

INSIDE

A&E, page 3

Student ballerinas
plié into Streng

On Friday, 26 ballerinas from the Columbia Ballet Collaborative showed off their grace and hard work in a fall showcase held in Barnard's own Streng Studio.

Opinion, page 5

Poker face-ination

Daniel D'Addario explains why we go Lady Gaga for cultural scapegoats.



Sports, page 8

Men's basketball picks
up first win of season

The men's basketball team got its first win of the 2009-2010 season this weekend, beating nonconference foe Longwood 72-61 in its home opener.

EVENTS

Procrastination
Workshop

Having trouble balancing homework and Hulu? Columbia Counseling & Psychological Services presents a four-session workshop for students struggling with procrastination. E-mail Yaniv Phillips at py2120@columbia.edu to RSVP.

Psychological Services
Conference Room, Lerner
Hall, 5:30 p.m.

Iraq's Transition to
Democracy

Ambassador Hamid al-Bayati, permanent representative of Iraq to the United Nations, will speak on Iraq's transition to democracy in the first lecture in a series on the political state of the nation.

1501 International Affairs
Building, 12-2 p.m.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Everyone knows where
my office is."

—Executive Vice
President for
Facilities Joe Ienuso

ONLINE

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News around the clock

Just like you, the news never sleeps. Check out our Web site 24/7 for campus and city news that matters to you.

OUT ON TOP



Lisa Lewis / Senior staff photographer

COLUMBIA 28, BROWN 14 | The Lions upset defending Ivy League co-champion Brown on Senior Day at Baker Field on Saturday to finish the campaign in style. They end the 2009 season 3-4 in Ivy play, good for fourth place in the league. See story, page 8.

Graybill, CC '10, chooses Rhodes

BY ALEXA DAVIS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

To Rhodes or not to Rhodes? That was the question for Raphael Graybill, CC '10.

Upon hearing from Rhodes this weekend that he had won the coveted scholarship, Graybill faced a tough but enviable choice between a Rhodes or Marshall Scholarship.

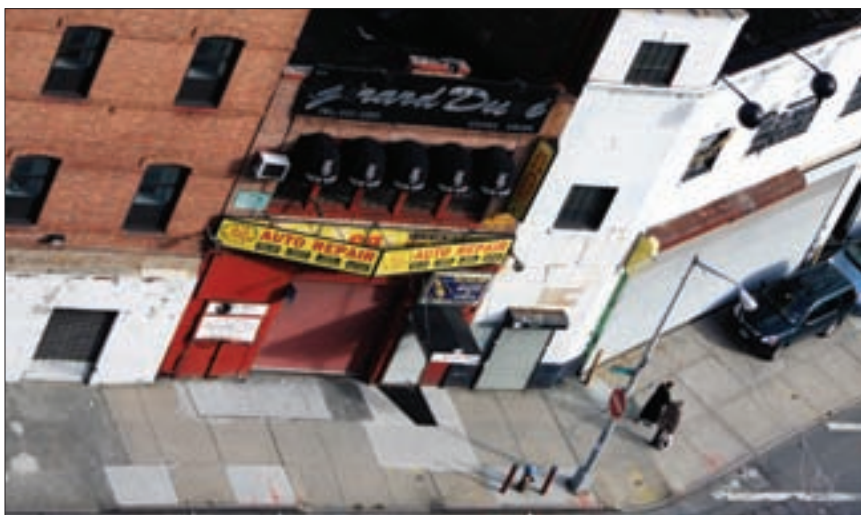
In a Sunday evening interview, Graybill said he plans to accept the Rhodes. "It's a huge honor and it's great to be able to get it for Columbia," Graybill said. "But I think that the reason why you see so many successful Rhodes scholars is not because of the Rhodes Scholarship, but because smart, capable, driven people tend to apply for it, and those that get it, they don't give up after they've gotten it."

The announcement of Rhodes winners on Saturday marked the third consecutive year that a Columbia student received the prestigious award that brings recipients to the University of Oxford. Last year, Jisung Park, CC '09, won the Rhodes, as did Jason Bello and George Olive, both CC '08, the year before.

Columbia's recent winning streak comes on the heels of a five-year drought. Associate Dean of Fellowship Programs and Study Abroad Michael Pippenger attributed Columbia's recent good fortune to an increase in student interest and faculty participation in the scholarship process.

"We've been really fortunate, first off, in that we've had students who are eager to take the risk and to put themselves out there and try to achieve their goals," Pippenger said. "And I think also we've been very fortunate because we really had a huge increase in the number of faculty who have been involved in the process."

SEE RHODES, page 2



File photo

NO PARKING | In September, preconstruction for Columbia's Manhattanville campus began. Two months later, business owner Ramon Diaz says times are rough.

Local business decries
Manhattanville pre-construction

BY MAGGIE ASTOR
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

As early stage construction proceeds in the footprint of Columbia's Manhattanville expansion, so do disruptions, business owners say.

"Preconstruction" work, which began in September, has involved the replacement of aging water mains and electrical conduits along Broadway and the adjacent blocks of West 125th and 129th Streets, and on St. Clair Place between 12th Avenue and 125th Street. This has required the temporary relocation of bus stops, the periodic closing of parking and traffic lanes, and the temporary cutoff of water service to certain buildings.

Meanwhile, in the past two weeks, the even more visible step of demolition—preceded by precautionary measures to prevent the release of asbestos—has begun on a handful of buildings on the block bordered by Broadway, 12th Avenue, 129th and 130th Streets.

Among the most affected businesses is Floridita Restaurant & Tapas Bar, which occupies three storefronts in University-owned buildings on the west side of Broadway between 125th and 129th Streets. Owner

Ramon Diaz said that his business has been down 30 percent since preconstruction began in September. He added that in January, he plans to close his tapas bar—one third of his business, which includes the main restaurant and bakery.

"They close up the street during the night—they start at 9 and they won't reopen until 6," Diaz said. "They do away with parking for two weeks. Customers will just stop coming because they can't find parking."

University officials maintained they are working to minimize the impact on Diaz and other business owners.

"Utility relocation, reconstruction, and drainage improvement projects are an essential preliminary step in the long-term plan for the old Manhattanville manufacturing area," University spokesperson Victoria Benitez wrote in an e-mail when construction began in September. "We have worked hard to ensure that Mr. Diaz is both fully informed of these developments and that they do not affect Floridita's business, which we hope continues to thrive."

A block west of Floridita, at the corner of 125th and 129th Streets, is one of two gas stations owned by Gurnam Singh and

SEE MANHATTANVILLE, page 2

Pay equity
study results
delayed

Research officers
complain about
3-year wait

BY AMBER TUNNELL
Spectator Staff Writer

For some Columbia professors, waiting three years for the results of a pay equity study is just too long.

After a series of hand-offs and ad-hoc committees that have formed and disbanded, officials say that results are on the way. But some critics claim that the data became stale over time.

Over three years ago, the Research Officers Committee of the University Senate, along with the Commission on the Status of Women, proposed a salary equity study for research officers to ensure that they are receiving equal pay regardless of gender, race, age, and other factors.

The results have yet to be seen.

During the senate's first plenary meeting in September, Daniel Savin, a member of the Research Officers Committee, discussed the study and urged the University to release the results. The committee's annual report for the 2008-2009 year states, "The University is taking what the ROC believes to be an unreasonably long time to complete this study," adding, "We are pushing the administration to have the results out this coming academic year."

According to the Research Officers Committee's 2005-2006 annual report, it originally initiated the study because no such study had been done before. Similar studies had been conducted for officers of instruction, but never for research officers. According to the most recent annual report, in spring 2006, Jean Howard—then vice provost for diversity initiatives—approved the study, which was carried out by Lucy Drotning, the associate provost for planning and institutional research. At the end of the summer of 2006, Drotning presented preliminary results that, according to Savin, "showed significant discrepancies in salaries among certain Columbia research officer titles."

After the preliminary results appeared in mid-2006 based on data from April 2005 to June 2006, Howard formed an ad hoc committee—which included both research officers and faculty—to review the results, but her term expired before the study was completed.

In fall 2007, new Vice Provost for Diversity Initiatives Geraldine Downey wanted to add data from July 2006 to June 2007 to the study while disbanding the ad hoc committee. Senior Vice Provost Stephen Rittenberg took over the study in the summer of 2008 and formed another ad hoc committee to review the results that fall, which began to meet in the winter. Concerned Columbians are still waiting on the data.

But since the summer of 2006, Savin said, "From the point of view of the research officer community, this report has gone into a black hole." When the final results are released, he added, if the discrepancies disappear, he "will press the administration to explain why."

Savin emphasized the importance of the study and the necessity of the results being released.

"Given that the condition of research

SEE EQUITY REPORT, page 2

Harlem's Cluster House facility
prepares for renovation

BY SHIRA POLIAK
Columbia Daily Spectator

Cluster House, a facility for formerly homeless women diagnosed with severe mental illnesses, has no elevator.

Climbing up five narrow flights of stairs has proven difficult for the building's older residents. Cluster House's water heater was just replaced, its old fire escapes are dangerous, and its overall crumbling state strains its capacity to serve those who need it most.

In response, its parent organization, Urban Pathways, Inc., announced preparations this month to renovate the complex on Amsterdam Ave. between 104th and 105th Streets, in the hopes of making it a more modern and permanent home.

Directors say that the multi-million dollar renovation of its facilities and revamp of its services will address a growing local need. The plan would convert the dormitory-like residential layout into studio apartments fitted with separate bathrooms and kitchens. It will modernize and restore the building, install an elevator, and add another three floors.

Cluster House is a program of Urban Pathways, Inc., a New York City organization that provides drop-in centers for homeless individuals still living on the streets. It also places qualified adults and previously homeless residents into scattered site housing or independent living facilities, according to Frederick Shack, executive director of Urban Pathways.

SEE CLUSTER HOUSE, page 2

LOVE ME, BAT BOY



Courtesy of Columbia Musical Theater Society

BAT BOY | Bat Boy, portrayed by Ricky Schweitzer, laments being different. Columbia Musical Theater Society produced Bat Boy this weekend in Lerner's Black Box Theater.

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Cluster House to be renovated

CLUSTER HOUSE from front page

Steve Muchnick, Cluster House’s program director, said his facility provides “transitional housing.” Women leaving homeless shelters see it as the next step toward permanent housing.

Muchnick said that women usually live in the house for only two or three years, picking up skills before they move elsewhere.

Last week, Cluster House affiliates met at the facility to discuss the involvement of the residents in creating its future. Robert Robinson, an Urban Pathways volunteer and former client, addressed the crowd of ten residents and case managers at the meeting, saying, “If we sit and complain, nothing changes.”

Thirty women currently live in Cluster House, though it can accommodate up to 48.

One woman who moved to Cluster House in April—and who, along with other residents, was granted anonymity because of mental illness—said she had been homeless for months. Another woman said she had been in and out of mental institutions for eight years and chronically homeless for 12 before moving to Cluster House in 1992 at the age of 38.

Some residents work in the neighborhood, and others participate in drug-addiction treatment programs or vocational training.

Muchnick said the ultimate goal is to “keep people in the community instead of in the hospitals.”

But providing these services has

become difficult, Muchnick said, because the building itself has become less functional over time. He cited its crumbling interior, lack of elevator, and water heater problems as aspects, among others, that must be fixed to insure continued care.

The renovation plan is projected to span two years, according to Shack, who presented the proposal to Community Board 7’s Health and Human Services Committee on Nov. 17. He added that Cluster House is working to secure appropriate placement for its current residents, who will not return to Cluster House after the renovations are completed. Twenty-five of the residents will move to more self-sufficient housing programs, and five will be transferred to comparable programs. Shack said Cluster House plans to relocate its current residents in February and March and start construction in April.

Shack emphasized the enormous need for scattered site housing for formerly homeless people. “There are not enough beds,” he said.

Upon completion, Cluster House will include 52 studios. Occupants will learn how to cook and shop for groceries. They will also live there on a more permanent basis and will receive less intensive care. Cluster House will also become co-ed.

CB7 Health and Human Services Committee co-chair Barbara Van Buren initially expressed reservations about Cluster House’s plan to relocate its residents before renovations. But after the meeting, she added, “We are comfortable with their plans.”

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Equity study release delayed

EQUITY REPORT from front page

officer salaries affects people’s livelihoods, my committee considers this a major issue,” he said, adding that the committee understands that new Provost Claude Steele will “have to familiarize himself with the issues,” which will “delay the process further.” Despite this, Savin urged quick results.

Rittenberg said last week that officials are in the “final stages of preparation” for the study. The committee is supposed to present the results to Steele soon, and then “he will decide what he wants to do.”

He added that the delay on the study has been due to “some questions with the quality of data.”

Rittenberg also noted that a different study that assesses similar issues for the Morningside faculty has been in the works for about a year, and stressed that “the results have to be interpreted carefully between minorities and non-minorities, because it might not be discrimination.” Still, he added that even if nothing arises in the results of the studies, “it doesn’t mean that there are not individual cases [of discrimination].”

Maya Tolstoy, chair of the Senate’s

Commission on the Status of Women, was a member of both the commission and the Research Officers Committee when the salary study was first initiated. She said she was hesitant to speak about the study since “a lot of the information is confidential” and covers a “sensitive issue” at the University.

Mercy Davidson, a retired senior research scientist from Columbia’s College of Physicians and Surgeons who also sat on both committees, said she and Tolstoy were on Howard’s initial ad hoc committee, but the preliminary results were never given to them.

“Maya and I never knew what happened to the results then,” Davidson said.

But she expressed concerns about the value of the original data now. “The longer you take to analyze the data, the more skewed the results become because of the time factor,” she said. “I don’t know if any of the data they have now has value anymore.”

Asked about the study, Drotning declined to comment, saying, “It would not be appropriate for me to talk ... about the specifics of the studies since their results have yet to be made public.”

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Charters’ class sizes scrutinized

BY RAY KATZ
Columbia Daily Spectator

The smaller number of students in charter school classrooms is often seen as a symbol of success, but traditional public school advocates say it sometimes comes at a heavy price.

Some adversaries of the charter school movement—the growth of public schools run by third-party not-for-profit boards—argue that low teacher-to-student ratios in charters hurt the traditional public schools they often outperform. When charter school classes are smaller, critics say, more students end up in public schools, increasing their class sizes. But the leaders of new charter schools, numbers of which have grown significantly in Harlem, say that the opposition is twisting the facts.

This week, schools are anticipating the release of preliminary data from the New York City Department of Education on class sizes in charter schools, numbers that will fuel the ongoing debate.

Leonie Haimson, executive director of Class Size Matters, a nonprofit that advocates for smaller class sizes in New York City, argued that the small class sizes that charter schools provide have helped them close the achievement gap. But she criticized charters for taking public school spaces, which she feels pushes out students and strains an already overrun system.

“Charter schools do have smaller class sizes,” Haimson said. “The ones that tend to get the best results ... have very small classes, two or three teachers per class.”

“It’s great that charter schools have smaller classes,” she added, “but not at the cost of overcrowding public schools and denying the same opportunity to public school students.”

Opponents of charters have argued that two pending issues in the debate—overcrowding and individual class size—are sometimes intertwined. Dianne Johnson, president of the Community Education Council for District 5 in Harlem, echoed Haimson, saying, “When charter schools come into community zone schools, they ... take away public school classrooms on certain floors, which means that either the community school winds up moving a grade, and the classrooms in the grades that they have wind up increasing.”

Charter schools take a different stance. Seth Andrew, the founder and superintendent of Democracy Prep Charter School in Central Harlem, said he saw no relationship between charter school class sizes and traditional public school class sizes, pointing to the uniform DOE process of allocating space. According to Andrew, all space in public schools—charter or traditional—is distributed according to the number

of enrolled students.

“People who try to somehow argue that charter schools are doing something to affect public school class sizes are misleading and misconstruing the facts,” he said.

Andrew also made a distinction between the issue of overcrowding and class size, arguing that charter schools are not responsible for filling public buildings beyond their capacity.

“The vast majority of Harlem public schools are under-enrolled compared to capacity,” he said, adding that charter schools, which serve students from the same area based on a random lottery, are granted access to under-utilized public space.

Jenny Sedlis, director of external affairs for the Success Charter Network, which oversees the Harlem Success Academy charter school, agreed that charter schools are merely filling empty seats. “The under-use of space in Harlem is changing because the Department of Education is putting more charter schools into public school spaces,” she said. According to Sedlis, there are 13,000 unused student seats in Harlem and an incredibly high demand for charter schools, which often occupy this unused space. Many charter schools have “fairly large classes,” said Will Havemann, a spokesperson for the Department of Education. Each charter school, he said, chooses the size of its classes at its own discretion.

“It is an instructional decision based one, on the availability of space, and two, on how many teachers the school employs,” Havemann said, adding that the DOE had no statistics available.

Overcrowding does hit charter schools too, according to Deborah Kenny, founder and chief executive officer of Harlem Village Academies, where the average class size is 28 students.

“We have to struggle to make up the difference,” Kenny said of the lower levels of funding charter schools receive from the DOE. “We are very crowded—we have to do some of our tutoring in the hallways.”

For some charters, class size is important, but not the top priority. Sedlis and Andrew agreed that teacher training and recruitment are higher priorities. But Andrew argued that the issue of class size has been exploited by public school advocates that actually just want to see more jobs for teachers in the market.

“The factor that drives quality is the quality of the teacher in the classroom, far more than class size,” he said.

Johnson of District 5 countered, saying that the number of students in the classroom is always important. “Class size does matter,” she said, “because if you have a set number of kids per class, they’ll be able to learn instead of being underneath each other.”

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Graybill selects Rhodes

RHODES from front page

Graybill was one of 18 applicants and eight finalists from Columbia for the Rhodes Scholarship, and one of 24 Columbia applicants and four finalists for the Marshall scholarship, which funds two years of study in any United Kingdom university. One of the other three finalists still awaits a decision.

At Oxford, Graybill will pursue an M.Phil. in political theory. “I’m interested in media and politics, and how information and the proliferation of information through media changes the way that people approach politics,” Graybill said.

At Columbia, Graybill was the captain of the Ski and Snowboard Racing Club and currently serves on the Club Sports Governing Board. He worked for the U.S. Senate Finance Committee last summer on health care reform, represented “Montana for Barack Obama” at the Democratic National Convention in 2008, and continues to work for the New York Police Department as an auxiliary officer.

Pippenger praised Graybill for his many accomplishments and modest personality.

“He has shown his leadership in a whole host of ways, both in the classroom and out,” Pippenger said. “He’s really a terrific ambassador for Columbia students.”

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Restaurant protests preconstruction

MANHATTANVILLE from front page

Parminder Kaur, who—along with Tuck-it-Away Storage owner Nick Sprayregen—are the only remaining landowners in the expansion zone who have refused to sell their properties to Columbia. There are two entrances to the gas station—one on 125th Street and one on 129th—but Zerom Selassie, a friend of the Singhs who spends a lot of time at the station, said business has not been hurt because only half of 129th Street has been closed, leaving the station entrance accessible. The Singhs and their lawyer, David Smith, were not available for comment by press time.

When it comes to demolition, Columbia Executive Vice President of Facilities Joe Ienuso said in an October interview that University officials plan to keep the construction zones safe and clean.

“Dust will be kept to an absolute minimum, keeping the immediate vicinity of the demolition site wet, moist, so dust is kept on the ground and doesn’t become airborne,” Ienuso said. “The equipment will have filter systems to reduce the particulate matter.”

Aside from current utility work, little construction activity is planned in the immediate future, since the building design process is not complete. And as the project proceeds, Ienuso predicted, feedback from locals affected by construction will allow University officials to address their concerns.

“Everyone knows where my office is,” he said. “If there’s something I do, and I don’t do it well, I have many communities that will knock on my door.”

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A quick fix for the BCS bowl selection process

SHAW from back page

me if I am not impressed that both teams were able to clinch division titles in mid-November.

TCU, which plays in the Mountain West Conference, beat more ranked teams in conference play than the Gators.

Still, the real problem is that this scheduling inhibits our ability to judge which of these teams is better.

Good nonconference games can provide tough early tests for ranked teams and can help clarify which conferences are up and which are down.

Instead, “good” teams load up on weaklings. Though Florida’s season technically started Sept. 5, they did not play a relevant game until the 19th, giving them two weeks to prepare for Tennessee.

Is it smart? Maybe. Is it fair? No. As I’ve said, it goes against the very reason Florida or Texas makes the title game over TCU or Boise State.

If you want to be the national champion, earn it. Don’t take weeks off by scheduling games where your walk-ons could have won by 20.

No matter how much we scream, the BCS is not going anywhere, and one way of determining the nation’s two best teams is by having more competitive nonconference games. This does not mean three or four games against ranked opponents. But what if Alabama or Texas played nonconference schedules like those of the “lesser” undefeated teams?

TCU—Clemson, Virginia, Texas State, SMU.

Cincinnati—Oregon State, Southeast Missouri State, Fresno State, Miami of Ohio.

Boise State—Oregon, Miami (OH), Bowling Green, UC Davis.

Do they still play some easy games? Absolutely. However, each of these teams also played against tough opponents. Clemson won its half of the ACC, Oregon State is still alive for the Rose Bowl, and Oregon is the team standing in Oregon State’s way.

This change will not solve any grand problems, but it will ameliorate the BCS mess and make teams really earn their titles. If Florida wins at Oregon State, in addition to its performances in conference, Florida would prove it is better than other top teams.

Of course, the best thing about this change is that it would give us more good games to watch.

Lucas Shaw is a Columbia College junior majoring in political science. sports@columbiaspectator.com

Interception at second-quarter buzzer sets tone in football’s win

FOOTBALL from back page

A late flag came out and the Lions’ revelry abruptly came to a halt as they waited for the referee to announce the penalty, which turned out to be sideline interference against Brown. The referee signaled touchdown and sent the players and crowd into frenzy. Freshman Dean Perfetti nailed the extra point, and the Light Blue took a 21-7 lead—

along with plenty of momentum—into the break.

“That was a big play because they got the ball coming back out at the start of the second half,” Columbia head coach Norries Wilson said. “That [the touchdown] put us up two scores—that was a huge play.”

The touchdown was the second of Shalbrack’s career—the first came in 2007 against Princeton—and was the third interception return for the Lions this year after senior Jared Morine had pick-sixes against Fordham and Princeton. Mehrer’s interception was his fourth of the season, tying him with sophomore Ross Morand

for most on the team. But the junior picked off another pass in the third quarter to lead the team with five interceptions.

Mehrer and Shalbrack may never have had the chance to make that play if it weren’t for a mistake by sophomore defensive end Shea Selsor. Earlier in the drive, senior linebacker Augie Williams intercepted Newhall-Caballero on third and 10 to give the ball to the Lions with a chance to try to get some more points. But Selsor was called for roughing the passer, which negated Williams’ second

interception of the season. Three plays later, everyone forgot about Selsor’s penalty as they watched Mehrer and Shalbrack extend Columbia’s lead.

Saturday’s game marked the final contest in light blue for the Lions’ 26 seniors. Going out with a win was all they could ask for, but it was even sweeter for Shalbrack.

“Honestly, you really couldn’t draw it up any better to kind of complete the career,” Shalbrack said. “It’s kind of the fairy-tale ending you always want to come in your last game.”

Lions defeat Longwood with strong first half in home opener

BASKETBALL from back page

we’ve been trying to get him to do now that he’s got some weapons around him,” Jones said. “He’s made the adjustment really well.”

A key weapon on Friday night was junior forward Brian Grimes, who notched 14 points and pulled down 13 rebounds, earning his second double-double of the season in as many games.

Though Grimes is already posting impressive numbers, he still feels he can get better.

“I’m still dealing with my timing coming back and everything, just because I haven’t played in two and a half years at this level,” Grimes said. “But my body is definitely at 100 percent.”

Another notable newcomer is freshman center Mark Cisco, who had eight points and four rebounds in just 15 minutes of play against the Lancers.

“He’s got great hands, he’s got great size, he’s tough, he’s got a soft touch,” Jones said. “He’s got a chance to be a terrific player, really he does.”

Despite an impressive first half and several standout performances, the Lions still have areas to improve on.

They did not play nearly as well in the second half, giving up 37 points on 43.8 percent shooting, while only scoring 29 themselves.

“We played poorly in the second half defensively,” Jones said. “It was kind of the first game we had where we had a lead with this team, but we got to learn how to consistently play defense the proper way.”

Foley also cited a less focused defense as the reason for Columbia’s second-half slowdown.

“It was really just defensively,” Foley said. “We were locked in in the first half.”

Longwood senior guard/forward Dana Smith posed the most trouble for the Light Blue defense, as he led his team with 22 points, 14 of which came in the second half.

“He’s a strong guy and he can handle the ball well and take it to the basket well,” Grimes said. “He’s a tough guy to guard.”

Despite a less-than-impressive second-half performance, things are looking up for the Lions.

“I really feel like as we get the chance to get more experience, this team is going to get better and better,” Jones said.

Swimmers split weekend series, prepare for Fordham

SWIMMING from page 7

first before Collazo earned second with 254.10 points and Borghi third with 250.72.

The Lions did well in the next three events as Pagan won the 200 backstroke in 1:54.94, Ramone took the 200 breaststroke in 2:08.85, and MacKenzie touched first in the 500 freestyle in 4:44.23.

Though Army won the 100 butterfly, the 200 individual medley, and the 400 freestyle relay to close the meet, Columbia’s efforts were rewarded with a 171-129 win, upping its overall season record to 2-2.

The Lions have a chance to climb above .500 for the first time this season when they take on the Fordham Rams Monday night. Last year, the Rams saw Columbia

swim away with a decisive 182-116 victory.

Fordham is off to hot start this season with a 4-1 overall record and a win over four other teams at the UConn Invitational two weeks ago.

Against Duquesne, the Rams stepped up their performances and saw several season bests. Fordham’s relay team swam well, finishing in 3:28.11, and Billy Colton

improved to 21.56 seconds in the 50 freestyle.

Fordham’s diving team proved strong as well. Benjamin Otto had a season-best 299.48 points as he beat the field at the three-meter dive.

Columbia must slow Fordham’s momentum and be ready to race if it hopes to end the Rams’ winning streak. The Rams invite the Lions out to the Bronx to try tonight at 6 p.m.

DANCE

CBC fall production keeps student ballerinas on their toes

BY AMY STRINGER
Columbia Daily Spectator

Hordes of people crowded into Barnard’s Streng Studio on Friday night for the opening performance of the Columbia Ballet Collaborative’s fall production. Audience members even clambered onto the barres lining the back of the room to see over the rows of heads.

Featuring 26 talented ballerinas from Columbia and five guest artists, three of whom are members of the professional dance companies Armitage Gone and New York City Ballet, the production was composed of eight numbers, with a wide variety of music, ranging from live accompaniment to Radiohead.

Choreographer Amanda Kostreva’s piece “Side/Walk” illuminated the flirtatious aspect of ballet, featuring nine dancers dressed in short, ruffled,

polka-dotted skirts dancing to the rap song “Can I Kick It?” by A Tribe Called Quest.

Later on in the performance, Phillip Askew and Lydia Walker performed their self-choreographed piece titled “Weather Patterns,” which involved using each other as human balance boards and rolling off each other’s backs, much like rolling clouds in the sky. The difference between actual weather patterns and the piece was the degree of tension in the room, as the two performed fearless acrobatics while the audience waited with bated breath, hoping that no harm would come to either dancer.

Lauren Birnbaum’s “Aube” featured eight dancers, including Barnard first-year Megan Wright, who described what it was like to work on the piece. Birnbaum “was working a lot with the contrast in movement from very small, twitchy movement to

big, flowy dancing movement, and in the middle, pedestrian, very rhythmic movement,” Wright said.

The time commitments of the dancers to the collaborative vary based on how many pieces they are cast in. According to Wright, the standard time commitment for each piece averages two hours per week.

Established in 2007 by five professional ballet dancers at Columbia, the company is now made up of dancers from all four undergraduate programs at Columbia and various graduate programs, as well. Originally started as an outlet for professional ballerinas to continue with dance while at school, it now also includes dancers who have no professional experience.

“It has expanded to people who have had really strong training,” Wright said. “The core group of people who run it are still largely post-

professional dancers, and then there’s the group of pre-professional dancers as well.”

Wright reflected on her first, and for the time being, last experience working with the collaborative. Over fall break, Wright flew to San Francisco and auditioned for Alonzo King’s LINES Ballet. “As a first-year, it’s been really great to see people who have done what I want to do and have worked their way back to school or have taken time off,” she said.

Next semester, Wright plans to withdraw from Barnard and move to San Francisco to pursue a professional dance career.

“I am withdrawing—I’m not taking a leave of absence,” Wright said. “But if I do come back to school, and I have an inkling that I probably will, I would want to come back to a place like Columbia because of the CBC.”

LIVE CULTURES



Adrienne Hezghia for Spectator

IN SHOCK | The Asian American Alliance hosted their annual fashion and culture showcase cultureSHOCK, themed Lost & Found, on Saturday in Roone Arledge.

ART

LeRoy Neiman exhibit gives art-craving students a feast for the eyes

BY HANNAH KLIGMAN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Got an appetite?

“Hunger: New painting from art schools in Germany,” curated by Jomar Statkun, is the new exhibit at the LeRoy Neiman Center for Print Studies. On display through Dec. 8, this exhibit is definitely a contemplative experience. The somber mood of the paintings is quite appropriate for the upcoming New York City winter, enticing visitors to come in out of the bitter cold and view these strangely narrative paintings.

The exhibit has very little written material to inform gallery visitors of what they are looking at. This lack of written material forces the viewer to study the canvases longer, grasping at any familiar images in an attempt to understand what they are viewing. There is not even a key to tell visitors which artists painted which paintings.

The exhibit was inspired by a quote from Ernest

Hemingway, in which he observes that “all the paintings were sharper and clearer and more beautiful if you were belly-empty, hollow-hungry,” and it seems that his experience is replicated by the layout of the paintings in the gallery. The viewer is forced to crave the information in the paintings, and, through careful observation, wondrous images become apparent.

One especially impressive painting is a landscape by Johanna Tiedtke, which at first glance looks like an abstract image, but, upon closer examination, a misty field materializes out of the atmospheric brush strokes that cover the canvass in bluish-gray tones. One bright dot, perhaps suggesting a planet or star in the early morning, glimmers low on the far left horizon of this painting. It is incredible how such a simple composition can conjure up an entire scene. All the paintings in the exhibit follow in this strangely minimalist, yet narrative, line—each canvas bears a pictorial story much richer than the physical reality of the paint strokes themselves.

Each painting not only tells a story individually, but

also flows into the next to tell a longer narrative that involves all the works of art. After viewing the works one after the other clockwise around the gallery, it is as if an entire story has been narrated to the viewer. Starting with the smallest canvas in the gallery—a sinister portrait of a white horse with blood dripping from its mouth—and ending with the largest canvas displayed—a large abstract with large and vigorous brush strokes of various colors—each painting acts as a chapter in a somber novel. Each painting encourages gallery visitors on to look at the next canvas to try and figure out what will happen next in this pictorial story.

Although this exhibit is very small (the gallery at the Neiman Center only offers one room of exhibit space), the paintings send viewers off a far distance into their own thoughts and memories. The stories narrated through this new visual material from Germany bring Neiman Gallery visitors through complicated twists of thought and story, offering a long and interesting trip through the imagination.

MUSIC

Dostoevsky novel moves from its ‘House’ to Metropolitan Opera

BY REBECCA PATTIZ
Spectator Staff Writer

“From the House of the Dead,” a Czech opera based on a Dostoevsky novel about a Siberian work camp, is, as the title suggests, a bit of a downer. The hour-and-a-half long, intermission-less performance forces the audience to feel the characters’ extreme sadness, boredom, and violence in an intense and incredibly moving way.

The opera, composed by Leos Janáček, opens as prisoners, clad in dark, ragged clothing, stagger across the stage in almost complete obscurity. They begin to fight, wrestling one another to the ground. The opera thus establishes its central atmosphere, a kind of intense boredom combined with disturbing violence.

Surrounded by giant concrete walls and blinded by fluorescent prison lights, the characters spend most of the opera recounting tales from the outside. Many of them explain why they are in prison—Filka, performed by tenor Stefan Margita, was imprisoned for vagrancy, and recounts how he killed an officer and was beaten for it.

Two others, Skuratov (Kurt Streit) and Shishkov (Peter Mattei) relate their crimes of passion—the first killed the man his beloved was meant to marry, the second killed his beloved for loving someone else—that led them to prison.

Throughout the opera, the monotony of prison life is broken up by fights, beatings, and moments of strained expression. In the first act, Skuratov attempts to describe his old life in Moscow, and then suddenly breaks out into a crazed dance and collapses. In Act II, the prisoners put on a drag pantomime performance of Don Juan, supposedly to pass the time. Their performance is wrought with violent sexual energy.

The music is repetitive and allegedly follows Czech speech patterns. Though many students likely have no knowledge of the Czech language, they may be able to appreciate this fact—much of the singing sounds more like melodic speech. The percussion includes chains and hammers, mimicking the work that the prisoners are forced to do. The arias are often pained and brutal—beautiful but also difficult to listen to.



File Photo

IN THE “HOUSE” | Lincoln Center is currently showing Leo Janáček’s opera based on Dostoevsky’s novel.

The opera’s 90-minutes felt strangely long, but this can be attributed to the intentionally slow movement of the opera. Through the music’s repetition, the set’s drab colors, and the characters’ constant appeals to a life beyond the prison walls, the audience begins to feel a bit imprisoned, too.

DANCE

Rocking down memory lane to Radio City



MOLLIE LOBL

WEST SIDE DANCE STORY

Winter is upon us, and perhaps the quintessential event of the holiday season in New York is the Radio City Christmas Spectacular. I cannot say that I’ve

seen it, but I have fond memories of watching the commercials advertising the show during whatever program I was watching as a seven year old, which was most likely a marathon of “I Love Lucy.” Just the mention of the Radio City Christmas Spectacular triggers my memories of wearing pajamas during a cold night, when it gets dark out by 5:30 and everyone is preparing endlessly for the holidays.

What comes to mind when you think “the Rockettes”? Legs. Indeed, the troupe’s creator, Russell Markert, was inspired by the Ziegfeld Follies of the early 20th century, and wanted to dazzle audiences with tall, leggy female performers. What else do you think of? Precision. The kick line. Uniformity. In fact, the Rockettes have so emphasized the visual uniformity of the dancers—in the hopes that they would all appear as one (Caucasian) unit—that it wasn’t until 1987 that the troupe accepted black dancers. Interestingly, it was in this same year that the first class that included women graduated from Columbia University.

The iconic Rockettes essentially are the Radio City Christmas Spectacular. The troupe is composed of 36 women between the heights of five-foot-six and five-foot-ten-and-a-half, all of whom are trained in jazz and tap dance. Beyond their visually captivating dance style, the Rockettes seem to carry a certain mystique. In the perpetually fun flick “Dirty Dancing,” Baby is in awe of Penny, one of the dancers at the Catskills resort who is rumored to have been a Rockette. Baby is mesmerized by Penny’s skilled dancing, blond hair, and lithe body, and she can’t help but ask Penny about her experience as a member of one of the most legendary groups in popular American dance culture.

Radio City Music Hall is the world’s largest indoor theater. It stands in the Rockefeller Center complex, along with the famous skating rink and the enormous, glorious Christmas tree during the winter season. The Music Hall used to have living quarters for the Rockettes as well.

I’ve included some valuable trivia about the Rockettes and the Christmas Spectacular: 1,400 to 2,000 pairs of pantyhose will be worn out during the seven-week run of the show. Each costume costs about \$4,000. Three thousand Swarovski crystals adorn each of the costumes in one scene. Twelve live animals are used in the nativity scene, the closing image for the show for over 75 years. And, yes, that includes a camel.

In October 2008, Jeanette Heller passed away. At 97, she was the oldest living Rockette, and at five-foot-four, perhaps the most petite. Her obituary quotes her nephew, who remarks that Heller was a bit of a ground-breaker as a Jewish member of the troupe who maintained her identity amid her years of performance in the Christmas Spectacular.

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Making room
for room
inspections

BY MARY CHENOE HART

Room inspections can be a painless way of ensuring our safety, provided that both sides approach the process from a reasonable point of view. Barnard students should become familiar with the rules that they agreed to follow upon committing to live here, while RAs should be respectful and courteous when inspecting their students' rooms.

To some extent, the act of having someone else enter your room will always be inherently intrusive. After years of living in accountability to parents and siblings, there is something personal and empowering about having a room of your own, especially if that room is a single. After you have lived in a room for a while and learned its secrets, it is all too easy for the emotional landscape of your domain to transform before your eyes, with those piles of rumpled laundry and the overloaded bookshelves becoming the hills and towers of your own personal kingdom.

Such a feeling of power, once experienced, is a very hard thing to give back. But several times each semester, we must hand back a piece of our sovereignty when the RA comes in to see if we have been naughty or nice. These enforcements of policy can sometimes feel chaotic. Two RAs once tried to make off with my harmless LED lamp, believing that it contained a more sinister halogen bulb, and over winter break I worried that my broken window shade would be considered heresy. Some rules are more confusing

than unnecessary: A surge protector is OK, but a power strip is a dangerous fire hazard. You cannot use an extension cord, but a surge protector with a long cord is fine. Even more bemusing is the policy of prohibiting candles—while it is understandable that a student should not be lighting a flame in the tight quarters of their dorm room, the fact that Barnard students are prevented from retaining the candles they were given at convocation as a keepsake makes for a contradictory statement about our school's culture.

But some of the rules and reasons for the room inspections make more sense. While permitting microwaves in our rooms would give us more options for tasty food, the electrical systems in a 10-year-old dorm building might not be able to handle it (and the building's structure might not be able to support the generous increase in average student body mass index that would happen as a result). The fact that our RAs are obligated to report any obviously illicit materials they encounter is hardly an unreasonable procedure—they tend to provide repeated warnings before the inspection season commences and do not engage in any searching of drawers or closets that could be considered a real violation of privacy. The room inspections are by design intended more to preserve mutual safety than to restrict freedom.

These room inspection practices tie back into one of the core tenets of student life: College is a communal place by nature, and

privacy is always a fleeting illusion. We are already living in close proximity to one another, especially in suites and shared-room situations, not to mention when we share our restroom and kitchen facilities. These inspections are designed, as the "community safety inspection" name might suggest, to extend our existing residential philosophy so that it ensures our collective well-being. Ensuring that students do not endanger other members of their community by violating fire regulations seems to be a reasonable concession.

Provided that these concepts are adhered to, room inspections can be one aspect of the college experience that is the least of a student's worries. Students should be well aware that surface-to-air missiles, drug production labs, and adorable hamsters are all classified as "prohibited items" in our school's housing policies, and consequently there is no reason for them not to be understanding and respectful of the RAs conducting the inspections. The

RAs, meanwhile, should not knock down our doors and storm into our rooms like a gang of marines, but provide ample information and ideally conduct their inspection during a non-intrusive time, such as when they have encountered a student in the hall. Room inspections can be quick and easy when we all behave like mature and responsible adults.

The author is a Barnard College sophomore.

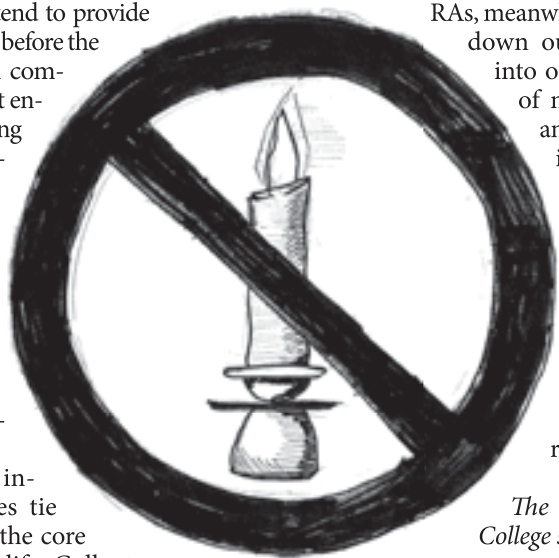


ILLUSTRATION BY DARYL SEITCHIK

Staff Editorial

When you buy,
don't sell out

The current economic crisis promises to make the already nerve-racking task of holiday shopping even more stressful this season. Shoppers in Morningside Heights will face yet another complication this year: A string of dubious ethical practices at local businesses brings to the fore the issue of responsible consumerism. And while the question of what constitutes morally and socially conscious shopping is particularly pertinent in this down economy, shoppers should always bear in mind the business practices of retailers when deciding what to buy.

2009 saw labor disputes at many Upper West Side eateries. Protesters descended on Broadway and 110th Street at the beginning of the year to decry the inadequate wages and exploitation of workers at Ollie's and Tomo Sushi and Sake Bar, the latter of which is now closed. The dispute ended in late March with a legal victory for the workers, with the restaurants' owner paying \$2.3 million in compensation. In September, Liberty Thai Corporation, which operates the Upper West Side branch of the Lemongrass Grill restaurant, became embroiled in a similar controversy, with Liberty Thai facing allegations

of paying its employees below minimum wage. And in recent weeks, health care benefits and holiday pay at Book Culture, an independent bookstore near Columbia, have fallen under scrutiny.

This series of disputes in the neighborhood reminds shoppers that they must be conscious of where they spend their money. Both Columbia students and faculty have the responsibility to remain as aware as possible of the business practices of the stores at which they shop—a purchase, after all, is like a vote of confidence. Consumers looking to shop ethically can turn to charitable organizations—and even department stores—that sell products whose proceeds benefit worthy causes. Campus activists could also join forces to compile a list of businesses that are committed to fair labor practices or that make charitable contributions. In any case, consumers on the Upper West Side must remember the people who stock store shelves, deliver food to restaurant tables, and work long hours to accommodate holiday shoppers—often without overtime pay. This year, the economy will affect both shoppers and workers, but we should all do our part to treat employees with respect. It's a gift that costs nothing.

As I See It



NEW YORK CITY RESIDENT, YAWNING

JASPER CLYATT

The photographer is a Columbia College freshman. He is an associate photo editor for the Spectator.

Conspiracy theories and me: a bad romance



DANIEL D'ADDARIO
THE UNBEARABLE LOLNESS OF BEING

and Jay-Z are trying to lull us into submission and pave the way for a new world order.

A typical paragraph discusses the shooting style and mise-en-scène of a pop video while referencing symbolism that would only be familiar to conspiracy theorists and Wikipedia scholars of freemasonry. Imagery of Masonic temples and "Baphomet, the horned idol of Western occultism" (which, curiously, does show up in Lady Gaga videos, if you look for it) forms such a corpus of information that it's impossible to contest. It's like debating politics with an Obama "birther"—you can't really compete against an expert on facts that seem to come from a different universe. Of "Umbrella," the anonymous critic behind The Vigilant Citizen writes, "We'll see how the Devil tries and succeeds at possessing Rihanna in this song. There is a reason why the album is called 'Good Girl Gone Bad.'" Okay!

I'm sure that I don't understand all the justifications the Web site uses to prove its deeply held position. Yes, pop music can be insidious—remember the debate over Britney Spears' midriff shirts corrupting America's innocence? I guess we turned

out okay despite her toxicity. But where does the chain of new world order-peddling pop stars lead? All the way up to the heads of the record industry? The Vigilant Citizen is silent on this, as well as what Gaga, Rihanna, Jay-Z, Beyoncé, et al. seek to accomplish through their pop-transmitted messages of occultism. Mainly the site promulgates the point of view that occult possession is bad. Which, you know, I can't disagree with, although it seems pointlessly vague.

I'm also intrigued by my reaction. I feel the same way about The Vigilant Citizen as I did about the millennial literature and conspiracy YouTube videos I studied in my Introduction to American Studies class. One video was about the Bilderberg Group, some sort of shadowy forum that meets to control the world. For a while, all my YouTube suggested videos were about economic forums. I was inculcated into an understanding of this worldview early—my parents' bookshelf is stocked with many books on the Kennedy assassination—and what faith in the U.S. government is (or was) to my parents, faith in pop music is to me.

The Vigilant Citizen makes pop music consumption easy, if a plunge into a terrifying unknown out of an Oliver Stone film. It provides an explanation for a pop scene that has gotten exponentially more bizarre since I came to college: I know now why Beyoncé created an alternate persona for her last album, or, as I wrote about in a previous column, why Kanye West interrupted Taylor Swift at the Video Music Awards (it was all an initiation into the Circle of Chosen Artists!). Lady Gaga's outfits, even, are diagrammed. I feel how my dad feels when he reads books on the Kennedy assassination: that everything unsettling and confusing and mixed-up makes sense.

(Although despite how controversial Lady Gaga is or strives to be, I assume we can all agree it wasn't a lone gunman. Right?)

Maybe I'm not all that different from the birthers—well, I'll give myself a little credit in that I'm only intrigued by The Vigilant Citizen. I haven't taken its bait. But anyone whose mind is attuned to look for conspiracies will find them everywhere, and this is certainly a moment to look. There are bizarre, horrible things happening all around: the collapse of the U.S. economy, the H1N1 virus floating in the air, Oprah leaving her show. Does it all go back to the Bilderberg Group? It's easier to peg everything going on—including mysterious currents in culture that point to the rise of some sort of malevolent power in our society—on a convenient scapegoat. Lady Gaga has so many free-floating referents around her that she makes an easy target. It's easier to hunt for conspiracy theories in pop music or to try to suss out the Bilderberg Group's membership than to find a prescriptive solution.

In the midst of writing this column, I decided I needed to have some musical accompaniment. To YouTube I went for distraction. All my suggested videos were Lady Gaga tracks. (I never said I had good taste—I just know a good meme when I see one.) I put it on and had trouble finishing a sentence. My typing trailed off. I saw the head of Baphomet several times in the video, but didn't really process it amid the lights and music. The Vigilant Citizen is right about at least one thing: I felt for a few minutes as though I were brainwashed.

Daniel D'Addario is a Columbia College senior majoring in American studies and English. He is the managing editor of the Columbia Political Review. The Unbearable LOLness of Being runs alternate Mondays. opinion@columbiaspectator.com

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For more information, come to our meeting Sundays at 2:30 p.m. in the Spectator office on the corner of 112th Street and Broadway.

Attitude of gratitude

As Thanksgiving approaches, Spectator Opinion takes a page out of the Pilgrims’ book as six students reflect on what they’re thankful for. Rami Levi gives thanks for his giving sister and for Thanksgiving itself, Juliana Storch is hot for the cold, Bennett Hong is grateful that the triceratops let him stomp to the beat of his own pre-historic drum, Amin Ghadimi gives thanks to an often unappreciated familiar locale, and Victoria Fox sings—and types—the benefits of Skype.

Sister dearest and giving thanks

BY RAMI LEVI

For fifteen days I was living the life. After chilling together in our mother’s womb, riding next to her on the middle school bus, and attending the same small

say it, I am thankful to go to college with my twin sister. There are a number of reasons why I am happy to be here with her. First and foremost, having a twin at Barnard is sweet when it comes to the ladies. No, I don’t need her to help me pick up girls—I manage quite nicely on my own. However, those of you without a twin in school, never have the following conversation with the cute girl in your Intro to Lit class. “Hey, do you know my sister?” “No, why would I know your sister?” “Oh, no reason—I just thought you would, being that she’s our age and in Barnard and

all...” “OMG! You have a twin at Barnard?! That is sooooo cuuute!” SUCCESS. Recently, I have found myself texting my sister, wanting to hang out with her even when it doesn’t help me with my mac daddy activities. Going to school with my twin sister, contrary to what I expected, is truly something I am thankful for. Sometimes, you just need to get out of the house, and let your sibling relationship flourish outside of the place where you wanted to kill her for 18 years. Yes, I am thankful for going to college with my twin sister, but we need to

look at the bigger picture here. You want to know what I’m really thankful for? Thanksgiving. That’s right—I’m about to get “meta” on your ass. It was late November of first grade. Between the high holidays and other fall holidays on the Jewish calendar, I had just logged nearly 10,000 hours of synagogue service. That’s a brutal amount of time wasting away in a stuffy room for anyone, let alone the average first grader. When my teacher mentioned to the class one Tuesday afternoon in November that school would only resume the following

the sake of nostalgia, I enjoy the finest foods with my family. That was enough to send this little first grader home happy. To my surprise, my teacher continued. But wait—there’s more! Call now, and you’ll receive not one, but TWO football games. And as part of this annual offer, we’ll even throw in a parade. All this for NOTHING. Absolutely, positively, nothing. No synagogue service, no need to atone for every little goddamn sin you may or may not have done in your life. To be fair, there is one obligation. At some point, a family member, possibly a cousin, likely a grandmother will suggest going around the table and saying what you’re thankful for. The joke is, you can say ANYTHING. I am thankful for this fork. Bam, over. If you want to get cute, throw out “family” or some crap like that, and you’re golden. As an Orthodox Jew, Thanksgiving was a breath of fresh air, a holiday with no obligations other than to have the single greatest day of your life. God, am I thankful for Thanksgiving...

Every year we are asked by our government to sit down and be thankful with whoever is willing to carve us up some turkey (or tofurkey.) This in itself is worthy of our thanks. Where else can we be granted this wonderful opportunity to celebrate Thanksgiving (besides Canada, the Netherlands, and Grenada)? And even if there were other generous nations that allowed their people to give thanks on a specific day of the year, it should make us no less thankful that others can partake in this objective good. Surely a gold nugget is no less shiny if everyone else has one, too.

It becomes too easy as the years cycle round and back again to feel entitled to what we have, perhaps because it seems sometimes that everyone around us has the same. And though many do indeed have friends, families, food, clothing, scotch, and finals on Christmas Eve—and some may not—it does not take away from the temporal happiness that these things can provide. Every new day I see is splendid, and much more so in that so many others I know are seeing the same splendid day. That is the beauty of Thanksgiving— we get an extra day off, and we’re forcibly reminded we don’t have to be so angry.

There is power in the “thank you,” and even when we’re not sure where to direct it, the pure feeling of gratitude can change our lives for the better, from improving our personal relationships to earning us a better job. That is reason enough to be thankful.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore.

Confessions of a Skype addict

BY VICTORIA FOX

I’d be lying if I said symptoms of sophomore slump haven’t started taking root, but at least it has made me realize I have something new to be thankful for this year—Skype.

Yeah, yeah, I know I’m a little late in the game on this one. But somehow, in a fit of irrational technophobia last year, I was able to resist the draw of Skype all of first semester. I’d convinced myself that the artificiality of bad audio and pixelated images of friends and family members served only as a reminder of how much distance separated us—inadvertently widening the gap instead of bridging it. Certain it would only mock me in moments of homesickness, I managed to avoid Skype until second semester when a friend pressured me into setting up an account.

But now that all the exciting and confusing distractions of being a first year are behind me, I’ve had time to realize what I was missing out on. As a native North Carolinian, with a sister in Philadelphia and high school friends spread across the south, it took a year apart to make me desperate enough to give Skype a fighting chance.

And I’ve slowly become an addict. How else could I have given my sister a virtual tour of my dorm room when “undetermined flu-like symptoms” ruined her plans to visit over Election Day break? Or let my family and high school friends meet the college friends I told them about ad nauseam over the summer? And though I’m a little ashamed to admit it, I’m glad to finally have a way I can at least pretend to talk to my dog.

As my life keeps spreading across the East Coast, if virtual togetherness is the best we can do, I’m glad I at least have that.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore.

No chickens allowed

BY BENNETT HONG

Besides family and friends, health and photography, I’m thankful for Triceratops. I don’t know what was on God’s mind when He created this massive bull-like, three-horned reptile that could only swagger from side to side as it was chased by the Tyrannosaurs 65 million years ago, but this creature helped me identify myself at an early age (which was 15 years ago, mind you). Back in the days when even toddlers could remember all 151 Pokémon, everyone adored the T. rex—it was big, mean, clawed, and dominating. I, however, championed the Triceratops. Why, you might ask? Well, for one thing, I didn’t want my dinosaur to taste like chicken (referencing the T. rex—bird evolution theory here). But more importantly, it was the anti-T. rex dinosaur, the only one to challenge its rule (in picture books anyway). I have never liked walking on common trails, and would rather use my own ability to carve out my own path. My homemade dinosaur encyclopedia that I made in kindergarten, my science fiction “novels” of 8th grade, my reconciliation of Confucian values, Christian ideals, and scientific theories in high school, and my decision to study two completely different subjects (economics and pre-med)—all were ways in which I strove to do or make something different. So thank you, Triceratops, for showing me that there are other dinosaurs besides the T. rex.

The author is a Columbia College junior majoring in economics.

Cold turkey

BY JULIANNA STORCH

I am thankful for the cold. Irving Berlin and I shared a dream of a white Christmas, but at least for me, the dream was to no avail. I grew up in Phoenix, Ariz., where Christmas was mildly chilly at best. Ice skating rinks were only indoors. We anxiously awaited snow days, but they were strictly preschool events. Our snow days entailed playing on a mound of snow dropped on the playground by a dump truck, an annual taste of the cold weather we lacked. There are those who slip into deep hibernation during the cold winter months here in New York, but not me. I am thankful for the cold. I love to slip into boots, tie a scarf around my neck, and wrap myself in a big wool coat. Once I open the door to the cold outside, I embrace the friendly welcome from a gust of cool air swirling about my feet. The cold accompanies me on a winter stroll and paints the apples of my cheeks a rosy pink. At the day’s end, when the cold and I part ways, our goodbye lingers for a while. The tips of my ears and nose still tingle as I lose my thoughts in a deep mug of hot chocolate. I peer out the window at the glittering flakes falling from the sky and dream of the white Christmas that the cold is creating just for me.

The author is a Barnard College sophomore.

Thank you, Columbia

BY AMIN GHADIMI

What am I thankful for? So much. I am thankful for the talented opinion and design staffers who put this spread together. I am thankful for my sister, my brother, my parents, my grandparents, and my extended family. But I’d also like to thank someone, or something, to whom I don’t express my gratitude enough. I am thankful for Columbia University. With every step on this beautiful campus, with every test I take, every paper I write, every assignment I complete, it’s always in the back of my mind— I am privileged to be here. I am just a geeky, precocious kid from the opposite side of the world. Columbia took a chance on me and invited me to this campus, this city, and this country. But it didn’t just invite me. It welcomed me with open arms. It understood when I said I couldn’t afford college. And it is giving me the best education in the world. So I’d just like to say thank you, Columbia. Have a happy Thanksgiving.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore and the Spectator Editorial Page editor.

high school, my twin sister and I were finally going our separate ways. Honestly I had no idea where she was going to college. She hadn’t received her acceptance letter yet, but she had mentioned something that sounded like Bard—I think it’s in Vermont. Good riddance. I, on the other hand, was just informed via e-mail that I had been accepted to Columbia College. I was goin’ to the big city. Alone. A chance to spread these sexy bachelor wings and conquer New York. Alone. Fifteen days later, my sister received her acceptance letter—Barnard. Boom. Here we go again. But after a year and a half of causal run-ins at Hewitt and ridiculously humiliating rendezvous at Campo, I realize that, dare I

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4	2	3	7	5	1	9	6	8
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2	9	1	6	8	5	4	7	3
1	5	7	9	3	8	6	4	2
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3	4	2	1	6	7	8	9	5

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9. That means that no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Closes in anger, as a door

6 Cause damage to

10 Cover for a pillow

14 Psychic's card

15 Belle man

16 Watering aid

17 Beatles footwear

19 Ancient Andean

20 In a dishonorable way

21 Japanese electronics giant

22 Pinot ____

23 Country meadow

25 Spanish wine punch

27 Seasoned pros

32 The "T" in some fraternity initials

33 503, in old Rome

34 Cassa kitchen

36 Hair a '60s pop group

40 Like the diving-board end

41 WWII noncombatant

43 Sitar music

44 Seaweed-wrapped

46 Japanese fare

47 Analogy phrase

47 Contest with pistols

48 Put into service

50 Sledding spot

52 Word game involving a stick figure

56 "No wavy, laddie!"

57 Highly excited

58 Edge of a hoop

60 Double-checks the math

65 Copenhagen native

66 Stockinglike workout wear

68 At any time

69 Apex

70 Words after have or save

71 Stage constructions

72 Sampras of tennis

73 Burial places

DOWN

1 Wild guess

2 Superboy's girlfriend Lang

37 Hawaiian island

38 Got on in years

39 Bargain hunter's delight

42 Sporty Toyota Camry

45 Suffix with intellectual

49 Winter hat feature

51 Eye lasciviously

52 Mythological underworld

53 Tequila plant

54 Octet plus one

55 Dad's brother's daughter, to dad

59 Corp. leadership

61 "I ____ busted!"

62 Judge

63 Colorless

64 Retd. Air France flier

67 Like early morning hours

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

MUSCLE	HIGHHAT
APPEAL	GENEROUS
STALLS	LISTENTO
KOREA	MIRESDOS
BLOODSTREAM	
NSP	ACRE
SITPAT	
EPIC	HERR
CHITA	
AEROSOL	ECHELON
TRENT	SULA
LONI	
OMEGAS	NORM
TSA	
DNARESEARCH	
HOG	KNEAD
CECIL	
INITIALS	PARITY
HONESTLY	RITTER
ORESTES	ENZYME

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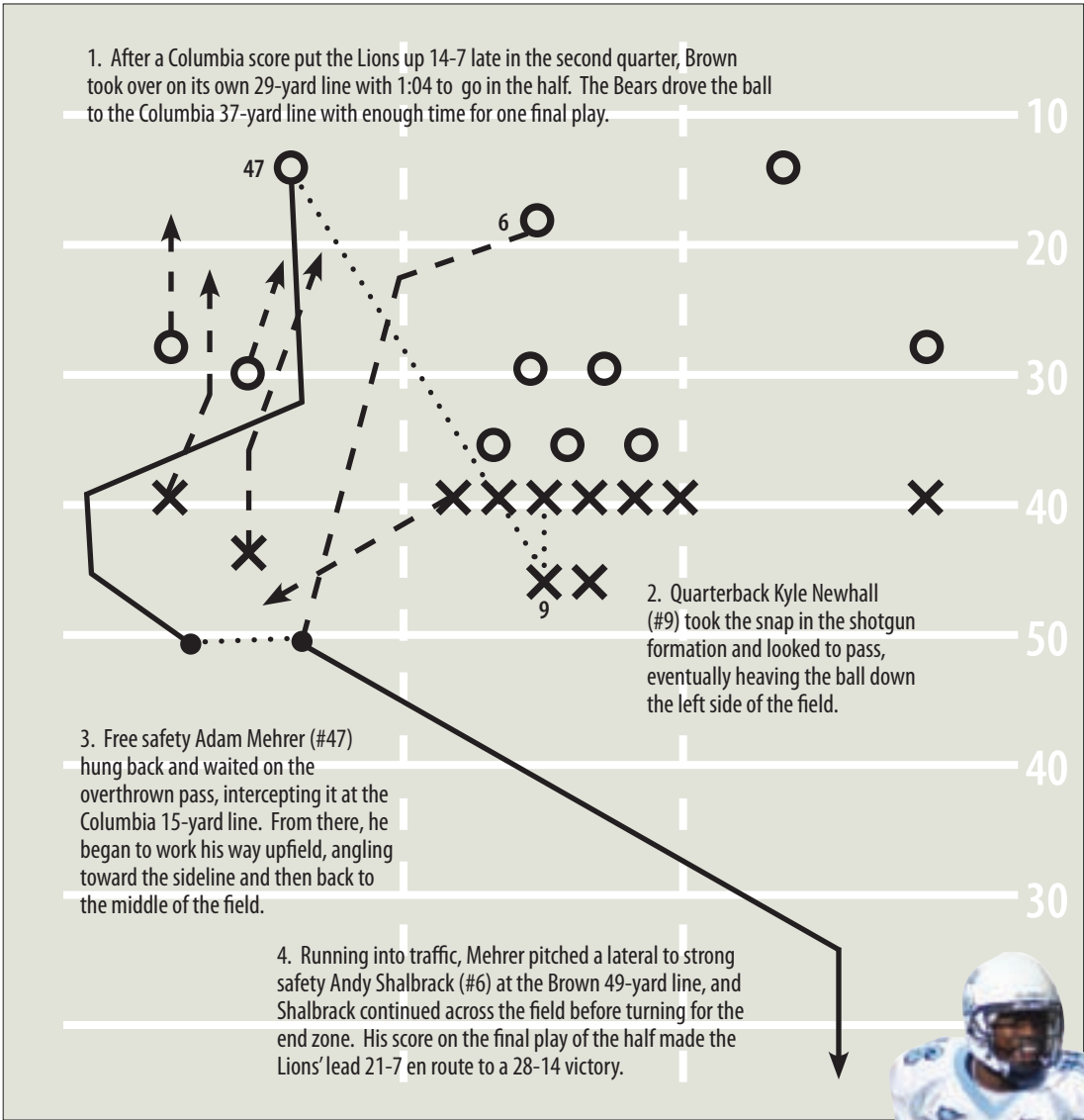
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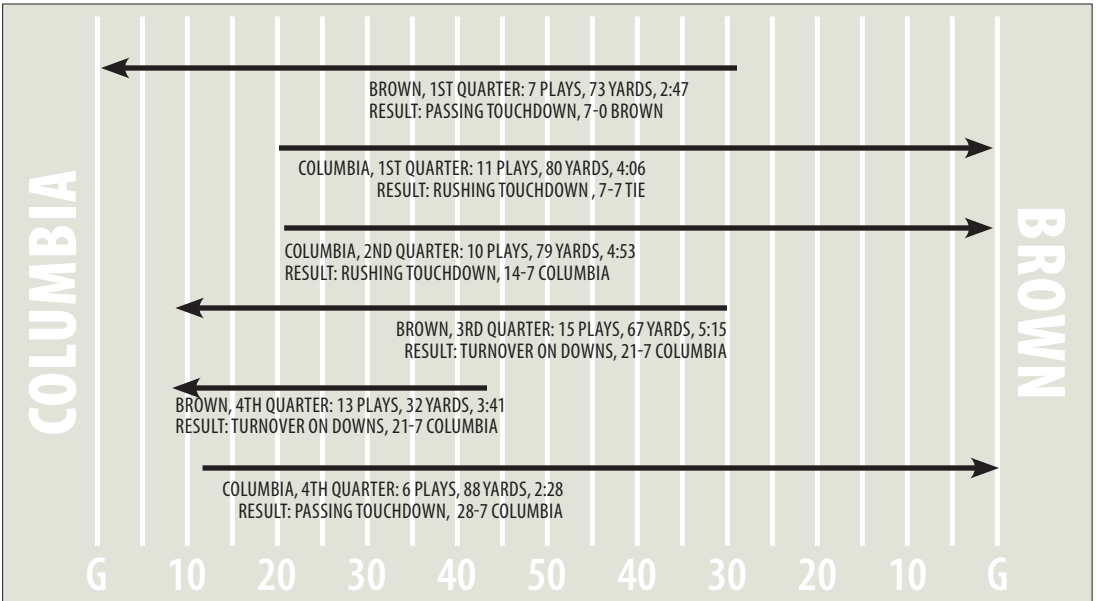
Week 10


									
GAME ONE @ FORDHAM 9/19 WIN, 40-28	GAME TWO CENTRAL CONN. ST. 9/26 LOSS, 22-13	GAME THREE @ PRINCETON 10/3 WIN, 38-0	GAME FOUR @ LAFAYETTE 10/10 LOSS, 24-21	GAME FIVE PENN 10/17 LOSS, 27-13	GAME SIX @ DARTMOUTH 10/24 LOSS, 28-6	GAME SEVEN YALE 10/31 LOSS, 23-22	GAME EIGHT HARVARD 11/7 LOSS, 34-14	GAME NINE @ CORNELL 11/14 WIN, 30-20	GAME TEN BROWN 11/21 WIN, 28-14

PLAY OF THE GAME



KEY DRIVES



IVY LEAGUE FOOTBALL STANDINGS				
	OVERALL	IVY	POINTS FOR	POINTS AGAINST
PENN	8-2	7-0	173	58
HARVARD	7-3	6-1	186	96
BROWN	6-4	4-3	159	125
COLUMBIA	4-6	3-4	151	146
PRINCETON	4-6	3-4	91	192
YALE	4-6	2-5	121	125
DARTMOUTH	2-8	2-5	118	170
CORNELL	2-8	1-6	88	175

PIXBOK STANDINGS: WEEK 10

1	Jelani "Can't Knock the Hustle" Johnson	47-41
1	Matt "The X-Factor" Velazquez	47-41
3	Bart "The Tailgating Tales" Lopez	46-42
4	Lucas "In the Refrigerator" Shaw	45-43
5	Tom "The Mouth that Roared" Di Benedetto	44-44
5	Jacob "Eye on the Ball" Levenfeld	44-44
7	Lisa "That's What She Said" Lewis	43-45
8	Kunal "Moving the Chains" Gupta	41-47
9	Holly "The Eyes of Texas" MacDonald	39-49
10	Jacob "Put it on the Board" Shapiro	38-50

MONDAY MORNING QUARTERBACK

GAME BALL

Freshman Sean Brackett was making only his fourth start for Columbia against Brown on Saturday, but demonstrated poise and leadership beyond his years. Brackett led the team in rushing, with 20 attempts for 171 yards, including several key third-down conversions. In addition, Brackett was able to find open receivers all day, passing for 151 yards.

BEST CALL

The Lions found themselves up 21-7 when, with 13:55 left in the fourth quarter, Brown had a strong drive into the red zone, ultimately turning it over. Brackett drove the Lions 88 yards and finished the drive with a 37-yard pass to Knowlin to seal the game.



WORST CALL

The Brown coaching staff decided to go for it twice inside the 10 on fourth-and-goal in the fourth quarter, and failed to score each time. Despite Brown moving the ball effortlessly up and down the field, the two failed red zone drives completely changed the momentum of the second half in favor of the Lions.

TURNING POINT

After the Lions took a surprising 14-7 lead with 4:53 left in the first half, Brown began to drive down the field for the tying score. Adam Mehrer picked off a desperation pass and returned it 36 yards before he lateraled to Andy Shalbrack, who returned it the rest of the way, putting the Lions up 21-7 at the half.

Women's swimming finishes third at Harvard

BY BART LOPEZ
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Columbia women's swimming and diving team competed at the Harvard Invitational over the weekend, finishing in third place with 698 points. Harvard took the top spot with an overwhelming 1,224 points, and Rutgers finished second with 863.

The Lions started off the meet with a third-place showing in the 200-yard freestyle relay. Columbia's relay team, consisting of Katie Meili, Allison Hobbs, Lacey Harris-Coble, and Ashley MacLean, finished with a final time of 1:38.12. Harvard and Rutgers would go on to fight for the top spots in the next five events, with Columbia unable to capture a top-three finish until the 400-yard medley relay. The Lions took third in the relay behind the Harvard and Rutgers relay teams. The next event, the 200-yard medley relay, saw the same result, as Columbia took third yet again.

The Lions had a difficult time finishing above third place for most of the meet with Harvard and Rutgers dominating the podium. But in event 18, the 200-yard breaststroke, Columbia's Mariele Dunn took second with a final time of 2:19.01, just .84 seconds ahead of Harvard's Helen Pitchik. Dunn's second-place finish would be the best for any Columbia swimmer over the weekend.

The Light Blue diving team also had a tough time, as it was unable to make it into the finals in either the one-meter or three-meter diving competitions. In the women's three-meter competition, Columbia's Casey Breese finished 11th in preliminaries and therefore was unable to make the finals. Rutgers' Erin Saunders went on to win the event, just ahead of Harvard's Jennifer Reese. In the one-meter diving competition, Columbia's Stephanie Foster finished ninth with 106.85 points during preliminaries, also not enough to make the finals. Boston University's Melinda Matyas took the top spot with 538.95 points.

With the weekend invitational behind it, the Columbia women's swimming and diving team is looking ahead to Wagner next weekend. Columbia will not face another Ivy opponent until Dec. 9, when it takes on Penn at Uris Pool.

Place	Team	Points
1	Harvard	1,224
2	Rutgers	863
3	Columbia	698

Men's swimming falls to Harvard but rebounds against Army

BY VICTORIA JONES
Spectator Staff Writer

Columbia's men's swimming and diving team split this past weekend's matchups with a loss to Harvard and a win over Army.

The weekend began Friday night in New York when the Lions challenged Ivy foe Harvard but fell just short as they dropped their second meet this season in the Ancient Eight, 167-133.

Harvard started the day by winning the three-meter dive but Columbia responded by taking first place in the 200 medley relay with a team comprised of sophomore Johnny Bailey, senior Eric Tang, sophomore Bruno Esquen, and senior Adam Powell.

The Lions grabbed more points in the 1,000 freestyle as Chester Dols (9:41.31), Sean MacKenzie (9:42.00) and Alex Smith (9:46.50) finished second, third, and fourth respectively.

Darren Pagan represented the Light Blue in the 200 freestyle with his second-place finish in 1:44.46. He also took second in the 200 backstroke.

Teammate Patrick Dougherty collected nine points in the 100 backstroke, touching the wall less than a second before Harvard's Rob Newell to take first in 53.05.



Haley Vecchiarelli / Senior staff photographer

FREESTYLING | The men's swimming team had a full weekend of action and prepares to hit the pool once more Monday night against Fordham.

After Harvard swept the 200 butterfly, Powell shined again, winning the 50-freestyle in just 20.34 seconds and the 100-freestyle in 45.35.





While the Lions ceded first in the 200 breaststroke, Ross Ramone, Tang, Erik Mai, and John-Howard Sidman had strong finishes for the Light Blue.

Freshman Jason Collazo's 301.73 winning points in the one-meter dive not only locked in another nine points for the Light Blue, but also made him the first

Lion to qualify for post-season competition. With a total over 300 points, Collazo is now eligible to compete in the NCAA Diving Zones.

Finally, even though Columbia's 400 freestyle relay touched the wall first, it was not enough to overcome the deficit left by Harvard's wins in the 500 freestyle, 100 butterfly, and 200 individual medley.

Despite the disappointing loss, the Lions recovered quickly to turn around and beat Army 171-129 in Uris Pool on Saturday.

	HARVARD	167	
	COLUMBIA	133	
	ARMY	129	
	COLUMBIA	171	

Columbia started out strong, taking first place in the four opening events of the afternoon. Freshman Michaelangelo Borghi won the three-meter dive with 265.13 points, the 200-medley relay team finished in 1:34.27, MacKenzie improved upon Friday's time in the 1,000 freestyle, and Pagan beat out Army in the 200-freestyle in 1:43.72.

Dols and Smith supported MacKenie in his win, finishing second and third in 9:44.79 and 9:46.60, respectively. Though Army took first in the 100 backstroke and 100 breaststroke, Columbia responded by winning the 200 butterfly thanks to sophomore Robert Eyckmans (1:55.34), and the 50 freestyle behind Powell, who finished in 20.54 seconds. Powell also won the 100 freestyle again, this time in 46.03 seconds.

In the one-meter dive, Columbia found itself a little short as Army took

SEE SWIMMING, page 2

Five wrestlers place in second straight weekend tournament

BY JACOB LEVENFELD
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

For a second consecutive weekend, the Columbia wrestling team traveled upstate to compete in a major tournament. Like last Sunday, the Light Blue finished the day by placing five wrestlers.

The Body Bar Invitational, which was hosted by Cornell in Ithaca on Saturday, consisted of 11 teams from around the country and was attended by several national powerhouses, including Cornell and Maryland. Kent State came out on top in terms of team score with 147.5 points, while Cornell and Maryland tied for second with 109. The Lions came in eighth with 49 points on the day.

Head coach Brendan Buckley acknowledged the intensive aspect of two straight weekend invitionals. "This weekend the tournament was definitely a bit more competitive," he said.

Junior Eren Civan was Columbia's star for the day in the 165-pound bracket. He upended Wyoming's Shane Onufer 8-7 in a shocking upset in the opening round en route to a second-place finish behind

Maryland's Josh Asper.

"That was a big win," Buckley said. "When he [Civan] wrestles aggressively, nobody can stop him."

Freshman Steve Santos, who raised eyebrows at the Bearcat Open last weekend with a second-place finish in the 149-pound bracket, placed fourth on Saturday. Still, he achieved a measure of redemption with a 3-1 opening-round triumph over Binghamton's Donnie Vinson, the only wrestler to beat him last Sunday.

"All in all, Santos had a really good day," Buckley said. "That was a really big win." Other strong finishers included freshman Stephen West and sophomore Jonathan Weibel, both at 174 pounds. The teammates each lost in the semifinals and then squared off against one another for third place. West came away with a 4-2 win in the showdown.

Freshman Jake O'Hara also made his presence felt at 141 pounds with a sixth-place finish. "He's progressing really well," Buckley said.

The Lions are looking forward to Saturday's three duels against



File photo

ON THE MAT | The Lions competed in the Body Bar Invitational on Saturday and several wrestlers finished with strong individual placements.

Bloomsburg, North Carolina, and Sacred Heart. Buckley knows what they have to work on between now and then. "We're losing by a bit of inexperience," he said. "Mistakes are real fixable,

and that can be expected with all the freshmen."

The Lions will get their first taste of head-to-head competition at the Northeast Duels in Troy, NY on Saturday, Nov. 28.

The inexact science of BCS bowl matchups



LUCAS SHAW

IN THE REFRIGERATOR

While I might want to start my list with John Wooden, there is little question that in the grand scheme of things, the relevant issue is the difference in quality between March Madness and the BCS bowls.

That disparity is about as wide as the talent gap between the English Premier League and Major League Soccer. The NCAA Tournament is the single greatest championship event in sports—or at least American sports—while the BCS ... Well, everyone knows it has its problems.

However, this year we seem to be blessed with the rare occasion where the participants in the BCS championship game will be decided without controversy. Barring an upset of colossal proportions, the winner of the SEC Championship game—Florida or Alabama—will take on Texas for the national crown.

Unlike some of the past matchups—when the BCS deluded itself into thinking that Oklahoma or Ohio State was worthy—most people believe this year's pairing will feature the country's two best teams.

I suppose I would place myself in that majority, but mostly because we lack great alternatives.

Every other member of the top 10 has slipped up. Oregon blew its chance at Stanford while both Pitt and Georgia Tech lost to mediocre teams early. Ohio State and Iowa both have two losses, and in truth, we all could use a few more years before the Big Ten gets anywhere near another national championship game.

Meanwhile, Florida, Texas, and Alabama are all undefeated and each one can also present a fairly strong case for its ranking. Either the Gators or the Crimson Tide will win the nation's "best" conference, and Texas, despite some early struggles, has won by at least 25 points five weeks in a row.

Before I get caught up in the hype of a great BCS championships game, I think I forgot some teams.

TCU, Cincinnati, and Boise State all have something in common with our trio of favorites—they, too, are undefeated. Like the other perfect teams, they have had their share of both impressive wins and nailbiters. Heck, the computers even rank Cincy higher than Texas.

Before you try to label me one of those mid-major lovers, relax. I am not claiming that one of those "other" undefeated teams belongs in the BCS title game. However, I do believe the likely possibility of six undefeated teams—and the perceived gap between the two trios—demonstrates yet another of college football's flaws.

None of the "best" teams have to challenge themselves, or take risks, and they still get to play for the national title. Meanwhile, the "weaker" undefeated teams play more ambitious nonconference slates and get punished for the schedule they cannot control.

First look at the nonconference schedules of the undefeated teams.

Florida—Florida International, Troy, Charleston Southern, Florida State.

Alabama—Florida International, Virginia Tech, Chattanooga, North Texas.

Texas—Central Florida, Louisiana-Monroe, Wyoming, UTEP.

With the exception of Virginia Tech, not a single one of these opponents is any good. Florida State may earn a bowl bid, but these are not the Seminoles of old.

Texas is by far the worst culprit, failing to book one team that even stood a chance against the Longhorns. This is not a new trick for Mack Brown, as the most difficult nonconference opponent his team has faced over the past three years is none other than TCU (unless you want to count a 2008 Arkansas team that went 5-7).

In college football, where one loss can eliminate you from title contention, no team will even risk playing a bad team from a good conference.

This cowardice on the part of the presumed favorites is relevant because the single biggest reason Texas will get to play in Pasadena instead of TCU is that it comes from a power conference.

Florida, Texas, and Alabama will all argue that because their conferences are tougher, their undefeated records mean more. At the very least, they will use it as evidence that they are better.

Yet, of the "power" six conferences, the Big 12 might be the nation's worst. The Longhorns will face Nebraska, a team that has zero wins against teams currently ranked in the top 25 and lost at home to Iowa State, in the Big 12 title game.

As for Florida and Alabama, the SEC may still be the nation's best conference, but pardon

SEE SHAW, page 2

Football ends season on 2-game win streak

Columbia seniors go out with a bang in convincing 28-14 win over Brown

BY HOLLY MACDONALD
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Columbia didn't have to run another play. The clock was winding down and the Lions (4-6, 3-4 Ivy) led the Bears (6-4, 4-3 Ivy) 28-14. But head coach Norries Wilson sent senior quarterback Millicent Olawale—who did not play due to plantar fasciitis—out to take the victory knee.

"They didn't even have to put the ball ready for play, and I asked him, 'Did he want to get in his last game?' and he said yes," Wilson said. "So we lined him up and sent him out there, and we sent Shane [Kelly] out there, and we tried to get as many seniors an opportunity to play in their last game as possible."

The Bears jumped out to an early lead Saturday, marching 73 yards on their first drive for an easy touchdown pass from Kyle Newhall-Caballero to Buddy Farnham, giving Brown a 7-0 lead. But the Bears wouldn't get back into the end zone until late in the fourth quarter.

Columbia started Sean Brackett at quarterback, and the freshman had his best game of the season, passing for 151 yards and rushing for 171 more. Wilson also made good on his comments at the beginning of the season: Get Austin Knowlin the ball any way he can.

On the Lions' first scoring drive, Knowlin had one catch for five yards but rushed for 24 yards, including a key eight-yard run on fourth-and-two from the Brown 32-yard line. Columbia had missed a field goal earlier in the first quarter from the Brown 27-yard line. The Lions only made two field goals this season, so the decision for Wilson was an easy one. And with Knowlin, Wilson was sure they would get the first down.

"Coach [John] Marino told us before the game that no one was going to stop us but ourselves," Knowlin said.

The Lions scored on a one-yard option run by junior Zack Kourouma to tie the game at seven. Columbia knew the best way to keep Brown's potent offense off the gridiron was to keep its own offense on the field. In the second quarter, the Lions had back-to-back drives over four and a half minutes. On the second drive, the Lions ran the ball nine times, passing only once, and gave the ball to



Jasper Clyatt / Staff photographer

ON THE PROWL | Entering the final game of the year as underdogs, the Lions stepped up against Brown with a 28-14 victory highlighted by a dramatic interception return for a touchdown with no time left in the first half.

Knowlin for the five-yard score.

Knowlin said he's been begging the coaches to let him try his hand at running back, but Wilson joked after the game that his pass blocking is suspect. Knowlin got his shot running the ball Saturday and even earned praise from tailback Ray Rangel, who suffered season-ending surgery after the Dartmouth game.

"Actually, I came over and Ray said I looked all right," Knowlin said. "I just told him I was trying to run like him."

The Lions led 14-7, and with two seconds left in the half, Newhall-Caballero lofted up a prayer for Bobby Sewall and junior Adam Mehrer nabbed his fourth interception of the season. Mehrer ran it back 36 yards before pitching it to teammate Andy Shalbrack, who turned on the jets to run the last 49 yards for a touchdown. The Lions went in to the half leading 21-7.

The Light Blue defense kept Brown off the board for two quarters and came

Score by Quarter	1	2	3	4	Total
Brown	7	0	0	7	14
Columbia	7	14	0	7	28

up with some big fourth-down stops. At fourth-and-goal from the nine-yard line, Newhall-Caballero kept the ball himself, but Augie Williams stopped him three yards shy of the end zone and Columbia took over to start the fourth quarter.

The next drive, the Bears faced fourth-and-goal from the eight-yard line. A screen to tailback Spiro Theodhosi ended with a loss of four yards, and the Lions again took over deep in their own territory. This time Brackett ran for 38 yards on the drive before completing a 37-yard pass to Knowlin for a touchdown, and the Lions took a commanding 28-7 lead.

"There's no better way to go out," Knowlin said. "Last game, last catch a touchdown? Last game won? Can't

	BROWN	14	
	COLUMBIA	28	

be a better way than that. At the end of the game I just emotionally, I was all over the place. I didn't know how to feel after the game, but I feel great. There's no better way to go out than the way we did today."

Brown tacked on another touchdown themselves, a Newhall-Caballero pass to Farnham for the final score, 28-14. This is the second time this senior class has defeated Brown, and the Lions finished with three Ivy wins for the first time since 2003, good for fourth place in the league.

Late first-half interception sets tone in magical season finale

BY MATT VELAZQUEZ
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The biggest play of Columbia's 28-14 win over Brown on Saturday came without a second coming off the clock. In fact, there weren't any seconds on the clock.

Trailing by a touchdown with two seconds left in the first half, the Bears had the ball at the Columbia 37-yard line and decided to throw one last pass to try to even the score. Junior quarterback Kyle Newhall-Caballero heaved up a pass with no time left on the clock to the middle of the field, where he had expected senior receiver Bobby Sewall to be. Sewall wasn't there, but Columbia junior safety Adam Mehrer was.

Mehrer snatched the ball out of the air at the 15 and immediately proceeded to sprint across the field along the right sideline. Around midfield, he saw some daylight to his left, so he turned and

cut toward the middle of the field. It looked as if he were going to be taken down around midfield, but he alertly pitched the ball to senior safety Andy Shalbrack, who continued the return along the left sideline and, thanks to some key blocks, ran into the corner of the end zone.

"There were two seconds left when the play started, so after the interception I knew there was no time left, so it was basically we score or the half is over," Mehrer said. "I had a good block by, I think, Craig Hamilton—he took out two guys, then I saw a lot of field over to the left, so I cut back. I felt a couple guys on my legs and then I looked and saw Andy and was like, 'He's faster than me,' so I pitched it to him and the rest is history."

"I was just trying to stay in a good pitch relationship there," Shalbrack said with a smile on his face. "Obviously, good field awareness by Adam—he knew I was right behind him—I was calling for it a little bit."



Jasper Clyatt / Staff photographer

READY FOR BATTLE | A key interception by safety Adam Mehrer put the Lions up by 14 at halftime and gave Columbia a huge momentum boost against Brown.

Basketball tops Longwood with strong showing in home opener

BY MICHELE CLEARY
Spectator Staff Writer

Just a minute and a half into the men's basketball home opener against Longwood, sophomore guard Noruwa Agho sunk a three-pointer, giving Columbia a lead it would never relinquish. In their first victory of the season, the Lions (1-1) used a strong first-half performance to defeat the Lancers (0-4) 72-61.

"For a good 18 minutes out of the 20, I think we played terrific basketball on both sides of the ball," head coach Joe Jones said of the first half. "I was really pleased with our defensive effort."

And he had every reason to be. The Light Blue held the Lancers to just 29 percent shooting in the first half and 36.5 percent overall. This stout defense, combined with 62.1 percent shooting, gave the Lions a 43-24 advantage at halftime.

Agho was responsible for more than a third of Columbia's first-half points, tallying 15 on five-of-six shooting. He didn't slow down in the second half, as he finished the

	LONGWOOD	61	
	COLUMBIA	72	

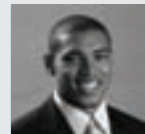
game with 24 points, four rebounds, three assists, and a steal. He shot 70 percent from the field and went four-for-four from behind the arc—something the sophomore has been working on.

"It's just about the work ... paying off," Agho said. "But honestly, I'm not bringing up the ball and shooting threes, you know—my teammates are getting me in the right spots and people are finding me."

One of those teammates is senior guard Patrick Foley, who had four assists in Friday's contest.

"I kind of got to take it a step back and distribute the ball a little more just to get our offense flowing," Foley said.

Though Foley led the team in scoring last year with 10.9 points per game, Jones has been working to make him more of a playmaker. "That's been the big thing that



Noruwa Agho
24 points



Niko Scott
5 assists



Brian Grimes
13 rebounds

Courtesy of Columbia Athletics



Jasper Clyatt / Staff photographer

NOSE FOR THE HOOP | Sophomore Noruwa Agho led the Lions with 24 points against Longwood, matching his career best.