

Students, faculty in Egypt in process of evacuation

BY LEAH GREENBAUM
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

At least seven Columbia students and one faculty member are in the process of evacuating Egypt as large scale anti-government demonstrations continue to threaten the stability of President Hosni Mubarak's 30-year rule.

According to University spokesman Robert Hornsby, several Columbia affiliates have already evacuated and multiple University offices are arranging transportation out of the country for the rest.

“At present we have been in contact with seven students and one faculty member who were in Egypt and can report that they are all safe and well.”

—Robert Hornsby,
University spokesperson

“Several University offices and deans have worked with the offices of Global Programs and Risk Management to assist Columbia students and faculty in Egypt and arrange safe passage out of the country,” Hornsby wrote in an email statement.

“At present we have been in contact with seven students and one faculty member who were in Egypt and can report that they are all safe and well; some have already departed and arrangements are being made to relocate the remaining students.”

Representatives from the Office of Global Programs could not be reached for comment at the time of publication.

Columbia allows undergraduates to study abroad at the American University in Cairo and the Middlebury language program in Alexandria and participate in excavations in Amheida.

Jacquellena Carrero contributed reporting.

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SURPRISE | Alexander Harstrick and Scott Wright discuss CAVA's unexpected relocation to Nussbaum.

HANNAH CHOI FOR SPECTATOR

Middle school likely to move into PS 145

BY ELISSE ROCHE
Columbia Daily Spectator

Empty classrooms at PS 145 on 105th Street and Amsterdam will soon be full of middle school students from a school on the Upper West Side.

PS 145, also known as the Bloomingdale School, had been slated to share school space with the first Upper West Side chapter of a charter school, but after strong objections from charter school-wary parents this fall the Department of Education decided to send the charter school elsewhere.

But according to an internal DOE document leaked by the New York Times on Jan. 13 detailing plans for closing and moving several New York City public schools, the DOE plans to move West Prep—currently located at 77th Street and Columbus Avenue—into PS 145, an elementary school with many vacancies.

DOE spokesman Jason Zarin-Rosenfeld emphasized that the leaked document is a draft, and the move into Bloomingdale has not been finalized. However, he added that moving West Prep Academy to PS 145 made sense in light of public comments made during protests against Upper West Success, the

proposed charter school.

“We heard that the school community felt that it made more sense to use the building for an existing school, not a new school,” Zarin-Rosenfeld said.

Tina Crockett, head of the Parents' Association for PS 145, said parents are taking the news in stride.

“We at first were not as excited about it because we wanted to grow our own 6th, 7th, 8th grade,” she said, noting that the elementary school would not be able to expand if West Prep, a middle school, moved in. “So first parents were not happy about it, we had public hearings.”

But ultimately, she said the state's board of trustees decided it was unlikely that PS 145—which is at 59 percent capacity according to DOE statistics—would be able to enroll 200 students to fill available seats. Crockett said the school is preparing for the move, which may come as soon as this fall.

“We were told that 2011—September—that is when it will be official,” she said.

PS 145's principal Ivelisse Alvarez said despite concerns she hopes the move will work for

SEE WEST PREP, page 2



ZARA CASTANY / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SHARING SPACES | PS 145 Principal Ivelisse Alvarez discusses concerns about West Prep's move.

Community Board 9 calls for farmers' market in underserved West Harlem

BY CONSTANCE BOOZER
Spectator Staff Writer

Residents of West Harlem say the neighborhood needs

more heirloom tomatoes and free range fowl.

Community Board 9 and local community organizations including Montefiore Park

Neighborhood Association and the West Harlem Art Fund passed a resolution in January calling for the opening of a farmers' market in Montefiore Park, at 138th and Broadway by June 2011.

“The location makes so much sense—it has lots of foot traffic from the subway stop, bus stops, and commuters to City College,” said Brad Taylor, Chair of the CB9 Committee for Waterfront, Parks & Recreation.

If a farmers' market does move in uptown it will be one of the few in Harlem, long known as a “food desert” with few options for fresh produce and other high-end dining.

“West Harlem is woefully underserved,” said Taylor. “Greenmarket has been aware of the Harlem ‘food desert’ for years. In 2005, they were looking

at market locations at various locations in Harlem. Yet if you look at their market map you'll see that Greenmarket has no markets in East, Central, or West Harlem. You would have to ask them why they have had so little success over the years.”

Many involved in the effort to bring a farmers' market to the area have complained that governmental programs and nonprofit organizations have not been doing enough to make it happen.

“For the past four years we have sent in requests for the market,” said Savona Bailey-McClain, a member of the CB9 Economic Development Committee and director of the West Harlem Art Fund. “Each and every year it is rejected. In the past they have claimed the foot traffic [is a problem], but

there has always been foot traffic there.”

Margaret Hoffman, a representative for Greenmarket director Michael Hurwitz for GrowNYC, told attendees at a recent CB9 meeting that GrowNYC must be selective about opening new locations.

“Our issue for the most part is that we are a small, nonprofit organization and that we have very limited resources. We don't always have the funds to do certain projects,” she said.

Taylor said that GrowNYC has opened numerous markets in other locations across the city.

“Years go by with residents imploring Greenmarket and Greenmarket in return saying they need to study a location and remaining noncommittal. In the intervening years, Greenmarket continues to set up and expand

numerous markets in neighborhoods that can hardly be called food deserts—including the location adjacent to the Columbia campus at 115th and Broadway,” Taylor said.

However, Bailey-McClain does not feel that limited resources are the crux of the problem. “NYC organizations have rejected communities of color consistently. I hope this works out, but you never know.”

CB9 chair Larry English said bringing a farmers market, through GrowNYC or an independent market, would be a top priority this year.

“It is very difficult for a lady in her 80s to go on a bus to 110th Street for fresh food.... it's a shame on the community board and New York,” he said.

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FILE PHOTO

FRESH EATS | A man browses the Greenmarket on Broadway near Columbia, the only market in Community Board 9.

A&E, PAGE 3

Dance all night

The annual CU Dance Marathon, which took place from 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 29, to 7 a.m. on Jan. 30, featured celebrity guests Nigel Barker and Connor Paolo.



OPINION, PAGE 4

Yes we can (ignore you)

Nick Bloom argues that it is our responsibility as future leaders to stay informed.

Listening to Egypt

It's time that we care about the crisis in Egypt.

SPORTS, PAGE 6

Every second counts for CU basketball

Although the women's basketball team improved from their November and December performances, they missed out on the chance to go undefeated this month, losing three games in the final seconds.

EVENTS

On Violence: The Wretched of the Earth

A student discussion on the seminal work by Franz Fanon.
106 Hartley Hall, 8 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



31°/28°

Tomorrow



39°/23°

Men’s, women’s squash record wins and a loss this weekend as ranked squads

BY MICHAEL ZHONG
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The men’s and women’s squash teams had similar stories this weekend after traveling to upstate New York for a tournament and then heading back home the next day to compete against Middlebury. The No. 20 ranked Columbia men’s squash team (8-3) swept the competition at Poughkeepsie, N.Y., defeating Vassar 9-0, Northeastern 6-3, and Bard 9-0. Unfortunately, the Lions had their winning streak snapped the following day at home, where they lost 8-1 to No. 13 Middlebury.

The No. 14 women’s squash team recorded similar results. The team cruised past Vassar and Northeastern with 9-0 victories, but lost its home match 7-2 to No. 11 Middlebury. In the loss to Middlebury, Columbia recorded a tough

win at the No. 3 spot, with the Lions’ freshman Katie Quan playing to five sets. Quan won two of her sets by a 12-10 score. Columbia’s other win came at the No. 6 spot, where freshman Skylar Dickey won 3-1. Dickey has an 8-1 individual record for the year.

Despite ending the weekend’s events with a loss, the women’s victory over Vassar indicates that the team is headed in the right direction.

Two years ago, Vassar defeated Columbia 5-4 at the same event. This year, just two individual matches in Columbia’s 9-0 sweep lasted beyond three sets.

Junior co-captain Liz Chu simply said, “There is a huge difference in our skill level from last season to this season.”

Both teams will compete in their home finales against Haverford on Feb. 6 at 1 p.m.



MICHAEL DISCENZA/ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SQUASHING RIVALS | Men’s squash has had a great start to their first season as a varsity program.

Let’s support all Columbia athletic teams

GUPTA from back page

I’ll say that again, he was the runner-up in the NCAA singles tournament. Schneiderman also beat the best player in the Ivy League (last season’s player of the year and rookie of the year), sophomore Marc Powers from Yale, in the Yale Showdown over break. They might not have the raw talent that they’ve had in years past, but this team still fights as hard as anyone I’ve ever seen, and it would be foolish to count them out of anything until the fat lady sings.

I could go on and on. The men’s swimming squad, which finished in third place last spring in the Ivies, is 5-2 (3-2 Ivy) this year. Senior Adam Powell is breaking pool records left and right, and will be looking to make his second straight appearance in the NCAA tournament. The wrestling squad finished in second place in the New York State Championships last weekend, and sophomore Steve Santos beat

the No. 11 and No. 13 wrestlers in the nation right before winter break. Track and field is probably still running somewhere, and running really fast, and I haven’t even mentioned the three-time Ivy champion men’s golf team.

The point is that there is a world outside men’s basketball on this campus. I enjoy watching and following the men’s basketball team as much as anyone else, but sometimes we get caught up in the “marquee” sports too much. The men’s basketball team isn’t going to win the Ivies this year, I’ll say it right now. They’re good, not great. They might be great in the future, but they aren’t there yet.

The real shame isn’t in having a men’s basketball team that goes 7-7 or 8-6 in Ivy play, but in having other teams which do a lot better but just don’t capture our attention.

Kunal Gupta is a senior in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences majoring in operations research.

Cornell, Brown fall to 0-4 in Ivy play

AROUND THE LEAGUE from back page

Maddox—who recorded 15 points and a career high of 14 boards in his second straight double-double—sank a layup. Princeton went on a 24-2 run over six minutes and never looked back, heading into halftime with a 42-29 lead.

In the second half, the Tigers went on a 9-0 run as they continued to outscore Brown, who struggled in the field, hitting only 20 of 50. Sophomore guard Matt Sullivan led the Bears in scoring, with a career-high 22 points. Maddox was one of four Tigers to record points in the double digits.

YALE 63, PRINCETON 67

The Bulldogs lost their second road game of the weekend to the Tigers Saturday evening. The beginning of the first half featured back-and-forth scoring, with the game standing at 10-10 just two-and-a-half minutes in, but Princeton slowly pulled away as it built up a 10-point lead going into halftime.

Early in the second half, Princeton improved the lead to 13, but with eight minutes into the game, Yale began to rally with a 16-5 run. A successful layup by junior forward Reggie Willhite—who recorded 13 points as one of four Bulldogs to score in the double digits—left the score at 63-61. Yale was able to pull within one, but was ultimately unable to overcome the Tigers, who saw four players score in the double digits with junior guard Douglas Davis leading the pack with 18 points.

CORNELL 57, DARTMOUTH 64

The Big Red (4-14, 0-4 Ivy) began its road trip this weekend in Hanover, N.H. as it tried for its

first conference win. The game began with steady back-and-forth scoring, but the Big Green slowly pulled away 12 minutes into the first half. A three-pointer by junior forward David Rufful put the score at 20-10. The Big Red was held to only four more points in the half, with the Big Green tacking on another 11 points as they headed into halftime with a 31-14 lead.

Cornell trailed 48-20 eight minutes into the second half after junior guard Jabari Trotter, who recorded 10 points for Dartmouth, nailed a three-pointer. However, Cornell slowly pulled itself within reach of the Big Green in the final minutes of the contest. The Big Red managed to cut the deficit to six after Cornell junior guard Chris Wroblewski, who recorded 16 points, hit two consecutive jumpers with 15 seconds to go. Dartmouth was able to seal the win after the Big Red missed two three-pointers as the clock wound to zero.

CORNELL 57, HARVARD 78

Cornell fell to 0-4 within the Ancient Eight after facing off against Harvard (15-3, 4-0 Ivy). The Crimson saw five players hit double figures in the 21-point victory. Junior forward Keith Wright earned his seventh double-double after recording 21 points and 11 rebounds. Forward Errick Peck was the only Big Red player to see double digits with 15 points.

Harvard took an early lead and was 13-3 five minutes in, but the Big Red managed to rally back and pulled within three two minutes later. Harvard still maintained the lead at the end of the half, 41-31. After halftime, Cornell came within five points early in the half, but a 22-6 run by the Crimson ended any hope for a Big Red rally.

West Prep moving to school on 105th

WEST PREP from front page

everyone.

“As with any change, there has to be a lot of conversation between two communities in order to understand and come together. Either way, and despite my heart, I have to make things successful for both schools,” she said.

Crockett said sharing space with West Prep didn’t seem as bad as doing so with a school from the Success Charter Network, which currently operates five charter schools in Harlem. Educators and parents have accused the charter schools network of pushing public school children out of classrooms. “There’s better synergy,” said Mark Diller, chair of Community Board 7’s Youth, Education, and Libraries committee, comparing PS 145’s relationship with West Prep to its relationship with Upper West Success.

Crockett said PS 145 shares similar goals with West Prep, whereas Upper West Success—a proposed elementary school—would have competed with PS 145’s goal of increasing its kindergarten and first grade enrollment.

However, Crockett said parents are concerned that PS 145 might lose out on part of an \$11 million grant for district 3 schools on the Upper West Side to promote racial diversity.

“They’re bringing more minorities to a school with minorities so we’re not getting the other ethnicities,” she said. West Prep and Bloomingdale both have predominately black and Hispanic students.

Bloomingdale parent Veronica Ranquel said parents are also concerned about how West Prep’s

middle schoolers will interact with the younger children at PS 145.

“The possibility of West Prep is a problem because we don’t want other people and other students here in the school,” she said. “I have another daughter who attended a school when she was younger with older students, and there was a problem with the gangs and more people.”

Security Guard Dee Medford said that based on prior experience, the age gap may be problematic.

“It was a threat to the community because they made younger kids cross the street alone because they were intimidated by the older kids and their groups,” Medford said of middle school students where she used to work.

“Anything is possible,” she added. “I’m not saying these kids are bad kids.”

Crockett said there are other difficulties, including dealing with facilities like bathrooms designed for smaller children. A bigger issue, she said, is space. Fitting both schools’ administrative departments and Parents’ Associations will be a tight squeeze.

Alvarez said she remains concerned with how the school will manage to share space with West Prep.

“They [the DOE] are saying we have room here for 200 or 300 more students but that’s not possible, I don’t see it happening,” she said.

She added that logistics remain uncertain.

“We don’t know how the transition is going to go, how anything is going to work,” she said. “I don’t know how they’re going to do this.”

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CAVA will move one block off campus

CAVA from front page

“We were stepping over oxygen tanks and patient files,” Aaron Mileston, GS ’13, said of the Carman basement. “All that stuff will be better organized with the new space.”

Scott Wright, vice president of Student and Administrative Services, said that since the first floor of Nussbaum used to function as a residential space, it has more amenities that will be useful to the group, including a kitchen, gender-segregated sleeping quarters, and meeting room for their training sessions.

Initially the Broadway space had been designated as a place for student groups to meet, but now CAVA’s vacated headquarters in Carman will become meeting space for student groups, according to Wright. He said he has been in touch with members of student councils about soliciting feedback from students about uses for the space.

Wright said the group’s ambulance will remain in its trademark parking spot on College Walk.

“It is a little concerning since we take pride in our response time,” Rios said. Nussbaum is across Broadway and a block further south than their current headquarters.

However Harstrick and Wright said the group

will continue to maintain its four minute response time to all calls, regardless of the extra block.

Harstrick, Wright, and Samuel Seward, the director of Medical Services, took a timed walk from Nussbaum to the ambulance; they clocked four minutes and 15 seconds, but Wright said they were walking at a leisurely pace and emergency medical technicians would rush to the ambulance more quickly on a real call.

“One concern is that in rushing to get to a call we’ll be crossing Broadway,” Milestone said. However he added that CAVA members are all able-bodied and will be able to handle a brisk walk or jog.

At an Engineering Student Council meeting on Monday night, members were informed of the news and said they were concerned about the distance.

“I don’t see how it would work,” said Santosh Balachandar, SEAS ’12 and vice president of student life, adding that Nussbaum is far away from East Campus, where CAVA takes many calls.

However Richardson said Columbia’s campus is small and centralized enough that it shouldn’t be a problem.

“Students should not be concerned that it will take us long to get there,” he said.

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Winter vegetable recipes that keep the heat

Winter cuisine can be both comforting and healthy, especially when cooked with vegetables that are in season. Sweet potatoes are a foolproof addition to any meal—they can be roasted ahead of time, stored in the fridge, and mashed up whenever the craving takes hold. Kale

with onion is wonderful at all times of the day but especially for brunch, served with toast and eggs cooked sunny-side up. Braised red cabbage with apple could make cabbage a new student favorite, adding color, texture, and playful flavor to any plate. —Lucy Sun

Braised Red Cabbage with Apple

Ingredients
One head of red cabbage (feeds about four)
2 tart apples, such as Granny Smith or Braeburn
1/4 of a red onion
2 tsp cooking oil
1/3 cup balsamic vinegar
Cumin
Brown sugar

Quarter the cabbage, then cut it into strips. Submerge the cabbage in a bowl of cold water while preparing the other ingredients. Cut the apples into little chunks. Slice the red onion into strips. In a large

pan, heat 2 tsp of cooking oil on medium heat. Add the red onion strips to the pan, and cook, stirring, for three minutes. Add 2 tsp of balsamic vinegar, and cook, stirring, until the onions are golden. Add the apples and stir for two to three minutes. Drain the cabbage and add it to the pan, along with another 2 tsp of balsamic vinegar. Add 1 tsp of cumin and 1 tsp of brown sugar. Cook on low heat for one hour, stirring occasionally. Add brown sugar, salt, and pepper to taste.

Kale with Sauteed Onion

Ingredients
One bunch of kale (feeds about three)
1/4 of a red onion
2 cups chicken stock or water
2 tsp cooking oil

Start by cutting up 1/4 of a red onion into strips. Take the bunch of kale and hand-wash it, ripping the leafy part away from the stalks. Discard the stalks and put the leafy parts aside. In a large pan, heat 2 tsp of cooking oil on medium heat. Tilt the pan to coat the entire surface with a thin layer of oil. Put the red onion strips in the pan, and cook on high heat, tossing the onions occasionally with a spatula. Cook until the onion strips are browned—this should take three to five minutes. Pour in 2 cups of chicken stock or water, and add the kale leaves. Boil the kale, stirring occasionally, for 20 to 45 minutes. The longer the kale boils in chicken stock, the more flavorful it becomes. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Mashed Sweet Potatoes

Ingredients
One sweet potato per serving
Aluminum foil
Milk or soy milk
Optional: cinnamon, nutmeg, brown sugar

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. While waiting, wash each sweet potato and wrap it in aluminum foil. Bake the sweet

potatoes for one hour at 350 degrees. Take the sweet potatoes out of the oven, let them cool, and carefully unwrap them from the aluminum foil. The skins can be removed or left on for mashing, according to the chef's liking. Next, place one sweet potato in a bowl and mash away—using a masher, a fork, or whatever is

handy. When the potatoes have been mashed satisfactorily, add a splash of milk or soy milk for desired creaminess. Pinches of spices or sugar can be added for additional effect. Cinnamon and nutmeg add warmth and pair well with other dishes, while brown sugar makes the dish a sweet treat all on its own.



CABBAGE PATCH | Sweet red cabbage, pictured here at Westside Market, is a seasonal winter vegetable that adds vibrant color, crunchy texture, and refreshing flavor to any home-cooked meal.

‘Home’ offers bird’s-eye view of climate issues

BY CARLOS GARCIA AND ANTHONY RAMIREZ
Columbia Daily Spectator

Yann Arthus-Bertrand’s newest film, “Home,” boldly declares a dismal outlook for Earth: Humanity has 10 years to reverse the effects of climate change or face living on an earth unlike the one we inhabit today. The film held its North American premiere yesterday, Jan. 31, in the bustling Roone Arledge Cinema in Lerner Hall. “Home” illustrates a sharp contrast between the natural, undisturbed beauty of Earth’s most reserved and isolated corners, and the harsh, polluted wastelands left in other areas after human exploitation. Mesmerizing satellite views of the North Pole and crisp shots of fields in Botswana serve as counterpoints to the gross abuse of nature highlighted in panoramas of busy Manhattan, smoggy Los Angeles, and exuberant Dubai. The movie’s illustration of Earth’s story (and, consequently, the collective human story) from a purely aerial perspective elicits a deep emotional response as viewers are exposed to an Earth that few

ordinarily get to see. The film delves deep into foreign landscapes—arid savannah lands, cascading waterfalls, and dry deserts—to illustrate that Earth does not lead a static and safe day-to-day life but is instead fragile and easily manipulated. “Home” uses incredible aerial shots from 54 countries that leave viewers at turns speechless, perplexed, and even a bit frightened. Amid this confusion and anger, “Home” offers an optimistic solution to climate change and asserts that solidarity among all peoples must be achieved to undermine the self-interests of nations prohibitive to eco-friendly development. According to the film, it is up to the ordinary citizen to hold his or her nation accountable for exploiting Mother Nature. While the film’s solution might be seen as vague and overly optimistic, “Home” attempts to lead by example: The film is available online for free. As Arthus-Bertrand said, “We wanted our film to be available to everyone for free in order to raise awareness of the fantastic life on Earth.” In “Home,” real change begins by forgoing



COURTESY OF ELZEVIR FILMS/EUROACORP
HOME PLANET | Director Yann Arthus-Bertrand highlights Earth’s climate issues.

self-interest to publicize the Earth’s precarious situation. Arthus-Bertrand’s “Home” promotes a simple call to action that leaves viewers wondering at possible ways to reverse Earth’s fate and to efficiently care for it in its current state. As the brochure that advertised the event asserted, the movie is fundamentally “a view from above that will change your world.”



COURTESY OF THE ELIZABETH GLASER PEDIATRIC AIDS FOUNDATION

MORE THAN DANCE | Student participants in this year’s CU Dance Marathon managed to stay spirited from 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 29 to 7 a.m. on Jan. 30, in the name of charity and AIDS awareness.

Students get jiggy to fight AIDS

BY MELISSA HANEY
Spectator Staff Writer

Sparkly neon-green and pink Spandex, scrunchie-fastened side ponytails, shiny disco balls, and Nigel Barker. No, this is not a description of the latest America’s Next Top Model photo shoot but of something far more significant—the 2011 Columbia University Dance Marathon. On Saturday, Jan. 29, 175 Columbia students sacrificed sleep, studying, and more sleep to dance 18 hours straight inside Lerner to raise money and HIV awareness. Established in 1988, the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation hopes to eradicate pediatric AIDS. Currently, 1,000 children are born with HIV each day, but the foundation—through extensive research, prevention and treatment programs, and advocacy work—is determined to see this change. Now in its 11th year, the CU Dance Marathon has become a cornerstone of fundraising for the nonprofit foundation. This year, more than \$48,000 was raised through sponsorships and donations—but had any student unknowingly

shimmied into Lerner Party Space this past Saturday, no mention of funds or logistics would have been heard. “We’re here to spread goodwill and happiness,” dance participant Hannah Roher, BC ’13, said. No doubt much of the apparent cheer resulted from two of the marathon’s special guests: noted fashion photographer Nigel Barker and Gossip Girl star Connor Paolo. “It’s important to [help] whenever you can,” Barker said. Initially hired as a photographer for the AIDS foundation’s two biggest events, Barker became a celebrity supporter once he realized how much he had to learn about the cause. “I was actually very ignorant of the face of AIDS,” Barker said. He continued that the face of AIDS “has changed ... and that struck a chord with me.” The two men were there to kick off the marathon, which lasted from 1 p.m. on Saturday to 7 a.m. the next morning, with a few inspiring words. “To instill a desire at a young age with events like this is the least I could do,” said Paolo, who joined the organization a few years back, after a close

friend’s mother passed away from AIDS. “Everyone has the right to live,” Jake Glaser, son of Elizabeth Glaser, said. The younger Glaser, who contracted HIV in utero but currently enjoys a healthy life free of medication, works closely with the foundation to assure that in the future, “organizations like this won’t need to exist.” “We have the meds and technology,” Barker said. To bring about a generation free of HIV “is actually doable, and that is an idea we need to get in people’s heads.” “We have to reach the finish line,” Glaser said. “Which is why I am stoked these kids are down there dancing.” And dance they did. Despite sagging eyes, blistering feet, and wobbling legs, the participants of the 2011 CU Dance Marathon successfully boogied the night away. Regardless of the students’ disheveled appearances emerging from the depths of Lerner on Sunday morning, Mrs. Glaser would likely have thought them gorgeous. She once said, “doing the right thing makes you a beautiful person”

February events celebrate ‘blacknicity’

BY ANDREA FOLDS
Columbia Daily Spectator

The word of the month is “blacknicity”—or at least it is for those celebrating Black History Month. Blacknicity, Columbia’s Black History Month committee’s choice theme, came as a result of the issue that the word “black” usually evokes “race,” while the word’s “ethnicity” connotations get tossed aside. “Oftentimes, when we say ‘black,’ people strip the culture of it,” said Emeka Ekwelum, CC ’12, the social-cultural chair of the Black Students’ Organization. Ekwelum added, “Showing that there’s a culture to being black is one of our [BSO’s] biggest aims.” Several festive events are lined up for the month, from

cultural showcases to political discussions—all of which are “directed towards the black community as well as the other communities we are trying to integrate,” said Khalema Boateng, BC ’11, the Barnard BHM chair. According to BSO President Felicia Bishop, CC ’12., the organization’s usual 9 p.m. Thursday discussions will be “tailored to a cultural celebration” in line with the blacknicity theme. Single students can look ahead to a lively dating game sponsored by BSO that will aim to encourage, as Ekwelum said, “not just black love but love in general. Though, I use that loosely because no one’s participating to find love, it’s just to have fun.” BSO has also planned performances of speeches, monologues, and songs set to take

place on campus sporadically throughout the month. Content will range from Martin Luther King Jr. to Malcolm X, messages which Bishop hopes will inspire students. The Black Theater Ensemble also collaborated with the BHM committee, assisting in the planning of “Arts Day,” which is slated for Feb. 26. “We want to showcase a series of arts,” said Jessica Johnson, CC ’11, president of BTE. “We’re going to have a dance station, a theater station, and potentially an art station. The point is, we will be doing this with students from the Harlem community.” The BHM opening ceremony held last night, Jan. 31, initiated the month of events. The committee’s goal for the night was to get students thinking about the meaning of race in their everyday lives. “We want people to understand the relevance of race—whether you’re black or white—at all times,” Bishop said. “It’s a challenge to get people to do that when you seem to live in a color-blind society.” Although BHM is only 28 short days, it is clear that the groups’ efforts will continue on after February is over. “We like to celebrate blackness every day, not just to be confined [to] 28 days of the year,” Ekwelum said.

Black History Month Calendar of Events

Jan. 31	Opening Ceremony held by Black History Month committee
Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24	BSO Weekly Discussion tailored to Black History Month
Feb. 26	“Arts Day” sponsored by Black Theater Ensemble and Black History Month committee

GRAPHIC BY REBECCA SCHWARZ



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Act, Columbia

BY RHONDA SHAFEI

Something is drastically different in today's Middle East. Populations of varying shapes and sizes are taking politics into their own hands across nations, from Tunisia to Egypt to Jordan, and are writing their own histories. Revolutions—real live revolutions—are taking place, seemingly out of the notice of our Columbia bubble. Buildings are being burned down, tear gas is being thrown, and civilians en masse are being hoarded into interrogation stations in a last-ditch government attempt to restore order. This is the stuff Columbia students of the '60s and '70s dreamt of.

But I can't help but notice how incredibly disinterested our student body is in the events taking place across the Middle East. A government has been toppled in Tunis, and we are witnessing the complete reshaping of Hosni Mubarak's regime in Cairo, a regime American presidencies have buttressed and bolstered for close to 30 years. We have a direct stake in the outcome of these popular moments, regardless of whether you support the millions of Arab citizens who have taken to the streets or not. This is a moment that will mark the beginning of new chapters in textbooks on U.S. politics, Middle Eastern history, and any academic field dealing with either or both.

It is truly remarkable to witness the stark dichotomy of responses to these revolutions on Facebook. My news feed displays the statuses of Arab friends showing solidarity with Egyptians and frustration with the Obama administration—Obama has continuously sided with the Egyptian government, a government he believes has the capabilities to address the grievances of the revolutionary masses. However, the majority of statuses flooding my account relay ordinary student life, void of any popular uprisings in the Middle East. Comments about parties from last night, complaints about the weather, and remarks on funny YouTube videos are the norm.

We all obviously have different interests and priorities. It's easy for me, an Arab studying political history, to chastise peers for taking no interest in a region I've called home for more than 20 years. However, this campus has a precedent of being active and engaged in political issues occurring thousands of miles away. We staged protests when President Ahmadinejad was on campus. We annually hold demonstrations and counter-demonstrations during debates on Palestinian-Israeli affairs. We occupied Broadway and rallied when Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi visited. Is a visit from a leader a prerequisite for taking action? Or can we do something of our volition?

As you post your next Facebook status or tweet what you just had for lunch, take some time to realize that the Internet in Egypt has been completely shut off since Thursday night. What's going on in the Middle East is more serious than many of us have imagined. These events warrant greater attention and consideration, Columbia.

The author is a Columbia College junior majoring in history. She is a former Spectator columnist.

State of our apathy

Last Tuesday night, I decided to leave Butler Library, walk through the cold, and join two other people in my 13th floor Broadway Hall lounge to watch President Obama deliver his State of the Union address. I felt mildly proud and patriotic as I took my seat on the couch, preparing to join the rest of America in hearing the president's agenda for 2011. Throughout the evening, however, many of my fellow floor-mates would emerge from the elevator, nod briefly to the speech-watchers in the lounge, and then walk to their rooms to finish off a long night of homework. With each passing floor-mate, I became more and more anxious and increasingly envious of my classmates for using their time productively. "Why," I thought to myself when the speech finally concluded, "did I spend two hours watching a speech that I could have read about tomorrow?" I had Contemporary Civilization and an American history class the next day. I should have been reading Rousseau and Kenneth Jackson. I had an application for a summer program due the following week, and I should have been working on the essay for it. The Center for Career Education's "Early Bird Gets the Job" message on the sleeve of Blue Java disposable coffee mugs flashed painfully through my mind. I had taken my eye off the ball. I had fallen behind the pack. The other guys wanted it more than I did. "FOR THE LOVE OF ALL THINGS PROMINENT AND SUCCESSFUL," I thought rather loudly to myself, "GO TO YOUR LAPTOP AND START WORKING!"

Then, somewhere in the middle of my Ivy League angst session, I cringed. I was looking out the window when this cringe



NICK BLOOM

Bursting Bubbles from the Inside

occurred. For those not familiar with the 13th floor on Broadway Hall, the lounge overlooks downtown Manhattan to the south and West Harlem to the east. A single 180-degree sweep of the view from this lounge reveals the living and working spaces of millions of people. These millions of people probably have millions of hopes and dreams, I thought, which probably do not include Nick Bloom's struggle for personal success and relevance at Columbia University. This State of the Union address, however, was an instance in which all of these millions of people could have shared an experience together in learning what the direction of the country will be for the next year. While setting aside two hours to watch television may legitimately hinder many Americans' ability to properly take care of their families and keep food on the table, it saddened me to think that at Columbia University, so many of my classmates had decided to skip out on joining the nationwide community in learning the president's plan for our country. Indeed, if it were not for a prod from my roommate before I left for Butler that night, I may not have watched the speech.

We have a responsibility to understand as much as we can about the nature of society.

Certainly, we do have a lot of homework at Columbia, more than most of our friends at other schools. We do also have reason to be personally ambitious—all of us have our talents, and our dreams

are probably loftier than a good portion of those of the young adult population. Finally, it is very easy to take one glance at the front page of the New York Times, see a photo displaying riots in Egypt or a graph depicting skyrocketing jobless rates, and simply throw our hands up and return to our own quests for success.

However, if you find that personal success is truly your biggest source of anxiety, it is imperative that you remember that, as a student at Columbia University, you are already a wildly successful person. As a friend at home said to me over winter break, "You go to school with the future, man." I laughed at him, largely because he told me this at 1 a.m. on Jan. 1, but he was right. We will be the leaders of tomorrow, whether we like it or not. We have a responsibility, therefore, both to our community outside the Columbia gates and to our own sense of space in the world, to understand as much as we can about the nature of the society around us. If we cannot take two hours out of our stress-driven lives to hear the president lay out his goals for the nation, to read one of the free New York Times papers lying all over campus, to volunteer in a neighborhood school, or to do whatever it is that helps us get outside of ourselves and better understand our place in the world, then we have failed to truly take advantage of the unique opportunity that Columbia gives us. Indeed, unless we are able to step outside of the grind of our own personal lives while we are at this place of boundless freedom and opportunity that is Columbia University, we will maintain our self-centered view as we plow into the work force and become influential members of society.

Nick Bloom is a Columbia College sophomore majoring in English with a history concentration. He is a programmer at WKCR. Bursting Bubbles from the Inside runs alternate Tuesdays.

The delusion of today's conservative

BY PETER ANDREWS AND CHARLIE STARR

Gina Ciancone and Domenic DeSocio's recent op-ed in the pages of this newspaper ("The dilution of today's conservatism," Jan. 27) shocked us—not only for the extreme views on the nature of "conservatism" presented as fact, but for the decidedly unserious strategy they present for solving the problems that face the United States.

Let's set aside for a second the argument that programs and departments such as Social Security, Medicare, and the Department of Education are "unconstitutional" and worthy of elimination—an extreme suggestion that is far outside the mainstream, not to mention groundless in modern constitutional law.

The deepest insight into the mistaken mindset of the "true conservative" can be seen in the focus the authors place on arguing that Republicans must become "a party of real conservatives for the 2012 election."

The authors mistakenly assume that the character of U.S. citizens is overwhelmingly

conservative, committed to a series of libertarian and ideological principles. Rather, voters place their trust in politicians who are serious about taking care of the issues facing the nation.

Our country faces very real issues, and the only winners—or losers—will be the citizens of this nation.

In describing the Tea Party's relationship to the Republican Party, the authors also entirely distort the true purpose of political parties—to gather, mediate, and synthesize similar yet inconsistent views. That "outspokenly conservative viewpoints are being stifled in the party's legislation" is not "frightening," but rather expected—and frankly, reassuring.

Politics is not simply a sport, a game where the winner is determined by ideological purity. Our country faces very real and very serious issues both now and in the years to come, and the only winners—or losers—will be the citizens of this nation.

President Obama—regardless of what you may think of his policies—has proven over the last two years that he is deeply serious about solving the problems this country faces over the years to come, a theme he reinforced in last Tuesday's State of the Union address. For members of the Republican Party to advocate "no compromise" is to advocate an abdication of the responsibilities of government.

Tea Party Republicans should feel free not to compromise. It will do nothing more than provide further evidence that the "intense conservative" is willing to risk the future of his country to be able to boast his ideological purity. And it will, thankfully, wash out those members of Congress who do not take seriously their responsibilities to continue working, in good faith, to create a more perfect union.

Peter Andrews is a Columbia College first-year. Charlie Starr is a SEAS first-year.

Orienting oneself

Dear past and future first-years,

I am in the orientation program of my study abroad program at the moment. I was incredibly nervous for this portion of the next five months, because during my first year, I hated orientation (and by "orientation," I mean "the first part of school wherein I did not feel like I had any business being at

Columbia—beginning with orientation week and continuing through the first semester"). I am not the only one who has felt this way. I did not know that at the time, but I should have. And if you're reading this and it's applicable to your experience, you should have known it too.

I had wanted to go to Columbia for years and years prior to actually entering the gates as a prefrish. I wanted it to be everything I had always wanted it to be. I wanted to meet people who were interesting and exciting and fantastic friends. I wanted to be challenged academically. I wanted to feel like I was a part of Columbia and that Columbia was a part of me. And I did all of those things. But, none of them were accomplished during orientation.

Part of the problem, I think, is that I put so much pressure on the immediate beginning, and, consequently, on myself. But a larger part is that I earnestly and honestly believed that I was the only person on campus who was having a difficult time. But I wasn't. I thought everyone loved orientation and freshman year from the start, but it wasn't until over the course of the next two years that I learned that others had felt the same way. And even now, I cannot help but think that it would have been so much easier if we had all been honest with each other. Not to have cried into each other's arms



EMILY TAMKIN

Foreign Correspondence

upon first meeting, of course, but to have somehow communicated that we were not all, in fact, having the best time of our lives—or, at least, to have somehow known it. I still wish I had known that. More importantly, I still wish that others had known that too.

I was originally going to write this column about how allowing oneself to not love orientation makes orientation itself easier. But it doesn't. It's hard to make complete sense of meeting new people and living in a new place that you've spent years wanting to be a part of and desperately hoping for. This is not a problem for everyone, but for some (or at least for me), it is. And that is fine.

Maybe you're studying abroad and feeling lost overseas (or at sea, if you're on that program that's on a boat—but that is beyond the scope of this column). Maybe you're a first-year and feel like your entire beginning was a hellacious continuation of orientation. Maybe you're a sophomore, a junior, or a senior, and remember what this feels like, too. Regardless, if this does apply to you, try to remind yourself from time to time that you are not the only person in the history of College Walk (or St. Petersburg, or Budapest, or that program on a boat, or wherever you are) to have ever gone through what you're going through. The only advice I can give (which, shockingly, does not include instructions on writing self-reflective columns in your hotel room when you should be packing to move in with your host family, but do as I say, not as I do) is: Have patience with the place that you're in.

More importantly, have patience with yourself.

From Russia with love,
Emily

Emily Tamkin is a Columbia College junior majoring in Russian literature and cultures. She is studying abroad in St. Petersburg this semester. She is a former Spectator editorial page editor. Foreign Correspondence runs alternate Tuesdays.

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2	6	9	5	7	1	3	8	4
1	5	8	4	3	9	6	7	2
6	4	7	3	9	8	2	5	1
8	9	1	2	6	5	4	3	7
5	2	3	1	4	7	8	9	6
9	3	2	8	1	4	7	6	5
7	8	5	9	2	6	1	4	3
4	1	6	7	5	3	9	2	8

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3	2		7	8		9		5
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	8	5						3
6						7	9	
				5				
1				8	6			
9		7		6	1		4	2

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Aditya Mukerjee, President

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 One in charge
5 Ticketless rail rider
9 Resell at a major markup
14 Pirate's syllables
15 Bean product?
16 More virtuous
17 Coach's progame lecture
19 University of Maine town
20 Raptor's roost
21 Late-night Jay
23 Distant Anais
24 Home seller-and-buyer's short-term loan
28 TV revue since '75
29 Acting instructor's dog... perhaps
30 Start to knock?
34 Pop music's Lady ____
37 Surround securely
41 1929 women's air race, as dubbed by Will Rogers
44 Rail rider
45 1944 invasion city
46 Spot for a hoop
47 WWII espionage gp.
49 Oktoberfest cry
51 Production number director's cry
60 Gambling letters
61 Gambling city
62 Assumed identity
63 Absolut rival, for short
65 Summer shindig, and a hint to the starts of 17-, 24-, 41- and 51-Across
68 Fruit served in balls
69 Way to store pik
70 Prepare for a shot
71 Speak at length
72 Soup veggies
73 Job opening

DOWN

1 How many city folks travel
2 Fireworks watcher
3 Puppeteer Lewis
4 Three-dimensional
5 Wallop
6 Harlem room
7 Attorney Melvin
8 Like wine barrels
9 Pampered
10 Mangy mongrel
11 Rice ____
12 Bolshevik leader
13 Plug projection
18 Tapped barrels
22 '60s-'70s service site, briefly
25 Certain Caltech grad: Abbr.
26 Envelope parts
27 Desert mount
30 Well-chosen
31 Fish-fowl connection
32 Bygone intl. carrier
33 Jerk
35 Ineffective, as a feeling
36 Company with a web-footed spokesperson
38 Short relative?

39 Recede
40 Change, as one's locks?
42 Elect to a Hall of Fame, say
43 Nina of "Spartacus"
48 "What did I tell you?"
50 Disorderly mound
51 Women's mag
52 Put into words
53 African virus
54 "Hop ____": Dr. Seuss book
55 ABC's Arledge
56 High-fives, e.g.
57 Divided Austrian state
58 Joe's "Midnight Cowboy" pal
59 Up to this point
64 Subdivision unit
66 Andean tuber
67 Mormons' gp.

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MELTS	AMMO	PLEA
AGASP	BABA	AUNT
COMPANY	CAR	LIDO
ESP	MESA	WAGON
PLAYS	WITH	FIRE
APOLLO	TAYE	
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wordeditor@aol.com 02/01/11

Basketball isn't Columbia's only sport

There's a team at Columbia that's doing way better than it was picked to do, and is ready to make some serious noise in the Ivy League. You know this team, right? If you think it's the men's basketball team, you're wrong. Sure, they've been getting a lot of coverage in this paper and on gocolumbiaions.com, but there are other teams out there that have been doing well and deserve some attention too.

First, let's look at the men's basketball team. Sure, the team is already more than half way to their 2009-2010 Ivy win total of five with three wins already this spring, but look at who they've beat. They swept Cornell, which would have been an accomplishment last year, but Cornell is awful this year, and with good reason. They lost three of the top five players in the league to graduation (all of whom were named to the 2009-2010 all-Ivy first team) and lost their head coach to Boston College. Cornell can't beat anyone this year. They are 4-14 and 0-4 in conference play. Sure, any win is a good win in the Ivies, and any road win is really a good win, but how much are wins over terrible teams worth? Same thing goes for Dartmouth. They were picked to finish last in the preseason poll, have a new head coach this year, and the only Ivy squad they beat this year is Cornell. Columbia has only played one good team this spring, Harvard, and while they stayed close for a half, Harvard pulled away in the second half, winning comfortably 77-66.

The women's basketball team has also been making some noise. Sure, they had that whole 0-13 start to the season, but no one really cares about the non-conference record do they? They are 2-2 in Ivy play, have won three out of their last five games, and would be 3-1 in Ivy play if it weren't for a last-second jumper that won the game for Harvard. What's that, you didn't know that the women's team was playing well also? Oh, you also didn't know that the last-second loss was at home, and probably the most exciting game that Leven Gymnasium has seen this spring? All of the team's Ivy games have been decided by seven points or less, so do yourself a favor and check out the other team that plays in Leven.

There's more, you ask? Why yes, there is! The men's squash team, which along with the women's squash team is a new addition to Columbia athletics this year, is 8-2 and has won three in a row. The women's team is 9-2 this year in an effort to one-up the men. In truth, neither of these teams is ready to compete in the Ivy League, which boasts six teams in the top 10 for men, and seven for the women (in another apparent effort to one-up their male counterparts). Nevertheless, they don't play too far away (40 West 116th St.), both are ranked in the top 20 nationally, and you want to be able to say that you watched these guys play before they become the "next big thing."

The men's tennis team looks good as always. No. 1 singles player Haig Schneiderman, in his last two official matches, has split sets with two of the top players in the nation. One was once ranked the No. 1 recruit in the nation (and ranked as high as No. 8 in the nation in college) and the other was the runner-up in the National Collegiate Athletic Association singles tournament last spring.



KUNAL GUPTA

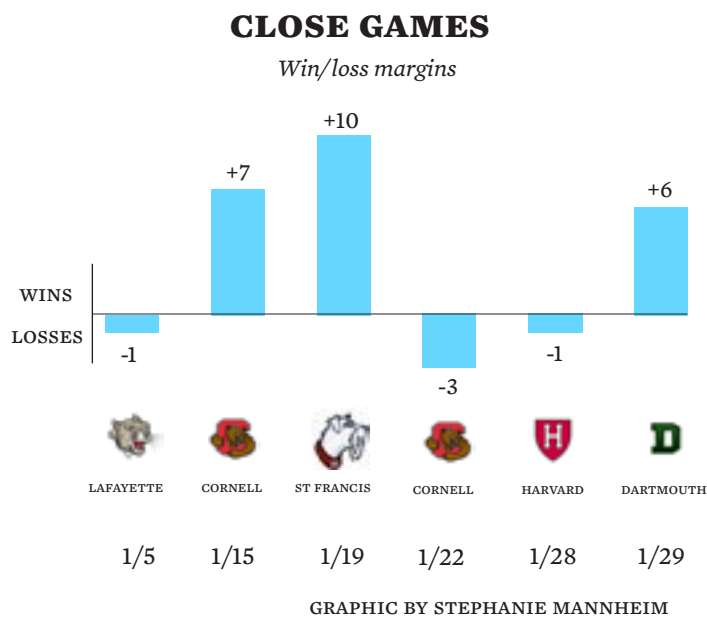
The Phanatic

Last minutes of games may prove decisive for Lions



KATE SCARBROUGH / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

IN THE CLUTCH | Taylor Ward has been a clutch player, with last-minute baskets in several games.



Harvard, Princeton, Penn remain undefeated

BY REBEKA COHAN
Spectator Staff Writer

This weekend marked the first full conference weekend for every team in the Ancient Eight. Harvard, Penn, and Princeton remained undefeated in league play, and Cornell and Brown fell to 0-4.



YALE 58, PENN 66

The Bulldogs (9-9, 2-2 Ivy) traveled to Philadelphia Friday evening to play Penn (8-8, 2-0 Ivy) in the Quaker's Ivy season opener. The game began slowly for Yale, as Penn began to tack on an 18-point lead. However, Yale started to catch up, and at halftime only trailed 35-24.

The Bulldogs came back in the second period. Yale hit the first four points in the second half, cutting the Red and Blue's lead to only seven. With 7:36 left to play, junior forward Greg Mangano—who was Yale's leading scorer with 20 points—hit a jumper, putting the Bulldogs within four. However, Penn answered with an 11-5 run. Senior guard Tyler Bernardini hit four free throws in the final 44 seconds to seal the win for Penn.

BROWN 78, PENN 80

Senior Jack Eggleston recorded a career-high 25 points in the Quakers' close win over the Bears (7-11, 0-4 Ivy) this Saturday.

The Red and Blue trailed Brown after eight minutes of play and the Bears slowly pulled away, eventually holding a 37-29 lead. Penn managed to pull itself within three but Brown took a seven-point advantage into halftime. In the second half, Penn never went ahead. The Bears led 73-71 with 47 seconds of playing time left, and a layup by Penn senior center Conor Turley sent the contest into overtime, where the Red and Blue slowly pulled away, leading 78-73 after two-and-a-half minutes of playing. The Bears managed to pull within two points with 47 seconds to go, but weren't able to overcome the Quakers for the win.

BROWN 60, PRINCETON 78

Princeton (14-4, 2-0 Ivy) began its Ivy League opener with a crushing victory over the Bears Friday evening. Brown was leading 17-10 eight minutes into the first half, but the Tigers took over the lead four minutes later after senior forward Kareem

SEE AROUND THE LEAGUE, page 2

BY SARAH SOMMER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The good: After going 0-12 through November and December, the Columbia women's basketball team went 3-3 in January. The bad: The Lions went 3-3 when they had the chance to go 6-0.

Don't believe that? Check the final scores of Columbia's January games. In addition to earning three wins, the Lions suffered two one-point losses and one three-point loss.

Against Lafayette on Jan. 5, Columbia took a 61-60 lead with 58 seconds left and a 63-60 lead with 16 seconds remaining. But Lafayette scored with 10 seconds left to make the score 63-62, and the Lions turned the ball over on their ensuing inbounds play. That turnover led to a Lafayette layup with 3.5 seconds remaining.

Columbia then inbounded the ball successfully and got it past midcourt before calling a timeout with 0.8 seconds left. After a deflection by Lafayette, Columbia kept the ball, this time with 0.2 seconds on the clock. Senior center Lauren Dwyer was unable to score at the buzzer, however, and Columbia endured a heartbreaking 64-63 loss.

The Lions found themselves in another close game on Jan. 22, when they trailed Cornell by one point with 1:12 left. Columbia had two chances to take a 52-51 lead in the final minute, but the Lions could not finish their shots. Freshman guard Brianna Orlich was called for a travel when attempting a layup with 44 seconds left, and senior guard Kathleen Barry barely missed a jumper with 1.5 seconds left. Cornell hit two free throws in the final second and earned a 53-50 victory.

Against Harvard on Jan. 28, Columbia held a 66-63 advantage with 1:23 remaining. After the Crimson took a 67-66 lead,

Columbia responded by going ahead 68-67 when freshman guard Taylor Ward hit a layup with 13 seconds left. But, as they did against Lafayette, the Lions failed to hold onto their lead in the final seconds of the game. Harvard scored with 3.5 seconds left, and a last-second jumper from Barry did not fall for Columbia.

"I thought the team definitely played hard enough to win, I thought we worked all week in practice to get a really solid game plan that would put us in good position to come out with a win tonight, and I thought we played hard enough for 39 minutes and 55 seconds to get that done," head coach Paul Nixon said after the game.

The Lions nearly suffered a loss against Dartmouth the following night. After leading by 13 points in the second half, Columbia let Dartmouth get within three points on two occasions in the final minute. The Lions benefited from clutch free throws by sophomore forward Tyler Simpson, junior guard Melissa Shafer, and Ward down the stretch. When the game ended, Columbia had achieved a 67-61 win.

"I'm just, obviously, extremely pleased to come away with a victory," Nixon said in a postgame interview. "We've had situations before ... where we've let a team kind of come back at the end on us like that and actually pull ahead and take the game. So I was very pleased to see us step up, handle the pressure at the end."

The Lions also handled Cornell on Jan. 15 and St. Francis (N.Y.) on Jan. 19, withstanding second-half rallies by both opponents. Columbia earned a 61-54 win over Cornell and a 75-65 win over St. Francis.

Based on the Lions' experiences in January, predicting how they will fare in the rest of Ivy play is almost impossible. The outcome of each of Columbia's last 10 Ivy games could easily remain uncertain until the final buzzer sounds.

