



TIANYUE SUN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | BC President Debora Spar and Brazilian Ambassador Mauro Vieira discussed global education.

WTF CU offers forum for student suggestions

BY RUBY MELLEN
Columbia Daily Spectator

With the stress of midterms settling in, students often like to vent by complaining about Columbia. A new initiative from the Columbia College Student Council is looking to turn these complaints into something productive.

WTF Columbia is a student-created crowdsourcing website where students can log in using their Columbia or Barnard email address to voice suggestions about What To Fix at Columbia.

The website, which launched last week, now has

more than 320 registered users and 100 ideas posted, ranging from creating a mobile Courseworks app to improving broccoli in the dining halls.

According to council members, the site has been getting several thousand hits a day. Students can browse the suggestions and vote “agree” or “disagree,” changing the idea’s ranking and bringing the most popular ones to the attention of the community, and eventually the student government and administration.

Jared Odessky, CC ’15 and CCSC vice president for communication, said the website has the potential to effect real

policy changes.

Odessky came up with the idea for What To Fix Columbia last year as president of the class of 2015. He said he realized that most of the complaints CCSC received came from town halls or other events that few students attended or paid attention to—for example, the council received only isolated complaints from individuals about the lack of swipe access for Barnard students.

“There was no real way to understand that this was an issue that most of the student body cared about,” Odessky said. With WTF Columbia, he said, granting swipe access

could gain a critical mass of supporters.

Claire Duvallet, SEAS ’13, whose post requesting a Courseworks app is currently the top-ranking suggestion on the website, agreed with Odessky.

“I think it has the potential to become a really amazing connection between the students and the ‘higher-ups,’ as long as the people in charge of it keep up with the site and make efforts to follow up on ideas,” Duvallet said.

However, some students expressed doubt about the

SEE WTF, page 2

12th Ave. clubs, restaurants see increasing prosperity

BY DANNY TEJERA
Columbia Daily Spectator

When John Beatty relocated the Cotton Club to Manhattanville in 1977, he could have been making a serious mistake.

“When I moved over here, it was nothing. I was considered a boondocks,” said Beatty, whose jazz club now sits on the corner of 125th Street and 12th Avenue.

Thirty-five years later, Beatty’s club, now a fixture in the West Harlem jazz scene, is seeing more and more customers flood into what was once a depressed neighborhood on 12th Avenue.

The 12th Avenue corridor, with the iconic Riverside Drive viaduct looming above, has long been seen as unsafe and undesirable. For years, Fairway Market was the only major business on the corridor.

There are still rough edges. You can walk three blocks of uneven, dimly-lit sidewalks without encountering a store.

But the neighborhood is on the rise, business owners say—in part due to Columbia’s expansion, which borders the avenue. As construction begins on the University’s controversial campus in Manhattanville, Beatty is just one small-business owner who is reaping the economic benefits of the plan.

The area is “definitely on the upswing,” said Beatty. Manhattanville is, “especially for me, an ideal location, because Columbia’s building up all this over here,” he added.

Although the Manhattanville expansion has come under fire

from some for its use of eminent domain, many small-business owners in the area say the impending expansion has also brought with it more customers, more competition, and greater opportunity for economic growth.

Beatty pointed to the growing number of clubs and restaurants in the area—such as the newly reopened Floridita and Dinosaur Bar-B-Que, which are across the street from the Cotton Club, as examples of the 12th Avenue corridor’s thriving economic growth.

Ramon Diaz, whose locally famous Cuban restaurant Floridita was forced to relocate because of the campus expansion, said real estate on the corridor was in high demand.

“I’ve been approached, I think, around five or six times, by people asking if I’m interested in selling the place,” Diaz said.

Diaz was originally concerned that his new location would fail to attract customers to the same extent as his previous Broadway and 129th Street restaurant, he said, but the construction has brought him and other stores and restaurants in the area an entirely new customer base.

“The fact that construction has been going on across the street means we have between 100 and 200 construction workers coming here for breakfast and lunch every day,” Diaz said. “And there are going to be more.”

Garth Caruso, general manager of Dinosaur Bar-B-Que, said the

SEE 12TH AVE, page 2

CUMC student dies while rock climbing

BY ABBY ABRAMS
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

James Watts, a first-year in the Columbia-Bassett Medical School Program, died on Friday, administrators announced in an email Sunday.

He died in a rock climbing accident, according to the email. He was 24.

Watts, who was from Boise, Idaho, went by Jimmy with his friends at Columbia. Friends described him as “quietly brilliant,” “incredibly modest,” and “passionate about life.”

The Columbia-Bassett program consists of 10 students per class who focus on a “longitudinal and patient-centered approach to medical education, and learn about health systems and health delivery in an integrated hospital network,” according to the program’s website.

David Drouillard, another Columbia-Bassett first-year and one of Watts’ close friends, said the group “relationship is like that of a family” thanks to its small size.

“Losing Jimmy really is like losing my brother,” he said.

“Jimmy had really strong convictions to God, to service, and to medicine,” Watt’s friend Sam Porter, another student in the Columbia-Bassett program, said. “He was always defining his convictions,

SEE WATTS, page 2

Nutella costs Dining \$5000 per week

BY CECILIA REYES
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

It seems like undergrads have a sweet tooth—and it’s costing Dining \$5,000 per week in Nutella.

Since Dining started offering the sweet spread in Ferris Booth

Commons last month, administrators have observed a high demand for Nutella—up to 100 pounds per day. But that seemingly sum could be due in part to students stealing the chocolate-hazelnut topping.

“The demand [for Nutella] has been greater than originally

expected,” Vicki Dunn, executive director of Dining Services, said in an email. “Students have been filling cups of Nutella to go in Ferris Booth Commons and taking the full jars out of John Jay, which means we’re

SEE NUTELLA, page 2

NEWS BRIEF

Crash on 116th and Broadway leaves two injured

A Columbia Public Safety car collided with a taxi at approximately 11:30 p.m. Monday on 116th Street and Broadway, leaving the Public Safety officer and cab driver injured. Both victims were taken to St. Luke’s hospital.

Witnesses said that the cab was trying to turn at the junction between the two lanes on

Broadway when it collided with the Public Safety car, spinning it and sending it crashing into the 116th and Broadway bus stop.

Shattered glass littered the sidewalk. The Public Safety officer, who was in a neck brace, was lifted into an ambulance. Both victims were conscious.

The crash missed another bystander, Reverend Belle of

the Church of the Master on Morningside Avenue and 121st Street, by a whisker.

Belle noticed the taxi rolling towards him, seemingly without braking, and pressed up against the bus stop glass. The taxi’s side brushed up against him and shattered the bus-stop glass, but he was uninjured.

—Luke Barnes



DAVID BRANN / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NEAR MISS | The collision was the second accident between 115th and 116th Streets in a week.

A&E, PAGE 3

Columbia acquires ‘ElfQuest’ archives

The Rare Book and Manuscript Library announced that it added the entire archive of “ElfQuest,” a popular comic.



OPINION, PAGE 4

Challenge Columbia

Wilfred Chan on fostering community through campus activism.

Working toward nothing

Changing location is necessary to engage with educational institutions

SPORTS, BACK PAGE

Former tennis star attends Columbia Law

After his retirement from professional tennis, Mario Ančić, formerly ranked seventh in the world, decided to pursue a career in law, which has led him to Columbia.

EVENTS

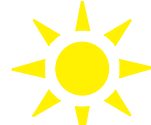
IRWGS Open House

The Institute for Research on Women, Gender and Sexuality will hold an open house and town hall meeting to discuss the future of LGTBQ studies.

Schermerhorn Ext., Room 754, 4 p.m.

WEATHER

Today

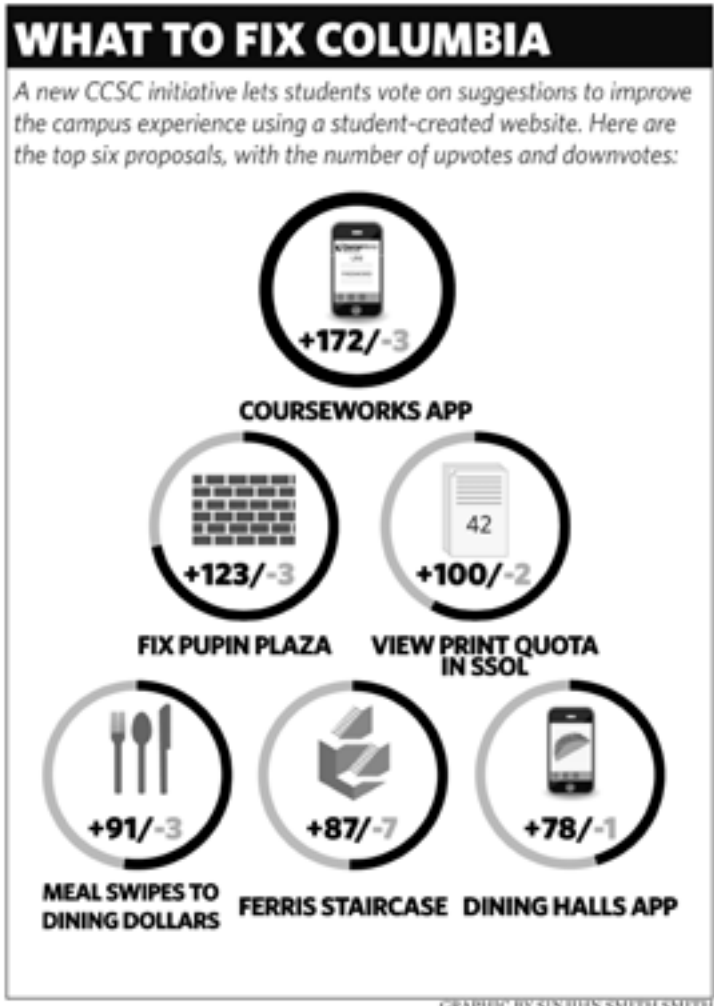


46°/ 35°

Tomorrow



41°/ 35°



CCSC initiative aims to find common complaints

WTF from front page

productivity level of the site.

“I think that the site is a great idea in theory,” said Ryan Morgan, SEAS ’14, who posted about the need to fix crumbling bricks in Pupin Plaza. However, he said, “I’d be very surprised if the administration decided to say, ‘Hey, the students really hate the way Pupin Plaza is falling apart. Let’s start a multi-million dollar capital project to fix it.’ It’s nice to bring these sorts of problems to the attention of the people in power, but there’s no real mechanism to compel them to move forward on students’ submissions.”

CCSC does not expect to be able to fix every problem students post on the site, but Odessky said council members can still be a resource for students, even if the solutions don’t materialize immediately.

“Some of the issues are beyond our scope,” Odessky said.

“But in those instances, CCSC is supposed to serve as an advocate for students, even in issues that we can’t deal with directly.”

Pupin Plaza “is something we’re having conversations about and advocating about even though it’s something we can’t directly address,” he said.

Duvallet also praised the fact that the site links each post to the originator’s UNI, making it easy to trace the suggestion back to the student.

Odessky said he hoped this feature would prevent the temptation to post “joke” suggestions. Students can also request anonymous postings by going to yourccsc.com and clicking the “Talk to CCSC” tab.

Anonymous posts can detract from WTF Columbia, Odessky said. “This website is supposed to be a productive space for getting people together to reach for a goal,” he said.

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AROUND THE IVIES

Princeton survey shows 15 percent of undergrads reported rape

BY SOHEE KIM
Daily Princetonian

More than 15 percent of female undergraduates reported experiencing non-consensual vaginal penetration during their time at the University, according to an unpublished survey conducted in 2008 by several University offices.

The survey, a version of a standard survey format called the “Sexual Experiences Survey” was developed in 2007 by Mary Koss, a University of Arizona Public Health professor specializing in sexual violence, and consisted of 17 multiple choice questions. The survey estimates the frequency of different types of unwanted sexual acts and measures “behaviors that meet legal definitions of various sex crimes,” according to the website of the Measurement Instrument Database for the Social Sciences.

The survey presented different scenarios relating to sexual experiences and asked respondents how frequently they had experienced those incidents while they had been enrolled at the University.

The results suggest that rates of sexual assault and sexual harassment on campus may be substantially higher than the rate at which incidents of sexual misconduct are reported or adjudicated. However, Princeton’s numbers are slightly lower than the national average. National surveys conducted in the early 2000s estimate that about one in five women are raped during their college careers.

It remains unclear why the survey was never publicly released, but one University administrator said the University did not want to draw unwanted attention by publicizing the report’s findings when they were in line with national averages.

The survey was completed by 1,595 graduate and undergraduate students from the classes of 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011, and aimed to “establish and quantify the extent to which Princeton University students experience assault,” according to a summary of the survey results.

A confidential summary of the survey’s data and a report detailing the results for female undergraduate students were provided to The Daily Princetonian.

According to the survey, more than 28 percent of female undergraduate students reported that they were touched in a sexual manner or had their clothes removed without consent. About 12 percent said they were forced to receive or perform oral sex, and an additional 14 percent were said they were victims of attempted forced oral sex. Another 6.2 percent of female undergraduate respondents said they experienced attempted non-consensual vaginal penetration.

Of the 809 female undergraduates who

filled out the undergraduate female survey, more than 120 answered affirmatively to the statement, “A man put his penis into my vagina, or someone inserted fingers or objects without my consent.”

Of the respondents, a disproportionate 70 percent were female. Otherwise, the demographics of the respondents are consistent with those of the broader student population according to the University’s official enrollment statistics at the time. Of the students who filled out the survey, 65 percent were white, 13 percent were Asian, 8 percent were Latino and 8 percent were African/African-American. In addition, 91.5 percent of survey respondents identified as heterosexual.

Between 2006 and 2009 - which includes the year in which the survey was distributed - the University ruled on four cases of sexual misconduct, according to reports provided by Associate Dean of Undergraduate Students Victoria Jueds, who oversees disciplinary proceedings. Of these, two students were placed on disciplinary probation, one student was suspended and one was required to withdraw from the University.

Jueds said she could not comment on the total number of cases involving sexual assault and sexual harassment that have come before the Committee on Discipline. According to Jueds, ODUS only keeps records for students formally found responsible for disciplinary violations. If a student considers filing a formal complaint but never does, or if a student is charged and is found not responsible, ODUS does not maintain a record.

Between the calendar years 2006 and 2008, 44 cases of forcible sex offenses were reported to the Department of Public Safety, according to the Department’s annual reports. These numbers include all cases reported within the University campus and are not limited to acts allegedly committed by students.

More recently, between 2009 and 2012, five students were disciplined by ODUS for acts of sexual misconduct. Of these, one student was suspended for “an act of non-consensual penetration,” two students were suspended for sexual assault and two students were placed on disciplinary probation for sexual harassment.

Forty forcible sex offenses were reported to Public Safety between 2009 and 2011.

‘NOT ANYTHING UNEXPECTED’

According to the survey’s data summary, the survey was intended to help the University “assess the need for survivor support and education services and to utilize the information to improve prevention techniques on the Princeton campus.”

However, it remains unclear if the data

gathered from the survey has been used to influence University policy.

Amada Sandoval, Director of the Women’s Center, said that in recent years, the Sexual Harassment/Assault Advising, Resources and Education program has been focusing more on bystander intervention and prevention rather than awareness, and there have been changes to the disciplinary process.

SHARE is a division of University Health Services.

However, Sandoval could not comment on whether these changes were a result of the survey, whose results she said were “not anything unexpected.”

Although she explained she was not aware of the precise reasons the survey’s results were kept private, Sandoval said the results were probably never released because they were consistent with national averages and because other universities do not publicize such data.

“Anything about Princeton goes international, practically, and no other universities do that, so does Princeton want to be the one to say that this many of our students are sexually assaulted? I don’t think so,” Sandoval said.

Whether other Universities have conducted similar surveys or released results to the public remains unclear, but no similar statistics have been found by the ‘Prince.’

“I don’t know that there is a real benefit to releasing it,” Sandoval added. “I think if we had found something very different from the national average, that would be one thing, because that’s a real story. A story that Princeton’s rates of students who have been assaulted is on line with national averages is really not a story, but I mean in this news environment, people would make a big deal about it.”

Erica Wojcik ‘09, a former president of SpeakOut - a now-inactive group that was formed in 2006 following several high-profile sexual assault and rape cases, some of which occurred during spring eating club initiations - said she did not perceive any efforts to suppress the results.

“[The administration was] always very supportive of what we did,” Wojcik said. “I didn’t perceive anything malicious.”

According to Abigail Boyer, the director of communications and outreach at the Clery Center for Security on Campus, the survey statistics are in line with the national average. According to a study done by the National Institute of Justice in November, 14-30 percent of college students “experience some type of sexual violence during their college career,” Boyer said.

A version of this article was originally published by the Daily Princetonian on March 4, 2013.

Admins attribute Nutella scarcity to theft

NUTELLA from front page

going through product faster than anticipated.”

Dunn told Columbia College Student Council representatives that the total spent on Nutella came to \$5,000 per week since it was first offered in Ferris the week of Feb. 11, representative Peter Bailinson, CC ’16 and a Spectator outreach and development associate, said. Dunn “couldn’t really believe it either, just how much they were going through the stuff,” Bailinson said. At that rate, Dining would spend \$250,000 on the product in one year.

Dunn declined to comment on how much Dining spends on specific foods in the dining halls.

Ferris Booth Commons serves between 2,400 and 3,000 students per day, and John Jay serves between 2,200 and 2,600, according to Dunn.

The problem, said CCSC representative Grayson Warrick, CC ’16, who was also in the meeting with Dunn, is that many people are taking Nutella out of the dining hall and letting it go to waste.

Dining hall waste has increased in the past year: The fall of 2012 was the most wasteful semester since Ferris eliminated trays, according to Bailinson and Warrick. And at the last “plate scraping” conducted by EcoReps, during which students weighed the amount of food trashed in each dining hall,

the group reported 60 pounds more waste than at the previous event, according to Dunn.

At up to \$2,363 per semester, the price of the dining plan may lead to waste, Bailinson said.

“When you’re paying that much for a dining plan, some people feel a bit more entitled to taking things from the dining hall,” he said. “But what they don’t realize is that dining uses any extra money to get awesome new items like Nutella, almond butter, and to make structural changes like the JJ’s renovation.”

While Dining is not considering getting rid of Nutella, it has noted that it is hesitant to offer other “luxury” items, like lobster tails, due to similarly high anticipated demand.

Dunn does not characterize Nutella as especially expensive, she said.

“Given the quantities of food required to serve 35,000 meals a week, no item is considered inexpensive,” she said.

Bailinson noted that while the discussion on a Facebook post he made on the cost of Nutella began as he had hoped, with students realizing they sometimes take more than they need, he was disappointed when it veered off into a discussion of price comparison.

“Some of it was positive, some of it was very questioning of the dining hall methods,” Warrick said, referring to a student who calculated that based

on the resale price of Nutella at Costco, it would require 238 pounds of Nutella to arrive at \$5,000 per week.

But Dining chooses to bring its business elsewhere. Dunn said that Dining Services purchases from vendors including local farms, dairies, bakeries, green market vendors, as well as large-scale food suppliers like Sysco, Coke, and Pepsi.

Students at Ferris on Monday said that they thought a change needed to be made.

“People love their Nutella,” Charles Sanky, CC ’16, said. “People are going to go crazy, I’m not surprised.”

“From a purely economical perspective, if we decide we want to have more of this, the dining hall will have to raise the prices,” he said.

“If they’re spending so much money to afford one student taking a full jar of Nutella, I don’t think that’s reasonable or we should allow that to happen,” Xiaoyu Guo, SEAS ’13, said. “It’s all you can eat, and all you can hide, so students wouldn’t stop.”

Others saw the tempting treat as symbolic of larger social ills.

“The ramifications and the reasons behind it are bigger than Ferris Booth or the dining hall in general, it’s coming from a culture of consumption where ideas like waste don’t mean anything,” Farin Jarod Kautz, GS ’14, said.

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AYELET PEARL / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CHANGING FACES | Clubs around 12th Avenue are seeing a sharp rise in business, in part due to Columbia’s expansion.

12th Ave. nightlife helps drive area rejuvenation

12TH AVE. from front page

area was conveniently located to bring in customers from surrounding neighborhoods, a trend that he predicted would prompt continued growth and competition for property in Manhattanville.

“We have a very diverse customer base, everything from the local community, to all the college students,” Caruso said.

In fact, the owners said, business has even been coming from outside the area. Beatty estimated that almost 85 percent of his business comes from tourists in the city.

Perhaps the most visible symptom of the neighborhood’s growth is a thriving night scene, which Diaz said was making him consider turning Florida into a 24-hour-a-day spot.

“You should come here at three or four in the morning. It looks a lot

like three or four in the afternoon,” Diaz said.

Beatty agreed, saying that customers now walk the streets at night with a freedom he has not seen since he first arrived in the neighborhood.

“With all these clubs, there are people at all times of night walking up and down the street,” he said. “It’s very safe, and you don’t have to worry about that kind of thing now.”

Twelfth Avenue business owners praised their thriving locations and the possibility of further competition from new businesses.

“I think this area is a piece of gold,” said Luca Valeriani, general manager of Covo Trattoria & Pizzeria, on 12th Avenue and 135th Street. “I am looking forward to seeing new businesses open up here.”

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Med student described as avid climber, true friend

WATTS from front page

rationalizing, and being skeptical.”

Watts and his wife Cassidy were involved in their church community, and Watts and Porter often read biblical literature together.

“He loved the pursuit of pure truth, of pure good—that was what he was,” Porter said. “Jimmy’s convictions to his ideals drove him to accomplish what he did, and that’s something I can aspire to.”

Drouillard agreed, adding that he felt impressed by everything his friend did.

“Despite abundant evidence for him being better than you, he would never let you feel that way,” Drouillard said.

Maevae O’Neill, another classmate and friend, said that she would remember Watts’ generosity and “his spirit and his love for life.”

“He made you feel so welcome in his house and in his life,” she said. “He really wanted to serve underserved populations.”

“I hope I can be as good of a person as he was,” she said.

Watts also loved the outdoors, and was an avid rock climber and mountaineer.

“We went on a rock climbing trip and an ice climbing trip together,” Drouillard said. “I’m not a climber, but he really took me under his wing, taught me how to do stuff, and lent me his gear.”

Drouillard added that he “felt a real spirit of kinship with” Watts and that “our motivations for studying medicine were similar.”

“He cared so deeply about us and about the world and wanted to make it a better place,” Drouillard said. “There’s a gap now that he’s gone and we need to step up ... We need to be the best doctors we can be because he would have been such a great doctor.”

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Brazilian ambassador talks national STEM study abroad program

BRAZIL from front page

my ideas of how I see the world were shaped by living there,” she said.

Moore also praised Brazil’s commitment to public education through this new initiative.

“I’m very happy that Brazil is taking these initiatives to really improve their education system

because I know that was something immensely lacking,” she said. “That they’re investing so much money into it, I’m very happy about it.”

While the Scientific Mobility Program is still in its early stages, Vieira said he is confident that it will succeed.

“I’m sure it will have a very big impact on the whole education

in Brazil,” Vieira said. “You have to have a lot of patience to see the fruits and the results.”

“But I think it will have a good result,” he added.

Thais Carvalho Santos, who came to Barnard at the beginning of the semester under the auspices of the program, called studying in the United States “the opportunity of a lifetime.”

“Here the professors, they expect much more from the students,” Santos, a student of immunology, microbiology, and biophysics, said. “But at the same time, they give much more support and it’s a really great experience.”

“I’m really excited to work here in a research center,” Santos, who has applied for a

summer research position in the United States, said. “It will be a unique experience.”

When she returns to Brazil after her experience at Barnard, she hopes to enter academia.

“I want to be a professor,” Santos said. “I want to contribute to the government.”

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First Kennedy award winners discuss plays

BY ERIC WIMER
Spectator Staff Writer

Playwrights Dan O'Brien and Robert Schenkkan shared Columbia's first Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama in a ceremony Monday night.

O'Brien won for his play, "The Body of an American," a two-actor dialogue about a photo—of a dead U.S. soldier being dragged through Mogadishu—and the photographer who took it. Schenkkan won for "All the Way," which deals with the turmoil of Lyndon Johnson's ascension to the presidency after JFK's assassination, covering Johnson's first 11 months in office.

Each playwright will receive \$50,000 and help from Columbia's Center for New Media Teaching and Learning in developing a body of scholarly work on the plays.

Spectator got on the phone with Dan O'Brien to discuss his work and how he feels about winning the award. Check after the jump for a Q&A with Schenkkan.

ERIC WIMER: Did you imagine yourself writing plays in college?

DAN O'BRIEN: I studied English and creative writing in Middlebury, but I won an American College Theatre Festival award. So, I got an MFA in playwriting at Brown.

EW: How did your play, "Body of an American," grow to that stage? What inspired it?

DO: The play is about my interaction with combat journalist Paul Watson. The two actors play a version of me and a version of Paul. The actors can seamlessly become other characters of the story, part of an experimental style meant to be informed by Paul's post-traumatic stress disorder. It specifically deals with a photo he took in the streets of Mogadishu of a body of an American soldier being desecrated by a mob. He claimed that he heard the voice of that soldier. When I heard him on NPR, he felt familiar. In some ways he reminded me of myself, but while I'm walking my dog, he's in Syria. I was intrigued by this haunting, so I just reached out to him and it went on for a couple of years before the play took focus.

SEE KENNEDY, page 7



FILE PHOTO

GETTING GRAPHIC | The Rare Book and Manuscript Library's Graphic Novels Librarian Karen Green sorts through the archives.

Rare book library acquires archive of 'ElfQuest'

BY RACHEL DUNPHY
Spectator Senior Staff Writer

The Rare Book and Manuscript Library announced last week that it will add the entire archive of "ElfQuest," a popular comic created in 1978, to an already extensive and growing collection of graphic novels.

The addition was the most recent in a series of significant graphic novel acquisitions over the last eight years, a focus that has led to an increasing amount of scholarly work on the subject at Columbia. The focus has also led to the creation of new courses such as The American Graphic Novel, which ran last semester and was co-taught by professors Jeremy Dauber and Paul Levitz, the former president of DC Comics.

Karen Green, the rare book library's Graphic Novels Librarian, is working toward building the collection at Columbia to the point where the University can be a leading center for research on graphic novels.

"It started as a small collection, primarily New York City-based material, either by creator or subject matter," Green said.

The collection then began to grow in size and scope. It reached a new level in 2011 with famed

comic writer Chris Claremont's donation of his entire comics archive from the past 40 years, most significantly his work on Marvel's X-Men from 1975 to 1992. Since then, Green has used the X-Men collection as a license to pursue larger and higher profile archives.

Green was also enthusiastic about the American Graphic Novel course, which she sat in on throughout the fall semester and considered an enormous success.

"Just getting it on the register of classes was a feat unto itself" for Dauber, she said. He had been trying to run the class for years and was finally able to, hoping 30 students would register, but ending up with more than 80. The course is expected to be opened again in fall 2014.

The "ElfQuest" acquisition came right on the heels of two other large additions to the collection, Larry Tye's research materials for his 2012 book, "Super: The High-Flying History of America's Most Enduring Superhero," and six "Batman" scripts from the 1940s.

"ElfQuest" itself was created and largely self-published by Wendy and Richard Pini. The comic was one of the first to gain commercial success independent of any large graphic novel company, which "was really a milestone in the history of publishing," according

to Green.

It was also one of the first comics with a strong female creative presence, and perhaps most notably, it was by many accounts the first American graphic novel series that was influenced by Japanese manga.

The acquisition includes every original piece of "ElfQuest" art, including art boards and pages, a graphic adaptation of "The Masque of Red Death," copies of each addition of "ElfQuest," and drafts of scripts and novelizations of the comics, according to a Columbia Libraries statement.

The rare books library's graphic novels collection has grown exponentially from three texts in 2005 to more than 3,300 today, and there's "more coming down the pipe," Green said.

The Rare Book and Manuscript Library will be celebrating its recent acquisitions with a panel discussion centered around Larry Tye's Superman research this Thursday at 6 p.m. in Butler 523. Panelists include Tye, former "Batman" writer Denny O'Neil, Mad Magazine's Al Jaffee, and former Warner Communications executive Jay Emmett.

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Writing professor releases edgy, funny new collection of short stories

BY JOSEPHINE MCGOWAN
Spectator Staff Writer

It can be hard to find laughter when faced with the absurdity of the world. Columbia writing professor Sam Lipsyte not only laughs but also finds the words in his skillful new collection of short stories. "The Fun Parts: Stories," released in March, is a procession of misery and pathos, full of twists and odd personalities.

Incorporating the sort of unfiltered humor heard in only the filthiest of conversations but with an authentic voice, the collection features characters who make sordid rounds in North Jersey and Manhattan in shady apartment houses, on "gritty, struggling" streets in Midtown, and at plenty of Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.

Despite its occasionally jarring and sour depictions of American culture, the collection transforms the mundane into engrossing storytelling, and Lipsyte writes as though he's run with members of the city's seedy underbelly.

One story, "The Republic of Empathy," is told through six different personal accounts, which feature a wife blackmailing her husband over a child, a man affected by his mother's cold upbringing, and a conversation on drones between "Reaper 5" and "Base Jango."

These tales represent a scathingly raw view of underachievement and psychological disturbances, etched clearly by the absurdities of American culture.

Lipsyte sweeps the modern tropes we've grown up with and portrays them in stark, simplistic imagery, with biting wit. The dialogue is peppered with common phrases, and the stories illustrate common social worries like the dilemma,

which opens "The Worm in Philly"—the "classic American story: I was out of money and people I could ask for money."

Each short story features a medley of bizarre characters, tugging the reader along with hard-hitting, dark satire. "Snacks" is a disconcerting depiction of obesity, while the children in "The Dungeon Master" are depicted as passive objects of fantasy that take part in a psychological study.

"Deniers," on the other hand, is the most touching. There are moments that seem derived from a delirious dream, as when Mandy, a drug addict and daughter of a withering Holocaust survivor, drives into the distance to "seek closure" for her addiction. She envisions a pristine family, "melodious" in voice and starkly soothing, until her illusions are shattered by her own mother. From perfection, she is dropped "off of the face of the earth."

Lipsyte is undeniably experienced with this genre. His previous novels received similar acclaim as funny, acrid, and rooted in everyday life. Take this as a warning, though—despite its title, "The Fun Parts" is not for the faint of heart.

There are moments in the collection that make you want to put it down in disgust, but you keep reading because the characters' psyches stay with you, and intrigue inevitably takes over.

Perhaps as an allusion to his aims for this collection, Lipsyte writes, "I've always wanted to model, to strut down the runway under all that strobe and glitter while the fashionably witty cheer on my sarcasm."




Cheer on, readers. "The Fun Parts" is a raucous performance deserving applause and—if this tragicomedy elicits uneasiness and laughter, as it should—a standing ovation.



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JENNY PAYNE / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FUN PARTS | Sam Lipsyte's raucous new collection of stories, "The Fun Parts: Stories," takes on the odd personalities of the city's seedy underbelly. Lipsyte is a professor of writing here at Columbia.





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Forgive yourself this violence

BY RAE BINSTOCK

“What do you want?” I hate this question, because I’m supposed to know the answer by now.
“I want anything but This,” goes the script of a binge-eater and bulimic in recovery. “I want not to wake up soaked in sweat and choked with self-hatred. I want to do my thing and live my life without feeling hollow and untouchable. I want my body and brain to mend.”
But then I find myself relapsing. I find my recovery slipping away from me in hours and then days, long stretches of horribly familiar territory, and then the mirror is looking back at me, and God, what have I done? Why is this still happening when I have been so honest with myself about how I do—and don’t—want to live? What is wrong with me?
Answering this other question is what makes the first so painful to think about. Because if I am being truly honest—I don’t want it to be done. That’s what’s wrong with me.
Anyone with a shameful, submerged struggle, from depression or cutting to alcoholism or drug abuse, knows what it’s like to realize how much your pain means to you. Bingeing and purging got me through the death of my grandfather, final exams, a bike accident. It

Working toward nothing

BY MIRIAM PENSACK

Perhaps the most implicit lesson learned in college is time management. It is not a course offering, but rather an essential adaptation necessary for survival in the grueling climate of Columbia. Much like other modes of survival, the way the typical Columbia College student utilizes his or her time defines that student’s experience. The common trend entails copious amounts of studying and a vehement pursuit of eventual professional success, all crammed into a measly, but nevertheless recurring, 24-hour sprint. Constantly engaged in the act of achieving, it seems a rarity—if not a luxury—to ask oneself what he or she might do instead. This is a difficult conundrum, as its infinite responses inherently call into question the assumed supremacy of an elite education.
It is this very quandary that many Columbia students are forced to face during their study abroad experiences. No longer protected by the gates on 116th, we toddler-adults suddenly bust out of our cribs only to find ourselves stumbling and drooling across countries and continents that, often, couldn’t care less about our elite education. Of course, in these circumstances, one’s identity remains that of a student, and this particular obligation marks a particular means of defining ourselves through time spent studying in a different academic system. I had the good fortune to spend a year at Columbia’s Reid Hall program in Paris, where this temporality-related identity crisis manifested with astonishing diversity among the students I met there.

If she wasn’t in class, doing homework, presiding over extra-curricular group meetings—what the hell was she doing?

We all struggled with the French university system, both linguistically and structurally. It was this latter challenge that proved most surprising and most difficult to tackle. Readings were shorter, and fewer papers were assigned. Unlike the reading cavalcades of Lit Hum or Contemporary Civilization, however, we were expected to understand an assignment with a thoroughness and comprehension afforded only by greater time spent in reflection. A specific idea was explored slowly and meticulously, which rendered a potential sense of mastery irrelevant if not nonexistent. Less time was spent in the classroom or actively doing schoolwork. A good friend noted that the amount of free time she had was, ironically, a major source of stress. If she wasn’t in class, doing homework, presiding over extra-curricular group meetings—what the hell was she doing? For the first time in our undergraduate experiences, we were forced to wander aimlessly, to fumble while trying to order a sandwich, to run around in the pouring rain while desperately struggling to find that damn bar on the Rue Ménilmontant. There was minimal structure, no distinct goal, and academic due-dates that loomed only in the distant future.
In a sense, we worked toward nothing. Yet there has never been—nor do I expect will there ever be—a Columbia homework assignment that might teach me the value of sharing a bottle of wine in the Luxembourg Gardens. Nor could any seminar emulate the sounds of a friend’s guitar strings ringing through the bright night on the banks of the Seine. I had never been so lost. I had never learned more. The days and seasons ebbed and flowed, and my identity as a Columbia student became evermore elusive. Of course, that identity was always strangely present, as the only reason I was in Paris was for a Columbia study abroad program.
And so Columbia continued my education by annihilating the very structures that I had associated with learning. This new learning was pure and frightening and degrading at times. It made me feel stupid but brave, foolish but sane. Returning to Columbia for the following fall semester, I was suddenly overwhelmed. Yes, the academics were as excellent as ever. But time marched methodically on, and I returned to the sleep-deprived, goal-oriented achiever my college applications promised I would be. Strangely, the authenticity of this super-active learning seemed questionable. One day soon we will all graduate, perhaps find jobs, perhaps go to grad school. An assignment, a grade, a degree may matter. It also may not. The greatest lesson I have learned from Columbia is to question the very education the institution itself has given me. For in the temporal trappings of space and time, it is only this questioning that persists.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in history.

was comforting and fulfilling and so incredibly easy—such an immediate way to feel taken care of. I chose it as my own special secret without fear of rejection. I loved my eating disorder; that’s why I kept doing it. For a brief and razor-sharp moment, I was powerfully alive.

Pain, like all kinds of energy, is only ever materialized, never destroyed.

This year, a close friend of mine told me she had cancer—again. In her, I see the greatest spirit and courage that a person can fit beneath their skin; I see a history of suffering that most of us will never know, beyond anything that the mind can inflict upon itself. Unlike my eating disorder, the cancer has nothing to do with her: It is not an outlet for her pain, but an alien creature with pain of its own. Instead of choosing a coping mechanism, she is choosing to continue doing good in the world while fighting a war that is in her, but not of her. If she backs down, she gives up the chance to live free of disease.
This person whom I love, who is so valuable and necessary, is in danger—and there’s nothing I can do except be there when she asks. I am powerless; I might as well not exist, for all the effect I can have on the cancer threatening her life. Yet here I am anyway—my own life

Challenge Columbia

As a senior deeply involved with campus mental health activism, I hear this a lot: “Aren’t you graduating? You won’t be able to change anything.” “Just accept it, there’s no community here.” “Columbia is too big to reform.”
And yes, our school appears mighty and unconquerable. From the fluted stone columns of Low Library to the sprawling bureaucracy of distant administrators, Columbia conveys a sense of institutional power that seems indomitable in the face of fleeting student voices.
But what if the ideas we build around institutions are just mirages?
Over the weekend, I visited Harvard for the first time. It’s an impressive school. But my preconceptions of Harvard as the perfect pinnacle of prestige began to fall away as I engaged students in conversations about their own campus. The meaning of Harvard’s community, like ours, is under intense debate.

Far from being powerless, we students are what constitute the concept of a campus community.

On Feb. 21, a Harvard student suffering from schizophrenia who was repeatedly denied treatment by Harvard University Health Services published an op-ed in the Crimson slamming the sordid state of the school support system. “I was not silent: I sought and was refused help,” wrote the anonymous author. “I am asking you to join me in a loud appeal to the administration for quality mental health support. If there really is such a thing as a Harvard community, then our shared resources should be allocated according to our values. ... We can do better.”
The next day, more than 150 students rallied in a cold Harvard Yard to demand major reform. Sensing an existential threat, Harvard’s Office of Student Life dispatched representatives in just 15 minutes to try to quell the commotion. According to sources, the staffers tried to lure the protesters into lecture halls, promising a space for “conversation” with administrators. “You’ll be warm,” they

in full swing, loved and supported and protected. My body is battered and bruised, but it is not under attack. There are so many things I want more than my eating disorder. There are chances that may be gone before I can decide if they are worth it. There are chilly mornings and sequined nights waiting for me; there are faces I have yet to see in the mirror.
I want more than a brief moment of power. I want more than comfort. I want to be alive—on my own terms.
No cuts, no drink, no binge can bring any kind of real peace. Numbness is relief, not cure; the invasion of your spirit is still underway. If you love your secret shame the way I love mine, then you understand that the hardest part of giving it up—of reclaiming your life for yourself—is admitting how much you don’t want to. That habit formed for a reason, and it isn’t your fault: Pain, like all kinds of energy, is only ever materialized, never destroyed.
Even the best fight can fail to destroy cancer. Even the best person can be driven to hurt him or herself. Forgive yourself this violence. Forgive the tumor of self-punishment, and treat it not with rage or blame, but with honesty. You are not your problem, but it is woven from your cloth; it will hurt to tear it off and throw it away. Going back feels good, and perhaps it always will. For every day that I don’t binge or purge, a small part of me wishes that I could.
But if each of those days dawns and dies on the choices I make by myself and for myself, then it’s worth it.

The author is a Columbia College sophomore.

suggested. The students stayed outside. Now, the movement continues to grow.
I think there comes a moment in every campus activist’s mind when he or she grows tired of the false promises of the “community” and decides to fundamentally challenge the status quo. It’s a liberating moment that exposes the school for what it really is—a vulnerable system. As one of the activists pointed out to me over dinner, the idea of “Harvard” as an institution is simply a constructed idea, a metonymy for the networks of people who come together and interact in different ways to form some sort of reality. It’s true. Harvard is only as strong as the people who support it.
The implications of this are profound. Far from being powerless, we students are what constitute the concept of a campus community. Without our acquiescence, there is no Columbia. When we realize that our values are not being included in this idea of a community, we do not need to just take it. We can fight.
And we should. Here at the school that Newsweek has named the nation’s “most stressful”; where at least three students have committed suicide in the last 500 days; where our health services continue to be underfunded and understaffed; where our deans and administrators continue to suggest “dialogue” about mental health, yet take no initiative to create meaningful institutional change—we have a duty to deconstruct the artifice of a prestigious, unchangeable Columbia and demand better. We need to ask why millions of dollars are being poured into sports complexes and second campuses when we’re ignoring those who need help right here. We need to shine a light through the façade of stone columns and figure out the way that Columbia is put together, then expose it, challenge it, and dismantle it if need be.
This requires consciousness, and that’s not easy to attain. What do you do when the very system you are trying to challenge and question is also the thing that has constituted you as a being? What happens when its guardians are also, in a sense, your guardians? It is easier to fantasize that the system is fine—or that nothing can be done—rather than step up and assert yourself. But that vague, gnawing voice of dissatisfaction within you is real. The notion of an invincible Columbia is not. And in the end, if we really care, if we really love this place, if we want to see it live up to the ideals that drew us here in the first place—then we’ll struggle for it. We’ll fight for it. We’ll get angry, and we’ll give it hell.
Then we’ll have the power. Then we’ll have a community.

Wilfred Chan is a senior majoring in political science. He is the founder of the Student Wellness Project. Chan-neling Discourse runs alternate Tuesdays.



ILLUSTRATION BY HEIDI KELLER

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR
Career Education



Spring Career Fair

Friday, March 8, 2013, 11a.m.–4p.m.
Alfred Lerner Hall

Register by March 6 at 11:59p.m. to receive a Pre-registered Pass.
Business attire and Columbia University ID required.

Making the Most of the Spring Career Fair and Media Networking Night

Undergraduates: March 6, 12–1p.m. • CCE Conference Room
(Hosted in partnership with General Studies Student Council and Woodbridge Hall)

Graduate Students: March 7, 12:30–1:30p.m. • CCE Conference Room

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specialevents.cce.columbia.edu/spring-career-fair-2013



Media Networking Night

Media Networking Night

With Support from Bwog and Columbia Daily Spectator

Monday, March 11, 2013, 7–8:30p.m.
Low Memorial Library

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Columbia University ID required. Attire is business casual.

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Lions take third out of 27 teams at ECAC Open Championships

The men’s swimming and diving team (8-2, 5-2 Ivy) completed its final tune-up before the Ivy League Championships, finishing third in a field of 27 teams at the Eastern College Athletic Conference Open Swimming and Diving Championships. The Lions’ 457 points placed them just ahead of fourth-place Harvard, but behind champions Boston University (631.5 points) and second-place Navy (530), which has won the previous three ECAC Championships. Sophomore Alex Ngan starred for the Lions, finishing first in the 50 freestyle, the 100 butterfly, and the 100 freestyle, in addition to being part of two runner-up relay teams along with junior Matt Swallow, junior Daniel Tan, and senior Patrick Dougherty. The Lions now turn their attention to the biggest meet of the season, the three-day Ivy League Championships, beginning Thursday. The Lions enter the Championships tied with Yale for second in the division, behind undefeated Harvard.



— Phil Godzin

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O’Brien shares prize with Schenkkan

It’s a really rare working relationship. He’s a very focused writer as a journalist. It’s unique to work with these two points of view on the same story.

EW: So your plays have both a very personal element to them and an element that really encompasses a lot of American culture today through the characters you pick. What facets of the American psyche really fascinate you?

DO: These can often take many years of work, so there are so many reasons—personal, social, political, cultural. Theater is always about identity to some degree. It’s about investigating and interrogating identity and how it changes. In our culture it’s even more volatile and changeable. That’s always fascinating to me. So that’s partly why I was interested in Paul. He thinks this picture, which is so famous, inspired Al-Qaeda for 9/11, which led to the wars we are still in today, so in some ways, he’s haunted by U.S. foreign policy. It’s interesting the way in which our culture puts it out of its mind, but hasn’t really been able to ignore it. The ideal play for me is about big ideas and the humanity of your characters. Sometimes idea plays are very dry and academic compared to gritty personal plays, but I like idea plays, and people who really respond to the play really respond to both.

EW: So what recommendation would you give to writers struggling to escape the trap of falling into a pattern of dryness with these idea plays?

DO: Usually it’s getting down your personal story first. One reason why I took two years to get to know Paul before I started was because at first it was too overwhelming to try to write about his career. I thought about adapting his 300-page memoir, but that was daunting. I’m excited by a play that’s like a problem. It’s exciting when I don’t know how the hell I’ll do it ... when I think that maybe I won’t be able to pull it off. I wanted this to go deep rather than wide. The type of trust we had probably wouldn’t have happened if we hadn’t spent the time before. And it made me a more political and socially-engaged writer. The ideas are great, but they’re somewhat secondary to me in the process.

Spectator sat down with Schenkkan to talk about his play, the prize, and why he chose Lyndon Johnson as a subject.

ERIC WIMER: So how was it not only to win the award, but also to win it along with Dan O’Brien?

ROBERT SCHENKKAN: Dan’s a pal. I loved his play so much that I actually recommended it to Bill Rauch to direct. I’m glad he won as well, because I believe that American political plays need to be produced. Too often, American playwrights get a bad rap for not writing real political theater, but that’s just because no one produces it. Hopefully this award will help get these plays produced.

EW: What drew you to your protagonist, Lyndon Johnson?

RS: My first experience of Johnson was his tremendous landslide victory and how great that felt. Then when I’m in my 30s, an artist trying to support his family, and I become aware of just how many social programs were part of the great society, then I have yet another feeling about Johnson. With the considerable amount of research and thought that I have put into this project over the last two years, my thinking continues to evolve about this very complicated individual and his enormous impact on American society. I’ve always thought that LBJ was this very Shakespearean character. Outsized—not only physically big, but his appetites were big, his ambitions were big, his faults were big. Even to his closest friends, he was something of an enigma. He was kind, brutal, loyal, untrustworthy. He was just an incredibly complicated man. And I think his impact on the country was enormous. If it hadn’t been for Vietnam, he would be one of our greatest presidents, up there on Mount Rushmore. But if you’re going to give him credit for the good things he did, you also have to recognize the terrible, terrible conscious choices he made in regards to Vietnam.

EW: And what is your next project?

RS: A follow-up to “All The Way,” called “The Great Society,” which picks up where we left off in 1964 and takes us to LBJ’s shocking announcement in ’68 that he will not run for a second term. I’m pleased to say it will have its world premiere at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in 2014, directed by Bill Rauch.

EW: You also write screenplays. Do you prefer to write for the stage or for the screen?

RS: I wrote four episodes of “The Pacific,” with Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks, and was nominated for two Emmy Awards. Film and television are very satisfying, but I’d never say I like it more. I do thoroughly enjoy it, the people I work with, and the stories I tell.

EW: How is it a different process?

RS: It’s very different. In playwrighting, I retain my copyright, so I remain the arbiter of my own work. In film and television, I do not, and the difference is profound. The studio or the producer owns the copyright, so they can do anything they want with it. I have to approach it mindfully as a consequence. I see myself as a hired gun who’s there to clean up town with the knowledge that when I’m done, I’ll get on my horse and ride out.

EW: And is there any advice you’d give to young aspiring writers, actors, and directors?

RS: The best way to learn is by doing. Don’t wait for somebody to create the opportunity. It doesn’t require a lot of money to experiment and it is the best way to learn anything.

These interviews have been condensed and edited for clarity.
arts@columbiaspectator.com

Play highlights women of Shakespeare

BY JENNY SINGER
Spectator Staff Writer

The word “will” takes on multiple meanings in one of this season’s most hyped-shows. Conceptualized by, written by, and starring chameleon Tina Packer, “Women of Will: The Overview” takes the stories of some of the strongest-willed women in William Shakespeare’s works. The play, which opened Feb. 3, is part lecture and part play, with added-on bits of slapstick comedy and social commentary.

“The Overview” draws from Packer’s five-part series of plays, “Women of Will: The Complete Journey,” which chronicles Shakespeare’s journey in his treatment of women—from the warrior woman, to the sexual and spiritual goddess, and eventually, to the redeemer. Packer spent 15 years developing the play as the artistic director at Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, Mass.

The show amounts to a rapid-fire adventure that starts with the play, “The Taming of the Shrew,” and ends with audience members writing their favorite feminist Shakespeare quotes in Sharpie on the exposed beams of the set.

Like many quaking literature students before me, I approached the Bard’s work with fear. Who can remember the difference between Rosalind and Cressida, or women who were killed because of their husbands versus women who were killed by their husbands? But Packer dispels any trepidation that the audience might harbor, parsing Shakespeare’s 38 works into easily digestible chunks. Her scene partner and director, Nigel Gore has a Bill Nighy swagger, and enters for the first time with the line, “I come bearing testosterone!”

Featuring two actors over the age of 50, “The Overview” tackles social issues in Shakespeare on a minimalist set with few costume changes and no pop culture references. Packer and Gore are earnest in their analysis of Shakespeare’s work and playful in their enactment of iconic scenes.

In Packer’s vision, the balcony scene from “Romeo and Juliet” is still organic, the blood is still damned, and the historical plays are somehow not boring. The two actors lapse from scene work into chatty deconstructions of the text, often breaking the fourth wall to converse with the audience and then returning to Shakespeare “mash-ups.” This strong depiction of Shakespeare’s women shines on the stage.

“Women of Will” runs at The Gym at Washington Square Park’s Judson Memorial Church through July. Tickets are \$25 with CUID.

arts@columbiaspectator.com



COURTESY OF JOYCE’S CHOICES

WILL | “Women of Will” showcases the bard’s female characters.

Challenges of life as a female sports fan

“I have three older brothers and I grew up in a town where football Saturdays were a day of worship.”

After more than two years of being a part of the sports section—and a year of being sports editor—I have my answer pretty much down pat. You would think that upon discovering that I was sports editor at the Columbia Spectator, most people would question why I would devote so much time to a school where athletics wasn’t exactly number one. But no—every time, the question is always, “Why sports?”

It’s not the question that bothers me, per se. I love talking about my time at Spectator as sports editor and I love informing people (perhaps a little too enthusiastically) about my favorite historical moments in Ivy League and Columbia athletics. What annoys me is the intent behind the question. The question isn’t really, “Why sports?” It’s, “Why sports? You’re a girl.”

I’m really good at complaining about the confines of gender stereotypes—I do, after all, go to Barnard. But seriously, why is it still a surprise to people that girls can be interested in sports on their own? Why is it a surprise to people that I actually do enjoy a football game, and no, it isn’t just because I’m trying to impress the cute boy next to me in the stands.

In my experience, it isn’t sports fans that are openly guilty of this generalization, it’s everyone else. I’ve never had to explain my allegiance to University of Michigan football or basketball to other sports fans, because they get it—they understand what it means to root for a team, to celebrate every win and mourn every loss. And not only that, they get the fact that the heart of being a sports fan has nothing to do with being male or female.

It’s non-sports fans that don’t get it. It isn’t their fault—it’s just the way society grooms us. But it doesn’t make it any less annoying when I get a wide-eyed stare from the guy next to me on a flight back to New York City after Thanksgiving and I talk about how disappointed I was with Michigan’s offense in the second half against Ohio State. Really? That’s extremely basic knowledge. Being a woman doesn’t make it more or less easy for me to understand the idea that 39 yards of offense in the second half is beyond terrible.

I realize I’m really fantastic at bitching about other people. I have it down to an art. People even commented on it in my senior yearbook. But if I’m being 100 percent honest with myself, I’m guilty of my own pet peeve.

I still explain myself every chance I get when people question why I wanted to be a part of the sports section. And deep down, there’s a small part of me that believes it—that the only reason I watch sports is because I so desperately wanted to be included in something my big brothers (whom I worshipped) enjoyed.

But so what? Who cares why I got into it? The fact of the matter is, no matter my motivation for initially becoming a fan, I watch football because I like football. I root for Columbia basketball because I love it in a way that’s a little bit unhealthy. And that has everything to do with me.

And maybe that’s what people—sports fans, non-sports fans, and especially myself—need to realize. Being a fan of something is about the individual. Don’t project anything else onto it. I understand that this is an extremely generic solution, but I really do think it’s that simple.

Still, I need to realize that it’s unlikely to ever change, at least in my lifetime. People will always be a little bit surprised that girls can like sports. And annoying as that is, I can’t do anything about it. And neither can any other girl that loves baseball, football, basketball, soccer, cricket, or whatever.

What’s a girl to do? Just deal with it, I guess. You can’t control what other people think, what other people say, or what other people do. So we should try to stop caring. At the end of the day, it only matters as much as you think it does. For now, I’ll just have to find a distraction. And although basketball might be ending, baseball is just around the corner.

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REBEKA COHAN

And One

Former star gives up tennis courts for courts of law

BY KYLE PERROTTI
Spectator Staff Writer

The recruiting efforts of men’s tennis head coach Bid Goswami over the last 31 years have attracted legions of top players to the program. But hitting with former world No. 7 Mario Ančić was an added perk most players didn’t expect.

Now on track for an LL.M. at Columbia Law School, the 28-year-old Ančić may have retired from the sport, but he still finds the time to practice with the Light Blue.

“I don’t play much, but I play a little bit with the Columbia tennis team and I have played a couple times with a well-known American tennis player, Jim Courier, who is a Davis Cup champion now and also a former No. 1,” Ančić said.

He considers Light Blue associate head coach Howard Endelman, CC ’87, to be a close friend, but that’s not the only reason he enjoys spending time with the Columbia players.

“As much as I can, I try to help them. I’ve always felt I got so much out of tennis that I want to give back,” Ančić said. “I know a couple of them are looking to turn pro after they graduate. So I’m there as somebody who went through that, with advice, to be able to hit with them, show them something I’ve seen in their game.”

One player in particular that has stood out to Ančić is sophomore Winston Lin.

“Winston has had a couple great victories individually, and the team is getting better,” Ančić said. “And I’m really happy because recently they’ve had great results.” The Croatian managed to achieve more in his short tennis career than most professional players do in a lifetime.

In 2002, Ančić first appeared on the radar of the tennis world at only 18 years old, when he beat then seventh-seeded Roger Federer on Wimbledon’s Centre Court. It would be the last time a player would defeat Roger Federer on Wimbledon grass until Rafael Nadal bested Federer in the 2008 Wimbledon final. After routing Federer in his Grand Slam debut, 6-foot-5 Ančić was nicknamed Super Mario, gaining a reputation for his ability to defeat opponents with his monstrous serve and blistering forehand.

Within four years, Ančić rose in the rankings to reach No. 7 in the world. Along the way, he and fellow countryman Ivan Ljubičić won a bronze medal in doubles at the Athens Summer Olympics in 2004, and he helped Croatia win the Davis Cup



KIERA WOOD / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LAYING DOWN THE LAW | Mario Ančić, once ranked seventh in the world, pursued a career in law after his retirement.

in 2005.

It’s tough for Ančić to pick a favorite, though. “I had a couple of big moments in my short career. It’s like having kids because it’s hard to say which one you like more,” Ančić said. “The Olympic medal or being in the Davis Cup, or, for example, being number seven in the world when I was just 21 or 22. These are all the accomplishments I was dreaming of when I was coming up in Croatia when I had just started to play.”

In spite of the staggering successes early on in his career, Ančić was forced into early retirement in 2011 due to a series of injuries and illnesses that kept him sidelined for months at a time.

As difficult as it was for him to call it quits at such a young age, he said he felt it was the right move, and is proud of what he was able to accomplish during his short time on the tennis court.

“You give so much. You put in so much hard work, a lot of sweat in training,” Ančić said. “I can say that I am happy to have all of the success that I have.”

Throughout his career and during his retirement, Ančić decided to earn a law degree from a university in his hometown of Split, Croatia. He thought the hard work that led to so many of his successes on the tennis court would translate well to the rigorous environment of law school.

“Although there may be differences, they are similar and very intense. A lot of hard work and dedication,” Ančić said. “I have got to meet some incredible people here who have all these qualities that are present no matter what job you take or what school you go to.”

After passing the bar and getting a job as a lawyer in Croatia, Ančić headed to the United States to further improve his knowledge of the law.

After working for a short while on a research project at Harvard Law School, Ančić decided to make his way to Morningside Heights to attend Columbia.

“I was very interested in coming to the United States and just being able to be part of Columbia, which is worldwide one of the most recognized schools,” he said. “It

ONLINE



Visit spc.me/marioancic for video of the former tennis star.

is just a great opportunity for me to be here and it’s a great opportunity for me to be in New York, which I know pretty well from coming to the U.S. Open.”

Ančić is on track to graduate this year, but is not sure exactly where his law career will take him. Although he looks back on his tennis career fondly, he is confident that he has made the right decision to put down his racket and pursue his education.

“I can say now that I am enjoying things 100 percent and I know that I am at the place where I am supposed to be,” Ančić said.

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Princeton surpasses Harvard in the race to Selection Sunday

BY KELLY RELLER
Columbia Daily Spectator

With Selection Sunday just twelve days away, the battle for the top of the men’s basketball Ivy ladder was intensified as Princeton took over the first place standing from Harvard, which lost both games this weekend. Brown also put a stop to a spell of losses to Cornell stretching back to 2006.



A strong effort by the starters allowed Brown (12-14, 6-6 Ivy) to pummel the Big Red (13-16, 5-7 Ivy) for the first time in 13 matchups. Bears center Rafael Maia proved himself in the paint with 22 points and 13 rebounds, while forward Tucker Halpern also added 22 points. While Cornell’s Nolan Cressler fought hard with 22 points, the Bears had a firm grip on the game throughout the night with a solid lead that, at its highest, reached 29 points.



The Big Green (7-19, 3-9 Ivy) pulled a narrow win over Penn (8-20, 5-6 Ivy), ending its five-game losing streak. Dartmouth guard Alex Mitola banked 17 points, but equal credit is owed to the Big Green’s performance at the free-throw line, nailing 23 of 26 attempts. Dau Jok came off the bench for the Quakers to put up 11 points in the second half, decreasing the gap to one point with just one minute remaining. In response, Dartmouth continued its consistent free throw shooting to push the team into a five-point victory.



Ian Hummer posted a game-high 23 points for the Tigers (16-9, 9-2 Ivy),

allowing them to slip past Harvard (17-9, 9-3 Ivy) in a battle of the Ancient Eight’s top two teams. Hummer, second in all-time scoring at Princeton, complemented his point tally with 14 boards. An early lead kept the game in Princeton’s favor until the final five minutes of the second half, when Harvard’s Steve Moundou-Missi added nine of his 15 points in two minutes to give the Crimson a 51-48 lead. The Tigers responded with four solid trips to the charity stripe to seal their third straight win by five points.

The Quakers returned to the court with a vengeance, trying to topple Harvard after an upsetting loss to Dartmouth the previous night. Penn kept the home crowd on its feet with a narrow but constant lead, a feat that, prior to this game, had not been accomplished by the Quakers this season. Penn’s Tony Hicks offered 24 points, while Wesley Saunders shot 10-for-12 in free throws for the Crimson, contributing to his team-high 20 points. Harvard’s Christian Webster made it a one-possession game by draining a three with just seconds remaining, but Hicks cut off that possibility with a free throw in the final two seconds of the game.



Princeton extended its winning streak to four and raised itself to the top of the Ivy League with a defeat of Dartmouth at Jadwin Gymnasium. The starters for the Tigers dominated the scoreboard with 66 of the team’s 68 points, 24 of which were made by forward Will Barrett. The Big Green started out strong in the first half thanks to Tyler Melville, who shot 11 of his career-high 23 points before the halftime buzzer. Princeton responded in the second half with Barrett sinking of 5-of-8 from beyond the arc, leading the Tigers to victory.



COURTESY OF AMANDA SUAREZ / THE DAILY PENNSYLVANIAN

HIGH SCORER | After falling to the Big Green, the Quakers handed the Crimson its second consecutive loss.



Yale (12-17, 6-6 Ivy) dominated the Big Red from jump to buzzer. Bulldogs forwards Matt Townsend and Greg Kelley fired up the first half with 13 and 10 points, respectively. Cornell was unable to dig its way out after starting the second half with a 14-point deficit. The Big Red faced shooting woes the entire night as it managed a mere 37.1% of its field goals. A glimmer of hope came from Cornell’s bench in the form of Nolan Cressler, who provided 15 of his 19 points in the second half, but ultimately it was not enough to muzzle the Bulldogs.

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RK	TEAM
1 9-2	PRINCETON TIGERS Princeton, led by Ian Hummer and Will Barrett, won its third and fourth consecutive games, claiming first place in the Ivies.
2 9-3	HARVARD CRIMSON Over the weekend, the Crimson fell from first place, dropping close games to the Tigers and the Quakers.
3 6-6	BROWN BEARS The Bears pounded the Big Red on Friday, winning by 19 points, before sinking the Lions with a buzzer beater on Saturday
4 6-6	YALE BULLDOGS The Bulldogs fell to the Lions on Friday, but dominated the Big Red on both sides of the court on Saturday.
5 5-6	PENN QUAKERS The Quakers dropped a close game to the Big Green, then edged out the formerly first-place Crimson the next day.
6 6-7	CORNELL BIG RED Nolan Cressler impressed for the Big Red, but Cornell still dropped both of its games, falling to Brown and Yale.
7 1-5	COLUMBIA LIONS The Lions defeated the Bulldogs by 13 points on Friday, but fell to the Bears the next day, thanks to a buzzer-beating three.
8 0-5	DARTMOUTH BIG GREEN Dartmouth ended its five-game losing streak by defeating Penn, but couldn't stop Princeton's four-game winning streak.