

IN THE ZONE



COURTESY OF JACKIE HO

LANG@CU | Renowned Chinese concert pianist Lang Lang performs at Lerner Hall on Tuesday. SEE PAGE 6 FOR MORE.

## Compliments flood new Facebook page

### Students using anonymous comments for praise, not criticism

BY LILLIAN CHEN  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Dara Marans, CC '14, was toiling away on a paper in the library when a simple Facebook post brightened her day.

The post was from Columbia Compliments, a Facebook account started by a group of Columbia undergraduate students this week to “spread love, see people smile, and ultimately make this world a better place,” the group said in an email.

Columbia Compliments posts anonymous compliments and kind messages to members of the Columbia community who are friends with the account on Facebook. Anyone can send a direct message to Columbia Compliments—provided the message is positive—and the group will publish it anonymously and tag the recipient in the post.

“I just sat in the library smiling,” Marans said. “It made me feel really good.”

The organizers of Columbia Compliments—who have asked to remain anonymous to maintain the character of the project—started the Facebook account midday Tuesday and began sending out compliments that evening.

Since then, they have posted roughly 500 compliments, and more continue to roll in. By early Thursday morning, the Columbia Compliments account had 1,851 Facebook friends.

“Columbia is a place that needs something like this, and we saw the opportunity to make people’s lives here better,” the organizers said. “We all know how quickly the flu catches on, but the same can be said about things that are good for us.”

Marans called the initiative “infectious.”

“There’s obviously a real space

for it on campus, just considering the fast growth,” she said.

Rebecca Smith, CC '13 and a compliment recipient, said that the fact that the initiative started spontaneously, instead of as a response to a tragic event, showed “how much people support each other.”

“It just gives you a good feeling to know that perhaps a stranger or friend is on your side.”

—Cole Diamond, SEAS '13

“Here, I’ve met some of the most amazing people I’ve ever met,” she said. “It’s really nice to have that become a movement.”

Marans said that the anonymity of the page helped to provide students with a space in which they could be more honest with one another.

“Being in an anonymous forum creates a sense of comfort for people to share their thoughts about their friends or even people that they’re not friends with,” Marans said. “It breaks down barriers between students.”

Smith also said that the anonymity added a sense of excitement to the compliments.

“I read the compliments, and I was trying to figure out who wrote them, and I just couldn’t figure out who it was,” she said.

Cole Diamond, SEAS '13, agreed. “It’s a nice surprise to see that you have some sort of secret

SEE COMPLIMENTS, page 2

## 2 weeks after Sandy, St. Luke’s still caring for evacuees

BY HALLIE NELL SWANSON  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

After working overtime to accommodate refugee patients from downtown hospitals during Hurricane Sandy, Glenda Miranda, director of Patient Care Services at St. Luke’s hospital, said that she had never been happier just to see fresh laundry.

St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital found itself hosting roughly 125 evacuated patients from downtown Bellevue and NYU hospitals after their generators failed during Sandy—an influx of patients it dealt

with by implementing a 24-hour command center, adding make-shift bedrooms, and having many staff members not leave the hospital for four days. And two weeks after Sandy ripped through New York, the hospital is still caring for dozens of those evacuated patients as their facilities recover.

Dan Wiener, chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at St. Luke’s and one of many staff members who slept at St. Luke’s Sunday night in anticipation of the storm, said that the space constraints of the hospital posed a major challenge in housing

all of the patients.

“This was a storm I’m sure nobody imagined would ever hit New York City,” Wiener said. “We went from being at nursing capacity to being at physical capacity,” noting that the hospital was using all of its space to house the patients.

He added that the Roosevelt detox unit and the St. Luke’s pediatric unit were cleared to provide more room.

The hospital found “mothball beds” on wards that are generally unoccupied, and the Salvation Army delivered cots for the staff members, several hundred of

whom slept in conference rooms and halls.

During the hurricane, the hospital’s staff set up its 24-hour emergency “command center” in a conference room equipped with a television screen that monitored patients’ vitals, another screen to broadcast the news, and telephones to keep the staff connected.

According to Wiener, all hospitals in the Greater New York Hospital Association have command centers, which activate when a Code D for “disaster” is

SEE ST. LUKE’S, page 3

## GS students call for events with less alcohol

BY MAX MARSHALL  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

General Studies Student Council has sponsored events ranging from a masquerade gala at a downtown nightclub to a cocktail gathering at a Midtown

penthouse. But according to a recent GSSC survey of 69 GS students, many of them want more family-friendly events.

“There was definitely a voice for less alcohol-related, more family-oriented, career-related networking events that

don’t depend heavily on the drinking part,” said Working Students Representative Leon Pedahzur, GS '13. “The survey made us look even more to create professional events that

SEE ALCOHOL, page 2



DOUGLAS KESSEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

THE CONSTANT GARDENER | Tony Hillery operates the Harlem Grown nonprofit garden.

## At P.S. 175, a gardening education

BY THEA RAYMOND-SIDEL AND KATIE DECHANT  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

A student ran up to Tony Hillery in the lunchroom and showed him an orange seed. “Save it for me—I’ll put it in the garden,” Hillery said.

At Henry H. Garnet Elementary School in Harlem, students have a unique extracurricular

### Nonprofit garden run by Harlem students from across the street

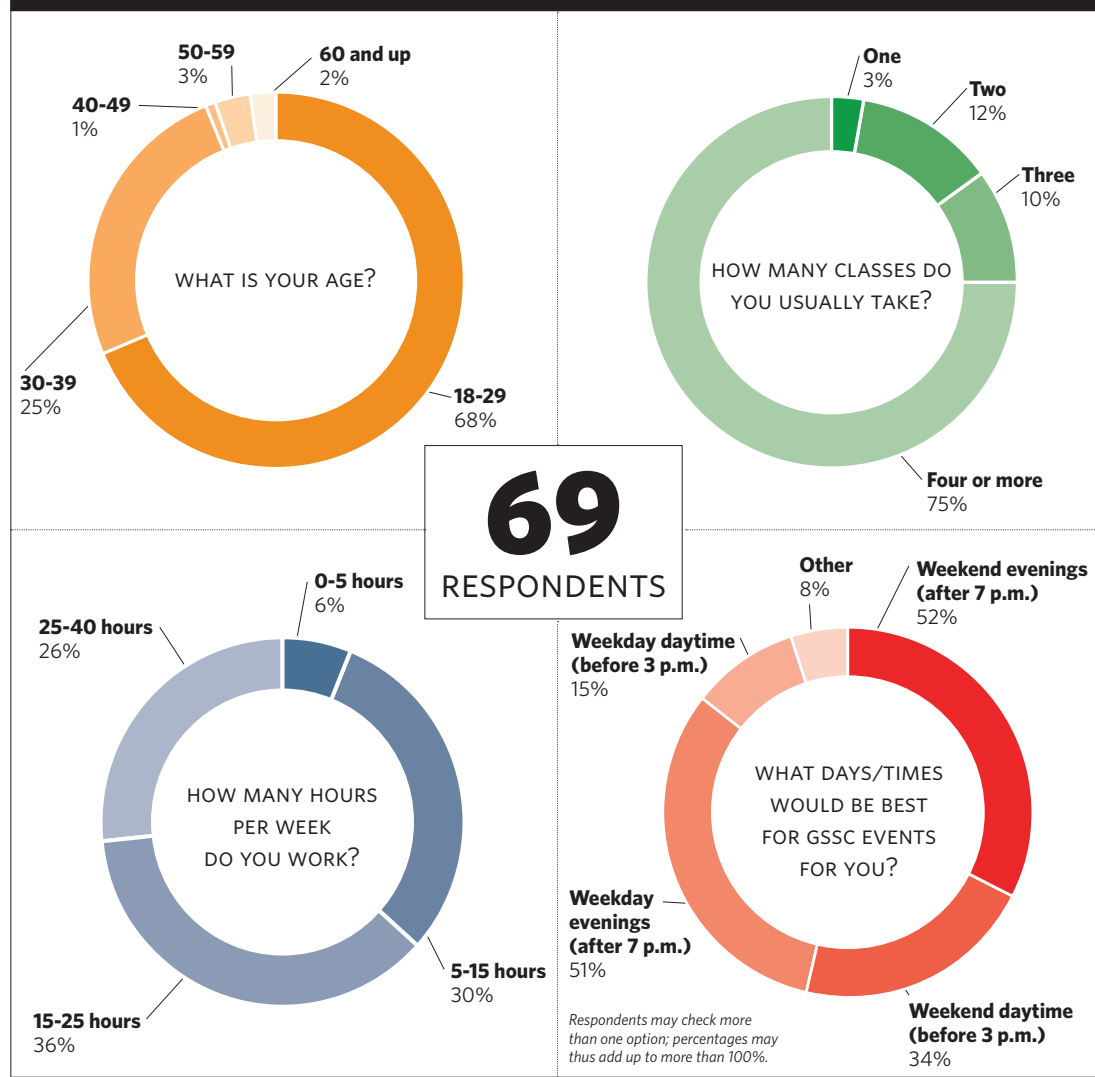
opportunity—gardening. Harlem Grown, the nonprofit garden that Hillery operates across the street from the

school, is one of a growing number of urban gardens and farms in Harlem and provides a chance for students to learn about sustainability and community gardening.

Hillery, who owned a limousine service that catered to celebrities before starting Harlem Grown two years ago, said that gardening was never part of his plan. But when

SEE GARDEN, page 2

### GSSC WORKING STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS



A&E, PAGE 6

### CoLab goes beyond dance in performance

The dance group CoLab focuses on the experimental and the creative, weaving acrobatics and theater into its shows.



OPINION, PAGE 4

### Evaluating our education

Alex Merchant explains how course evaluations are insufficient.

### Existential pondering

Leo Schwartz on the clash between preprofessionalism and soul searching.

SPORTS, BACK PAGE

### Men’s soccer doomed by poor offense

After a disappointing season, the Lions’ lack of scoring has been identified by players as key to their struggles. The team only managed to score 12 goals all season.

EVENTS

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47° / 35°

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51° / 36°



## Facebook compliments model spreads to Penn, Yale

**COMPLIMENTS from front page**

admirer, if you will,” he said. “It just gives you a good feeling to know that perhaps a stranger or a friend is on your side.”

Some students who submitted compliments said that the reason they sent them was not because they were afraid to say them in person, but because they thought that the anonymity gave them an extra layer of enjoyment.

“The compliments that I gave, I’ve said the same things to those people in person before,” Wilfred Chan, CC ’13 and founder of the Student Wellness Project, said. “It’s fun when it’s anonymous because it could be anyone, and I think that’s part of the charm of this particular project.”

Chan added that “this is a very visible type of random act of kindness, but I do think the one thing we forget is that there

“There’s something about a declaration about why you love your friend that spreads good will.”

—Dara Marans, CC ’14

are hundreds of invisible acts of kindness that take place on our campus every day, and I guess it’s just a nice reminder that there is real love and compassion on this campus.”

Smith said that the anonymity made compliments seem like general truths.

“Not just one person thinks someone appreciates you. It could be anyone,” she said. “And you see all the other people who liked it.”

Diamond said it was a good contrast to see something positive go viral.

“I’m glad that Columbia could be part of this viral trend for good will instead of something more vitriolic, which is usually the case,” he said.

A Facebook page called Columbia Insults was created on Wednesday evening, seemingly as a satirical response to Columbia Compliments. As of Wednesday night, the account has 17 friends.

Columbia Compliments is based on a social project started by students at Queens

University in Ontario, Canada, and the idea spread to University of Pennsylvania and Yale University within four hours of Columbia Compliments’ creation.

At Penn, the page is currently a one-man operation. The creator, who requested anonymity, said that the Columbia Compliments page was a great idea.

“This provides a chance to do something positive for someone else ... to make someone’s day just because we feel they deserve it,” the creator wrote in an email. “I just saw a chance to do something nice and jumped on it.”

“There’s something about a declaration about why you love your friend that spreads good will,” Marans said. “It makes other people want to share their good thoughts, too.”

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## Gardening helps students become health-conscious

**GARDEN from front page**

his limousine company started struggling during the financial crisis, he changed gears.

He found a long-dormant lot, originally meant to be a community garden, across the street from P.S. 175. It was strewn with car parts, old appliances, and other debris, and he petitioned the city for a year to give him control of the space.

“Children are more purposefully engaged. They feel validated because they’re doing real work.”

—Cheryl McClendon, P.S. 175 principal

Now, Hillery spends most days at the school, working with students on the garden and serving as an unofficial mentor. The garden produced 200 pounds in its first year, and in its second year, that figure ballooned to 816 pounds.

“But the numbers are skewed—we grew a lot of watermelon,” Hillery said, laughing.

P.S. 175 principal Cheryl McClendon said that Hillery and the garden have helped students gain a sense of purpose in their learning, and that student behavior has improved as a result.

“Since Harlem Grown came in, the percentage of suspensions has totally decreased, children are more purposefully engaged,” McClendon said. “They feel validated because they’re doing real work.”

As the garden has expanded, the school has struggled with

funding cuts for physical education and gym teacher layoffs. In addition to working on the garden, Hillery has worked to improve health-conscious programming for students, helping the school acquire extra funding for a program with the National Dance Institute through Harlem Grown.

He also helped get Wellness in the Schools, a nonprofit that provides instructors to supervise lunch and recess, to come to the school every day to make sure that students exercise. These efforts, Hillery said, help students get the exercise they need in addition to a nutritious diet.

Still, P.S. 175 has struggled academically, showing only average improvement in test scores in math and language arts this year, compared to past years.

The school also shares space with the Harlem Promise Academy Charter School, featured prominently in the documentary “Waiting for ‘Superman.’” Hillery said that the reason he decided to focus Harlem Grown around P.S. 175 was the disparity between the funding public schools receive and the services they are expected to provide.

“Charter schools can cherry-pick their students,” Hillery said. “This kid came a few weeks ago, didn’t speak a word of English. We took him.”

Hillery walked over to a lunch table full of young boys, who were eating grilled cheese on whole wheat bread, carrots, and hummus. “What’s up, man?” said Couli, 7, who is from Cote d’Ivoire.

Hillery laughed. “Look, now he’s talking!” he said.

Currently, Hillery is working to widen the scope of Harlem Grown. He has co-opted another vacant lot on 134th Street and recently built New York City’s first solar-powered hydroponic greenhouse.

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## GSSC planning family-centric events for working students

**ALCOHOL from front page**

might have drinking but aren’t necessarily at a club or something like that.”

Pedahzur released the survey at a GSSC meeting last month.

The survey examined the unique cross-section of full-time students who are also full-time professionals. Pedahzur himself works as a makeup artist for Chanel cosmetics, interns at both TIM Group financial services and Wikistrat consulting, and usually takes four to six classes each semester.

Pedahzur isn’t alone—nearly 40 percent of GS students work during the academic year.

“As a working student myself, I face juggling classes, studying, work, and extracurricular/volunteer activities,” GSSC President Jennifer Wisdom, GS ’13, said in an email. “Sometimes my work and class schedule will conflict, other times I am home from work late and study time cuts into sleep time. Still, other

times, I am working when an event is going on so I cannot attend.”

With 62 percent of surveyed students working 15-40 hours each week and 75 percent of them taking at least four classes, Wisdom, Pedahzur, and the GSSC ramped up efforts to cater to the professional student body with new events.

Major Insight, a series of events that will offer a setting for GS students to discuss career opportunities, is slated to kick off on Nov. 28.

Additionally, GSSC has planned an upcoming food fair to help students learn more about how to balance a healthy diet and a full-time schedule.

“From the survey, we learned that there are quite a few students who work full time, and since they are always in a rush, they don’t have the time to look at what food is available in the community that is healthy and affordable for them,” said Vice President of Student Events David Kim, GS ’14. “So, we’re bringing in

local food companies and letting students sample food and get information.”

For students with children, the council offered a dog walking outing and threw a Family and Friends Halloween Party last month.

Even for those without children, non-alcohol-centric events come as a welcome break for some GS students.

“The two alcohol events at the beginning of each semester are really good, done in special locations not near campus at all, but the alcohol events on campus are not much regulated and are a little wild, so I don’t go,” Selby Byashimova, GS ’13, said.

Wisdom said that while some students would like to see more on-campus, family-oriented events sponsored by GSSC, the formal, off-campus festivities would continue to happen in the future.

“Events like Gala or the Welcome Back Rooftop Party will not be replaced and are, in fact, treasured by a majority

of our students,” she said. “For example, Gala is in an elegant location off campus with a three-course sit-down dinner and dancing—alcohol is optional.”

Wisdom proposed lowering the price of tickets to the Gala for students who don’t drink there in an effort to “ensure all of our students’ voices are heard.”

The council is also looking into quiet workspaces for students to make conference calls, a day of extended hours for dean meetings for those who work from nine to five, and locker reform, which would provide lockers to students in locations that are closer to their living areas.

Kim said that there are more surveys to come.

“A lot of us, because we are transfer students, because we are students that have a professional career and came back here for a specific reason, often feel like we know what we want,” Kim said.

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# Blake Cowan achieves YouTube success with ‘Wickerbird’

**COWAN from page 6**

needed to be able to go, not be worried about other people hearing me,” Cowan said. So he returned to the woods the following summer and finished the project.

Along with the album, Cowan also taped a music

video for his song “The Fold.” Once again, he said that he was trying to explore the ephemeral nature of life and his societal escape into the wilderness.

Although Cowan has produced and created all of his projects individually, he hopes to find like-minded people to join his act in order to perform

live one day.

With more than a few thousand views on Youtube and having been featured on various blogs and Paste Magazine, Cowan’s musical endeavors are quickly being recognized.

“I am addicted to the feeling of having people get something

out of the record,” Cowan explained. “The most amazing feeling is being validated.”

Cowan plans to pursue music after graduation if the opportunity arises but in the meantime, he said, will continue his creative endeavors regardless.

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# During storm, St. Luke’s nurses work 24-hour shifts

**ST. LUKE’S from front page**

in effect.

“We would hear some news, and there would be a moment of silence where we all panicked,” Miranda said. “But then you take a deep breath and realize you can make major decisions in just a few seconds.”

Greg Calliste, chief administration officer at St. Luke’s, credits the command center’s communication within and outside the hospital with the success of the operation.

“Part of our response was having a fast-track process for transfers,” he said, which meant checking the patients and finding beds before completing paperwork. The hospital had a nearly complete list of patients’ names and conditions, and would get the chart sent over in hard copy in the ambulance.

Wiener said that on an average day at the hospital, about 50 patients would arrive by ambulance. But during the hurricane, that number increased to about 100.

“You can sometimes look at these practice things as tedious,” Calliste said, “but thanks to them, we were able to rise to the occasion. Disasters bring out the best in people.” Though many nurses worked 12- and 24-hour shifts, the staff kept going. Most did not leave the hospital for four days, despite the effects that Sandy wrought on their own homes.

Now, the challenge for St. Luke’s is to discharge the 35 evacuees who

are still in the hospital, many due to the damage their nursing homes sustained from the hurricane, making it harder for some patients to return home.

As Bellevue and NYU remain closed, St. Luke’s administrators are looking at ways to manage its patients, including an agreement whereby staff from closed hospitals are authorized to provide care for patients at St. Luke’s.

Miranda said that the “heart-warming camaraderie” among the staff helped them to weather the storm together and provide the best care possible for their patients. Wiener agreed.

“One said she felt we had rolled out the red carpet for her,” he said.


Alexey Sisov, a 26-year-old patient from Bellevue who was evacuated to St. Luke’s early on Tuesday morning, recalled being woken up by “six army guys.”

“I was pretty groggy. They just rolled me up like a hot dog, put me on a stretcher and carried me down six flights of stairs.” He added that he got a glimpse of the lobby full of National Guard officers before being put into an ambulance.

He then recalled waking up “in a room reminiscent of a hospital in a developing country.”

“I was only there for 20 minutes, and then I had this beautiful room where I’ve been since,” he said, indicating the mural on the wall of the pediatric ward. “Who could be upset by butterflies?”

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# CoLab mixes media in show

**COLAB from page 6**

showing dancers performing in public New York City areas, such as Lincoln Center. In typical New York City fashion, no one on the street seems to find it bizarre or even interesting that this is taking place: People walk in front of the camera without noticing it is there. The film ends with some of the dancers clutching the necks of the others and dragging them away—the same way they then enter the stage to begin the live part of the piece.

“A dance photograph ... is just not good if the quality of the dance movement or position captured is not correct.”

—Ayelet Pearl,  
CoLab photographer

“Mance & Duzik,” the piece by Lilly Pearlman, BC ’14, and Danielle Deluty, BC ’14, combined live music and dance in an unexpected way: The musicians were also the dancers. Deluty started off singing and playing the sultry “Blues in the Night” on the bass while Pearlman performed a contemporary dance solo. Pearlman then picked up

a fiddle and joined in the music, while Deluty showed off her tap skills.

Some of the pieces were ambitiously “artsy,” such as “Bol” by Maya Lee-Parritz, BC ’15, a contemporary solo to her own recorded voice reading “Honest-To-God Color, God Said, For Artists,” by poet Marianne Boruch. Others, like “Quartet for Dancers in F Major” by Katherine Bergstrom, CC ’14, seemed intended simply for enjoyment.

Photographer Ayelet Pearl, BC/JTS ’14 and a Spectator news photo deputy, documented and observed the entire rehearsal process, the photos from which were displayed at the performance. For Pearl, the experience was an opportunity to widen her range as a photographer and to learn more about the process of putting on a dance show.

“Dance photography is totally different than anything I’ve ever done. A dance photograph—no matter how good a photograph—is just not a good photograph if the quality of the dance movement or position captured is not correct,” she said. “I was able to really experiment and learn what photographic techniques work and which don’t.”

CoLab may not be the most professional dance group on campus—as Pearl put it, “The rehearsal process is so changing,” referring to rehearsal schedules, casts, choreographers, and inspiration. Nevertheless, if this weekend’s performances were any indication, it offers an invaluable opportunity for dancers and artists to experiment and explore.

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COURTLAND THOMAS FOR SPECTATOR

**WEATHER THE STORM** | St. Luke’s administrator Greg Calliste helped organize the hospital’s response to Hurricane Sandy.

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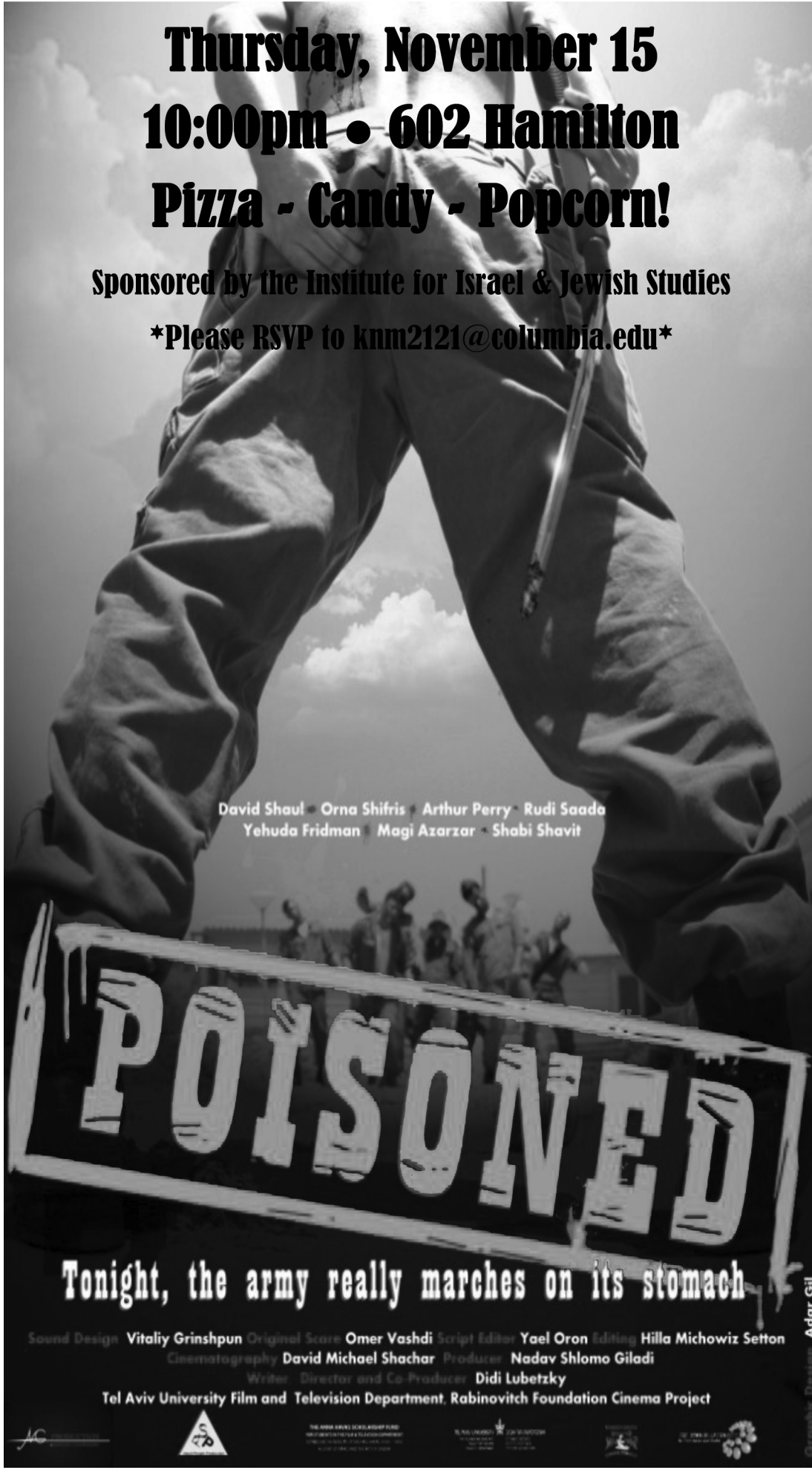
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# Parodies of ourselves

Give Nietzsche and Hegel to a group of intellectual and identity-confused college students, and they'll inevitably—for better or for worse—become impacted by this type of thinking.

I know that what we're supposed to gain from the critical thought we're taught by our wonderful liberal arts education is a positive. Still, I usually find it immensely contrary to productivity. The Core creates this strange dichotomy between what we're told to think and what we're told to do. "Complete this paper on why we are all just merely a mechanism for which the universe can subjectively understand its own self-consciousness, and then go to a J.P. Morgan recruiting event" seems to be the theme for a solid chunk of Columbia College sophomores and juniors.

We're left with these big, obviously life-altering questions that we're supposed to ask in class, but then told we can't really let them affect us in normal life, because that would impair our ability to get high-paying jobs and generally function in the world. In reference to The Canon yesterday, the way we're taught to think in the Core is often in direct contradiction to preprofessionalism. It's really difficult to keep doing the really undesirable things expected of us when we begin to see their futility and absurdity. This generally just leads to more identity confusion.

My roommate showed me a great meme called "Soul Searching Sophomore" the other day. In a series I like to call "We are all just hilarious parodies of ourselves but only semi-realize it," I think it fully embodies what we must sound like to our parents/professors/the generally bemused adult world. The meme features a dejected looking college student (who looks eerily similar to my roommate) with captions such as "Would introduce myself ... if I knew who I was," "This is crazy but ... I have come to believe that the whole world is a harmless enigma that is made terrible by our own mad attempt to interpret it as though it had an underlying truth," and for a healthy and unwanted dose of meta: "Identifies with this meme ... not totally sure why."

We can't always be bogged down in existential pondering, because then we'd just come off like the "Soul Searching Sophomore," a lethal combination of pretentious, elitist, and foolish. I think people often just abuse these topics to showcase their intellectualism. In the right context though, considering these big-concept ideas on a personal level helps me feel grounded.

We usually think and get stressed on such a micro level—our day-to-day plans, our immediate concerns and desires, the present state of our relationships—that it can be good to escape to big-picture topics to put the micro ones into perspective.

I visited one of my best friends from home over the weekend. On the train ride over, I thought about our relationship on a macro level: how much we have been



LEO SCHWARTZ

## Rationalizing the Irrational

through, how much we've changed throughout our friendship, and how much our friendship has evolved.

For some reason, I remembered my graduation party. After everyone had gone, I was sitting on my back porch with four or five of my best friends—him included—and my girlfriend at the time. I remember how close a connection I felt to all of them, my non-family who meant the most to me, whom I had grown up with and was about to leave. We sat, reminiscing and half-jokingly wondering if we'd ever make such powerful relationships again. My sister, who had just graduated college, came out to all of us morosely lounging around, and assured us that yes, our lives would never be the same, but we would all make friends in college who, in all likelihood, would eclipse our high school friends within a few months.

Time really fucked with me while I was on the train. People I had no idea existed that day have since become my family, and people who shaped me before have now become background characters in my life. Year by year, I see those except for the closest ones I keep in touch with drifting away.

## We can't always be bogged down in existential pondering, because then we'd just come off like "Soul searching sophomore," a lethal combination of pretentious, elitist, and foolish.

These things are so obvious, yet I never really stop to consider them. I usually only consider time in small quantities, and it's hard to see change in myself on a day-to-day or even month-to-month basis. When I look on a larger scale, three, four years, into the past, and then consider the amount of change that will occur in that time frame in the future, it's insane, especially considering that the one thing in my life I consider a constant—myself—is anything but. Thinking like this, for me at least, creates true appreciation. After getting off the train, seeing my friend for the first time since the middle of the summer meant that much more.

I haven't really come to a definitive opinion on critical thought in this column, which I guess is almost the point—the process of thought in itself is useful but usually doesn't really get you anywhere. I think it's entirely in how you handle it, and evidently I'm still figuring out how to. All I know is that it's relaxing, albeit sometimes harrowing, to escape from the day-to-day world occasionally, as long as you don't start saying things like, "My iPhone can't locate me ... guess that makes two of us." There's a fine line between profundity and stupidity.

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

# Columbia, let's talk about our education

Columbia needs a dynamic program for soliciting student input on our education. For big issues, course evaluations are too narrow and one-sided. The University has a responsibility to create forums that establish a running dialogue.

Sure, we have course evaluations, but they address specific classes and instructors through a narrow lens. Each one constitutes something like one-for-tieth of your education. Instead of simply a "complaint box" method, we need to add broad brushstroke discussions.

Organizations responsible for significant undergraduate programs—departments, Core offices, and schools—should host town halls and conduct surveys or focus groups. Core classes, conceived and administered more like degree programs than normal classes, warrant this specialized attention. While town halls facilitate discussions of faculty and student concerns, surveys and focus groups lead to the collection of more representative data. Ideally, the former would produce questions that the latter could answer empirically. The topics covered—curricular, administrative, or pedagogical—would naturally vary with the peculiarities of each program.

In the student-school relationship, Columbia is the expert educator. Professors are undoubtedly very committed to their students. But we need policies to collect richer data and to foster discussion.

Recent efforts to create dialogue around Frontiers of Science and University Writing show the importance of having a permanent civic infrastructure. Clearly many other programs could have been used, but FoS and UWriting are timely examples of administration efforts that I think could have used more dynamic student input.

The Oct. 21 Frontiers of Science town hall showed the tremendous potential for discussion, but also the need for a policy solution. For about an hour, approximately 40 students civilly and spiritedly discussed Frontiers' pros and cons, the purpose of science education, and a college's responsibility to its students. Although an important discussion, it was a one-off information-gathering effort associated with a yearlong review of Frontiers, not part of an ongoing dialogue between faculty and students. In fact, faculty weren't even invited by the student organizers.

On the other side of the coin, University Writing's overhaul this fall lacked broad-based and open student input. The new pilot program has three theme-based options—American studies, women's and gender studies, and sustainable development—along with 72 traditional sections and two sections for international students. I like this change, but do other students?

According to Undergraduate Writing director Nicole Wallack, this change was inspired by course evaluations. When I spoke with her, Wallack said she is open to the idea of town halls, having suggested one herself last spring to the Committee on the Core's three student representatives. Wallack said she mentioned the pilot several times to the Committee last year, but a town hall never came together. Likewise, in a conversation with Associate Director of Frontiers of Science Ivana Hughes, she also stressed the painstaking care Frontiers of Science takes to analyze course evaluations and evolve the course largely in response to that feedback. She said she would have happily attended the recent town hall.

Here we have students and faculty, often seeking communication that just isn't happening. I bet established programs don't even get to the idea of reaching out. If even the newer, more feedback-oriented programs are unable to do it, then maybe a change in policy is needed.

Course evaluations must be supplemented because they are such a one-way street. They don't allow students to hear answers or push the discussion beyond the bounds of a course-specific questionnaire. Students collectively have well-formed opinions about their educational experiences that a university administrator can't necessarily pull from a course evaluation.

The beauty of a town hall is that it brings out problems that we may not have known to look for. It would allow students to suggest how to improve the major they are passionate about but believe needs to be more skills-focused, or to speak about the college's failure to have a serious science requirement. Likewise, it would give administrators a chance to speak directly to students. In addition to producing good insights, these events would be a great way to build a culture of discussion and transparency around our most common bond. Most of the time, only students who were eager to constructively participate would take the effort to attend a one- to two-hour meeting. In turn, students would tremendously appreciate the faculty's willingness to engage with them.

Then more representative methods, like surveys or focus groups, would hopefully provide clarity for these ongoing discussions. More rigorous data collection outside of the confines of a course-specific evaluation, would enrich the student-school discourse and help faculty make decisions. At present, most majors and schools do not systematically cull feedback beyond course evaluations.

Judicious summaries of this research could be released by the faculty, providing students with the information to help move the discussion forward. This information, plus the town halls, would provide student leaders the data necessary for reasoned advocacy and analysis. A better flow of information could head off misunderstanding on both sides.

That most decisions about our classes, majors, and the Core Curriculum are made without dynamic student input leaves students with a limited role in our education. It also prevents the formation of community bonds and thoughtful accountability of a lively civic discourse. Town halls and surveys may not be the exact solution, but communication on these issues must increase. At present, administrators can too easily think students are more satisfied with our education than we are. Columbia has the expertise and knowledge, but we have the feedback to help make sure they are put to good use.

*Alex Merchant is a Columbia College senior majoring in political science and Hispanic studies. Atomized to the Core runs alternate Thursdays.*



ALEX MERCHANT

## Atomized to the Core



LAURA DIEZ DE BALDEON

### Correction

The Nov. 11 editorial "Resolve the possibility of salary inequity" incorrectly attributed two studies on salary inequalities to the University Senate's Research Officers Committee." The two studies were conducted by the Provost's Office. In the Nov. 12 story "GS leads Columbia veterans in march up Fifth Avenue" and the accompanying caption, GS student Brandon Anderson was referred to incorrectly as Brian Anderson. Spectator regrets the errors.

Spectator is committed to fair and accurate reporting. If you know of an error please inform us at [info@columbiaspectator.com](mailto:info@columbiaspectator.com).

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BENEATH PLIMPTON HALL

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© Puzzles by Pappocom

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### Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

**ACROSS**

1 Elegant trinket

6 Yarn or taro

11 "Talk of the Nation" ailer

14 Not proximate

15 "The Princess Bride" kidnapper

16 Montoya

17 Rivière contents

17 Negotiator's assets

20 Textbook updates, e.g.:

21 Pricey screens

22 Nuts for soft drinks

23 Stage signal

24 Synthesizer pioneer

25 Utterly squashed

32 Come undone

33 Be just too sweet

34 Inking

35 \_\_\_\_\_ Lopez: chess opening

36 Mickey D's breakfast item

39 In

40 Before, to the Bard

42 "Actually, that's not true"

43 Reasons for returns

45 Easily identifiable teams, in casual games

48 Shared currency

49 Really quiet, in music

50 USS Missouri nickname

52 Digital image unit

55 Through

58 1885 Van Gogh painting (whose subjects may have appreciated the ends of 17-, 25- and 45-Across)

61 Angkor \_\_\_\_\_: Cambodian temple

62 Die (out)

63 Trio with notable beards

64 "Star Trek: DSN" role

65 Below-average Joe

66 Eternities

**DOWN**

2 Third-generation release of 2012

3 24-Down containers

4 Part of ILO: Abbr.

5 Pacific-12 Conference member

6 Windshield application

7 Pac-12 member, e.g.

8 Some troughs

9 It's usually broken before use

10 "You da man!"

11 Author of "The Sandman"

12 graphic novels

12 Respected Smurf

13 Muscovite, e.g.:

18 Think tank product

19 Cheap sauce

23 Keep from going higher

24 Subway addition?

25 Club with the motto "To Make the Best Better"

26 Beset

27 Milan's La

28 Fully committed

29 Traveled down the Grand Canal, say

30 Has met before

31 JFK listings

32 College srs.: tests

37 Soup with a bento

38 Named for a prez, Philly public square also known as Love Park

41 Master card?

44 Golf hole's edge

46 Uniformed forces

47 WWI German vice admiral

50 USAF stealth plane

51 "\_\_\_\_\_ to do it"

52 Trail

53 Brangelina, e.g.

54 Tic-tac-toe option

55 Quash

56 Element in hemoglobin

57 Egyptian dangers

59 Dick

60 Philosopher Mo-\_\_\_\_

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

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xwordeditor@aol.com 11/15/12

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By Julian Lim  
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PHOTOS COURTESY OF JACKIE HO

PIANO MAN | Pianist Lang Lang gave a talk and performance to a crowd in Roone, discussing his work with scholarships for young musicians.

## CC alum looks into ‘First Generation’ students in film

BY ERIC WIMER  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Jaye Fenderson, CC '00, could not find a studio to fund “First Generation” when she first had the idea for it, but you wouldn’t guess that today. “First Generation,” which centers four high school students from low-income backgrounds trying to become the first in their family to go to college, has screened at colleges across the nation over the past year.

Since its premiere at Heartland Film Festival in Indianapolis and tour at schools around the country, the film has made a stir, inspiring lobbying campaigns for equal access to education. The film even garnered the president’s attention, screening before Congress and the White House.

“We got to sit with Obama’s senior education

adviser Arne Duncan about making college more accessible to disadvantaged students,” Fenderson said.

For more commercial audiences, Fenderson was able to bring some celebrity appeal to the production—thanks to a fortuitous grant, she said, they were able to cast actor Blair Underwood, famous for his roles on “L.A. Law” and “Sex and the City,” as narrator of the film.

Though the documentary takes a look at the current state of education, the film was a partially a product of Fenderson’s own experiences as an undergraduate at Columbia. Coming from a rural Washington mountain town, Fenderson said she had to work 35-40 hours a week while keeping up her English and French double major at a time when “Columbia’s financial aid packages were not

as generous as they used to be.”

Once out of college, Fenderson wanted to go straight into film, but with the weight of her student loans, decided to work at Columbia admissions. In the process, she became even more aware of the disparities of higher education. “At admissions, I completely fell in love with the opportunity to impact a kid’s life. I hadn’t realized how fortunate I was admitted into Columbia,” she said, pointing out a statistic from her movie: “Of the top 146 institutions in the U.S., less than 3 percent of students hail from the bottom quartile of the economic population.”

With that interest in mind, she created a TV show called “The Scholar,” produced by Steve Martin, in which students competed for a college scholarship. While working on the show, she and her husband Adam Fenderson came up with the idea for “First Generation,” and chose four high school students from around the Los Angeles area to include in the documentary.

“We had to drive on the weekends, film the kids, and get back to work, so we picked kids within two hours of L.A., and followed them for three years. Then we actually moved to Louisiana for three months to do post-production to save money,” Fenderson said.

Moving forward, Fenderson said she wants to spread the message of “First Generation” to high schools across the nation. She is currently designing a curriculum to go with the film, “which would give teachers and students the control to navigate the college admissions process earlier than their senior year of high school in order to be successful,” she said.

Looking back on her time at Columbia, Fenderson said she would encourage students of all economic strata to take control of their education.

“I was really intimidated by how I thought everyone had it together,” Fenderson said. “I’d tell students not to be afraid to ask for help from friends and advisers.”

arts@columbiaspectator.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF FIRST GENERATION FILM

MOVING ON UP | “First Generation” examines educational access for lower-income students.

## Photography, dance, film, acrobatics, poetry, and music coalesce at CoLab

BY GRETCHEN SCHMID  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

There are many talented dance groups on campus, but CoLab is probably the only one to combine dance, acrobatics, film, photography, poetry, and live music in one show.

Describing itself on its website as “an interdisciplinary student art group made up mostly of dancers and choreographers,” CoLab focuses on the experimental and creative parts of dance rather than the purely technical. From feats of strength and flexibility on aerial silks to dancer-musicians who switched between the two in the middle of a piece, CoLab’s fall performance last weekend offered excitement and variety even for

those easily bored by dance.

For dancer Jack Crawford, BC '14, CoLab is an opportunity to perform a more unusual art form. Aerial silks involve ropes hanging from the ceiling that the dancer manipulates to do acrobatic tricks.

“I train in Brooklyn three or four days a week mostly on aerial silks,” she said, “and it is exciting for me to get to perform on campus because usually people don’t know anything about aerials. Working with CoLab, I not only get to share what I work so hard on, but I also get to refine the artistry aspects.”

“Fragile/Open,” by Garnet Henderson and Nick Tyson, both CC '13, began with a short film

SEE COLAB, page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF AYELET PEARL

DANCE ME IN | Performers with CoLab stage a routine from the fall showcase, which featured dance amid a smattering of poetry, acrobatic stunts, film, photography, and other art forms.

## Lang Lang advocates for music ed., philanthropy

BY EMILY OSTERTAG  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

When he was a child, internationally renowned pianist Lang Lang was allowed to watch one hour of television a day as he ate dinner “to save time.” “Now,” he said, “I watch two hours a day.”

In front of a primarily Chinese audience of musicians and non-musicians alike, international piano superstar Lang spoke about everything from the cartoons he watched as a child to his upcoming musical projects. Hosted by the Chinese Students Club and the Columbia University Chinese Students and Scholars Association, the event, held on Tuesday at the 10th annual Columbia China Forum in Roone Arledge Auditorium, also included a performance by Lang and a conversation between Lang and professor Peter Susser, the director of undergraduate musicianship in Columbia’s music department. Despite his widespread success, Lang seemed genuinely honored to be speaking at Columbia, calling it a “super famous place.”

Lang described in humorous detail his practice regimen as a child, which began, he said, with basic scales and etudes at 6 a.m. every morning and finished with his most expressive musical work in the evening. “You have good dreams that way,” he noted. His entire day—besides the hour of cartoons—consisted of practicing and going to school.

The main focus of the conversation, however, was on music education and Lang’s philanthropic efforts. Though he only recently turned 30, Lang has already spent a considerable amount of time and effort working to help young children in all parts of the world become interested in and study classical music through the Lang Lang Foundation, which he founded in 2008. He was recognized by UNICEF as an International Goodwill Ambassador in 2004. Lang attributed his own success to the wide availability of music education programs—he studied for years in the United States, mentioning the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. Luckily for Lang, he said, he didn’t pay “a single penny” because of scholarships he was awarded in China. He stressed the need to keep these kinds of programs alive, saying that too many classical musicians today are so focused on their own careers that they do not do enough to give back to the global community or to help foster the next generation of musicians.

During the question-and-answer session that followed the conversation, one student brought up the common problem of classical music being perceived as elitist and intellectually snobby. Lang responded that the problem is not the music but the musician. “If classical music were only for the elite, I wouldn’t be here,” he said, citing his humble beginnings in China and his emigration to the United States at a young age.

The program concluded with Lang performing two works recorded on his latest album, “The Chopin Album.”

“Good news, guys. It’s a real piano,” he said before he sat down, making some audience members laugh. Playing two sets of Chopin’s “Études,” Lang brought the audience back to the seriousness of the discussion—inspiring young musicians of all means to pursue the world of classical music.

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## Into the wild: senior Blake Cowan writes folk music inspired by nature

BY KATIE BEST-RICHMOND  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

What has the Nicolas Cage flick “The Wicker Man” inspired besides endless “NOT THE BEES” remix videos on YouTube? For one, the musical moniker of Blake Cowan, CC '13.

As Wickerbird, Cowan put out his first album, “The Crow Mother” this past September, and recently, music blogs like Paste have started to take note of his new music video for “The Fold.”

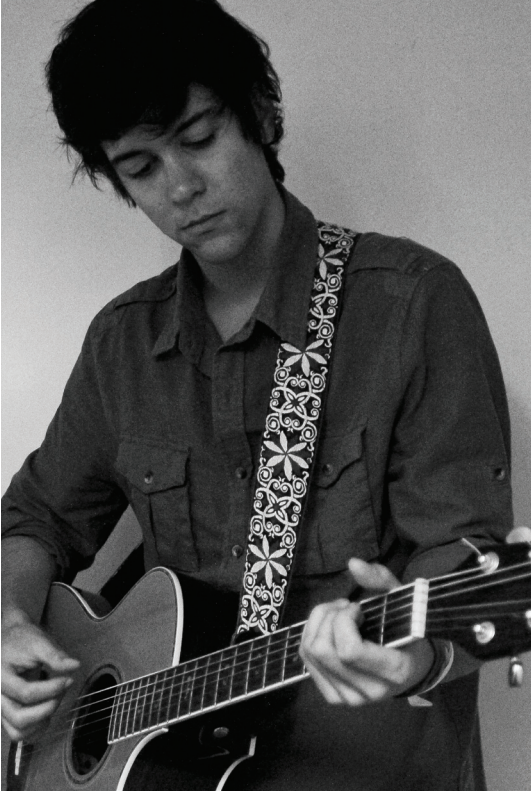
Combining haunting harmonies with raw musical accompaniment, Cowan’s songs capture the folk/indie sounds characteristic of Bon Iver, Fleet Foxes, and Ben Howard. Unsurprisingly, Cowan cites Simon & Garfunkel as a main inspiration for his sound.

When he began to make music, Cowan chose the name Wickerbird, though he performs as an individual. “It had this weird, provocative feel that was also fragile,” Cowan explained. Blake became serious about the project during the summer after his sophomore year of college.

“I was at a weird point that everyone gets to. I just had a bad time dealing with it,” Cowan said. “I was trying to find acceptance in the fact that things are fleeting, and things aren’t necessarily consequential for the universe but are consequential in personal relationships.”

Trying to come to terms with these uncertainties, he ventured into the wilderness of Washington—his home state—and spent a month in a trailer on Mount Rainier. Bringing only his dog and art supplies, Cowan sought to cope with his anxieties and thoughts through creative expression, he said.

He started writing music while in the woods, composing songs on cliff faces and in nature, but was unsure about whether to record them or not. He finally decided to record his work, he said, as a means of connecting socially with other people again after his month of solitude.



JENNY PAYNE / SPECTATOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ROUGHING IT | Cowan spent a month in isolation while starting his musical project.

“I couldn’t exist by myself. I needed someone else to coexist with and be dynamic with,” Cowan said.

With the album only partially completed, Cowan returned to school in the fall. However, he recalled, he felt creatively stunted and restricted.

“I needed to be alone, needed to be experimental, needed to be screaming somewhere,

SEE COWAN, page 3







Turning CU into a fan haven

They say New York is the mecca of basketball, but it doesn't look that way when you're here. The Knicks have only recently become relevant, and if you take Jay-Z out of the Nets' equation, then their buzz goes away too. On the college level, the only genuinely relevant schools—UConn and Syracuse—aren't even nearby.

But what if elite-level basketball found a home in the heart of NYC? What if Columbia rose up and defended the best backyard recruiting advantage in the nation? It'd be expensive and risky, but not outside the realm of possibility.

There are a few external advantages on which our basketball program could easily capitalize. New York doesn't have the space for many football or baseball fields, but netless rims dot the city and attract crowds. Basketball recruits are often proud of their urban roots, and frequently demonstrate a tendency to remain close to their families. Though Columbia might not have the best relationship with New York, and especially with those who often look to sports as a "way out," I think it's safe to say that we would easily be preferred to relocation to North Carolina, Kansas, or Kentucky.

The second organic advantage we'd enjoy is one of the largest media markets in the country and a fan base with deep, deep pockets. Money may not (often) make it into players' hands, but it influences training, transportation, recruiting, and "prestige." The Knicks may always reign supreme, but college teams have a tendency to draw sympathy even from those who aren't alumni.

You might think a plan to orchestrate a meager program's rise to a basketball powerhouse is futile, but it's not exactly unprecedented. VCU, Butler, and, yes, even Duke are programs that moved from irrelevance into the limelight. In fact, March Madness is an institutional guarantee that small but successful schools get highlighted nationally. People all across the country would be rooting along with "the rise of nerds" as we become a fixture of the annual tournament. Cornell, despite an early exit, won disproportionate media coverage back in 2010, when it was decent.

I already hate myself for saying it, but we should look to Duke as a prime example of turning teams of under-sized white guys into basketball "blue bloods." Durham, N.C. may be like Paris in that it's a place ruined by the people who live (or in this case, go to school) there, but even the most partisan outsider must admit they look like they're having a great time while keeping up with academics.

And the going rate for a top-of-the-line gym complete with training area, locker room, and player lounge isn't nearly as much as you'd expect. A few years ago, T. Boone Pickens cut a check to Oklahoma State University and bought them the best facility around. True, it was actually a renovation of the pre-existing gym, but we could just knock out some areas in Dodge. Gotta make sacrifices. Cost: \$55 million.

Recruiting is all about glitz, glam, and a roll of twenties passed under the table. Theoretically, we could simply promise the kids the best housing, and make sure that a couple grand "magically" shows up in their Paypal accounts on the first of every month. The real issue here is eligibility. We'd probably have to invest heavily in tutoring and other resources, but if Austin Rivers is eligible for Duke, then the next Derrick Rose should be eligible for Columbia. Cost: ??? dollars and some dignity.

After it's all done in five years, though, we could bathe in our own glory. Vibrations from our legendary underground field house would be felt on College Walk, and our crowds' ferocity would be measured not in decibels, but in the number of feet the Northwest Corner building sways back and forth. Our student section—The Lion's Den—would be famous for its passion and for its refreshing witticisms.

With an elite basketball team, all of the rigors of an intense weekday could be relieved by the religious experience of cheering our team to victory on national television.

Obviously this is quite a big "if," but it's not actually unrealistic. As stated, there are multiple organic advantages that could benefit our program.

Let's tap into our natural New York resources and endeavor not simply to improve, but to transform.

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ALEX JONES

Armchair Athletics



HALEY SCHOECK FOR SPECTATOR

FRUSTRATED LIONS | Freshman defender Antonio Matarazzo scored one of only 12 CU goals scored this season.

Lions drop home contest to Wagner

BY CAROLINE BOWMAN  
Spectator Staff Writer

The women's basketball team had no problem gaining momentum early on last night against Wagner, but failed to sustain its intensity through the final buzzer and ultimately lost 61-47.

After leading 29-27 at halftime and pulling ahead early in the second half, the Light Blue's 36-31 lead with 19 minutes left evaporated in less than three minutes. In that time, Wagner turned its five-point deficit into a five-point lead from which the Light Blue never recovered.

Head coach Paul Nixon said that the Lions failed to produce on offense when it counted most.

"A part of it is that you have to take advantage of your opponent during their scoring drought. That is when you need to be scoring, and that's what really hurt us tonight," Nixon said. "We had some stretches there where we really clamped down on them defensively, and we didn't keep our scoring momentum going."

In the first half, the Lions managed an impressive defensive balance that kept the Seahawks' outside shooters at bay with a full-court press. The Lions' defense also stifled the production from Wagner's post players with intense man coverage in the paint.

Freshman forward Bailey Ott and senior guard Brittany Simmons combined for 16 points in the first half, setting the tone of intensity and hustle that typified the Lions' play through the beginning of the second half. The Lions managed to force 13 turnovers in the first half alone. At one point, Simmons dove out of bounds hustling for a loose ball and knocked over the sideline press table in the process.

But in spite of the duo's intense leadership on offense, the Lions failed to take a large enough lead to stay ahead of Wagner as the Seahawks started to find their own offensive rhythm.

Senior guard Tyler Simpson said that Wagner capitalized on the Lions' weaknesses in the second half, which ultimately proved to be the difference in the game.

"We had some defensive lapses, and

SEE BASKETBALL, page 7

Few goals, answers for CU soccer

BY MUNEEB ALAM  
Spectator Staff Writer

At the end of a long season, Light Blue men's soccer had to watch as No. 11 Cornell celebrated an Ivy Championship in Manhattan.

"We looked better than they did," men's soccer head coach Kevin Anderson said after the Lions' 1-0 loss on Saturday. "At the end of the day, we didn't capitalize on our chances. It's remarkable. But it's been one of those seasons."

A constant theme throughout the season was the team's lack of scoring. And no matter what the Lions did, it seemed like they just couldn't find the answer to their offensive woes.

Columbia set high expectations last year by finishing a single point out of first in the Ivy League. Players and coaches said they thought the team could improve again this year, which could have meant winning the first Ivy title since 1993.

Despite losing eight players to graduation, as well as all-Ivy striker senior Will Stamatis for the semester to an internship, there was still a significant amount of talent returning. New and old faces both helped on defense. Up front, senior midfielder Nick Scott, sophomore midfielder David Najem, and sophomore forward Henning Sauerbier, who all placed onto the all-Ivy second team in 2011, were again main parts of the Columbia attack. Talented sophomore forward and transfer Kofi Agyapong returned for his second season as well.

Although the team allowed fewer goals than it did a year ago, ultimately, it simply could not score enough to win.

The reasons for this problem varied by game. In the early part of the season, the Lions were shut out in four of their first six games while players got accustomed to new roles and positions.

But the latter part of the season was

SEE IN FOCUS, page 7



Donnelly spearheads Brown's offensive attack

BY KYLE PERROTTI  
Spectator Staff Writer

As the football team makes the trip to Providence on Saturday to take on Brown, the Lions will find themselves yet again matched up against a very strong offensive team led by one of the Ivy League's best quarterbacks: Patrick Donnelly.

Last weekend, the football team put the screws to Cornell to get its second Ivy League victory. This was due largely to the supreme effort of the Lions' pass rush and secondary, led by Ivy League Co-Defensive Player of the Week senior defensive lineman Josh Martin. Columbia was able to apply constant pressure on the most productive offensive player in the league, junior quarterback Jeff Mathews, and to hold the Big Red to 17 points, eventually knocking Mathews out of the game.

But this weekend, Light Blue head coach Pete Mangurian said that Donnelly and the Bears offense pose a different kind of threat than the Big Red.

"I think it's a little different philosophy than what we just faced, so your priorities change," Mangurian said. "They know

how to spread you out and do all those things. They can spread out and throw it with anybody. But their attitude is created in their running game."

With that run-first philosophy, the Bears lead the league in time of possession. And Donnelly not only leads his team in touchdown passes with 12, but also sits atop rushing touchdowns, with four on the season. So although Brown's junior quarterback does not put up quite the same numbers as Mathews, he has the protection of a better offensive line and the ability to scramble to gain some yardage on the ground when he needs to. Given that, it will be incredibly difficult for the Lions' defense to repeat its six-pack, four-turnover effort against Cornell.

Donnelly was named Ivy League Offensive Player of the Week for his outstanding performance in a come-from-behind victory over Dartmouth last Saturday. The quarterback went 20-32 through the air for 233 yards and two touchdowns, and had a pair of touchdowns with his feet as well.

"Last week was a great win for our team," Donnelly said in an email. "We

showed resiliency in mounting a fourth quarter comeback so it was definitely a memorable moment for us but it is hard to remember just one highlight from such a long season."

The Bears entered the fourth quarter staring down the barrel of a 10-point deficit, but Donnelly led the offense to a steady, well-executed assault in the final period.

With 6:39 left in regulation, Donnelly found the end zone via a three-yard run to bring his Bears to within a field goal. After a defensive stop, Brown's offense found itself planted on its own 20-yard line with 3:30 to go. Donnelly executed a flawless drive, going 6-6 on his throwing attempts for 77 yards, including an 18-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Jonah Fay that proved to be the game winner.

"Offensively we remained confident in ourselves the whole time even when we were down in the fourth quarter," Donnelly said. "I reminded everyone that our own self-inflicted mistakes were the only thing holding us back and that if we

SEE DONNELLY, page 7



COURTESY OF EMILY GILBERT, THE BROWN DAILY HERALD

DOUBLE THREAT | Brown quarterback Patrick Donnelly can both run and pass effectively against opponents.