

TC teams up with 7 Harlem schools

BY SHARON LIAO
Columbia Daily Spectator

Teachers College has begun to fulfill its pledge of a partnership with 12 Harlem public schools, establishing professional development workshops for teachers and expanding after-school programming for seven schools this semester.

The schools are serving as training grounds for TC faculty to conduct research and for students to apply the theories that they have learned in the classroom.

Faculty members “learn more that will be valuable to the field of urban education, and, on the ground, use that research to change and improve the learning conditions simultaneously, so that it’s not just research for research’s sake,” Brian Perkins, director of TC’s urban education leadership program, said. “It’s research used to make decisions in the schools.”

Students, meanwhile, can “learn about a particular theory, and they have the opportunity to see it and address it in person,” he said.

TC professors are already using the partnerships to enhance graduate student learning. Professor of psychology and education Marla Brassard had her students interview families and teachers from the partner schools to assess what needs to be improved in the city’s education system.

“Leading focus groups to build stronger Family-School partnerships was an incredible opportunity to get out into the context of the schools and



DOUGLAS KESSEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

META-LEARNING | Courtney Brown, a precollegiate education instructor, leads a workshop for public school teachers.

hear the voices of the people who are directly affected by the education system,” Allison McLaren, a master’s student in school psychology, said in an email.

Amy Landis, a master’s student also in Brassard’s class, described the focus groups as a “safe environment” for the public school students to discuss what they like and dislike about their schools.

“The Partnership Consortium is a wonderful way for Columbia students to learn about the day-to-day life of NYC public schools from a student’s perspective, and not from a professor, or text,” Landis said in an email. “Having this hands-on experience will hopefully bring more qualified,

passionate graduates to public schools.”

The information garnered from focus groups will “help inform the development of family engagement programming that will be tailored to each specific school setting to address identified barriers to student success,” Michael Laucello, the teaching assistant for Brassard’s class, said in an email.

Parents seemed to enjoy the opportunity to bounce ideas off one another, Laucello said. “In addition to asking what changes the school could make, we also asked parents to discuss changes they could make themselves to help foster student success, and what expectations teachers have of them,” he said.

The flagship of the

Partnership Schools Consortium is the TC Community School, which opened in September. The other six schools are Heritage High School, P.S. 36, P.S. 76, P.S. 154, Columbia Secondary School, and Frederick Douglass Academy II.

Kecia Hayes, director of the consortium, said there are six goals of the consortium: developing school leaders, improving teachers’ instructional capacity, enhancing after-school programs, ameliorating the relationship between school and family, strengthening physical and mental health, and making early childhood programs more comprehensive.

TC has also set up professional development workshops for principals and teachers from

the schools. On Monday, at the most recent workshop, teachers learned team-building skills and methods of student assessment.

Dan Milbrand, a special education teacher at Heritage High School in Spanish Harlem, said that “it’s huge to have a partnership with Columbia University.”

“It’s just begun, but there’s been steps made in developing assessment tools we use in the classroom,” he said.

Pamela Echols, a fifth-grade special education teacher at P.S. 36 in Morningside Heights, said that she is looking forward to being able to collaborate with other teachers. She said that she believes she will “come

SEE SCHOOLS, page 2

Club leaders ask ABC to ease space reservation process

BY LILLIAN CHEN
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Student leaders asked the Activities Board at Columbia to streamline the space reservation process at ABC’s town hall Tuesday night.

The once-a-semester event allowed students to air their grievances to leaders of ABC, the governing board that oversees cultural, academic, pre-professional, publication, performance, and special interest groups. Many of the approximately 130 student leaders in attendance raised issues they had with space reservations and funding.

Ben Paladino, GS ’14 and treasurer of Columbia University Milvets, said that it is frustrating that groups cannot book rooms in Lerner Hall during the day because it is contracted for daytime use to raise money for the maintenance of the building.

ABC president Saketh Kalathur, CC ’13, acknowledged that space is a universal problem for groups.

“Even more than funding ... the thing that ABC groups need the most is space,” Kalathur said.

Kalathur said that ABC is attempting to improve the situation by changing the precalendar process, during which, in the middle of each semester, groups submit space requests for specific times, dates, and locations for the following semester.

Kalathur said the process can be inefficient because a group’s specialized space needs are not

taken into consideration.

“For example, we have a room in Lerner called E477 which is a great dance space,” Kalathur said. “A lot of times a group might just be using it for a meeting. There are a lot of times like that—space may not be used as efficiently.”

Other times, he said, groups book space and don’t use it, but fail to cancel the reservation, leaving the room unused. Julian Richardson, CC ’14 and ABC vice president, said the board has also been working to give groups a way to swap spaces—possibly via Twitter or Google Groups—so that space doesn’t go to waste.

“One problem I ran into ... was that you can’t switch the accountability of the person who has that space,” Richardson said.

Kalathur also discussed revamping the electronic approval form, or EAF, which ABC groups have to fill out for every event they hold. Though LionLink has already made spending allocations much easier for groups—since the entire process can now be done online—Kalathur said there is still work to be done.

“What we’ve realized and what we’ve heard some feedback on is that there’s a lot of redundancy,” Kalathur said of EAFs and financial transaction forms, or FTFs. Currently, a group has to fill out an EAF for each event it holds and an FTF for each purchase it makes.

SEE ABC, page 2



DOUGLAS KESSEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BIG QUESTIONS | Aziza Jamgerchinora, a Business School student, asks University President Lee Bollinger about the future of digital journalism at the graduate student fireside chat on Tuesday.

Bollinger: We hear you on Arts Initiative

BY CECILIA REYES
Columbia Daily Spectator

At University President Lee Bollinger’s graduate student fireside chat, the discussion ranged from the future of journalism to the arts, with Bollinger reassuring students that administrators had heard undergraduates’ concerns about the Arts Initiative and were working to address them.

Alex Ma, a film student in the School of the Arts, asked Bollinger about the best way to develop “a unified arts precinct,” saying that Columbia’s graduate programs in the arts have improved but still lack interdepartmental collaboration.

This opened up discussion of the Arts Initiative, which Bollinger said has been “very successful in making the arts available.” Still, he promised that the administration is looking into student concerns that it has not been proactive in supporting Columbia’s creative community. Ma said he hoped Bollinger would not measure the success of the program quantitatively. “Selling a handful of tickets is not enough,” Ma said after the chat. “When people say ‘Columbia University,’ they think law or business, or even film. I believe we should unify the arts academically on campus.”

Bollinger began the chat by speaking about the future of

affirmative action in the United States, with the Supreme Court slated to hear *Fisher v. University of Texas* this term. The case could restrict universities’ ability to factor race into admissions decisions—and thus overturn parts of the 2003 case *Grutter v. Bollinger*, which was lodged against Bollinger when he was president of the University of Michigan.

“If Texas wins, the University couldn’t continue any affirmative action efforts,” Bollinger said. “Any private institution that receives federal money must abide by the 14th Amendment. We would be instantly affected.”

SEE FIRESIDE, page 2

Students protest tenure denial

300+ sign in support of BC English prof Abu-Manneh

BY SAMANTHA COONEY
Columbia Daily Spectator

Supporters of Barnard English professor Bashir Abu-Manneh presented administrators on Monday with over 300 signatures opposing the college’s decision to deny him tenure.

In an email to President Debora Spar, Provost Linda Bell, and English department chair Peter Platt, supporters said that the effective firing of Abu-Manneh would be “an immense loss” to Barnard and argued that it raised questions about the college’s dedication to academic diversity.

In a statement to *Spectator*, Spar said that the decision not to give Abu-Manneh tenure came after “a highly rigorous and exacting process” by the tenure committee.

“Though all such decisions are final, it does not diminish the impact and influence Prof. Abu-Manneh has obviously had on his students and colleagues,” she said.

One of Abu-Manneh’s former students, Nancy Elshami, BC ’10, wrote a letter to the tenure committee on Abu-Manneh’s behalf. When she learned he had been denied tenure, she was outraged, leading her to start the petition.

“As students and alumni, we believe there is a lot to lose with this decision,” Elshami said in an email.

Elshami said that the college would lose a “truly tremendous” professor in Abu-Manneh, who serves as an assistant professor of English and the director of the film studies program.

“On another level I think it has negative implications on how the university serves to foster intellectual diversity and academic freedoms,” she added.

Abu-Manneh is an outspoken supporter of Palestine and has written articles critiquing Israel’s actions in the conflict, leading some signatories to question if his political positions played a role in Barnard’s decision.

Most students and alumni who signed the petition, though, were upset that Barnard refused tenure to a professor whom they admired and respected.

“It calls into question for us the value the university places on excellence in teaching,” Elshami said.

Justine Lyons, BC ’13, took the class “Cultures of Colonialism: Palestine/Israel” with Abu-Manneh in her sophomore year and signed the petition as soon as she saw the link on Facebook.

“I signed it because I believe he’s a great asset to this university and it would be a shame for him not to be given tenure,” Lyons said.

Reviews of Abu-Manneh on CULPA were consistently positive, with some students calling him “the best professor at Barnard.” The site awarded Abu-Manneh a “silver nugget,” a distinction awarded to some of the most positively reviewed professors.

Fatimah Rimawi, BC ’12, had Abu-Manneh as an adviser on her senior thesis. She called his guidance “invaluable.”

“I was really confused how an

OPINION, PAGES 4-5

The Canon

What is love at Columbia?

A change in attitude

Ryan Cho looks at the culture of pessimism and asks for a little more thankfulness.



SPORTS, BACK PAGE

New coach, goalie trio shine in tough season

Despite an underwhelming record, coach Nathan Kipp and three young goalies improved the team’s save percentage, a testament to the changes he made this season.

EVENTS

Life Lessons for CC ’13

Professor Frances Negrón-Muntaner shares her postgraduate experiences.
Lerner Satow Room, 8 p.m.

Almacappella

With sweet treats and dulcet tones, Columbia groups bring warmth to winter.
Low Steps, 8:30 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



41°/32°

Tomorrow



43°/34°

ABC promises improvements in space, funding procedures

ABC from front page

Most events entail multiple purchases and thus multiple forms to fill out.

“In the past, when there was no electronic tracking process that groups could easily access, EAFs served as a way for them to keep track of their budget on our ABC website,” Kalathur said after the town hall. “Now that both of these are online, a lot of the information needs to be entered twice ... so what I really want to work on is to figure out what can be eliminated from the EAF.”

Nathaniel Byerly, CC ’15 and treasurer of the Russian International Association, said that for recurring events—such as the group’s weekly conversation hour—clubs should only have to get one approval each month or each semester, instead of each week. About a third of attendees said they also held regular meetings for which weekly approval seemed unnecessary.

No more than five people in attendance knew about LionLink’s functionalities outside of tracking finances. Kalathur urged club leaders to take advantage of the new system, and students were impressed to hear of its advertising and documentation capabilities.

“LionLink is where freshmen

will go when they first come to Columbia and want to join groups,” Kalathur said, adding that many times first-years can’t see the club details upperclassmen post on Facebook because they are not yet friends with them. “It’s really to your advantage ... to use LionLink to its full potential.”

He said after the meeting that leaders “seemed really excited at ... its potential to establish institutional memory—to have all your documents stored on there instead of floating around the inboxes of e-boards.”

Richard Baldassari, GS ’14 and Milvets president, asked ABC to address funding for rapidly growing groups like his, in which the membership grows faster than its maximum allocation. A group’s funding is based on its original number of members—in this case, 12—and though it generally grows a little or stays the same each year, allocations are inadequate when a group sees a large change in population, he said.

Nikhil Krishnan, CC ’14 and the ABC representative for Milvets, said this was a more long-term problem that the board was working on.

“The overarching problem is, after we recognize a group, how do we keep tabs on it?” he said.

lillian.chen
@columbiaspectator.com



QUIYUN TAN FOR SPECTATOR

KING OF CLUBS | Julian Richardson, CC ’14 and vice president of the Activities Board at Columbia, speaks at Tuesday’s town hall.

TC conducts research, adds programs at 7 Harlem schools

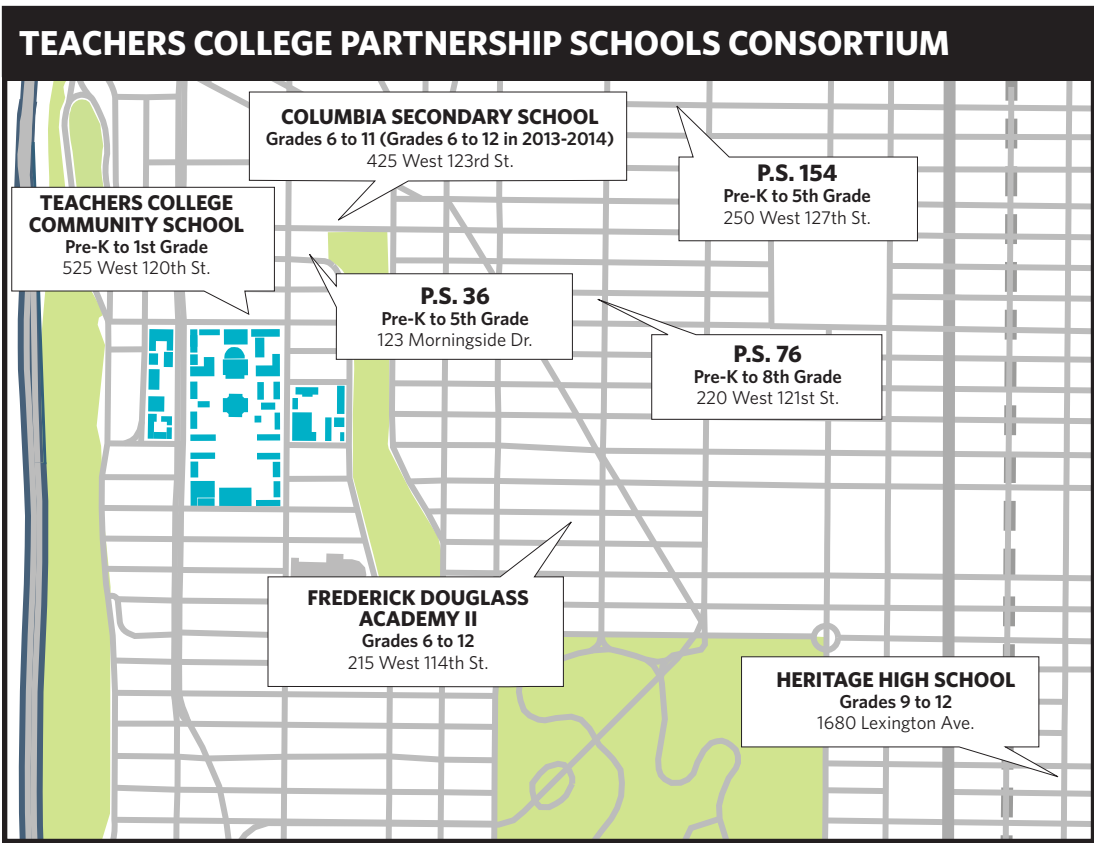
SCHOOLS from front page

away with viable ways to meet those goals.”

TC has also set up after-school programs in digital storytelling, which is designed to improve literacy; instructional technologies, which teach skills through computer programs; and health literacy, to promote nutrition and exercise, according to Hayes.

Perkins said that, while he experienced lopsided partnerships with universities when he was president of a school board in Connecticut, he does not believe that will be the case with the consortium.

“The partnerships have to work two ways,” he said. “It has to be that the university is doing more than research and serving as a laboratory for its students. It has to make an investment in the school, as TC does.”



INFORMATION COURTESY OF TEACHERS COLLEGE / GRAPHIC BY BENJAMIN BROMBERG GABER

Hayes said that she sees securing resources as the greatest challenge the program faces.

“We need to make sure we have the resources to effectively meet all the needs—financial

as well as the human capacity,” she said.

“It’s not always easy to get people involved who have traditionally or historically not been,” Perkins said. “One challenge is

re-engaging parents in a way that makes them full partners, and helping them understand their role in educating their children.”

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Fireside chat addresses journalism, arts, globalism

FIRESIDE from front page

Aziza Jamgerchinova, a student at the Business School, asked about the future of digital journalism, pointing out that the appointment of Sree Sreenivasan as Columbia’s first chief digital officer in July was followed by the announcement in October that Journalism School Dean Nicholas Lemann would step down at the end of the year.

Bollinger criticized the journalism industry for not foreseeing the decline of print media sooner. “It had seemed impossible, ten years ago, for journalists to conceive of a day where people wouldn’t read the newspaper in the morning over breakfast,” he said. But applications to the J-School are increasing, in part because “we don’t know where we are going in digital journalism.”

On top of that, he added, Columbia has been active this year in pursuing online course education through sites like Coursera.

“I think in terms of how we can advance knowledge—I am lousy at asking how best to make a profit,” Bollinger said.

When Gianluca Tarozzi, a student in the School of Engineering and Applied Science’s civil engineering master’s program, asked what exactly the Global Centers—a favorite topic of Bollinger’s—were intended for, Bollinger remarked, “These are a lot of big questions.” As a response, he asked attendees to raise their hand if they had been to China—about six hands went up—and then to California—when the majority of those in the room raised their hands.

“This relates to affirmative

action as well,” Bollinger said. “This is my world, but it will soon be your world. There’s no reason for us at Columbia to not know the world as well as we should know the United States.”

The event, held in Bollinger’s Morningside Drive manor, is one of the few that brings together students from Columbia’s 14 graduate schools. Wanda Montalvo, a doctoral student at the School of Nursing, said that she was interested in hearing from other students about their graduate school experiences.

“If someone like me in nursing were interested in the business side, there is really not a welcoming attitude,” she said. “But I think there’s great opportunity in learning from each other.”

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Abu-Manneh’s former students present petition to BC admins

TENURE from front page

amazing professor like professor Abu-Manneh could be leaving Barnard,” Rimawi said. “I think this calls into question the transparency of the tenure process.”

“I think that the Barnard administration would expect nothing less of its Barnard students” than to question the college’s motivations, she added.

Though Spar emphasized that the decision is final, Elshami said she hopes “that this example of independent student mobilization can empower other students and compel them to play a part in University politics.”

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DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

KEEPING UP | As a leading scorer on the team, senior guard Tyler Simpson is expected to play a key role in the Lions’ effort to match the offensive numbers of Army on Wednesday.

Against Army, Lions face dual challenge

BASKETBALL from back page

this year that has let us down—it has been a lack of production on offense. We are looking to have a breakthrough game on Wednesday and really put some points on the board,” he said.

In terms of finding consistent offensive hustle, senior guard Brittany Simmons has been a bright spot.

Last week, Ott said that every player on the team should strive to match Simmons’ hustle.

“I think the only thing you really need on a basketball team to keep going is energy,” Ott said. “Brittany is a great source of energy every time we get on the court, so I have tried to follow in her footsteps, and I thrive off of her energy, and the whole team does.”

In light of Army’s strong start to the year and the Lions’ periodic scoring droughts, Nixon said that the Lions “are going to have to regroup and bring a different game plan to the table.”

“I am very confident that our team will execute that game plan and be able to come out on top,” he said.

After battling injuries in recent games, Simpson and senior forward Courtney Bradford will be ready to play at full strength against Army on Wednesday. Nixon said they are both “going to be at 100 percent.”

The action starts Wednesday at 7 p.m. away in West Point, N.Y.

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CONTACT US
2875 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10025
info@columbiaspectator.com
Twitter: @ColumbiaSpec

PHONE & FAX
Daily Spectator (212) 854-9549
Business (212) 854-9550
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Ending solitude on the holidays

BY REBECCA ARBACHER

Campus was buzzing last week as students discussed plans for our short—albeit much-needed—Thanksgiving break. Excitement was building for those who got the chance to return home, to visit with friends and family and eat obscene amounts of home-cooked food. Thanksgiving is just that kind of all-American holiday—it’s appealing regardless of your religious denomination, ethnic background, or region. It gives everyone a chance to shift focus away from looming finals and never-ending homework, and to recuperate from the beating of the country’s most stressful school. For those who can’t return home, we can and should make this opportunity possible by finding another Columbia family for them to spend their break with.

Amid hasty goodbyes and the hustle and bustle of departure, we often neglect those who are staying on campus—unable as they are to share in our joy and relief. Whether it’s because their families are across the ocean or across the continent, or simply because they don’t have a family to go home to, students left behind on campus during the holidays may not find it a cheery prospect, particularly when most of the student body is gone. The absence of students can dramatically affect the morale and sense of belonging of a significant portion of Columbia’s population. Moreover, it’s easily remedied.

There are plenty of us, myself included, who live within hours of Columbia and have the financial means to host another student for the duration of break. Columbia’s culture in particular encourages an incredible amount of independence and a dedicated work ethic, which is why it’s nice to get home and be taken care of. Including classmates in Thanksgiving and whatever else it is your family chooses to do over break would give them a welcome relief from the isolation of campus, forlorn with closed dining halls and empty dorms.

For those who may not have friends living locally or may not feel comfortable asking, Columbia should start a program that pairs students who are staying over a break, for lack of a better alternative, with willing and eager hosts. I know they’re out there—anecdotally, I heard two people in my hall arguing over who got to bring their Korean friend home over Thanksgiving. Having students hosting other Columbians they may or may not have crossed paths with would help connect our student body and pave the way for new perspectives, ideas, and friends. It would also provide international (or transnational) students a home away from home, letting them recharge before the long slog that is exam season.

Such a program would also give participants a taste of the melting pot that is the United States. I’m a Marylander born and raised, and there are cultural aspects of our country that I know nothing about. New York City is an incredible environment in which to attend school, but it’s a microcosm in and of itself—anything but representative of the rest of the country. Any opportunity to see a different lifestyle is a good thing, at least in my book. When I was in seventh grade, my family hosted an exchange student from Indonesia—a wonderfully sweet young woman who had never seen snow or dealt with the sheer chaos of Black Friday. To give her as rich an experience as possible, family friends included her on their holiday trips around the country. At the end of the year, this was the most gratifying and rewarding part for her—not only did she have a loving American family, she got to experience how other American families celebrated during the holidays.

The Columbia administration is always encouraging events and activities that promote cohesiveness and release stress. Pairing students with a friendly home to visit over break would require little oversight and even less overhead, and would raise spirits across campus. Everyone should have a home for the holidays.

The author is a Columbia College first-year and a Spectator copy staffer.

STAFF EDITORIAL

A shot of success

Last Tuesday, the men’s basketball team traveled to Villanova and upset the home side 75-57. The Light Blue has not beaten the Wildcats since 1969. Needless to say, a surprise win in a marquee sport over a historic powerhouse is something that Columbians have not seen for a very long time.

On a campus where varsity sports are often given a less-than-lukewarm reception, and at a time when the average student has perhaps been accustomed to expect disappointment in the major spectator sports—namely, football and basketball—the Light Blue’s performance at Villanova was a welcome change of pace. Putting aside what one may think about the role of athletics at Columbia, last Tuesday’s win was something all of us, whether die-hard fan or casual observer, collectively enjoy.

The win over Villanova belongs to the players on the floor that night and to their coaches, but the rest of us who streamed the game on WatchESPN and posted on our Facebooks and Twitters joined in on their celebrations. Watching the Lions hold on to their lead as the seconds ticked down was fun—and there is very little anyone can say to take away that feeling.

The men’s basketball team is one of a few things on campus that can arouse such a sense of unity among Columbians, and it has relatively few opportunities in its schedule to pull off such a feat. Granted, Villanova is in a downturn in its program with a notably weak recruitment class. But the Light Blue, to its credit, took advantage of a rare chance and made some noise, putting Columbia’s name on the map in the basketball world. Regardless of the circumstances, the Lions gave all Columbians a genuine reason to feel optimistic about an upcoming athletics season.

We are constantly mindful of the remarkable accomplishments from everywhere on this campus. For the past week, however, the attention has been on the basketball team, and we should all be happy for them.

Being thankful

Often get asked what brings all Columbians together. Well, there are some things that immediately come to mind: the great community that is built by the Core Curriculum, our love for debate and philosophizing, and our propensity to go to Wall Street. But, I know in the back of my head that we all are also united in our love of complaining.

It’s almost as if the Office of Undergraduate Admissions is looking for that exact trait in our applications. I almost wouldn’t be surprised. And unfortunately, the negativity starts far too soon after we arrive on campus. After the droll of convocation sets in, and we get over the first days of that college high, the new experiences, and environment, we start delving into our culture of complaining. All of a sudden, the NSOP events aren’t that great, the John Jay food starts to become less and less appetizing, our football team is losing, and we don’t seem to remember why we even came here.

But look at this culture we’ve created. We always seem to pass off these complaints as jokes or snide remarks to our friends, but perhaps we’re actually hurting ourselves by thinking so negatively. We’ve systematically embodied an environment in which we have a hard time thinking positively when we are entrenched with pessimism. When our student body is focused on what we don’t have and what our school is lacking, how can anyone expect anything different? Just take a look at the types of things that the other columnists and I write about. We don’t always riddle our columns with complaints, but we often do, whether we’re discussing the Center for Career Education not being up to par with other schools or the lack of student space on campus.

It’s probably too easy to say that thinking positively helps, but it’s true. Look at the science. Countless studies have shown that thinking positively can release endorphins, the neurotransmitters commonly known as the “feel-good” chemical. But what’s the risk when you think negatively? Well, according to a study by Mental Health America, people who were pessimistic had a 20 percent higher chance of dying over a 30-year period than people who were optimistic. I’m not trying to scare anyone into thinking positively, but rather to show that the way we think about ourselves, our school, and our environment can have detrimental effects.



RYAN CHO
Let’s Be Real



JULIA JARRETT

Recognizing the problem

BY BENJI DE LA PIEDRA

Whenever we talk about fixing our community’s broken education system, we implicitly presume that we have correctly diagnosed the problem. At Columbia Students for Education Reform, we have conventionally started every semester with a discussion of “the achievement gap” between poor students of color and their wealthy white peers.

At this point, the conversation could mightily benefit from a thoughtful change in key. The achievement gap is not the cause, but a symptom of a larger problem in public schools across the country—those in Columbia’s own backyard are no exception. Before we college students can even begin to talk about an achievement gap, we have to think hard about something that I have come to call “the recognition gap” that exists between individual school environments.

Before going any further, let me first venture a definition. What does it mean when I say that I’ve been “recognized”? I mean that someone else has grasped some part of my identity, communicated that understanding back to me, and in a sense, confirmed my existence for me. In a very basic way, a moment of recognition between two people establishes an intimate relationship between them, predicated on a reciprocal understanding of each other as individual human beings with unique sets of formative experiences. The philosopher Charles Taylor has referred to such positive recognition as “a vital human need”—our senses of self are shaped and reshaped by a lifetime’s worth of interactions within varying social scenes.

To illustrate, let me describe two worlds for you. Before Columbia, I was fortunate enough to attend a small, private international school situated on a beautiful campus, where security guards would shake students’ hands and wave to parents, and where well-paid teachers carried out the school’s mission of “educating responsible and effective global citizens.” This semester, I have been teaching an American literature class to a group of five high school juniors at the Double Discovery Center. They all go to big, drab, underfunded schools a stone’s throw away from our campus, where a student might more readily expect to be stopped and frisked than be asked to speak up in class or participate in an after-school enrichment program.

Now, in which of these educational environments would you say a given child is more likely to enjoy an intimate and fulfilling sense of recognition? And which would provide its students with a greater sense of possibility beyond the age of

Students are slowly starting to realize this epidemic here on campus, and I think the attitude is slowly beginning to change. We’ve seen groups of students come together to initiate the Student Wellness Project and the Columbia Compliments Facebook page. These two groups alone—although there have been many other student organizations pushing for wellness and adding positivity to our campus—have helped reformat the conversations that we have during stressful periods of our lives here on campus. Whenever a group like this throws an event, there are always countless replies about how Columbia needs this, how this is something so different for Columbia. But it shouldn’t have to be something described as foreign or alien to our university—it should be natural.

As individuals, we need to start looking at all the great opportunities we have here at Columbia. This column follows the Thanksgiving season, but we need to turn the holiday season into a systemic outlook on our experiences here in Morningside Heights. As the semester continues on and we enter the finals season, we have to look at all the great things that we have at our institution. Tomorrow, we’ll have the annual Tree Lighting and Yule Log Ceremony, one of my favorite traditions here at Columbia before the start of the winter season. It’s these types of events that bring our student body together, and that we should use to discover the great things about Columbia.

And there is more to be thankful for. We are fortunate to have professors who care about us as undergraduates and take time from their departments to teach us in Literature Humanities, who invite us over to their houses for dinner, and who spend countless hours in their offices, letting us pick their brains for their advice, wisdom, and knowledge. We are fortunate to attend a small school with a campus community in the middle of New York City and to be able to run into and pass by people whom we know every day. We are fortunate to have made really good friends who have our backs through some of the most difficult decisions and times during our college career. We are fortunate to be surrounded by people who are passionate about their interests. And even in what is described as an impenetrable bureaucracy, we are fortunate to know who our administrators are, and to have deans who say hello and interact with us on a regular basis.

These are all things that brought us to Columbia, and they still exist. Let’s remember that.

Ryan Cho is a Columbia College senior majoring in political science. He is president of the Multicultural Greek Council and a member of Lambda Phi Epsilon. Let’s Be Real runs alternate Wednesdays.

18? (Hint: It’s the same one.)

In his novel “Invisible Man,” the American writer Ralph Ellison offers a simple formula: “Responsibility rests upon recognition, and recognition is a form of agreement.” Responsibility, we should note, is a contextually defined term. When I say that I’m accepting responsibility for my actions, it means that I’m willingly playing by rules that someone else has set for me—hence, responsibility is also a form of agreement, the individual’s voluntary alignment with the best interests of his or her community in a given moment of time.

The vast majority of children in local classrooms will soon be participating in public life as American citizens. Of all things, our community’s public schools are uniquely positioned to cultivate a deep and pragmatic sense of responsibility in their children, working to ensure the fairness and productivity of the next generation of American democracy.

Children and adults alike will only take responsibility for those things which they hold close to their hearts, the things for which their loved ones positively recognize them. It is easy to say that a poor black boy from Harlem or Washington Heights should just “accept responsibility” and start educating himself, even if he happens to attend the same terrible school as all the other poor black boys. It is also easy to think you know everything about the quality of a school just by looking at its metrics. What is not easy is convincing kids from historically alienated populations that the state has come up with a curriculum that is worth their time. The task of negotiating this tension falls most squarely on the shoulders of the living, thinking, recognizing teacher standing at the front of the classroom.

Working at the DDC this year, I have heard the excitement in my students’ speech as we discuss the personal implications of the narrator’s “invisibility” in Ellison’s novel, which is incidentally set in the neighborhood which we all share, Harlem. I have also seen it in the eyes of my 12th-grade college mentee, who is delving into deeper introspection than ever before in his life as we work together on his college essay. Being such a newcomer to education’s political scene, I have come to realize that real education reform is about empowering future citizens to realize their possibilities, one collaborative learning moment at a time. As students who work in and hope to reform our local education landscape, I challenge all of us to ground our education policy debates at Columbia in recognition of the plain facts: The human child’s potential matters most, because the future is always his or hers to create.

The author is a Columbia College junior majoring in American studies. He is president of the Columbia chapter of Students for Education Reform and he volunteers at the Double Discovery Center.

The Canon

“What is love at Columbia?”

FROM THE EDITOR:

Surely, there are no truths universally acknowledged at Columbia. Even if any such truths exist, they are probably not about love.

As a humble editor of a college daily, I am in no position to be dispensing Austenian advice on love. But neither are any of these authors.

More than anything, the authors are themselves the matters of their works, and though you may find such subjects vain and frivolous, it would not be unreasonable to spend your leisure on them.

Every week *The Canon* features nothing more than personal perspectives, writing in which the authors are their own subject matter. Asking open-ended questions focusing on timeless topics begs for partial and personal answers.

We will not come any closer to understanding love, just as we have not come closer to understanding any other subject previously featured in *The Canon*. But as I said in our very first issue, the value is in the discussion, and I am merely providing a venue.

For one last time, I am providing a venue. So farewell.

LANBO ZHANG
Editorial Page Editor

Heart of darkness

Among my favorite literary explorations of love comes in the form of Virgil’s “Aeneid.” The Lit Hum staple captures many facets of love: love as parental duty, love as patriotic fervor, love as erotic passion, love as self-destruction. Overall, one might say that the righteous love is that which corresponds to fated duty. Love that contravenes duty is quickly dissolved no matter how enthralling. Just think of poor Dido, who could do nothing to keep Aeneas in Carthage. “Forgetful of [his] kingdom and fate!” and unstirred by the “glory of destiny,” Aeneas wastes “idle hours in Libya’s lands,” as well as Dido’s loins, given the subtext (read between the loins?). But when Mercury confronts him at Jupiter’s request, Aeneas quickly realizes the risk his fascination with Dido poses to the larger project of his life as the young leader of the vagabond Trojans. He resolves to leave at once. Dido, with her intelligence and lover’s constitution, senses something is amiss. Inconsolable, she laments, “Will my love not hold you, nor the pledge I once gave you, nor the promise that Dido will die a cruel death?”

It might seem hyperbolic, but the burden of harmony between love and destiny might be a good rule for love in the college setting. If we think about Columbia as the launchpad for the “project” of our lives, then our relationships and dalliances will either support the progression of that project, or take us off the right track. I don’t mean to suggest that we are meant to be looking for the first lady to our presidential aspirations, or the doubles partner to our U.S. Open dreams. Rather, I would venture that the projects we are pursuing here, more narrowly defining our fields of interest while expanding our knowledge of the world, can be broadly considered a “search for beauty.” With this understanding, Columbia is the nucleus from which our hunt for beauty begins. It is where we begin to live life as an aesthetic experience. The pursuit of beauty, however the individual may choose to define the term, emanates from the sights we see, the books we read, the things we do, and—maybe in this contemporary moment—the scenes we Instagram.

We are seekers of beauty, and when we go out on weekends looking for a hookup at a bar, or heading to a date, that search mustn’t cease. Presuming that the experience of love truly arises when relationships get more serious, the burden of duty really comes into play. If we are going to spend hours with our beloved, they cannot be idle hours, for our kingdom and our fate may remain unfulfilled! But who doesn’t like sitting in bed reading, or watching a movie, or going downtown and walking around window shopping and eating ice cream? Who doesn’t like visiting the Met just to look at paintings you have seen tens of times with new, more loving eyes, or to linger over dinner, or to go to a concert and dance while wildly drunk without a care in the world? Should we fear these “idle” hours, or are they somehow useful?

To love at Columbia is to find a person with whom every activity suffuses life with a particular beauty. Yes, I just wrote that. In this rose-tinted view, the movies, museums, magazines, meals, meetings, moments, and meanderings of a life lived with another become the fodder for countless discussions, small and large, that bring the projects of our lives into sharper relief. We ought to love those who help us grasp the gravity of duty, by giving us a small window into what it means to be codependent, be it for one week, one month, one year, or until “death do us part.” We ought to love those whose life’s projects, whether tentative and exploratory or definitive and obligatory, invigorate our own efforts to make something of ourselves. We ought to love those who give us pause and help us to be deliberative in our attempts at fruition. This love doesn’t have to be wildly intense, nor does it have to be all-encompassing. But if it is going to be a part of one’s time at Columbia, it better not be trivial or superficial to the point of waste. Feel guilty for hours spent idly, because if you are discussing Lauren Conrad when you would rather be discussing Joseph Conrad, it isn’t worth a heart of darkness just to roam those hills.

Esfandiyar Batmanghelidj is a Columbia College junior majoring in political science and Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African studies. He contributes regularly to The Canon.

I didn’t find love at Columbia, except that I did

BY EMILY TAMKIN

“you like love right?”

That was the subject line of the email wherein the editor of this page (yes, this one) asked me to write a piece, no more than 600 words, answering the question, “What is love at Columbia?”

I had expected the email to contain a link to an ironic article, or an announcement in the New York Times wedding section, and was more than a little surprised to receive this request. I think many things about myself, but “girl who is known for loving love” is not one of them. I’ve never even owned a heart-shaped pendant (this, Reader, is the mark of all true lovers of love).

I was going to respond to the editor of this page that I was in no position to define love at Columbia. I spent most of my time as an undergraduate single. I did not graduate planning on shacking up (we still say that, right?) with some boy. I did complain plenty, with friends of both genders, about the seeming dearth of love on campus, and about how people either hooked up or remained in the same relationships in which they had always been, and about how it just didn’t

seem like any of us prioritized love at all. When the chorus of Rihanna’s “We Found Love” (In a Hopeless Place) came on, I used to scream, “Columbia!” (In hindsight, I did this more consistently than I should have.) But then I realized that none of this means that I didn’t find love at Columbia.

I found love in Literature Humanities. I found it as Dante followed Beatrice (although personally I always thought that he could have done better, but I digress). I found it as Socrates and company drunkenly debated what love is in Plato’s “Symposium.” (It turns out love is being pregnant with knowledge, but only if you’re a man.) I found it as Odysseus made his way back to Penelope, having been away from home for a war waged over a woman. And I found it in the conversations I had with my other, equally clueless 17- and 18-year-old peers, trying to wrap our nervous minds around these subjects, as large and lofty as we were small.

I found love in my Russian literature classes, wherein I learned that love means never having to say, “But what do you mean you’re leaving me after I ran off with you and committed acts that cannot be named in 19th-century novels? I’m ruined!” I found love for those books, and for the language in which they were written, and for the places that the course of study I chose took me during college and has taken me since.

I found love in the interest and enthusiasm with which I committed myself to the clubs and organizations I joined, and in the bonds forged with other students who did the same.

I found love walking on Columbia’s campus early in the morning, when nobody else was around and

it felt like the whole thing belonged to me. I found love walking on the Steps when they were covered with people and it felt like the whole thing belonged to all of us.

I found love with New York City.

I found love with the people with whom I discussed love during my time at Columbia—with the friends with whom I fell down laughing (and sometimes, if I am being honest, crying) over how sad and silly the state of love at Columbia is.

When the chorus of Rihanna’s “We Found Love” (In a Hopeless Place) came on, I used to scream, “Columbia!”

I found love with the person I came to be at Columbia, and I found love with Columbia for making me that person.

This is not how I would have answered the question, “What is love at Columbia?” when I entered college, because that’s the whole point: Columbia makes you see love, at Columbia and everywhere else in the world, differently. That, to me, was love at Columbia. And in that sense, yes, editor. I like love.

The author is a Columbia College graduate of the class of 2012. She is a former Spectator editorial page editor.

There’s no ‘I’ in college

I’m incredibly fortunate in that one week from today, my parents will celebrate 25 years of being happily married. That’s 25 years of mama and papa slow-dancing around the kitchen table singing along to Dean Martin’s “That’s Amore.” Mama and papa sharing bottles of wine by candlelight. Mama and papa breaking out a guitar and serenading each other with 1960s Bollywood ballads. Mama and papa growing old together, acting like children while raising their own.

So, I’ll admit it. I’ve been taught, by relentless demonstration, that romance is real. I am, to a fault, biased in favor of love. I haven’t gone five minutes of adulthood without crushing hard on some unsuspecting boy, I fell asleep during “Shawshank Redemption” but could watch “Love Actually” back-to-back all day, and cuddling is my favorite activity. I am that love-chasing, PDAing, nauseating person, and I will argue, to the death, that companionship (be it romantic, platonic, or familial) is the most essential component of happiness and individual growth.

Enter Columbia University.

“The first week I came to Columbia, I knew the deal,” says one Bwog commenter. “I called my mom and said ‘forget about me having a boyfriend/dating.’ It’s not happening here.” Seven thumbs up. “Love does not exist here,” claims a second. Twenty thumbs up. “One of the main problems,” explains a third, “is that the general atmosphere just isn’t conducive to real dating.” Fifty thumbs up.

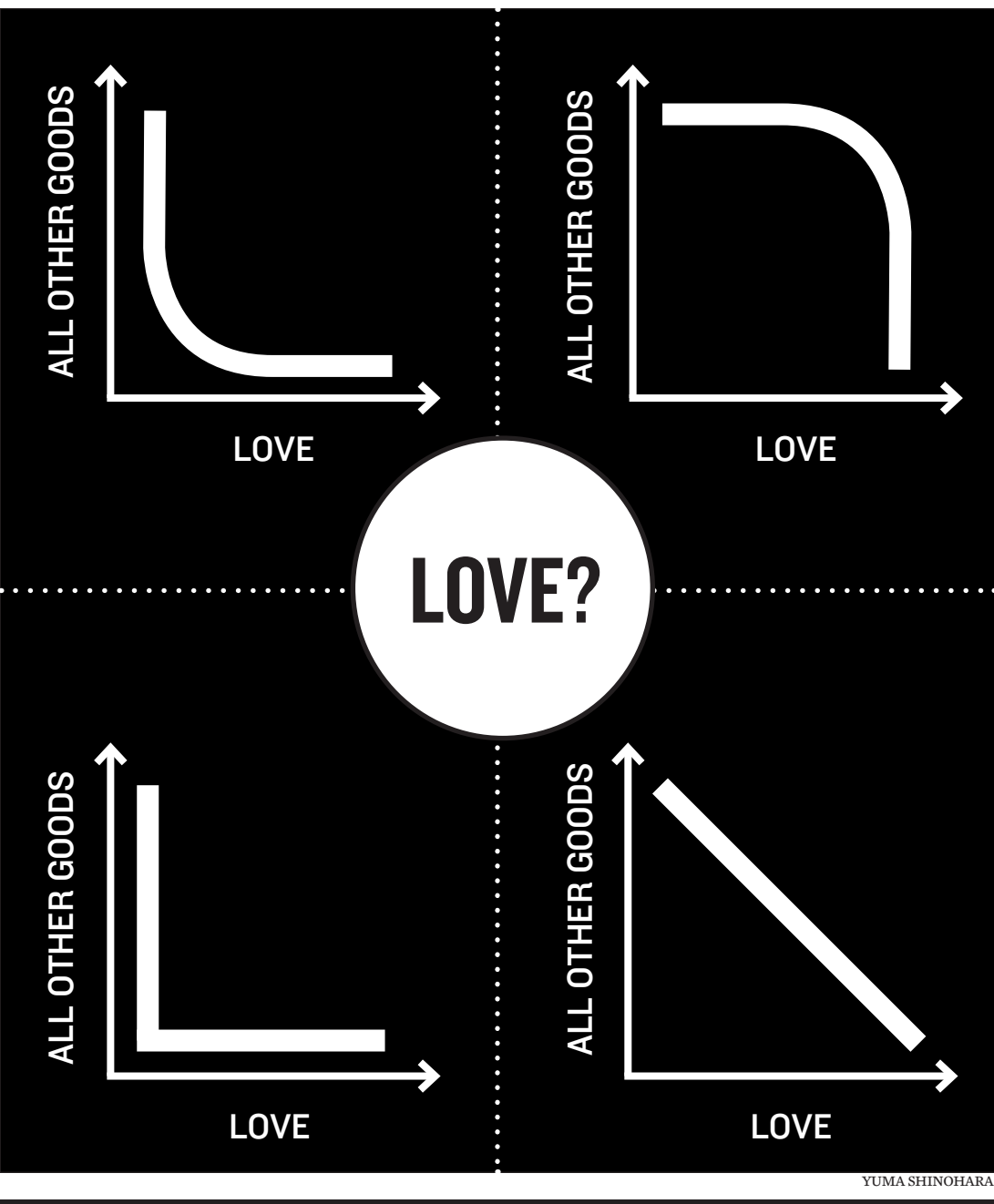
The “general atmosphere” at Columbia is a nebulous and often-debated thing, my understanding of which is wrapped up in buzzwords. Stress. Competition. Pressure. It is an atmosphere that, starting with our acceptance letters, has rewarded us for beating others out, for being overwhelmingly Type A, and for getting ahead. Even for those of us who want to, being in a relationship is at odds with our goals as Columbia students: It requires time that we must spend doing homework, energy that we don’t have left after our internships, and mind-space that’s currently occupied by our extracurriculars. Although we’re taught to be critical at every turn, this is a mindset we’ve donned unquestioningly. We’ve quietly forgotten to ask ourselves: Really, is that what college is for?

If we were to remember that our success as college students isn’t measured by GPAs and job offers, but rather by our growth into well-rounded and independent individuals, perhaps it would seem more rational to take the time to nurture friendships. If we could remind ourselves once in a while that we are not here to become lists of credentials, but rather to learn as much as possible from those around us, maybe we would understand that relationships are essential to our being educated. If we could step back from the daily grind long enough to remember that college is not a means to a professional or academic end, but a personal one, I think we would be able to look up from our laptops long enough to fall in love.

A little over a year ago, a Columbia student named Gray skipped his introductory Russian class and, instead, spent the afternoon turning New York City into a giant scavenger hunt. It was set in motion at 6 p.m., when I left work and the building security guard handed me the first clue. Two hours later, when I had been sent scavenging to and through various rom-com landmarks by a host of kind strangers wielding love letters, I found Gray at the edge of Central Park with a picnic of chicken tikka masala, asking me if I’d like to be his girlfriend.

Whether we’re challenging each other’s philosophical assumptions, getting each other through loss and fear, teaching each other our languages and cultures, being critical of each others’ work, looking out for each others’ wellness, keeping each other on task, or simply nudging and guiding and protecting and holding each other on the tortuous path to becoming realized adults, I’ve said yes every day since.

Rega Jha is a Columbia College senior majoring in creative writing. She contributes regularly to The Canon.



Taking chances

BY NICK PARKER

On a scale from one to 1020, how forward are you?

Do you ever wish you were more forward? We all have a “one that got away”—do you have two, maybe three? Do you spend your nights loaded on wine, wondering why the cute guy in your Spanish class hasn’t asked you for your number yet? (Hint: He is gay.) Do you sweat through your “How I Met Your Mother”-themed tee when you attempt the phrase “you’re cute”? Are you in love with your poster of Benedict Cumberbatch? Do you live in Furnald?

Now, you don’t want to be too forward: We’ve all heard tales of the phantom creepers of Lerner Party Space, the raging monsters who barfed in your Ruggles suite, and the girls and guys who prey on their TAs. But come on now: We all want to get laid, or at least to know that someone we like likes us. That’s what college dating is about. So when you want it, and you know who you want it with, it might do some good to be candid with your target.

Does this sound familiar: You’ve just met, re-connected with, or bumped into someone on campus. You’re interested, and you might be getting signals—but it’s uncertain. Did you mean to touch my arm, or is it crowded in here? Are you texting me because you like me, or because you’re nice? Am I funny or are you just drunk? You ask your friends for advice, for interpretation, but to no avail. Your crush is a murky, confounding, odd, unnavigable mess, and analyzing your communications only leads to stress. Not much has changed since high school, right?

What has changed, though, is that the stakes are lower and your chances are better. If you blow this one, it’s not like you have to see them every day (but be prepared for crippling shame when you do). Also, odds are that you’ll succeed, especially if she’s read on Thought Catalog that “taking a chance on a weird-looking but sweet guy” is one of the “22 Things You Should Do Before Turning 22.” Even if you don’t, there are plenty of fish in the SEAS (ha!). If you don’t try at all, you definitely won’t score. Attractive people don’t just

fall into your lap (unless you’re one of the guys in Sharp)—you have to go get them.

Tons of friends tell me (read: I am popular) that they’ve started hanging out with someone cute, and then they jokingly declare, “I just want to ask them if they wanna hook up!” But why is this a joke? Imagine: no more misinterpretation, no more friend zone. Men would save a fortune on alcohol. There’s no downside!

Of course there is. It’s moot because I barely follow my own advice—which means it’s hardly advice at all. Personal experience does not bode well: I know this total moron (me) who serenaded a girl in the Wallach lounge with an original song in his freshman year. It was bad. (If you see me after reading this op-ed, do not bring up this story. I will vomit from embarrassment.) We’re afraid, rightfully, of bravery’s “rewards”: rejection, bruised ego, acquaintances lost. I fear that if I’m so blunt, my victim will run off and giggle about me with all her friends and then I will become that creepy “forever alone” guy.

If you don’t try at all, you definitely won’t score.

But when I found myself with a more intense unrequited romantic interest a little while later, I just told her how I felt—we’re still friends. I recently learned that a close friend from high school had serious feelings for me, and she told me she regretted never going for it. I think it’s better to suck it up and be real with those sexy folks around you—just be tactful, respectful, and nice. Don’t get creepy if you fail. Just walk away, knowing you’ve got some balls/ovaries.

So let’s be more direct the next go-around. It’ll save everyone a hell of a lot of time, which we could really use for going to Butler, catching up on sleep, or—best-case scenario—having sex with each other. Come on, y’all: instant love at 1020, Columbia Compliments—love is in the air!

Columbia, I hope you’ll go out and get horny this weekend. I know I will be...

...waiting to see if a girl I’m interested in follows my advice first, and gives me a call.

The author is a Columbia College junior majoring in creative writing and mathematics.

Renaissance fan

In 1965, journalist George Plimpton wrote “Paper Lion: Confessions of a Last-String Quarterback,” a book that chronicles his quest to become the Detroit Lions’ third-string quarterback. “Paper Lion” is astounding for Plimpton’s ability to get a team to agree to this bizarre experiment, something that would never happen today.



DAVID FINE

The Whole Fine Yards

The more subtle surprise of “Paper Lion,” however, lies in Plimpton’s lack of understanding of the sport when he starts practicing with the team. Plimpton, the man who put sports writing on the map, the man who founded the Paris Review, for God’s sake, is given a playbook and needs to have nearly every route explained to him, every standard football formation laid out from the beginning, for him to understand.

Reading “Paper Lion,” it is hard to imagine Plimpton as the godfather of sports writing that he was, because if he were to be judged by the standards of my peers today, he would not be considered a real sports fan. The NFL has become increasingly specialized and professionalized, and it seems that fans have come along for the ride.

Professionalization started with the unprecedented growth in revenue the NFL experienced in the past few decades. Football’s true era of dominance started in 1961 when Congress legislated the NFL as a legal monopoly, paving the way for the league to use the power of all its teams when negotiating lucrative contracts. Since then, the NFL’s monopoly has efficiently thrown its collective weight around, reaping eye-popping revenue along the way.

In 1989, the NFL grossed \$943 million in total revenue, marking the last time that number would stay south of the billion-dollar mark. Since then, the NFL’s total yearly revenue has grown at a fast clip, with analysts estimating that the NFL will close out with over \$12 billion this year.

Big money breeds professionalization, which breeds wider-scale popularity, which in turn breeds even more money, creating a positive feedback loop for the NFL.

A pervasive change that this loop has bred is the increasing professionalization that the game now traffics in.

Professionalization has led to better games, better teams, and even relative parity in the league—all good things for football—but it also lends an aura of technical proficiency to every facet of the game. For players, this makes sense. Salaries approach small country GDP levels, so players need to be obsessive about every stat, play route, and element of the game.

At some point, though, this obsessiveness bled over to the fan side, creating an atmosphere in which the George Plimptons of the sports world could never survive. There is no room for the philosophizing fan: the person who feels passion and fire when watching a game but does not have the time or the compunction to memorize stats, play routes, and player positions.

In that fan’s place, you have fans like my good friend and recent Columbia alumnus Rami Levi, who has dedicated his postgraduate life to criticizing my attempt to convert from a Cowboys to a Giants football fan.

Rami, a Jets lifer, is by no means a casual sports fan, which is great. His noble opprobrium at every Jets loss is awe-inspiring to behold. But his fierceness and the mechanized thoroughness of his fanhood—his professionalization—has come at the cost of the Plimptonesque fan. In a recent Facebook screed (where all good discourse is had), he condemned my attempt to become a New York sports fan, claiming I don’t fulfill his strict requirements for becoming one because, “Your sports knowledge, a source of infinite pride for NY sports fans, is suspect at best.”

True, every sports fan requires baseline knowledge, but the constricting standards that the likes of Rami impose on New York fanhood require prospective fans to spend their entire lives living and breathing New York sports. It is a total system with an impossibly high admission price. Fan professionalization shuts out the renaissance fan, and the sports world is poorer for that. By Rami’s standard, both George Plimpton and I could never be New York sports fans, and that’s company I’m more than happy to keep.

David Fine is a senior in Columbia College majoring in history. He is a senior editor of The Current and chair of the Student Governing Board. The Whole Fine Yards runs biweekly. sports@columbiaspectator.com



MIKE DISCENZA / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

RED-DY FOR ANYTHING | Sophomore Grace Redmon started most games in the goal this season for the Lions.

New coach, goalies look to build on season’s showing

BY STEPHEN BABENDREIER
Spectator Staff Writer

Although the women’s soccer team’s record this season (6-9-1, 2-4-1 Ivy) was less than attention-grabbing, one statistic was not.

After losing last season’s starting goalkeeper, Lillian Klein, to graduation, the Lions were forced to rely on a group of talented but inexperienced goalkeepers for this year. The goalkeeping unit, composed entirely of underclassmen, not only filled the void left by Klein’s departure, but also improve on the team’s 2011 performance, increasing its save percentage from 0.787 to 0.827.

This improvement coincided with the arrival of goalkeeper coach Nathan Kipp, a former Duke goalkeeper coach and a coach in the Women’s Professional Soccer League. Kipp met women’s soccer head coach Kevin McCarthy when he was just starting his coaching career at Iona College back in 2003. Kipp went on to work for a number of collegiate programs before advancing into the professional coaching game, where he most recently worked with New Jersey team Sky Blue FC.

But when the WPSL suspended play earlier this year, Kipp was eager to get back into the college game. Since he was living close to New York City, he reached out to McCarthy to inquire about joining the staff as a goalkeeper coach.

“I approached him saying, look, I want to get back in the college game and I’m anxious to do some coaching with

some younger players who are not quite as far along in their development cycle,” Kipp said.

The academic rigor at Columbia is what attracted Kipp to the Lions’ soccer program. Ivy League athletes bring their academic prowess to the game of soccer, Kipp said—they are students of the game.

“I always enjoyed coaching soccer players who are also intellectuals,” Kipp said.

Kipp brought his own coaching philosophy with him to Columbia. He believes that goalkeepers must be taught individually because they each have a different approach to playing the game. The relationship between a goalkeeper coach and his players could be equated to that of a baseball pitching coach and his pitchers—Kipp has to find ways to maximize the unique personal abilities of each individual goalkeeper.

The three goalkeepers, Jourdan Sayers, Grace Redmon, and Gabby Dubick, said that Kipp has been successful, especially by introducing new techniques such as filming their practices. Kipp’s players all spoke highly of his training techniques and the individual attention he provides.

Despite breaking her foot in the pre-season, sophomore Jourdan Sayers cited Kipp’s individual help and attention as major factors in quickening her return to the game.

“When I did come back, I had a lot of difficulty diving to the side that I broke, and so there were a few times that he stayed late at practice with me just to

break that down, and to really focus at regaining the basic technique,” Sayers said.

This year’s women’s soccer team offered Kipp the unique opportunity to coach young, developing keepers eager to improve their respective games. The lack of an established upperclassman keeper has led to a healthy competitiveness within the goalkeeping unit, and the goalkeepers being so close in age adds to the competitiveness. They also said they spur each other on.

“I don’t think it would matter if they were seniors or juniors or we were all freshmen. We would all come in every day with an attitude that wants to train, wants to work hard, wants to win and do what’s best for the team,” freshman goalkeeper Gabby Dubick said.

Although sophomore Grace Redmon started the most games in the net this season, all three keepers have good shots at the starting job for next season.

“Every season is an open book, and even though we had a situation this year with one goalkeeper playing the majority of minutes, we’re not locked into that. We’re not locked into Grace. She will have to earn that starting spot next year,” Kipp said.

Next season’s starter may be up in the air, but one thing is for sure: If this season was any indication, things will only continue to improve for coach Kipp and the trio of young goalkeepers. There is a lot of work to be done in the offseason, but 2013 looks promising.

sports@columbiaspectator.com

Lions look to improve frontcourt play in crosstown showdown

BY MUNEEB ALAM
Spectator Staff Writer

While its recent trip to San Francisco was a team-building experience, the men’s basketball team (4-2) showed that it still has some work to do after splitting its two games over the holiday weekend. It has a chance to get back on track tonight against LIU Brooklyn (0-4).

After beating Wayland Baptist 75-63 on Friday, the Lions fell to the University of San Francisco 79-59 on Saturday. The Lions were outrebounded by 12 and converted on only 35 percent of their field goal attempts—the Dons hit over half their shots—and Lion forwards collectively made only six of their 18 shots.

Head coach Kyle Smith said that Columbia could have used its frontcourt more than it did in the loss.

“We were running a good offense to start, but we got away from that,” senior guard Brian Barbour said.

This season, excluding a blowout win over Division III Haverford, the team is shooting 42 percent, down from last year. Opponents are also converting at 42 percent against Columbia, up from 40 percent last year.

COLUMBIA VS. LIU BROOKLYN

LIU Brooklyn, 7 p.m.



“We’ve got to focus a little more on ourselves, focus on our execution, and not worry so much about what other people do,” Smith said, adding that he thought the weekend was a good experience for the team.

Smith also said that because the games in California were on consecutive days, fatigue may have been a factor in the loss.

“We were a little flat,” Barbour said. “I think they wanted it a little bit more than we did.”

With a few days to rest, the team should be better prepared to face Long Island’s strong offense, which has averaged nearly 80 points per game this season. Last year, the Lions had three days off before defeating the Blackbirds, 63-53, notching their seventh win in a row.

A big factor in that win was earning points off of turnovers. Columbia scored 20 points in possessions immediately following Long Island’s 23 turnovers, while allowing only three points off of 12 turnovers. This year’s senior class led the way, with Barbour, center Mark Cisco, and forward John Daniels all scoring in double figures.

Like Villanova, which Columbia beat 75-57 last week, LIU Brooklyn is a recent NCAA Division I tournament participant. The Blackbirds are two-time Northeast Conference champions, but have struggled to get off the ground so far this year.

A big reason why is their schedule strength. Long Island had close losses to Lafayette and Morehead State—its first home loss since Dec. 2, 2010—and blow-out losses to two top basketball programs, Maryland and No. 8 Kentucky.

In that game, forwards Jamal Olasewere and Julian Boyd tied for the scoring lead with 22 points. Olasewere also scored a game-high 18 points in the Lions’ win in Manhattan last year.

Tipoff is at 7 p.m. in Brooklyn.

sports@columbiaspectator.com

In search of consistent scoring, Lions set to face powerhouse Army

BY CAROLINE BOWMAN
Spectator Staff Writer

While the women’s basketball team (1-4) managed a 63-58 victory over Army (5-1) last season, head coach Paul Nixon says that Wednesday night’s matchup is going to be an entirely different ball game.

“I think it will present a brand new challenge for us,” he said. “Last season the Army team had a very distinctive style of play that I think we were able to take advantage of. However, this season they are playing in a completely different style, and they are doing very well in that style.”

Army’s new style largely comes down to the contributions of freshman center Aimee Oertner, who has given the team a boost by averaging 13.2 points and 10.7 rebounds per game. And Oertner isn’t the only offensive catalyst for Army, as every player in the starting five has

averaged at least 9.8 points per game this season.

COLUMBIA VS. ARMY

West Point, 7 p.m.



The Lions will look to their scoring leaders, senior guard Tyler Simpson and freshman forward Bailey Ott, to lead their offensive efforts Wednesday night. Although the team has had stretches of strong offensive production and has managed to build some significant leads, it has struggled to maintain this offensive dominance and has often fallen into scoring droughts. Going into Wednesday night’s matchup against Army, the team will strive to maintain a more consistent offensive presence, Nixon said.

“It hasn’t really been our defense

SEE BASKETBALL, page 2

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

GRANT MULLINS



KIERA WOOD FOR SPECTATOR

ROCKIN’ ROOKIE | Freshman guard Grant Mullins was named Ivy League Rookie of the Week this week for his offensive performances in the last three games. Mullins knocked down four of his six three-point attempts and totaled 14 points in the Lions’ 75-57 win over Villanova last Tuesday.