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Retired profs will be asked to downgrade housing

BY TERESA SHEN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Literature Humanities chair Christia Mercer lives in a two-bedroom Columbia apartment. But under the University’s new policy for faculty housing, Mercer could be faced with a difficult choice three years after she retires—move into a smaller unit or get out of Columbia housing.

“Many of us were attracted to Columbia and encouraged to stay here,” Mercer, a philosophy professor, said, “with the assumption that we will be allowed to stay in our apartment.”

By the terms of a housing policy which took effect in the summer of 2009, tenured professors and other longtime employees who signed leases between July 1, 1989 and June 30, 2009 can be asked, starting three years after retirement, to downgrade or leave Columbia housing.

Astronomy professor Jim Applegate said the new policy will change his life plans in a big way.

“I’m going to teach till the day I die,” Applegate, who’s in his late 50’s, said, explaining that he’s healthy, enjoys teaching, and wants to keep his apartment.

Interim Provost John Coatsworth said that fewer than 10 professors who signed leases after 1989 have already retired and will be affected by the new policy, but this number will go up as more professors from this group retire.

IN WITH THE NEW

Professors who signed housing leases were never guaranteed housing after retirement, Mercer said, but this was the practice.

“This is a form of breaking a promise on the part of the University,” she said.

SEE HOUSING, page 2

NEWS BRIEF

CU junior in critical condition after hit-and-run

A Columbia College junior is in critical condition at St. Luke’s Hospital after being struck by a car at 1:20 a.m. on Sunday.

The 20-year-old male got out of a taxi at 106th Street and Broadway and began walking north across the street when a gray Mercedes-Benz sedan struck him. The car fled the scene, according to an NYPD spokesman.

A representative for the Division of Student Affairs confirmed that the student goes to Columbia and that the office was in touch with his family.

The traffic light was green for the car, and the student was walking against the pedestrian signal, the NYPD spokesman said.

EMS and NYPD arrived at the scene, and the student, who had trauma to the head and body, was transported to Saint Luke’s. No arrests were made.

—Gina Lee



HENRY WILLSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NEW GIG | SEAS Executive Vice Dean Donald Goldfarb, above in his office in Mudd, was appointed to the new position in November.

Foreign government, academia collide at Italian Academy

BY MELISSA VON MAYRHAUSER
Spectator Staff Writer

Columbia’s Italian Academy has perhaps the lowest rent in New York City, paying \$100 per year for its building at Amsterdam Avenue and 117th Street. The only catch is that the academy must keep paying that rent to the Italian government for the next 500 years.

The Italian government established the academy at Columbia

when it bought the building in 1991, and the academy continues to promote advanced Italian research through its fellowship program. But while the academy also holds events on Italian influence and pioneers work that fuses art and science, it is lacking in undergraduate participation, and most undergraduates can’t even get into the building, except during events.

Italy continues to appoint IA board members, who at times disagree with decisions made by IA

administrators, raising questions about the role of a foreign government in a private university.

“Sometimes, as in fact this past semester, we have industrialists on our board appointed by the foreign ministry—in fact by the Berlusconi government—who have tried to pressure us,” academy director David Freedberg said.

‘DIFFERENT PRIORITIES’

Columbia appoints six members of the academy’s board, and

the Italian government appoints the other six. The current Italian members, who were appointed under the government of former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, have at times tried to insist that the academy’s leadership follow their recommendations, Freedberg said.

He added that the Italian Academy is part of an independent American institution and

SEE ITALIAN ACADEMY, page 6

More lighting needed in Riverside Park, activists say

BY AVANTIKA KUMAR
Columbia Daily Spectator

Activists concerned with the nighttime safety of a pathway in Riverside Park are pushing for new lighting—but park officials say it would cost too much and that there’s enough light now.

Cherry Walk, a section of the Hudson River Greenway that stretches from 102nd to 125th streets, is a narrow, tree-lined bike and pedestrian path located between the Hudson River and the Henry Hudson Parkway. It currently has no electric lighting, which some say makes it dangerous to travel at night.

More commuters are biking to and from work in the dark, and residents have asked for more lighting.

The parks committee of Community Board 7, which represents the Upper West Side, has been pushing the Riverside Park administration for better lighting along the greenway, according to Lisa Sladkus, community organizer with the pro-biking group Transportation Alternatives. Now that daylight savings time has passed, and more commuters are biking to and from work in the dark, Sladkus said residents have asked for more lighting.

“The parks committee has spoken repeatedly with the leadership in Riverside Park and asked for safer conditions,” Sladkus said. “We’ve had a number of members email us and email the Riverside Park leadership to request for better lighting.”

Riverside Park officials said that adding lighting to Cherry Walk would cost too much and that light from the Henry Hudson Parkway, which borders the path, makes it fairly safe at night.

“There currently are not funds in the budget to install additional lighting in this area of the park,” New York City Department of Parks and Recreation spokesperson Phil Abramson said in an email. “I’m advised that there is light from the nearby highway, though.”

But Ken Coughlin, a member of Transportation Alternatives and CB7’s transportation and parks committees, said that bikers are unable to see their surroundings at night.

“I’ve ridden there,” Coughlin said. “I almost hit a tree.”

CB7 parks committee co-chair Klari Neuwelt agreed that lack of lighting is an issue.

“People commute to work and commute home from work at hours when it’s dark,” Neuwelt said. “Having a securely lit path is quite important.”

Pedestrians using the path last week were split on whether more lighting was needed. Jose Pujls, who lives on 97th Street and jogs along Cherry Walk every morning, said “it’d be dangerous” at night. He added,

SEE CHERRY WALK, page 2

SGB chair resists calls to merge governing boards

BY LILLIAN CHEN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Leaders from two of Columbia’s largest student-run governing boards, which oversee funding allocations for student groups, have been discussing merging their two boards this semester—but like many before them, they don’t see eye to eye.

The possibility of merging the Activities Board at Columbia with the Student Governing Board was first raised a few years ago due to the functional similarities and frequent overlap between the two groups—but some, including SGB’s current chair, Barry Weinberg, CC ’12, haven’t warmed to the idea.

“To me, there’s never been a very convincing argument that

these [SGB’s] 89 groups would benefit somehow by the addition of all of ABC’s groups,” he said.

Both boards are responsible for allocating money to groups, recognizing new groups, and making or reforming policies. SGB oversees political, religious, activist, and humanitarian groups, while ABC oversees performing arts groups, cultural groups, publications, and other special interest groups.

“ABC and SGB do very similar work,” Daniel Brown, CC ’12 and president of ABC, said. “The boards ... are very, very similar in structure.”

Brown added that this year could be a good time to bring the boards together. Others have

SEE SGB, page 2

SGB vs. ABC

Student Governing Board (SGB)

The **oldest** of Columbia’s governing boards that oversees 89 political, religious, activist, and humanitarian groups.

Founded: 1968

Oversees: Veritas Forum, Green Umbrella, 4local, Interfaith Collective, LUCHA, Columbia Political Union, Postcrypt

Activities Board at Columbia (ABC)

The **largest** of Columbia’s five governing boards that oversees over 150 groups, including performing arts, cultural groups, publications, and other special interest groups.

Founded: 1998

Oversees: Blue and White, CIRCA, Nightline, Turath, Black Students Organization, Philolexian Society

GRAPHIC BY CELINE GORDON

New SEAS vice dean to assist Peña-Mora amid tensions

Goldfarb picks up academic duties

BY YASMIN GAGNE
Columbia Daily Spectator

Can one man bridge the apparent communication gap between Dean Feniosky Peña-Mora and SEAS faculty members? Administrators hope so.

In response to calls from faculty for Peña-Mora to be replaced, Donald Goldfarb was named the School of Engineering and Applied Science’s first executive vice dean three weeks ago. The position of executive vice dean was established following an October letter from many tenured faculty members alleging that Peña-Mora had reneged on promises to faculty, worsened the school’s space shortage, sacrificed graduate students’ education for short-term profits, prioritized the ability to attract grants over academic quality when hiring professors, and failed to communicate with SEAS faculty, among other complaints. A copy of the letter was obtained by the New York Times last week.

“A lot of problems were a result of his not knowing what the culture was like here,” Goldfarb said of Peña-Mora, who came to Columbia in 2009 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. “There is a more managerial hierarchy at Illinois—Columbia has a flat hierarchy. Faculty are all equal, most of the faculty don’t report to the dean or even their own chairman. Columbia in particular has a very egalitarian type structure. Some of the initial difficulty was due to his not fully understanding how the place works. Thus there was a buildup of disagreements mentioned in the letter.”

“A lot of problems were a result of his not knowing what the culture was like here.”

—Donald Goldfarb, new SEAS executive vice dean

The letter from the faculty, addressed to Interim Provost John Coatsworth, called for Peña-Mora’s swift removal from office, as “the morale of the faculty and their trust in Dean Peña-Mora are reaching an all-time low.” Coatsworth told Spectator last week that Peña-Mora will remain dean.

A Columbia spokesperson told Spectator in an email that University President Lee Bollinger believes it has been “productive and valuable for the Provost to work with Dean Peña-Mora and the faculty in responding to legitimate concerns that have been raised while

SEE SEAS, page 2

OPINION, PAGE 4

Defuse the frustration

Kathryn Brill discusses what *not* to do during finals.

There’s a will and a way

We have the ability to improve our campus culture. All we need is to act on it.



SPORTS, PAGE 3

Men’s basketball in seventh heaven

The Light Blue recorded a 63-53 victory against the Long Island University Blackbirds on Saturday. The Lions have now won seven games in a row.

EVENTS

XMAS!6: A Mall-y Jolly XMAS!

This annual holiday-themed musical delivers a much needed dose of holiday cheer during finals week.

Roone Arledge Auditorium, 8 p.m. and 10:15 p.m.

Book Club: D’un château l’autre

D’un château l’autre by Louis-Ferdinand Céline, moderated by professor Phil Watts. Buell Hall, 7 p.m.

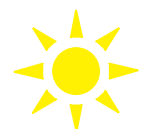
WEATHER

Today



46°/30°

Tomorrow



48°/34°

Some profs fear new housing policy will delay retirement

HOUSING from front page

A 2008 letter from then-Pro-vost Alan Brinkley explained that the University was “find-ing it increasingly difficult to meet [faculty housing] demand,” which precipitated the imple-mentation of the new policy. As of 2008, Columbia owned around 7,000 housing units, of which 30 percent were reserved for faculty and other officers.

“The big issue is that there is a shortage of University housing,” retired professor Doug Chalmers, who still teaches the Core, ex-plain-ed. “All these new people are coming in, and you need to find housing for them.”

Chalmers signed his hous-ing lease between July 1, 1984 and June 30, 1989, meaning he is grandfathered into the old hous-ing policy—he can remain in the same apartment for the rest of his life, as can all tenured professors and other employees who had worked at Columbia for 15 years prior to retirement. All employ-ees who signed leases before July 1, 1984 can remain in their hous-ing units indefinitely.

“With Manhattanville, it’s a possibility that they might insert some faculty housing there. But that is a very expensive and long-term goal.”

—Doug Chalmers, retired professor

But Coatsworth said that maintaining this policy for all faculty members was not sustain-able and had to be revised.

“The policy limited the avail-able housing stock and made it more difficult to recruit new faculty members,” he said in an email.

DOWNSIZING DILEMMA

Retired English literature professor Edward Tayler was grandfathered into the old poli-cy. Still, he said, he will keep the new policy in mind when tell-ing prospective faculty members about Columbia.

“Current policies would perhaps have made me choose Berkeley or Amherst over Columbia when I first went on what is fancfully called The Job Market,” Tayler said in an email. “It will certainly figure in any ad-vice I offer to younger colleagues and prospective colleagues.”

Mercer said that when she chose to come to Columbia, she weighed the pros and the cons, including what she assumed would be lifetime housing.

“I come from the University of California. They can help me buy a house there,” she said.

While many professors under-stand the need to make housing available to new facul-ty members with children and families, some say their biggest concern with the new policy is the lack of good units for pro-fessors to downsize into. Mercer

said it’s “ridiculous” to expect a professor to “move into some hole in the wall, out of a very big apartment.”

“It’s one thing to ask peo-ple to move, it’s another to ask them to move into a crappy lit-tle apartment,” she said. “So it would not seem as outrageous if there were decent smaller apart-ments for people to move into.”

For Applegate, the prospect of leaving Columbia housing is just as infeasible as downsizing. Even though rent at Columbia housing is significantly lower than most New York City hous-ing, it’s still rising, and Applegate said he can’t see himself testing the market after years receiving a professor’s salary.

“Most of us who retire sim-ply can’t afford an apartment on the open market that approaches what we have in this neighbor-hood,” he said.

Columbia does have a Housing Assistance Program for those who don’t choose Columbia housing. Faculty members who do not live in University housing are provid-ed with compensation—\$22,000 per year for non-tenured faculty members and \$40,000 per year for tenured faculty members.

TO RETIRE, OR NOT TO RETIRE

Applegate isn’t the only pro-fessor who thinks the new poli-cy might affect when he retires. With no mandatory retirement age, some are concerned that the new policy will push older pro-fessors to postpone retirement, taking up apartments that would otherwise be given to newly hired faculty.

Chalmers said professors might “want to stretch out your employment with the University forever so you don’t have to dig up the mean bucks to buy a new apartment.”

In part to address the housing concerns, Coatsworth created a work group this semester to examine barriers to retirement and to recommend any needed changes in policies, procedures, or resources for retirees.

“We want to make sure that our tenured faculty feel com-fortable retiring at the age that they would like to retire, and that ... they don’t stay on longer than they would like to because they have worries that they think the University could address but hasn’t,” he said in an interview earlier this semester.

Some professors think the housing problems could be solved by easing the pres-sure on faculty housing stock. Chalmers, for instance, noted that Columbia has already ex-tended the Housing Assistance Program through June 30, 2013.

However, he acknowledged, apartments in New York could cost millions, and the supple-ments may not be enough.

“One way out is if they build more housing,” he said. “With Manhattanville, it’s a possibil-ity that they might insert some faculty housing there. But that is a very expensive and long-term goal.”

Applegate thinks the admin-istration still has time to change the housing policy.

“I would wager a fairly large amount of money that this policy will be modified in the next cou-ple of years,” he said. “You can’t write down policies that contain powerful disincentives to retire.”

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DOUGLAS KESSEL FOR SPECTATOR

A TALE OF TWO BOARDS | ABC President Dan Brown addresses the audience at a town hall event this past Friday.

Bureaucratic structures differ between two governing boards

SGB from front page

said that a merger has been a long time coming, but the unique histories and structures of the boards have kept them apart.

A ‘GRAY AREA’

Although there are thematic differences between the groups that belong to each board, there are significant places of overlap between the two that have baffled students for years.

“It’s been a confusing thing for new student organizations that want to get recognition,” Nidhi Hebbar, CC ’12 and senior adviser of Youth For Debate, a group under SGB, said. “A lot of the lines between what goes under ABC and what goes under SGB are a little ambiguous.”

Proud Colors, a group dedi-cated to the empowerment of people of color, had been pre-viously recognized under ABC, along with the Black Students Organization, Chicano Caucus, and other cultural organizations. Recently, Proud Colors was ap-proved for recognition under SGB to join a handful of LGBT groups.

“There’s this gray area be-tween the boards where groups could go to one or to the other,” Brown said. “I think that signi-fies that they’re similar enough that we could work a lot closer together.”

But Jordana Kaminetsky, BC ’12 and president of Columbia/ Barnard Hillel, said switches like Proud Colors’ can be pretty straightforward.

“It was a very seamless, logi-cal change,” she said. “There is a very clear distinction and I don’t see where things can get mixed.”

BUREAUCRATIC DIFFERENCES

One major difference be-tween ABC and SGB lies in their approval mechanisms.

SGB groups need only a repre-sentative’s signature to approve expenses under \$100, whereas ABC groups need to fill out an event approval form for every purchase they make and get it signed by both their representa-tive and their adviser.

“It’s unnecessarily compli-cated,” Weinberg, CC ’12, said of ABC’s procedures. “I don’t understand why students would create bureaucracy.”

“Guidelines have been strict-er,” Beezly Kiernan, CC ’11, former president of ABC, and sec-retary of SGB, agreed. “Spending procedures have been stricter and more onerous.”

Kiernan also said that SGB is more democratic.

The outgoing ABC execu-tive board elects new board members, while the SGB gen-eral body, which comprises all groups, elects its executive board members. The SGB execu-tive board makes recommenda-tions for new group recognition, but the general body makes the final decision, whereas admin-istrators in the Office of Student Development and Activities has the final say for ABC groups.

“I think it’s better that the decision-making authority in that [SGB’s] situation is with stu-dents, not with administrators,” Brown said. “[But] I think pro-cedurally ours is more efficient. ... It allows for closer analysis.”

Kiernan said that though ABC tends to be “more bureau-cratic ... the processes aren’t fun-damentally different.”

‘A MORE POWERFUL GOVERNING BOARD’

Earlier in the semester, ABC and SGB executive board mem-bers came together to talk about creating a new super governing board.

“ABC expressed their desire not to simply step into SGB but

to create a new governing board, the details of which were never finalized,” Weinberg said.

Kiernan said that group rec-ognition and other processes would be easier and more uni-fied but that they might be more stringent simply because there would be more groups to oversee.

“There’s this gray area between the boards where groups could go to one or to the other.”

—Dan Brown, CC ’12, ABC president

The large number of groups that a new governing body would have to represent has raised major concerns.

“The SGB executive board ... does its best to operate under minimal hierarchy. It has no subcommittees,” Weinberg said. “Concerns about ... the demo-cratic nature of the new entity gave me severe thoughts.”

ABC has three committees that handle policy, new group recognition, and funding.

“When I became president of ABC, I wanted to abolish the committees,” Kiernan said in an email. “But the committees exceeded my expectations and made life a lot easier for the full board.”

Brown said that the argu-ment that 250 groups would be too unwieldy to handle is poorly supported, particularly because “ABC often errs on the side of group autonomy.”

“You can increase the number

of reps slightly from what ABC currently has and still have great discussion and each of those representatives can work with maybe 15 to 20 groups to make the numbers work and still have great relationships with the groups,” he continued.

Kiernan and Brown said that the merger would hold many benefits for all groups.

“Merging any organizations generally makes things more ef-ficient in the long run,” Kiernan said. “The most important rea-son to merge them is to make a more powerful governing board ... able to present a stronger voice when dealing with the councils and the administrative bodies.”

Brown expressed similar sentiments. “There’s a lot of really good reasons to do the merger,” he said. “Each governing board can share best practices with each other. I think the combined board will have more stature when it comes to dealing with external entities like the coun-cils and the advising offices.”

Yusuf Ahmad, CC ’12 and head of the Interfaith Collective, a group under SGB, said it’s impor-tant to keep SGB’s history in mind.

“SGB was designed initially to be a space for student voices to be heard,” Ahmad said. “My main concern is maintaining ... student group autonomy espe-cially in the face of efforts to centralize the administration of student groups.”

Hebbar, the senior adviser of Youth for Debate, said she didn’t understand “the necessity of having the two groups being de-centralized.”

Others raised concerns about funding. “My biggest question would be about how this affects allocations,” Denise Yu, CC ’12 and president of Columbia Debate, a group under ABC, said in an email.

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Bikers call for more Riverside lighting as winter approaches

CHERRY WALK from front page

“They should have lighting, yes, at all times.”

But Helen Ellis, who lives on 72nd street, said the southern part of Cherry Walk is not dan-gerous, even at night. According to Ellis, the light from the moon makes the path relatively safe.

“I’ve never had a problem with traffic glare,” Ellis said. “For the most part, I feel safe.”

She added, however, that “bikers go pretty fast” and that she could “see how someone could potentially be hit.”

Another section of the Greenway, from 59th to 72nd streets, will get new lighting around spring 2013, according to Coughlin. That section, more heavily trafficked than Cherry

Walk, will also have the bike path widened.

“There’s virtually no light-ing there. It’s very dangerous, it gets a lot more traffic than the Cherry Walk, and I actual-ly know somebody who didn’t see a piece of wood on the path, and hit it, fell, and then an ambulance had to be called,” Coughlin said. “Our parks com-mittee has been begging the Riverside Park administration to install light there.”

Activists are hoping the same attention paid to the southern section will be given to Cherry Walk. Coughlin said he con-tinues to see “a lot of concerns raised” about Cherry Walk, and Sladkus agreed that locals have made it clear they want the is-sue fixed.

news@columbiaspectator.com

New SEAS vice dean to bridge gap between faculty, Peña-Mora

SEAS from front page

continuing the forward momen-tum of the engineering school.”

“The dean also has to manage all kinds of things, like financial aid, student services, fundrais-ing, alumni development. My position is to try to take care of the more academic side,” Goldfarb said.

No stranger to Columbia, Goldfarb has been a member of the Industrial Engineering and Operations Research Department since 1982, where he served as chair of the depart-ment from 1984 to 2002. In 1994–95, he served as acting dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science.

Goldfarb will take the helm on many of the issues for which Peña-Mora came under fire.

“I deal with all academic is-sues relating to faculty hiring, promotions, tenure cases, re-search space and how space is

“He is a very appealing person, very smart, very driven, determined to make a mark. His intentions are very laudable, he wants to make the school even better.”

—Donald Goldfarb, new SEAS executive vice dean

educational resources and TA as-signments—everything related to the academic, scholarly under-pinnings of the school.”

The faculty letter attacked Peña-Mora for mandating an increase in the size of the en-gineering school’s master’s program and for changing the structure of the SEAS teaching assistant program. According to current TAs, Peña-Mora limited TAs to teaching for only one year and created a SEAS-wide committee to appoint them. Previously, TAs were appointed by departments.

On the allegations that Peña-Mora went back on lab space agreements with some faculty members, Goldfarb said that Peña-Mora had “made agree-ments based on his belief that he had more space and money for renovation” than he actually did and that “some agreements were pulled back.”

Goldfarb acknowledged that

Peña-Mora “has not really com-municated well and gotten the trust of the faculty” but said that he will work to “try to provide better communication between the dean and the faculty and try to address miscommunication.”

To students, Peña-Mora is known to be quirky and enthu-siastic, and Goldfarb said that his personal impressions of the dean match up.

“He is a very appealing per-son, very smart, very driven, determined to make a mark,” he said. “His intentions are very laudable, he wants to make the school even better. He is charm-ing and very effective at fund-raising from what I can tell. There have been a lot of en-dowed chairs announced.”

Goldfarb emphasized that many of the accusations the dean faces stem from poor com-munication and a “build-up of disagreements.”

news@columbiaspectator.com

Stunned by athletics’ magic spell

A wise man once said, “Now that I think about it, it’s been a crazy year.” Sports news is flowing like a river down my belly here. My tenure as one of Spectator’s sports editors is officially over—don’t worry, I’ll save the emotions and the majority of the thank yous (there are more than a few) for Apr. 30—and I’ve seen, learned, and heard a tremendous amount about Columbia athletics.

It’s been brutal at times. I don’t want to raise questions about my own journalistic integrity—I think I’ve always been fair and unbiased in my storytelling—but columns are different, and I let the emotions flow. I definitely have experienced feelings of sorrow (and I may or may not have cried) on one or two occasions because of events on the field for the Light Blue.

It’s been bad at times. There weren’t always tears, but it wasn’t fun to hear about teams falling at the final hurdle and seeing their title chances slip away. I know Spectator sports-writers and athletes at Columbia have different responsibilities than student-athletes at other schools, but it would be ludicrous to suggest that they hope for different results in a game or season.

Columbia athletics have taught me a tremendous amount: fighting back against the odds, never giving up, and constantly striving to improve.

It’s been good at times. Right, so there were no Ivy titles in 2011, but there was definitely improvement. As my dear friend and fellow columnist Zach Glubiak pointed out a few weeks ago on our online podcast (the sixth episode of the Spectator SportsCast), there is a reasonable ranking methodology that put the Lions in first place for fall sports, prior to the conclusion of the football season. What that means is that all the Light Blue programs are, in general, very competitive within the Ivy League and now they just need to climb the final few feet up the ladder of success. For me, it’s been good to see that competitive spirit week-in and week-out. Even when the football team was in a mess of a losing streak, the players were seen fighting until the very end of games.

It’s been great at times. There are some moments in sports that leave an indelible mark on a spectator. I think I’m lucky that I was present when the Lions men’s soccer team beat Brown in overtime in the opening Ivy fixture of 2011. Brown went on to the Sweet 16 of this year’s NCAA tournament. It was fortunate to get there. That’s not just my opinion—I’m pretty sure anyone on Brown’s soccer team will tell you that too—but it’s something for the Bears to be very proud of. The Lions beat Brown when the teams met in Ivy play, and I was there that October day to see it happen. There’s really nothing like the euphoria of winning a game in overtime, and Mike Mazzullo’s goal (sorry, Matis) is something I’ll never forget.

It’s been unbelievable at times. The past 30-odd days have been absolutely insane and incredible. There were four Ivy teams gunning for Ivy glory, which by itself is fantastic. In addition, I got to break the news of coach Norries Wilson’s firing. Then there were the injuries to star basketball players Noruwa Agho and Brianna Orlich. And of course, the infamous incident with our marching band, broken by Spec sports’ very own Trevor Cohen.

Last Wednesday night, though, was the best memory for me. I jumped out of bed near 1 a.m. and stayed awake until 3:30 a.m. to confirm the appointment of coach Pete Mangurian. I had never heard the name prior to that night. By the time I went to bed, I probably knew more about him than most members of the Columbia football team.

I had no real reason to get that into the new hire’s background, but that,



MRINAL MOHANKA

Word on the Street



ALYSON GOULDEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SEVEN AND COUNTING | Junior forward John Daniels was instrumental in helping the Lions extend their winning streak to seven. He scored 12 points and formed a key part of the Light Blue defense with classmate Mark Cisco.

Poor first half condemns women’s basketball to defeat

BY HAHN CHANG
Spectator Staff Writer

The Lions women’s basketball team (1-9) travelled to Brooklyn where it fell to Long Island (8-2) 58-50. In the first 16 seconds of the game, Blackbirds senior forward Ashley Palmer scored four of her 17 points for the day. The hosts quickly launched into a 22-8 lead with 9:38 left in the first half. Columbia then chipped away to narrow the deficit to 11. However, the Blackbirds dominated the first period and led 38-23 going into halftime.

“We wish we could have played better in the first half, and not have allowed them so many easy baskets in transition,” women’s basketball head coach Paul Nixon said.

While Columbia finished the first

half with a 37 percent field goal percentage, almost four points higher than its season average, Long Island sank 50 percent of its field goal shots. The Blackbirds also scored six more points from the charity line.

“We missed too many layups, particularly in the first half,” Nixon said. “We had some breakaway layups we didn’t finish. And then we allowed them to get out in transition and get some very easy baskets before we could get our defense there. Those were the two biggest contributing factors in the first half, but the good news is they are correctable errors.”

Coming back from the half, the Light Blue made some adjustments to

SEE WOMEN’S BASKETBALL,
page 7



FELIX SCHADECK FOR SPECTATOR

NOT ENOUGH | Senior guard and captain Melissa Shafer scored 10 points in the Lions’ loss to Long Island. She now leads the team with 100 points in 2011.

Seven wins in a row for men’s basketball

Light Blue triumphs 63-53 against LIU

BY STEVEN LAU
Spectator Staff Writer

After a weekend in which the Lions hit 27 three-pointers, few would have expected the Columbia men’s basketball team to defeat the defending Northeast Conference champions this weekend while failing to hit a single shot from beyond the arc for nearly 30 minutes.

COLUMBIA	63
LONG ISLAND	53

But that’s exactly what the Light Blue (7-4) did in the its 63-53 win over the Long Island Blackbirds (5-5) on Saturday, extending Columbia’s winning streak to seven games.

“It’s rare in Division I to get that many wins, period—in a row, it’s great,” head coach Kyle Smith said.

Smith praised the team’s development this season and highlighted the fact that several players are contributing to the winning streak.

“They’re unselfish, they like one another, they root for each other, and we get it from different places every night,” he said.

On Saturday, the Lions were getting most of their points from their big men—unusual for a team that’s been relying on the outside shooting of its guards. While the Lions went 0-9 from the three-point line in the first half, the frontcourt totaled 20 of the team’s 28 points before the break.

At the helm of the Lions’ offense were juniors forward John Daniels and center Mark Cisco—both of whom finished with 12 points—while their classmate, guard Brian Barbour, fulfilled his role of shooter and distributor with 11 points and six assists.

After taking an early lead thanks to two midrange jumpers by Daniels, the Light Blue found it difficult to prevent Long Island from penetrating with the ball and soon fell behind.

SEE MEN’S BASKETBALL, page 7

New football coach Mangurian ready to use the ‘W-word’

BY VICTORIA JONES
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Pete Mangurian has big plans for Columbia football.

In a press conference on Friday afternoon, the newly appointed head coach of the Light Blue football team discussed his plans for the future of the program.

Mangurian entered into more of the specifics of what is to come in the weeks and months ahead, including an initial assessment of what deserves to stay and what should go from the existing structure.

“The first step in this process is going to be an honest evaluation of where we are, how we got here, and what we’re going to do to move on to the next step,” Mangurian said. “Every single thing is going to be reevaluated.”

Also on the list of things to reevaluate is the coaching staff. The current staff was chosen by coach Norries Wilson, but Mangurian has the opportunity to keep the staff or start from scratch.

In response to an inquiry about whether the coaches will stay or go, Mangurian told Spectator, “Over the next two to three weeks we’ll discuss what we’re going to do staff-wise, and when we make those decisions we’ll let you know.”

While there is some uncertainty about the steps that Mangurian will take, there is a strong sense of excitement.

“Everyone on the team is looking forward to what the next coach brings in and what direction the program will move into,” junior quarterback Sean Brackett said. “With the naming of coach Mangurian, it takes a little bit of weight off of our shoulders. We are all pretty excited. We are all jacked up.”

Brackett, along with sophomore Marcorus Garrett and senior captain Ross Morand, was involved in the coaching search. As a result, he had a chance to interact with Mangurian prior to the eventual appointment.

“We just talked football,” Brackett said. “He has a great track record. He’s



ALYSON GOULDEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

COACH MAN | Pete Mangurian joins the Lions as head football coach with 32 years of coaching under his belt.

been everywhere football is played—the Ivy League, NFL, and college football. He’s coached a lot of good players. He’s been around a lot of great coaches. We talked about what his philosophies are, what he thinks is good and bad football wise. Everything he said made me relieved that we are getting the right guy for our football program going forward.”

A huge overhaul may be needed for the program, but Mangurian didn’t appear at all concerned with stepping on any toes. He acknowledged that many things up to this point clearly haven’t been working and described how he intends to go about fixing the program.

“We’re going to find out what does work and we’re going to emphasize those things,” he said.

Aside from examining the current status of all aspects of the program, Mangurian focused on recruiting as

SEE MANGURIAN, page 7

SEE MOHANKA, page 7



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A guide to finals

It's tough not to feel like finals week is some sort of college reality check. You thought college would be nonstop awesomeness? Wait, think again. But one of the strangest things to me about finals week is that on top of the un-avoidable stress and frustration, there's another layer of suckiness made up of stuff we do to ourselves. True, most of what make finals awful are, well, the finals (or the papers) themselves, and all the frantic studying and late-night memorization that go along with them. But many of the other things that make finals so awful are actually avoidable. So in the spirit of this time of year, I hereby present "The worst things we do to ourselves during finals week, and what we should do instead."

1. Listen incessantly to holiday music while we're working. This is the seasonal manifestation of a more general erroneous idea—namely, that we can become more motivated by reminding ourselves of happier times. It makes sense in theory. After all, if we're miserable from finals, surely a good Christmas playlist on Pandora will cheer us up! I've tried this before, and have found that the exact opposite is true. At first, the jolly tunes put me in the Christmas spirit, but after a while, I realized that being in the Christmas spirit while writing a paper is awful. All I wanted to do was decorate a tree and stuff my face with cookies. Yet there I was in the Diana Center reading room, desperately trying to pound out 10 pages on Odysseus. Maybe it works for some people, but in my experience, reminding yourself of happier times while doing work is incredibly unmotivating. Mood-boosting activities should be for our breaks, not for the work time itself.

2. Decide that nothing matters except for that one thing we have to study right this second. There is an email from my grandpa sitting in my inbox. He wants to know what I'd like for Christmas. I haven't replied yet because I had two papers to work on this week, and it's making me feel like a jerk. What kind of horrible, horrible person doesn't reply to an email from her grandpa? A person undergoing finals week, apparently. Guys, if your grandpa emailed you, you should probably email him back. Which is just another way of saying that we shouldn't forget that we're not just students. We may not have the time to reach out to people in big ways, but ignoring the people who are reaching out to us isn't going to make anything better. Even a simple "good to hear from you" is better than nothing. Along the same lines...

3. Isolate ourselves from other people. I'm not talking about giving up extensive hanging out because of work. I'm talking about this idea that we have to hide ourselves away somewhere because the minute we so much as catch a glimpse of one of our friends, our productivity will plummet. Besides being untrue, this isn't good for our mental well-being. The nice thing about studying with a friend is that during those moments when you would turn to Facebook or mindless Internet browsing, you can talk to another human being instead. Working with a bunch of people you know and love reminds you that you're not alone in your stress, and that things will be okay at the end of it.

4. Pretend that finals week is this horrible war we'll never survive, and that our worth as students is directly proportional to the amount of stress we have. Of all the things that happen during finals, this is the one I hate the most. Yes, finals are awful, and I'm looking forward to the day when I never have to take them again. But we think and talk about finals as though they're something we'll never escape alive, and the result is that our minds and bodies gear up for something that's more like arm wrestling a dinosaur than taking an exam. And then we complain/brag to each other about the size of the dinosaurs we have to wrestle, and how much sleep we lost in the process. We're not doing ourselves any favors by psyching ourselves out, or by thinking we have to pull three all-nighters because everyone else is doing it. Everyone's finals are different, and some are less awful than others, but no matter how bad things get, we'll get through it. Together. So next time someone asks us, "How are you?" and we want to rant about how much more stressed we are than everyone else, let's take a deep breath and say something more like that last sentence: "We'll get through it." Here's to a less awful finals week, everyone.

Kathryn Brill is a Barnard College junior majoring in English. She is a member of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. We Should Talk runs alternate Mondays.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I endorse Michael Shapiro's point ("Football program is integral part of Columbia," Dec. 3) that "The response to a perennially slumping team is not to destroy it, but to fix it." But "slumping" is hardly the appropriate adjective. The Times pointed out that Columbia has had only five winning seasons in the 56-year history of the Ivy League ("Millions? Private Jet? Columbia Offers New York," Dec. 7). A recent Wall Street Journal feature showed not only that Columbia's historical percentage of victories ranks last in the league, but also that it is light years below the seventh team.

None of that is news to me. I entered Columbia in 1954, the year the Ivy League was formed. As a rabid fan, I have probably sat through as many losing games as almost anyone in the country. So my optimism about a new coach is, to say the least, guarded. I have seen coaches come and go, athletic directors come and go, New York City decline and revive. The only constant is that we continue to lose.

My contemporaries try to understand what fundamental problem could account for a half-century of failure. When I suggested to one friend that merely bringing in another new coach (which I think was absolutely necessary) is tantamount to rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic, he responded, "It's worse than that—there are no chairs, there's no ship." Someone suggested that having the training facility five miles from campus is an insurmountable problem, but another pointed out that Yale's facility is a couple of miles from campus.

I want to believe that a new coach will make things better, but I would feel more comfortable if the powers that be had a reasoned analysis of the range of underlying problems, and why they have not responded to so many previous "fixes."

*Ernest Brod CC '58, Law '61
Columbia Spectator Trustee
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Dec. 12, 2011*



KATHRYN
BRILL

We Should Talk

Changing the Columbia Culture

BY LEO SCHWARTZ

To some degree, we are all afraid of change. Familiarity comforts us, and we like to see our communities as static. Columbia is no exception. We often refer to Columbia as having a "Culture": an unchanging set of principles, rules, and apparent truths that seem to define the balance and make-up of our campus. In reality, the Columbia Culture is highly dynamic—we just have to break down the stigma of constancy.

The Columbia Culture is comprised of long-standing traditions and institutions, from the Core Curriculum—with a set of books that has remained largely unchanged since first half of the 1900s—to John Jay, which I suspect hasn't seen a serious renovation since Allen Ginsberg was evicted. Still, the most powerful components of the Columbia Culture are our eternal goals of grandeur. Undergraduates, graduate students, and professors alike are not so gently pushed toward excellence, encouraged only to go for the most competitive internships and fellowships, try to attain a GPA the highest over 4.0, to achieve presidential status in the most clubs and organizations, and, incidentally, to see who can care the least about mental and physical well-being.

The undesirable parts of the Columbia Culture are not set in stone. We can be the change we wish to see.

We view the Columbia Culture as static and unchanging, but in reality, the opposite is true. The Culture is constantly changing, and this semester has been exceptionally dynamic. The beginning of the semester saw the departure of Dean Moody-Adams, caused largely by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences' deterioration of respect for the Core Curriculum and Columbia College as an undergraduate institution. We began to appreciate the unique power of the Core and its impact on shaping Columbia to be one of the greatest institutions of higher learning in the world.

The middle of the semester saw Columbia return to its roots of activism—after lying largely dormant and pathetically apathetic in the decades following '68, the Columbia Culture underwent a resurgence in protest as Columbia

students rallied behind causes such as Troy Davis, the Sotheby's workers, and Occupy Wall Street. Students began to lose their blinds of apathy, skipping class and ignoring papers to attend rallies and make a stand for their principles at the risk of arrest.

Mid-emester, we lost Tina Bu, which brought with it a call for a complete re-examination of the Columbia Culture. We began to question the cost of perfection and for the first time viewed the Columbia community in its true form: a group of vulnerable individuals who often hide behind perfection to avoid their real problems.

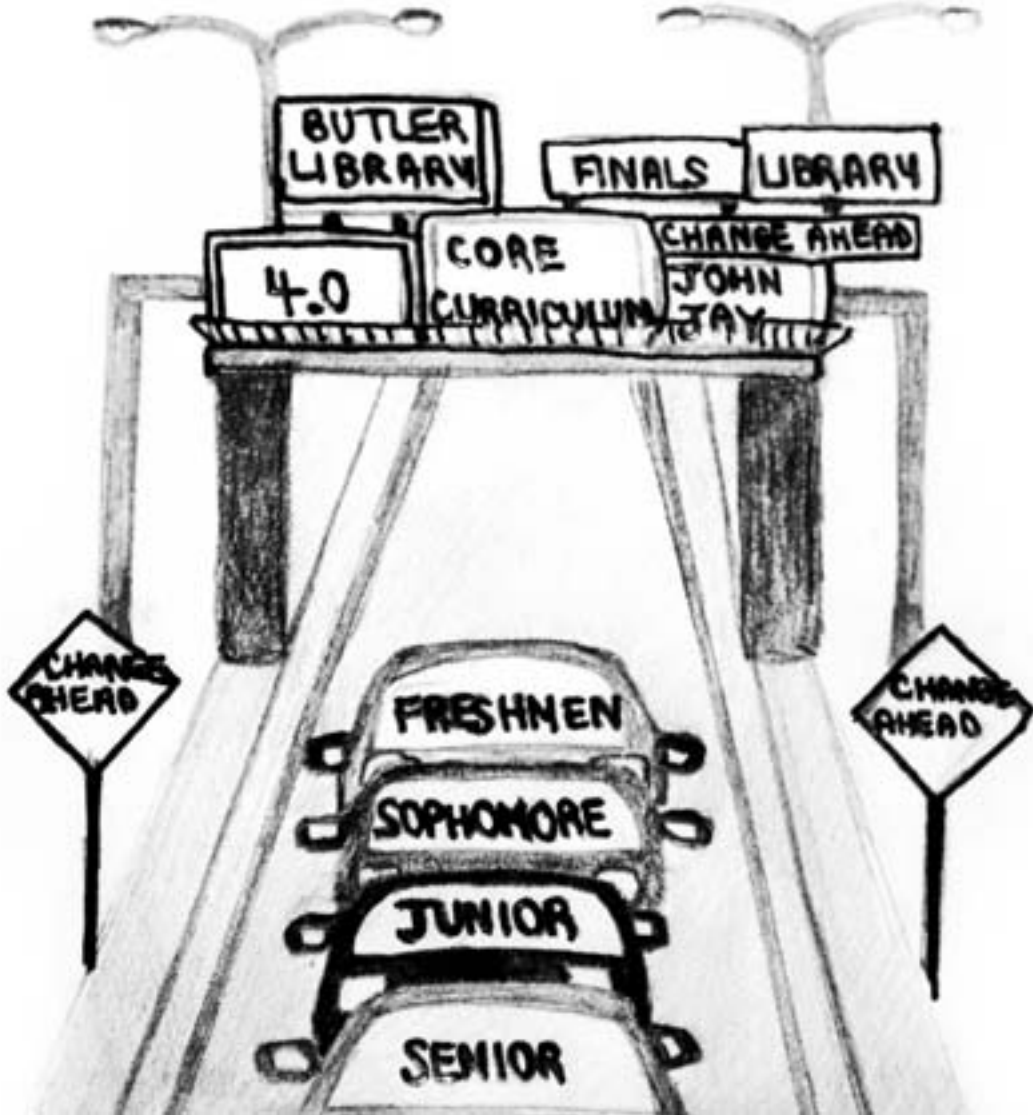
The fact that recent articles in The Eye about Tina's death were shared by more than 1500 people on Facebook and liked by countless more goes to show that people are ready for progress. The Columbia Culture is far from stationary, but instead has the capacity for great change.

These necessary changes are not out of our hands. An oft-repeated—and at this point very trite—quote from Gandhi states that you should "be the change you want to see in the world." Although we may inevitably view this cliché with cynicism, there is an inherent, beautiful truth to it. The undesirable parts of the Columbia Culture are not set in stone. We can be the change we wish to see, the change that can save individuals. Let's continue to fight for our principles and eradicate apathy. Let's protect the parts of Columbia that need protecting, from the Core to Columbia College's importance within the University itself. Above all else, let's change Columbia's obsession with perfection.

Of course, we have an obsession with perfection for a reason. We are one of the top-ranked universities in the world, comprised of one of the most talented student bodies. Our classmates and peers are used to excellence, and we will eventually be the leaders of the world. Sometimes, though, we have to pause and realize that life is about more than GPAs over 4.0, board positions, and starting salaries of \$100,000. Our priorities should never place achievement over mental well-being.

As the first books in Contemporary Civilization will tell you, life is about achieving happiness, in whatever individual form that may be. Few of us, by virtue of the fact that we ended up at Columbia, are conformists. We are visionaries and innovators, trendsetters and idealists. Let's stop conforming to the Columbia Culture and continue to change it for the better. We can be the change we wish to see.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore double majoring in political science and Latin American studies. He is an associate editorial page editor.



ILANA SCHULDER

STAFF EDITORIAL

What's next?

There is no denying that this semester has been a tumultuous one. And as it comes to a close, a few themes have surfaced time and time again. From former Dean Moody-Adams' resignation in August, to the emergence last week of serious frustrations within the SEAS faculty about Dean Peña-Mora's leadership, students have had good reason to be concerned about the state of the University. The administration at Barnard College, in severely restricting the possibility for students to pay part-time tuition, infuriated many students and has not been particularly receptive to their legitimate complaints. Even leadership of Columbia's football team has been sorely lacking—so much so that the school fired Coach Wilson and hired Coach Pete Mangurian to take his place.

Students have many reasons to distrust the Barnard and Columbia administrations, but there are reasons for optimism as well, such as the rumors circulating about plans to establish an endowment for the Core Curriculum. An endowed Core would show students and alumni that the quality of undergraduate education is of the utmost importance to the administration. Students' satisfaction with this University hangs in the balance until next semester.

If Columbia is to remain a top-tier institution, communication will be essential, and it has been one of the things most missing from this semester. When Moody-Adams left, students learned nothing of what actually happened—only vague claims about Columbia College being under threat, and empty reassurance that this was not the case. Dean Valentini, Moody-Adams' temporary replacement, has made something of an effort to reach out to students, but little else that he has accomplished is visible. SEAS faculty have been mostly united in their discontent with Peña-Mora, but students knew little of this and were distressed at being kept in the dark.

Moreover, communication is a two-way street. If Barnard students, for instance, are adamant about the

administration's decisions and want to see change happen, they need to voice their concerns in a strong, noticeable way. While Columbia's leadership needs to take the community's concerns seriously, it seems that students will be the ones leading the way forward.

Students have already shown that they are capable of this kind of leadership, and in many ways this is what will determine what kind of place Columbia is for undergraduates. Conversation about mental health and depression has spread across campus, and bit by bit these topics are becoming a little less taboo. The Student Wellness Project, not yet launched, promises to be a valuable asset to Columbia, and we hope that it succeeds in giving students courage to seek help and open up about their struggles. The Occupy movement, whatever one's politics, has pulled countless students off campus and downtown, encouraging a spirit of activism that is Columbia's signature. If, next semester, students continue to show the leadership abilities that they so clearly possess, Columbia will be a better, more complete place.

In the upcoming months, newly accepted members of the class of 2016 will eagerly anticipate their first semesters here, while seniors will put the finishing touches on their careers as Columbia students. We look forward to crucial changes in the administration's mode of operation, and perseverance from the students and faculty who are already doing excellent work. Because while we spend a lot of time thinking about what administrators and community leaders will do, ultimately we, the students and faculty of Columbia, get to decide what's next.

Signed,
The Editorial Board
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29 Checkpoint "Hold it!"
31 Little-known information
32 Prefix meaning "billion"
36 Harbor landing
38 Bridge positions
39 Range for indoor comfort
42 "Tomorrow" title singer
43 High spirits
44 1974 Sutherland/Gould spoof
45 "Burnt" crayon color
47 Egyptian cross
49 Staunch political group member
51 Montezuma subject
56 Admin. aide
57 Hawkish
58 Not so many
62 Solid baseball hit
64 African antelope
65 Muscular woe
66 Born and ...
67 Prepares, as cocktails
68 "Little" Dickens girl
69 "Besides that..."

DOWN

1 Helps illegally
2 Hm, vis-à-vis eggs
3 Kick out
4 Olympic skater Cohen

By Neil Rouns
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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Brewpub choices
5 Bottle tops
9 Newly hatched pigeon
14 Lower California, familiarly
15 Mother Goose bawdy
16 Hearing-related
17 Downside of reading in poor light
19 Magic wand
20 PC go-to type
21 Use the ballot
23 Miles... in Spain
24 Drive-thru cleanings
29 Checkpoint "Hold it!"
31 Little-known information
32 Prefix meaning "billion"
36 Harbor landing
38 Bridge positions
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42 "Tomorrow" title singer
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DOWN

1 Helps illegally
2 Hm, vis-à-vis eggs
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

B	I	R	L	O	F	F	M	I	N	T	S
A	C	U	E	N	R	A	T	A	M	A	R
D	E	S	C	B	I	D	E	S	P	I	E
E	T	H	A	N	O	L	H	A	S	S	L
G	E	T	R	E	A	L	O	S	H	E	L
G	A	O	C	R	Y	K	E	Y	E	D	I
	B	E	D	B	U	R	S	T	I	N	G
L	E	T	A	T	E	S	T	O	M	E	S
L	A	T	E	S	H	O	W	E	E	N	
K	R	A	T	I	O	N	A	P	R	H	O
A	P	P	T	S	E	C	H	I	M	E	R
B	A	R	M	A	I	D	T	R	A	I	L
O	P	I	A	T	E	T	S	A	C	P	L
N	E	C	K	E	R	O	U	I	A	M	S
G	R	E	E	D	R	P	M	A	S	E	N

wordseditor@aol.com 12/12/11

Undergrads want more access to Renaissance-style Italian Academy

ITALIAN ACADEMY from front page

will stay that way.

“I received a complaint this semester that the fellowships, which we assigned, had not been in line with the Italian government’s policy,” he said. “And I have sternly rejected this.”

Columbia-appointed board member Jonathan Cole, University provost emeritus, said that the attempts at influence are the result of cultural as well as personal differences.

“We bring the globe to Columbia. We contribute effectively and locally to the whole project of global centers.”

—David Freedberg,
Italian Academy director

“As you might expect,” Cole said in an email, “coming from different backgrounds they have different priorities from their own Italian colleagues and occasionally with some of the Columbia guarantors.”

For Freedberg, these tensions were a feature of the Berlusconi

government. The recent shift in leadership—Berlusconi resigned amid economic unrest last month—may alter the way Italian-appointed board members and academy leadership interact.

“The Berlusconi government has just fallen,” Freedberg said. “And I am looking forward to times in which the board members will be more supportive.”

An Italy-appointed board member did not respond to a request for comment over the weekend.

UNDERGRADUATES AND THE ACADEMY

The academy is not a cultural house, but rather an institute which supports research fellows.

Built in 1927, the neo-Renaissance style building includes a library, exhibition area, salon, theater, and conference room but remains closed to undergraduates except during events. Most undergraduates who try to get in will be told via an intercom that they need an appointment or should join the academy’s mailing list.

Some undergraduates have expressed interest in spending time at the academy and planning events there.

“It’s so pretty. I love it. I wish it were open for students to use,” Khadi Singh, SEAS ’13, said. “If we could use it for free for student events that would be great.”

Freedberg said that it would be a security issue to allow

students to spend free time at the academy, since the space is meant to be used by fellows first and foremost.

“The only argument you could make is that maybe it would be nice to hang out,” Freedberg said. “But then we would need, A, much more security, and B, we would have to think about the well-being of our 20 fellows every year.”

“Someday it would be nice if our library could be open to all of Columbia, but that right now the charter asks us to look after the fellows doing advanced studies,” IA communications director Abigail Asher said.

Freedberg suggested the possibility of setting up guided tours several times a week as a solution, although Yasir Diab, SEAS ’12, said tours wouldn’t give students enough access to the academy’s resources.

“I would like to explore more stuff with Italian culture,” he said. “I think it should be more accessible to students.”

Asher said that the academy welcomes undergraduate classes, asking professors who teach Italian-related material to conduct their lectures in public a few times per month. The academy is also using funds from an Italian foundation to fund visiting professors in the art history and Italian departments beginning next spring.

“We’ve managed to bring in funding that benefits not only us in the Italian Academy but also other departments at the university,” Asher said.

WHAT MAKES A GLOBAL CENTER?

Columbia has announced or opened eight global centers in the last few years—part of University President Lee Bollinger’s push to make Columbia a more international university. None of those centers are in Italy, but Freedberg called the Italian Academy a “global center” in its own right, since it’s already a hub of international research and studies.

“We bring the globe to Columbia,” Freedberg said. “We contribute effectively and locally to the whole project of global centers.”

The academy regularly hosts Italian leaders and recently brought in the head of the Italian National Bank to discuss the debt crisis in Italy.

“I actually think that we are the center of the future of the world economy right here,” Freedberg said, regarding this event. “And if students had been attentive they could have seen it all happening here.”

History professor Victoria de Grazia, a senior fellow at the Italian Academy, foresees a relationship between the IA and the Paris global center, of which she is the director.

“No doubt the Academy will work with the new CGC-E,” the Columbia Global Center–Europe, de Grazia said in an e-mail, “ideally by building on its own rich contacts with Italian scholarly networks and university institutions, and which represent some very advanced global thinking.”

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At Levien Gym, Light Blue defense stifles Long Island

MEN’S BASKETBALL from page 3

“All of their best players really just go off driving through the middle—that’s just the way they play,” Cisco said.

While junior forwards Kenny Onyechi and Jamal Olasewere worked the post against the Lions’ frontcourt, the Blackbird guards drove inside for short jumpers and layups, extending Long Island’s lead to as much as six.

Olasewere finished with a game-high 18 points and Onyechi had 12, but the success of both big men was limited by the Lions’ defense, which—for the sixth time this season—limited its opponent to under 60 points.

Responding to the offensive burst from Long Island, the Light Blue defense buckled down before the half. The Blackbirds failed to hit a field goal for the last nine minutes of the first period, and the Lions took advantage with a 12-1 run that gave them a 28-23 lead headed into the locker room.

“It was another gritty performance for the Lions. I didn’t expect much less.”

—Kyle Smith, men’s basketball coach

“We did a good job of making it sticky in there, and making them trying to have to kick it out, which is what they don’t want to do,” Barbour said. “We go as our defense goes right now. Our shooting hasn’t been nails as far as knocking down every shot, but our defense will always keep us in it.”

Columbia tallied 13 steals and five blocks in the game while forcing a total of 23 turnovers from the Blackbirds, and the Lions capitalized on their defensive stops by scoring 20 points off turnovers.

Though Olasewere went 7-9 from the field and got to the line twice, the Lions forced him to give up six turnovers and to foul out with two minutes left in the game.

“The first defender is not always going to be able to guard the guy, and we had to bring help on him, and we did,” Smith said. “He turned it over—we forced him into some tough situations.”

Olasewere shouldered much of the Blackbirds’ offensive work as the team was without junior forward Julian Boyd—one of its top scorers—who was receiving X-rays for his wrist.

Apart from keeping the Blackbirds’ big men in check, the Lions also prevented the Long Island backcourt from developing a rhythm, especially by containing sophomore guard Jason Brickman.

“Our fours and our fives did a good job of helping me slow down the ball a little bit and just really trying to keep him [Brickman] in front,” sophomore guard Meiko Lyles, who had a game-high four steals, said.



KATE SCARBROUGH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FLYING HIGH | Junior center Mark Cisco scored 12 points in the Lions’ win against Long Island. However, he sprained his ankle during the game.

With its strong defense, the Light Blue never gave up the lead during the second period, extending the margin to as much as 11 at one point, and a break-away dunk by Daniels with one minute remaining sealed the victory.

The second half also saw the return of Columbia’s three-pointers, as freshman guard Noah Springwater, senior guard Steve Egee, and Barbour maintained the Lions’ lead with big shots from the outside.

But shooting only 4-19 from beyond the arc throughout the game, the Light Blue still relied heavily on its inside looks. Much of the work in the paint was done by Cisco, who made his presence felt despite being pulled out momentarily in the first half with a sprained ankle.

“He’s passing great now and we’re

feeding off him,” Barbour said. “As this streak’s going, it’s going off Mark, because having that huge presence down there makes it so much easier for Rosenberg, me, Meiko—everyone.”

Columbia’s current seven-game winning streak is the team’s longest since the 1981-1982 season, in which the Lions won eight straight. The seven wins have all been hard-fought, and the Lions don’t expect games to get any easier.

“It was another gritty performance for the Lions,” Smith said. “I didn’t expect much less. We’ve gone to the muck ball. It’s what we do.”

Riding its winning streak, Columbia hopes its momentum will carry through the upcoming 18-day break to its game against Marist on Dec. 28.

Mangurian to assess where football stands, what defines Columbia identity

MANGURIAN from page 3

the major change that will take place over the short and long term.

“What does it take to win? It’ll take an identity—an identity that’ll be created over time, an identity that we will research in the next week weeks,” he said.

According to Mangurian, this identity will be what the assistant coaches take with them on the road while recruiting the future classes of Columbia football. He emphasized how recruiting needs to focus on finding the right players specifically for Columbia.

“He’s got to fit in this community,” Mangurian said of the ideal recruit. “I want the people who are good for us—that fit us.”

These players, he specified, are not necessarily what other schools like Harvard and Yale are looking for. Once the identity of the program has been solidified, the ideal recruits will simply be those who best exemplify what he thinks Columbia needs in a player, he said.

The other, most noticeable aspect of Mangurian’s plan is his focus on winning. Though the goal of any program, winning has seldom been a part

of Columbia football’s past. When it comes to turning the program around, Mangurian is not holding back his expectations for the team.

“We need to expect to win,” Mangurian said. “It has to become part of who we are. We cannot go in with any kind of marginal idea of, ‘Okay, this is good enough.’”

In trying to change the culture surrounding football and getting a good understanding of the team, Mangurian has already leaned on several important people associated with the team and intends to continue doing so. During the press conference, he mentioned recent conversations with notable names like Bill Campbell, a former Columbia football captain and the current chairman of the University’s board of trustees, and Ray Tellier, a former Columbia football coach and the current associate athletics director for football, suggesting the beginnings of personal relationships that will grow in the years to come.

Part of turning the program around will be changing the attitude of those around it and setting high goals.

“Excellence in football is measured in wins,” Mangurian said. “We’re going to use the W-word around here.”

Improved second-half performance not enough for Light Blue in Brooklyn

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL from page 3

its offense and went on a 15-0 run. The Lions prevented the Blackbirds from putting up their first points of the second half until there was 8:48 left to go thanks to their ability to rebound Long Island 14-8 in that spell. The Lions held a 41-38 lead by converting on scoring opportunities. Guards sophomore Taylor Ward and senior Melissa Shafer both scored five points apiece, and junior guard Brittany Simmons put up four of her six points during the Lions’ second-half run.

“I thought we did a really good job, particularly of sharing the basketball,” Nixon said. “I thought we did a really good job executing and getting players open for shots, areas where they could score. I feel good about the progress on the defensive side of the ball. I think we really have been strongly committed to that this season, that’s the one area that has been pretty consistent for us. I think obviously we’ve had some pretty good rebounding performances—tonight is a good example of us doing a good job on the boards.”

Long Island’s Palmer scored two free throws, the first Long Island points of the second half that led to a 9-0 run for the Blackbirds, putting them up by six. Columbia got back within five with a layup by Shafer. However, the Lions eventually fell due to Long Island’s strong first half performance. Ward and

Shafer led the Lions in scoring, finishing the game with 10 points each, while Simmons ended the day with six points.

While Columbia showed a significant improvement in limiting personal fouls and turnovers compared to its previous games against Hawaii and Fairfield, the Light Blue struggled to convert on scoring opportunities and will look to work on translating its ability to take shots into more points.

“I feel good about the progress on the defensive side of the ball.”

—Paul Nixon, women’s basketball coach

“You get excited, but when she doesn’t finish a shot, it’s very deflating,” Nixon said. “The thing we are focusing on over the next couple of weeks is just having all the players being really confident in moves that they could use to score, so when we have an opportunity to run a play for a specific player, whoever’s turn it is to take the shot will have the confidence to make that shot.”

The Lions will return early from winter break to face Fairleigh Dickinson on the road. Tipoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Dec. 28.

Plenty to take away from a year of reporting on Columbia athletics

MOHANKA from page 3

for me, summarizes the mesmerizing effect and charm of Columbia athletics. It’s not something you need to be invested in—it’s a magnetic part of the college experience and has become a fun part of my life. Regardless of being brutal, bad, good, great, or unbelievable, it’s always been entertaining and inspiring. Columbia athletics have taught me a tremendous amount: fighting back against the odds, never giving up, and constantly striving to improve. Give it a chance, and I promise you will not be let down.

Coach Man (or Mango), as I hope he comes to be called, said something at Friday’s press conference that I’m certain will live with me forever. He said that the work for his players isn’t limited to practice sessions, the gym, or game day. He said that just as important is “how they treat the people who serve dinner on a road trip. It’s a lifestyle, fellows.” I smiled when he said that. Being a follower of athletics at Columbia is much more than just a game every weekend. It’s an experience, and there’s a lot to learn.

This column wouldn’t be complete if I didn’t express my gratitude to the athletic department for allowing me

to reach this point. My dear friend and co-editor Jim Pagels wrote in “On the Couch” on Friday that he felt the AD really needed to lighten up. I agree with him that there are some things it seems they’re unnecessarily unwilling to allow, but at the same time, I’m incredibly appreciative of the cooperation I received from Darlene Camacho, Pete McHugh, Casey Snedecor, Stephen Lee, and, last but by no means the least, Dan Lobacz (who has unfortunately left Columbia) for connecting me to the athletes and coaches of various teams (who I’m also incredibly grateful to—men’s soccer’s Kevin Anderson more than anyone else).

It’s fair and honest to say that I’m proud of everything I saw from the staff at Spectator—both in the office and in print every day—and I’m proud to have been an editor of the sports section. Columbia’s athletic teams have great stories to share, and it was a privilege to help tell those tales. I hope there was something in this journey of mine that appealed to you too.

Mrinal Mohanka is a Columbia College senior majoring in economics. He is a sports editor for Spectator. sports@columbiaspectator.com

MEN’S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Harvard defeats Columbia in final dual meet of 2011

Many Uris Pool records were broken on Saturday, but unfortunately for the Columbia men’s swimming and diving team, it was Harvard freshman Chuck Katis who was setting the new times. Katis won the men’s breaststroke in 55.18 seconds, the 200 breaststroke in 2:00.76, and the 200 individual medley relay in 1:48.56. The Light Blue (2-2, 1-2 Ivy) succumbed to the Crimson 206-92 in the final dual meet of the calendar year. Columbia started the meet strong, with junior Jason Collazo and freshman Micah Rembrandt placing second and third in the three-meter diving event. However, Harvard took control of the meet by winning the next three events. Freshman Omar Arafa closed the gap with a first-place finish in the 100-yard backstroke in 50.20. Harvard then showed why it has won 12 straight dual meets, with top-three finishes in six different events: the 1000 free, the 100 free, the 100 breast, the 200 breast, the 100 fly, and the 200 IM. For the Lions, freshmen Jeremie DeZwirek and David Jakl had strong meets, with DeZwirek winning the 200-yard backstroke in 1:48.19 and Jakl finishing third in the 200-yard backstroke and second in the 200-yard freestyle. The Lions return to the pool next on Sunday, Jan. 15 against the Bucknell Bison in Lewisburg, Pa.

—Eric Wong

WOMEN’S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Several records broken at Uris Pool as Light Blue crushes Penn but falls to Crimson

In the closest matchup in the schools’ shared history, the Harvard women’s swim team edged Columbia, 157-143, during a double-dual meet at Uris Pool on Friday. Though Penn was also in attendance, the real event was the contest between Harvard and Columbia, which head coach Diana Caskey described as a “marquee meet” for the team.

Harvard, currently ranked first in the Ivy League, saw fierce competition from the third-ranked Light Blue, which culminated in six pool records and several close calls. No time was wasted in wreaking havoc on the record board, as the 200-yard medley relay team of senior co-captain Dorothy Baker, freshman Mikaila Gaffey, junior Caroline Lukins, and freshman Stella Zhao took first place in a pool-record time of 1:43.97.

Freshman Salena Huang won the 200 free in 1:48.95, just .04 seconds off the pool record held by Olympian Cristina Teuscher, CC ’00, while freshman Anne Steele and sophomore Maggie D’Arcy claimed third and fourth.

The 200 free was the beginning of a series of races which saw Huang flirting with Teuscher’s pool records—similarly small margins in the 100 free (50.97, .78 off) and 500 free (4:53.37, 3.09 off) separated the rookie from revising the record board.

Meanwhile, the rest of the team suited up to establish an early lead over the Crimson. Baker won the 100 back in 56.32, erasing the oldest record on the board by over a second,

and junior Katie Meili followed suit, completing the 100 breast in 1:02.11. Gaffey took third in 1:05.06.

This placed the meet score at Columbia 62, Harvard 50. However, Harvard’s Courtney Otto led the Crimson to a 1-2-3 finish in the 200 fly with a pool-record time of 2:00.32. Columbia rebounded slightly in the next event as Zhao and Gaffey went 2-3 in the 50 free.

The 100 free saw a first-place finish from Huang, but second through sixth were all Crimson swimmers. In the 200 back, Harvard’s Meghan Leddy touched in a pool-record 2:00.30 but was closely followed by Columbia sophomore Grace Senko and Baker, who went 2-3.

Meili finished .24 off the pool record in the 200 breast, which she won in 2:15.71. The feat was echoed by her first-place finish in the 200 IM, which was also .24 from the pool record.

Columbia capped the meet by taking first and third in the 400-yard free relay. The squad of Gaffey, Huang, Meili, and Zhao won in 3:27.37. It was not enough to stave off Harvard’s victory, but Caskey was encouraged.

“It was a really exciting performance for our program,” she said. “We’re just so enthusiastic about how the season’s going, and look forward to Ivies.”

Meanwhile, the final score of the Columbia-Penn meet stood at 247-51 in favor of the Light Blue.

The Lions see their next action Jan. 3, when they host Wagner.

—Charlotte Murtishaw

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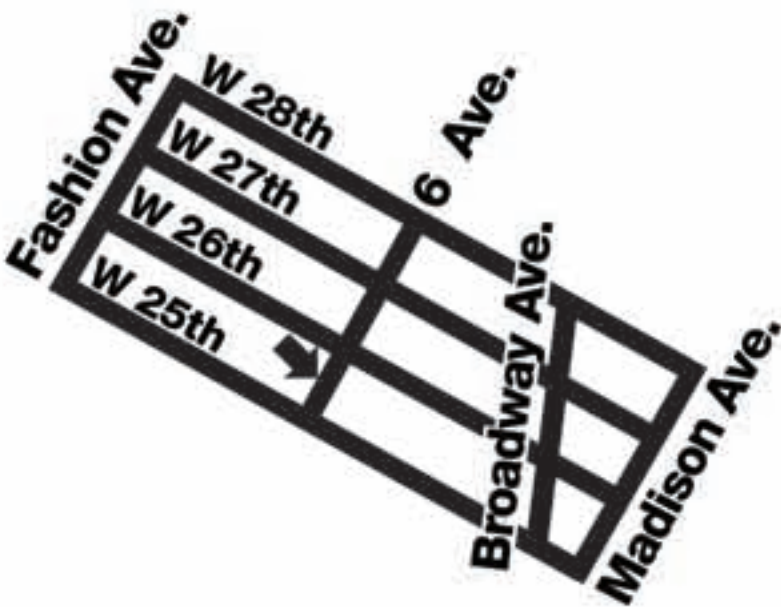
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