

WINTER WONDERLAND



LIGHTS UP | At last night’s tree-lighting ceremony, students enjoyed hot drinks and snacks while basking in the glow of a newly illuminated College Walk. The annual event inspired many students to bundle up and brave the cold.



CHRISTINA PHAN FOR SPECTATOR

City seeks West Harlem rezoning

With CU expansion, Stringer hopes to limit development

BY ABBY MITCHELL
Columbia Daily Spectator

As Columbia breaks ground on its Manhattanville campus expansion, the city is pushing forward with a rezoning that will place new limits on neighborhood development.

Officials from the Department of City Planning presented a preliminary plan to rezone most of West Harlem to around 200 local residents Thursday night. The plan, which does not include the 17-acre expansion zone, would restrict building heights for 90 blocks from 126th Street to 155th Street and between Riverside Drive and Edgecombe Avenue in the first large-scale rezoning project in the area since 1961.

For Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, who organized the forum at the Manhattanville Community Center, the rezoning is a chance to define the area’s growth in the wake of Columbia’s new campus.

“When Columbia’s expansion was heading our way, we had to make sure the community would get the kind of rezoning ... that would preserve and protect it in the future,” Stringer said. “The goal here for me is that Columbia gentrification stops at the line that they own.”

Melissa Cerezo from City Planning said that the new plan will limit most building heights to 12 stories and how far buildings are from the curbs. The plan also includes a mixed-use zoning district which will allow for increased commercial space.

Edwin Marshall, Upper Manhattan planner for the DCP, said the project is the product of a two-year study of the West Harlem area that began in April 2008. In the study, the DCP looked for ways to preserve the existing character of the residential neighborhoods of Manhattanville, Hamilton Heights, and Sugar Hill while exploring new options for manufacturing, commerce, and affordable housing.

“The goal here for me is that Columbia gentrification stops at the line that they own.”

—Scott Stringer,
Manhattan borough president

“This is a very key point in realizing this collaborative dream we have for West Harlem,” he said.

To address housing shortages, the zoning plan supports additional permanently affordable housing units, which would be exempt from the area’s height limit and could be up to 17 stories high.

That concerned some residents, who worried that such exceptions would create more

SEE REZONING, page 2

Campus publications share ideas through new alliance

BY LEAH GREENBAUM
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

In the competitive world of campus publishing, a group of publications are now playing nice.

Roughly 35 publications have formed an umbrella group that organizers say will address the challenges facing literary magazines, journals, and other periodicals on campus.

“We don’t really see the other publications as rivals, and we don’t see the

administration as enemies,” said Samuel Kerbel, GS/JTS ’11 and editor in chief of The Current, a quarterly publication on current events and Jewish culture. “We’re trying to reach out and make connections.”

Kerbel said the idea for the InterPublication Alliance began when he and his friend Mark Hay, CC ’12 and editor in chief of the Columbia Political Review and Awaaz, a magazine about South Asian politics and

culture, realized their organizations faced many of the same problems.

One concern was the lack of a clear way to distribute to students on campus, since the Columbia Daily Spectator and Tablet, a literary magazine, are the only two publications with their own racks.

“We get a lot of magazines and publications wantonly thrown away,” said Hay, a former Spectator columnist, adding that without specific

places for each publication, the racks become a mess.

Other groups are still working to get their writing into print.

Lauren Argenti, CC ’12 and managing editor of NOW!HERE, a travel journal that publishes online only, said that her publication hopes to create a print supplement next semester because hard copies are more visible to students.

“It’s really hard to market

SEE PUBLICATIONS, page 2

CU looks toward four new global centers

BY AMBER TUNNELL AND
SAVANNAH FLETCHER
Columbia Daily Spectator

Seeking to expand its international reach, Columbia is now looking to secure funds and space for new research centers across four continents.

As part of an ongoing initiative, the University hopes to open four more global centers, which are satellite research facilities, in Turkey, Kazakhstan, Kenya, and Brazil, Kenneth Prewitt, the vice president for global centers, said.

Over the last year and a half, Columbia has opened centers in Amman, Jordan; Beijing, China; Paris, France; and Mumbai, India, and administrators hope to implement four new programs by the end of the 2011-2012 academic year—which Prewitt said would complete Columbia’s international network.

Though the new centers are in different stages—with

Turkey’s closest to completion—Prewitt said that this latest push is about both extending Columbia globally and also building a structure for the new centers within the University.

DEFINING THE VISION

“All the centers are supposed to be reflective of the entire University,” Prewitt said in a recent interview. “I think of the centers as sort of taking a miniaturized version of this place [the campus in Morningside Heights] and putting it in other places.”

The University has raised about \$4 million through alumni and trustee donations for the global center network, Prewitt said. “Our alumni really like these things,” he said, adding that many international alumni from these regions are glad to see centers open close to home.

In addition to securing necessary funds, Prewitt said that

Columbia is working to establish a clear vision.

“It takes a long time to figure out how to pull them into the fabric of the University,” he said.

Over the next few years, Prewitt said that he wants to implement a clearer structure.

Now, he said there is only a small staff working on the centers at Columbia, and it is currently spread out in multiple buildings on campus. Ideally, he said there should be an office for the global centers. And with a bigger staff, he said organizers could work on all four potential centers simultaneously.

Organizers are also actively exploring how the program could benefit students directly, since the centers are research-based and not satellite campuses for study abroad.

For Prewitt, setting up an

SEE CENTERS, page 2



ZARA CASTANY / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FOOD FOR THOUGHT | State Senator Bill Perkins wants to ban food in stations like 96th Street.

Local politician aims to fight MTA’s rats, ban food

BY FINN VIGELAND
Columbia Daily Spectator

Grabbing a bagel before hopping on the 1 train may soon be illegal if a Harlem state senator has his way.

State Senator Bill Perkins is proposing a ban on food on the subways to battle rat problems underground—though some locals remain skeptical that such a ban would work.

In a study conducted by Perkins between September and October of more than 5000 residents in upper Manhattan—including Morningside Heights and

West Harlem—87 percent of respondents spotted rats daily or weekly and 86 percent reported seeing rats on the tracks or platforms.

“The customers are saying the place could be cleaner, and the customers are saying that the conditions are contributing to the rat problem,” Perkins said. “And the customer’s always right.”

Perkins said his office is conducting further research and preparing to introduce the legislation in January, which would ban all food in subway stations and cars.

“Rats are in the subway because they follow the

food,” said Carla Toro, a research scientist with the NYC Department of Health. “If we reduce the quantity of litter, garbage, and crumbs, that’s definitely step one.”

But rats need only one ounce of food a day to live, Toro added, so the ban would need to be strictly enforced.

At the newly renovated 96th Street 1 train station, Aashna Kishore said she would support a food ban but added, “It would be a very tough thing to impose on New Yorkers—they’re always on the move.”

SEE RATS, page 2

OPINION, PAGE 4

Smoking safely

For everyone’s benefit, smokers should have designated areas.

Egypt for the people

Rhonda Shafei stresses America’s diplomatic role in Egyptian democracy.



SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Women’s basketball 0-6 after losing to Wagner

Although Columbia led 29-26 at halftime, it lost 69-50 after allowing Wagner to score 43 points in the second half. With the loss, Columbia remains winless for the year.

EVENTS

Google Ninja Skills

Learn advanced tricks for using Gmail and Google Apps.
Schermerhorn Hall, Room 614

U.S. State Department and Refugee Assistance

Join Rafael P. Foley for a discussion on refugee and migrant rights.
801 SIPA, 12 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



43°/31°

Tomorrow



43°/31°



ZARA CASTANY / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

INFESTED? | State Senator Bill Perkins says that garbage from food, like the above at 125th Street, exacerbates rat problems.

Harlem state senator seeks to ban food on subways to fight rats

RATS from front page

The idea has some business owners concerned as well. Subway food vendor Monli Chowdhury, whose newsstand is set up on the 110th Street southbound platform, said prohibiting food would only upset straphangers. “I don’t see any rats in this station,” he said. “People come here all the time for food, and they don’t complain.” Although he could continue to operate his newsstand by selling only periodicals and beverages, he said that the state should be focusing on other problems. “I have a business here, and

I need to protect that,” he said. Perkins said that his office is considering alternatives to help vendors make up for the loss of food revenue. “We don’t want to do anything that cripples their income, and while we’re not sure that stopping food vending would automatically cripple the income, it can be replaced,” he said. In response to Perkins, MTA officials said that the city has several measures in place to combat rodent problems. Transit workers routinely power-wash station platforms and track areas, MTA spokesperson Kevin Ortiz said, adding that the MTA uses

“rodent-resistant trash receptacles” and employs a team of exterminators. “We periodically launch public service campaigns asking customers not to eat in subways or on buses,” Ortiz said. But Perkins said his survey indicates New Yorkers think the MTA has not done enough. A respondent quoted in Perkins’ survey wrote, “I saw a rat climb up an unsuspecting woman’s leg at the 125th Street station. Rats are constantly on the platform there.” On the 1 line, respondents reported seeing the most rats at the 96th Street, 125th Street and 145th Street stations, though

rats are a city-wide issue. A June study, conducted by the city Board of Health, found that half the subway lines in lower Manhattan exhibited signs of mild or severe infestation. “I think if a food ban is a clear way to keep rat population down, that’s good,” said Mel Lehman, an Upper West Side resident. “There’s a public pride in our city not to have trash.” Still, some are not ready to make the change. “I eat on the subway all the time, so I would be pretty sad,” commuter Natasha Marsh said at 96th Street. “Rats are kind of inevitable.” news@columbiaspectator.com

Columbia looks to expand reach with four new global centers

CENTERS from front page

international network is important because it exposes the University to new ideas and ways of thinking. “I think if the whole concept works the way we hope it does, it’s not about Columbia changing the world, it’s about letting the world change Columbia,” he said.

INTERSECTIONS AT TURKEY

Columbia has obtained roughly half the necessary funding and a small space to launch a center in Istanbul, which could open in the coming spring or fall semester, Prewitt said. The University will likely start discussing leadership of the center and the program’s activities this spring. Experts say that Turkey is a meeting place of diverse cultures and religions that make it an appropriate location for academic study. “It is an intellectually ... very important connecting link between the Christian world and the Islamic world, the European world and the Asian world,” Prewitt said.

Karen Barkey, a sociology and history professor and academic advisor for the center—whose research often brings her to Istanbul—said that the center is in the early planning stages. “Istanbul is a really, really vibrant society where a lot of changes are happening,” she said. “If there is a way to both contribute to Turkey and open up a dialogue between Columbia and Turkish scholars, that would be fantastic.” Kayla Daly, CC ’12, who plans to study abroad at Bogazici University in Istanbul next semester, said she would be interested in exploring work opportunities the center could provide, or even an opportunity to practice Turkish. “Turkey is such a pivotal location between Europe and the Middle East,” she said. “Especially now that it’s increasing its influence on the Middle East, it could play a big

role in global politics.” So far, Prewitt said that the School of the Arts and the Columbia Journalism School have both shown interest in utilizing a center in Turkey. Columbia has also been discussing possible activities connecting the Paris and Istanbul centers, he said. For professors who study the surrounding region, he added, Turkey is an ideal location. “People here who have worked on things in that part of the world think that’s the only place to be if you want to be in that.”

“It’s not about Columbia changing the world, it’s about letting the world change Columbia.”

—Kenneth Prewitt, vice president for global centers

BUILDING ON SOCIAL WORK IN KAZAKHSTAN

Columbia is considering opening up a center in Kazakhstan as well, Prewitt said, though the city where it will open is not yet decided. The global center, which could possibly open next fall, would build on the School of Social Work’s Global Health Research Center of Central Asia, which is based in Almaty, Kazakhstan. GHRCCA, established in 2007, seeks to produce sustainable solutions to the region’s public health and social problems. Although Prewitt emphasized that these global centers are not about one school, he said that established programs, such as GHRCCA, can

help ground the new center, which could also be housed in the country’s capital of Astana. Nabila El-Bassel, the director of the GHRCCA, said a global center would increase the communication between Columbia, the region, and the other global centers. Prewitt said that Columbia has a strong relationship with the nation’s government. “The leadership of Kazakhstan would like more of Columbia to be there.”

NEW CONTINENTS

Two centers in Nairobi, Kenya and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil are also currently in discussion, Prewitt said, although the ideas for these centers are much less developed than the ones in Turkey and Kazakhstan. Both centers are in consideration because of existing Columbia programs in the regions. Columbia’s Earth Institute is already working in Nairobi, while the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation has a presence in Rio. “Nairobi is absolutely a key place strategically in terms of East Africa,” said Elliott Sclar, the director of the Center for Sustainable Urban Development at the Earth Institute. Sclar, whose seven-member team has been working in Nairobi for five years, said that a global center would make their work there much easier—they would no longer need to work out of hotels or temporary apartments. “It would be nice to have a more identifiable place,” he said. Jane Clayton, an adjunct assistant professor in Middle East, South Asia, and African Studies who teaches Swahili, said that a center in Kenya would give African studies and Swahili students opportunities to learn in the heart of East Africa. “Students will have unparalleled opportunities to examine the challenges facing one of Africa’s most diverse

and prosperous nations as it strives to preserve its cultural heritage,” she said in an email. A global center in Nairobi would also supplement the limited Swahili study abroad programs, Clayton said. In Rio, a global center would build on a pre-existing GSAPP program, which opened this year. The school recently launched a branch of its urban studies research network called Studio-X, which has locations in Amman, Beijing, Mumbai, and Moscow. Still, Prewitt said, it would probably be about a year before they would begin discussions for a new global center. Henrique Maia, CC ’14, who is from Brazil, said that it made sense to expand Columbia’s reach in the center of South America’s economic growth. “We are a growing nation in power, and we’ve always been such a large influence on other cultures,” he said. “It’d also be good to learn from a unique nation like Brazil. ... We don’t take sides on global issues—we’re usually the moderator.” **THE LONG HAUL** Though Prewitt hopes to have all eight centers operating with full staff and programming by the end of the 2011-2012 academic year, it’s possible that one of the projects could fall through. “I don’t know if that is too ambitious. We started this in the middle of one of the largest financial meltdowns in this century,” he said, adding that the University is also focused on other large initiatives, like its 17-acre campus expansion in Manhattanville. But, he said, “This is for the long haul. This is what kind of place we are going to be [as a University] in 25 years, not what kind of place we are going to be in two years.” “We are learning as we grow,” he said. “We know it is important for Columbia to have a global footprint.” news@columbiaspectator.com

City seeks West Harlem rezoning in wake of expansion

REZONING from front page

problems than they solve. “This is not good planning, and it’s not appropriate,” said Walter South, West Harlem resident and Community Board 9 member. “We need down-zoning, not 17-story complexes.” The plan is still in a preliminary stage and will face a review of its environmental impact and a separate, multi-step public review process. Some residents, though, were wary of long-term consequences, citing the need for more medical facilities if there were any increase in traffic congestion or population. “We already have a sewer treatment plant, air quality issues,” Manhattanville resident Mary Goodman said. “I have many concerns.” The meeting became contentious at points, especially surrounding Columbia’s perceived

role in the area’s ongoing gentrification. Before DCP director Amanda Burden’s speech, Tom DeMott, CC ’80 and co-founder of the Coalition to Preserve Community, accused Stringer of “cutting a deal” with University President Lee Bollinger and was escorted off the premises by police. “Harlem is a treasure,” said resident and CB9 member Vicky Gholson. “Between the expansion of Columbia University and this, it’s just too much, too fast.” But CB9 chair Larry English was more optimistic. “The rezoning plan is just a tool. ... It is not the end-all, and it cannot solve all of the problems. We are not just going to do a rezoning and walk away.” Addressing the audience, English said, “This is a new attitude in Harlem. Don’t be afraid of change.” news@columbiaspectator.com

Campus publications share ideas through new alliance

PUBLICATIONS from front page

a website on campus. ... If you see a sign that says go to nowhere.com, you’re not going to do it. We’re trying to get something in people’s hands so they can say, OK, this is what NOW!HERE is,” Argenti said. Kerbel said that other publications were struggling to publish online at all. “Many have attempted to [create a website], but they haven’t been able to focus on it because they’re just trying to get that month’s issue out,” he said. To help solve that, Hay said the alliance is looking into grant applications and fundraising to hire an outside web developer to build a central website that would link to every publication on campus.

It hasn’t been an easy couple of years for revenue raising, said Jon Hill, editor in chief of the Blue and White, which is part of the alliance. “It’s been difficult for our publisher to sell ads,” Hill said. “Hopefully this will give us a better bargaining position with local businesses and national ad services.” Members are also hoping that sharing information about finances and logistics will help ease that burden. Hay said he realized that CPR had been making less for ads and paying more for printing than other campus publications after speaking with other groups. “We kinda get really raw deals,” he said of student

publications. “With CPR, we did some poking around and found that it was costing other magazines several hundred dollars less to print their issues the exact same way than we were paying.” Kerbel said that the members of the Student Governing Board, which funds most publications on campus, likes to see a completed issue before they give money to a new group.

“You can’t really print without money. It’s kind of a catch-22.”

—Samuel Kerbel, GS/JTS ’11, editor in chief of *The Current*

“You can’t really print without money. It’s kind of a catch-22,” he said, adding that IPA hopes to give funding and guidance to start-ups. Hay said that even though everyone is competing for the same readership and ad revenue, he thinks the increased cooperation will be useful. “Efforts like this in the past have fallen flat,” he said. “Just the fact that everyone’s gotten together and agreed to start handling issues is a pretty tangible accomplishment for everyone.” leah.greenbaum@columbiaspectator.com

NEWS BRIEF

University Senate prepares to vote on reduced smoking ban

After a two-year evaluation process, the smoking ban policy facing a final vote at today’s University Senate meeting includes several last-minute revisions. An updated policy resolution was released on Thursday, making the proposed ban within 20 feet of all campus buildings, not 50 feet—one of a few changes to the policy that was first brought to the senate on Nov. 12. That change would be in line with New York State law, which prohibits smoking within 20 feet of all college residence halls. At the last meeting, Michael McNeil, chair of the Tobacco Work Group, said they had decided on a policy of 50 feet to be consistent with the 50-foot policies that some Columbia buildings, such as Avery Fine Arts and Architecture Library, already have in place. After some senators raised concerns about the policy’s enforcement, the revised resolution calls for a designated authority to enforce the ban, and increased education and resources for smoking cessation.

Michael Adler, a professor at the Columbia Business School and a self-proclaimed smoker, proposed an amendment at last month’s meeting to install small huts around campus to provide safe spaces for smokers during inclement weather. While that amendment was voted down in November, the senate did agree to consider the idea going forward. The revised proposal states that when the policy undergoes its two-year review, the External Relations Committee should pay particular attention to the idea of building sheltered smoking areas. The original resolution was based on a two-year evaluation process conducted by the Tobacco Work Group, a group of students and staff established in 2008 by Vice President of Campus Services Scott Wright. At the end of the Nov. 12 meeting, a straw poll on the original 50-foot resolution found that 22 were in favor of the policy and 16 opposed, with nine abstentions. —Amber Tunnell

Qatar illogical choice to host 2022 World Cup

LEVENFELD from back page

telephone interview with the Associated Press. “Basically, oil and natural gas won today,” he said. “This was not about merit. This was about money.”

But this doesn’t make sense either. A United States World Cup would bring in significantly more revenue at much lower costs.

And what did Qatar have going for it? One of its main arguments rings hollow to me. The monarchical nation claims that it is unfairly seen as a society where women are denied rights in a region where conflict and strife is widespread. Qatar hopes both to change these perceptions and to promote peace in the region by hosting the tournament.

But shouldn’t peace, stability, and human rights (not to mention democracy) come first? Why should a nation be rewarded for the promise of progress instead of for progress itself?

So where did we go wrong?

For one thing, FIFA is not like many other international organizations in which the United States or other great powers

wield disproportionate authority. The executive committee is made up of 24 members from 24 countries, although two are currently banned—Tahiti’s for breaching FIFA’s code of confidentiality and Nigeria’s for attempting to sell his vote. America holds no veto power and can simply be outvoted.

Did anti-American sentiment play a significant role in the outcome? Hard to say. Then again, gaining FIFA’s approval is not necessarily a badge of honor: The organization and its leadership, including President Sepp Blatter, have regularly been accused of corruption and, on a simpler level, poor management. It’s not hard to see why. There seems to be nothing sound, either from a financial point of view or in the interests of the game’s future, about the executive committee’s decision.

But the damage is done. It’s a sad day for American soccer fans and a sad day for our favorite “Principles” professor.

Jacob Levenfeld is a List College senior majoring in history and Talmud.

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Barry’s 16 not enough for Light Blue to notch win

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL from back page

lead was large. But the Seahawks were far from finished.

Wagner led by 14 just over a minute later, weathered a 5-0 Columbia run, and held a 58-46 advantage with 4:23 remaining. From there, the Seahawks outscored the Lions 11-4, turning a comfortable lead into a blow-out victory.

“While we weren’t finishing ours [our layups] on one end, the big Clark girl was finishing all of hers on the other end,” Nixon said. “That’s the story of the game.”

Nixon was referring to junior center Kelly Clark, who scored a game-high 27 points for Wagner. Clark hit 11 of 15 field goals, six of which came in the second half. She also grabbed 15 rebounds.

“Those are numbers she’ll probably never approach again,” Nixon said. “No offense to her, but 27 and 15—that’s a career game for many players. So she did a great job, and we did a very poor job defending her.”

The Lions also shot poorly from the three-point line, going 0-for-16 from beyond the arc.

“That’s just not acceptable, especially for Columbia basketball,” said Barry, who finished with a team-high 16 points but missed three from long range.

Columbia will have a chance to revive its three-point shooting—and earn its first win—on Sunday, when the Lions travel to Monmouth. But the Hawks (4-2) are riding a three-game winning streak, and all four of their victories have been by double-digit margins.

Last year, Columbia held a 40-18 halftime lead over Monmouth. The Lions went on to win by a score of 70-54, leading by as many as 26 points at one juncture in the second half.

Columbia would have loved to have that type of second half on Thursday. Instead, the Lions scored 21 points while Wagner scored 43.

With just under two minutes remaining against Wagner, Barry made a steal and took the ball up the floor for a layup. It was a beautiful play, but it merely cut Columbia’s deficit to 12 points. Unlike her shot to end the first half, this one served only as a reminder of what could have been.



NATASHA CLINE-THOMAS FOR SPECTATOR

NOT QUITE | Kathleen Barry had 16 points against Wagner, but the women’s basketball team was unable to pick up a win.

MEN’S SWIMMING

Light Blue looks to make waves at Princeton Invitational

The Columbia men’s swimming and diving team will travel down to New Jersey this weekend to compete in the Princeton Invitational.

The meet is structured so that preliminary races will be in the morning, and finals will be at night. Head coach Jim Bolster aims to have all members of the team advance past the preliminaries.

“Our goal is to have everyone get at least one second swim,” Bolster said.

The Light Blue will be swimming against some tough competition. Columbia will

be looking to place first over Princeton, Florida, Brown, and Rider. Last year, Florida finished the season No. 5 in the nation. Princeton is a perennial Ancient Eight contender, and last year, it placed first at the Ivy League championship meet. Brown defeated Columbia in their dual league meet last year, and Rider finished first in its conference.

The Lions did not see action in the pool last weekend because of Thanksgiving holiday.

“The meet is a wonderful opportunity for us to swim

PRINCETON INVITATIONAL
Princeton, N.J., Dec. 3-5, 11 a.m.

against some of the top talent in the country and in our league. If the guys can keep focused on racing instead of who they are racing, we should have a successful weekend,” Bolster said.

The meet will kick off at 11 a.m. on Friday at DeNunzio Pool in Princeton, N.J. This will be the Lions’ last meet before winter break.

—Rebeka Cohan

WOMEN’S SWIMMING

Columbia to host Wagner for last home meet of 2010

This weekend, the Columbia women’s swimming team will host Wagner College while the women’s diving team will compete separately at the Big Al Invitational in Princeton, N.J., from Friday through Sunday. The swimming and diving team is 0-2 for the season after losing dual meets to Yale and Harvard in November.

Before the break, the Lions competed in the Rutgers Invitational, placing eighth out of 14 teams with a total of 626 points.

Sophomore Katie Meili highlighted Columbia’s

showing at the event, as she won the 100 and 200 breast events. Sophomore Caroline Lukins placed second in the 200 fly, clocking a time of 2:05.05. Freshman Grace Senkos also had a breakout performance, finishing fourth in the 200 backstroke with a time of 2:06.61 in the final round.

When the Lions traveled to Wagner last year, they dominated the Seahawks 143-58, to earn their first win of that season. Columbia took 10 of 11 events, and Meili set a new Wagner pool record in the 100 free with a time of 53.48.

The diving team will

COLUMBIA VS. WAGNER
Uris Pool, Saturday, 1 p.m.

PRINCETON INVITATIONAL
Princeton, N.J., Dec. 3-5.

travel with the men’s team to Princeton to compete in the Big Al Invitational. This will be the first time the women’s team has competed in the event.

The Wagner meet will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday in Uris Pool, and the Big Al Invitational will begin Friday morning.

—Julia Garrison

WRESTLING

Lions travel to Las Vegas for Cliff Keen Invitational

The Columbia wrestling team will travel to Las Vegas, Nev., this weekend to compete in the 29th Cliff Keen Collegiate Invitational. The tournament has a reputation for being a difficult event, yet the Lions are looking for some wins against the tough competition. The tournament this year is hosting 36 teams, down from 42 teams last year—in which Columbia finished 24th.

After a strong performance that concluded by pinning No. 11 Mario Mason at the Northeast Duals this past weekend, 149-pounder Steve Santos will look to continue his string of excellent competition with the hopes of earning a national ranking

for himself next week. Last year, Santos narrowly missed placing after being awarded the eighth seed in the tournament.

Junior co-captain Kyle Gilchrist, who was the only Lion to go 3-0 last weekend, will compete in the 125-pound weight class. In 2009, Gilchrist led the Lions at this tournament, coming up one win short of placing with a loss to a wrestler from Boise State.

165-pounder Eren Civan, who was ranked 18th in the nation in the preseason polls, dropped both of his matches this past weekend and will look to rebound from that performance. Last year at this tournament, Civan went 3-2 but was edged out of placing

CLIFF KEEN COLLEGIATE INVITATIONAL
Las Vegas, Nev., Dec. 3-4

after losing to then-No. 6 Andy Renos from Bucknell.

This weekend will be important to the Lions in order to gain momentum for next year, as it is the last tournament the wrestling team will compete in before January. Following the event, the wrestling team will resume competition Jan. 7 in a match against Army. The Las Vegas Invitational will take place on Friday and Saturday and will be held at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

—Meredith Mead

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Shame leads to knowledge

Each Friday, a professor will share scholastic wisdom readers won't find in lectures. Suggestions regarding which professors to feature are welcome.

BY DEBORAH A. MARTINSEN

Shame is disruptive, disorienting, painful. It comes upon us suddenly—most devastatingly from without, most pain-fully from within. It makes us feel exposed, vulnerable, self-conscious. It makes us feel excluded, disqualified, unworthy. It makes us want to flee, hide, die. Shame spreads rap-idly: We feel shame whenever we witness, talk, read, or think about it. Shame inundates, overwhelms, mortifies. It makes us feel iso-lated, alienated, estranged. Shame patrols the boundaries between self and others: It tells us what is not appropri-ate, not legal, not right. Shame is paradoxical: It violates yet protects individual integrity. Although shame floods us with feeling, it heightens our mental faculties and can lead to self-knowledge.

Literature Humanities affords numerous examples of how shame relates to our identity. In the Garden of Eden, Eve and Adam eat the fruit, learn they are naked, cover themselves, and hide from God. Their attempts to conceal themselves reveal their transgression, and God exiles them. Shame relates broadly to human identity and guilt more narrowly to human action, yet the myth does not correlate self-knowledge with shame and knowledge of the world's norms with guilt. Transgression leads to both self-knowl-edge (their nudity) and knowledge of the external world (their nudity's impropriety and their action's wrongfulness). But this knowledge separates. Once aware of themselves and of the world outside themselves, they lose their spontaneous, unmediated relationship to self, world, and God.

Shames can force us to examine ourselves and our relationships with others.

Moments of shame and identity appear elsewhere on the Lit Hum syllabus. Embracing the heroic code, Hektor re-turms to battle because “I would feel deep shame/before the Trojans, and the Trojan women with trailing garments,/ if like a coward I were to shrink aside from the fighting” (Iliad 6:441-3). When Oedipus discovers that he has unknowingly killed his father and slept with his mother, bringing pollution to the land, he blinds himself: “I do not know with what eyes I could look/ upon my father when I die and go/ under the earth, nor yet my wretched mother/ . . . Would the sight of children, bred as mine gladden me?” (Oedipus II. 1372-76). A drunken Alcibiades confesses to his companions, “Socrates is the only man in the world who has made me feel shame ... My whole life has become one constant effort to escape from him and keep away, but when I see him, I feel deeply ashamed, because I'm doing nothing about my way of life, though I have agreed with him that I should” (Symposium, 216B-C). Upon rereading Mr. Darcy's letter, Elizabeth Bennet “grew absolutely ashamed of herself” and admits: “... vanity, not love, has been my folly. —Pleased with the preference of one, and offended by the neglect of the other, on the very beginning of our acquaintance, I have courted prepossession and ignorance, and driven reason away, where either were concerned. Till this moment, I never knew myself” (Pride and Prejudice, Bk 2, Chpt 13).

Yet shame at one's identity can lead to violence. Raskolnikov commits murder to prove his identity as a su-per-man, above good and evil. He wants to find out “whether I was a louse like all the rest, or a man? Would I be able to step over, or not!” (Crime and Punishment, Part 5, Chpt. 4). After murdering the pawnbroker and her meek sister Lizaveta, however, Raskolnikov confronts shame's paradox: His extreme alienation reminds him of his deep connection to others.

Literature shows us that guilt follows a script: transgres-sion, punishment, repentance, reincorporation into com-munity. But shame has no script. It unleashes emotions so powerful that we want to stop them at any cost. Spiraling out of control, it can mortify us and lead to suicide. By making us feel small or impotent, it can lead to acts of aggression. Yet, as Alcibiades and Elizabeth Bennet realize, it can force us to examine ourselves and our relationships with others, acknowledge our prejudices and ignorance, and perhaps change our habitual ways of looking at and being in the world. By galvanizing our emotions and intellects, shame forces us to examine ourselves, our values, and our actions. Like great books, shame can lead us to know ourselves, to exercise our moral imaginations, to see the world with new eyes. In short, shame offers us possibility along with pain: to change ourselves and perhaps our world.

The author is associate adjunct professor of Slavic lan-guages, associate dean of Alumni Education, and president of the International Dostoevsky Society.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Casual Friday: Over-extended

’Tis the season of scrambling and stress and deadlines for final papers, but it is also the season for giving. We hope to find our professors in that spirit when we ask them for extensions. But, as with holiday wish lists, how we ask matters as much as what we ask for. There are a number of acceptable approaches, including but not limited to:

The Fearless Leader: You will try to rally fellow classmates behind the common cause of getting the paper deadline pushed back. When this works, you're a hero, the teacher is impressed by the enthusiasm of the cohe-sive class, and the deadline is pushed back. However, the reality is that this rarely works, and you're left without an extension and/or your dignity.

The Liar: We don't think this really war-rants too much explanation. There's a family crisis. You're sick. There are personal issues

After Office Hours

A safe space for smokers

BY YURINA KO

I remember walking at the beginning of this semester to the plaza behind Altschul Hall for my customary smoking break and discovering, to my horror, that someone had removed the ashtray. The elimination of the smoking space at Barnard—the one beautiful sanctuary I held on to for the past three years—was already taking place. This is a defense of Barnard's smoking ar-eas from a smoker on campus. Allow me to kindle your interest.

The Barnard campus is technically smoke-free, with the ex-ception of two smoking areas—one next to the Quad and a more secluded plaza north of Altschul. The Student Government Association recently sent students a link to an online poll re-garding the potential obliteration of these smoking areas, allow-ing us to explain our reasons for or against it. That was when I discovered a serious flaw in the argument presented by the Barnard administration. The ban, apparently, is being consid-ered “in recognition of the serious public health consequences of smoking and second-hand smoke.”

First of all, the point of smoking areas is to contain the to-bacco fumes in a space where non-smokers are unaffected. As James Dawson pointed out in his column a few days ago, desig-nating smoking areas “makes sense for everyone at Columbia because it fosters common ground, bringing benefits for both smokers and nonsmokers.” And the two small plazas at Barnard should remain smoking areas due to their perfectly secluded lo-cations (good for non-smokers) and convenience (for Barnard smokers who have to run across campus).

The argument for public health, in this case, is unfortunately incoherent. If the Barnard administration truly cares about public health, it should consider distributing nicotine gum to current smokers and helping them quit, or even holding man-datory seminars on responsible etiquette for smoking in public to the reduce risk of second-hand smoke. Simply getting rid of smoking areas on campus only makes it harder to be consider-ate of others if we must resort to smoking outside. For example, smoking on the sidewalk of Broadway, where not only students but residents of Morningside Heights including small children and infants pass by, subjects many more people to smoke. In

The real politics of Egypt

When Stephen Walt visited the School of International and Public Affairs one month ago, an enthused au-dience received him, filling the venue to its brim. Walt, a professor of international relations at Harvard, is known to theoretically conscious Columbians as a major propo-nent of political realism—the idea that power and security are the preeminent forces that govern U.S. foreign policy. Columbians specifically concerned with American policies toward the Middle East know Walt as the co-author of a seminal text on the Israel lobby.

It's impossible to say what fraction of the audience at-tended the event out of reverence for the professor or, for that matter, how many attendees were staunch opponents of his views on American-Israeli relations. What is undis-putable, however, is that every attendee came to hear about realism, a divisive concept that has permeated our academic, professional, and social discourses. Realism has complicated our handling of all political issues.

Americans should take up the cause of Egyptian democracy and urge Egypt to consider solutions.

This theory is continuously brought up at Columbia, from conversations in Contemporary Civilization on Machiavelli to history discussions on the Cold War. This constant ex-posure to realism has drastically altered my perception of politics and has presumably affected the political opinions of my peers as well. An internal conflict over whether to accept realism or reject its amoral brashness has affected my polit-ics of hummus and obscured my sympathies with political movements in the Middle East.

As an Egyptian American, I've been inundated with myriad opinions on how things should be run in Egypt. I've absorbed conservative viewpoints about the ruling regime from diplomatic acquaintances in New York and in Cairo, critical viewpoints from political talk shows on private Egyptian satellite channels, and distraught viewpoints from citizens of the Egyptian diaspora in America.

I have come to simultaneously embrace and hate opposi-tion movements in Egypt. These movements have, laudably, aired numerous human rights injustices committed by the ruling regime and flagrant violations of globally-accepted democratic principles. High-profile opposition leaders, such as former International Atomic Energy Agency Director Mohamed ElBaradei, have drawn much-needed internation-al attention to economic and social injustices within the na-tion. International sympathy for the persecuted opposition

this respect, the relatively isolated area next to the Quad scores higher than the ashtray outside the gates.

On the other hand, if Barnard just doesn't want to have the reputation of fostering a smokers' community, by all means the ban should be enforced. But masking this with “public health” reasons is just heavy makeup to the administration's aims and makes one wonder what the administration means every time it refers to “public health” in other contexts.

Furthermore, smokers aren't as ignorant as many seem to think. It is inconceivable that smokers today, especially in an educated community, are unaware of the serious health con-sequences of smoking. Of course, I know it's bad for my health. But I also know that smoking is a delicious and rewarding pleasure that might seem unreasonable to many but in this respect is no different from any other kind of pleasure. As Kurt Vonnegut wrote, “Smoking is a fairly sure, fairly honorable form of suicide.” His black humor aside, the man raises an interest-ing point with which Mario Vargas Llosa, the Peruvian novelist and a Nobel laureate, agrees by calling this act of slow suicide “a choice that ought to figure on the list of basic human rights.”

All I'm asking for is a space where I can smoke responsibly.

You can tell me that it's simply a chemical addiction, a false cure for temporary stress, or a stupid attempt to look “cool.” But I made a choice. And all I'm asking for is a space where I can exercise this choice responsibly. The smoking area is a safe space for smokers to not feel completely ostracized in the growing population of anti-smokers, to not bother non-smokers and worry them with second-hand smoke, and even an opportunity to make friends with strangers who would otherwise never talk to you.

I'm not defending smoking; I'm defending the educated smokers' right to choose to smoke, the right to exercise re-sponsibility upon making that choice, and most importantly, the preservation of Barnard's safe space on campus—for both smokers and non-smokers.

The author is a Barnard College junior majoring in philosophy. She is a former Spectator columnist.

led to even more necessary criticism of the ruling National Democratic Party.

Nonetheless, opposition leaders have pinned all of Egypt's problems on the 29-year rule of its president. While Egypt can certainly be characterized by blatant nepotism, a powerful class of oligarchs, and a severely defunct electoral process—all symptoms of presidential mishaps—the nation also suffers from endemic issues, such as poverty and reli-gious extremism, that transcend power politics.

On Sunday, much of the world sat on the edge of its seat, waiting to hear the results of what many hoped would be Egypt's first truly democratic national elections. News out-lets ran hundreds of stories in anticipation of the vote, and think tanks dedicated lengthy studies to its implications. This hopeful frenzy was somewhat bizarre given that many credible sources projected that nothing was likely to change. The Project on Middle East Democracy released a report on the eve of the election citing numerous instances of corrup-tion that had already occurred. Not surprisingly, the ruling NDP won a sweeping majority of seats in the parliamentary elections amid allegations of wide-scale corruption, vio-lence, intimidation, and fraud. In total, opposition parties won fewer than 10 seats out of the 508 seats contested, and the Muslim Brotherhood couldn't capture even one seat. Completely aghast at the results, the Muslim Brotherhood and the New Wafd Party have boycotted runoff elections for the 250 seats still contested.

We stand at an important juncture in the future of American-Egyptian relations. As the flag-bearers of democ-racy, Americans should condemn and underscore electoral injustices and breaches of democracy. Nonetheless, if we use the theory of realism, we know that security trumps all nor-mative rights and wrongs. By buttressing the ruling Egyptian regime, America has protected a trusted partner in a highly contentious region.

There are solutions to this realist conundrum. Americans, individually, should take up the cause of Egyptian democracy and urge Egypt to seriously consider comprehensive solu-tions to the nation's tangible problems. By properly dealing with education, poverty reduction, disease, and a general improvement in Egyptian civil society, the NDP would allay the concerns of citizens who have lost faith in their govern-ment. The State Department cannot simply summon better democracy—the U.S. government needs to start using more sticks and fewer carrots toward Egypt.

It's unlikely that the discourse surrounding realism will end anytime soon, whether in favor of the theory's support-ers or critics. But this discourse should not prevent us from properly dealing with issues that should be apolitical.

Real solutions for Egypt will be found only when realism is removed from the table.

Rhonda Shafei is a Columbia College junior majoring in history. She is an executive board member of the Columbia International Relations Council and Association and secretary general of the Columbia Model United Nations Conference and Exposition 2011. The Politics of Hummus runs alternate Fridays.

JODY'S DRAWINGS!



“And what does Google say about this long ropey thing?”

JODY ZELLMAN

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16 Invoice word
17 Downed shot
18 Eugene O'Neill's daughter
19 Lab flask contents, perhaps
20 Where a witch's influence ends?
23 River past Memphis
24 Tim's "Tool Time" sidekick et al.
25 Office employee to avoid?
33 Teen sensation?
34 What a recent ex may need
35 With 62-Down, call
36 Early 16th-century date
37 "Also sprach Zarathustra" composer
41 Shade on a beach
42 Cookie recipe morsels
44 Fitting
45 Phoenician dialect
47 Shuttle evangelist?
51 Part of a roadie's load
52 ___ bomb
53 Bird in a landfill?
59 Actress Thomas who is now St. Jude's National Outreach Director
60 For all of us
61 Certain line crosser
63 Sunburn soothers
64 Actor Baldwin
65 Kate ___, a.k.a. Batwoman
66 Air ducts
67 "There you have it!"
68 USMC rank
DOWN
1 Setup punch
2 Fossey focus
32 "The Waltons" handyman
38 City on its own bay
39 Sch. in Troy, N.Y.
40 Item in a stirring picture?
43 Like an infamous Vamer
46 Exposés
48 Make stand out
49 Divine
50 Mississippi source
53 8 on the Beaufort scale
54 Elvis ___ Presley
55 Billy ___
56 "The Long, Hot Summer" vixen
57 Some HDTVs
58 Bright side?
59 Dallas NBA'er
62 See 35-Across
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AL GAE ARGO YORE
W ORK I NG OUT BEER
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Gulati, U.S. lose 2022 World Cup bid to Qatar

Qatar. If it wasn't on the map 24 hours ago, it is now. On Thursday, the tiny Middle Eastern emirate beat out Australia, Japan, South Korea, and the United States in a FIFA executive committee ballot to win the 2022 World Cup bid.

The peninsula nation, which is bordered by Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf—it's also close to Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Iran—has a population of just 1.7 million. Its soccer team has never even qualified for World Cup play. Though it's not famous for its prowess on the soccer pitch, you may know of Qatar as the home of the news network Al Jazeera, or perhaps as the namesake for the World Trade Organization's Doha Development Round negotiations.

Qatar is also a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. According to the International Monetary Fund, the emirate, which sits on enormous oil and gas reserves, has the second-highest per capita GDP in the world. The average Qatari is a world leader in fossil fuel consumption, contributing 55.4 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions every year. That's 25 metric tons more than the next-highest off-fending country. I'm sure the outdoor air conditioning systems promised at the World Cup stadiums will help improve those numbers.

“It's an election, and there's lots of things that go into that—in this case, a new part of the world and a pan-Middle East proposal.”

—Sunil Gulati, U.S. Soccer Federation president

By all accounts, the U.S. should have come away with the bid. For one thing, the infrastructure here is already in place, whereas Qatar has to build nine new stadiums before kick-off. And from a revenue standpoint, the U.S. makes sense. The 1994 World Cup, which was held in the U.S., still hangs on to the highest attendance total in the tournament's history, even though the format has expanded from 52 to 64 matches since then. At 3.6 million, that attendance mark is more than double Qatar's entire population.

And then there is the argument so frequently embraced by Columbia's own economics professor, Sunil Gulati, president of the United States Soccer Federation and the main force behind the 2022 bid. Gulati likes to emphasize that soccer is gaining popularity in the United States and that America represents a huge opportunity for the sport to expand its reach in this crucial corner of the globe.

Gulati has dedicated much of his life to strengthening soccer's footprint in the United States, and yesterday's results represented a significant personal setback for him. In a conference call with the media after the bid announcement, Gulati expressed his concern that losing the ballot would slow down the development of soccer in America.

“What we had tried to tell the story to FIFA, and it resonated certainly in the U.S., is that getting the right to host this event 12 years from now, with that sort of build-up time, was the equivalent of putting your foot on the accelerator and really taking big jumps,” he said.

He added later, “We said all along, this isn't only about the technical report. It's an election, and there's lots of things that go into that—in this case, a new part of the world and a pan-Middle East proposal.” When pushed about the realities of the executive committee balloting, Gulati only said, “It's politics, it's friendships and relationships, it's alliances, it's tactics.”

Not everyone was so diplomatic. Eric Wynalda, who used to play for the U.S. national team, was reached for a



JACOB LEVENFELD
Eye on the Ball



NATASHA CLINE-THOMAS FOR SPECTATOR

LOOKING AHEAD | Senior Lauren Dwyer, who finished with 12 points, has been a rare bright spot for the Lions this year.

Second-half struggles keep Lions winless

BY SARAH SOMMER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

It was the kind of momentum-shifting play that a winless team needs. With two seconds left in the first half, senior guard Kathleen Barry caught a pass thrown from around midcourt and hit a transition layup. Her shot helped the Columbia women's basketball team hold a 29-26 lead at the break—its first halftime advantage of the year.

WAGNER	69
COLUMBIA	50

But the effects of Barry's shot wore off during the second half, and Columbia suffered a 69-50 loss to Wagner on Thursday night. With the defeat, the Lions are now 0-6 to start the season.

One reason for Columbia's most recent loss was its poor shooting. After scoring 87 points against San Diego, the Lions' offense was not nearly as successful against Wagner. Columbia started the second half with eight missed field goals.

“We had a lot of point-blank-range shots—layups and other point-blank-range type opportunities—both halves, but in particular, right at the beginning of the second half,” head coach Paul Nixon said. “The layups are, I think, what's a little bit more concerning because we just had so many that we didn't finish. And it really allowed Wagner to build their lead.”

While Columbia struggled to score, Wagner (3-2) began the final 20 minutes with a 13-4 run. Later in the half, senior guard Stephanie McBride hit a three-pointer to give the Seahawks a 44-39 lead. Columbia had chances to shrink its deficit but instead produced an offensive foul, a missed shot, and a turnover.

McBride hit another three with 10:09 remaining, giving Wagner a 47-39 advantage. For a game that consisted of alternating runs, the eight-point

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL,
page 3

CU looks to maintain perfect home record against Stony Brook

BY LUCAS SHAW
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

For a young team with a first-year coach, the schedule gods are not paying the Lions any favors. Coming off a five-point loss at Bucknell on Wednesday, the Lions welcome Stony Brook to Levien Gym this Saturday for their third game in seven days.

“I'm a little concerned,” Coach Kyle Smith admitted. Smith has bemoaned the hectic early slate, which has robbed the Lions of much-needed practice time. With this being his first year at the helm of a relatively inexperienced group, more time to gel and improve would help.

In addition to the time aspect of the schedule, there is also the contrast in opponents. The Lions are coming off three straight games against Patriot League foes, and Bucknell's methodical approach embodies this Patriot style as much as anything. That's how the Light Blue could hold the Bison to 24 percent shooting in the second half and still force just four turnovers in the game.

“That's the best we've defended, and they didn't turn the ball over once,” Smith said. “I don't care if you are playing the worst defense in the world—it's hard to do that.”

In comparison, the Sea Wolves of the American East play “a slash and defend style,” which is predicated on their length and athleticism.

“They are almost the exact opposite of Bucknell,” Smith said. “Their athleticism—we don't quite have that on the perimeter like they do. They can dictate some things with their defensive length and their ability to go get the ball. We don't see that much.”

That athleticism comes in many forms, since Stony Brook has an array of forwards and guards who crash the boards. There are the usual suspects, like forwards Al Rapier and Dallis Joyner, who both pull down more than 6.5 rebounds a game. But then there is senior guard Chris Martin, who, despite his 6-foot-1 frame, manages 6.3 boards a game.

“We need to keep them in front of us,” Smith said. “A big part of defending is defensive rebounding.”

COLUMBIA VS. STONY BROOK
Levien Gym, Saturday, 4 p.m.



Though Smith is worried about Stony Brook's athleticism, defense is one area in which he has seen his team play much better as of late. Columbia's defensive lockdown in the second half against Bucknell came after two games in which opponents managed less than 65 points.

On Saturday afternoon, that defensive fortitude will be tested by one of the best scorers the Lions have seen this year: Stony Brook junior point guard Bryan Dougher. Dougher is averaging 18 points per game on the season and is coming off of a season-high 26 against Lehigh.

“He can shoot the thing from range, he's crafty, and he's also a good athlete,” Smith said. “You talk about the eye test—you look at him and see him get by people really easily.”

The defensive assignment should fall to sophomore Brian Barbour, who has been one of the biggest bright spots so far this season, particularly on the offensive end. In addition to being the team's second leading scorer, he is tied with Noruwa Agho for the most assists on the team. However, there is a big difference—Barbour has less than one-third the number of turnovers.

“I'm a little surprised, especially because on the second day of practice, he had eight turnovers,” Smith said lightly. “He had eight in one practice, but he's an efficient basketball player. He obviously makes good decisions.”

Smith added that he's looking for Barbour to be more aggressive on the court. As good a job as he does surveying the floor and managing the team, he has not been as assertive with either looking for his own shot or drawing attention to find an open shooter.

Getting easy shots will be at a premium, as the Sea Wolves hold their opponents to 36 percent shooting from the floor. Launching shots is something Smith is comfortable with his team doing since, as he jokes, the Lions have five two-guards. The question is: Will they have the legs for it?



ALYSON GOULDEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

STEPPING STONE | Starting point guard Brian Barbour, who leads the Ivy League with a 3.4 assist-to-turnover ratio, has elevated his game this season.



No shortcut to success with underground publishing houses

BY CLAIRE FU
Spectator Staff Writer

Suzanne Mozes, a second-year writing student in Columbia's School of the Arts, was one step away from being hired to write the next "Twilight" or "Harry Potter." Bestselling author James Frey, known for his controversial fabricated memoir "A Million Little Pieces," has another skeleton to add to his closet—the fiction factory known as Full Fathom Five, which Mozes exposed in a recent article in New York Magazine. The publishing company run by Frey hires dozens of MFA writing students in the hopes that one of them will produce the next hot work of young adult fiction. Mozes was on board to join the team until tense negotiations prevented her from working out a contract with Full Fathom Five.

Since the publication of Mozes' article, there has been a wave of newspaper articles and blog posts about Frey's venture, with many concluding that the Full Fathom Five contracts are exploitative. Although writers involved in Full Fathom Five can hope to receive 30 to 40 percent of their books' profits, once a student completes a manuscript, the company can use the writer's name without permission in the future. Writers are also subject to a \$50,000 penalty if they reveal ties to the publishing house. But what's the real cost for students trying to enter an industry in which there are no guarantees?

HIGH-STAKES PUBLISHING

There is a basic belief that writers should receive credit where credit is due. However, Mozes said that it is a mistake to view the MFA students of Full Fathom Five as pure victims. People may assume

"that these writers are innocent lambs, and frankly, they might be, but likely they're smart individuals," she said. "You've got to risk big to play big." The lure of cooperating with Frey to potentially deliver a profitable novel definitely qualifies as playing big.

Indeed, the young writers are taking quite a gamble in getting involved with Full Fathom Five. What is perhaps most concerning about the operation is that, when a writer signs on a contract's dotted line, Full Fathom Five effectively reserves the right to exploit his or her name brand.

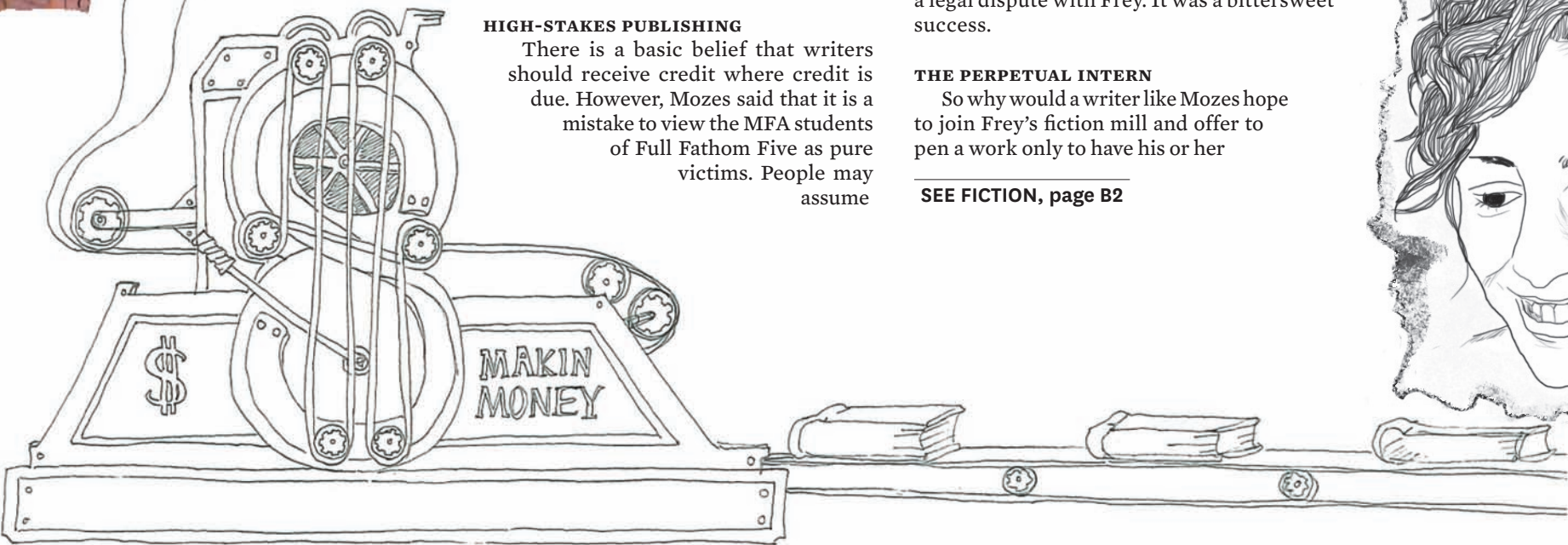
"Twenty years down the line, if I'm a bestselling author, Full Fathom Five can capitalize off of that at any point in the future," Mozes said. The publishing house can reprint an entire book series under a writer's name while he or she has no connection to it, just because of the contract's fine print. "The contract being offered isn't protecting the writer—it's protecting Full Fathom Five," she said.

While Mozes managed to avoid the complications of becoming involved with Full Fathom Five, Jobie Hughes, SoA '09, was not quite as lucky. Hughes joined Full Fathom Five and co-wrote the hit sci-fi novel "I Am Number Four" with Frey under a pseudonym. The film rights to the book were sold to Steven Spielberg and Michael Bay, who produced a DreamWorks movie version set for release in February. Hughes' contract, however, prohibited him from identifying himself as an author of "I Am Number Four," and recently, he broke away from the project after a legal dispute with Frey. It was a bittersweet success.

THE PERPETUAL INTERN

So why would a writer like Mozes hope to join Frey's fiction mill and offer to pen a work only to have his or her

SEE FICTION, page B2



NICCI YIN AND JIIN CHOI

RAP IT UP



ANDRA MIHALI / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MICKEY MOUSE | Rapper Mickey Avalon (top, bottom left) brought his act to Roone Arledge Auditorium on Thursday night.

Glide into winter with a day of ice skating and hot cocoa

BY LUDOVICA PAGNI
Columbia Daily Spectator

Ice skating at Rockefeller Center is definitely a memorable experience, but for students in the city, the costs are often prohibitive and the crowds are overwhelming. Luckily, there are plenty of alternative places around the city to skate—and to have a tasty hot chocolate afterwards.

The rink at **Bryant Park** (between 40th and 42nd streets, Fifth and Sixth avenues) might not be much better than Rockefeller's in terms of crowds, but at least admission is free and skate rental is a more modest \$13. Bryant Park also offers great options for the non-skaters in a group, such as the Christmas market, where Christmas shopping almost becomes fun, and little cafes with a view of the rink.

When skaters get tired out for the day, a stop at the **Max Brenner** stall in the Christmas market, though a little over-priced, is still worth it. Huge warm cookies are sold here for \$5, but they are just as good as the chocolate pizza at the actual Max Brenner store further downtown (841 Broadway, between 13th and 14th streets). Also at the main store, many different kinds of hot chocolate are available for the tasting, including ones made with flavored powders like gingerbread, milk chocolate, and nougat.

Two other famous ice rinks are located in Central Park. The **Trump Wollman Skating Rink**, in Central Park at 59th Street and Sixth Avenue, is open all day on weekends and charges a steeper \$14.75 for admission but only \$6.25 for skate rentals. A little cheaper is the **Trump Lasker Skating Rink** (at 110th Street and Lenox Avenue), which is open only in the afternoons on weekends. There the admission fee is \$6.25 and skate rental costs \$5.50.

Students feeling hungry after a long afternoon skating in the park, or who simply crave a good hot chocolate, can stop into Jacques Torres (285 Amsterdam Ave., between 73rd and 74th streets). For the more adventurous, this little spot offers Wicked Hot Chocolate, which features cinnamon, sweet ancho chili peppers, and smoked chipotle peppers. However, the regular creamy hot chocolate is just as delicious.

Finally, for real figure skating fans, the Columbia University Figure Skating Club conveniently has access to both the Wollman

SEE SKATING, page B3

Best
of

Music practice spaces

For students looking for musical havens in which to unleash their talents, there are plenty of practice spaces on campus. Each practice room has its own unique character, and even with students’ different tastes and music abilities, there’s something for everyone.

—BY CARLOS A. GARCIA ALAYON

East Campus and Broadway Hall

Students living in East Campus or Broadway will find it particularly convenient to visit practice rooms in their buildings, with the luxury of total privacy and large areas of space. Each room is equipped with a piano, complete with seats and enough space for musicians who play virtually any instrument. More specifically, the rooms are about twice the size of the

ones in Schapiro, suitable for those who would like to practice their music with a group of people. The downside to this apparent practice room utopia, however, is its availability. Because there are only three in each building, students may find it hard to sign up for an open slot, and it’s advisable that they return to check the availability often if necessary.

Lerner piano lounge

Ever wondered where those beautiful piano melodies that resonate through Lerner originate from? The Lerner piano lounge is where skilled players can showcase their musical abilities—complete with private audience seated on the surrounding couches—or simply practice piano with some friends. The piano is located in the corner of the lounge, where the atmosphere

is low-key. The room is neither too loud nor too quiet—a comfortable ambience to whip out some Mozart or Bach for a generally passive audience. Students at the lounge are usually studying, talking, or simply relaxing. If there is a performance coming up and students are feeling nervous, it may be a good idea to warm up here through a friendly public performance.



MEGAN BAKER FOR SPECTATOR

ON KEY | Columbia offers a wide variety of locations for students to practice music, whether they seek privacy or want an audience.

Schapiro Hall

Located along a narrow hallway on the lower level of the residence hall, the Schapiro practice rooms can be decidedly difficult to find if students aren’t sure where they are going. Once the practice rooms are found, students are rewarded with spaces optimal for a tranquil practice. There are six 24-hour rooms available, each equipped with a piano and armchair. Lisa Tan, CC ’14

and a violin player in the Columbia University Orchestra, said that the rooms are perfect for privacy and very accessible. “They are sound-proof, and there’s usually at least a couple available,” Tan said. When visiting the Schapiro practice rooms, however, it is important to keep in mind that they are not particularly spacious, and only suit a maximum of three people per room.

Grand piano and organ locations

Pianists and organists need not fear—there are a variety of places to practice other than the single piano in Lerner. The Wallach lobby is a prime location for anyone seeking a semi-private piano practice environment. During the day, the Wallach lounge is virtually empty, making it a top choice—especially for first-year students living in John Jay and LLC

residents. The John Jay lobby and 301 Philosophy Hall, both equipped with grand pianos, are usually busier than Wallach. They are nevertheless a welcome space for students looking to show off their musical talents in front of others. For avid organists, the organ at St. Paul’s Chapel is the go-to place for students wishing to practice on campus.



KINNO NOROJONO FOR SPECTATOR

BALENCING ACT | Hamish Bowles, Vogue editor, curated the recently opened Balenciaga exhibit and spoke at FIT on Thursday about the house’s legacy.

Exhibit stitches together Balenciaga’s varied design influences

BY KINNO NOROJONO
Columbia Daily Spectator

To understand the work of Cristóbal Balenciaga is to understand Spain. With his use of silhouette, volume, and emotionally captivating fabrics that capture the essence of Spanish culture, Balenciaga paid homage to the country that meant so much to him. Now, others can pay tribute to the man whom fashion editor Diana Vreeland referred to as “a true Spaniard at heart” by visiting the Queen Sofia Spanish Institute’s “Balenciaga: Spanish Master” exhibit, which opened earlier this month and runs through Feb. 19. Vogue editor Hamish Bowles, who curated the exhibit, discussed Balenciaga’s legacy at a talk on Thursday at the Fashion Institute of Technology.

The exhibit is divided into sections that focus on the different influences seen in Balenciaga’s work. Some of these include Spanish art, regional dress, religious life, and bullfighting. His opulent 1967 evening ensemble of pink silk satin and black silk velvet, for example, draws heavily from Francisco de Goya’s 1797 painting “La Duquesa de Alba.” Here, Balenciaga took a simple black dress and turned it into a work of art, almost as if he were imitating Goya’s color palette and brushstrokes with his use of opulent fabrics.

In what Bowles called a “relentless pursuit

of perfection and innovation,” Balenciaga quickly garnered a reputation as a legendary dressmaker and designer. His ethereal talent allowed him to create a fashion empire. At a young age, Balenciaga was able to open couturier salons in San Sebastián, Barcelona, and Madrid.

“Designing clothes was more than a craft or an art—it was a religious vocation.”

—Hamish Bowles, Vogue editor

In spite of the praises he was receiving in Spain, Balenciaga was forced to take refuge in Paris during the upheaval of the Spanish Civil War. Nonetheless, Spain remained close to Balenciaga’s heart. The designer depicted his experience growing up in a fishing town through a 1953 ensemble of a fisherman’s blouse crafted out of unfitted cotton piqué. While the blouse was loose-fitting, the silhouette was entirely feminine, which challenged the norm in the fashion world at that time.

For Balenciaga, Bowles said, “Designing clothes was more than a craft or an art—it was a religious vocation.” Balenciaga’s experience as an altar boy heavily influenced his work, as he was always fascinated by the colors and geometrical structures of his beloved church. A black silk otoman evening coat from his 1939 collection perhaps best demonstrates Balenciaga’s attraction to the piety and simplicity of the Catholic Church.

Though Balenciaga hated the gore of bullfighting, his respect for the bullfighter’s passion in the ring was unwavering. Carnations were a recurring motif in his work, as seen in a white taffeta evening dress from his summer 1956 collection. In addition to being the national flower of Spain, the carnation is a symbol for bullfighting, as spectators throw the flowers at the feet of a victorious matadors.

Much to the fashion’s world dismay, Balenciaga decided to retire in May 1968. He wanted to return to what he loved most after designing—his native Spain. Unfortunately, his voyage was cut short. With his death on March 23, 1972, Balenciaga left quite a legacy. He had come a long way from his early days as a designer—he first expressed his love for fashion by creating a coat for his beloved cat at age six. By the end of his life, as Bowles said, Balenciaga had “honed and perfected the act of haute couture.”

No shortcut to success with publishing houses

FICTION from page B1

control over its authorship stripped away?

“To fund my art,” Mozes said. “It’s a constant stream of income that would allow me to really work on my first narrative nonfiction book.” It also helps with covering tuition, which Mozes described as “like a Verizon bill and heating bill that I’ll have for a long time.” All this, of course, assumes that the book written for Full Fathom Five would be successful in the first place.

For students, it’s interesting to note the similarities between the way Full Fathom Five and many unpaid college internships operate. In both cases, students often work for little to no pay in the short term and submit the fruits of their labor to a higher power without necessarily receiving proper credit for their work.

However, Mozes noted important differences between Frey’s company and unpaid internships. “Internships are about picking up the tricks of the trade,” she said. “You don’t get that with Frey. ... You don’t understand how his packaging business is working. There’s no transparency.” The no-nonsense and all-business character of Full Fathom Five comes at the expense of the valuable mentorship expected in a legitimate internship.

“Sometimes you’re just taken advantage of for slave labor, and sometimes you’re valued as a prized resource.”

—Suzanne Mozes, SoA student

Before considering joining Full Fathom Five, Mozes endured her fair share of unpaid internships, which gave her a taste of different aspects of the publishing industry. “I had interned at a newspaper, book publisher, and magazines before deciding that I would go into magazines,” she said. “Sometimes you’re just taken advantage of for slave labor, and sometimes you’re valued as a prized resource.”

CHASING JACKPOTS

Students involved in Frey’s operation or unpaid internships generally hope to further their budding careers, but success is never a sure thing. Yet, the companies that employ students are also gambling in a way. Mozes noted that, especially in the publishing world, many companies—including Full Fathom Five—attempt to attract fresh faces and experiment with the innovative ideas of industry newcomers. It’s a two-way street: Publishing companies use novel entrepreneurial models and place their bets on the profitability of new talent, while students working for these companies hope to end up with jobs.

Mozes said, “I personally am trying to look at it as cowboys in the Wild West trying to strike it rich.”



HENRY WILLSON FOR SPECTATOR
ON THIN ICE | Ice rinks at Central Park (above) and Bryant Park (right) offer fun for Columbians.

Glide into winter with a day of ice skating and hot cocoa

SKATING from page B1

Rink and the one at **Chelsea Piers** (between 17th and 22nd streets at the Hudson River), which are available for beginners and advanced skaters. For members, the 50-minute pass at the Piers is \$10, while for non-members the fee is \$15. For 80 minutes, the rate is a little more—\$12 for members and \$20 for non-members.

Skating at Rockefeller might be a classic holiday experience, but if students find their bank accounts crying out for help, there are many other wintry options that can be just as much fun.



‘On Line:’ Exhibit outlines a forgotten art form

‘ON LINE’ from page B4

Throughout the entire exhibition, lines interact with color and motion and extend into different cross-disciplinary fields, from physics to dance. A video features a serpentine dancer swirling across the stage, her dress creating undulating lines. A painting shows a party girl, with the deconstructed planes of her figure fused with sequins and collage elements.

A series of drawings by Futurist artist Umberto Boccioni showcases the ability of lines to add dramatic effect. One figure’s hair is infused with great tension and energy through haphazard lines, while another is weighed down by the somber verticality of a cloak.

Lines continually flow into open space, enlisting the use of snaking tubes and metal wire to transform the entire gallery into a weird extension of a distorted alternate universe. By the end of the visit, it is hard to escape the presence of lines in everyday existence.

Immediately after exiting the exhibit, visitors can test their newfound perspective on lines by examining the MoMA escalator railings. Be prepared to be mesmerized by the way the escalator lines curve, run parallel, and sharply diverge—it seems as remarkable as any of the pieces from the exhibition.

Even students who find relationships daunting can fall in love with love

For the majority of Columbians, Nov. 22 was just a regular date—yet another 24 hours of waiting for their upcoming Thanksgiving food orgies—but for me, it was a big deal. I turned 21 that day, which got me thinking a lot about the past year—an appropriate trip down memory lane for this column, since this is my final installment for 2010. My year was filled with unexpected, fulfilling, and depressing moments, and even a few revelatory experiences. Through it all, this column was in the back of my mind, constantly reminding me to think about my role in the discourse about sex and dating at Columbia.

Though I’ve covered many topics that affect most students, I’ve stayed away from a big one, a subject that inched its way into my head this year like no other: love. It doesn’t seem like the sexiest topic, but it’s been weighing on my mind since I sat down in front of my computer back in January to write about virginity.

Try as we may to avoid it with hook-ups, drinking binges, and weird self-defense mechanisms, love creeps into our lives more and more with each passing birthday. After all, we’re starting to come into our own and understand who we are as people, so we’ve become more ready than before to allow someone else into our worlds. I’ve watched a few of my friends fill up their first two years in college with nonstop one-night stands and then suddenly decide that they need someone who will be around even when the booze is gone and the morning breath sets in. They love partying, but as one of them pointed out, “Sometimes you just want to cuddle,” and



VALERIYA SAFRONOVA
Sex in the Lion’s Den

that’s definitely not something I can imagine anyone asking for casually.

The term “love” is loaded with mystery—we’ve thrown the word around with practically everyone, including friends, family, and prom dates. Now, “love” has become even more filled with meanings. For some, it’s synonymous with pressure and marriage, for others it’s an elusive desire, and for the best of us, it’s a great line to use to get someone in bed.

Every type of person is affected by love—geeks, jocks, party animals, and those cruising around in between.

So what does it mean? Honestly, I use it daily and I have no real idea. I fell in love this year and it threw me into an exhilarating whirlwind of feeling that I have yet to comprehend. As for most people, love came for me when I wasn’t looking. I was casually dating a nice man, content after escaping a painful relationship, when I did a few too many tequila shots one night and pulled a handsome stranger outside of the bar for an entirely inappropriate-for-the-sidewalk kiss. He invited me to breakfast a few hours later, and then I fell. Hard and fast. I opted out after a week—I scared me to want someone so bad—but the night after I told him I couldn’t see him, I broke down at the thought of never speaking to him again. Luckily, it all ended well: The man in question is now my boyfriend.

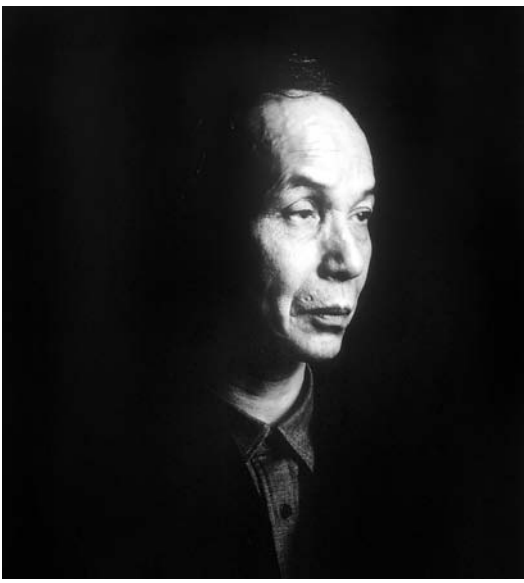
Since then, love has meant everything for me, from fear to elation to sadness to insecurity to safety to joy to sex. Most people assert that they “just know” when they’re in love. I wish I could be more specific, but at best, I can say it’s a feeling deep inside that feels so good it hurts.

Typically, this kind of vortex of unknowing would bother me to no end. I hate being unsure, but if there is one lesson I’ve picked up over the last 12 months, it’s that I should try my hardest to embrace whatever life throws my way. An insanely clichéd piece of advice, I know, but useful and invigorating nonetheless.

We are young, we are sort of free, and we are all just starting to understand what will come after we graduate. Most of us come to college with an I-know-everything feeling embedded deep inside—we secretly believe that we’re the cream of some crop, and we want to prove to the world that we can do this. But as I’ve discovered, the world doesn’t care. It confronts us with very real, very adult situations that we can’t run to mommy or daddy with.

Love is one of these. I’ve watched countless friends soar to the heights of excitement, wane, and come crashing down at the hands of love. Every type of person is affected—geeks, jocks, party animals, and those cruising around in between. Cupid doesn’t care how smart or confident you are—he’s going to get you and tear you to pieces no matter where you hide, so just accept it. Yes, it’s scary. Yes, it can be painful. And yes, it’s frustrating. But it’s also inspiring, life-changing, amazing, and, well, sexy. So, I say, here’s to love. Cheers.

Valeriya Safronova is a Columbia College junior majoring in East Asian languages and cultures. Sex in the Lion’s Den runs alternate Fridays.




COURTESY OF FILM FORUM
MUSICAL FLAIRS | Film composer Tōru Takemitsu is the subject of a current film series.

Takemitsu film festival: Series spotlights composer


TAKEMITSU from page B4

experiencing Takemitsu’s music is the orchestral concert “Winds and Strings of Change” at Miller Theatre. The free Dec. 16 event is the first of a two-part concert series by the Institute for Medieval Japanese Studies that showcases instruments and musical arrangements prevalent in Medieval Japan. The concert honors the works of Takemitsu, who is noted as one of the first composers to use medieval Japanese instruments in orchestral film scores. Not only is this an opportunity to be exposed more fully to a global cultures but also to the artful culture of film music.



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FALL 2010 CONCERTS
Jeffrey Milarsky: Conductor + Music Director

DEC 5+7—
WAGNER
RAVEL
BEETHOVEN

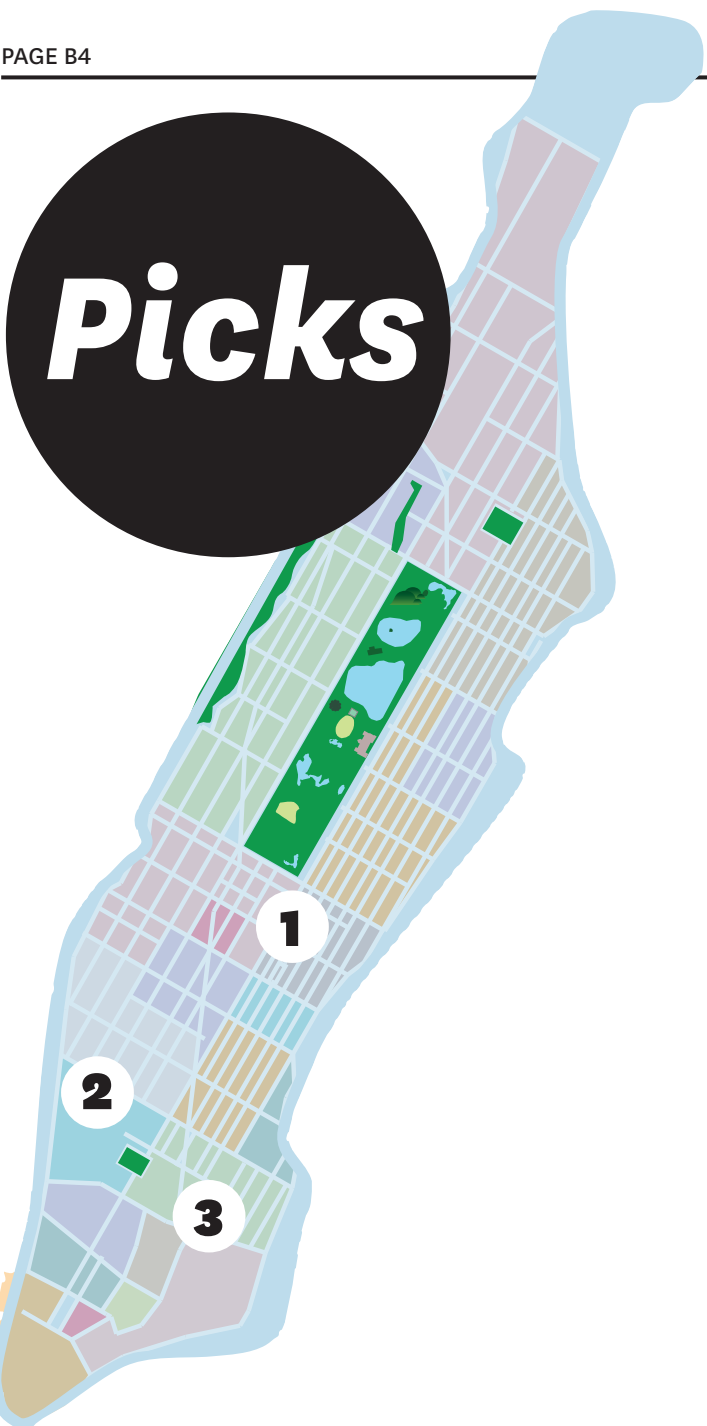
Richard Wagner: Prelude to Act I of Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg
Maurice Ravel: Daphnis et Chloé—Suite No. 2
Ludwig van Beethoven: Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 36

FREE ADMISSION
8pm, Sunday, December 5th: Roone Arledge Auditorium in Alfred Lerner Hall at 115th St + Broadway
8pm, Tuesday, December 7th: Miller Theater at 116th St + Broadway

columbia university orchestra



Picks



Octavia’s Porch

Traditional Jewish food gets a tasty global spin

BY CLAIRE STERN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Just in time for Hanukkah, Octavia’s Porch brings Jewish cuisine to the East Village. The restaurant (40 Ave. B, between 3rd and 4th streets), which opened earlier this week, features globally-influenced Jewish cuisine—there are flavors from Eastern European, Italian, and Mediterranean dishes.

Diners can order from the full menu at a copper bar in the front section of the restaurant, but the real scene is in the dimly lit dining room. The décor features glass mosaics, chandeliers, and a painting on the back wall of the Roman Jewish ghetto after which the restaurant is named. Customers dressed in business casual attire sip fancy cocktails and listen to a soft rock playlist of The Smiths, Phoenix, and Stevie Wonder.

The dinner menu features expected iconic Jewish dishes like matzoh ball soup and gefilte fish, but also puts a creative spin on familiar dishes, from duck breast with potato latkes to buckwheat tagliatelle served with roasted garlic, goat cheese, and radicchio. The head chef, former Top Chef competitor Nikki Castone, hopes to add nuance to New York City-based Jewish cuisine by incorporating foods with a range of origins.

Each plate celebrates Jewish heritage but offers a modern twist, providing food that is both interesting and delicious. It’s difficult not to fill up on the complimentary starter loaf of freshly baked challah bread, but make sure to save plenty of room for the rest to come.

The wild mushroom knish appetizer is not so typical, with its piquant mushroom flavor combined with fresh potatoes, soft bread, and a sweet yet tangy mustard sauce. The red quinoa salad, served with green beans, pumpkin seeds, and citrus is a delectable recommendation with its rich, balsamic vinaigrette flavoring and beautiful presentation.

Next up is the main course—a brisket sandwich on rye bread with pickled red onions and cabbage, or roasted chicken with challah and date stuffing. The brisket is well-cooked and tasty but would be better served warm. The sandwich is served on wax paper, in the style of classic New York City delis. As for the chicken, fennel and pepper flavoring add a non-traditional kick to the tender, moist meat. The side of stuffing makes the dish like a Thanksgiving dinner re-worked for Hanukkah, and the dates offer a fruity flavor to offset the dish’s breadiness.

Couples should be warned: the food is rich and the portions are sizeable. A party of two should order no more than one entrée and two appetizers if they want to have room for dessert.

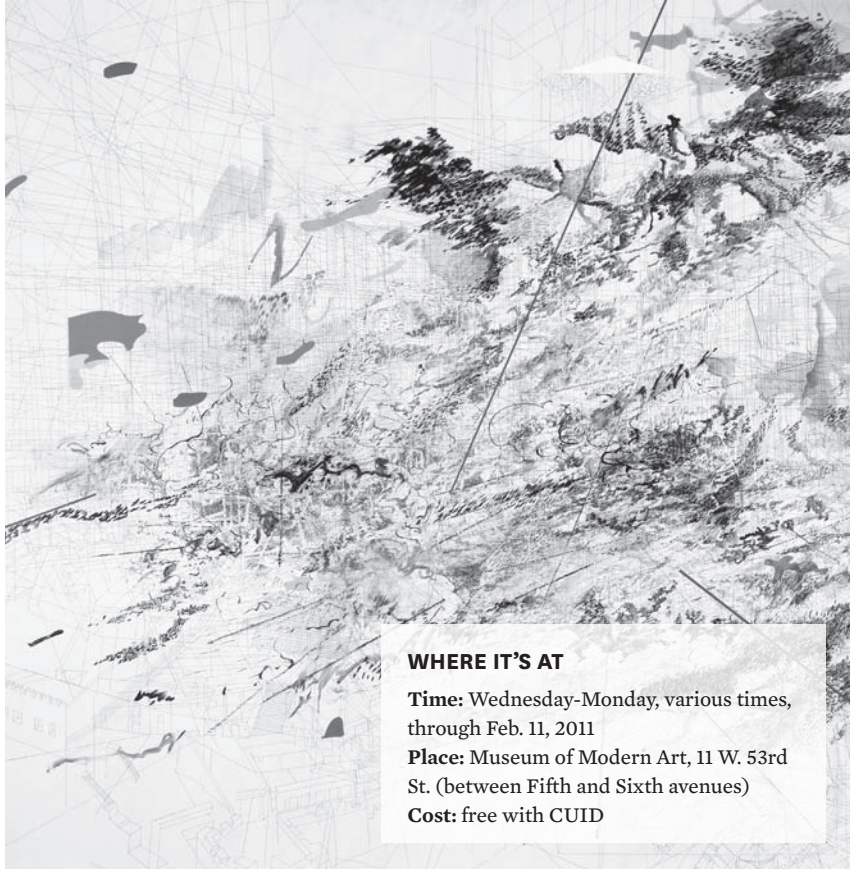
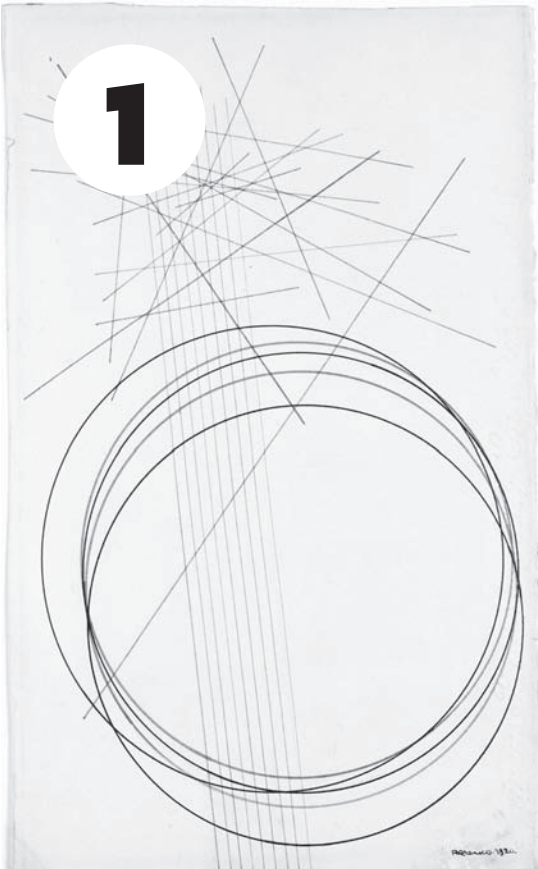
The dessert menu offers sweets to both eat and drink with affordable prices ranging from \$3 to \$7. Highlights include house-made chocolate halvah bars, banana challah bread pudding with chocolate-ginger syrup, espresso egg creams, and, of course, traditional black and white cookies.

This Jewish outpost delivers high quality ingredients at reasonable prices—the most expensive entrée is tagged at \$22. Cocktails run from \$10 to \$12, but exotic drinks like egg creams spiked with chocolate vodka and bourbon with apple cider prove too flavorful (and intoxicating) to pass up.

Students who enjoy traditional foods with an edge can get in on this globally-influenced Jewish cuisine while it’s still new in town. Octavia’s Porch emphasizes that Jewish food in New York City is more than just a deli sandwich.

WHERE IT’S AT

Time: Daily, various times
Place: 40 Ave. B (between 3rd and 4th streets)
Cost: \$3-22



COURTESY OF THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

LINE UP | Drawings by Alexander Rodchenko (left) and Julie Mehretu (right) are currently on view for an exhibition at MoMA.

‘On Line: Drawing Through the Twentieth Century’

Exhibit outlines a forgotten art

BY ANDREA SHANG
Columbia Daily Spectator

In his essay “On Line,” for which the Museum of Modern Art’s new exhibition of drawings is named, Wassily Kandinsky wrote that “point, line, and plane” are the essential elements in art. Yet, with the rise of conceptual and performance art, these elements have also become somewhat forgotten aspects of contemporary artistic display.

The exhibition “On Line: Drawing Through the Twentieth Century” at MoMA, which opened last week, highlights a new-found appreciation for the simplest components of art by delineating the radical transformation of drawing throughout the last century.

Visitors seeking refuge from the heart attack-inducing Yoko Ono exhibition two floors below, where visitors are invited to scream into a microphone as loudly as possible, may find it a good

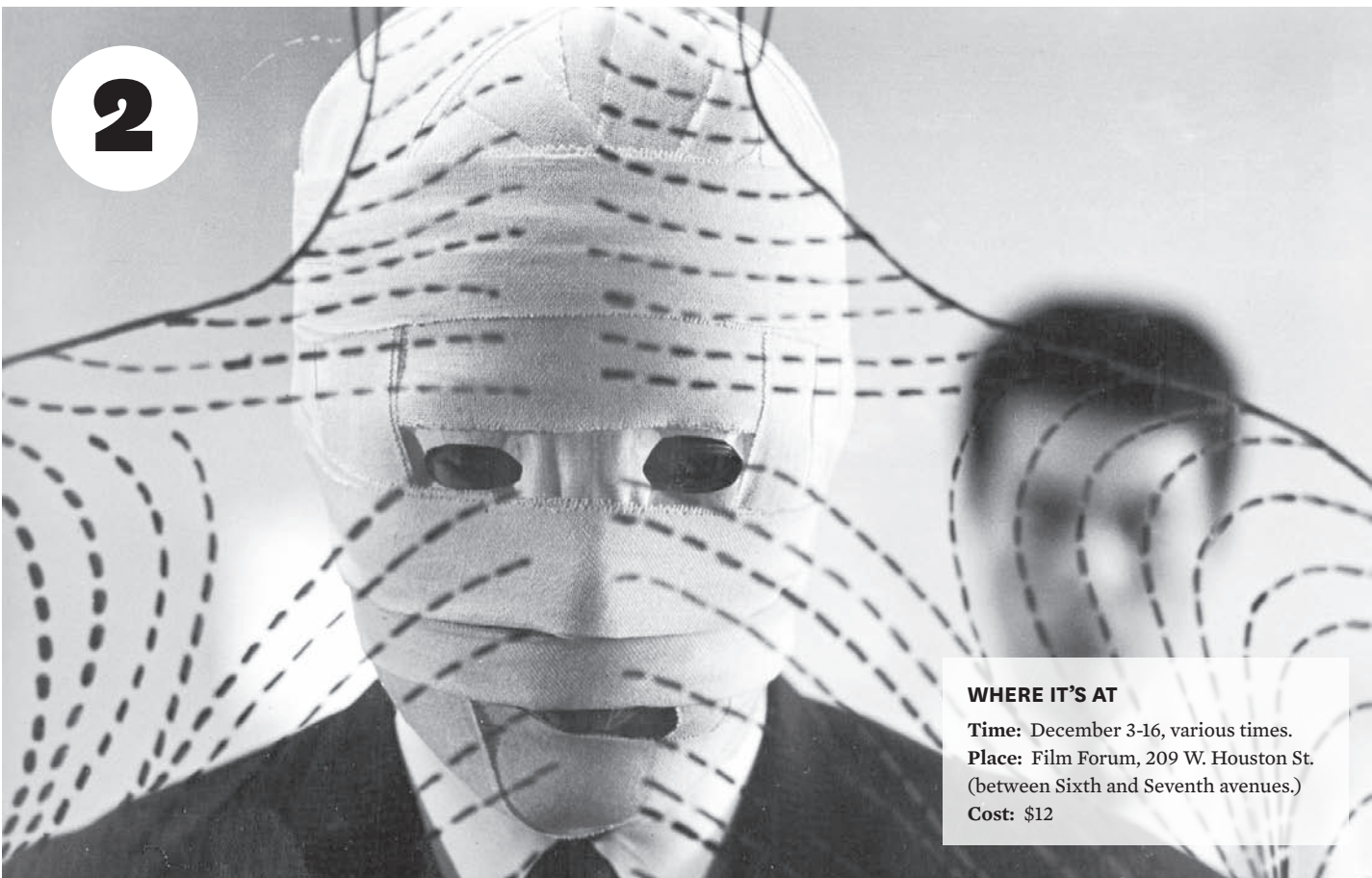
choice to step into this unexpectedly absorbing display of lines on the museum’s sixth floor and bask in its underrated glory.

For this exhibition, it is recommended that all guests discard any preconceived notions about lines as inflexible, minimalist, or severe. The underlying concept of this exhibit is to celebrate lines as a distinct medium, which can transcend the limitations of two-dimensional forms.

Drawing, according to the exhibit’s introductory wall text, entered the realm of abstraction with the emergence of Abstract Expressionism in the latter half of the 20th century. Lines were revolutionized and recognized for the potential to take on “fluid, simultaneous, indefinite, open” qualities that would no longer be reliant on paper or recognizable forms.

The notion that lines can extend into time and space is immediately discernible in a transfixing installation piece, where thousands of lines are strung together to form an impossibly delicate, sheer gossamer web.

SEE ‘ON LINE,’ page B3



COURTESY OF JANUS FILMS

MUSIC FOR THE EYES | “The Face of Another” is one film for which famed Japanese composer Tōru Takemitsu created music.

Takemitsu film festival

Series spotlights celebrated Japanese film composer

BY MARICELA GONZALEZ
Spectator Staff Writer

Most moviegoers experience films through their eyes rather than their ears. Except perhaps in grand-scale films such as “Star Wars” or musicals like “Dreamgirls,” most moviegoers don’t take much notice of the film score. But how a score aids or detracts from the emotional impact of the film is paramount to the audience’s movie-watching experience. One composer that understood the importance of music in film is master Japanese film composer Tōru Takemitsu, the subject of Film Forum’s latest film festival.

Takemitsu, who was awarded an honorary doctorate by Columbia in 1996 for his fusion of Japanese musical themes and Western orchestral arrangements, is one of the most celebrated film composers in Japanese—if not all—cinema. Film Forum will feature 19 of the over 100 films containing Takemitsu’s compositions from Dec. 3 through 16.

A lifelong fan of movies, Takemitsu is noted for stating, “The reason I love movies is because I experience them as music.” Working during the height of the Japanese New Wave film

movement from the 1950s through the 70s, Takemitsu contributed to myriad Japanese films, adapting his Japanese-Western integrated style to fit with the individual film’s tone and theme. For Teshigahara’s psychological thriller “The Face of Another” (Dec. 7), about a man who is given a lifelike mask after being disfigured, Takemitsu juxtaposes the unsettling events of the film with graceful string compositions for an appropriately creepy effect.

The Japanese composer may be known for his lyric musical pieces, but it is his use of silence that marks him as a truly filmic composer. In legendary director Akira Kurosawa’s “Ran” (Dec. 13), a lush orchestral theme playing during an intense battle is abruptly cut short at the sound of a gunshot, leaving the cacophonous terror of the scene to wash over the audience. In scenes from this film, as well as in Kurosawa’s first color film Dodes’ka-den (Dec. 14), Takemitsu most clearly underscores the emotional impact of the actions on screen.

The Takemitsu festival at Film Forum is only one part of the city-wide NY JapanTown Festival presented by Carnegie Hall. JapanTown hopes to celebrate the rich musical and artistic culture of contemporary Japan. After the Dec. 4 screening of Masaki Kobayashi’s “Youth of Japan (Hymn to a Tired Man),” president of the Japan Society, Peter Grilli, will present excerpts from the Takemitsu documentary “Music for the Movies: Tōru Takemitsu,” highlighting Takemitsu’s unique approach to writing film scores. Takemitsu’s works will be further showcased at Carnegie Hall’s Takemitsu memorial concert on Dec. 17.

But the most close-to-home event for students interested in

SEE TAKEMITSU, page B3

events

THEATER

Menorah Horah

—Highline Ballroom, 431 W. 16th St. (near Ninth Avenue), Saturday, Dec. 4, 8 p.m., \$20.

Columbians can enjoy a little burlesque with their latkes this Hanukkah season. (Don’t worry, we’re not recommending the Cher movie.) Popular New York burlesque act the Schmeat Sisters will blend Jewish humor, dancing, and singing for an epic retelling of the Hanukkah story.

STYLE

Topshop Nail Bar

—Topshop, 478 Broadway (at Broome Street), through Saturday, Dec. 4, 10 a.m.-9 p.m., free.

Even though students’ hands will probably be kept cozy in mittens this winter, that’s no excuse for boring nails. Head to Topshop in SoHo and get a complimentary manicure. Choose one of 12 custom designs to bring fingers into the holiday season. Get there early to book a same-day appointment.

FOOD & DRINK

Latke Festival 2010

—City Winery, 155 Varick St. (between Spring and Vandam streets), Sunday, Dec. 5, 4-7 p.m., \$32.50.

Even though mom’s latkes might not be close at hand for students on campus, the 2010 Latke Festival offers students the opportunity to indulge in the next best thing. Sample latkes from some of the city’s best chefs, take advantage of the all-you-can-eat format, and vote on who will take home the title of New York’s best latke.

BOOKS

Biblioball 2010

—The Bell House, 149 7th St. (between Second and Third avenues), Brooklyn, Saturday, Dec. 4, 8:30 p.m., \$27.

Support literacy for incarcerated teens and party at the same time at the third annual Biblioball. A party for librarians and literary geeks, this year’s “Spellbound” theme can please all. Dance the night away to a performance by Harry and the Potters with raffles and prizes at the end of what is sure to be a magical night.