

Activity fair changes process

BY LEAH GREENBAUM
Spectator Staff Writer

Unlike years past, the Days on Campus student activity fair, a prime event for recruiting eager prospective freshman, was invitation only.

In the past, the Office of Community Development and Multicultural Affairs sent out a mass email to all registered student clubs on campus, but this year— with just 60 spots— only a small fraction of the over 300 clubs were invited. Several larger organizations, including the Columbia University College Democrats, the Columbia University Marching Band, and The Fed did not receive direct invitations.

A University spokesperson said in an email, “We recognize the value each student group brings to campus and this was not meant in any way to exclude, but rather to create a process that is more streamlined and efficient.”

According to a statement from the Office of Communications Services, invitations were issued this year in an effort to manage attendance and ensure that a cross-section of active organizations would be represented.

For some groups, it was just a shift in procedure, but for others, it was an unfair policy change.

Maisha Rashid, BC ’10 and president of Model Congress, said she was frustrated with the new process, which she felt didn’t support groups of her size. “I believe we were left out which is a shame because for a small group we really want to take every opportunity to advertise,” she said in an email. “If their policy was to leave out small groups, then it just gave larger groups the privilege to advertise more.”

A member of the marching band, who declined to be identified because he said he wasn’t allowed to speak on behalf of the group, said the band, after it did not receive an invite, contacted the Office of Community Development to request a table.

The band was given a table after several invited groups did not show up, but the band member said he was concerned about groups who didn’t know the fair was happening and ultimately weren’t able to get space.

“Although these are just prospective students, these fairs are the beginning of recruiting new members, and these clubs were unfairly excluded,” he said.

The University spokesperson though said that all student groups would be invited to participate in an activities fair in the fall held for new students on campus.

For some student groups, the lack of an official invitation did not stop them from securing a table at the event and reaching out to interested prospective students.

Rohan Jotwani, a member of the Model United Nations, said that a member of the executive board had learned the fair would be happening and contacted the University about getting a table.

He said, “We were not ‘invited’ per se, but we still set up and everything was fine.”

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MIRA JOHN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

UNITED FRONT | Students from different schools and neighborhood residents marched down Amsterdam on Thursday to protest sexual violence. A female-only section led the group, with a mixed-gender crowd behind it. More men are believed to have participated this year.

Annual Take Back the Night fills Morningside streets

BY EMILY KWONG
Spectator Staff Writer

For Sharona Kahn, BC ’10, her first Take Back the Night march on Thursday was an opportunity to acknowledge the reality of sexual violence at Columbia. “This happens on our campus and we’re marching for our fellow students,” she said. “Clearly it’s a problem that is not spoken of very often.”

In its 22nd year, the emotional march across Morningside Heights drew an estimated 500 men and women who protested sexual violence with traditional chants like “Hey ho, hey ho, sexual violence has got to go” and others that hit close to home, like “Rape is a felony, even with CUID.”

“It’s a great night,” Dennis Pogan, a Barnard Public Safety officer said, clearing the streets ahead. “We’re out here to let everybody know what it’s all about.”

Founded in 1978, Take Back

the Night is an internationally-held march to protest sexual violence. The event came to Barnard in 1988 without any University-endorsements or police support, but has since become an annual tradition in Morningside Heights that draws crowds from all over the city.

The marchers, some participating for the first time, stepped out of the Barnard gates—attracting impromptu participants—and took to the streets in an hour-long march from Morningside Drive to Riverside Avenue, from 113th to 120th streets.

The march was followed by a speak-out in LeFrak Gymnasium in Barnard Hall for survivors and participants to share their stories anonymously. “We don’t ask for volunteers and no one signs up ahead of time. It’s very organic so anyone can speak,” said Jen Levinson, BC ’10, and this year’s TBTN co-coordinator.

Barnard College president

Debora Spar was spotted amongst the gatherers, hand-in-hand with her middle school-aged daughter. As a second-time marcher, Spar said in an interview, she was impressed by the turnout, particularly of the male population, which has been increasing in recent years. Clothesline Coordinator Alexandra Barrett, BC ’12, estimated that one-third of marchers were male.

“It’s very powerful to see how many people are here. We’re never going to solve the problem unless men get involved,” Spar said.

This is the second year TBTN has proceeded with a separate female-only section at the front of the march, leading the rest of the mixed-gender crowd—a division designed to honor the historical roots of the event and acknowledge that the majority of sexual assault survivors are female. Designated marshals from student groups directed the march and led the chanting.

“The women’s-only section

honors the initial intent of the march and I understand that the space is necessary for some people,” Sean Udell, CC ’11, said.

Udell, the president of Columbia Queer Alliance—who said he was the first male marshal in Take Back the Night’s history—added, “I felt really welcomed by everyone. ... I’m so proud of the way Take Back the Night has adapted to different conceptions of gender over the years.”

Kristin Cummings, CC ’11, a second-time marshal and a peer counselor for the Barnard Columbia Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence Support Center, said, “We live in a society that blames survivors of sexual assault instead of perpetrators.”

Amid cries of, “University silence perpetrates the violence,” Cummings said the chant is meant to encourage survivors to speak out. “Fortunately, Columbia ... has been really proactive in establishing

SEE TAKE BACK THE NIGHT, page 2

Assembly member protests CU demolition

BY SARAH DARVILLE AND
KIM KIRSCHENBAUM
Columbia Daily Spectator

The impending demolition of three Columbia-owned brownstones may destroy political ties, Assembly member Daniel O’Donnell said on Thursday.

O’Donnell, who represents Morningside Heights, sent a letter to University President Lee Bollinger last week saying that moving ahead with the demolitions of brownstones on 115th Street would be “a misguided and hostile move toward the residents of Morningside Heights.”

The letter said, “Columbia’s continuing to ignore this neighborhood’s pleas would irrevocably damage my working relationship with the university and destroy any remaining goodwill I harbor for your institution.”

The vacant brownstones, 408, 410, and 412 West 115th Street, are currently shrouded in netting and scaffolding. Columbia obtained a demolition permit in November 2009, and local preservation groups have been protesting against the tear-down for years. The University has maintained that the brownstones are in a state of disrepair.

O’Donnell said in an interview that he expects the buildings to come down, but that Columbia could lose political support for its campus expansion in West Harlem as a result.

“If Columbia intends to expand and seek the cooperation of the neighborhood, then the university has to show that they are consistent with the community’s concerns and desires and worthy of being the caretaker of the architectural heritage that exists around it,” he said.

Harry Schwartz, a member of the Coalition to Preserve the Morningside Brownstones—which residents formed in response to the University’s demolition plans—said that he is encouraged by O’Donnell’s vocal opposition. The Assembly member also copied preservationists and politicians, including Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Borough President Scott Stringer, on the letter.

“That’s a pretty strong stance for someone to take in public,” said Schwartz, who lives at 115th and Morningside Drive.

Council member Inez Dickens also wrote a letter to Bollinger in December 2009 calling on the University to “reconsider this decision and restore these buildings

CCSC win for Foote

Voter turnout for council races average

BY ELIZABETH SCOTT
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

In one of the most competitive races in recent years, Stand Columbia was elected to the Columbia College Student Council executive board on Thursday, beating out ReNew CU and the Naked Party by a fairly wide margin.

Learned Foote, CC ’11, will assume the role of CCSC president for 2010-2011, with Karishma Habbu, CC ’13, as vice president of communications, Brandon Christophe, CC ’12, as vice president of funding, Andrew Nguyen, CC ’12, as vice president of policy, and Andrea Folds, CC ’12, as vice president of campus life.

In the senior class council race, where parties can be split up based on votes, the majority of the After Party nabbed the title of 2011 class council by a narrow margin from contenders the Party Bus Party (Bus). Sean Udell, CC ’11, will be class president, with Alexandra Coromilas, CC ’11, as vice president, both from the After Party.

According to the CCSC elections commission, 1540 voted in the executive board race, which, like all CCSC races, is conducted as a runoff where voters rank their preferences instead of selecting one ticket. 726 ranked Stand Columbia as their first choice and 807 ranked it second. ReNew CU, led by Isaac Lara, garnered 596 first choice and 680 second choice votes, and Eugenio Suarez’s Naked Party received 213 first choice votes and zero second choice votes.

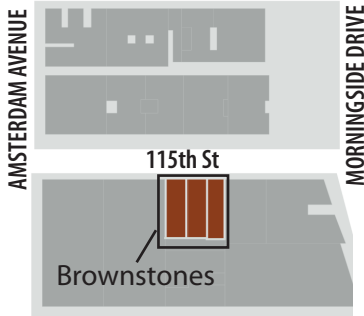
“I feel like all the students that were running took the time to

SEE CCSC, page 2



JACK ZIETMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LETTERS OF DISCONTENT | Harry Schwartz, opponent of Columbia’s brownstones demolition, reviews politicians’ letters to stop the deconstruction.



to their original condition.”

Multiple local politicians—including Congressman Charles Rangel and State Senator Bill Perkins—have written letters, which Schwartz shared with Spectator, to Robert Tierney, chair of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, requesting additional hearings.

Dan Held, spokesperson for Columbia facilities, said in an email on Thursday, “We have met with the local community and local elected officials to discuss our demolition plans,” but did not comment on specifics of the demolition timeline. “We anticipate completion of those plans in the near future,” he said, adding, “We do not have specific development plans for the site at this time.”

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INSIDE

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Alumna makes off-the-wall art at Whitney Biennial

Whitney Biennial artist and SoA alumna Aki Sasamoto talks about the unusual nature of her unusual performance artwork “Strange Attractors,” which draws inspiration from items like doughnuts and orange fishnet.



Sports, page 6

Lions and Tigers prepare for a full weekend of baseball

Columbia hosts Princeton’s baseball team this weekend as the two are scheduled for a pair of doubleheaders. The Light Blue currently sits atop the Gehrig Division of the Ivy League but the Tigers are only three games back with a 3-5 Ivy record.

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Nature nurtured in New York

Elizabeth Kipp-Giusti tells where the wild things are in the city.

Polls are closed

Barnard shouldn’t deny its senior (class) citizens their right to vote.

Today’s Events

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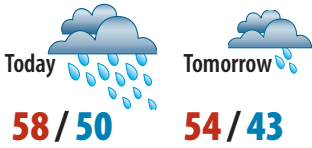
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WEATHER



Stand Columbia elected new CCSC executive board, close race for USenate seat

CCSC from front page

consider what issues affect the college, and how to improve the college,” Foote said in an interview after the results were announced. “Students are really engaging with the problems that affect the school.”

Foote’s party, Stand Columbia, was unique in that the majority of his ticket was comprised of underclassmen—VP Communication Habbu is a freshman. Foote said this is important for his board’s vision. “We’re going to be able to see not just how people who have been in the college for the past two years see it, but how the newer students experience college as they’re just getting integrated.”

Students expressed varying degrees of confidence in Foote after results were announced.

Aastha Mehta, CC ’11, said, “I guess because he’s already been president for our year, people feel comfortable voting for him again.”

Chris Yim, CC ’10 who cast his vote for ReNew CU said he was still optimistic about Stand Columbia. “I’ve heard good things about Learned. I hope there are good reforms with student life next year.”

Lara said that though he did not expect to lose, he remains very supportive of the winning ticket. “I was really surprised that we lost ... because we had tremendous enthusiasm generated,” he said in an email. “Win or lose we were still able to raise awareness about some of the key issues affecting Columbia today,” he added.

According to James Bogner, CC ’10 and chair of the Elections Board of CCSC, voter turnout this year, at around 37 percent of the College undergraduate population, was pretty standard. “That number is pretty solid ... but it’s definitely not exceptional. It’s more than last year, but that’s because we had a competitive year,” Bogner said. Last year’s executive board race was uncontested.

The 2011 class council race was close, and not all of the After Party secured CCSC spots.

Udell and Coromilas won 278 votes, while opponent Nuriel Moghavem, CC ’11 and current vice president for funding, and his vice presidential candidate Zack Susel won 211. Tom Amegadzie,



EMBRY OWEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NEW TEAM | Learned Foote, CC ’11 and leader of Stand Columbia, will step in as Columbia College Student Council president in the fall, after beating out two competitors.

CC ’11, Sonya Chandra, CC ’11, and Roxanne Unger, CC ’11—who had been running on Moghavem’s ticket—will be serving as class representatives.

According to Bogner, Unger’s election from outside of the winning party was somewhat unique, but still in line with the characteristic results of an instant runoff voting system.

As soon as Udell heard the news, he didn’t skip a beat—he said he went to meet with Student Affairs about programming for next year. “I’m really

excited for senior year and I hope that we do event planning and policy work that the class of 2011 can be proud of,” he said.

He also said he had no qualms about the election of Unger, from the opposing party. “Roxanne is a great friend—I’m really looking forward to working with her and I think she’ll do a great job,” he said.

In the closest race of the election, Kenneth Durell, CC ’12, won the University Senate seat, narrowly beating

Keianna Dixon, CC ’11. He received 470 first choice votes to Dixon’s 476, but 594 second choice votes to Dixon’s 571. Opponent Scott Maxfield came in third with 332 first choice votes.

Bogner said this is where the instant runoff system really paid off. The first round had Dixon in the lead, but when Maxfield was dropped because he had the lowest amount of votes, his votes were redistributed to Dixon and Durrell. More student who voted for Maxfield picked Durrell as

their second choice than Dixon. “This is how it’s supposed to work,” Bogner explained. “We elected the people that have the highest preference over the broadest number of people.”

Class councils for 2012 and 2013 were both uncontested. Aki Terasaki and Sarah Chai won president and vice president seats for 2012, respectively, and Alex Jasiulek and Michelle Vallejo were elected 2013 president and vice president in another uncontested race.

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JACK ZIETMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DECONSTRUCT | Columbia is pressing forward with the demolition of three brownstones on 115th Street, which some preservationists say will be a major loss.

Demolition strains Columbia’s relationship with politician

DEMOLITION from front page

In the last two weeks, concern over the buildings’ future has increased for some residents on 115th Street who say they’ve noticed new activity on site. Two or three workers have been at 115th for the last two weeks, Schwartz said.

“They seem to be reinforcing the scaffolding and hoisting planks. It looks like they’re making preparations to tear them down. ... People feel that this is the beginning of the end,” Schwartz said.

Nancy Kricorian, another demolition opponent who lives on 115th Street, said that she has been working on this issue for over five years but feels that she and other frustrated residents have nearly exhausted their resources.

Despite Held’s claims of the University’s interactions with the local neighborhood, Kricorian said, “Columbia is not communicating with us,” she said, adding that she has resorted to other measures to find information. “I myself have peered through the door. ... People will try to tell the workers there to tell us what’s going on.”

She said, “I don’t know what else we can do short of chaining ourselves to the wrecking ball.”

O’Donnell’s frustrations stem from a 15-year, and so far unsuccessful, attempt to push the city’s Landmarks Preservation Commission to create a Morningside Heights historic district, which would make demolishing buildings in the district subject to city review.

Elisabeth de Bourbon, spokesperson for the Landmarks Preservation Commission, said that the brownstones did not meet the criteria to be individually landmarked, despite their recognition by the New York State Historic Preservation Office as ‘historic’ in December 2008.

She clarified that the LPC has legal authority in its regulation, while the national registry listing is more honorific. “It can be torn down on the national register but it can’t be with ours,” she said.

At least one local, though, is more than ready to see the scaffolded structures razed.

“I’m all for saving historical buildings, but those are not historic,” said Doreen Mocha, who has lived across the street from the brownstones for almost 15 years. “The insides are a total mess, and it would take a fortune the put the buildings back to the way they were.”

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Campus club boards prepare pilot for new funding process

BY CHRIS CRAWFORD
Columbia Daily Spectator

Student group spending may soon be easier and more efficient.

Starting in the summer of 2010, some student groups under the Student Governing Board and Activities Board at Columbia—two boards which oversee club funding—may have the option of using purchase cards, or ‘P-cards,’ under a new pilot program. Students involved say this should help cut through some of the red tape in the purchasing process.

“You can use the card anywhere you can use a credit card,” said Beezly Kiernan, CC ’11, former secretary of SGB and newly elected ABC president. He explained that they work like debit cards with a declining balance, cannot be used for travel or contracts, and can be used without pre-approval.

Currently, SGB groups need purchasing approval from the Office of Student Group Advising group advisor, and ABC groups need approval from the ABC and Student Development and Activities advisor, though the new program would eliminate that step.

The Student Affairs office hopes to pilot the program in one to two dozen student groups, said ABC policy chair Anum Akram, CC ’11, adding she was initially not sure if the program would logistically work.

Kiernan said the P-card program will start over the summer with New Student Orientation Program, Columbia Outdoor Orientation Program, and Columbia Urban Experience.

“Columbia is finally getting rid of the bureaucracy, and is allowing the students to do more things independently,” Akram said.

A number of University administrative offices already use P-cards, which are currently overseen by the Purchasing Office. One goal of launching P-cards as a pilot program among student groups is to see whether the system is viable long-term.

The P-card has advantages over standard online forms currently used, supporters say. Kiernan said that while student groups will have to save receipts for the Student Affairs Central Business Office, there would be less paperwork.

The new system will also decrease the time groups spend getting approval for spending. “For SGB, you typically have to coordinate time for when you don’t have class and when the advisor is there to request approval. It could take as short as 15 minutes, or as long as a day,” Kiernan said, adding that ABC group approval can take from a day to week.

Groups also hope the P-card will allow them greater access to vendors, especially those that are online-only and those that do not accept vouchers or online forms. They say it will also reduce problems of personal expenses.

According to Charles Roberts, CC ’12 and former treasurer of the Columbia International Relations Council & Association, out-of-pocket expenses have been a hurdle. “Our biggest problem has been with reimbursements to students who spend their personal funds on behalf of the club and then need to be reimbursed.”

The system is also not intended to be a replacement for the current purchasing system—instead, it’s a second option for student groups.

But though P-cards allow for more independent spending, Akram and Kiernan both agreed that regulations need to be put into place.

“We need to be more careful, because it gives us a lot more freedom,” Akram said. “The P-card gives the cardholder more freedom to lay out regulations because there are not many regulations put in place.”

Roberts said, “Giving clubs more direct control over their finance ... will make things much easier and more accurate.”

Amber Tunnell contributed reporting.
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More men join Take Back the Night march

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT from front page

sexual assault policies that help survivors.”

Another member of RV/AVSC, who chose to remain anonymous due to the sensitive nature of the event, said there have been improvements at Columbia, and in her time at the Center, “The statistics haven’t changed in the number of survivors and incidents, but more are being reported.” Peer counselors were on site to support those triggered by either the march or the speak-out.

August DuPont, CC ’10, said it was disappointing at last year’s march when he was asked to move back from the female-only section while walking alongside a friend and survivor. “I feel in some ways it’s assumed to be an issue that men don’t take up as much,” he said, emphasizing that males are also survivors and allies in the fight against sexual assault.

“It’s important for men to talk about it,” added SEAS first year graduate student John Beck.

Nearing graduation, Sharona Kahn, BC ’10, commented that it was important for her to participate in what she considered “such an important part of Barnard’s history.”

She said, “It brought the idea to life.” Judy Estey, BC ’10, also considered Take Back the Night an important step in creating awareness about the issue of sexual assault, “It’s not some abstract incident of women battered somewhere, it happens in our community.”

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MIRA JOHN/ SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MARCH ON | Students took to the streets for the annual Take Back the Night.

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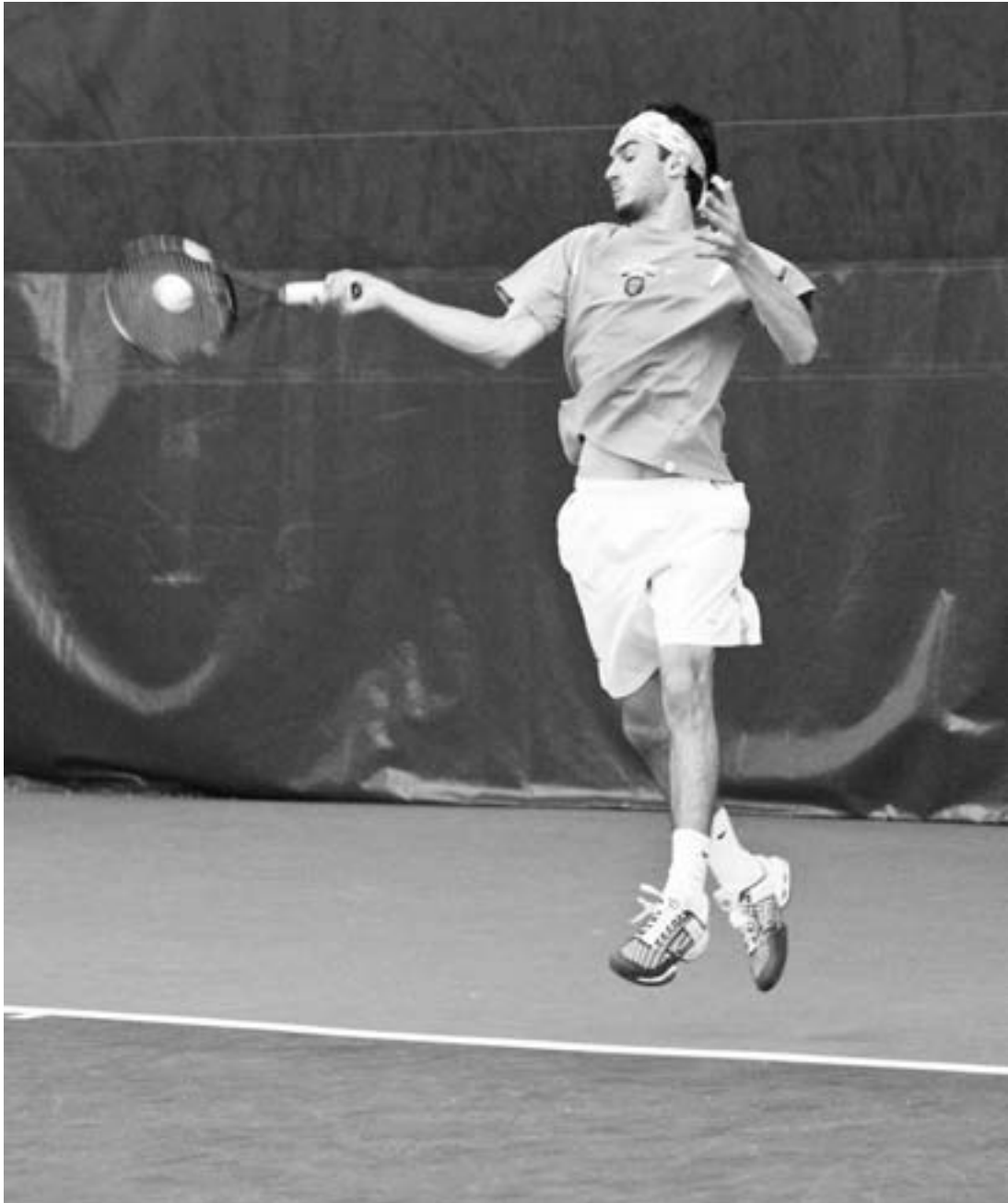
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For general comments or questions about the newspaper, please write to the editor in chief and managing editor at editor@columbiaspectator.com.

CORRECTION

In “At graduate chat, Bollinger talks M’ville, Leaders Forum,” we incorrectly transcribed the pronoun in Tyler Bickford’s quote to read: “Adjuncts are not a problem, we are scholars,” when it should have said, “they are scholars.” Spectator regrets the error.



ALYSON GOULDEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

POWER SHOT | This weekend is tennis’ last of the regular season before the NCAA Regionals.

Last weekend of play for men’s tennis

MEN’S TENNIS from page 6

Princeton has earned wins over Yale, Brown and Dartmouth this spring, with the only loss coming against Harvard on the road. The win over Yale is one of the Tigers’ most impressive this season as they won the doubles point and then split the singles, winning the No. 4, 5, and 6 singles in straight sets. Princeton has actually beaten Yale twice this season, including once at the ECAC Championships in the first round. Other than the win against Yale in the ECAC’s, Princeton is winless against ranked teams this season, going 1-7 against them.

“They are a really good team as their record shows,” Goswami said. “They beat Yale at Princeton. Their No. 2 guy actually won the ‘A’ flight at our own Columbia Classic, even though Jon and Mihai didn’t play, and their No. 4 guy won the ‘B’ flight, so those guys are pretty good on our courts. We need to play good doubles, they’ve been winning a lot of doubles points.

Leading the Tigers at No. 1 singles is Charlie Brosens, who has gone 2-3 in conference play. At No. 2 has been freshman Matija Pecotic, who lost to Jon Wong in the semifinals of the USTA National Collegiate Invitational in the fall. One of the strengths for the Tigers this spring has been No. 3 doubles, who have gone 5-0 in Ivy play.

At No. 3 doubles for Columbia is the duo of junior Kevin Kung and sophomore Rajeev Deb-Sen, who have gone 2-2 in conference play.

The Tigers have improved

The Lions’ match on Sunday will be the final home match for seniors Jon Wong and Mihai Nichifor.

drastically this season since last spring, something Goswami attributes to a great group of freshman.

“They are good at No. 1, 2 and 4 and all of those guys are all freshman,” Goswami said. “They’ve made a big difference.”

The Lions’ match on Sunday will be the final home match for seniors Jon Wong and Mihai Nichifor. Wong has won two Ivy titles as a freshman and junior and has been named first team all-Ivy in singles and was the first Lion ever to be named Ivy League Rookie of the Year. Nichifor came to Columbia last fall as a transfer from Manhattan College and has gone 12-0 in Ivy League singles matches, at No. 3 and 2 singles.

“I think Jon and Mihai really raised the bar up,” Goswami

said. “Jon definitely, he played as a freshman when he won the ’07 title. He has been an unbelievable domination on the court. A few injuries have hurt him a little bit. I feel badly sometimes— if we had more preparation on outdoor courts, I think he could have beaten Powers [No. 1 player and freshman from Yale]. I would have loved to see him play where we play all the time, but it wasn’t to be.

“And Mihai, what can you ask from him,” Goswami said. “He’s like a professional, you should see his routine at practice. I always tell the young guys to follow Mihai, he is absolutely ready and everyday he practices like he’s playing the final set against a good Ivy player. And I think that’s the key, to practice like you play in matches. He’s big and strong, but more than anything else, he’s so prepared. I’m grateful that he came to us, because he helped make us one of the best programs in the Ivy League, regardless of whether we win this year or not.”

Goswami had a simple wish for his two departing stars: “I hope they go out in style in doubles and singles,” Goswami said. “And if they do their jobs, I think we’ll win the title.”

Columbia will travel to Penn on Friday to play at 2 p.m., and will host Princeton on Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center.

Columbia sports teams can actually be fun to follow if you give them a chance

LOPEZ from page 6

thanks in large part to some solid hitting up and down the lineup. I’m especially impressed by the play of freshmen Nick Ferraresi and Dario Pizzano. The men’s tennis team is as good as always, and with fellow columnist Kunal Gupta bringing up the team at every opportunity he gets, I can’t help

but follow the squad.

I have gotten more involved in Columbia athletics in my junior year than in my first two years combined. I’m not just referring to the teams I mentioned above, but every other sport from wrestling to track and field. This year, I believe I became a true Columbia sports fan. I no longer respond to the results of the men’s basketball

game with a “meh.” Instead, I respond as if I heard my favorite professional team had lost. When the football team lost to Dartmouth I was legitimately pissed off. I may have thrown something against something- I can’t remember. On the other hand, every time I see Judie Lomax’s stat line, which usually involved some insane number of points and rebounds, I get

pumped up.

Overall, getting more involved in Columbia athletics is a lot of fun, and I should have done it sooner. It doesn’t always make me happy, but there is a certain joy in having pride for your school’s sports that is hard to match. Unlike supporting a professional team where you’re just a fan, supporting your college team makes you feel like

you’re a part of the organization. I mean, how often do you sit in class or stand in line for pizza with your favorite NBA player?

The moral of this story is that you should actively try to get more involved in Columbia athletics. You don’t have to pick one of the bigger sports either; I’m sure the fencing or men’s tennis teams would love some

more fans to watch them dominate their competition. Follow a team and take part in its success and failures. Trust me, it is a rewarding experience that every Columbia student should have.

Bart Lopez is a Columbia College junior majoring in economics-mathematics. sporeditors@columbiaspectator.com

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Making immigration reform truly comprehensive

Now that Congress has passed the historic health care legislation, it is turning its attention to immigration reform. The discussion revolves around three major policies—legalization, enforcement, and temporary workers—and all are aimed at grappling with the problem of unauthorized immigration that has burgeoned since the 1970s. Proponents argue that this three-part approach is “comprehensive” because it aims to resolve the problems caused by previous unauthorized entries (legalization) and deter future ones (more fencing along the border, a national ID card for employment, direct low-skilled migrants into legal, if temporary, channels). It is also seen as a compromise between liberal and conservative interests.

This approach reflects current political alignments and predicaments, but it does not address basic design flaws in the system and therefore is unlikely to resolve the problem. The debate over legalization versus enforcement also fuels an incendiary political discourse and leads to political deadlock. We need to rethink the premises of our immigration policy and think outside the box about other kinds of options.

The problem of our present system is that it is based on a core paradox: Our system of allocating visas for the admission of permanent residents—the vaunted green card—is based on principles of equality and fairness, yet that very system has generated an ever larger caste-population of unauthorized immigrants. The current system, enacted by the 1965 Hart-Celler Act, provides for a global ceiling on annual immigration, with visas distributed according to seven preference categories (family relation- and employment-based), and with every country having the same maximum number of visas per year. The law provides 226,000 visas for family categories and 140,000 for employment-based categories, and the country limit is 7 percent of the total, or 25,620. (Family-based immigration is actually higher because immediate relatives—spouses, children, and parents of U.S. citizens—are not subject to numerical limitations.)

This system is deemed to be equitable and fair because it treats all countries the same, subjecting all to the same quotas and preferences. It was meant to replace the patently inequitable and discriminatory system of national origin and racial quotas that had governed immigration policy since the 1920s. Its guiding logic of formal equality was central to the civil rights ethos of the post-World War II era.

We rarely, if ever, question the principles embedded in Hart-Celler, but in fact, “equal rights” in immigration policy is a conceptual muddle and a practical disaster. The rights-bearing subject is at once the U.S. citizen (who views

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

immigration policy toward her ancestors’ country of origin as a proxy for her own social standing in American society), the countries of the world, and the prospective individual migrant. Each set of rights derives a different epistemology: the civil rights of the American citizen, the right of nations to self-determination and equal standing in the world community, and the human rights of the individual migrant without regard to state membership.

In practice, visa demand varies widely against an unchanging supply. Four countries persistently max out on their caps: China, India, Mexico, and the Philippines. When people say you should get on line and wait for your visa, they do not realize that from these countries, the wait can easily be 20 years or more—in the case of Mexico, visas in some employment-based categories are no longer available at all.

We should instead distribute visas to countries in proportion to the relative size of their population (similar to proportional representation in the House of Representatives) and other standards that consider fairness from a substantive, not merely formal, perspective. Why should China and the Philippines have the same quota as, say, Belgium and New Zealand, small countries with few historical or contemporary ties with the U.S.?

We should also consider a special policy toward our hemispheric neighbors, Mexico and Canada. Before 1965, immigration from Western Hemisphere countries was not subject

Why should China and the Philippines have the same quota as, say, Belgium and New Zealand?

to numerical limitation. The North American Free Trade Agreement provides for free movement of goods and capital, but not persons; by contrast, the European Union provides for free movement of citizens of EU states within the EU.

Finally, in addition to legalizing the unauthorized migrants who are already here, we should establish statutes of limitations on unlawful presence. We used to have such a policy before the 1920s, in recognition of the fact that, over time, immigrants become part of our communities. Statutes of limitations are a normative feature of our legal system. They are withheld only in the case of the most heinous crimes: murder, kidnapping—and crossing the border.

These policies, which all have historical precedent in the United States, are arguably both fairer and more effective.

The author is a professor of Asian-American studies and history.

Seniors can't rock the vote

BY JOY RESMOVITS

This morning I logged on to eBear, excited to participate in the democratic process.

I had done my homework, read the platforms and debate reports, and chosen the best candidates for Barnard's Student Government Association. My hands pounded away at the keyboard, feverishly typing in my username and password. After closing the pop-up reminding me to call the flu hotline should I have symptoms, I was ready to vote. I filled in all the pertinent bubbles. I was about to click submit.

But I quickly found that I couldn't. I'm a senior. “Your Class is SR. You are not eligible to vote!” eBear told me. Gee, thanks. So I guess I don't have a stake in student government. I'm 21 and obsolete.

Of course, I have mixed feelings about the effectiveness of student councils. In fact, my sense is that most council members do. But at the most fundamental level, these people nominally represent me to the administration. Voting is extremely important in at least legitimizing the councils and empowering the student



ELIZABETH KIPP-GIUSTI

A Tree Grows in Morningside

Sometimes in the late afternoon, just as the sun sinks behind the brownstones, Low Library is transported to the African savannah. Languishing in the last radiance of the day, the monolith becomes a proud lion that observes its domain. Freckled with

noise, the majestic beast sits and enjoys the view silently. Dry tufts of grass blossom at the foot of the steps. Arid wind whipping across the stone face does nothing to detract from the electric blue of the open sky. Sometimes, in just the right light, the urban jungle can transform itself into something more natural.

These moments of imagined ecosystems, however, cast a pitying light on the vestigial traces of our own land's wilderness: The flowering pear trees lining Broadway and our beloved verdant lawns are more genteel decoration than hints of New York's unaltered landscape. We cognitively recognize that, before the asphalt and ironwork, this was once forested area. But have you ever really stopped to imagine what would spring up in our absence? Can you imagine a New York without New York?

A clue to our environmental past is what remains when you leave the skyline behind. Driving up the West Side Highway toward Yonkers, the overhang of Fort Tryon Park peering out at the Hudson River suggests a rugged ideal that plays well as the backdrop to historical fantasies. Even this manicured nature, however, is the product of early-19th-century design principles of man-made bucolic scenery and winding pathways. Designed with the philosophy of Frederick Law Olmsted, the man who created Central Park and Prospect Park, the natural terrain of the area was transformed from trees and craggy rocks into a perfected landscape reminiscent of what had been before, but subjugated to an overall design. With big brothers Central and Prospect parks, too, wilderness is controlled and cultivated to create a respite from concrete that never quite escapes the grid that Manhattan is locked into. This was ultimately Olmsted's goal: to design an antidote to urban stress with calm, undemanding landscapes while still acknowledging the city.

The reality is that the parks are as artificially constructed as neighborhood blocks. Structured to account for traffic flow and psychological effect, City Parks' landscape design overlaps with many of the same principles as civic engineering. Olmsted's vision of a slice of natural restoration in the middle of the city is just as man-made. But Olmsted recognized that an urban oasis would have to be formed rather than left to the elements, particularly because he saw the parks as an opportunity to influence social change. Carefully creating picturesque “pleasure grounds” to which to

Better city by design

escape from urban life, he sought to provide a space for economic classes to mingle and interact. Parks were to be an exercise in fraternity—a peaceable kingdom of all the city's inhabitants. In this way, although distinguished from truly unaltered environments, their design achieves significant beneficial goals. New York City parks, therefore, act as a kind of middle ground between respecting and conserving nature and embracing urban planning. Their purpose is to create a rural experience while remaining within a metropolis. The code of their environmental design is to make an impact on the land, but not too great an impact.

This seems to typify the relationship that the Big Apple has with nature—we cannot ignore that every brick, building, and lamppost has contributed to the battle of man against the elements, but we recognize that we

We cannot ignore that every brick, building, and lamppost has contributed to the battle of man against the elements.

cannot obliterate the environment either. In a further symbiotic twist, however, it seems that nature may be beginning to rely on us, as well. There are, in fact, environmental benefits to sustaining a responsible urban center like New York: The carbon footprint of a New Yorker is about 30 percent smaller than that of someone who lives in an average American suburban home. With increased public transportation, regulated water usage, and large, efficient apartment complexes, urban centers mean less individual environmental demand. Eco-friendly developments like green roofs, vertical agriculture, and pedestrian areas are already widely being embraced as the new direction for cities. The future of “sustainability” seems certain to demand the creation and expansion of more urban centers, more ingenuity, and overall, more environmental design.

For, while it is simply illogical to imagine that human beings can continue to experience population growth and keep natural areas completely untouched, what we should hope for is the integration of better urban design in cities in order to make these developing areas as low-impact as possible. If Central Park can stand as an example of engineering ingenuity, then let a centralized pillar of urban development be a similar emphasis on the incorporation of nature. After all, if we can green it here, we'll green it anywhere—it's up to you, New York!

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

voice—as much as it can be when SGA's primary activities are programming and allocating funds to/recognizing student groups.

Therefore, I was extremely disappointed to learn that I couldn't cast my ballot. I'm thinking of (gasp!) forgoing my Spirit Day T-shirt this year.

To be sure, having seniors vote brings up the question of representation. I'll be out of school. Why would SGA represent me?

We should look toward the Columbia College Student Council's model, which allows seniors to vote for executive board and at-large positions.

First, I'll be an alumna one year out of Barnard. Many young alumnae stay close to Barnard, whether to explore new facilities, apply for fellowships, or utilize the Office of Career Development. I clearly have a stake in this. And while SGA doesn't represent alumnae interests, it does work to ensure

the quality of these services.

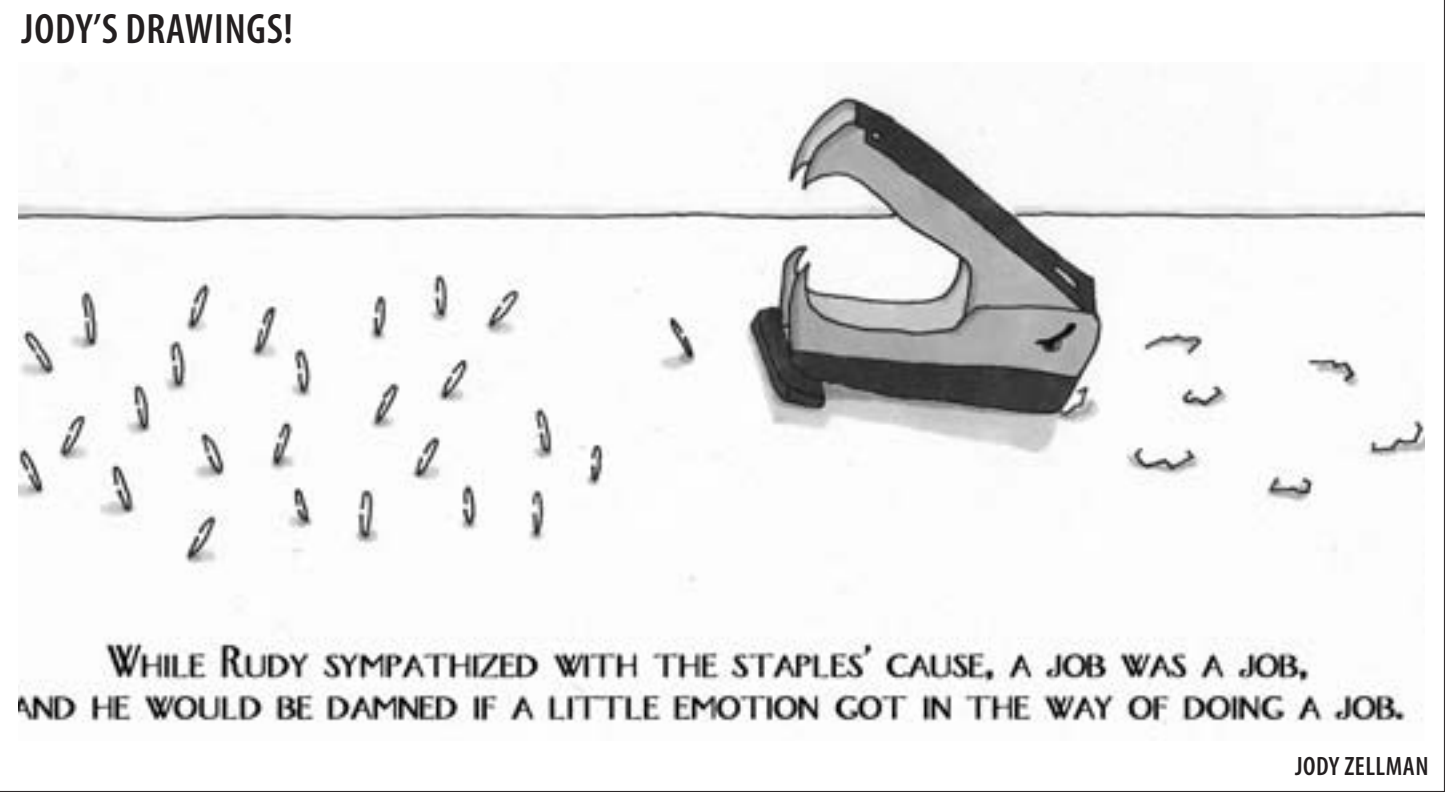
Second, the idea of direct representation in student government is somewhat outmoded beyond the beauty of the theory, since the size of SGA hasn't really grown proportionally with the student body.

Furthermore, voter turnout has been historically underwhelming at Barnard. Two years ago, one-third of students voted. Last year, 41.5 percent participated. But there could be more, were seniors allowed to vote. The school is crippling itself by losing one quarter of its student body in these elections—the quarter that has seen the most at Barnard.

All I'm asking for is a say in the composition of the SGA executive board and representative council. Obviously, a senior voting for class council would be ridiculous. We should look toward the Columbia College Student Council's model, which allows seniors to vote for executive board and at-large positions.

I know my plea comes too late to make any change this year. Alas, my bubbles remain filled, yet unsubmitted. My own preferences are floating in the ether. But for the class of 2011's sake, let the seniors vote.

The author is a Barnard College senior majoring in English. She is the former Spectator campus news editor.



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9	6	3	4	7	1	5	2	8
4	8	1	5	3	2	9	7	6
6	9	8	1	5	4	7	3	2
3	1	2	9	8	7	4	6	5
7	4	5	6	2	3	8	1	9
8	7	6	3	4	5	2	9	1
1	5	4	2	6	9	3	8	7
2	3	9	7	1	8	6	5	4

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	1	9				2		
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	9	3	4		6			

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Fire starter?
4 Squabble
8 Exorbitant
13 Mo. in 1781 in which Cornwallis surrendered
14 "... Really Going Out With Him?": Joe Jackson hit
16 Volcanic flowers?
17 Princeton jazzman?
19 Retirement legislation acronym
20 One way to run
21 "Egg-laying for Dummies," etc.: 7
23 Disappear
25 Par ...
26 Subj. including grammar
27 What a New York baseball owner would do to ensure player fitness?
32 It's hard to cut through
33 Company with toy trucks
34 Young hooter
37 LAX datum
38 Its youngest British member, Elise Tan Roberts, was admitted at age 2
39 Pres. Jefferson
40 Like Wiener schnitzel
42 Sign outside a boarded-up JFK?
44 Joker
47 Figure of speech
48 Hard to endure
50 Little Londoner?
54 Rite, through Houston
55 Litmus reddeners
56 Carpet-cleaning android?
58 Indian royal
59 Parts of some support systems?
60 100%
61 Imitators

DOWN

62 Latin infinitive
63 Hope unit
1 Desert known for Joshua trees
2 Nickname for a player who performs under pressure
3 Like espresso
4 Bonni pronoun
5 Fred (up)
6 Author Sholem
7 Pad ... Asian noodle dish
8 Record holder
9 Sullied
10 Not a good sign
11 Facility
12 Jr.'s exam
28 Genesis
29 Shipping container weights
18 Brew follower?
22 Classic Welles role
24 "Let it stand"
28 Genesis
29 Shipping container weights

30 Day star?
31 Airport safety g.
32 Squid car cop.
34 Taxonomic suffix
35 Choppy seas
36 Nancy's region
38 Ode
40 Author Harle
41 Quamets
43 Works

44 Bachelor pad amenity
45 Colored circle around the pupil
46 One way to break: the news
49 Get-up-and-go
50 Legal hire
51 Underwear initials
52 Sprint
53 "ER" areas
57 "What's the ...?"

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By Dan Nadel
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04/16/10

Becoming a true CU sports fan



BART LOPEZ

The Tailgating Tales

oly crap the year is almost over. We've gone through housing, registration, and professors talking about the remaining classes, and I've nearly run out of column ideas. Indeed the end is near, so I think now would be a good time to look back at an interesting year in sports.

At the start of the year, the football team was gearing up for the season, and I was starting my first semester as both a sports editor and a columnist. The Lions started off the year on the right foot with a win against Fordham for which we ran a big photo of the team to celebrate them the following Monday. The remainder of the season would prove to be a disappointment as the team lost some games that it probably should have won. But that's not what I focus on when I look back at the first semester. That semester, I learned more about Columbia and Ivy League football then I probably needed to know. From overall stats to team strategies, I learned more in those weeks than I did all of last year when I joined Spec.

The basketball season was a similar story. Before being a sports editor and a columnist, I casually went to basketball games for the hell of it. This year I got much more involved, closely following the team from the get-go. With a brain full of statistics, I went to basketball games to cheer the team to victory and to watch my favorite Lions play (Agho and Scott, here's looking at you). The basketball team had its troubles as it greatly underperformed in my opinion, but there's hope for next season in the young talent on the squad.

Now, my focus is on the baseball and men's tennis teams. The baseball team is solid

SEE LOPEZ, page 3

Lions, Tigers to duel it out in weekend competition

Pair of doubleheaders against Princeton lie ahead for Light Blue baseball team

BY JACOB SHAPIRO
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

While Joe Jones' departure from Columbia claimed major headlines this past week, the Columbia baseball team was quietly enjoying a comfortable lead atop the Ivy League standings.

After opening conference play two weeks ago, Columbia mustered back-to-back, three-win weekends to improve its record to 6-2 in the Ancient Eight. Last week on the road, the Lions split a pair of games with Dartmouth before finishing off a convincing sweep of Harvard that included a 24-1 thrashing.

So far, Columbia has faced all four opponents from the Rolfe Division but has yet to play any of its divisional adversaries—that is, until this weekend. Commanding a two-game lead in the Gehrig Division, the Lions will be challenged by Princeton in a four-game marathon this weekend at Robertson Field.

The Tigers will not only test Columbia's bid for the divisional championship—which earns the winner a chance to compete in the Ivy League Championship series—but will also jeopardize the Lions' dominant 10-1 record at home this season.

Princeton features a mediocre 3-5 record in Ivy League play to go along with an 8-20 mark overall, 12 games below .500. The Tigers opened the conference season by splitting a pair of doubleheaders against Harvard and Dartmouth. Last week, the team was swept by Brown before going one-and-one in its last matchup against Yale, whom Columbia had previously swept.

COLUMBIA VS. PRINCETON

Robertson Field, Saturday, 12 p.m.



COLUMBIA VS. PRINCETON

Robertson Field, Sunday, 12 p.m.



While the Lions were off this week, Princeton suffered a debilitating 24-7 loss at the hands of Monmouth.

Princeton is a fairly balanced team, as neither its offense nor its defense is something to write home about. The Tigers are hitting .265 on the season, second-to-last in the league, and their team ERA is 8.09, also toward the bottom half of the league.

With that said, the Tigers feature four starters that are batting above the .300 mark, including Sam Mulroy, who has four homers and 19 RBI on the season.

Conversely, the Lions were leading the league in hitting after last weekend's games, with a team average of .319. Seven Columbia regulars are hitting over .300, and two players, Dean Forthun and Jon Eisen, are nearing the .400 mark.

Dario Pizzano and Alexander Aurricchio are powering the team with seven and eight home runs respectively and 47 RBI combined.

But the real miracle comes from the pitching staff, which lowered its ERA to a respectable 5.85 last weekend after starting the season throwing batting practice. Dan Bracey is leading all starters with a 3.82 ERA, and Derek Squires has been superb out of the bullpen, allowing just two earned runs in 10 innings of work.

While the Lions are playing sound baseball, in a sense, the



SHIVINA HARIJANI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DOUBLEHEADERS | The Lions have four upcoming games in which they will try and hold on to their division lead.

real season begins this weekend. Columbia is in direct competition with the three other members of the Gehrig Division—Penn, Princeton, and Cornell—to earn a bid to the Ivy League Championship.

This weekend's games with Princeton will mark the

figurative halfway point in the season. With a strong showing, the Lions could distance themselves from the competition and build an almost insurmountable lead, but with a mediocre weekend, Columbia could find itself in a high-pressure dogfight

when it travels to Cornell next weekend and concludes the season against Penn at the end of the month.

The Lions host Princeton beginning at noon on both Saturday and Sunday at Robertson Field.

PREVIEW

Harvard vs. Brown



Facing their first opponents in the Rolfe division, the Bears will take on the Crimson this weekend.

Brown is at the top of the division currently with a 6-2 Ivy record, but only 9-20 overall. Harvard is batting just .500 in the league, with an Ancient Eight record of 4-4. The Crimson however currently possess a better overall record so far in the 2010 season, just barely clearing a winning record at 13-12. The two teams face off Saturday at noon.



PREVIEW

Penn vs. Cornell



Aside from splitting a pair of games against Dartmouth and Harvard, Cornell has not recorded any other wins in the Ancient Eight this season.

Penn however is sitting in second place in the Gehrig division at .500, having defeated the likes of Brown, Yale and Dartmouth. Last year when the two teams met up Penn won the first game but Cornell took the last three by as large a margin as 12-5.



PREVIEW

Dartmouth vs. Yale



The Bulldogs are heading to Hanover to take on the Big Green on their home turf. While the Yalies have a better overall record, the Big Green, the

defending league champions, sit tied for second in the Rolfe division with an Ancient Eight record of 4-4. Last season Yale slipped away with a 4-1 victory in the teams' first matchup but the champions stepped up their performance in the next three games to win, twice by margins of at least nine.



ALYSON GOULDEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FOREHAND | Jon Wong will represent the Lions at No. 1 singles this weekend against the Quakers and the Tigers.

Tennis to try and defend Ivy League title

BY KUNAL GUPTA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Almost every day since its loss in the NCAA tournament last spring, the men's tennis team has been training with one goal in mind; to defend its Ivy League title from last season, and have the chance to once again represent the Ancient Eight in the NCAA tournament this spring. The Albie Collins Trophy, the award annually given to the Ivy League championship team, currently sits in the lobby of Dodge, and the Lions have no intention of letting it leave. Columbia enters this weekend tied for first place in the Ivy League with a conference record of 4-1, but the team is not in control of its own destiny. Yale beat the Lions last weekend 4-3, and will earn the lone automatic bid from the Ivy League into the NCAA Tournament if it wins all three of its remaining matches. Columbia, which had its eleven match winning streak snapped last weekend, will face Penn on the road on Friday, and Princeton at home on Sunday. The Light Blue's match on Sunday will be the last home match in the illustrious careers of senior co-captains Jon Wong and Mihai Nichifor.

"If I actually think of Princeton too much, I'll have a bigger problem with Penn," Columbia head coach Goswami said. "We don't know whether it will be inside or outside, so we played two days outside, and today inside because we didn't have an outside court"

The Lions enter this weekend ranked No. 46 in the country, dropping only one spot in the rankings after their upset at the hands of the Bulldogs.

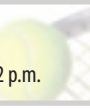
COLUMBIA AT PENN

Philadelphia, Penn., Friday, 2 p.m.



COLUMBIA VS. PRINCETON

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



Columbia is still the highest ranked Ivy League team, although three other conference foes reside in the top 75 rankings. Harvard is ranked No. 64, Yale No. 67 and Cornell No. 70.

Columbia will travel to play Penn on Friday in a match that is scheduled to be played outdoors but could be moved indoors if there is a chance of rain. The Lions struggled to adjust to the gusty conditions outdoors last weekend against Yale after not having played a competitive match outdoors since their spring break trip to Texas.

Penn has struggled in Ivy play this season, going 1-4 in conference play and 11-8 overall. The Quakers had a tough time on the road last weekend, getting blanked by Harvard 7-0 and falling to Dartmouth in a 5-2 decision. One big loss for Penn this season has been the absence of former No. 1 singles player Hicham Laalej, who has missed the entire season due to injury. Last spring, Laalej beat Columbia's Jon Wong at No. 1 singles, and was named first team all-Ivy in singles. Replacing him at the top of the lineup is Eugen Brazdil, a sophomore who transferred this fall from UCLA, where he played singles and doubles on a team which reached the NCAA semifinals. Brazdil has gone 1-4 at No. 1 singles in Ivy play this spring, with his lone win coming against Brown. Brazdil faced

Wong in the fall at the USTA National Collegiate Invitational finals, where Wong won a tight match 7-5 in the third set tie-break, hitting two big forehand winners for the victory. Last season, Columbia beat Penn 5-2 at home, winning the important doubles point, and all of the singles matches except at No. 1 and No. 4 singles.

"Some of those matches are pretty close," Goswami said. "And Brazdil at No. 1 is a good player. For a couple of the guys, it's their last match at home, so they'll be psyched up. We're focusing on Penn. We've been working again on doubles, and I know at home it will be a bit easier against Princeton. I'm hoping once we have the win with us against Penn, I'll focus earnestly on Princeton."

Last season, Columbia traveled to Princeton and beat them 7-0 to win the 2009 Ivy League championship outright. This spring, the Lions will host Princeton in a match that could be equally important to their success.

While the Light Blue will be battling the Tigers, its fate may rest in the hands of the Bulldogs, who will be playing the Crimson at the same time. If Harvard were to beat Yale on Sunday, a win against Princeton coupled with a win against Penn would seal the title for Columbia. Princeton has improved drastically this season, despite the loss of its top singles player from last season—Peter Capkovic. Princeton sits at 4-1 in the Ivy League and is tied with Columbia atop the standings. Last spring, the Tigers finished in sixth place, with a conference record of 3-4.

SEE MEN'S TENNIS, page 3



JACK ZIETMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
FINAL RUN | Carling Donovan and the Lions hope to defeat Penn and Princeton in their last competition of the 2010

Women’s tennis to serve it up against Quakers, Tigers

BY LAUREN SEAMAN
Spectator Staff Writer

After its fifth straight loss in Ancient Eight competition, the women's tennis team plans to bring in its first Ivy win this weekend. The Lions are prepared to host the Quakers on Saturday during their senior day celebration. Columbia expects a close match against Penn, as both teams hold the same 0-5 record this Ivy season. The next day, the Light Blue women travel to face the highest ranked competitor of the conference season—No. 28 Princeton—who currently boasts an undefeated Ivy record and a 18-5 record overall. Princeton will bring tougher competition as the Tigers continue to fight for the Ivy title.

This weekend will also be senior co-captain Carling Donovan's final matches of her career as a Lion. She hopes to continue her success from last weekend's match against Brown in which she defeated Brown's Catherine Stewart. In the

COLUMBIA VS. PENN
Dick Savitt Tennis Center, Friday, 2 p.m.

COLUMBIA AT PRINCETON
Princeton, N.J., Sunday, 2 p.m.

matchup, Donovan showcased her power and patience as a player, notching the only singles win as she clinched an incredibly close match.

“Carling continues to be one of our best players,” head coach Ilene Weintraub said. “And last weekend, she proved that and played a lot of great points. The match against the Brown girl was a really close one. It takes a lot of patience to win a match like that. She really stepped up and did what she needed to do.”

Donovan has worked since her freshman year to develop the skills needed to win close matches.

“Every season, Carling’s become a smarter player,” Weintraub said. “She has her own

game style that she’s been developing this season. Her strength is her forehand. She likes to drive the ball hard. A couple seasons ago, if someone hit her balls with a lot of top spin, it would have given her a problem. Now, she’s able to control that more. She’s just become a smart, strategic player.”

With the help of her teammates, Donovan prepares to battle for Columbia’s first win of the Ivy season against the Quakers. This season, Penn has lost four out of five Ivy matches 7-0 and one match 6-1 to Dartmouth. Though both Columbia and Penn sit 0-5 in the Ivy season, a victory against Penn looks very promising. Unlike Penn, Columbia has been swept 7-0 only twice and has managed to keep their play close against the other Ivy competition.

“To prepare for the Penn match, we’ve been working on our consistency,” Weintraub said. “We’ve also just been having fun. We plan to go out there and give it our best. We’re taking this one

match at a time, but if we’re successful against Penn, we’re going to go into the Princeton match with a lot more confidence. They are fighting for an Ivy title, so it’s a good chance to get out there against a high ranked team.”

As a whole, the Lions have improved a lot this season and plan to go out with a bang. The changes since the beginning of the season are apparent across the board. Despite the injuries and setbacks, the Lions are at the top of their game.

“Mostly, we’re a lot more unified this year,” Weintraub said. “But in terms of skill, I think every girl on the team has improved in fitness. We’re faster and stronger than we were towards the beginning of the season. All of our improvements are going to help us in these last matches. We’re going to do what we always do and take one match at a time. If we’re successful against Penn, we’ll soar into the Princeton match with a lot more confidence and show them what we can do.”

Light Blue softball to take on Princeton

BY CHRISTOPHER BROWN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Columbia softball team (9-22, 1-7 Ivy) returns to conference action this weekend to host Ivy League South Division rival Princeton (7-25).

The Lions return home after a rough road stretch where the team lost five of six contests. Their only win on the trip came against nonconference opponent Fairleigh Dickinson, where the offense was able to slug its way to a 12-8 victory behind Kayla Lechler's first career home run, a fourth inning grand slam.

Last season, the Light Blue was swept in a four game series against the Tigers in New Jersey, although each game was decided by two runs or less. Junior Anne Marie Skylis had one of her best stretches of the season, hitting .400 (4-for-10) with a walk and two RBI in the series.

For the Tigers, senior Jamie Lettire threw a complete game

COLUMBIA VS. PRINCETON
Baker Athletics Complex, Saturday, 12:30

COLUMBIA VS. PRINCETON
Baker Athletics Complex, Sunday, 12:30 p.m.

win where she allowed just two earned runs off of seven hits on April 12. She turned in a similar performance the next day, allowing five earned runs in seven innings for her fifth win last season. However, Lettire's numbers have regressed from last year. Her ERA has gone from a 4.04 in 102 1/3 innings last year to one of over 7.00 in her first 77 2/3 innings of 2010.

Overall, this season has been a struggle for a Princeton team that won the Ivy League championship just two years ago. This season they sit at the bottom of the South Division standings and currently sport the worst overall record in the league.

So far, Princeton has relied on two freshman starters to carry it this season. Right-hander Alex Peyton is off to a promising start in her collegiate career. She leads her team with a 3.16 ERA and has 19 strikeouts in 51 innings pitched. Liza Kuhn has a 4.77 ERA in a team high 80 2/3 innings with 35 strikeouts.

On offense, catcher Sarah Rounsifer is hitting .296 with two home runs and 13 RBI in 32 games. Lettire has been having a better season at the plate than on the mound with a .290 batting average, with a team-high eight home runs to go with 17 RBI in 100 at-bats.

Senior Kelsey Quist has knocked in 24 runs and has five home runs in 85 at-bats.

Columbia and Princeton will play all four games this weekend in a pair of doubleheaders on Saturday and Sunday with start times of 12:30 and 2:30 p.m.



JENNY HSU / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
FULL COUNT | Maureen O’Kane and the pitching staff will try to lift the Lions to victory against the Tigers.



ELAINE BURCHMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
READY, SET, ROW | Both men’s crew teams will travel to Philadelphia this weekend to face Ancient Eight rivals Yale and Penn in the Blackwell and Dodge Cups.

Heavyweight, lightweight crew to face Ivy rivals in Philadelphia

BY NINA LUKINA
Spectator Staff Writer

Both of the men’s crew teams will travel to Philadelphia this weekend to compete against teams from Yale and Penn. The heavyweight crew will be looking to take its third straight Blackwell Cup while the lightweights will look to recover from a loss to Navy last week and avenge their loss to Yale in last year’s Dodge Cup.

LIGHTWEIGHTS AT DODGE CUP
Philadelphia, Penn., Saturday, 9:40 a.m.

HEAVYWEIGHTS AT BLACKWELL CUP
Philadelphia, Penn., Saturday, 9:10 a.m.

The last time the heavyweights faced Penn, one week ago in the Childs Cup, the Lions came in ahead of the Quakers comfortably, with the varsity boat beating them with

a margin of about six seconds. The Bulldogs, however, may prove to be more of a challenge for Columbia. In their last matchup at the Head of the Charles Regatta in the fall, Yale’s heavyweights finished the 5k in 15:10.27, while Columbia’s unofficial time was 15:33.047, though it suffered a one-minute penalty for hitting a bridge.

Last year at the Blackwell Cup, the heavyweight varsity eight defeated Yale with a 2k time of 5:54.0,

narrowly ahead of the Bulldogs, who finished at 5:56.8. The year before that, the first time Columbia managed to win the Cup since 1941, the Lions scraped by with a lead of a mere 1.2 seconds.

The lightweights beat Penn in their last race against the Quakers—at the Head of the Charles last fall. The Light Blue crossed the finish line with a time of 16:05.65, behind Yale’s 15:55.33 but well in front of the Red and Blue, who finished with

a time of 16:22.99. The lightweight crew will also see a tough competitor in the Bulldogs.

In last year’s Dodge Cup, the lightweight crew came in third of three, finishing over seven seconds behind winner Yale, and almost three behind second-place Penn.

The heavyweight crew will begin the racing at 9:10 a.m. on the Schuylkill course while the lightweights are set to start at 9:40 a.m. in Philadelphia, Pa.



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ALYSON GOULDEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TO THE NET | The Light Blue lacrosse team hopes to defeat Yale this weekend in its penultimate matchup in the Ancient Eight before the Ivy League tournament takes place Apr. 30 - May 1.


Lacrosse to face Ancient Eight foe Yale in weekend matchup in New Haven

BY JULIA GARRISON
Spectator Staff Writer

The women's lacrosse team will be traveling to Yale this weekend to play its final away game of the season. Columbia (5-6, 0-5 Ivy) is looking to attain its first win in the Ancient Eight this year and is entering the game with an exciting

COLUMBIA AT YALE

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



recent win over Quinnipiac on Wednesday. Yale (5-7, 2-3 Ivy), most recently lost to Princeton 11-2 last Saturday, April 10 and will be hoping to stay in contention for the Ivy League

Tournament by defeating the Light Blue.

When Yale came to Columbia last season, the Bulldogs defeated the Lions 12-6 on their home turf. The game started out as a close competition, with Light Blue senior Brittany Shannon responding to two Yale goals with two of her own, and then-senior Rachel Ryan putting in a

point for the Lions to stay with-in one goal at the half, trailing the Bulldogs 4-3.

Yale struck first again at the start of the second half, while then-senior Lion Holly Glynn responded to keep the game within a single goal advantage. However, the Bulldogs went on a four-goal run, while Columbia's Shannon and Glynn

put in only two for the Lions, widening Yale's lead to 9-6. Before time was up, Yale was able to keep possession of the ball from Columbia, putting in three more goals and finishing with a win

With their loss against Yale last season, the Lions fell to 5-6 and 0-5 in the Ancient Eight, while the Bulldogs improved to

4-8 and gained their first win in the league. If Columbia beats Yale this year, the Bulldogs may be out of the running for the Ivy Tournament and the Light Blue would make its first mark in the Ivies.

The game against Yale will be held in New Haven, Conn. and will begin at 1 p.m. this Saturday.



HALEY VECCHIARELLI / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A TEST RUN | With only a week until the Penn Relay Carnival, the track teams will test their mental readiness for the tough competition ahead.

CU track travels for out-of-state invitationals

BY GREGORY KREMLER
Spectator Staff Writer

A week outside of the Penn Relay Carnival and three from the Heptagonal conference meet, Columbia track and field seeks to ready itself for both contests this weekend in Alabama and California. Sprints will field a readied group at Auburn's War Eagle Invitational—and their intention is to run fast.

The top event to watch in Alabama is the women's 400m. Super sophomore Sharay Hale will face off against top national competition, including Auburn junior Joanna Atkins—multiple-time All-American and returning NCAA champion. Hale opened with a 53.85 in Florida on April 2, but hasn't had a go at the distance since. Now is as good a time as any to be primed.

Sophomore Kyra Caldwell will have her third outing in as many weeks at the 400m hurdles. Her aim once again, will be to break the 1:00 min barrier—after posting 1:00.61 in her debut, and 1:00.54 last week. She'll also compete in the 100m version of the event.

COLUMBIA AT AUBURN INVITATIONAL

Auburn, Ala., Saturday, All day

COLUMBIA AT MT. SAC RELAYS

Walnut, Ca., Friday, All day

“At this point in the season, we're beginning to get into championship mode,” sprints coach Gavin O'Neal said. “This weekend is a test meet to get mentally prepared.”

After debuting at the Sam Howell Invitational the distance squad will seek success this weekend when the Lions head to Walnut, Calif. for the Mt. SAC Relays. Here the 5k will be the marquee event, with sophomore Kyle Merber returning to competition after his blistering 3:45 in the 1500m two weeks ago. He'll be joined by nine Lion men, a large part of the winning contingent from cross country Heptagonals this past fall. Additionally, both the men's and women's 1500m sections will feature a slew of Lion competitors.

Competition will take place all day on Saturday leading up to next week's competition at the Penn Relay Carnival after consecutive split weekends.

Golf faces last opponents before Ivy Championships

BY VICTORIA JONES
Spectator Staff Writer

This will be the final weekend of competition for Columbia's men's and women's golf teams before the Ivy League Championships take place April 23-25.

On the men's side, the Lions will head to Annapolis, Md. to compete in the Navy Spring Invitational. Play begins at 8 a.m. on Saturday and will continue into Sunday.

So far this spring, the men's golf team has competed in three other tournaments. The highest finish that the Light Blue has seen so far has been a sixth place finish at the University of San Francisco Triumph at Pauma Valley Tournament, at which there were a total of twelve teams competing.

Most recently the team finished 13th out of 15 teams at the Princeton Invitational. Freshman Michael Yiu topped the charts for the Light Blue with 224 strokes, good enough to tie at 28th overall.

The women have some competition of their own planned for this weekend as they prepare to host the Fourth Annual Roar-EE

COLUMBIA AT NAVY SPRING INVITATIONAL

Annapolis, Md., Saturday, 8 a.m.

COLUMBIA AT ROAR-EE INVITATIONAL

Suffern, N.Y., Friday, All day

Invitational on Saturday and Sunday on the Spook Rock Golf Course in Suffern, N.Y.

The women have only attended two invitationals so far this spring—finishing fourth of nine at the Carmel Invitational and seventh of 17 at the Hoya Invitational, both back in March.

At the Hoya Invitational, the Lions broke the top 20 when senior Stevy Loy finished tied for 17th with a score of 160. Sophomore Robin Lee also swung well as she tied for 23rd, with a round of 78 on the first day and 83 on the second.

Though more pressing competition looms near, both the men and women's teams have the Ivy League Championships to look forward to next weekend. The championships are scheduled to take place nearby in Springfield, N.J.



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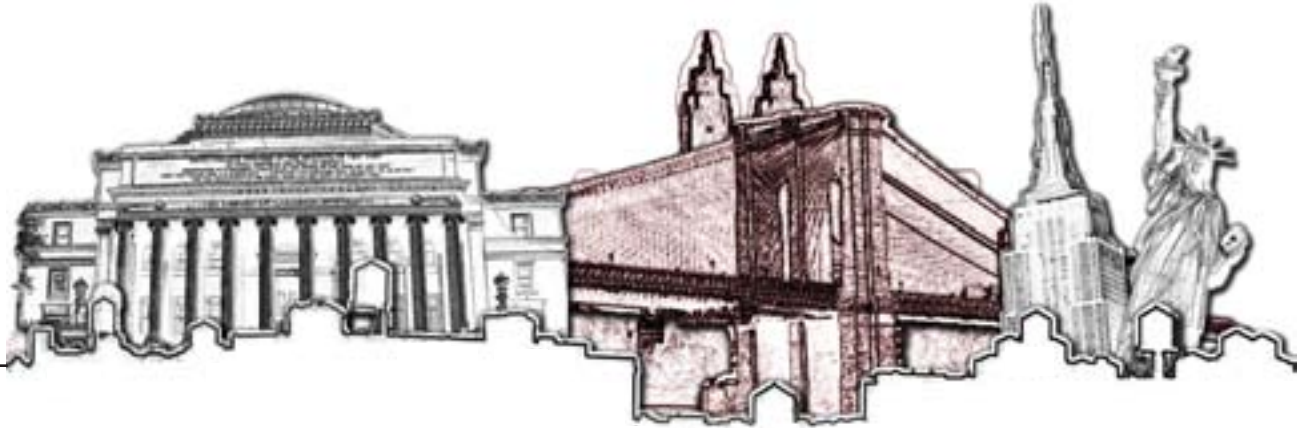
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Biennial displays alumna’s eccentric inspirations

BY FRANCES CORRY
Spectator Staff Writer

Every time a six or a nine appears on the calendar between Feb. 25 and May 30, artist Aki Sasamoto performs her piece “Strange Attractors” at the Whitney Biennial. Sasamoto’s peculiar math is representative of her work in general: intriguing, innovative, and odd.

The Japanese-born, New York-based artist—who recently spoke at Columbia’s School of the Arts, from which she graduated in 2007—employs performance, dance, and sculpture in her pieces. She explains her work in abstract terms, but often analyzes the most domestic and overlooked habits of human life. So what was her focus for the influential “2010” exhibition at the Whitney?

“I have obsession lately about psychics, doughnuts, and hemorrhoids,” Sasamoto said. She explained her concept as a cluster of episodes: “I have several ideas and objects and movements,” she said. “I make a group of them ... under that title. My project has multifacets, aspects of it in medium and then in idea.”

The title of the piece manifests a “mathematical concept called strange attractors.” In the geometric realm, this involves the time-space dimensions of chaos theory. But Sasamoto’s work is more relatable than this: Objects based on theory are enveloped in her piece’s narrative, along with concrete abstractions like “I’m trying to figure out how to eat a doughnut from the inside out.”

One may be mystified when first seeing the installation for “Strange Attractors” without the performer herself. Drips of orange fishnet cloth hang from the ceiling, some with spinning wires attached. Tables and tubes and large white doughnut-shaped cloths are placed around the room.

But when Sasamoto enters the space on these carefully selected dates, the installation comes alive, with the objects relating to both her movements and her words. Climbing into tubes, interacting with the doughnuts, talking into microphones, rotating created contraptions, moving around tables, and unfolding graphs, Sasamoto tells a story that links with the installation itself.

“I’m interested in meanings of the object or meanings of the movement,” Sasamoto said. “In front of you, the meaning can change, right? Even though I say the exact same thing, it might mean completely different things today and then tomorrow.

“If a certain thing doesn’t make sense, I won’t do it that day, and then I might do something else,” she continued. This played out in the first several performances of “Strange Attractors,” with variations derived from Sasamoto’s state of mind.

“Like, the second time I performed, I ended up in a tube. I think I was dark that day,” she said. “But the third time, I didn’t end there. In fact, I just went through very quickly with that pipe. I talked twice as much. It changes. I allow that to change, even though I go with the intention to do the same thing.”

This variability, which Sasamoto calls “structural improvisation,” is part of the larger ebb and flow of current performance and past inspiration.

“As soon as the installation is done, the psychic and doughnuts and attractors ... stay in it. So I don’t live that



ROSE DONLON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ART IN MOTION | SoA alumna Aki Sasamoto’s “Strange Attractors” is on display at the Whitney Biennial.

anymore,” she said. “Right now, it’s totally in the artwork.” (Mostly, that is: “You know what? That’s not true. I still eat doughnuts.”)

Like “Strange Attractors,” her past works have often drawn inspiration from the examination of habit and, quite often, food. In the 2005 “cooking show,” Sasamoto dissected procedural order, details, and mundane tasks while cutting through potatoes with an impossibly extended knife. She has employed potatoes in other performances, and has also used spaghetti. In a different 2005 piece, Sasamoto based her improvisational narrative around extravagant food.

By seeing these mundane items and tasks with an artistic lens, objects are given new perspective and movements are given new life. While contemporary art can often be intimidating, the active nature and strange familiarity of

Sasamoto’s content is at once contemplative and engaging.

“I want to make a piece that has many entrances and exits, so people can come in with association with the object, or people can come in from listening to my performance and then get into it,” she said. In terms of her piece at the Biennial, Sasamoto has been experiencing a certain communication with the audience. “The reality is, a lot more people overlap—what they see is what I mean.”

The outside connections a viewer can draw from Sasamoto’s pieces mirror the way in which the artist herself finds inspiration. “I think inspiration for art is often for me not in art,” she said. “You find it in an unexpected place, or in daily life or class in other subjects.”

For Sasamoto, this sense was catalyzed in her education at Columbia, where visual arts MFA students do

not have to adhere to a specific medium and are able to take a variety of courses within the University. “While I was a student, I had fun because I like a liberal arts environment. I audited many classes, I went to lectures,” she said.

But no artist would be complete without his or her vices, and no Columbia education would be complete without a Morningside haunt. For Sasamoto, these two were combined. “I lived above Kitchenette, and they have, like, a fruit scone that I just totally liked and was very toxic in my life,” Sasamoto said. “I couldn’t get away from it.”

The artist performs today, April 16, at 4 p.m. in the Whitney Museum of American Art. Sasamoto also speaks today at 7:30 p.m. in “My Turn: Aki Sasamoto and Culture Push” at the Whitney.

Monday magic shows enchant weary students



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The Fun, the Fantastical, and the Freakish

Mondays are mean, anxiety-inducing days—especially for Columbians, and especially now. In approximately two weeks, Columbia students will attend their final classes of the semester. In three weeks, that

bone-crushing, fire-breathing, (potentially) GPA-blighting beast that is finals will appear, destroying students’ sleep patterns and general sense of well-being. To remind students (including myself) that Mondays do indeed possess some redeeming qualities, I scoured the city in search of some beginning-of-the-week entertainment, and boy, did I strike gold. Allow me to introduce you to a whole new world, one in which Mondays are a beacon of hope, instead of an emblem of evil. I’ve found a fantastical Monday you can believe in.

Earnest and unabashed belief in magic is encouraged during childhood—parents feed their kids captivating fairy tales, urge them to leave snacks for Santa Claus, or report sightings of the tooth fairy. Then we grow up, grow cynical, and become completely disillusioned. Monday Night Magic, New York’s longest-running off-Broadway magic show, recreates and refines the enchantment so often lost during the transition from childhood to young adulthood.

Walking into NoHo’s Bleecker Street Theatre, home of MNM, I was a wee bit skeptical. I wondered what the audience would be like. Could card tricks and sleight of hand sustain my attention for more than a few minutes? Once inside the cozy auditorium, I assessed the fellow spectators—a few families turned up for the show, but most of the crowd was composed of adults. Jocular host Jamy Ian Swiss welcomed us, provided a brief introduction to MNM, and performed a few clever tricks of his own before introducing seasoned sleight-of-hand artist Michael Chaut, founding producer of MNM. Urbane, with a delightfully wry sense of humor, Chaut’s personality was as engrossing as his presentation. Throughout his performance, Chaut would act as if he were going to dismantle the magic involved in a particular trick to explain how it worked, then wow the audience by taking the trick to another level, confounding any sense of understanding we believed we’d gained.

Comedian, magician, and balloon sculptor John Cassidy followed Chaut. Cassidy was hilarious—actually, beyond hilarious. With his protuberant eyes and crazy antics, this act was gut-busting, laugh-so-hard-you-cry funny. Recorded in Guinness World Records as the world’s fastest balloon sculptor, Cassidy offered some of the wildest balloon creations to the audience—I’m talking stripper-on-a-pole, alien-on-a-bicycle balloons. One poor preteen who eagerly accepted the stripper balloon was brought on stage and tortured (to the audience’s amusement) for 20 minutes. With his scarily wide eyes, Cassidy urged the kid to reach inside a bag “full of candy,” and the kid—suspicious and hesitant—extended his hand toward the bag, then forcefully retracted it when a small blast of fire emerged. Seriously, Cassidy seemed borderline insane (and I mean this in the best way possible). He blew up a balloon with his nose. You must Google this man.

The final performer was Rocco, a conjurer with a Mediterranean charm (despite the fact that he was born in Jersey). Relying only on a small lighter, Rocco transformed cigarettes into so many different items—marshmallows, sticks of spearmint gum, and various other edible substances. I was flabbergasted.

After the show, I went to dinner with Chaut and another audience member (a lovely singer/songwriter/social worker with whom I instantly bonded over our shared Midwestern roots). Shortly after our arrival at the Noho Star, a couple other entertainers joined us for dinner—two members of the Ringling Brothers Circus:

Audience is in good ‘Company’ at latest CMTS production

BY MADDY KLOSS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Dissatisfied with the Columbia dating scene? Don’t seek solace in Stephen Sondheim’s “Company.”

However, for a well-rounded student theater production, the Columbia Musical Theatre Society’s rendition of the 1970 musical plays this weekend in Lerner Black Box. “Company” follows eligible bachelor Robert and his interactions with a variety of married friends and lovers. The show does not paint a pretty picture of marriage, or of singlehood—to put it bluntly, basically every character in this show seems to be slowly coming apart at the seams.

The relationships depicted in the show are both satirical and amusing, but are also often gratingly passive-aggressive or just plain awkward. Fortunately, the universally strong cast manages to make characters who rely on death glares as a form of communication compelling—endearing, even.

As self-proclaimed “square” Jenny, campus theater favorite Sarah Dooley, BC ’11, makes the most out of a minor character and inspires the audience to erupt with

laughter within two lines—although students familiar with her purposefully gawky acting style might argue she’s just playing a version of herself. Angela Seales, GS, succeeds as airhead flight attendant April, a passionate woman buried behind a deer-in-the-headlights facade, and has a lovely, crisp voice to boot.

As Robert, Austin Smith, CC ’10, makes good use of a voice so powerful that it nearly overwhelms the Black Box’s sound system. His finely tuned acting is well suited for a character who is simultaneously desperate for someone to love and happiest alone.

Sondheim’s complex, angular melodies are notoriously difficult to sing, but CMTS navigates them admirably. Unfortunately, however, the jazz band providing the accompaniment occasionally plays so loudly that the intricate harmonies are drowned out and the lyrics rendered indecipherable.

The choreography is inherently rather limited because the music, which stops and starts frequently, does not lend itself particularly well to dancing. However, one number, “Side by Side/What Would We Do Without You,” includes an extended



AJIT PILLAI / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MARRIED, NOT MERRY | The cast of CMTS’ “Company”—a musical about the ups and downs of marriage—performs this weekend in Lerner Black Box.

WEEKEND PICKS

THE EDITORS’ BEST BETS FOR THE WEEKEND AHEAD

THEATER
“Fences.” *Cort Theater, 138 West 48th St. (between Sixth and Seventh avenues). Various days and times, prices vary.*
Denzel Washington returns to Broadway in possibly the greatest play written in the last 100 years. An entry in his century-long focus on the African-American experience, August Wilson delivered a Pulitzer Prize-winning play about the familial ties that bind. If there’s one production worthy of throwing down the big bucks this season, Fences fits the bill.

FOOD
Lamb Cook-Off at The Bell House. *149 Seventh St. (between Second and Third avenues), Gowanus, Brooklyn. Sunday, April 18, 4 p.m., \$15.*
Starting with 15 pounds of lamb, contestants will create a variety of dishes to woo judges and the public. Make a day trip out to Brooklyn and fork over \$15 for this lamb overdose.

FILM
“Toy Story 3” Columbia Cliffhanger Screening. *AMC Loews 84th Street 6, 2310 Broadway (at 84th Street). Thursday, April 22, 7 p.m., free with CUID.*
Who doesn’t want the chance to see a new installment in a beloved childhood film? Simply by RSVPing on Facebook, Columbia students can attend a free screening of the first 65 minutes of the new “Toy Story” film, out this summer. But get there early—it’s first come, first serve for seats.

STYLE
Zac Posen for Target Pop-Up Store Party. *481 Eighth Ave. (at 34th Street). Friday, April 16, 11 p.m., free.*
Although the mega-chain still has yet to make its installation debut in Manhattan proper, a pop-up version will be here for two nights, and two nights only. Snatch up Zac Posen for Target pieces now, before they can only be found through online shopping or on the racks in New Jersey. The collection will include a mix of military-green utilitarian dresses, pink ruffles, and one-piece bathing suits that students wouldn’t be ashamed to wear to the beach.

DANCE
Parlor Games. *Tze Chun Dance Company, 597 Degraw St. (between Third and Fourth avenues), Brooklyn. Saturday, April 17, 5 p.m., free.*
Numerous Columbia and Barnard alums will present a free dance series in Brooklyn brownstones examining the scandalous 19th-century parlor games that confronted the otherwise corseted Victorian society.

ART
CU Artist Society Drawathon. *501 Dodge Hall. Friday, April 16, 6-11 p.m., free.*
This five-hour event offers free models, supplies, and food for all amateur or experienced artists. The drawathon is a relaxed atmosphere for students to hone their craft and have fun with other art enthusiasts.

MUSIC
Record Store Day, *multiple locations. Saturday, April 17, all day, free.*
Independent record stores nationwide partner with artists to celebrate—or maybe to revive?—indie record shop culture. Festivities include performances, limited release, and barbecue, and will take place at stores throughout the city, including Kim’s and Bleecker Street Records. “High Fidelity,” anyone?

BOOKS
I LEGO N.Y. Book Launch Party, *37 Main St. (at Water Street). Saturday, April 17, 3-4 p.m., free.*
Take a trek down to Brooklyn to celebrate the launch of New York Times blogger Christoph Niemann’s new book, which features LEGO sculptures of New York City. For students feeling an itch to tackle making the pieces themselves, bring a personal NYC LEGO creation for a chance to win a free copy of the book!

WILDCARD
Andy Warhol Piñata. *Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Pkwy. (at Washington Avenue). Friday-Thursday, April 16-22, various times, \$6 with CUID.*
There are few things that sound as immediately ridiculous as a 20-foot-tall piñata of Andy Warhol’s head. Yet that’s exactly what the Brooklyn Museum currently displays in its Rubin Pavilion, until the creation gets whacked apart on Thursday night. Papier-mache Ray-Bans not included.

SEARCH FOR THE BEST

BOOKSTORE CAFÉS



ELAINE BURCHMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BRAIN FOOD | Bookstore cafés provide the ideal atmosphere for students seeking to escape the Columbia bubble.

Students find food for thought at bookstore cafés

BY SHARON SAMUEL
Columbia Daily Spectator

To the harried student, the enveloping smell of coffee and a cozy atmosphere can often be a much-needed respite from Butler. Fortunately, Manhattan offers plenty of unique bookstore alternatives with some solid eats to top it off.

Hue-Man Bookstore & Café, located at 2319 Frederick Douglass Blvd., proudly displays Harlem’s roots. Boasting an entire section on the history of Manhattan, and of Harlem in particular, the store screams “New York” and showcases African-American culture. While novels by Toni Morrison and Zora Neale Hurston

are to be expected, the array of African-American children’s books, religious literature, and even ancient African history books comes as a pleasant surprise.

Hue-Man represents a wholesome cultural experience, as R&B music plays in the background and posters of contemporary black musicians decorate the walls, along with traditional African masks. The café area contains a sizable bar with both iced and hot drinks. Pastries and wraps are also available, although books and magazines from the store area are not permitted in the café.

Straight down from Hue-Man on the D line, **Housing Works Bookstore Cafe** is located just around the corner from the

Broadway-Lafayette Street subway station at 126 Crosby St. Though it appears narrow and unassuming from the outside, the store is in fact two stories high, with winding staircases leading up to the balcony stacks. Featuring standard categories of books including the arts, world literature, travel, and classic titles, the sheer vastness of the selection makes it hard to believe that 100 percent of the proceeds goes to Housing Works, Inc. The organization works to promote AIDS testing and to provide care for people living with HIV/AIDS—in fact, all staff members are Housing Works volunteers.

SEE CAFÉS, page 11



COURTESY OF IFC FILMS

CAT’S MEOW | “No One Knows About Persian Cats” portrays fictionalized Iranian bands.

Film addressing Iranian underground music lets ‘Persian Cats’ out of the bag

BY MARICELA GONZALEZ
Columbia Daily Spectator

For the first few scenes, the grainy picture quality, unstable camera movement, and quickly streaming subtitles make “No One Knows About Persian Cats” seem daunting, elusive, and overwhelming. But that is what the Iranian music underground is: unstable, mysterious, and irresistible.

Directed by Kurdish-Iranian writer-director Bahman Ghobadi, “No One Knows About Persian Cats” blurs the line between documentary and narrative film, telling the fictional tale of two real underground Iranian musicians as they visit with real Iranian musicians in hopes of forming a band and traveling to Europe to perform. While the frame story may be fictional, protagonists Negar Shaghaghi and Ashkan Koshanejad play fictionalized versions of their own personalities while their crafty yet faithful agent Nader is played by Iranian actor Hamed Behdad. All of the musicians, music venues, and other locations presented in the film are real.

Negar and Ashkan, as well as their indie rock friends, look more like Williamsburg hipsters than the stereotypical Iranian. Although Negar wears a hijab and loose-fitting clothing, as deemed mandatory under Iranian law, she dons the same square hipster glasses worn by many in the indie rock scene here in New York.

Besides the comical and at times desperate antics of Nader as he helps Negar and Ashkan try to make it big, the framed narrative lacks emotional depth and complexity to be successful. It is the showcases of the multitude of real underground Iranian music genres that

elevate the film to extraordinary heights. As each new musician/band performs, Ghobadi veers off from the main plot to express visually what the song represents in Iranian society. He essentially interweaves music videos—think ’90s MTV political statement videos rather than Lady Gaga—into the film.

But this film isn’t just fun and games in the underground. Unlike the “underground” music scene in the United States, the stakes are much higher than becoming commercial—and much more dangerous. The antagonist isn’t a person but an institution: the law banning Western-influenced music, not to mention the myriad restrictions on female performers. As every character rebels against the “man”—some succeeding, some not, Ghobadi ensures that while the film’s subject is inherently political, the underground culture doesn’t want to change the world but simply wants to play some tunes. As one musician states, “We’re just playing music... We’re not hurting anyone.”

As soon as the narrative frame finally seemed to gain momentum, the film ended alarmingly abruptly. It was unsatisfying and uncalled for, but perhaps that is what Ghobadi intended: to leave the audience in a state of unease and confusion that will promote discussion and thought about the film and its messages.

Nevertheless, the shining star of the film lies in the music. From indie rock to heavy metal to traditional Persian music, Ghobadi meticulously presents how each genre encompasses a segment of Iranian culture to create the overall modern Persian identity. It is this union that ensures that everyone someday will know about Persian cats.

Monday magic shows enchant weary students

MCGUIRE from page 9

the second-youngest ringmaster to work for Ringling, and a Brazilian woman who dances with elephants. It was, unequivocally, the most interesting Monday evening I’ve ever had.

Bleecker Street Theatre is located at 45 Bleecker St. Discount tickets to MNM cost \$34 and are available until 24 hours prior to show time. Regular tickets cost \$39. Visit mondaynightmagic.com and subscribe to the MNM mailing list to receive a complimentary ticket.

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

Finding downtown dumpling food fortunes

DUMPLING from page 12

really matter. Behind the counter, one can see workers frying handmade dumplings in one giant pan and steaming them in another, which begs the question of why Morningside dumplings are so expensive in the first place. Prosperity answers by offering five sizable dumplings for only a dollar. Cheap and simple, Prosperity has perfected the dumpling recipe: juicy pork, plentiful chives, and a slightly salty wrapper. Also, despite seeming carelessness, the workers fry every dumpling in their massive pan to a golden standard of crispy perfection—save a liberal sprinkling of soy sauce or vinegar and a squirt of hot chili. Both the palates and the wallets of students who stumble upon this Chinatown treasure will indeed prosper.

Students used to Morningside Chinese food prices may be shocked at the inexpensiveness of Chinatown’s culinary offerings, but really, dumplings and scallion pancakes require just a few basic ingredients. Combine that with expert preparation and a no-frills décor philosophy, and students will soon learn that hole-in-the-wall is the way to go. Neat freaks may cringe, but let them.

Coffee shop stirs up local flavor with espresso drinks

BY EMBRY OWEN
Columbia Daily Spectator

On warm spring days, Joe the Art of Coffee on the Upper West Side leaves its large glass doors open, inviting local residents and tired students in for one of the city’s best cups of coffee.

Last month, the New York Times published a list of the 30 best coffee shops in the city as part of a larger article on the resurgence of local coffee culture. For the student on a budget, this list presents an invitation to explore New York’s culinary scene for a small price. Joe, the closest coffee shop to Morningside Heights on the list, is an excellent place to start.

Located on 85th and Columbus, a pleasant walk or a short subway ride from campus, Joe feels like a comfortable neighborhood nook where locals run into friends and the hip-yet-friendly baristas know all the regulars. It seems that everyone from the area stops by Joe for their morning caffeine: the biker taking a break from her ride, the postman on his route, the businessman talking a little too loudly on his cell phone. The experience of sitting crammed alongside the locals, however, is part of Joe’s charm, as is the art on the walls—photos of the Italian countryside by Russell Starr—the high ceiling, and the narrow seating. If serious homework beckons, be prepared to stake out a table, and bring a pair of headphones.

Ordering may be even more

of a challenge than claiming a seat, since Joe’s baristas excel across the board. Joe’s standard espresso drinks are solid. In particular, the latte is a pleasing mix of sweet notes from steamed milk and deep, robust undertones from hearty espresso. Here, baristas are devout latte artists, so expect to find a milky leaf or heart gracing the top of the drink.

For serious drip coffee drinkers, Joe serves house coffee and a featured blend that changes daily. After 12 p.m., a drip bar with individually filtered coffees is also available. Their café au lait, made with the Brazil blend, tastes smooth and balanced, although it at first lacks the richness of Joe’s espresso drinks. Eventually, the strength of the Brazil comes out from beneath the steamed milk. Admittedly, Joe may not be the ideal coffee shop for warm summer days—its iced coffee is refreshing but otherwise unremarkable.

For students looking for a coffee alternative, Joe offers a surprising array of hot and iced teas, such as a Moroccan mint blend. In the mornings, a variety of baked goods from local producers are served.

If students prefer to make coffee at home, Joe’s beans for sale make an excellent but expensive brew. Have a wallet handy, because Joe only takes cash.

While Joe’s drinks may not be the best in the city, they’re certainly better than anything students can find within a 10-block radius of Columbia.



EMBRY OWEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
CAFFEINE FIX | Joe the Art of Coffee serves up rich espresso and strong brew in a cozy, stylish atmosphere on the Upper West Side.



COURTESY OF PHOTOFEST
EXTRA, EXTRA | Film Forum pays homage to the headlines—and the people who make them—with flicks that span the 20th century.

Film Forum series explores dark side of the news

BY NNEKA MCGUIRE
Columbia Daily Spectator

Everyone enjoys a good secret and a good story. Tales of intrigue and suspicions of subterfuge are the reasons why the public reads the newspaper

FILM (besides the fact that it feels good to be an informed citizen). To some degree, everyone roots for the (more or less) respectable newsman—a somewhat nobler predecessor of the paparazzo and the tabloid writer—and even revels in watching the unethical reporter extract, or perhaps construct, the truth and get the scoop.

Beginning in the 1930s, the reporter’s plights and prestige were brought to the silver screen, with movies such as “The Front Page” and “Night Mayor.” “The

Newspaper Picture,” a month-long series currently playing at Film Forum, is paying homage to 44 newspaper films spanning the entire 20th century. The series depicts the news business at its best and its basest. It features classics such as “Citizen Kane” and “All the President’s Men,” as well as less fêted films such as “Front Page Woman” and “Call Northside 777.”

A great many of the movies being screened star William Lee Tracy—so many, in fact, that they’re having a “Lee Tracy Sidebar,” a mini-series in which they show a Tracy movie every Tuesday. Tracy was an actor who often assumed the roles of cocksuck and quick-talking newspapermen during his career. “Doctor X,” one of many Tracy films being screened,

presents the key mixture of mystery, horror, and a reporter’s hunt for the story. Tracy plays Lee Taylor, a reporter investigating a series of homicides dubbed the “Moon Killer Murders”—so named because each murder takes place under the light of a full moon and each victim is subsequently cannibalized. Taylor’s stories on the grisly murders cast suspicion on the mysterious Doctor Xavier and his medical academy. With its focus on cannibalism as well as a hint of necrophilia—both considered extremely perverse and therefore not depicted in motion pictures in the 1930s—the film is daring in its subject matter and deft in its execution.

Tracy’s frequent costar Ann Dvorak plays the quick-witted

leading lady in many newspaper films, such as “Love is a Racket” and “The Strange Love of Molly Louvain,” both part of the Film Forum series.

Watching the stories unfold in these newspaper films is riveting, not simply because of the sensational plot lines that serve as the skeleton for many of the films, but also because these movies hearken back to a time when the newspaper business was thriving, not flatlining, and remind us of the redeeming qualities of the news and those who ferociously fight to find it and provide it to a hungry audience.

Film Forum is located at 209 West Houston St. The Newspaper Picture series runs through May 4. Tickets cost \$12.

At El Porton, Mexican rice that’s not worth the price

BY NATASSIA MILLER
Columbia Daily Spectator



Cravings for Mexican food come in sporadic bursts, like a quick need for satisfaction of a massive hunger. And for the low price, not even the most desperate individual can complain. Eventually, however, mediocre Mexican cuisine doesn’t cut it anymore. Thus begins a search for a comfortably delicious, dependable experience in the city, beyond the ubiquitous burrito truck.

Near the subway overpass on Broadway and La Salle lies El Porton—a Mexican restaurant that boasts an inviting bar and a down-to-earth vibe. Add a potent mango frozen margarita to the list, and the boasting stops there.

Offering everything from enchiladas to tacos, fajitas to quesadillas, the menu includes a few unexpected items, such

as barbacoa, or savory oven-roasted goat. In true Mexican fashion, a bowl of chips and salsa arrives at the table in no time, but its complimentary price fails to mask its unappetizing nature—a combination of unsuccessfully fried chips attempting to hide an already stale taste, and salsa resembling watery tomato juice as opposed to the desirable chunkiness.

Steak fajitas, unfortunately, don’t provide much hope either. The best part of this concoction is the soft, warm tortilla, but the most critical ingredient—grilled steak—is a disappointing product of dry, thinly sliced meat. A pitiful heap of guacamole, sour cream, and shredded white cheddar cheese accompanies a lackluster plate of black beans and rice. Slathering the fajita with an unusual amount of sour cream is the best attempt to make it a worthwhile bite.

As a starter, the tinga de puerco tostadas are potentially memorable, with a few minor reservations. Three crispy, flat



COURTESY OF EL PORTON
SOUTH OF THE BORDER | Nearby Mexican joint El Porton has a relaxed vibe and tasty drinks, but the food doesn’t quite measure up.

tortillas are filled with a mound of juicy but slightly browned roasted pork mixed with black beans, sour cream, and chipotle tomato sauce for a zesty tang. Nevertheless, it certainly could do without the confounding overload of shredded lettuce and parmesan cheese.

The most noteworthy dish of the night is the chuletas de puerco, or pan-fried tender pork chops. They’re not of the hefty, truck driver-friendly kind, but rather are delicately

thin. The skin is cooked just until dry, carrying a saltiness but allowing the meat within to retain a welcoming succulence.

For overwhelming portions at roughly \$10 a plate, El Porton is a bargain for most students. Consider it a happy-hour spot at best, or a great late-night spot to throw back some margaritas after a rough week. As for the search for some epic Mexican food, it continues.

Good ‘Company’ at CMTS show

COMPANY from page 9

tap dance break, performed with a heavy dose of irony. The number’s liberal use of jazz hands and time steps lies in stark contrast to the rest of the show, which relies on moments of silence to portray the emotional distance between people.

The set and costumes are minimal, and entirely monochromatic. The cast is elegantly outfitted in myriad black pieces—suits, pencil skirts, and heels. The set consists solely of two shelves stocked with glassware, a few hanging lights, and simple black chairs forming the first row of the audience, in which cast members sit when not participating in a scene.

From their seats in the front row, the actors finally have an opportunity to regain their composure. Regardless of whether their relationships—on-stage or otherwise—are going smoothly, their relaxed expressions show that “Company” certainly is.

Find food for thought at bookstore cafes

CAFÉS from page 10

The rear section of the store contains the café, which has a fairly wide food selection. The large number of tables and free iced coffee refills make this an ideal study spot, and the “community wall” covered with HIV/AIDS-related resources serves as a reminder of the bookstore’s larger purpose. Bargain-hunters may also be interested in the several large carts displaying \$1 books, and the entire wall containing uncorrected proofs for just \$3.

Just a short walk from Housing Works is Bluestockings, which calls itself “a bookstore, fair trade café, and activist center.” At first glance, the cramped room piled to the ceiling with books seems like any other indie nook, but a closer look at the titles and their organization reveals the store to be far from typical. T-shirts line the front wall with slogans such as “I like it when you... read to me baby,” and the front table features

Mexican political literature right next to gluten-free cookbooks.

Conventional bookstores place new releases on their center table, but Bluestockings proudly displays (on the other side of the gluten-free cookbooks) an impressive variety of sexual guidebooks. Even more eye-catching is the daring selection of political pamphlets and books with feminist and LGBT themes. There is also a broad selection of magazines and literary journals. The café is confined to the area behind the register, where coffee and organic teas are sold. Tables are limited in number, but long plushy benches line the windows to maximize study space.

These three literary hubs provide a taste of New York’s best bookstore cafés. While some of the locations may seem a bit off the beaten urban path, the respite they provide makes the subway ride well worth it, if only for the inspiration and motivation afforded by a little change of scenery.

Massaging Chinatown spa services



EVELYN WARNER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
TAKE A BREATHER | Full-body relaxation awaits at Chinatown spas.

MASSAGE from page 12

To take the relaxation full-body, head to **Relax Foot Spa** (202 Hester St. near Baxter Street). This spa, which focuses solely on foot reflexology, has the nicest and cleanest atmosphere. Its very Asian-inspired décor includes bamboo statues, flower wall hangings with foot-shaped paper petals, and foot maps labeled in Chinese. Soft, relaxing music plays in the background. Cream silk curtains lead into the darkened relaxation room filled with black leather chairs. The reflexologists know how to dexterously handle even the most ticklish feet, and the pressure point release has a total-body effect. At \$12 for 15 minutes, the price is right.

For those who will only make the trek downtown for something more substantial than 15 minutes, most locales offer longer time slots by appointment. Dee Yee Herb Center offers hour-long foot and/or back rubs for \$45, and Relax Foot Spa’s reflexology sessions work up incrementally to \$45 for 90 minutes.

Massaging Chinatown spa services

BY ALLISON MALECHA
Spectator Staff Writer

Between the housing lottery and choosing fall classes, stress appears in all kinds of tricky places. Find quick release at Chinatown's spa spots with a 15-minute massage. Although less well known than its cheap meals and cheap trinket shopping, cheap back rubs are another Chinatown specialty.

A good starting point is the up-town-feeling mani-pedi spot **Rich Nails** (199 Hester St. near Baxter Street). Its big Mediterranean blue sign is easily spotted from the street and leads into an ocean-inspired space. Walk in, mention the word "massage," and an Asian lady brusquely pulls out a comfortable padded blue chair. No time is wasted here. No pressure is spared either, especially on the shoulder and neck region, but 15 minutes is ample time to work out any number of Butler-induced knots. Despite some painful finger work, the energetic back-pounding and shaking out of the arms leaves the whole upper body feeling loosey goosey. Consider it \$13 well spent.

Dee Yee Herb Center (152-B Mott St. near Broome Street) is the cheapest but dingiest locale, at just \$10 for 15 minutes. A small man leading the way down a somber set of grayish stairs may seem questionable, but the downstairs setup offers full massage tables, albeit with paper towel over the face hole. The lay-down setup allows for more thorough all-over pressure. The décor is sparse at best, with plastic waiting chairs. Slower paced than Rich Nails' hard-hitting approach, Dee Yee is no less deep-tissue. Once again, the momentary pain is worth it for the post-massage feeling of overall release. The experience ends with some good old hand-chopping. Unlike Rich Nails, Dee Yee is massage-based, and offers foot rubs and acupuncture as well.

SEE MESSAGE, page 11



DANIELLE ARONOWITZ FOR SPECTATOR

CREATIVE SIDE | Canal Street art stores like Pearl Paint, Canal Plastics, and Oriental Books and Stationery Co. color Chinatown.

Painting downtown red with art supply steals

BY DANIELLE ARONOWITZ
Columbia Daily Spectator

For a neighborhood that is infamous for an infinite amount of designer knock-offs and palm-sized turtles, Chinatown has a surprising variety of art and craft supply shops.

For students planning to spray paint their furniture, crochet a multi-color quilt, or even take up Chinese calligraphy in the near future, three stores on Canal Street have all the necessary supplies.

Just outside the Canal Street subway station, **Pearl Paint** (Canal Street at Mercer Street) stands as part of a tall, red and white

building in the middle of the street. A seemingly small shop, it carries everything from kids' crafts and quill script tools to easels and canvases that crowd the entire lower level. According to the employee behind the custom framing counter, their most common customers are serious art students from all parts of the city.

Thinking of adding some new shelving to your room, but don't have the supplies for it? Then check out the **Canal Plastics Center** (Canal Street between Greene and Wooster streets) for the most eye-catching Plexiglas in New York. The plastic is sold in thin rod shapes, decorative tiles and flower cut-outs, and rolls of thinly pressed

sheet. At a shop where neon is an understatement, you will be sure to find every color and pattern you need. According to the sales clerk, you can make more out of Plexiglas than what just looks like extremely durable shower curtains. Dorm room display cubes, storages cases, and risers are just some of the things usually made from Plexiglas.

Although the merchandise available at the **Oriental Books and Stationery Co.** (East Broadway between Market and Catherine streets) is generally Post-It notes, pencil sharpeners, and Hello Kitty notepads, two wall-mounted display cases are home to

specialty Chinese calligraphy brushes at relatively cheap prices. The store owner explained that their inventory caters to students from the local public schools. They not only sell the essentials in schools supplies and test prep, but many of the schools that include Chinese calligraphy in their curriculum recommend the store's collection of brushes specifically.

So, perhaps the next time students make their way down to Chinatown they can get inspired to start a crafty project rather than buy another Louis Vuitton knock-off.



WEN WEN LI FOR SPECTATOR

DOUBLE DIP | The perfect dumpling is only a subway ride away.

Finding a food fortune in downtown dumpling

BY DEVIN BRISKI
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The hole-in-the wall ethnic treasure trove is a glorified ideal in New York City's collective culinary consciousness, and Chinatown is a prime hunting ground for foodies out to discover the next inexpensive "it" takeout place.

From its greenish, sun-faded waterfall mural to its aesthetically questionable turquoise walls, Chinatown's **New Green Bo** (66 Bayard St. between Mott and Elizabeth streets) unknowingly embraces the hole-in-the-wall ideal. With publicity from New York Magazine and the New York Times, though, the restaurant has surrendered its unknown status in favor of out-the-door lines on weekdays for lunch and dinner—and for good reason. The crowded dumpling station behind the cashier steams up authentic Shanghainese-style

pork dumplings, with a thick wrap and tender pinkish meat filling. The restaurant is also known for its \$1.25 scallion pancake, featuring a golden crispy dough intermixed with fresh green scallions. A smiley-face takeout bag filled with heads of lettuce at the dumpling station and the no-nonsense cashier's dirt-encrusted calculator are the little details that indicate New Green Bo doesn't "do ambience"—but maybe that's a part of its charm.

If New Green Bo is hole-in-the-wall, the nearby **Prosperity Dumplings** (46 Eldridge St. between Hester and Canal streets) is barely a crevice. Sure, there is visible stucco on the ceiling and a torn-up and slightly frightening choking warning poster right above the cash register, but once students taste the golden dumplings, the broken linoleum nightmare of an interior won't

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