



ARVIN AHMADI FOR SPECTATOR

COPS AND ROBBERS | Dunia Diaz, an employee at Express Laundromat, feels uneasy despite police response to her robbery in June.

Relationship between police, Harlem locals remains tense

**BY FINN VIGELAND
AND ARVIN AHMADI**
Columbia Daily Spectator

In October, Harlem resident Marisol Alcantara and her partner were parking their car when two police officers stopped them.

“I thought they were going to shoot us,” Alcantara said. “One was yelling so loud—she was ranting at us [about] how she’s overworked, how she works more than 12 hours a day, and at the end of the whole thing, they didn’t even give us a summons.”

As chair of the local Community Board 9 Uniform Services Committee, Alcantara

has heard her fair share of police harassment stories. But the relationship between police officers and the residents they serve continues to be a source of tension for some Harlem locals.

According to a report released in October by the Center for Constitutional Rights, police officers in Manhattan’s 26th Precinct pull aside blacks 24 times more often than whites in stop-and-frisk searches. In order to stop a person, officers must believe a suspect is carrying a weapon, but the report said that 45 percent of the time, officers cited “furtive movements” as legal justification.

In her role on CB9, Alcantara

has spoken with locals who corroborated the report’s findings by alleging unprofessional behavior from police, especially targeted toward minorities. She cited specific examples she had heard from fellow residents: a black teenager was told by the police that he couldn’t loiter on a corner while waiting for his father after school; adult Latino men drinking non-alcoholic beverages on their stoop had to empty their cups in front of officers.

According to James Harper, the community affairs officer for the 26th Precinct, which includes Columbia and most of West Harlem, incidents like

these are isolated cases that the New York Police Department takes seriously.

“Things like that always come up,” Harper said. “People have to remember that police officers are individuals as well. In any group, you’re going to have people who may act inappropriately at times, and the police department is certainly not immune to that.”

In such instances, after a case is filed and reviewed, officers may need to be retrained or disciplined, he said.

The 26th Precinct has been making a larger effort

SEE CRIME, page 2

SGB recognizes Chabad, additional campus groups

**BY MELANIE BRODER
AND SONALEE RAU**
Columbia Daily Spectator

After a close vote, the Student Governing Board agreed to recognize Jewish cultural group Chabad Student Center at a town hall on Monday night.

SGB recognition will provide Chabad with further funding and access to campus space.

The governing board, which oversees funding for religious, political, activist, ideological, and spiritual groups, also recognized four other new campus groups, but Chabad’s recognition was the most hotly contested.

Many audience members inquired about how Chabad would distinguish itself from the other 40-plus organizations that fall under Columbia/Barnard Hillel, the umbrella group encompassing most Jewish organizations on campus.

Chabad said its distinguishing quality was its Hasidic philosophy of Judaism. “Chabad and Hillel are different, the same way that the College Republicans and Democrats are ... coexisting but different,” Rikki Feuerstein, CC ’13, said.

The group has been active on campus since 1997. “We

SEE SGB, page 2

SGA passes Barnard smoking ban resolution

BY MADINA TOURE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Student Government Association passed a resolution supporting a full smoking ban on Barnard’s campus Monday night.

The vote comes after a survey last week revealed that an overwhelming majority of students who chose to participate in the poll wanted to see a full-campus ban. Over 300 students completed the survey—roughly 10 percent of the student pop-

constituency is not representative of the constituency at all,” Calister said.

Currently, Barnard has a partial ban on smoking. It is banned everywhere on campus except for the area north of the Barnard Quad and the plaza on the northern side of Altschul. A full ban would prohibit smoking in these areas as well.

The University Senate at Columbia University passed a resolution Friday to ban smoking within 20 feet of all campus buildings on the Morningside campus.

Last week’s survey comes after the administration approached the SGA earlier this semester about the possibility of implementing a full smoking ban on campus.

After a brief discussion last night, fifteen council members voted in favor of a ban and two people voted against, along with two abstentions.

Diana Rastegayeva, BC ’11 and vice president for communications, previously said that Barnard has found it difficult to enforce a ban on only certain parts of the campus.

“Part of the trouble with having a partial ban is that it’s hard to enforce for everyone. Students are unaware of the policy,” Rastegayeva said.

Calister said that she did not see the fairness in implementing a full-scale ban if students are not aware of the current rule, as Rastegayeva said.

“That’s not fair at all, the students should be aware of their rights,” Calister said. “As

it is right now, the rule is not out there.”

But other members supported changing the campus rules about smoking at Barnard.

“We’re not saying you can’t smoke, we’re saying you can’t smoke in this private space that affects other people,” said Hilary Krase, BC ’11 and General Studies Student Council representative.

“I’d be in favor of a stronger ban, like, 20 feet from our

SEE BAN, page 2

Councils approve CU-EMS move

Joint resolution allows CAVA to assume only one Broadway room

BY KARLA JIMENEZ
Columbia Daily Spectator

Three undergraduate councils passed a joint resolution Monday to allow Columbia University Emergency Medical Service, commonly known as CAVA, to relocate to Broadway 103.

Columbia College Student Council, Engineering Student Council, and General Studies Student Council recommended the resolution to University administrators in response to CAVA’s petition to move from the basement of Carman to Broadway 102 and 103.

The councils had originally presented different resolutions that would have given CU-EMS both rooms, one room, or neither. They met and formed a joint resolution, which is standard procedure when they have conflicting views.

“We wanted to make sure we didn’t give them [the administration] different opinions to choose from. We want to present one voice behind all the students,” said ESC President Chris Elizondo, SEAS ’11. “It’s to the students’ benefit.”

Elizondo said the councils reached a consensus after looking at all published opinions on the move and reviewing meeting minutes and notes. “This was the optimal decision for all the groups involved,” he said.

“We sat down with representatives from all three councils and talked about our reasons for voting how we voted, as well as considering what administrators and governing boards had advised,” CCSC President Learned Foote, CC ’11, said of the process. “SGB [Student Governing Board], for instance, supported CU-EMS’s transition to 103 but not 102.”

SGB chair Lisa Weber, CC ’11, said that the governing board would rather maintain space for other groups to use instead of granting both rooms to CU-EMS.

“SGB asked our members, and there has been a unified request to have more storage space for our groups, and we believe that Broadway 102 would work wonderfully for that use, as well as the Carman spaces that will be vacated by CU-EMS,” Weber said. “We

are very happy with the process thus far and feel that CU-EMS fills a necessary niche on campus in order to help the well-being of all of our group members.”

Foote said communication among groups was also important in the process. He met with CU-EMS representatives several times, looked at their current space and potential new spaces, and attended general meetings.

Alexander Harstrick, CC ’12 and director-elect of CAVA, said the meetings between groups were productive.

“Student council meetings have gone very well. ... Through this entire process, we’ve corresponded 10-15 times a week over this whole issue,” Harstrick said.

“It’s very obvious we have complete student support for this move.”

— CAVA director-elect
Alexander Harstrick, CC ’12

Foote and Elizondo also met with Scott Wright, vice president of campus services, to discuss the resolution as they were coming to a consensus, Elizondo said. Final approval will come from Wright’s office, with input from University President Lee Bollinger and Dean of Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger.

CU-EMS members were relieved to get Broadway 103, even if it didn’t come with 102. “We’re really happy that everything went through,” Harstrick said. “It would have been preferable to get both rooms, [but] it is a significantly better space than what we used to be in.”

The resolution has now been forwarded to University administrators for the final go-ahead. Foote said he expected the process to be finished this winter, and Harstrick is hopeful that the administration will grant CAVA Broadway 103. “I think our petition warrants more severe necessities than other student groups,” Harstrick said.

“It’s very obvious we have complete student support for this move,” Harstrick added, referring to the joint resolution. “I hope they take that very seriously when making decisions.”

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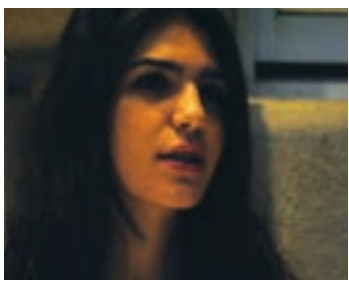
PHOEBE LITTLE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ON CALL | Alexander Harstrick, CC ’12 and director-elect of CAVA, is hoping for new CU-EMS space.

A&E, PAGE 3

Former pop star leaves behind Disney roots

Sophia Melon, BC ’14, once toured with Demi Lovato and the Jonas Brothers as part of the Disney-based band KSM. Now, she is pursuing a more indie-influenced sound.



OPINION, PAGE 4

Burning out

Amin Ghadimi on why we suffer for what we love.

Practical medicine

Being a pre-med student requires more than a checklist.

SPORTS, PAGE 6

Men’s basketball to face Wagner at home

The men’s basketball team looks to defend its perfect home record tonight against Wagner. A close game is expected between the two very evenly-matched teams.

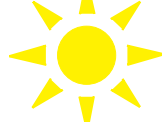
EVENTS

Closing Remarks

University President Lee Bollinger kicks off the new professor lecture series with parting words for seniors.
Low Library, 6 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



33°/24°

Tomorrow



34°/28°



ARVIN AHMADI FOR SPECTATOR

NYPD BLUE | The 26th precinct, whose oversight spans the Columbia campus and much of West Harlem, has tried to reach out to the neighborhood in light of increased crime.

Tensions remain between police, neighborhood despite local NYPD outreach

CRIME from front page

to reach out to the community, but Harper said neighborhood turnout “has kind of been underwhelming.”

“I’m a little surprised,” he said. “I think for the most part people actually still feel safe in their neighborhood, despite the fact that we are seeing a slight

increase in crime.”

To increase their visibility, police officers regularly attend community board meetings.

“They keep us abreast of what’s going on in regards to how many arrests and how many crimes are going on,” Alcantara said.

The Precinct also holds a Community Council meeting

the last Tuesday of every month to go over recent crimes.

Residents have mixed opinions about the police’s responsiveness to complaints and commitment to accessibility.

CB9 member Gladys Tinsley said she feels she is in good hands. “Recently, some officers came by and put up some signs in my building indicating

us to be careful, not to leave your window open, things like that,” she said. “Between them and our 24-hour security guard, we’re pretty safe.”

But Dunia Diaz, an employee at Express 1 Laundromat at 129th Street and Convent Avenue, said she still feels nervous in the area. This June, three men came around the

corner as she was opening up shop and stole her purse.

Police officers added security cameras outside her store the day after she filed a report, but Diaz said she’s still uneasy.

“Now I come [to work] a little later. I’ve changed my schedule,” she said. “I don’t feel secure like I did.”

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NEWS BRIEF

Early applications to CC, SEAS increase

The number of early applications are on the rise again. This year, Columbia College and the School of Engineering and Applied Science early applications collectively increased 7.2 percent from last year’s Early Decision pool, according to the University.

A record 3,217 students—up from 2,983 last year—applied for Early Decision this year, administrators say. The 2,983 early applications a year ago marks another increase from 2,945 early applications received for the Class of 2013.

Last year, the overall admit rates for both schools decreased, making the class of 2014 the most selective cycle yet—despite an increased class size norm by 50 students for the class of 2013 and beyond.

Students will be notified by decisions in mid-December, University officials said.

In March, Dean of Undergraduate Admissions Jessica Marinaccio announced that Columbia would switch from its own application to the Common Application, joining more than 400 other institutions which currently accept the Common Application.

The effects of the change may be more likely to be seen once regular decision applications are received.

—Rakhi Agrawal

SGB recognizes Chabad, other campus groups at town hall

SGB from front page

haven’t been able to get the word out as much as we would have liked to,” Feuerstein said in explaining the group’s motivation for seeking recognition. She added that Chabad, formerly known as the Chai Society, used to be recognized by Hillel, but “that didn’t work out for a lot of reasons.”

The four other groups that gained SGB recognition—Students to End Modern Slavery (STEMS), religious publication Sanctum, Columbia University Sickie Cell Teens Raising Awareness (STRIVE), and Unite for Sight—were voted through more easily. A sixth group, community organizing club Campus Camp Wellstone, applied for recognition but withdrew its application before the meeting.

STRIVE will remain unfunded under SGB.

“We didn’t have all that many groups asking for recognition,”

SGB representative Barry Weinberg, CC ’12, said. “You never know until you count the votes. ... It’s just the democratic process at work.”

The group that withdrew from the recognition application process, Campus Camp Wellstone, did not attend the meeting. Weinberg said that in the past, other groups that have previously applied and not been recognized by an SGB vote have opted to withdraw. Weber noted that the group might not have been a good fit for SGB.

“We promote their mission, but we feel like they might be better suited under the advising offices because they provide a resource for student leaders,” Weber said of the group.

The event was well attended, despite the trays of vegetarian pad Thai that remained long after the groups dispersed.

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JACK ZIETMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

GOVERNING | A representative for Chabad explained the need to remain separate from Hillel at an SGB town hall on Monday.

Men’s basketball to face Wagner at home

MEN’S BASKETBALL from page 6

Rivers has also come on strongly for the Seahawks, much as Lions’ freshman sharpshooter Steve Frankoski has for Columbia. Rivers is averaging 16.4 points per game while Frankoski is coming off a 21-point performance against Stony Brook.

In dealing with Wagner’s potent backcourt, the Lions perimeter players will be getting help from their big men in the post. Exactly who will be getting the majority of the minutes under the baskets is a tougher question.

“All of our inside guys, they’re similar in a lot of ways in terms of their level, but they all bring different attributes, and sometimes it’s different who’s better matchup-wise,” Smith said. “For Wagner, we want to play good defenders even though their posts haven’t been good scorers, but, understandably, we’re going to need to help on their guards.”

Smith mentioned senior center Max Craig and senior forward Brian Grimes as the likely starters

for Tuesday, but acknowledged the progress of Daniels and fellow sophomore big man Mark Cisco. Senior Asenso Ampim turned in a 16-point, 8-rebound performance against Stony Brook and is also in the picture.

Columbia’s rotation has experienced changes in the backcourt, too, where Agho and Frankoski are accompanied by sophomore point guard Brian Barbour. In total, 10 different players are averaging over 10 minutes of playing time while only three are averaging more than 20 per game. In explaining the flux in minutes for many of his players, Smith pointed to the inevitable ups and downs associated with the length of the season.

“As the season goes on, things change, guys change, roles change,” Smith said. “It’s funny... we’ve added a fifth perimeter player to the rotation in Van Green. It sort of changes roles and shorts some guys’ minutes and you never know what’s going to happen.”

Green could play a larger role against Wagner, particularly

given the need for an added defensive presence against Murray and Rivers.

“I think we need that to be effective, just to give us a little more depth on the perimeter defensively,” Smith said.

When asked if fans should expect the type of high-scoring affair that led to last year’s 102-91 triumph, Smith—a first-year head coach himself—pointed to a change in command at Wagner in predicting a much lower scoring contest.

“I think they hang their hat on their defensive intensity, and they’re very good defensively around the rim,” Smith said. “There’s a different coach—there’s a different sheriff in town over there. They are going to guard you—there’s no doubt that they’re hard-nosed and good defensively.”

Ultimately, though, it may come down to how well the Lions can deal with Wagner’s potent duo in the backcourt. If they can, the new head man in Morningside Heights will likely stay unbeaten in Levien.

SGA passes Barnard smoking ban resolution

BAN from front page

buildings,” said Megan Shannon, BC ’11 and vice president for student life.

Rastegayeva stressed that the idea for the smoking ban first

originated with the administration, not the SGA.

“If we decide to pass this ban, it will be an ongoing discussion with the administration in terms of enforcement,” Bridgit Donnelly, BC ’11 and SGA vice

president, said.

SGA will give their recommendation to administrators, who will decide next steps for the initiative.

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Barnard student ends her Disney days, follows new musical path

BY KATY TONG
Columbia Daily Spectator

For four years, Sophia Melon, BC '14, lived every tween girl's fantasy. Although Melon is now living the college life and finishing her first semester at Barnard, until April 2010 she played bass and contributed background vocals for the now-defunct all-girl band KSM. Signed to Walt Disney Records at the time, the power pop group toured as an opening act for the Jonas Brothers, Demi Lovato, and other Disney-affiliated recording artists.

"It was a lot of fun," Melon said. "I mean their fans were great, especially the Jonas Brothers fans. They screamed so loud, it's invigorating—it was amazing."

KSM had its own rabid following. "We had this group of men who would come to every single one of our concerts in the California area, and they called themselves the KS Men," Melon said, laughing. "They would have shirts that said 'KS Men,' they would crowd-surf—they were so into it, and we loved them so much."

Yet, groupies and airplay didn't come effortlessly for Melon. She lived through her modest share of garage bands before learning through word-of-mouth that Disney was holding auditions for

an all-girl group. The band was formed through a partnership between Disney and an iconic '80s girl band, the Go-Go's, to develop an ensemble called the Po-Go's, which would exclusively cover Go-Go's songs under the veteran band's mentorship. Melon was just 15 when she became part of the group.

"They [the Go-Go's] showed us how to get comfortable in the studio," Melon said. "They showed us how to perform because we were all very new, and I guess how to be women in the music industry. There aren't many all-girl rock bands that are mainstream, and there's a reason for that."

The cover band concept splintered in early 2008, and the group's name was changed to KSM—created by combining the initials of the members' first names—as a reflection of the shift in its musical direction to largely recording original songs. KSM's full-length debut, "Read Between the Lines," was released in September 2009 and laden with saccharine pop hooks, but tempered with a muted punk energy.

"The album was manufactured to younger kids," Melon said. "Although we were involved in writing it, we weren't allowed necessarily to be as raw or genuine as we would have liked to have been because we were under Disney, and we were under a hired hand." She admitted the difficulty of not

being able to say exactly what she wanted to say in a song—a struggle that became more apparent as she and her bandmates grew older and were more likely to develop creative content on their own.

Particularly in an industry where musical and acting ability are often considered co-requisites to entering the so-called Disney bubble, Melon has stayed true to her roots. When asked about the possibility of her band appearing in a movie or TV series, her reply was simple: "We're not actresses, we're musicians."



SYDNEY SMALL FOR SPECTATOR

SING IT LOUD | Sophia Melon, BC '14, a former member of the all-girl pop group KSM, is now exploring more personal topics in her music.

She learned not to take anything personally, despite the seemingly ceaseless ebb and flow of commercial music's fans and critics. "I'm blessed to have parents who really support me and are always there for me—they kept me grounded," Melon said. "I think I witnessed a lot of people in this experience who were not as fortunate and have lost their sense of reality. The pressure of the industry can crack you if you lose your sense of reality."

The disbanding of KSM hasn't stopped Melon's passion for music. She lit up with a smile while spilling details about her new musical endeavor—a two-piece collaboration that she formed with fellow student Caroline Pires, BC '14, about two months ago.

With plenty of creative freedom to explore her newfound indie pop sound, Melon has used songwriting to foster a more organic and internal conversation on everyday insights. "When I write by myself, it's almost simultaneous," Melon said. "Chords, lyrics, and melody—it just all happens at once."

As for returning to KSM someday and catering to the prepubescent set, Melon doesn't think that will be a possibility. "It was an experience in my life that I'm so grateful for," she said. "I've learned from it, and it's going to catapult me into whatever I do next."



CHRISTINA PHAN FOR SPECTATOR

Ballroom dance competition sweeps students off their feet in Boone Arledge

BY LIANA GERGELY
Columbia Daily Spectator

Sparkly costumes and the Cha Cha are no longer reserved exclusively for professionally trained artists—they are now also accessible to students.

The Columbia University Ballroom Dance Team hosted the fourth annual Big Apple Dancesport Challenge on Dec. 4 and 5 in Boone Arledge Auditorium. The competition featured couples of dancers from several East Coast universities, such as Yale, MIT and Cornell, in addition to Columbia. The event was a testament to ballroom dancing's recent spike in popularity.

"We chose to host this competition for many reasons," Denise Machin, CC '13 and competition chair of CUBDT, said. "One is school pride, another is that we are able to go to other competitions because other schools are nice enough to host, and hosting allows us to be a larger part of the ballroom community at large."

According to Machin, CUBDT decided to host this event to demonstrate the appreciation for ballroom dance that has spread through American universities.

The event featured over 30 groups as well as a panel of 18 official ballroom dance judges. The couples presented routines they had choreographed themselves, learned from private coaches, or learned in classes. The minute-and-a-half routines were ordered based on level and dance style, and the judges took note of the couples they wanted to see progressing in the competition. By the end of each category—Rhythm, Standard, Smooth, or Latin—only the strongest couples remained.

"The finals of the highest level of dancers occur after the performance and thus that would be a show in itself," Catherine Woo, CU '12 and a board member of CUBDT, said.

CUBDT prides itself on its high level of professionalism, and the hard work its members invest in the event. "I think it speaks volumes about the character of Columbia's community that a cultural event like this is so well received and attended every year," Machin said.

CUBDT members look forward to future events in which they will be able to unite more ballroom dance lovers in a similarly exciting setting. "The work is well worth it in the end, when you watch how happy the competitors are on the floor and really feel the magic of the performance couple at night," Woo said.



MICHAEL DISCENZA / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



SHIVINA HARJANI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TAKE IT FOR A SPIN | Ballroom dancing couples from Columbia and other universities perform their routines in Boone Arledge Auditorium for the fourth annual Big Apple Dancesport Challenge.

Barnard Project stages contemporary dance that intrigues despite imperfections

BY EMMA STEIN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Though portions of the choreography in this fall's Barnard Project were confusing, the show successfully blended dance with narrative.

The production, staged at the Dance Theater Workshop in Chelsea from Dec. 2-4, brought together undergraduates from Columbia and Barnard, as well as four seasoned choreographers. For the sixth time, DTW invited choreographers to become associate professors at Barnard for a term. This year, the choreographers—Kimberly Bartosik, Ori Flomin, Will Rawls, and Gwen Welliver—brought wholly modern and experimental pieces to the stage.

The program began with Welliver's piece, "A Sheet of Pictures," in which she combined stiff, controlled motions with music reminiscent of a bell tolling and the sound of static. Yet Welliver's choreography faltered slightly during gaps in the music and sections in which the dancers simply walked around.

Though the dancers seemed completely disconnected from the music in Welliver's piece, they were very much connected to the set—dancers took a sheet of paper on the floor of the set, crumpled it into a ball, and later unfolded and rotated it.

Meanwhile, dancers in Rawls' standout piece "Great Expectations and Other Missteps" did not interact with a physical set, but with a virtual one. The piece, inspired by folk dance, had choreography that felt cohesive and story-like. The piece began with a film projection of fireworks going off, which the dancers imitated by leaping like the firecrackers. The piece commented on conformity as the dancers moved together in a line, separating only occasionally from it. When a dancer did deviate from the group formation, the others called out her name. Perhaps the climax of the piece was the point at which the dancers took off the scarves around their waists and put them on their heads. Though the meaning of this gesture was elusive, the strength of it tied the piece together.

Also successful was Bartosik's piece, which explored the relationship of sound and music to movement. Dancers in the piece held CD players that played throughout, each with a different genre of music that inspired a different type of movement and reaction.

Flomin's piece seemed to be the least experimental—there was not as obvious a theme or concept that needed to be explored. The most interesting part of this piece showed the dancers blowing up balloons that they pulled out of their clothing. While this was a fascinating choice, it was a little awkward—audience

members could tell that some dancers had trouble finding their balloons and were a little off-beat. When the dancers then threw the balloons in the air, they did not always move in the right direction.



COURTESY OF DANCE THEATER WORKSHOP

GET LOW | Dancers perform "Great Expectations and Other Missteps," choreographed by Will Rawls, as part of the Barnard Project, a collaboration with Dance Theater Workshop.



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Do pre-med the right way

BY MARGOT LAZOW

The pre-medical path in many people's minds is associated with competition, stress, sleep deprivation, perpetual studying, and lack of a social life. Jokes about pre-med students spending Saturday nights in Butler while classmates go out, quotes like "I'm not anti-social, I'm pre-med," and the sympathetic stares I've received while tabling for pre-med organizations at club fairs further attest to these commonly held negative perceptions of the path to becoming a physician. While undoubtedly rigorous, the undergraduate experience of an individual pursuing medicine can and should be enjoyable, rewarding, and filled with noncompetitive collaboration with peers, as well as time allotted to relieving stress with friends. It may be time to change the focus of the pre-med track to enjoying one's experience, rather than completing a medical school checklist by senior year.

Perhaps one of the first ways one can enjoy the medical experience is to gain clinical exposure. You may have been initially drawn to medicine by your love of science, by the seemingly never-boring lives of doctors on "Grey's Anatomy," or by the influence of family members who are physicians. But only by directly observing the practice of medicine, and by personally interacting with patients, will you become confident in your desire to enter the field of medicine. Talking to a sick patient on the oncology unit as chemotherapy drips from the IV bag into the veins, watching as emergency room trauma

The conference of the Columbians

We've almost arrived at the year's end.

But we're not there yet. We won't make it until we finish finals in a blaze of glory and fly away, burned out and in ashes. We won't consummate our Columbian-ness, we won't understand what all the craziness of another semester means until, like the moths of 12th-century Persian mystic Farid ud-Din 'Attar, we've stumbled through the final flames of the semester.

Attar's moths appear in a short parable in "The Conference of the Birds," an epic poem about the mystical journey to truth. They seek to investigate the reality of the flame—that to which they are so essentially and so fatally attracted. Two moths fly by a flame and return to the other moths, each claiming to have understood the truth of the fire. But their claims are rejected. A third then flies to the candle, plunges headlong into the flame, and is set aglow. It is he who has understood. His burning wings symbolize his true understanding of what it means to love and to seek knowledge.

The parable clearly has divine and mystical significances, but, in an odd way, I think it can also act as a metaphor for what we do here at college, especially in this holiday-turned-finals season. We've each been burned before at Columbia, whether by each other, by the powers-that-be, by the system of education itself, or by whatever. We've come in such close contact with Columbia—whatever "Columbia" may metonymically represent to us—that we've been engulfed in metaphorical flames.

A question then arises, though. What is it that makes us willing to do this? What is it that drives us to this figurative self-immolation?

Attar's moths suggest that we do all this out of love. Just as the moth's intrinsic attraction to the flame makes it fly into the fire, it's because we love what we do here at college that we seek to be burned. We're so single-mindedly in love that we can't be at peace until we weld ourselves to our object of adoration, until our sleepy eyes and heavy backpacks and dirty hoodies all take on a Columbian identity.

It's because we love what we do here at college that we seek to be burned.

That's highfalutin, but in reality, it's simple: We love. We love being college students, and we love doing this whole college thing with a couple thousand other brilliant people. Granted, we don't love it all the time, but at the end of the day, when all is said and done, we do.

For some reason, it's a sentiment we refuse to articulate. We pretend to be aloof. We pretend not to care. We pretend—in lecture and discussion section, in the dining hall and our dorm rooms, on Broadway and the subway—to be all brains and no heart.

Yet, if there were no love involved in all of this, I don't think we'd make it. We just wouldn't bother. We'd be the first two moths who fly by, nonchalant and unscathed.

But that isn't what we do. We bother. We fly into the flame.

It sounds maudlin, but love acts as the thread that weaves our disparate Columbian stories into a single, coherent narrative. It is Hephaistos carving and Genji crying; it is our disdain for parochialism and our advocacy of diversity; it is an inter-group campus event and a campaign for student council; it is a scattered people longing to go home and a high school student longing to leave home; it is a desire to study abroad and a hope to honor America; it is an aggressive campus debate and a harmonious campus dialogue; it is that which makes everything seem so temporary but everlasting, so sad but joyous. And it is what makes us end the year ablaze but burning out, able to claim, as the last flames flicker away, a visceral understanding of the journey to knowledge.

So, as we ironically sip coffee out of festive Starbucks cups, let's think about what it is that makes us soar, like Attar's infatuated moths, right into the Columbian fire. And, flaming out as the year dwindles away, let's express it in a way that can be told.

Amin Ghadimi is a Columbia College junior majoring in East Asian languages and cultures. He is a former Spectator editorial page editor, a former senior editor of Columbia East Asia Review, and a former secretary of the Bahá'í Club of Columbia University. He is studying abroad at the Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies. The Way That Can Be Told runs alternate Tuesdays.



AMIN
GHADIMI
**The
Way
That
Can Be
Told**

doctors prepare to treat a pedestrian hit by a car, or simply holding a crying child's hand as his or her wound is stitched up will leave you with impressions profoundly different from the effects of reading a biology textbook. In addition to testing your commitment to medicine, clinical volunteering should be an immensely rewarding activity that helps to remind you of the reason you're studying so hard.

Only by directly observing the practice of medicine, and by personally interacting with patients, will you become confident in your desire to enter the field of medicine.

In the same vein, pre-meds should choose extracurriculars that they feel passionate about, rather than ones that will "look good" on their resumes. This is a great way to meet new people, relieve stress, pursue your non-academic interests, and take your mind off your schoolwork. Whereas belonging to a pre-medical club will provide you with an instant community of pre-med students who understand your worries, joining an organization unrelated to medicine will provide you with the refreshing

Watching out for our own WikiLeaks

The leaking of diplomatic cables by the organization WikiLeaks in late November has caused an international uproar. Whether it's the revelation that Berlusconi and Putin have an extraordinarily close relationship or that the Chinese think North Korea is behaving like a "spoiled child," sensitive private information has been made public. Earlier in the year, WikiLeaks leaked 92,000 documents relating to the war in Afghanistan and 400,000 documents relating to the Iraq war.

Aside from these larger leaks, WikiLeaks has published millions of other documents. From the contents of Sarah Palin's private email account to secret rituals of several national sororities, the public exposure of private information raises an important question: In an age of instantaneous information, when content can go viral in a matter of seconds, where does privacy fit in?

The constant influx of media and the push to share information blur the line between what is public and what is private.

I remember the day I joined Facebook. It was the fall of my sophomore year of high school and I was slightly ahead of the curve—only several students in my grade had already joined. Apparently, it was going to be the next big thing, yet the idea made me nervous. I wasn't overly excited about having a profile for all to see, and I felt strange about being represented by a brief description of my interests and favorite movies and music. People would actually spend time looking at pictures of me? How bizarre. I felt exposed, like I was truly putting myself out there to be looked at and judged. This uncomfortable feeling of exposure has almost completely disappeared from my consciousness when using the Internet today, as I, like many others, do not always consider the implications of having my private life on public display.

Like applying to a job or school, using the Internet forces us to construct an identity. On many occasions, friends have described finally meeting someone they had only "known" through Facebook. Recognizing



ALEXANDRA
KATZ
**Umm,
Excuse me**

opportunity to talk to students with interests widely divergent from your own, students who could care less about your upcoming Intro Bio exam. So in general, it is good to have a support system of friends who are pre-med as well as friends who are not.

Research, similar to all your other activities, should not be viewed simply as an item to be checked off your pre-med "to-do list"—you should pursue research if it genuinely interests you. That said, there is an enormous range of research opportunities from which you can choose—encompassing basic science research, clinical or translational research, and public health research. Do not be deterred from research if you were not too fond of your general and organic chemistry laboratory courses, as the ability to analyze data from your own independent research project is a wonderfully rewarding experience you cannot achieve from a lab course.

The pre-med track can be a daunting one, so it is better to have fun while you're doing it. Gaining hands-on experience in a hospital or clinic, diving into extracurriculars you're passionate about, and conducting research in a field that sparks your interest is crucial. You have to make sure you can achieve a proper balance between work and fun—your courses will undeniably necessitate much of the former, but your mental health requires a decent amount of the latter.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in biochemistry. She is the president of the Columbia University American Medical Students Association.

differences between an individual's two "personalities" forces us to realize that an Internet persona is not who someone is in reality. A friend recently expressed her frustration about all of her tagged pictures on Facebook being taken while out at night. Her concern is that a person judging her based on her online profile would get the wrong idea and would be unaware of all the other aspects of her life. How often do people bring their cameras to the library and take pictures of themselves studying, even if that is where they spend the majority of their time?

We perceive people based on their online personalities, and we are surprised when they are different in person. From the painfully shy individual who uses Facebook to constantly post information to her profile, to the predator who builds an online persona as a 10-year-old girl, the Internet enables us to share who we are, or who we want to be. It's like going into Grand Central Station and screaming, "This is who I am!"

According to a study from the University of California, San Diego, the average American takes in 34 gigabytes of information per day outside of the workplace, and approximately 100,500 words from different types of media. This is three-and-a-half times more information than we were digesting 30 years ago. The constant influx of media and the push to share information blur the line between what is public and what is private. As the concerned adults in our lives tell us, nothing we put on the Internet is actually private and we must exercise caution when using social media. This is somewhat confusing for our generation. When we send a friend a private message on Facebook, is that OK because it's hidden from the public—meaning the Facebook world? What feels private to us is actually more public than we could imagine. When we post something online, it is permanent and there can be legal, professional, and personal consequences. Just look at people legally prosecuted for cyber bullying or the recent warning we received to avoid posting links to WikiLeaks. Putting information on the Internet is what we know and what we are completely accustomed to doing.

The definitions of public and private have changed dramatically in recent years. Only time will tell what the implications are for our generation, but in the meantime, what are we to do? Are we forced to choose between abstaining from using the Internet for personal use or living our lives as an open book? As the first generation to grow up in this public world, it is up to us to find a balance between these two extremes.

Alexandra Katz is a Barnard College senior majoring in political science. Umm, Excuse me runs alternate Tuesdays.

THE ANGRY PEN

"[HILLARY] SHOULD RESIGN IF IT CAN BE SHOWN THAT SHE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ORDERING U.S. DIPLOMATIC FIGURES TO ENGAGE IN ESPIONAGE IN THE UNITED NATIONS."

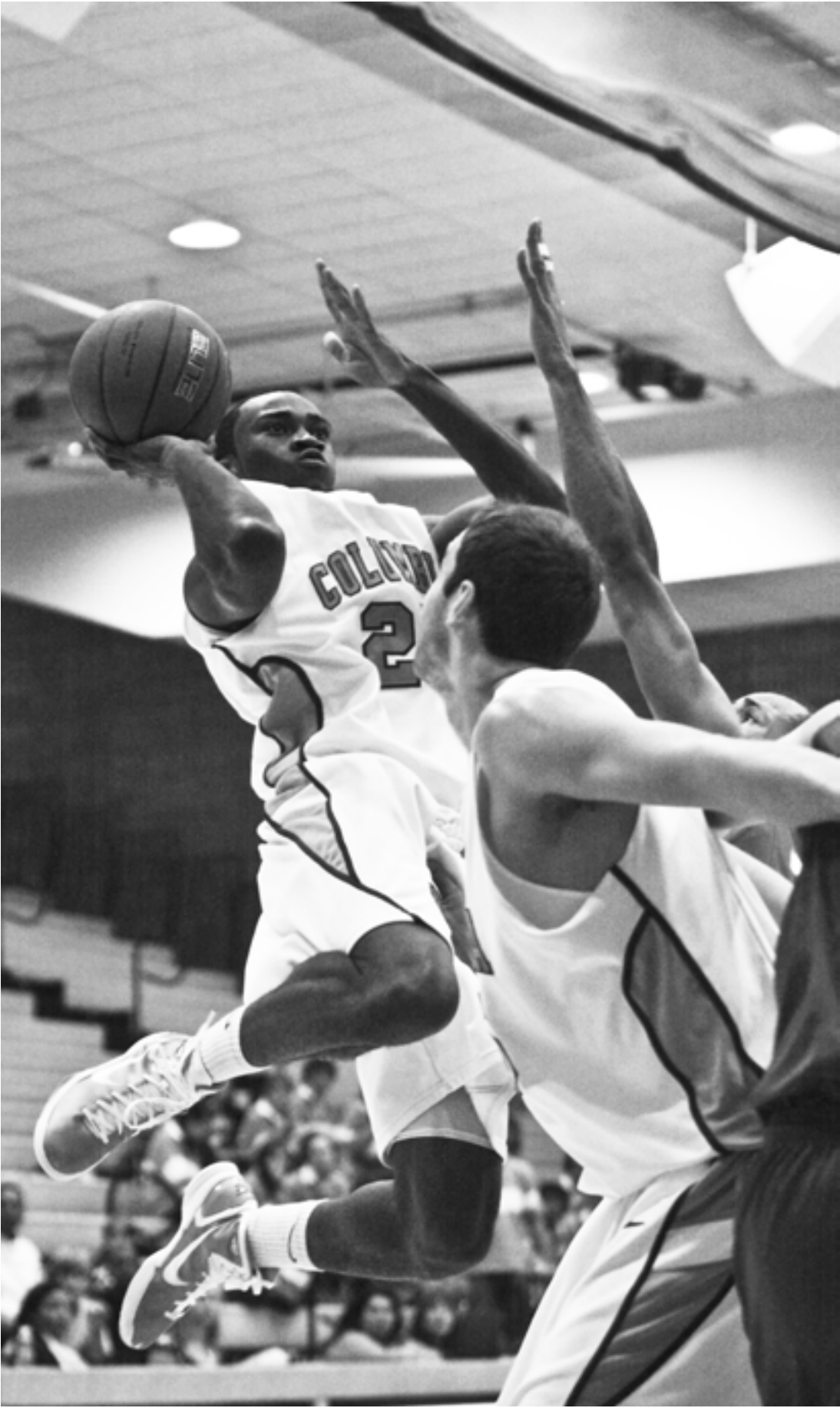


NATIONAL SECURITY...
BLAH... BLAH...
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BLAH... BLAH...
PEACEFUL RELATIONS
BETWEEN NATIONS.



OBVIOUSLY, MR. ASSANGE IS THE ONLY PROBLEM.

IGOR SIMIC



FRESHMEN IMPACT | Columbia will look to freshmen Van Green (left) and Steve Frankoski (right) to score points on the perimeter as well as provide much-needed assistance to the defense against Wagner.

Men’s basketball looks to defend perfect home record

BY ZACH GLUBIAK
Spectator Staff Writer

COLUMBIA VS. WAGNER
Levien Gymnasium, 7 p.m.



Columbia will trot out its perfect home record again tonight as it hosts Wagner at Levien Gymnasium.

On Saturday the Lions (4-4, 3-0 home) used a 19-2 first half run and a critical late free-throw from sophomore forward John Daniels to overcome an 18-point first-half deficit and turn back Stony Brook, 73-72 in Levien. Head coach Kyle Smith’s squad is likely to get all it can handle once again from a Seahawks team that is coming off a dramatic win of its own—a 73-68 OT triumph at Sacred Heart.

“It should be a very competitive game,” Smith said. “On paper, this should be a really good game.”

Smith noted the similarities between the two squads—Wagner (4-3) has played many of the same opponents as Columbia, and has largely come away with similar results. The Seahawks traveled to Stony Brook earlier this year and came away with a 58-54 win. Another common opponent, St. John’s, downed both Wagner and Columbia. The Seahawks did win at Bucknell, where the Lions lost by five last Wednesday.

“I think they’re very good and get a lot of scoring from the perimeter,” Smith said. “Their guards are very good, so they’re similar.”

The Seahawks are led by 6-foot-5-inch junior guard Tyler Murray, who is likely to defensively draw the Light Blue’s top scorer, junior guard Noruwa Agho. Murray leads the team with 18.7 points a game, and has shot a scorching 48.6 percent from beyond the arc. He also is Wagner’s top rebounder, with 5.6 boards per game.

“I think it’s a good matchup for Noruwa, I think he’s up to the challenge,” Smith said. “He’s [Murray] a good player, he’s not one-dimensional. He can make threes, he can put in on the floor, he can go right, he can go left, he can shoot the pull-up, he can get to the basket, he gets out in transition, so it’ll be a challenge. Everyone’s going to have to be alert ... Coach Altman, who’s the scout, said he’s probably the best perimeter player we’ve seen thus far, and there’s some good teams we’ve played.”

Agho, who is averaging 16.3 points per game, will likely not be tasked with Murray for all 40 minutes.

“We’ll have some other guys be ready, in case of foul trouble or we might need to tweak some things defensively,” Smith added.

Wagner freshman guard Latif

SEE MEN’S BASKETBALL,
page 2



JASPER L. CYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Men in tights: gaining an appreciation for the wonderful world of college wrestling

Dear Columbia wrestling team,
You are way beast.
Sincerely,
Lauren Seaman.

Before I buckled down to write this column, I’d never pay much mind to wrestling. When I say “wrestling,” I’m talking about the real kind: the intense Greco-Roman and freestyle stuff.

Let’s face it, not many follow the sport. When was the last time you sat down to watch some good wrasslin’ (wrestling) on your TV? It’s probably been a while. Maybe you’ve never seen any at all.

It’s no secret that no one really cares about freestyle wrestling. Most people can name at



LAUREN SEAMAN
Shiver Me Timbers

least one professional basketball player, football player, or baseball player. Others can name swimmers, golfers, or tennis players. Who out there knows any professional freestyle wrestlers?

Even if you wanted to watch or follow the sport, there are hardly ways out there to become a fan. You can’t just flip on the TV and catch a wrestling match. They just don’t exist. Good luck if you’re waiting for the Olympics to roll around to watch some wrestling. Maybe if you try really hard, you’ll catch a match at some bizarre hour of the morning sandwiched between hours and hours of gymnastics. Otherwise, even though wrestling is one of the largest, most historic athletic sports, its domain is primarily in sweaty, dank high school and college gyms.

My interest in the sport has never quite gone beyond a small appreciation for the cute little unitards and my

immature take on the wrestling vernacular used in sports articles—if you haven’t experienced this childish joy, go read some wrestling recaps for fun-zies. You won’t be sorry.

Very recently, though, something happened to make me question my apathy. I was reading a wrestling story in the very fine sports section of the Spectator. It was the story about how sophomore Steve Santos pretty much dominated the No. 11 ranked Rutgers wrestler in the final minutes of the match. With only one minute remaining in his match, Santos straight-up Animorphed into some sort of beast. First, he scored a take-down and tied the score 5-5. Santos then decided that the tie wasn’t good enough. With five seconds to go, he denied his opponent any degree of mercy. Santos picked this kid up and slammed his back into the ground, winning the match 6-5. Word up.

After reading this article, I

began thinking about collegiate wrestling and reached a couple of conclusions. Let’s take a look at the logic...

1: Unitards aside, wrestling is probably the most intense sport out there. Wrestlers are real athletes.

2: Our wrasslin’ team here at Columbia is not too shabby.

3: Therefore, Columbia wrestling is something worth following.

What a perfect time to start this fan club! As you’re reading this, there’s actually some action going down in the world of Light Blue wrestling. While most of us are stuck here in Morningside Heights, helplessly waiting for final exams to do their worst, Columbia’s wrestling team just went off to Las Vegas. In the Cliff Keen Las Vegas Collegiate Wrestling Invitational, a prestigious tournament that attracted 36 schools from around the country, two Lions dominated. Senior Eren Civan and junior

co-captain Kevin Lester survived through the second day of the tournament to place seventh overall. Not bad, boys.

There are so many different flavors of wrestling. You have your basic collegiate wrestling, freestyle wrestling, Greco-Roman wrestling, and soap-operatic pro wrestling. Then you have your sumo wrestling, bear wrestling, mud wrestling, etc. Essentially, there’s a type of wrestling for the whole family.

In my family, it’s the WWE. Don’t hate. If I tried to defend myself and the WWE, I would lose horribly. I got nothin’. After all, we know that real wrestling is rooted in a rich tradition of athletic heroism dating back to the Greek Olympics. Pro wrestling, on the other hand, started as a sideshow act in traveling circuses (true story, friends).

The best defense I have for the WWE and its televised programming, then, is that there’s just something captivating and wonderful about watching the

drama of big dudes in tights rolling around on the floor. Done and dusted.

At this point in my life, though, I feel myself maturing. I’m at the point where I can leave the world of World Wrestling Entertainment and explore some of the other sides of this sport so rich in history, awkward positions, and tight uniforms.

I think I’ll start with Columbia wrestling. When we get back from winter break, the Lions will have already taken on Army and Binghamton. At the end of January, they’ll be getting down to business with their final non-conference opponents in their string of six home matches beginning with Millersville, Rider and Franklin and Marshall. For the first time, I’ll be there.

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JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

REBUILDING A TEAM | Between the loss of many key players from last season and its inconsistent play during games, the 0-7 women’s basketball team has been unable to earn a win so far this season.

Poor second-half starts lead to early season winless streak for women’s basketball

BY SARAH SOMMER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Its 0-7 record may say otherwise, but the Columbia women’s basketball team has the potential to win games. The Lions will only win, however, if they play well on a consistent basis.



In its first few games, Columbia struggled to execute in its final possessions of the first half. The Lions ended the first period against Long Island with a 6-0 run, but turned the ball over with six seconds remaining to head to the break-down 30-29.

Columbia lost a costly turnover in the final minute of the first half against Manhattan as well. With

the Lions down 23-20, a Columbia turnover with 30 seconds left led to a Manhattan three-pointer. Senior guard Kathleen Barry hit two free throws with nine seconds left, meaning that the Lions trailed by just four points at halftime. Still, Columbia had lost an opportunity to avoid another halftime deficit.

These lapses late in the first halves of the games would be less concerning had Columbia started the second halves well. Instead of responding with statement-making runs, however, the Lions allowed Long Island and Manhattan to make runs of their own. Long Island opened the final 20 minutes by outscoring Columbia 10-4, while Manhattan outscored Columbia 10-1.

Changes may be on the horizon, though. The Lions ended the first half in a dominant way in each of their past

two games. Against Wagner, Barry hit a transition layup with two seconds remaining. Her shot not only gave Columbia momentum at the break, but also helped the Lions secure their first halftime lead of the year. Barry struck again at Monmouth, grabbing an offensive rebound and scoring with less than five seconds left in the first. As a result, the Lions trailed the Hawks by only three points at the intermission.

Still, Columbia started the second half of each of those games poorly. The Lions missed their first eight field goals of the second period against Wagner, and their first four of the second period against Monmouth. Wagner began the final 20 minutes with an 11-2 run, while Monmouth went on a 6-0 run.

After seven games, Columbia has never scored the first points of

the second half. The Lions allowed Fairleigh Dickinson and St. John’s to make 3-0 runs after the break, while San Diego made a 4-0 run. Though these runs were small, they allowed Columbia’s opponents to make double-digit halftime leads even larger in the second period.

Columbia is a young team, with only two returning starters and three freshmen receiving significant minutes. While the returning starters—Barry and senior center Lauren Dwyer—have started every game this season, no other player has made seven starts.

The Lions have, however, used the same starting five in their past two games. Freshman guard Brianna Orlich, freshman guard Taylor Ward, and sophomore forward Tyler Simpson joined Barry and Dwyer in the lineup. Orlich appears to have

established herself as a starter, and has been on court during tipoff of the Lions’ last five contests. Ward, meanwhile, is Columbia’s best option at point guard and has started the past three games.

Simpson has played well, though freshman forward Courtney Bradford has replaced her in the starting five when the Lions want a bigger lineup. Bradford had a breakout game against Monmouth, which could lead to her starting for a reason other than her size.

As Columbia’s players become more aware of their roles within the team, and as the players get more used to playing together, they may be able to prevent the poor second-half starts that have plagued the Lions this season. If Columbia can improve in that regard, the team may achieve some victories as well.

Penn, Brown, Princeton men’s basketball win in weekend games

BY MOLLY TOW
Spectator Staff Writer

MINNESOTA 71, CORNELL 66

On Saturday, Cornell (2-6) was narrowly defeated by No. 13 Minnesota (7-1). The Big Red kept the Golden Gophers honest in a game that was predicted to be a blowout, with impressive 3-point accuracy that compensated for their noticeable size disadvantage. Cornell had a strong start, leading for the majority of the first half. Minnesota managed to sneak ahead 34-33 as the first half came to the close with strong inside presence. The second half was back and forth for most of its duration, the visiting Big Red especially displaying promise in the third quarter. Fouls cost Cornell the win in the end, as the Golden Gophers scored their last points of the game from free throws.



BROWN 62, MAINE 54

Senior captain Peter Sullivan scored a game-high 21 points to lead the Brown (4-3) to victory against Maine (2-3) on Saturday night. Brown dominated possession in the first half, leading by as many as six at one point, but finished the half trailing by one. Maine increased the

lead early in the second half, but the Bears managed to pull ahead by one with 12:10 remaining in the game. With only 1:18 minutes of playing time remaining, the game was even at 54. From that point on, the Bears monopolized the scoring with a lay-up and six free throws to secure the victory.

VERMONT 80, DARTMOUTH 53

Dartmouth (2-5) did not have the shooting touch as they lost by a large margin at Vermont (6-1) on Wednesday. Vermont used their size and skill in second-chance points to soundly defeat the Big Green. Dartmouth was first to score in the game, but quickly lost the lead, falling by double-digits as the first half progressed. The score at the end of the half was 37-26, with the Catamounts showing impressive skill in field goal percentage. Vermont’s lead only increased as the second half commenced. The Big Green managed to keep their deficit below 20 for a while with the occasional 3-pointer, but the Catamounts eventually ran away with the game to win.

PENN 68, ARMY 52

On Saturday, Penn (4-3) beat Army (4-4) with a late game surge to notch a road win. Possession was fairly even in the first half, as the teams left the

court at the end of the half tied at 28. Penn’s second-half shooting percentage helped lead them to victory, going 14-21 from the field. Army pulled ahead by three at the start of the second half, but the Quakers didn’t let the deficit increase any more. Penn proceeded to score 14 of the next 16 points, refusing to surrender this lead for the remainder of the game.

MICHIGAN 65, HARVARD 62

Michigan (5-2) came from behind in the second half to defeat visitors Harvard (5-2) on Saturday. The Crimson looked dominant from the start of the game, and kept this trend going early into the second half. With the score at 37-25, the Wolverines went on a 7-0 run to pull back into contention. Michigan continued to command possession, making their run 19-1 and the score read 44-38 in their favor. Harvard proceeded to regain the lead, but it was quickly snatched away again by Michigan. With 3:27 left to go in the game, Harvard was down by six – a manageable comeback deficit. Time, however, was not to Crimson’s advantage, as they eventually fell to the Wolverines.

VERMONT 82, YALE 78

On Saturday, Yale (3-4) lost in a close competition with Vermont

(6-1). In the first half, both teams took turns in the lead. Yale’s biggest lead was seven, and Vermont’s was six. With a game full of ties – 11 in all – an outcome was uncertain until the final minutes of the game. The last tie came with seven minutes remaining, at 59 points apiece. With a minute left to go and the Bulldogs down by three, tensions were high. There were multiple fouls on each team, and the score stood at 76-71 in Vermont’s favor with 24 seconds on the clock. With five seconds left, Yale made two more free throws to make the score 80-78, but in the end, the Catamounts answered back with two successful foul shots of their own, making the final score 82-78.

PRINCETON 74, SAINT JOSEPH’S 65

Princeton (5-3) extended their winning streak to three by beating Saint Joseph’s (3-5) on Sunday. In the first half, the Tigers shot an impressive 60 percent from the field, which facilitated their production of a 25-point lead by the end of the half. The outcome appeared set until Saint Joseph’s went on a 13-1 run in the second half to make the score 45-32 with 15 minutes to go. Princeton only let Saint Joseph’s get within 10 in the last minute of the game, and was able to evade danger and emerge victorious.

RK (LW)	TEAM
1 (1) 5-2	HARVARD CRIMSON Harvard currently has the best record in the league, and recently took Michigan down to the wire after leading at the half.
2 (2) 5-3	PRINCETON TIGERS The Tigers dismantled Atlantic-10 foe St. Joe’s for their third straight win behind league-best 47.6 shooting percentage.
3 (5) 2-6	CORNELL BIG RED Despite losing five in a row to drop them to last place, the Big Red played No. 22 Minnesota tough for 40 minutes.
4 (3) 4-4	COLUMBIA LIONS After beating Stony Brook in the closing seconds, the Lions have the Ivy League’s best offense, but also its worst defense.
4 (4) 4-4	YALE BULLDOGS Led by Ivy League scoring leader Austin Morgan, the Bulldogs ended Albany’s three-game win streak in impressive fashion.
6 (5) 4-3	PENN QUAKERS If Penn keeps playing in blow-out games, their putrid 68.4 free throw percentage shouldn’t be too much of an issue.
7 (7) 4-4	BROWN BEARS Getting their first taste of Big East competition, the Bears were embarrassed by Providence 91-64.
8 (8) 2-5	DARTMOUTH BIG GREEN After breaking 60 points for the second time against Colgate, the Ivy League’s worst offense only put up 53 at Vermont.

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