

KATE RAMSEYER: Hello, my name is Kate Ramseyer and this is the *Vox Insider*. Today, I'll be talking to Vox writer Ally Schniepp about the process behind writing her profile on Allie Teagarden. Teagarden is the host of *That's What She Said*, a show that broadcasts the voices of women in the Columbia community.

RAMSEYER: Could you just tell me a little bit about how you came across, came upon this story?

SCHNIEPP: So last year I was in 4180 which is basically like a mock newsroom, where you work in a beat, and you work with a team basically for the whole semester. But you have to also do like three personal projects. And one of the personal projects that I worked on was um, reporting on, that's what she said, Columbia um, which has only been around for three years now in Columbia so I reached out to Allie Teagarden, who was the like, contact sponsor, whatever at the bottom of the website, and it turns out she's the owner, producer, director of the whole show. And I basically just asked her if I could talk to some of the speakers about what they were going to talk about for the show, go to the show and just do like a little audio postcard of the event. I ended up interviewing Allie Teagarden twice throughout that process. And I just remembered being really enamored with her and amazed with everything that she was doing. And we just had really great conversations. I didn't want to walk downtown in Columbia alone at night on a weekend. And so I dragged one of my straight male friends with me. He had no idea what he was getting into, and we watched the show together. And at first, you know, we started the night, and he was very like, shifty. He was like, I did not know what this was gonna be. And by the end of it, he actually thanked me and said, If you could take me to more of these like events that you're covering, I would love to do that. So that kind of just goes to show how powerful the women's stories are on that stage, even if you're not a woman.

RAMSEYER: Do you have a personal connection to this kind of story? Would you say?

SCHNIEPP: I would say I care a lot about the issue. I like the idea of women being able to step up and tell their stories. I am also a firm believer in the fact that everyone has a story to tell, and that's something that Allie has said to me since the first time I met her, and I think that's why she's, you know, kind of good at this event, because she makes women feel like their story is worth telling. I think, personally, I connected to the importance of the event first, and then I met someone like minded because of it, because obviously she cares about it.

RAMSEYER: Have you run into that kind of connection with a story or with a source in your other reporting, or other stories you've worked on?

SCHNIEPP: I've done four Interviews with Allie now over two stories, and for this profile, our interviews were both over an hour long. One of my Yeah, one of my biggest challenges with this story was having so much information and feeling so much of it was important to the story.

RAMSEYER: You mentioned that you obviously couldn't fit everything into this profile that you did. Could you talk to me a little bit about how, how you determined what to leave in and leave out?

SCHNIEPP: It was so difficult. I have this whole document full of quotes, of like, it's literally just titled quotes I like, and it was 18 pages long, basically every quote that I had used in the story was highlighted in I highlight it in yellow. If I use it, I highlight it in green if I like it. So normally, I'll go through and I'll do like, all green, and then I'll go back in and I'll like, turn them yellow as I use them. And then Jen went in and she highlighted different ones and made her own key, which had probably three, four or five more quotes that I didn't use, that she liked. And then for my final draft, I had to use another color, because I'm like, these are ones I used in the first draft. These are ones I'm going to use in the final draft after my edits, and there's probably some yellow still on there. So like quotes that I used in the first draft that I didn't end up using in the final draft. Because there are so many different ways I could have taken this story, and even every person I interviewed, I feel like could have had their own mini story.

RAMSEYER: What are your hopes for what will happen, or who this article will impact once it's published?

RAMSEYER: That was Ally Schniepp on this episode of the Vox Insider. The article we discussed today is live now on Vox Magazine dot com. Make sure to check it out, and keep tuning in to Vox Insider.