



MATTHEW SHERMAN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

UNDER CONSTRUCTION | EC residents await the completion of a new sign-in system, with three turnstiles to reduce long lines.

## Marble and a leaky pipe delay opening of EC entrance

BY SAMMY ROTH  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

A delayed shipment of marble is the only thing standing between East Campus residents and a faster, simpler sign-in system.

Construction of the residence hall's new entryway—which will separate students entering and exiting from guests being signed into the building—was supposed to be completed by the beginning of the semester. But Scott Wright, Columbia's vice president for student and administrative services, said that two obstacles have delayed the project's completion.

Construction workers have already dealt with the first obstacle—a leaky pipe beneath the floorboards that didn't appear on any building plans—but they're still waiting for a Connecticut mining company to deliver the marble that will be used for the entryway's new floor. According to Wright, it's not just any marble—it's the same stone that's been used for many building exteriors around campus, including the stairs leading up to several buildings on South Lawn.

"We made a decision that we wanted it to be the same marble as everywhere else," Wright said, adding that he expects the

marble to arrive by the end of September and for construction to be finished shortly thereafter.

All other construction on East Campus' main entrance was completed by Thursday morning. For the past few weeks, building security has alternated between use of the main entrance and the north entrance—depending on construction hours and crowd conditions—and Wright said it's Public Safety's decision whether to keep both entrances open or just use the main entrance until the new floor is installed.

Student and Administrative Services agreed to install a new entry system to East Campus in

April 2011, although construction was delayed from last summer to this summer due to a delay in acquiring permits from the city. Over the last few years, huge lines have often formed outside the building on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights as security guards sign in guests, holding up students who just need to swipe into the building.

The new system will feature three turnstiles: one for students entering the building, one for students exiting the building, and one for guests who need to be signed in. Even though the construction has gone on longer

SEE EAST CAMPUS, page 2

## Boathouse Marsh to open this fall in Inwood

BY GINA LEE  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Construction of the Campbell Sports Center is on track to finish next month, but it's unclear whether the adjacent Boathouse Marsh will be ready to open alongside the uptown sports complex.

The Boathouse Marsh—a 40,000-square-foot waterfront park—will be located at 218th Street in Inwood next to Columbia's new athletic complex, which is set to open in time for Homecoming on Oct.

20. Construction of the marsh began in July and is expected to be "substantially complete in the fall of this year," Executive Vice President of Facilities Joe Ienuso said in a statement, although he declined to state an exact date.

"Summer construction activities at Boathouse Marsh included site surveying, environmental protection, site clearing, earthwork, and installation of stone, fabric, and asphalt walkway," Columbia spokesperson Dan Held said in a statement.

Last week, Glaeser Horticultural Consulting Inc.

joined the team working to develop and build the marsh. Glaeser said in a statement that it "will provide the professional voice on matters of horticultural and arboricultural concern to the project."

Held said that Glaeser will consult on issues including the deck, the wildlife observation area, places to sit and picnic, and lawns and trees. The firm joins a project team consisting of Field Operations, the landscape architecture firm that worked on the

SEE BOATHOUSE, page 2



DOUGLAS KESSEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WETLANDS | Construction of the Boathouse Marsh will likely be finished by sometime this fall.

## Preparing to reopen Floridita, Diaz celebrates

BY JILLIAN KUMAGAI  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Ramon Diaz remembers when the corner of 125th Street and 12th Avenue marked the beginning of a meat district.

"This entire building," he said, gesturing behind him, "was a mini meat market, 24 hours a day."

Within the next three weeks, that building will become the home of a newly reopened Floridita, the popular Cuban restaurant that was relocated from its original home of 34 years to make way for Columbia's campus expansion in Manhattanville.

While gentrification has pushed many of his original customers out of Manhattanville, Diaz said that it's exciting to see the neighborhood's receptiveness to the reopening of "a vestige of Old Harlem," adding that a local church has already placed a reservation for the new location's first Sunday.

"I know children, parents, grandparents," Diaz said. "I know three generations. And they become friends, and we keep in touch."

Diaz also pointed to the corner across the street where construction workers meet every day at 6:30 a.m. to debrief before they go to work on Columbia's campus expansion. While they don't discuss Columbia, he said, they do tell him that they're looking forward to Floridita's reopening.

Of the 53 employees who worked at Floridita before it closed, about 20 will be returning.

## Impostor arrested on campus for 3rd time

Birva Patel posed as Columbia student as long ago as December

BY FINN VIGELAND  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Birva Patel—perhaps better known as Rhea Sen, the young woman who posed as a new student throughout orientation week and the first week of classes—was arrested at least twice in the last week, after it became clear that she had falsely claimed to be a Columbia student for at least nine months.

Patel, 26, was arrested on the Morningside Heights campus for criminal trespassing on Thursday and Saturday, according to court documents, and again on Monday night, according to witnesses. Despite reports from students that they encountered her on campus throughout last winter, spring, and summer, she went unnoticed by University authorities until the end of August, when International Student Orientation Program leaders reported her to their supervisor for suspicious behavior.

But on Monday—one day after Spectator reported her first arrest—students told Spectator that they had seen her on campus as early as December, going by her real name and claiming to be a junior studying engineering.

Patel was arraigned in court on Sunday before being released. The judge, Abraham Clott, issued a temporary order of protection, according to court documents, although it was unclear to whom it was issued. A police spokesperson was not able to confirm as of press time that Patel had been arrested again on Monday.

Six students said they met Patel earlier within the last year and were immediately put off by her unusual behavior.

"She just had this weird vibe," said Anna Prouty, BC '14, who met Patel at UNI Café in April. "I

love awkward people—I'm kind of awkward—but it wasn't like that. It was, 'Hi, can I hang out with you?'"

Students who interacted with Patel gave similar characterizations of her behavior: She approached them and all but demanded to be friends, and she repeatedly lied about what she was studying and what school she was in. Three of those students received rambling, sometimes profanity-laced Facebook messages from her. Others saw her on the subway, often waiting on the platform as trains came and went.

"I said I went to Barnard, and she went, 'What's that?'"

—Anna Prouty, BC '14

One student, who requested anonymity because Patel has his contact information, said he met Patel in December at the Toni Stabile Student Center in Pulitzer Hall, when they were both pulling all-nighters. Public Safety officers would check for Columbia ID cards nightly and the student said Patel had one, though when she stepped out to grab some food at UNI Café, she told him her card was demagnetized and asked if he would reopen the door for her.

Another student, who requested anonymity because Patel has her phone number, said she met Patel in March, also at UNI Café. Noticing Patel's strong Indian accent and wanting to help the seemingly lonely

SEE IMPOSTOR, page 2



HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

RICE AND BEANS | Diaz will soon welcome neighbors back to his Cuban restaurant, more than two years after it closed.

Tom DeMott, CC '80 and a co-founder of Coalition to Preserve Community, which has protested Columbia's expansion plan, said that the restaurant's reopening is "a great victory for all those in the community who have been working hard to integrate community institutions in this area."

"I look forward to a big plate of rice and beans and hanging out there with many people from the community who have been going for years and years," he said.

Savona Bailey-McClain, the founder of the West Harlem Food & Beverage Association, a trade organization for local restaurants, said that Floridita is "a

neighborhood staple" and will bring more affordable prices to West Harlem.

"With people struggling, there's a need for it in the community," Bailey-McClain said. "It really was a family-oriented restaurant and catered to folks in the neighborhood."

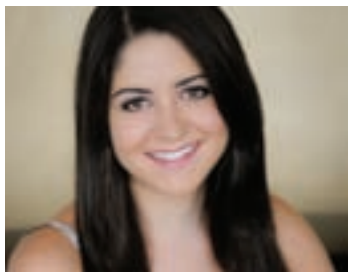
Diaz agreed to sell his previous location to Columbia, but the University closed that location ahead of schedule in April 2010 because of emergency kitchen repairs. The next month, following two years of negotiations over a new location, Diaz signed a new

SEE FLORIDITA, page 2

### A&E, PAGE 3

#### Barnard sophomore turns blog into book

Julie Zeilinger, BC '15, took her popular blog and made it into something more by publishing her first book, titled, "A Little F'd Up: Why Feminism Is Not a Dirty Word."



### OPINION, PAGE 4

#### Beginning of the end

Amanda Gutterman on the bittersweetness of senior year.

#### Internationally minded

Yoni Golijov urges Columbia to strike a balance between global and local foci.

### SPORTS, BACK PAGE

#### For Prescod, Ross, hard work pays off

Two Columbia foilists, sophomore Nzingha Prescod and senior Nicole Ross each took a year off to train and participated in the London Olympics.

### EVENTS

#### Music at St. Paul's

The New York City-based Allant Trio performs as part of the weekly Music at St. Paul's series, which is sponsored by the University chaplain's office.

St. Paul's Chapel, 6 p.m.

### WEATHER

#### Today



75° / 63°

#### Tomorrow



77° / 63°



## Students were confused by Patel’s behavior

IMPOSTOR from front page

woman make friends, the student—a member of the Hindu Students Organization—invited her to Chamak, a Pakistani event that would take place that evening. Patel and the student exchanged phone numbers, and Patel promised to come to Chamak, before backing out.

Patel also promised to go to Tamasha, a South Asian cultural showcase, and texted the student that she was in Roone Arledge Auditorium during the event. But she later texted that she had lied and “had to go out.” The student grew frustrated that Patel never seemed to follow through despite saying that she wanted to meet more people.

Janelle Bracken, Business ’13, met Patel in February when she asked Bracken to log her into a Uris Hall computer so that she could print. Patel told Bracken that she had attended Business School happy hours on Thursdays. Patel Facebook-friended Bracken and asked if she wanted to go clubbing, and when Bracken declined, Patel vehemently denied attending the happy hours and cursed Bracken out.

Students who interacted with Patel said that while she seemed to know enough details about Columbia to make it plausible that she was a student, she sometimes blanked on basic facts.

“I said I went to Barnard, and she went, ‘What’s that?’” Prouty said.

Patel told the student in the Hindu Students Organization that she was a junior in Columbia College studying



UNDER ARREST | A New York Police Department officer takes Birva Patel into custody on campus on Thursday night.

biomedical engineering—a major offered only at the School of Engineering and Applied Science. When Tanay Doctor, SEAS ’15, asked Patel if she liked working with Andrew Laine, the chair of the department, “she seemed to have no idea who he was,” Doctor said in an email.

Students who met her had different reactions to Patel’s lies. Some felt threatened, while others wrote them off as the behavior of an awkward student.

The HSO student grew suspicious of Patel when she gave her email address as bap6660@barnard.edu, considering Patel had said she went to CC. The student became even more suspicious when an email she sent to Patel bounced.

“I felt unsafe. I felt like she was psychotic,” the student said. Rachel Meirs, CC ’14, met

Patel in May on South Lawn and was immediately “weirded out” by the many questions Patel asked her. Meirs grew even more suspicious when she saw Patel riding the subways alone late at night. After seeing Patel sleeping against a pole on the 42nd Street subway platform, Meirs began to write down every time she saw Patel, which eventually amounted to seven times.

“After I saw her at 42nd Street, I thought, this is actually really strange behavior,” Meirs said. “What I thought was that maybe she was just an insomniac, maybe she had nothing better to do at night. She always looked really tired whenever you would see her.”

“She just seemed weird,” Prouty said. “She didn’t seem dangerous.”

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## Floridita’s return comes after 2 years of frustration

FLORIDITA from front page

lease on two Columbia-owned storefronts a few blocks east of his original location.

Diaz’s plans to reopen the restaurant quickly, though, were interrupted when the first inspection of the new building found significant amounts of loose asbestos contaminating much of the floor space. He filed a legal complaint against Columbia soon after, arguing that the University, as the property’s owner, was responsible for clean-up of the asbestos. He also alleged that he had been misled to sign his lease without knowledge of the issue.

“Floridita has moved forward in accordance to the terms of their rental lease to operate a restaurant at 12th Avenue and 125th Street,” Columbia spokesperson Victoria Benitez said in a statement. “We hope the restaurant thrives in its new location.”

Neither Diaz nor the University will comment on the ongoing litigation, but Diaz told the Spectator that “Columbia didn’t give me a dime” to help pay for the asbestos removal.

“I’ve been very angry and bitter about it,” Diaz said. “It didn’t have to happen this way and lose two years of business.”

Still, he’s excited to welcome old customers as well as new ones—including students, whom he called his “target audience.”

“Columbia academically is one entity, and Columbia incorporated is another entity,” Diaz said. Still, he added, his fight to reopen his restaurant has been “very personal.”

“If this was just a business, I would have left,” he said. “No one understands the economic toll this has taken on me and my family. This is do-or-die for me.”

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## Students optimistic new EC entrance will reduce lines

EAST CAMPUS from front page

than expected, most students were optimistic that the renovations would help ease entry to the building.

“They’re trying to make it easier, and I think the new entrance will be better.”

—Mary Shorey, CC ’12

“I think it’s necessary, and it’s not taking too long,” Noah Whitehead, SEAS ’13, said. “It keeps the walk interesting.”

Columbia College graduate Mary Shorey, who was visiting East Campus earlier this week, said that the new entrance

would be an improvement. “They probably should have finished before school started,” Shorey, CC ’12, said. “But I mean, I think they’re trying to make it easier, and the new entrance will be better.”

Wright said that the housing office has only received one complaint about the temporary arrangement over the last week—a request that the north entrance be opened more frequently.

“All the East Campus residents have been very understanding, and they just seem to be rolling with it,” he said.

And despite the delays, Wright added that he doesn’t regret ordering the specialized marble, which he said will last for many years.

“Building things that last forever is the best way to reduce waste,” he said.

Kelly Echavarria contributed reporting.

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MATTHEW SHERMAN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ALMOST THERE | East Campus’ new entrance will be ready in the next month, assuming a shipment of marble arrives soon.



DOUGLAS KESSEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

INWOOD | Baker Field’s new neighborhood, the Boathouse Marsh, will include a picnic area.

## Site clearing continues for marshlands

BOATHOUSE from front page

High Line park in Chelsea, and the construction group Skanska.

Columbia announced plans to construct the Boathouse Marsh alongside its plans to build a new sports center next to Baker Field. City zoning laws required the University to allot 15 percent of its waterfront land for public access before embarking on the construction project, but administrators said that topography issues would prevent them from meeting

the requirement. Instead, they agreed to restore the wetland area and provide a public park for local residents to enjoy the waterfront.

“Boathouse Marsh is intended to build on the natural history of the site and enrich the biodiversity of the Harlem River valley,” according to the Columbia facilities website. The plants proposed for the marsh are meant to provide habitat for wildlife, improve the aesthetic of the riverbank, and improve the quality of water in the river by

filtering storm water.

In addition to building the park, Columbia will provide community access to 11,000 square feet of city-owned land adjacent to Baker Field. Columbia will also transfer ownership of a dock at Baker Field to the city and maintain the dock for community access to small non-motorized boats.

Site surveying and clearing and walkway installation will continue for the next few weeks.

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FILE PHOTO

NIGHT MUSIC | Musicians perform at one of Postcrypt’s weekly shows in St. Paul’s Chapel.

# Postcrypt Coffeehouse gears up for the new semester, plans to record concerts

BY BRENDAN DONLEY  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Merging acoustic guitars and folk singing with laughter, introspection, and community, the Postcrypt Coffeehouse has a simple setup: A musician shares their songs, a diverse audience listens and drinks from quirky honey-jar water glasses, and every weekend it happens again.

Founded in 1964, the Coffeehouse will resume weekly concerts this weekend in its dimly-lit stone basement venue with two nights of free music. But for the first time since the 1990s, the organization is planning to record its shows, revisiting previous efforts to produce live albums and allowing concertgoers to take a piece of Postcrypt home.

“Sometime last year I found this CD of performers from Postcrypt,” said Rachel Meirs, CC ’13, booking manager for Postcrypt. The discovery of the album, released in 1992 by Fast Folk magazine, sparked an interest in returning to recording the venue’s artists this semester.

In order to move forward with the idea, the Coffeehouse wants to ensure its artists are comfortable with the concept, and that its dynamic does not change. The recordings would aim toward capturing the variety of Postcrypt’s performers, taking “really only a song from each person rather than a whole set,” Meirs said.

The recordings will take place in the basement of St. Paul’s Chapel, where Postcrypt holds all of its shows: a cozy former storage room, far-removed from the art havens of Greenwich Village and the Lower East Side.

“Postcrypt can appeal to people because it’s such a small venue—it’s kind of like being in on a secret,” said head manager Annika Christensen, BC ’13.

Despite these new plans, Postcrypt will remain dedicated to its weekly shows.

The performances will begin this year with sets from Dominique Star and Nick Bloom, both CC ’13, this Friday, followed by professional musician

Margaret Glaspy and an open mic for both students and locals Saturday evening.

“We always have regulars who live in the city,” Christensen said, “[but] this year we’ve tried to incorporate a lot of student musicians.”

Common ground shared among Postcrypt musicians and listeners includes the venue, its small stage, cool stone walls, and sharing of songs without amplification, but the differences are many. “There’s a lot of variety here at Postcrypt,” Christensen said, “Multiple visits throughout the year are rewarded.”

The main genre is folk, but audiences from Columbia and beyond will encounter blues and jazz by musicians performing with enthusiasm, humor, or despair, covering classics and sharing their own personal creations.

Variety among musicians but also among listeners characterizes Postcrypt, as its shows are held at a consistent time and place but with a shifting mix of audience members. “Many people come to Postcrypt that are hard to categorize,” Christensen said.

Postcrypt embraces variety, but fosters community through its intimate setting. As Christensen puts it, “Everyone shares a certain feeling they get when they come,” all seemingly in on the same secret.

By bringing the musicians and music scene of downtown much nearer to students, Postcrypt makes a distant trip more convenient for music lovers. The venue hopes to continue providing a viable and perhaps new option for many students every weekend.

Rather than venturing a few subway rides and transfers away, Christensen believes it is “important to have this great music here on campus. It’s really convenient for any weekend night.”

Interested performers are encouraged to bring a guitar, harmonica, cello, banjo, or instrument of choice to share in the intimate space beneath the chapel for its opening weekend, the upcoming Folktober Fest, Folk Fest in late spring, and the many weekends in between.

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# Barnard sophomore publishes feminist manifesto based on blog

BY LESLEY THULIN  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

For Julie Zeilinger, BC ’15, the “F-word” signifies much more than an expletive. Since age 16, the Pepper Pike, Ohio native demonstrated her commitment to feminism through the founding of her blog, The FBomb, and the recent publication of her book, “A Little F’d Up: Why Feminism Is Not a Dirty Word.”

She has since gained national attention as a new voice in the feminist movement. This summer, she was featured on NBC Cleveland, “The Cycle” on MSNBC, and the New York Nightly News with Chuck Scarborough. She also spoke at the Women in the World 2012 Summit at Lincoln Center, contributed a post to Forbes.com titled “Why Millennial Women Do Not Want To Lead,” and was featured on WoW Radio on SiriusXM.

Zeilinger’s passion for women’s rights ignited in middle school, when she began to read Gloria Steinem and blogs like Feministing and Jezebel.

Growing up in Pepper Pike, feminism “wasn’t really something I had been exposed to before that [age].”

After reading Feministing and Jezebel, Zeilinger was left wondering why readers couldn’t hear directly from teenagers. So in 2009, she launched The FBomb, an online community for teenage and now college-age feminists.

“It really became a kind of forum where ... young adults from all over the world could share their thoughts ... but more broadly, everything that affected their lives as young women.”

According to Zeilinger, her high school classmates first met the blog with confusion and indifference.

“A lot of my peers really didn’t understand what it was, which is kind of depressing to me,” she said. But she didn’t hear any direct negative response.

“Once the FBomb started getting attention, I think people thought it was cool that I had a blog that was getting attention apart from the topic itself. But I have friends who wrote for it, a lot of friends who thought it was really cool. So there were kind of mixed responses but I was very lucky, I think, in that there wasn’t any completely negative response or animosity toward it.”

As of May 2012, her blog saw 35,000 unique visitors a month and 700,000 unique visitors in its history. The contributors are from all over the world, including the United States, England, Italy and Jordan. The submission process is largely anonymous and requires the contributor’s first and last initials.

“I don’t see it as my personal blog at all,” she said. Run entirely on submissions, Zeilinger sometimes writes for it and edits it.

Zeilinger sees her book, “A Little F’d Up: Why Feminism Is Not a Dirty Word,” which was released May 15, as an extension of her blog.

“I think the really unique thing about my book is that I wrote it at such a young age and that I can really speak to these issues in a way that other adults who have written about these issues can’t,” she said. “I put a lot of my own life experiences into the book and really asked my friends about it, and I think it brings a really interesting lens to the whole topic.”

Many of the examples in the book were drawn from the FBomb. “The way the book is formatted, I first talk about the history of the women’s



COURTESY OF JULIE ZEILINGER

GIRL POWER | Julie Zeilinger’s first book was published on May 15.

movement and then I go into very basically defining what feminism is ... As the book progresses, I sort of get into the more specific issues that affect our generation, in terms of feminism. There are things like issues with our bodies and body image, and dating and relationships—things that we deal with on a daily basis,” she said.

While in high school, Zeilinger was first approached with the idea of writing a book. Tina Wexler, a new literary agent at International Creative Management, came across Zeilinger’s blog after asking some other agents what they were reading. One of her friends linked TheFBomb to her and their connection was born.

“Otherwise, I don’t think I ever would have independently come up with the idea to write a book about it,” Zeilinger said.

She spent her junior year of high school writing the proposal for the book, which then got picked up by Seal Press.

“We sort of worked on this proposal together and what the book ended up being is basically, I just took the really big issues that I felt came up on the FBomb a lot as well as ... try to define what feminism means for our generation and where the movement is headed.”

Zeilinger spent all of her senior year writing the book and then first semester of her first year of college editing it.

“And that’s actually a pretty expedited process for writing a book because they wanted it to come out while I was still a teenager, and that was important to me as well, so that I could speak to these issues on a more personal level.”

Along with the accelerated timetable for writing the book, Zeilinger also faced personal challenges, including having the confidence to write this book “at such a young age.”

“I had a lot of doubt about whether this is something I should do because while I really love blogging and writing in that format, I wasn’t sure, personally, if I could make it into a book.”

But in the end, her doubts were mitigated. “I’m really happy with how it turned out,” she said.

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# UWriting revamps undergrad journal

BY ALISON HERMAN AND ABBY MITCHELL  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writers*

First-years finally have a real shot at being published in a journal.

The Columbia University Libraries’ Center for Digital Research and Scholarship is launching a revamped Morningside Review, an online review that will exclusively feature the work of first-year students at Columbia College.

Though the journal has existed in past years as course material in University Writing classes, administrators “teamed up with CDRS to revamp the existing journal of undergraduate writing to create a forum worthy of showcasing the outstanding essays produced by Columbia’s newest students,” according to a statement released by the University Writing Program last Thursday.

“I think it’s a really good idea because it gives undergrads—especially in ... a Core class, where you feel like everyone’s just taking it and there’s not necessarily this environment for growth—it gives you something to push for,” Zachary Hendrickson, CC ’16, said.

For administrators, this is a welcome change. “We are thrilled to be moving the Morningside Review to this format,” Nicole B. Wallack, director of the Undergraduate Writing Program said in a statement. “The student essays in the Morningside Review bridge the worlds within and beyond Columbia, and do so in exemplary fashion. We are fortunate that the hard work of our University Writing instructors and students yields an impressive pool of essays.”

The submissions will all be taken from the University Writing courses that all Columbia College students are required to take in the fall or spring of their first year. According to the Undergraduate Writing Program’s website, it receives “hundreds” of submissions, but only 10 are chosen by an editorial board of University Writing professors and students.

The new format, Wallack said, will only improve the quality.

Hendrickson said he thinks that this will help first-years feel like they have a voice at Columbia early on.

“The idea that if you’re one of the best essays, you might actually get featured—I think that’s something that will give people an incentive to

work harder ... Especially this idea that people might actually know their name from something that they’ve put forth in the world, which is really what academic culture is, in a sense.”

According to representatives from CDRS, revamping consisted of everything from creating the logo to developing a unique identity for the review through web design. One additional feature will be photos of all contributors with the intention of giving a face to the work.

“CDRS provided us with an online presence for the Morningside Review that is akin to professional journals and so honors the students whose work appear in it,” said Wallack.

“The idea that ... you might actually get featured ... will give people an incentive to work harder.”

—Zachary Hendrickson, CC ’16

Upperclassmen in CC had mixed reactions to the new online version, split over the impact it will have on the University Writing experience.

Jieun Lim, also CC ’14, said that he worried it could leave the program at risk of academic dishonesty. “I don’t know how much what I say would actually matter. But if that was the case ... I think it [the changes] would be both good and bad,” he said. “It’d be good in the sense that people can model off of it. But at the same time, a lot of people get ideas from other people. I’m sure that a lot of the topics would be reused, so I feel like it could be a bit dangerous in the sense of plagiarism.”

For the people behind the program though, these pieces will serve as inspiration and hopefully raise the bar in University Writing.

“The Morningside Review plays two crucial roles for the Undergraduate Writing Program: It provides current students in University Writing with work to which they can aspire, and it provides University Writing teachers with work from which they can aspire,” Wallack said.

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# Creating community

BY DAPHNE CHEN, KARISHMA HABBU, WILL HUGHES, YANYI LUO, JARED ODESSKY

Community—it’s the magic word that we’ve been asked to talk about today. Columbia has found numerous ways to brand it, flaunt it, twirl it on its toes. When the cracks show in various offices, student groups, and even ourselves, “commu-nity” is thrown around again and again as the give-all, love-all panacea to our problems. Countless offices and jobs have been made in community’s name, such as Student Development and Activities, the Office of Civic Action and Engagement, and the Office of Residential Programs. We have these and other structures such as our clubs and academic departments that are meant to be our safety net. But maybe our expectations of being given community by these institutions prevent us from creating something more. Real communities, the communities that we’re looking for here at Columbia, don’t form because of official offices, student groups, or classes. Real communities form around these things.

As the five of us on the Columbia College Student Council executive board sat in Butler Lounge yesterday, trying to think of community’s elusive definition, none of us were able to come up with a satisfying answer. Instead, as the conversa-tion moved from abstract to personal, one of us asked, “What has been your lowest point here at Columbia?”

Between the five of us, we talked about homesickness and depression, overloaded schedules and extracurricular commitments, bad grades, internship troubles, sophomore

slump, freshman flump, getting plump, and simply not having things figured out. Laid out like this, our confessions sounded like the dark side of the Columbia admissions pamphlet. But what struck us was that despite the many hours we had spent together, none of us had even known that the others had struggled before this conversation.

This seemed representative of an all-too-typical phenom-enon. So many of us shield ourselves from the question-ing of others. We project who we’re supposed to be instead of who we are. We’re secure, confident, and fashionable Columbia students. We know that neon is over and we’ve read Nietzsche. We have our friend group and are on track with our careers. Our own interests are taken care of, so what more do we need ... right?

Our structures of community—classes, clubs, offices, fraternities, sororities, and residence halls—mean noth-ing unless we make connections with the people in them. Community is built by saying hi and caring about the peo-ple around us. It’s created by the interactions we have with friends and acquaintances in Butler Lounge, and with the classmate who just sat down next to you. It is found in those moments when, by taking the time to talk to someone, you discover who they are behind their class schedule, leadership positions, and internships. Our hope is a more connected school, where no one is too cool to meet someone new and no one is afraid to share their experiences. What we un-doubtedly have, right now, is each other—living, breathing, studying, and interacting at this incredible school. What is Columbia but the potential to gain new experiences and create new relationships?

So here are a few proposals:

## Mono no aware

As I maneuvered down the hill toward my senior digs in Woodbridge, I got so distracted by a feeling that I nearly let my blue bin hurtle into traffic. I shuffled through my index of jerky English-major words for feelings I’ve cul-tivated over the years. Was some-thing happening to my heimlich and unheimlich, Freud’s terms for when the familiar slips into the unfamil-iar leaving us frightened and con-fused? It was my fourth move-in to a Columbia dorm. The woefully absent air-conditioning, fickle water pressure, and puke-hued furniture had already set up shop in both my conscious and unconscious. So what was left to be scared of? When I thought about it more, I realized I wasn’t frightened so much as, I suppose, wistful. Mono no aware.

I doubt I’m the only senior returning to campus with a limp—with one (mental) foot out the door. As our “college experience” attains what is supposed to be its pinnacle, we find that we’re not 100 percent there. We know better than to try to rule the campus old-school style. In our interior monologues, the celebration of how far we’ve come is hedged against the humbling truth: Outside these gates, we mean little to anyone (professionally speaking that is). To act, as previous generations have done, the part of top banana, would be like Xerxes whipping the Hellespont.

In the year 2013, graduation will be like the Battle of Thermopylae. (One thing I’ve learned here is that you can never take the comparisons too far.) You need one hell of a poker face to pretend you’re not nervous—or to be hiding behind a trust fund the size of King Leonidas’s bicep. And this applies even if you’re going into finance. On the occasions that I converse with an actual grown-up, if I tell him or her that many of my smartest friends are finding jobs at banks and consult-ing firms, he or she usually looks surprised and replies, “Still?” Surely, we wear different masks, and we have different pre-prepared answers to questions about post-graduate life. But when it comes down to it, noth-ing lasts forever. No one has it all figured out.

Perhaps as a coping mechanism, some of us have developed a third eye. This third eye, a weird new kind of consciousness, is fixated on the last-ness of things. We are constantly grieving a future loss (with no mind to the actual quality of what is to be lost). The last blue bin. The last Core class. The final—we hope—run-in with so-and-so. The last psychiatrist’s note exonerating us from PE. Like paintings from Picasso’s blue period, our third eye is always watery with tears, even when we are otherwise happy and excited. It betrays the mournful Cyclops in all of us.

This brings me to that feeling from the first day back on campus. To describe it, I had to look out-side the Western canon. With a bit of delving into Wikipedia, I found just the right term: mono no aware. Transliterated from the original Japanese, mono no aware refers to our consciousness of ephemerality, of passages and transitions. What could be more appro-priate for the subtle sensation of returning knowing that we have to leave? Mono no aware is a way of tell-ing a story. In the Japanese literary tradition, beginning with the “Tale of Genji” in the 11th century (which I had the privilege of studying with professor William Theodore de Bary in his epic course, Nobility and Civility), mono no aware invites the reader to share in the pathos of passing time.

On the surface, at least, our transition from college into the so-called real world isn’t as significant as the tribulations of the characters in the world’s first novel (“Tale of Genji”). But what we lack in poetry we make up for in feeling. Our concerns could not feel more real to us, even as they are pooh-poohed by our elders. Remember being told that you had a lifetime to choose a major? Then sophomore year rolled around, and you realized you’d have to scramble to finish distribution requirements—just punishment for our forays into ceramics. Do you remember the time when, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” was fertile ground for fantasy? This year, we are expected to answer—for reals. The bubble has burst—we’ve been sold out. The seniors wear no clothes.

Some worrywart once asked, “What shall we eat? What shall we drink? What shall we wear?” (Jesus, who must have been used to this kind of question, said something like, “Chillax.”) No one asked me—and yet, these are the questions on my mind as I consider life after college. They are the questions that I will, to the best of my ability, address over the course of the year in this column. I promise to scour the face of the earth for sources and statistics to catch you off guard. And above all, I will try not to waste your time.

*Amanda Gutterman is a Columbia College senior majoring in English. Senior Citizen, Junior Employee runs alternate Tuesdays.*

## Global definition

By its very existence, every univer-sity affects the local community that it’s a part of. So the main question, then, is how the university will affect its local community.

How much focus will the university place on being a good neighbor? How much time will the university devote to caring for the university commu-nity and the local community? And to integrating communities? How much emphasis will the university put on sharing knowledge and resources with the local commu-nity, and, just as importantly, on listening to and learning from the local community?

These questions are essential everywhere, but they’re especially essential where the conversation consistently tends toward a global focus.

Columbia is one of those places.

For most Columbia students, arriving on campus is most likely accompanied by the beginning of a string of encounters with the word and concept of “global.” Our time here is punctuated by its intonation, like a church bell: global, global, global. Whether it’s a university, a citi-zen, or a thought, it’s most likely global.

Global has been a trend at Columbia since Nicholas Murray Butler began speaking and writing about “the international mind” in 1912. In an address to the National Conference on Foreign Relations of the United States in 1917, Butler said:

“The international mind is nothing else than that habit of thinking of foreign relations and business ... which re-gards the several nations of the civilized world as free and co-operating equals in aiding the progress of civilization ... It would be as inconsistent with the international mind to attempt to steal some other nation’s territory or to do that nation an unprovoked injury or damage, as it would be inconsistent with the principles of ordinary morality to at-tempt to steal some other individual’s purse or to commit an unprovoked assault upon him.”

If only he’d renounced the elitism of dividing the world into “civilized” and “uncivilized,” this wouldn’t sound half bad. The ideas of cooperating as free and equal partners and of not stealing territory from nor committing unpro-voked injury to a nation or individual are some doggone good ideas. He ended his speech by stating that all this was for democracy and freedom.

Wonderful!

If only Butler walked his talk (and ditched the elitism).

Instead, the preacher of democracy and freedom stifled dissent at the University during WWI and WWII, firing professors and denying some their pensions. Butler also disliked having what he thought were too many Jewish students at Columbia, so he created an affiliated college in Brooklyn in the hopes that most Jews would go there instead of coming to the main school and campus.

Similarly, ideals that Butler would say were in op-position to imperialism have clearly been used to justify imperialism for a century. Another great preacher of de-mocracy, Woodrow Wilson, whom Butler supported, also

To our RAs: We love the new initiative to talk to and meet each of your residents for at least 15 minutes. Own it.

To our professors: Encourage us to interact with our peers in class. Discussion in Contemporary Civilization isn’t half as valu-able if we don’t know each other’s names or feel uncomfortable challenging each other. Also, take us out to lunch more often.

To our administrators: Help us help you make Columbia better. Encourage us to come speak to you one-on-one. Guide us through the system. We have so many ideas—for green initiatives, for outdoor dinners, for Ruggles’ creepy basement lounge. Be our enablers.

To our peers: Introduce yourself to someone new ev-ery day. Get to know the people on your floor. We all have 101 things on our to do list. Turn to your neighbor, ask how they’re doing, and feel comfort in knowing that we will get through the day together.

And for ourselves, CCSC: Listen. Act. Push. Persist. However we can be relevant to the Columbia community, we want to know. We want to create events that will make your day brighter and to make funding a project with your friends stress-free and easy. We want to communicate with and hear from you. We can’t promise to single-handedly create community, because no one can, but we will try to create its opportunities.

So no matter what you do or who you are, embrace the multitude of random experiences that are handed to you on a daily basis—Always lose yourself in the chaos that is Columbia.

*The authors are the members of the executive board of the Columbia College Student Council.*

used the rhetoric of international minded-ness, freedom, and democracy to catapult United States imperialism into Mexico, Haiti, Cuba, Panama, Honduras and more.

Wilson, at one of his more honest moments, stated, “Since trade ignores national boundaries and the manu-facturer insists on having the world as a market, the flag of his nation must follow him, and the doors of the nations which are closed against him must be battered down ... Colonies must be obtained or planted.”

Today, almost 100 years later, the rhetoric and actions of Columbia and the United States remain unfortunately similar.

The University, with a free-speech scholar as president no less, uses Columbia Public Safety and the New York Police Department to shut down students’ and staff’s free speech. Just last year during a radical walking tour, Public Safety officials told students they did not have the right to free speech on campus. The NYPD spied on Muslim stu-dents and administrators hardly blinked.

And despite an almost \$8 billion endowment, University administrators demanded drastic cuts to cler-ical workers’ healthcare, pensions, and education benefits last semester—the workers at Barnard are still fighting for a fair contract.

President Obama, educated at Columbia, uses concepts recognizable in the Core Curriculum to justify expanding the monstrous U.S. empire. The “hope” candidate preach-es democracy while imposing deadly sanctions on Iranian civilians, even though American intelligence agencies concede that any evidence of Iran building a nuclear weapon is almost nonexistent. For “freedom,” Obama as-sassinated American citizens without due process—bye-bye Constitution.

It would be a grave tragedy if this is the international minded-ness he learned from Columbia. Yet it isn’t un-imaginable. Years ago, some of West Harlem’s citizens were ready to collaborate with Columbia’s expansion. The chairman of Community Board 9 said, “We want Columbia to expand. We want Columbia to compete. We have 964 acres in this district. They can have 17 acres. Any 17 acres.” But Columbia administrators remained com-pletely unwilling to engage in any negotiations. They de-clared they must, by any means, have all 17 acres in a box, segregated from the community, and they abused eminent domain to achieve their goals. This doesn’t sound like a good neighbor or an international mind.

It is absolutely necessary to discuss global questions. Absolutely necessary. But if we discuss “global” to the ex-clusion of “local,” “global” becomes an abstract conversa-tion. “Global” is made up of billions of locals.

We need to engage in both global and local thinking and practice. Only then will we be able to think dynam-ically about global affairs, local affairs, and their relation-ships. Global decisions have vivid local consequences, and vice versa.

If we don’t learn how to live in and engage with a lo-cal community and local questions, how can we ever be responsible global citizens?

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MARIA GIMÉNEZ CAVALLO

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







## CU football schedule needs a powerhouse

If you don't follow college football, live in Georgia, or remember where Shannon Sharpe went to school, then you might not be familiar with Savannah State University. Savannah State has competed in Division I FCS for the past 12 seasons. It has never won its conference (the MEAC) and is routinely one of the worst teams in the FCS. Despite all of this, Savannah State has had BCS teams beating down their doors to play them in football in recent years. This year, the lucky schools were Oklahoma State and Florida State, which defeated Savannah State by a combined score of 139-0 the past two weeks. To put that in perspective, whichever way you choose to interpret it, Columbia football did not score its 139th point until its ninth game last season.

The carrot at the end of the treadmill for Savannah State and its athletic department is the over \$800,000 that it will receive from Oklahoma State and Florida State to administer these unmitigated beatdowns. These so-called "cupcake games" are almost always a waste of time in terms of the outcome. What they grant a small school in national exposure is dwarfed by the humiliation that is usually served.

The revenues brought in by submitting to these defeats are what keeps the FCS teams interested in the matchups and fills the early college football schedule with "cupcakes" instead of classics. It makes perfect sense for schools that are not only interested in the money but also are not concerned with the potential of their football program being a laughing stock on national television. Naturally, Columbia should be the team looking to sell a defeat to a top five team in the next few seasons.

Out of the 10 games on Columbia's football schedule, eight games are already set in stone: the seven Ivy League contests and the annual Liberty Cup game against Fordham. The Fordham game is traditionally (not this season) the first game of the season and held on the third Saturday in September, which would be the third week of the college football season. This would leave the first Saturday in September as a perfect time for the Lions to be another school's opening game.

The course of the game itself would likely control the potential benefits or losses. If the team played well, it would be a massive confidence boost going into the rest of the season. A strong performance would likely be compounded by more donations to the school, specifically the athletic department, which would add onto the fee received from the opposing school in financial returns.

Even if the team played poorly, the national exposure would probably lead to some contributions, and the team would have two weeks to prepare for its next game, thus minimizing the negative on-field effects. This seemingly inevitable loss could end up being a win-win for the University.

Looking at the nonconference schedules for the football and basketball teams leaves a lot to be desired in terms of marquee matchups. Football has filled out its schedule with Patriot and Pioneer League schools, leagues that, like the Ivy League, do not give out athletic scholarships.

The football team's struggles in nonconference play predictably carried over for the duration of the season. The 2010 football team had success heading into Ivy League games but struggled against the other teams in the Ancient Eight. For Columbia to serve as someone's "cupcake" would take a great deal of pride-swallowing and a willingness to subject students to public embarrassment.

On the other hand, the payday could ensure the improvement and survival of non-revenue teams and a strong performance could reap major benefits on and off the field. The nonconference games are not nearly as important as Ivy games, especially the two outside of the Liberty Cup. If Columbia football is going to fill out its schedule, they might as well schedule a game that can test the team and greatly aid the athletic department financially. Who knows, maybe one day Columbia will be synonymous with Appalachian State by pulling off a massive upset? There's only one way to find out.

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**SAM TYDINGS**  
**Booth Review**



**FENCER'S CLUB** | Sophomore Nzingha Prescod and senior Nicole Ross first met at a prestigious fencing in Chelsea and have followed similar paths since.

## In London, 2 female foilists see results of years of work

**BY MATISSE WOODRUFF**  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

As students return to their dorms from summer vacation, tales of their summer escapades usually fill the halls. For two talented Columbia athletes, tales of summer include breakfast with Michelle Obama. Even more impressive? It was at the XXX Olympic Games in London, where sophomore Nzingha Prescod and senior Nicole Ross both represented Team USA in the women's individual foil for fencing.

In the year leading up to the Olympics, both Prescod and Ross chose to take time off from school to train. "I wanted to forgo school until I could give it my full attention," Ross said. Although both Ross and Prescod were already training at a high level, the time commitment increased as the two trained more rigorously during the year-long qualification leading up to London. "That entire time was practice almost every day, if not twice a day," Ross said.

Prescod elaborated on the specifics of their workouts: "During the day, I would do Pilates, core strengthening, and we would row for conditioning," she said. "We would be bouting six days a week, actually sparring with an opponent." Four days of the week, Prescod would train five hours a day and for another two, she would train for two to three hours.

But clearly, the training paid off this

summer as they headed to London. Although both Prescod and Ross had previously attended the World Championships, the Olympic Games were an incomparable experience, they said. "Everyone is just catering to you. You're treated like a princess all the time," Prescod said. "Everything is all taken care of for you and all you have to worry about is your event and having fun."

And although both Prescod and Ross said that competing in the event itself was the high point of the Olympics, both listed receiving free Team USA apparel and "cool gear"—including bedding from the Olympic Village—as among their favorite memories.

Prescod also mentioned the fencing team's breakfast with Michelle Obama as one of the best parts of the experience. "She special requested the fencing team," Prescod explained.

"I think for me, it was getting to be on the strip with my teammates and showing what we could do," Ross said when asked about her most memorable moment.

But getting to the Olympics took a lot of hard work. For both athletes, the path to London started at a young age. Prescod and Ross were very athletic, and after trying various other sports as little girls, they both settled into fencing.

"My mom suggested it because I always loved movies with fencing in it ...



FILE PHOTO

like 'The Princess Bride,'" Ross said. "She called up the Fencers Club and it just sort of stuck."

The Fencers Club, located in Chelsea, is the oldest continuous fencing club in the United States, the home of the Peter Westbrook Foundation, and the birthplace of both Prescod and Ross's fencing careers.

The Peter Westbrook Foundation, "basically introduce[s] you to the sport," Prescod said. "They thought I had a lot of potential so they sponsored me to go to the Fencers Club. They paid for membership, lessons, and traveling."

The Peter Westbrook Foundation and the Fencers Club not only financially supported a blossoming talent but also provided a network of emotional support and friendship.

"They were my family. They were supporting us all," Prescod explained. In fact, her links to the Fencers Club were so strong that it was one of the factors in her choosing to attend Columbia in the first place, as she wanted to continue training with them. This was also the start of her long-standing friendship with fellow teammate and Lion, Nicole Ross.

"I've known [Nzingha] since she was probably 10 or 11 years old. She's truly incredible. One of the best American fencers out there," Ross said. "You know when you travel with someone, you have a bond that is very different. I look at her as a little sister, but I learn

a lot from her."

Michael Aufrichtig, Columbia's head fencing coach—who also attended the Summer Olympics as a modern pentathlon coach—was able to witness the growth of these two women. "I remember one time, I was reffing at Columbia and I heard this one woman screaming and yelling and going crazy on the strip. And that was Nicole Ross," Aufrichtig said. "I was like, 'This girl is going to go someplace.' I saw her develop from an amazing fencer to an Olympic fencer."

Aufrichtig was able to see Prescod develop her talent. "I saw her grow from a 10-year-old fencer," he said. "While she's on the strip, she's—I don't want to say the Terminator, but she's a very powerful force. Very different than if you would meet her at any other time."

Through years of training and balancing fencing with schoolwork—as Columbia students, they have a heavy counseload—the two have arrived where they are today.

Next, both Ross and Prescod will have a short break from fencing, before they return to the World Championships. In four years, we may see them yet again at the Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. But for now, they will continue to practice.

"I don't look at it as training for the Olympics again," Prescod said, "just training. Always trying to get better."

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## In men's soccer, Cornell stays strong while other Ivies struggle

**BY AIGERIM SAUDABAYEVA**  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

As its fellow Ivy Leaguers suffered through a challenging weekend, Cornell was the diamond in the rough and remained undefeated. On the other hand, Penn suffered another disappointing weekend, leading to a 0-4 start to the season.

### BROWN

This past weekend, the Bears hosted the Dunkin' Donuts Brown Soccer Classic. Three teams—the Cleveland Vikings, the Fordham Rams, and the Sienna St. Bernards—competed. The Classic produced some mixed results for the Bears. After an excellent shutout performance against Cleveland State on Saturday, Brown lost to Fordham in the final on Sunday. Despite outshooting Fordham 7-4, in the first half of the game, the Bears failed to make a comeback after sophomore midfielder Kalle Sotka's header in the ninth minute. Though Brown lost freshman forward Ben Maurey in the 59th minute to a red card, going one player short, it managed to stay in the game and prevented Fordham from scoring again.

### CORNELL

Junior forward Daniel Haber continued his torrid pace after earning three honors last week. Haber has scored and assisted in every game of the season so far, and he topped off by netting a hat trick during Cornell's home opener against Buffalo. Haber's hat trick was a first for Cornell

since Brian Kuritzky's in 2007. With the addition of junior defender Patrick Slogic's goal in the 22nd minute and strong defense, the Big Red annihilated the Buffalo Bulls in a 4-0 win.

### DARTMOUTH

Dartmouth also had a mixed week. On Friday, Southern Methodist University beat the Big Green, 2-1. Sophomore forward Alex Adelabu notched his first goal of the season in the 52nd minute, but SMU sophomore midfielder Andrew Morales scored the equalizer to put the score at 1-1. Sophomore midfielder Colin Heffron thwarted his team's chances at beating SMU by earning a red card and providing the Mustangs with a penalty kick. Despite the loss in the weekend opener, the Big Green reversed its luck after toppling Colgate on Sunday. Adelabu scored his second goal of the season, providing Dartmouth with a 1-0 victory.

### HARVARD

Harvard finally snatched its first victory of the season, beating Michigan State, 1-0. Freshman forward Jake Freeman scored the Crimson's lone goal in the first half. Though the Spartans outshot the Crimson 13-8, Harvard's defense persevered and spoiled Michigan State's attempts at equalizing the game. The outcome of Harvard's Sunday match against SMU was not as pleasant. Despite a close battle, the Crimson fell 3-2 in overtime. Freshman midfielder Oliver White scored his first career goal, and senior midfielder and captain Scott Prozeller scored the other for Harvard. On the opposing side, senior forward Ben Hill, freshman forward Jacob

Gandarilla, and sophomore midfielder Tyler Engel scored the three goals, sealing SMU's victory.

### PRINCETON

Princeton had an upsetting weekend. Despite having the home advantage, the Tigers fell, 2-0, to Rutgers. The Scarlet Knights' new recruit, freshman midfielder Mael Corboz, scored both of their goals. Despite having great opportunities and more shots on the goal and more corner kicks, Princeton could not convert possession into a single goal.

### PENN

Penn went another weekend without securing a win. On Friday, the Quakers received their third straight loss to start the season, a first for the Quakers since 2007, in

a 2-1 defeat against Air Force. Later in the weekend, Hartford crushed Penn's hopes for a rebound with a 2-1 win.

### YALE

The Bulldogs started the weekend off on stable ground—despite playing a player short after senior defender Andy Hackbarth was issued a red card in the ninth minute, Yale hunkered down defensively and produced a scoreless game against Colgate. Senior goalkeeper Bobby Thalman made five saves. After their 110-minute long match against Colgate, the Bulldogs faced Fairfield on Sunday. Yale once again failed to score and lost, 1-0. Stags freshman George Newton scored the game's only goal in the 18th minute.

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KATE SCARBOROUGH / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**HABERGE** | In Cornell's home opener, forward Daniel Haber scored a hat trick against Buffalo, helping the Big Red to a 4-0 win over the Bulls.