



FILE PHOTO

**LOUNGE NO MORE?** | Administrators have proposed converting part of the Mudd Building's Carleton Lounge to a digital library.

## Alums remember Selig as inspiring professor, mentor

BY CECILIA REYES  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Cervantes scholar Karl-Ludwig Selig, who spent decades teaching Spanish literature at Columbia, died early Saturday morning at Kateri Residence, a local nursing home. He was 86.

Selig was awarded Columbia's Mark van Doren Award for Teaching in 1974. A celebrated enthusiast of Miguel de Cervantes' "Don Quixote"—which he emphatically pronounced as "kwixot"—Selig's former students remembered him for his love of literature and teaching, his Colloquium on Comparative Literature, and his course "The Picaresque Novel."

"In my four years at Columbia, I took classes with Edward

Said, Lionel Trilling, Howard Davis, and Joseph Rothschild," Christopher Allegaert, CC '78, said. "But professor Selig touched more students than any teacher I've ever known."

Balding, with long, uneven hair and cork bottle glasses, Selig was a striking figure, Allegaert said, affectionately describing how the professor would hold books up to his eyes and read aloud to students.

"He epitomized the 'passionate scholar' to me and revealed to all who knew him the delights and rewards of a life in scholarship," J. R. Toggweiler, CC '75 and GSAS '83, said in an email.

Selig was born in 1926 to a Jewish family in Wiesbaden, Germany, and he and his parents fled to Barcelona before the onset of World War II. Selig arrived in Erie, Pa. without a word of English, but he excelled in high school and received a B.A. from Ohio State University.

Selig became a U.S. citizen in 1948, and in 1966, he joined Columbia's faculty. According to a biography provided by his executor, Theodore Allegaert, CC '87—Christopher Allegaert's brother—Selig would, in his later years, hand out dictionaries to immigrants in appreciation of their hardship and encouragement of their education.

Selig's former students said that he treated texts as "fabrics"

woven out of many threads. Several said that Selig was ahead of his time in dissecting the ramifications of certain stories.

**"The line to see the professor was often longer than the line to see the dean."**

—Jim Weinstein, CC '84

"You couldn't read 'Don Quixote' without learning about prostitution, slavery, and all the facets of life, good and bad," Christopher Allegaert said. "You could never get the book, or the professor, out of your mind. Fifty years later, people can still recite his lectures."

In his keynote address at Columbia College Class Day in May, Harper's Magazine publisher John MacArthur, CC '78 and a member of Spectator's board of trustees, recalled Selig's teaching.

"He wanted you to embrace the text, to read it with rigor, but also with pleasure," MacArthur said. "However, like all of my best professors, Selig insisted that reading text was a fundamentally serious endeavor, that text must be respected."

Selig swam for Ohio State and

developed an appreciation for the rowing team while teaching at Columbia. His students named two skulls after him, and Selig was a special guest at reunions for the classes of 1979 and 1982.

"What you gained from the Professor more than anything was his genuine passion for the books themselves," Mark Gibson, CC '86, said in an email. "They spoke to him directly; they were the fuel of his life."

Selig's office was located on the second floor of Hamilton Hall, right next to the dean's office.

"The line to see the professor was often longer than the line to see the dean or any of his assistants," Jim Weinstein, CC '84, recalled.

"Office hours' were a bit of a misnomer," Christopher Allegaert added. "He was always available—if the light was on in his office, he'd have been happy to talk to you for hours."

Selig has written or co-authored 45 books, which have been translated into several languages. He left Columbia in 1989, but he remained prolific well into the 2000s, publishing several highly regarded works in 2002 and 2003.

"He didn't want to let go, even if at his advanced age he was almost deaf and blind," Allegaert said. "We loved his love of life and we loved him."

news@columbiaspectator.com

## Mudd lounge could become digital library

Students push back against proposed changes to Carleton

BY AVANTIKA KUMAR  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

The Mudd Building's Carleton Lounge, one of the few student spaces intended specifically for engineering students, could soon be sharing space with a new digital library—a proposed change that's already facing pushback from student leaders.

The School of Engineering and Applied Science plans to phase out Mudd's Engineering Library to make way for the new Institute for Data Sciences and Engineering, which will use the space. The library's books and resources will be transferred to other campus locations, and administrators are looking at the nearby Carleton Lounge as a potential location for computer terminals and other research and technology resources.

SEAS Vice Dean of Academic Affairs Soulaymane Kachani discussed the proposed plan for Carleton Lounge at Monday night's Engineering Student Council meeting. Kachani said that while a digital library will definitely be created, its location is still flexible.

The digital library's proposed location has already met with opposition from SEAS student leaders. Engineering Student Council President Tim Qin, SEAS '13, said that converting part of the lounge to a digital library would be detrimental to students.

**"Why create a student resource to eliminate another student resource?"**

—Andrew Kang,  
*Engineering Graduate Student Council president*

"Carleton Lounge is the only usable student space in Mudd, and if part of it were to be used for the library, that would adversely affect student life on campus," Qin said.

Mary Byers, SEAS '13 and senior class president, said at

Monday night's ESC meeting that it was "alarming" to hear that part of Carleton Lounge could become a library, given that there are already more than 20 libraries on campus. Sidd Bhatt, SEAS '14 and ESC vice president of finance, said that while students would enjoy having more printers and other technological resources, he'd like to know more about what a digital library would entail.

The Engineering Graduate Student Council has released a statement expressing opposition to housing the digital library in Carleton Lounge, arguing that the lounge should serve primarily as student space.

EGSC President Andrew Kang said that while he supports the construction of a digital library, the lounge is a valuable resource for graduate students. While undergraduates live on campus, master's students who commute to campus use Carleton Lounge as a "common, multifunctional swing space," Kang said.

"Carleton Lounge is the only common student space available for master's students in particular, who don't necessarily have a home on campus," Kang said.

"Why create a student resource to eliminate another student resource?" he added. "The library doesn't take priority over common student space."

Nabil Ashraf, a master's student in chemical engineering, agreed, saying that while he'd be excited to see a new digital library, he wouldn't like it to encroach upon existing student space.

"That's the common area for the students," Ashraf said. "It's the most important part for the students to gather to actually communicate with each other."

Cem Garih, SEAS '14, said that administrators shouldn't install a digital library that disrupts Carleton's overall atmosphere.

"I really like the area just because I feel like it's a café/cafeteria/working area," Garih said, adding that the library could be placed in a corner of the lounge so as "not to distort the area."

Other students, though, felt

**SEE CARLETON, page 2**

## New bike rack to be installed outside Henry's at 105th Street

BY SAMANTHA COONEY  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Community Board 7 passed a resolution Tuesday night to install a bike rack outside of Henry's Restaurant at Broadway and 105th Street.

The proposal, which passed in a near-unanimous 34-1-2 vote, means that one 23-foot parking space will be replaced with a corral capable of holding 12 bikes.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the community," Henry's owner Henry Rinehart said.

Before voting, the board debated the question of whether the corral would be an efficient use of space.

"We're not losing one parking space—we're gaining 12 parking spaces," board member Kenneth Coughlin said.

But while the resolution passed easily, the community board did add an amendment stipulating that it would

work with the Department of Transportation to try to redesign the corral to fit as many bikes as possible. A previous design allowed for just eight bikes.

Board members also discussed an additional proposal to install 91 bike racks between West 59th Street and West 110th Street. They ultimately decided to send it back to committee for further discussion, as they felt they needed to evaluate the locations of the bike racks more closely and understand why some business owners oppose their installation.

The community board did, however, approve the installation of five bike racks that had received positive responses from owners of neighboring properties.

"It sends a strong message that our streets can be for something other than the movement and storage of motor vehicles," Coughlin said.

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## YUNG Harlem founders work toward 2nd Harlem Renaissance

BY SHARON LIAO  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

In the summer of 2008, Harlem residents Alize Beal and Tiffany Bender returned from their freshman years at Howard University and Syracuse University, respectively. Soon after they got home, 14 teenagers were killed in a 125th Street shootout.

Upset by the violence, Beal and Bender hosted a gala to honor anti-gun-violence activists and local organizations that provided positive examples for Harlem youth.

"From then, we kept running with it, and it formed into what it is today," Beal said.

Today, Beal and Bender, both 23, are the co-founders of Youth Under New Guidance Harlem, a burgeoning nonprofit that seeks to end violence and promote education among Harlem youth. They started the organization in 2008 with a goal of encouraging a second Harlem Renaissance, and they've been expanding it

since then. Last month, they were honored with the Making a Difference award from BET Network's "Black Girls Rock!"

"For all the people who have moved into the Harlem area, regardless of what race or background they come from, we need to understand where Harlem came from," Beal said. "We need the youth to understand that as well. If they understand that and who they are, they will see the positive and change their behavior."

At YUNG Harlem, Beal and Bender currently have programs across five "Pillars of Renaissance"—the arts, education, community safety, health, and entrepreneurship—and staple events including networking events for young Harlem professionals and a city-wide college tour. The college tour—in which YUNG representatives visit city high schools to encourage students to apply to college—gets high schoolers "excited about school in ways they've never been excited before," Beal said.



LUKE HENDERSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**YOUNG ACTIVISTS** | Tiffany Bender (left) and Alize Beal are the co-founders of YUNG Harlem, a burgeoning local nonprofit.

"We offer real-life, real-deal knowledge about the first year of college and the application process," Beal said.

Starting Dec. 16, YUNG will visit high schools throughout Harlem, including Frederick Douglass Academy, Thurgood Marshall, Bread and Roses, Wadleigh, and the

Environmental Studies School. Tiarra Currie, a clinical psychology master's student at Teachers College, will speak on the tour, and she hopes that her story will inspire students. She and her brother were raised by a single mother in a poor

**SEE YUNG, page 2**

### OPINION, PAGE 4

#### HIV-aware

A Columbia student gives his personal narrative about fearing HIV.

#### Believing in holidays

Noel Duan on holiday spirit and the wonders of mistletoe.



### SPORTS, BACK PAGE

#### Mental, physical fitness imperative to athletics

More and more teams, professional and collegiate, are beginning to understand the importance of a strong mental game for athletic success.

### EVENTS

#### Relay for Life Study Break

Make holiday cards for cancer patients at Hope Lodge New York City.  
503 Lerner Hall, 7 p.m.

#### Rethinking Re-entry

Attend a panel on the challenges faced by juveniles following incarceration.  
602 Northwest Corner, 7:10 p.m.

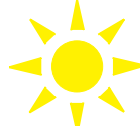
### WEATHER

#### Today



59°/36°

#### Tomorrow



46°/41°





LUKE HENDERSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**CLOSING DOORS** | Mudd’s Engineering Library will be phased out as the space becomes part of the Institute for Data Sciences and Engineering. Some of its resources might be moved to Carleton Lounge.

ESC, EGSC ask admins not to put library in lounge

CARLETON from front page

that revamping Carleton Lounge wouldn’t be a problem. “It’s never packed,” Sofia Flores, SEAS ’14, said. “There’s always ample space, so I don’t think it would be a huge concern.” ESC and EGSC submitted a proposal last semester to make the sparsely furnished lounge more comfortable by

adding electrical outlets, better chairs and tables, and new couches, and possibly a TV, coffee machines, and whiteboards. Kachani, though, said the councils should re-evaluate their visions for Carleton, noting that while EGSC often uses the space for student events, it’s unclear that ESC is utilizing it well. Kachani said that student feedback would be an important factor in administrators’

final decision as to where to locate the library. Qin believes that administrators would best serve students by putting the new library elsewhere. “Why does the digital library necessarily have to be in the student lounge?” Qin said. “Why not somewhere else?” Tracey Wang contributed reporting. avantika.kumar@columbiaspectator.com

YUNG encourages Harlem youth to apply to college

YUNG from front page

neighborhood, and she ultimately graduated from college and is now enrolled in graduate school. “I am there as evidence that college is possible and we can be successful as long as we have a plan,” Currie said in an email. “These kids get to see people like me, who look like them, show them that we don’t have to be a victim or be labeled to negative expectations.” And for the first time this year, the organization will be offering \$1,000 scholarships to one student at each of the seven schools it visits, in partnership with the Brooklyn-based jewelry company Aspiring and the Be GR8 Foundation. Organizers will pick names out of a bowl to determine which attendees win scholarships. The organization has been expanding rapidly and taking advantage of current events. A school where it hosts a toy drive recently offered it space for

after-school programs, which will become its next initiative, and in October, it hosted a presidential debate watch party with the Be GR8 Foundation. “This is something that we will make time for. The universe is telling us that it’s been worth it.” —Alize Beal, YUNG Harlem co-founder “We are bringing back the age of education, moving urban students into education and job opportunities,” said Abdul Karim Abdullah, chairman of the Be GR8 Foundation and a friend of Beal’s from Syracuse. “We bring our vision to the streets.”

Beal sat in the audience of the “Black Girls Rock!” awards show last year, and, this year, she and Bender were on stage accepting an award. Bender said that the exposure was good for the organization. “We had this national platform,” she said. “It’s about showing young girls that if you dream big, you work hard, anything is possible.” Beal and Bender have made YUNG Harlem possible while working other jobs—Bender is an associate producer at Sway in the Morning on SIRIUS XM, and Beal is an IT consultant for media and advertising with TEK Systems. They both hope to transition to working on the organization full-time in the future—especially since they want to expand it to other cities—but for now, they’re OK with the arrangement they have. “This is something that we will make time for,” Beal said. “The universe is telling us that it’s been worth it.” news@columbiaspectator.com

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Passion to Perform



# ‘Cognitive restructuring,’ focus training, visualization tools for Columbia athletes

**PSYCH from back page**

graduate courses at Eastern Illinois University and worked with the U.S. Paralympic soccer team, so his real-world experience complements his academic credentials.

“Several mental training techniques are helpful, including visualization, goal setting/performance profiling, relaxation training, biofeedback, and focus training. However, for a majority of athletes, the most important ... is cognitive restructuring,” Walker said.

Cognitive restructuring is a form of behavioral therapy that works to identify thoughts that are detrimental to the psyche and subsequently learn how to change them. It is especially crucial in the face of adversity and

struggle: All athletes have off nights, and there is always a losing team. The way athletes cope with these difficult situations ultimately determines future success.

“Resiliency is a large component of mental toughness and integral to championship performance,” Walker said. “Many athletes struggle with adversity because they define success simply in terms of achievement. Being able to bounce back from failure and adversity comes from choosing to define yourself by your response under less than ideal conditions. When you choose to define yourself by your response rather than the outcome, it enables you to continue to strive when things look bleak.”

Men’s tennis head coach Bid Goswami finds that just talking to his athletes during a match can be helpful.

“When I see somebody very nervous and they’re edgy ... we just go back to basics about breathing, moving your

**The way athletes cope with ... difficult situations ultimately determines future success.**

feet,” Goswami said in a phone interview. “When you’re nervous, you don’t breathe well, and if you don’t breathe well, you don’t move your feet well, and then chronic elbow comes into

play here. Your elbows are cemented, so then everything falters.”

“You have to communicate with him. ‘Listen—things are never as bad as they seem and things are never as good as they seem,’” Goswami added.

“But that player has to control his thoughts. He’s useless if he’s already defeated because he doesn’t believe he can do it. A lot of times you can tell from a player’s body language how their day is going. That’s never a good thing. You should think positive, breathe positive, and get ready to compete as smart and hard as you can.”

While Goswami believes that sports psychology can be beneficial, it is useless if physical fitness isn’t up to par, he said.

“To become a really good tennis player, the most important part is physical

conditioning,” Goswami said. “If you’re in great shape, you have good technique and you have good footwork, and then the last part comes in, the intangibles, the sense of the game, that’s when probably the mental part also comes in. But I absolutely believe that if they’re physically in very good shape, they become stronger mentally.”

Boretti echoed Goswami’s sentiments.

“The routines and mental prep should allow your physical abilities to be free and compete. There should not be a ton of thinking while competing,” Boretti said. “There should be a trust in your preparation both physical and mental that gives you the confidence to perform to your potential and let the chips fall.”

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ALYSON GOULDEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**MIND GAME** | With mental toughness comes the ability to right the ship quickly when things are looking rough, which often comes from the mid-game communication between athletes and their coach.

## Cornell, Harvard, Princeton go undefeated in weekend play

**LEAGUE from back page**

resulting in another double-digit hole.

**HARVARD**

The Crimson (7-2) started the week with a comfortable 63-44 win against New Hampshire. Hofstra proved to be a much more difficult opponent, but Harvard prevailed in the end with a 70-67 overtime win. The Crimson relied heavily on forward Victoria Lippert’s 21-point performance, seven of which came in the crucial overtime period. Harvard next met northeast foe Providence, easily defeating the Friars 73-59 with strong shooting performances from beyond the arc and from the field.

**PENN**

Penn (2-3) defeated city rival La Salle 65-56, for its first win this season after starting off 0-3. Penn added its second win of the season against fellow Pennsylvania school, Bucknell. The game went to overtime, but the Quakers never relinquished their overtime lead, finishing the game 58-53.

**PRINCETON**

The Tigers (5-2) won both their games this past week. Against Rutgers,

the Tigers depended on three double-figure performances to beat the Scarlet Knights. Princeton went into halftime with a 16-point lead, which it held until the end of the game, winning 71-55. This past Saturday, the Tigers toppled UMBC, winning the game 93-46. Head coach Courtney Banghart achieved a significant milestone in the otherwise uneventful game, notching her 100th win as head coach of the Tigers.

**YALE**

The Bulldogs (2-6) played two games this past week. Yale started off at Army, where it suffered a narrow 53-47 loss. Freshman guard Nyasha Sarju led the team with 15 points, but the lack of offensive help from teammates made it hard for the Bulldogs to overcome the Black Knights’ eight-point lead in the last part of second half. Yale improved in its second game with a 67-53 victory over Fordham. Guard Janna Graf netted 18 points for the Bulldogs in the win, the team’s first win over Fordham since 1986. Yale had a strong shooting performance on the night, shooting 0.5 both from the field and from the three-point line.

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## With potential Ivy title at stake, expectations are higher than ever for Light Blue

**TYDINGS from back page**

expected to do as well as this year’s Lions. As students, we are justified in being more excited about this team than any other major Columbia team in recent memory. However, the high expectations for the team mean that a mediocre or poor finish in Ivy play could be devastating to the on-court success and off-court support the program receives. This is a crucial season for Columbia basketball, and players, media, and fans have the highest of expectations for the team. A failure to meet expectations means that students will be less likely to believe any future hype, for any of Columbia’s sports teams.

Sam Tydings is a senior in Columbia College majoring in history. He is a broadcaster for WKCR. Booth Review runs biweekly. sports@columbiaspectator.com

## Lions struggle with rebounds, assists in loss against Colgate

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL from back page**

take away something positive from the game: Senior guard-forward Tyler Simpson, who has been fighting through an ankle injury, showed flashes of her old self with improved numbers on offense. Simpson posted 16 points and gathered five rebounds.

Junior Courtney Bradford added seven points and pulled down six rebounds of her own while freshman Bailey Ott grabbed seven rebounds to lead the team.


The Lions return home to the Levien Gymnasium this Friday at 7 p.m. to take on the Iona College Gaels.

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ALYSON GOULDEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER


**STANDING TALL** | The Lions had some positives to take away in the loss to Colgate. Senior forward Courtney Bradford had seven points and six boards.



I can paint



I can coach

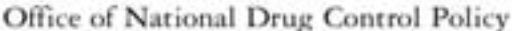



I can dance

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CONTACT US

2875 Broadway, 3rd Floor  
New York, NY 10025

info@columbiaspectator.com

Twitter: @ColumbiaSpec

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Daily Spectator (212) 854-9549

Business (212) 854-9550

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# Merry everything and happy always

“I hate the holidays,” my friend cried to me on the phone. “I feel so alone. My parents don’t even celebrate the holidays.” She cried from afternoon to evening.

Ladies and gentlemen, maybe it’s just me (and my enthusiasm for dessert), but we tend to pack on the weight around the holidays. In addition to indulging in extra servings of pie, stuffing, and mulled wine, we become especially vulnerable to carrying extra loads of emotional weight. Expectations are heightened for Christmas miracles. We stress about final exams and term papers while we dream about getting cozy by the fireplace with a cup of hot chocolate and a Netflix subscription. Those who are single feel even lonelier under the mistletoe, and those who are happily in love—with their dog, a new book, or a significant other—expect a little bit more magic under the twinkle of the lights.

Another friend texted me at 1 a.m. “I’m so stressed about final exams. I’ve been in Butler all day. Why doesn’t it feel like Christmas yet, even though Bergdorf’s windows are already dressed?”

The next day, I took a study break to visit Bergdorf Goodman by myself. Sparkly Naeem Khan gowns and plaster dogs—a vaudeville scene of extraordinary sartorial proportions—teased me as I pressed my sniffing red nose against the windowpane. The cold glass separated me from



NOEL  
DUAN

## You Write Like a Girl

# The sun rises without Columbia

BY HANNAH SHAPER

I left Columbia. My time here was the emotional equivalent of making sweet love to a cactus and pretending to enjoy it. This cactus looked like Brad Pitt to the rest of society, and everyone kept congratulating me on my happy union and all the wonderful things that were going to come of it.

But excuse me: Cactus sex is unrighteous. Get me the hell out of here.

Like all of you, I am an exceptional human being because I won the approval of the most qualified judges of personal value: Ivy League admissions officers. I’m pretty much a very, very big deal: The SATs are my bitch, my extracurricular engagements rival Oprah Winfrey’s, and I am one eloquent motherfucker. You know the drill—you’re in this boat. Either that or you’re awesome at sports and/or your parents could eat most people’s parents for breakfast as far as societal importance goes. Regardless, you have what it takes to win in the game of life, so what are you doing puttering around Morningside Heights?

Unless your answer is “because I genuinely enjoy being a student at Columbia” (and if that is the case you have no reason to be offended by a word of this, truly), stop wasting your time. You could die tomorrow, so ditch those finals and do something less lame. Trust me when I say that you are exceptional enough to set the world on fire without that hefty receipt that comes in scroll-format. Don’t believe me? That’s fine, stay miserable. This is your trip, not mine.

Let me put this in the big Columbia University Community picture: Columbia is a business enterprise, not a community—stop fooling yourself.

Yes, there are communities within that enterprise like

the holiday fantasy that I yearn for every year. I sound like they’re paying me, but the Bergdorf holiday windows never disappoint. Many years after I stopped believing in Santa Claus and Christmas miracles—and getting perfect grades on final exams—I still believe in Bergdorf Goodman.

Many of us have been brought up to anticipate certain things for the holidays. As children, we wrote letters to Santa, asking for anything but a pile of coal. We searched for the perfect Christmas tree. Some of us wished upon a star for snow, while some of us wished upon a star for a peaceful holiday at home, for once.

I’ve spent the past few days telling my fellow classmates—and myself—to have hope for miracles this time of the season. Maybe she’ll get back together with you, I told him. Maybe you’ll get an A on your term paper, I told her. Maybe your parents won’t fight this year, I told myself. And every year, even as I fill my thoughts with optimism and cheer, the holidays seem to disappoint me in some way because nothing magical ever seems to happen.

“Do you believe in holiday miracles?” I asked my friend over dinner.

“I have yet to experience one, but I still hope for one every year. It feels so naïve, though. Are we too old for this?” she replied.

We strolled down College Walk after dinner. “This is the perfect place to fall in love. This is the perfect place to not be lonely,” she said glumly. I watched the tree lights twinkle against the tears on her cheek.

I went back to Bergdorf Goodman tonight. I had to go, even though I had to write this column and I was in danger of not meeting the deadline, much to the irritation of my editor. I pressed my nose against the pane of glass again, determined to remember every single gilded detail. Holly Golightly had breakfast at Tiffany’s—I had Christmas at Bergdorf’s.

Sorority Sisters and the Chinese Dragon Dancing People and the Butler Chain Smoker Union, but Columbia is you. You aren’t Columbia. Dig? You are the only thing that makes Columbia anything remotely substantial. It’s not Mother Theresa’s house of the sick and dying, it’s a corporation. If it’s not making you happy, you’re not a terrible person.

## If you feel like Columbia doesn’t care about you, that it would be no different if you left, you are right.

Society can go fornicate itself for stamping your forehead with the seal of approval if and only if you follow its path. For better or for worse, this mysterious nonentity that we call Columbia University caters to societal approval.

That’s not necessarily bad, but it is limiting. If, like me, you once thought self-validation might come from a GPA or a diploma or a customized Vineyard Vines Columbia lion-print tie, think about what you really want out of this life. Columbia doesn’t give that to you—only you can. If you feel like Columbia doesn’t care about you, that it would be no different if you left, you are right. Anyone who thinks otherwise, please send me a sample of what you are smoking.

But in all seriousness, the moments that augmented my experience with hope and beauty came from you. You, the individuals—not you, Columbia. To THAT you, I say thank you. You are everything. You should come set the world on fire with me, if you so desire.

You, Columbia? Get out of here. You don’t exist.

*The author was a Columbia College student in the class of 2015 until October this fall semester. She currently has a blog called “Tales of an Ivy League Dropout.”*



JULIA JARRETT

STAFF EDITORIAL

# We go here. Let us study.

Last fall, a pilot program to expand Butler’s 24-hour study space was initiated by the student councils and University Senator Kenny Durell, CC ’12, in conjunction with the University libraries and facilities staff. Most crucially, the pilot kept rooms on the fifth and sixth floors open all night. Since then we have seen other initiatives to increase study space across campus, among them the pilot program for group study space in the Diana Center and the CCSC-driven initiative to open John Jay Dining Hall as a study space.

As evidenced by the number of initiatives to expand study space on campus, administrators and student representatives have been quite willing to conduct studies on studying and to create individual solutions. Yet it is almost absurd that these studies have produced cursory solutions lacking common sense, while ignoring the most obvious remedy: keeping Butler study space open 24/7—all of it—for the last month of every semester.

We don’t need statistics to show that study space is difficult to find once the fifth and sixth floors and the stacks close at 10:45 p.m. from Sundays to Thursdays. Any Butler-going Columbian can tell you that the 24-hour space on the second, third, and fourth floors isn’t adequate when everyone is kicked out of five, six, and the stacks. This is especially true

during the final weeks of any semester.

Columbians like to whine collectively about the misery of going to Butler, but when the circulation desk closes at 11 p.m. before a school day, whoever isn’t already at a desk would trade in his firstborn for a vacant one.

We don’t want to study in John Jay. It smells like moldy sponges. We’ve got a gleaming library that (fourth floor aside) smells fine. Maybe the John Jay initiative was meant to ease the burden on Butler during the peak hours after 8 p.m. But we just want to study in Butler!

We understand that it would be costly to keep other libraries open for 24 hours a day. We know that hiring additional maintenance staff costs money.

It might be different in Butler. Save for some additional utility costs—well, really just electricity for the lights—it doesn’t seem as if it would be so difficult to keep all of Butler’s floors open all the time.

Maybe Butler’s closed for security reasons. Maybe the libraries are worried about losing books from the stacks. If they are, though, what’s to stop us from pinching books from the Milstein collection? Why are those books valued less than the ones in the stacks? Aside from the additional bills from Con Ed, what is the harm in unlocking the top two floors and the stacks in the middle of the night?

It is surely common sense that busy students with looming deadlines, most of whom have trouble getting up before noon, would want to study in Butler after 11 p.m. Couldn’t the University just keep it open? All of it?

Butler’s current hours are far from disastrous. But keeping all of its space open wouldn’t be a bad thing either.

I was about to take a cab back to campus when a little girl, about six years old, approached me on the corner of 58th and Fifth. She was standing with her mother, hoping to hail a cab, too. She was holding bunches of mistletoe, probably for decorating her home.

“I like your sweater,” she said.

“Thanks...” I smiled faintly, starting to become anxious that I was never going to finish writing this column in time.

“Why do you look so sad?” she asked me.

“I’m not sad! I’m tired—and stressed. I have a lot of homework,” I impulsively blurted out.

She handed me a sprig of mistletoe, tied together with a red velvet ribbon.

“You look like you need a kiss. Maybe this will be useful,” she said. Her mother gasped in horror and apologized to me for her daughter’s audacity, and I finally burst into tears, making the situation even more horrifying and confusing for both of us. I was terribly amused by her daughter, but I was also finally letting go of all the emotional weight I was carrying on my back. Here was a little girl handing me a sprig of mistletoe that was supposed to make my problems go away. She believed in it. Why didn’t I?

We may not believe in Santa anymore, but I challenge anyone not to feel a little more hopeful when they see College Walk light up for the first time. Mistletoe, twinkling lights, spiced apple cider—holiday clichés are reminders to us to believe, year after year. As 2012 draws to a close, we should try carrying some holiday hope into the new year. Mistletoe grows year-round, after all.

*Noel Duan is a Columbia College senior majoring in anthropology and concentrating in art history. She is the co-founder of Hoot Magazine. You Write Like a Girl runs alternate Wednesdays.*

# The fear of being HIV-positive

BY JOSÉ RICARDO MORENO

It was June 24, 2010. I was looking forward to jumping on my first opportunity to volunteer at Pride in D.C. In the midst of getting registered, another volunteer greeted me and we quickly hit it off. He was charming, young, handsome, and knew all the right things to say, a lethal combination. We paired off and spent the rest of the day together. After the Pride March, he invited me to come to the dance afterward. On the dance floor, he passed me a drink, whispered acclamations of love, and much after that everything became a blur. He took me back to his apartment, undressed me, and raped me.

In the middle of it, he announced that he was HIV positive and my world came crashing down. I woke up the next day, disgusted with myself. I quickly got dressed and slipped out of the apartment.

With a million thoughts running through my head, I came to the conclusion, at the tender age of 18, that my life was over.

The theme of this year’s World AIDS Day is “Getting to Zero.” This theme can manifest itself in many ways: getting to zero infections, getting to zero deaths, getting to zero viral load, but for me it’s about getting to zero uncertainty. In the time that I have been at Columbia, I’ve walked around with the uncertainty of whether I was HIV positive or not, and I don’t believe I’m the only one. For several months after my first exposure, I was paralyzed with intense isolation and didn’t speak to anyone. I spent extended periods mourning the life I thought I would live and blamed myself entirely.

As sophomore year progressed, I did my best to keep it together. I went to my classes, attended club meetings, ate in the dining halls and tried to play it normal with my friends. They never knew what I was going through. As the semester progressed, I learned more about how HIV was transmitted and how it worked within the body by prowling Go Ask Alice endlessly. In my isolation, I learned that the antibodies for HIV could manifest themselves for up to nine months after exposure. That HIV could only be passed via the exchange of bodily fluids (unprotected sex, sharing needles, being born to an infected mother). Eventually, I found Gay Health Advocacy Project, which offers free, confidential HIV antibody testing, counseling, and other services to students on campus, something we are lucky to have. I then began a regimen of monthly testing.

## For several months after my first exposure, I was paralyzed with intense isolation.

With each passing month of sophomore year, I would walk up the stairs in John Jay Hall into Health Services, into GHAP for my testing appointment. I would sigh a breath of relief with every negative result I got back. As the year came to November, I stopped having the motivation for classes—the pressure was overwhelming. My last HIV exam consumed my thoughts.

On Nov. 18, 2010, I took my last exam and spent the hours in quiet vigil thinking about the spot I was taking up for another student, how long I had to live, and what my next steps were. The next day, I came in for my results (sweaty palms, slightly panicking as I sat in the chair).

My results were officially negative. Finally.

Since then, World AIDS Day has been a time of reflection. I think about the ways that the support networks like Health Services and CPS can better reach students, what ways we can make the testing experience less intimidating, and how to initiate real conversations about sexual health with others without shaming or judging. I want everyone to know that they should get tested, reach out, and get informed about sexual health because no individual should have to carry the burden of uncertainty alone.

On my desk, I keep a stack of birthday cards that my family mails me every summer that I’ve been away from home. In every card, my mother reminds me of the difficulties that one has to face in order to make it in this life by invoking the Spanish phrase “valió la pena,” or “it was worth the shame.” If someone out there in our community finds strength in these words to keep living in the face of adversity, valió la pena.

*The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in chemical physics, a resident adviser, and a coordinator for NYC Pride.*

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







## Men's basketball faces make-or-break season

The Columbia men's basketball team is in the midst of an intriguing experiment, whether the players know it or not. Beginning the third week in January, this experiment will manifest itself in the form of the 14 Ivy games that determine whether or not the season is a success. Why is this team so much different from any Columbia team in a revenue sport in recent memory?

It is because this winter, the Lions have to deal with the expectations that they can compete for the Ivy League championship and a berth in the NCAA tournament. The Lions were picked third in the Ivy preseason media poll, behind a Harvard team that has lost a great deal of talent to graduations and academic problems, and a Princeton team that graduated its fantastic point guard, Douglas Davis.

Though it is early in the nonconference slate, it is apparent that both of the teams expected to be better than Columbia this year are not as good as they have been in recent years. The league is certainly up for grabs, but the question remains: How will a major Columbia team respond to having high expectations?

## The Lions still have a great deal to figure out before Ivy play starts.

The early results from the Lions are a mixed bag. They have the best record (4-4) of any Ivy League team, but the schedules are far from equal. Half of Columbia's wins are against non-Division I teams. Their signature win came Nov. 20 at Villanova, an impressive win but one that is being marketed out of proportion. The win over Villanova has been used to advertise and drum up support for Columbia basketball with great success.

The 2012-13 season features a Columbia basketball team that, on paper, should be able to contend for the league title. Of course, games are played on the hardwood, not on 8.5-by-11 sheets of paper. The loss against Bucknell showed the re-emergence of a devastating trend from last season: Columbia's inability to close out games.

Of Columbia's 10 Ivy losses last season, eight were by fewer than 10 points, and six were decided by fewer than five points or in overtime. On Saturday, Columbia had a lead as large as 15 points in the first half and an eight-point lead midway through the second half. Much like the home loss against Yale last season, the offense stalled down the stretch, and Bucknell dominated in the paint and in rebounds to pull off the comeback.

Although no coach will admit it, nonconference games for most teams here at Columbia simply amount to a glorified preseason. They can be used to find which lineups work or do not work, which freshmen deserve more playing time, and which schemes to implement, among many other benefits. Yes, these games count, and the players and coaches are trying to win. But unless you are expecting Columbia to win an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament (and you really shouldn't be), the results do not mean much.

The Lions still have a great deal to figure out before Ivy play starts—how to best utilize freshman phenom Grant Mullins, which frontcourt rotations to use, and how to keep Mark Cisco out of foul trouble. If all of these issues get figured out in the next six weeks and everyone stays healthy, those successes will supersede any wins or losses.

No current undergrad has seen Columbia win a title in football, basketball, or baseball, with only the 2010 baseball team coming close to an Ivy championship. With this year's basketball team, anything can happen on the way to the Ivy title. All of the on-court challenges are matched with the rare (for a Columbia team) burden of high expectations.

No Columbia men's basketball team in the last 20 years has been



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



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**STARTING UP AGAIN?** | Senior guard Tyler Simpson's numbers from this game could be indicative of a return to form.

## Lions fall to Colgate 67-48, still winless on road

**BY KYLE PERROTTI**  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

The Columbia women's basketball team (1-7) traveled upstate today, hoping to close out its four-game road stretch on a strong note. However, the Colgate Raiders (3-5) dashed the Light Blue's ambitious plans, winning handily with a final score of 67-48.

Heading into the final game of the road swing, the Lions were still in pursuit of their first road win. With the loss, the Light Blue fell to 0-5 in away contests.

COLUMBIA	48
COLGATE	67

Colgate pulled away from the Lions with a 15-3 run late in the first half. The run was fueled by multiple three-pointers from guards Mariah Jones and Missy Repoli. Repoli capped off the Raiders' strong first-half play with a buzzer-beating jump shot to put the Raiders up 37-25. Jones finished with three three-pointers and 13 total points. Repoli sank five from downtown and led all

scorers with 19 points.

The Raiders dominated on the boards for the duration of the contest, outrebounding the Lions 47-33. Forward Kelly Reid led the Raiders on the glass with eight rebounds.

In addition to eclipsing the Lions on the boards, Colgate had a 19-8 assist advantage over the Light Blue. Guard Lauryn Kobiela led Colgate in the assists category with five.

Despite the loss, the Lions can

**SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL,**  
page 3

## With new program, Lions hone mental game

**BY MOLLY TOW**  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

A five-tool player is the most coveted position player in baseball. He is skilled at base running, hitting for power, hitting for average, fielding, and throwing. There is, however, an unspoken, equally important sixth tool: the psyche.

The idea of sports psychology has been around for more than a century, but since the Association for Applied Sport Psychology's founding in 1986, the field has burgeoned. More and more college and professional teams are employing sports psychologists. This year, Columbia became one of these teams.

Shortly before the start of the fall 2012 semester, Columbia brought on sports psychologist Dr. Brent Walker, an executive board member at the AASP, to work with the school's athletes.

Walker uses a variety of strategies when working with athletes, tailoring his approach to each sport.

"Many fencers, golfers, and tennis players have only participated as individuals through their junior experiences and college marks their first experience participating on a team," Walker said in an email. "This creates a series of mental challenges as they try to function not only as a competitor, but as a teammate as well. Working with these teams still primarily involves an individual focus, but includes some group dynamics works as well.

"In sports like basketball, soccer, football, and lacrosse, group dynamics play a much larger role. In these settings, there is a balance between focusing on being your personal best, and balancing the needs of the team," Walker said in his email.

Baseball is a somewhat unique case. Although it is technically a team sport, there is considerable pressure on the individual that one doesn't find to the same degree in basketball, soccer, or football. In addition to working with Walker, baseball head coach Brett Boretti implements his own psychological training tactics with his team.

"Every guy on our team gets the book Heads Up Baseball [by Tom Hanson] as a Christmas gift and are told to read it over break at the end of their freshman fall semester," Boretti said in an email. In practice we harp on what we control versus outcomes you don't control. ... Basically, you control three things: Your attitude, your concentration, and your effort."

When working with athletes, Walker uses a variety of tools. Walker has taught undergraduate and

**SEE PSYCH,** page 3

## In Ivy women's basketball, 3 teams take lead in conference

**BY STEPHEN BABENDREIER**  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

This week in Ivy women's basketball, Cornell, Harvard, and Princeton turned in the most decisive performances in the league.

### BROWN

The Bears (2-4) started out the week at home against Bryant (1-4). The game turned out to be a tale of slow starts, with the Bears giving up an 11-point lead to start the game, then opening the second half by giving up a 20-point lead. Bryant would not relinquish this lead—the Bears brought the game to a 17-point difference but ultimately fell 81-58. Brown held its Brown Basketball Classic on Dec. 1 and 2. In their first game against Rider, poor shooting led to a 57-47 demise for the Bears. They shot for an abysmal 17 percent from the field during the second half, scoring a total of 17 points during the entire half, a fraction of the output Rider had during the same 20-minute period. In the Bears' second game, they faced New Hampshire, whom they beat 50-43, thanks in large part to the second-half comeback led by guard Lauren Clarke.



### CORNELL

Guard Allyson DiMagno led the Big Red (5-3) to two consecutive victories this weekend, collecting personal accolades on the way: DiMagno was named Ivy League co-player of the week. Cornell started off against St. Francis in New York, where DiMagno's third consecutive double-double performance with 18 points and 14 rebounds led the team to a 74-56 victory. Morgan State proved to be slightly tougher competition. DiMagno narrowly missed her fourth consecutive double-double with only nine rebounds. Morgan State hung tough for the duration of the game and a buzzer-beater narrowed the final score to 77-74, but Cornell held on for a 5-3 record.

### DARTMOUTH

Dartmouth (1-5) extended its losing streak to five consecutive games this past week against Syracuse and Old Dominion. Syracuse's prolific offense overpowered the Big Green in Dartmouth's 91-64 loss. The Big Green managed to remain close until the break, but Syracuse started the second half with a 20-4 run. Against Old Dominion, the Big Green fell 73-59. Down 12 points late in the second half, Dartmouth fought back to a six-point deficit but gave up another run,

**SEE LEAGUE,** page 3



COURTESY OF MEREDITH H. KEEFER / THE HARVARD CRIMSON

**HEATING UP** | Harvard forward Victoria Lippert was named Ivy League co-player of the week this week. She has back-to-back 21-point games.

**SEE TYDINGS,** page 3