

INSIDE



A&E, page 6

CUArts and Miracle Fruit fund music video

A Yale student musician has joined forces with Columbia filmmakers to produce a music video. Lacking financial resources, they have turned to inventive fundraising tactics.



Sports, page 8

Cornell leads league to start 2009-2010 season

After two weeks of nonconference competition, defending Ivy champ Cornell leads the pack. Columbia is 2-3 going into this weekend's competition against Lehigh.

EVENTS

Chomsky honors Said

Linguist Noam Chomsky, Heyman Institute professor and professor emeritus at M.I.T., will deliver the 5th Annual Edward Said Memorial Lecture on "The Unipolar Moment and the Culture of Imperialism."

Altschul Auditorium, 417 International Affairs Building, 6:15 p.m.

Fight AIDS at Campo

Join the Columbia University Student Global AIDS Campaign in closing World AIDS Week with a night out at Campo, with a \$5 cover to benefit the Global Fund.

Campo, 12 a.m.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When we moved here, it wasn't fabulous, it was funky."

—Jean Green Dorsey, Park West Village resident

ONLINE

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News around the clock

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Angela Radulescu / Senior staff photographer

SHADOWS OF THE STREET | Mike "Macaroni" is a street vendor outside the Victoria Theater on 125th Street. A site rich with history, the theater is a focus of local activism with the hope of restoring it to its former glory as a music hub.

PRESERVING HARLEM

BY LEAH GREENBAUM
Columbia Daily Spectator

The West Harlem that Grace Jones knew as a child in the 1940s barely resembles today's bustling neighborhood north of 125th Street.

With a substantial reduction in crime, an upsurge in real estate prices, and an influx of retail chains, Harlem has become a completely different world for Jones.

"This used to be a block of nothing but African Americans and Caribbean Americans," she said, pointing out the middle- and upper-class residents increasingly making their way into the area.

Relics of the past century—old brownstones, historic theaters, and street signs from the block's construction dating back to 1891—still color the streets of Harlem today, but local preservationists and historians say that maintenance is increasingly difficult due to rapid development and the complex bureaucracy of designating landmarks. Now, though, as the aftermath of recession lingers and discourages developers from breaking ground on new projects, some say that there is an opportunity to preserve what remains.

Landmark status for some

"What they want to do is make it look like black people were never here," said Juanita Thomas, a community activist who believes that the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission has done little to preserve Harlem's character and culture.

Thomas is a member of the Haarlem Victoria Restoration Group, which seeks to restore the Victoria Theater on 125th street to its former glory as a vaudeville theater and haven for jazz age celebrities.

"Everything we ever had here



Residents, historians work for landmarks

has been torn down or set aside and abandoned," she explained.

Thomas said that in the early 1990s, there were very few landmarks designated north of 96th Street. This apparent oversight caused tension between Harlem community boards and the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission, which was accused of ignoring minority neighborhoods.

The discrepancy between the number of landmarks on the Upper West Side and the number in Harlem points to a bias in historic preservation toward expense, said Kenneth Jackson, Jacques Barzun Professor in History and the Social Sciences. He also noted that "famous architects design for rich people," and

those buildings are usually deemed to have more landmark potential.

Michael Henry Adams, a local historian and graduate of Columbia's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, agreed, saying, "Harlem is grossly under-landmarked, and so is every black neighborhood in the city." He added, "If you look at the Upper East Side and Upper West Side, all the places where the richest people live, there's the most landmarking."

Landmarks Commission Preservation spokesperson Elisabeth de Bourbon contested these claims, saying, "I don't see how anyone could conclude that it is an under-represented neighborhood in terms of buildings that are landmarked."

According to de Bourbon, there are 57 individual landmarks and seven historic districts in the area enclosed by 110th Street, 158th Street, Harlem River Drive, and Riverside Drive.

SEE HARLEM, page 2

Construction safety scrutinized

Department of Buildings responds to crane crash at Park West Village

BY SARAH DARVILLE
Columbia Daily Spectator

Nearly two months after a construction crane crashed into a shed in their development, fifty Park West Village residents questioned the New York City Department of Buildings.

Wednesday night's meeting with two DOB representatives at the Second Presbyterian Church on 96th Street sought to address concerns about the accident at the rising Columbus Square on Oct. 8, and to allow residents to voice concerns about a perceived lack of neighborhood input on the development.

Sponsored by Westsiders for Public Participation, a local nonprofit group, the meeting arose from residents' calls for more information about the accident in which part of a crane fell and hit a pedestrian sidewalk shed, causing it to collapse.

Michael Alacha, assistant commissioner for engineering and emergency operations at the Buildings Department, explained that the crane accident was a mechanical failure.

"I wish I had a crystal ball to see when every piece of metal was going to fail," Alacha said. He emphasized that annual inspections and frequent maintenance usually catch such problems, and that inspectors will be working to determine the cause of the failure.

Both he and Paul Bunten, president of Westsiders for Public Participation, said that residents who see anything out of place at the construction site—which stretches from 97th Street to 100th Street,—should call 311 to report them. Sites with registered complaints will be visited more often by inspectors.

A number of people pressed Alacha and Donald Ranshte, director of community affairs for the DOB, on whether it has an adequate number of inspectors.

"We're not equipped to be out there every

SEE CONSTRUCTION, page 3



James Rathmell for Spectator

CRASH TALK | Park West Village residents met the Department of Buildings Wednesday evening.

City schools embrace TV in new arts curriculum

BY CATHI CHOI
Columbia Daily Spectator

"Invasion of the Body Snatchers" might soon be part of middle school curriculums across the city, as part of a new set of guidelines that emphasize teaching about film, television, and animation.

The Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts: The Moving Image, released in October, is the fifth in a series of basic guides designed for arts teachers and administrators to shape their curriculum, said Department of Education spokesperson Ann Forte.

And yes, it suggests a viewing and discussion of "Body Snatchers" for eighth graders, to analyze the timeline of technical innovation in film.

Students should be able to understand the movie frame as the "proscenium arch," and recognize other social and historical developments associated with the film, according to the Blueprint.

Naomi Grant, an art teacher at P.S. 36 on Morningside Drive, has Blueprint information tacked up on the board in her classroom. Grant said that the Blueprints are useful because they cover what any good art class would, such as shape, color, texture, and layering. And because they are so broad, she said, they do not dictate every classroom experience.

"The guide suggests working with arts organizations, but it's up to the principal

SEE TV SCHOOL, page 2

USenate to debate confidentiality

BY AMBER TUNNELL
Spectator Staff Writer

University President Lee Bollinger and Provost Claude Steele are expected at the University Senate's last plenary session for the semester on Friday afternoon, after both missed two of the three meetings this fall.

After the president's initial report on Columbia's endowment, budget, and fundraising, the Executive Committee will give an update on the smoking policy and will discuss a brief report from the Worker Rights Consortium (WRC)—a labor rights-monitoring organization that Columbia joined about nine years ago.

WRC focuses on protecting the rights of workers who sew apparel and other products, especially university logo

apparel sold in the United States. WRC has recently reached an agreement with Russell Athletic and the union representing the former workers of the Jerzees de Honduras (JDH) factory. The agreement will bring "Russell into full compliance with university labor standards," according to a press release WRC sent to the University.

Russell has agreed to "re-hire and compensate JDH's 1,200 dismissed workers, open a new unionized factory in Honduras, and take concrete steps to respect and recognize its workers' rights to freedom of association at the company's seven existing Honduran plants," the release added.

After the report from WRC, the Structure and Operations Committee will give a report on the new contentious

confidentiality guidelines, which state that the University Senate's committee meeting minutes will be held confidential for 50 years. Many student senators are upset by this policy, though it will not yet be up for a vote.

"I am wholly against the Structure and Operations Committee's proposal to hold committee meetings in secrecy," said Andrew Springer, a student senator from the Columbia Journalism School. "I haven't spoken to a single constituent of mine that is even somewhat in favor of it. Monica Quaintance's and Daniel Savin's proposal is not only ridiculous, it's wrong," he said.

Springer believes that the new policy "will prevent

SEE USENATE, page 2



Angela Radulescu / Senior staff photographer

LOOKING AHEAD | Though many Harlem residents point to an oversight in local landmark preservation, some see the recession as having a silver lining for historic sites, as economic pressures stall new developments and turn attention toward the old, such as the Victoria Theater on 125th St.

Recession may be a time to celebrate Harlem’s history

HARLEM from front page

But Community Board 9 member Walter South said that these landmark sites are too few, and merely symbolic. “This is just tokenism,” he said.

Opportunity in the recession

Despite potential economic recovery, the future of development in Harlem remains uncertain and builders are reluctant to start new projects, Jackson said. Those conditions, he added, give Harlem preservationists the perfect opportunity to “take a deep breath.”

Jackson noted that landmark battles between the community and the city have historically been fiercest during times of rapid development. During the economic prosperity of the ’90s, many developers sought to tear down and redevelop historic properties.

But during an economic crisis, he said, when developers shy away from new projects and construction is at a virtual standstill, historic

buildings are “safe.”

“When there’s a building boom, older places with landmark potential are threatened,” said Laura Pedersen, an administrator with the New York Preservation Archive Project, which fights to preserve historic buildings. “But in this economy, developers aren’t starting new projects and they’re especially hesitant to when there might be landmark battles to complicate everything.”

Pedersen also said that designating landmark status is generally a plus for the economy, even though it can halt development on a particular site. “Landmarking often increases property values because people want to live in those areas to remember and feel a part of the city’s history,” she explained.

But at the Victoria Theater, which has been closed since 1997, “it’s just stagnant,” Thomas said. “There’s nothing really happening there right now.”

Though the Victoria was determined as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the building still

hasn’t been recognized by the landmarks commission. Spokesperson de Bourbon wrote in an e-mail, “We evaluated the Victoria after receiving several different requests for review, and determined that while it may be eligible for landmark designation, it’s currently not a priority for the commission.”

John Murphy, who vends Caribbean dolls, purses, and electronics under the Victoria’s crumbling marquee, said he hopes that the site does gain landmark status.

“It’s gotta be about preserving the history,” he said. “Under the table, and over our heads, oh no. This needs to be something all cultures can share in.”

Small remnants of the past

On a Sunday afternoon at Strivers’ Row, three streets of now-pricey townhouses on 138th and 139th streets, between Frederick Douglass and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. boulevards, residents walked their dogs through a street lightly dusted with gold-brown

leaves. But it wasn’t always like this, said Toni Matthews, who has lived around Strivers’ Row since the 1950s.

“Thirty years ago, after 9 p.m., you’d only see men outside,” she said, adding that they were the “shifty” sorts of men she would avoid. “But now there are young people and families out at night, going off to clubs and theaters. There was never any kind of nightlife back then.”

Midway through a block on 139th Street, a gated alleyway bares one historical remnant that reveals the block’s age: a sign advising residents to “walk your horses.”

Thirty years ago, Matthews said she bought her brownstone on 138th Street for \$32,000. In 2007, she added, brownstones on the same block were selling for over \$1.5 million.

“A lot of older owners are selling their houses, or asking for higher rent,” she said. “People who’ve always lived here could never afford to buy house on this block anymore.”
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BIG support for Barnard students who study abroad

BY SHIRA POLIAK
Columbia Daily Spectator

Barnard hopes to make it BIG on an international scale.

The Barnard provost and study abroad offices, in conjunction with a few students, launched a new group on campus this semester called the Barnard International Group. Its launch is a direct outgrowth of President Spar’s new mission to internationalize the college.

According to Dean for Study Abroad Advising Gretchen Young, who also serves as the group’s faculty advisor, BIG aims to create an informal, informational forum for students interested in studying abroad—both before and after they go overseas—as well as a welcoming atmosphere for international students visiting Barnard.

“We wanted to create more dialogue for students returning from study abroad; focus on the academics of study abroad; help students incorporate what they learned abroad in their academic studies here,” Young said, adding that BIG would serve as a forum for students to discuss their experiences with others considering a semester abroad.

She also stressed a need for more faculty involvement in students’ preparation for studying abroad.

“In my vision, we would have more input from faculty as to which programs they think students should go to, provide contacts they have with foreign universities, and help students integrate what they learned to the classroom,” she said. Young added that she communicates frequently with the president, and Hilary Link, the assistant provost and the dean of international programs.

Approximately 35 percent of the student body studies abroad and roughly 164 students will be studying abroad next semester, Young said. There has not been an informal Barnard student group linking these foreign travelers until this year.

Danielle diFilipo, BC ’10 and founder of BIG, highlighted the group’s role not only in academics, but in more casual social settings as well. “We want people coming

back from abroad to have a place to discuss their experiences,” she said, adding in jest that “friends get sick of hearing about the experiences.”

So far, BIG has planned a few events, such as a panel discussing different teaching styles in foreign universities and the United States, and another on how to keep healthy and safe in foreign countries. The group is now planning a study break in Lewis Parlor for Dec. 9, when students interested in studying abroad can meet returning students who will share their experiences.

Still, the student response to BIG has not been very strong.

“It’s brand-new, so it’s hard to get students interested,” Difilipo said.

Ilana Borzak, BC ’10, studied abroad in Australia last semester and attended the BIG panel on academic cultural shock, which she said was disappointing. “It was over-generalizing,” she said, adding that it appeared to be “a waste of time.”

Jamila Barra, BC ’13, an international student from Berlin, Germany who expressed interest in studying abroad, thinks there should be a strong outlet on campus for international students, but says she hasn’t found it yet. “I would benefit from a greater international student group community,” she said.

But the pioneers of BIG and other students on campus remain optimistic.

“We are just starting, so we are not discouraged,” Young said. She added that BIG is a great forum to “quantify how much learning people bring back from their study abroad experiences and how they are bringing it back to the classroom.”

Bo Yun Park, BC ’12 and SGA Sophomore Class President, comes from Seoul, South Korea and has immersed herself in the multicultural and international scene at Barnard. “BIG is a really good initiative, especially under the theme of internationalizing Barnard,” she said, adding that, “When we talk about internationalization, it’s very easy for it to be just about getting Barnard’s name out there, but it’s really about bringing internationalism to the Barnard community.”
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City schools bring TV into classroom

TV SCHOOL from front page

to decide what is best for her school,” Forte explained.

Although Grant was not yet familiar with the latest film guidelines, she said that she was unsure how some aspects of the Blueprint would fit in at P.S. 36, which enrolls students in pre-k through third grade.

“The pre-professional components seem better fit for older children,” Grant said. “My philosophy comes from giving children an experience. A place to play and explore.”

Because the Moving Image Blueprint was published so recently, Forte said she is unsure how widespread its influence would be in classrooms. Yet its impact locally may be stymied by the lack of built-in arts programs in many local schools, since art teachers are the ones to decide how to use the guidelines.

P.S. 76 on 121st Street has not had an art teacher for two years, the school’s parent coordinator, Cecilia McCoy, said. She still remembers how much the children

enjoyed arts activities, especially a postcard contest.

“We were amazed at our kids, that they were such good artists,” McCoy recalled. “It’s good for art to be in the classroom. Some kids really learn through art—drawing, connecting. It always comes back right around to literacy—whether it’s English, math, science, technology—and literacy in creating art is important.”

Forte said that no additional funding is provided to implement the Blueprint’s curriculum guidelines, and that it’s up to individual school principals to decide how to use their budget resources. The Department of Education hasn’t provided supplementary funding for the Blueprint in the past.

Renee Darvin, an instructor at Teachers College, places graduate students who want to become arts teachers in schools around the city. She said she hasn’t been able to place many students in nearby schools because relatively few have arts programs with teachers who are part of the faculty, not artists in residence or

from other institutions.

“There’s a dearth of art programs in schools around the neighborhood, and we’re also interested in placing our students largely with our alums because they speak the same language—our program is unique, and then people can put into practice what they’ve learned,” Darvin explained.

Career education has special relevance in New York City, where 17 prime-time television series and more than 200 films were shot in the past year, according to a Department of Education press release.

“The lessons in Blueprint will help students develop understanding of career opportunities available here in New York City and beyond,” Forte said.

McCoy supports this aspect of the Blueprint for providing students with ideas for their futures. She said the program will help students prepare for “what’s ahead,” and added, “This is New York City. I do believe it has a lot, tons to offer in schools.”
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USenate to vote on new programs

USENATE from front page

journalists ... from doing the kind of reporting that will hold this Senate accountable,” adding that, “If senators are afraid of retribution, let’s all remember that being held accountable is not meant to make you feel comfortable.”

Two resolutions are anticipated to come up for a vote from the Committee on Education, one of which would establish a program for a master of science degree in bioethics from the School of Continuing Education. It would include five core courses—History of Bioethics, Philosophy of Bioethics, Clinical Ethics, Research Ethics, and Global Bioethics—and six electives, including two in law or policy, one in social science methods, one in ethics, and two others. It would also include “a firm foundation in science,” according to the resolution, and would ideally

start out with 12 students, and increase to 60 within the first five years.

The program would be led by Robert Klitzman, an associate professor of clinical psychiatry at the College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Mailman School of Public Health and the co-founder of the University’s Center for Bioethics. If approved, a review of the program will take place after three years “to evaluate overall outcomes and to measure students’ success,” the resolution explained.

Another resolution to be discussed will be to change the name of the Center for the Study of Human Rights (CSHR) to the Institute for the Study of Human Rights.

CSHR was developed about thirty years ago and now advises the major university programs on human rights, including concentrations for undergraduates and SIPA students, the Liberal Studies M.A. program, the

certificate in human rights for master’s and doctoral students, and the summer school program in human rights.

Currently, CSHR involves just administrators and no faculty. As an institute, CSHR would be able to make joint appointments of faculty to “expand the scope of research and scholarship,” the human rights resolution stated, adding that the institute could “make consistent interdisciplinary instruction,” which would require coordination which cannot be done within any one existing department.

They will also “be able to normalize relations with faculty through formal affiliations, foster faculty initiatives, and support graduate students engaged in interdisciplinary research,” the resolution added.

The meeting will take place in 107 Jerome Greene Hall at 1:15 p.m. on Friday.
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Department of Buildings meets concerned Park West Village residents

CONSTRUCTION from front page

day enforcing the law,” Bunten said.

Ranshte said that their department is growing, but does rely on the community to act as extra eyes and ears.

“It’s tough, when there’s a lot of construction in New York City. There will never be enough people. Ten thousand people wouldn’t be enough,” Ranshte said.

The accident was penalized with three code violations, but Alacha described them as the standard response to an accident that did not reflect previous negligence.

Ranshte also said that two more cranes will be coming to Columbus Avenue within the next two months, and unrolled the physical safety plans to indicate the procedures for stopping pedestrian traffic.

City council member Melissa Mark-Viverito, who led the discussion with Bunten, said that the council has passed or has been working on about 20 pieces of legislation to make construction safer since a crane accident on 50th Street on March 15, 2008 killed seven people.

Already, Ranshte said that certain changes have made contractors more accountable. “Now, we can shut them down on a moment’s notice. Three, four years ago we couldn’t say that, and nobody wants that,” he said.

The second part of the meeting focused on the idea that the Park West Village development was constructed without input from neighborhood residents and businesses due to its as-of-right status—which meant that an environmental impact report was not mandated.

As a result, residents say they are now dealing with blocked traffic and reportedly longer emergency response times.

“We haven’t seen the end of as-of-right development in this community, and I hope we’ve learned enough to include the community in the future,” said Bunten. “We do think that what happens here is emblematic of New York City.”

Jean Green Dorsey, who has lived in the neighborhood since 1972, said that the city’s lack of interest in local voices was disheartening. “When we moved here, it wasn’t fabulous, it was funky. Marginal at best. We built this neighborhood, and now they can’t treat us like we don’t matter,” Dorsey said.

Susan Susman, who lives on 97th Street, expressed concern that these types of discussions ultimately are not productive.

“Unless legislation addresses this, my concern is how do we get to the point of enforcing community involvement, not just at community discussions,” Sussman said. “I tend not to have a lot of confidence in these meetings because they don’t have to listen to us. They always send their public relations people, so I’m glad someone from cranes came tonight.”

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Looking beyond the month

BY JOHN HANEY

December marks the end of Native American Heritage Month, but the celebration of culture lingers on.

On Nov. 4, Columbia professor of anthropology Audra Simpson was featured as the keynote speaker of the opening ceremony for Native American Heritage Month. She spoke with both passion and insight on the importance of celebrating, sharing, and remembering Native American culture, asking the simple but essential question, "Why should it only be one month?" The speech was thought-provoking in its important perspective on Native American Heritage Month, presenting ideas that we would all be wise to consider. Even now that the month of November has passed, we should continuously celebrate, share, and remember Native American culture throughout the entire year, with the same intensity as in the past few weeks.

As the heritage month draws to a close, the Native American student community should be commended for their amazing job working together to organize events on campus that showcased the many talents and cultures of Native people. The success of the opening ceremony only marked the beginning of the continued successes that followed throughout the month. The Indians and Indians dinner—an annual, co-sponsored event with the Bhakti Club in which the Native and Indian (from India) communities prepare and share food for a joint dinner—was on Nov. 10. During the weekend of Nov. 13, the annual All Ivy Native Council Summit was held at Columbia, with Native students from around the nation meeting for networking, speakers and

workshops. On Nov. 19, there was a dinner, co-sponsored with SisterCircle, to discuss the meaning of Thanksgiving within the context of stereotypes, culture, and identity. On Nov. 20, the Native American Arts Exhibition, co-sponsored by the Postcrypt Art Gallery, featured Native American students and professionals from Massachusetts, New Mexico, Oklahoma, New York, and Ontario, Canada. The vast community support received at these events demonstrates the importance of Native American culture at Columbia. The last event of Native American Heritage Month—the closing ceremony—is appropriately scheduled for today, Dec. 3, reaffirming the idea that the celebration can and should extend beyond the boundaries of November. If the heritage month has proved one thing, it is that the Native student community wants to participate and share with the community in a way that both educates and entertains.

Native American presence and influence on campus grows steadily stronger each year. As a student group, the Native American Council meets every week to discuss different ideas on how to share our heritage. We also come to these weekly gatherings, however, just to hang out as friends—to stay connected. Each year, there are new members who prove increasingly enthusiastic and helpful, which makes me confident that Native American presence on campus will remain strong and will continue to grow over time. In the near future, Columbia will consider the addition of a Native American studies "emphasis" within the existing comparative ethnic studies major, a much-needed and desired

field of study. This important achievement is the result of enthusiastic, determined students and teachers who have been discussing such a program for a long time. As a junior, I unfortunately will not have the opportunity to participate in this new field, but I commend the University for taking this initiative, and I am happy for the many people who will undoubtedly take advantage of this unique opportunity in the near future.

The heritage month closing ceremony will feature the Redhawk Dance Troupe, a Brooklyn-based group that specializes in both traditional and contemporary styles of Native American dance. The keynote speaker will be Larry Ahenakew, the chairman of the American Indian Community House in downtown New York City. The Community House is a nonprofit organization that serves the health, social service, and cultural needs of Native Americans residing in the New York City area. These visitors reflect the theme of this year's heritage month, Native New York: Indigenous in the City, which examines the experiences and

meanings of Native Americans living in a bustling metropolitan environment. The event, which will take place in the Satow Room of Lerner Hall from 6-8 p.m., reminds students of the important presence of Native Americans both at Columbia and in the community at large.

The author is a Columbia College junior majoring in the history and theory of architecture with a concentration in jazz studies. He is the vice-chair of the Columbia University Native American Council.

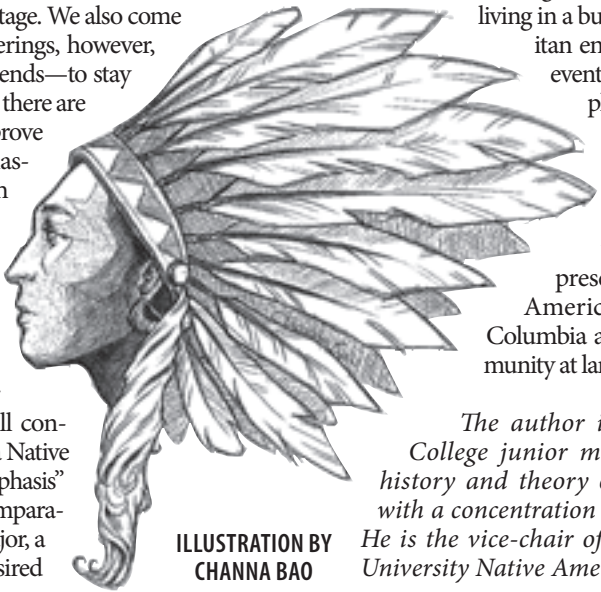
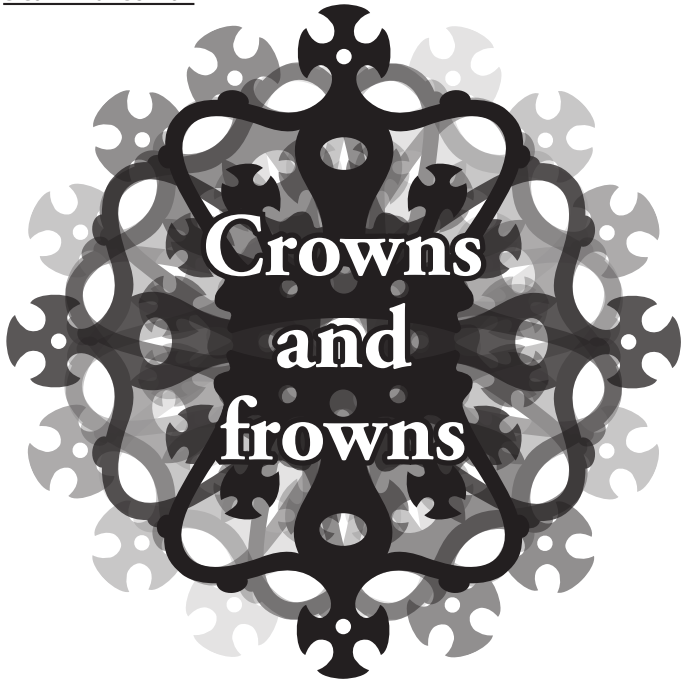


ILLUSTRATION BY CHANNA BAO

Staff Editorial



Crown: Beautiful, lighted trees line College Walk.

Frown: Muggings continue to occur near campus.

Frown: The long waitlist less than 24 hours later!

Crown: Public Safety officers are stationed at various corners around the neighborhood.

Crown: Holiday-themed drinks at Starbucks.

Crown: Noam Chomsky drops by today.

Crown: Bill Clinton dropped by Tuesday.

Frown: Waiting in an out-the-door line to get one.

Crown: Men's cross country takes the Ivy League title.

Crown: Getting an e-mail inviting you to hear New York

Frown: The poor state of some of Columbia's other athletic teams.

Spectator Opinion accepts submissions from diverse areas of interest. Submissions should be between 700 and 900 words and express an opinion that does not perpetuate stereotypes or unfairly label groups or individuals. All writers meet with an associate editor to edit their submission before publication. Submissions may be sent to opinion@columbiaspectator.com.

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.

POLITICS ON STILTS



SHAINA RUBIN

CU Orchestra serves students, musicians, and the University

To the editor:

In response to Aaron Liskov's article ("Orchestral dissent," Nov. 29, 2009), I would like to comment accurately on the mission of the Columbia University Orchestra. It is unfortunate that the CU Orchestra is characterized as not capturing the essence of an orchestra's role in a university setting. Over 85 musicians will play the CUO's program next week on Monday and Tuesday. A small number, specifically nine players, are given modest honoraria to fill out the sections as is common practice at Harvard, Brown, Princeton and Yale. The joint program between Columbia and Juilliard helps make this possible. Even without these players the level of the orchestra is extremely high. But by including them we offer the other 80 or so an enriching experience. I keep tabs on players that do not make the cut, and ask them to play for me from time to time in hopes that I can make space for them. There are many other groups that all players can join, such as the wonderful Wind Ensemble. I simply cannot agree with Liskov's implication that the CUO's mission does not help players to play their best. This is an unfortunate opinion and does not reflect our goals or accomplishments. I hope that the Columbia community will join us and experience two glorious nights

Jeffrey Milarsky
Senior lecturer in music and music director of the Columbia University Orchestra
Nov. 30, 2009

Picture painted of GS financial aid was incomplete

To the editor:

I must first applaud the initiative of the Spectator in writing an article on the troubles of financial aid for General Studies students ("Financial Aid still troubles GS," Nov. 30, 2009). However, many of the details and arguments presented, especially those of the GS administration, are completely and utterly flawed. GS Dean Peter Awn emphasizes the discount rate, stating that "people do not understand this." What's not to understand? While CC and SEAS students are reaping the benefits of alumni endowments reaching upwards of \$200 million, the entire financial aid budget for GS remains below \$10 million. What Dean Awn does not understand is that waiting for alumni funds to pick up before increasing financial aid presents a defective, circular argument—if many students are graduating

more than \$100,000 in debt (a statistic confirmable from multiple personal accounts) and not the mere \$48,028 reported, as well as being continuously excluded from the greater undergraduate community because of issues like swipe access and no guaranteed housing, then what alumnus in his or her right mind would want to give back to the school, let alone have the means of doing so? This is aside from the fact that 88 percent of financial aid in the GS is shelled out on the basis of a subjective, ambiguous form of merit. Dean Awn claims that the administration needs "to press students to be forthcoming." What he fails to mention is that when previous student councils pressed the administration to be forthcoming about the criteria for receiving merit-based aid, they failed to present the council with any information, leaving students in the dark to wonder how they could possibly tap into one of the only viable resources of financial aid available to them. Dean Awn thinks that "students have a romanticized vision of financial aid at CC," but the numbers don't lie. If past years are any indication, Dean Awn either has a romanticized vision of the extent of the financial crisis facing many GS students, or he and the administration are unable and unwilling to discuss new approaches in these most urgent times.

Alex Katz, GS/JTS '11
Former vice president of student life, GSSC
Dec. 2, 2009

Sixty-nine theses (not in order)



CHRIS MORRIS-LENT
POLITICS, SEX, AND RELIGION

Scrivener," "American Psycho."
5. Romantic garbage: Woody Allen, Capote, Rand, Sinatra, Kerouac, Salinger.
6. New York always overrates itself; look at the New Yorker.
7. There's nobody more provincial than a native New Yorker.
8. There's no deep history here—only personal narrative and delusion.
9. The self-satisfied run New York, which is why the status quo is impossible to change.
10. Manhattan doesn't have neighborhoods, it has real estate tracts.
11. Below 14th Street one talks about rent—above it one talks about real estate.
12. It's impossible to realize there's a working class in Manhattan without getting arrested.
13. The outer boroughs are excellent; but by saying this I make them less so.
14. New Jersey is underrated, but Westchester and Long Island and Connecticut are actually disgusting.
15. The only thing more depressing than a tourist in Times Square pretending to have a good time is one who actually is.
16. Nobody going somewhere ever goes anywhere.
17. The people going places in New York are always the ones that remain the most static.
18. The more chaotic things are, the more alike everyone is.
19. We'd really rather just drive everywhere.
20. Your ability to thrive in New York depends

on your proficiency in putting up with things that would be intolerable anywhere else.
21. The climate here actually sucks.
22. In New York you can be someone.
23. Or you can be yourself.
24. You can never be both.
25. It is the presence of hope that makes New York so hellish.
26. Here neurosis is mistaken for energy, insecurity for ambition.
27. Everyone here always wants something from you—it's never you.
28. Nobody who stands in New York stands on his own two feet.
29. People here would rather give you a job than make friends.
30. Everything is externalized.
31. Therefore, one can only experience the shallowest pleasures and the deepest sorrows.
32. You are what your record is.
33. Merit matters far less than everything else.
34. Journalism and publishing aren't industries if nobody's making six figures and you qualify for rent reduction.
35. Think tanks are like an evil version of academia.
36. The government pays how much it has; you get what you're paid for.
37. Finance is exactly what you think it is.
38. Does anyone do anything else from Columbia? In New York?
39. Columbia is synecdoche for New York, and New York determines Columbia.
40. Columbia is dense enough to be claustrophobic but diffuse enough to be lonely.
41. Columbia has all the convenience and culture of suburbia with the cost and cramp of the city.
42. At Columbia, sex makes strange bedfellows.
43. At Columbia, diversity is skin color and a person, not background and people.
44. At Columbia, everything is promised and so little is delivered.
45. Columbia instills desires within its students it can't possibly fulfill.
46. The only thing more depressing than a Columbia student pretending to enjoy Columbia is one who actually does.
47. What do you learn about writing in

University Writing?
48. (Or art in Art Hum? Music in Music Hum?)
49. You don't actually get a good grounding in literature in Lit Hum.
50. (Nor a grounding in civilization in CC; nor one in major cultures in Major Cultures.)
51. You haven't actually read anything.
52. Columbia serves to make you seem smarter by making you less aware of your own stupidity.
53. There are no clubs at Columbia, only cults.
54. Groups keep to their own and exist to reinforce their prejudices.
55. We're ashamed of racism and proud of classism.
56. Having two parents who earn six figures makes you 'middle-class.'
57. Nobody is more boring than the people that try to entertain themselves by going to parties.
58. Only at Columbia could people who sit in an office 40 hours a week listening to themselves call themselves "journalists."
59. Columbia and New York make you grown up in all the wrong ways.
60. As New York is the logical conclusion of capitalism, Columbia is the logical conclusion of trying too hard.
61. At the U of C the idiots select themselves; at CU we hand-pick which ones we want.
62. The successful get nothing out of their education; the failures get nothing but education.
63. Columbia students are too smart to be slutty, too stupid to be promiscuous.
64. Too smart for style, too stupid for substance.
65. Too rich to be under-overprivileged, too poor to be over-underprivileged.
66. Too sheltered to be real, too representative to be human.
67. The status quo is impossible to change.
68. Anyone could have written these theses after spending a week here.
69. This confession has changed, and will change, nothing.

Chris Morris-Lent is a Columbia College senior majoring in English. Politics, Sex, and Religion runs alternate Thursdays. opinion@columbiaspectator.com

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3	4	2	8	5	6	7	9	1
9	6	7	4	3	1	5	8	2
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2	1	4	5	9	8	3	6	7
6	2	8	9	4	3	1	7	5
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© Puzzles by Pappocom

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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	8				9	7		
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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Cheese town in the province of Noord-Holland

5 Cooper's tool

9 Like some potatoes

14 Snare ____

15 Powerful 19th century Virginia family

16 Positive terminal, at times

17 "Imagination at work" company

20 N.Y. summer setting

21 Sale condition

22 Deceived

23 Stranded

25 Cambodian money

26 Fried-dough carnival treat

30 General on a Chinese menu

33 Fiesta Bowl site

34 Work units

35 Group including flower children's children, briefly

36 Plants fabric

37 Big conflict

38 Actress Blakely

39 Je T'____; Parisian's "I love you"

40 Bouquet holder

41 Dramable ingredient

42 Govt. ID issuer

43 Doors #1 hit covered by José Feliciano

45 Innermost part

46 Grant and Vanderbilt

47 Spotted cat

50 Exceptional

52 Subway alternative

55 "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie" author

58 Cream of the crop

59 Doughnut shapes

60 Merrie ____ England

61 Begat

62 School founded in 1440

DOWN

1 Slight advantage

2 Stowe novel

3 Quaker Oats trademark

4 Mansfield Mrs.

5 Mount McKinley's state

6 Sub station?

7 Puzzle center?

8 Subj. taught bilingually

9 More risqué

10 Spy's briefing contents, briefly

11 Firewood order

12 Correct, perhaps

13 Empire State Building style

18 "Silent Spring" author Carson

19 Inventor Howe

24 Winesap, e.g.

25 Contrition

26 Singer James et al

27 Explorer aided by Sacagawea

28 Dogma-rejecting spiritual genre

29 Junk

30 Court bouncer

31 Show contempt

32 Kind of daisy

35 Silly

38 Stop and shop, e.g.

40 Artistic merit

43 Came menacingly into view

44 Large game fish

45 1950s-'60s Yankee Boyer

47 Laudatory poems

48 City SW of Bogotá

49 Measly twig

50 Scream

51 Opening for dynamic

53 Pakistani tongue

54 Surfboard fin

56 Way to go: Abbr.

57 How the weasel goes?

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

J	A	I	L	S	C	R	A	M	O	T	I	P	
A	L	B	A	H	A	I	F	A	V	O	T	E	
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R	E	S	T										

12/03/09

Spectator

Classifieds • 854-9550

THEATER

The garden may be ‘Secret,’ but the family drama is clear and touching

BY CLAIRE FU
Columbia Daily Spectator

Even the best-kept secret is eventually revealed.

On Wednesday, the Columbia Musical Theatre Society divulged “The Secret Garden” to an eager audience in Roone Arledge Auditorium. Based on the novel of the same title by Frances Hodgson Burnett, “The Secret Garden” captures the desolate, yet hopeful spirit of young orphan Mary Lennox, played by Victoria Pollack, BC ’12.

Sent to England to live with her reclusive uncle Archibald Craven, Mary discovers the key to a sequestered garden, but not before embroiling herself in deep-rooted family troubles. Directed by Mary Jo Holuba, BC ’12, the two-and-a-half-hour play brought life to the stage through the

dynamic characters that surrounded Mary.

Pollack portrays the ten-year-old protagonist with poise and emotion—Mary, initially dejected, grows into her identity. Distracted by her parents’ death, Mary at first exudes fury. To the cheerfulness of her chambermaid Martha, portrayed by Leigh Gerber, GS, Mary replies with chilling scowls.

The Dreamers, a chorus of dancers who haunt Archibald’s house, create an eerie ambience. “Surely it does seem like a frightful dream,” sing the Dreamers. Enhanced by the glowing red lighting and goaded by the pounding percussion of the orchestra, the Dreamers are effective in representing Mary’s darker thoughts.

Mary experiences a turning point when she discovers a key among a tangle of trees, which are portrayed by a procession of dancers in flesh-colored costumes dotted with green vines. She is revitalized by the joy of entering the secret garden, flashing a rare smile. In the scene when her bedridden cousin Colin Craven reunites with Archibald, who beams at the words “Father, look at me, I’m well!,” Mary seems to have achieved ultimate happiness.

Reflecting the natural essence of the garden itself, the set and costumes of “The Secret Garden” focus on a simple palette of colors—ivory white, soft green, and bold red. The Dreamers’ white clothes enhance their fleeting ghost-like quality, while the light green dress of Mary’s aunt Lily, played by Martina Weidenbaum, BC ’13, reflects the organic nature of the garden. At times, the red lighting flashes upon the stage, dramatizing Mary’s emotional memories of her parents.

After the cast delivered their final bow on Wednesday—to roaring applause—the audience left the auditorium with the melody of “Come to My Garden” still resonating in their minds.



WHERE IT'S AT

Time: Thurs., Dec. 3 at 8 p.m.
Place: Roone Arledge Auditorium
Cost: \$5 with CUID

FOOD & DRINK

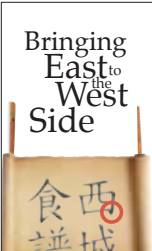
Though it is world’s second most popular drink, tea gets little respect in campus cafés

BY PAULA GERGEN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Next to water, the most widely-consumed beverage in the world is tea. Because tea is influenced by many factors, such as soil and production method, it is also beginning to gain recognition as a beverage that demands as much attention as wine.

At and around Columbia, there is a wide spectrum of tea options, ranging from the pedestrian—Lipton tea bags in John Jay Dining Hall to the more unusual bubble tea at Café East. At Brownie’s Café in Avery, over a dozen different kinds of hot teas are available and there are over 20 different bottled tea choices.

Oren’s Daily Roast may primarily brew coffee, but the café also offers a selection of Mighty Leaf and Republic of Tea blends. Further demonstrating tea’s omnipresence, both Westside Market and Morton Williams stock shelves



upon shelves of boxed teas, not to mention their bottled tea selections.

Though Blue Java in Butler and Café 212 in Lerner offer chai, hot teas, and bottled teas, Columbia Dining’s tea options do not seem to appeal to many Columbia students. Several students complained that the tea offered is overpriced. Jian Wilson Dong, SEAS ’10, said, “I’ve never had tea here. It’s too expensive.” His solution is to make it himself, which seems a common trend among students. Sonal Noticewala, CC ’11, said that “Butler makes bad chai, so I bring my own tea from home.”

Columbia cafés churn out mass-produced cups, instead of giving tea the attention it arguably deserves. “When I ask for tea [in Lerner] all they do is give me a cup of hot water,” Robert Chang, SEAS ’12, said.

Perhaps it is not that tea is underappreciated by the Columbia student body itself, but rather that tea is not properly esteemed by many of the Columbia vendors on campus. It seems that discerning students will simply have to take advantage of the numerous off-campus offerings for a good cup of tea.



TEA TIME | Morningside vendors like Oren’s, Westside Market, and Morton Williams offer a wide array of teas. Embry Owen for Spectator

MUSIC



Courtesy of Laura Zax

VIDEO STAR | Laura Zax, a Yale student and indie rock musician, is working with Columbia’s King Cub Productions to produce her music video. Their fundraiser on Saturday will raise money to supplement their Gatsby grant.

Unlikely forces join to produce and fund student music video

BY MADDY KLOSS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

As anyone with a vague knowledge of Michael Jackson might admit, there’s nothing like a good music video to shape a musician’s image. For this reason, among others, Yale senior and indie rock musician Laura Zax recently enlisted the help the of Columbia film group King Cub Productionsto create a whimsical video for one of her new songs, “Doctor, Doctor.”

Music videos, however, don’t come cheap. To raise money and promote her music, Zax and King Cub, in collaboration with Yale’s Bulldog Productions, an organization of student filmmakers, are hosting a fundraiser on Saturday at Patrick Ryan’s pub in Harlem.

Victor Suarez, CC ’11, contacted Zax last December, after a friend played him some songs from her recent EP. “The fact that he took the initiative to contact me, a stranger, to give me a hard sell about why he should make my music video, was very impressive to me,” said Zax. “It was fortuitous... A music video was the next project for me, but I hadn’t begun to pursue it yet.”

The fundraiser, called Sensory Overload, will feature live performances by Zax and Columbia band The Kitchen Cabinet. The event is sponsored by MBerry, a company that makes Miracle Fruit tablets, which alter tastebud shape to change the tastes of food and drink. MBerry will provide free tablets for all attendees, as well as a variety of food and drink samples.

The money raised at Sensory Overload will supplement Yale and Columbia funding for the video. Suarez acquired funding through a grant from CUArts’ Gatsby Charitable Foundation Student Arts Support Fund and recounted his experiences—both positive and negative—with the program.

The Gatsby Fund aims to give students both an introduction to the grant application process and a way to finance arts projects that enhance the Columbia community. Chad Miller, the CUArts events and outreach manager, said of the Gatsby Fund, “It’s really a mentoring experience as to how you would apply for your first grant.”

Students can apply for grants as individuals or as part of a group, and the entire process is intended to be encouraging to all prospective applicants. So, while the Gatsby application process is somewhat labor-intensive—Suarez’s application was fourteen pages long—the program awards money to practically every well-planned project. “We hardly ever turn away an application,” Miller said.

However, because so many projects receive funding, CUArts has a limited amount of money to distribute

to each one. Gatsby grant recipients generally receive between \$200 and \$2,500 depending on the scope and magnitude of their projects, but the cap on funding for anyone applying as an individual is only \$500.

This cap on individual grants is a recent adjustment to the Gatsby program, and Suarez has found it challenging to work around. “Before the change, a music video like this [Zax’s] could have been virtually entirely funded by CUArts,” he said. “Without outside investment, it’s very hard to get an ambitious project off the ground.”

Suarez believes that the limit on Gatsby Fund grants, combined with the high cost of creating films, may unfortunately stifle the campus film community. “Columbia’s undergrad film resources are limited enough as it is. Producing a worthwhile short film easily costs \$5,000. There’s lots of talent in Columbia’s undergrads, but without Columbia financially supporting an undergrad film community, a lot of talent will go unrealized,” he said.

Despite the budgetary concerns, Suarez reports that his experience putting together a music video has so far been a productive and successful collaboration with Yale’s Bulldog Productions. “They’ve not only generously provided financing, but are also a constant source of advice and knowledge. We wouldn’t be able to make this video without them,” he said.

Building these types of relationships between creative partners, CUArts’ Miller said, is also one of the Gatsby Fund’s goals. “I’m really about connecting people and the resources they have,” Miller said. “You’re creating something that’s going to be a connectivity tool.”

Suarez hopes that the music video will highlight the diversity of student artists at both Columbia and Yale who joined forces for its creation. “The music video showcases the talents of dancers, painters, costume designers—its artistic collaboration is the core content of the premise,” he said.

Saturday’s fundraiser, while primarily a means of financing Zax’s video, also aims to emphasize the range and talent of Columbia’s artistic community. But the event also holds something for students just looking for a good time—as Suarez said, “If live bands, drink specials, and lots of miracle berries isn’t enough to convince someone to come to the fundraiser, then I don’t know what is.”

WHERE IT'S AT

Time: Saturday Dec. 5 at 9 p.m.
Place: Patrick Ryan’s Pub (3155 Broadway, between La Salle Street & Tiemann Place)
Cost: \$6 cover charge.

BOOKS

CU book talk sheds a new light on preservation and history of ‘Candide’

BY ADRIANA TOMA
Columbia Daily Spectator

Voltaire is not usually thought of as a rebellious underground writer. But at Wednesday night’s “Candide in the Preserving Machine,” a talk hosted by the Book History Colloquium at Columbia University, Alice Boone of the English and comparative literature department described the French author as the subject of heated controversy.

Boone, who is currently the curator of an exhibit on “Candide” at the New York Public Library, discussed the dissemination, translation, and reception of later interpretations and translations of Voltaire’s now-canonical 1759 satire. In the novella, Voltaire recounts the story of Candide and his overly optimistic mentor, Dr. Pangloss.

While “Candide” was met with immediate success upon its release, it was also the subject of criticism, remaining on the Vatican’s list of forbidden books for over 200 years. According to Boone, “Although the book was banned, it remained an underground best-seller, and the book’s status as a controversial book

also added the desire for everyone to get their hands on it and to continue to write about it. It was a media event that kept radiating.”

Book history, the focal point of the talk, plays an integral role in understanding the resonance of the text and the impact of subsequent translations and interpretations of it. As Gerald Cloud, who organizes the Book History Colloquium, said, “A lot of people who are working in isolation here at Columbia are interested in intellectual approaches common to book history and the study of physical materials of intellectual culture. Colloquium’s goal is to get those people together.”

Boone addressed the relationship between “Candide” and the media in terms of the ways we can use book history to study reflexivity, or the way that sequels to “Candide” comment on themselves as adaptations.

In 1956, “Candide” was adapted as an operetta by Leonard Bernstein and performed on Broadway in several revivals. Boone explained that adaptations of a text like “Candide” illustrate the manner in which genre is constantly shifting and reflecting the changing literary culture of the time.

Lions ready for battle with Lehigh

LEHIGH from back page

guard Rob Keefer led the team with five boards. Stony Brook did a good job of shutting down freshman guard C.J. McCollum, who went 1-8 from the field for four points. McCollum is currently leading the Mountain Hawks with 14.3 points per game on 41.8 percent shooting. Another key freshman for Lehigh is forward Gabe Knutson, who has started all six games so far and is leading the squad with 6.2 rebounds per game. In addition to talented newcomers, the Mountain Hawks have capable returners—senior point guard Marquis Hall, in particular. Hall is leading the squad with 40 assists this season and is second in scoring with 9.0 points per game. “They execute very well and they’ve got a great point guard,” Jones said. “I think he’s a terrific player.”

Last season when Columbia and Lehigh squared off, Hall notched 12 points and six assists in a 73-59 victory for the Mountain Hawks. Despite losing by double digits last season, Jones expects a better game this year as his squad is a lot healthier. “We match up very well,” Jones said. “You know, we weren’t healthy last year when we played them. Pat [Foley] didn’t play, Asenso [Ampim] didn’t play, obviously Brian [Grimes] was out as well. I think it’s a very competitive game, a lot like the Bucknell game.” While a healthy Grimes and Foley will definitely help the Light Blue out on the offensive end of the court, junior forward Ampim could prove to be a force on defense, much like he was against the Bison. “He’s one of the guys that I feel can really help us in a lot of ways,” Jones said. “He elevates this team to a whole other level when he’s in there and he’s playing well.” Tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m. in Levien.

Are Columbia’s teams set to take a turn for the better?

GUPTA from back page

Then there is football, which, along with basketball, tends to be the most popular sport on college campuses and the source for the most school pride. Here at Columbia, many students choose to simply ignore the football team, assuming incorrectly that the program’s 44-game losing streak between 1983 and 1988 is somehow still continuing today. It’s not. Like it or not, the football team has shown improvement under head coach Norries Wilson, highlighted by this season’s fourth-place finish, the program’s best conference finish since 1996, although they also finished tied for fourth in 2001. In fact, the Lions have shown remarkable improvement in just the three years that I have seen them. In their 2007 homecoming match against a Penn team that ended up finishing tied for fourth, Columbia was blown out 59-28 after the Lions found themselves down 45-7 at halftime. This year, in a rematch against eventual Ivy champion Penn, the Lions hung tough for three quarters before falling 27-13. In addition to the bottom line, wins and losses, Wilson has succeeded in

bringing talent to Morningside Heights, something not many of his predecessors can say. Players such as Austin Knowlin, Alex Gross, and Lou Miller have made the football team exciting to watch, as anyone who has seen it can attest. There is one caveat to this entire discussion. The key word throughout is improvement. Many of the sports mentioned above are improving, and getting better year after year, but few have achieved excellence consistently. Finishing in fourth place, or sixth place, or finishing above .500, are not end goals—these are stepping stones to a larger goal of consistently challenging for championships. That’s what all the athletic programs here at Columbia are striving for, excellence in both the Ivy League and to some degree on the national level. The teams have begun this process, taking clear and distinct steps in the right direction. It’s up to the rest of us to acknowledge this and begin to get on board. Kunal Gupta is a junior in the School of Engineering and Applied Science majoring in operations research. sports@columbiaspectator.com

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With guest soloist Jimmy Heath, tenor and soprano saxophones
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Miller Theatre, 116th St. and Broadway

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Friday, December 11, 2009 at 7:00pm
112 Dodge Hall (Enter from College Walk)

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Sunday, December 13, 2009 at 2:00pm
Italian Academy Teatro, 1161 Amsterdam Ave between 116th and 118th streets

CU Jazz Ensembles directed by Ole Mathisen and Don Sickler
Monday, December 14, 2009 at 7:00pm
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Fri, Dec 4, 8pm	Voice Recital by students of P. Calleo and S. Wolfson 301 Philosophy Hall
Sat, Dec 5, 7pm	CU Big Band & Jazz Ensembles with Jimmy Heath, sax Miller Theatre
Sun, Dec 6, 2pm	CU Wind Ensemble: Sing Me A Song Roone Arledge Auditorium, Lerner Hall
Sun, Dec 6, 5pm	World Music Triple-Header: Gagaku, Klezmer, and Bluegrass 301 Philosophy Hall, CU Morningside Campus
Mon, Dec 7, 8pm	Columbia Univ. Orchestra in Concert Roone Arledge Auditorium, Lerner Hall
Tue, Dec 8, 8pm	Columbia University Orchestra in Concert Miller Theatre, 116th and Broadway
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Sat, Dec 12, 8pm	MPP End-of-Semester Chamber Music Concert #1 301 Philosophy Hall
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In defense of Columbia athletics



KUNAL GUPTA
MOVING THE CHAINS

“All Columbia sports stink.” It’s a phrase that I have heard too often on campus during my three years at Columbia, and it’s time we put this notion to bed.

I’ve heard variations of this as well as students attempt to make excuses for their lack of interest in Columbia sports. “I would follow the teams if they were good.”

Let the record show that as of 2009, Columbia sports don’t stink. Now, I won’t go so far as to say that the Lions are on the verge of pulling the 2007 Florida Gators feat of winning national titles in both basketball and football in the same academic year. Overall the programs still have room to grow and improve, but make no mistake about it, they are improving.

Look specifically at the fall sports teams, which wrapped up their seasons over the past few weekends. While this is not a complete picture, the results do give an indication of a general trend for Columbia sports.

Even in recent history, there were a select few teams at Columbia which consistently approached greatness in the Ivy League. The women’s soccer team had five straight winning seasons, which culminated with an Ivy title in 2006. The men’s tennis team has won at least a share of the title four times since 2000. The women’s cross country team won four straight heptagonal championships from 2002 to 2005, and the men’s and women’s programs as a whole boast enough individual accolades to fill up the rest of this column.

These programs have been the peak for Columbia, and this season, they have not disappointed. The men’s cross country team won the 2009 Heptagonal Championships and the women’s team placed third. The men’s tennis team, which plays individual tournaments in the fall and dual matches (including Ivy matches) in the spring, had another successful fall season, placing a semifinalist in the 128-player field at the Wilson/ITA Regional Championships. Not to mention the fact that senior No. 78 Mihai Nichifor beat the No. 17 player in the nation in three tight sets.

In addition to these teams, most of the other fall sports are improving rapidly.

The women’s tennis team landed the No. 7 recruiting class in the nation this year, and the impact has already shown. Freshman Nicole Bartnik, the No. 5 junior in the nation last year, was undefeated against every player in the northeast this year and reached the finals. She won in her first two collegiate tournaments and was entered as the top overall seed in the Wilson/ITA Regional Championships before she was forced to pull out with the flu. For a program that has never finished above 3-4 in conference play since it began in 1985, this is clearly a step in the right direction.

The men’s soccer team has also shown improvement over the past few seasons, although a tie for last place in the Ivy League is not what new head coach Kevin Anderson had in mind. Having gone winless in conference as recently as 2007, the Lions have proved recently to be a tough match for strong teams, as they have beaten three top-20 teams in the past two seasons. The women’s soccer team, which had a down season this year finishing tied for fifth, won its first ever Ivy title in 2006, and Kevin McCarthy has led his squad to a .500 mark or better in each of his six seasons as head coach.

The field hockey team finished 9-8 this fall, its third consecutive winning season, while the volleyball team won 12 games for its most wins since 2001 and its best Ivy finish since 2002. If you haven’t noticed, new head coach Jon Wilson has already turned around a program that only had one above-.500 finish in conference play, in 2001, and won one Ivy game from 2006 to 2008. In addition to an improvement in win total, Megan Gaughn was the only freshman to be named to second-team all-Ivy for her outstanding fall campaign.

After two weeks of play, Cornell in the lead

Lions guard Naruwa Agho claims Ivy honors for second straight week

BY SPENCER GYORY
Columbia Daily Spectator

Judging by preseason predictions and early-season results, the Cornell men’s basketball team seems to be the likely favorite to win the Ivy League.

The Big Red started the season off with a strong nonconference campaign. It was led by senior forward Ryan Wittman, who earned Co-Ivy League Player of the Week honors for the week of Nov. 30 and broke the Ivy League record for career 3-pointers with 288. Wittman has averaged 17.1 points, 3.1 rebounds, and 2.6 assists per game through the first seven contests. After losing to Syracuse, ranked eighth in the country as of Nov. 30, 88-73, Cornell has won three consecutive matchups. The senior-laden squad defeated Toledo 78-60, Vermont 67-59, and Drexel 61-54.

Harvard began the season in similar fashion, jumping out to a 5-1 record. Senior guard Jeremy Lin has led the Crimson in points with 16.3 per game and in assists with five per game. After losing in a close contest at Army 56-53, the Crimson beat up New Hampshire 78-60, and defeated crosstown rival Boston University 78-70. Against the Terriers, the Crimson was down for most of the second half until it rallied and pulled away with 1:27 left in the second half thanks to Lin, who scored a game-high 19 points.

Brown fared well this past week, picking up wins in two of three contests and improving to 4-4 on the year. Sophomore guard Garrett Leffelman performed some late game heroics against Bryant University when he hit a layup with one second left on the clock to win the game 70-68. The Bears have relied on the play of junior forward Matt Mullery, who has averaged 16.8 points, 2.6 assists and 5.8 rebounds per game. Brown cruised by the University of the Sciences with a 69-48 win but lost this past Saturday to the Siena Saints 99-79. Against the balanced Siena squad, which has gone to the NCAA tournament the past two years, Mullery scored 23 points.



Princeton has lost three straight road games to Army 56-52, George Washington University 65-50 and California 81-60. The Tigers have been led by junior guard Dan Mavraides and sophomore guard Douglas Davis who have averaged 11.2 and 9.8 points per game, respectively. Princeton’s record is now 2-3.

Yale went 1-2 to fall to a 2-5 overall record. The Bulldogs lost to Charlotte 88-74 as senior forward Jordan Gibson scored a career-high 25 points. Yale came back to defeat Elon 69-65 thanks to the help of junior guard Porter Braswell who sank four free throws and made a critical steal in the final 13 seconds. However, Army continued to beat up on the Ancient Eight by defeating Yale 64-48.

Dartmouth has had a rough start to the year as it has lost two out of its last three games. After being down by only one with 11:33 left in the second half, the Big Green was only able to score three points the rest of the game as they fell to Loyola (Md.) 58-41. The Big Green responded by beating Hartford 68-56 with a strong contribution by senior guard Robby Pride who scored 19 points. Dartmouth then lost to Vermont at home 63-58 in a close contest. No dominant scorer has emerged for the Big Green, which currently has a record of 1-5.

Penn is still looking for its first win after losing its first four games. The Quakers have lost to Penn State 70-55, No. 3 Villanova, 103-65, Delaware 97-94 (2 OT) and most recently Delaware 58-49. In the double-overtime thriller versus the Fighting Blue Hens, the Quakers were led by sophomore guard Zack Rosen who scored 25 points. Penn will face Navy on Friday.

Columbia’s own sophomore guard Noruwa Agho was named Ivy League Co-Player of the Week for the second straight week. Agho’s tremendous scoring ability, 19.6 points per game, has been on display throughout the first five games of the season. Despite his performance, Columbia has fallen to 2-3. Agho, who is currently the nation’s leader in 3-point field goal percentage, went seven for eight from behind the arc in a 73-59 win against Bucknell and four for seven in a 85-60 loss to Syracuse.

On Thursday, Princeton will remain in-state as they travel to Rutgers, and Columbia will face Lehigh at home.



Jasper Clyatt / Staff photographer

THREE POINTERS | Sophomore guard Naruwa Agho is averaging 19.6 points per game after five contests. He currently leads the nation in three-point field goal percentage.

Sophomore Beato shines in Light Blue victory over Delaware

BY SARAH SOMMER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Columbia women’s basketball team achieved a 75-63 victory over Delaware on Wednesday night at Levien Gymnasium. With the win, the Lions (4-3) avenged last season’s 14-point loss to the Blue Hens.

Columbia head coach Paul Nixon cited rebounding as the key to the victory. The Lions grabbed a total of 40 boards to the Blue Hens’ 31.

“We knew coming in that the boards was really going to be a huge factor—that we had to have all five people rebounding, and clamoring for the loose balls, and really trying to keep it alive—and I thought that we did a good job with that,” Nixon said. “We end up out-rebounding them for the game, and I think that was the difference in the outcome.”

The game began as a back-and-forth contest. After three minutes of play, the score was knotted at 4-4. Junior guard Kathleen Barry then went on a 4-0 run of her own, scoring a jumper and a transition layup to put Columbia ahead by four points. Delaware (2-3) kept the game close, however, and took a two-point lead with 7:40 left in the first half.

Just 10 seconds later, Columbia retook the lead when sophomore guard Melissa Shafer drilled a 3-pointer. Sophomore guard Mary Beato entered the game for the Lions with just under six minutes to play and immediately made her presence felt. She hit two free throws and a trey after fewer than two minutes on the court, giving Columbia a seven-point advantage.

With 1:21 left in the first half, Beato gave the Lions their first double-digit lead of the night with her second 3-pointer. She then scored Columbia’s final points of the period by sinking another pair of foul shots with 14 seconds to play. At halftime, the Lions held a 41-30 advantage.

Columbia opened the second half with sloppy play on both ends of the floor, allowing Delaware to cut its deficit to four points in the first three minutes. The Lions were able to regroup, however, and led by 11 with 11:58 to play. From that point on, Columbia held a double-digit advantage.

Beato extended the Lions’ lead to 20 points when she hit her third 3-pointer with 7:18 remaining. Columbia struggled against Delaware’s full-court pressure defense in the final minutes but finished

	DELAWARE	63	
	COLUMBIA	75	

with a 12-point win. Barry led Columbia with 18 points, but it was Beato who stole the show for the Lions, with 17 points in 16 minutes off the bench. Beato did not compete last year due to an ACL injury.

“I just needed to put points on the board,” she said. “I feel like, for the first time ... I kind of stepped up and played the way I should play.”

Junior guard Tesia Harris scored a game-high 24 points for the Blue Hens, who were without forward/guard Elena Delle Donne for a second straight game due to an ankle injury. Delle Donne—named the 2007-2008 National Player of the Year by the Naismith, McDonald’s, and Gatorade foundations as a high school senior—leads Delaware with 25 points and nine rebounds per contest.

Columbia continues nonconference play on Friday, when it hosts St. John’s. Tip-off is set for 12:30 p.m.



Jasper Clyatt / Staff photographer

DEFENSIVE FORCE | Asenso Ampim’s defense in the post against Bucknell shows the potential he has as a player this season.

Lions look to end two-game losing streak with win over Lehigh

BY MICHELE CLEARY
Spectator Staff Writer

The Columbia men’s basketball team will be returning home Thursday night in hopes of ending its two-game losing skid. The Lions (2-3) have dropped their last two games, both on the road, to No. 8 Syracuse and No. 7 Sacred Heart, but will look to bring their record back to .500 when they face Lehigh in New York.

The Light Blue’s 60-55 loss to the Pioneers on Monday night was marked by a series of scoring runs. Columbia opened the game with a 14-3 run, only to find itself down by seven at halftime. But just three-and-a-half minutes into the second half, back-to-back jumpers by senior guard Patrick Foley sparked a 23-3 run, giving the Lions an eight-point lead. It was then Sacred Heart’s turn to go on a tear, outscoring Columbia 20-7 in the final eight-and-a-half minutes of the game.

“We played well in spurts,” head coach Joe Jones said. “We played really well to start the game, we played really well in the start of the second half, but we didn’t play consistently well enough to win.”

Even though the Lions held the Pioneers to 36.8 percent from the field—31.3 percent in the second half—Sacred Heart used its 3-point shooting to put the game away. The Pioneers made 41.7 percent of their shots from behind the arc and went 5-for-9 in

COLUMBIA VS. LEHIGH

Levien Gym, 7 p.m.

their game-ending run. “They made some tough threes,” Jones said. Even though the Light Blue has been receiving good offensive production from Foley, sophomore guard Noruwa Agho, and junior forward Brian Grimes, Jones believes that senior guard Niko Scott needs to start consistently shooting well again, as he has in past years.

“For us to be really good, I think it would be good to have a guy like Niko, who’s very capable of scoring, get going a little bit,” Jones said.

Against Sacred Heart, Scott was 1-3 from the field and 0-2 from long range. For the season, he is shooting 29.6 percent from the field, much lower than last season’s 43.1 percent.

Lehigh (3-3) is also coming off a loss, as it fell to Stony Brook 71-52 on Monday night. The Mountain Hawks only made 30.1 percent of their shots, while allowing the Seawolves to sink 40 percent of theirs.

Sophomore guard John Adams came off the bench to lead Lehigh with 13 points, while junior