

False alarm bomb threat shuts down Broadway

BY CASEY TOLAN
AND FINN VIGELAND
Spectator Senior Staff Writers

An abandoned suitcase left near the 116th Street subway station led police to tape off Broadway and secure College Walk Thursday night.

The section of Broadway from 115th to 117th streets was taped off from shortly before 7:30 p.m. to shortly before 8 p.m., but after police determined the green suitcase to be harmless, the street was reopened, according to Jason Harper, community affairs officer for the 26th Precinct of the New York Police Department.

“We have to take threats like this seriously,” Harper said.

Police and fire vehicles lined Broadway, and police tape blocked off the subway station, the Barnard gates, and the 116th Street and Broadway gates to Columbia.

“With the whole Boston thing, they want to take extra precaution,” a police officer on the scene said in reference to the bombing at the Boston Marathon on Monday.

An emergency text message was sent out to Barnard students only at 8:08 p.m.—more than 10 minutes after the police had cleared the scene—saying, “Columbia University has reported a bomb threat at 116th street and Broadway all recipients are to shelter in place until the all clear is given by the

SEE BOMB SCARE, page 2



DOUGLAS KESSEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TAKE BACK | The second ever gender-neutral Take Back the Night march and speakout drew 150 students and community members.

Students, locals march against sexual violence

BY JOSEPHINE MCGOWAN
Spectator Staff Writer

Wielding bright posters featuring slogans such as “Sexual Violence Has Got to Go!” about 150 students and community members—and one dog—clapped, chanted, and whistled their way around Morningside Heights for the 25th annual Take Back the Night march.

Started at Barnard in 1978, Take Back the Night aims to create a safe space for sexual assault survivors and to promote

discussion about sexual violence on college campuses.

Lilli Flink, BC/JTS '13, emphasized the importance of having the event on Barnard's campus each year.

“It's important for me to bring to light issues of sexual violence,” she said. “This event is the most important and meaningful event that the school contributes to the campus community here.”

Last year was the first year that the march went gender-neutral. Dina Tyson, BC '13, and

Alice Griffin, BC '15, the co-coordinators of the event, said that there was a huge amount of positive feedback about including men in the march.

The march's opening speaker, Maya Noonan, BC '13, talked about the influence of the media on the public's perception of sexual violence.

“What I so greatly hope is that we don't just use the occasion of Take Back the Night or Sexual Assault Awareness Month as the time of the year in which we pay tribute to sexual

violence prevention and responsibility,” Noonan said. “We need to be thinking about how we can make this world a safer place all of the time. Nothing will change if we stop talking, so don't end the conversation here.”

As the marchers wound their way around the block, people from Union Theological Seminary, Teachers College, and apartment buildings waved and cheered them on from their windows.

SEE MARCH, page 2

McNally to deliver keynote

Playwright will speak at CC Class Day ceremony

BY ABBY ABRAMS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Tony Award-winning playwright Terrence McNally, CC '60, will deliver the keynote address at the Columbia College Class Day ceremony.

The annual event, which honors graduating seniors, will take place May 21 on South Lawn.

McNally has won four Tony Awards—two for his plays “Love! Valour! Compassion!” and “Master Class” and two for his books for the musicals “Ragtime” and “Kiss of the Spiderwoman.” He also won an Emmy Award for his teleplay for “Andre's Mother.”

A highly acclaimed writer, McNally has also received a citation from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, was inducted into the American Theatre Hall of Fame in 1992, and was awarded the Dramatists Guild Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011.

Before breaking into the professional theater scene, McNally, who received his B.A. in English from Columbia College, wrote the 66th Varsity Show, “A Little Bit Different,” during his senior year.

“Terrence McNally is one of America's most important playwrights and he started his theatrical career writing for the Columbia

SEE SPEAKER, page 2

Barnard to see software updates by September

BY EMMA GOSS
AND CECILIA REYES
Spectator Senior Staff Writers

It's #NewBarnard.

Barnard is in the midst of a series of technological upgrades, the most visible of which will be the September launch of the comprehensive inside.barnard.edu portal, which will replace eBear.

The changes aim to streamline the college's software and databases to make it easier for users to get information online, and for possible business partners to interact with Barnard's systems, Chief Operating Officer Greg Brown said.

“If we simplify and clarify how we do our administrative work, we serve the students, faculty, and staff much better.”

—Carol Katzman, VP for information technology

Supporting systems for admissions, the registrar, finance, budgeting, development, and human resources, many of which are over 25 years old, will be updated, he said. When all the work is done, billing cycles will be automatically updated, students will receive email reminders to pay their bills, students and faculty will have to enter their login information less frequently, and the

dining portal, registrar portal, and Common Application will be better integrated.

Technological infrastructure work began last summer, and the new features will be launched with the inside.barnard.edu portal in September. The project has already resulted in online job applications for staff workers and digital acceptance letters to the class of 2017.

“These things are coming through one at a time—you can't change finance without changing everything else,” Carol Katzman, Barnard's vice president for information technology, said. “If we simplify and clarify how we do our administrative work, we serve the students, faculty, and staff much better.”

Katzman said that the goal of phasing in the technological changes is to make it easier for people to understand how to use the updated systems step by step, adding that student and faculty feedback will be important in assessing the effectiveness of the changes.

Students and staff alike said they would appreciate simpler online portals.

Shira Eliassian, BC '16, said she welcomed the integration although she already finds Barnard's websites easy to use.

“Financial aid, meal plans, we have to search through emails to find the links people told you to go to,” Eliassian said, adding that because she pays her tuition through an outside website, she didn't remember how to use the system.

Dance professor Caitlin Trainor said that she would like to see better integration between Courseworks and eBear, the two technologies most instructors have

SEE SOFTWARE, page 2



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

AMEN | The West End Presbyterian Church is noted for its unique relationship with its neighborhood and parishioners.

Rich past, diverse membership define church

Nestled into the corner of 105th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, the West End Presbyterian Church has served its parishioners for 125 years, creating for churchgoers what they consider a welcoming, inviting environment.

BY AVANTIKA KUMAR

With its pale brick façade and tall, slender spire, the West End Presbyterian Church, nestled into the corner of 105th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, is easy to miss.

Yet the church, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year, has a storied past and congregation. It hosts English and Spanish services, as well as an Eritrean worship group and a Jewish synagogue. Though members say that its membership

is not as large as it used to be, both the church's sense of community and its relationship with the local neighborhood continue to make it unique.

David Vidal, who first attended services at West End when he lived in Columbia housing over 30 years ago, said he has been coming to the church regularly even since moving to Queens 20 years ago.

“It's a very welcoming community. It's a very diverse community,” Vidal, a former MBA student and adjunct at Columbia, said. “Multicultural, multilingual, people from many different backgrounds. People move away, but they come back.”

He added that he was drawn to the church's “familial” nature and has watched young churchgoers grow up over the years. But like elsewhere in the city, church membership has declined, Vidal said.

“At one time, it was the most populous Presbyterian church in the city,” he said. “That was a different era ... but we're still here.”

James Armstrong, whose father started attending the church in 1960 and who attended Sunday school with his

SEE CHURCH, page 2

WEEKEND. B1-B4

Lights, camera... Tribeca

As the city's largest film festival kicks off, Columbia alumni prepare to screen their films. Hear their stories and catch a Columbia's guide to the festivities in Weekend.



OPINION, PAGE 4

Unpraiseworthy praise

Students are addicted to public praise in unhealthy ways.

Crucial conversations

Calling for civil discussion about Barnard and Columbia.

SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Spring sports wrap up seasons this weekend

A host of Columbia teams are in action this weekend, including the baseball team, which will battle the Tigers of Princeton for the league's top spot.

SPECTRUM, ONLINE

Paper cram

Need to write a paper in 24 hours? Blogger Shira Lerner breaks down the steps, hour by excruciating hour.



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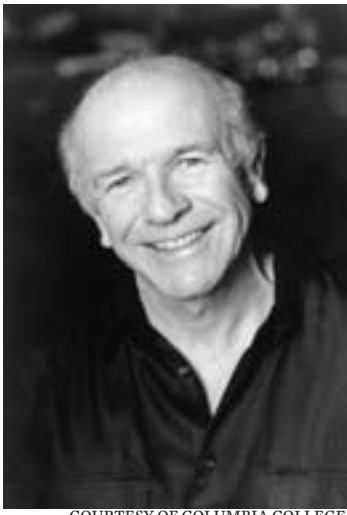
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Alumni, CCSC committee choose McNally to speak

SPEAKER front page

Varsity Show,” Columbia College Dean James Valentini said in a statement. “We are honored that he has accepted our invitation to return to campus to speak to the graduating class of 2013 and I am really looking forward to hearing such a talented, creative and accomplished alumnus speak.”

McNally graduated cum laude and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, and he later worked at Columbia College Today. He received the John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement from the college in 1992 and the Varsity Show’s inaugural I.A.L. Diamond Award for Achievement in the Arts in 2004.



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE

CLASS ACT | Terrence McNally, CC ’60, will speak at the Columbia College Class Day.

“We are extremely excited and proud to have such a prolific playwright and interesting person speaking at our Class Day,” Mandelbaum said in an email.

The decision to invite McNally was made by a committee of CC alumni and the Columbia College Student Council’s senior class council. Committee members also took into account input from members of the senior class.

Allison Levin, CC ’13, who used to listen to “every ‘Ragtime’ song on every long car ride ever,” said she was pleased that a Columbia College alumnus would be speaking at commencement.

“I really would like to hear from someone who went to Columbia College,” Levin said. “I would much rather someone who could speak about my experience at Columbia, so I’m really happy.”

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Parishioners praise church for engaging community

CHURCH from front page

sister, said it has gotten smaller and more diverse since then.

“Over the years, it has, I think pretty accurately, reflected the composition of the neighborhood,” Armstrong said. He noted that the church had added the Spanish ministry while he attended and, at one point, hosted a Haitian group that worshiped in Creole.

Armstrong also said that the church’s music has changed, shifting from a more traditional feel to a musical program that includes a gospel choir that performs every other Sunday.

At an event on Wednesday celebrating the church’s history, co-sponsored by the Bloomingdale Neighborhood History Group and the Columbus Amsterdam Business Improvement District, historian Jonah Baker highlighted the connection between West End and an asylum for “half-orphans,” or children of single parents, that existed in the neighborhood from 1891 to 1945.

Showing old newspaper clippings and portrait photos, Baker said that orphans regularly attended Sunday school at West End and went on excursions with other church children. Former asylum residents still have a tradition of meeting up every Easter, he said.

Tina Johnson, who has been a member for three years and is on the 125th anniversary committee, said the event reaffirmed the “divine connection” that brought her to the church.

“It taught me a lot about

the history of the church,” Johnson said. She added that she learned about the church’s early “commitment to a generous liberal tradition that cared about a different way of America developing.”

Johnson said she was pleased to hear about the connection between different institutions of the neighborhood.

“It just makes me feel proud,” she said.

June Ingram, a church elder who has been attending services since 2000, said the event opened her eyes to aspects of the church’s history that she may have otherwise overlooked.

“I really didn’t know about the orphanage,” Ingram said. “They were able to soothe themselves by helping others.”

Parish associate Kenneth Thomas, who also said he learned a lot from the talk, said the church plans to continue engaging the community. In addition to several internal events to celebrate the anniversary, another public history event on the architecture of the building is planned for June.

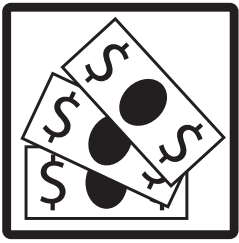
West End is also involved in current political issues, opposing the plan to build private apartment buildings in the nearby Frederick Douglass Houses and hosting tenant meetings.

According to Johnson, the church’s sense of family was what made her commit to it.

“It’s such a special place,” Johnson said. “I felt a duty to become involved.”

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BARNARD ONLINE UPDATE



Updated financial and administrative modules:

- Live updating of billing cycles
- Emails reminding students to pay bills (enhancing paperless billing process)
- Online job applications for staff



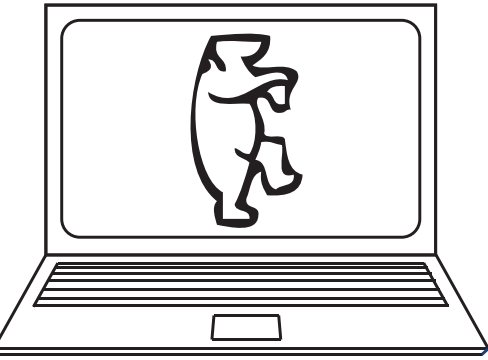
Revamp the Registrar’s and Admissions’ systems:

- Less data entry on the part of Barnard students
- “Real-time” information about registration
- Better reports for faculty and staff to help with advising
- Digital acceptance letters to Barnard applicants



Online integration at inside.barnard.edu:

- No multiple URLs for housing, meals, finance
- Integration with the Common Application



Last eBear update:

2004

Date for next update:

September 2013

GRAPHIC BY BENJAMIN BROMBERG-GABER

Changes streamline data, software

SOFTWARE from front page

to deal with.

“There’s a lot of redundancy in information,” Trainor said. “And it takes weeks to be updated.”

Contacting students can also be difficult. Sometimes, she said, “I don’t even want to send out emails because you have to click through

so many walls.”

Lauren Bonilla, BC ’15, also said that she wished the Barnard administration used a different means of communication with students, adding that email notifications would not be effective.

“If it doesn’t pertain to me, I just delete them,” she said in reference to current notifications.

While the technological

overhauls are discussed by top administrators, Michele Mostel, an administrative assistant in the physical education department, said that though Barnard does its best to alert staff of any changes, there are still holes in the system.

“I feel like I’m the last one to know,” Mostel said, due to the small staff of the P.E. department.

news@columbiaspectator.com

Bomb scare delays Take Back the Night

BOMB SCARE from front page

NYPD.” Barnard students subsequently received emails and automated phone calls announcing the all-clear.

Columbia students did not receive any messages about the incident.

A University spokesperson could not be reached for comment.

The greatest concentration of police and fire vehicles was on 116th Street just west of Broadway, while the intersection of 116th and Broadway itself was eerily empty for the half-hour.

The Take Back the Night rally and march were pushed back to 8:15 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., respectively. Marchers clustered at the Barnard gates as police held people back.

news@columbiaspectator.com



DOUGLAS KESSEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FALSE ALARM | Police briefly shut down the section of Broadway Avenue from 115th to 117th street Thursday evening.

Lions to split squads this weekend

BY MELISSA CHEUNG
Spectator Staff Writer

The men’s and women’s track and field teams will pass the midpoint of the outdoor season this weekend as they race in the War Eagle Invitational and the Larry Ellis Invitational. The Lions will send a group of sprinters and jumpers to Auburn, AL for the War Eagle Invitational, while a group of throwers and distance runners make the trip to Princeton for the Larry Ellis Invitational.

In the War Eagle Invitational, the Light Blue will race against a field of 12 teams. Several high-profile athletes are expected to be racing at the meet, including Jamaican sprinter and three-time Olympic medalist Kerron Stewart, and world champion Bahamian high jumper Donald Thomas.

The Lions will look to carry their momentum from last weekend’s results into this meet, particularly in the sprint events. Senior Uju Ofoche will be competing in the high jump, 100-meter dash, and 200-meter dash. Joining Ofoche in

the 100-meter dash are junior Maura McKendrick, freshman Ashley Cunningham, and junior Marvellous Iheukwumere. Freshman Iris Chijoke is slated to run in the 100-meter hurdles. The Light Blue will be represented by senior Sharay Hale and freshman Jaycee Parker, both of whom had top-three finishes last weekend in the 400-meter run. Senior Susan Rodriguez will compete in the 400-meter hurdles. Senior QueenDenise Okeke, sophomore Nadia Eke, and freshman Addy Sonaiké will compete in the triple jump for the Lions.

Columbia will also be represented at Ivy rival Princeton’s Larry Ellis Invitational, specifically in the field and distance events. Over 50 teams are slated to compete at Princeton, including all of the Ancient Eight squads that the Light Blue will face again in two weeks at the Ivy League Heptagonal Championships in Princeton.

Junior Duncan Dickerson, sophomore Joanna Koronios, and senior Nnenna Okwara will compete in the hammer throw. Junior Trina Bills, sophomore Madeline Rathbun, and junior

Samuel Miner will run in the elite 800-meter run. Juniors Nicolas Composto and Tim Cousins are set to run in the 5000-meter race. Sophomore Samantha Chace and juniors Sophia Harrington and Danika Simonson will compete in the 1500-meter run, while freshman Mariella McCormack and sophomore Kevin Boyd will run the 400-meter dash for the women’s and men’s squads respectively. Chace will also compete in the 800-meter run, alongside fellow sophomore Nicole Bauer, junior Emma Giantisco, and freshman Emily Krasinski. Sophomore Brendan Donley and junior Denzel Woode will represent the men in the 800. Freshman Chancellor Griffin, coming off a strong performance last weekend, will compete in the triple jump for the men. On the women’s side, freshmen Madelyn Magee and Lauren O’Connor will compete in the high jump and javelin respectively.

Both the War Eagle Invitational and the Larry Ellis Invitational are scheduled to begin on Friday.

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Anonymous speakout follows march

MARCH from front page

On Monday, Barnard Public Safety sent an email to students saying that a student had witnessed an incident of sexual assault in Riverside Park, which was a stop on the march. During the march, there was a moment of silence in front of the Sundial on College Walk to pay reverence to survivors of sexual assault.

“We stop at the Sundial to give space for everyone to think about the issues that we focus on in the march—for both people who are participating and who are observing the march,” Leah Reiss, BC ’15 and a press liaison for the event, said. “It’s serving as a remembrance for people who have suffered from sexual violence and to give people space, silence, and respect for people who are survivors.”

“I hope that people will take this opportunity to educate themselves and to see how this is a big issue, it’s not over, and there’s still work to be done.”

—Leah Reiss, BC ’15

The march was followed by a speakout, in which marchers and survivors of sexual violence told their stories while behind a black screen.

The co-coordinators allowed speakout participants to write down their stories for others to recite and prohibited staff and administrators from attending as a result of Columbia’s Gender-Based Misconduct Policies for Students. The policies, which are grounded in the University’s Title IX requirements, mandate that any faculty member, counselor, or resident advisor report identifying information on a survivor of sexual violence to the Office of Gender-Based Misconduct.

Griffin said that the privacy procedures served as an extra veil of protection so that people who spoke did not have to worry about being identified by RAs.

Participants in the night’s events included first-time marchers, some of them men, who had generally positive experiences. Benj Gilman, Cornell ’10 and a first-time marcher, said that it is important for men to be included in the march.

“Most men that I know have awareness of—but are not participating in—some sort of change of the roles that men play societally,” he said. “It’s important for men to say that this is wrong.”

“But it is important to be aware that, in a lot of cases, men are the problem,” he added. “Still, it’s important for men to be inclusive in the fight to end sexual violence.”

Adya Taylor, BC ’16, another first-time marcher, said that the night resonated with her on a personal level.

“A lot of people close to me have been victims of sexual violence,” she said. “It’s important to me to raise awareness about the issue.”

After the night came to a close, Reiss said that she hoped that the event would impact the community in a broader and more lasting sense than just one night.

“I hope that people will take this opportunity to educate themselves and to see how this is a big issue, it’s not over, and there’s still work to be done,” Reiss said.

Abby Abrams contributed reporting.

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Dick Savitt Tennis Center
Friday, 2 p.m.

ARCHERY
USCA ERIAC
Williamsport, Pa.
Friday, all day

WOMEN’S TENNIS
at Penn
Philadelphia, Pa.
Friday, 1:30 p.m.

TRACK AND FIELD
War Eagle Invite
Auburn, Ala.
Friday, All day

TRACK AND FIELD
Larry Ellis Invite
Princeton, N.J.
Friday, all Day

MEN’S GOLF
N.C. State Invite
Raleigh, N.C.
Saturday, 12 p.m.

SOFTBALL
at Princeton
Princeton, N.J.
Saturday, 12:30 p.m.

BASEBALL
at Princeton
Princeton, N.J.
Saturday, 1 p.m.

LACROSSE
at Harvard
Cambridge, Mass.
Saturday, 1 p.m.

HEAVYWEIGHT ROWING
Blackwell Cup
Philadelphia, Pa.
Saturday, 8:30 a.m.

LIGHTWEIGHT ROWING
Geiger Cup
Ithaca, N.Y.
Saturday, 8:40 a.m.

WOMEN’S ROWING
vs. Bucknell
Ridgefield Park, N.J.
Saturday, 9 a.m.

BASEBALL
at Princeton
Princeton, N.J.
Sunday, 12 p.m.

WOMEN’S TENNIS
vs. Princeton
Dick Savitt Tennis Center
Sunday, 12 p.m.

MEN’S TENNIS
at Princeton
Princeton, N.J.
Sunday, 2 p.m.

LIGHTWEIGHT ROWING
Subin Cup
Ridgefield Park, N.J.
Sunday, 1:45 p.m.

SOFTBALL
at Princeton
Princeton, N.J.
Sunday, 12:30 p.m.

Lions hope to continue win streak

BY PHIL GODZIN
Spectator Staff Writer

Riding a four-game winning streak, the softball team (20-18, 6-6 Ivy) faces Princeton in a crucial four-game set this weekend. The Lions are tied for second in the Ivy South, and they catch the Tigers at the perfect time, as Princeton has won just two of its past ten games and lost four in a row.

“The four-game series in the South right now has the potential to become a hack-fest. You know the hitters on the other team almost better than you know your own hitters. We have a great staff of pitchers, and they will all be ready to pitch in and give us some good innings,” head coach Kayla Noonan said.

The pitching staff has led the way in the Lions’ double-header sweeps of Cornell and Marist. Over the course of the team’s four-game win streak, freshman Emily Kenyon and sophomore Brooke Darling surrendered just four total runs, only two of which were earned.

“Coach [Melissa] Bieman has been calling great games for our pitchers, and they are executing pitch to pitch. They aren’t trying to do too much, which is helping them take care of some really good hitters,” Noonan said. “Princeton is a good team. They have some talented players, like Alex Peyton. The key for us, though, will be to focus on our game.”

The team will have to face some strong Tiger hitters, with Alyssa Schmidt and Peyton both in the top three in the Ivy League in batting average at .388 and .378, respectively. Peyton is also in the top three in home runs and RBIs, racking up nine homers and 31 RBIs over the course of the season, and she leads the Tigers on the mound with six wins and a 2.62 ERA.

The Lions have their own hot players on offense, with sophomore Alix Cook going 5-for-7 against Marist on Tuesday and junior Emily Caruthers tied for first in the league with 14 steals and holding the Columbia single-season record in stolen bases.

Light Blue archers look to continue strong performance


BY KELLY RELLER
Columbia Daily Spectator

The archery team will travel to Williamsport, Pa., this weekend to compete in the 2013 U.S. Collegiate Archery Association East Regional Intercollegiate Archery Championships. The Lions took this same competition by storm last year, bringing home one team and two individual gold medals. While the two individual golds were won by then-seniors Anna Harrington and Sydney Shaefer, the 2012 team gold was taken home by a recurve team that included current sophomore Sarah Bernstein.


Coach Derek Davis has high hopes for the weekend. “We typically do well with All-East honors, so they will be looking to continue that. They also seem very focused on regaining a national title,” he said. All-region honors are achieved through top-five placing in combined ERIAC and National Indoor Championship scores.

With only one tournament remaining after this weekend’s road trip to Williamsport, the archers are looking to end their season on a high note. ERIACs will take place April 19-21 at Penn College of Technology.

FRIDAY FULL COUNT



VS.



COLUMBIA

Eric Williams (LF)
AVG: .200, OBP: .418, SLG: .486

Jordan Serena (CF)
AVG: .265, OBP: .353, SLG: .393

Alex Black (1B)
AVG: .306, OBP: .418, SLG: .486

Joey Falcone (DH)
AVG: .324, OBP: .388, SLG: .493

Nick Ferraresi (RF)
AVG: .269, OBP: .321, SLG: .387

Aaron Silbar (SS)
AVG: .154, OBP: .236, SLG: .360

David Vandercook (3B)
AVG: .198, OBP: .314, SLG: .307

Nick Crucet (2B)
AVG: .272, OBP: .375, SLG: .311

Mike Fischer (C)
AVG: .205, OBP: .307, SLG: .342

PRINCETON

Alec Keller (CF)
AVG: .376, OBP: .434, SLG: .560

Danny Hoy (2B)
AVG: .339, OBP: .425, SLG: .504

Mike Ford (1B)
AVG: .313, OBP: .455, SLG: .527

Steve Harrington (RF)
AVG: .229, OBP: .320, SLG: .305

Alex Flink (3B)
AVG: .263, OBP: .305, SLG: .345


Ryan Albert (DH)
AVG: .125, OBP: .175, SLG: .234

Billy Arendt (SS)
AVG: .231, OBP: .365, SLG: .322

Tyler Servais (C)
AVG: .141, OBP: .229, SLG: .212


Nate Baird (LF)
AVG: .263, OBP: .364, SLG: .298

GAME 1




David Speer
Columbia
ERA: 2.00, K: 39, BB: 13

VS.




Zak Hermans
Princeton
ERA: 1.91, K: 44, BB: 9

GAME 2




Joey Donino
Columbia
ERA: 3.34, K: 38, BB: 12

VS.



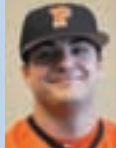
Kevin Link
Princeton
ERA: 6.39, K: 16, BB: 16

GAME 3




Tim Giel
Columbia
ERA: 3.13, K: 33, BB: 7

VS.




Mike Ford
Princeton
ERA: 1.15, K: 26, BB: 11

GAME 4



Adam Cline
Columbia
ERA: 4.29, K: 39, BB: 9

VS.



Cameron Mingo
Princeton
ERA: 3.22, K: 27, BB: 10

KEYS TO THE GAME

- 1 Get the bats going**

Princeton has two of the league's best arms in Zak Hermans and Mike Ford, who both have sub-2.00 ERAs. But if the Lions are patient enough to get those guys out of the game, the Tigers have a team ERA of 4.20 in Ivy play.
- 2 Consistent offense**

The Lions have done a good job getting runners on base in almost every inning over the last couple games, which is something they need to keep doing against Princeton. Columbia will need to threaten as much as possible to put pressure on Princeton's arms.
- 3 Shut 'em down**

Princeton is one of the best hitting teams in the Ancient Eight and is leading the league in batting average (.297), homers (11), RBIs (70), and doubles (27) in conference play. But the Lions lead the league in team ERA, at 2.27 in the making for a great matchup.

Lions face Penn at home, travel to Princeton on Sunday

MEN’S TENNIS
from back page

after his 3-6, 6-0, 6-4 loss to Lin in their last match.

Since a repeat performance, though possible, is unlikely from Lin, the onus will fall on the No. 69 doubles duo of sophomores Ashok Narayana and Max Schnur, who will have to do better than they did in their 5-8 loss the last time they played the Tigers.

While Goswami holds that the team’s philosophy is always to “take one game at a time,” it will be incredibly hard to not look forward to the Princeton match, especially for Lin, who will have his work cut out for him against Pecotic.

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Lions close out season with 2 Ivy League matches

WOMEN’S TENNIS
from back page

Sanon (8-1) will face Eskenazi and Latychева on Friday.

“That match is bound to be very competitive,” Weintraub said. “It is an interesting matchup because Bianca and Kanika hit low and flat, and their opponents hit high and loopy, so it will be a matter of who is willing to attack first.”

“We’ve been working with Bianca and Kanika on being comfortable to take those high balls out of the air, and I know they are ready,” she added.

“It’ll be a tough match,” Vaidya said. “It all depends on who comes out stronger and smarter on the day.”

In order to win the Ivy crown, the Lions need to win their next two matches, and Yale needs to drop its next three. A tie for first could occur if Yale only drops one of its next three matches and the Lions win both of their upcoming matches.

Like the Lions and the Quakers, the Tigers (11-6, 3-2 Ivy) also split last weekend’s contests. Princeton, which sits in third place in the league behind Yale and Columbia, topped Harvard 4-3 on Saturday but was upset by Dartmouth by the same score on Sunday. Princeton’s standout players include No. 125 Amanda Muliawan and the No. 83 doubles pair of Lindsay Graff and Katherine Flanigan.

On Friday, the Light Blue will face the Quakers at 1:30 p.m. at the Hamlin Tennis Center. On Sunday, the Lions will host the Tigers at 12 p.m. at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center.

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JENNY PAYNE / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HITTING THEIR STRIDE | Bianca Sanon and doubles partner Kanika Vaidya (8-1) will look to bolster their record this weekend against the Quakers’ Sol Eskenazi and Sonya Latychева.

SPORTS BRIEFLY

LIGHTWEIGHT ROWING

The lightweight rowing team, whose first varsity eight team fell from No. 5 to No. 6 in the Eastern Association of Rowing Colleges rankings after last week’s Dodge Cup, will look to bounce back with a strong performance in the Geiger Cup against MIT and Cornell. The Lions are going into Saturday’s competition ranked ahead of No. 7 MIT but are underdogs against No. 3 Cornell. The Light Blue will begin competition Saturday at 8:40 a.m. in Ithaca, N.Y.

—Kyle Perrotti

HEAVYWEIGHT ROWING

After nearly upsetting No. 17 Princeton last weekend in the Childs Cup on its home waters at Overpeck Park, the heavyweight crew team will head to the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia to take on Ivy foes Yale and Penn. So far this spring, Yale has split a pair of races, losing to Brown and beating Dartmouth. Earlier this week, Penn managed to do what the Lions could not by upsetting the Tigers. The Light Blue hits the water at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday.

—Kyle Perrotti

WOMEN’S ROWING

This weekend, the women’s rowing team will host Bucknell in what could be a fiercely contested race. Bucknell has been having a strong season, and at last week’s two-day Knecht Cup regatta, it saw five of its boats advance to the semifinal and its varsity eight take home the gold medal. Columbia is still ranked No. 16 nationally after last week’s split races, and the Lions will be Bucknell’s first ranked opponent this season. Confident after a close loss to No. 3 Princeton and their strong showing at the Woodbury Cup, the Lions had last weekend off and should be able to earn a win over Bucknell.

—Rachel Turner

MEN’S GOLF

The men’s golf team will wrap up its regular season this weekend when it heads to North Carolina to compete in N.C. State’s Wolfpack Open. The Light Blue will face a host of competition from all over the country, including the No. 10 Duke Blue Devils. Coming off of last weekend’s solid performance at the Princeton Invitational, the Lions will look to finish the regular season strong. The 36-hole tournament begins at 12 p.m. Saturday at the Lonnie Poole Golf Course in Raleigh, N.C., and will last until Sunday.

—Kyle Perrotti



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The ordinary life

BY PETER JOHNSON

I recently asked my Contemporary Civilization class how many of them feared leading ordinary lives. The vast majority—by show of hands, all but three or four—said indeed, they had such a fear. In this, they were not unusual; I have asked this question periodically since I first began teaching CC almost 15 years ago, and the proportions fearing ordinariness have almost always been the same. This fact represents, I think, a dangerously loose floorboard in Columbia College students’ emotional lives, one that many will sooner or later stumble over in ways for which they are not prepared, but need to be.

In exploring this fear of an ordinary life with CC students over the years, many have expressed about it a version of Peggy Lee’s question: “Is this all there is?” When they look at their parents’ lives or the lives of other “ordinary” people they know—“in the suburbs”—something vital seems missing to them. When I press the issue, students eventually say that what is lacking is specialness, by which they mean attention, publicity, and praise, the qualities on which many students were raised to believe they possessed and affirmation of which—i.e., public praise—they are apparently quite psychically dependent on.

Fortunately, there seems to be some recognition of this fact among students themselves, if not necessarily their parents. I have been struck by how many students are commendably aware of, and even candid about, the extents and sources of their addictions to specialness. More often than not, students point to family upbringing as having first inserted the praise junkie’s needle into their veins, and private schooling as the dealer that kept the praise-drug flowing. Many students trace their first moments of praise addiction to a growing chorus of family and teacher compliments and expectations that began to follow them from the earliest moments of primary school. (In extreme cases, some have described their early years as though they were accompanied at home and school by their own personal Marine Corps bands perpetually blaring “Hail to the [Future] Chief!”)

I do not wish to overstate the case; I have met many well-adjusted students who seek only to prosper in doing what they love, and many others with a commitment to future public service that is unadulterated by ego. But a much larger number of bleary-eyed, desperate-seeming students come to my office hours complaining of the incredible stress to succeed and meet self-sacrificing parental expectations while keeping up their own self-images as rockstars at whatever. (For relief, a student I once knew undertook regular and quite expensive and disruptive trips home on weekends simply to get his weekly hit of “Johnny is wonderful” from his parents.) And things will only get worse in the so-called real world.

This is an issue for which neither parents nor high school has prepared our campus addicts. It points to the need for an intellectual detox program to accompany their progress through college, and indeed through the rest of life.

Fortunately I believe that the great merit of Columbia College is that, uniquely among the Ivy League schools, it offers just such a detoxification program. No doubt you have guessed it: the Core Curriculum (aka, a liberal education). More than many students realize, the theme of liberation in this liberal education is closely connected to praise and blame, which runs like a braided thread through the Contemporary Civilization curriculum. I need remind no one of the many times praise comes under serious criticism as the thing from which we need liberating: Plato’s “Republic,” where Socrates is asked to defend justice apart from the public praise and rewards that accompany a reputation for it; Cain’s murderous wrath at God’s recognition of Abel; Rousseau’s warnings about amour propre; and many others.

But for the truly, hopelessly addicted, perhaps the most potent and paradoxically detoxifying quote may be from Nietzsche, who wrote: “So long as you are praised, think only that you are not yet on your own path but on that of another.” Wait, you mean...?

Yes. Pondering such methadone-like insights via the Core may be the only possible lifelong, psychically cleansing cure for those who need it. But in the meantime, for the health and happiness of future generations of Columbia students, would it really be too much to ask that parents remember Nietzsche’s warning before they first slip little Johnny or Jenny the white powder?

The author is an adjunct professor in the political science department. He specializes in comparative public policy, and is the author of “The Government of Money.”

Dialogue across Broadway

BY JENNIFER FEARON AND WINN PERIYASAMY

Yesterday, Lanbo Zhang wrote in “Why not merge?”: “I don’t see how the substance of a Barnard education necessarily differs from a Columbia College one.” The argument in Zhang’s column is decidedly lacking, and his points fail to address several key issues properly. As the reactions thereafter demonstrate, this incomplete response is a mess of conflated issues, offered in dribs and drabs without a firm framing of the stakes. To approach the overlapping issues maturely, students, faculty, staff, and administrators must engage in a broad, inclusive, and educated discussion of Barnard College’s role in relation to Columbia University.

First and foremost, we request that Columbia and Barnard administrations participate in this conversation. This is not a matter of online trolling. Reaction to Zhang’s column thus far have been largely from engaged students who deserve an open forum in concert with administrators able to fill knowledge gaps and make sustainable changes. “Obamanard” was not an anomaly in an otherwise perfect system. Just like any curriculum, the partnership should be revisited regularly to ensure that it is mutually beneficial and relevant to advancing higher education. Where are our deans, our presidents, our trustees?

Given our heavy involvement on the Barnard campus and in the larger University community, we agree with Zhang that students from all four undergraduate schools have a deeply

There and back again

There was a night back when I was a first-semester, starry-eyed first-year when one of my good friends invited me and a few other kids from my floor to a party his older cousin was having in his apartment in Midtown. We took the subway, eventually found his incredibly swanky building on Park Avenue, and nervously told the doorman that we were here for so-and-so, self-conscious of how out-of-place we must have looked. The doorman, who obviously didn’t give a shit, told us the floor, and we got in the elevator, realizing that we were destined for the penthouse floor (which of course any top floor in a New York city building is, regardless of whether it’s three stories or 30. As I recall, this one was in the 20s).

If I recall correctly, the elevator opened into his apartment, although admittedly my memory has a tendency to confuse itself. The cousin greeted us, surrounded by insanely cool-seeming late-20-, early-30-somethings, and we just stood in shocked awe for a while. Then we made our way to the bar, only to be put into even more shocked awe by the selection of top-shelf liquors and fancy beers (Heineken! Blue Moon!), of which we could have as much as we wanted. Then we walked out to the outside patio and that was it.

That’s the moment I always think of when I think back on my first year of college. His patio looked straight at the illuminated Empire State Building and all the other skyscrapers of Midtown around it—the beacons of New York City. It sounds incredibly cheesy, but I know you’ve all felt the same way, so I’m not afraid to write it—I had literally dreamed of a moment like that since before I got my acceptance letter, before I even applied, and even before I toured Columbia and knew I wanted to apply there. This was what college was supposed to be, especially college in the City—an endlessly new, limitless life after the endlessly monotonous, restricted life of high school.

I initially set out to make this semester’s column a look at Columbia from the detached perspective of someone studying abroad, and while I have largely failed at even attempting to do that—as this is, I’m pretty sure, my second-to-last column of the semester—what better time to start than now?

I know I’ve talked about this before, but by the end of last semester, I was feeling suffocated by the predictability of everything. I was tired of lectures and endless



LEO SCHWARTZ
Rationalizing the Irrational

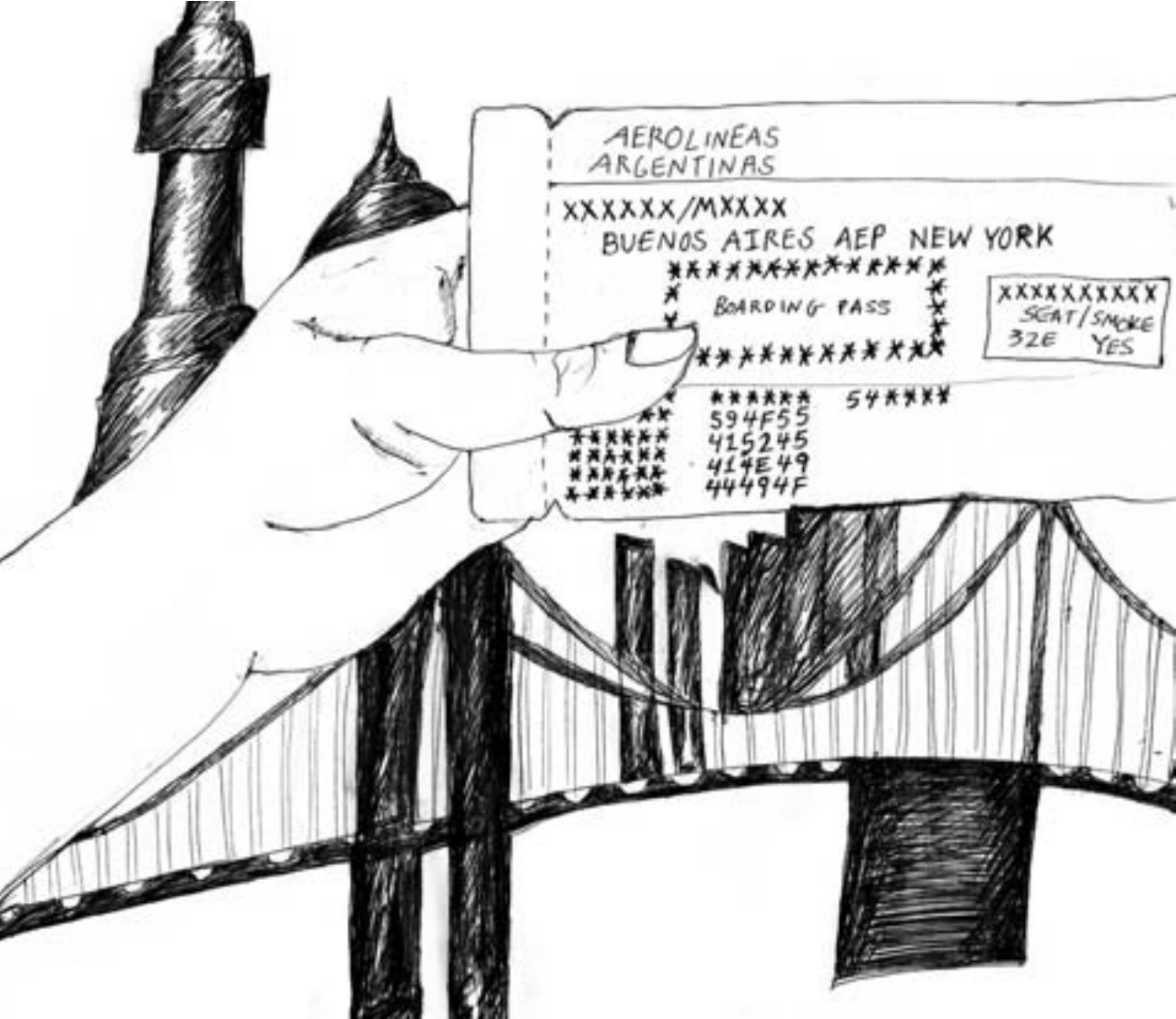


ILLUSTRATION BY JIYOON HAN

readings from which I could draw minimal importance to actual life; I was tired of the harried, always rushed culture of the City; and I was tired of our parody of a student body that reacts to everything like clockwork (I almost blew a fuse at the whole Orgo Night debacle). I’m obviously being dramatic, but the magic of that first year, when everything seemed like I was in a movie, was gone. As someone as repelled by routine as an anthropology student by humor, I welcomed study abroad as an almost necessary escape.

Which it has proven to be, and more. I thought that I would never want to come back to college after being abroad, but the opposite is the case. Life here is a dream. I have traveled thousands of miles over four countries, worked as a waiter on the Patagonian coastline, seen Messi play in his home temple, lassoed a sheep in a Mapuche reserve, and eaten enough steak for a lifetime. I’m currently in Salta, surrounded by the tallest mountains I’ve ever seen in my life, and tomorrow I’m going to Bolivia. In two weeks, I’ll be given a stipend and four weeks of completely unscheduled time to do independent research and write a mini-thesis. Parts of my program make me feel like I’m being treated like a middle schooler again, and two-hour lectures in Spanish are unbearable. But the weekends and nights more than make up for it. Study abroad is everything they say and more.

And the best part is, I can’t wait to come back home. The next month and a half, my time remaining in Latin America will doubtless be some of the best weeks of my life, and if you were to offer me a plane ticket back to JFK tomorrow, I would rip it up. But when the time comes for me to come back, I’ll be insanely excited. It’s not homesickness as much as appreciation. It’s what I talked about last column with cultural relativity—throughout this trip, I’ve really realized how much I love my culture. I love the U.S., I love New York and Boston and Columbia, and it took being away from them to fully realize how much I appreciate them.

Columbia is as much a ride and an honor as it has been at any point in my time there. There will be a point in the not-so-distant future when I will miss the pointless lectures, the protests on College Walk, and my secluded spots in the northwest of Central Park more than anything. I said it earlier this semester, but when I come back for my senior year of college, I want to treat it like my freshman year all over again. Study abroad has been a rejuvenation, and I know the next time I look over the New York skyline, it will be like the night on that penthouse apartment again. Time is fleeting.

Leo Schwartz is a Columbia College junior majoring in political science and Latin American studies. Rationalizing the Irrational runs alternate Fridays.

interconnected collegiate experience. However, we do question the idea that Barnard and Columbia College are so similar that a merger is simple and obvious—just as we would question any parallel arguments relating CC to the School of Engineering and Applied Science or the School of General Studies.

We must also consider what a merger means. There are four ways forward. Option 1: Subsume Barnard College within Columbia College. Option 2: Remove the administrative redundancy by making Barnard an equal entity within the Columbia University umbrella (sorry DSpar!). Option 3: Maintain or enhance the status quo. Option 4: Split Barnard entirely from Columbia University. To decide which course to pursue, we must consider the economic imperatives, the contemporary benefits of women’s colleges, differing approaches to liberal arts education, and our perceptions of the ideal educational experience outside the classroom.

On the economic point, claims on all sides have been woefully speculative. While we appreciate town halls and the launching of the Student Government Association’s Financial Advisory Council, there remains a serious lack of information about, and understanding of, Barnard’s financial viability. Zhang’s professed ignorance on this matter reflects larger issues of insufficient administrative transparency and the ineffectiveness of present methods to share public financial figures.

Similarly, all Barnard students should inform our peers to the relevance (or irrelevance) of contemporary women’s colleges, and all Columbia students should strive to reflect on their value as well. Zhang argues that the mission statements and traditional notions of women’s colleges have become outdated in today’s world. Although we personally feel that the modern women’s college is a new and vitally necessary concept, the question of whether we are correct, whether Barnard has

approached women’s education in the best way, and whether Barnard should even be a site for an exclusive women’s education are up for debate.

In broad brushstrokes, Zhang further underestimates the distinctions in academic offerings between CC and Barnard. Across Barnard’s academic disciplines, there is a strong focus on the role of women and the gendered inequalities that existed in the past and persist today. For Columbia College to envelop Barnard could mean losing this vital female perspective or requiring that the Core adapt to reflect this emphasis. Alternatively, the “structured flexibility” of the Nine Ways of Knowing could replace the restrictive Core. Though we oppose these options, we can entertain arguments for how restructuring our academic requirements can uniquely enrich our university.


Finally, the term “education” encompasses more than just academic course offerings. Advising, administrative support, access to mentors and career services—Columbia and Barnard approach all these issues and more from similar yet different perspectives on the primacy of undergraduate education and on the professionalization versus personalization of services.

Although Zhang’s thesis is too simplistic, we appreciate the dialogue it ignited. It is time for all members of our community to critically engage in sifting through the issues and weighing the options in formal, public forums. Vitriol is pointless; let’s get down to business.

Jennifer Fearon is a Barnard College senior majoring in human rights and political science. She is also a member of Spectator’s editorial board. Winn Periyasamy is a Barnard College senior majoring in human rights and political science. She is an arts and entertainment staff writer for Spectator.

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GAMEDAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 19 • PAGE 6



COLUMBIA (17-16, 9-3 Ivy) at PRINCETON (11-22, 8-4 Ivy)

SATURDAY, 1 P.M. AND 3:30 P.M., PRINCETON

SUNDAY, 12 P.M. AND 2:30 P.M., PRINCETON



Lions seek first Ivy League win

BY ROBERT MITCHELL
Spectator Staff Writer

The lacrosse team (2-11, 0-6 Ivy) will travel to Cambridge on Saturday with the chance to get its first Ivy win against a Harvard team (2-10, 1-4 Ivy) that has lost six straight. As Saturday is the Crimson's Senior Day, Harvard will be plenty motivated to defend its home turf, where it has played only twice this season.



LACROSSE

Like Columbia, Harvard has seen several close contests slip away this season. Most recently, the Crimson fell to Princeton 11-9 and Boston University 12-11. The loss to BU came despite an initial 6-0 Harvard lead, and the game was decided by a BU goal with 0:11 left on the clock.

After the pair of rough matches, the Crimson will be looking for a positive send-off for senior captain Micaela Cyr, who leads the team in goals and has scored in each game this season, with five of her 13 hat tricks coming this year. In the Ivy League, she ranks eighth in goals, with 29, and she is tied for sixth in assists, with 1.0 per game.

Columbia will have to overcome history in order to prevail this weekend. Harvard leads 13-2 in the school's overall series, and the Light Blue is looking to dig itself out of a current three-game losing streak.

Though they have only two wins on the season, the Lions still field one of the most dynamic players in the Ancient Eight in leading scorer senior Kacie Johnson, who has continued to do it all on both sides of the ball in her final year of play. She leads the team in goals and assists, and her count of 30 ground balls ranks second only to junior Paige Cuscovitch's 39.

Cuscovitch also leads the team in caused turnovers with 34, nearly three a game, to go along with her 25 total goals. She and Johnson provide the best opportunity for the team to pick up its first road victory of the season.

The Lions begin play against the Crimson this Saturday at 1 p.m. at Harvard Stadium.

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KIERA WOOD / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CONFERENCE CALL | Columbia's baseball team will need to be ready to play hardball when it takes on the Tigers in Princeton this weekend. This weekend's contests will determine which team controls the top spot in the Ancient Eight.

Lions set to battle Princeton for top spot

BY MOLLY TOW
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Of late in the Ivy League, two teams have been playing fantastic all-around baseball. This weekend, they go head to head.

With two series left in the regular season, crunch time begins for both first-place Columbia (17-16, 9-3 Ivy) and the surging Princeton (11-22, 8-4 Ivy).

Columbia and Princeton are each coming off 3-1 series wins against Cornell and Penn, respectively, both of which looked dominant prior to last weekend but now sit at 6-6 and are tied for last in the Lou Gehrig Division. Against the Big Red, the Light Blue saw impressive performances from the entire rotation. Senior right fielder and captain Nick Ferraresi attributed the Lions' recent success to their entire staff of arms.

"Our starting pitching has been incredible. Our relievers have been coming in and shutting the door really well," Ferraresi said. "It makes it a lot easier on guys like me, on the offense."

For the Tigers, offense was the story last weekend. They scored seven runs per game against the Quakers and were led by center

fielder Alec Keller, who had nine hits in the series. This tale did not carry through the week, however, as the Tigers were trounced by St. John's on Wednesday, 17-2.

Princeton is different from most teams in the Ivy League in that it prefers the long ball to sacrifice bunts and double steals. The Tigers, who have 15 home runs to the Light Blue's 14, boast 137 RBIs to Columbia's 125 and have 13 more runs on the season. Leading Princeton offensively is Keller, who is batting .374 in 107 at-bats. Second baseman Danny Hoy and first baseman/pitcher Mike Ford are also batting over .300.

Ferraresi thinks the Lions will welcome Princeton's style of play.

"I think that works to our advantage," Ferraresi said. "Our pitchers are strike-throwers, so as long as we limit the free bases we're giving up, we'll have a great opportunity to limit their base runners and limit their opportunity to have big innings."

Head coach Brett Boretti said that while Princeton's numbers may be inflated, there are select Tigers to watch out for at the plate.

"They've got a couple guys who are hitting the ball well," Boretti said. "Some of those numbers are a little bit skewed because of that 20-19 game they had at Harvard. Mike Ford,

Keller are doing very well. Those two guys, and Danny Hoy, being a freshman—top of the order—has been getting on base."

Pitching, as Ferraresi noted, will most likely be the deciding factor this weekend. In last year's series, the Lions held Princeton to 4.5 runs per game even though the Tigers scored 6.2 runs per game for the season. The stat sheet gives the Lions the edge defensively: a 3.63 team ERA to Princeton's 5.44. The Tigers' one victory against the Light Blue last year came at the hands of Zak Hermans, who was named Ivy Pitcher of the Week this week after his third consecutive win.

Ferraresi knows that Hermans will be tough, but the Light Blue's approach to him is sound.

"Just try to do what we do best—that's work the count, try to find the pitch that we can work with, and stick with the plan we have," Ferraresi said.

Boretti agrees that a pitcher's duel is in the cards for the first game of the series.

"He's a guy that attacks the strike zone, and he's got a good fastball, good slider," Boretti said. "He doesn't give up too many walks. We've got to be ready and aggressive in our zone and try to attack back. It's a good matchup. Hermans versus [Columbia junior lefty David] Speer in that

first game should be a really good matchup."

The Tiger with the lowest ERA thus far is none other than Ford. Ford, who also bats third, sports a 1.15 ERA in seven starts. Last year against the Lions, however, Ford surrendered four runs in six innings.

"Last year, we were on the winning side of the game, but he's a three-pitch pitcher. He mixes well—another guy who doesn't walk too many guys, has good command of his pitches," Boretti said.

The Lions will see Hermans and Kevin Link on Saturday, followed by Ford and Cameron Mingo on Sunday. Although Columbia senior pitcher Stefan Olson is back from injury, Boretti feels there's no point in fixing something that's not broken.

"The guys that have been our weekend starters have been doing a very good job for us—definitely the strength of our team," Boretti said. "Getting Stef back is great, and I think it helps our bullpen out even more."

Games are scheduled to start at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Saturday and 12 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. All games will take place at Clarke Field in Princeton, N.J.

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Columbia looks to end season on a high note

BY IKE CLEMENTE KITMAN
Spectator Staff Writer

In the last weekend of its season, the Light Blue women's tennis team will face Penn on the Quakers' home courts on Friday before heading back to New York to face Princeton on Sunday. Columbia (11-5, 4-1 Ivy) went into last weekend tied with Yale for first place in the league. Playing in Providence, the Lions defeated Brown by a score of 5-2 on Friday, earning their fourth consecutive victory and tying the program's season record for conference wins. The next day, though, the Lions fell 5-2 to the Bulldogs, dropping to second place in the Ancient Eight.

Luckily, the Lions have devoted considerable practice time over the past week to fixing some of the flaws that allowed the Bulldogs to prevail on Sunday.

"We started out on Tuesday doing a lot of what I call 'rhythm drills,' where the players have to hit a high number of balls in a row with discipline," head coach Ilene Weintraub, CC'02, said. "This was what was missing against Yale. Yale was the more disciplined team, so I wanted the players to learn from that experience and work on it first day back on the court. It's a short week, so we've looked to maximize every minute."

While the Bulldogs showed greater discipline on Sunday, the Lions, who usually practice and compete indoors, also struggled with the windy conditions on Yale's outdoor courts. Over the past week, the Lions have practiced outside several times to prepare for Friday's matches on Penn's outdoor courts. "Technically, you have to go out there on the day and adjust and just play your game," freshman Kanika Vaidya said.

The Quakers (10-6, 2-3 Ivy) edged Dartmouth 5-2 on Saturday before falling 4-3 to Harvard on Sunday. Penn's standouts include star Sol Eskenazi, 12-3 overall, at the team's No. 1 singles spot, and the No. 1 doubles pair of Eskenazi and Sonya Latycheva, 14-1 overall and ranked No. 44 nationally. The Light Blue's No. 48-ranked pairing of Vaidya and junior Bianca

SEE WOMEN'S TENNIS,
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WOMEN'S
TENNIS



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Men's tennis looks to make a statement

BY ALEXANDER
BERNSTEIN
Spectator Staff Writer

After a long and exciting season, the end is finally in sight for the men's tennis team, which is set to play its final two regular season matches this weekend.

Even though just a pair of contests remains for a team that head coach Bid Goswami branded as "one of the hardest-working teams in my 31 years here," the season still hangs in the balance.

Sitting on a 3-2 record after sweeping their two matches last weekend, the Lions find themselves third in the Ivy League, trailing conference-leading Harvard (4-0) and Princeton (4-1). Although the Lions will need some help from Brown and Yale this weekend if they hope to catch Harvard, their fate will rest squarely on their own racquets when they face Princeton in New Jersey on Sunday.



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LIN WINS | Sophomore standout Winston Lin will look to upset Princeton's Matija Pecotic for the second time this season.

While the home match this Friday against an abysmal Penn and its Ivy-worst 1-4 record should be quite winnable for Columbia, sophomore Winston Lin and company will face a much tougher task on Sunday when they try to hand Princeton its second conference loss at the Lenz Tennis Center.

To do so, Columbia's performance will have to be reminiscent of its play at the Eastern College Athletic Conference Team

Championships semifinals, when Lin, playing some of the best tennis of his life, managed to come back from a one-set hole to take out Princeton's No. 1 singles player (and No. 3 in the country), Matija Pecotic.

Pecotic, who Lin considers his main target this season, will certainly be looking for revenge

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Weekend

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT • FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2013 • PAGE B1

Columbians make their mark at Tribeca Film Festival

BY CARROLL GELDERMAN AND DAVID SALAZAR
Spectator Senior Staff Writers

Filmmaking and journalism can seem like divergent paths: The former capitalizes on fiction, while the latter seeks to portray the truth. But at heart, both filmmakers and journalists are storytellers. The fields will overlap at this weekend's Tribeca Film Festival, where two Columbia alumni—Mo Ogradnik, SoA '97, and Bill Siegel, Journalism '90, each screen a film.

Ogradnik's "Deep Powder" is a narrative about drug-trafficking boarding school students, and Siegel's "The Trials of Muhammad Ali" is a documentary about the legendary boxer's life outside the ring. Though their films' content couldn't be more different, both are an opportunity for the filmmakers to return to New York after some time away, as well as return to their roots.

After graduating from Columbia, Siegel, despite his professors' warnings about the lack of jobs for journalists, decided to stay in the city and quickly found himself broke and unemployed. After running into a friend on College Walk, Siegel found himself with a job: researching a planned miniseries about Muhammad Ali, funded by wealthy Brits. Unfortunately, due to mismanagement, the project quickly went down the tubes.

"It's the story of the \$6 million Titanic," he said. "In the course of a year, they blew all \$6 million and didn't finish the film. You could almost make a reality show now like, 'Blow This Money.' Here's a million dollars. Who can fuck it up the fastest?"

After the project's failure, Siegel moved back to his hometown of Chicago, where he worked for a nonprofit called Signs for Change. He began volunteering at Kartemquin Films, assisting with the film "Hoop Dreams." Soon, he would be at the helm of his own project—creating a documentary, "Weather Underground," about the radical organization—with his former classmate and coworker, Sam Green, Journalism '90. The film went on to be nominated for the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature, and it screened at Sundance in 2002.

"It was near the end of the film," Siegel said, recalling the festival. "We were up in front and literally my spine had started to tingle and I was looking around and I look and there's [actor/director Robert] Redford. He looked at me and gave me the double thumbs up, and I'll never forget it. I never talked to the guy, but there was that one moment."

Despite never conversing with Redford, Siegel made an impression on the director with his film. Redford's most recent release, "The Company You Keep," brings the radical group into the 21st century. However, at a recent press junket, Redford emphasized that he didn't do much research beside watching Siegel's documentary.

"I didn't feel I needed to, because I saw a documentary several years ago that came to the festival called the 'Weather Underground,'" Redford said. "I felt that that documentary was very well made about the actual people ... I felt I had a thorough description of them from the film."

After working at a nonprofit called the Great Books Foundation for several years, Siegel decided to return to the Muhammad Ali project he had started after leaving Columbia.

"I've been working on the film now for 23 years in a sense," he said. "It started in earnest six years ago ... when I got working on it as an actual film."

After being gone from the city for so long, Siegel is excited to be back to debut the documentary. It will premiere next weekend at the School of Visual Arts Theatre as part of Tribeca's Sports Film Festival, in partnership with ESPN.

"I'm totally honored and thrilled to be coming to Tribeca," he said. "The film for me was born in New York City, so personally, it's the perfect place for its premiere."

Like Siegel, Ogradnik is returning to New York, where she was a professor at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. She flew in for the festival from the United Arab Emirates, where she is the Associate Dean of the Arts at the school's Abu Dhabi campus—a long way from Morningside Heights.

"Deep Powder," which debuts tonight at the Chelsea Clearview Cinemas, is as much the result of her teen years as of her training at Columbia and in the industry. It's the second film she's directed—the first was her thesis film, "Ripe"—and the third movie she's worked on.

SEE TRIBECA, page B2

With approximately 89 feature length films, 60 short films, several panels, and midnight screenings of classics, the Tribeca Film Festival running through April 28—has enough going on to overwhelm a festival junkie, to say nothing of the college student reeling from an all-nighter who just wants to see Zac Efron drive a race car.

If you're at a loss on how to tackle Tribeca, one way to approach it is to see films by former Columbians—and those will keep you busy, as five filmmakers with ties to the school will have their work screened over the next week.

Screenings take place at different theaters in lower Manhattan and tickets can all be bought online. Those films that are sold out of advance tickets offer rush tickets, for which the line forms 45 minutes before screenings. Typically, directors, cast members, and others involved persons are on hand after the screenings to chat about the process, so the \$16 for evening and weekend screenings and the \$8 for matinee and late night screenings might just be worth meeting the star of your new favorite movie.

'DEEP POWDER'

"Deep Powder" is a narrative film featured in the festival's Viewpoints category, directed by Mo Ogradnik, SoA '97. It follows an affluent young woman who makes a drug run to Ecuador as part of her initiation to a secret society at her boarding school. She enlists the help of a blue-collar working boy, leading both of them down a potentially dangerous path.

"Deep Powder" will be screened on April 19 and 21 at the Clearview Cinemas Chelsea (260 W. 23rd St. between seventh and eighth avenues) at 9:45 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., respectively. It will also play on April 22 and 26 at the AMC Loews Village 7 (66 Third Ave. at 11th Street) at 9 p.m. and 1 p.m., respectively.

'AT ANY PRICE'

Directed by Ramin Bahrani, CC '96 and associate film professor at the School of the Arts, "At Any Price" stars Zac Efron as the heir to his family's farming business who wants to be a race car driver. Dennis Quaid plays his father, who wants him to take over the business. With the farm's practices under scrutiny, the choice between family and passion is brought to the fore.

"At Any Price" will be screened on April 19 at 9:30 p.m. at the Borough of Manhattan Community College Tribeca Performing Arts Center (199 Chambers St. at West Street) and April 23 at 9 p.m. at the AMC Loews Village 7 (66 Third Ave. at 11th Street).

'THE TRIALS OF MUHAMMAD ALI'

Showing as part of the Tribeca/ESPN Sports Film Festival, "The Trials of Muhammad Ali" is directed by Bill Siegel, Journalism '90. The documentary examines the struggle Ali faced in his conversion to Islam, his refusal to fight in Vietnam, and his career.

"The Trials of Muhammad Ali" will be screened on April 26 at the School of Visual Arts Theatre (333 W. 23rd St. between eighth and ninth avenues) at 5:30 p.m., and on April 27 at Tribeca Cinemas (54 Varick St. at Laight street) at 9 p.m.

'BIG MEN'

This documentary about oil disputes in Ghana and the high cost of corporate involvement in the region is directed by Rachel Boynton, Journalism '97. The exposé, which is participating in the Documentary Competition, premiered last night.

"Big Men" will be screened on April 20 and 24 at the Clearview Cinemas Chelsea (260 W. 23rd St. between seventh and eighth avenues) at 9:45 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., respectively. It will also play on April 21 at the AMC Loews Village 7 (66 Third Ave. at 11th street) at 9 p.m.

"IN GOD WE TRUST"

Directed by Victor Kubicek, CC '06, and Derek Anderson, this documentary focuses on Eleanor Squillari, Bernie Madoff's former personal secretary. Depicting the events leading up to and following the revelation of Madoff's Ponzi scheme, the film casts new light on the now-notorious case.

"In God We Trust" will be screened on April 19 at 9:30 p.m. at the School of Visual Arts Theatre (333 W. 23rd St. between eighth and ninth avenues). There will also be screenings on April 21 and 25 at the Clearview Cinemas Chelsea (260 W. 23rd St. between seventh and eighth avenues) at 9:45 p.m. and 3 p.m., respectively.

Snacks in the city: Get it where you can

So I have a confession: I love snacks. Like, I really, really love snacks. In my hierarchy of food categories, they are somewhere between brunch and sandwiches. And this weekend of all weekends (cough, munchies, cough), it seems only appropriate for me to diverge from my usual format and wax poetic about all the marvelous facets of the snacking world. Topical, relevant, cutting-edge journalism, you say? Why thank you, I am in fact a very serious writer.

First of all, movie theater snacks have a special place in my heart because I love movies more than anything, and food comes in a close second. Sure, they're overpriced, have about a million calories, and are probably not made of real ingredients, but who cares? Is there anything more satisfyingly consumerist and American than cold, soggy Nachos, a 72-ounce Coke, and a mass-produced action movie sequel? Or maybe you have a mother like mine, who gave zero fucks about the silly "no outside food rule" and brought in (in various stages of motherhood) popcorn/trail mix (new mother phase), carrots (health-kick phase), and my personal favorite, General Tso's from P.F. Chang's. To be fair, General Tso's isn't technically a snack, but I believe it exemplifies a certain finesse in movie-food badassery. Basically, whether you give in to \$7 chicken fingers or stick it to the man with your own smuggled smorgasbord, you can't go wrong with movie snacks.

What's a french fry without a perfectly placed dollop of ketchup? Mozzarella sticks without a little plastic shot glass of marinara? CHIPS WITHOUT DIP?

Secondly, the mish-mash snack. You know how sometimes you're just hungry or lazy or mindlessly bored-eating, but making an actual meal seems like an insurmountable feat? Also known as a naked meal (a term which I just made up on the spot), this snack sub-genre consists of delights such as plain deli meat, shredded cheese straight from the bag, cups of applesauce, and three cans of Pringles, in that order. It's the snack you eat when your palate is just plain confused about what it wants. Salty or sweet? Crunchy, spicy, or smooth? All of the above, duh. Some might just call this irresponsible eating, but I think it takes a special consumer to know that mini Oreos are the absolute ideal complement to Doritos. A word to the wise, though, this type of snacking is definitely the most destructive (as in, doughnut holes typically beget Ruffles, and not celery sticks), so tread carefully.

Last but certainly not least, the king of snacks, and my personal favorite, is dip-pables. From pretzels and Nutella, to carrots and hummus, to the absolute snack god, fondue, dippy and saucy things are basically my reason for living. That's melodramatic, but, you guys—sauce. What's a french fry without a perfectly placed dollop of ketchup? Mozzarella sticks without a little plastic shot glass of marinara? CHIPS WITHOUT DIP? Like, why even bother? The gentle "plunk" your food makes when it hits the dip, sauce, spread, whatever, is so splendid that you barely want to eat it. But of course, you gobble it down anyway. So dip, crunch, and snack away, my friends! Oh, and I guess, remember that fruits, veggies, and other healthy she-nanigans are snacks too, sort of. Enjoy your weekend and be safe, y'all!

Krista White is a Columbia College junior majoring in theater. Noshing on the Big Apple runs alternate Fridays.



KRISTA WHITE
Noshing on the Big Apple

St. A's, Postcrypt Art Gallery bring silent auction to St. Luke's

BY SARAH ROTH
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

St. Luke's Hospital is in for a wild treat, thanks to the Postcrypt Art Gallery.

On Friday, the campus art gallery and St. Anthony's Hall will host Art for Art's Sake, a silent auction of original art pieces from students, faculty, and professional artists, in collaboration with the non-profit organization RxArt. The money raised will go toward an art installation in St. Luke's Pediatric Psychological unit.

The piece for St. Luke's, by Rob Pruitt will feature a large zebra-print, dry-erase board that will span the four walls of the room and serve as a massive coloring board for the kids to use while they wait for their appointments.

The auction is being curated by Maxi Arco, CC '13, Gabby Barsocchini, BC '16, Marianne Barthélemy, BC '13, Mausí Goess, BC '13, and Clemence White, BC '15. The auction and the installation are both supported by RxArt, which contributes art installations exclusively to pediatric wings of hospitals.

"The idea is that they are going into place in which children ... spend a lot of time waiting for appointments or waiting for results," White, the director of Postcrypt Art Gallery, said. "Obviously, these are very depressing, very stressful environments, particularly for an eight- or nine-year-old child to be waiting, so it's an interactive piece, and it's fun for the children while they're waiting for their results."

Art for Art's Sake will feature pieces marketed toward "student-rate budgets," White said. The pieces donated range from collages, to photography, to oil paintings and prints.

"It's exciting for students who like art and who are interested in art to come to the auction and to be able to purchase works of arts that are selling for thousands and thousands of dollars, and all the money is going to a cool organization," White said.

The event will be sponsored in part by VeeV, a spirit company that specializes in açai liqueur and will provide cocktails for the event, and Skate's Art Market Research, an online resource for information about the purchase and sale of

art. The event will also feature musician Eric Saint Nicholas, a New York City based singer-songwriter who cites Elvis Presley and the Allman Brothers as influences. In addition to the auction itself, representatives from both St. Luke's hospital and RxArt will be speaking.

If fine art isn't your style, organizers will also be selling coloring books, which RxArt provides for patients in the pediatric wings at a discounted rate.

For the curators of Art for Art's Sake, the auction is a highly personal endeavor.

"It's a project in our community that benefits our community, and all the resources are coming from the community," White said, expressing the group's enthusiasm about working with St. Luke's Hospital.

"It's nice to know exactly where the money goes and what happens," Goess said.

Art for Art's Sake will start at 7 p.m. tonight at St. Anthony's Hall at 434 Riverside Drive. Tickets can be purchased for \$10 or at the door at an increased rate. Please RSVP to rsvpartforart@gmail.com.

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Neighborhood Watch

By Rachel Dunphy
Graphic by Burhan Sandhu

INWOOD HILL PARK

For those of you who didn't grow up in a particularly developed area, you'll be grateful to find in Inwood Hill Park the closest experience to hiking that is still possible in Manhattan. From the park, you can easily extend your walk over the Henry Hudson Bridge, which doesn't offer quite the same views as the Brooklyn Bridge, but still has its merits.

THE DYCKMAN FARMHOUSE MUSEUM

4881 Broadway at 204th St.

Walking down a typical Manhattan street on a normal day, those who unknowingly happen upon this authentic cottage on a corner—tucked among some overgrown trees and accented with gardens and a white picket fence—must surely suppose that they've discovered an alternate dimension. Unfortunately, no, the 1784 farmhouse is completely of this world and remains on a block surrounded by gas stations and apartment buildings as a reminder of the island's rural past.

THE CLOISTERS

99 Margaret Corbin Dr.

Built in the 1930s in the style of European medieval architecture, this branch of the Metropolitan Museum of Art features works mostly from the 12th to 15th centuries. Though the walk up through Fort Tryon Park is a little tiring (the weak-hearted can also take the M4 bus up Broadway right to the entrance), a truly great view of the river from far above makes it all worth it.

CAÑA Y CAFÉ

565 W. 207th St.

An eclectic local bar and grill in which the couple sitting next to me were trying to get featured on "Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives," the restaurant has a cool and tropical atmosphere, 20 cent chicken wings on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and turns into a club after hours.

KENNY BAKERY

126A Dyckman St.

"It's the best pastries in the area," several locals attested as they gave me advice on what I should purchase at this authentic Dominican bakery that offers a wide and tantalizing variety of sugary treats, freshly baked bread, and "literally amazing" flan.

INWOOD

CUPlayers collaborate with Playwrights Theater O'Neill Studio

BY ZOË MILLER
Spectator Staff Writer

Eugene O'Neill's plays may tend toward the tragic, but in the Eugene O'Neill Revue—a theatrical event that blends poetry, biography, and song to chronicle the playwright's rise to success—the focus is on delight, not depression.

Under the direction and narration of its creator, Stephen Kennedy Murphy, the show will be performed on April 21 at 5:30 p.m. in the Wien Lounge, in partnership with the Columbia University Players and the Playwrights Theater O'Neill Studio. After adapting the revue from O'Neill's poetry and the biographical writings of Arthur and Barbara Gelb, Murphy founded the O'Neill Studios at Yale in 1998. Ten years later, he brought the production to New York, where he directed Broadway, off-Broadway, and Lincoln Center performances of it.

The Revue showcases a diverse range of student and professional talents. Hannah Kloefer—CC '13 and one of the show's co-producers with Lilla Goettler, CC '14, Maria Sulimirski, CC '13, and Piper Rasmussen, BC '16—will appear as the love interests to Revue veteran and television actor Kristoffer Polaha's O'Neill. Polaha will be honored with the O'Neill Credo Award for his achievement.

Tracy Einstein, CC '13 and the Revue's choreographer, and Daniel O'Neill, CC '13, will reflect upon

the playwright's tumultuous life through dance, while music will be incorporated into the Revue through original compositions by Trey Toy, CC '14, the CU Kingsmen's rendition of O'Neill's favorite song, "Shenandoah." CU Gospel Choir director Brittany Carroll-Watt will perform O'Neill's lyrics to "Motherless Child."

The Columbia production came about thanks to a petition organized by CUP. Murphy said, "Earlier in the semester, we did a survey with a number of performing arts groups on campus. It seemed to be that everybody really wanted to find ways to work together."

Elaborating on his cooperation with CUP, Murphy said, "I met with Lilla, who is the president-elect of CUP, and Hannah [the current president] and Kyle [Radler, CC '13]. They told me about what their dream was. They did something last year called 'Afternoon of the Arts,' which was to bring the arts at the University together. And I told them about how my project at Yale had worked. The Drama School was working with Yale College, which was also working with parts of the community. We thought that was a good model to develop."

Being back in the collegiate environment has been reinvigorating for Murphy. He said, "Working with the students at Columbia reminds me how fun theater can be. It's a really fun time."

The younger cast is not the only variation between the Columbia production and its predecessors. "It's completely different," Murphy said. "One of the reasons is we have a very talented choreographer. Tracy had a lot of ideas both that came from her own body language and her visual sense. We've been able to make this a much more physical version of it, thanks to Tracy. She's very talented."

According to Murphy, the most difficult part about adapting and directing the Revue has been "respecting the integrity of the work and trying to find our own voice."

He added, "We always try to make sure that the character in the performances reflects the students themselves."

Ultimately, it is the students' energy that carries the production, Murphy said. "O'Neill was a bit of a mess-up when he was at college. He got thrown out of Princeton. It's kind of fun to have Ivy League students kind of joking about that in our performance," he said, noting the ever-popular allure of meta-humor.

Above all, Murphy said that he wants to play to the actors' individual strengths.

"We tried to make sure everybody in it has a little featured moment. I tried to make sure that everybody has something that shows off their special quality," he said.

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CU alumni Ogrodnik, Siegel appear at Tribeca Film Festival

TRIBECA from page B1

After Columbia, she wrote "Uptown Girls," which starred Brittany Murphy and a young Dakota Fanning. For "Deep Powder," Ogrodnik is drawing on her time at the Ethel Walker School, basing the action of the film on the arrest of several classmates for participating in a drug ring in 1984.

"I knew the people that were [expelled], or a portion of the people that were expelled," she said. "I went to an all-girls boarding school, so that's really what it was inspired by. It's more from witnessing that in that period of my life."

Adapting those events into a film with her husband, Matt Bardin, is Ogrodnik's way of bringing back what she calls "a New York story in many ways" to the city she likes to call home.

"It feels really exciting to be going to Tribeca," she said. "We're living in the Middle East right now, so it's pretty exciting to come back to New York City and to be going to Tribeca. ... It really feels like the perfect place for it to be having its premiere."

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Record Store Day

BY MAREN KILLACKEY
Spectator Staff Writer

Every year since 2008, record stores worldwide have stocked their shelves with extremely limited vinyl records from pretty much every cool band you can think of, for one day. This year, artists from BEAK>, to Best Coast, Mumford & Sons, to MGMT are releasing their projects made special for Record Store Day. The catch is you won't (or shouldn't) be able to find them anywhere online, meaning you'll actually have to leave campus in order to buy them. Hard, right? Thankfully, some of the city's record stores are doubling as venues and hosting some pretty awesome events to incentivize shoppers away from the Internet. We've compiled a list of the best spots below. Record Store Day is Sunday.

PERMANENT RECORDS

181 Franklin St., Greenpoint
Specializing in an array of new and used LPs, CDs, DVDs, and more, this low-key favorite has stocked nearly all of the exclusive releases for Record Store Day. Whether it's that Black Keys/Stooges 7" or Grizzly Bear 12" you're looking for, drop by to bask in the store's do-it-yourself atmosphere and cop some free swag (while supplies last). Opens at 10 a.m.

ROCK AND SOUL RECORDS

462 Seventh Ave., Garment District
Apart from carrying limited presses from Avett Brothers, David Bowie, Grateful Dead, and Phish, Rock and Soul stocks a wide variety of DJ equipment. For Record Store Day 2013, it'll have DJs spinning strictly vinyl all day long. Go to support your local indie store, or for the free vinyl sampling clinic at 4 p.m. hosted by "funk junkie" DJ Funktual. Opens at 11 a.m.



CAKE SHOP

152 Ludlow St., Lower East Side
Throughout the day, legendary independent performance venue and record store Cake Shop has promised "tons of fun, possible balloons and maybe Eddie" (no, that is not the latest indie band name). Starting at 8 p.m. it's got an awesome—correction: "awesome-ass"—lineup featuring Literature, Grand Resort, The Hairs, Cascading Slopes (ex-members of The Drums), Kip of the Pains of Being Pure at Heart, and Sparxx. Show is 21+ but only \$5. Also, don't miss its bombass promo vid that features cats and totally wasn't edited in iMovie.

IN LIVING STEREO

2 Great Jones St., NoHo
Already boasting more than 75 special edition RSD13 titles, In Living Stereo is likely the place to be 4/20. Aside from DJ sets and live performances throughout the day, it's offering 10 percent off used records and free PBR starting at noon. Doors are at 10 a.m.



GENERATION RECORDS

210 Thompson St., near Washington Square Park
In addition to promising all the best Record Store Day releases of the year, Generation Records' lineup includes DJ Tom Scharpling (of WFMU), Doug Gillard (of Guided by Voices), and Oh My Rockness favorite, garage rock outfit Swearin'. Store opens at 10 a.m., bands start at 2 p.m.

TURNTABLE LAB

120 E. Seventh St., East Village
More than 16 DJs are set to spin records at the East Village's Turntable Lab sunup to sundown (aka 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.) this Saturday. Featured acts include Falty DL, Eli Escobar, and Nomi Ruiz. Can't make it? Check out the store's live stream of the day's events at www.turntablelab.com.

JENNY PAYNE / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Unique vision, French style finally ‘In the House’ with director Ozon’s latest film

BY OLIVIA WONG
Spectator Staff Writer

For French director François Ozon, film is first and foremost an art—not a business.

“In the House,” his newest film, opens today in New York City after having been released in France in the fall of 2012. The movie challenges literature and art in an academic setting—not unlike what Columbia students do everyday.

The film explores the dangerous mentor-mentee relationship between a jaded French teacher, Germain (Fabrice Luchini), and his talented yet dark student, Claude (Ernst Umhauer). Though it takes place in France, the film is not singular to the country, and explores universal concepts such as the ideal family and the role of an author.

Embracing his identity as a French filmmaker, Ozon said he tries not to be too concerned with how his film will be received by an American audience.

“I’m always curious to see [how] a foreign audience reacts to a typically French movie,” he said in an interview with Spectator. He explained that films such as “In the House” are the very opposite of the typical Hollywood blockbuster.

“I don’t need American money to make my movies,” he said. “So it doesn’t change my plans for other movies, hopefully.”

For Ozon, the economic success of his films is secondary to his vision as a filmmaker. And he believes that this is a reflection of the difference between American and French cinema.

“In America, cinema is first a business, it’s an industry,” he said. “In France, it is first an art.”

“In the House” grapples with the question of how to define art. Germain is a traditionalist who is challenged by his wife to consider how modern art fits into his classical worldview. Ozon sees this as the central theme of the film, and he was careful throughout its production to make sure he was exploring the definition of art in “a funny way.”

“In the House” fuses classic storytelling techniques with modern twists and dark humor. The portrayal of the Artoles, a typical suburban French family, features classic familial drama with satire. And the film subverts traditional narrative style by inserting Germain into scenes in which he does not belong.

Ozon is quick to give credit to the play the film is based on, noting that the film’s unconventional narrative comes from the work from which it is adapted.

“In the play, all the characters were on stage at



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HOT FOR TEACHER | Acclaimed filmmaker François Ozon’s newest film focuses on a dangerous relationship between a French teacher (Fabrice Luchini, left) and his student, Claude (Ernst Umhauer, top right, on left; bottom right, standing). The film focuses on the problem of how to define art.

the same time, and I think it’s interesting to have this effect in the film,” he said.

Fabrice Luchini has worked with Ozon before, and was especially excited to play such an intellectual character. Luchini, a veteran French actor of both the cinema and the stage, “loved the character of Germain,” according to Ozon.

Ozon even joked that Luchini loved the role a

little too much.

“Working with [Fabrice] is a pleasure. ... Sometimes it can be too much because he calls you in the middle of the night to go over a scene,” Ozon said.

Ozon and Luchini’s shared work ethic made them a great pair. Ozon said that he too is always working, whether he realizes it or not. He is

constantly gathering inspiration for his next film or story.

“For all [writers and directors], the inspiration is all around us,” he said. “We are like vampires searching for the blood every day. You are always working or thinking of how you can use it [reality] in story. We are very dangerous people.”

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Flipside Guide

Uncle Boons

New authentic Thai place in NoLIta a treasure in Manhattan

BY YVONNE HSIAO
Spectator Staff Writer

Asian food cravings tend to hit around vacation time, whenever everyone around me is, or is talking about, heading home. I had a strong desire for comfort food—something satisfyingly salty, meaty, and soupy. Home-styled Thai food seemed to be a good choice, especially from the recently-opened restaurant of two former Per Se chefs, Matt Danzer and Ann Redding, who actually grew up in Thailand. Uncle Boons is well worth the schlep into the bowels of NoLIta, and it left me greatly satisfied with its delicious, authentic dishes and great service. Candles in orange glass jars, straw seats, and cedar wood paneling created a fantastic ambiance.

We ordered a small plate: kaam wua katiem pik thai (caramelized beef cheeks). Imagine Chinese-style beef broth noodles, but with the meat slow-braised to soft, stringy strands—dark from concentrated soy sauce and swimming in its own soup—enhanced by garlic, peppercorn, and a hint of whiskey. Paired with a side of sticky rice, the dish instantly transported me back into Thailand’s food stalls at the night markets. These two pieces of beef were a typical “family-style communal food,” the kind that’s meant to go with a bowl of rice in front of each diner.

Our ahaan yang of charcoal-grilled blowfish tails came with a lime, garlic, and chili dipping sauce. Painted ever so slightly with a sugar cane glaze, the chewy flesh was crisp on the outside but tender enough that it slid off the small bones attached to the tail. The fragrance of cane hits your tongue first, then the slightly smoky notes from the cooking method of grilling, finishing off with an oily, but not overwhelming, foundation from the fish’s own fat. The sauce was made with just the right balance of the pungent heat from crushed fresh green chili and sour hits of citrus, and cut the rich fish nicely—although it smothers some of its delicate flavors.

Chef Redding’s personal favorite, Uncle Boons guay jap—a pork offal broth—was the type of soup that left a stickiness on your lips because of the amount of protein packed into the braise and reduction. Spiked with cassia and garlic, the broth was rich and well-reduced in that it wasn’t brimming with salt, but was still thick enough to go with the flat sheet rice noodles curled up in rolls in the liquid. The large pieces of braised pork shoulder were done as well as the beef cheeks—except with pieces of fat still attached that had the right amount of chewiness as the pork tongue.

The brain was breaded in a salt-and-pepper Wondra flour skin then deep-fried, almost exactly like authentic street food in Taiwan. The blood cakes were way too salty, dry, and crumbly, but good when paired with a boiled egg and still deliciously gooey at the center. Fried-until-crisp garlic slices gave the dish a nice flavor kick and crunch. Orange chili vinegar helps balance out this rather rich fat-and-carbs dish, although it was just as good without.

Uncle Boons gave me a fantastic, attentive experience that made me remember the patience that some chefs still have in fast-paced Manhattan life. What characterizes these dishes and their complexity is the willingness to wait and stew these meats for at least 12 hours. Give this place a try—experiencing Thailand’s gastronomic culture in Manhattan is a must.

Uncle Boons is located at 7 Spring St., between Elizabeth Street & Bowery.

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ILLUSTRATION BY LESLEY THULIN

‘Rock-a-Bye Baby’

New Cassie mixtape showcases new sound after seven-year wait

BY NOAH JACKSON
Spectator Music Critic

Seven years is one hell of a long time in the music industry, especially for someone as unlucky as Cassie. After releasing a debut album that included “Me & U,” one of the defining R&B jams of the noughties, the erstwhile Cassandra Ventura dropped off of most people’s radar. A shelved sophomore effort and a series of non-charting singles made a comeback seem unlikely. So when a free mixtape of new material, “Rock-a-Bye Baby,” dropped last week, reactions were beyond ecstatic.

From the opening moments of the tape, however, it’s clear that a lot has changed since 2006. In the space of 15 seconds, Cassie establishes her link not to the R&B tradition but to classic ’90s rap, with a dialogue sample from the definitive gangsta film “New Jack City” most famously used by Above the Law in its 1993 track “Process of Elimination.” As a mission statement, it’s only supplanted by her first line: “So high, don’t know what to do / cos I’m so shy—I’m fuckin’ with you.” Both playful and knowing, Cassie presents her fans with a challenging change of character. The demure yet sexy Cassie of her debut is long gone—and in her stead, the listener is forced to come to grips with Cassie as a bad girl.

Unfortunately, this direction is pretty much hit and miss. When it comes to lyrics, “Rock-a-Bye Baby” is fairly regressive. The simplicity that worked well with the sweet ingenuity of Cassie’s debut now sounds forced, as she regurgitates well-trodden tropes of “I’m so high” and “I’m doing me” that sound more like strung-together buzzwords than lyrics. While much of the mixtape is guilty of this, “Addicted” is the most egregiously

unoriginal tune—the “addicted to your love” metaphor was tired when Bryan Ferry wrote “Love Is The Drug” in 1975.

The worst part is that Cassie herself seems unconvinced, with references to heroin and cocaine coming off as forced. Furthermore, Cassie is often outshone by her guest stars. When Pusha T asks her to “tell Maury I’mma take care of that baby” on “Take Care Of Me Baby,” you almost feel sorry that the hook she replies with is so anodyne.

But when it works, my God, does it work. The best decision Cassie made with “Rock-a-Bye Baby” was to enlist a hit squad of hot producers, from Chief Keef’s go-to beatmaker Young Chop to current trap god Mike WiLL Made It. After getting over the surprise of hearing “Young Chop on the beat” open a Cassie track, it’s impossible for a listener not to marvel at how well imposing trap beats complement her rough new vocal style.

“Numb” combines Cassie’s serene coo with stripped-back synths and a blissed-out verse from Rick Ross that create an air of drugged-out lethargy. Her dark flow could just as easily be rapped, while her vocoded instruction to “ride the wave” sounds genuinely detached and menacing. Shuffling beats and auto-tuned moans provide a seductive backing for “Sound of Love,” a track reminiscent of Shlohmo’s poppier moments, particularly due to the presence of his recent collaborator Jeremih. The two R&B singers gel extremely well in this subtly sensual duet.

While many tracks may sound maladroït (I doubt anyone thought they would ever hear Cassie tell Too \$hort that she would “do my dance on your dick”), the only true misstep on the tape is “Bad Girls,” an entirely uninspired collaboration with “Super Bass” writer Ester Dean. This awkward guitar-infused shout-along sounds like an outtake from Lil Wayne’s execrable “rock” album “Rebirth,” or even worse, a shelved Keri Hilson single.

Though “Rock-a-Bye Baby” is hardly worth the seven-year wait, it’s anything but uninteresting. Very few mid-noughties artists have made as convincing a foray into contemporary rap trends, so if Cassie refines her songwriting and sticks with her stellar production team, she’ll have a sophomore album worthy of its predecessor.

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‘Portrait of Duke Francesco’

Famous Velázquez on display at the Metropolitan Museum

BY SARAH ROTH
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Metropolitan Museum of Art has a natural disaster to thank for its newest addition. Spanish painter Diego Velázquez’s famous “Portrait of Duke Francesco I d’Este” is on loan to the museum through July, marking its first ever appearance in the United States.

The portrait’s home, the Galleria Estense in the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy, was rocked by a series of earthquakes last May. As part of an effort to preserve undamaged art from the disaster while the museum undergoes restoration and repairs, the painting has been donated to the Met for the next three months.

Buried deep within the European Paintings wing, the painting sits alone in the otherwise empty room, hanging on a freestanding wall in the center. The adjacent walls are decorated only with posters giving background information on the exhibit. It is clear that the Met is very proud of its newest, albeit temporary, addition.

The painting is of Duke Francesco I D’Este, the 17th century Duke of Modena and Reggio Emilia in Italy, whom Velázquez painted on a diplomatic trip to Spain at the request of the King Phillip IV of Spain.

The portrait itself is fairly simple—the Duke sitting in profile, his head angled toward the onlooker. The ornate floral golden frame, as wide as my hand span, stands out more than the painting’s muted shades of black and red. The Duke is clad in his armor with a red sash thrown over the metal, the handle of a sword at his shoulder.

The most striking aspect of the Velázquez painting is the Duke’s expression. His gaze is haughty with his eyebrows slightly raised, unsettling the viewer. The fact that the painting is mounted slightly above eye level contributes to a feeling of being scrutinized and appraised, and the eyes seem to follow you as you move around the room.

What is truly amazing about the portrait is that, even after 400



AYELET PEARL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

THE ROYAL COURT | Diego Velázquez’s famous “Portrait of Duke Francesco I d’Este,” commissioned by Spanish King Philip IV, is on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art for its first-ever appearance in the United States.

years, the Duke seems just as alive as the man standing next to me. His features are so exact and lifelike that you can’t help but expect him to snap at you for staring at him for too long.

I stood in the empty room for some time, simply staring at the painting. While I initially found the painting’s isolation an odd choice, it slowly began to make sense—this is a piece that is meant

to stand alone. It is a piece with enough clout and expression to merit its own place of honor.

While finding the room may be challenge in the Met’s maze of portraits and landscapes, it is a worthwhile trip, and the Duke probably doesn’t mind all the attention.

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