

Women’s track captures league title

First Ivy championship in program history

BY MELISSA CHEUNG
Spectator Staff Writer

For the first time since spring of 2010, a Columbia team has won an Ivy League championship. The Columbia women’s track and field team won the first title in program history at the Ivy League Heptagonal Indoor Track & Field Championships in Ithaca, N.Y., this past weekend.

“It’s so special. We’ve won in cross country before, but never in track and field, and it was just amazing,” head coach Willy Wood said, “It was a great day for us.”

The Light Blue scored 124 team points, dominating the field with many outstanding performances in both short- and long-distance running events, as well as in the jumps. Cornell finished second with 103 points.

After a number of strong performances throughout the season, the stars aligned for the Lions this weekend.

Freshman Nadia Eke won the triple jump, while sophomore Marvellous Iheukwumere advanced to the finals in both the 60-meter dash and the 200-meter dash, winning the latter in the

SEE CHAMPION, page 3

CUCR members plan to invite Ahmadinejad to campus



FILE PHOTO

PROTEST | In September, students protest Ahmadinejad’s human rights record, after some CU students had planned to have dinner with him.

2 exec board members deny plan; pres. does not deny

BY YASMIN GAGNE
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Members of the Columbia University College Republicans are planning to invite Iranian dictator Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to speak on campus, according to multiple documents reviewed exclusively by Spectator.

Two CUCR Executive Board members denied that the group was looking to invite the Iranian president. But when asked for comment on Sunday, CUCR President William Prasifka, CC ’12, sent Spectator a statement—signed “The Board, Columbia University College Republicans”—neither confirming nor denying that the group plans to invite Ahmadinejad to campus.

“Every year CUCR invites a series of speakers to campus,” the statement read. “Our aim is to enhance the intellectual diversity of the educational environment and to provide a forum for even the most controversial political figures.”

One draft of CUCR’s invitation to the Iranian president—dated Feb. 14, and signed “The Columbia University College Republicans”—says that the group would pay him a \$20,000 speaker’s fee, with the money coming from “private donors and foundations in both Dubai and Abu Dhabi.” Another document obtained by Spectator breaks down the costs associated with a potential event, estimating

SEE CUCR, page 3

Bollinger to host chat tonight on NYPD surveillance

BY SAMMY ROTH, JESSICA STALLONE, AND MELISSA VON MAYRHAUSER
Spectator Senior Staff Writers

University President Lee Bollinger will host a fireside chat this evening to discuss NYPD monitoring of Muslim students at Columbia.

A “limited number” of students from schools across the University received invitations

to the 5 p.m. chat, according to an invitation sent to some students by Dean of Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger over the weekend. The invitation also said that a larger University town hall is scheduled for Tuesday at 8 p.m.

Muslim Religious Life Adviser Khalil Abdur-Rashid said that the chat shows “real leadership” on Bollinger’s part. Student Governing Board

Chair Barry Weinberg, CC ’12, who was invited to the event, said that deans identified Muslim student leaders to invite, among others.

According to Weinberg, the Tuesday town hall will take place at the Earl Hall auditorium and be moderated by University Chaplain Jewelnel Davis.

Columbia College Student Council President Aki

Terasaki, CC ’12, said that he was invited to the event, and Barnard Student Government Association President Jessica Blank, BC ’12, said she did not believe that any SGA representatives were invited.

On Friday, Bollinger released his second public statement concerning the Associated Press report that

SEE CHAT, page 3



HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

GETTING AT THE CORE | Students discuss the Core Curriculum at Sunday’s CCSC town hall.

Students talk Core problems at CCSC town hall

BY BEN GITTELSON
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Students discussed their problems with the Core and pressed the need to communicate these problems to administrators at the Columbia College Student Council meeting Sunday night.

Barry Weinberg, CC ’12 and one of the Committee on the Core’s student representatives, said he believes that the committee has become increasingly powerless and has less and less pull with the administration.

“The Committee on the Core is in one of the weakest places it’s been,” Weinberg said. “The Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid is dead. The Committee on Instruction is soon to be dead. They don’t really bother to consult the Committee on the Core a whole lot anymore.”

Weinberg and Samara Bliss, CC ’13, both representatives of the Committee on the Core, attended the meeting, although representative Derek Turner, CC ’12 and a Spectator opinion columnist, and the 12 faculty members and administrators did not.

“The most racist, sexist shit that happens on campus happens in our CC classrooms.”

—Heben Nigatu, CC ’13

CCSC President Aki Terasaki said the faculty members were receptive and wanted to be invited to another

CCSC meeting, but that the invitation went out last week, which, he said, was “a little late.”

Some students criticized the Core as too Eurocentric. Nnaemeka Ekwelum, CC ’12, said the Core’s focus on Western culture is “problematic,” and he believes it contributed to an incident earlier this semester in which Glass House Rocks was briefly named “Jungle Fever.”

Heben Nigatu, CC ’13, echoed that sentiment, noting that she believes the Core creates an uncomfortable environment for women and students of color.

“The most racist, sexist shit that happens on campus happens in our CC classrooms,” Nigatu said. “The way we talk about colonialism, the way we talk about gender, all those

SEE CORE, page 2

Senegal election makes waves in Harlem, MoHi

BY MELISSA VON MAYRHAUSER
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Senegal held its presidential election on Sunday, in a controversial vote that’s been a topic of intense debate among Harlem’s Senegalese community and among Columbia students studying in Senegal.

President Abdoulaye Wade’s decision to run for a third term violates Senegal’s constitution and has led to widespread protesting and rioting in Senegal. While Senegal is often considered a model of African democracy, Wade’s actions—which were approved by Senegal’s highest court—have raised concerns about authoritarianism.

Two Columbia students—Caitlin Hoerberlein, CC ’13, and Lakota Pochedley, CC ’13—are currently studying in Senegal and have witnessed the tumultuous political climate.

“The general atmosphere is pretty tense,” Hoerberlein said in an email. “The students in my program have been advised not to leave our houses/ immediate neighborhoods Friday, Saturday, and especially Sunday.”

She also noted that classes have been put on hold due to the instability. The winner of the election will not be announced for a few days.

The Institute of African Studies held a panel on Feb. 13 to discuss the election. IAS Director Mamadou Diouf said at the panel that Wade “shouldn’t be running for president.”

SEE SENEGAL, page 2

New SIPA dean focusing on globalizing curriculum

BY MARGARET MATTES
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The School of International and Public Affairs is slated to move to Manhattanville in the early 2020s, but the school’s new interim dean wants to stay focused on academics rather than planning and fundraising for the move.

Political science and public affairs professor Robert Lieberman was named interim SIPA dean on Feb. 17, replacing John Coatsworth, who became University provost. Lieberman, who was previously SIPA’s vice dean, said that he would like to keep SIPA “on the trajectory that it’s on.”

“I feel like the school has made incredible strides in the last few years under John Coatsworth ... I’ve seen a lot of

things change here, but those changes have never been as fast and as productive as they have been in the last couple years,” Lieberman said.

In particular, Lieberman stressed that he wants to continue giving SIPA’s academic program a more global perspective, a process begun under Coatsworth.

“SIPA is really on the leading edge of a new kind of public policy school,” he said.

This international perspective, he said, is already reflected in SIPA’s student body and its faculty’s research.

“Students who are trained to meet the world that way and who can combine the skills of a policy analyst with a global orientation ... those kinds of

SEE SIPA, page 3



MO CHEN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SHOES TO FILL | Interim SIPA Dean Robert Lieberman is replacing John Coatsworth, who was named University Provost.

OPINION, PAGE 4

International network

Andrea Viejo urges foreign students to strengthen their mutual cooperation.

History and heritage

We should reconsider how we approach “heritage” months.



SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Lions drop three of four against Yale, Brown

The men’s basketball team rallied at Yale, but could not take the lead and had a poor effort in Providence. At home, the women’s basketball team earned its first Ivy victory over Yale.

EVENTS

China in Africa

Learn about the increasingly problematic relationship between China and African countries, specifically concerning Chinese-run mines.
918 International Affairs Building, 12 p.m.

Music at St. Paul’s

Listen to renowned jazz musician Mark Valenti’s solo recital.
St. Paul’s Chapel, 6 p.m.

WEATHER

Today



59°/ 36°

Tomorrow



52°/ 37°

More than 500 turn out for anti-fracking event

BY MILES JOHNSON
Spectator Staff Writer

Chants of “no fracking way” filled the Cathedral of St. John the Divine on Saturday afternoon, as about 500 New Yorkers and local leaders gathered to protest hydraulic fracturing.

Known colloquially as “fracking,” hydraulic fracturing is the practice of creating a crack underground with highly pressurized water and chemical additives in order to harvest natural gas.

At the rally sponsored by several anti-fracking organizations, including Food and Water Watch, attendees spoke about the dangers of fracking. Critics say that the practice can release chemicals into the surrounding water and make it hazardous for nearby residents to drink, bathe in, and cook with.

Several politicians, including Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, attended the event. State Senator Adriano Espaillat and State Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal spoke to the crowd.

“This is not a white issue ... this is not an African-American issue ... this is not a Latino issue.

This is not an Asian issue. This is not an issue for only women,” Espaillat, who represents Upper Manhattan, said. “All New Yorkers got to stand together, and if we do, we will ban fracking in New York State.”

Rosenthal, who represents the Upper West Side, assured attendees that they have local political support.

“This is a people’s movement fighting for the people’s right to safe drinking water, safe air, safe soil, a safe future—indeed, a future at all,” Rosenthal said.

Most politicians representing this area have condemned fracking, with a notable exception being Governor Andrew Cuomo. Cuomo and others have advocated for the drilling technique to go into effect in New York in the spring of 2012, after a one-year moratorium on fracking ends.

It’s unclear whether the state government will decide to allow fracking, but officials have said that they may issue a limited number of fracking permits before the end of the fiscal year.

Filmmaker Josh Fox also spoke at the Saturday event, sparking an especially enthusiastic response from the crowd.

Fox is best known for the 2010 documentary film “Gasland,” which examines fracking’s effects on communities in the United States.

“I think it’s important that New York state recognizes that it’s in a place to lead the world,” Fox said. “This issue goes so far beyond the borders of New York state, but we need New York state to be a leader in this fight.”

The crowd gave Fox a standing ovation that lasted close to five minutes. Fox then brought his mother—who is working to start a women’s organization called Mothers Against Fracking—to the stage. He joked that his mother would be fighting all of the “mother frackers,” eliciting huge laughs from the crowd.

Wenonah Hauter, the executive director of Food and Water Watch, said after the event that she doesn’t think fracking “is a technology that can be done safely.”

“There are about six years’ worth of natural gas under New York state,” Hauter said. “We don’t think that it’s worth six years of gas to devastate the state’s drinking water.”

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CHABLI BRAVO / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NO FRACKING WAY | Fracking opponents rallied at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine on Saturday.

Columbia students, Senegalese immigrants debate merits of Senegal president’s run for third term

SENEGAL from front page

“The whole discussion is about interpreting the constitution ... [Wade] doesn’t know why people are interpreting his constitution against his own interpretation and what legitimacy they have to do this,” Diouf said.

But Basbe Sall, a Senegalese immigrant and server at the Senegalese restaurant Africa Kiné in Harlem, said that he trusts Senegal’s court to interpret the law. He added that he would vote for Wade, who is from his hometown of Kébémer.

“They know the law better than us,” Sall said. “A lot of people don’t trust the constitutional committee, but I think they’re

doing their job. The rest is between them and God. You’re going to be judged by God.”

“Most of the other candidates, they’re not really good to be trusted.”

—Basbe Sall,
Senegalese immigrant

Ibou Ibrahima, who works at the Senegalese Café des Ambassades in Harlem, said that

Wade’s presidential mandate has expired and that it’s time for the country to elect a younger leader.

“[Wade] doesn’t have the right to present himself as a candidate today in terms of what the constitution says,” Ibrahima said in French. “It’s also his age. He’s 85 years old. It is preferable that he goes to retirement ... I would definitely vote for the opposition.”

Columbia students and faculty have also been examining the merits of Wade’s attempt to win a new seven-year term.

At the IAS Elections Panel, postdoctoral student Etienne Smith said it’s a problem that Wade has been in office for more than a decade, arguing that this is part of a broader problem of

Senegalese political leaders remaining in office for too long, and that has stopped a new political generation from forming. Smith is currently in Senegal with a team of researchers.

“This tells a lot of the Senegalese political system ... This tells a lot about the impossibility of the Senegalese political class to renew itself,” he said.

Some, though, cynical about Senegal’s political culture, have said that Wade’s old age means fewer years of corrupt rule.

“Most of the other candidates, they’re not really good to be trusted, because it’s not one person you can name who is not corrupt,” Sall said. “At least I know that [Wade] is not going to finish

the seven years coming.”

Other students have noted that Senegal’s culture of political activism has manifested itself in ways other than protesting, which has led to unique research topics.

“It’s been really interesting for me because I’m interested in the hip hop/youth culture, and how [the Senegalese] use hip hop to express their political voice,” said Pochedley, one of the students currently in Senegal.

Marshall Thomas, CC ’12 and one of 21 Columbia students who have studied in Senegal in the past decade, is fascinated by Senegal’s politically charged graffiti and newspaper articles. He said that he cannot imagine an

authoritarian regime coming out of the elections, considering the country’s pro-democracy stance.

Diouf believes that the interest generated by the elections has raised important questions about democracy in the 21st century.

“What you have today is an internal discussion and an external discussion,” Diouf said at the panel. “This [election] has international repercussions. And the international repercussions are key, actually, in the possibility or not of actually stopping the electoral process and opening up new negotiations.”

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HENRY WILLSON / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SPEAKING OUT | Barry Weinberg, a Committee on the Core member, speaks at the town hall.

At town hall, some say that Core too Eurocentric

CORE from front page

sorts of things happen there. Some of the times students have felt most unsafe is in these Core classrooms.”

Attendees also discussed the role of secularism and discomfort in the Core. CCSC Vice President of Policy Ryan Cho, CC ’13, said he believes a sense of discomfort is essential in Core classes and that he learned the most from discussing religion in his Core classes with people who didn’t share his beliefs.

Ekwelum, however, said minority students have to deal with uncomfortable situations the most often in Core classes.

“Discomfort is really important for growth, but it’s about

who is often uncomfortable in classes,” Ekwelum said. “It’s the person of color, the queer

“It will never change unless we deal with the people who are making the decisions.”

—Barry Weinberg, CC ’12
Core committee member

student, the woman, who feels the most uncomfortable.”

Terasaki said he would take feedback from the meeting and

pass it on to the faculty and administrators on the Committee on the Core.

Weinberg emphasized the need to take the conversations to the administrative level. He said he is meeting with Matthew Jones, history professor and chair of the Committee on the Core Curriculum, and will bring up some of the students’ concerns at the committee’s next meeting in March.

“Students need to have these conversations with faculty and, in particular, faculty members who are in charge of governing the core,” Weinberg said. “It will never change unless we deal with the people who are making the decisions.”

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Meili sets Ivy record, leads team to fourth-place finish

SWIMMING from back page

The swimmers also performed well individually. Huang won the consolation final of the 500 freestyle and finished fourth overall in the 200 and fifth in the 100. Freshman Chacha Bugatti claimed third in the mile. Baker placed eighth overall in the 100 backstroke, and Kluge touched fourth in the 200 IM, third in the 400 IM, and sixth in the 200 backstroke.

Meili enjoyed a phenomenal meet. First, she set an Ivy League record in the 200 IM. Her time of 1:57.38 eclipsed the 1999 mark posted by former Columbian and

Olympian Cristina Teuscher. The next day, she smashed the Ivy League record in the 100 breast-stroke with a time of 59.64, becoming the first-ever Ivy woman to finish the race in less than a minute. She wrapped up her individual events with another title on Saturday, winning the 200 breast-stroke with a time of 2:10.40.

Meili's performance netted her the title of Most Outstanding Swimmer of the Meet, as voted on by the eight head coaches and awarded to the best swimmer of the competition.

Qualifying swimmers will continue their season in mid-March at the NCAA championships, hosted by Auburn.

Worn-out Lions overrun by Brown offensive attack

BROWN from back page

need to come out stronger."

"It really starts to wear down on you," junior center Mark Cisco said of falling behind early. "Especially tonight, when we're down so big at halftime."

Cisco, who had been mired in foul trouble and limited to four points against Yale, led the Lions in the first half with seven points. He had 15 on the night, to go with six rebounds.

Fouls again plagued the Lions' big men, who were already without junior power forward John Daniels due to a shoulder injury. Rosenberg fouled out, senior forward Matt Johnson had four fouls on the night, and Cisco again had to sit for portions of the second half with foul trouble.

"You can't make certain plays—when you've got three or four fouls—that you would normally make," Cisco said. "And then

you're thinking about it the whole time, so it really limits what you can do."

Brown went 10-of-15 from beyond the arc in the first half and shot 55.2 percent from the field to build their 16-point halftime lead. The Bears outrebounded the Lions 18-11 in the first period, and held Columbia to 39.3 percent shooting, including 2-of-8 from downtown.

Junior point guard Brian Barbour opened scoring in the second half with a left-handed lay-in and scored the first four points of the period for the Lions. He finished with 18, a team high, to go with 10 assists and two rebounds.

Columbia will return to Morningside Heights next weekend for their final two games of the season against Harvard and Dartmouth.

"We're taking it hard," Smith said. "But we've got two games left, and we need to make them matter."

After criticism, PrezBo gives new remarks on surveillance

CHAT from front page

as recently as 2007, the New York City Police Department regularly monitored the website of Columbia's Muslim Students Association, as well as Muslim student groups at other schools. Bollinger said in the statement that "such an intrusion into the normal, daily activities of our students raises deeply troubling questions that should concern us all."

"While we appreciate the daunting responsibility of keeping New York safe, law enforcement officials should not be conducting such surveillance of a particular group of students or citizens without any cause to suspect criminal conduct," Bollinger said.

"We should all be able to appreciate the deeply personal concerns of the Muslim members of our community in learning that their activities were being monitored—and the chilling effect such governmental efforts have on any of us in a university devoted to the foundational values of free speech and association," he added.

At a town hall meeting held by the MSA on Wednesday night, many students criticized Bollinger's initial response to the reported surveillance.

The consensus at the town hall was that Bollinger's initial statement was inadequate and should have been issued to all University affiliates, rather than just student leaders. Many MSA members also felt that the statement trivialized the scale of the NYPD surveillance.

"The public response by universities, including my statement earlier this week, uniformly objected to the government monitoring of students purely based on race, nationality, or, as was the case here, religion," Bollinger said in his statement on Friday.

Weinberg, referring to the Monday fireside chat, said it is "appropriate that the president meet with the people affected by the spying." But he criticized Bollinger's initial response to the reported surveillance, saying that Bollinger's first statement "very weakly

condemned the spying and profiling of our students."

"Because they're not being held accountable in many ways on many issues, they've essentially forgotten how to do the most basic requirements of their job well, something like responding to the police department, an external affairs matter," Weinberg said, referring to the Columbia administration. "And they couldn't even handle that very well."

"By encouraging the conversations that they're planning to have ... we can get a better understanding on the University's stance on the issues."

—Aki Terasaki, CC '12,

CCSC president

"It's pathetic on Columbia's part. It's pathetic on Low Library's part," he added.

Terasaki said that while "the initial response was not as strong as it needed to be," the fireside chat and town hall were steps in the right direction.

"By encouraging the conversations that they're planning to have ... we can get a better understanding on the University's stance on the issues," he said.

The AP reported on Feb. 18 that officers from the NYPD's Cyber Intelligence unit patrolled the websites of various Muslim student groups, including Columbia's, as part of a "daily routine" in 2006 and 2007. The NYPD also embedded undercover agents in Muslim groups at several schools.

Ben Gittelson contributed reporting. news@columbiaspectator.com

Women capture title, men finish third in league finals

CHAMPION from front page

second day of competition.

"Everyone wants to do well individually, and across the board we're a very talented team," freshman Waverly Neer said.

Neer also entered Heps with high expectations after earning United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Cross Country All-American honors in the fall and recording an NCAA Division I auto-qualifying time in the 3,000 at the Boston University Valentine Invitational. At Heps on Sunday, she took first place in the 3,000.

"It was great to see my training pay off, and it was humbling to be a part of this team as a freshman," Neer said.

The team found success in both track and field events.

The Lions took first and fifth places in the long jump; third in the weight throw; second in the pole vault; third and fifth places in the 5,000; and first in the high jump.

"It was an overall team effort, and everyone contributed in some way or another," Wood said. "We had every event covered."

The team's strong team performance provided a motivational boost for the men, who placed third at Heps with 70 points, despite primarily competing in distance events.

Senior Kyle Merber played a major role in the men's two first-place finishes. Merber won the one-mile race, and was also the anchor leg of the champion distance medley squad which consisted of Merber, senior Adam Behnke, sophomore Byron Jones, and freshman Daniel Everett.

"What the men accomplished in the events was absolutely incredible," Wood said.

Proud of their accomplishment, the Lions will continue



FILE PHOTO

MIATA IN FIRST | Sophomore sprinter Miata Morlu took first in the 400-meter dash at Ivy Hepts.

to work hard, hoping their success will carry over into the upcoming outdoor season.

"For the outdoor season, there will be a lot of excitement going into it. The momentum is going to be huge," Neer said.

Cornell and Princeton had

won every women's indoor title since 2001, when Brown took home the championship. The Lions fell just short last year, when they lost to the Big Red.

"We've been so close so many times, but now everyone sees that it can be done," Wood

said. "It's going to propel us in the years to come."

Neer also underlined the importance of the win. "We've set a standard, and I hope years from now people will look back at the 2012 team and say that we set the foundation."

New SIPA dean: School focused more on academics than fundraising

SIPA from front page

students are going to be the ones who are going to go out in the professional world in the 21st century and solve the world problems and make the world a better place," Lieberman said.

The University is planning a new building for SIPA in Manhattanville—to be designed by architect Renzo Piano—but Lieberman said that academic planning is the school's more pressing need right now and that SIPA has not started to focus on raising money for the new building. Lieberman is also working to improve SIPA's student body and recruitment of top faculty.

"We're focusing now on what we can do to build up the school so that when we eventually move into new space, that we have a school that is worthy of the beautiful Renzo Piano building that has been allocated to us," he said.

Lieberman is an expert on American political development, race and politics, and social welfare policy, and he has taught at SIPA since 1994. He was chairman of the international and public affairs department from 2007 to 2012, and he also served two stints as vice dean, between 2009 and 2010 and between 2011 and 2012.

"We're on the right path, and we're going to stay on it."

—Caroline Kay, SIPA associate dean for student affairs

"In a sense, he knows far more about the school than any other faculty member I know,"

said Patrick Bohan, SIPA associate dean of General and Financial Administration.

SIPA professor Steven Cohen, who was on the search committee that brought Lieberman to SIPA as an assistant professor 18 years ago, described him as "very talented."

"There will be quite a bit of continuity, since he was part of dean's office" already, Cohen said.

SIPA Associate Dean for Student Affairs Caroline Kay, who described Lieberman as instrumental in recent curriculum changes, said that the dean transition will be seamless, because Lieberman has "always been a part of the SIPA community."

"I don't think there's going to be a drastic change," she said. "We're on the right path, and we're going to stay on it."

Lieberman added that the school is also focused on its \$150 million capital campaign,

having just passed the halfway mark. The top priority for those funds is student fellowships, followed by building developments and developing faculty capacity.

He also said that although the move to Manhattanville is still years away, the new building will solve the primary concern among SIPA's faculty and students—a space crunch in its current home, the International Affairs Building.

"We're doing everything we can—in the limits of what this building can support and what we can afford—to reconfigure some of the space in this building to make it work better for us," Lieberman said.

University President Lee Bollinger said in a statement last week that he and the provost will soon form a faculty advisory group in order to search for a permanent dean.

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CUCR members would pay \$20,000 to bring Ahmadinejad to campus

CUCR from front page

\$6,000 for security and technology, \$3,000 for dinner, and \$11,000 for transportation.

The invitation, however, was developed without the knowledge of some CUCR board members. CUCR Executive Director Tyler Trumbach, CC '13, said he didn't know of any plans to invite Ahmadinejad to speak, and CUCR Regent Director of Creative Affairs Nashoba Santhanam, CC '13, issued a statement to the campus blog Bwog, saying that "the Columbia University College Republicans does not—nor has ever intended to—invite Iranian President Ahmadinejad to speak at Columbia."

"The CUCR remains opposed to Ahmadinejad's hostile and intolerant regime," Santhanam said in the statement. "Any other rumors are factually inaccurate and in direct contradiction to previous statements and positions of the CUCR."

The Feb. 14 draft invitation also says that the group "would love to have the chance for our members to hear you speak about your feelings about

American foreign policy, your experience as the president of a great nation, Iran's role in the creation of a two-state solution in Palestine, and the important role of religion in government."

Ahmadinejad spoke on campus during the World Leaders Forum in 2007, after being invited by the School of International and Public Affairs. That invitation sparked intense controversy on campus and ignited a national media firestorm.

Republican politicians and commentators were particularly critical of Columbia for allowing Ahmadinejad to speak on campus. Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) said at the time that "a man who is directing the maiming and killing of American troops should not be given an invitation to speak at an American university."

The CUCR draft invitation to Ahmadinejad said that Columbia "remains an institution with limited ideological diversity, a fact that the administration has repeatedly refused to address, even in the face of increased media attention."

"To fill the ideological void left by the university both inside

and outside the classroom, we take the initiative to invite conservative scholars, politicians, and activists in order to broaden the discussion of issues and provide students with diverse points of view so that they can be challenged to form their own opinions," the invitation says.

CUCR already made waves this semester by floating the possibility of bringing controversial immigration activist and Minuteman Project founder Jim Gilchrist back to campus to speak. The Minuteman Project claims to provide legitimate aid to U.S. law enforcement by patrolling the Mexican border for illegal immigrants, but critics have accused the group of being a thinly veiled racist organization that practices vigilante law.

Gilchrist's last trip to Columbia—in fall of 2006 and also at the request of CUCR—ended in a violent brawl.

In remarks introducing Ahmadinejad at the 2007 World Leaders Forum event, University President Lee Bollinger condemned Ahmadinejad's views on Israel and his human rights record, saying that Ahmadinejad

showed "all the signs of a petty and cruel dictator." But Bollinger also defended Columbia's right to invite Ahmadinejad to speak in the interest of promoting freedom of expression.

"It should never be thought that merely to listen to ideas we deplore in any way implies our endorsement of those ideas, or the weakness of our resolve to resist those ideas, or our naiveté about the very real dangers inherent in such ideas," Bollinger said at the time.

In his speech, Ahmadinejad defended his views on the Holocaust—he has questioned whether it happened—claimed that there is no homosexuality in Iran, and denied that his country has ambitions to create a nuclear weapons program.

Last semester, members of the Columbia International Relations Council and Association had planned to attend a dinner with Ahmadinejad while he was in New York City, but the Iranian mission ultimately rescinded CIRCA's invitation.

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Bridge the divide

BY ARIEL BRICKMAN

Using the term apartheid to describe the current political situation in Israel attempts to equate, inaccurately, two fundamentally different situations. Just as the erection of a wall on campus does nothing except perpetuate a politics of division between the two groups, the usage of this term results in a perverse paradigm of prejudice against the Jewish state. With the pro-Israel community camped on one side of College Walk, and members of Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine located on the other side, the wall has come to represent a barrier to conversation.

For three years, we have passed the Apartheid Wall, analyzed leaflets, and skimmed fact sheets, but what do we have to show for it? Three years later, can C-SJP and Hille's four pro-Israel groups say that the conversation has moved forward at all? The answer is that, sadly, it has not, and neither have we. Israel Apartheid Week is upon us once again, and we stand at the same crossroads—literally, between the Sundial and Low Plaza—as we did three years ago.

The notion of action and productive conversation between pro-Israel groups and C-SJP does not mean, as some have implied, the delegitimization of Palestinian suffering. Social issues continue to confront Israel—to deny them would do Israel, as well as Palestinians, a grave disservice in the same way that labeling Israel an apartheid state does a grave disservice to the peace process. That label oversimplifies and falsely describes the dynamics in Israel, obscuring a clear understanding of the situation. Both sides must work towards effective change and replace rhetoric with actions. In order to move forward, it is important to take a step back to look at the larger picture.

In the West Bank, the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships are moving forward to create a sustainable future for Palestinians by cultivating the infrastructure and security that will help lead to an autonomous Palestinian state. Working with the Israeli government, Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad has developed the Palestinian Ministry of Finance, leading to unprecedented GDP growth in the West Bank. And beyond government, the Palestinian city of Jenin and the Israeli area of Gilboa have launched numerous joint economic ventures, leading to a renewal of tolerance that could become a model for the region.

Why is this not the case on our campus? Here at Columbia, we should support this precarious progress by emulating the efforts at coexistence that have succeeded abroad. As Israelis and Palestinians slowly move forward toward greater understanding in the Middle East, we have a responsibility to move forward at home. Many obstacles to peace still remain, and both Israelis and Palestinians continue to suffer, but these instances of coexistence demonstrate that peace is a realistic possibility.

Using words like apartheid to describe the situation in Israel destroys any hope that creative solutions and ideas will thrive in this intellectual community. Israel is by no means perfect, but calling it an apartheid state and continually refusing to discuss the major issues does little to change the status quo. Columbia students are known as transformative thinkers, and this situation need not be any different. We have the ability to shape the conversation and facilitate the change we wish to see, but that change can only come about by approaching the issues in a new and constructive manner. To begin: Let us engage in discourse and move beyond the barriers the last three years of experiences have constructed. The Columbia campus came together this past week to defend the Muslim Students Association, showing that a common commitment to justice and tolerance unites our campus. These shared commitments should form the foundation for a renewal of tolerance on campus and become a model for all student groups at Columbia. C-SJP: Let's create a space for dialogue and close the gap on College Walk. Let's produce conversation instead of confrontation.

The author is a List College junior majoring in modern Jewish studies and Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African studies. She is the Israel coordinator of Hille.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Speaking openly

A recent news story (“No University-wide protocol for student death notification,” Feb. 24) noted that Barnard students were not notified by University administrators after Tina Bu passed away last year. While Columbia College and School of Engineering and Applied Science students were directly notified of her death by Dean of Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger, students at Barnard and the School of General Studies were not. Although Barnard students found out through other means, including campus publications and word of mouth, GS students received separate notification from GS Dean of Students Scott Halvorson.

As it stands, the separate undergraduate schools deal with student deaths on a case-by-case basis. If a student passes away at one of the four undergraduate schools, the rest of his school receives notification from a dean. That dean then forwards the notification to her counterparts at the other undergraduate schools, who then decide whether to notify their students based on the specific situation, factoring in the concerns of the deceased's family.

We recognize that cases of student deaths should be handled delicately, but at the same time, we should remember that Columbia should strive to be an inclusive student body. We feel that it is pertinent to share information about student deaths between the four undergraduate schools, and we gently urge the undergraduate deans to err on the side of communication.

By communicating with students from each school, administrators show that they recognize the sense of community among the four undergraduate colleges. Students may prefer to find out about the death of a fellow student at another undergraduate school from their dean, not from media on or outside campus. Internal notification shows that the University places value on each student's life and recognizes that Columbia is more than a collection of individuals in separate schools.

Given the sensitive nature of student deaths, it would be troubling for administrators to view them as matters of protocol. We trust that the deans are able to handle private tragedies in a sensible and respectful manner. At the same time, we urge deans not to forget that undergraduate deaths affect the entire undergraduate population.

Correction

The article “Course evals proposal to accomodate TA concerns” (Feb. 24), repeatedly referred to teaching assistants instead of graduate student instructors, and also said that grad students would have to opt out of, rather than opt in to, public course evaluations. Spectator regrets the errors.

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A global 1 percent

This past weekend, I attended “Convergencias 2012,” a conference on political development at Yale. Also present were over 60 other Mexicans who attend top universities in the United States. This was my first time traveling to another college for an academic event as a Columbia student. The experience redefined my perspective on networking, especially among international students, and what it implies.

I don't like to state this bluntly, but the Mexicans that surrounded me form part of Mexican society's elite. They are well-traveled connoisseurs. They attended international private schools and acquired sufficient proficiency in the English language to be able to ace college admissions testing. They've always lived in a privileged bubble within a developing country and didn't have much difficulty adjusting to living abroad in college. They are also foreign to the disaster on Mexican soil as the country crumbles at the hands of drug lords. At Yale, we discussed our country's reconstruction, but I wonder if we will really become its next big architects.

Instead of embracing the links, the connectivity, the networks that our visionary ideas can form, our conversations sometimes seemed to center on the differences between the schools we come from. I discussed why Columbia is less scattered than NYU, more bureaucratic than Yale, and more humanities-oriented than Penn. We discussed what we all do to redeem Mexico within our particular academic contexts, but we rarely talked about creating an effort in unison. I find it ironic that we create imaginary visual walls between ourselves when we will probably end up working together in Mexico as the crème de la crème. Well, that is, if we do not all apply for green cards and lucrative jobs here.

Any international student going to Columbia (or any top school abroad) will come to notice that the world is way smaller and more interconnected than we perceived it to be. You will know one person from Brazil from a summer abroad, and he will know all the Brazilians at Columbia. You will have one friend who lived in the Philippines, and she will have been high school friends with your suitemate. You will find out that the childhood friend of one of your Dominican friends at Columbia became friends with your high school friends in college. Why is this so? It is a very interesting pattern of connectivity and interaction that has led me to think that the people who gain admission into top schools like Columbia are all part of the global 1 percent.



ANDREA VIEJO

From Outside In

Think about the percentage of Mexicans, Jordanians, Moroccans, or Chileans who could ever hope to study here. They are mostly the people who didn't have to escape Palestinian refugee camps, fight in Rio's favelas, or march alongside student protesters in Egypt. Instead, they grew up in the global 1 percent, interacting in academic programs abroad, similar school systems, summer vacations, or boarding schools. Even taking financial aid into account, simply having this degree of education denotes a privileged social standing in a developing country.

Yet how often do we embrace these networks and make something out of them? How often do we hold conferences with international students to help ameliorate situations in their respective regions? I spoke with other attendees at this conference, and it seems that none of them have been invited to another Latin American undergraduate conference. I told my international friends that I would be attending this event over the weekend, and none of them were familiar with the concept. I do not understand why we have to wait until we have careers or expired student visas to connect. It is now, in our most formative educational period, when we share the dynamism and energy of youth that we can achieve more if we work together.

The people who gain admission into top schools like Columbia are all part of the global 1 percent.

This week will be hell for me. I have midterms, two papers, readings, and a take-home assignment. I shouldn't have been at Yale getting four hours of sleep a night while attending a conference. However, the illusion that a really transcendental initiative for my country will emerge from discussions in Yale's hidden corners convinced me that it was worth it. We should focus less on our college microcosms. Instead, we should recognize that just by belonging to our college world, we are already so privileged. We should open ourselves to other international students and branch out to those that will never be in our position.

The world is our oyster if we know how to work together.

The author is a Columbia College first-year. She is on the executive board of the Columbia Society of International Undergraduate Students and a writer for Nuestras Voces. From Outside In runs alternate Mondays.



Yael Wiesenfeld

History, not just heritage

BY GARY OKIHIRO

Have you noticed? Columbia calls its Black History Month “Black Heritage Month,” like its Native American Heritage Month, Latino(a) Heritage Month, and Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. Unlike the rest of the nation, including Congress—which designates each month—Columbia chooses the word “heritage” over “history.” On its website, the University's Office of Multicultural Affairs—the sponsor of those “heritage” months—explains that the heritage months' purpose is to “celebrate the rich culture, political contributions, and varied histories of diverse groups in our society.”

I don't believe I'm quibbling when I note a distinction here between “heritage” and “history.” Words matter. The difference, I contend, reflects the contrast between multiculturalism and ethnic studies. The former is the study of cultural groups and their inheritances, while the latter is about power and its locations and articulations. “Heritage” groups are just that, diverse cultures that contribute to “our society.” “History,” contrarily, defines a people and nation, and is marked by contestations and agency or the power to move. That is what the African American educator Carter G. Woodson had in mind when he proposed in 1926 Negro History Week, which evolved into Black History Month in 1976. “African-American,” many maintain, presents a conundrum between the two, living in ambiguity on the hyphen, whereas African American stresses American with the African modifier.

Woodson was born to parents who were former slaves. As a child, he worked in the coal mines of Kentucky, and at the age of 20, enrolled in high school. After graduating two years later, Woodson went on to pursue and earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. A central concern of his life was the absence of African Americans from the nation's history and hence consciousness, and the impact that had on the lives of African Americans and, indeed, of all Americans. Accordingly, Woodson established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915, and launched the

Journal of Negro History in 1916.

The absence of African Americans from the pages of U.S. histories, Woodson knew, was deliberate and calculated to extol the virtues of whites whose deeds filled the pages of those histories and to denigrate the achievements of African Americans by their absence. He would later call that reciprocal process of white supremacy and black subjugation “mis-education,” and powerfully described its effects on “educated” African Americans. “When you control a man's thinking you do not have to worry about his actions,” Woodson wrote. “You do not need to send him to the back door. He will go without being told. In fact, if there is no back door, he will cut one for his special benefit. His education makes it necessary.”

Black history was the key to unshackle that mind held in bondage and to lift the people from a state of subservience, Woodson believed. That was, that is, the purpose of Black History Month.

It seems to me that Columbia's celebration of “heritage” groups mirrors the University's warm embrace of multiculturalism and cold rejection of ethnic studies. An example will suffice. When a colleague and I proposed Latino and Asian-American studies majors, the college curriculum committee quickly accepted both courses of study. These were “heritage” groups and, like African-American studies, they added to the luster of the University as a global marketplace of ideas. But when I proposed a major in comparative ethnic studies and explained the field as a study of power around the axes of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, and nation, the college curriculum committee questioned me, called on respected colleagues to affirm its legitimacy, and required me to submit several revisions before finally approving it three years later. The major lasted about three years before it was dismantled and replaced with a major in race and ethnicity.

I think it generous of OMA to support all of the “heritage” months they help sponsor, I am in awe of the students who have devoted countless hours toward their organization, and I've participated in and attended many of those months' activities. A rejection or criticism of those efforts is not my object. I simply urge a consideration of the ideologies that underwrite “heritage” and “history” months, and our responsibility as members of “our society.”

The author is a professor of international and public affairs and a term research fellow at the Institute for Research in African-American Studies.

The Columbia Daily Spectator accepts op-eds on any topic relevant to the Columbia University and Morningside Heights community. Op-eds should be roughly 650 words in length. We require that op-eds be sent exclusively to Spectator and will not consider articles that have already been published elsewhere. Letters to the Editor should be no longer than 350 words and must refer to an article from Spectator or The Eye, or a Spectrum post. Submissions should be sent to opinion@columbiaspectator.com. Please paste all submissions into the body of the email. Should we decide to publish your submission we will contact you via email.

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 29

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

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED,
ALL EVENTS ARE WHEELCHAIR
ACCESSIBLE.

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NEW YORK, NY 10027
PHONE 212.854.2037

02/27

REIMAGINING EQUALITY

6:30 PM

Event Oval, The Diana Center

02/29

ISRAEL & ITS NEIGHBORS

An Insider's View

6 PM

Event Oval, The Diana Center

02/29

HOW TO GET FROM THERE
TO HERE

7 PM

Julius S. Held Auditorium, 304 Barnard Hall

03/01–03/03

THE EGG-LAYERS

3 PM (Saturday), 8 PM

Glicker-Milstein Theatre,
LL200 The Diana Center

03/02

TALES OF HOFFMANN

8 PM

James Chapel, Union Theological Seminary

03/03

VULNERABILITY

The Human and the Humanities

9 AM

Barnard Hall Lobby

03/06

PUBLIC SPACE & PUBLIC
CONSCIOUSNESS

6 PM

Event Oval, The Diana Center

03/21

PRIVATE BODIES, PUBLIC TEXTS

6:30 PM

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

03/21

SALSA TRADITIONS IN THE
CARIBBEAN

7 PM

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

03/22

STUDENT LIFE DURING WARTIME

World War II at Barnard College

12 PM

BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

BARNARD

THE LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE
FOR WOMEN
IN NEW YORK CITY


MONDAY MORNING
POINT GUARD

week
8

BACKUP PLAN

GAME BALL

Brown sophomore guard Sean McGonagill, after missing the game at Columbia two weeks ago with an injury, lit up the Lions for 28 points, shooting 5-of-7 from beyond the arc.



INJURY REPORT

Junior forward John Daniels was unable to play in both weekend contests because of a shoulder injury and is day-to-day.

C SQUARED

Senior guard Chris Crockett, who averages only 15 minutes per game, logged a combined 48 minutes between the two games.

BOX SCORE

PLAYER	MIN	REB	AST	PTS	MIN	REB	AST	PTS
BARBOUR	37	1	8	21	37	2	10	18
LYLES	34	3	0	10	33	0	0	10
STAAB	15	5	2	0	22	5	1	6
CISCO	20	9	1	2	27	6	1	15
ROSENBERG	29	8	2	13	24	5	1	13
CROCKETT	28	3	0	11	20	0	1	4
OSETKOWSKI	19	5	0	10	7	1	0	0
JOHNSON	9	0	0	0	9	0	2	3
EGEE	5	1	0	0	5	1	0	3
GREEN	4	0	0	0	2	1	0	2
SPRINGWATER	0	0	0	0	9	1	1	0

IVY STANDINGS

	W	L	PCT
Harvard	10	2	.833
Penn	9	2	.818
Yale	9	3	.750
Princeton	7	4	.636
Cornell	6	6	.500
Columbia	3	9	.250
Brown	2	10	.167
Dartmouth	1	11	.083

IVY SCOREBOARD

Princeton.....85

Dartmouth.....61

Penn.....55

Harvard.....54

Yale.....71

Cornell.....40

Penn.....57

Dartmouth.....54















Harvard.....67

Princeton.....64

Cornell.....69

Brown.....63

IVY SCHEDULE

 <div>GAME ONE VS. PENN L 66-64</div>	 <div>GAME TWO VS. PRINCETON L 62-58</div>	 <div>GAME THREE VS. CORNELL W 61-56</div>	 <div>GAME FOUR AT CORNELL L 65-60</div>	 <div>GAME FIVE AT DARTMOUTH W 64-62</div>	 <div>GAME SIX AT HARVARD L 57-52</div>	 <div>GAME SEVEN VS. BROWN W 86-60</div>
 <div>GAME EIGHT VS. YALE L 59-58</div>	 <div>GAME NINE AT PRINCETON L 77-66</div>	 <div>GAME TEN AT PENN L 61-59 (OT)</div>	 <div>GAME ELEVEN AT YALE L 75-67</div>	 <div>GAME TWELVE AT BROWN L 94-78</div>	 <div>GAME THIRTEEN VS. HARVARD 3/2, 7 P.M.</div>	 <div>GAME FOURTEEN VS. DARTMOUTH 3/3, 7 P.M.</div>

SPORTS BRIEFLY



MEN’S TENNIS

The Lions improved to 7-2 for the season after defeating Fairleigh Dickinson and Army this Friday and Saturday. Against Fairleigh Dickinson, the Light Blue dominated, winning 6-1. The top-seeded doubles duo of freshmen Ashok Narayana and Max Schnur defeated its Fairleigh Dickinson opponents 8-1, beginning the Lions’ 45-minute sweep of the doubles point. The Light Blue traveled up the Hudson the following day to face Army, going on to sweep the Black Knights, 7-0. Narayana and Schnur notched a second straight 8-1 victory at the No. 1 doubles match. The Light Blue won every match on Saturday and earned its closest victory in the No. 3 doubles match by a score of 8-6. The tennis team will be back in action over spring break as it heads to Texas for four matches, starting on March 13 against Texas Christian.

—Hahn Chang



MEN’S SWIMMING

At the Eastern College Athletic Conference Swimming and Diving Open Championships, the Lions finished fourth out of 20 teams—one place better than last year. Despite holding a firm lead on third place through Saturday, the Light Blue were overtaken by the U.S. Military Academy, which fared well in the diving events. Standout performances included the relays, where the team of sophomores Philipp Gaissert, Kai Schultz, William Falk-Wallace, and Daniel Tan came in second in the finals of the 200-yard freestyle relay. Gaissert also won the 50 freestyle final, and Tan and Schultz came fifth and eighth, respectively, in the event. The other 17 swimmers on the team will be at the Ivy League Championships in Princeton, N.J., starting on Thursday, March 1, at 11 a.m.

—Eric Wong



WOMEN’S SWIMMING

At this year’s Eastern College Athletic Conference swimming championships, the Light Blue women improved upon last year’s 12th place finish to take eighth out of 17 teams. Top Lion finishers included freshman Emily Lavay, who won the 400-yard IM and paced 15th overall for the 500 freestyle, and sophomore Maggie D’Arcy, who made the consolation finals in both the 500 and 200 freestyle. The backstroke events also yielded good finishes for the Lions: freshmen Susan Xiong, Lisa Zhang, and Lexi Riggs all made it back to the B final of the 200 backstroke, where they placed second, fifth, and sixth, respectively. Riggs also placed seventh overall in the 100 backstroke. Meanwhile, freshman teammate Olivia Evans placed in the 200 and 400 individual medleys. Host U.S. Naval Academy won the meet.

—Charlotte Murtishaw



LACROSSE

The Light Blue opened its season with a 14-7 loss to American on Saturday. Junior attacker Kacie Johnson and senior midfielder Taylor Gattinella each tallied three times, and Gattinella pulled to first in program history in draw controls. Junior attacker Kimberly Collins scored five goals and added an assist for the Eagles, who scored three goals in succession on four separate occasions in the game, including on three of their first five shots. The Lions trailed by as many as nine with seven minutes to play but scored the next three goals before American netted another with six seconds to go. Sophomore goalkeeper Skylar Dabbar made six saves in the loss. The Light Blue next face Mount St. Mary’s on Wednesday at Robert K. Kraft Field.

—Muneeb Alam



WOMEN’S TENNIS

The Light Blue fell 5-2 to No. 51 Maryland on Sunday. Freshman and No. 4 singles player Crystal Leung came away with an impressive three-set victory over Maryland’s Vroni Van Berlo. After dropping the first set 2-6, Leung took the second set 6-0 and won the match in a third set tiebreaker. The Lions’ top three singles players struggled against the Terps’ top seeds and fell in straight sets. Columbia’s next match will be against Memphis at home on Saturday, March 3.

—Caroline Bowman



WOMEN’S SQUASH

This Saturday, the Light Blue won the Kurtz Cup (B division) consolation bracket of the College Squash Association Women’s National Championships, finishing the season ranked No. 13 in the country. Seeded third to begin the tournament, the Lions fell to fourth-seeded Williams College 8-1 on Friday. Relegated to the consolation bracket, the Light Blue next faced second-seeded Franklin and Marshall and advanced to the final with a convincing 8-1 victory. In their final match of the tournament, the Lions downed Mount Holyoke 6-3, overcoming losses in the top three spots. Columbia finished the season with a 5-9 overall record, going 0-6 in Ivy play.

—Muneeb Alam

Bradford, Simpson lead Lions to Ivy win

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL from back page

made one of her 12 shots and missed all six of her three-point attempts.

“Honestly, I feel personally like I let our seniors down by going 1-9 this season,” Columbia sophomore forward Courtney Bradford said. “I just wanted to get a win for our seniors. For me, it was like, I have to go all out, I have to do whatever it takes.”

Bradford was a dominant inside presence throughout the game, scoring eight points and adding a game-high 18 rebounds. Junior forward Tyler Simpson led the Lions with 20 points and scored seven consecutive points to tie the game at seven when it looked like the Bulldogs would pull away early.

“We ran the same play every time, and I got the same look,” Simpson said. “I just focused on my finish every time, because if they’re going to keep giving me the lane to the basket, I’ll keep putting it in. It really was a good team effort, too, because my teammates worked to get me open and made really great passes.”

The game was close throughout and was tied at 50 with

three minutes left. The Lions then went on a 6-2 run to close out the game.

The Lions hosted Brown for Senior Night on Saturday. They continued their energized play in a close first half that featured seven lead changes and five ties. But in the second half, Brown’s excellent three-point shooting and the Lions’ poor post defense allowed the Bears to outscore them 49-39.

“It’s a disappointing loss. We didn’t come out the second half as strong as we wanted to,” Simpson said. “As a team, we just didn’t play defense as well as we wanted to.”

While the team’s offense had been a problem for most of the season, its defense was its weakness on Saturday night. The Bears had their way in the low post, and the Lions had a particularly tough time stopping Brown’s senior forward Aileen Daniels and senior guard Hannah Passafuime. Daniels had a career-high 25 points and four rebounds, while Passafuime added 14 points. The Lions struggled with post defense all game, allowing 30 points in the paint and the Bears to shoot 28 foul shots.

“The problem tonight wasn’t the offense. Tonight—for

whatever reason—we really lost our principles defensively, in terms of post defense,” Nixon said. “It was consistent throughout both halves. They had quite a few players getting the ball, and not just getting the ball, but being able to turn and lay it up, because we weren’t in the right position.”

The Lions’ defensive struggles overshadowed a great offensive performance, as Simpson led the Light Blue with 23 points and six rebounds. Nixon pointed to the first four minutes of the second half, during which the Bears went on a 10-4 run to take a 36-28 lead, as the difference in the game.

“We came out to start the second half as flat as possible,” Nixon said. “It’s just really unfortunate that you can look at just a three- or four-minute span at the start of the second half, and that ends up being the difference in the game. We really played pretty solid for a good chunk of the game, but that little run really hurt us.”

This weekend, the Lions will look to improve on their one Ivy League win when they hit the road to play Harvard on Friday and Dartmouth on Saturday. Tipoff for both games will be at 7 p.m.

Epeeists, sabrists perform well at Weapon Squads

BY SPENCER GYORY
Spectator Staff Writer

On Sunday, the Columbia men’s and women’s fencing teams competed in the second annual United States Collegiate Weapon Squad Championships, which included over 20 of the top programs in the nation. The Lions performed well but were frustrated by Ivy League rivals Princeton and Penn.

Results from this tournament were not determined by how the entire team performed, but rather how each individual weapon—sabre, epee, and foil—did. In addition, the scoring for the event was based on a 45-touch relay system as opposed to typical collegiate five-touch bouts.

The men’s sabre squad finished second. On their road to the gold-medal bout, the squad defeated Yeshiva 45-8, Yale 45-37, and Notre Dame 45-38.

In the final bout, Penn and Columbia put on a show. The score stayed virtually even throughout the entire bout as the momentum swung back and forth between the two Ancient Eight rivals. Penn took the lead late in the bout and went up 40-36 heading into the final pairing. Lions’ freshman sabrist Will Spear battled back to 44-43, but was unable to complete the comeback as the Lions fell to the Quakers 45-43.

“We all came in really tired today,” Spear said. “I don’t know why, but we started out really slow. In the end, I think we turned that around, had some great teamwork, and started fencing better. I’m really happy with how we did.”

The women’s epee squad, which won the event last year, finished in third place. After defeating Fairleigh Dickinson 45-35 and North Carolina 45-27, the squad could not keep up with

Princeton in the semi-finals. The Tigers, who went on to win the event, opened up an early lead and never let the Lions get close as they snatched the 45-34 victory.

Like the epee squad, the women’s sabre squad could not overcome Princeton. After defeating CCNY 45-11, Brown 45-22, and Penn 45-26, it fell to the Tigers 45-35.

“We have some issues with Princeton from the women’s sabre and women’s epee side,” junior epeeist and captain Lydia Kopecky said. “We fought well. We had some really good touches, but it was frustrating.”

The women’s foil squad finished in sixth place after defeating NYU 45-15 but falling to Northwestern 45-36.

Men’s epee finished fifth overall after defeating Brandeis 45-24 and falling to Ohio State 45-36. Men’s foil finished in 12th place after losing to NYU 45-30. The Lions’ chances were dealt a significant blow by the injury sophomore foilist Alex Pensler suffered before the meet.

“Alex Pensler, we think, may have a stress fracture,” head coach Michael Aufrichtig said. “He started, but we had to pull him out. He could hardly move. We hope he will get better before Regionals in two weeks.”

“This meet provided strong fencing in a competitive atmosphere,” Aufrichtig said. “We will come out of here one of the top five teams. It showed that we are strong and that we have depth. It was a good preparation two weeks before the Regionals. Now we have two weeks to get back, get a little bit of rest, a little bit of training, and then it’s championship season.”

The Lions will travel to Boston College on Sunday, March 11, to compete in the NCAA Regionals.

SCOREBOARD

MEN’S BASKETBALL



Columbia 67
Yale 75

Columbia 78
Brown 94

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL



Columbia 56
Yale 52

Columbia 63
Brown 75

MEN’S SWIMMING



Finished fourth at ECAC championships

WOMEN’S SWIMMING



Finished eighth at ECAC championships

Finished fourth at Ivy League Women’s Swimming and Diving Championship

TRACK AND FIELD



Finished first at Ivy League Heptagonal Indoor Championship

FENCING



Competed at Weapon Squad Championship

MEN’S TENNIS



Columbia 6
Fairleigh Dickinson 1

Columbia 7
Army 0

WOMEN’S TENNIS



Columbia 2
Maryland 5

LACROSSE



Columbia 7
American 14

After a Lions’ comeback, Yale pulls away in final minutes to hand Lions road loss

YALE from back page

culminating in a three-pointer by senior guard Chris Crockett, which put the score at 47-43.

As the Lions made their comeback, freshman center Cory Osetkowski, freshman forward Alex Rosenberg, and senior guard Chris Crockett came through with clutch plays for the Light Blue.

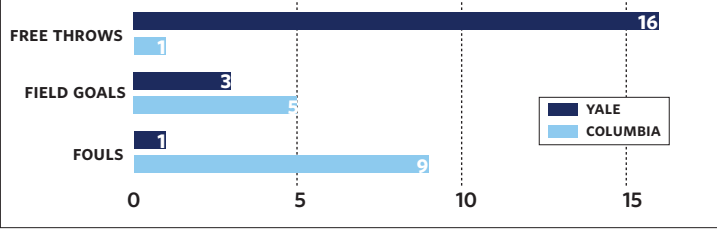
Osetkowski’s outside shooting was key for the Lions, as the freshman tied the game twice—first at the 6:06 mark and then

again a minute later.

“That’s where our big man coach, Coach Hartman, has been working with us—just working on the outside shots, becoming more versatile—and I think it’s been working out really well,” Osetkowski said.

With the game tied, the Lions had two possessions in which they could have taken the lead, but both opportunities were fruitless, as Yale drew an offensive foul and then Barbour missed an outside jumper.

COLUMBIA AT YALE: THE FINAL FIVE MINUTES



GRAPHIC BY YUMA SHINOHARA

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Persistence and patience pay off for Lions

Finally, the wait is over. After a barren 2011, an Ivy League championship has come to Morningside Heights early this calendar year, thanks to the women's indoor track and field team.

The team won its first title in program history, the first for the Light Blue since men's golf won in spring of 2010, and the first for a women's team since fencing reigned supreme in 2008.

Wood found a way around two of the biggest coaching challenges that exist.

Pardon the pun, but Columbia coach Willy Wood has got a great track record. Also the head coach of the entire cross country program, he led the women's team to four straight titles from 2003-06 and added two men's cross country titles to his collection in 2004 and 2009. He's also brought some stellar athletes to Columbia in Olympians Lisa Stublic, CC '05, and Erison Hurtault, CC '07.

But forget his past—now he's achieved success with a new generation, and it's time for the rest of the Lions' programs to take note. Wood is such a good example for fellow coaches to follow because he found a way around two of the biggest coaching challenges that exist. The first one: recruiting. Wood found the Olympians named above, but, more recently, he discovered freshman Waverly Neer before she officially became the fastest high school runner in the country. His recruiting has been fantastic, and this Ivy win is a testament to that. In fact, one of the Lions' fastest runners, senior Sharay Hale, was injured for this past weekend's event. The fact that Wood has assembled a team with enough depth to cope with that loss says a great deal about his recruiting ability.

However, there's something apart from his recruiting skills that deserves tribute. What makes this weekend's feat particularly impressive, in my mind, is that Wood found a way to end Princeton and Cornell's complete stranglehold on women's indoor track and field, helping Columbia become the first team other than those two to win since Brown took the title in 2001.

It's never easy to end a team's complete domination in a sport, and one can only imagine how much harder it is to leave a mark when there are two teams way ahead of the pack. The achievement is largely a tribute to Wood's resilience and the faith that the Columbia athletic department has shown in him.

Wood took charge of the Light Blue in 1994. His first Ivy title came in 2003—that's a nine-year wait. You've got to credit the athletic department for sticking with its man through that period, but more than anything, I think there's a tremendous amount of credit due to Wood for being determined and persistent. He did all the right things in terms of building a strong program. Besides his spot-on recruiting, he made sure the right infrastructure and facilities were in place for the Lions to perform. In fact, Neer mentioned while recording the Spectator SportsCast last week that she felt Columbia's indoor track and field venue at the Armory is the best in the Ivy League. Rather than looking for a sizeable financial investment and waiting to construct his own facility, Wood's team uses something in New York City that suits its needs.

Several Columbia teams feel they are a way off the pace or almost there but not quite. This weekend's result goes to show that persistence pays off, and, with the right coach in charge, a team is capable of anything. An important lesson is that you have to give a coach time, though, as fellow columnist Benjamin Spener argued last month.

On the men's side, Princeton may have made it a hat trick of wins, but with the outdoor Heps coming up later this term, I'm excited to see what Wood and his athletes can provide. Hopefully, there will be more silverware added to the Lions' trophy cabinet before the year is up.

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MRINAL MOHANKA
Word on the Street



KATE SCABROUGH / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SAVING PRIVATE BRIAN | The Lions failed to capitalize on strong performances from junior point guard Brian Barbour, falling to Yale and Brown on the road.

Inconsistencies leave Light Blue winless on weekend

Columbia rallies to tie game, but foul trouble dooms Lions

BY STEVEN LAU
Spectator Staff Writer

NEW HAVEN, CONN.—A second-half comeback fell short for the Columbia men's basketball team (14-14, 3-9 Ivy), as the Lions fell 75-67 at Yale Friday night.

The heartbreaking one-point loss to the Bulldogs (19-7, 9-3 Ivy) from two weeks ago was still fresh in the minds of the Light Blue players when they took the court in New Haven. But hopes for revenge did little to inspire Columbia's play in the early minutes of the contest.

"We didn't play well to start the game," head coach Kyle Smith said. "There was a little selfishness in the sense that, just disjointed, we took a couple bad shots—3-for-17—and we weren't guarding."

For nearly 10 minutes, junior point guard Brian Barbour was the only Lion who could hit a basket, and Yale jumped out to a 15-point lead.

With 6:15 to go, the Light Blue finally began to compete. Sophomore guard Meiko Lyles hit a jumper that

set off an 11-2 run for the Lions, cutting Columbia's deficit to 25-20.

But just as in the last meeting between Yale and Columbia, Bulldog senior forward Reggie Willhite—who had 20 points—proved to be the Lions' bane. The Yale captain responded to the Light Blue's run with a crowd-rousing dunk and helped the Bulldogs rally to finish the half with a 30-22 lead.

"He owns us," Smith said. "He just doesn't feel any resistance when he plays against us and can do anything he wants. We've tried different guys on him, and it didn't seem to matter."

At the start of the second period, the Lions battled to keep the margin in single digits, and with 12:33 remaining, the momentum suddenly shifted in their favor. Yale's senior center Greg Mangano, who had been dominating the Lions under the basket, was charged with an offensive foul and then issued a technical for protesting the call.

The result was two free throws by Barbour and a Lions possession

SEE YALE, page 7

CU beats Yale for first Ivy win, loses on Senior Night



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SEEING 20/20 | Junior guard/forward Tyler Simpson scored over 20 points in both weekend contests, helping the Lions end their Ivy League losing skid on Friday.



ALYSON GOULDEN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lions' defense falls apart, surrenders season-high at Brown

BY ZACH GLUBIAK
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Columbia fell on the road 94-78 at Brown Saturday night, as the Bears celebrated their Senior Night with a dominating win behind a strong three-point shooting performance and 28 points from sophomore point guard Sean McGonagill.

One year after setting a Pizzitola Sports Center record with 39 points against the Lions, McGonagill was a thorn in Columbia's side all night long. He shot 8-of-11 from the floor, including 5-of-7 from beyond the arc. As a team, Brown shot 63.6 percent from downtown.

"They're a good shooting team," freshman forward Alex Rosenberg said. "We knew that coming in, and there's no way you can give them open threes. That's the main part of their game."

Both Rosenberg, who finished with 13 points and five rebounds, and head coach Kyle Smith pointed to a lackluster team effort in the loss.

"I think our heart's a little snapped," Smith said. "We didn't compete hard enough. This was our worst effort, as far as competing."

"From the start, we didn't come to play tonight," Rosenberg said. "Which is surprising, because we're a team that's known for battling."

Smith acknowledged that his squad's string of close losses, including a one-point loss to Yale two weeks ago and an overtime loss to Penn last weekend, were starting to wear on it.

One night after falling behind 20-5 against Yale, the Light Blue again found itself in a hole early.

Brown's Jean Harris, honored before the game as one of the Bears' seniors, finished the game with 17 points and opened the scoring with a trey on Brown's first possession. It would be a sign of things to come, as Brown connected on eight three-pointers in the first 14:23 and went on a 25-6 run to open up a 35-16 lead. The Bears entered the second half ahead 43-26.

"We can't put ourselves in a hole like that," Rosenberg said. "We're good enough to fight back, and we evened it up last night at Yale, but we should never put ourselves in a hole to start off with. We need to come out stronger."

SEE BROWN, page 3

Women's swimming takes fourth at Ivies

BY CHARLOTTE MURTISHAW
Spectator Staff Writer

After three days of competition, the Columbia women's swimming and diving team finished in fourth place at the Ivy League Championships, with a team total of 1,057 points.

Favorites Harvard and Princeton, first and second respectively, boasted talented squads that inundated the top heats, and a resilient Yale snuck in to steal the bronze from Columbia by fewer than 20 points. The Bulldogs benefited from the strong performance of senior captain Hayes Hyde, who ultimately captured the Career High Point Swimmer Award, and the return of repeat champion Alexandra Forrester, a junior who took last season off.

The meet started off with a Light Blue win as the 200-yard freestyle relay team of junior Katie Meili, freshmen Mikaila Gaffey and Salena Huang, and sophomore Laney Kluge captured first in an NCAA B cut of 1 minute, 32.58 seconds. The day would end with another relay victory, this time by the team of senior Dorothy Baker, Meili, junior Kristina Parsons, and Huang in the 400 medley relay.

SEE SWIMMING, page 3

SEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, page 7