



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

HAIL TO THE CHIEF | Outgoing Muslim Students Association President Abdul Rafay Hanif, CC '14, was elected SGB chair Tuesday.

Frederick Douglass residents criticize NYCHA

BY EVA KALIKOFF  
Spectator Staff Writer

Residents spoke out about New York City Housing Authority's plans to construct private developments within the Frederick Douglass public housing complex, saying the agency was not being transparent at a Community Board 7 housing committee meeting Monday.

NYCHA has said the development would include four potential buildings with approximately 700 apartments, of which 80 percent

will be market-rate and 20 percent will be affordable, on parking lots in the Douglass Houses, between 100th and 104th streets and between Amsterdam Avenue and Manhattan Avenue.

But further details are not expected until a March 21 meeting NYCHA has planned with the Frederick Douglass tenants, when agency officials have promised to present a formal proposal.

"We can't tell you what will be built. It's all up to the developer," Brian Honan, NYCHA's director of city and state

legislative affairs, said at the meeting. Next week, he said, "We will tell you what, under existing zoning, could be developed on the site."

The monthly meeting at CB7's 87th Street office, which is often sparsely attended, was packed, with people standing shoulder to shoulder and many spilling out into the hallway. Attendees criticized the agency for its lack of transparency.

"It's my experience that it's sometimes difficult to glean the truth from the proposals that come out of NYCHA," Nick Prigo, co-chair of the

committee, said.

"Since there has been so much secrecy, I'm wondering what you are actually going to show us on the 21st," Cynthia Doty, 69th Democratic district leader, said.

Many Frederick Douglass residents and locals expressed frustration that the agency would build private housing while the existing public buildings faced facilities and infrastructure issues.

"You guys need to fix the problem before you start

SEE NYCHA, page 2

CU looks to fill Card-O-Mat space

BY AVANTIKA KUMAR  
AND SOPHIE MAHER  
Columbia Daily Spectator

After stationery store Card-O-Mat folded over winter break, Columbia is looking to fill its shoes with a new retailer to join the Morningside Heights streetscape—much of which the University owns.

Columbia has hired executives from Winick Realty Group to help lease the 1,240-square-foot retail storefront on Broadway between 112th and 113th streets, the firm announced Tuesday. Winick's clients include national chains such as Starbucks Coffee, Duane Reade, AT&T, and Chipotle.

It's an interesting move on

Columbia's behalf—Card-O-Mat's former owner has voiced concerns about the University's commitment to small businesses in the spaces it owns.

Rosalie Manning, who owned the store since it opened in 1993, said that the University was focused on "their bottom-line" instead of creating a small-business-friendly community.

"The reality is that 20 years ago, that certainly was their focus," Manning said. "There was a very different management in place, and from my knowledge, in those days, it definitely was their master plan, as they called it, to have a neighborhood for students of small businesses."

Though some local business owners say Columbia's support

is instrumental to staying afloat, others, including Manning, feel that Columbia should do much more to support mom and pops like Card-O-Mat—especially as economic conditions have worsened for small businesses since around 2008.

Manning said that as the economy worsened, costs for transactions, goods, staff, and insurance became more daunting.

Among Columbia's small-business tenants, "I think the fervent hope was that, somehow, Columbia would make some accommodation" to lower rents, Manning said. She added that for other local businesses

SEE CARD-O-MAT, page 2



OLACHI OLERU / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS | Columbia will fill the storefront that held stationary store Card-O-Mat.

SGB elects outgoing MSA prez as chair

Hanif, CC '14, stresses admin experience, student activism

BY JILLIAN KUMAGAI  
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Student Governing Board elected outgoing Muslim Students Association President Abdul Rafay Hanif, CC '14, as its new chair and voted to recognize four new student groups at a town hall meeting on Tuesday night.

Hanif served on the executive board of SGB as a representative-at-large and is also a student representative to the Committee on the Core Curriculum.

"Having heavy access and familiarity with administrators puts me a step above everyone else."

—Abdul Rafay Hanif, CC '14, new SGB chair

Hanif pointed to his experience communicating with administrators as a strong point of his candidacy, telling student group leaders that "having heavy access and familiarity with administrators puts me a step above everyone else."

He served as MSA president when a report that the New York Police Department had monitored the group sparked vigorous debate on campus.

"As president at the time, it was important for administration to know how we were

approaching the issue," Hanif said. "It's about getting your name out there and letting them know you're serious about the way the University is run."

David Fine, CC '13, the outgoing chair of SGB, which represents political, religious, activist, and humanitarian groups, said that the position involved "constantly thinking about the needs of every single group, which can be very diverse."

"I have meetings every week with administrators," Fine said. "I worry—I stay up all the night thinking about how to help our groups."

Despite the work of communicating with University bureaucrats, Fine said that "the most well-known secret on this campus is that administrators really do help you when you go to them."

"People get most frustrated when they're not meeting face to face," he said.

SGB also elected the rest of its executive board, including the vice chair, treasurer, secretary, and representatives-at-large.

Ankita Gore, SEAS '15, an incoming representative-at-large and an executive board member of the Hindu Students Organization, said that she would like to organize more intergroup programming.

"HSO, Hillel, and interfaith organizations arranged a lecture series last year," Gore said. "I'd like to see more programming between religious and activist groups."

A common theme in the candidates' speeches was the allocation of campus space, an issue that Hanif said he plans to focus on as chair.

"I want to make it easier for

SEE SGB, page 2

200 students cope with merged first-year law class

BY NATALIE FELSEN  
Spectator Staff Writer

After a merger of two sections of a first-year constitutional law course created a 200-student class at Columbia Law School, both students and faculty are seeking to make the best of an unexpected situation.

"I am confident our new arrangement will work well and fairly."

—Trevor Morrison, Law School professor

The class combination occurred after professor Christina Duffy Ponsa, one of four professors teaching the mandatory class, took administrative leave on Feb. 12 due to difficult divorce proceedings. That same day, her class was notified that students were to attend professor Trevor Morrison's class, which met that afternoon as well.

Student Senate President Sean Berens, Law '13, said that

SEE LAW, page 2



FILE PHOTO

SPRING TRAINING | Alex Black looks to lower his 9.00 ERA and continue to produce at the plate as the Lions head to Florida.

Baseball to face tough competitors in Florida

BY ELI SCHULTZ  
AND MOLLY TOW  
Spectator Senior Staff Writers

Columbia will follow Major League Baseball's lead and travel to Florida for its own spring training—facing the University of Central Florida and then the University of Miami.

In their last outing, the Florida Knights took their first road series against Jacksonville University. After getting shut out on Friday, UCF bounced back with a potent offense to win the pair of weekend games. The Knights have a dangerous middle

of the order, led by Erik Hempe and Chris Taladay, who are batting 0.349 and 0.379 respectively. The two are also clutch hitters, so Columbia's pitch-to-contact strategy will be tested when the Lions take on the Knights.

Head coach Brett Boretti acknowledges that this approach can sometimes be risky. "When you go out and throw for strikes, it definitely gives the hitters an advantage and an easier time with their at-bats," Boretti said.

Like the Lions' recent games, many of UCF's games have come down to the late innings. On Sunday, it was Taladay's ninth-inning heroics that led the Knights to prevail. But UCF's

SEE BASEBALL, page 3

OPINION, PAGE 4

History and progress

A University shouldn't be limited by a historic district designation.

Casual conversation

Learning to overcome the cultural divide.



SPORTS, PAGE 3

Crushed and trampled, women fall to Harvard

The Crimson defeated the Lions, 71-26, in the final game of the Light Blue's extremely disappointing season.

EVENTS

Live at Lerner

Enjoy a study break from midterms with free food and music.

Lerner Piano Lounge, 12 p.m.

"How to Survive a Plague"

Watch the Oscar-nominated documentary about early AIDS activism.

Cowin Center Auditorium, Horace Mann Hall, 5 p.m.

WEATHER

Today

Tomorrow

51°/30°

36°/27°



## Engineers push career fair plans to next spring

BY NATALIE FELSEN  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

After plans for a student-run career fair this spring collapsed, four School of Engineering and Applied Science student organizations have shifted their focus to launching one for next spring. In planning both spring career fairs, the Engineering Student Council, the Society of Women Engineers, the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, and the National Society of Professional Engineers sought to provide an alternative to the fall career fair hosted by the Center for Career Education.

“We were hoping that a career fair would open new alternatives for engineers, and that it would be a different take at career fairs,” ESC President Tim Qin, SEAS ’13, said. “I know CCE has a lot to do, and if we could help them help students find jobs, put in the manpower, then it’s beneficial for everyone.”

Qin and Andrew Tang, SEAS ’16, met last fall with Courtney Murphy, director of employer and alumni relations, to discuss prospects for a career fair this spring. Murphy said that while she recognized the motivations behind students’ desire for a spring career fair, she foresaw timing difficulties.

“It makes sense if students in the spring semester are most focused on internships, but that isn’t necessarily always going to work for companies, because recruiting cycles aren’t always in line with when students are thinking about job opportunities,” Murphy said.

Qin and Tang changed course, working to plan an engineering showcase, which Murphy said would have been more manageable given budget and time constraints.

“For the center to reserve Lerner, the cost is so much greater than for students to reserve Lerner,” Murphy said. Student support was thus important “because there’s so much more access for students than there would be for us to put a fair on in that quick timeline,” she said.

Soon after, SWE Secretary Caroline Shang, SEAS ’13, approached Murphy with another proposition for a spring career fair. Murphy suggested Shang



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**FAIRS ARE FUN** | Due to scheduling issues, student leaders like ESC President Tim Qin, SEAS ’13, are delaying plans for a career fair.

collaborate with Qin and Tang, and the three students joined forces. However, the group soon ran into issues that caused their plans to fall through.

“We were planning on meeting in November of last year, but due to Hurricane Sandy that kind of wrecked everything,” Shang said. “We had to plan another meeting, as that time ... we couldn’t put on a strong enough event. The details weren’t ironed out enough for it to be successful.”

Now, Shang has started to coordinate a career fair for next spring, and is seeking to book space on campus to ensure that the foundation of the fair is set far in advance. She said that she hopes the student-based structure of the program will signal strong student interest to invited companies.

“First of all, this event is planned for us, and so if it’s student-led, we hope that it really runs for students [that] we have a better perspective of what students need—in that respect, we could hold a great event.”

Murphy said that, in contrast to the CCE-run career fair in the fall, CCE’s involvement in this student-run fair is up in the air, but that “we’d obviously love to work together on it.”

Director of Undergraduate Career Development Niamh

O’Brien said that the CCE would be available to share its experience with the engineering societies to ensure a high-quality career fair.

“I think the employer judges the experience, so if it’s a good experience, then absolutely great, the students put this on, and that’s where we’d love to share, logistically,” she said.

O’Brien said that the prevalence of student-run conferences on campus enables CCE to disseminate its knowledge of career opportunities.

“There’s lots of different professional associations, student clubs ... who have held conferences,” O’Brien said. “We collaborate as much as we can with any group, because what we want to do is embed the knowledge here.”

Pointing to the precedent of employer-student collaboration on campus, Shang said that she hopes to draw upon this infrastructure to benefit SEAS students.

“We have regional and national conferences—really good conferences that have really good career fairs with lots of companies,” Shang said. “We can get these contacts and hopefully bring them to Columbia and show the quality of engineering students at Columbia.”

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## Former Card-O-Mat owner criticizes CU business relations

**CARD-O-MAT**  
from front page

with private landlords, “Every single one of those people, during that crisis, made adjustments for their tenants.”

The University’s tenants may have “feared a backlash from Columbia,” she said.

According to the University, creating lively street life is one of its long-term goals. Columbia is currently the landlord for numerous small businesses on Broadway between 111th and 116th—including University Housewares, Book Culture, and Oren’s Daily Roast.

“Things are a lot more difficult for local businesses now. Columbia would have to be cognizant of that.”

—Charles Trimboli,  
owner of Camille’s

“Columbia has a long-term retail strategy that favors small local businesses to help create a lively, energetic neighborhood that reflects the character of the people who live and work here,” the University said in a statement.

Charles Trimboli, owner of Camille’s on Amsterdam Avenue at 116th Street, said that while the restaurant has a good relationship overall with Columbia as a landlord, Columbia needs to be sure that it recognizes the difficulties small businesses now face—including rising insurance, food and labor costs, and real-estate taxes—and that it keeps its rents somewhat reasonable.

“Things are a lot more difficult for local businesses now,” Trimboli, who has operated Camille’s for around 20 years, said. “Columbia would have to be cognizant of that.”

Though Manning and Trimboli emphasized the need for Columbia to be aware

of small businesses’ struggles, several business owners agree that Columbia has encouraged small businesses and that Columbia’s involvement has helped maintain the unique character of Morningside Heights.

Jim Ma, manager of the family-owned Janoff’s Office and Art Supplies on Broadway between 111th and 112th streets, said that on his Columbia-owned block, “any of the store owners, they’re all very happy.”

“Columbia is more than reasonable,” Ma said, adding that most of the unhappy store managers he knows don’t have Columbia as a landlord. “They’re the ones that get driven out and treated pretty unfairly.”

Columbia tenant Cathy Hawkins, co-owner of Liberty House on Broadway at 112th Street, said she felt that Columbia works with smaller businesses to develop a “college atmosphere.”

“I’ve always felt that they really wanted us here,” she said. Liberty House has operated on the Upper West Side since the late 1960s, and opened the Morningside Heights store in 1998.

“So far no trustee has offered to pay our rent,” she joked. “But no, I’ve always really felt that they liked how we enhanced the neighborhood and the service that we provide.”

Hikmat Hasan, part owner and manager of Samad’s Gourmet on Broadway between 111th and 112th streets, which has been in the neighborhood since 1972 but is not owned by Columbia, agreed.

“Private landlords—they’re becoming too greedy and they only care about money,” Hasan said. “Columbia—they care about the community and about the neighborhood, and they need the right people at the right spaces.”

University Housewares manager Bob Fendell also had no complaints about his partnership with Columbia.

“They’re good landlords,” Fendell said. “They’re nice, they’re fair, which is all you can ask for.”  
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## SGB also recognizes four groups, including SWS

**SGB from front page**

students to request spaces outside of Lerner,” Hanif said. “It’s very important for SGB to work with the councils and look at how money can be reallocated to those spaces.”

Hanif also emphasized a return to SGB’s political roots—the board was created as a conduit of free speech during the University’s 1968 student protests.

“We’re the one governing board that really values political discussions and debate,” Hanif said. “We have widespread connections on campus to organize students who are truly invested in topics in order to come together and discuss them.”

Fine pointed to the board’s decision to ignore the Barnard flouting policy last year as “a really heartening incident for our campus” that also hearkened back to SGB’s political origins.

“It doesn’t fall under our traditional scope,” Fine said, “but it allowed us to reclaim our roots as a student umbrella that really advocates for student free speech and expression.”

At its meeting Tuesday, the board also voted to recognize four student groups: Student-Worker Solidarity, the Columbia University Family Support Network, Inwood Academic Tutoring, and Generation Citizen.

Evan Burger, CC ’13, a lead organizer of Student-Worker Solidarity, said that the recognition would allow the group to utilize “funding, space, and institutional presence.”

He also said that SGB recognition allows the group to independently use resources when organizing rallies.

“When we have rallies, we have to get a recognized group to lead it,” such as Lucha or the Columbia Democrats, Burger said before SWS’s recognition. “If any sort of disciplinary action is necessary, if something happened, Lucha would have to take the heat, and that isn’t fair.”  
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LUKE HENDERSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**HOME SWEET HOME** | Frederick Douglass Houses residents say that NYCHA is not being transparent about its development plans.

## Four apartment buildings would raise funds, authority says

**NYCHA from front page**

another problem,” Carmen Quinones, a longtime Frederick Douglass resident, told Honan, alluding to an oft-repeated claim by residents at the meeting that asbestos and other unsafe living conditions are causing health problems in the buildings.

Jane Wisdom, president of the Frederick Douglass resident association, said that she was disappointed with NYCHA’s lack of communication, and that the association is looking into legal action.

But Honan stressed that the agency needed funding.

“This project is maybe not the Housing Authority’s first choice,” he said. But “we have to get funding. Otherwise, we

won’t be talking about building new developments, we will be talking about knocking them down,” he said.

Attendees also discussed how NYCHA could better involve the residents of the Frederick Douglass Houses in the process.

“Residents should have a negotiating position with NYCHA and the city,” Victor Bach, a senior housing policy analyst at the Community Service Society, said.

City Council member Gale Brewer said she supported the residents.

“The whole premise, from my Harbor View experience, is flawed,” Brewer said, citing a public housing facility on West 55th Street that saw a similar proposal fall through because

of a problem with the developer. “The real horror of this proposal is that it has no community input.”

“There is an enormous concern about the real life consequences of this.”

—Mark Diller  
CB7 chair

Former CB7 chair Helen Rosenthal, who is running to replace Brewer on the council, agreed.

## Students say constitutional law class works despite larger size

**LAW from front page**

during the senate meeting that night, “There was a fair amount of unhappiness in the 1L class about the lack of transparency and student input in the process.”

1L senators passed a resolution that night asking for either a replacement professor or for separate curves for the two classes to ensure fairness.

In a statement on Feb. 14, the Law School justified its decision to keep the two classes merged, saying it “focused on the fact that Professor Morrison’s approach is quite similar to that of Professor Ponsa, and this was considered a priority in evaluating what was best” for the students involved.

In an email, Morrison said that he is committed to maintaining the quality of his class within the context of the merger.

“I am confident our new arrangement will work well and fairly. I would not have agreed to take on this larger class if I thought otherwise,” Morrison said. “I truly do believe it will work fairly and well, and I’m committed to doing what I can to make sure it does.”

Berens also emphasized that Morrison has been very accommodating throughout this process.

“Professor Morrison’s a great, great teacher, and he’s been really amazing through this,” Berens said. “He’s really demonstrated a concern for the students. He won a teaching prize either last year or the year before, so it’s great to be in class with him.”

To assimilate Ponsa’s class as fluidly as possible, Morrison has hired extra teaching assistants, hosted weekly review sessions, and posted recordings for his lectures online, among

other measures.

Min Jee Ree, Law ’15, was in Ponsa’s section at the start of the year. She said that these resources have helped mitigate any discomfort from the situation.

“I think they handled it really well given the circumstances,” she said. “Professor Morrison’s going out of his way to hold extra office hours to help us out, so I think it’s not perfect, but given the circumstances it’s not all bad.”

Jerry Tower, Law ’15, who has been in Morrison’s class since the beginning of the semester, said that doubling the class’s size has not changed the classroom dynamic significantly.

“I didn’t think it was that big of a deal,” Tower said. “I think a 100-person class is already big enough.”

Ethan Weinberg, Law ’15, also started the semester with Morrison. He said that he has not noticed a distinct shift in professor Morrison’s teaching style.

“I think it’s pretty similar. I think professor Morrison does a really good job of commanding the class and doing what he needs to,” Weinberg said. “He’s definitely making every effort.”

Tower said that the extra measures Morrison has taken to prepare Ponsa’s students for his exams have helped those who were in his class originally as well.

“He’s said he’s not going to switch to multiple choice, he’s going to keep it essay, and he’s going to keep separate curves for the people who were in Ponsa and the people who are in Morrison, and he posted the old exams, which we didn’t have originally,” Tower said. “So that’s a boon to the Morrison kids.”

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Time to stop having high hopes for Lions

At Lavietes Pavilion on Friday night, the Columbia Lions led the Harvard Crimson (a team that clinched the Ivy League a little over 24 hours later) by four points with just under two minutes to play. For some reason, I actually believed that Columbia was going to win. Despite mountains of evidence to the contrary, including six losses in Ivy play by fewer than six points (when, in all six losses, the Lions had a chance to take the lead in the final minute) and the general ineptitude across Columbia athletics in these situations, I thought this would be the time the Lions would hold on.

Not more than 90 seconds of game time later, that four-point lead had turned into a five-point deficit. It was a meltdown so quick and devastating that the only recourse for fans to feel better after the game was, “At least they didn’t lose at the buzzer again.” For supporters of Columbia sports teams, this was yet another reminder of the perils of high expectations, both on large and small scales.

The next night, the Lions dropped a similarly close game against the Dartmouth Big Green, which ensured that Columbia—a team picked to challenge for an Ivy title at the beginning of the season—would end up in sole possession of last place in the Ancient Eight. What is so heartbreaking about this year’s team is how far its talent exceeded its results. It is staggering for a team that talked in preseason about how its only goal was an Ivy title to end up in the cellar by the end of the season.

What is so heartbreaking about this year’s team is how far its talent exceeded its results.

Attributing Columbia’s Ivy record to illness, injury, or referees, as many have done, to rationalize this failure of a season is irresponsible. People can try to pass the buck and blame yet another disappointing season on the ghosts of Ivy seasons past, but the difference between last place and an Ivy title was simply late-game execution. Had the Lions won all of these tight games, they would have won the league at 12-2 instead of ending up with a 4-10 mark.

The misses on the smaller scale (layups, free throws, wide-open three-pointers, defensive assignments) all contributed to continuing the Columbia athletics tradition of failing on the larger scale: the Ivy League standings. In baseball, the 2011 team that returned almost all of its key players from the 2010 team, which had been just innings away from winning the Ivy title, finished 9-11 in conference play. They were punished by small mistakes such as faltering defense, a weak bullpen, and an overreliance on small ball. The 2011 football team was expected to improve on back-to-back four-win seasons (which are considered a relative success in the world of Light Blue football) yet needed a fourth-quarter comeback in its final game to avoid going winless. This year’s team preached discipline and system, yet blew a 10-point lead with 10 minutes to play against Penn and lost by 10 touchdowns to Harvard.

Last season’s basketball team had a surprisingly strong nonconference record despite losing Noruwa Agbo for the season in its second game. On their opening weekend, the Lions lost to Penn by two points and Princeton by four, setting the tone of disappointment at the end of games that has carried on to the present. For those of you who may have gotten excited about Columbia baseball’s recent win over the defending national champion, the Arizona Wildcats, all I can say is this: You were warned.

On the evening of Jan. 19, I drove back from Ithaca to Morningside Heights with fellow WKCR broadcaster Nick Bloom and Spectator’s Eli Schultz after Columbia defeated Cornell to kick off Ivy play. The three of us raved about how this would finally be a Columbia team that would meet its expectations and challenge for the league title. We praised Brian Barbour’s ability to close out the



SAM TYDINGS

Booth Review



KIERA WOOD / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SEASON FINALE | Taylor Ball scored five points for the Lions as they were crushed by Harvard in the final game of the Lions’ extremely disappointing season.

Lions handed defeat 71-26 by Harvard in final game

BY KYLE PERROTTI  
Spectator Staff Writer

Women’s basketball (5-23, 3-11 Ivy) wrapped up its season Tuesday evening with a crushing 71-26 defeat in Cambridge, Mass. against the Harvard Crimson (20-8, 11-3 Ivy).

Two weeks ago in Levien, the Crimson took down the Lions easily with a final score of 61-44. Tuesday night proved to be no different.

This steep victory was the seventh in a row for Harvard and secured the team its second-place finish in the Ancient

Eight, behind only Princeton.

Three Crimson players managed to reach double figures, led by forward Victoria Lippert, who finished with 14 points on the night.

Leading all scorers for Columbia was junior guard Taylor Ward, who put up nine points.

The game, originally scheduled for Feb. 8, was rescheduled for Tuesday in light of Superstorm Nemo.

In spite of the lopsided score, the Lions managed to maintain some degree of tenacity on the defensive end, blocking more shots (6-2) than the Crimson, with sophomore Lizzy Stachon swatting three shots. Ward also had an impressive defensive outing, managing four steals

against a disciplined Harvard offense.

The glaring statistic for the Lions on the offensive end was their poor free-throw shooting. The Light Blue managed to hit only two out of its 10 shots from the charity stripe, while Harvard made all eight of its free-throw shots.

The Crimson’s run began five minutes into the game when the contest was tied 4-4. For the next eight minutes, the Lions were unable to score a single point, but Harvard managed to up the intensity, scoring 15 consecutive points.

The second half began in a similar fashion. The score entering the second period of play was 30-13 in favor of the Crimson. Within the first 10 minutes, Harvard went on a tear, outscoring

Columbia 26-3. The only answer from the Light Blue was a three-pointer by Ward with 12:45 remaining in the half.

Other notable scorers for the Lions were senior Taylor Ball, with five, and sophomores Campbell Mobley and Miwa Tachibana, with four each.

The Lions finished their season with a final record of 5-23 overall, and a 3-11 Ivy record. The team improved slightly from last year’s overall record of 3-25 and only one Ivy League victory, but it is still miles away from claiming the Ivy crown.

The defeat also marked the last game of seniors Brittany Simmons, Diana Lee, Agata Jankova, Tyler Simpson, and Ball as members of the women’s basketball team.

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FILE PHOTO

SPRING TRAINING | Catcher Mike Fischer and the Light Blue team will face tough nonconference teams over break.

Lions look to make statement before Ivy play

BASEBALL from front page

offense was only half of the success. Reliever Zac Favre has been sterling for the Knights all season, boasting a 0.75 ERA in nine appearances. In order to come out on the winning end of what may easily turn out to be four close games, Boretti feels that the Light Blue’s offense will have to tap into its mental training.

“We realize that we need to be as tough of an out as possible and grind out those at-bats,” Boretti said. “We’ve really tried to focus on winning one pitch at a time, and tried to really start thinking and doing some things in practice to really get that in their heads, and to really get away

from carrying around some bad at-bats, too.”

Following UCF, the Lions will travel to Coral Gables, Fla., to take on Miami—which will be coming off a three-game set at No. 1 North Carolina—in a pair of games on March 19 and 20. The Hurricanes (13-4) were ranked as high as No. 20 in the USA Today College Baseball Top 25 Coaches Poll this season, but have since fallen out of the top 25 after dropping two of three against Duke.

With a team batting average of 0.285, Miami features a competitive offense. Two of the biggest bats that the Light Blue staff will contend with belong to the Hurricanes’ first baseman/outfielder David Thompson

and infielder Brad Fieger. Thompson leads the team with two home runs and 18 RBIs, while Fieger’s 0.364 batting average is the highest on the team among regular players.

The Hurricanes’ arms have also performed well this season. Of the five pitchers who have logged the most innings for Miami this season, four have ERAs under three, and two have ERAs under two.

Both games will pose stiff tests for the Lions, who are playing a very tough nonconference schedule. The spring break trip gives the Lions an opportunity to make a statement before the start of Ivy play on March 30 at home against Harvard.

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Stronger offensive starts needed for lacrosse

BY ROBERT MITCHELL  
Spectator Staff Writer

After dropping three games straight, Columbia lacrosse (1-3, 0-2 Ivy) will host Villanova (2-3) with a chance to get its season back on the winning track. Besides elite scorers junior Paige Cuscovitch and senior Kacie Johnson, the Light Blue has had difficulty in finding players to step up on the offensive end—which they need to do, since opposing defenses are specifically focusing on both Cuscovitch and Johnson. Moreover, the team has had a difficult time starting games on the defensive side, falling into an early 5-0 deficit against Brown in a triple-overtime loss and a 3-0 hole against Cornell. Though the Lions were able to cut into those leads, they will need to start games with renewed energy on the defensive side of the ball in order to stay up to pace, especially against a Villanova offense featuring dynamic play maker Jessica Mucci, who leads her team with a total of 15 assists and three goals on the season.

The Lions will meet Villanova on Wednesday at Robert K. Kraft Field at 7 p.m.

The Light Blue will need the momentum of a win over the break as it goes on the road to take on the University of Vermont and University of New Hampshire. Vermont currently holds a 3-3 record thanks in no small part to Jessica Roach, who has 15 goals and 12 assists on the season to provide a great deal of versatility to the Catamounts’ offense. The two teams will square off on Saturday.

New Hampshire is still searching for its first win after dropping four straight. Despite the 0-4 record, the Wildcats should not be underestimated—two of their four losses have been to top-15 teams, and three of those losses have been by four goals. They meet Columbia next Tuesday.

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# What’s up?

BY LINGZI ZHUANG AND SHEN QIU

There we were, ensconced in a not-so-cozy corner of Butler library, sipping on a Blue Java coffee, when a friend of ours stumbled upon us.

“What’s up, guys?” he said. “Still up ’n’ about?”

Indeed, it was 2 in the morning. Just another Sunday night at Columbia, saturated with the rigors of combo Lit Hum and UWriting due dates and a time-killing program-  
ming assignment. Not the most agreeable situation, but don’t we all manage?

“Not much,” we replied. “Just got some serious loads to kill.”

There had been plenty to get used to—the food, the laundry dryers, names of places, half a dozen tips on stay-  
ing safe and oriented on the subway. It wasn’t so many strained Sundays ago that all of this seemed like life on another continent to us. In fact, it literally was. We are among the restless believers of a different and mean-  
ingful education, crossing over from “the other side” of “the other, larger pond” in pursuit of our vast and varied dreams at Columbia. From the moment we passed the poker-faced immigration officer, who languidly stapled a (crucially important) funny white card into our passports, we were henceforth labelled as “international students from China.”

## Every casual conversation is an ad- venture, an empirical lesson on U.S. college life trivia.

We have the surrealist reality of living a drastically dif-  
ferent life than we would have had back home.

However, as latecomers to the United States, the big-  
gest challenges were not rolled out as macro-level dissim-  
ilarities but rather ambushed in matters of absolute trivi-  
ality. The encounter in Butler was vividly reminiscent of many an NSOP scene, like when we met a new friend in an elevator conversation—and who we were sure would have already forgotten our tongue-twisting names.

“What’s up, guys?” he greeted us with a grin.

We stumbled. It is mundane things like this interaction that our education back home in China did not prepare us for. Hailing from a place where a simple smile and nod would suffice as a greeting, this whole new courtesy para-  
digm frequently catches us off guard. It’s as if every greet-  
ing is a brain teaser of some sort, and for quite a while, we have to think outside the box to say, “Not much, just

hangin’ around. What’ve you been up to?”

Nonetheless, we try, despite the initial unnerving en-  
counter. Hanging out shouldn’t, after all, be an intimi-  
dating enterprise. But sometimes, as hard as we try to contribute to a conversation, we feel ill at ease when bombarded with things we know direly little about. In our world, there is “The Big Bang Theory” and “Gossip Girl,” there’s NBA playoffs and Wimbledon and soccer, but not much in common with this world otherwise. Every casual conversation is an adventure, an empirical lesson on U.S. college life trivia. Both of us have enjoyed this second-culture acquisition that our best Ameri-  
can buddies make possible. We have nevertheless lived through moments where the initial meet-and-greet ex-  
citement (tacked, perhaps, with awkward loss of words when it comes to “what’s up”) gradually fades into unin-  
tentional estrangement.

It’s hard on both sides. Special attention would be un-  
fair, as it merely proposes an understanding on the sur-  
face, a deferral to misunderstanding. The two of us, then, resolved to ourselves that we shall always take the initia-  
tive in active engagement in the larger community. Just like any other Columbians, we—and other Chinese fel-  
lows aplenty—aspire to attain what lies far beyond classes and exams and GPA. Among us are Model U.N. leaders and mathematicians, writers and researchers, Christians and coders, literateurs and linguists, individuals and in-  
teresting persons. But most of all, we are just like all Co-  
lumbians, with diversified backgrounds, a common belief in mutual inspiration, and a multitude of dreams and vi-  
sions.

This has been a morphing experience. It gives us agency to assimilate the West while all along musing on what we stand for as Chinese international students. What is certain is that we do not see ourselves as merely a dazzling diversity statistic on a Pantone blue admis-  
sion brochure. The inevitable difficulty for us to blend in at first made us all the more missioned to foster mutual understanding between the 2,254 of us and the rest of Columbia.

Despite all the alienation of employment ineligibility, of our alma mater’s need-sensitive admission process, of being at the center of the debated game of playing politics with international students, we would like to propose the contrary. What is to be played should not be a miniature U.S.-China rivalry, or a contention on whether Columbia should better serve its nation by letting fewer of us in — but an embodiment of trust, genuine interest, personal connection, or perhaps even just a few more “what’s up”s. And all we ask is a bit of extra patience—especially if that “not much” happens to take more than a second to come along.

*Lingzi Zhuang is a first-year in the School of Engineer-  
ing and Applied Science. Shen Qiu is a first-year in Columbia College.*



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE BICKERS, DOUGLAS KESSEL, AND ILANA SCHULDER

STAFF EDITORIAL

# Preserving innovation

When McKim, Mead, and White built the Morningside Heights campus in the first quar-  
ter of the 20th century, they could never have imagined that, 100 years later, a sleek, steel, 188,000-square-foot building with seven stories of interdisciplinary sci-  
ence labs and a marble-floored café would sit along-  
side the likes of Pupin and Havemeyer. But today, the Northwest Corner Building is a shining testament to Columbia’s position as both academic and architec-  
tural vanguard.

Now, a committee of preservationists and Community Board 9 are ramping up their efforts to limit such con-  
struction. The Morningside Heights Historic District Committee has lobbied for historic district protection for years. It is a designation that, had it been imple-  
mented five years ago, would have prohibited any of the bold design choices that went into NoCo. Last month, CB9 passed a resolution calling on the City Planning Commission to consider contextual rezoning restric-  
tions in Morningside. These would include height and design standards that would have to conform to the his-  
toric precedent of surrounding buildings.

While we don’t claim to be preservation experts, an important factor of historic district designation is the casual observer’s aesthetic tastes. We believe that placing any type of blanket restriction on Morningside Heights would unnecessarily impede the growth and creativity inherent in Columbia’s status as a world-  
class university.

In preservationists’ minds, Columbia has an abys-  
mal track record. Aside from the demolition of 17 acres of old manufacturing posts to make room for Manhattanville, the University tore down three brown-  
stones on 115th Street between Amsterdam Avenue and Morningside Drive in 2010, much to the neigh-  
borhood’s chagrin. The fact that those lots remain unde-  
veloped today sends the message that the University does not care about the historical significance of those buildings. Administrators also have not been present at

any recent meetings of the historic district committee, adding to the tension.

Preservationists feel similarly about the Northwest Corner Building. “This is not a building that makes any pretense of respecting campus or neighborhood con-  
text,” Gregory Dietrich, the historic district committee’s adviser, wrote in 2010. But just because a building’s de-  
sign is initially jarring does not mean it rejects its sur-  
roundings. NoCo’s partial glass curtain reflects much of the architecture around it. And, as then-architecture critic Nicolai Ouroussoff noted in the New York Times when NoCo opened, the building’s base is made of the same granite as its McKim-designed neighbors. It is also shorter than the tower McKim had originally proposed to build there, and it is more publicly accessible than any other building on the Morningside campus, with Joe the Art of Coffee serving as an crow’s nest toward northern Broadway.

It sometimes seems like the principles of preserva-  
tion could never be compatible with many of the styles embraced by modern architecture. How could buildings as daring as the new Business School in Manhattanville possibly reflect the aesthetic of a landmark like Pupin? This is not to argue the wisdom of preservation. Its suc-  
cessful implementation in Hamilton Heights and along Central Park West has kept the history of these neigh-  
borhoods alive visually. But historic designation is a dangerous precedent to set in a college town, where growth is critical for the University’s wellbeing, and, by extension, the wellbeing of its neighbors. Columbia is the main economic engine of Morningside Heights. Its ability to construct vibrant new buildings shows pro-  
spective students, researchers, and donors alike that it is committed to higher academic pursuits.

Instead, we propose a contract between Columbia and the community board that reconciles forward-  
thinking architecture with historical significance, as the designs of NoCo and Manhattanville do. Universities are meant to be sites of innovation, and Columbia needs space to build. But with Columbia administrators largely absent from recent public debates over preservation, locals rightly feel like the University has turned a blind eye to their wishes. Columbia and the preservationists both love Morningside Heights. They should find a way to work together to make it appealing for both the mind and the eye.

# Athletes deserve respect

BY CHAD WASHINGTON

When I first decided to respond to the article “The Dodge Divide” in The Eye, I thought about making my-  
self anonymous. I figured I could say whatever I pleased in this response—be as vulgar and angry as I wanted to be—and no one would be able to trace it back to me. But I decided not to do this. My name is Chad Washington, and I am currently a sophomore on the football team, for which I play defensive end. I am a declared political science and statistics major. I have a 3.03 GPA after three semesters at Columbia, and I am currently enrolled in four classes.

There is a certain passion that comes with playing a sport—a will inside of that athlete that drives him or her to become the best that athlete possible in order to win. Similar to what the baseball player said in the article, I won’t stop playing football until someone tells me to hang up my helmet and pads and go home. Being a football player since middle school has definitely shaped me into the man I am today. It taught me discipline, gave me a tireless work ethic, and helped me learn new things at a relatively fast rate. It also aided my acceptance into one of the top five colleges in the world, and I am so thank-  
ful for that.

## As soon as I begin to mention my studies and the degree I am pursuing, people question my intelligence and seem to doubt my abilities as a student.

But at Columbia, teachers and professors are quick to judge and criticize athletes because they have never been athletes themselves. I marvel at Nathan Pilkington, the Lit Hum instructor who insisted that Columbia athletes are not Division I athletes and are on some sort of lower stage. I looked him up: B.A. with highest honors from UNC-Chapel Hill, master’s from, of course, Columbia in history. It sounds like Nathan was almost made to be at Columbia. I’m guessing he does not share my passion for athletics, and that’s not a bad thing. But I would never question his accolades and achievements as a student. He has no right to question the authenticity of a Division I program. Columbia is a member of the Ivy League con-  
ference, and has one of the oldest NCAA football and athletic programs in the history of college sports. We play Division I football with Division I responsibilities, coaches, and competition. I speak for all athletes when I say this: Do not question our authenticity of our status until you take the time to immerse yourself in the ath-  
letics of Columbia.

It was interesting to me that the editors decided to title the article “The Dodge Divide.” Unless I pick a class I know my fellow teammates will be in, chances are I am one of two or maybe three athletes in a class. But like basketball player Cory Osetkowski said in the article, everyone at Columbia is here to get an education. We are all Lions who are striving after the same goals: to earn a degree and make our parents and families proud. My par-  
ents taught me that this is something that requires both success in the classroom and on the field, and standards were always pretty high in my household. That is what fueled me to take on Columbia as a challenge in my life.

I know I am viewed as an athlete first on this campus. Physically I look the part, and I often introduce myself as a football player. Yet as soon as I begin to mention my studies and the degree I am pursuing, people question my intelligence and seem to doubt my abilities as a student. Athlete is not a good category to be in. At Columbia the main problem is that instead of athletes being praised and respected for their ability to achieve more than the average student by keeping up with academics and ath-  
letics at the same time, they are seen as less than the average student.

Most of my fellow students at Columbia feel so divid-  
ed from athletes because, once again, sports have never been a part of their life. During Friday nights in high school, they were probably in the library and not at the football game. During the Homecoming pep rally, future Columbia students were most likely working on extra homework and problem sets. There is nothing wrong with making those choices. But by doing so, these stu-  
dents are distancing themselves from a huge and im-  
portant part of life. The problem doesn’t lie with the athletes, but instead the students who surround them. In Contemporary Civilization, we learn about the tyranny of the majority. As only 13 percent of all Columbia students, athletes are clearly in the minority. Columbia is nothing like a democracy, but at the same time, opinions reflect the manners of the majority.

In order for the lifestyle at Columbia to change, Columbia must change. The least Columbia students can do is engage in athletic events. Basketball Mania has been successful the past two years, but that’s just the beginning. Maybe we should think about incorpo-  
rating a Homecoming rally during the week before the Homecoming football game. Maybe we should set up a portion of NSOP where Columbia students are able to sit down with an athlete and ask them questions about what it means to play a sport in the Ivy League. Columbia student-athletes, and all Ivy League athletes, should be praised for their performance. The fact that Columbia athletes are able not only to excel and grow in their sports but also to pass classes consistently and make it through the curriculum of an Ivy league school is an incredible achievement.

*The author is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in political science and statistics. He is a member of the varsity football team.*

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# Light Blue prepares for 15 games over spring break

BY NOAH STEBBINS  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

The softball team has a full schedule ahead, as it gets ready to play 15 games in Kissimmee, Fla. and Fort Collins, Colo. over spring break. After a win and a narrow defeat on Sunday against Rider University, the Lions will have to start some momentum early in the schedule ahead.

Softball head coach Kayla Noonan shed some insight into the goals and strategies the Lions plan to implement over the next week. “We have to work mainly on the little things. The big things will take care of themselves,” she said. “The weather is supposed to be good, so batters will be able to hit good pitches, and we should be strong offensively.”

The team is bolstered by its versatility.

“One of the strengths of the players this year is their utility. Players can play multiple positions, and we have been excited to play our upcoming tournament. Midterms will be behind us, and the teammates will be able to work on getting to know each other,” Noonan said.

The goal for break is to get some early victories and push through with a powerful work ethic, Noonan said. Sophomore utility player Kayla Shimoda will be able to build some offense momentum over the break. At Rider, she had two five-for-five at bat performances, and she was later named Ivy League softball player of the week for her performance. Shimoda is the first Light Blue softball player to receive the award since 2010.

“The goal is to not get too high with the highs and too low with the lows. We need to stay consistent and learn from failures,” she said. “Failure is a good thing, because it teaches you how to succeed.”

The softball players have a lot to look forward to in sunny



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**LAM AND THE LIONS** | Outfielder Alison Lam and the softball team look to put midterms behind them and focus on the 15 games ahead of them over break.

Florida, where they will not have to worry about being blasted by snowstorms or being rained out. Instead, Noonan said, they can focus purely on gameplay.

“We think about the process every day. Once you think about

the process, the outcomes take care of themselves. We have had proper preparation. Hopefully, the fruits of our labor will pay off.”

The Light Blue will play multiple schools, including Wagner, Lehigh, and Utah Valley, over

spring break in the Rebel Spring Games. After that it will continue the season with the Colorado State Spring Tournament, which starts on March 22 and consists of five games throughout the weekend.

[sports@columbiaspectator.com](mailto:sports@columbiaspectator.com)

# Lions fans need more realistic expectations

**TYDINGS** from page 3

game, Mark Cisco’s presence in the post, and the abilities of Grant Mullins and Isaac Cohen to facilitate the offense. That was the final time the Lions would win on the road this season. Looking back, we were all fools for buying into the hype even that late into the season.

Those of us who have dutifully followed Columbia’s marquee athletic teams over the last few years know by now how these seasons end, despite how promising they might look. Hopefully this unacceptable finish by the basketball team that was supposed to be a beacon of hope for Columbia sports in the 2012-13 season will start to change the overoptimism that follows every Lion

team throughout its season, no matter the negative results on the scoreboards each week. Far too often we still look for ways the season can be salvaged, even when hope has long been lost. Members of the media need to be more critical of the teams on a daily basis (when warranted) and perhaps not indicate that better use of timeouts could have saved the women’s basketball team in a game it lost by 60 points. For the fans, take the words of Chuck D to heart until proven otherwise: Don’t believe the hype.

*Sam Tydings is a senior in Columbia College majoring in history. He is a broadcaster for WKCR. Booth Review runs biweekly.*  
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