six organizations received four stars, and five organizations received three stars.

Two fraternities—Psi Upsilon and Kappa Delta Rho—were placed on social probation for failure to adequately meet the standards.

Some leaders of Greek organizations expressed concern over particular requirements, although most characterized the Alpha Standards program as reasonable, expressing a desire to highlight their philanthropy. Alpha Epsilon Pi President Matthew Renick, GS/JTS ’13, said that he does not believe the Alpha Standards requirements are too onerous.

“The ALPHA standards simply ask you to provide documentation of events and activities that are already occurring in one’s own chapter, and does not place an unfair burden on the organizations,” he said in an email.

“Although Greeks are now held to a higher standard than every other student group on campus, we are comfortable accepting that responsibility, because we have long believed that Greeks are the best of the best,” he added.

### CHARITABLE CAUSES

In terms of philanthropy, the

Alpha Standards program requires fraternities and sororities to raise a minimum of \$60 per member and complete an average of 20 hours of community service per member each year. Each chapter must also attend one community service event as a group, as well as “organize and execute a program or event once a year that benefits an organization” of its choice.

Beta Theta Pi President Ben Ramalanjaona, CC ’13, expressed skepticism about the fundraising component of the Alpha Standards.

“It is not necessarily the case that having more people present at a philanthropy event equates to more money raised,” Ramalanjaona said in an email. “That is part of the reason why we have not actively done fundraising in the past, because it depends heavily on the willingness of other people to give.”

Beta Theta Pi received three stars.

“Both our national organization and chapter place a greater emphasis on philanthropy expressed through community service hours rather than dollars raised,” Ramalanjaona said.

In accordance with that emphasis, Beta Theta Pi hosted a midnight sandwich run earlier this year, with members making hundreds of sandwiches and handing them out to homeless people throughout the city. Brothers in the latest pledge class helped put together a Christmas event for local residents at the Columbia Presbyterian Church.

Renick noted that Greek organizations are in a particularly good position to do work for charity.

“Being a Greek organization

SEE ALPHA, page 2

## Democrat sues N.Y. over state sen. lines

### Local resident argues addition of district is not constitutional

BY CASEY TOLAN  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Redistricting drama in New York might not be over—if a lawsuit headed by a local Democratic leader is successful, it could be back to the drawing board for State Senate district lines.



Upper West Side resident and State Democratic Committeeman Daniel Marks Cohen is the lead plaintiff in the lawsuit, *Cohen v. Cuomo*, which was argued last Friday. The lawsuit alleges the addition of a State Senate seat by the Republican majority in the chamber is unconstitutional. Adding a 63rd seat—which would likely be situated upstate—in the 62-member chamber is widely seen in political circles as an attempt by Republicans to solidify their majority.

Opponents like Cohen also say the district lines the Republicans drew for the 63 seats are highly partisan.

“This takes gerrymandering to a new level of shamelessness,” Cohen said. “It’s really just blatant and it completely disregards the will of the voters.”

New York’s constitution includes a provision that allows for adding of additional seats as warranted by population growth. For decades, Cohen said, the Senate lines were drawn using the same method to count voters. After the 2000 census, the State Senate, controlled by Republicans, disavowed that method, calling it “unconstitutional and inappropriate for purposes of determining State Senate districts.” But after the 2010 census, Republicans backtracked and used the method in part to count population growth and draw new lines.

“They used whatever method they could to get to the answer they wanted,” Cohen claimed.

In a legal memorandum, the attorneys of State Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos stated that the petitioners in the lawsuit “fail to overcome the ‘strong presumption’ that the Legislature’s redistricting plan is constitutional; and they have not carried their considerable burden to show ‘beyond a reasonable doubt’ that the 2012 Senate Plan violates the New York Constitution.”

The petitioners “cannot possibly hope to demonstrate ... that the Legislature’s choice of a 63-seat Senate was not ‘reasonable’ or rational,” the memorandum reads.

According to Cohen, one of the most egregious examples of gerrymandered Senate districts is the 31st district, represented by State Senator Adriano Espaillat—the shape of which Cohen compared to Chile.

“It runs the entire coast of Manhattan, from 181st Street to 23rd Street,” Cohen said. “It’s absurd—in some cases it’s

SEE SENATE, page 2

### OPINION, PAGE 4

#### Meaning behind the Matzo

Jessica Hills examines the Passover Seder’s contemporary significance.

#### Intercultural Core

Professor Rachel Chung on the role of the Global Core in a global world.



### SPORTS, BACK PAGE

#### Lions kick off divisional play

The baseball team heads up to Ithaca, N.Y. this weekend to play Cornell—the current leader in the Lou Gehrig Division—to play two consecutive doubleheaders.

### EVENTS

#### OSS, Intelligence, and Knowledge of the World

Explore the intelligence community’s role in area studies at this conference.  
Second Floor, Heyman Center, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

#### CoLab Spring Showcase

This multimedia dance showcase will feature student dancers.  
Glicker-Milstein Theatre, Diana Center, 9 p.m.

### WEATHER

#### Today



66°/48°

#### Tomorrow



70°/54°



Decision in senate redistricting lawsuit expected by end of month

SENATE from front page

a block wide, and there’s absolutely no justification for that except political shenanigans.”

“You cannot argue that the area the district represents is cohesive, geographically similar, or has similar interests,” he added.

At a public appearance last month, Espaillat called his new district, which has historically been based in Washington Heights and Upper Manhattan, the “spaghetti district,” with “a little spaghetti that goes all the way downtown.”

“My mother is now very happy I have Macy’s, and my son is very happy I now have Madison Square Garden—but it’s a real mess,” he said.

Spokesperson Ibrahim Khan said Espaillat supported the lawsuit.

“Senator Espaillat has been a long-standing opponent of gerrymandering,” Khan said. “We think the voters should pick their representatives, and not the other way around.”

After the lines were passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Andrew Cuomo on March 15, the Democratic State Senators, who walked out of the legislative chamber during the vote, sued to stop them from being enacted. The Senators are providing most of the financing, while Cohen and the other plaintiffs provide standing as registered New York voters.

Petitions for the fall primary can be circulated starting June 5, which means a



HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DISTRICT DIVIDES | Daniel Cohen is leading a lawsuit challenging State Senate redistricting plans.

decision on the district boundaries needs to be made in less than two months—“light speed in the world of the judiciary,” Cohen said.

The lawsuit went before State Supreme Court Justice Richard Braun last Friday.

“I wish I could characterize his perspective as one way or other, but he didn’t tip his hand,” Cohen said. “He didn’t suggest he had one preconceived notion one way or the other.”

Cohen said he expects a decision from Braun around the end of the month. Whatever the decision, the case will almost certainly be appealed to

the State Court of Appeals. If the lawsuit is victorious at the appeals court, Cohen expects the court to turn the task of drawing new lines for 62 seats to the same three-judge federal panel that drew Congressional lines.

“You already have a group of redistricting experts standing by who have just competed their task,” Cohen said, adding that he expected them to draw fair lines.

Part of Governor Andrew Cuomo’s agreement to pass the Senate lines was that in the next redistricting process, drawing the lines would be the task of an independent panel,

not the legislature. But Cohen called the agreement “disingenuous” because the panel would consist of appointees by legislators—“controlled by the legislature but with a veneer of independence,” he said.

The amendment would create a commission of 10 members, seven of whom would need to support the new lines. The commission would have to hold public hearings and the legislature would be constrained in its ability to amend the plan.

Changing the state constitution requires two consecutive legislatures to approve it.

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Butcher joins business growth on FDB

BUTCHER from front page

That supportive atmosphere has made it easier on Forrester and his team to get the independent business up and running. “I just really liked the neighborhood. I liked the vibe,” he said. “Walking around the neighborhood, I liked the energy of the people around on the sidewalk enjoying the day, and I liked the other businesses that were coming up. It was a good fit.”

Forrester came to the meat industry after spending a few years doing equity research, which he said soon got boring.

“There are a lot of different buildings going up that are bringing a lot more people into Harlem.”

—Tim Forrester, Harlem Shambles owner

“This was something I was thinking about for a while, so I just sort of went for it,” he said.

Locals conscious of the quality of their meat have welcomed the business, and the shop has been gaining regulars, according to Forrester.

Hans Hageman, Law ’83, a regular at Harlem Shambles, said the customer service is an important part of the experience for him.

“The service is great. They know us. They know what we like,” he said. “There are some things that I have never tried before, and they’re very informative in terms of giving advice or their opinions on how to cook kidneys, for instance.”

Debora Choi, a West Harlem resident, said she previously had to take the subway to Trader Joe’s or Whole Foods Market when she wanted to purchase grass-fed meat.

“It was not the most convenient,” she said.

Forrester said he is optimistic about the area’s potential for further development, especially with the attention it is receiving now.

“I think it’s a great time to open up a business. There’s a benefit to having other new restaurants coming up, and new businesses bring a lot of attention to the neighborhood,” he said. “There are a lot of different buildings going up that are bringing a lot more people into Harlem, so I think the timing is great.”

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Several fraternities supporting Relay for Life

ALPHA from front page

actually makes it easier to plan philanthropy events than I would expect of a regular club,” he said.

This year, most Greek organizations—including Pi Kappa Alpha, Kappa Delta Rho, and Sigma Nu—geared their philanthropic efforts toward Relay for Life, a nationwide day of volunteer-driven events to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

Pi Kappa Alpha brother Dylan Murphy, CC ’12, said in an email that Pi Kappa Alpha has already raised \$7,338.50 for Relay for Life this semester, making the organization “the number one fund-raising team at Columbia.” Psi Upsilon is also involved in Relay for Life, and it recently started supporting Bookwallah, an organization that promotes children’s literacy.

NEW STANDARDS

Philanthropy was only one of the categories which were assessed by the Alpha Standards program. There were four other categories: academics, leadership development and new member education, housing operations and chapter management, and activities and alumni.

Each category was worth 40 points, for a total of 200 possible points. Psi Upsilon and Kappa Delta Rho are currently on social probation after earning fewer than 140 points, which translates to fewer than three stars.

According to Dean of Community Development and

Multicultural Affairs Terry Martinez, the two fraternities will not be able to host social events until they meet the minimum requirements in next year’s evaluations. Martinez added that the two fraternities’ low scores were partially a result of problems with record-keeping.

The Alpha Standards guidelines state that organizations earning fewer than three stars risk the University revoking their charters. KDR leadership did not respond to interview requests.

Several fraternity leaders and members expressed pride in the results of their Alpha Standards evaluations. Renick, the AEPi president, said that his fraternity’s five-star rating reflected its efforts to rebuild following a December 2010 drug bust in which an AEPi brother was arrested.

“We believe that we fully deserved our rating. No chapter has worked harder to rebuild its image than AEPi, and we believe that our rating reflects that effort,” he said in an email.

Murphy’s fraternity, Pi Kappa Alpha, also earned five stars, winning the “Most Improved” award. Like AEPi, Pi Kappa Alpha had a brother arrested in the drug bust, which led to both fraternities losing their brownstones.

“We’re very proud of our five-star effort and ‘Most Improved Chapter’ award and look forward to the continued success of our chapter in the coming years,” Murphy said in an email.

However, some fraternity

members have criticized the standards. Ramalanjaona said that there is a discrepancy between the Alpha Standards and Beta Theta Pi’s national standards, specifically when it comes to academic achievement.

Ramalanjaona said in an email that although Beta Theta Pi didn’t get the academic achievement award at Columbia, “for the past several years (including 2011) we have been honored with the award for having the highest GPA out of any Beta Chapter at our annual convention.”

Ramalanjaona added that the nature of the standards could be clarified, saying that if “a standard defines a baseline of acceptable activity,” three stars should “be a sufficient place for a Chapter to be.”

“The way they are now, it would be more accurate to call them ‘ALPHA Ratings’ or ‘ALPHA Evaluations,’ which doesn’t sound as nice,” Ramalanjaona said. “Blurring the line between requirements and accolades has the potential to cause confusion.”

Martinez said that changes will probably be made to the standards in future years, particularly to address concerns about the phrasing of questions and the calibration of scores.

“In short, I think they can be improved by first reevaluating what they actually are,” Ramalanjaona said. “The good intent is held back by incongruities in the concept.”

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Novelist reads at Semiperm

FRANZEN from front page

long-term housing to help people transition out of homelessness,” Franzen said, but he was inspired “to see the work that’s being done here at Semiperm, to be around these businesses who directly involve themselves in other people’s lives.”

Semiperm Director Doreen Gibbs said that she sees the building as a “wonderful opportunity” for single-parent families, although the apartments are offered under the agreement that residents will work to secure permanent housing in the future.

“We ask that they participate in moving forward in their lives and take an active role, but not everybody wants to,” she said.

Families who are offered apartments typically stay for 26 months, Gibbs said, and they are allowed to live there for a maximum of five years to ensure that residents continue to move forward with their lives.

“We have people who don’t want to work,” she said. “For the people who are not motivated or haven’t decided that they’re ready for change, it’s not a good fit.”

Catherine Farrington, who studies policy at Columbia’s School of Social Work, has been interning at Semiperm since September.

“It was my lucky day,” Farrington said of the day she was assigned there. “The staff is very dedicated to the mission and it’s very goal-oriented.”

Gibbs said that Semiperm strives to provide residents with the tools needed to secure permanent housing and succeed on their own—something Farrington also echoed.

“They want to allow these women to advance in the right direction,” Farrington said. “It’s absolutely incredible.”

While any single-parent family is eligible to apply for housing at Semiperm, only women have applied for and taken advantage of the housing.

Having Franzen read at the celebration was particularly special for Gibbs, who called him her favorite author because of his ability to connect with the reader on a deeper level, specifically in “The Corrections,” for which he won the 2001 National Book Award.

“It was the first book where I could relate to the characters and they didn’t have a color,” she said. “Usually, I’ll read a book and say ‘black people don’t say that’—there’s something about his writing that just transcends color.”

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HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

‘FREEDOM’ FROM HOMELESSNESS | Distinguished novelist Jonathan Franzen gives a reading from his upcoming essay collection.

Movie poster for 'Life Happens' featuring Krysten Ritter, Kate Bosworth, Rachel Bilson, Geoff Stultis, Austin Kirk, Fallon Goodson, Rysa Corio, and Jason Biggs. The poster includes quotes from Harvey Karpas and Dan Jewell, and mentions awards from the Cinequest Ensemble Award and Atlanta Film Festival. It also lists the director (Kat Corio) and writer (Kat Corio & Krysten Ritter).

Movie poster for 'Hits Hard: The Life & Near Death Story of Patty Schemel' featuring a behind-the-scenes look at the bands who changed music forever. The poster includes quotes from The New York Times and IndieWire, and mentions special events all weekend long. It also lists the director (Patty Schemel) and producer (Eric Erlandson).

Tufts University Summer Session 2012 advertisement. It features the Tufts logo and a circular graphic with the text 'TUFTS SUMMER SESSION 2012'. Below this, it lists the School of Arts and Sciences and School of Engineering, and provides details about the three sessions (May 23-June 29, July 3-August 10, and May 23-August 10). It also mentions over 250 courses, affordable tuition, and convenient subway access.



# FRIDAY FULL COUNT



AT



## COLUMBIA

**Jon Eisen (3B)**  
AVG: .326, OBP: .425, SLG: .379

**Nick Crucet (2B)**  
AVG: .224, OBP: .296, SLG: .265

**Dario Pizzano (LF)**  
AVG: .333, OBP: .461, SLG: .495

**Nick Ferraresi (RF)**  
AVG: .319, OBP: .425, SLG: .543

**Alex Aurrichio (1B)**  
AVG: .209, OBP: .254, SLG: .358

**Alex Black (1B)**  
AVG: .320, OBP: .376, SLG: .480

**Billy Rumpke (CF)**  
AVG: .257, OBP: .330, SLG: .327

**Aaron Silbar (SS)**  
AVG: .227, OBP: .284, SLG: .293

**Mike Fischer (C)**  
AVG: .245, OBP: .322, SLG: .396

## CORNELL

**Brenton Peters (2B)**  
AVG: .305, OBP: .456, SLG: .400

**Marshall Yanzick (SS)**  
AVG: .274, OBP: .351, SLG: .308

**Brian Billigen (DH)**  
AVG: .408, OBP: .468, SLG: .694

**Chris Cruz (RF)**  
AVG: .306, OBP: .388, SLG: .640

**Frank Hager (1B)**  
AVG: .311, OBP: .400, SLG: .456

**Kevin Tatum (LF)**  
AVG: .326, OBP: .445, SLG: .371

**Brandon Lee (C)**  
AVG: .345, OBP: .383, SLG: .448

**Ben Swinford (3B)**  
AVG: .303, OBP: .426, SLG: .461

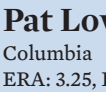
**J.D. Whetsel (CF)**  
AVG: .210, OBP: .300, SLG: .274

### GAME 1



**Rick Marks**  
Cornell  
ERA: 2.89, K: 19, BB: 17

at



**Pat Lowery**  
Columbia  
ERA: 3.25, K: 27, BB: 11



### GAME 2



**Brent Jones**  
Cornell  
ERA: 3.67, K: 30, BB: 11

vs.



**Tim Giel**  
Columbia  
ERA: 4.18, K: 18, BB: 12

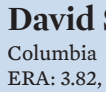


### GAME 3



**Brian McAfee**  
Cornell  
ERA: 4.11, K: 29, BB: 4

vs.



**David Speer**  
Columbia  
ERA: 3.82, K: 27, BB: 10

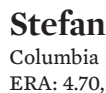


### GAME 4



**Connor Kaufman**  
Cornell  
ERA: 4.97, K: 16, BB: 10

vs.



**Stefan Olson**  
Columbia  
ERA: 4.70, K: 19, BB: 4



## KEYS TO THE GAME

### 1 Good pitching

So far this season, the Big Red is hitting an astonishing .308 through 29 games. The Lions' pitchers will have to be at their best for all four games of this series.

### 2 Keep your streaks

Senior infielder Jon Eisen currently has an 18-game hitting streak, and junior outfielder Dario Pizzano has reached base in 22 consecutive games. They'll need to keep those streaks to lead the Lions' offensive attack this weekend.

### 3 Billigen-dollar man

To say Cornell outfielder and DH Brian Billigen has been outstanding would be an understatement. The senior is batting .408 with five HR, seven 2B, three 3B, and 29 RBIs. Lions pitchers shutting him down would be invaluable.

## Offense needs late-inning heroics to prevail in Ivies

**SCHULTZ from back page**

hits when it counts, Columbia does a good job of not allowing previous failures to interfere with the task at hand. This helps the team: Last year's team, a heavy preseason favorite for the division title, struggled all season to focus on the task at hand rather than on the distant goal of winning a championship. But this year's squad has done very well taking it one game at a time and not worrying too much about either past mistakes or far-off goals.

But when it comes to big moments, it seems the Lions may need a new game plan. The current inning-by-inning attitude overlooks the fact that some situations are simply more important than others. Sometimes it really is win or go home. And in those situations, the Lions' offense cannot afford to come up short.

All this being said, offense is not everything. When the offense is struggling, it's important that the defense and pitching continue picking up the slack rather than giving up hope. In particular, it is critical that the

Lions' pitchers continue not to allow offensive frustration to interfere with their focus. It may be nice to pitch with a cushion, but tight games are inevitable. The Lions' staff has done a good job so far this year in that respect and needs to keep it up if Columbia hopes to contend for a league title.

The defense also needs to remain sharp and not allow errors to upset the flow of the game once the pitcher and offense get things rolling.

Maybe the team's laid-back approach will pay off, and it's only been bad luck that has prevented Columbia from working late-inning magic. Maybe it's only a matter of time until the offense comes through with its back against the wall against an Ivy foe.

But while the Lions could very well have what it takes to achieve their goals, the time for hypotheticals has passed. As Boretti said, "Now it's time to go out and prove it."

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## Pitching, defense key for Columbia

**BASEBALL from back page**

followed by junior Tim Giel on Saturday, and sophomore David Speer, followed by junior Stefan Olson on Sunday. Boretti believes the Lions will be fine as long as they continue to play with good pitching and defense, where they are ranked second and third, respectively, in the Ivy League.

Columbia will play the top two teams in the Lou Gehrig Division in the next two weekends. Even though that means division title is on the line, the Light Blue will use the same approach it has all season.

"You coach it like you would coach every other game, conference, or mid-week or whatnot," Boretti said. "The way we focus on things, it doesn't matter who we're playing or what the situation is. We're just trying to go out and pitch our best baseball."

The Lions took three out of four from the Big Red at Baker Field last year. This year, they hope to ride the momentum of their 9-6 win at St. John's on Tuesday, their first victory over the Red Storm since 2003.

Both doubleheaders of the divisional showdown will get underway at noon this Saturday and Sunday at David F. Hoy Field in Ithaca, N.Y.

## THE SLATE



### BASEBALL

at Cornell  
Ithaca, N.Y.  
Saturday, 12 p.m.,  
2:30 p.m.



### BASEBALL

at Cornell  
Ithaca, N.Y.  
Sunday, 12 p.m.,  
2:30 p.m.



### SOFTBALL

at Cornell  
Ithaca, N.Y.  
Saturday, 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m.



### SOFTBALL

at Cornell  
Ithaca, N.Y.  
Sunday, 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m.



### MEN'S TENNIS

at Yale  
New Haven, Conn.  
Saturday, 2 p.m.



### MEN'S TENNIS

at Brown  
Providence, R.I.  
Sunday, 2 p.m.



### WOMEN'S TENNIS

vs. Yale  
Dick Savitt Tennis Center  
Saturday, 12 p.m.



### WOMEN'S TENNIS

vs. Brown  
Dick Savitt Tennis Center  
Sunday, 12 p.m.



### LACROSSE

at Yale  
New Haven, Conn.  
Saturday, 1 p.m.



### TRACK AND FIELD

Mason Spring Invitational  
Fairfax, Va.  
Saturday, 11 a.m.



### LIGHTWEIGHT ROWING

Dodge Cup  
Leonia, N.J.  
Saturday, 10:15 a.m.



### HEAVYWEIGHT ROWING

Blackwell Cup  
Leonia, N.J.  
Saturday, 10:30 a.m.



### WOMEN'S GOLF

Roar-EE Invitational  
Suffern, N.Y.  
April 13-14



### MEN'S GOLF

Princeton Invitational  
Princeton, N.J.  
April 14-15



### MEN'S GOLF

Manhattanville/ NYU Spring Invitational  
Mamaroneck, N.Y.  
April 14-15

### MEN'S ROWING

This Saturday, both men's rowing teams will compete at Overpeck County Park in Leonia, N.J. The lightweight rowers are looking to continue to build momentum while the heavyweight rowers are hoping to get back on track after a disappointing finish last weekend. The heavyweights took last in a three-team field at the Childs Cup regatta, finishing behind Princeton and Penn, but the Light Blue has a chance at redemption in this weekend's Blackwell Cup. Yale and Penn will be the other two schools at this weekend's race,

which gives the Lions another opportunity to prove themselves against the Quakers. The lightweight rowers, who posted a varsity eights win over Navy a week ago, will compete at the Dodge Cup. The Lions are ranked sixth in the nation according to the USRowing Collegiate Polls, and both of their opponents are ranked in the top 10. Yale's lightweight rowers are second in the nation while Penn is ranked ninth. The Dodge Cup begins at 10:15 a.m. and the Blackwell Cup begins at 10:30 a.m.

—Eli Schultz

### WOMEN'S TENNIS

The Lions (11-4, 2-1 Ivy) will face Yale on Saturday and Brown on Sunday in their penultimate weekend of Ivy League conference competition. Yale and Brown are currently tied for first place in the conference, each with a 2-0 league record. Led by junior and No. 2 Northeast ranked player Elizabeth Epstein, Yale has earned a No. 28 national ranking and a 14-3 overall record. Columbia women's tennis coach Ilene Weintraub is positive heading into the weekend. "I feel confident that if everyone is able to play at their best

we will be able to pull an upset or two," she said earlier this week. Columbia junior and No. 1 seed Nicole Bartnik is prepared for long rallies and lengthy battles against top-ranked Brown and Yale this weekend. "I feel comfortable grinding out points and going on defense, because I feel confident enough in myself that I'll be able to go on the offensive later on," Bartnik said. Columbia is scheduled to face Yale at noon on Saturday and Brown at noon on Sunday at Columbia's Dick Savitt Tennis Center.

—Caroline Bowman

### TRACK AND FIELD

The Lions head down south this weekend to compete in the Mason Spring Invitational on Saturday in Fairfax, Va. One week ago, the Light Blue was split between coasts at two different meets, but had strong showings at both, breaking multiple school records. Senior

Kyle Merber set a new Lion record in the 1,500-meter run at Stanford with a time that will likely qualify him for the NCAA Championships in June. Back on the East Coast, freshman Nadia Eke established a school record in the triple jump at Princeton.

—Melissa Cheung

### LACROSSE

For the second year in a row, Columbia (2-9, 0-5 Ivy) has a chance for its first set of consecutive wins of the season against Yale (3-8, 0-4 Ivy). The Lions are coming off a memorable 19-11 win over Lafayette on Wednesday. Junior attacker Kacie Johnson bested her program records in assists and points in a game from last season with five and nine, respectively,

while freshman defender Emma Tuzinkiewicz had her first career college goal. Yale lost its third straight game to Stony Brook on Wednesday, although the Elis did become only the fourth team to hold the nation's top offense to under 13 goals this season. The opening draw will be on Saturday at 1 p.m. in New Haven, Conn.

—Muneeb Alam

### WOMEN'S GOLF

On Friday, 14 teams from around the Northeast will assemble for the sixth annual Roar-EE Women's Golf Invitational. Sophomore Michelle Piyaattrra will tee off just after 10 a.m., looking to defend her individual title from last year's tournament. She is ranked 151st in the country and will be one of the top five golfers at the invitational. Columbia looks to win this tournament for the third straight year and enters

the competition with the third-highest team ranking, trailing only Harvard and St. John's. In its last action three weeks ago, the Light Blue moved from 20 behind the leaders to three behind in a single round, finishing second at the Monterey Bay Invitational. Columbia's two-day tournament begins Friday at Spook Rock Golf Course in Suffern, N.Y.

—Muneeb Alam

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# Toward a true global core

BY RACHEL E. CHUNG

In 2008, Columbia hosted an international conference on Global Core curriculum, which drew much attention to our historical role in shaping the direction of global core worldwide. As we continue in the struggle to find the right approach and balance within our own Global Core—which I will abbreviate as GC—it occurred to me that GC carries enormous ramifications for the standing of the University as a whole within the global community, touching everything from the success of the new global centers to Columbia’s ability to represent future leadership of the “American university.” It also occurred to me that the solution to our struggle rests not in structural or curricular changes, but in rethinking the pedagogy.

Our students will soon be living in a time when it will be increasingly meaningless to speak of a Western Core or indeed even of “the West” without having global consciousness front and center. In some circles, the word “global” has become a kind of “non-speak” lately, but in my view that’s only because 1) we’ve become used to a very one-sided view of history, 2) we tend to equate globalization with inevitable syncretism and loss of local identity, and 3) most of all, because we haven’t clearly distinguished between multicultural consciousness and global consciousness.

“Global” is a very different animal than “multicultural.” Columbia was among the first universities to recognize the

## After Office Hours

# You are not Columbia University

BY ASHLEY MENDEZ

I am a genius, at least according to my classmate. While I, like most people, enjoy receiving compliments, this particular compliment, given at a meeting, is different. It did not come from a display of great intellectual creativity, or from the revelation of some brilliant accomplishment. Instead, his grand conclusion came from the shock of my acceptance into an Ivy League university when he learned of my previous education system. You see, I did not have a “traditional” education before coming to Columbia. I did not go to a public school and experience the joys of recess. Nor did I attend an elite private school à la Constance Billard School from “Gossip Girl.” Instead, I was home-schooled.

Almost immediately, preconceived ideas and stereotypes about home-schooling pop up when people hear about my background. Do they think of images of brainwashed cultists? What about the idea that home-schoolers stay in their pajamas all day and watch television? Regardless of their acquaintance with home-schooling, people always have an opinion on this type of education.

However, others’ judgments are not unique to home-schooled students. Educational backgrounds are assumed to define us. After all, isn’t that why Ivy League graduates are considered so valuable in the workforce? Whether you attend a state school, a small liberal arts school, a technical school, or Columbia, you are evaluated based on where you read Shakespeare and where you turn in your calculus problem set.

As a home-schooler, I had to fight against societal stigma on a daily basis. I never really “fit” into people’s categories. I attended college classes while I was still in high school. I had read “Wuthering Heights” and other great works by the time I was 10 years old. From a young age, I played on a soccer team, gave speeches to large crowds, and worked with professionals. I am far from alone in achieving these “accomplishments” among home-schoolers. Yet, I was considered ignorant and uneducated. I was assumed to be reclusive and socially stunted. The danger of stereotypes constantly threatened my progress. The only way that I got to where I am today is through hard work and perseverance against the preconceived notions about me.

Even positive judgments about people based on where they went to school can result in misleading assumptions. As Columbia students, you have the reputation, knowledge, and resources to change the world. It is certainly true that Columbia University provides unique opportunities. It is true that you will learn from great scholars and gain the respect of many, simply based on the fact that you go to this school. But all of this is irrelevant if you do not place a higher value on who you are and your influence instead of the University’s influence. At the end of the day, it is about you, not your GPA, internships, or résumé.

If you are a prospective student, come to Columbia because you see yourself being able to grow as a student and as a person in this environment. Don’t base your decision on the school’s reputation. Columbians, whether first-years or seniors, I challenge you not to rely on Columbia’s prestige to establish your future. The name on the top of the diploma is meaningless unless you put meaning in it yourself. Just as I can say with pride that I was a home-schooler, I am proud to be a Columbia University student. But your education is what you make of it. I have had unrivaled experiences and possibilities opened to me based on both types of education. But I am not the essence of home-schooling. I am not Columbia University. I am Ashley Mendez. My school does not define me.

*The author is a Columbia College first-year.*

## STAFF EDITORIAL

# The role of Columbia’s provost

John Coatsworth was appointed permanently to the office of the provost almost two months ago. As Spectator’s former editor in chief Samuel E. Roth and former managing editor Michele Cleary point out in yesterday’s lead story for The Eye (“The Black Box,” April 12), he assumed the office after it had experienced nine years of what many faculty and former administrators consider a relative decline in influence. In a time of administrative transition, we hope to see Coatsworth expand the office of the provost and assert academic goals relevant to the faculty and students.

As Columbia’s chief academic officer, the provost takes part in all major administrative decisions alongside the University president and the senior executive vice president. While the three officers’ positions within the larger University framework are stable, the power dynamics of the three-part relationship remain fluid, and depend in large part on the individuals who occupy the office. The precise nature of many administrative decisions involving the three top offices is opaque, even to other administrators, but nominally, the provost and the senior

*Each Friday, a professor will share scholastic wisdom readers won’t find in lectures. Suggestions regarding which professors to feature are welcome.*

core-ness of learning about other civilizations, but for all that, our non-Western Core has been more or less ornamental additions to what is frequently regarded as the “core of the Core.” For decades, this was fine. If it didn’t anticipate the future, at least it reflected a working reality of the world, and it allowed for an educational model prioritizing one’s own tradition—whatever one’s soil—before going on to learn those of others. If we use the metaphor of “the Great Conversation,” Contemporary Civilization imparted to students an awareness of the nature of the ongoing Conversation and an appreciation for the fact that as thinking citizens, they had the right and the responsibility to participate in it. Multicultural Core simply made students aware of the fact that similar Conversations had been going on in other civilizations as well. The struggle within current GC today is that it’s still operating on the level of this multicultural Core, and in some cases, watering even that down to what I call “myculturalism.”

“Global” is not merely adding more diverse voices or Conversational topics to the fray—though it’s open to that, if desired. Rather, global involves a reconceptualizing of civilizational identity as something gotten in isolation through insistent going over-and-over of landmark moments in one’s intellectual/cultural development. Rather, global involves an ongoing process of self-transformation made vital by meaningful interaction with other beings, ideas, and things. I call this interaction on the deepest level “interculturalation.” The West did not become “the West” on its own. It was shaped from the coming together of Judeo-Christian and Greek-Roman worldviews, from the rich infusion of Arab science and knowledge in the Middle Ages, and from Confucianism and Buddhism that inspired the European Enlightenment,

# A bread-free opportunity for reflection

Last week, Columbia students joined with other New York Jews to make the Exodus from New York City to New Jersey, Long Island, Westchester, and Teaneck. Having left after class in a hurry, I rushed to Penn Station with the few items I had time to take with me. The moment the track number for the West Trenton Line appeared on the departure board, the sea of people split, and I bolted to the platform before they could close up again in front of me. As the New Yorkers behind me nudged me down the escalator in a huge hurry—even though the train wasn’t scheduled to depart for another 10 minutes—I felt as if I, too, had been in Egypt.

The Passover Seder, the ritual meal held each year in which Jews retell the story of the Exodus from Egypt, suffers from a negative PR image. Despite efforts to abridge the narrative and to republish it with modern translations and interpretations, the word “Seder” has become a colloquialism that means any painfully drawn-out experience. For many of us, it brings to mind childhood memories of sitting at a long table in our grandmother’s living room, listening to our grandfather read the dense Hebrew text in his Yiddish accent, and waiting endlessly for the moment when it was time to eat.

In truth, that symbol probably characterizes very few of our actual Passover observances, and yet, each year around the world in preparation for Passover, Jews unite over their shared anticipation of the long meal revolving around a story of times past. Somehow, despite our obsession with TV shows like “Mad Men” and “Downton Abbey” that are throwbacks to earlier times, ancient Egypt has yet to be picked up by producers as a cool, sexy concept for 2012. New PBS Masterpiece series, anyone?

What the Seder needs is an iPhone-friendly PR makeover to play up the continued relevance of the Passover story in 2012. Pared down to one word, Passover for me is about freedom—a topic that I find relevant and relatable—whether you’ve made the Exodus from Egypt or from the Upper West Side to be with your family for the holiday.

At this year’s Seder, packed with my family around my



JESSICA HILLS  
**Urban Dictionary**

etc. Moreover, these interactions didn’t have fixed boundaries—i.e., their influence is so deeply saturated that they have become part of the very way we see and think even as individuals, in that sense becoming generative in their own right. And yet to recognize this does not make the West any less the West, just as the saturation of Buddhism in East Asia is understood today as a revitalization of the culture and not syncretism. In locating civilizational identity in a culture’s creative receptivity, its ability to absorb new ideas and adapt them for its own contexts, we empower students to consider, with greater range and depth, the creative, regenerative potential and responsibility of interculturalation taking place today—going beyond center-periphery categories to develop simultaneously global and local identities.

Interculturalation, then, is a pedagogy not to dismantle Columbia’s Core, but to shift our collective vantage point to see the Great Conversation that has been happening across civilizations, energizing the Conversations that occur within civilizations, and vice versa. A Core founded on interculturalation would focus not on learning about the brilliance of the West and diversity of the rest, but on how and what to learn from the civilizations around us, including the West, without losing sight of what has been central and best to one’s self. The timelessness of “core” is that we have been doing this throughout history. To be timely means turning to learn from their examples as we face the challenges of globalization in our own contexts. It is only in making this shift to global thinking that I believe Columbia can once again continue to lead the future of the American university and of global core—not just Global Core—in higher education internationally.

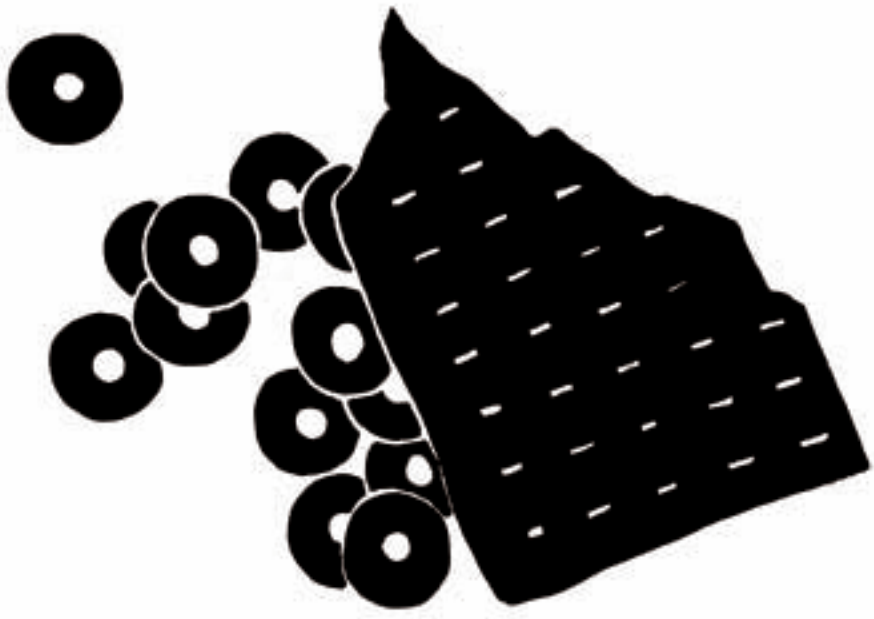
*The author is associate director of the University Committee on Asia and the Middle East and chair of the University Seminar on Global & Interdisciplinary Core Curricula.*

grandmother’s table and listening to my grandfather’s Ashkenazi accent, I connected the dichotomy between freedom and slavery to current events. When I think of what it means to be “free,” I immediately think of my academic freedom as a student. I have the freedom to raise my hand and ask a question, to contest a point, and to voice my opinion in Spectator. As newspaper headlines will reveal on any given day, however, the freedom to debate in public is not guaranteed universally. This year, we have seen students revolt in the Arab Spring, journalists arrested for publishing articles about the government, and websites and newspapers censored.

This year during Passover, I’ve also reflected on what it means to be free to practice my religion and to discuss it without fear of judgment or repression, which has been a revelatory experience for me both living in Paris among non-Jewish friends and sharing an apartment here with non-Jewish suitemates. Last year during Passover in Paris, I was questioned about my dietary restrictions and religious beliefs by friends from places in Europe where there are few traces of Jewish life. I began to appreciate what it has meant to grow up in cities where knowledge of Jewish ways is taken for granted. Traveling last year to European cities where traces of once-vibrant Jewish communities exist only in hidden plaques and memorials, and then this week at Columbia, studying the history of the Vichy regime in France that allied with Germany during World War II, I have gained a more profound understanding of the extent to which the freedom to practice religion—not just for Jews—is still a work in progress.

Why is this night different from all other nights? On all other nights, I mindlessly eat cereal with my roommates. But on this night, as they eat Cheerios and I explain again why I instead reach for the matzo, snacking is a reflective experience during which I celebrate my freedom to openly chomp on Passover foods and to disagree with my professors and classmates at Columbia.

*Jessica Hills is a Barnard College senior majoring in political science and French and Francophone studies. Urban Dictionary runs alternate Fridays.*



Yael Wiesenfeld

executive vice president represent the often-clashing interests of academics and budgeting to the University president.

As we understand it, this relationship is most productive when the provost and senior executive vice president can clash while synthesizing both academic and non-academic interests dynamically. Disagreement is necessary, and the administrative structure calls for forceful and vocal individuals.

From the little information available, it seems that Senior Executive Vice President Robert Kasdin fills that influential role promoting the University’s non-academic interests. But we, like the many faculty members and students, know few details about Kasdin’s particular job requirements—he is not responsible for academic affairs that are more immediately relevant to students and faculty, and as a result, is less visible to us.

Of more interest to us is the role of the provost. Having a strong provost is in the best interests of the faculty and students, ensuring that their concerns are taken into consideration by top administrators. Given the undefined and shifting roles of the president, provost, and senior executive vice president, there is huge potential for Coatsworth to shape his office in the coming years. We hope to see the office of the provost grow and to see a healthy relationship emerge between it and the office of the senior executive vice president.

This office’s growth will be most meaningful if Coatsworth engages with the faculty and students he must represent. Although his predecessor, Claude Steele, assumed the office

directly after leaving Stanford, every other provost in the past 50 years had been appointed from within the Columbia faculty. Coatsworth was appointed from within Columbia’s ranks, but his time here has been relatively short and has mostly been spent as an administrator. He must make an effort to understand the culture of the Columbia faculty and interact with the students.

Coatsworth must know that faculty and students have little interest in the details of executive decision-making at Columbia, but do care enormously about issues such as Columbia’s academic quality and the campus expansion in Manhattanville. The two initiatives are intertwined, and choosing a priority from between the two does not have to be a zero-sum game. All the same, though, a strong provost should represent the interests of current faculty and students. As University President Lee Bollinger has prioritized Manhattanville as his administrative legacy, the provost has a responsibility to ensure that more immediate academic interests are not unduly burdened.

Coatsworth has enormous potential to transform the office of the provost in the next few years. While we have no reason to suspect that Bollinger or Kasdin wants anything but progress for the University’s academic goals, their offices—Kasdin’s especially—serve different roles. A strong administration demands a spirited provost who vocally represents academic interests. We hope Coatsworth will fill that role.



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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

**ACROSS**

1 In tears, say

6 NPR's Totenberg

10 Pasta grain

15 Greenish shade

16 Hemoglobin mineral

17 Like healthy soil

18 Pie nut

19 "Casual-wear" brand since 1873

21 Work on film

23 Bolwid

24 Familia member

25 "Enters a witness protection program, say

29 Maine ... cat

30 Unbeatable service

31 Morlock prey

32 Sister of Rachel

34 More than serious

36 Presaging times

38 Skin-care brand with a "For Men" line

42 "Compromised choice

46 Take off the Tivo

47 Encrust, in a way

48 Goddess of discord

49 Ob-Wan portrayer

52 On the road

54 "Imagine that"

55 Wyoming city near Yellowstone

58 "Wedding shop array

61 Distortion, perhaps

62 Little songbird

63 City on the Aare

64 Song that first topped the charts on 4/13/1967 ... or how its singer's name appears in the answers to starred clues

68 Blink of an eye

71 Bench clearer

72 Pickup shick

73 "L'chaim" is one

74 Seafood serving

75 Author Blyton

76 Els of the PGA

**DOWN**

1 Unruly do

2 Cry after Real Madrid scores

3 With the order switched

4 Give the slip

5 1990 Robert Frost Medal recipient

6 Zero, in Real Madrid scores

7 Fuming state

8 Super stars?

9 Twisted balloon shape, often

10 Christian bracelet letters

11 Weed whacker

12 Muse for Yeats

13 OB/GYN test

14 Boxer with a cameo in "The Hangover"

20 Produce offspring

22 Floor installer

25 Tureen utensil

26 Less chummy

27 De ... tom square one

28 Feudal estates

29 Orion kin

32 Suffix with oct-

35 History test section, often

37 Start to fast?

39 Zachary Taylor, by birth

40 The senior

41 Beasts of burden

43 Sargasso Sea denizen

44 Trumpet effect

45 Toothbrush choice

50 The Aragon is a tributary of it

51 Southern language

53 Hollywood's Minnieux

55 Holding device

56 Refueling ship

57 Street of many mysteries

59 Finalize, as a cartoon

60 Program problem

62 Timely question

65 Patch, say

66 Prefix with com

67 "Xing" one

69 Popular CBS procedural

70 Persian season

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

ABHOR	PROBE	UKE
RAISE	AEROS	NUS
NIGHTSCHOOL	DDT	
OOH	OCEANS	PUZO
CARR	BOTTLEUP	
CROSTIC	SIE	
ABOUT	PUCE	STRAP
PURE	TRADE	HERO
EXTRA	LPGA	OHIO
ISRA	ETERNAL	
ICESHOWS	IRAQ	
DANK	CHURNS	UAL
ONE	SKY	MAGAZINE
LAM	HEMANT	TESTS
SLY	ERECT	ZETAS

[wordeditor@aol.com](mailto:wordeditor@aol.com) 04/13/12

By Garoth Bain

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04/13/12



# GAMEDAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 13 • PAGE 6



## Lions lack consistency on diamond

The Lions have posted some truly impressive wins since returning from their spring break road trip. They beat a talented Rutgers team last Wednesday, a week after defeating Army. They posted dominating victories over Harvard and Dartmouth, and swept Yale and Holy Cross. Tuesday's win against St. John's gave the Lions their second win over a Big East opponent in six days. But the Light Blue has had trouble maintaining consistency. After sweeping Yale to open the Ivy season, Columbia lost the first game of a doubleheader with Brown when a seventh-inning rally fell just short. A 3-2 Columbia lead in Hanover, N.H. last Saturday crumbled abruptly as the Big Green went on to win 11-3.

So far this season, inconsistency has been keeping the Lions from taking the next step as a team. In a tightly contested division that features four teams that all have the talent to contend for a title, it is likely to be consistency rather than ability that determines who will be representing the Lou Gehrig Division in the Ivy League Baseball Championship Series.

The Lions' inconsistency is particularly noticeable on offense. Although the Light Blue has been hitting much better in recent weeks than it had been at the beginning of the season, its bats have a tendency to go silent in big spots. It either posts big innings or struggles for long stretches to score base runners.

In their final at bat against Brown two Sundays ago, the Lions had the tying run on third, and against Harvard last Saturday they had the tying run at the plate with only one out in the final inning. On both occasions, Columbia's offense failed to come through in the clutch.

Of course, guaranteeing success in critical moments is impossible. Offensive inconsistency, in general, is not an easy problem to fix in a sport where the best hitters fail more than 60 percent of the time. Still, the Lions need to find a way to get runs with the game on the line. Even if it has trouble getting

**ELI SCHULTZ**  
**Guest Column**

## COLUMBIA (13-16, 5-3 Ivy) at CORNELL (21-7-1, 7-1 Ivy)

SATURDAY, 12, 2:30 P.M., ITHACA, NEW YORK  
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KATE SCARBROUGH / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**DARING DARIO** | Junior outfielder Dario Pizzano is a key part of the Lions' offense, having reached base in 22 consecutive games.

## Lions look to stay perfect in league against Yale, Brown

**BY STEVEN LAU**  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Tied for first in the league, the men's tennis team (16-2, 3-0 Ivy) will head to Yale and No. 64 Brown this weekend in hopes of extending its 12-game winning streak.

For both Saturday's match against the Bulldogs (12-7, 1-1 Ivy) and Sunday's match against the Bears (14-5, 0-2 Ivy), the No. 37 Lions will be playing on outdoor courts.

Though the Light Blue is primarily an indoor team—Columbia does not have outdoor courts—head coach Bid Goswami is confident his players will not be fazed.

"If you ask me, truthfully, I think we're a pretty good outdoor team," Goswami said.

Yale heads into Saturday's match after splitting its games last weekend against Penn and Princeton. After a strong 5-2 win against the Quakers, in which the top three Yale singles players tallied wins, the Bulldogs fell, 4-3, to the Tigers, who are tied with Columbia for first place in the league.

Despite Yale's mixed start to conference play, Goswami expects the Bulldogs to be a challenge for the Lions in singles.

"Their No. 1, 2, and 3 are very tough players," Goswami

said. "I know they haven't done that well in the last year or so, but they are good."

Regardless of the competition, Goswami is confident the Light Blue are capable of dominating. The Lions proved their worth last Sunday when they took five of the six singles matches against No. 24 Harvard to stage a 5-2 upset.

The standout match against the Crimson was freshman Winston Lin's 6-1, 6-2 defeat of Harvard's Jonathan Pearlman in the No. 1 spot.

Thanks to Columbia's sweep of Dartmouth and Harvard last weekend, the Lions moved up 13 spots in the

national rankings from No. 50 to No. 37.

On Sunday, Columbia will face the Bears, who are ranked No. 64 in the nation. But despite its ranking, Brown is winless so far in conference play after Princeton and Penn both defeated the Bears, 4-3, last weekend.

Now that the Lions are at the top of the table, Goswami expects both Yale and Brown to be hungry for wins.

"We have to be on our toes, and we have to expect them to play well now that we are the hunted ones," Goswami said.

Saturday's match at Yale and Sunday's match at Brown are set to begin at 2 p.m.



## CU faces tough test in Ithaca

**BY RYAN YOUNG**  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

The Columbia baseball team opens up divisional play this weekend as it heads to Ithaca, N.Y. to take on the Lou Gehrig Division leaders, Cornell (21-7-1, 7-1 Ivy), in a pair of doubleheaders. The Lions (13-16, 5-3 Ivy) come into the weekend trailing the Big Red by two games in the standings for Ivy baseball's most competitive division, where all four teams are within two games of each other.

Despite losing to Binghamton on Wednesday, Cornell has won eight of its last 10 games since dropping its Ivy opener, including sweeps of Dartmouth, Brown, and Yale. In the midst of its Ivy winning streak, the Big Red even has a no-hitter under its belt, after sophomore Connor Kaufmann dominated Dartmouth on April 1.

Kaufmann has the highest ERA of the four starting pitchers the Lions will likely see this weekend. The other three starters include senior Rick Marks, freshman Brent Jones, and freshman Brian McAfee.

"They've got some guys who are throwing the ball well, throwing a lot of strikes," head coach Brett Borette said. "They do a good job of limiting bases, their walks are down. We definitely know we are going to be challenged offensively to get on base and get some timely hits."

Cornell leads the league in pitching, boasting an ERA of 3.56, which is over a run better than any of the other Ancient Eight squads. The Big Red also tops the Ivies in hitting, with a .307 batting average, 203 runs, 86 extra-base hits, and 121 walks. It is one home run shy of Princeton's league-leading 20 blasts.

"I don't really look at numbers a whole lot—the numbers are a reflection sometimes of who you've played and who you haven't played," Borette said. "So we know what they've done and they've had some success early here and they're going to be a tough team."

Unlike most of the lineups the Lions have faced the last two weekends, Cornell's hitters allow for little room to breathe. Seven of its nine starters have averages above .300, including senior outfielder Brian Billigen, who leads the league in several offensive categories, including batting average (.408) and RBIs (29). Sophomore outfielder Chris Cruz leads the league with nine home runs this season.

Last weekend, the Big Red won three of its four games in the final inning, including a pair of come-from-behind victories in New Haven, Conn. "When a team's doing that, they're definitely playing with a lot of confidence and feeling good about themselves," Borette said. "I think the early schedule that they played that gave them some wins there definitely helped a pretty young team have a good frame of mind as they moved forward."

The Lions hope for more consistency as they move forward with last weekend's rotation: senior Pat Lowery

**SEE BASEBALL**, page 3

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# Weekend

## Brooklyn's open-air cabinet of curiosities

BY OLIVIA AYLMER  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

The old adage “one man’s trash is another man’s treasure,” has never proved truer than at the Brooklyn Flea Market.

As a first-time visitor, I envisioned endless tables strewn with old odds and ends, racks of vintage dresses, and hip Brooklynites brewing fair-trade coffee. While I found all of these, I also experienced the infectious buzz found in this hive of passionate vendors.

The Flea, which reopened its outdoor Fort Greene location last Saturday, draws over 150 local and regional vendors to set up shop annually. They offer an eclectic mix of rare and homemade wares, ranging from retro typewriters to handcrafted bicycles. Since its founding in April 2008, the Flea has grown immensely, financially stimulating entrepreneurs and small businesses alike, and attracting both locals and tourists to spend the day shopping and eating to their hearts’ content. The real beauty of the Flea lies in its ability to bridge the gap between vendor and customer, allowing for a true community spirit to blossom.

Making my way through the maze of booths, I found myself drawn to a table piled high with vintage purses and pocketbooks, where I met none other than the self-described “bag ladies” of the Flea: Maryann Schlesinger and Gerri Riedman, best friends since seventh grade.

Schlesinger developed a passion for collecting one-of-a-kind accessories in her teens, while Riedman became interested in American-made pottery and colorful depression glass in college in the early 1970s. The pair agreed that there came a point of accumulation when they knew it was time to start selling. Fortunately, customers welcomed their vintage pieces with open arms—and wallets.

“The variety of things being sold is as complex as the people that buy. People are into vintage today. They are learning to mix it with more modern styles, creating a special look,” Schlesinger said.

The Flea has proven the perfect outlet to showcase a collection of pieces as timeless as their friendship. As we chatted, the women reminisced about their days spent together at Woodstock in 1969, and Schlesinger called it “the best time of [her] life.”

“If you believe in universal connection, for me that was the experience I had,” Schlesinger said. “Total freedom, plenty of great pot, and most of all, the most amazing music. Think about seeing Jimi Hendrix, The Who, Jefferson Airplane, all in one place over a three-day period. That can never be duplicated.”

The bonds that Schlesinger has formed with her customers over the years also stand the test of time. While she has met many “wonderful and interesting” people from all over the world, she said that the most memorable relationship was formed with a young woman named Hazell.

“She bought some things from me, and I gave her a hankie as a gift. I recommended the book ‘The Secret’ to her. We just connected. She came back to me

SEE BROOKLYN, page B3



Best of

Tribeca Film Festival

From April 18 to 29, the annual TriBeCa Film Festival will return for its 11th iteration. Tickets are already on sale for American Express cardholders, but the general public will have to wait until Monday, April 16 for access to the ticket booth. Panel discussions with leading film industry members and a breathtaking slate of unconventional films—many of which are premiering at the festival—make TriBeCa a cinephile’s delight. Tickets go fast, though, so get them as soon as you can. To get you started on your itinerary-building, we’ve made a list of some of this year’s more interesting offerings. A complete lineup can be found at the festival’s website, [www.tribecafilm.com](http://www.tribecafilm.com). —*Stefan Countryman*

Consuming Spirits (130 mins.)

Animated



Foregoing conventional animation, Chris Sullivan spent almost 15 years interspersing grotesque, paper cutout figures—arranged by hand and shot frame-by-frame on 16mm film—with drawn and stop-motion animation. What results is an uncanny tale of a broken family in an Appalachian town.  
*Playing April 23, 24, and 25*

The Virgin, the Copts and Me (85 mins.)

Documentary



Secular director Namir Abdel Messeeh’s documentary was initially conceived as an exploration of Virgin Mary sightings among Egyptian Coptic Christians, but after his Coptic family objected, he switched his attention to its antics. The documentary becomes a tongue-in-cheek exploration of his family’s heritage and its unique quirks.  
*Playing April 22, 24, 25, and 26*

Cut (120 mins.)

Drama



Aspiring Tokyo director Shuji gets his films funded by his brother. His brother gets the money from yakuza, the Japanese mob. Shuji’s films fail utterly, and he is forced to pay back the mobsters by becoming a human punching-bag-for-rent. Director Amir Naderi fills “Cut” with shots, style, and spunk that hark back to the glory days of Japanese classic cinema.  
*Playing April 23, 26, and 27*

Yossi (83 mins.)

Romance



Yossi is an Israeli veteran, a workaholic doctor, and a closeted gay man dealing with loneliness and loss. By chance, he stumbles across a group of young soldiers at a truck stop, beginning an emotional thawing in the searing desert. Yossi is acted by a phenomenally sensitive and convincing Ohad Knoller in this passionate love story.  
*Playing April 19, 21, 23, and 24*

Beyond the Hill (94 mins.)

Drama



A feud erupts between Faik, an old forester, and nomads grazing their goats on his land. Faik and his farmhand Mehmet steal and butcher a goat in retaliation, and a horrific chain of escalating retribution ensues. Director Emin Alper develops his chilling atmosphere by focusing on the tense moments between the violence rather than the violence itself.  
*Playing April 19, 21, 23, and 25*

The Fourth Dimension (106 mins.)

Experimental



Three short films by three directors are linked by the common titular theme—an exploration of the fourth dimension. Varying drastically in tone and plot, the segments blow through a range of human drives and emotions with alternating humor and gravitas. The premise of the first short—Val Kilmer playing a motivational speaker named Val Kilmer—gives a good sense of what can be expected on a foray into “The Fourth Dimension.”  
*Playing April 24, 25, and 27*

Keep the Lights On (102 mins.)

Romance



Directed by Ira Sachs, a faculty member of Columbia’s School of the Arts, “Keep the Lights On” is an autobiographical story of Erik and Paul and their late-night hookup turned exclusive relationship. Over the years, their self-destructive tendencies tear them apart. Sachs follows the tragic love story with utterly sensual shots and a heart-wrenching score that gives “Keep the Lights On” a rare vivacity.  
*Playing April 25, 26, and 29*

Wavumba (80 mins.)

Documentary



“Wavumba” follows Masoud, a legendary shark fisherman on the Kenyan coast, on his last attempt at catching a big shark before his aging body gives out. Stunningly colorful and crisply shot, the film is Jeroen van Velzen’s ode to the mystical fishing lore and the mythic fishermen who defined his youth, and his attempt at reimagining that magic.  
*Playing April 22, 23, 25, and 26*





PHOTOS COURTESY OF DIANE BLACKMAN

CLASSICAL COLLABORATION | Musicians Aleksey Igudesman and Richard Hyung-Ki Joo will make their debut at Carnegie Hall on April 17.

## Musical duo finds balance between comedy, classical performance

BY ANATOLE ASHRAF  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

They have been described as “Mozart meets Monty Python! ‘South Park’ meets Bach.” Even so, when violinist Aleksey Igudesman launches into a near-perfect impression of Cartman, it is unexpected, bizarre, but completely personable and funny—much like the musical duo of which he is a part. Igudesman is half of Igudesman and Joo, a duo he formed with his long-time friend Richard Hyung-Ki Joo, combining classical music and comedy (and an arsenal of comedic tricks) to make audiences convulse with laughter. They are preparing to make their debut at Carnegie Hall next Tuesday, April 17. The pair developed their show “A Little Nightmare Music” in 2004, which combined classical renditions of popular songs with sketches involving slapstick and physical comedy. Videos of the show have garnered upwards of 28 million views on YouTube. The duo has performed around the world, and has been joined by some of the biggest names in classical music, such as Grammy Award-winning violinist Joshua Bell, and actors like John Malkovich and Roger Moore. Igudesman and Joo have been friends since they met at age 12 while attending England’s Yehudi

Menuhin School. They have collaborated ever since, with the shared vision of making classical music accessible to wider and younger audiences, or as Igudesman put it, “to reinvent the event of the concert.” “We’re essentially musicians, and we come from classical music, but we love all types of music,” Igudesman said. “We’ve always found that the atmosphere of a classical concert hall is really stuffy. It’s a bit like going to a funeral. We just think that music, whatever type of music it is, should be a celebration.” “A Little Nightmare Music” was partly born out of a fascination with “things going wrong,” according to Joo. “We’ve found that the unexpected is often more curious to the audience,” Joo said, “So we plant a lot of mistakes in our show. In performance itself we make mistakes because we’re not robots. So basically ‘A Little Nightmare Music’ is a giant mistake.” According to Igudesman, the duo tries to meet the challenge of bringing classical music to a wider, younger audience by refusing to alienate anyone who comes to their shows. “A wonderful byproduct of our show is that if there’s an inside joke for the connoisseur, there is something for someone who knows nothing about

classical music,” Igudesman said. “When people are made to laugh their attention span is higher, so when we play ... serious classical music they are really listening with an intent that they normally might not have had. It may not be the only way to present classical music, but it is one way to make it more accessible.” “We’ve always found that the atmosphere of a classical concert hall is really stuffy.” —Aleksey Igudesman

The Carnegie Hall show will not only feature the duo’s trademark physical comedy and classical proficiency, but also invite two surprise guests, including a rock star who “has sold more albums in the U.S. than Michael Jackson,” Joo said. For those curious about the duo’s work, which also includes a taping of the show with a full orchestra called “BIG Nightmare Music,” Igudesman suggests looking them up on YouTube. “Or an online dating agency,” Joo said.

## To the Naysayers: Some Optimism For an Unexpected Bacchanal

Big Gigantic? Curren\$y? Waves? They weren’t on my bucket list either, but I don’t understand all the controversy.

I may be a naive first-year who has yet to understand what exactly Bacchanal means to the Columbia community, but isn’t variety a good thing? Why should the Bacchanal committee be forced to choose the same kinds of acts (regardless of their financial situation) year after year? We are all lucky enough to be attending school in New York, a city that attracts the biggest and best acts from all over the world. With some careful time and money management, we’re granted access to a nearly limitless supply of music, shows, and exhibits. That’s not even including our ridiculously easy train access to other major cities, each with their own artistic quirks. Many top universities are in the middle of nowhere, depending solely on their own booking abilities to satisfy their music-hungry students—that’s not Columbia. As I said before, I’m not an expert on the ins and outs of this year’s Bacchanal controversy (on



DAVID ECKER  
Slightly Off Key

There’s no reason to become a carbon copy of the greater New York arts scene when we have opportunities to enhance and complement it.

that I’d refer to some of my Spectator colleagues), but I believe it serves as an interesting opportunity to ruminate on Columbia’s place in the larger city music scene. We are a vibrant arts community to be sure—but we are not, nor should we be, self-sufficient. It would be an insult to the city we live in if we limited our major musical event to hosting the big and predictable acts. There’s no reason to become a carbon copy of the greater New York arts scene when we have opportunities to enhance and complement it. Our students approach the city with a unique perspective in so many fields (including music), so why should our bookings be any different? It should mean something to us as Columbia students that while Pitbull and Springsteen are

playing downtown, we get to party with some jazz-electronica and surf punk. While the hipsters and anti-hipsters in the city defend their turfs and grow increasingly stuck in their ways, let’s take some risks and enjoy the hell out of Bacchanal. Yes, the lineup is unexpected, and I have no idea how they’ll perform, but we should at least give them the opportunity to win us over with amazing sets. Whether facing financial pressures or not, this year’s Bacchanal has made an interesting decision that will present us with an opportunity to see something we might never have otherwise seen. Whatever our monetary situation may be is irrelevant. Even if we could afford the biggest and most mainstream acts, we shouldn’t always feel an obligation to do so. First-years will have three more chances, and seniors have already had the opportunity to see numerous big names. As an incredibly diverse campus both in experiences and ideas, we have a chance to contribute to New York’s already staggering musical diversity, and those interests are not served by raising a major stink every time someone thinks outside of the box.

David Ecker is a first-year in Columbia College. Slightly Off Key runs alternate Fridays.

## When borscht is more than a colonial fetish

When my parents came in town for Pesach, I took them to The Breslin, a British pub. Not a kosher choice. April Bloomfield, chef and owner of The Breslin, just released a cookbook cum memoir called “A Girl and Her Pig.” I ordered a tongue sandwich, which comes with a bowl of borscht that’s more sweet and sour than babushka. Hello Mr. Chow minus crunchy wonton noodles. A shandeh un a charpeh. The hot broth, viscous enough to coat a knife, looks like blood—as though a lamb’s throat, cut for sacrifice, wept thick tears over the bowl. Little lamb, who made thee? I did, some volcanic God supping on his subjects. (Then again, it seems to me I hear, when I do hear sweet music, the dreadful cries of murdered men in forests.) Since the 1970s, beets have been showing up on Seder plates as a substitute for lamb shankbone. A sliced beet bleeds, so vegetarians offer it up to save the sheep. Besides the borscht though, lunch at The Breslin was a goyishe affair, vulgar. Made painfully aware of our good fortune, we accepted blasé service from a dandy. We ate cramped like sardines on the Queens.

I had better borscht two weeks earlier at Streecha, a Ukrainian restaurant buried in an East Village basement. When there is a voice at the door it is Slavic. Families chatter around folding tables. A frail woman takes orders and plates stuffed cabbage. My parents’ parents’ parents’ came from Lithuania and Kiev, so I recognize these flavors, shoveled somewhere deep in my Jewish genealogy and covered with clay from the Mississippi. My bubbe makes stuffed cabbage, too, and a tomato-based cabbage soup. But these are not my people. On Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, the St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church runs Streecha as a community commons and mess hall. Where I want Yiddish, I find a foreign tongue.

I have some pretensions to self-awareness. I have the best of intentions. Yet, I fall victim to “cultural food colonialism” as much as the next schlub. In her essay “Let’s Eat Chinese!” Lisa Heldke coined the term to describe eating habits that replicate “various ideologies of western colonialism.” Do you believe that “novel and exotic is always better,” devote yourself to authenticity, and use “the ethnic Other” to “meet your own expectations, fill your own desires, and therefore embellish your own identity?” Do you collect eating experiences in order to accumulate cultural capital and enhance your own social standing? If so, you too might be a part-time colonialist. But my preference for Streecha over The Breslin has little to do with a colonial fetish. My affection for cheap little delicious restaurants follows from a conviction that a cosmopolis assembles cultural difference in productive configurations. I believe that we can write counter-narratives to both bourgeois dining rituals and culinary tourism. To discover those narratives, I accept the risk of colonial afterimages. In the process, I hope to evade a postcolonial script and learn a new urban poetics. My aesthetic orientation to the city imagines an encounter with otherness as an ethical confrontation. O seasoned heart, come, fill my cup with borscht. I will bear witness.

Sauerkraut, sweet and buttery, sings a smooth fermented sigh. It speaks to me in a dialect I barely understand as familiar. A snappy sausage hums a melody sealed tight, for two centuries, in glass jars. The sound escapes like the smell of time flees from books. I cannot let a last bite of plump varenyky, laden with sour cream, linger long enough. I remember that I remember an antique kiss, but cannot tell of its taste. If I have forgotten that kiss or never known my Ukrainian family, I will not lose this meal. It will live forever here, a dead letter that inscribes in print what defeats speech.

Jason Bell is a Columbia College junior majoring in English. In Defense of Delicious runs alternate Fridays.

## Brooklyn Flea Market boosts local economy while building community camaraderie

BROOKLYN from page B1

last summer and told me that I changed her life. I was overwhelmed,” Schlesinger said. “There were plenty of hugs and tears. A simple chat between two women changed her life.” Spotting a pastel-dyed tote, I strolled over to inspect it more closely. I was surprised to learn that Ryan Greer, owner and designer of Flux productions, entirely hand-makes his line of screen-printed T-shirts and leatherwear. In true Brooklyn fashion, Greer transports his pieces to the Flea straight from his studio a few blocks away via bike. “There’s a real sense of people coming from the neighborhood. They’re your neighbors, you know them, they come, and they see what you make,” Greer said. Other vendors find inspiration in their travels, bringing back a hand-curated selection of curiosities to share—such as John Zaso and Keith Lowery, the duo behind the fledgling home décor booth Hunters & Gatherers. With shelves displaying framed butterflies, alligator heads, and “any antler horn in the book,” they might just succeed in turning taxidermy chic. As visual display artists in national showrooms, Zaso and Lowery always dreamed of opening their own shop. When the economic downturn led them to seek other means of exposure

aside from “brick and mortar stores,” they found a home at the Flea. “This environment is like being in a traveling carnival. You become a family,” Zaso said. It was hard to ignore the infectious laugh from a few booths over. Following the echo, I found the resident Brit of the bunch, Yvonne Potter, who has attracted prominent buyers with her carefully curated selection of vintage costume jewelry, couture, and objets d’art. Potter found her way into the business by way of her mother, Maria Rush, a well-known antique dealer in London’s Portobello Road for over 40 years. As a child, she accompanied her to thousands of auctions, flea markets, estate sales, and thrift stores, building her knowledge by learning from and listening to other dealers. “Launching a business in America has been an easy process,” Potter, who lives in an 1840s cottage in the Berkshires with her husband David H. Potter, said. “It’s been incredibly rewarding reaping the rewards of selling items I have memories of purchasing in Paris, Lille, Boston, Nottingham, Prague, and London in the 1980s and 1990s before wearing vintage was even acceptable.” In light of America’s recent obsession with period romps such as “Mad Men,” Potter has her sights set on mod metallic, knee-length lace, sheer mini-dresses, and pill box hats from the late 1960s to early 1970s. She follows the trends irreligiously in order to outfit her customers—a mélange of fashion

stylists, hipsters, collectors, socialites, and trend-setters—in the best fashion that eras past have to offer. As a member of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts in New York, and with more and more period films being made in Manhattan, Potter envisions her future in the field of freelance sourcing for lead costume designers. “As vintage dealers, we’re all very creative. This is our blood. This is how we make our blood and bread money and pay the rent,” Potter said. “We need to be on top of things before you, the buyer get to the shop.” One such buyer, American model Amber Rose, regularly stops by her booth to try on extra-large, 1960s, semi-precious stone Afghan cuffs. And crimson-haired crooner Florence, from Florence and the Machine, came by late last summer. Potter asked her to sing “God Save the Queen” in exchange for a discount on a vintage pair of 1980s nautical cruise-ship loungewear. “She did, and she did it beautifully,” Potter said. I said goodbye to Potter, preparing to head out, when I stumbled upon a booth that left me nostalgic in the best possible way. Dan’s Parent’s House consists of a quirky hodgepodge of toys and memorabilia sold by Dan Treiber, who “lives by the Flea.” While on tour with the label he runs, Crafty Records, Treiber spent months fixing up his childhood home in City Island. He soon realized that he could make some extra cash by parting with his

“stuff,” a large part of which consists of Star Wars figurines that die-hard fans could not resist. I may not be one of them, but I admit, I came dangerously close to shelling out over a hundred for a life-sized wooden rendition of Eloise at the Plaza. Three years later, Treiber finds himself balancing fatherhood to five-month old twins with his wife, artist Reina Mia Brill, and successfully running both his record label and his booth at the Flea. At the Flea, he is known especially for his Star Wars figurines and memorabilia, but now that he’s more established, Treiber says that people come to him with objects from their childhood as well. “I have never been more excited. We get to raise two happy babies, sell nostalgia for a living, and occasionally make art,” Treiber said. I love how excited people get when they come in my booth with a huge smile on their face and pick up a certain object. The stories people tell rarely get old.” I left the Flea with a few unexpected treasures, a full stomach, and a smile. En route back to the Upper West Side, I felt lucky to have spent my Saturday afternoon in the company of people who genuinely love what they do and where they work. As Treiber said, “They have created a space where I can set up and sell to 5,000 people or so a day on the weekend. I am able to raise twins, pay a mortgage, and still enjoy every day because of them. They have set up a community that I am thankful to be a part of.”



# Flipside Guide



**ADVERSE AWAKENING** | Philippe Falardeau’s “Monsieur Lazhar” tells the story of an Algerian immigrant who takes charge of a classroom in the wake of tragedy.

## ‘Monsieur Lazhar’

Oscar-nominated film tells a subtle, poignant tale of loss and healing

BY GABRIEL DEARDS  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

What can one say in the wake of tragedy? Philippe Falardeau attempts to answer that question in “Monsieur Lazhar,” a delicately crafted masterpiece. The film tells the story of its namesake character, Bachir Lazhar, portrayed by Mohammed Fellag, an Algerian immigrant starting out as a substitute teacher at an elementary school in Montreal. Hired after the unexpected suicide of a beloved teacher, Bachir takes charge of the class, guiding them through the crisis-filled school year.

Bachir himself is presented as an outsider to the school. The cultural gap between him and his students is immediately apparent—Bachir often misses the subtler nuances of Québécois sarcasm. Furthermore, the teacher’s strict approach to discipline and academic standards rub the students and administration the wrong way. Eventually, Bachir’s warmth and disarming kindness break down these barriers, allowing him to connect with his students and bring some form of emotional stability to their shattered school. Unbeknownst to them, Bachir is also nursing the wounds from his own personal tragedy, which lends depth to his relationship with his charges, and to the film.

Though the setting is distinctly foreign, the film manages to be accessible through the cultivation of its characters and setting. From the dialogue subtitled in English and draped in subtle French cultural nuance, the film is grounded by its authentic presentation of a school as a living entity. From the pastel-colored hallways to the artwork lining the lockers, the school feels authentic while still reeling from a traumatic event it is trying to understand.

The school is populated by a typical assortment of classroom characters. Each, however, is well-defined and impressively acted—a difficult feat to pull off with a cast of children. One laudable example is Sophie Nélisse, who plays Alice, the teacher’s pet, with surprising maturity and depth of feeling. Fellag shines as he interacts with his class. We see Bachir come alive within the classroom, which contrasts poignantly with the touching loneliness he experiences and the sorrows that are revealed about his past life back in Algeria. In the classroom setting, Lazhar provides the framework for his students to finally express their sadness as well as his own.

Ultimately, “Monsieur Lazhar” asks the question of how we move on in the wake of a tragedy we cannot explain. Though the film provides no obvious resolution, there is no need for one. This beautiful and touching work manages to get its message across with a passive voice. Sadly and mournfully, it acknowledges that tragic events happen for reasons unknowable. Still, the characters and the film itself provide an answer: a caring exegesis, filled with heart. Lazhar gives his students a voice. He lets them ask questions. Together, they help each other—and the audience—heal.



**WHERE IT’S AT**  
**Time:** Mon-Fri 8 a.m. to 12 a.m.,  
Sat 10 a.m. to 12 a.m.,  
Sun 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.  
**Place:** 26 Bond Street  
**Cost:** \$10-\$30



HANNAH CHOI FOR SPECTATOR

**HIPSTER HANGOUT**| The Smile offers tasty fare perfect for a weekend brunch—but for prices that far exceed the student budget.

## The Smile

Good starters set this rustic, hip restaurant apart, other fare proves pricey

BY MIHIKA BARUA  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

It is easy to miss The Smile among the glitzy and colorful storefronts in NoHo. Walking down a short flight of wrought-iron steps transports food aficionados into the dining room of a rustic vineyard. Located at 26 Bond St., between the Bowery and Lafayette, The Smile serves up an interesting tasting experience in a cozy atmosphere—albeit for a high price.

For those on a student budget, the most affordable items on the menu are the starters and sides, which range from the unusual—minted sugar snap peas and marinated goat cheese—to the more conventional, like fava bean crostini and Moroccan lamb meatballs.

After scanning the menu to see that most of the main dishes were outside our budget, we ordered the trio of dips and a lettuce and radish salad. The dips (\$12) were an eclectic group: sweet and tangy roasted carrot-ginger (my personal favorite), creamy but bland yellow split pea, and crunchy and tasty almond. Served with a basket of toasted mini baguettes, they proved to be surprisingly filling. The distinctly flavored dips, which are paired perfectly with the hard, crunchy baguettes, make good conversation

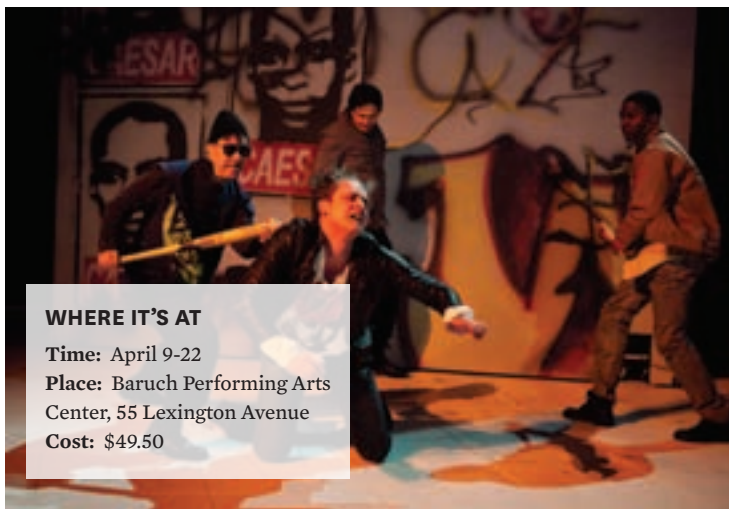
food—they take a while to get through and easily serve two.

The Bibb lettuce and shaved radish (read: six thin slices) salad (\$10) came with a diluted red wine vinaigrette and some sliced avocado. It was disappointingly bland. Perhaps the mixed greens and plum salad or the nectarines, tomato, and mozzarella salad would have been a better selection.

The Smile’s brick walls, dark wooden floors and dim lighting create a rustic-chic ambience to complement the food. The restaurant has a relaxed atmosphere with some vaguely hipster vibes: Its servers were dressed in flannels and skinny jeans. The Smile seems to attract the younger, working/artsy crowd, and would be a good choice for a date—what better conversation-starter than getting lost trying to find the place?

The Smile recently opened a takeout version of their restaurant, called The Smile to Go, located at 22 Howard St. The fact that the takeout shop was almost out of food at 6 p.m. speaks to the popularity of the place.

The Smile is a good pick for brunch over the weekend after a walk or bike ride through SoHo and Little Italy. It’s a nice spot to escape the Morningside Heights bubble, explore the neighborhood, and munch on some tasty appetizers before heading to Little Italy for a hearty (and less costly) pizza.



**WHERE IT’S AT**  
**Time:** April 9-22  
**Place:** Baruch Performing Arts Center, 55 Lexington Avenue  
**Cost:** \$49.50



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HEIDI BOHENKAMP

**ET TU, WALL STREET?** | Kevin Orton and Caleb Carlson perform the play’s infamous assassination (left), and actors Ray Chapman and Whitney Hudson perform in modern costume in the Acting Company’s adaptation (right).

## ‘Julius Caesar’

Despite good acting, Wall Street adaptation of the classic play falls flat

BY REUBEN BERMAN  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

As Brutus, friend of Caesar, pulls his knife from his dear companion and watches him die on the floor, he tells his co-conspirators that “ambition’s debt is paid.” In these words, he encapsulates the life of Caesar, a man who allowed his ambitions to carry him too far too fast, and whose death is the final price to be paid. Unfortunately, he also offers a quick summary of the production of “Julius Caesar” put on by the Acting Company in association with the Guthrie Theater at Baruch College.

With eyes far larger than their stomachs, the company tried to tie this play to the contemporary movements of Occupy Wall Street and the corporate-political world to which OWS objects. The production fails to make a cohesive point about modernity because of its too-wide scope, and instead provides unconnected motifs that occasionally pique the audience’s interest.

This is not to say that the staging or acting was unacceptable. Dominating the stage in the first half was the duo of Sid Solomon and William Sturdivant as Cassius and Brutus, brothers-in-arms against the tyrant Caesar, played by Bjorn DuPaty. Dressed in contemporary suits and ties, the senators become members of either a cabinet or boardroom meeting, while the conspirators are armed with letter openers. Solomon gave an especially remarkable

performance, evoking, in both looks and mannerisms, a more dead-ly and devious version of Sam Seaborn, Rob Lowe’s character from “The West Wing.” But it was Sturdivant who propelled the action forward with his masterful oratory, pushing the senators and then preventing them from killing more than they thought was necessary.

Enter Marc Antony, played by a marvelously powerful Zachary Fine. Resounding in word and powerful in deed, Fine addresses a funerary oration to the ensemble, whose seating among the audience gives the effect that everyone in the theater is a part of the crowd on the day of Caesar’s death.

Director Rob Melrose made several interesting choices in his staging, using a large number of video screens with views of Washington D.C., as well as short but powerful transition videos. Combined with the loud hip-hop, the multimedia additions bring the audience forward into the 21st century. But the message remains unclear, as the echoes of modernity don’t resonate purely. No such political or corporate power is as beloved by the masses as Caesar was by the Roman mob. In the political sphere, there is no dominant personality taking the crown, but a grinding deadlock between small men. We have no Caesar to love and support, no greatness of spirit nor benefactor of the people. Caesar, “the choice and master spirits of this age,” is no more, and, from the looks of it, such a man shall never rise again.

### events

#### ART

##### ‘Intellectual Derelict’

—Wave Hill-Glyndor Gallery, Independence Avenue at 249th Street, Sunday, \$2-\$8

In the exhibit “Intellectual Derelict,” artist Alejandro Guzman takes inspiration from Wave Hill’s gardens in creating his colorful, wearable sculptures. On Sunday, Guzman will model his own pieces, which includes a suit of flowers and man-made materials.

#### FOOD & DRINK

##### Oyster Shuck & Cask

—Bierkraft, 191 Fifth Ave. (between Berkeley Place and Union Street), Saturday, \$4-\$8

Celebrate the opening of Bierkraft’s outdoor patio and the warmer springtime weather with freshly shucked bivalves and craft brews. Oysters will be available by the dozen or half dozen, perfect for washing down with a few drinks.

#### WILDCARD

##### Nerd Nite

—Galapagos Art Space, 16 Main St. (at Water Street), Friday, 7 p.m., \$14

Brainiacs from all walks of life converge at this monthly meeting for an evening of socialization and learning. At this installment, expect a heated discussion on the Mafia, tips on first date etiquette, and a symposium on bugs in film and literature.

#### MUSIC

##### Shabazz Palaces

—S.O.B.’s, 204 Varick St. (at Houston Street), Friday-Saturday, \$15

Signed to Sub Pop, Shabazz Palaces is the unconventional brainchild of rapper Ishmael Butler and multi-instrumentalist Tendai Maraire. The spacey, futuristic beats from “Black Up,” the group’s debut release, will not disappoint.