



HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ELDER WISDOM | Mormonism banned black priests until 1978. A Mormon church in Harlem has struggled to find its identity.

Mormons in Harlem face misconceptions

BY NAOMI COHEN
Spectator Staff Writer

As Mitt Romney’s status as the Republican presidential nominee is becoming more and more certain, Mormonism—Romney’s declared faith—is facing new scrutiny.

Last month, a comment in the Washington Post by a Brigham Young University professor prompted an official Mormon Church statement clarifying its position on the historical priesthood ban on African-Americans, which

Congregation says church is postracial, despite history

was lifted in 1978. “We condemn racism, including any and all past racism by individuals both inside and outside the Church,” the statement read.

Despite such assertions, the Harlem Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints still struggles with its image. Passersby have been verbally abusive to delegation members and graffitied the

word “racist” on the building exterior.

While the Harlem First Ward, on 128th Street and Lenox Avenue, is distinctive for its diversity, members say it has a certain unity and family feel. Mormonism emphasizes service and support to fellow congregation members, and the ward has absorbed aspects of Harlem personality, such as talking

and responding during services and always saying “good morning.”

“It acknowledges to visitors that we see you and we want you to know that you’re welcome,” said former bishop Edwin Pabón, who grew up in Harlem. The ward often has intrigued Harlemites

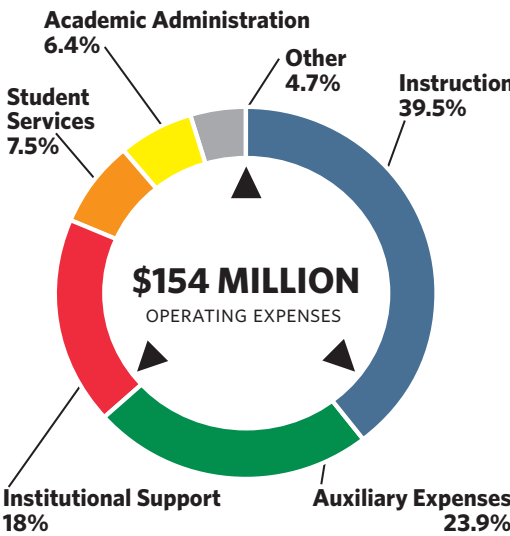
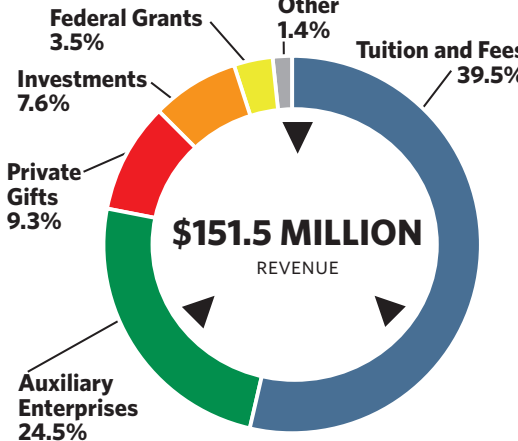
SEE MORMONISM, page 3

BARNARD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: BY THE NUMBERS

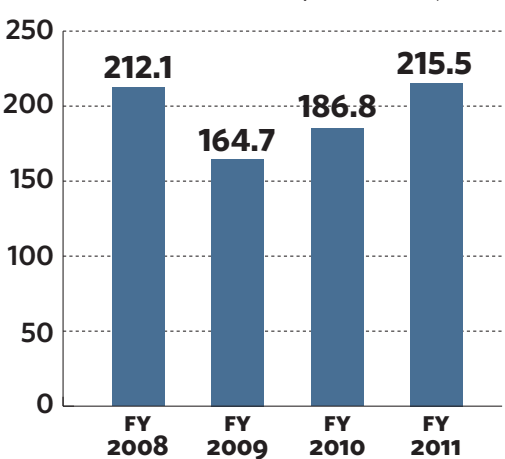
BARNARD HAS APPROXIMATELY
30,000 LIVING ALUMNAE.

CURRENTLY, ABOUT
30% OF ALUMNAE DONATE.

ALTOGETHER, ALUMNAE HAVE RAISED
\$2.3 MILLION
THIS YEAR, WHICH COMES OUT TO
75% OF FUNDRAISING DOLLARS.



BARNARD'S ENDOWMENT (IN MILLIONS)



SOURCE: BARNARD COLLEGE FINANCIAL REPORT AND BRET SILVER / GRAPHIC BY YUMA SHINOHARA

Barnard working to enhance endowment

BY JESSICA STALLONE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Barnard is preparing to unveil a new capital campaign to bolster its modest endowment.

The college’s Board of Trustees will set fundraising benchmarks within the next six months, but Vice President for Development Bret Silver said they are likely to shoot for a “mid-nine-figure goal.”

According to Silver, Barnard

is in the very early stages of launching a major fundraising effort to complement the school’s endowment which, at \$215.5 million, has historically lagged behind other Seven Sister colleges.

Wellesley College, for example, maintains an endowment of \$1.5 billion, according to its 2010-2011 Annual Report.

“In general, a good campaign should be no more than seven years. We’re aiming for

five,” Silver said. Ideally, the Board of Trustees will announce the public phase of the capital campaign in 2014 when Barnard celebrates its 125th anniversary.

Silver said that the school has begun reaching out to alumnae, parents of current or past students, and children of alumnae to increase the pool of

SEE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN, page 2

LionMail, Cubmail’s successor, begins pilot program

BY YASMIN GAGNE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Fifty-three undergraduates signed into their Columbia email via Gmail on Tuesday, the beginning of a pilot program to replace the CubMail interface.

In April, Columbia University Information Technology plans to roll out a larger phase of the pilot, selecting 1,000 undergraduate students through a voluntary lottery. Students in Columbia College, the School of Engineering and Applied Science, and the School of General Studies are eligible to participate.

“Working with the deans of the three undergraduate schools and student leaders, Columbia aimed to select for the pilot a group of students whose email use and technological know-how is diverse,” Melissa Metz, director of systems engineering, email, and databases with CUIT, said in an email.

“We believe we achieved that goal, with students who rely solely on CubMail, students who forward their CubMail to Gmail, and students who use other methods to read Columbia email,” she said.

The pilot for LionMail also involves 26 staff members, who are mostly CUIT employees. All undergraduate students are scheduled to move to LionMail

SEE LIONMAIL, page 2

Businesses on B’way look to team up

Merchants in CU buildings want cooperation from admins

BY GINA LEE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Struggling businesses in Columbia-owned buildings are looking for strength in numbers.

Jane Collentine, a local nurse and mother of a Teachers College alumna, organized a meeting of owners of businesses on Broadway between 110th and 116th streets on Wednesday morning. Collentine said she wants to “grandmother” a business district association to work together to lower rents in Columbia-owned buildings, as well as to combat street fairs and food carts that bring unregulated competition.

“Many universities have a university business association,” Collentine told the group of seven business owners assembled. “We’re here to try to help all of you.”

The meeting, held at the Morningside Heights branch of the New York City Public Library, was the first gathering of the group. Collentine said she would like for business owners to have a closer relationship with the University and Community Board 9.

For the many college students who come from all over the world, Collentine said, the stores up and down Broadway are the heart and soul of Columbia, and the University

should help them out.

Nicole Straws, general manager of Card-O-Mat, which has been in business on Broadway near 112th Street for 17 years, said the high Columbia rents are a problem for her stationery business.

Business owners say that, for students who come from all over the world, the stores up and down Broadway are the heart and soul of Columbia.

“If the rent wasn’t so high, they’d be able to offer specials,” which would benefit students and business in the long term, Straws said. “We have to allow room for sales and promotions—you can’t do that with rents like that.”

Several business owners on Amsterdam Avenue were in attendance, including those of Hamilton Deli and the pizzeria

SEE BUSINESSES, page 3



ELIANNA KAPLOWITZ FOR SPECTATOR

OLD BROADWAY | Owners of businesses in Columbia-owned buildings along Broadway discussed the formation of an alliance.

CB9 will designate projects to be funded by M’ville money

BY JILLIAN KUMAGAI
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

A newly formed subcommittee of Harlem’s Community Board 9 will devise a concrete set of projects to be funded by the Community Benefits Agreement, which Columbia established in the wake of the Manhattanville campus expansion.

CB9 chair Rev. Georgiette Morgan-Thomas said that the committee will focus on outlining specific programs in need of financial support from the CBA, which is supposed to allocate \$76 million to local housing, education, and job initiatives over 15 years.

The West Harlem Local Development Corporation was responsible for the distribution of those benefits—\$3.55 million of which it has already received from the University—but the organization received criticism from elected officials and locals for its lack of activity over the last three years.

The WHLDC was dissolved last year, and until the state Attorney General releases funds to its successor, the

West Harlem Development Corporation, the community is unable to access the resources necessary to move forward with projects.

Donald Notice, the president of the development corporation, has not responded to requests for interviews in more than two months.

Juanita Scarlett, a spokesperson for the corporation, said that progress was ongoing. “We’re in constant contact with CB9 regarding the priorities for West Harlem,” Scarlett said.

Nevertheless, Morgan-Thomas said that the community board will be prepared to make presentations to the new organization’s board in anticipation of its progress.

The committee isn’t focused on reaching out to the new development corporation, Morgan-Thomas said. “It’s coming up with some possible options for CB9 to have so that when the time comes for us to do something with the WHDC, we can actually facilitate CBA,” she said. “We’ll have specific

SEE CBA, page 2

A&E, PAGE 6

Swedish composer explores folk and classical music

Karin Rehnqvist combines herding calls with the Western classical canon in a performance at Miller Theatre.



OPINION, PAGE 4

Stumbling?

Noel Duan assures us that we’re here to trip, fall, and learn.

Calling all professors

Samuel E. Roth urges faculty to be more involved in Columbia College.

SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Girl golfer grew up competing with guys

Sophomore Jane Dong of the women’s golf team played with boys on the men’s varsity team in high school, which gives her a more competitive mindset.

EVENTS

World War II at Barnard College

Learn about Barnard’s attempts to mobilize students in the war effort as well as the war’s implications for a women’s college.

101 Barnard Hall, 12 p.m.

WEATHER

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Tomorrow



81°/57°



MR. SPEAKERS | History professor Eric Foner (above) and author Paul Auster will speak at this year's Graduate School of Arts and Science convocation.

Auster, Foner to speak at GSAS convocation

BY FINN VIGELAND
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Prominent author Paul Auster and history professor Eric Foner will speak at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences convocation in May.

Auster, CC '69, whom the New Yorker called "America's best-known postmodern novelist" and a "hipper John Irving" in 2009, received his master's degree in English and comparative literature from GSAS in 1970.

His debut, "The Invention of Solitude," won critical acclaim in 1982. In the memoir, Auster recalls his father's

death and discusses his thoughts on absurdism and coincidence, themes that would permeate many of his later novels.

The influence of his time in Morningside Heights is clear in many of his works—many of his characters are Columbia students or professors, a mugging takes place in Riverside Park, and a long day ends at the Heights Luncheonette on 112th Street.

Foner, CC '63 and the DeWitt Clinton Professor of History, received his doctorate in history from GSAS in 1969 after studying under iconic historian Richard Hofstadter, who

was also the DeWitt Clinton Professor of History.

Foner is a renowned expert on Civil War and Reconstruction history and has worked at Columbia since 1982. He won the Pulitzer Prize in History last year.

His class on the radical tradition in America is one of the most popular undergraduate courses at Columbia, with more than 150 students enrolled this semester.

GSAS convocation—which is similar to undergraduate class day ceremonies—will be held May 13 on South Lawn.

finn.vigeland
@columbiaspectator.com

CB9 will pick projects for M'ville funding

CBA from front page

items all ready to go" when the WHDC is developed.

Morgan-Thomas said that one of the difficulties with the benefits agreement is that it is too general in its allocation of funds. "We want to look at what the housing needs are in the community district and come up with what meets our needs," she said.

The four-member committee will examine all the general dimensions of the University's promise to the

neighborhood—from addressing housing and health care needs to improving educational facilities in Harlem—to formulate specific proposals for the future, a process that Morgan-Thomas explained as "going from macro to micro."

"My concern was that we were able to focus on having a plan that our community has not had an opportunity to create," Morgan-Thomas said.

She cited a renovation of the abandoned marine transfer station on 135th Street, a green jobs or vocational

training facility, and a collaboration with medical residents and dentists at the Columbia University Medical Center as projects the committee wants to fund.

Scarlett said that an announcement regarding the hiring of an executive director—delayed since the end of December—is forthcoming, though she would not say when, and that the group is in the process of finalizing a hire for the position.

jillian.kumagai
@columbiaspectator.com

Barnard to launch capital campaign

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
from front page

resources at its disposal. This "silent phase" of the new campaign began last semester.

"You have a quiet or silent phase and then a public phase. The institution goes through a relatively long period of fundraising to secure a large percentage of the goal before announcing the campaign," Silver said.

Barnard's current annual expenses are higher than its annual revenue. During fiscal year 2011, Barnard's revenue was \$151.5 million, while its operating expenses for the same year were \$154 million. Silver

said that a more robust endowment will help school strike a better budgetary balance.

Barnard's endowment growth contributes to 6 percent of its yearly revenue; at similar small liberal-arts institutions, such as Pomona College, that contribution is as high as 50 percent.

The discrepancy can also be seen in the yearly contributions of alumnae to Barnard's annual revenue. Only 30 percent of Barnard alumnae make donations yearly, and in fiscal year 2011 Barnard alumnae donations amounted to \$2.3 million. Increased funds will go toward providing student scholarships, faculty support,

and campus enhancements, among other projects.

Although the campaign is primarily directed at individuals, Barnard is also looking to grants and large-scale donations from foundations and corporations. Most of these organizations have strict giving guidelines, but Silver said that Barnard will also be reaching out to groups that support women's education, women's issues, and the liberal arts.

"Barnard will look to many people who are well disposed to like what Barnard does, and who care about education for women," Silver said.

jessica.stallone
@columbiaspectator.com

Trial Google-based email system debuts

LIONMAIL from front page

by the end of the year.

Students were asked not to forward their email to another Gmail account during this stage of the pilot and instead to rely solely on LionMail for their school email needs.

Kenny Durell, CC '12 and a University senator who was instrumental in the move to a Google-based system, described the system as "just very bare bones," he said he was

enthusiastic about the system's potential.

"I think it's exciting in terms of what it will mean for every successive group that comes to Columbia," he said.

Barnard transitioned from Barnard College Webmail to a Google-based system in Fall 2010, and an October 2011 student survey showed students were happy with the move.

Students will provide feedback through a series of brief surveys and are also encouraged

to share concerns with the CUIT support center.

"CUIT has extensively tested LionMail's technological capabilities, and we are confident they will meet the needs of the Columbia community," Metz said.

CUIT's goal, she said, is "to make using LionMail as easy and intuitive as possible so that as others transition, any questions will be answered before they are asked."

yasmin.gagne
@columbiaspectator.com

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HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SAINTS | “We want you to know that we are on your side, and that we’re not trying to take anything from the community,” said Alyce Leacraft-Purnell, a member of the Mormon church on Lenox Avenue.

Rapidly growing Mormon community in Harlem looks to reach out

MORMONISM from front page

sit in on services, something that Wayne Collier, a life-long member from North Carolina, was surprised to see.

“We benefit from that characteristic of Harlem,” he said. Although some characteristics—like gospel music and coffee—feel out of place with the Mormon tradition, Collier said that the ward is “more a part of the community than anywhere I’ve ever lived.”

Collier, who has pressure-washed the graffiti off the building four or five times, said that the ban on black priests wasn’t reflective of the Mormon doctrine.

“I was taught growing up, before the changes, that we as church members would have to pay a spiritual price for not successfully integrating blacks,

but there is no sense in attacking the church leadership for why they didn’t change the policy,” he said. “The policy reflected what the members were capable of doing as a whole body. Mormons always try to act as a single body. We would never conceive of separating into ‘black’ and ‘white’ churches, like some other denominations did.”

While African-Americans make up just 3 percent of Mormons in the United States, according to a 2009 Pew Research Center study, they make up 9 percent of Mormon converts. The first black priest was baptized two years after the Church’s founding in 1830, and black members remained with the church throughout the priesthood ban.

Now, even with more than 400 members in Harlem, the Mormon ward is growing rapidly.

“You have a lot of established religious groups, so there may be some resentment of Mormonism for coming in and trying to win converts,” Barnard religion professor Randall Balmer said.

The congregation moved to the building on Lenox Avenue in January, and to combat anticipated neighborhood resentment toward its opening, the Harlem First Ward created a Bridge Builders group, designed to improve relations with outsiders.

“We want you to know that we are on your side, and that we’re not trying to take anything from the community,” said Alyce Leacraft-Purnell, who is one of two black members serving in the group of five. “We did come when the community was already set up, but we want you to know that we are adding to the community.”

Besides organizing genealogy conferences for non-Mormons as well as Mormons—they believe in finding family connections and offering ancestors the opportunity to accept their gospel—the group also attends community board meetings and sponsors a Cub scouts group, basketball games for at-risk youth, and art projects for the elderly, among other service projects.

While demographic shifts in Harlem are favoring young, white newcomers to the ward, Leacraft-Purnell said that it is a misconception that Mormonism is a “white religion,” just as it is a misconception that Mormons are polygamous and don’t believe in Jesus.

“By being there, by proselytizing black people into the church, we’re having the opposite effect [of gentrification],”

said Ahmad Corbitt, director of the New York Office of Public and International Affairs of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. “There’s not some sort of intentional whiteness about our church.”

Neither Leacraft-Purnell nor Corbitt said they feel affected by the priesthood ban. But both converted after the ban was lifted. Collier, who was a Mormon prior to the ban’s long-anticipated end, said he still feels accountable for the policy.

“We were overwhelmingly conscious of the spiritual burden that we would pay if we had been the ones who had caused the long delay,” he said. “It’s a completely different personal experience for black members of the church. They wanted full participation, and there was no way around being alienated on a personal level.

They suffered for that.”

Still, there is no dialogue within the Harlem First Ward regarding the ban, since it is seen as historic.

“There is no other organization that has been more earnest and more decisive in moving beyond a policy like that than the church,” said Corbett. “That’s just light-years behind us, so it’s not really talked about.”

But it has perhaps contributed to the 27 percent of Americans who view Mormonism unfavorably, according to the 2007 Pew study.

In the end, though, this statistic has little effect on local Mormons. Collier said, “Externally, we live in the modern world, but internally, we want to be in the world but not of the world.”


naomi.cohen@columbiaspectator.com

PIXBOWL


TIEBREAKER

Penn at Princeton (+2.5)

Zach Glubiak
(30-18)



Ryan Young
(30-18)




VS.

Penn

Princeton

Final: Princeton 62-Penn 52

Winner:



Ryan Young

Check out Ryan Young’s victory column online at columbiaspectator.com/sports/

GRAPHIC BY CELINE GORDON



ELIANNA KAPLOWITZ FOR SPECTATOR

ALLIANCE | Jane Collentine, a local nurse and mother of a Teachers College alumna, organized a meeting of owners of businesses on Broadway between 110th and 116th streets on Wednesday.

Broadway businesses consider alliance

BUSINESSES from front page

Che Bella. Although the meeting was focused on businesses on Broadway, the Amsterdam Avenue business owners said they feel the competition from street vendors as well.

Halal and other food carts are not awarded letter grades for sanitation as restaurants are, but they are able to sell their products at a much cheaper price,

drawing in business by parking in heavily-trafficked areas at peak hours.

Collentine said that she has approached street vendors about sanitation issues with their carts, but they have told her that they are aware of the laws and are in compliance.

“We don’t know the laws. We have to write and ask for the laws,” Collentine said, suggesting that a letterhead from an organized group of businesses

would be helpful in getting through to city administration and to the University.

Straws said she would take on some of the leadership in getting the association started.

Collentine said that she does not want to serve on the board of the association once it gets started, but she wants to see it get off the ground. “I just wanted to facilitate ... a possibility of starting an organization,” she said.

gina.lee@columbiaspectator.com



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CONTACT US
2875 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10025
info@columbiaspectator.com
Twitter: @CU.Spectator

PHONE & FAX
Daily Spectator (212) 854-9549
Business (212) 854-9550
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Why student council elections matter

BY WILFRED CHAN

Brace yourselves—student council elections are here. In a few days, we'll be slammed by countless flyers, overly friendly candidates knocking on our doors, and I'm guessing at least one bad rap video. It's easy to lose interest. But be warned: it is this very sense of voter apathy that allows Student Council to suck. A disengaged student body means that vapid party planners and shameless résumé padders coast their way to the top, while real issues go unexamined.

This election, anyone who cares about the welfare of the Columbia community ought to pay attention and hold candidates accountable. As a former executive board candidate and a current volunteer member of the Columbia College Student Council, here are my thoughts on some big issues that matter:

Communications: CCSC's ability to speak effectively on behalf of its student body hinges upon its ability to seek student input. If you hear candidates talk about their cool ideas to host giant parties or change academic policies, but nothing about gathering student opinions, then don't vote for them. It is foolish to think that any small group of students can make fair decisions on how to spend the council's \$472,000 budget without first consulting the 4,000-plus students who pay for it. Aki Terasaki's current team has done

An open letter to the faculty

Dear Professor,
Spring break has come to a close, and all I can hope is that you've forgotten all the mistakes I've made since January. The inarticulate comments, the problematic midterms, that one week where I didn't really go to class—my sincerest wish is that you've taken this warm, mostly sunny week to let those black marks fade from the grade-book of your memory. I begin each semester with high hopes, and yet each spring, when March rolls around, I'm glad to have a fresh start. Spring break is a week-long hedge against my shortcomings so far. Which brings me to saving Columbia College.

When Michele Moody-Adams resigned as dean of Columbia College last fall because she felt the school was under institutional attack, it began a serious discussion of the future of the school and its place in the University. Who would control hiring and promotion of professors? Who would set the undergraduate curriculum? Would academic budgets—the ones that decide the future of the Core Curriculum, financial aid, and other important programs—be decided by Columbia College, the larger Faculty of Arts and Sciences, or someone else? No administrators would clearly say, nobody else really knew, but everyone wanted to find out.

And then, nothing happened. After a brief period of interest, it seemed like everyone had settled into the swampy new status quo. That's why I've been so pleased to see a small revival of concern over the uncertain future of the school to which I belong. On March 6, University Trustee José Cabranes published an op-ed in this newspaper ("No to the siren song aimed at Columbia College") that expressed his alarm at Columbia College's continued slide into irrelevance. On March 9, Robert Pollack, former dean of Columbia College, agreed in a letter to the editor that "the current fragile and new structure of the Arts and Sciences" threatens the health of the Core.

What is to be done? I hope that Judge Cabranes made his point of view forcefully felt at this month's meeting of the Board of Trustees, but what we really need is a cultural shift. And that, Professor, is where you come in.

Frankly, Columbia College is under threat in part because it has been decided that you don't care about it. When Columbia College had its own faculty, academics sat on committees that decided policies for admissions, financial aid, the curriculum, and other crucial elements of undergraduate life. Senior faculty taught introductory classes, not to mention the Core. Professors were connected to the lives of students in a real and meaningful way, perhaps even at a cost to their own studies and leisure.

You didn't choose for all of that to go away, but you haven't really been behaving like you want it back. When it seemed like Columbia College was under attack, you were somewhat upset. When your own fringe benefits were to be reduced, on the other hand, you nearly revolted. That tells the University how to prioritize its concerns. Carlos Alonso, dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, recently wrote that "it is almost predictable that in a situation in which the teaching and the research functions of the University were divorced, teaching would have acquired second-class status"—that is, shaping young minds is ok, but let's talk about my book.

Any discussion of the future of the Core, including Pollack's, begins with the question of how to reward faculty "for the additional effort and for the risk to an academic career that goes with teaching outside of one's field of expertise." In other words, you're hedging your bets. Getting to know students in small Core classes and being involved with the future of a unique undergraduate institution might prove rewarding. But spending time in your own bubbles, on your own work, guarantees that you can get a good job somewhere else.

Look, I understand that you've worked long and hard on important subjects to reach your current posts, that you're battered about by a complicated and overbearing tenure system, that you have a family that deserves your fullest possible support. But when it seems like faculty could care less what happens to Columbia College and its programs, that's a green light to the administration to dispose of them as they please. This column is about community at Columbia, and I'm asking you, more than for some forgiveness on the botched midterm, to join a community of students and alumni that greatly needs you.

Columbia College committees may be gone, but speak on the issues that matter, and you will be listened to. Teach the Core, even without special compensation, and I promise you'll find it worthwhile. Try to get involved in students' lives and problems, and I think you'll find yourself at a healthier University.

Break's over. I, for one, have left my winter clothes at home. I'm done hedging my bets.

Samuel E. Roth is a Columbia College senior majoring in history and political science. He is a former Spectator editor in chief. We Are Not Alone runs alternate Thursdays.

well by dormstorming, hosting town halls, and establishing a new website—but even so, much more could be done. We should demand that incoming candidates clearly explain their strategy for effective outreach to the student body.

Community: We Columbians often feel divorced from a larger sense of school unity. Every party talks about building community, yet their proposals are usually something like, "Council will host more cool events." This is the wrong approach. CCSC's social events are little more than uninspired, surface-level solutions. Any real community-building strategy should center on the true heart of campus life: student groups.

Anyone who cares about the welfare of the Columbia community ought to pay attention and hold candidates accountable.

In this case, Council's role should be to act as a gentle guiding hand that fosters student action. For example, Council should provide monetary incentives for existing clubs to collaborate with each other. Candidates ought to support continuing the Student Project Grants initiative, which empowers ordinary students to improve campus life. Candidates should also promise to cut back on wasteful and

Head over heels

You want to know the best part about studying abroad in Paris? No, not the cheap red wine. No, not the attractive men who are better dressed than I am. No, not the boulangeries and patisseries on every street corner. (Truth: I just wandered the streets for an hour looking for a Starbucks because I needed Wi-Fi to email this column to my editor. That would never happen in New York.) All of these things are great, but what I'm enjoying the most out of Paris are the well-paved streets! College Walk—before it was paved over, as my editor notified me—is a distant and painful memory.

In my almost-three years at this school, I have had a tenuous relationship with its irregular pavement. It started with a pair of BCBG Max Azria platform wedges I bought on sale in the middle of fall midterms my first year. I wore them to John Jay for dinner. I wore them to Lit Hum. I wore them to Fashion Week. I wore them to parties that have become a hazy recollection—but I always remember the feeling of confidence (and height) I had when wearing those shoes. I believed nothing could stop me—not even poorly paved paths.

So, during sophomore year, I pulled those magical shoes out of my closet to wear on the way to CC. It was a cool, dry day in October, and I wasn't running late to class, so I figured that I had ample time to totter around in a pair of shoes that made me average height. As all stiletto fiends know, the trick to looking confident in a pair of intimidating heels is to look up and not at your feet. I stepped onto College Walk and felt the end of my heel sink into a crack. I wobbled in mid-step. Not a great sign for my journey, but I was halfway to class. I kept walking with my face starting to burn up in regret, until I stepped between two uneven cobblestones and finally reached my doom. I tripped. I ripped my glitter tights. I sprained my ankle. Alma Mater had struck me down for my hubris. Even in high school, I was told by nurses and doctors to stop wearing heels for fear of weakening my ankles. I didn't listen. Fashion came first.

I spent the rest of fall and winter in a pair of shamelessly comfortable UGG boots and the occasional pair of ballerina flats. I watched my friends get dressed for going



NOEL DUAN

You Write Like a Girl

poorly attended events like Casino Night, and instead create programming that brings in students who fall outside of the typical "popular, active on campus" mold. I am convinced that there is a silent majority of disconnected students on campus whose needs are consistently overlooked, and we need candidates who understand this reality intimately.

That brings me to my final issue: student wellness. As the recent founder of the Student Wellness Project, I'm obviously partial. But it's worth pointing out that over the last year, there has been a significant (and much-needed) increase in dialogue surrounding the issues of student well-being, along with an upswing of student-led activity to create solutions. But we can do more. Candidates should pledge to provide support and resources to existing groups that can implement changes, develop supportive peer networks, and maintain a dialogue that takes the stigma away from talking about mental health. These issues strike at the core of student life, and any responsible student council must bring its resources to bear in ensuring that the fight to promote student wellness endures long after current students have graduated.

So, if you've been turned off by campus politics before, now is the time to get engaged. This year, let's demand that candidates face real questions and offer real solutions. We must select a Council that is enlightened about its own potential, responsive to students' needs, and focused on the issues that truly matter. Let's focus on accomplishing authentic change. The well-being of our community is at stake.

The author is a Columbia College junior majoring in political science. He is webmaster for the Columbia College Student Council and chair of the Student Wellness Project.

out in five-inch heels as I halfheartedly attempted to color-coordinate my bandages with my dress. I had lost the zeal for high heels, and I began to gape in awe at all the intrepid campus fashionistas who maneuvered across the cobblestones with ease.

Last summer, I interned at Teen Vogue and Vogue—where, in spite of being surrounded by clacking heels, I still couldn't sum up the courage to wear anything higher than the occasional three-inch wedge (and even then, I brought a pair of flats to change into after work).

The single day I wore Lanvin stilettos to work, my friend looked at me in exasperation and said, "What do you think you're doing?! You can't wear heels!" I, who usually never accept defeat, finally accepted my fate as a flat shoe fiend.

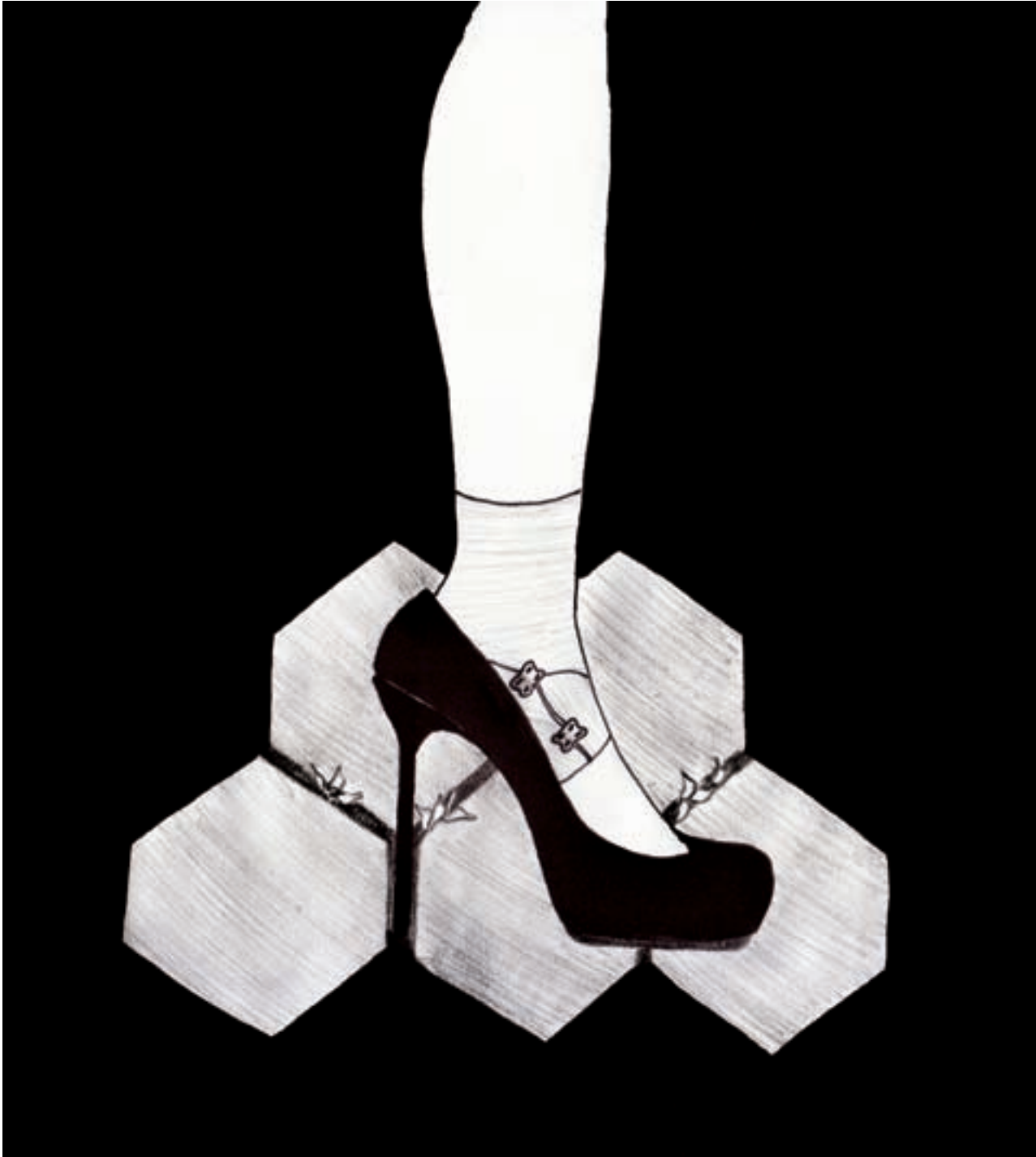
That same summer, the beauty and health director of Teen Vogue, Eva Chen, who graduated from Columbia Journalism School, found herself back on campus for a friend's wedding. She tweeted a photo of her designer heels on College Walk, lamenting her memories of this enemy to fashionable footwear. My spirits began to lift. Turns out, even the most experienced of high-heel wearers (Eva wears heels to the office almost every day—rain, snow, or shine—I swear she's a goddess and probably walks on water, too) struggle with walking with grace on campus.

I'm elated to hear that College Walk is finally repaved, but there are still plenty of other areas around campus that pose moments of danger for high-heel wearers. Those awkwardly spaced steps next to Philosophy Hall between East Campus and West Campus, for example.

Like any good Columbia student, I guess I could try to make several lessons out of my experience: Confidence comes from within, not from a fierce pair of Louboutins. Don't overestimate your natural abilities. Make elaborate plans to avoid unpaved ground. Move to Paris after graduation.

But really, as I watched Eva strut with confidence around the Teen Vogue office in impossibly high heels and think about how she once tottered in those same impossibly high heels on College Walk on a daily basis, I think the most applicable lesson is that Columbia makes fools out of us all. Even future fashion magazine editors.

Noel Duan is a Columbia College junior majoring in anthropology and concentrating in art history. She is currently studying abroad in Paris and is the co-founder of Hoot magazine. You Write Like a Girl runs alternate Thursdays.



ILANA SCHULDER

The Columbia Daily Spectator accepts op-eds on any topic relevant to the Columbia University and Morningside Heights community. Op-eds should be roughly 650 words in length. We require that op-eds be sent exclusively to Spectator and will not consider articles that have already been published elsewhere. Letters to the Editor should be no longer than 350 words and must refer to an article from Spectator or The Eye, or a Spectrum post. Submissions should be sent to opinion@columbiaspectator.com. Please paste all submissions into the body of the email. Should we decide to publish your submission we will contact you via email.

Actor Wallace Shawn talks ‘real life’

BY OLIVIA LU
Columbia Daily Spectator

Wallace Shawn: award-winning actor, playwright, essayist ... socialist?

The latest installment of the Barnard Forum on Emancipation and Politics featured a reading by Wallace Shawn, an Obie Award-winning playwright and actor. Shawn read from the expanded version of his 2009 nonfiction essay collection, “Essays.”

Shawn’s essay, “Why I Call Myself a Socialist,” delves into the ultimate theatricality of everyday life, where theater reveals more truths about people than “real life”—since, after all, “real life” is simply another performed role.

Using the actor as an example, where “on stage he’s disclosing the parts of himself that in daily life he struggles to hide,” Shawn considers the role of the actor a relatively small role. “When he plays that part, he must make an enormous effort to conceal the whole universe of possibilities that exist inside him,” he said.

Shawn said that it is impossible to be completely familiar with other people. Humans necessarily believe fantasies about others—hence they share a culturally-ingrained devotion to appearance.

“There are haircuts that can say, ‘I find sex an interesting subject, I’m interested in how I look, I’m rather fun, and I think life is great,’ and there are haircuts that say, ‘I’m not interested in sex, and I think life is awful,’” Shawn said.

But according to Shawn, fantasy has not always brought optimistic visions to the world. “You couldn’t exactly say, for example, that Thomas Jefferson had no familiarity with dark-skinned people ... as it would have been unbearable to him to see himself as so heartless, unjust, and cruel,” he said. Jefferson “clung to the fantasy that people from Africa were not his equals.”

Shawn cautioned against these fantasies, adding that they pigeonhole people into roles that can easily be considered destiny.

“The global market selects out a tiny group of privileged babies ... and these babies are allowed to lead privileged lives,” he said. “As for all the other babies, the market sorts them and stamps labels onto them and hurls them violently into various pits, where an appropriate upbringing and preparation are waiting for them,”

Though such inequalities are often dismissed with the insistence that everyone is equal in the eyes of the law, for Shawn, “it’s not bearable to watch while the talents and the abilities of infants and children are crushed and destroyed.”

Shawn instead urged people to challenge, rather than accept, given roles in society. Observing that “we all come into the world naked,” Shawn insists on the return to a role-less state as a new beginning for a reinvented social community, where people can then fully take charge of their own identities on an equal basis without complacency towards the global market—explaining the title of Shawn’s essay, “Why I Call Myself a Socialist.”

“The costumes are wrong. They have to be discarded. We have to start out naked again and go from there,” Shawn said.

arts@columbiaspectator.com



MATTHEW SHERMAN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DIFFERENT SOUNDS | Folk singers Lena Willemark and Ulrika Boden take the stage at Miller Theatre for the World Leaders Forum.

Composer mixes Western classical, animal sounds

BY JADE BONACOLTA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Those passing by Miller Theatre on March 20 were met by cow and goat calls emanating from inside. The source was music performed by Swedish composer Karin Rehnqvist, the latest speaker for Columbia’s World Leaders Forum. Rehnqvist will also perform in a Composer Portrait concert at Miller Theatre Thursday.

Her music is a mixture of Western classical and Scandinavian folk, heavily influenced by Swedish herding calls, or “lockrop.” Women traditionally sing these herding calls in order to gather their cows and goats in Sweden.

“As a composer, I am listening down below my feet, out to society, and up to the universe,” said Rehnqvist. She continued, “I want to explore the mystical elements of existence—what it means to be a human being.”

Rehnqvist was accompanied on stage by folk singers Lena Willemark and Ulrika Boden, and

a male percussionist from the music ensemble Either/Or. Together, they performed sections from three of Rehnqvist’s compositions. The singers took the stage barefoot, singing harmonies in Swedish in an unexpected combination of pitches, screeches, and throat-clearing noises. The vocals were constantly in dialogue with the soft tympanum, while Rehnqvist quietly tapped her foot in the corner.

“Folk music is very much about blue notes, but also about violence,” the composer said after the performance. “This composition starts with the extremes—very high and very low pitches. It is important to surprise the audience.” The score frequently leaps more than two octaves at a time. This jarring composition conveys Rehnqvist’s message that “humans are quite civilized, but also have a wild animal inside that can sometimes break free.”

“My music is a call, a prayer, an incantation, a lullaby, and a song of sorrow, lamentation. It is both beautiful and scary in the world of pitches

and scores,” Rehnqvist said.

To say the least, Rehnqvist provoked a reaction from the audience. George Lewis, a professor of music at Columbia who moderated the brief question and answer session, said, “At first I thought to myself, ‘Oh man, this is some primordial stuff.’”

Rehnqvist’s choral symphony, “Light of Light,” earned her critical acclaim in Paris, the UK, and Sweden. In 2009, Rehnqvist was named a professor of composition at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm, making her the first woman to hold a chair of composition in Sweden. For her part, she said she feels as though “she is representing women’s voices.” Her future plans include an opera, commissioned by the Stockholm Royal Opera.

When explaining her exploration of cross-genre forms and ensembles of music, Rehnqvist said, “As a composer, you are the listener of the world. You have very big ears.”

arts@columbiaspectator.com

Engineering group ‘Jams’ for convention

BY CHARLOTTE MURTISHAW
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

When Columbia’s chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers doubled in size this year, it discovered that sometimes there is a downside to popularity. Because of the increase in membership, the organization found their budgeted funds stretched thin, but hope that tonight’s “Spring Jam” concert will help alleviate the cost of sending 35 members to their national conference in April.

“We didn’t think it’d be fair to cut the number of people we sponsor, even though our membership has grown,” NSBE president Fatima Dicko said.

Enter NSBE financial chair Jonathan Ricketts, SEAS ’12. Ricketts, the co-founder of Bricks Entertainment, a record label, decided to fuse his two passions by throwing a fundraising concert.

The other half of Bricks, Brian Watson, SEAS ’12, is the NSBE publicity chair. The duo founded the label last spring.

“It [the Spring Jam] combines all of the things Brian and I love at Columbia ... We wanted to have fun. This is our last semester, and we wanted to do something big that people will remember,” Ricketts said.

Dicko feels similar enthusiasm about the event, headlined by Phony Ppl and D-Why. Phony Ppl, which will open the show, is a rap collective based in Brooklyn. The group has been attracting buzz lately with their genre-mixing music, which Ricketts said “blends the sounds of hip-hop and R&B with the funky undertones of neo-soul.”

The second act, D-Why, arrives fresh from a

showcase at this year’s South by Southwest festival. The emcee, an L.A. local, has gained attention from various media outlets, and was named one of MTVU’s “Freshmen Five.” The Spring Jam will mark his first appearance on a New York stage.

DJs Etrayn and BrandNewFromBklyn will also be featured.

“We’re bringing two up-and-coming artists who are about to blow up and have this concert slash dance party,” Dicko said. “People who love hip hop culture will love it and people who aren’t familiar with it will be exposed to it, so I think there’s something for everybody.”

The concert, which begins at 9 p.m. in Roone Arledge auditorium, will also feature several DJs spinning between sets.

The proceeds from admission will cushion the expenses of NSBE’s national conference trip, a centerpiece of NSBE’s yearly activities. The event boasts resources such as workshops, networking, and a major career fair, which is at the forefront of the Columbia students’ minds.

“I feel like in terms of engineering career opportunities at Columbia ... there’s a lot of emphasis on grad school opportunities,” Dicko said. “I think that the conference is really beneficial in that there are companies from over the nation that come for all different types of majors that people wouldn’t necessarily get exposed to at Columbia ... We [the club] prepare students so we can have our membership leave with jobs offers, internships, contact information. We really want everyone to get the most of this conference.”

arts@columbiaspectator.com



JENNY PAYNE FOR SPECTATOR

GOING GAGA | A new restaurant on the Upper West Side brings celebrity appeal and Italian and Southern inspired dishes, like “Papa G’s Chicken” or “Chef Art’s Southern Bread Pudding.”

Gaga ‘genitori’ open cozy trattoria

BY ALESSANDRA POBLADOR
Columbia Daily Spectator

On a recent evening on the Upper West Side, passersby shuffling home paused to peer into the window of a warmly-lit new eatery. Joanne Trattoria, an Italian restaurant recently opened by Lady Gaga’s parents, has brought a new buzz to a quiet neighborhood.

Joe and Cynthia Germanotta are the proprietors of Joanne on West 68th Street. Joining them is Executive Chef Art Smith, who has worked for the likes of President Barack Obama and Oprah Winfrey, bringing further celebrity caché to the restaurant.

The spectacle of Lady Gaga—once known as Stefani Germanotta—is the direct antithesis to the quaint, home-style presentation of Joanne. In the cozy 70-seat restaurant, brick walls, open fireplaces, and simple family photographs recreate a traditional Italian countryside feel.

The restaurant is inspired by the Germanottas’ love of food and family. “Everything from the menu to the decor has a bit of their family in it,” Smith told the Daily News. “It’s why everything is so warm and approachable.”

Though Lady Gaga is not a proprietor, she has described the importance of opening Joanne to her family. “To watch [my father] make the restaurant of his dream, two blocks from where I grew up, and name it after his sister,” she said, driven to tears in an ABC News interview. “That’s wealth. That’s the dream.”

Joanne Germanotta, the restaurant’s namesake, was the poet and painter sister of Joe Germanotta. She died of lupus at age 19, and Gaga credits her as the woman who inspired her to be an artist.

The dream was put in motion when Lady Gaga met Smith on an episode of Oprah. She introduced

Smith to her father, who shared his passion for cooking, and to many of the family recipes that ultimately make up Joanne’s menu.

The cuisine is a blend of Smith’s Southern specialties with the Italian contributions of the Germanotta family. Alongside “Papa G’s Chicken” and “Cynthia’s Antipasti Salad,” is “Chef Art’s Southern Bread Pudding.”

Despite the simplicity of their offerings, the attachment of Lady Gaga’s name meant Joanne opened to immediate hype. After opening on Feb. 1, the restaurant was soon booked through the end of the month. Fans of Lady Gaga, or “Little Monsters,” are credited with snapping up many of the early reservations, along with other guests hoping to spot a celebrity.

Tony Bennett attended the opening night, while Lady Gaga herself hosted a New Year’s Eve afterparty at the venue, attended by stars such as Ryan Seacrest, Jenny McCarthy, and Ashley Tisdale.

As their menu and decor indicate, however, the proprietors aren’t aiming to be a paparazzi hot spot.

In fact, the majority of guests interviewed at the restaurant denied that they were brought to Joanne by the celebrity buzz. Most were residents coming in for an ordinary meal, and described Joanne as a good fit for the neighborhood among its other restaurants.

“I’m sure that [the Lady Gaga connection] brought some attention to it,” one diner said. “But we went because we just wanted good food.”

Though the restaurant is more expensive than other spots nearby, customers say that the difference is justified.

“There aren’t many places in the neighborhood where you can have a star chef cook for you,” one resident said. “It’s not Lady Gaga, it’s Art Smith.”

arts@columbiaspectator.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN WATSON

WILD OUT | NSBE has booked what they call up-and-coming artists for their “Spring Jam” concert.



FILE PHOTO

EN GARDE | This weekend at NAAs, the Lions will hope to notch impressive individual wins since, due to the number of qualified fencers, a team title is not possible.

Dong improved skills, sparked competition on high school golf team

GOLFER from back page

or third-best score, you know, that’s when they started respecting me more.”

Dong was neither the first nor the only girl to play on the men’s high school team at her school. But Dong and another female teammate were the first to be approached by Mangan about whether they wanted to form a female team. “We didn’t have enough girls to form a girls’ team, so we decided that we’d rather play on a good boys’ team than attempt to form a mediocre slash really bad girls team,” Dong said.

Although Mangan offered to find a girls’ coach during Dong’s freshman year, he and many

players on the team hoped the two girls would continue play for the men’s squad.

“I told the boys I was going to offer it up and a lot of them were disappointed because they’re good players. In other words, they helped their team excel,” Mangan said.

On a team of approximately 20 people, Dong remained a key player and fired high enough scores for match play. In match play, five golfers on each team compete for the top four spots that make up the squad’s overall score.

After she began posting scores in the top four, Dong said the players whose scores were thrown out in her place did not blame her—the boys

knew they simply needed to catch up.

While she provided motivation for them, the boys also improved her skills. Dong focused on her short game because the team’s best male players were physically stronger, and therefore more capable of reaching the green. To compensate for this disadvantage, Dong usually practiced for an extra two to three hours with a few teammates.

“I think that playing on the boys’ team, first of all, helped me be more competitive. And it also changed the way I practice because a lot of times, when me and my best friend back then practiced, we’d chat and we’d just hang out. Guys, when they

practice together, they always compete,” Dong said.

In their spare hours on the course, the boys would challenge her with inventive and difficult tasks, like firing from behind trees.

Columbia teammate Michelle Piyapattrra cites Dong’s creative and accurate short game as her most admirable skill and said that it probably game from her time playing on a male team.

In a league where Irvington High had the only co-ed team, Dong’s ambition initially surprised rival schools.

“I think that the boys were astonished that a freshman girl could make a varsity golf team and become a match player,” Mangan said.

Dong was well known and respected within the league for her contributions to her team. While her scores factored into qualifications for important tournaments, Dong’s gender excluded her from the North Coast Sectionals, which only accepts male golfers.

And though she never experienced that competition, Dong now plays at that level for the Light Blue. Columbia coach Kari Williams finds that Dong transitioned smoothly to collegiate golf because she was already accustomed to playing on longer courses.

“Playing with the boys is much more competitive and Jane is a very competitive person,” Piyapattrra said.

Fencers aim for personal titles, CU win out of reach

FENCING from back page

is calculated by adding up the number of bouts won for both men and women in all three weapons.

The top four finishers in each weapon will earn the designation of first-team All-American, five through eight will earn second team, and nine through 12 will earn third team.

Columbia’s fencing program has won the team competition at NAAs 13 times. Unfortunately, the Lions will not make it 14 this weekend. It is practically impossible for the Lions to win the overall competition due to the number of fencers that qualified for the Light Blue. While the Lions are sending eight fencers, an astounding five other teams qualified the maximum number of fencers (12) and three others qualified more than eight.

At last year’s NCAA Championships, the Lions sent nine fencers and finished in seventh place, with five athletes earning All-American honors.

“Mathematically, we can’t win because we don’t have enough fencers in the competition ... the best we can do as a team is ninth,” Aufrichtig said. “Although I really believe our eight can beat Stanford’s nine, so our goal is to be eighth as a team.”

As a result, Aufrichtig plans to have his fencers focus on becoming All-Americans independently.

“Individually, we are bringing eight fencers, and I want to bring home eight All-Americans,” Aufrichtig said.

Men’s soccer team faces midfield gap

MOHANKA from back page

of the team that came mighty close to ending the program’s 18-year-wait for an Ivy title. Oh, what’s that you say? There’s a soccer game against Oxford? Yep. The Lions host the team from across the pond on Wednesday night at 7 p.m. NCAA rules allow college soccer teams to arrange a certain number of international fixtures every year, and Anderson is opting to use one of those next week.

That fixture is going to provide the first test for the Lions without the class of 2012. A key part of the squad from the fall is gone, and the new recruits haven’t yet come in yet. In addition, Stamatis, who led the Lions’ attack, is unavailable for selection following an injury. Again, though, for the large majority of members of the graduating class, natural replacements do exist. Jack Gagné, Brendan O’Hearn, Quentin Grigsby, Ifiok Akpandak, and David Westlake can all play at the back. Agyapong could slot in on the right wing and Mike Attal will wear the gloves. It’s just the issue of Mazzullo.

Team selection apart, another unanswered question remains: The Light Blue also needs to announce a new captain since Mazzullo, the program’s first three-time captain, is not going to lead the team out next week.

The headlines are usually grabbed by those who score or assist the goals that win games, or by those defenders or goalkeepers who form a miserly rearguard. The tough-tackling midfielders often go unnoticed, but I don’t think their importance can be overestimated. I don’t know about the other spectators at Baker Field next week, but I’ll definitely be more interested in how the Lions adapt to playing without the ball-winner who has served them so well than anything else.

Mrinal Mohanka is a Columbia College senior majoring in economics. He is a former sports editor for Spectator. sports@columbiaspectator.com



ZARA CASTANY / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SUPER SNIPER | Junior Kacie Johnson continues to be the Lions leading scoring threat, netting three goals against Princeton to give her 12 in the last four games.

Lacrosse searches for first Ivy win, falls short against Princeton

MUNEEB ALAM
Spectator Staff Writer

After an on-field disturbance—when a bystander interrupted play by running on the field and was ultimately arrested for stealing an iPhone—Columbia lacrosse (1-5, 0-3 Ivy) fell to No. 16 Princeton (4-2, 2-0 Ivy) on Wednesday night. Senior midfielder Cassie Pyle

led the way for the Tigers with five goals as Princeton started and finished strong.

The Tigers jumped out to a 4-0 lead within the first 10 minutes and an 8-1 edge within 20. After junior attacker Kacie Johnson scored on a free position shot to cut the Light Blue’s deficit to six, the Tigers scored six unanswered goals to finish the match.

“You’re going to see that inconsistency with a young team,” Columbia head coach Liz Kittleman said. “We definitely made some mistakes that we could have avoided.”

Princeton held slim edges in draw controls, ground balls, and clears, but also committed 12 fewer fouls and generated nine more shots than the Lions all in the first half.

“It’s weird that the score is 18-6,” Kittleman said. “I don’t think that’s indicative of how we played.”

Johnson had three goals and an assist to lead the Lions. She has 12 goals in her last four games.

“She’s somebody that when she has the ball in her stick you can rely on her to make something happen,” Kittleman said.

“It was nice that she was able to get open tonight.”

“My only expectations going into the game were for them to go as hard as they possibly could,” Kittleman said. “I would say they surpassed my expectations in terms of how hard they worked.”

Columbia is next in action Saturday afternoon at No. 10 Dartmouth.

Passing the armband to young Lions

It was just like any other day. I was walking to class as usual and I saw a tour guide answering questions for young'uns and their parents. And that's when it hit me: Some of those individuals will form part of the next generation of Columbians.

The changes that come with graduation are of huge significance to me. But they're also key to the Light Blue sports teams. After realizing that my place at Columbia will be taken by one of those eager-eyed high school kids, I got thinking about the team I know best, the men's soccer team. The Lions say goodbye to seven seniors, and while they're bringing in seven freshmen in the fall, I don't know how confident I am that the team will be able to adapt.

I have no doubt that the incoming players will add to the squad. Let's look at them a little more closely: According to ESPN HS's list of 2012 verbal commitments, the Lions are bringing in Freddy Elliot—from junior forward Will Stamatis' high school in New Jersey—in attack, which will help compensate for the loss of Francois Anderson.

Kyle Jackson and Luke Rossi are the two goalkeepers coming in, and they take the spots previously occupied by Alex Aurichio and Zach Glubiak. (Glubiak is a sports columnist for Spectator.)

In Jesse Vella, Nick Faber, and Ronnie Shaban, the Lions are losing three solid defenders. Matt Shinsky and Bryce Terrill are two recruits who will shore up the backline. There is a third defender who is apparently coming to Morningside, but he's not on the ESPN list. Antonio Matarazzo has spent the year playing in Germany, and will likely be a good addition. (Shaban is a sports columnist for Spectator.)

The Lions have two goalkeepers graduating with two coming in, three defenders graduating and three coming in, and one attacking midfielder graduating with a forward coming in.

No major issues so far. The recruits will add quality. But will they do enough?

According to the ESPN list, the only addition to the midfield is Alex Butwin, a 5-foot-9, 140-pound midfielder. For me, that's where the biggest issue lies. In the Lions' current set of recruits, I just don't see a ready-made replacement for Mike Mazzullo. At 6-foot-2, "Mazz" was a dominating center midfielder, happy to do the dirty work for the team and win back possession. He was a strong physical presence in the heart of the midfield, and his performances were rewarded when he was called up in the MLS Supplemental Draft earlier this year. Head coach Kevin Anderson has proved to be a fantastic recruiter, and I'm sure he's bringing in top talent. I just don't think Mazzullo's role is going to be filled next year unless Anderson has an ace up his sleeve—like Kofi Agyapong's transfer from Wake Forest last year—that hasn't been revealed yet, or if Steven Daws, a sophomore midfielder now, makes that transition. Daws looked a fine prospect his freshman year, and could be molded into a holding, defensive-type midfielder.

While some may believe the spring is too early to judge, I think that next Wednesday's contest against Oxford will give everyone a better idea about the future

SEE MOHANKA, page 7



MRINAL MOHANKA

Word on the Street



COURTESY OF AMERICAN JUNIOR GOLF ASSOCIATION

BATTLING THE BOYS | Sophomore golfer Jane Dong didn't have a women's team to play for when she was in high school, so she played on the men's varsity squad.

Men's high school team gave golfer competitive edge

BY LAURA ALLEN
Spectator Staff Writer

At the young age of 14, sophomore golfer Jane Dong overcame the forces of nature.

The California native successfully golfed against boys, disregarding the physiological differences between men and women on the Irvington High School male team in Fremont,

Calif. She continued to beat her physically stronger competitors until her junior year, and before she quit playing golf during her senior year to focus on college, she earned a spot on the All-American Junior Golf team, finished fifth at the National American Junior Golf Open, and accrued several Mission Valley Athletic League titles.

Dong did not find success

immediately—golfing on the men's team proved to be an emotional and physical challenge during her first season. Her extra flexibility promulgated wild swings, spinning her nearly 180 degrees after a stroke. Although her coach said he didn't witness disrespect pointed toward Dong, she said her male teammates teased her, often calling her

"whirlybird."

"Because I was more flexible and my swing was kind of weird, they did make fun of me to the point where I did want to cry, but I just didn't really," Dong said. "I actually never really confronted them. I just kind of dealt with it."

While Dong felt the social dynamic of a male-dominated team limited her emotional

expression, she took the teasing in stride, as the boys did not discriminate based on gender. They poked fun of everyone, and the comments subsided as she improved toward the end of her first season.

"With guys, you can't take anything personally," Dong said. "When I was always the second

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Fencing program sends eight to NCAA, looks for wins and All-American titles

BY SPENCER GYORY
Spectator Staff Writer

Columbia's fencing program will be represented by eight athletes at the 2012 NCAA Fencing Championships held at Ohio State University from Thursday, March 22 through Sunday, March 25. Competition will be held at the French Field House and St. John Arena in Columbus, Ohio.

Throughout the week, it was unclear whether senior sabrist Sammy Roberts would be healthy enough to compete at NCAAAs, in what is her final chance to take the strip for Columbia. Roberts suffered a ligament injury to one of her ankles near the end of the Regionals competition on March 11. Following a week of intensive therapy and a barrage of tests, the senior was cleared to compete.

"When I spoke with her a week ago, I did not honestly feel she would be ready to compete," head coach Michael Aufrichtig said. "She worked very hard with Jim Gossett and sports medicine this week. I'm really surprised how well she's healed in just one week. She will be fencing. I wouldn't send her out there if I felt she had a good chance of reinjuring herself."

Over the course of the two-day competition, 24 athletes will compete in each weapon category—epee, sabre, and foil. On the first day of the event, all 24 fencers will take part in 13 five-touch bouts. On the second day, the athletes compete in an additional 10 five-touch bouts. The four fencers with the best records within each weapon category following the conclusion of the round-robin portion of the tournament will enter a single-elimination bracket to determine the overall champion. Unlike the rest of the competition, these final bouts go to 15 touches.

The women will fence on Thursday and Friday, while the

men will compete on Saturday and Sunday. On the women's side, the Lions will send Roberts, junior sabrist Essane Diedro, junior foilist D'Meca Homer, junior epeeist Lydia Kopecky, and freshman epeeist Diana Tsinis. On the men's side, sophomore epeeist Alen Hadzic, freshman sabrist Will Spear, and freshman sabrist Michael Josephs will represent the Light Blue.

Success at this event takes a lot of toughness, both physical and mental.

"It's a lot of stamina, and, at the same time, there are no easy bouts at NCAAAs," Aufrichtig said. "It's the highest level competition. They have to be ready physically. Then there is a mental aspect where you stay in the game and not let the feat bother you and not get overconfident if you are doing very well."

This event marks the first time in over 33 years the Lions will head into national championships under a different head coach. Aufrichtig, who replaced longtime head coach George Kolombatovich, believes most of the preparation has already been completed. The biggest hurdle is to keep each fencer focused throughout the course of the grueling competition.

"The most important part of my role is to make sure that they stay on track for the duration of the entire event," Aufrichtig said. "If they are doing well, remind them by saying, 'Next round, next bout,' because every bout is important. If they aren't doing well, remind them to do a quick self-analysis but keep them focused on every round and every bout."

Unlike other meets, in which men's and women's team standings are determined separately, in the NCAA Fencing Championship team standings are calculated by combining the men's and women's scores. The overall team champion

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