

Mental health groups plan next steps

BY ABBY ABRAMS  
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Sewa Adekoya, CC '14, can't remember a time when she wasn't stressed, "except maybe my freshman fall."

"But even then, there's social stress," her friend Abby Pucker, CC '14, added.

This is not an uncommon attitude on campus when the subject of stress culture arises. Student wellness has become a larger part of campus discussion in the last year after two Columbia College students, Tina Bu and Martha Corey-Ochoa, committed suicide.

In the immediate wake of Bu's death, student groups such as the Student Wellness Project and Active Minds were created to address issues their founders saw with campus culture.

Now that these groups have spent time building connections and getting established, they are looking to make some serious changes next semester.

Near the beginning of next semester, SWP plans to organize a "wellness summit" among wellness-related student groups and University offices to discuss the work each is doing and identify areas where different groups need support.

"At the end, we're going to be drafting a letter to the deans to see how we can move forward, with perhaps, like, three initiatives that we all see as really important," Priom Ahmed, CC '14 and a co-chair of SWP, said.

This semester has seen a proliferation of events, such as SWP's forum on mental health

SEE WELLNESS, page 3



DOUGLAS KESSEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

EASY AS ABC | The Activities Board at Columbia voted unanimously on Wednesday to reform its internal structure next semester.

More performance clubs mean fewer rehearsal spaces

BY ALESSANDRA POBLADOR AND YASMIN GAGNE  
Columbia Daily Spectator

With the number of performing arts groups increasing and no new spaces opening up for them to rehearse in, club leaders say they've been left feeling the crunch again and again.

"Within the theater and music community, it's accepted as something that exists and something that we can't really change. It always seems like a dead

end," said Columbia University Wind Ensemble president Alex Donnelly, CC '14.

Student groups looking to book space deal with multiple offices and processes, including pre-calendaring for Lerner Hall and a separate reservation system for residence hall lounges, classrooms, and outdoor spaces. For large groups, the process grows more complicated because only a few rooms meet their needs.

Dance teams and large orchestral ensembles often have

extra difficulty finding rehearsal space, since they require larger rooms in which to practice—a topic that has come up in recent discussions about student space on campus and the state of the Arts Initiative's support for student groups.

There are a limited number of spaces big enough for a large ensemble: the Columbia University Wind Ensemble can only use the Lerner Party Space, Broadway Room, and Lerner 555, for example. Donnelly said that this year,

the Wind Ensemble had to have four out of 13 of its rehearsals at Teachers College.

"After that, you really have to cut down what you want to do, like rehearse in the Satow Room," Donnelly said. "When you're trying to put on three concerts a semester, missing a good space for four rehearsals makes it hard."

Secretary of CU Bhangra Nirali Sampat, SEAS '14, said that

SEE SPACES, page 3

Admins say brownstone selection process was fair

BY YASMIN GAGNE  
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The administrators behind the brownstone review committee said Wednesday that they were confident the selection process was fair and that the buildings' new occupants will be held to the standards of residents of the coveted 114th Street properties.

While Pi Kappa Alpha and Alpha Epsilon Pi didn't get their old houses back, they were named finalists in the brownstone review process partly because of their strong ALPHA Standards scores, Dean of Community Development and Multicultural Affairs Terry Martinez said in an interview Wednesday.

In a widely distributed email, former AEPi president Matthew Renick, GS/JTS '13,

blasted administrators Tuesday for awarding three 114th Street brownstones to Alpha Chi Omega, Lambda Phi Epsilon, and Q House. Renick argued that AEPi and Pi Kappa Alpha deserved the brownstones back, in part because they had received five of five stars on their ALPHA Standards—a metric, he said, that administrators had said would be the primary standard for reviewing Greek applicants.

But while Renick argued that the committee did not take the ALPHA Standards seriously, Martinez, who chaired the committee, said that Pike and AEPi's "impressive" results were one reason they were named finalists. And Dean of Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger, who made the final brownstone decisions after meeting extensively with

SEE BROWNSTONES, page 3

Green office plans to take bigger role on campus

BY KELLY ECHAVARRIA  
Columbia Daily Spectator

The Office of Environmental Stewardship is looking to expand its interaction with students following the departure of the former head this summer. For environmental student leaders, who have been disappointed in the office's level of engagement on campus, it's welcome news.

The four-person office is tucked away on the fourth floor of a nondescript building on West 115th Street between Riverside Drive and Broadway. That's indicative of a larger issue, students say—its low profile on campus has led to student environmental groups taking most of the initiative when it comes to eco-friendliness.

"If you talk to most people who are outside of the environmental group circuit, no one knows what the Office of Environmental Stewardship is. No one's ever heard of it," Louis Smith, CC '13 and one of last year's coordinators of EcoReps, said. "That's a really big problem."

Smith collaborated with the office on the EcoReps bike-share pilot program last year, but the student group had trouble getting the OES to follow up with its portion of the work. OES was responsible for completing risk management waivers, and Smith claimed that there was a delay in getting those forms completed. "It wasn't clear that working with students was a large priority, or that it was really in the job description of the person heading up the office," he said.

Although Cathy Resler and Helen Bielak, two managers in the office, declined to answer questions about the office's involvement with the bike-share



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

GOING GREEN | Columbia's Office of Environmental Stewardship is looking to market itself better to students.

program, they recognized that they need to strengthen their relationship with students.

"We've been hearing from students that they feel like they'd like to see our presence more, and I think that's something that is a big priority and we're trying to work on that," Resler said.

Over the summer, the office experienced a quiet turnover in leadership that is leading administrators to reconsider the structure of the office, both internally and within the greater hierarchy of the University.

Nilda Mesa served as assistant vice president for

environmental stewardship from 2006 until July, when she left her job to become associate dean of administrative affairs at Columbia's Journalism School. She said in an email her favorite part of the job was interacting with students. "I really miss working with students. It was great to advise, coach and advocate for student ideas and projects," she said.

Vice President of Campus Services Scott Wright has taken over Mesa's role on an interim basis, and as the University

SEE GREEN, page 3

THIS WEEK IN THE EYE



LAUREN PAYNE / THE EYE

BEST OF 2012 | From No Doubt to Homeland, editors of The Eye share their favorite things from this past year.

A&E, PAGE 6

'Faces of Barnard' brings community to the forefront

New Facebook project highlights visitors, students, and employees on Barnard's campus—and in a little over a week, it has over 450 likes.



OPINION, PAGE 4

Seeking perspective

Minimizing anxiety by seeing the (literally) big picture.

Teach me how to think

The discovery of truth must be a shared endeavor for all of society.

SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Lions done rebuilding, expect Ivy contention

After two rebuilding years, Columbia's women's basketball team has firmly established a new collective identity, and looks to challenge the Ivy's best this season.

EVENTS

China/Europe: Politics of Economic Change

The Weatherhead East Asian Institute and the Blinken European Institute present a panel on two contrasting economic pictures.

East Gallery, Buell Hall, 4 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



42°/ 33°

Tomorrow



48°/ 44°



# As stop-and-frisk anger grows, local City Council members step up

BY CHRIS MEYER  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

Former New York City police sergeant Anthony Miranda has a simple piece of advice.

“Every time you see a police encounter, pull out your cell phone,” Miranda said during a panel discussion at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem on Monday. “Videotape it, whether you think it’s right or wrong, and upload it onto the Internet.”

The crowd erupted into applause before the former officer had even finished his sentence. To anyone who walked out of the auditorium that night, the message from local residents was plain: We do not have faith in our police.

The event on Monday night, sponsored by the Police Reform Organizing Project, a city advocacy group that fights against police practices they say are abusive and unjust, underscored a broader local opposition to police actions, particularly the notorious stop-and-frisk policy.

Under stop-and-frisk, police officers may stop anyone whom they reasonably suspect may commit a crime, and pat them down for weapons or illicit materials. Supporters say the policy is a successful tool against violent crime, which dropped 18.3 percent in New York City between 2002 and 2011, according to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. But opponents say it encourages racial profiling and abusive search techniques without guaranteeing long-term deterrence.

Stop-and-frisk is a major issue in Morningside Heights and West Harlem. Between July 1 and Sept. 30 of this year, the most recent period for which statistics are available, police stopped and frisked roughly 2,600 people in Precincts 26, 28, 30, and 32, which comprise Morningside Heights and a majority of Harlem, according to data released by the NYPD.

Opposition to stop-and-frisk has grown among politicians citywide. Local City Council members have taken the lead on new proposals, which they hope will strike a balance between maintaining a policy the police stand by and satiating public outcry against its perceived abuse.

## Jackson, Brewer working on legislation to limit ‘abusive’ police tactic

### MARGINALIZING COMMUNITIES?

The same NYPD data shows that those stopped are overwhelmingly African-American or Hispanic. Roughly half of those stopped citywide in the last quarter were African-American, and an additional 30 percent were Hispanic. Only around 10,000, or 10 percent, of those frisked were either arrested or received a summons.

Racial disparities in the implementation of the policy have prompted anger throughout Harlem, Morningside Heights, and across the city, where residents claim they are inordinately targeted simply for their race rather than the likelihood that they will commit a crime.

“You can’t tell what someone is like based on their appearance,” said Harlem resident Jamal Benjamin. “Some guy with a suit and a briefcase could be the worst one.”

## “Just having the threat of forcing the police to obey the law helps curtail the whole legal practice.”

—Gale Brewer,  
City Council member

The belief that there is a double standard in the enforcement of stop-and-frisk is a prevalent one. During Monday night’s meeting, Graham Weatherspoon, a retired NYPD detective, received some of the biggest applause of the night when he argued that a white suspect would receive far more generous treatment in a stop-and-frisk case.

“If I threw a white boy up against a fence, his parents would be at the precinct with an attorney before I got back,” Weatherspoon said.

John Eterno, a retired NYPD captain and professor of criminal justice at Molloy College, said that, regardless of whether there had indeed been a drop in violent crime, stop-and-frisk victims have become intensely distrustful of the police.

“In the long run this will make more crime,” Eterno said. “Because you’re labeling people, you’re making them angrier at police. Are you going to say something to the guy who just threw you up against the wall?”

Local residents agree with this sentiment. A Harlem woman, who declined to give her name because of outstanding legal concerns, said the need to prevent crime should be weighed against the comfort of citizens.

“I hear people here and there and I think the reason stop-and-frisk is controversial is that it seems heavy-handed,” she said. “I think the idea is good, but it needs some type of modification to avoid the police losing the support of the citizen.”

Popular movements against the policy are underway in some communities. Last February, 30 advocacy groups launched Communities United for Police Reform, which works to educate minority communities and organize political opposition to stop-and-frisk. The group has already helped register about 5,000 voters, said Candis Tolliver, a police organizer with the New York Civil Liberties Union, a member organization.

### LOCAL POLITICIANS TAKE ACTION

City Council members Robert Jackson and Gale Brewer are both sponsors of a set of stop-and-frisk reform bills that are currently making their way through the council. Known as the Community Safety Act, the legislation would require officers to obtain consent before frisking suspects without probable cause and to identify themselves as part of the NYPD while carrying out “law-enforcement activity.” It would also create an



DOUGLAS KESSEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**NYPD BLUE** | Police frisked 2,600 people in Precincts 26, 28, 30, and 32 in the last quarter.

inspector-general for the NYPD.

Brewer, who represents the Upper West Side, said she did not believe the legislation would weaken stop-and-frisk’s effectiveness, arguing that simply proposing changes was often enough to make a difference.

“Sometimes when you introduce legislation, good things happen because you make it an issue,” said Brewer, who said she has received complaints from many constituents about the policy. “Just having the threat of forcing police to obey the law helps curtail the whole legal practice.”

Jackson, who represents Washington Heights, Hamilton Heights, and part of Manhattanville, does not support the “discriminatory practices of the current NYPD policy,” said Joanna Garcia, Jackson’s chief of staff. “It’s supposed to be stop, question, and frisk. But oftentimes there is no questioning.”

Garcia said Jackson has been advocating for greater accountability with respect to stop-and-frisk, as well as initiatives for more stringent sensitivity training in the police department.

Melissa Mark-Viverito, who represents East Harlem and part of the Upper West Side, and Inez Dickens, who represents Harlem and Morningside Heights, also support the reforms. They did not respond to requests for comment.

In a talk with the Columbia Undergraduate Law Review on Nov. 27, Robert Torres, an associate justice in the state supreme court’s appellate division, said stop-and-frisk was sensitive legal subject. A 1968 Supreme Court ruling found that officers need only “reasonable suspicion” of criminal activity to stop someone, rather than the more stringent standard of “probable cause.”

Torres said this lower standard means each incident has to be examined on a case-by-case basis. “There is only one absolute in law, and that is that there are no absolutes in law,” he said. “Everything is fact-specific.”

### ABUSING A USEFUL TOOL?

This summer, Police Commissioner Ray Kelly defended stop-and-frisk at an event at the Harlem Police

Athletic League, calling out community leaders who attack the policy but do not move to tackle anti-gun legislation.

“Many of them will speak out about stop-and-frisk,” Kelly said, according to the Daily News, but are “shockingly silent when it comes to the level of violence right in their own communities.”

Although opponents of the policy maintain that stop-and-frisk is abused, many do not disapprove of the policy’s legality. During Monday night’s panel, not one of the anti-stop-and-frisk advocates on stage opposed the legal justification behind the policy, but rather the manner in which it is implemented.

“I have to tell you right now that I’m not against stop-and-frisk,” Eterno said. “What I’m against is what is going on right now which is the abuse of stop-and-frisk, and it is disgusting.”

Rather than the searches themselves, Eterno said the truly illegal aspect of stop-and-frisk is a supposed quota system that rewarded officers for stopping citizens, which he said was part of a top-down institutional fixation on arrests.

He said he had interviewed hundreds of police officers for his research on the policy, many of whom reported feeling pressured to stop people on the streets. In a survey he conducted with officers who had been part of the force since 1995, he said roughly 40 percent of those responding said they felt “high pressure” from higher-ups to stop and frisk people.

Although the NYPD did not respond to multiple requests for comment, it has long denied the existence of a quota system. In 2010, Governor David A. Paterson signed expansive anti-quota legislation, which banned formal quotas for stop-and-frisk encounters. In October of that same year, the NYPD legal department prepared a memo in which they denied that any formal quota existed.

“The setting and enforcement of quotas sets unfair standards and could result in an officer taking enforcement action for the purpose of meeting a quota rather than because a violation of the law has occurred,” the memo read.

The memo also said the department was allowed to establish “performance goals” for its officers. Some opponents of the policy, however, have said that these goals are simply quotas under another name, and argue that they provide a justification for punishing officers who do not stop enough people.

Carleton Berkeley, a former NYPD detective, said he had seen officers passed over for promotions because they had too few arrests on their records. Miranda, the retired NYPD sergeant, agreed that there was at least a de facto quota, saying the methods for enforcing it could range from simple harassment to transferring the officer to another precinct.

Some former officers even went so far as to argue that the emphasis on stop-and-frisk was no longer capturing criminals, but rather stopping a set number of people and doing whatever it took to avoid being held liable for potentially unlawful searches.

Many of them pointed to so-called “snap-out sheets,” or forms handed out to officers that listed 20 legitimate reasons for frisking a suspect. Before stopping someone, all an officer must do is check off one of the boxes on the form in order to present a legal justification to a judge.

“When officers get into the police academy, indoctrination begins to tell them that it’s ‘us versus them,’” Miranda said. “These forms were never intended to protect the community. They were meant to prevent liability.”

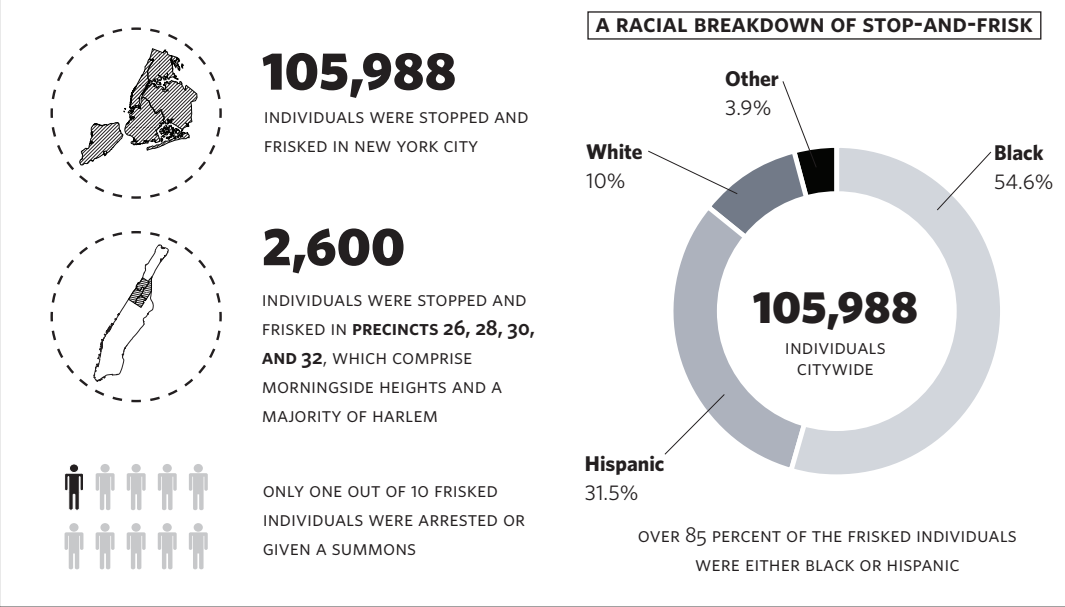
The supposed abuse of the policy has left some New Yorkers pessimistic about the prospect of change. Harry McNeary, a former convict who was at the meeting Monday, said officers had frisked him multiple times, experiences that left him pessimistic about the effect any reform could have.

“It goes on in my community on a daily basis. It’s nothing new for us,” McNeary, who now lives in the Bronx, said. “You can say nothing and just get smacked on the head. Staying quiet does not help you, and speaking out does not help you.”

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## STOP-AND-FRISK BY THE NUMBERS

BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPTEMBER 30, 2012:



## ABC will not recognize clubs in spring

ABC from front page

each ABC representative serving on a different committee, they will all work together on policy initiatives. The representatives will be split into teams headed by the executive board members—Richardson, treasurer Chloe Ruan, SEAS ’13, and secretary Tony Lee, CC ’15.

“We might as well just have a Manhattan Project of policy,” Kalathur said. “Have everyone working on it at the same time so we can bang out the low-hanging fruit easily.”

Another issue the board plans to tackle next semester is re-examining the Electronic Approval Forms. With the implementation of LionLink, a platform student groups use to spend allocations and recruit new members, each ABC group has to fill out an EAF for every event they hold and a financial transaction form, or FTF, for each purchase it makes.

Most events require multiple purchases, and thus multiple

FTFs. At the town hall last week, Kalathur said ABC received overwhelming feedback that the two forms were redundant.

After that town hall, the Columbia University Milvets proposed a rolling evaluation system for groups to ABC members. Milvets president Richard Baldassari, GS ’14, said that the student body is “disadvantaged” because groups that grow significantly each year—such as the Milvets—do not receive enough funding, while there is no formal evaluation or derecognition process for groups that lose membership or stop programming.

Baldassari said Milvets was founded with 12 members and now has around 400, but that its allocation has not grown at a proportional rate. He suggested a system of ABC groups evaluating each other on a rolling basis, where groups would be reviewed every few years.

The board did not decide how the reforms would be implemented or what the new structures would look like. Kalathur

emailed the resolution as well as its proposal for next semester early Thursday morning to ABC groups.

Kalathur said after the meeting that ABC will pursue all the reforms listed in the proposal, though it’s unclear exactly how. Certain processes—such as allocations, group evaluation, and EAFs—will be the main focus of the board next semester.

ABC members plan to spend the first half of next semester putting together a package of reforms and then presenting it to groups, councils, and administrators for feedback. The reforms will be implemented in the second half of the semester.

Kalathur stressed that groups would not be blindsided by the reforms.

“We will be getting feedback through the groups before we pass anything,” he said. “Because it requires a constitutional change, we have to get two-thirds of the groups to vote.”

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# One year in, mental health groups look to effect policy changes

**WELLNESS**  
**from front page**

and wellness with Active Minds and the Columbia Neuroscience Society, and Active Minds' panel discussion with Milvets.

Now, SWP hopes to examine its priorities and focus on some large policy changes going forward.

"There were a lot of things that we pursued earlier in the year to see if they even could be a priority," Steven Castellano, CC '13 and co-chair of SWP's political committee, said. "This is basically the first year we've had a political committee, so for future years, we can start tackling things now that we've done the research."

Castellano, who is also the academic affairs representative for Columbia College Student Council, has been working on stress reduction policies in academics that he said relate to SWP's mission. After presenting his ideas to the undergraduate councils, he has identified three projects that have garnered a wave of support: a pass/fail option for all non-Core classes in students' first years, an extended drop deadline, and an official extension policy.

Dean of Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger said that he thinks there are things administrators can do to help relieve stress on students. In addition to planning mental health programming—like the puppy event that's now held during finals each semester—Student Affairs is looking

at ways to change its messaging around majors and credit loads, particularly the message it sends to incoming first-years during summer advising sessions.

"There are also a number of ongoing efforts to look at policies and procedures that might be overly bureaucratic and cumbersome," he said.

Shollenberger said that while he thinks the University needs programs like those SWP and Active Minds have organized, he thinks that some policy changes would benefit students. He noted that several offices have already worked together to make sure that final exam dates will be available at the beginning of the semester, and that processes like class registration could be made easier.

"We have to remember students don't necessarily compartmentalize their lives the way the administration does," he said. "We need to step back and look at how students experience the University and their processes and things that we can streamline." Another idea that SWP hopes to implement next semester is an "interactive gratitude board" in Lerner Hall, where students can answer questions and thank people who have helped them.

Castellano said he was inspired when the anonymous cheer-spreading Facebook account Columbia Compliments organized a similar gratitude board around Thanksgiving. "That's definitely something I want to get done. I think there's



FILE PHOTO

**FURRY FRIENDS** | Besides bringing puppies to play with during finals, Student Affairs and mental health groups are seeking other ways, like policy changes, to relieve stress on campus.

a lot of support for it, and I think it could definitely get done by the end of the year," he said.

At the heart of all these projects remains the desire to effect significant change in Columbia's culture, or at least in the conversation surrounding it.

"I think sometimes these conversations happen in little friend groups, but now there's been more large forums for these discussions ... and now between administrators and students, which ultimately is very important to changing a culture," Sara Donatich, BC '13 and a co-chair of SWP, said.

Last month, Shollenberger wrote an op-ed in Spectator about the University's stress culture,

saying that "it is a sign of strength, not weakness, to ask for help and recognize that you are not perfect in everything that you do."

However, some students feel the stress culture is alive and well despite discussions and forums about mental health.

"I always hear upperclassmen talking about the stress culture, how they're so stressed. It makes me feel like I should feel stressed even if I'm not. And when I am, I feel like I should be talking about it, which is weird," Rakina Imam, BC '16, said.

Samantha Keller, CC '13 and leader of Active Minds, said "there's been a surge in interest" in discussing mental health on campus. "But I think Active

Minds has a long way to go as far as the changes we'd like to see in the education component, so we're still working," she added.

Still, some students feel the small events and gestures are making a difference.

"I think it does help. I love free snacks, especially free hot chocolate, cupcakes—it makes me smile and feel like people care," Samara Green, BC '16, said.

"I don't think we're a quick fix to Columbia's issues, but I think we're a really good start and going in the right direction," Ahmed said.

*Yasmin Gagne contributed reporting.*

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## Students say environmental office should offer more support

**GREEN** from front page

searches for a new permanent head, Wright said the biggest question is what direction the office will head in next.

"I've actually spent quite a bit of time talking to students and different people just to get a sense of what everybody is looking for going forward," he said.

Mesa reported to Senior Executive Vice President Robert Kasdin. The next assistant vice president might continue to report to Kasdin, but Wright said it might be "equally effective" to report to "campus services if we want a student focus, or over in facilities if we want a really technical or construction focus."

the office could do better to market itself to students. "We're trying to figure out a way to better brand ourselves," she said. One of the office's new efforts at publicity includes an email response program so that student questions and concerns can be heard.

Student leader said they'd like to see less talk and more action.

"It hasn't had the strongest student engagement. The student programming side has been lacking," said Zak Accuardi, SEAS '12, who led Green Umbrella and various other environmental projects as a student.

"Although they were always supportive verbally with the project," Smith said of the bike-share, "it was hard to get their help outside verbal support, like monetary support and support within other realms of the administration."

Aida Conroy, CC '13 and another former co-coordinator of EcoReps, has worked closely with the office while organizing the bike-share program and bringing a composter to campus. She said she appreciated the input that OES staff members provided, but had similar issues with the lack of responsiveness.

"What I would like to see in an improved office would be them working closely with students, but also them thinking critically and trying to reach out to us with projects," she said.

Resler said she sees her role as a support system for students rather than an idea-generating force. But, she stressed, that means the door's always open.

"I am more than happy to talk to any group at any time before midnight about the resources available," Resler said. "If people want to meet with us we are here and happy to help."

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**"The student programming side has been lacking."**

—Zak Accuardi, SEAS '12, former Green Umbrella organizer

"There are just obvious areas that could work, and I think in the end you just pick one and go," he said.

The office's mandate is to increase awareness of what the University is doing in terms of sustainability and of the resources available to students but, according to staff members, that goal is a difficult one.

"A lot of people get us confused with Environmental Health and Safety or think that we function as part of facilities, but that's not how we work," Resler said. "Our role is more of an educator, adviser, and encourager."

She said she was aware that

the office could do better to market itself to students. "We're trying to figure out a way to better brand ourselves," she said. One of the office's new efforts at publicity includes an email response program so that student questions and concerns can be heard.

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## Panel discusses Asians' political frontier

**BY TRACEY WANG**  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

The U.S. electorate broke one racial barrier in 2008 in electing Barack Obama, CC '83, president. But will it ever elect an Asian-American president?

That was the topic for debate at a panel Wednesday that included Peter Koo, a City Council member representing central Queens, and Doris Ling-Cohan, a state supreme court justice.

The statistics are promising, said Raymond Smith, a political science professor at Columbia and New York University. He called the past 10 years a "dramatic breakthrough" for Asian-Americans in elected office. Of the 27 Asian-Americans who have been elected to the House of Representatives, 21 have taken office since 2005.

"Usually it's a good sign for a group when you're not the first Asian-American but the first Asian-American something else—the first Asian-American woman in the Senate, in the case of Mazie Hirono, or the first Asian-American openly gay member of the House or the first Hindu entering the House. You start to see that multiplication," he said.

All the panelists said that it was important to have the Asian-American community represented in the government, whether it is an Asian-American in elected office or someone who works on the issues that directly impact the Asian community.

Ling-Cohan said, "I think it's important to have a seat at the table. Will all of our issues be addressed? No. But the fact that we have a few seats at the table is really important to advance the issues in our community."

"Having people who look like us, understand us, and eat our foods in elected office is a very empowering thing," said Wayne Ho, executive director of the Coalition for Asian American Children and Family. "With that



COURTLAND THOMAS FOR SPECTATOR

**NEXT STEP** | State Supreme Court Judge Doris Ling-Cohan spoke on a panel on the possibility of an Asian-American president.

said, I would rather have elected officials that have policy stances that I believe in and that are beneficial to the Asian community than just to have folks there who are Asians that don't necessarily pay attention to our issues."

Koo emphasized active participation in the political process by engaging in the community.

"You don't have to run for office to participate in politics," he said. "The main thing in life is to be compassionate about the issues in your community. If you see something wrong, say something."

Abdulrahman El-Sayed, a social epidemiologist and commentator for various news organizations, said that minorities should look to shared goals, rather than the national and religious boundaries that divide them.

"We want a multicultural society. We want a society that doesn't necessarily look at your name or your face and then say a certain thing about you, but allows you to do the thing that you want to," El-Sayed said.

"So often it's easy to focus on external dynamics, the fact that you don't look like everybody else

or you have a very different cultural norm, and we have to break those barriers," he added. "That's important, but sometimes, I think that the hardest part is galvanizing the people in your community around you or around one or around a central ideal."

About 70 people attended the discussion, hosted by Columbia University Asian American Alliance, Pi Delta Psi Fraternity, and the Taiwanese American Students Association.

Derrick Fu, CC '13 and president of Pi Delta Psi, called the event a great chance for the pan-Asian community on campus to come together and be "united to create a strong voice."

"It was really worthwhile to talk about these issues openly, to be a part of the dialogue and participate in it," he said.

Bill Nguyen, CC '16, said that the event reaffirmed a lot of his thoughts on Asian-American issues.

"It's so transformative to have elected officials talk about the issues that directly impact the Asian community,"

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## Q House will be subject to brownstone guidelines

**BROWNSTONES**  
**from front page**

the committee, said that the ALPHA Standards were always meant to be just "one component" of the discussion.

"Fraternities and sororities were never told that that's how the decision was going to be made," Shollenberger said. "It's like any process—if they are already recognized organizations within the community, we look at their standards within the community."

Martinez said that committee members did not bring up the topic of the drug bust, the December 2010 raid on the three brownstones in which several of their members were arrested for selling drugs.

Shollenberger and Martinez said that a guidelines system with some similarities to the ALPHA Standards will be used for Q House, the one non-Greek organization selected for brownstone occupancy last week, but that Q House won't have to fulfill requirements that are specific to Greek organizations.

"We've been very clear that those houses are a privilege," Shollenberger said. "They need to be following policies and procedure that we put forth. They need to follow community standards."

There is already an evaluative process every three years for all special interest communities, but Martinez said that she would like to make the evaluation annual. Additionally, Shollenberger said that Q House will be subject to the terms of use governing all brownstones. "There is a manual that outlines particular rules for brownstones—about how there's no access to roofs, and how to care for common spaces and furniture ... all of the things, not just Greek-specific," he said.

Q House will work with an adviser and be subject to event reviews like fraternities and sororities. There will also be an RA assigned to the space, Shollenberger said.

The two East Campus townhouses occupied by Lambda and AXO will be available to SICs next year, while Q House's vacated Ruggles suite will enter general selection. Shollenberger said that he is also looking to hire someone who would oversee annual reviews of the special interest communities, three of which will occupy the former convent brownstones that are being converted into undergraduate housing on West 113th Street.

The brownstone decision left some students displeased. The Bwog post announcing the winners was flooded with hostile comments toward the Greek and queer communities, which Shollenberger said he was dismayed to read.

"I was disappointed by comments about the bashing of fraternities, sororities, and Greek life. It's an important co-curricular activity for students," he said. "I was also concerned regarding some of the homophobic comments regarding the Q House."

For AXO, the only Panhellenic sorority that has not had a brownstone, the announcement of a new home comes with a drawback: Only two Barnard students will be allowed to live in the brownstone, even though 51 of the 88 sorority's members—nearly 60 percent—are Barnard students, and the three other Panhellenic sororities—Delta Gamma, Kappa Alpha Theta, and Sigma Delta Tau—are allowed to house five Barnard students.

Martinez said that the housing agreement with Barnard allows AXO only two Barnard residents, and that administrators would honor that agreement.

"There has been no discussion to change that, despite it being a very Barnard-heavy sorority," Martinez said. "Barnard students aren't eligible because Columbia and SEAS students are very much interested and we don't want to take away the opportunity for that."

*Sammy Roth contributed reporting.*

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## Finding functional spaces a constant battle for performance groups

**SPACES** from front page

even though her group is only 12 people, they need a larger space to accommodate their dance routines—as do a number of other South Asian dance teams.

"You always have to email all these groups to trade around, and especially around competition times. It's actually the worst. It's inconvenient for everyone," Sampat said. "We try to book in advance, but oftentimes it's not really possible because we don't know exactly when we're going to be needing practice, so I just have to scramble the week of."

Groups with certain percussion instruments make things

even more complicated because of instrument lease and rental agreements. "We have \$30,000 worth of percussion instruments that we don't want to leave Lerner," Donnelly said.

Saketh Kalathur, CC '13 and president of the Activities Board at Columbia, said that although the board isn't heavily involved in space issues on campus, it is "trying to figure out a way" to better work with campus offices in determining who gets what space when.

"At the end of the day, there is such a huge crunch for space and so many groups that want to program that it's very difficult to make any sort of meaningful

change without the construction of new space for these groups," he said.

David Milch, Student Development and Activities' manager of media, performing arts, and publication productions, said he was already working with student group leaders on space issues. The root of the space problems, he said, is the increasing number of recognized student groups, along with the number of programs each group would like to put on—without any increase in available space.

"We are constantly looking for opportunities which would benefit our student groups, including partnership with various

organizations on and off campus," he said.

But there still seem to be as many frustrations as performing arts groups.

Donnelly noted noise conflicts between group rehearsals, especially when one group is practicing in the Black Box Theater and another in Lerner 555. Sampat also said that CU Bhangra could only reserve one space per week during pre-calendaring, even though they practice more often. And Kalathur pointed to two good dance spaces at Barnard that can be reserved by Barnard dance majors but not student groups.

"There are some new dance

rooms in Schapiro, but we've found that those aren't really being used as well as they could be, mostly because of the size—they're a lot smaller than what we thought the plan was going to be," Kalathur said.

"Having space, especially for performance groups, is such an integral part of preparation for performances or competitions. So when you can't get space, it becomes very difficult to even function as a group," Kalathur added. "The general trend is that groups can find the space, it's just very difficult right now."

*Amanda Stibel contributed reporting.*

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# In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen?

“Columbia taught me how to think.” It baffles me when-ever graduates of Columbia make this statement as they wistfully reflect on their college years. I do understand their sentiment. This school has indeed provided me ample opportunities to engage with texts and research studies critically. The effect that Columbia has on its graduates is life-changing, as shown by the changes in people’s aspirations and the quality of their conversations. It is remiss, however, to say that the education in this school is so life-changing that it teaches people how to think. Period.

In the natural sciences, schools teach that truth is sieved out only after it passes through repeated observation and experimentation in the scientific method. Even then, theories are subject to further hypothesis testing. When subsequent observations challenge previous findings, the scientist nobly retracts his claim. Based on this linear, methodical way of knowing, students believe that scientists are dispassionate, objective “saints in lab coats” that serve at the altar of truth.

The fact of the matter is that universities endorse only a limited set of ways of knowing. These intellectual habits are told to have “rigor” that minimizes bias and maximizes honesty. However, it is often forgotten that “intellectual rigor” is not some objective standard that falls from the sky, all divorced from human ambition. The knowledge that professors produce usually serves a motive other than the discovery of truth. They strive for the approval of their colleagues in peer-evaluated journals or superiors that will grant them tenure or additional funding. In the classroom, many students would prefer to reproduce the accepted answer than what they truly think is true, especially when their grade or recommendation letter is at stake. The type of truth that we aspire to is one that wins the approval of other academics, but not necessarily one that resonates with the rest of society.

Truth is rarely known linearly and objectively, unlike what many proponents of higher education often proclaim. Universities alone do not safeguard all knowledge and truth available to mankind. It is dangerous to believe that thought processes endorsed by colleges are the only avenues to absolute meaning in one’s life. Such belief would cause disparities in the worth of a person’s life based on his academic credentials. But this problem has already become a reality. It is common knowledge that the economic attainment of a person is severely limited without a college degree. The work, the thoughts and services produced by a person cannot be valued highly unless he holds a degree that certifies that he can think.

It is remiss, however, to say that the education in this school is so life-changing that it teaches people how to think.

Before coming to Columbia, I often studied in the sobering reserves of Dartmouth’s Baker-Berry Library, which houses a mural of the famous Jose Clemente Orozco. One of the mural panels, “Gods of the Modern World,” never failed to wake me up from the dream of academia. Here, a skeleton gives birth to stillborn knowledge in the presence of other skeletons dressed in academic regalia. These figures yield to the bondage of old, sterile intellectual traditions, unable to save the world burning in flames.

As a young student and being far from a skeleton, I would tell myself that I am not guilty. I am not responsible for society’s bondage to academic credentials. But nevertheless, as a student who applied to and attends a school that prides itself in tradition, I am nevertheless part of the problem. I have also perpetuated the gratuitous confidence that people place in universities. We like to believe that all the solutions and undiscovered truths lie hidden in secular, westernized institutions that churn out stockpiles of research papers every year. The public’s incredible degree of faith in a college education blinds people from alternative forms of truth that cannot be always seen in an ivory tower.

I expect many people who invested so much in their university education to respond angrily to this column. You might still believe that human reason is the only method of unveiling the truth. You say that our society will fall into disrepair without the authority of academics whose degrees prove their infallible intelligence. I challenge you to reconsider. Despite their progress made in producing useful knowledge, our universities have yet to discover truth that completely redeems humanity from our current troubled state of affairs. Worried that we may never answer the perennial question of our existence, institutions scramble to accumulate fragments of truth. Students drown out this anxiety by overloading on courses that push toward the 21-credit limit. But isn’t it possible that what our academics believe today will mostly be proven false in the future? Isn’t it possible that the social progress instituted by universities so far may not necessarily guarantee their continued future success in enlightening society?

Knowing this limitation, some universities have begun to let go of their monopoly over knowledge. Schools in the health sciences, for example, are now promoting Community-Based Participatory Research. This method of research prioritizes an equal partnership between academics and members of the community, including faith-based organizations and healers of folk medicine. No single party hoards all the credit for successful findings and new knowledge gained. Endeavors like this one is a step in the right direction toward a future in which truth and knowledge can be shared among people trained in contrasting intellectual traditions. This shift in attitude is the key to meaningful, collaborative enlightenment of our nation and the world.

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



JAMES YOON

## Yooniversity

# Our own little piece of sky

With the semester ending, I think we are all looking forward to a much-deserved break back home without any major responsibilities from school—a respite from readings, exams, papers, even the daily barrage of emails we deal with during the semester. Given the high-stress environment that is Columbia, I doubt it would be too far off the mark to say that, at times, we seem to live for these breaks. After finals, that is.

I will be glad to see my family, catch up with old friends, and celebrate the holidays. But the single thing I’m probably most looking forward to is the open sky. Near my house, the local river runs through a stretch protected on both sides by federal parkland. There are no tall buildings for miles around. The sound of cars is muffled by the trees. At night, people are few and far between. Standing by the banks of the river and looking up at the stars, one gets the impression that the sky is vast, endless, and infinite—that one has been given the privilege of a secret glimpse at something mysterious and majestic. It evokes a special sense of awe in the winter, when the moon reflects off the snow that has built up on the frozen water and it is bright enough to make out the dark outlines of clouds across a darker black. You could be forgiven for believing, at that moment, that the whole world is no more than a pale reflection of the reality of the sky. Against its overwhelming power, one’s problems and worries seem incomparably insignificant.

The New York sky gives off none of this. It provides no sense of wonder, no relief from our daily pressures. If anything, it can be oppressive; the adage that the sky is lowered here has more than a grain of truth to it. That is, by definition, what skyscrapers are supposed to do, after all. It feels more like an artificial ceiling, as if one could, with a tall enough ladder, reach out and touch the paint. And it makes the open sky, for those of us who are lucky enough to go home to one, that much more awesome.

We should cherish it all the more, for there seem to be precious few sources of wonder in our lives. As mundane stresses and chores take their toll, sources of perspective are decidedly lacking. Even the language



BOB SUN

## Terms of Engagement

we use to talk about emotional health is largely missing an appreciation of the power of beauty and awe. I will not dispute that our approach to wellness is well-intentioned and indeed produces positive results, but it often seems to speak almost exclusively in terms of escape. We seek out spaces that are a shelter from outside pressures. We look forward to times of rest and relative retreat from our hectic lives. Coping with stress almost always means finding some type of internal sphere that our stressors cannot penetrate. The paradigm for helping to create environments that can minimize the effects of such sources of anxiety essentially reduces to finding ways of helping people find that sphere. All this is not to say that I intend to disparage any of this work. Sometimes, what we need is exactly some sort of bubble into which we can withdraw when we become overwhelmed, a place where we are not egged on or attacked for not keeping up with the Joneses. Somewhere we can go without condescension or judgment when we are struggling is undoubtedly invaluable, as is having someone to talk to. It is not enough, however, to have a place where one can curl up into a ball, metaphorically or literally.

We also need places where we can be taken aback, awe-struck, even a little frightened, places where stressors are not escaped from but rather disrupted and firmly put in their place.

We also need places where we can be taken aback, awestruck, even a little frightened, places where stressors are not escaped from but rather disrupted and firmly put in their place. Avoiding pain and anxiety is but one side of the coin; the other is seeking out perspective and beauty. Of course, this is a highly personal search—a concert, an exercise of one’s faith, a great work of art, even a run through the park can be sources of wonder. In any case, wherever we look, I hope we can find our own piece of the sky at Columbia.

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



LAURA DIEZ DE BALDEON

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I admire Hannah Shaper’s courage in writing about extricating herself from an environment that made her feel like “the emotional equivalent of making sweet love to a cactus and pretending to enjoy it” (“The sun rises without Columbia,” Dec. 5). The sparks of wit that pepper her piece demonstrate that she will probably succeed in life with or without a Columbia degree. Her argument, though, reveals serious blind spots in her conception of the world.

In dropping out of Columbia, she asks students, “You have what it takes to win in the game of life, so what are you doing puttering around Morningside Heights?” She goes on to write, “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.” I happily fall under the category of someone who enjoys being a Columbia student, and I don’t begrudge Hannah’s decision to make herself happy.

But she fails to take into account that many students subject themselves to the supposed “Columbia grind,” not because it makes them happy, but because they must. Must, because Columbia offers the first—if not the only—real opportunity for some students to climb the steep socioeconomic ladder that drives American society today.

In an economic sense, the university system in America acts as a large certification system. Great universities like Columbia not only impart wisdom, they also indicate to the larger society that a graduate is up to snuff and employable. Those whom Hannah

would classify as students whose “parents could eat most people’s parents for breakfast as far as societal importance goes” might not need that certification. I’d venture a guess, however, that most people who attend Columbia do.

The “certification” theory of education in America has many pitfalls. It’s unclear if our society benefits in the long run by requiring everyone who wants an upper middle class job to attain a college degree. People like billionaire Peter Thiel are making small steps to disrupt this system with non-university fellowship programs and the like. Maybe eventually the only people who will attend universities are those who “genuinely enjoy being a student,” and maybe the world will be better off for it.

In the meantime, the reality is that for a large swath of Columbia’s talented population, this school represents a great equalizer—a place that elevates them to higher levels of American society, a place that fulfills some form of the American dream, albeit a place that does so imperfectly.

Hannah’s op-ed fails to contextualize her position in society. She fails to empathize with, or even take into consideration, those less fortunate than her. She seems unaware that there are people who work hard and don’t enjoy it, but continue working hard because they dream of a better life for themselves and their children. Courage is admirable, yes, but courage born from ignorance is a fool’s currency. I hope that’s something we can learn with Columbia’s full liberal arts education.

David Fine, CC’13

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Women’s basketball says rebuilding is finished

**BASKETBALL from back page**

“If your own team is performing better, every timeout, every practice, every game, if they just keep getting a little better all the time, you’ll end up winning your share of games because you establish an identity for yourself, for your team, and that you’re going to do these things every time.”

In these two seasons, Columbia entered what Nixon called “rebuilding years,” in which the Lions needed not only to replace the graduated talent but also construct a new identity. Nixon said that identity involves three steps: first, being up-tempo and quick in transition defense for steals and turnovers, carrying the squad into its second step, fast-paced offense. The final step—which the Lions are currently trying to accomplish—is to become a great rebounding team.

Simpson saw the first step taken in her sophomore year, when the underclasswomen played their first significant minutes. The game-time situation felt unfamiliar and intensive, and the players struggled to craft team chemistry.

“I think we were starting to try to reclaim the identity of

being a running team,” she said. “We were kind of lost. I guess we had never solidified, never made it our identity.”

For fellow co-captain and senior guard Brittany Simmons, rebuilding an identity began with “experimentation, figuring out what works and what doesn’t work.” But Nixon says experimentation eventually complicated the Lions’ mindset.

“If you’re constantly changing the approach to every game based on who you’re playing, then it can become very difficult, because when the game gets tough at some point, your team doesn’t really have that identity to fall back on and say, ‘It’s okay this team can do all this over here, but this is what we do and we’re going to do this well,’” he said.

“I’ve worked to use different language and different motivational tactics and focus on different things in practice with our team than what we did last year, because obviously what we did last year didn’t work.”

Rebuilding typically takes one year, but injuries and players quitting the team disrupted the process. Now the head coach and the co-captains believe that the revamping phase is finished and that Columbia can expect to see some wins.

“No one is sitting in the locker room and thinking, ‘This is a rebuilding season, things are going to be hard,’” Simmons said. “We’ve gone through this. I feel like the last two years have been the rebuilding state and this is year that action needs to happen.”

Despite the team’s current record of 1-7 and a four-game losing streak, Nixon predicts that the Light Blue will establish itself in the top four of the league this year and maintain that position. Knowing the incoming freshman talent, the coach projects a hunt for the Ivy crown in the next two or three years.

“In the Ivy League, it can take a couple of years to get really completely back on track,” Nixon said. “I really anticipate this season being the year when we’re through talking about rebuilding and we’re talking about winning and competing for a championship.”

“I know our current record maybe would not indicate that we’re not at that point but, again, we’ve made so much progress from where we were last season,” he added. “We’re a so much better team, and eventually it’s going to start showing up in our record.”

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With key players graduating, CU will look for replacements

**FOOTBALL from back page**

Waller graduating with Murphy and Martin, the Lions will need younger players to step up.

As for those seniors, Mangurian said he appreciated the leadership they brought to the team this season, and they’ve been instrumental in getting Columbia in position to win in the near future.

“The hardest thing is to be a senior in a new program, because you’ve got very little time to really acclimate,” he said. “I’ve made it very clear to them that when this happens, they should have a real sense of accomplishment because they were there when it was hardest to do.”

When it comes to senior leadership next season, Mangurian has two players in mind—Garrett

and junior linebacker Zach Olinger.

“I have tremendous confidence in guys like Olinger and Garrett,” he said. “Neither one of those two guys are demonstrative leaders—they’re lead-by-example type guys. I think that’s important.”

As he has all season, Mangurian reiterated that despite all the noise of the past, the team is headed in the right direction.

“I have tremendous confidence in where we’re going,” he said. “There’s absolutely no doubt in my mind we’re going to win. But I know how hard it’s going to be.”

“To me the only past that matters right now is 3-7—where are we going from there?”

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ALYSON GOULDEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**LION LEADER** | Coach Mangurian has left his imprint on the Lion program while maintaining the trust of seniors this season.

Injuries derailed women’s cross country team’s strong start

**CHEUNG from back page**

His responsibility to the RB unit and the offense as a whole is unique, and how the Giants end up faring without Brown may change weekly. In some games, his absence will be more pronounced than in others. My hope is that the impact of the loss of Brown will be minimal, but as a Giants fan, you hope for the best, expect the worst, and then hope they can weather the storm.

When we’re talking about a team, everyone factors into the equation for winning in a specific way. That’s what makes injuries so detrimental to any squad starting to generate momentum from a breakthrough win.

have week in and week out.

In fact, the men maintained a steady rotation of six athletes that seemed to take turns placing high at each meet. I would attribute the unprecendented success they had this season to the team’s nucleus of upperclassmen—they picked up the performances of their teammates, and each other, from meet to meet. The men had a consistent source of points from their top athletes, and, even more invaluable, a consistent source of leadership for the duration of the season.

Obviously injuries hinder a team’s ability to win, but what really struck me was how the injuries the women faced highlighted the fact that success in their sport is more team-based than most people would think.

Success in their sport is more team-based than most people would think.

That brings us to Columbia cross country. In the early goings of the season, the women’s team lost two of its most competitive and experienced runners to injury. They were critical components of last year’s squad, which took home the first Ivy title in program history for indoor track, and 2011 All-American honorees in cross country. Sophomore Waverly Neer and senior Caroline McDonough are arguably the highest-placing women on a consistent basis, and both were expected to lead the program this season.

Losing them was a serious blow to the women’s side and one that it never seemed to recover from at any point in the ensuing two months. Without them, the women’s team persistently struggled one meet to the next, lacking the commanding frontrunners that the men’s side seemed to

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Ivy traditions have deep historical roots

**TRADITIONS from back page**

the Penn captain claimed that its colors would be the colors of the teams the team beat—Harvard crimson and Yale blue.

Legend has it that one of America’s favorite soups owes its colors to the Ancient Eight as well. During a Cornell-Penn football game in 1898, the general manager of Campbell’s Soup who had been watching the game from the stands is said to have been so impressed by Cornell’s red and white uniforms that he insisted his company mimic the color scheme on the label of his soup cans.

**RIVALRIES RUN DEEP**

In 1973, a rivalry caused Cornell fans to throw dead fish during a hockey game, and a Harvard fan to throw a dead chicken at the Cornell goalie in response. This was all part of a 1910 feud between the Harvard and Cornell hockey teams, which developed into one of the best-known conflicts in the Ivy League.

“I attended the Harvard-Yale football game last year and proudly wore my ‘My hatred for the Crimson outweighs my apathy for football’ T-shirt.”

—Molly Haig, Yale student

Though Harvard bitterly claims that the reason Cornell kept winning was because it was academically less demanding and less selective, Cornell berates Harvard for grade inflation, even making the cheer, “Give me an A, give me another A, give me another A, welcome to Harvard!” a popular one.

Answers will vary when each school is asked which institution is its main rival, but one of the most notorious rivalries is between the Harvard and Yale football teams. “The Game” is the one day every year that Harvard Stadium or Yale Bowl is completely full with people from all over Cambridge and New Haven to watch.

“I attended the Harvard-Yale football game last year and proudly wore my ‘My hatred for the Crimson outweighs my apathy for football’ T-shirt,” Yale junior Molly Haig said.

**WHAT MAKES A TEAM**

Many traditions have developed within each individual Ivy League institution, such as the Princeton bonfire. It’s hosted before the final game of the season anytime the Tigers beat both Harvard and Yale in the same year. Another grand tradition is Homecoming weekend at Dartmouth.

Traditionally, the freshman class builds a bonfire, then runs 100 laps plus whatever year they are around it and are later encouraged by upperclassmen to “touch the fire.”

“I love the sports traditions, because they bring a great sense of community to the school,” Dartmouth sophomore Tessa Robertson said. “We have one big weekend every term, and those are the weekends that definitely have the most tradition and school spirit involved, so lots of people go to the sports games on those weekends.”

“Our football games are usually pretty well-attended, but the homecoming game is usually packed, which is a lot of fun.”

But perhaps the quirkiest of all Ivy traditions is the one that comes from Penn. The Toast Toss comes after the third quarter of each football game, as fans throw toast in the air at the line, “Here’s a toast to dear old Penn,” while singing “Drink a Highball.”

While there isn’t anything like that yet at Columbia just yet, it’s never too late to get a tradition started.

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## Injuries can derail teams' title dreams

No matter the sport, there is an unmistakable trajectory from individuals' injuries and their teams' lack of success.

MELISSA CHEUNG

Guest Column

When the New York Giants won their game against the Green Bay Packers last week, I was admittedly ecstatic. Not only did they beat the Pack by four touchdowns, but they did it at home where they never play well, and won in the midst of their annual midseason sleepwalk through November. But as it usually happens, the Giants had little time to celebrate their victory before a new problem arose.

No matter the sport, there is an unmistakable trajectory from individuals' injuries and their teams' lack of success.

In the fourth quarter, Andre Brown, this year's diamond in the rough for the Big Blue, broke his fibula on a 16-yard gain. As I watched him hobble to the sideline, I wasn't particularly concerned. But when postgame reports stated that Brown was unlikely to see play until next season, the same sick feeling that I got at the end of the Giants-Cowboys same from earlier this month resurfaced.

In the 10 games he played in this season, Brown accumulated 385 yards on 73 carries for a team-leading eight touchdowns. He adopted the role of the red zone running back.

SEE CHEUNG, page 7



**REBOUNDING** | After two rebuilding seasons, the women's basketball team is looking to become one of the top Ivy teams once again.

## After tough season, CU expects improved record

BY LAURA ALLEN  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Children scrambled all over the bleachers of Levien Gym for the first game of the season for the women's basketball team. Other than the marching band, the kids were the only spectators under the age of 30.

The Lions lost that day and have only won one of their eight games on the season. For a squad that went 1-13 in the league last year, this doesn't sit too well. And nobody's puzzled by the

low turnout from Columbia students.

With finals threatening, New York City beckoning, and plenty of other distractions calling, many dismiss cheering for a team that just seems to disappoint.

For co-captain and senior guard Tyler Simpson, this perception from the community feels like abandonment.

"I don't think they understand that, even through the down times, for a team, no matter what team it is, every team needs support from its

community," she said. "When you feel abandoned, as more sports here do, it's hard to be as successful as they want us to be."

Despite Columbia's cultural values, Simpson remembers there was more respect for the women's team in her freshman year, when the Lions captured 18 victories, a school record. Four players earned league honors, including Ivy Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year.

The stars of that team graduated in 2010, leaving a squad that would notch

two of the worst win-loss records since 1994, when the Light Blue went 0-26 overall. Columbia went 7-21 in the 2010-2011 season, and then 3-25 last year. But while numbers don't lie, they also don't seem to tell the full story.

"The development of a team can't always be measured and directly attributed to their win-loss record," head coach Paul Nixon said. Instead, he believes "the long journey of a season" should be focused on improvement.

SEE BASKETBALL, page 7



DOUGLAS KESSEL/SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**PROMISING START** | Head football coach Pete Mangurian led CU to three wins in his first season at the helm.

## Mangurian predicts significant jump in year two

BY MYLES SIMMONS  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Mere hours after the football team's final game of the season at Brown on Nov. 17, Columbia head coach Pete Mangurian tweeted, "Starting Monday we start doing everything for the second time, and doing it better."

With all the Light Blue's progress in the head coach's first year of 2012, Mangurian has plenty of reasons to believe the team will significantly improve in 2013.

"My experience has told me that the second year is your biggest jump—on every level, that's not just in the Ivy League," Mangurian said last Friday. "The second year of a program is where you make your biggest jump because things are in place, you're doing them for the second time and all that."

With the Light Blue ending the season with an improved but still disappointing 3-7 record, Mangurian said many of the losses—especially those to Dartmouth and Penn—were an important part of the team's development and those experiences were key to defeating Yale and Cornell.

"It was painful, no doubt about it, but it was something we had to go through," he said. "We won a close game down the stretch and then we had one more that wasn't close. We played from a lead and extended a lead, and did some things we hadn't done before."

Senior quarterback Sean Brackett struggled at times this season, finishing with 1,876 yards, eight touchdowns, 12 interceptions, and a 52.4 completion percentage. Mangurian said it took time for Brackett to adjust to the new offensive system, but he did a great job in the second half of the season.

A lot of Brackett's improvement came from the progression of the receiving corps. At the beginning of the season, the wideouts and tight ends continually dropped passes, but caught the ball better as the year went on.

Mangurian said part of that came from players understanding the offense, rather than just memorizing it.

"The system is not built for that—it's built for understanding and application of concepts, so I think it took us a while to buy into that," he said. "I think once we did, we started growing and getting better."

One offensive player who especially stood out to the head coach was running back Marcorus Garrett. The junior put up some of the Ancient Eight's best numbers, as he finished second in the league in rushing yards with 957 and fifth in all-purpose yards with 1,115. The effort earned Garrett first-team All-Ivy honors.

"We were very clear about what we expected of him, and when he came back in the fall, he was ready to go to work and learned every single day," Mangurian said of Garrett. "He's kind of a maximum-contact runner—he's not

one of those elusive, make-you-miss type guys, that's not his deal. And for all the things that were said about our offensive line, the bottom line is they opened up for the third-highest rushing total in the history of the school."

Still, the Lions failed to put up good enough results on offense to win more games. They ranked last in points per game (14.5), total offense (303.9 yards per game), first downs (16.7 per game), third-down conversions (31.4 percent), and sacks allowed (40).

But the defensive side of the ball is where the Lions made substantial improvements. After ranking last in the league in total defense in 2011 by giving up 414.3 yards per game, this year's team jumped up four spots at 373.5.

Columbia's most notable strength was its front seven, led by senior linebacker Ryan Murphy and senior defensive lineman Josh Martin. The defense finished fourth in the league with 27 sacks, including three by Martin on Senior Day against Cornell.

"Josh will be hard to replace," Mangurian said. "He's a good player, he can play a lot of different places. We'll just see how that goes."

The Lions will have plenty of seniors to replace—especially on defense. With key contributing seniors like defensive linemen Greg Lee, Will Patterson, Shad Sommers, along with linebacker Mike

SEE FOOTBALL, page 7



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Humorous student traditions abound among Ivy schools

BY SARAH LAZARFELD  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

The Lions Cup is awarded to the Light Blue team that earns the most points among the varsity teams for, among other categories, academic and athletic excellence, amount of community service, and personal development.

But that Columbia tradition is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the Ivy League.

Since the league's inception in 1956, an average of 35 varsity sports teams have formed at each institution, creating vibrant student traditions as well.

**LIONS AND TIGERS AND BULLDOGS: SCHOOL MASCOTS AND COLORS**

Yale was the first school in the league to adopt an official mascot in 1889. The story goes that a Yale undergraduate bought a white bulldog, later

named Handsome Dan, for five dollars. Declared official mascot, Dan walked across the field before every football or baseball game. Since the death of Handsome Dan I in 1898, there have been 16 more.

At Cornell, a bear has come to be recognized as the school's unofficial mascot. Students once even had a bear shipped in a dog cage to Columbus, Ohio, for a game, causing the Animal Protective League to demand that the bear be set free in the wild of western Pennsylvania.

School colors are equally important. Rumor has it that after being invited to Penn's commencement, George Washington himself wore his best uniform, trimmed with blue and red, establishing the school colors. But the more accepted story is that during a track meet between Penn and Harvard,

SEE TRADITIONS, page 7



COURTESY OF YALE ATHLETICS, COURTESY OF SHUNELLA G. LUMAS, COURTESY OF MAGGIE ROWLAND

**TRADITION** | Other Ivy League traditions include parading Yale's bulldog mascot (top), Dartmouth's bonfire (left), and the Harvard-Yale rivalry (right).