



EMBRY OWEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**BUILDING BLOCKS** | Some residents of West Harlem have complained about the construction that runs from 122nd to 135th streets.

## West Harlem residents complain of local construction

BY ELAINE WANG  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Living near a construction zone has been more than just noisy for some West Harlem residents.

Since starting construction, the stretch of Broadway that runs from 122nd Street to 135th Street has been a trough of concentrated construction work and the neighborhood landscape has changed drastically.

“It’s depressing sometimes, the way it looks,” General Grant Residents Association President Sarah Martin said of the area.

While Columbia has continued

its demolition in Manhattanville, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority has been renovating the 1 train viaduct that runs through the area over Broadway since June. Sidewalk sheds and scaffolding surround parts of the General Grant Houses across the street.

And with all the construction around them, residents of the General Grant Houses and the Manhattanville Houses, as well as local businesses, have had to make adjustments.

“Because they’re doing construction ... they close those streets down,” said Evelyn Dominguez, manager of VnV Optical International on the

corner of Broadway and 126th Street. “So for the patients that come in, it’s hard for them to find parking,” she said.

“I don’t know what companies, but they used to order from us, and now they move away,” said Tengyu Zhu, who works in Good Friend Restaurant on Broadway between 125th and 126th streets.

“The dust from the ground comes into the apartments,” said Bernice Wilson, a resident of the General Grant Houses. “He has asthma, his brother has asthma, and I have allergies, which is not so good for us,” she said, pointing to her two boys.

But Marvin Tran, who works at King West Cleaners on Broadway near 125th Street, said that all the work on Broadway hasn’t impacted business.

“It’s just really loud outside when they’re working,” he said. “You always hear a humming sound from the spray paints themselves. That with the train is very loud.”

Ann Morris, residents association president for the Manhattanville Houses, said that a number of residents have reported noise complaints. “They start at six o’clock in the

SEE CONSTRUCTION, page 6

## Religious groups on campus search for a space of their own

BY MADINA TOURE  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

While a proposal for a prayer room at Barnard sparked interest among religious groups when it was first proposed in 2008, there has been minimal movement toward developing one for the Diana Center.

But the prayer room initiative is resurfacing at a time when Columbia and Barnard are facing increasing demands for more campus space for practicing students. Still, students debate the extent to which a prayer room could meet the needs of a huge diversity of religious groups. Some wonder if it would instead increase tensions among religious factions on campus.

After almost three years, Barnard is still discussing the possibility of a campus prayer room.

“Students in the Barnard community have expressed a desire to have a designated space welcoming to all religious, faith, and spiritual groups for prayer and meditation,” Barnard Director of Diversity Initiatives Pamela Phayme wrote in an email. “Their vision for this space is to create a harmonious environment that fosters inter-faith understanding and acceptance.”

Still, talks are now going into their third year, and logistical questions, as well as concerns about the viability of such a multi-denominational prayer space on campus, have meant that the initiative is still trying to gain significant traction.

### NEW SPACE FOR MUSLIM STUDENTS

When Amreen Vora, BC ’09—then vice president of Barnard’s Student Government Association—settled in as a junior during the 2008-2009 academic year, she became acutely aware of the fact that there was no space on campus for students to engage in religious and spiritual practices.

“I realized that a lot of Muslims living in campus didn’t have a space to pray,” Vora said, though she added that, “For me, this is an initiative to introduce a space on campus in which anyone can reflect or pray. ... This wasn’t just meant as a room for Muslims to use.”

Vora approached Barnard administrators—particularly Dean and future Vice President of College Relations Dorothy Denburg and Vice President of Administration Lisa Gamsu—about the possibility of a space in the future Diana building that would be accessible to students for religious and spiritual purposes. Two years later, the proposal still has not come to fruition. According to Vora, the main obstacles have been the lack of one leading individual who would drive the initiative and a general space crunch on campus.

For Muslim students, a prayer room in the Diana



HENRY WILLSON FOR SPECTATOR

**CHAPEL** | St. Paul’s provides space for some campus religious groups, though others are pushing for a location in the Diana.

would alleviate the challenges they face in finding places to pray multiple times daily. “Demographics-wise, having one [prayer space] in the Diana is important given that there are so many Muslims at Barnard,” Taimur Malik, CC ’11 and president of the Muslim Student Association, said.

In particular, it would be convenient for students who

do not have time to return to their dorm rooms to complete their prayers.

“Muslim students that want to keep up with the five-times-a-day prayer ... they could do so on their own, but this would make it more convenient,” Safana Khan, CC ’14, said. “It creates a friendly atmosphere.”

SEE PRAYER, page 2

## All dorms to offer Wi-Fi by fall 2012

Housing plans to install wireless for four new dorms in 2011

BY MICHAEL ZHONG  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Wireless will be available for all undergraduate residence halls by the end of summer 2012.

Vice President of Campus Services Scott Wright said that housing services, in conjunction with Columbia University Information Technology, will establish wireless access in several of the upperclassman dorms currently lacking Wi-Fi during the summer of 2011, while the remaining buildings will be set up the following summer.

CUIT intends to provide wireless in 47 Claremont, East Campus, Schapiro, and Harmony next summer and Carman, Furnald, John Jay, the Living-Learning Center, and the brownstones the summer after.

But Wright stressed that the timeline is tentative due to potential unanticipated roadblocks with the physical infrastructure within the residence halls. Housing plans to release a final list of residence halls that will have wireless access sometime in February.

Overall, Wright anticipates the project will cost around two million dollars.

“We’re talking about 36 properties, 18 brownstones, 18 residence halls. It’ll bring wireless to roughly 5,500 students,” Wright said. “To me, it’s well worth putting the money aside to do.”

Plans to make Columbia’s residence halls wireless have been going on for a while. Originally Wright had hoped to provide wireless by the end of this academic year. But Columbia adjusted the timeline because of the difficulties of modifying the physical infrastructure of residence halls while students are there.

“I wanted it to be done this year, but it just wasn’t physically possible to get all the work done with the current occupancy plan for all the residence halls,” Wright said. “So we revised our completion deadline to being at the end of the summer of 2012.”

Presently, nine Columbia dorms have wireless incorporated. Broadway, which had Wi-Fi set up the summer of 2008, was the first residence hall to receive wireless. Watt, Hogan,

McBain, River, Wien, Ruggles, Woodbridge, and 600 West 113th Street all received Wi-Fi last summer.

Kenny Durell, CC ’12, a representative last year in Columbia College Student Council who is now a University senator on CCSC’s technology committee, has been actively involved with the efforts to establish wireless.

“It’s been an issue for a long time. It’s been an issue at least since 2007 but probably more further back than that,” Durell said.

Durell, citing student interest in wireless, says that Wi-Fi access has been an important priority for CCSC. However, Durell also says that CCSC did not dedicate much attention to the issue because CCSC had little power over the initiative.

“CUIT made this decision independent from CCSC,” Durell said. “It really was just one day we came in and they [CUIT] were like, yep, we’re finally getting wireless in dorms.”

“Ethernet is as restrictive as tightly-whities.”

—Matt Horwitz, CC ’13

Krizia Lopez, CC ’13, is a current resident of McBain. Lopez says that before coming to Columbia, she had assumed that she would get wireless access living at John Jay and that, consequently, she couldn’t get internet in her dorm the first two weeks of school.

Lopez said, “Last year I had to rely on someone else’s internet router on my floor. ... I made a deal with him, gave him five dollars, and was able to use his wireless.”

This year at McBain, although the dorm has wireless access, Lopez says that she still likes to have ethernet because she believes it’s faster. However, Lopez says, Columbia’s wired internet has been inconvenient.

“This year for me, the ethernet is under my roommate’s bed,” Lopez said. “So I literally

SEE WIRELESS, page 2

### NEWS BRIEF

## Motorcyclist injured in accident on Broadway and 116th Street

A motorcyclist was left in serious condition after an accident on Broadway between 115th and 116th streets Wednesday evening.

According to witnesses, at around 7:30 p.m. a motorcyclist swerved to try to avoid a skateboarder in the crosswalk at 116th Street. He clipped the back of the skateboard, which caused the motorcyclist to swerve into a car. An officer with Deputy Commissioner, Public Information said that the skateboarder was a 19-year-old female who was taken to St. Luke’s with minor injuries.

The car was parked legally in a parking spot when it was hit. David Ng, the driver of the car hit by the motorcycle, said, “I was waiting inside my car and he just ran into my car. That’s it.”

Joan Snitzer, an eyewitness and a senior lecturer in the Barnard art history department, said, “He hit a woman. He was trying to avoid hitting her. I saw her slide. She stood up and she was fine.”

The impact sent the motorcyclist flying, and he lay in the street for several minutes. Passersby ran to help the victim, and an ambulance, fire trucks, and Public Safety quickly showed up. Mouth-to-mouth was performed on the scene, and witnesses reported seeing blood on the ground.

The man was taken to St. Luke’s. According to a witness, one policeman described his condition as “bad.” DCPI had no information on his name or condition by press time.

—Katie Bentivoglio and Emma Stein

### A&E, PAGE 3

## Ben Folds takes on BC with professor song

Indie music star Ben Folds and renowned British author Nick Hornby honor BC professor Saskia Hamilton with a unique punk-rock serenade in their new album.



### OPINION, PAGE 4

## Keep hope alive

Young Democrats shouldn’t raise the white flag.

## Not the new Black

Louis Cholden-Brown condemns the new choice for DOE chancellor.

### SPORTS, BACK PAGE

## CU fencers compete in World Championships

Five Columbia athletes, including current students and alums, traveled to Paris this month to take part in one of the most prestigious fencing competitions in the world.

### EVENTS

## Translation Performance

A multimedia demonstration of how text can be translated through performance.

James Room, Barnard Hall, 6 p.m.

### WEATHER

## Today



57°/37°

## Tomorrow



50°/40°



# Religious groups debate merits of permanent prayer room

## PRAYER from front page

According to Malik, when Vora and Sharmin Ahmed, BC '10 and former SGA vice president of finance, got started on the initiative, it sparked a lot of excitement among the Muslim population. But, he said, "When the Diana finally got built, we were told there was no prayer room there."

"They [Muslim students] were told that, yes, there is a possibility that we'll have a prayer room," Malik continued. "Eventually, we were told that was not going to happen."

There is a prayer room on the first floor of Earl Hall that Muslim students can use, but Malik noted that the Muslim population on campus has swelled over the past few years. Undergraduate and graduate students have to share that room, he said. On top of that, Earl Hall is closed over the summer.

"The prayer room has become confined," he said.

But Earl Hall administrators say this is not the case.

"Muslims pray five times throughout the day, and I think we are open for three or four prayers. ... You may see four or five people come in and pray," said Raquel Whittaker, assistant director of the Earl Hall Center. "We've had no conversations with any president of the MSA about overcrowding of that space."

University Chaplain and Associate Provost Jewelnel Davis said that they were also sure to keep the room properly cared for and only accessible to Muslim. A two-foot bath for Muslim students to prepare for their prayer is locked and coded out of privacy concerns, and Earl Hall workers are required to wear shoe covers so they don't "desecrate the carpet." Earl Hall also provides a folding screen to separate men and women while they pray.

Though Lerner Hall initially appeared to be a viable alternative location for a prayer room, Malik said that, since so many student groups use Lerner already, it would be impossible to find space.

"I think, given the shortage of space for student activity on campus, it would be unlikely that the student body would want to see a prayer room in Lerner when there already is one in Earl Hall, even if it is small," said Scott Wright, vice president of student auxiliary and business services.

Wright noted that the Diana may be the best place for a prayer room regardless.

"Student groups have huge, legitimate needs that can't be fulfilled, including MSA, but they seem to have empty rooms there [in the Diana]," Wright said. "Plus, there are so many Muslim students at Barnard who study in Diana. ... To go back to their room in Plimpton is difficult."

## OTHER GROUPS SEARCH FOR OWN SPACE

Other religious groups are also looking for better amenities at Columbia. Among these groups are campus Christian organizations, which currently occupy room 110 in Earl Hall—the same building that houses the Office of the University Chaplain, Community Impact, and the United Campus Ministries.

Columbia Catholic Ministry serves Catholic undergraduates, graduates, and faculty at the University, and is the official Columbia chapter of the Catholic Ministry. Columbia Catholic Undergraduates is a Student Governing Board-recognized club that reaches out exclusively to undergraduates, and is looking to gain more resources on campus.

"We have one kind of small office room in Earl in which we cannot hold events," Michael Hannon, CC '12 and co-president of Columbia Catholic Undergraduates, said. "That's really used at this point for board meetings."

Christian groups must resort to holding events in other locations, including the Church of Notre Dame and St. Paul's Chapel.

"We rent space elsewhere. We book space elsewhere," Hannon said. "We have space on campus, but what's missing is a place that we can call our own."

One group that isn't lacking in space is Columbia/Barnard Hillel, which operates out of the now ten-year-old Kraft Center—previously a University-owned parking lot that is now a hub for Jewish life on campus. Before moving to the Kraft Center, Hillel was also based in Earl Hall, said Aviva Buechler, BC '11 and president of Columbia/Barnard Hillel. But Simon Klarfeld, executive director of Columbia/Barnard Hillel, has seen the importance in carving out a place on campus for religious groups to claim as their own space.

"Certainly, in the original design, prayer space was a serious consideration," he said. "We needed to provide at least three different simultaneous prayer services, even back 15 years ago when they designed this place, because there were three different prayer communities, Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform, all of whom pray on Friday nights."

Since then, Hillel has been able to reach out to more Jewish students and expand both its programs and its outreach.

"Before the Kraft Center, not nearly as many groups and not nearly as many programs and events that happen today would happen without the Kraft Center," Buechler said. "Since then, Hillel has been able to exponentially increase the active student involvement."

## "Where do you draw the line with religion? Who's allowed to be there and who's not?"

—Hannah Carter, BC '13

Catholic Undergraduate's Hannon says that the Christian community at Columbia is just as large as the Jewish community, and that it is only fitting to build a center for Christian students similar to the Kraft Center. Still, he said, there are no efforts underway to create one.

"It's certainly a hope that we have and is something we would like to actively pursue with the University's help," he said. "We understand that the administration to a large extent is doing what they can."

## INITIATIVE MEETS RESISTANCE AND SKEPTICISM

Many students, both at Barnard and Columbia, said a prayer room in the Diana could address some of the ongoing concerns of various religious and spiritual groups—a place at Barnard where students could pray when they do not have immediate access to their dorms.

But others have raised issue with the proposal, saying the fact that the prayer room will be available to all students—meaning students of all religions would be able to use it at any time of the day—could create tensions between groups.

"There's so many different religions and so many aspects of

religions," Chantaell Barker, BC '14, said. "Everybody has different needs. It would be hard to say, 'Oh, this group has the room at this time,' because of other groups' needs."

Wright agreed, saying that some groups have specific needs that a prayer room would not be able to address.

"During Yom Kippur, we can't allow candle-burning because it violates the fire code," he said. "I believe it's Hindus who would burn incense—where would that happen, since places in New York are non-smoking?"

Others argued that there was no need for such a space at all. Tamar Glattstein, BC '13, said there is already sufficient space on campus for religious purposes. Another student argued that it is not the administration's place to make such a decision in the first place.

"Quite honestly, I don't think it's the role of the school to provide a space for every single denomination that could possibly come to Columbia," Andrea Hazday, CC '14, said. "I mean, we're in New York City, and there are a lot of resources off-campus."

The prayer room, Hazday said, will not generate as much excitement as proponents expect.

"For the majority of students, it wouldn't really have an impact. ... It doesn't bother me, but also, I probably wouldn't utilize it," she said.

Kelsey Brown, BC '13, agreed, saying that establishing a prayer space could be interpreted as making assumptions about how students should practice their religion.

"By just creating one room for all religions, it might be viewed as them just blanketing all of these religious beliefs," she said. "Some people that I know are very open to other religions, but I also do know people who would have a problem praying in the same room as someone of a different religion."

Some Hindu students agreed, and said they would seek out other venues to fulfill their religious obligations.

"I'm a practicing Hindu, but I don't think I'd be comfortable doing something religious in a social setting," Anantha Hari, TC, said. "We [Hindus] probably go to a temple to pray" instead of a prayer room, she added.

Sweta Sanghavi, BC '12—who serves on the events committee of Ahimsa, an organization that caters to Jain students—said her group is more cultural than religious, and so there is less demand among members for a section on campus for prayer.

"We don't do anything strictly religious on campus—nothing prayer-oriented," she said.

## PRAYER SPACE WOULD BE WELCOMED AS GOOD FIRST STEP

Concerns about the viability of the prayer space have not changed supporters' belief that it would alleviate, rather than exacerbate, the problems religious and spiritual groups on campus face. Many said concerns about tensions among groups had been exaggerated.

"I feel like there isn't much of a clash between the different organizations," Saloni Surana, BC '12, said.

"It's kind of divided," Ilyas said, commenting on the important days of the week for various religions. "For Muslims, the most important day of the week is Friday; for Jews, it's Saturday; and for Christians, it's Sunday, so I don't really see conflicts on a weekly basis."

Other students acknowledged that some tensions would arise among groups, but said these could be resolved as long

as everyone cooperated.

"Each religious group has a different way of practicing their religion," TC student Megan Gill said. "As long as everyone is willing to work together to have an equal opportunity to use the space, I think it's a phenomenal space."

The success of a multi-denominational prayer room may also depend on its management, Hillel's Buechler said.

"I think, overall, it would be amazing to see every student group have a space of their own, but if we're looking to just create one space for now, it would be really important for the administration, the chaplaincy, and student groups involved to figure out what their needs are and how to meet them in terms of the space," she said.

"Where do you draw the line with religion? Who's allowed to be there and who's not?" Hannah Carter, BC '13, wondered.

But despite concerns about problems among different religious groups practicing in the same space, the prayer room could be a way to lessen the divisions among Columbia's many schools.

"I like that the school is actually thinking of putting a place where students of different faiths can come together," Gill said. "I think there's definitely a divide between the schools themselves. ... I think it could serve as a way to bring students together."

## ISSUE REMAINS AT A STANDSTILL

Though the initiative has been in the works for two years and no timeline has been set, Jessica Nuñez, associate dean for student life at Barnard, said administrators are actively considering it.

"I can say that the requests are still on the table and are being taken very seriously by those who are determining how space will be distributed on campus," Nuñez wrote in an email.

"When we first had discussions with administrators about what should be added to the



HENRY WILLSON FOR SPECTATOR

**HOUSE OF PRAYER** | Several campus religious groups are based in Earl Hall, but some complain the facilities have gotten crowded.

Diana a couple of years ago, a prayer room was on the list," SGA President Lara Avsar, BC '11, wrote in an email. "Since then, SGA has always included the need for a prayer room in our discussions about the limited space that is available."

Phayme said that conversations were still going about the best way to allot space at Barnard.

"There is an on-going discussion about the best way to allocate campus spaces that are now vacant," Phayme wrote. "It's my desire to keep the students' push for specific, designated 'safe' spaces on campus a part of the conversation and allocation agenda."

She added: "At the moment, there have been no conversations around potential restrictions (talking, singing) in the space. As the initiative moves forward and an exact location is determined, there can be a

communal discussion and dialogue about its specific uses."

Minori Takahashi, BC '11 and SGA representative for diversity, took over the initiative after Vora graduated, and has had to fight to keep the issue going.

"My year is the third year that we're in the conversation," Takahashi said. "They said that it continued to come up in conversation, but ... right now, it's kind of like a side dish issue. I want to keep pushing for it and put it at the forefront of the administration's mind."

Takahashi said she hopes the prayer space will be created within the next year, but she is not certain that will happen.

"I think it can happen—I just think someone needs to put a lot of time and effort into it and really push the issue," Vora said. "It's on the back burner because no one's pushing it forward."

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# Columbia revises timeline for wireless in dorms

## WIRELESS from front page

have to cut the room in half with my ethernet cable."

Matt Horwitz, CC '13 and a Hartley resident, adds, "Ethernet is as restrictive as tighy-whities."

Durrell, a resident of Ruggles Hall, has had few problems with his wireless, remarking, "This is the fastest wireless server I've ever had in my life."

However, Durrell also added that some dorms had faster wireless than others.

Durrell rated the timeliness of CUIT's efforts to establish wireless as "excellent," citing the progress that has been made with wireless access since offering it in Broadway in 2008.

"There's no wireless; now there is. Literally, it's an infinite amount of change," Durrell said.

Wright mentioned that Broadway had its wireless systems upgraded last summer as well.

Wright said, "We wanted to avoid a scenario where we

needed to have both upgrades to wireless and hardwire infrastructure going on into the future."

Belle Yan, CC '12 and a resident of Broadway, said, "If I need to do a project with my friend in another room, I can go in there without worrying both of us not having wireless."

Yan adds, "I can bring my computer anywhere, I don't have to worry about ethernet cords."

"I don't trip as often anymore." news@columbiaspectator.com

2010-2011

Seminar Series

Finbarr Barry Flood

Institute of Fine Arts, New York University

November 17

From Gilding to Whitewash: Aesthetics and Ethics of Distraction in the Early Mosque

Jeffrey F. Hamburger

History of Art and Architecture, Harvard University

December 1

The Hand of God and the Hand of the Scribe: Craft and Collaboration at Arnstein Abbey

Nicky Gregson

Geography, University of Sheffield

December 8

Souvenir Salvage and the Death of Great Naval Ships

Tristan Weddigen

Art History of Modern Times, Kunsthistorisches Institut, University of Zurich

February 8

The Warp and Weft of History: Raphael and Le Brun Reflecting on the Textile Medium

David Freedberg\*

Art History and Archaeology, Columbia University

February 9

The Materiality of the Brain and the Material of Culture

\*This event will begin at 7:30 pm

Melissa Hyde

Art and Art History, University of Florida

February 16

Needling: Embroidery and Satire in the Hands of the Saint-Aubins

Michael Shanks

Classics, Stanford University

February 23

Archaeology and Design History

Jeffrey Schnapp

Comparative Literature and Italian, Stanford University

March 2

The Crystalline Body

Mary N. Woods

Architecture, Cornell University

March 16

Eyes of the Flaneuse: Women Photographers and New York City, 1890s–1940s

Valerie Hansen

History, Yale University

March 23

Assessing the Nature of the Silk Road Trade: The Material Evidence

Symposium:

Mapping New Media

March 25

Mimi Hellman

Art History, Skidmore College

March 30

Forms of Distraction: Towards a Decorative Imagination in Eighteenth-Century France

Symposium:

Objects of Exchange: Social and Material Transformation on the Late Nineteenth-Century Northwest Coast

April 1

Jennifer L. Anderson

History, State University of New York, Stony Brook

April 6

The Mahogany Connection: From American Rainforests to New England Parlors

David J. Hancock

History, University of Michigan

April 13

The Body in the Library: Structure and the Collection of Useful Material in Early-Modern England and America

Lynn Meskill

Anthropology, Stanford University

April 20

Heritage as Therapy: The Materiality of Uplift in Post-Apartheid South Africa

Susan Taylor-Leduc

Trinity College, Global Learning Site, Paris, France

April 27

The "Pleasures of Surprise" in the French Picturesque Garden

Symposium:

Ex Voto: Votive Images Across Cultures

April 28 and 29

All events take place at the Lecture Hall in 38 West 86th Street, New York City between Columbus Avenue and Central Park West. Seminars begin at 6pm. RSVP is required to all events. Please call 212 501 3019 or visit [bgc.bard.edu/events](http://bgc.bard.edu/events). For general information, please contact [academicevents@bgc.bard.edu](mailto:academicevents@bgc.bard.edu).

Bard Graduate Center: Decorative Arts, Design History, Material Culture



# Bad Poetry Contest inspires the best of students’ worst

BY OLIVIA WONG  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

The 25th Annual Alfred Joyce Kilmer Memorial Bad Poetry Contest is calling out to all Columbians to put the midterm stress behind them and embrace the silliness of horribly clever poetry—no experience required.

**BOOKS** The Bad Poetry Contest, hosted by Columbia’s Philolexian Society, will be held on Thursday at 8 p.m. in Barnard’s Held Auditorium. The bad poetry contest is easily Philo’s most popular event, even though most of the society’s other events—Professor Tea several times a semester and Beat Night, held in honor of Philo alum Allen Ginsberg—are open to the public.

Why is that so? According to last year’s winner, Philo alum Edward Rueda, CC ’05, “I think Columbia is severely lacking in school pride, but a strong sense of sarcasm is one of the few things that brings all the students together.”

Rueda, like many Philo alums, is returning for the event and will open the contest with his winning poem, “Balloon Boy by Philip Glass.” “I’m very excited for that,” he said. “My girlfriend, my mother, and many close friends of mine will be in the audience to see me do my winning piece.”

Christopher Travis, CC ’11 and the moderator of Philo, attributes the buzz of the event to its ability to encourage participation from the whole student body. “It’s really fun because it’s something everybody can do,” Travis said. “Everybody can write a bad poem.”

As moderator, Travis runs all of Philo’s weekly meetings, which usually consist of literary debates. He will be emceeing the contest. Travis had hoped to win the contest last year with a poem about Literature Humanities but still plans to return with another bid for the title this year.

Most Philo members do choose to participate, but they leave plenty of space for attendees who simply sign up at the event. Philo encourages anybody to enter as long as the material is not too offensive or so good that it cannot be classified as bad poetry.

## “It’s a very peculiar kind of mix of highbrow intellect and lowbrow humor.”

—Daniel Walden, CC ’11

In fact, Philo has been known to target new members for recruitment after strong contest entries. Rueda was recruited by Philo his sophomore year after performing at the contest and has competed every year since. “My favorite part of the contest is when somebody I don’t know ... gets up and just wows me with how terribly funny his poem is,” Travis said.

“Poems that win are poems that demonstrate that you know what makes a good poem ... without letting the slightest traits of good meaningful poetry to invade your lines,” Daniel Walden, CC ’11, said when asked what a poem needed to win. As the Impresario of Philo, Walden coordinates all of Philo’s events, the biggest being the contest.

As a model for bad poetry, Philo follows in the footsteps of Alfred Joyce Kilmer, a Philo alum and former vice president of the society. Kilmer’s poem “Trees” is, according to Walden, “a stinker of a poem.” Kilmer wrote a lot of deliberately-bad poetry that Walden described as “very tongue-in-cheek. ... A real kick in the face to the modernist poets.” It is his legacy of bad poetry that is honored each year by Philo.

Philo is more than happy to carry on the tradition of bad poetry, encouraging poetic disasters in the name of humor. In fact, both Travis and Walden were quick to attribute the contest’s popularity to its humor. “It’s a very peculiar kind of mix of highbrow intellect and lowbrow humor that I think many Columbia students enjoy,” Walden said.

And, at least for him, that’s very much the case: “At last year’s Kilmer, my stomach had been actually hurting because I’d been laughing so much,” he admitted.

### LAST YEAR’S WINNER (EXCERPT)

Edward Rueda, CC ’05  
“Balloon Boy by Philip Glass”

Balloon boy’s flying  
First a rumor  
Then a picture  
Glimpse of sliver  
Strange and silver  
Slowly turning  
Is it burning?  
There’s a child stuck inside it.

...  
First no one could believe it  
Then no one couldn’t believe it  
How could we know  
That there was not a child stuck in a balloon?

### FIRST RUNNER-UP (EXCERPT)

Laura Baur-Jaronowski, CC ’06  
“Ballad of the Frozen Heart”

...  
And I am Cold in this endless Winter  
I have watched the Sun rise and set  
From my window  
In Your window  
The orange scintillating Sheen  
The sheen  
Sheem  
Sheets  
The orange sheeming sheets



COURTESY OF MICHAEL WILSON

LOVE AT FIRST LINE | Ben Folds, above, collaborated with Nick Hornby on “Lonely Avenue,” with a song featuring BC professor Saskia Hamilton.

# Ben Folds’ ‘Lonely Avenue’ leads to BC professor

BY ALLISON MALECHA  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Saskia Hamilton is the director of Women Poets at Barnard and an associate English professor. What fewer students know about this unassuming professor is that she’s now the subject of a pseudo-punk rock song.

## MUSIC

Musician Ben Folds and British writer Nick Hornby released their collaborative album “Lonely Avenue”—which includes the track “Saskia Hamilton”—in September. Hornby, best known for screenplays like “An Education,” wrote the lyrics, and Folds composed. “Nick is pretty much a doer,” Folds said of their dynamic. “I was like ‘Shit, he’s working. I better get busy.’ So I would write a song and send it back the next day.”

Although recording the whole album was an 18-month process, the turnaround time for each song was incredibly short. “It usually took about 15 minutes to an hour for me to get the form, the melody, and everything hashed out,” Folds said. He would sort out any missing pieces later that day in the studio while the other musicians learned their parts. They recorded. And that was usually what appeared on the record.

Despite having recently released “Ben Folds Presents: University A Cappella!” and including a song about a college professor on his album, Folds does not work with a college audience in mind—or any audience, for that matter. “You’ll write some song and realize that there’s 15-year-old boys who are into it when you thought it was for housewives or something,” Folds said. “You cut yourself off

from the important stuff when you worry about who the audience might be.”

Hamilton, or rather the boy who is in love with the poetry of her name and sings about her, is only one of a flush of one-song personas in “Lonely Avenue.” “Here’s another personality, another color, and this world needs a little soundtrack to its life, and that’s what I do,” Folds said. “‘Cause that’s what I do when I write a melody—it’s a soundtrack to my life.”

Interpreting different characters and employing narrative style are nothing new to music, but an album-long author-musician collaboration does have some novelty.

To Folds, though, Hornby is a natural fit for the musical realm: “His [Hornby’s] lyrics were convincing enough to me to think that there needed to be a soundtrack.” Hornby was no stranger to music before the Folds collaboration: He has been a music critic for the New York Times and wrote lyrics for Philadelphia rock band Marah for several years.

The story behind the Hornby-Folds collaboration is one of aligned interests organically converging. “He’d been listening to my music, and I’d been reading his books, so it all sort of made sense,” Folds said. The two got in touch after Hornby wrote about Folds’ song “Smoke” in his pop manifesto “31 Songs.”

“He could’ve been a writer of any kind ... or not even a writer of any kind,” Folds said of working with an author like Hornby. “It’s more down to the person than the profession.”

Considering Folds’ tendency toward a storytelling component in his previous works, the collaboration remains in tune with Folds’ overall discography. “There’s a different heartbeat to his lyrics than there is to mine,” Folds said, “but ...

these don’t feel like cover songs, they just feel like more of my songs.”

An irreverent flair can be found in both Hornby’s lyrics and Folds’ own words on composing: “I don’t feel the need to accomplish something that I haven’t accomplished before, which might seem really lazy, but what I really feel like is that I want to do something that resonates.”

The manic refrain of “Saskia Hamilton” at least audibly does this. Before composing the song, Folds had gathered from Hornby that Hamilton was a poet but didn’t know she was a professor. Reading the lyrics with Hamilton’s name repeated “like 20 times in a row,” Folds said, “I made what I considered silly boy music.”

“It turns out she [Hamilton] played in a punk rock band when she was a teenager,” Folds said. “So the style of music wasn’t a shock to her at all.” Hamilton didn’t wish to comment on the song itself, except to say that she did “like its use of literary terms.”

Hornby and Folds met Hamilton after performing at Housing Works in October. Already familiar with the idea of Hamilton from the song, Folds said, “I met her and I was like, ‘Oh, that’s Saskia.’”

Dressed in all the album’s personas, Folds will play at Montclair, N.J.’s Wellmont Theater, this Friday, Nov. 18 (tickets \$38) and will circle back closer to campus with a concert at Beacon Theater (tickets \$39.60-\$59.50) on Dec. 15.

Whether or not students find the album worth going out for, Folds said, “We’re happy with the album, and that’s kind of an unusual place for me to be having just finished it.”

Christine Jordan contributed reporting to this article.

# AAApocalypse to disrupt cultural and gender conventions

BY RUBII PHAM  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

For students looking to travel the world this weekend without leaving campus, AAApocalypse CultureSHOCK—the Asian American Alliance’s 15th annual cultural and fashion show—will take place this Saturday at 6:30 p.m. in Roone Arledge Auditorium. The two-part event features a performance showcase followed by a fashion show, which spectators can enjoy while munching on delicious foods such as dumplings and Vietnamese sandwiches.

As evident from the title, this year’s theme is apocalyptic. “Apocalypse, in its old Greek origins, means ‘the unveiling of a truth by destroying misconceptions or falsehoods,’” said Lucy Wang, CC ’13, the main director of CultureSHOCK and a Spectator associate copy editor. “What we wanted to do is kind of shatter stereotypes ... to reveal a newer, more multidimensional identity.”

Performances range from Asian-centric entertainment—such as the comedic talents KT Katara and Jen Kwok—to other diverse selections—such as Aidge, a rapper from the Aesthetics Crew, and Ruby Veridiano, a poet from the Spoken Word group iLL-Literacy.

With CultureSHOCK, AAA aims to steer away from traditional Asian entertainments such as drag-on dance or Chinese yo-yo in order to present and redefine Asian culture in a more modern, cutting-edge context.

Although the underlying mission statement of the show is to eliminate barriers surrounding the Asian-American identity, the AAA hopes to help shatter other stereotypes this year.

For their menswear showings, “we have our models all as repressed Wall Street bankers, and they slam down their newspapers one day and start doing this dance routine,” said Fan Fan, SEAS ’13, who is co-directing this segment with Daniel Gutsche, CC ’13. This short homoerotic runway scene, set to a mash-up of “Like a G6” by Far East Movement and “The Phoenix Alive” by Monarchy, focuses on the narrative of a gay man who hasn’t come to terms with his sexuality.

“I felt like CultureSHOCK needed a less heteronormative view from someone else,” Gutsche said. He continued that both he and Fan “had a vision that was a bit more off-kilter, and I think Columbia will appreciate that.”

To further embrace the spirit of breaking free from boundaries, the models were selected based on fierceness factor, not by strict height and weight guidelines as is usual in the fashion industry. “Because we knew the walk was something we can fix, we basically chose like the fiercest people,” said Wang. “We didn’t choose just based on looks, height, or body because if they’re

not confident, it’s gonna be such an awkward show.”

The runway scenes will feature designs from a broad assortment of designers, including Shanghai Tang—a Chinese label that combines traditional oriental clothing details with 21st century designs—and Shoshanna—an emerging American swimwear label. The show will also include ensembles by Shin Choi for women ready-to-wear, Nicole Miller for women formalwear, and Mary Meyer for urban wear.

Students can discuss how successful the event was in its stereotype-shattering goal at the afterparty, which offers free admission with a ticket stub.



COURTESY OF JEFF CHOU

BREAKING BOUNDARIES | The upcoming AAApocalypse CultureSHOCK show on Saturday promises to portray culture and fashion in a way that will shatter stereotypical cultural beliefs.





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# Democrats down but not out

BY GANIATU AFOLABI

As the newly elected Republicans pre-  
pare to enforce their agendas, many people  
continue to wonder exactly why this hap-  
pened. Beyond the fact that this election  
follows a trend for midterms, there are a  
number of other factors that need to be ex-  
plored. These elections show an incredible  
hyper-partisanship within our government  
and the irrefutable impact that a dollar (or  
many of them) has on campaigns. As college  
students, there is only so much that we can  
do, but before we can effect any change, we  
need to regain the energy of 2008.

The American people are frustrated,  
and understandably so. We are recovering  
from the worst economic crisis since the  
Great Depression, and as the recent  
election results show, these frustrations  
were heard loudest through the ballot  
(or lack thereof). For the past two weeks,  
the media has been either celebrating or  
lamenting the takeover of the House by  
the Republican Party and predicting the  
profound changes that may occur as a  
result. The frustrations that drove people  
to the voting booths—or kept them at home  
on Election Day—will not be alleviated by  
the shift of power in the House. If anything,  
we must prepare for an epic stalemate  
in any significant legislation, as hyper-  
partisanship seems to be progressing into  
the de facto policy-making framework of  
the government. This has the potential to  
challenge youth turnout, as the “what is  
the point?” sentiment may increase.

However, it may equally infuriate progres-  
sive youth in a way that will drive not only  
them to the ballots, but their peers as well.

Everyone was quick to discuss the lack  
of youth involvement in these elections,  
obtusely comparing the midterm election  
turnout to that of one of the most historic  
presidential elections our country has seen.  
Just as the Columbia University Democrats  
traveled to Pennsylvania to advocate for  
the Democratic Party, young people across  
the country contributed in similar ways.  
Many campaigns were heavily supported  
by young volunteers—something we saw  
two years ago as part of a trend that does  
not seem to be dissipating. Surprisingly,  
there is at least one aspect of the Tea Party  
movement that Democratic youth should  
adopt, and that is their vocality.

Everyone knew what the Tea Partiers  
wanted, even if they didn’t agree with it.  
Just as youth were able to speak loudly  
about their concerns in the past, they need  
to continue doing so in the future. This  
will require a national unity and organiza-  
tion that was not as present during these  
past elections.

## Before we can effect any change, we need to regain the energy of 2008.

Of course, it may be that the primary  
agenda of the Republican Party is not to  
pass legislation that will prove valuable  
to the American people, but rather to  
prevent a second Obama term. Any suc-  
cess of the president will be either cast  
in a negative light or prevented from the  
beginning. For while the midterm elec-  
tions just passed, everyone’s eyes are on  
the 2012 prize, and Republicans do not  
want to give Democrats any potential to  
gain national support. Obama will face  
the same resistance President Clinton did  
during his first term with the Republican  
majority in Congress.

It seems like just yesterday that Barack  
Obama became president. It seems like  
just yesterday that Democrats took control  
of Congress. However, it was actually (al-  
most) just yesterday that the Republican  
Takeover of 2010 occurred. My point:  
Politics move quickly. Now, more than  
ever, is the time for Democratic youth to  
mobilize, as the 2012 elections will prove  
that every vote really does count. We are  
still a strong party and won’t let this one-  
time swing impact our faith in politics.  
Although 2010 may not have been the year  
for Democrats, 2012 is right around the  
corner. We must have hope.

*The author is a Columbia College senior  
majoring in political science and African  
studies. She is the Columbia University  
Democrats’ media director, vice president  
of the Black Students Association, and stu-  
dent services representative to the Columbia  
College Student Council.*

# Let educators run the DOE

Last week, many  
New Yorkers  
were dismayed to  
hear of the selec-  
tion of Cathie Black,  
chairman of Hearst  
Corporation, as the  
next New York City  
schools chancel-  
lor. Black, who has  
worked solely in  
publishing, has no  
educational experi-  
ence whatsoever.  
Her immediate predecessor—Joel Klein,  
a lawyer—was similarly unqualified.  
The legacy of underachievement and  
cuts Klein leaves in his wake will only  
be exacerbated by a Black chancellor-  
ship and must be opposed. In explaining  
his choice, Mayor Michael Bloomberg  
was quoted as saying, “She is a super-  
star manager who has succeeded in the  
private sector in spectacular fashion,  
and there is no one who knows more  
about the skills our children will need to  
succeed in a 21st-century economy.” And  
what are these skills Ms. Black is so well  
versed in? “Jobs, jobs, jobs.” But what  
does that really mean?



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## Our school system is not a corporation and our kids are not commodities.

In appointing such a neophyte to this  
important position, the mayor is un-  
dermining the goal of preparing New  
York City schoolchildren for work in the  
increasingly competitive and demanding  
global economy. Bloomberg is delusional  
in believing that an outsider chancellor  
can transform a system full of students  
performing below state standards into  
one that creates qualified candidates  
for these jobs of which he speaks. City  
Council member Brad Lander asked  
the essential question: “Are our public  
schools a place to educate well-rounded  
citizens for the New York City of tomor-  
row? Or are they the junior academy  
of corporate America, oriented around  
test-taking and the bottom line?”

The New York City schools are not  
test tubes for employee engineering,  
and no student should be a guinea pig  
in the corporatization of schooling to  
the detriment of his education. Many  
elected officials and education advo-  
cates have petitioned State Education  
Commissioner David Steiner to deny  
Black the waiver she needs to exempt  
her from statutory requirements that all  
school superintendents have three years  
of teaching experience as well as a grad-  
uate degree in school administration.

As City Council Education Committee  
Chair Robert Jackson put it, “With noth-  
ing less than the future of our children  
at stake, the mayor suddenly seems to be  
saying experience is no longer impor-  
tant.” Jackson’s statement is right on the  
money. In seeking a waiver, Bloomberg  
should be contending that Black is an  
“exceptionally qualified person” whose  
“exceptional training and experience  
are the substantial equivalent” of teach-  
ing certification. Only he isn’t claiming  
that Black has any experiences relevant  
to the care and instruction of the city’s  
children; instead he is touting Black  
for her business chops and relying on  
“a phenomenally competent team of  
education professionals that have been  
built up over the years” to support her.  
However, this team of professionals con-  
tinues to shrink—two deputy chancel-  
lors have already left the Department of  
Education since Klein’s announcement.

Bloomberg speaks of the DOE as “an  
organization ... with 1.1 million cus-  
tomers.” But our school system is not a  
corporation, and our kids are not com-  
modities. It is this emphasis on business  
over pedagogy that has Klein leaving us  
with a legacy of classroom overcrowd-  
ing, waiting lists, and students starved  
of art, music, science—even physical  
education—all in the name of test prep.  
His departure should be taken as an  
opportunity to get back to basics, to re-  
invigorate the DOE with proven educa-  
tors—not to further damage the depart-  
ment and our children with another  
novice from the business world.

We here at Columbia, as the peers  
of this endangered generation, need  
to take a stand. We too have suffered  
under the tenures of the likes of Klein,  
Rhee, and Boasberg, and as concerned  
leaders of tomorrow we must express  
our outrage at the commercialization of  
this and every other school district. The  
appointment of Cathie Black is nothing  
more than a slap in the face to the 1.1  
million students in the public schools  
and their parents. It is also a stark re-  
minder of the need for real educational  
change and a real educational leader.  
For far too long our students have failed  
to meet state standards, with low grad-  
uation rates and a persistent achieve-  
ment gap. A Black chancellorship will  
be a dark day for New York, and not just  
for those in the schools. And so I join  
my voice with those of countless teach-  
ers, educators, parents, and concerned  
citizens to tell Michael Bloomberg to  
take back Cathie Black.

*Louis Cholden-Brown is a junior in  
the joint General Studies and Jewish  
Theological Seminary program majoring  
in urban studies and Jewish philosophy.  
He is a member of Community Board 7.  
Urban Ink runs alternate Thursdays.*

# Our housing should reflect our hospitality

The announce-  
ment last week  
by Deans Michele  
Moody-Adams and  
Feniosky Peña-Mora  
of a pilot program  
in gender-neutral  
housing for stu-  
dents living in  
Wien, East Campus,  
Ruggles, Nussbaum,  
Claremont, and  
Woodbridge next  
year was a long over-  
due step in the right direction.



SAM  
KLUG

## Core Matters

Sure, the administration may have  
delayed and deflected the process out  
of fear and overreaction to bad press—  
meaning that a number of students who  
could have benefited from the program  
this year were left out—but in the  
end, the administration came around,  
stepped up to the plate, and made it  
happen. Well, almost. Look at those  
dorms again: no Carman, no John Jay,  
no Hartley, no Wallach, no Furnald. By  
limiting the gender-neutral housing  
option to upperclassmen, Columbia is  
shirking its responsibility to provide a  
hospitable environment to the students  
who need it most: first-years.

The deans’ decision to limit the  
gender-neutral housing option to up-  
perclassmen is understandable, and  
incremental progress is undoubtedly  
better than no progress at all. In an ar-  
ticle published earlier this week (“Open  
housing, open university,” November  
14), Avi Edelman, one of the original  
authors of the gender-neutral housing  
policy and one of the strongest voices  
in support of it for the past two years,  
commended both students for making  
their voices heard in support of this  
change and administrators for respond-  
ing to a student-led initiative and for  
not letting a delay stop the process  
entirely. And while Edelman is right to  
express gratitude, the positive feeling  
engendered by the deans’ announce-  
ment should not make us overlook the  
fact that allowing only upperclassmen  
to choose a gender-neutral housing  
option is illogical in a policy intended  
to make students more comfortable in  
their living arrangements in college.

Successful student housing arrange-  
ments require hospitality, from the  
University toward its students and from  
students toward each other. This need  
for hospitality is most acute in first-  
year housing, as rooming with a total  
stranger—as most first-years do—is  
a significant challenge to anyone, let  
alone 18-year-olds who have never lived  
away from home. Living with someone  
you have just met sometimes feels like  
navigating a constant guest-host rela-  
tionship, and in some ways, the need for  
gender-neutral housing reflects our own  
failures of hospitality as students. If we  
were more accepting, more tolerant, and  
more able to shed our own prejudices  
against living with people of a certain  
gender or sexual orientation, there  
would be no need to change the housing  
system, as each pair of first-years would

have no problem living with and be-  
friending whatever roommate she were  
assigned—as, indeed, many of us do.

At the same time, however, the  
current housing system assumes that  
we are inhospitable, but only in one  
predictable way. It assumes that only  
same-gender roommate pairings will  
make for an acceptable living situ-  
ation at Columbia—that roommates  
of opposite genders would inevita-  
bly clash, or worse, as the New York  
Post would have it, “live in sin on our  
parents’ dime.” This policy not only  
reflects long-standing cultural biases  
about what is normal in terms of gender  
expression and sexual orientation, but  
also essentially sets preconditions for  
living at Columbia by forcing first-years  
to conform to these norms if they wish  
to study and reside here. In denying  
the gender-neutral housing option to  
first-years (most discussions of the  
program’s next steps only include plans  
of extending it to the other upperclass-  
man dorms), Columbia is contradicting  
the open-mindedness that is central to  
its mission, and it is going against fun-  
damental standards of hospitality that  
both the University and its students  
should strive to live up to.

## Ancient notions of hospitality were based on the proposition that to deny strangers lodging could condemn them to die by starvation, thirst, or cold.

Ancient notions of hospitality—such  
as those we find in The Odyssey and  
other texts we read here—were based  
on the proposition that to deny stran-  
gers lodging, no matter who they were,  
could be tantamount to condemning  
them to die by starvation, thirst, or  
cold. Modern life may have rendered  
this conception of hospitality obsolete,  
and hopefully, Columbia students need  
not feel like strangers to each other or  
to the school after their first few days  
here. That said, as the debate about  
gender-neutral housing continues,  
we should remember that for the four  
years we spend here, the University  
acts not only as our educator but as  
our host. And we as students and our  
University as a whole can do more to  
move toward the tolerance and inclu-  
siveness that is necessary for success-  
ful cohabitation.

*Sam Klug is a Columbia College junior  
majoring in history. He serves on  
the executive board of the Roosevelt  
Institution. Core Matters runs alternate  
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3	6	2	7	5	1	8	9	4
4	8	9	1	7	3	5	6	2
2	3	7	6	8	5	4	1	9
6	5	1	9	4	2	3	7	8
7	2	3	5	1	8	9	4	6
8	9	5	4	2	6	7	3	1
1	4	6	3	9	7	2	8	5

**su | do | ku**

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## Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

**ACROSS**  
1 Encircled by  
6 Persian faith  
11 One with a cover  
14 More of a novice  
15 Lunch hr. end, often  
16 A victory may break one  
17 Marx as a Druid?  
19 Rio hello  
20 PD precinct boss  
21 Chants of a lifetime?  
23 Works  
26 Cell component  
27 Lift with effort  
28 Win by  
29 Built up charges  
31 Parts of personal music libraries  
33 Musical intervals  
36 ASCAP rival  
37 First rabies vaccine creator  
39 Interior decorator's concom  
40 Classic breath freshener  
42 Certain counter's woe  
44 Iron supplement brand  
46 Spread out  
47 Memo opener  
49 Bengals, on scoreboards  
50 Noble address  
51 Question of advisability  
53 There are pins at the end of one  
54 Columnist Landers  
55 Well-dressed Swedish actress?  
60 Biker's chopper  
61 Bullwinkle nemesis  
62 Stravinsky and a lab assistant  
63 Barcelona bear  
64 Bright  
65 Not schooled in

**DOWN**  
1 Ring piece  
2 West of Hollywood  
3 Athena's attendant  
4 Discounted price  
5 Antonius Block's chess opponent in Bergman's "The Seventh Seal"  
6 Nuclear Nobelists  
7 Prefix with gram  
8 Author Wook  
9 Paraphernalia  
10 "That's my cue!"  
11 Godfather portrayer turned shop owner?  
12 Dinner side, perhaps  
13 It can raise dough  
18 Vinyl successors, briefly  
22 Chiang Mai resident  
23 Elwe kids  
24 Asian cartoon genre  
25 Beetle in a bout?  
26 Fortification  
29 Musical seconds  
30 Not charging for  
32 Safe place with a counterintuitive name  
34 Less soggy  
35 Stop asking for cards  
38 Like a USN volunteer  
41 Parakeet's eats  
43 Distance on a tank  
45 \_\_\_ del Fuego  
47 Its southern border is about seven times longer than its northern one  
48 Prohibitions  
50 Bad start?  
52 HQs for B-2s  
53 Not leading anyone  
56 Highest Russian territory, once?  
57 Kerfuffle  
58 Grille cover  
59 From Essen to Leipzig, locally

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**  
BORAT BOZ RIOTS  
IMAGE IOU INDIE  
LIVERPOOLACCENT  
ETERNAL UNEARTH  
PAW IDS  
KNOCKABOUT HART  
AUDIO OGRE RHO  
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By John Douglas Scott  
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## Heavy construction a burden for some in West Harlem

CONSTRUCTION  
from front page

morning,” she said. “This noise is continuous,” and certain construction lights used at night were reflecting into tenants’ windows and disturbing sleep.

Larry English, chair of Community Board 9, said the biggest concern he’d heard from constituents was about rats.

“That was a heavy manufacturing area,” English said, referring to the Manhattanville site. “And so obviously there was a large rodent population there. And so the concern was that when Columbia started tearing down the building, that displaced the rodent population,” he explained.

English said he was fully expecting the University to give the Community Board an update on the rodent issue during its next quarterly meeting in December.

“I’m not aware of any other complaints that have made it up to the board level,” he said.

Columbia University Facilities said that the school has committed to mitigating the effects of construction, and that their Clean Construction Action Plan includes efforts to reduce dust, noise, and odor, and pests in the area.

Not everyone was bothered by the immediate effects of the demolitions and repairs on both sides of Broadway. While some locals complained about the effects of Columbia’s demolition, many living in the General Grant Houses were largely pleased with the MTA’s work on the subway overpass.

“I think it’s a good thing that they’re improving and they’re working on it,” said Mary Taylor, who has lived in 75 Broadway for 40 years. “Anything to make the neighborhood better”

John Adams, another resident,



EMBRY OWEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**CROSSINGS** | Some locals have complained about the two construction projects in their neighborhood.

mentioned the importance of maintaining the condition of the bridge. “The system been up there near a hundred years,” he said. “So anytime you see them working on it, you know it’s kind of like needed work.”


Martin, who co-chairs the Morningside Heights/West Harlem Sanitation Coalition, said the group had tried to convince the MTA to repaint the bridge for years. “We asked for that,” she said. “We wanted it to be painted so that it could look beautiful.”

Arabia Ritchie, who works in a Johnson & Johnson office overlooking the construction site on Broadway and 130th Street, said that she believed people would eventually forget about the short-term trials.

“For now it’s probably noisy, it’s probably disruptive to the community, but once everything goes up and they see the purpose to it, then they will embrace it.”

Martin, however, was not so optimistic about the situation. “It’s gonna get worse before it gets better,” she said.

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한화그룹(www.hanwha.co.kr)에서 '2010년 해외 우수인재 채용' 전형(Full-time 및 2011년 하계 Internship)을 다음과 같이 실시합니다. Global Hanwha의 꿈을 함께 실현할 패기와 역량을 갖춘 한인학생 여러분의 많은 관심을 부탁드립니다.

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지원서류 접수 : 2010년 10월 11일 ~ 11월 18일

1차 면접 : 12월 4일

2차 면접 : 2011년 1월 11일

최종 합격자 발표 : 2011년 2월 11일

\*세부 일정은 서류전형 합격자에 한하여 개별 협의 예정

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Student co-founders lay foundation with record label Bricks Entertainment

**BY NOOR BRARA**  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

“It’s not a label, it’s a lifestyle.” This tagline is also the mantra of Bricks Entertainment, a Columbia student-run record label founded by Jonathan Ricketts and Brian Alexander Watson, both SEAS ’12. Along with financial manager Chikezie Ohayia, SEAS ’12, the co-founders firmly believe that their go at music production is just as much about the students they are catering to as it is about the music itself.

Ever since their first year, Ricketts and Watson have been active members of Columbia’s music scene, right from the comfort of their own dorms. “I didn’t live on John Jay 10, but Brian did, and on that floor there were a lot of artists,” Ricketts said. The duo was good friends with Evan Johnson, CC ’12, who led the group The Capitol.

“We wanted to do something together,” Ricketts said. “Our idea for group collaboration was to bring everyone together, to fuse different types of music and promote its diversity on campus.”

Bricks Entertainment recently released its first single, “Boo Lovin’,” featuring Columbia musicians Melesa Johnson, CC ’11, Uzunma Udeh, CC ’12, Jasmine Sudarkasa, CC ’13, and Ricketts himself. Almost immediately after the song appeared online, its download rate skyrocketed as students began telling their friends about it.

“Overnight, within a 10-hour period, we had over 200 downloads,” Ricketts said. “Now we have about 1300 downloads and over 100 likes on our Facebook page.”

Despite their recent success with the popular single, Watson was quick to point out that the inspiration behind the label had simply come from a close group of friends who wanted to share their love of music with one another. “It started out just for fun. It was our core group of friends,” he said.

In addition to their love for music, the core members of Bricks Entertainment have something else in common: they are all engineers. “I think that’s what



ROSE DONLON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**SMOOTH JAMS** | Jonathan Ricketts, left, and Chikezie Ohayia, right, are the core members of Bricks Entertainment.

makes our group so unique. I mean, you wouldn’t expect engineers to do this,” Ricketts said. “Of course there are a couple engineers who play music, but you wouldn’t expect them to actually make a group, make some cool sweat-shirts, and actually put out a song that everyone seems to enjoy.”

While the close friendship between Ricketts and Watson seems to make for a fun, playful partnership, careful planning is still necessary, because Bricks Entertainment is a business, above all else. Every step has been “very calculated,” Watson noted. Though they stress the idea of equal collaboration between

all members, each person specializes in a specific area of the business.

The Bricks Entertainment crew is already working on their next project. “Our next move is a follow-up single. ... I don’t want to give too much away,” Ricketts said. “The idea is to create a mixtape, which will compile [work from] a couple groups on campus—a collection of new artists so that people can know what kind of talent Columbia has.”

They also want to try to expand their act to promote other forms of creative expression on tape. “We’re open to new ideas. ... Maybe a spoken word section,

for which we could have an open mic night. I mean, if they ask us to perform at Bacchanal, we’re down to do that,” Ricketts said, laughing.

Ultimately, the most important thing for Bricks Entertainment seems to be the connection between music and the student body. “It really gives us a way to express ourselves and connect to people on campus,” Watson said. “Whether or not people realize it, music is such an important part of our daily lives—of everyone’s lives—and we want to build up on that as much as we can. That’s kind of the story behind the name: We keep adding as we go along.”

Three-point shooting cools in second half

**BASKETBALL** from back page

a layup, but Starks drove and kicked to freshman guard Steve Frankoski for another three. Kennedy then scored again, and drew a foul. After he converted the three-point play, Asenso Ampim scored a bucket, followed by another Starks three—his fifth of the half—to give the Lions a 37-33 lead.

“Tremendous,” Smith said of Stark’s performance. “I thought the La Salle game helped us a lot because Dyami wasn’t ready, and you could tell.”

Having held St. John’s to 38 percent shooting, Columbia entered the break with a 39-35 lead, and when the buzzer sounded, the home team rushed off the court in front of a stunned crowd.

It seemed for an instant that the three-pointers would just continue to fall, as Frankoski responded to a Dwayne Polee triple with one of his own to open the half. However, Columbia would muster just one more the rest of the game, and the team suffered for it.

The game stayed even for the first seven minutes of the second half, but a three-pointer from Malik Boothe opened the floodgates.

The Red Storm went on a 16-4 run to take a commanding 68-55 lead with 7:12 to play. Though the Lions would play the Red Storm even the rest of the way, they never got closer than eight again.

“We just didn’t come out in the half ready to win, and you can’t do that,” Agho said. “We gave them that 8-10 point stretch and then played even the rest of the half. You can’t win like that.”

Smith cited defensive mismatches as one of the primary reasons for the late-game letdown.

“We couldn’t get a stop,” he said. “It was tough because we had to keep a lineup out there with shooters because they were playing zone. It wasn’t our best defensive lineup and they were smart and took advantage.”

Still, for a team that is relying on a bevy of underclassmen and oft-injured upperclassmen, Smith and his players were adamant that playing a Big East opponent so closely left them encouraged.

“We’re still learning how to close out games and win games,” Agho said. “But I think there are a lot of positives to look at. We can play with anyone on our schedule and win against anyone on our schedule.”

The Light Blue’s next test comes this Saturday at Longwood, a team it beat 72-61 last year.

Penn clinches share of Ivy League championship

**BY MOLLY TOW**  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

After conference play this week-end, Penn clinched part of the Ivy League Championship. However, Yale remains in contention for a share of the title. Should Yale beat Harvard on Saturday and Penn fall to Cornell, the Quakers and the Bulldogs will split the championship.



**PENN 34, HARVARD 14**

The Quakers (8-1, 6-0 Ivy) are one step closer to winning their 15th Ivy League Championship after a victory at home against Harvard (6-3, 4-2 Ivy) on Saturday.

Both teams were scoreless until the second quarter. A Penn punt hit a Harvard blocker deep in Crimson territory and was recovered by the Quakers at the Crimson 9. Senior kicker Andrew Samson gave Penn the first points of the game with a field goal.

More Crimson punt problems put Penn in great field position in the middle of the third quarter, and the Quakers were able to finish the drive each time and increase their lead to 17. A 45-yard field goal made the score 20-0, and soon after that another Penn touchdown made a Harvard victory look very unlikely.

The Crimson was able to elude the shutout by scoring a touchdown with 11 minutes left in regulation. Harvard senior wide receiver Mike Cook caught a pass in the end zone to make

the score 27-7. Both teams scored another touchdown apiece before time ran out, but Penn still cruised to win the game 34-14.

**BROWN 35, DARTMOUTH 28**

The Bears (5-4, 4-2 Ivy) were able to come from behind against Dartmouth (5-4, 2-4 Ivy) to win 35-28 on Saturday.

Brown scored first with seven minutes left in the first quarter on an 11-yard touchdown pass to senior tight end Alex Prestley.

The Bears increased their lead five minutes later, capitalizing on a Dartmouth interception. Freshman kicker Alexander Noroceia kicked a 44-yard field goal, his first of two for the day, making the score 10-0 to end the first quarter.

The Big Green came back strong with a touchdown by Ivy League rushing leader Nick Schwieger to make the score 10-7, but soon found itself in the same 10-point deficit after conceding a short Bears touchdown pass in the last two minutes of the half.

Brown started out the second half leading 17-7, but suddenly found itself trailing after two Dartmouth touchdowns: another run in by Schwieger and a long reception by senior wide receiver Tanner Scott.

Brown trailed 28-17 with three minutes left to go in the third quarter, but eventually came back to even the game at 28 with a field goal, a touchdown, and a two-point conversion.

With 1:22 left to play, sophomore running back Mark Kachmer forced

his way through the Dartmouth defense to the end zone, giving Brown a 35-28 lead and earning a come-from-behind win.

**YALE 14, PRINCETON 13**

After Saturday’s Ivy League matchups, the Yale Bulldogs (7-2, 5-1 Ivy) are one of two teams still in contention for the league title after a one-point victory over the Princeton Tigers (1-8, 0-6 Ivy).

Yale jumped ahead first, scoring in the 10th minute with a touchdown from a 57-yard fumble return by junior defensive back Geoff Dunham. Sophomore kicker Philippe Panico followed with the extra point, making the score 7-0.

Princeton was not the only team to suffer from fumbles, however. The Tigers picked up a Yale fumble at the Bulldog 23 with eight minutes left in the second quarter and ended their drive with a field goal by kicker Patrick Jacob to make the score 7-3.

Later in the second quarter, league-leading wide receiver Trey Peacock caught his sixth touchdown pass of the season to put Princeton ahead. Yale responded in only four plays, driving down the field during its next possession and scoring from a 16-yard touchdown pass to senior wide receiver Jordan Forney. With the extra point, the score at the end of the first half was 14-10.

Princeton was able to cut Yale’s lead to one with a field goal in the third quarter, but the Bulldogs held on to prevail 14-13.

Ivy League allows postseason play in every sport except football

**PAGELS** from back page

the only undefeated team in I-AA, and wasn’t allowed a spot in the tournament. Think you’re angry about your undefeated football teams, Boise State fans? Imagine if they weren’t even allowed a chance to participate in the BCS title game.

Penn also finished undefeated in 2003, and coach Al Bagnoli wasn’t very happy about the system then.

“It’s not a very logical decision by anybody,” he said in an article in the Daily Pennsylvanian on Sept. 18, 2003. “When your school has 33 sports and 32 of them can compete, there isn’t much you can do logically to explain your decision if you’re in a position to make that decision.”

The eight Ivy League presidents still stuck to their guns. In 2006, Princeton president Shirley Tilghman said, “If the focus of competition became post-season play, we would

inevitably lose some of that great tradition.”

Surely you can’t be serious, Shirley. Participating in postseason play hasn’t diminished UT vs. OU or Ohio State vs. Michigan in the slightest. And let’s face it, what “tradition” are we even afraid of ruining? Sparsely attended football games full of turnovers and missed extra points?

Penn football doesn’t follow that trend. The Quakers have won 16 of their last 17 games overall and 19 of the last 21 against Ivy opponents. The Quakers currently have the second-best rush defense in the FCS and the fourth-best kickoff return team. On offense, only one team has allowed fewer sacks than the Penn offensive line, and the Quakers have the sixth-best rush offense in the nation. However, none of that matters.

If the athletic department wants to salvage some of the millions it loses on football each season, it should

allow teams to enter into the potentially lucrative postseason that would not only give national TV rights to the league, but increase attendance for every (much more) meaningful game that season.

Personally, if I knew Columbia basketball didn’t have the opportunity to play in the NCAA tournament each March, I wouldn’t care about the hoops season at all. Does this make me a horrible sports fan? No, I think it makes me a rational one. Why should I care about a team if there’s no chance for it to win anything more than a conference championship?

Current USC football fans know exactly what I’m talking about.

Nobody can name a single Colonial Athletic Association league champion off the top of their heads, but everyone knows about George Mason’s stunning run to the Final Four in 2006.

The greatest opportunity as a sports fan is rooting for a heavy

Worlds serve as practice for Olympics

**FENCING** from back page

because everyone competing and training for London 2012 was present. It was also wonderful to be on a World Championship team with so many past and present Columbians. Nzingha [Prescod] and I have been on the team together for four years and I’m very close to Kurt [Getz] and Daria [Schneider], so I’m glad we can still all be together.”

Ross has close ties to Paris. Her grandfather is from the city and she spent the first semester of her junior year studying abroad there. She was impressed by the passionate Parisians.

“It meant more to me because it was Paris,” Ross said. “I felt completely at home in the city, and it was incredible to be at the Grand Palais. Just the fact that the Parisians cared so much made it really special. It’s not something we see here in the U.S.”

Even though the team has only just returned from across the pond, there is no hint of a break and the next competitions are already on the fencers’ minds.

“I’m preparing for the North American Cup in January, which is important for qualifying for next year’s World Championships,” Ross said.

Schneider added, “We’ve got the World Cups that all start in February and the Olympic qualifiers in May, which are all very important.”

Unfortunately for the Lions, after this semester Ross is taking an 18-month leave of absence from her studies to train for the upcoming Olympics, but she has faith in her teammates.

“Our team here is very strong this year and we’re still getting to know each other,” she said. “I’m sad I won’t be able to fence with them, but I’m very excited for them this season. Hopefully, I’ll come back and finish my studies in 2012.”

Her teammates will begin their competitive season with the North American Cup in Dallas, Tex., from Jan. 14 to 17, 2011.

RK (LW)	TEAM
1 (1) 8-1 6-0 IVY	<b>PENNSYLVANIA QUAKERS</b> Coming off a dominating win over Harvard, Penn is looking to capture its second straight Ivy League title.
2 (5) 5-4 4-2 IVY	<b>BROWN BEARS</b> Senior QB Joe Springer earned Ivy League Offensive Player of the Week honors, leading a late comeback against Dartmouth.
3 (3) 6-3 4-2 IVY	<b>HARVARD CRIMSON</b> The Crimson managed to rack up over 400 yards of offense against the league’s top defense, but it wasn’t enough.
4 (2) 7-2 5-1 IVY	<b>YALE BULLDOGS</b> After narrowly avoiding an embarrassing loss to Princeton, the Bulldogs will try to regroup on national television vs. Harvard.
5 (4) 5-4 2-4 IVY	<b>DARTMOUTH BIG GREEN</b> Dartmouth will go up against Princeton this weekend, looking for its first winning season in 13 years.
6 (5) 4-5 2-4 IVY	<b>COLUMBIA LIONS</b> The Lions struggled against the league’s worst offense, and it won’t get easier this weekend at Brown.
7 (7) 2-7 1-5 IVY	<b>CORNELL BIG RED</b> Cornell’s only conference win was over Princeton, but it will look to face the top team in the league this weekend.
8 (8) 1-8 0-6 IVY	<b>PRINCETON TIGERS</b> The Tigers have yet to win a conference game and only have one more opportunity to do so this season.



Penn football deserves postseason

It's an issue that has been argued back and forth for decades in the Ivy League, the Roe v Wade, end-all debate of the Ancient Eight—football playoffs.

I realize that I'm biased. I cover sports for the Ivy League. I want more football games like Charlie Sheen wants more cocaine. But the fans set aside, Penn deserves to play in the FCS tournament this season.

The Quakers have 31 varsity men's and women's athletic teams, 30 of which participate in postseason play. The Ivy League's No. 1 football team is the only one that can't advance beyond the realm of the Ivy League.

Ever since its formation in 1954, the Ivy League has staunchly held to a strict rule that bars football teams from competing in the postseason tournament.

There are many arguments why Penn can't participate in the postseason, but the main one is that the tournament conflicts with final exams. I don't see this being an issue for any other school in the nation. I realize the Ivy League is no SEC, but Stanford—which Columbia recently hopped in the U.S. News rankings, in case you haven't heard—is currently looking to compete in one of the BCS bowl games this winter, and I don't think anyone in Palo Alto is complaining that they might miss their quantum mechanics final. It's ironic that the Ancient Eight are so paranoid about missing exams, but they're okay with letting their football teams skip out on their biggest test of the year.

This year, the first round of the FCS tournament starts on Dec. 4, but Penn finals don't start until Dec. 14. The Quakers would have to make the semifinals before their games would interfere with exams. Other tournaments, such as volleyball, interfere with finals, yet there isn't a ban there.



JIM PAGELS

On the Couch

Why should I care about a team if there's no chance for it to win anything more than a conference championship?

It hasn't always been this way. Back in the days of leather helmets, Princeton won 24 national championships and Yale won 19. Even our beloved Columbia Lions beat Stanford in the Rose Bowl in 1934 for their lone pigskin championship.

But with the formation of the Ivy League and its indifference toward being expunged from division 1-A in 1981, the league has been stuck in regular season limbo.

New Ivy League director Robin Harris has gone on record as saying her goals include raising the profile of Ivy sports and landing national television contracts.

Umm... isn't the best way to accomplish these goals allowing your teams to play in the FCS tournament—an event that is nationally broadcast on ESPN every year?

Fans have been asking this question for decades. Yale was a regular in the AP Top 25 in the early eighties, but never had a chance to go any further than that. In 2004, Crimson fans were especially outraged when Harvard was

SEE PAGELS, page 7



EN GARDE | Senior foil fencer Nicole Ross is training to compete in the 2012 Olympic Games.



**JAMES WILLIAMS**  
Sabre  
CC '07  
Sacramento, CA

No. 4 in US Men's Sabre



**KURT GETZ**  
Foil  
CC '10  
Rye, NY

No. 3 in US Men's Foil



**NICOLE ROSS**  
Foil  
CC '11  
New York, NY

No. 4 in US Women's Foil



**NZINGHA PRESCOD**  
Foil  
CC '14  
Brooklyn, NY

No. 1 in US Women's Foil



**DARIA SCHNEIDER**  
Sabre  
CC '10  
Brookline, MA

No. 3 in US Women's Sabre

FILE PHOTO

Five Lions fence in Paris at Worlds

BY MRINAL MOHANKA  
Spectator Staff Writer

Apart from the Olympics, it does not get any bigger than the World Fencing Championships. An annual event that brings together the best fencers in the world, this year's edition had an added sense of grandeur due to its location: Les Grand Palais (The Grand Palace) in Paris, France. Five Columbia Lions, past and present, were among those competing, and they did themselves and their country proud at the event, which ran from Nov. 4 to 13.

James Williams, CC '07, and Kurt Getz, CC '10, were among the male athletes, and finished 48th in men's sabre and 22nd in men's foil, respectively. Williams also fenced for the U.S. Men's Sabre Team, which finished 13th.

Nicole Ross, CC '11, and Nzingha Prescod, CC '14, fenced in the women's foil event and finished 28th and 32nd, respectively, while Daria Schneider, CC '10, competed in the women's sabre category and finished 44th.

Schneider, who is now the assistant coach of Columbia's fencing program, also competed at the 2009 World Championships in Antalya, Turkey, where she finished 15th. She was named to the All-American First Team twice while she was an undergraduate, and she was ranked 13th in the world for women's sabre earlier this year.

Schneider believes that the Parisian experience had an edge over the Turkish competition. "In terms of the competition itself, Antalya was very beautiful," she said. "But there were fewer spectators since it wasn't the main tourist season. Paris was more exciting and more intense—there were 5,000 seats and they were more or less sold out every day. The French were very passionate and they were screaming and shouting, which was quite intimidating.

You really felt like a pro athlete in that situation."

Schneider reserved praise for the artistic allure and grandeur that Paris provides its visitors.

"The Grand Palais was unbelievable. You drive by all the tourist attractions to get there, which makes you realize how special the venue is. They had a Monet exhibition going on in the palace in the room right by where we fenced, which was sold out as well. It allowed us to experience the French view and consider fencing as an art."

Schneider also fenced for the U.S. Women's Sabre Team, which narrowly missed out on a bronze medal and finished fourth. Mariel Zagunis, who won the gold medal for women's sabre at both the 2004 and 2008 Olympics, acted as the team's anchor and picked up an injury, which Schneider felt was a huge blow to the team.

"We weren't used to fencing without Mariel and we fell a little behind early on. We fought back but couldn't close it, but it was an unbelievable and exciting match," she said.

The magnitude of the event was captured for overseas viewers.

"Eurosport broadcast the match on international television and there was a live feed behind the French team," Schneider said. "It was both exciting and nervous to see enormous HD versions of us fencing!"

For Ross, a current senior in the college, it was her fourth team World Championships, but her first senior World Championships competing as an individual.

"The entire experience was completely different to make a senior Worlds," she said. "It was definitely special for me because the entire world's best at that level were there. There was a very competitive feeling

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ALYSON GOULDEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SHARPSHOOTER | Freshman guard Dyami Starks, who contributed 15 total points, sank five three-pointers during the first half of last night's 79-66 loss at St. John's.

Men's basketball takes halftime lead, but lets it slip away at St. John's

BY LUCAS SHAW  
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

ST. JOHN'S	79
COLUMBIA	66

For one half of the game it looked as if the men's basketball team would spoil Steve Lavin's home opener at St. John's, but the Red Storm surged ahead midway through the second period and never looked back en route to a 79-66 victory.

While the score might suggest a comfortable win for the new St. John's coach, his team trailed at the half and didn't put

Lavin's undersized but

athletic frontcourt propelled a balanced attack that saw four players reach double figures, led by senior forward D.J. Kennedy with 18 points. Though both sides combined for 39 offensive rebounds, it was the Red Storm that capitalized on its opportunities, outscoring the Light Blue 34-12 in the paint.

"They were a little long and quick inside," Smith said. "If we could've finished around the bucket it would've been a different game. We shot a terrible percentage from two."

Despite struggling inside, the Lions found success on the perimeter, taking advantage of the St. John's 2-3 zone to convert 10 three-pointers. Their strong outside shooting proved crucial in digging them out of an early hole in what was a seesaw first half.

The Red Storm struck the initial blow, surging to a 21-9 lead at the 11-minute mark. That was when the Lions' three-point barrage began, keyed by freshman Dyami Starks. Starks hit a three to start a 17-5 run that

tied the game at 26 with 6:10 left in the period.

"We were just sharing the ball really well and making the extra pass," point guard Brian Barbour said.

Throughout the rest of the half, St. John's tried to right the ship, but Columbia, and Starks in particular, had an answer for everything. After Kennedy put his team back up 28-26, Starks answered with a corner trey. Kennedy took the lead back with

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