

## Occupy Harlem looks to energize uptown movement

BY ZARA CASTANY  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Harlem residents have been trying desperately to bring the momentum of the Occupy Wall Street movement to Harlem, a neighborhood with a history of crime, poverty, and an unemployment rate that is typically twice the state average.

Daniel Alonso, CC '12, and Dorian Bon, CC '15, who were both serving as representatives of Occupy Columbia, were the guest speakers at Occupy Harlem's Wednesday night general assembly.

"The University tries to isolate its students from the community. We are constantly being told to look in instead of out," Alonso said. "We are gathering to condemn Columbia's expansion activities and to stop it from invading and colonizing spaces in Harlem."

Both students said that they would participate in an upcoming march to protest the University's expansion into Manhattanville. The assembly in the basement of St. Phillips Church, at 134th Street and Seventh Avenue, the fourth held so far, was attended by about twenty people, who discussed gentrification and Harlem's unique socioeconomic position.

According to Nellie Bailey, a

SEE OCCUPY, page 3



**OCCUPY HARLEM** | David Rutherford, top, listens at a recent general assembly organized by members of Occupy Harlem. Rutherford said he liked the spirit at Zuccotti Park and felt compelled to bring the movement to Harlem.

## FinAid to conduct internal review

Admins to focus on transparency, accessibility

BY MARGARET MATTES  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Last week, an undergraduate student was heading into the Office of Financial Aid during his adviser's walk-in hours, only to find that he was out of luck—his adviser was leaving.

"I had this very important financial aid matter and no one could help me," he said. The student, who asked not to be named, said his experience was indicative of a "disconnect" between students and the financial aid office.

He's not the only one who feels that way, and the Office of Financial Aid has taken notice. Administrators are beginning to conduct an internal review of the office, focusing on how to make it more transparent and easier for students to work with.

**'MISSING LINK'**  
Karishma Habbu, CC '13 and Columbia College Student

SEE AID, page 2

## New Lions coach brings plenty of experience

BY SPENCER GYORY  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Early Thursday morning, the Columbia athletic department hired Pete Mangurian as its next head coach of football. The Lions hope that Mangurian, who has been involved in coaching at the collegiate and professional level for over 30 years, can reenergize and transform the struggling program.

"Pete Mangurian is an outstanding football coach," M. Dianne Murphy, director of intercollegiate athletics and physical education, said in a statement released by the athletic department. "He brings tremendous experience with a plethora of impressive mentors, including Bill Arnsparger, Dan Reeves, and Bill Belichick. He has worked in great organizations under Pat Bowlen, owner of the Denver Broncos, and Robert K. Kraft, CC '63 and owner of the New England Patriots. Pete's experience speaks for itself."

For Mangurian and Murphy this must have felt like déjà vu. Prior to coming to Columbia in 2004, Murphy served as the associate athletic director at Cornell from 1995-1998. In her final year with the Big Red, she took a leading role in the school's search for a new head football coach. The final man left standing in that search turned out to be Mangurian.

Later that year, Murphy went

SEE MANGURIAN, page 8

## Columbia receives fewer 2016 ED applicants

BY JILLIAN KUMAGAI  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

The number of Early Decision applications received by Columbia dropped 5.68 percent this year, a decrease that the Office of Undergraduate Admissions said was impacted by changes in the early application policies of "peer institutions."

This year, Harvard University and Princeton University restored their early admission programs, which allow prospective students to apply early to only one college.

"The decrease in applications was influenced by decisions made by our peers, Harvard and Princeton," Jessica Marinaccio, director of undergraduate admissions for Columbia College and SEAS, said. "But I'd say it was only slightly affected, and not a very large influence."

Both universities' programs fall under the category of "early

action," which is non-binding. Early action was previously eliminated at both schools in September 2006, a decision that benefited financially-disadvantaged applicants who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to consider the financial aid offers of other universities.

At the time of publication, Columbia's admissions office declined to provide information about the number of students accepted or deferred.

This year Columbia received 3,088 ED applications, a decrease from last year's 3,229 applications, of which a record low of 19.6 percent were accepted. Despite the decrease in applicants, a statement from the admissions office said that the ED pool "increased in terms of academic quality indicators" and that the percentage of the class filled through ED—around 40 percent—remained consistent.

"CU is becoming more and

more selective and that's wonderful news, but the hardest part is saying no to students," Marinaccio said. "We don't revel in saying no to so many."

Barnard College received 561 applications, a 2 percent increase from the previous year's 550 applications. Harvard and Princeton received 4,245 applications and 3,547 applications, respectively.

Admissions officers and employees of the University's financial aid department mailed Early Decision acceptance letters to students of the Class of 2016 in a ceremony on Thursday afternoon. Assembled on College Walk before a red Toyota Sienna holding ten USPS boxes of admissions envelopes, the enthusiastic group of about 30 cheered and sang "Roar Lion Roar," Columbia's fight song.

"We spend so much on this process and to come to together and have this ceremonial gesture is incredibly exciting," Marinaccio said. "The great thing about Early Decision is that when we admit a student we know that they're coming here. Tonight at 5 p.m. they'll find out they're admitted to their first-choice university. That anticipation is very exciting."

Josh Cohen, of Atlanta, found out Thursday that he would be a member of Columbia Engineering's Class of 2016.

"I still don't know that it has quite sunk in yet," he said. "I was so nervous, and I was all shaken right up to the notification. I kind of had to sit down for a bit."

Ivan Romero, CC '16, said that he would remember yesterday as a defining moment in his life.

"It was just kind of like my four years summed up into five seconds of my heart beating faster than it has ever," he said.

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## TC admins commit to higher salaries for TAs

BY HENRY WILLSON  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

After a survey of Teachers College teaching assistants found that more than half earned less than \$1,000 per semester-long course, TC administrators promised that pay increases for TAs would be announced in the spring semester.

As Spectator first reported in October, Teachers College TAs have expressed frustration that their pay is significantly lower than that of Columbia TAs—who are typically paid about \$5,000 per class—even though they say they do just as much work.

Forty-five TAs completed the pay survey conducted by the TC Student Senate, the results of which were released at a town hall held last week. Twenty-seven of those TAs earned less than \$1,000 per course.

At the town hall, TC President Susan Fuhrman and TC Provost Tom James made a more specific commitment than they had in the past to enhance pay to address the concerns. They also emphasized the need to establish a consistent definition of a TA's role and responsibilities.

"We in the administration have been concerned about TA pay, and also incredibly confused about what is a TA," Fuhrman said. "Is there any meaning to how these terms are used in practice?"

TAs from Teachers College instruct graduate-level courses, whereas many Columbia TAs work at the undergraduate-level—a difference TC administrators have cited for the

pay disparity.

But the survey found that most respondents' responsibilities include traditional TA duties like grading papers, leading discussion sections, and holding office hours. For instance, 39 of the 45 TAs said they grade student papers as part of their jobs.

**"We in the administration have been concerned about TA pay, and also incredibly confused about what is a TA. Is there any meaning to how these terms are used in practice?"**

—Susan Fuhrman, TC President

"The people who claim that TA positions at graduate schools require less work than at an undergraduate level are wrong," and the results of the survey reinforce that, TC Student Senate President Vikash Reddy said in an email.

Students who participated in the survey also emphasized that they hope administrators will improve pay for TAs rather

SEE TA, page 2

### OPINION, PAGE 6

#### Scientific study

Frontiers of Science allows us to further our scientific and critical skills.

#### Saints for the advice!

Jelani Harvey urges us to engage in more original discussions regarding God and religion.



### SPORTS, PAGE 4

#### The only 'Columbia'

Fifty years after its Ivy football championship, the 1961 squad remains the only "Columbia" engraved on the Ivy trophy. The memories are still fresh, though.

### EVENTS

#### Muslim Identity in Southeast Asia

The Weatherhead East Asian Institute presents Michael Laffan, professor of history at Princeton, and Duncan McCargo from the University of Leeds.

IAB 1209, 12-1:30 p.m.

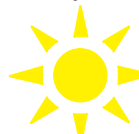
#### John Zorn

The iconic avant-gardist John Zorn returns to Miller with five world premieres played by some of his favorite musicians from New York and beyond.

Miller Theater, 8-10 p.m.

### WEATHER

#### Today



51°/35°

#### Tomorrow



42°/28°



# Student Affairs administrators look to launch internal review of office in spring

AID from front page

Council’s student services representative, approached the office—which handles aid for students at Columbia College and the School of Engineering and Applied Science—with the idea of conducting a review earlier this semester.

Habbu said the idea came from students who spoke to her about their problems with the financial aid office, noting that the most common problems were with responsiveness and accessibility. She added that she wanted to address the “missing link of communication” between aid administrators and students, a concern echoed by the student who crossed paths with his adviser.

“A lot of people are afraid—they don’t want to go see their adviser because you don’t feel like they care for you,” he said. “I have financial problems, I should be able to go talk to my adviser but I don’t feel comfortable doing that.”

According to Dean of Financial Aid Laurie Schaffler, the internal review will tackle issues involving student interactions with advisers, communication among University offices, the structure of the financial aid office, and the transparency of how aid is awarded.

Schaffler said her goal is to make the financial aid process “as streamlined and quiet for students as possible.”

“All students need to take responsibility for their financial life while they are in college, but it sure would be nice if it didn’t become overwhelming and frustrating,” she said.

ACCOUNT ON HOLD

Some of the problems students have with the financial aid office are specific to particular groups. An international student, who also asked not to be named, said that he and other international students “have a lot of issues” with the financial aid office.

He noted that most international students send forms from their home countries but have no idea how those forms

are assessed. The student also noted that he didn’t receive his aid award until the end of the summer.

“I became uneasy waiting month after month, not knowing whether I would be given an amount that would allow me to come to school,” he said.

Other issues are affect a wider variety of students. Schaffler said she was shocked by the “excessively high” number of students who had holds placed on their accounts this semester, meaning they had an overdue account balance of over \$1,000. Students are not allowed to register for classes until all holds are lifted—in other words, until the overdue balance is reduced to less than \$1,000.

Schaffler said the high number of holds was probably caused, in part, by students not being able to meet their balances.

But she speculated that her office could be creating undue confusion, noting that students came into the office just before course registration to submit their tax returns, and to fulfill other requirements that needed to be met so that financial aid could be distributed. “It felt either that we’ve created a culture where students are ignoring things, or we’re confusing about what we’re telling students to do,” Schaffler said. “Or we’re sending out too much information to students so they’re just not looking at everything because it’s too much stuff coming to them.”

Habbu called the holds issue an “illustration of the problem” of the lack of communication between the financial aid office and students.

Schaffler said it’s important for her office to figure out why the problem is happening.

“Sorting out all that information will be a little of a challenge, but I think it’s important so that we can understand,” she said.

A FORMAL REVIEW

Although the exact details of the internal review have not yet been decided, it will be modeled on the review the Center for Student Advising conducted several years ago. It will consist of



NIRAALI PANDIRI FOR SPECTATOR

**TRANSPARENCY** | The Office of Financial Aid will undertake an internal review of its offices during the spring semester.

educational groups, a survey, and focus groups. Administrators are also looking into hiring an individual to organize the internal review, rather than a consulting firm, according to Habbu.

The timeline isn’t clear yet, but Schaffler said the survey will probably be sent to students in February or March, after administrators have held discussions with students to help inform their survey questions. Following the survey, focus groups will be formed to give administrators the chance to hear personal stories from students, Habbu said.

Habbu originally intended that the student council lead a review process modeled after the CSA review, but after she

pitched the idea to administrators they decided to conduct the review themselves.

According to Habbu, during a meeting just before Thanksgiving, Dean of Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger told representatives from both the Columbia College and Engineering Student Councils that the review would be internal, and that administrators would be able to do a more comprehensive review than council members had envisioned.

“The fact that they [the administrators] took responsibility for it and understood that this was their job, that they should be doing, was great. The only con to it is that it’s not moving on our timeline anymore, it’s moving on

their timeline,” said Habbu, who had originally hoped to send out the student survey last month.

CCSC Vice President of Student Life Jasmine Senior, CC ’12, said that the review was “something we’ve always thought about addressing and we didn’t really know how to do exactly.” The first year of Schaffler’s deanship—she started this summer—seemed to be a good time to try, Senior added.

Schaffler said that an office-wide evaluation was one of the first things she talked about doing when she got the job, before being approached by Habbu.

“That’s one of the exciting things about starting a new position, a new role, is to think about

how you can help the office to be better,” she said.

“I want to know what the confusion is, what the frustration is that people are feeling, why people are feeling a lack of transparency,” she added. “Because I will say that the financial process is really complicated.”

According to the student who missed his adviser during walk-in hours last week, the most important thing for administrators is to “realize that they ... have to treat us like actual human beings.”

“The administration needs to be receptive to these changes because it’s about student wellness,” he said. “It’s about our health and our sanity”

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# Admins looking for ways to provide full funding for TC students

TA from front page

than limit their duties.

Kathryn Hill, a TC doctoral student in the sociology and education program, said that serving as a TA for a statistics course had been a “great experience,” and that she and other TAs just want adequate pay.

“I think TAs just want to be compensated fairly for the time they spend,” she said. “It’s not like I want my responsibilities to be reduced.”

Hill was paid \$1,500 for what she estimated to be eight to ten hours of work per week, which included grading a dozen eight-page papers each week.

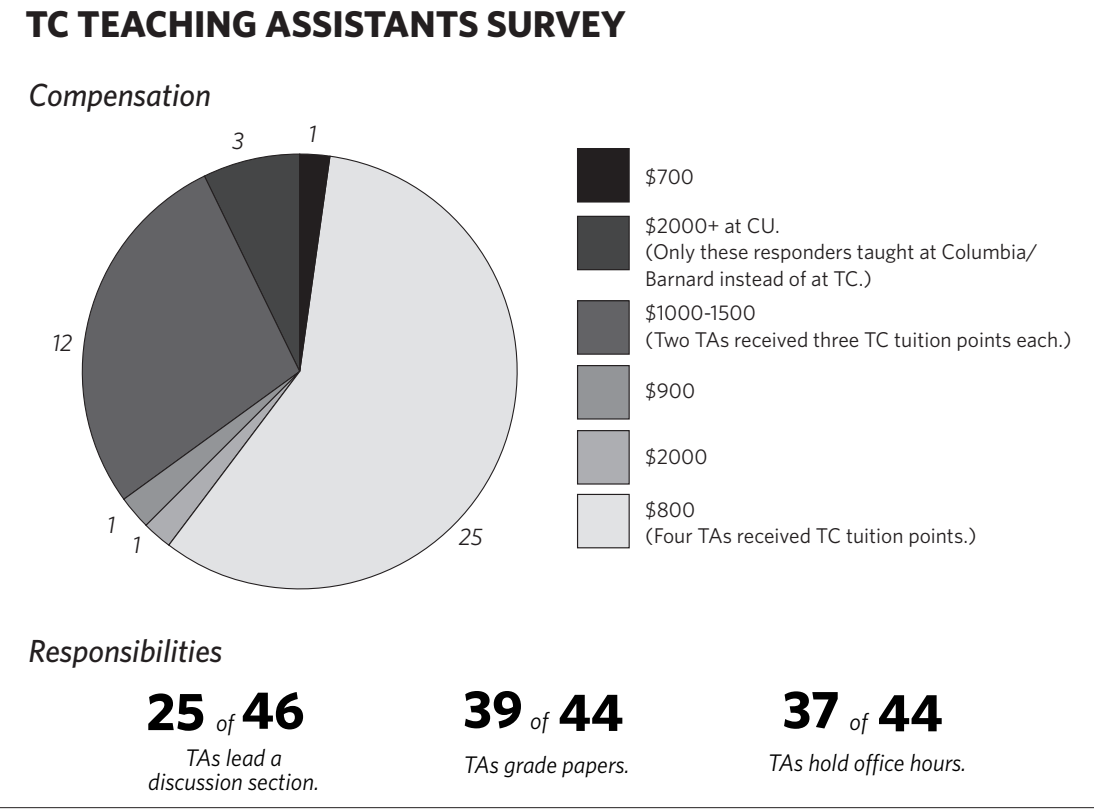
TC can only build students’ teaching and research skills “by compensating students fairly for important work, not by limiting their obligations and continuing to pay peanuts,” Reddy said in an email.

Fuhrman and James also said they hope to release information this spring detailing how to move toward providing full funding for every doctoral student, a goal to which Fuhrman has publicly committed. TC currently cannot guarantee full funding to most doctoral students, leaving it lagging behind peer schools.

Daniel Souleles, an applied anthropology doctoral student at TC, was one of only three survey respondents who managed to secure higher-paying TA positions at Columbia and Barnard. He said TC doctoral students without guaranteed funding packages often have to scramble to find TA positions that pay their bills.

“I’m not thrilled about the prospect of a week’s worth of cold calling that’s coming up in January,” he said.

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# Core may soon travel abroad

BY SHAYNA ORENS  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

It might not be long before Columbia students are reading Rousseau in France, Don Quixote in Spain, or maybe even both in Japan.

An initiative to bring Core Curriculum classes taught by Columbia professors to study abroad locations is underway in the Office of Academic Affairs.

“The idea has floated around for a while,” Dean of Academic Affairs Kathryn Yatrakis said. “It’s taking more of a shape.”

**“You trade ways of teaching and intellectual viewpoints, and you share this with students of both countries.”**

—Dean of Academic Affairs Kathryn Yatrakis

This initiative could potentially create sections of Lit Hum, CC, Art Hum, and Music Hum abroad, making it easier for Columbia College students to study abroad before their junior years.

Brenda Salinas, CC ’12, spent last fall in Paris and said she feels that offering Lit Hum or CC abroad might relieve a lot of pressure for Columbia students who struggle to finish core requirements prior to study abroad.

“It would be great to do it early on. Being in a different context made me think about what I really wanted to do and

SEE CORE, page 3

# New test from CU researchers may help predict suicidal behavior

BY HENRY WILLSON  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

New research out of the Columbia University Medical Center offers more hope than ever before for predicting suicidal behavior and ensuring that those at risk get treatment.

A team of researchers led by psychiatry professor Kelly Posner has found the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale—first developed by Posner several years ago—can predict suicide attempts more effectively than any previous methods.

Suicide is the second-leading cause of death among college students. Three Columbia students have committed suicide in the last three years, including Tina Bu, CC ’13, who passed away in October.

The C-SSRS is a “very straightforward” survey, Posner said, that can be completed in a few minutes and does not have to be administered by a mental health

professional. It asks about a patient’s history of thinking about suicide—known as ideation—and about previous suicide attempts or plans.

Posner’s team found that for every standard deviation above from the average level of lifetime suicidal ideation reported at study entry, the odds of attempting suicide during the study period—24 weeks—increased by 45 percent.

“The answers on the form actually predicted who made suicide attempts or behaviors over the course of a year,” Posner told Spectator. “There hasn’t been predictive data for as long as we can remember.

This predictive power has convinced some scientists that widespread deployment of the scale could help prevent many suicides.

“The public health benefits in terms of lives saved could be enormous,” psychiatry department chair and New York State Psychiatric Institute director

Jeffrey Lieberman said in a CUMC statement about the scale.

Prevention, Posner said, depends upon “appropriate identification and screening.”

“We know that 50 percent of suicides see their primary care doctor the month before they die,” she said. “We should be asking these questions the way we monitor for blood pressure. We know that we can do it, and we know that it will help save lives.”

Posner originally developed the C-SSRS for use in drug trials after being commissioned several years ago by the Food and Drug Administration. She and a team of researchers published new research showing the effectiveness of the scale in an advance edition of the American Journal of Psychiatry last month.

According to Posner, the scale filled a “gaping hole in the field,” by providing a more nuanced and comprehensive picture of the risk factors and by creating clear standards for

evaluating levels of suicidal thinking and behavior.

She added that greater precision helps make sure that at-risk patients don’t slip through the cracks, while “reducing a tremendous amount of unnecessary cost and burden.”

**“We know that 50 percent of suicides see their primary care doctor the month before they die.”**

—Kelly Posner,  
*psychiatry professor*

Even before the new research, the C-SSRS had been widely used by government agencies and health care

providers. Now, Posner said her goal is to encourage more systematic adoption of the scale.

“Where you get real change is when you get kind of top-down efforts,” she said. “National efforts will really help us get to the next level.”

Interest in the scale has already accelerated since the new finding, Posner said. She said she is regularly fielding inquiries from people ranging from front-line troops in Afghanistan to Japanese naval doctors.

Once the scale is more broadly employed, she added, she hopes to make use of the abundant data it generates to further her study of suicide risk factors.

“Suicide is a major public health crisis, across ages, across the world,” she said. “And the good news is it’s a preventable public health issue, but we need to do better.”

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# Occupy Harlem members say growing gentrification uptown concerns them

## OCCUPY from front page

member of the anti-Manhattanville expansion group Coalition to Protect Community and a founder of the Occupy Harlem general assembly, the group has formed in order to perpetuate a bottom-up method of community improvement, looking to discuss issues and concerns directly with the people of the community.

“Harlem reflects the bottom of the 99 percent,” Bailey said. “The crisis of unemployment, the issues of police and state repression, it’s all happening right here.”

General assembly members expressed frustration with their own experiences with gentrification, as well as the public policies that dictate it. Rebekah Schiller moved to Harlem three years ago, attracted to the area because of the low cost of living, but since arriving she has come to appreciate the distinct flavor of community that she said permeates the neighborhood. Schiller said that, while she enjoys getting to know her neighbors, some of her gentrifying counterparts don’t feel the same.

“A lot of people move to Harlem because it’s cheaper than downtown Manhattan, but there is also this great community,” Schiller said. “Many people I know in Harlem feel that white people are part of a group that doesn’t care about the community. I’m here to try and not be a part of this gentrification.”

Isaiah Imano, who lives in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn, said he believes that the Occupy Wall Street movement isn’t doing enough to address the issues surrounding gentrification.

“The black population is decreasing where I live in Brooklyn, and it almost seems like a smoke signal,” Imani said. “If your population is decreasing, you’re basically being shown the door. I’m concerned with gentrification, that’s what draws me here.”

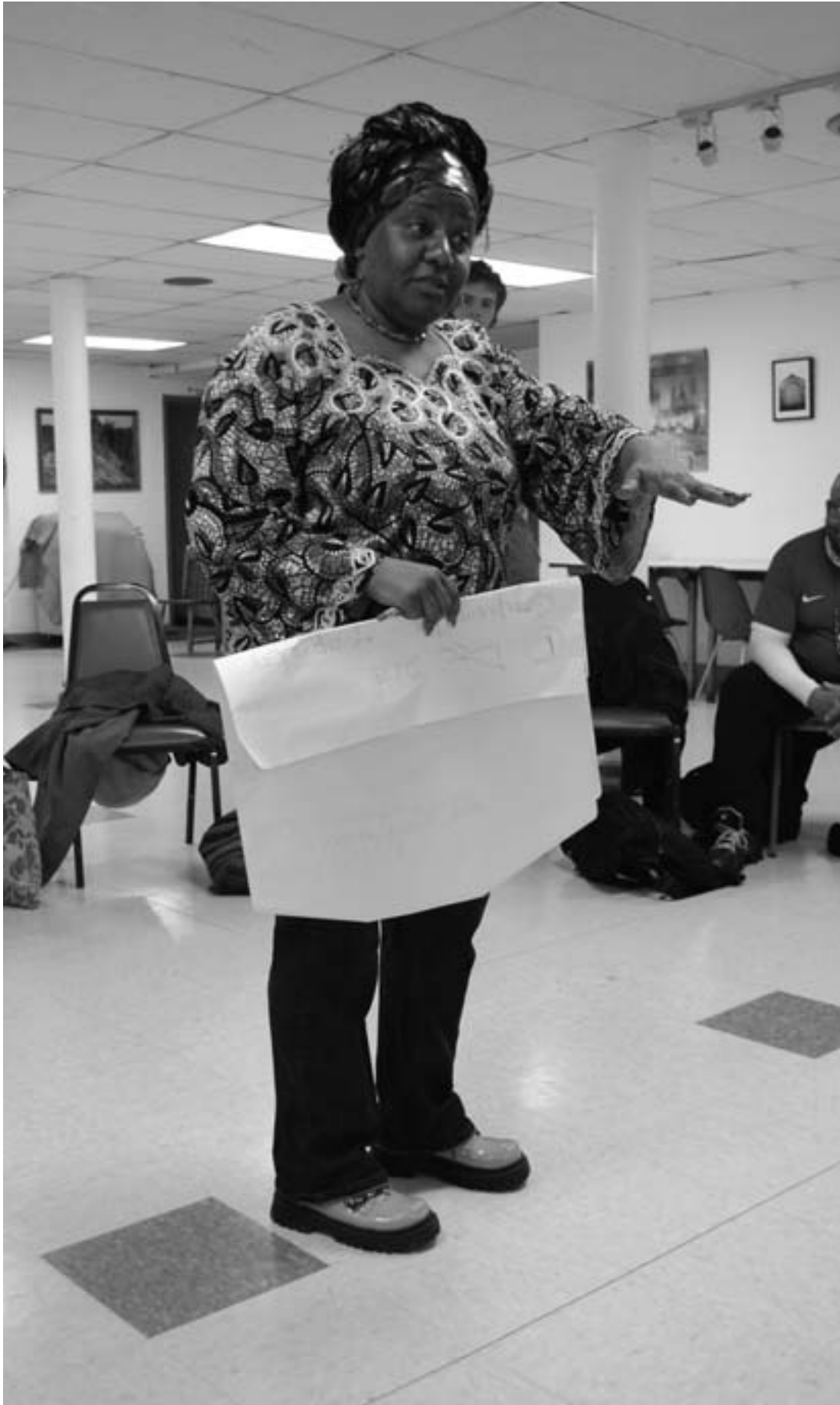
The group has submitted a proposal to the Occupy Wall Street general assembly in order to gain funding for the next 13 months. According to Bailey, the Occupy Harlem general assembly is adamant about continuing to organize in Central Harlem.

“We are independent of political parties, we cannot expect to raise money or even pay for the rental of this meeting place,” Bailey said. “We want to be here in Central Harlem, right in Charlie Rangel’s face, right in the faces of those who are the servants of the one percent.”

Bailey, also the co-founder of the Harlem Tenants Association, said she would like to see Occupy Harlem team up with the Tenants’ Association for an upcoming demonstration in front of the Credit Suisse Bank downtown, which she said is part of a predatory lending scheme that has resulted in the foreclosure of some Harlem apartment complexes. Credit Suisse has been at the center of several multibillion-dollar lawsuits alleging predatory lending, but the Swiss bank giant has denied any wrongdoing.

“In Harlem there have been the foreclosures of multiple dwellings where rent-regulated tenants are at risk because of predatory landlords,” she said. “Now it’s time to hit the street in action against the banks who are orchestrating this.”

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ZARA CASTANY / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**PREPARE TO DEMONSTRATE** | Jeanette Goodwin, a member of Occupy Harlem, writes on the meeting agenda for a recent general assembly in Central Harlem. She is a social worker.

# Core Curriculum may hit the road with study abroad students

## CORE from page 2

a semester away from Columbia made me more engaged when I came back,” Salinas said.

She added that for this initiative to make sense, faculty must keep certain factors in mind.

“I think they should take each different place into account and say, ‘How can we use the core in this place to get the most out of it?’” Salinas said.

But other students said they weren’t sure about taking the Core on the road.

“It’s a stress to get all the core requirements done and also go abroad,” Katherine Marshall, CC ’12 said. “But if it lets more people go abroad, it’s a good thing. In terms of how it would enhance the experience, it’s a logical disconnect for me.”

Marshall said she feels that the curriculum would need to somehow “align with the cultural context” to make sense.

Yatrakis, however, said that putting the core in a different cultural context might make all the sense in the world.

“I think it could mean an even richer experience of combining what has been the intellectual signature of Columbia College, which is the Core, with a new and very different educational and pedagogical experience that students would have in a different culture, even possibly in a different language,” Yatrakis said.

Gillian Rhodes, CC ’12, is a dance major and spent last year at Columbia’s study abroad center in Paris, Reid Hall. She said that she only took the classes at

Reid Hall that were required and spent the majority of her time immersing herself in the vibrant dance culture of Paris.

“I really wanted to experience life and culture and not get too involved in academics,” Rhodes said. “I’m not convinced that I would have taken core classes had they been offered.”

According to Yatrakis, the potential for cultural enrichment works both ways.

“You could even imagine, and I think this is very exciting for the faculty, that you teach a core

class, but in addition, you would co-teach a class with a colleague in the local university—a course that you designed collaboratively,” Yatrakis said. “You trade ways of teaching and intellectual viewpoints, and you share this with students of both countries.”

Yatrakis said she doesn’t dismiss the idea of bringing classes like CC to locations where the texts are not as culturally relevant. She said that it would be interesting to critically analyze Western texts from another perspective, just as it would be

academically stimulating to be immersed in a culture while taking Global Core classes.

“It would be so interesting to have a Global Core class taught by someone familiar with East and West perspectives,” Yatrakis said.

As for now, the initiative is beginning to solidify.

“It’s just the beginning of this conversation,” Yatrakis said. “But a number of professors have said that this is an idea worth pursuing.”

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# The only ‘Columbia’

Fifty years after the the Lions’ first and only Ivy title, the memories are still fresh.

BY JIM PAGELS

Somewhere in an athletics facility on Harvard’s campus, there sits a large silver bowl engraved with the names of seven Ivy League institutions over and over at its base. Seventeen mentions of Dartmouth, 15 of Penn, 14 Yales, 13 of Harvard, nine Princetons, four Browns, and even three Cornells. If onlookers squint their eyes and really look over the trophy closely, though, they’ll notice a single rusty “Columbia” carved near the top of the base under the year 1961.

2011 marks 50 years since the Lions’ first and only Ivy title, and after all the seasons gone by without another winner, the team can’t believe how quickly the time has passed.

**IT WAS SO LONG AGO**

“Year in and year out, we look at the calendar and look at each other and say, ‘Oh my God, we’re 70 years old already, and it was 50 years ago,’” Tom Vasell, the quarterback of the 1961 team, said.

According to Spectator’s football preview that year, “If practically no one gets hurt, if a few key sophomores come through, and most important of all, if [head coach] Buff Donelli’s nineteen experienced seniors get fighting mad, then no Ivy League squad will have a chance against the Lions.”

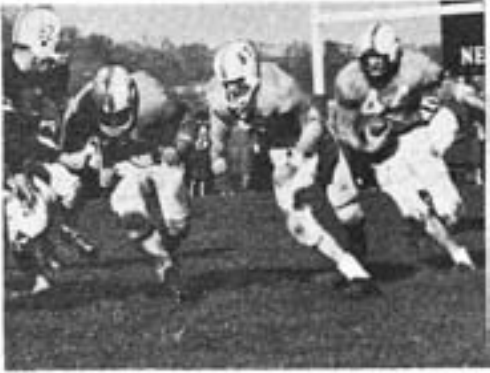
The prediction from Spectator sports editor Stan Waldbaum was especially bold considering those 19 returning seniors—the most in the Ancient Eight that year—were coming off two years with Ivy records of 1-6 and 3-4. (Freshmen were not allowed to play varsity football, so none of them were members of the 1-6 1958 team.)

In the fall of 1958, second-year head coach Buff Donelli, a former NFL coach with recent success at Boston University, seemed to be right at home with his freshmen, who were just a bit newer to campus than he was. While Donelli did not coach the Cub team, the freshman squad did exceptionally well that fall, going 3-2, and there was already much early hubbub about a revival in the program.

“We thought that we could make a difference,” running back Russ Warren, CC ’62, said. “As a freshmen team, we scrimmaged against the varsity and usually did pretty well, so we thought we were maybe even better than them.”

“We never scrimmaged against them again,” center Lee Black, CC ’62, said with a laugh.

But while the Cub team was lighting up the scoreboard, the varsity squad hadn’t seen a winning season since 1951, and after a demoralizing 43-2 loss to Rutgers to end the 1960 season, many predicted that coach Buff Donelli would be left with just half a team.



60, 67 AND 44: Lion guards Tony Day (60), and Bill Campbell (47) lead the way for halfback Russ Warren (44) in the second quarter of the Dartmouth contest.

FILE PHOTO

“He was a very tough strategy guy,” Bill Campbell—the senior captain of the 1961 squad and now the chairman of the Columbia Board of Trustees—said of his head coach. “He was a hardass. He really drove us hard.”

Prior to becoming head coach, Donelli had worked at Columbia as an assistant to Lou Little, the legendary Lions coach who captained the ship from 1930 to 1956 and was best known for his 1934 Rose Bowl victory over Stanford and a 1947 victory over Army that ended the Cadets’ four-year undefeated streak.

“He was an innovator,” Black said about Donelli. His strategies on the field extended beyond the playbook, though. He came up with the plan to assign certain numbers to certain positions, and his system was soon adopted by the NCAA and later the NFL.”

With Campbell, an athlete Spectator’s 1961 football preview described as having the “two most important rhyming football ingredients—fire and desire,” and other senior leaders at the helm, the preparation for a title started long before the opening kickoff against Brown in the fall of ’61. Because spring football was outlawed in the Ivy League, most of the players played rugby or baseball, using that as an opportunity to stay in shape during the offseason. Campbell, along with newly-hired Columbia assistant coach Don Savini—a recently graduated former halfback—also instituted a strict 10:30 p.m. weekday curfew.

“We didn’t even permit pastries or soft bread,” Campbell said in a November 28, 1961 interview with Sports Illustrated. “Just melba toast.”

**SETTING THE TONE**

The tone for the season was set from day one, as Donelli led the team through extremely physical preseason camp practices.

“I won the Johnson & Johnson award at camp for having the most tape keeping me together,” Black said.

But through the grind, the team stuck together. On rides up to practice, Black, who was nicknamed ‘Bugle’ by his teammates for his booming voice, would lead the team in sing-alongs of the latest hits from American Bandstand, such as Dion’s “Runaround Sue” or Bobby Darin’s “Mack the Knife.”

“Everyone on the team had a nickname. Billy Campbell was ‘Ballsie.’ I gave him that one,” Black said. “We said he had more balls than a brass monkey.”

The name certainly stuck.

“We’re calling the new facility up at Baker Field ‘Balls Hall,’ some of us within the football community,” the center said, referring to the new \$50 million Campbell Sports Center under construction.

With the Law School and Mudd still under construction, the Lions broke ground on a season for the record books. A dominant win over lowly Brown to open 1961 set the tone for the rest of the year. Senior running backs Tom Haggerty and Warren helped Columbia tally more points than it ever had against an Ivy opponent in the 50-0 rout.

“We didn’t know how good we were going to be,” Campbell said. “I just remember how nervous I was in that game, thinking that we really had to be a good team, and we had to do what we can to turn this program into winners.”

Black downplayed the anxiety about the season opener, though.

“We used to have a cheer for Brown. We used to have kids get on one side and there were some on the other. One group would yell out, ‘What’s the color

of horseshit?’, and the other would yell, ‘Brown! Brown! Brown!’” Black said with a laugh. “That may be something for the band to do.”

Led by a unique Wing-T formation, Columbia had its week-two matchup with Princeton—a team it had not beaten since World War II—and the Lions relished the chance finally to take one from the Tigers. With the game scheduled on Homecoming, the crowd of 23,667 at Baker found itself immersed in quite a different atmosphere than what’s found in today’s sparsely populated stands. Around the stadium, there was a small carnival of rides, games, and animals, and talk of a formal ball that evening.

**SOMETHINGS NEVER CHANGE**

But if the Light Blue’s 1961 season was the polar opposite of the 2011 campaign, one thing remained consistent: losing on Homecoming. The 30-20 loss dropped them to 1-1 on the year. With injuries to Haggerty and wide receiver Ron Williams, the lack of depth certainly hurt.

“Remember now, in those days, you played both ways,” Campbell said, referring to the fact that most of the team played both offense and defense. According to NCAA rules at the time, substitutions were only allowed once per quarter, so teams often had an “A” team that played three or four possessions before being subbed in for the “B” team.

## Something to Shout For



FILE IMAGE

For a team with only 30 players on the roster—as compared to 106 in 2011—depth was a serious issue, which the Lions tried to mask as much as possible.

“We had a couple of guys quit before our senior year, so we were thin in our second unit, so we ended up just playing most of the entire game,” Campbell said.

At that time, Princeton and Dartmouth were the only two Ivy teams to have separate offensive and defensive units. Columbia, on the other hand, only had 14 players that played regularly.

While Columbia didn’t use that as an excuse for the loss, Princeton’s head coach Dick Colman verbalized what was on Campbell’s and the rest of the team’s minds.

“We could feel the support from the student body and the alumni as well because we were starting to play games at Baker Field in front of full stands of over 20,000 people.”

—Tom Vasell, quarterback of the 1961 team

“I’ll tell you this much—they had the better team,” he said after the game.

The Lions certainly didn’t disagree. After taking a 14-0 lead, Haggerty bruised his thigh on a scoring attempt that would have put Columbia up by three touchdowns, forcing him to leave the game. But the Lions fought on without their star running back, and after marching down to the Tigers’ 13-yard line late in the game trailing 23-20, Vasell called an audible for a quick pass to the split end on fourth down—but Williams barely missed the catch.

“I thought we had a chance to hit something quick over the middle with a running fake to our tailback Russ Warren,” Vasell said about the play. “So I did a quick play fake to Russ and tried to throw the ball over the middle to Ron Williams, but the defender kind of stepped in and batted it away.”

The quarterback noted the play as one of the only bad memories from 1961. Despite the disappointment, the team was far from demoralized.

“I don’t think we ever thought our season was in trouble,” Campbell said. “We still felt like we could win the league.”

“The way a season evolves, you don’t start off the season thinking you’re going to win the title,” Warren said. “But we thought if we just kept plugging away, we’ll be OK.”

Following the loss, the support on campus held strong as the Lions prepared to take on Yale, which had won the title a year earlier with a perfect season. A brief in Spectator even mentioned a pep rally in front of Ferris Booth Hall that would include “the marching band and its melodious music...and of course—Barnard girls.”

Thanks to the heroics of sophomore running back Al Butts, who filled in for the injured Haggerty, the Lions shut out the Elis 11-0 in New Haven. Butts not only tallied the Light Blue’s lone touchdown, but also snagged two interceptions on defense. The battle against the Bulldogs was an extremely physical one—at one point, the referees had to replace the ball after Black had cut his finger and was bleeding on it to the point that Vasell almost fumbled the snap.

“I always felt like the Yale game was a turning point in the season,” Vasell said. “We were on the road and won at the Yale Bowl to get back on our winning ways.”

A week later, the Light Blue took down Harvard in Cambridge, 26-14, giving the Lions their first back-to-back victories in over 10 years.

It was a notable victory for Columbia, but the game was probably more remembered for the giant drum the ever-controversial Columbia University Marching Band built to mock the opponent, which incited a riot at halftime as Crimson students stormed the field and repeatedly stomped on the mock percussion instrument until it was destroyed. Spectator noted the most serious of injuries in the skirmish “included a twisted piccolo.”

The band’s eruption certainly overshadowed the Columbia offense, which struggled for the third week in a row after the team’s 50-0 explosion to open the season.

“Even though we didn’t play our very best game, we still had the ability to beat a quality team like Harvard,” Vasell said. “So I said, ‘You know what? We’ve got something. We’ve got the stuff to do it!’”

The Lions returned home to take on Lehigh in a non-conference game, but the action at Baker was overshadowed by the speech of Martin Luther King, Jr. on campus that weekend. The Light Blue allowed two second-half touchdowns after scoring just 35 seconds into the game to fall 14-7. The weekend was not a complete loss for Columbia, though, as Ancient Eight rival Dartmouth fell to Harvard to end its undefeated conference record, leaving only Princeton atop the standings.

**IN THE HUNT**

Now tied for second, the team was set to face an ailing Cornell squad, which had lost nine of its 11 opening-day players to injury. Going into the game, Big Red coach Tom Harp couldn’t deny that the Lions had become a serious title contender.

“Columbia has as good a chance as anybody for the Ivy title. I think it will be between Columbia and Dartmouth,” he said the Friday before the game at the weekly press luncheons the team held at Hamilton Hall.

All week leading up to Saturday, the status of Warren had been in doubt, as he tried to recover from a severe knee injury he’d sustained during the Harvard game. However, with the emergence of Haggerty and another tailback, Tom O’Connor, the team’s innovative offense never felt too threatened.

“We could feel the support

1961



at Brown  
W 50-0



vs. Princeton  
L 20-30



at Yale  
W 11-0



at Harvard  
W 26-14



vs. Lehigh  
L 7-14

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER





FILE PHOTO

**FAR FROM FORGOTTEN** | The Class of 1961 for Columbia football remains the only iteration of the program to have won an Ivy League Championship. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the winning team.

from the student body and the alumni as well because we were starting to play games at Baker Field in front of full stands of over 20,000 people,” Vasell said.

“There was a feeling that we were doing well. There was a real excitement at Baker Field,” Black said. “We would end up in the newspaper regularly. A writer from the Post interviewed the entire team.”

**BUILDING BRIDGES**

Off the field, Campbell made sure to engage the players with the rest of the student body and end the division between students and athletes that had been rampant in previous years.

“There was no reason,” Campbell said about the detachment. “Ed Little ran his own company. Russ Warren is the team doctor for the N.Y. Giants and probably the leading orthopedic doctor in the country. All these guys have been hugely successful. These were very smart, capable people, and why couldn’t they interact with everyone else? It wasn’t like they were dumb jocks put up in the corner.”

The integration—along with the wins—helped spark an attendance boom that marked a vast increase at the turnstile rotations after scant crowds had populated the rickety wooden stands the previous two seasons.

“In 1961, people came out,” Vasell said. “It shows that they were going to support a winner, someone who was in contention.”

The team seemed to have an avid following for away games, too. Spectator nonchalantly noted that WKCR would broadcast the Cornell game “for those who were too lazy to make the six-hour drive” to Ithaca.

Warren’s absence proved to be no major hurdle for the suddenly unstoppable Lions. In Warren’s place, Haggerty rushed for a school-record 148 yards and three touchdowns, leading the Lions to a 35-7 trouncing. While Columbia was celebrating in Ithaca, it had reason again to thank the Crimson, hundreds of miles away in Cambridge, as Harvard took down another undefeated Ivy squad. This time, Princeton dropped down after a 9-7 defeat to join the Light Blue and Indians (as Dartmouth was known prior to 1974, when they changed to the more politically correct ‘Big Green’) in a three-way tie atop the standings, with Columbia and Dartmouth set to face the next week.

The team wasn’t paying much attention to that, though.

“We were taking it one game at a time, and I think that’s a tribute to our coaching staff,” Vasell said. “They didn’t want anyone looking ahead or determine what someone else was going to do. We had to take care of ourselves.”

Vasell was an odd fit at quarterback among the run-heavy Columbia squad. Entering Columbia, he was the third-string quarterback on the freshman Cub team. Hailing from Horace Mann, a high school that had a small football presence, the undersized quarterback never even thought he would play in college, and he was regularly designated as the player for whom Donelli would sub out when the team played on defense.

“I was not a good pass coverer or that great a tackler, so they usually brought in someone else to play defensive back,” Vasell said. “It saved a lot of wear and tear on my passing arm, so I certainly appreciated that.”

In fact, many of his teammates did not fully trust him at quarterback during the first couple of years, and sometimes remarked that their high-school signal callers had been more skilled. As Dartmouth approached with the Ivy race in its final stages, though, the team had more than bought into its man under center.

“Certainly by our senior year, we were all confident in our abilities,” Black said. “Tom was a good leader and made us feel very comfortable that when he ran, the play was going to be run the way it was supposed to be blocked.”

The 1959 and 1960 squads were not much of a rushing team. They were behind in most games, and usually early too, so as a result they had to unleash the aerial assault to try to catch up.

“In 1961, we took on a different complexion, though. We had three very strong running backs, and I was able to mix the run to set up the pass,” Vasell explained.

The Lions emerged from the contest at Baker with another rout in the books, 35-14. It was a game Spectator sportswriter Howard Perlstein flatly described as a “scalping of the Indians.”

With Columbia at 5-1 in the Ancient Eight with only one Ivy game left in the season, the campus

was alive with fervor for a title. The stellar play of the Lions even prompted a two-part series in Spectator entitled “The Rebirth of Football Respectability.”

**ONE WIN AWAY**

The Lions only needed to close out against Penn on Nov. 18 for a chance to take home the trophy.

“I never really thought about the title all that much, to be honest with you,” Warren said. “I just wanted to beat Penn.”

Unfortunately for Columbia, its steadfast leader Campbell would not be available after damaging his knee the previous week. But his injury wouldn’t stop what Spectator deemed a “Team of Destiny,” as the Lions rushed for 328 yards in a 37-6 victory over the Quakers in near-freezing conditions.

“Know this: Know that we were disappointed and felt that we certainly could have been undefeated.”

—Bill Campbell,  
captain of the 1961 team

Before the final seconds could tick off the clock, the crowd of 17,066 at Baker had already stormed the field in celebration. Meanwhile, the journalists upstairs seemed to ignore the “no-cheering-in-the-press-box” rule, as they jubilantly joined together in a rousing rendition of “Roar, Lion, Roar” while Scotch was poured for anyone who wanted it.

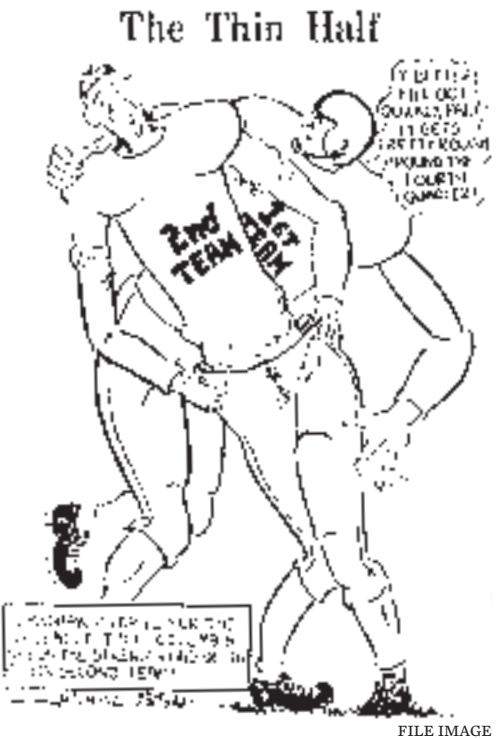
The announcer called out the name of every senior—even the benchwarmers who barely played—and each was met with roaring applause. As he exited the field, Donelli even signed autographs.

“We didn’t think at the beginning that we could win the championship,” Donelli said in the post-game press conference. He then paused to look across the room, at everyone in attendance, before continuing, “But this is very much that team.”

The win even prompted a special tribute show on WKCR called “The Lion Hath Roared.” However, as much as the community wanted to celebrate, it still had to wait until the next weekend to see if its team would have sole possession of the title, or if it would have to share with Harvard or Princeton.

That didn’t stop the student board from awarding the team with a fully operational cannon, to be fired after every Lions score in future seasons. The band tried to march all the way back to campus playing “Roar, Lion, Roar,” but the police stopped it before it could leave, citing the risk of hypothermia.

“They had a bus that went back, but most of the time, the bus would go, and you’d stay up there with your parents and fans, and then you’d get on the subway with the fans and go back,” Campbell



FILE IMAGE

said. “We were really close with the fans.”

As the players proudly took the subway back to campus among their rabid supporters, they recounted their success. Black took a look at his swollen fingers, many of which were broken, and simply uttered a joyful belly-roar of a laugh.

The elation had soaked through the ranks of the campus so thoroughly that the following week’s non-conference loss to Rutgers hardly put a damper on the celebrations. After a dominating 27-0 win by Harvard over Yale in The Game and a 24-6 loss by Princeton to Dartmouth, the Lions finished the season sharing the title only with the Crimson.

1961 marked the year the Ivy League was turned upside down. Yale, Cornell, and Penn, the preseason favorites, finished at the bottom of the standings, while Princeton, Columbia, and Harvard, picked to finish fifth, sixth, and seventh in the preseason poll, respectively, stood at the top of the heap.

The Lions set Columbia records in dozens of offensive categories. At the end of it all, Vasell—who had started off his career accumulating most of his yards in the second halves of blowout losses—broke the career Ivy passing record with 1,741 yards through the air. However, as Vasell is quick to note, “The league only had a four-year history at that point.”

**IT’S NOT ALL CONTENT**

But for all of the ‘61 team’s success, Campbell made sure to stress one point.

“Know this: Know that we were disappointed and felt that we certainly could have been undefeated,” the septuagenarian said.

It certainly would have seemed hard to believe prior to the season that the team would be disappointed with a 6-1 conference record.

“We wanted to have the title, but if we wanted anything, we would have just liked to have played Princeton again,” Campbell reiterated in a voice that suggested all he truly wanted to do was put the pads back on, lace up the cleats, and have another shot at the Tigers.

Little did Campbell know that he would get that shot again when he took over the Light Blue head coaching duties from 1974 to 1979. However, it took him five more attempts before he was finally able to defeat the Tigers.

**STAYING IN TOUCH**

Forty-nine years after that victory over Penn, most of the team did dress up again—not in their uniforms, but in suits and ties for their induction into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame in October last year. A part of the third induction class after the program’s founding in 2006, the ‘61 squad became the fourth team to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, and most members were in attendance.

The team still meets for annual golf outings and Homecoming. Every time the guys meet to reminisce about their lone title, though, there is a bittersweet air.

“We have an email thing that we do that I call ‘e-banter,’ and when we have something to say, we

have maybe 20-25 guys there,” Black said.

The inbox has been lighting up during Columbia’s disappointing past few years.

“Of course it’s disappointing that, year in and year out, the members of the 1961 team come together at Homecoming, and we look at each other and say, ‘Geez, we’re still the ones with the only Ivy League football championship,’” Vasell said.

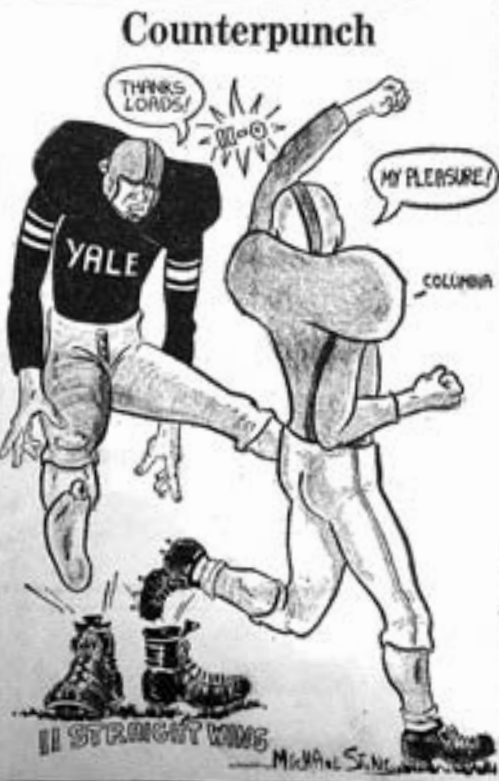
“That hurts everybody that’s been involved with this,” Black said. “You know, there’s a certain amount of ego-gratification for us old farts because we’re the only ones that have done it, but for the same token, it doesn’t speak well for the history of Columbia.”

“It’s kind of disappointing when you think about it,” Warren said about the team’s performance over the last half-century. “We had kind of hoped that we’d set a new agenda for success for football while we were there, and that it would develop into a consistently winning program.”

They left a legacy for a short period of time, as the next two seasons produced records of 5-4 and 4-4-1, but after 1963, the team quickly fell back into consistent seasons of only one or two wins. However, the players haven’t given up on living to see the stands as full as they once were back in fall days in the early ‘60s.

“This might be an exaggerated term, but maybe Columbia football would be a hot ticket if the team started to have winning records and contend for the Ivy League championship,” Vasell said.

It seems clear that the Columbia football team of 1961 is excited about new head coach Pete Mangurian taking the reins of a program that has seen only three winning seasons since that ‘61 title, but they just hope he brings along something with him—an engraving tool to give their name a bit of company on that trophy.

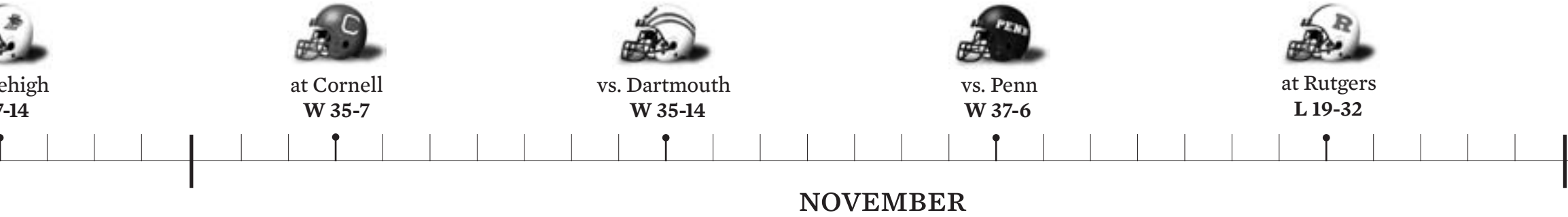


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COURTESY OF COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

**BIG FIGHT** | Columbia head football coach Buff Donelli fights his Harvard counterpart John Yovicsin for possession of the 1961 Ivy League trophy. The teams shared the trophy that year.







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# Frontiers of the mind

BY DAVID KAGAN

“Science is the belief in the ignorance of experts,” said Richard Feynman in his speech, “What is Science?” What did Feynman, a pioneer of quantum theory and surely an expert in his own right, mean by this provocative definition? A superficial reading might suggest a form of radical skepticism—reasoning that may well lead one to believe nobody, perhaps not even oneself. But such a dictum is an absurd one to live by, let alone to ground science on.

No, Feynman was not advocating a path to nihilism. Rather, he advocated a pragmatic skepticism of authority; a realization that it is not impolite to ask for evidence and to try to understand things on your own terms, even if the person telling you what to believe is Quite The Expert.

In my last Frontiers of Science seminar, a student shrewdly pointed out that the word “science” in Feynman’s statement seemed like it could be replaced by almost any critical endeavor. After all, impressionists challenged the Académie de Beaux-Arts experts’ sense of aesthetic, expanding the Western notion of art. Shakespeare, needing a word, wasn’t hampered by the vocabulary of his day; he made up new ones, and in doing so, powerfully expanded the English language’s range of prosaic and poetic expression. Feynman’s dictum, suitably generalized, gets at the core of the liberal arts’ mission: to educate a citizenry that can participate fully in the intellectual and civic life of the nation and the world.

I enjoy thinking of my first days as a Columbia student, stepping into my first Core class (Music Humanities). In that class and others I was enriched by a broad cross-section of world knowledge, thought, and culture. More significant was my exposure to methods of thinking about, parsing, and interpreting a book, a symphony, a philosophy. This was not something that instructors discussed explicitly. These modes of thought seeped in through reading, essay writing, and most importantly, the give-and-take of seminar discussion.

## Frontiers introduces students to scientific ways of thinking about the world.

One thing troubled me: We laud Shakespeare’s plays as great art, but why isn’t Newton’s thought accorded a similar respect for its creativity? Science and art clearly differ—science requires the possibility of disproof, even of cherished ideas—but it seemed to me that the wall separating how we present these two strands of thought was too impermeable. At Columbia, we had the Core and we had science requirements, but at the time we had no Core course that exposed the student community to varieties of scientific topics, highlighting their role in the human endeavor to understand the world and ourselves. This void was to the detriment of the arts and the sciences, for they are not created in separate worlds. They influence each other, and our understanding of either is impoverished when we lack either perspective.

I graduated and went on to get a Ph.D. in theoretical physics from Cambridge. Imagine my surprise on finding out that Columbia had instituted a science-based Core course in the meantime! Fortunately, I had the opportunity to return to Columbia, this time as a faculty member charged with leading seminars in the new course.

Frontiers of Science is probably more intimidating to the beginning instructor than to the first-year student. In many ways, I was a scientific ignoramus—I knew a lot of physics, but miniscule amounts of biology, chemistry, neuroscience, or pretty much any other science. Yet I have to guide activities and discussion, highlighting the insights at the cutting edge of various sciences. The fact that I can even teach the course is a testament to its notion that having “scientific habits of mind” is sufficient, not to master these subjects, but to look at data, understand arguments, and even constructively critique the lectures given by the experts.

Frontiers introduces students to scientific ways of thinking about the world. Taken together with the humanities, these modes of thought allow us to apply Feynman’s dictum to its most important subject—ourselves. The little expert in one’s head is hard to argue with, but with the methods of artistic and scientific thought embodied in Columbia’s Core, one can begin to constructively appreciate one’s own ignorance, and perceive with greater clarity the awesome mysteries at the heart of our existence.

*The author is a postdoctoral researcher at the physics department’s Institute for Strings, Cosmology, and Astroparticle Physics. He is also an adjunct lecturer for Frontiers of Science.*

STAFF EDITORIAL

# Turbulent SEAS

A letter written by faculty members of the School of Engineering and Applied Science calling for Dean Feniosky Peña-Mora’s replacement came as a shock at the end of a tumultuous semester. While much time has been spent analyzing and discussing the resignation of former Columbia College Dean Michele Moody-Adams, SEAS hasn’t escaped administrative catastrophe.

In a letter published by the New York Times on Wednesday, a majority of SEAS faculty expressed numerous and severe grievances, claiming that “irreparable damage—including loss of key faculty and complete alienation of those who remain” would occur if Peña-Mora remained dean. The faculty’s intense rhetoric surprised students, who largely view him in a positive light and had little previous knowledge of dissatisfaction among the faculty.

But upon reading the letter, the concerns of the faculty appear imminent and real. The mandate increasing the size of the school’s Master’s program is especially disconcerting given the fact that SEAS is attempting to secure its place as a top-notch engineering school. While many of the changes Peña-Mora has instituted have brought notable faculty—and funds—to SEAS, the letter directed criticism towards his hiring practices. Choosing candidates with a primary focus on funding that prospective faculty could bring to SEAS,

## After Office Hours

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

# The freshman syndrome

BY ANDREA VIEJO

I saw it spreading around like a viral flu, attacking one of my friends and then moving on to the next one. The chronic symptoms were evident: homesickness, fatigue, annoyance and a monotonous feel to everyday life. The diagnosis was uncertain—no one knew how to treat it or how to keep it from attacking them. It was some sort of freshman syndrome no one had ever warned us about. It was not advertised in Columbia’s recruiting blue books. It was not part of the freshman college idealized dream—the parties, the millions of new friends, the adventures in the city, and even the intellectual dynamism of late night hours at the library. It was something different. It was the difficulty of having to come to terms with the notion that college was not summer camp, but a new life you had to embrace as your own.

For the past couple of weeks I have felt as if freshmen have wandered around as inquisitive sociologists, philosophers, psychologists, and anthropologists. We are no longer tourists in the city, we are no longer “prospies” bewildered by campus, yet we are still not fully settled members of Columbia University. Instead, we are discovering our place by critically analyzing every aspect of our scenario. We start to question if we have learned to see this place as “home,” if we have grown as close to friends here as we were with those back home, and even if have we gotten used to New York City’s bipolar weather. We find ourselves caught in between the limbo of where we want to be, where we came from, and where we are.

I still remember when I got my first symptom of this viral syndrome. I had attended an open spoken word poetry slang night at the Intercultural Resource Center and one performer delivered a powerful piece on the concept of homecoming. She described how she felt like a foreigner in her own land every time she has gone back home since



**JELANI HARVEY**  
**The Niceties of Speculation**

starting college. So much of her personality had changed from living in this community that she could no longer see her background in the same way. However, there was something in New York City and Columbia that would never truly resemble the concept of home. Her powerful verses scared me so much because I didn’t want to be a nomad. I guess I was afraid of being in Odysseus’ shoes when Penelope was unable to recognize him after his 10-year journey. I had reached a point in which not everything about life here at Columbia was new anymore, so I started to get homesick, and was afraid that going back during Christmas break would never make up for it entirely. I was afraid that my homesickness would last longer because I would miss a concept of home I would never truly have again.

Initially I just thought I was crazy and an over-analyzer. Nonetheless, after several conversations with my peers, I discovered that many of us were feeling as if the thrill of the first few days at college were over, and they had not yet been accustomed to the concept of life here. I guess it is somewhat like running. The first five minutes of an intense jog are the hardest, the ones in which your body demands the most of itself as it tries to regulate your pace. However, after that initial time lapse, you get accustomed to it and enjoy, with adrenaline, the thrill of the ride. As we eventually grow into our new Columbian skins, it would be helpful to remember the way in which Penelope finally recognized Odysseus after his homecoming: he pointed out that their marriage bed could not be moved out of place because it was made out of a tree deeply rooted in the ground. We might change and grow as a people here, and the concept of home might never again be the same to us. However, there is no need to engage in an existential crisis if we know the solid basis that keeps us deeply rooted in who we are.

*The author is a first-year in Columbia College.*

# Part II: Reinvigorating Christianity

It has never ceased to amaze me why atheists and Christians alike try to perfect the world. This suggests a teleological purpose to our actions—that there is a final cause. For Christians, healing the world draws them closer to God, while for atheists, the bettering of the world stems from innate human curiosity. Although this portrayal of the atheistic worldview is far from controversial, to me, it is clear that non-believers of religion push forward because they have an intrinsic fear of dying and of being consumed by nothingness.

To be perfectly honest, I feel the discussion surrounding whether God exists is long outdated. It is outdated since people cannot force others to believe in God, and atheists will never convince Christians that the world they inhabit was created as a result of coincidence and randomness. When I listen to students around campus, I am disappointed to hear recycled ideas of Enlightenment thinkers without hearing anyone’s own views. It is as if all discussion on philosophy ended with Hume and Kant; but when I look around campus, and I see students struggling for something to believe in, I am aware that this is not the case.

A new idea I would like to bring to the discourse on campus is something I have named the “nothingness paradigm.” This idea postulates that people are afraid of dying because they fear being overwhelmed by nothingness—as rational beings, we seek to better our understanding of the world around us. Those who do not believe in God, or at least a higher power, believe only what they see and feel. They believe that human beings are born, live their lives for a wrinkle in time, and then break down into atoms for time immemorial, as Marcus Aurelius put it. Since atheists admit uncertainty about what lies after death, they become uneasy because death



represents a loss of reason and self-agency. Nonbelievers, as a defense mechanism, react against this fear of the unknown abyss by focusing on what they do know or understand in our world.

I am well aware of critics who say that Christians are “blind,” since Christians refuse to believe that this life is all that there is. These critics also say that Christians only believe in God because it enables them to make sense of the world. To tell you the truth, there is not a day when I do not consider the merit of these statements and wonder if I have been duped by the biggest conspiracy in human history. At these moments, I feel sad, but I am reassured when I look at the beauty of children, our planet, gravity, motion, causality, and time. How could gravity know that if it were one million times weaker, then the universe as we know would not exist? How could all the symmetry and harmony in the world we live in be guided by physics alone? Sure, physics could be the answer, but the Big Bang, a cosmic accident that created what we call the galaxy, is far too perfect to be guided solely by mere coincidences. Christians then, who are guided by belief in God, are no different from atheists who are guided by their abhorrence of nothingness in their pursuit of perfection. Both groups seem to be searching for something to believe in and continue to look for meaning.

A second reason I believe in God is because when I look at the brilliant theories of morality we study in CC, it becomes clear that if there is no God, and if nothingness is the reality of all human beings, then morality itself truly does not matter. There are few things which would stop students at Columbia from becoming thieves, killers, or robber barons of industry. If all people, good and bad, reach the same end after death with a secular lens, then we continue on for no reason other than a desire to keep our sophisticated society from falling apart. A fallen world should force atheists to deal with their conception of nothingness, which is an uncomfortable endeavor.

To be clear, I am not advocating that students at Columbia should stop persevering in their pursuits. What I am trying to say is that we need to move beyond whether or not God exists and to seriously tackle why exactly we are compelled to wake up each morning, and to live our lives day after day. If more Columbia students did this here on campus, we would have a greater understanding of ourselves and our lives. Although this “nothingness paradigm” is no more than a theory, it is one I am proud to finally share. I encourage all students here at Columbia—atheists, Christians, and people of other religions—to ask themselves their own questions, to reach their own conclusions, and to push us forward to a new philosophical discourse.

*Jelani Harvey is a Columbia College senior majoring in history. He is currently the resident adviser on John Jay 13, a facility supervisor at the Dodge Fitness Center, an admissions office tour guide, a member of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, and a member of the Multicultural Recruitment Committee. The Niceties of Speculation runs alternate Fridays.*

is, as the faculty noted, against their and the University’s academic outlook.

In addition to specific criticisms, what underlies all of the faculty’s criticisms is a sense that the Dean does not share the same understanding of the University’s values. Peña-Mora’s perceived emphasis on funding rather than on scholarship, his commitment to increasing class sizes despite a lack of space, and his apparent focus on research at the expense of teaching, suggest that his approach to academia differs significantly from that of the faculty. While miscommunication also seems to contribute significantly to faculty’s grievances, there is not enough information to comment further.

What is evident, however, is that Columbia’s faculty is made up of some of the brightest, most intellectually oriented academics in the world. The fact that a majority (though the exact percentage is contested) of the SEAS faculty signed this letter of no confidence indicates that something is seriously amiss. We trust in the faculty’s ability to mediate conflicts and judge the actions of an administrator when it seriously impacts their departments and scholarship.

Furthermore, the fact that this letter was released in a critical point in Mayor Bloomberg’s engineering competition underlies the immediacy of the problem. Many of the faculty members who helped compose the letter were also involved in drafting Columbia’s proposal for the grant.

The University’s response thus far has indicated support for Peña-Mora and not for the faculty. Interim Provost John Coatsworth told the New York Times that “none of the complaints that we’ve received rise to the level that would justify replacing a dean” while also calling the faculty concerns “perfectly legitimate,” in seeming contradiction. If the faculty concerns are valid, then action must be taken to remedy the situation.

Though the faculty calls for a swift replacement, the University doesn’t seem likely to fire Peña-Mora—at least for the time being. SEAS has instituted an Executive Vice Dean position to address some of the faculty’s concerns. However, it’s unclear whether this will be enough to alleviate the situation. If faculty members start leaving due to frustration with Peña-Mora and the University’s reluctance to fire him, SEAS will slip in the rankings and will lose its place as a rising engineering school.

Instead of taking immediate and drastic action—like firing Peña-Mora—the University should discuss these issues as a community. The grievances should be aired and debated publicly, and the University should come to a consensus as to what course of action is best for SEAS and Columbia as a whole. We share the SEAS faculty’s deep concern over the problems disclosed in the letter, and realize that a mutually beneficial solution may not be feasible. However, Dean Peña-Mora and the rest of Columbia’s administration should be prepared to take extraordinary steps to remedy the situation.



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## Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

**ACROSS**

1 Goya subject  
5 Party guy, perhaps  
9 Brought down  
14 "El \_\_\_\_ brujo"; de Falla work  
15 Prefix with fol  
16 Adversary  
17 Correspondence between phillines?  
19 Analogy symbol  
20 Rescinds  
21 Poetic time reference  
23 Social conclusion  
24 Chromosome component  
25 Telecommuting congressional aides?  
28 Barely got, with  
30 Fin. neighbor  
31 Off-rd. vehicle  
32 Charge  
33 Currency on which Marconi appeared  
34 Explore  
38 Grand Central waitstaff?  
41 Record holder  
42 Fleming and others  
43 Ex-NBAer Unsked  
44 India neighbor, to the IOC  
45 The Tupolev Tu-144, e.g.  
46 Like Magellan, often  
47 Drum major's concern during a parade through narrow streets?  
51 Dads co-founder  
52 Ring choir  
53 Like Beethoven's Sonata Op. 109  
54 Count Almaviva's valet, in opera  
57 Bobby \_\_\_\_  
59 Single-out and rat-sail?  
62 Fall breaker  
63 Behan's land  
64 Sister of Rachel  
65 Refugees  
66 Like cone courses: Abbr.  
67 First name in humor

**DOWN**

1 Builders of the Tikal temples  
2 "God is not \_\_\_\_"; Numbers  
3 Baker maker  
4 In the area  
5 Big wholesale club  
6 1773 jetsam  
7 NFL's Cardinals, on scoreboards  
8 Artificial being of Jewish folklore  
9 Molecules that respond to stimuli  
10 "Wheel of Fortune" purchase  
11 Woody Allen film  
12 Ham it up  
13 Physics class units  
18 Rock: \_\_\_\_ jukebox brand  
22 Oxalic acid, e.g.  
25 Wedding ring?  
26 Teacher of spoken language to the deaf  
27 Tel \_\_\_\_  
28 Immature news  
29 Balance beam?

30 Back-saw bowling target  
33 Balls of energy  
35 Where many columns are found  
36 One with a trunk  
37 Greek peak  
39 Fix up  
40 Window part  
46 Warcolored pattern  
47 Milk flavorer since 1928

48 Hello, to some Americans  
49 Link  
50 Put off  
51 River island  
54 Ward (off)  
55 Staples purchase  
56 Workplace inspection org.  
58 Juliet is part of it  
60 Glow-in-the-dark  
61 Master state: Abbr.

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

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## In athletics’ best interests to lighten up

PAGELS from back page

level right now, it’s just you, Merinale (I imagine that’s how she pronounced it), and Zach running for deputies,” she said. And turning to the Indian kid in the Liverpool jacket and me, she continued, “And Zach can’t be sports editor since he’s on the soccer team, so...we need you guys to do it.”

Ten minutes later, I was walking back to my dorm thinking, “Oh, this is a fun little extra curricular activity I can do for a few hours each week!” I gleefully signed up to take 18 credits as well as a three-day-a-week internship. Throwing on my minor Spec duties would be no problem!

Fast forward six weeks with one less class and one less internship day, and I still perpetually felt like Lucy at the chocolate factory. I learned the hard way that 20+ hours a week in the office, countless meetings, hundreds of emails to answer each day, and a column to write every week aren’t something you can just have Mrs. Blankenship pencil into your schedule.

I could tell you that I loved every moment of my time as sports editor, but I’d be lying worse than Albert Pujols when he said he didn’t understand why anyone would ever want to leave St. Louis.

I could write more about the GPA points I’ve lost or cutbacks in social life I’ve suffered, but nobody wants to hear my Jodi Picoult novel. Instead, I have some advice to the Columbia athletic department.

Here it is plain and simple: Take yourselves a little less seriously.

I don’t mean that to be a harsh indictment but rather some advice that could take you a long way.

I hate to break the news to you, but you aren’t bringing in \$10 million BCS Bowl paydays, your teams aren’t on SportsCenter every night, and nobody is penciling the Lions

on their bracket every March.

That’s not to say that Columbia athletics isn’t important or doesn’t matter, but nobody wants to vote for the kid who acts like his campaign for the French Club secretary has the fate of the world hanging in the balance. Unfortunately, the department sometimes seems to take this stance.

I don’t want to come off as a nerd who just wants some attention from the jocks, and I’m certainly not asking for praise for all of our work. That’s not what journalists are supposed to do. I just think the petulant attitude of some of the players and coaches regarding our coverage is a direct result of some of the athletic department’s media policies.

Here it is plain and simple: Take yourselves a little less seriously.

(And note that I’m describing a large minority here. Most coaches and athletes I’ve met are absolutely delightful, read Spec on a daily basis, and are more than willing to talk about their sport.)

When we ran a story with a photo of two athletes who had performed poorly the previous weekend, a coach told my co-editor that he was really upset about us “killing those boys when they needed it least,” as if reporting on the biggest play of the game was drastically out of line.

Earlier in the year, an athlete in a minor sport was outraged when we grouped her team’s preview with another minor sport in our weekly Sports Briefly, claiming that it was “insulting.”

As much as we want to consider ourselves to be

professional little Peter Kings or Nicholas Kristofs, the fact is that we’re all just college kids doing this for hours on end with little recognition and even less pay (if \$0.00 an hour sounds appetizing to anyone).

In today’s age, I can see the video of Eli Manning talking in the locker room about receiver routes, I can hear the recording of coaches drawing up plays during the NBA finals, but the athletic department has adopted the mindset that if they even allow us to have a coach break down a play on film from a game already played, then rival coaches will immediately steal their plays and exploit them.

I just think that the department sometimes takes for granted the fact that we’re the only media source that regularly covers its teams and that we work our asses off to mostly try and generate genuine campus interest in sports. We’re basically an extension of the CU PR department at times, and we distribute promotions for the Lions five days a week. We’re all fans of the Lions and hope they do well.

But even at a massive sports school like UT that generates millions of dollars for its school (unlike CU which annually loses money), the PR folks loved the Texan because they recognized our readership and how we could connect athletes to the rest of the student body. Sometimes I don’t feel like Columbia understands this.

So at the end of the day, maybe it’s best to lighten up and allow us a bit more access. God knows my successors will appreciate it. On that note, I’m looking forward to finishing one of my assigned novels next semester.

Jim Pagels is a Columbia College junior majoring in American studies and English. He is a sports editor at Spectator. sports@columbiaspectator.com

### SPORTS BRIEFLY



#### WOMEN’S SWIMMING

The Light Blue hosts Harvard and Penn in a double-dual meet today at 4 p.m. The Crimson and the Quakers, ranked first and fifth in the Ivy League, respectively, will provide a new challenge for the Lions as all the teams are yet to meet in competition this season. Harvard, who placed second at last year’s Ivy League Championships, has achieved decisive victories over both Cornell and Dartmouth within the past month. Penn currently maintains a 1-1 record in the Ivy League, and won the Total Performance Invitational at Kenyon last weekend. For its part, Columbia is coming off a relatively restful weekend. A smattering of athletes traveled to compete at the US Winter National Championships in Georgia, and at the Big Al Invitational, hosted by Princeton, where the reduced squad placed seventh overall. Following today’s meet, the Lions will see no further action until Jan. 3, when they host a meet against Wagner College.

—Charlotte Murtishaw



#### MEN’S SWIMMING

The Lions return to Uris Pool to face Harvard in the final dual meet of the calendar year. Despite finishing third at the end of the first day of the Big Al Invitational in Princeton last weekend, Columbia rallied to finish the event in second place with 691 points. Only the hosts finished higher with a final score of 1103.5 points. Sophomore Harry Stephenson led the Lions in the 1650-yard freestyle with a second-place finish after clocking a time of 16:00.94. Other swimmers that placed in the top ten of the event included freshman Stephen Raynes, who had a fourth-place finish, freshman Chester Dols, who finished sixth, and freshman Sam Dunkle, who came in ninth. The Light Blue also had two 400-yard freestyle relay squads place in the top ten, with sophomore Daniel Tan, freshman Omar Arafa, freshman David Jakl, and sophomore Eric Traub finishing fourth with a time of 3:04.40. This weekend’s competition is set to begin on Saturday at 2 p.m.

—Eric Wong



ALYSON GOULDEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DIVING IN | After the Big Al Invitational, CU resumes Ivy competition by hosting Harvard.

## Lions to introduce former Cornell coach Pete Mangurian as football head coach today

MANGURIAN from front page

to serve as the athletic director at the University of Denver.

Mangurian inherited a Cornell team that had a record of 16-14 (13-8 Ivy) in the three seasons prior to his appointment. In Mangurian’s first season, the Big Red finished last in the league with an overall record of 4-6 but a disappointing 1-6 record in the Ivy League. Over the next two seasons, the 56-year-old steered the Big Red to a 12-8 record. More importantly, the team improved to 10-4 in Ivy play, the best two-year conference record in Cornell history.

The athletic department chose Mangurian after a systematic and exhausting nationwide search. An advisory committee—which included Murphy, Associate Athletic Director and former football coach Ray Tellier, Kevin Ward CC ’74, Ted Gregory CC ’74 and Don Jackson CC ’73—met on Monday evening, the day after Norries Wilson was fired. This group identified the core characteristics the next coach needed to have.

These qualities included visionary leadership, head coaching experience, an ability to hire and manage assistant coaches, a high football IQ, and a background in a successful winning program.

In addition, this committee determined it needed to find an individual who had a systematic plan to find and recruit talented players who would be a good fit specifically for Columbia. After Mangurian’s interview, Murphy said, “It was very clear that he knew what he was going to do [in recruiting].”

From 1975-1978, Mangurian played defensive tackle for

the Louisiana State Tigers. Immediately after graduating, Mangurian served as an assistant offensive line coach at Southern Methodist University under head coach Ron Meyer for two seasons. Mangurian served as the offensive line coach for New Mexico State (1981), Stanford (1982-83), and LSU (1984-87).

In 1988, Mangurian was hired by Denver Broncos head coach Dan Reeves to serve as the tight ends/half-backs coach. In 1990, he was promoted to coach the offensive line. Mangurian followed Reeves when the latter was hired by the New York Giants in 1993 and the Atlanta Falcons in 1997, and served as the offensive line coach at both franchises.

“Everything he said made me relieved that we are getting the right guy for our football program going forward.”

—Sean Brackett, junior quarterback

After his three years at Cornell, Mangurian left to rejoin Reeves in Atlanta. He returned to coach the offensive line but was promoted to serve as offensive coordinator from 2002-2003. After leaving the Falcons following Reeves’ firing, Mangurian remained in the NFL to serve as the tight ends coach of the New England Patriots under Bill Belichick

from 2005-2008. Mangurian left the Patriots to coach the offensive line for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers from 2009-2010.

The players who were involved in the coaching search were senior cornerback and captain Ross Morand, junior quarterback and captain Sean Brackett, and sophomore running back Marcorus Garrett. Prior to Mangurian’s hiring on Wednesday night, the three players met with Mangurian and discussed his football coaching philosophy.

Brackett, who was named the Lions’ Most Valuable Player at the team’s annual award ceremony this past Sunday, walked away impressed.

“He has a great track record,” Brackett said. “He’s been everywhere football is played—the Ivy League, the NFL, and college football. He’s coached a lot of good players. He’s been around a lot of great coaches. Everything he said made me relieved that we are getting the right guy for our football program going forward.”

While Mangurian steps into a program without a winning tradition, he must fill the shoes of a coach truly loved by his players. However, Murphy is unconcerned about this transition.

“I think every person has their own way of coaching and their management style,” Murphy said. “Do I think our players will have difficulty relating to Coach Mangurian? Absolutely not. Do I think coach Mangurian will have difficulty relating to our players? Absolutely not. When you win, people are happy. When you win, players want to play for you.”

Mangurian will be formally introduced as the Lions next head coach at a press conference in Faculty House at 2 p.m. this afternoon.

#### COACH MANGURIAN’S CAREER

1975-1978	Played defensive tackle at LSU
1979-1980	Assistant offensive line coach at SMU
1981	Offensive line coach at New Mexico State
1982-1983	Offensive line coach at Stanford
1984-1987	Returns to Stanford as offensive line coach
1988-1990	Reaches NFL as tight ends/h-backs coach of Denver Broncos
1991-1992	Offensive line coach of Denver Broncos
1993-1996	Offensive line coach of New York Giants
1997	Followed head coach Dan Reeves to Atlanta to become offensive line coach of Falcons
1998-2000	Head coach at Cornell
2000-2003	Offensive line coach (’00-’02) and offensive coordinator (’02-’03) of Falcons under Reeves
2005-2008	Tight ends coach of New England Patriots
2009-2010	Offensive line coach of Tampa Bay Buccaneers



#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Coached under NFL head coaches Dan Reeves, Bill Belichick, and Raheem Muriis
- Reached Super Bowl as coach of 1989 Broncos and 2007 Patriots
- Second and third place Ivy finishes in 2000 and 1999, respectively
- Led Cornell to 10-4 Ivy record in 1999-2000. The record was the best two-year Ivy record in Cornell history.
- Reached playoffs with Giants and Falcons as well
- Reached Sugar Bowl twice, Liberty Bowl, and Gator Bowl as coach at LSU



# Women’s basketball loses to Fairfield, looks to snap three-game skid at Long Island

BY JOSHUA SHENKAR  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

The Columbia women’s basketball team lost its third straight game in a hard-fought match against Fairfield, 54-44. The Lions had a balanced offensive attack as senior guard Melissa Shafer led the team with 15 points and junior forward Tyler Simpson contributed 10 points and five rebounds. Junior guard Taylor Ball added nine points while sophomore guard Taylor Ward had eight points.

The game was fairly evenly matched in the early going as both teams struggled to score. Fairfield led the game with 16:32 left in the first half by a score of 7-4. Then the Stags caught fire from behind the three-point line and made five three-pointers in the next six minutes. Fairfield went on a 15-0 run and the Light Blue did not score again until the 10:30 mark. While Columbia gamely fought back to cut the Stags lead to 28-13 at the end of the first half, Fairfield’s three-point onslaught gave the Lions another challenging deficit to overcome in the second half. Light Blue head coach Paul Nixon attributed the Stags’ three-point success mainly to his team’s poor defense, although he also gave credit to Fairfield’s excellent shooting.

“I think the first few were due to our defense,” he said. “We were in a two-three

zone, but then even after we switched out of that back into our player-to-player defense, we still had them getting free for some open shots. Definitely there were a couple where they made some tough shots but, overall, I would definitely attribute the majority of them to our defense.”

The Lions then recovered from a poor first-half performance to put together one of their best showings of the season. The Lions dominated early in the second period thanks to Simpson, who scored eight straight points. Simpson’s jumper at 11:59 cut the Stags’ lead to six, but the Lions never got closer than that to Fairfield. The Stags managed to pull away in the last ten minutes thanks to 13 points from the free throw line. While the Lions continued to play hard, Fairfield maintained their lead and had a comfortable last five minutes. Sophomore guard Alexys Vazquez led the Stags with 14 points while star senior forward Taryn Johnson added 10 points and four rebounds.

While the Lions struggled offensively and defensively in the first half, they had a better showing on both ends of the court in the second half. The team’s impressive 52 percent second-half shooting percentage was its best so far this year. The Lions also managed to hold the Stags to one three-pointer in the second



HENRY WILLSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**STAG SNAG** | Senior guard Melissa Shafer racked up a team-high 15 points, but the Lions dropped the contest to the Fairfield Stags.

half, and allowed them only six baskets. Nixon attributed the Lions’ second-half success to their more aggressive play on both ends of the floor.

“We just really stepped up our overall level of aggressiveness and play on both ends,” he

said. “We were a lot more aggressive in our press, and we were a lot more successful on the offensive end because we were doing a much better job of screening, and not allowing the defense to dictate everything we did. I thought we battled well in

the half court as well, with our half-court defense. We really stepped up in every area.”

Nixon was also encouraged by the team’s second-half performance and hoped that it would continue in their next game.

“I think we made some

strides in the second half that we are definitely hoping will carry over on Sunday,” he added.

The Lions will look to get back in the win column when they travel to Brooklyn to play Long Island on Sunday. Tip-off will be at 2 p.m.

## Columbia eyes seventh straight victory

**MEN’S BASKETBALL**  
**from back page**

points down with 17:50 left in the second half, perhaps even more important was the defense, which limited Holy Cross to only ten more points from that point onward.

“We were getting stops,” junior guard Brian Barbour said. “We cracked down, and ever since then we got the run going, after we picked up our defensive intensity.”

The junior guard scored only eight points down from his team-leading 14.4 per game average, but the rest of the team stepped up.

Freshman forward Alex Rosenberg continued his impressive play, with nine points and 15 rebounds (a season-high for Columbia players). Smith shifted Rosenberg to the power forward role in the second half, where his athleticism and skill worked to his advantage even more than normal.

The Blackbirds come off a close win of their own, a 82-80 thriller over Lafayette Monday night. Junior forward Jamal

Olasewere scored 17 points and added 14 rebounds. Junior forward Julian Boyd added 18 points in only 14 minutes, while junior guard C.J. Garner had 16 points and senior forward Arnold Mayorga added 11 points off the bench before fouling out. Senior guard Michael Culpo had nine assists.

“I think our calling card this year, and it’s shocking to me, is that we’re good defensively.”

— Kyle Smith,  
*men’s basketball coach*

Long Island has won three in a row. The Blackbirds play a high-scoring game, averaging 77.6 points per game on the season, including 78, 85, and 82 points scored over its winning streak. The Blackbirds’ attack

is centered around four players, who all average in double figures. Olasewere averages 15.1 points per game, while Boyd, Garner, and Culpo all average more than ten as well.

“They’re offensively gifted,” Smith said. “They’re shooting from the field, they shoot from three ... It should be a good game.”

After hitting 27 three-point baskets over three weekend games in Los Angeles, including 12 in each of the final two, the Lions only hit six against the Crusaders. Luckily for the them, Long Island allowed 11 three-pointers to Lafayette and allows 78.4 points per game, surrendering between 73 and 80 points in six of its nine games.

The Blackbirds reeled off 13 wins in a row to conclude their 2011 regular season, winning the Northeast Conference title with a 27-5 record and earning a berth in the NCAA tournament as a 15th seed (losing to second seed North Carolina in the first round).

Tip-off is scheduled for 2 p.m Saturday afternoon at Levien Gymnasium.



ALYSON GOULDEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**ROOKIE REBOUNDER** | Alex Rosenberg’s stellar play on the boards included 15 rebounds on Monday.

## Practice team helps simulate opponents

**PRACTICE TEAM**  
**from back page**

“I guess my function is that I’m taller and stronger than anyone that they’re actually going to play against,” Cain said. “So it’s good practice to go against that pretty much everyday.”

Alexander Isik, a sophomore, said, “Being taller and, in my case specifically, I have really long arms, so being able to teach them to shoot over people who are bigger than them” helps out the team. “That’s why we’re there, to provide some bigger guys to play against,” he added.

Nixon said having the men around also “saves on the wear and tear of our athletes. If they’re not always banging against each other all the time, then that can certainly help over the course of a long season.”

The squad is especially beneficial for the women who play in the post—the often-crowded zone directly in front of the basket.

“Because we have guys who are bigger and stronger than them, so they don’t always have to be battling against each other,” senior captain Melissa Shafer said.

With a laugh, Laracuate described the practice squad as figurative “punching bags” for the women’s team, a group of players who can get a little “beaten up” without it mattering come game day. But in a drill at Wednesday’s practice, Laracuate served as a literal punching bag.

“They were going for layups, and they were like, ‘Oh, give him some contact.’ So they gave me a pad ... and one of the girls goes up and she just swings her arm up, and I catch an elbow right in the nose and I start bleeding immediately,” he said.

Last year, Cain, Isik, Plotkin, and Brandon Yu, a sophomore, took an intramural basketball class taught by Shanna Cook, an assistant coach for the women’s team, and she urged them to come to a team practice this semester. They did, dragging along a few friends, and the squad was reborn after a three-year absence.

Laracuate said that their schedule is flexible, with the men showing up to between two to five practice a week.

“It’s kind of as much as you can devote to it, because they practice five, six days a week,” he

said. “And we can come essentially whenever they practice.”

Plotkin said that, because he came to practice about four or five days a week, the coaches asked him to take on managerial duties as well.

The men on the squad come from very different athletic backgrounds. Cain was the captain of his high school basketball team, while Yu played in a recreational basketball league. Laracuate played basketball in high school and said he “probably could have played D-III” before dropping the sport for tennis. Isik plays on the club ultimate frisbee team for the Lions. But they all share “a very strong interest in the game and just really love to play,” Nixon said.

Isik said he loves attending practices because of the respect he has for the women who ultimately take to the court.

“It’s a varsity team, and these girls put so much effort into their sport every single day, and they’re asking me to be there to help them out,” Isik said. “As often as possible, I’m going to be there to help them out. If I don’t have class, if I don’t have prior commitments, I’m going to be there.”

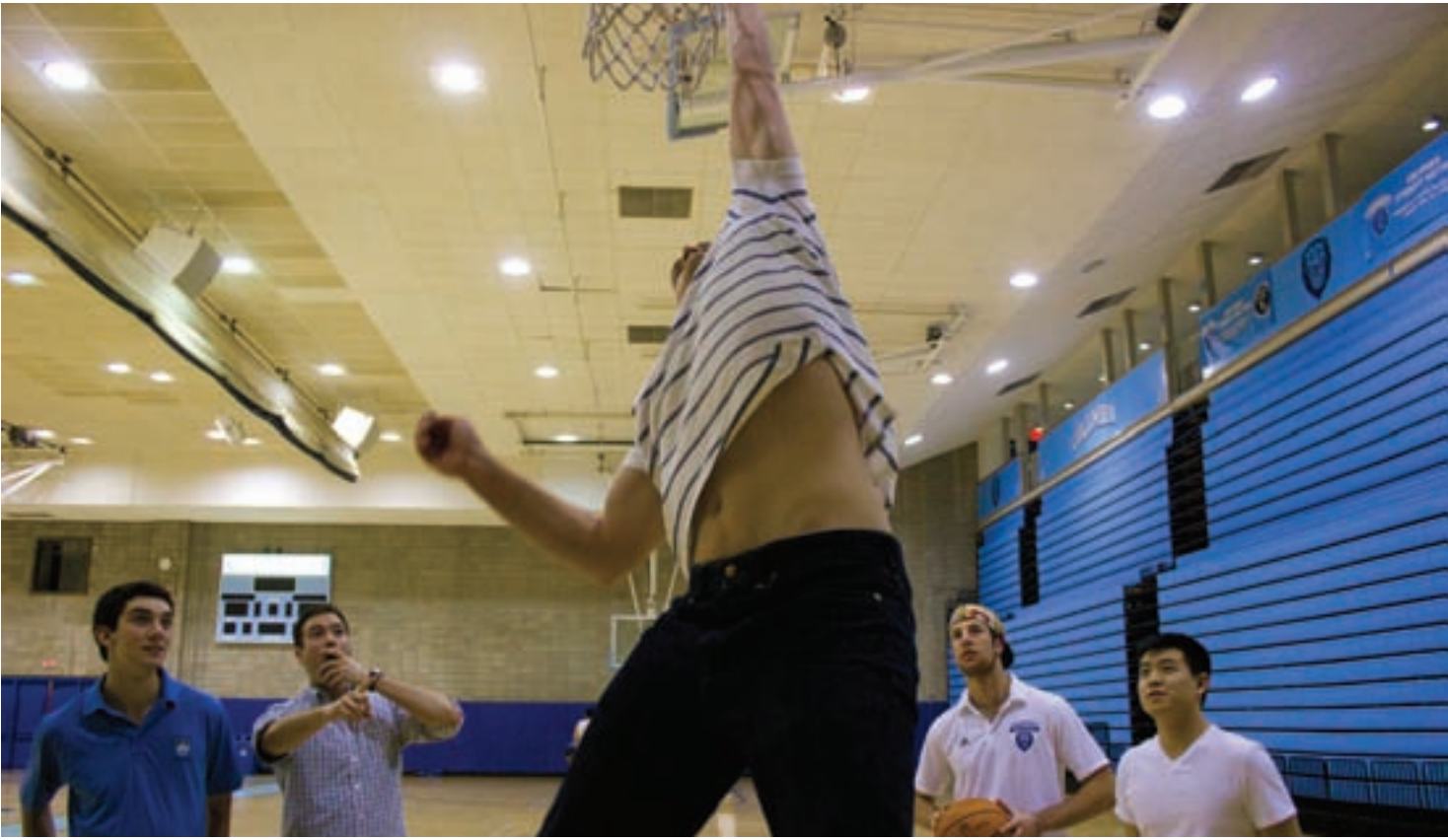


PHOEBE LYTLE / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**BOYBAND** | Michael Laracuate, front, displays his skills with a ball to his teammates’ amusement.



In Levien, all-male practice squad helps women’s hoops prepare



PHOEBE LYTLE / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HELPING HAND | David Plotkin, Michael Laracuente, Alex Isik, Brandon Yu, and Tucker Cain are key members of the practice squad.

BY FINN VIGELAND  
Senior Spectator Staff Writer

In his first year at Columbia, Tucker Cain was a tight end on the football team. Now a senior, he’s a member of the women’s basketball team.

Cain, a senior, is one of eight men who comprise the all-male practice squad for the women’s team. The squad comes to the women’s team’s practices across the week, simulating scouting reports and providing an extra set of athletes for the women to play against.

“It gives us a chance to compete against a group that can really focus on what the other team is doing, so that we’re not having to try and learn the other team’s plays and things like that,” head women’s basketball coach Paul Nixon said.

“After a few weeks, they get used to each other’s styles, so they want to bring in fresh blood in a sense,” senior David Plotkin said.

The unfamiliarity with the practice squad has been an effective strategy for the women.

“You’re not so used to them, and they’re not so used to you, so you’re reacting, you’re paying attention, you’re having to read what they’re going to do,” junior center Sabaah Jordan said. “It’s a lot more unpredictable, and I think that that’s a really realistic game-like situation. No matter how much you scout someone, and no matter how much they scout you, you have to react and adjust when you get into a game, so it really does help you prepare.”

At practices when the scouting report is complete, the practice squad will take 15 minutes before beginning to take itself apart, “learn a couple of their plays, and try to run them during practice,” Cain said.

“In some cases they’ll even tell us how to play to simulate each of the players, like ‘You should shoot a lot of threes’ or ‘You should play very aggressive

defense,” Plotkin said.

The practice squad takes some of the pressure off of the women, who in past practice scrimmages would have to alternate between the mindsets of playing for Columbia and playing for the opponent.

“Everybody can focus on guarding them and not so much simulating other players. You can be yourself more often,” junior guard Taylor Ball said.

Role-playing a college basketball team is no easy feat, junior Michael Laracuente said.

“It’s definitely extremely tiring, when they’re running their offenses and they want us to play hard D, and we’re just like playing defense for 20 minutes—it’s just exhausting,” he added.

“We started off really rough,” Cain added. “We were throwing a lot of balls away and that wasn’t good for them. We threw the ball out of bounds every other possession because we just didn’t know what each other was doing. But as we get better from playing, they actually get a better look from us, too.”

But players on the team and on the practice squad acknowledged that the athleticism of the men makes them worthy opponents for the women.

“It’s good to play against that level of athleticism so you can really prepare yourself for the most challenging scenario possible,” Ball said.

“They’re better at basketball than we are, but we’re more athletic, so it kinds of evens out,” Cain said. “So it’s good practice for them—and we’re also getting a lot better as we go. I think we’ll be much more competitive moving forward.”

At 6-foot-3-and-half, Cain is taller than every player on the team with the exception of 6-foot-4 sophomore center Nicole Santucci.

SEE PRACTICE TEAM,  
page 9

My advice to Columbia athletics

It’s been 12 months since I finished every page of a reading assignment for class, 12 months since I wasn’t fighting off sleep while in class, and 12 months since I wasn’t awake at 4 a.m. on a Friday morning during the school year.

And no, I haven’t been a valued customer of the Columbia Five. I’ve been afflicted by a much bigger drug—Spec Sports.

Going into the job, I had no idea what beast I was taking on. I had avidly worked at the Daily Texan during my freshman year at the University of Texas, and after transferring to CU, I quickly hopped on board the Spectator ship. When it came time to turkey-shoot (for the three non-Species reading this column, that’s the term for applying for next year’s staff) for positions, I initially just went for an associate spot. Then I thought I’d get really crazy and go for a deputy position.

I wasn’t really ingrained enough in the section at that point to know many people or what positions they were applying for. I just assumed the Indian kid who liked Federer and the Eagles or the lanky guy who looked like Kermit the Frog would apply.

I was in the dark until I got an ominous email from Michele, the sports editor at the time, that she wanted to speak one night with me and some kids named “Zach Gluebeeyak” and “Muhirinal Mohoneka” (that’s how I pronounced them at the time).

“So above the associate



JIM  
PAGELS  
On the  
Couch

Lions host Long Island, try for seventh straight win

BY MUNEEB ALAM  
Spectator Staff Writer

On Saturday, Columbia (6-4) looks to extend its winning streak to seven games as it faces Long Island (5-4).

The Lions’ six-game streak is its longest since 1981-82, when they won eight in a row. The Lions have allowed fewer than 60 points five times this season—all during the streak. It is a feat they accomplished only twice last season.

“I think our calling card this year, and it’s shocking to me, is that we’re good defensively,” head coach Kyle Smith said.

The Lions come off a thrilling 46-45 win over Holy Cross

on Tuesday. Trailing for the first 39 minutes and 57.6 seconds of the game, the Light Blue chose an excellent time to finally take a lead as junior center Mark Cisco hit a free throw with 2.4 seconds left to provide the winning margin. Cisco finished with 14 points and eight rebounds.

“He’s a big body on the defensive end. He does a good job of guarding the rim,” Smith said. “We ran some stuff for him late, to go to him on the low block, and he delivered.”

While Cisco was key to Columbia’s comeback from 20

SEE MEN’S BASKETBALL,  
page 9



ALYSON GOULDEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SEVENTH HEAVEN? | Brian Barbour leads the Lions in points and assists and will look to lead Columbia to its seventh win in a row.

Bet you didn't know the organ could sound like this.

Musical alchemist John Zorn returns to his first instrument: the organ. Solo improvisations blend the hypnotic minimalism of Terry Riley, the wild experimentation of Ligeti and Xenakis, the ecstatic spirituality of Messiaen, and the exotica of Korla Pandit.

# John Zorn

## SOLO ORGAN

**FREE**  
Friday, December 9  
11 p.m.

St. Paul's Chapel | Columbia University | Presented by Miller Theatre

[www.millertheatre.com](http://www.millertheatre.com)  
An encore performance following the Zorn Composer Portrait concert at 8 p.m. at Miller Theatre. Free admission with concert ticket or CUID.

**MILLERTHEATRE**  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS



# Give, without going Crazy

BY MELISSA FICH  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

The holiday season has begun, which means it's time to shop for gifts for friends and family. When tackling this task on a student budget, it can be a little daunting to please everyone on the list. Give some thought to these affordable holiday gift ideas because, after all, that's what counts.



## FOR THE BRO-Y FRIEND FROM BACK HOME

When shopping for a slightly eccentric, hard-to-please friend, check out Vat19 ([www.vat19.com](http://www.vat19.com)), the self-declared “Purveyors of Curiously Awesome Products.” They sell oversized gummy worms that weigh three pounds and total 4000 calories each. With those out-of-control proportions, they are the perfect dessert for fans of Epic Meal Time. Vat19 also sells the Original Beard Hat—a beanie with a beard-shaped appendage to keep the wearer’s face toasty warm. Hilarious videos advertise every product on the site.

## FOR THE DO-GOODER HIPPIE AUNT

DonorsChoose.org allows users to give the gift of giving—buyers can make a charitable donation to support education in a loved one’s honor. The recipient can then choose a classroom in need to make the donation to. According to DonorsChoose.org, the money helps teachers purchase books and other supplies at underfunded schools. But the best part is that participants actually get to see the difference the donation makes. The participant will receive pictures and handwritten thank-you notes from the students. This is a great way to both make a difference to needy classrooms and to put a smile on a relative’s face.

## FOR THE TYPE-A ROOMMATE

Knock Knock ([www.knockknock.biz](http://www.knockknock.biz)) offers fun, functional paper supplies. Check out the site’s handy Pro/Con Journal (\$12), which makes weighing options for classes, internships, or grad schools easy for the ever-indecisive student. Knock Knock also offers products essential to dorm life, like the Things You Must Do to Make Me Happy Pad (\$8). The tablet includes 196 checkable options, including “wake up,” “lower your voice,” and “agree.” It might just send the firm—and even funny—message necessary to mend a tense roommate relationship.

## FOR THE PARENTS WHO BRAG NONSTOP

Most parents love anything emblazoned with the Columbia logo—unless, of course, it’s an eviction notice from their child’s dorm. Visit the bookstore and pick up a banner, sweater, or, if feeling especially flamboyant, a huge bumper sticker that effectively shouts “My kid is smarter than yours! (And more stressed out).”

## FOR THE ECO-AWARE SISTER

Those shopping for an environmentally conscious loved one—and who don’t mind getting a little DIY—can try creating a reusable fabric shopping bag. Buy a plain bag and some fabric appliques, then decorate away.

## FOR THE MOVIE JUNKIE BROTHER

A lot of sitting around happens over winter break, so spice up a loved one’s lazy January with a Netflix subscription. For just \$7.99, give the gift of a month of unlimited movie watching—and, by extension, a boredom-free winter break.

## Festive markets function as one-stop holiday shops

BY MARICELA GONZALEZ  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

### COLUMBUS CIRCLE HOLIDAY MARKET

New York City’s landmark round-about hosts the 7th Annual Columbus Circle Holiday Market, presented by Urban Space. This is no flea market—the shops at this holiday market sell everything from high quality jewelry and gourmet food to oddball novelty gifts and handcrafted apparel. With store-filled Time Warner Center looming nearby, students can expect to start and finish their holiday shopping without having to leave the Upper West Side. The Market is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. until Saturday, Dec. 24.

### HARLEM HOLIDAY MARKET

Students wishing to stay closer to campus—and avoid subway fees—can trek to the plaza at the Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building (163 W. 125th St., at Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard) for the First Annual Harlem Holiday Market. Over 25 vendors will sell their wares from Thursday, Dec. 15 to Sunday, Dec. 18.

### THE HOLIDAY SHOPS AT BRYANT PARK

The Holiday Shops at Bryant Park run through Sunday, Jan. 8, so procrastinators and last-minute shoppers have ample time to score items from these mostly one-of-a-kind shops. Shoppers can take a break from the holiday hub-bub at Citi Pond, the park’s perennial free ice skating rink. Stop by the Coca-Cola Holiday Caravan on Saturday, Dec. 11, for a chance to take pictures with the big man in red himself, Santa Claus. The Holiday Shops at Bryant Park are open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### UNION SQUARE HOLIDAY MARKET

Urban Space also runs the Union Square Holiday Market downtown, an equally extravagant holiday shopping affair. While convenient for students wishing to meet up with friends from NYU and other downtown schools, the square quickly fills with overwhelming crowds. Make sure to visit during non-peak hours. The market runs daily from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Best of

Holiday Window Displays

Students may not have much money to spare during the holidays, but that is the beauty of window-shopping—it only costs as much as the subway fare to get there. These department store greats offer some of this year’s most creatively festive displays. —BY CLAIRE FU

Bergdorf Goodman

Take a walk on the wild side with Bergdorf Goodman’s (754 Fifth Ave., between 57th and 58th streets) “Carnival of the Animals.” Each of the store’s five main Fifth Avenue windows portrays fantastical worlds of fauna and flora. “Testing the Waters” makes a splash with glimmering blue-green mosaic sea creatures that swirl around an ethereal mannequin clothed in a stunning Alexander McQueen seashell dress. At 10 months in the making, it’s the most labor-intensive window display in Bergdorf history. Next, peer into a metallic tropical forest where brass and steel birds reign and take a peek at a sculptor’s workshop teeming with wood and leather folk-art animals. Those who make it away from the window alive can proceed to strike a pose with plushy polar bears and wolves in an Arctic garden party. Lastly, marvel at monochromatic zebras and pandas crafted out of paper.



Bloomingdale’s

’Tis the season for Big Brown Bags. As a nod to its rich heritage, Bloomingdale’s (at Lexington Avenue and 59th Street) puts its iconic shopping bag in the spotlight by featuring magical scenes inspired by the item’s transformation through the years. Behold a gift-bearing Santa flying in a silver spacesuit, an adorable Santa-reindeer duo listening to their iPods and ice-skating hand-in-hand, and a gigantic penguin with sunglasses tenderly watching over a prized gift package and newly hatched baby penguins. These sculpted animations are enclosed in oversized vintage shopping bags trimmed with tufted blue velvet, which open and spin to reveal what’s inside. And don’t forget to put on a holiday grin! A special camera captures window-shoppers and posts the shots on Bloomingdale’s Facebook page.



WINTER WONDERLANDS | The multi-window holiday displays at Bergdorf Goodman (top), Bloomingdale’s (bottom left), and Saks Fifth Avenue (bottom right) are among the most lavish in the city.

Macy’s

The world’s largest department store (151 W. 34th St., between Seventh Avenue and Avenue of the Americas) proves that dreams can come true with this year’s Make-A-Wish-themed holiday windows. Part of the installation is devoted to depicting real wishes made by children from the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Enhanced with 3-D screens and celebrity ornaments designed by the likes of Kenneth Cole and Sean John, the animated windows display a rocket ship speeding through a wish factory toward the North Star to decorate a tree of wishes. In a winter wonderland sprinkled with festive ornaments and massive gears and cogs, exquisite marionettes steal the show. With ruby-red lips and turquoise eye shadow, these fashionable steam-punk and Victorian era-inspired dolls don feathered headgear and white bejeweled dresses, complete with glistening fairy wings. Nothing is too elaborate for these celestial creatures—after all, they make wishes come true.

Saks Fifth Avenue

Saks Fifth Avenue (611 Fifth Ave., at 49th Street) attempts to answer the titular question of its exclusive children’s book “Who Makes the Snow?” through its extensive 12-window holiday display, which revolves around the theme of snowflakes and bubbles. Mannequins shine in this bubble-making factory, but the real stars are the limited-edition dresses designed by Nina Ricci, Proenza Schouler, and other fashion power players. One mannequin poses beside a bubble well in a lavish Alexander McQueen burgundy gown designed by Sarah Burton and worn by Kate Moss on Vogue’s September 2011 cover. Another models a dazzling Olivier Theyskens silk dress hand-embroidered with pearly paillettes as she turns a wheel that churns bubbles out of pipes. If only these fashion-forward mannequin darlings really did have a hand in making snow.

Modern version of ‘Ubu the King’ plays up social critique in the spirit of Occupy Wall Street

BY MARICELA GONZALEZ  
Spectator Staff Writer

Writing a review for “Ubu the King” is difficult because it’s a difficult play to describe. If indeed it is a play—one can arguably suggest that it is more of a political manifesto against the grotesque excesses of society or even a freak show where capitalist culture is put on display as the main attraction. “Ubu the King” is a modern adaptation of French writer Alfred Jarry’s “Ubu Roi,” presented by the Barnard College Department of Theatre and Columbia University Major in Drama and Theatre Arts. It premiered Thursday, Dec. 8 and will also run on Friday, Dec. 9 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 10 at 3 and 8 p.m. at the Glicker Milstein Black Box Theatre in the Diana Center. The eponymous character, Papa Ubu, is performed with gusto by Jake Lasser, CC ’12. A modern update to the original 1890s portrayal, Lasser

THEATER  
REVIEW

was clad in a Spider-man fat suit and Quailman-esque diaper strategically emblazoned with a Target logo and party blower. Lizi Myers, BC ’12, plays the conniving, equally grotesque “Mama Ubu,” or as Ubu affectionately refers to her, “Madame of Shit.” While Lasser revels in his character’s horrid actions, Myers seems restrained. It seems like the goal of her outrageous performance is just to be convincingly nasty. There’s something too staged, too rigid to her acting that is unpleasant for all the wrong reasons. Of note were Adrian Alea, CC ’15, as Ladislaus and Harry Neff, CC ’15, as Buggerlaus, the spoiled, juvenile sons of King Wenceslaus (Josh Magid, GS/JTS ’13) and Queen Rosamund (India Choquette, BC ’14). Alea captured children’s naïve obsession with superheroes, leading a musical rendition of the Spider-Man theme song. The number was pertinent for its digs at “Spider-Man: Turn off the Dark” as well as its references to Ubu’s costume. Neff’s Buggerlaus led a timely, uproarious satire of

Occupy Wall Street, calling to his followers, “Tell me what democracy looks like!” His supporters responded, “This is what democracy looks like!” But it was Yoonjin Ha, CC ’13, who stole the show. As the Christopher Walken-accented, Rambo-attired Captain Bordure and later as the almost completely bare Bear, Ha managed simultaneously to entertain the audience, bemuse the women of the play, and showcase the dark side of modern culture. The emcee Lizzy Brooks, CC ’12, ferried the audience through the sea of outlandish mayhem only to be subsumed by its allure at the end of the play. Brooks displayed a gifted singing voice—but she never injected as much force as Myers did with Mama Ubu’s shrieks of devilish delight. Following the Thursday performance was a post-show discussion with Judith Malina, playwright, activist, and one of the founders of the New York-based Living Theatre. While many students will know Malina for her part as Grandmama

Addams in the film version of “The Addams Family,” Malina is renowned for her long career in film and theater as well as her firebrand activism for the use of theater to promote social change. Along with her fellow Living Theatre founder Julian Beck, Malina translated Jarry’s “Ubu Roi” for the Living Theatre 1952 production at the Cherry Lane Theatre. When the fire department suspiciously shut down the play for so-called flammable set pieces, Malina chased the fire inspector out of the theater onto the street with a bamboo spear, cementing Malina’s place in theater urban legend. During the post-show discussion, Malina stressed that Jarry’s play is about the “negative shit” of society and strives to unflinchingly portray that to audiences. There is a fine line between satirizing the “negative shit” of society and performing a shit work. But in the case of “Ubu the King,” it seems as if that doesn’t even matter—because they’re the same thing.





MEGAN BAKER FOR SPECTATOR

**BISTRO BLUES** | While the number of performers fluctuates, the Morningside Jazz Collective always brings a relaxed vibe to the often serious French bistro on the corner of 110th and Amsterdam. Lee Welch (left) is the lead guitarist and a mainstay in the group.

# Morningside collective jazzes up Bistro Ten 18 on Thursday nights

BY LUKE BARNES  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Every Thursday night from 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at Bistro Ten 18, the Morningside Jazz Collective offers students and locals a chance to escape from the hectic atmosphere of the city and to indulge in grassroots jazz, blues, bossa, and funk.

The collective, which has been playing the venue on 110th Street and Amsterdam for slightly over a year, gives Bistro Ten 18 a relaxed, elegant atmosphere that largely differs from more well-known bars in the area like The Abbey and Mel’s.

The venue has proven popular with the musicians themselves. “It’s a great atmosphere. The music sounds great—like being in a French bistro—the wine’s good, there’s no cover, and the acoustics are good,” lead guitarist Lee Welch said.

Welch is originally from Tennessee and started playing the guitar at age 12. His wife is a priest at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, where the group practices. Many of his fellow musicians also live in Morningside Heights. However, with musicians coming from all parts of the city—from Washington Heights to Brooklyn—and, indeed the country, the collective is more than just a group of locals. Melodica player Steven Sandberg, for instance, is a professional composer from Germany, and John Stowell, a guitarist from Portland, Oregon, is scheduled to play with the band next week.

“We have a core group of five, but we have a lot of special guests, like Steven,” Welch said. “10 people drop in on a semi-regular basis and bring their flavor to the mix. The creative title allows us to collect musicians.”

The group’s style and song choices vary throughout the night. “We play the standards—Charlie Parker, John Coltrane, Miles Davis, tunes by Joe Henderson and Kenny Dorham, stuff from the History of Jazz—but some more modern stuff as well. We mix it up,” Welch said.

**“This is New York’s best-kept secret. If you like live music, it’s going to make you feel good.”**  
*—Lee Welch, lead guitarist*

Tom Shannon has been a regular patron at the bistro for more than a year now, since the collective started playing. “It’s a great Thursday night escape. It always has been,” he said.

Shannon, a Morningside Heights resident who worked as a business manager in the music industry for over a decade, was highly complimentary of the collective. “This is really what it’s all about, a grassroots level,” he said. “Everything else is

industry—this hasn’t stepped over the line. It’s not showcased, it’s real.”

Shannon also noted how the bistro contributes to the “local microcosms of New York.” “This is what makes New York City unique,” he said, pointing to the musicians.

Up until now, the collective has focused more on playing for the sake of playing, but Welch said they plan to record some independent tracks in the spring. Many of the members have their own separate projects as well. “That’s a real New York jazz thing,” Welch said of being involved in multiple groups. “It’s like Legos.”

The collective has also been good for Bistro Ten 18’s business according to Sandra Coehno, who has worked as a waitress for the Bistro for four years. “Especially at the bar, there’s more people. Tonight’s been unusually slow,” she said, despite the fact that the area was almost completely full. She also mentioned how the collective changes the atmosphere of the bistro from something serious to a more tranquil and laid-back environment.

Coehno’s personal opinion about jazz has also changed. “I’m not a huge jazz fan, but now I appreciate it,” she said.

Welch and his fellow musicians are set to continue playing the Bistro for the visible future—to the approval of local residents, students, and jazz aficionados alike. “This is New York’s best-kept secret,” Welch said. “If you like live music, it’s going to make you feel good.”

# Sometimes deciding to fly is harder than growing wings

I remembered that Morgan had asked if there was a roof on this place, and the girl had answered, “Yeah. One floor down. Weird, hey?”

The corridor to the stairwell had a word written in yellow computer tape—“Ageing”—and the stairwell was covered with graffiti done in paint. The ceiling had peeled.

From the rooftop, we could see Manhattan, and the sudden distance, after what felt like such a short subway ride, made me think that there really was so much crammed into such a small island. Manhattan Island. The Chrysler and the Empire stood, flashing towers of light and whimpering restlessness that you don’t ever see from Midtown. The city throbbed and burped with the buzz of destinations.

As we smoked we talked about books and experimental music and I see now, as I type, that we are just caricatures of ourselves but it doesn’t feel like that unless you think it needs to.

When we went back inside, a play had been about to start. “Here’s how it’s going to work,” a man with a big beard and a trucker hat said. “We were hoping to be able to show this in New York but it didn’t work out, so we’re happy to be here with you tonight, with an”—he faltered—“an intimate crowd. It’s nice.”

You’re doing it all wrong. Where are we? Let’s go back. Where? To Alabama. God damn!

Listen to me. Come with me. No! Life is like a baseball game. Maybe you’re born in Alabama (God damn!), but you need to leave soon enough. Try somewhere easy: Florida. There you go, sunny palms, beaches, easy weather. Easy place.

Maybe you can move soon. Louisiana. Bit of foreignness there. Bit of Creeeee-ole. Not too much for you I hope.

Too much? Not too much. You can do Louisiana.



**KEMBLE WALKER**  
**Restless Nights**

The corridor to the stairwell had a word written in yellow computer tape—“Ageing”—and the stairwell was covered with graffiti done in paint. The ceiling had peeled.

Finally, maybe, let’s go, come on, let’s get to the Gulf. Once we’re in the Gulf, the winds can take us anywhere.

NO! Take me back! Where? To Alabama. Let’s swap. Crack! And the dam breaks.

I had been transfixed by the play. Afterwards I told the man with the beard and the hat that it was fantastic. He gave me a card with a website on it, which I put in my wallet.

Then we had danced stupidly to noise music while Morgan wrapped the party in red twine. The music didn’t stop when a bottle smashed, knocked over by taut strings.

Now that we were in SoHo, I thought about the party like it had been a different world. Here, heels hoofed their way through the crowd, looking for friends and clawing at their handbags like praying made-up mantises.

Now, later, we were at a techno party, in that strange twilight zone of contradiction and confrontation. The music throbbed delicately in piercing meditation.

I closed my eyes and tried to be the music. My hands were a hi-hat, my head was a kick, and my fingers sparkled with each shattering cymbal.

Suddenly, I was in Florida, and I felt like spreading my hands in a crazy crucifixion. I don’t think I actually did, though I couldn’t say for sure.

One of us suggested we sit down for a little but I was finding it hard to tear myself from the clinical German noises. We explored behind where the music was being played and there was a huge open space, the back end of this bizarre SoHo loft. A couple of couches welcomed some straggly, sweaty dancers and the wooden floor was wet with condensation. From the back of the room, there was a crazy view of the party and I looked around happily. Here was Louisiana.

Back in the crowd, a guy with a red T-shirt, who was dancing happily next to us, said something to one of my friends. She made a face that was a bit off-putting. I think it made him shyer the second time.

I heard him say to the crowd, “Nobody understands me except me,” and my face exploded with mirth like a New Year’s firecracker.

I grabbed his shoulder and squeezed it tightly. “I understand you!” I shouted through the music, and when he smiled back, the feeling of lightness could only have been some wind underneath my wings.

*Kemble Walker is a Columbia College sophomore, majoring in music and German. Restless Nights runs alternate Fridays.*

# Burnt ends are the barbecue stars at authentic Southern joint RUB

RUB BBQ from page B4

Chef Paul Kirk is in the Barbecue Hall of Fame, which is all you need to know about the quality of ‘cue coming out of the kitchen.

Current Pit Master Scott Smith keeps the RUB smoker moving smoothly. He has the touch of a master craftsman. I imagine his hands are supple from stroking many sides of pastrami. He certainly has quite a way with a rack of ribs.

Although you can eat your way down the menu without any prior preparation, a savvy ‘cue connoisseur approaches a visit to RUB as a question of strategy. It’s imperative to arrive early in the evening. RUB cooks a discrete quantity of meat each day, so it tends to run out of more popular menu items (burnt ends, I’m talking about you). Go with a good group. I define a good group as four fellow meat eaters, all without qualms about finger sucking or otherwise insanitary food sharing practices. Order meat by the pound and sides in the large size. Eat until you feel ill, then eat until it feels good again.

False prophets preach of “fall-off-the-bone” ribs. RUB’s ribs adhere to the competition standard: meat that yields without resistance to the tooth but remains attached to the bone.

Pulled pork, drizzled with RUB’s tangy house sauce, makes a nice sandwich folded up in white

bread with pickles. Or try the pastrami, moist and smoky like a Turkish bath. It, like in “Portnoy’s Complaint,” speaks “of prehistoric times, earlier even than the era of the cavemen and lake dwellers that I have studied in school, a time when above the oozing bog that was the earth, swirling white gasses choked out the sunlight and aeons passed while the planet was drained for Man.”

**Burnt ends are Satan’s McNuggets. They are little charred parcels of sweet beef fat and pink brisket. They are psychotropic.**

As for side dishes—don’t miss the beans. They’re the most sublime legumes ever tasted—and, contrary to Pythagoras’ advice, I’ve eaten many a baked or barbecued bean in my time.

Burnt ends, though, are the best thing to eat at RUB. They are Satan’s McNuggets. They are little charred parcels of sweet beef fat and pink brisket. They are psychotropic: eyes-rolling-back-in-your-head-foaming-at-the-mouth crazy delicious. During live performances of “Born to Run,”

Clarence Clemons (may he rest in peace) would, at the song’s climax, cover Bruce Springsteen’s ears as though to protect him from the wall of sound. Experiences of such profound and excessive beauty are too much for the human body to bear.

What is the purpose, the vocation, the destiny of RUB in the universe of New York barbecue? As Springsteen once evangelized: “To reeducate ya to resuscitate ya to regenerate ya to reconfiscate ya to recombobulate ya to reindoctrinate ya to resexualate ya to rededicate ya to liberate ya, with the power and the glory with the power and the glory with the promise with the majesty with the mystery with the ministry of...” barbecue.

I came into town, a one night stand—looks like my plans fell through. Oh, Lord, stuck in New York again. At least I finally found a barbecue spot that reminds me of home. RUB cannot replicate barbecue’s native ecology. It does, however, come close enough to provoke a real reflex of pleasure. Cue gratuitous fist pumping, shirt waving, crawling over security guards onto the smoker to swipe a single drop of holy sweat, a variety of religious experience in no way inferior to pure rapture.

Flipside Guide Food & Drink reviews are evaluated for: student-friendliness, price point, accessibility, quality, and cool factor.



# Flipside Guide



COURTESY OF THE METROPOLITAN OPERA

**DEAL WITH THE DEVIL** | The titular character of this classic opera, Faust (right), attempts to woo the innocent Marguerite (left).

## ‘Faust’

Des McAnuff’s production turns Met Opera stage into a devilish mess

BY REUBEN BERMAN  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

If Metropolitan Opera manager Peter Gelb had to make a deal with the devil to acquire Des McAnuff—director of “Jersey Boys”—to produce “Faust,” it would seem that the devil got the better end of the agreement. Just as a deal for youth, knowledge, or riches has its pitfalls, so does a new production of a classic opera. Gelb seems to have fallen into more than one such pit with this production, which will be performed at the Met Opera intermittently until Jan. 19. In the Met Opera’s more modern conception, the post-war setting seems to fit. Faust, an aging scientist who worked on the atomic bomb, regrets his life, and seeks to end it, only to be saved by Mephistopheles. The latter grants Faust renewed youth in exchange for servitude to the devil after death. Faust is brought back in time to WWI, before the damage of atomic weapons had been realized.

At its heart, this opera is a love story. It is not the “Faust” of Goethe, read by every first-year currently in Lit Hum, focused on questions about the soul and science. Even as it deals with motifs like the devil and war, “Faust” is essentially about a man wooing a woman—and about the fallout of his actions. Mephistopheles is simply a humorous afterthought and plot device.

Instead of focusing on the romance, McAnuff’s set resembles a laboratory, with tiered metal catwalks that loom ominously over the stage and enclose the entire opera in an aura of gloom and despair. He also dresses the chorus in lab coats, adding to the eerie nature, which turns out to be terribly out of place when Marguerite—the woman Faust pursues—attempts to escape damnation by Mephistopheles or when she later ascends to heaven. Equally perplexing is the larger-than-life man who points a finger at Mephistopheles just before the end of the second act—the play gives no clues as to the nature of what he represents or who he is. Questions of setting arise time and time again throughout the production, leaving the audience uneasy and uncomfortable and never entirely sure about what is going on.

Fortunately, however, this jumble of a production doesn’t impede the abilities of the singers or the orchestra. The bass Rene Pape, as the dangerous and charming Mephistopheles, emerges onstage dressed to the nines in a Panama hat and white suit. He keeps the audience enthralled by his spellbinding voice, especially during his song about the Golden Calf. Jonas Kaufmann is tremendous as Faust, appearing in his first production since performing a personal recital on the Met stage, an honor reserved for the most impressive of stars. The tenor adds layers of feeling and passion to his arias, especially when he is conversing with Marguerite, sung by the equally passionate but sometimes imprecise soprano Marina Poplavskaya. Under the baton of Yannick Nézet-Séguin, the orchestra performs spectacularly, keeping up a good tempo and rousing passions, yet never overpowering the singing onstage. Like the professionals they are, the stars of the show continue onward. Unfazed by the mess that the staging creates for the audience, they offer enough incredible sound to keep the viewers from needing to open their eyes.

Flipside Guide Theater reviews are evaluated for: originality, storyline, quality of acting, spectacle, ticket price, accessibility, and student interest.

### events

#### BOOKS

##### David Sedaris book reading

Strand Book Store, 828 Broadway, 12th Street, Friday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m., purchase the book or a \$10 Strand gift card to enter

Laugh along with the Grammy-nominated comedy writer as he reads excerpts from his new collection of essays, “Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk,” at the Strand.

#### STYLE

##### Opening Ceremony Pop-Up

76 Wooster St., between Broome and Spring streets, Friday, Dec. 9 to Sunday, Dec. 11, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Need to catch up on that holiday shopping? Head down to the East Village, where the haute hipster hot spot will offer discounts of up to 90 percent at this weekend-long pop-up shop.

#### FILM

##### Noir Night

Vaudeville Park, 26 Bushwick Ave., at Devoe Street, Saturday, Dec. 10, 8 p.m., free

Enjoy a screening of rare detective movies and an original jazz number while sipping blood-red cocktails at this Williamsburg event.

#### ART

##### ‘Calder’s Circus’

Whitney Museum of Art, 945 Madison Ave., at 75th Street, Wednesday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday until 9 p.m., \$12

Step right up to the Whitney’s most recent exhibition—a miniature circus constructed of wire, cork, wood, and various other household items.

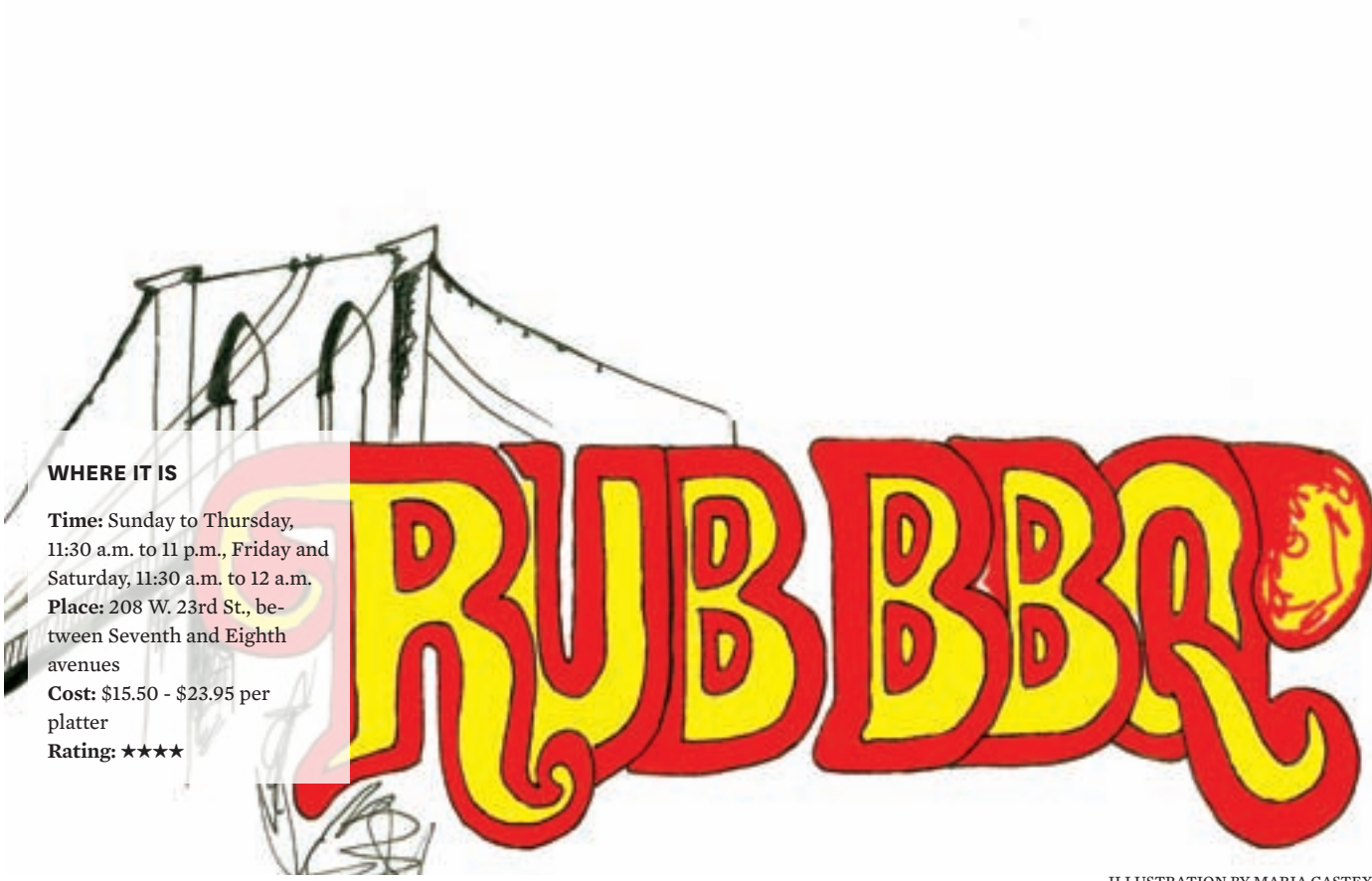


ILLUSTRATION BY MARIA CASTEX

## RUB BBQ

Lovers of the ’cue can regain a sense of down-home at this Chelsea locale

BY JASON BELL  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

No bones about it, New York is not a barbecue town. Don’t let poser pit crews in their PR outfits bamboozle you with lies.

If there is good barbecue to be had in this city, it has been removed from its natural habitat. Like a Texas cowboy come to New York to prostitute his body, barbecue gone North has been estranged from its essential self. Barbecue is about knowable communal activities—gathering ’round the smoker, taking shifts turning the coals, putting together parish-wide buffets and picnics. It is an art of the countryside, a vestigial organ of the American pastoral, a wild sentiment domesticated in the suburbs, a real figment of the American moral imagination, a rural fantasy made material. It is a Gary Snyderian experience—like a smoke haze, three days of heat after five days of rain, swarms of new flies, drinking cold snow-water from a tin cup. It is anathema to the soot and despair of city living.

In New York, the barbecue restaurant invokes country living but, in the end, everything feels too smoothed and polished, too

### FOOD & DRINK REVIEW

damn commercial. When I eat at Hill Country or Dinosaur Bar-B-Que or Blue Smoke, I enter with the wrong expectations and leave disappointed. The only way to enjoy New York barbecue, as it has been institutionalized, is to expect Universal Studios and smile, anesthetized, at ugly food and people at their ugliest.

If I had a dollar for every bad rib I’ve eaten here and every time I had dinner while people sat there drunk, I’d catch the next train back to where I live. I grew up in St. Louis, where barbecue happens in backyards. We threw down pork shoulders in oil can smokers and brewed sauce in big kettles. An authentic and genuine barbecue experience requires the “we,” the instantiation of creative energy in a communal task. Barbecue must be a live issue for the people involved: It must always really matter. That is why RUB BBQ is my favorite restaurant in New York. RUB is New York’s only sincere barbecue joint, the only spot where the anonymity of city life slips into an ecstatic rejoinder of recognition.

In 2005, Andrew Fischel started RUB BBQ. It’s half-acronym—the name means “Righteous Urban Barbecue.” Executive

SEE RUB BBQ, page B3



KRISTA LEWIS FOR SPECTATOR

**GAGA FOR GAGA** | At the pop star’s Barneys workshop, holiday decor takes on a whole new meaning. Case in point: this giant, multi-colored spider featuring Lady Gaga’s face situated in the middle of a graphic black-and-white gallery.

## Gaga’s Workshop

‘Little Monsters’ pay big prices to take home an item by the pop star

BY MELISSA HANEY  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

With Christmas a mere two weeks away, department stores around the city are twinkling with festive spirit, pulling out all of the stops to draw in holiday shoppers. But even the most outlandishly over-decorated trees and sparkly oversized ornaments pale in comparison to the fifth floor of Barneys New York (660 Madison Ave., between 60th and 61st streets), where Santa and his elves have been replaced by Lady Gaga and her monsters.

Fans, or rather, “Little Monsters,” will be able spot Gaga’s paws all over the workshop. With its monochromatic walls and twisted holiday humor, the scene evokes a particular Tim Burton feel.

Tracks from both “The Fame” and “Born This Way”—interspersed, naturally, with Frank Sinatra Christmas tunes—play in the background, while quirky items like gigantic hair-bow lollipops, life-sized chocolate Alexander McQueen armadillos, and Swarovski crystal-encrusted teacups sit on display underneath an enormous spider with a Gaga head. Handcrafted cookies, bedazzled press-on nails, and unicorn stockings hang from

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black-tinsel-covered asymmetrical shelves and glowing neon crag rocks, creating a full-on fantasy land that even the most ambivalent fans can’t help but appreciate.

Prices, however, are a different story. A miniature Gaga motorcycle ornament runs about \$25, and those couture chocolate heels will set foodie fashionistas back \$95. Though a bit of a damper on the holiday cheer, the steep costs are something to be expected—this is Barneys, after all. But the workshop isn’t a total scam: 25 percent of all proceeds will be donated to Gaga’s recently launched Born This Way Foundation, focused on fostering youth empowerment and equality.

Gaga’s Workshop could have easily fallen flat. The concept—get a pop star to design a Christmas display in an effort to sell overpriced merchandise—is a set-up for cheesy commercial disaster. Sure, the expensive T-shirts and lace-covered sunglasses will only come in handy, well, never. But in true Gaga style, the thoughtfully executed workshop, with its intricate details and unique personal touches that diehard followers will assuredly love, steals the show.

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