

INSIDE



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Unwrapping New York's best burritos

For students sick of the usual Ferris and Chipotle burrito choices, West-Coast-style burritos outside of Morning-side Heights pack the heat and offer some spice.

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Lights, camera, no unplanned action

Mark Hay questions the bureaucratic blocks on outbursts of spontaneity on campus.



Sports, page 12

Columbia looks to keep Bryant winless

This weekend, the Lions will look to send the Bulldogs to their tenth straight loss this season when they travel to Bryant seeking their fifth win of the season.

EVENTS

Happy Birthday, Lerner!

Come join CCSC and the Lerner Advisory Committee to celebrate Lerner's 10th birthday. Free hot chocolate, cupcakes, candy, and other goodies will be available.

Lerner, Piano Lounge, Dec. 13, 5-7 p.m.

XMAS 4: Shalom Alone

Get your yearly dose of holiday satire and celebration at NOMAD's student-run musical comedy. An excellent excuse for a study break!

Roone Arledge Auditorium, Dec. 13, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Our goals are really simple—we are not trying to send a rocket to the moon."

—Danny Tisdale, Harlem AIDS Blanket Project

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News around the clock

Just like you, the news never sleeps. Check out our Web site 24/7 for campus and city news that matters to you.

KISS AND TELL



Kenny Jackson / Staff photographer

BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG ROMANCE | Buried under the layers of snow, sleet, and slush, New York in winter boasts romantic date possibilities for students willing to brave the cold in the hopes of warming up with a special someone.

Barnard cracks down on party scene

BY AMANDA EVANS
Columbia Daily Spectator

There is an oft-heard complaint after a party gets broken up.

"It's impossible to have fun here," Jules Colangelo, BC '12, said.

According to the resident adviser who ended Colangelo's party before it had even begun, the number of people filling her Barnard suite exceeded the limit. "Everyone was forced to leave," Colangelo said. "We weren't even doing anything wrong."

Many students say that Barnard's "War on Fun" has been brewing for years. They say that increased enforcement of rules and slight changes in policy have made it harder than ever to have fun on campus.

Hilary Colenso, director of the Alcohol and Substance Awareness

Program at Barnard, explained that the school's policies for alcohol and drugs have remained the same over the past few years, though they are re-evaluated every two years. What has changed is the enforcement, she said.

Over the past three years, the number of student citations has increased. In the 2007 and 2008 school years, the numbers of citations for alcohol or drug violations was 36—but in 2009, that number rose to 51.

The reason is not likely more drinking and drug use by Barnard students, but an emphasis on making RAs, public safety officials, security personnel, and administrators more cautious in restricting behaviors that violate policies, Colenso explained.

That number continues to rise. Just this semester, 31 students have been reported for various violations, including 11 for going to the emergency room. Last year, 21 were cited

for these violations, and only 17 the year before.

Still, this number is relatively small compared to other schools—comprising less than one percent of the student body. The percentage of students at Barnard who report having more than five drinks on a night out is less than 20 percent.

Colenso said those statistics reinforce the perception that "Barnard is not much of a party school."

But students say that this reputation is instilled through practice, as the school cultivates a climate where it is difficult to have fun.

"This would have never happened in a Columbia dorm," said Vanessa Trinidad, who attended Colangelo's party last weekend.

"I have been at parties where there have been much worse offenses than too many people, and nothing has happened," she added.

SEE BARNARD, page 3

Student groups deck the holidays with cultural diversity

BY HIEN TRUONG
Columbia Daily Spectator

Merry Christmas! Bože Narodzenie! Feliz Navidad!

There are hundreds of ways to say "Merry Christmas," and every culture has a different way to celebrate. This week, a number of clubs at Columbia ushered in the season to be jolly with their own holiday traditions.

"En el nombre del cielo os pido posada pues no puede andar mi esposa amada!" chanted members of the Chicano Caucus outside the doors of Casa Hispanica last Saturday night.

"Posadas is a Mexican religious holiday that acts out the scene from the Bible when Joseph and Mary were looking for shelter," explained Rosario Quiroz, CC '11 and club co-coordinator.

She said this is the first year the Chicano Caucus observed Las Posadas, a nine-day celebration of hospitality that takes the trials of Mary and Joseph from the stage to the streets.

During Posadas, carolers go to close neighbors and ask to come in for dinner by way of the song "Pidiendo Posada," which means "asking for shelter."

As the first snow fell over New York City, Quiroz said the club divided into two groups.

One group prepared a festive dinner, consisting of enchiladas and tacos dorados, and the other ushered in the start of Posadas from outside by chanting the Spanish song, which means "In the name of Heaven, I beg you for lodging, for she cannot walk, my beloved wife."

"It was great singing outside, hearing the response inside, and being all off-tune and just winging it," said Angelica Duron, CC '12 and member of the caucus.

Traditionally, the celebration is not without its religious context—there are a Mary and a Joseph amongst the visitors and a nativity scene is displayed in the home.

Quiroz said the Chicano Caucus decided to de-emphasize the more overtly religious aspects of Posadas.

SEE HOLIDAYS, page 3

Housing may go gender neutral

Student council proposes equal rooming opportunities

BY ALISA LU AND ELIZABETH SCOTT
Columbia Daily Spectator

Although recent media coverage on Columbia College Student Council's proposal for gender-neutral housing has focused on concerns about couples living together, supporters emphasize that the core issue of the initiative is equality—regardless of gender and sexual preference.

"Gender-neutral housing is important because it affirms a wide range of lifestyles of college students," said Jeffrey Chang, co-founder and associate director of the National Student Genderblind Campaign.

Currently, about 25-30 colleges and universities across the nation offer coed dorm rooms, although many more schools offer coed suites, floors, and dormitories, according to Chang. His organization has worked with more than 50 schools on housing and discrimination issues.

"We ultimately see a trend towards having the policy at more and more colleges," Chang said.

The proposal is "about giving students the opportunity to live with whomever they feel comfortable ... without gender binaries of being male and female," said Sarah Weiss, CCSC vice president of policy.

Student action on gender-neutral housing got its start at Barnard in spring of 2009. While the idea came from Q, a queer community organization at Barnard, and from LGBT groups at Columbia, it was the Student Government Association that drafted and passed the first resolution calling for gender-neutral housing. Barnard originally worked with the Diversity Committee and used input from Q and Columbia LGBT groups to draft the proposal. Janelle Batta, who spearheaded the movement at Barnard, then reached out to Columbia students.

"They [SGA] had policies that they were interested in but they were also

SEE HOUSING, page 3

Soup kitchens increase service, funding

BY LINDSEY WARD
Columbia Daily Spectator

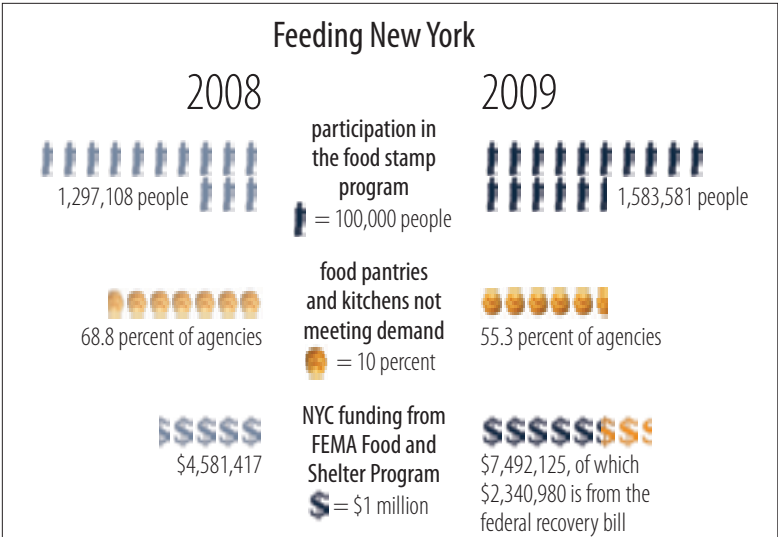
This holiday season, local soup kitchens and food banks are stocked with people, and seem to have the funding to support them.

The number of New Yorkers who used a food pantry or soup kitchen increased by 21 percent in 2009, according to the New York City Coalition Against Hunger's annual hunger survey report, released in November. The increased need put

a strain on resources at kitchens like the one at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, a smaller food relief service that serves about 50 families per week.

"Last winter about this time we were really scraping the bottom of the barrel," said Janet Dorman, the kitchen's director. This year, more people are registering for services, and Dorman said they get 10 or 12 new families each week.

SEE HUNGER, page 3



Source: New York City Coalition Against Hunger / Graphic by Yipeng Huang

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Challah for Hunger heats up campus with community bread-baking, breaking

BY CLAIRE STERN
Spectator Staff Writer

Challah French toast, anyone?

Challah for Hunger, a nonprofit organization that raises money and awareness for malnutrition and disaster relief, has Columbia's chapter in its fourth week of baking. This humanitarian campaign is heating up at college campuses around the country, and Columbia participants hope to break the bread at a campus-wide event.

"It is something that really unites our community because it's both a cultural and a religious food and tradition," said Hillel Vice President Sarah Sherer-Kholburn, BC '10. "Our community can really come together, whether they're coming out Wednesday night to bake or just buying it on Friday."

Each week, roughly 10 people come to help bake challah in the Hillel building. The group consists of mostly Jewish students, but according to Rachel Loeb, BC '10, social justice coordinator for Columbia/Barnard Hillel,

Challah for Hunger is not limited to Hillel members or to the Jewish community.

"Sometimes there's this image that Hillel is a very religious and close-minded place and that's not the reality," Loeb said. "This helps show people that the image is not always what happens inside the Hillel building. The more ways we can try to get people involved, the better—Jewish students, non-Jewish students, those affiliated with Hillel, those who are not."

Though other campuses have official baking shifts, Loeb said the Columbia chapter hosts a flexible program that allows people to come help out when they can.

"People come in and out," said Jenn Leyva, CC '12, who spearheaded the Columbia chapter of Challah for Hunger along with Loeb. "It doesn't take too many people to make challah, but the more the merrier," she said, adding, "There's no such

thing as too many bakers in the kitchen ... Not here, at least."

Columbia Challah for Hunger is limited to about 50 loaves per week

"Sometimes there's this image that Hillel is a very religious and close-minded place and that's not the reality."

—Rachel Loeb, BC '10

because there is only one kosher oven available in Hillel's Café Nana.

In spite of this setback, sales have been brisk. At \$3 a loaf, the group has sold out

of challah every week so far, and hopes to do the same in its final week of baking for the fall semester. It is interested in selling in Lerner Hall on Friday afternoons and on College Walk in the spring. One-third of the money goes to cover the cost of the bread, another third goes to the national Challah for Hunger cause—the American Jewish World Service's Sudan Relief and Advocacy Fund—and the last third goes to a local hunger relief organization that Columbia Challah for Hunger can choose to partner with and help on a weekly basis.

"This is something that you do and you sell and you know where the money's going," said Chanel Dubofsky, Hillel's staff coordinator for social justice and Israel programming. "It's a tangible way of making change."

Dubofsky also noted that "Challah is a Jewish bread ... but it's not a Jewish program."

Leyva—who herself is not Jewish—loves baking and heard about Challah

for Hunger while visiting Scripps College in Claremont, Calif., where the organization was founded in 2004. "I bring friends who are not Jewish," she said. "I always get people asking me, 'But I'm not Jewish.' Neither am I!"

Leyva said she would like to see the program expand outside of Hillel, and they are interested in working with the people who make grilled-cheese sandwiches in JJ's Place.

"We are interested in expanding and getting other people involved," Loeb said. "But it will take some time."

Columbia Challah for Hunger bakes kosher challah with flavors ranging from honey whole wheat to cinnamon raisin in Café Nana on Wednesdays from 5-9 p.m. in the third-floor lounge of the Kraft Center at 606 W.115th St. The challah is available for purchase on Fridays from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the lobby of the Hillel building.

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Columbia researchers explore new process to create greener fuels

BY MARGAUX GROUX
Spectator Staff Writer

Thanks to Columbia researchers, peanut shell-powered cars may be on the horizon.

According to a new study, peanut shells and other materials, such as tree bark and grass, can be turned from biomass—a renewable energy derived from a recently living source—into fuel.

And the results are more than just peanuts: the findings show that biomass can be converted into liquid fuels while simultaneously recycling carbon dioxide and saving water.

The new process, researchers say, improves on the biomass "gasification" process—the conversion of biomass into fuel—by utilizing carbon dioxide in a new way.

Led by assistant professor of Earth and Environmental Engineering Marco Castaldi and post-doctoral researcher Heidi Buttermann, this work provides a beneficial outlet for carbon dioxide during the production of fuel.

Gasification techniques have been used in the past, but scientists typically encountered problems with high water and energy consumption. This new process ameliorates both issues.

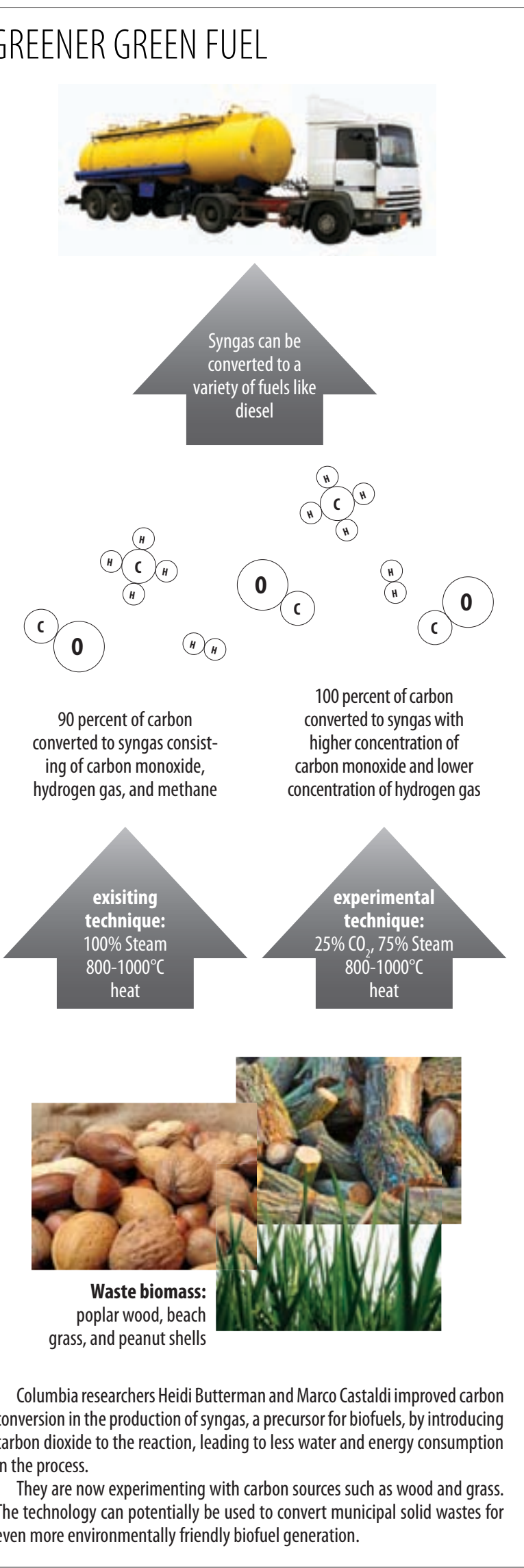
To Castaldi, the results initially seemed too good to be true. "For about the first six months [of this research] I thought something was wrong with the calculations," he said. Castaldi was excited about the twofold benefit of using carbon dioxide, which both increased overall efficiency and reduced the amount of water used in the process.

While a typical gasification process uses only steam to convert biomass into syngas, synthetic gas containing a mixture carbon monoxide and hydrogen, Castaldi's new method replaces 30 percent of the water with carbon dioxide. Researchers believe that these findings carry exciting potential and hope the process will be able to improve the overall efficiency of fuel production when used on a large scale. Syngas can be converted into a variety of different chemicals and fuels, including diesel products.

Though this technique has yet to be put into widespread use, it is now being tested on a larger scale by the University and a private company, whose name Castaldi declined to disclose. Castaldi hopes that in the future, carbon dioxide will be sequestered from industrial plants and used in this gasification process.

Currently, Castaldi and his research team are working on perfecting the process. They are experimenting with a wide range of biomasses from "poplar trees to beach grass to peanut shells," he said.

Castaldi and his fellow researchers are also exploring the possibility of using municipal solid waste, which is essentially just trash, instead of biomass. "When I did this [gasification] for biomass I started wondering if I could use it on waste," he said. This potentially could enhance the "greenness" of this process even further.



Source: Buttermann and Castaldi, CO₂ as a Carbon Neutral Fuel Source via Enhanced Biomass Gasification / Graphic by Yipeng Huang

Though this research began just a few years ago, it is already creating possibilities for putting carbon dioxide to better use in the future. With some tweaking of the process and an appropriation of

funding, Castaldi hopes that this improved gasification technique will be able to play a major role in the search to find more sustainable energy sources.

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Blanket Project offers support to Harlem residents with AIDS

BY GILA SCHWARZSCHILD
Columbia Daily Spectator

With 300 patches on a single blanket, Harlem residents grappling with AIDS will soon have proof that they are not alone.

On Dec. 1, in honor of World AIDS Day, The Institute for Urban and Minority Education at Teachers College, in partnership with Danny Tisdale of Harlem's Tisdale Studio, launched the Harlem AIDS Blanket Project—a massive artistic program to raise awareness of AIDS in Harlem through neighborhood-based collaboration.

TC and Tisdale are now in the process of setting up partnerships with local schools and community organizations that will all contribute in March to the creation of a single blanket expected in June. Organizers hope the blanket will have at least 300 unique patches with different designs inspired by the issue of AIDS.

For Tisdale, the artistic designer, the Blanket Project is an opportunity to make the neighborhood more aware of AIDS in Harlem, which he said has affected him on a personal level. "I have lost quite a few friends to AIDS, and this project spoke to their situation," Tisdale said.

Art, he added, is a useful method to confront such a prevalent neighborhood concern. "Artwork is a great democratic tool where you can create and say what you want," Tisdale said.

Veronica Holly, IUME assistant director, said that the project was not only about artistic collaboration, but also a way to encourage action surrounding AIDS. "We want young people to start thinking about it, get involved, and get tested," she said.

Alexander "Sandy" Pope, one of the project managers from IUME, added that he hopes the collaborative blanket will help people speak up. "The project will dispel the whole, 'I'm in this on my own' myth," Pope said.

Several schools and community-based organizations have already expressed interest. Wadleigh High School on 114th Street at Adam Clayton Powell is in the early planning stages with project coordinators. Paul McIntosh, a Wadleigh librarian who has been in contact with IUME, said, "I hope this project will empower the young people intellectually and spiritually, and inspire them to embrace possibility within the self to learn and broaden their intellectual license through many forms of media and art."

For McIntosh, artistic collaboration is empowering. He said he looks forward to witnessing "living, breathing souls who are transformed by being a part of it."

Tisdale echoed McIntosh, saying that the project is about connecting people through a lasting work of art.

For Teachers College, the partnership is an opportunity to give back to the neighborhood. Holly said, "This project provides support in the Harlem community, and they need that."

Pope agreed, saying that with more than 100,000 people in New York City who know they have AIDS, there are likely also many infected people who don't know they have it. The project will help these populations become educated, he said.

Tisdale also expressed frustration with inaction surrounding AIDS, which was part of his motivation for starting this program. "I can complain all I want, but it's different when you can put money and artwork into where your mouth is," he said, "Partnering with people interested in a common cause makes a great statement."

In this sense, he hopes the blanket can be a message to the neighborhood that people should take control of their own lives. "Our goals are really simple—we are not trying to send a rocket to the moon. We are asking individuals to be conscious of what they decide to do, to think about their options, and about protecting their future."

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Barnard discipline policy enforcement restricts party scene

BARNARD from front page

Grace Royer, BC '11, said that compared to the rules at other schools, "Barnard's are extremely harsh," adding that "everything is a problem, from having a guest, to how many people you have in your room, to how loud you are."

Royer said Barnard wasn't always a place where parties go to die. During her sophomore year, she thought Barnard was really lax about social gatherings.

"My friend used to throw parties almost every weekend, where I'm sure there were too many people. But our RA was really relaxed so it didn't matter," she said.

But she said that in just a year, things have changed.

"Within the first month, my suite and I were written up for noise complaints and other non-important violations," Royer said. "It's ridiculous. If we're smart enough to get in here, they should trust that we are smart enough not to partake in behavior that is extremely dangerous."

Kara Freewind, BC '11, said that Columbia and Barnard express a mutual desire to foster a sense of community, but enforce rules that make that virtually impossible. One major fun-inhibitor, Freewind said, is the fact that Barnard and Columbia students must sign each other in to dorms.

"How can we possibly truly form bonds when we are prohibited from each other's living spaces?" she asked.

Dasha Jensen, BC '11, said that Columbia parties are a lot more lax, which is why she thinks few people choose to party on Barnard's campus. "The rules for signing in are the same, but the security attendants are a lot more lax about it, making it much easier for stuff to go on over at Columbia," she said.

At Barnard suites—like the ones in Plimpton residence hall—students are limited to two guests per person, while in dorms at Columbia—like East Campus—students are allowed five guests per person.

A 2004 study of college drinking by the Harvard School of Public Health found that the most drinking at Barnard occurs off campus—which seems to remain true today.

Danielle Capozzoli, BC '12, explained that "It's just easier to have fun off campus. It's not worth the risk here."

Schools across the country have similar rules when it comes to drugs and alcohol, but the means of enforcement vary, and the repercussions for drinking at Barnard tend to be lighter than those at other schools.

A violation for alcohol use—whether it be for alcohol use in the dorms, coming back to dorms intoxicated, or going to the hospital for alcohol—consist of a meeting with Colenso, a project of some sort—such as an essay or community service event, and a meeting with the hall director, according to Steven Tolman, associate director of housing at Barnard.

If one is caught with a drug like marijuana, the repercussions are the same but include a \$100 fine.

At bigger state schools like Texas Tech University, which is hailed for its partying, repercussions are much greater. Students are fined \$50, they are put on disciplinary probation, and their parents are notified.

Lilly Chagrin, a third-floor Hewitt RA, explained that RAs are instructed to use their judgment when it comes to possible policy violations in the dorms, and every RA has a distinct method.

Although Colenso said that policies have been implemented more forcefully over the past few years, Chagrin explained that to her knowledge, RAs who had held the position in previous years were not instructed to become any harsher.

Yet it seems the policies do serve to protect students from out-of-control situations.

Tolman explained that the new guest policy at Barnard, which requires guests to stay with the Barnard student at all times, came from a number of incidents with guests violating college property.

"One student punched a window in," Tolman said. When these damages occur, the Barnard student is required to pay, not the guest.

And while some students say that the new policy is irritating—particularly because their guests can no longer use the spare bedroom located on the eighth floor of Brooks Hall—Tolman said that feedback on the new rule has been generally positive.

"Students have said that they feel this change in the policy makes our residence halls more secure and makes them feel safer," he explained.

In all of his years working at Barnard, Tolman said he has yet to hear a complaint about the strictness of the policies when it comes to alcohol, drugs, or housing in general.

Sara Snedeker, BC '12 and Barnard Student Government Association member, added that in her two years at SGA no one has raised complaints about party policy.

Jensen explained that the rules in place at Barnard, while annoying to most students, are "completely legitimate. It's their job to keep us safe."

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Columbia to initiate gender-neutral housing

HOUSING from front page

looking for support from across the street in CCSC and ESC," said Learned Foote, CC '11 and CCSC junior class president. He eventually brought the proposal to the council.

CCSC started looking into the issue during the summer and started researching and meeting with administrators this semester.

But the implementation of the program at Barnard hinges upon Columbia's participation, as the only way Barnard women could dorm with men would be through the housing relationship with Columbia, explained Matt Kingston, associate director for Housing Operations at Barnard. "Because Barnard moved a little quicker and passed the resolution first, it became clear that because of the way that the Barnard-Columbia exchange was set up that it was necessary for Columbia to have a sign-off on wanting to implement this, prior to knowing whether or not Barnard would allow for similar changes in policy," he said.

While many have voiced concerns about couples living together and the logistical problems that this would present, not all administrators are as concerned. Kingston emphasizes the fact that LGBT students at Barnard may already be living together as couples, which he says he discourages them from doing. He also says that concerns about gender-neutral

housing will not be much of an added constraint to problems that housing already faces.

Kingston added, "The concern that Barnard would have about implementing it would be similar to the concerns we already have about male Columbia students that can be pulled into selecting a suite at Barnard—we already have concerns about what we do when Barnard students want a male roommate but those students go abroad for the spring, leaving that male student they pulled into the suite."

Even if couples choose to live together and then break up, some students feel that what happens is none of the University's business.

"I think that people over the age of 18 are capable of living with the people they want," Nathan Ratapu, CC '13, said. "If they weren't coming to school already, they could be living in housing where they are living with someone of the opposite gender and it could be completely platonic."

"As long as the students all agree to it and they're happy with it, it's their choice," said Jina Lim, CC '13.

The implementation of gender-neutral housing started this decade, perhaps as a result of changing social trends.

"More than ever, students are far likely to have a best friend that happens to be of a different sex or gender," Chang said. "Parents are so aghast to hear such a policy at their son's or daughter's colleges, but they don't recognize that this is on television."

But even so, Chang says that gender-neutral housing may not fit at all schools. "Schools should make their decisions based on what they feel is the most supportive and welcoming environment for their students," he said. "We don't feel that every school should have gender-neutral housing, but we feel that students should be able to make a case for it, and students have made a case for it."

Last February, The State University of New York at Geneseo became the first SUNY branch to institute a gender-neutral housing policy, in the form of a "pilot" dormitory in which students began to live this fall. One residence hall allows students to share bathrooms, a common area, and dorm rooms.

Last spring, a resolution from the Yale student body that proposed a gender-neutral housing policy was struck down by administrators for the 2009-2010 school year. Students staged a "sleep-in" in which they protested the decision handed down by the administration by setting up and staying in tents on the university's quad.

Princeton is implementing gender-neutral suites in one of its residence halls next year. Emily Rutherford, a Princeton sophomore, led the effort that started last spring. "Virtually everyone has been really positive and saying an issue like this is common sense and it's something that should happen," she said.

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Many cultures feature in holiday celebrations

HOLIDAYS from front page

"We were a little worried about having it because we didn't want to make it too religious, but we didn't want to remove the religious aspect, because the fact is, it's a Mexican Catholic tradition," Duron said.

She added that singing the traditional religious song, playing loteria, a Mexican game similar to Bingo, and eating a festive meal, were enough to get them in the holiday spirit.

"We made the Posada our own," Duron said.

On the other side of the world—or at least Broadway—the Polish Student Society hosted its own unique Christmas celebration, called Wigilia, which literally means "Christmas Eve dinner" in Polish.

Establishing a new tradition to supplement the old, the Polish Student Society, with the help of the Columbia Catholic Ministry, decided to open Wigilia to the general student body, said Joanna Caytas, GS '12 and the club's events coordinator.

"This is just an evening of tradition and celebration and being together," she said. Caytas added that it was an

evening designed to bring friends together, as not many students on campus are of Polish descent.

Open seats are left for uninvited guests because in the spirit of Wigilia, everyone is invited, she said.

"It's great that we have such a diverse body of guests," she said.

Among the non-Polish guests was Daniel Gutterman, a lecturer at the Harriman Institute for Russian, Eurasian, and Eastern European studies.

"I have a number of Polish friends. I've been to Poland once, and had a number of Polish students in law classes at Central European University. The Poles came in with a rich knowledge of their culture and heritage. It was really amazing," Gutterman said.

One of the things he enjoyed the most about the dinner, he said, was talking with Jewish Theological Seminary undergraduates—several of whom have worked or studied in Poland—over helpings of Polish foods.

Because it is a "fasting meal," Wigilia dinner excludes meat products, Caytas said. Food served at last Saturday's celebration included sauerkraut and mushroom pierogies, beet soup, fish, and vegetables.

Every Sunday before the start of

finals, the Canterbury Club, a group of campus Episcopalians, celebrates Advent lessons and carols in St. Paul's Chapel. The group collaborates with University Lutheran chaplain, Nicole Schwalbe, and the interim Episcopal chaplain, Richard Sloan, to organize the service and the dinner that follows.

Peter Thompson, CC '12 and club treasurer, explained that the biggest difference between Advent lessons and carols and Christmas lessons and carols is that Episcopalians do not celebrate Christmas because it hasn't happened yet.

"Instead, the service centers around the hope and expectation both for the Christmas season, as a remembrance of Christ's birth, and for Christ's second coming at the end of time," he said.

By popular demand, Christmas carols such as "Joy to the World" will be sung during Sunday's service, but the focus will fall on such Advent carols as "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" and "The Angel Gabriel," Thompson said.

"Most people don't know that there's a rich and unique scriptural, musical, and liturgical tradition for the season of Advent alone, separate from the Christmas readings, music, and services," he said.

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Soup kitchen patrons, resources increase

HUNGER from front page

But federal spending by the Food Stamp Program and the economic recovery bill increased by more than \$500 million in 2009, which helped to offset the huge increase in people who needed food, according to the same survey. As a result, the number of organizations forced to ration food and turn people away dropped 11 percent from 2008.

St. Mary's has begun to receive more grant money and is doing much better financially, according to Dorman—a break from a general decline in the funding that her food relief center has received over past years.

"Most grants we get once a year, and those were definitely lessening over the past few years until this past year," she said, but added that there were still opportunities to request money. "When things got really bad with the economy and it was really

well known, we began to have opportunities to request more money."

Not all local food relief providers have seen those opportunities, though.

Jaritt Sanders, social services assistant at Riverside Church, said he hadn't felt the effects of any recent increase in funding.

"The amount of food we have doesn't really change. It's the amount of people that has increased," he said. "We try to serve up to 60 families. Last week we had days of 80, which we allowed because of the holidays."

Dorman said that the number of people who ask for food during the holiday season doesn't seem to have changed.

"What we do notice is that people come and ask if we have turkeys to give out. Turkey availability has decreased in the last several years," she said. "We actually haven't had them for the past few years because people haven't been able to donate them because they are more expensive."

P.J. MacAlpine, the director of the Riverside Church Food Pantry, said the recession will have a long-term effect on their operation.

"Some say the economy is getting better, but I don't know. Even if things were to be great tomorrow, it would still take time for us to feel the good effects," she said. "It's the trickle down theory. People relying on donations feel the bad economy two-fold because there are more people who need food and less people who have money to donate."

For that reason, Dorman emphasized the importance of remembering the malnourished all the time, not just during the holidays.

"It's more in the news during the holidays that food pantries are serving food, particularly around Thanksgiving," she said. "But the fact is that people need to eat every day. Hunger is an everyday issue for these people. They don't just get hungry around the holidays."

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Bryant senior Cecil Gresham leads balanced Bulldogs offensive attack

BY ZACH GLUBIAK
Spectator Staff Writer

When Columbia tips off against Bryant on Saturday, the Lions will be focusing on the Bulldogs No. 33. Cecil Gresham is listed as both a forward and a guard on Bryant's roster, and he is the Bulldogs' leading scorer. Gresham's 15.7 points per game more than double the second leading scorer for Bryant, and despite being only 6-foot-5, Gresham is tied for the most rebounds per game at 4.7.

Gresham has been a star from the start for the Bulldogs, playing in 30 of 32 games as a freshman. As a freshman, he scored 17 points against Southern New Hampshire, a mark he matched last year against C.W. Post. For his first year Gresham averaged 4.0 points, making his living from behind the arc, converting on 18 3-pointers that season.

Before attending Bryant, Gresham graduated from Kingswood-Oxford School in West Hartford, Conn. where he lettered in basketball, weight lifting, and track and field. Gresham did not go to college right away, however, instead attending the Maine Central Institute in Pittsfield, Maine for the 2005-2006 season after graduating from Kingswood in the spring of 2005.

In his second year at Bryant, Gresham began to deliver on the

promise he showed as a freshman for the Bulldogs. Gresham started all 31 games that season, scoring 12.1 points per game and posting double figures 17 times. His scoring average was good for second on the team for the 2007-2008 campaign, a break-out year for Gresham. He demonstrated his ferocious scoring ability when he exploded for 36 points against Saint Anselm—he also pulled down seven rebounds that night. He posted back-to-back double-doubles against Pace and Assumption that year.

Gresham took over his junior year, leading the Bulldogs with 13.4 points per game despite facing superior competition as Bryant moved into Division I. Gresham started in 28 of 29 games in the 2008-2009 season, posting double-digit point totals 21 times. He opened off the year strong, earning an honorable mention on the Columbia Classic all-tournament team with a strong 21-point performance against Quinnipiac in the program's first-ever Division I win. For the tournament Gresham averaged 23 points. He eclipsed the 20-point mark five times on the year. Gresham's season high came against Monmouth, where he tallied 27 points in an impressive display of offensive ability.

Gresham will provide a challenge for Columbia this Saturday with his scoring ability and the matchup problems he causes with

his size. At 6-foot-5, Gresham may prove too big for any of the Light Blue's guards to man up against. He will be able to take Columbia's taller post players out of the paint and use his quickness to get to the basket.

The problems that Gresham poses for Columbia mirror those that the 6-foot-5 Dana Smith presented the Lions with in their home opener against Longwood. In that game head coach Joe Jones sent out Brian Grimes to defend him on most occasions, although defensive stopper Asenso Ampim, then playing limited minutes because he was coming back from injury, came on the court to help out when Grimes found himself in foul trouble. Smith did cause Grimes trouble with his quickness, using strong drives to the basket to rack up points, a major reason why Grimes was in foul trouble. Smith finished the night with 22 points. However, coach Jones emphasizes team defense—despite a few early drives to the basket and some long 3s from Smith, the Light Blue found a way to come away with the win. Grimes himself bounced back, finishing with a double-double.

Should the Lions find a way to limit successfully Gresham's impact on the game Saturday in Rhode Island, they should return to Morningside Heights with a winning record.



Courtesy of David Silverman

TWO-WAY THREAT | Senior Cecil Gresham has led the Bulldogs all season, averaging 15.7 points per game, and providing a matchup nightmare for opponents all season with his size and scoring ability.

CU looks for win in last 2009 home game

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL from back page

Columbia team has shown a lot of hustle. The team's full-court defense has been stellar so far, with the Lions averaging 7.8 steals per game as of Thursday. In particular, junior Kathleen Barry and reigning Ivy League Defensive Player of the Year Sara Yee are always in the thick of the action, ready to pounce on any mistake made by their opposition.

Although the Light Blue forces a lot of turnovers through its pressure defense, it also commits a lot of turnovers. The team had 25 turnovers versus Wagner, 12 of them off travel violations, and has struggled against full-court presses and with traveling violations in previous games this season.

"We're a pressure-defensive team," head coach Paul Nixon said of the team's turnovers against Wagner. "There's no way we should be giving the ball back more than we're taking away."

If the Lions can limit its turnovers against Monmouth, the team's full defensive and offensive potential could be on display this Sunday when they take on their nonconference foe.

Tip-off is set for 1 p.m. at Leven Gym on Sunday.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STARTING LINEUP

 Kathleen Barry PPG: 11.4 RPG: 5.8 APG: 1.3	 Danielle Browne PPG: 6.4 RPG: 3.0 APG: 4.1	 Sara Yee PPG: 7.6 RPG: 2.7 APG: 3.0
 Judie Lomax PPG: 15.9 RPG: 12.6 APG: 2.7	 Lauren Dwyer PPG: 12.7 RPG: 4.9 APG: 0.7	

Courtesy of Columbia Athletics

Men's basketball takes on nonconference foe Bryant

MEN'S BASKETBALL from back page

with 7.5 and is second on the team in scoring with 11.4 points per game.

Several first-year Lions had strong performances against the Seahawks. Freshman John Daniels had his first double-double of his career with 12 points and 10 boards, while classmate Brian Barbour posted five points.

For Bryant, Cecil Gresham will head the attack. The hybrid Gresham plays both guard and forward, and is averaging 15.7 points on 31.3 minutes per game. Gresham is the only Bulldog to average double digits. Freshman Jordan Raphael and Junior Barry Latham are next in line, scoring 7.8 and 7.0 points per game, respectively. Raphael has handed out a team-high 21 assists this year as well. Gresham also leads the team in rebounding, with 4.7 per game.

Strong shooting has been a trademark of their 2009-2010 campaign so far this year for the Lions, and Tuesday night was no exception. Columbia shot 60.7 percent from the floor, its best shooting percentage since a win over Princeton in February 2006. The Light Blue, who converted on seven of 15 tries from beyond the arc, has

the highest 3-point percentage in the country, as it is shooting 47.1 percent from long range.

Wagner may have exposed an important weakness in the Columbia team with its second-half comeback. Down 54-29 at the half, the Seahawks stormed back to cut the lead to nine with four minutes to go in the second stanza by applying full court pressure and causing a flurry of Light Blue turnovers. Columbia responded, however, forcing turnovers of its own and scoring 19 points in the fast break, 11 off of turnovers. On the night the Lions held a +1 margin in turnovers.

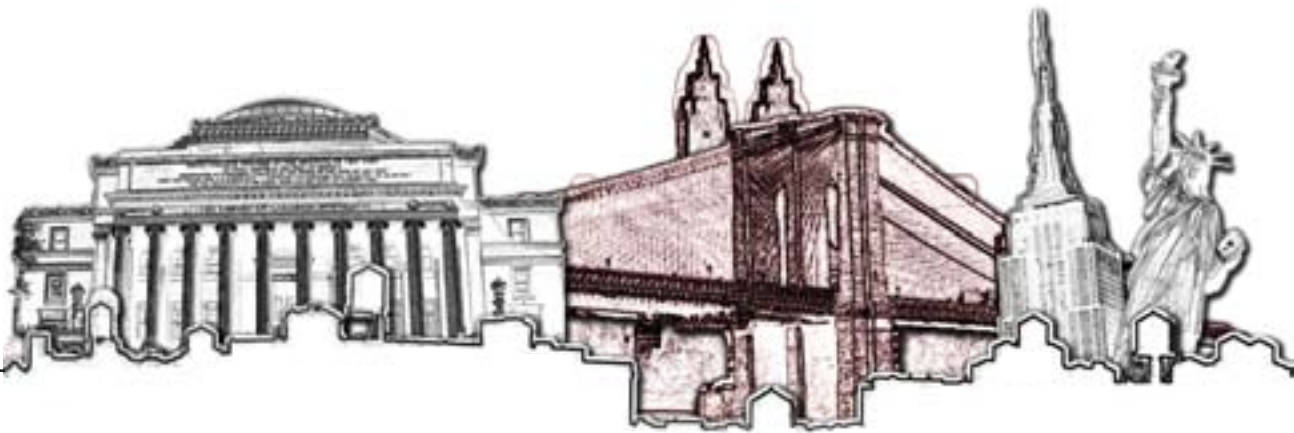
Jones often points to rebounding as a good indicator of his team's work ethic and energy, two key factors in determining the Lions' success this year. Columbia should be able to give itself second chances on the offensive end and limit Bryant to one shot. If Gresham's paltry team-leading mark of 4.7 rebounds a game is any indicator, look for the Bulldogs to struggle on the boards. If the Light Blue can capitalize and out-rebound its opponent by a healthy margin, Columbia should find itself with a winning record once again.



SPEC SPORTS

**WAKING UP
WITH THE
KING
SINCE 1877**





STYLE



Hot dates for cold winter nights

BY ELIZABETH FOYDEL
Spectator Staff Writer

Baby, it's cold outside, and as the first snowflakes fall, students might be tempted to hibernate in Butler with all the reading they haven't done this past semester. But while finals fast approach on campus, the city is lit for the holiday season, and what could be cozier than experiencing the festivities with a sweet-heart at what may be the most romantic time of year in New York? As the weather cools down, let things heat up with one of these classic NYC holiday date ideas—they'll only be around as long as the Christmas trees are.

For a movie-perfect hour or two, head to the Rockefeller Center ice-skating rink (601 Fifth Ave.). Go in the evening for the best ambience, when the towering Rockefeller tree casts its light onto the ice. If your "Cutting Edge" skills aren't up to par,

all the better—this quintessential New York experience is even more romantic when holding hands while skating and accidentally-on-purpose falling into each other to Frank Sinatra's music. A little pricier than uptown rinks, the Rockefeller Center charges \$19 per adult per hour-and-a-half session plus \$9 for skate rental, with evening hours from 6:30-8 p.m., 8:30-10 p.m., and 10:30 p.m.-midnight through Jan. 9.

Après skating, relocate from the ice rink to La Maison du Chocolat (30 Rockefeller Plaza between 49th and 50th streets) for a cup of signature bittersweet French hot chocolate. If it's on the later side, head back uptown to Cafe Lalo (W. 83rd Street between Amsterdam and Broadway avenues) for hot coffee and dessert in a more intimate setting. It's open until 4 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights.

Let other people show their moves at the Lincoln Center's annual production of

George Balanchine's "The Nutcracker" with the New York City Ballet, running through Jan. 3. This romantic and fantastical Christmas fairy tale of a young girl who enters a world of sugar-plum fairies, dancing snowflakes, and waltzes with her nutcracker prince as he comes to life is at its most brilliant with world-class ballerinas dancing to Balanchine's choreography. Find cheaper fourth-ring seats on the New York City Ballet's Web site, or purchase student rush tickets for \$12 each on the



SEE DATES, page 6



Maria Russo (background, top and left) and Jose Giral (right) for Spectator

COLD ROMANCE | Window shopping down Fifth Avenue or ice skating at Rockefeller Center offer great alternatives for a fun time with a significant other during this holiday season.



'Popover' to Upper West Side cafe for a hearty breakfast and finals cram session



VALERIYA SAFRONOVA
WEST SIDE FLAVORS

proaching reading week will mean—endless hours of studying interspersed with self-defeating procrastination, coffee runs that accidentally turn into

This is it—the final stretch, day, or whatever you choose to call it. Either way, we are almost at the end of yet another butt-kicking semester.

We all know what the quickly ap-

lunches, and way too many hours in the dim, depressing rooms of Butler. Or at least that will be my reading week. And unlike my outstandingly dedicated roommate, I refuse to wake up early, but will instead roll out of bed at a reasonable hour of noon and follow up with a long and delicious brunch. After all, my brain needs plenty of good food for the hours of studying madness ahead. My new favorite place for that early morning dose of energy? Popover Café on 83rd and Amsterdam.

Popover is hardly noticeable amongst all the shops squeezed into Amsterdam's blocks, but once you enter, it is like a ray of sunshine on dreary mornings. Though brunch is a busy,

talkative, kid-friendly affair, do not think you will be rushed in and out.

The staff is friendly and willing to chat despite the storm of food and people around them. The décor is slightly messy but cozy and warm, with beige-painted brick walls, red wooden booths, and a few scattered art pieces. The appeal of it lies in the combination of a foreground of minor chaos and a background of shabby warmth. It is hard to leave the place—all I want to do inside is eat, talk, and relax. Perhaps this is not exactly conducive to studying, but it does up those endorphin levels at a time when we really need them.

The food at Popover might not be modern and gastronomically brilliant, but it is filling, hearty, and delicious.

Before the meal, every table receives a basket of the cafe's namesake, the popovers—airy, very large pastries that are crunchy on the outside and partially hollow and warm on the inside. Alongside the basket comes a small square of light strawberry butter, meant to be smeared all over the popover.

The popovers are featured in many of the main dishes, such as the omelettes. My personal recommendation is Eggs Popeye, which consists of smoked salmon, creamed spinach, two fried eggs, and lemon hollandaise. The combination of flavors is smooth, creamy, and slightly salty. The textures come together in a great way, with the rougher salmon, leafy spinach, and heavy but soft mixture of hollandaise and eggs.

Another great dish to try is the Mad Russian sandwich, made with black forest ham, chicken breast, bacon, tomato, melted gruyere, and russian dressing. Cheese and dressing manage to balance out the heavy meats. For a healthier sounding option, try the Capricorn omelette, made with goat cheese.

When finals get you down, don't bury yourself deeper in depression with nasty food from the dining hall. Try Popover for a healthy dose of happiness, and maybe—just maybe—you'll make it through the next two weeks with a half-way smile.

Valeriya Safronova is a Columbia College sophomore. West Side Flavors runs alternate Fridays.



Courtesy of Richard Kornberg

THOUGHT PROVOKING | "Fela!" takes place in Nigeria in 1978 using vibrant lighting and acting to challenge and confront its audience with provoking messages.

THEATER

Energy and ideas explode in "Fela!" performance

BY ASHTON COOPER
Columbia Daily Spectator

Cue scantily clad Nigerian women, thumping drums, twisting bodies, and popping colors, sights, and sounds at every glance. These are the astonishing details that new Broadway musical "Fela!" uses to transport the audience right into a Nigerian Afrobeat nightclub circa 1978. The Eugene O'Neill Theater, previous home of "Spring Awakening," is literally unrecognizable, with strings of lights strung everywhere, sheet metal and street art covering all the walls, and cast members milling about the theater as the audience is seated.

Through all the detail, the theater closely resembles The Shrine, the club of Nigerian musician and political dissident Fela Kuti. Writer Jim Lewis and director and choreographer Bill T. Jones set the musical on the last night of The Shrine's existence. As the night progresses, Kuti (played by Sahr Ngaujah) unfolds the tale of his life and his struggles both as an artist and as a citizen of Nigeria.

In Kuti's lifetime, he created Afrobeat—a musical style that draws from traditional African music, jazz,

and funk—and then subsequently used his music to attack and expose the corrupt Nigerian military government. Kuti aimed to use his music as a weapon and was arrested over 200 times for political rebellion against the Nigerian military government. In his prolific career he produced over 70 albums and garnered many avid American fans. "Fela!" chronicles Kuti's struggle to find his own musical style, his identity as a Nigerian, and a way to heal his country and be true to his heritage. This show captures Kuti's spirit and the heart of Africa in an unbelievable, pounding, vibrant theater experience.

Throughout the entire production, the stage pulsates with high-energy dancers in designer Marina Draghici's traditional African costumes of every color. Antibalas—a Brooklyn-based collective that introduced Afrobeat to a new generation—play directly on stage with boisterous horns and pounding drums. During the show Kuti asks for audience participation. In the first act, he asks the entire audience to stand and teaches his signature dance move, while in the second act he asks everyone to sing along. Kuti makes the audience feel as if they are a part of his music and

his struggle. The poignancy of his story and dialogue—directed at the audience throughout the entire production—lend a sense of intimacy to every scene.

A visually stunning production, "Fela!" never has a dull moment. The ensemble performs Bill T. Jones' fierce and powerful choreography flawlessly. Sahr Ngaujah is absolutely extraordinary. Not only is he an incredible singer and dancer, but his presence on stage is magnanimous. As he speaks, one truly seems to be in the presence of Kuti himself. At times Ngaujah even keeps up a witty banter with the audience that is clearly improvised dialogue.

This play not only has vivacious music, choreography, and scenery, but packs a powerful message, leaving the audience thinking about the effects of violence in our world and the role music can play to change them. The play highlights heavy issues—violence, poverty, and military regimes—that are just as powerful today as they were in 1978. This touching and vibrant profile of Kuti's life not only chronicles the life of an unforgettable man, but also packs a potent emotional and intellectual message that isn't easily forgotten.

WEEKEND PICKS

THE EDITORS’ BEST BETS FOR THE WEEKEND AHEAD

FILM

“District 9.” *Museum of Modern Art, 11 W 53rd St. (between Fifth and Sixth avenues). Saturday, 8:30 p.m., \$6 with CUID.*

As part of a look back at the best films of 2009, the MoMA presents—dirty, smelly prawns? Combining first rate CGI with an allegory of apartheid and racism set in Johannesburg, “District 9” is a curious sci-fi thriller that looks at what happens when aliens land as refugees in South Africa and humans have to figure out what to do with them. Peter Jackson produces and Neill Blomkamp directs.

FOOD & DRINK

Chanukah vs. Christmas. *Spuyten Duyvil, 359 Metropolitan Avenue (at Havemeyer Street), Brooklyn. Saturday, 6 p.m.-2 a.m., beers \$5-9 each.*

Remember being jealous of the kids that got to celebrate both Christmas and Chanukah when we were little? Now students can climb to their ranks at this seasonal beer showcase, featuring both craft Christmas-themed beers and Jewish He’Brews. Finally, there’s something all students can celebrate.

MUSIC

Dr. Dog. *Brooklyn Bowl, 61 Wythe Avenue (near N. 11th Street), Brooklyn. Friday-Saturday, 5-8 p.m., \$20.*

Despite their silly name (a dog with a doctorate, really?) and the fact that all band members have nicknames starting with the letter “T,” Dr. Dog is serious when it comes to their music. Because of their catchy melodies and three-part harmonies, the band would be comparable to the Beatles and The Band, if they had been influenced by ’90s indie bands like Pavement. And if you have \$40 to blow on a lane, you can bowl while you watch the band, hopefully without conjuring unpleasant memories of high school ska shows in the bowling alley.

STYLE

Sonic Vision. *Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History’s Rose Center for Earth and Space, Central Park West (at 81st Street). Friday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., \$19.* Listen to a made-by-Moby mix of Radiohead, Coldplay, Queens of the Stone Age, The Flaming Lips, Fischerspooner, Audioslave, White Zombie, and many more, while watching a “one-of-a-kind computer-generated musical and visual experience, which uses next-generation digital technology to illuminate the Planetarium’s dome with a dazzling morphing of colorful visions,” according to the Web site of the American Museum of Natural History.

ART

Young Patrons Party: 100% Folk. *American Folk Art Museum, 45 W. 53rd St. (between Fifth and Sixth avenues). Friday, 8-11 p.m., \$30 in advance, \$40 at the door.* Spending a night at a museum is always an exciting adventure, especially when DJs, cocktails, and new exhibitions are involved. At the American Folk Art Museum, Young Patrons will be hosting an event meant to support the museum’s exhibitions, while also introducing people to folk art. Don’t worry, though, leaving Butler library for a museum is an admirable excuse.

DANCE

Best of 20 Years. *Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, New York City Center, 131 W. 55th St. (between Sixth and Seventh avenues). Thursday-Friday, 8 p.m., Satuday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sunday, 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., \$25.*

This season, the Ailey company honors Judith Jamison in her 20th year as artistic director at the theater. There will be new works by Ronald K. Brown (“Dancing Spirit”), Matthew Rushing (“Uptown”) and Jamison (“Among Us”).

BOOKS

Biblioball 2009: Baby, It’s Cold Outside. *The Bell House, 149 Seventh St. (between Second and Third avenues), Brooklyn. Friday, 8 p.m., \$20-25.*

Sponsored by the Desk Set, this night of literary mayhem will support the nonprofit Literacy for Incarcerated Teens with the money that it raises. The “mayhem” will include not only liquor and live music, but also trapeze artists, foot juggling, DJ sets, and food from La Tia Faby Baked Goods and Sweetie Pies.

WILDCARD

Morimoto Sushi & Sake Cruise. *Classic Harbor Line, Chelsea Piers, 23rd Street. Saturday, 6:30 p.m., \$105.* Sure, it’s a splurge, but it’s the holiday season, so the time is right. Also, it’s a relative bargain for what it is—wining and dining under the able direction of an Iron Chef.

SEARCH FOR THE BEST WEST COAST-STYLE BURRITOS

Spilling the beans on New York City’s best burritos

BY DEVIN BRISKI
Spectator Staff Writer

New York is a melting pot for ethnic food, but West Coast students will cite a lack of authentic Mexican taquerias as the exception to this rule. With a little detective work, student burrito addicts can find halfway decent West Coast-style wraps that will at least ease cravings until winter break.

The first logical place to look for a quality burrito is across town in Spanish Harlem, a neighborhood with a growing Mexican population. Students who trek to Yelp-recommended San Francisco de Asis (Lexington Avenue between 114th and 115th streets) will find authentic decor, with a miniature altar to Santa María, sombreros, and vibrant panchos dotting the walls. But alas, a West-Coast-style burrito is not a product of Mexico, but a product of merging Mexican and Californian cuisines. San Francisco de Asis is a restaurant rather than a to-go taqueria, and it is difficult to order a customized burrito, especially for students with rusty Spanish skills. The chicken is deliciously grilled and liberally seasoned with black pepper, but the restaurant only offers black beans and the rice is bland. Lastly, San Francisco de Asis doesn’t wrap in tinfoil, but rather loosely rolls up the burrito and puts it in a Styrofoam container to go. Authentic Mexican restaurants like San Francisco de Asis will only remind students they’re not in search of “Mexican,” but rather “Mexi-Cal.”

This realization might bring students to Calexico Carne Asada (Union Street between Columbia and Hicks streets, Brooklyn). The decor is clearly “Mexi-Cal,” with a faux altar à la San Francisco de Asis, and pictures of Mexicans playing cards rather than saints. The altar is a little strange, but it works. The rice is a disappointment—uncannily reminiscent of Rice-a-Roni, as it is unable to absorb the burrito’s flavor—and the habanero salsa isn’t mouth-numbing. But Calexico burritos boast a great juice—grilled chicken juices mix perfectly with hot sauce, guacamole, and cheese to give it a comprehensive feeling. Carroll Gardens may be a trek, but it’s well worth it for true burrito-lovers.

Heralded as the long-awaited West-Coast-style taqueria in New York City, Dos Toros has inspired a fierce debate among Bay Area transplants on its similarities and differences to Gordo Taqueria, San Francisco’s burrito mecca. Similar to Calexico, Dos Toros feels like it was started by starving San



Courtesy of Leo Kremer

IT’S A WRAP | New York taquerias have attempted to recreate the authenticity of California’s burrito scene, though with disappointing results. Only Dos Toros comes close.

Francisco expats for starving San Francisco expats. The decor is also similar to Calexico’s, but a little more sleek than quirky. Dos Toros also has the same shortfall—the workers are inexperienced NYU hipsters with pink hair who can only manage to roll a limp, loose burrito. Wrapping skills aside, Dos Toros shines in its selection of ingredients. The carne asada is high-quality and not in the least overcooked, making it a literal and figurative rarity among taquerias on both coasts. The pollo asado is well seasoned, the pinto

beans are fresh, the rice has the perfect texture for absorbing the meat’s juice, and the habaero sauce will render students’ tongues numb. Dos Toros also gets points for being the brainchild of Leo Kremer, former bassist for Third Eye Blind.

Though none of the taquerias serve refried beans, and none can wrap on a par with the average San Francisco taquerista, they represent a small beacon of light in what would otherwise be a long, dark, salsa-less semester.

NEW YORK STRIP: ‘MAD’ MAN WISECRACKS ON CAMPUS

BY TOMMY HILL
Spectator Staff Writer

True to form, Mad Magazine’s oldest and most prolific contributor, Al Jaffee, began his speaking event on Wednesday in 501 Schermerhorn with a bit of irreverent humor. “I wouldn’t say I had a specialty for poking fun,” the 88-year-old cartoonist said of his early days drawing comics, living panel to panel and paycheck to paycheck in a still-Depression-stricken New York. “A specialty for paying rent is what I had.” It’s that same self-effacing, sarcastic wit, tinged with a healthy dose of slapstick, that has informed the inexhaustible 70 years of Jaffee’s artistic career and installed him securely within the pantheon of American comedic geniuses.

Jaffee was speaking with a fellow cartoonist, the comparably infantile Danny Fingeroth. Both were invited to campus by Columbia’s Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies for an evening of wisecracks and reminiscences suitably titled “Al Jaffee’s Mad Life.” Jaffee has published material in all but one issue of Mad Magazine since 1964 and has become famous as the mastermind behind

much of its roaring cartoons, biting wit, and oft-imitated but never duplicated Mad Fold-Ins. It’s safe to say the magazine wouldn’t be mad without him.

Tossing snide remarks back and forth with Fingeroth, the smart aleck editor of many Spider-Man titles, Jaffee caught every gibe that came his way and paid each one back in full. 70 years in the comic book industry have done nothing to dull his still razor-sharp wit—and as he proved, he has a faultless memory to match. Jaffee entertained a full auditorium with tales stretching all the way back to his earliest days as a cartoonist in the late ’30s. “Honestly, none of us knew what to do for ourselves,” he said, referring to his angst upon graduating from the newly established LaGuardia High School of Music and Art. “There was still a lot of prejudice [towards Jews] in those days ... but then came the comic industry”—created to a large extent by Jews—“and that’s where I found my opening.”

Jaffee went down the oddball catalog of his pre-Mad artistic creations,

starting with Inferior Man—his flippant rip-off of Superman, who, far from tackling the forces of evil, faces everyday problems like not being able to fight crime because his costume is at the cleaners. Jaffee’s taste for irony and sharp eye for the foolishness of respected icons is what so endeared him to Mad and, in turn, shaped the magazine’s own mischievous sensibility. He recalled to his audience the audacity of the magazine in its early days, “This was the time of the Korean War, the Vietnam War, McCarthyism ... and here comes this cheap rag making fun of institutions, government, advertising, art ... itself! And marketed towards kids and teenagers—it was rebelliousness incarnate.”

Jaffee is doing his part to keep that audacity alive, by contributing his artwork and wit to every issue of Mad published. At the end of the event he was recognized for his work with the Harvey Kurtzman Award for Best Cartoonist of 2009. As I and a number of others in the audience agreed, it’s impossible to imagine the future of Mad Magazine without him.



New York City provides hot dates for cold winter nights

DATES from page 5

day of the performance at the Student Rush Ticket Hotline, (212) 870-7766.

East Side holiday shopping is a perfect daytime date during the area’s most bustling times on weekend mornings and afternoons. Make like Woody Allen in “Manhattan” and start with a lavish lunch or high tea at the iconic Russian Tea Room (150 W. 57th St.)—its red, green, and gilded decor and glass egg tree centerpiece are always in the holiday spirit. Once you have spent your money on tea and pastries, you can walk east and stroll down Lexington and Fifth avenues for window shopping. The department store holiday windows that are traditionally the most spectacular are Saks Fifth Avenue (49th Street and Fifth Avenue), Bergdorf Goodman (58th Street

and Fifth Avenue), Barneys New York (61st Street and Madison Avenue), Bloomingdale’s (59th Street and Lexington Avenue), and Macy’s (34th Street and Broadway). This year’s Bergdorf windows, collectively titled “A Compendium of Curiosities,” are particularly magical, with an haute-couture Alice figure journeying through a rich wonderland of extraordinary creatures.

On a snowy day, the New York Botanical Garden is a literal winter wonderland with 250 acres of bare nature, glistening white grounds, and perhaps even some mistletoes. While there, make sure to see the “Holiday Train Show,” a freeze-frame replica of the holiday season in the city that runs through Jan. 10. The Brooklyn Bridge is made from sugar pine cones and Lady Liberty’s torch from pomegranates. A grounds-only pass is \$3 with a student ID, and tickets to

the “Holiday Train Show” are \$18 for students and should be purchased in advance. The gardens are located at the Bronx River Parkway and Fordham Road, accessible by Metro North from Grand Central.

There’s also the Major League Dreidel’s Spin the Dreidel Tournament in the Williamsburg, Brooklyn, hipster entertainment venue Knitting Factory (361 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer Street), in which contestants compete for gelt. Hardcore dreidel twirling and traditional Hanukkah food will be accompanied by metal and air bands at 7 p.m. on Dec. 12. Tickets are \$15 and \$10 in advance, at www.majorleaguedreidel.com.

Whatever you do, make sure to take advantage of the holiday atmosphere, even if it’s just stopping to admire that extra twinkkle the city has in December.

FILM

European filmmakers take chilling tales west for the upcoming holiday season

BY PETER LABUZA
Spectator Staff Writer

The White Ribbon

Although director Michael Haneke claimed, “There’s almost never violence in my films that are depicted on screen,” it certainly seems like the opposite is true. The Austrian director has made audiences cringe with films like “Funny Games” and “Caché,” and now returns to the screen with his Palme D’Or-winning thriller, “The White Ribbon.”

While the film is set in a German Protestant village at the eve of World War I, Haneke said, “I don’t think the film is that much about German fascism, rather it uses the social-historical context to examine, rather, the broader question of how people can be made ... to follow the ideology.” In the village, an imbalance of power between the children and their fathers is thrown into chaos when a series of random violent events occur with no culprit in sight.

The film is shot in a gorgeous black and white, made possible through digital photography. “One of the reasons I made the choice to use black and white [is] because we know this period from the numerous black and white photographs that we’ve seen,” Haneke said. He cited August Sander as a reference point.

But when making films that examine the nature of violence, it is difficult to find children who can perform some roles. “A child doesn’t have to understand the entire film in order to shoot a specific scene,” Haneke said of his technique. “All that’s required is that you explain what the scene is about and that’s something they can identity with ... I’m not sure

even when I’m working with adult actors whether they understand the material.”

Like most of Haneke’s films, “The White Ribbon” is cold and brutal—instead of crawling under the skin, it twists the mind. Scenes play out in a very astute manner, as Haneke meticulously controls each little detail. While the plot keeps the audience searching for answers, the greater themes of fascism and religious ideology ask greater questions about the nature of violence in the current world.

Haneke keeps the viewer distanced from the emotional core, and leaves open-ended questions that will frustrate some, but fascinate many. When prodded about some direct answers to the end of the film, Haneke gave a coy answer, “I think there is a rational explanation for each or every act that takes place in the film, but it’s certainly not to me to point those out.”

“*The White Ribbon*” opens Dec. 30.

Police, Adjective

Watching the new Romanian film “Police, Adjective,” it is hard to believe that writer and director Corneliu Porumboiu was influenced by a TV show like “NYPD.”

The film follows a police officer named Cristi in a small town who is assigned to spy on a drug dealer. When he discovers that the dealer is a high school punk, he wants to drop the case. The case becomes complicated when Cristi’s boss argues the importance of words to him in a surprisingly hilarious climax. For Porumboiu, the film is “about sense and meanings of the words, and the inner words.”

The director showed the film at the New York Film Festival, and at a press conference explained that a similar case



Courtesy of Sony Pictures Classic

HOLIDAYS AT THE ARTHOUSE | Films like “The White Ribbon” offer complex allegories that will challenge audiences this winter.

had happened to a friend in the police, “He told me a story about a small case when he didn’t want to arrest him because he didn’t want it on his conscience.”

Like many of the other films of the Romanian New Wave, such as “The Death of Mr. Lazarescu” and “4 Months, 3 Weeks, and 2 Days,” “Police, Adjective” is a procedural in the literal sense—Cristi eats breakfast, walks, and sits outside for hours on end. Porumboiu leaves his audience in suspense by editing as little as possible. “All the time I was thinking about shots like that,” he said.

Porumboiu thought that the film’s editing should not be as much about a reflection of the case as about the question how movies work. “I thought that this is the rhythm I should follow up,” he said. “It’s a question about cinema. I was thinking about the tools of cinema.”

Porumboiu’s research for the film was not based on studying classic movies or the law, but on asking his friends in the police about their own experiences, making the movie more relatable for Romanian audiences. Porumboiu acknowledged that “this type of movie

doesn’t have access to the people like Hollywood movies.”

“Police, Adjective,” with its neorealistic pace and strikingly deadpan humor is truly another gem of the Romanian New Wave, but Porumboiu is careful when using that term. While he described his other fellow directors as “brothers,” he declared that each of them will mark their own territory—“Each one of us is on our second feature. The movies we will make [later] will be quite different.”

“*Police, Adjective*” opens Dec. 23.

BOOKS

Translators go Greek at local poetry reading

BY NICOLETTE BARSAMIAN
Spectator Staff Writer

Thanks to the Lit Hum syllabus, all Columbia students are somewhat familiar with ancient Greek poets. But few are aware that the Greek tradition continues until today.

On Thursday, the Cathedral School hosted the event Greek Poets: Homer to the Present in honor of the recent Norton Anthology, during which Columbia professor of Hellenistic studies Karen Van Dyck, Peter Constantine, and Edmund Keeley—three of the four Anthology editors—read their work.

The event started at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, including shrimp cocktail, lamb chops, spanakopita, pâté, and kalamata olives.

Sonia Celestin, principal of the school, said, “This year marks the school’s 60th anniversary and the event is part of a series celebrating this anniversary. It is also part of the school administration’s decision to make the school a showcase of Greek literature and culture.”

The translators read poems from different sections of the anthology—the Classical, Byzantine, and Early



Nicolette Barsamian for Spectator

FEELS LIKE HOMER | On Thursday, the local Cathedral School hosted an event honoring the release of the Norton Anthology for Greek literature that featured translators.

Modern periods and the 20th century. The poets ranged from Sappho to the modern Anghelaki-Rooke.

Edmund Keeley said, “I think this book is important to any college students interested in the Greek tradition. The book begins with Greek antiquity, but there is a rich tradition following it.”

Karen Van Dyck, who will be teaching a course on C. P. Cavafy next semester, said, “This is an important moment because this is the first Norton anthology of Greek poetry. Now students in Modern Greek studies aren’t in

the minority. This anthology is widely available and I hope other students become interested in Greek Poetry.”

Nicolette Scott, BC ’13, said, “I was thrilled to see my professor [Van Dyck] in such a prominent position in her field.”

Victoria Weaver, CC ’13, commented, “As one of the many students of Lit Hum, it was great to see that many of our studies can converge into a work such as this one.”

Modern Greek studies is an up-and-coming field, and now it finally has an anthology.

SPEAK UP, SPEAK OUT



Andra Mihali / Staff photographer

CREATIVE READINGS | On Thursday in Barnard Hall’s Sulzberger Parlor, selected students from creative writing classes read their work.

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ART

Collaboration is key in Brooklyn art collective 440 Gallery

BY YISHU HUANG
Columbia Daily Spectator

Despite high real estate prices, Park Slope remains heavily populated with local artists, whose diverse talent and creativity continuously shape the freer, non commercial nature of visual art galleries.

Situated on the quiet corner of Sixth Avenue and 10th Street, 440 Gallery is a modest one-room space with stark white walls, yet the pieces occupying it are anything but ordinary. The gallery is run by an eclectic collective of 13 artists, whose works range from painting and photography to sculpture and installation.

The “Small Works Show,” currently on view, features a mixed-media piece crafted by Tom Bovo, a member of the 440 collective. The piece is titled “Texture #1” and consists of layers forming a complex gray pattern with hints of blue.

This subdued piece reflects Bovo’s abstract expressionist and surrealist influences, but diverges from his normally bold photography work, which seeks to explore the disparity between what is seen and what is perceived in an increasingly complex environment.

In contrast to Bovo’s work, Rachel Mosler’s “Nail Book”—an assemblage



Yishu Huang for Spectator

COME TOGETHER | 440 Gallery brings artists together to both create and display their work in Park Slope. The abstract works are eclectic and original.

of found objects—seeks to explore states of decay by using more natural materials. Nails spring out from the two ends of this carefully crafted book and create a jarring discord within the piece. The work garnered the

collective’s members’ choice award for the “Small Works Show” this year.

Ellen Chuse uses acrylic paint and colored pencil to depict a series of oval shapes and fluid forms in her piece “Cousins.” The repetition of circles is

characteristic of her work, which focuses on the way in which organic forms in nature reflect and echo one another. Her use of vibrant colors also captures the exuberance and liveliness of nature.

For Chuse, the process is just as important as the final product. “I work intuitively within the forms and color that engage me at the moment and I am often surprised to discover the work that emerges,” Chuse said. The way in which she approaches her work also gives it a layered texture that provides viewers with a unique experience each time they look at it.

This artist-run gallery allows its members the freedom to take risks in their work, giving its shows a token originality and eccentricity.

Exhibitions at 440 Gallery are free and open to the public, and with the bulk of its original art selling for \$150-\$1,000, even those on a tighter budget may find themselves purchasing a piece or two.

For those seeking refuge from the overpopulated clusters of art spaces in places like Chelsea, 440 Gallery provides a non intimidating, intimate alternative. The gallery allows visitors to engage on a more personal level both with the works and the artists themselves.

STYLE

Indie market satisfies eclectic tastes

BY NOEL DUAN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Less than a block from the Carroll Street subway station is the Brooklyn Indie Market, a collection of colorful wooden booths and a large white tent that houses the wares of local up-and-coming designers. This setup is the physical embodiment of www.etsy.com, a Web site that allows the public to sell handmade designs, craft supplies, and vintage pieces. In fact, it is no surprise that many of the vendors at the market also sell on the Web site.

More upscale than a flea market, but also much more intimate and friendly than mass retailers such as Anthropologie, the market was created as an effort to foster artistic creativity, publicity, networking, and entrepreneurship amongst Brooklyn-based designers and crafty project addicts. The market also hosts a series of well received events throughout the year, such as the Holiday Handmade Cavalcade and the Steampunk fashion show.

For shoppers looking for unique quality pieces for less than \$100, this market is the place to go. Costume-jewelry designer and illustrator Kelly M. Kotulak creates her mystic pieces using an eclectic combination of taxidermy eyes. “I get a lot of confused customers who think they’re real animal eyes, and then I have to explain myself,” Kotulak said. Although these esoteric-looking pieces are handmade, rings are only \$26 and giant pendant necklaces are less than \$60. “I love selling my jewelry here because the atmosphere is so welcoming, and it’s such a good way to get in touch with the community,” said Kotulak.

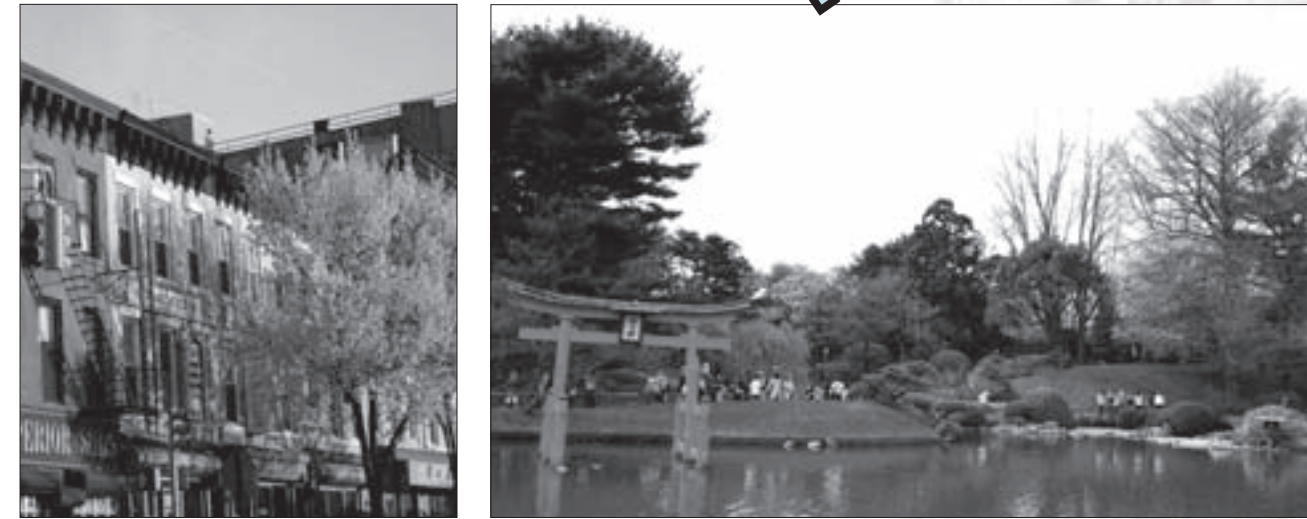
Amidst the vast array of jewelry vendors, small-product designers also set up shop here. Valaer Murray, a designer at the Message Mat—a company that makes \$40 yoga mats and \$25 tank tops printed with tongue-in-cheek messages such as “Kick Asana”—decided to start selling at the market in order to get more exposure and feedback from the local community. Prices are also cheaper at the market, as the yoga mats and tank tops sell for \$45 and \$30 online, respectively.

The market is a welcoming venue for new designers. “Today’s my first day here, so we’ll see how it goes,” said Colin Gentle, the designer behind ColinFrancis Design, a collection of leather goods created from both hand- and digital-fabrication techniques. Intricately laser-cut cuff bracelets are \$45 and edgy chokers and necklaces are \$50.

Other vendors at the market include lulu.s soap co.—selling delicious, fragrant soaps in whimsically named scents like “Salty Mariner” for \$6 a bar—Bullfrog EATS—offering home-baked goods for less than \$3 a piece—Salvage Decor—selling wooden mirrors and frames that have been reclaimed by the homeless of Cape Town, South Africa, in a job-creation program—and String Theory Yarns by Dana Bakalar—offering homespun yarns and ready-made neck warmers and hats for less than \$40.

Though the market is an hour’s subway ride from Morningside Heights, it reveals itself to be a warm and friendly place to buy quality and low-priced goods from local designers, and more importantly, to engage in dialogue with the surrounding community. No need to worry about snotty sales associates here.

Brooklyn Indie Market, Smith and Union streets, Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn. Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m., Sundays, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.



Embry Owen for Spectator

SLOPE DOWN SOUTH | Park Slope is known for its expensive housing, but it has a thriving art community and market scene.

FOOD & DRINK

Bagels toast while Applewood roasts in Park Slope

BY JASON BELL
Columbia Daily Spectator

Tucked next to Prospect Park, Brooklyn’s Park Slope feels calm and restful after dark, yet the neighborhood hides a buzzing restaurant scene with culinary hotspots for every meal.

Opening almost before sunrise, Brownstone Bagel & Bread Co., at the corner of Union Street and Fourth Avenue, can help to start an all-day tour of Brooklyn. Brownstone’s generously irregular, handcrafted bagels taste best when directly from the oven at 6 a.m. Crusty and eggy, the dough puts up a fight at first chew, but eventually yields into pillowy morsels. Slathered with cream cheese, these bagels make the perfect morning meal.

Nestled closer to Prospect Park at 11th Street and Seventh Avenue, Applewood is a departure from Brownstone’s more traditional breakfast fare. Serving food from local farms and featuring a constantly changing menu, this self-proclaimed “neighborhood” restaurant tries hard to stay right in the center of

current culinary trends. Unfortunately, many dishes fail to even come close to hitting the gastronomic bull’s eye.

House-made charcuterie seems to be a fixture of every halfway expensive restaurant today, and Applewood is no different. Lamb torchon and a rabbit and veal forcemeat come with garlic crostini and stone ground mustard—no surprise. Although the rabbit and veal combination has a savory taste, the lamb feels tough and greasy, a homely sausage that crumbles more than melts in the mouth.

Another appetizer, or “small plate” in Applewood’s self-consciously hip restaurant language, is the crispy braised Vermont pork belly, which looks more like wanly flaccid Vermont pork fat. The tasteless, flabby cut lacks virtually any signs of meat, and a funky sunchoke puree fails to help this plate get back on track. Instead, carrot slaw dressed with abrasively hot roasted black pepper vinaigrette is left to disguise this dish’s utter paucity of flavor.

Luckily, grilled Maine lobster—an other protein from a decidedly nonlocal source—delivers a sweet and smoky taste

bundled within unusually tender claw and tail meat. Charred romaine lettuce enriches an otherwise merely good menu item, heightening the crustacean’s natural flavor with a well developed bitterness.

One of Applewood’s mainstay desserts, chocolate-filled doughnuts with coffee crème anglaise and a black and white milk shake, looks too decadent to miss. The pastries themselves appear rather unremarkable—diminutive spheres dusted with confectioner’s sugar—but concealed inside is a lusciously thick dark chocolate ganache that rescues this cliché offering from mediocrity.

For better quality and more original sweets, head to Warren Street and Fifth Avenue, where the Chocolate Room entices cocoa lovers with an extensive dessert menu. Chocolate sorbet typically feels grainy and cloying, but here the astoundingly refreshing ice seems impossibly smooth. Other reliable treats like chocolate layer cake, applauded in O magazine, possess an earthshakingly intense quantity of dark chocolate, helping to shake up a quiet neighborhood with bold flavors.

Neighborhood Watch



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Staff Editorial

Force-fed meal plan

In an e-mail to Barnard students on Wednesday, Dorothy Denburg, dean of Barnard College, announced a new dining policy that will require all its students to purchase a meal plan. Barnard's administration claims that the policy, which will take effect next fall, is designed to coincide with the opening of the Diana Center and foster a greater sense of community. However, it is an unfortunate imposition on a student's right to choose where to eat and represents a disconnect between students and administrators.

Currently, all Barnard first-years and Barnard Quad residents must purchase an unlimited meal plan. Under the expanded policy, first-years still must get unlimited plans, but sophomores, juniors, and seniors will be forced into limited ones: Sophomores living in the Quad will have to buy 150 meals and 300 points; non-Quad sophomores 40 meals and 800 points; and juniors and seniors 450 and 400 points, respectively. While the new plan is less restrictive for junior and senior Quad residents, it regrettably requires meal plans for everyone else.

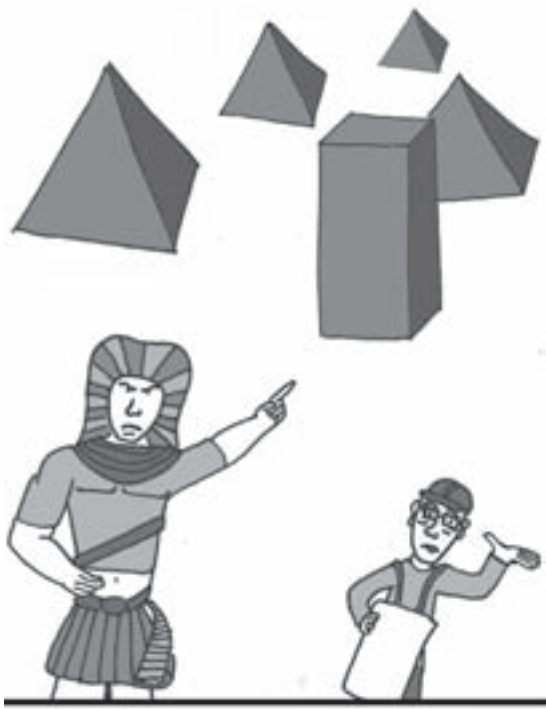
The problems with a mandatory meal plan are manifold. It is almost always more cost-efficient for students to cook their own meals or eat off campus, especially for students on a tight budget. Students with dietary restrictions or allergies may find the plan especially burdensome. Although Barnard promises to accommodate all dining needs, including halal, kosher, gluten-free, and vegan diets, Barnard has been unable to meet the dietary restrictions of all its students, as an editorial highlighted earlier this year. And while Barnard's efforts to forge a sense of community are commendable, enforcing an unpopular policy hardly seems like an effective way to bring students together. Students should ultimately have the right to choose where

they would like to eat, whether that be on campus or off.

Another troubling aspect of the decision is the role money played in it. The decision arose after Barnard's negotiations with Aramark, Barnard's dining provider. While it is unclear where the numbers for meals and points came from, if they resulted from business calculations, students—the customers—have a right to be informed. If Aramark requires a certain quota to meet its bottom line, Barnard may want to consider other options. Granted, Barnard claims that it has been in ongoing discussions with students for over a year about the new dining policy. But in reality, only two members of Barnard's Student Government Association were included in detailed discussions, and SGA was presented with the plan when the decision was nearly final. Additionally, most students seem surprised by the announcement, which has inspired a Facebook group in opposition. Barnard's use of community-building as a justification for the expanded meal plan is insufficient, and Barnard must seek to allay concerns of students who suspect that the policy change has financial motivations.

Just months after the unpopular decision to hold Barnard's Commencement in Levein Gymnasium, it has once again neglected the opinion of the student body. Although the Commencement decision was reversed after commendable dialogue with students, it seems that Barnard has not learned from its mistake. As was made clear by the reversal, changes can and do happen when students and administrators work together to find a solution. The Barnard administration must actively heed the legitimate concerns of students surrounding this surprising and disappointing policy change and consider revoking its decision.

JODY'S DRAWINGS!



The Pharaoh never shared Bernie's enthusiasm for postmodern architecture.

JODY ZELLMAN

On COP15

BY FREDERIQUE SIEGEL

As you are reading this, policymakers and activists from around the world are congregating at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC, in Copenhagen, also called COP15, to lay the groundwork for a global treaty to succeed the Kyoto Protocol, Dec. 7-18. Though many countries have not met their targets for greenhouse gas, or GHG, emissions reductions, most notable was the failure of the United States to ratify the treaty back in 1997. This time around, with a new, more progressive administration, there is hope that the United States will indeed take on a leadership position in the global struggle against climate change.

However, with a climate bill stalled in the Senate and the world waiting for the U.S. to commit to aggressive GHG emission goals, a binding international treaty is unlikely. Perhaps President Obama can use his uncanny ability to forge alliances and create coalitions while speaking at COP15 in order to breach some of the divides between developing and industrialized nations, or between the highest emitters and those most vulnerable to climate impacts. Nevertheless, if such a deal is not forged this year, COP15 will catalyze a worldwide interest in climate and energy issues before the next UNFCCC a year from now.

In light of this momentous conference, hundreds of youth groups from around the world have mobilized to lobby their leaders for action. Because we are likely to experience some of its early impacts within our lifetime, we feel the threat of climate change most acutely and are committed to finding a solution. As members of this generation we have formed our own small delegation. Allow us to present ourselves. We are recipients of either a Transatlantic Renewable Energy Fellowship—TREF—or a Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship, and are accredited through the Agents of Change program organized by SustainUS, a nonprofit organization advancing sustainable development and youth empowerment in the United States.

One of our principal goals at the conference will be to attend many events in which innovative strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation will be presented, and to make lasting connections with activists from around the world. This will include learning about schemes to combat deforestation, water scarcity, transportation emissions, and the spread of diseases.

As recent graduates, we understand that many college students will not be able to attend the conference because of finals, but there are other ways to be involved. That's why another goal of ours is to provide digestible and up-to-date information on COP15 as it happens for the general public. We have already begun compiling a blog at <http://renewableadvocates.wordpress.com>, which

chronicles events leading up to COP15 and thoughts and plans for the summit.

Some of you will remember Eric Holder's address at our Commencement ceremony last May. He talked about how formative his years at Columbia were. But most notably, he exhorted us to view this "difficult time for our country" as an "opportunity" to "set your sights beyond the careers that seem to offer the greatest financial reward to ones that will reward your soul and enrich our world." This conference will not be a quick fix to the climate threats we face. On the contrary, it will require years of advocacy, policymaking, deal brokering, and investment.

So I exhort you, fellow Columbians, if you are not already involved in environmental activities, to view this conference as an opportunity to become informed. Read about the negotiations, the proposed solutions, and the setbacks. And don't stop there. Engage in local and national politics, and voice your concerns about the consequences of climate change for our generation.

The author is a Columbia University alumna. She is currently working for the regional planning agency of Greater Stuttgart, where she is studying regional climate change vulnerability. Members of her group include Peden Harris, Michael Machala, Bridget Wandelt, Emily McGlynn, and Alison Brown on the TREF fellowship, as well as Bosch past and present fellows Brooke Heaton and Brian Marrs.

As I See It



111TH AND BROADWAY

JASPER CLYATT

The photographer is a Columbia College first-year. He is a Spectator staff photographer.

The death of spontaneity



MARK HAY

UNUSUAL,
UNSEEMLY,
OR
UNNOTICED

Initiative at Columbia was being handed over to the control of Columbia's Graduate School of the Arts. Honestly, this feels like a nonissue to me. I can only conclude that one misstep on the part of the administration has allowed for all of this Sturm und Drang, and it represents a common root of much of the petty malaise on campus. The administrators thought it was not a big deal, and they did not want to bother us.

Spectator had to request information on this change outright—it was not publicized, because, paraphrasing President Bollinger and SoA Dean Carol Becker, it wrought little to no perceptible change in the way the institution runs. This has led to accusations of a "clandestine and un-inclusive" nature to the move, to use the phrasing of the student group Advocates of the Arts Initiative, when in truth the case seems to be more about mercy for our boredom. Grumbling has ensued about the perceived flippancy of this response, but what really struck me was the following statement by Becker: "Administrative restructurings happen all the time in institutions. Students are

Maybe it is just because we've been starved for a little drama and crisis on this campus recently, or maybe this really matters more than it appears to me, but a group of students have been raising quite the hullabaloo since the Nov. 1 revelation that the Arts

probably not even aware that positions that used to report to the provost are no longer reporting to the provost."

When I read this, my mind snapped back to an incident on March 2, 2009 involving our recent Rhodes scholar, Raphael Graybill (congratulations, Raphael!). That night, according to a Bwog report, Graybill and the ski team attempted to build a snow ramp on the Low Library steps, as had been done several years before. Public Safety immediately arrived to break up the team's efforts, but Graybill stood his ground, reasoning politely with the officer based on precedent, the team's injury waivers, and the fact that he had cleared this action with the Facilities and Public Safety departments that day. The officer still refused. When Graybill asked to whom he could speak, he was told that only the OK from Bollinger would make it all right. A little bit of spontaneity died that night because chains of command, order, and appeals broke down. Variants of this case pop up often.

Students attempt to safeguard spontaneous events, but are ultimately blocked due to any number of constraints (space, funding, permission), but mainly because they do not know whose name they must throw around to make Public Safety go away and let them build a snow ramp. And the process of finding out is a pain—I say this from experience—as responses to inquiries usually return long after the moment of inspiration and action has passed. It is, then, a lack of clarity on chains of command and the inability of students to effectively appeal their cases that so often give the kiss of death to amusing eureka moments.

Say, for instance, I am a fan of the concept of a spontaneous musical, replete with plants and props scattered all over

College Walk (which I am). This would not disturb any planned events, although it would exist around them, and would be quite noticeable, to say the least. As it stands, I run the same risk as Graybill of being stopped by some official for creating an obstruction, or hindering an event, or some other such infraction. Granted, my example is silly, and Graybill's case, with its threat of injury, inspires a little more leering by officials. But in either case, with no outlined procedure, no clear line of appeals, and no simple way of discerning if such a line exists—at least not as quickly as I would need to—spontaneous events cannot occur on this campus in large-scale or creative cases. And it is because such administrative changes occur so often, and are made without any announcement to the general student body because the changes will not affect daily functions, that this happens.

So long as we are unaware of even the minor transitions, students are unable to act quickly and on a small, non-group scale. This is a blow to community and a blow to fond memories associated with the University, and as such, a possible blow to unconditional alumni donations. Perhaps every single change would over-saturate the news, but knowing these changes is vital at one point or another to everyone. Couldn't the administration at least give us a clearly available chart on student activities pages, in student spaces, or something of the sort? I want assurances that my musical will go off without a hitch.

Mark Hay is a Columbia College sophomore. Unusual, Unseemly, or Unnoticed runs alternate Fridays. opinion@columbiaspectator.com

Correction

In its Dec. 7 editorial "Under1Roof needs renovation," the editorial board mistakenly stated that Perspective on Diversity is an event offered by the Office of Multicultural Affairs. The event is in fact coordinated by the Office of

Undergraduate Admissions.

An editing error in the final sentence of Daniel Safran-Hon's Dec. 8 op-ed "Friends of Israel, indeed" resulted in phrasing that misrepresented the author's opinion. The printed op-ed states that a given

scenario "may not be the one and only solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," whereas the author's original meaning was that the scenario "may not solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict." We regret these errors.

Navigating Manhattanville

Last week, the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division rejected the use of eminent domain in Columbia's planned expansion into Manhattanville. The decision ignited media frenzy and threw the question of Columbia's expansion plans back under the spotlight. Today, Spectator Opinion invites four students to express their views on this latest twist in the Manhattanville saga. The various ways they approach the question of Manhattanville—and even, in some cases, the diverging conclusions they draw from the same approach—indicate the diversity of opinion on this controversial issue and the centrality of this polarizing expansion plan to the identity of our university.

The illusion of competing interests

BY BEN TOTUSHEK AND TOM REED

The New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division's decision to deny use of eminent domain in Manhattanville is not only good for the property owners involved, but it's also good for the community of West Harlem, the City of New York, the underprivileged, and even for the University itself. Everybody won on Dec. 3, with the exception of University President Bollinger, whose fate, as pertains to this case, hangs in the proverbial balance, pending appeal. Why? Simply put, there is one main benefit, nondivoriceable from any of our interests, that outweighs the rest in this matter: sound legal precedent. That is the argument I will be making: in response to the majority of critics I will show that this was not some slapdash, biased decision on the part of the appellate court. To put it more boldly, it would be most wise for President Bollinger to let sleeping dogs lie in this case by asking the Empire State Development Corporation, or ESDC—the legislative agency acting on Columbia's behalf—not to appeal the decision, for consolidating this collective victory in such a moving show of humility would do much to cancel the dishonor and infamy brought upon the University in this legal charade, while moving to unravel it can only result in further damage to all our interests.

Such strong words demand similarly strong support. For sound basis I rely on the recent Atlantic Yards, AY, decision by the N.Y. Court of Appeals. Even ESDC spokesperson Warner Johnston suggests the AY case has crucial bearing: "ESDC believes the

decision ... to be wrong and inconsistent with established law, as consistently articulated ... most recently with respect to ESDC's Atlantic Yards project." Is that really "the case"?

But the standard of review in the AY case is tailor-made to uphold the Manhattanville decision. As Chief Judge Lippman writes for the majority, "a public purpose or use—is ordinarily the province of the Legislature, not the Judiciary, and the actual specification of the use as public has been largely left to quasi-legislative administrative agencies [the ESDC]; where, as here, 'those bodies have made their finding, not corruptly or irrationally or baselessly, there is nothing for the courts to do about it.'"

If corruption and/or irrationality on the part of the ESDC are all petitioners have to demonstrate, however, then the case is closed. At least that's the gist of what Justice Catterson writes for the majority. In his decision, Catterson rejects the finding of systemic blight, noting, "It is critical to recognize that EDC's 2002 West Harlem Master Plan which was created prior to the scheme to balkanize Manhattanville for Columbia's benefit found no blight ... in Manhattanville." Words like "balkanize," "preposterous," and "idiocy" foreshadow Justice Catterson's ultimate findings.

As public interest attorney and CPC member Kenny Schaeffer says: "ESDC approved the use of eminent domain in Manhattanville on two separate grounds—that there was a finding of 'blight,' and that Columbia's expansion qualifies as a 'civic' purpose—and Justice Catterson's opinion blasts both arguments out of the water." Regarding blight, by early 2004, "Columbia either purchased or gained control over most of the properties ... It also forced out tenant businesses, ultimately vacating ... 50 percent or more of the tenants." He notes the disrepair in the area was mainly Columbia-owned. ESDC delayed doing a blight study until long after Columbia had acquired

the properties that would constitute the study. The eventual study would (a) end up being conducted by Columbia's own consultant AKRE, (b) use subjective, more relaxed criteria than the AY blight study by the same firm, (c) thus create "an inseparable conflict"; and (d) for these reasons be duplicated by Earth Tech using "the same flawed methodology." In other words, their finding is irrational at best, corrupt at worst, and entirely baseless. As to civic purpose, the most closely related case was the New York Stock Exchange, which obviously had a public purpose of increasing the financial power and prestige of the city. No such public benefit is attached to private universities; the benefit is mainly Columbia's. He cites a case involving Pace University as support.

In conclusion, the record provided by the petitioners tells a withering story of bad faith and corruption on the part of the state, enough to void its findings by even the narrow AY standard. And this is a good thing! For students and faculty, it means that we don't necessarily have to belong to an institution that runs roughshod over the constitution. For the community, it sets an important precedent in a type of situation that happens all too often in New York. For Bollinger, yeah, it's not so good. But a prophetic quote from Justice O'Connor suggests that all hope for PrezBo is not lost: "Any private property may now be taken for the benefit of another private party, but the fallout from this decision will not be random. The beneficiaries are likely to be those citizens with disproportionate influence and power in the political process, including large corporations and development firms."

Ben Totushek is a student in the School of General Studies. He is a member of Student Coalition on Expansion and Gentrification, SCEG. Tom Reed is a Columbia College junior majoring in English and comparative literature. He is also a member of SCEG.

The proper role of government

BY JOHN DAVID FERNANDEZ

Last week, the ongoing debate on Columbia's expansion into Manhattanville was temporarily decided in court. The important aspect to note in this is that the objection at hand is not with the end goal of Columbia's expansion, but rather the means as to how it is being completed.

The official ruling, penned by Justice James M. Catterson, reads as follows: "to benefit a private elite education institution is violative of the Takings Clause of the US Constitution, article 1, § 7 of the New York Constitution, and the 'first principles of the social contract.'" This is vaguely reminiscent of John Locke, one of the first libertarians in Western philosophy, who theorized that the only purpose for legitimate government was one that was strictly limited to the protection of property rights, given that property is derived from a fundamental understanding of inalienable and intrinsic natural rights. Government in the Lockean sense of social contract theory comes into existence by a group of people in a given territorial region voluntarily consenting to having a third-party arbiter to address the inconveniences that may arise in a state of nature or anarchy. In this variety of conception, the state acts as a mere night watchman, whose role is emphasized as providing legal and protective services like cops or detectives for crimes that are violations of people's natural rights, such as murder, assault, theft, or fraud. It's no shock to see that so much of John Locke's political philosophy has been a significant influence on the framing of the American government and modern libertarianism.

The minarchist strain of libertarianism, which is essentially invigorated in Locke's writings, offers a clear-cut position on this current debacle. Everyone has an absolute natural right to retain and dispose of his or her property, meaning that if you so choose, you are free to relegate ownership rights to your property in exchange for money or goods or for free. Similarly, this means you have a right to retain your property free from any form of initiatory aggression that attempts to damage, hurt, or take over your property. This would constitute the basis for an act of coercion. If the mafia or gang tried to steal or take over your local store against your will, this would be an act of coercion. Eminent domain in this sense is a variety of theft, unless it is initiated by the state as opposed to a local gang. Dictatorships in Cuba, Russia, and Venezuela were involved in systematic forms of eminent domain, mass "publicization" of private property into the hands of the state. The only difference between that and our current situation is that property is being handed over to another private entity, in this case, Columbia University. Generally speaking, eminent domain is a prettified term for what should appropriately be called what it is—expropriation and redistribution.

What's interesting is that in spite of Locke's influence on the American Revolution, the philosophy of the Founding Fathers, and our current form of civil government, his ideas on expropriation of private property are more or less absent when it comes to the composition of the U.S. Constitution. The U.S. Constitution and most local government constitutions permit eminent domain, as is being done in this very case with the Manhattanville dispute. Locke wrote in the "Second Treatise of Government," "The supreme power cannot take from any man any part of his property without his own consent: for the preservation of property being the end of government..." and this continues to hold today. In this sense, libertarianism should be seen not as a new ethical philosophy—on the contrary, it is merely the continuation of ideas that have already been long-established. We learn about Locke at the end of the first semester of Columbia College's trademark course, Contemporary Civilization. Were Locke alive, he would support the libertarian position that is vehemently against all forms of "eminent domain," regardless of the justification for it.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore. He is the vice president of Columbia University Libertarians.

Not the time for silence

BY KATE O'GORMAN

Space reservations at Columbia reveal the dire need for more space on our campus. As the daughter of a scientist who was attracted to a university largely because of a new lab, I deeply understand the need for more research and office facilities on our campus. Yet accusations stemming from this week's New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division decision have greatly called into question the methods Columbia University has chosen to employ throughout this proposed expansion. My question to our community is: What are we willing to sacrifice to obtain the much needed space for more research facilities and other campus buildings?

I am not willing to sacrifice the character of this University. And, if the claims made in the decision are true, I believe that sacrificing our university's character is exactly what we have done during this expansion. By purchasing buildings and neglecting them so as to blight the area, Columbia has been portrayed as acting in a completely unethical manner that violates both the values we espouse and the intended civil benefit of our expansion.

A state may condemn land under eminent domain if the state is able to prove that "the area in which the project is to be located is a substandard or insanitary area, or is in danger of becoming a substandard or insanitary area and tends to impair or arrest the sound growth and development of the municipality." This

rule has been taken to mean that an area is blighted if the buildings are not maintained properly, abandoned, or significantly underused. Thus, if the state can prove that these conditions exist, land may be taken under eminent domain.

In Columbia's Manhattanville expansion, the fact that the area was blighted was one of the considerations of the state to use eminent domain. Yet whether this area was in fact blighted and how it came to be perceived as such is under great scrutiny. The court argues the following sequence of events: Before Columbia began actively pursuing the land, there were no reports that demonstrated that Manhattanville was designated as blighted. In fact, some reports showed great economic potential in the area. However, it was only after Columbia began acquiring buildings that the area was designated as blighted. The court points out that the Empire State Development Corporation and the Economic Development Corporation, a city entity, seemingly conspired to use eminent domain based on blight. Meanwhile, the court argues, Columbia acquired buildings in the proposed site and—through forcing out tenants and neglecting these buildings—created the very blighted conditions that would help the University obtain the existing buildings through eminent domain.

These are incredibly hefty accusations made against Columbia that would seemingly elicit a response. Yet, with the exception of few questions answered by President Bollinger in his Freedom of Speech & Press course, the University has not commented on the court decision. As a student of Columbia, I need and am calling for a response from the administration to these allegations. While the University may not be a direct party in the case, it is seemingly accused of purposefully causing the deterioration of the very community

it is supposedly enhancing through this expansion. If these claims are true, I believe that we have sacrificed too much of Columbia's character in this expansion.

The expansion has raised a number of ethical questions: the level of community participation has been highly scrutinized, we have failed to allay concerns over potential environmental issues, negotiations with Florida have been highly publicized, and now the potential purposeful blighting of the area has called the entire process into question. While each of these issues has renewed dialogue on the Columbia expansion, we must continue our conversations about how we can most ethically expand.

While some may view this decision as a vindication and others may see it as a setback, we should rather view this court decision as an opportunity—an opportunity for us to reexamine the manner of our expansion, address the legitimate and existing concerns, and work more closely with our neighbors as we consider Manhattanville. We must be more transparent in the way that we are conducting this expansion, to both local and Columbia communities. We must ensure that we are working with and benefiting the local communities as much as possible as we look for solutions to our campus space issue. This court case can be the catalyst for reexamination if we seize this opportunity.

But we cannot start on this path until Columbia responds to this court case. For those of us in the Columbia community looking now to the administration, the administration must take this first step as soon as possible.

The author is a Barnard College senior majoring in political science. She is president of the Columbia University College Democrats.

The devotion of John B. Pine

BY SAMUEL ROTH

John Locke imagined a golden-age past in which the fruits of the earth vastly exceeded our ability to consume them. "No body could think himself injured by the drinking of another man" when there remained "a whole river of the same water left him to quench his thirst," Locke mused. But eventually, population and private wealth made England into a much more complicated place. Inevitably, man exceeded his terrestrial resources.

So it was in the summer of 1891. At the time, Columbia was seen as a conservative institution, "a sleepy little place" all in Gothic architecture. University trustees' children preferred Harvard or Yale. The "New York Recorder" declared Princeton, Cornell, and UVA better known. Columbia's constituent schools and faculties existed in loose association rather than as parts of a cohesive whole. Worst of all, the University's site on 49th Street was near a noisy train and was far too small for the growing institution's needs.

Columbia would have to move. John B. Pine, CC 1877, L 1879, and clerk of the Board of Trustees, identified the Bloomingdale Asylum's pastoral grounds uptown as an ideal site. But for Low, Pine, and their associates, it would be an uphill battle. Columbia's wealth didn't approach the \$2 million price, and Low's energetic fundraising disappointed expectations. To make matters worse, in March 1892, State Sen. George Washington Plunkitt introduced a bill for the construction of 119th Street between Amsterdam and Broadway—right through Columbia's new land.

The present situation is shot through with parallels. While our peer institutions snap up research buildings and plan massive new complexes, student groups and faculty at Columbia struggle for space. Expansion is as necessary as it was a century ago. But Locke's England has spread across New York. No

longer do open fields beckon the institution's use—we are pressed up against our neighbors and cannot grow without imposing upon them.

Thus Columbia has once again run into a government obstacle. This time, it comes in the form of a ruling of the New York State Supreme Court blocking Columbia's efforts to acquire two businesses in Manhattanville through the policy of eminent domain, which allows the government to compel owners of land to sell in deference to the public interest.

Perhaps the court was right to rule that way. John Locke, after all, envisioned a government whose first responsibility would be the defense of property rights. In describing his vision, however, Locke recognized that enjoying the government's defense meant giving up a measure of liberty. No more could man do as he pleased—laws would constrict his agency. A degree of fealty

to the state, whose laws preserve the common good, preempts our individualist desires.

I grimly accept that eminent domain places a burden on the owners of the two businesses in question. I acknowledge, with heavy heart, that the planned expansion will require the limited residential population of Columbia-owned apartment buildings in Manhattanville

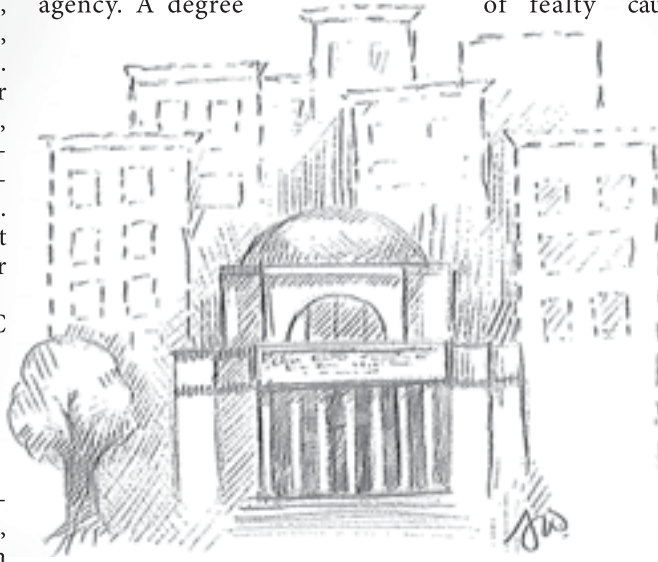


ILLUSTRATION BY JOANNA WANG

to move. While I would point out Columbia's commitment to facilitating their relocation, in part through the construction of a new apartment building, I do not pretend that the tenants will not face difficulties. Yet we, and the court, must recognize that the matter at hand has effects that extend far beyond this time and this place.

Plunkitt's challenge inspired a surprising institutional unity. An alumni petition to the mayor yielded 5,000 signatures. With the help of Mayor Grant, himself a graduate of the Law School, Low convinced Plunkitt to move the proposed street one block north.

Even as it prepared for its move, however, Columbia's finances were far from settled. For some time, the University would have to work out of what few buildings it could afford to construct. Nevertheless, Low urged careful planning for the future. "It may be many years before the whole plot is covered in buildings," he cautioned, and "perhaps the final buildings in our plan may not be erected for a hundred years." 117 years later, the final building of the Morningside plan remains under construction. Seth Low is no longer University president. Indeed, the library that bears his name is no longer a library. The politicians and academics, philanthropists and schemers of his day are, like Low himself, gone. Columbia survives. In 100 years, we too will be lost and mostly forgotten. Whether Columbia stands then will depend on whether we, like Low, can secure its future. The fealty of the court must be to the public good. I would argue that the preservation of this institution directly serves that good, but I defer on the question to the wiser and the better informed. We owe our allegiance to Columbia University.

John Pine died in 1922 after sitting 32 years on the Board of Directors. He had never been compensated for his service. There is no Pine Hall in Morningside today. But he did have the good sense to pass away during the tenure of the redoubtable Nicholas Murray Butler, who brought his full grandiose eloquence to bear on the occasion. "It may be doubted whether in all the long history of Columbia any of her sons has loved her more ardently," Butler wrote, "or has served her with more tireless devotion."

The author is a Columbia College sophomore.



Watch out Cornell, Columbia owns the Mega Bowl



LISA LEWIS
THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID

All right, Cornell football—it's on. Last Sunday I had the privilege of attending the post-season Columbia football banquet—an event that I believe nobody from Spec Sports since the late, great Carolyn Braff has attended.

OK, so maybe the only reason I got in was because nobody double-checked the guest list.

I got dressed up and marched up the steps to Low Library on Sunday afternoon, wondering what kind of ceremony could properly commemorate the sacrifices that this year's seniors have made for the sake of revitalizing the program. I came with no expectations except that the food would probably be subpar, given my experiences with University-issue foodstuffs.

The room was full of people who were (mostly) taller and larger than me, with the exception of most of the girlfriends and Jared Morine. (Sorry, Baby J, I had to.)

Poor Jared. Coach Wilson was in fine form, indeed, taking hilarious shots at anybody and everybody. Jared got commended for his performance this season, coupled with a few zingers about how Jared's girlfriend had finally hit high school, and how they'd be attending the prom together in the spring.

(As far as I know, this is a lie. However, it is common knowledge that Columbia football players are known for being ladykillers. Or something.)

Coach didn't stop there. My personal favorite coach-ism from the evening was when he gave recognition to the Fred and Wilma Flintstone head coach of junior varsity football, Greg Sigler. Or possibly when the keynote speaker, a bigwig from Merrill Lynch, came and gave all the offensive skill players nail glue. Not to use, of course! That's not kosher with the NCAA. But to sleep with under their pillows at night, to become one with the glue.

Within all the comedy of the evening, there was something else that ought to have been comical: a silver mixing bowl with a football in it, sitting next to the Liberty Cup that the football team won back from Fordham this year. However, this was not just any mixing bowl. It was the Mega Bowl.

Haven't you heard of the Mega Bowl?

Contrary to popular opinion, Lou Miller's legacy at Columbia is not going to be for being the all-time sack leader. Records get broken all the time. Lou's legacy is going to be for taking initiative and single-handedly starting up the New York State Ivy Football Championship between Cornell and Columbia, called the Mega Bowl.

Yeah, you read that right. The week before the Cornell game, murmurs started to echo through the locker room. "Mega Bowl!" Lou decided that it would be that fateful week when the team would need a little extra motivation to snap its losing streak. Soon, coach Wilson got on board. The team started referring to the game as the Mega Bowl.

On the sidelines after the win that week, I remember hearing the entire team chanting "Mega Bowl!" on their way to the locker room. I didn't get it. Some mystic new good luck ritual? A prayer to the gods that make our defense so deft at getting interceptions?

I get it now. This is a throwdown. Cornell, they're looking at you. There has been talk for years that Columbia needs a real rival. There's been talk in recent years of starting up a traveling trophy between Ithaca and the Big Apple. Somebody just needed to take the initiative to do it. Well, that time has come.

Cornell, we bought the trophy, we brought the trophy, and then we proceeded to win it from you, 30-20. And the best part? You didn't even know that it was happening.

Big Red, I think occasions like this are the reason they invented the following phrase: You. Got. Pwned.

According to Wilson's speech at the awards ceremony, the trophy cost six dollars and change, and you, too, can head to your nearest Piggly Wiggly to get your very own Mega Bowl. No, not a replica. Like, the real deal. (It'll be in the baking supply aisle.)

Is this going to be the next little brown jug? Will media talent have to fill time in their live broadcasts in coming years talking about how the entire idea and name for the trophy may or may not be ripped straight from the script of "Semi-Pro"?

Thanks to Lou, we now have a definitive way to answer the age-old query of who owns New York. Judging by the trophy count this season, I think we all know the answer to that one.

Lisa Lewis is a Barnard College senior majoring in economics.
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File photo

BREAKING THE BARRIER | The Columbia men's basketball team will look to transcend the .500 mark against Bryant tomorrow afternoon. The Lions will count on Patrick Foley, who added 11 points, four rebounds, and three assists against Wagner College last weekend, to lead them to success.

Light Blue seeks second straight road victory

Lions look to send Bulldogs to tenth straight loss this season

BY ZACH GLUBIAK
Spectator Staff Writer

COLUMBIA AT BRYANT

Smithfield, R.I., Saturday, 1 p.m.



On Saturday afternoon Columbia men's basketball will face off against Bryant in Rhode Island. The Lions (4-4) will look to deny the Bulldogs (0-9) their first win as the Light Blue continues its nonconference preparation for Ivy League play.

The game will be a good benchmark for Columbia and its ambitions for an Ivy League title. On Wednesday Bryant faced off against Yale—a 69-54 decision in favor of the Ancient Eight Bulldogs. Many of the Lions' opponents this year have also played future conference opponents. Big East powerhouse Syracuse has played both Cornell, the defending league champs, and Columbia this year—beating both soundly after each provided stout first-half competition.

On Dec. 2, Bucknell took Cornell to overtime in a game the Big Red would win 104-98. Columbia had beaten Bucknell 73-59 in regulation a week earlier on a 30-9 second-half run. Despite Bryant's winless season so far, head coach Joe Jones need only look at its performance against Bucknell to realize his next opponent can be dangerous. The Bison only beat the Bulldogs by three earlier this year at a tournament held

in Providence. Bryant also played competitively with Brown, losing 70-68.

The Bulldogs did not trouble the Harvard Crimson, however, who handed Bryant an embarrassing 77-51 loss in Cambridge.

The Lions will once more get a chance to gauge their progress towards Ivy League success by comparing their result with the Brown's two-point nail-biter, Yale's comfortable 15-point win, and Harvard's 26-point blowout.

The last time out Columbia used a strong first half and a 25-point halftime cushion to prevent another winless opponent, Wagner, from getting into the win column with a furious second-half comeback. Noruwa Agho, the Light Blue's leading scorer and breakout star this winter, delivered a career-high 30 points on the night, and junior Brian Grimes scored 17 points and grabbed 12 rebounds.

So far on the season, Agho is averaging a team-high 18.1 points and is leading the Lions with 64.3 percent 3-point shooting. Grimes is leading the team in rebounds

SEE MEN'S BASKETBALL, page 4

MEN'S BASKETBALL STARTING LINEUP



Noruwa Agho

PPG: 18.1

RPG: 3.4

APG: 2.5



Patrick Foley

PPG: 11.3

RPG: 2.0

APG: 2.8



Niko Scott

PPG: 7.6

RPG: 1.5

APG: 1.8



John Daniels

PPG: 4.9

RPG: 4.9

APG: 0.5



Brian Grimes

PPG: 11.4

RPG: 7.5

APG: 1.0

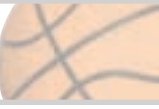
Courtesy of Columbia Athletics

Women's basketball looks for fourth win of the season

BY MICHAEL ZHONG
Spectator Staff Writer

COLUMBIA VS. MONMOUTH

Levin Gym, Sunday, 1 p.m.



File photo

LEADING THE WAY | Senior Sara Yee has led the Lions' attack all season and will lead the Lions again as they take on Monmouth on Sunday.

The Columbia women's basketball team will play its final home game of the calendar year when it hosts Monmouth (3-5) this Sunday. The last time these two teams met was Dec. 13, 2004, when Columbia lost 56-54.

Exactly five years later, the circumstances are very different. The 2004-2005 Lions finished their season 6-21 in Columbia head coach Paul Nixon's first year with the team. Since then, Columbia has improved, and this year's Light Blue stands 5-4 versus tough opposition so far this season.

The squad that played for Monmouth in the 2004 game was experienced, with every starter being an upperclassman. This year's starting roster includes three freshmen, all of whom could use some experience from the 2005 Hawks team.

Of the three freshmen, guard Alysha Womack leads the team with 9.6 points in 28 minutes of action per game but has shot just 29 percent on the court. Forward Abby Martin, currently averaging 8.3 rebounds and 7.4 points per game, has provided fresh energy for the Hawks.

Martin contributed 12 rebounds in Monmouth's last game, which Monmouth lost 67-42 to Penn State. Monmouth shot

just 18 percent, falling behind 32-13 by the end of the first half. The Hawks were also overpowered in the paint, getting out-rebounded 51-37 in the game.

This doesn't bode well for the Hawks, given that the Lions' Judie Lomax leads the Ivy League with 12.6 rebounds a game and is coming off a 30-point, 16-rebound performance versus Wagner on Tuesday. Lomax dominated against the nonconference foe on the glass as well as on the floor. In addition, the Lions' defense consistently ranks among the top in the league, and this year is no exception. The Lions are third in the league, allowing 63 points a game, and held Wagner to 49, cruising to a 73-49 win.

Lomax, a junior, has led the Lions all season. Lomax has averaged 15.9 points per game this season, the leader on the team in that category. In addition, Lomax leads the Lions in minutes per game this season, averaging 37.7 minutes per game. Lomax also leads the Lions in field goal percentage this season, shooting 58.3 percent from the field this season.

Throughout the season, the upstart

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, page 4