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INSIDE



Weekend, page 36

Living the high life on the Upper East Side

The Upper East Side has style and class—but on a college budget, is it worth a trip? From its libraries to its galleries, this neighborhood may be worth a second look.



Weekend, page 3

Hit the town like the kings of karaoke

Karaoke bars are not in limited supply in New York City, but it pays to know which are worth your time—and your choruses of “Don’t Stop Believing.”

Opinion, page 8

Journey to the East

Columist Daniel D’Addario travels to Eastern Europe, where he finds memories of his earliest Columbia days in the unlikely places.



Sports, page 10

Ivy title on the line for Men’s tennis

The men’s tennis team can capture at least a share of the Ivy League title this weekend for the second time in three years with a sweep of Penn and No. 71 Princeton.



Sports, page 10

Football plays annual Blue and White game

The football team will play their annual spring game on Saturday, where fans can get their first look at the team before their season opener on September 19 at Fordham.

ONLINE

ColumbiaSpectator.com

New Voices New Plays

Louisa Levy continues coverage of this year’s graduate playwright festival. Watch a multimedia slideshow featuring interviews with the playwrights of tonight’s performances.



Stefie Gan for *Spectator*



Sarah Gallagher / Staff Photographer

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT | Marchers first gathered in front of Barnard Hall at 9 p.m. They walked together through Morningside Heights in defiance of sexual abuse. Following the march, they sat on blankets in Barnard’s LeFrak Gymnasium to hear the stories of people who have survived sexual violence as well as the accounts of their allies. For the second year, men and women marched together, a point of controversy for some.

Students rally to end sexual abuse

‘Take Back the Night’ march spans Morningside

BY KIM KIRSCHENBAUM
Spectator Staff Writer

Survivors of sexual assault and their allies took to the streets of Morningside Heights on Thursday night, filling the chilly air with sounds of drums, whistles, and chants at the annual Take Back the Night March.

Beginning and ending their march at the Barnard Gates, participants protested against domestic violence and sexual assault. A speak-out was subsequently held in Barnard’s LeFrak Gym, where survivors and their supporters spoke about their experiences anonymously from behind a screen.

“Sexual violence affects everyone—not only those who experience it,” TBTN participant Laura Weldon, CC ’10, said. “This march is a way for people to respond to it—to literally raise one voice together against sexual violence that the whole community can hear.”

Take Back the Night is an international movement that began in Belgium in 1976. The first march at Columbia University was organized at Barnard College in April of 1988 following a Seven Sisters conference. Since then, the march has continued to grow, attracting as many as 1,000 participants in some years. This year, the march attracted several hundred people.

Take Back the Night began as a women-only march. In later years, men were allowed to join

SEE TAKE BACK THE NIGHT, page 2

Local nuns to move to green home

BY CARLY SILVER
Spectator Staff Writer

Though nuns are typically known for black and white habits, a local convent is now making a move to go green.

The sisters of the Community of the Holy Spirit, a convent currently located in St. Hilda’s House on West 113th Street, are moving to an eco-friendly house on 150th Street and aptly named Convent Avenue. The nuns have already begun to prepare for the transition and are eager to settle into their new space, according to the Reverend Winnie Varghese, Columbia’s Episcopal chaplain.

The convent hopes to leave behind the functional inadequacy of its current location in Morningside Heights, and cheaper real estate in Harlem offered further incentive to move. The sisters have no endowment and rely on individual donations.

“We started thinking about it five to six years ago, and we’ve been slowly working towards it. It’s very exciting,” said Sister Faith Margaret of the 113th Street convent. The “next sensible step ... [was to] put our money where our mouth was.”

She added that the sisters approached Columbia’s real estate officials to ask if the University would be willing to purchase the buildings. Columbia agreed to do so and to help the nuns obtain the necessary permits for their new property.

The sisters have lived in Morningside Heights for years, and the impending move marks the end of an era. After the convent was founded by a biracial nun who was not permitted to join any existing religious orders because of racial discrimination, the sisters established a now-defunct school for multi-ethnic students. They “joined to do a very radical thing, to be teachers in the inner city of a diverse group of kids,” Varghese said. Some have been in the area for as long as 50 years.

They have tried to make their current location as “green” as possible by maintaining a garden behind the building, using sustainable light bulbs, and monitoring water

SEE NUNS GO GREEN, page 2



Angela Radulescu / Senior Staff Photographer

GREEN CONVENT | The nuns will trade this convent on 113th Street for a new one in Harlem.

Disabled riders among most affected by fare hike

BY SAM LEVIN
Spectator Staff Writer

Edith Prentiss, who uses an electric wheelchair, took a bus, three trains, and a ferry to get from Washington Heights to Staten Island for a Metropolitan Transit Authority public hearing on fare hikes and service cuts.

Prentiss, vice president of legislative affairs for the civil rights organization Disabled in Action, chose to make this four-hour, cross-borough journey holding onto straphangers rather than using the MTA’s Access-A-Ride program for disabled commuters as a statement against it. In the shadow of a projected \$2.3 billion budget shortfall come 2012, the MTA is preparing to implement fare hikes and service cuts citywide within the next two months. Many fear that the disabled population that uses Access-A-Ride, a program already questioned for its effectiveness, will be hit the hardest.

Last November, the MTA’s budget proposal included a hike from the \$2 fare for Access-A-Ride to \$5, a plan that was met with aggressive resistance and was ultimately revoked in March.

Yet local Access-A-Ride users and transportation advocates said that this revocation is less than a victory.

Aaron Donovan, the MTA spokesman, confirmed that in the current plan, “Access-A-Ride will increase in tandem with the base fare of subways and buses,” which means \$2.50 fares for everyone.

“They are going to feel the impact to a more severe degree,” Wiley Norvell, communications director of transportation al-



Angela Radulescu / Senior Staff Photographer

ACCESS-A-RIDE | The elderly and disabled who require special assistance on MTA transit will experience the same 50 cent fare hike as everyone else beginning this summer.

ternatives, said. Norvell explained that when faced with increased fares, he expects that the average MTA rider will seek alternatives to public transportation such as biking and walking. These luxuries will remain unavailable to Access-A-Ride users.

“They are going to lose mobility,” he said, adding that he fears they will be “priced out of the system.”

Jason Chin-Fatt, a field organizer for the Straphangers Campaign, said that these riders are already at a financial disadvantage. “Many of them are on a fixed income,” he said. “They can barely afford it as it is, and they shouldn’t have to face this.”

MOVIN’ ON UP



Lauren Weiss / Staff Photographer

THE FAR EAST | On the surface, the Upper East Side may not seem to be the most wallet-friendly, but students are discovering the affordable side of this neighborhood.

Greenspiration launched by student groups

BY KIM KIRSCHENBAUM AND ALIX PANIAN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Environmental clubs aren’t the only ones thinking green.

Friday kicks off a new endeavor for student groups towards green living—a 10-day, student-organized initiative of activities and events meant to jump-start environmental thinking and action. The initiative, called “Greenspiration,” has brought over 30 cultural, political, and religious campus groups together to plan events that organizers hope will appeal to a variety of interests and draw students who would not normally participate in environmentally focused activities.

Hillel President Sarah Brafman, CC ’10, said that developing a sweeping

SEE GREENSPIRATION, page 2

WEATHER

Today
68 / 46



Tomorrow
70 / 48



INDEX

News 2
Weekend 3, 4, 5, 6

Opinion 8
Sports 7, 10

Classifieds 9
Contact Info 9

EVENTS — APRIL 17

Surviving the Recession: Financial Advice for Recent Grads
Join Student Development and Activities and the Center for Career Education for a 90-minute workshop on credit, banks, student debt, budgeting, money tips and saving. Recommended for seniors but open to all.

569 Lerner, 12 noon

Rockin’ Earth Day Fest
The Go Green Committee of the Teachers College Student Senate will host a festival featuring folk singer Pete Seeger as well as several activities for children, and education on recycling and the environment.

TC Russell Courtyard, 4 p.m.

ONLINE COMMENT OF THE WEEK

“It’s like you’re saying, ‘Caitlin, whose name has been changed to protect the theory of relativity...’”

—In response to anonymity in Web article, ‘Students reflect on campus’s therapy offerings.’

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Columbia Spectator
2875 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York City, NY 10025
info@columbiaspectator.com
Daily Spectator (212) 854-9555
Editorial Fax (212) 854-9611
Business (212) 854-9550
Business Fax (212) 854-9553

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Access-A-Ride fare raises controversy

MTA from front page

Norvell, who is hoping for Albany’s support, agreed. “The MTA has no choice,” he said, adding, “The fear is that they [Albany lawmakers] are going to punt.”

Norvell expressed an ironic optimism in the current MTA proposal. “The hope is that the cuts are so severe that we will gain the [political] support we need,” he said.

Jan Wells, associate director of the Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee, the coordinating body for three New York riders’ councils, said that unaffordable Access-A-Ride fares would have more than one consequence for its users.

“If they can’t afford it, they’re going to stay home. These people don’t use it just for medical purposes, it is about a quality of life,” Wells said.

She added that the system is inefficient, a problem that is only exacerbated by the currently “skyrocketing” growth rate of the program.

Prentiss said that she tries to avoid Access-A-Ride as much as possible. “It’s not worth the aggravation,” she said, adding, “I use the subway, I use the bus, I wheel. I am truly what they [the MTA] would hope the average Access-A-Ride user would be.”

Access-A-Ride is meant to provide transportation for people with disabilities who are unable to use the MTA’s bus and subway systems, but users like Prentiss often find it dysfunctional and impractical.

“You make the reservation the day before, hours before, and the fact is 15 minutes before the trip they start looking,” Prentiss said of Access-A-Ride’s taxi service, which has left her waiting for over an hour on multiple occasions.

“It is such a bad time, people are losing jobs,” Christine Henderson said as she waited for the M104 bus. “It is just not fair.”

Many local residents said that the Access-A-Ride hikes would significantly impact the lives of their friends.

“My friend is disabled. She has one leg,” subway commuter Barbara Sagan said. “She is on low income. She needs it.”

Mitzi Cohen, while exiting the 96th Street 1 train station, said that the proposed Access-A-Ride hikes were “unconscionable.” Cohen has a friend who uses the service to get to therapy. Considering that her friend’s dependence on the program deals with health issues, Cohen said that any fare increase is inexcusable. “It’s absolutely dreadful and immoral.”

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Lauren Weiss / Staff Photographer

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT | Survivors of sexual violence and those in solidarity with their cause took to the streets of Morningside Heights on Thursday night to speak out against abuse.

Marchers protest sexual violence

TBTN from front page

once the women had reached College Walk. But starting last year, TBTN organizers decided to begin a pilot phase in which men could participate throughout the entire march. “Rape is not something that exclusively affects women,” TBTN co-organizer Linnea Hincks, CC’10, explained in an interview before the event. “We need to pay attention to men, and we think that opening up the space to them is really important.”

While many participants were in support of this change, TBTN organizers also recognized that some women would be against it, given that there are female sexual assault survivors who would not want to be around men when they marched. For this reason, a women-led “safe space” was created at the front of the line. Male allies are allowed to march behind them in the co-ed space.

“I think we had a lot of energy, especially in terms of the women’s led space,” TBTN co-organizer Emily Kamm, BC ’11 said. “The women’s-led space was a lot more defined than some of us think it was last year.”

As the group made its way through the streets, residents often appeared at their windows to wave and cheer for the marchers. When the group moved down Frat Row, fraternity members also made gestures of support, a far cry from the catcalls that some said they once made as marchers walked by years ago.

“I’m a senior, and I’ve seen this for four years,” TBTN participant Anne Epstein, BC ’09, said. “It’s always empowering.”

Following the march, the group entered the LeFrak Gym for the speak-out. Participants huddled together on blankets on the floor in the nearly pitch-black room and

listened to community members tell personal stories from behind a screen of anonymity. After each speaker’s anecdote, the crowd affirmed, “We support you.”

“Even though it’s really hard to listen to everyone’s stories, I think the people who are there telling their stories are really grateful that they’re here, and I’m really grateful that they’re brave enough to say what they have to say,” TBTN co-organizer Lauren Herold, CC’12, said. “It’s my first march, and it’s had a big impression on me.”

Echoing Herold’s sentiment, many expressed the poignancy of the experience.

“Personally, I experience the march as one of the most powerful events I participate in all year,” Karen Singleton, director of the Sexual Violence Prevention & Response Program, said.

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Groups collaborate for environment

ENVIRONMENT from front page

environmental initiative on campus had been one of her dreams last summer when she was the Hillel social justice coordinator.

“I was thinking about areas of social justice that I wanted to focus on for the year, and environmentalism is something near and dear to my heart,” Brafman said. “I just wanted to think about how we could bring it onto campus in a new and refreshing way.”

Brafman and Eliav Bitan, CC ’09, who has been involved in environmental activism, became cochairs of the project and began approaching campus groups about the possibility of joining forces in September.

“We want to rethink the way we think about the environment and make it about infusing your [students’] interests. This is not about shoving environmentalism down people’s throats. We did not just want to involve environmental groups, but also political groups, religious groups, the student government, the administration, everyone we could think of,” Brafman said.

“We wanted to see environmentalism on campus be more relevant to different kinds of groups,” Bitan agreed.

After developing a core group of organizers from across campus, the group went to the Student Governing Board and received coalition status in November. The events will coincide with Earth Week, and Brafman said that members made a conscious effort to get the word out without paper fliers by developing a comprehensive Web site and painting signs on recycled cardboard.

Greenspiration will include folk festivals and a garden workday with the larger Harlem community among other activities. There will also be Indian and Shabbat dinners as well as dinners in John Jay, all cooked with naturally grown food from local farms.

Avi Edelman, CC’11, vice president of the Columbia University College Democrats, which is co-sponsoring an event as part of the initiative, said, “The environment is not only a political issue but it’s an issue that all groups should be concerned about because it affects all of us. I really think that everyone

should be talking about it.”

“The event caters to things that are right up our ally,” Edelman said. “How do we push for environmental change politically and how do we use politics as a means for fighting environmental justice?”

“We’re talking to people we’ve never talked to before, cosponsoring things we’ve never cosponsored before,” said Hannah Perls, CC’11 and a leader of Columbia’s environmental advocacy group, Green Umbrella. “I think everyone on all sides is learning so much about how things can be put together.”

Greenspiration’s first event, a forum on effective environmental activism, will be held this afternoon in Pupin.

Brafman said that she envisions Greenspiration continuing in coming years and looks forward to developing new angles for the initiative to take.

“I would love to see it continue, and the beauty of it is that it really can take on different forms every year. It’s so student-driven and so interest-driven that it can never get stale,” she said.

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Nuns plan eco-friendly initiatives

GREEN CONVENT from front page

consumption. Even their food is eco-friendly, since much of it comes from their church’s farm in Brewster, N.Y.

The new house will feature further ecological innovations, including a green roof and “these really cool toilets,” Varghese said. Most construction materials will be locally produced.

“The whole idea behind the green convent is, whenever possible, [to use] sustainably produced materials,” said Sister Catherine Grace of the Melrose Convent, an offshoot of the Community of the Holy Spirit located in Brewster.

Sister Catherine Grace noted that the eco-friendly theme runs throughout the organization.

“We grow most of our own food up here for year-round consumption and try to limit ourselves to what we would have to buy,” she said. “We’re working towards a biodynamic farm, which would be a farm where all the systems are interactive together.”

Still, it is expensive to transport the food grown on the Bluestone Farm and Learning Center in Brewster to the convent in New York City, and Sister Catherine Grace said that doing so regularly would be difficult without an endowment. Whenever the nuns of the Melrose Convent travel to New York City, they bring their produce along.

“The sisters have always been very clear that their theology is about the goodness of creation,” Varghese said. “With the earth, it’s just kind of a natural progression. As people living in an urban environment, they

have imagined what it means to be stewards of the earth.”

Sister Faith Margaret agreed, stating, “The earth, the creation, is God’s gift to us. We are a part of creation and that means that we have to take care of it.” She cited a few environmental stewardship projects that the nuns have implemented in the current house, such as recycling and making a compost pile.

Even students who have little interaction with the nuns praised their environmental efforts.

“I think it’s a great move,” Rick Betita, CC’10 and an earth and environmental engineering major, said. “It shows that you don’t have to be the typical left-wing hippie to live green. Hopefully this will be an example for other people who might not be the stereotypical environmentalists.”

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Easter at Saint Gregory the Theologian

EASTERN ORTHODOX PASCHA SERVICES

GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY • APRIL 15th
6:15 - 8:30 pm. (Matins of Holy Thursday)
The Euchelaion Service: The Holy Anointing

GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY • APRIL 16th
6:15 - 9:00 pm. (Matins of Good Friday)
The Twelve Passion Gospels.

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY • APRIL 17th
3:00 - 5:00 pm. *Great Friday Vespers-Apokethalosis*
The Descent of Christ From the Cross.
6:30 - 9:00 pm. *Matins of Great Saturday*
The Burial Service and Lamentations at Christ's Tomb.

GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY • APRIL 18th
9:30 - 11:30 am. *Vespers and Liturgy of St. Basil*

PASCHA • BEGINNING EVENING OF APRIL 18th
11:15 pm. Saturday, April 18. *Pascha Night Office-Mesonytics*
12:00 am. *Pascha Sunday. (early hours of April 19th)*
Midnight Resurrection Matins & Service of Lights
12:45 - 2:00 am. *The Pascha Divine Liturgy*
The Common Festive Meal will follow the Divine Liturgy circa. 2:05 am.
*Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death and on those in the tombs bestowing life.

Meeting at UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
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(Professor of Byzantine Christian Studies, Columbia University)
Further details on services: www.sgtt.org

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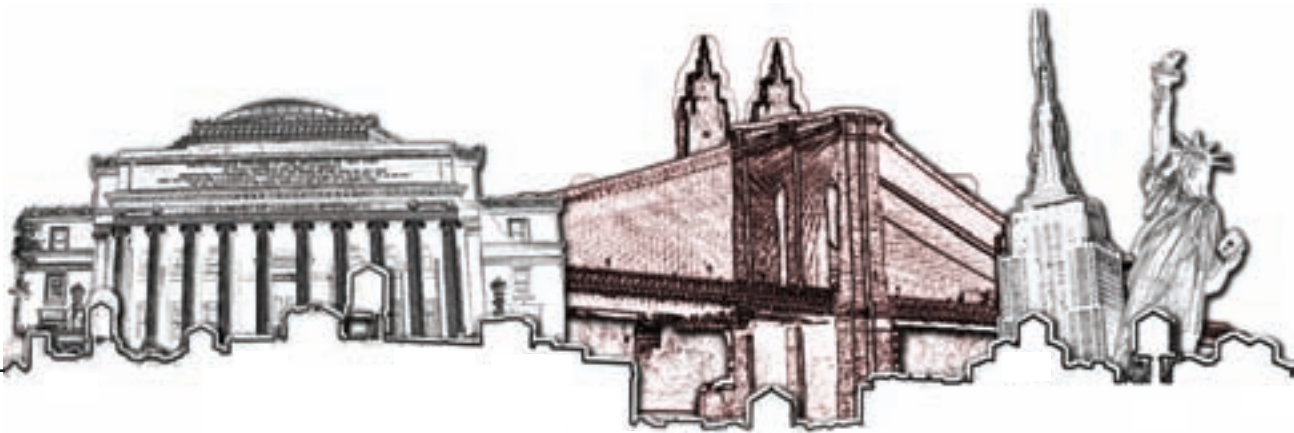
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Quickly getting into the spring of things



Lauren Weiss / Staff Photographer

URBAN EATS | Despite perceptions of New York as a concrete jungle, greenery in the parks makes for perfect picnicking terrain.

FOOD & DRINK

New York City's scenic parks can help make life a picnic

BY HANNAH LAYMON
Columbia Daily Spectator

New York may not satisfy any longing for pastoral landscapes, but the city's parks can be a temporary haven to enjoy a pleasant outdoor meal. Of Manhattan's green spaces, Central Park contains the highest number of picnic spots by far. The Sheep Meadow and the oval-shaped Great Lawn are big enough for flocks of tourists and local families to stretch out and soak up the sun. Those in quest of a more rugged landscape, however, might prefer one of the benches in the

Ramble, a series of paths that twist their way through a hilly stretch of woods in the center of the park near the lake. For a shorter trip, Great Hill, on the western edge of the park at 105th Street, offers picnic tables, several grassy expanses, and a more peaceful atmosphere than the busiest areas in the south of the park. In Hudson River Park, sandwiched between the river and the West Side Highway, picnickers can relax in an open space without leaving the hustle and bustle of the city behind. These open spaces, including Clinton Cove at 55th Street

and Pier 45 at Christopher Street, protrude like limbs from the western edge of Manhattan and combine the tranquility of the outdoors with a background of urban noise and activity. Fort Tryon Park—also on the bank of the Hudson but much farther north—presents a picturesque setting for those willing to make the trek uptown. Its lawns, terraces, and beds of heather and daffodils are struck directly by the sun in the afternoon, and the tower of the Cloisters rises nearby. The park—with an entrance only a few

SEE PICNICS, page 4

FOOD & DRINK

Students raise their glasses to springtime

BY HOLLY SHARPLESS
Columbia Daily Spectator

Fresh cucumber and lime with Bombay Sapphire and tonic water, pomegranate mojitos, fresh Sangria—as the sun warms New York and the days get longer, our cravings for the cool summer cocktail return. Bartenders throughout the city compete constantly to come up with the most creative, innovative, and refreshing drinks. Finding the cocktails that satisfy New Yorkers can prove rather tricky. Not only do we expect great summer drinks, but we also expect reasonable prices and good atmosphere. For a great happy hour with friends, try Citrus (320 Amsterdam Ave. at 75th Street). The drinks are tall and colorful, with a huge variety of fruity cocktails, including many variations on the margarita and mojito (cocktails are \$9.75). Try the Island Hopper: Cruzan pineapple rum, midori, pineapple juice, coconut puree, and a splash of 7-up, or grab a bite of their Latin/Asian fusion cuisine. For an A-list scene along with high-class cocktails, try Highbar (251 W. 48th St. at Eighth Avenue). You might miss the entrance—just look for the small red carpet and bouncer. Past the pretentious door screening lies an elevator up to a beautiful Miami-style rooftop featuring cabanas and a view of the midtown skyline. Their cocktails run for \$16, but they really are creative and refreshing. My personal favorite is the Vagabundo, which has Corzo Reposado Tequila, pineapple, celery, and

SEE COCKTAILS, page 4



Elyssa Goldberg for Spectator

MOM'S KITCHEN | The warm and homey environs of Sarita's Mac and Cheese are as inviting as their dishes.

Downtown favorite S'mac is far from cheesy



ELYSSA
GOLDBERG
FEAST FOR
THE EYES

That Kraft dinosaur had something going for him when he sang, "I've got the Blues." I, too, have the blues. I wasted my youth eating Kraft. Sarita's Mac and Cheese, better known as S'mac (345 12th St. between First and Second avenues),

is an East Village eatery that serves up a mean macaroni and cheese skillet that puts store-bought brands to shame.

With over 10 different types of haute preparations of my childhood favorite, S'mac makes eating out easy, nostalgic, and pleasurable. The eatery is unpretentious and not much to look at. In fact, if it weren't for its distinctive orange and yellow color-scheme, it would be impossible to distinguish it from any of the other buildings lining the block.

Thankfully, its founders Sarita and Caesar Ekyra whipped out their 64-box of Crayola crayons just in time to create macaroni & cheese heaven, choosing the macaroni and cheese Crayola crayon color to dominate the color scheme. Go figure.

In the same way that one can feel a sharp (and always welcome) temperature spike in a foyer waiting-area in February, one can feel the air difference inside of S'mac. It feels the same way when the dentist protects you with a lead blanket before taking mouth x-rays: comforting, heavy, and impossible to lift. It feels like cheese. It feels like home.

There are very few decorations. There are three paintings, one of which shows garden vegetables that are unwelcome amid the cheese haze, and another that shows a simple poster of macaroni and cheese, which seems appropriate. Both are affixed to homey brick walls.

The interior decorator had a stroke of genius with the lighting fixtures—they remind the eater of noodles. The single hanging lamp shades are yellow-orange and the larger light fixtures hang five of the same lamp shades from a short, silver, curved "noodle."

In addition to macaroni and cheese, S'mac's decor seems to also revolve around skillets. The open/closed sign on the door is shaped like a skillet, and the restaurant's logo is displayed inside of a skillet. The table numbers are also printed on construction paper skillets in the same way that my Garden Lite (white cheddar, Parmesan, broccoli, portobello mushrooms, roasted cauliflower, garlic, and scallions) macaroni and cheese and my friend's Alpine (gruyere cheese and bacon) were served in skillets (both \$7.25).

S'mac sizes its skillets like Starbucks sizes its coffee. It invents categories to completely transport its patrons from the city streets back to mom's kitchen, where macaroni and cheese flows like the never-ending supply of Vegan Beef at John Jay. I ordered a nosh (or small skillet), while those around me with larger appetites and penchants for premature heart disease opted for the Major Munch, the Mongo, or the eight-compartment Sampler Platter.

One customer who found S'mac through a special on the Food Network thought she made the right choice. "This is not your Velveeta or your Kraft. My kids grew up on macaroni and cheese. They still do," she said while her daughter, eating the Buffalo Chicken flavor, nodded in agreement.

When the marathon to finals starts to give Columbians the blues, they can turn that frown upside down by letting the macaroni and cheese experts at S'mac ease their woes.

Elyssa Goldberg is a Columbia College first year. Feast for the Eyes runs alternate Fridays.

MUSIC

New York karaoke bars offer students a few shots at stardom

BY REBECCA PATTIZ
Spectator Staff Writer

As many college students know all too well, there are infinite ways to make a fool of yourself, some less ill-advised than others. Karaoke, which comes from the Japanese for "to get drunk and sing poorly," in at least its thoroughly American interpretation, is a wonderfully legal and socially acceptable way to act like an idiot. Here are three great places to let your inner diva, or inebriated alter-ego, out.

Biny

8 Thompson Street near Canal Street, second floor.

Though there are many karaoke bars in this city, Biny has the guts to call itself the "Best in New York," hence the acronymic name. Maybe it's the song list, which contains songs in English, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and Spanish. Perhaps it's the Japanese food, a welcome alternative to late-night pizza. Or maybe it's the fact that the bar has both a main room and seven private rooms for parties. Whatever Biny's claim to its title, Phjang said that the place gets packed at night (it becomes a 21+ affair after 11 p.m., but some loyal customers report that Biny staff often overlook less-than-convincing IDs). There is a \$15 food and drink minimum to sing in the main room and varying minimum rates for the party rooms. Biny's Web site claims that their karaoke machines miraculously make "EVERYONE sound like a star." If the sound system doesn't have you feeling like Diana Ross, maybe another shot will.



Natalie Chung for Spectator

KARAOKE-D AWAY | For an untraditional and wildily fun weekend night, head downtown for karaoke.

Suite

992 Amsterdam Ave. at 109th Street.

In case you weren't aware, drag queens and karaoke are a great combination—especially with cheap Indian food next door. Suite, Morningside Heights' only gay bar—which is also attached to Roti Roll—has karaoke on Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday at 11 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday nights are run by a drag queen named Jacqueline Duprée who hosts her own show before an array of brave souls take to the stage to do karaoke. Sunday is "guys night," hosted by a man named Gavin, who dresses up each week in a themed outfit, ranging from a cowboy to an '80s rocker. "It's really laid back and it's a really mixed crowd. You know, straight, gay, lesbian," Travis Huebel, Suite's bartender, said. "There's not a heck of a lot of drama," he added. Whether you want to belt Britney or croon Sinatra, Suite has got you covered. Plus, said Huebel, some of the karaoke singers are Broadway performers during the day, making for some seriously discounted professional performances. Despite the high skill level of some performers, Huebel said that the scene is not competitive. "There's people that are really good, there's people that are really bad, and there's people [who] are just kind of in the middle and they get up there just to do it for fun," Huebel said. Although Suite imposes a two-drink minimum for karaoke, most people who are about to sing for strangers would be happy to oblige.

Arlene's Grocery

95 Stanton St. near Ludlow Street.

If your taste is less KC and the Sunshine Band and more Guns n' Roses, Arlene's Grocery might be your dream come true. Rock and Roll Karaoke on Monday at 10 p.m. features a live band and backup singers, and there is no screen with rolling lyrics in sight. Emphasis is on performance value rather than accuracy or finesse, and audience participation is highly encouraged, making karaoke feel like a real arena rock concert. "It looks like you've gone to see a real rock show, but your friend is on the stage with a real band," Arlene's booking director Julia Darling said. Even if you don't sound like Angus Young, you can still rock out. "It's not competitive. If someone is really bad or shy or embarrassed, it's really supportive and positive. We have some amazing singers here too, but for people who are just here to have fun, it's a good time," Darling said. In support of aspiring starving musicians, Rock and Roll Karaoke is free of charge and there is no cover.

WEEKEND PICKS

THE EDITORS’ BEST BETS FOR THE WEEKEND AHEAD

THEATER

Three Spoons at Lerner Black Box. 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Saturday, tickets \$3 with CUID.
NOMADS presents a new original play by Samantha Carlin about three sisters who “muse on love and back in crisis.” A story of changing relationships, the dark humor sheds light on family dynamics.

FOOD & DRINK

Liquid Brunch. View Bar, 232 Eighth Ave. (between 21st and 22nd streets), Sunday 2-6 p.m., \$3 cocktails.
They say you’re not an alcoholic if you start drinking after 12 p.m., meaning that while most Bloody Mary brunches qualify you for the A-word, this afternoon affair does not. Come to this classy Chelsea brunch joint for \$3 Bloody Marys, Mimosas, and Screwdrivers, not to mention an array of delicious food that will keep you going until it’s time to drink again.

FILM

Satyajit Ray at Lincoln Center’s Walter Reade Theater. 70 W. 63rd St. at Broadway, Friday-Sunday, showtimes vary, \$7 with college ID.
This weekend, see the best films of India’s most influential filmmaker, Satyajit Ray. Newcomers to his work are in luck: This festival will include Ray’s famous *Apu Trilogy*. Plus, buffs can brush up on their international film knowledge by catching the films in advance of Columbia’s conference on Ray next weekend.

DANCE

Merce Cunningham at 90 at BAM Opera House. 30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Brooklyn, Friday-Saturday 7:30 p.m., Sunday 3 p.m., \$25.
This weekend, visual and performing arts are rolled into one production. Merce Cunningham and his company celebrate the venerable choreographer’s 90th birthday with new dances choreographed to rock music by bands like Led Zeppelin and Sonic Youth, set designs by architect Benedetta Tagliabue, and lighting by Tony Award-winning designer Brian MacDevitt.

ART

“Happiness” at Broadway Gallery. 473 Broadway, seventh floor (between Grande and Broome streets), Friday 6-8 p.m., free.
Finals are only weeks away and any form of joy is bound to be sucked up by Butler, but a trip downtown may be the perfect antidote for the coming sweat, tears, and stress. The eight Italian artists that will be featured in Broadway gallery’s new show combine sculpture, painting, photography, and much more in order to illustrate their pieces’ connections with joy.

MUSIC

The Presidents of the United States of America at The Fillmore. Irving Plaza, 17 Irving Pl. at 15th Street, Saturday 8 p.m., \$21.50 in advance, \$25 day of show.
Everyone remembers the “Peaches come from a can / They were put there by a man,” song, and the band behind that silly, grungy anthem of yesteryear is still making audiences rock out and then laugh hysterically at their silly songs and quirky performances. This weekend they’ll be playing with Irish electropop duo Oppenheimer, making for an appropriately off-kilter lineup.

BOOKS

NYC Spelling Bee at the Housing Works Bookstore Café. 126 Crosby St. (between Prince and Houston streets), Saturday 8 p.m., \$10.
Acciacatura, trichotillomania, ginglymus—do these sesquipedalian words stimulate you? If so, come demonstrate your mastery of their orthography at this quarterly, adults-only event, hosted by comedian Jennifer Dziura and musician Bobby “Blue” Bland. A new challenge round has been added, in which contestants can test each other. Popcorn, cold drinks, and prizes for the winners will be provided.

WILDCARD

Times Square Spring Block Party. Times Square, 45th Street (between Sixth and Seventh avenues). Sunday 12 p.m., free.
Bloc Party may be so 2007, but block parties are forever. Not just your childhood potluck and jump-house event, this festival is taking the classic suburban event and making it New York City-sized. Shed your Times Square tourist inhibitions and hop the 1 train to 42nd Street station for a Sunday full of neon-lit fun.

SEARCH FOR THE BEST COMEDY CLUBS

THEATER



Ian Kwok / Senior Staff Photographer

STAND-UP CITIZEN | Comedy clubs like the Upright Citizens Brigade feature up-and-coming comedians at affordable prices that are nothing to laugh at.

With cheap comedy, students get the last laugh

BY LILY CEDARBAUM
Spectator Staff Writer

There is nothing funny about a cheap night out in New York. Fortunately, at the Upright Citizens Brigade comedy club in downtown Manhattan, the \$5 ticket price is the only thing that doesn’t have audience members laughing in the aisles.
Founded in 1999 by SNL veteran Amy Poehler and fellow comedians Matt Besser, Ian Roberts, and Matt Walsh, UCB attempts to bring the spirit of Chicago comedy to New York City. The founders transformed a seedy strip club into a venue for an entirely different kind of performance: long-form improvisation.

Today, 219 comedians count themselves as former or current members of UCB’s stable. Members include Scott Adsit (Hornberger from *30 Rock*), Bobby Moynihan (one of *Saturday Night Live*’s newest members), and as Rob Riggle (correspondent for *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*).

But you don’t need to be a primetime regular to hit the UCB stage—anyone can audition to be part of UCB’s schedule after graduating from one of their 400-level classes. A wide variety of these courses are offered throughout the week, and typically a set of eight lessons runs around \$350.

With such a wide range of talent, any kind of viewer can find a niche in the theater’s monthly lineup. A popular show that always seems to get a full house is *Very Fresh with Olde English*. Once a month, this group of five intersperses clever sketches amid a lineup of individual stand-up comedians announced on the UCB Web site prior to each show.

Another semi-regular show at UCB, with the apt title of *Liquid Courage*, is open to any comedian, professional, or amateur who signs up. Performers sign up for three- to five-minute slots, and then step in front of an already assembled audience of 150 people who are ready to judge. Any disgruntled viewers, however, won’t be asking for their money back—tickets to this event are free.



Ian Kwok / Senior Staff Photographer

LAUGH OUT LOUD | New York City offers a variety of comedy clubs to tickle your funny bone—but steer clear of cheesy and expensive tourist traps like Ha! Comedy Club and Laugh Factory.

Far away from tourist traps with simplistic names such as Ha! Comedy Club and Laugh Factory, UCB cultivates an understated vibe. While Ha! attempts to create a more traditional dinner-and-a-show dynamic by having audience members sit around shaky tables with expensive drinks, UCB is a theater in the traditional sense of the word. It is a thrust stage with lighting, a sound booth, and most importantly, the ability to darken the audience seating.

This separation between viewer and stage allows for a better relationship between comedian and audience. It lets audience members sit back with a beer or glass of wine and enjoy laughing out loud without worrying that the comedian will pick you out of the crowd and use you as his next joke. Comedians don’t bombard you with bathroom one-liners or humor concerning cunnilingus—one show covers a wide spectrum of humor so every audience member is sure to enjoy at least part of it.

However, all of these problems can be found in abundance at Ha! Comedy club. Within the first 20 minutes of a show last December featuring Kevin Brown (Dot Com from *30 Rock*), the comedian was miming how he treated his wife in the bedroom. Apparently, Brown is not afraid of the vagina, and neither was the poor guy he asked at the center table. These jokes can definitely be funny, but original they are not.

In contrast to clubs like Ha!, where the goal of the comedian seems to be to make the audience as uncomfortable as possible, comedians at UCB get enough laughs making fun of themselves and telling stories. Everyone has heard at least one joke about premature ejaculation—but who has heard a joke about former President Chester A. Arthur? Olde English’s audience at the UCB theater in February has.

While other comedy clubs are expensive and unoriginal, UCB offers some of the best and freshest comedy in the city—and that is no laughing matter.

Spreading blankets and opening baskets together in the urban jungle

PICNICS from page 3

yards from the 190th Street stop on the A train—forms the southernmost boundary of the Inwood neighborhood.

But before setting off to a chosen picnic spot, the picnic itself must be prepared. Sandwiches being the perfect picnic food, a deli may be in order. While Ham Del might be a Columbia staple, there are plenty of delicious delis all over the island.

One convenient choice is Lenny’s, a sandwich shop with several locations within a short distance of Central Park. The assistant manager of the 84th Street branch recommends a cold sandwich like ham and cheese to suit picnickers’ needs. “If you’re taking it out and have to stay out for a while, it should stay well,” she said.

Those who prefer homemade fare can get creative by visiting any of the city’s grocery stores

and farmer’s markets. Jake Lasser, CC ’12, suggests turkey, apple, and Brie on a multi-grain baguette or ciabatta loaf, spread with a mixture of mayonnaise, salt, pepper, and hot chili oil. “One thing that I would say to avoid is a really, really sour apple like Granny Smith because that’s going to taste a little bit strange with the creaminess of the Brie,”



Graphic by Hannah D’Apice

he said. Instead, he recommended using “big, dry apples” like Red Delicious.

For many students, the arrival of this year’s picnic season evokes fond memories of picnics gone by. Jo Jordan, SEAS ’12, remembers a picnic last summer with her friends in the Beaujolais wine region of France. “We had wine, cheese, bread, salami, and butter, and we just hiked up this hill, which was called ‘The Top of the World,’ and there was a really pretty view,” she said.

The picnic that stands out in the memory of Kristina Gsell, SEAS ’12, was the result of a shorter trip: it took place in Sea Cliff, a town near her own on the north shore of Long Island. “We went to this park called Headless Park, and we spread out this big blanket,” she said. “That was probably the most legit picnic I’ve ever had.”

Mixing it up with spring cocktails

COCKTAILS from page 3

lime agua fresca. The Wicket, essentially a gin and tonic with cucumber and lime, also hits the spot on a hot summer day.

Closer to home, Calle Ocho’s front bar (Columbus Avenue and 81st Street) produces some of the best mojitos and caipirinhas in the city. Cocktails are around \$10, but on Mondays mojitos are half-price. The portions are generous, and the sweetness deceptively masks the high alcohol content. Those with the drunchies can order tapas at the bar, or move into the full dining room to order something more substantial.

In the neighborhood, Morning-side Heights residents can rely on The Heights (Broadway between 111th and 112th streets) and its roof deck for that summer frozen margarita or fresh draft beer. During happy hour, these drinks cost only \$4 each, making them both convenient and affordable.

The time to start enjoying that warm summer evening has arrived. Don’t miss out—before we know it the sun will set before happy hour begins and the warm nights will fade into fall.

ART



A TREE GROWS IN NYC | Artist Martin Kippenberger's new show at the Museum of Modern Art, titled "The Problem Perspective," features a collection of instillations, sculptures, and paintings.

Kippenberger's new exhibit makes art out of the mundane

BY KATE CLAIRMONT
Columbia Daily Spectator

A forest path lined with scattered wooden objects that appear—on closer inspection—to be dramatically enlarged pills, might not be the most likely display one without knowledge of Martin Kippenberger would expect to see.

The very objects themselves in Kippenberger's show at the Museum of Modern Art, "The Problem Perspective," whether pill-like or furniture-like, eschew appellation. What seem like initially familiar, recognizable objects have been metamorphosed and humorously inverted with a twist of the bizarre and ridiculous. Best known for his sculpture of a crucified frog, *Freddy the Frog*, Kippenberger offers up art as a delicious plate of playful and probing comedy. "The Problem Perspective" lies on the crux between the real and the strange, with works in some cases verging on absurdity.

In fact, objects which appear on first glance to be a normal, or rather recognizable, and the theme of inversion greet visitors from the very first floor. A large square-shaped display of crowded furniture, lined with balconies reminiscent of a high school gymnasium, contrasts with the open space of MoMA's largest space. This installation, titled *The Happy End of Franz Kafka's "Amerika"*, reimagines some of Kafka's themes from the book.

In one work, a colorful railway track is shaped in a circle, with robotic-like chairs covered by umbrellas replacing train cars, centered around a sunny-side-up egg bigger than the chairs themselves. To read into such works, to extrapolate the complex meaning and symbolism, would be interesting indeed—the chairs, if moved, would continue incessantly around the same track, implying unvaried monotony in work life—or the object could be viewed as a play on the remodeling of the universe

with its yellow egg center as the sun and orbiting chairs as planets.

However, perhaps the side balconies suggest that such a proliferation of furniture pieces and objects that we are accustomed to seeing on a daily basis, such as a sunny-side up egg and an umbrella, must be taken out of the norm and viewed at a distance in ways that we are not used to seeing them. They become pieces in a complex puzzle that can be rearranged and redistributed in various permutations.

While the exhibit provides ample examples of Kippenberger's portraits and other paintings—in one instance, he paints a haunting image of the Guggenheim Museum, redistributing its colors and setting in an ominous smoke cloud—his installations and sculptures provide more engaging instances of imagination, along with overall motifs of excess and ludicrousness, often paired with overriding humor. Their titles alone are enough

to entertain—the forest of pills is called *Now I'm Going into the Big Birch Wood, My Pills Will Soon Start Doing Me Good*.

Perhaps the most lasting image in this gallery is an untitled photorealist self-portrait of the artist lounging in a contemplative pose on a sofa right next to a heap of rubbish on a city sidewalk. Though the work was apparently painted by another artist in order to add an additional layer of perspective, the portrait lends itself to, again, a dichotomy between the familiar and the absurd—for even in this nearly realistic instance, in which all appears to be from the world we inhabit, the all-too-familiar sofa has been displaced into the misfit location of a street.

Nothing jibes completely in this universe, but it is certainly worth diving in, if only for the suspense of what wildly inverted image or object awaits around the corner of the next bland gallery wall.

Appreciating the top of the morning



SHANE FERRO
WEEKEND ROMP

New Yorkers are, by and large, not morning people. I think that's why we invented brunch, or at least act like we did.

Ironically, it has always been my dream that one day some

guy would take me on a morning date. Usually, I get stuck with the sleepers—not unsurprisingly, since 95 percent of my peers are sleepers. However, for me, the most romantic time of day is the morning.

"You mean like breakfast the morning after?" asked a friend when I shared my secret desire. "You can't have a morning date without going out the night before."

I beg to differ—though there is no reason that a morning date cannot follow an evening date/sleepover. The point is to take advantage of the city in its best light, both literally and figuratively. Going out on the town at night is committing yourself to fighting crowds and inevitably being squished into a small corner, shouting to be heard.

The city before noon on a weekend, however, is empty and almost quiet. The streets are sparse, with just the occasional jogger or dog walker, and even ordinary things look different—perhaps because the sun is coming from the East for a change?

My one and only morning date (and perhaps the beginning of my fascination) landed me at One If By Land, Two If By Sea (17 Barrow St. between West Fourth and Bleeker streets), known for being one of the most romantic restaurants in the city.

The only company we had in the restaurant was one couple sitting behind us with no boundaries when it came to PDA. Ignoring the lip locking going on to the right, it was as if the live piano, plush furniture, and crème anglais french toast was set up just for us. Even with the mimosas, we walked out with wallets about three times fuller than if we had gone out to dinner.

Just because you don't have a date, however, doesn't mean that you can't enjoy the peace of morning in the city.

Any morning romp should begin (and perhaps also end) with a smooth, strong cup of coffee. For a period of several months, I would hop on the 1 around 9 a.m. every Sunday morning in search of the best cup of coffee in the city.

One of my favorite morning routes emerges from the subway at Christopher Street (near One If By Land). The West Village is one of the best places to feel "neighborhoody" in the city. The craziness that is Seventh Avenue at night has long-since been swept away on its wave of drunkenness, and all that remains is the occasional dog walker or jogger coming out of the pretty brick walk-ups.

Buried within the maze of tiny side streets, not far from where Waverly Place intersects Waverly Place, is Joe, the Art of Coffee (141 Waverly Pl. at Gay Street). Many a top-10 list includes Joe—the espresso is smooth and the baristas love to practice their latte art on "for here" orders. But don't be surprised if the staff is short with non-regulars—just because New York is different in the morning does not mean that New Yorkers are.

For a more complicated journey, but a better cup of joe, head to Abraco (86 E. Seventh St. at First Avenue) near the Astor Place subway stop. The East Village is not quite as clean and simple as its Western counterpart, but it is just as deserted and easier to navigate. Abraco is scarcely bigger than a Carman closet, but its espresso packs a punch, the olive oil loaf is amazing, and each drip coffee ordered is individually filtered. It's heaven in the morning.

Rise and shine, Columbia, and discover life before noon.

Shane Ferro is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in political science and sustainable development. Weekend Romp runs alternate Fridays.

FILM



THE WALLS ARE GONE | Opening this weekend, Slava Tsukerman's new feature film follows one astrophysicist on his homebound journey to a radically different Russia after the Cold War.

Filmmaker uses *Perestroika* to explore the universe and his own life

BY NNEKA MCGUIRE
Columbia Daily Spectator

Ptolemy placed the Earth at the center of the universe, while Copernicus substituted the sun as the pivot point of our solar system. Astrophysicist Sasha Greenberg, *Perestroika's* protagonist played by Sam Robards, suggests that it is not where we live, but how, that is supreme.

Perestroika, which opens Friday at Cinema Village (22 E. 12th St. between University Place and Fifth Avenue), was written and directed by Slava Tsukerman, the mastermind behind the cult classic *Liquid Sky*. Seamlessly weaving together fiction and documentary, *Perestroika* is arguably Tsukerman's magnum opus. Modeled largely after his own experiences, *Perestroika* has been in the making for

years. Tsukerman, who sat down for an interview last week, admits, "I've worked on this script my entire life."

Like Tsukerman, Sasha is a Russian émigré who escaped the iron fist of the Soviet Union in the 1970s. *Perestroika* chronicles Sasha's disorienting return to his country 17 years later, during the period of perestroika (restructuring) under Mikhail Gorbachev. An accomplished astrophysicist, Sasha is invited back to Moscow to discuss the structure of the universe. Subterfuge and pandemonium mark the landscape of a rapidly changing Russia, which serves as the backdrop for Sasha's grave personal problems.

The myriad of intersections between Tsukerman and Sasha's lives are remarkable. For example, Sasha's

painful flashbacks of anti-Semitism are appropriated directly from Tsukerman's life. "There's an episode there—the children beat up the boy because he is Jewish. That really happened to me—that's taken from my biography," Tsukerman said.

Similar to Sasha, Tsukerman finds the role of science in modern society fascinating. Allusions to the unknown—such as simulations of outer space and labyrinths—are bountiful in *Perestroika*.

The bounds of the universe may be difficult to measure, but Sasha soon discovers that mere life on Earth is nearly impossible to decipher. Tsukerman noted that he always wanted his protagonist to be a scientist. "I knew that it should be a film about a physicist,

about somebody who wants to understand how the world works. And then, at a sudden moment in his life, starts realizing that that's not all, that it's much more important to understand how we live and how our civilization works, and go through this crisis."

Alas, Sasha does not suffer alone. The audience is also plagued by the film's overarching question—how should we live?—and the lack of any apparent answer by film's end. Even Tsukerman admits he does not know the answer, but defends that his job is to ask, not answer.

"I do believe that that's not the artist or writer or filmmaker's duty or role to answer questions," Tsukerman said. "I think our role is to ask questions, to make people think."

FOOD & DRINK

Student foodies find budget-friendly favorites with class

BY ANGUS ARMSTRONG
Columbia Daily Spectator

Despite its physical proximity, the Upper East Side seems to be a relatively neglected district for Columbia students. Seen as a haven for women in fur coats and Brooks Brothers devotees, the UES discourages starving students with its intimidating classiness. But despite its chic shine, the UES has a few reasonably priced restaurants where students can dine on a dime. All you need to do now is learn to navigate the crosstown bus system.

Sarabeth's is a landmark Upper East Side establishment serving reasonably priced American cuisine the way your mother used to make it. The space is elegantly decorated and there is a

discernible air of class when you step inside—the restaurant is popular with Upper East Side locals.

Some of the more popular entrees are Long Island duck breast and lobster ravioli, but what makes Sarabeth's legendary is its brunch. On weekends, one might wait 30 minutes or more for a table (reservations are not accepted), but most that have brunchd there would say it is worth the wait.

For brunch perfection, order Sarabeth's fresh-squeezed orange juice (though it's a bit of a splurge for \$5.50), the delicious house jam on a perfectly singed English muffin, and a selection from the long and creative list of pancakes and omelettes. My personal favorite: Goldie Lox, scrambled eggs with smoked salmon and cream cheese.

The grandeur of the Sarabeth's brunch tradition and the overall refinement of the establishment can be experienced at a fairly low cost—even with the fantastic OJ, a typical meal will only cost around \$24 including tax and tip. To avoid the maddening waits, it is a good idea to take your brunch excursion on a week-day. While there are other Sarabeth's locations around Manhattan, this is the one to go to if you feel the need to satisfy your inner blue blood.

For Euro trendsters on a budget, Serafina is another terrific option. Located on the second and third floors of a building on the corner of 79th and Madison, the restaurant is in close proximity to the art galleries and boutiques of the Upper East Side. But don't let the art dealers,

fashionistas, and jet-setters who dine here scare you away from what is actually a moderately priced eatery.

The full name of the restaurant is Serafina Fabulous Pizza, and while there are indeed delicious brick oven pies to be enjoyed, Serafina also offers fantastic pasta (\$10 to \$16) as well as some of the best risotto in Manhattan. The risotto with Veuve Clicquot champagne and black truffle (\$22) is rich and delicious enough to comprise an entire meal.

The restaurant is decorated with flowers and colorful murals that create a friendly and familiar atmosphere. Serafina is a great place to know about—it features reliable Italian dishes at decent prices and is able to retain the style and charm of the neighborhood, without any of the stuffiness.

ART

Ultra hip uptown art galleries go conservative

BY LIZA ELIANO
Columbia Daily Spectator

The Upper East Side has long been overshadowed by downtown neighborhoods known for exciting nightlife and edgy art galleries. Incentives to visit this part of town are a little less hip. Fifth Avenue is the home of Museum Mile, which includes the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Guggenheim, and the many historic mansions of New York tycoons.

While the UES is often chastised for its stale conservatism, the area was once filled with galleries that housed works by famous artists of the 20th century. The neighborhood might not be the hot spot it once was, but traces of the Upper East Side's former glory may still exist.

18 E. 71st St. is home to the Leo Castelli Gallery, which first opened in 1957 and exhibited paintings by Pollock, de Kooning, Warhol, and Lichtenstein—to name a few. The Ronald Feldman Gallery, opened in 1971 just three blocks from Castelli, was also a premier space for up-and-coming artists. As noted in a 2002 *New York Times* article on the history of the gallery, Feldman was a risk-taker and “staked his reputation on difficult art work ... that was unlikely to make any money.”

While the Feldman Gallery has moved to Mercer Street, Castelli remains at its UES location where it is still a champion of modern art. The gallery is currently showing an exhibition titled “Electricity,” which explores the use of neon bulbs during the minimal and conceptual movements of the 1960s.

Another uptown landmark is the Gagosian Gallery on 77th Street

and Madison Avenue. The gallery presents a mix of Warhol-era artists and more recent (but equally as unaffordable) names like Damien Hirst and Takashi Murakami. The current show is an exposition of marble sculpture with pieces ranging from the Renaissance to the 20th century.

Artists like Warhol, Pollock, and even Hirst have already been solidified in the art world, so it's no surprise that the Upper East Side continues to showcase their work. But the opportunities for brand-new artists are slim.

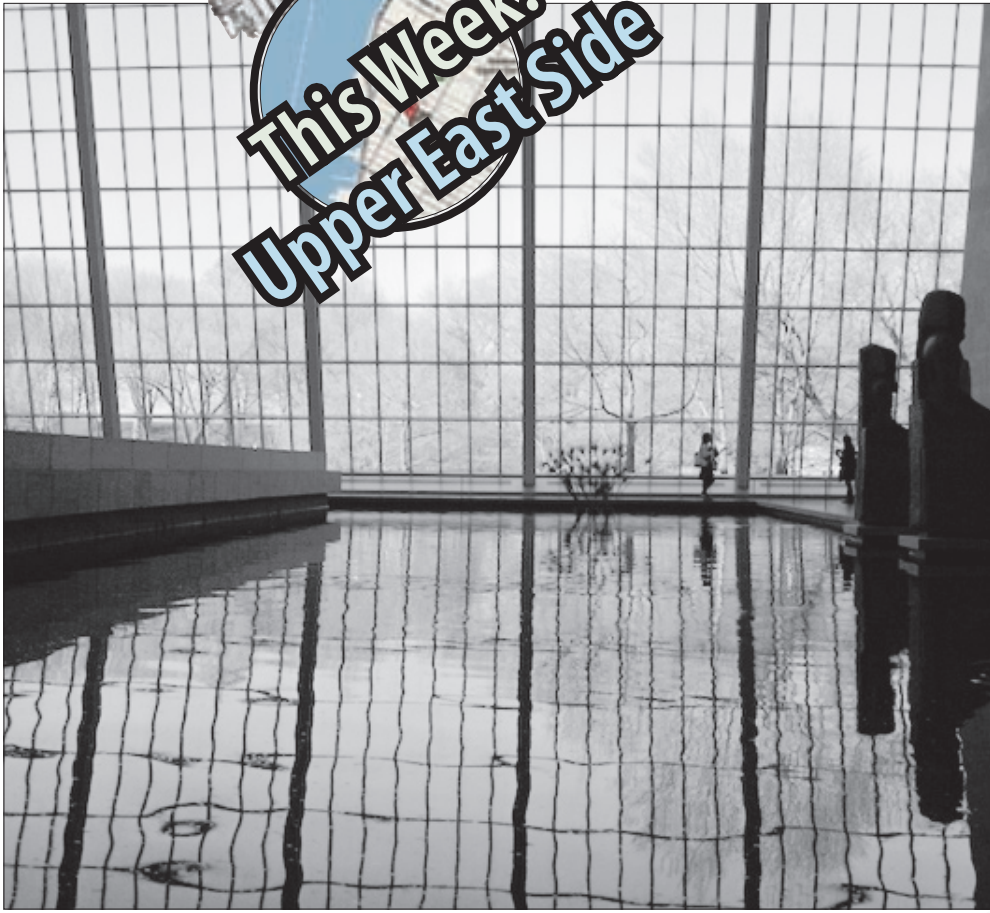
Betty Krulik, who owns a small American art gallery on 71st Street and Madison Avenue, said her conservative field is perfect for the neighborhood. “This is not the area for cutting-edge contemporary,” she warned. Krulik's intimate, by-appointment space is representative of the galleries that line Madison Avenue, several of which sell ancient art.

Yet as with most New York neighborhoods, the Upper East Side has its share of colleges that provide hope for a younger market. The Leubsdorf Gallery at Hunter College is now showing works by Hunter MFA alumni as well as art by current undergraduates on the 11th floor of the Hunter North Building.

The gallery is a hidden treasure—the outside entrance is always locked and visitors must know to enter through the college's main lobby. Yet Ann Chan, a sophomore at Hunter, explained that anyone can go and view the art, which offers a welcoming atmosphere and a free ticket to explore a new generation of artists. Maybe change is in the UES air.



Kenneth Jackson / Staff Photographer



Kenneth Jackson / Staff Photographer



Kenneth Jackson / Staff Photographer



Stefie Gan for Spectator

UPPER EAST SIDE STORY | Columbians may feel a certain degree of neighborhood envy when it comes to the Upper East Side, but this epicenter for all things posh may be more student-friendly than you previously thought. The area offers world-famous galleries, beautiful architecture, and even restaurants that won't clean out your wallet.

BOOKS

Membership libraries offer a glimpse into the past

BY ELIZABETH KEENE
Columbia Daily Spectator

The New York Society Library fulfills every expectation one might have for an Upper East Side library. Hushed, exclusive, and rich in history and artifacts, it sits proudly in the center of the block (on 79th Street, between Madison and Park avenues).

The reference room—the only room offering access to non-members—is small, and most of the available space is occupied by a large oval table. Despite its modest size, the room offers an impressive range of reference books, from the *Oxford English Dictionary* to the *Comparative Guide to American Colleges*, and its large windows let in plenty of light.

The building in which the library is currently housed is a New York City landmark, built by renowned architects Trowbridge and Livingston in 1917. The library—the first in New York City—houses a remarkable collection of art and artifacts. But the library's treasures, ranging from drawings by famed naturalist John James Audubon to the original library charter signed by King George III, are not open to all. Only members are allowed to venture above the first floor or borrow books.

As an institution, the membership library dates all the way back to the colonial period, when the newly established colonies suffered from a dearth of books. Seeking to

fill this void, Benjamin Franklin established the first membership library in Philadelphia in 1731. Each member of the Junto, his “society of mutual improvement,” contributed to the purchase of a collection of books that they could not have afforded individually—the members were effectively shareholders, paying fees to the society in order to increase their book capital.

Membership libraries appeared in America throughout the 18th and 19th centuries because individuals, particularly merchants, became increasingly concerned with educating society and themselves.

The membership library is a literary tradition that has been around longer than our constitution. And there are other membership libraries still in operation across the country, including two in New York City—the General Society Library (West 44th Street) and the Mercantile Library (East 47th Street), both founded in 1820.

Whether or not one cares to pay the \$150 year-long membership fee (this price includes the \$25 student discount), the New York Society Library and others of its kind are worth a visit—if only because they stand as monuments to the intellectual curiosity and drive for self-improvement that helped found this country.

The New York Society Library is located at 53 E. 79th St., between Madison and Park avenues.

WEEKEND

Trying Upper East Side history on for size

BY DASHA CHIRKOV
Columbia Daily Spectator

Welcome to the Upper East Side: home of Museum Mile, Millionaires' Row, Madison Avenue Boutiques, and of course, *Gossip Girl*. What do all of these things have in common? They all portray the finer things in life: high art, high prices, high fashion, and high drama.

The Upper East Side is perhaps the most recognizable neighborhood by name in all of Manhattan. Yet at the same time, it may be one of the hardest to characterize. Its initial character began to emerge in the 19th century when the wealth of the Vanderbilts and other representatives of the Gilded Age could no longer be contained within the limits of Midtown.

Slowly their “townhouses”—if they can be called that—made their way up the east side of Manhattan. Whole blocks were consumed

by opulent mansions that faced then newly planted Central Park. Today, the neighborhood is still home to New York's richest and most established families, such as the Kennedys, the Whitneys, and the Rockefellers.

But a large portion of Fifth Avenue, once dubbed “Millionaire's Row,” has been transformed into “Museum Mile.” Between East 59th Street and East 96th Street there are more than eight museums. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Guggenheim, the Frick, the Whitney, and the Neue Galerie were all generously funded by the one-time residents of the neighborhood.

While the museums act as a form of cultural education for the masses, they also remind most of us that we don't belong on the Upper East Side. Symbols of old money and opulence, they mark the exclusive attitude of the neighborhood.

Perhaps it is because the Upper East Side seems so unapproachable that it is a favorite topic in pop culture. As the stomping ground of Holly Golightly in *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and the backdrop of twisted teenage affairs in *Cruel Intentions*, the Upper East Side has provided the perfect backdrop for many Hollywood fantasies. Any mention of the UES in pop culture is synonymous with luxurious fashion and jewelry, expensive lifestyles and nonchalant attitudes.

From visiting the museums to learn about art and architecture (the Frick Collection is displayed in Henry Clay Frick's actual residence), to watching fashionably dressed ladies exercise their credit cards in the boutiques, to catching the filming of a TV show or movie on location, it's easy to find a feast for the eyes and the imagination in the Upper East Side.

Neighborhood Watch



File Photo
TAKING AIM | Marlena Hall is one of three seniors playing in their final matches as Columbia Lions this weekend.

Lightweights and heavyweights return to action

BY MICHELE CLEARY
Spectator Staff Writer

While the women’s rowing team will take a weekend off from racing, both the lightweight and the heavyweight men’s squads will be competing on Saturday.

The heavyweights (8-0) will look to continue their impressive season when they take on Yale and Penn at the Blackwell Cup this weekend. The Light Blue are coming off a historic victory at the Childs Cup regatta, taking the cup for the first time in 46 years. Columbia’s varsity eight boat outpaced Princeton and Penn in a time of 6:20.8 to win the cup last Saturday. This victory bumped the Lions up to sixth in the collegiate coaches poll.

Having won all four of their regattas so far this spring, the heavyweights will look to make it five in a row against the Bulldogs and the Quakers on Saturday. Columbia has already raced against Penn this season—defeating the Quakers’ varsity eight boat by 12.9 seconds at the Childs Cup last weekend—but the Lions have yet to face Yale.

The No. 14 Bulldogs are coming off a sweep of Dartmouth, defeating the Big Green by just over two seconds in the varsity eight race.

Last year, Columbia was victorious at the Blackwell Cup, winning it for the first time in 67 years. In the first varsity race, the Lions finished in 5:51.3, just ahead of the Bulldogs, who came in at 5:52.5. Penn finished at a distant third with a time of 6:09.1.

The Blackwell Cup is scheduled to begin at 6:10 p.m. on Saturday at Columbia’s home course.

The lightweights (1-8) hope to break their three-race losing streak when they travel to Cambridge, Mass. to take part in the Geiger Cup. The Lions will also be taking on Dartmouth on Sunday in the Subin Cup.

Last weekend, the Light Blue fell to both Penn and Yale at the Dodge Cup. The Bulldogs finished first with a time of 5:57.3, slightly ahead of the Quakers, who came in at 6:02.1. The Lions finished in third with a time of 6:04.8. Columbia placed second in both the second varsity and the freshman eight races, ahead of Penn but behind Yale.

The lightweight squad has yet to face either MIT or Cornell this season. The No. 11 Engineers are coming off a defeat at the Biglin Bowl. MIT finished third with a time of 6:10.1, behind No. 2 Harvard (5:57.4) and No. 7 Dartmouth (6:28.1).

Sixth-place Cornell is also looking to bounce back from a loss. The Big Red were defeated by No. 1 Princeton at the Platt Cup. The Tigers’ varsity eight crew finished in 6:18.7, almost 15 seconds ahead of Cornell, which finished at 6:32.9. However, the Big Red did defeat Princeton in the second varsity, third varsity, and freshman races.

Last season at the Geiger Cup, the Light Blue finished at a close second behind Cornell. Columbia’s varsity eight crew finished in 5:56.4, less than three seconds behind the Big Red and just over three seconds ahead of the Engineers. Though the Lions fell in the second varsity race, they were triumphant in the freshman eight race.

The Geiger Cup is set to begin at 9:00 a.m. Saturday in Cambridge.

After racing against Cornell and MIT, Columbia will head to Hanover, N.H., to take on No. 7 Dartmouth in the Subin Cup.

The Light Blue lost a close race to the Big Green at last season’s Subin Cup. Dartmouth’s varsity eight came in at 5:51.4, less than a second ahead of Columbia, which came in at 5:52.0.

The Subin Cup is scheduled to begin at 9:40 a.m. on Sunday in Hanover.

M. tennis aims to clinch share of Ivy title with weekend sweep

MEN’S TENNIS from back page

On Sunday, the Lions will travel to Princeton in what could be a must-win match if Brown is upended by Harvard on Friday. Princeton still has a chance to win the Ivy title this weekend, and the Tigers have a strong league record, including a 4-3 stunner over Harvard. The match will be played outdoors if the weather permits, which would put Columbia at a disadvantage since the Light Blue has been practicing indoors all season and has only played outdoors during its spring break trip to Texas.

“The match might be outdoors, but we don’t want to worry about it now. When we finish with Penn, we will worry about it,” Goswami said. “It will be a moot point if we lose.”

Princeton is led by senior Peter Capkovic, last season’s Ivy League Player of the Year and a member of the all-Ivy first team. The senior is 5-0 in Ivy play this fall at the No. 1 singles position and notched a straight set win over Harvard’s No. 77 Chris Clayton.

W. tennis aims for first Ivy win on final weekend

BY KUNAL GUPTA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The women’s tennis team will enter its final weekend of Ivy play still searching for its first league win this season when it takes on Penn and No. 46 Princeton. The Princeton match will be the final match for Columbia seniors Nina Suda, Linnae Goswami and Marlena Hall. Columbia (4-13, 0-5 Ivy) will travel to Penn (1-14, 0-5 Ivy) on Friday and will host Princeton (16-7, 4-1 Ivy) at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center on Sunday.

The Lions will first face off against the Quakers, only other winless team in the Ivy League. The Quakers will enter the match with only one win this spring, which they snatched on Feb. 20 after defeating George Washington 7-0 at home. Since then, the Quakers have lost 11 consecutive dual matches, and they played their closest match, a 4-3 defeat at the hands of Harvard, last weekend.

Ilene Weintraub, Columbia’s head coach, expects to see positive things from her team this weekend.

“I expect them to go into the match with a positive attitude, and I think they believe that they can win. In practice, we have been working on hitting a lot of balls, in an effort to help us believe that we can win,” she said.

In fact, Weintraub spoke to her team about the importance of believing in themselves earlier this week during practice.

“I gave a speech to the team about how they should go out there and play with no regrets,” she said. “We have three seniors and five non-seniors on the team, and I told everyone that we should win it for the seniors.”

The Quakers are led by junior captain Ekaterina Kosminskaya, who entered the spring season ranked No. 10 in the East in singles. As a pair, Kosminskaya and her doubles partner Alexa Ely rank of No. 12 in the East and No. 54 in the nation. This spring, however, Kosminskaya has been hammered in league play, failing to win a set and going 0-5 in the Ivy League thus far despite her impressive credentials coming into the season. Such credentials include being ranked No. 24 in the world as a junior, and being named Ivy League Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year in 2007 as well as earning first-team all-Ivy in 2008.

“I think we can win at No. 1,” a confident Weintraub said. “No matter who plays, either one is capable of beating her.”

The No. 1 singles spot for Columbia has been shared this spring by sophomore Natasha Makarova and freshman Nicole Stanziola. Makarova played both matches last weekend, dropping both in

straight sets to quality opponents from Brown and Yale.

The Lions will take Saturday off and will then close out their season by hosting nationally ranked Princeton at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center on Sunday. The Tigers enter the weekend with their Ivy title hopes on the line, as a weekend sweep would assure them the championship. The Tigers will come to Manhattan on Sunday boasting a three-year winning streak over Columbia, including a 6-1 victory last season. In that encounter, the Lions got a win at No. 4 singles from Lauren Shearer, who beat her opponent in a third set super tie-break. The Lions also got a win at No. 1 doubles from the duo of Linnae Goswami and Nina Suda.

The Tigers are led by a freshman at the top spot. First-year Lauren McHale has played No. 1 singles all spring for Princeton and has done well enough to be ranked No. 120 in the nation, a true distinction for a freshman. McHale was the No. 5 in the nation as a high-school junior and was part of the Princeton recruiting class that was ranked No. 1 in the nation overall. In addition to McHale, the Princeton doubles team of Taylor Marable and Hilary Bartlett is ranked No. 42 in the nation. The duo plays No. 1 doubles for Princeton.

The Lions will travel to Philadelphia for a 2 p.m. start on Friday and then return home for Senior Day and a noon start on Sunday at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center.



File Photo
SWINGING AWAY | The softball team dropped a doubleheader to Manhattan College on Thursday with scores of 6-2 and 2-1 in the first and second games, respectively. The team will now prepare to take on division leader Cornell in two doubleheaders this weekend at the Baker Athletics Complex.

Softball drops two to Manhattan, readies for Cornell

BY MICHELE CLEARY
Spectator Staff Writer

The Columbia softball team was unable to pick up a victory on Thursday in its doubleheader against Manhattan. The Lions (12-26, 2-1 Ivy) will head into their weekend series against Cornell with a seven-game losing streak.

In the first game of the two-game series, the Light Blue fell 6-2 to the Jaspers. A passed ball in the first inning and a costly error by short-stop Keli Leong in the third gave Manhattan three unearned runs. Pitcher Erica Clauss

was given the loss despite giving up only two runs in five innings of work. The Lions were also hindered by a weak offense, as only Karen Tulig and Maggie Johnson were able to connect with the ball.

Columbia’s offensive struggles continued in the second game, leading to a heartbreaking 2-1 defeat. In this game, however, the Light Blue was able to produce hits but was unable to capitalize with runners on base. The Lions were able to get eight hits, including three from Tulig, but stranded nine players. Johnson earned the loss despite giving up only one run in a complete-game effort.

CU Baseball looks to break tie atop Gehrig Division

BASEBALL from back page

of .458. Third baseman Nathan Ford provides power out of the third spot in the order with his team-leading six homers and 26 RBI.

Scott Hardinger and Mickey Brodsky are also major threats in the batter’s box for the Big Red.

In terms of pitching, Cornell carries a team ERA of 6.52. The team’s two work-

horses, Taylor Wood and Matt Hill, both carry marks over six, and opponents are hitting around .300 against them. Wood and Hill have each logged more than 30 innings for the Big Red. Closer David Rochefort has three saves on the year.

For Columbia, Bobby O’Brien has been one of the hottest hitters lately and now leads the team with a batting average of .317. Nick Cox’s 15 steals continue to pace the Lions on the base paths, and

Ron Williams leads Columbia with 20 RBI.

As the regular season winds down, the Lions have found that they’re not playing ball quite as well as they were last season. With a 5-7 league record, they are fortunate to still have a decent chance at winning the Gehrig Division. To do so, they’ll have to start off by playing a smart and aggressive series against Cornell.

Game time is set for noon on both Saturday and Sunday.

Annual Blue and White game to feature familiar faces for fans

FOOTBALL from back page

Craig Hormann graduated. Both Shane Kelly and Millicent Olawale saw playing time and were able to showcase their skills, which may lead to some more confusion as to who will be under center on a weekly basis this year. On Saturday, however, Olawale and rising sophomore Jerry Bell will be at quarterback for the opposing Blue and White sides, as Kelly, who has not been available to play this spring, will not take any snaps. Since the Lions only have two quarterbacks, hitting the quarterbacks has been “verboden” during spring practice, according to head coach Norries Wilson’s online updates, and may continue to be forbidden during the Blue and White game.

Aside from watching the matchups between the offense and the defense, there will be a new interest in special teams this spring, as the Lions

will enter next season without Jon Rocholl, who handled most of the kicking and punting duties during his four years with the team. Rising juniors Joe Stormont and William Mazur are the only listed kickers on the Columbia roster with Mazur also listed as the only punter. Neither of these players has kicked for the Lions in the past, and it will be interesting to see what they have to offer on Saturday.

With just over five months remaining until kickoff against Fordham in September, the Blue and White game will be the first and last chance to see what the Light Blue will have in store for the 2009 season. With a strong corps of experienced veterans and an array of new faces ready to make an impact and earn a spot on the two-deep for the fall, expect the battle for positions and pride to be a good one on Saturday.

Kickoff is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. at Robert K. Kraft Field.

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

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3	8				6			
			7			2		
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Editorial/A&E: (212) 854-9546

Sports: (212) 854-9546

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Butterfly units?

8 Home in the Alps

14 "Again ..."

15 Rock salt

16 Step in a pizza recipe?

18 Cotton plant originally from Peru

19 Tranquility

20 Simpson dad with a dozen donuts?

24 Floor covering

27 November winners

28 Suffix with Caesar

29 Touchy?

32 Milo of "Barbarella"

34 Broadcast

35 Hook's mate in his formative years?

39 Pooh pooh-bah

40 Farmer's concerns

41 Paul who played the principal in "The Breakfast Club"

44 Dander

45 Fandom's Lupino

48 AOL rival

49 Headline about carpentry work for a new financial institution?

52 "Awakenings" Oscar nominee

55 "Must've been something ..."

56 Classic breakup line, and a hint to the formation of this puzzle's theme answers

61 Brunch fare

62 Actor whose birth name was Aristoteles

63 Thermometer, e.g.

64 Gold or silver

DOWN

1 One in Tarzan's family tree?

2 Routs

3 Chart again

4 Cockney anticipation?

5 Muscular doll

6 Satisfy the munchies

7 Tempest

8 "Ageless Body, Timeless Mind" author

9 Saintry ring

10 Father-daughter boxers

11 Dynamo

12 Quarter of ... July/August

13 Some NFL receivers

17 Dogs in shoes?

18 21st Greek letter

21 Enthusiastic agreement

22 Chemistry

23 Nobel Otto

24 Fit for service

25 Sailor's heading

26 Crossed (out)

30 City with a view of the Laramie Mountains

31 Allen and Burton

32 Chaplin's last wife

33 Film buff's station

35 Suffers

36 Assimilate

37 Actor Estrada

38 German town above Houston

39 Vegas's ... Grand

42 ... dictum: passing remark

43 Old-timery "not"

45 Bo Diddley hit

46 Loathe

47 Lime ending

50 Western omen

51 Grocery section

53 Erv. contents

54 Manhattan area above Houston Street

56 Lux Luthor's 200, and others

57 Datebook abbr.

58 Chi.-based fler

59 "... been had"

60 Scoff's topper

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xwordeditor@aol.com 04/17/09

By David A. Finer
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04/17/09

The women's tennis team will finish its season this weekend with matches against Penn and No. 46 Princeton.

PAGE 7



SPORTS

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2009 • PAGE 10



The softball team dropped two games to Manhattan College on Thursday, and will take on Cornell this weekend.

PAGE 7

CU football ready for annual spring showcase

BY MATT VELAZQUEZ
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

For the past few weeks, the Columbia football team has been practicing, and its efforts will culminate in the annual Blue and White game that will be held at Robert K. Kraft Field at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday. In this game, fans will be able to see what the core of the team looks like and how players have progressed over the winter as well as to prognosticate as to how the Lions can build on their 2-8 record from the 2008 season.

At this time last year, the Lions were in the process of integrating younger play-

ers into their plans for the season ahead. This year, things are different, as the majority of the Lions' key players on offense and defense are coming back next season.

Over the past few years, Columbia has been known for its use of younger players. The Lions had the top freshman in the Ivy League in both 2006 and 2007 in wide receiver Austin Knowlin and linebacker Alex Gross, respectively. Last season, defensive tackle Owen Fraser finished second in the voting for Ivy Rookie of the Year behind Harvard's Matthew Hanson but earned recognition as Honorable Mention all-Ivy.

When fall rolls around, it may be difficult for freshmen to jump right onto the field for the Lions, as they have veteran talent at many positions. The offense is returning all but one of its starters—current senior Jordan David— at the skill positions— and three out of five linemen, and the defense only lost four starters. Despite the loss of seniors, the Light Blue has a solid corps of veterans that is ready to step into those gaps.

One of the main concerns at the beginning of last season was figuring out which junior would be quarterback after



File Photo

SEE FOOTBALL, page 7

PLOWING AHEAD | The Blue and White game will feature quarterback M.A. Olawale (above) and freshman Jerry Bell in their first live action since fall.

Divisions differ drastically in Ivy baseball



MAX
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With only two weekend league series left in the Ivy League baseball season, the drastic differences between the two divisions is quite alarming. While Columbia, Princeton, and Cornell are all tied at 5-7 for first in the Gehrig Division, Dartmouth has practically wrapped up

the Rolfe Division, as it is three games ahead of Brown with an 11-1 conference record.

The differences between the leading teams in each division are more than just the six games that separate them. Each team in the Rolfe Division has at least the same record as the squads at the top of the Gehrig Division. Yet, the drastic inequality goes beyond that.

During interleague play, every team in the Gehrig Division played all of the Rolfe Division teams. In the 32 contests, the Rolfe Division teams won 24 games outscoring their Gehrig opposition by nearly 1.7 runs per contest.

Only reigning champion Columbia has drawn even with the Rolfe Division, going 4-4 while outscoring its opposition by two runs. The rest of the Gehrig teams did not win more than two games and were outscored by 14 runs or more. Penn has been the epitome of futility, going 0-8 against Rolfe teams while being outscored by 27 runs.

While team play has been quite unequal, there is remarkable parity in individual play. Three of the top 10 batting averages and five of the top ERAs are from Gehrig League players, and the league leader in home runs is Penn's Will Gordon with eight.

Penn also has the highest team batting average, though the Quakers only have one win in Ivy League competition. Princeton has the lowest team ERA by more than a whole run. These dilemmas are going to prove quite interesting coming down the home stretch of the season.

With six of eight games being played in the friendly confines of Robertson Field (where the Lions are 2-3), Columbia has a decent chance of redeeming itself in league play after losing three of four last weekend at Princeton. The Lions will probably need to win six of eight in order to contend for the Gehrig title for the second straight year. And, while that seems daunting given Penn's hitting prowess and Cornell's play of late, it is a definite possibility.

As was discussed in my last column, Columbia will need to get solid pitching performances out of more than just Joe Scarlata. Scarlata, who was the Ivy League Pitcher of the Week last week, comes into this weekend with a 3-4 record and a 4.94 ERA. But the rest of the Lion starters all have ERAs above 5.65 and have been quite inconsistent. If they can get just one more starter in each weekend to pitch solidly, they could win six of their last eight.

What will happen when the Gehrig champion plays the Rolfe Division winner for a spot in the NCAA tournament? Will the individual prowess of the Gehrig compensate for the teams' poor performances during the regular season? Or will Dartmouth, the likely champion of the Rolfe Division, continue to steam roll its opposition to make up for last year's difficult defeat in the title game? Only time will tell.

*Max Puro is a Columbia College senior majoring in history.
Sports@columbiaspectator.com*

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

SOFTBALL
vs. Cornell
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HEAVYWEIGHT ROWING
Blackwell Cup
Orchard Beach, N.Y., 6:10 p.m., Apr. 18

WOMEN'S TENNIS
vs. Princeton
*Dick Savitt Tennis Center
Noon, Apr. 19*

Ivy title on the line for men's tennis



Haley Vecchiarelli / Senior Staff Photographer

INTENSE | The Lions will look to get contributions from the three freshmen in their lineup, including Rajeev Deb-Sen at No. 6 singles this weekend when they try to clinch an Ivy title.

Weekend sweep will assure Lions a share of Ivy championship

BY KUNAL GUPTA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

All season, the No. 56-ranked men's tennis team has been playing towards one goal—an Ivy League championship. This weekend, the men's team has a chance to assure itself at least a share of the coveted title for the second time in three seasons by sweeping Penn and No. 71 Princeton, the Lions' final opponents of the season. Columbia (14-5, 4-1 Ivy) will host Penn (10-10, 1-4 Ivy) on Friday and will then travel to Princeton (10-8, 3-2 Ivy) on Sunday for its regular season finale. The Lions sit in first place in the Ivy League heading into the weekend, but Brown looms only one game behind, as the Bears have played one fewer match than Columbia. Brown edged Columbia 4-3 last weekend, and if the two teams were to finish the season with one loss apiece, there would be a one-match playoff to determine the Ivy League's representative in the NCAA Tournament.

"There is no change of mind-set for the team," head coach Bidyut Goswami said. "We feel like we got a break when Cornell beat Brown, and now we have to take advantage of that break and do our job. We will worry about Penn first and then if we win, we will worry about Princeton."

The Lions will host the Quakers in their final home match of the season on Friday. Penn enters with a record of 1-4 in the Ivy League and has played several close matches against some of the top teams in the conference. The Quakers lost by scores of 4-3 to Princeton and Yale, who both are nationally ranked. The Quakers also lost 5-2 to Harvard but got two convincing wins from two freshmen in the middle of the lineup. Phil Law at No. 4 and Jason Lin at No. 5 both easily defeated their Crimson opponents in straight sets, and the No. 6 player for Penn lost in a third set tiebreak. In addition, the Quakers nearly knocked off the Crimson earlier in the season in the Eastern College Athletic Conference Men's Indoor Tennis Championship when the Crimson were ranked No. 46 nationally. Penn had five match points at No. 1 singles but failed to convert them and was defeated in a 4-3 heartbreaker.

"Both Lin and Law are good players," Goswami said. "Haig [Schneiderman] beat Law in the fall, but both are good players."

The Quakers are led by junior Hicham Laalej at the No. 1 singles spot. Laalej has gone 12-7 this spring, including 2-3 in the Ivy League, although all three of those losses came in three sets.

Last season, the Lions beat Penn 4-3 in their season finale. The Lions swept the doubles point and got wins at No. 3 and No. 4 singles as well as a three-set win at No. 6 to win the match (Laalej did not play).

SEE MEN'S TENNIS, page 7

Four-game series with Cornell a must-win for baseball

BY JACOB LEVENFELD
Spectator Staff Writer

The Columbia baseball team opens a four-game weekend set against Cornell tomorrow afternoon at Robertson Field. If the Lions are going to make a second straight run for the Ivy League title, they will have to start performing better against conference opponents. After losing three of four last weekend to Princeton, Columbia is just 5-7 in league play. Despite that subpar mark, the Lions are still in a three-way tie for first in the Gehrig Division along with Princeton and Cornell. It is safe to say that the series against the Big Red is a must-win for the Lions.

After last weekend's breakdown against Princeton, Columbia attained a measure of redemption in an afternoon matchup at Fordham on Wednesday. The Rams got on the board early and stayed in control until the Light Blue roughed up Fordham's relief corps and emerged from the Bronx with a 5-3 victory. Bobby O'Brien delivered a big RBI single in the seventh, and Jon Eisen's grounder to second knocked in the eventual winning run in the eighth.

Although the Lions did well to make consistent contact against the Rams' pitchers, they also benefited heavily from four

separate Fordham errors in the afternoon. Only one of Columbia's five runs was earned. Nevertheless, good teams find ways to take advantage of opponents' miscues.

Even though the Lions played a midweek nine-inning game, they won't have to worry about fatigued pitchers going into the pair of weekend twin bills. The coaching staff managed their hurlers well on Wednesday, limiting a total of seven pitchers to no more than two innings each on the mound. None of them were members of Columbia's standard weekend starting rotation.

Columbia could have found a better time to face the Big Red, who have won four of their last five and will be gunning to take down the defending league champions. Last weekend, they took three of four from Penn, which holds a league-worst conference record of 1-11. And in a nonconference matchup on Tuesday, Cornell downed host LeMoyne by a score of 7-5.

The Big Red offense is led by a quartet of hitters with averages that currently stand over the .300 mark. Tops among them is right fielder Brian Billigen, Cornell's speedy leadoff man who leads the team with a .407 average, two triples, and an on-base percentage

PITCHING PROBABLES



COLUMBIA vs. CORNELL
Saturday, April 18, noon

Game 1 Scarlata vs. Schmeltzer	Game 2 Whitaker vs. Hill
Sunday, April 19, noon	

Game 1 Bracey vs. Brodsky	Game 2 Aquino vs. Bertucci
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File Photo

ACE IN THE HOLE | The Lions have been bolstered by the play of senior pitching ace Joe Scarlata all season long.

SEE BASEBALL, page 7