

Love an Elder Day unites MoHi generations

BY JILLIAN KUMAGAI
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

On Thursday afternoon, Hani Shihada held a piece of gold chalk and filled in the blonde hair of Erin Broad on the sidewalk at the corner of 113th Street and Broadway.

In the portrait, Broad has her arm around Dolores Saborida, an elderly woman who recently died.

“We forget about them,” Shihada, a well-known New York City sidewalk artist, said. “It seems like young people don’t care for the old. They want something new. If it’s old, it’s expired. They forget the old people.”

Despite that, he said, “There’s so much to learn from them. We’re nothing without them.”

Shihada was commissioned for the portrait in preparation of Love an Elder Day, a neighborhood effort to turn the spotlight on seniors on Oct. 1. A series of special events for the elderly—capped off with a luncheon at Le Monde for 75 area seniors—were organized by Morningside Village, a local group whose programming caters to elderly residents in Morningside Heights by pairing them up with volunteers, including Broad, the sidewalk drawing subject.

Although Morningside Village’s goal is to turn all eyes on the elderly, one of the group’s main motivations behind the project is the difficulty of fostering awareness of an older generation in a neighborhood heavily populated by 20-somethings. Patricia Gatling, commissioner of the New York City Commission on Human Rights, noted that this makes older people “hidden individuals in our city.”

“It’d be very nice if students were more aware,” Gatling said, “Students may not be paying attention, but elders are the ones sitting on benches and paying attention to them. They may know more about them than some of their peers do.” She added that simple gestures, like offering to hold someone’s shopping bags, “make a big difference.”

To coincide with Love an Elder Day, Westside Market will include cards in grocery bags on Saturday encouraging locals to help out their elderly neighbors. Rajeswari Murty, TC ’73, who has two volunteers walk her to Morton Williams every week to buy groceries because she can’t walk, will be featured on neighborhood advertisements.

At a reception Thursday evening to launch the project, State Assembly member Daniel O’Donnell presented a signed proclamation from Mayor Michael Bloomberg and the City Council officially recognizing Oct. 1 as Love an Elder Day.

The organizers quickly dispensed with formalities, as attendees of all ages—from the elders to a dozen Columbia student volunteers—cheered on 95-year-old Dora Bardach as she belly-danced to the music of an Iranian tar.

A graduate of Teacher’s College, Bardach taught dance and music at P.S. 165, on 109th Street, for 40 years. She believes that young people “should learn to understand what motivates elderly people.”

“A lot of elderly people need

SEE ELDERS, page 2



JANE MA FOR SPECTATOR

OLD NEWS | The street artist Hani Shihada draws a portrait for Love an Elder Day, a Morningside Heights-organized appreciation day.

Students debate Global Scholars programs’ role

BY MELISSA VON MAYRHAUSER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

At the final event of a week-long global centers directors’ summit last Friday, administrators urged a room of student leaders to spread the word about the global centers, and about the opportunities they offer to students across the University. But for undergraduates—including some who have already spent time at the centers—concerns remain about the new programs available to them.

The centers have provided undergraduates with a new way to research abroad, according to Vice President of Global Centers Safwan Masri. “It’s not study abroad,” he said. “It’s about doing things that are creative that provide the opportunity to learn about the region in a global context.”

Still, some students prefer the course of study and the established rhythm of traditional study-abroad programs. And it’s unclear how well the centers will cater to students at the School of Engineering and Applied Science—most of whom

have difficulty finding time to study abroad—and nontraditional students at the School of General Studies.

DIVERGING MODELS

At a symposium on the second day of the directors’ summit, the inaugural group of undergraduate global scholars spoke about their experiences, highlighting two distinct models for global centers programming. Some of the students spent a semester plus a summer investigating inequality at the global center in Paris, and others took part in a six-week program at the Mumbai and Beijing centers, researching urbanization.

“We have different models—some are going to work, some are not going to work, and some are going to morph into yet different models,” Columbia College Dean of Academic Affairs Kathryn Yatrakis said.

Columbia has used Reid Hall in Paris as a study abroad location for years, but two years ago the University launched a global center out of the facility. Last semester, the center hosted its first global scholars, who conducted independent research

while coming together for a class on global inequality.

Elizabeth Jacob, CC ’13, called the Paris global scholars program “unlike any other” study abroad program at Columbia, saying that it gave students the chance to think about global inequality from many perspectives, especially beyond those of Paris. She said that while the goals of the program were unclear at first, it improved over time.

“Now, when I’m studying Arabic, I’m linking it to real people and a whole culture that I was able to experience.”

—Giula Prati, CC ’13, studied abroad in Amman

“When we were in Paris, our seminar was not actually studying Paris. It’s not like we were studying France,” Jacob said.

“We started with something more European, and then we moved toward themes of architecture and how that relates to public housing. And we also did India and China and the middle classes.”

This global emphasis and the lack of traditional methods of immersion—such as language classes and homestay experiences—differentiated the Paris program from a more commonplace study abroad experience. Still, some students prefer the traditional experience, such as Giulia Prati, CC ’13, who studied Arabic this summer in Amman, Jordan. Staying with a host family helped her to absorb the language more quickly, she said.

“Now, when I’m studying Arabic, I’m linking it to real people and a whole culture that I was able to experience, and it’s not as abstract anymore,” Prati said. “The most important aspect of study abroad is being immersed. The courses that you’re taking are secondary to that.”

Matthew Jacobs, CC ’13, chose to do a traditional study abroad program at Reid Hall,

SEE GLOBAL, page 2

Students oppose BC pool closure

Barnard pool slated to close in May due to budget cuts

BY EMMA GOSS
Spectator Staff Writer

With Barnard’s swimming pool set to close in May, a student-led initiative to save the pool is gaining momentum.

Administrators are planning to close the pool to save money and to provide temporary office space for faculty and staff who will be displaced by major campus renovations. But Save the Barnard Pool, a nascent campaign spearheaded by Jordan Alam, BC ’13 and Mel Meder, BC ’14, is working to change those plans.

“I hope that as we talk to the administration, and in working with them that we can negotiate this through,” Alam said. “It depends on their willingness to work with us.”

Barnard has been faced with a small operating deficit three of the last five years—last year, it was about \$5 million—which has led administrators to push for across-the-board budget cuts. Chief Operating Officer Greg Brown told Spectator in April that closing the pool would save the college approximately \$3 million in deferred maintenance costs.

Some students, though, have not taken kindly to proposed cuts, including the closing of the pool. Closing the pool would force Barnard students to use the pool at Columbia’s Dodge Fitness Center, an environment that some Barnard students say is intimidating in part because it is a coed facility.

Madison Lang, BC ’13 and the head lifeguard at Barnard’s pool, noted that Barnard also reduced its physical education requirement from two semesters to one semester in the spring. Lang, who is involved in the save-the-pool campaign, said that while “it’s understandable that the administration’s trying to cut costs in certain ways,” she doesn’t think the cuts should come “at

SEE POOL, page 3

Smoking ban still ineffective, USenate task force reports

BY ELISA QUIROZ
Columbia Daily Spectator

A University Senate task force on smoking policy has formally concluded what many students already suspected—that Columbia’s partial smoking ban isn’t being enforced.

After a contentious debate, the senate voted almost two years ago to ban smoking within 20 feet of all buildings on the Morningside Heights campus. But many students have continued to smoke just outside of buildings, unaware of or unfazed by the policy.

The chairs of the task force—School of Nursing professor Elaine Larson and College of Physicians and Surgeons professor Francis Lee—will present the task force’s findings to the full senate at today’s plenary, which is being held at 1:15 p.m.

in 501 Schermerhorn. The task force found that cigarette butts “were frequently present” within a few feet of the entrances to several buildings, and that very few buildings had any “no smoking” signs posted.

The smoking debate has been a constant presence in the senate since the spring of 2009.

“We concluded that the ‘no smoking within 20 feet of buildings’ policy is poorly implemented across the

SEE SMOKING, page 3

LIONS AND TIGERS, OH MY



ALYSON GOULDEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

IVY OPENER | Columbia football will take on Princeton at Baker Field at 12:30 on Saturday.

OPINION, PAGE 4

Building blocs

Professor Chalmers reflects on how Latinos can influence the election.

Greeking out

Expanding sororities means expanding community.



SPORTS, PAGE 6

Lions open Ivy play vs. Princeton

The Lions will host the Tigers this Saturday to mark the first conference game of the Mangurian Era.

EVENTS

The European Crisis in its Political Context

The foreign ministers of the Czech Republic and Estonia discuss the situation. Casa Italiana Library, 12 p.m.

Postcrypt Presents

The Moon and You, Calum and Jessie, Wyndham Baird perform folk sets. St. Paul’s Chapel, basement, 8:30 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



70°/55°

Tomorrow



68°/54°



DOUGLAS KESSEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NO SMOKING? | Daegeon Jeong, GSAPP, smokes outside Avery Hall. Under the current policy, he is too close to the entrance.

USenate asks for stricter enforcement of smoking ban

SMOKING from front page

Morningside campus and not at all implemented at the Lamont campus,” the task force wrote in its report. The Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory was not mentioned in the senate’s 20-foot smoking ban resolution, which only referred to the Morningside Heights campus. The smoking debate has been a constant presence in the senate since the spring of 2009. The body instituted the 20-foot rule in December 2010, but several senators have continued to push for a full smoking ban since then, calling the current policy unenforceable. One of those senators, Business School professor Mark Cohen, nearly brought a full ban to a vote last fall, before being advised that his resolution would have to go through committee first. Last semester, the Executive

Committee referred the issue of smoking policy to the External Relations and Research Policy Committee. The senate’s 20-foot smoking ban resolution stipulated that the policy would be reviewed within two years, and the external relations committee decided to follow that timeline, setting up the task force that is now releasing its conclusions. While the task force recommended ways for the administration to enforce the current policy, its members stopped short of recommending a new policy. Implementation of the 20-foot rule “will require multiple strategies, the use of all available means of communication, and ongoing reinforcement,” the group wrote, recommending enhanced signage, multimedia campaigns, and ongoing assessment of adherence to the policy. news@columbiaspectator.com

POOL from front page

the mercy of students’ wellness and health.” “Our options for wellness and fitness are just getting smaller and smaller, and it’s becoming clearer that women’s health and wellness isn’t as important to the administration as it should be,” Lang said.

“Students are frustrated that certain programs and core things from Barnard’s mission are being lost from decisions.”

—JungHee Hyun, BC ’13, SGA president

But even if students can convince administrators that closing the pool is not the best way to save money, it might not matter. Barnard is planning major renovations to Barnard, Lehman, and Milbank halls, and Barnard President Debora Spar told Spectator that the economics, history, and political science departments, as well as the library, will need a new home while Lehman is renovated. “The only swing space we have is the area currently known as the pool,” Spar said, adding that three stories of office space will be built at the pool site. Student Government Association President JungHee Hyun, BC ’13, said that while she doesn’t know if the save-the-pool campaign will succeed, “it is going to voice that students care about the general topic of wellness.” “This is beyond the pool that needs to be saved,” Hyun, who has attended Save the Barnard Pool meetings, said. “I sense that students are frustrated

that certain programs and core things from Barnard’s mission are being lost from decisions being made.” Hyun added that the SGA, as a liaison between students and the administration, cannot take a side on the pool issue. But she has said at SGA meetings that the council will do its best to help frustrated students communicate with administrators. Save the Barnard Pool has held two meetings so far. Alam said that in addition to convincing students to express their frustration at administrators’ office hours, she wants to get more students to swim in the pool, to show administrators that it’s a valued resource. The Barnard pool offers women-only swim hours, which Columbia’s pool does not. “I think if they don’t provide women-only swim hours

in Dodge, that’s completely removing the possibility of swimming to a huge group of our students and alumni, and it’s not fair,” Lang said, noting that many women won’t swim with men due to religious modesty practices. “It’s not fair to deny them the ability to swim.” Additionally, Meder said she’s particularly invested in keeping Barnard’s pool open because it’s shallower than Columbia’s pool, which helped her to conquer her fear of swimming. “It was really reassuring to have that shallow end extend for most of the pool, and I was able to sort of on my own push my limits in a way that would not have happened at the pool in Dodge,” Meder said. Alam is also trying to reach out to Columbia students who swim in the Dodge pool to find out how they would feel about

sharing their already crowded space with even more students. She said that while the campaign may not be enough to stop administrators from closing the pool, it will send a message to them that administrative transparency is a major student concern. “Even if nothing happens, it makes a statement to the administration that they have to at least tell us of their dealings and what they have chosen to do in advance. Even if the pool does end up closing, it’s important for us to make that statement that we dislike this and it’s not something that we are just going to have it roll over,” Alam said. “Because that means that they can also roll over on us for housing stuff this year and meal plan stuff. It’s like dominoes.” emma.goss@columbiaspectator.com



JENNY PAYNE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CLOSING DOWN | Students say the Barnard pool, set to close in May, is a valued campus resource.



ALYSON GOULDEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DEFENDING PRIDE ROCK | The Lions will play their third consecutive home game this weekend when they take on Princeton to mark the first Ivy League matchup of the Mangurian Era.

Light Blue kicks off Ancient Eight play

FOOTBALL from page 6

in the Ivy League (eight)—to continue its strong play, the players and coaches will need to adjust to the Tigers’ up-tempo offense. According to Mangurian, Princeton’s speed at the line of the scrimmage poses a challenge. “Once every 24-25 seconds, they snap the ball. That’s fast,” “That puts pressure on you defensively to communicate what you’re going to run.” “There’s a lot going on in a short amount of time. So that’s going to be our challenge,” he added. “You’re a step behind, then you’re two steps behind, then you’re three steps behind, and all of a sudden you’re 10 yards behind and somebody’s running free in the middle of the field and no

one’s covering him. So that’s what you’ve just got to be careful of—that you don’t let it control you.” Special teams could also have a large impact on Saturday’s game. Princeton’s special teams play will test the Lions, according to Mangurian. “This is by far and away the best special teams team we’ve played,” Mangurian said. “Not even close ... certain teams put more of a premium on special team plays than others. And you can tell the ones that do. This one certainly does, there’s no doubt about it. When you watch them on film, they know what they’re trying to do and they’re good at it.” While the Lions have shown flashes of brilliance in their coverage and blocking units, their

kicking and punting will need to improve in order to convert on-scoring opportunities and win the field position battle. “[We] missed a field goal in each game,” Mangurian said. “When you have chances to score, you’ve got to score. I think we were hurt with the penalties with the return game. And you can’t have that in the return game, you’ve got to field the ball and have no penalties in the return game—whether it be punt or kickoff—because inevitably it puts you in bad field position.” In their last four meetings, Columbia has beaten Princeton three times. After losing 24-21 last season, the Lions hope to get back on track when the game kicks off at 12:30 p.m. at Baker Field. sports@columbiaspectator.com

One game at a time, Lions move forward

VOLLEYBALL from page 6

While Yale traditionally has been one of the stronger teams in the league, having won back-to-back Ivy League Championships, the Lions know that the present is what counts. “You can’t look at records,

you can’t look at past years,” Wilson said. “We’ve said this all week, the most important match of the year now is Brown. When that match is over, then we have the next match, and that becomes the most important match. You can’t choose which games you’re going to be

up for, which ones you’re going to take more seriously. You have to have the habit to bring your A-game.” The Lions hit the court against Brown at 7 p.m. on Friday and play their second match against Yale on Saturday at 5 p.m. sports@columbiaspectator.com



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2875 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10025

info@columbiaspectator.com
Twitter: @ColumbiaSpec

PHONE & FAX

Daily Spectator (212) 854-9549

Business (212) 854-9550

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Are Latinos adequately represented in our political system?

BY DOUGLAS CHALMERS

Latinos contribute much to American society. Our culture, economy, and public service wouldn't be as rich without them. Does our political system recognize this contribution by taking their interests into account in making laws and policies? I'm not sure, but I believe we're often looking in the wrong place to find out.

Representation of Latinos involves much more than simply casting ballots. It's a constant effort to organize around their interests—which are many—and convey their wishes to the decision-makers as well as to find out what is possible from them. Decision-makers, in writing laws and making policies, require accurate and constantly updated information about what the people want, how they will react to decisions. The links need to be flexible and constantly changing to keep up with changing conditions and divisions among Latinos. This constant communication with constantly changing channels is the core of representation, not electing a delegate who may change his mind.

In recent weeks, Obama and Romney have been courting the “Latino vote.” One might think that this is where the action is relevant to Latino representation. Latinos presumably want broadly sympathetic presidents, congressmen, and state and local officials. Elections are an obvious way of securing that form of representation. But it is a very blunt instrument. Latino voters will not agree which candidate will represent their interests, nor be able to make sure that in fact the positive rhetoric of the candidate toward them will turn into policy. Think of George W. Bush's positive attitudes and “promises” to the Latino community before his election in 2000. They barely affected policy once elected. This is not a comment on Bush's character, since 9/11 and two invasions intervened. But it is a comment on the limits of elections as instruments for representation.

Latinos do find other channels of influence in politics, as do any industry association, labor union, professional organization, regional grouping, or religious group. Latinos, only sometimes led by formally elected congressional representatives, are in many different associations that connect with important decision networks. Representation of Latino interests depend on whether Latinos are incorporated, and whether those who are include the broad interests of Latinos among their demands.

Many Latinos are not citizens and cannot vote, reinforcing the need to develop flexible representation. Non-citizen Latinos are not only illegal immigrants, but also vast numbers of Latino businessmen, diplomats, traders, tourists, entertainers, engineers, and students. Many people important for policy cannot participate in elections because in many fields of work, entertainment, study, production, trade, and research, there are a significant number of non-citizens. They are brought in because they wish to participate, but also because to make rational law and policy, decision-makers need to know what crucial non-citizens are thinking. They have to find a way to bring in what I call “quasi-citizens”: people who are not formally citizens, but who have enough of a stake in the laws and policies being made to actively participate in the decision networks that lead to decisions. Even in the unlikely and immoral case that we wish a system will rule only for the benefit of non-Latinos, there is a need for the connections that constitute representation of the quasi-citizens. Many important Latinos fall into this category. They play a big role in our culture, society, and politics.

Latino culture is a large part of our own. I remember learning many years ago that sales of salsa had overtaken ketchup. I knew things were changing—for the better.

There are millions of Latinos working here. Migrants constitute a significant part of the agricultural and service work force. Latinos also have a substantial presence in the medical, legal, academic, and other professions. They are in many businesses. In public service, a great number of Latinos are in teaching, public services, and the military. They need to be represented politically, because they are part of us.

To assess whether Latinos are making themselves felt in politics, we need to spend less time on Latino voting rates, citizenship statistics, and share of congressional seats. We need to explore more how Latinos, citizens and quasi-citizens, play the game of influence in the many, changing decision networks of our polity.

The author is a professor of political science emeritus. He is the author of “Reforming Democracies: Six Facts About Politics That Demand a New Agenda,” which will be released in January 2013.

Not at all a bad thing

BY ALEXANDRA SALERNO

Two years ago, during my freshman year at Tufts University, I attended a “Meet the Greeks” event in hopes of discovering an organization I clicked with right off the bat. Like many first-year students (as well as many sophomores, juniors, and seniors), I had yet to find a welcoming community where I felt comfortable at my college. Despite my preconceived notions of Greek life (mostly courtesy of chick flicks and ABC Family), I was desperate enough to give anything a shot.

However, I did not feel that spark with any of the available chapters, and I soon abandoned my efforts. I will not go so far as to say that my lack of community was the only reason why I transferred at the end of that year, but I'd be remiss not to peg it as a major factor in my general unhappiness.

Luckily, this story has a happy ending. Upon starting at Columbia, I found a Greek organization that I could easily envision myself becoming a part of and went on to become infinitely better adjusted, more successful, and happier than I had been the previous year. I certainly acknowledge that this shift can be partially attributed to Columbia as a whole, as well as my general maturation, but I think the biggest factor was that I finally felt I belonged somewhere. I felt

Complain on!

There are moments in every New Yorker's life—whether you've been living here a year or a week—that make you realize you've truly become a New Yorker. For me, one occurred recently when I saw a man shooting up heroin in front of my building. As I walked past him, my only thought was, “Hey, at least he didn't ask me for any money.” But sometime long before that occurrence, there was the day I realized I'd gone from being bright-eyed, bushy-tailed, and super-excited about the city to bemoaning its every minor annoyance. You might say I had become a “jaded New Yorker.” I think I simply learned to complain.

I'm not saying New Yorkers invented the art of complaining, but let's face it: We have somewhat of a reputation for it. And like most things, we do it better than anyone else. But have we taken this “art” too far? Some people would say so. But they're probably just other New Yorkers complaining about people complaining too much. Either way, someone will likely just tell you to “shut your trap and move on.”

Not me. I'd like to tell you to complain on! I don't think people complain enough. At least not in the right way. Studies have shown that “venting” to your peers can actually make you feel worse. While you may feel that you're letting out the negativity, your brain just dwells on reasons to be upset, and your friends are usually of little help in the matter because they can't often change your situation. So while it seems like whining about the amount of reading you have for Lit Hum is a good idea, it's probably not. Don't like the way your professors voice sounds? No one cares. Feel like a test was wildly unfair? Shut your—hey wait! That one might actually be worth saying something about.

I've taken a number of classes where the majority of students have agreed that something was off. Not just that the readings were boring, or whatever, but that something was legitimately wrong with the way things were run. Take one class, for instance, where the



JESSICA
LOVELACE-
CHANDLER

Owls and
Lions and
Bears!
Oh My!

midterm—which came from the department, not our teacher—covered everything we were supposed to have studied and incidentally, not much that we had actually studied. What did we do? We complained. To each other. Our moms. Anyone who would listen. Anyone and everyone except someone who might have cared or been able to improve the situation. We complained until we were downright upset about it, and then we just stopped. Why? I don't know exactly. Maybe we just forgot about it, or maybe we realized complaining wasn't going to “fix” our midterm grade. What we didn't really take into account is that we could have possibly made things better for our final exam, or for others taking the class after us. We could have written a (politely-worded, of course) letter to our teacher or someone in the department. Instead, most of us just waited until we saw our final grades to complain again, and again, only to each other.

I hear complaint after complaint about being in school at Columbia. I think most of it is just so we can feel sorry for ourselves and hope other people feel sorry for us as well. Columbia is the third higher-learning institution I've attended, and while the other schools were great, Columbia blows them way out of the water. It's an absolutely amazing university, and I think too many of its students forget just how lucky we are to be here—that we had other choices. That being said, it's not like everything here is perfect and there's nothing to complain about. But if it's worth complaining over, it's worth complaining to the right people. Tell your dean of students or your professor or your department head or anyone who might have the ability to change things (and get paid, in part, to listen to you). Write for Spectator and point out all the things you feel need to be corrected. Complain, and complain often! Just not to me.

Suck up the small things and speak up about the big things. Make your complaining do something other than just make you depressed and annoy the people around you. Be an agent of change at this school and all around you. But if all you want to do is whine about where you are and everything around you, the New Yorker in me has a bit of friendly advice: Leave.

Jessica Lovelace-Chandler is a School of General Studies junior majoring in creative writing. Owls and Lions and Bears! Oh My! runs alternate Fridays.



IONE WANG

like I was actually contributing to something bigger than myself, and that made all the difference. However, the fact that this community existed for me was entirely fortuitous. Just like I could not find my niche at Tufts, there are plenty of Columbia students searching for theirs here.

Last spring, nearly 400 women registered for sorority recruitment. Of those, around 225 ended up joining one of the four Panhellenic organizations offered on campus at that point. That leaves approximately 175 women who started the weekend in search of a group of women they felt at home with and left empty-handed. This number rises even higher when you take into account the women who joined organizations that they merely “sort of” clicked with, only never to fully integrate into their sorority of choice and feel more alienated than before.

Both of these counts, in my view, are absolute failures of the system, and expansion is the only remedy. Regardless of people's individual feelings about Greek life (an issue I won't even try to tackle in the scope of this article), it cannot be denied that general interest in joining sororities and fraternities at Columbia has been on the upswing. This leaves us with a simple economic model that anyone who has sat through two weeks of Principles of Economics could interpret: In order to reach equilibrium, supply must increase to meet demand.

One can always wonder why Columbia should be concerned with meeting this demand. Why not just ignore it until it goes away? In a nutshell, doing so would entirely go

against all of Columbia's recent well-intentioned efforts to improve students' sense of community and belonging. The administration and student body alike are catching on to the notion that a terrific education and all the opportunities in the world are worth nothing if not accompanied by general soundness of mind and social contentment. It is a commonly accepted scientific fact that a low sense of belonging is a solid trigger for depression, which is one of the very issues that wellness initiatives are trying to combat.

Any reforms that increase the potential for students to experience belonging should therefore be welcomed with open arms, not grudgingly accepted as being “not a bad thing,” as per a person quoted in the Spectator article about expansion published last week (“Four sororities competing to open chapters at Columbia,” Sept. 20). Last year, we did more than 175 women a disservice by not being able to provide them with the community that they sought. Through the addition of two new organizations with unique personalities, more women going through recruitment will hopefully be able to find their own matches. No matter how an individual feels about Greek life, everyone should agree that all people deserve to feel that they are a part of something. No, expansion will not be a “bad thing.” I'd hazard to say it will be a very good thing.

The author is a Columbia College junior majoring in statistics and concentrating in business management. She is vice president of recruitment for Alpha Chi Omega.

The Columbia Daily Spectator accepts op-eds on any topic relevant to the Columbia University and Morningside Heights community. Op-eds should be roughly 650 words in length. We require that op-eds be sent exclusively to Spectator and will not consider articles that have already been published elsewhere. Letters to the Editor should be no longer than 350 words and must refer to an article from Spectator or The Eye, or a Spectrum post. Submissions should be sent to opinion@columbiaspectator.com. Please paste all submissions into the body of the email. Should we decide to publish your submission we will contact you via email.



COLUMBIA (1-1) vs. PRINCETON (0-2)

SATURDAY, 12:30 P.M., BAKER FIELD

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Struggling Light Blue open Ivy play

BY MUNEEB ALAM
Spectator Staff Writer

If the Columbia men’s soccer team (2-5-1) had merely replicated what it did during the first half after halftime of Tuesday night’s game at No. 13 St. John’s, it would have walked away heavily outshot, but with a draw none-theless. Instead, it walked away heavily outshot and with its fifth loss, 3-1, heading into Saturday’s match against defending Ancient Eight co-champion Brown (6-1).

“Some periods, we played really, really well, and we scored at the end and it was getting actually to be a very close game before we gave up an unfortunate goal,” said junior midfielder Henning Sauerbier, who was the Light Blue’s lone goal scorer. “If we can put together a 90-minute performance on Saturday, I think we can go up to Brown and actually get a result.”

Players and head coach Kevin Anderson all agree—the team lacks consistency. Otherwise solid play is marred by uncharacteristically poor decisions with the ball, missed coverage on set pieces, or fatigue.

The Lions hope that now, with the games counting toward the conference title, they can pull it all together.

“The good thing is we start 0-0 in the conference, so it kind of gives us a second chance this season,” Sauerbier said. He added that the team needs to apply what it learned during the first part of the season and use those experiences to move forward.

The Lions will need that complete performance to match Brown. Last year the Bears made it into the final 16 of the NCAA tournament. They played last weekend in Seattle, Wash., and their dormant offense woke up with seven goals in two games, both wins.

Despite its gaudy record, Brown does not have just one or two standout offensive performers this year—three players are tied for the team lead in goals, each having recorded two.

Last season, the Lions hosted Brown and won, 2-1, in double overtime. Sauerbier scored early in the second half.

Kickoff is Saturday at 7 p.m. in Providence, R.I.
sports@columbiaspectator.com



ALYSON GOULDEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

IN THE RED | Sean Brackett and the Lions’ offense can’t keep passing up chances in the red zone if they hope to win.

CU takes on Princeton in Ivy opener

BY SPENCER GYORY
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

When Columbia’s football team (1-1) takes on Princeton (0-2) in the opening Ivy League game of Pete Mangurian’s tenure in Morningside Heights, the Lions will have to beat the team that they see in the mirror.

Not only will the Lions be facing a team that resembles their own, but they will also need to eliminate self-induced inconsistency.

“I told our team, our mentalities are pretty similar right now,” Mangurian said.

“They feel like they could’ve won the two games they played and we feel like we had an opportunity to be 2-0 also. So we’re all kind of fighting—they’ve got their demons, we’ve got ours.”

Inconsistency on offense has been the Lions’ biggest issue through the first two games of this season. The Lions have struggled mightily in the red zone, converting only one of seven opportunities into a touchdown. In addition, senior quarterback Sean Brackett’s passing inaccuracy—he has completed only 46.7 percent of his passes thus far—has hurt the rhythm of an offense which has had

quite a bit of success running the ball.

“The big play capability is showing every once in a while,” Mangurian said. “But in the absence of that, you’ve got to execute eight, nine, 10, 12 plays consistently to drive the ball down the field and score. And we’re executing six, seven, and eight plays with consistency, and then doing something that derails you, and then you’re not capable of overcoming it.”

Mangurian said that for the Lions’ defense—which has forced the most turnovers (seven) and the second most sacks

SEE FOOTBALL, page 3

CU heads to Providence to take on a Bears squad that is 3-0 at home

BY CAROLINE BOWMAN
Spectator Staff Writer

Currently 1-0 in Ivy League play, the women’s soccer team (4-4-0) will face Ancient Eight rival Brown this Saturday.

Although Brown (6-2-0) lost its first conference matchup against Dartmouth last weekend, the Lions are still expecting stiff competition from the Bears.

“Brown will certainly be prepared for us, and it is always very competitive

with them, so we are looking forward to it,” Columbia head coach Kevin McCarthy said earlier this week.

The Bears boast recent victories over Northeastern and St. John’s, who defeated the Lions, 2-1, in overtime

toward the beginning of the year. Brown has shown some significant firepower in the front line. Forwards Chloe Cross and Mika Siegelman have combined for seven out of Brown’s 11 goals scored thus far this season.

To counter Brown’s offensive strength, the Lions will rely on junior forwards Beverly Leon and Coleen Rizzo, who both currently lead the team in scoring.

“Since freshman year, we’ve always loved playing together, and I’m happy that our coach got us back on the field together,” Rizzo said of Leon.

McCarthy has noticed a vast improvement recently in the team’s offensive production from the beginning of the season. “Our players are learning how to create opportunities from our possession, and we have certainly improved in that area,” McCarthy said. “If we continue to defend stoutly as a team and make sure that all possessions lead to production in the attacking third, we are going to keep getting better, and the results will take care of themselves.”

If the Lions can pull out a win against Brown on Saturday, they will be one step closer to bringing home their first Ivy League title since the 2006 season.

“We have a lot of individual strengths, so if we provide those and play really as a team instead of as individuals, I think we have a great chance at beating Brown,” Rizzo said.

The matchup is scheduled for 4 p.m. on Saturday at Brown.

sports@columbiaspectator.com



MICHAEL DISCENZA / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

KEEPING IT MELO | Natalie Melo and the Lions will take on a very capable Brown squad that is off to a 6-2 start.

Volleyball to take on Brown, Yale in Ivy play

BY ERIC WONG
Spectator Staff Writer

For Columbia volleyball, the next game will always be the most important one. The Light Blue (6-4, 1-0 Ivy) will keep looking forward as it plays a pair of home matches against Brown and Yale this weekend.

Though the Lions were able to sweep Cornell in three games, the team knows that there will be plenty of talent facing them across the net in both upcoming matches.

“The reality is, we’re not kidding when we say every match in this league counts. You’ve got to go to every match prepared to play,” head coach Jon Wilson said.

Pieces are starting to come together for the Lions as the coaching staff continues to try to incorporate more players into the lineup to best utilize the wide range of talents on the team.

“We have a lot of moving parts. We have lot of people playing, lot of people contributing,” Wilson said. “We’re trying to get more people involved. I think we’re going to continue to get better because that’s been the pattern so far.”

One major contributor so far this season has been senior middle blocker Heather Braunagel, whose .667 hitting percentage in conference play thus far is the top mark in the Ancient Eight. Her success can be attributed to solid defense, service reception, and a balanced attack.

“The beauty of great passes is that when you have that great pass, you can run all three options,” Braunagel said. “The opponents don’t know what to expect. There’s not necessarily a weak side.”

With strong hitting options from all three front-row positions for the Lions, opponents can’t necessarily focus their defense on stopping one or two players, which opens up the middle for quick attacks.

SEE VOLLEYBALL, page 3

THE SLATE



WOMEN’S GOLF
at Nittany Lion Invitational
State College, Pa.



VOLLEYBALL
vs. Brown
Levien Gymnasium
Friday, 7 p.m.
vs. Yale
Levien Gymnasium
Saturday, 5 p.m.



WOMEN’S SOCCER
at Brown
Providence, R.I.
Saturday, 4 p.m.



FIELD HOCKEY
vs. Princeton
Columbia Field Hockey
Venue
Friday, 7 p.m.



MEN’S GOLF
McDonald Cup
New Haven, Conn. 8 a.m.



CROSS COUNTRY
Paul Short Invitational
Bethlehem, Pa.
Friday, 10 a.m.
Greater Louisville
Classic
Louisville, Ky.
9:30 a.m.



WOMEN’S TENNIS
ITA All-American Invitational
Pacific Palisades, Calif.



MEN’S SOCCER
at Brown
Providence, R.I.
Saturday, 7 p.m.

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Prospect Heights takes center court



BY REBEKA COHAN AND ALISON MACKE
Spectator Senior Staff Writers

Almost 55 years after the Dodgers won their final home game at Ebbets Field, a new sports franchise can now call Brooklyn home. The Nets will officially kick off the regular season at their new arena, the Barclays Center, on Nov. 1 against the Knicks. But the opening of the Barclays Center means more than just Nets basketball.

The first people to step on the hardwood will be musicians, not basketball players. The official opening of the Barclays Center, slated for today, will kick off with an inaugural, sold-out performance by Jay-Z—who is also the face of the Nets, although he owns less than a 1 percent share. Perhaps you're one of the lucky ticket holders. If not, you may soon have reason to take one of the many trains that lead to the new home of the Brooklyn Nets.

The Center was originally designed to act as a new, cultural hub for Brooklynites. Every piece of promotional advertisement for the Barclays Center shouts, “Eleven trains. One Destination. Barclays Center.”

The advertisements aren't wrong. The Center sits atop a new transportation hub that brings passengers of nearly every major train line to the intersection of Flatbush and Atlantic Avenues. This will undoubtedly be beneficial for the crowds of tourists that may eventually flock to the Barclays Center, just as they do to Radio City Music Hall and Yankee Stadium. Standing outside the complex, we heard a little girl exclaim, “I'm so excited to go in there!” A father walking with his son said, “This will be great for the community.”

And Brooklyn's newest addition is already attracting guidebook-carrying tourists. Amid all the locals we saw during our visit to see the monstrosity, there were a few camera-toting, picture-taking tourists already scoping out the Center and some new Brooklyn Nets gear.

But the jury is still out on what the Center will actually do for the community—and whether the endless list of performances and games will live up to the hype.

BRINGING THE HEAT TO BROOKLYN

The move from New Jersey to Brooklyn became official for the Nets on April 13, although the intent to move the Nets to New York had been clear since 2005, after the franchise was sold to a group headed by real estate developer Bruce Ratner. The project experienced years of delays, and it only moved forward after Mikhail Prokhorov, the third richest man in Russia, made an offer both to buy a majority share of the Nets and pay for almost half of the costs to build the new arena in 2009. The construction officially began on March 11, 2010.

The team officially unveiled its new logo in April at the Modell's Sporting Goods store across the street from the Barclays Center, according to the Modell manager Nick Chang. A Brooklynite who hails from Sunset Park, Chang says that there is a general sense of excitement in the area. “People still bring up the Brooklyn Dodgers,” he said. “That's how excited people are for a major sports team here.”

And there's no reason why Brooklyn shouldn't be excited or Columbia students shouldn't line up to head down and watch them play. The Nets could be good enough to make the postseason in their first year in New York. They'll open their regular season against the Knicks, in what could easily become a traditional, inter-borough rivalry.

Rodney Laury, a Brooklyn native, was particularly excited about the Nets coming to Brooklyn. “Brooklyn, we have our own sports team now,” he said. “Last team we had was the Dodgers, and how long ago was that?”

The Nets will be welcoming All-Star guard Joe Johnson to Brooklyn for their inaugural season. Johnson will join one of the best point guards in the NBA, Deron Williams, who was a gold medalist on Team USA in both the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games. Center Brook Lopez is a skilled scorer and, having been injured for most of last season, will be a welcome re-addition to the squad. Although the Nets' hopes at a title in 2013 are slim, the promise of the postseason should be enough to excite Brooklyn and the rest of the city.

If you prefer college ball to the NBA, then you're also in luck. During the first few months of its opening, the Center will play host to a variety of college basketball tournaments. The defending college national champions, University of Kentucky, will take on University of Maryland on Nov. 9. On Dec. 15, University of Michigan's head coach John Beilein will lead his team against West Virginia University, where he was a coach for four years before moving to Michigan. The NCAA Division I matchup will be just one of three college games that will constitute the Brooklyn Winter Hoops Festival this year.

The stadium even has something for non-sports fans who might prefer a concert to a game, beginning with Jay-Z's blowout performance tonight. Barbara Streisand, Rush, John Legend, the Smashing Pumpkins, Justin Bieber, The Who, and Bob Dylan will all be making stops at the new Center before finals get underway in December.

And once the spring semester starts, Lady Gaga and Rihanna are scheduled to perform in March and May, respectively.

Laury is one of the lucky ones—he has tickets to the opening night of Jay-Z's concert series. He particularly hoped that Jay-Z would bring guest performers, as he has done in the past.

But the best part, for Laury, is the proximity. “I can walk here if I want to,” he said.

For a neighborhood that has experienced rapid growth (chiefly as a direct result of the Center itself), Atlantic Avenue has clearly had a facelift. Both the Center and the shopping mall across the street—which includes megastores like Target and Best Buy—were developed by the same company, Forest City Ratner, and are planning to build new affordable housing complexes directly behind the Barclays Center in the next few decades as a part of the Atlantic Yards Project.

Rhonda Hallett, another Brooklynite, said she has noted a significant change in the area since the project began—and for the better. According to her, it had not always been the safest part of town and she hadn't always felt safe walking around. But the arena is changing that. “Every area in every borough has its good and bad points,” she said, “but they're trying to build our area up.”

NOT EVERYTHING'S COMING UP (DERRICK) ROSE(S)

Not everyone is excited about the opening of the Barclays Center—the project gained notoriety from the start because of its use of eminent domain to acquire much of the land. Over 51 community groups are opposed to the idea of a single builder having complete control over the site.

One of the larger opposition groups, Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn, was co-founded by local Daniel Goldstein. Goldstein was the final residential holdout that stood in the way of the Atlantic Yards Project and finally agreed to move out on May 7, 2010 for three million dollars.

“At it's core, it is a corrupt, undemocratic project,” Goldstein said. “The impact of it, and the proposed buildings, are all symptoms of a process that was corrupt from the beginning.”

The project initially promised Brooklynites 10,000 full-time jobs, 2,250 units of affordable housing, and eight acres of open, public space. And according to a press release issued by the Barclays Center, roughly 2,000 people will be trained by the business advisory section of the Walt Disney Company

Giving in to dairy

When Grant Achatz, a world-famous chef, temporarily lost his sense of taste, it was tragic. When my friend, a pastry cook who would prefer to remain anonymous, lost his ability to digest dairy, it was a catastrophe of more mundane proportions. For a dessert professional, lactose intolerance is a serious disability. My friend could no longer taste his own ice creams and puddings. Although Achatz has written about how tongue cancer helped him think outside culinary conventions, I do not think my friend has embraced the creative potential of his condition. He lives in a state of begrudging acceptance, avoiding the milk, the cheese, and the pain, psychic or gastrointestinal, of confrontation with his new self.

Thus, I was surprised that my friend asked me to leave out a little detail from my birthday dinner reservation. Eleven Madison Park allows ample opportunity to disclose dietary restrictions: making the reservation, confirming the reservation, and certainly before the meal begins, when the wait staff routinely inquire, “Do you have any allergies or dietary restrictions?” But my friend wanted to eat incognito, without any alterations to the menu. Despite its four stars from the New York Times, Eleven Madison Park changed its menu format this fall. The now mandatory tasting menu focuses on the history of New York. Homages to Jewish cuisine, clambakes, steak tartare, and Central Park picnics contribute to a Broadway-worthy experience. There are creamy corn soups, black and white cookies baked with Parmesan, and runny slices of cheese. Junior’s Most Fabulous Cheesecake and Desserts does not make an appearance, though there is a goat cheese cheesecake with huckleberries. Dairy is unavoidable on the Eleven Madison Park menu, and my friend wanted to spend his summer earnings on the whole show, not a censored copy.

For a dessert professional, lactose intolerance is a serious disability.

For six months, my friend had not tasted any dairy products. In effect, he had been on an indefinite fast. Like a life-long vegetarian who suddenly wolfs down a bloody burger, or an orthodox Jew who branches out to bacon, my friend had delayed his gratification to the point of sensory over-stimulation. Like a tantric act, the moment of tasting would merge the aesthetic and the bodily in terrifying and transcendental unity. Could he handle even a spoonful of sublime pistachio ice cream without losing his mind (and his bowels)?

In the 18th century, hunger and taste were considered mutually exclusive. During the “Century of Taste,” appetite and discernment were incompatible. Denise Gigante traces the tradition back to Hobbes, who organized man around the stomach, not the mouth. The demands of the body precluded aesthetics. One who took bodily pleasure could not appreciate the beauty of what one consumed.

We inhabit a world of over-saturation, and so aesthetic discrimination should be our default status. The profusion and proliferation of spectacular commodities has neutralized the threat of hunger. Even those forced to live in a state of continuous malnutrition are so inundated with media and flavor-engineered materials that sensory hunger is impossible. Post-industrial capitalism has tested the Hobbesian hypothesis and found it lacking. It is rare that we derive profound pleasure from anything, because we are exhausted. The artificial production of appetite is the only remaining pathway to spiritual experience in our consumptive culture.

We must pay the consequences for our aesthetic appetites. Throughout the meal, my friend popped four lactase pills, like a grizzled lawyer preparing for his much younger date.

Before dessert, Eleven Madison Park serves an egg cream, a classic New York confection that calls for syrup, milk, and seltzer. Their current iteration, which uses a vanilla malt syrup, instantly reminded me of a frozen custard I had at Ted Drewes in St. Louis one pre-teen summer. Time’s distance can function like a fast for the soul. We call the sensation nostalgia, but the Romantics would have said Heimweh, or homesickness. I cannot speak to my friend’s experience, which was surely more visceral.

We must pay the consequences for our aesthetic appetites. Throughout the meal, my friend popped four lactase pills, like a grizzled lawyer preparing for his much younger date. Despite his best efforts, later that night my friend felt like he was dying. Yet, we should not consider our punishment as divorced from our pleasure. One need only look at Bernini’s “Saint Teresa” to witness the convergence of agony and ecstasy. Tantric eating requires some measure of self-destruction. Today’s paradox of discernment is that self-denial is equivalent to self-indulgence.

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



JASON BELL
In Defense of Delicious

Best of Jazz Clubs

When blasting your Spotify and 8Tracks playlists just isn’t curbing your craving for good music, it’s nice to know that Manhattan is home to some authentic, old-school jazz clubs. On your next free evening, consider taking a walk to a nearby watering hole or heading downtown to experience the charms of a longtime favorite, both with the best jazz the city has to offer: Your ears (and your roommate) will thank you. —BY KENYA WATSON



ILLUSTRATION BY JESSICA FAN

Londel’s

2620 Frederick Douglass Blvd.
Jazz and soul come together at Londel’s Supper Club. Located in Strivers Row, a historical section of Harlem, the classy atmosphere and great food make Londel’s worth the trip. This uptown spot offers a Southern-style menu including signature dishes such as chicken and waffles, honey BBQ baby back ribs, and pork chops. There is no cover charge for the jazz music on Friday and Saturday evenings—a plus for college students on a tight budget—but reservations are recommended.

Arthur’s Tavern

57 Grove St.
Located in the West Village, Arthur’s Tavern is popular among tourists and native New Yorkers alike. Also known as “Home of the Bird,” this club has been playing jazz and blues since 1937, making it one of the oldest spots in New York City. It was once a regular host to Charlie Parker, a famed saxophonist and composer, and trumpeter Roy Hargrove. You will hear anything from Chicago blues and Dixieland jazz to New Orleans jazz and R&B. Live music is played Tuesday through Saturday beginning at 7 p.m.

Smoke

2751 Broadway
Smoke, a warm little spot between 105th and 106th, offers live music nearly every day from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m., as well as at Sunday brunch. It’s also close to campus, so students can easily drop in without the hassle of leaving Morningside Heights. The candles, red interior, and white tablecloths give it a classy vibe in a cozy space. Upcoming groups include 14-piece jazz orchestra Captain Black Big Band and jazz vocalist Dee Daniels. The club notably received the 2010 Open Table Diner’s Choice Award.

Neighborhood Watch

By Natalie Felsen



New development brings pop stars, protests to Flatbush

BARCLAYS from page B1

to work in the arena. The Barclays Center also provided union workers with jobs throughout the building process.

“New York City has always been home to the biggest events on the grandest stages, and now Brooklyn has a world-class venue to continue that tradition,” Mayor Michael Bloomberg said in a statement at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. “The arena’s location ... and its innovative design make it destined to become an iconic part of the urban landscape.”

But now that the Center is finally opening this weekend, Goldstein said, the differences between what was promised and the reality are painfully apparent. According to Develop Don’t Destroy Brooklyn, only 100 of the promised full-time jobs were created, and three years after the project started, the terms were changed and the schedule for building housing complexes was extended significantly.

“Everyone understands people are going to go and enjoy the events at the arena,” Goldstein said. “But that’s not what the project was about. It was about creating jobs and homes for Brooklynites, and it’s failed miserably at that.”

EXCITEMENT’S IN THE AIR(BALL)

We trekked down to the Barclays Center last week. Well, OK, “trekked” is a loose term since there are approximately 80 trains—fine, 11—you can take to get there.

While we will be the first to admit that the building is a bit of an eyesore, we didn’t completely hate looking at it by the time we left. What really struck us was the dichotomy between the two opposing sides of the Barclays Center. To the left, there’s a built-up shopping complex with the likes of Target, Buffalo Wild Wings, and Cold Stone Creamery. To the right, you find a storybook-like version of old-school Brooklyn, including a haunted house, a sports bar, and the Conrad McRae basketball courts a few blocks away.

Nothing quite compares to the size of the court in the arena itself. For games, it seats 18,000, an impressive 10,000 of which belong to season ticket holders. Even though the arena is slightly smaller than Madison Square Garden, the steep angle of the upper section seats will provide better views directly onto the court.

Despite the newness of the Barclays Center, the exterior appears to be anything but. It just looks rusty. And, in fact, it is. According to the New York Times, the arena is built out of a material called “weathering steel” and is intended to do just what its name says—protect against the weather. To put it more clearly: The finish is not paint. It’s just rust.

Although the outside of the arena looks old and weathered, it’s bringing something that Brooklyn hasn’t seen in over five decades: something to root for. And even if you don’t have a ticket to the sold out inaugural performance by Jay-Z, don’t worry, the Center isn’t going anywhere, especially not California.

“The opening of Barclays Center is the culmination of my dream for Brooklyn to bring a national professional sports team back to the borough for the first time since our beloved Dodgers left for ‘La La Land’ more than 50 years ago,” Brooklyn Borough president Marty Markowitz said in a statement. “As home of the Nets, Brooklyn once again stands proud as a national sports city, and with the first tipoff at center court on Nov. 1, the ghosts of Ebbets Field will disappear forever.”

The Barclays Center is located at 620 Atlantic Avenue. 2 and 3 trains stop at the Center. Jay-Z is performing tonight and has seven additional concerts between now and Oct. 8. A full calendar of events can be seen at <http://www.barclayscenter.com/events-tickets/event-calendar>.



COURTESY OF ADOPT FILMS AND INDOMINA MEDIA

TO SEE OR NOT TO SEE | With the New York Film Festival taking place over the next two weeks, there will be plenty of opportunities to see films at the three theaters of Lincoln Center.

New York Film Festival *by Joseph Pomp*

Rejoice! The 50th edition of the New York Film Festival (Sept. 28-Oct. 14) has arrived. The main slate of films is just as diverse as always, including a panorama of world art cinema and a smattering of studio-funded Oscar bait, but the selection is changing in two major ways. It’s a lot bigger, growing to 33 films from last year’s 27, and it will be presented not just at the divine Alice Tully Hall (1941 Broadway at 65th Street), but also around the corner at the Film Society of Lincoln Center’s three theaters (Walter Reade up the stairs on 165 W. 65th St., and the Francesca Beale and Howard Gilman theaters at 144 W. 65th). This is great news for students: Tickets for films on the FSLC screens are \$4 cheaper. Here are some highlights from this year’s festival.

BARBARA

A female doctor finds herself tending to the locals in a small town outside of Berlin, but feels oddly alienated by and suspicious of those around her. The plot, when combined with beautiful images of the town’s pastoral landscape, makes “Barbara” appear to be just another standard contemporary European art film. Over time, though, details like Barbara’s secret meetings with her lover in the woods reveal the film’s complexity in its depiction of East Germany. Directed by Christian Petzold, one of the leading talents in the so-called “Berlin School,” “Barbara” is elegant, subtle, and very intelligent, much like its star, Nina Hoss.

Tickets available for Mon, Oct. 1 at 6 p.m. and Sat, Oct. 6 at 12:15 p.m., both at Alice Tully Hall; Petzold in person on Oct. 6.

FRANCES HA

Probably the NYFF film with the most obvious appeal to Columbia students, the latest from Noah Baumbach is a black-and-white celebration of being young (specifically in one’s twenties, fresh out of a liberal arts college) in New York City. It’s co-written by Greta Gerwig, BC ’06, who also plays the titular character with her typical verve and intelligence. Unsurprisingly, the film calls to mind Lena Dunham’s show “Girls,” with which it shares the excellent actor Adam Driver, but it has much more in common with the French New Wave. The warmth, cuteness, and vivacity that pervade nearly all the interpersonal relationships in the film are very Truffautian.

Sun, Sep. 30 at 6:30 p.m. at Alice Tully Hall, Thu, Oct. 4 at 9 p.m. at Alice Tully Hall, and Wed, Oct. 10 at 4 p.m. at Francesca Beale Theater; standby tickets only for all shows; Baumbach and Gerwig in person.

YOU AIN’T SEEN NOTHIN’ YET!

The newest film from 90-year-old French master Alain Resnais (“Last Year at Marienbad”) begins with a series of actors being informed that a theater director they collaborated with has died. “Is this Michel Piccoli?” “Mathieu Amalric?” The list of iconic French actors playing themselves goes on. They all converge to mourn the director’s death while sitting in the deceased man’s living room. But in a twist, the room becomes a theater itself, as the actors begin to perform the play in which he directed them—the same play that happens to be playing on a TV screen in front of them. An adaptation of two plays by Jean Anouilh, the film assumes prior knowledge of the story of Eurydice and Orpheus, but even the uninitiated will enjoy watching the all-star cast bring it to life.

Tickets still available for Tue, Oct. 2 at 6 p.m. at Alice Tully Hall; standby tickets only for Wed, Oct. 3 at 6:30 p.m. and Tue Oct. 9 at 3:45 p.m., both at Francesca Beale Theater.

Long live the arts

I felt that it was important, before I left the political arena completely, to touch on an issue that keeps popping up in the mainstream press: government funding for the arts.

No matter who wins the election, arts funding is going to face a rigorous debate in the coming years, and nobody is short on speculation as to what this means. The essential formula for these articles is to juxtapose the inherent benefits of an arts background with the fact that funding is steadily declining, prompting the reader to ask an exasperated “Why?!” before meandering into a bit of varying op-ed. Given that I’ve been a music student for close to 18 years, I felt it was important that I too comment on this deeply personal issue—but seriously, if I drift toward the formula, slap me.

When it comes to music, I’ve been remarkably lucky. I went to a small elementary school where my teachers and 10 (yes, really, 10) classmates supported me every step of the way. I also found a thriving jazz education scene in my hometown where I met countless friends, colleagues, and mentors. My high school gave me multiple opportunities to play, compete, and record. When it came time for college, I was lucky to find a place where I could pursue academics without sacrificing my continued musical growth. At every juncture where I could have been turned away, I was instead propelled forward by people who genuinely wanted to help me.

No matter who wins the election, arts funding is going to face a rigorous debate in the coming years, and nobody is short on speculation as to what this means.

This, and I hope it goes without saying, is not the typical experience. Most artists (or would-be artists) get little to no support and fight an uphill battle every day just to have the chance to do what they love. This isn’t just a missed opportunity, but a serious disadvantage to a significant part of the population. Music isn’t just a skill—it’s something you’re born with. Talent is created and nurtured, but the drive to create is something we can’t ever obtain or rid ourselves of. Like all drives, it causes pain when it can’t be expressed, but unlike other drives, its expression requires support.

Contrary to what people say, music education isn’t about gaining confidence, learning math skills, or improving mental dexterity: It’s about an insuppressible need to create. There are people in all walks of life that have this drive, and when they are given an outlet, they are able to operate at peak performance for whatever else they may do.

Arts programs aren’t designed merely to create the next generation of post-modern whatever, but they also aren’t designed so that a 40-year-old can impress coworkers with the first 16 bars of Für Elise. Their real purpose, and ideally their real focus, is the doctor who saves lives during the day and finds his peace playing the guitar away at night. It’s about the lifelong passions and relationships that can revolve around a love of and a fluency in music.

Most importantly, it’s about giving those that are born with the drive—and it’s more people than you might think—the means to express themselves and achieve that balance.

David Ecker is a sophomore in Columbia College. Slightly Off Key runs alternate Fridays.



DAVID ECKER

Slightly Off Key



COURTESY OF ARGOT PICTURES

VIABLE FUNGI | Not quite a love story, this film follows the marriage of Regina and Lucien, who work as mushroom pickers through the winter. The protagonist, Lucien, is played by the director and writer.

When mushrooms (almost) break up a marriage

BY ANNABELLA HOCHSCHILD
Spectator Staff Writer

A film about...mushrooms? This I had to see to believe.

“Now, Forager” takes its name from the Walt Whitman poem “The Untold Want.” The story revolves around Lucien and Regina, who forage for mushrooms in the wilds of New Jersey to sell them on an informal basis to Manhattan restaurants.

The film describes itself as a love story, but lacks the components of a true romance. As the winter comes, the dreaded frost also falls on the couple’s marriage. Trouble arises when Regina wants to work for a more stable marriage while Lucien wants to remain an itinerant mushroom picker, traveling throughout the winter to South

America in order to escape the frost. Despite the bleak storyline, this is a film in which the cinematography is as rich as the northern winter is barren.

His poignant silence throughout most of the film aside, one never feels that he lacks what is required to convey his emotions.

At times, the film turns into a confusing biology/botany lesson in which a sleep-inducing list of mushroom genus names takes up valuable

time. However, the close-up shots of fungi are surprisingly beautiful. What is really important in conveying the film’s message is ultimately the perfection of the dew-dropped mushrooms that causes Lucien to do anything to pick them, even if his marriage suffers as a result.

This film is essentially Jason Cortlund: He writes, directs, and stars as Lucien. It is because of him that the film works well. His poignant silence throughout most of the film aside, one never feels that he lacks what is required to convey his emotions. Regina however, played by Tiffany Esteb, seems to lack any on-screen impact other than a sense of pretension and perpetual misery—she is just too hideously sad throughout to prompt anything other than a moderate distaste in the viewer.

The actress who really shines plays what

seems like a ham role. Gabrielle Maisels is the thoroughly spoiled wife of a conservative think-tank leader. She is so obnoxious that it is actually painful to watch her go about her daily routine of taking a disinterested view in her infant daughter while controlling her appeasing staff.

I found the most interesting part of the film to be the explanation of how our food comes to us. Apart from buying organically, I didn’t realize what a difference sustainability could make. Lucien and Regina depend on restaurants that want to purchase gathered mushrooms rather than those seen clad in plastic wrapping in almost every grocery store’s produce aisle.

The film really makes it clear that people within this city can provide for themselves using a primitive approach, albeit with a gourmet edge.

Flipside Guide



HALLIE NELL SWANSON FOR SPECTATOR

HIPSTERS R US | At this 7000-square-foot space, shoppers can find printed tees, keychains, watches, and other vintage fare.

American Apparel Factory Outlet

Soho outlet offers signature styles at tempting prices

BY HALLIE NELL SWANSON
Columbia Daily Spectator

If American Apparel retains its hold on Columbia students, it is with some reluctance on our end—whether we resent the hefty price tags or obnoxious brand identity. If you still feel the bright lights of temptation gazing at you from the cynically christened “Columbia University” branch, head down to the Factory Outlet in Soho. You can pick up the clothes you love while convincing yourself you’re not buying into a brand you hate.

Fans of the brand have descended with religious enthusiasm on its warehouse sales in Los Angeles, eager to snatch up its basics or “cult” items (shiny, high-waisted Disco Pants or the ubiquitous Double U-Neck Dress). The sales have expanded to a 7000-square-foot permanent home, where with little dedication you can find a huge selection of popular items between 50 to 90 percent off.

American Apparel’s commitment to “vertically integrated manufacturing” means everything is made in LA at the nation’s largest garment factory. Sometimes, the folks down at the factory make a mistake AA calls a “charming imperfection:” stitching in an incorrect contrasting color, mislabeled size, or an incorrectly dyed shirt in an intriguing new shade. These items don’t pass the vetting process and get transferred to the Soho store, where you can pick up a cardigan inexplicably labelled “DARA” or a necklace with a unicorn keychain and souvenir Florida flamingo attached.

The factory outlet selection—restocked twice weekly—is excellent considering the discounts offered. You’ll find some ghosts of trends past (the two-tone bodycon dress every girl at my high school donned for the duration of 2009), as well as \$9 shirts and half-price jeans. The store attracts the average shopper as much as the exhibitionist buying a lime green lace bra and mesh dress, or the indie kid buying massive glasses and some patent brogues. The crowd falls everywhere on the hipster spectrum: The 40-year-old guy buying a denim jacket with an American flag on the back, I hazard to guess, was not doing so in the ironic postmodern spirit the brand intended.

Also on offer are less tried and tested items: glasses, watches, and a small vintage section at least 50 percent of which comprises Christmas sweaters. An entire room is devoted to screen-printed men’s shirts featuring women sucking frankfurters or shotgunning beer, while other variations sport thoughtful slogans like “All Blogs Post the Same Stuff.” Hopefully their evident failure to sell indicates the brand has abandoned this project—better to stick to the plain shirts.

The outlet is less self-conscious than its regular branches: The ever-present Viva Radio station doesn’t play and signs read “SHIRTS” rather than “The Poly-Cotton 3/4 Sleeve Raglan Shirt.” The shopping experience is closer to vintage shopping than a regular store: Fitting rooms are “wherever you feel comfortable.” This is likely to be the kitchenette, where you can peruse the New York Federal Employment Notices as you attempt to hide your modesty behind the gallon bottles of Poland Spring.



COURTESY OF DUMBO ARTS FESTIVAL

DON’T BE DUMBO | Spanning across the entire neighborhood, the DUMBO Arts Festival brings together artists, dancers, and poets.

DUMBO Arts Festival

Barnard grad directs festival featuring Brooklyn talent

BY KELSEY PIVA
Columbia Daily Spectator

For everyone from the art enthusiast to the casual admirer, the DUMBO Arts Festival is one of New York’s most accessible and exciting art projects of the year.

Hosted in Brooklyn’s DUMBO neighborhood (a convenient abbreviation for Down Under the Manhattan Bridge Overpass), the festival includes over 500 performers, showcasing the talents of musicians, dancers, artists, and poets. From Sept. 28 to Sept. 30, the festival aims to celebrate the creative energy and spirit of New York by converting Brooklyn’s sidewalks, piers, parks, and buildings into galleries, stages, canvases, and performance halls. Completely free and open to the public, the festival is only a short subway ride from Morningside Heights.

“The beauty of the festival,” Festival Director and Barnard graduate Lisa Kim said, “is that there is truly art for everyone. Exhibits include low-tech and high-tech projects, interactive performances, traditional art, and sight-specific displays.”

Among the works at this year’s festival is Codex Dynamic, returning to the festival for a second year. The exhibit will comprise a three-dimensional video projection on the Manhattan Bridge. Created by Leo Kuelbs and John Ensor Parker, the program is an exploration of space, time, and visual perception.

In its 15th year, the organizers see room for growth. After changing management and nearly cancelling the festival in 2010, the last two years have been an influential time.

“The festival grows bigger and gains more attention every year,” Kim said. This year’s program is no exception, as AT&T has brought



COURTESY OF DUMBO ARTS FESTIVAL

its 2012 Signature Artwork “Superhero,” an interactive installation that allows each participant the unique opportunity to see themselves digitally replicated onto buildings, performing heroic feats such as flying and throwing laser beams. Other artists in the festival take a different bent, with displays incorporating everything from soap and thread to wood, steel, and chrome.

Another festival feature—The Entasis Dance Project—is a combination of architecture and dance. New York-based artist, Eve Bailey’s works feature dancers posed on large totemic poles, mirroring anatomy and construction. “The event speaks to the unique setting and beautiful mix of creative talent that lives and works in Brooklyn,” Kim said.

Joining the festival for the first time is the Children’s Museum of Art. Art Village in the Park is a youth program that brings workshops and hands-on exhibits to Brooklyn kids. Taking place along the waterfront, the Children’s Village will use local inspiration to fuel projects such as the carousel design class.

Kim acknowledged that while the festival may be photographed and recorded, it doesn’t replace the live experience.

“Although the festival will be remembered on YouTube, it is something spectacular and meant to be seen live,” she said. In the end, for Kim, the DUMBO Arts Festival is intended to be intellectually, conceptually, and visually inspiring.

She added, “The DUMBO Arts Festival is an experience. Walking through exhibitions, you will encounter different emotions and sensibilities. Some will make you laugh and some will surprise you. That’s what art is all about.” Kim encourages college students to attend the festival saying, “Get your asses out here! It is a great way to spend the whole day and night.”



CHRIS BROWNER FOR SPECTATOR

NIGHT AT THE OPERA | At right, opera superstar tenor Plácido Domingo poses for photographs and is greeted by throngs of adoring fans.

‘L’Elisir d’Amore’

Met premiere gala hits high, low notes

BY CHRIS BROWNER
Columbia Daily Spectator

As the sun set over Manhattan last Monday, all of New York high society made their way across Lincoln Center Plaza en route to the Metropolitan Opera House. To open the company’s 2012-2013 season, the Met presented a new production of Gaetano Donizetti’s “L’Elisir d’Amore” (“The Elixir of Love”), in a new production by Tony Award-winning director Bartlett Sher. Among the celebrity guests attending the premiere were fashion designers Diane von Furstenberg, Austin Scarlett, and Zac Posen; actors Patrick Stewart and Rachel Dratch (“Saturday Night Live”); and opera superstar Plácido Domingo. The evening was filled with glamorous and outrageous fashion statements and plenty of operatic excitement.

“L’Elisir d’Amore” is the opera equivalent of today’s romantic comedy—a charming story of unrequited love in a provincial Italian village. The opera focuses on Nemorino, a down-on-his-luck peasant, and his infatuation with the confident, intelligent, and feisty landowner Adina. Nemorino’s love is challenged by the haughty Sergeant Belcore, but everything is turned upside down when a quack doctor, Dulcamara, arrives in the village hawking his magic, cure-all elixir (in reality, cheap Bordeaux). The stage is set for a winning combination of comic hijinks and touching romance.

The opera is a classic comedy of the standard repertory, but throughout the performance it seemed that many of the director’s choices did not fit with the opera’s light plot and score. Re-imagining the opera in the 19th century period of Austrian oppression in Italy, many of Sher’s choices imposed a dark side onto the piece that isn’t present in the libretto or music.

Although Monday was the production’s premiere, it didn’t feel very new. Set designer Michael Yeargan’s two-dimensional scenery was colorful and pleasant, but certainly not unique. In fact, many of the



CHRIS BROWNER FOR SPECTATOR

sets seemed oddly reminiscent of the whimsically painted flats of the Met’s previous production of “L’Elisir,” which were onstage as recently as this past March.

However, the evening was saved by a cast that included four talented and engaging performers. As the helplessly love-struck Nemorino, tenor Matthew Polenzani needed time to get vocally comfortable, but eventually, he sang with his characteristically bright, lyrical tone. One of the most breathtaking moments of the night came when he delivered the classic aria “Una Furtiva Lagrima” with a delicate and heartfelt execution.

World-renowned soprano Anna Netrebko portrayed the self-assured, yet charming Adina and sang with a rich sound that still managed to be pure and sweet. Although the role is usually performed by a singer with a much lighter tone, Ms. Netrebko’s voice sounded comfortable in most areas of the score and she delivered a committed acting performance.

Mariusz Kwiecien brought a virile baritone to the role of Sergeant Belcore. His forceful sound was nicely matched to the assertive nature of his amorous character, but at times his characterization—likely influenced by the production’s weighty approach—was too aggressive for the buffoonish role and lost much of the character’s humor.

Italian baritone Ambrogio Maestri rounded out the comic quartet as the wily Dulcamara. With a combination of sonorous singing and jocular acting, Maestri was certainly a standout of the evening. His robust voice was matched by an ample waistline, both of which were used to full comic effect.

This is certainly not a spectacular or novel production of “L’Elisir d’Amore,” but as a whole it still offers an enjoyable night at the theater. The opera is a great introduction for Columbia students who are interested in experiencing the art form for the first time. Despite some unfortunate choices by the production team, the comic spirit of the opera prevails and audiences can still enjoy Donizetti’s charming masterpiece.

events

FOOD AND DRINK

Taste of France in New York

—Pier 54, Meatpacking District,
Saturday, Sept. 29 to Sunday, Sept. 30
11 a.m.-6 p.m.

It’s no secret that the French take pride in their cuisine: This two-day festival will celebrate the food found in regions throughout the country.

MUSIC

Global Festival

—Central Park Conservancy, 830 Fifth Ave.,
Saturday, Sept. 29,
5 p.m.

Who doesn’t love free music? Saturday might just be your lucky day, as tickets for this outdoor performance featuring Neil Young & Crazy Horse, The Black Keys, Band of Horses, and K’Naan will be given away via lottery system.

WILDCARD

Atlantic Antic Street Festival

—Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y.,
Sunday, Sept. 30,
12 p.m.-6 p.m.

Now in its 38th year, Manhattanites and locals alike flock to Brooklyn on an autumn afternoon to indulge in seasonal delights and community spirit.

ART

Maker Faire

—New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St.,
Saturday, Sept. 29, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.,
Sunday, Sept. 30, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

If you lived for your high school science or art fair, this gathering will make you feel at home. These inventors will bring the concept of “show and tell” to a new level.