

Secretary of State responds to calls for CU scholar’s release



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

JAILED | Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said her department continues to lobby for the release of faculty member Kian Tajbakhsh.

Clinton says charges against faculty member are ‘groundless’

BY AMBER TUNNELL
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has responded to the letter sent in January by Columbia faculty regarding the detainment of scholar Kian Tajbakhsh in Iran.

A Columbia faculty member in the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, Tajbakhsh was supposed to assume his faculty position in September 2009 but was arrested in Iran during the aftermath of the elections this past summer. On Jan. 11, members of the Columbia faculty sent a letter to Clinton asking for her

help in obtaining Tajbakhsh’s release from prison. The letter was delivered to Clinton by Barnard Slavic professor Catharine Nepomnyashchy, who also signed the letter.

The letter is dated Feb. 1. In Clinton’s response, she said that the State Department’s Bureau of Consular Affairs has been in contact with Tajbakhsh’s family since July, and has urged Iranian authorities to allow Swiss officials to visit him.

“To, date, Iranian authorities have not granted consular access, noting that Dr. Tajbakhsh is an Iranian citizen under Iranian laws,” Clinton wrote.

“The espionage charges leveled

against Dr. Tajbakhsh are groundless,” she added.

In October, Tajbakhsh received a 15-year jail sentence for allegedly threatening national security and spying, though he appealed the sentence. Last Wednesday, the Iranian appellate court reduced his sentence to five years.

“The State Department is using every available diplomatic tool to achieve Dr. Tajbakhsh’s release. We continue to communicate our concern about his welfare and have asked other governments to urge the Iranian government to release him without further delay,” she wrote.

But some faculty members were

worried about Iran’s response to the State Department’s requests.

Tanya Domi, an adjunct professor at the School of International and Public Affairs who signed the letter to Clinton, wrote in an email, “I was concerned to read that the Iranian authorities have not permitted the Swiss consular interest section to visit Kian, insisting he is an Iranian citizen, thus ignoring his U.S. citizenship.” Further adding that the Swiss consular interests represent U.S. concerns to the Iranian government since the U.S. does not have diplomatic

SEE CLINTON, page 2

SHOUT aims to improve local health education

BY RAY KATZ
Spectator Staff Writer

When Silvia Puma, CC ’10 and Anna Newman, BC ’12—coordinators of the Community Impact group Student Health Outreach—asked a group of local middle school students what being healthy meant, the results astounded them.

“A lot of the answers we got back were like, ‘Being healthy is being skinny,’ or ‘Being healthy is not eating,’” Puma said. “And it was something that really shocked us.”

The answers given prompted Puma and Newman to spearhead a new health education initiative titled Health Education and Resources for Teens, a program aimed specifically at nutrition education and outreach that is set to take off next week.

“We looked at the NYS [New York schools] standards for HE [health education] and they were pretty much nonexistent,” Newman said.

The program began when Puma and Newman attempted to change the school’s lunch menu to include healthier options, culminating in the survey to students.

“Some said they didn’t eat lunch,” Puma said. “They didn’t know how to distinguish between good and healthy foods.”

State law mandates that middle school students receive a half-year course in health education and high school students a half-unit course, and the curriculum recommended by the New York City Department of Education includes issues such as nutrition and physical fitness, HIV, STD and

pregnancy prevention, and tobacco, alcohol, and drug prevention.

At the Mott Hall School where Puma and Newman work, health education is taught exclusively in the seventh grade for one 45-minute period a week, according to Melanie Thai, the school’s assistant principal. Nutrition, she said, is a part of the curriculum, but since the class is taught so sporadically, bringing in a supplementary curriculum is important for students.

Thai further explained that the nutrition education that will be provided by the volunteers is “definitely” something that is missing from most public schools. “That’s why we didn’t say no.”

But she also added that such programs would only be beneficial if scheduled in the early morning or after school, and not during hours when regular classes are held—indicating that health education should not come at the expense of academic subjects.

“We are accountable for test scores,” Thai said. “Our primary job is to make sure these kids do well in English and math. Health, art and music are on my second list of priorities, to be honest.”

According to some nutrition education advocates, it is precisely this attitude towards health education that accounts for it receiving limited resources.

“It comes down to the fact that health education is taken as light and a joke, which devalues it,” said Alicia Sinclair, an assistant professor in the Department of Health,

SEE HEALTH ED, page 2

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



EMBRY OWEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

TAKE THE STAGE | Dancers rehearsed a piece by a contemporary choreographer as part of the Columbia Ballet Collaborative. See page 3.

NEWS BRIEF

School of the Arts student hit by the 1 train

Early Saturday morning Justin Grace, a student at the School of the Arts, was hit by the 1 train while trying to retrieve a backpack that had fallen into the tracks.

Grace suffered injuries to his head and lower body, but escaped any major trauma.

“My upper body is totally fine, but it spun me around and my head smashed against a pillar,” he said. “But besides that I came out completely unscathed, no brain damage.”

Grace was knocked unconscious by the train but doesn’t remember the events directly preceding the accident because of the blow to his head. His knowledge of what happened that morning is from eyewitness accounts.

Witnesses say he dropped his backpack into the tracks

and jumped down to retrieve it. Grace says he isn’t sure if he had gotten stuck down in the tracks or if he jumped immediately in front of the train.

Grace was on his way to catch a 6:30 a.m. bus to visit his girlfriend in Boston. He had just participated in a comedy show and had gone to a couple of parties, but he said he “was lucid throughout the entire night” before being hit by the train.

He also emphasized that the incident was not the fault of the Metropolitan Transit Authority. “The guy driving the train saw me and stopped. It wasn’t the MTA’s fault, it was totally on me,” he said.

Grace got staples and stitches for a laceration on his head, but didn’t have a concussion, only suffering minor

injuries to his pelvis and lower body. He was rushed to St. Luke’s Hospital and kept overnight for observation.

Grace said his friends from Columbia showed up “in full force” to support him after the incident. “I’m so completely lucky and I can’t even believe it. ... It’s really scary how close I came to dying,” he said.

“The one weird thing is, I’m the least spiritual person in the entire world, however, that day was the third anniversary of my father’s death. If someone was looking out for me, that’s the only reason I could figure I’m alive,” he said.

Grace graduated from Columbia College last spring. He is currently studying film at the School of the Arts.

—Elizabeth Scott

New policies combat dorm room pests

BY PAUL HSIAO
Spectator Staff Writer

Students may complain of pervasive pest problems, but Columbia officials insist that its new pest control measures countered the trend.

Last October, a task force of representatives from University Purchasing, the Medical Center, and the Morningside campus established a new pest control policy that employs four outside vendors, two of whom work on the Morningside campus—one with Residential and Commercial Operations, and the other with the Medical Center—in a three-year contract. Columbia University Facilities manages the pest control services.

The policy stresses the use of preventative measures, focusing on preserving buildings and facilitating quick repairs, as opposed to traditional methods of using baits and traps. According to

Heather Tsonopoulos, manager of Marketing and Communications, University Housing Services is taking steps to curb pests in dorms.

“The staff of Housing Services and Facilities are committed to an effective and efficient response to students who suspect they may have pests,” she said.

She also said that a more effective measure of getting rid of pests in the long-term is to repair cracks, crevices, holes, and other openings that encourages pest access.

But according to students, the pest problem is still pervasive, especially in the Living and Learning Center housed in Wallach and Hartley Halls.

The infrastructure may be beginning to reflect its age, as some students say they are forced to cover up holes on their own.

“I saw a mouse in my room in the middle of the night,” Sarah Gitlin, CC ’13, said. “The exterminator put about five traps in my room.”

Students also argued that the

presence of pests is intolerable considering the price of facilities.

“It’s just really frustrating because we paid for the housing. We paid a lot, and I think we should have access to better facilities and a better response from housing when there are problems like this,” Komal Kotahri, CC ’12, said.

Jeff Kandel, CC ’12, agreed. “Particularly not when we’re paying full tuition and housing,” he said. “To be realistic, mice are relatively acceptable. I hear there are rats on the second floor that would be almost unacceptable.”

Kothari lives on the second floor of Wallach where two girls moved out due to mice running around their room.

“There are holes, most of them are behind the stove units in the kitchen. ... Housing came and put plastic over, then the mice gnawed through,” he said. “Today a cleaning lady came and

SEE PESTS, page 2

INSIDE

A&E, page 3

Student fashion intern enjoys high-profile perks

Harper’s Bazaar intern Ellie Krupnick, BC ’11, has a unique insider perspective on Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week—she has explored the tents at Bryant Park and sat alongside the rich and famous at runway shows.



Sports, back page

Men’s basketball wins road game at Penn

Columbia defeated Penn on the road the day after Penn’s upset of previously undefeated Cornell. Lions’ Niko Scott led the way, scoring a career-high 29 points on 10 of 14 shooting. Scott also shot 7 of 9 from 3-point range.

Opinion, page 4

A foreign concept

Amin Ghadimi wonders what’s in a nation.

A problem in theory

Dean Moody-Adams may have neatly reconciled the theory of college with the practice of the outside world, but can Columbia students?

Today’s Events

Hijabi Monologues

Islamic Awareness Week kicks off with a female performance group. Lerner Party Space, 7 p.m.

Pathway to Sustainability

A night of conservation and green initiatives. Low Library, 6 p.m.

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WEATHER

Today Tomorrow
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State dept. responds to faculty

CLINTON from front page

relations with Iran.

“Not permitting Kian to meet with Swiss diplomatic representatives could be in violation of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. Iran is obligated to notify the Swiss Consular section whenever an American citizen has been detained by its authorities. This is of great concern to me,” Domi said.

Some faculty members were surprised that Clinton responded, and said they were satisfied with her response.

“Our primary objective in writing to Secretary Clinton is to keep Kian’s situation and his illegal imprisonment on the front burner of the State Department’s priorities,” Domi said. “I think we have achieved that objective given Secretary Clinton’s response to us.”

“I wasn’t expecting to get a letter from Hillary Clinton,” Nepomnyashchy said, but was pleased to see a response.

Clinton has “been very on top of this,” she said, adding that the most important thing to her was keeping the pressure on the Iranian government.

“Her quick response tells me her office is fully engaged on Kian’s case,” Domi said. She added that the faculty received an almost immediate confirmation of receipt when their letter was sent in January.

The letter to Clinton was signed by 20 Columbia faculty members, including Dean John Coatsworth of SIPA; Dean Nicholas Lemann of the Columbia Journalism School; Dean Peter Awn of the School of General Studies and director of SIPA’s Middle East Institute; Elazar Barkan, director of the Center for the Study of Human Rights; and Iranian scholar Gary Sick.

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CU students push for school health education

HEALTH ED from front page

Physical Education and Dance at Queensborough Community College, and former co-president of The Greater New York Society of Public Health Education.

At the same time, she said that, in light of larger issues that public schools face, this attitude is not surprising, and neither is the ostensible lack of advocacy on the part of parents for their children’s health education. What has gained the attention of grassroots advocates, she added, are issues like inadequately healthy school lunches, and their children’s lack of physical activity.

HEART is one of a few Columbia student-run volunteer programs that are seeking to fill

the health education gaps that exist in local public school curricula. Peer Health Exchange, a nationally run program that recruits college students to teach in local high schools, and Health Education and Awareness League are among the others. HEAL student educators teach comprehensive health education to the middle school students of the Frederick Douglass Academy in Harlem, a school that previously had no other form of health education.

Next Monday, the seven student volunteers from HEART will begin teaching classes five days a week at Mott Hall, ensuring that each seventh grade class receives one lesson a week.

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Students say rodents still prevalent in housing

PESTS from front page

they [the roommates] found a mice in a trap.”

But a cursory glance at the second floor of Wallach shows a messy suite. While Housing did put up a sign asking members to remove any personal items from the kitchen in order to close up the holes, the sign was apparently ignored.

“The suite is overall kinda dirty,” Kothari admitted.

“I just make sure I clean all my dishes thoroughly and it doesn’t seem to bother me,” Dylan Liu, SEAS ’13, said.

Housing requires a “satisfactory” level of cleanliness to be maintained throughout the school year and that “all residents in suites must discard kitchen trash and clear off counters daily,” according to the official Columbia University Housing website.

“I don’t think it’s Housing’s fault,” Sueminn Cho, CC ’13, said. “It’s mostly because the students aren’t clean. People here leave food out, and there is a lot of trouble as a group keeping it clean.”

news@columbiaspectator.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FEB. & MAR.

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	01	02	03	04	05	06
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	01	02	03	04	05	06
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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02/16
TUESDAY
QUIET REVOLUTIONS
Postcolonial Women's Writings and Structures of Solidarity
12 PM
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

02/22
MONDAY
MERCE CUNNINGHAM & HIS LEGACY AS A TEACHER
7 PM
Julius S. Held Auditorium, 304 Barnard Hall

02/23
TUESDAY
WRITING THE OUTSIDER
Perspectives from Spain
6:00 PM
Ella Weed Room, 2nd Floor Milbank Hall

02/25
THURSDAY
RECOVERING FROM THE GREAT RECESSION
Barnard's Economic Experts Weigh In
12:30 PM
James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

STRANGERS IN PARADISE
Religion, Politics and Identity in New Migrant Communities
7 PM
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall


02/27
SATURDAY
FEMINISM & CLIMATE CHANGE
9:00 AM–6:00 PM
Registration in Barnard Hall Lobby

03/02
TUESDAY
FRENCH
The Logical Language and Problems of Translation
6 PM
Ella Weed Room, 2nd Floor Milbank Hall

03/03
WEDNESDAY
REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE IN ACTION
6:30 PM
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

03/04–03/06
THURSDAY–SATURDAY
SENIOR THESIS FESTIVAL 2010
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CBC keeps up-and-coming choreographers on their toes

BY HANNA OLDSMAN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Some of this spring’s most exciting new ballets will be performed not at Lincoln Center, but at Columbia.

DANCE The Columbia Ballet Collaborative, which was founded three years ago by students and former professional dancers who wanted to create opportunities for dancers at Columbia, has recently begun to rehearse for its spring season. The performances will take place at Miller Theatre on April 9 and 10 and will involve 25 dancers and seven choreographers, including Monique Meunier, Emery LeCrone, Lauren Birnbaum, Claudia Schreier, and John-Mark Owen.

Two of the choreographers, Justin Peck and Kimi Nikaidoh, are students at the School of General Studies. In addition to his studies, Peck dances for the New York City Ballet and is choreographing a ballet to music composed by Sufjan Stevens and arranged by the Osso String Quartet. Two New York City Ballet dancers, Russell Janzen and principal dancer Teresa Reichlen, a part-time student at Barnard, will perform his piece.

For Peck, both CBC and Columbia have helped to launch his career as a choreographer. Last year, he made his choreographic debut in CBC’s performances at Miller Theatre. Soon after that, he was invited



ON POINTE | Dancers rehearse on a Saturday afternoon with one of the choreographers participating in the Columbia Ballet Collaborative.

EMBRY OWEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

to choreograph a piece, titled “Quintet,” for the New York Choreographic Institute.

Peck also said that Columbia’s music library serves as a wonderful resource. The library’s extensive range of music recordings

allow him to “explore the possibilities of making dance to all kinds of composers from all kinds of eras” and have “access to everything from medieval chants all the way up to modern day neoclassical works.” Peck

said his choreographic process is “inspired and provoked” by the music he uses: when he first begins a piece, he reads through the score and begins to sketch out his ideas before beginning to work with his dancers.

Peck said that one of the best things about CBC is “the value placed on the constant creation of new works.”

Another CBC choreographer contributing to the program is Monique Meunier, a former

dancer with the New York City Ballet who also choreographed a piece for CBC last term. At Meunier’s second rehearsal this semester, the five participating dancers and the choreographer were focused and animated as they reviewed the choreography set the week before and began to learn new combinations. Meunier’s choreography is tricky, with a lot of fast footwork to learn and an unconventional quality of movement to adapt to, but the dancers rose readily to the challenge.

By bringing in choreographers with innovative visions, Victoria North, GS—the artistic director of CBC—hopes not only to create an exciting and cohesive program to be performed in April, but also to give the dancers of CBC the opportunity to dance in contemporary works. North said that the club’s dancers benefit from close relationships with the choreographers—an experience that is unusual at many other professional ballet companies.

Most importantly, though, North said that one of CBC’s primary missions is to introduce the Columbia community to new works, like Meunier’s and Peck’s, that they might not otherwise see.

“From the start, CBC has been committed to bringing ballet and contemporary ballet works to campus and providing a platform for emerging choreographers, whether students or professionals,” she said.



MATT SHERMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FASHION FRENZY | Ellie Krupnick gets an insider’s look at Fashion Week as an intern at major fashion magazine Harper’s Bazaar.

Krupnick, BC ’11, works Fashion Week in style

BY VIVIAN LUO
Columbia Daily Spectator

Not everyone is able to land an internship at a top fashion magazine, attend fashion shows at the famous Bryant Park **STYLE** tents, or spot the infamous Mary-Kate Olsen roaming around New York City. However, Ellie Krupnick, BC ’11, did all of these things by the end of her first day as a fashion features intern at the magazine Harper’s Bazaar.

The fashion features department at Harper’s Bazaar may be small, but that’s good news for Krupnick. She acts as a “right-hand woman” to Anne Monoky, the fashion features editor at the magazine. Such a job might seem reminiscent of Anne Hathaway’s character and her frantic coffee runs in the movie *The Devil Wears Prada*, but a fashion internship entails perks that more than compensate for the less-than-glamorous errands.

Previously, as an intern at Seventeen magazine, Krupnick was offered a ticket to a Benjamin Cho spring show. Although Benjamin Cho is not as big of a name as Christian Dior or Bottega Venetta, Krupnick was able to spot her own set of celebrities. “When the lights came up and we were watching everyone go out, I went down the line of who was sitting in the front row and ... there was an Olsen twin,” Krupnick said. “It was Mary-Kate, and I couldn’t even focus on any of the clothes at all, because I was just staring at Mary-Kate!”

With the current Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week madness, it’s no surprise that fashion blogs and Twitter pages alike are exploding with hourly updates. But what happens behind

the scenes both in preparation for and during this highly anticipated fashion frenzy? Krupnick unwraps fashion invites, RSVPs for shows, and books hotels for editors flying in from out of town. In terms of preparation, she said, “It’s really fashion month ... the actual week of Fashion Week, at least in New York, is very quiet and silent because no one’s there.”

Krupnick may not get to attend high-profile shows, but she still gets to dress up for Fashion Week. “I definitely think everyone has those items in their closet, their more fashionable pieces, like their extra little blazer, the little booties that you know will be right every time, so it’s definitely just putting together a combination of those things that are fool-proof,” Krupnick said.

For anyone attending Fashion Week, Krupnick gave the wise advice that “it’s very much about walking in flats and bringing your heels.”

Last Friday, Krupnick had the chance to sit in the front row for the Christian Siriano show in Bryant Park. She sat next to and met Andy Cohen, Bravo television network’s senior vice president of production and programming.

Other than sitting alongside the biggest names in entertainment, Krupnick said that what’s ultimately most striking about the events at Bryant Park is “the ease with which you can walk into a tent, which kind of makes you want to sneak into everything.” Potential targets for snooping are Alexander Wang and Proenza Schouler. A last word to fashionistas dying to attend shows: “Just dress up, walk with purpose, and they’ll let you into the tent!”

Anna Cooperberg-Gonzalez contributed reporting to this article.

Rich, toasty porter is one of winter’s beer necessities

BY CLAIRE BULLEN
Columbia Daily Spectator

Dark and swarthy with a foamy head, porter is a beer best sipped slowly, perfect for students bored with more frat-house-style brews.

FOOD & DRINK

Though once favored as the morning beverage of choice among the porters working in London’s produce markets in the 19th century, the porter ale style only barely survived a period of near-extinction in the 20th century. The heavy porter fell out of fashion in the United Kingdom when the pale ale gained favor, and Prohibition almost completely wiped out porter production in the United States. Only during the renaissance of American microbreweries in the 1990s did porter once again emerge as curious and enterprising brewers, tiring of India Pale Ales, looked to expand their repertoires to include more uncommon styles.

Porter is lightly hopped, and it is defined by its roasted barley malt flavor and resultant notes of chocolate, caramel, and espresso. Only a shade less potent than the stout, its near cousin, the porter is an ideal winter brew, toothsome and deeply flavorful. Though the brew’s intensity can sometimes make food pairings tricky, heavy meat-based stews are rich and unctuous enough to support a porter’s power.

So where do we begin when sampling the porters available in Morningside Heights? Westside Market stocks Anchor Brewing Company’s Anchor Porter. Hailing from Northern California, Anchor Brewing Company produces a notably pitch-perfect porter of stout-like intensity—chewy and richly full-bodied with an aftertaste of toasted malt and molasses. It’s a creamy brew with a lasting foam head that leaves lace-like tracery along the insides of a glass. Overall, it’s beautifully balanced

despite its complex flavoring.

Though already redolent of coffee and chocolate flavors, some porters are often spiced up by actual cocoa, coffee, and vanilla beans during the brewing process to impart even stronger flavor. Whole Foods Market sells a decent example of such a porter, Wolaver’s Alta Gracia Coffee Porter by Vermont’s Otter Creek Brewing. Punched up by shade-grown organic coffee from the Dominican Republic, the porter’s smooth malt flavor gives way to a caffeine-jolted simmer at the

taste’s conclusion, leaving behind a bitter, haunting smokiness.

For the brave of stomach, Flying Dog, a brewery hailing from Maryland, produces a porter of unparalleled intensity: the Gonzo Imperial Porter. Complete with a Hunter S. Thompson-inspired label, the porter is deep black and bitter with only the subtlest trailing caramel notes. It’s a porter that shows the true versatility of the genre—whether erly drinkable and chocolatey or darkly potent, porters show off a brewer’s creativity and range.



CHRISTINE JORDAN FOR SPECTATOR

PLEASING PORTER | Foamy and dark, porter is an appropriate winter beer available at local grocery stores.

Film series highlights Hungarian identity, past and present

BY NNEKA MCGUIRE
Columbia Daily Spectator

The intense hubbub surrounding the Oscars each year usually relegates less-mainstream film events to the back burner. One

FILM

such event is a showcase of contemporary Hungarian films at the Film Society of Lincoln Center’s Walter Reade Theater.

The showcase, titled “New Films from Hungary,” features 13 films in seven days and offers a

unique cinematic selection ranging from a sci-fi thriller based on a story by Stanislaw Lem (“Solaris”) to a strikingly crafted documentary by renowned artist and filmmaker Péter Forgács.

Forgács’s film “Hunky Blues: The American Dream” chronicles long-forgotten stories of Hungarians who immigrated to America in the early 20th century. A pastiche of archival footage, photos, and interviews, “Hunky Blues” details the backbreaking poverty—largely caused by overwhelming taxes imposed

by Hungary’s government—that impelled many Hungarians to emigrate as well as the difficulties they faced upon disembarking in America. Arriving at Ellis Island, Hungarian immigrants—or hunkies, as they were derogatorily called—encountered tremendous obstacles. American inspectors employed a horrifying system by which immigrants with any sort of medical conditions were sent back to Hungary, without treatment or a refund for their ticket.

Alongside interviews, the film seamlessly integrates letters written by immigrants to relatives in Hungary, which are interspersed throughout the film. One girl recalls a Christmas morning in America in which someone threw a snowball at her forehead with a rock embedded inside the packed snow. A man remembers working in American mines. “The mine company ruled everything,” he said. “They were the lord.”

Amidst the solemn stories, there were also uplifting immigrant accounts. One man spoke of his mother, a “modern woman” who worked in a cigar factory by day and a theatrical group by night. In 1923, at only 20 years old,

she purchased a car with money earned entirely on her own.

In addition to “Hunky Blues,” other important showcased films include “Chameleon,” Hungary’s candidate for the Best Foreign Language Film at the upcoming Academy Awards, and “The Man From London,” featuring Oscar-winning actress Tilda Swinton.

Hungarian cinema captures the zeitgeist of Hungary during the early and mid-20th century, a period in which Hungarians were terrorized by two world wars and failed revolutions as well as communist and fascist control. Conflicting ideologies alongside of political and social unrest molded Hungary’s—and Hungarians’—identity, which is reflected uniquely in each film. This ideological ambiguity is explicitly present in “Fragment,” a film about a priest in an isolated monastery attempting to reconcile Catholicism and communism in the aftermath of World War II.

The showcase at Lincoln Center strives to expose New York audiences to a sampling of Hungarian cinema, depicting the country’s past struggles as well as its present vitality.



COURTESY OF MAGYAR FILMUNIO

HUNGARY FOR MORE | “Hunky Blues: The American Dream” is one film in a series showcasing Hungary’s cinema and national history.

Love actually?

Valentine’s Day

BY LIVY GROSVENOR

In the blissfully innocent days of elementary school, denim overalls, bad haircuts, and gap-toothed smiles, Feb. 14 was always a long-awaited and highly anticipated occasion. It was a celebration of sweets and cartoon cards adorned with the Little Mermaid and Power Rangers. Our desires were simple—we wanted sugar, not sex; lollipops, not lust; Reese’s, not romance; Bubblicious, not boyfriends; and Ring Pops, not engagement rings. Back in those days, there was mandated inclusion, which meant a guaranteed steady flow of candy and cards from all classmates and friends as mass-produced and impersonal as they may have been. There was no looming threat of a devastatingly barren voicemail box or lonely email inbox. In our days of blissful, elementary innocence, we ran the risk of going home on Feb. 14 with a toothache, but these days, we’re more likely to go home on Feb. 14 with heartache.

How have we, as adults, imbued this holiday, which always brought us unwavering joy, with the potential to cause us pain? Why give this day in mid-February the power to make those of us who are

single question our status as such, re-think eating out alone, or over-analyze the company of a few feline friends? Why do 15 percent of American women feel the need to send themselves flowers on this day? When did Hershey’s and Haribo surrender their commercial reigns to Victoria’s Secret and Kay Jewelers? As the years pass, how has Valentine’s Day taken such a dire transitional turn?

Some might argue that as kids it was not through blissful *innocence*, but rather through blissful *ignorance* that we were able to enjoy a holiday centered around romance, a concept which, at the time, we had not even the slightest capability of grasping. But I beg to differ—I think we had the right idea back in the second grade. Back when Valentine’s Day was all about spreading the love, doling out candy hearts, sending X’s and O’s all around, and living *la vie en rose*. Back when it was truly a celebration of a universal, unbiased love in all shapes and forms instead of societal and commercial pressure exploiting and emphasizing the importance of romantic love.

St. Valentine would have preferred our free-loving miniature selves. Although there are many myths surrounding the origin of Valentine’s Day, one well-known story recalls that St. Valentine was a Christian priest living

in Rome in approximately 200 A.D. who defied the emperor by refusing to denounce his faith. St. Valentine was a passionate priest who emphasized the importance of *agape*, which, among *eros* and *philia*, is one of the three Greek types of love. *Eros* is a passionate, sexual love while *philia* is a love among friends and community members. But *agape* is a deep, complex, spiritual love for all of humanity. St. Valentine preached the importance of practicing *agape* and fostering loving connections amongst one another. St. Valentine was martyred on Feb. 14 270 A.D. for his advocacy of *agape*, and ever since then, we’ve celebrated love in his name. Why

do we stop celebrating *agape* when we hit puberty? We should instead be celebrating the love that St. Valentine died fighting for.

This Valentine’s Day, I hope you stocked up on the supplies, whether they be arts and crafts necessities or homemade tokens or cheesy store-bought cards featuring Disney princesses with coy smiles and dump trucks that say “I dig you.” I hope you spread the love to all your friends, family members, and classmates alike. I hope you showed your love for humanity and all of humanity’s greatest productions and innovations—like chocolate, for instance. I hope you

These days, we’re likely to go home on Feb. 14 with heartache.

celebrated *agape* by treating yourself to a brilliant cup of Jacques Torres’s wicked hot chocolate, a slice of Max Brenner’s chocolate pizza, a Magnolia cupcake topped with chocolate buttercream frosting, or even a variety of truffles from the nearby Mondel Chocolates on 113th and Broadway. I hope you wandered into any Lindt store in the city appearing genuinely interested in a chocolate investment and scored a free sample. St. Valentine would urge us to celebrate *agape* by loving our friends, our families, our peers, and ourselves. It’s entirely possible to appreciate the commercial perks and treats of Valentine’s Day sans the romantic pressure. Flowers, chocolate, candy, balloons, sexy lingerie, doilies, greeting cards, cookies, and jewelry are all wonderful things to enjoy no matter what your relationship status may be.

A lot has changed since elementary school—our denim overalls, bad haircuts, and gap-toothed smiles have most likely benefitted from the influences of Seven and Citizens jeans, skillful stylists, upscale salons, and the handiwork of orthodontics. But our Valentine’s Day celebrations need not transform. Let’s make old St. Valentine proud and feel the *agape* reverberate throughout Morningside Heights. Next year, on Feb. 14, plan on going home happy with a toothache—forget about lonely with a heartache.

The author is a Barnard College first-year.

February’s win-win holiday

BY ANDREW LEONARD

Great talents such as Madonna and Ashlee Simpson have covered the song “Love Makes the World Go Round.” But they’re wrong. Greed makes the world go round, as many fictional and nonfictional businessmen have been saying for years. This Valentine’s Day, instead of focusing on the hearts and chocolate, maybe we should have tried noticing how much money is actually spent on the holiday. In fact, I think businesses create all the hype surrounding Valentine’s Day. Our excitement leads to their profit. Valentine’s Day gives so many of us a reason to go out and spend money. Chocolate, cards, stuffed animals, flowers and a whole assortment of gifts are purchased. American Greetings Corporation estimates that approximately 190 million valentines were sent in 2008. The only time of year at which more cards are sent is during the Christmas season, which is arguably the largest holiday of them all. This is to say nothing of all of the Valentine’s Day parties that are thrown, too—now food and decorations are needed, as well, all of it equating to more money spent.

Valentine’s Day is really more useful than it is romantic. Holidays are known to stimulate economies. Black Friday and Christmas shopping are a huge help to our economy. The large spike in shopping and sales during holiday seasons saves many retailers. However, people are only prompted to shop because they are in a festive mood. After New Year’s Eve, there was a drought of holidays. From Jan. 1 until March 17 (St. Patrick’s Day), there was a barren wasteland of non-festiveness. Something was needed to fill the void. The streamer and glitter companies needed a way to make sales. So why not celebrate some random saint?

Valentine’s Day is not the only holiday of its kind. All holidays are, in

All holidays are clever manipulations for the promotion of spending money.

fact, clever manipulations for the promotion of spending money.

Take Easter, for example. I’ll give any person a million boxes of chocolate if he or she can explain the relationship between the resurrection of Christ and chocolate eggs and bunnies. But the chocolate companies aren’t complaining, and neither are we. It’s a great excuse to break out diets and eat chocolate and, more importantly, to have fun. We can tell ourselves we are doing it for Jesus all we want, but really we just want those Cadbury Eggs.

This certainly does not mean, though, that I should be accused of being the Valentine’s Day Scrooge. I love Valentine’s Day, and I make an effort to celebrate it each year. I think it’s important to try to force ourselves to try to love a little more even if it’s for unrelated reasons.

I come from the West Coast, and quite frankly, I think February out here sucks. It has been cold for too damn long. So, really, I’m happy I got an excuse to eat a ton of chocolate on Sunday and to try to snuggle up to someone for warmth. A lot of great things came of this past Valentine’s Day. For example, the Columbia College Student Council had a reason to set up a study break that involved speed dating. Though the success rate of speed dating generally isn’t too high, maybe two people got to know each other and plan on seeing each other again. And at a place like Columbia, where there seems to be a general anti-love atmosphere, this newly formed couple would be enough of a reason in my book to consider Valentine’s Day a great holiday.

Perhaps this isn’t what St. Valentine had in mind, but I doubt St. Patrick imagined the streets of New York being filled with angry drunks on March 17. Every year on Feb. 14, I might be falling for Hallmark’s tricks but I’m also having fun. So people can complain all they want about Feb. 14—I still love it. And isn’t that what Valentine’s Day is supposed to be about?

The author is a Columbia College first-year.

Love is the stuff that dreams are made of

BY CAROLINE BLOSSER

I had a dream the other night that my brothers and sister were dead. Tear-sullied and tired, I awoke from the nightmare praying that God would take me instead. It was my love for them that made me despair. But the light of Love’s custody soon softened the terror until all I could feel was my heartbeat hammering against the darkness.

It’s a funny thing, a heartbeat. Sometimes you feel it, and sometimes you don’t, but it’s always there, silently sustaining you with the very stuff that life is made of. A humble hero and a constant companion, Love is patient with me, and it keeps its hold on me. No matter the swagger I walk with, every step I take is somehow instep with the tempo of Love. It’s always breathing in the background, an ambient heartbeat not unlike my own, but owned by no one, rather, resolute in its endlessness.

This Love is not that cardboard imposter of the kind you find stocked high in Hallmark aisles. I call that creature “little-L” love, that’s “little” as in “I have little time for you,” and “L” as in “lackluster,” “lifeless,” or “lugubrious.” No, this “little-L” love is not truly love. It’s not actually love in the same way that leggings are not actually pants. This “little-L love,” like the leggings-only look, possesses all the cuteness of a rotting elephant carcass. And real Love is most definitely not a rotting elephant carcass. Neither is Love a waxy heart-shaped box filled with waxy heart-shaped candies encased in stale and petty adulation. No, that is certainly not love.

So what exactly is the real stuff, this plain old Love?

One thing Love isn’t is easily describable in 800 words or less. No, Love is not a sentence or a paragraph. It’s more like a cello, that stringed sage who in a single note resoundingly sings all the truths of this strange existence. Or like a trumpet laughing beneath a subway grate, happy and profound, distinctive, both imminent and afar.



ILLUSTRATION BY SHELLY XU

Love is like the mantle of stars, neither frightened nor silenced by the surrounding desolation, but illuminated by the vast ocean of darkness upon which it sets its sails. It is a gentle ember with an inextinguishable spirit, persevering against the weight of destruction and despair, always with the purpose of finding those who seek safe passage, of being found itself, of undertaking this strange and beautiful sojourn in communion with its voyaging passengers.

Love isn’t easy. For example, I love Herodotus, sure, but spending 700 pages with him in one sitting can put a certain stress on our relationship. I think the same is true of Love. It doesn’t help that we have this habit of constantly colliding into each other, of bumping and bruising and breaking ourselves and others. And the resulting pain often makes us wonder if Love isn’t leading us to a 600-foot

plunge off a sheer cliff face into a fiery pit of hungry, flesh-eating bears. Sometimes Love feels more lethal than lovely. Love keeps me up at night—it makes me cry, and it makes me fear. But my courage is childlike—I possess a dreamer’s imagination and a lover’s heart. It is instilled with this heart and mind that every time I fall, I drive my hands down hard onto the ground and I lift myself onto my knees and there, kneeling in love for Love itself, I cry out for it to save me. And somehow, Love always does.

Love sees me coming from a long way off, and it runs out to greet me with a strong embrace. It’s had its hand on my shoulder since before I knew my name. Love sits with me in silence when I don’t feel like talking. It’s funny when I’m sad, and it’s silly when I’m serious. Love rights my ship, for it is my ship, docked and waiting in the places where I harbor my

greatest desires. Love sends me sailing off into the unknown of adventure. I often look at Love, not always knowing quite what to think, not even knowing exactly what it is. Sometimes I look at Love with anger and disdain, or with fear and uncertainty, with pain and with doubt. But every day, whether I mean to or not, I stare Love in the face. Every day, I look at Love. And Love smiles back at me.

After yesterday’s Valentine’s Day, forget the gimmicks and commercial gestures, the rose bouquet and the ribbon-covered box. Find the people who make you feel the rhythm of your beating heart, and be to them as Love is and wants to be. Make their hearts beat right back to the tempo of something shared. For Love is the reason. And Love is the end.

The author is a Barnard College sophomore.

Redefining Valentine’s Day

BY MARIA LANTIGUA

When did Valentine’s Day turn into such a sad and complicated day for so many people? Indeed, it seems to be a depressing day for those who don’t have a significant other. This holiday has been heavily commercialized as a day for couples only. I, however, grew up believing that Valentine’s Day is “*el día del amor y la amistad*”—the day of love and friendship. Having this perspective, I believe, is the best way to think of this holiday because you will always have a reason to celebrate this.

Even though many people say that every day should be the day of love and friendship, we have to admit that our routines

sometimes do not allow us to appreciate the friends and partners we have. Therefore, it is nice to have a day that you can dedicate to your friends and significant others. Valentine’s Day should be a day in which you celebrate friendship and all types of love. It should be a day that you dedicate to others, to the ones you love, and they, in return, will make their day about you. Sometimes it requires taking a step back and making this day about others so that we can benefit from their happiness. Valentine’s Day should be exactly what you want it to be.

Remember the Valentine’s Days in middle school? It used to be simple. Everyone exchanged chocolates and teddy bears. We weren’t in romantic relationships, and yet we used to have a good time. Those years are gone, but why does Valentine’s Day have to

be so miserable for some people? Traditions change. The way you celebrate Halloween now might not be the same way you will celebrate it 10 years from now—unless it is necessary to bring sexy back. But when things change, there is a need to alter our perspectives on certain things. This Valentine’s Day, instead of focusing on the hearts and chocolate, maybe we should have tried noticing how much money is actually spent on the holiday. things. If your relationship status changes, redefining what Valentine’s Day means is the best way to enjoy the holiday as you did during middle school.

You can continue disliking Valentine’s Day because it reminds you that you are single or because of the silly diamonds and Hallmark commercials, or you can adjust what Valentine’s Day means to you.

It is not worth it to spend an entire day upset over something that is under your control. Valentine’s Day doesn’t have to be a bitter reminder that you are single. It should be a day in which you think of the people who you love and who love you back. The key to not being sad during Valentine’s Day and its aftermath is redefining it as what you think it should be.

Valentine’s Day wasn’t created to make people who are single miserable. It should be thought of as a reminder to be thankful for the good people whom you love and who love you back. Like anything else in this world, Valentine’s Day is exactly what you want to make of it. It doesn’t have to be what the media has commercialized it to be—it can mean anything or nothing at all. But if you love yourself, if you love your friends, if you love your pet, if you love life, then next year you should absolutely celebrate Valentine’s Day—your way.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore.

Women’s basketball defeats Penn 71-58

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL from back page

Columbia regrouped on Saturday evening to achieve a 71-58 victory over Penn (1-20, 0-7 Ivy). Despite the Quakers mounting a strong second-half comeback, the Lions remained composed, making timely plays down the stretch.

“I’m just happy we won,” Nixon said. “They [Penn] did an outstanding job tonight of really competing, and I was just very pleased with the way that our team stepped up, got the stops when we needed to, and scored enough points to win.”

Saturday’s matchup began as a back and forth affair. While Penn scored the first five points of the game, Columbia took a 6-5 lead after four minutes of action. Lomax scored a layup with 13:26 left in the first half, to give the Lions an 8-5 advantage, but senior forward Caitlin Slover answered with a three—point play for Penn.

With 6:03 left in the first half, sophomore guard Sara Ely hit a layup to give Penn a 17-16 lead. But Columbia then pulled away from the Quakers, closing the half with a 14-2 run. Dwyer began the rally with two buckets, while senior guard Danielle Browne made two 3-pointers for the Lions. After two free throws from Lomax and another basket from Dwyer, Columbia entered the intermission with a 30-19 lead.

But Penn, despite its winless run in conference play, did not back down. After Columbia extended its lead to 19 points in the second half, the Quakers responded with an 11-0 run. Lomax made a much-needed layup with 9:15 remaining, to put Columbia ahead by 10, but Penn continued to fight. With less than four minutes left, the Lions held a tenuous 61-56 lead.

“We lost control of the game there, for a little bit,” Nixon said. Columbia then kicked back

into gear, finishing the game with a 10-2 run and winning by 13 points. Shafer, making her second consecutive start, began the rally with a 3-pointer that gave the Lions the momentum for good.

“We just needed to extend the lead at that point, and it was just an open shot,” Shafer said. “I was glad to hit it.”

Shafer finished with 10 points, while sophomore guard Mary Beato added 12 points and four steals for Columbia. Dwyer finished with 14 points and six rebounds. For the third straight game, Kathleen Barry was out due to injury.

Slover scored a game-high 22 points for Penn. Lomax meanwhile, led the Lions with 21 points, 17 of which came in the second half. She also grabbed a game-high 11 rebounds.

Columbia resumes Ivy play on Feb. 19, when it hosts Dartmouth. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

Lions’ offense struggles in second half

MEN’S BASKETBALL from back page

as Columbia knocked down shots early and often, particularly in big moments. Scott converted on 10 of 14 attempts from the field, including a red hot seven of nine from 3—point land.

Scott’s hot hand gave Columbia the early lead, and a determined Lions’ squad would not let another game slip away in the second half. “After the Princeton game, we talked hard about making the plays to win,” Jones said, emphasizing the importance of winning the battle of the boards.

Against Penn, the Lions led by as many as 15 points, taking a 31-16 lead off a jumper from Scott with 6:24 to go in the first half. After halftime, Scott made his sixth of seven tries—he would knock down to put his team up 11, with 17 minutes left to play. At that point, the Quakers began to fight their way back into the game, taking the lead, with seven minutes to go, on two free throws from sophomore Zack Rosen.

Three minutes later, sophomore Noruwa Agho delivered his first basket of the evening at just the right time. With a hand in his face, Agho knocked down a three to turn a 56-54 deficit into a one-point lead.

Agho was hounded all night long by Penn defenders, and was limited to five points on two for 10 shooting. He found other ways to contribute, though, pulling down 11 rebounds and handing out a career-high five assists. The night before Agho scored 15 points, but was harassed into 4-for-17 shooting by a relentless Tigers defense.

“He’s getting so much attention now,” Jones explained. “He’s a scorer—he’s not just a shooter—and we’ve got to do a better job of getting him some easier shots. I thought he showed great confidence in heart at the end of

that Pennsylvania game.”

Agho was joined in the back court by senior guard Kevin Bulger. Since taking over the reins of the offense after Pat Foley was sidelined by a shoulder injury, the tri—captain has performed admirably. On Saturday he turned in a trademark steady effort, recording seven points, five assists, and two steals to go with only two turnovers in 26 minutes of play.

“We ask so much of him,” Jones said of Bulger. “Point guard is not his natural position, and he’s done a great job all year filling in that void. ... He came out really assertive, and he and Niko [Scott] really set the tone in that game.”

Also the team’s go-to stopper on defense, Bulger turned in a solid performance against Penn’s Rosen. Bulger frustrated the star shooting guard all night, forcing him into a disappointing 2-for-8 shooting effort.

Asenso Ampim was another major contributor for the Lions. Ampim, who did not play at all against Princeton on Friday, came off the bench on Saturday. In 18 minutes of action, he scored 12 points, and turned in a crucial block on a Rosen layup, with 20 seconds left, and the Lions up 64-62.

Ampim’s big play reflected Columbia’s knack for delivering in the critical moments of Saturday’s game. In addition to his clutch three, Agho pulled down several important offensive rebounds, and had an important bucket late in the lane. Freshman John Daniels hit two free throws to ice the game late, and Bulger picked off the ensuing inbounds pass to give the Lions their second straight win at the Palestra, Penn’s famed gym.

Talking about the difference between that win and Friday’s defeat, Jones explained,

“We made some timely baskets [against Penn], and ultimately we made the plays in the Penn game that we didn’t make in the Princeton game.”

Columbia has never won at Princeton’s Jadwin Gymnasium under Jones, and despite one of the best first halves all year for the Light Blue, the big moments saw the Tigers rise to the occasion.

“I thought we played great in the first half—one of our best halves all year,” said Jones. An inability to knock down shots in the second half doomed the Lions, he explained, along with a disparity in offensive rebounds.

“They got second chance points, we didn’t,” he concluded. “And that was really the difference in the game.”

Unfortunately for Columbia, Princeton was the one who made the big plays on Friday. “We just couldn’t make shots in the second half,” Jones added. As a result, the Tigers pulled out a methodical comeback, chipping away at the Lions’ lead and eventually overtaking them midway through the second half.

But with Penn’s win, Columbia returns home with confidence after two solid outings.

“Even in the Princeton game, we played a good, sound game,” Jones pointed out. In the end though, Jones explained, “we’ve split the last three weekends, and that’s going to be the case until we find a little more consistency.”

With the weekend’s tough play, Jones may start to see just that. A close loss at the hands of a Princeton team that had not lost in Ivy play until No. 22 Cornell squeaked out a close win the next night, paired with a win at Penn, where that same Big Red team had lost the night before by double figures, bodes well for the rest of the Ancient Eight season.



SHIVINA HARJANI FOR SPECTATOR

EARLY MISS | The Light did not perform well this week, but is optimistic about the rest of its season.

Freshman Bartnik impressive at No. 1

WOMEN’S TENNIS from back page

championship.

Despite their loss at the event, this weekend gave the Lions a chance to see their Ivy competitors before conference matches begin in March. The championships gave head coach Weintraub the opportunity to watch Dartmouth play, a team that before this weekend was relatively under the radar.

“We have a very strong conference. Every team is solid,” Weintraub said. “Four teams are currently ranked, and Dartmouth with their win over Princeton may break in now too.”

Expecting a difficult first match, Columbia played Princeton, who were the No. 1 seed in the championships, and are No. 44 in the ITA National rankings. Princeton defeated Columbia 7-0 by winning the doubles points and five of the six singles matches in straight sets. In doubles, Princeton earned an early lead, wiping out the No. 3 team Natalia Christenson and Eliza Matache, 8-1. Nicole Bartnik and Carling Donovan then lost at No.1 by a score of 8-3. Though able to put up a good fight, Natasha Makarova and Chelsea Davis in the No. 2 spot also eventually fell, 8-5.

In singles, more losses ensued for Columbia. However, Columbia’s Chelsea Davis was able to produce a close contest in the No. 3 singles spot. In her singles match, Davis crushed her opponent in the first set, 6-2, but was unable to maintain the momentum to finish the match

on top. Davis fell 6-3 after the second set, and lost overall, 2-6, 6-3, (11-9), fighting persistently in the third set.

The loss against the Tigers placed the Lions into the consolation bracket, in which they faced Brown on Saturday. The Lions were defeated again in the first round of the consolation draw against Brown, 6-1. During doubles play, Columbia saw its first win of the weekend as No. 1 doubles team Nicole Bartnik and Carling Donovan were able to finish off their opponents with a score of 8-5. The other two doubles teams were defeated, however, which gave Brown the early 1-0 lead in the match as it snagged the doubles points.

In singles, Bartnik continued to see victory, defeating Brown’s Herzberg in the No. 1 singles spot, 6-4, 7-5. This would be Columbia’s only win of the match as the Brown Bears swept through the No. 2 through 6 singles spots in straight sets.

Columbia then faced its Ivy League foe Cornell early Sunday morning, and was defeated by a score of 3-1. The Lions were unable to take doubles points as Natalia Christenson and Eliza Matache were defeated 8-4. In singles, Bartnik once again secured a win, defeating her opponent 6-4, 6-4. After Bartnik’s point, Columbia was unable to notch any more wins, losing the No. 2 through No. 4 singles despite Chelsea Davis’ near comeback after a first-set loss. Davis

worked to win her second set 6-3, but was unable to come out on top in the third set, losing overall 6-2, 3-6, 5-0 (UNF).

Despite its 8th place standing after this weekend, the Lions had some remarkable moments of play. This weekend’s highlight came from freshman Nicole Bartnik. Her play during this championship was particularly outstanding as she was able to reel in Columbia’s only wins of the tournament.

“Nikki continues to prove she is one of the best players in the league with wins over #89 Cassandra Herzberg (Brown) and Ordway (Cornell). The highlight of the weekend was Nikki’s win in doubles with partner Carling Donovan over Herzberg and Aboubakare who are currently ranked #29 in the nation in doubles.” Weintraub said, “Look out for them to break into the rankings now.”

The loss of the championship is upsetting for the Lions, but the team is looking ahead optimistically. Still very early in the season, Columbia will train in practice with new insight of their Ivy competitors’ styles.

“Our team continues to be determined to improve,” Weintraub said, “We are looking forward to getting back on the court, and are motivated to work harder so we beat these teams.”

Columbia will play next week on Feb. 19 against Syracuse University at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center at 5 p.m.

Don’t hold your breath, Texas is staying

MACDONALD from back page

wouldn’t want to give up the rivalries with Texas A&M and Oklahoma, and adding the two to the non-conference schedule would be a BCS death wish.

The Big East got so mad at Miami and Boston College for defecting to the ACC in 2005 that they filed a lawsuit against the two schools. What would the Big 12 do if one of its top two teams—and let’s be serious here, Texas and Oklahoma are really the only thing the Big 12 has going for it right now in football—defected to the Big 10? It wouldn’t be pretty.

The Lawrence Journal article cites that Texas’ increased travel costs (Texas now plays five to six of its games within the state of Texas) would be covered by the extra money received through the Big 10’s huge TV expansion if Texas were to join. But from where I’m sitting that’s more of a home run for the Big 10—expanding into the Texas market—than for the Longhorns, who already have the biggest TV deal in the Big 12.

And not that DeLoss Dodds, Texas’ athletic director, isn’t concerned about revenue, but Texas actually had its revenue increase substantially in the last two years, whereas everyone else has fallen upon hard times. As Dodds once famously said, “We don’t have to keep up with the Joneses. We are the Joneses.”

The question of whether or not Texas would move to

the Big 10 is more than just a question of money. It’s a question that I’ve never really thought about: what makes a conference? Right now, with the “Big Six” conferences, apparently what defines a conference is its location in the United States.

But for Columbia and the other seven schools in the Ivy league, “best fit for now” doesn’t seem to apply. Yes, the Ivy league teams all play each other in athletic competition. Yes, the Ivy league was formally founded in 1954 under the NCAA as primarily an athletic conference.

But the Ivy league no longer represents just an athletic conference, it might never have. In fact, I would argue that the modern Ivy league least resembles the kind of athletic conference typically found in the United States.

By refusing to give athletic scholarships, the conference has a distinct disadvantage in recruiting, and the kids that come to institutions like Harvard, Yale, Columbia, or Cornell, are kids who want to continue to compete while still getting a degree from a prestigious university.

All, except Cornell, were founded during the colonial period of American history. And as of 2010 all eight rank in the top 20 undergraduate colleges in the United States, with Harvard, Princeton, Yale, and Penn as the top four schools in the country. As a conference, I’d say the competition focuses more on academic excellence

than the results of what happens on the field of play.

The idea that any of these universities would leave the conference is more laughable than the Texas to the Big 10 rumor. The Ivy league doesn’t get huge TV deals or much national coverage when it comes to sports. Students don’t pour into stands and other than the Harvard-Yale game, there doesn’t seem to be too many heated rivalries. Since 1954 there have been no defections, no reformations, no additions (though unlike the conferences with numbers, there’s nothing illogical behind adding an institution to the Ivy League).

So what defines a conference like the Ivy league? Is it endowments? Is it academic excellence? Because there seems to be little question that the Ivy League has a corner on those markets. The Ivy league stands so entrenched in the minds of the nation that nothing could tear a school out of the conference.

I do, however, think that if the Big 10 is looking to get into the Texas market they should target TCU, who would be more than happy to make the jump to a Big Six conference, and prove that they can handle the tough guys just fine. Texas isn’t going anywhere.

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Ash Wednesday

St. Paul’s Chapel
Imposition of Ashes +
February 17th, 5:30pm

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SPORTS MONDAY

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2010 • PAGE 8



MOVING AHEAD | Niko Scott eclipsed his previous career-mark of 24 points, lighting up Penn for 29. Columbia has won three of its last five games.

Texas too big for the Big Ten



HOLLY
MACDONALD
The Eyes of
Texas

more. At first it was speculative: maybe Notre Dame, maybe the University of Missouri, maybe the University of Pittsburgh, all are within the regional scope of the Big 10. None of those schools would be a huge leap.

And then came the reports about the Big 10 going after the University of Texas. And the Lawrence Journal World reported that talks had begun with the conference and the university discussing the issue. (Big 10 Commissioner Jim Delany later denied that any such discussions took place.) Suddenly the question was would Texas leave the Big 12?

And my answer would be no, even if Delany is lying and he has been reaching out to the Longhorns. Texas is not going to leave the Big 12. Texas is not going to leave a conference where they've dominated for the past ten years. Only three conference championships, sure, but four straight BCS bowl games in the last four years does a school—and a conference—proud.

And this is Texas. The university certainly doesn't want to be the outlier school, furthest away from the heart of Big 10 country. The school

SEE MACDONALD, page 7

Columbia falls to Princeton, beats Penn

BY SARAH SOMMER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

For the third consecutive weekend, the Columbia women's basketball team split a set of back-to-back Ivy League games. The Lions are now tied with Yale for third place in the conference standings.

Columbia (14-8, 5-3 Ivy) could not stop Princeton on Friday night, becoming the sixth Ivy League squad to fall to the Tigers this season. The Lions struggled on both ends of the floor in the 77-55 loss.

"I don't know how you want to censor this, but we got our asses kicked," Columbia head coach Paul Nixon said. "Princeton deserves a lot of credit, because they beat us in every aspect of the game."

Junior guard Kathleen Barry did not play for a second straight game due to a sprained knee, so sophomore guard Melissa Shafer started in her place for Columbia. But Shafer contributed little offensively, converting just one of seven field goal attempts in the first half and four of 14 overall.

Columbia kept the game close for the first seven minutes, but the Lions missed too many shots during the first half to remain competitive. Princeton (18-2, 6-0 Ivy) built a comfortable lead, largely by feeding freshman forward Niveen Rasheed, and sophomore center Devona Allgood in the post. The Tigers also limited junior forward Judie Lomax's impact for Columbia, playing a tough defense that forced her to take outside shots.

The Lions finished the first half on a 6-1 run in the final minute, but their burst of offense could not undo the damage already done. Columbia went 9-for-28 from the field—including an 0-for-6 showing from 3-point range—in the first half, and the Lions entered the intermission trailing the

	PRINCETON	77
	COLUMBIA	55
	PENN	58
	COLUMBIA	71

Tigers by 18 points.

Shafer opened the second half with a baseline trey to cut Columbia's deficit to 15 points, but Princeton continued to dominate the game. The Tigers led by as many as 28 points in the second half before beating Columbia by 22.

"I'm from Mississippi," Nixon said. "I don't have the thick accent I used to, but where I come from, that's what they call, 'You just got taken to the woodshed.' You got your ass whooped."

Junior center Lauren Dwyer led the Lions with 12 points, while Lomax finished with 11 points and nine rebounds. Allgood added 13 points and six boards for Princeton. Rasheed meanwhile, finished with game-highs of 27 points, 14 rebounds, seven assists, and five steals.

"I don't like the 'Energizer bunny' cliché, but I feel like she's perpetual motion on the court," Nixon said of Rasheed. "She's always active—she's moving offensively, she's moving defensively—and when you combine that with the fact that she's blessed with good size and athleticism, that's a combination that makes for a very good player."

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, page 7



SHARP SHOOTER | Junior Lauren Dwyer shot the ball well against Penn, giving forward Judie Lomax room to operate in the second half.

Scott's 29 carries CU in win at Penn

First half not enough to beat Tigers

BY ZACH GLUBIAK
Spectator Staff Writer

	COLUMBIA	45
	PRINCETON	55

For the second night in a row, the Lions watched as an early lead slowly turned into a second half deficit. Columbia was not interested in repeating Princeton's methodical comeback on Friday night, and the next night in Philadelphia, it made sure Penn paid the price for allowing its visitors to jump out to a 14-5 advantage. After a tough 55-45 loss to Princeton, the Light Blue came away with a 66-62 win, as a reward after two nights of gritty play.

After a tough loss to Yale the previous Saturday, head coach Joe Jones and his team focused on playing with heart and energy. That emphasis showed in the early going against both the Tigers and the Quakers, as the Lions competed from the opening tip-off in each game.

Thanks in large part to the contributions of senior Niko Scott, Columbia rebounded from a tough loss the night before to take command early against Penn. Scott scored a career-high 29 points, including 19 in the first half, as the Lions carved out a 35-28 halftime lead

	COLUMBIA	66
	PENN	62

despite a 12-4 Quaker run to end the half.

"He was terrific," said Jones. "He really stepped up as a senior. ... He was just outstanding. It wasn't just his shooting, it was the way he carried himself the whole way."

Princeton had responded to another energetic Light Blue performance in the early going, using an 11-2 run to cut a 12-point Columbia lead to 27-24 at halftime. Columbia came out in a three-fourths court press, and used a variety of defenses to cause multiple turnovers, and prevent any sort of offensive rhythm. As a result, the Light Blue conceded only three points in the first eight minutes of play.

That night, the Tigers would overtake a gritty Lions squad in the second half, en route to a 55-45 win at Jadwin Gymnasium. Saturday was a different story, however,

SEE MEN'S BASKETBALL, page 7

Women's tennis team swept in ECAC Championships

BY LAUREN SEAMAN
Spectator Staff Writer

The women's tennis team traveled to Cambridge, M.A. this weekend to compete in the championships of the Eastern College Athletic Conference. The championships featured seven of the eight Ivy League schools, with Boston University replacing Penn. Columbia was seeded No. 8 going into the tournament and finished in eighth place. The championships will end on Monday, with the No. 3 and 5 seeds, Yale and Dartmouth, scheduled to meet in the final. The ECAC Championship is only the first of many times this season Columbia will face its Ancient Eight rivals. From here, the Lions plan to work hard to prepare for the conference season.

"The team is looking forward to getting back on the practice court and working hard toward reaching our goals of beating these teams during Ivy season," head coach Ilene Weintraub said after the

SEE WOMEN'S TENNIS, page 7

	COLUMBIA	0
	PRINCETON	7

	BROWN	6
	COLUMBIA	1

	COLUMBIA	1
	CORNELL	3



SHIVINA HARJANI FOR SPECTATOR
BAD SWING | Women's tennis failed to win a match this weekend.

SPORTS BRIEF

No. 1 Columbia advances to finals in Ivy tennis tourney

The top seeded men's tennis team advanced to the finals of the Eastern College Athletic Championship tournament on Sunday, in which it will face No. 2 seed Harvard in the final on Monday. The Lions, ranked No. 52 in the nation, took out No. 8 seed Dartmouth 6-1 in the first round, and took out No. 4 seed Cornell, 5-2 in the semifinals. Harvard advanced

with a 5-2 win over Brown in the first round, and a 6-1 rout of Princeton in the semifinals. Harvard, who took out Columbia in a 4-3 thriller at the ECAC's last spring, enters as the No. 62 team in the nation, although Columbia edged them 4-3 during Ivy play last season on the way to the 2009 Ivy title.

—Kunal Gupta

BY THE NUMBERS



34%

Columbia's shooting percentage in the loss to Princeton. The Tigers shot an impressive 51.4 percent from the field.

7

The number of 3-pointers hit by senior Nico Scott in the win over Ivy rival Penn. Scott scored a career-high 29 points.

MONDAY MORNING POINT GUARD

IVY LEAGUE STANDINGS

	W	L	PCT	W	L	PCT
Cornell	7	1	.875	21	4	.840
Princeton	5	1	.833	14	6	.700
Harvard	6	2	.750	17	5	.773
Yale	4	4	.500	10	15	.400
Penn	3	3	.500	4	16	.200
Columbia	3	5	.375	9	13	.409
Brown	2	6	.250	8	17	.320
Dartmouth	0	8	.000	4	18	.182

SPECTATOR PIXBOX STANDINGS: WEEK X

1	Tom "The Mouth that Roared" Di Benedetto	20-12
1	Lucas "In the Refrigerator" Shaw	20-12
2	Jelani "Can't Knock the Hustle" Johnson	18-14
4	Lisa "That's What She Said" Lewis	17-15
5	Bart "The Tailgating Tales" Lopez	15-17
5	Matt "The X-Factor" Velazquez	15-17
7	Kunal "Moving the Chains" Gupta	14-18
7	Holly "The Eyes of Texas" MacDonald	14-18
7	Jacob "Put it on the Board" Shapiro	14-18