



FILE PHOTO

CEREMONY | ROTC cadets raise the flag outside of Low Library in honor of Veterans Day. Columbia has over 400 veteran students.

Harlem Lanes looks for economic boost

BY LUKE BARNES
Columbia Daily Spectator

Harlem Lanes, a bowling alley started by a Columbia Business School graduate, has been touted as one of the school's local success stories. Now, the economic downturn has put its future in jeopardy.

The bowling alley, one of the few in Upper Manhattan, was founded five years ago by Sharon Joseph, Business '97, with assistance from former President Bill Clinton's Urban Initiative Foundation. It thrived on Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard and 126th Street, and the Business School even chose Joseph's site to host the announcement ceremony for a \$100 million gift to the Business School last year.

However, it is now proving to be an increasingly trying time for Joseph and her employees, as customers feel less and less inclined to spend their money on entertainment.

"It's a challenging time for us," Joseph said. "We're trying to figure out how to keep it open."

Like many small business owners, Joseph is trying to adapt to the increasingly difficult economic conditions with creative marketing and new products. As a result, Harlem Lanes has sought to reinvent itself not only as a bowling alley, but also as a sports bar showing football, baseball, and basketball games.

The sports bar, located one floor above Harlem Lanes, is "an independent entity" but still a way to bring in more revenue to prop the alley up financially, Joseph said.

"That's a difference in branding," Joseph said. "Before, we were promoting bowling—now we're promoting sports."

The bowling alley is also now seeking to establish itself as a neighborhood center, emphasizing corporate and community functions.

"We're trying to give people a

SEE HARLEM, page 2

Occupy CU students interrupt SGA meeting

BY EMMA GOSS
Columbia Daily Spectator

Occupy Columbia University interrupted a Barnard SGA town hall on Monday evening to criticize Barnard administrators for what students called a lack of transparency.

An hour and a half into the meeting, about 15 students began chanting in an Occupy Wall Street-style "mic check" statement, voicing their opposition to Barnard's recent administrative decisions—and receiving no response from Barnard officials in the room.

The students were protesting Barnard's calling the NYPD to increase security on Barnard's campus during an Occupy meeting last week, the recently-announced policy requiring students to pay full-time tuition, and the required meal plans introduced last year.

After a handful of questions during the Student Government Association Q&A session, Justine Lyons, BC '13, stood up and read a statement articulating Barnard student concerns over a lack of transparency in

the administration's decision-making. After each sentence, the Occupy Columbia students seated throughout the room repeated Lyons' words verbatim.

"Not only does Barnard disregard student input when making decisions, but it also precludes the opportunity for students to voice their opinions on such pressing issues," Lyons said. "Barnard prides its students on being bold and strong, yet when we stand up for ourselves, objecting to its unfair policies, we are met with indifference and outright resistance."

Lyons also spoke about the Occupy Columbia University meeting last Tuesday, when Barnard's administration brought the NYPD to increase campus security. Occupy Columbia students had planned to hold a general assembly in front of Barnard Hall, but were moved to the Diana Center and had to show their IDs to access the campus—as did other students.

On Monday, Occupy Columbia members released an open letter to Barnard officials, calling the added security an

overreaction.

"Tuesday's events, while not physically violent like the recent repression of students' rights and freedoms at UC-Davis and CUNY Baruch, demonstrated that Barnard administrators too desire to silence voices critical of their policies and practices," the statement said.

Barnard Dean Avis Hinkson responded with an email to students, saying that Barnard's administration was not trying to prevent students from demonstrating on the steps of Barnard Hall, "but rather chose to move indoors to the lower level of the Diana Center due to the rain. Director [of Public Safety] Pennetti asked only that they not block access to walkways or entrances."

Monday's town hall had been called by SGA to explain to students where their tuition money is going—something that many Barnard students called a pressing issue following the administration's decision in October to not allow students taking fewer than 12 credits to

SEE SGA, page 2



AYELET PEARL FOR SPECTATOR

TUITION TALK | Barnard's Vice President of Development Bret Silver spoke about the college's finances and answered students' questions during an SGA town hall meeting on Monday night.

After political fights, MilVets expands

Focus shifts from social events to career, campus attention

BY MARGARET MATTES
Columbia Daily Spectator

Shane Hachey, GS '04, remembers a day during the spring semester of 2003 when he and fellow military

veteran Eric Chen, GS '07, were tabling for signatures in support of a proposed Columbia veterans group. One of Hachey's professors walked up to the table and showed "disgust" for Chen's army field jacket, and called the American armed forces a "fascist military organization."

"He was one of the most distinguished professors at Columbia ... but what am I supposed to say to that?" Hachey said. "Incidents like that happened to people ... you can't help but feel that is a hostile environment."

That was eight years ago, and veterans say that the environment on campus has changed considerably since then. Now, veterans have a much larger presence on campus—the group of 30 a decade ago has grown to more than 400, partly due to the post-9/11 GI Bill and Columbia's participation in the Yellow Ribbon Program.

As the school's veteran population has increased, the group that Hachey and Chen eventually helped found—the U.S. Military Veterans of Columbia University, or MilVets—has expanded its activities, too. And after intense participation in political campaigns related to the GI Bill in the last year, members say that the group has refocused this semester on holding public events and on services for its own members.

NEW KIND OF ACTIVITY

Over the past two years, MilVets has increased its presence on campus, planning more public events and initiatives—such as a recent "Toys for Tots" drive—than in previous years.

"Our mandate is such that we look out for the social, academic, and professional welfare of our members," MilVets president Dan Lagana, GS, said.

Lagana described the group's activities this year as "hyperactive." In addition to the club's social and philanthropic activities, its leadership is focusing on the development of the Veterans Career Initiative, inviting companies to host more events with Columbia veterans both on and off campus.

"We decided to focus on trying to ensure that our members, our veterans, have the tools at their disposal to be intelligent and knowledgeable about ... what they need to do to go pursue a career in the civilian world," MilVets vice president Azar Boehm, GS, said.

The group is holding information sessions related to finance, law, medicine, consulting, film, and journalism, and is working with the Center for Career Education to help veterans work on skills like résumé-writing, according to Boehm.

"The reason that we really wanted to focus on this in particular was MilVets has grown," Lagana said. "And we were top-heavy in juniors and seniors, and so I felt that ... it was incumbent upon us to work even harder to put people in tune for a more professional outlook."

The high unemployment rate among veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is an unsettling statistic that the MilVets "really need to tackle," Boehm said.

"There is still a gap between the veteran who has all of these amazing leadership and life experiences and what the employer sees. ... So we're trying to bridge that gap," Boehm said.

'GROWING PAINS'

MilVets' initial function as principally a social group has also shifted in a more political direction. As GS Dean Peter Awn put it, the group's "instinct now is to reach out."

Former MilVets President John McClelland, GS '11, said the group had to overcome initial "growing pains" to figure out whether it should be a social or a political group. Even if it has become more political, McClelland said, maintaining the social aspects is important.

"There has to be a social element, because this is a group of people that was supposed to have a common experience and that is something that is helpful to people when transitioning to the school," McClelland said.

Boehm agreed with McClelland, saying, "We obviously want to make sure that it continues to be a social environment ... but we also want to make sure that we are providing resources for them [veterans] and that we can service their needs."

MilVets was involved in increasing Columbia's involvement in the Yellow Ribbon Program—a federal financial aid program for veterans—and earlier this year, group members successfully lobbied Congress not to cut GI Bill aid to veterans currently enrolled in private universities.

"Our mandate is such that we look out for the social, academic, and professional welfare of our members."

—Dan Lagana, GS and MilVets president

Justin White, GS '05, who wrote the group's constitution and served as its president from 2003 to 2004, said it's been "really impressive" to watch the MilVets' activities in the last few years, especially their GI Bill lobbying push.

"It's a whole other level, that none of us could envision then," he said.

But Chen, one of the group's founders, said he pictured the group taking this direction. "This is exactly what I imagined from day one," he said.

"It's become a real national entity. ... A lot of that had to do with our work on the GI Bill," MilVets Treasurer Rich Baldassari, GS, said. "It's gone from a student group to something ... more robust."

Although Hachey has been away from campus for over five years, he stays informed about the club through its extensive alumni network. He said that he thinks its newfound activism is only the beginning of a "slow shift" caused by veterans' increased visibility at Columbia.

"I think it could go farther, but I think there's been a lot of progress," he said. "It has been uphill—uphill with a 100-pound rucksack."

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A&E, PAGE 3

Professor Sassen's forward-thinking garners number 43 spot

Named one of Foreign Policy Magazine's "Top 100 Global Thinkers" on Nov. 28, Saskia Sassen talks urban technology.



OPINION, PAGE 4

New thanks to give

The campus offers unexpected comfort in a holiday away from home.

Some friendly advice

Peer advising would rejuvenate Columbia's outdated system.

SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Lions dismantle Swarthmore

The Light Blue men's basketball team notched its second win this season as it topped Swarthmore 104-42 last night, winning in a matchup that saw Columbia score over 100 points.

EVENTS

TEDx ColumbiaEngineering

A day of presentations focused on innovation in health, sustainability, and technology.
Dodge Hall, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

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Football should see reaction to its recent failure

ZHANG from back page

evaluate what it wants from its football program.

Columbia and football are not at all incompatible. Stanford's program is an obvious example of elite football and academics coexisting. Aaron Rodgers' career after Berkeley is an unambiguous case of NFL success out of a college where academics precede football. Football success is not impossible, but we have to be willing to pay for it—and it is not cheap. If we want football success we have to leave Ivy League competition and its restrictions on scholarships and recruitment. We also need to be willing to pay the millions of dollars a year necessary to hire an elite football coach and dedicate enough enrollment space in Columbia's undergraduate colleges to fill the need for recruited players. To have a worthwhile football program—capable of competing with the nation's very best and producing future professionals—we need to be willing to accept sweeping changes to Columbia's current infrastructure. Without those changes, we should question whether we need a football team at all.

LANBO ZHANG is a sophomore in Columbia College. He is an editorial page associate for Spectator. sports@columbiaspectator.com



MO' HANKA, MO PROBLEMS | Mrinal has had it coming for 10 months now. Take a look online. Sports editor Jim Pagels had a thrilling come from behind victory in PiXBox last week. Check columbiaspectator.com to read his utter annihilation of the nine columnists who were just not as good.

Princeton, Penn struggle over Thanksgiving

ATL from back page

and hopes to end the streak Tuesday against Manhattan, which recently fell to a winless Columbia squad.

PRINCETON

The Tigers (2-5) had just one win in their past four games, coming out as the best set of Tigers, toppling West Alabama 66-42. Princeton wasn't so lucky against Elon, Bucknell, and Morehead State in the TicketCity Legends Classic, and it looks to build on the win over West Alabama on Wednesday against Lafayette.

YALE

The Bulldogs (3-2) went 1-1 in their third week of play, with a 73-62 loss to Seton Hall and an 84-75 win over Army. Yale played a close game against Seton Hall and led 28-25 late in the first half, but could not hold onto the lead. The Bulldogs were also plagued by their own mistakes, turning the ball over 22 times, which amounted in 25 points for Seton Hall. Yale played a much cleaner game against Army, and was also helped by solid performances from junior guard Austin Morgan and senior forward Greg Mangano, who totaled 52 points combined. Yale will play the last of three straight road games at Hartford on Tuesday night.

At SGA town hall, ‘mic check’ steals spotlight

SGA from front page

pay part-time tuition. Barnard Chief Operating Officer Greg Brown and Vice President of Development Bret Silver spoke to a full room for the first hour of the meeting.

In response to Lyons' statement, Brown said, "It doesn't sound like there's a question there." He provided no additional comment.

Lyons also used the open mic statement to call for more student involvement in future policy changes.

"Behind-the-scenes deliberation over policies that will directly affect the future of students is simply unethical and unacceptable," Lyons said. "Transparency is not optional. We demand that Barnard take full accountability and act immediately to accommodate all of the aggrieved student body members."

SGA members were quick to attempt to refocus the meeting on questions related to Barnard's spending.

"We want to reiterate that this is not a protest," Sarah Steinmann, BC '13 and SGA vice president of communications, said.

Nino Rekhviashvili, BC '14 and an Occupy Columbia participant, said that the demonstration is only the beginning of the Occupy Columbia movement.

"I think that they're [the administration] worried now because they did see that we're passionate about this and were not going to stop making statements and we're going to press this issue until something's done about it," she said.

After the meeting adjourned, Brown said that he was unbothered by Occupy Columbia's staged statement.

"I think students have a right to have an opinion, and they have a right to voice the opinion. So I think it was perfectly fine for them to do so, and I just heard what they had to say," Brown said.

"We decided to do people's mic because we didn't want to say at the beginning that we are Occupy Columbia because we recognize that these issues affect a lot of people," Lyons said. "We didn't want to exclude anyone that that statement could potentially cover, but at the same time we did want it to be known that we are Occupy Columbia."

Rachel Ferrari, BC '13 and SGA vice president, said she was glad that Occupy Columbia University showed up.

"It was an incredible thing to occur at a time like this because usually it's only SGA reps sitting around," she said.

Jessica Stallone contributed reporting.

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B-School success story struggles to stay afloat

HARLEM from front page

reason to come out, to find ways of saying that we understand what the community's going through," Joseph said.

David Weltman, the president of Columbia's bowling club, has been using Harlem Lanes since 2009. His club has had discounts with the alley since then—a reward for customer loyalty—and he said the staff has always been welcoming, with special event nights such as "cosmic bowling" on Sundays.

"I'd be surprised if it did close—it would be very disappointing," Weltman said. "What's nice about Harlem Lanes is that it's in walking distance."

If Harlem Lanes closed, the bowling club would have to travel down to Chelsea Piers for the nearest alley. But even Weltman has begun to notice some signs of economic strain on Harlem Lanes.

"I know prices have been going up—if anything that's an indicator," he said.

For the time being, Harlem Lanes' doors are open, and the alley is still looking to hire new staff. Yet, like many local small businesses, the situation remains precarious.

"We've done a lot of work with non-profits, but we're at the point where now we need people to help us out," Joseph said.

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UPTOWN ENTERTAINMENT | Harlem Lanes, one of the few bowling alleys in north Manhattan, is operated by Sharon Joseph, Business '97.

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Professor Saskia Sassen works toward ‘urbanizing technology’

BY ALLISON MALECHA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Most Columbians spend hours a day interacting with the sounds, sidewalks, and buildings of the city, as well as with the smart technology of an iPhone or Droid or tablet—often simultaneously. But how many actively consider the interface between that urban environment and technology? Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology Saskia Sassen, for one, is not only thinking about this relationship but pioneering how it will be perceived going forward.

For her “passionate advocacy of an urban-based society,” Sassen was awarded the number 43 spot on Foreign Policy Magazine’s 2011 list of “Top 100 Global Thinkers,” announced Nov. 28. Sharing the honor with Harvard economist Edward Glaeser, Sassen comes in 32 rankings after President Barack Obama and is one of the few non-diplomats on the list. This announcement comes just a couple of weeks after Audi launched its Urban Future Initiative, which will fund Sassen on a new project called “Urbanizing Technologies: The Mobility Complex.”

“The aim is not practical applications, though these might develop,” Sassen said of the project, corresponding by email between flights around Australia. “Nor is it science fiction. One way of describing it is the articulation, the marriage of a range of mobility capacities with a range of spaces not usually associated with those capacities. The particular angle I want to explore is how we can urbanize those capacities—so the spaces are urban spaces.” Sassen will solicit experimental engineers and technologists to help in this research.

To further explain, Sassen discussed a concrete problem her team could work to address. “Cars made for speed and distance that can handle all kinds of terrains, come to a crawl in the dense central city,” she said. “In a way, the city is hacking the car—it is unsettling the engineers’ design.” Tailoring cars to better handle sitting in rush hour would be one way to urbanize them.

But that is just one example in a much larger matrix of issues. “From there then, is this notion of mobility spaces, rather than just mobility devices, like the car,” Sassen said.

“Urbanizing ... technology means unsettling the narrowness of a technical system, forcing it to recognize the end of incompleteness.”

—Saskia Sassen,
Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology

Sassen’s ultimate focus is on the “global city,” a term she coined.

Others imagine advanced urban environments as playgrounds of intelligent buildings—pre-fabricated structures outfitted with interactive technology. To bring the scale down a size, imagine a Columbia campus filled with such buildings: photovoltaic roofing panels replace old copper ones, energy consumption is tracked in real time within each hall, dorm rooms have multitasking devices that allow students to simultaneously make toast, print out a paper, and video chat their mom, and stack lights in Butler turn on automatically—or better yet, the book in question is automatically found for you. Masdar City in Abu Dhabi and Songdo International Business District in Seoul are examples of intelligent cities currently being built from scratch, at a price of \$30 to \$60 billion.

Sassen warns against getting caught up in the magic of such places, though. According to her, they create the “potential for making whole buildings obsolete when the technology itself becomes obsolete.”

To envision Sassen’s point, remember the iPod Mini. Think of how sleek it looked in the seventh grade—and how bulkily primitive it would seem now. “There is no way that obsolescence can be avoided in a world where you have battalions of brilliant engineers and ICT [Information and Communications Technology] experts continuously pushing the development of intelligent systems,” Sassen said.

If so-called intelligent buildings can’t make intelligent cities, then what can? Sassen looks to a concept called “Open Source Urbanism.” “This is something that goes well beyond the elementary notion that ‘interactive’ means you have (pre-established!) choices,” she said. “It is about active interactions where ‘choices’ or preferences or needs translate into the making of those options.” She tries to explain the notion through the subculture of open sourcing—also called crowdsourcing or “design by democracy”—which refers to voluntary mass collaboration on a task normally completed by a specific individual.

“Urbanizing ... technology means unsettling the narrowness of a technical system, forcing it to recognize the end of incompleteness,” Sassen said. While points like this may seem wholly conceptual, students can perhaps start to get at what Sassen is saying by reflecting on that iPhone or Droid or tablet—on how its options liberalize, but more importantly constrict, daily functioning.



CU alums feature prominently in HBO series ‘Bored to Death’

BY RIVKA RAPPOPORT
Columbia Daily Spectator

Jonathan Ames graduated from Columbia with an MFA in fiction. His alter ego attempted to steal from a blackmailer, boxed with writers from GQ, and infiltrated an Asian spa.

The television series “Bored to Death,” now in its third season on HBO, is like “Entourage” if it were set in Brooklyn and about a bunch of pot-smoking writers. It is also something like a “Veronica Mars” that stars Jason Schwartzman instead of Kristen Bell and is co-written by Judd Apatow. Lastly, “Bored to Death” is a mix of its supporting characters’ former projects—it’s two parts Zach Galifianakis’ “The Hangover” and one part Ted Danson’s “Damages.”

But, ultimately, “Bored to Death” is unlike anything else on TV. The show is about the misadventures of struggling cartoonist Ray (Galifianakis), magazine-publishing pothead George (Danson), and Jonathan Ames (Jason Schwartzman), who shares a name with the show’s writer and creator. Ames is a diehard New Yorker, who, after graduating from Columbia, became infamous throughout the city as a raconteur. He holds a hyphenate that would put even James Franco to shame as an author-columnist-boxer-actor-runner.

At his core, Ames is an author who decides to become a part-time private investigator to cure his general malaise with life. The story line is partially an autobiographical account by the real Jonathan Ames.

CMTS overcomes rejection by creating its own musical

BY CARMEN REN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Devin Lloyd, CC ’15, stood in a Carman lounge with her arms wrapped around the neck of Jenny Singer, BC ’15, her voice rising, warm and clear, in song while Singer’s complemented it in lower harmony. Lloyd then fell back as Singer pulled away and continued solo, retreating to the end of the room, picking up an invisible suitcase, and exiting stage right.

Contrary to previous Columbia Musical Theatre Society productions, “Autumn Songs: a Musical” is completely original. The show opens Wednesday, Nov. 30, in Lerner Hall’s Roone Arledge Auditorium at 8 p.m., and will also play on Friday, Dec. 2. Tickets are at the TIC box for \$5 with a CUID and \$10 without.

The scene described above is somber and serious—a stark contrast to the group’s intended production, “Side Show,” a musical by Violet and Daily Hilton that follows the rise of conjoined twin sisters from circus actors to famous stage performers.



ALL ORIGINAL | Devin Lloyd, CC ’15, and Jenny Singer, BC ’15, star as Lizzie and June Montgomery.



TV TIME | Galifianakis (left), Burns (center), and Schwartzman (right) star in “Bored to Death.”

The show has attracted other Columbia University alumni including Nicole Holofcener, the writer-director of independent films such as “Please Give” and “Friends with Money.” She directed the first-season episode, “The Case of the Stolen Sperm” in which Jonathan helps Ray locate missing vials of his semen. This episode perfectly exemplifies the show’s commitment to marrying comedy, absurdity, parody, and mystery. Visually, the screen is often bathed in film noir shadow that superposes modern Brooklyn settings. On top of that, there is a soundtrack reminiscent of old “Spy vs. Spy” cartoons.

Michael Lehmann, another Columbia alumnus, has directed seven episodes of the series, spanning all three seasons. He appears to be particularly in his

element when mocking another genre such as the gangster movie or spy thriller. In the episode “The Gowanus Canal has Gonorrhea!” two gangsters try to extract information from Jonathan by dangling him over the Gowanus Canal but end up giving him advice on his failed love life: “Never go to bed angry.”

The show is extremely self-referential and much of its humor is self-deprecating. It works for those who are in on the jokes, many of which are local clichés about Brooklyn food co-ops and sterile suburban New Jersey but which also include more general clichés about the self-indulgent novelist. “Bored to Death” intentionally ponders the question of where the character Jonathan Ames ends and the author Jonathan Ames begins. Either way, both provide laughs.

So emerged “Autumn Songs: a Musical,” which takes place during the Great Depression in South Carolina and follows the lives of two sisters, Lizzie and June Montgomery. Both yearn to leave their hometown but are held back by emotional ties to the place and its people.

“This is the first time that a show hasn’t gotten rights, so we have to do an original.”

—Rebecca Feuerstein,
CMTS’ art director

According to Hare, one of the benefits of creating an original show is the ability to show off the cast and highlight what each actor is best at. For example, the creative team wanted to highlight the voice of one classically trained singer and created comic relief scenes for one particularly funny actress. The group members believe this freedom allowed them to make their show much stronger.

It’s beneficial to the actors as well. Lloyd, who plays Lizzie, said, “I’m learning more in this collaborative process than in a show already scripted.”

Beyond the initial task of creating the musical itself, CMTS faced other challenges arising from a low budget and small cast. It booked two non-consecutive days at Roone Arledge auditorium and, because another event will take place at the auditorium between these dates, all stage decorations must be moveable and inexpensive. As a result, the creative team opted to do away with traditional stage flats and instead use projections created by Jiin Choi, CC ’14 and Spectator’s illustrations editor, as the backdrop for the production.

The members of CMTS hope the final product will at least provoke some conversation. “Our goal is to do something unique,” Hare said, “and I’ve never seen anything done like this at Columbia before.”



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Conspicuous consumption

There's something terrifying about the holiday season. November, December, and January roll together into a melee of holidays that my international-student bankroll and I don't really know how to deal with. Fall break, Thanksgiving, and quasi-Christmas are spent on this side of the world. A \$2,000 plane flight across an ocean and a few continents later, I inevitably arrive at my second Christmas, winter break, and New Year's. And those are just the holidays celebrated by the average Columbian. Later in January, I've also got my favorite holiday, Chinese Lunar New Year.

Sometimes it feels like all I do is spend money during the happiest time of the year. I know that I don't necessarily have to: My consumption habits are entirely my own, and dollars aren't the only way to show the people around me some love. But money does help.

Fall break comes at just the right juncture during the semester to send people screaming off campus to do something besides study for midterms—watch a play (\$), have a nice dinner (\$\$), get on a bus and go somewhere (\$\$\$), do anything (\$\$\$\$?). Thanksgiving potlucks before the actual holiday involve an endless outpouring of my wallet's contents to the Westside cashiers. Then comes a further slashing open of my checking account when—stranded as only international students are—I find myself forking out for cross-country travel. Black Friday is a show of incoherent spending, and Macy's is swamped with coupon-wavers and every online retailer suffering distributed denial of service attacks from trigger-happy kids with credit cards. Then there's Christmas, which comes months before



PO LINN CHIA

Ever the Twain

A little advice

For most new students, this first semester has been a whirlwind of events, people, emotions, and memories. Yet during this time, when first-years like myself have been constantly bombarded with the elements of a new environment, guidance along the way has often been lacking. With everything going on at the start of the semester, a rushed 15-minute appointment with an adviser to discuss academic plans is simply an inadequate transition to college life. The only alternative is a summer advising session in select cities detailing the Core and other requirements that students are probably already aware of if they chose to attend Columbia. A new feature needs to be added to enhance first-year counseling, one that allows for communication during the months leading up to college and casual correspondence throughout the year—no appointment necessary. It's time to introduce the missing piece in Columbia's student advising system—peer advisers.



JARED ODESSKY

Worm in the Big Apple

Among Ivy League institutions, Columbia and Dartmouth are the only schools that lack some system by which upperclassmen can advise incoming students. The closest model that we have is groups with an orientation leader during NSOP week, when first-years have the chance to talk to their OLs about their own personal experiences at Columbia. However, this opportunity comes at a time when new students are less focused on college planning, instead channeling their energy into meeting one another and enjoying all that NSOP has to offer. Moreover, orientation leaders might not be prepared to answer questions about a new student's specific area of interest or know much about the activities that an incoming first-year wants to get involved in. A system of peer advising needs to be instituted that allows first-years to communicate one-on-one with an upperclassman who is either pursuing a degree in the new student's intended field, or participating in an activity or club that the new student wants to join. This interest can easily be gauged from a student's application for admission, which is already used to match us with our professional advisers.

Some of the best blueprints for peer advising are, fittingly enough, at our peer institutions. At the beginning of summer, the University of Pennsylvania pairs each incoming college student with an upperclassman adviser pursuing a similar academic track. This allows for correspondence when the new student chooses a first-semester schedule and prepares for college life, before the year actually begins. In addition to its Curricular Resource Center and Departmental Undergraduate Groups, Brown sponsors the Meiklejohn program, which pairs 300 upperclassmen with incoming first-years making the transition to a new college environment. Princeton features academic peer advising programs for the first two years of study, housed at each student's residential college.

It is commonplace on this campus for students to grumble about the Center for Student Advising. However, Dean Rinere and her staff have made a laudable effort to ameliorate CSA's problems, working tirelessly to expand the advisers' presence on campus and implement changes based on student input. They have also made it clear time and time again that if students are unhappy with their advising situations, they are free to select another adviser who might be a better match for them. Ultimately, the problems with CSA stem more from inherent flaws in a system of "professional advising" than from issues with the advisers themselves. While it is certainly important to discuss academic plans with a trained expert, sometimes a student just feels more comfortable talking to someone who is more of a friend, especially about issues that are not academic in nature. Moreover, advisers are fundamentally detached from the true Columbia undergraduate experience. They may know which courses are supposed to be of high quality and which will fulfill graduation requirements, but no one can give a student better advice about schedule selection than someone who has actually sat in the classroom. Peer advisers would also be better equipped in dealing with problems outside of the academic sphere that professional advisers can only remember from their own college days.

Dean Rinere is no stranger to this idea. During her days as associate dean of advising programs at Harvard, she oversaw the implementation of the advising fellows program. It is not far-fetched to ask her to apply this system to Columbia as well.

As Columbia works to strengthen its sense of community, the time is right for Student Affairs to grant the Center for Student Advising the go-ahead to now bring this system to Morningside Heights. After all, a little advice goes a long way.

Jared Odessky is a first-year in Columbia College. He is the CCSC class of 2015 president. Worm in the Big Apple runs alternate Tuesdays.

Christmas—every shop that can afford it will have, without fail, carols and Frank Sinatra piping out the subliminal message, "Spend, spend, spend!"

The same thing happens in Singapore when I head back toward the equator after the semester's done. Somehow, it being 90 degrees and humid out doesn't stop the local Starbucks from selling gallons of \$5 gingerbread lattes. Then, after the ribbons have been ripped off, my people rouse themselves on Boxing Day to go surging through the subterranean guts of our endless malls in search of New Year's Eve clothes. New Year's Eve itself is another fiscal black hole: You must pay the cover charge for the club, champagne, and a meal or three to catch up with friends. Rest two weeks. Then arm up with souvenirs for Columbians and get on the plane back to New York City. By the time I'm allowed to crawl back to my desk, having done my yearly duty to the gods of aggregate demand, I'm glad to have nothing to do but read.

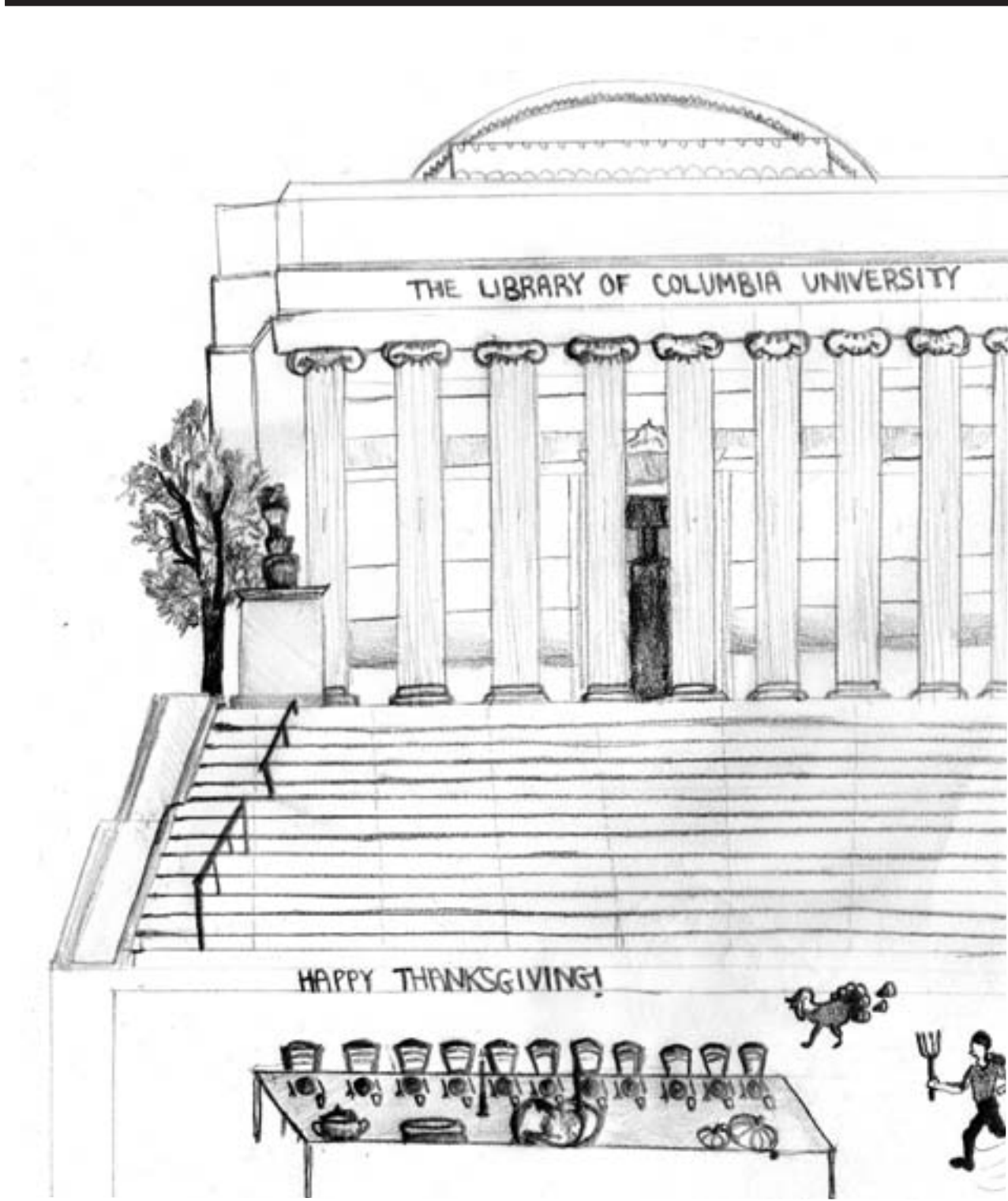
Perhaps this is the cynicism of someone who doesn't have family nearby for the season. Maybe being able to go home for the holidays helps to blunt the edge of consumerism's knife. But the fact of the matter is that family doesn't really make it much better. The specter of gift-giving hangs over all of these holidays for me, not in the least because the one family-centric holiday that does matter to me is the one holiday I'll never get to celebrate during my time at Columbia. The Chinese Lunar New Year happens some time during the spring semester, but no on-campus event can ever substitute for having family around.

It's not that the Lunar New Year is devoid of the monetary connotations that make other holidays a little harrowing. It's an annual injection of free income into the pockets of most Chinese kids. Older relatives give out red packets containing money to younger

members of the family. If you want to look at it another way, red packets are really gift-giving in its most perfect form, being one of the only socially acceptable ways of giving cash.

At the end of the day, the Lunar New Year is as costly as any other holiday. Besides red packets, there are also decorations and snacks and new year's clothes that you have to make ready. But there's something about the reversal of the usual consumption process that makes it psychologically less wearisome. When you give money instead of goods, you never have to worry about the appropriateness of your contribution, or how it matches up to what everyone else is giving. Consumption becomes the receiver's prerogative, not the giver's. Shops ready themselves for post-celebration spending in much the same way that all retailers prepare for holiday gluts, but the hysteria of buying isn't related to the holiday itself. You don't buy because the new year's around the corner—you spend because the new year's come and gone, because you've already done the visitations and family dinners and ritualized distribution of red packets, and done them all without having had to worry about beating the crowd to the best deal. Delaying consumption till after the fact helps holiday spending stay out of sight and therefore out of mind, leaving only new year's goodies and the spirit of the holiday on the table. I wonder if I could give red packets to friends at Columbia—maybe then they, too, would understand the value of spending after the holidays.

Po Linn Chia is a Columbia College junior majoring in East Asian languages and cultures. She is involved in CIRCA and the Global Recruitment Committee. Ever the Twain runs alternate Tuesdays.



ILANA SCHULDER

Notes from the Carman underground

BY MADISON SEELY

Over Thanksgiving break, I did what probably only five other people in the history of Columbia can say they've done: I used the kitchen in the basement of Carman to cook an actual meal.

For me, living in California doesn't really mean sunshine on demand as much as it means deciding when to pay for my "on-demand" service. So this year, I decided to pocket the travel funds and shell out for a little Thanksgiving bonding with the other out-of-staters left on campus that weekend. After a frantic scavenger hunt through the unfriendly, gridlocked aisles of Whole Foods, my cohorts and I had everything we needed to ensure that our dorm-away-from-home experience the following night would be Good Housekeeping-worthy. Or so we thought.

There's nothing more meaningful than feeling like you have a home away from home, a family who understands you and with whom you can share the ups and downs of your new life.

Turns out it takes more than just food to make a meal. This came as an unwelcome surprise when we realized everyone we knew with bowls and utensils had left. But did that stop us? No—not even when we resorted to using an old COOP knife to peel yams. It was Thanksgiving or bust.

Several sliced fingers and a few hours later, we had our feast. The Carman lounge had never looked so delectable: We had a full buffet of potatoes and rotisserie chickens (we weren't really going to bake a full turkey in the basement),

pies, fruit, green beans, corn bread, and other college-style variations of otherwise timeless classics. Not even the mid-practice break dancers by the windows could resist the charm of our delicious treats. Soon enough we had a nearly perfect Thanksgiving spread, and even sooner we were all uncomfortably aware of our food babies and impending comas.

Nothing can beat the traditional notching of extra belt holes and embarrassingly inappropriate story-swapping that remain sacred to family-style Thanksgivings. But that being said, this had to be one of my favorite Thanksgiving meals to date. Familiar, down-home traditions are always reliably cozy, but that doesn't mean Thanksgiving is reserved for just that. This holiday is about coming together no matter where we are to appreciate the gifts life has given us and to celebrate those gifts with loved ones, whether they are from our old lives or the ones we're just starting to make.

This Thanksgiving, I was grateful for my friend's potato-peeling COOP knife. I was grateful for the break dancers in the lounge who gave us a free show and shared our food. I was grateful for the fake appreciation for my failed stuffing recipe. But most of all, I was grateful for being able to share a family at a time and place in which family seems so far away.

Living in a city full of distractions, we often forget how nice it is to feel that sense of community. Being independent is so typical Columbia, but fending for oneself in the concrete jungle doesn't have to mean ignoring the importance of building relationships on campus. We're never too cool or too old to stop that NSOP-style meet-and-greet—that is, as long as we bother to remember names this time.

There's nothing more meaningful than feeling like you have a home away from home, a family who understands you and with whom you can share the ups and downs of your new life. Columbia can be that community of strong individuals coming together—all it takes is a willingness to create the connection. It can start by offering food to other starving college students—like leftover pie.

The author is a first-year in Columbia College.

CU football program due for reconsideration

Columbia's 35-28 win over Brown capped off an otherwise forgettable football season. This is hardly surprising, however, given that the consistently underwhelming team has failed to win anything of note in any non-GS undergrad's living memory. On the back end of yet another miserable season, it's time to ask ourselves: If we don't have a football team capable of competing with the nation's best, then why do we have one at all?

We hang onto the football team despite its failure to justify its existence year after year. Successful college football programs serve at least one of two often inseparable functions. They are either NFL stepping stones or indispensable to the identity and existence of their institutions as a whole. Columbia's football program is neither.

We pretend that Ivy League football matters when the harsh reality is that it doesn't. Today, not a single Ivy League team could hope to compete with true college football powerhouses and few, if any, Ancient Eight players hope to be taken in the NFL draft.

Only 11 Ivy League football players have been taken in the NFL draft since 2000, none of whom are, by any stretch of the imagination, elite. Arguably the most prominent of the bunch, Buffalo Bills starting quarterback and Harvard graduate Ryan Fitzpatrick, has had an NFL career that can be described as mediocre at best. At the beginning of the NFL season, New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning was laughed at when he ranked himself among the league's elite quarterbacks, but at least he was in that conversation. Six seasons after he debuted in the NFL, Fitzpatrick isn't even close to being talked about as an elite quarterback.

Columbia's last NFL-bound player, defensive end Marcellus Wiley, had a successful professional career that included a Pro Bowl selection in 2001. Even in his day, Wiley was much more of an anomaly than he was the norm—at Columbia and in the Ivy League. In 2011, players do not come to Ivies hoping for a career in professional football. Compounded on that is the reality that neither Ivy League nor Columbia football have improved since then. The Ancient Eight is still waiting for a player to replicate the success of Wiley, and the Lions—who went 8-2 in Wiley's senior season—have failed to reproduce that result since.

At this stage in our football history, it is no longer fine to accept the existence of the program simply as something that exists without adequate reason. Historical precedent and sentimentality are no longer good enough—nor is football's presence at peer institutions. For decades, these arguments have not been good enough for ice hockey, lacrosse, or squash—and those Ivy League programs are actually relevant in the bigger NCAA and professional pictures. Why do we privilege football?

Some argue that the Ivy League was created as a football league and cutting football might jeopardize our inclusion in it. Let's be real. Today's Ivy League is a collection of elite universities, not athletic programs. Columbia's exclusion from the athletic conference would be little more than a technicality. The Ivy League has outgrown its purely athletic structure and will continue to thrive without it.

The existence of some universities depends on the success of their football programs. OSU uses money from its multi-million dollar football program to fund its academic operations. LSU's identity is really one of a football team much more than it is a place of learning. Those universities have real, existential reasons that justify spending millions of dollars on coaches and setting aside dozens of enrollment spaces on recruits. Columbia's football program doesn't even justify its current existence.

To remain as a stagnant part of a less than mediocre conference is neither honorable nor desirable. To do it for reasons of sentimentality, continuity, or conformity undermines Columbia's willingness to accept change and to question established beliefs. It conflicts with the more important values of thinking and learning that define us as a university. The time has come for Columbia to

Lions score over 100 points in last night's victory

BY ZACH GLUBIAK
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

When Swarthmore found out just before tipoff that Monday night's contest would include media timeouts, the locker room buzzed with excitement. "Welcome to the big time," several players from the Garnet were heard saying. It was an indication of the difference in levels between Division III and Division I basketball, and there would be many more during the 40 minutes of basketball that followed.

In the first matchup between Columbia (2-4) and the small Division III school from outside of Philadelphia in over a century, the Lions took care of the Garnet handily, 104-42. The hosts featured double-digit scoring from four different players, led by sophomore guard Meiko Lyles, who had a game-high 17 points. Freshman forward Alex Rosenberg finished with 15 points, while senior guard Steve Egee added 13. Junior center Mark Cisco had 12 points with six rebounds.

"I thought we played really well," head coach Kyle Smith said. "Obviously Swarthmore is not a Division I opponent, but we played within ourselves, and shared the ball well. It was nice to see the ball go in, too."

The Lions opened the scoring just 15 seconds into the contest with a lay-in from Cisco, and led by as many as 65 in the second half. The Light Blue started with an 8-1 run before the visitors were able to convert their first field goal. Columbia would blow the game open early behind a barrage of treys from senior Chris Crockett, freshman Noah Springwater, Lyles, and Rosenberg. The Light Blue would convert on eight of its first 12 attempts from downtown.

"That definitely helps, definitely gives us confidence," Lyles said. "It's contagious—a couple people start hitting a couple early and everyone starts feeling it."

Smith thought the source of strong shooting came even earlier.

"You know what, I think we had confidence even going into the game," Smith said. "It was a team effort, and the team attitude has been good."

Rosenberg, the reigning Ivy League co-Rookie of the Week, got his second start of the season and led the charge early, knocking down his first three attempts from beyond the three-point arc. He scored all 15 of his points in the first half.

"He's a talented young player, and he's really coming along," Egee said. "Every day in practice we say 'just get better', and I think Rosenberg is really doing that. He's really starting to fit a role, and I'm proud of him."

"He gets a good look at the three," Smith said. "It's nice when you're 6'7" and you can get a look over the top."

The Lions' triumph marks their second win in a row after defeating Manhattan in their first victory of the year last Saturday. That win was



KATE SCARBROUGH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LEADING LYLES | Sophomore guard Meiko Lyles led Columbia in last night's win over the Garnet, recording 17 points.

accented by the Light Blue's defense, which held the Jaspers to 41 points on 26.2 percent shooting. On the year, Columbia has held opponents to 61.2 points per game, nearly 10 points fewer than last year's average.

The Lions kept up their smothering defense, holding the Garnet to 42 points. On this night, though, the offense was the story as the Lions scored early and often. Fifteen Lions contributed to the effort and 13 different players scored on the evening.

Columbia held a commanding advantage at the break, leading Swarthmore 60-26—more points than the Lions put up in both halves on Saturday. The Lions shot 60 percent from the field and 58.8 percent from beyond the arc in the first period. Egee finished the half with 10 points, while junior big men Cisco and John Daniels added nine and six points, respectively. The Light Blue out-rebounded the Garnet 27-10 in the first half, led by Daniels with eight boards and Cisco with six. Daniels would finish

with a game-high 10 rebounds.

The win gives the Lions momentum heading into a trip out west this weekend to compete in the Loyola Marymount Centennial Classic.

"We've got two in a row now, so we just want to keep that going," Lyles said. "We have four games in five days, but we know it's going to be a challenge and we're ready for it."

The Light Blue opens play on Friday against host Loyola Marymount. Tipoff is scheduled for 10 p.m.

Harvard just short of national ranking after Thanksgiving weekend

BY MELISSA CHEUNG
Spectator Staff Writer

Thanksgiving week for men's basketball featured a schedule packed with exciting nonconference play for the Ancient Eight. Three weeks into the season, it was critical for some teams to continue their dominant play, while others were still in search of their first win. Twenty-two games were played in the Ivy League, with teams traveling as far as Alaska and the Bahamas for early-season tournaments. Undefeated Harvard remained on top of the league, riding high on a six-game win streak, while Yale, Brown, and Dartmouth had mixed results. Penn, Cornell, and Princeton all fell short in their past few games, ending the week on low notes.



BROWN

The Bears (3-4) fell under the .500 mark after going 1-2 this past week. Brown was pummeled by George Mason 74-48 in a game that saw Patriots junior forward Ryan Pearson score 23 points. The Bears came into the game as one of the top three-point shooting teams in the Ivy League, but were only able to shoot 20 percent against George Mason. In its next game, Brown defeated Monmouth 79-71 with the help of junior guard Stephen Albrecht, who had 22 points, and sophomore guard Sean McGonagill, who added 18. The Bears dropped their final game of the week against Sacred Heart in a 64-77 loss. Brown will play Rhode Island on Wednesday.

CORNELL

Cornell (2-4) came up short against the University of Delaware and American

University in two close games this week. In the final four minutes of the game, Delaware scored 11 unanswered points to win 72-64 against the Big Red. Cornell lost its second-straight game 65-63 against American. The Big Red will look for a win this Saturday against Lehigh.

DARTMOUTH

The Big Green (2-4) went 1-2 in the Great Alaska Shootout, losing to San Francisco and Central Michigan, but defeating hometown favorite Alaska Anchorage. Senior guard/forward David Rufful, who averaged 17.7 points and 4.3 rebounds in the three games, was selected for the Great Alaska Shootout All-Tournament Team. Dartmouth plays in-state rival New Hampshire on Wednesday.

HARVARD

The Crimson (6-0) won the inaugural Battle 4 Atlantis championship in Paradise Island, Bahamas this past week, showing their supremacy even outside the Ivy League. Harvard stormed to victory in each of its three games with impressive wins over formidable opponents. The Crimson opened the tournament by trashing the Utah Utes 75-47. Harvard dominated Utah in every aspect of the game thanks to tremendous play from its forwards. Senior forward Keith Wright notched 13 points and seven boards, while junior forward Kyle Casey had 11 points, seven rebounds, and three assists. With the win, Harvard improved to 4-0 for the first time since 2005-2006 and moved on to face then-No. 22 Florida State. Going into the game, the Crimson were the heavy underdogs, as they had not won a game against a Top 25 team since 2009. It was a defensive battle throughout, but Harvard narrowly edged



KATE SCARBROUGH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WRIGHT ON TOP | Senior Keith Wright was named Ivy Player of the Week.

out Florida State 46-41.

The upset carried Harvard to the championship game, where it was pitted against Central Florida, a team that had recently beaten No. 10 UConn 68-63. The Crimson easily defeated UCF 59-49. Casey had 15 points, grabbed nine rebounds, and was named tournament MVP. The Crimson will play Vermont this Thursday, looking to keep their

undefeated streak alive.

PENN

The Quakers (3-4) find themselves on a three-game losing skid after a dreadful third week. With losses to Wagner, Pittsburgh, and James Madison, Penn (3-4) fell below .500