The new semester has started and has already aged by one month, although it may seem even longer to some. What with the course shopping, class registering and attempted fine balancing between our academic and social lives. We hope those that are new have settled into their new home. The various floor meetings and socials geared around welcoming new and returning residents have gone off well. Read more about one of these events on page 2 of this newsletter.

Throughout the year, CA’s from both the North and South Areas of Residential Services, will be hosting a series of diverse programs to build community and meet the needs of our residents. These occasions will be a great opportunity for all residents, both new and returning, to get to know their neighbors, utilize the resources on TC and Columbia’s campuses, and explore New York City. If you have ideas for activities that you would like to see, please do not hesitate to let us know. In addition, residential services have made available some funds for residents to propose and initiate programs to further cater to all within the residential community.

In the weeks and months to come, there will be events sponsored by the Office of Residential Services, to build on the welcome events that were so wonderfully arranged by the CA’s. These programs are a great opportunity to learn the ins and outs of Residential Services, to meet other students and families, and to begin contributing your ideas for social and personal development programs (read as activities or community gatherings). I look forward to seeing all of you in the coming year.

The South Area residential office is set on the ground floor of the Whittier building and both James Alford (Area Director - AD) and Holly Prozzo (Assistant Area Director - AAD) welcome residents who might have questions or just wish to pop in to say hi or check out the study and conference meeting space available in the South Area office quarter. The North Area Residential Office is on the first floor of Bancroft. Amy Rothberg (AD) and yours truly, Dominic Mentor (AAD) works from the BA 101 apartment that has been converted into office space, so as to be closer to the residents of the north area. Please feel free to visit with residential questions or concerns. Again, a warm welcome to the second month of the new Spring year and continue to attend the activities and programs in our community!

The courtyard view from the Whittier Residential building - a study nook and space to catch some sun.

### Important Teachers College Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 1st</td>
<td>Workshop on Resumes for International Students from: 2:00PM - 3:00PM, Venue: 138 Horace Mann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 9th</td>
<td>The last day to deposit Ph.D. dissertation with the Office of Doctoral Studies and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences for the February 14 award of degree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 9th</td>
<td>The last day to file or to renew an application, in Registrar’s Office, for Master’s degrees and certificates to be awarded in May. (After this date, application may be filed only until February 15 upon payment of $15 late fee.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 13th</td>
<td>Note: Last day to change points in variable-point courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 24th</td>
<td>Black History Month Gala Event An annual event—the culminating celebrations of a month long tribute to Black History. This year’s theme is Sankofa- an Akan word meaning: “we must go back and reclaim our past so we can move forward.” There will be food, laughter, singing, dancing and tributes to those gone before us and those paving ways for the future. The Gala is open to the entire TC, community and we look forward to your attendance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2nd</td>
<td>Spring Vacate Forms due This form is available on the Student Info System site where classes are added and dropped, credits checked etc. Click on the 4th tab, titled Housing for the vacate form.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cinema Travels

While students are traveling back and forth between classes, Community Assistants Aisha Burrell and Vickie Ndibo are finding the time to take trips every month with a little help from the cinema. “Cinema Travels” is the title of the year long series that has been underway since September, where the travelers started in New York City with Spike Lee’s movie “Inside Man”.

For every month, the South Area CA’s have guided residents on a tour featuring movies from different countries around the world. Thus far, their cinematic travels have spanned into India, Japan, and this month will feature two movies from Brazil. “City of God”, directed by Fernando Mereilles and Katia Land, will be featured on Thursday, February 8th, at 9:30 p.m. in the Whittier Café. A continuation of the Brazilian film will take place on Thursday, February 22nd, with episodes of the series “City of Men”, which follows some of the minor characters, from adolescence to adulthood, from the movie “City of God”.

Take a break from your travels to classes, and join the Cinema Travels tour group this month!

For more information, please feel free to contact Aisha Burrell at aeb56@columbia.edu or Vickie Ndibo at vmn4@columbia.edu.

An Inconvenient Truth

A few of the CA’s will focus some of their programs on environmental awareness. To start this off, An Inconvenient truth” Al Gore’s documentary, will be shown this Thursday, February 1st at 7:00PM in the NRH TV Lounge. A discussion is planned for after the show centered around ways in which we as a residential community can contribute to protect our environment. It would be great to have people from different buildings/areas planning this. We are also thinking about future programs about this issue such as a "trade your plastic bags for fabric bags" day, and some enviro aware activities for children. Info on this matter can be accessed at http://www.climatecrisis.net/takeaction/

More info can be found at the South African Writing Studio. It offers info on the film, the filmmakers behind the scenes and some interesting facts on Global warming. Another reason to watch is that the film which covers the perils of global warming, scored two Oscar nominations: for best documentary feature and best original song. Residents should feel free to submit articles/photos on this film show event to the Res Newsletter on issues raised and how we as a residential community can do our part in stemming the tide of the climate crisis.

Mardi Gras Party Time

Mardi Gras (French for “Fat Tuesday”) is a widely-held celebration in many places, near and far; however, the most famous of them all is recognized annually in the city of New Orleans, Louisiana. Mardi Gras Carnival came to New Orleans through its French heritage in 1699. The season of parades, balls (some of them masquerade balls), and king cake parties, begins on the Twelfth Night after Christmas (January 6th), and continues until Ash Wednesday, beginning the season of Lent. Mardi Gras is normally 47 days before Easter Sunday.

Come out to celebrate the holiday with the Office of Residential Services on Sunday, February 11th from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. The event will start in the NRH TV Lounge and spill out into the NRH connecting passage hallway. Wear your favorite mask, eat some authentic New Orleans cuisine, and learn all about “the greatest free show on Earth.”

Interesting Facts:
The Film, An Inconvenient Truth, is based on a presentation Al Gore has been giving since 1989. Paramount Classics has committed 5% of their domestic theatrical gross for their film, An Inconvenient Truth, with a minimum guarantee of $500,000 to be donated to a new bipartisan climate effort, Alliance for Climate Protection.

There is strong evidence that the costumes of modern day Mardi Gras Indians are a cross between Africa ritual costumes and that of the Native American.
Black History Month - Free Film Screening

The African Film Festival, New York was established in 1993. Screenings showed critically acclaimed releases of feature- and short-format works by African directors of the European and American Diaspora. In the 1950s and ’60s, African filmmakers began to create images of post-colonial Africa with nuanced understanding of Africa’s cultural diversity. Over the last half a century, African cinema has become a unique blend of aesthetic experimentation, history, and politics. The impetus for themes such as colonialism, post-independence corruption, and chronicles of “tribal” customs often erupts from the ironies of contemporary life. But African filmmakers also draw from springs of myth, fantasy, humor, and magic to nourish a narrative sensibility in which tradition and modernity encounter each other. This kind of art is a powerful intellectual and emotional force for social change. African film has evolved from its early exploration of colonialism into a new, Diasporic, and international consciousness. For the past decade, African Film Festival, Inc. has bridged the divide between post-colonial Africa and the American public through the medium of film. The African Film Festival invites you to celebrate Black History Month at the Schomburg Center, New York’s prestigious and foremost research center on the Black experience.

Please join them for a screening of the film Liberia: America’s Stepchild, followed by a discussion with the filmmaker and guest panelists. This event will take place on Thursday, February 15th 2007 at 7:00 pm. At the Schomburg Center. Adapted From: www.africanfilmny.org/aff_fest.html

Follow the hotspot map links. >>

Guest Housing @ TC

Need a place to house friends and family visiting you? There are many holidays and long weekends coming up and the guest housing at Teachers College Guest Housing, offers the solution to the bothersome search for decent and convenient lodging for friends and family who want to visit you and mesmerizing New York City.

The accommodation is conveniently located near MTA subway lines, which is a great travel means for guests to have access to the rest of New York City. The other great advantage is that the security offered is 24 / 7, and the lodging is on campus. The location is also ideal as your guests can travel and feast from around the world in a 10 block radius from some of the diverse restaurants and bars on the West Side. Your guests will be able to travel and taste the world because of the proximity of these delicious eateries.

It is also suitably situated on the M4 bus line which will take your guests along Central Park East, along the Museum Mile, past F.A.O. Schwarz Toy store and the huge Glass Cubed Apple store, which provides an excellent view of the Park. Apart from being able to see much of Manhattan on this bus, the M4 bus also stops at the famous Cloisters Monastery Museum, for those who wish to see a treasure chest of art and architecture of medieval Europe. The Cloisters museum and gardens offers elevated views of Manhattan and the Hudson River.

A point to bear in mind when considering guest housing: All arrival and departure registered days must be on a business day. Call TEL: 212-678-3235 to enquire about availability.

Check the mélange of Andean ingredients as well as ‘ajies used at this site covering gourmet Peruvian food.

South African Wine Tours can go on for days and you would still want to taste at every little quaint wine farm where the previously disenfranchised farm workers now own a stake in the farms.

Jessica’s Jolly Potluck

On January 20th, CA extraordinaire, Jessica hosted a Potluck for the BA residents who live on the 4th, 5th and 6th floors. As is common for the BA residents, the response was overwhelmingly enthusiastic which resulted in a wonderful turnout.

The residents in Bancroft Hall represent such a global village, that we had representation from across the USA, as well as from the South Americas and Africa.

We had tantalizing flavors not only from other parts of this country, but also from Peru, Brazil, South Africa and Ethiopia. What a feast for the taste buds!

Other interesting tidbits were shared, like potatoes are probably the main contribution of the Incas to the world. By the early XVI century, when Spaniards arrived, Peruvian natives had already domesticated some 1000 varieties of the tuber.

There was also talk of Ethiopian and South African Wine.

All of this contributed to an evening of community building which not only fed the tummies, but also the spirit. It was indeed an evening of fun and laughter, and deep philosophical conversations. All of this was topped off with yet another international treat; in the form of Häagen-Dazs ice cream.

Ethiopia makes both red and white wines for export, but the honey wine called Tej gets most of the attention from aficionados.
**February 2007 - Calendar of Events**

### Thursday, February 1st, 2007

**An Inconvenient Truth - Discussion**
**Event Location:** NRH TV Lounge  
**Event Time:** 7:00PM  
**Contact:** Greg Payton, Jessica Gupta, Marcus Johnson  
**Collado, Nani Pease, Paul Kim, Lelaina Romero, Avina Gupta, Jo-Ellen Malveaux  
**Email:**
- Greg - gjp2005@columbia.edu  
- Jessica - cjc51@columbia.edu  
- Nani - nanipease@yahoo.com, Paul - miklaup@hotmail.com  
- Lelaina - lelaina.romero@gmail.com  
- Avina - gupta@columbia.edu, Jo-Ellen - jam2132@columbia.edu  

A discussion about the documentary will ensue post-screening.

### Sunday, February 4th, 2007

**SUPERBOWL!!!!**  
**Sign-up required for this event - Limited to 40 spots!**  
**Event Location:** iHouse  
**Event Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Program Organizers:** Nani Pease, Avina Gupta, Marcus Johnson  
**E-mail:** nanipease@yahoo.com, gupta@tc.edu, mjj2108@columbia.edu  

Join fellow TC residents to watch the Superbowl together!  
Look for sign-up sheets at the front desks of residential buildings.

### Tuesday, February 6th, 2007

**Contemporary Issues in Special Education**  
**Meeting Location:** Milbank Chapel, Zankel Hall  
**Meeting Time:** 3:00 – 5:00 PM  
**Program Organizer:** Daniel Kim & Matt Marsters-D’Urso  
**Email:** mrm2113@columbia.edu & dik2102@columbia.edu

Attend a lecture by Dr. Harold Koplewicz, sponsored by the New York Institute for Special Education, held at Milbank Chapel.  
Child and adolescent psychiatrist Dr. Koplewicz served as the vice chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and director of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at New York University Medical Center, and professor of clinical psychiatry at the New York University School of Medicine.  
Attendance is limited to 200 individuals, so RSVP.

### Thursday, February 8th, 2007

**Cinema Travels – Brazil Part I**  
**Meeting Location:** Whittier Café  
**Meeting Time:** 9:30 p.m.  
**Program Organizer:** Aisha Burrell & Vickie Ndibo  
**Email:** aeb56@columbia.edu & vmn4@columbia.edu  

Cinema Travels is a year long series featuring movies from different countries around the world. This month, we will be in Brazil. We will be watching the award winning movie “City of God”, directed by Fernando Mereilles and Katia Lund.

### Friday, February 9th, 2007

**Bancroft Community Room Meeting - Planning Session**  
**Meeting Location:** BA Community Room  
**Meeting Time:** 5:00 - 6:00pm  
**Program Organizer:** Jessica Collado  
**Email:** rep2106@columbia.edu  

The target of the meeting will be on planning activities for the children in BGS. Parents will decide on dates where they will be conducting an activity. Also is a good opportunity for parents to get to know other parents and build friendships and relationships with them.

### Thursday, February 11th, 2007

**Mardi Gras Party**  
**Meeting Location:** NRH TV Lounge & Lobby  
**Meeting Time:** 6:30 PM  
**Program Organizer:** Janine Rudder, Avina Gupta, Jo-Ellen Malveaux, Marcus Johnson  
**Email:** mij2108@columbia.edu, gupta@columbia.edu, jam2132@columbia.edu  

Mardi Gras bash to commemorate carnival celebrations around the globe.

### Wednesday, February 14th, 2007

**Valentine’s Candy O’Gram**  
**Event Location:** Campus Wide  
**Candy O’ Grams will be available for sale to residents February 1 – February 9, 2007  
**Program Organizer:** Rebecca Pinard, Aisha Burrell & Avina Gupta  
**Email:** rep2106@columbia.edu & gupta@tc.edu

The money collected from the candy grams will be given to a local charity.

### Thursday, February 22nd, 2007

**Cinema Travels – Brazil Part II**  
**Meeting Location:** Whittier Café  
**Meeting Time:** 9:30 p.m.  
**Program Organizer:** Aisha Burrell & Vickie Ndibo  
**Email:** aeb56@columbia.edu & vmn4@columbia.edu  

As a follow up to the previous showing of “City of God”, we plan to show selected episodes of “City of Men” mini-series, which was produced for PBS and follows some of the minor characters, from adolescence to adulthood, from the movie “City of God”.

### Friday, February 23rd, 2007

**New York Historical Society: Part Two of the Slavery in New York Exhibit**  
**Meeting Location:** 517 Lobby  
**Meeting Time:** 5:30pm  
**Program Organizer:** Janine Rudder & Marcus Johnson  
**Email:** mij2108@columbia.edu, jam2132@columbia.edu  

Another Slave Story, available in **electronic format**.  

---

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

**EXAMPLE.MICROSOFT.COM**