

Political science professor David Epstein faces charges of incest

BY SARAH DARVILLE AND
LEAH GREENBAUM
Columbia Daily Spectator

Political science professor David Epstein, 46, was charged Thursday with having a sexual relationship with his daughter, 24.

He was arrested Wednesday morning and charged with one count of incest in the third degree at an arraignment hearing on Thursday. According to police, the relationship appears to

have been consensual.

Epstein declined to comment when reached on his cell phone Thursday evening.

His wife, Sharyn O'Halloran, chair of the executive committee of the University Senate and a tenured professor, also declined to comment when reached by phone.

According to a University spokesman, Epstein is now on administrative leave and is no longer teaching students.

His defense attorney,

Matthew Galluzzo, said the public should remember that Epstein has not yet been convicted.

"David is a respected member of the Columbia University and national academic communities, and we think he deserves privacy and respect while the investigators are investigating. We are asking people to remember that these allegations are nothing more than allegations," he said.

Galluzzo said Epstein is no longer in custody and a trial date

has not yet been set.

"We're asking his friends in the Columbia community to support him and give him the benefit of the doubt," he said.

An update on Epstein's Facebook account says he is no longer listed as married.

Epstein and O'Halloran have co-authored numerous publications on American politics since meeting as postdoctoral students at Stanford University in the 1980s.

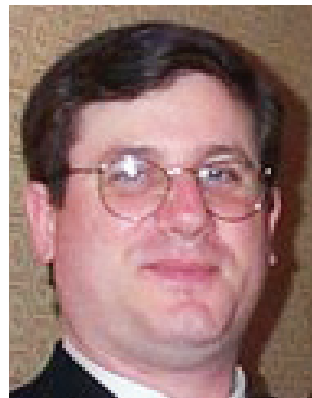
Epstein is currently teaching

a lecture class called "Scope and Methods," as well as a class titled "Research Topics and Game Theory."

Raahi Sheth, CC '11, an economics and political science major—who had an Epstein as a major adviser—said he was surprised to hear of the allegations, since Epstein has always been helpful.

"He'd always been fairly jovial," he said. "He seemed to be a very nice guy."

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COURTESY OF COLUMBIA

After bust, two released on bail

BY SONALEE RAU,
CHELSEA LO, AND KATIE
BENTIVOGLIO
Columbia Daily Spectator

Another two students were released on bail Thursday in the aftermath of an on-campus drug bust that led to the temporary suspension of three fraternity chapters and has made national headlines this week.

Five undergraduates were arrested early morning on Tuesday after a five-month investigation found that they were selling thousands of dollars worth of drugs—including LSD, cocaine, MDMA, and Adderall—out of fraternity houses and dorm rooms. All five pled not guilty.

The University placed three fraternities—Alpha Epsilon Pi, Pi Kappa Alpha, and Psi Upsilon—on interim suspension Wednesday night, ordering them to cease all activities pending further review.

On Thursday, Chris Coles, CC '12 and Jose Stephan Perez (known as Stephan Vincenzo), CC '12, were released on bail. Coles was confirmed to have returned to campus Thursday evening. Perez's attorney said he would not comment on the case until next week, and Coles' attorney could not be reached for comment.

Michael Wymbs, SEAS '11, and Adam Klein, CC '12, were released on bail on Wednesday, and the fifth student, Harrison David, SEAS '12, is still downtown at the Manhattan Detention Complex.

"Michael is dealing with the situation, and it's been very difficult on him as well as on

SEE DRUGS, page 2

YOU'VE GOT MAIL



ZARA CASTANY / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DECISIONS | In keeping with annual tradition, the University's admissions team gathered Thursday on College Walk to send out early decision notices to the class of 2015.

U.S. Supreme Court to consider M'ville case

BY MAGGIE ASTOR AND
FINN VIGELAND
Columbia Daily Spectator

The U.S. Supreme Court will meet today to discuss whether to re-evaluate the legality of eminent domain for Columbia's 17-acre Manhattanville campus expansion.

If the court decides to grant certiorari—the official term for agreeing to hear a case—it will throw the expansion into legal limbo once again. If it denies certiorari, the state will be able to seize private properties on the University's behalf. Typically, the court, which has officially scheduled this case for "conference" today, grants just one percent of all petitions for certiorari, so the odds are in favor of Columbia's project.

At stake are the only properties in the expansion zone—from 125th to 134th streets, from Broadway to 12th Avenue—that Columbia does not yet own: Nick Sprayregen's four Tuck-It-Away

Self-Storage locations and two gas stations owned by Gurnam Singh and Parminder Kaur. Under eminent domain, the state would turn the properties over to the University in exchange for market-rate compensation for Sprayregen, Singh, and Kaur.

"The significance is huge," Norman Siegel, who is Sprayregen's attorney and the former director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, said on Thursday. "If they decide to hear our case, then the issue will be front and center before the Supreme Court of the United States."

Singh and Kaur have argued that their business is their livelihood and should not be taken from them.

"I need a fair deal from the Supreme Court," Kaur said on Thursday. "The way the law is now, rich people can do what they want to do—they can do anything. If the decision goes for

SEE M'VILLE, page 2



ZARA CASTANY / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MAKE SOME NOISE | Student and neighborhood residents dressed as buildings to protest Columbia's use of eminent domain.

Students, locals protest CU community relations

BY ABBY MITCHELL
Columbia Daily Spectator

Protesters wearing cardboard boxes painted to resemble buildings sang and danced outside the 116th Street gates Thursday afternoon to speak out against eminent domain and Columbia's employment policies.

The demonstration brought together around 30 students and neighborhood residents below the University's large banner, which reads "Support Columbia Community Service: We're Neighbors Helping Neighbors."

The protest was not affiliated

with any specific organization, though members of the on-campus International Socialist Organization helped plan. Lindsey Cornum, CC '11 and an organizer, said students began planning shortly after the sign was hung.

The University put up the sign when it launched this year's Columbia Community Service campaign in November, which solicits donations from faculty and staff to provide grants to 50 Upper Manhattan nonprofits.

"Obviously, the sign is

SEE PROTEST, page 2



HENRY WILLSON FOR SPECTATOR

NEW DEBATES | The Northwest Corner Building, opening today, has caused internal debate within the research community.

As Northwest opens, faculty question vision, priorities

BY HENRY WILLSON AND
DAPHNE CHEN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Administrators have hailed the Northwest Corner Building, which officially opens this morning, as a boon for the science departments—a high-tech facility that will stimulate scientific research and attract top faculty to Columbia. But even as the building opens, some professors say the University's existing science facilities are, in the words of one professor, "hugely inadequate."

The current science facilities are aging and outdated and lack many expensive instruments that are crucial to some research, some say, arguing that the new building will not do nearly enough to address these problems.

"Remarkably, our departments may rank in the top 20, [but] I would say in general, if you ask most scientists here, they would say our facilities

do not rank in the top 20," biology department chair Stuart Firestein said. "They've been ignored for many years."

AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Columbia scientists identify problems across the Morningside Heights campus.

Physics professor Charles Hailey called the University's science infrastructure "woefully neglected." In the Fairchild Center, built in 1977, some biology labs "haven't been significantly touched" in over 20 years, Firestein said.

Fairchild also suffers from poor climate control—fluctuating temperatures often kill cells that biology professor Brent Stockwell uses. Another concern in the building is slow data transfers—ethernet connections run at 10 megabits, one one-thousandth the speed of those at peer institutions, Stockwell said.

SEE NORTHWEST, page 3



SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Women's basketball still without a win

Columbia is now 0-8 after losing a tough 50-46 contest to Fairfield. In the game, senior Lauren Dwyer—who finished with 13 points—was the lone Lion to score in double figures.

EVENTS

Diversity at the Top

Do we need bolder policies at the top of the corporation?

1161 Amsterdam Ave., 8 a.m.

Artist and His Time

Visit an exhibit of Max Penson's photography.

12th Floor, SIPA, 6:30 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



36°/31°

Tomorrow



44°/38°

OPINION, PAGE 4

A Smoking Experiment

Ethan Perets proposes a new plan to encourage social interaction.

Internet vice

The Social Experiment replicated meaningless Internet communication.

After drug bust, two more released on bail as fraternity investigates CU chapter

DRUGS from front page

his family,” Michael Bachner, Wymbs’ attorney, said Thursday. “However, he is confident that the matter will be resolved in a manner that will permit him to go on with his education, either at Columbia or elsewhere.”

According to Bachner, Wymbs’ “parents came in from many hours away” after his arrest. He would not comment on where Wymbs is now or if he will take final exams next week, and said he did not

know the status of Wymbs’ standing with the University or his fraternity, as he is not in communication with Columbia regarding the investigation.

Bachner said Wymbs intends to continue to plead not guilty.

Mark Williams, executive director of Psi Upsilon, the fraternity that Wymbs and Klein belong to, said the organization had begun an independent investigation as of Wednesday.

“We certainly need to cooperate with Columbia, but we

also need to know from our perspective what’s been going on,” Williams said, adding that the investigation may be stalled until mid-January, as students are occupied with finals. “I’m not sure how much we can resolve before the academic year starts up again.”

He said that there will be remedial actions taken in the fraternities, including a possible membership review in which every member is interviewed. “We hope we’ll be able to maintain a chapter,” Williams said.

He cited a variety of possible measures to be taken. “We could close the chapter. Or ... remove the entire membership and start another chapter immediately and recruit new members. Or we could close the chapter ... for a couple years and then reopen it. All of these things have been done before.”

On campus, some students said they were surprised at the attention Columbia has received for this incident. “I think that they [Columbia students] are

especially good media targets,” Meaghan Callahan, BC ’12, said.

“I believe what they did was illegal and wrong, but I also believe that they were targeted by the NYPD,” Dominick Costa, GS, said. “It’s going to ruin their college moment. They won’t have the fairy tale ending that everyone expects when they graduate from Columbia,” he added.

Jean Pierre Salendres, CC ’14, said he was pleased with the way the NYPD handled the arrests. “They were doing drugs, and

there is no privilege, whether you’re a drug dealer at Columbia or up in Harlem. It’s fair.”

Others, though, said they were personally upset by the situation.

“It’s been really hurtful to hear a small minority of my classmates talk about this as if it were a joke, and as if these aren’t real lives on the line,” said Annie Tan, CC ’11, who knows two of the students involved. “I can say I’ve been deeply distressed.”

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LAST SHOT | Tuck-It-Away Self-Storage and two gas stations have one more chance to fight the state’s use of eminent domain.

U.S. Supreme Court to consider hearing M’ville case

M’VILLE from front page

the rich people, for Columbia, then in the future, poorer people will not have the right to live.”

For Sprayregen, it is also about fighting the state on principle.

“It is a tremendous feeling of violation, it really is,” Sprayregen said in an interview with Spectator last month. “You’re being violated by the very government that’s supposed to protect your rights but instead is merely doing the bidding of the highest bidder, so to speak.”

The legal battle began in December 2008, when the Empire State Development Corporation, the state agency that approves eminent domain, deemed the neighborhood “blighted,” paving the way for the use of eminent domain.

Sprayregen, Singh, and Kaur filed lawsuits shortly thereafter. In December 2009, the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division

struck down ESDC’s approval of eminent domain. In a harshly worded ruling, Justice James Catterson said that the project could not qualify as a “public use” because Columbia is an “elite,” private institution. He also cited a common accusation that there was “collusion” between the University and the consulting firm, AKRF, that declared Manhattanville blighted. This accusation stems from the fact that, while conducting the blight study, AKRF also had a contract with the University.

ESDC then appealed, and the New York State Court of Appeals overturned the Appellate Division ruling in June 2010. The Court of Appeals—the highest court in New York state—ruled that the project did constitute a public use because it will create jobs and foster scientific research and noted that a second firm unaffiliated with Columbia had affirmed AKRF’s finding of blight.

From there, the property holdouts’ only recourse was the U.S. Supreme Court, which has supported eminent domain in the past—most recently, in 2005, the court ruled in the landmark Kelo v. New London case that eminent domain could be used to transfer properties from one private owner to another.

But Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote in a concurring opinion that there were certain situations in which this precedent would not apply—namely, if eminent domain “is intended to favor a particular private party, with only incidental or pretextual public benefits.”

“Our position is consistent with Justice Kennedy’s position in Kelo v. New London,” David Smith, attorney for Singh and Kaur, said on Thursday. “It is imperative that the court should hear our case.”

If the Supreme Court refuses the case, though, “Our options are over,” Smith said. “Columbia has already started to take action

on this procedure [eminent domain] in order to remove parties by condemnation. ... I’m sure that would be started immediately thereafter. There’d be nothing for us to do, but obviously, I’m hoping we never get to that point.”

Robert Kasdin, senior executive vice president of the University, said in a recent interview, “I don’t have any inside lines into the Supreme Court and as a result, whenever they conference it, they conference it, and we’ll look forward to their decision.”

Smith said he expects the court to make its decision by Monday.

“I’ve been an eternal optimist,” Siegel said in an interview last month. “There’s so many times that people have told me there is no chance. It’s a good fight. I think if somehow the court took it, it’d be a national issue.”

Sam Levin contributed reporting.
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Harlem food pantry struggles with demand

BY EMILY NEIL
Columbia Daily Spectator

When the food pantry at the Harlem Dowling-West Side Center for Children and Family Services opens its doors on Tuesdays and Fridays, the hallways are crowded, and staff members say they attempt to stay upbeat while inundated with work.

Recently, organizers say, there has been a significant increase in the number of West Harlem residents seeking support from the Emergency Food Assistance Program at the Harlem Dowling-West Side Center, a nonprofit on Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd.

Administrators worry that decreased philanthropy will lead to continued losses in funding and volunteers, which could cripple their services.

“It’s just been one budget cut after another since 2007,” Executive Director of the center Dorothy Worrell said. “We’re operating with much less funding ... and, in particular, where we see it most acutely is in Emergency Food Assistance Program.”

The food pantry serves those in need of support due to mental and physical health issues, financial hardship, and unemployment.

At the same time as funds decline, the number of people coming to the center’s pantry since the summer of 2007 has dramatically increased. Worell said that in 2009-2010, her pantry served almost 5000 people.

“That’s unheard of for us. We’re not a large pantry,” she said, explaining that the pantry often runs out of food and has to refer people to others in the area.

Director of Specialized Services Cherie Blae said that, despite struggles, the staff members maintain a positive atmosphere by remaining humble. “It’s something that’s historical with us, no matter what we do, how many people we serve.”

Blae added, “The way that things are going today in the nation, any of us could be at that doorstep at any time, and we would certainly want to be respected.”

Worrell said the organization has noted several changing trends in the demographic makeup of the population it serves, particularly with the increase in families and unemployed middle-aged individuals seeking assistance.

“Any of us could be at that doorstep at any time, and we would certainly want to be respected.”

—Cherie Blae, Harlem Dowling-West Side Center

“Believe it or not, we’re seeing more middle-aged people showing up,” she said, adding that this is “illustrative of what is going on in the larger employment market.”

Additionally, more extended families are making use of the service, she said, since job loss brings families together in housing.

The number of elderly who are coming to the Emergency Food Assistance Program is yet another drain on resources and an indicator of the severity of the recession for West Harlem residents, organizers said.

The center is looking to up its efforts, seeking donations on their website and asking volunteers to bring in as many nonperishable foods as possible.

“I think there’s something wrong when we don’t have the ability or the capacity to feed the elderly in our community,” Worrell said.

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Students, locals protest eminent domain

PROTEST from front page

ridiculous,” Erik Reinbergs, CC ’11, said at the protest, where one participant attached her poster reading “displacement” to a long pole and held it over the sign, so that instead it read: “Neighbors displacing neighbors.”

On Tuesday, Cornum and fellow activist Pavi Mehta, CC ’11, attended the Coalition to Preserve Community protest at the Columbia University Employment Information Center to get in contact with members of CPC—a neighborhood group actively opposed to the Manhattanville expansion process—and to encourage local residents to attend the Thursday protest.

“We wanted the focus of the protest to be more community-based,” Mehta said. “They are the real people with real homes seeing their lives destroyed.”

Early in its expansion plans, Columbia committed to never seeking the use of eminent domain on residential properties, and the final two holdouts are both commercial.

“This issue is part of a greater trend in higher education institutions,” Harlem resident Adriano Contreras said. “This protest might not stop this community expansion, but it could impact further expansion in the future.”

In response to complaints that Columbia is not providing

local jobs, the University released a statement earlier this week, saying its center has hired over 900 local residents in a wide range of jobs since it opened, and that it has awarded 68 percent of the project area’s construction contracts to minority-, women-, or locally owned firms, from August 2008 through September 2010.

“I want my community to stay as it is. ... Hopefully, it will grow and encourage social activism on a larger scale.”

—Francine Brown, Harlem resident

Robert Kasdin, senior executive vice president of the University, added in a recent interview with Spectator that Columbia is committed to making sure “that the community’s health benefits as Columbia grows stronger.”

Francine Brown, a Harlem resident who has worked with CPC in the past, said she was

encouraged by students’ motivation and fervor.

“We need Columbia students to support and be community activists,” Brown said. “I want my community to stay as it is. ... Hopefully, it will grow and encourage social activism on a larger scale,” she said.

Mehta said she hopes this protest can mark a renewed activism in students collaborating with the CPC.

Some passersby, though, said that it was inappropriate to treat such serious issues so lightly. One of the dances, named the “Manhattanville Shuffle,” was a parody of the electric slide, showing how the community and its residents are forced to move as Columbia buys land.

“I for one am angry about what’s going on with the expansion,” Marissa Tjartjalis, BC ’12, said. “I don’t want them to make a joke out of it.”

Theo Di Castri, CC ’12 and one of the performers at the protest, said the theatricality of the protest was fitting.

“We wanted to make a bit of a spectacle in order to bring attention to the absurdity of the situation,” Di Castri said. “We don’t pretend to have the answers, but that doesn’t mean we have to be passive and not do anything.”

A Columbia spokesperson declined to comment on the protest.

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ZARA CASTANY / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

REWRITING | A protester at 116th Street and Broadway speaks out against Columbia’s community relations by replacing the word “helping” with “displacing” in the University’s banner sign.

As Northwest opens, profs question vision

NORTHWEST
from front page

“The individual labs here would be competitive or better than any other institution, but the infrastructure is worse than probably any other peer institution,” Stockwell said.

Physics department chair Bill Zajc described the lab space in Pupin as “antiquated.” For one, Zajc said, the building lacks sufficient electrical power to support additional lab and computing space. Pupin also suffers from poor temperature control—heating is erratic, and there is no central air conditioning. As a result, labs that need climate or moisture control require elaborate renovation.

Mudd, built in 1966, has an insufficient number of fume hoods, which are necessary for all chemistry, and there are physical and financial obstacles to installing new ones. The building is also “cramped” and “outdated,” mechanical engineering professor James Hone said.

Provost Claude Steele said that the administration is concerned with these issues and intends to address them in the future. He said he plans to discuss with faculty next semester what steps need to be taken to improve Columbia’s science facilities. But he also cited the Northwest Corner Building as a very significant investment. This is, he said, “an era when ... other places have not only deferred maintenance on their standard buildings but have also not built new ones.”

Executive Vice President for Arts and Sciences Nicholas Dirks said that while the Northwest Corner Building is an important addition to the facilities, “of course we have issues in Fairchild and in Pupin and in Chandler that have to be addressed.” He added that, “It’s not that we’re ignoring other things that relate to the home departments at all.”

SHARING SPACE
For many faculty, shared facilities are an even greater



priority than basic infrastructure. Shared facilities usually house research equipment that is essential but too costly for individual researchers to purchase.

Purchasing this equipment is generally funded by grants, rather than by universities.

But to get grants, researchers must show that their universities are committed to providing significant funding for equipment maintenance, and professors say that Columbia has not provided the funds needed for that maintenance.

“We’ve been shut out or handicapped going after major grants,” biology professor John Hunt said. “Columbia has not done that [provided sufficient financial support], and because of that, shared institution facilities here are light-years behind those of peer institutions.”

Hunt said that an injection of \$2 or \$3 million would make Columbia labs competitive for these grants. As research has become more and more advanced, especially in the past decade, this kind of shared instrumentation “has become almost indispensable,” Hunt said.

Now, many Columbia researchers are forced to go to

outside laboratories to use their instruments.

But sometimes, this is not enough.

For example, Stockwell’s research on a drug molecule has ground to a halt due to his inability to access a specific instrument he needs.

“We’re at a complete roadblock because we don’t have any way to measure these interactions,” Stockwell said. “People keep asking us for this data and we can’t get it because we don’t have access to this instrument.”

Steele agreed that shared facilities are beneficial and expressed “real sympathy” with those who wish for more funding.

According to Steele, science chairs and faculty members were invited to present their needs to the trustees last spring, and a working list of improvements was formulated, beginning with an effort underway to centralize departmental computing in the University Computing Center.

“We will have enough funds in the near future to make some dent in that list,” he said, adding though, “It will not make everybody happy.”

Applied physics and applied mathematics department



AGING | A group of researchers on campus are concerned that the Northwest Corner Building’s opening will not address ongoing problems in current science facilities, like Pupin, above and left.

chair Irving Herman endorsed the need for improvements to shared space. “I’m not satisfied with the status quo,” Herman said. “But ... I appreciate that we need to take more steps and I appreciate that the University is willing to work with us.”

NAVIGATING RECRUITMENT
The problems with Columbia’s science facilities do not just affect current faculty—professors say they also make it more difficult to hire new faculty.

Hailey described Columbia’s science facilities as “functional, but not competitive.”

“I think the physical state of the building and the laboratories has had a very deleterious effect on the recruitment of graduate students and on the recruitment of faculty,” he said. “It puts us at a constant disadvantage.” Physics professor Abhay Pasupathy, who works in Pupin, said he can testify to the importance of the quality of the facilities to prospective faculty. Pasupathy said that the state of the lab space in Pupin was problematic when he was deciding whether to work at Columbia, but that the University made the renovations that he would require.

“When I was hired I had several offers at other places and this was seriously an issue for me. ... Would Columbia be able to renovate the space and have it ready?” Pasupathy said. “It did take a lot of effort on everybody’s

part to get it done.”

When physics professor Tanya Zelevinsky came to Columbia several years ago, the University paid for renovation to create a modern laboratory space in Pupin. But it required “significant resources,” Zelevinsky said. “The building is completely not designed to accommodate modern labs,” she said.

Firestein said that if recruiting is not a problem now, it will be in the future unless significant renovations are implemented. “It becomes at some point a problem at all levels of recruiting, from senior to junior faculty, to post docs to graduate students,” Firestein said. “You want the best people, but they get offers other places, too.”

NORTHWEST NOT THE ANSWER?
Some faculty are skeptical as to ability of the new Northwest Corner Building to significantly alleviate these problems, despite its cost and high profile, insisting that the underlying problem will remain.

Senior Executive Vice President Robert Kasdin said in a recent interview that the new building was built in response to a “widespread sense that we needed new facilities.” This, he said, “doesn’t mean that, with the addition of this new facility, our space needs as a University are complete, or that all our

existing facilities are where they should be.”

Although the new building will provide state-of-the-art laboratories to 18 faculty members, this number is a small fraction of science faculty at Columbia, Hailey said.

Hailey, who was on one of the original planning committees for the Northwest Corner Building, said that faculty members have questioned the wisdom of the new building from the beginning.

“The faculty said, yes, we support the building of this facility because we need more square footage because, as we mentioned, that’s one of the problems, but such a plan executed with total disregard for the renovation of space that currently exists is going to get us nowhere, and I think in some sense that’s precisely what we’ve seen happen,” he said. “This building has been a diversion from recognizing that ... the fundamental infrastructure of the departments as they exist is being woefully neglected,” Hailey said.

“The new building is a good start,” Firestein said. “But, you know, it would be a disaster if it were the end, if everybody now said, ‘OK, well we’ve done science, let’s get on to the next thing.’”

Sammy Roth contributed reporting.
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WINTER BREAK REGISTRATION

All students who need access to their room (including students living in Brownstones) during any portion of the Winter Break period **MUST** register for Winter Break housing! Don’t forget to register on the Housing website before December 15.

Don't Forget!!

DEC 15

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www.columbia.edu/cu/housing

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STAFF EDITORIAL

A whole new world

It seems like every time the Columbia administration steps up to the microphone, we hear about the global centers. They are heralded as Columbia's leap into the 21st century, as what will set us apart in an ever-changing world. Administrators have even said that, in the not-too-distant future, the global centers will be among the primary things that attract undergraduates to Columbia.

Faculty members and students have questioned whether this goal is in keeping with Columbia College's unique, well-rounded liberal arts curriculum, with its rich core of Western thought. After examining what actually constitutes the centers, we have concluded that this is the wrong question, because the function and future of the global centers remain completely unclear.

We can understand those who do not want Columbia to be only the "University in the City of New York." This world is, after all, changing, and perhaps we would be remiss if we did not change with it. We realize that setting up branch campuses (in the style of that other university in the city of New York) is more costly than constructive, so we applaud Columbia for basing its centers on a different model. We also understand that we cannot expect the centers to flourish fully from the moment of their inception.

What we do not understand is why there is not a concrete and articulate plan for these centers, which are ostensibly so integral to Columbia's development as a premier world university.

First of all, the locations of the centers seem to be dictated by the availability of donations. This makes sense, to a certain extent—the center in Amman, Jordan, is there because of the help of the Jordanian royal family, which means it is located in an area that the administration knows will be receptive to it from the outset. Staff members were thus chosen based on their interest and involvement in that region (the director, for example, is Jordanian).

It must be asked, though, whether we boldly go where an increased presence is most needed, or rather where the most money for a new facility is available. Does the need dictate the fundraising, or does the fundraising dictate the need? Also, what role will the centers play in future fundraising when they are, at present, only tangentially connected to alumni outreach efforts?

Why is there not a concrete plan for the global centers?

We are similarly confused about the academic advantage of establishing the centers where they are. If these are not branch campuses, what exactly are they? The centers are currently used as bases for professors who are traveling for research. This makes sense—we have never tried to conduct extensive research abroad, but having a Columbia-affiliated center in a particular region seems like it would help the process. (The center in Beijing has been especially useful.) Since the University has made it quite clear that it would close the centers before compromising Columbia's academic integrity and freedom, perhaps there's no harm. But still, professors have been going abroad to do their research anyway. The centers may be very helpful, but it's clear that they are not necessary. Given that they were not established where the greatest academic need is, we ask again: Does the need give rise to the center, or does the center give rise to the need?

With respect to opportunities for undergraduates, there is the potential for a "global fellows" program, which—unlike study-abroad programs—would allow students to travel specifically for projects with global implications. However, we are told that it is too soon to tell, and if there are avenues for undergraduates to give input, we have yet to hear of them.

At the moment, then, there are administrative offices in various parts of the world whose locations are dictated by availability of funds, and which have indisputable logistical benefits that can be used as justifications for their establishment. The current plan is to establish seven or eight centers, and only then to step back and see where we are and where we can go. The academic function thereof cannot yet be determined, we are told, because the point is not to have Columbia change the world—it is for the world to change Columbia, and we don't know where the centers are going because we do not know where or how the world will turn.

We commend Columbia for its flexibility and fluidity. But setting up a building in a foreign country and calling it a global center does not actually make it, or us, global. We should not set up centers in specific places just because we can, and if we find ourselves giving justifications instead of real reasons for these centers, then we need to rethink our plan of action—or, more to the point, we need to think of a plan. The world is changing, and we are all for changing with it, but we cannot rely on the world to influence our path, much less to come up with the path for us.

If these global centers are going to be integral to the mission of our school, we need to know how and why. And if undergraduates are going to come to Columbia for these centers, then these centers need to exist at least in part for undergraduates.

Social Superficiality

BY MELISSA A. SCHWARTZBERG

Aside from my terrific family and a great job, there was one thing for which I gave my most heartfelt thanks this recent holiday break: I was in no way responsible for the Social Experiment. Pity the poor folks at Residential Life, who devised a scheme to boost interaction among students that simultaneously engendered the ridicule both of the subjects themselves and of such diverse media sources as the New York Post, Fox 5 News, New York Magazine, the Harvard Crimson, and IvyGate. Fitting into standard cultural narrative—the disaffected nature of the wired generation, the alienation of New Yorkers, the detachment of the elite—the Social Experiment gave us the gift of snark, perfectly timed for the Thanksgiving table.

It is true that the Social Experiment was a clumsy effort to improve student interaction. As Tom Miner and Liz Lund wrote in these pages, if the aim was to encourage students to be "more community-oriented and less self-interested, or less competitive," a competition was indeed a poor strategy. If the goal was to get students off of Facebook and their handheld devices and to encourage conversation, a game that encouraged students to log on for prompts and to input passwords, and to speak to each other only to transmit "nonsense," might also have been ill-conceived. In an obvious irony, the fact that the winners sent mass texts to gather passwords demonstrates the way in which the game too readily slipped into paradox. But is it the case that the problem the Social Experiment sought to address, and the

After Office Hours

defects in its solution, lies in the replacement of face-to-face communication with the temptations of the Internet?

As the film "The Social Network" acerbically suggested, technologically mediated or generated relationships may well be a refuge for the socially awkward. But the effect of such technology on the development of relationships—or, closer to my own areas of interest, on political agency—is at best indeterminate. Let's grant that Residential Life could not possibly have intended to deepen existing relationships with the Experiment. Instead, they were no doubt attempting to enhance community spirit by introducing a silly activity that would generate a new set of social connections, however superficial, among students. In this respect, it largely mirrored, rather than subverted, many of the activities we undertake online, whether via tweets or status updates (read: nearly nonsensical missives), or game-playing among Facebook "friends" or complete strangers.

So the right objection to the Social Experiment is that it encouraged superficiality, not genuine engagement.

So the right objection to the Social Experiment is that it encouraged superficiality, rather than genuine engagement with others. This is, one might note, also a fair critique of social networking sites. The types of communication promoted by these sites are short and frivolous, typically intended for a broad and essentially public audience, composed of family members, close friends, acquaintances, former classmates, childhood friends, and professional contacts. Yet because the snippets of information our genuine friends offer give us the illusion of connectedness, the feeling

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

of having been out of touch is diminished, and with it, the impulse to have a real conversation with them may also be quelled.

It is important to remember, however, that this is not an unavoidable pathology of the Internet, or the communities fostered therein—and if students are detached from each other, it is not because time spent online necessarily promotes social anomie. As my former George Washington University colleague Henry Farrell has argued in many different contexts (including in joint work with me), both the Cassandras of the Internet and those who have promoted it as a libertarian utopia overlook the most important feature of the Internet: the remarkable variation in forms of social organization it has fostered. Though sometimes dismissed as illusory or trivial, Internet communities—especially those of political advocacy (e.g., Daily Kos) and of knowledge-creation (e.g., Wikipedia)—have generated a set of norms that have enabled durable and effective collective action. Though beset by the problems endemic to all communities, notably efforts by the powerful to manipulate rules for their own benefit, the open character of the Internet has fostered innovations in the structure of collective projects that may well have off-lime benefits.

So the problem with the Social Experiment is not that it pushed students back online in an effort to liberate them from their computers. Nor, really, is it that the experiment encouraged competition where it ought to have fostered cooperation. Instead, it is that it sought to replicate the worst features of our lives online—brief and meaningless interactions—rather than reflect the best.

The author is an associate professor in the political science department.

A smoker's utopia

With the final two weeks of the fall semester approaching, a number of events are awarded special significance in the eyes of the majority of Columbia students. While final exams and other school-related tidings may seem to take the highest priorities—making it near impossible to partake in any purely "social" activities—certain diversions surely hold more personal importance for our last school days of the year.

One event that possesses special meaning for me is that this is my final article for Spectator of 2010. In light of this, I decided to structure my article this week around recent topics that Columbia students find particularly consequential. Therefore, I referred to Spectator's opinion section to find out what students have been talking about of late. The only problem with this approach was that it seemed to show that our student body only cares about one thing this winter season—the possibility of a full ban on smoking on Columbia's campus.

Finding no less than ten independent articles published on the subject—ranging over a spectrum of opinions from calling for harsher regulations, to classifying the ban as an implicit attack on personal freedom—it appears that this issue holds even more potential to affect our well-being and social lives than the recent city-wide ban on Four Loko. (What a shame!) The school's earlier attempt at a successful "Social Experiment" most definitely fell short of the many changes it had hoped to implement, and now it appears the University Senate wishes to make Columbia's campus even less friendly toward its student body by



ETHAN A. PERETS

Living on A Piece of Paper

deriding student smokers as being inconsiderate of their peers.

While talking this matter over with a couple of my peers, we arrived at an important insight that is likely to attract the attention of the University powers that be—smokers appear to have the ultimate social lives. More to the point, it is widely observed that unprepared smokers have the best social skills. Therefore, I propose that if Columbia wishes to address the issue of smoking on campus while simultaneously increasing the sociability of its student body, it should start by creating a new social experiment that takes this fact into account.

The "Social Experiment, Part Two": The faculty should give cigarettes to the smokers and distribute lighters to everyone else.

If you are a smoker, ask yourself: "How many times have I been approached in hopes of supplying a cigarette, or a light for a fellow smoker?" I doubt that the answer to that question would be "never".

Likewise, if you are a non-smoker, ask yourself: "How many times have I seen that large group of international students standing right outside the doors of Lerner Hall, lit cigarettes in hand, as if it were necessary just to be included in their conversation?" Again, I doubt that the answer to that question would be "never".

The "Social Experiment, Part Two" would work like this then—the faculty should give cigarettes to the smoker demographic of the student body, and distribute lighters to everyone else. Due to the fact that a nicotine craving is almost

always stronger than the fear of social rejection that consumes many of us on a daily basis, it is likely that socializing with complete strangers will become more frequent among the student contingent at Columbia—just as the University had originally hoped.

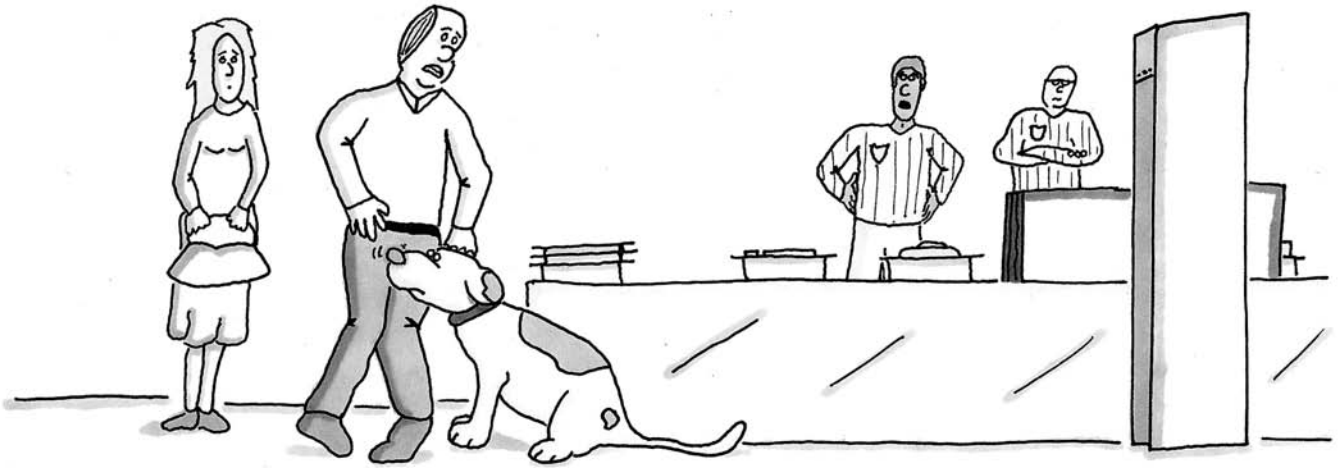
Just think of it. Students approach fellow classmates in an act of goodwill, and hope that a peer may aid them in quenching one of their many yearnings... for social interaction, of course. A perfect utopian vision.

Furthermore, a multitude of other advantages would almost certainly stem from this "experiment." First of all, the question of a smoking ban on campus would surely be resolved (since we all know that advocates of the ban are just jealous of their hip smoker counterparts, anyway). Next, the University could surely increase tuition in order to pay for the supplies needed for their newest social endeavor—we know that they aren't afraid to charge 125 dollars for "Dining Dollars," alongside an already costly (and probably unwanted) meal plan. Finally, that "chic, cute indie girl" that you might have been too intimidated to talk to all semester because of the way her socks don't match and her glasses are way too big for her face—well, she needs a light for her American Spirit right now, and you're the only one in sight.

There might be one problem with the way this setup is designed. You might ask, for instance, "What stops a smoker from going out and just buying a lighter for himself?" Well, my friend, relative to all of the other rules and regulations the University has come up with this past semester, restricting the sale of lighters around campus shouldn't be that hard.

Ethan A. Perets is a Columbia College first-year hoping to major in biochemistry and philosophy. Living on a Piece of Paper runs alternate Fridays.

JODY'S DRAWINGS!



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JODY ZELLMAN

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Smart

5 Use a user ID

10 Look at

14 "Rendezvous With ____": Hugo-winning Arthur C. Clarke novel

15 "Brusha, brusha, toothpaste"

16 Morlock fare

17 Gp. dissolved in December 1991

18 Hybrid big cat

19 Half an ice grabber

20 Shrink for a noted Vulcan?

23 Feature of Incan farms

24 What serious players play for

28 Act that gets you a hand

29 Reason for a laundry odor?

33 Dry, as wine

35 Untrained

36 TV production co. whose mascot was Mimsie the Cat

37 Neighborhood garage sales?

42 Point

43 "This American Life" radio host

44 Fin. neighbor

45 Collection for an artist's garment?

49 "Tiny Toon Adventures" burrny

52 Mount also known as Horeb

53 Exterminate

56 Some employee benefits, and this puzzle's title

60 Slung food

63 Initial strategy

64 It precedes di or da, in a Beatles song

65 Sommer of "A Shot in the Dark"

66 Many a surfer

67 Roulette bet

68 Diamond spoiler

69 1954 event coded as "Castle Bravo"

70 Lushes

DOWN

1 Pie maker's pride

2 Locked, in a way

3 Marathoner's lament

4 Traffic blocker

5 Bath salt fragrance

6 Speaks one's mind

7 Infatuated

8 First-year law student

9 Not even one, with "a"

10 Chevy sportsfans

11 UN workers' agcy. in geologic time

12 Two or more ears

13 Artificial locks

21 Infant who escaped Krypton

22 Jet

25 Salinger title girl

26 Green stroke

27 Where to study for a Th.D.

30 Orson, e.g., in a '70s-'80s sitcom

31 Word with nanny or web

32 Nine-time U.S. skating champ

34 Hairdo

37 Ventura County's Valley

38 "Let's go!"

39 French wine term

40 Many an Asimov character

41 Three-course military supplies

42 Symbol of stubbornness

46 Some kind of nut

47 Tool holder

48 Goes on monotonously

50 Playground mishap

51 Bright, as a porch

54 Dizzying genre

55 Nicholas I and II, e.g.

57 Hawaiian food

58 Lump

59 Broccoli relative

60 Mag mogul with a mansion

61 -American

62 Reggae precursor

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

MO	JO	AFT	ASS	AD
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AND	ARMED	REIT		
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ACDC	EASIER			
PHYSICIST	PLANCK			
PHYSICIST	PLANCK			
CHEAPO	ORANGS			
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RUNNER | Sophomore guard Brian Barbour, after playing limited minutes last year, has now thrived as a regular starter for the Lions. In Columbia’s win over Wagner last game, Barbour scored 11 points and recorded two steals.

Light Blue attempts to win third straight game

MEN’S BASKETBALL
from back page

against Wagner with less than a minute to go.

Early in the game, though, it has been Grimes leading the way. He came out of the gate strong in each of the past two games, scoring the Lions’ first seven points against Stony Brook. He is still getting back into shape after a serious leg injury and an extended recovery period, contributing to his difficulty keeping up that kind of production throughout games.

“I think he’s been really effective early. The only thing with him has been his health. When he’s fresh he can give you really good minutes,” Smith said. “Second half it’s been hard, and his production second half hasn’t been good, and I just attribute that to the rust and the conditioning after the micro-fracture surgery and being out six months.”

Bryant may look to force Columbia into a faster-paced game than the Lions are used to. Up-and-down games are nothing new for Smith, though, who coached a high-tempo system at St. Mary’s as an assistant for the previous nine seasons.

“We’re pretty good when we’re running, too,” Smith said. “I’m a little leery of being an up-tempo Ivy League team, but it’s what I know. We’re playing so young—we play three freshmen on the perimeter and a sophomore.”

Despite their youth though, Smith’s players have shown they can be successful in the open court—two of the Light Blue’s toughest opponents have been La Salle and St. John’s, two programs known for quickening the pace.

“We ran with La Salle, and we were up 14,” Smith said. “We weren’t afraid against St. John’s, and we had some success against them.”

Bryant, who is coming off a 73-55 loss

to Yale and has dropped five straight, does not have nearly the pedigree either La Salle or St. John’s has. The Bulldogs did give Harvard, picked to finish second in the Ivy League this year, all it could handle earlier this year before falling to the Crimson 69-66.

Sophomore guard Frankie Dobbs leads Bryant with 15.0 points per game, while freshman Alex Francis tops the squad with 7.6 rebounds per game. Francis also contributes 12.4 points per game, while senior forward Cecil Gresham averages 10.9.

The Lions’ success on Saturday should depend on their own play, though. If the young backcourt can stay composed—as they did against Wagner’s high pressure on Tuesday—and the deep frontcourt can continue to give Columbia second-chance opportunities, the Light Blue should be well on its way to a fifth straight win at Levien. Tip-off is scheduled for 4 p.m.

The perfect gift for each Light Blue squad

GUPTA from back page

and they need time for first-time head coach Kyle Smith to learn how to be a head coach. But make no mistake about it, come next fall, once everyone on the team has figured out how to play together, they will be a force to be reckoned with. Watch out Ivy League in 2011-2012.

To the women’s basketball team I would give Judie Lomax.

Seriously though, since the NCAA rebounding leader left to try and play in the WNBA at the end of last semester and forfeited her last semester of eligibility, the team has struggled mightily. This season, the team is being out-rebounded by an average of 3.6 boards per game, while last

season they out-boarded their opponents by 4.5 per game. At 0-7, the team clearly misses Lomax, but it’s time to find a new way to win games without one of the most dominant athletes ever to play for Columbia in any sport.

To the women’s soccer team I would give some luck.

They say you can make your own luck, so they might want to start there, but seriously, has any team been more snake-bitten? They were on top of the Ivy League with three games left to play and lost all three of those, including two heartbreakers 2-1 where they outshot their opponents in each game. But the bad luck goes even further back. A dubious call in 2008 gave Harvard a 2-1 win

when the Crimson were awarded a penalty kick with nine seconds left in the second overtime. Sports can be cruel, but this recent spate of bad luck seems like too much. I’m looking for the bounces to even out next fall.

Well, that’s all I have for now. These days may seem tough, but just remember that the real joy is the upcoming month with few, if any, obligations. How lucky are we to have that, and how much will we seniors miss that next year when it’s not there?

Happy Holidays, Columbia.

Kunal Gupta is a senior in the School of Engineering and Applied Science majoring in operations research. sports@columbiaspectator.com

Women’s basketball narrowly clipped by Fairfield, 50-46

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
from back page

which Nixon called a timeout.

The Lions were lucky to have that possession last as long as it did. After Shafer brought the ball up the court, her handoff to freshman guard Taylor Ward was almost stolen. Then, after Columbia had regrouped, Barry drove to the hoop and had her shot blocked. The Lions somehow maintained possession, leading to the timeout and the last-second opportunity.

Columbia inbounded the ball successfully, but Shafer’s three-point attempt caught only air. The Lions suffered the shot clock violation that Nixon had tried to avoid.

“Maybe I could’ve run a play to get us a little bit better shot,” Nixon said. “I think Mel’s shot from the corner was certainly—I know she felt rushed on it, which, who doesn’t with one second on the shot clock.”

“If we could’ve gotten a score there,” he continued, “it probably would’ve kind of reswung the momentum in our direction.”

Fairfield scored on its next possession, when junior forward Taryn Johnson hit two free throws. Those foul shots gave the Stags a lead that it never relinquished.

With 38 seconds left, Fairfield took a 48-43 lead. Columbia still mounted a threat, however. Ward sank a

three-pointer with 22 seconds remaining, cutting the Lions’ deficit to 48-46. Columbia showed great patience on that play, with freshman guard Brianna Orlich and Barry both choosing not to take three-pointers of their own before Barry found Ward on the baseline.

“Kathleen and Bri both passed up marginal threes for Taylor to get a wide-open one,” Nixon said. “I’m glad Taylor made the shot, but I’ve got to give the two screeners and the two people who passed up the shot before her some credit for executing the play properly.”

As successful a play as it was, however, it was not enough for the Lions. Junior guard Desiree Pina hit two free throws for Fairfield six seconds later, and Columbia did not score again.

While the Lions are winless, they have shown signs of improvement since their first few games. Columbia lost four of its last five contests by single digits and lost three of those four games—including its two most recent ones—by four points or fewer. The Lions suffered a 67-64 loss at Monmouth on Dec. 5 before losing to Fairfield.

“We’re getting there,” Nixon said. “I’m disappointed, but I’m not discouraged. And I told them after Monmouth, I’m not embarrassed.”

“They’re a good basketball team, and they’re getting better,” Nixon said of his squad. “We’ve just got to know it’s going to come.”

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Women’s swimming and diving hits the road for weekend matchup against 2-1 Penn team

The women’s swimming and diving team will be traveling to Philadelphia, Pa., today to swim against Ivy rival Penn. The Lions are coming off an impressive first win of the season against Wagner 158-112, winning 10 of 14 events.

Penn is also entering the meet with a major win under its belt, having recently placed first at the Total Performance December Invitational at Kenyon College, where it competed against Carnegie Mellon University, Colgate University, Davidson College, Grove City College, and Wayne State University. Overall, Penn is 2-1 for the season. The Quakers achieved victories over Connecticut and Cornell but suffered a loss to Princeton in November.

When the two teams met last year, the Lions dominated the Quakers at home 173-127. Although Penn took the three top spots in the three-meter diving to open

COLUMBIA VS. PENN
Philadelphia, Pa., Friday, 4 p.m.

the meet, the Light Blue answered back by finishing first in the 200 medley relay as well as taking first and second in the 1000 free. In the beginning, both teams fought to stay in the lead, but the Lions pulled ahead with alum Delghi Urubshurow finishing first in the 100 back, followed by Caitlin Rogers, who took second. Another 1-2 sweep by now-sophomores Katie Meili and Mariele Dunn in the 100 breast allowed the Lions to widen their lead even more. For the rest of the meet, the Lions were able to stay on top, finishing ahead of the Quakers by 46 points.

This year, the Lions will look to improve their 1-2 record and gain their first Ivy League win of the season. The meet will begin at 4 p.m. at Penn’s Sheerr Pool.

—Julia Garrison

SPEC SPORTS
EXUDING
SEXUALITY
SINCE 1877



HERE’S TO A GREAT SPORTS EDITOR

The perfect present for each CU team

Ah, the holidays. The best of times and the worst of times—where the bitter cold weather and impending doom of final exams meet head-on with the relief and excitement of going home and sleeping for a whole month. But outside of college campuses across the country, this is also a time associated with giving gifts and presents. In the true spirit of the holidays, I'd like to present some of the Columbia sports teams with what I would give them if I were Santa Claus. While I can't actually give and/or create some of these things, it's worth considering what role these might play in a team winning down the road.

To the football team I would give some respect. Whenever I hear Columbia football talked about on campus, I hear a conversation that revolves around one of two phrases. "Oh, we have a football team?" or "Oh yeah, the football team. They're terrible this year aren't they? Wait, aren't they always terrible? Like, always, always terrible?" Well, guess what, Columbia, this team isn't terrible. It's full of talented players that are always fighting two things—their opponents and the perception on campus that they are a bunch on unathletic players who can't win games. I know the

To the football team I would give some respect.

team stunk for a long time, but that was a long time ago. Decades ago, in fact. Every fall when they kick off the first game, it's a clean slate, and it should be for fans, too. We all get a chance to make up for mistakes in life. We aren't considered foolish if we don't do well at a job interview, and we aren't considered dumb if we do poorly on one midterm. We all get that chance, and the football team should as well. When the team opens its season next fall, I can guarantee that it won't be picked to finish very high in the Ivies. They probably won't win the Ivy League either, but that doesn't mean that they are bad. Go out to a game and see for yourself. I think we would all be surprised at what a little school spirit can do for a team.

To the volleyball team I would give some attention. A program that just set the program record for wins and their best finish ever? Check. A unanimous selection for first-team all-Ivy and three other players gaining all-Ivy recognition. Check. A core of young players that appear destined to lead this team into the bright future? Check. A (relatively) new coach that seemingly can only make right choices? Check. I'm talking, of course, about the Columbia volleyball team. If you didn't know, they finished third in the Ancient Eight and set all sorts of program records and look fully capable of breaking them next season. I watched the team play this fall, and they were unbelievable. Everyone played volleyball in high school gym classes, but these girls took it to a whole different level. The games are fast-paced, exciting, and as one of the few sports played on campus, you don't have to go all the way up to Baker. If you missed them this year, you're in luck. Odds are they will be back and better than ever in 2011, so make sure you check out this team before it becomes "the next big thing."

To the men's basketball team I would give a time-machine. Anyone who has seen the team play this semester, knows that they are exciting and loaded with young talent, starting with first-year head coach Kyle Smith. They've shown that they are better than where they were picked to finish by the media this preseason (seventh in the Ivy League), but before they can get where they want to go, they need more time. They need time to practice, play, and gel together. They need time for their freshman guards to learn how to play the college game,

SEE GUPTA, page 7



KUNAL GUPTA

Moving the Chains



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DELAYED FLIGHT | Sophomore Tyler Simpson has been a consistent scoring threat for Columbia in her first year as a starter.

CU remains winless after losing game to Fairfield

BY SARAH SOMMER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

With 4:58 left in the second half and one second left on the shot clock, head coach Paul Nixon called a timeout. The Columbia women's basketball team had a chance to break a 43-43 tie, and Nixon wanted to take advantage of it. But Columbia failed to convert. It was Fairfield (5-3) that broke the tie and Fairfield that won the game, sending the Lions to a 50-46 defeat. Columbia (0-8) has yet to earn a victory this season.

COLUMBIA	46
FAIRFIELD	50
COLUMBIA AT IOWA STATE	
Ames, Iowa, Sunday, 1:30 p.m.	

The first half was a back-and-forth affair, with eight ties and eight lead changes. The game was so close that neither team held more than a two-point lead until Fairfield led 23-20 with 5:11 left in the period. The Stags extended their advantage to five points, though the Lions soon tied the score at 25-25. Columbia ended the first half with another 5-0 run to hold a 30-27 lead at the intermission—just its second halftime lead of the year. The Lions then scored the first basket of the second half, stretching their lead to five points. With 14:41 remaining, a layup by senior guard Kathleen Barry gave Columbia a 38-32 lead. Fairfield then went on an 11-0 run, however, gaining a 43-38 advantage with 11:32 left. Columbia went over four minutes without scoring. With 10:36 remaining, freshman forward Courtney Bradford ended the Lions' drought with a layup. With 7:37 left in the second half, junior guard Melissa Shafer tied the game at 43-43 with a jumper. The Lions followed that possession with a shot clock violation and a miss before Shafer grabbed a defensive rebound with 5:28 remaining. That rebound started the possession during

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, page 7

Men's basketball attempts to extend perfect home record to 2011

BY ZACH GLUBIAK
Spectator Staff Writer

COLUMBIA VS. BRYANT	
Levien Gym, Saturday, 4 p.m.	



Columbia will look to extend its home winning streak to five when a struggling Bryant squad comes to Levien Gymnasium on Saturday. With a win over the Bulldogs (1-7), the Lions (5-4) will head into the holiday break on a three-game win streak after close victories over Stony Brook and Wagner in their past two outings. Both those games were in the friendly confines of Levien, where Columbia is a perfect 4-0 in the 2010-2011 campaign. Head coach Kyle Smith thinks the home-court advantage has been particularly helpful given the team's reliance on young players—freshman sharpshooter Steve Frankowski starts at shooting guard while freshmen Dyami Starks and Van Green are the first guards off the bench. Sophomore point guard Brian Barbour is also in his first season as a starter.

"We're just more comfortable. Even some of our older guys are playing better at home. It's nice to hear people cheering for you, ... it helps."

—Kyle Smith,
men's basketball coach

"With three freshmen, I hate to say there's a difference [playing at home], but there is a difference for the young guys," Smith said. "We're just more comfortable. Even some of our older guys are playing better at home. It's nice to hear people cheering for you, ... it helps." When successful this year, the Light Blue has relied on a simple yet effective formula: let the backcourt score and

of the last three games, Frankowski has made the opposition pay for concentrating on Agho, leading the team with 12 points, 21 points, and 12 points, respectively, the past three games. Agho has not stopped scoring himself, posting double-digit point totals in all three games, but he has deferred to teammates for the most part, contributing a total of 22 assists in those three contests. Meanwhile, senior forwards Brian Grimes and Asenso Ampim lead Columbia in rebounding with 8.6 and 8.2 rebounds per game, respectively. Tuesday's outing versus Wagner was another example of the clear advantage Columbia has enjoyed on the glass this year—the Lions outrebounded the Seahawks 39-19 and pulled down 13



JASPER L. CLYATT / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PULL UP SHOT | Freshman Steve Frankoski has filled in superbly for the Lions this season. The sharpshooter has connected on 46.4 percent of his three-point attempts and is second on the team with 11.1 points per game.

Bestselling author Paul Auster sat down with Spectator in the final interview of his book tour for his latest novel 'Sunset Park.'

"When you get seized by something, something grabs hold of you, and it becomes so interesting. You want to explore it."

—Paul Auster, CC '69, author

ALEXANDER LEWIS

COURTESY OF NANCY CRAMPTON

Alum discusses his work, his time at Columbia, and penning a new chapter of life after college

BY CLAIRE STERN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Celebrated author Paul Auster, CC '69, has a tip that he likes to give to aspiring writers: Unless you're crazy, don't write for a living. His belief is that if anyone actually listens to this advice, then that person shouldn't be a writer anyway. When Auster arrived on the Columbia campus at age 18, he already knew that he wanted to write.

Auster has since come a long way in his literary career—his most recent work "Sunset Park" was released last month to critical acclaim, and he finished up a successful book tour last week.

"Sunset Park" explores themes that have intrigued Auster since the publication of his acclaimed 1982 debut memoir "The Invention of Solitude," such as notions of chance, fate, and the search for personal meaning. "Sunset Park" offers a fictional yet realistic portrayal of a young man living in the recession, estranged from his parents. His college dropout protagonist, 28-year-old Miles Heller, resides in Florida. There, he preserves foreclosed homes to be put back on the real estate market, and is haunted by the memory of his stepbrother's tragic death.

"Sunset Park" depicts people ruined by the terrible state of the economy, and Auster uses the recession to bring into question the purpose of individual lives. The themes of failure and despair are classic Auster; he shows that the recession was more than an economic collapse, but a personal one too—he exposes his character's fears and shortcomings.

Of "Sunset Park," Auster said, "When you get seized by

something, something grabs hold of you, and it becomes so interesting. You want to explore it."

Auster has always been somewhat of an adventurer. His time at Columbia coincided with a period of social unrest, and he left the University briefly to study in Paris. According to Auster, the late '60s was an embattled time at Columbia—students were very feisty and argued with their professors constantly.

"It was and is a rather dismal place—there's something alienating about it," Auster said. "The faculty is somehow indifferent to the sufferings of their own students. The atmosphere that the administration created was one of the reasons the campus exploded in '68 for many factors—the war in particular."

Auster was one of 700 students who participated in the sit-in during the University protests of 1968 and was consequently arrested by the New York City Police Department. At a Columbia reunion in spring 2008, the 40th anniversary of the protests, Auster found it very moving to see his fellow students who were at the University during that tumultuous time.

"Time lives on very vividly for most of the people who participated," Auster said.

But none of these events discouraged Auster from spending over five years enrolled at the University. A determined student, Auster spent his undergraduate years taking mostly English courses, eventually earning both his B.A. and M.A. in English and Comparative Literature. As an undergraduate, the Core Curriculum courses—particularly Literature Humanities—had the biggest impact on Auster.

"They're cramming books down your throat every week, masterpieces that most 18-year-olds have not read yet," Auster

said. "It was extraordinary. And I'm so grateful that Columbia had that course, because it opened up so much for me."

The syllabus for Literature Humanities was different in the 1960s than it is today. According to Auster, the course now strives to be more politically correct than it was back when he attended the University.

"It was all dead men we read," Auster said. "I don't think there were any women writers on the list."

Post-Columbia, Auster took a sharp turn in his career, working in the merchant marine for about six months. According to Auster, his experience on the high seas was "another kind of education." He traveled around the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Coast, loading and unloading jet fuel from an oil tanker. After earning some money—and a high lottery number that spared him from the Vietnam draft—Auster decided to head back to Paris—and what was supposed to be just a yearlong stay extended into three and a half.

"Paris was a very important time for me," Auster said. "I suppose it's where I really understood that I was going to write, and that was it."

Auster returned to New York in the summer of 1974 and has been living here ever since with his wife, novelist Siri Hustvedt, and daughter, singer/actress Sophie Auster.

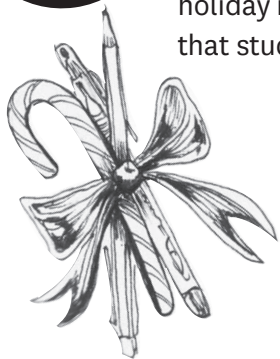
It's no surprise that Auster ultimately ended up back in New York, where he launched his literary education and career. The vibrancy of the city, after all, was Auster's primary reason for attending Columbia in the first place. Auster said, "I wanted to go to Columbia because it was in New York. This is the great advantage of going there: If you want the city, you've got it."

Best of

Holiday films

It's time to update the Netflix queue and cozy up by the space heater—'tis the season for holiday movies. Here are some of the best Christmas cinema gems perfect for putting off all that studying and avoiding awkward holiday calls from nosy grandparents.

—BY ZARA CASTANY



'Die Hard'

"Die Hard" isn't usually included in many holiday movie roundups, but many forget that Bruce Willis, as gun-toting rogue NYPD cop John McClane, is at a holiday party on Christmas Eve when terrorists decide to take over the building. All McClane wants to do is make-up with his estranged wife in time for Christmas, but to do that he has to outwit and outlast German thief Hans Gruber and his band of evil merry minions. McClane gets shot, walks barefoot on broken glass, falls off a building, and crashes through a window (amongst other things) all to spend Christmas with his wife and kids. If that doesn't scream Christmas spirit, what does?

'National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation'

Clark Griswold just wants to have a good old-fashioned family Christmas, complete with the perfect tree and an excellent exterior lighting display. But alas, in 1989's hilarious classic "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation", he can't escape faulty electronics, unannounced relatives, a charred turkey, explosive sewage chemicals, or a maniacal squirrel hiding in the Christmas tree. Penned by John Hughes, "Christmas Vacation" captures the struggles of bringing family together for the holidays with sympathy and wit. While Clark doesn't get the Norman Rockwell Christmas he may have dreamed of, he gets something better—a real Griswold family Christmas. Everyone still loves each other even after the house almost burns down—and that's something everyone can relate to.



COURTESY OF CLASSIC MEDIA/CBS

RED ALL OVER | "Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer" is a classic holiday special that is a refreshing alternative to big-budget films.

'Jingle All the Way'

Remember when Arnold Schwarzenegger was just an actor? The current governor of California probably isn't too proud of "Jingle All the Way," a 1996 holiday romp about a workaholic father who needs to get his hands on a popular action figure called Turbo Man for his son on Christmas Eve, after forgetting to get one before they all sold out. The movie is pretty awful—full of tacky one-liners and cringe-worthy performances, but who can resist the Terminator frantically running through a crowded department store, threatening hapless employees and trampling all those who get in his way? It's pure silly fun, especially when Sinbad (remember him?) shows up as a fellow forgetful father looking for a Christmas miracle.

'Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer'

While not technically a movie, "Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer" is the longest-running Christmas TV special ever. First appearing in 1964, this 60-minute claymation take on the well-known song is Christmas at its quirky best. An awkward adolescent reindeer with a birth defect? Check. An elf that hates making toys and just wants to be a dentist? Check. A flying lion named King Moonracer? Check. And while the special delights in its strangeness, what makes it really interesting is its analogy for teenage angst. Declared a "nonconformity" who will never fit in, the red-nosed reindeer is ostracized from Christmastown and runs away from home in a depressed, hormonal state.

Bars with a cozy vibe and seasonal drinks spike up dreary winter nights

BY KAVITHA SURANA
Spectator Staff Writer

As the temperature drops so too does motivation, but Columbia students still brave the elements on cheek-numbing nights to seek out drinks and nightlife. Roaming around the city on a windy night gets old quickly, but fortunately there are a few go-to places around town certain to keep a student warm—and sufficiently sloshed—all season long.

Without going far, Columbia students can indulge in Maple Butter Apple Cider spiked with rum at **Community Food & Juice** (2893 Broadway) or sip mulled hot wine at **Vareli** (2869 Broadway). Those willing to venture further afield, though, will find a variety of hot drinks and seasonal atmospheres downtown to pique their interest.

On frigid nights, the British bartender at **Tom and Jerry's** (288 Elizabeth St.) serves up a killer Hot Toddy. To keep patrons warm during winter, the bar also offers Irish Whisky and hot chocolate with crème de menthe or Kahlua.

What's the secret to a hit winter drink? Cocktail expert Abdul Tabini—co-owner of **Ward III** (111 Reade St.), a bar famous for its custom cocktails—has a go-to recipe. "If someone asked for a custom winter drink, I'd choose a dark liquor and add something like ginger, all-spice, and honey water, usually putting in a little Amaro or orange zest," he said.

To feel that cold-fighting buzz, whiskey is often the drink of choice. "People like the warming effects in winter," Sandee Wright, co-owner of **Whiskey Ward** (121 Essex St.), said. "We definitely draw a bigger crowd in the winter and fall months."

Whiskey Ward's affordable menu of \$9.00 top-shelf whiskey cocktails and spiked apple cider allows students to experiment with different ways of drinking the spirit.

Winter nightlife isn't all about the drink. Ambience is also key, especially during the holiday season. A trip to **Rolf's Bar and Restaurant** (281 Third Ave.), a locale famous for twinkling lights and elaborate Christmas decorations, is essential. Walking back to campus with a belly full of traditional German fare and gluhwein helps impart that festive feeling, even during finals week. **Pine Tree Lodge** (326 E. 35th St.) is decked out for Christmas all year round, but is particularly fun to visit in December to enhance a jolly mood. Bars with fireplaces or hunting lodge themes provide intimate atmospheres for a winter rendezvous. "When it's cold I look for a cozy place to have a great date and a

1. COMMUNITY FOOD & JUICE
2. VARELI
3. TOM AND JERRY'S
4. WARD III
5. WHISKEY WARD
6. ROLF'S BAR AND RESTAURANT
7. PINE TREE LODGE
8. SHOOLBRED'S
9. MOLLY'S
10. MERC BAR

Keep warm with drinks at these bars over the holiday season.

GRAPHIC BY REBECCA SCHWARZ

huge mug of beer," Matthew Stewart, CC '11, said. Add a fireplace and winter drinking paradise is achieved. **Shoolbred's** (197 Second Ave.) and **Molly's** (287 Third Ave.) are both casual pubs where beer drinkers can settle in and converse next to a roaring fire. Alternatively, experience the glamour of a ski-resort get away and cozy up on the sumptuous leather couches of the fashionable **Merc Bar** (151 Mercer St.)—just try not to be creeped out by the giant moose head watching from the wall.

While some students look forward to frequenting bars decorated with holiday cheer, glowing fireplaces, and warm

seasonal drinks, others still opt for hibernation and appreciate the simple comforts of the winter season. "Honestly, I've been happy making eggnog in a wine glass spiked with Jameson and sprinkled with cinnamon in my suite," Ondraius Richardson, CC '11, said. After all, the sweetest pleasures of winter are the coziest ones.

'You Wont Miss Me:' Film's lack of polish gives illusion of reality

'MISS ME' from page B4

questionable legality), and a DV Handycam.

Long-interested in pushing the boundaries of cinema, Russo-Young started making experimental films in high school at St. Ann's in Brooklyn and continued at Oberlin. Her next project, a collaboration with fellow indie film it-girl Lena Dunham (last seen in "Tiny Furniture"), is "a totally different process, and it's more familiar in terms of the writing," she said.

As for more long-term goals, Russo-Young added that she hopes to eventually make movies for a wider audience than those directly immersed in the art world. "I want to reach little girls in Kansas. That's a really exciting idea for me. I remember being a little girl and being really hungry for films that spoke to me," she said. For now, "You Wont Miss Me" is a solid first step.

'Portrait and a Dream:' NOMADS' play has humor, heart

NOMADS from page B4

are infinite, as Nick reflects, and equivalent to no reason at all.

The play is constructed in a series of flashbacks, memories, and reflective monologues, including an "end-of-the-world" spiel by Nick that connects the apocalypse to tragic moments in people's lives—moments that feel overwhelmingly crushing, until subdued by time, memory, and an innate ability for hope, and because, as Nick observes, even the most despairing of human beings find it "impossible not to get distracted by something else".

The second act is slightly more abstract at times and a bit shaky when compared to the stunning first act, which could have been a perfect short-length play in itself. Characters' lives and plots begin to unravel, leading to one cathartic outburst of violence as revelations rise to the surface and darker, inexplicable instincts take hold instead.

The play never looks very deeply into the abyss, but it does a fine job of backing away from clichés by countering melodrama with rich honesty and sustaining the tongue-in-cheek, comic vein that runs throughout the play. A few monologues by Nick run on a bit too long, understandable given the magnitude of the themes he contemplates, but the play is unpredictable, amusing, and bursting with inspiration (not to mention the extremely absorbing, moving acting) to the very end.





COURTESY OF DREAMLIGHT THEATRE

'ORDINARY' DAYS | "The Extraordinary Ordinary" is a new musical produced by a SoA alum.

Musical makes the most of life's minutiae

BY LEERON HOORY
Columbia Daily Spectator

Each moment is precious, at least according to the new musical “The Extraordinary Ordinary.”

The show—which plays at the Clurman Theatre (410 W. 42nd St., Between Ninth and Tenth avenues) off-Broadway through Dec. 18—centers around six friends in Manhattan and the familial bonds that they form. The musical, produced by Dean Carpenter, SoA '10, translates the ordinary experiences of everyday life onto the stage.

From the beginning, audience members are told, “Nothing is wrong, but then again it’s not quite right.” A pivotal event that takes place on New Year’s Eve complicates the fragility of this six-person pseudo-family, and each character begins to face individual challenges that come with middle age, from a troubled marriage to prolonged singledom. For example, one character, Zach, is the first to admit he feels his life has no meaning and says he is “wasting away for a café au lait.”

The musical elegantly portrays the intimacy of a family of friends, and details that are often considered peripheral take on a central role. These details, such as routine conversations, are interspersed with musical acts. Though the show depicts everyday life, the lyrics (by Scott Burkell), music (by Paul Loesel), and set of the production convey a sense of intimacy that elevates the subject matter.

The musical's plot is inspired by the life of writer Scott Burkell, who hosted a talk-back after a performance of the show. "The impulse was really to write about the moments. ... Some might call them boring or cliché, but I call it our life,"

Burkell said. The musical's focus is on the idea of a "chosen family," the way it's created, and how fragile it can be. In many ways, this play is a response to people who rush through life, only to realize when it's too late that life is fleeting.

“Overall, I think the larger thing here is that people who live in big cities from small towns make a family with their friends,” Carpenter said. As students in a temporary “home” of college, Columbians can easily relate to the idea of forging a family for themselves, as well as to the fragility and tension of the close relationships portrayed in “The Extraordinary Ordinary.” All of the characters have found themselves alone in New York, yet have created a community together—they have a go-to group when they need to celebrate holidays or choose an emergency contact.

At Columbia's School of the Arts, Carpenter wrote his master's thesis on the identity of off-Broadway theater and the way it forms a community that can stand on its own. "I think off-Broadway really is theater for New Yorkers. It's home grown, it's made here in New York by New Yorkers for New Yorkers," he said.

In a sense, “The Extraordinary Ordinary” is written from this uniquely New York perspective, full of inside jokes about urban life—for instance, one character says, “I used to have such a great view of the river. Now I look at a building that has such a great view of the river.”

The musical ends on a wistful note, referencing the importance of the overlooked aspects of life when each character finds value and comfort in his or her basic daily routines. The show enables students to appreciate the rituals they take for granted, from three-way phone calls with friends while watching the same TV show to studying with roommates in Butler.



KATE SCARBROUGH / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HANG UP | Centotto, a gallery in Bushwick, lets students view art in a smaller, more intimate setting.

Bushwick galleries: Art off the beaten path

BUSHWICK from page B4

Regina Rex (17-17 Troutman St. #329, Brooklyn) occupies one room on the third story of a warehouse in the northern reaches of Bushwick. The gallery was established in May of this year by a collective of 13 Brooklyn artists. "We [Regina Rex artists] show elsewhere, and here, we show people who we think deserve attention," Yevgeniya Baras, a member of the collective, said.

The pieces in the current show examine the relationship between surface, history, and memory. Takashi Horisaki's sculpture "Social Dress Buffalo" is a colorful, dome-like structure made of latex skins cast from the exteriors of abandoned houses. The diverse textures on the skins speak to the powerful processes of decay and forgetting and to the intense personal connections people feel toward familiar surfaces. Klea McKenna's "Cherish" series presents a series of destroyed photographs taken from the wreckage of burned-down houses. Like Horisaki's piece, the photographs contain fascinating textures and call on us to contemplate the forgotten stories and memories. The show remains on view until Dec. 19.

English Kills (114 Forrest St. #1, Brooklyn) is more conventional gallery than Factory Fresh, Centotto, and Regina Rex. However, like the others, it has a distinctive charm. Visitors enter through an alleyway, and much of the interior plumbing is exposed, creating a gritty aesthetic well-suited to showing Brooklyn-based artists. Currently on display through Jan. 9 is Andy Piedilato, whose large paintings toy with viewers' perceptions of spatial reality. The surfaces in the paintings, many of which are marked with a brick-like pattern, maintain a tangible appearance but bend and warp in contradictory directions. He uses a variety of brushstroke types to create abstract environments that straddle the line between order and cacophony, simultaneously giving the viewer the sensations of excitement and unease.

Bushwick is nearly an hour away from Morningside Heights on the subway, but it is an essential destination for anyone interested in a bit of an adventure and an opportunity to see some of the city's most exciting artwork in interesting and intimate environments. You will definitely have more of a story to tell than you would taking the 1 train down to the Museum of Modern Art.

Going out alone doesn't have to feel lonely

We've all been there.

W It's finals. You're fed up with your work. After calling almost every person you know who lives in the Columbia area to "do something," no one seems to be free. A 30-minute "Modern Family" break won't cut it. You've got to get out of Morningside, but you're scared at the prospect of alone—at least, you are if it means you'll be alone.



HANNAH
YUDKIN

Restricted

A frightening scenario to say the least, but not one that should keep you from experiencing New York. There are plenty of places in the city that cater to the single traveler. And in many cases, being alone is actually much better.

Take for instance **Ippudo** (65 Fourth Ave., near 10th Street), a Japanese ramen restaurant near Union Square. The delectably thin ramen noodles, the perfectly seasoned broth, and the variety of condiments, from poached eggs to bamboo shoots, make this one of the best ramen bets (only \$14) in all of New York. It's no wonder, then, that the restaurant is impossible to get into on Friday or Saturday.

Having to explore the city alone is a frightening scenario to say the least, but it's not one that should keep you from experiencing New York. There are plenty of places in the city that cater to the single traveler.

But while it would take up to three hours for a group of four to be seated, it takes 30 minutes at the most for a single eater to enjoy a delicious bowl of Ippudo's signature ramen. The restaurant even has a special table reserved for single diners during lunch, and the bar is always able to squeeze in an extra person or two.

Another activity better done alone is going to see a movie, but not at just any movie

theater. The ones uptown—especially at 66th Street—are filled with families, couples, and chatty teenagers who often disrupt a perfectly good film. On the other hand, downtown venues for alternative, avant-garde, and cult films—like **Film Forum** (209 W. Houston St., between Sixth and Seventh avenues) and the **IFC Center** (323 Avenue of the Americas, at West Third Street)—are havens for cinephiles and, in particular, lonesome cinephiles.

Going alone to see the latest Godard film is not a novelty here—it's actually the norm. Film Forum also has unusually good snacks and drinks, such as Jacques Torres chocolate bars and Illy cappuccinos that are perfect single-serving treats.

While a good meal or movie is a likely activity for the unaccompanied student, shopping for clothing may seem like an unthinkable solitary outing. Fortunately, **Topshop** (478 Broadway, at Broome Street) has us covered. The über-fashionable British chain offers a complimentary personal shopping service with several options to choose from, such as the “Miracle Worker,” a two-hour wardrobe overhaul, or the “Big Wow,” a one-hour consultation for a special event.

A personal favorite activity to do on my own involves a day at the **Museum of Modern Art**. Going alone to this museum has several advantages: There is no need to hassle over which gallery to visit, waiting for someone else is never an issue, and blockbuster exhibits become easier to handle, since you can easily move between the masses of foreign tourists.

What makes going to the MoMA alone most enjoyable, however, is the pace at which one tackles the museum. I can spend as long as I want in front of a photograph with no one rushing me, no one asking me questions, no one attempting to talk to me about the art. A trip to the café, which serves some of the best food I've ever had in a museum (let alone in New York), can take me hours with a good book and a delicious buffalo mozzarella salad. I can peruse the bookstore and read the catalogue issued for the newest exhibition. Time is never of the essence.

We live in a city filled with over 1.5 million people, each bound by their own varying restrictions. While these restrictions are often viewed as negative, they can have a positive and even entertaining quality. Without time limits, we'd never get anywhere. With too much money, we'd never know what to do with all of it. And without restrictions, we'd never be who we are.

Hannah Yudkin is a Barnard College senior majoring in art history and political science. Restricted runs alternate Fridays.

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‘MISS’-UNDERSTOOD | Stella Schabel stars in “You Wont Miss Me” as Shelly, a young woman who has lost her way in life.

‘You Wont Miss Me’

Film’s purposefully unpolished style accentuates its illusion of reality

BY JOSEPH POMP
Spectator Staff Writer

Early on in “You Wont Miss Me,” the sophomore feature by 29-year-old Ry Russo-Young, the film’s anti-hero Shelly Brown muses, “Sometimes acting is more real than real life.” The film is a self-described “kaleidoscopic portrait” of Shelly, a 20-something train-wreck wandering through New York, hoping to launch an acting career. It alternates between hilarious scenes of Shelly’s unsuccessful auditions and tragic scenes of her self-destructive friendships and failed hook-ups, interspersed with poetic interludes of solitary introspection.

On Dec. 10th, the film begins a one-week run at Cinema Village and will also be screened on campus at 3 p.m. in 511 Dodge, followed by a Q&A with Russo-Young.

Working from a very minimal script, which she co-wrote with Stella Schnabel, Russo-Young gave the actors the freedom to play out the scenes spontaneously, so that the dialogue and reactions would feel as real as possible. As much as the film might thus resemble a documentary, Russo-Young explained, “This is taking the seeds of life to create characters and putting those characters in a documentary setting. When the camera is on, we’re shooting fiction—even if it is spontaneous.”

This intense realism is most evident in Shelly’s interactions with her sole female friend, Carlen (Carlen Altman), who only brings out the worst in her. Sitting in a hotel room in Atlantic City, where they’ve traveled to see The Virgins, Shelly and Carlen break into a brutally honest, caustic argument that blurs the lines between fiction and reality. “She [Carlen] had no idea what was going on; she thought it was going on in reality,” Schnabel said.

Although Shelly is seemingly unable to get along with anyone around her, her one loyal friend is Simon, played by Simon O’Connor, the co-founder of Brooklyn band Amazing Baby and, incidentally, a son of two Columbia professors.

In addition to the daring—and often quite stirring—performances, the unique mix of shooting formats gives “You Wont Miss Me” a homemade, DIY feel. The film incorporates five types of cameras, including 16mm, a flip-cam (to record activities of

SEE ‘MISS ME’, page B2



‘DREAM’ ON | Taylor Owens, CC ’11, and Melissa Caffrey, CC ’11, share an on-stage kiss in NOMADS’ “Portrait” this weekend.

‘Portrait and a Dream’

NOMADS stages quirky, sharp new play with humor and heart

BY ANDREA SHANG
Columbia Daily Spectator

“Portrait and a Dream,” the newest play from NOMADS (New and Original Material Authored and Directed by Students), a student theater group, is a feast for the heart and the mind. Brimming with wit, pulsating energy and keen self-awareness, this full-length play—beautifully written by Jacob Rice, CC ’12, and impeccably directed by Alex Brinkman-Young, BC ’11—grapples with age-old themes of relationships, honesty, and reality without falling into the traps of dreary self-indulgence to which these genres of meditation are prone.

“Fuck the apocalypse!,” one of the play’s protagonists Nick (Taylor Owens, CC ’11) says in the opening of the play, a line

that catches and remarkably sustains the audience’s attention for the entirety of the performance. The opening premise is deceptively simply and idyllic: Annie (Melissa Caffrey, CC ’11) and Nick meet at a park bench, each clutching Hemingway novels. Nick is immediately drawn to Annie but is too nervous to initiate a conversation, so she does instead. Their characters are engaging but not atypical. Nick is a kind, intellectual young man, and Annie hails from the rare but captivating species of manic pixie dream girl—she’s sweetly sardonic, witty, and bold enough to inspire a degree of both awe and discomfort in the people around her, including her shy but brilliant best friend Hallie (Gabrielle Beans, BC ’14, with marvelous comic timing).

Nick and Annie develop a romantic relationship, but their blissful connection falls prey to the usual adult pathos of the conventional sort (arguing and make-ups, mostly). But it’s also ridiculously charming due to the strength of the rapid-paced, quick-witted dialogue. Nick starts an affair with Hallie that manages to seem as uncontrived and as unexpected for the audience as it is for the characters. Hallie satisfies a craving in Nick for—what? Danger? Desire? Self-sabotage? The reasons

SEE NOMADS, page B2



ART IMITATES LIFE | Paul D’Agostino stands in his art gallery, Centotto, which doubles as a main living space of his apartment.

Bushwick art galleries

Hidden-gem establishments offer an art experience off the beaten path

BY IAN ERICKSON-KERY
Spectator Staff Writer

Underneath the seemingly desolate landscape of warehouses in Bushwick, something is brewing. On the surface, a visitor to the neighborhood might pick up on the quantity and diversity of street art. But in order to truly experience the richness of Bushwick’s growing art scene, one has to ring some buzzers and travel down some dimly lit hallways. Those who take the initiative are well-rewarded by cutting-edge art in conventional environments.

Factory Fresh (1053 Flushing Ave., Brooklyn) brings a thriving Brooklyn street art scene into the gallery setting. Opening Friday is “Speedy Wonderland,” which showcases two contemporary artists who make colorful, cartoon-like works of pop art. In his woodprints, Polish artist Roman Klonek draws his inspiration from old Eastern European cartoons. He places his wide-eyed

cast of characters in various predicaments in pieces that are both humorous and slightly disturbing. German artist Jim Avignon’s work contains a similar graphic sensibility that he has applied to designs on nightclub walls, wristwatches, and airplane tails. His characters are sly and emotive, and he places them in scenes that often contain biting social commentary. The show remains on view until Jan. 16.

Paul D’Agostino, an Italian professor at CUNY Brooklyn College, works as a curator for small shows that he sets up in his apartment gallery known as **Centotto** (250 Moore St. #108, Brooklyn). You might have to sidestep some bicycles while entering, and the artwork inhabits the same space as his kitchen, dining room table, and book collection. The current show, “Marksmen and the Palimpsests,” on view until Dec. 17, features two artists who employ unique painting processes and work with a great deal of precision. John Avelluto makes acrylic paintings in which he imaginatively plays with the image of lined notebook paper. His mark-making is astonishingly precise—lines, pencil markings, erasures, and white-out marks are so realistic that the viewer is tricked into believing that he uses those actual media rather than paint. Josh Willis’s paintings depict a variety of permutations on the Tower of Babel image, which he arrives at through successive applications and scrapings of oil paint.

SEE BUSHWICK, page B3

events

MUSIC
Postcrypt open stage
—Broadway Room, Lerner Hall, Saturday, Dec. 11, 8:30 p.m.

For one day only, Postcrypt moves to a bigger space than usual for its open stage night. Lerner’s Broadway Room is three times the size of the group’s normal space in St. Paul’s Chapel, and a strong turnout of folk fans is expected.

STYLE
2010 Holiday Craftacular
—Metropolitan Pavilion, 123 W. 18th St. (between Sixth and Seventh avenues), Sunday, Dec. 12, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., \$2.

This craft fair boasts almost 300 vendors selling everything from artsy and vintage holiday items to specialty snacks and beverages. Browse for unique holiday gifts for friends and family back home, and help local charities at the same time by donating a coat to New York Cares.

MUSIC
Xmas Pop Sing-Along
—Legion, 790 Metropolitan Ave. (at Humboldt Street), Friday, Dec. 10, 9 p.m., free.

Belt out Christmas tunes to spread the holiday cheer by singing along to holiday pop-music videos from ‘N Sync’s “Home for Christmas” to Mariah Carey’s “All I Want for Christmas Is You.” Wind down from singing to get stuffed with the free milk and cookies.

ART
Leonardo’s Last Supper
—Park Avenue Armory, 643 Park Ave. (at 67th Street), Tuesday-Sunday, now through Jan. 6, \$12 with CUID.

Explore one of Leonardo da Vinci’s most famous paintings, “The Last Supper.” Artist and filmmaker Peter Greenaway allows visitors to explore the celebrated painting in an innovative gallery, set within a true-to-size replica of the dome of the Milan church that houses the original work.