

# Looking beyond male/female, students search for community

Post-ROTC debate, a glimpse into the lives of gender nonconforming students

BY KATIE BENTIVOGLIO  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

When asked to self-identify, Gavin McGown, CC '13, hesitates for a moment, and then looks up with a smile.

"How I dress and how I identify and what I do borrows very much from both male and female roles. I describe it as a mix of Don Draper and Auntie Mame," McGown said, referencing the free-spirited, feminine aunt from the 1950s movie.

"It's a way for me to express my discomfort with identifying in one or another way in terms of set gender roles."

Dressed in a black button-down shirt, with gold earrings and a trace of makeup, McGown is one of several Columbia students who do not identify exclusively as male or female.

The military's policy against allowing transgendered and intersex individuals from enlisting became a focal point in the last three months of debate about whether to allow ROTC to return to Columbia, thrusting transgender issues into the campus spotlight.

Some gender-nonconforming students, like McGown, got

**Transgender**  
**@ CU**

*This is the first part of a series exploring the experience of gender nonconforming students at Columbia*



PHOEBE LYTLE/SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**NONCONFORMING** | Gavin McGown, CC '13, says Columbia is a fairly safe place to push against traditional gender boundaries.

## TRANSGENDER:

*A general term describing individuals, groups, or behaviors that involve tendencies to deviate from normative gender roles.*

## GENDERQUEER:

*This can mean both, neither, or completely outside the gender binary. Genderqueer people can have any sex, any sexuality, any sexual identity, and may or may not identify as transgender.*

## TRANSSEXUAL:

*Individuals who identify as or wish to live as the opposite gender identity of their birth. Many undergo reassignment, but not all. Many who do transition no longer identify as transsexual, but rather simply as their desired gender.*

## TRANSITION:

*This is the process of changing sexes (but does not have to be within the binary). This is usually a long process (can take months or even years) and may or may not involve gender reassignment. Not all transgender individuals will transition.*

Courtesy of Everyone Allied Against Homophobia summit

**SEE GENDER, page 2**



ZARA CASTANY / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**SPEAK UP** | Ryan Cho, CC '13, spoke about helping student groups connect with advisors during ABC elections on Monday.

# New ABC board promises simplicity for groups

BY KARLA JIMENEZ  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Next year's ABC board wants to keep it simple.

In their brief speeches on Monday night, representative candidates for Activities Board at Columbia promised to simplify the bureaucratic process for groups to gain recognition and funding.

"ABC is a bureaucracy and I don't like that idea," said Kevin Zhai, CC '12, who will form part of the ABC board for a second year, adding that he plans to help liberalize spending guidelines and improve representative/group interactions.

Thirteen representatives were elected to ABC—which represents over 150 student groups—following executive board elections on March 30.

Rui Yu, CC '14 and a new ABC representative, said he understands the tiring and

complicated process for groups to receive funding, since he helped solicit funds for a group this year.

"I know how crazy some of the paperwork can get," Yu said, adding that he plans to implement electronic forms that are simpler to fill out.

Ryan Cho, CC '13, who will also return as an ABC representative, said he plans to help student groups contact advisors and work through financial problems.

Elizabeth Angeles, CC '13 and a new ABC board member, also promised to involve herself with groups to get to know them and to help them get to know other groups since there is little cooperation among them.

"I will be going out of my way to get involved with the groups I represent," Angeles

**SEE ELECTIONS, page 2**

# Groups merge separate safe space forums

BY KARLA JIMENEZ AND DANIELLE GRIERSON  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

One space will be enough for two previously separate forums on campus safe spaces tonight.

Members of groups hosting the two events met on Monday night to form the unified Safe Space Forum, following a debate sparked by fliers opposing safe spaces distributed by the Columbia University College Republicans.

CUCR's fliers said they opposed safe spaces for emphasizing difference and implying that the rest of campus is unsafe. The fliers satirically asked students to provide safe spaces for everyone from Scientologists

to Canadians and hipsters, and looked similar to fliers distributed at the beginning of the year marking dorm rooms as safe spaces for LGBT students.

Lauren Salz, BC '11 and president of CUCR, said that their forum—advertised on the controversial fliers—was planned first and had promised opposing ideas.

"It was supposed to be a debate and a dialogue," Salz said. "We didn't want to have people choose which event to go to."

In response, Everyone Allied Against Homophobia began advertising for a separate debate at the same time.

Avi Edelman, CC '11 and president of EAAH, said they planned the separate event

because they felt CUCR's form of publicity attacked their proposals on safe spaces.

"The original reason that our event was going to be separate was because we felt the College Republicans were being ungenerous in attacking our safe space initiatives," Edelman said.

Two established safe spaces at Columbia are the Stephen Donaldson lounge, for LGBT students, and the Malcolm X lounge, for African-American students.

"What their actions did was potentially threaten certain feelings on campus," Edelman said, explaining that the feeling of safety some students gained

**SEE SAFE SPACES, page 2**

## HEAR ME ROAR



ROSE DONLON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**STRIKE A POSE** | Orchisis performs their spring dance show in Roone Aldredge on April 2.

# Plans for fifth year global program progress

Pilot programs may begin next year

BY JACKIE CARRERO  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Columbia seniors preparing to enter the job market might soon have another option—spending a fifth year of school traveling abroad among the University's global centers.

At a fireside chat in February, University President Lee Bollinger pitched the idea of an optional program for a fifth year of undergraduate study, during which students would travel to each of Columbia's global centers and study globalization.

According to Vice President for Global Centers Kenneth Prewitt, there might be pilot programs as early as next year.

"We are at the beginning of this conversation, we hope that conversation accelerates and gets in play," Prewitt said.

In a recent interview, Bollinger said he would want to implement the program within two years and that he is still in the process of discussing the program with others.

"How exactly a fifth year would be set up needs to be discussed."

—Victoria de Grazia,  
interim director of global centers in Europe

"I've talked to other people ... about how to use the global centers more for students," Bollinger said. "Any time you do anything in a university, there are a lot of people you have to talk to. And conceiving of it in a way that would be good for students, and good for the university."

The University currently has global centers in Paris; Beijing; Amman, Jordan; and Mumbai, India. A fifth center in Istanbul is set to open this fall, and three more are planned for Kazakhstan, Kenya, and Brazil.

Prewitt said no specific new program has been designed yet, but called the idea of spending a fifth year abroad "a metaphor" for Columbia expanding its global perspective.

"The idea for a fifth year is fluid," Prewitt said. "Maybe all students will take three months [over the summer] before they come here in another part of the world."

Victoria de Grazia, the interim director of Columbia's global centers in Europe, said that Bollinger spoke of the fifth year program during discussions at the planned Istanbul center last week.

"How exactly a fifth year would be set up needs to be discussed, of course," de Grazia said in an email. "Would it be college credit a real fifth year, or a gap year within the framework of Columbia, so perhaps the third year off, or, maybe an

**SEE ABROAD, page 2**

## OPINION, PAGE 4

### X and Y

The feminist revolution has diluted the essence of manliness.

### A space of one's own

Terry Martinez argues that safe spaces are still necessary.



## SPORTS, BACK PAGE

### CU heads to New Jersey to take on Rutgers

Fresh off an up-and-down weekend to start Ivy League play, Columbia baseball will face off with Rutgers today in its weekly nonconference matchup.

## EVENTS

### 'Pray the Devil Back to Hell'

A film screening celebrating nonviolent protests by women that brought peace to Liberia.

Earl Hall Auditorium, 7-9 p.m.

### iQ End of the Year Social

Have drinks and finger food with iQ, for LGBT students in science and engineering.

The Heights, 8-10 p.m.

## WEATHER

### Today



56°/43°

### Tomorrow



50°/43°





ZARA CASTANY / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NERVES | Elizabeth Angeles, CC '13, sits down after she gave her speech during ABC rep elections.

## Fifth-year pilot program may start next year

ABROAD from front page

internship type of year?"

Students said that they would be excited for the program, and that the fifth year would give them more flexibility.

Valeria Villacreses, SEAS '13, is one such student. She said that the rigid engineering curriculum made it nearly impossible to study abroad without falling behind.

"I wanted to study abroad next year but I had to drop it," Villacreses said. "One more year in college is just perfect if you're studying abroad, of course. You don't even have to worry about taking too many classes."

Villacreses said she prefers the idea of a fifth year program to a summer program like the one Prewitt described.

"Summers are my only time home with my family, plus it's internship time," Villacreses said.

Others, like Denise Abad, CC '13, said that a summer program would be more valuable.

"If it were to be something during the year it would hold off grad school, law school," Deo said. "If it were during the summer then it'll allow you to continue your studies on the track you had planned before."

But Amber Ha, CC '12, said that an entire year abroad would be more useful in developing a deep understanding of cultures.

"I don't think it would get in the way of plans for after college because people normally take time off anyways. If anything, it may be a more structured way of taking time off," she said.

Bollinger acknowledged the inevitable concerns about funding an additional year, and said that financing would be taken care of for those who needed it, though he was not yet sure how.

"I would want to raise money for this but I don't know where at this point, I don't have particular people in mind," Bollinger said. "But I would be confident that we could develop a pool of money to support

students in a program like that."

Prewitt agreed that the program would need financial aid.

"We know it's expensive but, then again, an undergraduate education is expensive," Prewitt said.

While the program is still being developed, Prewitt stressed the importance of talking to students in forums like the Columbia Goes Global conference on April 20.


De Grazia said in an email that Bollinger has the right idea, and is responding to student and faculty desires for more chances to study in other countries.

"He [Bollinger], like many faculty, and many students as well, believes that Columbia in NYC is great, but it would be greater if there were important opportunities to connect study at Columbia with experience of being outside of the American nation, to confront our own experience and concepts of globalization with that of other peoples," she said.

jackie.carrero  
@columbiaspectator.com



GRAPHIC BY FINN VIGELAND AND SKYLAR COZEN


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Dr. Adam S. Posen is an external member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England, by appointment of the UK Chancellor of the Exchequer, until September 2012. He remains a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, which he joined in 1997. His research and policy expertise focuses on macroeconomic policy and forecasting, European and Japanese political economy, central banking issues, and the resolution of financial crises.

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## New ABC reps promise 24/7 communication

ELECTIONS  
from front page

said. "I think it's important for these groups to know about the initiatives of other groups."

Mirzya Syed, BC '12 and President of the Organization of Pakistani Students, agreed that she wants her representative to interact more with her group.

"There should come a point when student groups don't see ABC as a bureaucracy, but as a resource," Syed said.

She added, however, that all the talk comes down to ABC's primary purpose—funding.

"There were significant improvements this year, but more work can be done," Syed said. Outgoing ABC president

Beezly Kiernan, CC '11, spoke at the end of the meeting about what the board accomplished in the past year. He

“ABC is a bureaucracy and I don’t like that idea.”

—Kevin Zhai, CC '12, ABC representative

was followed by John O'Shea, CC '13, and Daniel Brown, CC '13, ABC's recently elected vice president and president,

respectively, who quickly talked about their plans for next year—using the new e-forms and increasing funding through alumni donations.

"Our primary purpose is to serve you guys," Brown said. Felicia Bishop, CC '12 and president of the Black Students Organization said she looks forward to seeing the new representative board keeping those promises of open communication.

"Accessibility is very important to me," Bishop said, referencing the Blackberrys and iPhones many candidates mentioned they were attached to. "I'd like to see those put to good use."

karla.jimenez  
@columbiaspectator.com

## Single safe space forum created after controversy

SAFE SPACES  
from front page

from the LGBT pink fliers was abused.

EAAH and other cosponsors originally planned to host an event to celebrate the launch of Safe Morningside, a campaign that asked local businesses to post safe space stickers.

Salz said that CUCR had invited members of EAAH before they made their own event, which Edelman acknowledged,

saying that discussions with CUCR about attending the debate were positive until they distributed their fliers.

When Salz heard Monday morning that EAAH had planned an event at the same time, she decided to contact them and meet with the cosponsors, including the Columbia Queer Alliance, the Black Students Organization, and the College Democrats. The combined forum will now be a moderated discussion with input

from the audience instead of a heated debate, Edelman said.

"People who come should expect a contentious dialogue," Salz said. "Definitely expect to hear relative disagreements."

Edelman said he is looking forward to the event—but said that the forum could have taken place weeks ago.

"Next time we can skip the nonsense and skip the stupid publicity stunts and go straight for the dialogue," Edelman said. news@columbiaspectator.com

## Campus gender identity about more than ROTC

GENDER from front page

involved in the debates, while others stayed out of the fray. Yet these students say they've faced less-publicized challenges on campus long before the ROTC debates emerged—issues as varied as the availability of gender-neutral bathrooms to requesting specific pronoun use.

"At Barnard, it's this whole strong beautiful Barnard women community," Simone Wolff, BC '13, said, sitting cross-legged with a pixie cut framing her blue eyes. "Sometimes I wonder—do I belong in that community? Do I still respect that community by being in it?"

Wolff, like McGown, identifies as genderqueer, though this means something different to both of them.

"For me, it's a lot about not being gendered, instead of this gender mix," Wolff said. "I kind of don't accept the demands our culture makes about gender."

Broadly, the word transgender describes individuals who differ, in anything from their wardrobe to their preferred pronoun use, from their sex at birth. The term does not refer to someone's sexuality or mean that an individual is gay.

McGown and Wolff agreed that Columbia is a fairly safe place to push back against traditional gender barriers, and said that neither of them have ever felt physically unsafe.

"You're meeting new people

all the time and people are usually pretty flexible—we're changing everything, we're changing our major, we're changing our gender," Wolff said with a laugh, adding that Barnard has been, on the whole, an accepting place.

But questioning traditional beliefs about gender isn't without its challenges.

"I'm perfectly comfortable toying with people's notions and forcing them to take a second look," McGown said. "But when you get strange looks, as I often do, it feels aggressive on a small level."

Wolff, who grew up in New York, agreed that the constant inability to blend in can be tiring.

"I do have that feeling of, why do I have to stick out all the time? Because part of the New Yorker practice is to not stick out and be invisible," Wolff said.

In not identifying solely as female, Wolff sometimes worries about losing affinity with other women—especially when dressed in a more typically male style.

"I like that look on the subway when you're that only other woman on the subway car and the other woman is like, 'Thank God there's a woman,'" Wolff said. "That locus of safety—I appreciate that and it's hard for me to give that up."

Despite an increased number of gender-related organizations at Columbia, such as GendeRevolution, both Wolff and McGown said getting off campus was important to understanding

their own identities.

"Truthfully, I've learned more from the city outside of school," Wolff said. "Things at Barnard and Columbia pointed me towards them, but ultimately I had to get off of campus to see the lives of gender non-conforming people more."

And despite McGown's vocal opposition to ROTC on the grounds that Columbia's antidiscrimination policy should be upheld without exception, McGown emphasized the importance of addressing the issues facing transgender individuals beyond the Columbia gates.

"Unfortunately, being transgender in America is very highly correlated with high rates of unemployment, difficulty in finding stable housing, with depression, with suicide," McGown said. "But all of these things are factors that are born out of one common cause ... the immense social stigma around gender and how you fit into it."

Yet some of the challenges gender non-conforming Columbia students face, like the difficulties of feeling connected to other students, are clearly shared.

"It can feel like a very cold campus," McGown said—something that can be both a blessing and a curse.

"Columbia is like New York," McGown said. "Most of the time, blissfully apathetic."

katie.bentivoglio  
@columbiaspectator.com



PHOEBE LYTLE/SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MOVING FORWARD | Gavin McGown, CC '13, spoke out against ROTC during campus debates.



# Excitement, action of ring would be great addition to Columbia

LOPEZ from page 6

greater complete victory in sports. Although the history and purity argument should be enough to earn boxing a spot in Columbia's athletic department, the safety issue is what most turn to in their rebuttal.

I strategically forgot to mention earlier that the NCAA dropped boxing after the death of an athlete. While the autopsy revealed boxing was not the cause of his death—the real cause was an undiagnosed aneurysm—the sport still got the blame and the boot. Boxing, without question, is dangerous, but it is not so much more dangerous than football or wrestling to warrant it not being an NCAA-sanctioned sport. The rules set forth by the NCBA are in place to keep the fighters safe, and results in a sport that is very different from professional boxing. Collegiate boxers wear headgear, fight significantly shorter fights, and bouts are determined by number of clean punches landed, not by bone-crushing knockouts. In short, it is not a common street brawl, but a controlled competition with well-trained competitors.

Currently, 25 colleges understand that boxing deserves a spot in their athletic departments—it's about time the Ivy League joined the fight.

*Bart Lopez is a Columbia College senior majoring in economics-mathematics. sports@columbiaspectator.com*



ANGELA RADULESCU / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ITHA-CAN | Senior Natasha Makarova and her teammates will try to capture their first win over an Ivy League opponent on the road against Cornell today.

## Women's tennis heads to Cornell looking for first Ivy League win

BY KUNAL GUPTA  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Still seeking its first win of the season in conference play, the women's tennis team will take a mid-week trip up to Ithaca to take on Cornell Wednesday. The Lions beat the Big Red earlier this season at the Eastern Conference

Athletic Championships 4-3 in a five-hour thriller, where they rallied from deficits repeatedly. Freshman Tiana Takenaga came back from 5-2 down in the third set to win the deciding match 7-6.

Columbia enters the rematch with Cornell on a two-match losing streak after they were swept by Harvard and Dartmouth

over the weekend. Cornell also played Harvard and Dartmouth last weekend and was swept by almost identical scores. The only difference was that Harvard beat Cornell 7-0 but beat Columbia 6-1, as freshman Ioana Alecsiu won her singles match.

Cornell will come into the match with a record of 8-7 this spring, though they are 6-2 at

home. Cornell beat Columbia 4-3 in a tight match during Ivy play last spring, and the win at ECAC was the first win over Cornell under fourth-year head coach Ilene Weintraub.

In that match, sophomore Nicole Bartnik won in three sets at No. 1, senior Natasha Makarova won in three sets at No. 3, rallying from a 3-0 deficit in the third set,

Alecsiu won in straight sets at No. 6, and Takenaga won 7-5, 6-7, 7-6 at No. 5 singles. Cornell won the doubles point, winning 8-5 at No. 1 doubles and 8-1 at No. 2 doubles, while the No. 3 match was halted at 6-6 because the outcome had already been decided.

The match will be played at the Reis Tennis Center in Ithaca and is scheduled to begin at 3 p.m.



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### WOMEN'S GOLF

#### Women's golf finds success at shortened tournament

The Light Blue traveled to Beallsville, Md., on Monday to take part in what was originally supposed to be a two-day, 72-hole tournament.

The Hoya Invitational—which featured 17 teams, including four other Ivies—was cut short due to inclement weather, meaning the golfers' 36-hole scores would be their final scores.

As a team, the Lions finished tied with Harvard for eighth place, with a score of 655.

Junior Robin Lee

highlighted Columbia's field of five, as she took third overall in the individual competition. Lee finished three strokes ahead of Princeton's Kelly Shon, making her the top individual Ivy Leaguer.

Lee got off to a good start in the first round with a 77, and improved on that score in the next round with a 75. She—along with freshman teammate Michelle Piyapattra—also netted four birdies through the tournament, leaving her tied for second in that category.

Piyapattra had a better first round than Lee (76), and was in a tie for fourth place. She finished the tournament in a tie for 17th place in the field of 89 golfers.

Lee's average score of 76 on Monday was about six strokes below her scoring average to that point in the season, a good sign for the Lions.

Next up for women's golf is the 5th Annual Roar-ee Invitational at Spook Rock Golf Course in Suffern, N.Y., on April 15 and 16.

—Jeremiah Sharf

### NEWS BRIEF

#### Assailant identified as Business School student

The man accused of attacking a 22-year-old woman at Columbia's gates on Saturday was a Columbia student, University spokesperson Robert Hornsby confirmed on Tuesday.

Police said Ash Sinha, 28, punched, kicked, and bit the woman around midnight on April 2, leaving the victim with a swollen face, abrasions on the knees and face, and bites on the legs.

Ash, otherwise known as Aish or Aishvarya, is a student

at the Columbia Business School, students said.

Columbia Public Safety has refused to comment on the incident, though Public Safety officers eventually detained Sinha before NYPD officers arrived. Police said that Sinha, a resident of 109th Street, appeared to be highly intoxicated and was charged with criminal mischief, felony assault of a police officer, and misdemeanor assault.

There were two 911 calls that night—the first one from someone looking out their window

who said they saw around 20 people gathered around the gates, and the second call to report a woman who had been assaulted. Initial reports of a fight among 20 people were inaccurate, police said Tuesday.

A Facebook profile shows that Sinha, from New Delhi, India, previously attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he studied finance, statistics and computer science.

—Arvin Ahmadi and Karla Jimenez

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Columbia Spectator  
2875 Broadway, 3rd Floor  
New York, NY 10025  
info@columbiaspectator.com

**PHONE & FAX**  
**Daily Spectator** (212) 854-9549  
**Business** (212) 854-9550  
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# The end of manliness

There is a slew of new books out about the modern man. I mean man, in this instance, not in a collective “human-kind” way, but man, of the John Wayne or Clint Eastwood variety. Sociologists are tracking the decline of “masculinity” credited largely to the feminist revolution. With Barnard so close, and Columbia’s strong social and academic focus on women, less thought perhaps is given to what Harvey Mansfield deliberately terms “manliness.”

The very word “manliness” probably strikes us modern sophisticates as antiquated and almost risible. Attempts to be manly are undertaken only in parody, as the image of the “manly man” puffed up to shoot game and chop firewood hinges on contemporary farce. Manliness, defined loosely as assertion, boldness, or “hardiness” in the face of adversity, as the OED says, cuts against the ethos of tolerance, equality, and gender neutrality that pervade society at large and are magnified at college. It implies real differences between the sexes, and inheres, empirically, more in men than women.

Feminists don’t much stand for this, in a tenuous paradox. The premise of the women’s movement was, simultaneously, that they were equal to men and could perform at the same level, but also that life ought to be gender-neutral. It’s difficult to reconcile these polar beliefs; taking pride, for example, in being “strong and beautiful” while concurrently maintaining that strength and beauty have not a whit to do with anything in the meritocracy.

Men, on the other hand, have largely capitulated. Within the broader context of political correctness, it is decidedly unacceptable to have a manly hauteur, the charge to get things done when push comes to shove without much respect for feelings or protestations. That drive is conditioned to be suppressed but lingers, latent. Manliness can be not so much conditional on sex—Lady Macbeth is “manly,” after all—but is dependent on the principle of bold assertion, which is under attack.

Modern critics like to point out and deconstruct manliness, arguing that patriarchy is oppressive, pigheaded, or some combination of the two. Of course impassioned manliness can be misguided, as it often is, but the eradication of manliness has tossed out all the good along with the problematic. As an aggregate, history and literature show us that manliness is something rather important, and should not be expelled so quickly. Plato’s manly philosopher-king or the hardheaded duty of Hector to his city exemplifies the best in manliness. These virtues could not be realized in a contemporary society, where these attributes are not only undervalued, but actively discouraged. Instead of action, we get bureaucracy and talk. Where we once had stoic fortitude, we now have sensitivity training.

All in all, the loss of manliness is a loss for civilization. Men are no longer able to be gentlemen, what Mr. Mansfield terms “a manly man with polish and perfection” who acts decorously “out of policy, not weakness.” The entire foundation of chivalry is based on the code that men and women differ, and that manliness is important. This, though, according to the feminist critique, is simply a nefarious arrogance in so-called “gentlemen,” a condescending belief that women are inferior and must be looked after. As a result, our manners have deteriorated, as men shove their way past women in the elevator and expectantly wait for dates to pony up half the tab.

In a thought experiment, I would suppose that any mechanism for preserving manly virtue would be pilloried as anachronistic, if not downright offensive. The idea that Columbia could have remained a single-sex institution is regarded as backwards and anyone suggesting such a thing would be branded a chauvinist or plain idiotic. Yet the women across Broadway can maintain pride—justifiably—in their education, without fear of animadversions on their character. I’ve never been much for the double-standard game, but here again gender equality and the progressive inclination have hit a quandary.

For all the modern aspersions, there is something to be said for manliness and for the old divisions, now so hopelessly obsolete. It is not misogynistic to observe that men are better at certain undertakings than women, and that the opposite holds true as well. Everyone has natural aptitudes, but the modern project is to level those into obliteration.

In Washington, D.C., there is a little-known memorial for the RMS Titanic, dedicated to the “brave men who perished in the wreck ... that women and children might be saved.” One shudders to think about a modern gender-neutral scenario today, where men and women would run chaotically for the lifeboats. If nothing else, men were once able to accept their fate in a world that seemed ordered. Would that at the end, as Dr. Johnson wrote, “a man knows it must be so, and submits,” with a confident manliness that he regrets not.

*Stephen Wu is a Columbia College sophomore. The Remnant runs alternate Wednesdays.*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Before President Bollinger explores ROTC’s return to campus with the military, he should establish a firm prerequisite: no uniforms in the classrooms and no military rituals on campus. The University should be spared from displays of militarism.

*Herbert J. Gans  
Robert S. Lynd Professor Emeritus of Sociology  
Apr. 6, 2011*

## STAFF EDITORIAL

# No space for sensationalism

The recent fliers from the Columbia University College Republicans decrying “safe spaces” on campus have sparked a discussion that has much of Columbia defending the need for them. It’s valid and even healthy to examine the purpose of safe spaces on campus, but ultimately, in a country and on a campus where discrimination still exists, there is no doubt that these spaces are necessary.

It first should be noted that not every group means the same thing when calling for safe spaces. There are some, like those in the anti-ROTC faction, who have demanded a safe space to discuss their views in a setting where they would be free of disagreement. But the function of safe spaces, rather than the isolation of oneself from differing



STEPHEN WU  
The Remnant

# Safe spaces, questioned

BY J. AUSTIN LOWE

An institution formally designating “safe spaces” to members of certain groups that have been victimized both historically and in the present is deeply problematic on a number of levels. Although these spaces may have highly valuable advantages and psychological benefits for those groups in the short term, as Sarah Ngu articulates in her op-ed on this topic (“Be open to safe spaces,” April 1), this policy ultimately fails to foster the state of universal safety that it claims will result from the availability of these exclusive areas to members of these groups.

What we have to consider are our definitions of the terms “safe space” and “discrimination.” What exactly is implied by referring to the Malcolm X and Stephen Donaldson lounges as “safe spaces?” Obviously the University believes that African-Americans and the LGBT community have faced a uniquely abhorrent and overwhelming prejudice that stems from inaccurate stereotypes and illegitimate bigotry. And they see nothing wrong in publicly advocating for the elimination of this discrimination. Nor should they.

But keep in mind the perverse standard that underlies the assumptions that attempt to justify the existence of these “safe spaces”—magnitude. We generally associate the term “discrimination” with the groups that are most publicly and openly discriminated against on a daily basis. A week has not gone by without me hearing at least a few racial or homophobic slurs, even if they are said without malicious intent. But does not sealing off certain sections of campus create a self-perpetuating cycle in which these demographics of people consistently remain discrete and insular minorities, separate from the rest of the community? These assumptions imply the need for Columbia as an institution to take gross measures in order to ensure that these two specific groups are not being systematically excluded from the rest of the community.



STEPHANIE MANNHEIM

# The need for safe spaces

BY TERRY MARTINEZ

I have been asked several times over the last week to share my opinion regarding “safe spaces” on campus and whether or not I support such spaces, particularly in response to the flyers posted by the Columbia University College Republicans. As Dean of Community Development and Multicultural Affairs, my daily work brings me in contact with students who for many reasons have felt great personal pain, isolation, and alienation caused by others in our community who have not given consideration to the weight of their words or actions. I take seriously my role to hear the voices of the unheard and those who have been hurt, and find it necessary to provide those voices with a space free of preconceptions.

When speaking about safe spaces we should be careful not to approach the conversation from an “either-or” proposition, that all spaces are either safe or not safe. I think they fall on a continuum. Those who do not experience some form of discrimination on a daily basis do not feel the daily assault on one’s sensibilities, one that is, quite frankly, tiring. The flyer suggests that creation of safe spaces “implies that certain minorities should have genuine fears when on campus” and that “the rest of the campus is in some way dangerous.” This simply is not true.

The notion of a safe space comes from feeling a certain degree of trust in the others who are sharing that space at a particular point and time. To simply say that all spaces on campus are safe does not take into account various factors that determine such a designation. What is a person’s

No one cries out in protest when the Catholic Church is consistently referred to as a bastion of pedophilia and homophobia, or when two male students dress up as nuns on Halloween. This might seriously offend some devout Catholic students, but I know from experience that it never elicits anything close to the response seen when someone uses a homophobic slur. There are both legitimate and illegitimate reasons for this, and I am by no means arguing that Catholics are common victims of hate crimes. But groups other than the two aforementioned, whether ethnic or religious, still indubitably experience discrimination. There is no shortage of popular racial slurs that refer to everyone from Asians to Hispanics to Jews. The point is that attempting to weigh the problem of discrimination by this vague standard is illegitimate and unjustifiable, and as a result will fail to create a universally safe environment. Instead, it will perpetuate the notion that blacks and the LGBT community are groups that need special attention from the institution, without which they would suffer overwhelming dangers that could not be avoided without the existence of these safe spaces.

With such an incoherent basis for judging what constitutes discrimination, there is no foreseeable way of deciding at what point we have attained a stable state of community in which these safe spaces are no longer necessary. If this is the standard, the only way to justify it would be to create an “intellectual, cultural, and social safe-haven” for every single minority group on campus, from Orthodox Jews to Pacific Islanders to Ronald Reagan enthusiasts.

I admit that, as someone who does not face the discrimination faced by the aforementioned groups on a regular basis, my evaluation of how much these safe spaces benefit the specific communities they are intended to help might be skewed. I just don’t think the arguments made by the CUCR should be immediately dismissed as absurd conservative propaganda.

*The author is a Columbia College first-year.*

personal experience with feeling marginalized? What is a person’s familiarity and comfort level with those present? What factors have prevented an individual from freely discussing their experiences, frustrations, or recent incidents in their daily lives or expressing who they are without judgment? Is there a level of trust that has been built among the group members and the person sharing the experience? These factors all determine whether or not one feels comfort in a particular place and time. To say that a space is “safe” is just an over-simplification.

Overhearing a flippant “you’re so gay” comment to a friend, reading anti-Semitic writing on a bathroom wall, listening to a misinformed conversation in a classroom about recipients of financial aid—all enter into this daily assault. One comment perhaps doesn’t call for a need for safe spaces, and for those less conscious of these day-to-day experiences it is easy to simply classify a need for a space as pandering to victimization. But it isn’t just one comment. It is a culmination of experiences each day that are unseen or unfelt by the majority that necessitates a call for a place where one can simply be, to be able to receive support from others without judgment or bias, and to share the daily challenges one may face in the absence of scrutiny.

I, too, look forward to the day when society is free from discrimination, and until that time comes, the creation of a “safe space” is a necessity and I will continue to support such a designation.

*The author is the Dean of Community Development and Multicultural Affairs.*

photo from a campus security notice, they posed the question, “They have guns, why don’t you?” The men in the image they used were black, and the crimes they were accused of, it turns out, did not involve guns. Their sensationalist methods worked, however, as after seeing the fliers, the campus was filled with buzz about the College Republicans and their event. Bringing figures like Ann Coulter and Geert Wilders to campus, the College Republicans use unacceptably extreme methods for bolstering their campus presence. Columbia is traditionally considered a bastion for left liberal politics, but when the College Republicans behave this way, they only confirm their fellow students’ attitudes toward them.

That being said, CUCR’s apology for undermining the goals of EAAH’s Safe Space Campaign and shift from safe space “debate” to “discussion” is one that should be appreciated. Hopefully, this is a sign that in the future, the College Republicans will stop using inflammatory tactics to promote their events and message. Anyone denying the claim that Columbia needs safe spaces should be doing everything in his power to ensure that Columbia is, after all, a safe space.



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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 "Bohemian  
Rhapsody" group

6 "Poet Whiteman

10 Exotic food fish

14 A/o Nuevo  
month

15 Irish Spring  
vanity

16 Wife of Zeus

17 Sudoku fill-in

18 Fronded plant

19 Irving hero

20 Starbucks pickup

22 Man with morals

23 "Painfully why

26 "Tormented by  
pollen, say

27 Torino time period

28 Good thinking

31 "Cross

34 Overhauls

39 Aladdin's helper

40 "Medico's  
address

41 Red simile words

42 Parent who minds  
how her kid acts?

44 "Like a quiet town

45 Dopa discipline

47 WNBA position

48 "He won 26  
Oscars, including  
an Academy  
Honorary Award  
(consisting of one  
full-sized and  
seven miniature  
statuettes) for the  
film depicted in  
this puzzle's  
stated answers

52 "Cry of surprise

55 Quarterfinals  
complement, e.g.

56 Danube capital

58 Like a noted paper

59 Watch

60 Roads scholar?

64 Feminine suffix

65 Corleone family  
head

66 "We're out of  
choices"

67 "Son of  
Frankenstein"  
role

68 "Frosted flakes

69 "Chess side

2 Cycle prefix

3 Hosp. test

4 "Love Story"  
novelist Segal

5 ... this world:  
bizarre

6 Hem and haw

7 On the safer side

8 Passed-down  
stories

9 Downing Street  
number

10 "My goodness!"

11 "... porridge  
hot ..."

12 Poella ingredients

13 "All smiles

21 Faulkner's "The  
Sound and the  
..."

22 Like some reports

23 His 3,000th hit  
was a homer

24 Stop in Quebec?

32 "Top Gun" foe

33 Didn't wait for  
Christmas

35 "May ... of  
service?"

36 Hanger-on

37 Pool statistic

38 Start to foam?

40 Palme ...  
Cannes film  
award

43 Has the okay

44 Spotted

46 Market index,  
familarly

48 "Not very bright

49 Best part of the  
cake, to some

50 Shorthand pro

51 "Unsafe at Any  
Speed" author

53 Attached to a  
trailer hitch

54 Brooks of C&W

56 Vital thin blue line

57 Passionate  
about

59 RCA products

61 Sushi bar tuna

62 Congregated

63 Not post-

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In world of Homer, Plato, boxing makes sense for CU

Let's get ready to rumble! Just about everyone knows the previous sentence, even though the sport from which it originated hasn't been a mainstream one for years. Boxing was once a major American sport which captured headlines, thanks to household names like George Foreman, Muhammad Ali, and Mike Tyson. In fact, boxing has been a major sport dating all the way back to ancient Greece.

As I'm sure all of you Columbia students remember from Literature Humanities, Homer's Iliad depicts the first boxing fight, in Book XXIII, as a way to honor the dead. The Greeks made it an official sport, adding it to the Olympic games in 688 BC under the name Pygme. Since those times, boxing has undergone a variety of changes in equipment and rules. Bare-knuckle boxing popped up in England around 1681. Originally the sport had no rules, but that soon changed with the establishment of Broughton's Rules as a way to prevent the deaths of the athletes. While the rules have been modified over the years, the spirit of the sport is still the same: two people punch each other until one can't take it anymore.

This "two men enter, one man leaves" idea is why I love the sport so much. There is no greater complete victory in sports than in boxing. A boxer enters the ring knowing that the man across from him is going to try to punch him in the face repeatedly, and that the only way to stop him is hit him harder and faster. The two athletes, typically, spend three minutes exchanging punches, before getting a one-minute break where a coach yells at them about what they're doing wrong. Repeat this process roughly two to three times for amateur boxing (there are many more rounds in professional bouts) and you've got a truly demanding sport. Unfortunately, the sport is not as common or accessible as it should be, especially at the college level.

There is no greater complete victory in sports than in boxing.

Currently, only 25 colleges nationwide compete in boxing. The National Collegiate Boxing Association (NCBA) splits the country into three zones—the Far West, Mid-West, and Eastern Collegiate Boxing Associations. The types of schools that compete range from big Division I sports powerhouses like Ohio State and North Carolina to military schools like the U.S. Military Academy. Collegiate boxing used to be more widespread, but the NCAA dropped the sport in 1961, ending 42 years of competition. The sport has been absent from the NCAA for too long, and needs to be brought back, especially in the Ivy League.

The Ivy League, consisting of the nation's oldest schools, should compete in one of mankind's oldest and purest sports. Take a tour at any Ivy League school and you'll hear the tour guides ramble on about the school's ancient history. At Columbia, we spend years analyzing the works of writers, artists, and musicians from civilizations long gone. So why not compete in an ancient sport like boxing? The Ancient Eight, along with nearly every other Division I school in the country, competes in wrestling, which also originated in the Olympics of ancient Greece. Just as wrestling is kept alive and honored by today's athletes, so should its equally ancient cousin, boxing.

Also, like wrestling, boxing is a pure sport that pits one individual against another without the complications of pads, balls, or sticks. A boxer will win only if he has greater skill, fitness, and drive than his opponent. Once inside the ring there is no one to help you and no advantage to be gained from fancier equipment. Like I said before, there is no



BART LOPEZ  
The Tailgating Tales



KATE SCARBROUGH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DARIO PARTY | Sophomore outfielder Dario Pizzano picked up three hits, five RBIs, and Columbia's first home round-tripper of the year in Sunday's sweep of Harvard.

Baseball heads to Rutgers for midweek showdown

BY MOLLY TOW  
Spectator Staff Writer

After an action-packed weekend during which the Columbia baseball team hosted Dartmouth and Harvard in a pair of doubleheaders to mark the beginning of conference play, the squad sits at a respectable .500 record, both overall and in the Ivy League. The Lions (11-11, 2-2 Ivy) need to regroup quickly, however, as they prepare to face Rutgers University (10-15) for their usual mid-week road game.

Although the Lions started out the weekend shaky, Boretti feels that the team has already put the Dartmouth struggles behind them and can use the energy and momentum from the Harvard victories to fuel the team against Rutgers. "I thought we came back on Sunday and played better," Boretti said. "We need to continue to play better and better and execute better and better as the season progresses."

"We had a good day on Sunday compared with Saturday," he said. "We will look to build on Sunday's performance."

A standout for the Light Blue in the weekend's contests was senior Nick Cox,

who went an impressive six-for-seven at the plate between the two Harvard games. Cox has now moved into the top ten all-time hits list at Columbia, as well as a tie for second in all-time steals. The outfielder was awarded Ivy League player of the week for the second time this season last Tuesday so it is clear that recognition of his skills do not stop at just the local baseball community. The running game is a strength of Columbia's, and Boretti plans to keep utilizing it against Rutgers. "No question: we like to run and want to run and Nick is our leader and best baserunner in that area," Boretti said.

The Scarlet Knights are 15-23 in stolen base attempts this season, in comparison to their opponents' elevated 38-47, which should give the Light Blue the advantage on the basepaths.

As is the case in most of Columbia's nonconference midweek games, the Lions won't be limiting time on the hill to one single pitcher or another. "We will be staffing the game," Boretti said. "A number of guys will see the mound." Columbia pitchers have a combined ERA of 3.86 as of Sunday, so the team can feel secure in putting any of their

guys in to pitch.

Pitching is also an area that Rutgers has been especially successful in thus far in its season. The Scarlet Knights have shown to have both a strong starting rotation and bullpen, as the staff excelled in Rutgers' victory over Seton Hall on Sunday. Junior starting pitcher Nathaniel Roe dominated the opponent, allowing just one hit in his first four innings of work. Rutgers went to the bullpen in the seventh, leading 9-3. Freshman Joe Esposito pitched the seventh and sophomore Dan O'Neill finished out the last two innings, neither pitcher surrendering a run as the six-run lead from the seventh remained for the duration of the game.

Although the Scarlet Knight hurlers are looking solid on the bump, Boretti asserts that the Lions don't work on anything in particular to counter any specific team's rotation. "We don't prepare for another team's staff," Boretti said. "We work on things we feel we need to work on."

Rutgers also has a pair of brothers who consistently produce offensively for the team. The Zavalas (sophomore Steve and freshman Michael) combined

for four hits and five RBIs to lead the Scarlet Knights to victory in the Seton Hall game. The combined OBP of the duo is nearly .400, so the Lions' defense will need to be on its toes if it wants to limit opponent runs. A big component of Columbia's practice regimen is simulating any given game situation, and this is one way in which Boretti says the Lions are preparing for Wednesday's game. "We try to practice as much as possible at game speed and game reactions," Boretti said. "The more you practice at that speed, the more routine the game plays become."

Matching up with a Big East competitor will be a test for the Light Blue, as nonleague games often are. It will also be a good chance to give many different Lions playing time, some of whom don't usually get to take the field in Ivy play. As is the trend, Boretti feels that Columbia's attitude is optimistic and fresh. "I think the guys know that each day is different and new—each day is another opportunity for something good or special to happen."

The Lions will take the field on April 6th at Rutgers University in New Jersey. First pitch is scheduled for 3:30 p.m.



KATE SCARBROUGH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FEAR SPEER? | The Lions hope their young pitchers, such as freshman David Speer, can prove their worth in non-Ivy games.

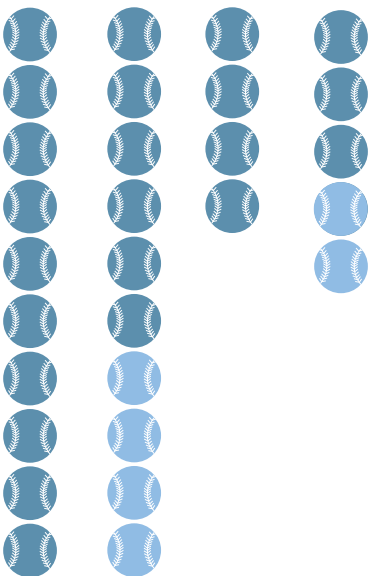
COLUMBIA EXCELS AT STEALING BASES

NICK COX

JON EISEN

ALEX GODSHALL

ALEX AULLICHO



Columbia, who leads the Ivy League in stolen base percentage and ranks second in total steals, will look to continue its aggressive baserunning today at Rutgers.

= stolen bases made  
 = stolen bases attempted

GRAPHIC BY REBECCA SCHWARZ