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Military veterans

The transition from soldier to college student can be difficult. Military veterans reflect on how they have adjusted to college life, and the services they think would aid the process.



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Head coach Bid Goswami's unique ability to recruit and nurture young tennis talent at Columbia has taken the program to new heights, as the team won the Ivy title this spring.

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CU rowing teams  
enter homestretch

The Light Blue heavyweight and women's rowing teams enter their final weekend of action before they compete in the Ivy League Championship at the Eastern Sprints.

ONLINE

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News around the clock

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JULIUS CAESAR



Mira John / Senior staff photographer

**SHAKESPEARE ON THE STEPS** | “Et tu, Bruté? Then fall, Caesar!” In the King’s Crown Shakespeare Troupe’s annual outdoor production, the title character cries as Brutus stabs him to death.

## First CEC vote open to parents

BY JESSICA HILLS  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

More than 25,000 parents turned out to the online polls from April 6 to 29 to cast votes for their Community Education Council members.

This election, although only an advisory vote for the Parent Teacher Association and Parent Association members who will vote officially for CEC members online from May 12 to 14, marks the first time that parents have been able to participate in CEC elections. Community Education Councils are groups that meet regularly to represent neighborhood parents, residents, and business-owners to discuss school policy and instruction.

The results of the straw vote will not be released until next week, but community members have speculated as to what the significance of an exclusively online vote might be.

The city’s Department of Education, Grassroots Initiative, and Election-America are all overseeing the election through Power to the Parents.

Jeff Merritt, president and founder of Grassroots Initiative, which is managing all community outreach and candidate and voter assistance for the election, said that there weren’t any clear expectations set for election turnout because it was the first one of its kind.

“In a new election, it comes down to awareness,” Merritt said. “For a lot of people, this is the first time they’ve heard of the CEC because it wasn’t an open voting process.”

Before this year, he said, parents weren’t aware that the election was held, or that the positions even existed.

“It takes time for parents to get active,” Merritt explained, noting that the next election will see increased participation. He added, though, that whether or not there is a next election depends on whether schools remain under mayoral control.

“No one can tell you what the system will look like because of the upcoming election,” Merritt explained, referring to the city’s mayoral election.

While there will not be extensive analysis on the success of this year’s straw vote for another month, each PTA and PA selector will receive the results of his or her particular school’s advisory vote results before the official election in May.

SEE CEC, page 2

## NYC universities expand campuses

BY MAGGIE ASTOR  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Columbia is not the only school expanding around New York City. As the Manhattanville expansion moves forward, other universities are changing the dynamics of neighborhoods from Harlem down to Greenwich Village.

The City Planning Commission, which oversees New York’s land use and socioeconomic development, unanimously approved an expansion plan for Fordham University on April 22. Meanwhile, New York University and City College of New York are also involved in development projects.

### Fordham University

Historically, Fordham’s operations have been focused on its Bronx campus, with the Upper West Side location serving mainly as a satellite for commuter students and for programs that rely on the resources of Lincoln

Center. But this relationship may change.

The CPC’s approval of Fordham’s Lincoln Center expansion campaign, which began five years ago, marked a major victory for the school. Now, the New York City Council must schedule a vote within 50 days.

If the Council approves the project, academic facilities on the Lincoln Center campus will be upgraded, and additional dormitory space will be built,

thus transitioning the campus from a primarily commuter to a more residential model.

“The Commission’s vote is very welcome,” Joseph McShane, president of Fordham, said in a statement, adding that the school is “pleased that their decision recognizes Fordham’s willingness to modify the plan in response to community concerns, and the importance of the Lincoln Center campus

SEE EXPANSIONS, page 3



From top: Daniella Zalzman / Senior staff photographer; Angela Radulescu / Senior staff photographer

**EXPANSIONS** | Columbia is not the only school expanding around the City. As the Manhattanville expansion moves forward, other universities are changing the dynamics of neighborhoods.

## Cultural perceptions of mental health affect treatment

BY ZEYNEP MEMECAN  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

When Bilal’s Somali relatives came to his home last year, they brought Kamal, his 7-year-old cousin with them for the first time.

Kamal didn’t return the family’s welcoming smiles, nor did he respond to the questions of curious relatives who wanted to get to know him. While the other children in the family were playing together, he was focused intently on organizing the forks on the dining table into a straight line.

That day, Bilal, CC ’10, who asked that his name be changed in order to protect his family’s

privacy, found out that his relatives had kept it a secret from the rest of his family that their child was autistic. In the Somali community, he explained, mental illnesses were “frowned upon,” and exposing Kamal’s condition was especially difficult for the family because of the negative stigma and superstitious beliefs attached to mental illnesses.

Kamal’s case is not isolated. The Minnesota Department of Health reported that children of Somali immigrants in Minneapolis are two to seven times more likely than other children to be placed in special classes for autistic kids. The reason for this disparity remains unclear.

While many New Yorkers would not think twice before making an appointment with a therapist to cope with problems ranging from a bad breakup to suicidal thoughts, in

many minority communities, perceptions of mental health are varied and access to care can be limited.

Bilal said that in Somali culture, it is not common to seek professional help for mental illnesses, since there is a general “apprehension of medicine and doctors,” as well as the problem of language. Instead, the issue is either ignored completely or dealt with using more traditional methods, such as consulting religious texts.

“I wanted to tell him [Kamal’s father] to learn about autism and realize there is nothing stigmatic about it,” Bilal said. “Not doing anything only aggravates the situation.”

In other communities outside the United States, mental health awareness isn’t stressed

SEE MULTICULTURAL, page 2

## Engineers rake it in

### CU’s Engineers Without Borders win grant

BY TABITHA PEYTON WOOD  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Columbia University’s chapter of Engineers Without Borders was rewarded in a big way last week after months of working to engineer sustainable development solutions for communities in Uganda, Ghana, and India.

The Uganda group won the second round of the Environmental Protection Agency’s P3—People, Prosperity and the Planet—competition. This honor, which comes with a \$75,000 grant, is the first one awarded to the chapter at this level, although all three site groups won the first round of the competition at some point.

“We are all really, really proud of our Uganda program and excited about the possibilities it [the award] opens up for expanding the scope of our Uganda program,” said Allison Schoeneck, SEAS ’10 and CU-EWB president.

The award came last week after a few members of CU-EWB’s Uganda team—Matt Basinger, SEAS graduate student; Janelle Heslop, SEAS ’10; Sara del Fierro, CC ’10; Jennifer Wang, SEAS ’10; Jin Wang, SEAS ’10; Lacey Gleason, CC ’12; and Watue Sowapru, SEAS ’12—travelled to the EPA’s fifth annual P3 exposition in Washington, DC to showcase their project on the National Mall.

The Uganda group within the Columbia chapter of EWB, comprised of 15-20 SEAS students, met regularly to work on the project, which del Fierro described as “a stationary diesel engine that can be attached to different agro-processing equipment, which we have modified to run on straight vegetable oil, thereby avoiding the high cost of diesel and utilizing a local crop called jatropa.”

“At first, we couldn’t believe we won. We knew we had an amazing project, but seeing the competition that weekend ... we knew we would have a run for our money,” said del Fierro, Uganda liaison, of seeing the 43 other teams they competed against.

Del Fierro said the Columbia team had an edge over the competition, largely because of its connections to local communities and institutions in Uganda, which she said made their project more sustainable in a lot of ways.

The group will use the \$75,000 grant to expand their work in Uganda. “The prize money will basically be going towards Phase II of this project, with a focus on researching jatropa, mobilizing farmers, and sharing information and best practices among the different partners and the farming coop network,” del Fierro said.

When del Fierro joined CU-EWB two years ago as a sophomore, she began working with the Uganda team, which, being the newest team, only had six members. Still, they managed to win Phase I of the P3 competition, securing a \$10,000 grant. “It’s really awesome to see how far we’ve come, both with our program and our team,” del Fierro said.

The other winners were from the University of Arizona, Drexel University, University of South Florida, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Schoeneck said that CU-EWB is trying to get more involved in student life on campus while it continues to do good work abroad. She stressed that the group is always looking to include new members—engineers and non-engineers alike.

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EVENTS — MAY 1

**Jazz Ensembles**  
Ben Waltzer directs Columbia University Jazz Ensembles during an evening performance on campus.

112 Dodge Hall, 8-10 p.m.

**Public Lecture and Stargazing**  
The astronomy department presents Ph.D. candidate Antara Basu-Zych, who will speak on “The Violent Tendencies of Galaxies.” After the lecture, the audience will be able to put what they learned to practice, from the telescopes of Rutherford Observatory. Pupin Laboratories, 8-10 p.m.

ONLINE COMMENT OF THE WEEK

*“What a lame name. Whatever. Change the name as much as you want, it’ll forever be the Vag to me.”*

—Anonymous on the naming of the Nexus as ‘The Diana’

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CORRECTIONS

The article “Event addresses divestment controversy with visiting student,” published on April 29, stated that the event was sponsored by Turath. This was not the case, as the event was held by the Columbia Palestine Forum.



File photo

**SMALL BUSINESSES** | Small businesses, among others, are facing uncertainty during the recession. Local community boards met at a recent summit to discuss providing remedial information to business owners.

Local stimulus funding in the works

BY JAMES FLEMING  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Uncertainty, the banner for recession, looms in Harlem as plans formed seven weeks ago at the Upper Manhattan Economic Summit have yet to come to fruition.

The summit—sponsored by Community Boards 9, 10, 11, and 12, the Harlem Business Alliance, and the Harlem Community Development Corporation—focused on strategies for generating and supporting struggling regions of northern Manhattan through stimulus funding. Nearly two months later, in a deepening crisis, these organizations say they will soon submit a report to follow up and set guidelines to realize the summit’s ideas for recharging local economies.

“The purpose of the summit was to bring everyone together and plan how to use stimulus money,” said Thomas Lunke, director of planning for the Harlem Community Development Corporation.

Lunke added that the groups hope to implement expansive plans based “on everything the stimulus is channeled to: infrastructure, green jobs, transportation, workforce training,” and more.

Pat Jones, chair of Community Board 9, said that the summit discussion was geared toward providing information to business owners and individual contractors who would ultimately benefit most from stimulus funding.

Jones noted that the summit answered big questions within the community about the use of stimulus money. She cited some examples of neighborhood concerns: “How do I gain access? How do I get on your mailing list? How do I get engaged in projects on the horizon?”

Jones and Lunke agreed that necessary action is now underway to implement goals established at the event. Lunke said the HCDC is “working closely with the four community boards to draft” the report as the next step forward. He added that, because it is being written by volunteers, the process and time frame have been somewhat unpredictable, though he hopes the drafting does not persist into May.

According to a “resource guide” from the office of Congressman Charles Rangel, who represents Upper Manhattan and finalized his area’s provisions earlier this week, stimulus funds will be diversely spread.

Projects include \$8 billion in “funding for intercity and high speed passenger rail capital projects,” \$1.12 billion for “restoration, repair, [and] construction” of surface transportation in New York alone, and \$2 billion “to provide funding ... for purchase, rehabilitation, and re-occupancy of foreclosed homes.” Each program aims to benefit the neighborhoods represented at the summit in March.

“Billions of dollars in additional funding is available to our state and city that will benefit local communities, non-profits, and businesses,” Rangel wrote in a supplementary letter to the resource guide. “The bill also provides tax incentives to communities and businesses to assist them and help spur economic activity,” the letter read.

Rangel also said in his note that he hopes the stimulus will play a role in establishing “long-term economic stability.”

Rangel acknowledged the severity of the crisis with a hint of optimism. “We are faced with the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression,” he wrote, though he added of the stimulus, “Help is on the way.”

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Parents gain voice with advisory vote

CEC from front page

Following this election, there will be a feedback survey asking selectors whether they took the advisory vote into consideration and if they found it helpful, according to Merritt.

Harriet Barnes, current president of CEC for Harlem’s District 5, said that because she will have reached her term limit, she encouraged members with small children to continue to serve on the council.

Speculating about voter participation, Barnes said that the election may bring out more participants because it’s online, simply because “more people have computers now than they did years ago.”

Yet she noted that getting people to vote would be a challenge, regardless of the method used.

“A lot of people are just not interested with what the DOE is doing because it’s been one lie after another so you just shrug your shoulders,” Barnes said. She explained that the Office for Family Engagement and

Advocacy—which is a department of the DOE—pushed its own people to run for each district of the CEC.

“If the CEC is under the DOE, you’re not advocating for parents,” Barnes said, citing the importance of the CEC as a place for a community’s parents to voice their concerns about their children’s education.

Barnes said she hopes that Dianne Johnson, currently on CEC for District 5, would become president through this election. “She’s very gung ho,” Barnes said.

On Tuesday, the last day of the election, Johnson said she thought the straw vote gave parents greater opportunity to see who they’re voting for through the campaign literature, which included short biographies of each candidate.

“It opens up a realm of something different,” Johnson said, noting that the election gave parents a voice they previously didn’t have.

She said that she got a good response through forums and other outreach she conducted during the

election. Her main goal, if elected, would be to help parents advocate for their children, she said.

Projecting on election turnout based on her campaigning, Johnson said she thinks “numbers will be very good because it gives parents more of an opportunity ... The Internet offers a variety of information. It’s more accessible.” She didn’t think that anyone would be deterred from voting because of lack of Internet access, noting that parents without Internet access could go to their child’s school to vote.

Still, others professed doubts about who would vote in an online straw vote.

“I think it’s kind of a ridiculous exercise,” said Sarah Morgridge, executive assistant to Robert Jackson, who represents Morningside Heights on the New York City Council and chairs the Education Committee. “Why would anyone who doesn’t have a computer go to the trouble of logging in and voting for a vote that doesn’t count?”

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Treatments for specific backgrounds

MULTICULTURAL from front page

nearly as much by the media. Brittany Pavon Suriel, BC ’09, who was born in the Dominican Republic and raised in the U.S., said that in her family’s culture it would be considered “unnecessary” and even “ridiculous” to spend money on a shrink. “People have other things to worry about, like putting food on the table every day,” she said. “They can’t afford to see someone every time they’re stressed or sad.” According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 37 percent of Hispanics are uninsured, compared to 16 percent of all Americans.

Accessing mental health services can be difficult for African-Americans as well. In fact, the percentage of blacks receiving care is about half that of whites. One black student, CC ’09, who wished to remain anonymous when revealing such personal stories, said that her sister works a full-time job that barely pays enough to support her two children. “When you don’t have the time or money to take care of yourself, it’s harder to deal with it,” she said, referring to anxiety problems that run in her family and have affected her sister as well. Her sister ended up going to therapy, which she said was not helpful. “Some of the stress issues are objectively there,” the student said. “There are some things she just can’t change because she doesn’t have the resources.”

While financial concerns are part of the reason why many minorities may not access mental health professionals, the cultural importance placed on family can also play a role. Pavon Suriel recalled that when she was going through a difficult time in high school, she suggested to her mother that seeing a therapist could help. Her mother offered a different remedy—spending more time with family. “No matter what’s going on in your life,” Pavon Suriel said, “you always come back home to your family to deal with it.”

For some students, religion can serve as a source of comfort and mental well-being. Karen Winkler, BC ’11, said that many of her Jewish friends went to their rabbis when struggling with personal issues, including marital problems. “Sometimes you just need a little spiritual guidance,” she said, adding that if the situation was serious, the rabbi would often refer them to a professional therapist.

One Korean-American student, CC ’12, who wished to remain anonymous to avoid

negative reactions from her community, was struggling with depression and found solace in Christianity. Attending a predominantly white high school, she said she felt alienated because her classmates didn’t understand the academic pressures placed on her by her family. She said that she considered mental illness to be a weakness, one that could be overcome by personal improvement, rather than therapy. By becoming more involved at her church, she connected with other Koreans who “understood my parent’s expectations of me and my own expectations of myself.”

Some can be reluctant to seek treatment because they have trouble finding a counselor who will be able to relate to their particular experiences which are shaped by specific cultural nuances. By offering a diverse panel of providers, Columbia’s Counseling and Psychological Services tries to reach out to these minority groups. “Having counselors from a lot of different backgrounds ... helps people feel more comfortable coming in,” said Calvin Chin, CPS assistant director of outreach and community clinical services.

CPS also organizes groups geared toward specific communities—religious students, women of color, international students, or queer graduate students, for example—that may benefit from different resources.

“Culture affects a lot in terms of what feels okay, and I think that’s where we all really try to work flexibly and respectfully,” Chin said. “If someone really wants a therapy that has a Christian orientation, we can find that,” Chin said. “If someone is more interested in more naturalistic approaches and integrative medicine, we can find that.”

Although some minority students may benefit from this type of group therapy, others like Melanie, CC ’09, who asked that her name be changed to protect her privacy, said it was the diversity within her own group of friends that helped her deal with her eating disorder. Despite studies that have found that black women are generally more content with their bodies than white women, Melanie, who is black, developed a highly negative body image which led to a compulsive eating habit.

Pointing to the different body aesthetics of black and white women, she said she felt frustrated throughout her adolescence when she was surrounded by mostly white friends who complained about their shape and weight, even though they

were “much smaller” than her. At Columbia, where her group of friends includes white, black, Latina, and South Asian women, she said she found it “much easier to appreciate different body types,” including her own.

According to Daniel Peyser, a student in the School of Social Work studying advanced clinical practice, a patient’s race, religion, and economic status are important for the clinician in matching the patient with the most effective treatment. “If I had a depressed patient who was a Southern Black Baptist, for example, I would try to look for studies in treating depression in people with a similar background.” Most traditional treatments, however, have been developed based on studies using middle-class white men as subjects and may not show the same results in individuals with different ethnicities and backgrounds.

The current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, which provides the diagnostic criteria for mental disorders, does not recognize many culturally specific conditions. One example is atques de nervios, a disorder that affects mostly people of Dominican and Puerto Rican origin and closely resembles panic attacks, with some distinctive features. Since the disorder is not included in the current DSM, incorrect diagnoses are common and effective treatment methods for patients suffering from atques have been lacking. Whether the new edition of the manual, DSM-V, which will come out in 2012, is going to be more inclusive of culture-bound syndromes is being debated.

But currently, Derald Wing Sue, a Teachers College professor of counseling and clinical psychology who is also co-founder and the first president of the Asian American Psychological Association, has worked on one facet of the issue. Sue is known best for his work on racial micro-aggressions—unintended slights or social cues by members of a dominant group that make members of minority groups uncomfortable.

“Our psychological studies indicate that it is racial micro-aggressions that have the most devastating impact on people of color, even more terrible than overt acts of conscious racism or hate crimes,” Sue said. “Their life is most affected by ordinary, well-intentioned decent individuals who are unaware that they are giving micro-aggressions.”

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# Campus expansion plans affect communities in varying degrees

## EXPANSION from front page

University, local community and to the city.”

Gaining CPC approval for the plan involved several concessions on Fordham’s part, which were made after Community Board 7 unanimously rejected the initial proposal in January.

The expansion will be 206,000 square feet smaller than the originally proposed three million square feet, the new Columbus Avenue sidewalks will be widened, 56 percent fewer parking spaces will be created in the rebuilding of an existing parking area, and the layout and size of new buildings will be altered to fit in better with the neighborhood.

While local officials praised Fordham’s willingness to compromise, “We are very disappointed that Fordham ... feels it necessary to build two overly tall residential buildings on its property,” CB7 chair Helen Rosenthal wrote in an e-mail. “These 50-60 story buildings are too tall for the neighborhood and will cast a half day shadow on the public school playground across the street. City Planning did not address these concerns and we are hoping that the City Council will.”

“The University has made significant changes in response to feedback from the community and at the request of Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer,” wrote Robert Howe, director of communications for Fordham, in an e-mail. “We have been responsive on everything from reducing building heights to increasing glazing, to eliminating parking spaces. We certainly want to be, and have been, as accommodating to our immediate neighbors as possible without compromising our educational mission.”

### New York University

The NYU expansion is known as “NYU Plans 2031,” but the planning has already begun in staggered phases, to mixed fanfare and criticism.

The project, launched in the spring of 2007 and led by the architectural firm SMWM, would add six million square feet of building space within a broad area around Washington Square, Union Square, and the East Village. Several components—including new science facilities and a new research center for NYU Law School—have begun construction, but much of the project is still in the planning stages.

“After more than a full year of community outreach and interactions, our planning team and university leadership are hard at work still, conducting the relevant and appropriate analyses that will drive the shape of the overall plan,” said Alicia Hurley, vice president of government affairs and community engagement at NYU.

According to its proponents, the need for expansion comes from a growing student body, hiring new faculty, advances in scientific research, and rising costs of off-campus housing in the city that have led more students to request housing in dormitories.

But some local groups and residents have urged NYU to consider alternate places to expand.

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation has been particularly vocal. Members have held street protests, published op-eds in several newspapers, and are participating in a task force with elected officials, community groups, and local leaders.

The task force is intended to “establish principles that will serve both the university’s need to expand to meet its academic needs, and local residents’ desire for real input into development that directly affects their lives and their neighborhood,” according to a press release from Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer’s office.

“We don’t object to the university growing or it needing to expand,” said Andrew Berman, executive director of GVSHP, echoing the refrain of activists from Manhattanville. “But it’s in the best interest of the neighborhood for them to look at other locations—the neighborhood cannot accommodate their ongoing and rapidly accelerating expansion.”

In response to these objections, NYU officials have agreed to pursue available

land outside of the already densely developed area of the Village, such as in Long Island City, Kips Bay, Governor’s Island, and Brooklyn.

“NYU is a vital ingredient, but it has to remain an ingredient—not an overwhelming presence,” Berman said of the university’s role in its downtown community.

But others report that administrators have worked hard to accommodate locals’ concerns.

“When they have a project that affects us, they generally let us know,” said Bob Gormley, district manager of Community Board 2. “They are willing to listen and sometimes modify their original concepts.”

In addition to CB2, Community Board 3 oversees a portion of the area in which NYU plans to expand, but CB3 officials did not respond to requests for comment.

### City College of New York

Although CCNY’s expansion has not been free from dispute, construction has already begun and the plan will not be revised further.

The project is less invasive in terms of its impact on the surrounding neighborhood than those of Columbia, Fordham, and NYU, since it operates largely around existing infrastructure. A building on the main campus at 137th Street will be converted into a new architecture facility, and two buildings for scientific research will be constructed on the south campus.

Ellis Simon, director of public relations for CCNY, said the architecture building is expected to open around the time of the school’s commencement ceremony on May 28. Early construction work on the science buildings, including excavation and the installation of utility lines, began last fall.

“Expansion can be good, but we’d like to see CCNY engage the community more frequently and extensively,” Community Board 9 chair Pat Jones said. “They have presented their plans [to CB9], however, their presentation was made after substantially all of their final decisions had been made.”

“I am aware that there have been complaints and concerns voiced by people and certain community groups,” Simon said. “We have made great efforts to keep them apprised of our plans.”

### Building in and around

The four expansions are linked superficially in that they each represent a university’s efforts to extend its reach and construct facilities to accommodate changing institutional needs. But in many vital respects, the similarities end there.

NYU differs fundamentally from Columbia, Fordham, and CCNY in that it has no distinct campus. Its buildings are interspersed within a wide area centered in Washington Square, extending into Union Square, the East Village, and north as far as midtown. Indeed, to the casual observer in Greenwich Village, it is difficult to tell which buildings belong to NYU without getting close enough to see the plaque by the door.

The school’s expansion is set to operate within that same framework.

“Our plan, unlike Columbia’s, is not a master plan that identifies an area that will be completely overhauled,” said Alicia Hurley, NYU’s vice president of government affairs and community engagement. “Our planning will focus on how to best approach the placement of six million square feet ... within our core campus, within our neighborhood, and in remote sites, including downtown Brooklyn and the Health Corridor on First Ave.”

But the notion that NYU’s new buildings would be seamlessly integrated into the existing neighborhood is one some locals and experts dispute.

“The pride of the university is the intermixture with the urban fabric, and that’s what they’ll continue to do,” said Hope Cohen, a CB7 member and deputy director of the Center for Rethinking Development at the Manhattan Institute, a think tank that aims to “develop and disseminate new ideas that foster greater economic choice and individual responsibility.” Cohen spoke in her capacity at the Manhattan Institute, not on behalf of CB7.

But that “intermixture” has its downsides, Cohen said. “Because of the nature of its campus being so dispersed and integrated into the greater city, residents of the neighborhoods ... confront on a daily basis the challenges of living with college students as their neighbors.”

Columbia’s expansion fits with its own traditional philosophy of constructing full, contained campuses. The University currently has two campuses—the central one in Morningside Heights and the Medical Center on 168th Street—and the Manhattanville campus would fall in between the two.

But many critics of the Columbia model remain.

“The Columbia plan creates a space. We don’t think it’s in the right place,” said Kent Barwick, former president of the Municipal Art Society, at a Rockefeller University panel about urban campus expansions in November 2007.

### Land acquisition

The four university projects also differ on land acquisition and how this will tangibly impact their surrounding areas.

One of the most controversial aspects of Columbia’s project has been the displacement of residents and businesses in Manhattanville.

“Columbia by its own admission will displace over 5,000 local residents,” Harlem Tenants Council President Nellie Bailey said at a hearing about the project last December. She said she suspects even more could lose their homes due to what she perceives as the University’s “total disregard for the lives, livelihood, and rights of black and Latino working class people in West Harlem.”

While Columbia has promised not to use eminent domain to acquire residential properties, many local activists fear that lower and middle-income residents will be forced to leave the area as a result of gentrification and rising real estate prices.

In December 2008, the Empire State Development Corporation approved the use of state seizure of commercial properties through eminent domain, which would transfer ownership of unacquired land to the University if mutually agreeable deals cannot be reached. In doing so, the state eliminated Columbia’s last procedural obstacle to construction.

Two businesses that have refused to sell their land to Columbia—Nick Sprayregen’s Tuck-It-Away Storage and Gurnam Singh and Parminder Kaur’s gas stations—may be forced to relocate against their will.

“We look forward to having active leases as long as possible and are going to continue to work to relocate businesses in good standing to locations either in or near the project area,” Robert Kasdin, Columbia’s senior executive vice president, has said.

Columbia maintains that the expansion will benefit the community by revitalizing the area and creating jobs.

“Not only will our universities continue to attract creative minds with the determination to advance knowledge in service of humankind; they will remain a vibrant source of good, middle-income jobs for a diversity of people seeking to improve their lives here,” University President Lee Bollinger said after the City Council approved the Manhattanville plan in December 2007.

“Columbia is one of New York’s largest employers, and this project will generate tens of thousands of jobs,” Empire State Development Corporation spokesperson Warner Johnson has said.

Down in the Village, “NYU will also engage in extensive community outreach for new projects, work to minimize negative effects of construction including noise and dust, and develop a relocation policy for legal residential tenants displaced by University projects,” Borough President Stringer said in a January 2008 press release.

In addition to potential commercial displacement, neighborhood residents could be replaced by dorm-dwellers, Cohen said. “The university is actually competing on a huge scale with individual renters for apartments.”

Fordham’s proposal does not involve displacing residents or businesses, as new buildings would be confined to the footprint of the current campus, which



Angela Radulescu / Senior staff photographer

**TRADING SPACES** | Since Columbia’s plans fit its tradition of constructing full, contained campuses, residents are concerned that their neighborhood will be overshadowed.

occupies a “superblock”—like Columbia, but smaller—between Amsterdam and Columbus avenues and 60th and 62nd streets. CCNY’s proposal would not involve displacement, either.

### Urban design

“Columbia, despite its other problems with town-gown issues, really does have a sense of what a campus can and should be and the role it plays in the larger urban fabric,” Cohen said of the University’s urban design, but called Fordham’s plan the opposite.

Fordham’s plan “has improved” since it was introduced five years ago, when Cohen was the chair of CB7, she said, adding, “From the time that I saw it, my advice to them has been to take the subway up to 116th Street and see how it’s done.”

The Fordham campus is walled in and above street level, accessible by stairs. As it was first proposed, the expansion called for enclosure of the school’s main quad and the construction of tall buildings along the edges of campus. That plan met with strong opposition.

Greg Monte, a spokesperson for State Assembly member Linda Rosenthal, who represents the Upper West Side, testified to CB7 about the Fordham plan last December. “A fortress-like enclosure of the quadrangle is not reasonable,” Monte said, adding that such a design would “adversely impact the neighborhood, and is at odds with the original purpose of Lincoln Square.”

The concessions Fordham made between January’s CB7 hearings and April’s City Planning Commission vote were intended to ease such criticisms. Still, “Fordham’s neighbors continue to have serious concerns about the size and scale of the fortress-like design and the lack of open space in the current proposal,” Michael Groll, a member of activist group Fordham Neighbors United, said in a statement following the CPC vote on the revised plans.

To a large extent, NYU’s sprawled campus is inherently integrated into the surrounding cityscape. “Over the years they’ve built good buildings and bad buildings, and there’s been a lot of friction between NYU and the Village. It seems like they’ve evolved their idea of how to deal with the neighborhood and what kind of buildings will be acceptable,” Cohen said.

Columbia, for its part, has said that the Manhattanville project will maintain a significant component of public space. The ground level of many buildings will be rented out to local businesses as storefronts, and the campus will not be self-contained in the way the Fordham or even the Morningside Heights campuses are. All roads will remain open to vehicles and pedestrians, and sidewalks will be widened in many places.

Another point of contention in Fordham’s project has been its plan to build certain necessary infrastructure, such as heating sources above ground. Columbia is doing the opposite by building these elements in an underground “bathtub,” which has sparked its own dispute over perceived environmental risks.

“Common sense dictates that Columbia will only move forward in ways that are safe for the students, the faculty, and members of the surrounding community,” Columbia Senior Executive Vice President Robert Kasdin has said, adding that environmental issues had been addressed in the planning process.

\*\*\*

From these changing campuses across Manhattan, a new cityscape will develop new dynamics of New York City life. “To me it’s kind of fascinating,” Cohen said, noting that the universities’ approaches to expansion reflect their distinct “overall educational philosophies.”

*Kim Kirschenbaum and Danny Ash contributed reporting to this article.*  
*news@columbiaspectator.com*



Photo illustration by Yipeng Huang



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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Not loaded

6 Guy

10 Nuts' opposite?

14 Slide subject

15 Tuna order

16 Ballpark phrase

17 Corporate icons

18 Communist watering hole?

20 Prius automaker

22 Fishing for marlin, e.g.

23 Long-forever Congo critter

25 Pet name

26 MV + V

29 French vineyard

31 "Turn Me Loose" singer, 1959

33 Use up

34 Costs of getting high?

36 Some National Music Museum treasures

38 Deep sleep

39 Gen-\_\_\_\_

41 "\_\_\_\_ we all?"

42 Stressed type

44 Blowup in a jam

46 Teen movie stereotype

47 Ensign's affirmative

49 Virgo's mo., maybe

50 Roulette bet

51 Bible

52 Twin Cities suburb

54 D-Day beach

56 Defendants' spouses, sometimes

59 Place for a paw?

63 Snow jubilation

64 All-inclusive

65 Actress Falco

66 "On the contrary"

67 Food, for example

68 Lo-cal

69 Readily accessible

DOWN

1 It can be helpful in a pinch

2 Melville South Seas novel

3 Plead with one's frontier buddy?

4 Project Gutenberg offering

5 Halle Selassie worshippers' movement

6 Monitor, for short

7 "I get it, but..."

8 First name in soul

9 Image

10 Shake alternative

11 Sphere

12 Permanent U.N. Security Council member

13 Neighbor of ESP, in the Olympics

19 Darkening time

21 On \_\_\_\_ with

24 Goat with recurved horns

26 Adorable, bottomwise?

27 Cover

28 Marching well

29 Strip tease?

30 Took to the streets

32 Department bordering Savoir

33 "Roseanne" star

35 Choose not to call

37 Native of central Spain

40 Increased

43 Confection created by heating sugar

45 Operatic princess

48 Violinist Menuhin

51 Global currency org.

53 Follower of Johnson, and a two-word hint to this crossword's theme

54 Exhibit aplenty, as confidence

55 Working hard

57 The "she" in "Of all the gin joints... she walks into mine"

58 Discontinue

59 Mason's field

60 Letter from Athens

61 Mars, for one

62 Golf bag item

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

KIT BRA SAHARA

ANA EELS ELUDER

PAK HATKING COLE

ONEA GAIT AKRON

WEST GERMAN SEGA

SOON LOOT

YATITITLE STEREO

MRE TREESTRUNK

CAPE CORAL NNE

AMSTEL TOMFOLEY

ROAM AERI

TOFU FLYSPECKED

IPASS LEAP SEMI

BRUCE JENNER MOC

BANANA STROATE

SHANTY ASK DEY

xwordeditor@aol.com

05/01/09

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## THEATER



**PLAY IT COOL** | The 115th annual Varsity Show invites some of the most promising of Columbia's acting, singing, dancing, and comedic talent to take center stage for its spring performances. These performers spend an enormous amount of time together in rehearsal, giving this selective group a strong set of ties that set them apart from other campus groups.



Ajit C. Pillai / Senior staff photographer

## BOOKS

# PEN Voices are out of this world

BY KASSY LEE  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Spring is the season for festivals. People emerge from their winter hibernation to rejoice in film, song, dance, and—thanks to the PEN World Voices Festival—literature.

The PEN World Voices Festival of International Literature kicked off this Monday, April 27th, and will run until Sunday, May 3rd. During this one week, over 60 events featuring writers from places as exotic as Sri Lanka and as familiar as the Upper West Side will be speaking, reading, and discussing everything from poetry to economics in literature. This year's participants include Laurie Anderson, Paul Auster, Neil Gaiman, Paul Krugman, Walter Mosley, Richard North Patterson, Salman Rushdie, George Soros, and Colm Tóibín.

The PEN World Voices Festival is more than just a celebration of literature. "Really it was about breaking down some of the insularity and cultural misunderstandings and the idea was to bring writers from all over the world to be in discussion," director Caro Llewellyn said. Thus, the festival's emphasis is, as its name suggests, on the international literary community. "We bring voices from all over the globe and try to encourage people to read other cultures and other languages," Llewellyn added.

Many of the events are conducted in multiple languages, allowing authors to speak in their native tongues, with translators to relay the work to the audience in English. There are also numerous discussions about translation and literature in a global and politically conscious context.

"The festival was created when Sir Salman Rushdie was the president of PEN and as a response to 9/11 and the sort of shutting down of America, the 'us and them' of America," Llewellyn said. "He thought it would be a good thing to start a program with writers around the world, and he thought writers could break down the barriers that went up very quickly."

And with representatives from around the world engaged in dialogue on issues of culture, media, literature, and economics, the festival has certainly achieved its goal of cross-cultural communication.

Each year, the festival has a theme to help foster the discussion and interplay between the events. The theme of this year's festival is Evolution/Revolution. As the members of PEN observed, 2009 is the anniversary of such revolutionary events as the fall of the Berlin Wall and evolutionary events as Darwin's publication of *The Origin of Species*, and they thought the coincidence was worth celebrating.

Some of the stand-out events from the star-studded affair include "Readings from Around the Globe" with Bernardo Atxaga, Petina Gappah, Mariken Jongman, Michael Ondaatje, Daniel Sada, Hwang Sok-yong, and Colm Tóibín on Friday at 7:30 at the 92nd Street Y's Underberg Poetry Center, and the PEN Cabaret on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the French Institute Alliance Française (22 E. 60th St.).

"We are offering an incredible feast for people who love reading, writing, and all those things," Llewellyn said.

*The PEN World Voices Festival is running through Sunday, May 3rd. Check the PEN Web site for a full schedule of events.*

# A look at the social scenery of the Varsity Show

For the past several months, A&E reporter Maddy Kloss has been interviewing members of the cast and crew, sitting in on select rehearsals, and speaking to Varsity Show alumni about their experiences to examine the culture surrounding the beloved campus tradition. This installment of the series investigates the social dynamics behind the scenes.

BY MADDY KLOSS  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Believe it or not, one of Columbia's most beloved and glorified traditions, the annual Varsity Show, could be termed a cult. The word "cult" tends to connote obsession and zealotry, and the social atmosphere of the Varsity Show, as evidenced by observation of this year's group, is not terribly lacking in either.

## A Show Divided Somehow Stands

An investigation of V115's social scene should begin with the least startling aspect—the clear division between the cast

and the crew. A CC student involved with the Varsity Show who wished to remain anonymous said, "There are two separate camps, the actors and the behind-the-scenes people. There's only real camaraderie within those two camps."

According to interviews with the cast and crew, there is apparently little association between actors and production or design team members, who tend to work separately, especially during rehearsals. Speaking on behalf of her fellow actors, one of this year's principals, Nina Pedrad, CC '11, put it simply: "We just don't see them [the crew] that often."

Another one of this year's principal actors, Giselle Gastell, CC '09, concurred. "We [the actors] don't always know their [crew members'] names, which is bad. There are so many people involved it's hard to keep track," she said.



But while this divide between the students in the spotlight and those backstage is acknowledged as unfavorable, many of the actors still profess great affection for the crew. V115 principal Emma Goidel, BC '12, said of the production team, "They've all become my best friends."

In interviews, she and several other cast members were quick to point out that they try to involve every member of the show equally, regardless of his or her position. As Gastell said, "Even if I don't know them [crew members] 100 percent, they're still part of the family."

## Better Than the Rest?

Just as the actors explain that they work to cultivate camaraderie with the crew, the Varsity Show as a whole also claims to find common ground with other campus arts groups. When interviewed, numerous cast and creative team members repeatedly asserted that the rest of the campus theater crowd should not consider themselves excluded from, or inferior to, the Varsity Show in any way.

# Molecular gastronomy puts chemistry to work in the kitchen



ELYSSA GOLDBERG  
**FEAST FOR THE EYES**

Scientists all over the world are leaving their laboratories for kitchens. These scientists are chefs, and their science is molecular gastronomy. Molecular gastronomy is best defined as the application of scientific tools and teaching—mainly chemistry and physics—to cooking. Scientists have become chefs, and chefs have become artists who explore why food looks and tastes the way it does—why a soufflé swells or why an undercooked egg yolk runs. These food sculptors replace traditional spatulas, paring knives, and whisks with blowtorches, pH meters, and liquid nitrogen.

Chefs at the forefront of the molecular food movement, such as Grant Achatz of Alinea in Chicago, Ferran Adrià of El Bulli in Spain, and Wylie Dufresne of wd-50 in New York City, transform the once sensual act of eating into an intellectual dining experience. In fact, they deny the name "molecular gastronomy" and accept more willingly the names "avant-garde," "experimental," and "modern" cuisine.

Some modern food critics say the movement is too radical, the same way critics denied the Modernist art movement after the glory days of impressionism. Daring



Elyssa Goldberg for *Spectator*

**SCIENCE-TOLOGY** | Molecular gastronomists blend science with the culinary arts to create new, appetizing masterpieces by experimenting with strange flavors, textures, and presentations.

food combinations are hit or miss. Mustard flavored ice cream is either the most creative thing in the world or the most disgusting. There are rarely any opinions in between.

Feeling adventurous after the sudden weather change, I trekked to wd-50 (located on Clinton Street between Rivington and Stanton Streets on the Lower East Side) to try my palate at progressive eating. The restaurant décor was casual: wooden tables, wooden walls, wooden floors, and hanging art deco lights.

The food, however, was anything but casual. Forget a traditional breadbasket—

wd-50 serves sesame crisps that are jagged, salty, and impossibly thin.

The visual and gastronomical delights continued. The impossible was made possible as warm octopus was compressed to look like a cobblestone street on which sweet saffron cake and pistachio paste could rest. Usually fresh, tangy, and bright preparations of raw octopus were supplanted by this sweet and savory dessert-like preparation.

The entrees only upped the ante. My lamb shoulder was served on a bed of pine nut "baked beans"—though made to look like baked Goya white beans, they were

actually pine nuts. My friend's entrée was even better than mine: what should have been classic pork ribs were deconstructed into neat cubes, indistinguishable from cubes of fried plantains and aligned in a perfect bridge traversing the plate.

Dufresne let the palate decide which was which. It reminded me of my kindergarten days playing with building blocks. With that dish, Dufresne earned the title of food architect.

Finally, instead of a wedge of cheesecake, my dessert was served to look like droplets. Each pineapple gelée-glazed bite-sized piece exploded with all the richness of a full slice. Dehydrated pineapple pieces (tissue-paper-thin slices, not to be confused with dried pineapple) sat next to pickled raisins for a dessert that activated all five taste regions.

The meal was topped off with petit fours that looked like chocolate truffles but were, instead, condensed milk ice cream in a chocolate shell with chocolate shortbread crumbs on top. It had the unmistakable heavy cream and dry cookie taste of Oreo, except that it was disguised as something resembling mochi, truffle, or bonbon.

Most visual deception leaves me feeling, well, deceived. wd-50's deception is welcome. The food presentation is nothing short of art, and so I felt less deceived than challenged. Challenged to think about what it takes to construct a meal from the taste up: to have a meal look like one thing and taste like another.

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



# WEEKEND PICKS

## THE EDITORS’ BEST BETS FOR THE WEEKEND AHEAD

### FOOD

**Brooklyn Food Conference.** *John Jay High School, 237 Seventh Ave. (between Fourth and Fifth streets), Brooklyn. Saturday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., free.*

If you’re tired of Williamsburg hipsters, head south to yuppie-filled Park Slope for a sustainable food expo featuring speakers Dan Barber (owner of Blue Hill Restaurant) and Anna Lappé (author of *Grub: Ideas for an Urban Organic Kitchen*). The day-long event will host workshops in local food activism as well as a dance.

### FILM

**Easy Ride at Film Forum.** *209 W. Houston St. (between Varick Street and Avenue of the Americas). Showtimes vary throughout the weekend, \$11.*

Film Forum celebrates the 40th anniversary of *Easy Rider* with a new 35mm print of the original rebel film. Peter Fonda, Dennis Hopper, and Jack Nicholson star as three bikers who head across America, discovering their true selves through sex, drugs, and rock ‘n’ roll. Counter culture has never been the same since.

### TV

**Gossip Girl Sites Bus Tour.** *Palace Hotel, 455 Madison Ave. (between 50th and 51st streets). Friday-Saturday, 12 p.m., \$40.*

If Nate deciding to come to Columbia still didn’t satisfy mega fans’ cravings to get closer to the world of *Gossip Girl*, they can now take a bus tour around New York City to over 40 of the locations featured on the hit drama. Although the tour comes with an Upper East Side price tag, aspiring queen bees can see the gang’s posh school and swanky hotel abodes in this exclusive look into the glitzy world of television.

### DANCE

**Market at Movement Research Spring Festival.** *Grace Space, 840 Broadway (between Park Avenue and Ellery Street). Friday, 6-12 p.m., free.*

Think college is the only place you can barter with alcohol? Think again. Make the move off campus and bring your leftover beer and wine to buy auction items including DVDs and live performances. After participants down their currency, the dancing happens organically in this anarchic “free market” structure.

### ART

**MayFest! at the Brooklyn Museum.** *200 Eastern Parkway at Washington Avenue, Brooklyn. Saturday, 5-11 p.m., free.*

Eco-Art Demonstrations, artist talks, a screening of *Pee-wee’s Big Adventure*, and a late-night dance party with DJ Franco—expect to see all of these things and more at Brooklyn Museum’s Target First Saturdays. And if students can haul their bicycles down to this green event, they can get a free repair lesson with Time’s Up!, a New York City not-for profit environmental group.

### MUSIC

**Dark Was the Night at Radio City Music Hall.** *1260 Sixth Ave. (between 50th and 51st streets). Sunday, 8 p.m., \$38-\$58.*

This is the kind of concert that indie-rock fans can only dream of. Released in February, *Dark Was the Night* is a compilation CD benefitting Red Hot, an HIV charity. Arists featured on the album, including David Byrne, The National, Feist, and Bon Iver are only some of the big names that will perform at this collaboration of new rock giants.

### BOOKS

**Metropolitan Museum of Art Book Sale.** *1000 Fifth Ave. (at 82nd Street), second floor. Friday-Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m., Sunday, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., prices vary.*

Students who have always coveted museum merchandise cannot miss this weekend’s book sale at the Met. Over 150 titles are being sold, all published by the museum. There is everything from exhibition catalogues to picture books. At special bargain tables, bookworms will find prices as low as \$5 and discounts of up to 90 percent.

### WILDCARD

**Asian-Pacific American Heritage Festival.** *Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, 47th Street (at 2nd Avenue). Sunday, 12-6 p.m., free.*

Making the difficult decision between sushi, pad thai, and orange chicken is the college student’s gastronomic nightmare, but this Sunday, you won’t have to. Hop on the 1 to midtown to experience all elements of East and South Asian culture. The festival will also feature dance and music performances from Polynesian Dance Productions and Bollywood Axion Dance Company.

## SEARCH FOR THE BEST { SUMMER DESSERTS

FOOD & DRINK



Embry Owen for *Spectator*

A SLICE OUT OF LIFE | Whether its an old fashioned cupcake or a new-age custard treat, New York’s summer desserts can please the tastes of anyone.

## New York summer dessert specialties to beat the heat

BY SHIN YOUNG HWANG  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

While it may be true that downtown eats are better and cheaper than many uptown offerings, some of the most coveted summer desserts are available within 30 minutes from campus for a short, sweet escape from Butler Library.

One of the most reliable dessert havens in the Upper West Side is Buttercup Bake Shop, located at 72nd Street between Broadway and Columbus Avenue. Buttercup’s winning summertime treat is banana pudding (small for \$5, large for \$6), an irresistible mixture of banana chunks and soft wafers smothered underneath rich vanilla cream.

All-year-round staples include cupcakes and cheesecakes as rich and delectable as those at Magnolia Bakery, but at far lower prices. The deal is made

even sweeter by their ongoing “buy 3, get 1” promotion.

If you like having more options, head to 77th Street and Columbus Avenue to find Shake Shack—the popular burger chain that has finally made its way to the UWS—for their various frozen custards (\$3.25 for single) and concretes (starting at \$6.25). Custards are rich and sweet ice creams in various flavors, but, contrary to their name, they are refreshing and easy on the stomach.

Shake Shack’s concretes, frozen custard blended with assorted sweet mix-ins, are another favorite. Popular choices include the Upper West Slide, which mixes vanilla custard with fresh banana and shortbread cookies, and the Crunch-Stellation, which hits a chocolatey high note with its Valrhona chocolate crunchies and chocolate toffee. Unfortunately, the lines are already long in late April

and only get worse in the summer. However, management keeps a separate line (called the “c-line”) for custards and concretes only.

Those feeling guilty indulging in heavy treats can hit up Grom Gelato (Broadway near 76th Street), which offers light and authentic Italian gelato made with top-caliber ingredients. Some are even listed on Slow Food’s Ark of Taste, a list of excellent food products in danger of extinction.

The only downsides to this otherwise wonderful gelateria are the typically long waits (half an hour on one early Saturday evening), and the prices (a tiny cup is \$5). Yet their grapefruit sorbet and pistachio ice cream are worth at least one trip.

Despite the heavy competition, the winning summer desserts are sweet tofu varieties from Kyotofu (Ninth Avenue between 48th and 49th streets),

a Japanese-themed shrine to the sweet tooth that has garnered (and deserved) a devoted following since its opening in 2006. The restaurant seems as tiny as a shoebox from the outside, but once visitors pass by the front desk showcasing delectable treats—including award-winning chocolate soufflé cupcakes and assorted cookies—and the glass-enclosed pastry kitchen, the narrow hallway leads into a fairly spacious and cozy dining area with over 30 seats. But visitors, beware: dining-in mandates that each person order at least one dish.

Yet whether dining in or taking out, the creamy and dreamy texture of Kyotofu’s sweet tofu (starting at \$7.58) will give a shock to anyone who still doubts tofu’s potential as a dessert ingredient. And for those who aren’t convinced, at least a trip will offer an excuse to put down the books.

## 115th Varsity clique plays it cool with outsiders

Varsity Show from page 5

### Secrets, Secrets Are Some Fun

Despite some of the social divisions among the cast and crew, every student involved in the production unites to keep the Varsity Show’s secrets. This duty is backed by a clause in a contract everyone involved with the production must sign as soon as he or she is recruited—it makes each cast and crew member promise never to divulge a single melody, line, or plot detail until after opening night.

Many of the cast members relish the idea that they know juicy inside information about which their friends can only guess. Some report they have to employ a great deal of self-discipline to prevent themselves from tormenting Varsity Show outsiders with the classic third-grade “I know something you don’t know” tactic.

“People ask all the time about the plot, and it’s fun to be like, ‘Oh, I can’t tell you anything,’” Adam May, CC ’11 and a principal actor in the show, said. His fellow cast member Goidel agreed. “It’s difficult not to taunt my friends,” she said.

Other V115 actors say they have resisted the desire to taunt their friends with classified information, though they still acknowledge that they rely on the secrecy clause to keep their mouths in check. “The clause is more of a reminder, like an electrical fence of secrecy,” Pedrad said.

Luckily, the V115 cast members report that they have successfully avoided breaching the secrecy clause thus far. According to Gastell, the punishment is harsh for anyone who breaks the contract—if she were to give away any gossip on the production, “the Varsity gods would come and kill me!”

**Don’t Burst Their Bubble**

Although Gastell’s comment was made in jest—she promises that the innumerable hours of

rehearsal time have yet to make her and the rest of the cast become entirely delusional—there is one condition that seems to leave hardly a single Varsity Show member unaffected: the self-diagnosed “Varsity Show Syndrome.”

According to principal actor Patrick Blute, CC ’12, he and the rest of V115 suffer from “the Varsity Show syndrome, bubble, clump, whatever...” Blute explained that, in essence, after months of lengthy rehearsals, the Varsity Show becomes its own little world within the University in a form of self-induced social isolation.

As Gastell explained, it’s hardly surprising that the group, especially the actors and creative team, is so tight-knit, since they spend almost every waking hour together. “Every day I see people [from the Varsity Show] for 12 hours straight. When I haven’t seen them for eight hours it’s like, ‘What am I going to do with my life?’” Gastell said.

Gastell estimated that she spends about 50 hours each week with her Varsity Show cohorts, both in and out of rehearsal. But cast members report that these bonds will not break after the last curtain call—V115 cast and creative team members who aren’t graduating this coming May are all rooming together for the 2009-2010 school year. This housing situation is seen as the ideal solution for what many V115 cast members identified as their least favorite part of the Varsity Show: the fact that it ends.

But despite the questionable conduct of the Varsity Show “cult,” it’s necessary to remember that Columbia has pretty much let them get away with it. After all, for the past 114 years, people have come to see the show in droves—and therefore willingly participated in the cult’s biggest ritual.

*The Varsity Show is playing in Roone Arledge at 8 p.m. on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, with an additional show at 3 p.m. on Sunday.*

## Self-titled community bookstore touts flare

Bookstore from page 8

said employee John Tuzcu. He explained that the story is the same in the books industry as it is elsewhere: homogenization. However, as Tuzcu noted, “the people working here care about what they’re selling.”

Tuzcu also proudly indicated a wall that featured titles from “all small presses.” Community Bookstore, taking seriously its independent status, makes a point of trying to introduce smaller publishing companies and little-known books whose companies don’t have great advertising power.

“The cool thing about independent bookstores,” Tuzcu said, “is that each has its own niche.” He used, as an example, Idlewild at East 19th Street, which has an international focus and “attracts a certain

kind of person.” What niche does Community fill? In Tuzcu’s words, it “feels like kind of a home. There’s not too much pretension.”

Beyond independence, the allure of this store is a matter of what’s in a name. As Tuzcu pointed out, “The place is called Community. Most people in the community know the owner.” There are family and reading group events, but there are also events that aren’t dedicated to books at all—after Sept. 11, for example, the store became a public meeting space.

Even today, the witty and jocular staff (reason enough to make the trip) has seen people come in with their own books “to kind of hang out,” as Tuzcu observed. “It’s not only about the business transaction.”

Maybe they just wanted to see the peacock feathers.

## “The Late Film” features last works of epic directors

Film from page 8

deciding the solution to their broken relationship is to “fuck.”

“The Late Film” aims to show that *Eyes Wide Shut* is not the only late masterpiece from a director. The two films from Howard Hawks, *Red Line 7000* (May 20th) and *El Dorado* (May 21st), show Hawks cramming all the ideas of his earlier work—masculinity, group dynamics, and the American way—into an aviation flick and a western. Godard’s Shakespeare adaptation *King Lear* (May 15th) may be messy, but with performances by Molly Ringwald, Woody Allen, and Peter Sellers, it is hard to resist.

Not every film featured in “The Late Film” series is a classic,

however. John Ford’s *7 Women* (May 13th) drops his masculine examination for a often boring women’s picture, and Jerry Lewis’ *Cracking Up* (May 5th) is a uneven mess, saved only by Lewis’ performance.

But BAMcinémathèque’s “The Late Film” certainly accomplishes its aim—it truly presents the auteurs of cinema at their most honest and real. The greatest example may be Federico Fellini’s *And the Ship Sails On* (May 14th), a love letter to opera after the death of Fellini’s close friend, composer Nino Rota. What the series shows is that at the end of the day, films are a truly personal expression, and Brooklyn is certainly a worthwhile trip for film buffs.



FILM

Summer box office goes *Up* and beyond with new releases



TO INFINITY AND BEYOND | The new *Star Trek* movie from director J.J. Abrams is the latest in the cult favorite television epic, but the first to hit movie theaters nationwide.



UP, UP, AND AWAY | The latest in a long line of cherished animated films like *Monsters, Inc.* and *Finding Nemo*, *Up* attempts to be both child-friendly yet still challenging to adult audiences.

Star Trek has a new cinematic beginning

This summer, pointy ears make a comeback as the highly anticipated *Star Trek* aims to bring out the Trekkie in all of us.

Director J.J. Abrams brings *Star Trek*, set for release on May 8, to the big screen with a fresh perspective on the origins of the U.S.S. Enterprise crew. In the 23rd century, a young James Kirk (Chris Pine) makes the momentous decision to join the Starfleet Academy, where he meets Spock (Zachary Quinto).

These two rivals go on to become part of a crew of gifted individuals on the Enterprise, who must come together to face Nero (Eric Bana), a Romulan with a vendetta.

In addition to Pine, Quinto, and Bana, the all-star cast includes John Cho, Bruce Greenwood, Simon Pegg, Winona Ryder, Zoë Saldana, Karl Urban, Anton Yelchin, and Leonard Nimoy.

In a telephone interview with Pine and Quinto, both actors commented on the diverse and talented cast, with Quinto offering that “there are some phenomenal people in the movie.” Pine agreed, adding, “I think one of the biggest pleasures I had was not only getting a chance to work with Mr. Nimoy, but also to work with Bruce Greenwood, who

I’ve loved for years and thought was such a wonderful actor.”

The big screen *Star Trek* is rich with familiar and novel elements, such as the casting of Nimoy and the creation of a new foe, Nero, an original character for the film. Quinto assured viewers that the film has something for audiences both old and new. “I think, you know, there are things ... that die-hard *Star Trek* fans can really look forward to,” Quinto said, adding, “And I think that non-fans can look forward to the fact that this is a movie that’s much more about relationships and characters and challenges than it is about, you know, planets and starships and aliens.”

Listening to Quinto and Pine talk about their roles and how they cultivated the relationship between their two characters, it is difficult to deny their chemistry, which hopefully will translate onto the big screen. When asked who would win in a *Star Trek*/*Star Wars* showdown, Kirk and Spock or Hans Solo and Luke Skywalker, Quinto playfully and yet quite adamantly replied, “We [would] kick their ass.”

—Jacklyn Katz

Disney-Pixar takes *Up* new challenges

Following up a film like *WALL-E*, Disney-Pixar’s newest animated feature, *Up*, faces expectations that are more than a little daunting.

Disney-Pixar’s reputation for entertaining, yet substantive animation has earned *Up*, which opens May 29, the coveted spot as the opening selection of the Cannes Film Festival later this month. “I think we were able to push things stylistically to places that we haven’t gone before,” said Academy Award-nominated Director Pete Docter in a phone interview, expressing his wish to not only embrace, but extend this legacy.

*Up*’s plot centers around Carl, a 78-year-old balloon salesman who, after the death of his beloved wife Ellie, fulfills a lifelong fantasy of going on an adventure. Tying thousands of balloons to his house, Carl begins his flight to South America but discovers too late an annoying eight-year-old stowaway named Russell. The unlikely pair is then forced to join in the adventure together.

Fantastical as the plot may seem, Docter maintains that the humorous and fanciful elements are supported by a conscious effort to ground the film firmly in reality—it’s kid-friendly adventure is balanced with adult themes of death, loss, and old age.

In discussing the emotional grounding of the film, Docter highlighted a four-and-a-half-minute sequence depicting the life Carl and his wife shared. Filmmakers invoked a surprisingly mature artistic strategy in the scene by eliminating sound effects and nonessential dialogue, conveying the depth of the characters’ relationship with reduced visuals accompanied by music. The sequence “tried to show his entire life with this woman and show how amazing and rich it was,” Docter said, adding, “you really only get the beautiful moments if you couple it with some tragedy as well.”

The scene also demonstrates the filmmakers’ attempt to take advantage of the film’s 3-D release, using a tightening of 3-D-space as a metaphorical reflection of Carl’s emotional withdrawal after the loss of his wife. Though releasing films in 3-D has become extremely popular, Docter noted the challenge of using the technology as a tool, without letting it detract from the story.

With these meticulous attempts to expand the scope of animation both stylistically and emotionally, *Up* is looking to one-up its animated competitors.

—Victoria Fox

THEATER



COMPLEXITY INCARNATE | In a three-hour staging, the veteran cast of *The Singing Forest* manages to delve deeply into the minds of its characters and explore familial relationships while bouncing back and forth between time periods. With actors playing multiple characters and a lofty set of themes, the play is intricate, but its actors and its set design rise to the occasion.

Craig Lucas’ *The Singing Forest* brings convolution to the stage

BY LAURA HEDLI  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

“If only everyone could afford therapy, the whole world would be healed,” announces Jonathan Groff, who plays an actor-caterer soon-to-be-father, and also plays a closeted homosexual in Craig Lucas’ *The Singing Forest*. The befuddling three-hour epic transports us from Y2K New York to Nazi-occupied Vienna and back again, but we’re going to need a little more than psychobabble and subtext to support grandiose claims and switches in time.

Led by entertainment veteran Olympia Dukakis, the actors in *The Singing Forest* try their best to unearth Lucas’ challenging material. With scathing wit and an Austrian accent, Dukakis plays Loë, the addled matriarch who has suffered from seeing too much and running away for too long. The play unfolds as she makes amends with her past and present.

To say much more on the plot would be difficult given the word constraints of this review. But I’ll indulge in order to set the scene. When the show opens, the audience meets Loë, who was once a psychologist and who has an estranged daughter, Bertha, and son, Oliver (also a therapist). Her son is dating Laslow and is friends with Shar (another shrink), who used to date Laslow but is now infatuated with a patient named Gray.

Meanwhile, Gray is working for Jules Ahmad, the rich, reclusive son of Loë’s daughter. Unaware of Jules’ relationship to Loë, Gray connects with his boss’ grandmother by dialing a sex hotline. And all this occurs within the first 30 minutes.

Psychoanalysis isn’t a new theme for Lucas, who has made a name for himself by probing the human mind, but it doesn’t work here. Because everyone requires a mediator to unlock his or her deepest emotions, Lucas often puts the action on hold.

But even with cathartic breaks—the most affecting of which occurs during the phone “chat” between strangers Gray (Groff) and Loë—characters’ motives aren’t always clear. Plot points are marred by Freudian over-analysis, and relationships are so contrived that you should forget what you’ve heard about six degrees of separation—here, there are maybe only three.

Whether abrupt breaks in tone are the fault of Lucas or director Mark Wing-Davey isn’t entirely clear. Double-casting leads to a farcical romp at the end of Act II that begins with a “Who’s On First?” bit between Oliver and Shar. It then moves to a scene reminiscent of the recent revival of *Boeing Boeing*, where characters are hiding behind doors to avoid disastrous meetings. Finally, it finishes as a dream sequence, which is extremely affecting, much like watching the final harrowing chorus of “Willkommen” in *Cabaret*.

Nevertheless, the cast executes the tragicomedy with deftness. Special mention should be given to Groff, who moves seamlessly between soul-searching actor and Loë’s well-meaning brother. And Randy Harrison (Laszlo) pulls a terrifying Jekyll and Hyde swap to play a violent Nazi guard. John McDermott’s scenic design is brilliantly attuned to these shifts in time and space. Filled with everything from espresso machines to chandeliers, this treasure trove of a set serves the action well.

*The Singing Forest* plays out as a tangled trilogy of ancestral stories and therapy sessions. There’s some poignant material here, but it’s often botched by the production’s highfalutin aims.

The *Singing Forest* plays at *The Public Theater* until May 17. *The Public Theater* is located at 425 Lafayette St. (just below Astor Place). Rush tickets are \$20 one hour before curtain and are subject to availability.

The six W’s for any weekend adventure



SHANE FERRO  
WEEKEND ROMP

I am a big faker. I’ve been writing this column all semester about great weekends in New York. The truth is, I haven’t explored the city on the weekend since

February. Instead, every weekend, I pack a bag, grab my bike, and get the hell out of Dodge (literally).

As much as I love the city, every once in a while it’s nice to remember what nature looks like beyond Central Park. As a member of the cycling team, I’ve traveled all over the Northeast, and every weekend is a new adventure. I think of myself as somewhat of an expert (emphasis on “somewhat”).

In order to plan a great weekend getaway, there are several things that one should think about:

- Who to bring: This is probably the most important part of your trip. It needs to be the right ratio of males to females, and you need people with the right sense of humor. If you are going further than the Jerz, you will probably be spending quite a lot of time cooped up in the car or train with these people. Personally, I love travelling with the cycling team because the ratio of males to females is just right (about 4:1 works for me), and there are enough inappropriate jokes and men in various states of nudity around the vans throughout the weekend for me to unwind after a week of studiousness. It’s always a good idea to bring someone along that you could potentially hook up with. Every vacation should have a hook-up story, even if it is an embarrassing one.
- What to bring: There are several things to consider when packing. Is it warm enough for a bikini? Are you comfortable enough with your body to wear a Speedo? Is it a place where you can rock the skinny jeans? If you are planning something nature-y, your stilettos are probably not the best idea, but if you plan to go out somewhere like Boston or Philly, they might be. Things that I always forget that I always need: a phone charger, the directions I left in the printer, snacks.
- How you are going to get there: Car? Plane? Train? Remember things like: if you take the train, you have to get from the station to wherever you are going somehow. Renting cars is expensive (and usually requires you to be 25). If you don’t take a car, how are you going to get around for the weekend? Once again, think about heels.
- Where you are going to go: With this question comes myriad options, but if you play your other cards right, the answer doesn’t really matter. A couple of weeks ago, for example, I found myself in a run-down motel bar in Camden, N.J. with a few men who looked like they hadn’t seen a woman under 30 in about 10 years. Not exactly the place that you describe in a letter to mom. However, there was a pool table, plenty of beer, and 20 friends taking embarrassing pictures to capture the moment. Now, it’s not creepy, it’s just the best story of the season.
- What you are going to do when you get there: There are two ways to approach this question. Either you plan your trip ahead of time, or you just go and see where the wind takes you. While both are viable options, in order to choose the latter it is important that someone in your group is able to rise above group-think and make a decision. It’s always a bummer to travel for hours and spend a couple hundred dollars to find yourself stuck in a hotel room with four people who can’t decide between Olive Garden and Friendly’s for dinner. When in doubt, ask a local—and never expect bagels or pizza to live up to New York standards.
- Where to stay: Two words: good breakfast. That’s really all that’s important in a hotel. When all else fails, find somewhere close to a Dunkin’ Donuts.

And when in doubt, stay in, open a beer, and watch *Eurotrip*. Your weekend is about who you are with, not what you are doing.

Check The Spectacle for additional installments of Weekend Romp throughout the summer.

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



THEATER

# Finding unique theater in a foreign borough

BY LOUISA LEVY  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Good news: if Columbians are willing to venture outside the borough of Manhattan, they just might discover Brooklyn's rich theater scene at an inexpensive price.

At the heart of the Brooklyn theater scene is BAM—Brooklyn Academy of Music. BAM is a superstore of entertainment. You want theater? Dance? Cinema? Culture? BAM has it. All you have to do to tap into this reservoir is venture down to Fort Greene on the red line.

Primarily known for its avant-garde style, BAM will be showing an all-male production of Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* opening May 6. Like many of BAM's performances, this cast is of international origin, hailing from the U.K.'s Propeller company.

BAM's latest epic undertaking, *The Bridge Project*, builds upon those international ideals with a transatlantic, two-year partnership joining BAM with The Old Vic and Neal Street Productions in London. The project, which kicked off in January, involves the production of classic works in repertory, such as this year's *The Cherry Orchard* and *The Winter's Tale*, performed both at BAM and at The Old Vic.

Also in Brooklyn is the lesser known Target Margin Theater, an experimental theater company located just five blocks away from BAM. The venue's latest show—Tennessee Williams' *Ten Blocks on the Camino Real*—received praise from *The New York Times*, among other reputed publications, for being energetic, charming, authentic, and visceral.

This summer, the Target Margin Theater welcomes an array of productions including Gertrude Stein's *A Family of Perhaps Three*, Eugene O'Neill's *Thirst*, and a less traditional performance called *Blue Piano*, described as a jazz "talk-and-play."

For something a little more traditional, you may want to try The Gallery Players in Park Slope, a company that dedicates itself to quality theater at affordable prices. Next up in their current season is *The Who's Tommy*, which opens May 2. Tickets are cheap, but they frequently sell out so be sure to call ahead.

Also showing in Brooklyn are original contemporary plays such as *The Nosemaker's Apprentice*, a fantastical play about the first plastic surgeons, which is currently playing at The Brick Theater until May 23. Running alongside *The Nosemaker's Apprentice* at The Brick Theater is *The Colonists*, a "lyrical visual fantasy" which explores the world of a bee using electrified puppets.

Though Brooklyn is a little farther than students may be used to traveling for a night on the town, it offers exciting new options for exciting low prices. And who knows? Columbians might just like what they find.



James Rathmell for *Spectator*  
A WALK TO REMEMBER | Manhattanites can escape from the island for avant-garde theater at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

BOOKS



James Rathmell for *Spectator*

FEATHER LIGHT | Community Bookstore & Café hosts slope residents looking for their next coffee, an eclectic book, or the occasional peacock feather.

## Book lovers of a feather flock to this Park Slope outpost

BY EMILY TAMKIN  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Yes, there are wall-to-wall books on sleek black shelves. Yes, there is hidden but available seating. Yes, hip, colored lamps and Christmas tree lights illuminate the rooms. But the most telling feature of Park Slope's Community Bookstore & Café is this: It is decorated with peacock feathers.

How else can one describe the hip but accessible gem of a store located at 143 Seventh Ave.? Community Bookstore is at once whimsical, colorful, striking, cool, and fiercely independent.

In the back, behind the children's area, sits a courtyard, from which a cat enters. Customers—clearly regulars—delightedly call it over. The air is

filled with the sounds of cool jazz and customers laughing and consulting the surprisingly knowledgeable and youthful staff.

While there are offbeat books sections—dedicated to, for example, religion, psychology, and scientific fiction—there are also stacks upon stacks housing what is simply categorized as "literature."

Though the store cannot exactly be described as cheap (one customer was overheard requesting a \$90 book), there was a remarkable 50-percent-off sale section. Besides, as with many independent bookstores, customers don't necessarily come for the prices.

"It's the same thing that sets little restaurants apart from chain restaurants,"



James Rathmell for *Spectator*

SEE BOOKSTORE, page 6

FILM

## Mature directors retire their cameras in Brooklyn

BY PETER LABUZA  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

When it comes to movies, cinephiles often avoid Brooklyn to escape an onslaught of independent hipster films. But while Film Forum, Lincoln Center, and the Museum of Modern Art dominate Manhattan, the Brooklyn Academy of Music's BAMcinématek program challenges the island's dominance in both quality theaters and quality movies.

Since 1998, BAMcinématek has been home not only for independent cinema from around the world, but for also daily retrospectives. And their latest retrospective may be one of the most curious choices by any cinema in the past year.

"The Late Film" presents exactly what the title implies—final works from the greatest directors of Hollywood and around the world. While film historians often cite the early work of directors as their best (who can forget Jean-Luc Godard's *Breathless*, Michelangelo Antonioni's *L'Avventura*, or Quentin Tarantino's *Reservoir Dogs?*), films that come late in a director's lifetime often lack the visceral novelty that made him or her famous in the first place. But "The Late Film" challenges this notion, exploring



Courtesy of Photofest

REEL WORLD BROOKLYN | BAMcinématek hosts "The Late Film," featuring films of directors' final years.

the highly personal element that directors bring to these final works.

Possibly the most famous, as well as most debated, is Stanley Kubrick's *Eyes Wide Shut* (May 3rd), a sexual mystery film from the late '90s starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman. Kubrick finished the film just days before his death, and left a strange coda for his endless fans.

For many, the film was borderline pornography, but it has been reexamined as an exploration of sexual politics and relationships in a darkly satirical universe. The final sequence is possibly Kubrick's most wondrous—a strange reunification of two harrowed individuals, in an innocent toy-store,

SEE FILM, page 6

TV

## Gossip Girl's Brooklynites bring edge to primetime

BY JOE DALY  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Brooklyn introduces a Montague/Capulet-sized divide between the characters of *Gossip Girl*, and the show's treatment of the borough is having a similar effect on its viewers.

The CW's hit drama cuts to Brooklyn when they want to take a break from the debutante-ball-obsessed, whiskey-sipping, fundraiser-attending Upper East Side. Characters seek refuge in Brooklyn, taking in the fresh air as they wander down its cobblestone streets.

But the neighborhood has its permanent fixtures as well, like the Humphrey family, whose members live a "stereotypical" Brooklyn existence. Dan Humphrey (Penn Badgley) writes, wears leather jackets, and questions the rapid tendencies of his classmates. His dad, Rufus (Matthew Settle), owns an art gallery, and his sister, Jenny (Taylor Momsen), designs punk rock fashions. To round out the group, Dan's best friend Vanessa (Jessica Szohr) shoots documentaries in Brooklyn, exposing Upper East Side culture through her art.

Then there's the loft in which the Humphreys reside, which is an exposed brick oasis located in what's presumably a generic Williamsburg. Yes, if you can believe it, the Humphreys live



Courtesy of Ana Maria da Veiga

BRIDGING THE GAP | *Gossip Girl*'s outer-borough cast members contrast the grittiness of Williamsburg with vapidity of their uptown outpost.

in a loft—a term which each of the characters seem to reference at least once an episode. Rufus and Dan say it proudly, with a hint of self-righteousness. The Upper East Siders would likely say it with disdain.

Although they are looked down upon, *Gossip Girl*'s Brooklynites actually seem capable of encroaching on the Upper East Side's cultural property. Dan's Moleskine scribbles have landed him in Yale's Class of 2013, the school that well-connected Blair hoped to attend but could not. Jenny's fashions caught the eye of Blair's mom, a well-known designer. Rufus is now the object of Serena's mother's affection—and their marriage would put Rufus into a whole new income bracket.

In a way, *Gossip Girl* wants Brooklyn to be everything. It's uncharted territory in one moment and a hop, skip, and a jump from Park Avenue the next. It's socially paralyzing, but even that wears off. Perhaps it's this culturally confused treatment that is beating the life out of a borough that used to represent to real people what it does to *Gossip Girl*'s sanctuary-seeking fictional cast.

When considering what MTV's *Real World* did to Brooklyn—portraying it as nothing more than a slightly more spacious jumping-off point to Manhattan's downtown bars—this borough may really be in trouble. Because if life precedes art, then art is certainly also screwing with life.

*Gossip Girl* airs on Mondays at 8 p.m. on The CW.

# Neighborhood Watch



# Military veterans seek support in transition to college life

BY KAT BALKOSKI  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

With issues like post-traumatic stress disorder rising in numbers, Columbia's own large population of military veterans are sounding off on their mental health needs.

"I haven't visited them [Counseling & Psychological Services], and I don't know any other veterans who have visited it," said John McClelland, vice president of U.S. Military Veterans of Columbia University and a recent contributor to *The Eye* magazine.

Despite this, McClelland is quick to recognize the difficulties of the transition process from active duty to campus life.

This transition has little to do with expanding independence or homesickness, he explained. In the shift from a military to a collegiate setting, veterans must learn to find meaning in a new community with an entirely different value system.

At Columbia, the MilVets group serves as a social network and support system for student-veterans.

"This is a really robust organization," said Curtis Rodgers, dean of Enrollment Management of the School of General Studies. He praised MilVets for providing veterans with a team-oriented community in an educational environment that often borders on the selfish and individualistic.

McClelland said he is eager to engage in productive debates with members of the Columbia community whose political views are at odds with his own.

He called Columbia "a big melting pot of experience, and the veterans' experience is definitely one that people can benefit from."

At least 48 military veterans are currently enrolled as undergraduate students in GS. The recent passing of the Post-9/11 GI Bill has significantly improved scholarship availability, and universities across the country have opened up to returning veterans.

"This year we're expecting anywhere from 30 to 40 [incoming] student-veterans," Rodgers said.

In response to this new influx of student-veterans, administrators at Columbia have been working to develop new services that will improve the transition process. Richard Eichler, director of Counseling & Psychological Services at Columbia, said that he is well aware of the growing size of the student-veteran population on campus. "They've been vocal—and I think that's great—in telling the University that they have needs," he said. "We're partnering, particularly with GS, to think about how we can develop new programs. What they'll look like, I can't quite tell you yet."

A recent grant proposal concerning funding for new veterans' services was not approved. Still, Rodgers remains optimistic about future endeavors to assist veterans in the transition process.

"We've just started our preliminary meetings to figure out what we can still do," he said. New initiatives will probably center on "robust orientation activities," notably a mentoring system to help acquaint incoming veterans with the academic, social, and psychological services available to them.

"From our perspective, it's an information issue. It's a transition issue. It's making sure that students who come to campus are aware of the services that are available to them," Rodgers said.

Rodgers said he believes that the transmission of relevant information will encourage veterans to seek the help they need. "There's no stigma associated with it, at all," he said.

Rodgers stressed the importance of spreading the fact that "our own director of Counseling and Psych Services here has a background and has training from the VA."

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, or VA, provides patient care to veterans. Their nearest location, located on 125th Street, offers psychological services and support groups to Columbia's student-veterans.

According to McClelland, actively seeking professional help is hardly encouraged by military culture. "To express yourself as somebody that's vulnerable is difficult," he said.

But McClelland believes that a go-between linking veterans, the administration, and CPS could be extremely helpful.

"The only thing that Columbia lacks

is really a dedicated trained professional that deals specifically with veterans' issues," McClelland said.

Derek Blumke, president of Student Veterans of America, said he is well aware of the serious emotional toll the transition from a military to a collegiate setting can take. After the intense sense of purpose provided by service in the military, college life may feel lacking.

He described the feelings of some of his fellow student-veterans, saying, "They went from doing the most important thing they are ever going to do in their lives to sitting in a college classroom listening to a professor they mostly don't care about."

Age gaps and differences in life experience can also prevent veterans from identifying with their peers. Blumke said that depression associated with the shift in values, feelings of isolation from the rest of the student body, and post-traumatic stress can become compounded.

The classroom environment can also feel particularly trying, according to Blumke. Veterans can become discouraged from attending classes when they sense disrespect or hostility among faculty or classmates.

Training faculty and staff to interact positively with veterans has become a concern in universities across the nation. Yet administrators sometimes blunder in their efforts to facilitate veterans' integration into the college community.

Penn State recently created a training video showing an educator dealing with a hostile student-veteran. Although the

intention was positive, the video portrays student-veterans as potentially dangerous figures, and encourages faculty and staff to call the police should they ever feel threatened.

Penn State removed the video from its Web site in February, but the video is now on YouTube. It continues to receive indignant reactions from veterans and civilians alike. "The video highlights the lack of understanding of university administrators," Blumke said.

Blumke wants SVA to work with universities to create alternative training systems, for faculty and student veterans alike.

He believes that peer-to-peer training and support could facilitate the transition to college life. He argued that getting student veterans to look out for each other, "like when we were on active duty," could normalize attitudes toward mental health issues and minimize the perception of stigma.

Both Blumke and McClelland are adamant about avoiding the conception that veterans require some sort of special attention. "We don't want to be seen as a special needs population," McClelland said.

Rodgers shares their concern. "Our thoughts around the transition program were not 'this is a population that really needs extra care,'" he said.

Just like any other population, student veterans contain a wide spectrum of experiences, needs, and means of expression.

McClelland joked, "I'm trying to write a novel about it, and that's my therapy." *news@columbiaspectator.com*

## Looking to the future with Columbia Athletics

PURO from back page

Lions. New York City has everything to offer—historic sports stadiums, Broadway shows, and everything an 18-year-old kid could ever want. Columbia is the only Ivy League school that offers such an incredible landscape.

Just last weekend, I saw a basketball recruit walking around campus on the same day that the Bacchanal concert and street fair were occurring. With music bumping and a great vibe around 116th, the atmosphere exemplified a perfect recruiting tool for Columbia athletics.

Picking and choosing when a recruit comes, in correlation with events on campus or in the greater New York City area, would possibly help convince student-athletes to come to New York City.

While marketing the city and school for recruits is important for developing the depth needed to compete for Ivy League titles, the marketing of CU Athletics to its own students is even more important.

The marketing department has tried some gimmicks that have worked. The homecoming game draws students who normally wouldn't attend. Furthermore, they had the Student Rewards Program that gave students the opportunity to win prizes for coming to games. However, the attendance has not really improved much in my four years in Morningside Heights.

The way that Columbia can create more fans is two-fold. The school needs to plan more "pep rallies" (or Midnight Manias, which I am still quite angry that the marketing department got rid of). This event brought non-fans and fans alike to basketball games to see how good the Columbia players were. It was a way for students to see how good the individual student-athletes were at their respective sports by watching them in a practice environment.

The marketing ideas recently employed by CU have been good. There is one more that I have. Rather than having every football game on a Saturday afternoon, maybe making one of them on a Friday or Saturday night in early September would make it more fan-friendly. Students can make a night of it—and help add a home-field environ-

ment that has been difficult for Columbia to garner.

After four years at Columbia and *Spectator*, there are a number of people I must thank for making this experience great.

Darlene and coach Jones: You guys have made the past three years of covering the basketball team memorable and exciting. Hopefully, next year I will be welcomed back to Levien with open arms.

Future of *Spectator* Sports: While it seems tough right now with the economic downturn affecting the *Spec*, I know that you guys will do wonders with the section. Just remember: graphics simply make a page look better.

Velazquez, Lisa, Holly, Shapiro: You guys always made the meetings great. Enjoy your remaining years at Columbia. It'll pass you by really quickly. Hold onto your friends (which is something I know you will do) and remember: keep working on the *Spec*.

Charles and Michael Shannon: Charles, covering women's basketball was amazing. Shannon, your humor, as seen in your senior column, is top-notch. Thanks for not taking *Spec* that seriously.

Anand, Josh, and Kamran: You guys truly made me a better writer and person. You all were like big brothers to me. I don't know how I could have made it through all four years without you guys.

J-Tay: All the great times. *Spec* dinners, rock class and 1020 journeys, I couldn't imagine a more different person becoming a great friend. While you may try to be apathetic with your endeavors, what you've done this past semester with the section is truly remarkable.

August: Four years of me making fun of you and me (at first) thinking how could I ever be friends with this kid. And honestly, it's been easy. You have become one of my best friends and I am truly thankful for all you've done. You've been there for me through the good and bad. I'll always view you as a little brother—and will always have your back. (See, I can be nice and not include a link to a certain video).

Thank you *Spectator* and Columbia for four great years. It has been a pleasure.

*Max Puro is a Columbia College senior majoring in history.*

## Small changes lead to big results for tennis

GOSWAMI from back page

"When they come in, they are 17 and 18," the head coach said. "Sometimes they might not be as nice as they will end up. I hope that apart from forehands, backhands, serves, and volleys, I hope that Patrick [Westoo], Amin [Khalaf], and I really get these guys to go from boys to men."

This long-term perspective has allowed Goswami to attract and develop some of the top talent from around the country and the world.

"Bid is a great guy, first as a person and also as a coach," said Bogdan Borta, a senior from Romania who plays No. 1 and 2 singles on this year's team. "He is always there for us, no matter whether it's a grip for a racquet or anything."

Ekin Sezgen, who hails from Turkey, weighed in as well. "Most of the tennis players [at other schools] praise their coaches but I not only praise him, I respect him," said the freshman who has played No. 4 singles all season. "He's so into tennis and he makes you feel passionate about tennis too. Most importantly, he makes you feel that you are an important part of the team and the team can't do without you."

When it comes to recruiting young talent, Goswami constantly harps on the long-term perspective and player maturity.

"Junior [tennis] is a different attitude," Goswami said. "These guys go with their family, partners, and coaches to tournaments. I can't change character, but I hope each one looks back and says, 'Hey, we did it right, and during my four years I learned a lot about tennis and life itself.'"

"The thing that sets him apart is his ability to connect with you," Wong said. "He doesn't seem to be recruiting you like you're just another player. It's tough to find other coaches that come across like that."

Goswami has excelled at developing freshmen into consistent contributors as long as he has been head coach. Nowhere is this skill more apparent than this season, when the Lions won the Ivy League while playing three freshmen at the four, five, and six positions in the lineup. Sezgen, Haig

Schneiderman, and Rajeev Deb-Sen were all top juniors, but Goswami and his staff made the necessary adjustments to hone their game to be Ivy-championship caliber.

"They come in pretty much well-established," Goswami said. "That's why I recruited them. Sometimes we just tweak a little bit. Patrick and I always try to do some tweaking, not a major operation. It's different for each one, but it's always a few little things. More than anything else it's psychology."

In addition to the contributions of his two assistant coaches, Goswami has received help from Gaurav Misra, director of the Dick Savitt Tennis Center, where the team practices all year.

"Sometimes Gaurav leaves me notes," Goswami said, "and he has one of the keenest eyes I have seen. I have been lucky to have friends helping me out."

Goswami cites Mihai Nichifor, the Lions No. 3 singles, as an example of a player whose game needed a little bit of refining. Nichifor transferred from Manhattan College in the fall and went undefeated in Ivy play this spring.

"Mihai came in a complete player," Goswami said. "He was top 20 in Europe, but he is playing with more confidence. He has far exceeded my expectations. I thought he was a good player but he is playing great tennis. He is getting more and more confidence. Hopefully, I have talked to him a lot, he is pretty volatile when things don't go right. He just rushes things and gets annoyed. Some people play well annoyed; he doesn't. But he has come around and he can compete on a day when he is not playing his best."

Goswami was voted the 2007 Wilson/ITA Regional Coach of the Year by fellow Northeast head coaches after leading his underdog team to the 2007 Ivy League Championship.

Goswami is also an avid reader of books put out by legendary coaches. He cites Vince Lombardi, Bill Parcells, and Pat Riley as some of his favorites. There is one, however, who stands out even among the greats.

"I read a quote once from John Wooden," Goswami said, referring to the legendary UCLA head coach.

"Someone asked him, 'How's your team this year?' and Wooden responded, 'Well, we'll find out in 20 years.' It's an unbelievable quote. He was one of the most successful coaches of all time. It's about how people turn out. I am blessed to be a part of this team, more than anything else."

Along with his professional coaching idols, Goswami offered up a familiar face as well.

"Dave Fish from Harvard, win or lose, he has a lot of class," Goswami said. "He is disappointed when he loses, but the class he shows, I hope I emulate that."

In addition, Goswami cited the admissions office as an important factor in bringing the right prospects into the program.

"The admissions office, they know me pretty well," Goswami said. "They know what type of guy will be successful. They are part of it. They know who will be successful in the classroom and then on the tennis court and vice versa."

Goswami also recognizes that the students' priorities may shift between tennis and the classroom as they balance their athletic careers and their academics.

"I don't put too much pressure on guys," Goswami said, "but you have to motivate them, to challenge them. I tell them that this [the tennis court] is their country club—you're Lit Hum and CC, those are your tough times."

When it comes to coaching, Goswami's self described "non-dictatorial" style seems to go over well with his players.

"He has really helped me with my doubles play," said Borta, who plays No. 1 doubles this season. "I have improved a lot since I've been here. I would like to thank him for all that he's done; he has done a lot."

Although he may be head coach, Goswami has found the relationship with his players to be a symbiotic one.

"The guys teach me a lot," Goswami said. "They teach me something every day."

Goswami reiterates that sometimes the improvement cannot be seen in wins and losses. This season, however, the Lions have a record of 16-5 (6-1 Ivy), and no one doubts his positive influence on the team.

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# Seeing Columbia through a lens

BY LINDA CARRION

On a sunny September day in 2007, I slipped past the officers guarding the Journalism School building and climbed to the top floor. I opened the window and leaned out, carefully fixing my camera settings as I aimed my telephoto lens at Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s black SUV. With my finger halfway on the shutter, a woman burst into the room with terror in her voice. “Sniper weapons are being pointed at you,” she informed me, pulling me away from the window. “You must clear the area.” I decided this was not a point I was going to argue and walked away. At least to my knowledge, I’d never had a gun aimed at me before, and I’ve never since. As I walked away, I ruminated on the fact that I could have been killed, but also wondered: how did I develop this gravitas to rival Colbert’s?

I came to *Spectator*’s open house on a whim during my sophomore year. I didn’t really care about the paper itself, but just tagged along with my roommate of now four years. I’d had enough of writing from class, so I

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decided to join the photo department as a novice photographer. The longer I worked for *Spec*, the more I observed through the lens of my camera. I developed an enhanced sense of both myself and of human nature. My camera created a distance between the subject and myself that gave me the freedom to get “the shot.” I had to be willing to put myself on the line and get into the action in a way I never had before. Whether it was almost getting sniped or heading over to Harlem at 3 a.m. to snap photos of an infamous felon leaving the precinct, I learned to capture a moment that effectively communicates an occurrence without saying a single word. I chose photography and, in the end, realized why it came to define me—just as photography captures a moment, I live for experiencing the moment.

Photography is, in its essence, living in the moment. I often find it hard to express my feelings with words. Because of that, I used to have a tendency to close myself off from others. But, as a friend of mine recently told me, sometimes language fails. Although language generally does us well, there are those times when what is seen or felt cannot truly be described. It is in these cases that artistic expressions such as photography can say everything that needs to be said. Through photography, I had found my voice. As this self and my photographer self became fused, this became less and less of a problem. I was no longer scared to put myself out there and instead welcomed every opportunity and experience that came my way. It became my mission to live my life free from ridiculous stressors, like the opinions of those around me. I realized that, in reality, these worries are just our own insecurities

projected onto other people. No one really cares about what others do or say and if they do, it’s fleeting and something they’ll forget about after a while—so why waste our time thinking about it and letting it affect what we do? Life is all about experiences and everything is worth trying once, as long as it doesn’t kill you.

When I became photo editor, I began devoting more and more hours to *Spectator*. I don’t regret all those hours in the office and all the sacrifices I had to make because I had an experience I will never forget. I definitely appreciate the opportunities I’ve had at this university, but school is not everything. During my time here, I’ve tried to expand the interactions I’ve had and get in as many experiences as possible. *Spectator* gave me a sense of freedom as a photographer that I eventually transferred to the way I live my life. All of the people I met there, no matter how insignificant our interactions were, definitely shaped who I am, even if they just helped me pinpoint certain elements that I avoid in my own personality. I also believe that we should make an effort to value others and never simply disregard them because every interaction is worth something. In the past four years, I have learned that there is an infinite number of routes that will take you to the path that is right for you, so why not try a few until you reach your destination?

*The author is a Barnard College senior majoring in economics. She is a senior staff photographer for Spectator Photo. She was a photo associate and photo news deputy for the 131st Managing Board. She was the photo editor for the 132nd Managing Board.*

# Columbia, I got your crazy

BY SADIA LATIFI

To the tenured, highly esteemed anthropology professor who failed me last spring: “Why are you even here?”

This was the first thing you said to me a year ago when I sat down in your office before you explained that I would not be passing your class.

It was understandable. I barely attended any lectures or discussion sections, let alone turned in any of the assignments. I earned what Columbia students have to work extremely hard to receive: an F.

I left Schermerhorn, bawling as I walked back to Watt, where I hid for the entirety of my junior year. I thought about Richard Ng, a student who committed suicide by jumping into the East River two years prior. I didn’t know how to swim. It could work!

I ended the semester with an impressive 1.8 GPA. I felt mostly dead. But looking back, I realize I was living, and that was the point.

*“Why are you even here?”*

I didn’t come to Columbia to be depressed, mind you. I came here to take my high school valediction and press onward, to become editor-in-chief of this paper, to meet the man of my dreams. None of these things happened.

After a tremendous freshman year, things spiraled. I teetered on the edge of my 20th floor window in EC and looked down.

Over the next year, I would accumulate a number of diagnoses: major depression, recurrent, without full inter-episode recovery (DSM-IV 296.32), and borderline personality disorder (DSM-IV 301.83). One psychiatrist told me I actually had bipolar disorder. My mom told me I wasn’t practicing Islam enough. A professor

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actually told me I was a liar. My friend told me I was just being 20.

You could say this period constituted a Profound Experience, the one often criticized in other senior columns. I know I’m a cliché, and I laugh about it often. (See headline.) But, it is my experience, and it is all that I have.

*“Why are you even here?”*

There is more than one way to get an education. I may have wasted four academic semesters (you, dear professor, said it had to be expensive to be missing so much of your class, and you were right), but in that time, I learned tons about friendships, values, and of course, myself. Maybe it is a gross justification for not making any waves while I was here, but I’ll take it. Making “waves” just doesn’t seem as important these days.

Not everyone was supportive. The worst was when people told me I just needed to “lift myself up by the bootstraps” and move forward. I had friends who expressed their own skepticism of my inner pain, acquaintances I keep at arm’s length now.

I was often bitter. Bitter that even after I sought help, I was told that study abroad would be too much of a liability for the school. Bitter that old friends stopped calling when I didn’t show up to the last few parties.

Failing grades and missed appointments necessitated the unofficial creation of Team Sadia, with a line-up that evolved as often as I did: two deans, two therapists, a couple of drugs, a few good friends, and a supportive family all kept me in line. And eventually, after the right treatment and some time, I got my proverbial shit together.

*“Why are you even here?”*

When Eric Harms died this semester, I almost took it as a personal failure. Finally, I was doing so well and instead of preaching the Gospel of Health and Happiness to other undergrads, I was too busy enjoying my life in the moment.

As an attempt to raise awareness and dialogue about mental illness in the wake of a confusing, needless act, I’ve been editing a series at *Spectator* this semester called Mind Matters. (Whether or not that’s a conflict of interest, I don’t know or care.)

The aim is simple: maybe if we start writing about mental illness more often, taking a trip to the eighth floor of Lerner won’t feel so unbearable.

The greatest irony of depression is that millions of people suffer from it, but everyone feels alone. It doesn’t have to be that way.

So, here’s the part where I get prescriptive: take time off if you need it—graduating in four years is overrated. Find support that works: if you hate your therapist, find a new one. If talk therapy isn’t working, try something else. (I’m an advocate of dialectical behavior therapy, which focuses on building productive skills.) If you can’t afford a private practice, find a good research university (ahem, like the one you’re in) that’ll allow you to get access to treatment for free. Also, don’t be afraid to embrace your “crazy”—it’s so much better than being boring.

For the “supports”: When your friends, family members, or students seem troubled, or just absent, take it seriously. Don’t try to handle everything yourself—you are not a professional. Ignore the potential anger this person may feel if you seek outside help—their life is more important than a short-lived feeling of betrayal. And stick around. My best friends today were the ones who knocked on my Watt door without calling first.

Columbia can and will be the best of times, the worst of times. How will you cope?

*“Why are you even here?”*

I am painfully aware that I might have another depressive episode in the future.

But this time, I can handle it.

I wish you could see me now, professor. I got a 4.0 last semester. I live on the 20th floor of EC again, two doors down from a previous site of trauma. I am learning how to swim.

*The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in anthropology and MEALAC. She was managing editor of The Eye and news training editor for the 131st Managing Board. She was an associate news editor on the 130th Managing Board. She is the editor of Mind Matters, Spectator’s current mental health project.*

# Anger at the Nakba protest

BY ERIC J. SCHORR

This week the members of the Columbia Palestine Forum actively protested the celebration of Israel Independence Day, or Yom Ha’atzmaut, by initiating a series of events and activities centered on observing what many in the Arab world call “Nakba,” or the “catastrophe” associated with the establishment of the State of Israel. All groups and organizations enjoy the right to hold protests, demonstrate ideas, and express opinions. But to initiate a reactive campaign based on demonizing one side is simply unproductive and enormously offensive. Instead of focusing mainly on celebrating Palestinian identity or culture, the central objective of “Nakba” is to undermine the legitimacy of the Jewish state and assault Israel’s right to exist. The Columbia community has little to learn—either about the Israeli-Arab conflict or about the Palestinian people themselves—from this polarizing and non-constructive display.

The Columbia Palestine Forum had the unique opportunity, along with its co-sponsors of this week’s events, to promote an environment for open discussion on how best to assist the Palestinian people, especially in the pursuit of peace. Yet they have instead made their events a stage for anti-Israel rhetoric and even more aggressive calls for divestment from Israel. Israel was born out of war, out of battle between a small number of Jewish immigrants and five full Arab armies. Only by defeating those armies did the State of Israel achieve its freedom

and independence, and afterwards began the process of achieving peace. In choosing Israel’s Independence Day for their campaign, the forum has sent the message to Columbia students that nothing exists in the Middle East besides war, and that Israelis and Palestinians have no identity free from this conflict. It is hardly a coincidence, then, that the forum does not call for a peaceful resolution based on mutual respect or even dialogue between the two sides. Nowhere does the Columbia Palestine Forum condemn the terrorist actions of

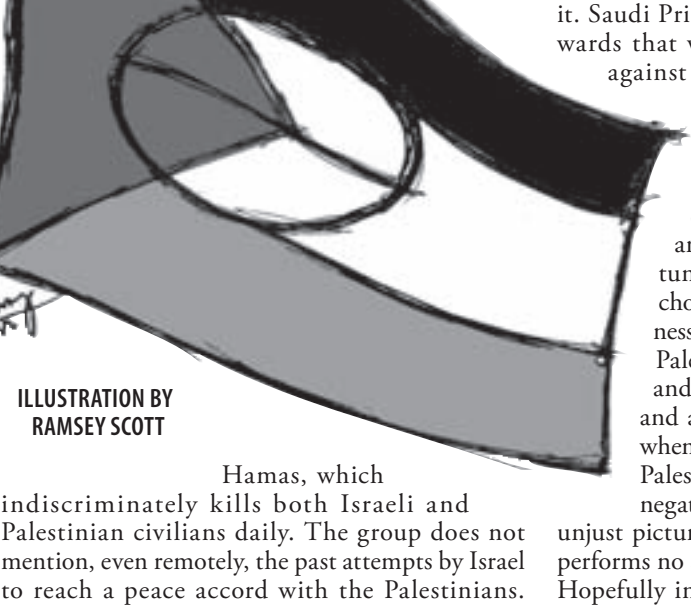


ILLUSTRATION BY RAMSEY SCOTT

Hamas, which indiscriminately kills both Israeli and Palestinian civilians daily. The group does not mention, even remotely, the past attempts by Israel to reach a peace accord with the Palestinians. They simply aren’t interested in toleration.

The Israeli government, since its inception in 1948, has worked time and again to seek a peaceful solution to the conflict in the Middle East. Every single war that Israel has ever fought has been purely out of its sole desire to survive. In

1967, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon all engaged Israel in an effort to reconcile their failure to destroy the Jewish state in 1948. In 1973 on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish year, Egypt and Syria attacked Israel in defiance of a set ceasefire. In 1979, after three deadly wars, Egypt and Israel were able to make peace. In 1994, after almost a half century of fighting, Jordan and Israel made peace. In order to reach consensus and come to an agreement to end the vicious cycle of war, Israel needs strong, willing partners for peace. Israel found those partners in Anwar Sadat of Egypt and King Hussein of Jordan. In 2000, Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestinian Authority, was given that same opportunity to be a partner for peace and rejected it. Saudi Prince Bandar bin Sultan stated afterwards that what Arafat had done was a crime against the Palestinian people.

What the Columbia Palestine Forum is doing is perpetuating that same injustice of the people it is trying to represent and support. The organization maintains the status quo and disregards an extraordinary opportunity to engage in civilized discussion, choosing in its place isolation and bitterness. We pray for the day when Israelis and Palestinians can all share in the festivities and celebrations of both Yom Ha’atzmaut and a Palestinian Independence Day. But when campus groups such as the Columbia Palestine Forum propagate a campaign of negativity and one-sidedness, it paints an unjust picture of Israelis and Palestinians, and it performs no service for the Columbia community. Hopefully in the future, the Columbia Palestine Forum will present a more valuable and accurate portrayal of the Middle East.

*The author is a Columbia College and List College first-year. He is the Director of Public Relations for LionPAC.*

# Calling for Manhattanville transparency

BY BEN TOTUSHEK

President Obama recently called the whole nation’s attention to the rapidly changing character and affordability of Morningside Heights during the ServiceNation Presidential Candidate Forum, saying: “The neighborhood has changed. When I came here in 1980, you know, some of the apartments around here didn’t look quite what they look like now. And I could afford them then.” To me, this came across as a surprisingly candid moment, more than just a passing thought or idle chatter. Furthermore, I couldn’t help wondering if there was a degree of self-criticism implicit in those remarks. President Obama was, after all, a tiny part of the decades-long process that has resulted not only in higher market prices for M’side rents, but also the first-class education of many wonderful leaders like himself. This tension between progress and preservation was a very poignant topic for a discussion on the nature of service, for it raises the question: how are we serving our local community, which has sacrificed so much so that we might succeed? That question seems almost prophetic in light of the latest developments with the approaching Manhattanville expansion.

At a recent University Senate meeting, President Bollinger stated, “We are making the case that part of the stimulus package would be well-spent on Manhattanville,” according to a February 10 *Spectator* article. The stimulus package that he refers to is, of course, the famous American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which was President Obama’s first legislative priority upon taking office to shore up our collapsing economy. The job creation that the act was designed to generate would allow for more lasting GDP growth that isn’t completely negated by inflation and thrift. The problem, of course, is finding enough so-called “shovel-ready” jobs, and Bollinger is arguing that the over \$6-billion Manhattanville expansion is one such shovel-ready project.

There are many in the local community who would disagree with Bollinger’s assertion. For one thing, the Community Board voted almost unanimously against the project. As of now, the Singh family, Nick Sprayregan, and Ramon Diaz are the three remaining business owners in the expansion zone whose property may be taken by eminent domain, if New York State and Columbia have their way. But there are legal challenges to the state’s asserted right that must still be settled in court before Columbia can start building on these properties. The Revised General Project Plan from Columbia and the Empire State Development Corporation calls for the seizure of both the Singh family gas station and Floridita restaurant in the first phase of the project, Phase 1 stage 1, from 2008-2015. One possible dilemma here is that the Singhs haven’t lost their ongoing legal challenge to the state’s use of eminent domain, and there is no set time line for the court’s decision, which must predate any seizure or demolition. Another issue is that Floridita restaurant has a legal right to remain on the property until 2015, when its lease runs out with Columbia.

Now, there may yet be a good explanation as to how Columbia plans to overcome these legal challenges in a way that would still qualify the project as “shovel-ready.” So far, unfortunately, they are either unwilling or unable to provide us with any such reasoning, which leads me to my main critique: transparency. According to the president’s stimulus Web site, transparency and accountability are paramount in the administering of our tax dollars. It says: “We cannot overstate the importance of this effort. We are asking the American people to trust their government with an unprecedented level of funding to address the economic emergency. In return, we must prove to them that their dollars are being invested in initiatives and strategies that make a difference in their communities and across the country.”

The fact is that right now, no one knows anything about Columbia’s specific plans to receive stimulus funds, except that they exist. The administration has kept mum, coyly refusing to confirm or deny the existence of their application, or tell us what agencies are involved. Local politicians that might have kept them accountable are being kept in the dark. And ultimately, in the current economic climate, no one knows whether the Revised General Project Plan (which was supposed to begin last year) is even still economically viable. No matter what your position on the expansion may be, surely we can all agree to hold our university to the same standards to which we hold our government. We have a right to know about and participate in a process which, after all, is being carried out in our names.

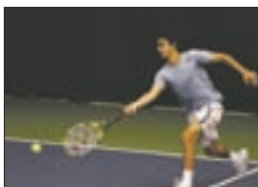
The Student Coalition on Expansion and Gentrification does not oppose Columbia seeking stimulus money for the expansion. We do, however, oppose them doing so in a nontransparent way. By doing so, Columbia would be going against the paramount goal of its alumnus-president, just months after he so tactfully reminded us of that balance between progress and service. Ultimately, Columbia is defined by its affiliates and vice-versa. Whether we like it or not, as students, people will judge us based on our school’s actions. So let’s show the whole city that Columbia still cares about the principles of transparency and accountability. Let’s do some service to our community. Please join us in a student-community rally, this Saturday, from 12 to 2 p.m. at the Sundial, to say, “No blank checks for the expansion.” A petition will be circulating to demand a meeting with the administration, which has ignored our repeated requests for a meeting to discuss these issues. Come, rally, and be heard!

*The author is a student in the School of General Studies majoring in political science and sustainable development. He is a member of the Student Coalition on Expansion and Gentrification.*



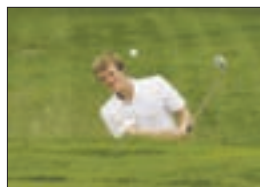
The men's tennis team will play Miami in the first round of the NCAA Championship on May 8.

MONDAY



# SPORTS

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The men's golf team won its second straight Ivy title and will play in the NCAA Tournament May 14-16.

MONDAY

## Four years of improvement for CU Athletics



MAX PURO

PURE OVERTIME

In these four years, I have learned much about journalistic integrity, the nuts and bolts of the Ivy League, and specifically Columbia athletics. I began my time at Columbia not knowing anything about journalism (as was evidenced by my first major article as a freshman, previewing the women's basketball season) or anything about Columbia sports. Now, as a senior, my writing has matured and my knowledge of Columbia—and Ivy League—basketball is kind of embarrassing.

Throughout the two years I was a columnist, "Pure Overtime" has evolved. It started off as a "greatest hits" of moments I experienced at Columbia—spanning from Justin Armstrong's game-winning shot to Kevin Bulger's runner against Harvard. Then it grew into the worst collapses. Then it was a rant about everything in Columbia athletics. Then it was a humorous bit about my experience at Columbia. But now, I think that my four years here have allowed me to offer good insight into how to make Columbia sports near the top of the Ivy League. So, after nearly a dozen drafts and different ideas, here is my senior column.

Coming to Columbia as a wide-eyed Los Angeline, my expectations for the Lions were minimal. All I knew about Columbia sports was that it represented futility: a 44-game losing streak and an 0-14 basketball campaign just a few years before my arrival in Morningside Heights. I came in expecting the losing tradition to continue. But, somehow, Columbia athletics have changed drastically.

The Lions were once among the worst in the Ivy League, with only two sports—cross country and fencing—being annually competitive. Now, nearly every team is competitive in the conference (with the exception of women's lacrosse, which finally won its first Ivy League game since 2005 this past month. But it's not the coaches' nor the players' faults—they were set up to fail since the rest of the Ivy League schools have rich traditions in lacrosse). Men's crew has been a powerhouse the past couple of seasons, finishing in the top six in the country last year. All have improved immensely.

How has Columbia been able to do this? It is a combination of M. Dianne Murphy's hires and the expanding recruiting. While Murphy has clearly had her misses (Leo Chappel and his 2-17-2 record in Ivy play), her hits have definitely connected. Six years ago, she took a risk on a men's basketball coach who had no previous head coaching experience. And in that time, Joe Jones has proven to be a great hire.

Jones' 75-91 record is not too shabby, given the previous coaches. Armond Hill had a .338 winning percentage, Jack Rohan a .338 winning percentage, and Wally Halas clocked in at .231. Jones' winning percentage currently resides at a robust .481.

Murphy also took considerable risks on both Paul Nixon and Norries Wilson. Neither Nixon nor Wilson had head coaching experience prior to coming to Columbia. But like Jones, who was an assistant at Villanova, both had experience as assistants in high Division I universities and were highly praised for their recruiting. Nixon came from Indiana, whose recruiting classes—under Nixon's guidance—were ranked in the top 25. Wilson came from the University of Connecticut which, as evidenced by this past weekend's NFL draft, has improved immensely with Wilson helping that process.

While each has a better record than their predecessors, each means more to their program than wins and losses. Each has expanded recruiting efforts, not just staying in the northeast for talent but going to Florida, Texas, California, and beyond. Each has brought excitement to their sport, something that had been lacking in the programs. Now, when people talk about Columbia football or basketball, it is not followed by a laugh, or a sneer, or a remark about how bad they are. This changing attitude is the first step needed. But there is one more.

In my opinion, these three coaches, along with alumnus and current owner of the New England Patriots Robert Kraft, have the opportunity right now to shape Columbia athletics and continue to move it in the right direction. While the recruiting has improved, the talent and depth in every sport needs to improve slightly. An obvious way to do this is in our own backyard.

Columbia University in the City of New York. That is the precise title of the university, and it is the easiest recruiting tool for the

SENIOR COLUMN

## Unique approach guides men's tennis

### Coach's leadership helps carry CU to Ivy dominance

BY KUNAL GUPTA  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

When it comes to men's tennis in the Ivy League, there is no shortage of talent. The Ivy League seems to excel when it comes to recruiting junior tennis talent, both from within the United States as well as internationally. Since 2006, the conference has had 11 teams which have notched top-25 recruiting classes nationwide. That list is highlighted by Yale, which has the No. 2 class for all schools for 2009. Columbia only appears on the list once—in 2006—when current junior and No. 1 singles player Jon Wong, who was ranked No. 15 in the nation, chose to come to Morningside Heights. Despite seemingly being overshadowed by other schools like Harvard and Penn in the recruiting rankings, Columbia has managed to win two out of the past three Ivy titles, including this spring's Ivy championship. The secret to the Lions' success on the tennis court appears to be the guidance of head coach Bid Goswami, who is now in his 27th year as head coach.

Although he had never held a coaching position at any level before coming to Columbia in 1982, Goswami has transformed the men's tennis program into a perennial Ivy contender. Goswami, who is as laid back off the court as he is intense on it, attributes much of his success to an unusual factor.

"Probably, one of the most important things is that you have to be a little bit lucky," said Goswami, Columbia Tennis Alumni and Friends Men's Tennis Head Coach. "I go in summer [recruiting] and sometimes, especially with international kids, I see them play once or twice. I meet them once on a visit. Now, I would be on my best behavior with them because I really want them to come to Columbia, and they are on their best behavior too. Sometimes, you have to get a little bit lucky."

Goswami has excelled in recruiting international students recently. On this year's championship roster, there are six international students. Four of them have seen consistent playing time in the singles lineup.

Goswami, however, recognized another important aspect of the development process.

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File photo

**IN BID THEY TRUST** | Junior No. 1 singles Jon Wong was one of the top-ranked recruits in the nation as a junior, and he chose to attend Columbia in part because of head coach Bid Goswami.

### BID GOSWAMI

POSITION: Head Coach

YEARS: 27

HOMETOWN: Assam, India

EDUCATION: St. Xavier's College of Calcutta University, 1973

PROFESSIONAL RESUME: Won Indian National Doubles Title 1978, Singles Title 1979. Member of Davis Cup Team in 1974-75. Played professionally until 1979.

AT COLUMBIA: Has had 29 players named all-Ivy in singles. Sent 10 players to play on professional tour. Coached two players to Ivy League Rookie of the Year and has had three honored as Ivy League Player of the Year.

IVY TITLES: 7



Courtesy of Columbia Athletics

## Final tune-up for rowing before Ivy championship

BY MICHELE CLEARY  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

The heavyweight and women's rowing teams will each compete in one final race before vying for the Ivy championship at the Eastern Sprints.

The heavyweights are coming off their first loss of the season to Boston University and Syracuse. This loss was unexpected, since the squad had entered the race as the seventh-best team in the country. After being defeated by the lower-ranked Terriers and the Orange, the Lions have dropped to 10th in the coaches' poll.

Columbia will look to climb in the standings this weekend when it takes on Navy for the Maxwell Stevenson Cup. The Midshipmen enter this regatta as the No. 15 team in the nation.

Last season, Navy defeated Columbia in the varsity eight race. The Lions finished in 6:01.14 and the Midshipmen in 5:57.4. Both teams finished ahead of George Washington, who will not be competing for the cup this season.

The Light Blue second varsity fell to Navy as well, finishing with a time of 6:13.54, exactly 13 seconds behind the Midshipmen. The

freshman eight managed to pull off Columbia's only victory on the day, coming in at 6:06.34, almost 10 seconds ahead of Navy.

The Maxwell Stevenson Cup will take place on Sunday in Princeton, N.J.

The women's team is coming off a disappointing—though not entirely unexpected—race as well. The Lions fell to No. 10 Brown and Cornell at the Dunn Bowl last weekend. The Bears took the cup, finishing first in the varsity eight race with a time of 7:05.66. Cornell came in second at 7:23.0, and the Light Blue placed third with a time of 7:32.76.

Columbia will try to bounce back this weekend when they take on Northeastern for the Woodbury Cup.

Last season the Huskies took the cup by finishing first in the varsity eight race with a time of 6:57.4. The Lions crossed the finish line 10 seconds later.

Northeastern swept all the other races as well, taking the second varsity, varsity four, and novice four regatta.

The regatta is scheduled to begin at 9:36 a.m. on Saturday in Boston, Mass.



File photo

**WINDING DOWN** | The track and field team will look to improve on last season's performance at the Princeton Invitational and prepare for the Ivy League Heptagonal.

## Track travels to Princeton for last nonconference meet

BY SABINE SCHULZ  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

This weekend, the Columbia track and field team will travel to its last meet of the outdoor season before the Ivy League Heptagonal, ECAC/IC4A, and NCAA outdoor track and field championships. The Light Blue will be heading to Princeton, NJ for the Princeton Elite Meet.

Several Lions had good showings at the meet last year in tight competition. Columbia junior Serita Lachesis took first in the 800-meter run, just three-tenths of a second ahead of Brown's Kesyly Ramsey. In the 5,000-meter run, fellow Columbia junior Christina Henderson placed second with a time of 18:25.73, behind Meghan Braffet of Maryland. Henderson was joined in the event by sophomores Hannah Kligman, Katherine Carrington, Jillian Pollack, and Jillian Goodwin, who finished third, fifth, seventh, and eighth, respectively. Sophomore Katherine Kolombatovich came in fourth in the 400-meter hurdles.

On the men's side, junior Mike Mark narrowly missed a first-place finish in the 800-meter run, as he was outpaced by Penn's Darryll Oliver, who took the title with a time of 1:51.84, a narrow four-hundredths of a second ahead of Mark. But Zach Richard brought home the title in the subsequent 1,500-meter run for Columbia, a cool second ahead of the competition, while junior Sean Quinn managed a solid third-place finish in the 400-meter hurdles for the Light Blue.

This year, Columbia brings a much-improved, stronger force to the competition. Sophomore Jeff Moriarty, who has been the success story of the 2009 season, is expected to perform outstandingly in the distance events, while freshman Kyra Caldwell will be visiting the Princeton track for the first time, looking to continue her success in both the 100-meter and 400-meter hurdles. Fellow freshman Sharay Hale has proven herself to be a force in the 200-meter and 400-meter dash, sweeping the events several times.

The Princeton Elite meet will run from Friday, May 1 to Saturday, May 2.



File photo

**ROWING AWAY** | Two of the Lions' rowing teams will be in action this weekend as they wind down their season and prepare for the Ivy League Championship.

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