



MEGHAN TUTTLE FOR SPECTATOR

BARUCH ATAH ADONAI | Students read prayer books at a Friday service at the Kraft Center as part of the Interfaith Service Hop.

Service hop brings together students of different religions

BY MAX MARSHALL
Columbia Daily Spectator

As Hannah Rosner, CC '14, prepared to attend her first Islamic worship service Friday night, she faced a dilemma. Her host had told her to “dress modestly,” and she had no idea what that entailed.

So she went with what she knew. “I dressed Jewishly,” she said.

Rosner was one of almost

50 students who participated in Columbia's third Interfaith Service Hop last weekend, attending services outside of their religion across campus and the city. Members of the Muslim Students Association, the Columbia Catholic Ministry, the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, the Hindu Students Organization, and the Columbia/Barnard Hillel offered their services to students and sent members to

other worship events.

Organized by the Columbia/Barnard Interfaith Collective and the Hillel Interfaith/Intercultural Committee, the weekend concluded with a dinner at the Hillel's Kraft Center on 115th Street Monday night, where participants reflected on their experiences.

“There are a lot of people who are curious about different religions, but don't feel comfortable just attending

someone else's service, or feel comfortable approaching someone about it,” said Kira Heller, BC '15 and Interfaith/Intercultural Coordinator for Hillel. “This gives people a safe space to explore other people's religions in a comfortable environment.”

Hillel worked with Rosner and Lexi Erdheim, BC '13 and a member of the Interfaith

SEE SERVICE HOP, page 2

After Sandy, Milvets ball faces funding shortage

BY CHRIS MEYER
Columbia Daily Spectator

The Columbia Milvets are working to find funding and a new venue for their annual ball, a little more than a month after Hurricane Sandy forced the postponement of the group's hallmark event.

The event was supposed to take place at Pier 60 in Chelsea on Nov. 2, but the venue was still flooded from the storm, and the Milvets have not set a new date or location. They're planning to hold the ball in the spring, and while the event has retained a majority of its sponsors, the timing change has reduced the amount of up-front funding it will receive from General Studies Student Council.

“We are short on funds right now, but the seriousness of that shortage will depend on how many people” buy tickets, said Milvets President Richard Baldassari, GS '14, adding that he hopes for a turnout of about 400 people.

“We're still looking forward to it,” he added. “We think we will get it funded and it will be a great event.”

The General Studies Student Council originally deemed the Milvets Ball an “anchor event,” meaning the council would help sponsor it with money from a special fund that also supports the annual General Studies Gala in the spring. The council had voted to allocate \$30,000 for the

SEE MILVETS, page 3

BC student publishes fiction in NY Times

BY JOSEPHINE MCGOWAN
Columbia Daily Spectator

A vision of the end of the world had cast its morbid glance on Elyse Pitock, BC '15.

In the wake of a seemingly apocalyptic Hurricane Sandy, Pitock recorded her vision, submitting it to the New York Times' Opinionator. “When the World Ends,” a short fiction work, throngs on insufferable anxiety, wrought through a starving speaker who eventually deteriorates “black-hole-style.”

The Opinionator's Anxiety blog focuses on how humans “navigate the worried mind, through essay, art and memoir,” according to its website. Pitlock said she had the work in mind for weeks before the storm hit, and flowed out when she had solidarity and time to hone her idea.

“I wanted to hit a picture of what it feels like to be anxious; a jarring feeling that tells you that everything is really important: heart pounding, wrong decisions, everything going disastrously,” she said. “I wanted to make the work as dramatic as possible.”

Yet, the piece illuminates personal themes through the prose. Pitock had dealt with obsessive compulsive disorder in silence for the past year, and felt as if she had something to say about it.

“This essay was inspired a lot by my OCD, which became really bad last year and had always been a big secret,” she said. “I had never met anyone who had it and I didn't understand or know what was happening. I would have liked to have read something that pertained to what I was going through, but rather, I wrote about it for other people

to read and have those conversations about their anxieties.”

In her piece, two lines highlight the confusion of the anxious individual: “Everything lies. Everything is tainted.” With this and the image of the starved individual, there have been a variety of reactions to the piece. While some hailed her writing skills, other commenters on the article attacked Pitock personally, saying things like, “Get a real life, and you may get a real body,” or “My guess is that your author is suffering from depression”—despite the fact that the piece was marked as a work of fiction.

“I was mostly trying to dramatize the experience of not being able to make a decision. I have struggled a lot with OCD, so that was what the article was also supposed to be about,” she

SEE PITOCK, page 6



HANNAH CHOI / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FACE BEHIND THE WORDS | Playwright Elyse Pitock discusses the story behind her fiction piece.

Former AEPi pres. slams administrators

Renick resigns as judicial board chair after brownstone decisions

BY ABBY ABRAMS
AND YASMIN GAGNE
Spectator Senior Staff Writers

Former Alpha Epsilon Pi president Matthew Renick blasted administrators for not giving AEPi and Pi Kappa Alpha their old brownstones back in a strongly worded email to Greek leaders and administrators Monday evening.

Renick, GS/JTS '13, made the charges in an email announcing his resignation as chair of the Greek Judicial Board. His resignation was largely symbolic, as the InterGreek Council selected Anthony Clay, CC '14, as the board's new chair in a long-scheduled vote Monday night.

AEPi, Pi Kappa Alpha, and Psi Upsilon were kicked out of their 114th Street brownstones in March 2011 after several of their members were arrested in a high-profile drug bust. After a months-long application and review process, administrators decided last week to give the brownstones to Q House, Alpha Chi Omega, and Lambda Phi Epsilon.

A committee of four administrators and six students—four of whom are members of Greek organizations—reviewed the 13 brownstone applicants and chose six finalists: Alpha Chi Omega, Lambda Phi Epsilon, Q House, Manhattan House by the Native American Council, Pi Kappa Alpha, and Alpha Epsilon Pi. The committee then recommended three winners to Student Affairs administrators, who made the final decision.

Current leadership of AEPi and Pi Kappa Alpha have not responded to requests for comment about the brownstone winners. But Renick, the immediate past president of Alpha Epsilon Pi, said in his email that “the entire process by which it was decided was fundamentally and morally wrong,” arguing that AEPi and

Pi Kappa Alpha had earned their former brownstones back.

In an email to Greek leaders and administrators, Renick criticized the composition of the committee and the criteria it used to judge the finalists. He also took issue with the entire concept of the review process.

“The idea that a committee of six students and four administrators could accurately and fairly decide which of 13 organizations was most deserving of a brownstone is ridiculous in its own right,” he said in the email.

COMMITTEE SELECTION

In his widely distributed resignation email, Renick criticized the process by which administrators selected committee members, a process he largely mischaracterized. Applications for the committee were open to all students and almost two dozen applied, but Renick described the process differently, writing that “the University decided to pick six random students in a secret, closed-door process, with no justification for their selection.”

In an interview late Monday night, though, he walked back that claim, saying that administrators should have chosen committee members from among student government leaders.

“This committee was supposed to represent the greater Columbia student body, and there is a huge amount of people already in democratically elected positions on this campus,” Renick said. “So even though everyone had the opportunity to apply for this, the fact that it was a couple of administrators making the decision about who was going to be on this committee instead of the students themselves was not the best way to go about it.”

Dean of Student Affairs

SEE RENICK, page 2

Politicians, scientists push back against fiscal cliff

BY LUKE BARNES
Spectator Staff Writer

Members of Congress, medical professionals, and patient activists urged Congress to avoid cutting funding to the National Institutes of Health at a Columbia University Medical Center event Monday morning.

The NIH, Columbia's top source of federal funding, could face a budget cut of up to \$2.5 billion if Congress doesn't act to avoid a set of budget cuts, known as sequestration, that is set to take effect January 2. On Monday, panelists including Rep. Charles Rangel argued that the cuts would endanger the long-term economic health of New York City and make it more difficult for doctors and researchers to study deadly diseases.

“What is saved in the short term, like the budget, is lost in the long term, in terms of lives lost,” Lee Goldman, Columbia's executive vice president for health and biomedical sciences, said.

Goldman noted that research funded by the NIH has led to huge advances in cardiology, his field of expertise.

“Avoiding sequestration is critical, but just the first step,” he said. “We lose ground in budgetary battles every year.”

Members of the panel said that sequestration could result

in \$167 million worth of cuts in research money that would otherwise go to New York State institutions. According to a study by the Association of Medical Schools in New York, those cuts would result in an overall loss of \$1.25 billion to the state economy.

“Coming from New York, we are building the best for our nation.”

—Rep. Charles Rangel

Rangel was joined on the panel by fellow U.S. representatives Carolyn Maloney and Jerrold Nadler, CC '69, whose district includes Columbia's Morningside Heights campus. Rangel vowed to fight for a budgetary deal in Washington that averts sequestration.

“Coming from New York, we are building the best for our nation,” he said. “The standards for health care are created here. It not only creates jobs, it saves lives and keeps people out of hospital.”

Sequestration stems from an August 2011 deal that Congress

SEE BUDGET, page 3

A&E, PAGE 6

TC prof teaches science through hip-hop

Christopher Emdin works with rapper GZA in a new project that uses hip-hop battles to get young students excited about learning science.



OPINION, PAGE 4

What am I doing?

Yoni Golijov questions the ultimate value of schooling.

The value of an education

Amanda Guterman reflects on the comfort of receiving feedback.

SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Pandas training for Regionals in spring

For some women at Columbia, frisbee is the ultimate sport.

EVENTS

Enhancing Your Relationship

This couples workshop is part of a series about increasing communication and positivity in relationships.

Columbia Psychological Services, 8th Floor, Lerner Hall, 5:30 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



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MEGHAN TUTTLE FOR SPECTATOR

BREAKING BREAD | Students share a meal Monday night, bringing to a close a weekend of attending a range of religious services.

Students discover different types of worship services

**SERVICE HOP
from front page**

Collective, to cater the service hop weekend to specific campus groups and to reach out to students who are not members of campus faith organizations. “The challenge is getting people who don’t identify with campus groups,” Heller said. “If you are Jewish but don’t identify with Hillel, if you are Muslim but don’t identify with MSA—it’s the people in the in-between that we’re trying to reach out to.”

The coordinators said their goal was to increase participation from past service hops and to emphasize commonalities among different religions.

“The things people have in common are so much greater than the things that separate us,” Erdheim said. “Respecting other people’s religions, faiths, beliefs is so important that I want to bring that to others. If that happens, then we’ve accomplished something.”

During the closing dinner Monday night, participants discussed similarities between their faiths in greater detail.

One of those participants, Nathan Grubb, SEAS ’13 and the webmaster for the Columbia Catholic Ministry, went to his first Jewish worship service this weekend. He noticed many parallels between Christian and Jewish services, citing the similarity

between Hebrew psalms and the Christian monastic Liturgy of the Hours.

“I don’t see my Jewish identity as being related to a ... political identity.”

—Dan Margulies, CC ’13

“I came in expecting hours of Hebrew, and that’s what I got,” Grubb said. “But it’s a fascinating language. It has a real nice rhythm to it.”

Dan Margulies, CC ’13, who

hosted Grubb at his synagogue in an 89th Street gymnasium, attended Islamic worship Friday as part of the swap.

“It is fun to see the social dynamic,” Margulies said. “It was interesting to see there are certain similarities in terms of who gets there on time, who gets there late, who helps set up.”

Margulies added that ongoing controversy and violence in the Middle East didn’t at all detract from the experience.

“I don’t see my Jewish identity as being related to a particular political identity, and I don’t think my hosts saw things that way either,” he said. “It was refreshing—that didn’t even cross my mind.”

news@columbiaspectator.com

SEAS profs receive grant to research power outages

**BY SOPHIE GAMEZ
Columbia Daily Spectator**

A pair of SEAS professors is researching mass power outages—and how to prevent them—with a hefty grant from the United States Department of Defense.

School of Engineering and Applied Science professors Daniel Bienstock and Gil Zussman and Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor Eytan Modiano received the \$1.05 million grant from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency this summer. They’re using the funds in an effort to protect the U.S. from attacks on the power grid system, the network that transmits electricity from power plants to consumers.

“In the long run, we hope that the events, such as the ones that we are studying, will never happen,” Zussman said. “So basically we want to see, before something happens, what are the implications?”

Zussman, an electrical engineer, is focusing on the algorithms and protocols for wireless communication networking, while Bienstock, an operations researcher, is using mathematical optimization to make decisions that have a given uncertainty. Modiano is an expert in network algorithms and stochastic network control.

“We actually construct as much as we can a model of how the physics and engineering work, and we simulate that and use that to predict the behavior of the model under stress,” Bienstock said.

Ansaf Salieb-Aouissi, an associate research scientist at Columbia’s Center for Computational Learning Systems who is not involved in the project, said that the work is particularly timely in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, which caused blackouts across the Northeast.

“If we think about New York City, things are so connected. It’s difficult to make sure that power stays on—it’s very susceptible,” she said. “I think the team has a plan to address the problem of

blackouts to avoid the cascading failures—they have good preliminary work. It’s an important, hot topic.”

The engineers are working to find a way to prevent what is known as a cascading failure—a snowball effect in which a small amount of damage causes a huge power outage. To do that, they’re running simulations and looking to identify vulnerable spots on the power grid.

“You need to understand the impact and then try to identify and develop control mechanisms that can stop the attack and see how other interdependent systems interact,” Zussman said.

The interdependency of electrical networks, Modiano explained, allows a small failure to “cascade” from one network to another, potentially leading to “disastrous effects.”

“We lost power in Cambridge for about two hours and I was not able to make any phone calls,” Modiano said, referring to a power outage that occurred last week. “So the interdependency is quite important, and we have become extremely reliant on telecommunications, the Internet, and power.”

The three researchers are particularly focused on geographically correlated cascading failures, including those caused by tornadoes, fires, and deliberate physical attacks.

The grant money is set to last three years, but the researchers hope to continue their work after it expires.

“The way the grant works is you propose to work on some concrete, defined problem,” Bienstock said. “The scope of the problem is usually much narrower than the overall situation that they are looking at.”

Bienstock added that keeping people safe will require financial investment as well as research.

“The public has to become informed about the risks of not investing,” he said. “If we don’t do anything, we are leaving ourselves open to more and more severe events, which nobody would like.”

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Renick: AEPi, Pike deserved brownstones

RENICK from front page

Kevin Shollenberger was not available for comment Monday night, but Dean of Community Development and Multicultural Affairs Terry Martinez told Spectator earlier this semester that administrators did their best to their best to choose committee members fairly.

“We put out a call to all undergraduate students in CC and SEAS, most of the 22 students who applied were Greek affiliated,” Martinez said. “We tried to think of how could present a fair and balanced committee.”

Asked if he shared Renick’s concerns, Native American Council president Julian Noisecat, CC ’15, said that “many expressed concerns about bias” because two-thirds of the students on the committee were members of Greek organizations.

“As an underrepresented group on campus, we shared these concerns and hope that the process was fair, though we cannot know until more information on how the decision was reached is released,” he said.

In his email, Renick also charged that one member of the committee “voiced to other students that he would not accept any recommendation that did not include Q House.”

“Not surprisingly, they were awarded a brownstone,” he said.

Committee member and Columbia College Student Council Vice President for Policy Will Hughes, CC ’14 said in a message that he stands “entirely behind the process.” Several other committee members did not respond to requests for comment Monday night.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Renick also argued that the committee did not abide by the criteria it originally laid out for recommending winners.

“They cited things such as the ability to always fill the house, and the ability of an organization to make a positive contribution to the community. For Greek organizations, the committee informed us that the ALPHA

Standards of Excellence would be the primary evaluations used in making this decision,” he said in the email. “Clearly, however, this was a lie.”

Renick said that the Greek community was informed that the ALPHA Standards of Excellence, a set of criteria used to evaluate Greek organizations, would be the primary tool used by the committee to evaluate Greek applicants. AEPi and PIKE both earned five of five stars in their ALPHA Standards evaluations last semester.

“AEPi and Pike ... vastly exceeded what the committee said they were looking for.”

—Matthew Renick, GS/JTS ’13

Meanwhile, Renick noted, Alpha Chi Omega—which won a brownstone—only received four stars. Renick said in his email that “as the Chairman of the board that grades the ALPHA standards, I must question their overall relevance and purpose, given the utter lack of attention paid to them in this process.”

“I have nothing against the three organizations that were awarded brownstones,” he said in the Monday night interview. “I think if you look objectively at what that stated, these organizations did not appear to be at the top of the list. I felt that AEPi and Pike had vastly exceeded what the committee said they were looking for, and other organizations might not have been as up to that.”

He also criticized the selection of Q House, saying in his email that while Pi Kappa Alpha and AEPi have “booming membership,” Q House only comprises eight people. But membership in Q House—a special interest community for LGBTQ students—has been limited to its

eight-person Ruggles Hall suite, and it’s likely to expand with a brownstone. Renick added in the interview that, “I’m not saying they can’t do it, but there’s no proof that they can.”

Q House member Adam Wilson, CC ’14, said in an email that he has “full faith that the students and administrators of the committee acted with integrity when allocating the brownstones.”

Noisecat said that the Native American Council “would have liked more transparency in the decision-making process and an official explanation of how decisions were made.”

Representatives for Alpha Chi Omega, Lambda Phi Epsilon, Pi Kappa Alpha, and Alpha Epsilon Pi could not be reached or declined to comment Monday night.

RESIGNATION

Renick said that he repeatedly asked to discuss his concerns with administrators during the committee process but was denied meetings with Martinez and Assistant Dean for Residential Programs and Community Development Cristen Kromm. He added that while he was able to speak to Victoria Lopez-Herrera, associate director for fraternity and sorority life, she told him that nothing was going to be changed.

Ultimately, he said in the email, he decided to resign so that he can “once again live in good conscience.” The Greek Judicial Board is responsible for grading the ALPHA Standards and hearing policy violation cases, and Renick said that he no longer wanted to be part of an administration “that lies to the people it is designed to help.”

In the later interview, though, he toned down his rhetoric, emphasizing that he didn’t have a “sour grapes” attitude.

“I’m not asking for anything drastic—a decision has been made. But I really don’t think these type of committees are the best ways to make hugely important decisions on this campus,” he said. “I think it’s a very divisive way to go about it, and I hope that they can come up with something better.”

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DOUGLAS KESSEL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PUT THE BRAKES ON | Rep. Charles Rangel (above) and Columbia medicine professor Siddhartha Mukherjee argue at an event Monday morning that Congress should act to avert sequestration.

Severe budget cuts set to take effect Jan. 2

BUDGET from front page

reached to raise the debt ceiling, in which members of Congress agreed to \$1.2 trillion in mandatory across-the-board spending cuts—cuts that would only take effect if a super-committee of representatives and senators failed to agree on even deeper cuts. The super-committee failed to agree on cuts, and sequestration is now scheduled to hit at the beginning of next year.

Nadler said that averting the so-called “fiscal cliff” is critical, arguing that sequestration is something “no intelligent government would do.” Like Maloney and Rangel, Nadler voted against the original debt ceiling deal.

“The progress we have made is all because of medical research—most of it federal, NIH research,” Nadler said. “The idea that we would cut that is unspeakable.”

“I’ve spent two years in hospitals and clinics. I’m back to leading a normal life because of research.”

—*Brianna Commerford*

Siddhartha Mukherjee, a clinical medicine professor

and Pulitzer Prize winner, said that NIH funding is crucial to researching diseases like HIV.

“There was nothing I was doing in the clinic this morning whose lineage cannot be traced back to the ... NIH research,” he said.

Also on the panel was 14-year-old Brianna Commerford, a survivor of Hodgkin’s Lymphoma who called herself a “living example” of the value of medical research.

“I’ve spent two years in hospitals and clinics. I’m back to living a normal life because of research,” she said. “The only way that kids get better is through that.”

luke.barnes@columbiaspectator.com

Hurricane delays plans for Milvets ball

MILVETS from front page

Milvets ball, under the condition that it could recuperate \$15,000 in ticket sale revenue.

But with two anchor events on tap for the spring, as well as the GS senior cruise, GSSC representatives voted in a meeting before Thanksgiving to revoke the ball’s anchor status. After a contentious debate, 12 of the 19 council members at the meeting voted to fund the ball with a simple \$15,000 allocation, rather than giving the Milvets \$30,000 up front and asking for \$15,000 back later.

Some GSSC members opposed the proposal, objecting to allocating any money yet because of the lack of details surrounding the rescheduled ball.

Lee-on Pedahzur, GS ’13, said he was concerned that GSSC’s contribution could be lost on an event that never ends up happening.

“If I pay for a Lexus and end up getting a Toyota, I’m going to be pissed,” Pedahzur said.

During the pre-Thanksgiving

meeting, Pedahzur proposed that the new budget allocation be withheld until the event has a date and location. He later said in an email that while he supports the ball itself, he worried council was going ahead with the funding out of fear of “MilVet backlash.”

“If you’re really concerned about the budget ... come to one of their planning meetings.”

—*John Schiffer, GS*

A number of GSSC members, though, including military veteran and GS first-year John Schiffer, said they were not concerned about the Milvets’ ability to make the event happen.

“If you’re really concerned about the budget or the event,

I invite you to come to one of their planning meetings,” Schiffer said.

Baldassari said that he’s also pursuing a number of new funding options, including a potential grant from the Columbia Alumni Association Co-Sponsorship Fund. But despite the efforts to raise more money, which may culminate in an official fundraiser after winter break, Baldassari said that the Milvets might have to increase their own contribution from about \$30,000 to more than \$35,000.

Despite the fact that a majority of Columbia veterans are enrolled at GS, Baldassari said he expects a “good portion” of ball attendees to be from School of International and Public Affairs, the Law School, and the Business School. He added that students who bought tickets for the original ball can request refunds, and that tickets for the original ball will not roll over to the rescheduled event.

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FILE PHOTO

LOOKING BACK | The last Milvets ball, which was held in Low Library in February, saw all 200 of its tickets sell. Milvets President Richard Baldassari, GS ’14, hopes this year’s event draws 400 attendees.

GZA proves great rapper, teacher in new project

GZA from page 6

to get to the meeting. Part of why he’s so involved with the project is because he sees himself as the kids who are not being engaged by school. He remembers being smart and wanting to ask questions and feeling like the teacher doesn’t care, the school doesn’t care, and he realizes that education is powerful and he doesn’t want another

kid to have that kind of negative experience.

Q: GZA has been able to help you in the classroom, is there any chance you’ll be able to help him onstage?

A: I’m an emcee, and I’ve actually rapped for him before, and he just sort raised his eyebrows a little bit and I thought, “Yeah, I think I got him. I think he thinks I can spit a little bit.” But we learn so much

from each other. What I’ve learned from him is originality, being honest and humble, being always willing to learn. This guy took a year off from touring and went to science labs around the country just to learn and engage more with science. And from me I think he’s learned to get back into the world of education and the importance of giving back.

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Urbina Lazardi

THURSDAY NIGHT STAFF

Copy

Molly Doernberg, Abigail Golden,

Do Yeon Lee, Neha Sundaram, Jessie

Chasan-Taber

CONTACT US

2875 Broadway, 3rd Floor

New York, NY 10025

info@columbiaspectator.com

Twitter: @ColumbiaSpec

PHONE & FAX

Daily Spectator (212) 854-9549

Business (212) 854-9550

Business Fax (212) 854-9553

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The important part of an education

“Tsee,” Alan replied. “You wouldn’t let your schooling interfere with your education.” —“The Woman Who Did” by Grant Allen

Of course, we learn a lot in school. And while Allen’s main character, Herminia, left school, never married, and lived life her own way, I’m not recommending that we all drop out of school. All I’m saying is we should always remember that there’s much more to education than schooling, and sometimes, schooling can actually get in the way.

These tensions between schooling and education always exist, bubbling under the surface, but they become sharp-est in times when one directly interferes with the other. Looking back at those boiling points is valuable and necessary, especially because it seems the uptick in extracurricular educational opportunities (read: social movements) that began two years ago is on pace to continue to grow.

Take just last month for instance, when Richard Leong asked, “Yes, our education was important, but at the same time wasn’t it strange to be going to class when lower Manhattan was flooded and people had become homeless overnight or lost their power?” I wholeheartedly believe this was a valid question to ask—our education was immensely important, and it was also immensely strange to be returning to class as if nothing had happened. The catch is that at that moment, the solution this dilemma could have overlapped. Actually going to the hardest hit areas of the city, working with others to rebuild, learning from the people who live there about the pre-existing problems that set up Sandy’s devastation, seeing both the lack of response by official agencies, and the inspiring generosity of regular people—all that could have been an education.

That isn’t to say that one should volunteer for one’s own sake, but it is to say that we shouldn’t think we only have a lot to give—we also have a lot to gain. Volunteering is best when it’s not charity, but solidarity.

And let’s not forget, the University’s response is another part of our education. When a disaster of this magnitude hits, if we are told the best thing we can do is continue the usual on campus, what lessons are University administrators teaching us? What values?

These tensions between schooling and education always exist, bubbling under the surface.

That question, “What values?” is essential, illustrating the conflict between schooling and education that regularly comes to a head. Take, for instance, the way our University administrators treat University workers. This past year, Columbia, Barnard, and Teachers College negotiated new contracts with hundreds of workers who make our schools run. Administrators attempted to make drastic cuts to wages, health care, even education credits. What values does this teach us? This question could be heard repeated via “the people’s mic” by hundreds of people at the massive rally last spring: “Shouldn’t these institutions, responsible for higher learning, teach these values [respecting and duly compensating workers] as well?”

The time that dozens or even hundreds of students took from their schooling so they could participate in the campaigns to defend workers’ rights this past year did not reduce their educations. They stood up for and reaffirmed their values, and they got a chance to work with and learn from people who are as responsible for the functioning of our University as are professors, but whom we almost never get to work with and hear from. That’s an education.

Of course, it’s extremely difficult to prioritize education and values when we pay a historically unprecedented amount of money for our schooling. Semi-ironically, though not incidentally, we actually have the power to reduce that price barrier, as we can see from our peers in Quebec, in Puerto Rico, and wherever students are winning the fight for the right to a quality education no matter how little money a student has.

In times like those, we can see the conflicts between schools administrators’ stated values and their active values. My eyebrows sprung up in shock last fall semester during a critical walking tour, when a director of Public Safety marched up to the tour in front of the business school and said, “I’m the director of Public Safety, nice to meet you. If you don’t step off my campus, I’m gonna call the cops, and you’ll all be arrested.” Just like that.

“Don’t we have the right to freedom of speech?”
“No, you don’t. Not on the campus. Not on the campus.”
So much for our president being a pre-eminent free speech scholar.

Similarly, many students over the past decade have questioned University administrators’ commitment to anti-racism in light of the disrespectful actions administrators are taking to expand the campus at the expense of thousands of Harlem residents who live and work in Manhattanville. The way the University is kicking out thousands of people sends a strong if implicit message: “Those people” are less valuable. One CU alumus said it best, “No matter what they say, this neighborhood was one thing, one time, that we knew, and now it’s going to be something completely different that has absolutely nothing to do with it. Nor does it pay the slightest damn attention to the concept that maybe there was something there that they might’ve wanted their students to learn about and to love.”

Stay in school, speak out in class, do the readings, enjoy it. But always, always ask, is this furthering or interfering with my education? And always put education first.

Yoni Golijov is a Columbia College senior majoring in creative writing. He is a member of the Barnard-Columbia International Socialist Organization. The Local University runs alternate Tuesdays.



YONI

GOLIJOV

The Local
University

A call to action

BY LAUREN DANZIG

First observed in 1987, World AIDS Day serves as an annual reminder of the prevalence of the relentless HIV/AIDS virus around the world. While early detection and treatment technologies have improved significantly since the 1980s, it is a disease that needlessly continues to affect approximately 50,000 previously uninfected Americans each year.

Although scarcely publicized, trends in HIV infection rates among marginalized populations are impossible to ignore. Outlets of mainstream media, members of U.S. government, and even health educators are reluctant to address the obvious patterns in HIV infection because they intersect with controversial sociopolitical phenomena. Last year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that men who have sex with men account for 61 percent of new HIV infections in the United States. As reported by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, African-Americans alone accounted for 25 percent of new HIV infections in New York City this year.

A collective effort should be made not only to increase awareness of HIV on campus, but also to share our resources.

Although such statistics never lose their shock value, the disproportionate representation of African-American men who have sex with men who contract HIV each year should come as no surprise. These trends are not new. However, ignoring these issues or half-heartedly broaching them does not change the fact that race, gender, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status are primary risk factors for HIV infection.

Columbia’s campus is situated within the historically black neighborhood of Harlem. Consequently, the above statistics demonstrate that our neighbors are some of the most susceptible individuals to HIV infection. Despite the fact that this reality is extremely relevant to many of our Harlem neighbors, HIV infection is not a primary health concern on Columbia’s campus. As members of the Columbia community, we must first acknowledge the



AMANDA

GUTTERMAN

Senior
Citizen,
Junior
Employee

many products of our privilege—education, access to free safer-sex materials, and proximity to high-quality medical and mental health resources. These products of privilege render us far less susceptible to HIV infection than our neighbors. Consequently, HIV may slip down the ladder of health care and research priorities at Columbia.

This needs to change. Education is the value that unites all members of our campus community. And a collective effort should be made not only to increase awareness of HIV on campus, but also to share our resources. Harlem has had an enormous positive impact on the Columbia community over many years and has provided countless experiences with its rich culture and history. Columbia students attend Harlem’s famous churches, eat in Harlem’s historically celebrated restaurants, work for Harlem-based businesses, and participate in cultural festivals that take place right beyond the fences that quite literally separate the University community from our neighbors. The culture of Harlem has been central to many Columbia students’ lives. What do we do to give back?

Our neighbors impacted by HIV and AIDS should no longer remain invisible to campus health authorities. It is time that we begin to share our many resources with our neighbors who have not merely accommodated, but actively welcomed us for so long. However, resource sharing is not one-sided. Columbia’s world-renowned research resources combined with access to Harlem’s activists and cultural epicenters can lead to reduced HIV infection rates in and near our community. How many individuals could be positively impacted by a Columbia Health Services effort to provide a free HIV testing and condom distribution day at a Harlem community center? How many additional perspectives could be represented by opening up Columbia’s HIV+ Support Group to our neighbors.

If you’re inspired by these ideas, make an effort to mobilize your passion. Organize with other students who share your interests and contact Columbia Health Services to advocate for increased community involvement. Establish specific goals to accomplish before next year’s World AIDS Day, and share them with fellow Columbians. As we know from the Columbia Core, ideas contain significant meaning. However, without action, they remain unrealized.

The author is a first-year master’s student at the Columbia University School of Social Work and a writer for Columbia’s online health resource, Go Ask Alice!

Written up

OK, so I didn’t actually get written up. I was summoned for a “conversation” because Residential Programs had magically predicted the subject of my final Spectator column. Either that or I’d found another way to attract their attention. That’s beside the point. Anyway, less than 24 hours after receiving the email that subpoenaed me to the office in Broadway where I imagined scary disciplinary hearings to take place, I found myself anxiously pacing in the associate director’s entryway, reviewing my talking points.

As early as grade school, I envisioned myself as a critic of authority and saw it as my duty to pose an educated challenge to the rules. The problem is, I chronically go limp in the face of actual authority. For me, the buck has always stopped at the principal’s door, whereupon I give up my co-conspirators and lamely apologize for my misdeeds. But Darleny Cepin, an associate director of residential programs, could not have been further from an elementary school disciplinarian, with her sense of humor and thoughtful opinions. Our conversation was less about punishment and more about health, and we ended up speaking at length about the Columbia experience. Darleny made it clear that she considers it one of her main duties to look after student wellbeing in a stressful environment. Leaving her office an hour later, I realized that though it was the first time I had been “written up,” it might be the last time an encounter with authority would be with someone who wanted feedback about my mental health.

After college, if we get in trouble, it will be because we are thought to have committed a crime or perpetuated some other major wrongdoing. Those in charge of our case would have no interest in our happiness. In the work world, too, our satisfaction will not always come first. One of the most difficult transitions is losing the high level of feedback we get in college on how we are doing and whether we are satisfied. Here, every time we hand in an assignment or take a test, professors are giving us personal feedback on where we stand. Professors tend to encourage conversations about our progress and are open to discussing alternatives when we are not content. The pressure of grades can be frustrating, but even grades reveal an interest in our intellectual formation.

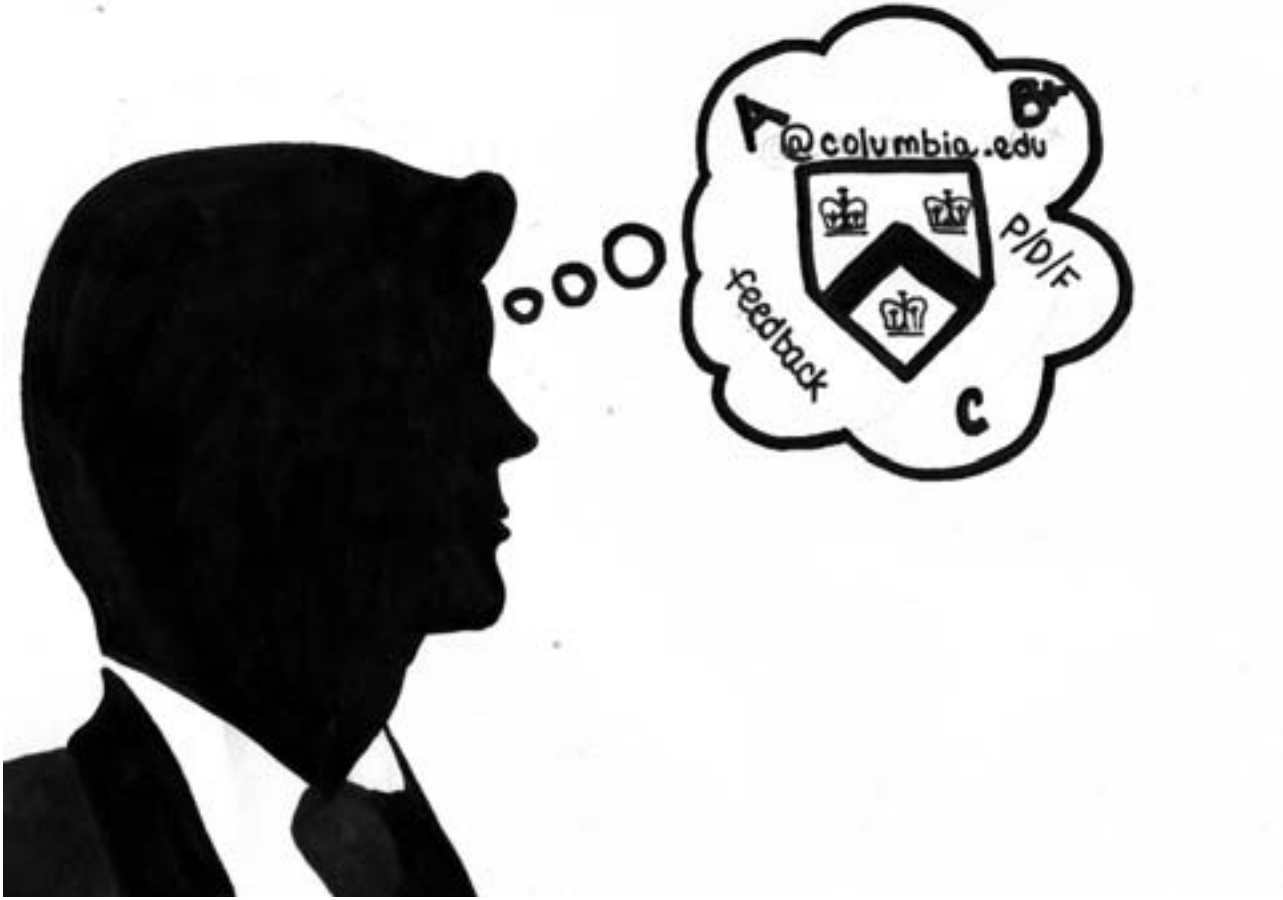
Though Columbia is often described as an isolating environment, and each year manages to be rated among the top most stressful colleges—one can only imagine the dismal business of compiling the criteria—that has not been my experience. Yes, there is a lot of work, and usually, more than can reasonably be expected of a person who also has friends and sleeps. But I have found that no matter what, we have an incredible access to personal feedback. Anyone with a Columbia email address is likely to respond when we reach out to them, whether they are a dean or a famous professor. They are available to sit down and chat with us about coursework, but also about life outside of the lecture hall. “Authority figures” at Columbia are interested in our feedback, or at the very least, can basically identify with us as fellow human creatures whose searches for meaning have momentarily aligned.

Once we leave these gates, “feedback” may take on a different meaning, as something formal and structured. It becomes the annual report detailing if we have been effective completing our tasks, the sum of how much revenue we have brought in, or whether or not we have gone “above and beyond.” In the world outside of college, the expectations are not always clear, let alone how to exceed them. Friends who moved on to jobs from college last year have described feeling alienated in the office environment—not in a Marxist “alienation of labor” kind of way, so much as the feeling of having lost a degree of familial caring.

After we graduate, it is likely that our feelings and impressions will never again be so important to the people in charge. Not that there is anything wrong with that. The ideal work environment is hardly a place where people constantly gush about their emotions. And yet, there is undeniably something lost in the transition between character formation and professional performance, something that I, at least, will miss. I think the most frustrating moments from going to school at Columbia, the most irksome people and encounters with bureaucracy, many of which I have picked over in my columns, will crystallize into nostalgia.

Nostalgia is the true subject of this final column. Walking from Darleny Cepin’s office to Butler—where a notebook and water bottle had dutifully spent the hour saving my high-demand nook—I realized that someday soon, I will miss being “written up.”

Amanda Gutterman is a Columbia College senior majoring in English. Senior Citizen, Junior Employee runs alternate Tuesdays.



Columbus Ave. eatery offers unique bacon treats by the half-dozen

BY EMMA FINDER
Columbia Daily Spectator

Bloomberg may have shrunk our sodas, but at the Baconery, we can still enjoy a little glut-tony. The Baconery, originally an online store for the unlikely but tasty combination of salty and sweet, recently opened a café on Columbus at 104th Street, just a short walk from campus. Wesley Klein, its owner, has been making and selling these treats since September 2011, when he launched the online Baconery storefront. Even without a physical location, Klein notes, “We got lots of press,” being written up in the Village Voice and Eater.com and featured on the Travel Channel.

While there are countless other bakeries and restaurants that serve breakfast and dessert overlaps, Klein realized, “No one does bacon as their main ingredient.”

Yet Klein saw the growing popularity of Baconery as an opportunity for even more business. Rather than just expanding into a larger kitchen, he decided to invest in a physical location, growing his selection. Baconery’s café opened Nov. 7 of this year in Manhattan Valley. Klein first had the idea for his business, he said, while wondering if his own favorite meals, breakfast and dessert, were ever served together.

“Is anyone doing this?” he asked. While there are countless other bakeries and restaurants that serve breakfast and dessert overlaps, Klein realized, “No one does bacon as their main ingredient.” Indeed, the selection at Baconery is impressive for such a small location. The classic choice, chocolate-covered bacon, has many variations, including extra bacon topping. In addition, the menu boasts bacon marshmallow bars, maple bacon blondies, and bacon pumpkin spice muffins. But this isn’t Oscar Mayer we’re talking about. “We fly in bacon from all over the United States,” Klein said. And in the café itself, customers can select from bacon-centric desserts, snacks, and sandwiches, all prepared in the kitchen on site. Klein also aims to stock “stuff you won’t see everywhere,” he said. The café offers (thankfully bacon-less) drinks like Boylan soda, made with sugar cane and sold by a New Jersey-based company. Baconery is also expanding its selection to include bacon-themed T-shirts and kitchen supplies. But with a combination so bizarre, how will Baconery sustain itself economically? Klein has observed that customers often buy a lot of treats at once, and the café already has many repeat customers. He is also offering a discount for Columbia students in addition to adding amenities like WiFi and electric outlets to make Baconery a student-friendly hangout spot. Located just 20 minutes from campus on foot and easily accessible by bus, Baconery seeks to expose Columbia students and local residents alike the power of a good sweet-and-salty combo. The café is certainly one-of-a-kind. Luckily for Baconery, New Yorkers are unlikely to run out of unusual cravings.

arts@columbiaspectator.com



TIANYUE SUN FOR SPECTATOR

GIMME MORE | At Baconery, the salty flavors of bacon are melded with sweeter toppings, like chocolate and sprinkles, creating an unexpected product for the daring gourmand.

Pitock draws inspiration from personal struggles in fictional work

PITOCK from front page

said. “But because of focus on food, it’s gotten a lot more response from those with eating disorders. For me, more about obsessions, but people saw it in a number of different ways.” Despite the roots of the essay, its publication was a special moment for Pitock and her family. The same day, she explained, her father, Todd Pitock, published a piece in the travel section of the newspaper. This piece adds to the impressive list of accolades for Pitock, including the Blank Theatre’s Young Playwrights award, the Stephen Sondheim’s Young Playwrights, Inc. National Playwriting award, and winning both the 2007 and 2010 Philadelphia Young Playwrights Festival. These awards marked her beginnings as a playwright. In eighth grade when she wrote a play about a boy with Asperger’s for her English class, her teacher had submitted the one-act play to Philadelphia, where it was eventually performed at Temple University. It was then sent off to a national competition in New York, where she eventually got to see it performed at the Cherry Lane Theatre off-Broadway. During her junior year, she

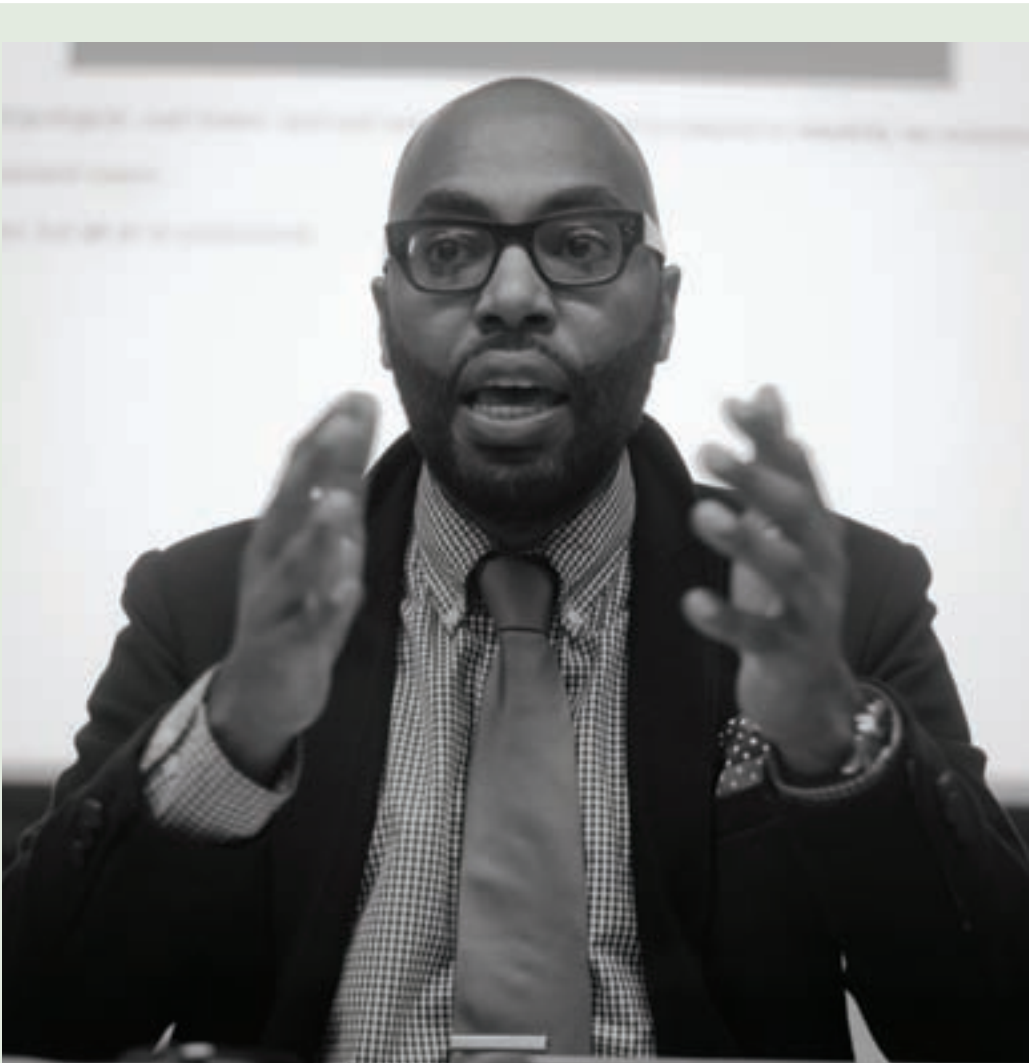
jetted off to Los Angeles where she “got to see child actors for the first time.” The subject matter of this play hits on a topic that interests her greatly. “I’ve always been interested in how people’s minds see world differently and how two people can have two versions of same story that are so different but equally truthful. For that reason, I am incredibly interested in disabilities,” she said. Brilliant writing and award winning aside, Pitock said that she finds writing a “very painful and terrible process” and usually hates “every second of it.” Pitock said that the reason that she writes is a product of her love for reading. Though the intricacy and power of words captivates her, she has a hazy view of her future with writing or playwrighting. Rather, she said she wants to focus on the work she is doing now. “I really love words. I like reading, and though I don’t like writing, I like what it means to write,” she said. “I hope that this piece in particular can make someone else feel like it relates to them. I hope that people can talk about what I wrote and that the conversations that it incites can help them learn from it.” That is, of course, if the world does not end.

arts@columbiaspectator.com



HANNAH CHOI / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

YOUNG TALENT | Elyse Pitock tried to take on her own struggles with OCD in her work of fiction.



AYELET PEARL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

THE SCIENCE GUY | Christopher Emdin has developed a way to get students interested in science: integrating it with hip-hop, saying that “the most prolific rappers ... draw references to science and mathematics all the time.”

TC prof. spits rhymes with GZA to teach kids science

BY BRENDAN DONLEY
Spectator Staff Writer

Could hip-hop help you learn the periodic table? For Christopher Emdin, an assistant professor of science education at Teachers College, the answer is yes. Emdin, who grew up in the New York public school system, has begun a project with Gary Grice, known as rapper GZA—one of the founding members of Wu-Tang Clan, hailed by Rolling Stone as “the best rap group ever.” This seemingly odd partnership between rapper and scientist is intended to make science more accessible to students through a hip-hop-based curriculum. On Dec. 12, Emdin and GZA will host a Science Hip-Hop battle for New York City high school students at 6 p.m. in the Cowin Auditorium at Teachers College. Emdin sat down with Spectator to discuss the goals and origins of his project, and how his approach can help science education flourish.

Brendan Donley: You’ve started in Harlem, so what types of kids or areas do you hope to work with?
Christopher Emdin: I want to work with anyone and everyone who has been in school and has been turned off. Any kids who think science is hard, science is boring, anybody with a negative perception of science as this old, played out, boring, corny subject. I want them to feel like there’s a new excitement around it, and if, in that process, I make some new scientists or scientifically literate people, then it’s mission accomplished.

Q: Was the project more inspired by seeing problems with the structure of traditional teaching, or because you saw that kids didn’t respond to it?
A: I think both. Once you go through school and are successful in it, you think the things that worked for you may work for everyone else, but when I went back to teach young people the looks on their faces said it all. They didn’t like the content, they weren’t engaged, they didn’t raise their hands much, they didn’t do well on the tests. Everything that looked like disaster was happening when I taught the traditional way. Every time I tried more innovative approaches, I got different responses. So kids who had been written off as “not smart,” “not engaged,” “not interested” all of a sudden were scoring well and were engaged. So I realized that it’s not them, it’s the ways we’ve been teaching them.

Q: Did you find school easy, or did you enjoy it when you were younger?
A: I had good experiences and I had negative experiences. What allowed me to really key into the sciences was not really the school instructors, but the home instructor. My mom was always an advocate for me learning more, and whenever I was inquisitive about things she fostered that. And that’s part of why I’m doing this work, because for a lot of kids hip-hop is their home. I know it sounds weird, but that’s who they listen to every day, that’s who they get their rules for life from, and so in the absence of a nuclear family structure, a lot of times hip-hop becomes the parent. I understand hip-hop can be someone’s biggest role model, so I want to try to make it a positive role model.

Q: Does a student need to already be familiar with hip-hop to learn in this way?

A: My answer is always no. That’s the biggest misconception to this approach to teaching, that this is only for the urban black kids. It’s actually just good teaching practice. There are kids who might not listen to rap on a regular basis that could engage in a hip-hop-based approach to teaching and learning that works. There’s a big distinction between hip-hop and rap also. A hip-hop-based approach may use rap, may use some art and graffiti, may use some B-boying, may use some DJ-ing. Using metaphors and analogy in the classroom, making sure the classroom is not completely silent all the damn time, making sure there’s call and response, when somebody gets an answer right that you give them a hand-shake. Those things are all instinctively hip-hop.

Q: GZA is an especially creative lyricist and a visionary. Are there certain kinds of hip-hop you see as most inspirational or helpful for students?
A: I think anything can be inspirational—there’s stuff that’s inspirational for students that I don’t necessarily like. Like Rick Ross’ “Hustlin’.” I actually used that in a talk because they listen to it, and my job is to take that notion of “hustling,” even though he’s talking about it in a depraved, drug-dealing kind of way, and turn that into, “hustling to make sure I get this diploma, this degree.” Even negative brands of hip-hop have the potential to have a positive impact on the kids. And the most prolific rappers of our time actually draw references to science and mathematics all the time. Lauryn Hill back in the day—she actually went to Columbia—was saying “Two MC’s can’t occupy the same space at the same time—it’s against the laws of physics.” These kids are like “Man, I’m gonna be nice in the next cypher because now I can spit this verse and also talk about the Law of Relativity, so it makes me a better rapper.” Even if they don’t become scientists, they become scientifically literate.

Q: How do you make sure kids are learning the material and not just having fun?
A: Because it’s rigorous, right, so there are standards and there are rubrics. A kid can’t come up there in a science rap battle and not have enough science content. In order for you to create a rap that’s based on science, you kind of have to know the science.

Q: How do you go about evaluating their progress?
A: A couple of different measures. Test scores and graduation rates count, but when I go into a school and I see a kid poring over a textbook trying to make a rap about Mendelian genetics and hear that he was up all night studying so he could get a rhyme right, that’s the win. When they come to me and say “Dr. E., you see that science article in the New York Times?” I’ve hooked them. Those are the markers of success more than anything else.

Q: What has it been like collaborating with GZA?
A: GZA is a true educator and a true scientist. It’s not a superficial partnership—we’ve been having these planning meetings and he’ll be the first person

SEE GZA, page 3

Campbell nearly finished, may open in January

BY ALISON MACKE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The official dedication of the Campbell Sports Center took place during Homecoming weekend, but athletes have yet to move into the 48,000 square foot space.

The center was not ready to open at its dedication ceremony, and there is no definitive opening date set, though officials said it may open in January. Campbell did not sustain any structural damage during Hurricane Sandy, but all of the electrical work for the building was postponed because of the storm and the destruction it wrought in lower Manhattan.

“As soon as we open, we’re off and running,” Erich Ely, the associate athletics director for facilities operations, said to Spectator during a recent tour of Campbell.

Although barricades and fences still surround the facility, construction is nearly complete. Workers are on site finishing the final details and completing the electrical work that needs to be done before the space can serve its purpose.

Ely said coaches are very excited about Campbell. “This delay is killing them,” he said.

Inside of Campbell, two features stand out. The first is the state-of-the-art strength and

conditioning center that takes up most of the main level. Ely said that any varsity team can schedule a lift in Campbell, but it will primarily be used by the nine varsity sports that play at Baker: football, baseball, softball, field hockey, lacrosse, men’s and women’s tennis, and men’s and women’s soccer.

Ely also said that this will help reduce the traffic that goes through the lift room in Dodge.

The second feature that stood out was the 150-seat auditorium. The room as the capacity to hold larger teams in one spac and also has the potential to split into two smaller rooms so that multiple teams can meet simultaneously. “This is a space we’ve never had in athletics before,” Ely said.

Noticeably absent from the center, though, is a place for athletes and coaches to eat. Although there is a protein bar next to the lift room and pantries on two floors, the center lacks a full-blown cafeteria. “Food is an important part of the student-athlete experience up here, but we don’t know what that’ll look like yet,” Ely said.

Ely acknowledges that the final step is convincing athletes that the distance shouldn’t be a reason not to come up to the Center. “Campbell is not that far away from campus,” he said.

sports@columbiaspectator.com



FILE PHOTO

ELEVATION | Princeton guard T.J. Bray followed a lackluster performance against Vermont with 15 points and six assists at Kent State.

Princeton drops 1 lead, hangs onto other, Penn rides treys to win

LEAGUE from back page

points, 13 rebounds, and a trey of his own. But the Quakers did not shoot well from long range at Penn State and fell 58-47. Although both teams shot poorly, Penn did not have an answer for guard Jermaine Marshall, who scored 18 points, half of which came from the free throw line. The Nittany Lions never quite blew the game open, but also never let

the Quakers get closer than five in the final minutes.

PRINCETON

The Tigers (3-4) led by just under 10 in both their games. While they built on their lead in a 62-50 win over Kent State, Princeton first blew a big lead to Wagner. The Seahawks did not hold a lead during regulation, but slowly clawed back from an 11-point deficit to tie the game with 2:17 remaining.

Forward Ian Hummer missed two free-throw attempts in the final minute. After guard T.J. Bray gave Princeton the first points of overtime, Wagner scored the next eight points to win, 48-42. The Tigers got their second-half act together a few days later. After Kent State cut Princeton’s lead to six 10 seconds into the second-half, the Tigers pushed their lead to 10 and held a similar lead for most of the rest of the game.

YALE

The Bulldogs (2-6) lost their only game, 60-51 to Hartford. Although Yale held a seven-point edge from the charity stripe, by the time it got going from the field, Hartford was on fire and had already put the game out of reach. The Hawks led by 23 with 11:36 to play, and although Yale rallied to cut the deficit to seven with four minutes to go, it was unable to repeat its February comeback magic.

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Intensity, bonding hallmarks of CU Ultimate Frisbee this year

ULTIMATE from back page

“People think they know who they are, but they don’t really,” Kan said.

“And you find out who you are on this spiritual journey of spring break. Emma and I will review and figure out who these people are and reveal who they are.”

Kahle added that they decide spirit animals based on a

number of factors, including personality, playing style, and speed.

Kahle’s spirit animal is a Western Green. Kan’s self-proclaimed stealth and awkwardness earned her the spirit animal of the meerkat. As for Watson, she’ll have to wait for spring break to find out her coveted spirit animal assignment.

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CU needs to avoid fouls on defense against Raiders to snap road skid

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL from back page

will be getting to the line and converting those opportunities to easy points. Colgate shoots 80 percent from the charity stripe, compared to Columbia’s lackluster 52

percent.

Nixon said the key for his team is to not only make its free throws, but to limit the opportunities that the other team has at the line.

“We have to play smarter defense when we have players driving to the basket and

not commit what I call the bailout fouls,” Nixon said. “We put a player in a position to take a tough shot, but rather than force the tough shot, we reach in and foul them at the last second.”

In order for the Light Blue to get some closure on the

road, they are going to need to limit foul mistakes and maintain the steady, full-court pressure that Nixon has established throughout the season as being the norm.

The Lions take to the floor at 7 p.m. tonight in Hamilton, N.Y.

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ALYSON GOULDEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

GOING FURTHER | Junior Courtney Bradford leads a Lions frontcourt that needs to be disciplined when opponents attack the basket.

Mangurian on track to change culture of Columbia football

GYORY from back page

weekend the Light Blue traveled to Harvard. Unprompted, Mangurian invited us to attend dinner with the players and sit in on the meetings at the team’s hotel the night before the game.

I learned more about the program in that one evening than I had in the previous year and a half of covering the team. I was struck by two things in particular.

He challenged players to prove the radio guys, reporters, and fans wrong.

First, I gained a newfound appreciation for the level of commitment playing on the football team requires. As one can imagine, the physical beating players take on game day, in mid-week practices, on morning runs, and throughout the offseason is immense. However, as I learned in the defensive meeting that I had a chance to observe first-hand, that commitment goes far beyond what happens on the field or in the weight room.

The mental preparation players are expected to go through is, frankly, incredible.

Defensive coordinator Kevin Lempa began the meeting by going over dozens of hand signals, the meanings of which players are expected to know immediately. Throughout the meeting, Lempa cold-called various players asking where they needed to be within specific defensive sets. The players are even expected to internalize Harvard’s offensive tendencies (e.g. after getting a first down, Harvard passes on 75 percent of its next plays).

The second thing that stood

out came during Mangurian’s final speech, which laid bare the us-against-the-world tack he is taking with the team.

In his speech Mangurian told his players to isolate themselves from the ghosts that surround this program, the individuals who pounce on any mistake and say “here we go again.”

While he is instructing his players to ignore the noise, he is also adroitly using the naysayers as a motivational tool. He challenged players to prove the radio guys, reporters, and excessively negative fans wrong.

Perhaps this strategy is not ideal. Is it possible to ignore the existence of the ghosts that plague the program while simultaneously using the negativity as fuel?

But I do believe Mangurian and everyone else involved with the team needs to continue to be as up-front as possible about the decades that Columbia football has spent mired in widespread cynicism. Using the ghosts as motivation could be an invaluable tool to unite the team behind the common goal of breaking out of the cycle.

The team has a long way to go before it establishes a winning tradition. The length of that path was hammered home to me as I watched the overmatched Lions fall to Harvard 69-0 the day after sitting in on those meetings.

Yet, after speaking with Mangurian this season, I have confidence that his knowledge and understanding of the game have the potential to take the program somewhere it hasn’t been in a long, long time. I also trust that his NFL pedigree will prove invaluable in recruiting.

Perhaps most importantly, I believe the strategy he is employing with his players could go a long way toward changing the culture that has permeated this program for so long.

Spencer Gyory is a Columbia College senior majoring in history and economics.

sports@columbiaspectator.com

Inside look at football team shows progress with Mangurian

For the past two seasons, I have covered the Columbia football team as a beat writer for Spectator. These two years were particularly interesting because I had the privilege of witnessing the end of one coaching era and the beginning of another.

From the reporter's perspective, the two seasons could not have been more different. Under former head coach Norries Wilson, we received minimal access to both players and coaches. During our five to 10-minute weekly meetings, Wilson would occasionally attempt to lighten the often tense mood with a joke, but we rarely learned much about the team.

Mangurian gave us honest answers to our questions, win or lose.

There have been conspicuous changes under Pete Mangurian. While we were snapped at early on in the season, most of our meetings lasted nearly half an hour and I walked out of the football office every week with valuable insights.

Mangurian gave us honest answers to our questions throughout the season, win or lose. He was always up-front and honest about the team's shortcomings—the size gap, issues with dropped passes—and about the negativity surrounding the program.

If Mangurian is honest with the media about the state of the program, it's likely he's doing the same behind closed doors—something Lions fans should be greatly encouraged by.

My fellow beat writers and I had a chance to see how the team operates on a much more intimate level the

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SPENCER GYORY

Guest Column



COURTESY OF MELISSA KAN

RIGHT TECHNIQUE | The Columbia women's Ultimate Frisbee club is targeting a top finish at Regionals in the spring.

Strong 2nd half key for Light Blue at Colgate

BY KYLE PERROTTI
Spectator Staff Writer

The Columbia women's basketball team (1-6) is looking to end an abysmal stretch of games on the road when it heads to Cotterrell Court tonight to face a well-rounded Colgate squad (2-5).

The Lions have been plagued all season with an inability to maintain control of the game in the second

half. Lions head coach Paul Nixon said his strategy is to negate these sometimes inevitable momentum shifts with solid first-half play.

"In an ideal world, you'd limit the run, but sometimes that is easier said than done," Nixon said. "We are really focusing on taking advantage of the opportunities that we create for ourselves early in the game."

To mitigate these runs, according to Nixon, the Lions need to be able to

carry over a favorable tempo from the first half to the second half, which they have been unable to do so far this season.

The Raiders have a very well-rounded, unselfish approach to the game—their top four scorers all average between seven and 10 points per game. The big focus for the Raiders

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, page 7

Ivy men's basketball teams still unable to hit stride as 6 split games

BY MUNEEB ALAM
Spectator Staff Writer

Harvard lost only five times last year, but it has already dropped three games this year, and the rest of the Ivies have not done much better. All eight men's basketball teams dropped at least one game this week, none of which were especially close in the closing minutes.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

BROWN

The Bears (3-4) were involved in two games in which the halftime leader pulled away in the second half. They first defeated Sacred Heart 69-56, earning head coach Mike Martin his first win in Providence. Although the Pioneers shot a healthy 40 percent from the field, they were massively outrebounded by Brown. Center Rafael Maia led the way with 19 points and 15 rebounds. He was contained by New Hampshire a few days later, though, in a 63-50 loss for Brown. The Wildcats were able to hold Maia from recording even a single rebound in the first half. The Bears managed to grab the lead back, they then went cold from the field, failing to score for over four minutes. Led by forward Ferg Myrick's 11 points, New Hampshire retook the lead and pulled away.

CORNELL

The Big Red (4-5) relied heavily on its play inside, especially from sophomore forward Shonn Miller, for results over the last week. That strategy was counterproductive in a 76-53 loss to Stony Brook, but worked well in a 70-63 win over Colgate. In the first game, Miller had only three points and five rebounds as his team was outscored by double digits in each half and outrebounded by 18. Last year's Ivy Rookie of the Year, Miller, had a career performance over the weekend, pacing Cornell with 20 points and 14 rebounds. He also made several clutch plays as Stony Brook tried to close the gap, including a couple of key defensive rebounds in the final 30 seconds.

DARTMOUTH

Free throws proved to be the difference in both games over the past week for the Big Green (2-3). Like it did to Columbia four days later, Bucknell won by getting its opponent into serious foul trouble. The

Bison ended up hitting 29 of their 34 free-throw attempts while giving up only eight free-throw attempts. Although it was only trailing by one at halftime, Bucknell later pulled away for a 62-49 win. Dartmouth reversed roles in its next game, a 61-53 win over Longwood. The Big Green posted a nine-point advantage from the charity stripe alone in the second half, helping it turn a four-point halftime deficit into an eight-point win.

HARVARD

Harvard (3-3) also struggled with free-throw problems in a loss, while taking

advantage of them in a win. Harvard shot 52 percent in the first half against Vermont on Tuesday, but the Catamounts converted an astounding 73 percent of their shots to head into halftime up 14. Guards Laurent Rivard, Siyani Chambers, and Wesley Saunders played the entire second half and spearheaded the comeback, posting at least nine points each as the Crimson pulled to within two nine minutes into the half. But 15 free throws from Vermont after that point iced the result, 85-78. Harvard followed that performance with an all-around 73-64 win over Fordham. Saunders hit 13 of the Crimson's 29 made

free throws, and forward Jonah Travis provided much-needed support off the bench with a double-double.

PENN

Downtown was the theme over the last week for the Quakers (2-6). Hosting Binghamton, Penn found its range from that area. It knocked down a total of 10 threes from six different players and never trailed in a 65-54 win. Forward Fran Dougherty showed his versatility with 11

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COURTESY OF SHUNELLA G. LUMAS / THE HARVARD CRIMSON

TAKING A BREATHER | Crimson sophomore forward Jonah Travis had a whale of a game against Fordham with 16 points and 12 rebounds in just 22 minutes.

CU Panda Dragons aim for Frisbee success

BY RACHEL TURNER
Spectator Staff Writer

If you've spotted someone walking around campus with a fuzzy panda hat, chances are you've encountered one of the dedicated members of NYPD—Columbia's women's Ultimate Frisbee club.

NYPD originally stood for New York Phat Disc, but now stands for Neon Yellow Panda Dragons. "Two years ago we were brainstorming ideas, and at one tournament we told one of our favorite teams to play, Haverford, that we were looking for a new name, and during their cheer for us they had a white board of like 20 names that NYPD could stand for," junior co-captain Emma Kahle said. "Two of them were Neon Yellow Panda Dragons and Nasty Young Party Demons, and we voted and decided on Panda Dragons."

This friendly team interaction embodies what Ultimate players call the "Spirit of the Game."

One part of this is that unlike most sports, there are no referees, but if a player feels that they have been fouled, they can call it and a discussion will ensue.

"When a foul is called, there's always an option to agree or disagree, so no matter what people think it's never going to break out in argument," Kahle said. "You know that you're both there to have fun and respect each other, and play at the highest level possible. It sets Ultimate apart from other sports."

"You know that you're both there to have fun and respect each other. It sets ultimate apart."

—Emma Kahle, junior co-captain

As a native of Seattle, where the Ultimate scene is huge, Kahle has been playing frisbee since she was in middle school. But a background in frisbee, or even in other sports, is not a requirement for NYPD.

Kahle's co-captain Melissa Kan, a transfer from Northwestern, planned to do crew in college, but found it wasn't for her and decided instead to try out Ultimate Frisbee. Rosalind Watson, a new sophomore on the team, had never played frisbee and did not have much experience with athletics, but she has become enthralled with the sport.

This kind of work ethic has contributed to the team's improvement. "Last year, we were really laid back, and while we're still laid back, it's more go-getter now," Kahle said. "Frisbee wasn't necessarily people's top priorities, and it showed in results, but this year we had a huge recruitment effort and stepped up the priority in doing well."

NYPD has placed in every tournament they've played this year, including a first-place finish at Vassar's Halloween tournament, and most recently a second-place finish at Fall Brawl.

The fall season is generally geared toward learning the game and getting comfortable, while the spring season is more focused on winning. NYPD has reached Ultimate Sectionals the past few years, but this year, its goal is to place at Regionals.

The team enjoys bonding off the field as well, with a variety of fun traditions. Last weekend, NYPD had their frisbee formal with the men's Ultimate team.

"Everyone gets dressed up, and it's really fun to see what everyone looks like outside of shorts and cleats," Watson said. "The feeling of support and community with this team is unlike anything I found freshman year," she added. One tradition she is particularly looking forward to is NYPD's yearly spring break trip with the men's team.

"Every day we wake up late, eat something, go play frisbee, come back and cook, and have fun. It's a fun cycle," Kan said. A big part of the trip is the revealing of each players' spirit animal.

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