

## Students, colleagues remember psychology professor

BY ELIZABETH SCOTT  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Students and colleagues who worked with Professor Christoph Wiedenmayer say they lost a quick-witted, devoted instructor.

Wiedenmayer, who died of a heart attack Monday, was an associate professor of clinical neurobiology in psychiatry at the Columbia University Medical Center. He also taught in Columbia's psychology department.

Ruthy Sher, CC '12, said that Wiedenmayer inspired her to major in neuroscience. "The truth is, being a student in his class made me realize that what he was teaching was really important. After the class I thought, 'I want to do what he's doing,'" Sher said.

Alex Ralph, CC '12, said she decided to take the class after reading impressive CULPA reviews on Wiedenmayer. Ralph called Wiedenmayer a "fascinating individual" who had been "a really wonderful teacher because he was very reasonable—he had a smart sense of humor that really made his lectures enjoyable. I would wait for those little moments."

"He was the best professor I've ever had," Sher said. "He was amazing. He was just very organized, very concise. You could tell that he really cared about the students' understanding of the material, and you could tell he was really passionate about what he was teaching."

Besides taking an active

SEE WIEDENMAYER, page 2



COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
**REMEMBERED** | Students recalled Professor Christoph Wiedenmayer's devotion to his courses.



ANGELA RADULESCU / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**CONTESTED DEVELOPMENT** | A recent report criticized the process used to negotiate the benefits Columbia will provide Manhattanville.

## SGB elects board, recognizes groups at town hall

BY AMBER TUNNELL  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Lisa Weber, CC '11, was elected Student Governing Board chair Tuesday night at a town hall.

The SGB voted new members to its executive board, recognized new groups, and de-recognized others.

Weber ran unopposed. In her speech, she said that she wants to help the organizations accomplish their biggest goals, and that she is "not here to create any hurdles for you, but to overcome them." Weber was SGB vice-chair this past year.

The SGB governs religious, spiritual, political, ideological, humanitarian, and activist organizations on campus.

Elissa Verrilli, BC '11, is the new vice-chair. She had one opponent, Kanak Gupta, GS. Verrilli and Gupta were both SGB representatives this past year. Since Verrilli is studying abroad this year, Beezly Kiernan, CC '11, gave her speech for her.

Rithu Ramachandran, CC '12, became the new treasurer after running unopposed. Amirah Sequeira, CC '12, beat out Siddhi Mittal, SEAS '13, for secretary. Mittal was the only freshman running for an executive board position this year. Because of

this, in her speech, she said that she wanted people to vote for her "not despite the fact that I am a freshman, but because of the fact that I am a freshman." She said she believed that she would be able to spend more time on the position than older candidates.

Out of 10 candidates, Joy Achuonjei, CC '11, Maryam Aziz, CC '13, Gupta, Kiernan, Mittal, Aseel Najib, CC '12, and Stacy

Ramcharan, SEAS '12, were elected representatives.

Gupta, after losing the vice-chair position, started his speech to laughter from the audience, "I really want to be a rep now."

Kiernan, who was SGB secretary this past year, discussed the two initiatives that he wants to focus on: giving campus groups credit cards and allowing groups to fill out vouchers online to save

time. He ended his speech, "Fight the bureaucracy!"

After the elections, five groups presented themselves for SGB recognition: Break the Silence, Circle K, Colleges Against Cancer, TRACT, and Universities Allied for Essential Medicines. All received official recognition.

Break the Silence focuses on helping to increase discussion of sexual identity among high school students; Circle K is a community service organization; TRACT focuses on research and discussion relating to religion and science; and Universities Allied for Essential Medicines promotes knowledge about medicine on campus.

Colleges Against Cancer applied to be a funded group. They are best known for hosting Relay for Life on campus. Last year, they raised \$60,000. They claimed that the American Cancer Society cut down their funding severely this year, to \$5,000 from \$17,000.

Thirteen groups were voted to be de-recognized because they had not attended four town halls in a row or said they were inactive. Among these were End the Death Penalty, Columbia Coalition Against the War, and Productive Outreach for Women.

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TALIA KORI FOR SPECTATOR

**TOWN HALL** | A representative from Colleges Against Cancer presented a funding proposal to the Student Governing Board Tuesday.

## Course registration a challenge, General Studies seniors say

BY MADINA TOURE  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Seniors in the School of General Studies say course selection comes with an added burden: the possibility of losing spots to underclassmen.

At GS, there is no seniority in picking courses, a system students say makes it difficult to get into upper-level courses required for graduation. Students are instead randomly assigned times to sign up for classes.

For some, this has proven to be problematic. General Studies Student Council President Katherine Edwards said that she tried to take Corporate Finance, a class for her major, but was unable to get in.

"Even as a senior I am not taking it, because both times I tried to register, it was entirely full," she said.

And to get into another class

that fulfilled a core and major requirement—and enabled her to take one less class, saving her \$3,000 since GS students pay per credit—she had to get help from the professor.

"Some are upset on mere principle that as a senior they do not have a first-day appointment, and I can certainly understand that," GS Dean of Students Scott Halvorson wrote in an email. "I do not know of any students, however, for whom accommodations could not be made if a class was shown to be absolutely essential to the student's graduation within a particular term."

"It poses a problem especially for people like me who have had to have a full-time job and take class, which means there are only a select few classes into which I can register," Garrett Blair, GS, said.

The GS Committee on Instruction has been dealing

specifically with the issue. Ben Totushek, GS and one of two students on the COI, said they are currently working with profes-

**"Some are upset on mere principle that as a senior they do not have a first-day appointment,"**

—GS Dean of Students

Scott Halvorson

sors and administrators to raise awareness about problems with registration.

"We think that it's gonna get the support it needs," he said.

"This system has been in place for a while now," Halvorson wrote. "Some years ago we did

explore using the tier system, but we did not implement it because we did not think it would work as well as the current system for most of our students. We are certainly open, however, to exploring this possibility once more."

Lena Park, GS, said that students also face difficulties if they miss the pre-registration period randomly assigned to them.

"If you miss pre-registration, then you get screwed a lot and your choices get diminished," she said.

There are some exceptions. Seniors trying to get into a Core class or first-years who missed the initial registration time are given priority registration. Halvorson also said that the Core office keeps sections of Art and Music Humanities open for seniors, and that students can consult the department for upper-level courses required for graduation.

But Totushek said that students run into other difficulties

because they are unable to drop courses after the 10-day shopping period, while CC students can wait until after the first midterm.

Park said that as a student who came to GS as a senior, more information about the registration process would have been helpful.

"Everyone assumes if you're a senior, you know this [the registration process] by now," she said, adding that the administration should "recognize that we're all coming from different places."

Ultimately, Edwards said the system places GS seniors at a disadvantage.

"Once you get more up-and-up by your senior year, you should be able to get into what classes you want to take," she said, "and I think it's really unfortunate because at GS, you don't have that luxury."

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## M'ville method draws scrutiny

Bar Association questions CU's negotiating process

BY MAGGIE ASTOR  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

The process Columbia used to negotiate its Manhattanville campus expansion plan with neighborhood residents and local politicians is deeply flawed, according to the New York City Bar Association.

In a March 8 report on the use of "community benefits agreements" citywide, the Bar Association—an organization of lawyers that advocates for law practice improvements—criticized the CBA negotiation process and called for city regulation of it.

A CBA is a legally binding document in which a developer promises certain perks to offset the impact of construction on the local neighborhood. The final agreement is the product of negotiations between the developer and an ad hoc group that is intended to represent the full spectrum of community interests. Though this has become an increasingly popular method in recent years, some say that because the process lacks standard criteria, it does not always produce agreements favorable to the affected constituencies.

In 2006, in consultation with local groups representing particular constituencies, such as tenants' and small business associations, the local Community Board 9 selected 13 individuals to serve on the West Harlem Local Development Corporation. Representatives for seven elected officials were added later.

The LDC met with University officials over a three-year period to negotiate an agreement under which Columbia will provide \$150 million for, among other things, affordable housing and a new public school. It has also promised to give priority to West Harlem residents for jobs created by the project. The University designated certain areas up front that would receive funding, but promised \$76 million of the total for the LDC to allocate at its discretion.

The Bar Association report raises the concern that the groups negotiating CBAs on behalf of the community are not always fully representative of it. Poorly negotiated CBAs, the report says, may "compromise sound planning and land use regulation" and be difficult to enforce.

"In some cases, the people who negotiate the CBAs are neither elected nor appointed by the community or its elected representatives," the report states, though this was not so in Manhattanville, where LDC members were appointed through CB9. "Some community members fear that they have no way of holding these groups accountable for the negotiations."

It continues, "None of the CBAs in the City have been put to a vote of the community as a whole, and some of the CBAs negotiated were not made publicly

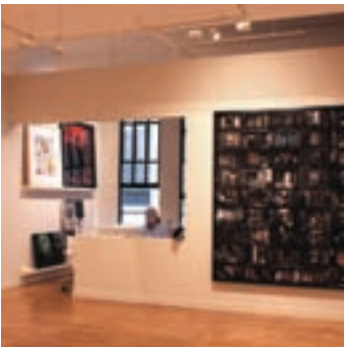
SEE CBA, page 2

### INSIDE

A&E, page 3

Business school alum moves from finance to art

Andrew S. Klug, Business '09, recently co-founded 1500 Gallery in Chelsea, the city's only space devoted solely to Brazilian photography. The gallery includes works by Brazilian photographers and photographs of Brazil taken by foreigners.



Sports, back page

Cornell senior starters lead team in Big Dance

Big Red stars Louis Dale, Ryan Wittman, and Jeff Foote are raising eyebrows as unusually recruited players who are now leading Cornell as they upset top seeds in the NCAA Championship. Cornell will look to keep rolling against Kentucky on Thursday.

Opinion, page 4

Shining through

Anna Arons urges students to step into the sun, not Butler.

All on board

Educating children living in poverty requires a concerted effort to find productive solutions.

Today's Events

Media Networking Event

Get the inside scoop on careers in the industry.

Low Library, 6:30 p.m.

Religion on Film

Watch and discuss "The Green Pastures" with the Dept. of Religion. 323 Milbank, 8 p.m.

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WEATHER





# Columbia switches to Common App

BY AMBER TUNNELL  
*Spectator Senior Staff Writer*

Columbia will accept the Common Application starting in the fall of 2011, according to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

“Columbia will join the more than 400 member institutions accepting the Common Application for admission, using it as our exclusive application for first-year and transfer applicants,” Dean of Undergraduate Admissions Jessica Marinaccio wrote in a statement released Monday.

“We offer one of the most generous need-based financial aid programs in the country and believe the Common Application will make applying to Columbia more accessible to students from every background,” she wrote. She said she believes a standard application will allow students who might have limited access to college counseling or information about the school to apply to Columbia.

She added that the office hopes the Common Application will make the college application process less stressful for students and teachers.

But some students were less enthusiastic about the change.

“I don’t really see the benefits of the Common Application because it has supplements,” Devon Minerve, CC ’12, said, noting the additional required portions of the application.

“The Columbia Application

was fine before. ... I like the questions that it posed,” she said, adding that she thought the school-specific questions shed light on who a student is.

Other students agreed. “It was nice to have specificity [with the Columbia application],” Nick Bazzano, CC ’10, said. “Questions that Columbia asked you showed the stuff that you would be asked when you were here.”

Marinaccio said that Columbia will utilize a sup-

“Questions that Columbia asked you showed the stuff that you would be asked here.”

—Nick Bazzano, CC ’10

plement to the Common Application to ask “Columbia-specific questions.”

Maria Cavallo, who was admitted to the class of 2014 early decision, said in an email, “It certainly would be less stressful to students as a lot of them apply to a dozen other schools.”

“Some of my friends did complain about having to fill out yet another application for Columbia and wondered why they couldn’t just accept a Common App. Although, I recall

them also complaining about not understanding how to complete certain sections of the Common App, whereas the Columbia application was extremely clear,” she added.

“I personally would rather fill out the Columbia application separately. It instills awe and pride to be typing your essay on the Columbia website instead of a ‘common’ app. All the questions were perfectly formatted to what Columbia was looking for, saving us from writing useless information and allowing us to add extra when necessary,” she said.

While Marinaccio said she expected the switch to the Common Application to draw in more prospective students, the University has already had a record-breaking year. She noted that the Office of Undergraduate Admissions has received 26,178 applications to the class of 2014, the largest applicant pool in history for Columbia College and the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science.

At Columbia College, 2,495 applied early decision, while 488 applied early to SEAS. A total of 19,252 applied regular decision to CC, with 3,943 applying regular to SEAS.

For 2013, 25,428 students applied. The College received 21,274 applications and SEAS received 3,465.

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# Prof remembered as dedicated teacher

WIEDENMAYER from front page

interest in each student’s experience of his class, Wiedenmayer had a unique approach to teaching the material, according to Sher. She said that the material was very complex and involved, “but he didn’t dumb it down—he made it relatable.”

“He wanted me to enjoy what he was teaching just as much as he did,” Sher said. “You just got that aura from him that he was a nice guy who cared about his students.”

Psychology lecturer Patricia Lindemann echoed these sentiments. “I have heard from everyone who I’ve spoken to that he was a good and kind man as well as an incredibly dedicated teacher,” she said.

Kate Nautiyal, a teaching assistant for Wiedenmayer’s Mind, Brain, and Behavior course, called Wiedenmayer “an excellent and dedicated teacher.” Nautiyal emphasized Wiedenmayer’s devotion to helping students through the trials of the material. “He cared about his students and their learning of

neuroscience,” she said. “He was concerned about both the anxieties and curiosities of students.”

Psychology department chair Norma Graham notified students of Wiedenmayer’s death in an email Monday afternoon. She noted that counseling services would be available at the next class session.

“In our department he has been teaching for some years now and we will miss him very much,” Graham said in an email.

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# M’ville negotiations come under fire

CBA from front page

available until recently.”

The only community-based vote on the Manhattanville CBA was in Community Board 9, but the final decision on the negotiations was up to the LDC, which included two CB9 members. This structure allowed the agreement to pass—the final LDC vote was 15 in favor, two against, with three abstentions—despite a unanimous CB9 executive board vote in opposition to it.

To address such discrepancies, the report recommends that the city not consider CBAs in deciding whether to approve development proposals, that it “give no ‘credit’ to developers for benefits they have provided through CBAs,” and that it “play no role in encouraging, monitoring, or enforcing” the agreements.

Columbia’s “197-c” development proposal had to go through the city’s Uniform Land Use Review Procedure, which involved votes by CB9, the City Planning Commission, and the New York City Council, which granted final approval for the project in December 2007.

The Bar Association report, though, questions whether the CBA process in general might reduce opposition to a project and allow it to pass through ULURP with insufficient consideration of the negative components.

But when the LDC was established in 2006, Jordi Reyes-Montblanc—then the CB9 chairman, who died before the CBA negotiations were completed—directly addressed such concerns, telling Spectator, “There is no possibility of a quid pro quo, that we’ll pass the ULURP if they [the LDC] do this or that.”

Kenneth Fisher, chair of the Bar Association’s Land Use, Planning & Zoning Committee, said in a press release accompanying the report, “The current ad hoc approach [without governmental regulation] is sending

mixed signals to both the community and developers.”

University spokesperson Victoria Benitez defended the CBA process in an emailed statement on Tuesday, writing, “We have worked diligently with the West Harlem Local Development Corporation and its broadly representative board to develop a robust community benefits agreement that all stakeholders anticipate will result in a significant, long-term investment in a wide array of local health, education, social and economic needs as determined by members of the community themselves.”

The University would not comment on the specific criticisms and recommendations made in

“In a perfect world, I’m sure there are alternatives ensuring that a community does indeed join in any benefits ... but they haven’t surfaced yet.”

—Pat Jones, chair of CB9

the report. Phone calls and emails to LDC officials—including president Julio Batista and member Donald Notice—were not returned, and two other members, Maritta Dunn and Vicky Gholson, declined to comment because they had not read the report.

“I think it [the CBA process] certainly started out with a well-intentioned concept of trying to get a broad-based spectrum of interests represented,” Tom DeMott, CC ’80 and a member of the local activist group Coalition to Preserve Community, said. “But ... the elected officials who were originally not supposed to be on the board essentially invaded the LDC.”

DeMott was initially an LDC member, but he—along with local resident Luisa Henriquez and Tuck-It-Away Self-Storage owner Nick Sprayregen, who currently has a lawsuit pending in the New York State Court of Appeals challenging the use of eminent domain for the project—resigned in 2007, claiming the CBA process was “rigged” in favor of Columbia.

LDC member Susan Russell,

chief of operations for City Council member Robert Jackson, who supports Columbia’s expansion plans, countered in an interview with the New York Observer in 2007 that the elected officials were added to “broaden the base of representation.”

Spokespeople for Jackson and State Senator Bill Perkins—who, in contrast to Jackson, continues to oppose Columbia’s plans—could not be reached for comment by press time.

In an interview over the weekend, DeMott cited as one example of an alleged lack of proper representation on the LDC the fact that only one member was Hispanic.

But current CB9 chair and LDC member Pat Jones defended the group’s composition and the CBA process as a whole, noting that the LDC included members representing each area—tenants, business owners, residents, etc.—that would be most affected by the expansion.

On the issue of enforcement, Jones noted that it is hard to judge the strength of enforcement provisions until they are actually needed. “It’s very difficult to predict the future and make suppositions with regard to enforceability when something has not yet been called into question,” she said. “If there’s a claim of non-action or violation of the agreement, then you take the further steps.”

When asked whether he believed, as the report recommended, that the city should establish a uniform CBA process, DeMott said, “You need to have good planning, and if you had that, then you wouldn’t have the need for community benefits agreements.”

Jones countered, “In a perfect world, I’m sure there are alternatives ensuring that a community does indeed join in any benefits, improvements, enhancements [from development]. ... but they haven’t surfaced yet.”

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**PROFESSOR JAMES VALENTINI**  
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# Gallery lets Business School alum display his artistic side

BY DANIELLE ARONOWITZ  
*Columbia Daily Spectator*

New York City's only Brazilian photography gallery has found its roots in Chelsea.

**ART** The 1500 Gallery—opened Feb. 11 by co-founders Alexandre Bueno de Moraes and Andrew S. Klug, Business '09—is home to 17 photographers, both Brazilian and non-Brazilian. Eight of them are featured in the inaugural show, titled “Brazilian,” that will run until May 1. Klug and Moraes understand the concept of Brazilian photography as much more than simply photographs shot by natives of Brazil. In fact, the gallery incorporates images shot by photographers from around the world. For example, there is an image in the current show by Jens Stoltze, a Danish photographer, of a Brazilian hilltop covered in

colorful favelas. The show also includes images shot by Brazilian photographers that are completely unrelated to Brazil, such as a digital print of two bound sea horses by Christian Gaul, and Bruno Cals' photograph of a building in Tokyo. Klug explained that the gallery displays images with no connection to Brazil only when the photographer is Brazilian and that “when the photographer is not Brazilian, the image needs to have some obvious link to Brazil.” To further highlight how broad their definition of Brazilian photography can be, Klug and Moraes included a satellite image of the Amazon from NASA. “This is an image by a satellite of Brazil; it is Brazilian photography,” Klug said. To have an image in an art gallery shot by a non-human satellite with scientific rather than artistic motivation may boggle the mind of the average

photography aficionado, but according to Klug's understanding of photography, “the image is what ultimately stands by itself.” While studying at the Columbia Business School, Klug realized that he was not entirely happy with the career he was pursuing in business. With a natural love for photography and the will to run his own business, Klug consulted Moraes, his good friend and future colleague, about opening a gallery. The two discovered an unexploited niche of photography in Brazil that begged for attention. “There are all these photographers that are super talented and nobody is showing them,” Klug said. Despite the recession, Klug and Moraes gathered together their arsenal of photographers and found a quality space in Chelsea for their gallery. “It was difficult to make an entry, but I sensed this might be our chance

to get in the art market because a lot of galleries were closing and space was available,” Klug said. Klug and Moraes are pleased with the success of the gallery in Chelsea and hope to open a second branch in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. “The idea is ultimately to have bipolar galleries, a presence here in New York and in Brazil,” Klug said. Klug intends to explore ideas for his next gallery, but has no specific project in mind. He credits Columbia for the opportunity to follow his ambitions. “I guess thanks to the MBA program for giving me the chance to pause and think about what I really want to do with my life,” he said.

WHERE IT'S AT

Place: 511 West 25th St. #607 (between Tenth and Eleventh avenues)

Cost: Free



PHOTO FINISH | The 1500 Gallery in Chelsea possesses New York City's only art collection solely dedicated to Brazilian photography.

EVELYN WARNER FOR SPECTATOR

# Choice Eats event offerings blend comfort food and cosmopolitan cuisine

BY JASON BELL  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

As hordes of eager gourmets, food journalists, and yuppies swarmed over restaurant stands set up inside the 69th Regiment Armory, chefs and restaurateurs frantically struggled to keep up with insatiable appetites.

**FOOD & DRINK** At the Village Voice's annual Choice Eats event on Monday night, attendees feasted on small plates from nearly 60 different restaurants. Following such an extreme exercise in gluttony, the constantly shifting New York food scene came into sharp relief. Trends towards simple comfort food have now taken a distinctively international direction, demonstrating the growing market for simultaneously stomach-stuffing and cosmopolitan preparations.

Naturally, restaurants that typically serve tapas-style food—with small plates inherently suited to mass distribution—fared particularly well at Choice Eats. Txikito (240 9th Ave.) offered a Basque take on tapas, exemplifying the movement towards filling, internationally inspired cuisine. In particular, Txikito's albondigas stood out from the crowd of wanly trendy competitors. The albondigas—lamb meatballs with minted broth—were skewered

with a piece of crusty bread and consumed rapidly by hundreds of famished guests. Although tiny, these roughly formed and incredibly juicy snacks unleash a seriously savory bombshell on the tongue. Unfortunately, Radegast Beer Hall's (113 North 3rd St.) Easter meatballs were not nearly as

succulent, but rather dry and unattractively tough. Filipino fusion restaurant Purple Yam (1214 Cortelyou Rd.) served up disappearing sliders replete with flavorless, unidentifiable shredded meat. The crowd rapidly identified the best options and ignored the rest, leaving Radegast and

Purple Yam with barely a trickle of customers. But despite a less than prime Choice Eats stand location, Luke's Lobster (93 East 7th St.) entertained a violent crowd desperate to try soft buns stuffed with buttery shrimp. The clutching, agitated stampede at the Luke's



MEAT EATS | New Yorkers gathered at the Choice Eats event to sample local restaurant fare, including a variety of meaty comfort-food dishes.

booth seemed strangely primitive. Food-obsessed public relations representatives and executive assistants transformed into animalistic beasts when confronted with a limited supply of classic American beach sandwiches.

Long lines of revelers anxious to try steamed buns filled with

more slow-roasted meat—either pork belly or skirt steak—also quickly formed around the BaoHaus (137 Rivington St.) stand. The Taiwanese sandwiches were light and ethereally salty, making them a cheap and satisfying snack-meal.

The Upper West Side was barely represented at Choice Eats, and Morningside Heights and Harlem made out even worse. Masses stumbled past Haitian restaurant Krik Krak's (844 Amsterdam Ave.) spot with nary a glance, and for good reason. The eatery's barely-warmed fish stew tasted pungent and slimy, and a side dish of rice appeared less than fully cooked.

For dessert, the tres leches cake from Patacon Pisao in Elmhurst, Queens exploded with sweet syrup, making it impossibly airy. If only this Venezuelan street food shop opened a location near Columbia—journeying out to Elmhurst is a bit ridiculous even for a perfect slice of cake.

From Spain to Venezuela, Choice Eats illustrated the increasingly accessible global food scene in New York. Regrettably, with Morningside still relatively devoid of gastronomically exciting restaurants, students will need to make their way outside of the Columbia bubble to experience this expanding culinary world.



JASON BELL FOR SPECTATOR

# Radio play broadcasts issues of modern journalism

BY STEVEN STRAUSS  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Radio plays are a rare breed in the “classy” stratosphere that is the New York theater scene, a fact that makes the New York Theater Workshop's current production of “Top Secret: The Battle for the Pentagon Papers” all the more unique.

**THEATER** For students not familiar with the fairly old medium, radio plays were originally conceived as just that—plays recorded for national broadcasting over the radio. Usually, these would be one-night only events with big stars lending their voices to classic theatrical fare. With “Top Secret,” however, director John Rubinstein decided to adopt the radio play structure to the entire run of the play. Though it's fascinating to watch members of the universally talented cast create the sound effects for every prop at a booth located at the back of the stage, the sight causes inadvertent laughter in the middle of a less than humorous story.

In 1971, at the peak of the Vietnam protests, Daniel Ellsberg released the Pentagon Papers—a 4,000-page document tracing the lead-up to the Vietnam War dating back to 1945—to the New York Times. The newspaper subsequently published the contents in multiple articles, causing the United States government to obtain a federal court injunction that forced the Times to stop the presses. Simultaneously, the Washington Post got its hands on a copy of the papers and immediately started publishing articles regarding their new acquisition after the Times stopped, culminating in a huge

Supreme Court case with the U.S. government against the two newspapers. “Top Secret” focuses on the Washington Post's involvement in the debacle, and though the actors imbue their many characters with recognizable personalities, the play is a tad flat. Though the inherently riveting nature of the story almost compensates for this lack of theatrical drama, the production should have followed the lead of historical dramas such as “Frost/Nixon” and the upcoming “Enron” by infusing the proceedings with such vibrant energy. In historical dramas, the most important element is escaping the audience's knowledge of the events and capturing them in the rollercoaster-esque stories. Instead, “Top Secret” feels as if the ending is predetermined and the cast is just going through the motions.

Despite the flaws in the production, the issues raised are worth the \$20 student admission price, though another theatrical offering this season, “Time Stands Still,” probably has much more to say regarding modern journalism than “Top Secret.”

In a post-show discussion hosted over spring break by the Columbia Journalism Review—featuring the head of the Journalism School and Daniel Ellsberg himself—panelists found a plethora of connections between the Pentagon Papers' description of the build-up to the Vietnam War and America's invasion into Afghanistan and Iraq. Almost 40 years after the events of the play, Ellsberg said America still needs “an entire overhaul of the secrecy system.”

# Burton's angsty 'Wonderland' is more cliché than creepy

BY JULIA ALEKSEYEVA  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

Subculture and Cinephilia

With the release of “Alice in Wonderland,” it's clear that director Tim Burton is more popular than ever before. He has not only created another blockbuster but is also the subject of a popular Museum of Modern Art retrospective—running through April 26—honoring his work. Lines for the exhibit often stretch around the block and timed admission tickets have sold out every weekend. MoMA's website praises Burton for “reinventing Hollywood genre filmmaking as an expression of personal vision.” This vision, however, is rapidly becoming stale—especially for his older fans, who are already well-acquainted with the pop-gothic surrealism that made him famous in the '80s and '90s.

Die-hard Tim Burton fans fall in the curious milieu between punks and hipsters, in the no-man's-land best classified as “emo.” Emo, though distinguished by a music genre somewhere between pop punk and indie rock, also doubles as a cultural teen movement. In high schools, the emo crowd disguises its moralistic or religious undercurrents with a dark, alternative exterior. Emo by nature is grounded on the consumption of goods (What would the store Hot Topic be without emo kids?). Punk revolts against consumer culture, while emo embraces it.

It would be helpful to remember that in the Victorian age, gothic novels often had hidden religious agendas. Frankenstein, the gothic narrative par excellence, is equal parts cautionary tale and spook story. Likewise, Burton's films always feature similarly well-meaning but grievously misunderstood characters, giving Burton films their angsty teenage tone. For example, despite their initially scary appearances, Edward of “Edward Scissorhands” is kind and gentle,

and Jack of “The Nightmare Before Christmas” only seeks to make the world a better place.

Many students gravitate toward Burton's films because they can relate to the characters' struggles. “These are young-adult themes. These are things young people deal with,” Daniel Conn, CC '10, said.

Burton stories in nature are moralizing Disney tales with a darker twist. There's nothing nihilistic about them. He works best with gothic stories because he is able to imbue a little romance into something twisted and macabre. There's no mistaking it: Burton has an idiosyncratic style that has influenced countless other films (last year's “Coraline,” for example). Then why does it seem as if Burton hasn't made a truly imaginative film since the mid-'90s—perhaps with the exception of 2003's “Big Fish”?

Perhaps Burton has gotten overly adept at his own self-created genre. He is unable to think outside of the box he himself has constructed. Upon watching a recent Burton movie, the viewer has

the impression that he or she has seen it all before: gnarled branches, spidery limbs, deathly pallors punctuated by weird neon colors. Burton has become a cliché.

Lewis Carroll's “Alice in Wonderland” is by nature an extremely fascinating and creepy novel. Even the 1951 Disney animated version was unable to instill it with a singularly moral message. Alice, the quintessential Victorian priss, meets character after character in her surrealist dreamland. Burton managed to warp this tale completely, transforming Alice into an angsty teen feminist trapped in the absurdities of Victorian society. “The original [movie] was exponentially creepier than this,” Conn said.

Somehow, Burton has managed to take one of the most whimsical, absurdist stories of English literature and sap it of its essential creepiness—all in the name of his pop-macabre aesthetic.

*Julia Alekseyeva's biweekly series Subculture and Cinephilia examines hipster culture's influence on the acceptance of current films.*

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ANNA  
ARONS

Two Cents  
and  
Sensibility

brightness in the sky? Why do I find myself humming “Here Comes the Sun”? Yes, in the words of George Harrison, after a “long cold lonely winter...the ice is slowly melting.” (I’ll omit the “little darlings” for propriety’s sake—springtime doesn’t excuse harassment). As the sun returns, we emerge from our dens in Butler, blearily rubbing our eyes as if waking from a dream about the dismal months of schoolwork and the additional tasks of complaining about and competing over said schoolwork. After all, before you spend five hours on a paper, you must also spend five hours explaining to your friends just how much more difficult your assignment is than any of their pathetic excuses for work. While others might try to reduce stress from schoolwork, we do the opposite, relishing and magnifying it. We take pride in our stress, and like

Why should  
you Teach For  
America?

BY LAURA TAYLOR

Understanding how public schools function and how the system affects children growing up in low-income communities has been part of my life for as long as I can remember. For the past four years, I have been volunteer-teaching health and sex education to ninth graders in underfunded NYC public high schools with Columbia’s chapter of Peer Health Exchange. Before that, I taught dance and English as a Second Language at a low-income middle school—where my father is the principal—at home in South Central Los Angeles. My background and current context compelled me to apply for Teach For America to be a 2010 teacher and to provide Columbia University students with four reasons for why I urge you to consider doing the same when you enter your senior year. Reason one: the ability to affect positive change. TFA corps members provide low-income school districts with a proven-effective work force. A growing corpus of rigorous research shows that TFA teachers have a positive impact on student learning, relative to other new and experienced teachers. One example is a 2004 Mathematica Policy Research study—the most rigorous study to date on TFA. It found that the students of TFA corps members made more progress in a year in both reading and math than would typically be expected. Students of TFA teachers also attained significantly greater gains in math compared to students of other veteran and traditionally certified teachers. Reason two: the forum to demonstrate and build upon the knowledge and skills you have amassed throughout your educational

STAFF EDITORIAL

Not my council

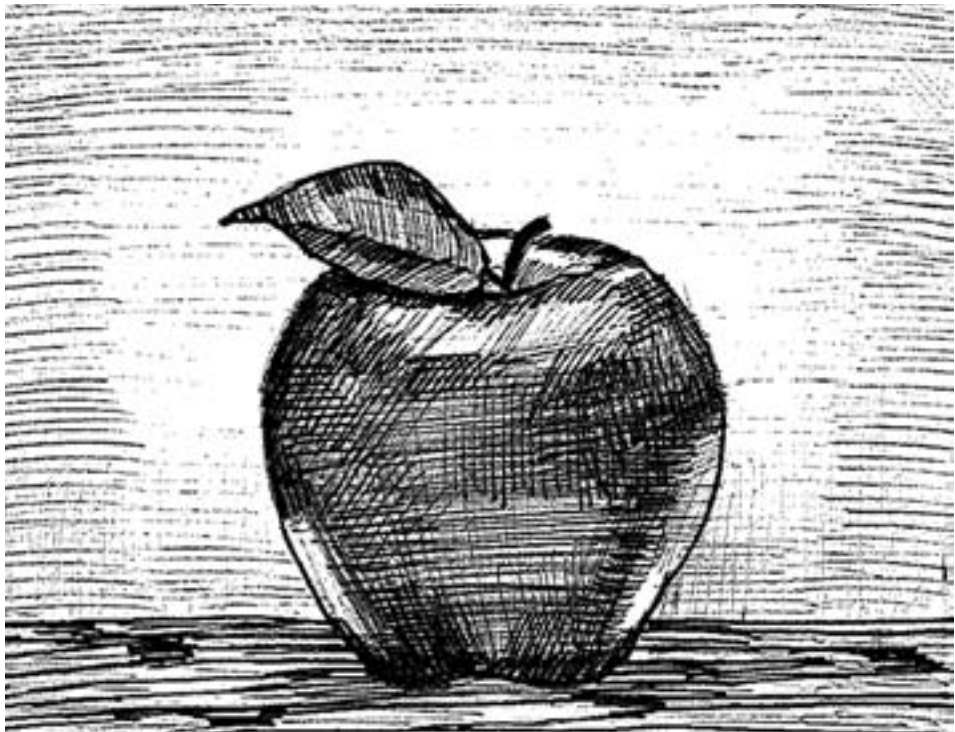
On Monday night, the Engineering Student Council held elections for its executive board. The candidates made five-minute speeches, after which they were asked to leave the room, and decisions were made. If this comes as news to our readers, they should not blame themselves for inattention—the elections, though open to the public, were particularly poorly publicized. However, even those SEAS students who attended had no power to affect the outcome of the elections—if that word can be used to describe the outgoing board’s internal selection of its own successors. The ESC executive board—unlike its counterparts at Columbia College, Barnard, and the School of General Studies, and unlike ESC’s individual class councils—is chosen entirely by current board members. In this year’s election, all but one of the candidates were already on ESC. We sincerely congratulate the new board—Chris Elizondo, SEAS ’11, Heidi Ahmed, SEAS ’11, Narayan Subramanian, SEAS ’13, Santosh Balachandrar, SEAS ’12, and Carla Williams, SEAS ’11. This is surely an exciting time for them, and we do not mean to diminish their moment. The current system may not even seem problematic to the outgoing or newly elected board. But considering that the very name of the organization indicates that it is meant to serve as a representative body for students, it should do so. In the past, critics of proposals to move away from internal elections argued that there was not enough time to change the system. But the new board was elected two nights ago—they now have a year to put an external elections system in place. The other primary argument in favor of holding internal elections is that they ensure that the most experienced—and,

proud parents, we brag about its progress in person and online. Many of my Facebook friends have posted their weekly schedules on their profiles, proving to the world that they’re taking 21 credits, participating in an extracurricular activity every day, holding down a work-study job, and still finding time to volunteer in an orphanage on the weekend. I never know how to react to such

While others might try to  
reduce stress from school-  
work, we do the opposite,  
relishing and magnifying it.

postings: “I’m sorry,” “Congratulations,” or “It’s a hard-knock life”? Beyond sympathy, the Facebook posters crave recognition of just how difficult and stressful their semesters have been—or, more accurately, just how difficult and stressful they have made their own semesters. We attend an elite university in the greatest city in the world (if David Letterman’s opinion is to be trusted on this point). As one of my professors noted during the height of midterms, “You aren’t incarcerated! What do you have to complain about?” Unlike my professor, I do recognize that academic work can be stressful, even if we’re not doing it from

experience. TFA uses a robust and comprehensive model to select talented individuals for the classroom. The selection model is similar to admissions models at prestigious institutions like Columbia—an applicant’s academic achievements represent only part of the picture. Qualities of strong TFA applicants include remarkable achievements in leadership, academia, and extracurricular activities, in addition to strong critical thinking skills, perseverance in the face of challenges, a passion to end educational inequality, and respect for one’s local community.



DARYL SEITCHIK

Reason three: the opportunity to apply and develop those skills in a setting that will both challenge you and facilitate your personal and professional growth. TFA works relentlessly to give teachers the training and tools they need to be highly successful. TFA focuses on teacher quality by providing rigorous pre-service training and

prison. But must we compete with each other to see whose life is the most stressful and who can be the most miserable? At her most recent fireside chat, Barnard President Debora Spar touched on this phenomenon, saying, “It feels a little bit like status comes from being really busy.” To guarantee the high status and admiration associated with that “really busy” label, it’s not sufficient to take too many classes and participate in too many activities. You also have to broadcast how busy you are, proving to classmates that your life is the hardest, so you are deserving of some kind of honor.

The power of this culture of stress seems to grow throughout the winter months, hitting a peak around spring semester midterms. It’s gray, slushy, and disgusting, and the entire campus has come down with a really bitter case of seasonal affective disorder. And then, one day, the sun peeks out. We might as well be Teletubbies—the baby-faced sun rises and giggles, and we all rush out of our dark cubbyholes to greet it. For a moment, work is forgotten. Footballs, baseballs, and frisbees fly through the air, the song of the Mr. Softee truck rings through the neighborhood, and the steps finally serve a purpose beyond providing that victorious Rocky feeling. It’s a glorious respite, but a short-lived one.

Soon, someone says, “Of course the good weather comes when I have all this work to do!” and the complainer retreats

on-going professional development and support to its teachers. The organization has spent much of the last decade revamping its recruitment, training, and support programs so that the teachers recruited and accepted are well prepared to be as effective as possible. This focus on improving the quality of teachers in American classrooms is the subject of a new book called “Teaching As Leadership,” which shares TFA’s data from studying 25,000 veteran and traditionally certified teachers to determine what distinguishes those teachers

who are extraordinarily successful in our nation’s highest-poverty schools. Reason four: the chance to be part of solving what is arguably today’s most important civil rights issue. Nearly two-thirds of TFA’s 17,000 alumni work full-time in the field of education—long after their two-year commitment—although less than 10

percent had been considering a career in education when they entered the corps. The organization’s alumni network has had a tremendous impact on education reform in the last two decades, from advancements in Washington D.C.’s public school system under TFA alumna Chancellor Michelle Rhee to the creation of novel education models. Nearly 450 alumni serve as school leaders across the country. Alumni have founded dozens of high-performing charter school networks, including YES College Preparatory Schools, IDEA Public Schools, and the Knowledge is Power Program.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor: One week was conspicuously absent from Aleq Abdullah’s editorial (“The Politics of Fear,” Mar. 10): Intifada. As a first-year, Abdullah was born around 1992, which means she was 10 years old during Hamas and the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade’s murderous heyday. Perhaps she doesn’t remember that Palestinian militants waged a bloody suicide bombing campaign against all centers of Israeli civilian life—that they bombed coffee shops and universities, buses and senior homes; that their campaign lasted almost five years and had the support of mainstream Palestinian leadership, as well as activists and intellectuals all over the world. But in her flippant attitude towards the civilian victims of a terrorist attack perpetrated by a Palestinian, Abdullah does more than simply skirt over the fact that Israelis were the victims of an organized and broadly-supported campaign of terror that specifically targeted a civilian population. She goes on to justify it, invoking the magic-bullet of “context” after fretting over a pro-Israel activist confronting her with the image of “an innocent Israeli meeting his or her end by the cruel, inhumane actions of a ruthless Palestinian.” Inconveniently enough, over 700 Israeli civilians “met their end” in just that way, to borrow Abdullah’s aggravatingly passive phrasing. Abdullah is obviously bothered by this—but only because a few protestors had the bad taste to point it out to her. About a year ago, Rashid Khalidi condemned Hamas’s rocket campaign against southern Israel at a panel discussion on Israel’s Gaza blockade. It is regrettable that Abdullah and her ilk cannot face their movement’s past and present with

to the library with a new sense of superiority: Who the hell are these people who can just lounge on the steps or in the park? Don’t they have work to do? For the dedicated adherents to the culture of stress, working despite the warm weather becomes an additional point of pride. But, if you’re winning by being the most stressed out, are you really winning at all? Yes, it’s important to value academic work. That is, after all, why we’re in college (or at least why we tell our parents we’re in college). But we’re also in college to wait out the awkward transition between childhood and adulthood, to learn how to balance and how to function on our own. Stress over academics and extracurriculars at the expense of enjoying day-to-day life and the coming of spring cannot be healthy. Beyond the inevitable vitamin D deficiency, such an attitude takes all the joy out of learning and working and can make you—and everyone who must listen to your complaints—miserable. So, unless you’re Robert Pattinson (in which case, sparkle on!), I suggest you slowly step away from Butler. I’m not advocating slacking off completely—I’m merely suggesting that pride should not be staked on who has the least amount of time to enjoy the sun.

Anna Arons is a Barnard College senior majoring in urban studies. Two Cents and Sensibility runs alternate Wednesdays.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in English and psychology. She was an Ad Board member in the Columbia University admissions office and is a current Leadership Council member for Columbia’s Chapter of Peer Health Exchange. From the work of its teachers, to the organization’s dedication to improving our collective understanding of great teaching and to perpetuating that investment in teaching via the impact of its alumni, TFA is helping close our country’s unconscionable achievement gap. It is important to remember that effective teachers do not all come from the same mold, and that organizations like TFA, Barnard’s education program, Peer Health Exchange, as well as other programs and non-profit groups in education are all fighting for the same thing: giving kids in America access to excellent educational opportunities. There are 14 million children in this country growing up in poverty today. We can only close the achievement gap for them and all other students struggling in the current system if we stay grounded in data, move beyond debates that create schisms between teachers and organizations with the same goals, channel our energy toward productive solutions, and work together to improve and support programs that are actually helping the kids in our public schools.

The author is a Columbia College senior majoring in English and psychology. She was an Ad Board member in the Columbia University admissions office and is a current Leadership Council member for Columbia’s Chapter of Peer Health Exchange.

Letters to the Editor

similar moral courage and choose to will its most shameful, nihilistic chapter out of their collective memory. —Armin Rosen List College 2010 To the Editor: I am writing to dispel any confusion that may have arisen from Jonah Liben’s article, “Peace in the Middle East” (Columbia Spectator, Mar. 2). Mr. Liben writes of Hillel’s intention to distribute literature from the Jenin Freedom Theatre at an event that was part of its “Peace Week for Israelis and Palestinians,” an initiative evidently in opposition to Israeli Apartheid Week. Mr. Liben states, “Tonight, one of our groups is sponsoring an event that highlights the myriad grass roots movements in Israel that work to push the Israeli government toward peace with its Palestinian neighbors.” He lists several groups, among them the Freedom Theatre. In fact, the Jenin Freedom Theatre is a cultural center based in the Jenin refugee camp, not in Israel. The precursor of the present-day theater was destroyed in a brutal attack by the Israel Defense Forces in April 2002, during “Operation Defensive Shield.” The Freedom Theatre’s mission is to restore the cultural life of Palestine that has been decimated by the merciless Israeli occupation. Mr. Liben did not contact us, the U.S. representative of the Jenin Freedom Theatre, for information about the theater, and he did not request any material for distribution. If any material was, in fact, distributed, I do not know what it was nor where it was obtained. —Constancia Dinky Romilly President, Friends of the Jenin Freedom Theatre



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### Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

**ACROSS**

1 Hippo's attire in "Fantasia"

5 Fashionably smart

9 Sun ray

13 Actress Lena

14 "Lion's share" fabulist

16 Hockey great Phil, familiarly

17 John Denver #1 hit

19 Largest of the Near Islands

20 Place for a message

21 Campaign funders

23 Locale in a 1967 Cheech Marin title

26 "Yay!"

27 Charon's river

30 Rub elbows (with)

32 Western \_\_\_\_ history class, briefly

33 Industry kingpin

35 Bullies

39 "Guys and Dolls" showstopper

42 Mississippi River explorer

43 Take charge

44 Baby talk word

45 Trial sites

47 Rough file sound

48 Measuring tool

51 Billiards blunder

54 Fork or spoon

56 Longtime buddy

60 \_\_\_\_Honey: candy

61 "Dr. Zhivago" melody

64 "Cool" rapper? 65 Polished

66 They're removed via shafts

67 With 68-Across and 69-Across, classic game show, and this puzzle's title

68 See 67-Across

69 See 67-Across

**DOWN**

1 Repulsive sort

2 Bone near the funny bone

3 Mile-sized

4 Like many salons

5 Andalusia abodes

6 Bulls and boars

7 Prefix with metric

8 Informal discussion

9 Shell collector, maybe

10 Cornerstone abbr.

11 Is \_\_\_\_ likely will

12 Meek

15 Org. for drivers? 16 Eco-friendly fed. go.

22 "Tough luck"

24 Senator Cochran of Mississippi

25 Legendary siren

27 Big batch

28 Mariner's concern

29 Part of YSL

31 "The Lion King" lioness

33 Furnishes food for

34 Temple area of Jerusalem

36 "Sonic the Hedgehog" developer

37 Grandson of Eve

38 Train station

40 It includes terms of endearment

41 Meeting of Cong.

46 Diacritical pair of dots

47 On a winning streak

48 Apply before cooking, as spice to meat

49 New York city

50 "Who cares if they do?"

52 Math subgroup

53 Last: Abbr.

55 They, in Calais

57 Llama land

58 Church approval

59 Suffix with Congo

62 Roosting sound

63 Gardner of "On the Beach"

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

C	I	S	C	O	S	V	E	S	T	S	T	Y	I	S
A	L	T	O	S	A	L	T	H	O	R	E			
P	I	A	N	O	P	L	A	I	N	E	R	T	O	P
S	A	N	G	A	I	L	R	E	C	A	N	T		
A	D	D	I	E	A	L	S				M	B	A	
G	R	U	B	B	Y			S	L	A	M	B	A	N
R	O	K	E	R		T	S	E			E	A	S	E
O	P	E	R	A	H	A	T			T	A	L	E	S
S	O	L												
O	P	E	N	E	D					I	L	O		
A	L	A												
T	A	R												
S	N	L								S	M	E	A	R

xwordeditor@aol.com 03/24/10

By Peter Abela  
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03/24/10



Check the Spectator tomorrow to see if the lacrosse team is able to pick up its second win in a row as it takes on Princeton in this evening's home game.

TOMORROW



# SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2010 • PAGE 6



Yesterday's baseball game against St. John's was postponed until today at 3 p.m. Pick up a copy of the Spec tomorrow for a recap.

TOMORROW

## Cornell senior stars take unusual paths to the Big Dance

Big Red's Dale, Wittman, and Foote lead team to upset victories in NCAA Championships

BY ZACH GLUBIAK  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

To anyone who watched Cornell's dismantling of No. 5 seed Temple and No. 4 seed Wisconsin, the versatility of the Big Red's offense was immediately obvious.

Between its three senior stars, point guard Louis Dale, swingman Ryan Wittman, and center Jeff Foote, Cornell has given an answer for just about any defense its opponents have thrown at them.

The Big Red's 78-65 thrashing of the Owls in the first round saw Jeff Foote, towering at 7 feet, using his height to the team's advantage. Afraid of letting the leading 3-point shooting team in the country get open on the perimeter, Temple opted not to double down on the first-team all-Ivy center. Left to work one-on-one in the lane, Foote scored 16 points and carried the Big Red as its long range shooting went cold in the first half.

When Temple started to put the clamps on Foote inside in the second half, the dynamic skill set of fellow first-teamers Dale and Wittman, the Ivy League Player of the Year and the team's leading scorer, came to the forefront. The lightning-quick Dale finished with a game-high 21 points, and, as Temple head coach Fran Dunphy said in a postgame press conference, "Wittman just went crazy with those threes. We're trying to get back in the game and he's not allowing it."

The second round game was more of the same for the Big Red's opponent, as Wittman got hot early drilling a slew of jumpers en route to a dominating 24-point display. Dale again showed why he was Ivy League Player of the Year himself two seasons ago, consistently slicing into the lane and leading all scorers with 26 points. Foote gave Cornell some muscle inside, using his length to pull down crucial offensive rebounds and taking advantage of second-half mismatches to add 12 points.

The three complement each other extremely well on offense, and their chemistry is evident to anyone who sees them. Cornell's senior class, enjoying its third straight Tournament appearance after winning the Ancient Eight in each of the last three years, has put its stamp on the program from the very outset—Wittman was the Ivy League rookie of the year. The result has been a cohesive unit that always seems composed despite playing at such a high pace.

As has been well-documented, 13 Big Red players—along with the team manager—live in the same off-campus house, known as the "Dog Pound," and it shows. Both Temple and Wisconsin, teams known for their ability to shut



COURTESY OF TINA CHOU OF THE CORNELL DAILY SUN

**ROAD TO DESTINY** | Cornell's Ryan Wittman (top), Jeff Foote (left), and Louis Dale (right) all took unconventional routes to Ithaca, but since arriving on campus, they have helped bring national attention to Cornell and the Ivy League.

down the opposition, seemed bewildered by Cornell's offensive movement and the vast array of ways in which the Big Red can score. Wisconsin came into the game as one of the top five defensive squads in the country, conceding a paltry 56 points per game.

After Cornell hung a season-high 87 points on him and his teammates, a stunned Badger, Keaton Nankivil, told the AP that, "The momentum and confidence they played with, we kind of ran into a buzz saw."

Wittman, Dale, and Foote can no doubt be blamed in large part for Nankivil and his teammates' sense of bewilderment after the contest. The members of the trio cannot be considered usual Sweet 16 participants, and each took a different path towards Thursday's program-defining tilt against one of college basketball's most famous blue bloods, Kentucky.

Wittman may have taken the most typical route to Ithaca, although even he fell victim to the snubbing each

of Cornell's stars had to endure. The son of Randy Wittman (former head coach in the NBA for the Minnesota Timberwolves and current assistant for the Washington Wizards) Ryan had trouble drawing the attention of his state school, the University of Minnesota. Without the chance to be a Gopher, the lightly recruited Wittman committed to coach Steve Donahue's program, one of the few coaches to show serious interest. This versatile scorer has since proved any doubters

wrong—he has etched his name all over the school's record books, becoming the first Big Red player to ever eclipse the 2,000-point mark.

Foote's story is a little less typical. As a 6-foot-8 inch senior at Spencer Van-etten high school, Foote wasn't recruited by any Division I schools and instead walked on to the team at St. Bonaventure. As he was trudging through a disappointing freshman year as a redshirt, Cornell's coaching staff ran into Foote's mother, Wanda, in January 2006 when Big Red guard Khaliq Gant injured his spine in practice and had to be rushed to Arnot Ogden hospital, where she was a nurse. During Gant's treatment, Wanda and the coaching staff developed a relationship, prompting her to suggest a different update New York institution to her son.

Once on campus, Foote morphed into a 7-foot presence in the lane with the ability to rebound, score, find open shooters, and set towering picks. His play has steadily improved as his role on the team has expanded, and this year Foote emerged as an Ivy League player of the year candidate after earning second-team all-Ivy honors in his junior season.

Aside from Wittman, one of the main beneficiaries of the attention Foote draws down low is Dale. The Big Red's point guard will be on national television on Thursday when he faces his counterpart on Kentucky, consensus number-one NBA draft pick John Wall, but four years ago such a match-up—especially on such a huge stage—was unthinkable. The Birmingham, Alabama native had to call coach Donahue and ask permission to send the coach his highlight tape. That was nearly the spring of Dale's senior year, notoriously late for a college basketball recruit to be unclaimed.

As Donahue told the New York Times earlier this week, it didn't take the Big Red's coaching staff long to determine they had a talented player on their hands.

"It's mind-boggling that this is February and a kid with 1,300 SATs and can play like him is sitting on the open market," Donahue recalled thinking. "That can't be true."

The same could be said for Cornell's historic run through the NCAA tournament, but based on the Big Red's thorough domination of their first two opponents, many experts are raising an eyebrow even as they face off against Kentucky's lineup of future NBA lottery picks. And who knows, with the way these three seniors have played together, the trio and their Ivy League teammates may still be dancing when it's all said and done Thursday night.

## Cheering for Cornell but hoping for Columbia



KUNAL GUPTA

### Moving the Chains

basketball tournament. Sure, I liked watching the first few rounds for their upsets, but truth be told, I rarely watched games past the first two rounds.

But this year will be different—it has already been different. The first day was by far the most exciting sporting day this year, and the rest of the first two rounds didn't disappoint. From 14 seeds beating three seeds, to the top overall team in the nation losing emphatically to the University of Northern Iowa (who knew they even played basketball there?), it has been a great tournament. But the story of the tournament so far, the darling of fans everywhere, has been Cornell.

It's hard for me to get into a sporting event, unless I have some vested rooting interest in the game. Unless it's the Super Bowl or the finals of Wimbledon, its difficult to watch a game simply for the aesthetic pleasure of it. Without an interest in the game, I feel distant and separated from it, and you can't take in the full pleasure of winning, or the pain of defeat.

That's always been the problem with the tournament for me. Who do I root for? My parents didn't go to any of these schools so I don't have any allegiance from that angle. And in terms of local schools? Lehigh is a consistent threat to win the Patriot League, but never a real threat to win a tournament game. The Mountain Hawks played

a tough game against Kansas this year, and definitely put some belief in Northern Iowa, but ultimately, that game ended like almost all of their tournament games do, in defeat. And once I decided to come to Columbia, it seemed like I would never have a team to root for.

But that changed this year. Cornell changed that. Now, I have a team to root for. I cheered the Big Red on in its win against Temple, and then watched in awe as it simply took apart a very good Wisconsin team, to the point where Wisconsin didn't look like it belonged on the same floor as Cornell.

Cornell is a great story, but to me it's just that.

I don't go to Cornell, I go to Columbia and I'm damn proud of it.

But that's not what this column is about; we all know about how good and dangerous Cornell is. This tournament brought up an interesting topic in Ivy athletics, and something that separates it from any other conference in the nation. Me, along with so many other kids on this campus are rooting for Cornell, despite the fact that they are arguably our biggest rival. We're rooting for them because of our pride and allegiance to the Ivy League. What other conference can say that? Can you imagine a Texas fan rooting for Oklahoma because they are from the Big 12? Or a Michigan fan rooting for Ohio State? Never in a million years. That's one thing that makes Ivy athletics unique; on the national stage, we can all come together over the fact that almost

no one believes that we have the athletic talent to compete with the big boys.

The other thing that Cornell's dream run has made me realize is that, for me, it's not a totally satisfying feeling. At the end of the day, Cornell is a great story, but to me it's just that. I don't go to Cornell, I go to Columbia, and I'm damn proud of it. I want to see my Columbia Lions in the NCAA tournament, and not just as a "happy-to-be-here" type of team, but as one that can legitimately beat quality teams.

Don't laugh it off so easily. Any team can become good in a hurry—just look at Cornell. In Steve Donahue's first year at Cornell, they went 3-11 in Ivy play. In fact, they didn't go above .500 until his fifth year at the helm. Honestly, it takes a bit of luck for your first breakthrough. Look at this year's Big Red squad. Ryan Wittman had a leg injury during his senior year, and didn't get any looks from the top schools. Point guard Louis Dale had to send out highlight tapes of himself to head coaches in order to get a look, before Donahue took a chance on him. And Jeff Foote, who's being talked about as an NBA prospect? He walked onto St. Bonaventure's because he didn't get any scholarship offers, and barely played as a freshman. He only transferred to Cornell when his mom, a nurse, spent a lot of time treating a seriously injured Cornell player, Khaliq Gant, and became friendly enough with the coaching staff to convince Donahue to take a chance of Foote.

So while I'll cheer Cornell on with all of my might, deep down, I know I'll only be satisfied when Columbia is in their place. It'll happen someday, it's just a question of when.

*Kunal Gupta is a junior in the School of Engineering and Applied Science majoring in operations research. sportseditors@columbiaspectator.com*

## Lacrosse to take on No. 19 Princeton in home match

BY JULIA GARRISON  
*Spectator Staff Writer*

The women's lacrosse team will look to gain its second win in a row this evening against No. 19 Princeton. The team will return to Morningside Heights after three away matches and play under the lights at Robert K. Kraft Field at 7 p.m.

When these two teams met last year, Princeton defeated Columbia 15-5 in Princeton, NJ, running the score up on the Lions with a six-goal scoring streak in the last 12 minutes of the game. Although Columbia was able to keep the score tight in the beginning of the game with the help of a goal by then senior Rachael Ryan and three key saves by goal keeper Emma Mintz, the Tigers scored four unanswered goals before halftime, bringing the score

to 6-1 at the break. The Lions were able to cut this lead in the second half, eventually coming within four points at 9-5, but a surge of momentum by the Tigers in the final 12 minutes secured the win for the Tigers, improving their record to 8-1 (2-0 Ivy). With this loss, the Lions' record fell to 5-4 (0-3 Ivy).

This year, the Lions are coming off of a 15-13 road win against Stony Brook last Saturday and are hoping to improve their 3-2 (0-2 Ivy) record.

Princeton, however, is looking for a win after its most recent loss to Virginia 14-7. The Tigers are currently 2-4, and Columbia will be their first Ivy League opponent of the season.

The Columbia-Princeton match will begin at 7 p.m. this evening at Robert K. Kraft Field.



JOSE GIRALT / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**FELINE FEUD** | Junior Carolina Seery and her teammates look to score their second win in a row when they take on the Tigers today, who defeated the Lions last year.