

**PROPOSALS FOR
IMPROVEMENT TO
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
CLUB SPORTS**

**COLUMBIA COLLEGE STUDENT COUNCIL
CLUB SPORTS GOVERNING BOARD**

APRIL 2003

To the Administration:

Over 700 students participate in Club Sports at Columbia. These students represent a large, lively, enthusiastic, and engaged component of the Columbia community. By all accounts, Columbia Club Sports athletes are deeply dedicated to participating in extracurricular life; among other things, they travel long distances and pay their own way to represent our university. Despite their high level of participation and dedication, however, these athletes do not always receive the quantity and quality of attention, support, and autonomy they deserve.

This report aims to enumerate the most pressing needs confronted by the Club Sports Governing Board (CSGB) and the athletes they represent. Most fundamentally, we believe all changes to Club Sports policy should be made only after taking student opinion into account.

The specific proposals that follow were crafted in consultation with a significant number of Club Sports Team Captains. For your reference, their input is reproduced in the appendix of this report.

Ultimately, it is our hope that the members of the Columbia College Student Council, the Club Sports Governing Board, and the Athletic Department can work together to ensure that the Club Sports experience is both rewarding for Club Sports Athletes and beneficial to the broader Columbia community.

Respectfully yours,

Michael "Novi" Novielli, President
Columbia College Student Council

Catherine Yee, President
Club Sports Governing Board

Patrick Holder, CSGB Liaison
Columbia College Student Council

Austin Frank, Vice President, Policy
Club Sports Governing Board

Seth Caffrey, Vice President, Policy
Columbia College Student Council

Victoria Conte, Captain
Women's Ultimate Team

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I. The Club Sports Governing Board

A. Clarification of Athletic Department Policy Regarding Club Sports

Observation: The Club Sports Handbook is out-of-date and poorly reflects the policies by which the Athletic Department administers the Club Sports program.

Proposal: The Athletic Department should work with the CCSC and CSGB to create a clear and well-publicized list of rules and regulations by which it administers the Club Sports program. As specified in the recently ratified CSGB constitution, these rules would automatically become part of the CSGB by-laws.

Argument: Club Sports Teams often find themselves subjected to rules they did not know existed. A clear set of rules, regulations, and policies pertaining to Club Sports would codify and clarify the relationship between the CSGB and the Athletic Department. Once made part of the CSGB by-laws, the Athletic Department would have every right to expect Club Teams to follow these regulations. Thus, it may be possible to eliminate a significant proportion of the complaints now fielded by the Athletic Department regarding Club Sports.

I. The Club Sports Governing Board

B. Student Input on Policy Change

Observation:

Currently, changes are made to Club Sports rules and regulations without student input. For example, during the Fall 2002 semester, van driver policy was abruptly restricted with no prior warning. In the past, Club Sport practice times have often been changed with little notice.

In shaping Club Sports policy, the Athletic Department rarely consults the Club Sports Governing Board, and often informs teams after changes have been made to Club Sports policy. As a result, some Club Sports captains have come to both resent the Athletic Department and question their own ability to guide their teams.

Proposal:

The Vice President for Policy of the Club Sports Governing Board should be consulted before the Athletic Department makes changes to Club Sport rules and regulations.

Argument:

By consulting with students before the advent of change, the Athletic Department can help promote a more inclusive and reciprocal relationship with Club Sports Athletes.

I. The Club Sports Governing Board

C. Student Input on the Selection of Recognized Club Sports

Observation:

Currently, students have no role in the selection or elimination of recognized Club Sports teams.

Proposal:

The Club Sports Governing Board should play the primary role in recognizing new Club Teams.

Argument:

As the greatest portion of the CSGB Budget comes from sources outside the Athletic Department, the decision to recognize teams should be in the hands of the CSGB.

Three other major governing boards on campus -- Community Impact, The Activities Board at Columbia, and the Student Governing Board of Earl Hall -- all have complete control over their member groups in this regard. Similar procedures should exist for the CSGB.

I. The Club Sports Governing Board

D. Duplicate Teams

Observation:

The Athletic Department does not allow varsity sports to be duplicated as Club Sports.

Proposal:

When recognizing new sports, the CSGB must be allowed to recognize any new team they see fit, including compliments to existing varsity teams.

Argument:

Club Sports builds community at Columbia by bringing together hundreds of interested student athletes. The community building quality of Club Sports only stands to benefit from the inclusion of more students in its programs. All forms of student interest in athletic participation should be nurtured.

While both Club and Varsity Programs build community through sport, varsity competition differs fundamentally from club competition. By encouraging students and alumni to follow and support Columbia teams, varsity competition fosters university pride. On the other hand, Club Sports foster university pride by engaging participants from all parts of the Columbia community in competition.

As the CSGB should have the discretion to allocate its budget in any way it sees fit, the advent of duplicate teams will not impose any additional financial burden on Columbia Varsity Athletics.

Although similar sports require similar practice space, it should be noted that because Club Sports Athletes are generally willing to practice and train at odd hours, we do not expect the advent of duplicate teams will pose any additional strain on existing facilities.

It should also be noted that despite their lack of formal recognition, the Intramural Women's Lacrosse Team and the Tennis Club together include over 150 registered participants. Were these teams integrated into the CSGB, a significant number of committed student athletes would benefit: as members of the CSGB these teams would be able to recruit new players, receive funding, reserve space, and use university resources.

Of course, we are aware of the fear that the creation of varsity duplicates might place a strain on the viability of current varsity teams. Nevertheless, given that the CSGB has dedicated itself to ensuring that all committed student athletes are provided the opportunity to participate in the Club Sports program, we believe it is imperative that the CSGB be granted the autonomy to recognize any teams for which there is substantial student interest.

II. CLUB SPORT POLICY CHANGES

A. Athletic Space Reservation System

Observation:

The availability space in Dodge Fitness Center and associated athletic fields and complexes varies daily. In addition, the Athletic Department allocates practice spaces and times internally. Club teams have little or no control over reserving practice or competition space. Moreover, practice time is often cancelled at the last minute by the Athletic Department.

Proposal:

The Athletic Department should institute a standardized schedule system for all spaces. More specifically, an automated electronic scheduling system similar to the Event Management System in Lerner Hall should be implemented to facilitate the reservation of space in Dodge Fitness Center and at Baker Field. Once confirmed, a particular Club Sport space reservation could not be revoked or changed. All Club Sports Teams should both be permitted to reserve space on a first-come-first-serve basis, and to pre-register space reservations one semester in advance.

Argument:

Space on campus is clearly at a premium. The inability to reserve space for practice or competition on campus represents a significant frustration for Club Sports Teams. When they are not afforded the opportunity to convene at regular intervals, students are deterred from participating in Club Sports.

When making use of Lerner Hall, every recognized student group is afforded the ability to reserve space in a consistent and guaranteed manner. While the allocation of space in Lerner Hall is extremely competitive, once reservations are confirmed they become final. Insofar as Club Sports Teams are not afforded a similar reservation system from the Athletic Department, they stand at a significant disadvantage with respect to other recognized student groups.

It is also true the new electronic system would make scheduling for the Athletic Department easier. We fully expect that such a system would obviate debate over reservations at Baker, in Dodge, and any other space under the direction of the Athletic Department.

Finally, pre-registration would allow teams with regular schedules to reserve most, if not all, of the space they need for a given semester. Early registration will both help the Athletic Department set schedules and give Club Teams confirmations of their space far ahead of time. Both administrators and students may then look forward to focusing on other things.

Because the CSGB is chartered with facilitating the organization of dedicated athletes, we strongly advocate for an amended space reservation system.

II. CLUB SPORT POLICY CHANGES

B. Physical Education Credit

Observation:

Club Sports athletes do not receive Physical Education credit for their participation in Club Sports.

Proposal:

Club Sports athletes should be able to receive a total of two physical education credits, the minimum graduation requirement for Columbia College and the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences students, after showing commitment to a club sport team.

Commitment would be defined as two semesters of initial participation in a Club Sport before being eligible for P.E. credit. Before being eligible to receive physical education credit, a student athlete would have to demonstrate two semesters of Club Sport commitment. Thereafter, a Club Sport Athlete would receive one credit per semester for participation on a team. In no cases would a Club Sport Athlete receive more than two credits for participation in any Club Sport.

In order to qualify as a "participant," a Club Sports athlete would be required to attend 80% of all team athletic activities. Team captains or coaches would be responsible for recording participation. Any team which does not submit insurance waivers and rosters in a timely fashion would be ineligible to receive physical education credit for the given semester.

Argument:

Currently, in order to receive Physical Education credit, a student only has to attend classes. Athletic performance is never factored into a passing grade.

In the same vein, Club Sports athletes should be granted credit for their participation in Club Sports. Club Athletes often devote well over two hours a week participating in their sport. Thus, it seems redundant for committed Club Athletes to fill up spaces in already crowded physical education classes.

Given that in order to pass a physical education class a student must attend 80% of the sessions, the same requirement should hold for Club Sports Athletes seeking physical education credit.

II. CLUB SPORT POLICY CHANGES

C. Van Driver Policy

Observation:

Due to current regulations, Club Sport Teams have trouble finding drivers for Athletic Department vans. It is much less expensive to rent Athletic vans than coach buses.

Proposal:

Graduate Students should be considered acceptable van drivers for Club Teams. No further changes should be made to the requirements of individual eligibility to drive.

Argument:

Transportation represents the most significant financial impediment to the flourishing of a viable Club Sport. Reducing transportation costs is critical to furthering the Club Sport program. Renting university vans is an economical way to reduce transportation costs for a team.

The Athletic Department recently changed the van driver policy to exclude graduate students from being able to drive Columbia Vans. As many graduate students participate in club sports and offer teams a pool of reliable drivers, they should not be excluded from the list of approved drivers.

II. CLUB SPORT POLICY CHANGES

D. E-forms

Observation:

Club Sports have difficulty purchasing various needs for their teams.

Proposal:

Club Sports should be included in the e-form system on campus, and e-forms should be approved by the financial guidelines as outlined in the CSGB constitution. The CSGB Vice-President for Funding should be responsible for signing e-forms.

Argument:

As student groups on campus, Club Sports should be provided the same convenience for spending their budget as all other student groups. The existing e-form system, used by student groups under the direction of the ABC and the SGB, makes purchasing and ordering simpler and faster.

III. Request for Resources

A. Athletic Training and Sports Medicine

Observation:

Club Sports do not have access to the trainers and sports medicine resources available to varsity athletes.

Proposal:

Club sports athletes should be allowed 1 hour each day, Monday through Friday, of walk-in treatment time in the training room in Dodge Fitness Center. Treatment should be identical to that available to varsity athletes, and Club Sport athletes should have equal priority to varsity athletes for treatment.

Argument:

Athletic competition is naturally dangerous, and whether participating in a Varsity Sport or a Club Sport, athletes are injured. However, Club Sport athletes are not provided sports medicine or basic treatment for their injuries. While we understand that the resources of the Athletic Trainers are extremely limited, it is critical to the continued success of Club Sports that these athletes are supported in the case of injury. Athletes ought to have access to treatment for their injuries or, at the very least, have access to heat, cold, and compression packs beyond those provided in first aid kits.

III. Request for Resources

B. First Aid Kits

Observation:

Club Sports Teams have limited or no access to First Aid Kits at practice locations or in Dodge Fitness Center.

Proposal:

Each Club Sport Team should be provided complete first aid kits by the athletic department. Those kits should be replenished at the request of the team's CSGB representative.

Argument:

Club Sports encounter many common injuries during practice, training and competition. Such common injuries can be treated or prevented with a complete first aid kit.

III. Request for Resources

C. Storage Space

Observation:

Club sports have no student controlled storage space in Dodge Fitness Center.

Proposal:

Club Sports Teams should be provided individual locking storage space, to be overseen by the CSGB Vice-President for Resources, for equipment and first aid kits in Dodge Fitness Center. Space should be allocated by the CSGB after an extensive review of the needs of each team.

We recommend the Athletic Department convert one squash court from the back row of courts into a two level storage area with lockers for teams. Keys should be provided directly to captains, and the space should be available during normal Dodge Fitness Center operating hours.

Argument:

Club Teams require a great deal of space for equipment storage. In addition, as Club Teams often practice at odd hours and compete on the weekends, the space must be managed by students who can accommodate such schedules.

III. Request for Resources

D. Recognition

Observation:

Club Sports are not recognized for their achievements in intercollegiate competition.

Proposal:

Club Sports should have a place in Dodge Fitness Center to display their recent results. In addition, Club Sports should have a case, to be administered by the CSGB Vice President for Resources, in which to display their trophies from competition.

Argument:

The Club Sports community boasts a great number of athletes and teams which perform at the regional and national levels of competition as representatives of Columbia University. The prestige that these athletic accomplishments bring to Columbia University goes largely unrecognized by the community they represent.

A small space in which trophies, awards and competition results can be displayed in Dodge Fitness Center would highlight yet another reason Columbians can be proud. Its installation would bring increased exposure and recognition to Club Sports Teams and their accomplishments as student-athletes.

III. Request for Resources

E. Resources and Rentals at Home

Observation:

Club Sport Teams have difficulty procuring and affording access to home court facilities.

Proposal:

Club Sports should be given more priority in procuring and reserving facilities in Dodge Fitness Center and other venues in which they compete and practice. Additionally, the fees for the use of home facilities should not be prohibitive.

Argument:

There are great advantages to having a home playing field or court, including greater player morale, sentimental value, club exposure, and more community involvement. Club Sports teams and their athletes deserve the support of the home crowd just as Varsity teams do. These spaces should be made available to and affordable for clubs to use.

Appendix: Letters from Club Sports Teams

The Following letters were collected from Club Sports Teams as a statement reflecting their frustrations with current regulations vis a vis Club Sports. Each letter represents the opinion of a team, and not that of individual captains.

On March 25th, 2003, the following email was sent to the representatives of the Club Sports Governing Board:

HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT CLUB SPORTS?

Your Club Sports Council wants your feedback about your experience as a member of the Club Sports program. We want to address your major concerns and make a difference!

What do you think of the Club Sports program? Has it met your needs as a student-athlete? If not, why? What would you like to see done differently? What improvements can be made?

Here are a few issues we have heard. Feel free to address these and please bring up others as well!

- * Availability of indoor and outdoor space for club sports*
- * Access to ice, heat, and trainers*
- * Funding*
- * Getting a gym credit for your club sport*
- * Van Policy*

Make your voice heard! We want to hear what YOU think. We will respond and keep you updated on the progress on your issues.

Captains and representatives, please forward to your membership.

Send your responses to Catherine Yee (cgy21) and Vicki Conte (vac15).

** Deadline: Sunday, April 6, 2003.*

Thank you,

*Catherine Yee
President, Club Sports Council*

As a result, the following letters were received from Club Sports Teams.

Tae Kwon Do

Columbia University Tae Kwon Do is one of the largest competing club sports at Columbia. Each year we travel to about 6 tournaments and compete under Columbia's name against schools from throughout the Northeast. In past years we have had national champions, first place sparring teams, world renowned instructors, etc. associated with our club. We are able to pull in students from corner of Columbia University, including CC, SEAS, BC, GS, Law, P&S, and even alumni that graduated many years ago. Our club has the reputation of being a family, and as a result people join the Tae Kwon Do team not only to learn a valuable martial art, but also to be part of our team.

This year several unexpected events resulted in our costs skyrocketing. The main source of extra expenditure was our annual Tae Kwon Do tournament. For the past two years we have held it at Martin Luther King Jr. High School due to limitations in gym space. However, this year we were able to procure use of gym facilities, a great benefit because having "home field" advantage means a lot. There is a great deal of sentimental value in holding the tournament at Columbia. Holding the tournament here, though, significantly added to our costs. The facilities fees were over \$200 more than outside venues. Furthermore, we had to obtain special insurance for the event which added \$500 to the costs. As well, our league began to use an electronic scoring system for sparring matches this year that requires the use of mats in order to cover the wires and to provide a surface upon which competitors can fight. The mat rentals added \$500 to the costs.

In addition to our own tournament, we travel to several other tournaments throughout the year. Tournaments are our biggest expenditure, next to our instructor fees, because the cost is \$25/competitor and we often take fairly large teams. The entrance fee is standard in our league, which means that all of the tournaments are quite expensive. We usually travel to and from these competitions via a van from the gym. In the past, and even for the first semester of this school year, there was never a rental charge; we were merely responsible for the gas. However, during the spring semester we were charged \$130 per van use. Since this was an unexpected cost, it really cut into our tournament budget and will be a very large added expense next year. One of the only things that saved our budget this year was that we did not attend the Cornell tournament due to housing problems. We usually do go to Cornell with a large team, which, because of the distance, often becomes quite expensive.

This year presented a great many extra costs and the only way we were able to meet our budget was by foregoing some much needed equipment. Having good and solid kicking bags and paddles is essential to Tae Kwon Do. Using faulty equipment poses an injury risk to our members.

For these reasons, we are asking for an increase in our funding allotment. I think it is noteworthy of our team that we always meet the amount given to us by the school with the amount we pull in through dues. Our members contribute a great deal to the team. They buy their own uniforms, gear, equipment, etc. Considering the fact that our members bear a great deal of the financial burden of our club, we feel it only fair that our budget allotment for 2003-2004 be increased.

Equestrian

As co-captain of the Columbia University Equestrian Team, I would like to express the frustration our team feels with Columbia Athletics. Our team feels that we do not receive sufficient funding, and also feel that our clamoring for the possibility of Varsity status is ignored. Our team works hard, and is incredibly successful. Last year, at the IVY league championships, we were Reserve Champions. However, we have a hard time at competitions, because the teams we compete against are given much more funding from their schools, and are thus able to practice much more often (our team riders practice only once a week- and WE have to pay for that practice (\$320 a semester) out of our own pockets!). Thus, Columbia Athletics should re-evaluate the amount of serious attention it gives to its club sports. Our team is cohesive, hard working, and deserves to at least be considered for Varsity status. Or at least, Columbia Athletics should tell us what we need to do to qualify, in their minds, for Varsity status.

In sum, there needs to be more recognition of the seriousness of club sports. If a club sport is enthusiastic and competitive, it should be given more serious consideration for Varsity status and should receive more funding (rather than the football and baseball teams who are lucky if they don't lose in an embarrassing manner- who needs new uniforms to humiliate themselves in?). Thats it for now. thanks!

Women's Hockey

I have the pleasure of being a member of the newly-formed undergrad women's hockey club at Columbia (the FIRST!). As we have just started out, we have received a good amount of attention and consideration by the school, but not all that we would like in order to develop into the dynamite team we want to be. We have received access to vans for transportation to the ice we practice on in Brooklyn, and we greatly appreciate this.

Next season, we would like to be considered for funding so that we may have our own ice time-- both to train and so that we can play games against other teams. This is necessary for the development of our team! We currently practice at a membership-basis clinic held by our coach, Aaron Foeste. It is extremely helpful, but as we are sharing the ice with many other non-Columbia people, we do not have the space or the attention we would like to have on the ice. Every other Ivy League school has a recognized and competitive women's hockey team. We have just started to be a part of this, and would love to put our talents to work to compete with them and show our school spirit!

Also necessary to achieve this goal is obtaining jerseys for our team. Hockey equipment is expensive. Any financial help in getting the necessary elements of our outfits would be very much appreciated, and our jerseys would need to be custom-ordered to match our school colors and to display the Columbia lettering and logo.

One more thing: time and money are precious elements of a college education. To receive the required gym credits for graduation by playing on our ice hockey team would be really great! The workout you get playing hockey is surely admirable! Please consider this!

We are working hard to pull this team together and get it up to par. Thank you for your help in getting us there!

Kung Fu

I am writing on behalf of the Columbia Kung Fu club. First of all, allow me to thank you for your efforts and those of the board in regards to these matters.

The other officers of our club and I are in general content with where our club is right now. In particular, with the space we are allocated and the funding we receive. But given a chance to ask for more and to ask for improvements there is always something. So perhaps a better way to approach this from my end would be to ask if Columbia and Athletic Facilities do everything they deem necessary based on what they view the role of Club Sports to be.

If their view is that a club allows for non-varsity athletes to participate in athletic extra-curricular facilities, then surely Columbia is justified for viewing Club Sports beneath other athletics. Perhaps it is pointless to ask for more funding, perhaps it is also futile to ask for better scheduling of facilities. After all you guys do a great job given the resources you have to work with. Therefore the only solution I see is to ask for new facilities or access to varsity facilities and we all know that that is easier said than done.

However, contact athletics such as our own are not merely an athletic forum. We (we as in all contact sport clubs) play hard, train hard, but we also get injured hard in some cases. And of course we all sign waiver forms so that Columbia is not held responsible and that is understandable. Refusing us sports medicine and rehabilitation services on Columbia premises because we are not varsity athletes is not. I'm sure that this issue is much more complex at heart and involves insurance fees in the very least but I truly believe that receiving such services is not simply a convenience (although of course it is convenient) but a necessity. The convenience comes from not having to travel to get services and the comfort of having a qualified person who works with young athletes nearby.

I and members of the Columbia Kung Fu Club would be greatly appreciative of any steps taken by the board to address this issue. Thanks very much for your time and attention, it is greatly appreciated. Best of luck and please keep me updated and I will be happy to render any assistance with regards to these matters as time permits.

Goju-Ryu Karate

Hi,

One of the things our club would most like to have available is a first-aid kit. I understand that there are 3 in the gym, but two are in offices that close before we practice. I believe that the other is in the building supervisor's office, but there isn't always someone in there.

We would like to be able to have one for our club, but if that's impossible, we think it would be a good idea to keep one at the locker/towel desk, as there is always someone there, and that is usually where we go first if someone's injured.

Tennis

There have been a group of us who have been struggling to start a tennis club at Columbia since freshman year, three years ago. The department has been most unsupportive and discouraging, for ambiguous reasons that I think come down to money issues.

I was personally very surprised as a freshman that CU didn't have a tennis club. We held an interest meeting for all those interested in playing tennis at Columbia. About 100 people showed up at the meeting, and we realized that there was a large community of players out there whose needs weren't being met. When we (we being me and two other junior girls, Tricia and Akua) first went in to talk to Ebner, he told us that the department does not support clubs in sports that also have varsity teams. When we later asked him about clubs such as Roadrunners and Swim, which have both clubs and varsity teams, he basically came out and said that there was not enough funding to accept additional clubs.

Eventually, we kind of gave up on the department and have been running an "underground" club that plays at the Columbia Tennis Center on weekends and deals directly with the Tennis Center (which has the name Columbia, but is basically a private profit-generating organization that is run like any other tennis club and is open to anyone willing to pay enough). Thankfully, we were able to work out a "good" deal with the Center's Director of \$17 per hour per court. However, because we are paying much less than the alumni, private leagues and other non-students do (they pay ALOT), we are very limited in the court times that we can ask for and have to play around the schedules of alumni, childrens' leagues, and even the NYU womens' team.

Last semester, Ebner actually agreed to letting us be an "intramural club" which meant basically that instead of making members meet us in Butler lounge with their dues, they could go to the Intramural Director Mike Beaubien's office in Dodge and pay through him. We thought this would grant us at least some legitimacy and a place to keep the money. But, as nice as he was, Mike ended up being so disorganized that this semester, we ended up handling the dues on our own.

This is our third semester running the club, and our numbers have steadily dwindled, which I think is due to lack of support from the school, from around 60 members to 20. Basically, we just take the subway up once a week and practice/hit for an hour and half.

If it's possible, we'd really like to become a legitimate, recognized club. I think it would encourage more players to join. I think it would also help us out with court times and rates (should CU students really be paying at all to play on CU courts?!?). It would be wonderful if the school could provide transportation to practices at Baker Field, so that we don't have to rely on the subway, especially as our practices are late at night and walking in the area is not so safe. And being a club would also help us structure the club better, perhaps through a coach/instructor, so that we're not just practicing every week, but we can eventually compete.

I don't think that I mentioned that we've been receiving working with the USTA. We're part of their College Campus program, and basically we've just received some tshirts and stuff from them, and some minimal funding. I don't really think that funding should be a problem as far as becoming a club sport is concerned, because we've basically been able to sustain our club through club dues. Let me know if you have any questions regarding this.

Women's Intramural Lacrosse

Intramural Lacrosse is still a fledgling program and we're still trying to find our feet. I'll give you a quick synopsis of where we've been and where (we hope) we're going. Last year I was a freshman who wanted to play lacrosse here but was unable to give a varsity-level time commitment. I found that if you didn't play varsity, there was virtually no other option for you (except Lacrosse gym class, which is not an option for someone who truly wishes to play lacrosse). I decided that I would start a club team. I begged, pleaded etc. and they kept saying no. So I basically just went in again and again and ignored the "no" until it turned into a "maybe" and then finally a "well okay." I had no funding so I paid for all the initial stuff out of my own pocket--flyering, food for the first interest meeting, balls... etc. At the first meeting, and through email and phone calls, I recruited over 100 girls. Currently, I have about 150 on my roster, but much less are fully committed (as would be expected considering the current scope of our resources, etc).

In any case, one of my captains had T-shirt contact, so we had team shirts with numbers on the back made up. I designed them and they were made in four colors. Thus, we had team shirts. We practiced once a week last year in the gym at nights and had a "final game tournament." The athletic dept. was kind enough to provide t-shirts to award the winning team. We had two team dinners/lunches.

This year we practiced out at Riverside Park. Due to the fact that the CCSC lobbied for the gym to be open until midnight for everyone, we cannot reserve the blue gym for night practices anymore... which is not so bad, considering that we like the outside better. This semester has been sluggish because of late snow, and because I have had some family emergencies that took me off campus for a few weeks. I am the only administrator of this team and need badly to recruit more people for the job. I do have some captains who I've appointed, but I need someone who will commit some time to doing the nitty-gritty stuff that I do.

In the past year and a half, I've been able to acquire balls, some field time at the park, and two old lacrosse goals to take down there. This is mostly thanks to the new intramural director at the athletic dept. (who has been very helpful). When I was down at the 107th street fields (in Riverside Park) I realized that there were some storage closets there. I did some researched and eventually coordinated with the NYC parks department and the local youth soccer coaches to gain access and private keys to the space (in which we hope to store balls, goalie equipment, etc). The Columbia Athletic Department benefited from my efforts here in that they hope to also use this space for storage purposes (for other intramural and club programs held at Riverside).

Adding to this, the team has managed to raise ~\$480 in T-shirt sales and team donations. We've used these funds to purchase goalie pads, helmets, whistles, cones etc. We still have about 1/3 of that money left which will just sit (and hopefully grow) so we may have team dinners, more equipment, etc in the future. We are currently looking into additional possibilities for raising additional funds.

My biggest problem is securing constant reliable field space at a time that people can show up (i.e. -- Fri. afternoons or Sat. mornings). It isn't fair for the girls to have such an unreliable play schedule. Moreover, it reduces commitment and sparks an unfavorable cycle in which more and more people become discouraged. So many of them wish to play lacrosse and truly love the game, but it is difficult to do so when there are so many obstacles in the way. I persevere because I think I believe in the light at the end of the tunnel.

For many of us, the sports and activities in which we participated during our high school years made up a large part of our personality, identity and livelihood. It is saddening to realize that though we now attend this powerful university with access to a myriad of resources, we are unable to continue those things which for so long helped make us who we are. My girls, the 150 names on my roster, simply wish to regain that lost sense of being on a team, to feel whole again, to be given a chance. All they want is to play lacrosse again. We'd appreciate any help you could offer. Thank you.

Women's Ultimate Frisbee

hey catherine,

Thanks for the reminder. warning- this is pretty long.
First of all, I would like to make it clear that I speak not for myself but for everyone of the 20 members of my team, my co-captain, makiko arima, and many of the captains of years prior.

Having been on this team for 4 years, I feel myself getting more and more frustrated every year with the way things are run. I'll try to break this into sections as to not launch into a complete rant.

Having just won College Sectionals for the Metro East NY (and killing Princeton), my team is on a complete high, but when we got back from our competition we realized that there was no way to let anyone on campus know how great the team has been doing. The Spectator doesn't print Club Sports news unless they've got nothing better to do, and there's no where to display any of the trophies we've won this season or season's past. I've got 2 collecting dust in my room right now. Even a board where club could post results would be cool. Going to a school where everyone seems so down on the athletic program, I almost feel like it's my duty to inform the student body, "hey, we have teams that win! there is hope!". At a school constantly struggling to foster pride in it's athletics, it makes no sense not to champion every victory possible, whether it be rugby, karate, or ultimate. Additionally, such publicity would really help us recruit new players, allowing us to build a much stronger program.

PE Credit.

There are a number of players on my team that are extremely frustrated that they can't get PE credit for a sport they are so dedicated to. We practice 3 hours a week at a bare minimum. This doesn't include all the outside sprint workouts, distance runs, tossing sessions and all day tournaments that we go to. During a non-tournament week, I would say the average player on my team practices about 5 hours a week. If you add in a tournament, it's about 15 hours. This isn't including travel time, etc. personally, this is the second semester where I have had 3 hour long winter practices, which go until 12am, and had to get up at 8am to go to my required gym class. It seems more than a bit silly. Another teammate of mine is currently taking Tai Chi so she can graduate. I personally find it humorous that something as unathletic as Tai Chi for 100 minutes a week counts, but 3 hours of ultimate and sprint workouts doesn't.

Field space and gym space have been a nightmare for the past 2 years. I felt that my team was being seriously hurt by the field space situation last year. There is no real reservation system and varsity gets priority. This was translated to was that I (and my team) wouldn't know when our practices were (time, day, location) until about 24-48 hours in advance. No matter how dedicated your players are, it's rather difficult to get people to keep 6-11pm free every week night because they MIGHT have practice. This semester has been slightly better, but not much. I still only get the practice schedule on a week by week basis, causing my players to have to make last minute schedule changes

just to be able to practice. Also, when we get rained out (as happened so often this spring), we can almost never find alternate space.

Also, the entire situation with gym space this winter was horrific. My team has had late night practice hours for at least 10 years, and i was suddenly notified in the beginning of february that these were gone and there was nothing i could do. Seeing as how this was the result of a policy put into place months before, I was rather appalled that my team, as well as the Club Sports Board (of which I was a member at the time) was not informed until we requested space and got denied. our only option was to compete for space during rec hours, where, if we were lucky, we could secure 1 basketball court. The hours for the gyms are not posted online and change day to day and week to week,, so in order to see if we could have practice, i would be calling the front desk of dodge 3 times a week. Furthermore, I was made to understand that we COULD NOT reserve space during open rec, but upon coming to the gym one night we found that some of the members of the Varsity basketball team could reserve a court. Now i understand that varsity gets priority, but this was A) after their season B) pick up basketball with men's and women's players c) not a practice, even a captain's practice d) without a coach e) during OPEN REC. I am still at a loss to understand how this was okay, but my team had to fight for space all winter.

As far as funding goes, we have no major complaints. It would be nice if funds that we didn't use could roll over into our account for the next year though.

Van policy is also something that has changed dramatically since i was a freshman. While i understand the insurance issues behind some of the policy changes, It would be really helpful if grad students were still allowed to drive. we're lucky enough to have a coach, but often we would like to take 2 vans. Finding a second driver would be much easier if we could have one of our grad students drive.

Being able to go to the trainer would be really helpful. So many of my players have gotten hurt while wearing Columbia Blue, but have to go to health services for their injuries. If health services has a bad track record with general health, they're about 4x worse with sports medicine. To see a trainer, you have to be available during the 1 hour they are there on friday, and even then, they're not so great (telling one of my girls the BROKEN BONE in her foot was probably just a stress fracture and didn't show up on the X-ray-come back in 3 weeks - an outside Doctor actually laughed aloud upon looking at the same x-ray and hearing the Health Services diagnosis). On my team alone we've got Tendonitis, a few cases of bad shin splints, a broken finger, a broken foot, a dislocated shoulder, pulled hamstring, sprained ankle, etc. Even just being able to get ice after practice would be nice.

Overall, I have to say that I feel as if Club Athletes get very little respect from the Athletic Department. I realize that our advisors do what they can, but the system as it exists is an extremely frustrating one with miles of room for improvement. It is frustrating to wear a Columbia jersey and spend the weekend battling Princeton, Harvard, and Yale only to come home and feel as if the fight against your own school to practice and play is the hardest battle of all.

Ski Racing

The Columbia Ski Racing Team would like to make three proposals to the board:

- Members of club sports teams should be given physical education credit.

Most club sport athletes are highly committed to achieving success on the field. This includes 10-15 hours of practice time a week, not including competitions. Considering most gym classes meet between 3-6 hours a week and NCAA limits Division I athletes to a maximum of 20 hours per week, it seems reasonable that club sports athletes should be exempt from physical education credit as they spend as much time practicing as varsity athletes.

- Storage Space closer to 116th St. and Amsterdam Ave.

Since most Columbia University dorm rooms are significantly smaller than the average college dorm, skis and poles take a large amount of room space. Some ski team members even have to travel from as far as 104th St. and Broadway with all of their ski gear potentially posing risks to their health. We ask that there be come some storage space for skis closer to our pick up point so that skiers do not have to waste space in their rooms and possibly injure themselves.

- Access to Athletic Trainers and Sports Medicine

All club sport athletes are susceptible to injury during athletic competition. It is only fitting that club sport athletes have access to athletic trainers and sports medicine to properly nurse their injuries. More than any other club sport, skiing is high impact. A fall at high speeds in the course can lead to all sorts of ailments including breaks, sprains, and tears. All athletes should have access to suitable medical care for injuries sustained while competing under the banner of Columbia University.

Cycling

Other leaders of the team and I feel that our team and club sports in general do not get the recognition it deserves from the administration, and it would be nice to get more support. Please pardon the length of this, as it turns into a rant towards the end. First off to answer your questions.

Accomplishments:

Over the past 4 years, we increased the number of racers every year. We started about 4-5 years ago with about 5 dedicated racers and 10 dues paying members. Today we have nearly 20 dedicated racers, 40 dues paying members, and maintain a mailing list with approximately 150 cyclists from Columbia community. Last year, we sent a team of 4 men to the National Collegiate Cycling Championships. They competed against 200 other elite collegiate racers from across the country. It was by far our most successful year to date. Last year we hosted the Grant's Tomb criterium, our home race for the Eastern Collegiate Cycling Conference (ECCC). The course was set up around the Grant's Tomb/Riverside Church complex. We also invited local/regional bike racers for open amateur events. The local cycling community loved the race because it added much needed variety to the NY Metro amateur race calendar. All in all, about 400 collegiate and local cyclists participated with countless spectators throughout the day, and we made about \$3000 in profit. This year, we started building an alumni list and have already received about 25 direct contacts.

Growth:

When I was a freshman, there were about 20 members, and about 5 who traveled to races. That year, our team could not afford to compete in all the races in the season--a major detriment to doing well in our conference. Last year, there were about 30 members, and 10 racers. It was the first year that the team was able to do compete in all the races on the calendar. This was made possible by generous alumni donations and income from the GT criterium as mentioned above. This year, we have about 40 members of those 15-20 dedicated racers. So far the steady growth was primarily due to continuity in leadership and publicity. The success of American riders (Lance Armstrong) in the pro ranks also helped to spur an explosion in bike racing/riding in general. However, this growth cannot be supported without increased funding.

Grievances:

Our biggest problem when it comes to competition is our budget. Ideally our target would be to have 30 racers attend every race and send a team to nationals every year. However this would require a minimum of \$15,000. While we could raise up to half of that, the other half would need to be provided by the university. This does not include lodging. With subsidized lodging, we would need about \$20,000. Travel is by far the biggest expense. Our region includes NY, NJ, PA, CT, MA, NH, and VT. To attend farther races we need to leave on Friday afternoon which comes to 3 days of van usage (\$390). Last year our van usage expense came to \$2400--more than our allocation. It seems odd that the university charges our accounts for the use of athletic vans. Obviously somebody has to pay for them, but it's a shame that the majority of our budget goes to the "rental" of Columbia owned vans. Another problem is facilities. Of course we live in New York City and space doesn't come

cheap. However just for comparison, Princeton and UVM cycling have their own bike rooms complete with storage racks, lockers, and space to do indoor workouts. It would be nice to have at least an easily accessible closet somewhere to put our team equipment (e.g. roof racks used to transport our bikes by van, indoor training equipment, etc.)

Other Perspectives:

I know that the university does not give club sports enough support, and I feel that it is excessively generous to the varsity sports program. Unlike some of the administration, everybody on the cycling team takes the sport very seriously. Many of us train 10-15 hours per week. Perhaps we are even more dedicated and motivated than varsity athletes since we must take care of all administrative tasks and fundraising. Moreover, since we're not recruited, we don't have that carrot dangling in front of us to perform. Varsity sports are basically given all the money they want for almost every luxury that they want--training rooms, chartered buses, a full coaching staff. And for what? A shitty football team and injured athletes who probably will never compete again after they graduate. (BTW, Pro cyclists don't peak until their 30s, and there are still "Master's class" racers well into their 50s still winning.) I think Bill Ebner said it best at the fall club sports meeting. He said something to the extent of "Varsity sports could screw up 10 times before anybody said something, but if one club makes the smallest mistake, I'm going to hear about it." I'd say that basically sums up the attitude of the administration.

Kickboxing

Just a few words on some important issues our club has at this point first of all the most important thing is not being able to pre-calendar two days and regular hours for those days this has been a real problem because a lot of students cannot make it and drop out of the class for that reason

Funding is always an issue we did receive money to buy equipment but no compensation for whoever is going to teach the class has been considered yet

The storage of our equipment is temporary and access to it is not always available, so we need a locker with our key so that we can use the equipment when we need

It would be helpful to get access to one email sent to all Columbia students telling about the club sport, considering the amount of junk mail we are getting it would be nice to be able to send some actually useful info to people, a lot of students found out about the club only at the end of the semester, in spite of the fact that posters were being put all around the campus on regular basis.

Men's Ultimate

When I started with Columbia Ultimate in the fall of 1999, I came into a system that was already well-established and ran fairly smoothly. At that point, undergraduates were allowed to drive the school vans, and we had regular practice times on grass at Baker. Within a year, the van privileges were revoked and ever since we have been forced to hire drivers or rent busses at a far higher price. Within 2 years, our grass space privileges had been revoked as well, and for some semesters we could only practice once a week on AstroTurf.

Ultimate is a very athletic sport with no protective gear. Much of the sport involves diving, and while football can be played on astroTurf, the pads protect from impacts against the ground. Understandably, we cannot play Ultimate as it was intended by practicing on AstroTurf, and many of our players never learn how to "lay out" safely. For the same reason, we cannot play in the NYC parks, which either do not allow cleats or are littered with rocks, garbage, glass, and on occasion needles.

During the winters, practice space has become even more scarce. The horrible weather this season made outdoor practices impossible. 3 years ago, we were granted two indoor practices a week: One in the blue gym, one in the main. This past winter the new Dodge Gym policy resulted in a COMPLETE loss of reserve practice space for Club sports. Not only was this tragic, it was insulting. We were NEVER informed ahead of time that we would no longer benefit from the space. Only half-way through the winter did we learn of this turn of events. We had to take it upon ourselves to work out, run, sprint, lift, and keep in a semblance of playing shape. We were left scrambling on our own to find time and space to practice, and basketball was charitable enough to allow us to use the space after they finished their practices early. But the biggest frustration was when I went to the open rec times at the gym. On a regular basis, the number of people there did not even equal the membership of our team. Knowing that the change in the Dodge policy benefited 30-50 people while inconveniencing the 200-300 members of outdoor club sports teams (such as Mens and Womens Rugby, Mens and Womens Ultimate, and Mens Lacrosse) was the most disenchanting part of the Columbia athletic facilities system.

Despite being unable to practice regularly, the team has enjoyed a good amount of success. We have won the Sectional championships and are going to the Regional Championships as the 8th seed out of 16. The womens team also enjoys such success this year. The black sheep teams of Columbia are some of the few with winning records. Remarkably, our team has the talent to place in the top 5 at Regionals and a solid shot at winning. With a place in 1 or 2 at Regionals, we could go to Nationals. I'm not saying this as propoganda or hype or misplaced belief in my teammates. I'm saying this as a 4 year veteran, a captain, and a well-traveled and established hard-working player who grinds it out every time I play. I've seen some of the best, and our team has some of them. Our Ultimate team brings Columbia national attention by pulling off remarkable upsets and wins at big tournaments. Unfortunately, I have also seen our team crumple and lose games we should win. Speaking with the same qualifications, I can safely say that our team will NOT win or place 2 at Regionals. We don't have the experience or stamina that comes from practice, and all the talent in

the world cannot defeat the amount of experience that is needed to compete at the top. I believe that this is not our fault, but the fault of the Columbia system which does not give enough support to its club sports programs.

Ultimate as a sport is growing, and more and more students consider the college teams when making their choices, and we have been fortunate enough to pick up a couple players like that. Most of those players, however, go to the schools with more successful programs... schools that practice 3 times a week and are given access to van transportation for big-name tournaments a distance away... teams like Yale, Dartmouth, Cornell, and the other Ivies. We have the talent, but we don't get to work on it.

I am relieved with the plans to renovate the surfaces at Baker with astrograss, and pleased that the space will be open to club sports. I just wish I would be here to enjoy it. Hopefully, the team will get the support of the school in future years... not money, but infrastructure. Varsity sports needs to give more leeway to Dr. Ebner, as he can only give us as much as varsity sports are willing to share... which, in my experience, is not much.

Gilberto De Jesus
Captain, Columbia Men's Ultimate
CC 2003

Women's Rugby

The Columbia University Women's Rugby Football Club (CUWRFC) would like to express its concern regarding the status of club sports at Columbia University. This semester, we have practiced regularly on grass fields, making our practices more safe and effective. We have also had regular access to room space for video sessions. Although this has been much appreciated, we fear that these privileges may be revoked in future semesters due to our club status. It is essential that we have access to grass fields during both the fall and spring semesters. In addition to field space, CUWRFC has never been allotted time to use indoor gym space for winter practices. It is also critical that we be given access to gym facilities at Dodge. Being a club sport should not limit us from having access to the appropriate facilities.

CUWRFC fully supports all efforts to make Columbia club sports more accessible to our university as well as to other colleges and universities. Granting gym credit for participation will absolutely encourage more students on campus to get involved with university athletics. More funding for club sports (and CUWRFC specifically) will also allow for teams to compete in intercollegiate tournaments. This will spread Columbia's name throughout the world of college sports and improve Columbia's athletic reputation.

All members of the CUWRFC thank you for your time and consideration regarding the matters stated above.

Master's Swim

I feel like the team has been getting stronger in the past few years and that it has been more opened up to undergraduates as well as grad students and others. Last semester was the first semester we went to a meet in a number of years so that is a good thing. I guess the main thing that hinders the club is that it would be nice to have more practice time. We only get 4 practices per week and one of these is at 9:30PM on Friday which is obviously not very well attended. In addition we are not going to be able to have practices the next two Saturdays due to conflicts. Another problem we have faced is that Barnard charges a lifeguard fee for using their pool. Obviously, it would be better to have all our practices at the better Columbia pool which does not charge the lifeguard fee. But overall I am happy with the club because we faced being in debt going into the fall and we have done very well with getting new members to join and making the program thrive. We have also been excited to do go to swim meets this year for the first time in five years.

Figure Skating

This year, the Figure Skating Club concentrated its resources and efforts on the Synchronized Skating team. With few resources, no professional coach, and a minimum of training time, the team managed to compete in the National Championships, where they finished 14th, beating teams with more established programs and greater university support.

Club Sports did not provide us with adequate funding for this season. For the obvious reasons, there is no practice space for us to utilize on campus. However, this fact does not seem to have been taken into account when our allocations were made for the year. \$2100 would barely cover the costs of 10 hours of practice (at \$225+ per hour). It takes well over 10 hours of practice to choreograph and teach a 4.5 minute program to a team of skaters and practice it to the point where it is ready for national competition. The high cost of ice thus precluded us from exploring our options for coaching. Every other team in the country (with the exception of Illinois) hires a professional coach; this option was not available to us. We used a student coach. Although this method was successful this year, it is too great a burden to place on one person.

Also, we have not found Club Sports to be very effective in the overall management of our club. Many of our expenses could not be determined in advance - hotels, van rentals, competition supplies, etc. As a result, club members had to pay out of their pocket what we had determined would be covered by club dues. Reimbursements are frustratingly slow. We managed all the details for our trips ourselves, from flights to accommodations, in addition to scheduling extra ice time at Riverbank.

One of our biggest problems this season resulted from the fact that our goals were not recognized by the sports administration. In December, we proposed merging our team with Princeton's. Synchronized Skating is more impressive with a full team of 24 skaters. Given the cost of Nationals (in Alabama), we reasoned that it would be beneficial to both clubs to skate as one, place well, and be able to attract skaters to both schools, thereby building each respective program for the future. (The fact that Princeton has a rink on campus and doesn't have to pay for ice time also made this a very attractive option - we could have spent money on other elements of the team.) However, the administration did not see the benefits and did not approve the plan. Intercollegiate teams are the future of synchronized skating; they allow smaller schools with a core group of strong skaters to keep competing, rather than getting left behind the large midwest universities that have established, powerhouse programs. Our goal is to skate well, and a good portion of that is dependent on numbers. If club sports cannot recognize an intercollegiate team, we may have to reevaluate our ability to field a competitive team consisting solely of Columbia students.

Men's Hockey

We would like:

- * Our program to be recognized for PE credit.
- * Access to alumni addresses and numbers so that we can update our alumni databases for alumni games and donations.
- * Safer vans.
- * An athletic trainer to attend games. We are currently one of the only teams in our league that does not bring a trainer to either home or away games. We have had several players seriously injured over the course of this season and have been forced to rely on the assistance of trainers from other schools. It is our responsibility to return the favor to them for our home games. For serious injuries we would also like the right to visit the varsity training room.

These last two are very hopeful, but also pretty important:

*The current average budget in our league is over \$35,000. Our \$10,000 budget is blown away by this number.

Ballroom and Latin Dance Team

The most pressing concern for the Ballroom team right now is space. With the carpeting of Earl Hall, the team lost the best practice space available on campus. Now the only available options are in Lerner, the gym, and Teacher's college. Each of these has its own problems. Lerner only will allow us one practice each week. It is understandable considering the amount of demand, but it makes it difficult for us to get enough practice time to fulfill our needs. Also, for the next year, we have been assigned the practice room on the fourth floor which is completely unacceptable because it is much too small. For the past few years we have been able to practice in C555, which is just barely big enough. As for the gym, the room is also very small. Standard dances require a great deal of space to be done correctly, and the rooms just aren't big enough. Also, the rooms in the gym tend to be dirty, and we are only given very, very bad times, such as 10 to midnight on Monday and Wednesday. Plus, the gym is not accessible to all the members of our team, as some are not members of the gym (I know that new policies require it, but it has been a difficulty in the past). Teacher's college has the same problem of size, but other than that is pretty nice. Although we do have to pay for it.

Another concern, although less pressing, is transportation. As the ballroom team is very young, and since the new rules make it much more welcoming to undergraduates, we do not have the people necessary to drive vans. This means we must rent a bus, which is extremely expensive, or take public transportation, which is not always available and is often inconvenient.

The third issue is team storage space. Since the renovation of Earl Hall and the removal of the lockers from the first floor, the team has not had a place to store team equipment. The closet in Bill's office is not readily accessible to team members, so it is not feasible to keep the equipment we need on a regular basis there. However, it would be nice to have a place to store such items as the team stereo and music so that individuals or couples who wish to practice would have access to those resources.

A minor thing that would be nice is if Columbia could provide the team with an account to send and receive our emails. We currently use several hotmail accounts to handle the large numbers of messages, since the email lists are quite extensive, but they are not really suitable to the task and they are very inefficient. If some service could be provided to receive team email and send out the regular team updates that would be quite wonderful.

Aikido Club

I have been involved with the Aikido Club at Columbia for over 6 years. I have been assisting as a club administrator throughout that time and while we appreciate the support of the University Athletic system, there remain some very problematic issues.

The foremost is adequate and accessible storage space for club equipment. This over the past 3 years the club has lost over \$900 in equipment due to insufficient, secure storage space. After the renovation of the Dodge Fitness Center, storage space was promised but never delivered.

To compound this effect with continually restricted funding is problematic. We understand that we are not alone in this dilemma, but it seems that interest is minimal in addressing it. Understanding that space is at a premium all over campus, it is apparent that smaller clubs bear the brunt of larger ones consuming more of the resources overall.

We hope that this will be considered moving forward. We can only speak for ourselves, but an \$900 dollar loss while not large sum, constitutes a large proportion of a small and shrinking allocation.

As the council looks at reallocating resources we hope that the needs of smaller clubs such as ours are taken into account.

Table Tennis

Columbia University Table Tennis Club (CUTTC) is a very active club. We have a formal national league---NCTTA(National Collegiate Table Tennis Association, www.natta.org). Right now, the league has more than 70 members, including all Ivy League Universities. We Columbia University Table Tennis Team played very well in the league. In the 2001-2002 season, we beat Yale Univ., Rutgers Univ., etc. and won the division champion. On the national tournament, we defeated Harvard Univ., Cornell Univ., etc and placed No. 4 finally. In the 2002-2003 season, we won division champion title and advanced to NCTTA championship tournament again. We won the host--Univ. of Pennsylvania and ranked No. 5 in the national competition among the 11 division champions from all over the country.

Table Tennis sport and our club were widely recognized. Our club has a good impact to the whole Columbia community. On Oct. 4, 2001 and Mar. 14, 2003, Columbia Daily Spectator specially reported our club.

Right now, our club encounters some difficulties:

1. It's very difficult to reserve the gym space to hold an intercollegiate tournament. Sometimes, we got the reservation approval from the director, but it was cancelled one or two weeks before the tournament because the space has to be used for practice or tournament by some varsity team. It embarrassed our team members as well as the guest university teams. I think our club sports are not treated fairly at all.

2. The storage room for our equipments is too small. We wish to buy one more table to relieve the long waiting of our members. But the storage room is too small to hold another table.

3. Our opinions were not received full attention from gym administration. We suggested removing the useless closet in our storage room so that it can store one more table. But the gym administration didn't listen to us.

4. Our allocated finding is too limited and can't meet our expenses. We wish to attend more intercollegiate tournament and earn honors for our Columbia. However, we don't have financial support to cover the registration, transportation and lodge fee. Also, we don't have money to hire coach to improve our team level.

Sailing

A characteristic that one will discover in any Columbia student is that he or she, either in high school or beyond, has participated in a range of activities. Moreover, this is most likely one of the reasons that any given person on this campus was chosen to be here. As individuals we have not only triumphed academically but we have excelled in other aspects of our lives. Some enjoy spending time watching, directing or acting in films. Others have discovered pleasure in dancing, painting, or political activism.

Many college students arrive on campus and look for ways to feel that they are a part of their community. Club Sports are often one of the arenas in which students feel they can do this. For me, in particular, I was able to find friendship, competition and leadership opportunities when I joined the Sailing team. Despite the fact that I had played three Varsity sports in high school I wasn't interested in making the same sort of commitment in college as I felt strongly that I wanted to pursue other interests as well. Yet, I knew that some of my happiest and rewarding memories had come from being a member of a team. There is a particular dynamic that one finds in the bonds built within a team that can be found nowhere else. And it provides an outlet unlike other activities on campus.

As a student in the school of General Studies, participating on the Sailing Team has connected me to students in ways that I have otherwise not had opportunities to do since I neither live in a college residence nor does GS have the same sort of orientation programs as the other schools. In fact, the team is frequently holding events such as parties or coordinating a trip to watch the basketball team and by inviting our outside friends we extend our circles. Moreover, as a member of the sailing team I have met a number of students who otherwise I might never have had the chance to know.

Our team, in particular, is comprised of students who both have extensive sailing knowledge and those who have never stepped foot on a boat. As a club, we pride ourselves on maintaining a competitive status in collegiate sailing while simultaneously being able to offer a beginner program for sailors who express an interest in learning. For many of our teammates, this means the opportunity to experience a new sport and for some it becomes a life long passion. Personally, I had little experience with the particular type of boats sailed in college and not an enormous amount of racing experience. However, since joining the team I have participated in a number of regattas and improved significantly as a sailor. While scheduling, in fact, we make a concerted effort to include both competitive and novice level events.

Last fall I was elected to the team's officer board as the Women's Team Captain. Since then I have learned a number of things about how club sports operate and how the Sailing Team functions behind the scenes. I have also been exposed to a number of the business aspects of the team, such as working through a budget, fundraising, recruiting, and public relations. While I had been involved as a student leader throughout high school I had never acted without a hands-on advisor. Being a leader on the sailing has been an extraordinary experience for me in that, along with the other officers on the team, we are responsible for the club's existence. Knowing this is quite rewarding.

For all of our triumphs in this past year, however, the Sailing Team has run into quite a few frustrating impediments. For one, because of the nature of our sport, we have to travel not only to competitions

on the weekends, but everyday to practice. This requires that we leave at 2:30 pm and don't return until 7. Travel is an issue for the team because it limits the number of regattas we can send people away to on a given weekend. This means that fewer sailors have the opportunity to sail and ultimately, it's the less experienced sailors who lose out. We also are limited by the existing van policy that does not allow undergraduate students to drive to athletic events.

Yet another issue of which we have recently become particularly cognizant is the fact that due to limited funding we are unable to pay a coach a competitive salary. What's more, our coach's working hours include not only weekday afternoons but also most weekends to travel to regattas outside of the local area. This spring when we started our search for a new coach we began to realize how difficult it would be to find someone willing to work full time for part time wages. Our practice schedule also makes it difficult for a coach to find other part time employment opportunities. As a team committed to continuing the progress that our organization has established in recent years we are all concerned that without a talented coach our team will be unable to thrive and may even deteriorate. We feel that under the direction of a skilled coach the Sailing Team would be able to successfully recruit and attract sailors to come to Columbia.

One of the most frustrating things that we have run into this semester is the lack of support that we have received from the University. I am baffled that Columbia does not consider club sports to be an important supplement to a student's academic career. Ideally, I would imagine that club sports would have resources such as an involved advisor who was interested and invested in the success of each group. The Sailing Team, for example, is interested in pursuing the prospect of receiving P.E. credits for the sailors who come to practice more than once per week and who commit a certain amount of time to the sport. Instead of this idea being heard, however, my impression has been that each club sport exists regardless of the impact it has on the community and those involved and has little assistance or guidance from anyone working for the University. I believe that club sports, rather than fending for themselves, would benefit from having an advocate willing to represent the interest of the students.

Overall, my involvement in the Sailing Team has been a rewarding and pleasurable aspect of my career at Columbia and because of this experience I am a huge advocate of club sports. I can only imagine that other people have been as lucky to have participated in some form or another, in one of the many club sport offerings on campus.