

Councils create two new funds for groups

BY CAMILLE BAPTISTA
Columbia Daily Spectator

After a record-breaking number of its teams qualified for a national tournament in May, the Parliamentary Debate Society applied to the Joint Council Co-Sponsorship Committee for funding. But even though the JCCC helped cover some of the costs, the debate society had to “scale back competition at other tournaments to ensure that we were able to send as many teams as possible to nationals,” executive board member Shalei Holway, BC ’13, said.

Groups like the debate society are the intended beneficiaries of two new funds being launched by the four student councils this month—the Travel Fund and the Capital Investment Fund. The funds will be drawn from budget surpluses from the Columbia College Student Council, Barnard’s Student Government Association, the General Studies Student Council, and the Engineering Student Council.

The Travel Fund, which will be capped at \$8,000, is intended to finance transportation expenses, particularly for clubs that travel frequently, such as the debate society, Mock Trial, and sports teams. The \$15,000 Capital Investment Fund will help groups that need to purchase “big ticket items,” said Daphne Chen, CC ’14 and CCSC vice president of finance.

CCSC members came up with the idea for a Travel Fund as more and more student groups qualified for events across the country and petitioned the governing boards for additional funding. In February 2011, for instance, the men’s volleyball club requested \$3,100 from the JCCC to cover travel costs, but it was allotted only \$2,500. Each team member had to pay a significant out-of-pocket cost to attend the competition.

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HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MUSLIM RAGE | General Studies Dean Peter Awn argued Wednesday that recent conflicts in the Middle East aren’t defined by religion, but rather by the search for national identity and autonomy.

Harlem residents raise rezoning concerns

BY CHRIS MEYER
Columbia Daily Spectator

Harlem residents continued to express apprehension about a proposal to rezone West Harlem during a city zoning hearing Wednesday, criticizing threats to the neighborhood’s architectural landscape and plans for affordable housing.

The proposal, which is roughly five years in the making and is the first major effort to rezone West Harlem since 1961, will restrict building heights in a 90-block area from 126th Street to 155th Street and between Riverside Drive and Edgecombe

Avenue. It will also add commercial space and affordable housing on 145th Street, which city planning officials say could bring the community together through shopping and public recreation.

The City Council Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises will meet next week for a final vote on the proposal by the Department of City Planning.

Melissa Cerezo, the planning department’s West Harlem project manager, said that the rezoning plan would preserve the historic character of Harlem, which consists mostly of residential properties six stories or lower. Under the new plan, roughly

95 percent of the neighborhood would be preserved in its current state, Cerezo said.

“It will really ensure that new developments are sensitive to the fabric of this neighborhood,” Cerezo said.

Although they agreed with much of the plan, several Community Board 9 members said at the hearing that the rezoning of 145th Street could actually disrupt the architectural landscape that the planning department is working to protect by allowing for the creation of taller buildings on the street. Under the

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Awn shoots down idea of ‘Muslim rage’

GS dean calls Middle East unrest a result of identity crisis

BY SAMANTHA COONEY
Columbia Daily Spectator

Peter Awn finds the idea of “Muslim rage” laughable.

In its Sept. 17 issue, Newsweek magazine published a cover story on anti-American protests in the Middle East with the headline “Muslim Rage.” Awn, the dean of the School of General Studies and a scholar on the Islamic world, used that controversial headline Wednesday night as a jumping-off point for a discussion of the recent turmoil in the Middle East.

In a packed Hamilton lecture hall, Awn argued that religion shouldn’t be used to define conflicts in the region.

“The whole notion of Muslim rage, I found it really hysterical,” Awn said, asking why the sometimes violent anti-American outbreaks were not referred to as “Syrian rage” or “Libyan rage” instead. “When you choose the word, you’re creating the context.”

Awn acknowledged that extreme religious factions are responsible for violence in parts of the Middle East, but he stressed that these factions can’t be used to make generalizations about Muslims. Instead, he attributed ongoing problems in the Middle East to the search for national identity and autonomy after the Arab Spring forced out totalitarian regimes.

“It may be a pipe dream, but it is still clearly a cultural aspiration,” he said.

Awn also touched on the

antagonism between some Middle Eastern countries and the United States, saying that a “lack of cultural respect” on the part of the United States was partially to blame for the protests.

“It’s not nice having invaders,” he joked, referring to U.S. military involvement in Iraq, Libya, and other parts of the region. Ultimately, he stressed, each country needs to define its own identity independently.

Awn also made the case that the Arab Spring should be viewed in a cultural context rather than a religious one. He compared Islam to other religions, including Christianity and Judaism, and said that it creates a cultural community rather than a defining moral code.

“They interpret their Islam any way they want to. But that doesn’t mean they don’t identify as Muslim,” he said.

Students who attended the event said they appreciated Awn’s perspective on the protests, most notably the religious side of his discussion.

“Because we have exposure to it only from the news, we only really see the political side,” Arpi Youssoufian, BC ’16, said.

The event was sponsored by the Columbia International Relations Council and Association. Rich Medina, CC ’13 and CIRCA’s vice president of academic affairs, said that the group first talked to Awn over the summer about headlining one of their events. The

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University Senate task force exploring online education

BY EMMA CHENG
Columbia Daily Spectator

A University Senate task force is wading into one of the hottest topics in higher ed: the question of online education.

The task force, which was established by the senate last year, will explore Columbia’s current online offerings and examine its options going forward. The committee met for the first time Sept. 19, a day before the University opened registration for its first two massive open online courses.

“We’re in the data-collecting mode. We are working on pilot programs of courses and we are seeing which other offered courses can be adapted to online learning,” Assaf Zeevi, the Business School’s vice dean of research and a member of the task force, said. “So far, the experience has mostly been in areas with undergraduate classes with very high appeal that can be pitched to a large audience.”

Columbia will offer its first two massive open online courses through Coursera next semester, but several schools, including the School of Engineering and Applied Science, the School of Continuing Education, the Journalism School, and Teachers College, have created their own online courses and initiatives over the years.

The task force, which is being led by Senate Executive Board Chair Sharyn O’Halloran, will work to unify Columbia’s online education offerings.

“Columbia has 20 schools. We’re very decentralized, which is a good thing, since it allows individual departments

and faculty to create initiatives,” task force member and astronomy professor James Applegate said. “However, at the same time, the senate is the only institution Columbia has for the function of town hall meetings. The task force will play that same role, only more specifically for online learning.”

The committee met last week with Stanford University professor Daphne Koller, one of the founders of Coursera. Still, Sree Sreenivasan—a Journalism School professor who was appointed Columbia’s first chief digital officer in July—said that Coursera “is just an example of what we can do.”

“I believe that this will bring the golden age of liberal education.”

—James Applegate,
task force member and
astronomy professor

“Right now, we’re talking with many other vendors and platforms to see what works best for us,” he said.

There has been a surge of activity in online education over the last year, with MIT and Harvard partnering to launch edX and schools ranging from Princeton to the University of Pennsylvania signing up for Coursera. But, even with universities scrambling to open their

SEE ONLINE, page 2

On the Upper West Side, poison meant for rats might be killing hawks

BY ABIGAIL GOLDEN
Columbia Daily Spectator

A red-tailed hawk named Zena could be the latest victim in a string of hawk deaths caused by rat poison in Riverside and Central parks this year.

Upper West Siders regularly use poison to stave off rats, but hawk activists say that the poison may have led to a half-dozen hawk deaths. Zena, the mate of

Central Park celebrity hawk Pale Male—who garnered media attention when his nest was almost destroyed in 2004—has been missing since mid-September.

“For about two weeks, nobody saw her, and then we saw a new female with Pale Male,” hawk watcher and activist JoyAnn Savino said. “Once a red-tail has a new mate, that means something happened to the old mate, because they’re

monogamous.”

Zena’s body has not been found, but according to Savino, this is not surprising.

“When a hawk is dying, like any animal, they hide. And unless they’re in a tree and their body falls, you don’t find them,” Savino said.

Five other Upper West Side hawks have died in and around Central and Riverside parks since February. One of them, Lima, is a former mate of Pale Male, and another is a Riverside Park female who earned fans and press coverage last year after losing her mate and raising a nest full of hatchlings on her own.

Necropsies on three of the birds proved that they died of internal hemorrhaging due to the ingestion of anticoagulants, chemicals used as rat poison. The anticoagulants, which make rats bleed to death, are slow-acting, and it’s likely that the hawks died after preying on rats that had ingested the poison.

Poisoned rodents “walk around for a day or so, bleeding out,” Ann Feldman, another hawk watcher and activist, said. “And that’s what makes them so dangerous to predators—because if they died immediately, the hawks wouldn’t touch them.”

Poison also sickened two of Pale Male and Zena’s offspring in July. The fledgling hawks

were captured by the nonprofit group Wildlife in Need of Rescue and Rehabilitation and moved to the organization’s upstate New York headquarters, where blood work showed that rat poison was present in both of their systems. The fledglings were kept there for treatment and rehabilitation.

“They’re two very, very fortunate birds that we got to them in time,” Bobby Horvath, the organization’s president, said. “The majority of birds that are poisoned, unfortunately, are found too late to reverse the effects of the poison.”

That organization and the city parks department plan to release the fledgling hawks somewhere in New York City in the next week, Horvath said. The organization has not decided on a location yet, but it’s hesitant to return the hawks to their old home in Central Park.

“We had some concern over releasing them back where they came from, if the possibility existed that they would just get re-poisoned again,” Horvath said.

POISON VS. SANITATION

Upper West Side residents have long complained about rats, which have recently been spotted everywhere from Riverside Park playgrounds to the aisles of the popular Fairway Market.

SEE HAWKS, page 2



COURTESY OF PALEMALE.COM

HAWK-TIVISM | Several mates of Central Park celebrity hawk Pale Male have died since February, possibly from rat poison.

A&E, PAGE 3

Lowlapalooza brings together student artists

Ready for Bacchanal but can’t wait for spring? Head to Lowlapalooza on Sunday for a showcase of student music artists including rappers, rock bands, and solo singers.



OPINION, PAGE 4

Beyond the screen

Leo Schwartz contemplates how social networking affects students’ lives.

Less reading. More writing.

Alex Merchant argues that fewer books and more papers will improve the Core.

SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Hey there Delilah

The inspiration for the Plain White T’s song, “Hey There Delilah” came from right here at CU.

EVENTS

“Les Mauvais Joueurs”

Watch and discuss “Les Mauvais Joueurs,” a movie about hustler Vahé’s re-evaluation of his criminal life after his girlfriend dumps him.

Buell Hall East Gallery, 7:30 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



73°/63°

Tomorrow



75°/64°

Councils plan to spend their excess funds

FUNDS from front page

“We don’t want to have students have to take on a financial burden just for doing well,” Chen said.

The idea for a Capital Investment Fund came from Dean of Community Development and Multicultural Affairs Terry Martinez, who suggested to Chen that the council start a fund for organizations that need one-time funding for expensive purchases. Chen explained that a new tuba, for example, might cost the Columbia University Marching Band anywhere between \$7,000 and \$10,000.

“You might be able to raise that in 10 years,” Chen said. “They’re

only here for four years.”

Peter Andrews, the head manager of the marching band, said that the Capital Investment Fund could help the band cover costs that are difficult to fit into its budget.

“The tightest area of our budget is probably instrument repair and new instrument acquisition,” Andrews, a Spectator sports columnist and associate copy editor, said.

The councils will solicit funding applications in October and then decide which organizations are most in need of the money. Chen said that they hope to make the greatest possible impact with the funds by allocating sizable

sums to one or two groups, instead of giving small grants to many groups.

The new funds are particularly unique because all four councils are involved, and also because the councils are using their surpluses to fund them. CCSC, for instance, has been sitting on a surplus for several years, and Chen said she wanted that money to benefit students more directly.

“People pay their student life fee for one year, so they should get the benefits for that year,” Chen said. “We made a commitment to give more of our money away to the governing boards and to student groups.”

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Awn paints complex picture of Middle East

AWN from front page

recent protests—including an attack on the U.S. embassy in Benghazi, Libya, that killed diplomat Christopher Stevens—made his lecture all the more timely.

“He gave an issue that’s definitely more complex the full context,” Medina said.

Scott Sanders, GS ’15, who has followed the uprisings in Muslim countries intently and is taking a class on Middle Eastern history, said he can understand why so many students are interested in the political shifts of these countries.

“There’s a tremendous sense of impending change,” he said. “That’s really exciting to young Columbians.”

Awn, however, said that this change would take time, as the citizens of these countries continue to attempt to find their identities.

“This is a very long process, and the jury is still out on how it will end,” he said.

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CB9 members fear rezoning plan will affect architecture

REZONING from front page

rezoning proposal, one block of 145th Street would be designated an R8A zone, which would allow buildings on that block to reach up to 12 stories.

The planning department website says that the height of R8A buildings is often limited to ensure compatibility with surrounding buildings, a tool known as a “contextual zoning district.” However, some CB9 members at the hearing were still worried. Among them was Walter South, who urged the planning department not to change the zone’s current status, which limits building to about six stories.

“Why does a small group of politically connected people in this community have more rights than the community board, which has voted twice against this proposal?” South asked the subcommittee.

Simon Thoresen, another CB9 member, also opposed the plan, saying it would bring greater congestion and pollution to the neighborhood.

Hearing attendees also raised the issue of West Harlem’s architectural cohesion. City Council member Robert Jackson, who represents West Harlem, asked

planning department officials a list of questions involving the futures of specific buildings, such as the Dance Theater of Harlem and the Harlem School of the Arts. Adam Wolff, deputy director of the planning department’s Manhattan office, said that the buildings could not keep their current zoning regulations for fear that buildings on adjacent lots would drastically exceed them in height, resulting in possible safety hazards.

Affordable housing was also a point of debate, especially because “inclusionary housing” incentives offered by the planning department would allow buildings to reach up to 17 stories if they include permanent affordable housing units. Several speakers said that the plan does not take the lives of individual residents into account.

“We oppose the current bill not because of what is has, but more because of what it lacks,” said Charles A. Curtis, the pastor of Mount Olivet Baptist Church. “It does not deal with flesh and blood, the hearts and minds of the people. Realize that Harlem has changed. Rents are not going down—rents are going up.”

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Hawk activists say garbage is the problem

HAWKS from front page

But several organizations and city offices, prompted by the hawk activist campaign Stop the Poison, are reconsidering the impacts of using rat poison.

Activists have convinced some institutions, including the American Museum of Natural History and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, to stop using poison altogether. American Museum of Natural History spokesperson Roberto Lebron said that the museum now uses snap traps with soy-based peanut butter as bait.

Feldman said that the museums changed their policies after a concerted lobbying effort by Stop the Poison. The activists’ goal was “to annoy the hell out of them, both museums, to the point where they said, ‘OK, we’ll meet. Please stop,’” Feldman said.

City parks department spokesperson Philip Abramson said in a statement that the department uses a balanced approach to getting rid of rats, which involves “eliminating food sources and garbage, and employing targeted use of appropriate pesticides and mechanical controls.” The office doesn’t use rat poison during the spring and summer, when

baby hawks hatch and fledge.

But hawk activists argue that there are better ways to control the city’s rat population than widespread use of poison. Savino referred to a recent article in Travel + Leisure magazine that named New York the country’s dirtiest city.

“Look, it’s about garbage,” she said. “If you control the garbage, you control the rats.”

Upper West Side City Council member Gale Brewer has also been an advocate for improving sanitation to stave off rats.

“If you put garbage out improperly, rats are going to come and eat food,” Brewer said. “There are times where people put it out too early. Some people don’t use the right bags.”

Brewer has hosted several “rat academies” to train people in proper garbage disposal. She also budgeted \$50,000 to implement new solar-powered rat-resistant trash cans in rat-heavy areas.

But less technologically advanced methods can make a difference as well. Stop the Poison, for instance, has advocated for the introduction of enclosed metal trash cans in the city’s parks, which they say could cut off the rats’ food supply and help save hawks. They have also

advocated for a carry-in, carry-out policy in city parks, meaning that individuals would be responsible for taking their trash out of parks.

“The wonderful animals, these wonderful creatures, have decided to come and live with us, and the reward we give them is to kill them with this garbage,” Feldman said. “That has got to stop.”

Parkgoers on Wednesday said they are annoyed by rats but worried about the hawk deaths. Sarah Johnson, a professional dog walker whose job frequently takes her into Riverside and Central parks, expressed concern that one of the dogs in her care might catch a rat and be exposed to the poison.

“That’s horrible that the hawks are dying,” Johnson said. “But at the same time, there’s a rat problem—I see them all the time.”

Katie Ricci, who walks her dog in Riverside Park every day, said that a carry-in, carry-out policy would be hard to enforce.

“It’s a great idea if people will do it, but that’s a big ‘if,’” Ricci said. “Any time an animal dies, it’s something ... but we do have a rat issue. We live in the city.”

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DOUGLAS KESSEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ONLINE LEARNING | Astronomy professor James Applegate and other task force members are exploring Columbia’s current online course offerings, as well as possibilities for future offerings.

Task force focused on current students

ONLINE from front page

courses to the world at large, University Senator Akshay Shah, SEAS ’14, said the senate task force is focused on Columbia students first.

“Our biggest priority is to make full-time, tuition-paying students get benefits from Columbia taking courses online,” Shah, a member of the task force, said. “This could open up the option of students studying abroad. If they have to fulfill requirements, they could just take exams at the global centers.”

Task force member Jerry

Sherwin, CC ’55, added that Columbia could also cater online courses to alumni.

“Our target right now is Columbia students,” he said. “Other targets could eventually be alumni and whoever wants to take the course.”

Shah said that he and Journalism School student Philip Stephenson, the task force’s other student member, are interested in getting more student input on online education. He added that they might reach out to the student councils, hold town hall meetings, or survey students on their views.

“Many of us in the committee are from a different generation, so we look to the students to see what they feel the learning experience should be like,” Zeevi said.

Whatever input students give, Applegate believes that online classes will revolutionize learning.

“I believe that this will bring the golden age of liberal education,” he said. “If you are in a situation where information is scarce, access to information is a key factor and valuable resource. Online learning can provide that access.”

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COURTESY OF MONICA CHON / DAILY PRINCETONIAN

KICKING OFF | The men’s soccer Ivy season got started last week, with Princeton getting its first win.

Cornell, Brown lead the way in Ivy play

BY RACHEL TURNER
Spectator Staff Writer

In the first week of Ivy play for men’s soccer, overtime was the name of the game, as four games went to overtime and three ended in double-overtime ties. Elsewhere, Cornell continued its undefeated streak while Penn faltered.

BROWN

Brown (8-1-1, 1-0-0 Ivy) wasn’t able to pull out a win in a double-overtime battle against Fairfield, but the Bears’ win over Columbia was enough to bring them up to No. 19 in the national rankings. In its first Ivy game of the season on Saturday, Brown hosted Columbia and won 2-1. After a scoreless first half, the Bears took a 2-0 lead. The Lions got in a goal with 10 minutes left, but Brown’s defense held the Lions to just one shot in the final minutes. Yesterday, at home against Fairfield, Brown outshot its opponent 27-9, but Fairfield’s defense was stingy and didn’t allow any goals. The game went into double overtime, but neither team was able to score, and the game ended in an 0-0 tie.

CORNELL

The Big Red (9-0-0, 1-0-0) had a strong week that brought the team ahead of Brown to No. 18 in national rankings. Hosting Hartwick last Tuesday, Cornell allowed a goal in the first 30 seconds, but came back with its own goal less than 10 minutes later. Junior Daniel Haber added two goals for a 4-1 Cornell victory. With 14 goals this year, Haber is the top scorer in the country. Cornell remained one of three undefeated teams in the country with an Ivy win over Penn. The Quakers led 1-0 early in the game, but three quick goals

in 10 minutes put Cornell ahead for good. The final score was 3-2, with Penn’s second goal coming from an errant bounce off a Big Red defender.

DARTMOUTH

Dartmouth (3-5-0, 0-1-0) played just one game this week, in which the Big Green came up short in overtime. On Saturday, the team traveled to Princeton for its Ivy opener. Junior goalkeeper Noah Cohen had six saves, holding Princeton to just one goal in regular time. Dartmouth tied up the game late in the first half, and both teams were scoreless in the second. A quick goal by the Tigers in overtime sealed Dartmouth’s 2-1 loss.

HARVARD

Harvard (1-5-3, 0-0-1) wasn’t able to get a win, but didn’t lose either—the Crimson ended the week with two ties in double overtime. In its Ivy opener, Harvard outshot Yale 23-11 at home but was unable to get a goal. In the second half and overtime, play moved out of the midfield more, but the game still ended in a 0-0 draw. On Tuesday, hosting rival Boston College, Harvard started out strong with a goal in the second minute of the game. Boston College added its own goal late in the first half. Freshman goalkeeper Joe Festa’s four saves kept the score even despite Harvard being outshot, and the double-overtime contest ended with a score of 1-1.

PENN

Penn (2-8-0, 0-1-0) had a rough weekend and lost two more games, including its Ivy opener. On Wednesday, Penn traveled across Philadelphia to take on its neighbor, Drexel. Drexel scored the first goal of the game, but the Quakers quickly responded to tie up the score. Both teams missed

multiple scoring chances, but Drexel finally came ahead in the last 10 minutes, defeating Penn 2-1. On Saturday, the Quakers had their Ivy opener at Cornell. Sophomore Louis Schott scored the first goal of the game, but Penn couldn’t stop undefeated Cornell from continuing its streak. Senior Travis Cantrell added a lucky goal after his kick bounced off the head of a Cornell defender, but the Quakers still lost 3-2.

PRINCETON

Princeton’s (5-3-0, 1-0-0) only game of the week was its Ivy opener, and the team came out on top with great overtime play. At home on Saturday against Dartmouth, Princeton was first to score, but the Big Green was able to tie up the game before the end of the half. Sophomore Cameron Porter led the Tigers with eight shots, but was unable to score during regular time. The game went into overtime, and Porter finally got a score after less than two minutes, giving Princeton a 2-1 victory.

YALE

This week was mixed for the Bulldogs (3-4-3, 0-0-1), who ended up with a loss and a tie. Last Tuesday, Yale hosted the UConn Huskies and played well against the second-ranked team in the nation. Despite four saves by senior goalkeeper Bobby Thalman, Yale failed to capitalize on its scoring opportunities, and UConn’s two goals in the first half were too much for the Bulldogs to overcome. At their Ivy opener at Harvard on Saturday, the Bulldogs struggled again to convert their opportunities to goals. Harvard outshot Yale, but Thalman kept Yale in the game with seven saves. Great defense and failure to capitalize on shots for both teams led to a final score of 0-0.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF HUET, MORNINGSIDERS, AND BRIAN WU FOR SPECTATOR

GET LOW | Student bands like String Theory, The Morningsiders, and Huét (clockwise) will perform at Lowlapalooza on Sunday, Oct. 7.

‘Hairspray’ features diverse cast in a fun, peppy performance

BY ERIC WIMER
Columbia Daily Spectator

Most students sweating and fretting over a coffee and a paper in the International Affairs Building were probably unaware of the hungry cast boogying just above their heads. But at the dress rehearsal for “Hairspray,” Crown and Scepter’s energetic team was belting out surefire crowd-pleasers and giving out a good deal of laughs, too.

The story of a rather round teenager’s quest to dance on the biggest TV show of the ‘60s, “Hairspray” is a wonky musical romp and the cast fully embraces its corny brand of fun. Hilarious tongue-in-cheek moments are hidden throughout and there’s something for each generation.

On the first notes of “Good Morning Baltimore,” I found myself blown away by the ensemble. At times, they sound like a full-blown gospel chorus. The opening number morphed into one of many groovy, peppy dance scenes choreographed by Oren Korenblum of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy. The staging finds the catlike

ensemble constantly changing levels and filling up new spaces. The spectacle of big numbers like “Baltimore” and “Without Love,” with rocking beats, powerful harmonies, and grooving dance numbers is a blast.

Because of the show’s demanding schedule and early start time, the team, including director Mitchell Feignberg, SEAS ’13, realized that “at some point we [had] to cast professional actors.”

Producer Yassamin Issapour, CC ’15, said that “everyone’s happy with this cast. We had over 500 submissions and chose 180 people to audition.”

The bubbly, effervescent Tracy Turnblad is played by Samantha Bonilla. Her perky, high-pitched presence is a constant that helped set the tone for the show. The scenes of her swooning over the smooth-singing, earnest rock star Link, played with flair by Caleb Schaaf, are hilarious.

Crouching behind Tracy’s back or awkwardly dancing to the side is Tracy’s dorky companion Penny, played by Heidi Jaye. The little details she incorporates, like wobbling awkwardly after a big dance number or standing on the side

of her foot, make for an impressively complete comical character, even more so when she meets and forms a dangerous romance with a smooth kid named Seaweed. Played by Daniel Yearwood, from local high school Bronx Science, Seaweed has a soulful voice much larger than his age. These couples, along with Tracy’s goofy mother and father, played by Marc Castelli and Art Brown, respectively, play off each other freely and easily, providing some of the best scenes in the show.

Motormouth Maybelle, played by Tiffany Casserta, and the ensemble around her deliver one of the most moving ballads this reviewer has seen in a key scene at the crux of the second act.

It will be the first professional production of “Hairspray” in NYC since the Broadway run—Crown and Scepter is even rebuilding the original Broadway set.

“We consider ourselves a community theater,” Feignberg said.

“Hairspray” will run at the Peter Jay Sharp Theater at the Symphony Space on 96th Street and Broadway this Saturday at 4 and 8 p.m.

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Fall For Dance gathers top talent for unforgettable performances



LUKE HENDERSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

DANCE DANCE REVOLUTION | Jodi Melnick, a choreographer and dancer, will perform at FFD.

Barnard prof. Jodi Melnick choreographs

BY SHENEL LAMBIRO
Columbia Daily Spectator

College professor, esteemed choreographer, and dancer: Is there anything Jodi Melnick can’t do? Melnick, a Barnard professor, has made a name for herself among New York City’s many notable dance companies—most recently by being included in this year’s Fall for Dance festival as a dancer and choreographer.

2012 marks the ninth year of the annual Fall for Dance festival, held at the New York City Center. The festival features 20 companies from all around the world dancing throughout 12 evenings of performances. Each performance consists of a program of four different companies of various styles. In the Fall For Dance festival, Melnick will perform her work on the same stage as major companies such as American Ballet Theatre and Martha Graham Dance Company.

Melnick’s choreography was noticed by a Fall For Dance curator during a show at New York Live Arts. Upon seeing her work, he approached Melnick about participating in the 2012 festival.

“I’m excited and honored,” she said, but acknowledged that her choreography is, “at a much more experimental, postmodern point, whereas Fall for Dance is a little more traditional.” But nonetheless, she said, “We’ll see what happens. I’m sticking to my guns.”

Those guns have earned her great recognition in the dance field before. Melnick was recently recognized as a 2012 Guggenheim fellow. She is also the recipient of the Jerome Robbins New Essential

Works grant, The Foundation for Contemporary Arts grant, and has received two Bessie Awards for innovative achievement in dance.

In her Fall for Dance festival piece, “Solo (Re) Deluxe Version,” Melnick, along with three other dancers, executes her choreography through a series of solos, duets, trios, and quartets. Four band members play live music by composer Steven Raker to accompany the choreography.

“This piece was mostly about extracting and inserting other bodies, other situations, and how that would change my approach to performing ... how I would amend it with another person-how I would explore it on my own,” Melnick said.

Melnick explained that although she spent a great deal of time working independently in the studio, the experience was also a collaborative effort where she would transfer existing material onto the dancers and also work improvisationally.

The collaborative nature of dance for Professor Melnick not only describes her experience as a choreographer, but also as a teacher. “Teaching feeds me so much in my exchange with the students and the dance faculty,” she said.

Though Melnick has had enormous success outside of the academic world, she said that she’s happy where she is in Barnard’s dance department.

“I love the atmosphere. It’s just a really great home.”

“Solo (Re)Deluxe Version” will be performed in the Fall For Dance festival at New York City Center on Oct. 4-6 at 8 p.m.

arts@columbiaspectator.com

Festival delivers flawless technique, variety

BY GRETCHEN SCHMID
Columbia Daily Spectator

The greatest thing about New York City Center’s annual “Fall for Dance” festival is its variety, which makes it ideal for both dance connoisseurs and those who know nothing about dance whatsoever. Friday night’s program included tap, hip-hop, ballet, and contemporary, and its sub-two-hour length made it shorter (and way less traumatic) than “Black Swan.”

Unfortunately, being two minutes late forced me to be shut out of the theater by an unsympathetic usher, who not-so-politely informed us that we could watch the first piece on the TV in the hallway. Lucky for us, Jared Grimes’ “Transformation in Tap” was infectious enough to be charming even through a screen. Featuring one guy with five back-up dancers, the dancing was a hybrid of tap and hip-hop. At one point, the music turned into spoken word as Grimes himself explained via a recording what he was doing: “I’m percussively choreographing on contemporary music.” The tongue-in-cheek mood carried over into the movement, as Grimes stopped dancing to slowly retie his tie and his shoes while the others continued dancing. At the end, the five dancers exited and Grimes broke out on his own to “The Lady Is A Tramp,” looking like a cross between Fred Astaire and Michael Jackson.

Next up was Fang-Yi Sheu & Artists: physical perfection. “Five Movements, Three Repeats” started in silence as four dancers—two male, two female—undulated and snaked in place. The music, classical string music composed by Max Richter, started and each danced individually in separate corners of the stage. This movement was short and disjointed and would be repeated two more times, alternating with solos and duets among the dancers. One of the best movements by far was a pas de deux with Wendy Whelan and Tyler Angle, both New York City Ballet principal dancers. In pointe shoes and a ballet skirt, Whelan danced as though she were moving through water, a movement quality perfectly complemented by Dinah Washington crooning “This Bitter Earth/On the Nature of Daylight.” The movement’s beauty quite literally brought tears to my eyes.

But Nederlands Dans Theater, a contemporary ballet company that’s well known in the ballet world for innovative and interesting choreography, was the star of the show. Two dancers, dressed in stark black and white costumes reminiscent of a mime’s apparel, performed repetitive, spastic movement to a recording of Gertrude Stein reading her poem “If I told him: A completed portrait of Picasso.” Pointing fingers and peeking at the

Lowlapalooza takes over Steps

BY JENNY PAYNE
Spectator Staff Writer

If you missed out on the local summer music festival of your choice or are already getting nostalgic for Bacchanal, Columbia may have the perfect offering for you this Sunday, Oct. 7. Lowlapalooza, cleverly named after the famous Chicago festival Lollapalooza, aims to bring Columbia students together, make them forget about upcoming midterms, and simply help them enjoy music for an afternoon.

Beginning at noon and running for eight hours, the student-run music festival features 15 student performers, from singer-songwriters to rappers to R&B vocalists to rock bands, each playing 20-minute sets.

Lowlapalooza organizer Julian Haimovich, SEAS ’13, said, “I think everyone will find something that they will like there, especially because the committee choosing the performers all came from different backgrounds with different tastes.”

Haimovich said that he dreamed up the concept of the festival after performing on Low Steps with his band Ace of Cake for a promotional election event last spring, which prompted him to think of ways to recreate the experience for other students.

R&B/Soul vocalist Taylor Simone Harvey, CC ’14, became interested in Lowlapalooza after performing as part of the opening act for Snoop Dogg at Bacchanal in 2011. “It was absolutely mind-blowingly amazing. For me, it really solidified that I wanted to be a musician. There was no other feeling like being on stage,” Simone said. Though illness prevented her from singing last year, she is welcoming her voice back through her performance on Sunday. “Now that I am better and can sing again, what better way than to sing at Lowlapalooza so I can celebrate having my voice back!” Simone said.

After forming their group and performing together at open mics in Paris last semester, band Chateau Rouge will be bringing its “indie-folk-blues” to this side of the Atlantic on Sunday. Though the band performed at Postcrypt Coffeehouse’s opening weekend three weeks ago, vocalist Dominique Star, CC ’13, described Lowlapalooza as “a good way to dip our toes into Columbia’s music scene.”

The Morningsiders, a five-person band that describes their style as “indie-Americana,” discussed the benefits of performing. Trumpet player Ben Kreitman, CC ’14, said “Doing a big show like this is a good way to learn how to play shows—there’s a lot to learn both when we rehearse and when we’re on stage. I learn something new every time we play.” Reid Jenkins, CC ’14 and fiddle player, added, “As a full band, this is the first time we’ve done something this big.”

A full list of the bands performing is available on the Lowlapalooza Facebook event page. As admissions officers like to brag, all the members of Vampire Weekend came out of Columbia—who knows where some of these bands may be in a few years? Perhaps one of the bands you rock out to on Sunday will one day boast chart-topping albums and a presence on Obama’s campaign playlist as well.

arts@columbiaspectator.com



LUKE HENDERSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ON POINTE | Choreographer and professor Jodi Melnick directs a ballet class at Barnard.



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Weak at the Core

Lit Hum and CC fail to deliver on their reputation. Because of too many books, not enough writing, and a lack of standards, the courses don't add to the Columbia College education as they could. As the nation debates the value of an often pricey college degree, I have to ask—do CC and Lit Hum prove the critics right?

Don't get me wrong—Lit Hum and CC are good courses. Many of the professors are very good and dedicated to their task. For me and many of my classmates, the courses were a foundational experience and a wonderful exposure to the classics.

But for the amount of resources dedicated to them and the commitment demanded from students, being simply “good courses” isn't enough. While the courses succeed in the important task of introducing Western thought, they often fail to be the intellectual boot camp that they should be.

The study of humanities is a unique experience. The deep reading and extensive writing that a good humanities education demands don't only teach students to read and write well. It is the process of deciphering an author's angle, finding fault or virtue with an element of a text, and making a case in writing and developing logical and analytical thinking, as well as the ability to express oneself.

Done correctly, the humanities develop analytical skills. The current structure, with dozens of dense books, short assigned papers, and exams dominated by passage identifications, creates a system where students are usually expected to produce only a shallow analysis of what they read. The program is “read the greats, but don't worry about producing anything too great yourself.”

A desire to leave no author out results in syllabuses crammed with partially assigned books that prevent



ALEX
MERCHANT
Atomized
to the
Core

Moving on

BY EBONI BOYKIN

When I wake up in John Jay for my 9 a.m. class, there begins the daily struggle to forget. Waking up in shelters for the homeless, at some distant family member's house, or not knowing where I'm waking up at all have left scars on me over the years, as they would anyone. Sure, I fought my way out and earned the right to pursue a degree here at Columbia, but happy endings don't erase the past. Sometimes as I sit in JJ's Place, watching “Criminal Minds” or whatever other drama my crazy friends put on the television, there will be a scene that resembles a moment in my family's journey through homelessness—and I'll have to hide the tears from the memory that creeps up behind me and tackles me.

I'm surrounded by beautiful buildings, extraordinary minds and the most amazing city in the world, so everything should be right with the world right? You would think so ... I definitely thought so. But it didn't take long to discover how wrong I was. All the beautiful things I see and am around every day as a privilege of being a Columbia student don't replace the ugly things I've grown up around for 18 years. So those memories come back in my dreams, when I'm alone and when I'm stressed. The past was trying to catch up with me, and I was trying to outrun it. But if I kept running, who would ever learn from or be inspired by what I went through? And what would all those years be worth, if I don't share them so people struggling with poverty can know that social mobility is possible?

Sharing is much harder than it would seem. Throughout NSOP, while meeting new people, I always felt like I was lying, or being closed off to people. Other new students spoke to me about their lives back home, their schools or even their families and I did not (or could not) offer anything in return. Mine is a hard story to tell—most of my family was not around. The furthest our family ever extended was to my mom's parents in Mississippi. Other than that, it was always me, my mom and my two younger siblings.

The past was trying to catch up with me, and I was trying to outrun it. But if I kept running, who would ever learn from or be inspired by what I went through?

I don't like to talk about high school, because I went to too many. I don't want to talk about life at home because I didn't really have one. I moved too much and was too ambitious for my unaccredited high school to have more than one friend, so I read and watched TV for most of my home life. I'd rather people find out in the newspaper or on TV about my life, so I don't have to talk about it intimately. I can admit this may be a cowardly approach, but I'm learning how to handle it. It's a constant battle—a battle I intend to keep fighting.

Impoverished people need to know that they can get out, and that has to be more important than trying to forget or hide my past. Moreover, it's hard to forget something that has helped make you who you are. The confidence and resourcefulness that overcoming poverty has given me are invaluable in my new daily life here at Columbia. So taking the good with the bad, I've stopped running from my past—because people need to know about it Not only for people who need a real life example to do what I did, but also for people who feel bound by a future they feel has already been chosen for them. It's time that we stop underestimating the power of the human spirit. We can create our own destinies, and we are never the product of our environments unless we choose to be. I don't want my story only to be that I lived through poverty and now attend Columbia University. The new and perhaps most important part of the story is that the past is no longer holding me back from being who I am. And that's something any student of any socioeconomic background can learn from.

The author is a Columbia College first-year. She participated in Columbia's ASP Summer Bridge Program this summer.

students from actually getting their heads around an author. Focusing on fewer authors and on reading more works in their entirety—while not reducing the volume read—would allow students to gain significantly more than the passing exposure they currently get.

Eliminating any of the classics from the curriculum is hard, but it must be done. As a starting point, no work should get fewer than two class periods of discussion, and professors should not be allowed to add more than one text to the already jam-packed curriculum. Spending only one class period discussing a classic of Western thought simply isn't worth it. And while professors' elective texts can be excellent, professors often add so many extra texts to the standard requirements that the reading becomes even more unwieldy. Clearly the two problems are connected as the addition of extra texts increasingly relegates texts to single class periods.

Without a realistic reading list that allows for deep reading and more writing, Lit Hum and CC will not meet their potential.

At present, students are asked to do all this reading in good part to prepare for exams. While exams obviously have value as a reading incentive, the humanities make their mark through writing. And currently, there is simply too little writing required. My first semester of Lit Hum required me only to write two four-page papers. “College-level writing” indeed. Some professors ask for more, but very few ask for much more. And much more is what is needed. Writing is unique in how it forces you to organize your thoughts, challenge and justify your assumptions, and provide logical cohesion to your analysis.

Regular writing, of progressively increasing depth

The social network

I saw Jesse Eisenberg on 114th the other day. I don't bring this up to brag, since as a New Yorker, I obviously don't give special attention to celebrities, but only because I was with my friend, who apparently confused Eisenberg with his “Social Network” counterpart Mark Zuckerberg (thus making it a far more interesting story to the people she told).

The faux Zuckerberg sighting got me thinking, mostly about how crazy it is that he was in our shoes—an undergraduate at an elite university—as recently as 2004, which really doesn't seem like that long ago. The year is still vivid in my memory, mostly because the Sox broke the Curse, and it's insane to consider that in that short time, the social world has completely changed.

It wasn't all him, either. Zuckerberg was a kind of Hegelian world-historical individual—he was just an agent of the world (networking) spirit (bam). In fact, one of Facebook's early rivals was created by a SEAS class president who was trying to invigorate Columbia's school spirit—so I suppose it was doomed from the start. The social revolution was inevitable.

It's hard to gain perspective on a revolution while it's still happening, especially since we came of age right at the advent of social networking. It's pretty difficult for me to imagine the social world even pre-Myspace, although admittedly I've mostly blocked 2003 out of my memory (Aaron fucking Boone).

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Reddit, LinkedIn, recently deceased but once powerful sites such as Livejournal, Digg, and Flickr, even texting to some extent and smartphones to a large extent—these are all part of the social networking revolution. They control our lives more than we realize, or at least more than we would like to admit. I've probably checked Facebook 10 times in the course of writing this, and my iPhone has buzzed with just as many notifications (to which I always have an intense Pavlovian reaction).

Facebook & Co. are more than a procrastination tool, though. Social networking has truly changed the way humans interact with each other. It has led to developments which have undoubtedly improved the world's ability to connect with and organize larger groups of people, and the ability to share information.

Still, I wouldn't necessarily call social networking a net positive. It's no coincidence that Facebook was created by a man described by more reputable sources than Aaron Sorkin as socially awkward, overprogrammed, and robotic. Social networking truly seems like it was created by someone who hates human interaction, who reduced it to an algorithm and completely removed the human aspect. Popularity is measured in likes and followers, our moods are determined from our status updates, and every social action is methodically recorded and made public, to be judged by our friends.

Most of us have a core group of friends and family, and the way we interact with them will (hopefully) never change, but social networking has changed how we interact with everyone else. It's become immensely easier to maintain superficial friendships. In the past, you had to make an effort to maintain a relationship with someone you didn't see regularly. Now, we can decide who to consider a friend by noting who writes on our walls for our birthday or who has a cursory conversation with us on chat every other month.

Dunbar's number—which says we can handle knowing and keeping contact with at most 150 people—is seemingly being shattered, but our cognitive ability to maintain stable relationships with larger groups of people isn't necessarily improving. We're just having increasingly superficial and uniform relationships with larger groups of people.

Social networking goes deeper, though, since it appeals to our natural impulse to share. We crave validation, and nothing is more powerful than shared experiences. In the past, when we shared experiences with

and length during the course of two years, would be the best means of ensuring that students got the value out of the education for which they pay dearly. More writing would ensure that every student learned to produce substantiated analysis. Hopefully this is what Columbia College expects from every one of its students. Challenging writing assignments are the most tangible means to both guide and measure students' progress over the course of Lit Hum and CC.

Finally, uniform standards are needed across all the sections of the two courses to ensure educational quality. The courses should act as a cohesive sequence from an introduction to college-level work in the first semester to more advanced work in the fourth. I suggest simple standards like restrictions on professor's elective books, weekly CourseWorks postings, relatively uniform paper frequencies and lengths, and progressively longer and more complex papers. And making these standards known to students would ensure that professors were accountable for providing every student the same, high quality education.

Without a realistic reading list that allows for deep reading and more writing, Lit Hum and CC will not meet their potential. Columbia College cannot justify having these courses be anything but all they can be. These courses shouldn't be undemanding, general introductions. Every student, from the mathematician to the art historian, should know how to read, write, and reason well. The idea behind a required sequence like the Core Curriculum should be that there are certain things every individual should know about and—more importantly—know how to do.

To ask all students in Columbia College to dedicate so much of their time to a humanities Core, and then have that Core not deliver the unique benefits of the humanities, is a serious failing. Since these courses are the foundation of the Columbia College education, the College must ensure that they add seriously to the quality of our education.

Alex Merchant is a Columbia College senior majoring in political science and Hispanic studies. Atomized to the Core runs alternate Thursdays.

each other, it was much more personal and meaningful—mostly occurring face-to-face, or at least in the much more meaningful medium of letters or even phone calls.

Now, sharing has become absurdly impersonal. We send out every thought that occurs to us and every image we find interesting, every video and article and stream of consciousness rant, with absolutely no filter, and even worse, with no face-to-face interaction.

Not only are we separated from the people with whom we're sharing—we're also becoming increasingly alienated from the experiences we're sharing. It's almost like we've become more obsessed with the act of sharing our experiences than with the experiences themselves. Every time I go to a concert, people are watching it through their smartphones. Whenever I see a great speaker, everyone is feverishly tweeting what he's saying.

Zuckerberg was a kind of Hegelian world-historical individual.

As the new cliché goes, social networking has vastly increased our connection with everyone, but vastly decreased our connection to each other. A majority of our interactions now take place behind a screen. Our connections to each other are increasingly detached and distant, and our experiences increasingly reduced to more palatable sound bites.

I'm a horrible hypocrite, too. I wish I could give up my phone, or Facebook, but at this point, they're too much a part of my life and the lives of the people I interact with. They're here to stay.

I have no solution, except to sometimes leave your phone at home, or refrain from checking Facebook for a day. It's nice to imagine the world pre-Zuckerberg, but his revolution has just started, and we can crack only the surface in understanding the deeper implications.

Now go tweet this article.

Leo Schwartz is a Columbia College junior majoring in political science and Latin American studies. Rationalizing the Irrational runs alternate Thursdays.



LAURA DIEZ DE BALDEON

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

Mangurian building a winner at CU

Around the office, one of the most notoriously pitched sports feature or column ideas goes along the lines of, “Why are Columbia students so apathetic toward sports?”

I know I’ve pitched it before. Hell, I’ve probably written a column or two about it in the year and a half I’ve been on staff at this paper.

But as I’ve gotten more involved in the sports section, and spent more time at this university, I’ve started to realize that this supposedly popular sentiment really isn’t true at all.

People care. I’ve seen it. I’ve heard it. Whether it’s conversations around the office, or a conversation I overhear in Chipotle, there are many people in this community who passionately support our Light Blue teams.

Fans come out in droves for Ivy contests. They’re loud, they cheer, and are emblematic of what makes being a student in the city of New York so unique—especially with athletic teams that play on an island.

New head football coach Pete Mangurian made this crystal clear in a letter to the fans he published on his blog on Monday afternoon.

“The highlight to last Saturday’s game versus Princeton was YOU,” he wrote. “You came, you yelled and you were into it—don’t quit now.”

Perhaps it’s my Cleveland native, but I really believe that as a collective community, what we’re seeing is just the beginning. In his short time here so far, Mangurian has tapped into this community’s extreme desire for a winner. And through my conversations with him, along with what he’s written himself, I know he plans on being a part of that.

“We are all in this together,” his letter to the fans says. “Our players need to learn to not only play for their teammates, but to play for Columbia, and that’s you.”

The secret’s out, Lions fans—I know you’re not apathetic.

Keep showing you care.

Columbia. The community at large. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents—we are all a part of this, a community that Mangurian is trying to make more successful. And as members of said community, it’s also partly our job to help foster a winning culture.

Now, there’s a legitimate question to be asked, and that is why am I, as one of Spector’s sports editors, writing a column that could really make me seem like a cheerleader for Columbia Athletics?

The answer I’ll give is that first and foremost, I consider myself to be a member of the Columbia community. It’s taken me a couple of years and some false starts to really feel that way, but as I sit here writing this, I can’t say that I’d rather be anywhere else. And I believe that comes from the fact that as a community, we care about each other.

Sports play into this in a big way, when you think about it. Where else do you see droves of students wearing—or painted in—light blue? When else do you go around high-fiving people you may or may not know?

I just feel like something special is about to happen. I can’t put a finger on it exactly, but it stems from my belief that Mangurian is anything but a loser. I wrote a year ago that the football program needed a change in culture, and Mangurian is determined to make that happen. Really, it’s already started. And sooner rather than later, we’re going to see a winner.

So the secret’s out, Lions fans—I know you’re not apathetic. Keep showing you care, because we’re getting closer and closer to that ever-elusive light at the end of the tunnel.

Myles Simmons is a Columbia College junior majoring in American studies. He is a sports editor for Spectorator. sports@columbiaspectator.com



MYLES SIMMONS

Guest Column



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

HEY THERE DELILAH | Delilah DiCrescenzo helped lead the cross country team during her tenure as a Lion, and also inspired a song by Plain White T’s.

Former CU cross country star also inspires music

BY MATISSE WOODRUFF
Columbia Daily Spectator

Former Lion Delilah DiCrescenzo, CC ’05, is not just known for her impressive record as a former member of the Light Blue’s track and field team—she’s actually had a hit record written about her.

Don’t let the song fool you. This Delilah has done a whole lot—and not just in New York City. DiCrescenzo has represented Team USA at the IAAF World Cross Country Championships, been sponsored by Puma, been to the Olympic trials, volunteered as an assistant coach for Columbia, and even attended the Grammys.

But, for better or worse, she was the muse for the song “Hey There Delilah” by The Plain White T’s. It’s a source of both pride and embarrassment for her.

“I’m definitely proud of it,” DiCrescenzo said. “I know it’s definitely something that’s going to follow me around whether I like it or not, so I better embrace it—which I’ve definitely become better at doing.”

DiCrescenzo met the song’s writer, Tom Higgenson, through a mutual friend while at a concert in Chicago in

2003. While admitting the song was a “nice kind of dimension to have,” she went on to explain that the song did not feel as personal as it seemed, as she barely knew Higgenson. DiCrescenzo did, however, get to attend the 2008 Grammys, where the song was nominated for Song of the Year.

“It wasn’t an ode or a love song as much as it looked like,” she said. “It doesn’t really feel so personal to me. It just seemed really peculiar and curious, but fun nonetheless.”

Of course, inspiring a song was not DiCrescenzo’s only accomplishment while at Columbia.

During her time in Morningside Heights, DiCrescenzo competed in various track events, focusing mainly on the steeplechase.

“My favorite race that I’ve ever seen her run was at the Ivy League [Championships] freshman year,” DiCrescenzo’s former coach, and now colleague, Willy Wood explained. “The first time they had the steeplechase—and she won the meet very convincingly—you could tell from that point on that something sparked within her and she got very excited about running.”

DiCrescenzo, too, has fond memories of that race.

“I remember coming off of that race being so energetic because I exceeded what I thought I could do,” she said. “I had no expectations, I just went out there and ran.”

Something must have sparked within her, as she still holds records of top performances with the Lions. She also helped lead one of the most successful periods in Light Blue cross country history, with five straight Ivy League Championships and Top-25 national finishes from 2000-2005.

“It was an amazing experience for me,” DiCrescenzo said. “It’s why I continue to be involved with the program. It’s given me a lot of opportunities to develop as a whole person and set me up in my professional career.”

After graduating, she coached for a short time at Bryn Mawr and then came back to help as a volunteer assistant coach at Columbia while she worked on her masters degree in sports management. Due to her own training schedule, DiCrescenzo isn’t as involved with the Lions as she used to be, but she does occasionally help the team out.

She said she’s gained a lot from

working with the Lions, saying that they provide her with team spirit that reminds her of her own passion for the sport.

DiCrescenzo is also one of the few American runners to be sponsored by Puma. As a part of her sponsorship, she has done some “unique marketing campaigns” that included a web series last year, which can now be found on YouTube.

“It offered an inside look into the life of a professional track athlete, which was something that was previously missing—for the fan, at least,” DiCrescenzo said.

DiCrescenzo has a record of representing Team USA. After representing the USA multiple times at the IAAF World Cross Country Championships and at the Americas Cross Country Championships, she also tried to make the Olympic team. She admitted the Olympic trials were a little disappointing due to a recent injury that prevented her from running her best.

There is still some hope for a future Olympics possibility, but she says her “vision is much more short-term than that.”

But even if she never makes it, she’ll always be “Hey There Delilah.”

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Light Blue bounces back, defeats Rider in home contest

BY JOSH SHENKAR
Spectator Staff Writer

Columbia’s field hockey team (7-3, 2-1 Ivy) rebounded from a tough loss to Princeton last week by beating Rider 3-2 at home.

Lions head coach Marybeth Freeman was proud of her team’s resilience against Rider after watching its six-game winning streak snap last week.

“We got a little sloppy in our individual defense, which allowed Rider to capitalize on those opportunities in securing multiple corners and really put a lot of pressure on us.”

—Marybeth Freeman,
Lions Head Coach

“You’ve got to give the athletes credit. They really executed the game plan,” Freeman said. “Especially after a loss against Princeton, to come back and be able to execute, even though we did not start off very quickly. But we settled in and were able to really control the rest of the game.”

The first half was even in possession and score, with both Rider and Columbia creating several scoring opportunities. The Broncos opened the scoring within the first three minutes, before senior forward Gabby

Kozlowski equalized for the Lions at the 5:31 mark.

The game remained tied until the 43rd minute, when Columbia senior midfielder Paige Simmons scored off an assist from senior back Katie DeSandis. Less than three minutes later, Simmons returned the favor and assisted on a DeSandis goal to give Columbia a 3-1 lead.

Even with a two-goal cushion, the Lions absorbed plenty of pressure in the game’s final 15 minutes, and freshman goalie Kimberly Pianucci made several saves to deny the Broncos. Rider finally scored with less than 30 seconds left, but the Lions managed to hold on for the 3-2 victory.

Freeman attributed the team’s struggle to absorb Rider’s pressure in the final 15 minutes to a number of factors but was happy with her team’s ability to keep the Broncos from tying the game.

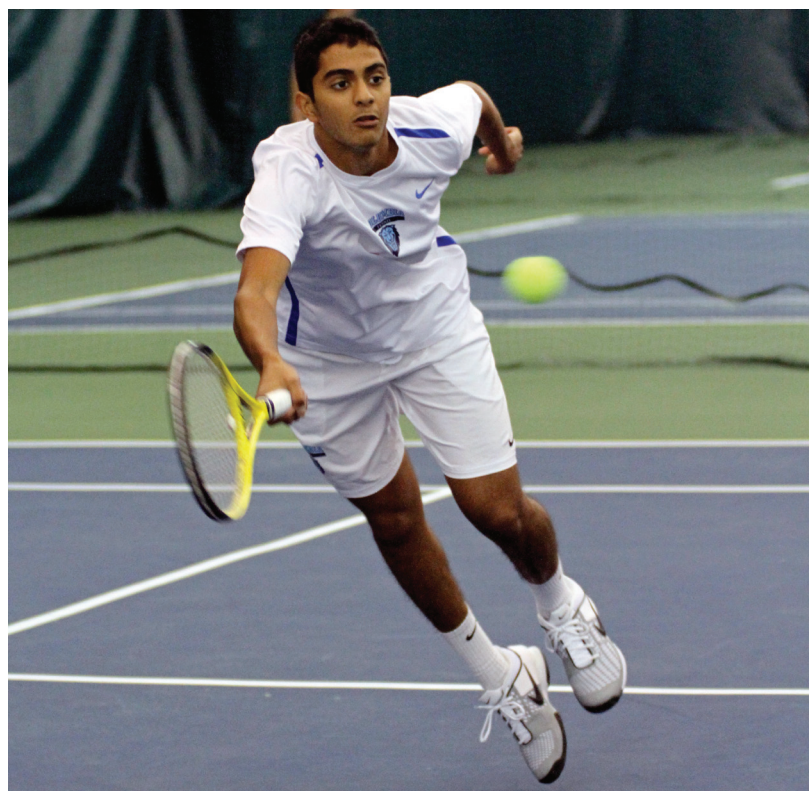
“We got a little sloppy in our individual defense, which allowed Rider to capitalize on those opportunities in securing multiple corners and really put a lot of pressure on us,” Freeman said. “We didn’t make it easier for us either, but you have to give credit to Rider that they took advantage of our mishaps.”

“On the flip side, you have to commend our core defensive unit for finding a way to keep the ball out of the net. Kimberly did a great job in goal with 10 saves on the day, and I think we had a good presence in our defense today, but we don’t want to be giving up that many corners in a row.”

Columbia will next travel to play Albany on Sunday. The game will begin at 1 p.m.

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MEN’S TENNIS



FILE PHOTO

ON THE COURT | Sophomore Ashok Narayana fell to Texas A&M freshman Shane Vinsant, but will still compete in doubles at the ITA Championships.

Lions send three players to ITA Championships

Hard-fought matches at the 2012 ITA Men’s All-American Championship earlier this week left some Light Blue tennis players coming up short. Columbia sent three Lions—sophomores Winston Lin, Ashok Narayana, and Max Schnur—to the national tournament. Lin, ranked No. 95 in the nation, fell in the qualifying draw to senior Spencer Wolf of Northwestern University, 6-1, 7-6(4). Narayana battled his way

to a three-set victory in his first match of the qualifying draw on Monday, but in the round of 64 he came up on the losing side of another three-set match against Texas A&M’s freshman Shane Vinsant. Narayana is still competing in the consolation bracket, and Thursday he and Schnur will compete as a doubles team in the tournament’s main draw.

—Steven Lau
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