

Local group wages labor campaign

BY YING CHANG
AND CASEY TOLAN
Columbia Daily Spectator

A fair labor organization is reaching out to Columbia students in an effort to eliminate sweatshop conditions in Upper West Side and Morningside Heights restaurants.

Every Thursday morning, members of the Justice Will Be Served! campaign pass out fliers on College Walk and encourage students to think about where they shop and eat. The organization, which was founded about a year ago, has boycotted restaurants where it says employees are mistreated and has convinced 67 local businesses to sign a pledge to eliminate sweatshop conditions.

The group plans to make a big push next month, with a goal of getting 100 businesses on board by the end of November. Its leadership says that campus outreach is an important part of that effort.

“Students have a very important role in spreading this campaign, in letting people know what’s going on,” said Wendy Cheung, one of the campaign’s organizers. For example, she said, “You see a lot of fliers that say pizza is provided at an event, and I wonder if they know where their pizza is coming from.”

For campaign members, pizza has been a major focus.

SEE LABOR, page 2

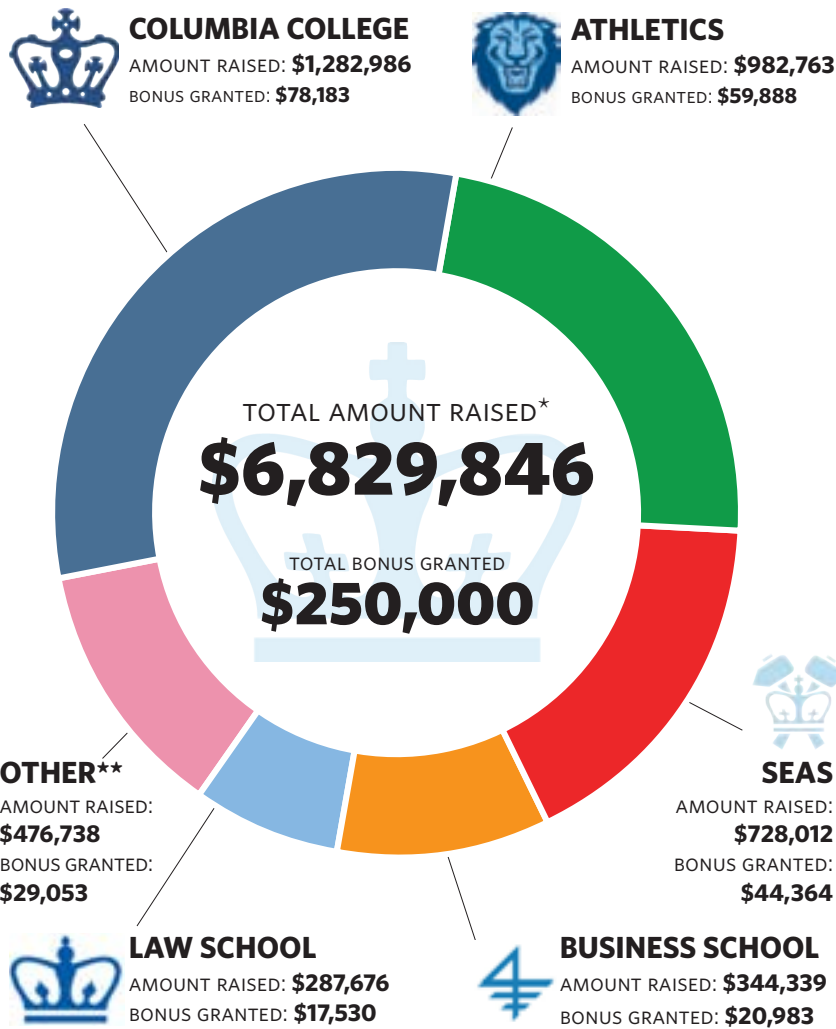
‘Sweatshops’ Down the Street

This is the first story in a two-part series examining unfair labor practices at local businesses and community efforts to solve the problems.

MONEY IN THE BANK

Yesterday was the Columbia Alumni Association’s first ‘Giving Day,’ a fundraising competition that pitted Columbia schools and programs against one another in an effort to raise as much money as possible in a 24-hour period. The five schools or programs that raised the most money—Columbia College, Athletics, the School of Engineering and Applied Science, the Business School, and the Law School—split \$120,000 in bonus funds contributed by members of the board of trustees. On top of that, all 21 schools and programs that participated split an additional \$250,000, proportional to their fundraising, in trustee bonus funds.

**Other participants, from most to least money raised: School of General Studies; Journalism School; School of International and Public Affairs; College of Dental Medicine; Graduate School of Arts and Sciences; School of Nursing; School of the Arts; School of Social Work; College of Physicians and Surgeons; Mailman School of Public Health; Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation; School of Continuing Education; Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory; Columbia University Libraries; Women Creating Change; and the Mind Brain Behavior Initiative.



*The amounts listed for individual schools and programs only reflect gifts up to \$250,000, as only the first \$250,000 of any gift counted toward bonus funds. The “total amount raised,” however, includes all gifts, even those above \$250,000.

SOURCE: COLUMBIA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION / GRAPHIC BY BURHAN SANDHU

Barnard rescinds posting policy

Reversal comes after opposition

BY LILLIAN CHEN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Barnard has ended a controversial posting policy that required all fliers to be preapproved by administrators.

Dean Avis Hinkson, the Student Government Association, and Barnard’s Student Life office said in a joint statement Wednesday night that fliers and other postings will no longer need to be stamped by the Student Life office before going up around campus. The policy was implemented at the beginning of the semester.

The Student Governing Board’s executive board and the Activities Board at Columbia had both voted earlier this week to ignore the policy. According to the joint statement, SGA’s executive board met with the Student Life office Oct. 3 to discuss a re-evaluation of the new fliering rule.

“At that meeting, SGA unequivocally expressed opposition to the use of a stamp on student fliers,” the statement read. “Student Life, in turn, requested that we take this time as a review period to re-evaluate the policy with student input.”

But input from SGB, ABC, and student groups sped up the re-evaluation process, according to SGA President JungHee Hyun, BC ’13.

“The reason that it was so fast was definitely a combination of the fact that we had been talking

SEE QUAM, page 2

SEE FLIERS, page 2

Queer Awareness Month looks at ‘spaces between identities’

BY ALEX RANDALL
AND ANDREA SHANG
Columbia Daily Spectator

This year’s Queer Awareness Month has featured traditional events such as GenderFuck, educational workshops, and a Common Meal, but it has also focused on a new theme: the borderlands.

QuAM, which started at the beginning of the month, is meant to promote awareness of issues and individuals in Columbia’s

queer community. This year’s theme, “La Frontera”—Spanish for “borderlands”—is a nod to the fact that October is also Latino Heritage Month, as well as a tribute to the famed feminist, queer, and cultural scholar Gloria Anzaldúa, the author of “Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza.”

La Frontera “is about feeling in between things, about celebrating the spaces between identities and positions,” Robbie Lyman, CC ’15 and media chair

for Everyone Allied Against Homophobia, said in an email. “One of the most interesting aspects of that for me was to think about what my conception of a queer Latina or queer Latino’s experience is and how I could have possibly formed that conception.”

QuAM has hosted events focusing on the LGBT community at large, including GenderFuck, the annual underwear party that was held this Saturday in Lerner Hall. Gavin McGown, CC ’13 and

president of GendeRevolution, a transgender support and advocacy group, called GenderFuck a sex-positive, body-positive event that allowed students to feel accepted in a safe space.

“QuAM allows people to create their own sense of pride in their identities, to have space to celebrate identities that are marginalized, even within queer spaces,” McGown said. “People said it was a special experience,

Teachers College president talks tech at State of College

BY QIUYUN TAN
Columbia Daily Spectator

As education moves into the digital age, Teachers College is reaching a critical point in its history, President Susan Fuhrman said at TC’s annual State of the College address on Wednesday.

Fuhrman discussed the importance of applying new research to instruction and incorporating technology into the educational process.

“We’ll be working strategically in years ahead to ensure that we’re leveraging technology.”

—Susan Fuhrman, TC president



QIUYUN TAN FOR SPECTATOR

ANNUAL ADDRESS | TC President Susan Fuhrman delivers the State of the College on Wednesday.

College and Chief of Staff to the President Scott Fahey said that the need to bolster online education continues to challenge professors and administrators.

“The biggest challenge is the diversification of the education enterprise,” Fahey said. “It is no longer static—it’s online, distributive, computerized. It is traditional. We’re already preparing, but we have to do even more.”

Fuhrman also discussed TC’s recent capital campaign, which raised over \$110 million, as well as the college’s efforts to engage with the neighborhood. Last month, TC opened the Teachers College Community

School, which Fuhrman called an important initiative to “serve children in the surrounding area with a college as a deeply invested partner.”

“Once again, TC is leading the way, showing the nation that it’s possible through partnerships that all students can reach a rigorous educational experience,” she said.

TC professor Eric Nadelstern called the fundraising campaign, as well as TC’s efforts to modernize, a chance to “offer our students not only outstanding facilities but the most up-to-date technology,” and to “contextualize that within what they will need in order to

be successful in education into the future.”

Jiayi Xu, TC ’13, who is studying bilingual education, said that she and her classmates have faced difficulties in finding local schools where they can do student-teaching. But Xu, who attended the State of the College address, said that the community school might give her and other TC students a chance to do studies and get firsthand experiences.

“If more and more universities start to take care of the community, not only the university itself, there will be a better education environment,” Xu said.

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Local nonprofits get lessons from Business School profs

BY SAMANTHA COONEY
AND LUKE CHARLOTTIN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Columbia’s Business School is best known for educating the next generation of Wall Street executives, but last week it lent a hand to executives on West Harlem’s 125th Street.

During a two-day series of workshops, Business School professors taught 23 executives from West Harlem nonprofits the principles behind value-based leadership, conflict management, and team management. Carmita Padilla—the executive director of Health Leads New York, a nonprofit organization that helps low-income families stay healthy—said that the workshops helped

strengthen her organization and others in West Harlem.

“It was a very practical and interactive two-day workshop,” Padilla said.

Most of Columbia’s economic commitments in West Harlem originate from the Community Benefits Agreement, a document signed by Columbia and local leaders that calls for \$76 million to be distributed to programs for local housing, education, and job initiatives in Manhattanville over 15 years. But the Business School workshops are unrelated to the CBA. Columbia also runs a mentorship program with the city for minority-, women-, and locally owned businesses.

SEE NONPROFITS, page 2

THIS WEEK IN THE EYE



CATHY CHOI FOR SPECTATOR

THE COMEDY ISSUE | The Eye talks funny business with Joan Rivers, Jenny Slate, and duo Garfunkel & Oates.

A&E, PAGE 3

Vanessa Redgrave, Mariam Said to show performance at Miller

Famed actress and activist collaborate on a play to commemorate Said’s mother, a principal in Lebanon during the civil war.



OPINION, PAGE 4

Affirming diversity

James Yoon believes affirmative action should close the inequality gap.

The vision for 114th

Leaders from groups applying for brownstones make their case.

SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Homecoming, through a philosopher’s eyes

Columnist Alex Jones takes an academic look at Columbia’s 12th straight Homecoming loss.

EVENTS

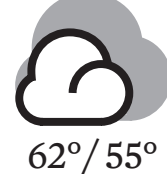
Opera in Italy

Music Humanities chair Susan Boynton discusses the beginnings of opera in Italy.

Italian Academy, 2:40 p.m.

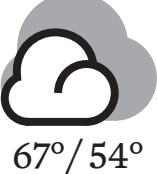
WEATHER

Today



62° / 55°

Tomorrow



67° / 54°

SGB, ABC applaud quick change to fliering policy

FLIERS from front page

about this for the whole semester and ... groups were deciding not to flier on our campus because of this stamp rule,” Hyun said. “Our mission is to make sure that our students are getting the quality and quantity of opportunities for student campus life as much as possible. If students aren’t fliering because of a stamp policy, that needs to go away.”

The chair of SGB and the president of ABC made presentations to SGA Monday night about their decisions not to comply with the fliering policy. Hyun said that discussions with the governing boards allowed SGA to “add to the conversation” it was already having with administrators.

SGB Chair David Fine, CC ’13, and ABC President Saketh Kalathur, CC ’13, said they were happy that the policy was reversed so quickly after their governing boards’ votes.

“It’s a credit to the Barnard administration and to the SGA that they responded so quickly to these concerns once we raised them in a public forum,” Fine said.

“This is really a testament to

the fact that when students make their voices heard, administrators listen,” Kalathur said.

Kalathur said that this situation should set an example for all student groups.

“If there are things that you don’t like about Columbia, don’t think that it’s impossible to change the policy,” he said. “It is always possible. All you need is enough students to make enough noise.”

According to the statement from SGA and Barnard administrators, the stamping rule was originally put in place to ensure that all fliers around campus were relevant to Barnard students and to prevent derogatory or discriminatory postings.

“All fliers are [still] going to be taken down if they have any kind of discriminatory or derogatory message,” Hyun said.

SGA is forming a task force of students and administrators to evaluate the posting policy further. Hyun said that she hopes to have a newly revised policy in place by Thanksgiving.

Sammy Roth contributed reporting.

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QuAM organizers seek to break down gender binaries

QUAM from front page

that they could go wear whatever made them feel sexy and feel that their bodies were beautiful. And everyone was there to support them, and not tell them that their sexual acts or bodies were not attractive.”

The main theme of this year’s QuAM, McGown said, is intersectionality—deconstructing traditional gender binaries.

“We wanted to focus on that area of in-between identities,” McGown, one of QuAM’s organizers, said. “To think of spaces that are neither one nor the other—conceptual spaces that are very much thresholds on the limits of what we think are possibly categories. The idea is that we want to break down these categories.”

To that end, QuAM ran several educational workshops on queer and trans identity, including one last Wednesday that highlighted the experiences of transwomen of color.

Gerardo Romo, CC ’14 and a QuAM organizer, said in an email that this year’s events are meant to be “explicitly inclusive ... of unspoken and marginalized identities,” and not to frame issues exclusively through the “lens of a white gay man.” Discussions of Chicana gays and lesbians were tied back to the borderlands theme and to the idea of

hidden histories, in order to move past a “superficial level of awareness of other identities,” Romo said.

Adam Wilson, CC ’14 and co-chair of the committee of QuAM organizers, said that the committee saw itself primarily as supporting the student groups involved in planning QuAM events. He noted that this year, several non-queer groups hosted activist events tied to QuAM, including Students Against Mass Incarceration, several Greek organizations, and several other groups that focus primarily on racial identity.

“The vision we had for this year was to have the committee be more of an organizational tool for events ... since we have such a vibrant and active community on campus,” he said.

Despite the prominence of events like Queer Awareness Month, McGown believes that there are still students at Columbia who continue to be unaware of or disrespectful to queer students.

“They should sit their asses down and learn something, whether in front of a computer, with a book, or through a discussion,” McGown said. “If they still can’t recognize that it’s a problem, then there’s not much we as activists can do, apart from trying to reach across in different ways.”

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Nonprofit execs work on leadership

NONPROFITS from front page

In one workshop, professor Paul Ingram asked the executives to create a hierarchy of their core values, in order to give them a better understanding of what drives their organizations and to help them identify their priorities when they need to make decisions under stress. Padilla said that the participants initially had a hard time identifying their core values.

“No one was able to articulate it,” she said. “We haven’t really thought about it.”

But by the end of the workshop, Padilla said, she had realized the importance of that knowledge.

“Having those values in front of us really guides us to make better decisions for our organization, for our mission, and for our vision,” she said.

Professor Dan Ames led a workshop on conflict management, discussing ways to deal with the problems that typically harangue nonprofits. During the team management workshop, executives took on the roles of management and employees and were asked to solve a puzzle, an activity designed to show them how better communication with their teams could make them stronger leaders.

Organizers said they wanted to provide lessons that would increase the nonprofits’ influence in Harlem.

“We have programs that are international in scope, but we weren’t really doing anything directly in the community,” said Business School professor Ray Horton, one of the event’s organizers.

The event was co-sponsored by American Express, which contributed \$60,000 in funding.

Workshop attendees included executives from organizations like the National Black Theatre and Jazzmobile, Inc., which already play important roles in West Harlem. The event allowed some of those executives to network and learn from each other’s experiences.

“We all kind of utilize a similar pool of resources,” said Sade Lythcott, the National Black Theatre’s chief executive, adding that the program “opens up the pool of resources we can access—it’s a way to strengthen our institutions.”

Padilla said that thanks to the program, she now knows other West Harlem executives on a deeper level.

“Now there’s ways we can reach out to each other to work together,” she said.

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DOUGLAS KESSEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WORKERS | Wendy Cheung and Carlos Rodriguez often hand out anti-sweatshop fliers at Columbia.

V&T improves labor practices, activists say

LABOR from front page

Carlos Rodriguez, who takes the bus from the Bronx to Morningside Heights every Thursday to hand out fliers, said he was forced to work long hours for low wages at an Upper West Side Domino’s. Rodriguez said he cleaned, cooked, and delivered pizzas for up to 65 hours a week, but was paid less than minimum wage, at the Domino’s at 89th Street and Columbus Avenue—until he complained and was fired, he said.

A little while later, he saw a Justice Will Be Served! protest at a nearby restaurant and decided to organize his co-workers and other workers in the neighborhood, he said.

Meme Daff, a manager at the 89th Street Domino’s, said that he’s “never heard” complaints about unfair labor practices.

“We don’t have those problems here,” he said.

Cheung was also fired from her job at a nonprofit a few years ago for complaining about “doing the work of two or three people,” she said.

“I was a college grad, and I was like, ‘How can this happen?’” she said.

Activists say they’re making progress, citing success stories

like V&T Pizzeria & Restaurant at 111th Street and Amsterdam Avenue. The owner signed the pledge, but Cheung said that V&T employees then complained of discrimination, and of pay that was less than minimum wage. After organizing with help from the campaign, “the workers won better conditions and are keeping their jobs,” Cheung said.

“It’s a very significant change, because in the past, many workers were forced to leave their jobs,” she said.

V&T owner Alex Gjolaj disputed that account, saying that V&T never mistreated its employees and that he had no recollection of signing the campaign’s pledge.

“Sometimes they come in and say, ‘Will you please sign this paper?’ So you do ... but I don’t have any idea what it is,” Gjolaj said.

But other local businesses, including many of the 67 who signed the anti-sweatshop pledge, said that they were impressed by the activists’ efforts.

“It should make a difference if enough people sign it,” said Bob Fendell, owner of University Housewares at 113th Street and Broadway. “Sometimes people need to be nudged in the good direction.”

“It was very important, just because our workers are our livelihood,” said Michael Zoulis, owner of Tom’s Restaurant at 112th Street and Broadway. “Our workers have been here for a long time, so obviously, we treat them well.”

The pledge “might’ve opened our eyes even more [to] make sure if there are any difficulties or anything, we’d work them out,” he added.

Jim Ma, a manager at Janoff’s Stationery on Broadway between 111th and 112th streets, also signed the pledge.

“Treating our employees right is something we have always regarded highly, with or without any pledge,” he said.

Meanwhile, activists are still boycotting restaurants they say have unfair conditions, including the Domino’s that Rodriguez was fired from and Saigon Grill, a Vietnamese restaurant at 100th Street and Amsterdam.

“Many more workers are coming forward. It’s something really positive that’s happening,” Cheung said. “We’re seeing the victories with V&T, improvement of work conditions, better conditions on the Upper West Side. We hope that gives an example for other communities, as well.”

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Slavoj Zizek talks new book, Occupy Wall Street at SIPA

BY ERIC WIMER
Columbia Daily Spectator

Philosopher Slavoj Zizek has built up a cult following for his blunt delivery and crude language—both of which were on display in a lecture at the International Affairs Building’s Altschul Auditorium on Wednesday night.

Zizek rose to prominence in his native Yugoslavia, where he said he was “a mid-level dissident, enough to be jobless but not enough to be arrested.” His popular anti-capitalist cultural philosophy attracted an overflowing crowd, some who had come from outside the University just to see him speak.

Zizek was at Columbia to talk about his new book, “2011: The Year of Dreaming Dangerously,” but he touched on a wide array of other topics. Moderator Stathis Gourgouris, professor of classics at Columbia, started this panel on “one of the most provocative thinkers of our time” by noting that “moderating Zizek is an impossible event.” Gourgouris, along with Lydia Liu of East Asian Languages and Bruce Robbins of English, admitted that they found it difficult to put up arguments against Zizek or stop him once he got going.

“Here, there are more people who believe that Armageddon is coming than that capitalism should be adjusted.”

—Slavoj Zizek, author and philosopher

Building on the arguments in his book, which sold out at the door, Zizek cited many philosophers from the Core Curriculum, including Marx, Rousseau and his “big love,” Hegel. Paraphrasing one of Hegel’s central ideas in reference to the crises of 2011, Zizek said, “Before the Fall, paradise was stupid animality. Only retroactively can we generate the specter of what we have fallen from.” “2012: The Year of Dreaming Dangerously” is Zizek’s take on the revolutions and upheavals of 2011, which he said he views as key turning points in the questioning of capitalism.

Before these revolutions, he argued, capitalism was a dogma, de-politicized because it was such an unquestionable part of our society. “Here, there are more people who believe that Armageddon is coming than that capitalism should be adjusted,” Zizek said. But the global economic collapse began to rip a hole in the fabric of these dogmas, Zizek said.

“Bankers were always greedy. Capitalism as it is today cannot be regulated,” he said. “It simply gave them the tools to realize that greed.” This financial crisis, Zizek argued, led to Occupy Wall Street, the Arab Spring, and the upheavals in Europe. In this new multi-centric world, countries like China, which subscribe to ‘communist,’ non-traditional models of capitalism, are swiftly gaining the upper hand, he added. The world should start to question just what it means to go beyond the constraints of capitalism.

During the question and answer period, Zizek was confronted by a Maoist who wanted a debate. Instead of dismissing him, Zizek called out his arguments and set a date for the contest to thunderous applause and laughter.

Zizek also got a lot of laughs tearing down the case of environmentalism, noting that “the myth of Mother Nature is a dangerous abstraction. Any return to ‘pre-modern harmony’ is madness,” Zizek said. “Now, linking it to the indifference of capitalism I am okay with.”

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COURTESY OF MILLER THEATRE

WELCOME | Mariam Said (left), widow of famed scholar Edward Said, has penned a play inspired by her mother’s life with actress Vanessa Redgrave.

Famed actress, activist to perform at Miller

Vanessa Redgrave to appear in play co-authored with activist Mariam Said

BY ABBY MITCHELL
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Columbia students will soon have the chance to see one of the most ubiquitous actresses on stage in person at Miller Theatre—and for just \$7.

Vanessa Redgrave, the only British actor to have won an Oscar, Emmy, Tony, Cannes, Golden Globe, and Screen Actors Guild award, is headed to Miller to perform in “A World I Loved: The Story of an Arab Woman” on Nov. 28 and 29.

“Any theatre person would leap at the opportunity, travel far to see [Redgrave] perform. Her commitment to her political beliefs increases my admiration tenfold ... Now she is coming to the Miller Theatre. She is on Columbia’s doorstep,” said Kristin Linklater, head of acting in the theater arts division of the School of the Arts, in an email. “And for the Columbia community, it is doubly exciting that she will be performing with Mariam Said, the widow of Columbia’s great Edward Said—an incontrovertibly significant figure in our understanding of the Middle East. This will be a great evening of essential theatre.”

The performance is co-coordinated with The Public Theater, a 50-year-old theater company that stages “Shakespeare in the Park” among other plays and musicals.

“Over the summer, Oskar [Eustis, Public Theater artistic director] called me and asked if I’d be interested to be a partner with Public. It took less than five seconds to say yes,” Miller Theatre Director Melissa Smey said. “They’re not just one of the best theaters in the country, but the idea of bringing such a major, internationally renowned

artist to Columbia ... fits perfectly into Miller’s vision.”

Co-written by Redgrave and Said, the production is based on the life of Said’s mother, Wadad Makdisi Cortas, a principal at a girls’ school in Beirut, Lebanon. The story follows Cortas’ growth from pupil to teacher to principal and is set amid the tumult of the Lebanese Civil War and its aftermath.

“The work tells an important story about one of the most complex issues of our time from a very personal perspective,” Eustis said in a statement. “This beautiful piece brings to life a world we all can love, one where art, education, and music are essential bridges between communities and where the desire for peace is given vibrant, human shape.”

Eustis approached Miller Theatre in July with the project because the Public Theater’s spaces were completely booked and he needed a partner with a venue, Smey said.

“There were so many ups and downs of knowing whether the scheduling would work,” Smey said. “The biggest hurdle has been finding consecutive days that would work ... and coordinating with so many people from different places to make this happen.”

The performance itself is not just a play: It combines music, storytelling, video projection, and even a cameo from the middle school chorus at the Spence School, a private Upper East Side all-girls school.

Accommodating all of these elements was initially a challenge for Miller, which doesn’t typically put on theater pieces. Originally designed as

a lecture hall, it has had problems coordinating performances with projections in the past, Smey explained.

But Smey said that she anticipates that everything will be resolved when Said and Redgrave arrive the week of the performance.

“We won’t know really until everyone gets into the space,” she said. “But they know the big picture of how this is coming together.”

Members of the Columbia arts community say that they are excited for the production for both its political and artistic merits.

“Vanessa Redgrave’s presence at the Miller Theatre on the campus of Columbia University is tremendous and exciting,” said SoA professor Anne Bogart. “Her longtime relationship with both Mariam and Edward Said has laid the groundwork for the project, and we are fortunate to reap the fruits of this unique collaboration.”

For Said, though, it isn’t just about the production.

“I am very happy that, 30 years after my mother’s death, I was able to bring back her voice to life,” she said.

“A World I Loved: The Story of an Arab Woman” will run for two nights on Nov. 28 and 29 at 8 p.m. Tickets for Public Theater members and Miller Theatre subscribers are on sale now. Tickets for the general public will go on sale Tuesday, Oct. 30. Columbia students with a CUID will pay \$7 for the performance, while faculty and University affiliates will be eligible for discounted tickets.

Lesley Thulin contributed reporting.

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Renowned theater directors discuss creative collaboration, artistic process

BY ALEX CHANG
Columbia Daily Spectator

A panel discussion on collaboration filled Faculty House with an eager crowd of theater enthusiasts on Monday night.

A mixture of professional wisdom and juicy anecdotes, the discussion centered on creative collaboration and touched on the creative process as a whole, and included Anne Bogart, a professor at the School of the Arts, and Martha Clarke, who joined the panel as part of the Mellon Visiting Artist series. Christian Parker, chair of the School of the Arts, moderated the discussion between the women, both renowned directors of experimental theater. Both directors were generous in sharing their own insights and experiences, which ranged from the importance of disagreements to their sources of inspiration.

The directors emphasized the necessity of collaboration between different roles in theater. “The truth is, in collaboration you’re only as good as the people you’re working with. Ultimately, your work is in the hands of the performers and the casting. So whatever we do is the carpentry in the back,” Clarke said.

The panelists also stressed the difference between collaboration and unanimous agreement. Bogart noted, “In this country, we have a misunderstanding on the concept of collaboration, [which] we call the disease of agreement ... There’s nothing worse than everybody agreeing.”

With this in mind, Bogart said she tries to cultivate an open culture that encourages disagreements in her productions, making efforts to ask dancers, actors, and chorus alike what they feel could be done better.

Not all disagreement, however, aids the artistic process, Bogart explained. “There’s the kind of disagreement that shuts things down. So, to disagree but not stop is the real issue. You keep

moving but also set yourselves apart from each other,” she said.

Clarke agreed, pointing out that when disagreements aren’t productive, it’s better to end the collaboration sooner rather than later. “I don’t think we get enough support or enough money or enough anything to be miserable in a room. I want to feel ... you don’t feel joy all the time. I feel the Obama way is the ... sensible way to go,” she said, referring to the president’s reputation for avoiding drama on the campaign trail.

“In this country, we have a misunderstanding on the concept of collaboration [which] we call the disease of agreement ... There’s nothing worse than everybody agreeing.”

—Anne Bogart, SoA professor

Both women described collaboration as a source of inspiration. “You develop little crushes,” Bogart said. Clarke explained, “It’s not inappropriate. They’re your inspiration. If you don’t have that feeling of excitement about working with them, then why are you alone with them?”

Ultimately, said Clarke, the benefit of collaboration is its ability to bring artists together. “Every group is a love affair ... They become your best friends,” she said.

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DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

UP FOR DEBATE | Professor Anne Bogart and Martha Clarke, both theater directors, discussed the necessity of collaboration in theater work at a lecture in Faculty House.



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Diversity as a commodity

Affirmative action is again under fire in the Supreme Court as Fisher v. University of Texas may provoke the court to reverse its 2003 landmark decision, Grutter v. Bollinger. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote Grutter's majority opinion that the promotion of diversity in colleges is a legitimate reason for upholding affirmative action with the caveat that race would constitute only a small part of the admission process. However, there is mounting evidence that race is often the decisive factor in a person's admission to or denial from a university.

For example, many universities maintain an unofficial bias against Asian-American students. According to a 2005 study by Princeton's Office of Population Research, banning race-conscious affirmative action policies would increase Asian-American enrollment at elite universities from 23.7 to 31.5 percent. In 1996, California actually banned race-conscious affirmative action by passing Proposition 209. Currently, 43 percent of undergraduate students at UC Berkeley identify as Asian-American. Many of these students might not be able to attend a peer institution that practices affirmative action. Their biological information would be a handicap because their racial group is already over-represented in many colleges.

Although race-conscious admissions negatively impacts Asian-American students' applications, I support its fundamental goals: to establish student bodies that are representative of the United States' diverse demographics and to provide opportunities for racial groups that have been marginalized in our shared history. Frequent state budget cuts often relegate underrepresented minority groups to failing schools. Members of such minority groups never receive the opportunity to



JAMES YOON

Yoon-iversity

A united Columbia

BY KATHARINE CELENTANO

Last year, we were heartbroken when GS Class Day was moved, but later felt appreciated when our peers at the other three undergraduate schools defended us. At the University Unity Forum on Oct. 15, we were sad to find out that Barnard students did not share our unprecedented sense of unity with the rest of campus. They felt abandoned by the undergraduate community. These events show us that to unify, we must examine our framing of our Columbian identities. At the forum, we were later asked this: As Columbians, are we first students of our school or of the University? This is a false choice because each identity fundamentally depends on the other. We must ask the right questions in order to solve the challenges in navigating our differences.

First, allow us to explain our gratitude to General Studies. Often, “nontraditional” students are treated without dignity. However, GS does not condescend to educate us, but is instead grateful for the diverse perspectives we bring to our peers at CC, Barnard, and SEAS. Before GS, illness kept one of us from attending school. Knowing that a place like GS existed framed her experiences with dignity, and helped inspire her to fight personal battles she had yet to win. The other one of us grew up in a neighborhood lacking opportunities for higher education. He feels affection for the school that recognized him as one who could meaningfully contribute to Columbia's higher mission and academic discourse. Here, we are not “just” night students—we are equals because of our diversity. GS took a chance on us, as it has on many others.

Our gratitude extends beyond GS. Each college boasts internal diversity, but each also contributes to broader University-wide diversity. Diversity is not just about where we come from, but also about the experiences we seek. Each college offers a different experience—support for nontraditional students, a traditional Ivy League education, an environment of science and engineering, or a small women's liberal arts college. This is why admissions processes cannot be directly compared, because they all serve different functions. However, they also serve a common purpose—they put us in the same classroom to learn from each other. We are members of the same university community, we are better for it, and this defines us as Columbians.

However, diversity of experience can be awkward. As such, Columbia is at once enriching and stressful. Yet this is not a reason for lashing out, but instead a call to learn with courage and empathy. But let's be blunt—Columbians do not stand united as we should. We should not conflate division with rivalry.

Why such tension? Perhaps, many who enter Columbia come out of environments steeped in a culture of overachievement, college counselors, standardized testing, and attention to school rankings. Competition has a place on campus—pettiness born out of hypercompetitiveness doesn't. We also need to be honest about the misogyny present in the Bwog and Spec comments. Even if trolls are isolated and few, they reveal undercurrents; we've heard derogatory comments about our sisters at Barnard before, even beyond the Internet. Unlike competition, such hate has no place.

How do we connect while emphasizing our unique identities? What is achievement—a successful combat mission, getting up when you are sick, an A, standing up to misogyny, a working computer program, or all of these and much more? Ultimately, a better question to ask is this: How can we encourage each other to be proud of one another? How do we purge ourselves of hate and unify—do we blend or emphasize our differences? It is a false choice, and this is an opportunity to transcend the common pitfall of seeing identification as mutually exclusive with unification, and avoid stratification and elitism.

Higher education has the responsibility of preparing students to navigate division with grace. We should not import the vitriol of the national political discourse into our community. We should export solutions. As a campus, let's “cross the street” more, stand up for each other, and ask better questions.

Katharine Celentano is a School of General Studies senior majoring in neuroscience and behavior and economics. She is a legislative assistant for the University Senate. Jose Robledo graduated from the School of General Studies in 2012 with a bachelor of arts in economics-political science. He was the GS University Senator from 2009-2012.

become educated women and men. It seems sensible and honorable that colleges aggressively recruit students from these underrepresented groups.

Equity and equal opportunity might not necessarily be the sole reasons that schools maintain their current admissions policies. A year ago, I met the director of admissions of a top liberal arts college. She was invited as the guest speaker for my American studies seminar in Equity and Access in Higher Education. A student asked her how her staff creates the freshman class. She gave the following answer: Before each application cycle, the trustees of the college supply a wish list of all the types of students they want, including underrepresented minorities, radical liberals, right-wing conservatives and a student from South Dakota. They select students based on this list.

Every now and then they come across a student who does not fit any of the archetypes provided in the wish list. In this case, the committee would think long and hard about whether the student fits well with or contradicts the values of the college. Before admitting each applicant, they ask this ultimate question: Will this applicant threaten the image of this institution, should he or she become a student here? While I appreciated her frankness, this particular aspect of the admission process alarmed me. They seemed to select students based more on their popularity with university administrators than on their potential to achieve success and personal fulfillment.

On that day, I encountered a form of affirmative action that was different than one I had expected. I thought the point of affirmative action was to provide disadvantaged students equal opportunities as privileged students and to replicate the demographic diversity of the United States. Instead, the type of affirmative action that I heard was one that pursues diversity as a commodity, as long as it does not contradict the profile of the average student.

As a group, Asian Americans are incredibly diverse and come from a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds. In fact, specific Southeast Asian ethnicities are actually underrepresented in our colleges. But embracing this diversity would be too risky, because doing so would result in more schools like Berkeley or Caltech.



LAURA DIEZ DE BALDEON

A specialized liberal education

We have a such a lofty opinion of our institution that it borders on the ridiculous. We believe that critical analysis and skeptical inquiry can be taught. We believe that personal and intellectual development can be had around the seminar table. We believe that a university can create a generation of leaders and thinkers grounded in strong moral and ethical convictions. Anyone who has had the audacity to participate in a Core Curriculum class shares in this belief. What's more, Columbia has the audacity to promote and cherish it. As if it worked.

Levity aside, to say Columbia has long valued its particularly structured and demanding approach to a liberal education would not come close to doing the Core (and what it represents) justice. Despite perennial complaints about reading “a bunch of dead white men,” generations of students have cherished and defended our version of the liberal arts. The great threat posed by the specter of pre-professionalism is understandable in light of the guiding philosophy of the college. Those who will defend against any sort of professional creep—and there are many—ultimately do so because the infiltration of such programs threatens the very identity of Columbia College, that by which we differentiate ourselves from UCLA or NYU or Penn. Blessed by its location, Columbia can also boast that internships, plentiful in the city, are all the pre-professional preparation its students need. Further justification is that it is not the best use of the school's resources to teach the finer points of financial modeling anyway. To paraphrase the Goldman Sachs recruiter from the 118th Varsity Show, “That's our job!”

Yet we have an office of pre-professional advising. Clearly, just wanting to have a job after graduation or wanting to go on to professional studies does not constitute the type of pre-professionalism that is antithetical to Columbia's liberal arts sensibilities. This fear of encroachment, however, hinders processes of academic innovation and refinement in the University. The chances that the college will offer a major in business management or public policy in the foreseeable future are vanishingly small. We should not let this distant possibility prevent us from constantly seeking ways to better connect what we learn in lecture with what we will experience in the workforce. It can be difficult to get even that first internship if a student cannot in some way show that she has enough knowledge and skills not to make a mess of things. And for those like me who have a specific professional field they plan to pursue, Columbia provides frustratingly few academic options

Race-conscious admissions allows universities to control the number and type of minorities they accept. This highly subjective process allows colleges like Columbia to maintain a critical mass of non-minority students, which ensures that their image and prestige can be maintained. And so admission officers continue to seek diversity in its most superficial form possible. They travel around the country to aggressively recruit students from exotic backgrounds, which are easily marketable in a brochure.

I argue that affirmative action in our nation's leading universities has been misguided. Colleges have focused only on a form of diversity that would raise the reputation of their institutions. However, the second purpose of affirmative action, which is equal opportunity, has been overlooked in admission policies. For example, a school may be giddy to recruit a minority student with a very rare profile, without making the following responsible considerations. Does the school offer sufficient accommodations for this student to be truly happy? Will this student succeed despite the discrepancy between his background and that of the average accepted student? Finally, will this student benefit from the school as much as he raises the profile of the incoming freshman class?

Even the Fisher v. University of Texas case reveals the deficiency in current affirmative action practices. During the Supreme Court hearing of the case last Wednesday, the attorney defending UT spoke largely about the benefits of diversity in producing competitive, global leaders. However, UT failed to adequately defend why race-conscious admissions enables fairness in all Americans' access to higher education. The dialogue only considers the benefits that institutions as a whole reap when there is diversity. In the Supreme Court's majority opinion in Grutter v. Bollinger, former Justice O'Connor predicted that affirmative action would need to be reevaluated in 2028. It is clear that only nine years after the decision, America already needs to make extensive reforms in the affirmative action policies in higher education.

James Yoon is a Columbia College senior majoring in environmental science. Yooniversity runs alternate Thursdays.

outside of rigidly defined disciplines such as biochemistry.

The college would have much to gain from further exploring an increasingly popular type of undergraduate study: the combination of broad theoretical knowledge with the deep investigation of a single, coherent topic. This is usually categorized under the loose banner of the “interdisciplinary program,” and Columbia is not a complete stranger to it. A perfect example, and a much-touted jewel of the University, is the major in sustainable development. Students take advantage of a conceptual grounding in various scientific, economic, and statistical methods applied to an extremely exciting field of inquiry, supported by a faculty and administration that are genuinely invested in its success. While it is still too new to judge just how integral the program will become to the college, sustainable development sets a welcome precedent that such undergraduate innovation can be done at Columbia. Another program that fits this sort of focused complexity is the major in human rights, approved only last year. Here, too, student demand was an important factor in the slow movement from ad hoc independent concentration to special concentration to regular program of study.

In many areas, however, Columbia lags behind its peers, which have had such undergraduate majors for years. A variety of programs sharing a relationship with health or medicine have flourished across the country, for instance. Duke has had a medical anthropology major for decades—Dr. Paul Farmer is one notable alumnus. Human biology was invented by Stanford students and faculty in 1968 before being taken up in institutions around the world. The nuanced perspective these subjects bring to medicine will only become more valuable to students as the Association of American Medical Colleges changes its curriculum expectations to emphasize the social sciences. Other examples include the highly selective social studies major at Harvard, where a student can draw upon many fields while designing a customized specialization addressing a pressing social issue.

Synthesizing a strong foundation of humanistic inquiry with a focused analysis of an interesting topic seems the perfect application of a liberal education. Columbia's experience in successfully organizing the undergraduate program in sustainable development shows it has the potential to be a leader in these fast-growing interdisciplinary topics. And if more a specialized and relevant knowledge base makes students more appealing to employers, well, that's just the icing on the cake.

Bob Sun is a Columbia College junior majoring in history and biology. He is a member of the Committee on Instruction. Terms of Engagement runs alternate Thursdays.

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.

The vision for 114th

A multicultural endeavor

BY TIM QIN

Columbia University is unique in that it is in one of the most amazing and diverse cities in the world. As such, the University is in a prime location for multicultural learning and awareness. Lambda Phi Epsilon, along and with 12 other organizations, has applied for the brownstones. As students in an Asian interest fraternity, we believe that having a designated space would further promote Asian-American and multicultural awareness in the Columbia community. The greater visibility afforded by a house on 114th Street will improve our ability to foster a community where every student's culture and background can be celebrated.

Lambda Phi Epsilon is an Asian interest fraternal organization founded to advocate for Asian and Asian-American issues, to devote our members to philanthropic causes, and to promote leadership and brotherhood. We have applied our mission and values throughout our time here at Columbia. This past year, we were named Chapter of the Year and Academic Chapter of the Year by our national organization and awarded five out of five stars on Columbia's ALPHA Standards of Excellence.

Brotherhood through diversity

BY DAVID CABRERA

Columbia chooses students for their ability to reach and maintain demanding academic standards, support its reputation as an elite institution of higher learning, and use their potential to become leaders. Columbia chooses students whose successes will reflect credit towards the University, and who will make substantive contributions to the general good—and in turn, these students choose Columbia to prepare them to do all of this.

For the past 170 years, Psi Upsilon and Columbia have jointly pursued these objectives. The names of Psi Upsilon alumni are etched on the facades of historic buildings lining the campus walks—Hartley, Dodge, and the landmark Butler Library stand as testaments to Psi Upsilon alumni who have kept faith with the mission of excellence that drives one of the world's greatest institutions of higher learning. They are the standard-bearers for countless thousands of other Psi Upsilon alumni who have gone on to reflect credit on Columbia as doctors, educators, laureates, athletes, captains of industry, diplomats, heroes, and community leaders.

Young students from all walks of life come to Columbia because it reflects their desire for academic influence and excellence. Regardless of their backgrounds, many of these students gravitate to Psi Upsilon because it reflects their shared values, principles, and aspirations. Psi Upsilon was founded with the faith in that innate human ability to trust one another for the purpose of achieving some goal—that the world will be a better place if people are honest with each other, accept one another, listen to each other's goals, and strive to help each other achieve those goals knowing that they will return the favor. Just like their predecessors, these brothers of Psi Upsilon are measured by their willingness and ability to support those principles that have enabled the Columbia-Psi Upsilon bond to thrive in good times and bad for nearly seven generations.

Having a brownstone will give Psi Upsilon a home.

The University is about to make an important decision on the disposition of vacant brownstones adjacent to campus. One of them, 542 W. 114th Street, is the historic home of Psi Upsilon. It was lost last year due to the actions of a few who are not in accordance with the values we espouse. This strained the relationship but did not break it. Stronger rules, oversight, and transparency have emerged from that debacle. One would hope that, over and above the list of repetitively similar promises—community service, diversity, etc.—the long history of trust, shared values and partnership between Columbia and Psi Upsilon would be an important consideration which weighs heavily in the final decision.

Having a brownstone will give Psi Upsilon a home and a means to perpetuate its tradition of social, moral, and academic excellence within the Columbia Community. Psi Upsilon is not known for being associated with any particular social group—we have brothers from CC and SEAS, who are gay and straight, some who demonstrate athletic prowess, and a decent portion who are complete nerds. Because of our diversity, Psi Upsilon's members are involved in a variety of student groups and come from many different fields of study. This allows brothers to get many organizations involved in projects and offer mentorship to the newest members of Columbia's community. The brothers of Psi Upsilon have a desire to improve the greater Morningside community through philanthropic endeavors, and having a brownstone will provide organizations that seek to join in hands with our brotherhood a safe, welcoming location that will consistently give back to the community.

The author is a School of Engineering and Applied Science senior majoring in mechanical engineering. He is the president of Psi Upsilon. This op-ed was written on behalf of Psi Upsilon.

Ending the last academic year with 48 members, we have devoted over 1,500 hours to community service and raised over \$8,000 for organizations such as UNICEF and the National Kidney Foundation. Our brothers excel both academically and in extracurricular activities—our chapter has consistently had an excellent average GPA. They are also heavily invested in the Columbia community, taking part in organizations that range from community development groups like COÖP, the URC, and Residential Programs to musical performance groups like Sharp, Clefhangers, and String Theory. Thirty-two of us hold board positions in such groups.

While Lambda Phi Epsilon is an Asian interest fraternity, we have brothers of various ethnic backgrounds. We see ourselves as a microcosm of the diverse Columbia community, and one of our main goals is to foster an integrated community by welcoming everyone. Although our mission is to promote Asian and Asian-American awareness, we have never been exclusive to Asians. The strength and closeness of our brotherhood stem from the belief that only by coming together and sharing our experiences are we able to understand each other. For this reason, we strive to work with multicultural and non-multicultural groups alike. We believe that it is important to share our experiences and that only through coming together will we be able to understand each other. We have hosted several events such as Pushups for Pennies with Sigma Phi Epsilon and Delta Gamma and First

Friday: Lights Out with Columbia Queer Alliance and APAHM. We will use the size and location of a brownstone to reach out to organizations beyond the multicultural community and strive to integrate all of Columbia's diverse communities. We have hosted events such as our annual Dim Sum Night and have partnered with the wider Columbia community to co-host events such as First Friday: Lights Out with Columbia Queer Alliance and APAHM.

A brownstone for Lambda Phi Epsilon would be a space well-used for students of all backgrounds.

As a fraternity, we try to offer space in our East Campus suite to various student groups such as the Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, Club Zamana, Chinese Students Club, and many more through a formal reservation process—although there are many Asian-American cultural and political groups on campus, there are currently no collective spaces for these organizations to gather. But the space is heavily constrained and not conducive to larger events. With a brownstone, we would continue to keep our space open to outside



A healthy living room

BY WILFRED CHAN AND PRIOM AHMED

Before we begin, we want to express admiration for all the other groups who applied for a brownstone. We feel truly grateful to be considered alongside them, and appreciate the opportunity to share our thoughts here in Spectator.

Since we began the fight for wellness in the Columbia community exactly one year ago, the Student Wellness Project has been guided by three principles: Listen to everyone. Bring people in. Value every individual's perspective.

Staying true to these ideas, a wellness brownstone will not only be a home for students who want to stay with others who are passionate about healthy living, but a space that welcomes all members of the Columbia community.

We focus so much on inclusiveness because we recognize that the pursuit of wellness means different things to different students—we have friends who battle depression, others who struggle to eat healthy. We know people who face deep loneliness, and others who simply fight to balance their personal lives under a crush of academics and extracurriculars.

The point is, people are obviously under a lot of pressure at Columbia, yet no two experiences are the same. The question becomes, how can we build a community where students can feel accepted, no matter what they're going through?

It's a challenge. Sometimes, the more difficulty you're having, the less welcoming Columbia feels.

After all, we live on a campus where excellence and perfection are unquestioned norms, and where the pressure to live up to a constructed ideal of "success" perpetually leaves students burnt-out in silence—where a 2011 Health Services study identified "stress" as the only commonality among students.

If that's what passes for community, then we can do better.

We want to create a culture of compassion and well-being. And over this past year, we've seen our movement grow. Our biggest event last year, Random Acts of Kindness week, drew over 20 co-sponsoring groups and over 1000 participants. Our advocacy has helped student wellness become a top priority of Dean Valentini and other administrators, who have begun working with us and other campus groups to make sure that ordinary students get proper resources, support, and advising. And in our own lives, we've seen a dialogue about wellness blossom where there was once only silence.

Slowly but surely, this campus is making appreciable strides towards a supportive atmosphere in which students feel safe, not ashamed, to explore what wellness means to them personally.

But our work isn't done.

We will use the brownstone as a "healthy living

room" to host discussion events, speaker panels, and get-togethers where students can engage in conversation with experts—like members of CPS, Health Services, and Well Woman—and with each other.

In spare moments, we will fill the space with potlucks, yoga sessions, meditation, crafts, and of course, free food study breaks for anyone who needs a bit of stress relief and company.

Our brownstone will serve as an organizational focal point, a physical nexus where not only we can turn discussions into action to create real campus change, but meet with our dozens of allied groups as well. Our space will always be open for reservation to any group of students that wants to host a wellness-related event, or collaborate with us on one of their own events.

In a campus community where residents often feel immense pressure from their peers or neighbors to engage in risky or unhealthy behavior, the wellness brownstone would provide a crucial alternative living arrangement for students who want to pursue personal growth in a balanced and healthy way.

This home will symbolize Columbia's commitment to the health of its students, and also represent the deep love we have for the people with whom we share this school.

And finally, a wellness brownstone will serve as a permanent and cherished home for a family of students who will support each other through thick and thin, united by a passionate desire to improve the quality of student life in our own community. It will be an intimate safe space for the introspection, reflection, and honest dialogue that makes our mission possible. In the end, our group is strong not because of our achievements on campus, but because of the bonds of trust that we form between each other.

This home will symbolize Columbia's commitment to the health of its students, and also represent the deep love we have for the people with whom we share this school. Friends. Roommates. Neighbors. Strangers we pass on College Walk.

As members of the Columbia student community, we do not exist in isolation. We believe that creating a community about wellness is not just about what we do for ourselves—it is also about what we can do for those around us.

Wilfred Chan is a Columbia College senior majoring in political science. He was a founding member of the Student Wellness Project. Priom Ahmed is a Columbia College junior majoring in Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African studies. She is the co-chair of the Student Wellness Project. This op-ed is written on behalf of the Student Wellness Project.

organizations and strive to host even more events that would welcome members of all communities. A bigger area would not only help alleviate some space constraint issues for collaborative events, but also allow us to bring together the Asian and Asian-American community on campus.

Looking beyond the Asian-American community, Lambda Phi Epsilon is the only organization from the Multicultural Greek Council to apply for a brownstone. Currently, none of the eight Greek organizations from MGC have a brownstone while eight fraternities from the Interfraternity Council and three sororities from the Panhellenic Council have brownstones. Obtaining a brownstone would not only be a symbol for the Asian and Asian-American community on campus, but also for the greater multicultural community at Columbia. A brownstone for Lambda Phi Epsilon would be a space well-used for students of all backgrounds, a domain shared with multicultural organizations and the greater Columbia community, and a haven to foster a greater understanding for Asian and Asian-American issues. Our fraternity would be honored to receive a brownstone to aid in our endeavors.

The author is a School of Engineering and Applied Science senior majoring in engineering management systems. He is the president of Columbia University Lambda Phi Epsilon and president of the Engineering Student Council. This op-ed was written on behalf of Lambda Phi Epsilon.

When academics and music collide

BY CYNTHIA JUNG

Music presents an interesting dichotomy: It is created with a specific structure and appearance, but can be interpreted in an infinite number of ways. Music speaks to people of all backgrounds, regardless of ideology, culture, geography, or level of musical engagement because it is a universal form of expression. Some would have us believe that music is about discipline, education, and skill but for us it is about the action behind its creation over its effect: the collaboration, inclusivity and passion, qualities belonging to all Columbia students. Columbia attracts a large number of students of impressive artistic and musical pedigree. Our university's accessibility to arts and culture in New York City and proximity to multiple premier music institutions draws both students passionate about their musical studies and professional musicologists and instructors seeking to pass their teachings onto the next generation. The Columbia-Juilliard Exchange, a leading program of its kind, attracts students to pursue a "best of both worlds" education. In fact, this was the main reason I applied to Columbia—I could simultaneously pursue academic studies and continue an active role in the competitive music environment, a unique opportunity that is singular to this school.

For these reasons and others, Columbia is in a unique position to advance the importance of music and arts in the world. The problem that Columbia faces is inefficiency: We have all the raw materials but we are not leveraging them to realize the potential we have to develop not just the music world's next leaders, but the world's next leaders who understand the value of music and the arts. Despite all these factors, the rich musical possibilities that call to so many students are not actually stimulating the most important aspects of music: creativity and collaboration. At issue is that this vast population of students, which has entered Columbia with so much ability, has not found a unifying musical community.

We believe that having a Music House will create a space where we can invest in the idea of community to revitalize the role of music on campus, and in effect, the larger society. A "Music House"—a brownstone devoted to communal living, rehearsals, and collective inspiration of those deeply involved in music—would provide the opportunities needed to create a more unified music community. Our belief is that the Music House is the foundation by which Columbia can foster a new generation and network of influential musicians. We would be a school and society that spearheads a reawakening of culture through music and art-related initiatives.

The brownstone offers the material conditions desperately needed to have a grounded musical community on campus. It would act as a hub for musicians who don't necessarily fit into the existing musical clubs on campus, providing a place for them to share artistic experiences in a peer-driven setting. Humans have a need to create and share their creations, and a brownstone will facilitate this innate need in students. Most importantly, the Music House would address the issue of space, Columbia's seemingly most rare and valuable commodity. As musicians and artists we are constantly creating, which requires space—space to practice, rehearse, compose and perform with the freedom of not being interrupted by others and not infringing on others.

A communal space would create an area for existing and new groups to rehearse as well as a center for artistic collaboration between all genres, styles and instruments. It would be a place of unity for many, and a place of discovery for others. Both musicians and non-musicians would benefit from the brownstone, for the house would create a space for performers and audiences to engage with each other, and develop a powerful community.

In supporting the Music House, you support the advancement of Columbia. We have the potential to become an influential community and to take a leadership role in restoring the prominence of the arts. Let us take a step forward in moving our school towards this goal with the creation of the Music House.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore and a bassoonist in the Columbia-Juilliard exchange. This op-ed was written on behalf of the Music House.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 The grand concert one has 47 strings
5 Teen hangout
9 ___ poll
14 French possessive
15 Chills and fever
16 "The Voice" judge
17 Holden device?
18 Party person
19 Communications device
20 Question cards in their cups?
23 Response to "Are you serious?"
24 Gardner of old films
25 Wiv
28 Buckin beasts of burden?
32 Western landscape feature
36 Vessel designation
37 Weigh station visitors
38 New Testament book
39 Variable-yield investment option
42 Passed-down tales
43 CBS newswoman
45 Summer baby
46 Termini
47 Stumble over plumbing gunk?
51 Brahms's A?
52 View from Marseille
53 To-do
58 Proper sort ... or a cry upon solving each of this puzzle's theme answers?
62 Canceled a reservation, maybe
64 Walkie's whereabouts
65 Yankee great, familiarly, with "The"
66 Window box bloom
67 "Exodus" novelized
68 US Open stadium
69 Post with carvings

DOWN

70 Passé demo item
71 Scholarship factor
33 Culpit in some food recalls
34 Severe
35 "Without delay"
40 "The Matrix" hero
41 Spot for one in disfavor
44 Retus puzzle staple
48 Outlaw Kelly
49 Shrek
50 Brillo alternative
54 "You've got to be kidding"
55 Grace
56 Nourishment for un baby
57 Put in a request
59 Department of northern France
60 Lipinski with a gold medal
61 Beat
62 Well-put
63 Confucian path

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

S	M	A	R	T	S	P	P	O	P	E	A	
H	O	L	I	S	T	E	L	E	A	A	N	G
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xwordeditor@aol.com 10/25/12

By Elizabeth A. Long
©2012 Tribune Media Services, Inc. 10/25/12

Varsity athletes suffer from CU environment

JONES from back page

social reflection may yield insight about the construction of our community and the internal motivations that energize it. Certainly we value a student body with diverse interests, but what of disparate degrees of intensity in the pursuit of one's end? Are we building the best community by compromising excellence in both the first and second types of judgement? Perhaps we can accept that Columbia is not universally excellent, but shouldn't we at least expect that everyone is maximally striving?

Our community is complex, and these thoughts are only a small, incomplete part of the fuller picture; they should only be taken as such. Generalizations are convenient for 600-word newspaper columns, but they are insufficient to determine policy or guide opinion—I fully expect that a majority of those affiliated with athletics at Columbia resist reproach by this analysis.

Nevertheless, we should dispassionately utilize the philosophical tools yielded by Columbia to help guide that intuitively negative reaction felt when watching the football team lose its 12th Homecoming in a row. The conclusions may be uncomfortable, but, undergirded with objectivity and integrity, we may finally come to a point where we are able to completely dissect the value of athletics to our community.

Alex Jones is a senior in Columbia College majoring in philosophy. He is the editor in chief of Bwog. Armchair Athletics runs biweekly. sports@columbiaspectator.com



KATE SCARBROUGH / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

KING DAVID | Junior midfielder David Najem has attempted 11 shots this season, and he will be counted on to take scoring chances in upcoming games.

In effort to start games better, CU works on early offensive play

IN FOCUS from back page

from doing the same. The Light Blue has allowed nine goals in the second half. It has trailed at halftime four times and has come back once to earn a draw.

The Lions are not alone in their struggles to recover from a slow start. Even professional soccer teams have trouble recovering from halftime deficits: Columbia's 0.25 points rate in halftime-deficit situations would fall between 12th and 13th of 20 teams in the English Premier League during the 2011 season.

"The longer the game goes, the more scenarios creep in, the

more decisions that have to be made," Lions head coach Kevin Anderson said Wednesday. "Goals are scored when mistakes are made, players do something or execute something brilliantly, or on restarts. So the longer the game goes, the more pressure teams are put under, therefore ... defensive execution usually in the second half is more difficult than early on."


Moving forward, Columbia will need to click offensively earlier in the match.

"All the pieces are there for us," Najem said. "We have every player we need right now, with the 26 guys we have and with

the coaches we have on staff. We have everything we need, we're just trying to put it all together at this point. ... We're hoping it comes sooner rather than later."

"How the team does that is by everyone performing to the best of their ability and equating that to a successful team performance," Anderson said of how the team can avoid bad starts. "If we're able to execute and we're able to have a team performance like we had in the second half of our last game ... then you've got yourself a different scenario."

Columbia will play at Yale on Saturday. sports@columbiaspectator.com



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A philosopher's reaction to Saturday's game

Eudaimonia, flourishing, happiness, excellence of virtue—however you want to say it, we all have an individual highest good or end with regard to which we value and determine our beliefs and actions. We seek to better ourselves and our situation so that we may best self-realize our human potential. This characterization of human nature is an amalgamation of several Core philosophies, but sports columns are allowed to make baseless and imprecise arguments, and it's my prerogative to assume this teleology as universal, though I'm only concerned with—can you guess it?—Columbia, and athletics in particular.

Earning an undergraduate degree at Columbia is a fantastic endeavor for students in terms of working towards their personal state of flourishing. Often, the education received is a critical foundation for some future occupation, and (unfortunately) for fewer, the process of completing a liberal arts education itself is a distinct form of personal flourishing. Thus, when evaluated as a means to one's end (thriving as a student), the average college student should be high-fired for making an excellent life decision.

Do we have the coaches, facilities, community support, or freedoms from external burdens that best contribute to athletic progress?

There are two judgments being made here. First, that Columbia is an excellent school and only excellent students are qualified to attend. Second, regardless of an individual's level of academic excellence, if an individual is seeking to best facilitate academic/personal growth, then Columbia is an excellent place for her or him to be. The first judgment is concerned with the simple comparative measurement of ability, and the second judgment is a statement that carries normative weight, which provides a standard by which to judge individuals' decisions. Or for the mathematically minded, if $f(x)$ represents some person's life with x as their degree of personal flourishing, then the first judgment is merely plugging and chugging, and the second is the first derivative.

Criticism of Columbia athletics gets caught up with judgments of the first type, and it's merely equine abuse to scoff at a 1-9 record or "Adjusted Offense" in the bottom half of Division I. I believe people stop at that point because anything more becomes a deeper criticism of our peers who are affiliated with the athletic department, and that is uncomfortably personal. So I will (carefully) be that guy.

What does it look like if we apply the same analysis of the average Columbia student to a hypothetical Columbia athlete? If an individual chooses, for example, to devote limited personal time and resources to the pursuit of accurately throwing a ball at great distance, then can we, with straight faces, suggest that Columbia is the best place to facilitate such a goal? Do we have the coaches, facilities, community support, or freedoms from external burdens (e.g., school-work) that best contribute to athletic progress?

We must truthfully admit that Columbia doesn't provide a great environment and many athletes would have better served themselves had they enrolled at other, more athletically inclined schools (and I can think of 50 off the top of my head). Simply, it is a given that some athletes or teams aren't very good, but the greater concern is that they came to the wrong place if they genuinely cared about getting better.

The implications of this (instrumentally hyperbolic) conclusion are, again, uncomfortably presumptive and personal, but personal and



ALEX JONES

Armchair Athletics



HALEY SCHIECK FOR SPECTATOR

FIGHTING LION | Columbia's offense has struggled to get going recently, as the Light Blue has only managed to score two goals in its last three matches.

Light Blue looks to prevent slow starts to matches

BY MUNEER ALAM
Spectator Staff Writer

On Saturday morning, Columbia men's soccer (3-7-3, 1-2-1 Ivy) had allowed only three goals in the first half all season, tied for first in the Ivy League with No. 11 Brown. But within 15 minutes of kickoff on Saturday evening, the Lions had fallen behind 2-0 to Dartmouth, with the team unable to establish significant



possession until the second half. The Lions' only goal came in the final 10 minutes—thanks to an own goal from a Big Green player—in a 2-1 defeat.

Once again, the team started out sluggish and got down toward the beginning of the game—a trend for the Light Blue as of late—making as it difficult to overcome the early two-goal deficit.

On Wednesday, junior midfielder and co-captain David Najem reiterated the importance of starting a match off on a good note.

"We usually start off great," he said. "We play well in the first 15 minutes, which is the most important part of the game, and from there we usually get comfortable. We just have to come out more prepared, on the front foot, and push forward much more, because if you push forward, they don't have that opportunity to come back at us."

The remaining 65 minutes do provide a chance for Columbia to get back into a game when the team falls behind early, as the Lions have scored eight times in the second half this season.

"We push for more drastic measures," Najem said. "In the first half, we're pretty consistent, we stay pretty solid defensively. We just don't look to go down."

"That could also be [due] to the fact that we're a pretty fit team and we can push late in the game compared to the other team," he added.

But second halves present their own difficulties, as the team must score while also preventing the other team

IN FOCUS, page 7

Brown, Cornell lead Ivy standings as only three rounds remain

BY IKE KITMAN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Last Saturday, defending Ivy co-champion Brown defeated Cornell, propelling the Bears into first place and ending Big Red's 12-game winning streak and undefeated season. Brown and Dartmouth are the only Ivy teams to have won both of their past two games, with Harvard, Yale, Cornell, and Princeton all splitting their last two matches. Columbia has tied one game and lost the other, while Penn has dropped both of its matches.



BROWN

Two Tuesdays ago, forward Ben Maurey scored with 3:47 left on the clock to give visiting Brown (11-1-2, 3-0-1) a 1-0 victory over Boston College. This victory extended Brown's winning streak to nine games. On Saturday, the Bears, last year's Ivy co-champions, defeated the Big Red 2-0, ending Cornell's undefeated season. Five minutes into the match, Maurey scored the first goal of the game, and with 19:30 left on the clock, the Bears solidified their lead with a Cornell own goal. The Bears now hold first place in the conference.

CORNELL

Cornell (12-1-0, 3-1-0) bested Yale 3-0 at home two weeks ago, extending its winning streak to a school-record 12 games. In the first half, the Big Red was held scoreless, but earned second-half goals from Tyler Regan, Atticus DeProspero, and Daniel Haber, for the 3-0 shutout. Goalkeeper Rick Pflasterer earned his third shutout of the season, and Haber scored his 16th goal of the year. Cornell entered Saturday's road match against Brown ranked 10th in the nation, a 12-game winning streak, and the honor of being the only Division I team left that hadn't suffered a loss or tie, but the Bears handed the Big Red its first loss of the season with a 2-0 defeat. The Big Red had 15 shots to the Bears' 10, but were unable to hit pay dirt on the way to the team's first loss. Cornell is now second to Brown in the Ancient Eight.

DARTMOUTH

Two weeks ago, Dartmouth (7-6-0, 3-1-0) defeated Penn 3-1, scoring two goals in the first 33 minutes of the match. Though the Quakers scored right before the close of the first half, Big Green goalkeeper Noah Cohen made four saves



KIERA WOOD FOR SPECTATOR

TOUGH TIGERS | Princeton's defense shut out Columbia two weeks ago, and they have only allowed 15 goals all season.

after halftime, preventing a tying goal from the Penn offense. Dartmouth midfielder Andoni Georgiou, who posted a team-high three shots, added to his team's lead with a second-half goal to seal the win. The Big Green then won its second consecutive match on Saturday, defeating host Columbia 3-1. The Lions' only score came on an own goal by the Dartmouth defense in the second half. Dartmouth is currently tied for second in the league with Cornell.

HARVARD

Two weeks ago, the Crimson (2-8-3, 0-3-1) experienced its sole tiebreaker victory of the season with a 2-1 double-overtime win over Boston University. The win also marked Harvard's first double-overtime victory since 2010. After a scoreless first period of overtime, Harvard forward Zack Wolfenzon scored a goal in double overtime to put the Crimson ahead for good. In Saturday's match at Princeton, Wolfenzon scored another goal to tie the game at one late in the game and force it into overtime. The Crimson managed to hold the Tigers scoreless during the first period of overtime, but less than two minutes into the second, Princeton midfielder Alex Wettermann scored off a loose ball in the box from a throw-in

to give Harvard its eighth defeat of the season. With the loss, Harvard remains in seventh place in the Ivy standings.

PENN

Two Saturdays ago, Dartmouth's two goals in the first 33 minutes of its match against Penn (2-11-0, 0-4-0) proved too much for the Quakers to overcome in the 3-1 Dartmouth victory. The Quakers then traveled to play Yale on Saturday, still looking for their first Ivy win. After a scoreless first half, the Quakers got on the board first with a penalty kick goal from forward Stephen Baker. But Penn's defense then allowed two goals from the Bulldogs, giving Yale a 2-1 victory. The Quakers remain one of only five Division I teams to give up a goal in each of their games. Penn currently holds last place in the Ivy League.

PRINCETON

Princeton (6-5-2, 2-0-2) dominated Adelphi on paper two Wednesdays ago, but was unable to convert its scoring chances in a 1-0 defeat. Though the Tigers took almost twice as many shots as the Panthers, Princeton was unable to find the back of the net. Adelphi's winning goal came in the 56th minute off a header from Jordan Hibbert. Against

Harvard on Saturday, though, Princeton found its groove. After the Crimson forced the game into overtime, Princeton midfielder Alex Wettermann scored off a loose ball in the box from a throw-in in double overtime, putting the Tigers in the lead. Princeton is now in third place in the conference and remains undefeated against Ancient Eight opponents.

YALE

Last Tuesday, Lehigh defeated Yale (4-7-3, 1-2-1) 1-0 in the Bulldogs' last nonconference match of the season. With 2:10 left in the second half, Lehigh forward James Meyerkord scored the game's only goal, handing the Bulldogs their third consecutive loss. Yale then broke its three-game losing streak in Saturday's 2-1 home victory over Penn. Penn opened the scoring in the 66th minute, but the Bulldogs quickly answered with a goal from forward Scott Armbrust at the 69:30 mark. Then, with only two minutes left on the clock, junior forward/midfielder Peter Jacobson scored the winning goal for the Bulldogs. Midfielder Jenner Fox assisted both of the goals for the Bulldogs, who are tied with Columbia for fifth place in the league.

sports@columbiaspectator.com

SEE JONES, page 7