



HANNAH CHOI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LOOPY | Barnard students compete in the traditional Greek Games hoop rolling event. Alumnae coached the students on proper form.

Traditional Greek Games come to a close after revival

BY JACKIE CARRERO
Spectator Staff Writer

To Naomi Boyce, BC '14, Barnard's Greek Games mean more than just watching people run around in togas between her classes. For her, the Games signify a strong sense of community at Barnard.

The Games, which ended on Tuesday, are a battle of the classes, pitting each year against each other in a series

of competitions ranging from a big game of capture the flag on Lehman Lawn to smaller competitions like relay races and tug-of-war.

"In my high school we didn't really have traditions or rituals," Boyce said. "Because I'm a freshman, I still don't really know all that much about Columbia and Barnard's traditions yet, but I think the Greek Games are obviously a big one."

However, Boyce said that while the Greek Games provided a sudden surge of school spirit, it wasn't always clear what they were.

"There's that statue by Lehman Lawn, and it was dedicated to the Games, so it was obviously something very tied to Barnard," Boyce said. "At first I was like I don't really know what's going on, but now I think it's great."

While they had been a key

Barnard tradition between 1903 and 1967, the Games have since been held sporadically, including in 1989 in celebration of Barnard's centennial, and sporadically again since 2000.

This year marked a return to the traditional form of the games, according to Jessica Blank, BC '12, president-elect of SGA and co-chair of the Greek Games.

SEE GREEK GAMES, page 2

Older tenants worry about rising rents

BY CHELSEA LO
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

For almost half a century, home for one Upper West Side resident has been her rent-controlled apartment on 95th Street.

She likes meeting friendly faces in the elevator on her way to the painting and writing classes she attends regularly. She likes her thick walls, which makes life easier on her at almost 90 years old. She likes that Central Park is nearby, so she can have her "little afternoons of tree and grass and birds."

Like many other rent-controlled tenants, she doesn't want her name published for fear of retribution from her landlord. If rent control laws aren't renewed this June, she and at least 30,000 other rent-controlled tenants fear they'll find themselves without homes.

The prospect of rent regulation laws expiring June 15 has sent residents and tenant activists into overdrive in a massive campaign to renew and strengthen the current regulations. One million families living in rent-stabilized apartments may also be affected if rents are allowed to increase to market rate, according to the Rent Guidelines Board.

City Council member Gail Brewer has said that residents aren't at risk until at least March 2012, but rent-controlled tenants, most of whom are elderly, say they're still worried.

PENNY PRESSURE

When she moved to her rent-controlled apartment in the 1960s, the 95th Street resident was paying \$140 per month for her rent. Forty-six years later, she's paying almost 10 times that, and her rent has more than doubled in the past seven years to about \$1400.

At this rate, she's not sure how much longer she can hold on to her home—and neither is the man who takes care of her savings for her.

"I don't believe I can and he says I got to," she said of not dipping into her savings to pay off her rent. She said she gets about \$60 more than her rent in Social Security, which usually leaves her with about \$45 in her pocket each month.

"I can always stop eating and rush the end," she said with a light laugh. "It's not nice to say that but it's not nice to worry."

Another rent-controlled tenant on 95th Street isn't doing much better. She said she likes living in her "nice little building" of less than 40 apartments, but her day job isn't enough to make ends meet. She was almost evicted this past fall before friends stepped in to help her fight her landlord.

"I put so much money into my pension that I bring home half of my rent," she said. "So I'm taking out of my savings to pay off my rent. I have to think about when I go out with somebody, and everyone's ordering lunch, I can order a bowl of soup."

A rent-controlled tenant on 94th Street said it's a hard way to spend the final years of her life.

"It's dreadful, it's a really scary way to live. I even dread going to get my mail," she said.

WHAT'S AT STAKE

Rent-controlled apartments were built before February 1947 and rent control stopped adding new tenants to its rolls in the early 1970s—which means that most rent-controlled tenants are elderly.

Councilmember Brewer said rent-controlled tenants have nothing to worry about this June, because although rent control

laws are administered by the state, they are determined by the city. The regulations won't be up for renewal by the city until March 2012—and she expects that they will be renewed then.

"In terms of Albany, they don't have anything to worry about," Brewer said.

A December 2010 document issued by the tenant activist organization Tenants & Neighbors affirmed that view, saying that tenants would probably continue to be protected "through March 2012, when the Council would need to extend rent control, which it is expected to do."

Tenants & Neighbors organizer Katie Goldstein said that the way rent-controlled tenants have fought the changes by rallying at City Hall is significant, but that the issue still may have to be resolved in court.

"Basically there's no consensus among housing experts in the field about how rent-controlled tenants will be affected," she said. "They've nevertheless thrown their weight behind a common agenda and demonstrated an incredible amount of solidarity."

She added that she expects rent-controlled tenants and housing activists to come forth with a legislative platform and a campaign soon.

DRIVEN OUT

Some residents, however, say they need action as soon as possible if they're going to feel secure in their homes of often over 40 years.

"It's really scary, I mean it's really scary. I feel very vulnerable," one of the 95th Street residents said. "I mean, I thought this was my home, my neighborhood. We moved here when it was not desirable. People from further

SEE RENT, page 2

'Inside Job' prompts new look at conflict of interest policy

B-School committee, admins look to craft new guidelines

BY SHIRA POLIAK
Spectator Staff Writer

When filmmaker Charles Ferguson asked Business School Dean R. Glenn Hubbard to discuss the roots of the 2008 economic crisis with him, Hubbard was happy to oblige.

Hubbard, the former chairman of President George W. Bush's Council of Economic Advisers, sat down with Ferguson for an on-camera interview.

The conversation, portions of which appeared in Ferguson's 2010 documentary "Inside Job," started out calmly. But when the director asked Hubbard why his paid consulting arrangements with financial services companies were not disclosed on his curriculum vitae, Hubbard grew angry.

"This isn't a deposition, sir ... I was polite enough to give you my time," he said. "You have three minutes. Give it your best shot."

Hubbard did not want to talk about the fact that he is paid \$250,000 per year to serve on the board of Metropolitan Life, one of the largest global insurance providers, and that he sat on the board of Capmark,

a major commercial mortgage lender, until shortly before its bankruptcy in 2009.

"Inside Job," which won Best Documentary at the Academy Awards in February, explores the causes of the economic meltdown and criticizes Hubbard and other leading economists for failing to forecast the economic collapse.

The film alleges that prominent academics are often paid to consult for companies, creating conflicts of interest. The movie claims that without knowing who is funding economists, the public cannot trust their research or policy recommendations.

Hubbard is not the only Columbia academic criticized in the film. "Inside Job" also features Business School professor Frederic Mishkin, who according to the Wall Street Journal was paid almost \$135,000 by the Icelandic Chamber of Commerce in 2006 to author a report that praised the stability of Iceland's economy and banking system—two years before they collapsed.

Mishkin did not disclose the payment in the report.

"Inside Job," which was released last October, has caused a stir among senior Columbia administrators, professors, and students. Columbia's central

SEE CONFLICT, page 2



CHRISTINA PHAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FIRED UP | On Tuesday night, President Lee Bollinger took questions from graduate students.

Bollinger talks global centers with grad students

BY EMILY NEIL
Spectator Staff Writer

A tieless, relaxed University President Lee Bollinger pushed graduate students to think globally at Tuesday night's fireside chat.

"We are in a much different, more interconnected world ... than ever before," Bollinger said, pointing to the University's expanding network of global centers as a way of taking advantage of that world.

At the new global centers, faculty and students will be "working on real projects with local people at local institutions" with the flexibility to operate in economies that wouldn't be able to support full branch campuses, he said.

Mickey MacDonald, a

first-year physics Ph.D. candidate at GSAS, brought up the concern that an increased focus on globalization will result in less attention to educational issues and opportunities at home, calling on the University's "responsibility to teach home-grown students."

Bollinger responded that the University is still very involved in local education, citing University support for a new public school to be established in Manhattanville. But he explained that the University has "the responsibility to think as a U.S. institution" and also have a global presence, striking a balance between the two.

"We need to get out there and learn," Bollinger said.

A student from the Journalism School brought

up conflict of interest policies for faculty, asking about Bollinger's thoughts on the role of the University's business and economics departments in addressing the economic crisis.

Bollinger responded by acknowledging that some departments, such as economics, do not have a fully detailed policy about what faculty members must disclose to the University regarding outside interests and activities.

"The question is, is that a good state of affairs? And my answer is no, not a good state of affairs," Bollinger said, adding that a motion for all academic departments to develop and instate their own conflict

SEE FIRESIDE, page 2

OPINION, PAGE 4

Justified apathy

Amanda Gutterman argues that it's hard to care about campus elections with bigger issues in the world.

We make a difference

The University Senate is a highly influential group—therefore, your vote is important.



SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Taking on the World

Freshman fencer Nzingha Prescod won a gold and silver medal at the Junior Fencing World Championships in Jordan last week.

EVENTS

Women philosophers lecture

Visiting professor Sarah Hutton will talk about how women perceived equality before Wollstonecraft.

Held Auditorium, 304 Barnard Hall, 4 p.m.

Professionalism in Developing Countries

A lecture on how infrastructure can be improved in the face of mismanagement and corruption.

IAB 409, 12:30-2 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



53°/45°

Tomorrow



65°/48°

Following ‘Inside Job,’ administration promises review of dept. guidelines for conflict disclosure

CONFLICT from front page

administration, the University Senate, and the Business School are currently reviewing the adequacy of Columbia’s conflict of interest disclosure policies, and University President Lee Bollinger has said that new policies will be released in the next couple of months.

This Friday, the senate is screening the film, and Ferguson will be in attendance to answer senators’ questions afterward.

Provost Claude Steele, Columbia’s top academic officer, said the administration is taking the movie’s allegations very seriously.

“It was a powerful movie that had an impact on society about all kinds of things, one of them being conflict of interest policies in universities,” Steele said. “That’s the part of the movie where we are implicated. ...We are definitely paying attention to that.”

‘THE MOVIE GOT IT RIGHT’

In February, Teachers College Professor Kathleen O’Connell asked Steele how the administration is handling the allegations made in the film. To O’Connell’s surprise, Steele shared his personal reaction to the film.

Steele, O’Connell recalled, told her “The movie got it right ... What they [the professors] did was unconscionable.”

Steele wrote in an email that he does not remember making that statement.

“While I take the issues raised in the movie with the utmost seriousness, I simply don’t remember saying anything like what that quote says I said,” he said.

Through a Business School spokesperson, Hubbard declined to be interviewed for this story. But the day after “Inside Job” won its Oscar, he posted a message on the Business School’s Facebook page expressing his disappointment with Ferguson’s desire to “advance his personal agenda rather than contribute to the meaningful analysis and public dialogue about the global financial crisis.”

“When I was first approached for an interview, the film’s producer described his project as a serious attempt to explore ‘the development, onset, and consequences of the global financial and economic crisis.’ The economic crisis is a very serious matter to me, so I did not hesitate to accept his invitation. I did not expect the interview session to be, in fact, a one-sided presentation of the producer’s perspectives,” Hubbard wrote.

“I have not actively worked to correct the incomplete picture that Mr. Ferguson has sought to

present. Rather I am counting on the discerning minds of individuals to see through to the heart of the issues,” he added.

Mishkin also declined requests to be interviewed. But in an October 2010 post on the Financial Times’ Economic Forum, he defended his paper on the Icelandic economy, saying that many factors that put Iceland at risk had not yet emerged when he wrote it. He also criticized Ferguson, saying the director presented the film to him as “a thoughtful examination of the factors leading up to the 2008 global economic collapse.”

“About five minutes after the microphone was clipped to my lapel ... it became clear that my role in the film was predetermined—and I would not be wearing a white hat,” Mishkin wrote.

Ferguson defended his work in a recent interview with Spectator, saying that while the film “does not neutrally present all sides” or give “equal times to all points of view,” it is not biased.

“I didn’t go into this with pre-disposed or preselected point of view or ideology,” Ferguson said. “I don’t have any financial, partisan, political, or ideological interests.”

CONFLICTS AND CONCERNS






Business School Professor Michael Feiner, a member of the faculty committee of Columbia’s Sanford C. Bernstein and Co. Center for Leadership and Ethics, said he told his students to see the film and has recommended that it be shown to all Business School students.

“It raises important issues about what are some of the pitfalls with our system, what happens when there aren’t appropriate checks and balance, what happens when the capitalist system is abused and misused,” Feiner said.

Other professors on the ethics and leadership board, including director Bruce Kogut, declined to comment.

“Inside Job” also scrutinizes leading economists from Harvard University, Brown University, and the University of California. Columbia Economics Department Chair Michael Riordan said that the film has sparked healthy debate within his department about conflicts of interest and the University’s disclosure requirements.

“The controversies have caused faculty to give another read—or maybe even a first read—of the University’s policy of conflict of interest,” Riordan said. “It’s led the schools to send out emails reminding faculty that there is a university policy of conflict of

					
	R. GLENN HUBBARD	FREDERIC MISHKIN	RICHARD PORTES	MARTIN FELDSTEIN	LAURA TYSON
UNIVERSITY AFFILIATION	Dean, Columbia Business School	Professor, Columbia Business School	Professor, London Business School (U of London)	Professor, Harvard University	Professor, Haas School of Business (UC Berkeley)
AFFILIATED GROUPS	MetLife, Capmark (formerly), various financial firms	Icelandic Chamber of Commerce, Federal Reserve Board (*06-'08)	British Center for Economic Policy Research, Icelandic Chamber of Commerce	AIG (formerly), Natl. Bureau of Econ. Research (formerly)	Morgan Stanley, Natl. Economic Council (*93-'95)
COMPENSATION	\$250,000 per year (MetLife)	\$124,000 (Icelandic Chamber of Commerce)	Co-authored Icelandic paper with Mishkin	\$6 million+ total (AIG)	\$350,000 per year (Morgan Stanley)

GRAPHIC BY YUMA SHINOHARA

interest to abide by.”

Riordan added that it is important that Columbia protect its reputation and the public’s trust in its professors’ expert opinions.

“What does the university stand for but if not for the quality of the ideas that come out of that university?” he asked.

Some Columbia faculty members have defended Hubbard and Mishkin, and criticized the film.

When a few students asked Business School professor Robert Fallon about the movie in his class, he said he told them it made him uncomfortable that the documentary was “constructed to try and bring an attack on Professor Mishkin and Dean Hubbard.”

He felt the movie was trying to say “Ah! We got you, there is conflict of interest and it hasn’t been disclosed, without giving all the facts.”

“It’s important that people understand that there are different sides of every issue,” Fallon said. “Attempting to link Columbia faculty to the events of the financial crisis is a misrepresentation of the true cause of the crisis.”

INTERNAL REVIEWS

Whether or not Hubbard’s and Mishkin’s activities constitute conflicts of interest, their prominent role in the film has led Columbia to rethink its conflict of interest policies.

Columbia currently requires all faculty members to disclose to the University who is funding their Columbia-related research, as well as any financial ties they have to commercial organizations that could benefit from

their work. These disclosures are confidential.

But unlike the disclosure policies of some other universities, including Stanford University and the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia professors do not have to disclose outside compensation, including consulting arrangements, if it does not fund their University-sponsored research.

On a conference call with alumni in November, Bollinger was asked about the concerns raised by “Inside Job.”

“There is at the moment strong criticism of a variety of disciplines that there has been too much outside activity which has had a negative impact on the scholarly independence. I think that can happen and when that does happen it’s a tragedy, it’s wrong; it violates what we stand for,” Bollinger said at the time. “But it’s important to realize that we really benefit in our scholarship from engagement with outside activity; we want our faculty to be a part of the outside.”

Before the end of 2010, Bollinger asked Provost Steele and Executive Vice President of Arts and Sciences Nicholas Dirks to lead the administration’s conflict of interest review.

Steele said last month that the administration is primarily concerned with becoming more familiar with the University’s current policy and making sure “that we have the policies that would help us as an institution protect against unseen conflict of interests.”

Associate Vice President for Research Compliance Naomi Schrag also made a presentation at the December Board

of Trustees meeting about the University’s conflict of interest disclosure policy. Through a University spokesperson, Schrag declined requests for an interview.

Steele stressed that it is too early to recommend changes to the conflict of interest policy, but said that he is pleased with the University’s current disclosure requirements.

“I think we are pretty proud of the basic structure we have at this point, and I think that other universities have seemed to follow our footsteps so we are pretty proud of that,” Steele said.

Bollinger would not comment on the specifics of Hubbard and Mishkin’s cases, but he told Spectator in a recent interview that the University should establish what paid consulting activities need to be disclosed.

“We are in a process of grappling with those issues. And I’m very confident that by the end of this academic year we will have some good policies in place,” Bollinger said.

Bollinger also asked Hubbard to review the Business School’s conflict of interest policies. A committee of business school professors, led by Senior Vice Dean Christopher Mayer, will present recommendations to faculty members before the end of the academic year.

Mayer wrote in an email that Hubbard appointed the committee, although Mayer declined to name its members or discuss its work because he said he did not want to bias its recommendations.

One member of the committee, Professor Ray Horton, declined to comment.

Despite the film’s allegations against Hubbard, Bollinger said he trusts him to conduct a thorough conflict of interest review.

“Glenn Hubbard is very strongly in favor of new policies about disclosure of conflict of interest, so he’s very much personally on board on this,” Bollinger said.

Hubbard told the New York Times in January that a proposal to create a code of ethics for the American Economic Association “sounds like a very good idea.”

The University Senate has formed a 10-member, all-faculty committee to conduct its own review, chaired by political science professor Sharyn O’Halloran.

This review has been planned since 2009, when the senate passed a conflict of interest policy overhaul that dealt mostly with conflicts in medical research. But current discussions among senators have been heavily influenced by “Inside Job,” according to student senator Liya Yu, GSAS, who co-chairs the senate’s External Relations and Research Policy Committee with O’Halloran.

O’Halloran said she would not discuss the committee’s deliberations.

“We’re working hard,” O’Halloran said.

Steele said that “Inside Job” did “what those types of movies are supposed to do,” and that the University is working to ensure its policies are adequate.

“We are all a little embarrassed but may be better because of it,” he said. “We can find out what didn’t work and can fix it.”
Sammy Roth contributed reporting.

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Organizers say Greek Games return to tradition

GREEK GAMES from front page

“They’ve never been brought back in as traditional a sense as in 1967,” Blank said.

She explained that one way they tried to keep the games as close to the traditional ones was by bringing in Barnard alumnae. She added that some alumnae even taught students how to properly participate in events such as hoop rolling and discus throwing.

“They were the judges of the hurdling contest because they could judge the correct form of how it used to be done,” Blank said.

However, not everything in the games this year was kept traditional. New events were added by the Greek Games committee, which was chaired by SGA and the McIntosh Activities Council, but open to the entire student body.

The tug-of-war, yoga in a toga, capture the flag, tie dye in a toga, and Plato’s pilots were among the new events, Blank said.

Monday’s events were mostly athletic games, while Tuesday included more artistic and intellectual events, Blank added.

For Greek Games coordinator and sophomore class vice president Julia Kennedy, the Games were all about bringing back a lost tradition that filled a special need in the Barnard community.

“There are traditions like 40s on 40 and midnight breakfast, but Barnard didn’t really have healthy competition before,” Kennedy said.



HANNAH CHOI / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MILLING AROUND | Students said the Greek Games were meant to re-start a tradition to rival Midnight Breakfast.

Diana Rastegayeva, BC ’11, co-chair of the Greek Games committee and vice president of communications for SGA, agreed.

“I think it’s such a great Barnard tradition and I’m really excited about bringing it back,” Rastegayeva said. “I hope that it will continue and eventually it will become as beloved as midnight breakfast.”

Tabia Santos, BC ’13, expressed her love for the revived Greek Games. “When else do

you get to run around in a toga on campus, cheered by friends and faculty,” Santos asked. “I wish I had also participated in the grape eating contest though, I love grapes.”

Ultimately, Santos said she believes the Games are more than just class competition.

“It unites us as a class and as a school, and it’s a great way to meet other amazing Barnard women,” Santos said.

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Rent-controlled tenants worried for law changes

RENT from front page

downtown did not want to visit me up here. For a long time it was not safe. We were pioneers.”

Unlike rent-stabilized tenants, whose rent increases generally go up by two to three percent each year, rent-controlled tenants are subject to rent increases of up to 7.5 percent each year in addition to other charges levied by landlords.

The 95th Street resident added that many rent-controlled tenants aren’t necessarily aware of the issues they face because they don’t have computer access.

“They’re intimidated, they don’t know that they have some rights. When their landlord says the jump, they jump,” she said.

She added that though she’s

one of the more informed rent controlled tenants and is active in local advocacy campaigns, even she is intimidated and confused by the housing forms she gets in the mail.

“Even though you think ‘They can’t go and evict me!’ when you get eviction papers you shake,” she said. “This is your home for two-thirds of your life—for some, all of their lives.”

A resident on 83rd Street said the notion that rent-controlled tenants are well-off residents cheating the system is simply false.

“Is there abuse of the system? Yes, it would be foolish to deny,” he said. “But it’s probably miniscule, I believe that the actual abuse of the system is very marginal. The real estate industry wants us to believe it’s a massive thing.”

He said he feels indignant when other tenants suggest that his rents are unfairly low or that he should move out.

“We’re the people who made these neighborhoods desirable and now they want us out, because we’re somehow the interlopers in our own neighborhood,” he said. “Why am I the one who has to leave? It’s like, ‘Oh, thank you for making our neighborhood nice, but now you’re in our way, so please leave.’”

“We don’t have much else besides the little we can create around us to make our lives comfortable and convenient,” another 95th Street resident said. “But the rents are sort of doing a thing on us.”

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Fireside chat focuses on global centers, transparency

FIRESIDE from front page

of interest policies by this fall has already been put forward.

“Disclosure, transparency, is clearly the right answer here,” Bollinger said.

Brandon Jackson, a junior in the College of Dental Medicine, asked Bollinger about transparency in the grading systems and distribution of resources between the dental and medical schools.

“Everyone’s striving to be at the top ... A lot of things, like transparency, are pushed by the wayside,” Jackson said afterward.

Bollinger asked the students

for suggestions for how the administration can help with their concerns, while noting the delicate balance between which decisions involve the community as a whole and which are resolved at the administrative level. He cited the issue of allowing ROTC to return to campus as an example of when issues should be resolved publicly.

“I really pushed that into the community,” Bollinger said.

Of diversity, Bollinger said it’s something the University has to just keep working at.

“We’re still not where we want to be,” Bollinger said, thought he spoke of the work

of the many faculty members working to address diversity issues on campus.

Bollinger also responded to the concern of the lack of interdisciplinary interaction among graduate students.

“Academic life tends to be quite isolated ... I think it’s the function of the University to counteract these things,” Bollinger said.

MacDonald, for one, was satisfied with Bollinger’s responses of his concerns.

“For the most part, he answered mine, although I’d love to talk to him for an hour,” he said.

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After World Championship win, Light Blue rookie fencer sets sights on upcoming 2012 Olympics

FENCING from back page

extremely high regard.

“I’ve known Nzingha since we were 10 years old and over the years she’s become a great model for me in terms of her character and attitude,” Homer said in an email. “Anyone that meets her will remark on her nonchalant attitude that really works to her benefit on the strip and in times of pressure. She actually is the most hardworking, dedicated individual that I know. She practices every day downtown for several hours into the night and then still comes back up to Columbia to get her work done.”

Homer also highlighted Prescod’s helpful character.

“The only weakness that I can think of is that she’s so nice that oftentimes in an effort to help out she puts other people’s needs before hers, when she should be putting hers before others,” she added.

Another Columbia foilist, Nicole Ross, the 2010 NCAA foil champion who is currently taking the year off to train for the London Olympics, is one of Prescod’s teammates for the Senior USA Foil team, and also echoed the sentiment of admiration. Ross and Prescod have been on several teams together, including the Fencers Club team, the 2008 and 2009 Junior Worlds teams, the 2009 Pan American Championships team, and the 2010 Senior Worlds team.

“I’m about three years older than



HENRY WILSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DEFEND YOURSELF | Freshman Nzingha Prescod, currently the top-ranked senior foilist in the US, will be taking a year off to prepare for the London Olympics.

her, and I’ve known her ever since she’s been fencing at the Fencers Club,” Ross said. “She’s so much fun, she always has a positive attitude. She’s a great competitor, and even though she’s younger than me she’s someone I can look up to as one of the greatest fencers in the country.”

“I really wanted her to come to Columbia, of course, so that we’d still

be able to see each other and train at the club,” Ross continued. “I knew she’d get along well and be able to adapt with the rest of the team. She’s also going to be a huge force in NCAA fencing.”

Her impact in collegiate fencing was already felt this year, but there will be a wait before Lions fans can hope to see her in action, as she is taking her sophomore year off to train for

London 2012.

Prescod highlighted the size of the challenge that lies ahead.

“Senior competitions in general are so much more intense because in juniors you’ll find a few pushovers that you can play around with and still win—but in seniors everyone is so good and you have to be at your best or you’re not going to make it to the

next day,” Prescod said.

While most Columbia undergraduates will be worrying about the end of the semester because finals draw ever closer, Prescod is off to Shanghai for a senior competition that counts towards Olympic qualification. After that, she will be competing in Seoul and St. Petersburg as she looks to become an Olympian.

Lack of success not reason enough to avoid Columbia spring sporting events

MOHANKA from back page

their fate and they would have to see what Harvard did a week later. The Lions lost the nail biter 4-3, but the passion and commitment on show that day has stayed with me forever. Fortunately for the Light Blue, the Crimson failed to seal the title, and the Lions were able to share the trophy. Bid Goswami is in his 29th year as the Lions men’s tennis coach, and he led the program to yet another Ivy title in 2010. It was the eighth of his career, and while 2011 hasn’t seen the Lions crush teams as they have done in the past—the men’s tennis team is still one to watch. Any team that has to cope with losing Jon Wong and Mihai Nichifor will see the odds against them, but

the current crop led by junior Haig Schneiderman still produces some great tennis. This past weekend against Yale, the Lions rallied from 3-0 down to take the win—showing that the belief and ability is still very much there. Call me the eternal optimist, but I think in a competitive Ivy League, three wins from their remaining games may just be enough to seal the three-peat.

So don’t just be lazy and enjoy the weather on Low Steps. There’s a whole world of sporting action out there waiting for you. And this time, I’m telling you apathy because of a lack of success isn’t a valid excuse.

Mrinal Mohanka is a Columbia College junior majoring in economics. sports@columbiaspectator.com

Indoor facility, Baker Field used for winter golf practices

GOLF from back page

to prepare for the second half of the season.

Even with all of these handicaps, Columbia has continued to see a steady flow of talented recruits, and much of that is to do with the quality of education, as well as the team’s recent success.

“I think our two freshmen this year are probably the best freshman we’ve ever had,” Lee said.

The indoor facility’s biggest impact may have more to do with team bonding than improvement of skills.

“We got back from our tournament

Sunday at 3:30, and we all got our laptops out and watched the Masters online as a team,” Doyle said. “It definitely helps with the team chemistry.”

Coach Mueller was also sure to note the importance of team chemistry.

“Our team environment is the pillar of our success,” Mueller said. “Everybody is willing to help everybody, and when you’re under the confines that we are, you have to have that kind of cooperation and that attitude, otherwise you’re not going to be successful.”

Overcoming all these difficulties is what makes Columbia golfers so special, and these unique characteristics

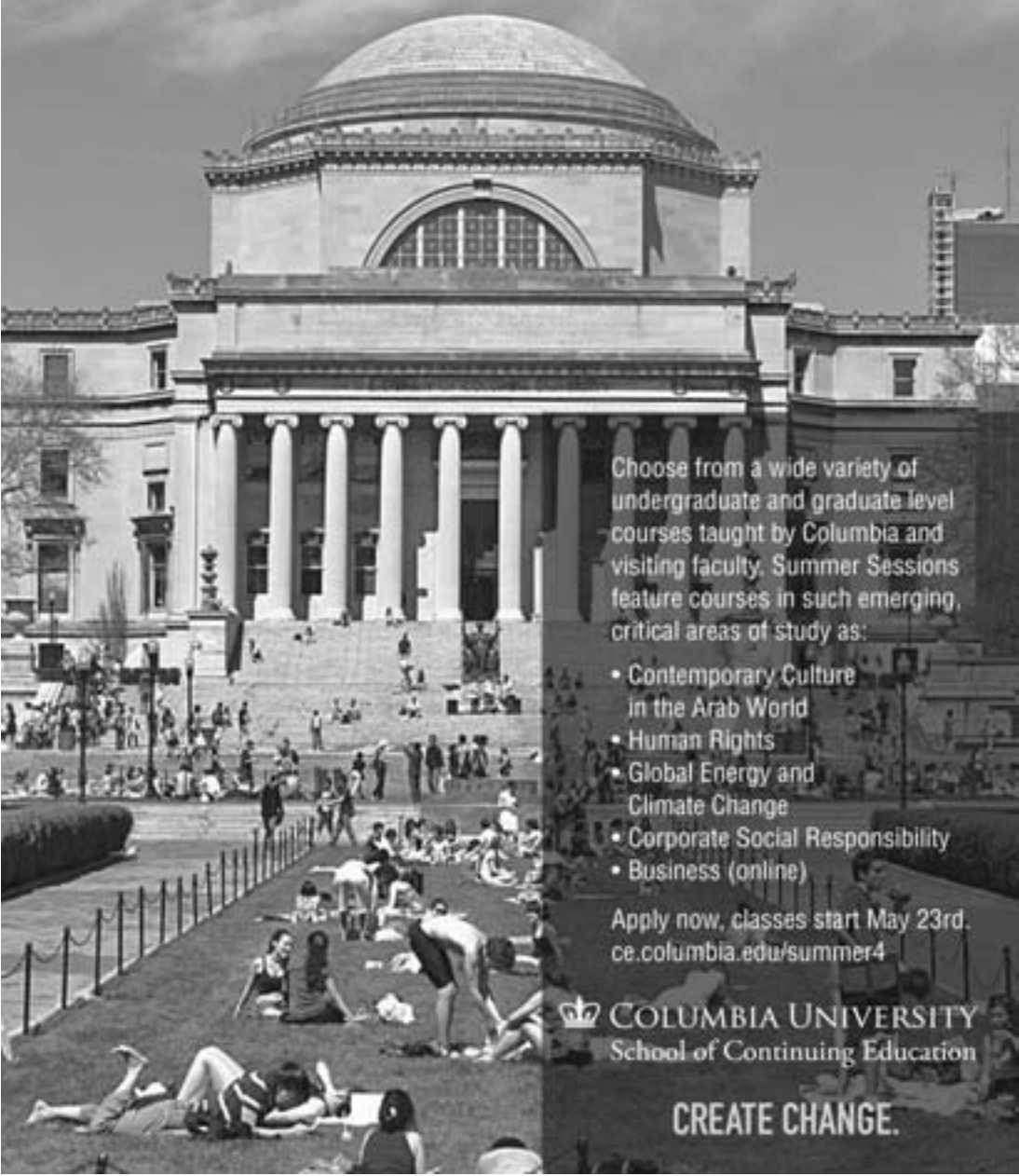
can be attributed to the university as a whole.

“The Columbia golfer embodies the Columbia student,” Mueller said. “They’re adaptable people, they’re willing to try different things and be creative, and think outside the box. I think to exist in New York City and be successful here not only as a student but also as a golfer, you have to have that take on that.”

The men’s golf team has just 10 days left to prepare for Ivy League Championships, hoping their versatile coach and strong work ethic can propel them to their fourth consecutive title




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Elections and discontent

Moments after I sat down in front of a blank Word document to begin my column, I heard a knock at the door. When I opened it, two of the candidates from UniteCU greeted me with warm smiles to ask whether I had voted in the Columbia College Student Council election. No, I had not. Would I like to hear about what their party proposes to offer Columbia next year? Sure, I said. Little did they know that I had recently brushed up on the three parties' platforms and read the candidates' op-eds published in Spectator. But I had some questions left. What do you see as the main problems on campus, and how do you intend to fix them?

I was shocked to find that Columbia is a wasteland of apathy where tickets to council-sponsored events don't sell, clubs can't get the funding they need or book event spaces, and hardly anyone attends Homecoming, let alone other sports games. Who would have guessed?

All three parties' platforms look remarkably similar, with their focus on social life, dining spaces, and housing particularities.

My visitors assured me that, aside from our lack of social cohesion, other insidious problems are afoot. I paraphrase: East Campus residents sometimes have to wait in long lines. The on-campus dining options suck. And the posters we stick everywhere on campus are destroying the environment. As my guests explained to me these important matters, I found myself nodding in agreement. They seemed to possess all the drive and enthusiasm that one could wish for in CCSC representatives. But when they left, my motivation to vote in the election flagged. It turned out that the more I considered the issues we discussed, the more I felt there was little at stake.

Let me backtrack for a moment: On Monday, the mayor of my hometown—Vincent Gray of Washington, D.C.—was arrested on his own turf, on Capitol Hill. He and other D.C. residents were protesting against GOP-imposed restrictions that will prevent the city from allocating any funds to abortion services, even for the poorest people who otherwise would be unable to afford them. On a larger, global scale, nuclear radiation may be seeping into Japan's waters, insurrection has broken out in the Middle East, and Qaddafi is still mowing people down in Libya.

UniteCU is hardly alone in that the issues it addresses pale in comparison to those that are truly able to capture our attention. In fact, all three parties' platforms look remarkably similar, with their focus on social life, dining spaces, and housing particularities. My visitors were unable to point out any major difference between their platform and the opposition's. Please don't misunderstand me: They were perfectly sweet. And I'd never go so far as to suggest that candidates are running for office in order to bolster their résumés—or that they are motivated by anything other than a heartfelt desire to improve the Columbia experience.

The problem is that the council cannot affect matters of real importance to us. CCSC elections can't quite snag our attention, not because they are out of touch with the powerful issues currently rocking the globe—which, of course, they are—but because student councils are pretty much powerless to address the real and important campus issues on all of our minds. Because of this, it's unreasonable to expect even the most passionate debate over such trifling issues to produce a large voter turnout. The candidates certainly cannot help that the positions they seek are so limited in scope. But if we imagine, for a moment, that we are in an ideal world where students have the power to enact the kind of change we care about, here are some concerns I would want the council to address:

First, why do Columbia students keep getting arrested? The drug bust seems to have stripped away our veneer of Ivy League invulnerability. Now we're getting arrested at places from Lerner's package center to Westside Market like we're walking around wearing "arrest me!" signs. Isn't there anything to be done?

Second, what are we going to do with ourselves after graduation? My senior friends are panicking because they don't have jobs lined up. Among them I hear murmurs that the Center for Career Education isn't effective or well connected. Should Columbia take more responsibility for finding our seniors' gainful employment?

Third, why couldn't we register for any of the classes we wanted? And why are there some departments that list a wide variety of interesting classes, but only offer a few of them? Could a reallocation of Columbia's swelling resources toward professors and courses fix the problem?

Next year—when EC has turnstile entry, JJ's has been tastefully redecorated, and when the whole school unites to sing "Roar, Lion, Roar" at Homecoming—I suspect that the CCSC party platforms will be almost the same as the ones this year. Our real questions and concerns, as far as the student council goes, will necessarily remain unaddressed. But best of luck to all at the polls!

Amanda Gutterman is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in English. The Far Side of the Familiar runs alternate Wednesdays.



AMANDA GUTTERMAN

The Far Side of the Familiar

Yes, we can—vote

BY KENNY DURELL

I wake up each morning feeling incredibly self-conscious, whether it's Saturday at noon or Wednesday at eight. I rarely can concretize my self-doubt, but I know it stems fundamentally from my experience almost exactly a year ago to date, when Columbia students chose me (why me and not the other candidates?) to represent their interests in the Senate. Do I or should I care this much about serving students? I can't speak for everyone, but considering voting rates have never risen above 40% in my three years here, I'm making the grand assumption that the majority of students believe that whether I care about our livelihood is irrelevant to their own Columbia lives—a moot question. If I hadn't spent the last year on the Senate, I can almost guarantee I would at least be more sympathetic to those who are indifferent. Now I couldn't disagree more. Your vote actually, truly, uniquely matters. A lot.

It is impossible to deny that the ROTC vote represents a philosophical change for Columbia University.

While the Senate is as fallible as any democratically elected body, the potential for direct student input within that framework astonishes me daily. I would never consider myself to be more than just a single student here, no different than anyone else currently traversing Low Steps on a beautiful Monday, blinded by the incredible weather and wandering right past the tent advertising student government elections. Yet, because of one popular vote a year ago where only 1,295 of our 4,200 peers voted, I am able to stand in a room of administrators, President Bollinger, and fellow students from other schools and have my voice heard, responded to, weighted equally, and translated into policy.

Am I incredibly naïve to think that having this opportunity—this dais—means I can enact meaningful change for Columbia College directly? I would unabashedly believe not. It's a frightening role to be in at times, and humbling at others, but I feel confident that even the



AMALIA RINEHART

most pessimistic student would be hard-pressed to not feel granted influence at some level if they were able to sit in this position for even a brief period of time.

Say, April 1st of this year. That day, the Columbia community re-engaged the U.S. military on a level it had not in almost a half-century. President Bollinger was granted the right, contingent on approval by the General Counsel, to begin direct talks with the military about the possibility of it having a much more visible presence—an ROTC branch—marching and educating on Columbia's campus. Forty-three years after Columbia, in the rush of the Spirit of '68, took a resounding oppositional stance on the same organization through various anti-ROTC policies and demonstrations, this stance was reversed by a majority vote in the Senate in favor of re-opening the possibility of inviting the modern ROTC back into Morningside Heights. And yes, this vote included those of three Senators drawn from your own peers, two of whom you have the ability to personally re-elect with your own vote in this election.

Whether you care about that decision as a member of this campus, or about the 20-foot smoking perimeter, publicly available course evaluations, migrating Cubmail over to Gmail, Columbia's budget, or the many other issues the Senate will get the ultimate say on in the upcoming year, it is impossible for any student to deny that the ROTC vote this April 1st represented a philosophical change for Columbia University on a fundamental issue.

And for better or worse, the Senate is currently the only body at Columbia that has been chartered with the power to make decisions of such magnitude on all fronts, from technology to Manhattanville space allocation, from libraries to degrees.

And the election (that ends today at 6pm and that you can still vote in at <http://www.studentaffairs.columbia.edu/saapps/college/election>) will thrust two of your own classmates, friends, roommates, love interests and/or peers directly into that role. They will be representing you on issues of equal weight to ROTC without always being able to be in physical direct contact with each one of you, no matter how conscientious, moral, or committed they are.

This isn't a question of whether past issues matter to you or not; it's a question of trusting someone to be able to bridge the divide between you and a 108-person University body, of selecting the individual that you feel will be simultaneously perceptive of your student vision of Columbia and the University in its entirety.

The author is a Columbia College junior majoring in economics. He is a University Senator for CC.

Take Back the Night and safe spaces

BY DUEAA ELZIN AND ANDREA SANTANA

This Thursday, April 14, 2011 will mark the 23rd annual Take Back the Night March at Columbia University, where students, faculty, and members of the community will march in order to reclaim the streets as a safe space. Recently, the existence of Columbia's safe spaces has been called into question by the Columbia University College Republicans, and in light of this, Take Back the Night's mission to reclaim a safe atmosphere on campus has never been more relevant. While we acknowledge CUCR's apology for undermining the specific goals of Everyone Allied Against Homophobia's Safe Space Campaign, CUCR's argument that safe spaces "legitimize a mentality of on-campus victimization" remains very disconcerting, as it implies that our campus is some sort of utopia where crimes such as sexual assault do not occur.

In 2009 alone, there were 19 reported forcible sexual offences on Columbia's campus and 8 reported on Barnard's campus. Therefore, the implication that safe spaces create victims is nonsensical—rather, safe spaces like Take Back the Night and the Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence Center exist in order to create a supportive and empowering environment for survivors of sexual assault and their allies. Safe spaces on campus are not about exclusion—instead, they help move us in the direction of the idealistic world that CUCR is trying to promote.

One of the most troubling aspects of the safe space debate is that safe spaces for survivors of sexual assault were completely forgotten during the original discussion. This glaring omission underscores how much of a non-issue sexual violence has become on campus. Neglecting to identify the existence of sexual violence and the need for safe spaces for survivors at Columbia perpetuates a culture of victim-blaming, and excuses the criminal actions of perpetrators. A necessity of a safe space remains relevant, especially with the recent Title IX case filed against Yale for failing to eliminate a hostile sexual environment on their campus. The fact that sexual violence infiltrates all spectra of society, and disproportionately affects females, further asserts a demand for safe spaces on campus where survivors can escape the judgment and stigma often associated with sexual abuse. These safe spaces imply freedom from verbal and

physical abuse, and more often than not, they allow survivors to respond to their experiences in a productive fashion. Whether delineated by four walls or a moving procession, safe spaces for many people are grounds for healing, from traumatic experiences to various forms of cathartic expression.

Safe spaces for survivors of sexual assault were completely forgotten during the original discussion.

A question that comes up every year regarding the march is the women-only space in the front, and its relevance at a University that prides itself on pluralism. The decision to have a women-only space is an acknowledgement of the gendered nature of sexual violence. Up until four years ago, the march was women-only until it reached the sundial on College Walk for a moment of silence, where it transformed into a completely gender-neutral march. At this point, some female survivors, possibly reacting to the presence of men, stopped marching. With the change in the structure of the march to include men from the beginning, the group decided to provide a women-led safe space that would give comfort to these female survivors who would otherwise not march if it were not for the women-led space.

Take Back the Night applauds those who identify themselves as survivors of sexual abuse for having the courage to admit that they were wrongfully violated. After all, so many victims of sexual violence remain in denial about their experiences and wait days, weeks, months, and years before even verbalizing the occurrence of an attack. And moreover, because Take Back the Night is a safe space itself, we encourage all of you who are struggling in silence to march with us and join survivors, co-survivors, and allies in commencing your healing process.

Dueaa Elzin is a senior in Barnard College. Andrea Santana is a sophomore in Barnard College. Both are active members of Take Back the Night.

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2	5	9	3	1	7	6	4	8
6	3	1	8	4	2	7	9	5
7	8	4	6	9	5	3	1	2
8	6	3	4	7	1	2	5	9
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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

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ACROSS

1 Explorer Vasco da ____
5 Political channel
10 Blabbers
14 Actor Shari
15 Broom rider of comics
16 Brother of Daniel, William and Stephen
17 Titanic bane
18 Alaskan native
19 "Battle for ____": Peter Yates WWII book
20 Unable to reach a human, no matter which buttons one presses
23 Highest ordinal number?
24 Changed course
25 Word processor setting
31 Ryder rival
32 Screech owls don't make them
33 Hood pill
36 It may be put in a washer
37 Bingo relative
38 Pet plaint
39 Observe
40 First of 12 popes
41 Bed that can be stored during the day
42 1791 legislation
44 Prison in 1971 headlines
47 Some pop-ups
48 Verily ahead of time, and a hint to what 20-, 25- and 42-Across have in common
55 Skye of film
56 Mythical weeper
57 Baking soda target
58 Let go
59 Swashbuckling Flynn
60 Mosaic piece
61 Without
62 Type in again

DOWN

1 Mongolian desert
2 Congregational yes
3 Wonderful, in slang
4 Mythical sailor
5 Affectedly elegant
6 Trig function
7 Fellow suspect of Mustard
8 1998 Sarah McLachlan hit
9 Hailing from
10 Slove nozzie
11 Hitching post?
12 Prove false
13 Basil out
21 "... have to do"
22 Camera eye
25 Poster mailer
26 Greeting from a deck
27 Hayride seat
28 Grave robber
29 Faline
30 Theme
33 Sister of Meg, Jo and Amy
34 Carrot or catsaiva
35 Has title to
49 Galway's land brother
50 Driver's decision point
51 Bassoon kin
52 Server's edge, in tennis
53 Court plea, for short
54 Depicted

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xwordeditor@aol.com 04/13/11

By Michael Blake
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Spring brings new promise to CU athletics

The lawns were open earlier this week. There are prospies hovering all around our campus. People are wearing shorts and flip-flops. If you've been in hiding these past few days, the signs are there to tell you one thing: it is springtime.

I know it's a time of warm weather (yesterday's rain is hopefully an aberration), term papers, and the buildup to finals, but what else gets people in MoHi excited about spring? Some would say Bacchanal's concert. The lineup this year consists of Das Racist and Snoop Dogg, and a TBD opening act. But with the shades of winter that lasted till last week having disappeared, and with all the winter sports having completed their seasons, we can focus our attention on the Lions that will be fighting it out this spring.

To be completely frank, I would say that the Columbia Athletics spring lineup of perennial title contenders in baseball, tennis, and golf, as well as several other strong teams, is at least as good, if not better, a reason to get you out of your dorm than the concert. I don't mean to undermine Mr. Dogg or the organizers of Bacchanal (I'll be there since baseball is playing away that Saturday), but I'm just saying there's more than a 38-year old rapper to watch out for this month.

While it may seem the usual success is impossible this spring, I strongly believe the Lions are down but not out.

I've always paid more attention to the sports in the spring season than any other—my passion for men's soccer is a whole different story, so let's ignore that—and there's a very simple reason. These teams win. Not the odd game. No, they win Ivy Championships. If you've already spent more than five minutes on the sports page, you know how competitive Ivy League sports are and I'm not going to bother explaining why being champions of the Ancient Eight is a praiseworthy and noteworthy achievement. While it may seem that the usual success is impossible this spring, I strongly believe the Lions are down but not out.

Baseball won the Gehrig Division title in two of the last three years and the Ivy League championship in 2008, Columbia's first Ivy League title and subsequent NCAA Regionals appearance in 31 years. The program has had a rough start to the campaign, but boasts individual league leaders in several batting and pitching categories. With 12 games still to go, there's a long way ahead before the Lions can mathematically be eliminated from contention. 14-6 won them the Gehrig Division last year, and they're still mathematically capable of a 15-5 finish. I reckon, anything in the region of ten wins in the remaining games and the Light Blue are in with a strong shout.

Golf has been another spring success story. In six seasons at the helm, head coach Rich Mueller has guided the Lions to four Ivy League Championships (three men, one women), two individual Ivy League Champions, four NCAA postseason appearances, and 10 All-Ivy League golfers. This spring, the Lions will look to make it four men's golf titles in row. At the Princeton Invitational last weekend they finished seventh, fifth among Ivy teams. When I first heard that, I assumed they weren't going to stand a chance at the conference title this year. But, they finished 13th at the same invitational last year and went on to win the league. In my book, and hopefully yours too, they're absolutely still in contention.

Some would say I'm saving the best for last: tennis. My first memory of Columbia tennis goes back to April 2009 when the Lions hosted Brown. A win would guarantee the Lions a share of the title, while a loss would relinquish control of



MRINAL MOHANKA

Word on the Street



HENRY WILSON /STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WORLD CHAMPION | Freshman fencer Nzingha Prescod won a gold medal in the foil category at the Junior World Championships of fencing held in Jordan.

Fencer on top of the world at lowest point on Earth

BY MRINAL MOHANKA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

While there are several enormously talented athletes at Columbia, how many can claim to be champions of the world? Only one. Nzingha Prescod, a freshman fencer, recently won the gold medal in the foil category at the Junior World Championships of fencing, held at the Dead Sea Resort in Jordan. She didn't stop there, however, and was also part of the American foil contingent that won the silver medal in the team event.

Currently ranked as the top senior foilist in the USA according to the rolling point calculations, Prescod has made a resounding impact this season. The top recruit in the nation, she fenced at the Senior World Championships in Paris in November and finished 32nd. For Columbia, she was the top finisher at the Dallas North American Cup, finishing second in senior women's foil, and she went 16-2 at the 2011 Ives to earn herself first team all-Ivy recognition, as well as the Most Outstanding Rookie award.

Interestingly enough, the beginning of Prescod's fencing career is one that may surprise many.

"At the Peter Westbrook Foundation my mom read about this organization that Peter Westbrook founded, and their goal was to get inner-city kids who wouldn't usually be exposed to fencing to participate for free," Prescod said. "If they saw you had potential they would give you a scholarship to go to the Fencers Club for free."

The Fencers Club, an illustrious fencing organization founded in 1883, is the oldest continuously existing organization in the world dedicated purely to fencing.

Prescod did indeed have the required potential, and joined the Fencers Club at age nine. When the choice for college came, the ties to the club were so strong that Columbia's location made it the obvious choice.

"This is the whole package, I get my education and I get to train at my club," she said. "If it weren't Columbia it would be NYU—I didn't want to switch coaches or anything like that."

However, the Brooklyn native has traveled across the world because of fencing. She has been to eight overseas competitions since November, most recently the trip to Jordan. Prescod was content with her fencing at the Dead Sea Resort, the lowest

point on Earth.

"My overall performance wasn't the best, because in the team event I kinda messed up—but I was really happy with the individual," she said.

Daria Schneider, CC' 10 and the interim head coach of Columbia fencing, has been extremely impressed by the freshman.

"She's incredibly hard working," Schneider said. "I was talking to her coach one time and I asked him what he thought set her apart, and he said that any time he ever suggested anything extra to do, he always saw her immediately implementing that or doing it right away. He has a group of students he works very closely with, and he always holds her up as the example of how to train and an example of work ethic."

According to Schneider, Prescod also helps add confidence to her team.

"She's a really solid presence, and a very consistent performer," she continued. "She's going to give you her best performance all the time, and win most of her bouts."

Prescod's coach at the Fencers Club, Buckie Leach, is extremely well regarded in the fencing world, and was the first person to coach an American fencing world champion.

He was an Olympic fencing coach in 1996 and 2000.

Leach knows Prescod's development better than most and still remembers his first encounter with Prescod eight years ago.

"She was a nice kid and she had fun fencing," Leach said. "She was a very good natured young athlete. When I first started working with her I kept having to tell her 'don't lean against the wall, don't sit down', and one day she just became an incredibly hard worker and was training all the time to the point that I had to tell her to take breaks."

Leach was with the rookie in Jordan for Worlds, and saw first-hand how her mentality had changed from the Senior World Championships in 2010.

"Last year she was nervous, this year she fenced like she wanted to win," he said. "Last year it was more about not wanting to lose, and she was less confident. This year it was clear she wanted to win and she was able to use her whole game."

Columbia sophomore co-captain D'Meca Homer is Prescod's foil teammate and holds her fellow foilist in

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In Manhattan, golf teams' success stems from resourcefulness

BY JEREMIAH SHARP
Spectator Staff Writer

Golf practice facilities are hard to come by in Manhattan, and Rich Mueller—Columbia men's golf's head coach—has had to be extremely resourceful in finding his team practice facilities.

Currently in his sixth year at Columbia, Mueller's resourcefulness has led the men's team to three consecutive Ivy League titles—a streak the Lions hope to extend at the end of this year.

The home course for the Light Blue is Saint Andrew's Golf Club, a tough 6,670-yard course in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY. When the weather is right, the team takes a van out to the course. This van leaves at 2:40, and if anyone isn't there on time, they miss practice for the day.

Mueller understands that the players are also getting difficult Ivy League educations, so efficiency is the key.

"Our practices are efficient. They're well structured. ...We get in, we get out," Mueller said. "We do our business, and we get back to campus."

When the courses are closed for the winter, the team has several options. Randall's Island Golf Center is a

practice facility less than two miles away from Columbia's campus, and the team utilizes the center all throughout the winter.

An example of Mueller's ingenuity as a coach comes from the team's use of the football field at the Baker Athletics Complex as a place to practice their short game.

"The great thing about a football field is that it has yard lines and obviously when we talk about golf, we use yards in golf too," Mueller said. "We can hit great shots, and practice what we call the 'scoring zone' 100 yards and in."

Junior Brendan Doyle had high praise for the coach for his resourcefulness, and also added that the team enjoys the time it spends uptown.

"We go out Saturday mornings every weekend, and it's a lot of fun, we'll set up targets out there, get our yardage down," Doyle said.

With half of the Ivy League's golf teams having their own golf courses, this longer commute may seem like a disadvantage for the team. Coach Mueller doesn't see it that way.

"I actually see it as an advantage," Mueller said. "When you have negatives like that and we're surrounded by concrete on all four sides, you have to find a way to be positive about it."

Mueller added that a positive to take away is the fact that the team has its own state-of-the-art indoor practice facility right here at Dodge Fitness Center, allowing the team to practice the "bare essentials" at any point in the year.

The indoor facility—a converted squash court—was built in 2001 and has steadily improved throughout the years.

"It's been under construction since I've been here, and it's gradually getting a lot nicer every year," Doyle said. "It's a great area for the team to hang out constantly."

The latest installments to the golf room are new lockers, which provide members of the men and women's teams more space to store their clubs and shoes.

Even with the indoor facility, the winters can be tough to practice, but Doyle believes that practicing during the winter months gives them a leg up against the competition. Winter practice, however, is not limited to Dodge.

"We go out to Randall's Island in the beginning of January when it's 20, 30 degrees out, and hit balls twice a week," Doyle said. "We also do lessons with our coach once a week."

Despite all of these resources, there is still one crucial aspect

of golf missing during the winter months—putting.

"I think the hardest part is to not be able to have a putting green and practice our putting," Doyle said.

Seven of the nine members of the team are from warm-weather areas (five from California, and one each from Florida and Texas), so for them winter was never a problem during high school.

With extended periods of time off from golf, the transition to cold weather golf is a difficult one.

Senior Justin Lee, from Tarzana, Calif., made note of this transition.

"All throughout high school I wasn't used to taking the winter off, so it was a pretty big adjustment, especially the first few tournaments in the spring," Lee said. "We go into spring break, fly out to California every year, and we have basically one round and then tournaments."

Lee added, "You can see the freshman struggle with that this year, but next year we'll expect them to do a little better. So it's something you can work on, and coach also helps us with that."

This year's winter was especially harsh, giving golfers even less time

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