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Burmese Monks Recall Protest

Four Burmese monks who participated in the 2007 Saffron Revolution, an anti-government protest aimed to defend human rights and civil liberties, addressed Columbia students on Tuesday.



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The Trojan War for The Modern Audience

The Woman, currently showing as part of the Columbia Stages series, provides a fresh perspective on Ancient Greek themes from war to the difficulty of change.

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The Kind of Gift You Never Hoped to Get

Regift, an exhibit at the Swiss Institute curated by Bernard professor John Miller, takes the concept of unwanted gifts to a new—and sometimes grotesque—level.



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Baseball Travels Coast to Coast

The Columbia baseball team heads to California for 10 straight days of ball, opening under the lights at UC Riverside on Friday night.



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Fencing Readies for NCAA Championships

After a strong showing at the Northeast Regionals last weekend, the Light Blue will send 11 fencers to compete in the nationals a week from Thursday at Penn State.

ONLINE

ColumbiaSpectator.com

Episcopal Church Bishop Speaks

The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori, the first woman ever elected to her post, addressed students on campus Monday night.



Joey Shemuel / Senior Staff Photographer

CONGRATULATIONS | Maggie Gyllenhaal, CC '99, thanks University President Lee Bollinger after accepting an award for "distinguished professional achievement" at the John Jay Awards Dinner.

Scholars Present Awards to CC Alumni at John Jay Dinner

BY JOY RESMOVITS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

A 17-year-old first year once snuck into Columbia College Dean Austin Quigley's senior seminar.

On Tuesday evening over 10 years later, that student, actress Maggie Gyllenhaal, CC '99, returned to her alma mater to join four other alumni in receiving the John Jay Award for "distinguished professional achievement." Gyllenhaal described Quigley as "one of those professors that just blew my mind and my heart open," and Quigley, in turn, said he was surprised that Gyllenhaal's "career survived taking a course from me."

At the Awards Dinner, Columbia pride flowed as freely as the wine. Donors, alumni, and administrators rubbed elbows with celebrities at the ritzy event in Low rotunda as the honorees gathered to praise Alma Mater. The 2009 award-winners included Gyllenhaal, NAACP president Benjamin Jealous, CC '94, medical researcher Paul Maddon, CC '81, Thomas Francis Marano, CC '83, and sculptor Gregory Wyatt, CC '71. The evening's speeches focused largely on transition and leadership in the administration of the first U.S. president to graduate from the College.

The annual dinner, which in prior years was held in other city venues, benefited the John Jay National Scholarship Program and raised between six and seven hundred thousand dollars.

After cocktail hour and appetizers, Quigley told the room that applications to the College are up 11 percent this year, "so don't believe all that bad news you read."

Quigley noted that, as frequently occurs during economic downturn, many are ques-

tioning the value of a liberal arts education. But he said that the humanities remain essential because they teach how to "think outside the box"—a trait Quigley said was exemplified by the honorees.

University President Lee Bollinger, decked out in a tuxedo with a blue bow tie, took to the podium to elaborate on the theme of transitions, particularly that of Quigley's stepping down as dean. To a room full of College alumni, Bollinger praised Quigley and Vice President for Arts and Sciences Nicholas Dirks for working to integrate the College into the framework of the University. "For many years, many decades, it has been the effort of the University, of the College, to ... accept the College as the core of the University," adding that the University's prime responsibility is "to the youngest amongst us."

In an interview during the event, Provost Alan Brinkley explained that Columbia's legacy as one of the first modern American universities has led to "tensions between the College and the University."

During the ceremony, awardees were introduced by John Jay scholars, before they spoke and received their plaques.

Gyllenhaal, known for her roles in *Stranger Than Fiction* and *Batman*, kicked off the speeches. "I've been trying to think about what it really means to learn something," she said. "I was raised to feel like I had to be amazing all the time... It's not the way to learn anything." She said she realized that learning requires a "living, breathing experience," as exemplified by her Columbia education, which taught her to "acknowledge that I really know nothing."

SEE JOHN JAY, page 3

Holder Selected as Class Day Speaker

Holder, CC '73, Law '76, Praised For His Service as CU Trustee

BY JOY RESMOVITS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

Eric Holder, U.S. Attorney General, CC '73, Law '76, and a Columbia University trustee, will be Columbia College's 2009 Class Day Speaker, the senior class council announced on Low Library steps Tuesday afternoon. Holder—the first black man to head the Justice Department—will address graduating seniors on May 19 on South Lawn.

"We're elated to have the first African-American attorney general of the United States," said Mark Johnson, senior council president and CC '09.

Holder is the second Columbia alumnus in a row to become attorney general, succeeding Michael Mukasey, CC '63. An active member of the Morningside Heights community during his time as a student, Holder volunteered at a Harlem youth center and joined Concerned Black Men, an organization of male mentors for teens.

Holder has maintained ties to Columbia as a member of the University's Board of Trustees. Administrators have commended his commitment to the board.

"He's been a very good trustee—attending meetings, listening, commenting, adding important points to the conversation," University President Lee Bollinger said in a phone interview in November 2008.



Courtesy of Columbia University

ERIC HOLDER, CC '73

"Eric Holder has been a loyal and active alumnus of both our College and Law School whose impressive career exemplifies the civic values and commitment to public service that we hope to nurture in our students across all professional fields and academic disciplines," Bollinger said in a press release on Tuesday.

"Eric Holder has stayed closely connected to the College and to his classmates while building an outstanding career serving the public good," Columbia College Dean Austin Quigley said in the release.

In addition to serving as deputy attorney general in the Clinton administration, Holder has been U.S. attorney

SEE CLASS DAY, page 3



Lila Neiswanger / Staff Photographer

CLASS DAY SPEAKER | The announcement of Eric Holder, CC '73, as Class Day speaker was sparsely attended, owing to midterms and blustery weather.

Housing Amendment Would Allow Ownership

BY KATHERINE MEDUSKI
Spectator Staff Writer

Fluctuations in the New York housing market may have some renters worried about losing their city-subsidized homes. But proposed changes in affordable housing law may soon give them hope.

An amendment proposed in February would allow participants in the city's Inclusionary Housing Program to purchase the units they live in, making affordable home ownership an option for many for the first time. Currently, the IHP—a New York City program established in 1987 to provide affordable housing to the city's highest-density districts—applies only to rental units. Allowing low- and middle-income families to own their homes could provide them with more stability in the face of a volatile real estate market. But the amendment is meeting mixed reviews across the city, as some housing experts question the motivation behind the proposal.

"Home ownership is an important stabilizing force in a community," New York City Planning Commissioner Amanda M. Burden said in a February press release announcing the amendment. "Not only will these changes provide a significant route to stable, affordable home ownership at a critical time but it will encourage broader participation in the Inclusionary Housing Program, assuring that

we meet the Mayor's goal to house 500,000 New Yorkers by 2014."

The proposed expansion of the IHP to allow ownership was long in the making, "largely dictated by the complexities involved in designing a program that could ensure permanent affordability of the units created," said Seth Donlin, a spokesman for the City Department of Housing Preservation and Development. To ensure that city-subsidized units remain affordable despite increases in property value, the city would limit the price at which owners of IHP properties could sell their homes.

Yet some housing experts believe that this and other provisions in the amendment are restrictive, imposing excess regulation. "I prefer the program the way it is. There are other ways to finance home ownership," said Carol Lamberg, executive director of the Settlement Housing Fund—an organization focused on creating and maintaining economically and ethnically diverse affordable housing.

She added, "Monitoring home ownership re-sales will be onerous. I like the larger existing benefit that encourages new construction of debt-free rental housing." The IHP already provides incentives for developers to create affordable housing—such as tax

SEE HOUSING, page 3

SEAS Seniors Draft Own SIPA Design

BY CLAIRE STERN
Spectator Staff Writer

As the School of International and Public Affairs awaits a move to Manhattanville, School of Engineering and Applied Science seniors are lending hands in the design.

This spring, second-semester civil engineering majors have forsaken a senior slump for the chance to craft their vision for the 250,000 square-foot building intended to house SIPA at the corner of 130th Street and 12th Avenue as part of Columbia's expansion.

"It's an interesting experience to have that ability to interact [with companies]," said Peter Valeiras, SEAS '09, and Engineering Student Council president.

For the second year in a row, Capstone Design Project instructor Christian Meyer gave his senior civil engineering students an assignment to design one of the buildings planned for Manhattanville. The students voted on the SIPA building.

"This is a realistic building where a lot of design professionals are involved," said Meyer, who is also chair of the Department of Civil Engineering and Engineering Mechanics. "Different engineers are concerned with different aspects of the building, and we are trying to simulate [the design] in our class."

Throughout the design process, SEAS students work with contractors and access draft



Graphic by Jin Chen

plans for the building. Though the University has hired professional designers, Columbia may incorporate elements of SEAS students' designs.

"In a way we are free labor because if we come up with a good idea, they'll use it," said Valeiras. "And we don't get credit or anything."

Valeiras added that the lack of attribution is more than compensated for with access to potential employers. SEAS students meet with architects, structural engineering firms, and geotechnical firms, among others.

Meyer noted that, "In real life you have dozens of design professionals spending full-time for months and months to design

the building," whereas in his classroom, "there's no way that students can do something even close to that, spending just four credit points worth of work on the project."

The project also gives students the opportunity to learn things they will need to compete in a tight job market. "It's a good opportunity to do something on our own, but still have the resources to help us if we need them," said Allison Magnano, CC '09, and president of the Columbia chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers. "Regardless of whether what we do is used or not."

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EVENTS — MARCH 11

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The Italian Academy will host lectures by Nobel laureates John Nash and Daniel Kahneman, as well as celebrated CU Physicist Brian Greene. RSVP 212-879-4242, ext. 364.

Marxism Lecture
The Heyman Center for the Humanities will co-sponsor a panel discussion titled “Is Marxism Relevant Today?” Early arrival is encouraged.

Casa Italiana, 9 a.m.

*Davis Auditorium
Shapiro Center, 6:15 p.m.*

“*Don’t believe all that bad news you read.*”

—CC Dean Austin Quigley

Burmese Monks Depict Plight, Protest

BY MADINA TOURE
Spectator Staff Writer

In 2007, a group of Burmese monks led the Saffron Revolution, a series of anti-government protests in response to military oppression. On Tuesday evening, four rally participants addressed students in Earl Hall about the plight of Burmese citizens—from human rights abuses to a lack of freedom of speech to the dearth of international awareness.

The monks—U Pyinnyar Zawta, U Gawsita, U Pyinnyar Thiri, and U Agga—are part of an organization called the All Burma Monks’ Alliance, which supports Buddhist monks who helped lead the Saffron Revolution. The organization also supports political prisoners and activists still in hiding in Burma.

The monks emphasized that the goal of their protest was to peacefully oppose the Burmese military’s unfair treatment of citizens and express the need to improve civil conditions. U Agga said his intentions are “to represent these people of Burma who are suffering significantly.”

“They beat monks without reason ... we didn’t commit any crime,” U Pyinnyar Zawta said.

U Pyinnyar Thiri witnessed the beating of monks by the military junta—which calls itself the State Peace and Development Council—and fled to Thailand, eventually escaping and making it to the United States. U Gawsita met with former President George Bush to testify about his beating. U Agga arrived in the U.S. at the end of January, partaking in the 2007 protest and fleeing to Thailand after his monastery was raided by the police. After surviving imprisonment by the SPDC for 9 years and an assassination attempt by the government, U Pyinnyar Zawta made it to the U.S. after the Revolution.

U Pyinnyar Thiri mentioned that Buddhism places restrictions on monks, preventing them from engaging with citizens in a political manner. Yet he explained, if “the government or regime is not doing the right thing [like] not protecting the citizens, as the monks, they have to give the advice.”

The monks also discussed the role of the international community in the conflict, maintaining that the relationship between the military junta and the Chinese government prevents Burmese citizens from getting the help they need.

Kabita Parajuli, CC ’10 and organizer of the event, noted. “the Burmese military is able to stay in power through the Chinese government.”

The monks further addressed the outside world’s general lack of awareness of Burma’s harsh conditions. “They are not able to see the reality of how our people live in the country,” U Agga said.

“All the help during and after Saffron revolutions came through illegal [sources],” U Agga added. “They don’t allow anybody to have contact with people outside the country.”

When asked about the upcoming 2010 elections, U Pyinnyar Thiri said they would not change civic conditions, since the majority of government officials must come from the military or have some military experience.

The monks will likely face time in prison if they return to Burma. Yet the lack of internet and telephone lines make it difficult for them to reach their families at home.

U Gawsita told students not to take their American freedom for granted, saying, “All I want to request from all of you free students in the United States is to do everything to protect these human rights [you have].”

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Holder Will Address Seniors in May

CLASS DAY from front page

Still, Cohen said she was “ec-static” about the choice. “He seems to have especially strong ties to Columbia,” she said. “I’d really like to hear how his time at Columbia has informed his career,” added Cohen, who will attend Columbia Law School next year, following Holder’s academic path.

CC Class Day speakers must be affiliated with the University. Last semester, the CC ’09 class representatives solicited nominations for 25 potential names, and the class of 2009 was given the opportunity to vote among them. The top eight were presented to the committee, which proceeded with the selection process. Other popular picks included author Paul Auster, CC ’69, Maggie Gyllenhaal, CC ’99, Art Garfunkel, CC ’65, Washington Post editor Marcus Brauchli, CC ’83, and, of course, his classmate, President Barack Obama, CC ’83.

Joel Klein, CC ’67 and chancellor of the New York City Department of Education, spoke at Class Day last year. Although his speech was generally well-received, many seniors were disappointed with the choice—especially since Klein’s boss, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, seemed to upstage him by speaking at Barnard.

Joy Resmovits can be reached at joy.resmovits@columbiaspectator.com.

HOUSING from front page

exemptions and public financing—in exchange for increased floor area in homes.

Many locals are skeptical of the city’s motives. “The DCP [Department of City Planning] has never reflected an iota of interest in real, true affordability for people with low income in this city,” said Nellie Bailey, executive director of the Harlem Tenants Council. Bailey worries that some provisions in the amendment would benefit developers rather than residents. She said that the amendment would price purchasable units “far out of reach with respect to the people who are actually targeted in this amendment.”

Despite these concerns, city officials are confident that the amendment would have beneficial effects. “As a program it will incentivize developers to build affordable homeownership units in a way previously unseen,” Donlin said.

Community boards and borough presidents are now reviewing the proposed amendment, preparing to take their comments and concerns to an April DCP hearing.

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Locals Wary of Housing Amendment

HONOREES Remember CC Days

JOHN JAY from front page

Jealous, on the other hand, recalled a different academic life. As a student, Jealous was known as a community organizer and campus activist who worked to save full-need financial aid. After fighting with the University over environmental justice, Jealous was suspended, and returned in 1997 to complete his degree. After receiving a Rhodes scholarship and committing years to advocacy, he became NAACP president. In his acceptance speech, Jealous mentioned a recent visit to the office of U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, CC ’73, Law ’76, where he saw photographs of Holder and President Barack Obama, CC ’83. “We have a lot to be proud of in this country right now,” Jealous said. “We have a lot to be proud of in this college right now.”

Next, Maddon—a trustee who earned his M.D. and molecular biophysics Ph.D. at Columbia—said “my college career is still unfolding 30 years later.” Maddon has made important discoveries regarding the molecular biology of HIV/AIDS, and said “my first steps as a researcher were in the labs here.” He thanked his mentor, Richard Axel, CC ’67, who was also in attendance.

Marano, chief officer of Residential Capital—the mortgage subsidiary of GMAC LLC—was the next recipient.

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	SATURDAY	APRIL 4 TH	1:00PM

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Violin Family International Travel Award

A Travel Award has been established through a generous gift from Dr. George Violin (CC '63, SIPA '66, P&S '67) to support short-term travel to Israel for advanced training or to attend a scientific conference. The award, which is open to any Ph.D. student, Postdoctoral Fellow or faculty member in the natural sciences, is intended to provide funds to expand the applicant's knowledge in areas in which he or she already has experience.

Participants are encouraged to identify appropriate collaborative opportunities and visit an appropriate lab.

The award will provide for travel and lodging expenses, conference fees and a subsistence allowance. To apply, please submit:

- A statement of purpose identifying the meeting or training opportunity and its relevance to your research.
- A projected budget for the proposed travel
- For students, a letter from your mentor indicating that they support your request.

Preference will be given to individuals who have not previously been to Israel. There is no US citizenship requirement.

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Recognized student groups who would like to reserve space in Lerner Hall for the Fall 2009 semester must hand in completed space use applications to **University Event Management (UEM) with their organizational advisor's approval**. Applications can also be submitted on-line. The deadline is 12 PM, April 6.

Applications for recurring meetings and rehearsals cannot exceed one per week and will be confirmed after the review process beginning on May 4.

Confirmations for space will be available on-line at www.columbia.edu/cu/lernerhall after May 4.

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PRE-CALENDARING FOR LERNER HALL

ART

Exhibit Proves That It is Better to Regift Than to Receive

BY KAT BALKOSKI
Spectator Staff Writer

Ever cried on your birthday because you didn't get a pony? Or force smiled as you thanked your clueless uncle for a pair of socks? Well imagine getting a gift basket containing pickled pigs' lips and hemorrhoid cream. *Regift*, a group show at the Swiss Institute curated by Barnard professor John Miller, explores the ambiguity of gift-giving, especially in terms of its social and political implications.

"Whereas a gift can be seen as something noble, a regift is crass. It's also a transgression of the whole idea of giving a gift," Miller said. He was invited to curate the show by Piper Marshall, an assistant curator at the Swiss Institute and a Barnard alumna.

The Swiss Institute occupies an appealing SoHo loft-space, and *Regift* contains the works of 25 artists working in various media.

Artists are sometimes described as possessing a "gift," a term that may trivialize their work. "Both the artwork and the gift are pre-capitalist social practices. They both fit awkwardly within capitalist structure," Miller said.

Two original artworks inspired the concept of *Regift*. The first, *Loser Gift Basket*, is a photograph by John Waters, an artist primarily known as the director of *Hairspray* and *Pink Flamingos*. As the title implies, the work depicts a gift basket containing a variety of disgusting and insulting products, including pickled pigs' lips.

The second, *Science Classicism Lycanthropy*, is a still-life depicting the contents of an online gift basket, painted by Greg Parma Smith, MFA '07. The work hinges on the contrast between the thoughtless purchase of a gift basket and Smith's painstaking style. This tension mimics the hypocrisy of the gift basket and our hypocritical demand for cheap and convenient gifts that appear thoughtful and expensive.

However, as is often the case in contemporary galleries, some of the pieces are nearly impossible to understand. For example, *Celestial Muse* by Trisha Donnelly, consists of an oversized plush flip-flop box. To a viewer unfamiliar with Donnelly's intention, the work may elicit nothing but confusion. A blurb might have helped clarify, but most of the works are displayed without captions.

Personal narratives—such as a girlfriend's tattoo or a birthday ritual—shape the most successful pieces in the show. *Upon the Death of My Grandfather* by Leigh Ledare involves an attempted gift to the Museum of Modern Art of the rights to a grave plot outside Melba, Idaho. The work consists of two framed documents and a frame left empty by MoMA's silence. In a field often accused of affectation, the work's ambiguous and humorous attitude toward conceptual art is very refreshing.

WHERE IT'S AT

Time: Through April 4
Place: Swiss Institute, 495 Broadway (at Broome Street)
Cost: Free

THEATER

An Ancient Story Gains New Importance

BY LOUISA LEVY
Spectator Staff Writer

All is fair in love and war. These famous words are the unofficial mantra of Columbia Stages' production of *The Woman*, which opens Wednesday at Riverside Theater. The show—Andrea Ferran's graduate directing thesis production—is part dramatization of the Trojan War and part social commentary.

The first act of the play centers around two women on opposite sides of the conflict, Trojan Hecuba and Greek Ismene, who try to end the war peacefully. But the men prevail and the war ends violently. The second act follows the surviving Trojans and Hecuba, who have established a island utopia. However, the Trojans have something the Greeks want—a statue of a goddess. When the Greeks arrive, trouble starts again.

Though the woman that the play's title refers to is the statue of the goddess, which drives much of the action simply by being an object of desire, the focus often shifts

to Hecuba and draws attention to the mother-daughter relationship between the Trojan queen and Ismene.

Though the two women begin on opposing sides, Hecuba becomes a powerful female role model and a mother figure to Ismene. "Hecuba enlightens Ismene because she [Ismene] comes from a different world in which a woman can never be a leader and to see this strong, powerful woman is inspiring and it gives her the confidence to try to stop the war," said Sarah Strasser, who plays Ismene.

In a time in which women have low social standing, these female characters try to bring about change. "It doesn't just start with, say, 'These are all the terrible things that are wrong with the world,' it shows you a load of people trying to come to terms with how

to fix things," Ferran said. The show embodies the message that change is possible.

Though there has been a succession of works based on Greek plays portraying the problems of women in a man's world throughout the current Columbia Stages season—*Medea*, *Big Love*, and now *The Woman*—each offers a different angle. *The Woman* looks at war, peace, and change on a societal level as well as a personal one,

where *Medea* and *Big Love* focus predominantly on relationships between individuals. *The Woman*'s grand perspective makes it all the more relevant.

An epic play like *The Woman* maintains relevance because of its many layers—from its Ancient Greek inspiration to personal politics. The related "Talk-Forward" event that will also take place Wednesday, at the School of the Arts, will feature dramaturgist Brendan Padgett and classics professor Elizabeth Scharffenberger who will delve deeper into these subjects.

The play deals, on one level with sight and blindness, a common theme of ancient Greek literature. Hecuba doesn't want to see the destruction that surrounds her, but she must force herself to in order to instigate change. "You can try to distance yourself from your problems," said Glory Gallo, the actress who plays Hecuba, "but they're still going to be there."

There's also a sense of the impossible becoming possible, a theme shared with *Big Love*. Accordingly, intimacy can occur even in the most unromantic circumstances. "The man, who was once the lowest-level person in society falls in love with the woman who was once the queen of a nation," Ferran said.

Two women crying out for change, powerless minorities in the world of ancient Greece can carry a lot of weight when shown to a modern audience. In our current political and economic climate, *The Woman* truly hits home. "It's about these two women trying to create change, trying to preserve our world, trying to simply live in peace and love and be happy," Strasser said.

WHERE IT'S AT

Time: March 11-14
Place: Riverside Theatre
Cost: Free with CUID or other student ID

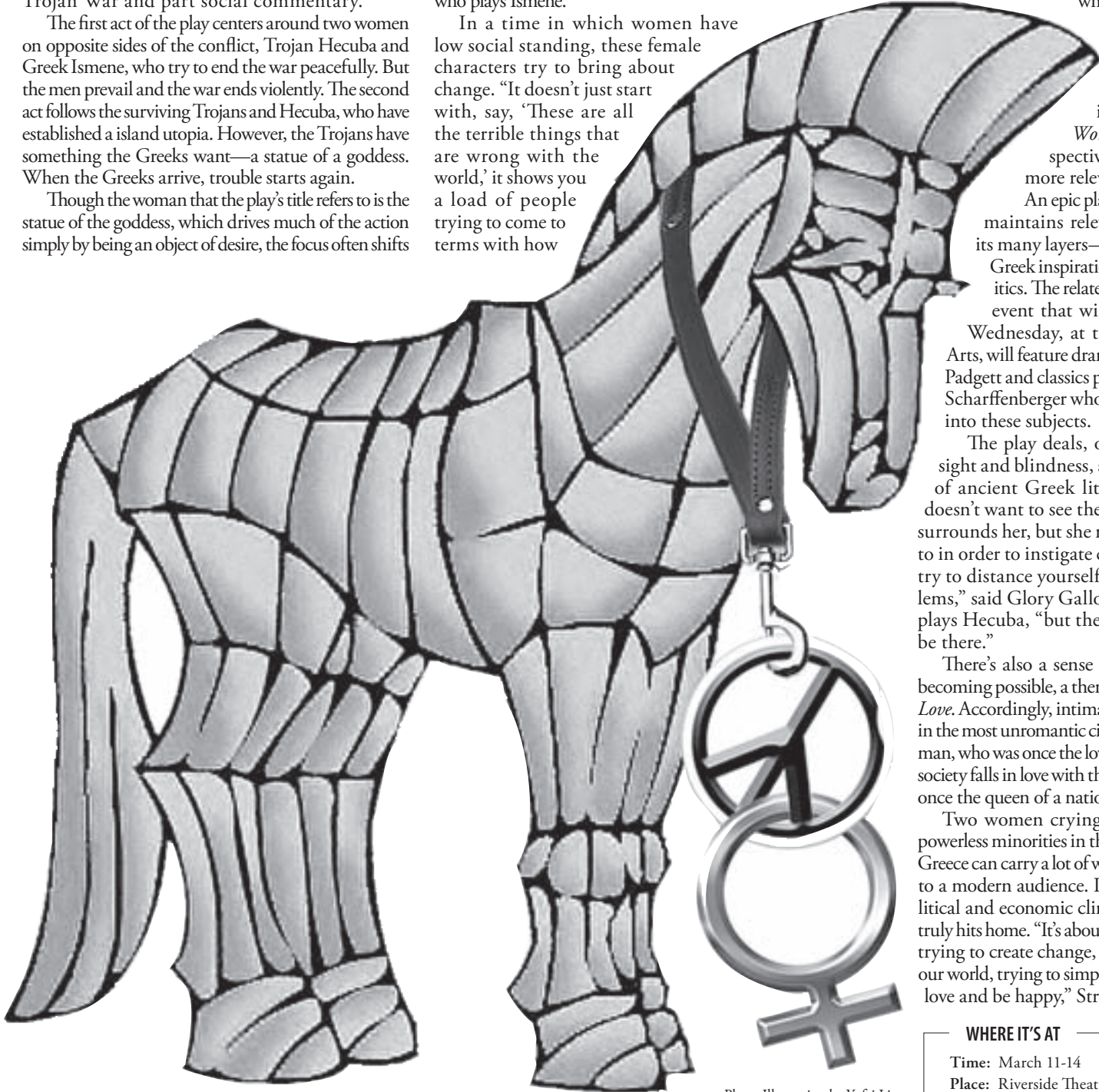


Photo Illustration by Yufei Liu

TROJAN WAR AND PEACE | Set during the Trojan War, *The Woman*—part of Columbia Stages season—explores the close bond between two women striving for a peaceful resolution on opposites sides of the conflict.

BOOKS

Exploring the Diseased Side of the Medical Profession

BY NICOLE DONNACHIE
Columbia Daily Spectator

It's a truism that we trust doctors with our lives. From the moment they take the pledge to do no harm, physicians are invested with authority—and the implications of this power are rarely questioned.

Michael Rushnak, an M.D. and M.P.H., does question these implications. His latest novel, *Terminal Neglect*, is a medical thriller that considers the contradictions inherent in investing individuals with public power. Committed to facts and "truth in fiction", he uses the novel to consider the political ills of the healthcare system, veiling his personal experience as a physician under the drama of the plotline. This Thursday evening, he will be speaking at Morningside Bookshop, to promote the novel and discuss current medical politics and efforts to protect the safety of prescription drugs.

Rushnak centers the drama around the conflicted loyalties of a talented physician, Dr. Jonathan Rogers. Rogers is recommended for appointment to Surgeon General, but becomes suspicious of Washington's ties to the pharmaceutical industry. Wary of a healthcare system that places profits before patients, Rogers considers the Surgeon General the ultimate "patient advocate." Moments after expressing these views, he is shot by the anonymous Healthcare Club and, on recovery, is informed that he must approve Zazotene, a new drug with a dubious safety record. Threateningly, the caller suggests that the consequences of renouncing the post are deadly. Rogers is thus forced to choose between protecting his own safety and that of hundreds of patients.

It is this doctor's divide between public duty and personal safety that forms the political impetus for *Terminal Neglect*. Rushnak

himself has been courted by the pharmaceutical industry, and he unequivocally stated that "Dr. Rogers is me." Rushnak describes the push to prescribe the diuretic Selacryn as one of his most formative experiences as a doctor. In 1979, the year Rushnak qualified, pharmaceutical representatives visited his office with personalized gifts, including an M&M's dispenser with Selacryn emblazoned on it. One year later, this drug was responsible for 46 cases of liver failure and was recalled. Rushnak considers the failure of the FDA to foresee these deadly implications as "a reminder to me throughout my career."

Indeed, with pharmaceutical agents bullying physicians, FDA accountability is woefully inadequate. In a confidential study by Dr. Sidney Wolfe, 36 percent of surveyed FDA doctors had seen the organization approve drugs that they believed were hazardous. Before it was taken off the market in 2006, one drug, Rezulin, was response for 23 deaths and 43 cases of liver failure. Despite these warnings, Rushnak says that the situation "is getting worse." Two-thirds of FDA doctors believe that pressure from pharmaceutical lobbyists is increasing. With pharmaceutical influence mounting, Dr. Rogers' literary dilemma seems more plausible.

Rushnak insists medical practice need not, and should not, be dictated by pharmaceutical lobbyists. In most European countries, safety protocol is more stringent. For example, in England, the National Institute for Clinical Excellence monitors drug safety and provides all doctors with comprehensive information on efficacy, price, and side effects. This is "a total contrast to the American system," said Rushnak, where doctors and lobbyists collaborate on safety labels.

By revealing current problems in the U.S. healthcare system through fiction, Rushnak dramatizes the risks inherent in politicized medicine. However, given these problems and the weight of the pharmaceutical lobby's influence, Rushnak is justified in giving life-or-death significance to the decision over which drugs to approve. Dr. Rogers may be fictional, but the conflicts of interest at the FDA are not.

WHERE IT'S AT

Time: Thursday, March 12 from 7-9 p.m.
Place: Morningside Bookshop
Cost: Free

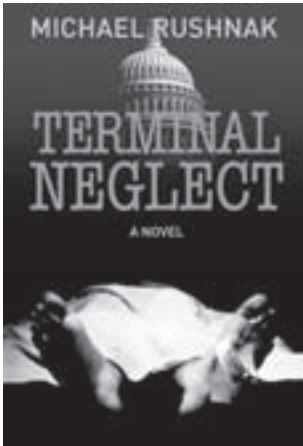


Photo Courtesy of Michael Rushnak

FILM & DANCE

Legendary Ballet Russes Makes the Cut

BY JULIA ALEKSEYEVA
Spectator Staff Writer

"What would you call ballet?" asks Boris Lermontov, director of the Russian Ballet in the film *The Red Shoes*. "For me," he continues, "it is a religion."

Before *Center Stage* and *Save the Last Dance*, there was *The Red Shoes*, directed by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger—the classic 1948 film that kicked off the third event of the Harriman Institute's "Celebrating the Ballets Russes" program last Tuesday.

An ode to the ballet and the music accompanying it, *The Red Shoes* was the ideal complement to the program, which is also spearheaded by the Barnard music and dance departments. The semester-long series features films, presentations, lectures, and exhibits relating to various aspects of the Ballets Russes, an early 20th century ballet company based in Paris and under the direction of Sergei Diaghilev. A testament to the Ballets Russes' influence outside of dance, only one ballet performance is included in the program: Vaslav Nijinsky's *Afternoon of a Fawn* on April 25. Marking the centennial of the Ballets Russes, the Harriman program is a

celebration of one of the greatest dance companies in history.

This Thursday, the Harriman Institute will present an evening of "Diaghilev-era Russian Dancers on Film," and will play two films: the 1916 feature *The Dying Swan* and Victor Bocharov's documentary *Belated Premiere*, continuing a series of on-film reflections on the Ballets Russes. Other upcoming events include an art exhibit on display from March 31 to April 22. Curated by Regina Khidekel, it will show 25 works by Russian artists depicting and paying homage to the Ballets Russes, with a reception to follow on April 16. Lynn Garafola, renowned Barnard dance professor and one of the organizers of the program, said, "The celebration is meant to show some of the legacy of that company [the Ballets Russes]." This legacy certainly comes through in *The Red Shoes*, a film that glorifies ballet and the dance medium, while also providing convincing psychological drama.

In the film, an ambitious American socialite who believes "to live is to dance," is discovered by a dictatorial director of a world-class ballet company. She soon falls in love with the rising composer for the company.

Together the three work on *The*

Red Shoes, a ballet based on Hans Christian Andersen's story, in which a girl puts on a pair of magical red dancing shoes that never allow the wearer to stop dancing. But soon life begins to imitate art, and the woman is unable to stop dancing herself. She must choose between her all-powerful director, who can turn her into the greatest prima ballerina of all time, and the man she desires.

In *The Red Shoes*, art and life are blended beyond recognition. Surrealistic special effects make it clear that *The Red Shoes* is an extremely psychological drama, based not only on ballet but also obsession. As in Alfred Hitchcock's *Vertigo*, obsession becomes the protagonist's downfall.

Even with its intense and poignant melodrama, *The Red Shoes*' talented dancers make the movie enjoyable to watch. Garafola was all smiles after the film ended: "There are some wonderful dancers! And [star] Moira Shearer was just radiant."

Even the students in the audience were pleased, and seemed to share professor Garafola's enthusiasm about dance. Lindsey Staley, BC '10, commented, "It's fun to see such an old movie! I'm taking two dance classes, and it's great to see how dance has evolved. It's a classic dance movie."



Courtesy of the Criterion Collection

DANCING QUEEN | The Harriman Institute is celebrating Ballet Russes' influence on the arts, even beyond dance.

SPORTS

Message From A Graduating PiXBox Legend



MAX PURO
PURE OVERTIME

As the seconds ran off the clock on ESPN.com, CNNSI.com and CBSSportsline, showing the Cornell and Princeton game eeking toward the end, I, for once in my PiXBox tenure, became nervous. Cornell had been a 7.5-point favorite, and Vegas (the more adept oddsmakers, the ones who actually know what they're talking about) set the line at 14.5. But with Cornell clinging to an eight-point lead, I admittedly lost interest in my final Columbia game, and focused on this one—a meaningless game that could win my PiXBox, something that doesn't amount to anything, right?

Well, when the countdown became a final score, with Cornell having won by nine, I stood up in the middle of the Columbia game—at a crucial moment too—and high-fived the "Spec section." This PiXBox win, my third in four years, was probably the most rewarding and most impressive.

I trailed by three games heading into the final weekend, and needed a huge finish, along with a pre-2004 Red Sox collapse from last semester's winner, Lisa Lewis. And that's precisely what happened. (Note to Lisa: when in the lead, don't make the same picks as your partner. The odds are greater that you'll lose the lead than if you make one or two different picks. Just FYI.)

My guest picker this time was Anand Krishnamurthy—a former columnist whose knowledge about sports is nearly unmatched. Yet Anand was the equivalent of the Buffalo Bills in PiXBox—he always found a way to blow it at the end. So making him my guest picker was kind of risky. But I thought it'd be nice for him to enjoy the ride to victory.

I was rejected by not one, but two guest pickers: Josh Robinson (who was my picker last semester) and Jon Kamran. You two surely picked the right seniors to guest pick for. What place did Auggie and JTay come in?

With three out of four championships, a mini-dynasty, a Patriot-like performance, I bid my adieu to PiXBox, with the stupid tradition of making fun of, teasing, and provoking anger from the other columnists. So let's start from the bottom.

Mike Shannon: I have to give you (and Josh, your guest picker) much credit for not giving two shits about PiXBox. You have found an amazing way in each challenge to incorporate a wonderful young man, Tyson Brody.

Jacob Shapiro: Why the animosity toward me and Auggie? Nearly all of your shoutouts had something to do with us. Really, making fun of me for writing a creative lede that failed to reach your level of grammatical correctness? Only two people on the Spec can critique my writing and you, my friend, are not one of them.

Charles Young: Sir Chuckles—what can I say. I always expected you to win a PiXBox. I am truly disappointed in you for never even cracking the top half. I guess that's what you get for being in SEAS and actually having work to do.

Jelani Johnson: Columbia really lets you study in Brazil? That is ridiculous. Also, about the whole column thing: don't worry about it. All of us talk like that, but the main thing is, we don't necessarily write it in a column—but we all learn.

Jonathan August: is 5 feet 9 inches tall with black hair. Looking for a fun, yet enjoyable time. Likes wine and fine dining (and is always OK with picking up the check). For any woman interested, contact me at sports@columbiaspectator.com. I'll get you in touch with this lover boy.

Wow, I just put out a match.com-esque profile for Auggie. This could lead to more...

Jon Tayler: In the past two victory columns, I said the same exact thing. Don't think the third time will be the charm. Tell Lora (I mean, Ellissa) "hi" via gchat, not webchat.

Matt Velazquez: Matt, after last Saturday night's debacle in which you made a complete fool out of yourself, I would not rule out seeking counseling. Being on the rugby team does not mean you have to become "one of those kids."

Lisa Lewis: I guess blackmail does work. For all of my fans (Mom, Dad—I know you're reading this), I am proud to close the curtain on this, my final act. Thank you.

Max Puro is a Columbia College senior majoring in history. Sports@columbiaspectator.com

Columbia Takes On Golden State Rivals

BY JACOB LEVENFELD
Spectator Staff Writer

Most Columbia students use spring break to eat some home-cooked food, catch a few rays, or just relax after midterms. Not the baseball team. When classes wrap up on Thursday, the Lions (1-6) will board a flight to California for a packed schedule of 10 games in as many days. When they open up the grueling stretch against UC Riverside on Friday night, they will be hoping for greater success than they have enjoyed so far this season.

Their three opponents will not easily fall victim to the reigning Ivy League champions. UC Riverside and San Diego have been climbing the national rankings, while Cal State Northridge will face a fatigued Columbia squad on the last leg of its road trip.

"We have a very challenging schedule out west," head coach Brett Borette said. "We're gonna see some quality arms and we're gonna see some quality teams."

Hitting has been a problem for the Light Blue. Last weekend, the Lions only put six runs on the board in 27 innings of play against UNC Charlotte. The 49ers swept the three-game set.

"We're doing what we need to do to pitch and play defense and stay in ball-games, which is two of the three keys to being successful," Borette said. "As far as hitting right now, it's no secret that we're not ripping the cover off the ball by any means at all, but we're trying to do some things to cut down on the strikeouts and trying to continue to be tough outs."

The Lions will be aiming for greater patience at the plate than they have shown so far. Last weekend, two Charlotte pitchers had complete games, throwing just 88 pitches each.

Although Columbia's bats were quiet in North Carolina, consistent defense and strong pitching kept the Lions competitive. Starters Joe Scarlata, Geoff Whitaker, and Dan Bracey all lasted at least six innings, helping Borette in his effort to nail down a rotation.

"I think our fourth weekend starter is still up for grabs," he said. "Scarlata and Whitaker and Bracey have thrown well ... this past weekend I thought we pitched it very well, those guys gave us a shot to compete."

Riverside, with a 10-3 record, will

SEE BASEBALL, page 9



SPECIAL DELIVERY | Geoff Whitaker and the Lions will spend spring break in California playing ten games in a tightly-packed schedule.

Fencing Gears Up for NCAA Championships

BY JONATHAN AUGUST
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

As most students enjoy their time away from school, 11 of Columbia's best fencers will represent the Light Blue at the NCAA Championships. This past Sunday the Lions competed at the NCAA Northeast Regionals. Their effort earned the team two gold medals and the squad came home believing they would only be receiving 10 of the maximum 12 qualifying spots available to all teams.

"I think we're in pretty good shape," head coach George Kolombatovich said after Sunday's Regionals. "We have high-level fencers and we just have to see what the other regions did to find out who qualified and who did not."

At MIT, Columbia continued its recent strong run of play after putting together one of the team's most complete performances at the IFA Championships the week before. Junior co-captain Daria Schneider, who had been missing most of the year with an ankle injury suffered at a world cup event prior to the Ivy Championships, won the Regionals after drawing the top seed.

"For Daria, it's really just been a question of her ankle," Kolombatovich said. "She just went out there and did a phenomenal job, one we know she was easily capable of."

In addition to Schneider's performance, senior co-captain Sherif Farrag won the men's foil competition just a week after taking the gold medal at the IFA Championships, and two weeks after earning first-team All-Ivy honors.

Word came out late Tuesday from the NCAA how many fencers each team across the nation qualified for the chance to earn a national championship, and for Columbia that meant 11 Lions. The final fencer to qualify was sophomore foilist Abby Caparros-Janto, who did not earn an

automatic berth after Sunday's Regionals. Fewer foilists around the nation qualified than was initially expected, and as a result, Caparros-Janto's score earned her an at-large bid.

In men's epee, senior Lorenzo Casertano and junior Dwight Smith both qualified for the competition, making it the first time this specific duo will compete for the Lions at the NCAA Championships. 2008 first-team All-American Kurt Getz and Farrag both earned invites in men's foil, and defending men's sabre national champion Jeff Spear will look to win a second straight title after qualifying.

For the women, the Lions qualified the maximum number of six fencers for the event. In sabre, former national champion Schneider will be joined by 2008 second-team All-American Jackie Jacobson, who is making her second straight appearance at the NCAA Championships. Junior Tess Finkel, who makes her third trip the NCAA's, is joined by freshman standout Neely Brandfield-Harvey in epee. In foil, at-large qualifier Caparros-Jantos will be competing alongside last year's bronze medalist Nicole Ross, who makes her second trip in her two years at Columbia.

Even with the added bonus of Caparros-Jantos to the set of Columbia qualifiers, it will be difficult for the Light Blue to make a run at a combined national title as Notre Dame, Ohio State, and Penn State all qualified the maximum number of 12 fencers for the event. A single fencer gives a team significantly more power as that means 23 more bouts that can add to a win total. Still, the Lions qualified the most fencers of any team in the Ancient Eight for the third consecutive season, and two more than either Penn or Harvard.

Columbia begins the four-day NCAA Championships a week from Thursday at Penn State.



NATIONAL CHAMPS? | Columbia sends 11 fencers to the NCAA Championships at Penn State next weekend after a strong performance at the Northeast Regionals.



KISSIMMEE NOW | Jackie Ecker and the softball team will head to Florida for the Rebel Spring Games after dropping five straight in Boca Raton.

Softball Visits Florida For Rebel Spring Games

BY MICHELE CLEARY
Spectator Staff Writer

After losing all five games during the FAU Miken Classic in Boca Raton, Fla., the Columbia softball team will have a lot to work on over spring break. The Lions will head to Kissimmee, Fla., to play in the Rebel Spring Games, where they will compete against 12 nonconference opponents.

Going into spring break, the Lions will be looking to improve in all three major facets of the game—hitting, pitching, and fielding.

In order to succeed at the Rebel Spring Games, the Lions will need to pick up their offense, which was outscored 34-6 during the FAU Miken Classic. The lackluster offense was led by sophomores Jackie Ecker and Karen Tulig, who combined for seven of Columbia's 17 hits over the weekend and also accounted for three of the team's seven RBI.

The Light Blue pitching needs to improve as well. The only two teams to score fewer than five runs against Columbia this past weekend were Central Michigan and Stony Brook, who scored four and two runs respectively. The team ERA stands at 8.16, while opposing pitchers hold a mark of 1.54.

While poor pitching and hitting are mostly to blame for the disappointing opening weekend, sloppy fielding also affected the Light Blue this past weekend. The Lions committed seven errors to their opponents' three. As a result, Columbia yielded five unearned runs over the course of the weekend, in addition to the 29 earned runs given up by the pitching staff.

First up for the Light Blue (0-5) is Bucknell (7-9), who have already settled in at the Rebel Spring Games. The Bison, who are coming off a 6-4 loss to Buffalo, have faced two Ivy league opponents so far—Penn and Yale. Bucknell defeated the Quakers 4-3 on Sunday, but fell to Yale 11-3 the next day. Columbia is scheduled to play Bucknell Friday morning at 9 a.m. Later on Friday, the Lions will face Butler (4-10-2). Butler has won all three of their contests in Kissimmee so far, beating Bucknell 7-6 and Yale 7-4.

Colgate (5-4) is the only other squad Columbia will face over break that has played another Ivy. Earlier this season, the Red Raiders fell to Dartmouth 2-0. The Lions faced Colgate last year at the Rebel Spring Games and came away with a 6-3 victory. In order to win on March 18, the Lions will need to pick up their ailing offense.

Army (1-8), Lafayette (9-3), University of Rhode Island (1-5), and Fairleigh Dickinson University (1-4) were all at the Rebel Spring Games last year as well. The Light Blue lost to Army, Lafayette, and RIU, but was able to beat FDU, 6-3.

The Lions also faced FDU at home last year, splitting a double-header with the Knights.

Rider (0-6), also competing at the Rebel Spring Games, faced Columbia in a double-header at Baker Field last season, and the Broncos were able to win both games.

Over the course of their Florida trip, the Lions will also face South Dakota (7-3), Sacred Heart (2-6), Wisconsin-Green Bay (6-2), and St. Peter's College (0-1).

SPRING BREAK SCHEDULE

FRIDAY MARCH 13	SATURDAY MARCH 14	SUNDAY MARCH 15	MONDAY MARCH 16	WEDNESDAY MARCH 18	THURSDAY MARCH 19	FRIDAY MARCH 20	SATURDAY MARCH 21	SUNDAY MARCH 22
Baseball @ UC-Riverside 6 p.m. PDT	Baseball @ UC-Riverside 6 p.m. PDT	Baseball @ UC-Riverside 2 p.m. PDT	Baseball @ San Diego 3 p.m. PDT	Baseball @ San Diego 3 p.m. PDT	Baseball @ Cal State Northridge, 3 p.m. PDT	Baseball @ Cal State Northridge, 3 p.m. PDT	Baseball @ Cal State Northridge, 1 p.m. PDT	Baseball @ Cal State Northridge, 1 p.m. PDT
Softball vs. Bucknell 9 a.m.	Softball vs. South Dakota, 9 a.m.	Softball vs. Army, 11 a.m.	TUESDAY MARCH 17 Baseball @ San Diego 3 p.m. PDT	Softball vs. Colgate & Rhode Island, 9 & 11 a.m. Lacrosse @ Lehigh, 3:30 p.m.	Softball vs. St. Peter's & Fairleigh Dickinson-Teaneck, 9 & 11 a.m.	M. Tennis @ UT-Arlington, 2 p.m. W. Tennis @ Cal State Northridge, 2 p.m.	Softball vs. BU, 1 p.m. Fencing: NCAA Championships	Softball @ Monmouth, 1 p.m.
Softball vs. Butler 1 p.m.	Softball vs. Sacred Heart, 1 p.m.	Softball vs. Wisconsin-Green Bay, 3 p.m.	Softball vs. Lafayette & Rider, 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.	M. Tennis @ SMU, 2 p.m.	Fencing: NCAA Championships	Fencing & Wrestling: NCAA Championships	Wrestling: NCAA Championships	
	Lacrosse vs. Cornell, 1 p.m.	W. Tennis @ Loyola-Marymount, 10 a.m. PDT M. Tennis @ TCU, 6 p.m.		W. Tennis @ Cal State Fullerton, 2 p.m. PDT	Wrestling: NCAA Championships			

Lions Look West for School Break

BASEBALL from page 8

host the Lions for three weekend matchups starting on Friday night. The Highlanders are coming off a 7-0 blanking of Oklahoma State off the arm strength of Paul Applebee, who went the distance for his first shutout and second complete game of the year. Applebee holds a 1.80 ERA and 3-0 record on the season. Matt Andriese has also stood out on the mound for Riverside, with a 3.15 ERA in three starts.

At the plate, the Lions will have to watch Tony Nix, whose .429 average and seven doubles have sparked the Highlanders' offense all season long.

After finishing with Riverside, the Lions will head to San Diego to take on the Toreros, who will just

be returning from a four-game trip against Rice in Houston. San Diego is 7-6 but recently dropped three of four to San Diego State.

Columbia then finishes the road trip with four games at Cal State Northridge. Although the Matadors are only 5-8, they have played a tough schedule and will match up well against the Light Blue.

For Columbia, the West Coast sprint offers a chance to maximize playing time as the Lions prepare to open the Ivy season at the end of March. Coach Boretti knows that the final record is not necessarily the only measuring stick on this road trip.

"By playing the best tier, it's only gonna help us prepare for the schedule that's ahead on the second part of our season," he said. The rigorous

schedule will give the team "a lot of opportunities for our pitchers to get multiple times on the hill, which is great."

Over the long trip, the coaches will continue to shuffle the lineup in search of a winning formula. Nick Cox and Jon Eisen should hold down the top two spots. "They're catalysts, both of them, if you get them on base they're gonna start up the engine for the offense," Boretti said.

The head coach is undaunted by the prospect of sending his team out 10 days in a row. "That's what we do on spring break," he said. "It's what we should be doing: playing every day and trying to get better every day and using some different guys in different spots."

Tennis Heads for Warmer Weather

BY KUNAL GUPTA
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The men's and women's tennis teams will hit the road next week for their annual spring break training trips, which will be both teams' final tune-ups before Ivy play begins the following weekend. The men, currently ranked 62nd nationally, will travel to Texas to take on Texas Christian University, Southern Methodist University and University of Texas-Arlington, while the women will travel out west to California to take on Loyola Marymount, Cal State Fullerton and Cal State Northridge.

The men will begin their trip by taking on TCU, which enters ranked ahead of Columbia and 43rd in the nation. Last season, the Lions lost 5-2 in a closely contested match, when TCU was ranked 28th. One big issue for Columbia will be playing outdoors, since the team practices and plays its home matches indoors at the Dick Savitt Tennis Center.

"We have been going [on the road] for the last eight or nine years," Bid Goswami, men's head tennis coach, said, "much to the boys' chagrin, but we are not going for a spring break trip. We work hard and we get a lot of outdoor courts. That's my first goal, because I don't know where we might play outside [during Ivy play]."

The Lions have historically struggled when transitioning outdoors, something the head coach hopes to address during the trip rather than during league play.

"We just want to get used to playing some outdoor matches," Goswami continued.

"Unfortunately I don't think we play as well as we play indoors since we have been playing indoors since October, so we play 10-15 percent worse [outside]."

Last year, the Lions played the same opponents and went 0-3. They lost 5-2 to TCU, 4-3 to UT Arlington and 6-1 to Southern Methodist, which was ranked 56th nationally at the time. Sophomore Kevin Kung was a standout on the trip, going 3-0 in singles.

"There's no pressure on us [because of their ranking]," Goswami said, "the other teams are as good as us and they are chomping at the bit to play us so they have a chance to get ranked."

"If we beat them at their place, it's a good win for us," Goswami continued, "and if we lose, it is not a bad loss. More than anything else, we get used to playing outside and we'll play matches in which we will be right there."

The women will travel to California this year after spending the break in Florida last season.

"Last year when we were planning the trip, we wanted to go to California because all of these teams were ranked between 60 and 75," head coach Ilene Weintraub said. "I was looking to schedule matches in which we could be competitive and win so that we could get ranked."


This season, however, Columbia's three opponents have fallen out of the top 75 nationally, but remain on the fringes of a national ranking and should provide tough competition throughout the lineup for the young Lions team.

"Cal State Fullerton is a winnable match," Weintraub said, "and Loyola will be a tough match. I kind of like the order in which we play, since we play the stronger team, than the weaker team and then the team which will be close with. If we win, I think we will get a lot of confidence."

Nevertheless, the women will be training hard throughout the duration of the trip in order to prepare for Ivy play. "We will train twice a day when not playing matches," Weintraub said, "this is one last full-speed-ahead training trip so we can feel very grooved on our fitness and strokes before Ivy play."

The women will first play on March 15 against Loyola Marymount, and the men will face TCU on March 17.





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*This commission is made possible by The Cheswaty Foundation.

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